

Transition Oversight Team update –

## TOT will report to congregation March 28

### Group makes progress in plans for selecting new minister

By Alice Blegen

YOUR Transition Oversight Team (TOT), whose purpose is to manage LSC's ministerial transition, has been meeting regularly since December and feels that we have made progress in defining how we can provide support throughout the transition process.

We are meeting with representatives from all committees, staff, the Board, and other groups and individuals. We also are working on a survey which will help define who we are as a church and what the LSC community sees as our future.

While we all acknowledge a feeling of loss and inevitable change with Bob Thompson's retirement, we are hoping to help focus energies on making this a positive experience – a time to rise to the challenge of change together and work toward a common goal of defining and strengthening our church community.

On March 11, the Team will present our Charter, information gathered to date, and next steps to the LSC General Board. Then, on March 28, following the worship service, we will host a congregational meeting in the Parlor.

In addition to presenting the information that will have been given to the General Board, we will open the meeting to questions and will try our best to answer as many as possible. It is our goal to work with eve-

ryone in the LSC community to keep the lines of communication flowing.

As always, please contact any member of the Team, Alice Blegen, Ann Carra, Glenn Hedman, or Elizabeth Olson, with your questions or comments. <>

Environmentally friendly –

### Eco-Palms sustainably harvested, fairly traded

ON Palm Sunday, our palm branches will be Eco-Palms, sustainably harvested and fairly traded. The new harvesting practices ensure that the same quality palm branches we have now will be there for years to come. Purchasing them protects the forest habitats they are grown in and prevents conversion to pasture or agricultural lands.

Our purchase directly benefits the communities in Guatemala and Chiapas where the palm branches are harvested. They help send young girls to school, employ women, and build community centers.

Our Palm Sunday Eco-Palms were purchased through CINRAM at the University of Minnesota (to view slides, go to [www.lwr.org/palms/slideshow.asp](http://www.lwr.org/palms/slideshow.asp)). —Chris Ellicott. <>

### April Spire deadline March 28

THE deadline for copy to go into the April issue of *The Spire* will be 11:30 on Sunday morning, March 28. Hand your copy to Bob Jones or place it in *The Spire* folder in the cabinet on the south wall of the church office. <>

A great day -

### marthas at work clean LSC's kitchen and pantry

THE marthas had a great day:

- more people showed up than had been expected,
- everyone went for the dirtiest jobs first, and
- the kitchen and pantry are visibly cleaner!

Working on February 20, Philip Englert made the pantry sparkle, Joyce Jennings ripped up vinyl flooring and scrubbed underneath, David Jennings and John Heimbaugh laid down new vinyl and fixed a door, Cheryl Graham cleaned the inside of the large refrigerator, and Phyllis Nickel cleaned grime off the top and outside. Mike Valente scrubbed ceiling fans and Richard Barnes cleaned walls with a vacuum on his back, Larry Honbo scrubbed behind the refrigerators and stove, and Randy Huyck helped clean the light fixtures.

That's only part of the story, but you get the picture – thank you to everyone! If you would like to join this good-spirited group, your next chance will be to help clean the sanctuary, starting at 9:30 a.m. (or when you can) on Saturday, March 27. Generally, people work for 2 or 2½ hour shifts, and everyone will be done by 3 p.m.

If you are interested, please call (leave message) or E-mail Mike Valente (Grand Poo Bah of the marthas) at 773/275-7448 or [michaevalente@yahoo.com](mailto:michaevalente@yahoo.com).—Randy Huyck.

<>

## Nominating Committee advises: choose service that fits your life

**By Liz Napier Martin, Nominating Committee Chair**

WE ALL want our lives to have meaning, but how and when we contribute to others necessarily varies due to life circumstances. You may learn about service opportunities both within and outside the LSC community that match *your* time and interests in MacLeish Hall on March 14 and March 21 after the worship service.

