



CHIMES

A PUBLICATION OF LAKE VIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2008
MARCH

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH

LVPC HITS THE STREETS

BY SARAH WARNER



FROM LEFT: BETSY FERRELL, SAMANTHA CALDWELL, WIL SNODGRASS, ASHLEY HEHER.
IN FRONT: SARAH WARNER

It's 8:45 p.m. on a Thursday night, January 24, when our little church posse finished setting up a tiny table behind the Marshalls on Halsted. We were outside on the coldest night of year, but you wouldn't have known it from the crowd that had gathered around us. They'd been anticipating our arrival, knowing that the Night Ministry would provide them with some comfort on this frigid evening.

Wil Snodgrass manned the hot cocoa distribution with elegant efficiency and Ashley Heher, like the best of servers, cheerily offered up a choice of Ritz or Saltine crackers. Ritz was the dominant preference by far. I awkwardly ladled Chicken noodle soup with one hand, trying not to douse Betsy Ferrell with the broth.

We were met with broad smiles and kind greetings. Samantha Caldwell passed out flyers featuring tips for staying warm. Something told me that "standing out on the street" did not appear on that list. The Night Ministry team made certain that there were plenty of hats and coats to go around.

In the shadows of the trendy clubs, restaurants, and shops, Lake View has long been a hub for the approximately 13,500 homeless youth in Chicago. Youth are drawn to Lake View from all across the Midwest, seeking asylum from intolerance in the neighborhood's queer-friendly atmosphere. They can easily seem invisible to Lake View residents, blending in with the suburban teens who shop here for punk clothes.

While the crowd was mostly youth, several older adults were also present. Towards the end of the evening, I struck up a conversation with two of the older gentlemen. We discussed sports, media, and politics. One gentleman told me humorous stories about his college days. I began to feel like I was at coffee hour. My toes were going numb, but I barely noticed, I was having such a good time. It's not until we had to start packing up that I started to wonder what had happened to these men. How could such articulate people be here, on this street, tonight? I had to look at the situation with new eyes, and ponder how easy it is for a person to lose a job, incur a huge medical bill...or in the case of the youth, to be born into a hostile family environment.

I think we witnessed a tiny miracle that evening. Somehow, throughout that freezing night, the soup continued to stay piping hot. I believe it was God's way of reminding us to keep our eyes open, ever looking to find ways to reach out to the people in our community.

(The volunteer crew would like to thank the Social Justice Committee for supporting this event.)[¶]

SEEING THE WORLD ANEW



JOY DOUGLAS STROME

Faith as vision — a way of seeing — is seeing reality as gracious. Its opposite — “unfaith” is seeing reality as hostile and threatening or as indifferent.

Marcus Borg
The Heart of Christianity

As we continue on our Lenten quest for “a new way to see,” I thought Borg offered us a roadside snack worth considering. We cannot re-visit the story of Jesus’ death and resurrection without colliding full force into this idea of grace. How is it that we see our world? As gracious? Or as hostile and threatening, or even worse, in my mind, indifferent.

Psychologically speaking, we know that children who have been exposed at an early age to violence in any of its numerous forms, see the world as hostile and threatening, and can spend a lifetime trying to learn to trust again. It’s the horror of the impact of the war.....children in Iraq and children of our own US soldiers who will be forever traumatized by their experience of violence at a young age. It’s the horror of the mounting numbers of our teenagers who live on the street right here in Chicago, who leave an abusive home life and see the equally dangerous streets as the better choice.

One Lenten learning might be to consider our role in shifting that focus for our brothers and sisters who have been hurt. Faithful Christians band together (because we need each other!) to offer the alternative: a reality that is gracious. A reality where people don’t hurt one another, where people are reliable and trustworthy, where everyone’s rights

are considered. A reality that has been powerfully touched by the story of Jesus and absolutely cannot be indifferent to the message. A reality where love is expected, no demanded, of all who enter.

What bold assertions we make. We can undo the damage of small psyches and replace the hurt with love that heals and restores! Of course we don’t do that alone, God does it.....through and with and for us all. We are merely the community that practices this reality and works together to build and re-build lives.

