

2008  
MAY

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH

## FAITH HOPPING

BY ASHLEY M. HEHER

A new study reveals that American adults often migrate from the faith traditions of their youth. LVPC's diverse community is a sign of the shift.

The landmark survey by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life shows that more than a quarter of the nation's adults have left the faith of their childhood, changing religions or foregoing religion entirely. Add in the number of Americans who've migrated between Protestant denominations and that figure climbs to 44 percent. "People will be surprised by the amount of movement by Americans from one religious group to another," Luis Lugo, director of the Pew Forum, said in a statement.

### LVPC Part of Trend

Baptized in a Catholic church and raised through boyhood in the Swedish Covenant faith, Walter Breitzke's journey to LVPC may seem unusual. But the 51-year-old's path to the Presbyterian Church is anything but unique. Breitzke, who began attending LVPC in November, said he'd always referred to himself as a "generic Protestant," but drifted from the church as a teenager and into adulthood.

"(It was) just a feeling that I had had enough and was tired of going," he says.

Then he found LVPC.

"I had no specific desire to start at a Presbyterian church and didn't know anything about it, I just knew I wanted something "middle-of-the-road" like Presbyterian, Lutheran, or Methodist, and somewhere accepting of gays, so LVPC filled the bill on both

counts," he shares. "Plus, I enjoyed Joy's sermon and wanted to come back for more."

Catherine Zhang's mother and grandmother are Buddhists, but she joined LVPC last year after moving to Chicago. Zhang, who is from China, said this is her first time formally participating in a religion.

"I think all religions basically (have) the same purpose," she relates. "But I choose Presbyterian because I live in the Western world and I wanted to learn another version of God."

The Pew research also found that a third of those surveyed were raised Catholic, but no longer belong the church – a figure that means nearly one in ten Americans are former Catholics.

Among them is Gladis Iglesias, who loved the statutes of the Catholic Church as a child, but feared the nuns of her Catholic school

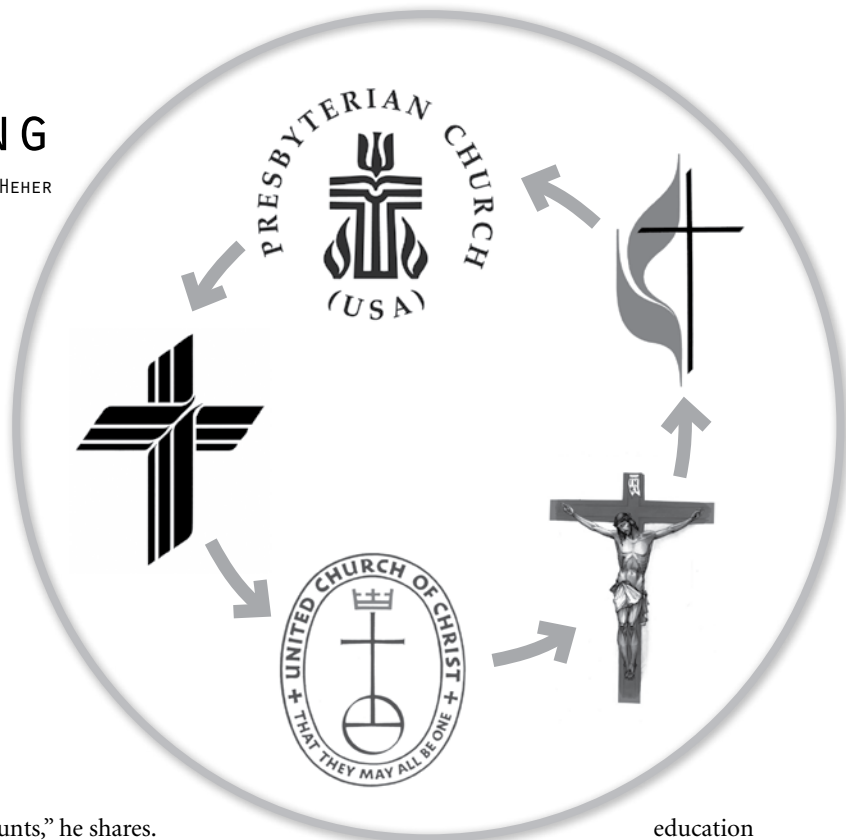
education and disliked the concept of confessing sins to a priest.

