

2005
DECEMBER

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH

FEEDING THE HUNGRY

BY ERIC DIEKHANS

As the neighborhood around it gentrifies, Lakeview Pantry continues to fill a need.



According to Executive Director Gary Garland, Lakeview Pantry receives 20,000 visits a year at its two locations at 3831 N. Broadway, and Oakdale and Wellington. "Nine out of ten people come from within our service area," says Gary. "Many of the people who come in for food are seniors. About 20 percent of our clients are homeless."

Lakeview Pantry opened in 1969 and is one of the longest running food pantries in Chicago. Its first location was a small storefront at 3418 North Halsted Street. It opened the Broadway location in 2002. Part of the reason for its success, says Gary, is that Lakeview Pantry has longer hours than most pantries. "We're open 18 hours between our two sites," he says.

The pantry receives much of its food from the Greater Chicago Food Depository as well as from local

churches and other organizations. Because people in need often don't have a stove or refrigerator, they provides many non-perishable goods, including the peanut butter and jelly that is the focus of LVPC's collection the first Sunday of each month.

But Lakeview Pantry offers more than just food. It also provides clothing and household items, as well as a case management program called Bootstraps. In Bootstraps, clients who are in need of assistance beyond food can work one-on-one with a caseworker to resolve problems such as employment and employment training, housing, substance abuse, and securing necessary identification.

LVPC folks who would like to do more than just donate food can find plenty of volunteer opportunities at the pantry. They can help unload or

distribute food, or help with the home delivery program, which serves 110 people each month. Both daytime and evening volunteer hours are available. To learn more about volunteering call Tracy Napoli at (773) 517-4813.

Of course monetary donations are always welcome. Every \$1 you give buys 10 pounds of food at the Chicago Food Depository. During the holidays, the Pantry can also never get enough turkeys or gift certificates to local grocery stores. To find out more about Lakeview Pantry, go to www.lakeviewpantry.org.⁹

LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD ELVES

LVPC's Senior Site serves 18-25 hot meals, 5 days a week, to seniors from our community. Along with a nutritious meal, the seniors have an opportunity to fellowship with others and feel "at home" in our church building. We'll be celebrating the holidays with a special meal and party on Tuesday December 21st. Once again, we'd like to send each senior home with a care package. So, we're looking for some caring elves willing to donate part or all of the individual items listed below:

- Socks (men's and women's)
- Chap stick
- Puzzle books
- Hot chocolate mix
- Cracker packs
- Kleenex (pocket pack size)
- Candy
- Fruit
- Medium sized gift bags

We'll be collecting 25 of each item. If you can help, please contact Sue Cox at (773) 281.2655 to avoid duplication of items.⁹



THE NIGHT THE WORLD BEGAN AGAIN...

JOY DOUGLAS STROME

Advent is upon us. Although it would be Scrooge-like of me to suggest that we shouldn't be making lists and checking them twice, the other task at hand is to consider the gift that precipitated all this gift-giving. Our liturgical calendar would prod us toward the consideration of hope, peace, joy and love as signs of the nature of God's true gifts at Christmas.

There is nothing more endearing to us than the scene that unfolds at this time each year. A dark night...a lone star...shepherds and angels...and a young couple who look for shelter in a stable... The miracle of a baby born in the night under lowly conditions who becomes the hope of the world, the prince of peace, our source of joy and the love of our life is no small miracle. For these next few weeks we suspend all logic, we do not worry at the precarious position of this young family, and we actually believe that hope, peace, joy and love could be perfectly contained in one special infant.

Our theme for Advent worship this year is based on a new song entitled "Better Days" by a group called the GooGoo Dolls. A line from the song repeats..."the night the world began again." Oh how we want this to be true this year! We anticipate this night of nights when for one moment we might live into the hope that our world might start over, that peace might be possible, that joy might come with the morning and that God's love might touch us fresh and new.

May your Advent season be filled with more than to-do lists. May your Advent season be a time for anticipating miracles and preparing for the very night, for the very special time each year when the world truly begins again. Hope, peace, joy and love...may these be your gifts this Christmas!☞

fair trade. The Fair Trade Federation defines this economic process as a system that provides fair wages for workers, cooperative work places, consumer education, environmental sustainability, financial and technical support, respect for cultural identity and public accountability. Fair Trade works to eliminate the abuse of overseas companies, by giving profits back to the producers of the goods, rather than the middleman companies that import them to the U.S. Thus, amidst holiday bustle, some shoppers are opting to buy more socially responsible presents instead of this year's "Tickle Me, Elmo."

