

2009
NOVEMBER

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH

WHAT, STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY AGAIN?

BY ERIC DIEKHANS



Stewardship Sunday only comes once a year, but it's really a life-time commitment.

I recall one Sunday I was visiting a large, suburban Presbyterian Church when I began to notice something odd about the service. The Call to Worship, the Prayer of Confession, and the Minute for Mission were all about giving. When the pastor started preaching about being good stewards I realized what was up—I'd wandered into Stewardship Sunday. I looked around at the mostly well-to-do congregation and thought to myself, "Why don't they just fork over their disposable income and let me get back to worshipping God?"

It wasn't until several years later that I learned what stewardship really means. According to Dr. N. Scott Cupp, Associate for Congregation Development at the Synod of the Northeast, calling a church's annual bid for financial support a 'stewardship campaign' is a misnomer. "Stewardship is everything we do after we say, 'I believe'... Stewardship is what we do—with all of our life for the glory of God—and it involves ALL of our resources."

Money is important to a church, but it isn't the only, or even the most needed resource we can offer. John Detterick, Executive Director of the Presbyterian Church's General Assembly Council, remembers when he worked for a bank that had formed a partnership with an elementary school in a low-

income neighborhood. "We asked what the school most needed. Expecting a request for money or computers, I was shocked when the principal replied that what was most needed was for adults to read to the children."

"Stewardship is everything we do after we say, 'I believe'... Stewardship is what we do—with all of our life for the glory of God—and it involves ALL of our resources."

DR. N. SCOTT CUPP

So, if stewardship isn't just about the money, what are we supposed to be doing? The Presbyterian Church's stewardship campaign points us to four areas where we can commit our lives to being good stewards. First, we can make commitments to our personal life that help us to become faithful disciples, such as attending worship, participating in Wednesday night Bible study, or taking care of our body through Saturday morning yoga class.

Renewed
in the Spirit



Secondly, we can commit to our community life by teaching Sunday school, volunteering at Lake View Academy, at Lake View Shelter, or in other church and local programs.

Thirdly, we can make a commitment to our public life, reaching beyond our local community to help people all over the world, like Deanna Boyd is doing through her work in the Middle East with Christian Peacemaking Teams.

Finally, we can commit to our financial life through our generous contributions of money to enable the church's ministries of proclamation and justice-seeking, of service and compassion, locally, nationally, and internationally.

When I'm sitting in church on Stewardship Sunday, November 17, that could give me something to think about.☮

FIRST STEP

BY ERIC DIEKHANS

Whether you're baptized as a child or an adult, the sacrament is just the beginning of a long journey.



RAY SENDEJAS AND ERIKA POETHIG CALL SAM'S BAPTISM AN "INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE."

According to the Presbyterian Book of Order, "Sacraments are signs of the real presence and power of Christ in the Church, symbols of God's action." While some denominations recognize as many as seven sacraments, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has only two—Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Rev. Joy Douglas Strome says that "baptism represents the assurance of salvation." Or as the Book of Order states, "Baptism is the sign and seal of God's grace and covenant in Christ."



Christians argue back and forth about whether children should be baptized before they're old enough to understand what salvation means, but in the Reformed tradition, understanding isn't necessary. As Joy puts it, "Salvation is given, it's not asked for."

"God chooses us," Joy continues, "we don't choose God. Baptism symbolizes that God loves us at the start."

That message is important to LVPC members Erika Poethig and Ray Sendejas, whose son, Sam, was recently baptized. When Sam is old enough to ask about his baptism, Erika says that she'll tell him the service was "centered on his faith journey."

Of course, not everyone is baptized as an infant. Joshua Gannon grew up in agnostic household. He was baptized last May when he joined LVPC. Joshua calls it the "most spiritually significant moment of my life."

Joshua says that before he was baptized, "I felt separate, but now I feel welcomed into a community of faith. I finally found where I belong."

The Congregation's Job

During a Presbyterian baptism, an Elder asks the congregation an important question: "Do we, the people of the church,

promise to tell this child the good news of the gospel, to help every child know all that Christ commands, and, by our fellowship, to strengthen family ties with the household of God?"

