

THE CURRENT WORD



LAKE NOKOMIS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

June 2008

MUSTS for SUMMER READING... by Wayne Herstad

Three Cups of Tea: one man's mission to fight terrorism and build nations – one school at a time Greg Mortenson
Amazing book! WH

One day in 1993, after a failed attempt to climb K2, the world's deadliest peak, Greg Mortenson wandered lost and alone, broken in body and spirit. Muslim people of an impoverished village in Pakistan's Karakoram Himalaya nursed him back to health. Mortenson made an impulsive promise: he would return one day and build them a school for girls. He was a homeless "climbing bum" living in his aging Buick in Berkeley, CA, but Mortenson sold his few possessions to launch one of the most remarkable humanitarian campaigns of our time. "Three Cups of Tea" traces Mortenson's decade-long odyssey to build schools for girls throughout the region that gave birth to the Taliban and sanctuary to Al Qaeda. While waging war with the root causes of terrorism – poverty and ignorance – providing both girls and boys with a balanced, nonextremist education. Mortenson survives a kidnapping, fatwas issued by enraged mullahs, death threats from American who consider him a traitor, and wrenching separations from his family. Today, as the director of the Central Asia Institute, Mortenson has built fifty-five schools serving Pakistan and Afghanistan's poorest communities. And as this real-life Indiana Jones from Montana crisscrosses the Himalaya and the Hindu Kush fighting to keep these schools functioning, he provides hope to tens of thousands of children, and living proof that one passionately dedicated person truly can change the world." – *book jacket*

An Israeli in Palestine: resisting dispossession, redeeming Israel Jeff Halper

Risking his life for the 'enemy,' MN native Jeff, now an American/Israeli Jew, witnesses for peace and justice, protesting home demolitions and building settlements. WH

Jeff Halper is an Israeli who lives and works in Palestine. He throws a critical light on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from an Israeli point of view. Israel's pioneers, with American support, created a society, culture, and economy. Yet the idea of an ethnically-pure "Jewish State" is no longer viable. Only 72 per cent of Israelis are Jewish, and this proportion is dwindling. To enforce its ethnic exclusivity, Israel adopts policies of occupation and discrimination against Palestinian citizens. Halper puts forward a passionate argument for a new Israel that finds its identity, not through ethnicity, but through new ideological and legal frameworks that respect all human rights, and that fundamentally realign Israel's position within the Middle East. Halper explains why a two-state solution will never solve issues such as human rights, refugees, security, access to water and economic development. Instead he develops a positive vision for a new state where Palestinians and Israelis live side by side.

MUSTS... continued

American Fascists: The Christian Right and the War on America by Chris Hedges.

From LNPC Adult Ed and WH

“Dr. James Luther Adams, my ethics professor at Harvard Divinity School, told us that when we were his age – he was then close to 80 – we would all be fighting the “Christian fascists.” The warning, given to me nearly 25 years ago, came at the moment Pat Robertson and other radio and televangelists began speaking about a new political religion that would direct its efforts at taking control of all institutions, including mainstream denominations and the government. Its stated goal was to use the United States to create a global Christian empire. It was hard, at the time, to take such fantastic rhetoric seriously, especially given the buffoonish quality of leaders in the Christian Right who expounded it. But Adams warned us against the blindness caused by intellectual snobbery. The Nazis, he said were not going to return with swastikas and brown shirts. Their ideological inheritors in America had found a mask for fascism in patriotism and the pages of the Bible.” – *book jacket*.

Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid - by Jimmy Carter

“Following his #1 New York Times bestseller, *Our Endangered Values*, the former president, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, offers an assessment of what must be done to bring permanent peace to Israel with dignity and justice to Palestine. President Carter, who was able to negotiate peace between Israel and Egypt, has remained deeply involved in Middle East affairs since leaving the White House. He has stayed in touch with the major players from all sides in the conflict and has made numerous trips to the Holy Land, most recently as an observer in the Palestinian elections of 2005 and 2006. In this book, President Carter shares his intimate knowledge of the history of the Middle East and his personal experiences with the principal actors, and he addresses sensitive political issues many American officials avoid. Pulling no punches, Carter prescribes steps that must be taken for the two states to share the Holy Land without a system of apartheid or the constant fear of terrorism.

