



UPDATE

May 2011

Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church

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Steve Hunter, Editor

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Ask an Elder!

Most of you either have received or soon will receive a call from an Elder. Don't worry, it's not Stewardship. No, the Session is calling to answer any questions and hear any feedback or concerns that you may want to offer.

The impetus for these calls is Pastor Jeff Doane's upcoming retirement. The Session wanted to communicate with the congregation about the process governing Jeff's departure, selecting an interim pastor, and choosing a permanent replacement. The transition process is complex and has many, many rules. Some are just common sense, but some are surprising. For example, Jeff is required to sign a strict covenant severely limiting the contact he can have with our church once his terms of call have concluded and his resignation is final. He will explain the provisions of the covenant to the Congregation at the June 12 Congregational Meeting.

The Presbytery has assigned us a member from the Committee on Ministry to guide us through the process and to

educate us. She is J.C. Cadwallader. J.C. has already met with the Session twice, and it is clear that she brings lots of enthusiasm and knowledge to the tasks ahead. She will be a valuable resource throughout our time of transition.

While the purpose of the telephone calls from Elders is partially to discuss the issues surrounding Jeff's retirement, the calls are also a way to foster more communication with the congregation.

To that end, in addition to telephone calls, every Sunday until June 5th, two different Elders have been assigned to answer questions, field comments and discuss any LPPC related issues that you want to discuss. This is not to suggest that you cannot approach any Elder to discuss church issues. You can. But by designating specific Elders on specific Sundays, the Elders can prepare themselves with information about the process of choosing an Interim Pastor and permanent replacement, and generally be ready to field questions. So ask an Elder!

-Steve Hunter

The Pastor's Reflections

Joyous Easter to one and all! Let us give thanks for the risen Lord in our midst each day empowering the life and ministry we share as a congregation. I am grateful for my remaining time with you as your pastor. There is a bustle of activity and signs of new life in Christ during the Sundays in May. Let us look forward to enjoying them together.

On May 1, we will celebrate Earth Sunday, under Amber Ellington's leadership. Not only are we looking forward to worship and insights into our faith as it intersects our ecological concerns. We will also celebrate Amber's year with us as our seminary assistant, for it will be her last official week with us. As usual, the time has sped, but we are deeply grateful for all her contributions to our shared experience and her growth as she prepares for ministry. Thank you Amber!

On May 8, we will receive three young people into the membership of the one church of Jesus Christ and our congregation: Jack O'Donnell, Emily Porter and Zoe Prekop. They will affirm their faith for the first time, and then Emily and Zoe will be baptized, before we welcome these three friends in faith. I am delighted to have met with them monthly since last September. They have explored their faith through words and visual expression, through service, conversations, and searching questions. They are writing personal statements of faith. And these friends have been supported by their sponsors: Bruce Hunt, Ben Ho, and Monna Ray who will continue to encourage their involvement with us at LPPC. We look forward to a festive time with them following worship on May 8, and to all we will share in the days ahead.

Then on May 15, following worship and hospitality, we will enjoy lunch and an introduction to the Belhar Confession. The General Assembly of our Presbyterian Church has voted to send this confession to the Presbyteries. If 2/3 of these regional bodies vote to adopt it, we will have a new addition to our Book of Confessions.

Belhar would be the first confession to emerge from a continent other than Europe and North America! It was adopted by the Dutch Reformed Mission Church (mixed race) in South Africa in 1986 during the era of apartheid. There were three other Dutch Reformed churches at the time, one white, one black and one Indian. This confession challenges the separation of both church and society along racial lines, calling for the true unity of the church, as well as appealing for reconciliation. Belhar also represents a strong urging for social justice, racial and otherwise. Let's explore this new voice in our worldwide church and (perhaps soon) in our own denomination!

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In our individual experience and our shared life together as a household of faith, may we find the refreshment of new life through our risen Lord. May we live out these experiences with neighbors, natural neighbors and with our God. Along with those first followers in the early church, may we glimpse the risen Lord in the midst of our life together.

**Grace and peace,
Jeff Doane**

KidSpace ends the year with celebrations!

How did it get to be May so quickly? KidSpace will be celebrating many things in this month, so please read on!

In addition to being Mother's Day, May 8 brings the highlight of the church year for three of our young people. Jack O'Donnell, Emily Porter and Zoe Prekop will be confirmed and become members of the church; Emily and Zoe will also be baptized. Led by Pastor Jeff Doane, Jack, Emily and Zoe have worked hard in confirmation classes over the church year to learn more about themselves, their own faith, and our collective beliefs as Christians and Presbyterians. In addition, they have met and undertaken mission activities with their respective sponsors Bruce Hunt, Ben Ho, and Monna Ray. Please plan to be at worship on May 8 to share the celebration of this important milestone in the faith journey of these remarkable young people.

