

2007
APRIL

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH

OUR EVER-WIDENING CIRCLE

BY ERIC DIEKHANS

Thirteen more members joined the congregation on February 11. Let's take a moment to meet them.



FIRST ROW L TO R: MARY SHEMON, DALHIA ODISHOO, SALLY STAMPER KRISTIN MUELLNER, BETTY JEAN BROWN
BACK ROW: MIKE RANDALL, KENNETH BARLOW, RICH PAK, ANGELA KOON, BILL GUBRUD, JON LARSON, JEFF GLENN, CHRIS SMITH

Growing up in Rushville, Illinois, **Chris Smith** never attended church. While looking for a church in Chicago, Chris says, "I went to one service and was amazed." A special education teacher, Chris is engaged to fellow teacher **Kristen Muellner**, a Park Ridge native with a passion for talking. "I love getting to know people," she reports.

Angela Koon and her partner, **Mary Shemon**, come from very different backgrounds. Angela grew up in a small South Carolina town where "Everybody knows everybody," while Mary hails from Chicago. About her first visit to LVPC Mary says, "I have never felt so welcomed in my life."

Ken Barlow has a long history with LVPC. His late mother, Helen Barlow, was a member for many years. A retired electronics technician, he's

married with two children, Brian, 20, and Sheena, 19. His passion is promoting non-violence in Cabrini Green, where he grew up.

Betty Jean Brown attended a variety of churches in Chicago, but got hooked on LVPC after attending two classes. A native of Sioux City, Iowa, Betty Jean is a retired legal secretary who now devotes her time to volunteering for political causes, a local soup kitchen, and the CAPS program.

"The short two block stretch of Broadway between our apartment and the church" led **Jon Larson** and his partner, **Bill Gubrud**, to LVPC. Jon and Bill both grew up Lutheran on the Northwest side of Chicago. Jon is pursuing a Masters in International Studies at DePaul while Bill runs his own web newspaper, mtmchicago.com.

Born and raised in a Korean Presbyterian family, **Rich Pak** is now a student at McCormick Seminary. Rich enjoys rock climbing, biking, hiking, camping, volleyball, and working in community gardens. "I've done almost none of the above since moving to Chicago," he adds, "so if anyone is interested, let me know."

Dahlia Odishoo grew up in an Assyrian Orthodox community, which she describes as "loving and family oriented." But, she says, "I needed a church that accepted me as an individual, and as a lesbian." Dahlia enjoys "writing poetry and being balanced both spiritually and mentally by keeping my faith rooted in my heart."

Jeff Glenn attended LVPC, where his mother, Lilia Glenn was a Sunday school teacher and the church secretary, until he was 15. After studying yoga, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Zen, he returned to LVPC about five years ago. Jeff says, "I am deeply grateful for the outpouring of support I received after [my partner] Dennis [Dilno] passed away suddenly."

Michael Randall grew up in the Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan and attended Michigan and North Carolina. A healthcare consultant whose hobbies include running and golf, Michael is looking forward to marrying his fiancée, Bina, in August.

You can't get much more Presbyterian than **Sally Stamper**. Her father, brother, and sister are all Presbyterian ministers, she graduated from Agnes, a small Presbyterian college, and she's now a Presbyterian ministerial candidate, Sally visited "many, many churches" before choosing LVPC. When she's not studying reformed theology, Sally enjoys reading and "trash TV." ☺

TERROR AND AMAZEMENT



JOY DOUGLAS
STROME

Mark's gospel ends as abruptly as it begins. *The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.* (1:1) That's the beginning. *So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.* (16:8) That's the end. The good news of Jesus Christ, as it turns out, is not good news for everyone. Terror and amazement. Fear. Silence.

Streamlined and mysterious, the gospel ends with a paradox. How is it we know anything of Jesus' resurrection if the women who first heard the news were paralyzed with terror and amazement? And why were they afraid? Questions like these rest uneasily in my mind as we gear up for the celebration of Easter Sunday. Our Easter morning observance does not typically communicate fear, or terror, or any ambivalence at all. It is a straightforward, pull out all the stops, celebratory event that shouts "Christ is Risen" for all the world to hear. Visitors pile in from all corners of the hood and we want them to join us — happy and faithfully singing Alleluia.

