

MAGNIFICAT

PARISH NEWS FROM THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LADY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
MAY 2008

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FROM THE RECTOR

The parish planning day went really well. We had over 50 people come and participate in getting the calendar filled in for the "green season" of Pentecost. This was a response to the need for some coordination around Parish Life activities, and it works best when all of our ministry teams are participating. Many thanks to the Outreach team for their proactive work before the meeting. You could really tell that they had some conversation before the planning session and most of the items presented by outreach already had coordinators. It is my hope that more people will take part in these events. The communication between ministry teams was a great by-product of the time we spent together and many people who have not been involved in activities signed up to lead events.

By approaching our activities in this manner, we are able to create connections between ministry teams and offer programs that reflect the passions and priorities of our parish community. This was a great first effort that has already produced good fruit. As we announce our next planning meeting in the fall for the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany seasons, I ask that you would make a real effort to attend and participate. This is a reflection of our Growing Together plan that brings our people together in conversation about our ministry. It is something that you asked for and so far it is working nicely. Let's keep the energy going!

I will be away from May 5th through the 12th at my second CREDO conference. It is a clergy wellness program that is mostly covered by the national church. We pay \$500 of the \$5000 cost (from my Continuing Ed fund). The conference requires participants to submit various personal information such as results from a physical exam, a battery of psychological tests, a questionnaire about spirituality and information about finances. They take this information and work with clergy to help them work on any issues that may arise. The idea is to assist in clergy burn-out issues before they become problems. It is a really great program and I am interested in what this second phase will look like. Thank you for supporting me in this effort.

See you in Church.

Fr. Clyde+

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

When was the last time you did something that you have never done before? If your life is as nice, safe and boring as mine, it may have been a while! Just last week, however, my family was invited to a friend's Passover Seder, and it occurred to me that one of the reasons I was so excited to go was the fact that it would be a totally new experience for us. We looked forward to it for weeks before, and when the night came (this year, the first night of Passover fell on Saturday, April 19) we all got dressed carefully, arrived early, and sat on the edge of our seats until the Seder started.

All the prayers started, "Baruch ata Adonai Eloheynu" which means "Blessed are you, Lord, Our God, King of the Universe." It was beautiful and ancient and reminded me why I love the prayers in the Book of Common Prayer that we say over and over every Sunday. How connected I felt to thousands of years of worshippers of the one God! The Seder continued. We ate the foods, drank the wine, broke the matzo, recited the prayers, heard the story of Moses and Pharaoh and celebrated freedom, all the while recalling and praying for those who were not free. It was a perfect merging of worship and party.

We worship and party here at Annunciation, don't we? Our Eucharist has its roots in a Passover meal. We break the bread, we drink the wine, we tell the stories and say the prayers every Sunday just like Christians have done since the first Pentecost. What I love about this parish is that it actually *feels* like a party a lot of the time.



I want to thank everyone who decided to try something they've never done before by coming to the Parish Planning for Pentecost meeting on April 6th. It felt like a party too. It was loud and chaotic, but at the end of it all, it was fun and it WORKED! As a brand new experience, there were some glitches, but there was also an energy that caused me to think that the Holy Spirit was in the midst of us, helping to make this not just a way to plan the next month's events, but also an active way to worship God. If you attended the planning meeting and have some feedback on how to improve it, please let me know. If you didn't go and have questions, feel free to ask me, or any Vestry member. AND everyone is invited to the next meeting in September!

-Maggie Attiyeh

FROM YOUR VESTRY

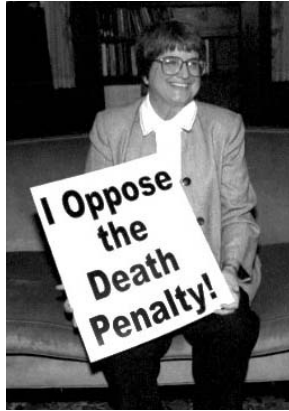
Part of my wife Sandy and my nursing experience was in home care. We often saw couples ready to retire and "do all the things we want to do" and the stroke, heart attack or other health problems change the plans before it could happen. That is why we are often gone to see family, to the rodeo, Cubs games, a cruise, skiing or Dale out fishing, while our health permits.

