

2008  
FEBRUARY

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH

## FROM ACADEMIC STRUGGLES TO SUCCESS

BY ERIC DIEKHANS



CARLOS AZCOITIA WITH HIS WIFE MAUREEN AND PRESIDENT BUSH

Many Lake View Academy graduates find success in the work world, but only one, Carlos Azcoitia, has received a visit from the President of the United States, thanks in part to his accomplishments.

In January, President Bush came to Greeley Elementary School in Chicago, where Carlos is Principal, to highlight its achievements under the No Child Left Behind law.

Carlos's parents came from Puerto Rico and taught in Chicago Public Schools. But their son struggled in his own academic career. "I had a hard time finding a high school that met my needs," says Carlos. "So when I was a junior, my parents took the lead in finding another school for me." He soon found himself being interviewed by LVA teacher Anita Smith. Carlos was admitted to the school in 1992, a few credits shy of his senior year.

LVA's small class size was just what he needed. "The teachers took a genuine interest in wanting students to be successful," Carlos remembers. "They created a community with the students, and they took time as a staff to talk about them individually."

"Lake View Academy's teachers are not just educators," Carlos enthuses. "They're missionaries."

Thanks to LVA's accelerated pace, Carlos was able to graduate on time. He immediately started college, but after one semester, he took time off to figure out what he wanted to do. One thing was sure: he didn't want to follow in his parents' footsteps.

But when Carlos took a job as a teacher's aid, that changed. "I thought wow, maybe education is what I want to do. This is my calling."

Carlos enrolled at Southern Illinois University, where he was now much more goal oriented. Just as significantly, over his first summer there, he had an encounter with God. "That's when I began my personal faith journey," he shares.

Carlos became involved in a church, and met his future wife, Maureen. When she graduated, he transferred to Barat College in Lake Forest to be closer to her. There, he became a prestigious Golden Apple Scholar.

After graduating from Barat in 2002, Carlos took a job as a special education teacher at Niles North High School. At the same time, he began work on a Masters in School Administration at Northern Illinois University.

While finishing his degree, Carlos was asked to apply for the assistant principal job at Greeley. When he came for the interview, he was shocked to discover that the school was across the street from Gill Park, where he went for gym as a LVA student.

After three years at Greeley, the principal retired. Carlos became Greeley's new leader in July 2007.

Asked how his time at LVA influences his work at Greeley, Carlos says, "LVA shaped my understanding of what education should be. It is a huge part of defining who I am as an educator, along with the Golden Apple, my family, and Christ."☞

# A NEW WAY TO SEE



JOY DOUGLAS  
STROME

In Advent this year, we pushed our way through four weeks of preparation for Christmas under the theme of A New Way to Walk. We followed the great prophecies in Isaiah and texts from Matthew and found ourselves walking to Bethlehem with a new gait, a new spring in our step. The season of Lent begins February 10 and on that day we will begin a new theme in our worship: *A New Way to See*.

There is a feature on computers and cameras that allows you to zoom in or zoom out on the subject of your picture. A close-up version can reveal the lines and cracks and intimate detail of a picture. The mole you never knew you had comes up for sharp inspection. The wrinkles that you thought to be cute dimples are crater-like! The zoom-out feature is all about perspective. Backing away from the intimate detail, the focus broadens to include the setting of your subject, the condition of the light, the larger world and context that you are shooting. When taking photos on vacation, unless you are a professional, we've all had the experience of getting these two extremes out of balance. We have a great shot of the Grand Tetons and the family with us are so tiny that they can't be identified. Or we have a great close-up on the family, but miss the setting. Or sometimes we get both family and setting and then cut someone's head off! Each of these mishaps teach us something about vision.

