



By the Way...

*Little Home Church
by the Wayside*

Sunday Worship at 9:30 am

Feature article...

Smiling Faces at Little Home Church

Welcome to this inaugural issue of By the Way online! Our monthly newsletter will now be produced in this format with organized sections of information, ongoing lists of dates and activities, and links to the church web site. We are sending a "fresh smile!"



There is nothing more welcoming than a smile. A poster, banner, or message statement, just can't compare. These smiling faces of church member, Gianna Marchese and her friend, Matt are shining examples of the power we all have to reach out to everyone. Watch for featured examples of LHC "smiling faces" in upcoming issues.

This new email newsletter promises timely, convenient, and concise communication... along with added efficiency in resources and cost. Printed versions will still be sent to those without access to email. This format can easily be shared with friends and family...just forward or post on social media.

BTW editors: Lori Prang and Kathleen S. Kaska

Pastor's message...

Weather can be fickle! We've seen the ups and downs. Just when we think we've made it through and spring will surely be on the way, winter stages another offensive. But we have a way of weathering the weather changes. Life is like weather. Interruptions and frustrations come at the most inopportune times. Problems are inevitable; joys too. Sometimes we have to 'roll with the punches,' to find joy amidst our up-tightness. It might be thought of as resilience like a bent tree in the wind that does not break.

I guess we can learn from life and Scripture that frustrations need not be as fatal, and failures not always final. They may cause us to change plans, for the weather of life is a bit fickle.

Dr. Boreham of Australia told the story of a man who lived in a fine house by a river. He had a rather large basement and in it he raised some prize chickens. One evening the river flooded and the chickens drowned. He immediately went to the landlord and



Upcoming Dates

Memorial Service for Marie Giesecke

Sat. Feb. 11, 11 am

Council Meeting

Tue. Feb. 14, 7 pm

Comparative Religions

Sun. Feb. 19, 3-4:30 pm

Ash Wednesday Potluck Dinner & Worship

Wed. Feb. 22, 6 pm

A Book & A Prayer Book Club

Mon. Feb. 27, 7 pm

Morning Bible Study

Wednesdays, 10 am

Evening Bible Study

Thu., Feb. 9, 7 pm

Palm Sunday Service

Sun. Apr. 1, 9:30 am

Talent Show

Sat. Apr. 21, 7 pm

Church Leadership

Pastor

Reverend Ron W. Purser

Pastor Emeritus

Reverend Dr. Don Heinrich

Director of Music Organist

Larry Dieffenbach

Moderator

Ann McLaughlin

Moderator-elect

Wally Setlock

Office Manager

Lori Prang

announced he was moving. "But why?" said the landlord. "I thought you really enjoyed the house." The tenant replied, "I do, but the basement is too low...It flooded last night and my hens all drowned." The landlord quickly replied, "Oh, don't move on account of that. Try ducks!" I believe that in the great game of life God doesn't permit a door to be closed without opening another one.

In the 84th Psalm we read, "Blessed are those whose strength is in Thee, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools." No such valley in Palestine has yet been identified. However, the word 'baca' means 'weeping' and may refer to a valley filled with balsam trees, which, because such trees exude beads of gum, resembling tears, was called a valley of weeping.

Whether the valley exists or not we understand that life is both tears of sorrow and tears of joy. The Lenten season is that very special time of the year when we travel on with Jesus and see winter lose its grip, sorrow turn to joy, despair to hope, defeat to victory.

Life always has its changes and the older we get the more we see it and sometimes the less we can face it with resilience. Our Lenten journey is one that teaches us not to let life bowl over us, but to face new opportunity and new challenges bravely.

When we come to a detour sign, don't curse the interruption, but thank God for a new road to travel. It is easier said than done, but that is our challenge in life day by day. Whether you handle it well or not in the midst of our transitions in life remember there is love; a love that never changes, constant and true. This is the lesson we have in Jesus. What a great time lent can be! Winter to Spring; frustration to life, we are in it together, and together we shall be free to live.

Have a very prayerful Lenten Season! Rev. Ron W. Purser

Worship schedule...

