



UPDATE

April 2011

Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church

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Our Journey Together through Holy Week

During this holiest of weeks, we travel with Jesus from the heights of a triumphal entry, to the depths of denial and crucifixion, to the joy of an empty tomb and resurrection.



•Palm/Passion Sunday (Sunday, April 17, 10:45 a.m.): Joining once again with Church of our Savior, we will begin with shared worship in our front yard, then open our own worship service with the triumphal procession of palms, led by children shouting "Hosanna!" The Palm/Passion worship culminates in a service of remembrance, preparing for the week's journey to the cross.



•Maundy Thursday (Thursday, April 21, 6:30 p.m.): Begin the evening with a simple supper gathered around tables in the Dreyer Room, followed by a powerful

dramatic reading by members of the congregation of the events of Holy Week, as told in the Gospel of Matthew. The service includes communion (much like the Last Supper), hymns, and the gradual extinguishing of light, ending with only the light of the Christ candle.



•Good Friday (Friday, April 22, 7:30p.m.): We are invited to worship at St. Clement Catholic Church for a service of Veneration of the Cross. Our pastors and choir will participate in leading the service.



•Easter (Sunday, April 24, 11.00 a.m.): Celebrate Christ's resurrection at this joyful service, with special music provided by the choir and organ, the Lord's Supper, and the immortal message of hope: "Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!"

Pastor's Reflections

For those of us reading through Matthew's gospel during these days of Lent, verses we haven't considered for a while come to our attention. They speak to the circumstances in which we find ourselves. So it was when I came across these words in Matthew 9: "No one sews a piece of un-shrunk cloth on an old cloak, for the patch pulls away from the cloak, and a worse tear is made. Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; otherwise, the skins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the skins are destroyed; but new wine is put into fresh wine-skins, and so both are preserved."

Many of you now know that I have announced my retirement as your pastor, with June 12 being my last Sunday. It has been a full and fulfilling 27 years of life and ministry with you, by God's grace. There has been a great deal of change in that time. Now comes the moment for a change you haven't experienced for years. An interim pastor and then a new installed pastor will likely bring new changes. New cloth for the life and witness of this household of faith. New wineskins for the wine of new leadership.

Of course, you, the members and friends of LPPC will continue. Some other patterns will be sustained; Amy is able to remain as half-time associate pastor. Our close working partnership with the Lincoln Park Community Shelter continues. The mission statement still guides us, "living in faith, caring with courage." Our new vision opens us up to "the call of God to the next big thing."

As I write this, I struggle with my language. For the next few weeks, I can speak of "us" and "our." Then I need to distance myself and learn to speak of "you" and "yours," or

the sake of the new cloth, the new wine and new wineskins; which this congregation will experience.

For the meantime, I am grateful for opportunities to celebrate the personal and congregational moments we have shared. And yes, to lament the changes we have not seen come to fruition, as well as the mistakes we have made. These will be important moments of leave-taking.

Then, however, "you" will open yourselves to the leading of God's Spirit. You will seek to recognize the risen Lord walking with you in new directions in your journey of faith. Just as I will seek to be open to new opportunities of the enjoyment of life, and of service, which lie beyond LPPC.

I look forward to our concluding weeks together, in worship and study, in meetings, outreach, and mission. And then I commend you with confidence to the newness God will bring into your lives and the shared life and ministry of this household of faith.

**Grace and peace,
Jeff**

April Birthdays at LPPC	
2	Fangye Zhang
10	Barry Smith
11	Deanna Conklin-Danao
12	Gretchen Van Natta
13	Kate Elyse Danao
21	Charles Hamilton
22	Pam Kagan
24	Beena David
24	Leah Doane
24	Chris Howland
25	Hadley Cerjak

Clerk's Report

March 15, 2011 Session Meeting

The regular Session meeting was held on Tuesday, March 15 at 7 p.m. Robert Guenther led us in a Lenten reflection on the meaning of the cross, written by a British pastor, Rev. Spurgeon, and with prayer. Following the usual agenda approval process, the Session initiated the practice of opening each meeting with a unison reading of the new Vision.

Focus Topic: Communication—among the Session and with the Congregation

Steve Hunter led us into this discussion by offering his perspectives on the need to improve communication at LPPC. He had sent out an outline ahead of time, which included a thorough listing of all the methods and means we now have for communication. He noted that if growth of the congregation is a major factor for us, all of our communication should reflect that focus, in whatever ways possible.

