



UPDATE

July/August 2010

Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church

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This Month in Update

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Singing the Choir's Praises

Thanks to the choir regulars who enhance our worship experience every Sunday. These faithful worship leaders arrive early every Sunday morning for choir practice in order to enhance our worship experience. This past year, they have been challenged in a number of ways - by health challenges as well as by geographic moves of members - that have led to a reduction in the number of weekly choir members.

These faithful worship leaders arrive early every Sunday morning for choir practice in order to enhance our worship experience.

However, despite the challenges of being a small group - with only a single voice on most parts- they have continued to prepare wonderfully enriching music for our worship. They sing acapella (just the voices), are accompanied by piano, occasionally by organ and once in a while with other instruments. They have even prepared some wonderful

world music to enhance our worship experience. They are a talented group of Christians.

They are also a compassionate community. I very much miss singing with the choir, and have felt their concern for my well-being. I know I'm not the only one who is a recipient of their prayers and care, as the choir members reach out to those in need.

The choir goes on "sabbatical" for the summer, although individual choir members will continue to add to our worship experience by preparing solos on selected weeks. The choir regulars are augmented with other wonderfully talented church members who join for particular times and events and add additional energy and talent to the group. They are open to others joining them - for a single week or as a new choir regular.

Please join me in thanking these individuals, Don Hunter, Gerri Mead, JoAnn Reynolds, Gail Russell joined by staff members Alex Honzen and James Stevens for their contributions to our worship.

**Gretchen Van Natta for
Liturgy and Learning**

Clerk's Report – Two May Session Meetings

Special Called Meeting

The first meeting of the Session in May was held Sunday, May 16, after worship. The purpose of this called meeting was to meet with Zaida Rodriguez about her intent to re-enter the candidacy process for becoming an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church. In order for her to do that, the Session needs to meet with her and with a representative of the Presbytery of Chicago., so that the Session can understand better what the process of candidacy entails, and so that the Session can vote to sponsor Zaida's candidacy process. Don Allerton, elder from Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago, provided an overview of the process and timeline for candidacy for ordained ministry, and also explained what the role of s Session should be. He also noted helpful resources for the Session, for the prospective candidate herself, and for the role of the Session liaison with the prospective candidate.

Then the Session conversed with Zaida, who had requested the Session to support her call and application to become a candidate to the presbytery. Zaida shared the history of her call to serve in the ministry, as well as several documents she had prepared for her entry into this process. The Session voted unanimously to nominate Zaida Rodriguez as an inquirer to the Presbytery of Chicago for preparation for Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Jo Ann Reynolds will be her Session liaison. The Session also voted to support Zaida's enrollment in the denomination's required career counseling program, as part of her candidacy process.

Stated May Meeting

The regular Session meeting was held on Tuesday, May 18, at 7 p.m. Gretchen VanNatta opened the meeting with a reflection on gratitude as an essential spiritual discipline, including giving thanks daily for even the small things. She encouraged us to enter the process of refocusing the church's vision with that spirit, and then led us in prayer.

Treasurer's Report

After approving the agenda, Wayne Russell presented the Treasurer's report, including where we are financially as of the end of April. While we are ahead of revenue in 2009 for the year so far, we are definitely behind what was projected for 2010. In fact, we are behind 10% in pledges, 57% lower than the projection in regular donors (those who give regularly, but don't pledge), and 33% behind in donations that come from the offering plate from what was projected. In this year where we hoped to raise significantly more revenue from members and friends than we were able to do last year, these are disappointing figures.

Nevertheless, the good news is that last year by this time, we had withdrawn \$25,000 from the endowment principle in order to meet expenses, and this year, we've only drawn down \$9,700 so far. Expenses are also below what was projected for the period. We do have some significant expenses coming in June, however. The budget will have to be monitored very closely this year, and we hope for better returns from pledges, regular donors and the church plate in the coming months. **REMINDER:** If you happen to be behind in your pledge or in giving this year, please be aware that summer is a lean time, please keep your pledge and giving current. At this point in the meeting, the Treasurer's report was accepted with thanks to Wayne Russell for his clear, if challenging presentation.

