

## OUR EVER-WIDENING CIRCLE

BY ERIC DIEKHANS

Fifteen more new members joined LVPC on May 14 and July 23.



FRONT: MARK LAPLANTE, HELEN JAMESON, MARK WEINAND. MIDDLE: TONYA WAGNER, ROBYN DONNER, KATE GIGNAC, KATHERINE MAYS. BACK: JOHN ERICKSON, TROY WAGNER, JAY SCHWANDT, STEVE WAYNICK, STEPHEN FIRESTONE.

**Robyn Donner** can tell you what a small world it is—she and LVPC member Mike Cummings both grew up in Cozad, Nebraska. Robyn is studying Clinical Massage Therapy. She and her husband, Jeffrey, are proud parents of Ian, who will soon turn one.

Growing up the son of a United Methodist minister, **Jay Schwandt** lived in small towns all over Michigan. As manager of the Book Stall in Winnetka, he's met luminaries like Madeleine Albright, Jimmy Carter, J.K. Rowling, and Jane Fonda.

**Steve Waynick** says he's "super excited about finding a church home." He graduated from Bradley University and St. Louis University and is a Systems Analyst for Hewitt Associate. Steve's two passions are tennis and travel.

**Helen Jameson** attended LVPC for a while before finally joining because, she jokes, "I wanted a name tag!" Passionate about music, Helen plays guitar in an Old Time music group. She's also on the board of the Albany Park Theater Project.

**Troy and Tonya Wagner** grew up in small town, evangelical churches. Troy says he was "raised on preachers who screamed at you during their sermons." Tonya is studying at McCormick Seminary while Troy works for a philanthropic advisory group.

**Dan Barson** grew up Presbyterian and Methodist in Avon Lake, Ohio. He says the "appeal of the building and sign out front" brought him inside LVPC. Dan describes his interests as "traveling, biking, music, gardening, skiing, and my black lab."

**Mark Wienand** and **Mark LaPlante** are also dog lovers. They have three cocker spaniels (as well as a cat). Mark Wienand also has three college degrees. He's an orchestra teacher at King High School. Raised a Catholic, Mark LaPlante came to LVPC because, he says, "I am used to a smaller church." He is studying interior design at Harrington College. As for hobbies: "I am always working on some sort of design project on my home."



MARIO, JENNIFER AND ELIZABETH AVILA

**Jennifer and Mario Avila** joined LVPC on the same day their nine-month-old daughter, Elizabeth, was baptized. Mario grew up in Guanajuato, Mexico while Jennifer is from Anderson, Indiana. They came to LVPC because "we live in the neighborhood, we like the diversity, and we like Joy!"

**John Erickson** found LVPC in the want ads: in 1998 he took the job of church pianist. "In the beginning," John says, "I wanted it to be just a job. But it grew to be a community for me." A talented jazz musician, John has released two albums.

A Special Education teacher in a Skokie middle school, **Kate Gignac** was looking for a church "with lots of community." She grew up in Washington, Michigan and came to Chicago to student teach.

We were unable to reach **Katherine Mays** and **Stephen Firestone**.<sup>¶</sup>

# FALL MUSINGS



JOY DOUGLAS STROME

I remember in elementary school, when the newness of the opening days of school wore thin, when the teachers were dreading the cabin fever of winter and indoor recess loomed, that we would often go on a walking field trip. It didn't cost any money, we didn't have to have permission slips or rent a bus. Our jackets came on, we were assigned our walking partner and we'd take off into the neighborhood looking for leaves. Two by two we filed

down the sidewalk, making a production of obeying all the street signs. Waiting for the signal from the teacher to cross streets or for the stragglers to catch up.

Find all the colors you can, she'd say, and a variety of sizes and shapes. What an adventure to be set free in the middle of the day and leave the school grounds. And what an easy assignment. Our fists would be clenched around our stack of newly fallen leaves, still supple and soft in our little hands. Turn them over and look at the back, she'd say, what do you see? How eager we were to follow her directions and discover something extra-ordinary in the ordinary leaves, leaves that at home had only been piled up for jumping or thrown into the trash bin for burning. Not these leaves. This was school. This was work.

After walking for what seemed blocks, we'd look up to see that we'd wound our way back around to the school and inside we'd go with our leaves in tow. Next the colorful leaves became great masterpieces, a leaf rubbing with charcoal, a display glued to a brown piece of construction paper, a book with a leaf on each page and the name of the tree printed underneath. Once, we trapped the leaves between layers of waxed paper and ran the iron over them to seal in the color and the shape. Quick, before the winter winds turned all the leaves to dust, we'd capture a bit of fall splendor on a scrap of paper and proudly pin it to the wall.

What did we learn from that exercise? About the rhythm of the seasons? About the beauty of a crisp fall day? About the wisdom of teachers who knew that our legs and lungs needed airing so that the math would go down easier? About the wonder of just being alive when fall was in the air?