May your eyes be open to new ways of seeing, to new ways of communicating the gracious reality that is ours to claim as children of God. Blessings on your journey!☩

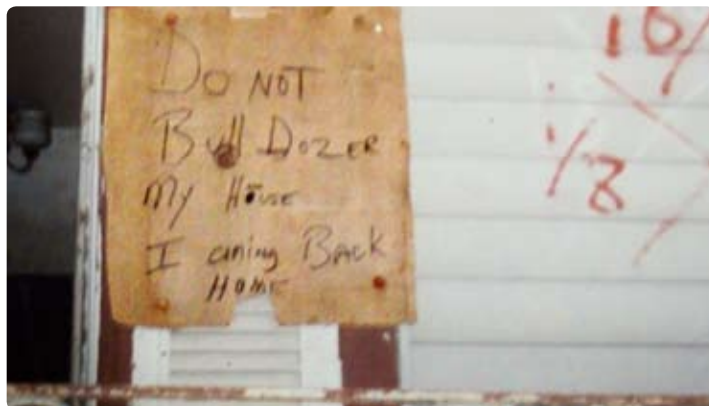
SIGNS OF HOPE

BY ERIC DIEKHANS

LVPC Katrina Taskforce member Sandy Roberts remembers when a group from the church first went to New Orleans in May, 2006.

“Little had happened since the storm [in August 2005],” says Sandy. “There was debris everywhere. The Ninth Ward had been leveled.”

During the team’s second trip in March, 2007, there were small signs of recovery. The French Quarter was getting back to normal. The Ninth Ward had been bulldozed. Homes around First Presbyterian Church in New Orleans, where the team worked, were being rebuilt. There were FEMA trailers in many yards.



Now, the 14-member Katrina Taskforce is planning a third work trip, April 5-12. Their goal is to have ten people participate, though Sandy says they might surpass that number. They’ll be working on homes First Presbyterian Church has committed to rebuild. Sandy says there will be “demolition, painting, plumbing, electrical work, mold and debris removal, and other tasks.” Both skilled and unskilled labor are needed. “You just have to be willing to work hard,” Sandy declares.

Despite the money and manpower that have poured into Katrina-affected areas, hard work is still sorely needed. “Huge areas are still deserted,” Sandy reports. “Many parts of the city are bleak and barren.”

Like a scene in a science fiction movie, Sandy remembers walking into homes that were left exactly like when the families fled. “There were still dirty dishes in the sink, clothes in the closet. You could often see a water line five to six feet up the walls.”

Asked how she keeps a sense of hope amidst so much devastation, Sandy says that “[First Presbyterian Church Pastor] Cliff Nunn’s spirit instills hope in everyone who comes to work.”

“Also,” Sandy continues, “residents come up and talk to us. They tell us how grateful they are.”

Rev. Nunn thinks that work groups will be needed for at least two more years, but Sandy can’t imagine a time when the rebuilding task will be complete. In the meantime, she encourages everyone who can to join the April trip.

“It will change you,” she declares.

The Katrina Work Group will be commissioned during 11:00 a.m. service on March 30.☩

CALENDAR

Place Your
Favorite
Refrigerator
Magnet Here

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 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!

Lenten Study Potluck—See March 16
Easter Breakfast—See March 23

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

Session meets at 9:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

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

Flower orders will be taken today for Easter.

TUESDAY, MARCH 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.

Deacons meet at 6:00 p.m.

Totally Tuesdays continues at 7:00 p.m. with the All-Church Lenten book *The Secret Message of Jesus* by Brian McLaren. See the February *Chimes* for details.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

Young Adult Lenten Study meets at 7 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 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 for Taize.

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 8

Join the men of LVPC for good food and scintillating conversation at the Men's Breakfast beginning at 8:15 a.m. It will be a potluck, so bring your favorite breakfast dish.

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

Daylight Savings Time begins today. Don't forget to spring your calendars forward an hour so you don't miss church.

MONDAY, MARCH 10

Finance Committee meets at 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

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

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

Totally Tuesdays continues at 7:00 p.m. with the All-Church Lenten book *The Secret Message of Jesus* by Brian McLaren. See the February *Chimes* for details.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

Young Adult Lenten Study meets at 7 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

CALENDAR



MARCH



THURSDAY, MARCH 13

“Dinner and Destination” is the theme of this month’s Dinner and Dish. It begins at 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

Nancy Ziegelmueller hosts a Wild Women of LVPC potluck beginning at 6:30 p.m. If your last name begins with A-L, choose a side dish, dessert or beverage. If your last name begins with M-Z, bring an entrée. Contact Nancy at (773) 769-4007 for more information.

Cafe Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. See March 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, MARCH 15

Session meets at 9:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday services at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God’s love with people experiencing need. One Great Hour of Sharing gifts will be received today during morning services.

The All-Church Lenten Study of the book *The Secret Message of Jesus* by Brian McLaren culminates with a potluck lunch and discussion by all the classes involved. It begins at 12:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary

MONDAY, MARCH 17

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 18

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

The Carleton College choir performs a free concert in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. See the article on Page 5 for details.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

Worship Committee meets at 6:00 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

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. Join us tonight at 7:00 for Maundy Thursday Service.