The LSC Nominating Committee and other service groups such as the Peace & Justice Committee and the Sustenance Connection will be happy to discuss with you what might work now in your life, or you may sign up to be notified about future one-time events. You may also suggest names for the nominating committee to consider in filling elected positions.

Opportunities to serve range from a few seconds (placing your own and others' Sunday bulletins in a recycling bin on your way out of the sanctuary) to a multi-year Board commitment. If your time is limited, there are many ways to serve the LSC community or others in need using just a few minutes of your time on a Sunday when you already are at church.

The nominating committee will have information about service opportunities within LSC including committees, coordinator positions, and the Board. Tell us your interests and your time availability and we will suggest roles for your consideration.

LSC groups who serve the community outside of LSC will inform you about their service opportunities, such as serving a meal to the homeless guests at Hilda's Place or making sandwiches for the Night Ministry. If you sign up to be notified of future events, you may make a decision based on your schedule.

The nominating committee welcomes your suggestions for all elected positions and committees. In particular, we are seeking suggestions for LSC members to fill open slots on the Church Board. The Board represents and leads the congregation in the management of church affairs and administration of church policy.

We are looking for people who seek to learn about LSC and how it operates; who are dedicated to our mission; who are able to honor and respect confidentiality; who are able to listen, negotiate, and work cooperatively with others by being receptive and responsive to others' ideas and opinions; who work to form new and creative solutions to issues/problems; who have good communication skills; who make sound decisions and recommendations based on a balanced consideration of facts, priorities, resources, constraints, and alternatives; and who take responsibility for actions and results. >>>

### Worship Service Attendance February 2010

Sun. No.	Date in '10	Same Sunday			
		2010	2009	2008	2007
6	February 7	260	295	* 209	288
7	February 14	† 242	‡ 262	246	213
8	February 21	237	230	246	224
9	February 28	236	274	226	293
February totals		975	1,061	927	1,018

\* -4° † incl. 17 on ski trip ‡ incl. 16 on ski trip

Overall, the Board should represent a cross-section of the congregation and the background of its members; should include leadership experience at LSC; leadership, governance, and/or boards of other volunteer organizations; and business management experience (e.g., finance, asset, risk, and personnel management).

The Board generally meets on the second Thursday evening of the month for 1½ hours.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 847/256-9291. I look forward to seeing you in MacLeish Hall, March 14 and 21. <>

**Remember** to tell people that LSC is handicapped-accessible on all of the first floor with ramps. <>

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With willing hearts –

## Baptists gather for business, learn of National Ministries

CATHERINE Burris-Schnur and Jacki Belile attended the regional meeting of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago at Irving Park Baptist Church on February 6. Catherine serves as the president of ABC/MC, Jacki and Ann-Louise Haak are LSC's delegates.

"It's not about willing hands, but willing hearts," preached Rev. Eddie Cruz, associate executive director of ABC-USA's National Ministries. He led the gathering with a touching reflection on soul and social transformation anchored in this idea that our collective work – for example, the denomination's winter promotion of the fundraising offering called "America for Christ" – ought always to come out of and have impact on our own ongoing, conscious soul transformation. Cruz outlined some National Ministries current priorities: the children in poverty initiative, interfaith collaboration in immigration reform, health care, and neighborhood action center.

For more information about our national mix of evangelism, advocacy, and service delivery, visit [www.nationalministries.org](http://www.nationalministries.org). (LSC does not currently take this offering, but individuals can give on-line, with gifts being credited to LSC's annual denominational giving: 29% of the offerings from the region are channeled from the national body back to regional life.)

Two important upcoming events will serve local church life and our youth. An upcoming seminar called "Risk Management for Churches" will be held on March 6, and Chris Ellicott will attend on our behalf. An exciting new Summer camp opportunity will be held June 27-July 3 for youth in sixth through ninth grades. This camp at Camp Grow (Green Lake, WI) will feature regional leaders such as Naomi Kerstein, Linda Tossey, and David Gregg, with a theme on self-image, identity, and spirituality.