The congregation are more than just witnesses. They have an important job ahead of them. Erika points out that "in the Catholic Church a child has god parents, but here the whole congregation are god parents."

With the help and guidance of the congregation, child and adult baptism is just the beginning of a long journey. Joy calls the process "growing into baptism." Baptism is received only once, but as Joy explains, "It takes a lifetime to understand what it's all about."☞

A DROP OF WATER

JOY DOUGLAS STROME



*A drop of water trickles down
cutting a crevice
creating a channel
marking a path*

*Follow the way
remember the gift
believe the miracle
love at the start*

*A drop of water trickles down
restore the numbness
keep the chaos at bay
quench the parched places*

*Rehearse the story
learn as you go
ponder the point
grow into the gift*

*A drop of water trickles down
claimed
treasured
loved.....baptism☞*

TAIZÉ: KEEPING IT SIMPLE

BY ERIC DIEKHANS

Candle light...repetitive music...long silences. This is not your father's worship service.

Taizé is a worldwide movement that's attracted young adults in search of a deeper way to connect with their faith. LVPC holds its own Taizé service the first Friday of every month.

Taizé is actually a small French village where Roger Schultz, a young Roman Catholic seminary student, founded a prayer community offering hospitality, refuge and reconciliation in the midst of World War II. Following the war, young men from all over Europe began arriving to join the group. On Easter Day 1949, the first brothers committed themselves to celibacy, to material and spiritual sharing, and to a great simplicity of life. Today, the Taizé Community is made up of over a hundred Roman Catholic and Protestant brothers from more than twenty-five nations.

“When we try to express communion with God in words, we rapidly reach the end of our capacities.”

BROTHER ROGER

In the 1960s, young adults began to arrive in Taizé to join the brothers in meditation, singing, and prayer. Word spread, and now tens of thousands of young people come to Taizé every year. As the young adults returned home, excited and spiritually renewed, the Taizé style of worship spread. Churches all over the world now offer Taizé services.

If you're accustomed to a typical Protestant worship service, a Taizé service may seem strange at first. There are no scripture readings or sermon. The songs are simple and repetitive, like a meditative chant. The idea is that once you know the song by heart, you can let go of your mind and allow it to sink into your soul. Brother Roger describes the experience:

“Singing is one of the most important forms of prayer. A few words sung over and over again reinforce the meditative quality of the prayer. They express a basic reality of faith that can quickly be grasped by the intellect, and that gradually penetrates the heart and the whole being.”



For people used to almost every moment of a worship service being filled with talk or singing, the long silences in Taizé can feel uncomfortable. Here's how Brother Roger explains the importance of silence:

“When we try to express communion with God in words, we rapidly reach the end of our capacities. But in the depths of our being Christ is praying, far more than we imagine. Compared to the immensity of that hidden prayer of Christ in us, our explicit praying dwindles to almost nothing.”

The only way to truly understand the power of a Taizé service is to experience it for yourself. Come to LVPC's monthly Taizé or, if you're more adventurous, pack your bags for France. Just remember, keep it simple.☪

FARM HAND

BY ERIC DIEKHANS

LVPC seminary intern Allen Brimer brings his love of the land to an urban ministry.

Growing up in Eastern Tennessee, Allen fell in love with farming while helping his

grandparents till and plant their large garden. But faith was also an important part of his childhood. “I've been a Presbyterian all my life,” he relates. “I was very active in church as a youth.”

Allen combined his two interests at the University of Tennessee by majoring in religion and sociology with a focus on environmental ethics. During summers, he worked on farms and as a mission volunteer at Ghost Ranch, the Presbyterian Church's New Mexico education and mission center. After graduation, Allen spent a year at Presbyterian Headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky as a national volunteer coordinator. “I worked with young adults all over the country,” he recalls.

But it was while working on an organic farm in Indiana owned by Franciscan nuns that Allen's desire to combine faith and farming started to gel. After visiting a friend at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, he felt the calling to enter ministry. He applied to McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago partly because of its courses on ecological ethics. He also began dating fellow farm worker Kerry Brock, whom he had first met in college. They were married in August 2000.