The general parameters of a long-term, two-state agreement are well known, the president writes. There will be no substantive and permanent peace for any peoples in this troubled region as long as Israel is violating key U.M. resolutions, official American policy, and the international “road map” for peace by occupying Arab lands and oppressing the Palestinians. Except for mutually agreeable negotiated modifications, Israel’s official pre-1967 borders must be honored. As were all previous administrations since the founding of Israel, U.S. government leaders must be in the forefront of achieving this long-delayed goal of a just agreement that both sides can honor.

Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid is a challenging, provocative, and courageous book.” - *book jacket*

Notes from Membership - April and May were busy months: serving a meal at the Simpson Women's shelter; remembering Earth Day with a screening and discussion of "The Great Warming," led by local environmental manager Al Frechette; walking to support the MN AIDS Project (nine members and 3 dogs walked and talked for about 6 miles on a gorgeous Sunday, raising about \$750); sharing food and fun with 15-20 Church members and friends at Game Night... Fun times - and more to come!

game night 2

**Reprise the fun - Game Night 2
Friday, June 27th at 6:30 p.m.
"Fresh-caught fish" supper
(fish from Dick Gross -
we're lucky if he's lucky!)**

Fall plans: Watch for "Save, Share, Spend" - a 4 week workshop for young adults about managing finances and responsible spending, budgeting and planning. This is especially timely in this era of foreclosures and "get-it-now" spending habits that our society seems to foster. This will be open (and advertised) to our community, so spread the word to those who might be interested.

The Membership Team is also looking into some peacemaking topics about housing, elder care and mission activity, and possible partnership with FRNNG (neighborhood group) that may come together later this fall....potential but not defined yet. We are also looking into strengthening our partnership and involvement with the local collection of neighborhood churches, TRUST. *Diane Hansen* is the LNPC representative on the TRUST board.

SUNDAY JUNE 1 - ICE CREAM SOCIAL AFTER CHURCH
(10:30 - IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY IN THE DAY FOR ICE CREAM!)

CELEBRATE SUMMER (??) WITH A HOT DOG AND SUNDAE
AND/OR ROOTBEER FLOAT!! Sponsored by the Deacons.



School's Out - School Will Return!

Wrapping up the 2007-08 'school' year, the Education Committee would like to thank all those who participated in the Adult Education classes and who taught in Sunday School.

Thanks to this year's Sunday School Team volunteers: Rose Herstad, Becca and Lisa Johnson, Diane Hansen, Sue Goodspeed and Terry Gilberstadt.

Looking to Fall, Adult Ed will bring opportunities to reflect on our Christian heritage and ethics in today's world:

September 7 - Get back together! Review the fall schedule and hear summaries of upcoming classes

Sept. 14 and 21 – Peacemaking to Strengthen Christ's Body (in conjunction with Peacemaking Sunday, Sept. 21)

Sept. 28-Nov. 2 - "Responsibility of Christians in a Democratic Society"

Nov. 9 –Dec. 7 - (no class on Nov. 30 – Thanksgiving Weekend) – Polity Class – Exploring the structure of the Presbyterian Church

Dec. 14 & 21 – The Face of Christ in Art

Topics will stimulate informative conversation and be shared with respect for many political and philosophical views on issues. Diversity of opinions is an important strength. Learning about our faith is an area critical for our own growth and essential to the deepening and integrating of our religious beliefs.

Thanks again for all the wonderful support the Education Committee receives from the congregation.

The Education Committee Members are: Wayne Herstad, Bill Fisher, Norm Petrik, Sue Hensel, Terry Gilberstadt, Chair. We are always looking for feedback and ideas from the congregation.

SPRING CLEANING???

Presbyterian Women ask you to think of the Bazaar as you clean your cupboards. Household items, attic treasures, antiques and collectibles, small furniture... (but no clothing, please). All proceeds from the Bazaar go to local and worldwide missions.

