

THE CURRENT WORD



LAKE NOKOMIS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 2008

In Memory of EARTH DAY, April 22,
2008

EARTH DAY – GLOBE-AL DAY –
CREATION DAY – GOD'S DAY

Co creating with God
Responsible before God
to witness in the midst
of continuing apostasy and disaster
on a shrunken, suffering planet
a self creating, self perpetuating
lemmings rush
we know better, and have known better!

Justice for creation?
Universe-al and global health care?
for creatures – land and sea
creepy crawlers, and root
structures?

Motherhood of creation
Hardly universe-al
How do we treat motherhood
perpetual adolescence?

we know better, and have been taught
better!

Throw it all away
for short term gains -short sighted
greed?
or individual neglect apathy
self-preoccupation?

In the midst of the returning primordial
chaos
like Israel, our call is constant

Light-ness, lit flame, illuminating other-
ness and closeness
of God

In and through wonder-ness and terror
and belated respect for continuing
and reactive creation
intertwined with our being and
becoming

Is It I Lord?
Here I am Lord, intertwine me.

Wayne-

Inside:

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Clean-up Day! May 17
AIDS Walk 2008
From PCUSA Washington office
News and Notes....

ATTENTION ALL SERMON HEARERS:

CONTEXT AND LIFESTYLE OUTWEIGH SOUND BYTES TO SELL RATINGS!

In this political season, we are overwhelmed with sound - voices sure of themselves, sure of the sins of others, sure that volume and repetition equal victory. Christ urges us to be 'wise as serpents' as we venture among wolves, and we owe ourselves breadth of information. John Buchanan, pastor at Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago, spoke to the controversy playing out regarding his colleague in ministry, "On Jeremiah Wright." Excerpts follow:

"I want to take a moment and think together about the continuing controversy surrounding Trinity United Church of Christ, [and] its former pastor, Jeremiah Wright, a friend of mine... Jeremiah Wright was pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ on the South Side for thirty-six years [of which Barack Obama is a member]. During his ministry, the congregation ...reached out to the community with mission programs, education, social services, AIDS education and treatment, and health care. Trinity Church shares with us a worldview and commitment to mission in the world. When you drive north on Stony Island Avenue, from the South Side toward downtown, you pass by a large community health center sponsored by Trinity United Church of Christ. One way to evaluate and measure a ministry is by the mission it generates and the organization that supports and enables it. Among Chicago churches and Chicago clergy of all denominations, Jeremiah Wright's ministry is widely admired as a model of what a public church can and ought to be and he, himself, is widely respected...

I wish he had made his point without saying "God damn America" but not for a moment do I wish he had been less prophetic. In fact, the great biblical prophets did and said outrageous, controversial things, which consistently got them in trouble and occasionally in jail. One thinks of Jeremiah, for instance, or Amos and the Amaziah affair... I wish he hadn't suggested that the government were responsible for AIDS. But then again, the government never infected numbers of my race with a deadly syphilis virus as an experiment not so very long ago...

Wright didn't say "God damn America" every Sunday. In fact, Wright's sermons were biblically based, relevant, literate, and eloquent, week after week. When the preachers of the land decide whose sermons and lectures or preaching they want to hear, Jeremiah Wright's are near the top of the list...I deplore...networks' decisions to play a few seconds out of thirty-six years of preaching, several sentences-long sound bites over and over again. It's no wonder people who don't know a thing about Trinity Church or Jeremiah Wright come to wrong conclusions. I'm not the only preacher in the land who knows how vulnerable any one of us is should ill-chosen words lifted out of a sermon be played and replayed, over and over again as Wright's were. So let's all settle down and put the whole matter of Jeremiah Wright and Trinity Church ... into the context of the 365-days-a-year life of an extraordinary and faithful Christian congregation."

Administration Team Presents...



Spring Clean-up Day!!

Saturday, May 17 (24th if rain) at 9:00

There is a lot to do to get the outside up to snuff! Admin will provide materials, you can provide the muscle! Something for everyone.

Also from Administration, Melissa, the building engineer from the Northrop building, has been asked to continue her amazing work on our (asbestos) tile floors. She'll be waxing (stripping, cleaning, whatever it takes) the second floor (classrooms and hallway), front and back stairs, and all of the basement over the next six months or so. Watch your step!

PICNIC SEASON!

Presbyterian Women invite all to the annual spring picnic.