LVPC has been home to the Fair Trade Bazaar for three years, garnering goods from as far away as Guatemala and Palestine. With gifts ranging from olive oil and soap to purses and jewelry the bazaar, which took place on November 12, truly had something for everyone. For new member Bryan Corstage, shopping Fair Trade means that he can get his holiday shopping done, "quickly, interestingly and fairly cheaply, all while knowing [my money] was going to people who needed it." Bryan was especially excited about his purchase of wooden top from Bethlehem.

The very act of purchasing a fair trade gift does more than bring joy to the giver and the receiver, it provides dignity to some of the world's oppressed people, to whom basic needs are often out of reach. The true spirit of Christmas is often found through connecting with people in one's immediate life. In fair trade shopping, one is extending this connection beyond the family circle, and to the larger world community. Like Renee says, "It's not charity. It is justice. This is people getting fair trade for the work they're doing."

If you missed the LVPC Fair Trade Bazaar, here are some more opportunities to shop:

- December 10 10-2:00 p.m.
Maya Works Center
1405 W. Wilson, Chicago.
- December 11 9-2:00 p.m.
Old St. Patrick's Church
700 W. Adams St., Chicago☞

POWER SHOPPING

BY SARAH WARNER

Christmas shopping: the annual clash between the commercial and the communal, the economic and the ecumenical.



Sharing ones means verses flaunting one's green. How can one maintain the true spirit of this holy holiday, with all this persistent pressure to purchase?

While some people have found Yuletide sanity by forgoing holiday gift giving altogether, others have found it difficult to completely exclude themselves from this ritual. After all, Aunt Myrtle should be given *something* in exchange for that lovely fruitcake.

To help alleviate the holiday consumption guilt, LVPC member Renee Grogg suggests buying your gifts through

WHO YOU KNOW



BY ERIC DIEKHANS

SARAH WARNER

Sarah Warner first started coming to LVPC in the winter of 2004, about six months after moving to Chicago. She is currently a member of the Social Justice Committee and the Young Adults group, and recently joined the *Chimes* staff.

What's your favorite memory of growing up in Mission Viejo, California?

My parents really nurtured my creativity. They let me play with their old video camera and tape recorders as a kid. I loved playing reporter and making movies with the neighborhood kids. We made everything from a *Masterpiece Theater* on *Star Wars* to a clay-mation depiction of evolution. I also remember the halcyon days when Mission Viejo was not referred to as "The O.C.". I know we lived in a unique place, but trust me, life there isn't all like the TV show. I don't think a show called "Cook County" would be so homogenous in character!

If you won the lottery, what would you do?

Wowie. What a loaded question! I think I would spend the first few days pinching myself. Then, after they took my picture with the big check, I would put some money aside for 1) My parents 2) LVPC 3) My favorite non-profits like Rape Victim Advocates, BEHIV, The Anti-Cruelty Society and the Lakeview Action Coalition and 4) AIDS relief in Africa 5) A small vacation villa in Italy and my own home in Chicago 6) A small video production company.

What's your dream job?

I guess...the job I have right now! I feel truly blessed, because I have wanted

to work for PBS ever since I watched my first episode of *Sesame Street*. I still get misty every time I see a clip of *Mr. Rogers* or *The McLaughlin Group* (just kidding!). It is important to me that my work in media has a positive impact on people... and I believe it does. My ultimate dream is to be a voice or a puppeteer for a children's show character.

Who are your heroes?

Mom and Dad, Jim Henson, my friend Breezer, David Bowie, J.C., Tom Jones, Jane Adams.

What's under your bed?

I recently got a new mattress, so not as much junk as there used to be. I have a million copies of scripts of my own and from others down there. There are probably a few dust bunnies playing poker. ♡

Sue says that there were some questions about bringing two groups together who had never met before. "I was initially worried about how the seniors were going to react. Many of the seniors are alone socially and have no family. They need lots of TLC."

The retreat ended up exceeding everyone's expectations. "The seniors were unbelievable in the way they gave themselves over to the retreat process," says Sue. "They really cared for one another and developed a sense of community."

"It was three days of inspiration and relaxation," says LVPC member Ernie Kramer. "To go from the hustle and bustle of Broadway and Addison to the forest is fantastic."

