

THE CURRENT WORD



LAKE NOKOMIS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January 2008

New Year ~ New Beginnings!

"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

— Frederick Buechner

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), elected December 2nd, has presented the Church Information Form (CIF) to the Session for its approval. When they and the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry approve the Form, it will be forwarded to the national office and candidates will have an opportunity to send in applications. This initial portion is open to everyone, and copies of the CIF as approved will be on our website and at church. The following work of the PNC, receiving and evaluating applications, is confidential. The PNC will be limited in the specificity of their information to the congregation and friends. Don't feel slighted if your questions aren't fully answered - but ask them anyway!

On Sunday, **January 20**, the **congregational meeting**/potluck will include a presentation by the PNC. Please come - join the conversation and hear and read the work to date.

"As Presbyterians we believe that pastors and congregations are brought together through a call from God. It is a relationship established not primarily for the benefit of one or both of the parties but for the purpose of service in the ministry of Jesus Christ. God has endowed both the leader and the people with particular gifts and experiences that, when brought together, provide the resources for effective ministry."

From the PC(USA) "Church Leadership Connection"

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 11:45 A.M.
~ POTLUCK AND PNC PRESENTATION TO FOLLOW ~



ArtSpace presents

Color in the Season of Night
- the bright geometric creations of local painter John Alme exhibiting from January through March.

**Opening reception Friday -
January 4th from 7 - 9 p.m.**

From our Administration Team:

Thank you!

- * Thanks to Jan for taking a lot of the books from the bazaar, she has a friend that sends books overseas.
- * Thanks to Sue and Aleta for taking books to Savers.
- * Thanks to Alan Isaacson for all the work he's been doing in the library and the trim he has installed in the chapel. Also to Alan Forslin for painting the library wall.

Words to the wise and the considerate -

With the increase of people using our building we could use everybody's help watching for lights that have been left on or windows that have been cracked open for air. If you come across anything like this...please turn off a light, shut a window, take care of our facility. As always, with any building issues, please feel free to call Gary or drop a note in his mailbox in the office.

During the holiday season, members of LNPC participated in several holiday giving programs; Joy Offering through the Presbytery, "Adopt a Family" through Lutheran Social Services and Catholic Charities and lastly, the "hat / mitten / socks tree" for Northrop School which runs through the first week of January. Thank you to all who have contributed to these worthwhile programs.

Coming January in Adult Education:

So, what's up with this denomination, anyway??

It's not new news that there is continuing polarization within the PC(USA). Our presbytery attempted to open a conversation with a "Summit" gathering in Fall 2006. The PC(USA) commissioned a "Peace, Unity, and Purity" task force in 2004 to look at those issues which are approached with particular divergence within the denomination. Their report, adopted by the General Assembly in July 2007, has been roundly criticized by those on either pole. What are the issues? The tactics? How is the gospel being used or abused in the conflict? How can we live a life representing the Prince of Peace to a nation that sees only our conflict? Join Wayne and Bill as they help us find, define, and advocate for our perspectives.



The next best thing to official – Gary Johnson has offered to head up the Ham and Cherry Pie effort this year! Set aside a Wednesday in February (16th?) for the annual celebration of food and community!

***PRESBYTERY NEWS -
A NEW CHURCH IS BEING BORN!***

Identifying the north side of the Cities as a mission field for the Presbyterian Church, the Church Development Team of the presbytery has purchased land in Blaine for a New Church Development (NCD). They are looking for members from other churches who have a missionary soul to be a part of the seed congregation. *[LNPC needs you more! ed.]* We are currently supporting an Hispanic NCD in Northeast Minneapolis - Familia de Fe. Other recent developments have been Community Presbyterian in Rochester, Kwanzaa Church in North Minneapolis, and Church of All Nations in Columbia Heights.



Food for Thought and Prayer:

... bringing issues and the church's theological struggle together...

[from PC(USA) newsservice]

Flooding in Mexico

The National Presbyterian Church of Mexico (INPM) is responding to the worst flooding in over 50 years with a massive relief effort the past two months. With funding from the PC(USA) and other international partners, the Church had cared for more than 13,000 families, or about 65,765 people, in its six presbyteries across the state of Tabasco, which is located on Mexico's tropical Gulf Coast. It has operated up to 24 shelters in local congregations, and distributed food, water and clothing to displaced residents. Three of four homes in the capital city, Villahermosa, sustained severe damage.

Dave Thomas, PC(USA) liaison to the Mexican Church, says "as a result of this tragedy they have seen a new way for God's people to respond and show Christ's love in a way that they hadn't necessarily seen it before." He continues "One of the things that we've noticed was how well the [Mexican] government has been functioning. Everything from the use of Army forces to

operate some of the government-run shelters and the cleanup on the streets. The city government, the state government and the federal government of Mexico have all been really very effective in what they've been doing in the disaster." Dave was in the Twin Cities this October, sharing his work and the mission vision of the PC(USA) as a part of the Fall Mission Conference.



