



UPDATE

January 2012

Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church

600 W. Fullerton Parkway, Chicago, IL 60614-2614 • 773-248-8288

Jeffrey Doane, Pastor

www.lppchurch.org

Steve Hunter, Editor

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LPPC Vision Statement

With God's help, we can do great things!
 At Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church we strive to demonstrate the open, inclusive and accepting love of Jesus Christ.
 We pray, sing, study and worship in old ways and new, inviting families of all sorts – singles, couples, and children – to nurture their faith in a growing and vibrant congregation.
 We promote God's justice and peace in our community and in our world. We seek the call of God to the next big thing and pray mightily that we receive the gifts to heed the invitation.

Time and Ways to Spend it at LPPC

Inscribed on a grandfather clock in England's Chester Cathedral are these words:

*When I was a child,
I laughed and wept
Time crept.*

*When, as a youth,
I dreamed and talked,
Time walked.*

*When I became
a full grown man,
Time ran.*

*And later,
as I grew,
Time flew.*

*Soon I shall find,
while traveling on,
Time gone.*

How thought-provoking, as a new year begins. Where else but in the church – which “tells [us] of Life and Death, and of all that [we] would forget” (T.S. Eliot) – would you find such realistic and challenging words?

A new year is at hand, a precious year of time. How will we use it? What will it make available to us? What will happen to the hopes we bring to it? “Teach us to count how few days we have,” says the Psalmist, “and so gain wisdom of heart” (Ps. 90:12).

This bonus issue of Update is coming to you – we don't usually have a January issue – because some special things are happening this month:

- On Sunday, Jan. 8, 9:45 a.m., I will teach a class introducing the Gospel of Mark;
- that same day, Jan. 8, we will install the elders you elected to serve LPPC;
- Sunday, Jan, 22, is our Week of Prayer for Christian Unity pulpit exchange; and
- on Sunday, Jan. 29, after worship, is a very important congregational meeting.

I look forward to sharing all of this and more with you, as the new year dawns.

-Kent Organ

Introducing Mark, January 8th

The lectionary Gospel we will follow this year is the Gospel According to Mark. Scholars tell us Mark was the first canonical gospel written. It was written around 70 A.D. when Roman armies, fed up with the resistance and recalcitrance of their Palestinian colony, destroyed the Holy City, Jerusalem, and its Temple. So Mark was written at a time of crisis. Mark has been called “a rapid tale, swiftly told.” Mark’s portrayal of Jesus is of a man on a mission, a man in a hurry. Because we will be hearing Mark throughout 2012, Interim Pastor Kent Organ is offering a “one-off” Bible class in the Geneva Room on Sunday, January 8, 9:45-10:45 a.m., on Mark’s unique portrayal of Jesus Christ. All are invited.

Installation of New Elders, January 8th

“Within our common ministry,” it says in the Presbyterian service for ordination and installation, “some members are chosen for particular work as ministers of the word, ruling elders, and deacons.” On Sunday, January 8, in Sunday worship, we will welcome and install four members as ruling elders to serve on our church’s governing council, the Session. Anne Griffin will be ordained as well as installed, as she is brand-new to this role with us. Returning to service on the Session are Robert Guenther, Ben Ho, Kenny Walker and Allan Wilson. We are grateful to Allan, Anne, Ben, Kenny and Robert for their willingness to give of their “energy, intelligence, imagination and love” to this special work.

Annual Pulpit Exchange, January 22nd

Each year we cooperate with four partner congregations in a special way to support our common ministry on behalf of homeless neighbors through the Lincoln Park

Community Shelter. During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we have a pulpit exchange, involving Church of Our Saviour (Episc.), Church of The Three Crosses (Meth., UCC), St. Clement’s Catholic Church and St. Paul’s United Church of Christ, and we take up an offering for the work of our shelter. On Sunday, Jan. 22, Rev. Avena Ward of St. Paul’s will preach here at Lincoln Park Presbyterian; Kent Organ will preach at St. Paul’s. Plan to participate on January 22nd both in worship and in support of our shared homeless ministry.

A New Kind of Annual Meeting- January 29

LPPC annual meetings have been for me something to endure not something to enjoy. The annual report is always well designed and, if you take time to read it, records a series of activities we can be proud of.

There are usually some amusing and creative roasts of outgoing officers (I’ll get mine this year).

But the meeting is primarily a report on what has happened, not so much what will happen, or even what is happening right now. We are in the middle of all kinds of changes and the Transition Team proposes that we make some changes in the annual meeting. This will be the beginning of a series of “holy conversations” during this interim time, as we prepare ourselves for a new future with a new pastoral leader.

We want to get as many people, members and friends, in the room as we can. And we want to enlist all those present in generating ideas, proposals, worries and hopes about where we are as a congregation and where God is leading us. And we intend to invite you to take up some assignments for further research -- because this transition cannot be accomplished by a small isolated group but must belong to the whole community.

So hold some time following worship on January 29. One thing will not change: we will offer the usual spectacular pot luck luncheon. We will have activities and good care for the children. We will also provide a structure for lively conversations about the things we hold dear and we will move those conversations along so that we can be finished by 2 o'clock.

-Bruce Hunt

(for the Transition Team: Robert Guenther, Gerri Mead, Kent Organ, Gail Russell, Emily Waldren)

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.

We select our books by consensus from books that meet the following criteria: a member has to have read it and sponsor it, it is available in paperback, and it is available from the public library. We have just added another criterion: the book has to be available as a talking book.

Books

January 14: "Birds without Wings" by Louis de Bernieris, historical fiction, sponsored by Mary Russell. Mary Russell will send out by e-mail her "cheat sheet" on Turkish history and politics so that everyone can have it.

February 11: "Madonnas of Leningrad" by Debra Dean, fiction, sponsored by Laurie Brown. The main character is a staff member of The Hermitage Museum, who survives the 872-day siege by the Germans during World War II. In her later life she lives in the United States in Seattle.

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, and 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.

Lincoln Park Village Blues Concert

The following message was posted in the December newsletter of the Lincoln Park Village. "Erwin Helfer, Village member, is a Chicago blues and boogie-woogie master who has been performing for more than 40 years. He stamps his tunes with gutsy riffs that are polished and refined by urban elegance."

Erwin will be playing in our sanctuary on his birthday, Friday January 20. Stay tuned.

How do hard and small hearts get softened and enlarged? Ask the Grinch!

On the next page are some pictures of our younger folks performing Dr. Seuss' story of how the Grinch stole Christmas. What a rich contribution to our worship on December 11.



Narrators



The Grinch returns gifts and his heart expands.



The Grinch



Cast and crew



Grinch steals gifts and decorations while dog watches



CINDY LOU interrupts the Grinch's thievery