Focus Topic: Re-focusing the Vision

We continued with this focus topic which we had begun at our March meeting. During the interim, the members of the Refocusing the Vision working group had been chosen and had met. The members of the group are:

Steve Baker
Rebecca Devlin
Dave Geilen
Jeff Doane, who is staffing the group
Don Hunter, representing the Session
Steve Hunter
Megan Miskiewicz
Gail Russell, representing the Session

The ministry teams have begun discussing how to refocus the 2000 vision, and some had submitted a summary of their discussion to the Refocusing working group. Now it was the Session's turn to reflect of what aspects of the 2000 vision had been accomplished, what had been some surprises, challenges, and where the Spirit might be leading us for the next 10 years. We lifted up many positive and exciting aspects of the church's life and ministry since 2000 – a huge and impressive list!

Some of those accomplishments (in no particular order) include: a beautifully renovated building and welcoming sanctuary, the lower floor of the building turned into a home for people who had no home, KidSpace – now boasting two classes, the memorial garden, continued commitment to full inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons in the Presbyterian denomination, the Alternative Christmas Store, growing membership and worship attendance, the addition of an Associate Pastor to our staff, our stronger relations and occasional shared worship with St. Clement Roman Catholic and Church of Our Savior Episcopal churches, the continued generosity of this congregation, both in supporting the regular budget and in response to the capital campaign, our improved and user-friendly website and other technology which connect us with new people, and an overall positive and forward-looking attitude in the whole congregation about the ministry of our church. Building this list took up most of the time allotted for this part of the meeting, so the Session agreed that we needed to continue the discussion of what still needs to be accomplished in the 2000 vision, as well as where the Holy Spirit might be leading us at our July meeting. Don Hunter and Gail Russell shared with the Session briefly about how the Refocusing the Vision working group had begun its work, and how they plan to gather information and feedback from the congregation.

Clerk's Report and Administration Committee Report

We began by approving the minutes of the March 16 regular Session meeting, followed by

the minutes of the called May 16 meeting. We received and approved a request for transfer of membership for Nancy Poling to the Black Mountain Presbyterian Church in Black Mountain, North Carolina, where she and her husband Jim have retired. We had also received a letter from Steve Crow, which G. Russell shared with the Session. We discussed the purpose of the fall Session retreat and agreed on two possible dates in October. We agreed that another focus topic for an upcoming meeting should be Session and ministry team structure.

Thanks, Joys and Concerns

Elders shared a number of joys and concerns, followed by a brief break, in order for people to take time to follow up with each other.

Pastors' Reports

Doane highlighted his gratitude for the students, teachers and family support of KidSpace, and the developing plans for a confirmation and commissioning class. He shared concerns for several members who are ill or whose family members are ill. He lifted up the continued need to support the Shelter in providing meals, and their upcoming Open House in July. In addition, he hoped we could create another congregational pot luck supper with the shelter guests. He also noted an upcoming youth choir concert, to be held in our sanctuary for the shelter guests and for the congregation. Finally, he celebrated the changed attitudes of some neighbors, who had previously been opposed to the Shelter, but were now supporting it.

Carlozo reported on the efforts of the people meeting to develop small groups in the church. They are planning a pot luck dinner to highlight the opportunities and possibilities of small groups in our congregation. She also provided the Session with a list of regular visitors, and encouraged us to get to know them. Both Carlozo and Doane emphasized the need for us to help visitors and friends take the next step toward membership.

Presbytery Report

Jo Ann Reynolds shared a thorough written report on the Presbytery assembly. Highlights included that a group has bought the Presbytery Camp in Saugatuck, Michigan, but the Presbytery will still provide the programming at the camp, and that the Presbytery office property in Chicago is still on the market.

Ministry Teams

Church and Society had two action items. First, they asked the Session to support the work of the Lakeview Action Council in its efforts for affordable housing on the site of Children's Memorial Hospital in our neighborhood, by officially joining the Action Council, and supporting them with up to \$300, funds for that to come from local mission. The Session voted to support this effort. Second, we voted to support the Presbytery's request that our congregation be the mid-north contact congregation for the Interfaith Solidarity Network, and organization of congregations ready to respond to religious hate crimes, if and when they occur. In addition, Church and Society urged us to support the upcoming Shelter dinners, and to help them find a coordinator for the Alternative Christmas Store.

