

THE CURRENT WORD



LAKE NOKOMIS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 2008

Springing Spring Sunshine and Summer Shortly, I hope.

Change is happening, slowly. Daylight is longer and earlier. Slight hint of warmer – I just had to open the sun roof on my car the other day. Lent is about half over and Easter is coming. Thoughts of rain and mud and dirty cars emerge instead of snowbanks. Slowly but surely, springing spring sunshine and summer shortly ahead, we hope.

Like Easter, new birth and resurrection happen around us. LNPC is now living inbetween, in between the past, and present, and future, somewhere. The Pastoral Nominating Committee is hard at work seeking God's discernment and leading, as they look through the styles and gifts of clergy....

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Let us walk with Christ...

even to the cross.

*There we find healing and wholeness,
and from there, direction and joy.*



Inside:

Worship during Lent

ArtSpace - new installation in April

New Session Leadership

CPR Class coming

News and Notes....

...(continued from first page)... Committees/commissions have added new elders and deacons to their work, and said goodbye to those rotating off. Baptisms will testify to newness in human form. What wonder and grace!

Some have written about our lives, and our life together as a congregation, as being one of opening and closing chapters, or closing one door and opening another. For me this changing of our lives, and perhaps our life style together, is a bit more like the coming of spring. One day the sun shines. The next it snows. One day warm breezes open windows and spirits. The next day we kick the furnace back up. One day is full of light and the sound of birds, the next is dark. We alternate between different emotions and realities each day and it is only a bit later when we can look back and see the difference and new life.

So too in the church. There are rays of sunlight in the progress towards welcoming a new pastor. But it seems slowly paced out. Yet in each day we are able to sense God at work in the midst of our 'whatever.' And that is Good News. The sermons of Abram and Moses and other called ones testifies to a God of the tents. We follow a God who has made covenant with us to be present in all our todays and tomorrows, testified to by presence in our yesterdays.

And God still has work for us to do and love for us to share and justice for us to proclaim. May the God of all living creatures, may the God of the created earth and universe, may the God of all time and eternity, continue to renew us day by day into a newer tomorrow.

Peace, Pax, Shalom and Salaam
Wayne

Coming to General Assembly ...

In June, the PC(USA) will hold its 218th General Assembly. Two hundred eighteen! And the recent change to biennial meetings, and probably a few missed years (Civil War perhaps?) means that folks from this denomination have been working with, praying with, and wrestling with one another for a *long* time. A few issues have been preliminarily identified: fairly dramatic changes to the content and organization of the Book of Order; ways in which Presbyterians can work together in world-wide mission from national office and a plethora of tangential, but Presbyterian, organizations, can "find common ground via a shared set of core values and practices, and to find a way to move ahead together;" overtures relating to national policy on the Middle East and on social justice issues: serious mental illness, energy and global warming, and pay equity for women.

.....Stay tuned!

WORSHIP OUR GOD IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH ~

The season of Lent brings us from chill into warmth, from darkness to light, from sorrow to hope. Share in the walk through Holy Week - the Passion of Palm Sunday, the Betrayal of Maundy Thursday, the Joy of Easter.

Palms of **Palm Sunday** have been ordered through EcoPalms. The PC(USA), with Lutheran World Relief, Catholic Relief and the University of Minnesota, give congregations the option of purchasing responsibly harvested eco-palm branches for Palm Sunday. The palms come from communities in Mexico and Guatemala where workers are paid fairly and engage in sustainable harvesting in order to protect the local ecosystem.



Maundy Thursday, a contemplative service at 7:00 p.m. March 20, will include music performed by Andrew Crow, bass and LNPC choir coach, and Andrew Tessman, organ/accompanist.

Easter Sunday begins at 9:30 with a light breakfast and coffee shared with friends. In lieu of lilies this year, we will be sharing gifts with Chrysalis/Tubman Family Alliance, a local agency seeking "to use creative strategies to help people build violence-free lives."



Tubman
Family
Alliance

One Great Hour of Sharing offering is collected during March. This 60-year old program funds Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of Peoples. SDOP "establishes partnerships with oppressed and disadvantaged people, providing small grants for self-help projects aimed at helping recipients achieve self-sufficiency." This is an opportunity for us to make a difference in lives in our country and around the world.





