

CHIMES

A PUBLICATION OF LAKE VIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2007
DECEMBER

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH



BETSY FERRELL, OLGA LOPEZ, SCOTT JONES, GLADIS IGLESIAS, LEIGH PETERSON

NEW FACES

BY ERIC DIEKHANS

Nine more people joined LVPC on October 21 & 28.

You likely recognize Betsy Ferrell as one of our outstanding choir members. A native of New York and Connecticut, she was baptized Presbyterian but raised Episcopalian. "When I moved to Chicago," Betsy shares, "I knew that I wanted to try to find an outlet for both faith and music." Betsy is currently a graduate student at Loyola University.

Olga Lopez is a native Chicagoan from the Little Italy neighborhood, while her partner, **Gladis Iglesias**, was born in Cuba and raised in Andersonville. "I have 5 sisters and a brother," says Gladis, "whom I have not seen since I left Cuba." Olga's passions include collecting Elvis memorabilia, riding her bike and collecting old coins, while Gladis says, "My passion is cooking. I can cook practically anything you ask me to."

Scott Jones came from a small town in Pennsylvania to attend Moody Bible Institute. He then served as a youth pastor at a small Christian Missionary Alliance Church. He talked briefly to

Joy at Halsted Street Market Days and, he relates, "She very simply challenged my thinking."

Leigh Petersen is another familiar face from the choir. A Nebraska native, Leigh learned about LVPC when she was working at a recruiting firm and Christine Lyman stopped by to look at some jobs. Leigh also sings with the Apollo Chorus and serves on their board, and is active with LEARN Charter Schools in Lawndale.

"I've always been Presbyterian," says **John Bourgeois**. "In fact, I was on Session in college at my home church." John attended LVPC a few times on Christmas Eve, then, he says, "I discovered that I had some good friends who are members." A French major at Ohio State University, John works as the Assistant Store Manager at Macy's on State Street.

AJ Knutson grew up in Glen Ellyn in the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, while **Christina Pinson**, was raised Catholic on the south side of Chicago.



JOHN BOURGEOIS



AJ KNUTSON, CHRISTINA PINSON



DICK RAUP

The couple discovered LVPC thanks to AJ's school project. AJ works as an art gallery manager while Christina is Executive Director of the Chicago Area Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce.

Dick Raup may be familiar to some at LVPC as member Anne's spouse. Dick says, "I had to finish my Session commitment to our old church in Libertyville before I could join LVPC." A National Account Manager for Norfolk Southern Railroad, Dick enjoys woodworking, hiking, camping, and "a good cigar."☺

ADVENT 2007 WALKING IN THE LIGHT



JOY DOUGLAS-
STROME

*four hours.
four weeks.
24 days.
intention.*

*four sacred stories.
prophets, angels.
a dad in name only/not.
a mom. a newborn.*

*four ideas.
hope. peace. joy. love.
do we dare
get our hopes up.*

*prayer.
the long wait.
quiet pondering.
deliberate steps.*

*come near, Jesus.
be here, Christ.
find us, Lord.
choose us again.☉*

CHIMES CHANGES

Beginning this month, everyone who receives Joy's weekly email updates will also receive the *Chimes* via email. Don't worry, you'll still get a printed copy in the mail. If you don't already receive the updates, email joy@lakeviewpresbyterian.org.

We've also introduced a new paper this month. It's 100% post-consumer recycled and made with wind power.☉

LVPC'S CHOIR PROVIDES WORSHIP EXPERIENCE OF "NOTE!"

BY JOHN VESSELS

Music is an odd commodity. It falls in the same category of words like "hope," "peace," and "funny"—nearly impossible to fully articulate, but wholly known when experienced. There are flutes, trumpets, cymbals and timbrels, harps, lyres, and drums, singing and dancing mentioned in the New and Old Testaments. Instructional writings for music appear in ancient Mesopotamian artifacts dating as far back as 2000 BCE. Music is mentioned in the Hindu writings known as the "Vedas," the stories in which are believed to predate written history. Music is old stuff! It's old enough to be a part of who we are without our even knowing the how, when, and why of it.

