

2009
MARCH

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH

LENTEN STUDY EXPLORES GALLAGHER'S SEEN, UNSEEN

BY ERIC DIEKHANS



"I came to this church five years ago as a tourist and ended up a pilgrim," writes Nora Gallagher, speaking of her year at Trinity Episcopal Church in Santa Barbara.

That's a journey many at LVPC have taken, and one of the many reasons Pastor Joy chose Gallagher's memoir, *Things Seen and Unseen: A Year Lived in Faith*, for this year's All-Church Lenten Study.

"I didn't know Nora before I read the book," Joy shares, but I couldn't put it down."

Joy says that while past Lenten Study books have been a big success with LVPC members, *Things Seen and Unseen* is from "a very different genre."

"Previous books we've used have been pretty academic," says Joy. "Nora's book may be more approachable for some people."

Joy also says there are "some nice parallels" with our own urban church. Gallagher writes about her regular work in the church's soup kitchen, her participation in alternative liturgies, discussions over how to be good

stewards of their church while keeping it open to the community, and the debate over whether to call a gay minister as their church's new rector.

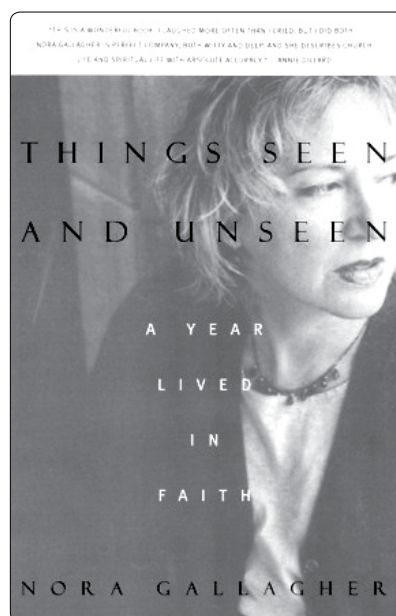
Gallagher's faith is also challenged when she must deal with the news of her brother's cancer, and with her husband being an unbeliever.

"The book has an authentic feel," Joy says. "It's very approachable."

Some evangelicals might be put off by Gallagher's questioning of church doctrine, but many LVPC members will identify with her soul-searching and her progressive theological views.

As you'd expect at LVPC, the Lenten Study won't be limited to just a book. Episodes from the British sitcom *The Vicar of Dibley* will be used alongside *Things Seen and Unseen* to talk about spiritual growth as we approach Easter. The series, which ran from 1994 to 2007, is set in a fictional small Oxfordshire village called Dibley, which is assigned a female vicar following the 1992 changes in the Church of England that permitted the ordination of women.

Asked what she wants LVPC members to get from this year's Lenten Study, Joy says she hopes it helps them to do a more in-depth examination at their faith. "We can look at our faith," Joy relates, "and ask ourselves, 'Where was I at this time last year, and how is it different this Easter?'"



The All-Church Lenten Study begins March 1 in the Niners and Begin@Ten classes. You can also study the book in Wednesday night Young Adult Bible Study and a Totally Tuesdays class beginning March 3. The book is \$10. Get yours today.☪

FINDING OURSELVES, FINDING GOD



LARISSA
KWONG ABAZIA

Growing up, I was always jealous of my friends who gave something up for Lent: chocolate, soda, candy or other things important to kids our age. I never understood why my church wasn't as insistent on this practice and so I thought, in a plea to become more faithful, that I would give something up as well. Unfortunately, my attempt at taking something out of my life for several weeks would only last a few days. I would give in and eat a piece of chocolate or drink a sip of Coke thinking, "Well, I didn't *have* to give something up. No one *told* me to do this." Somehow that excuse made me feel better about returning to life as usual.