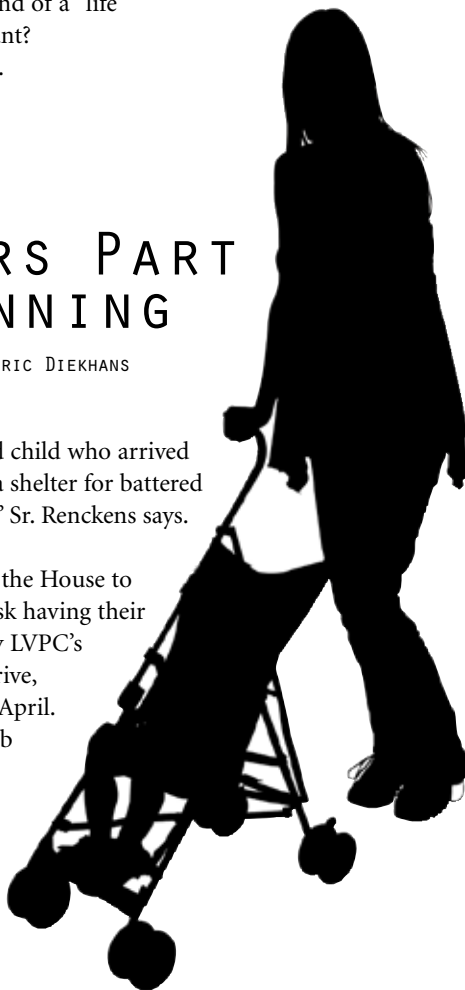
As the culmination of all our Lenten reflection collides with the power of the resurrected Christ we are bound to experience, along with the disciples, some terror and amazement. Terror that we came so close to losing Jesus, amazement that we didn't. Whether Easter is the culmination of 40 days of discernment or a once a year nod at the tradition, the disciples' reaction is instructive. With the news of Jesus' resurrection, new life is possible for each one of us. The ball, as they say, is in our court. What will we do with that gospel good news? What kind of world do we want? What kind of a "life" do we want? What kind of faith do we want? The opportunity to begin fresh is upon us. *Start now!*⁹

STROLLERS PART OF NEW BEGINNING

BY ERIC DIEKHANS

Sr. Dorothy Renckens recalls a mother and child who arrived recently at House of the Good Shepherd, a shelter for battered women. "All they had were two little bags," Sr. Renckens says.

That's typical of the women who come to the House to escape abusive relationships. They can't risk having their partner discover them packing. That's why LVPC's Deacons have launched another stroller drive, to kick off Palm Sunday and run through April. They'll be collecting umbrella strollers, crib bumpers and sheets, and gift cards for Jewel and CVS Pharmacy to help give these families a fresh start. Sr. Renckens, who runs



House of the Good Shepherd, says they are "very, very grateful" for the generosity of LVPC members in last year's stroller drive. The House is funded entirely through grants and donations, notes Sr. Renckens. "We get no government funding.

"House of the Good Shepherd, located in the Lake View neighborhood, has space for fourteen families, who usually range in size from one to six or more children. Each family has an individual apartment with a kitchen. LVPC Deacon Louise Klis, who toured the facility with Pastor Joy and is leading this year's drive, says the apartments are "very nice."

"It helps them lose their sense of worthlessness and builds self-confidence skills."

Louise Klis

Unlike an emergency shelter, House of the Good Shepherd offers an intensive residential program for women who are committed to building a new, violence-free life for themselves and their children. Each woman sets individual goals for her life. These all lead her towards the most important goal: not to return to the abusive situation.

The program generally is three and one-half months long. Through job training, childcare, and other classes, the women learn to take responsibility for themselves as the new head of their household. "The program empowers them," says Louise. "It helps them lose their sense of worthlessness and builds self-confidence skills."

Louise describes domestic abuse as "generational." Children grow up in an abusive family. When they grow up, they often get involved in abusive relationships because it's all they've known. "The program at Good Shepherd breaks that cycle," says Louise.