The theme of the retreat was "Finding Our Wisdom." Using Proverbs, Rev. Belile led discussions and group activities that taught the retreat attendees to pay attention to the wisdom within themselves and to ask, "How am I a wise person?" It also helped them to see the wisdom in others.

SENIORS STEP OUT

BY ERIC DIEKHANS



Seniors from LVPC's Senior Site and Chicago Uptown Ministry came together for their first retreat, October 18–20 at the Lutherdale Retreat Center in Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

LVPC Parish Nurse Sue Cox and Chicago Uptown Ministry Parish Nurse Jo Kujawinsik organized the retreat using a grant from the Presbytery of Chicago. It included 13 seniors, 4 leaders and was facilitated by Rev. Jacki Belile from Grace Baptist Church.

The camaraderie and caring that was created within and between the two groups continued even after the retreat was over. Shortly after they returned, one of the Chicago Uptown Ministry seniors died. "The LVPC Seniors felt very sad for the loss," says Sue.

"It definitely improved my relationships with other people," says Ernie. "Every time I have to face someone, I think back to what I learned at the retreat." ♡

CALENDAR



DECEMBER

EVERY SUNDAY

Study the Bible with the Niners Class. They meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel.

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 follows both services.

Sunday school for children at 10:00 a.m. Classes for ages 3-4, 5-7, and Upper Elementary students meet in the Academy.

Choir practice at 10:00 a.m.

Share your thoughts about faith and life in Begin@10 class, 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel.

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!

Advent Retreat—See December 3

*Young Adults Progressive Dinner—
See December 10*

*Golden Diner/Academy Holiday Party—
see December 20*

*Lake View Academy Christmas Feast—
See December 21*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

It's fun for the under-five set at Playgroup beginning at 11:30 a.m. upstairs in the Mulford Room. Call the church office before you come.

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 7:30 for Taize.

The Café Pride Coffeehouse meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight and serves a safe place for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth ages 17-21 to get together.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

Mark the beginning of this festive season at the annual Advent Retreat from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. With study, fellowship, and food we will make an intentional start at searching for the Christ Child this year. The event includes a potluck lunch. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

This is the last day to order Sanctuary flowers for Christmas. See Floyd May or Idahlia Middleton to get yours.

Lake View Pantry food donations and Two Cents A Meal offerings will be taken at the morning worship services.

The Recorder Ensemble practices after the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 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.

The Deacons meet at 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

The Seniors gather for a special Midweek Movie at 12:30 p.m. Today's feature is *Waking Ned Devine*.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

Young Adult Bible Study meets at 9:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

The Playgroup meets at 11:30 a.m. See December 2 for details.

Café Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight in the Fellowship Hall. See December 2 for more information.

The whole church community is invited to join the youth from Café Pride for a program of gay-themed films called *Out at the Movies*. The show starts at 9:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

Don't miss the fun of decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas beginning at 10:00 a.m.

The Young Adults Progressive Dinner is a great way to share food and lively conversation. It starts at 5:00 p.m. To sign up, contact Jen Cumming at (773) 510-3945.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

The Finance Committee meets at 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

Seniors in Motion meets at 10:00 a.m. See December 6 for details.

LPVC will have a big presence at this month's Presbytery meeting. Joy Douglas Strome will preach, Dale Heidebrecht will sing, and John Erickson will play piano. Everyone is welcome. It begins at 10:30 a.m. at Park Ridge Presbyterian Church, 1300 West Crescent Avenue in Park Ridge.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

The Seniors gather for a special Midweek Movie at 12:30 p.m. Today's feature is *White Christmas*.

The Worship Committee meets at 6:00 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

Young Adult Bible Study meets at 9:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

The Playgroup meets at 11:30 a.m. See December 2 for details.

Monthly prayer meeting in the chapel at 12:00 noon. Call Peg Hazenbush at (773) 871-0312 for more information.

Café Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight in the Fellowship Hall. See December 2 for more information.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

The children will present their annual Christmas program at 10:00 a.m., between the two worship services.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

Seniors in Motion meets at 10:00 a.m. See December 6 for details.

Young and old celebrate the season together at the Golden Diner & Academy Student Holiday Party at 11:30 a.m. Donations of food items are needed for the event: chicken delicious, cranberry salad, rolls/bread, green vegetables, milk, sparkling grape juice, vegetable appetizer tray and pies. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary if you would like to bring an item.

