



LAKWOOD
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Open Door

Hope • Friendship • Service

New Year's Message

FROM THE PASTOR

The Rev. Dr. James Butler

“Fast away the old year passes, fah lah lah lah lah, lah lah lah, lah...” It seems like 2010 was one of those years. It passed quickly because it was filled with so many meaningful activities. Recently, several people have asked how 2010 “went” for me. I heard myself saying “Actually, very well, it was a great year!” Since much of my life is wrapped up in my role as pastor of LPC, that means I was reflecting on our life together as a faith community.

I continue to be blessed to see annual financial pledges and per-member giving increasing. My heart tells me that we are finally beginning to see that

managing our financial resources really *is* a spiritual issue. Let’s keep growing together! A good bit of my time was spent with the “ReI-2010” Ministry Planning Team. What a joy and inspiration they have been to me. Our church is blessed with faithful hearts and good minds! The exploratory taskforces and teams that were spun off of the planning process are now at work and will be presenting some new ministry initiatives for Session’s review and support. Watch the newsletter in the months ahead. Another highpoint was this year’s Theological Oktober-

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2011 Financial Pledges Surpass 2010

FROM THE FINANCE MINISTRY

We are pleased to report that as of late December over 137 financial pledges have been received totaling approximately \$302,000.00. The good news is that 75 pledges were increased (totaling \$25,535.00) in response to LPC pastor James Butler’s “10%” challenge! Fourteen new pledges were received totaling \$13,949.00! Eighteen pledges were lowered resulting in a decrease of \$8,419.00. Thirty pledges were unchanged from 2010. And of course, some LPC members do not pledge but very faithfully support the church’s ministry. Thank you for your faithful and generous support. May God



“supply all your needs according to his riches in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19).❖

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Coming in February:

- Sunday, February 6 – Music Benefit Service for Mission during Worship
- Sunday, February 6 – Annual Meeting and Congregational Potluck at Noon
- Friday & Saturday, February 18-19 – Youth Lock-In

Presbyteries Are Considering Amendments to the PCUSA Constitution

The 2010 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) proposed several important amendments to the denomination's constitution (*The Book of Confessions* and *The Book of Order*) including a proposal to vastly reorganize and shorten the first 18 chapters of *The Book of Order*. Constitutional amendments proposed by a General Assembly require ratification by the 173 Presbyteries. The three amendments considered the most controversial have been briefly outlined below. For a complete description of all the amendments, go to www.oga.pcusa.org/constitution.htm.

- "nFOG," or "New Form of Government" had its beginnings in the 2006 General Assembly. The amendment would strike all of the text in the current section of *The Book of Order* called the "Form of Government," and insert two briefer sections called "Foundations of Presbyterian Polity," (replacing the first four chapters) and a new "Form of Government" (which reduces the remaining current 14 chapters down to six chapters). The goal of the new form of government is to move away from a "one size must fit all" approach and maximize flexibility to meet the changing needs of particular congregational contexts.
- The "Belhar Confession" may become the 12th document in *The Book of Confessions*. "Belhar" has its theological and historical roots in the struggle of South Africans to abolish apartheid and all manifes-

tations of racism and for Christians under the authority of the Lordship of Christ to acknowledge the equality of all people as being created in the image of God. The denomination has been studying the appropriateness of including the "Belhar" in its collection of confessions since 2004.

- The third major amendment was proposed by the Presbytery of the Western Reserve in which Lakewood Presbyterian Church is located. The amendment seeks to reaffirm the principles of the 1729 "Adopting Act" which provided theological "space" among Presbyterians for differing points of view relative to doctrine and "essential tenets" within the Reformed faith. Specifically, the amendment seeks to strike the text of G-6.0106b, added in 1997, regarding sexual standards for ordination to the offices of Deacon, Elder, and Minister of Word and Sacrament, and replace them with ethical standards shaping the whole of life. The amendment will also serve to re-establish the 1729 principle that Presbyteries and congregations are responsible to examine and discern a person's "fitness" to hold office, particularly with regard to theological diversity.

Presbytery commissioners will debate and vote on the removal of G-60106b and several other amendments at the January 24 meeting; the "Belhar Confession" vote is scheduled for the March 28 meeting; and the New Form of Government debate is scheduled for May 23. ❖

Annual Congregational Meeting

The **Annual Congregational Meeting** is scheduled for February 6, 2011. Watch for more information in the February *Open Door*.

Annual Reports from all ministries and organizations are due in the Church office no later than Sunday, January 23, 2011. The reports will be available on January 30 for review prior to the congregational meeting on Sunday, February 6. Please e-mail your report to mandrews@lakewoodpresbyterian.org. Chairpersons will be receiving in the mail a letter of explanation and a copy of their last year's report. We ask your cooperation in meeting this deadline. ❖



Music Notes

Thank you to the music staff as well as all the singers, ringers, and players who have enriched our worship during Advent and Christmas. So many generous hearts, giving so much of their talents blesses us all.