A few years ago Tim McGraw had a song out that maybe we all could put to use (within reason). The story goes that a man finds out he has a fatal disease and only months to live, so he goes sky diving, Rocky Mountain climbing, rides 2.7 seconds on a bull named Fu Man Chu. It's not everyone who gets the chance to "live like you were dying".

God's Peace,
-Dale Sander

SOJOURNERS IN SPIRIT

In April, our women's group continued in this year's series of "Women Who Dared" with a dynamic discussion of Pope Joan. Sojourners in Spirit is dedicated to the fine art of fellowship. You needn't bake, read, or prepare a thing to attend this group, and you'll always be up-to-date, because each month is a new topic. Carve some time out of your busy schedule to hang out and learn something new, meet someone new, or do something for the sheer fun of it. On Monday, May 19th at 6:30 we'll talk about noted death penalty opponent Sister Helen Prejean. You can't get much more fun than that! See you there.



-Maggie Attiyeh and Rev. Kate

BOOKS & MORE

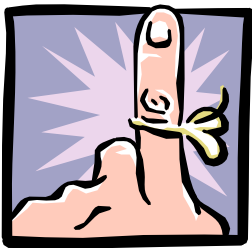
Simply maaaarrrrvoulous is the only way I can describe our book club outing to Loyola in April to see Sue Monk Kidd (the author of *The Secret Life of Bees*). Four of us made a day of it. Cheri Johnson, Carol Anderson, Virginia Bosserman and I started off at the Garfield Park Conservatory enjoying the beautiful blooming plants. We then went to the Art Institute and relished the paintings of Edward Hopper and Winslow Homer. Next we were off to Loyola to join the rest of the group – Anita Murrens, Deb Gallinger and her daughter, Stacey Wallace, Ruth Chatlien, and Cindy Pullinger. Jennifer Haworth had secured us VIP seats and they were great ... second row center! Thank you Jennifer!

Sue Monk Kidd's talk was inspiring. She discussed her initial dream to become a writer and how she ignored it to obtain a nursing career, but her desire for writing could not be abated. At thirty years old she gave up nursing to become a writer. As she explained it to us ... One morning she walked downstairs and announced to her husband and her two toddlers that she was going to be a writer! She explained that there is a fire that burns in all of us – that desire to do what we are called to do. Of course since then I have dusted off my writing table in my own private room - Sue Monk Kidd mentioned that your own private space is a must for all writers ... well, for her and me maybe. I think about J.K. Rowling who wrote the Harry Potter stories on trains and in cafes. Personally, I believe if you have the desire, the fire, to do something you can do it just about anywhere under all kinds of interesting conditions. Enjoy the journey!

-Linda Lutter

UNITED THANK OFFERING

Blue Box Sunday – May 18th Bring in your boxes filled with thanksgivings, praises, and love represented by coins and bills. Someone came up to me on Sunday and gave me another idea of a handy place to put the



United Thank Offering Blue Box: in the laundry room. All the money found in the pockets goes in the box accompanied by praises and thanksgivings to our Lord. So don't forget to bring in your blue box Sunday, May 11th and pick up a new one on your way out. Thank you.

-Linda Lutter

Interested in joining book club? Next month's book is "The Friday Night Knitting Club" by Kate Jacobs. Join us for dinner, and a lively discussion led by Dottie Herdliska. We will meet at Panera Bread in Gurnee at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14th. Please join us!

MOVIE NIGHT

This summer join screenwriter Michael Chatlien as he shows a series of films that deal with Redemption. After each film, he will talk about some aspect of the movie, and then lead a discussion about it. All films will be shown on the Big Screen TV in Strang Hall. Beverages and snacks will be provided. The films in the series are:

Tender Mercies, Friday, June 13, 7 - 10 PM

The Painted Veil, Friday, July 11, 7 - 10 PM

The Verdict, Friday, August 15, 7 - 10 PM



ALL HANDSON DECK!