Liturgy and Learning had two recommendations. The first is that we celebrate communion every Easter, even if Easter does not occur on the first Sunday of the month, since celebrating the Lord's Supper on Easter seems especially meaningful and appropriate. Session will decide about this later, but appreciated the recommendation. The action item proposed by Liturgy and Learning was to reschedule worship for Sunday, June 27, Pride Sunday, to 10:30 a.m., instead of 11 a.m., so that worshippers could more easily participate in the city's Pride Parade. The Session voted to approve this one-Sunday change in worship time.

Conclusion

We voted to adjourn this meeting with prayer at 9:35, after a longer than usual, but very productive meeting.

-Gail Russell, Clerk

The Pastor's Reflections

In these summer months, there is a tension in our lives, and our life together. With some attention and care, this can be a creative tension. Many of us look forward to times of vacation and long weekends away. We relish the opportunity to enjoy activities that bring us closer to the natural order we so easily take for granted. We are delighted to appreciate more directly the sun, wind, water and all the green growing things about us. These occasions are a vital way to connect more closely with the Creator of all of life.

I join you in this enjoyment. There will be several weeks when I am away for vacation and study leave. May we all find refreshment in these opportunities! Yet at the same time, there is a good deal going on at LPPC!

Worship and busy church life do not take the summer off. We have a working group meeting and reflecting creatively on how to refocus our congregation's vision statement drafted more than 10 years ago. These leaders will be looking for your insight and input, as we seek the Spirit's leading for the next 10 years of common life, ministry and mission. When you are contacted, please provide your careful, prayerful response.

Several families and leaders are preparing for a confirmation/commissioning class for 8th and 9th graders beginning this fall. It's exciting, after a number of years, to have the opportunity to reflect on our faith and the Christian practices we share with younger friends exploring just what membership in the church and our congregation might mean. We'll provide progress reports as we get started.

Then there are other activities in which to get involved. There have been testimonies, a potluck and the possibilities of small groups starting up. Each Sunday offers different musical leadership of worship during the summer months. We'll look forward to a hymn sing and a congregational dinner at Salvatore's (*continued on following page*)

(continued from previous page)
in August. Check out this issue and upcoming events, weekly and monthly, for details.

How do we both get away for re-creation and stay engaged when we're here? That is the challenge of making these tensions of our common life creative. We do have a good role model. The demands of Jesus' ministry were ever present. Yet even he found ways to get away. Like him, we are enriched by both renewal and engagement.

So let us know about your travels, your refreshment and renewal. And gather with us when you are in town, for worship, hospitality and other activities. May the fullness of our lives in faith be nurtured by both renewal amidst creation and the delightful engagement with friends in faith, and with our God in Christ.

Grace and peace,
Jeff

Hymn Sing Sunday August 22

Bring a bottle of water and your best singing voice to church on "Hymn Sing Sunday," August 22. You will be able to suggest your favorite hymn in advance of the service. Our wonderful music director has offered the following options: #1 Congregation singing with Organ, #2 Congregation singing with piano, #3 an organ solo, or #4 a piano solo. The meditation for the service will be created around the selections of the congregation. Watch for suggestion sheets in the rear of the sanctuary in July.

-Don Hunter for Liturgy and Learning

Louise Biga's 100th Birthday Bash

We could not refuse an invitation to attend a party for a dear friend, Louise Biga, who was celebrating her 100th birthday. On Sunday, June 11th, we drove down to Peoria and joined in the celebration. What a great party it was! She is the same Louise, with her expressive eyes, bright smile and great sense of humor, that all of us have admired all these years. There must have been at least a hundred people there to pay their respects to, and show their love for, Louise.

She thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it and gave as much joy as she accepted. Everyone was crowding around to talk to her personally. We finally got our chance and she was so pleased to see us. She told us to be sure to let the LPPC congregation know that she appreciated the two cards she received with the personal greetings, even those who were new to her. She sends her love and greetings and regrets not being able to be with us.

