

NEW FACES

BY ERIC DIEKHANS

Nine more new members joined LVPC on October 12.



FRONT, L TO R: DAN ABAZIA, SUNG-AE REED, ASHLEY PARZERO, KYE MARTIN HARDESTY
BACK: EVE GAUS, ANDY REED, BRANDON HARDESTY, RICHARD DIZNEY

Eve Gaus grew up in Jamestown, NY, hometown of Lucille Ball. “We proudly celebrate each year with a Lucy Festival,” Eve shares, “complete with grape stomping.” A graduate of Trinity University in San Antonio and the University of Illinois, Eve says she “loves to read, and am also a big fan of cycling and baking.”

Brandon Hardesty and **Kye Martin Hardesty** met in Sacramento, CA when they both worked there. You can catch Kye on CLTV News, where she’s afternoon traffic anchor, while Brandon works at Wells Fargo Commercial Insurance Brokerage. The couple don’t have kids yet, but Kye says Brandon is “obsessed with the idea that our future son learn to pitch left-handed.”

Catherine “Cat” Rabenstine first made Presbyterian friends when she was volunteering with Young Adults in Global Mission in India. Cat is now Volunteer Coordinator and Portfolio Specialist at the Cara Program, which helps homeless and at-risk people in Chicago find employment. Cat plans to follow in the footsteps of other LVPC members by going to Palestine and Israel next year as a member of Christian Peacemaker Teams.



CAT RABENSTINE

A life-long Presbyterian, **Ashley Parzero** joined LVPC because of “the welcoming feel and the sermons.” A graduate of Mount Union College in Alliance, OH, Ashley works in international transportation.

Newlyweds **Andrew** and **Sung-Ae Reed** are an international couple – Andrew is a Marine Corps brat who grew up all over the world, while Sung-Ae was raised in India. They both attended Calvin College in Michigan. Andrew and Sung-Ae do have divergent hobbies – he enjoys “reading philosophy and studying languages so I can read the originals of philosophy works,” while she loves “food and exploring different restaurants in Chicago.”

Richard Dizney is a familiar face at LVPC. His mother first attended church in 2001 while Richard was in the hospital recovering from a heart attack. She then recommended the church to him. A graduate of the University of Kentucky, Richard’s interests include, opera, cinema, trivia, and word puzzles. “I can also be talked into a game of Mexican train dominoes,” he reports.

For the moment, **Dan Abazia** may be best known as Mr. Rev. Larissa Kwong Abazia, LVPC’s new Associate Pastor. Dan grew up Roman Catholic in Northern New Jersey, where he was very involved in his church youth group. A graduate of Rutgers University and a pharmacist at the University of Chicago Medical Center, Dan enjoys music, sports, the outdoors, and working on their home.☞

WAITING



LARISSA
KWONG ABAZIA

We live in a nation where instant gratification and busyness reign supreme in our daily lives. At any given moment we can “grab” a burger, “run” an errand or “catch” a movie. We gauge our success in life by what we produce and how we use our days to be a productive part of society. As Henri Nouwen said, “For many people, waiting is an awful desert between where they are and where they want to go. And people do not like such a place. They want to get out of it by doing something.” (*Watch for the Light*, p. 27) I will be the first to admit that waiting is not an easy thing to do.

It can be hard, perhaps even excruciating, to sit in the middle of the hustle and bustle of life to pause in reflective waiting during Advent. The holiday atmosphere is no help when we are surrounded by things calling us to fill our days with activity. Advertisements illustrate every gift imaginable and ways that we can afford them even in this strained economy. Cooking and baking for holiday gatherings keep our hands busy. Scheduling numerous trips to visit friends and loved ones holds our calendars hostage. Yet Advent is a time for waiting, watching, and wonder as we anticipate the coming of God among us.

I invite you to receive Advent’s gift to simply “be.” May you pause to take in the world around you. May your days be filled with moments to sit in silence and ponder. May you dwell in the desert, thinking not of where you have been, where you would like to go, or how you will get there, but embracing the space in-between. May the story of a star in the sky, choirs of angels, shepherds and their flocks, and a journey to an unknown future reach your ears anew. May you find deeper relationship with God who came into this world and laid his head down in a simple manger. May you just be...☪

A FEELING OF CHRISTMAS

BY ERIC DIEKHANS

On his third CD, *A Feeling of Christmas*, LVPC pianist John Erickson explores 13 familiar and not-so-familiar Christmas tunes. The results range from the exuberant to the contemplative to more somber meditations. John describes the CD as “somewhere between George Winston’s *December* and Vince Guraldi’s soundtrack for *A Charlie Brown Christmas*.”



To choose songs for the album, John first looked through the Presbyterian hymnal for his favorites. “I was especially drawn to Advent hymns,” John says, “which tend to be in minor keys.” The first song he arranged was “Silver Bells,” which he has been playing in church for some time. John also picked a few selections that you won’t find on most Christmas albums, like “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” and “Divinum Mysterium.”

