

# UPDATE

October 2011

## Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church

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Jeffrey Doane, Pastor

[www.lppchurch.org](http://www.lppchurch.org)

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### Meet the New Pastor

Dear LPPC friends,

It is a joy for me to have been selected as your interim pastor.

I look forward to getting acquainted with each of you.

It seems as if I have known you for many years. In the 1960s I attended McCormick Seminary. Bruce Hunt, Gail Russell and I overlapped as students there. Jeff Doane and I became acquainted in

General Assembly strategy sessions working on behalf of a common cause. As Joe Genau's pastor in Ames, Iowa, I was influential in his decision to go to seminary. There are many connections. Coming to the Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church is like coming home for me.

I have done urban and cross-cultural ministry in several urban settings, serving churches in Dayton, Cleveland, Phoenix and Tucson. I was also the presbytery executive in Cleveland. In Dayton, I chaired the interfaith council for school desegregation. In Tucson, I chaired the city's planning council for the homeless. I was a founding board member for the Covenant Network of Presbyterians. Since 2004, I have done interim ministry: first in the university communities of Eugene and

Corvallis, Oregon. Then, since returning to Chicago, as my wife Vicky Curtiss became associate pastor for mission at Fourth Presbyterian Church, I have been interim pastor at the Rogers Park and Deerfield First Presbyterian churches. Vicky and I live downtown, just 3.5 miles away, where we enjoy restaurants, theater, CSO concerts, and biking the lakefront.

I love the work of interim ministry. I enjoy preaching, teaching, offering pastoral care. And I enjoy working with congregations and leaders as you seek to discern what it is that God has in mind for you next to do and to become. I appreciate your new vision statement with its bold openness to "the next big thing." I join you in an "in-between" time. As your Transition Team has pointed out (citing William Bridges), the interim period, between "Ending, Losing and Letting Go" – you've had a lot of that recently – and the hoped-for "New Beginning," is an important time in itself. It calls for intentionality. It is my privilege to be able to accompany and help you during this transition. I look forward to our journey together. Grace and peace!

**-Kent Organ**

## **September 20: A Banner Day for LPPC! The Clerk's Report**

Tuesday, September 20, was a big day for our church. There are two reasons that's so:

1. At the Presbytery Assembly in the afternoon, the Presbytery honored the Rev. Jeff Doane's retirement, and he was granted Pastor Emeritus status at LPPC.
2. At the Session meeting in the evening, we met and then endorsed the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee's choice of the Rev. Kent Organ to be our Interim Pastor.

### Presbytery Assembly

The final act that the Presbytery Assembly took that afternoon was to celebrate Jeff. Paul Vogel, the Moderator of the Commission on Ministry, was in charge of the celebration. He outlined Jeff's career in ministry, highlighting two crucial aspects, both of which pointed up Jeff's strong commitment to social justice. The first was Jeff's critical role in the establishment of the Lincoln Park Community Shelter, and his additional seminal work in bringing about the new permanent home of the Shelter in our basement. The other effort that Paul lifted up was Jeff's peacemaking work in standing for GLBTQ justice in the Presbyterian Church, at the same time that he helped to establish and develop dialogue with others in the presbytery that did not share his views.

After that presentation, Paul asked Jeff to come forward to receive a certificate of recognition. At that point Jeff received a prolonged standing ovation. Jeff gave a brief speech about the importance of working for justice and peace in the church and the world, and invited Gretchen to stand. He also greeted those of us from LPPC, and asked us also to stand. Then

Paul asked friends and supporters of Jeff's (including those of us from LPPC) to join them in the front of the gathering. Many people came up, including 14 LPPC members and friends: Amy Carlozo, Blythe Howard-Chou, Hsuan-Min Chou and Delia, Robert Guenther, Bruce Hunt, Don Hunter, Gerri Mead, Gerry Parker, Hasmick and Charles Rich, Gail Russell, and Barry Smith. Then Paul offered a prayer of thanksgiving for Jeff's ministry. After the meeting ended, we all gathered for pictures. It was a truly memorable afternoon!

### Session Meeting

While we had a quite full agenda for our regular Session meeting, the most important – and most exciting – aspect of our meeting was to meet the final choice for Interim Pastor, the Rev. Kent Organ, and later to endorse him.

