

# THE CURRENT WORD



## LAKE NOKOMIS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

July-August 2007

### *Where does time go?*

This is about the time in the good ol' summer time, that I wonder where the past two or three months have gone. We are almost into July, meaning that our idea of summer is one third gone. As the old cliché goes: 'Where does the time go?' The weather just got warm, we've gotten sun and rain, a couple of great out of door experiences, yet now summer is fast going, somewhere?

I keep forgetting God's time is not our time. God's time is kairos - Greek for holy time. Our time is chronos - or chronological, linear time. There's quite a difference. We get wrapped up in the characteristics of time passing, bodies aging, trying to get all our experiences in. There's a TV program called 1,000 places to visit before you die. I like the sound of it if it means that I can't die until I visit all of them. But...I don't think that's what they mean. They are still in linear time - what happens in our living, for pleasure, for leisure, easy living in the summer time!

God's time goes differently. It's connected to the holy, the divine. It means what happens in interrelating, between one another, in the seeking of God together and alone. And God's time is timely whether it's summer, fall, winter or spring.

I will be lucky to step out of chronos into kairos a couple of times this summer. I will attend a second interim training week in the middle of July. Our content will be to share in worship and in the sharing of experiences. We will share what has been meaningful in our churches, which is transforming human time into God's time. The time becomes holy as we seek ways to discern God's Spirit working.

The second opportunity is a trip to Glacier National Park in Montana. Again, human time will be transformed by the kairos of God's incredible creation and creatures. What a privilege is all around us! Whether in town or out of town, God's presence transforms the routine and the ordinary into the extraordinary.

May your time go into the timelessness and timeliness of God's time wherever you are and with whomever you spend time this summer.

~ Wayne

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, Bobbe Larson, Georgia Mroska, and Marg Saxrud.

### MISSION STATEMENT - LNPC

**In gratitude** for God's great love, freed by the forgiveness we know in Jesus Christ, and convinced by the Holy Spirit of our need for Christian community,

**we join together** as a community of faith to share Christ's love through worship, sacraments and prayer;  
to grow through education and mutual support;  
to prepare and receive empowerment for faithful living.

**and we go out** into the world to share the joy of God's love;  
to open our faith community to others;  
to work in the world for justice, healing, and peace.

### 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.

## THE VIEW FROM C.E.

By Bill Fischer ~ 20 June 2007

This evening's session was beautiful in two ways: It was a beautiful drive to church from "Dogpatch" (Farmington) and the session meeting was beautifully short.

Yep. I know we had severe thunderstorms in Anoka and a tornado sighting in Wright County but as the sun lay low in the sky and I sailed across the Minnesota River bottoms I saw the sudden beauty that only an early summer storm can display. To the West great, purple cumulus clouds boiled and roiled and sent bizarre shapes dipping toward the landscape. Every once in a while a brilliant shot of horizontal lightning would zap the sky from South to North. Looking east the sun lit one mountain range of clouds a dazzling white which was punctuated in turn by drifting, jet black clouds. What a photo op.

There is a strange beauty in the violence of a summer storm sky that, strangely, calms and excites at the same time.

At least, if it's not *your* roof!

I reflected that it is less than three weeks to the fourth of July and summer will already be unofficially over.

And we keep planning in the Christian Education committee. At the same time that LNPC is sponsoring a summer run of the very popular 'Saving Jesus' series of videos, Terri, Pastor Wayne and I have settled on three new things for adult ed for the September.

- Open with a series on "Battle for the Bible" – a one month review of a very good video (which I've actually watched from beginning to end!). This gives the history of the struggle to convert the medieval Bible to English and the subsequent efforts to publish it to the common laity. Lots of violence and intrigue and great historical treatment.
- 'Collapse' by Jared Diamond. How did the Mayans/Incas/Easter Islanders become great societies? What took them down? Could it happen to us? This book is available in paperback (on Amazon for around \$10 new). We would discuss it in a series of weekends. Diamond has written an excellent story of what environmental actors can make and break a civilization and draws on real history to prove his point.

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- 'Guns, Germs and Steel' – this is a series by PBS showing what one can expect when a technologically endowed society (notice that I didn't say "advanced") encounters a more "primitive" group. *This last item is still under discussion at the time of writing.*

These should take us pretty much through the Christmas season and possibly beyond. I think it's a great way to spawn questions and discussion about stewardship, social justice and ethics... among other things.

See You There!

