

## LVPC WOMEN SEEK BLESSINGS

BY ASHLEY HEHER



Getting away from the city, to the quiet of the snow-covered countryside is only half the appeal.

For the dozens of LVPC women who've attended the church's women's retreats, the annual weekend is a chance to relax, rejuvenate, reaffirm their faith, and reconnect with friends.

Led by Pastor Joy Douglas Strome and Parish Nurse Sue Cox, this year's retreat will be held Jan. 29-31 at the Stronghold Retreat Center in Oregon, IL Based around the theme of "Wherever I am: The search for blessing in a crowded life," the 2010 getaway will focus on poetry by writer Mary Oliver and scripture showing those who've received blessings , from Cain and Abel to Mary.

The goal will be to understand our struggle to comprehend that we are blessed and how we can often sabotage that by not taking time for ourselves amid our busy schedules and chaotic lives.

"Poetry has always been a powerful medium for me, and Mary Oliver has a way of cutting right through the clutter of life and calling it like it is," says Joy. "I want a retreat setting to be a place where we are open to all the questions in the world. Questions like: How can I find balance? Or how can I find



meaning in my life? Or why isn't my job satisfying? Or when in the world is God going to show up and really talk to me? It's not so important to me that we find answers to those questions, just that we can find some solidarity with other women in the asking."

Ellen Rayfield's a retreat regular who first began attending the trip as a chance to "get away from things at home, relax, and interact with other women who have become important to me." She didn't know what to expect. But now carves out time each year to attend. Her favorite part? The music, the singing, the food, the study, the worship, the arts and crafts, the fellowship of women, and even the free time built into each weekend's schedule.

"All of it," she said. "It is a time to get to know others, to engage in a renewal

of spirit, and to enjoy the company and fellowship of women."

Megan Klenke attended her first retreat last year. New to the church and immersed in grad school, she wanted to meet other women of the church community, but not just those who were her own age.

"It was a quiet, reflective weekend away from the city and the regular buzz of life," she says. "Although I was a newbie to the group I felt the warmth and support of the other women. I appreciated hearing how other women of faith struggle but find ways to recognize the sacred in their busy, challenging lives."

This year's retreat will cost \$95, although scholarships are available. Sign ups are needed by Jan. 17 and carpooling will be available.☪

# CALENDAR

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# JANUARY

## 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, 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 in the Recycled Paper Company lot north of the church. Access the lot from the alley.



## ADVANCE WARNINGS: SIGN UP NOW!

*Women's Retreat—See January 29*

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

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

Sue Cox will give blood pressure screenings between worship services.

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 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.

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

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

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

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

Worship Committee meets at 6:00 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 7

Senior Movie Matinee at 12:30 p.m.

Deacons meet at 6:00 p.m.

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 8

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

*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, JANUARY 9

LVPC's men gather for breakfast at 9:00 a.m.

The LVPC Book Study Group meets at 10:00 a.m. to discuss *Slow Man* by J. M. Coetzee.

Join LVPC's women for brunch at 10:30 a.m.

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

New officers will be installed at morning worship.

## MONDAY, JANUARY 11

Eco-Justice Taskforce meets at 6:00 p.m.

The Finance Committee meets at 6:30 p.m.

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

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 12

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

See January 5.

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

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

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

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

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 14**

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, JANUARY 15**

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

A Session retreat begins at 6:00 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 16**

The Session retreat continues today.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 17**

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.

**MONDAY, JANUARY 18**

The church office will be closed for Martin Luther King Day.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 19**

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

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

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

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20**

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

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

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, JANUARY 21**

Senior Movie Matinee at 12:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 22**

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

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 26**

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

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

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

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27**

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

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 28**

Senior Movie Matinee at 12:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 29**

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

The theme of this year's Women's Retreat is Wherever I Am: The Search for Blessing in a Crowded Life. It takes place at the Stronghold Retreat Center in Oregon, Illinois. See the article on page 1 for more details. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 30**

The Women's Retreat continues today. See January 29.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 31**

The Women's Retreat continues today. See January 29.☞



Submission deadline for the February issue is January 15. Send articles, calendar listings, rants, and raves to Eric Diekhans at [ericdiekhans@ameritech.net](mailto:ericdiekhans@ameritech.net).†

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