In this Lenten season, we will refine our vision skills and develop *A New Way to See*. What can we learn from the stories in our lectionary that draw us close to

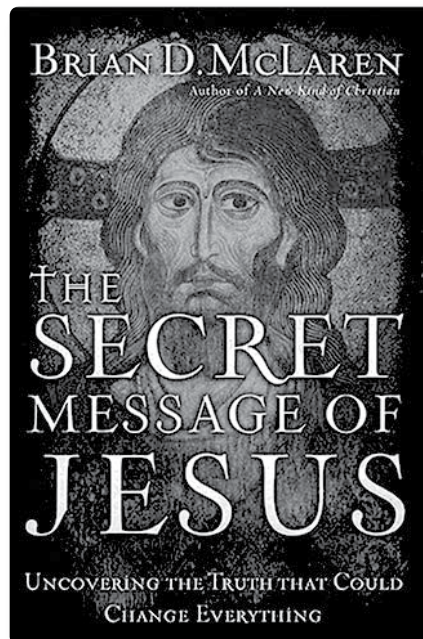
the heart of God? Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, Nicodemus coming to Jesus in the night, the woman at the well, a blind man's restored sight, and the raising of Lazarus. All of these texts will help us to focus our sight on Jesus, his way, his message, and ultimately his death and resurrection at Holy Week. Let's examine together the way that we see our world and our faith and the intersection of both.

Come to worship with your eyes wide open ready to see. Sign up for the Lenten Book Study and gather with others to stretch our collective vision. Take up a prayer discipline during these Lenten days and see God with your eyes shut. Observe this season of Lent and find *A New Way to See*. When Easter morning comes, we will be ready to take in the bright light of that glorious day!☩

## THE SECRET MESSAGE OF JESUS

BY ERIC DIEKHANS

If you've been following the split between old-line conservative Christian leaders and younger evangelicals over Mike Huckabee's presidential candidacy, then this year's Lenten Study book, *The Secret Message of Jesus: Uncovering the Truth that Could Change Everything*, will make a fascinating read.



The book, written by Brian D. McLaren, will be the focus of discussions during Lent in Niners Bible Study, Begin @ Ten, Young Adult Lenten Study, and a Totally Tuesdays class that begins February 11.

McLaren is a prominent, controversial voice in the Emerging Church movement. The Emerging Church is a 21st-century movement that seeks to engage postmodern people, especially the unchurched, by deconstructing and reconstructing Christian beliefs, standards, and methods.

*The Secret Message of Jesus* asks the question, "What if [Jesus] didn't come to start a new religion—but rather came to start a political, social, religious, artistic, economic, intellectual, and spiritual revolution that would give birth to a new world?"

Pastor Joy Douglas Strome says she chose the book because "it fits with the work that we do at Lent—discovering something new about Jesus and then discovering something new about our faith."

"McLaren does a good job of wrestling with Jesus' message for the world in his own day and for our day as well," says Pastor Joy. "He also has the same sense of urgency I feel for the need for the church to be an instrument of true change in a world that seems to be spiraling out of control. He opens the space for people from different traditions to mobilize around basic beliefs in Jesus and bridges an ever-increasing gap between the evangelical and progressive traditions."

McLaren's views have engendered debate and condemnation in the evangelical community. One reviewer said of *The Secret Message of Jesus*, "McLaren has changed the truth of God into a very ugly Lie."

LVPC has never been a church to shy away from controversy. "My hope," says Pastor Joy, "is that the book will generate good conversations about our faith traditions, our pictures of and beliefs about Jesus, and our willingness to let him truly direct our lives."☩

# WHO YOU KNOW



BY ERIC DIEKHANS

ANNE BLANTON

Anne Blanton joined LVPC in October 2006. Recently elected to Session, Anne is also involved in the Wild Women of LVPC, the LVPC Book Club, and was part of last year's Katrina Task Force trip to New Orleans. Anne volunteers at Northwestern University and is a trustee of the Chicago Academy for the Performing Arts.