Steve Hunter told us about the process the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee had used to select Kent. He explained that the committee's goal had been to find a candidate who was compatible with our justice stances, who had strong preaching skills, and who was creative about challenges which face LPPC, including our need to grow and our struggles with finances.

Then we took some time to get to know Kent, and to ask him questions. Elsewhere in this issue, Kent has introduced himself to us, so you can see his long and impressive history of ministry, and his recent diverse experiences as an interim pastor. Kent said that he wants to work with us to discover where we feel called to go next, and that one of the reasons he's excited to join us is that LPPC has been known in our denomination for decades as a courageous pioneer for justice. He also indicated that he thinks we face financial challenges, and he is eager to

work with us on those. He is looking forward to helping us prepare for our next permanent installed pastor.

After this discussion, we excused Kent Organ, in order to vote about his suitability to serve as our Interim Pastor. The vote in favor if that was unanimous. We were very pleased to invite him back to tell him of our vote in his favor. We also appreciated that he stayed for the rest of the meeting, listened to our dialogue, and even helped us with some issues we discussed.

The Session is very excited that Kent is able to join us almost immediately, and that he will preach October 2. Welcome, Kent!

**Gail Russell, Clerk of Session**

## Women's Book Group

All women are invited to participate in the book group. We read an eclectic selection of fiction and nonfiction and often have widely diverging reactions to the same book, making for lively discussions. We have pastries and coffee while we talk. Regulars who cannot attend are asked to let Norma Bennett (773-929-4400) know so the refreshments can be adjusted.

### Books

*October:* "Goodbye and Amen" by Beth Gutcheon a novel, sponsored by Laurie Brown. The story has a contemporary setting and is about several generations of a family told from individual's points of view plus a narrator. Laurie says it is kindhearted but has a certain wry humor.

*November:* "Birds without Wings" by Louis de Bernieris, historical fiction, sponsored by Mary Russell.

*December:* "Cutting for Stone" by Abraham Verghese, contemporary fiction, sponsored by Marianne Nesler.

*January:* "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" by Rebecca Skloot, nonfiction, sponsored by Sharon Stangenes and Gerri Mead.

**Logistics:** We meet on the second Saturday of the month, at the Kenwood, 3121 N. Sheridan Road, Room 703, entrance on Briar Street where you sign in. If you drive, a few guest parking spaces are available and are assigned by the person at the front desk. You may pull directly up to the garage entrance on Barry St. and telephone the front desk at 773-404-9800 and ask to be assigned a parking space.

To find Room 703, our meeting space, take the first floor elevator to the mezzanine (push the M button). Exit at the mezzanine, turn right, walk down a long corridor that jogs to the right until you find another elevator. Take that elevator to the seventh floor, turn right, and proceed to Room 703.

### October Birthdays at LPPC

4	Jim Zartman
5	Erin Sophia Kindred
6	Nancy Walker
20	Holly Genc
20	Rob Metz
20	Hasmick Rich
28	Drew Ternovits

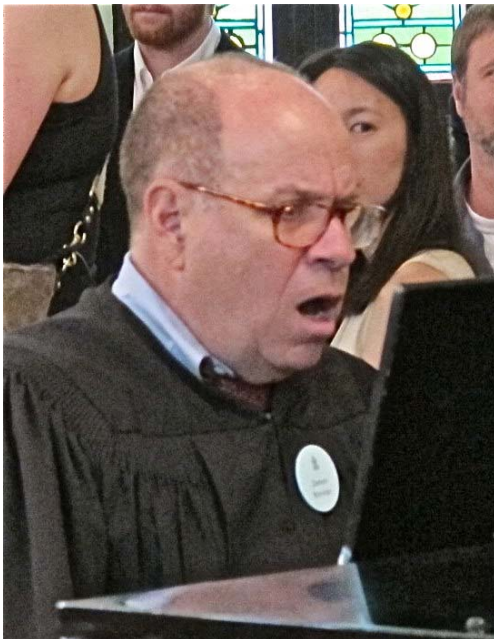
### Cooks Wanted

LPPC makes dinner at the Shelter the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month. Sign up on the sheet at the back of the sanctuary, or contact Steve Hunter, srhunterlaw@yahoo.com or Robert Guenther, robt\_chi@yahoo.com for more information.

