

NEW FACES

BY ERIC DIEKHANS

Fourteen more new members joined LVPC on February 14.



Jackie Klindera has already made her mark on LVPC as our new choir director. A Wisconsin native, Jackie says she was “recruited to the First Baptist Church vacation bible school at age 5” and attended the church until high school. She and her husband, Danny, have a son who “really likes trucks and clocks” and a baby on the way.

Megan Klenke says she’s a “self-proclaimed foodie” who has worked with the LVPC crew at Organic Faith Garden. She’s also program manager at Greater Chicago Food Depository. Megan attended LVPC off and on during graduate school at the University of Chicago and decided to make it her church home.

Candice Schwake’s claim to church fame is creating the annual haunted house fundraiser at Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church. A native southsider, Candice was raised Catholic but became Presbyterian 10 years ago. She’s currently finishing her student teaching. Perhaps her past work as a dog obedience instructor will come in handy.

A born and bred Presbyterian, **Liz Bomgaars** is a graduate of Boston College and the University of Chicago. She found LVPC when her dad did some research before her parents came for a visit during Easter. Liz says she has a “special love for Latin America” and has lived in Ecuador and Bolivia.

Erin Robinson says she was looking for a church that was “liberal and open-minded, especially when it comes to being supportive of the



FRONT ROW L TO R: DENNIS LONTAYOO, LIZ BOMGAARS, ERIN ROBINSON, PATRICIA EBBERS, ERIC LEE
BACK ROW: CANDICE SCHWAKE, MEGAN KLENKE, ADAM OYEBANJI, GRAHAM WARNING, PETER CARPENTER
NOT PICTURED: CRAIG MEISENHEIMER, KARA HAZEN HAKOS, JACKIE KLINDERA, AL NEVELS

LGBTQ community.” An opera major at Rice University, Erin has worked on a variety of productions since moving to Chicago, including children’s theater, plays, musicals, opera, and independent film.

Adam Oyebanji has a fascinating background growing up in the Presbyterian and Islamic faiths in Britain and Nigeria. An attorney with degrees from the University of Birmingham in England and Harvard Medical School, Adam spends his free time cycling about 200 miles each week.

Patricia Ebbers was raised Baptist in Fort Benton, MT and Sterling, IL, but has been Presbyterian since 2001. A graduate of Illinois State and Grand Valley State, Patricia enjoys “fitness and nutrition (as well as eating!), and anything with a social element to it.”

Graham Warning describes himself as “in between successes” after losing his job at a global financial institution. He keeps busy by being involved as Vice President of the Lake View Citizens Council. His message to his fellow LVPC members: “If anyone is up for adventure in our great city of Chicago, let’s go explore!”

For **Kara Hazen**, LVPC’s emphasis on social justice and “all the lovely

members” attracted her to the church. “It also doesn’t hurt that its two blocks from where I live,” she adds. A financial analyst for a nonprofit, Kara volunteers at a local nursing home and rehab center.

Eric Lee grew up in San Dimas, CA, “home of Bill and Ted.” An attorney who specializes in corporate reorganizations (“The good type of reorganizations.”), Eric also writes a blog about food and is currently drafting a manuscript about Constitutional Law in popular culture.

A Missouri native, **Craig Meisenheimer** liked the “open acceptance of the gay community and the strong call to social justice and community service” at LVPC. A media buyer at an advertising agency. Craig enjoys sports, and “exploring new places.”

Peter Carpenter describes himself as a “lapsed then spurned Catholic.” A Northwestern and UCLA grad, he’s an Assistant Professor at the Dance Center of Columbia College. He says his passions are “work, friends, work, work.”

We weren’t able to contact Al Nevels and Dennis Lontayoo, so you’ll have to find out about them in person. ☺

FLEEING JERUSALEM



LARISSA
KWONG
ABAZIA

Immediately after Peter runs to the tomb in the gospel of Luke, we are thrown into the narrative of two disciples on their way from Jerusalem to Emmaus. They are astounded by the things that they heard from the women but still believe that all of it is a grand story, an “idle tale.” On the road, Jesus comes beside them but they don’t recognize him. He begins to teach using words of scripture that are meant to illumine their understanding of what has just occurred in Jerusalem. The men extend an act of hospitality and invite their new friend to share a meal with them.