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

Joy Douglas Strome will preach on the fourth word (Matthew 27:46—“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”), of the seven last words of Christ as part of a Good Friday Tre Ore Service at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 1500 W. Belmont Ave. The service is from Noon to 3:00 p.m. You can come for some or all of it.

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

LVPC Book Study Group meets at 10:00 a.m. to discuss *Song of the Humpback Whale* by Jodi Picoult.



SUNDAY, MARCH 23

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 drop in for breakfast from 8:00 to

10:30 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.

MONDAY, MARCH 24

The church office will be closed today.

TUESDAY, MARCH 25

Seniors in Motion meets at 10:00 a.m. See February 5.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

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

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 28

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

The Katrina Work Group will be commissioned today during 11:00 a.m. worship for their upcoming trip to New Orleans. See the article on page 2 for details.

The LVPC Gardening Club gathers at 12:30 p.m. for an organizational meeting.☞

WHO YOU KNOW



FRED BRAUCHER

Next year, Fred Braucher will celebrate his 30th anniversary as a member of LVPC. Fred has served on Session and a variety of committees. He was even Editor of the *Chimes*. Currently, Fred is a choir member and part of the Niners Bible Study along with his wife, Daisy.

What do you see as the three most significant events at LVPC during your time here?

Calling Joy Douglas Strome as Pastor (I was on the committee that chose her.), the interior and exterior renovations, and the emergence of the variety of talent within the congregation.

If someone gave you a time machine, what's the first period you would visit?

When Robin Hood was in Sherwood Forest. By luck, I might meet up with Olivia de Havilland.

What books do you never get tired of rereading?

Leather Stocking Tales by James Fenimore Cooper, *Lord of the Rings* by Tolkien, and *Anna Karenina* and *War and Peace* by Tolstoy.

How did you and Daisy meet?

We were both working in the psychiatric department at Westside VA Hospital—she as a head nurse and I in the psychology clinic and psychiatric units.

Did you give up something for Lent?

Growing older—one doesn't have much they want to give up. ☮

BY ERIC DIEKHANS

CARLETON CHOIR TO FEATURE DIVERSE REPERTOIRE

BY ERIC DIEKHANS



CARLETON COLLEGE CHOIR

The Carleton College Choir will present a free concert in the LVPC Sanctuary on Tuesday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m. as part of their spring concert tour.



DR. LAWRENCE BURNETT

The choir is a select, mixed chorus of Carleton students. Each term, the ensemble presents a concert of short and extended works from the large bodies of classical, ethnic, and cultural repertoires, including works for mixed, women and men's voices.

The Choir and other choral and small vocal ensembles, under the direction of Dr. Lawrence Burnett, have been lauded for energetic and emotional performances, while sustaining high degrees of excellence in choral singing.

In 1997, they were featured at Carnegie Hall in a concert commemorating the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; in 1998, by invitation, they demonstrated the singing of African-American spirituals at the American Choral Directors Association North Central Convention; and, in 2003, selected by blind audition, they

performed at the Mid-Winter Conference of the Minnesota Music Educators Association. Recent concert tours have been to Chicago in 2002, Los Angeles in 2004, and New Orleans in 2007.

The March 18 concert will feature works from composers as diverse as PDQ Bach, French composer Gabriel Fauré, renowned American composer Samuel Barber, and Renaissance composer John Farmer.

Located in the historic river town of Northfield, Minnesota, Carleton College was founded in 1866 by the Minnesota Conference of Congregational Churches. Since the original graduating class in 1874, composed of one man and one woman who followed similar academic programs, Carleton has continued as a coeducational institution.

Carleton College is an independent and highly selective liberal arts college with a diverse and exceptionally able student body, a talented faculty whose first priority is teaching, and a continued commitment to the liberal arts. Carleton's current enrollment is 1,800. A four-year college, Carleton students can choose from 34 major fields of study, as well as numerous special programs, area studies or concentrations. ☮

LVPC



ARTS

John Vessels featured in:

Midlife—the Crisis Musical, March 7-9 and March 14-16,
The Little Theatre on the Square, Sullivan, IL,
www.thelittletheatre.org

Stephanie Browning performs:

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



Take the complexity out of basic tasks like opening cans by sticking with old-school, non-electric devices instead of unnecessary gadgets. You'll save energy and burn a few calories while you're at it.☎

CHIMES

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LVPC

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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.☎



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