Many of us rejoice in this opportunity as the fruit of much labor to create a regional camping experience grounded in and sensitive to the wide theological diversity of our region. (David Gregg, Executive Minister Larry Greenfield, and Catherine Burris-Schnur are among the persistent focused leaders who made this happen.)

The next quarterly meeting will be held May 8 at First Baptist Church of LaGrange from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (including lunch). Contact me at [jacki@livingwellministries.net](mailto:jacki@livingwellministries.net) for more information. For more information on our regional Baptist life contact [veronica@abcmc.org](mailto:veronica@abcmc.org) to be added to the weekly e-newsletter called "ewind." It includes local church announcements, justice and training opportunities in metro-Chicago, and a weekly theological reflection written by Dr. Greenfield.—Jacki Belile. <

Delivering the gifts –

## Fitzgibbons family leads efforts to help people in Haiti disaster

PAULA Fitzgibbons writes: "Our family is planning a trip to Haiti to help with the rebuilding efforts. Peter will be leading the trip. Watch for details about a planning coffee to be held this month. Thank you to everyone for a very successful collection of supplies and donations to the orphanage that cared for our children before we brought them home almost seven years ago.

"The Sunday School classes spent several Sundays collecting money, games, and many supplies. We appreciated the thought and care the children put into this project. We received enough donations to nearly fill a 15-passenger van.

"We kept out some non-emergency supplies that we will send later in order to make room for supplies the orphanage director was sending from Indiana. We drove to Indiana and visited with the director who had been flown in by a private pilot for a 2-day respite. She shared with us that most of the damage was caused by the aftershocks. She showed us heart-breaking photos of the orphanage. Set up like a small village with cement block buildings for each foster family, most buildings lost one or two full walls and many lost their roofs. All 80 children (placed in the orphanage prior to the earthquake) and their foster mothers currently are sleeping in the court-yard. They now are taking in children needing care because of the earthquake.

"From Indiana we drove to Titusville, FL, where we delivered the supplies to a cargo company that flew them directly to Haiti that week. The money that people donated will go towards food that cannot be sent from out of country and supplies for rebuilding.

"Thank you to everyone for your generosity and compassion!" <

### LSC Book Cart is a lending library

WHAT is that cart with books on it in MacLeish Hall during coffee hour? It is the lending library of Lake Street Church. Come and find books you can check out for four weeks. Try books with new ideas for you or those you know you will enjoy. Most are of a spiritual nature and many relate to other religions as well. The book cart is in MacLeish Hall on most Sundays. We request that if you have gotten books from the cart, you check your book shelves and return any that are past due. If so, please bring them back and give them to whoever is helping with the cart that morning. You are most welcome to help with the lending library, too. If you are interested, please call me at [e-engel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:e-engel@sbcglobal.net).—Jean Engel. <

# What's Going on?

A calendar of activities at Lake Street Church from March 6 through April 11.

## Sundays:

8:45 a.m., Chancel Choir  
9:30 a.m., Adult Sunday School, Crystal Ringers, Children's Chorale  
10:30 a.m., Worship Service, Children's Sunday School, Youth Group  
11:30 a.m., Reception in MacLeish Hall

## Wednesdays:

7 p.m., Chancel Choir, Confirmation Class

## Thursdays:

10:30 a.m., Beyond Belief  
7 p.m., Meditation Satsang

## March:

Sun 7<sup>th</sup> 9:30 a.m., Finance Committee  
Thu 11<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m., General Board meets

Thu 11<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m., The How of Happiness  
Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Friday Nite Club  
Sat 13<sup>th</sup> bedtime, set clocks ahead  
Sun 14<sup>th</sup> 2 a.m., DST begins  
Sun 14<sup>th</sup> 5 p.m., A Hidden Wholeness  
Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Sustenance Connection  
Tue 16<sup>th</sup> Outreach Committee  
Tue 16<sup>th</sup> Deacons Committee  
Thu 18<sup>th</sup> House Committee  
Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Newcomers breakfast  
Sun 21<sup>st</sup> 10:30 a.m., Welcome new members  
Sun 21<sup>st</sup> 11:45 a.m., Night Ministry sandwiches  
Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Noon, InsideOut meets for lunch  
Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Noon, Pray the Devil Back to Hell, lunch  
Sun 21<sup>st</sup> 4 p.m., Seeds of Faith, Dances of Universal Peace \*  
Sun 21<sup>st</sup> 7 p.m., LOM Spring Equinox  
Thu 25<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m., The How of Happiness  
Sat 27<sup>th</sup> 9:30 a.m., martha event \*