Spread some Christmas cheer by joining the seniors at the annual Senior Site Holiday Party at 12 noon. Even if you



can't attend, Sue Cox is collecting items for gift bags to be given to each senior—socks, chap stick, puzzle books, hot chocolate mix, cracker packs, Kleenex, candy, fruit, and medium-sized gift bags. Contact Sue at (773) 281-2655.

Share Christmas with our friends and neighbors by joining the annual Caroling party. Meet at 6:00 p.m. on the church porch.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

Lake View Academy would love to welcome church members to their annual Christmas Feast at 6:00 PM. There will be music, a short play, and a scrumptious meal. RSVP by calling the Academy at (773) 281-3065.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

Young Adult Bible Study meets at 9:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

The Playgroup meets at 11:30 a.m. See December 2 for details.

Café Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight in the Fellowship Hall. See December 2 for more information.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

Experience the music, the wonder, and the message of Christmas at a Candlelight Christmas Eve Service beginning at 7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

Merry Christmas everyone! There will be one worship service today at 10:00 a.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

Seniors in Motion meets at 10:00 a.m. See December 6 for details.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

The Seniors gather for a special Midweek Movie at 12:30 p.m. Today's feature is *Fiddler on the Roof*.

No Choir practice tonight.

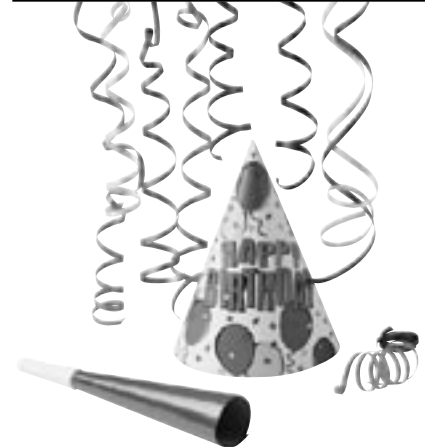
No Young Adult Bible Study tonight.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

No Playgroup today.

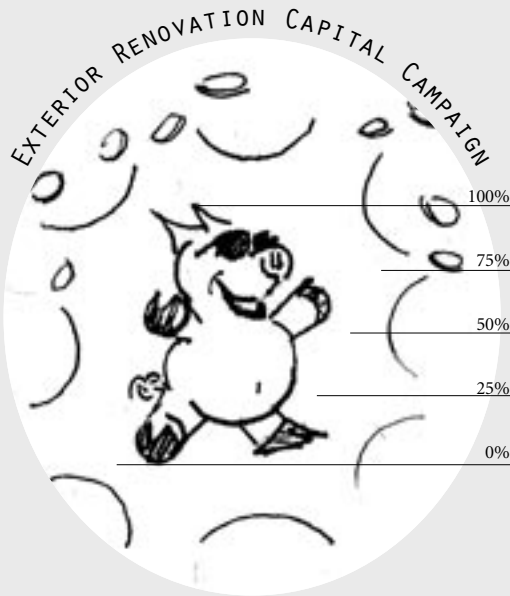
Café Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight in the Fellowship Hall. See December 2 for more information.º

YOU SAY IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY



- 12/4—Lisa DeYoung
- 12/5—Avi Atavi
- 12/5—Tom Gyori
- 12/18—Adam Ziegelmüller
- 12/19—Clinton Roberts
- 12/22—Heather Lewis
- 12/2—Dawn Freeland
- 12/29—Anita Smith
- 12/31—Cara Hendrickson
- 12/31—Edith Ashinaº

\$218,729 HAS BEEN PLEDGED SO FAR



THAT'S OVER **100%** OF THE \$215,000 GOAL*

*THE FUNDRAISING GOAL WAS REVISED DOWN FROM \$230,000 TO REFLECT THE PROJECT COMING IN UNDER BUDGET.

CHIMES STAFF

Editor Eric Diekhans
Reporters Kendal Reis, John Vessels,
David Tichy, Sarah Warner
Design Michelle Goodman
Photography Jill Wijangco
Distribution Daisy Braucher, Bill Hastings,
Betty Larsen, Herb Simms

LVPC STAFF

Joy Douglas Strome Pastor
Tom Gyori Parish Associate
David Murad Parish Associate
Dick Poethig Parish Associate
Lindsay Harren-Lewis Pastoral Intern
Dale Heidebrecht Program Manager/Choir Director
Sue Cox Parish Nurse
John Erickson Pianist
Deborah Bayly Principal, Lake View Academy

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



Lake View Presbyterian Church

716 West Addison Street

Chicago IL 60613

(773) 281-2655

www.lakeviewpresbyterian.org

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