



By the Way

Celebrating and Sharing God's Love in Christ

February, 2011

Our outreach tradition

By Marilyn Poole

Outreach or Mission has been a strength of The Little Home Church for many, many years. In fact, I was drawn to membership in this church because of its strong commitment to Outreach. However, sometimes we take what we're good at for granted and don't celebrate that strength. I want to take this opportunity to remind you of the Outreach program at The Little Home Church and reflect on who we are and what we do as a community in mission.

As a church we have a very generous Outreach budget and dedicate 20 percent of the money received from pledges to Outreach. Matthew 25:35-40 compels us to mission when it says, *"for I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me. Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord,*

when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing" And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you: And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Our name, The Little HOME Church provides the theme for our support of local organizations. While the bulk of our Outreach money goes to the UCC and Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), we financially give to six local organizations that support families and homes. These include the Community Crisis Center, Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice, Renz Addiction Center, Transitional Housing Ministry, Feeding Northwest

(Continued on page 4)

Chili cook-off time

DON'T MISS The Little Home Church by the Wayside 4th Annual Chili Cook-Off to be held on Saturday February 26th at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall. The evening promises to be another delicious event as our own talented cooks vie for 1st place and the coveted Chef's Hat award. Now a yearly event, the Cook-Off has provided members and friends alike with a wonderful evening of music, friendship and of course,

fabulous food. AND... in addition to all the down home fun, we also raise money for our outreach projects. The recipients in the past have included: CASA Kane County, a nonprofit organization that represents abused and neglected children in court, Community Crisis Center in Elgin which provides shelter for victims of domestic violence,



(Continued on page 5)



Those recently hospitalized or ill:

- † Joyce Cox
- † Shirley House, friend of LHC
- † Bill Johnson, friend of LHC
- † Tim Haben's father
- † Susan Sherwood's mother

Our sympathies to:

- † Little Home Church neighbor, Craig Stokely on the loss of his wife Carol this fall after a long illness.
- † Family and friends of Ruby Bosch who passed away November 9th after a long illness.
- † Family and friends of Bettie Smith who passed away November 22nd.

Congratulations to:

- † Jill & Brian Rodis on the birth of Jalin Alexandra on November 1st. Proud grandparents are Frank and Jean Munro.
- † Alyssa Groves, granddaughter of Polly & Don Heinrich who graduated summa cum laude from Illinois State University with a degree in Criminal Justice.
- † Corky Hamill celebrating his 97th birthday!

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



February always seem to me a turning point in the year. Will the groundhog see his shadow? Will there be six more weeks of winter?

February is also a turning point in our faith journey through Epiphany, as we come to the end of the revealing of Christ for Who He is we then turn our faces toward Jerusalem for the journey to the Crucifixion and Resurrection. February is a turning point in our commitment to the mission and ministry of our Church. At the congregational meeting on February 6 we will try to make some course redirection that will involve our commitment. So February is a turning point in the year especially for our faith and life together.

There is an old piece of verse that goes like this:

Ships sail east and ships sail west,
While the selfsame breezes blow.
It is the set of the sail and not the gale.
That determines the way they go.

That's the truth...the set of the sail is the important thing. In life today as we know it there are many winds that sweep across the days of our lives. We can easily be swept along with them unless our minds are set on goals for which we constantly strive.

The season of Epiphany begins and ends with a call to decision to follow Jesus. The apostle Paul tells us to set our minds on heavenly things...high and lofty goals...rather than merely transient things. The end of Epiphany will call us to follow in the ways of Christ. Joshua told it this way: "Choose this day whom you will serve? As for me and my house we will serve the Lord."

A story of a seed tells it all:

A little seed lay in the ground and soon began to sprout,
"Now which of all the flowers around," it mused,
"shall I come out?"
The lily's face is fair and proud, but just a trifle cold;
The rose I think is rather loud, and then, her fashion is old.
The violet is very well, but not a flower I'd choose;
Nor yet the Canterbury bell, I never cared for blues."
And so it criticized each flower, the vain and haughty seed.
Until it woke one summer hour and found itself a weed.