Saturday, May 3rd is an "all Parish" weed and mulch day. This will be in conjunction with the Building & Grounds committee repairing, weeding and re-mulching the playground area. A sign up sheet is posted in the Narthex. Make time to be there! Many hands make light work... not to mention a beautiful garden.

-Bill Hagan

P.A.D.S.

PADS summer lunch program is back! Thanks to your generosity, our summer lunch program will continue this year. Now we need all hands on deck to make to 70 lunches that are needed. I have a commitment from our Youth Group that they will help with June's lunches. June 20th at 3 pm will be THE place to be for fun and helping others. We need just as many friends in July (18) and August (15). Thank you to all the adults that signed up already. Many hands make light work.



-Mary Oesterlein

LAKE COUNTY UNITED

Announcing the Lake County United May Assembly! On Thursday, May 22nd from 7 pm (sharp) till 8:30 p.m. at St Joseph Catholic Church, Koenig Center, 121 E Maple in Libertyville representatives from the member institutions will gather to celebrate the work we have done to keep Winchester House open. We will also present our work in progress on the redevelopment plan for Winchester House, affordable housing initiative in Libertyville, and the work being done with the establishment of a public college preparatory charter high school in Waukegan. Annunciation of Our Lady is a key member of Lake County United. Please talk to Fr. Elledge or Mary Jones for more information and **PLAN ON ATTENDING THE ASSEMBLY!!!**

MEMORIAL FUND

With the many donations made to the Memorial Fund recently, I thought it would be a good idea to explain the purpose of the Memorial Committee. We are a small committee made up of the Rector, Jr. Warden, and 4 lay members.

Monies donated to the Memorial Fund can be offered in Thanksgiving of something such as a new birth, prayers answered, etc., or donations can be made in memory of a loved one who has passed away.

There is a list of approved memorial items that is updated yearly and posted in the parish hall. Memorials may be designated for any of those items or used at the discretion of the memorial committee to be combined with other donations to purchase larger, more expensive items such as the vestments and altar coverings which were purchased in the past couple of years to match the liturgical season.

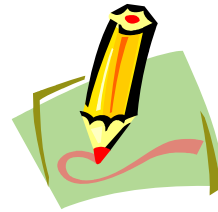
Recent Memorial Fund purchases have been for a variety of items from refinishing the tabernacle, to repairing stained glass windows and purchasing prayer books and hymnals as they wore out. Our new sound system was purchased through a significant gift from Nevart Haley's estate.

Meetings are held twice a year and are open to anyone interested.

Yours in Christ,
Marge Hocking



COFFEE TALK



Don't forget. The new sign up sheet for coffee hour is up and ready for you. Take the next chance you get to put your name on your favorite dates to host coffee hour for the next year. When you sign up early, you get your choice of dates to fill this very important opportunity to share fellowship with all of us. You are so thoughtful. We all know how important this time is, especially for the children. Last month, when the coffee hour host was unable to bring the treats, Tom Christensen stepped up and purchased a number of boxes of Girl Scout cookies for the kids to share. That amazingly generous and selfless act made every child (and quite a few adults) very happy. Thanks again Tom.

-Mary Oesterlein

ATRIUM NEWS



Alleluia! We couldn't say that word in Lent. The children weren't able to arrange flowers during that time either. It is wonderful to change our atrium colors over to white and bring back the flowers and the "Alleluia". The atrium is a joyous place. To celebrate Easter, the children joined Mr. Bradley's class for the Liturgy of Light in the side chapel. Mr. Bradley explained the Paschal candle and the boys' class found out how we arrange flowers and set up the altar in the atrium.

Everyone learned something new. The next week we learned about the parable of the Kingdom of Heaven and the Leaven. The children enjoyed learning about the light and the white gown in their first presentation of Baptism. We are enjoying the flowers inside and outside of the church, the warm weather and the absence of snow. We are preparing for Youth Sunday on May 5th and we are looking forward to sharing some of our work with the entire congregation.