In attempting this practice, I missed the deeper meaning of Lent. My "sacrificial act," in reality, kept me from focusing on Christ and taking the Lenten journey at all! I didn't grow in or enhance my understanding about Jesus or even learn more about my personal faith. I had forgotten that Lent is a time for faith formation and renewal in the midst of daily living. We are called to look into ourselves and recognize that, despite our sinfulness, we are brought back to relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

February 25th marked the beginning of our Lenten journey. We will continue to gather everything together and come as we are, ready to walk toward a deeper understanding of Jesus Christ. So I leave you with the words of Paul in his letter to the Philippians (v. 8-9): "Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you." May we find ourselves renewed at the end of the journey because of the road that we travelled together this Lenten season.☞

COME AS YOU ARE

BY ERIC DIEKHANS

Heaven...hope...relationships...predestination. These aren't unusual topics for a Bible study class, but the 20 and 30-somethings who meet each week at LVPC bring their own unique "come as you are" attitude to the discussions.

Between five and fifteen young adults gather each Wednesday night at Young Adult Bible Study to probe Scripture and the world at large. They're not afraid to get hip-deep in current events and life issues and how they impact faith. Recent classes have explored the kingdom of heaven in Jesus' parables, the challenge of being in relationship with God without a mountaintop experience, and how we respond to traumatic experiences in our lives.

Pastor Larissa Kwong Abazia, who leads the group, says the young adults come to the class with viewpoints that vary according to their faith background and where they are on their life journey. "People in their 20s are discovering their identity and exploring different things," Larissa shares. "Those in their 30s are looking more to what the future holds. They're often at a turning point, and want to delve deeper into their faith."

In a group where some members have grown up in the church while others are having their first church experience, Larissa tries to cultivate a space where members feel safe to share where they're at. "You don't have to have a certain knowledge of a Bible passage," Larissa says. "When we look at a text, some people say, 'I've never read this,' while others respond, 'I've read this before, but I'm seeing it in a new way.'"

"My hope," Larissa continues, "is that wherever you're at, we provide a safe place to ask questions and explore your faith."

LVPC member Renee Grogg calls YABS "a welcome respite" during the week. "I visibly relax as we open the Bible, read some verses and then discuss how those verses intersect our lives," says Renee. "It's a type of interaction and conversation that doesn't exist elsewhere in my life."

In a church with a growing congregation, and especially a large number of young adults, Renee says the weekly Bible study is also "a great way to meet some of the new people and make new friends."

YABS will be participating in the All-Church Lenten Study, then conclude the year with a series called, "Faith and Film.." To get a flavor for the discussions, you can log onto Larissa's blog at withinandbetween.wordpress.com.☞



RENEE GROGG, TINA PAK AND LARISSA KWONG ABAZIA ENJOY YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

WHO YOU KNOW



BY ASHLEY M. HEHER

JENNIE MARTIN

If you want to find Jennie Martin on Sundays, you'll likely have to look behind you.

LVPC's office manager since 2006, Jennie's usually running around behind the scenes, getting the microphones and projects set up, managing audio and even recording video of services.

But when she's not sitting on her electronic perch above the sanctuary, this 24-year-old Cincinnati native, who's spent the past seven years in Chicago, is running around the city, working with a variety of theater shows and grabbing as much Starbucks as she can.

What's involved in your job at the church?

There is the standard stuff: Answering the phones, copying the bulletin, getting the mics and projector set up on Sundays. And then there are the "odd jobs," which range from finding 800 decoder eyeglasses to hanging shoes from the ceiling. No one day is the same, but that's why I love it.

What's your faith background?

I was raised Catholic, but I only go to mass when I go home for Christmas. On Sunday mornings I am at LVPC and in the evenings I go to Wicker Park Grace. I think I am way more Presbyterian than I ever was Catholic.

When you're not working you're spending time doing what?

I work at Loyola a day or two a week and I have rehearsals or shows in the evenings, so that is a lot of my time right there. But I also love to just relax with friends and good conversation.

People who know you from church would be totally surprised to know that ... ?

My entire education kindergarten through college has been at Catholic school.