(Continued on page 3)

Worship Schedule

(Continued from page 2)

So in the end of this Epiphany season is an encouragement to cultivate our commitments, to stand up to the world as people of God and make decisions of faith and in the wisdom of God. We are called to be people of conviction, to love kindness, do justice and to walk humbly with our God. For it is in the end the set of the sail not the gale that will determine the way we go.

Stay warm in your hearts for the remainder of the Winter, for remember, Spring, Easter is on the way!



| | |
|--------------------|---|
| February 6 | Holy Communion |
| Sermon: | “The Whole World Is Waiting” |
| Scripture: | Nehemiah 8:1-4; 5-6; 8-10 |
| Theme: | Happiness Is... |
| February 13 | Lincoln’s Birthday |
| Sermon: | In the Moment of Decision |
| Scripture: | Isaiah 6:1-8; Romans 8:25-39 |
| Theme: | Victory |
| February 20 | |
| Sermon: | Shepherding in a Collapsing World |
| Scripture: | Romans 9:1-5 |
| Theme: | Love, Mercy, Grace, Too Good To Be True, But They Are Nevertheless. |
| February 27 | |
| Sermon: | Christ Illumines Our Humanity |
| Scripture: | Jeremiah 17:5-10 |
| Theme: | Trust |
| March 6 | Holy Communion |
| | Transfiguration Sunday |
| Sermon: | Chariots of Fire and The Light Within |
| Scripture: | II Kings 2:1-12; Matthew 17:1-13 |



YOUTH SPRING RETREAT

We’ve scheduled the Youth Spring Retreat for
April 8, 9 & 10th.

It will be held at Covenant Harbor Bible Camp up in
Lake Geneva. Look for your informational letter in the
mail shortly. The Youth Group is open to those in
6th through 12th grades!

Tell your friends!

(Continued from page 1)

DuPage and CROP Walk.

1. The Community Crises Center responds to the needs of those affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, homelessness and financial crisis in the Fox Valley Region.
2. The Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice reaches out to those terminally ill and those who are grieving.
3. The Renz Addiction Center is dedicated to the prevention, intervention and treatment of addictive disorders and disorders associated with addiction.
4. The Transitional Housing Ministry provides housing and mentors to help families move from homelessness to independent living.
5. Feeding Northwest DuPage, formally the Northwest DuPage Walk-In Ministry, operates four food pantries in northwest DuPage county and helps, when financially able, with utility bills, rent and prescription drugs.
6. CROP Walk raises money to help feed the hungry with a certain percentage of the money raised staying in local communities.

In addition to these organizations, we also support families and homes in other ways. At Christmas time we help needy families from Wayne School with our “Giving Tree”. In the past, the Sunday School children have used their offerings to buy an animal through the Heifer Project thereby helping improve life for a family and community in a needy part of the world. Our youth have gone on working mission trips to southeast Ohio and Pittsburgh and educational mission trips to the National Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C. and the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis. We have also helped support a missionary family in Argentina for several years as well.

The Little Home Church should be proud of our Outreach program. However, we should also never rest but keep striving to be engaged in mission remembering that “just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

In future By The Way issues you will learn more about the organizations that we support. Also, there are ways that you can help and the Outreach Ministry is always looking for volunteers. You don't have to be a member of the Outreach Ministry but can help with individual projects. Among other things, we need people to visit the organizations that we support and report back to the Ministry so that we can have direct communication with these organizations. We need people to help organize the “Giving Tree”, write articles for the By The Way, organize our holiday food basket collections for Feeding Northwest DuPage. We're also looking for Little Home Church members who volunteer in other ways and who would like to share that experience with us. The opportunities to serve are endless and limited only by our imagination. If you are interested in helping with Outreach please call Lori in our church office or email her at lhchome@aol.com



(Continued from page 1)

DuPage Walk-in Ministry an organization that assists people in the community with food, shelter and transportation, Fox Valley Hospice in Geneva, a facility that cares for the terminally ill and their families, Renz Addiction Center treats addictive behaviors, Riverwoods Christian Center providing ministries to the disadvantaged, and Transitional Housing, Wayne, an organization that mentors families from homelessness to independence. This fun-filled evening will be an excellent opportunity to support all of these wonderful organizations and another terrific reason to join us on February 26th.



