



# UPDATE

June 2010

## Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church

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### This Month in Update

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### The Pastor's Reflections

In June, we celebrate the end of our programmatic year as a congregation. Two very active groups have ceased operation for the summer, and I want to extend my heartfelt thanks for the efforts of the group leaders.

While soloists will assist our organist/pianist James Stevens throughout the summer months, I am very thankful for the week in and week out worship leadership of our choir regulars: Alex Honzen (our lead singer), Don Hunter, Gerri Mead, Jo Ann Reynolds and Gail Russell. I'm also grateful to others who swell the ranks of the choir.

We will continue to sing during the upcoming weeks. There are numbers of strong congregational voices who will blend with the choir voices in the pews. Yet we will look forward to the second Sunday in September when the choir returns to their leadership role. Additional voices are most welcome!

Our KidSpace (church school) program will be on summer break as well. I am delighted that we have a range of younger participants sharing in this vital educational opportunity. All the activity as we pass the peace covers the energetic exit of our younger friends for time with their rotating leaders. My

thanks go to Joe Genau, Ben Ho, Bruce Hunt, Gale Morgan-Williams, Zaida Rodriguez and Emily Waldren. We are excited to be planning a confirmation/commissioning class for several of our older KidSpace participants beginning in the fall!

June is also Pride month. This is a special month for our friends and neighbors of differing sexual orientations. Shared special worship services are planned.

On Pride Sunday itself, June 27, we will worship earlier at 10:30 A.M. to allow the marchers in the parade to get in place before it starts. We will also continue our valued pattern of testimony on this Sunday. Gerri Mead and Gail Russell will share insights into their stories in faith and their shared story as a couple in our congregation. I look forward to their testimony!

Let's extend our thanks, then, to the choir and KidSpace leaders. And let's make certain our LGBTQ friends in faith are recognized and fully welcomed in our midst each and every day. We are enriched by our differences in the life we share together in Christ. May all of us extend the welcoming love which we have received from our boundlessly loving God.

Grace and peace,  
Jeff

## 2010 Finance Update as of April 30

-JoAnne Reynolds

At the end of 2009, we celebrated the generosity of the LPPC congregation. The annual pledge campaign resulted in a remarkable \$185,000 pledged, a substantial increase over the \$160,000 pledged for 2009. It also put us well ahead of the Session's commitment to reduce our dependence on the endowment fund.

However, at the end of April, pledge income lags pledged amount by 10%. In real numbers, actual pledge income was \$55,228 against budgeted pledge income of \$61,667. Pledge income is the primary source of our funding, but it is worth noting that both regular donors and plate contributions are substantially behind budget, as well.

As a result, total income as of April 30 was \$73,431, while expenses totaled \$86,391, a difference of \$12,960. In other words, we spent more than we received. Anyone who balances a monthly budget, whether at home or at work, will quickly recognize that this condition cannot persist for long without causing real financial headaches.

Both of these sets of numbers are of special concern as we head into the summer months. This is the time of year when people go on vacation or are gone for long time periods. Normally, the message from the treasurer and the Property Preservation and Finance ministry team is to remind you to keep your pledge current or pay ahead if you will be away. And we still remind you to stay current through the summer. But this dilemma made us change our usual plans.

Happily, the solution lies within the congregation. If you are able to bring your pledge or regular donation current, we can face the summer with more solid finances than we have now. If you need to adjust your pledge, please contact Pastor Jeff Doane or Treasurer Wayne Russell. You can reach either of them by contacting the church office. We thank you for your prompt attention. With your help, we will get the church finances back on track.

## Eastertide Retreat – Four Refreshing Hours

Special thanks to Amy Carlozo, Bruce Hunt and Trina Portillo for providing an inspiring Eastertide Retreat on May 1. Under their leadership we explored the nature of God's call to us, shared past experiences of hearing God's voice in a variety of ways and also admitted our own struggles around the idea of "call." How can we be sure something is a message from God anyway? And after the joyous moments of Easter morning, how do we, like those early disciples, figure out what we should do next?

Individual reflection time allowed each of us to focus on a particular scripture selected from a variety of suggested Old and New Testament passages. Later, we were surprised to discover how many of us had chosen the not-so-familiar story of Esther and appreciated hearing how many different "call" insights had surfaced from that text as well as from all the others.

At the beginning of the morning we had each selected a stone from a bowl of water and carried it with us through the day. As we ended the retreat with an Affirmation of Baptism, we returned our stones to the water, and then chose another to take home with us, knowing that it held the questions and insights of someone else from the group. I keep that stone at my place on our kitchen table. It reminds me to give thanks for all the ways God calls and for all the times I experience it within my faith community.

