

2007
MARCH

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH

LPVC LAUNCHES ASSOCIATE PASTOR SEARCH

BY SARAH WARNER



You may have noticed there is a little bit less space in your favorite pew on recent Sunday mornings. That's because LVPC's congregation continues to grow. In 1996, membership was 47. Today, under Joy's leadership, it has grown to 252. To adequately serve its members' spiritual needs, a church typically needs one pastor for every 100 members. It became clear to the Session several months ago that an associate pastor was required, both to keep membership increasing and to keep Joy's sanity intact.

In order to find an associate pastor, LVPC took the natural Presbyterian course of action and formed a committee. The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, elected by the congregation, consists of Cordula Bou-Vinals, Wil Snodgrass, Ray Sendejas, Martin Moubel, George Reyes, Nancy Revenaugh, Scott Grannan, Doug Jensen, Barb Burlingame, Tom DeFries, Sarah Warner, and the Chairman, Christopher Burrows.

The initial steps to finding an associate pastor involve a lot of brainstorming and reflection. We asked ourselves: What should be the AP's role? What sort of capabilities and ideals should he/she possess? After some tinkering, we finally approved the AP's Position Description. The Committee concluded that the AP would primarily assist in the education of new members and in the development of small group ministry.

Guiding the APNC through this process is our Committee on Ministry Liaison, Sam Mirza. As our link to the Presbytery, he ensures that we are both on track and compliant with

procedure. We recently submitted the position description to him and the COM for approval.

The APNC is currently composing our Church Information Form. This form is a detailed description of who we are as a church in terms of both demographic information and ideology, with questions such as, "What gifts, skills and experiences does

your congregation possess to fulfill its mission?" Trying to consolidate all the wonderful things about LVPC into a few paragraphs is proving to be quite a challenge, and the APNC is still refining this document. Once our CIF is approved, the Presbytery will begin to send us the Personal Information Forms of prospective applicants for us to review. The entire AP search can take several months to a year.

While there is little doubt that our church will attract quality candidates, perhaps the larger concern surrounding the nomination of a new AP is the congregation's ability to generate the funds needed to support him/her. Though the prospect appears daunting, members have proven they will step up to the plate for important initiatives, such as the exterior renovation. Finding a new AP will certainly be a wise investment. This is an exciting time in LVPC's history, and the APNC encourages everyone to pray for God's guidance during this process.†



FROM LEFT: TOM DEFRIES, GEORGE REYES, CHRISTOPHER BURROWS, SCOTT GRANNAN, RAY SENDEJAS, CORDULA BOU-VINALS, BARB BURLINGAME, WIL SNODGRASS. NOT PICTURED: MARTIN MOUBEL, NANCY REVENAUGH, DOUG JENSEN, SARAH WARNER.

WHAT JUST MIGHT BE



JOY DOUGLAS STROME

"Where men can't live gods fare no better." From Cormac McCarthy's latest novel *The Road*, these words have haunted me. I go back and forth. Are they true? Are they not? Does my faith inform my answer? I won't tell you more about *The Road*. It would be an injustice to do more than tease you toward a reading. Suffice it to say that the setting is bleak. But it is not a bleak novel. Far from it.

Not unlike our Holy Week story. The setting is bleak. But it is not a bleak story. By the time this reaches you, we should be mid way through our Lenten experiment with Holy Week. As we lead up to Good Friday, as people of faith, how will we approach this? Will we close our eyes, tighten our fists, grit our teeth and hold our breath til Easter morning? We will take a deep breath and slug our way through it as some kind of yearly penance that leads to Easter eggs and spring colors?

The terrain of Good Friday is decidedly current. To protest the way of the world is unpopular. Gunslingers abound. A domination system rules. Might makes right. We flirt with disaster locally and globally. Violence has become repulsively normalized. A man hanging on a cross might not make us turn our head. We've seen worse. It numbs us for any real reaction. And the presence of God here? That's deep. Too deep for some of us to ponder. Let's keep it surface level and just skim along the top til we land on the safe, clean happy waters of Easter. Aah....relief.