University of Minnesota Music Department concerts:

March 2 - 2:00 p.m.: St. Paul Cathedral. All choirs are performing. Our choir members Leah and Aaron will be participating.

March 12 - 7:30 p.m.: Ted Mann Concert Hall. Orchestra performance, conducted by Andrew Crow, our choir coach.

April 5 - [time and location to be determined]. 'Holocaust Cantata,' with excerpts from writings from concentration camps.

May 2 - 7:30 p.m.: Ted Mann Concert Hall. Choirs present Carl Orff's 'Carmina Burana.' It's a treat!

The amazing coordinating team of Gary and Kathy Johnson, with seconds-in-command Alan and Aleta Isaacson, brought us another wonderful evening of food and friends at the Ham and Cherry Pie Dinner. Our gratitude to them, and to all the members, family and friends who gave their time for the cause.

Thanks

The woodworking gifts of Alan Isaacson are on display again in the film-screen boxes in the library and the sanctuary. Alan has also created a new counter-top for the newly-shortened bookcase in the library.

Dick Gross has been busy plugging holes in the pews - thank you, Dick.

Community Notes:

Methodist Hospital sponsors
"StrokeWise in a Day" Conference
April 19th:

Guest speakers will share information about stroke treatment, therapy, caregiving and coping. If you or a family member has been touched by stroke, time for networking will be available. See flyer on 'Mission' bulletin board.

Benefit ~

TRUST Parish Nurse Program:

Sacred Voice, an eight-voice a cappella choir will present a concert to benefit the Parish Nurse Program from which this congregation benefits.

Sunday, March 9, 4:00 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran - 49th and Nicollet

\$15 admission, \$10 seniors.

GOOD HEALTH TO ALL!



A **CPR CLASS** has been scheduled for Sunday, April 27th, after church, from noon to 4:00. The class can accommodate up to 15 people. The cost is \$10.00 per person [cost includes equipment that will be use for demonstration and practice]. Training includes a video, during which a light lunch will be provided, and will be taught by Paul Wampler EMT, a CPR instructor certified by the American Heart Association.

If you are interested in learning this life-saving skill, **sign up in the narthex by April 13th**. Priority will be given to LNPC members, but others in the community are welcome.

Hope all of you are staying warm and covering yourselves outdoors properly during this cold snap. Prayers and warm wishes to all.

Respectfully. Kathryn Sathre, LPN, Parish Nurse volunteer

Pastor Nominating Committee: the PNC has been overwhelmed by the response we have received to our pastoral position! We have received over 50 applications from all over the country, men and women, first career and second (or third...), newly ordained (or not yet) and with significant congregational experience. Most of our respondents have done some homework and seem to have their eyes open about our congregation, presbytery, and even Minnesota weather! We are beginning phone interviews with a select few candidates, following which we will hear a few sermons and talk with many references. We are using a 'rolling admission' process, so will be receiving and deliberating about new applicants while further along with the early group. As always, if you have questions, please ask - knowing that we may not be able to answer. It is *never* okay to share names, or choose according to gender or age. We take your trust seriously. Please continue to pray for God's guidance for your PNC and for those considering ministry with us.

Sue Goodspeed, Sue Hensel, Gary Johnson, Norm Petrik, Barb Wilson

Food for Thought and Prayer: ... bringing issues and the church's theological struggle together... *from Clifton Kirkpatrick, Stated Clerk, PC(USA)*

"It was an unforgettable experience.

I had the great privilege of leading a World Council of Churches 'Living Letters' delegation to Kenya at the beginning of this month. We went at the request of the National Council of Churches in Kenya to support the churches there in seeking reconciliation, to lend the voice of the world church for efforts toward peace, and to share the prayers and concerns of Christians around the world with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Kenya."

Meeting with many religious and political leaders, including the Vice President and leaders of the opposition, "[w]e shared with all of them our concerns for a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

One of the most helpful gatherings was with the leadership of women's organizations, who were united and passionate for a better way to be found to achieve reconciliation.

Our most heartbreaking visits were with families whose loved ones had been killed, whose homes had been burned to the ground, and who found themselves stranded in refugee camps.

We even spent time with some very angry young men that saw no hope for change short of violence.

