

# CHIMES

A PUBLICATION OF LAKE VIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2006  
DECEMBER

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH



## ERIE HOUSE CHANGES LIVES

BY ERIC DIEKHANS



There are many connections between LVPC and Erie Neighborhood House. That's not surprising, because Erie House's services touch lives all over Chicago.



YOUTH IN ERIE HOUSE'S TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

LVPC member Renee Grogg points to the school where she teaches and a number of the families there who are helped by Erie House. LVPC member Daisy Braucher also has a close connection to the organization through the Chicago community and church where she grew up, and Greg Wendling, who attends LVPC with his wife Laura, worked for Erie House and helped connect the Social Justice Committee with the Christmas giving opportunities it offered.

For the past four years, LVPC has collected gifts ranging from toys to literacy textbooks to help children and adults in Erie House's many programs. Look for the Christmas tree in the back of the Sanctuary during Advent. You can choose a tag from the tree, buy the gift written on it, and return it to church.

You'll be part of a long tradition of giving low-income families and immigrant families a chance to reach their full potential. Established 135 years ago in the settlement house tradition, Erie House promotes a just and inclusive society by

strengthening low-income, primarily Latino, families through skill building, access to critical resources, advocacy, and collaborative action. Settlement houses were originally created not to just dispense charity, but to work towards the general welfare by involving indigenous neighborhood leaders or organizations.

Erie House has evolved into one of the first comprehensive social service agencies in Chicago and is now a recognized non-profit leader. Erie House's programs help 4,000 participants annually create better lives for themselves and their families while strengthening community action and civic engagement.

Erie House offers adult programs that serve 1,100 people annually. They provide educational services that build bridges to economic advancement and foster community leadership. Additionally, there's a Youth Options Unlimited (YOU) program that inspires and challenges youth, ages 12-18, to prepare for their future.

The organization also provides bilingual/bicultural childcare to over 500 children annually. It extends emergency services to fulfill families' basic needs, and it has a technology program that trains community residents of all ages. This year, Erie House also launched a Community Leadership and Advocacy Initiative to help develop leadership and support around critical community issues.

Beyond giving at LVPC, you can get involved in the many volunteer opportunities Erie House has to offer. Just fill out an application on line at [www.eriehouse.org](http://www.eriehouse.org).

# TAKE THE ADVENT CHALLENGE



JOY DOUGLAS  
STROME

## *Suspend disbelief and wallow in expectation*

Unfortunately, I didn't write down the source of these words so I pass them on to you without credit. They have become my personal motto for Advent this year as I work to prepare for the arrival of the Christ child. The question remaining is two fold. Can I do it—suspend disbelief? And what would it mean to wallow in expectation?

To fully appreciate the story of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth to a young mother and her faithful fiancé... we have to be content to let the story be. We can't over analyze or check and recheck the words. Instead, the ancient texts must drift through our consciousness inspiring us to dream about hope, peace, joy, and love. Have you seen the Gap ad... a rapper talks about love, peace, and The Gap? *Ooh*, that should shake us up. What kind of marketing arrogance would claim that love and peace can be found in a pair of blue jeans! Or in a t-shirt made in a sweatshop? This is why I'm worried I will fail at suspending disbelief. To suspend disbelief means I have to let go of my anger at crass imitations and revel in the words from our gospel that push us to ponder the calm of a star in the east... something you can't make or buy or copy. To suspend disbelief, means to let go of the realities of a world bent on imitation, long enough to re-capture the authentic love of a God who would so dramatically enter our human condition. To suspend disbelief means taking a brief respite from all that is not right, in order to re-fuel our hearts with what is very right. To suspend disbelief sounds like hard work.

To fully understand the power of the Advent season, I like this image of wallowing in expectation. To wallow—completely surround ourselves—in expectation? True, it's not the way we normally understand this word. I picture that feeling when you are floating in water and your nose and face are all that remain exposed to the air. Completely surrounded in expectation? It is hard to imagine surviving in that state for four long weeks. Our systems might shut down. With no exposure to cynicism or doubt, well who knows what kind of impact that might bring? And if it were happening to multiple people at the same time in the same community? Better buckle up for safety, here comes baby Jesus! Expect hope. Expect peace. Expect joy. Expect love. Expect to be amazed.

