

THE CURRENT WORD



LAKE NOKOMIS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 2007

Interim Pastor's Note ~

Change is hard, intentional work. God's call is a call to witness in the midst of change around us, and a call to change within. We are called to witness as we explore and learn together. And it is always an exciting journey to learn and to share love in the midst of our fellowship and search for doing justice. In this special fall newsletter edition are listed the most important new movements and opportunities that God is sharing with us. Plan to join us as we learn, grow and serve together. These are crucial for God's continuing witness through us.

~ Wayne

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

Interim news - session is moving forward with revision reports, consulting with session COM representative about options for LNPC, and will be scheduling a late fall report to the congregation.

What's new and coming?

Peacemaking Sunday and Worldwide Communion - October 7 - reach the world for God's peace

'Bring a kid to church' - find God together

Collapse is coming - what do we and the earth need to do to survive?

Flu relief is just around the corner

Torture and justice resolution put on hold by presbytery

Physical movement and change happening - carpets, library...

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

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.

So, LNPC, what's goin' on??

September was a big month for LNPC - outside our doors as well as in. Our first "Opening" at the ArtSpace gallery was a wonderful evening. The photographic work, "Salvaging Beauty" of artist Jimmy Ray Ostgard is on display through the first week of November. Over 50 people, many of whom were first time visitors to LNPC, came to view his work and share a glass of wine and treats. We have two shows scheduled - Leap of Faith, a national show in conjunction with the Susan Hensel Gallery in November and December, and local artist John Alme starting off our new year. We hope to host several art shows in our ARTSPACE for the benefit of the artists.....the community... and us!

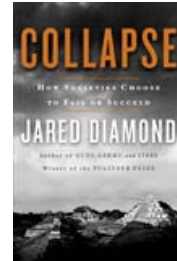
LNPC - represented by members and dogs! - had a display at the neighborhood "Fall Festival" event at 48th and Chicago on Saturday, September 15th. On display were two aerial photos of our neighborhood and "before and after" photos of LNPC from 1950 and 2007. These were a hit with our neighbors, who came to look for their houses and occasionally took brochures covering our church and the outreach activities we have. It was viewed as a success in increasing our visibility in our neighborhood.

CALL FOR PHOTOS!!

To complement the great aerial photos of our neighborhood (in the library), we'd like to gather local photos, especially from the 1950's and before - photos of the area...the Lakes...landmark buildings...noteworthy streets like Chicago and 48th or Nicollet... Minnehaha Falls...little kids in 1950 snow suits enjoying the sliding hill on the parkway by Cedar...the old farmland areas...old skiing photos... Bring any you care to offer to the church office. They will be treated with care and returned.

Thanks! To Diane Hansen for coordinating, and hosting the pre-game for, the **Twins** outing! Trains, cheers, hot dogs... and teaching a Lebanese peacemaker what "balls" and "strikes" are - and what's this about "3 outs"???

Join in the **Wednesday evening book group** - offered by LNPC throughout the community - based on Jared Diamond's books Collapse and Guns, Germs, and Steel... or come Sunday mornings to Adult Ed - same great program through November!



AND... you'll be watching on a **"BIG SCREEN"**! With funds from our presbytery grant, we purchased a pull-down screen for the library.

- From the Membership Team

Take a Kid to Church ~ October 14

Grandchildren? Your children's playmates? That special kid on your block?

We love children and wish there were more worshiping with us. It can be awkward or uncomfortable for someone who is unfamiliar with worship to step inside the door. "How do they do it here?" This is a fair question. "Are they wacky like the TV evangelists? What are they going to expect of me? How will I be judged?" There are a lot of reasons why parents might be skeptical of attending church. Yet most people in our culture claim to be Christian and acknowledge that they have spiritual needs. Good parents want to nurture beliefs and values in their children. The problem is children have no opportunity to attend church if someone doesn't take them. We want do something about that, but what?

An idea was floated at Session to establish the second Sunday of each month as a **Take a Kid to Church Sunday**. What does this mean and what will we do?

- We will welcome everyone as a member of the family.
- Teachers will be available and activities will be planned for age appropriate activities.
- The children will have an active part of the worship service.
- We're making a once a month commitment, consistent with our resources until we can fine tune the idea.

The children we have in mind may have *already been at LNPC* but need you to bring them back here. As a care-giver you should:

- Talk to the children's parents first!
- Let them know that other novices will be there too!
- Let us know you are coming, if that's possible. It helps us plan. Give Jan a call at the office.
- Talk to the children about what goes on and have a little fun.
- Plan on attending adult education yourself. There's nothing like a role model to establish good behavior.
- Talk after church and see what happened and what they thought.



This is not much different from learning how to fish, use the light-rail, or ride a bike ~
Kids need adults to help them out. You can do it and we will help!

GOOD HEALTH TO ALL...