## *What makes you passionate about the Chicago Academy for the Performing Arts?*

It was about 12 years ago that I first learned of the Chicago Academy for the Arts when a girl I was mentoring was accepted after audition. I had the chance first hand to see what a small, independent school can do for kids who may not have found a "fit" at their local school where their special gifts and artistic interests likely are not nurtured. Now, as a member of the board of trustees, I see the various elements that are designed to integrate strong academics and the arts into an experience that the kids feel passionate about and achieve remarkable results.

## *What's the earliest church experience you remember?*

I think it is the Christmas play that the children put on at the United Methodist Church of Desloge, Missouri. I have wonderful memories also of summer Bible School and singing "Onward Christian Soldiers" as the two flags were marched in each morning.

## *Who's your favorite President?*

I have always felt a special admiration and affinity for President Lincoln and

visiting the new museum in Springfield last year just reinforced this opinion. While we now have global issues, including the fear of nuclear arms, no other American president has faced the crisis of civil war. Having recently read *Team of Rivals: the Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*, I am even more appreciative of his skill in building a cabinet coalition among strong men who actively opposed his election.

## *What was your favorite movie of 2007 and why?*

Having been on a real movie binge in the last two weeks it is hard to remember what I saw earlier in the year. Thinking back, two that come most to mind are *Valley of Elah*, with Tommy Lee Jones as the father of a son who dies in Iraq, and *Away From Here* with Julie Christie playing the wife with Alzheimer's.☞

# EATING WELL, LIVING WELL



BY ERIC DIEKHANS

DIETITIAN AND NURSE  
HANNAH MILLER

## Dietitian and registered nurse Hannah Miller knows firsthand the problems a poor diet can cause women.

Hannah will share her expertise during a Totally Tuesdays Women's Health class on February 5 at 7:00 p.m.

When Hannah was pregnant with her daughter, she suffered from blood sugar problems and says she was almost diabetic. But her doctor didn't suggest any dietary changes. It was a difficult

delivery, Hannah reports. Her baby was born at nine pounds. "She had too much insulin," Hannah shares, "and her hands were blue." Hannah's daughter, now 20, has had a long struggle with weight and blood sugar issues.

For her part, Hannah has become a crusader for healthy eating and being aware of blood sugar. "There is too much diabetes in this country," says Hannah, "especially among children."

"The average American eats 125 pounds of sugar per year," she continues. "It affects the body, the brain, and the emotions."



"My main goal is prevention," Hannah says. She promotes a low carbohydrate, low sugar diet. "But nothing extreme," she promises. Her emphasis is whole grains, fruits, and vegetables. She also believes in avoiding too much caffeine and alcohol.

Hannah believes her dietary recommendations are particularly important to young women, "Proper nutrition can help prevent all kinds of gynecological problems," she says. Hannah thinks a well balanced diet is essential if a woman plans to get pregnant someday. "It's important for women to control their blood sugar before they get pregnant because it can affect their baby. Fifty percent of babies are born with low blood sugar."

During the class, Hannah will test several participants' blood sugar levels. She will also make herself available on an on-going basis after the class. "I definitely want work with the parish nurses in the area," says Hannah.

You can sign up for the Women's Health class in the back of the Sanctuary.☞

# CALENDAR



# FEBRUARY

## 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!

Winterfest—See February 2

Totally Tuesdays: Women's Health—  
See February 5.

Totally Tuesdays: The Secret Message  
of Jesus—See February 11.

Joy Douglas Strome's installation—  
See February 12

Wild Women outing—See February 16

Congregational Meeting—See  
February 24

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1

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 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, FEBRUARY 2

Come out in the cold, come out for some fun at Winterfest 2008. There will be ice-skating at Centennial Park (Randolph Street and Lake Shore Drive) from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m., followed by snacks and hot chocolate back at the church. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Begin @ 10 class will feature a special presentation about Hurricane Katrina relief. The third Katrina Relief Mission Work Trip to the First Presbyterian Church of New Orleans is scheduled for April 5–12. Anyone interested in the trip is encouraged to sign up in the back of the Sanctuary by the end of February.



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

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 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.