Bassist and LVPC member Patrick Williams, along with Tim Mulvenna and Mike Austin on percussion, join John on the album.

You can pick up a copy of *A Feeling of Christmas* personally from John or find it online at cdbaby.com/cd/johnerickson3. It should also soon be available for download from iTunes. You can hear John’s Christmas music live at a special concert, Thursday, December 4 in the Sanctuary. A \$10 donation is requested.☪

SPREAD SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER

BY ERIC DIEKHANS

If you’d like to find a place where you can live out the Christmas message and spread some holiday cheer, look no further than LVPC’s Senior Site. Their annual Holiday Party takes place Tuesday, December 23 at 11:30 a.m.

LVPC Parish Nurse Sue Cox describes the event as a special time. “Many of the seniors have no family nearby,” she shares. “They may only receive a few gifts. It’s great for them to be remembered by the congregation.”

Last year pianist John Erickson and vocalist Stephanie Browning entertained the gathering. Of course, the food is always the biggest attraction. LVPC members contributed turkeys, salads, side dishes, and desserts. Some members also attended the festivities.

Sue says that once again she is looking for food donations. You can also donate hat, glove, and scarf sets to keep the seniors warm this winter. They truly appreciate it. To get involved, sign up in the back of the Sanctuary or call Larissa or Sue at (773) 281-2655.☪

WHO YOU KNOW

BY ERIC DIEKHANS



DAWN STOCKMO WITH SOME OF HER STUDENTS

Dawn Stockmo joined LVPC in 2005. She teaches the three and four-year-olds in Sunday school, leads the children's choir, serves on the On Holy Ground Committee, and is substitute pianist when John Erikson is out of town.

What would you like to wake up to on Christmas morning?

I can think of nothing I would rather wake up to than being with my family on Christmas morning (and the smell of good coffee). My extended family continues to gather on Christmas day in Wanamingo, Minnesota in the house that my grandparents built when they moved into town (1,000 people strong) from the farm. After my grandparents passed away, one of my cousins bought the house, which allows us to gather in the same place. My generation had 13 kids in a span of 10 years, so as a kid it was always a lively gathering. We remember those who have passed away and take great delight in the laughter and singing of the younger generation.

What are your most vivid church memories from childhood?

I grew up in a Lutheran, Norwegian, church in Minneapolis. I was youth director during college and I remember taking a group of kids to the boundary waters for 10 days with every imaginable weather condition, onslaught of mosquitoes, freeze-dried foods, camp fires and a variety of animals including a bear. But one of my earliest memories is "graduating" from the three-year-old Sunday school class wearing a very cute angel-type of robe. (I still carry that picture with me in my purse.)

Tell us about your work with the Metropolitan Planning Council.

I am working on the policy connections between affordable housing, transportation, and environmental issues. If we work together (public, private and nonprofit sectors), there are endless opportunities for innovative policies and practices that break down barriers and make real progress in creating and maintaining healthy communities. I have spent my professional career, almost 30 years, working to improve communities and the quality of life for people.☞

JOY RECEIVES SABBATICAL GRANT

BY ERIC DIEKHANS

Our own Joy Douglas Strome was one of 138 pastors nationwide recently chosen to be part of the ninth class of the National Clergy Renewal Program. Funded by the Lilly Endowment, the program gives pastors and congregations the opportunity to create their own Sabbath journeys.

Pastor Joy is to receive a grant of \$44,773 that will not only pay for her three-month sabbatical, but will also fund a pastor to take her place and even pay for going-away and welcome-back parties.

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Joy's last Sunday in church will be April 19, the Sunday after Easter. She will return to LVPC in July. Joy and the Session will choose a temporary pastor to serve the congregation while she is away.

"This National Clergy Renewal Program gives pastors the gift of being able to live in Sabbath time, to honor that moment as God-given," says Craig Dykstra, Endowment senior vice president for religion. "Many clergy renewal participants have reported to the Endowment that they found their vision for ministry enlarged when they returned and that their call and commitment were renewed."

Joy titled her grant request "Re-Establishing a Rhythm," and pointed to three areas where she would like to focus her attention. "I hope to re-establish a personal rhythm with extended family who have watched at a distance while life at this church has sometimes been consuming over the last eleven years," Joy writes in her application.

Joy also plans to re-establish a physical rhythm through hikes in Vermont, North Carolina, and Glencoe Pass in Scotland. "Finally," writes Joy, "I want to re-establish a spiritual rhythm by attending the island of Iona, in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland for two weeks. The music of this community is music our own congregation enjoys and I'm eager to be doused with an exposure to their worship style."

Many details of Joy's time away are still to be worked out, so watch for more information. You can learn more about the Clergy Renewal Program at www.clergyrenewal.org.☞

LVPC EXTERIOR HONORED



GEORGE REYES AND ARCHITECT GREG COOK WITH THE DRIEHAUS FOUNDATION AWARD

LVPC's exterior restoration was one of nine projects from around the state to receive a prestigious Preservation Award from Landmarks Illinois and the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation. Recipients were selected for work that demonstrated "a commitment to excellence in historic preservation."