Is it any wonder, then, that Rev. Joy Douglas-Strome (pianist, flutist, singer) includes so much music in the worship service? Have you ever stopped to notice just how much music is included in one Sunday morning? Listen closely next time you're in church, not just to what you sing but to the music happening around you.



LVPC'S CHOIR REHEARSES

When words alone are not enough, music helps inspire the spirit—it is no small thing that "music" and "muse" share the same linguistic roots.

A real responsibility, then, lies with your choir and choir director. Great effort is made to ensure that every piece sung by the choir reinforces the worship. The liturgy is studied and the sermon considered. Pieces are chosen based on textual relevance, musical difficulty, listener appeal, and cultural diversity. On one Sunday you may hear Mozart, on another, a folk song, on still another, the Beatles. Each Sunday, the LVPC choir meets the challenge and enhances our worship service with passion and respect to the work entrusted to them. You won't find a prouder or more grateful choir director in Chicago than this one!

LVPC's choir is comprised of all volunteers; including professional musicians, trained singers pursuing other careers, and folks who just love to sing. Our musical tastes range from Jim Croce to Medieval music; all of which I will certainly try to program in my time here—does anybody else see "Bad, Bad Leroy Brown" as a David and Goliath analogy?

In December, during Advent and Christmas, listen for spirituals, African choral music, a piece by John Rutter, a great chorus from Handel's *Messiah*, and some Christmas gems that will soon join your list of favorites!☉

Thank You! Our family would like to thank the entire LVPC community for your thoughts, prayers, and kind support during the time of my mother's death. You were wonderful.

Paul, Joy, Maggie, and Grace Strome

WHO YOU KNOW



BY ERIC DIEKHANS

JOHN VESSELS

No one can accuse John Vessels of not being involved enough at LVPC. He's Choir Director, Out and About Task Force Chair, a member of the Social Justice and Worship Committees, as well as a staff writer for the *Chimes*.

If could host an intimate dinner with any five people still living, who would you invite?

1. My partner, Jay, would have to be there.
2. The Dalai Lama (I never see him not smiling. I imagine he'd be enlightening and pleasant company).
3. My best friend, Johnna, from L.A.
4. Ellen Degeneres (See notes concerning Dalai Lama).
5. My best friend from college, Steven Spears, phenomenal singer and he always makes me laugh.

Where do you see the choir in five years?

In the next five years, I hope to see the choir more aware of and confident in their natural collective voice (a voice of which I am already a great fan, by the by), enjoying singing in a way that only

an ever-expanding knowledge inspires, and hungry for musical challenges that neither they nor I have yet imagined for them!

Name five musical guilty pleasures.

1. PDQ Bach
2. Aerosmith (no foolin'!)
3. Mrs. Miller
4. Ultralounge, super-kitchy big band music
5. Anything that features people singing really, REALLY badly!

What would you like to see under your Christmas tree?

All I ever really really want for Christmas is for the whole planet, for as long as they can manage it (but at least for a day) to wish each other well.

What's for breakfast at your house?

I'm not very breakfasty. When I make it, bacon, eggs (over easy), biscuits, and some kind of potato. But I'd rather just wait till noon and have something lunchy!☹

CALLIN' ALL KIDS!

BY ERIC DIEKHANS

Just in time for the holidays, LVPC members Laurie Empen and Kara Kesselring have released a new CD of children's music.



The CD, *Callin' All Kids*, is a follow-up to *The Grandma Project*, an album of old-time gospel tunes featuring Kara, Laurie, and other LVPC members. "We both thought we wanted to do another CD," says Kara. "I was excited about creating music that would appeal to both children and adults AND have something for my first child to enjoy."

Kara, of course, is referring to Iris Mae Williams, Kara and Patrick Williams new baby, born November 7. The CD features Patrick on bass along with jazz guitarist Neal Alger. "[Kara and I] sing on the CD," says Laurie, "as well as some of the children we know."

Many of the songs on *Callin' All Kids* will be familiar to parents and anyone who was a child. "We chose songs that we enjoyed as children," Kara shares. "Green Grass Grew All Around,' 'The Little Worm,' and 'Singin' In the Kitchen,' based on the Shel Silverstein poem. Laurie was fond of the old Welsh lullaby, 'All Through the Night.' She also wanted 'My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean' and 'Skip to My Lou' because she sings these to the children she watches."