GOOD HEALTH TO ALL

As the weather gets warmer, we all will spend more time outside - walking, gardening, children playing. An inevitable part of activity is "Cuts and Scrapes." Here is some first aid information to help you prevent infections:

- First, stop the bleeding. Minor cuts usually stop bleeding on their own, but if they don't, apply pressure with a clean cloth or bandage.
- Clean the wound. Rinse out the wound with clear water. Soap can irritate, so try to keep soap out of the wound. If any dirt remains in the wound try soaking it in warm clear water and use tweezers cleaned with alcohol to remove particles.
- Apply an antibiotic ointment after it's cleaned out: bacitracin or neosporin, to help discourage infection.
- Apply a bandage to cover the wound to keep it clean and keep bacteria out. Change the dressing daily or if soiled.
- When the wound is more that 1/4 inch deep or is gaping or jagged edged and has fat or muscle showing, go to the doctors immediately. Do not wait. If not treated within 24 hours the natural healing process has begun and the wound cannot always be stitched up correctly since tissue has begun to die off.
- Watch for signs of infection. If you notice any redness, swelling, warmth in the area, or drainage from the wound, see your doctor.
- Last of all, if you have not had a tetanus shot in last 10 years get one within 48 hours of injury to prevent tetanus

Have a great summer, and stay healthy!

Respectfully, Kathryn L. Sathre, LPN

Pastor Nominating Committee continues its work. By the second week of June, we will have had in-person interviews with three candidates, being part of worship and conversational experiences with all. We will have made at least five reference calls on each, and the Committee on Ministry of the presbytery, and Wayne, will have had an opportunity to talk with them, as well. The process to call a pastor is seen as a three-legged stool - the candidate, the congregation, and the presbytery all have to feel God's call of this person to this position. We are working humbly and with anticipation.



The office received information that Sandi Dalman, wife of long-time member and choir stalwart Jim Dalman, died in March. She was 71 years old. She and Jim moved many years ago to Washington state, but have continued to keep in touch with the congregation. Our prayers are with Jim.

**ARTSPACE OPENING RECEPTION
FRIDAY, JUNE 6
7-9 PM**

Join in celebrating the prairie with works by Gregory McDaniels, a Highland Park artist whose work will be exhibited in ArtSpace through June and July.

Gallery always open during office hours, and by appointment. Call the office, 612.721.4463.



Another perspective:

If the population of the Earth was reduced to that of a town of 100 people:

- 57 people would be Asian, 21 European, 14 from the Americas, and 8 African
- 52 would be women, 48 men.
- 70 would have colored skin, 30 would be Caucasian
- 89 would be heterosexual, 11 homosexual
- 6 people would control 59% of the wealth, and all would be from the US
- 80 would live in bad conditions
- 70 would be uneducated
- 50 would be underfed
- 1 would have a computer
- 1 would have a college education

Where is God calling us?

Food for Thought and Prayer: ... bringing issues and the church's theological struggle together...

From the Presbyterian News Service:



Burger King, which has refused to negotiate with the Coalition of

Immokalee Workers for months, has agreed to pay an additional penny-per-pound for Florida tomatoes to increase wages of the farmworkers, according to a press release issued by the company. Farmworkers have said that the extra penny would add about \$20 to a daily wage of \$50. Lucas Benitez, co-founder of the CIW, says "Today we are one step closer to building a world where we, as farmworkers, can enjoy a fair wage and humane working conditions in exchange for the hard and essential work we do every day." McDonalds and Yum!, parent of Taco Bell, agreed to the penny-a-pound increase years ago, but are currently paying this money into an escrow account. The money isn't reaching farmworkers because the Florida Tomato Growers Exchange, an agriculture cooperative opposed to the increase, is prohibiting its grower-members from participating in the agreements, saying it believes

farmworkers are treated fairly. While further work still needs to be done, the action of Burger King vindicates the efforts of the CIW and the faith groups, including the PC(USA), who have supported them.

From the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance - China -

PC(USA)'s mission partner in China, the Amity Foundation, is already responding to the disaster. Amity staff members have been assessing the damage in Chengdu and other affected areas.