LVPC member George Reyes and Holabird & Root architect Greg Cook accepted the award during a ceremony held October 17 at The Chicago Club. LVPC members Pattie Reyes and Samantha Caldwell also attended the event.

George, who served as church liaison to the project's contractors, says that receiving the honor "shows that we are good stewards of our building and used the [\$1.23 million in] contributions towards the work wisely."☞

CALENDAR

Place Your Favorite Refrigerator Magnet Here

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 follow both services.

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

Choir practice at 10:15 a.m.

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

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

Help beautify the Sanctuary by donating flowers. To sponsor a Sunday, sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.

ADVANCE WARNINGS: SIGN UP NOW!

Advent Retreat—See December 6

*Senior Site Holiday Party—
See December 23*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

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 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

Senior Book Group meets at 12:00 p.m.

Lake View Academy Board meets at 6:30 p.m.

Young Adult Bible Study meets at 7:00 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

LVPC Pianist John Erickson will perform music from his new CD, *A Feeling of Christmas*, at a special concert beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A \$10 donation is requested. See the article on page 2 for more information.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

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. Join us tonight at 7:00 for Taize.

The Cafe Pride Coffeehouse meets from

8:00 p.m. to midnight and serves a safe

place for gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans-

gender, and questioning youth ages

17 – 21 to get together.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

LVPC makes an intentional effort to cut back on church programming during Advent. We hope to encourage an observance of this season of waiting with the gift of extra time...time to reflect and study and ponder the miracle of the birth of the Christ child. Come join us as we mark the beginning of Advent with a special one-day event of study, fellowship, and food from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Special activities are planned with children in mind. A potluck lunch for the whole group happens midday. A Blue Christmas service closes our afternoon together. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

Finance Committee meets at 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

Seniors in Motion fitness class meets at 10:00 a.m. See December 2

Eco-Justice Taskforce meets at 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

Senior Book Group meets at 12:00 p.m.

Worship Committee meets at 6:00 p.m.

Young Adult Bible Study meets at 7:00 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

Cafe Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. See December 5.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

Get in the holiday spirit by decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Contact Sang-Ho Nam for more information.

LVPC's children meet for Christmas Program rehearsal at 10:00 a.m.

CALENDAR The Flip Side DECEMBER



MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

Social Justice Committee meets at 7:15 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

Seniors in Motion fitness class meets at 10:00 a.m. See December 2

Spread some Christmas cheer by joining our annual Caroling on the Porch, tonight at 7:00.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

Senior Book Group meets at 12:00 p.m.

Young Adult Bible Study meets at 7:00 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

Cafe Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. See December 5.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

New church officer training takes place at 9:00 a.m.

Incoming, outgoing, and current Session and Deacons will meet at 10:00 a.m.

LVPC's children meet for Christmas Program rehearsal at 1:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

Don't miss the Children's Christmas Program at 10:15 a.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

Seniors in Motion fitness class meets at 10:00 a.m. See December 2

The annual Senior Site Holiday Party kicks off at 11:30 a.m. There are lots of ways you can be part of the celebration. Donations of casseroles, vegetables, salads, and desserts are needed. You can also give hat/gloves/scarf sets for the seniors. Volunteers are needed to serve the meal and distribute holiday cheer. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary or see Sue Cox or Larissa Kwong Abazia.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

Merry Christmas, everyone! Be part of a Christmas Presence, an alternative celebration for the LVPC community, today from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Contact Rachael Albers at rachaelkay@gmail.com for more information.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

No Sunday School today.

There will be one worship service this morning at 10:00.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

Seniors in Motion fitness class meets at 10:00 a.m. See December 2.☞



GREEN TIP

Next time you finish up in the shower, take a minute to brush yourself off, squeeze out your hair and shake your hands dry. All that water you're putting down the drain instead of into your bath towel will result in towels that stay cleaner, longer. Think about the fact that there can be a cup of excess water on you when you finish showering and if you don't put that into your towel, it's all the better.

(Courtesy of thedailygreen.com.)☞

LVPC



ARTS

Stephanie Browning performs:

Saturdays, Peninsula Hotel, Chicago (312) 337-2888

Brooks Darrah appears:

Through December 7, *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*,
Noyes Cultural Center, Evanston, piventheatre.org

Jon Thomas directs:

Through December 14, *The BenchMark*, First United
Methodist Church, Chicago Temple, www.hcgrp.net.
Proceeds benefit Chicago Temple homeless programs
and Center for Religious Architecture

Kara Kesselring performs:

December 10, *Jersey Boys*, Bank of America Theatre, Chicago,
www.jerseyboysinfo.com

December 14, 21, Philanders Restaurant, Oak Park,
www.carletonhotel.com

Cool CD Gift Ideas

Callin' All Kids, Kara Kesselring & Laurie Empen,
www.thecookiecutters.net

A Feeling of Christmas, John Erickson,
www.cdbaby.com/cd/johnerickson3

CHIMES

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