



By the Way

Celebrating and Sharing God's Love in Christ

February, 2010

Open communion

Our church welcomes all persons and excludes no one from the Lord's Table. A theological rationale for open communion arises from the common practice of Jesus and his disciples. They sat down at the same table with "sinners and tax collectors" (Matthew 9:10-13). Among other things, it was this practice that got Jesus into trouble with the religious establishment. By excluding no one from the table, Jesus demonstrated his understanding of God's extravagant love. God welcomes and excludes no one.

At another time the Gospels record that people were bringing children to Jesus, that he might touch them (Mark 10:13-16). In those days, and in that culture, women and children were non-entities; nobodies. Like sinners and tax collectors, they could also be excluded. But not so with God.

Today when someone walks in off the street and participates in our communion party, we do not know if they have the "right" understanding of the sacrament. There's no litmus test for persons coming to the table. Works do not precede faith. Jesus did not demand a profession of faith or recitation of a creed. Jesus did not judge whether a person was "fit" for the kingdom, let alone for the fellowship. Welcome at the table was always a free gift. It provided an entry point for receiving and celebrating the presence of God.

So it is with us. When we claim to practice "open communion", we include children and strangers for the very reason that Jesus welcomed them. The fellowship of Christ is open to all because God loves people of every gender, race and age. God shows no partiality (Romans 2:11; Galatians 2:6; Ephesians 6:9; Colossians 3:25), and neither should we.

By offering God's extravagant welcome, and a place at the table, we also offer hope to people who may at first doubt God's inclusive love. We demonstrate in the flesh what we find best in Jesus Christ, saving grace. And we provide encouragement for those who are renewed by God's inclusion and wish to respond with a transformed life.

Editor's Note:
Reprinted with permission from
Reverend Randy Heckman
Union Congregational United Church of Christ
Moline, Illinois





Those recently hospitalized or ill:

- † Joyce Cox
- † Irene Smith
- † George Bergland
- † Theo Moore
- † LHC neighbor, Carol Stokely

Our deepest sympathies to Roger Kotecki and his family on the passing of his mother Myra. Please keep them in your prayers.

Our deepest sympathies to Karen Ashe and her family on the passing of her husband John on 1/24. John was 93 years old. There will be a memorial service here at the Little Home Church on February 13th at 1 p.m.

Our deepest sympathies to Susi Winqvist and her family on the death of her great nephew, baby Carson Dean.

Congratulations to Kimberly Kentfield and Blair Flicker on their recent engagement.

Please pray for God's protection of our troops and HIS wisdom for their commanders.

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands.

Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior....

Amen



Standing in the Judeo-Christian tradition, we know the power that words can have. To use someone's name in the Old Testament was to have power over them. So God's name, Yahweh, was never spoken in Jewish tradition, because humans dare not have power over God, or at least think they have. In the New Testament we see this same concept in Luke 8:30 when Jesus calls the demons by name, thus commanding them to depart from the possessed man.

We also know in working with people that words can hurt and heal. A casual remark or an insulting phrase can have the power to deeply hurt someone. Probably we all can remember words we wish we had not said or could take back. A number of politicians understand that very much today.

We might also remember the healing words spoken in tenderness, received as gifts. We know that the power of words can influence our identity. If a parent calls a child a 'loser' long enough they will grow to that parental expectation. Who can forget the idealist Don Quixote, who calls the local prostitute, "his Dulcinea" and she becomes the changed woman he was in her. The power of words hurt and heal. In the past few decades we have watched the journey of African-Americans. Feminists have challenged us all about the power of words, words that can shape and mold a whole generation. So sexist language should be played down that a new generation of young men and women will not be negatively shaped.

Over the holidays I was cleaning out some old material and ran across a May 7th, 1989 issue of Time magazine which featured a cover story entitled, "Dirty Words: Americans Foul Mouthed Pop Culture." The editors drew attention to the growing quantity and extremity of dirty, insulting, obscene and otherwise X-rated language, that singers, actors, 'rappers' and comedians delight in using, including gestures and stories previous generations would not have known or at least used in public. This decline in the use of language includes also racist, insulting and violent remarks and gestures.

Time tried to present a balanced treatment of the subject, while keeping adherence to the 1st Amendment and addressing the growing impact on our children. In the end the article came down to the predictable conclusions that it is the 'responsibility of the parents.' "It's your job and nobody else's"

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Worship Schedule

February 7	Holy Communion Sermon: "Bread for the Banquet" Scripture: Exodus 16:1-8; John 6:25-35 Theme: What Counts in Faith in What Jesus Does In Us.
February 14	Transfiguration Sunday Guest Preacher (Pastor Ron is on vacation)
February 17	Ash Wednesday Worship @ 7:15 p.m A Service of Contrition and Communion Potluck Dinner @ 6:00 p.m.
February 21	First Sunday in Lent Guest Preacher ~ Nancy Fraley (Pastor Ron is on vacation)
February 28	Second Sunday in Lent Sermon: "The Shadow of Fixation" Scripture: Psalm 4; Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Luke 4:1-13 Rejoice: Rejoice in the good the Lord has given You.
Lenten Theme:	"Who Knows What Lurks in the Heart of Us All? The Shadow of God Knows."