"Who is he to tell me I need to confess and say two Hail Mary's and two Our Fathers and that I would be forgiven of my sins?" she asks. "I believe only God should hear my confessions, so I left and never came back."

Now, Gladis and her partner, Olga Lopez, belong to LVPC.

"I believe that we grow up with our parents' religious believes and as adults we start questioning is this right for me? Do I belong here? Do they understand and preach the things I believe and have faith in," Gladis says. "You then go to a place that you feel, 'Yes! This is my home my church, my people, I belong here.'"

On the Web:  
[www.religions.pewforum.org](http://www.religions.pewforum.org)



## SAN JOSE BOUND



JOY DOUGLAS  
STROME

Two years ago I was a commissioner to the 217th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) held in Birmingham, Alabama. I was honored to be elected and it was a good experience. I thought it would be a once in a lifetime event for me. Now as the 218th General Assembly is about to happen, I find myself once again packing my bags. This time I'm headed to San Jose, California and I am a commissioner again. By virtue of my position as Moderator of the Presbytery of Chicago, I automatically am expected to represent our presbytery along with nine other commissioners. So, it looks like this will be a twice in a lifetime event for me.

At the 217th General Assembly my committee assignment was to work on business associated with Board of Pensions of the PCUSA. This time my assignment has been to review the work of the General Assembly permanent committees. These are committees that run the denomination between the assemblies. Other committees will consider other items of business, like the overture that our church co-sponsored to change one of our church's confessions. After the committees do their work, the full assembly meets to consider the actions that have come up through the committees for decisions.

If you are interested in how a denomination like the Presbyterian Church does its bi-annual business, you can watch the progress of the Assembly by visiting the web site [www.pc-biz.org](http://www.pc-biz.org). There you can create your own account for viewing the work of the assembly late in June. This assembly will be primarily paper-less and all commissioners will work on a laptop to receive information for review. It will be interesting to see

if the technology runs more smoothly this time around! The website is already working better.

218 times people have gathered around the country to consider the church of Jesus Christ as it finds expression in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Each time they have gathered the church has moved and shifted and re-formed itself for the next years. The built-in process and even expectation for change is impressive. Though the change never seems to be quick enough or far enough for me, I can appreciate the fact that at least it is possible! God moves in mysterious ways. The operative word in that well-known expression is moves... What changes are in store for us this summer? Pray that any changes from this assembly will liberate those who are oppressed and will further the mission of our denomination literally around the world! I invite you to go (via the www) to San Jose with me this summer and learn more about the denomination that houses our little house at Broadway and Addison!

Happy Summer!☺

## RAISING HEALTHY KIDS

BY ERIC DIEKHANS



"Eat your vegetables!" "Brush your teeth!" "Don't forget to wash your hands!" Those are just a few of the mantras parents utter every day in an effort to keep their kids healthy.

LVPC Parish Nurse Sue Cox will take a more playful approach to teaching children healthy habits in the Totally Tuesdays class, To Your Health — Kids Health, on May 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Children will go on a journey through a series of stations that emphasize a variety of habits to insure good health and safety. "They'll each have a passport that gets stamped at the stations," says Sue. Every station promises an entertaining activity.

Kids will learn about nutrition and making daily choices from the five categories in the food pyramid: grains, vegetables, fruits, milk, and meats & beans. There will also be a focus on safety issues, like wearing a bike helmet and seatbelts, and riding in a properly installed car seat. Did you know that over 44,000 Americans end up in the emergency room each year because of bicycle accidents, or that more than 90 percent of all motorists believe safety belts are good idea, but less than 14 percent actually use them?

It sounds very sobering, but Sue promises to make the evening fun for the whole family. It kicks off with a potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.☺

## THE NUMBERS

For the first quarter of 2008, LVPC's total income was \$75,015 against a budget of \$78,437. The majority of the difference was in matching contributions, where we are waiting for a contribution that should offset the shortfall. Pledged giving, loose plate, and special friends collections were all up and ahead of budget.