EVANGELISM



MINISTRY

The Evangelism Ministry will meet Sunday, February 13th after church. Please consider joining them with your ideas! See Kristen

Thornton if you have any questions!

Science & Christianity

A Talk by Dr. Richard Carhart

Sunday, February 20th, following 9:30 worship

Dr. Richard Carhart, Professor of Physics Emeritus, University of Illinois at Chicago will present a talk reconciling Science and Christianity in our fellowship hall. The talk is open to the public and we hope to have visitors as well. Dr. Carhart received his Ph.D. in theoretical particle physics from the University of Wisconsin. He has done original scientific research and trained Ph.D. students over a 35 year period. He also has served as an academic missionary at the University of Nairobi, Kenya, and has been a lay theologian and Bible teacher over the past 40 years, having accepted Christ from atheism at the age of 14. We are truly blessed to have Dr. Carhart and his wife of 46 years, Marge, worship with us on the 20th, and present this talk which has been prepared in conjunction with our Adult Christian Education program.

If you have any questions please see Ralph Daehn.

SAVE THE DATE

Put April 30th 2011 on your calendar and come to the Little Home Church Candlelight Dinner and Fundraiser to benefit the Little Home Church Guild House renovations. Please join us for an evening of music, delicious food and a fabulous auction.

As part of the Candlelight Dinner the fundraising committee is looking for auction items and needs your help! Some items donated in the past included:

- Items for themed Baskets
- Gift Certificates
- Use of vacation condos or homes
- Specialty skills

Be creative and donate! Last year we raised more than \$4,000. The more we have, the more Little Home Church can benefit!

Any questions, contact Susannah Lesswing at 630-513-0186.

"SAVE THE DATE" FOR THE WAYNE CONCERT SERIES

featuring Chicago's world renowned violinist

RACHEL BARTON PINE

SUNDAY, MAY 22; at 4:00 P.M.

at the Little Home Church in Wayne

You did it! Because you have so graciously supported our previous concerts, the Wayne Concert Series has attracted attention. We are very pleased to present for our 2011 concert one of the finest violinist performing today on the most prestigious stages, Rachel Barton Pine. She has also regularly performed with the finest conductors, just to name a few, Daniel Barenboim and Christoph Eschenbach.

Ms. Pine has been featured on CBS Sunday Morning and has appeared five times on NBC's Today Show.

Having completed 16 recordings throughout her career, several are with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Pine writes her own cadenzas to many of the works she performs including concertos by Beethoven, Brahms, Mozart and Paganini. Last fall, Carl Fischer published The Rachel Barton Pine Collection, a collection of original compositions, arrangements, cadenzas and editions penned or arranged by Pine, which earned her the distinction of being the only living artist and first woman to join great musicians like Fritz Kreisler and Jascha Heifetz in Carl Fischer's Masters Collection series.

This is a concert you definitely will not want to miss. We are expected to sell out, so we are offering early sales to our loyal patrons. For tickets or questions, please call Karen Armbrust at 630.377.1876 or Carol Berger at 630.584.7088. Adult tickets are \$40 each and Student tickets are \$25 each. Sponsorships are also available and welcomed.

For additional information on Ms. Pine, please go to her website at www.rachelbartonpine.com.

We hope to see you there, and we thank you for your continued support.

Nancy Alex

Karen Armbrust

Carol Berger



WE NOTICED

Our old garbage disposal had a casting leak and **Gary Estes** donated a new 1.25 hp unit. Thank you, Gary for making our lives easier.

Emma Kaska is doing a great job sponsoring group meetings from 3-5 on Sundays and providing lots of activities for our youth. It seems there is no end to her creative ideas. How fortunate we are to have her as a Sheppard for our youth.

The children are singing during worship! It's a wonderful sight and our thanks to **Larry**, who is spending music time with them during Sunday School.

Susannah Lesswing and **Kathleen Kaska** sponsored a women's Advent tea in December that was an enjoyable and enriching program for many of our members and friends. We thank these two gals for creating yet another program to bring us together.

Susannah Lesswing is planning another Candlelight Dinner and Auction. It was SO nice last year and we hope to see you there again this time. It's been postponed from the original January date, but I'm sure Susannah will be filling us in on the details as we get closer. In the meantime plan for it... you're gonna love it!

