



UPDATE

April 2010

Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church

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Climate Change and Christianity

Global climate change is fundamentally altering God's Creation. Bird and fish migration patterns are changing, permafrost is melting, and coastal wetlands are disappearing as a result of sea level rise.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimates that 20-30 percent of plant and animal species are at risk for extinction and that acidification of the oceans will fundamentally change marine life. Overall, global climate change is predicted to bring increases in flooding, severe storm events, and drought. And, the expected toll on human society is staggering. The additional number of people affected by malnutrition could rise to 600 million by 2080. An additional 1.8 billion people could be living in a water scarce environment by 2080. And, an additional 220-400 million people could be exposed to malaria.

Although global climate change affects all human populations across the

globe, it hits those living in poverty the hardest because they depend on the surrounding physical environment to supply their needs and have limited ability to cope to climate variability and extremes. Global climate change reduces access to drinking water, limits access to food, and negatively impacts human health particularly in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

For instance, Lake Chad, a water source for five countries and 20 million people in Africa, is drying up because of droughts. In 1960, Lake Chad covered more than 26,000 km². By 2000, it was down to 1,500 km². When weather patterns change in Africa, crops fail and people go hungry.

Our call as people of faith—to protect the vulnerable and to be stewards of God's Earth—means we must act to stop global climate change. Because the effects of global climate change are already impacting those who can least afford to deal with it, addressing global climate change is also a justice issue.

Riverwalk, Retreat Bring Peace



Recently on a sunny pre-spring day in March, I took a walk along the Chicago River. Now the Chicago River does not evoke images for prairie grasses, wooded paths, and budding flowers, but that indeed captures what the path near our house looks like. The picture above is of a park just off of Lawrence Avenue.

I found this path by accident one day when my only goal was to walk along the river for as far as I possibly could. I ended up walking to North Park University and following a small branch of the Chicago River running through its campus.

I found a small place off the path with a bench and just sat, breathed, prayed, and listened to the wind, the trees, and yes, birds. Peace in the midst of the busy city, peace in the midst of my busy life. I crave that peace but often times don't make room in my life for moments of peace.

Perhaps you too crave some of that peace? In the hopes of providing a time of peace, reflection and quiet—as well as a chance to tell our own stories—Trina Portillo, Bruce Hunt and I will lead an Eastertide retreat on Sat., May 1st: "Listening for God: The call, the whisper, the challenge to us."

In our initial planning Trina asked, "Are one-day retreats really helpful?" That question has stuck with me. Can we really just find a moment of peace and do we need one more thing on our calendar to help us to do that?

Well yes, and no. Sometimes a walk in the woods and finding a place of peace represents what we need. Other times, finding community, connection and a safe space to tell our stories helps us deepen our walk. I hope to challenge you to find times in your life for peaceful reflection and a communal experience of connection with God, as well as others in this community of faith.

Another exciting process I want to let you know about involves our small-group gathering. We have begun with our first group and are using the book *Know and Be Known: Small Groups that Nourish and Connect* by Brooke B. Collison. We will continue discussing how we will lead more small groups and find ways to build these small groups. Next month I hope to have more information for you and, by summer, the beginning of small groups budding from this group. I'm calling it the "the first ripple" of what we pray will be more ripples to follow.

**Grace and Peace,
Amy Carlozo**

Movie Night Saturday, April 10th 6 p.m.

Congregation-wide event
All are invited to a spring movie night at the home of Ryan Jones and Amanda Schulze. We'll view the movie "The Hurt Locker" and have a dinner and discussion to follow.

If you are interested please sign up in the back of the church or contact Associate Pastor Amy Carlozo.

See you at the movie!

Clerk's Report – March Session Meeting

Session gathered for its regular meeting on Tuesday, March 16, 2010. We began a new approach to the way our meetings are structured, because we are seeking to spend more time on substantive issues, and to streamline reports. Therefore, each meeting will begin with a focus topic. The topic for the March meeting was “re-focusing the vision.”

Re-focusing the Vision

We began by reviewing how the visioning process for the congregation had worked 10 years ago. As we explore ways to re-focus this vision 10 years hence, we seek to be led by the Holy Spirit. While we want to look at what has been accomplished in the past 10 years, we also want to have a fresh perspective. This can be the beginning of a more in-depth process of congregational mission study that will need to be conducted in a few years, when Jeff Doane retires as our pastor. We agreed that the congregation needs education about that process in the future, but agreed that as we begin the refocusing of the vision, we will want congregational involvement as well.

