

2008
JANUARY

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH

RWANDAN JOURNEY

BY ERIC DIEKHANS

Many people wring their hands or change the channel when they hear about all of the bad things going on in the world. LVPC member Grace Strome took action.



GRACE STROME WITH RWANDAN FRIEND

Grace says she felt “hopeless” after taking a class her senior year of high school called 20th Century Global Conflict. But then, she says, “I felt like I had to do something.”

She signed up for African Great Lakes Initiative, which supports peace activities at the grassroots level. In June 2007, Grace was on a plane heading to Rwanda. She was the youngest of six volunteers who were going there to work, and to learn.

“I didn’t know what to expect,” Grace relates. “When we arrived, I felt like I was in a different world.”

She was sent to Gisenyi, a city of about 60,000 on the shore of Lake Kivu. She stayed with a host family who were “relatively wealthy compared to most people.”

“They had five children, plus there were seven to eight more kids running around.” Grace soon discovered that the additional children were servants. “The family was paying for them to go to school,” says Grace, “because there’s no public school in Rwanda.” In return, they worked for the household. Grace could appreciate her host family’s generosity, but at the same time, “it was hard to reconcile an eight-year-old getting my water.”

Grace and the other volunteers worked on a community center that was being built next to a church. The money they had raised paid for six local masons. The volunteers carried mud, bricks, whatever the masons needed.

Grace admits to being a little disappointed by the work she was assigned. “I was expecting to do more,” she acknowledges, “but they didn’t need extra help. In fact, Grace says, “People crowded around the site every day to ask for work.”

Grace realized that her real role in Rwanda was to be a witness. One of the things she observed was the aftermath of the 1994 genocide, when at least 500,000 people were killed.

“Most people were reluctant to talk about it,” Grace says. “They called it ‘The War.’ But every Thursday, shops closed and the people went to the local trials of those accused of participating.”

Asked about her most lasting impression of her five weeks in Rwanda, Grace replies, “The people following me around.” Everywhere she went, Grace and the other western volunteers drew a crowd. Grace remembers the time her host family took her to visit an aunt up in the mountains. During the hour walk, no less than 60 children followed them shouting “Wzungu!” (white person).

But there was one child who especially touched Grace’s heart. “I was walking home when a little girl of about two ran up and hugged me. I started to cry. I said to myself, ‘What did I do to deserve this? Why am I so special?’”[¶]

CALENDAR



JANUARY

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!

Totally Tuesdays: Go Green at LVPC—

See January 8

Wild Women Potluck—See January 11

Totally Tuesdays Potluck—See January 22

Totally Tuesdays: Drama For Everyone—

See January 22

Totally Tuesdays: Faith and Film—

See January 29

New Members Class—See January 31

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1

Church office closed today.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4

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.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

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

New officers will be installed during morning worship.

MONDAY, JANUARY 7

Deacons meet at 7:00 p.m. at Joy's house.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8

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.

2008 kicks off with the perfect New Year's

resolution: Go Green! Tonight, the Eco-

Justice Taskforce begins a two-part Totally

Tuesdays class on how you can green your

life at home, at work, and at church. It

begins at 7:00.