Feb. 5

Holy Communion

Sermon: "The New Wine of Faith in Christ"

Scripture: John 2:1-12

Theme: God Advocates for Us as We Advocate for Christ

Feb. 12

6th Sunday in Epiphany

Sermon: "To Recognize God in Joseph and Jesus"

Scripture: Genesis 45:3-11; 15

Theme: Hope of a Future

Feb. 19

Transfiguration Sunday

Sermon: "The Light That Transfigures"

Scripture: II Peter 1:16-19; Luke 9:28-36

Theme: The Light of Faith

Feb. 22

Ash Wednesday

6 pm Light Potluck Dinner

7 pm Worship - Communion and Imposition of Ashes

Theme: Exciting Metaphors of the "Holy of Holies" in the person of Jesus.

A series of the 'I Am' sayings. Tonight: "I Am' the Bread of Life" (John 6:25-36)

Feb. 26

1st Sunday in Lent

Sermon: "He Bought My Soul" (from Gospel writer, Stuart Hambler)

Scripture: John 10:1-21

Theme: "I am' the Good Shepherd"



Flowers & Fellowship

Provide flowers to decorate our altar table or host a fellowship hour after worship as a wonderful way to recognize a special occasion or to remember someone special. Sign-up sheets are posted in the Parish Hall, and a reminder call will come from the Church Office so you can note what should be listed in the Sunday Bulletin.

(Open dates are noted below.)

Altar Flowers

Feb. 5

(available)

Feb. 12

Valeri Baldwin

Feb 19

(available)

Feb. 26

(available)

Fellowship Hour

Feb. 5

Haseltine Family

Feb. 12

(available)

Feb 19

(available)

Feb. 26

(available)

Special Emergency Packets

provided by the Wayne Fire Department are now available for seniors in the church office.

Special events...

Chili Cook-Off was deliciously fun!

It all happened on a cold Saturday night in January, in a warm Parish Hall...with lots of hot chili (record number of competitors), sides and desserts. Chef Wally Setlock won the coveted 1st Place title, and Carol Hancock was a close 2nd Place winner with her venison chili recipe. Also, a whopping \$1,100.00+ was raised for the LHC Outreach Ministry!



Additional event photos:

<http://littlehomechurch.org/photogallery.html>

Activities...

A Book & A Prayer Book Club

Readers got off to a great start! The meeting opened with welcomes and prayer requests from the group of 17, which included the author, Neta Jackson of *The Yada Yada Prayer Group*, and her friend and speaking partner, Pam Sullivan. Our www.meetup.com guests traveled from DeKalb, Rolling Meadows and St. Charles to join us, and Nancy Doerr brought 4 friends! Much of the discussion centered on women supporting each other through prayer and fellowship, and international, multi-cultural worship. Neta read scripture and explained that the Hebrew word yada means "to know" Yahweh (God) and to be known intimately. The word yada appears in the Bible 947 times. Learn more about Neta and husband, Dave (also an author) at www.daveneta.com.

Next Book: *Through My Eyes* by Tim Tebow

Next Meeting: February 27, 7 pm, Parish Hall

Let the group know if you have suggestions for faith-based books to read; and keep updated on the meetings and readings at www.meetup.com/LHC-Wayne-IL-A-Book-and-a-Prayer-Readers.



Choir

Come join us for music as we approach the holy time of Lent and the great celebration of Easter. We will present a cantata "We Were There" by Pepper Choplin on Palm/Passion Sunday. The choir will also sing at the Ash Wednesday service and sing some glorious anthems on Easter Sunday.



Pageant 2011 Music

Adult Choir: Practice on Wednesdays at 7 pm. If you would like to sing in the choir please come join us! We will begin wearing our new choir robes soon!

Bell Choir: Larry will contact members with practice and performance dates/times.

Children's Choir: Practice during Sunday school each week. The music in children's church is going well and we will begin learning to read music this spring!

Gardening Angels & Handy Devils!

Work Days will be scheduled twice a month (one weekday & one Saturday) starting in early spring to spruce up our little church, both inside and out. More details to follow soon.

note:

The Church Photo Directory will be coming soon!