-Gerri Mead  
for Liturgy & Learning

## Women's Book Group

Seen the popular movie version yet? Whether you've indulged or not, you may want to take advantage of the opportunity to read and talk about *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*. The Women's Book group has selected this thriller

by the late Swedish author Stieg Larsson for its next discussion. We will be meeting on Saturday, June 12, at 9:30 a.m., at The Kenwood, 3121 North Sheridan Road (entrance on Briar). Breakfast refreshments 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. As always, guest parking spaces are available; check with the front desk upon arrival.

The group will head to Wisconsin in July to be hosted by Gail Russell and Gerri Mead in their vacation home on the shores of Lake Koshkonong. We will meet on Saturday, July 10, to discuss *The Help*, Kathryn Stockett's tale of social awakening as seen from both sides of the American racial divide. Breakfast treats 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 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 one or both of these upcoming events. Please see any member for further information.

**-Liz Kurman**

### **Worship on Pride Sunday, June 27 Will Begin at 10:30**

On the last Sunday of June, set your alarm clock a little earlier and join us as we celebrate the diversity of God's human family and commission our members and friends who will march in Chicago's annual Pride Parade. Amy Carlozo will be preaching. Gail Russell and

Gerri Mead will offer their testimonies, and a "pick-up" choir will provide special music.

The earlier start time for worship will allow our marchers to stay for the entire worship service and then reach the parade staging area on Halsted in time for step-off. LPPC will once again be marching with the Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches, providing a powerful witness to everyone along the parade route of God's welcome and acceptance. The Coalition currently has more than fifty churches in its membership.

See you at 10:30am for worship. Then come walk with us or just enjoy the parade. In addition, watch Upcoming Events each Sunday for information about other worship opportunities throughout Chicago and the suburbs during Pride Month.

**-Gerri Mead for Liturgy & Learning**

### **LPPC Birthdays in June**

4	Michael Devlin
4	Lexi Gallopoulos
8	Edmund Bradfield
9	Karl Stanhibel
11	Louise Biga
14	Marty Knorre
17	Don Hunter
18	Charles Rich
22	Lucas James Devlin
22	Deborah McBride
26	Josephine Porter
28	Elias Wolf Newton
28	Jack O'Donnell
28	Kate O'Donnell

### **A Big Thank You for KidSpace**

The LPPC KidSpace model of rotating class leadership has provided a rich mixture of creative approaches to the Bible-based curriculum which engages LPPC regular and visiting kids in age-appropriate activities and discussion. From September through May, KidSpace Juniors meets in the Dreyer Room and is for 3 – 9 year olds. The KidSpace Youth class

is for kids aged 10 and above and meets in the Geneva Room. While attendance varies each week, 15 kids have participated in this unique youth ministry over the past school year.

The KidSpace youth have also been involved in the monthly Communion services in a variety of roles such as serving as greeters, lectors, hospitality hosts, and as communion servers. This is to increase their knowledge and understanding of the components of worship. In addition, 6 kids participated in the Charlie Brown Christmas Nativity Play during the Advent season.

We wish to acknowledge the respective contributions of this year's team of dedicated instructors and volunteers with deepest thanks:

Joe Genau – juniors  
Ben Ho - youth  
Bruce Hunt - youth  
Gale Morgan-Williams - juniors  
Zaida Rodriguez - youth  
Emily Waldren - juniors

KidSpace classes have now finished for the summer break. Children of class age are encouraged to attend as regularly as possible when classes resume in September. Parent suggestions about our programming are invited and appreciated, and parents are always welcome to visit and assist with classes.

**-Don Hunter for Liturgy & Learning**

## **Get in on Something Big with Small Groups!**

Perhaps you may have heard talk of "small group development" in this church. So what is this and why would we undertake such a task? Most of all, how might you get involved in a small group? Or perhaps the question is: "Why would you want to get involved?"

As many great movements begin, the idea for small groups started with a conversation. CLOC was having conversations about how to build

community concurrently clusters of folks around the church were holding conversations about the movie "Invictus," the dramatic story of how Nelson Mandela used the world rugby championship to unify his country. And so it happened that on December 19th of last year, 20 or so of us attended the movie and then gathered at the Carlozo home for a discussion and dinner. The experience was powerful; hearing François (who been in the stands at the rugby match) and Sune's story of growing up and meeting in South Africa and being able ourselves to share the ways the movie had stirred us.