What's the weirdest job you've done?

I worked as a camp counselor for a number of summers at YMCA camp. I had to do a lot of weird things like wear my clothes backwards, go swimming at 5 a.m., and take bug juice showers. It was a blast.

You are shamelessly addicted to ... ?

Starbucks, and coffee in general, Diet Coke, going to Target, biting my tails, The Office, chocolate, road trips, Chuck Taylors, wearing as much color as possible, dying my hair, friends, going out to eat, making lofty plans for myself, and photo booths.☺

GIVE BACK GUIDE: PART TWO

BY RACHAEL ALBERS



HELP SHAPE LVPC'S FUTURE WITH THE ON HOLY GROUND COMMITTEE

Still searching for a special spot to get involved? Never fear! Check out part two of the "Give Back Guide!" Whatever your interest or skill, we have a place for you!

1 Contribute your vision for the future of the church and expansion of our facilities. Join the On Holy Ground committee. Contact Ray Sendejas.

Time Commitment: Varies

2 Green your thumb and the church and look out for dates to start beautifying our space this spring with the Buildings and Grounds committee and the Gardening Club. Get in touch with Samantha Caldwell to dig in.
Time Commitment: 2 hours+ once per month

3 Play for peace! Create harmony with harmony by donating your musical talents to Taize worship. Sing to Joy to add your voice.
Time Commitment: 1 1/2 hours on Friday nights.

4 Invest your time in the future of the community and share your skills with the students at Lake View Academy. Contact principal Deborah Bayly to find your niche.
Time Commitment: Flexible daytime hours Monday-Friday

5 Share in the joys of fellowship and community building by gathering with LVPC members at Presbyterian Homes in Evanston for food, devotion, and meditation. If you want to go the extra mile, then volunteer your vehicle for the carpool. See Sue Cox to join the community.
Time Commitment: 1 1/2-2 hours on the 2nd Thursday every other month

6 Do more than vote your values. Represent LVPC and fight for justice with the Lakeview Action Coalition. Support their work in Health Care, Homeless Youth/Police Relations, Affordable Housing, and Eco-Justice at a community council meeting or get your hands dirty in an individual task force. Ask Rachael Albers how you can join the fight.
Time Commitment: 1 1/2-3 hours per month

7 Tell the LVPC story. Help highlight community headlines by writing for the *Chimes*. Or spread the news by volunteering to distribute. See Eric Diekhans for more information.
Time Commitment: 2-4 hours/month☺

CALENDAR



MARCH

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, 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.



ADVANCE WARNINGS: SIGN UP NOW!
Totally Tuesdays: Things Seen and Unseen—See March 3

SUNDAY, MARCH 1
Lake View Pantry food donations and Two Cents A Meal offerings will be taken at the morning worship services.

The All-Church Lenten Study classes start today. See the article on page 1 for details.

TUESDAY, MARCH 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.

Come from work and relax with a little fellowship with a potluck before the Totally Tuesdays class. It begins at 6:00 p.m. Bring a dish to share.

During the season of Lent, we are called for introspective work that begs us to dig deep into the complexities of our faith. In a departure in both style and tone from past years of reading, Things Seen and Unseen: A Year Lived in Faith a memoir from Nora Gallagher, follows her yearlong journey from “tourist to

pilgrim” as she becomes more involved in her local church. The characters she describes may look familiar. The issues her church faces may strike a chord with us here at LVPC. Building on the idea in Celtic Spirituality that the sacred is found in the ordinary, Gallagher beautifully captures her doubts, affirmations, and profound transformation along the way. Episodes from The Vicar of Dibley will be used alongside this book to talk about spiritual growth as we approach Easter. This Totally Tuesdays class, led by Joy Douglas Strome, begins at 7:00 p.m. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4
Senior Book Group meets at 12:00 p.m.

Young Adult Lenten Study meets at 7 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5
Deacons meet at 6:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 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 7:00 for Taize.