“When he was at table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.” Luke 24: 30-31

These familiar words invite us to the Lord’s Table each Sunday to commune with one another in a meal of ordinary bread and juice. I can’t help but think about the fleeing that brought the men to that time and that place to be with Jesus. They had heard the story first from the women at the tomb, then other disciples, and yet they still could not believe the story that touched their ears. Scared and confused, they leave the center of their Jewish faith and head out of town.

How often do we find ourselves fleeing from the “Jerusalem” of this world? Those places where confusion and chaos makes it hard to see the presence of God. Those locations where we are called to embrace the marginalized, lift up the oppressed, and lose our power and privilege in order to do so. The places where we say we aren’t holy enough, don’t know enough, or can’t possibly

be unconditionally loved by God. Yet even when we flee the center of our faith, Jesus finds us on the road and lovingly calls us back to the needs of this world.

My hope in this Easter season is that we take the glory of God’s light from Easter morning out into the world. May we take a moment to seek the holy in the seemingly mundane. May we be freed from our bondage to this world through the commandment from God that we are already complete; we don’t need to do anything to earn God’s love. And when we desire to flee because all seems ambiguous, may God find us even in that place and bring us back home. ☩

THE LAND OF PROMISE REVISITED

Rev. Eunice Poethig reports on the February class she led exploring the book of Joshua.

We had a wonderful class, but were constantly challenged by the study of the biblical book of Joshua and how it has been wrongly used to justify expansion and violence in Palestine/Israel today.

We heard God promise to care for the suffering people of Israel and to give them land, but we also heard God making it clear the people of the Covenant were required to live up to God’s commandments for justice out of love for one another if they were to flourish in the land.

Dr. Michael, author of our study, emphasized that the conflicts today are a result of decisions made over the last

century by the international community, including the United States, as well as the Palestinians and the state of Israel.

Looking at recommendations that will be brought to the Presbyterian Church’s General Assembly in July, 2010 by a Special Committee studying Palestine/Israel, we focused on four issues and asked, “What Actions can Israel/ the Palestinians/ the USA/ Others take to



make the land promising to all?”

Our study closed with these prayers:

“We pray that all parties in the Middle East stop words and actions that demonize others and seek common ground and mutual respect.”

“God, we ask for insight to support both sides equitably. We long for a level playing field. We pray for all Palestinians to join as one voice and stand in strength together.”

“Lord, we pray that the Palestinian parties set aside factionalism and present a united front committed to nonviolent reconciliation.”

“We pray in pursuit of an Israeli/ Palestinian peace that the U.S. government will wisely and strategically use its influence in the withholding of financing and military aid to bring Israel’s compliance within international law and peace making efforts.”

In the name of the Prince of Peace and Justice,

Amen ☩

CALENDAR

Place Your
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Magnet Here

APRIL



EVERY SUNDAY

Sunday service in the Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Childcare is provided in the Mulford Room. Coffee hour and time for fellowship immediately follow both services.

Sunday school for children at 10:00 a.m. Classes for ages 3-4, grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-up meet in the Parish House.

Choir rehearsal at 10:15 a.m.

Share your thoughts about faith and life in Begin@10 class, 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel. In April, Field Placement Student Kirk Johnston will lead a discussion about immigration and border issues.

Free parking is available evenings and weekends in the Recycled Paper Company lot north of the church. Access the lot from the alley.

ADVANCE WARNINGS: SIGN UP NOW!

Easter Breakfast—See April 4
Son of Man—See April 8

THURSDAY, APRIL 1

Senior Movie Matinee at 12:30 p.m.

Deacons meet at 6:00 p.m.

A Maundy Thursday Service will be held at 7:00 p.m. Maundy comes from the Latin “mandatum (novum),” or “new commandment,” from John 13:34. Maundy Thursday is the day we remember the last supper Jesus ate with his disciples.

FRIDAY, APRIL 2

A Taize service features scripture reading, repetitive singing, and meditative silence, combining traditional worship forms in a contemporary way. The goal is to enable participants to remain open to the voice of God and discover the prayer within themselves. Join us tonight at 7:00 for Taize.

Cafe Pride provides a safe social space from 8:00 p.m. to midnight for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and questioning youth and their allies, ages 16-24.

SUNDAY, APRIL 4

Christ has risen! He has risen indeed! Don't miss a morning of celebration and worship at LVPC. It begins at 7:00 a.m. with a Sunrise Service on the north side of Belmont Harbor, along the lakefront. Then gather for breakfast at 8:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary to bring a dish to share. After the 9:00 a.m. Worship Service, an Easter Egg Hunt will be held in the church yard (weather permitting). A second Worship Service follows at 11:00 a.m.