We were pleased to represent LPPC for this joyful occasion.

-Charles and Hasmick Rich

July Birthdays at LPPC

3	Megan Miskiewicz
6	Christa Gallopoulos
6	Wayne Russell
7	Genevieve Carlozo
8	Bonnie Humphrey
11	Scott Ternovits
21	Jim Braxton
25	Elizabeth Russell
26	Fiona Bailey

August Birthdays at LPPC

3	Kenny Walker
8	Sophie Alexis Richardson
14	Tyler Goggin
17	Jonathan Russell
19	Robert Guenther
20	Maggie Livingston
21	Jo Ann Reynolds
22	Eric Alexander
23	William Bates
26	Gerry Parker
27	John O'Donnell
27	Jane Baker

A Return to Summer Sunday Evening at Salvatore's Restaurant

What is dinner at Salvatore's? First it's a tradition at Lincoln Park that we are returning to this year. We will begin at church with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres on Sunday August 22nd at 5 P.M. and then proceed to one of our neighborhood's best restaurant, Salvatore's at 525 W. Arlington Place.

Why are we returning to this tradition? It's a way for members, new and not so new, friends of LPPC, significant others, and regular visitors to have a great evening of good food, great conversation, and hopefully a bit of music. Come celebrate the summer with an evening out.

Ticket sales will be with CLOC members Bruce Hunt, Ryan Jones, and Amy Carlozo and will begin mid-July. Sign up to participate. All are welcome.

-Congregational Life and Outreach Committee

Women's Book Group Takes On "The Help" from Wisconsin

The Women's Book Group will head to Wisconsin on July 10 to be hosted by Gail Russell and Gerri Mead in their vacation home on the shores of Lake Koshkonong. We will be discussing *The Help*, Kathryn Stockett's tale of social awakening as seen from both sides of the American racial divide. Brunch will be available upon arrival; please bring a dish to share for lunch following the discussion. Let Gail Russell know if you plan to attend. She will provide driving directions, and can coordinate transportation for those who need it.

We will take our customary August break and reconvene on Saturday, September 11.

All interested women are invited to join the group for the Wisconsin outing, which is always a highlight of the year. Please see any member for further information.

-Liz Kurman

Kayaking in Chicago with LPPC Saturday July 31st 11 A. M.

One of my great loves is the outdoors. One of the best ways to experience nature in all its glory within the bounds of our city is on the Chicago River. I discovered kayaking by accident one day after we moved to our current house. Less than three blocks way is the North Branch of the Chicago River. While strolling to the park, I saw a kayaker from the Montrose Avenue Bridge. Shouting a greeting I asked where he got his kayak. "At the rental spot on the River off of Addison Avenue!" Thus began my love affair with kayaking.

I hope you will join me, no matter what your age or skill level in a midmorning adventure on the river. We'll rent the kayaks at River Paddle Chicago on Rockwell off of Addison and meander up the river as far as we'd like. We might see an egret, definitely some ducks and geese, and maybe the neighborhood swan family.

This is open to all. Canoes are available as well. Kayaks can be rented both for individuals and two-people. Sign up in the back of the church. Cost depends on how long we go but average is about \$25-30 per person. Scholarships available. Come join me in one of my favorite past times of the summer. If you have questions call, text or e-mail me at abcarlozo@yahoo.com.

I'll see you on the river!!!

Grace and Peace,

-Amy Carlozo



Launching Small Groups!!!

Conversations and Connections

At the potluck on June 20TH, we began the conversation, "What do small groups look like at LPPC?" Bruce Hunt brought forth the Biblical view of "home churches" found in ACTS. In brief they include: Food, Fellowship, Community, Prayer and Bible Study.

First Gathering started in February...

Our first small-group gathering began in February. We looked at what It meant to be a group, how to invite others, and most of all how to facilitate a small group. We discussed the topics in the book Know and Be Known by Brooke B. Collison.

The challenge from the beginning was to facilitate a small group of your own. To that end listed below are the small groups that will be starting at the end of August and beginning of September. We ask for each participant to commit to attending six meetings of a single gathering. Each leader will set gathering times and places that work with participants' schedules.