So I invite you to join me in taking the Advent challenge: *Suspend disbelief and wallow in expectation!*<sup>9</sup>

## NEW MEMBERS

BY ERIC DIEKHANS



FRONT L. TO R.: SHERI FROST, KATE SAMMON, KIM ALEXANDER  
BACK: TOBY EVELAND, RACHEL ALBERS, CORY CRUSER  
NOT PICTURED: ANNE BLANTON

Seven new members joined LVPC on October 15. Let's take a moment to meet them.

**Anne Blanton** has a deep, dark secret: she's a St. Louis Cardinals fan! Anne grew up in a small town 70 miles south of St. Louis. She spent the last 15 years as Executive Vice President of the Chicago Community Trust. Now on sabbatical, she decided to visit LVPC after watching the progress of the exterior renovation.

**Toby Eveland** and his partner, **Cory Cruser**, both grew up in the South—Alabama and Texas respectively. They joined LVPC because, Toby says, “we

appreciate its warmth, are inspired by the direction of the church, and value its diversity and forward-thinking theology.” A commercial litigation attorney, Toby enjoys college sports, running and volunteering in the community. Cory, an actor turned management consultant, loves the performing arts, writing, and cooking.

**Sheri Frost** has deep roots in her hometown of Morris Plains, New Jersey and the Presbyterian Church there. She grew up around the corner from her mom's childhood home and graduated from her parent's high school. A graduate of Brown, American University, and the University of Chicago, Sheri describes her passion as “education and children's issue. She's currently a planner for Chicago Public Schools.

You can ask **Rachel Albers** what a Diamontologist does—it's her current job while she applies to law school. Rachel says she was “raised a non-denominational Christian...although I was baptized Presbyterian.” An avid reader, she is currently in the midst of

the 100 Greatest Novels of All Time. “I am in love with Vladimir Nabokov,” she shares.

**Kim Alexander's** roots are right here in the Windy City. “I was born at St. Joe's,” she says, “moved to Hanover Park, and in 1993, moved back

to the city.” A graduate of Milliken University, Kim worked at United Airlines

for 17 years. “I am currently working part-time at the Container Store,” she says, “and loving it.” Kim's hobbies include photography—“Film, not digital”—and “helping people get organized.”

**Kate Sampson** was raised Catholic and attended Catholic schools. Her best friend, Rachel Albers, convinced her to try LVPC. “I needed something a little more open minded and progressive,” Kate says. A theater major at Columbia College, Kate says, “I love telling and sharing stories. I'm actually crazy enough to try to pursue acting as a career, so that says a lot. I couldn't forgive myself if I never tried.”<sup>9</sup>

# WHO YOU KNOW



BY ERIC  
DIEKHANS

KELLY ENRIGHT

**Kelly Enright grew up all over the United States but considers herself a Hoosier.**

She graduated from Purdue University and worked as a travel agent for 15 years, where she had the opportunity to travel all over the world. She joined LVPC in May 2005 and is part of the Friday morning playgroup. She and her husband, Tim, have two children: Claire and Sophia.

***How did you deal with always being the new kid in school?***

Thankfully I have a brother (only 13 months older) who is one of my best friends. Having gone to 3 elementary schools, 2 junior highs and 3 high schools, it brought my brother and me closer and we made friends quickly together.

***What's the funniest thing that happened to you during your world travels?***

While traveling through the Gobi Desert in Mongolia we visited a local family that lived in a Ger (tent). They let us ride their horses and I flew off one within 2 minutes of riding. I guess it was somewhat comical for the locals who were watching.

***If you could live anyplace in the world, where would it be?***

San Francisco because of the proximity to the water, mountains, lakes, and rivers. Hong Kong would be my second choice, and Amsterdam my third choice.

***What do you catch yourself saying to Claire and Sophia that makes you stop and think, "I sound like my mother"?***

Oh, that's funny! Well, I'm sounding more and more like my Mom every day. I can't think of one thing in particular, but yesterday, I wet my finger and wiped something off Claire's face...she said "Uggghh, Mom." Every time my Mom did that to me growing up, I swore I'd never do that to my children.

***What's your favorite family Christmas tradition?***

As a family, singing carols by the Christmas tree with just the tree lights illuminating the family room at night. Great Grandma's cranberry salad. Making gingerbread houses. We have a family grab bag in Bloomington, IN where the presents are put in the center of the room and numbers are drawn at random to determine the order of opening. You then have the choice to take a present already opened or to open a new one. It gets pretty competitive and there is a lot of strategizing and alliances made/broken to end up with the one you want. Kind of like "Survivor Christmas."

