

# THE CURRENT WORD



## LAKE NOKOMIS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

July-August 2008

***The General Assembly of the PC(USA) gathers for its biennial meeting June 21-28, 2008, in San Jose, CA..*** Eight members of our presbytery, four clergy and four elders, will attend as delegates: Revs. Andy Lindahl, April Davis Campbell, Walter Chuquimia, and Cindy Ray, Elders Brenda Tiefenbruck, Sue Goodspeed, Terry Schermer, and Tom Soulen.

***TOP TEN*** (possibly) ***ISSUES BEFORE THE 218<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY:***  
(as compiled by the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly - in no particular order)

***A revised Form of Government (FOG - watch for acronyms!)***

In response to action of the 217th General Assembly (2006), a task force is presenting a revised polity that aims to be more flexible, meeting the needs of a missional Reformed church in the 21st century.

***Partnership in World Mission***

A consultation initiated by the previous GA brings a call for an “Expanding Partnership in God’s Mission” that involves a wide variety of groups working together for the renewal of PC(USA) World Mission.

***PC(USA) ecumenical stance and covenants***

Addressing proposals for connections with other churches, as well as covenant agreements with four different churches: the Korean Presbyterian Church in America, the Episcopal Church, the Catholic Church and the Moravian Church.

***Peace, unity and purity of the PC(USA) (PUP)***

One portion of this report, approved by GA in 2006, is being reapproached as we seek to find fresh ways to use discernment in our life together, particularly involving the constitutional standards for ordination.

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### ***The Belhar Confession***

This confession grows out of the experience of Christians in South Africa and is an affirmation of the biblical call to Christian unity and racial reconciliation. The assembly will look at beginning the process of including this in the Book of Confessions.

### ***Middle East concerns***

Several overtures and advocacy committee proposals seek to strengthen the church's witness to peace with justice in relation to both Israel/Palestine and Iraq. (Sue was assigned to this committee)

### ***Elections***

A Moderator of the 218th General Assembly (2008) will be elected to a two-year term, and a new Stated Clerk of the General Assembly will be elected to a four-year term.

### ***Growing God's Church Deep and Wide***

The General Assembly Council is challenging the whole church to adopt a two-year commitment to grow the church in membership, in discipleship and in diversity.

### ***Domestic social justice concerns***

This assembly will address a large number of social justice concerns, including the adoption of a new Social Creed, as well as the adoption of major policy papers on serious mental illness, energy and global warming, pay equity for women, homelessness and electoral reform.

### ***A church for future generations***

One assembly committee will do generative thinking as it focuses on the church's ministry to and with youth to ensure a church for future generations.



*The worship service July 6 will focus on the experience of General Assembly. Using resources, music, and reflection from and on the Assembly, join in the Church's journey into its future. Sunday, July 6, 9:30 a.m.*

*Notes from Membership -*

***IT'S NOT HOW MUCH WE HAVE,  
BUT HOW WE USE IT...***

In an Op-Ed piece in the New York Times, columnist David Brooks addresses the changes that have taken many in this country from the Puritan legacy of self-restraint and discipline to a culture of debt and "living for the moment." Writes Brooks, "The United States has been an affluent nation since its founding. But the country was, by and large, not corrupted by wealth. For centuries, it remained industrious, ambitious and frugal...[T]he transformation has led to a stark financial polarization." (Copies of the article are available in the Library) One suggestion he puts forward is "First, raise public consciousness about debt the way the anti-smoking activists did with their campaign. Second, create institutions that encourage thrift."

Our part: **"Save, Share, Spend"** will be offered this fall - a money



management interactive workshop that addresses credit cards, bank charges, mortgages, loans, budgets, impulse buying, debt and other choices we make about how we spend our \$\$\$\$. Designed especially for young adults, the workshop will last four weeks. Set aside Wednesdays, September 17 and 24, October 1 and 8 from 7:00-8:00 with snacks and discussion until 8:30. A donation of \$15 will help cover costs of the workbook used for all 4 sessions of this workshop.

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The Deacons are inviting Elder Attorney Mary Hagen to share insights into **Elder Law** - guardianships, conservatorships, estate planning, health care funding, and other places where the law intersects our inevitable aging. Mary is an RN as well as an attorney. Watch for further information. The goal is to have a Sunday presentation after church one of the closing weeks of September.

*From Administration ~*

Going to the cabin? Not know what to do with that stimulus check? Don't forget the church! While heating bills are down, most other expenses continue. We're in this together...



### **This is the BIG ONE!!**

We committed to serve one meal this year at the Men's Shelter - Sunday, August 17. While we have served regularly and well at the women's shelter, that can be accomplished by a minimal number of workers.

***This one needs us all, as we serve up to 100 guests!***

Watch for a sign-up sheet for food and workers. Join in serving a wonderful group of men, and a few women.