This past year we have welcomed a small but dedicated group of children in the KidSpace Juniors class. Emily Waldren and Gale Morgan-Williams have learned and grown with these delightful youngsters. We've enjoyed lots of Bible stories, crafts, art, games and laughs together, and look forward to resuming in the fall. Check out our posters and other décor in the Dreyer Room before the end of the month to see some of the things we've been doing!

Our KidSpace Youth class has grown smaller this year, but we are committed to continuing and growing this class of 11-14 year olds. Alice Burton, Ben Ho and Bruce Hunt have been the leaders during this year of creative thinking and broad discussions on questions of faith. Many of these flowed from an examination of the components of

our Presbyterian worship service and our particular Lincoln Park spin on these.

Our last KidSpace classes before the summer break will be on May 22. Our thanks go out to the KidSpace kids, leaders and sponsors for another great year

Sunday morning KidSpace classes will resume on Sunday, September 11. Over the summer, faith - based activity kits will be available in the family space at the rear of the sanctuary for young children to enjoy. In addition, the KidSpace leaders, kids and families will be making plans for ongoing growth and involvement for our confirmands, as well as the other kids. And we will be busy spending the funds that you have contributed through the KidSpace Scrabble game, and look forward to having enhanced facilities and resources in place by the time Sunday morning classes resume on September 11.

If you are interested in becoming a part of KidSpace as a student, a leader, or a class assistant, please contact Gale Morgan-Williams or any of the KidSpace leaders for more information.

Earth Sunday Eco Bag Sale

It seems everyone is trying to reduce the use of plastic bags. Eco bags are light weight, re-usable, washable shopping bags. When the bag is folded into its attached pouch, it is so compact you can take it anywhere. They also make great gifts. Check out the Eco Bag Sale after Worship on Earth Sunday, May 1. The Eco Bags are \$3 each and proceeds benefit the Alliance for the Great Lakes, whose mission is to protect the Great Lakes. For more information on the Alliance for the Great Lakes, go to <http://www.greatlakes.org/>.

-Pam Kagan

Church Historian's Report

Editor's Note: The following Church Historian's Report was mistakenly omitted from this year's Annual Report. Last year's Church Historian's Report was published in that report in error.

The historian continues to sift through the many documents moved from the office to the archives over the last several years, purging and filing. The lack of heat in the Crow's Nest during the winter, as well as the oppressive heat in the summer, significantly reduce the number of days when one is able to comfortably work in that space!

The six history booklets that are stocked in the rack at the rear of the sanctuary continue to be taken by visitors and require reprinting on a regular basis. I have begun working on one comprehensive, color history brochure that will replace three or four of the current black and white brochures. This is at least a year-long or longer process!

In the spring, I began a project to list all the seminary students LPPC has had since the merger in 1966. Most of our records are fairly good from about the late 1970s, but for some of the early years, the records are thin. I also did some tracking of where all these people are now through a denominational website which has a search function for people who have been ordained. I'm interested in writing an Update article at some point on where all our former students ended up and what they have done since their time here.

The major project for this year was researching and compiling the social justice history of LPPC for a Lincoln Park History Tour. This tour was sponsored by the DePaul University history department to

honor two events: the 350th anniversary of the deaths of St. Vincent DePaul and St. Louise de Marillac (whose lives were dedicated to serving those most in need) and the 25th anniversary of the Lincoln Park Community Shelter. The tour visited about eight places, including St. Vincent DePaul Church and Social Service Center, the three churches that founded the Lincoln Park Shelter (including LPPC), and the Shelter itself. The tours took place on two Saturdays (September 25 and October 16) and hosted a total of about 50 people. I prepared a large poster summarizing the key events of the last 44 years and gave a five-minute talk to the tour groups when they came into our sanctuary. I also prepared a brochure with the same information as a handout at the tour. Overall, this was a unique opportunity to provide a public witness to the intersections of faith, service and social justice at LPPC. I will be presenting a forum on this topic later this winter for those interested in learning (or remembering) more about our rich history in this area. In serving on the task force that has produced the new pictorial directory, I prepared a pictorial page in the directory summarizing the history of our predecessor churches.

I also continue to receive a number of external inquiries from persons requesting baptismal/marriage records or genealogy information for members of their families who had been members of our predecessor churches. Most of the time I am able to provide some information and answer some questions. It is always disappointing to me when I cannot find any information for someone's research. Please remember the church archives when cleaning out any church-related material in your personal files at home.

-Barry Smith, Church Historian

Clerk's Report – March 29, 2011 Called Session Meeting

This special meeting of the Session was held on Tuesday, March 29 at 7 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to learn more about the denomination's processes when a pastor retires, transition in pastoral leadership, and to meet the representative from the Presbytery of Chicago's Committee on Ministry, the Rev. J.C. Cadwallader. Bruce Hunt and Gerri Mead opened the meeting with a reflection on transition, based both on organizational theory and on scripture. After approving the agenda, we moved quickly into the business at hand.