Two Cents A Meal offering will be taken at the morning worship services.

Sue Cox will give blood pressure screenings between worship services.

TUESDAY, APRIL 6

Regular exercise is the key to vitality, so join the Seniors in Motion fitness class. An exercise specialist from Advocate Fitness leads the group. Class begins at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Young Adult Bible Study meets at 6:30 p.m.

Crossroads Intergenerational Bible Study meets at 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

Senior Book Group meets at 12:15 p.m.

Worship Committee meets at 6:00 p.m.

Choir rehearsal at 7:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 8

Senior Movie Matinee at 12:30 p.m.

McCormick Seminary intern Kirk Johnston leads a screening and discussion of the film *Son of Man*. Set in South Africa, it tells the story of Jesus reclaimed as an African fable. The program begins at 7:00 p.m. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

Cafe Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. See April 2.

CALENDAR

The Flip Side

APRIL



SATURDAY, APRIL 10

The LVPC Book Study Group meets at 10:00 a.m. to discuss *South of Broad* by Pat Conroy.

Grab your favorite game and snack and hurry over to Game Night. Relax and have some fun with fellow LVPC members. It starts at 7:00 p.m.

Volunteers will help serve a meal at Lake View Men's Shelter, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 12

Eco-Justice Task Force meets at 6:00 p.m.

Finance Committee meets at 6:30 p.m.

Social Justice Committee meets at 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 13

Seniors in Motion meets at 10:00 a.m. See April 6.

Young Adult Bible Study meets at 6:30 p.m.

Crossroads Intergenerational Bible Study meets at 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

Senior Book Group meets at 12:15 p.m.

Choir rehearsal at 7:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 15

Senior Movie Matinee at 12:30 p.m.

Join an LVPC group for Out at CHM. The topic is Sexuality and Civil Rights: Rethinking the Sixties. Cocktails are at 5:30 p.m. with a program at 6:30 p.m. at the Chicago History Museum. Purchase tickets from CHM on-line or at their box office. See Wil Snodgrass or Bill Hastings for more details.

FRIDAY, APRIL 16

Cafe Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. See April 2.

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

Session meets at 9:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

After both services today Parish Nurse Sue Cox will provide us with Ten Healthy Minutes. She'll enlighten us about a health topic in just 10 minutes.

The Young Adults head out for brunch at 12:30 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 19

Christian Nurture Committee meets at 6:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 20

Seniors in Motion meets at 10:00 a.m. See April 6.

Young Adult Bible Study meets at 6:30 p.m.

Crossroads Intergenerational Bible Study meets at 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

Senior Book Group meets at 12:15 p.m.

The Lake View Parents Group meets at 6:00 p.m. for discussion and fellowship.

While the parents are meeting, kids are invited to The Gathering Place. They'll sing songs, play games, and learn more about the Bible. It begins at 6:00 p.m.

Choir rehearsal at 7:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 22

Senior Movie Matinee at 12:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 23

Cafe Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. See April 2.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

Grab a rake or pruning sheers and get ready for SPRING! The first Yard and Garden Day takes place from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. See Nancy Ziegelmuller for more details.

TUESDAY, APRIL 27

Seniors in Motion meets at 10:00 a.m. See April 6.

Young Adult Bible Study meets at 6:30 p.m.

Crossroads Intergenerational Bible Study meets at 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

Senior Book Group meets at 12:15 p.m.

Choir rehearsal at 7:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 29

Senior Movie Matinee at 12:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 30

Cafe Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. See April 2.☺

FUN FACTS

42% of Illinoisans attend their local church, synagogue, or mosque regularly, according to a recent Gallup poll. That matches the average for the entire country. Mississippi residents led among churchgoers, with 63% attending weekly or almost every week. Vermont was the most secular state, with only 23% of residents making it to service regularly.☺

KIRK JOHNSTON LOOKS BACK/ AHEAD



BY ASHLEY
HEHER

KIRK JOHNSTON

When McCormick Theological Seminary student Kirk Johnston came to LVPC in the fall, he knew he was entering a thriving community where social justice was key. Eight months later, as he winds up his school year and his time as a field studies intern at the church, he's come to learn so much more about this community and his own call to ministry.