Some suggested that external communication (that is, to the public outside the congregation) needs sometimes to be different than internal communication, and that we needed to be sure who our audiences are in whatever we communicate. The website is an essential tool for external communication, and many prospective members have mentioned that is how they have learned about us and our ministry. It does need updating, and needs to be more user-friendly, but it is still our best external method (at least at present). Facebook is another way to communicate to our external “audience”, as a good way to invite people to LPPC, and to keep them abreast of exciting happenings at the church. Another specific suggestion was to create a “You Tube” video of KidSpace sessions for the web site, which might entice children and

their parents to visit us and our church school.

Elders pointed out that internal communication (that is, communication within the congregation) has been greatly improved by the weekly email about upcoming events. Property and Finance elders said that they decided that stewardship would now have a year-long emphasis, that members and friends would soon be receiving quarterly emails, both updating us on our contributions and sharing good news and accomplishments of the congregation in each quarter.

We talked about additional ways to improve communication with the congregation, and suggested that it might be time to look again at the idea of a phone tree, or some other personal ways to be in contact with members and friends. One particular concern was several comments at the congregational meeting in January about not knowing about what was going on in the church. We agreed that we need to ask the congregation fairly often what their questions are, so that we can respond to any concerns and issues as quickly as possible. A specific suggestion in that regard was that there could be (perhaps twice a year?) a Q&A session for the congregation with the Session.

We agreed that this discussion definitely did not exhaust this subject, but gave us a number of possibilities for action, as well as significant food for thought. We thanked Steve for getting this conversation going, and agreed to communicate with each other further about these ideas, and any new ones that developed.

Clerk's Report and Administration Committee Report

After the approval of two sets of minutes, Gail said that she and Jeff had met to prepare the denomination's annual report and survey, and that she had submitted these reports. She had distributed copies of these reports to the Session earlier. She highlighted some of the demographics about the congregation from the report. The Presbytery has approved the 2009 minutes, and Gail is working to submit the 2010 minutes soon. She reminded elders to submit future ideas for Session focus topics, and reminded them that there is a called Session meeting on March 29, to meet with our representative of the presbytery's Committee on Ministry, the Rev. J.C. Cadwallader. She asked elders to send her questions in advance of this meeting about the upcoming time of transition, especially about the Presbytery's role.

Thanks, Joys and Concerns

Elders offered thanks to specific people who had contributed in special ways to the ministry of the church over the past two months, and then shared a number of joys and concerns. This was followed by a brief break, in order for elders to follow up with one another about what they heard during this time.

Pastors' Reports

Jeff highlighted the Ash Wednesday service, held in the chancel, as an excellent, new and effective tradition. He was also pleased with the attendance, and the number of visitors. We'll be gathering with worshippers from Church of Our Saviour in front of our church at 10:45 a.m. in order to share a joint celebration of Palm Sunday at the beginning of our services. Then on Good Friday, we are invited to join with St. Clement Church for their powerful service. Jeff, Amy and members of the choir will be participating in leadership. He is pleased that there are

several people interested in joining the church.

At the end of his report, Jeff read aloud an email (and gave us copies) that he would be sending to the entire congregation the next day, announcing his retirement. His last Sunday in worship will be June 12, 2011, which is Pentecost. While the Session, along with the whole congregation, was aware that Jeff would be retiring sometime this year, none of us knew Jeff's timing. We sat silent for a few minutes, and then asked both Jeff and Gretchen about what kinds of support they needed during this time of transition.

Amy highlighted a number of pastoral concerns. She also continues to work with the Lakeview Action Coalition, particularly on the possibility of affordable housing at the Children's Memorial site. She is looking for help with website redesign, in order to make the site more user-friendly, and also wants members to work with her on improving the site.

Seminary Assistant's Report

Amber Ellington noted all the activities in which she has been involved in the last two months, including preaching and worship leadership, and her new 9-week study on food ethics. She will be preaching again May 1, which will be her last official Sunday with us.

Presbytery Report

Jo Ann Reynolds said she's excited to be able to serve again on the Presbytery's Committee of Ministry. The major item of business at the February Presbytery meeting was voting on changes to the denomination's Form of Government, and an important part of this was a vote to eliminate G-6.0106b from the new Form of Government. This ruling has officially

prohibited GLBT persons from serving as ordained ministers and Elders in our denomination. Our Presbytery's vote was 3 to 1 to remove this prohibitive language from our Form of Government. All the Presbyteries in the denomination need to vote on this before it can be eradicated, and this year there may be a better chance to remove it than in earlier years. Also, this year our church will be able to have two Elder Commissioners at presbytery meetings, starting at the April Presbytery meeting.