### **EDUCATION**

It's barely even summer, and already we're thinking about school! Wonderful series' will be offered beginning in September:

**September 7** - Get back together! Review the fall schedule and hear summaries of upcoming classes

**Sept. 14 and 21** – Peacemaking to Strengthen Christ's Body (in conjunction with Peacemaking Sunday, Sept. 21)

**Sept. 28-Nov. 2** - "Responsibility of Christians in a Democratic Society"

*Children will use the Seasons of the Spirit - moving to the "Early Elementary" curriculum as the age of the group moves upward.*

### **HOUSECLEANING???** (maybe some of you do that...)

Presbyterian Women ask you to think of the Bazaar as you clean your cupboards. Household items, attic treasures, antiques and collectibles, small furniture... (no clothing, please). All proceeds from the Bazaar go to local and worldwide missions.

**Forgiveness** *From Westminster Counseling Center:*

"Forgiveness is a fundamental construct of pastoral counseling, as it exemplifies the connection between our spiritual lives and our psychological well-being. ... [M]y favorite observations come from Anne LaMott, author of *Traveling Mercies*. LaMott is a person who freely moves back and forth between her life in the church and the lessons she has learned in years of therapy. In her essays she shares her gentle wisdom regarding the self-destructiveness of not forgiving others, and reminds us that this usually doesn't hurt other people so much as it hurts ourselves. As LaMott puts it, "In fact, not forgiving is like drinking rat poison and then waiting for the rat to die." ... Luke 17:4 tells us about another of Jesus' important teachings about forgiveness—this time addressing the need to forgive over and over again. And doesn't that often seem to be the case with certain difficult relatives or friends? "And if the same person sins against you seven times a day, and turns back to you seven times and says, 'I repent'—you must forgive."

The writer Jack Kornfield, trained as a Buddhist monk, says "For great injustice, coming to forgiveness may include a long process of grief, outrage, sadness, loss, and pain. True forgiveness does not paper over what has happened in a superficial way. It is not a misguided effort to suppress or ignore our pain. It cannot be hurried. It is a deep process repeated over and over in our heart which honors the grief and betrayal, and in its own time ripens into the freedom to truly forgive."

... Working through our struggles to forgive others, whether in a more formal setting like Westminster Counseling Center or informally with a trusted friend or Bible study group, can make a significant difference in our lives and most certainly enriches our understanding of the message of spiritual growth and psychological transformation.

Part of the ministry of Westminster Presbyterian Church, *Westminster Counseling Center* provides ecumenical pastoral counseling, education and consultation to individuals, families, congregations and other faith communities. Its mission is to integrate the spiritual and psychological dimensions of human experience to promote healing and growth.

*"Dedicated to transforming mind and spirit"*

P R E S B Y T E R I A N  
O F E A S T I O W A



## Iowa is underwater - What can we do?

*East Iowa Presbytery...John Knox Presbytery... Missouri River Valley Presbytery...North Central Iowa Presbytery ...Des Moines Presbytery ...*

Many synod neighbors throughout Nebraska, Iowa, and Wisconsin have been dramatically impacted by the floods of last week. *Presbyterian Disaster Assistance* has already sent 27 members of its National Response Team throughout the region to provide assistance to local Presbyterian relief workers. The Presbytery of East Iowa, with PDA help, has set up a Disaster Response Team. As with many disasters, volunteers can overwhelm communities already stressed with destruction. Matching work teams with needs is a critical piece of service at which PDA has proved especially successful.

One need with which we can help is in donations of "Clean-up Buckets." Given to households in need, the Buckets hold:

- 1— 5-gallon bucket with resealable lid
  - 5 — scouring pads
  - 7 — sponges, assorted sizes
  - 1 — scrub brush
  - 1 — pkg. cleaning towels (18 reusable, like Easy Wipes®)
  - 1 — box dry laundry detergent, 50-78 oz.
  - 1 — liquid concentrated household cleaner (like Lysol®), 12 oz.
  - 1 — bottle liquid disinfectant dish soap (like Dawn®), 25 oz.
  - 50 — clothespins
  - Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
  - 5 — dust masks
  - 2 pair — latex gloves (like Playtex®)
  - 1 pair — work gloves
  - 1 — 24-count roll heavy-duty trash bags (33-45 gallon)
  - 1 — bottle insect repellent (drops or lotion, not aerosol), 6-14 oz.
- Purchase all liquids in plastic bottles and send only new, unopened materials. Put all items in the plastic bucket, packed securely to avoid damage during shipment, and seal lid with packing tape

***Let's gather the resources and energy of LNPC to contribute!***

Pick up a list at church. Put together a Bucket - on your own or with friends. **Bring it to church on July 13.** It will be delivered to one of the affected presbyteries.

Wayne Herstad - Interim Pastor  
and Moderator of Session

**2008 Session**

Class of 2008: Terry Gilberstadt  
Gary Johnson  
Lisa Phillips Johnson

Class of 2009: Sue Hensel  
Diane Hansen  
Dick Gross

Class of 2010: Aleta Isaacson  
Jane Kutz  
Norm Petrik

Presbytery Commissioners -  
Bill Fischer, Barb Day  
Alternate: 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, Aleta), Worship (Sue), Membership (Diane, Lisa, Jane), Education (Terry, Sue, Norm), Personnel (Terry, Dick, Lisa, Norm).

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: Marge Bantle, John Bixby, Sue Goodspeed, JoAnne Hansen, Betty Johnson, Bobbe Larson, Georgia Mroska, Pat Niznick, and Eva Webb, 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.