To contribute to this year's drive, look for the rocking chair in the back of the Sanctuary. You can also contact Louise at (773) 477-6866.⁹

Koren Racolta joined LVPC in February 2006. She grew up in Santa Claus, Indiana and was a member of Dale Presbyterian Church. Koren is a 7th grade language arts teacher in La Grange.

WHO YOU KNOW



KOREN RACOLTA

BY SARAH WARNER

Your name is beautiful and unique. What's its origin?

My full name is Elizabeth Koren Racolta. "Koren" is my middle name, but I have always gone by it. My parents used to watch a TV series called *Soap*. One of the characters was named Corrine. They liked the name. Also, my mother knew a woman named Koren, and that is how they decided to go with that spelling.

Tell us about your hometown.

Santa Claus is a small rural town about 45 minutes from Evansville. All the streets have Christmas names. I lived many happy years on Snowball Lane. My favorite street name is Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire Drive. Unfortunately, due to the popularity of the sign by the youth, it has recently been replaced with a shortened Chestnuts on Open Fire. At Christmas, there is a festival of lights and the entire town gets involved in decorating and creating live scenes for visitors.

Do you believe in Santa Claus?

Let's just say that in Santa Claus, IN there is a man that looks and dresses like Santa, and his legal name is Kris Kringle. He is an employee of the local theme park named Holiday World, formerly named Santa Claus Land.

What brought you to LVPC?

I was led to join Lake View Church because I was looking for a new church home. When I first started attending services, the church reminded me in many ways of the close-knit church family that I knew in Indiana. I felt very comfortable, and looked forward to coming back each Sunday. I embrace the church's open minded philosophy.

What's the strangest/funniest question a student has asked you?

One of my favorite questions came from a 7th grader who was new to the middle school. It was open house night, and a student named Jeremy looked particularly uncomfortable as he walked into my classroom and took a seat. He was looking all around the room and seemed very scared. He asked, "Where is my cubby?" I responded by telling him he had a large cubby out in the hallway and that in middle school it was called a "locker." We often forget what a transition middle school can be for young students coming from an elementary school and this is one of the reasons I love my job; I enjoy making that transition a comfortable one for kids. ☺

FAIR TRADE TAKES OFF

BY ERIC DIEKHANS

Is Fair Trade the new organic?

Not too many years ago, if you wanted to buy organic, you had to visit a tiny, out-of-the-way natural foods store or wait for the local farmers market. Today, of course, every Jewel and Dominick's has a wide selection of organic foods.

Fair Trade is now the next hot buzz word for conscious consumers, and LVPC is already on the cutting edge of the trend.

On Saturday, May 5, the week before Mother's Day, the church will host its fifth Fair Trade Bazaar from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



RENEE GROGG

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 spring bazaar will feature many of the vendors from the previous Christmas-time bazaars. There will be table cloths and women's clothing from Marketplace of India, kitchen products made right here in Chicago by Enterprising Kitchens, olive oil from Palestine, handmade crafts from Bolivia and Guatemala, as well as coffee, tea, and chocolate.

Renee Grogg, part of the Fair Trade Taskforce, points to the fact that "the winter bazaar was our most successful yet" as a reason to hold a second event. Also, says Renee, "People are buying more consumable products like olive oil and body oil. This is a chance to replenish them."

But the most important reason for the bazaar is the opportunity for LVPC to promote social justice. "Our committee emphasizes education," says Renee. "Some committee members have personally met the people who make the products. They've seen their lives bettered."

If you want to make buying Fair Trade a bigger part of your life, you don't have to wait for the next bazaar. Some retail shops, like Ten Thousand Villages in Evanston, sell Fair Trade goods. You can also shop at Fair Trade websites, like www.agreatergift.org. ☺

CALENDAR



APRIL

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.

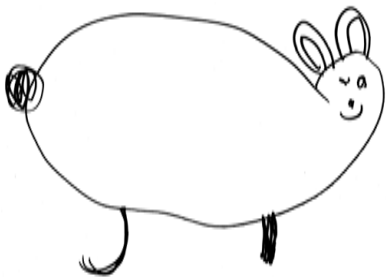
Sunday school for children at 10:00 a.m. Classes for ages 3-4, grades K-5, and 6-8 meet in the Academy.

