

COMMITTEE NOMINATES ASSOCIATE PASTOR

BY ERIC DIEKHANS



The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee announced at a May 4 congregational meeting that they have nominated Rev. Larissa Kwong Abazia to be LVPC's new Associate Pastor.

"Lake View Presbyterian Church believes in and lives out a deep understanding of community where all are welcome to participate and valued for the individuality they bring to the congregation."

REV. LARISSA KWONG ABAZIA

Rev. Abazia will preach at the 11:00 a.m. worship service on June 8. A congregational meeting will be held immediately following service to vote on her nomination. The 9:00 a.m. service will not be held that Sunday.

The Committee, which has been meeting for more than a year and has interviewed several candidates, was unanimous in their praise for Rev. Abazia. Committee member

Sarah Warner said that "it was a long process, but it worked out great." Fellow Committee member George Reyes points out that this isn't like hiring someone for a job. "It's a spiritual calling," he says.

Rev. Abazia grew up in East Hanover, New Jersey. While she was baptized in the Evangelical Lutheran Church, she says that she's "only really known the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)."

"My mother began attending Kitchell Memorial Presbyterian Church because many of her close friends were members there," Rev. Abazia remembers. "I was in the youth choir, bell choir, Christmas pageants, and Sunday School. It was also the church in which I was confirmed. Kitchell served as a wonderful second family for me as I grew up; in fact, I still consider them a large part of my faith journey and family."

Rev. Abazia studied English and History at Rutgers University. She received her Mater of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary.

While Rev. Abazia says she struggled with her Chinese American identity while she was growing up, it also helped shape her faith and her ministry.

When she entered seminary, Rev. Abazia says, "I endured daily judgments and assumptions based on my outward appearance no matter how I 'defined' myself. Even in a religious institution I was surprised to find that people were more prone to see me based on my outward appearance rather than the inner. These experiences
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shook my own understanding of the church as a community of believers but eventually made me stronger in a core belief that we are all an important, valued part of the Church's body." As for her impressions of LVPC, Rev.

"I cannot think of a better place to grow as an ordained minister and work in partnership with others."

REV. LARISSA KWONG ABAZIA

Abazia says, "Lake View Presbyterian Church believes in and lives out a deep understanding of community where all are welcome to participate and valued for the individuality they bring to the congregation. I am excited to serve within the congregation because I feel the Holy Spirit at work and moving as the church seeks to serve its own community, surrounding neighborhoods and the world-at-large. LVPC is in an exciting time where ideas are numerous and possibilities are endless. I look forward to hearing the stories, hopes, and dreams of the congregation and seeking to make them a reality. I cannot think of a better place to grow as an ordained minister and work in partnership with others!"[¶]



PATIENT ENDURANCE



JOY DOUGLAS STROME

*Jesus said,
"A sower went out to sow his seed;
and as he sowed,
some fell on the path and was trampled
on,
and the birds of the air ate it up.
Some fell on the rock;
And as it grew up,
It withered for lack of moisture
.....the seed is the word of God....*

*Hear the word,
Hold it fast in an honest and good heart,
And bear fruit with patient endurance."*

Luke 8:5-6, 11, 15

A year ago we were worried about a drought. This year there has been so much rain that the farmers can't even get their seed in the ground, let alone worry if birds will eat it up. Earthquakes and cyclones, tornadoes and hurricanes,

wars and new strains of bacteria, more corn going into oil than stomachs, food shortages and soaring gas prices...everywhere you turn there is good reason for worry and good reason to think that the seed, these days, has all fallen on the rock.

I once planted a 20-foot row of zucchini. Truthfully, no one probably needs more than *one* plant of zucchini. I saw what happens when the right soil and enough rain and warm weather come together to produce the fruit from the seed. Bushels of zucchini! More zucchini than anyone could singly eat, more zucchini than any one person and all their friends could eat!

Jesus' parable isn't talking about zucchini or high gas prices. He's talking about intentional and dedicated efforts at planting the word of God...holding it fast, and being patient while the Creator works another miracle of growth. Spring, our most vivid, predictable sign of growth, has been long-coming this year. Still it has made it here. Patient endurance has given way to flowers that hang on long in cool spring weather, green grass and finally, finally, leaves on the trees again! Not always, but many times, we take our cues from nature... the steady rhythm of the seasons gives us hope that the future may change. Even though we repeat the cycles of growth, no two springs are exactly alike; something new comes with each season.

For Christians, despair is not an option... patient endurance is our option. When the world is in its direst condition, our role couldn't be clearer. Whether we wait for peace to come, or hungry people to be fed, or justice to be served, or a new pastor to come...we wait expectantly with patient endurance, knowing that God's word will feed us, and that the fruit that comes from God's word is oh so sweet!