As we get ready for the final few weeks of Sunday school, our thoughts turn toward next year. Our first year in the atrium has been very successful. There has been so much positive feedback. I want you all to know how amazing it has been for me to be with your children and to work with all of the adults who have been behind the scenes and in the atrium. Our volunteers have been just terrific. I am looking forward to next year and working with all of you again. There are a few materials we need for the children. If there is a family or two who would like to sponsor any of the new materials, please let me know. We need a puzzle map of Israel (\$45), a liturgical calendar (\$100) and the City of Jerusalem model (\$135). All of these items are purchased online, but need some painting or finishing. I am happy to finish any material that is purchased. Please let me know which materials you would like to donate.

May 11 is our Feast of Pentecost celebration in the atrium, and May 18 is the last Sunday school class. We will not meet in the atrium, but awards will be given out. I won't rush us into the summer quite yet. Let's enjoy a well deserved spring. Alleluia!

-Mary Oesterlein

FROM THE PEWS

News, views and who's who... all from the pews! Please submit your own news and views to Rev. Kate .

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Congratulations and good luck to Laura Bosserman who will receive her Masters Degree from Concordia University in Wisconsin, and to Catherine O'Morchoe, who will receive her Bachelor's Degree this spring from Temple University in Pennsylvania. Kudos to Rebecca Celebuski on making honor roll at Boston University. Just slightly earlier in the educational process, congratulations to Evan Dustan on making the 4th grade honor roll. And a big shout-out to Matthew Oesterlein, who scored 100% on his AiM piano performance and has consequently been asked to return for an encore performance.

WHO'S IN THE PEWS

I sat down in the choir area one Sunday morning in between services and started talking to Debbie Rakestraw. Meet Debbie: She is originally from Topeka, Kansas and grew up as a Presbyterian but attended an Episcopal Church and really loved the liturgy, so when she married an Episcopalian it was an easy decision on what church they would attend. For the last 6 years, Debbie has been teaching special education at the Ninth Grade Center in Waukegan. Prior to that she was Executive Director to the Downtown Association, was in Arts Management for Waukegan, which organized First Night among other events, and she was the business manager for the Waukegan Symphony Choir.

She is currently working on the Small Learning Committee in Waukegan that is trying to change the one massive high school into ten smaller schools with around 400 students (freshman through senior) in each school. She is very excited about this project. She has masters degrees from Monmouth College in Public Administration and Special Education. Soon she will be starting her 3rd for administrative supervisory positions.

Besides being one of those lovely voices in our choir, Debbie is also on the Vestry, the Worship Committee, and she counts on the second Sunday. She especially wanted to be on the Worship Committee so she can be a part of maintaining the beauty of the liturgy. She remembers reading *The Church in the Marketplace* by George Carey. In his book, he stated that every church has to find what they do well and not try to be everything to everybody. You do it well and they will come to you, perhaps in large numbers, perhaps not. If you are fulfilling the needs of others, you are doing well. Our Liturgy is something we do well and she would like to make sure we keep it that way.

Debbie is blessed with 3 children: Diana (25), Amy (23), and Doug (22). Diana and Doug live with her in Beach Park and Amy lives in Evanston. As I said earlier, you can find Debbie sitting in the choir on Sunday mornings at the 10:00 am service making a joyful sound.
–Linda Lutter

[Editor's note: Got a great idea for Sunday morning worship? Talk to Debbie and she can bring it up at the next meeting of the Worship Committee. Other members include: Ron Lemke, Charles O'Morchoe, Bob Coates, and your clergy. Do you feel strongly about our liturgy? Join the committee! Make your voice heard.]



Our mission is to know God and to make God known.
Our office is open Monday – Thursday from 9-1. The vestry members who guide our church are:
Maggie Attiyeh, Senior Warden
Rich Ringhofer, Junior Warden
Deb Gallinger
Bill Hagan
Jane Penticoff
Cindy Pullinger
Deb Rakestraw
Dale Sander
Todd Shumate