The Hanging of the Greens... There are so many to thank – so here goes:

- This Christmas **Bob and Kathleen Kaska** donated the lovely wreath outside above the front doors.
- As you approached you will have noticed the evergreen roping gracing the outdoors in front of our church and welcoming you inside. These were donated by **Charles and Anne Bouchard**.
- As you entered you saw the beautiful evergreen roping highlighting the arch, railings and chandeliers in our sanctuary lending to the spirit of the season. These were donated by **Bob and Mary Jean Schless**.
- You may also have noticed the sanctuary tree, the huge wreath supporting the Bethlehem star, the wreath in the narthex and various boughs continuing the Christmas spirit on Parish Hall, Office and Guild House doors. These were donated by **Wally and Suzanne Setlock**
- As you continued on after the service you undoubtedly notice the tree on the stage in the Parish Hall. The decorating of which was lead by **Leigh and Lee**.
- As you recall the beauty please keep in mind the many hands that made it all possible, from children making and hanging ornaments to the tallest of men hanging the 7 foot wreath. People putting candles in the windows, embellishing the greenery with bows and beads, setting tables for the potluck to follow, the delicious food prepared by loving hands and the camaraderie. People participating, doing, helping, enjoying our time together and gettin' 'er done.
- Many thanks to all of you!!!!!!!!!!!!!! It worked!!!!!!!!!!!!!! It was so beautiful.

Stewardship Notes

To all of you who have submitted your pledges, I thank you. My Thank You notes will be sent soon, just a little delayed, but my heart is thankful and I wanted you to know that. If you filled out a "Time and Talent" sheet, I thank you for that too. Your interests have been passed along to the ministry chairs and I am sure they will be calling you. It will be so helpful to be aware of your interests as we try to fit passions, abilities, desires together with activities, responsibilities and chores. Also I hope you looked at the back of your sheet and will let us know what your church can do for you.

If you have not yet had the chance to drop off your pledge and/or your "Time and Talent" sheet, it's not too late. I'm going for 100%, though I do believe that is quite a stretch. As I mentioned in church, it's not the amount of time or money you donate or pledge it's that you do. It's part of belonging. That said, we are below the amount pledged last year and although we have made additional cuts to our budgets, we are projecting a sizable deficit for 2011. Your council is not over spending, we are pledging less and our church is collecting fewer dollars. I know the economy is contributing to this and am hopeful that somehow we will make it up. And again although your council has not overspent during 2010, at this time we do not have a cure for the 2010 deficit that is in excess of \$15,000. Please search your hearts and wallets to see if you are able to help with these operating deficits.

While we're on the subject of giving and belonging, let's remember that we're all part of God's family. Let's rejoice in that and First Give Thanks Every Day.

Have a Blessed New Year.

Suzanne Setlock
Stewardship Chair



FEBRUARY-MARCH

February 2011

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| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | | | | | |

- February 6 Congregational "Februal" Meeting after worship
VERY IMPORTANT!
Youth Group Meets 3—5 p.m.
- February 13 Evangelism Meeting after worship
Youth Group Meets 3—5 p.m.
- February 14 Valentine's Day ♥
- February 15 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- February 20 Adult Christian Education Speaker
"Science & Christianity" after worship
Youth Group Meets 3—5 p.m.
- February 21 President's Day
- February 26 Chili Cook Off 6:30 p.m.
- February 27 Youth Group Meets 3— 5 p.m.

March 2011

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- March 6 Youth Group Meets 3—5 p.m.
- March 9 Ash Wednesday Worship at 7:00 p.m.
- March 13 Youth Group Meets 3—5 p.m.
- March 17 St. Patrick's Day
- March 20 Youth Group Meets 3—5 p.m.
- March 27 Youth Group Meets 3—5 p.m.



Pastor Ron's Cell Phone
(630) 886-5677
Church Office (630) 584-4013
lhhome@aol.com
www.littlehomechurch.org

NOTES OF APPRECIATION FROM OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS!