***What would you like to see for yourself under the Christmas tree?***

Plane tickets to somewhere warm in January or February.☹

## EXPLORING ECO-JUSTICE

BY BILL HASTINGS

As a member of the Eco-Justice Subcommittee, I've often wondered how I can find out about some of the issues involved in this subject. I asked our chair, Grace Gyor, and she responded with a list of names and websites.

I visited the websites and thought you might be interested in doing the same thing. Following is a brief statement of the websites and their Internet addresses, and their addresses and phone numbers for those without access to the web.

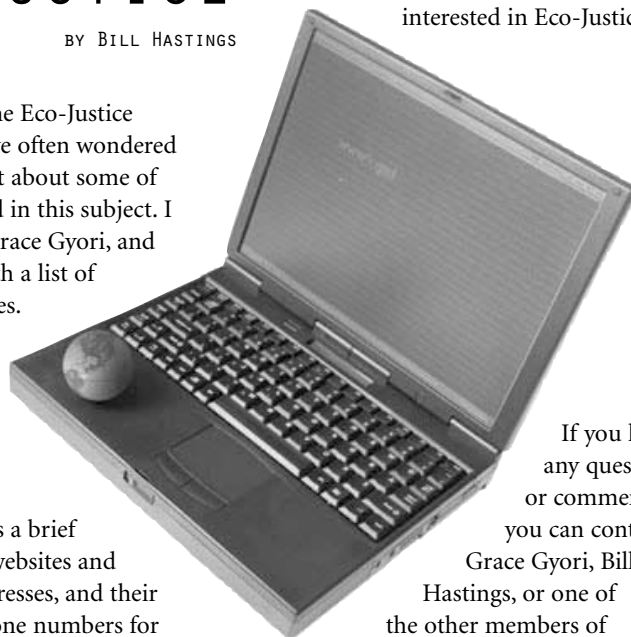
The first one is the organization of the people who led the Food for Thought class last year, Pam and Lan Richerts. It is the Eco-Justice Collaborative, 839 West Lakeside Place #1W, Chicago, IL 60640, Ph: (773) 989-3346, [www.ecojusticecollaborative.org](http://www.ecojusticecollaborative.org).

Another one is an organization based in Denver. Rev. Peter Sawtell runs Eco-Justice Ministries. He sends out periodic e-mails on eco-justice to anyone who wishes to subscribe. Their address is Eco-Justice Ministries, 400 South Williams Street, Denver, CO 80209, Ph: (303) 715-3873, [www.eco-justice.org](http://www.eco-justice.org).

We come to an organization that may be familiar to people who went on the August fieldtrip: Angelic Organics, [www.angelicorganics.org](http://www.angelicorganics.org), 1547 Rockton Road, Caledonia, IL 61011-9572, Ph: (815) 389-2746.

Lastly, there is Co-op America. They have a number of links on a host of environmental issues. Their address is Co-op America, 1612 K Street NW/Ste 600, Washington, DC 20006, Ph: (800) 584-7336. They can be reached on the web at [www.coopamerica.com](http://www.coopamerica.com).

These are just a few of the sites available. You may search on your computer and find your own websites. Just search under Eco-Justice and see what you find. We hope you visit one or more of these sites regularly and become interested in Eco-Justice.



If you have any questions or comments, you can contact Grace Gyor, Bill Hastings, or one of the other members of the committee.☹

# CALENDAR



# DECEMBER

## 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.

## ADVANCE WARNINGS: SIGN UP NOW!

*Advent Retreat—See December 2*

*Young Adults Progressive Dinner—  
See December 7*

*Christmas Potluck Brunch—  
See December 17*

*Holiday Party—See December 19*

*Academy Christmas Feast—  
See December 20*

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

It's fun for the under-five set at Playgroup beginning at 9:45 a.m. Call Kirsten Gettings at (773) 275-4487 to find out where they're meeting.

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, DECEMBER 2

*Mark the beginning of this festive season*

*at the annual Advent Retreat from 10:30*

*a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be ornament*

*making for all ages in the morning,*

*followed by a potluck lunch with musical*

*entertainment. The afternoon features a*

*Blue Christmas Worship Service. Sign up*

*in the back of the Sanctuary.*

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

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.