Relief is real. That I know. But it's cheap if we haven't considered God in the

trenches with the crucified. Soldiers coming home de-limbed. Children wandering the streets of Baghdad in search of parents who are no more. Lives gambled away by political posturing. A culture desperate for good news but stuck outside the doors of a church divided and weakened by the weight of narrowness.

This holy season is our season. The Christ child who broke through the dark nights of Advent with a holy roar is on the ground.....teaching, preaching, offering an alternative way. It isn't familiar. It means change. It offers hope. Darkness will come again. The curtain will tear and no barriers will stand in the way. And this time the light will be blinding. Because you don't defeat the powers of death and come away the same. And the presence of God? It is the pulse that drives us into the depths of Good Friday to take a good, hard look at what we've become. It is the pulse that urges us back out to see what just might be.¶

"I THOUGHT I WAS FIXING HOUSES..."

BY JOHN VESSELS



REV. DR. CLIFF NUNN

On February 4th, Rev. Joy Douglas Strome handed the pulpit over to guest preacher, Rev. Dr. Cliff Nunn, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in New Orleans.

Nunn was visiting the Midwest addressing congregations that have helped in his church's rebuilding efforts after Hurricane Katrina. Nunn preached on the texts Isaiah 6:1-13 and Luke 5: 1-11. The obvious choice may have seemed a

commentary on Isaiah's bleak depiction of a world where:

"...the cities are desolate,
without inhabitants,
Houses, without a man,
and the earth is a desolate waste."

But Nunn chose a different tack, examining Jesus' words to Simon:

"Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people."

Nunn's sermon focused on how the task of rebuilding houses mirrored the greater work of rebuilding the community around his parish. He remembered Ethel, an 83-year-old woman living in a FEMA trailer by herself on Cornelia Street. She was the only person living in a three block square. When Nunn came to her house to assess the damages, *she prayed for him!* Nunn recalled, "I thought I was fixing houses...but people are changing each other." He noted that workers would come with tools and tasks but would ultimately end up learning about and concerning themselves with the people. He also recalled Debbie Peterson from Marietta, GA who has been to New Orleans to help seven times! He noted the lasting connections that have been the hallmarks of this rebuilding effort. "When Debbie calls me on the phone, she doesn't ask how I'm doing. She asks, 'How's Estelle? How's Bea? How's Irma?'"

After the service, Nunn met with LVPC members over lunch to give an update on the rebuilding efforts in New Orleans. Special recognition was given to Sandy Roberts for her organization of Nunn's visit and for her efforts in taking LVPC laborers to add to the rebuilding forces in the Big Easy—a second group is headed to New Orleans March 3-10! LVPC also presented Nunn with a check to help with his church's continuing efforts.

Nunn began, "Well, to start, I'm sane!" He credited his peace of mind to the "strong presence of God" and to God's intervention.

Nunn shared that while any help would be gladly accepted, the major need now is for money for supplies.¶

WHO YOU KNOW



TONYA WAGNER

BY ERIC
DIEKHANS

Tonya Wagner joined LVPC in March 2006 along with her husband, Troy. They have a son, Jude. Tonya is a student at McCormick Seminary, where she serves as a Deacon.

How did you end up in seminary?

My interest in seminary grew out of a deep interest in the study of religion. My academic interest in religion began in college. Bored with all of my science classes, I switched from being a pre-med student to a Comparative Religion major. The degree was fascinating, I had the chance to look at the Christian tradition from a historical perspective as well as study Islamic poetry and compare the prophetic traditions of Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. While I have studied a wide variety of subjects at McCormick, my focus has been on the sociological and historical aspects of the study of religion.

How did you and Troy meet?