Interested in serving as a pulpit associate or an usher for Sunday Service? Coordinator, Rich Doerr, invites you to contact the office and be added to the list!

we noticed!

Thank you to everyone who helped clean up, and store away, all the greens and decorations from the Christmas season.

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Thank you, Pastor Ron for the first in a series on Comparative Religions. It was excellent and we are eager to attend the second, scheduled for February 19.

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Thank you to Jane Shelton and Anne Bouchard for coordinating the Chili Cook-Off. It was such fun and great to see the many friends who joined in the festivities.

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Carol Hancock's friend Ann Denniston donated her working chest freezer to the Feeding Northwest DuPage food pantry. Thanks Ann! Thank you to Cathy Price for coordinating pick-up and delivery. And thank you to John Price and Dave Karwowski for providing the truck and manpower.

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Thank you to Kathleen Sullivan Kaska and Lori Prang for sending email blasts reminding us of upcoming events.

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Thank you to Nancy Schatzeder for leading a much requested evening bible study.

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Thank you to Kathy Haben for starting "A Book & A Prayer" book club.

Education...

Comparative Religion Series

Presented by Rev. Ron Purser on the following Sundays at 3 pm in the Parish Hall.

Jan. 15 - Judaism

Feb. 19 - Christianity out of Judaism

Mar. 11 - Islam



Morning Bible Study

Presented by Rev. Ron Purser on Wednesday mornings at 10 am in his office. All are welcome. No preparation is required.

Evening Bible Study

Presented by Rev. Nancy Schatzeder on the 2nd Thursday of the month from 7-8:30 pm in the Parish Hall. You need vision to grasp sacred texts—so bring your bifocals, rose colored glasses, monocles, microscopes, telescopes (whatever!) and your willingness to try something new. We'll be reading the Gospel of Mark with a variety of lenses. All are welcome. No preparation is required.

Children's Sunday School

Meets each Sunday in the Guild House. Children will be called during the service when it is time to join their teachers. All children, preschool age through 8th grade, are welcome.

etc...



Courtyard garden daffodils peeking out of the snow on January 24th...determined for spring!

Ministry news...

Evangelism Ministry

The Evangelism Ministry has our new email communication up and running. Several notices have been sent and the *By the Way* is now an email blast. Also, our new member efforts continue with 19 "hosts" from our church in contact with more than 30 prospective members.



MacCarthy Family

Stewardship Ministry

Pledge Update: As of week 10 we have received 66 pledges totaling \$157,805.00. This is up from last year by six pledges and \$2,500.00, but still down from 2010. If you have pledged, thank you! If you have not yet sent in your pledge, we are still accepting them.

\$15,000 Matching Gift Challenge: Facing a significant deficit for 2011, many members and friends contributed to the challenge netting almost \$45,000.00. A celebration of this great blessing took place on January 29 at the 5th Sunday afternoon worship service and potluck.

Outreach Ministry

It is wonderful to add the more than \$1,100.00 raised at the January Chili Cook-Off event to the LHC Outreach efforts...thank you to all who participated!

Congregational Life Ministry

Hosted the 2012 Chili Cook-Off fundraiser with almost 100 in attendance, 11 chili cooks, and a selection of great appetizers and desserts. Thank you to all!



Our love & prayers...

Recently hospitalized or ill:

Joyce Cox
Elaine Williford
Shirley House
Dulie Ware
Barb MacCarthy
Corky Hamill
Andrea Ferguson
Donna Voightmann

Congratulations!

Corky Hamill celebrated his 98th birthday on January 25th.

Service men & women

Samantha Prang
Greg Haben
Ryan Reed

*Dear Heavenly Father,
Please hold our servicemen and women in your strong arms. Cover them with Your sheltering grace and Your presence as they stand in the gap for our protection. May the members of our Armed Forces be supplied with courage to face each day and may they trust in the Lord's almighty power to accomplish each task. Let our military brothers and sisters feel our love and support. In the name of Jesus. Amen.*



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32W128 Army Trail Road, Wayne, Illinois 60184

United Church of Christ

Worship, Fellowship & Service in the
Congregational Tradition

February By the Way!