## LPPC Honors James Stevens

The congregation honored James Stevens on the last Sunday of September for his three years of service as our choir director and organist. The worship service, created entirely by James, was in hymn sing format and enjoyed by all. During hospitality, James was feted with a beautiful, unique cake created by Anne Hunt and presented with gifts of personalized golf balls and a book about show tunes. The choir roasted James in song to the tune "Torches" by John Joubert with appropriate lyrics provided by Gerri Mead and Gail Russell. We thank James for his commitment and talent in leading our music program and wish him well in the next chapter of his life. Thanks to all who contributed to making James send off a memorable one.

-Don Hunter



**“Torches, Torches”  
A Gentle Good-Bye Roast of James  
Stevens**

9/25/11

Torches, Torches – how you loved the  
Torches!

Twice it was our anthem for Christmas time.  
But the choir said, “We don’t like the  
Torches!”

So you sighed and said, “It’s your choice,  
not mine.”

Show tunes, show tunes – how you love  
those show tunes!

Rarely is there one that you do not know.  
Parties, pot-lucks – you sit down to play  
them.

Give that man a keyboard and watch him  
go!

Organ, organ – how you play the organ!  
Preludes, postludes, hymn sings – the notes  
resound.

Hands and feet that keep that tracker goin’.  
Voices joined in singing. Let joy abound!

Choir, choir, how you led the choir!  
Led us from the keyboard, what songs we  
sang!

Then you added ringers to our numbers –  
Then with larger volume, our voices rang.

Now you’re leaving, we will surely miss  
you!

But we know the golf course has called your  
name.

Go – with blessings – we know that we can’t  
keep you.

Torches notwithstanding, we’re glad you  
came!

(Big ritard -- broadly!)

Go – with blessings – we know that we can’t  
keep you.

Torches notwithstanding, we’re glad you  
came!

Words by Gerri Mead and Gail Russell, with  
apologies to John Joubert

## Music Search Committee Completes its Work

After a summer of reviewing resumes, interviewing candidates, checking references, and auditioning finalists, we are delighted to let you know that Donald Knight has been hired as our new Organist/Choir Director beginning October 16. Donald is a long time Chicago resident and professional musician. His credentials are impressive and we will be telling you more about him in future editions of Update. Our thanks to Alice Burton, Dave Geilen, Charles and Hasmick Rich, Jim Zartman and Don Hunter who served on the search committee. Again, if you are interested in singing with the choir, just show up for rehearsal some Sunday morning. You will be glad you did!

## Amendment 10-A Passage Celebrated

On September 24, a group of Presbyterians (and former Presbyterians) from LPPC and several other churches gathered at the home of Gail Russell and Gerri Mead for a shared potluck supper to celebrate the passage of Amendment 10-A. For our grace before eating, we re-enacted a tradition of the old PLGC fellowship dinners of the 1980s/90s and sang a hymn: "Come Sing, O Church, In Joy."

Following supper, the group sat in an extended circle and reflected on the many individual and corporate journeys over the last 30 years that led us to this point. We did some analysis as to how and why Amendment 10-A had passed, and what some of the opponents of the More Light movement are planning to limit or reverse the progress made by this amendment. We also remembered the work of those people

who were not here to see this accomplishment such as LPPC's David Sindt, who was one of the founding pioneers in the movement. Other names mentioned were Virginia Davidson, Howard Warren and David Hooker.



Everyone present had been involved in some way. Yes, there were some who had spoken at big conferences or important Presbytery/GA meetings, or done other high-level advocacy work, but the bulk of the work done by everyone present was the local church and organization committee meetings, the conference planning meetings, the marching/witnessing in the Chicago Pride Parade, the support offered to people who were struggling, the modest fundraising efforts for various More Light groups, the letter writing, the small groups meeting for support, fellowship and prayer, the Moments for Mission given in worship, etc., etc., etc. These small efforts, which at the time may have seemed next to hopeless in the grand scheme of church polity and politics, nonetheless, have built up and up over the years to have achieved something big! When we were done sharing, and everyone had spoken, it was midnight, but we had hardly noticed how late it had gotten. We all went on our separate ways glad for the time we had shared together. And as the cake that was served at this event had written on it: yet more light...