Total expenses were \$80,369 against a budget of \$99,098, or \$18,729 under budget. This situation won't continue into the second quarter and as the year progresses. Several large initiatives, such as the Katrina work trip, are coming due for payment. In addition, construction will soon start on the Associate Pastor's office. We will be paying the salary of a student intern this summer, and will (hopefully) soon be paying a new Associate Pastor.

Ending the first quarter of 2008, the Finance Committee reports an operating loss of \$5,353 against a budgeted loss of \$20,661.

If you have any questions or suggestions, contact Finance Committee chair Dan Barson at [danielbarson@yahoo.com](mailto:danielbarson@yahoo.com)☺



# CALENDAR

Place Your Favorite Refrigerator Magnet Here

# MAY

## 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.



## ADVANCE WARNINGS: SIGN UP NOW!

*Totally Tuesdays: Creative Nonviolence — See May 6*

*Wild Women Potluck — See May 9*

*Totally Tuesdays: Personal Finances — See May 13*

*New Members Class — See May 15*

*Totally Tuesdays: Summer Reading List — See May 20*

*Totally Tuesdays: To Your Health Kids Night — See May 27*

## FRIDAY, MAY 2



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.

## SATURDAY, MAY 3

LVPC will host a Fair Trade Bazaar from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Fair Trade means the people making the product receive their fair share of the purchase price. It connects consumers with the producers in positive ways. The Bazaar features beautiful handmade crafts, goods, and food from all over the world.

## SUNDAY, MAY 4

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

There will be a congregational meeting following the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

## MONDAY, MAY 5

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee meets at 7:00 p.m.

## TUESDAY, MAY 6

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.



*Join Dan Pearson, co-coordinator for Voices for Creative Nonviolence, to discuss his experiences living with Palestinian and Iraqi refugees in Damascus, Syria. It's part of LVPC's Totally Tuesdays series. Class begins at 7:00 p.m. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.*



## WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

Young Adults Bible Study meets at 7:00 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

## THURSDAY, MAY 8



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.

Dinner and Dish features lively conversation and delicious food. It begins at 6:30 p.m.

## FRIDAY, MAY 9



Join the Wild Women of LVPC for a potluck at Margaret Scott's home, beginning at 6:30 p.m. If your last name begins with A-L, please bring an entree. If your last name begins with M-Z, choose a side dish, dessert, or beverage. (Or bring anything that sounds good to you!) For more information, call Margaret at (773) 381-5352.

Cafe Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. See May 2.


## SATURDAY, MAY 10

Join other LVPC men for good conversation and food at the Men's Breakfast, beginning at 8:15 a.m.

## SUNDAY, MAY 11

*Today is Pentecost Sunday. Historically and symbolically related to the Jewish harvest festival of Shavuot, it commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus as described in the Book of Acts.*



**MONDAY, MAY 12**   
Finance Committee meets at 6:30 p.m.

**TUESDAY, MAY 13**  
Seniors in Motion meets at 10:00 a.m.  
See May 6.

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

In tonight's Totally Tuesdays class, LVPC Treasurer and investment specialist Mike Cummings leads a discussion about getting your personal finances in order. Class begins at 7:00 p.m. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.


**WEDNESDAY, MAY 14**  
Young Adults Bible Study meets at 7:00 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

**THURSDAY, MAY 15**  
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.

**FRIDAY, MAY 16**  
Cafe Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. See May 2.

**MONDAY, MAY 19**  
The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee meets at 7:00 p.m.

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

**TUESDAY, MAY 20**  
Seniors in Motion meets at 10:00 a.m.  
See May 6.

Before you dig out the beach towel, find a great book to read by joining Jay Schwandt to learn what's on his Summer Reading List. Jay is an LVPC member and manager of The Book Stall in Winnetka, rated by the Chicago Tribune as one of the 10 best bookstores in the Chicago area. This Totally Tuesdays class begins at 7:00 p.m. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 21**  
Young Adults Bible Study meets at 7:00 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

**THURSDAY, MAY 22**  
A New Members Class meets at 7:00 p.m.  
See May 15.

**FRIDAY, MAY 23**  
Cafe Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. See May 2.

**SATURDAY, MAY 24**  
The LVPC Book Study Group meets at 10:00 a.m.

**MONDAY, MAY 26**  
The church office will be closed for Memorial Day.

**TUESDAY, MAY 27**  
Seniors in Motion meets at 10:00 a.m.  
See May 6.

Introduce your kids to healthy habits at the Totally Tuesdays class, To Your Health: Kids Night. Led by LVPC Parish Nurse Sue Cox, the evening begins with a potluck at 6:00 p.m. followed by class at 7:00 p.m. See the article on page 2 for more information. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 28**  
Worship Committee meets at 6:00 p.m.