As summer is launched, may your vacations be restful, your time in the garden be fruitful and your encounter with God's word be bountiful.[¶]

CALENDAR



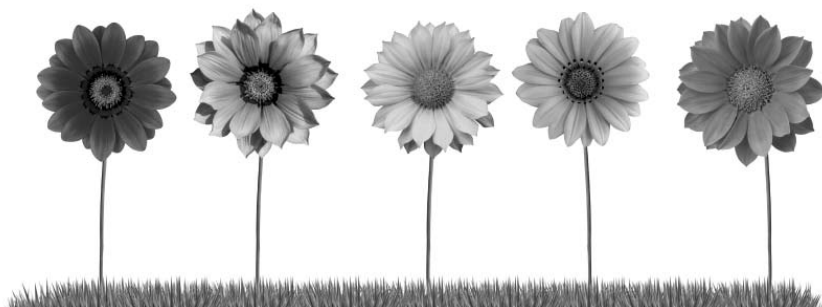
JUNE

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.

Choir practice at 10:15 a.m.

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!

Totally Tuesdays: Chew and View—

See June 3

Men's Group Trip—See June 7

Totally Tuesdays: Race & Sexuality—

See June 10

Totally Tuesdays: Race & Sexuality in Movies—See June 17

Totally Tuesdays: PFLAG—See June 24

Pride Parade Marchers—See June 29

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

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

New members will be received today at worship.

TUESDAY, JUNE 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.

The Deacons meet at 6:00 p.m.

Tonight's Totally Tuesdays class features a Chew and View potluck and the movie, *For the Bible Tells Me So*. This documentary goes to the Bible to examine the ways in which conservative Christian groups have used — and sometimes exploited — holy Scripture to deny basic human rights to gays and lesbians around the world. It begins at 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 6

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.

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, JUNE 7

The men of LVPC take a day trip today to the Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield. They'll leave church at 7:30 a.m. and return by 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$35 to cover van rental. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.

SUNDAY, JUNE 8

There will be one worship service

today at 11:00 a.m. to hear Associate

Pastor candidate Rev. Larissa Kwong

Abazia preach.

A Congregational Meeting will follow

worship to vote on Rev. Abarzia's

nomination.

The Lake View Academy graduation takes place today at 3:00 p.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 9

Finance Committee meets at 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 10

Seniors in Motion fitness class meets at 10:00 a.m. See June 3 for details.

Totally Tuesdays explores Red, Yellow,

Black, Brown, White, and Gay. Led by

Rev. Laura Mariko Cheifetz, it looks at

the intersection of race and sexuality.

Class begins at 7:00 p.m. Sign up in the

back of the Sanctuary.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11

Don't miss a special Pride Worship Service held in conjunction with the Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches. It begins at 7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 13

Cafe Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight in the Fellowship Hall. See June 6 for more information.

MONDAY, JUNE 16

LVPC is a member of Lakeview Action Council, a group that works for justice in our neighborhood. LAC's annual convention takes place today from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Anshe Emet Synagogue. Find out more at www.lakeviewaction.org.

TUESDAY, JUNE 17

Seniors in Motion fitness class meets at 10:00 a.m. See June 3.

Rev. Jessica Vazquez Torres and Rev. Laura Mariko Cheifetz lead a discussion on Coloring the Queer Line. This Totally Tuesdays class looks at race and sexuality in film. It begins at 7:00 p.m. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.

FRIDAY, JUNE 20

Café Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. See June 6.

TUESDAY, JUNE 24

Seniors in Motion fitness class meets at 10:00 a.m. See June 3.

PFLAG: Bridging the Gap is the subject of tonight's Totally Tuesdays class, beginning at 7:00. Rev. James Schwandt and Yvonne Schwandt lead it. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

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

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

The Chicago Gay Men's Chorus celebrates Pride Weekend with their show *The Boys Are Back in Town*, performed in the LVPC Sanctuary at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25. Go to www.cgmc.org to order yours.



FRIDAY, JUNE 27
The Chicago Gay Men's Chorus presents *The Boys Are Back in Town* at 8:00 p.m. See June 26.

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 28
No matter what color your thumb is, you can be part of the LVPC Garden Club.

They meet in the church yard from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., rain or shine. Bring work gloves, hats, and any garden tools you like to use.

The LVPC Book Study Group takes place at 10:00 a.m. This month they're discussing *Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman's Search for Everything Across Italy, India and Indonesia* by Elizabeth Gilbert.

The Chicago Gay Men's Chorus presents *The Boys Are Back in Town* at 3:00 and 8:00 p.m. See June 26.