**-Barry Smith**

## **My Dahlias Talk Stewardship**

My father loved dahlias and for many years devoted a special section in his backyard to a colorful array of those tall beautiful flowers with the large, dinner plate size blossoms. As a kid I learned to appreciate all the care he gave each plant at every point in the growing season, and then as an adult I became determined to carry on the dahlia tradition.

I was more successful some years than others, especially with the tricky part of digging up the roots in the fall and caring for the dormant tubers through the winter. But this past winter I failed miserably. In the spring, when I uncovered the tubers to check for the tiny sprouts that would produce this year's new dahlia stalks, everything had all dried up. There was not the slightest hint of life.

It might have been easier to give up at that point. Dahlias are, after all, a little challenging to grow. But stubbornness prevailed; so I purchased new tubers and started over. In addition, throughout the spring and summer I did a few things differently – turning the soil more deeply, planting those “starts” a little earlier, staking the young plants more carefully and pruning any broken stalks. Then it was simply a matter of watering and waiting because dahlias are always a surprise when they begin to bloom. And what a surprise we have received! Those new plants have bloomed prolifically, are still a border of deep red and lavender blossoms in our side yard and will probably continue that way until the first frost. They're our best ones, ever!

It occurred to me the other day that this surprise in my garden was also quite a stewardship message. Whether it's the

nurture of dahlias or the nurture of a church, nothing goes along smoothly all the time. There'll be some stops and some starts, some successes and some setbacks and, quite often, the necessity to try again and do some things differently. And whether it's a garden or a congregation, there's a deep need for generous, hopeful hearts as well as the willingness to invest our time, our talents and our financial resources. Only then can we tend properly what we love. And only then can we be partners in God's promise to make all things new.

**-Gerri Mead for the Property & Finance Ministry Team**

## **Hunger Walk with Us**

On the afternoon of October 16, our congregation will once again provide walkers and raise money for the Chicago CROP Walk. The money raised, through Church World Service, helps fight hunger and respond to man-made and natural disasters now and in the future. The money we raise together might feed a hungry child in Africa, or fund a food pantry in Chicago. And by responding now, you will ensure that an immediate response is available the next time and earthquake, flood or famine strikes.

The Walk steps off at 2:15 p.m. from the UIC Student Center at 750 South Halsted. We will have our usual rendezvous at about 1:30 p.m.. Rides can be arranged for anyone needing transportation. The walk is 10K. Nine people have already signed up to walkers. Join us for an afternoon of fun, camaraderie, and great exercise. Sponsor sheets are available from Robert Guenther or Steve Hunter, or email Steve at [srhunterlaw@yahoo.com](mailto:srhunterlaw@yahoo.com). If you can't walk with us, seek out one of the walkers in coffee hour and make a generous pledge. Together, we will make a difference.

## Jeff Doane Receives Pastor Emeritus Recognition

It is customary for the Presbytery of Chicago to recognize long-term ministries of its retiring pastors. Jeff Doane, LPPC's pastor of 27 years, and now Pastor Emeritus, was honored at the September meeting of the Presbytery Assembly. Paul Vogel, Moderator of the Commission on Ministry, provided a summary of Jeff's ministry in Chicago, culminating with his receipt of Emeritus status, as well as his educational history. Jeff got his Master of Divinity degree from the Divinity School of the University of Chicago and his doctorate from McCormick Seminary.

As Jeff was presented with a certificate of recognition, he was surrounded by a group of supporters and colleagues in ministry, including fifteen people from LPPC. He received a standing ovation from the Presbytery Commissioners. It was a fitting tribute following a dedicated career in ministry.

**-Gerry Parker**



*Supporters surround Jeff Doane after his recognition from the Presbytery of his years of service and Emeritus status.*

## Sister Act Sing Along

Can an irreverent movie provide spiritual guidance and moral uplift? Apparently so. On September 22 a diverse collection of seekers from St. Clement, from DePaul, and from LPPC gathered to view "Sister Act" and to sing along with the lively and mostly familiar music.

We did not have the benefit of the DePaul Gospel choir to accompany us as we had hoped, but we made up in zeal what we lacked in talent. Besides it became an ecumenical event and we made new friends in the neighborhood. Thanks to Alice Burton for helping to make it happen and thanks to Christina from St. Clement for partnering with us.

**-Bruce Hunt**



*Moviegoers sing along with the songs in the movie "Sister Act"*