My hope and prayer for each of you this October is that you will take a walking field trip, hunt for leaves and just enjoy this beautiful time of year. Take a moment to assess the blessings in your life, blessings that enable you to look all around and marvel at the miracle of just being alive! See what love God has, that we should be called the children of God, and so we are.☯

## LVPC PURSUES ECO-JUSTICE

BY BILL HASTINGS

*"The LVPC Task Force on Eco-Justice views creation as a sacred act of a loving God, who has created enough for all, and sees each human being as responsible for honoring that gift through daily actions of stewardship that sustain and protect the integrity of life.*

*Our mission is to raise our congregation's awareness of lifestyle choices and to*

*encourage changes that: seek harmony with Creation, respect all life, value diversity, and support ecological sustainability."*

That's the mission statement of the recently formed Task Force on Eco-Justice, a sub-committee of the Social Justice Committee. The group was formed after a Food For Thought class on eco-justice got many people in

the congregation interested in how to manage the world's resources in a more equitable way.

The Task Force is part of a large community of environmentally concerned people around the world who are working to make sure the world's resources are used in a fairer way. There are many small ways we can use less of the earth's resources that can make a big difference, like installing a low flush toilet, recycling toner cartridges, taking a train or bike to work, opting out of junk mail, and joining a food coop. The Task Force will be sharing more hints in the coming months.

For more information on the Task Force on Eco-Justice, contact Bill Hastings at (773) 549-4135 or [behastings@yahoo.com](mailto:behastings@yahoo.com).



ECO-JUSTICE TASKFORCE  
FRONT: KATHY GOBLES, GRACE GYORI,  
TOM GYORI  
BACK: RUDI BEAU-VINALS, CHRISTOPHER  
BURROWS, BILL HASTINGS

### **October Eco-Justice Events**

LVPC's Food For Thought class will examine "Just Food," October 10, 17 and 24 at 7:00 p.m. Martha Boyd, Congregational Resource Person for Angelic Organics, will lead a discussion on food and the concept of "enough" through the lens of faith and ecological sustainability.

LVPC will screen Al Gore's documentary *An Inconvenient Truth* on Friday, October 20 at 7:00 p.m. *An Inconvenient Truth* has been called "the most important film to be shown in America this year." It engages viewers intellectually and moves them to a place of action. The screening is sponsored by the Interfaith Power and Light Campaign, a religious response to global warming.☯

# WHO YOU KNOW



BY SARAH WARNER

JC CADWALLADER

LVPC is pleased to welcome JC Cadwallader as our new intern from McCormick Seminary.

## *Where's your hometown?*

Cary, North Carolina, in the big mass between Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill that is known to be the Containment Area for Relocated Yankees. And yes, my family would fit into that category.

## *How long have you been in Chicago, and what's your favorite thing about being here?*

I have lived in Chicago for a year now and my favorite things about Chicago have to be the architecture tours. (Okay, so I did work for a boat tour company this summer!) I also love those days of adventure I spend exploring different areas, neighborhoods, restaurants, and music venues.

## *When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?*

I always knew that I was going to be an FBI agent.

## *If you could go anywhere in the world for vacation, where would you go and why?*

Last year, I went back to Belfast, Northern Ireland to visit friends and it was then that I decided that the next time I have to be in a place for that long, I will be going somewhere warm

(hot, even), with a beach and possibly snorkeling or jet skiing or sky diving and fruity drinks.

## *What's your favorite sound?*

My favorite sounds include a grand thunderstorm, the dulcet tones of the ones I love, and the cello.

## *What's your favorite season?*

In North Carolina, I love it in the fall — the heat has broken in the air but the ocean is still warm. In Chicago, I have found myself fondest of the Spring/ Summer—the weather where you can wear jeans and a T-shirt with flip-flops.

## *Besides Jesus, if you could meet anyone dead or alive, who would it be?*

I would have to choose Mary Magdalene. I believe she has quite a story to tell, one which I would love to hear more about. I mean, I can't help but marvel at the transitions that occurred in her life, the way she believed in Jesus, trusted in Jesus, enough to allow her entire life to be transformed. She must have quite a story to tell.

## *Chunky or creamy peanut butter?*

Creamy! ummmm...love it!☺

# CHOIR MEMBERS SING OUT AT MONTREAT

BY TROY WAGNER

"It's like music camp for the whole family," LVPC member Ellen Rayfield says as she tries to explain the Montreat Choir Festival, situated on a small town college campus amid the green mountains of western North Carolina. "It was a great week sharing music and worship." Ellen has been to the festival several times. This past June, eight other Choir members joined her thanks to a successful fundraising effort.

George Reyes and Kathy Bowman talk excitedly about singing along with over a thousand other voices. But they are quick to add it was more than just a group of musicians gathering in the woods. Peg Hazenbush remembers the long conversations, the board games, and the chance to make new friends. George says, "It gave us [the choir members] a great time together. We see each other so often in a church setting, but hardly outside of Sunday."

Three times a day, participants gathered in the palatial auditorium for a worship service. A procession began most of the services with a kite resembling a fish soaring down the center aisle quickly followed by a tall cross. Each service was a grand production of pageantry and beauty. Children's choirs, orchestral groups, a hand-bell choir, and liturgical dances were just a small part of the fanfare. But fanfare wasn't how Kathy Benbow saw it. "There were a lot of different ways of worshiping we rarely experience."