Music Ahead

January 2

Chancel Choir, Chancel Bell Choir, Dorothy Lewis and Peg Limkemann duet

January 9

Bob Salem, Zoe Harper, Chancel Choir

January 16

Don Shultzaberger and Peg Limkemann duet, Chancel Choir, Chapel Bell Choir

January 23

Cuatro String Quartet, Dennis Seeds, Chancel Choir

January 30

Ryan Pennington, Chancel Choir

Good Company Concert

Good Company: A Vocal Ensemble will present a program of choral works entitled “Bohemian Rhapsody” on Sunday, January 30, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. at Lakewood Presbyterian Church. The featured work of the concert will be Dvorak’s *Mass in D* with our own Peg Limkemann as guest organist. The 30-voice mixed ensemble will also present works by Morten Lauridsen, Eric Whitacre and Joan Szymko. LPC Chancel Choir Director Karen Weaver is director of the group and Susan Lezan is accompanist. There is no admission charge for the concert, but a free-will offering will be taken. A reception will follow in the Atrium. Please join Good Company for this musical event! ❖

Pastor

(Continued from page 1)

fest which explored issues about the afterlife. My colleagues in the Presbytery could hardly believe reports of the large crowds that came out those four Tuesday evenings. I am blessed to serve a congregation that is so full of people who want to learn and grow in their faith. Are you one of them?

A new year is before us once again. What does God want to do with us? How will we respond? Will we do new things, or maybe old things in a new way? Lord only knows! What I know for sure is that we can do whatever it is that God wants us to do! God has and will continue to supply our needs so that we can do the exciting work of Christ’s mission and ministry. I am praying that every one of us will seek God’s very best in 2011. I think faith isn’t as much about “believing” as it is about “doing.” So, let us seek faithful lives—let us strive to be good stewards of God’s gifts of time, talent, and treasure. God bless you and, “Happy New Year!” ❖

Former LPC Pastor Introduces Latest Book

The Rev. Dr. Richard Watts (LPC pastor from 1973-1980) has a new book out entitled, “Hungers of the Heart: Spirituality and Religion for the 21st Century.” The book is written for people who want to deepen their spiritual life but tend to be turned off by organized faith and “churchy” theological language. Watts encourages his readers to embark on a journey of reflection which will help them to become more comfortable in the “intersection” of science/reason and faith/mysticism. The book can be purchased online at www.booklocker.com. Watts’ other book, “Who Is Jesus?” was co-authored with world-renowned “Jesus Scholar,” John Dominic Crossan. ❖

Presbyterian Women (PW)

Upcoming Events

- **PW Presbytery of the Western Reserve (PWR) Spirituality Retreat**
April 2, 2011 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Olmsted Falls
- **PW Synod Gathering**
June 24–26, 2011 in Findlay, Ohio
- **PW Churchwide Gathering**
July 18–22, 2012 in Orlando, Florida

PW Purpose

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves

- to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
- to support the mission of the church worldwide,
- to work for justice and peace,

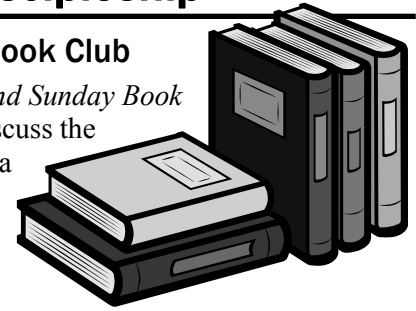
and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

For more information, visit
pcusa.org/ministries/pw/about

Nurture & Discipleship

Second Sunday Book Club

Members of the *Second Sunday Book Club* will read and discuss the following books. See a book that interests you? Join the Book Club at any time.