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.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8
Daylight Savings Time begins today. Don't forget to spring your clocks forward an hour so you don't miss church.

MONDAY, MARCH 9
Finance Committee meets at 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

Seniors in Motion meets at 10:00 a.m.
See March 3.

The Eco-Justice Taskforce meets at 5:30 p.m.

The Eco-Justice Taskforce is sponsoring "Cool Conversations," a time for folks to informally share the "cool" things they are doing to lower their carbon imprint, as well as learn creative, "cool" new ideas. The conversation takes place at 6:00 p.m. in the chapel.

Totally Tuesdays continues at 7:00 p.m. with the All-Church Lenten book, Things Seen and Unseen. See March 3.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

Senior Book Group meets at 12:00 p.m.

Young Adult Lenten Study meets at 7 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

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, MARCH 13

Cafe Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. See March 6.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

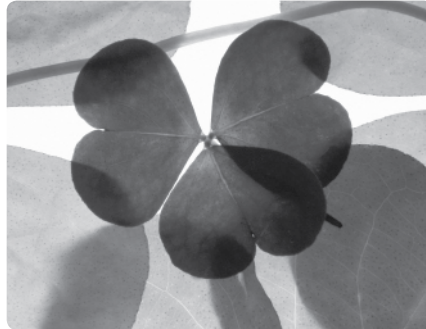
Join the men of LVPC for good food and scintillating conversation at the Men's Breakfast beginning at 9:00 a.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 16

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

Seniors in Motion meets at 10:00 a.m.
See March 3.



Totally Tuesdays continues at 7:00 p.m. with the All-Church Lenten book, Things Seen and Unseen. See March 3.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

Senior Book Group meets at 12:00 p.m.

Worship Committee meets at 6:00 p.m.

Young Adult Lenten Study meets at 7 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

Christian Nurture Committee meets at 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

Cafe Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. See March 6.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

Session meets at 9:00 a.m.

SUNDAY MARCH 22

Everyone is invited to LVPC former field placement student JC Cadwallader's ordination. It takes place at Fourth Presbyterian Church beginning at 6:30 p.m. Several LVPC members will participate in the ceremony.

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

Seniors in Motion meets at 10:00 a.m.
See March 3.

Totally Tuesdays continues at 7:00 p.m. with the All-Church Lenten book, Things Seen and Unseen. See March 3.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

Senior Book Group meets at 12:00 p.m.

Buildings and Grounds Committee meets at 6:30 p.m.

Young Adult Lenten Study meets at 7 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

Cafe Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. See March 6.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

The LVPC Book Study Group meets at 10:00 a.m. to discuss Loving Frank, a novel by Nancy Horan about the affair between Frank Lloyd Wright and Mamah Borthwick Cheney. The New York Times calls it an "enthraling first novel."

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

Seniors in Motion meets at 10:00 a.m.
See March 3.

Totally Tuesdays continues at 7:00 p.m. with the All-Church Lenten book, Things Seen and Unseen. See March 3. ♯



GREEN TIP

If every home used just one package of 100% recycled content toilet paper, 1.4 million trees would not be cut down. If we did the same for napkins, it would be 1 million trees. ♯

LVPC



ARTS

Kara Kesselring performs:

March 18, 25, *Jersey Boys*, Bank of America Theatre, Chicago,
www.jerseyboysinfo.com

Floyd May featured in:

Arsenic and Old Lace, March 21-April 5, James Downing
Theatre, www.edisonparkumc.com

Jennie Martin stage manages:

Machinal, through March 2, TimeLine Theatre,
www.timelinetheatre.com

Stephanie Browning performs:

Saturdays, Peninsula Hotel, Chicago (312) 337-2888☎

CHIMES

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Deborah Bayly	Principal, Lake View Academy

Submission deadline for the April issue is March 15. Send articles, calendar listings, rants, and raves to Eric Diekhans at ericdiekhans@ameritech.net.☎



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