*Bill Fischer, Christian Education Committee.*

### *Session Highlights:*

The **Membership Team** met, sharing enthusiasm and gratitude for the grant-writing skills of Lisa Phillips Johnson. As noted last month, a submission to the presbytery brought a \$2,000 grant to encourage outreach to the community in programming and communication. It has been used, so far, to print off updated copies of "How We Do It Here," and to provide for advertising and treats for the Wednesday evening "Saving Jesus" series. She has recently submitted a grant proposal to the PC(USA), expanding on the themes of transformation, through outreach and spiritual growth. Based on conversations during our "revision" groups, we would seek to enable open theological and spiritual conversation, community partnerships - both faith-based and educational, and actively utilize our ArtSpace and building as a community resource and a window on human experiences of God. If approved, the grant would be used to

hire someone to a part-time position to focus our energy and gifts to the goal of transformation and revitalization. *Both the proposals are linked on the church website from the "Missions" tab.*

In conjunction with this effort, Sue Hensel is offering her knowledge of the local art world to enable the more effective use of **ArtSpace** - with a goal of having new exhibits every three months. *The vision statement and exhibitor process for ArtSpace is linked from the ArtSpace tab.*



*The Membership Team is sponsoring the use of Just Coffee during Fellowship Time. Drip-ground coffee is available for purchase for \$8/lb.*

**Treasurer's Report – May:**      **Income:**      **\$6,232.10**  
**Expenses:**      **\$9,016.07**

The income this month, as so many, was significantly below expenses. Fortunately, the heating season and many benefit and denominational obligations have been fulfilled.

*Remember that the work of the church is dependent on your pledged support. Thank you for keeping your pledge up-to-date.*

## *Continue to Radically Reconsider ~*

**"Making faith meaningful - not by knowing the answers, but by asking the questions."**



The weekly conversations, led Rev. Herstadusing the DVD/discussion series "Saving Jesus", continues to meet on Wednesday evenings July. The series is being promoted to the neighborhood, flyers are available in the narthex, and all are encouraged to come, bringing a neighbor or friend. These are truly thought-provoking conversations, featuring some of the preeminent progressive theologians of our time.

Wednesdays, July 11, 18, and 25  
7:00 to 8:30 p.m. with refreshments provided.

### **Send a bit of home to those serving our country overseas:**

We continue to collect sundries and non- (or only moderately-) perishable foods for troops stationed in Afghanistan and Iraq. A list of suggested donations is in the narthex.

Bring your contributions to church, or donate funds for shipping.

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The **Revision** Leadership Team (basically a subset of Session + one) is in the process of writing a Vision Statement and developing Three-Year and One-Year plans which will be presented to Session in August. We anticipate having a congregational workshop after church on a Sunday in September. As always, please share any comments, ideas, dreams, (concerns) with Session members (see page 2).

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Jan Johnson (secretary) will be updating the church directory in July. We would like to include cell phone numbers and e-mail addresses for those who are willing to share. An e-mail group for the congregation would allow us to share event news and reminders easily and regularly. Please provide Jan with as many "connecting" methods as you choose! If possible, e-mail them to [pastorlnpc@msn.com](mailto:pastorlnpc@msn.com).



Norm Petrik attended an event at Presbyterian Church of the Apostles in Burnsville on June 21st entitled "Helping Returning and Iraq-Bound Vets". There were three speakers: Aundrey Sanchez, a veteran who shared his re-entry experiences, Major Cynthia Rasmusen, a USAR Combat Operational Stress Officer, who is also a psychiatric nurse at the Mpls VA Medical Center when she is not on duty, and Dr Ernie Bosswell a psychologist at the St Paul Vets Center.

They all stressed that the returning soldiers all have strong bonds with one another, and it is hard for them to adjust to family and home life. It is much easier for them to isolate from family and connect with other veterans and are likely to drink in the process. They all agreed it is important to reach out to veterans over and over, but also to hold them accountable for any illegal behavior such as domestic abuse. "Combat is the best of times and worst of times," said Dr Bosswell. It is exciting, thus it is important for family and others to ask how they are really, and keep inviting them to talk, even though they have a strong tendency to deny feelings.

"The members of Church of the Apostles were most welcoming to all of us, and it was a great conference. I'm glad I attended."

*Norm Petrik*



## **Prayers of the People**

*Agnes Widga has moved. After a stay in the Volunteers of America Care Center for transitional care, she has found a new home at:  
Solbakken, 7733 West 99<sup>th</sup> Street Circle  
Bloomington Phone 952-943-8485*

*God's World: " Hamas has recently taken over control of the Gaza strip after fighting between the Palestinian factions Hamas and Fatah. The fighting left more than 100 dead and many more wounded. Extensive damage was done to an already weak infrastructure. Hospitals became battlegrounds and medical staff were unable to report to work. The coming days and weeks could see a deepening instability in economic and social conditions, translating into thousands of families having no access to food, cash, medical care and other needed essentials, particularly as the new school year approaches." [from Presbyterian newsservices]*

*Let us hold all God's children in our prayers...*

## **from Personnel**

Thank you to Andrew Crow and Andrew Tessman for a wonderful worship year full of marvelous music! We are thankful for your ongoing association with us.