Mark your calendars: the Flu season is coming! ... and the Flu clinic will be at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, 1620 E. 46th Street , on October 23, 2007 from 5:30 to 6:00 pm. TRUST, in partnership with MVNA, will once again be sponsoring flu shots here. To have Medicare billed for shots, seniors must bring their Medicare Part B or any other insurance card, or coupon received in the mail. Pneumococcal vaccine, for pneumonia, will also be available at this time.

Please wear a short sleeve top so your upper area is accessible to the nurse.

MN Visiting Nurse Agency will have all their clinics posted on line at www.mvna.org once the clinics begin in October.

Also if you have questions about medical diagnoses, medication or other health issues, leave a note in my box for mail in the office or let me know at Church. I'll write about it, or find the information for you. I want to provide the information you really need in the Current Word.

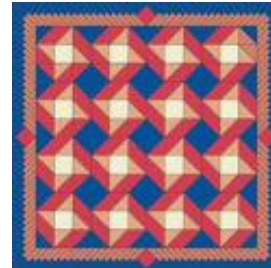
Respectfully - Kathryn L. Sathre LPN

It's that time of year again!

Mark your calendars for **ANNUAL BAZAAR** -
Sat. Nov. 3rd 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 p.m.

All donations of antiques or collectibles, baked goods, holiday and handcrafted items or items for the attic treasures would be greatly appreciated.

We also will be selling the crock bowls from the kitchen and toys and furnishings from the back Sunday School room. If anyone is interested in them please talk to Marge Bantle (651-454-0270) or JoAnne Hansen (612-721-3196).



WHAT HAPPENED AT PRESBYTERY

September 2007

This month we had our full compliment of people from LNPC: Pastor Wayne, Sue Goodspeed and me. I was thrilled with the available parking at the Burnsville Church of the Apostles. I was less thrilled with the low level of available seating.

I always like seeing familiar faces at Presbytery, whether it be former pastors, former youth types or people I've done other things with (said "Hi" to two of my Hungary companions from this past summer).

This month the Presbytery enrolled Mary Caplinger as a candidate for Ministry of Word and Sacrament. She's been in the process awhile, moving now from the "inquirer" station to the more committed "candidate," looking to complete her coursework to become "certified and ready for call." I wish her the best of luck.

We saw a slideshow on this year's Youth Triennium and it made me a little wistful for times when we had an active youth group at Nokomis.

The interesting part of the evening came with the proposed resolution from the Peace and Justice Committee. They have been hammering out a statement attempting to encapsulate what the PCUSA stand should be on how our government should behave. Hmm. Let's have a look at those points:

- 1) They think the government should "...implement constructive foreign policies based on peacemaking and the pursuit of justice..."
- 2) They think the USA should work through conflicts by "...nonviolent means..." and for the enforcement of international law.
- 3) They think the USA should not start a pre-emptive war.
- 4) They think that (citizens') constitutional rights should be protected by due process.
- 5) They think that the USA should not "...apply torture or degrading treatment to human beings..."

OK – let me see if I understood this:

- 1) peacemaking and justice are preferable to making war and hurting people (at least wherever possible).
- 2) Using international law is preferable to writing our own or trampling the ones that are there.
- 3) We probably shouldn't be in the business of starting wars.
- 4) We should stick to our constitution and the due process that we inherited from England over 300 years ago (perhaps because it's preferable to summary executions, lynching and hauling people off to the Gulag in the middle of the night).
- 5) Oh right – finally – torture...bad, human dignity ...good.

These are obviously very subtle concepts and require a keen intellect to figure out. It was all a little over my head but my instinct told me that picking wars for no good reason and torturing people probably came with (morally) better alternatives so I was happy to vote for the resolution.

...But then... as the 'pro side' was about to garner an easy 2/3 vote on it (the 'pro' side being "those of us who think torture might be a 'bad' thing"), the 'con' side raised a question that this might be a political statement. Wow! That sure surprised me. Well, not really. I guess I kind of assumed it was as much a political statement as an ethical one.

Suffer me to digress a little here... (I took a degree in political science) ..."Politics is the authoritative allocation of values" [Grimnitz and McGuire, 1970]. This was the mantra with which I entered the study back in '73 at Normandale. So now let me suggest something: "Politics is not always ethical but ethics are always political" [Bill Fischer, LNPC Newsletter, Sept. 2007].

Anyway, the 'con' side began to rebut the resolution points on the following basis:

1. It was a political, not a religious statement.
2. It was divisive (because not everyone in every church would agree).
3. If it passed we would lose lots and lots of members in the denomination.

This made some sense. I had to consider all that. After all, Jesus was political, Jesus was frequently divisive and if somebody is going to stomp out of the church over this then I hope the door don't hit 'emwell you know the rest.

