

2008
NOVEMBER

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH

ON HOLY GROUND GEARS UP

BY ERIC DIEKHANS

Two years after shepherding an award-winning exterior renovation, the On Holy Ground Committee is ready to tackle an even bigger project.



ON HOLY GROUND COMMITTEE: ANNE BLANTON, RAY SENDEJAS, DAN BARSON, GEORGE REYES. . NOT PICTURED: ED LEWIS, DAWN STOCKMO, JOY DOUGLAS STROME

The Committee was formed in 2002, with Jim Swartout, Erika Poethig, Jerri Johnson, Jonathan White, and Julie Chafin as its members, to assess the program and building needs for LVPC's growing congregation.

Focus groups from the congregation and community were engaged to help inform their work. A comprehensive plan for expanding our space and programs was completed and outside consultants were hired to determine the plan's feasibility. They concluded that the plan should be divided into two parts: the exterior renovation and the parish house. (You can find the plan at www.lakeviewpresbyterian.org/lvpc_project_overview.htm.)

Phase one of the plan was completed when the historic building renovation was dedicated in October 2005.

Parish House Replacement

Now, with membership and programs continuing to expand, the reconstituted OHG is taking a serious look at following through on Phase 2. The original plan called for a five story building to be built where the Parish House is now located. The sight would contain room for offices, Lake View Academy, Sunday school rooms, a gymnasium, a coffee shop, and expanded space for a pre-school or daycare.

According to Ray Sendejas, OHG's current chair, the Committee is already

considering several modifications to that project. Because of changes in the neighborhood, some of the program space needs to be re-assessed.

The committee is also looking at the sale of the Recycled Paper Greetings building next door, which has been on the market for almost a year. With the possible loss of that parking lot, alternative parking options will be explored.

The Committee is also faced with figuring out how to pay for the new space. This would be a much larger project financially than the exterior renovation, which cost \$1.2 million. The 2003 study estimated the cost of replacing that Parish House at \$4.5 million. That cost has likely grown in the interim.

The Committee's first step is to find more members who want to be involved in the planning process. They are also working on a survey to discover how church needs have changed since the original plans were proposed. Of course, there is going to be a strong need for fundraising ideas.

Joining Ray on the new OHG Committee are Dan Barson, Anne Blanton, Ed Lewis, George Reyes, Dawn Stockmo, and Pastor Joy. You too can be part of this challenging but rewarding committee. Contact Ray at rayanderika@sbcglobal.net to learn how to get involved.☞

Correction

Due to an editorial error, Gregory Else was incorrectly identified as Else Gregory in the October new members profile. Greg is definitely a man, and we regret our error.☞

FAITHFULNESS SUSTAINS THE GENERATIONS



JOY DOUGLAS STROME

Deuteronomy 7:9 Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who maintains covenant loyalty with those who love God and keep God's commandments, to a thousand generations...

By the time you read this, we will nearly be finished with our 10 week series on Moses and the story of the Israelite's trek through 40 years of desert wilderness. One thing has come shining through these texts. God's covenant with the people is rock solid and sustains them through the ups and downs of their faith life together. The passage cited above from Deuteronomy summarizes what everyone in the longer narrative knew... that the presence of God that had led them through long days and nights came before them and extended after they were gone... to a thousand generations.

It is stewardship season at LVPC, the season that pushes us to stop and take stock of where we've been and where we are going. We can name the accomplishments of the year past. We can dream about all that will come in the new year. We can be grateful that another year finds us still growing, still searching, still engaging change as our way. What is remarkable to me are the moments when we understand that we are part of something bigger than ourselves, that our feet are both following in some pretty weighty footprints and that we leave some big shoes to fill in our wake as well. The continuum of God's people stretches as far back as history records and as far forward as the limits of our imagination will allow. We are part of that continuum.