PDA funds from One Great Hour of Sharing and designated giving will be used to help Amity purchase rice, quilts and shelter material for the earthquake survivors. Amity has already provided 1 million Yuan (approximately U.S. \$143,000) for the purchase and provision of drinking water and food.

Amity will focus its relief on approximately 8,000 families whose homes are destroyed and are among the most-vulnerable communities.



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

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, Barb Day
Alternate: 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, 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.

Neighbors At Play

Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group (FRNNG) celebrates the neighborhood with its annual festival, parade, and silent auction. On Saturday, June 7, the street parade will begin at 10:15, with the festival following, at McRae Park, at 11:00.

Join neighbors in a fun afternoon!



Thanks from people we've assisted:

From LaLeche League, one of our renters: "...We are very grateful that you allow our group the use of your space for meetings...[and] for helping us in our mission to help mothers and their babies."

From Simpson Food Shelf: "We have many things to be thankful for at our church and one of them is your continuing and generous support of the Simpson Food Shelf... We have seen a rise in the number of families using the food shelf as the economy gets worse and jobs become more difficult to find. We couldn't do it without your help! For the last three months we have seen on average 6 new families using the food shelf [each month]. Our numbers are going up, so it is vital to have supporters such as your congregation to help us remain open."

What can we do to increase our support of the food shelf?

Being a Good Listener ~

Hearing loss is a common (1 in 3 people over 65 experiences it) condition with which all of us can assist. The TRUST Parish Nurse shares a list of tips for communicating with deaf or hard-of-hearing people:

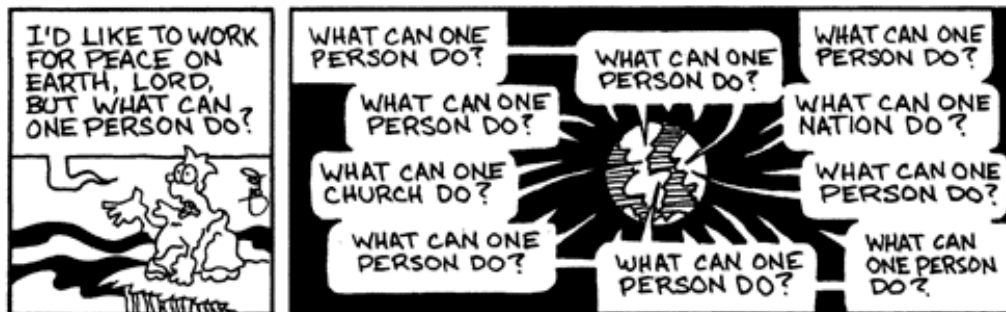
- Get the person's attention before you speak.
- Don't speak with objects in your mouth (gum, food...).
- Speak clearly and at a moderate pace.
- Keep movement to a minimum while speaking.
- Use facial expressions and gestures.
- Rephrase when you are not understood. One of the words being used may not be understandable.
- Be aware that accents or slang may be difficult to understand.
- Don't Shout!
- Use paper and pen if necessary, and if writing, keep words simple and phrases short.
- Be patient, positive, and relaxed!

Our words often speak more loudly than our 'faith' (courtesy of Eva Webb):

An honest man was being tailgated by a stressed-out woman on a busy boulevard. Suddenly, the light turned yellow just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection. The tailgating woman hit the roof, and the horn, screaming in frustration as she missed her chance to get through the intersection. As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer.

The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, finger printed, photographed, and placed in a holding cell. After a couple hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you, and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'Choose Life' license plate, the 'What Would Jesus Do?' bumper sticker, the 'Follow me to Sunday School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk. Naturally, I assumed you had stolen the car."



...and speaking of blood pressure...

Every Thursday morning from 9 to noon, at Bethel Lutheran Church - 42nd and 17th Avenue South, Nokomis Healthy Seniors offers free blood pressure checks - and pedicures! (they aren't free). Stop by for a check and a chat over coffee and bakery goods donated by local bakers (Rustica, Scandia, Turtle Bread).