When the 'con' side figured out that the measure might pass over their objections they moved to defer it (the debate) until next Presbytery. A lot of people who didn't really want to vote yet anyway (it was confusing, after all) agreed so the Presbytery has deferred this vote. Besides, it was past 8pm.

That's what happened at Presbytery.

- Bill Fischer



Breakfast, Anyone?

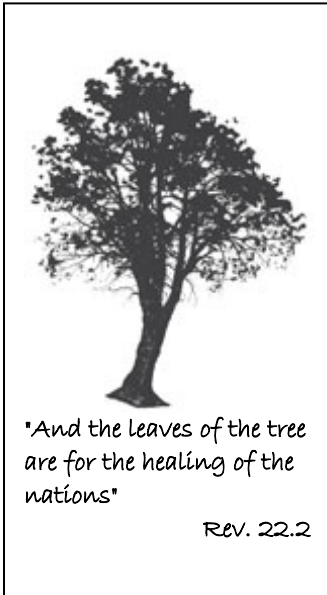
Benefit the Parish Nurse Program of TRUST with scrambled eggs, bacon/sausage, juice/coffee and all-you-can-eat pancakes! Applebee's - 3200 W. Lake Street (at Lake Calhoun)

Saturday, October 6, 8-10 a.m.

\$6/advance, \$7/at the door; kids and seniors \$1 less.

Call TRUST 612.827.6159 for tickets.

Have you noticed the clean carpet in the hallway and library?
Thanks to the Administration Team for coordinating its cleaning (and to all of us to eat carefully and clean up after ourselves!). Keep an eye on the office - new carpet has been ordered for the entire space - office, study, and counters' room!
Looking better every day...



2007 Presbyterian Peacemaking Offering

Sunday, October 7 - Worldwide Communion

Offering our gifts and ourselves for the peace of the world, the Presbyterian Church's Peacemaking offering shares gifts between congregational (25%), presbytery (25%), Synod and General Assembly (50%) ministries. Funds remaining with LNPC support our efforts in peacemaking - education, support, or outreach. The denominational gifts support a variety of programs, including the International Peacemakers Program which brought Maruzella Aboud to our congregation in September. Other programs fund campaigns against torture worldwide, advocacy and education with United Nations groups, provide study resources, and support a swords-to-plowshares business in Liberia.

The International Peacemakers Program brought Maruzella Aboud to us in September. A native of Beirut, the vibrant Lebanese woman was introduced to the United States with a glass of wine at the Hansen's and cheering on the Twins at the Metrodome! She then led an insightful and sobering Adult Education class and preached on the challenges facing her nation - conflict between faiths and between nations - and her challenge of living a faithful life in the midst of violence.

The Worship Team, with the blessing of Session, has created the position(s) of *Choral Scholar*. Funded by Memorial Funds designated for Fine Arts, we will, using the recommendations of our choir coach Andrew Crow, bring one or two vocal students to experience sacred music from the inside, as well as augment our choir during the school year. We expect to have the program in place in January.



Bill Fischer, our peripatetic representative to the international church (I looked it up - it means "journeying hither and thither"), has returned from another August in Hungary. In a partnership between the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area and the Reformed Church in Hungary - Transdanubian District, groups of young people have given part of their summers to share conversational English with Hungarian students - and have a lot of fun, too. Bill's reflections, in their illustrated entirety, are available in the library. They are excerpted here:

"This was probably the last of the PIPP trips to Hungary for the Hungarian partnership. This year Vickie, Nicole and I went as a trio to assist Jack Mayfield with the Reformed School of Pàpa's English Camp..... We had only four American kids, most or all from the Church of the Apostles. They were terrific! Of course, once we got to Pàpa we also had about 80 Hungarian kids to help with...The regimen is normally as follows: A day in camp with programs and devotions, designed primarily to immerse the Hungarian kids in English (they are already pretty fluent) or enlighten the American kids about Hungarian culture which is alternated with a day of 'excursions' which are either to a site of interest or to the town of somebody's sister church. We took the ferry across Balaton to the village of Balatonboglar where the church is the sister church of Apostles in Burnsville..."

~ Pick up the whole story in the library!

The **Fall Mission Conference** has changed format! This year, a mission worker and a professor of constructive theology (and researcher of "mission in a multicultural world") will present a vision of denominational mission for the future. Join the conversation at Trinity Presbyterian in Woodbury:

Saturday, October 13, from 9:30 to 3

Lunch is included in the \$10 registration fee.

Questions? See Sue Goodspeed or the website.



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• The **presbytery is subdividing**
• **into six Clusters** - groups of
• churches which will encourage,
• and join one another in mission
• and ministry. LNPC is in a cluster
• with: Hager City and Ellsworth, WI,
• Red Wing, Hastings, Farmington,
• Apple Valley, Burnsville, Richfield,
• Edgumbe and Randolph Heights
• in St. Paul, and South St. Paul.
•**WATCH!**
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