

LAKE SHORELINES

January 10, 2007

Worship at Lake Shore

January 14, 2007

The First Sunday after Epiphany

Deacon Ordination

This Sunday four Lake Shore members will be ordained as deacons. Jeff Davies, Barbara Johnston, Donovan McNeil, and Mike Raymond will tell their faith journeys. Helen Hastings, Bruce Neatherlin, and Donna Slette – who have already been ordained as deacons – return to the active diaconate for the 2007-2009 term.

Jeff Davies grew up in Puerto Rico. In preparation for ministry, he went to Bible college. He spent the 70s to mid 80s as a disc jockey. After thirteen years with Time Warner Cable, Jeff is on his own trading stocks and options, growing his home-based voice over business, and designing websites.

Jeff came to Lake Shore in 1994 when he married Judy, a long-time member. He joined the church on Dorisanne's first Sunday in 2001. He's a member of the Orientation Committee and has been a vital part of spirituality retreats. Jeff says he "wouldn't think of missing an Eleven on Eleven day!" He's the proud grandparent of youth group member P.J. Kelly and one-year-old Canon.

Barbara Johnston directed the music the first Sunday Lake Shore met at Mountainview Elementary in 1959. For most of the 1960s and

early 70s she served as Choir Director and Minister of Music. She and PM, charter members, raised three boys at Lake Shore – Jeff, Jerry, and Jack. Barbara was always involved in roles such as VBS principal and fourth-sixth grade Training Union teacher. Barbara is on the Music Committee and a faithful member of the "kitchen crew."

Barbara's skills as a social worker helped place babies with their adoptive families. Many adult children and their parents might call this Barbara's greatest gift.

Donovan McNeil grew up in Corpus Christi. He graduated from Texas Tech and Truett Seminary, where he received his M. Div. He is the special events coordinator for Senior News. A faithful volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, he was twice named the ReStore's "volunteer of the year."

Donovan and his wife Monica joined Lake Shore in 2004. They have two children — Killian, 6, and Kenzie, 18 months. The McNeils live just a few blocks from the church, handy for us since Donovan is chair of the Grounds Committee; he can get to church quickly when a tree is struck by lightning! He is on the Playground Committee and formats our Advent booklet.

Mike Raymond grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio, and met Beth while he was working in Madison, Wisconsin. The Raymonds moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan, then to St.

A Clean Sweep

Do you find yourself wondering what happens to the Advent banners after Epiphany? **Saturday, January 13** is Lake Shore's annual "Clean Sweep for the New Year." At **9:00 a.m.** we will begin packing things away and doing other organizing and cleaning for the new year. This behind-the-scenes work is vital to Lake Shore. We will finish by noon. If you plan to come, please e-mail SharlandeS@aol.com.



Louis, then even farther south when Mike became Director of Marketing at Curves International in 2002. Their daughter, Carolyn, is a senior at Vanguard, and son, Drew, is an eighth grader. Mike is now president of Curves.

Mike is on the Personnel Committee. This year he and Beth are leading the study of "God's Gift of Sexuality" for our high J2A youth group. "He loves his music!" Beth says, "He loves singing bass in the choir, his iPod, his CDs, going to concerts." Mike runs and jogs and has a reputation as a great cook. Son Drew said his dad's favorite thing to cook is "any kind of pasta." The whole family loves to travel; we're glad they found their way here.

Reflection on the Word Among Us

David Tonghou Ngong

"Confessions of a Bookworm"

I do not like books. This may come as a surprise to many people who know me, especially my wife who thinks that I have already spent more than three quarters of my life in books. You may also be wondering whether it is in fact true that I do not like books, considering that I am still a student, passing through the cruel path of a doctorate program, hoping to obtain a doctorate degree, and become a teacher/scholar! It may not appear that someone like me who has spent almost all of his life in school may not like books. Well, I don't. Rather, I find my relationship with books to be like that of a reluctant prophet, whom God entrusted with a message and would not take "no" for an answer. The case of Moses comes to mind.

What is the problem with books, you may ask? Books serve so many important functions in the world, what might possibly be wrong with them? Well, the problem with books is that they contain words, many, many words – and one actually has to read those words in order to understand what is in any book. To understand what a book is all about one has to understand the words – well, not only the words, but also how the words are arranged to make meaningful statements. And this process is compounded if one has to read a book in a language that is not their mother tongue! This means they have to learn the words in that other language and then learn how the words are strung together to make meaningful statements.