Ministry Teams

There were two action items from ministry teams. Property and Finance proposed that all Elders should receive training on counting the offering, and that motion was approved. Church and Society moved that two-thirds of our mission giving should go to denominational causes, and one-third should go to agencies and organizations designated by the ministry team; this motion passed, too.

Conclusion

We voted to adjourn this meeting at 9:14 p.m., with prayer led by Jeff Doane.

-Gail Russell, Clerk

Easter flowers

It's such a beautiful sight on Easter morning to see our sanctuary filled with spring flowers in bloom! And you can help make that possible by sponsoring one or more plant dedications. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary or you may contact Leticia in the church office to make arrangements. Simply provide the names of those you wish to remember along with your dedication message. The suggested donation is \$25 per plant and the deadline is April 20. Following worship you may take a plant with you or donate it for delivery to one of our church family members unable to be with us.

Small Group Opportunities for the Spring

Are you looking for a way to get connected, find spiritual growth and dig into what it means to "live in faith and care with courage?" Small groups are all about what I call the "rubber hitting the road" faith questions. A small group is a place to gather with a great group of people to discuss what faith means to you and how you find ways to apply to everyday living. It's also the place to sit, have a meal, pray with others and open up to a small group of folks about your own struggles, triumphs and life experiences.

This spring starting in May the following groups will be meeting on various nights:

- * Ben Ho will host a book discussion group.
- * Gerri Mead and Gail Russell will continue a group looking at justice issues.
- * Amy Carlozo will continue to lead a group looking at practices of spiritual growth.

On April 10, during worship, Bruce Hunt, CLOC ministry team member will give a "Moment for Community" during the worship service highlighting these groups. Signups will be in the back of the church or by contacting CLOC member Alice Burton, Kenny Walker, Amy Carlozo and Bruce Hunt. You can also respond by email to Amy Carlozo at abcarlozo@yahoo.com.

- CLOC Ministry Team.

Volunteer Opportunity

Join other LPPC volunteers to cook dinner at the Lincoln Park Community Shelter, conveniently located in the church basement, the first Saturday of each month. The sign-up sheet is in the back of the sanctuary.

Spring... Reflections of the Associate Pastor

As I sit to write, a fat robin red breast sits on my back deck. The sun is out and the sky is clear blue. Yet I'm wearing my warmest wool socks and sweater. I long for the warmth of spring to finally break through this cold, end-of-March day, and seemingly endless winter. With the robin on my deck and the bulbs in my garden beginning to peek through, I know spring is coming, however slowly... she will come to us northern people.

Spring signifies change and that certainly does not exclude LPPC. As we prepare for Pastor Jeff Doane's retirement on June 12th, we will work together as a congregation to prepare for that transition and celebrate the ministry both Jeff and Gretchen have had at Lincoln Park these past 27 years.

I look forward to continuing work here in all the ways you've grown accustomed to these past 3-plus years. Small groups continue to grow and flourish, and I will lead a group on prayer and spiritual growth this spring. I am currently working on a more user-friendly and updatable web page for LPPC. I hope this will help members communicate easily with one another, and continue to attract visitors and new members.

Change can bring on all sorts of emotions, expected and unexpected. Let us walk together through this spring – a season of Lent, Easter and change unique to our community -- looking for signs of new life and celebrating with one another the gift of our shared walk through God's world.

Peace,

-Amy Carlozo

Sharing the Joy: One Great Hour of Sharing

This year as we prepare for the ecumenical One Great Hour of Sharing offering, we should be grateful for the Presbyterian ministries made possible by this churchwide special offering. From Detroit to Darfur, from Louisiana to Libya, those most in need are finding hope and help through the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA,) the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People (SDOP) and their partners in ministry across many denominations worldwide.

Our hearts are full of compassion, but our ears are full of whatever is on the mind of the media this week. In this environment, it becomes incredibly easy to forget the pain of those in trouble spots around the world like Louisiana, Haiti, and Pakistan, and all the other places where poverty, disaster, war and human greed cause displacement and suffering. But the staffs of PDA, SDOP and the Hunger program don't forget, don't leave those in need, even years after the disaster has come and gone, even as the rest of us are caught up in the latest trouble spot.

All this should remind us that this is why members and friends of Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church give to One Great Hour of Sharing. This one time a year when we give our gifts, we know that staff in the three One Great Hour of Sharing programs will be listening to the cries of our sisters and brothers throughout the next year. And they will be responding for us in Christ's name to those cries. To new emergencies they will respond as they have already this year in Haiti, New Zealand and Japan— immediately, directly, and through our partners wherever the emergency occurs. But equally important, they will stay there long after the news cameras have moved

elsewhere—stay there and help rebuild lives and communities on a firmer foundation.