As we look to the future, to a new year that offers hope and promise and certainly some challenges, I hope that the blessings our church has known in the past will sustain all the dreams we have for the future. On October 17, the church was awarded the Richard Dreihaus Foundation Award for Preservation, an architectural award given for historic renovation. I wonder if the founding members of our church in 1884 could have envisioned the lasting nature of the building they built for \$13,000. I wonder, too, if the founding members of our church could have envisioned the congregation that we now have almost 125 years later. They planted the seeds of a building and a ministry that have truly stood the test of time. They couldn't see 125 years down the road, but they could be faithful in their own time. The same is true for us. We are planting our seeds and making our own statements about faith in our time. Our commitment to the work of our church matters. 125 years from now in the year 2133 the fruits of our labor this year will still be evident. Where else in our life can we have that same kind of lasting impact?

God is faithful for a thousand generations. We are faithful in this one generation we embody. Let the blessings of our lives be evident in the actions we take, in the pledges we make, in the seeds we sow for the future.¶

GIVING

BY ERIC DIEKHANS



November is the month when LVPC members look ahead to the next year to decide where to focus our financial resources and how we can give something back for all of the gifts God has given us. As we consider our pledges for 2009, Stewardship and Finance Co-Chair Dan Barson answers a few questions about stewardship.

Why is it important for me to pledge? Why can't I just stick some money in the offering plate every Sunday?

The church is similar to you and your family budget, or to any business. As an example, just as it helps to know that your paycheck arrives the first and middle of the month, it also helps the church to know that there is a steady revenue stream from which budgets can be planned and implemented. Plate giving, although an important part of our revenue, isn't predictable.

How much should I give? Tithing 10% sounds like a lot.

Giving comes in many forms, and all are important to our spiritual family. Financial giving, no matter what the amount, assists with supporting the basic cost associated with running our church infrastructure: the pastor, employees, and building. It also helps to support all the various community outreach program the church provides. Tithing is a goal and guide. Some may give less, and some may give more. In the end, it is what you and your family are comfortable with and can afford.

I'm worried about my job in this economy. If I lose it, can I change my pledge?

Yes, we realize that circumstances can sometimes change. Confidentially is always guaranteed and we will and can change your commitment should you lose your job.

Can you take my pledge directly out of my bank account?

Yes!. You simply fill out a withdrawal permission form with some basic account information that allows the church to withdraw weekly or monthly.

Are there any financial changes in store for 2009?

We have several challenges ahead for the next year. 2009 will be our first full year of our Associate Pastor. In addition, the source of funding for our Parish Nurse and her senior programs has run out. We will need to find additional funding to meet these challenges.

Be sure to attend the Congregational meeting on November 9 and Stewardship Sunday on November 16.¶

CALENDAR



NOVEMBER

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.

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: Bulk Up Your Reading List—See November 11

**Wild Women Potluck—
See November 14**

**Totally Tuesdays: Simple Recipes,
Abundant Results—See November 18**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Lake View Pantry food donations and Two Cents A Meal offerings will be taken at the morning worship services. Keep the peanut butter and jelly coming!

Daylight Savings Begins today. It's a great opportunity to get to church early.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

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.



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

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

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

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

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.

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, NOVEMBER 8

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Don't miss the annual Congregational Meeting following the 11:00 a.m. service. It's an opportunity to get a first look at the 2009 budget and elect church officers.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Finance Committee meets at 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Seniors in Motion fitness class meets at 10:00 a.m. See November 4.

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

Need a great gift idea for Christmas? Jay Schwant, LVPC member and manager of the Book Stall in Winnetka, will highlight the newest books for the Fall and Christmas seasons. He'll include a cross-section of fiction, non-fiction, children's, and young adult books. This Totally Tuesdays class begins at 7:00 p.m. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

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

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

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

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, NOVEMBER 14

The Wild Women of LVPC gather for a potluck at 6:30 p.m. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.

Cafe Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. See November 7.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Session meets at 8:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Today is Stewardship Sunday. Pledges will be received at morning worship.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Social Justice Committee meets at 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Seniors in Motion fitness class meets at 10:00 a.m. See November 4.

