

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY IS HOT!

BY ASHLEY HEHER



There's new community growing inside LVPC's Fellowship Hall.

Each Tuesday, accompanied by the smell of potluck dinners, 30 people gather for food, fellowship, and a chance to learn and build their faith. The weekly get-together, which begins with dinner at 6:30 p.m. and is followed by Bible study, is the brainchild of Pastor Joy, who was looking to expand the Christian nurture programs available to the community.

"The discipline of regular study is important to our church life in so many ways," Joy says, adding that it helps people examine their faith, shatter stereotypes about the Bible,

and enhance their worship experience. "In my opinion, it is one of the most important things we do as a community because it is the stepping stone to everything else."

The Tuesday night gathering comes seven years after the church began a regular young adult study geared for people in their 20s and 30s. This fall, Joy and Associate Pastor Larissa Kwong Abazia opted to add another study and regular fellowship component, hoping to bring LVPC community members of all backgrounds together on a regular basis.

The YABS study continues to be geared toward young adults. Meanwhile, the Crossroads Study is a mixed demographic group comprised of everyone from young adults to senior citizens.

Anne Blanton decided to attend Crossroads to delve deeper into the Bible, a book she admits she sometimes understood "through hearsay." At the study, she's reexamining the Bible's core stories, learning their context and considering how they relate to her life. Afterward, she's even scouring the Internet for more information. "I'm stimulated by the study and the class discussion," Anne says.

Renee Grogg is a regular at the YABS study. "I enjoy opening up the Bible and opening up my mind," Renee says. "I think and I share and I am challenged by what the other people are thinking and sharing. And for a few hours on a Tuesday night I remember that there is more to life than what's on my calendar."

Barb Burlingame was one of the original members of the YABS study, but now attends the Crossroads meeting each week. She credits the study with helping find new meaning about herself – and the text – while becoming closer to the LVPC community.

"Sharing opinions about faith and God with my fellow LVPCers can be a vulnerable thing, but it's how we get to know and trust and love one another as brothers and sisters in Christ," she shares.

And YABS member Todd Vanadilok says he'd encourage new faces to check out either study.

Joy says she's thrilled with the turnout and the chance to "reach out to more people and include them in the study of the greatest Book of all times." ☩



TAKING STOCK

LARRISA KWONG ABAZIA

It is hard to believe that my journey at Lake View Presbyterian Church will have been sixteen months by the time this edition of the Chimes is printed. Having been here only a little over a year, I just couldn't stop myself from taking a step back and looking at the journey thus far.

I have met people who walk into the Sanctuary on Sunday morning and leave feeling blessed and enlightened by the worship they experience here. People of all ages talk about ways that they would like to see our education, outreach and ministries grow. I have read numerous books, shared meals, sang, become "crafty" (in a good way) and celebrated with our Golden Diners. I had the opportunity to work with our Academy students on their graduation speeches. I watched Café Pride grow in strength as volunteers and staff attended to the needs of the program. Our Sunday school and adult education program has grown to include Sunday mornings and *two* weekday evenings. The ecumenical Vacation Bible School in August was, literally, a singing success. This is just a sampling; to list everything would take far more words than this whole newsletter can contain!

November is Stewardship season, a time when we take stock of where we have been in the past year and dream for the future. I hope that you will take time to think about where your journey has taken you this past year. Ask yourself how LVPC has impacted your own life...but don't stop there. Think about how we have been a part of the lives of countless others that have walked through our doors every day of the week, from the familiar faces to visitors just passing through.

One thing has remained steadfast throughout my journey at LVPC: we are a congregation whose passions run deep, whose ministries are broad, whose hearts are open, and where trust in the Holy Spirit reigns. May we take stock of the past, be a part of the present, and contribute to our future!☞

NEW FACES

BY ERIC DIEKHANS

LVPC added seven more new members in October.

Let's meet them.



L TO R: CHRISTINE LANCASTER, TOM MCKONE, KEVIN MORRIS, JAMES MILLER, ROCKY VANCE, MATTHEW BRUMLOW, LAUREN JOHANSEN

NEW FACES (CONTINUED)

Rocky Vance comes to LVPC from St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church in New Orleans. A Memphis native, he has spent his adult life in The Big Easy and studied landscape architecture at Louisiana State University. Rocky discovered LVPC through his partner, Patrick Sinozich, Artistic Director for the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus, which rehearses at the church. Rocky works as a horticulturalist and enjoys "music and singing" in his spare time.