SUNDAY, JUNE 29
Because of the Pride Parade, there will be one worship service today at 10:00 a.m.

Get a front row seat for the Pride Parade and share a picnic in the church yard following the worship service.

If you would rather be a participant in today's parade, you can sign up in the back of the Sanctuary to join the LVPC contingent.☺



WHO YOU KNOW

BY RACHAEL ALBERS



JEMAL NEWSOM

Jemal Newsom is an electronics student at DeVry University and works for Plaza Market Bistro downtown. He moved to Lakeview a few years ago to enjoy the lakefront path and local parks. Jemal became a member in May 2007 and loves being part of the LVPC family. He also gives great hugs, so be sure to request one soon!

What do you like best about living in Lakeview?

I love to go to the parks. They're so peaceful and I like to go there and relax. I like to watch the people jogging and biking along the path.

If you could make one improvement to the neighborhood, what would it be?

Well, that's kind of hard, seeing as it's a great neighborhood! However, one issue that I'd like to focus more on is donating food to people who are less fortunate. There are still hungry people in this area and I'd like to help them more, because I am lucky enough to have lots of different foods to choose from!

Where might we find you on a Saturday night?

Oh, I like to go out! I like dining out, going bowling, dancing, just having fun.

Anywhere in particular you like to dine out?

I'm a simple guy. I like a steak! I've been all over...to Gibson's...Mike Ditka's! I just love a big steak!

If you could share a steak with anyone in the world, who might they be?

I would have to say Mariah Carey. I've always had a thing for her. I like some of the causes she stands for. She's involved with helping inner city youth. It's important to raise awareness about that issue. And of course, I'm also a fan of her music as well.

What about LVPC made you decide to keep coming back?

Well, I was looking for a church home and it's a funny thing. One day I was just walking by and I decided to check it out. I loved the sermon and after that I was hooked!

What is your favorite part of being a member of church?

It's definitely the LVPC family. We're all family here.☺

CAFÉ PRIDE: MODIFYING A MISSION

BY JOHN VESSELS

From its beginning, Café Pride was an experiment. It was Rev. Stu Smith's goal to provide a space for young, GLBTQ people to investigate identity without the external biases of a heterocentric, Anglocentric, and Judeo-Christiancentric "assistance."

It was an opportunity, in the beginning—and for many years to follow—to simply be *who one was* in the presence of others who shared the same orientation. Alumni still come

back to say it was a tremendous gift; and therefore, we might rightly say the experiment has been a success.

Fast forward to 2008—the experiment continues; but the variables have changed, and Café Pride faces new challenges and new opportunities to grow and learn. In the last six months a late night program for GLBTQ, homeless, and at-risk youth has ceased providing services in the Lakeview area. Now Café Pride is the only program of its kind in Lakeview that is open past 8:00 p.m.

Once a host to 6–15 late-teen to college-aged youth, LVPC's Café Pride now opens its doors to a population explosion of 50–90 kids ranging from their early teens to their early twenties. Some are homeless. Some are at risk. Some are simply too young to go to bars, and know we're a space to meet.

The demographic is varied economically, largely (but not exclusively) minorities, and remarkably diverse in tastes, behavior, and purpose for being in LVPC's Fellowship Hall on a Friday night.

The original mission has been maintained: Café Pride is a safe space for you to be you. With the increase of numbers and diversity of backgrounds—and at the advice of local youth programs—a few rules have been introduced to the originally loose format. The volunteers learn new stories and discover new needs to be met each Friday. As the program grows so does Café Pride's ability to serve. This is a very exciting time in the life of LVPC!

The experiment continues, but the constant is this: LVPC is dedicated to the original goals of Café Pride and the expanding possibilities that are being introduced to this very important program. If you are interested in volunteering to either participate in or evaluate the current mission of Café Pride, please contact LVPC's church office or Rev. Joy Douglas Strome.

You can learn more about Café Pride at www.cafepride.com.☺

LVPC



ARTS

Jennie Martin stage manages:

TRUMBO: Red, White, and Blacklisted, through June 2,
TimeLine Theatre, www.timelinetheatre.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

Kara Kesselring performs:

Sundays, June 1, 8, 15, Philanders Restaurant, Oak Park,
www.carletonhotel.com
Wednesdays, June 4 & 18, *Jersey Boys*, Bank of America Theatre,
Chicago, www.jerseyboysinfo.com
Thursday, June 19, with Sugarcreek Road Band, Berwyn
Centennial Celebration, www.sugarcreekroad.com
Sunday, June 22, with Sugarcreek Road Band, Community
Presbyterian Church, Mt. Prospect, www.cpchurch.org

CHIMES

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Submission deadline for the July issue is June 15. Send articles,
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