When asked how the nine had decided upon this summer to attend, Daisy Braucher turns serious. "Dale. We knew he was leaving." Dale had been exposed to the festival through Ellen Rayfield years earlier and had started to imagine what the experience could mean to the choir and the congregation.

Fred Braucher finally adds with a sly smile, "There's a reason our music has come along with the faith for so many years." And when he says it like that it, sounds beautiful to me.☺



ELLEN RAYFIELD (RIGHT) LENDS HER TALENTS TO A QUARTET IN MONTREAT.

# CALENDAR

Place Your  
Favorite  
Refrigerator  
Magnet Here

# OCTOBER

## 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, grades K-5, and 6-8 meet in the Academy.

Choir practice at 10:00 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. Parking is not available during night and weekend Cubs games, including these Sundays: October 1.

Help beautify the Sanctuary by donating flowers. To sponsor a Sunday give cash or a check for \$20 to Sang-Ho Nam.

## ADVANCE WARNINGS: SIGN UP NOW!

*New Members Class—See October 5*

*Food For Thought: Just Food—  
See October 10*

*Men's Retreat—See October 13*

*Food For Thought: Martin Luther—  
See October 31*

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

Lake View Pantry food donations and Two Cents A Meal offerings will be taken at the morning worship services. Today is also World Communion Sunday.

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 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.

Deacons meet at 6:00 p.m.

Food For Thought continues with Women's Ordination: Past, Present & Future. Rev. Eunice Poethig leads the class, which begins at 7:00 p.m.



## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4

The Seniors gather for a Midweek Movie at 12:30 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

Young Adult Bible Study meets at 8:30 p.m.

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

*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, OCTOBER 6

It's fun for the under-five set at Playgroup beginning at 9:30 a.m. Call Kirsten Gettings at (773) 275-4487 to find out where they're meeting.

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.

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10

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

*Food for Thought explores "Just Food,"*

*beginning tonight at 7:00. What are*

*genetically modified foods? Where*

*can we find "safe" food? Martha Boyd,*

*Congregational Resource Person for*

*Angelic Organics, leads a discussion*

*on food and the concept of "enough"*

*through the lens of faith and ecological*

*sustainability. Sign up in the back of*

*the Sanctuary.*

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

The Seniors gather for a Midweek Movie at 12:30 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

Young Adult Bible Study meets at 8:30 p.m.

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

The New Members Class continues. See October 5.



**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13**

Playgroup meets at 9:30 a.m. See October 6

The men of LVPC hit the road for their Annual Retreat at Conference Point Center in Williams Bay, Wisconsin. The cost is \$125. See the article in last month's *Chimes* for full details. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.

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

The whole church community is invited to Out at the Movies, a special presentation of a gay-themed film. It starts at 9:00 p.m.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14**

Men's Retreat continues. See October 13

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15**

Men's Retreat continues. See October 13

New Members will be received during morning worship.

*Church World Service's annual CROP*

*walk to fight hunger steps off at 2:15 p.m.*

*If you can't walk, then sponsor a walker!*

*For more information go to  
www.churchworldservice.org.*

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17**

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

Food For Thought continues with Just Food. See October 10.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18**

The Seniors gather for a Midweek Movie at 12:30 p.m.

Worship Committee meets at 6:00 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

Christian Nurture Committee meets at 7:30 p.m.

Young Adult Bible Study meets at 8:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20**

Playgroup meets at 9:30 a.m. See October 6.

*LVPC is one of hundreds of congregations across the country screening Al Gore's*

*documentary An Inconvenient Truth. The film shows why curbing our appetite for*

*fossil fuels is a moral imperative. It starts at 7:00 p.m.*

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

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 23**

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

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24**

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

Food For Thought continues with Just Food. See October 10.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25**

The Seniors gather for a Midweek Movie at 12:30 p.m.

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

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

Young Adult Bible Study meets at 8:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27**

Playgroup meets at 9:30 a.m. See October 6.

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

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28**

The Garden Club meets at 9:00 a.m. if the weather cooperates.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 30**

Finance Committee meets at 6:30 p.m.

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31**

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

Today is Reformation Day, the perfect date to begin a new Food For Thought Class on Martin Luther: 95 Theses and Beyond. Ginny Landgraf, LVPC member with graduate training in theology, will present an introduction to the life and thought of Luther, who is considered the father of many Protestant denominations. Class begins at 7:00 p.m. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.®



Is your pledge up-to-date? Electronic giving options are available. See Mike Cumming or call the church office for more information.

LVPC



ARTS

**Stephanie Browning performs:**  
Saturdays, 8:30-midnight, Peninsula Hotel, Chicago  
(312) 337-2888

**Kara Kesselring performs:**  
October 2, La Notte Restaurant wine tasting dinner, Darien  
(630) 663-1920

**Kara Kesselring and Stephanie Browning perform:**  
Tuesdays, Pete Millers, Wheeling (847) 243-3700

**John Vessels appear in**  
*Madame X*, Opening October 7, Chicago Center for the  
Performing Arts, [www.theaterland.com](http://www.theaterland.com)<sup>®</sup>

CHIMES

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



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