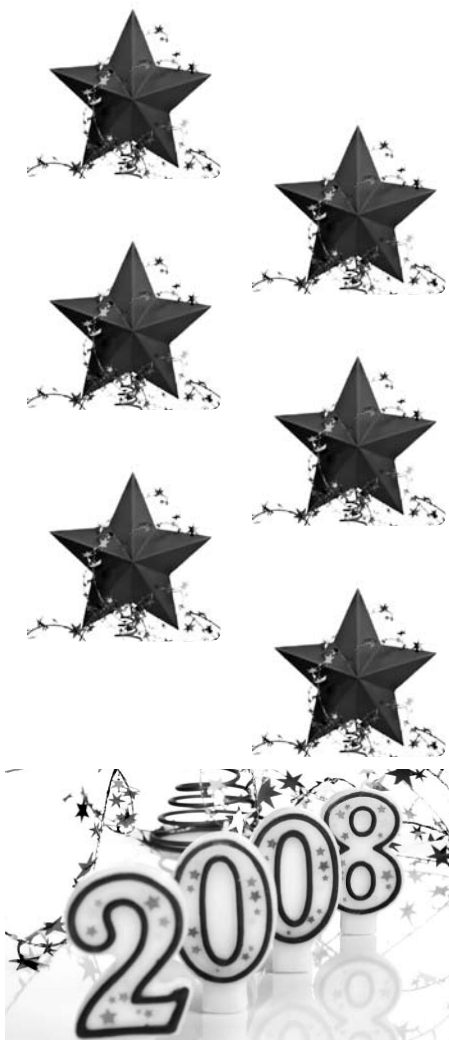
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10

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.

The Out and About Group presents Dinner & Dish at 6:30 p.m. The theme is Family, Food, and Fun. Bring a dish that triggers specific family memories. After dinner, we'll talk about the stories of those recipes, the memories they conjure, and whatever else comes to mind!



CALENDAR

The Flip Side

JANUARY



FRIDAY, JANUARY 11

Join the Wild Women of LVPC for a potluck dinner at the home of Cordula Bou-Vinals. It begins at 6:30 p.m. Bring a dish to share. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary

Cafe Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. See January 4.

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, JANUARY 14

Finance Committee meets at 6:30 p.m.

The Eco-Justice Taskforce meets at 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15

Seniors in Motion meets at 10:00 a.m. See January 8.

Totally Tuesdays continues with Go Green at LVPC. See January 8.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16

Worship Committee meets at 6:00 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

Christian Nurture Committee meets at 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18

Cafe Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. See January 4.

MONDAY, JANUARY 21

Church office closed for Martin Luther King Day.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22

Seniors in Motion meets at 10:00 a.m. See January 8.

It's fun for the whole family at the Totally Tuesdays potluck. Bring a dish to share. There will be games for the kids. It begins at 6:00 p.m. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.

Following the potluck, LVPC member Margaret Scott will lead a reading of a play with discussion to follow. You don't need acting experience, just come ready to participate. It begins at 7:00 p.m. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23

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

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25

Cafe Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. See January 4.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

Attention: The new LVPC Book Club is open to both genders! This month's book is *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen. The club meets at 10:00 a.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29

Seniors in Motion meets at 10:00 a.m. See January 8.

At tonight's Totally Tuesdays class, screenwriter (and *Chimes* Editor) Eric Diekhans leads a discussion of overlooked films with compelling moral visions that don't feature Moses or the Man from Galilee. It's helpful, but not necessary, to see the films to be discussed before the class. The films are *The Edge*, *Bus 174*, *The Proposition*, and *Look at Me (Comme une image)*.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31

Find out what it means to be a Presbyterian and a member of LVPC at the New Members Class beginning at 7:00 p.m. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.☪

LVPC ART



Stephanie Browning performs:

Mondays (with John Erickson), Wednesdays & Fridays,
Stetson's Chop House, Chicago (312) 239-4491
Saturdays, Peninsula Hotel, Chicago (312) 337-2888☎

GREEN TIP



ComEd recently introduced The Real-Time Pricing Program. By signing up, you're making an environmentally responsible decision. High hourly prices are tied to high market demand. By controlling and shifting your use of electricity, you'll help reduce electricity demand when it counts most, so less has to be generated. That helps reduce the release of emissions that contribute to global warming and acid rain. You can sign up at www.thewattspot.com.☎

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 February issue is January 15. Send articles, calendar listings, rants, and raves to Eric Diekhans at ericdiekhans@ameritech.net.☎



Lake View Presbyterian Church

716 West Addison Street
Chicago IL 60613
(773) 281-2655

www.lakeviewpresbyterian.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Evanston IL
Permit No. 169

OPEN
DOOR

OPEN
HEART

OPEN
MIND