Sun 28<sup>th</sup> 10:30 a.m., Palm Sunday service and baptisms  
Sun 28<sup>th</sup> 11:30 a.m., TOT reports to congregation \*  
Sun 28<sup>th</sup> 5 p.m., A Year to Live  
Mon 29<sup>th</sup> 7:30 p.m., Light of the Moon

## April:

Thu 1<sup>st</sup> 7 p.m., Maundy Thursday service  
Thu 1<sup>st</sup> Sustenance Connection  
Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> Noon, Passover and Good Friday  
Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> 2:30 p.m., Easter Egg decorating  
Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Easter  
Sun 4<sup>th</sup> 9:30 a.m., Finance Committee  
Thu 8<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m., The How of Happiness  
Thu 8<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m., General Board  
Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Friday Nite Club  
Sun 11<sup>th</sup> 10:30 a.m., Infant and Child dedication  
Sun 11<sup>th</sup> 5 p.m., A Hidden Wholeness

\* = Details elsewhere in this issue. <>

Three replacing one –

## Fair Trade coffee will continue to be available at LSC; new management

WHAT'S the story behind the coffee that Jane Kelley-Erickson has been selling on a monthly basis during LSC's coffee hour for the past several years? Yes, it's fair trade, but it's much more than that.

In 2005, Jane took a fascinating trip down to the mountains of Chiapas and observed first hand how the indigenous Chiapas people are earning decent wages by producing shade-grown, fair-trade certified organic coffee. Originally driven off their land, they were aided by Economic Jubilee Ministries who helped them purchase the land for this coffee endeavor that is now safe and secure. Inspired by their story, upon her return Jane committed to selling their coffee at LSC.

Being Jane, she didn't feel that this was enough. Thus, in addition to ordering, coordinating, and selling coffee, whose profits support the cooperative in Chiapas, Jane decided that she could mark up the coffee slightly (now up to \$10 per pound – a steal compared to the prices in retail markets for organic, shade-grown, fair trade coffee), and thus donate additional funds to Aunt Mary's Storybook Project. This project enables mothers in prison to record stories for their children.

In light of her recent health challenges, Jane has reluctantly conceded that she is no longer able to continue selling coffee on a monthly basis. But do not despair!

Kim Yee, Evan Girard, and I will carry on. (Yes, it will take three of us to do what Jane did alone.) We plan to continue selling during the coffee hour on the third Sunday of the month, at least for now. So, plan to stock up on this tasty and socially responsible treat on Sunday, March 21. See you then!—Shelby Hatch. <>

No experience necessary –

## Dances of Universal Peace March 21 feature 'Uncovering Seeds of Faith'

IF YOU have never experienced the Dances of Universal Peace, this is your chance: Sunday, March 21, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., in the Parker Room. At the second session of our series, "Uncovering Seeds of Faith," we will let our bodies and souls resonate with the sounds of holy phrases in the common language of Jesus' time while moving together with simple steps to absorb the wisdom of these ancient sayings.

Moving while chanting the words which have been prayed for thousands of years in different parts of the world is both a form of worship and an opportunity to open our hearts to a deeper spirituality.

This will be a stand-alone session. Everyone is welcome and no previous experience is necessary. All of the simple phrases, melodies, and steps will be taught for each circle dance.