Wednesday, May 14, noon, at church

Bring yourself and something to share - Everyone is welcome!

Community Notes:

TRUST - (Toward Renewed Unity in Service Together) - the coalition of SW Mpls churches of which LNPC is a part holds its annual **Plant Swap and Sale**. A variety of perennials and ground covers, all healthy splits from neighbors' yards, are available in the parking lot at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 4100 Lyndale Avenue South. Come feed your need for Spring!



common daylily
(*Hemerocallis fulva*)

Saturday, May 10, 8 a.m. to noon
TRUST PLANT SWAP AND SALE

Pastor Nominating Committee continues its work, with joy and trepidation...

THEATER FOR THE SOUL: Remember Dean Seal? As a candidate under care of our presbytery, he filled our pulpit a couple times last spring. Now he is pursuing his first love, producing "Spirit in the House," a 'fringe festival' for the soul. The festival brings together 30 different shows, for a total of 150 performances over 10 days, tackling a variety of ethical issues and celebrating a diverse cross-section of spiritual traditions. Spirit in the House is dedicated to exploring questions of inner life and outward action through theater, film, dance, drumming, music, spoken word, poetry, and storytelling.

"It's not just entertainment—it's entertainment plus meaning," says Dean J. Seal who serves as Artistic Director and is a former Executive Director of the Minnesota Fringe Festival.

"The Spirit in the House Festival offers an opportunity to gain insight from other traditions, laugh at jokes from other cultures, and hear voices from other perspectives and experiences," says Seal. "What the shows have in common is that they deal with matters of substance—life and death, joy and pain, comedy and tragedy."

All performances will be within the facility of Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, **May 23 through June 1**. See the line-up of performances at <http://spiritinthehouse.org>.



The local naturalist made this observation on April 19th: "There's a flock .. of loons on Lake Nokomis today. They're just passing through. It's a remarkable sight. North end of the lake." The sighting was amended to reflect that a number of the birds were actually mergansers, but regardless, being part of this creation is humbling and awe-inspiring. Keep your eyes and hearts open to the glory of God.

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

From General Assembly's Washington Office, on the occasion of April 15th - Tax Day:

"**Budgets** are about restrictions, about how to live within spending limits, and about defining essential or unavoidable expenses. You can't make these types of decisions without first defining a vision for yourself and for the country. Let's not talk about the federal budget.



Let's start with our vision for this country instead and then talk about how to divide up the \$3 trillion budget proposed by

President Bush for the upcoming fiscal year.

What Vision?

For the past 55 years, the federal budget has supported just one primary vision - a vision of the United States as the world's dominant, or even sole, military power.

But a majority of people in the United States has a different vision of the country. When polled about federal spending in 2005, and again in a Gallup poll in 2007, clear majorities of representative national samples favored increased funding for non-military priorities. In the 2005 poll, respondents specifically preferred to support veterans, education, job training, and medical research. The largest group, 70%, would have increased spending for conservation

and renewable energy development by more than a thousand percent....

Changing the vision reflected in the federal budget will not be easy and will not happen quickly. But it can happen. One first step is helping people to understand that the budget does reflect a vision, one that affects them and their community."

Nepal – A Different Perspective, *From the Ecumenical News International* — Christians in Nepal are optimistic that Maoist leadership in the government will bring greater religious freedom.

"The Maoist victory is a certainly big step forward towards full religious freedom here," Pastor Simon Gurung, president of the National Christian Council of Nepal, who had been twice imprisoned under the Hindu monarchy laws that banned conversions to Christianity.

In 2006, a truce was declared with Maoists following the abdication of the king.

"The Maoists have always stood for abolishing and declaring a true republic. That gives us great hope," said Pastor Gurung who had been twice imprisoned under the Hindu monarchy laws that banned conversions to Christianity.

The number of Christians in the Hindu kingdom of Nepal has grown from 50,000 before 1991 to more than 800,000 Christians today, scattered in 6000 independent church congregations among its population of almost 30 million people.



University of Minnesota Music Department concerts:

May 2 - 7:30 p.m.: Ted Mann Concert Hall. Choirs present Carl Orff's 'Carmina Burana.' It's a treat! Featuring: Chamber Singers (Andrew Crow), Concert Choir (Aaron and Leah), Men's Chorus, Women's Chorus, Wind Ensemble.