An initial step in re-focusing the vision will be to choose a small, diverse group of people to lead the process. This group will consist of congregational members and elders. Before they can begin their work, the Session charged itself with writing a purpose statement for the group. As the group works on drafting a vision statement for the congregation, they will seek input from a wide variety of sectors of the congregation, and later, from the congregation as a whole.

Clerk's Report and Administration Committee Report

We had several sets of minutes to approve: the January regular Session meeting, a February called meeting for receiving new members, and the January annual congregational meeting. We approved all of

them quickly. After that, at the requests of Deborah McBride and Jim Moore, the Session voted to remove them both from active membership of LPPC. G. Russell also noted the annual denominational reports that she had submitted about the congregation, its composition, and projects in which we are involved. Copies were available for elders.

The Administration committee will determine when the session retreat will happen, Spring or Fall, and will clarify whether the focus of the retreat will be re-focusing the vision, or on other needed topics. Administration will develop a purpose statement for any potential retreat for the Session's review. We also agreed to schedule a special Session meeting (hopefully in April) to discuss with Zaida Rodriguez and a representative from the Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry Zaida's desire to renew her inquiry into candidacy for ordained ministry. Finally, we officially ratified the baptism of Audrey Genc which had taken place on February 21.

Thanks, Joys and Concerns

Another aspect of our re-organized meeting agenda was moving this portion of the meeting earlier on the docket. Elders shared a number of joys and concerns, which was followed by a brief break, in order for people to take time to follow up with each other.

Pastors' and Seminary Assistant's Reports

Jeff Doane highlighted the upcoming plans to share the beginning of Palm Sunday worship on our front lawn with our Episcopal neighbors, Church of Our Savior, and our continued participation with St. Clement Roman Catholic Church in their Good Friday service. He noted the joint efforts of the Church and Society ministry team with Shana Vernon in planning a special Earth Sunday worship for Sunday, April 25.

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Finally, he celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Lincoln Park Community Shelter, and pointed out their gala fundraiser, to be held Friday, April 23, where we hope to have an LPPC table of 10 to support the event.

Carlozo reported that our website now has both recent issues of Update and recent sermons available. She noted that there were three people who attended the recent Explore LPPC class. She is pleased that the initial work on developing small groups in the church is going well. Given the large number of people who will attend the beginning of our Palm Sunday service, she is working on recruiting extra greeters for that service.

Shana Vernon said she will be preaching Sunday, April 25, and coordinating the April 3 Shelter meal.

Presbytery Report

Reynolds shared a thorough written report on the Presbytery assembly, but she highlighted for us the news that the Presbytery had voted 3 to 1 in favor of the overture LPPC had supported modifying the Book of Order to remove restrictive language about ordaining GLBTQ persons as ministers, elders and deacons, and also endorsed 4 to 1 the overture about clergy and Sessions choosing to provide worship services to bless same-sex couples who have had civil marriages, which LPPC had also supported.

Ministry Teams

Liturgy and Learning noted the need for four elders to serve communion on Easter Sunday, April 4. Other than that, there were no action items from ministry teams.

Conclusion

We voted to adjourn this meeting with prayer at 9:05. Elders expressed their appreciation for the revised Session agenda, especially for more time to discuss in-depth issues. We will continue this practice.

-Gail Russell, Clerk

Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group will meet on Saturday, April 10, at 9:30 a.m. at The Kenwood, 3121 North Sheridan Road (entrance on Briar). Our selection for this month is *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society*. This charming novel by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows explores life on the island of Guernsey under the German occupation of World War II.

In May we will be discussing Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's *This Child Will Be Great: Memoir of a Remarkable Life by Africa's First Woman President*. Please note that this book is scheduled to be released in paperback on April 13.

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. As always, guest parking spaces are available; check with the front desk upon arrival

All women are invited to join the group for conversation and breakfast treats. If regulars are unable to attend, please alert Norma Bennett so that food and beverages may be ordered appropriately. If you have questions, any member of the group would be pleased to answer them.

Those attending the April meeting and others in the church may wish take note of an upcoming opportunity to donate books. Virginia Braxton is collecting lighter reading suitable for hospital patients, and will be making a run to Stroger Hospital shortly after our April meeting to deliver donated books. You may bring donations to the meeting, or call Virginia to make other arrangements to get items to her.

Getting to Know Robert Guenther

“It wasn’t the church I expected to find, but it was the church I wanted,” says Robert Guenther about first visiting Lincoln Park Presbyterian 20 years ago.

Guenther came to LPPC, the first and only Chicago church he visited, after arriving in the early 1990s, one of a wave of young urban professionals then flooding the city.