Covenant of Closure

This covenant, which is required by the Presbytery, sets forth boundaries for a departing pastor about what kind of contact he/she may have with the church the pastor is leaving. The boundaries basically dictate that the departing pastor cannot have any type of pastoral connection with the church she/he is leaving without the explicit permission of the moderator of that church's Session. At LPPC the Interim Pastor will become the moderator, and eventually the new Pastor will moderate. The covenant does not preclude friendship relations, though. Both Jeff and Gail (on behalf of the Session) signed the covenant. The third signature on the covenant, representing the Presbytery, is J.C. Cadwallader's. We agreed that we would interpret this covenant to the congregation as important information.

Steps in the Transition Process

J.C. outlined the next steps in the transition process and period. First of all, she handed out some tools for navigating the process, including a manual "On Calling a pastor", and reviewed them with us. We discussed

whether or not to hold the congregational meeting to dissolve our relationship with Jeff as our pastor on the same day when we hold a celebration of his 27 years of ministry with us, and decided to do that. We also decided that communication with the congregation all through the transition time is exceptionally important, and agreed to find ways to work on that.

The Session will select an interim search committee, which will begin its work in earnest after Jeff is officially finished (about mid-July). The presbytery will supply us with four candidates they think are appropriate for us. If for some reason we don't think the fit for any of those four candidates is right for us, we can ask the presbytery for others. This interim search committee is not the same as the Pastor Nominating Committee. That committee will be elected later in the process by the congregation. J.C. and the Presbytery will help us before we get an Interim Pastor to find preachers for those summer Sundays when Amy is not preaching.

Once we find an Interim Pastor, that person will have a flexible contract with us; typical contracts are for a year, and are renewable. Amy's position with us is not affected by the presence of an Interim Pastor; she can remain as Associate Pastor.

As noted in Steve Hunter's front page article, we decided that elders would make phone calls to all members and friends to interpret this process, and that at least two elders would be available each Sunday to answer any questions that people have.

Parish Associate Relationship

Jeff noted that Parish Associates serve at the will and concurrence of the lead pastor and the Session. So when there is a pastoral

vacancy, the Parish Associate can no longer serve in that capacity. The Rev. Marty Knorre, who is currently head of Pastoral Care at Children’s Memorial Hospital, has been our Parish Associate for 19 years. Since she knew that Jeff was retiring, she submitted a letter of resignation as Parish Associate to the Session. We acted with regret, and great appreciation for her work with us, to accept her resignation from that position.

Executive Session

Since the major purpose of this meeting was to begin the transition process with our representative from the Committee on Ministry, at this point in the meeting Jeff, Amy, Gretchen VanNatta and Amber Ellington were excused from the meeting. We were able to raise more questions with J.C. about the interim search process, including discussing a possible compensation package and whether we needed an Interim to be full time or not. Those decisions will be made later when we are choosing an Interim Pastor.

We agreed to call a congregational meeting June 12 for the purpose of officially accepting Jeff’s resignation, and further agreed to have a potluck luncheon and celebration of Jeff’s tenure with us the same day.

J.C. encouraged us by sharing her belief that the period between pastors is often a period of growth for congregations – a “time for preparing the pasture for great wheat to grow”. She said we would need to put together a committee – a transition team” – to make decisions and recommendations to the Session about the process during this time. This group would likely not be the same as the Interim search committee. She will work with both of these groups, offering assistance and leadership as needed.

We agreed to meet again on Tuesday, April 26, to choose these two groups, as well as to make other plans and decisions needed for this transition time.

Conclusion

We voted to adjourn the meeting with prayer at 9:30 p.m., and in closing, J.C. led us in prayer.

-Gail Russell, Clerk

May Birthdays at LPPC	
3	Kirsten Stangenes
7	Zaida Rodriguez
8	Francois Millard
18	Steve Hunter
18	Eli Ternovits
21	Jean Sheadel
22	Gerri Mead
23	Steve Kindred
23	Kathie Zartman
25	Alice Burton
25	Rob Goggin
25	Ben Ho
25	Andy Rozsa
26	Sharon Stangenes
27	Virginia Braxton
27	Kessler McCoy-Simandle

June 12th Congregational Meeting and Celebration Potluck for Jeff and Gretchen

On June 12, 2011 we will celebrate the ministry of Jeff Doane in this congregation. In typical LPPC fashion, (and at Jeff’s request) we will have a potluck. Though not, at Jeff’s request, we will break out the good china and sit down together in celebration of 27 years in ministry for Jeff.

Join with us as we break bread, reminisce and gather as a community of faith.