He and Kerry packed their bags and moved to what Allen jokingly refers to as “the concrete jungle.” Now in his third year of seminary, Allen enjoys McCormick, but he's not sure if he wants to be ordained. “I want to farm again. I want to involve seniors, at risk youth, and others in organic, sustainable farming.”



While he doesn't feel called to parish ministry, Allen says he's “happy to be at LVPC.” He plans to work with the seniors at the Senior Site, teach Sunday school, and preach occasionally. When not in class or at church, he'll also be busy helping to take care of son, Benjamin, who recently turned one.☪

CALENDAR

Place Your
Favorite
Refrigerator
Magnet Here

NOVEMBER

EVERY SUNDAY

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

Sunday school for children and youth at 10:00 a.m. Class for ages 3–4 meets in the Mulford Room. Classes for grades K–5 and 6–12 meet in the Academy.

Choir practice at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday service in the Sanctuary at 11:00 a.m. Coffee hour and time for fellowship immediately follow the service.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Join us tonight at 7:30 for Taize service.

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, NOVEMBER 2

Hatha yoga class for all levels meets from 10:00 to 11:15 a.m. Contact Cora Vander Broek at (773) 592-2375 for more details.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Food For Thought continues with study of Marcus Borg's book, *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time*, led by Joy Douglas Strome. Class begins at 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

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

Deacons meet at 7:00 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

Young Adult Bible Study meets from 9:30 to 10:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Café Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight in the Fellowship Hall.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Yoga class meets from 10:00 to 11:15 a.m.

The Young Adults Group will volunteer at Lakeview Shelter. The group meets at the church at 5:30 p.m. and walks to the shelter together.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

A Congregational Meeting and potluck lunch to elect church officers, present the 2003 budget, and discuss More Light follows the worship service today.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11

The Finance and Stewardship Committee meets at 6:00 p.m.

The Brighter Spirit Committee meets at 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Food For Thought continues at 7:00 p.m. See November 5 for details.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

Young Adult Bible Study meets from 9:30 to 10:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

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

Young Adult Group social event. Contact Cora Vander Broek at (773) 592-2375 for more information.

Café Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight in the Fellowship Hall.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Volunteer for fall yard day, starting at 9:00 a.m. Call George Reyes at (773) 793-5188.

Yoga class meets from 10:00 to 11:15 a.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

It's Stewardship Sunday! See the article on page 1.

LVPC's bowlers roll at 1:00 p.m. at Marigold Bowl. Contact George Reyes at (773) 793-5188.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

The Social Justice Committee meets at 7:00 p.m. Contact Erika Poethig at (773) 288-0467 for more information.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Food For Thought continues at 7:00 p.m. See November 5 for details.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Worship Committee meets at 6:00 p.m.

Choir practice this evening at 7:15.

Young Adult Bible Study meets from 9:30 to 10:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

The Lake View Academy Board meets at 7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Café Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight in the Fellowship Hall.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Yoga class meets from 10:00 to 11:15 a.m.

Movie night begins at 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Deanna Boyd reports on her trip to the Middle East with Christian Peacemaking Teams during a potluck lunch following worship service.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Session meets at 7:00 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

Young Adult Bible Study meets from 9:30 to 10:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Café Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight in the Fellowship Hall.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Yoga class meets from 10:00 to 11:15 a.m. ♪

WHO YOU KNOW

BY TRACY NOVAK



CORA VANDER BROEK

Cora Vander Broek has been a member of LVPC for almost two years. She serves on the Brighter Spirit Committee and is part of the leadership group for the Young Adults ministry. She lives in Ravenswood.

Where were you born?

In a small town in northwest Iowa called Orange City.

Describe your church experiences prior to Lake View Presbyterian Church.

I was a missionary kid and attended many different types of churches and experienced different types of worship. Consequently, I never felt tied to any one tradition or denomination, but church was always present in my life and always a priority. Lake View is the first church that became my own, not one I inherited from my parents.