I got a taste of this when we were asked to write an essay in high school [in Cameroon]. One of my high school English teachers was a woman who, like all women, knew her English very, very well. When she returned the essays to us, mine had the following comment which I can now only paraphrase: "David," she wrote, "your sentence structure is horrible. Your subject-verb agreement is irritating." I did not even know what it meant for subject and verb to agree, but one lesson I learned was that it was very important for subject and

verb to agree in English. Since then, I have gone ahead to learn more words in French, German, Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. And I had to do all this because in order to understand what is written in many more books, I had to know those words.

With all this emphasis on books one may be forgiven for changing the biblical statement from "the Word became flesh and dwelled among us" to "the Word became books and we got stuck with them." But thanks be to God that unlike humans who manifest their words by putting them in books, God manifested the only Word that matters – the Word which is the organizing principle of the universe – by becoming flesh. I have the impression that God knows how hard it is for us to read books; that God knows how books can sometimes even be confusing and unreliable. That is why God decided that we can only better understand God's own Word when that Word takes on flesh.

And thanks be to God that the Magi did not read about the birth of God in a book. How could they have followed the directions? Just last week, a gentleman was stranded, lost, just in front of the church building. He was going to Mountainview Street, just next door. He showed me a piece of paper with signs written all over it, and I thought . . . there we go again!

I think there is something about being there, that is, interacting with the concrete, with flesh and blood, that is indispensable for the kind of life God wants us to live. I find it quite instructive that when God wanted to create the world, God spoke; when God wanted to redeem the world, God came personally; and when we shall be carried into the joy of heaven, we shall again see God face to face.

Each week from the first Sunday of Advent through Epiphany, a Lake Shore member reflected on our theme "Word Among Us." Printed collections of the reflections are available on the literature rack. Thanks to Jeannette Denton, Jo Pendleton, Tom Hanks, Sharlande Sledge, Judy Prather, and David Tonghou for their words about "words and the Word."

"What Makes You Happy?"

Adult Seminar

Wednesday, January 17

Mike Frisch, Professor of Psychology, Baylor

Happiness comes from various areas of our lives—friends, spiritual relationship with God, work, and health—to name a few. Surprisingly, however, about half of a person's happiness is genetic.

Join us next Wednesday as Mike Frisch leads our seminar and discusses his work and research about happiness and positive psychology, which he describes as ". . . research that shows us what important human strengths are and how we can use them to build a better quality of life." His recently published book, *Quality of Life Therapy*, has been called "the most comprehensive approach to positive psychology to date."

Thank You, Lake Shore

Thank you for being you! The love and support that I have received the last three months is beyond words—so thank you again. This is coming from a not-so-faithful member but one who has always considered himself a member of the Lake Shore family. I now know that many still consider me a member—thank you!

—Tom McPeak

A Statement of Faith from Dakota McDurham

The following statement was written by Dakota McDurham and was read in worship by David Davis on December 24, the date of Dakota's baptism.

I've been thinking about this decision to follow God and be baptized more and more lately. Starting at my friend Laura's baptism, I was sitting on the front row, and I could just feel the presence of God in the sanctuary. After that I started praying more in my everyday life. Then the night before the Rite-13 ceremony, I was praying, and I knew I could feel God listening. At that moment I said "God I am ready, I am ready to get baptized."

I have gone to Lake Shore for most of my life and learned a lot from many of the people here. David, Magi and Maya have always cared for me and shown me God's love by loving others. Mike and Rachel provide leadership and direction. I have learned how to live as a Christian with their help. Aaron and Gin have shown that church can be fun. The Hastings and Millers taught me important lessons in Sunday school, and Dorisanne has been a role model for what a church leader should be.

It is difficult to describe exactly what this decision means to me because I can't put God's love for me or my love for God into words. I know I am in God's care, and I want to live my life in a way that follows Jesus.



Cold weather—warm foods. The holiday season was a busy one for the food pantry. Now that we're getting

back into the swing of things, we realize that the pantry needs your help again this Sunday.

Kelly Baker, our new intern, says we need peanut butter and jelly, canned meat, tuna, beans, and canned fruits and vegetables. We often have requests for baby food, too. Please remember your items this Sunday. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Mechanical Update from the Building Committee

Yes, we have a problem. A little update. Utilities costs are up and will rise more as regulations expired January 1. The Finance Committee has asked our committee to study that issue. When we replaced the roofs, we added 3/4th of an inch insulation. Our buildings, especially upstairs, are very efficient in holding a steady temperature. We installed the finest heating unit we could find with programmable thermostats for consistent heating and cooling.