First Quarter Finances. How Are We Doing?

At our congregation's annual meeting in January, we had a chance to review the \$290,600 operating budget that Session had approved for this fiscal year. Since then our financial resources have helped keep good programs going and our beautiful building functioning. So how do our finances look at the end of this year's first quarter?

As of March 31, our balance sheet showed:
Total expenses \$76,772
Total revenues \$83,453

At first glance these numbers look encouraging, and the current bottom line is certainly solid. There are, however, some other important and challenging things to note.

- 1) Our revenue was enhanced by an unexpected individual gift of \$5,000. It would be nice to have this occur every quarter, but it's not something we can count on.
- 2) Our revenue was not all new income for the quarter, but also included a carryover cash balance.
- 3) Our pledge income, which is such a critical part of membership commitment, fell short of budget by 7.4%.

We are so grateful for all the ways that our members have expressed their generosity and will continue to do so. However if, perchance, you are not up-to-date in your pledge, please do "catch-up" as soon you can. It will help a lot.

Gerri Mead for the Property & Finance Ministry Team

Women's Book Group Takes on "The Siege of Mecca"

On May 14 at 9:30 a.m., the Women's Book Group will convene to discuss Yaroslav Trofimov's *The Siege of Mecca*. Trofimov, a Wall Street Journal writer, offers a riveting account of the violent takeover of Islam's holiest shrine by Muslim fundamentalists in 1979.

As always, we will be meeting at The Kenwood, 3121 North Sheridan Road (entrance on Briar); breakfast treats will be served. Our meeting space, Room 703, can be accessed by taking the first floor elevator near the main entrance one floor up to the Mezzanine (push the M button). Exit that elevator, turn right, walk through to the next building--requiring a jog to the right at the point of connection--and keep going until you find another elevator. Take that elevator to the 7th floor, exit the elevator to the right, and proceed to Room 703. Guest parking is available. Please note: you may pull directly up to the garage entrance and call the front desk at 773-404-9800 for a parking assignment.

Selections have been made for the group's June and July sessions. For June 11, we will be reading *The Zookeeper's Wife* by Diane Ackerman. July's choice is Beth Gutcheon's *Goodbye and Amen*.

All women are cordially invited to join the group. Any member would be pleased to answer your questions or provide further information. Regulars are asked to advise Norma Bennett if they are not able to attend so that refreshments may be ordered in appropriate quantities.

-Liz Kurman

Where's the Money? What Most of Us Don't Know

According to many estimates, one percent of the U.S. population takes home almost a quarter of our nation's income and owns approximately 40 percent of our nation's wealth. That's a distribution that most Americans don't know about.

A recent study conducted by Dan Ariely, a behavioral economist with Duke University, in collaboration with Harvard's Michael Norton asked participants to indicate how much U.S. wealth was owned by the top 20 percent, the next 20, and the next 20 and so on. The results revealed that Americans dramatically underestimated how much wealth the wealthy have and also dramatically overestimated how much money the poor have.

A second question focused on each participant's choice of the ideal distribution of wealth in a just society. They were shown three pie charts (without country names attached). One chart had a very equal distribution, one the present distribution in the U.S. and one a distribution based on Sweden. 92% chose the Swedish distribution, which is much more equal than what we currently have in our country. There was not a great deal of difference between the preferences based on political party. For Democrats it was 93 percent, and for Republicans it was 90.5 percent. The wealthy wanted slightly more unequal distribution, and the poor wanted slightly more equal distribution. But according to Ariely, these differences also were very small. And it's his conclusion that, when asked about actual ideology, Americans are much more equal in their perspective than we might think.

So what does this mean for us as people of faith, as those who call ourselves Easter people? First of all it's a reminder to be more informed about the economic realities of our country and to examine our own perceptions of resource distribution in our country (and throughout the world for that matter). Secondly, it's a call to action. The current distribution of wealth in the U.S. is out of balance and unjust. As we struggle with budget challenges at the city, state and national levels, reallocation of resources and redistribution of wealth must be part of the candid conversation and part of the responsible and compassionate solution. Let's keep calling and writing our local leaders, our state legislators and all of those who represent us in Washington. And then let's call and write again.

**-Gerri Mead,
for the Social Justice Small Group**

Jeff Honored at LPSC Fundraiser

The 2011 Metamorphosis Party showcased the presentation of the Compassion in Action Award to the four pastors who led the four founding churches during LPCS's growth over the last 25 years.

They included:

Pastor Jeffrey Doane from Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church;
Reverend Linda Packard from Church of Our Saviour;
Father Tom Hickey from St. Clement Church; and
Reverend Thomas Henry from St. Pauls United Church of Christ.

The Compassion in Action Award was established last year to recognize exceptional contributions to LPCS since its founding 26 years ago. We congratulate our pastor, Jeff Doane.