Bake someone happy this Christmas. For this week's Totally Tuesdays class, LVPC member Laurie Empen will share her love of baking, some techniques, recipes, and results for you to try. Class begins at 7:00 p.m. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.



Take care of your holiday shopping at the Fair Trade Bazaar, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 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 will feature handmade crafts and coffee from around the world. For more information, call the church office or email Renee Grogg at goofyreneesbcglobal.net.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

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

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

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

The LVPC Book Study meets at 10:00 a.m. to discuss *The Life of Pi* by Yann Martel.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Seniors in Motion fitness class meets at 10:00 a.m. See November 4.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

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

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

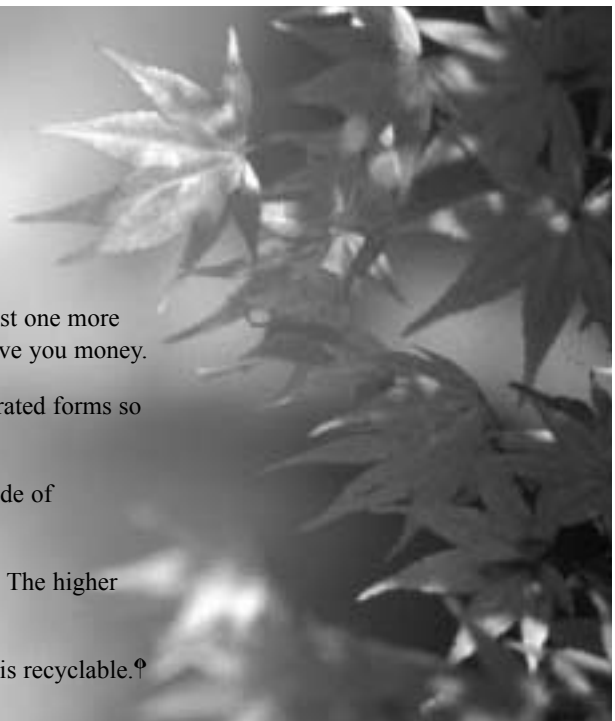
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Today marks the first Sunday of Advent.☞

GREEN TIP

Here are a few ways to cut down on waste:

- Cut back on single-serving foods and beverages. Instead, buy items in bulk and portion them out into reusable containers.
- Tone down the take-out. Cooking just one more dinner and packing just one more lunch a week will have a big impact on unnecessary waste and will save you money.
- Buy household items, like detergent and cleaning supplies, in concentrated forms so that you get more product per package.
- Avoid items wrapped in excessive packaging, such as plastic bags inside of cardboard boxes.
- Whenever possible, look for packaging made from recycled materials. The higher the percentage of recycled content, the better.
- Check the plastic code before you purchase to make sure the package is recyclable.☞



Ken Barlow has a long history with LVPC. His late mother, Helen Barlow, was a member for many years. He joined the church in February 2007.

WHO YOU KNOW



KEN BARLOW

BY SARAH WARNER

What's your favorite activity at the church?

I recently had a new heart implant put in. I have enough energy now that I am going to start taking Wednesdays off to see if I can participate in the choir.

Since this is the Thanksgiving edition, what are some things you're thankful for?

I'm thankful for my doctors. I've had this heart problem since 1999 and this is my second implant. My doctors care a lot and I've done fairly well.

What is your favorite thing about Thanksgiving?

My favorite thing about Thanksgiving is making cinnamon rolls and dinner rolls from my mother's recipe. It really reminds me of her and it's a fun thing to do each year.

What do you do for fun?

I just started walking and I'm going to try to ride my bike again. My building has a gym and I go down there once a week and do 20 minutes on the stationary bike. It's a gradual process of getting me back to normal.

Where do you work?