**Walk, support, raise funds, join the
LNPC 2008 AIDS WALK Team!**

Sunday, May 18, 11:00 a.m., beginning and ending at Minnehaha Park, join thousands of people who care about prevention and education, and about services and advocacy for those suffering from AIDS. Many from LNPC will be circulating pledge sheets in an effort to break our 2007 collection of \$855! Look in the library for information about registering.

We can do it!



Good Friends, Good Food, Good Times!



GAME NIGHT
Friday, May 9
6:30 dinner, 7:00 games!

Fishing opener may be at midnight, and Mother's Day and Pentecost in two days, but Friday is for games - bring your friends, your neighbors, yourself - and your favorite game.

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.

"WHERE'S GOD?"

A sermon in April brought up a part of health care that hasn't been discussed or written about here: Spiritual Health. Pastor Herstad had a very interesting and special sermon that day on how others in our lives are the presence of God and Christ. It had me thinking about special times in my life Jesus has been there for me - even though He sometimes doesn't seem to answer us or doesn't seem present in times of need.

In November of the "Year of the Halloween Blizzard," I woke up at 4:30 a.m. to prepare to be at work at 6:30 am. A lot of snow was on the ground and it was deep. After having my coffee and getting ready and all bundled up, I went out and tried to get my car out of the garage. No luck. Chris tried to take me in his truck. We didn't get more than a few feet in drive way and it was stuck.

Calling work that I wouldn't make it in, they said they were desperate, having only a very skeleton crew of nurses and CNA's. Bussing was cold and involved transfers that weren't coming, but finally a man yelled "Here comes the bus, come back." Thanks!

Praying for strength and warmth, I started walking toward the Franklin Ave. bridge, thinking that if I made it there I had just a little bit further to go. But the blocks went on and on, I started grumbling and asking myself why I do these things, I can't feel my toes, and there is no bus in sight! Reaching the bridge, the wind was blowing against me. Asking "God if you're going to make it so windy how about pushing across the bridge to help me instead of blowing against me and making it worse?!" – all of a sudden a big gust of wind came up from behind me and pushed me forward. As I said "Thank you Lord, but not so hard," it eased off and helped me across.

Finally getting to the Nursing Home, I was cold and grumpy and made the remark to myself "Sometimes I just don't understand why I do these things and why I am a nurse," and then went to work on the Alzheimer's Unit. I was passing out medication and entered the room of one of my favorite patients who was blind, an end stage Alzheimer. "Kenneth, I'll be there in a moment with your medication." Then I heard "Ok, Kathryn" in his voice. I was stunned and then I realized Jesus just answered my question. Sometimes he answers us with situations, a voice or just what happens. Spiritual health is just as important as physical health. So I wish all good Physical and Spiritual Health to All.

Respectfully, Kathryn L. Sathre LPN

Worship Seasons move on...

The season of Easter ends with the celebration of Pentecost on May 11. Join in the birthday party of the church, when we receive the **Pentecost Offering**. With funds received, congregations are encouraged to keep 40 percent of the Offering to support ministry with children at risk in their communities. The remaining 60% provides for programs at the national level, providing leadership development opportunities for Presbyterian youth and young adults and supports children-at-risk programs. Since 1998, Presbyterians of all ages have raised over \$7 million for these ministries that benefit younger members of God's family. Share generously.



Worship times change to the Summer Schedule on Memorial Day weekend, May 25. From May 25 through Labor Day, worship will be at 9:30 a.m., and Education is on hiatus.

Deacons just can't get enough ice cream!

Once again, welcome summer (really??!!) **June 1** with an Ice Cream Social after worship. It's never too early in the day for ice cream!

General Assembly: Our Presbytery is sending three clergy and three elder commissioners to GA in San Jose, CA, in June. Each has been assigned a committee on which to serve. Committees are assigned relevant overtures and reports on which they make recommendations to the full Assembly. Actions taken will direct the mission, advocacy, and direction of the Church for the next two years. Finding their way to San Jose are: Rev. Andy Lindahl (Austin) - "Review of GA Permanent Committees" Committee; Rev. Cindy Ray (Shakopee) - Board of Pensions | Presbyterian Foundation ; Rev. April Davis Campbell (Stillwater) - Theological Issues and Institutions; Elder Tom Soulen (Buffalo?) - Youth; Elder Brenda Tiefenbruck (Hastings) - Bills and Overtures; Elder Sue Goodspeed (LNPC) - Peacemaking and International Issues.

Do justice

Love kindness

Walk humbly

with your God