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP AND POTLUCK SUPPER

Please join us Wednesday,
February 17th for our
Ash Wednesday Potluck Supper and
Worship Service.

The potluck will begin at 6:00 p.m.
Please bring a dish to pass.
After supper we'll adjourn to the
sanctuary for worship as we begin
the Lenten season.



SPOTTED IN OUR SANCTUARY...

VISITORS!



Please let us know of any visitors you happen to notice in church.
Better yet, please welcome them and ask them to fill out a visitor card
(they're in each pew) and put it in the offering or hand to an usher.

This way we can make sure we connect with each visitor with a
phone call or letter!

W E N O T I C E D

- **Jen Gatsch** is investigating the possibility of using the Guild house for a Pre-school program. Let her know if you'd like to work with her on this.
- **Ralph Daehn** arranged for Nancy Fraley to speak to us about her trip to Haiti, arranged for **Fadi Aziz**, an Egyptian exchange student living with the Surta family to speak to us about Egypt and is now working with Sergey Rachuba to provide a presentation to us on "Christianity in the former Soviet Union countries. So far he's batting a thousand in the interest category and I impatiently await this next speaker. Ralph is bringing several adult education opportunities to us this year, so stay tuned as there are more to come.
- **Jane Shelton** has again done a superb job organizing the Christmas Pageant. We SO appreciate her hard work and dedication to this program that means so much to so many of us. And we noticed the **many volunteers** who helped make this year's Pageant and Lasagna dinner another huge success. I would name these helpers, but my fear is I would inadvertently leave someone out, so I'll just be a coward.
- We noticed **so many hands** preparing our church for Christmas during "Hanging of the Greens". Thank you for adding a festive look as we celebrate this glorious season of Jesus birth.
- **Amy Salerno**, our neighbor in the Dixon house made ornaments and helped our Sunday School students decorate them for our sanctuary tree. The ornaments turned out great and certainly beautified our tree. Thank you Amy for the ornaments and for your time spent guiding our children.
- **Larry Dieffenbach** set up special performances before each of our Christmas Eve services. The following individuals brought us joys of Christmas through their musical talents. Prior to the 5pm service we were treated to joys brought to us by **Mary Alice Roach, Peter Roach, Olivia Bouchard, Clara Shelton and Leigh Bechet**. Prior to the 11pm service we enjoyed the talent of **Rob Reed, Jen Heseltine, Greg Abell, Roger Kotecki and Corrine Thornton**. Thank you all for making our Christmas more meaningful.
- The broken office window has been replaced. Thank you to **Jim and Josh Winquist** for making us whole again.
- **Bob and Kathleen Kaska and Gary Estes** "de-hung" the greens and cleaned up the mess after church Jan 10. **Susi Winquist and Kathy Abell** will now categorize the reusable items and put them into storage for another year. We thank you that these remain special for our Christmas celebration and they are no longer a reminder of Christmas past.

We Appreciate YOU!

Suzanne Setlock
Moderator



(Continued from page 2)

Our language says something about how we view ourselves. Someone would say we match our language to fit into the social group to which we belong. But we belong to several social groups. How we talk on the job maybe quite different than how we talk on Sunday at church. The issue is that time intensive problem for psychology, self-esteem. Nearly 80% of people today who seek counsel complain of a lack of self-esteem. It traces back to how we are treated by parents growing up. Yes, but today even more so by the influence of current behaviors in society. People with high self-esteem show respect for others and themselves. They are able to live the affirmation of Jesus, "Love your neighbor as yourself." People with low self-esteem do not. Which came first...the self-esteem of the behavior (the chicken or the egg)?

The Christian faith asks us to live as though we should feel good about ourselves. God loves us, we say, therefore God is pleased with who we are meant to be. Why not live it? Why not begin a campaign in our own life and in the lives of those we affect to clean up our language...; don't put ourselves or others down; don't degrade other groups of people; don't degrade sexuality; don't cheapen ourselves by taking cheap shots at anyone who is different. Take responsibility for our mouths. We are what we say!

We are created with a tarnished image of God within us. Each person is of immeasurable value, so why cheapen ourselves; why denigrate others? People speak trash because down deep they feel like trash.