Sign up in the back of the sanctuary ... or contact Associate Pastor Amy Carlozo at abcarlozo@yahoo.com. You can also leave a message on her voicemail at 773-248-8288.

I hope you feel called to get involved in a group. Other groups will start later in the fall and in January if your schedule does not allow you to participate right now. Let us continue to grow in faith with one another!

Connections and Conversation

Small-Group Focus -- Justice Issues

So many social justice issues are on our minds these days – hunger; economic inequality; racism; discrimination against women/older adults/GLBTQ people; human irresponsibility in care for creation; corruption in high (and low) places. The list is long, and this small group will select topics of particular concern and interest to the members. We'll examine contemporary issues in light of Biblical perspectives and personal experiences, as well as

media interpretations, and also incorporate music that speaks to particular subjects. Beginning late summer or early fall. Facilitated by Gerri Mead and Gail Russell

Small-Group Focus -- Companions on the Way

This small group will examine the spiritual journey, the turning points and the forks in the road: The milestones and side trips that turned out to be interesting. We will also encourage each other to take steps forward on the path. We will write and tell our stories and listen – really listen – to the stories of others.

And we will break bread together. (That's what COMPANIONS do.) We will devote ourselves to the apostles' teachings and to the fellowship and prayers of our members. (Acts 2:42)

We'll meet 6 times through the summer.

Facilitated by Bruce Hunt

Small Group Focus -- "Biblical Outtakes: Gospels Left on the Cutting-Room Floor"

This group will center on a study of the Gnostic gospels and their meaning to the early church, and to us today. The group will explore how the orthodox core beliefs of the church came to exist and how they could have turned out different.

Along the way, we will explore the history of the early church, the diversity of Christian groups (Ebionites, Marcionites, Gnostics, etc), the formation of the canon. (Who were the editors and what criteria were used to select the books of the Bible?) This group will fascinate those looking for different interpretations of the scriptures, along with different and surprising images of God, to nourish their spiritual journey. Book to be used: Bart Erhmann's "Lost Christianities"

Facilitated by Ben Ho

Small-Group Focus -- "Healing Prayer"

This group will focus at the "ABC's of Healing Prayer." How do the mind and body work together? How do our mental and spiritual well-being play into our overall health and healing? And how can prayer not only influence healing, but also bring us into a "healthier" alignment with God?

Facilitated by Ryan Jones and Amy Carlozo

July

<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 Sun. Women's Book Group 2nd Sat. Update Deadline: 3rd Sun			1	2 Voices in Praise Youth Choir concert 6:30 p.m.	3 LPPC Night at the Shelter 6:00 p.m.
4 Worship/Communion Jeff Doane preaching 11:00 a.m.	5	6 Shelter/Church coordination meeting 6:30 p.m.	7	8	9	10 Women's Book Group, Wisconsin 9:30 a.m.
11 Worship Jeff Doane preaching 11 a.m.	12	13 Ministry Teams 7:00 p.m.	14 Refocusing Vision Working Group 7:00 p.m.	15	16	17
18 Worship Jeff Doane preaching 11 a.m.	19	20 Session 7:00 p.m.	21	22	23	24 Shelter 25 th Anniversary Open House 1-3:00 p.m.
25 Worship Jeff Doane preaching 11 a.m. Explore LPPC 12:30 p.m.	26	27	28	29	30	31 Kayaking in Chicago with LPPC 11 a.m.

2010

August

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 Worship/Communion Amy Carlozo preaching 11 a.m.	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Worship Trina Portillo preaching 11 a.m.	9	10 Administration Committee 7:00 p.m.	11	12	13	14
15 Worship Jeff Doane preaching 11 a.m.	16	17 Ministry Teams 7:00 p.m.	18	19	20	21
22 Worship/Hymn Sing 11 a.m. Dinner at Salvatore's 5 p.m. (begins at LPPC)	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Worship Amy Carlozo preaching 11 a.m.	30	31		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 1 st Sun. Women's Book Group 2 nd Sat. (off this month) Update Deadline, 3 rd Sun	

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