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

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, DECEMBER 6

Deacons meet at 6:00 p.m.

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

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

Senior Movie at 12:30 p.m.

The Annual Young Adults Progressive Dinner is a great way to share food and lively conversation. For more information, contact Barb Burlingame at barbb20@yahoo.com.

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

Playgroup meets at 9:45 a.m. See December 1.

Cafe Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. See December 1.

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

*Get in the holiday spirit by decorating*

*the Sanctuary for Christmas, beginning*

*at 10:00 a.m. Contact Sang-Ho Nam at*

*air730@yahoo.com for more information.*

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

Finance Committee meets at 6:30 p.m.

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

Seniors in Motion meets at 10:00 a.m.

See December 5.

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

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

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

Senior Movie at 12:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15**

Playgroup meets at 9:45 a.m. See December 1.

Cafe Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. See December 1.

*The whole church community*

*is invited to Out at the*

*Movies, a special presentation*

*of a gay-themed film. Tonight's*

*feature is Hate Crime. Bruce Kirkland of*

*Jam! Movies calls it "An intelligent, well-*

*acted, tense drama that is challenging in*

*its moral complexity." The show starts*

*at 9:00 p.m. A spaghetti dinner will also*

*be served.*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17**

Don't miss the Children's Christmas Program at 10:15 a.m.

There will be a brief Congregational Meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Join LVPC friends and family for a Christmas Potluck Brunch at 12:30 p.m. Enjoy good food, warm treats, and the spirit of the season. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 18**

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

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19**

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

*The annual Senior Site/Academy Student*

*Holiday Party kicks off at 11:30 a.m.*



*There are lots of ways you can*

*be part of the celebration.*

*Donations of chicken*

*casseroles, vegetables, salads,*

*bread, and pumpkin pie*

*are needed. You can also give*

*items for senior gift bags: socks, Chap*

*Stick, candy, fruit, snack cracker packs, or*

*hot chocolate. Also, volunteers are needed*

*to assemble gift bags, serve the meal, and*

*distribute holiday cheer. Sign up in the*

*back of the Sanctuary.*

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20**

Worship Committee meets at 6:00 p.m.

Lake View Academy would love to welcome church members to their annual Christmas Feast at 6:00 PM. There will be music and a scrumptious meal. RSVP by calling the Academy at (773) 281-3065.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

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

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21**

Senior Movie at 12:30 p.m.

The More Light Monthly Dinner takes place at 7:15 p.m.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22**

Playgroup meets at 9:45 a.m. See December 1.

Cafe Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight in the Fellowship Hall. See December 1.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24**

Experience the music, the wonder, and the message of Christmas at a Candlelight Christmas Eve Service beginning at 7:00 p.m.

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 25**

Merry Christmas everyone!

Church Office is closed today.

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26**

Church Office is closed today.

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

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27**

Church Office is closed today.

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

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28**

Church Office is closed today.

The Seniors gather for a Movie at 12:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29**

Playgroup meets at 9:45 a.m. See December 1.

Cafe Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight in the Fellowship Hall. See December 1.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31**

There will be one worship service this morning at 10:00.†

LVPC



ARTS

**Stephanie Browning** performs:

December 1, 16, 23, 30, 31, Peninsula Hotel, Chicago  
(312) 337-2888

December 14, 15, 28, 29, Stetson's Chop House, Chicago  
(312) 239-4490

**Stephanie Browning** and **John Erickson** perform:

December 4, 8, 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., Pete Miller's Evanston,  
www.petemillers.com

**Stephanie Browning** and **Kara Kesselring** perform:

December 5, 19, 26, 7:00-10:30 p.m., Pete Miller's Wheeling,  
www.petemillers.com

**Jon Thomas** directs:

*Hansel and Gretel*, Saturdays and Sundays, 1:00 p.m.,  
December 2-17, Gorilla Tango Theater, Chicago,  
www.gorillatango.com

**Jennie Martin** stage manages:

*The Children's Hour*, through December 16, TimeLine  
Theatre, Chicago, www.timelinetheatre.com<sup>o</sup>

CHIMES

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Submission deadline for the January issue is December 15. Send  
articles, calendar listings, rants, and raves to Eric Diekhans  
at ericdiekhans@ameritech.net.<sup>o</sup>



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