Here are thank you notes from a few of our College Care package recipients. Every few months a group gathers to put together a package filled with treats and snacks for the 17 or so of our college students just to let them know they are missed and that we're thinking of them. We are grateful to Nancy & Rik Alex who have graciously offered to fund the shipping costs for the packages out of the Brent Alex Memorial Fund. Thank you again Nancy & Rik.

Dear Little Home Church by the Wayside

Thank you all so much for the college care package you sent earlier this year. My roommates and I enjoyed the food a lot and it always feels really nice to know that there are a bunch of people who care and show support.

School this year has been pretty challenging, but still a lot of fun too. Hope College is an amazing place and we are all growing our faith.

I will keep all of you in prayers, and thanks again!

God Bless,
Joe Soderberg
Hope College

Dear Little Home Church,

Thank you so much for the care packages! Living the life of a poor college student is made better with some more Raman noodles and other snacks to add to my pantry, especially when finals and mid-terms roll around.

I love getting mail while at school, but when I see the friendly return address of LHC, it makes it ten times better! I have really missed going to LHC a lot and think about it often. Thank you to everyone for all your warm wishes and care packages! (Keep 'em coming...)

Allison Prang
University of Missouri-Columbia

Dear Little Home Church

Thank you for the amazing care package! I especially love having the leaves to remind me that it actually is fall in some parts of the country (it's almost 80 here today!) I miss all of you so much. Good luck with the Christmas Pageant and see you in December.

Love, Clara (Shelton)
Pomona College

Dear Little Home Church

Thank you so much for the care package. I love coming to church with my grandparents, Rik and Nancy Alex and the people of the congregation are always welcoming. It is great to know I have a network of support when I am so far from my immediate family.

Thanks again,
Thomas Davison
Loyola University

Dear Little Home Church,

Thank you so much for the care package! As a college student getting mail from home is one of the best feelings. Getting mail from your best friend's church is a different feeling entirely! It was too kind of you to send such a generous gift. I appreciate it more than words can say. Allison says so many good things about her times at church; I love hearing her stories. Hopefully someday I will be able to thank you personally for your kindness, but until then, God Bless.

Samantha Otto
University of Missouri-Columbia



PIECES OF LOVE




Send special reminders of your love by creating messages that people can assemble and enjoy.

What you need:

- Large wooden craft sticks
- Tape
- Permanent markers
- Scissors
- Zippered sandwich baggies

What you do:

1. Make a rectangle out of seven craft sticks by placing them next to one another, long side against long side.
2. Tape the sticks together.
3. Turn the sticks over and draw a special picture or message. You can include this Bible verse: "We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19, NIV).
4. Cut through the tape to separate each craft stick.
5. Put all the sticks in a baggie.
6. Give your special messages to family members, friends or teachers — along with directions for viewing them.



A LOVE LETTER

In the New Testament, John writes a letter about God's love and the love we should show to other people.

DIRECTIONS: Working from left to right, write down all the 1's in the word blanks. Continue with the 2's and finally the 3's. Then read about love, from 1 John 4:11-12, NIV.

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------|---------------|----------|--------------|------------|------------|
| lives 3 | in 3 | us 3 | Since 1 | and 3 | God 1 | so 1 | loved 1 | his 3 |
| us 1 | love 3 | we 1 | If 2 | also 1 | is 3 | made 3 | we 2 | ought 1 |
| to 1 | love 2 | love 1 | one 1 | complete 3 | one 2 | another 1 | in 3 | us 3 |
| another 2 | God 2 | | | | | | | |

1 John 4:11-12, NIV

Answers: Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. If we love one another, God loves in us and his love is made complete in us.

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

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...

***** VERY IMPORTANT MEETING *****

FEBRUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please join us Sunday, February 6th
after worship for our annual Febrial Congregational meeting.
This is a very important meeting for our congregation.
Like many churches our church finds itself with
some significant financial concerns this year.
Please take some time and hear what they are
and how you might help.

***** VERY IMPORTANT MEETING *****

Little Home Church by the Wayside

Pastor

Rev. Ron Purser

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Don Heinrich

Minister of Music

Larry Dieffenbach

Moderator

Bob Kaska

Moderator-Elect

Ann McLaughlin

Office Manager

Lori Prang

Custodial Services

Odie Perry