What would happen in this world, in our little worlds if people began to see themselves and others as beautiful gifted children of the Most High. The decline of language and civility suggest that we no longer believe we are worth very much. Oh, but we are. "Love one another as I have loved you," said Jesus. In this New Year let us campaign to live lives of moral worth and see what a difference a year can make.



WANTED...USHERS AND PULPIT ASSOCIATES

We all appreciate the contributions of our ushers and pulpit associates each Sunday. However, you may be thinking you're seeing the same faces more frequently...and you are. My roster needs more names and new names!

Ushering or being a pulpit associate is an easy way to participate in the life of the Little Home Church without taking on too much time. I would love to see some of our newer members volunteer. It's a good way to meet other members and to put names and faces together.

I am in particular need of Pulpit Associates. Presently I've only got seven that I rotate. It would be wonderful to have a few more names to help out. The bulletin is sent to you ahead of time as well as any scripture readings. It's an easy way to give the gift of your time!

The usher/pulpit schedule generally runs three months at a time and I try whenever possible, to not schedule you more than two or three times in that period.

If you would be willing to add your name to the list of Ushers or Pulpit Associates (or both!) contact Rich Doerr (630-443-8082) or Lori Prang in the church office (630.584-4013).





FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Dorothy Coleman	February 2
Bruce Weigel	February 3
Mary Sterner	February 3
Dessa Queen	February 6
Dede Freeman	February 7
Bill Flanagan	February 12
Carol Berger	February 13
Leigh Bechet	February 14
Lori Prang	February 14
Virginia Cluts	February 21
Joshua Winqvist	February 22
Larry Dieffenbach	February 24
Audrey Gatsch	February 24
Frank Muno	February 26

A PRAYER FOR ALL OF US

Dear God,

You know we are all sinners, not one of us is good enough to attain a place at Your table except for the debt that has already been paid through Your Son and our Savior Jesus Christ. Thank you for forgiving us again and again and again. Help us to be better servants as we try to discern Your will. Thank you for promising never to unadopt us.

Amen.

The Little Home Church continues to collect donations of disposable diapers and toilet paper for the 'Feeding Northwest DuPage' food pantry. Pick some up next time you're at the store. Drop them off in the Parish Hall and we'll deliver them to the food pantry. They are always grateful to receive them.



~ CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EVENT ~

Mr. Sergey Rakhuba, senior vice president of Russian Ministries will present a Power Point on the religious situation in the former Soviet Union, especially Russia at 7:00 p.m., Sunday, February 28th in the Parish Hall.

Mr. Rakhuba is originally from Ukraine and lived in Moscow for many years. He emigrated to the United States with his family right after the collapse of the Soviet Union and then attended Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. Currently he oversees all of Russian Ministries efforts in the former Soviet Union, emphasizing the need to train, equip and mobilize a Next Generation of Christian leaders through Schools Without Walls.

Today's Russian Ministries' team includes American missionaries and Russian Christians. This team is joined by churches, individuals and other organizations to bring resources and experiences from around the world.

Please join us this evening for what is sure to be an informative presentation. For more information you can check out the website at www.russian-ministries.org

FEBRUARY-MARCH

February 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

February 2	Election Day
February 6	Chili Cook Off 6:30 p.m.
February 7	Congregational Meeting after worship
February 9	Council Meeting ~ All are welcome
February 14	Valentine's Day ♥
February 15	President's Day
February 17	Ash Wednesday ~ Worship at 7:00 p.m.
February 28	Christian Education 7:00 p.m. Power Point Presentation on Russian Ministries

March 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

March 9	Council Meeting ~ All are welcome
March 14	One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering Pancake Breakfast DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS
March 17	St. Patrick's Day
March 18	Bartlett High School Chamber Orchestra Concert 7:00 in Sanctuary
March 28	Palm Sunday



Little Home Church by the Wayside
United Church of Christ
32W128 Army Trail Road
Wayne, IL 60184

DATED MATERIAL
Please Expedite
SURVEY ENCLOSED

Join us for Worship:

9:30 Sunday Worship and Children's School
Childcare provided from 9:00-11:00
630-584-4013
fax: 630-584-4824
lhchome@aol.com
www.littlehomechurch.org
www.ucc.org

Along the Way...

Need help paying your home heating bills?
Know someone does?

Call LIHEAP

(Illinois Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)

(847)697-4400 or (815)758-3835

Don't Delay

- You don't need to be behind on your bills.
 - You can be a homeowner or renter
 - All ages are eligible
- Disconnected? We might be able to help.



Little Home Church by the Wayside

Pastor

Rev. Ron Purser

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Don Heinrich

Minister of Music

Larry Dieffenbach

Moderator

Suzanne Setlock

Moderator-Elect

Bob Kaska

Office Manager

Lori Prang

Custodial Services

Odie Perry