Kara created all of the arrangements for the CD, which include a potpourri of jazz, bossa nova, folk/country, and top 40s-feel.

"We wanted to create a CD that any child would enjoy and sing to," says Laurie. "There are some real fun ones, and our test audience of kids really love hearing children's voices. That was important to include."

Laurie also sees music—and not just kids music—as an important way to connect children to the church. "I truly believe children are drawn to music and learn from it," she relates.

So, are we going to hear kids music at LVPC? Kara laughs. "I think it would be wonderful, but as a new mom, I can't necessarily volunteer to lead that effort."

But there is a CD release party planned for the spring, perhaps at LVPC. In the meantime, you can purchase copies of *Callin' All Kids* from Laurie or Kara, or at www.cdbaby.com/callinallkids.☹

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 follow both services.

Sunday school for children at 10:00 a.m. Classes for ages 3-4, and grades K-2, 3-5, and 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 evenings and weekends 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 1

Young Adults Progressive Dinner—See December 9

Senior Site Holiday Party—See December 18

Academy Christmas Feast—See December 19

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

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 2

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4

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.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

This month's Out and About Discussion topic is Lest We Forget—the World AIDS Crisis. It starts at 7:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

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.

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

The Annual Young Adults

Progressive Dinner is a great

way to share food and lively

conversation. It starts at 5:00

p.m. Sign up in the back of

the Sanctuary. For more

information, contact Barb

Burlingame at

barbb20@yahoo.com.

CALENDAR The Flip Side DECEMBER



MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

Finance Committee meets at 6:30 p.m.

The Eco-Justice Taskforce meets at 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

Seniors in Motion meets at 10:00 a.m.
See December 4.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

Cafe Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. See December 7.

The whole church community is invited to Out at the Movies, a special presentation of a gay-themed film. The show starts at 9:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

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

The Session meets at 9:00 a.m.. The Deacons join them for a joint meeting at 10:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

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



MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

Seniors in Motion meets at 10:00 a.m.
See December 4.

The annual Senior Site/Academy Student

Holiday Party kicks off at 11:30 a.m.

There are lots of ways you can be part

of the celebration. Donations of chicken

casseroles, vegetables, salads, and desserts

are needed. You can also give \$5 or \$10 gift

cards from Jewel, Walgreens, or any other

neighborhood store for senior gift bags.

Volunteers are needed to serve the meal

and distribute holiday cheer. Sign up in

the back of the Sanctuary or see Sue Cox.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

Worship Committee meets at 6:00 p.m.

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

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

A Big, Gay Potluck kicks off at 7:15 p.m. at Pastor Joy Douglas Strome's home.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

Cafe Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight in the Fellowship Hall. See December 7.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

Merry Christmas, everyone!

Church Office is closed today.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

Church Office is closed today.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28

Cafe Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight in the Fellowship Hall. See December 7.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

No Sunday School today.

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

LVPC



ARTS

Brooks Darrah featured in:
"A Christmas Carol," through December 22, Drury Lane
Oakbrook Children's Theatre, Oak Brook Terrace, www.
drurylaneoakbrook.com

Stephanie Browning performs:
Mondays (with John Erickson), Wednesdays & Fridays,
Stetson's Chop House, Chicago (312) 239-4491
Saturdays, Peninsula Hotel, Chicago (312) 337-2888☎

GREEN TIP

If every household in the U.S. replaced just one roll of 180-sheet virgin-fiber paper towels with 100-percent recycled paper towels, we could save: 1.4 million trees, 3.7 million cubic feet of landfill space, and 526 million gallons of water, and prevent 89,400 pounds of pollution. Several companies make paper towels from 100-percent recycled paper, with a minimum of 90-percent post-consumer materials. You can find these products at many grocery stores, particularly those that specialize in natural foods. Better yet, make do without paper towels. Try good old-fashioned dishtowels instead!☎

CHIMES

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



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OPEN
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OPEN
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Merry Christmas