📖 January 9

Gift from the Sea by Anne Morrow Lindbergh

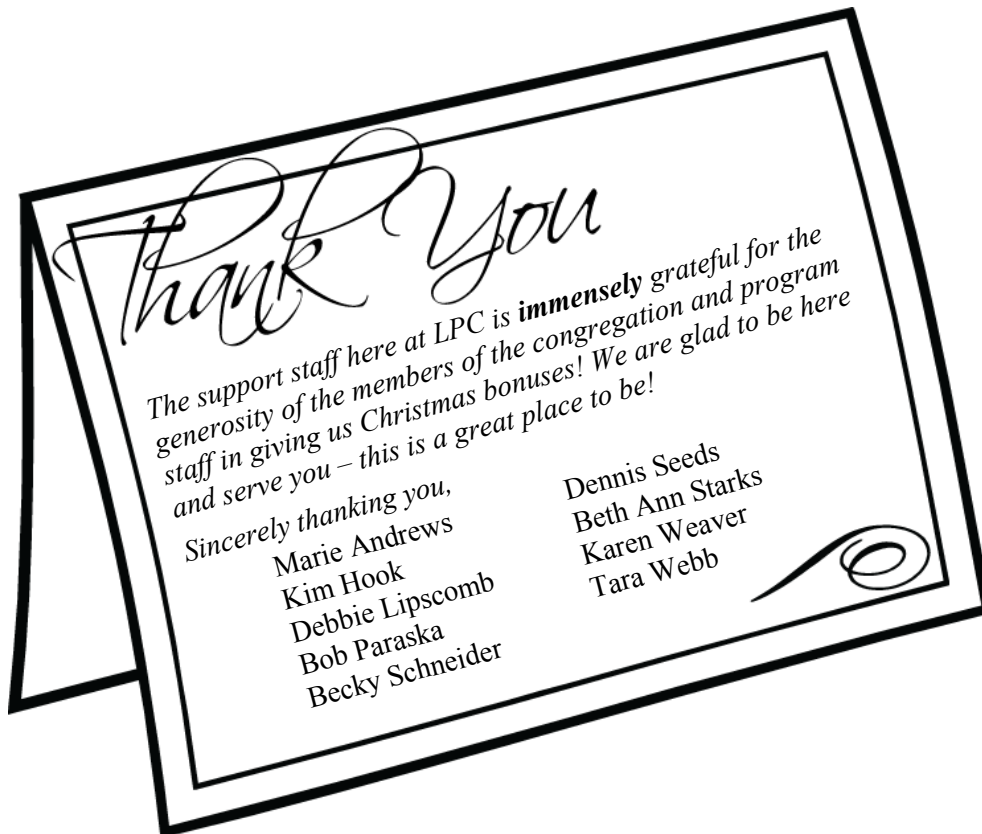
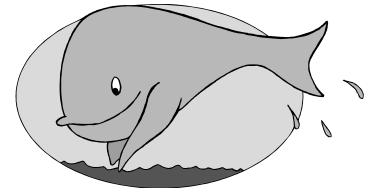
📖 February 13

The Faith Club by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner

Faith Journeys Sunday School

January Rotations

- **No Sunday School:**
January 2
- **Jesus and the Woman at the Well:**
January 9, 16 & 23
- **Jesus Calms the Storm:** January 30



Fellowship & Small Groups

Acacia-Lydia Circle

No meeting in January.

Double-Tithing Dinner Circle

The Circle has moved to meeting on the *second Thursday* of the month. They will dine at Deagan's Kitchen & Bar (14810 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood) at 5:30 p.m. on **Thursday, January 13**. In 2010 the women collected \$5 for Pennies for Peace (Doug Mortenson's school building in Pakistan and Afghanistan) and \$179 for Doughby River School's classroom and orphanage buildings in Liberia initiated by the Rev. Francis Miller and Nobel Road Presbyterian Church.

Psalm 139 Knitters

Wednesday, January 26 at 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry meets in the Reed Room. All levels of knitters and crocheters are welcome.

Mailbox Ministry

Wednesday, January 26 at 2 p.m. in the Reed Room. Ministry of creating greeting cards to send to our home-bound.

Minis-Tea

Wednesday, January 12 at 10 a.m. in the Reed Room. Quarterly meetings for Minis-tea teams—those established and newcomers welcome. This ministry takes tea parties to home-bound members in a friendly visit. All supplies are carried out.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

January 13 & 27 at 8 a.m. — Meet in Lawther Hall; all men welcome.

Dueteers

No meeting in January.

Chair Yoga

Therapeutic (chair) yoga improves balance and flexibility. Every Friday at 10:30 a.m. in Lucas Parlor. Cost is \$10 per class for drop-ins; reservations not required.

Dances of Universal Peace

Tuesday, January 4 at 11 a.m. and Thursday, January 20 at 6:30 p.m. Both meet in Wright Chapel for interfaith meditative moving prayer.



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We are an open and welcoming community of Christians committed to:

- ◆ Proclaiming Christ's message of hope and salvation
- ◆ Nurturing faith and the exploration of our beliefs
- ◆ Celebrating the faith we share in joyous worship
- ◆ Relieving poverty and oppression, and eliminating social and economic injustice
- ◆ Watching over and affirming one another in love

Church Staff

Pastor/Head of Staff	James C. Butler
Pastor Emeritus	Merton McKendry
Minister of Discipleship	Sharon Sherwin Budin
Minister of Music & Organist	Margaret A. Limkemann
Choir Directors	Karen Weaver, Bob Paraska, Tara Webb, Natalie Welty
Administrative Secretary	Marie Andrews
Financial Secretary	Beth Ann Starks
Custodian	Debbie Lipscomb
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Submission deadline for Open Door is the 15th of the month for the following issue. E-mail articles to lesliestewart@prodigy.net. Submissions are subject to editing for length and clarity.



219TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2010) 
TWIN CITIES AREA / MINNEAPOLIS

See page 2 for an update on proposed constitutional amendments.