Troy and I met first at a conference for emerging leaders. Well actually, Troy saw me and decided that day that he was destined to marry me. I had no recollection of him even being at the conference. Through a strange turn of events, we ended up being volunteers at the same Young Adult Volunteer Site in Seattle. All of the volunteers lived in an Intentional Community, where we shared financial resources, meals, prayer, service, and study. I lived in an apartment with four other women and Troy and another guy lived just down the hall. It took us just a few days to start dating. We got engaged a year later and married eight months after that.

What are you reading?

Aside from all of the required reading, I just finished a book on sustainable development called *Cradle to Cradle*. It encourages us to look at the whole life cycle of products that we use. I read the *New Yorker* every week and I love *Harpers*.

You love cooking. What's your specialty?

My favorite way to cook is to walk down to my local produce market and to see what looks good. After I pick my main ingredient, I just feel around for other flavors that seem to fit the mood and season. I have been a vegetarian for nearly ten years, and mixing things up is important.

What's your favorite and least favorite thing about being a mom?

My favorite thing is having an excuse to be wacky. I can dance, sing off key, make up rhyming songs, and make construction paper birds. I least like the boredom that comes from hanging out with a three-year-old for hours on end. ♪

WOOSTER BAND BRINGS SCOTLAND TO LVPC

The College of Wooster's Scot Symphonic Band will offer a taste of Scotland to LVPC as they perform a concert on Wednesday, March 14, as part of their annual spring tour.

The 7:30 p.m. concert is free. LVPC is looking for members to host two or three students overnight during their Chicago stay.

Directed by Nancy Ditmer and assisted by Ned Brooks, the 70-piece band has entertained audiences through its annual spring tour since 1976. The band's unique uniforms feature kilts with hand-sewn pleats made from MacLeod Tartan plaid that matches the school's colors and represent Wooster's Scottish Presbyterian heritage. A German submarine in the Atlantic Ocean sank the first shipment of kilts in 1939, but a

subsequent voyage brought 57 uniforms to campus. Band members are still wearing some of the uniforms from that shipment.

A special part of every Scot Band concert is the performance of traditional music of Scotland by the bagpipers, drummers, and Highland dancers. Originally, bagpipers and dancers were invited to perform from outside the college, but eventually students were taught the arts of piping and dancing. The college continues to support that mission through a competitive Scottish arts scholarship, which is awarded to students who are accomplished in Highland dancing, Scottish drumming, and on the bagpipes.



The pipers and drummers were featured in a Coca-Cola television commercial in 1997. They also appeared on NBC's "Today Show" in 1996 and made a cameo appearance on ABC's "Good Morning America" in 1994.

Founded in 1866, The College of Wooster is an independent liberal arts college with an enrollment of approximately 1,850 students. Nationally recognized for an innovative curriculum, which emphasizes independent learning, Wooster is known for its Senior Independent Study program, an original research project, written work, performance, or exhibit of artwork, supported one-on-one by a faculty mentor. ♪

CALENDAR



MARCH

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, grades K-5, and 6-8 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.

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



ADVANCE WARNINGS: SIGN UP NOW!

Wild Women Potluck—See March 9
Women's Book Study—See March 24
Lenten Book Study Potluck—
See March 25

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

Senior Movie at 12:30 p.m.

Running Club meets at 6:15 p.m.
Email chicagorunning@gmail.com
for details.

The Out and About Discussion Group on GLBT issues meets at 7:15 p.m. to talk about marriage.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2

It's fun for the under-five set at Playgroup beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Mulford Room. Call Kirsten Gettings at (773) 275-4487 for more information.

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, and transgender youth ages 17 – 21 to get together.

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

The Katrina Relief Workers leave for New Orleans.

SUNDAY, MARCH 4

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

The Knitting Circle meets at 12:30 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 5

Running Club meets at 5:15 a.m.

Deacons meet at 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 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.

