



# UPDATE

May 2010

## Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church

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### Re-Focusing the Vision of LPPC

At the January annual meeting of the congregation, several members pointed out that in the year 2000, our church had developed and approved a Vision Statement for the first decade of the 21st century. They wondered if we had plans to develop a new vision statement, or at least see where we are in relation to the statement from 2000.

The Session took those questions seriously, and assigned the Administration committee to explore this further. You've read in Update before that we had begun that effort. Now we want to announce that we've started work on that in earnest. We've written a "Charge", or purpose statement, begun recruiting a working group to help gather information from the congregation as a whole, then draft a new (or revised) vision statement, and set a timeline for this work. We've also agreed that first of all, we need to look at and celebrate what has been accomplished in the last ten years in our congregation – both things envisioned in the 2000 statement, and those surprise

achievements that we didn't anticipate in 1999-2000. At April and May ministry team meetings (and in other gatherings as well), we will look at the 2000 Vision Statement, and lift up those things which should be celebrated. We believe there is a lot to celebrate, and a lot of ministry in the last ten years for which to give thanks.

Here is the purpose or charge for what we are calling the "Refocusing the Vision Working Group":  
The purpose of or charge to the Refocusing the Vision Working Group is twofold: to document and celebrate the accomplishments of the past decade, and to develop a refocused vision statement for the next ten years for the ministry of the Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church, with input from sectors of the congregation. This group is responsible to the Session, and will report on its work to the Session regularly.

And on page 4 is the timeline for this effort, as well as the actions needed in order to develop our refocused vision for the next decade of the 21st century.

-Gail Russell

## The Pastor's Reflections

I write to you the week of Earth Day and Earth Sunday. How does the faith we share shape our concern for the environment? One of the earliest church leaders to address this question was Prof. Joseph Sittler. He spoke and wrote early and often of the critical insights the Christian faith brings to any discussion of care for the natural order. Here are a few excerpts from his book, Gravity and Grace.

Sittler described "The garden, the world of nature (as) God's other creation, which stands alongside the creation of persons, not as neutral or mute, but as a living creation which has its own unique dignity and which defines the human place in the world." He goes on to note that nature, for Jesus is, "the theater of human life – the garden of our life – which it is our obligation to care for."

Frequently, Genesis 1:28 has been quoted to suggest that we humans have been given creation to do with as we wish. We can dominate the natural order, for we've been given dominion over it. Responds Sittler, "In English, dominion suggests domination, but that is an incorrect translation. The Hebrew statement is, rather, 'and God said you are to exercise care over the earth and hold it in its proper place.'"

Sittler went on to write about the ecologically intricate structure of nature. A farmer reflected on the changes in land use. There used to be grassy patches and other wild growth around farm fields. Plows could be turned in these areas. These fringes were called "God's frame around the picture."

Now the fields are plowed right up to their edges. The wild growth, or hedgerows, are gone. So also is the cover for birds. And the birds survived on the insects. This leaves insects overwhelming the green growing things. Chemicals are required, which end up polluting the land and the water. Concludes Sittler, "Nature is like a

fine piece of cloth: you pull a thread here, and it vibrates throughout the whole fabric."

As the people of God, followers of our risen Christ, we are to respect and care for the earth. We do so out of a joyful and thankful posture toward creation which is captured in this poem by e.e. cummings:

"i thank you god for most this amazing day  
for the leaping greenly spirit of trees  
and a blue true dream of sky  
and for everything  
which is natural  
which is infinite  
which is yes"

Grace and peace,  
Jeff

### Green Tips

1. Eat more veggies: Fresh, organic vegetables are good for us, and less chemical fertilizer also helps the environment. Many say they have tried and enjoyed vegetables they had never had before, by getting local organic produce.
2. Eat less meat: Farm animals produce 18% of world emissions of greenhouse gases. Try going vegan for a month, or cut back to just eating some meat. You will probably lose significant weight, and lower your cholesterol to a much healthier level.
3. Buy energy- saving light bulbs: Fluorescent bulbs have been redesigned to fit where incandescent ones usually fit. They've also been made so they give off more pleasant light. They save a LOT of energy and last much longer.
4. Try to fly less: Planes produce a lot of CO<sub>2</sub>, and even if you're paying someone else to take the flight, you are pumping CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere. Maybe take a shorter, more local vacation?

