

THE CURRENT WORD



LAKE NOKOMIS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 2007

What does a Lenten journey mean again?

As I was thinking about Ash Wednesday and Lent, I remember a piece of prose that I wrote when visiting Cuba. In the midst of a nation bereft of most physical extras and in the midst of a 'Communist' sort of rule, I found a sense of community and care for those who are on the outskirts of society. Our Lenten journey can certainly be a reflection and rethinking of what is most important to us - especially in the nature of what we consider to be privileged or what we consider meaning in our faith and life.

"The True Nature of Privilege"

to share a few extra moments of life
 to share in a worship that you do not understand
 to meet brothers and sisters you never dreamed of
 to be cared for, guided towards transformation

to be crowded, and shoved
 towards exits becoming entrances

to be on unfamiliar land
 which challenges the spirit

to hear what you struggle to comprehend,
 meaning and otherwise

to move to new life,
 in the midst of old life

to be invited into the suffering and pain of others

to be allowed to express
our own vulnerabilities

to be sticky and hot
 in body and spirit

to be surrounded by
 instant community

to be surprised by
 smiles and laughter

... continued

...from first page
to be surprised by
 the gifts of love
 transferred in many ways
real privilege
 not rights
 based on human conquest
 but by the real gifts of God.

What do we think real privilege is, again?

- **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 Philips 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)

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.

Editor-for-the-month - Sue Goodspeed

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.

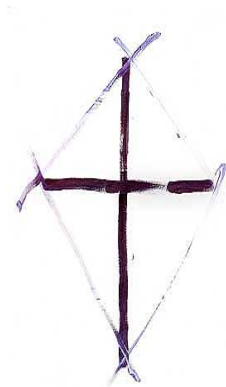
re^{re}vision™

We are now into Part 2 of the ReVision process, having submitted our surveys at the end of January and having begun the "Reflection" section. This is the primary, congregation-wide, conversation which will encourage us to listen: to the demographic study and statistics, to one another, and to the movement of the Holy Spirit within and among us.

Three small groups have begun meeting: Sunday at 11:45 at church, convened by Bill Fischer; Wednesday evening at 7:00 at 3441 Cedar with Sue Hensel; and Thursday noon at church, with Butch Goodspeed. All groups are discussing the same chapters during the same weeks, so those who must miss their regular groups are encouraged to stop by another. The goal of these groups is to, together, look toward the future of LNPC.

The "Context Report", laying out the findings of our survey and that of the neighboring community and intersections of the two, is available. It will be distributed in the small groups, but if you miss connections or haven't yet joined a group, extras are in the church office. If you do take one and are not yet in a group, we hope you will be encouraged to join one, to share insights you glean from it's reading.

May our prayers be fervent and our hearts be attuned to God's leading through this process.



As we travel, together and individually, through the season of Lent, a few reflections from our Ash Wednesday service:

This is a time of spiritual retreat for the whole Church. In communion with Christ in the desert, the Church is invited to forty days of purification, of stripping down tot bare essentials, of discipline, meditation and prayer before the Festival of Easter. These days are a celebration of our reflection in God's forgiveness.

- What sins do you grieve over in your life?
- What would it mean, what would you have to do, to make it right/changed?
- How could God or others help you? Where can you find the help you need?
- In what ways can you make this your Lenten journey?

THE VIEW FROM C.E.

Let me say that when you get 3 hours to summarize 600 years of polity development in the Presbyterian Church for new elders and deacons, that is a daunting challenge. Fortunately I gave up using overhead projectors with 2-watt bulbs back in my National Guard days, preferring instead to rely on blackboards and whiteboards.

That having been said, I can tell you that the 8 or so people who attended my polity class performed superbly. They know how to look stuff up in the Book of Order, a task that took me about two years.

The down side was that, running concurrently with the "Saving Jesus" series of tapes in the library, I missed some really great sessions.

This has been a terrific series of tapes addressing questions such as who the historical Jesus was (they include a couple of 'Jesus Seminar' alumni on the tape) and how the church changed after the first century or two to become something that was clearly not envisioned by the Disciples. It is the latter question which has interested me and, it turns out, has interested some other people in our congregation.

We on the Education Committee are going to finish the last couple of weeks before Easter re-running the first three tapes to attack the question of how we got from the original version of Christianity to that good ol' medieval ecclesia we came to know and love so much. We will probably be discussing, among other things, the Gospel of Thomas, and 'A Funny Thing Happened On The Way to Hippo, or, How St. Augustine Really Screwed Up Our Theology for 1500 Years'.

Actually, the current talk is that we will try and devote a good deal of our final part of the "regular" year to looking at the watershed events that occurred between the first and fourth centuries A.D., and asking some questions. Oops. That's 'C.E.' now; 'A.D.' is politically incorrect.

These are questions such as:

- How did original sin pop into the picture?
- When did Jesus ever say anything to Peter about a 'College of Cardinals'?
- What part of speech is "Ecclesia" in Aramaic?