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

Young Adults Bible Study meets at 7:00 p.m.

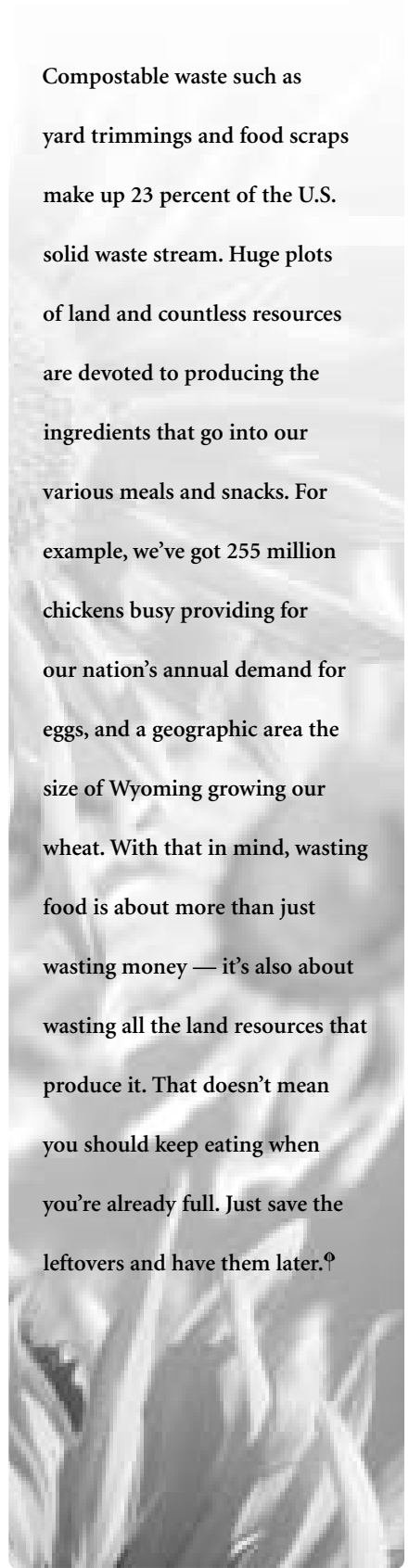
Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

**FRIDAY, MAY 30**  
Cafe Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. See May 2.

**SATURDAY, MAY 31**  
The LVPC Gardening Club meets from 9:00 a.m. to noon.☺

## GREEN TIP

Compostable waste such as yard trimmings and food scraps make up 23 percent of the U.S. solid waste stream. Huge plots of land and countless resources are devoted to producing the ingredients that go into our various meals and snacks. For example, we've got 255 million chickens busy providing for our nation's annual demand for eggs, and a geographic area the size of Wyoming growing our wheat. With that in mind, wasting food is about more than just wasting money — it's also about wasting all the land resources that produce it. That doesn't mean you should keep eating when you're already full. Just save the leftovers and have them later.☺



# WHO YOU KNOW



BY ERIC DIEKHANS

KRISTIN SMITH

Kristin Smith joined LVPC in February 2007 with her husband, Chris. A special education teacher, Kristin teaches Sunday school and is involved in young adults activities.

***You grew up in the Evangelical Free Church. Was there a “light bulb” moment that made you change your theological views and eventually led you to join LVPC?***

When I went to college I met so many people who had different, but similar beliefs. Because I went to a small, Christian school, there were many people who were pretty conservative, but the college was liberal enough to let us explore other faith systems too. By the time I was a senior, I was attending a church that was much more open than the church I grew up in and it fit my value system much better. When I met Chris, he hadn't spent much time at any church. We wanted to find a church we could both feel comfortable at and connected to. LVPC did exactly that. We love it!