Newly graduated from law school at Washington University in St. Louis, Guenther moved here to work for a private law firm. After a stint in the private sector, he landed “the job I wanted” as an attorney with the Great Lakes office of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Today the 46-year old is part of the federal agency charged with protecting human health by overseeing air and water quality and issues of hazardous waste clean-up for a six-state region from Ohio to Minnesota. In addition, staffers in the regional office cooperate with state counterparts to develop regulations to protect the environment.

Created in 1970 just months after the celebration of the first Earth Day, the EPA was born amidst growing public concern about pollution in the U.S.

The EPA’s greatest challenge today is climate change, says Guenther. He says the agency “has begun to address” this global issue after eight years in which the national administration seemed to undercut the EPA’s mission rather than support it. It will take years before the EPA is up to speed on climate change issues, he says, but “what we really need is Congressional action so I urge everyone to write your Congressman about that.”

Guenther’s own favorite projects deal with storm water overflows and efforts to ensure the quality of Lake Michigan water is protected. His office also has been briefed

on the controversy of how best to keep the aggressive Asian carp from entering Lake Michigan. The invasive fish, which has worked its way from the lower Mississippi River to within miles of the Great Lakes is considered an extreme hazard to the lakes natural aquatic food chain. Michigan has sued Illinois--unsuccessfully--to close locks and an important shipping channel to prevent the stop the fish.

“It’s going to be costly either way,” says Guenther of the dispute. He personally favors closing the canal both to keep the Asian carp out of the lakes and to keep another invasive fish, the Russian goby, from migrating from the Great Lakes into the Mississippi River basin.

Although Guenther grew up in Memphis, the youngest of five children, graduated from the University of Virginia and law school in St. Louis, there remains little trace of the South in his accent. But there is a great deal of Southern hospitality in his manner. He currently serves of the LPPC Session and is one of the elders heading up the Church and Society Ministry Team this year.

He likes to read and, with subscriptions to six different theater companies, says, “I see an awful lot of theater” when he is not working for the EPA or LPPC.

“Chicago has an incredible wealth of wonderful and accessible theater,” he says. “It’s a shame not to enjoy it.”

-Sharon Stangenes

April Birthdays at LPPC

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

The Pastor's Reflections

Holy Week and Easter this year will include valued worship traditions and some new practices as well. As I write to you, we are looking forward to a new approach to the opening of Palm/Passion Sunday this week. Our Episcopalian friends from Church of our Savior will join us in the front yard of the church (in any weather short of a hail storm, their rector Brian Hastings announced!) We will share the liturgy of the palms before they process down Fullerton and we process into the church and into our pews (all this to saxophone accompaniment).

That first Palm Sunday was also a public display by Jesus and his followers, as Luke tells the story. We, too, hope to witness to our neighbors passing by in cars or on foot, to our shared faith in the Lord of life as we begin all the vital worship of Holy Week. And we are delighted to do so with nearby friends in faith!

Maundy Thursday will gather us in The Dreyer Room for our valued observance of the tenebrae (lengthening of shadows) service, including communion about the tables a reading of the passion in Luke's gospel, and the extinguishing of candles and lowering of lights. We precede our worship with a simple soup supper, even as Jesus and his disciples shared their last supper.

On Good Friday, we are pleased to worship with our friends at St. Clement Roman Catholic Church for the veneration of the cross, accompanied by the reading of the passion from John's gospel. Members of our choir will join with theirs to lead the moving music of the service. Both Amy and I will be readers in the passion. Again, this sharing of a key worship event witnesses to our common faith in our suffering servant Savior.

Easter morning finds us back at LPPC for a joyous witness to Jesus' resurrection. In

addition to the liturgy, music, and preached word of promise that we treasure every year, we will commune together this year at the Lord's table. I was interested to learn that some of my colleagues are putting communion off a week, rather than work it into a full service with many visitors. We are pleased to offer all who are present for worship and trust in Jesus as their risen Lord, the opportunity to experience his presence in shared prayers, broken bread, and a common cup. We will take up the second section of Luke's Easter story, as Cleopas and his companion are joined by a stranger on the road to Emmaus. What a fitting occasion to commune together, members, friends, visitors, followers of Christ one and all!

My hope and prayer is that I will see you in as many of these very special worship opportunities as you are able to attend. In valued traditions, in new practices, as a household of faith, with friends in faith from neighboring churches, let us turn to our suffering servant Savior, and then celebrate the life-changing news of Easter morn: Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!