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has provided leadership to its Mexican partner in assessments and response planning, and has contributed funds and psycho-social help. The international disaster response group Action by Churches Together, of which PDA is a member, is coordinating a larger funding effort.

Contributions are being collected for the ongoing effort, and may be so designated through giving to LNPC.

***From the cedars of Lebanon
to the pines of the prairie ~***

Wayne received a note from Maruzella, International Peacemaker from Lebanon who visited with us (and cheered on the Twins) during her stay in the U.S.



"Dear Wayne,

I came back from the States to find a lot of work waiting for me.... [I have not had] enough time to reevaluate my trip and to reflect on the time I have spent there, on the lessons I learned and on the insights I brought into the life of the many people I met.

During my trip, I have been blessed with so many good friends, who hosted me, who showed me around, who listened to me and shared with me on the personal level. I have spent with them special moments that I will cherish for a long time. I want to thank you for being part of this wonderful experience I had with the Peacemaker program of the Presbyterian Church of USA.

Christmas is coming and Lebanon is still in a complicated situation. We still don't have a president of the republic, we are still having assassination of our best faithful leaders but mostly people are scared to live another war.

I would like to kindly invite you to pray with me for Lebanon, pray for the Prince of Peace to spread his loving wings on all of us. May Jesus Christ give your leaders and ours enough wisdom and love to guide my country to safer shores where only peace resides.

Please give my warmest wishes to all the friends I met in your church.

May you have a wonderful Christmas.

In Him,

Maruzella Abboud

PC USA - Peacemaker 2007

But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

Amos 5.24

Where is this 'justice'?

- Burger King is lobbying corporations who have already made commitments to the tomato laborers in Florida, attempting to roll back the penny-per-pound increase in wages for which the workers have fought. Having agreed to the increase while supplying Yum! Foods (Taco Bell) and McDonalds, growers are now backing away from their promises because of the refusal of Burger King to agree to the increased cost. "Have it your way?" It seems the only way is *their* way.

"As we read of such injustices in this time of Advent, we reflect upon God's justice and mercy, as described in the words of Mary:

[God] has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;
[God] has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

(Luke 1:52-53)

God intends well-being for all, not just some."

- *Fair Trade* is a model of international commerce that ensures farmers and workers in developing countries receive a just price for their products, which helps them compete in the global marketplace and promote development in their financially strapped communities. Partners for Just Trade, related to the PC(USA), has launched a website to bring fair traded handwork of Peruvian artisans to the world. Carrie Hawthorne, PJT's executive director, says "Fair Trade opens a door to the global marketplace and producers in developing countries, even in the most rural of villages, are able to create a sustainable business." As with the Just Coffee and Equal Exchange coffees available in the LNPC library, Fair Trade focuses on establishing long-term relationships between producers and conscientious consumers. "A fair wage enables artisans to provide food, shelter and medicine for their families and educate their children, while reclaiming and asserting their economic, political and social rights." PJT was established by Presbyterians in the St. Louis area after an experience in Peru with the Joining Hands Against Hunger organization.



Wayne Herstad - Interim Pastor
and Moderator of Session

2007 Session

Class of 2007: Bill Fischer
Joyce Tesarek Petrik
Barb Wilson

Class of 2008: Terry Gilberstadt
Gary Johnson

Lisa Phillips Johnson

Class of 2009: Sue Hensel
Diane Hansen
Dick Gross

Presbytery Commissioners -
Bill Fischer, Sue Goodspeed
Dennis Johnson – Clerk
Butch Goodspeed - Treasurer

Staff:

Jan Johnson – *secretary*
Andrew Crow – *choir coach**
Andrew Tessman – *organist*
Rodney Seek (Best Way) – *custodian**
*(contract position)
Editor - Sue Goodspeed

Committees of Session: Administration (Gary, Dick), Worship (Sue, Barb), Membership (Lisa, Diane, Joyce), Education (Bill, Terry), Personnel (Terry, Lisa, Dick).

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, interests or *anything* you'd just like to share, please talk with a Session member!

Board of Deacons: The Deacons function as a unit, sharing responsibility for visitation and ministries of presence with those in transition. Members are: John Bixby, Butch Goodspeed, Sue Goodspeed, JoAnne Hansen, Aleta Isaacson, Betty Johnson, Bobbe Larson, Georgia Mroska, and Marg Saxrud, and Kathryn Sathre, Parish Nurse Associate.

MISSION STATEMENT - LNPC

(as approved with the Revision Statement of October, 2007)

The Mission of LNPC is

- to become a beacon of hope and a place of sanctuary

- to reach out to the needs of neighbors, sharing our selves and our resources.

Prayer Network

We have been called to communicate with God through prayer. God encourages us to pray for one another and has promised to answer. To enable us to pray effectively for one another and for our church, the LNPC Prayer Network has been organized. Call Pat Erickson, coordinator (612-925-4418) with prayer requests.