

THE CURRENT WORD



LAKE NOKOMIS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 2007

"A Special Time of Year"

Mixtures of sights, sounds and smells reawaken emotions within us at this time of year. Ya, I know. It's too early. But, we say that every year. Part of us wants time to go slower, to go backwards, to go - wherever. Yet it's moving on towards the incredible sights and smells of Thanksgiving - a national holiday - of 'giving thanks.' We don't have all the exact details right, and never will. But the feelings of family and food recall the past and content us with each other's presence for a day. No, I'm not sure how football slipped into all that. Perhaps it was a plot to keep men from messing up in the kitchen?

Then we slide right into the holy days - Advent of Jesus - reminder of God's love shared with us in such wondrous forms and images. I know, I know, it's way overdone, misused and abused, all the wrong motives - but - it is still one of the most wondrous reminders of God's love come to earth in such a special way.

May God touch you, again and again, with the wonder of that divine love.

Blessings and grace ~ Wayne

Inside - news of the congregation, the presbytery, and the church in the world:

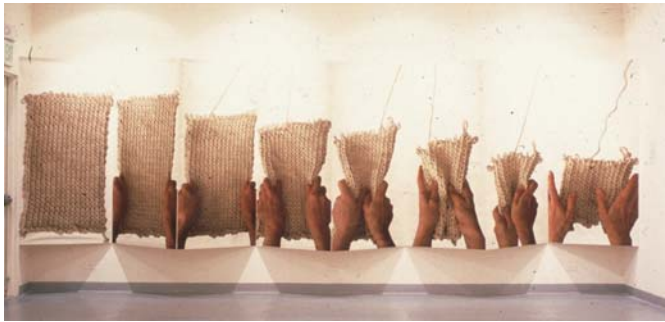
revision[™] *It's time! Set aside Sunday November 18 for a potluck and congregational presentation of the report of the Revision process! We look ahead with hope and joy! More inside....*

New ArtSpace exhibit, *Leap of Faith - 3*, celebrates its opening with a reception November 9th...

Presbytery to consider restoration of ordination of former member Paul Capetz...

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance responds to California forest fires...

.....and much, more...!



Letting Go by Betsy Dollar will hang in the sanctuary

Leap of Faith - 3

Nov. 9-Dec. 28

Opening Reception Friday,
November 9

5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

The new exhibit in the ArtSpace Gallery is being held in conjunction with Susan Hensel Gallery, 3341 Cedar Ave. South.

Presbytery News ~

A special meeting of presbytery has been called for Saturday, December 1st, to act on a recommendation by the Committee on Ministry to restore the ordination of Paul Capetz, former clergy member of presbytery and former member of LNPC, who set aside his ordination in 2000. Paul is a gay man, professor of church history at United Theological Seminary, and currently a member and educator at Macalester Plymouth United Church. Paul has declared a "scruple," or exception, to a portion of the Book of Order, asking that the presbytery declare that section G-6.0106b be determined to not be an "essential tenet" of the reformed faith. *Please pray that the grace and wisdom of God guide the presbytery in considering the restoration of Paul to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament.*

A New Way -

The Presbytery has subdivided into six "cluster" groups of congregations to encourage mutual ministry and support. The clusters are primarily geographic, but in the metro area, they also attempt to mix suburban, urban, large, and smaller congregations. LNPC has been placed in a cluster with: Laurel (Hagar City) and Ellsworth Churches in Wisconsin, First (Red Wing), First (Hastings), First (Farmington), Spirit of Life (Apple Valley), Church of the Apostles (Burnsville), Hope (Richfield), Edgecumbe and Randolph Heights (St. Paul), and First (South St. Paul). Members and clergy from the Laurel and Ellsworth churches, Apostles, Hope and LNPC talked at this fall's Mission Conference and shared an enthusiasm to explore connections. *Stay tuned - Food may be involved!*

It's time to get specific! The congregation began a season of reflection and conversation about the current energy and future direction of Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church. Through eight winter/spring discussion group gatherings, a good share of the congregation was able to look at demographic studies of our neighborhood (our "context" in program language), honestly assess our strengths, weaknesses and energy for moving forward, and dream about what "might be." From those discussions have emerged a vision statement and mission statement. Session has approved both those documents. Now their ultimate creators, the congregation, will look at them together and discuss ways we can use them to lead us into the future.

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**Pot Luck - Sunday, November 18 - after church (11:45)
Presentation and Conversation**

You Are Invited to a *Celebration of Gratitude*
"Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;
make known among the nations what he has
done." Psalms 105:1

Thursday, November 8, 2007
Kwanzaa Community Church
2100 Emerson Ave. N., Minneapolis

6:00-7:00 p.m. Refreshments & Fellowship
7:00-8:00 Program

RSVP by calling 612-287-8152

Our program will include a lively presentation of Kwanzaa's successes and challenges over the past year, and new ideas for involvement and partnership for you and/or your congregation.