***What's the most interesting discussion you've had with your Sunday school students?***

The kids in Sunday school are great. They ask the most interesting questions the way only a child could. We have a class full of unique individuals who are curious, excited, and smart. They are connected to their families and enjoy telling us about their many adventures.

***What inspired you to be a special education teacher?***

I started volunteering for a special recreation program when I was 15 and I never

really stopped. It's always been one of my passions. My students are inspiring, fun to be around and they always keep me on my toes. They're the greatest!

***What are you reading?***

I have a bad habit of starting multiple books and not finishing any of them. Right now I'm in the middle of *Eat, Pray, Love* and *Pope Joan*.

***How are you going to spend your summer vacation?***

Unfortunately I am teaching summer school this summer, but it's only half days, which is wonderful. I'm also going to spend TONS of time working on our new house (we're rehabbing most of it), taking classes on-line through Penn State, and hopefully going on a couple of weekend trips. Chris and I love bike riding along the lake, eating out, and just enjoying summer in Chicago!

***What's your favorite breakfast spot?***

I really love Swedish pancakes from Ann Sathers.☪

## ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

BY SARAH WARNER

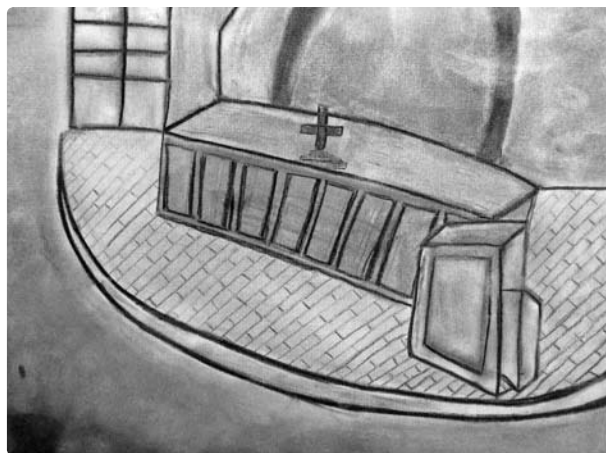
Gabby Melo used to think herself as, “not so good” at making art, but her elegant painting tells a different story. She and fellow Lake View Academy students have been studying art since November under the guidance of LVPC member Peter Stover. Their art was on display for churchgoers to view following the April 12th service.

The students had studied variants on individual colors. Each artist selected a color from the color wheel and depicted the exterior of the church in the tints and shades of that one hue. Red and blue was a popular choice. This style of painting is called “monochromatic.” The geometric shapes in contrast with the subtle shifts in color made our historic church appear quite modern.



PETER STOVER WITH RACHAEL JIMENEZ

The black and white renderings were created with charcoal and pastel. Peter instructed the students to reflect on a particular mood or feeling. Then they were to ask themselves, “How can I represent [this feeling] as a metaphor for light?” Rachel Jimenez's work is titled, *Depressing Time in a Church to the Dark Colors of Sadness*. She says that she was feeling mad on the first day she started on the project and didn't want to do it. Peter encouraged her to “take it out in your art.” The result was a somber rendition of the sanctuary's altar space. Like Gabby, Rachel did not have much experience in art making, but wants to do more. We hope so!



RACHAEL JIMENEZ, *DEPRESSING TIME IN A CHURCH TO THE DARK COLORS OF SADNESS*

To see more pictures of student art, visit LVPC's website.☪

### Thank You

Kathy Benbow would like to express her deep appreciation for all the cards, hugs, prayers, and good thoughts sent to her family last month as they mourn the passing of her brother, Jim Martin.☪

LVPC



ARTS

**Jennie Martin** stage manages:

*TRUMBO: Red, Whit, and Blacklisted*, May 4-June 2,  
TimeLine Theatre, [www.timelinetheatre.com](http://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:

Fridays, La Notte Due Restaurant, Darien,  
[www.lanottedue.com](http://www.lanottedue.com)  
Sundays, Philanders Restaurant, Oak Park,  
[www.carletonhotel.com](http://www.carletonhotel.com)<sup>o</sup>

CHIMES

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Submission deadline for the June issue is May 15. Send articles,  
calendar listings, rants, and raves to Eric Diekhans  
at [ericdiekhans@ameritech.net](mailto:ericdiekhans@ameritech.net).<sup>o</sup>



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