What do you do for a living?

Hmmmm...well, I'm an actor/yoga instructor/editorial assistant. All three kind of just happened. Acting has been a life long passion. Yoga just happened in the last year and my editorial position pays the bills.

Describe the most interesting thing in your home.

An old picture of my great aunt Cora (my namesake) when she was four years old.

What books do you recommend?

Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver
Jayber Crowe by Wendell Berry

Traveling Mercies by Anne Lamott
Asher Lev by Chaim Potok

How will you be celebrating Halloween?

I'll probably think about how fun it would be to dress up in some sexy belly dancer outfit and go to a costume party but then end up sitting at home eating a pint of Ben & Jerry's.

Describe your first job.

I worked as a waitress in a bowling alley. I was terrible with change. I'd over-charge or under-charge someone at least once a day. I also remember a customer returning her rice-krispy bar cause it was rock hard. Old farmers would hang out, gossip, smoke, and drink tons of coffee.

Which phrase do you most overuse?

"How interesting!"

Whose pictures do you carry in your wallet?

A picture of my grandpa and grandma when they were young. They are looking out through the holes of one of those cardboard paintings they have at amusement parks. My grandma's cardboard body is curvy and wearing a flowing evening dress and my grandpa is in a tux and sweeping her away.

Which living person do you most admire?

My mother. I can't begin to explain why. She's just extraordinary.☺

YOU SAY IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY

Birthday Wishes To:

11/2—Rod Higbee
11/4—Kathy Siegnethaler
11/8—Leigh Cunningham
11/8—Bettie Coffey
11/9—Barb Burlingame
11/16—Norm Watkins
11/18—Cathy Elliott
11/18—Mark Heystek
11/20—Cora Vander Broek
11/22—Maggie Darrah☺



FALL CLEANUP



Is leaf raking a chore, sport, or meditation? Find out at the Buildings &

Grounds Committee's fall yard

day, Saturday, November 16

from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

You'll enjoy the crisp fall

air while you make the church look

spiffy for winter. Call George Reyes at

(773) 793-5188 to volunteer.☺



ROLLIN' ON



Bowling has a long history at LVPC—the church even had its own bowling alley where Sue and Dale now have their offices. LVPC's bowlers carry on the

tradition every month at Marigold Bowl, 828 West Grace Street. To keep it light and allow more people to participate, this year's bowling is non-league. That means you can roll one, two, or three games, or skip a date—whatever you feel like. All you have to do is contact George Reyes at (773) 793-5188 or greyesmzrt@attbi.com by the Thursday prior to bowling day so that he can reserve enough lanes. This month they'll be rolling on November 17 at 1:00 p.m. Be there or be square!☺

CHIMES FLASHBACK NOVEMBER 1982

THIS IS A REPRINT OF AN ARTICLE THAT RAN IN THE CHIMES 20 YEARS AGO.

The "Aftermath" of an Installation Day

The Lake View Church family will remember the day of the installation of the new pastor (Sept. 19) for any number of reasons. Surely the large number of guests—both as worship leaders and in the pews—was one memorable aspect. About 165 persons worshiped here that morning, one of the biggest crowds in some time. Among the dignitaries were clergy, personal friends and relatives of the Scotts, the moderator of Chicago Presbytery, and most important, new and old friends of Lake View Church itself. Anita Smith directed a large enthusiastic choir, and Les Stahl planned special music for the organ and a woodwind ensemble which he recruited. Doing an especially fine job as "hosts" were Vaughn Lowther and Bettie Coffey as worship leaders, and Hazel Oberg and the Deacons with a lovely reception afterward. About 35 people from the service joined the Scotts for lunch at the manse, about 60 Lake View Church folks toured the manse at an open house later in the afternoon.



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Submission deadline is the 15th of each month. Send articles, rants, and raves to Eric Diekhans at p_tiger98@hotmail.com. Send calendar listings to Tracy Novak at Novakt@towers.com. Or leave material in the *Chimes* mailbox outside the church office. Paper donated by Gannon Graphics.☯

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