Beyond that, we're still discussing a retreat in April. That too, may focus on what happened between the Sermon on the Mount and the Council of Nicea. But in a listener-friendly sort of way. Stay Tuned. *With Love, Bill Fischer/Education Committee*

"Getting older is everything is cracked up to be" (WC Fields)

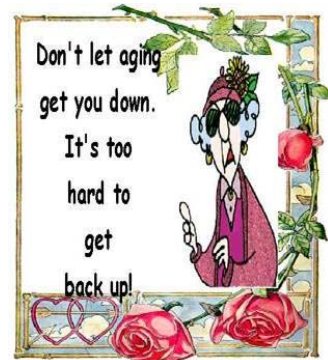
The Parish Nursing Program Presents:

What? Independent Living with Home Care
Why? Living independently can mean accepting home care as some activities become more difficult. This presentation provides information about the types of home care available, costs, payment sources and safety issues/tips to know when having a home care worker in your house.

Who? Linda Walker, Licensed Social Worker, Community Outreach Senior Service, SW Center, sponsored and brought to us by TRUST, an LNPC supported community outreach.

When? Soon - we'll keep you posted!

Where? Nokomis (fellowship) Hall



MARK YOUR CALENDAR - SUNDAY - MARCH 4 - NOON
ANYONE CONCERNED WITH HOME CARE FOR SELF, FAMILY, OR OTHERS



Luckily for me, when I agreed to chair the Ham and Cherry Pie Dinner...a whole troop of people would be in place (as they have been for many years) to back me up and make my job easier.

Preparations for our dinner started Sunday after church, as we boiled 70 pounds of potatoes. The work continued with a group coming in Monday morning and

then another group coming in on Monday night. Then again, we had workers arriving as early as....Butch, how early were you here? 1:30? for our 5 o'clock dinner. Most people arrived around 2:30-3:00pm.

I can't thank everybody enough! This is not to mention all the people who helped selling tickets at the door, seating people, serving people, and of course, clean up crew. WOW! We really do work well as a team. THANK YOU!!!!!!

So far, the *profit* looks like approx. \$800. This number may grow a bit as some money is still coming in from after sales.

I must also thank Larry Larson. He still has a connection with Hormel and graciously agreed to supply us with all that tasty HAM at a really good price. Larry also gave me shopping hints and advice. His voice is missed on Sunday mornings, as is his presence here.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED OUT!

Gary Johnson, H&CP Chair

Treasurer's Report - January:

Unrestricted income: \$ 13,106.66
Designated income: 32.00

Total Income: \$13,138.66

Unrestricted income to meet Annual
Budget (month) 11,427.17

Jan. actual expenses: \$15,277.53

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



- share your gifts on Palm Sunday, April 1.

Through Justice, we will know Peace:

"... And How Are the Children?"

Ecumenical Advocacy Day for Global Peace and Justice, March 9-12, Washington D.C. - supported by the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. Rev. Herstad will be attending as a Continuing Education opportunity. Ask him about it!

Around the Presbytery and Minnesota:

Westminster Presbyterian, 12th and Nicollet Mall

The Westminster Town Hall Forum series (*"key issues in ethical perspective"*) this season includes names familiar to those who have been able to participate in the Adult Education series, "Saving Jesus."

April 19: John Shelby Sprong, Episcopal leader and liberal Christian, author of "Jesus for the Non-religious"

April 26: John Dominic Crossan, professor at DePaul University and co-founder of the Jesus Seminar.

The complete schedule is on-line at www.westminster.org, or on the bulletin board at LNPC.

**Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC) Day on the Hill
Tuesday, March 27**

"The Power of a Thousand Voices"

Join people of faith from around the State for a day of education and meetings with Legislators in advocacy for the common good, social justice, and our democracy.

"Who is my neighbor?" Luke 10.29



As the new year begins and a newly installed Session begins the work of the Church, opportunities are available for ALL of us to be involved. Below are the four "teams" of Session and their basic responsibilities. Is there a place that interests you? Contact a Session member (see pg. 2) or call the office - 612.721.4463.

ADMINISTRATION	EDUCATION	MEMBERSHIP	WORSHIP
Finance and Budget, Building and Grounds, Legal Affairs, Stewardship	Sunday School, Adult Education, Youth Activities, Retreats, Officer Training	Outreach, Fellowship activities, Mission in the community and world	Liturgy, Music, Special Services, Worship space, Pulpit supply, drama, ArtSpace

-- excerpted from a letter from the PC(USA) Office of the General Assembly:

"Dear Presbyterian sisters and brothers in Christ,

We are writing to you in advance of news you may read in the coming days. We have heard that a few Presbyterian congregations may soon announce their intention to leave the Presbyterian Church (USA).



We are deeply saddened by this news for several reasons. First, any church's departure is difficult and painful for the congregations involved and the wider church.... And, the PC(USA) will miss the gifts and perspectives of these brothers and sisters in Christ.

Among the reasons of those wishing to leave are perceptions of particular actions of the 217th General Assembly last summer. These perceptions include concerns that our ordination standards have changed and that the PC(USA) no longer believes in the Trinity. Neither of these is true....

Our confidence in the strength of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and its people is unwavering....PC(USA) congregations are, day in and day out, engaged in remarkable ministries that include proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, breaking the bread and sharing the cup, challenging injustice, and exhibiting the kingdom of God to the world. As the apostle Paul wrote, "I am confident... that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1.6)

In over three hundred years of American Presbyterian history, we have never agreed 100 percent on any issue of the day. But, in the end, we are better together in Christ's unity....

Signed: Clifton Kirkpatrick, Stated Clerk of General Assembly,

Linda Bryant Valentine, Exec. Director, GA Council

dated Jan 29, 2007"