**Grace and peace,
Jeff Doane**

Earth Day Celebration, Sunday April 25

We will worship God and give thanks for our temporal home -- our earth, and her nature. The service will have two "movements" of sorts. One, our stewardship of God's creation will both be challenged and celebrated. Two, the lives of those lost in natural disasters will be memorialized from the perspective that the world's poor are most susceptible to natural forces -- an outcome largely of their neglect by the non-poor -- governments, institutions/systems, people. We will consider the "web of life" which relates each of us to one another, our planet, and our God. Please join us for this special worship

-Shana Vernon

What Can I Do to Help the Environment?

Editor's note: The article below is a portion of one originally printed in the April 2007 Update.

1. If every household in the U.S. replaced one incandescent light bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL), it would be the equivalent of removing one million cars from the road.

You can: *Go to a hardware store and buy some CFL bulbs to replace your incandescent ones.*

2. Each gallon of gasoline used requires a thousand gallons of water to produce.

You can: *drive less, walk, ride a bike, take public transit, or carpool.*

3. Each year, the energy needed for residential room air conditioning in the U.S. is equivalent to the crude oil transported by 415 supertankers. Increasing residential room air conditioner efficiency by 20% would eliminate the need for 49 supertankers of oil.

You can: *Fine-tune the efficiency of your central air system. Again, Greenmaker Supply can help with this.*

4. If just one in ten homes used ENERGY STAR qualified appliances, the benefit to our air quality would be the same as planting 1.7 million acres of trees.

You can: *Make sure that future appliance purchases have the ENERGY STAR seal of approval.*

5. Carpet sent to landfills each year covers an area greater than New York City. You can: *Choose flooring from renewable resources such as bamboo or cork whenever you're remodeling or purchasing a new home.*

6. Recycling one tin can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours.

You can: *Recycle your aluminum cans whenever possible through the City of Chicago's Blue Bag Program.*

9. Every year, Americans throw away enough paper to build a 12 ft. wall from New York City to Los Angeles.

You can: *Ask merchants to remove you from their advertising lists, so you receive less paper mail. Recycle your newspapers and any mail you do receive through the City of Chicago's Blue Bag Program.*

****Note:** Above facts are sourced from documentation provided by GreenSeal.org, Clean Air Counts, and Chicago Conservation Corps

-Blythe Howard-Chou

Wanted – Motivated Member to Make a Difference!!

The Alternative Christmas Store last year was a grand success, not only providing LPPCers an opportunity to shop with progressive and earth-friendly merchants, but also actually raising some cash for the church budget! The success is largely due to the efforts of Marianne Nesler, who tirelessly managed the affair, and for her work we are grateful.

But after several years at the helm of the ACS, Marianne is stepping down. The Church and Society Committee is currently looking for a new coordinator for the effort. This is a great opportunity to put your management skills to use in a very worthwhile project. Marianne has put together a remarkably detailed roadmap for anyone who would like take up this chance to help out businesses who try to make a difference in the world, offer church members a welcome alternative to the commercial hubbub of the holidays and possibly raise some money for the church.

If you might be interested in this exciting management opportunity, please see Marianne, Allan Wilson, Robert Guenther or any other member of the Church and Society Ministry Team. We look forward to answering your questions!

-The Church and Society Ministry Team

April

Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church Calendar

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
Every Sunday: 9 a.m. Choir rehearsal 9:45 a.m. Adult study 11 a.m. Worship/ Kidspace 12 p.m. Hospitality	Every Month Communion, 1st Sunday Women's Book Group 2nd Saturday Update Deadline, 3rd Sunday			1 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship, Soup supper, Tenebrae Service and Communion (Dreyer room)	2 7:30 p.m. Good Friday Service, at St. Clement Roman Catholic Church (Orchard and Deming)	3 6 p.m. LPPC Night at the Shelter
4 Easter 11 a.m. Worship/Communion	5 7 p.m. Administration Committee	6 7 p.m. First Small Group Gathering at Ben Ho's house	7	8	9	10 9:30 a.m. Women's Book Group, at The Kenwood 6 p.m. Spring Movie Night at Ryan Jones' & Amanda Schulze's house
11 11 a.m. Worship Amy Carlozo preaching 12:30 p.m. Younger Adult Lunch	12	13 1 p.m. Presbytery at Pullman Presbyterian Church	14	15	16	17 7:30 p.m. Chicago Chamber Choir Concert at LPPC
18 11 a.m. Worship Jeff Doane preaching 12:30 p.m. Explore LPPC Class	19	20 7 p.m. Ministry Teams	21	22 1 p.m. Loop Lunch at Flat Top Grill, 30 S. Wabash	23 7 p.m. Lincoln Park Shelter Party, 900 W. Foster First Small Group Gathering at Gerri Mead's house	24
25 Earth Sunday 11 a.m. Worship Shana Vernon preaching	26	27	28	29	30	

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