## Locally Grown

I went to dinner with a group a friends a few weeks ago. As we looked at the menu the choices were: steak, chicken or salmon. I love fish and love it especially when someone else is preparing it. So I started to say how wonderful the salmon sounded.

One of my friends piped up, "I just saw a documentary on how salmon are grown in this country." She described (much to my chagrin) how salmon are raised in "dirty" sometimes sewage filled water, and fed orange pellets to give them that nice orange look. "You don't want farm grown salmon, you want wild salmon." Now I feel the pressure -- to order salmon or not to order the salmon? So I ask, "Is it farm raised or wild." The waiter beams, "Farm grown in Wisconsin." Pressure...

I order the steak.

As we eat dinner, my friends and I discuss where our food comes from. I must confess, I do not know where the food I buy is grown and raised or what goes into that food.

Chicken from a big farm? Probably.

Strawberries from California, but pesticide?  
No pesticide?

11 grams of sugar in the Cocoa Puff's – It seems low, but is it?

And what exactly ARE IN THOSE  
CHICKEN NUGGETS???

So how do I find out where the food I feed my family comes from? How do I know it's safe? Books, web pages, and videos abound on how badly our food sources really are. I am left with the question of how do we change that fact? So I start fishing for what is out there...

I literally stumble on locally grown in Chicago.

The Green Grocer at 1402 W. Grand Ave. offers a box full of locally grown fruits and vegetable. It's reasonably priced (\$15 for a box). Cassie Green, the owner, felt a calling to start a locally grown grocery store in a neighborhood where food options were limited.

I'll start picking up our box beginning the first week in May. She has meats as well priced a little bit higher than the local grocery store but considering I know where it comes I hope it will be worth it. I will start doing comparison shopping and get back to you. You can find out more on the web at [www.greengrocerchicago.com](http://www.greengrocerchicago.com).

Secondly, planting the garden starts in this part of the world MAY 15th! That's when we can say, "safe from frost." So if you have a city size plot of ground or just a pot in the window of your apartment, I encourage you to grow something – tomatoes, peppers, broccoli, a strawberry plant or fresh herbs. And if the thought of having a crop of tomatoes come August overwhelms you -- Bring them to hospitality on Sunday in the back of the sanctuary to share with the congregation. I'm sure you'll find some willing takers! I hope to continue this conversation of how we might find ways to be more conscious about our food sources and ways to stay local in what we eat.

Grace and Peace,  
-Amy Carlozo

### Mission Opportunity

Volunteers from LPPC make 30 sack lunches for our homeless neighbors. See Gerry Parker for details or contact her at [gerryarker5@comcast.net](mailto:gerryarker5@comcast.net).

## **Timeline for Refocusing Vision Project**

The following is the timeline for the Refocusing Vision Project. A preliminary report to the Session at their October retreat; a final statement at the annual meeting of the congregation at the end of January, 2011.

### **Actions**

1. Review the Vision Statement from 2000
  - What have we accomplished in this statement? How can we celebrate those accomplishments?
  - What still needs to be accomplished from the statement?
  - What have been the church's accomplishments which were not originally stated in the vision statement of 2000?
  - What items in the 2000 vision statement are not now part of the ongoing vision of LPPC, and can therefore be dropped from our efforts?
  - Where is the Holy Spirit leading us? What new things do we want to lift up in our vision for 2010 and beyond?
  
2. Gather information/input for the vision for the next decade from various elements of the congregation (members and friends): What is their vision for LPPC for 2020? (this list is not all-inclusive, but meant as suggestions)
  - Children
  - Younger adults
  - Families
  - Singles
  - Couples
  - Older adults
  - Ministry teams
  - Other working groups
  - Session
  - Staff (entire staff, including Parish Associates)
  - Shelter input, or input from members involved with the Shelter
  
3. Prepare and present to Session a draft of a refocused vision statement as a

result of this input, as well as the following factors:

- Where is the Holy Spirit leading LPPC in the next ten years?
- What are the scriptural bases for this vision?
- How will the congregation as a whole participate in the formation of this vision?
- How will the Session and pastors lead the congregation into this vision?