The bad news is we installed thermostats that can be programmed in a building where we all have fingers. We now have to learn how to set the temperature with an efficient heating system. For example, if you set the unit for 70 degrees and 150 people walk in with warm clothing, how much does the heat rise and how soon? When the unit cuts off and the blower continues, how long does it take for the water to cool in the coils for the air to feel cool? Often, fingers are doing the walking over the thermostats. Believe me, we know there's a problem and are walking through a mine field in search of an answer. I can't tell you to please not change the thermostats because you are one of the owners, but maybe you can help us in our search. Pray for 70-degree temperatures on Sundays. —Bruce Neatherlin

Prayer Concerns

Boyd Miller is at Providence, after suffering a stroke on Monday afternoon. Our prayers are with Boyd and his wife JoAnn, his children — Gary, Caryl, and Karyn, and all his grandchildren.

Elizabeth King is staying at her son's house after surgery for cancer. The address is 5701 Wilshire, 76710.

Emily Fau's father, Earnest Casstevens, had a heart stent implanted in Austin on December 19. He is doing well.

Children's Corner

Wednesday Night activities resume January 17.

- Barb Francis & Kathryn Silverman will lead *Preschool Missions* from 6:15-7:00.
- Rachel Sciretti & Deb Vardiman will lead *Children's Music* from 6:10-6:45.
- Jerri Love & Magi Davis will lead *Children's Missions* from 6:45-7:30.

Preschool Pajama Party: Friday, January 26, 6:15-7:15 p.m.

Three-year-olds through Kindergarteners wear your pajamas to church and have fun exploring God's nighttime world.

Mark your calendars!

- February 14 – Friendship Party
- March 25 – Missions Bike-a-thon
- April 27-29 – Spring Retreat (3rd-6th)
- June 4-7 – Bridge Builders
- June 11-14 – Helping Hands
- July 23-27 – Children's Camp(3rd-6th)

Library Additions

In December we had several books added to the Lake Shore library: *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, given by Dave & Faith Kopplin; *Gilead, a Novel* and *The Modern Theologians: an Introduction to Christian Theology in the Twentieth Century*, given by Gary Bowman; and the children's book, *What Does PEACE Feel Like?*, given by Ellen Brown. —Flo Wise

Our Church Staff

Richard Aslanian, Music Director
 Dorisanne Cooper, Pastor
 Aaron Garcia, Organist
 Pattie Herbert, Custodian
 Caryl Miller-Compton, Administrative Secretary
 Heather Robards, Director, Lake Shore Baptist Children's Center
 Mike Sciretti, Minister to Youth
 Rachel Sciretti, Minister to Children
 Sharlande Sledge, Associate Pastor



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MINISTRY AND EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Saturday, January 13
 9:00-Church clean-up day
Sunday, January 14
 9:30-Sunday school
 10:45-Worship
 Deacon Ordination
Monday, January 15
 Office Closed-MLK Day
Tuesday, January 16
 5:30-Yoga
Wednesday, January 17
 5:30-Wednesday Night Supper
 6:15-Youth and Children Activities
 6:30-Adult Seminar
 7:30-Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, January 18
 5:30-Family Self-Sufficiency

Wednesday Night Supper
 January 17



Creamy Chicken Breasts
Rice
Salad
Banana Pudding

Financial Update

Thank you for your contributions to the church budget for 2006. Final numbers are not calculated, but preliminary indication are that we reached our budget goal of \$403,416.

Good News

Monica McNeil received certification to teach English as a Second Language.

M.B. & Dot Martin celebrate the birth of their second great-grandchild. Bradyn Bookhout was born on December 20 to Alana & Dustin of Providence Village, near Denton.

Youth News

Friday-Sunday (12th-14):

Mid-Winter Retreat; cost/\$95. Be at Teen House by 4:45; we're leaving at 5:00. Don't be late! We'll return on Sunday around 3:00 p.m. If we think we'll arrive earlier, your youth will call you.

Sunday Morning:

No Sunday School (Retreat)

Sunday Night:

No Activities

Wednesday Night (17th):

Meditation and Music – After dinner, gather at the Teen House to discuss the meanings of communion, or the Lord's Supper. Then, choir practice.

Next Sunday (21st):

4:30-7:00 p.m. Journey to Adulthood and Parents' Meeting. Dinner included: Mosley-Vardiman and Morins.

Coming Up:

February 2 – YAC Prom
 TBA – Spring Retreat
 July 16-21 – Passport New Orleans

Extended Care

Sunday, January 14

Infants: Alice Baird
 Toddlers: Veronique Morin
 3s-K: TBA

Weekly Budget Report

Your contributions to our budget help fund our mission work, church programs, human resources, and physical facilities. Weekly budget needs for our 2007 budget of \$435,456 are \$8,374.15.

<u>Year to date needs</u>	<u>Year to date received</u>	<u>Difference</u>
\$ 8,374.15	\$ 10,946.00	\$ 2,571.85