What we learned was that there are no "quick fixes" to the problems in Kenya. After listening to various explanations of the crisis, a member of our delegation from the United Kingdom stated, "This is as complicated as Northern Ireland." And he was right!"

Years of festering ethnic conflicts boiled over with the recent flawed election. "Beneath [the long-standing conflicts] are deep injustices left over from the colonial period and a society with one of the widest gaps between the rich and the poor anywhere in the world.

What was clear to all is that peace, reconciliation, and justice must go hand-in-hand in any solution. What was also clear to almost everyone with whom we spoke was a profound sense that this situation must not be allowed to deteriorate into another Rwanda.

...What left me with hope is that the churches, who themselves have at times been compromised, are now committed to being a force for peace and reconciliation. They have invited all of us to join them in praying and working for peace in Kenya. I do hope and pray that we will heed their call and that Kenya will know peace."



Simpson Shelter: a group from LNPC will be serving 20-25 women at the Simpson Women's Shelter, 19th Street and 11th Avenue, Sunday, March 9th. Next meal: May 4th at the Women's Shelter.

The newly configured Session has taken on the following roles:

Membership: Diane Hansen, Lisa Johnson, Jane Kutz [Deacons: Bobbe Larson, Marge Bantle, Sue Goodspeed; at-large: Dennis Johnson, Joyce Tesarek]

Worship: Sue Hensel [Deacons: John Bixby, Georgia Mroska, Pat Niznick, Sue Goodspeed; at-large: Barb Wilson]

Administration: Gary Johnson, Dick Gross, Aleta Isaacson [Deacons: Jo Hansen, Betty Johnson]

Education: Terry Gilberstadt, Sue Hensel, Norm Petrik [at-large: Bill Fischer]

News and Notes from those we love:

'To our friends at Lake Nokomis Church,

On behalf of Agnes, thank you for the Christmas cards. Your kind words and thoughts were appreciated. I read them to Agnes and some way I think she got the message.

Thanks to Rev. Herstad for coming out to where Agnes is and giving her communion.

Agnes is getting the best care and support at this Assisted Living Home.

Lee Widga'

Ham and Cherry Pie proceeds mean much less than the sense of community it engenders. However, they contribute to the ongoing work of our congregation. This year, proceeds (still trickling in) are approaching \$1,000!

Congratulations. All!!

From the Ham and Cherry Pie Dinner ~
(this was definitely 'old home night!')

Nick St. Jacques and his wife, not-so-newly married, are expecting a child this summer! He was here with mom and dad, **Karin** and **Jim**, and **Warren** and **Marlys Schluck**. Rounding out the table were Pat and Tim **Niznick** (and a child I didn't get to meet!)

Marge **Bantle** had a table-full of family, as did **Bobbe**. Larry and Karla **Larson** were here with daughter Sara and her two boys, sharing their table with Todd **Hansen**.

Always good to see the **Gross** clan!

Maya Gilbert and **Aunt Ami** were showing off baby Tucker.

Rosie **Topoluk** faithfully brought the birthday group - how many years now?

... and **Inga** wins the prize for the only centenarian - again!



LNPC has been a member of the TRUST group of churches in Southwest Minneapolis for many years. Standing for "Toward Renewed Unity in Service Together", TRUST provides services and opportunities for service to members of eighteen local churches and the neighborhoods in which they minister. Diane Hansen has recently taken a role as a member of the Board, following on the lengthy service of Jim Duncan. Our Parish Nurse

connection, led by Kathryn Sathre, is a program of TRUST. Check out their website, <http://www.trustinc.org/>, for more information, ask Diane, and watch and listen for ways to connect!

ArtSpace has been filled with the work of John Alme. The exhibit runs through March. Coming in April and May, we will host an exhibit of photographs of St. Paul artist Erin Harrington.

ARTSPACE OPENING RECEPTION

FRIDAY, APRIL 4
7 - 9 p.m.

~ *moments of clarity* ~

June and July will exhibit the evocative prints of local artist Gregory McDaniels - a celebration of the prairie.



Do you have a congregational event to publicize? LNPC will have a regular ad in Southside Pride, which gives us the opportunity to share activities and opportunities. Contact the Membership Team.

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, Sue Goodspeed
Alternate: Barb Day
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.