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. Parking is not available during night and weekend Cubs games, including these Sundays: April 15 and 22.

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



ADVANCE WARNINGS: SIGN UP NOW!

Easter Breakfast—See April 8

Women's Book Study—See April 21

Women's Retreat—See April 27

SUNDAY, APRIL 1

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

One Great Hour of Sharing offerings will be received today.

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, APRIL 2

Running Club meets at 5:15 a.m. Email chicagorunning@gmail.com for details.

The Deacons meet at 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 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.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 5

Senior Movie at 12:30 p.m.

Running Club meets at 6:15 p.m.

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, APRIL 6

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

Joy Douglas Strome will preach on the second word ("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 Avenue. The service is from Noon to 3:00 p.m. You can come for some or all of it.

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 at 7:30 p.m. 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.

SUNDAY, APRIL 8

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.

There will be worship services at 8:00,

9:00, and 11:00 a.m. A drop-in potluck

breakfast runs from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. in

Fellowship Hall. Sign up in the back of

the Sanctuary to bring a dish to share. An

Easter Egg Hunt will be held in the church yard at 10:30 a.m. (weather permitting).

CALENDAR



APRIL

MONDAY, APRIL 9
Running Club meets at 5:15 a.m.

Finance Committee meets at 6:30 p.m.

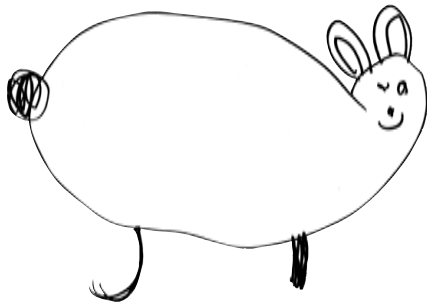
TUESDAY, APRIL 10
Seniors in Motion fitness class meets at 10:00 a.m. See April 3 for details.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11
Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 12
Senior Movie at 12:30 p.m.

Running Club meets at 6:15 p.m.



FRIDAY, APRIL 13
Playgroup meets at 9:30 a.m. See April 6.

Café Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight in the Fellowship Hall. See April 6.

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.

MONDAY, APRIL 16
Running Club meets at 5:15 a.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 17
Seniors in Motion fitness class meets at 10:00 a.m. See April 3.



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18
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, APRIL 19
Senior Movie at 12:30 p.m.

Running Club meets at 6:15 p.m.

An LBGT Potluck takes place at 7:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 20
Playgroup meets at 9:30 a.m. See April 6.

Café Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight in the Fellowship Hall. See April 6.

SATURDAY, APRIL 21
The Women's Book Study meets at 10:00 a.m. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.

MONDAY, APRIL 23
Running Club meets at 5:15 a.m.

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 24
Seniors in Motion fitness class meets at 10:00 a.m. See April 3.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25
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, APRIL 26
Senior Movie at 12:30 p.m.

Running Club meets at 6:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 27
Playgroup meets at 9:30 a.m. See April 6.

Café Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight in the Fellowship Hall. See April 6.

The theme of this year's Women's Retreat is Walk Slowly and Bow Often. Using the poetry of Mary Oliver, we will attempt to slow down, smell the roses, and find restoration in and through God's creation.

The retreat kicks off today. See Joy or Sue for more information. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28
The Women's Retreat continues. See April 27.

Get your gardening gloves on!
The LVPC Lawn and Garden Club meets from 9 a.m. to Noon. No gardening experience required. Contact Nancy

Zieglmueller at (773) 769-4007.

SUNDAY, APRIL 29
The Women's Retreat continues. See April 27.

MONDAY, APRIL 30
Running Club meets at 5:15 a.m. ♪

LVPC



ARTS

Stephanie Browning performs:

Fridays, Stetson's Chop House, Chicago (312) 565-1234

Saturdays, Peninsula Hotel, Chicago (312) 337-2888

Stephanie Browning and John Erickson perform:

Thursdays, Jilly's Too, Chicago, (312) 664-0009

Laurie Empen featured in:

"The Fourposter," April 12 –May 6, Citadel Theatre,

Lake Forest, www.citadeltheatre.org



CD of the Month:

And So On, by John Erickson

johnerrickson.net

CHIMES

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



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