Food for Thought continues with this year's All-Church Lenten Study: Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan's *The Last Week*. The book follows the story of Christ's passion in the gospel of Mark and we will use these same texts in worship during Lent. Joy Douglas Strome leads the class, which begins at 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

Young Adult Bible Study meets at 8:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 8

Senior Movie at 12:30 p.m.

Spend time with long-time LVPC

members at a Presbyterian Homes

Fellowship from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. in

Evanston. The gathering offers an

opportunity to stay connected with an

important part of our church family.

Contact Sue Cox at (773) 281- 2655.

Running Club meets at 6:15 p.m.

CALENDAR The Flip Side MARCH

FRIDAY, MARCH 9

Playgroup meets at 9:30 a.m. See March 2.

The Wild Women of LVPC will have a potluck at the home of Anne Raup. All women of the church are invited. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary. For more information, email Renee Grogg at goofyrenees@sbcbglobal.net or you can call Anne at (847) 682-5305.

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

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, MARCH 10

The Katrina Relief Workers return from New Orleans.

SUNDAY, MARCH 11

Daylight Savings Time begins.

MONDAY, MARCH 12

Running Club meets at 5:15 a.m.

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 13

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

Food for Thought continues with *The Last Week*. See March 6.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

Choir practice TBA

The College of Wooster's Scot Symphonic Band features traditional Scottish and modern music along with bagpipes and Scottish dancers. They'll perform a concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A free will offering will be taken.

Young Adult Bible Study meets at 8:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 15

Senior Movie at 12:30 p.m.

Running Club meets at 6:15 p.m.

An LBGT Potluck will be held at 7:15 p.m.



FRIDAY, MARCH 16

Playgroup meets at 9:30 a.m. See March 2.

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 17

Session meets at 9:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 18

Lake View Academy Board retreat at 3:00 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 19

Running Club meets at 5:15 a.m.

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 20

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

Food for Thought continues with *The Last Week*. See March 6.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

Worship Committee meets at 6:00 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

Young Adult Bible Study meets at 8:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 22

Senior Movie at 12:30 p.m.

Running Club meets at 6:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 23

Playgroup meets at 9:30 a.m. See March 2.

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 24

The Women's Book Study meets at 10:00 a.m. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.

SUNDAY, MARCH 25

Itching to get outside? Cure cabin fever by coming to the LVPC Lawn and Garden Club planning meeting at 12:15 p.m.. Contact Nancy Ziegelmueller (773) 769-4007 or nwzig@comcast.net for more information.

The All-Church Lenten Book Study culminates in a potluck lunch and discussion at 12:30 p.m. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.

MONDAY, MARCH 26

Running Club meets at 5:15 a.m.

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee meets at 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 27

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28

Buildings and Grounds Committee meets at 6:00 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

Young Adult Bible Study meets at 8:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29

Senior Movie at 12:30 p.m.

Running Club meets at 6:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30

Playgroup meets at 9:30 a.m. See March 2.

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

COMING APRIL 8

Easter Schedule

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service

8:00 a.m. Worship

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

11:00 a.m. Worship

8:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m. Potluck brunch⁹

LVPC



ARTS

Stephanie Browning performs:

Fridays, Stetson's Chop House, Chicago (312) 239-4490
Saturdays, Peninsula Hotel, Chicago (312) 337-2888

Kara Kesselring performs:

March 9, Katerina's, Chicago, www.katerinas.com
March 13, 20, 27, Chestnut Grill, Seneca Hotel,
www.senecahotel.com

Jennie Martin stage manages:

"Harmless," through March 8, TimeLine Theatre, Chicago,
www.timelinetheatre.com



CD of the Month:

The Grandma Project, featuring
Laurie Empen, Dale Heidebrecht,
Kara Kesselring, Maggie Darrah,
John Erickson, Patrick Williams

www.cdbaby.com/cd/grandmaproject

CHIMES

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Submission deadline for the April issue is March 15. Send
articles, calendar listings, rants, and raves to Eric Diekhans
at ericdiekhans@ameritech.net.⁹



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