Just a reminder that Sept. 9th will be our first Sunday back on the regular schedule and that Choir Rehearsal will begin the Thursday before, Sept. 6th.

Wayne Herstad will be out on study leave from July 15-20 and on vacation from Aug. 24 - Sept. 3, 2007. Also, Session has approved the continuation of Wayne's Interim Leadership for up to one more year.

Jan Johnson, church secretary, will have vacation on June 29, July 3, 5, and 6. Thanks to Lee and Barb Day for offering coverage of the office during Jan's vacation.

Thanks again to the Personnel Committee for all their great work - Norm Petrik, Lisa Johnson, and Dick Gross.  
Terry Gilberstadt, Chair

During July and August, when not on Continuing Education or vacation, Pastor Herstad will be preaching on Jesus - familiar stories exposed with new challenges. Who was this man, this prophet, this radical, this Jew, God made human? A posting by the theologian Marcus Borg on Newsweek.com considers the Jesus of the gospels and early church and the "Church". (This is highly edited. See the full article at

[http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/marcus\\_borg/2007/06/just\\_ways\\_to\\_repair\\_an\\_unjust.html](http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/marcus_borg/2007/06/just_ways_to_repair_an_unjust.html)

Just Ways to Repair an Unjust War

posted by Marcus Borg, June 20

..."According to the almost two millennia old tradition of Christian teachings about war, there are only two legitimate Christian positions. The first is a commitment to non-violence. Jesus taught non-violence and non-violent resistance to evil. For the next three centuries, Christians were committed to non-violence, and Christian writers explicitly grounded their refusal of violence in the teachings of Jesus. The first three centuries are often referred to as the time of Christian pacifism: Christians were pacifists, loyal to the message they had received from Jesus. In [the] context [of the change in the Roman empire], a new question arose: now that Christians were in the majority, did they have a responsibility to defend the empire if it was attacked? Did they, for the sake of their non-Christian neighbors, have a responsibility to engage in warfare when faced with the invasion and pillage of their homeland? Or were they supposed to leave such defense up to non-Christians? In this new situation, the notion of a "just war" emerged...

Early Christian pacifism and later Christian just war teaching have something in common. Both seek to minimize Christian participation in war - the first by forbidding it, the second by limiting it to wars of self-defense. These are, according to Christian teaching, the only legitimate Christian positions...

...It is ... telling: much, indeed most, of Christian teaching for over a millennium has been focused on individual issues of right behavior and the fate of individuals, whether in this life or in life after death. Of course, individuals matter to the God of the Bible. But the God of the Bible and Jesus is also passionate about justice and peace - about our life together and our behavior together.

[W]hat is the responsibility of Christians, of people who affirm that Jesus is our Lord? When one commits a wrong act, of course one is responsible for minimizing the consequences of that wrong act. So how should those of us who are Christian respond in this situation? The first act should be confession - confession that as a nation, we were wrong to do this. Confession is about repentance - which means going beyond the mind that we have. Our national mind in the wake of 9/11 has been shaped and

manipulated by fear - despite the fact that one of the most common affirmations in the Bible is "Fear not," "Do not be afraid."

The second act should be an appeal to the international community to help us out - to become involved in seeking to secure a stable Iraq. We were wrong - and we need your help. Whether other countries will be generous enough to do so is unclear....

The solution begins by admitting what Dietrich Bonhoeffer called in his historical setting "our terrible alternative": to be humbled by our national and imperial hubris - the notion that we can shape and control the world with the power of military violence.

..[W]e can imaginatively consider options other than the ones we are pursuing. We are presently spending about two billion dollars a week on the war. What if the same amount were genuinely used for the rebuilding of Iraq? What if we actively sought the aid of Iraq's neighbors and our allies in working on a solution?...

But for us to continue on our present course because we want to avoid the humiliation of admitting that we made a terrible mistake is not only foolish, but decidedly unchristian."

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*God speaks to each of us as he makes us,  
Then walks with us silently out of the night.*

*These are the words we hear dimly:*

*You, sent out beyond your recall,  
Go to the limits of your longing.  
Embody me.*

*Flare up like flame  
And make big shadows I can move in.*

*Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror.  
Just keep going. No feeling is final.  
Don't let yourself lose me.*

*Nearby is the country they call life.  
You will know it by its seriousness.*

*Give me your hand.*

*--Rainer Maria Rilke*