I work as an administrative assistant for the Chetwyn Rodgers Drive Development Center. It's a center for entrepreneurship and job development. We help people in the Austin area develop businesses and jobs. And we also have a heating program for seniors where we help them with their electric and gas bills. And we also do a winterization program and a furnace program for home owners. I just put a flyer up in the church basement because I want to get the word out that there is a lot of money available to help people if their gas is shut off or if they have an extraordinarily high gas or electric bill.

Is that program available throughout the Chicago area?

Yes. We do a lot of outreach. Even if your electric is included in your rent, we can work to get you a cash rebate check to help defer the cost of what you pay.

Anything else you'd like to say?

I hope people will work towards peace in their own lives so they can radiate peace to other people. I think that's one of the lessons I've learned from being a member of a church and following Jesus Christ.☩

SENIORS HIT THE ROAD

BY GEORGE REYES

For the fourth year, LVPC's Senior Site joined Uptown Ministries for a three-day retreat to Lutherdale Retreat Center in Elkhorn Wisconsin. Eleven participants came from our senior site, including six retreat newbies, while there were five participants from Uptown Ministries.



SENIORS AND FRIENDS HIT THE ROAD FOR THEIR ANNUAL RETREAT.

The retreat was led by Rev. Jacki Belile of Living Well Ministries, Rev. Larissa Kwong-Abazia, LVPC Parish Nurse Sue Cox, Uptown Ministries Parish Nurse Jo Kujawinski, and LVPC Field Placement student Emily McGinley, along with volunteers George Reyes and Kim Alexander from LVPC, and Jackie Raino from Uptown Ministries.

Once we escaped from I-94, the two-hour drive from Chicago found us coasting through the farmlands and rolling hills of Southern Wisconsin. The trees provided a pallet of hues from green to bright yellow with a splash of red rust here and there. From time to time a farm stand with fresh vegetables, canned fruits, and an assortment of gourds and pumpkins of every imaginable size would pop up. We arrived at Lutherdale a little tired but excited to see our accommodations and surrounding landscape.

After dinner, Jacki and Larissa gave a synopsis of the retreat topic, "Finding Our Wisdom, Freeing Our Time." We introduced ourselves and took time for worship with Sue playing the guitar as we sang hymns. Jo led us in a breathing exercise and hand sign prayer. In all, we had five sessions on "Time." We also spent time on craft projects, playing games, conversing with each other one on one, and walking around the surroundings and down to the lake. We drove into Delavan to search for treasures in antique shops, purchased baked items at a local bread shop, and explored the nooks and crannies of a used book store.

Wednesday evening found us strolling to an inviting campfire ring where the snapping and crackling of burning wood blended nicely with the slight chill of the Wisconsin air. The smoke drifted up to the night sky, causing a twinkling of the dazzling stars. An occasional shooting star would catch our attention but we'd be quickly brought back to the fire as one marshmallow after another flamed up. The gooey morsel at the end of a skewer would soon become a tasty smore. We shared stories of days gone by. Jokes and song filled us with laughter as we said, "just one more smore."

New friends were made, new stories shared and new hopes envisioned as we "Live in God's Time."☩

LVPC



ARTS

Stephanie Browning performs:
Saturdays, Peninsula Hotel, Chicago (312) 337-2888

Brooks Darrah appears:
Through December 17, *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*,
Noyes Cultural Center, Evanston, piventheatre.org

Deanna Boyd appears:
Through November 17, *Bernarda Alba; A Musical*,
Heartland Studio Chicago, www.bohotheatre.com

Jon Thomas directs:
November 29-December 14, *The BenchMark*, First United
Methodist Church, Chicago Temple, www.hcgrp.net. Proceeds
benefit Chicago Temple homeless programs and Center for
Religious Architecture

Kara Kesselring performs:
November 12, 26, *Jersey Boys*, Bank of America Theatre,
Chicago, www.jerseyboysinfo.com

John Erickson will give a special release concert for
his new Christmas CD on Thursday, December 4.
Keep an eye out for more details.☞

CHIMES

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Submission deadline for the December issue is November 15.
Send articles, calendar listings, rants, and raves to Eric Diekhans
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