"I have felt truly blessed to have an internship at LVPC," Kirk says. "I tell others that this is the place that opened my eyes to how I could be called to parish ministries. Joy has been an amazing supervisor who has pushed me to experience many different things here at Lake View and to reflect on them. I have felt extremely cared for in the sometimes scary exploration of God's call to ministry."

From preaching to leading the men's retreat, to volunteering at Café Pride and being a regular at Tuesday night Bible study, Kirk's become a mainstay at LVPC. But he's still got more to do.

In April, he'll lead three Begin@10 classes on the topic of immigration and border issues. And he'll screen *Son of Man*, a 2006 film that tells the story of Jesus set in modern day South Africa on April 8. He'll also lead the Young Adult Bible Study in late April and preach his third and final sermon on Mother's Day in May.

His most unexpected discovery so far?

"I found out that I actually like to preach even though it still scares me half to death," he says.

When he finishes his LVPC studies in May, Kirk said he'll leave inspired by the church and how it's helped him discern his call.

"I can't say enough how thankful I am to have been able to serve Lake View Presbyterian as an intern," he says. "I have learned so much and am inspired by a congregation that is so vibrant in worship, Christian education, and mission through justice issues." ❧

WHO YOU KNOW



BY ERIC
DIEKHANS

TINA PAK

Tina Pak joined LVPC in February 2009. A 3rd grade teacher, she also teaches Sunday school and is involved in the young adults group.

Describe a favorite Easter tradition when you were growing up.

I remember having to dress up in white dresses for Easter Sunday, which I despised. Although I don't remember looking for Easter eggs growing up, I do remember when I was in middle school/high school and getting together every year on the Saturday before to dye eggs so that we could hide them around the church lawn for the younger children to find. It was definitely a good time.

What do you do to renew your spirit?

This is a tough question for me in the midst of some craziness in my life right now, but I do love to go for a nice run by the lake. It gets me outside breathing the fresh air, it allows me some time to reflect and respond to some issues that may have been nagging at me, and it also provides me with a chance to listen for God because I allow myself to be quiet. I'm also a big fan of writing my thoughts and prayers down and then reading over them. Talking with friends over a nice dinner is also chicken soup for my soul as well as coming to LVPC!

What's your favorite Chicago haunt?

I've become a big fan of Sunshine Cafe on Clark St. thanks to my roommate. I frequent this delicious and hearty Japanese restaurant at least a couple times a month.

What made you want to become a teacher?

Sometimes I don't even know. =) My experiences in school growing up were always so positive and I was so deeply influenced by many of my own teachers. I think it came to me in waves with the biggest wave catching me while I was in a college class discussing the HUGE disparities in educational resources, schools, and opportunities for children living on reservations. It was a moment where I knew I had to act, so I wrote down all of the thoughts and feelings that were flying through my head as I decided that teaching was going to be my way of changing the world. I am slightly less idealistic now, but am still hopeful.

The most interesting thing I've heard a third grader say was...

"Ms. Pak, what would happen if you were a ninja turtle and we were all your ninja students?"

"I don't have to use the bathroom anymore."

Or this, "Thank you for teaching me, Ms. Pak!"

I'm sometimes mistaken for...

Sandra Oh or someone who is lost. ❧

MONEY TALK



A monthly update from the Finance Committee

After withdrawing more than anticipated from our reserve accounts to close out the books for 2009, LVPC was left short of the reserves needed to meet our obligations for 2010. There are small ways we can chip in that will help us bridge the \$22,000 budget gap. One way is for each member to give his or her own share of the Per Capita fee. This \$28.29 fee, which the church pays to the larger denomination for each member of the church, covers a variety of local, national, and international programs provided by the Presbyterian Church (USA). The total Per Capita payment for LVPC for 2010 was over \$8,400. If each member paid his or her fee it would cover more than one third of our projected shortfall. Please prayerfully consider adding the Per Capita fee to your regular giving.†

Submission deadline for the May issue is April 15. Send articles, calendar listings, rants, and raves to Eric Diekhans at ericdiekhans@ameritech.net.†

CHIMES STAFF

Editor	Eric Diekhans
Reporters	Rachael Albers, Ashley Heher,
Design	Michelle Goodman
Photographer	John Erickson
Distribution	Daisy Braucher, Macon Cordier, Bill Hastings, Betty Larsen, Floyd May, Joan Rivera, Herb Simms

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Lake View Presbyterian Church

716 West Addison Street
Chicago IL 60613
(773) 281-2655

www.lakeviewpresbyterian.org

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