Responding to disasters, feeding the hungry, helping people build up their own livelihoods— these are all ways that One Great Hour of Sharing is changing lives, changing communities, changing the world and bringing joy into the lives of people who had no glimmer of hope. We'll read about examples of these in bulletin inserts in April. As well, go on our church website, www.westminpcplainview.org, to see an inspiring short video about the offering's impact around the world.

We trust our OGHS programs to respond to the needs of the world's neediest and hungriest people. But those programs can only do so to the extent of our generosity. Our challenge is to give strong consideration to doubling our gifts to the offering. Imagine how this will open your heart to God's work in your own life and the joy it will bring you to share the generosity God has so graciously given to you. If you have pledge envelopes, you will find in the box a special envelope for this offering. Envelopes will also be provided in the Easter Sunday bulletin. So join us Easter Sunday and join with Christians all across the country who open their hearts in joyful witness to the abundant love of God through One Great Hour of Sharing.

-Joanne Reynolds

A Worthy Cause, Camfed

Recently, the Church and Society Ministry Team asked the congregation to suggest new mission initiatives that our local mission dollars might support. I have recommended they consider Camfed, the Campaign for Female Education. It was suggested that I

introduce this organization to the congregation by an article in Update.

Camfed began as the grass roots project of a British woman named Ann Cotton and has been very successful. It now operates in Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and Ghana. My knowledge of this organization came about from the reading of the book, *Half the Sky, Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, the January selection of the Women's Book Group. The graphic description of the plight of the women in third world countries whose story is told in *Half the Sky* moved me to get involved. Women are subjected to forced prostitution, rape and the physical injuries and societal prejudice that result. The book pointed out that education is the key to addressing these problems. Girls need to be educated and empowered to claim their rights as human beings. When this is true, the economy of the village and the country has benefited.

Ms. Cotton learned that poverty was the primary reason girls did not get educated. If families could not afford to educate all their children, they chose to educate boys, figuring they had a better chance of finding jobs. She sought an economic solution. Her initial grass roots effort supported 32 girls through school. She then founded Camfed, whose mission statement states, "Camfed fights poverty and HIV/AIDS in Africa by educating girls and empowering women to become leaders of change."

Since the organization's start in 1993, the school environment of 1,025,210 girls has been improved, 42,184 girls have received high school scholarships, 4,065 teacher mentors have been trained and 769 women have been sent to college. An educated girl is three times less likely to become HIV positive, will have fewer, healthier children,

will earn 25% more and help support her family. Women also receive funding to start businesses and take positions of leadership. The microfinance program has funded 6,084 business starts and helped 1,449 expand.

Camfed uses a community-based, holistic approach. The culture must be considered, as many of these conditions are rooted in cultural traditions. It understands that, for a relief program to be successful, it must involve the village in which the women live, and must employ local talent. The staff is 60% African. Transparency is at the core of how Camfed works, and they avoid the prejudicial and distribution problems many charitable programs face by ensuring that local people chose the recipients of financial aid.

For inspired reading, check out their website, www.camfed.org

-Gerry Parker

Women's Book Group

On April 9 at 9:30 AM, the Women's Book Group will gather to discuss humorist Lisa Scottoline's *Why My Third Husband Will Be a Dog*. These amusing anecdotes from everyday life were lifted from pieces originally published in the author's Philadelphia *Inquirer* column.

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.

For advance planning, we will turn to more serious material for our May 14 meeting, which will be devoted to a discussion of Yaroslav Trofimov's *The Siege of Mecca*.

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

Eat Well for the Environment

April 22, 2011 is not only Good Friday, it is Earth Day. God created the earth, and it is sacred. As Psalm 24:1 proclaims, "The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it." Therefore we are called to stewardship of the earth. When we work to protect creation, we are answering God's call to till and keep the garden (Genesis 2:15).

One way to implement God's call in our daily lives is to eat locally grown food. It saves energy and fights global warming. Fresh fruits and vegetables will be sold every Saturday starting on May 14 until October 29 at the Lincoln Park Farmers Market, located at Armitage & Orchard in the Lincoln Park High School Parking Lot. The Green City Market provides locally grown options year round. It operates January - April 2011 in the South Gallery of the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on the following Saturdays: Jan. 15, Feb. 12, Feb. 26, Mar. 12, Mar. 26, Apr. 9 and Apr. 23. The market is outdoors from May 4 - October 29, 2011, at the south end of Lincoln Park, where Clark and La Salle intersect, from 7:00am - 1:00pm every Wednesday and Saturday.

So respect the earth and eat fresh, delicious food at the same time. It's a win, win!

-Steve Hunter