Bruce Hunt and I reflected on what elements brought about that amazing gathering and wondered how we might continue to foster such gatherings in the future. We mapped out what made that event work. Below are some of our reflections:

We shared a common experience that engaged us viscerally and intellectually. The movie was powerful, well crafted and well acted.

We met in someone's home. And the food and drink were tasty and plentiful.

Beginning with our reflections and reactions to the movie, we told stories to each other, often in a large group in the living room, occasionally in small

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groups.

Gathering together is nothing new of LPPC, nor was it unfamiliar for the early church. Here are some the parallels we found in the New Testament church:

Paul closes his first letter to the church at Corinth by saying: "the churches of Asia send greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, greet you warmly in the Lord." (I Corinthians 16:19) --- Apparently the early church gathered in homes rather than in special buildings set aside for worship – what we call churches.

“They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to breaking bread and to prayer.” (Acts 2:42)

We then looked at the common elements of these "house churches." Gatherings included the following:

Teaching/Study: they studied the writings and the oral traditions that were available –letters from Paul, stories about Jesus.

Fellowship: defined as sharing in Christ and with each other. The biblical term is Koinonia, a Greek word meaning, "communion by intimate participation," with God and with each other.

The early church had a deep meaning of fellowship --sharing all things in common.

Breaking bread: eating together, sharing a common meal.

Prayer: in various voices, carrying on a conversation with God.

“When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, and has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.” (I Corinthians 14:26)

So everyone has a story or an insight to offer and is expected to offer that gift so that all may be edified. Thus the early "house churches" were done as a group with each bringing their gifts in shared leadership of the gathering.

So what application does all this have for us at Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church? Is there guidance for us in these descriptions of life together in the early church? Yes! Breaking bread, fellowship, prayer and study will be elements of each small group.

What are our goals for this new venture?

First we hope to provide a community in this congregation for personal support, prayer, and enrichment. Through connecting with one another in prayer, in fellowship we hope to provide greater support for one another, weaving a community that is connected through study, prayer, fellowship and mutual support for one another.

Secondly, we would hope to provide a place of greater connection for members and regular visitors with the hopes of growing our

community. In so doing, we will nurture one another in life's ups and downs, through prayer and community support.

All this is to the end of growing Spiritually both as individuals and as a congregation.

On June 20th after worship, CLOC will hold a Pot Luck/ Small Group Information Sharing Session. This will be a time to find out more about the groups that will be offered, talk to the leaders, who have been meeting together over the last three months. These conversations will help you discover how you might get involved.

When we began our first small group gathering (not a meeting!!) The question was, "So how will all this work?" To be honest, Bruce and I do not have the fully painted picture of this, but our hope has always been to work together, building small groups for study, fellowship, prayer and Spiritual growth. Pick up a brush and help us get started on "Something Big."

“When you are talking to people about the Faith, let them know they are getting in on Something Big.” – Sam Shoemaker

**Submitted by Amy Carlozo and Bruce Hunt  
CLOC**

# June

## 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>
<b>Every Sunday:</b> 9 a.m. Choir rehearsal 9:45 a.m. Adult study 11:00 a.m. Worship/Kidspace 12:00 p.m. Hospitality	<b>Every Month</b> <b>Communion 1<sup>st</sup> Sun.</b> <b>Women's Book Group</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. <b>Update Deadline:</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Pastoral Support Working Group 7:30 p.m.	<b>3</b> Administration Committee 7:00 p.m.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> LPPC Night at the Shelter 6:00 p.m.
<b>6</b> Worship/Communion Jeff Doane preaching 11:00 a.m.	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Presbytery of Chicago First Presbyterian Church of Deerfield 4:00 p.m.	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Refocusing the Vision Working Group, 7:00 p.m. Associate Pastor Support Team Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Women's Book Group, at The Kenwood, 9:30 a.m. Movie Night and BBQ at Jones/Shulze Home, 6:00 p.m.
<b>13</b> Worship Bruce Hunt preaching 11:00 a.m. Younger Adult Lunch 12:30 p.m.	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Ministry Teams 7:00 p.m.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> Worship Jeff Doane preaching 11:00 a.m. Potluck Small Group Gathering, 12:30 p.m.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <b>Pride Sunday</b> Amy Carlozo preaching <b>10:30 a.m. Worship</b> <b>TIME CHANGE!!!!</b> Pride Parade, Noon	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Coming Up Soon</b> July 2, Youth Choir Concert at LPPC, 6:30 p.m. July 3, LPPC Night at the Shelter, 6:00 p.m.		

# 2010