On May 2 and June 6, our Seeds of Faith study and  
(Continued on page 5)

## Seeds of Faith (continued from page 4)

dance will be delving deeper into the words and teachings coming out of the common creation stories of the Muslim, Jewish, and Christian faiths. Dances will be led by Marcia Heeter, accompanied by Christine Inserra on guitar and Peter Slonek on drums.—Marcia Heeter. <

Our tax-exempt status –

### LSC Board studies how to comply with IRS rules on political activity

THE LSC General Board is currently reviewing a policy on political activity for adoption. The policy states:

This policy is designed to help the Church and its members and friends 1) comply with Internal Revenue Service restrictions on lobbying activities and the absolute prohibition on political campaign intervention for section 501(c)(3) organizations; and 2) provide a non-partisan atmosphere in which all are free to worship without partisan political pressures.

As a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, the Church may not devote a substantial part of its activities to attempting to influence legislation (lobbying) and the Church is absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office. Violation of this prohibition could cause the Church to lose its tax-exempt status and be required to pay taxes.

A complete copy of the policy is available for your review in the church office in accordance with our by-laws. If you have any comments or additions, please reference them with the *Internal Revenue Service Publication 1828 Tax Guide for churches and Religious Organizations, the IRS Revenue Ruling 2007-41 and the LSC Bylaws* first before bringing them to the attention of the co-moderators.

The Board will discuss this potential policy again at the April 8 Board meeting.—Michelle Brewer, co-moderator. <

### Connections benefit will be April 17

YOU are invited to join a group of LSC friends in an alternative, enjoyable way of supporting Connections for the Homeless and Hilda's Place at Raise the Roof, Connections' annual benefit dinner-auction on Saturday, April 17, at the Four Seasons hotel in Chicago. This event will raise funds for Hilda's Place transitional shelter and other programs designed to prevent and end homelessness. For more information, go to [cfhinc.org](http://cfhinc.org) or contact Randy Huyck ([jrhuyck@gmail.com](mailto:jrhuyck@gmail.com)) or me ([katypen@comcast.net](mailto:katypen@comcast.net)) or 847/328-1936.—Katy Pendleton. <

## People you know

The love and concern of the congregation were expressed for **David and Sydney Reed** following the death of David's mother near the end of February.

### Sick Call

A number of members of the LSC congregation were ill in the first part of 2010. Among them:

**Rodney Erickson** writes: "After two surgeries, eight weeks in hospitals, and four weeks in rehab, **Jane Kelley-Erickson** plans to come home the first week in March. She is more grateful than words can express for the dozens of cards, food, prayer shawls, and visits exhibiting the love and support many of you have given. It has made a big difference in helping her to hang in there. She will be sticking close to home during March and would love to see any of you for a short visit."

**Jay Lipscomb** suffered a serious heart attack early in February and was in the intensive care cardiac unit at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge.

**Sydney Reed** was hospitalized in mid February after exhibiting stroke-like symptoms. Fortunately, she did not suffer a stroke and was soon released.

**Judy Bond** was hospitalized briefly in mid February.

**Jim Molidor** had successful surgery near the end of February.

**Dick Macharg** suffered a broken leg and faced follow-up treatment at the end of February.

### Others

Congratulations to **Jim Huffman** on the publication of his new book, *Japan in World History*. It is available from Oxford Press.

**Kay Muller, Janet Harris**, and others from their families were pictured in the January 28 issue of the Pioneer Press newspapers in an article about the Ted Fund.

**Kim Yee & Eric Haab** were authors of a letter to the editor of the *Evanston RoundTable*. In praise of the Washington School African Heritage Reading Fest, it appeared in the February 17 issue.

**Karen Thomson** was one of two winners of the 2009 Mayor's Award for the Arts. She was honored at the annual State of the City address on February 26.

**Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky** and **Senator Dick Durbin** visited Hilda's Place shelter in the LSC basement on February 5 and received an update on Connections for the Homeless and its efforts to address the needs of homeless persons in the light of the recession.

**Linda Scott** was author of a letter to the editors of the Pioneer Press (February 25) in praise of a decision against euthanizing a colony of feral cats. <

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Change Service Requested

The Spire