We are very excited to begin the work of Refocusing the Vision of Lincoln Presbyterian Church, and we look forward to the participation of everyone in creating our renewed vision.

-**Gail Russell**, for the Administration Committee

### **LPPC Birthdays in May**

3	Kirsten Stangenes
7	Zaida Rodriguez
8	Francois Millard
18	Steve Hunter
18	Eli Ternovits
22	Gerri Mead
23	Steve Kindred
23	Kathie Zartman
25	Alice Burton
25	Rob Goggin
25	Ben Ho
26	Sharon Stangenes
27	Virginia Braxton

### **Writers and Photographers Wanted (and Needed)**

Do you have a photo of a church member or function that you would like to share? Do you have an opinion about an issue facing our church or denomination, or perhaps something you particularly like about our church? If so, Update is the perfect forum for you. I am always looking for content for Update. Simply email any submission to me at [rhunterlaw@yahoo.com](mailto:rhunterlaw@yahoo.com).

-**Steve Hunter**

## Dave Geilen Tribute

For anyone who missed this year's annual meeting, below is a reprise of the musical homage to outgoing Elder Dave Geilen, sung to the tune of "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" that was created and led by Gail Russell and Gerri Mead.

You're leaving the Session,  
Dave Geilen so wise,  
So we've come to thank you,  
Lift praise to the skies.  
We're grateful for all that you've quietly done.  
Now you deserve time off-some days in the sun.

Your help has been endless. The list is quite long.  
From project to project, support always strong.  
Financials and landscaping, contractors too-  
From gutter to gutter, we're glad we have you!

Your cup's always half-full while others despair.  
When some of us worry, you help clear the air.  
Your prayers are inspiring; your hope often saves.  
For all this and much more, we thank you, dear Dave.

Arrives on a bicycle, saving the earth-  
Counts money, saves money, and tallies our worth.  
Then travels to visit his granddaughter fair-  
Then comes home with Betty to joy that they share.

Yes you've left the Session, Dave Geilen so wise.  
But don't really leave us, forget those good-byes!  
We're grateful for all that you've quietly done.  
In some ways it seems that we've only begun!

## WBG

The Women's Book Group will meet on Saturday, May 8, at 9:30 a.m. at The Kenwood, 3121 North Sheridan Road (entrance on Briar). We will be discussing Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's *This Child Will Be Great: Memoir of a Remarkable Life by Africa's First Woman President*. In 2006, Sirleaf was elected the 24th President of Liberia, a position she still holds.

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 cordially invited to join the group for stimulating conversation and a tasty selection of 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.

**-Liz Kurman**

### **Volunteer Opportunity**

*Cooking and Serving Dinner at the Lincoln Park Community Shelter*

Each month, on the first Saturday of the month, a group of LPPC members and friends prepares, serves and shares a meal. Sign up by calling the church office at 773-248-8288, or email the church at [office@lppchurch.org](mailto:office@lppchurch.org).

# May

## 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> <b>9 a.m. Choir rehearsal</b> <b>9:45 a.m. Adult study</b> <b>11 a.m. Worship/Kidspace</b> <b>12 p.m. Hospitality</b>	<b>Every Month</b> <b>Communion 1<sup>st</sup> Sun.</b> <b>Women's Book Group</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sat.</b> <b>Update Deadline:</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sun</b>					<b>1</b> Eastertide Retreat at LPPC, 10 a.m. LPPC Night at the Shelter, 6 p.m.
<b>2</b> Worship/Communion 11:00 a.m. Jeff Doane preaching	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Church/Shelter Coordination Committee, 6:30 p.m.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Administration Committee, 7 p.m.	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Women's Book Group, 9:30 a.m. The Kenwood
<b>9</b> Worship, 11:00 a.m. Jeff Doane preaching	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Ministry Teams, 7 p.m.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Worship, 11:00 a.m. Jeff Doane preaching	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Session, 7 p.m.	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Pentecost Worship, 11 a.m. Jeff Doane preaching	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> Worship, 11:00 a.m. Amy Carlozo preaching	<b>31</b>					

# 2010