Deacons meet at 6:00 p.m.

Totally Tuesdays presents a focus on Women's Health. Class begins at 7:00 p.m. See the article on page 5 for details.

Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.



## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Today is Ash Wednesday. There will be special services at 12:00 and 7:00 p.m.

Choir practice follows the second Ash Wednesday Service service.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7

A New Members class meets at 7:00 p.m. See the January *Chimes* for details.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8

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

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.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10

New members will be received during morning worship.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11**

The All Church Lenten Book Study kicks off with a Totally Tuesdays class beginning at 7:00 p.m. This year's book is *The Secret Message of Jesus: Uncovering the Truth that Could Change Everything* by Brian McLaren. Find out more in the article on page 2. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12**

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

Celebrate Pastor Joy Douglas Strome's installation as Moderator of the Presbytery of Chicago at First United Church in Oak Park. It begins at 7:00 p.m. There will be car pooling from LVPC. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13**

Young Adult Lenten Book Study meets at 7 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.



**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15**

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

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16**

Session meets at 9:00 a.m.

Enjoy the chocolate bar and the musical stylings of LVPC member Stephanie Browning with the Wild Women of LVPC at the Peninsula Hotel, 108 East Superior Street (at North Michigan Avenue). Meet at the 5th floor lobby at 8:30 p.m. Make your reservation by signing up in the back of the Sanctuary. The fee is \$35.00.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18**

The church office will be closed for President's Day

Finance Committee meets at 6:30 p.m.

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



**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

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

Totally Tuesday's All Church Lenten Book Study continues with *The Secret Message of Jesus*. See February 11.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

Worship Committee meets at 6:00 p.m.

Young Adult Lenten Book Study meets at 7 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

Dinner & Definitions is the theme of this month's Dinner and Dish. It starts at 6:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22**

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

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

This month, the LVPC Book Study will read *A Map of the World* by Jane Hamilton. They meet at 10:00 a.m. Contact Louise Klis at [louisehelen28@yahoo.com](mailto:louisehelen28@yahoo.com) for more information.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

Don't miss the annual Congregational Meeting to hear about everything that's going on at LVPC. There will be committee presentations and a new nominating committee will be elected. It starts with a potluck at 12:30 p.m. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

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

Totally Tuesday's All Church Lenten Book Study continues with *The Secret Message of Jesus*. See February 11.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

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

Young Adult Lenten Book Study meets at 7 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 29**

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



**GREEN TIP**

Let the dishwasher do the work. Don't bother pre-rinsing dishes with the idea that your dishwasher will work less hard. Consumer Reports has found that this added step can waste 20 gallons of heated water a day. All you need to do is scrape off leftover food. Enzyme-based detergents will help make sure the dishes emerge spotless. †

LVPC



ARTS

**Kara Kesselring** performs:

Sundays, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24, Philanders Restaurant, Oak Park,  
www.carletonhotel.com

**Patrick Williams** performs:

Monday, 2/4, Morseland, Chicago, morseland.com  
Monday, 2/11, Katerina's, Chicago, www.katerinas.com  
Wednesday, 2/13, Winds Café, Chicago,  
www.windscafeofchicago.com

**Stephanie Browning** performs:

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

CHIMES

STAFF

Editor Eric Diekhans  
Reporters John Vessels, Sarah Warner  
Design Michelle Goodman  
John Erickson Photographer  
Distribution Daisy Braucher, Bill Hastings,  
Betty Larsen, Herb Simms

LVPC

STAFF

Joy Douglas Strome Pastor  
Tom Gyori Parish Associate  
David Murad Parish Associate  
Dick Poethig Parish Associate  
Jennie Martin Office Manager  
Sue Cox Parish Nurse  
John Erickson Pianist  
Deborah Bayly Principal, Lake View Academy

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



**Lake View Presbyterian Church**

716 West Addison Street  
Chicago IL 60613  
(773) 281-2655  
www.lakeviewpresbyterian.org

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