Kwanzaa

Dateline: the United Nations ~

The Presbyterian News Services reported from New York that denominational representatives were among 100 religious leaders who met with Iranian president Ahmadinejad while he was in the US. Sponsored by the Mennonite Central Committee, the group's goal was to establish a dialogue between people of faith in the US and Iran. The PC(USA) is committed to its 150-year old partnership with Evangelical Church of Iran.

The participants questioned the Iranian leader pointedly about the Holocaust, the treatment of Christians in Iran, nuclear proliferation, and a number of challenging subjects. A leader of the US group explained "We are engaged in this dialogue not because we agree but precisely because there are fundamental disagreements to be addressed."

A PC(USA) participant pointed to the statement in the Confession of 1967 that "the church, in its own life, is called to practice the forgiveness of enemies and to commend to the nations as practical politics the search for cooperation and peace."

With Gratitude ~

"Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church will conduct an annual Stewardship Campaign 'With Gratitude' in the month of November."

I agonized over that one little announcement sentence because it actually needs all kinds of explanatory information, more words, more ideas packed in all the spaces between the words. Last Sunday I attended a different church in a different town....but the people were just like us and we sang: "I am the Church. You are the Church. We are the Church Together." You and I, all of us together, ARE the Church! We and God are in this together—and He is a mighty ally, an ever present friend and a loving guide. But...what are we doing? An annual campaign?? Are we in a war? A battle over and over again??? Do we do this 'Stewardship Stuff' only in November??.....I don't think so. And what is 'Stewardship'???? There are so many definitions! This year we are defining it simply as saying..... THANK YOU..... *'With Gratitude'*.

Stewardship means you care. You appreciate what you have from God's bounty: family, friends, food, flowers. You want to take care of all those gifts with gratitude. You want to give back, with gratitude.

Each Sunday in November a member of the Administration team will share a personal definition of Stewardship in the Worship service. Each member of the congregation will receive a letter regarding opportunities to pledge from your time, talents and dollars.

Please consider your pledge *'With Gratitude'* and return it to church on **Sunday, November 18th**.

I am grateful for LNPC and that you and I come together here to learn, and sing, and to worship and say 'Thank You' to God.

~ Written *with gratitude* by Aleta Isaacson



The Administration Team gives thanks to the office/chapel deconstruction and restoration group. On a Friday, a group of 5 moved furniture in preparation for painting and new carpet. On a Saturday, a group of 9 painted and moved more furniture (and books). On a Monday and Tuesday, 6 gathered to move the furniture back... check out the 'new' spaces! Thanks to: Gary [fearless leader] and Kathy Johnson, Alan Forslin, Aleta Isaacson, Dick Gross, Diane Hansen, Betty and Doug Johnson, Georgia Mroska, Joyce Tesarek, Wayne Herstad Dave Erickson, Seth, Sarah, Butch and Sue Goodspeed.

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.

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.

Presbyterians respond in times of need ~



Fires in Southern California have scorched 700 square miles of land and set the lives of millions reeling. **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**, funded primarily through *One Great Hour of Sharing*, has six responders in the area now, “represent[ing] the presence and care of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and ... bring[ing] a witness of God’s love and comfort to church leaders and communities affected by the disaster.” Malibu Presbyterian Church burned to the

ground, three other Presbyterian churches in the San Diego area are threatened, and many members have been displaced. The PDA will continue to work with the presbyteries involved – those best able to assess and determine specific needs, helping with the long-term recovery needs of the communities, with special concern for those without the security of sufficient income or safety nets. Witnessing to our hope, the pastor of the Malibu church said, in a Fox News interview, “Well, you know, we’re an Easter Faith people, so you know on Friday, it looked like things were bleak for Jesus, but we saw that Jesus rose again. And our church is a resurrection church. We’ll gather again. We’re going to regroup again.” Writing to the denomination, commenting on the support of PDA and the denomination’s Covenant Insurance Program, the executive of the adjacent presbytery reflects “It is good to belong to a family. May we become family for many who are displaced and without family at this time.” *Funds designated for fire relief may be contributed to PDA through your giving at LNPC. Just designate on your envelope or in the check’s memo field.*

Coming to LNPC in December ~

Peace

Quiet

Comfort

Contemplation

Do your holidays need any of these? Say them over again, slowly – is the blood pressure dropping?

The Worship Team offers Advent times of reflection and calm in sanctuary meditation times and a Blue Christmas service of healing and comfort.

Thursdays, December 6, 13, and 20, from 6:00 to 7:30, the sanctuary, with candlelight and soft music, will be open to the neighborhood for meditation.

Thursday, December 20, at 7:00, we will hold a Blue Christmas service, lifting up those for whom the season brings discomfort and sadness – holding up God’s promise of comfort and wholeness. Let us open ourselves to the peace of God’s presence.