Christine Lancaster grew up in a variety of Protestant backgrounds. "Mainly Reformed Church of America and United Church of Christ." She and her husband, **Tom McKone**, both earned graduate and undergraduate degrees from Northwestern University. Christine works as a special education teacher in Hyde Park, while Tom is a consultant with the Civic Consulting Alliance, which helps Chicago's public and private sectors work together to solve our city's biggest issues. The couple are expecting their first child in January.

A born and bred southerner, **Matthew Brumlow** was raised in the Conyers, Georgia Church of God, where his uncle was pastor. "I have several ministers in my extended family," says Matthew, "so family reunions were always lively theological debates." A professional actor for over ten years, Matthew is an ensemble member of American Blues Theater. Last year he and LVPC member Cora VanderBroek were married at LVPC.

Lauren Johansen grew up in First Presbyterian Church in Libertyville. When she moved to Lake View she attended LVPC and "felt very welcome." She even says, "I love the chatter before the service starts." A high school Spanish teacher, Lauren says, "I love languages and culture." She's currently learning Portuguese, and taking salsa and tango lessons.

We weren't able to contact **Kevin Morris** and **James Miller**, so you'll just have to find out about them face-to-face.☞

CALENDAR



NOVEMBER

EVERY SUNDAY

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. This year's group is guided by the web site "The Thoughtful Christian" (www.thethoughtfulchristian.com). It will focus on current events and the faith response.

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



ADVANCE WARNINGS: SIGN UP NOW!

Women's Brunch — See November 14
Congregational Meeting —
See November 15

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Lisa Larges, Director of That All My Freely Serve, an organization working for the ordination of qualified gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender candidates in the Presbyterian Church (USA), preaches today at morning worship.

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

The Katrina Work Group leaves for New Orleans today for a week long mission trip. Keep them in your prayers!

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

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.

Young Adult Bible Study meets at 6:30 p.m.

Crossroads Intergenerational Bible Study meets at 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Senior Book Group meets at 12:15 p.m.

Worship Committee meets at 6:00 p.m.

Choir rehearsal at 7:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Senior Movie Matinee at 12:30 p.m.

Deacons meet at 6:00 p.m.

Part 2 of the class, Who Will Decide For You? takes place at 7:00 p.m. Research shows that when the time comes to make important end-of-life decisions, approximately 50% of people are incapable of participating in those decisions. Who Will Decide for You? is devoted to the process of reflecting on end-of-life care. It will provide information about our current health system norms and requirements, and will build in time to complete Advance Directives documents.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

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 7:00 for Taize.

Cafe Pride provides a safe social space from 8:00 p.m. to midnight for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and questioning youth and their allies, ages 16-24.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

The Katrina Work Group returns home today.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Sue Cox will give blood pressure screenings between worship services.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9

The Eco-Justice Task Force meets at 6:00 p.m.

Finance Committee meets at 6:00 p.m.

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

CALENDAR

The Flip Side

NOVEMBER



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Seniors in Motion fitness class meets at 10:00 a.m. See November 3.

Young Adult Bible Study meets at 6:30 p.m.

Crossroads Intergenerational Bible Study meets at 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Senior Book Group meets at 12:15 p.m.

Lake View Academy Board meets at 6:00 p.m.

Choir rehearsal at 7:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Senior Movie Matinee 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. Volunteers are welcome. Contact Sue Cox at (773) 281- 2655 for more information.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Christian Nurture Committee meets at 9:00 a.m.

Cafe Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. See November 6.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Join LVPC's men for good food and scintillating conversation at the Men's Breakfast, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

LVPC's women meet at 10:30 a.m. for brunch at the church. Hopefully, they won't have to clean up after the men first! Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

After both services today Parish Nurse Sue Cox will provide us with Ten Healthy Minutes. She'll enlighten us about a health topic in just 10 minutes.

A Congregational Meeting takes place after the 11:00 a.m. service. We'll review the budget and nominate church officers. It's a potluck, so bring a dish to share. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Seniors in Motion fitness class meets at 10:00 a.m. See November 3.

Young Adult Bible Study meets at 6:30 p.m.

Crossroads Intergenerational Bible Study meets at 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Senior Book Group meets at 12:15 p.m.

The Lake View Parents Group meets at 6:00 p.m. for discussion and fun.

While the parents are meeting, kids are invited to The Gathering Place. They'll sing songs, play games, and learn more about the Bible. It begins at 6:00 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Senior Movie Matinee at 12:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Cafe Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. See November 6.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Session meets at 9:00 a.m.

Take care of your holiday shopping at the Advent Fair Trade Bazaar, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Fair Trade means the people making the product receive their fair share of the purchase price. It connects consumers with the producers in positive ways. The bazaar will feature Christmas

tree ornaments, Guatemalan tapestries, purses, handbags, baby accessories, home decorations, African batik wall hangings, Bolivian change purses, pillowcases, tapestries, olive woodcarvings from Bethlehem, and a variety of Mexican fair trade coffee.

A Lake View Academy Board retreat takes place from Noon to 4:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Today is Pledge Sunday, when we receive financial pledges for 2010.

The young adults head out to lunch at 12:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Seniors in Motion fitness class meets at 10:00 a.m. See November 3.

Young Adult Bible Study meets at 6:30 p.m.

Crossroads Intergenerational Bible Study meets at 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Senior Book Group meets at 12:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Happy Thanksgiving!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

The LVPC Book Discussion Group meets at 10:00 a.m. to talk about *All Over But the Shoutin'* by Rick Bragg.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Today is the first Sunday of Advent.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Senior Site holiday meal takes place December 22. Ask Sue Cox how you can donate items or volunteer to help.☺



Kirk Johnston is LVPC's new Field Placement Student from McCormick Seminary. A Virginia native and pastor's son, Kirk grew up in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and spent two separate years in the Presbyterian Church's Young Adult Volunteer Program with youth in Belfast, Northern Ireland. He has also been part of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship in Tucson, Arizona.

WHO YOU KNOW



KIRK JOHNSTON

BY ERIC DIEKHANS

What made you want to do your field placement at LVPC?

Last year I spent a lot of time visiting churches in the Chicago area to observe the many different worship communities represented in this city. LVPC was one of the first churches that I felt at home in. I was excited to see the involvement of the congregation in social justice paired with a vibrant worship life and Christian education program.

What will you be doing at LVPC?

By the time you read this I will have led the Men's Retreat. I'm also participating in the Tuesday night Bible studies. In the New Year I will be spending some time with the Golden Diners, offering an adult Christian education class, and preaching quite a few times!

Where do you see yourself in five years?

Ask me in May and I might have a better idea. I am hoping that this year with you all at LVPC will help me better understand God's call on my life. I would love to be somewhere with a relatively long fall season in view of a mountain range in the peak of fall colors.

What do you do for fun?

I love to take my camera around the city and out into nature to take photographs of where I see beauty in this world. I also love pick up games of football and basketball. When I can't get out into nature or go on a hike through the mountains I like to snuggle up next to a cup of hot chocolate and watch a good movie.

What Old Testament prophet would you want as an apartment mate?

I think Amos because he reminds me of a lot of the friends I have made through the Young Adult Volunteer Program. Though I would be intrigued by the random fun I could have with Ezekiel. That guy was always doing crazy things.

If you walked into a new church, the first thing you'd want to see is...

A smile.☺

WHERE FAITH AND GARDENING MEET

BY ERIC DIEKHANS

It all started when Rev. Magdalena García was gazing out the back window of her church, Ravenswood Presbyterian. She was looking for a way to use the church's large backyard and partner with other churches. She decided to call LVPC member Grace Gyori, and soon the Organic Faith Community Garden was born.

"More than 20 LVPC members were interested in creating the garden," says Grace, "so we borrowed a couple of rototillers and got to work."

Members of both congregations joined together to plant tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, corn, squash, and other vegetables. Most of the people involved had grown up in the city and had never planted a large garden before, but under the tutelage of master gardener Grace, the plots took shape. "People worked whenever they had time," shares Grace. "[LVPC member] Dahlia Odishoo lived near the garden, so she stopped every day on her way home from work to water." A Ravenswood member helped the children create their own garden plot and take care of it. The group received a composter at a reduced cost from the city so they could make their own organic fertilizer.

This fall, as the gardeners gathered their bounty and planted cover crops to produce green manure, Grace led a class on canning vegetables, which she taught in Spanish.

Rev. David Bebb Jones, LVPC's visiting pastor while Joy was on sabbatical, also connected the gardeners to Rev. Linda Wygant, a Presbyterian minister who heads a program called Share the Harvest, that helps churches grow food to share with people in need. While Organic Faith Garden didn't participate in that program this year, some of LVPC's gardeners are joining a delegation Linda is leading to Cuba to learn more about creating organic gardens in urban environments.



Grace says the garden was "a great experience," and she's looking forward to expanding the enterprise next year. If you'd like to turn your thumb green, contact Grace to find out how you can get involved.☺

LVPC



ARTS

You'll catch a glimpse of LVPC member Jeff Glenn as well as our church building in the film *Fish Out of Water*, premiering November 8 at 5:00 p.m. at the Music Box Theater. It explores the marriage debate, issues of procreation, public and pastoral fear, the overused Sodom and Gomorrah example, and scripture context. www.reelingfilmfestival.org/fish.php

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

CHIMES

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