

From Pastor Zina Jacque

Several Sundays ago, our brother, Clarke Robinson, stood in the Sanctuary and spoke about the importance of water in the lives of women and men who have limited access to fresh water. Clarke reminded us also that the women of the village were forced to walk miles each day to obtain water to cook, to clean, and to keep their families healthy. He reported that Community Church has been hard at work, through the Mission and Outreach Committee (under the leadership of Brenda Overby), building wells and reducing the distance the women must travel for water. Since that Sunday, I have been thinking about the role of water in our everyday lives.

Think about all of the water you used today. You washed your hands and face, and maybe took a shower or a bath. You hydrated your body by drinking glasses of water. You brushed your teeth, and maybe made a pot of coffee or a cup of tea. During the course of the day, you may have washed a load of laundry, watered a plant, or wiped up a spill with a towel dampened by water. Then, of course, there are your car washes, dog washes, power washes, and dreams of pools, and walks along the sea-shore.

Scientists tell us our bodies are at least 75% water, and that two-thirds of the planet is covered by water. We come from water, we are lulled by the sound of water and we cannot live without it. Water is an indispensable part of who we are and how we live.

Water is also an important element in the Biblical story. It was through the waters of the Red Sea that the Israelites traveled to begin the Exodus (Exodus 13). It was a need for water that David uses to describe his need for God (Psalm 42:1-2). Water gushed from the rock in the wilderness as sign of God's gracious provision for his people (Nehemiah 9:20). And in the Gospel of John alone, water is turned into wine (chap. 2), the waters of the new birth are offered to Nicodemus (chap. 3), the living water is offered to the woman at the well (chap. 4), the cleansing waters of the pool of Bethesda are offered to the man who has been long-infirm (chap. 5), and the waters are calmed, obeying Jesus' command (chap. 6). Each of these references reveals Jesus as the agent of God who brings God's gracious offer of water to those who thirst.

And for us, well, the waters of the spring season have begun to fall. Even as I type these thoughts (Tuesday, March 15th), a thunderstorm is raging outside my window, and rain is falling fast and hard. But without the rain, the earth could not yield its spring flowers. Without this rain, animals who scurry about, away from our sight, might not be sustained.

Beloved, you and I need water daily in the natural world, and, I would suggest, we need water daily in the metaphysical realm. One question is, how do we allow God to water our souls? How do we quench our spiritual thirst? And do we recognize when we are nearing spiritual dehydration?

Just as you and I must drink water each day to stay healthy, we must take in the living water of Christ to remain whole. How? There are so many ways. We can listen to (download Bible.is – a free and wonderful audio website), or read God's word. We can find quiet time to be still and listen for God's presence. Sunday School, worship, prayer with friends or on your own, sacred music (and that can include jazz and many other forms), service and justice work, all of these provide opportunities to drink from the cup of God.

As the spring rains fall, may those showers remind us of the necessity of spiritual showers in our lives. May we drink fully from the storehouse of God so that we may be healthy and well. May you recognize your thirst, and may it be met with the rich, full-flowing waters of God.

Shells

Stu Overby, Moderator

Last month, the Moderator's article highlighted the great song What a Wonderful World, made popular by Louis Armstrong and written by Bob Thiele (as "George Douglas") and George David Weiss.

Soon after writing that article, I had the chance to experience another area of our wonderful world as Brenda and I spent two weeks on the eastern coast of South Carolina.

Early March in South Carolina is not very hot, but it is warm by comparison to the Chicago area. For the most part, the crowds that appear in the summer months have not yet arrived in March so there is plenty of solitude to enjoy on the beach. The Atlantic Ocean swirls with steady but very moderate waves. In addition to the soothing sounds, these waves provided another aspect of our wonderful world as they wash up numerous shells onto the beach.



When walking along the beach one day, it occurred to me that collectively, we have a number of things in common with these shells. Like mankind and womankind, these shells come in many sizes, shapes and colors. Some are broken and some are whole. Some are fully exposed while others are partially protected by the beach. I suppose we could even say that some have their "head in the sand" just as we do at times.

While reflecting on the qualities of these shells and some similarities to us, it also occurred to me there are important differences as well. The shells on the shore are static and do not move on their own and from all we can tell, they do not think or make decisions. In contrast, God gave each of us some abilities to reach out to others, and in general, the capability to think and to make decisions. Let us each use whatever capabilities we have wisely as Compassionate Christians, Growing Spiritually, Serving God.



THE MULTIDENOMINATIONAL AND MULTICULTURAL CHOIR

***PRESENT THEIR
SPRING CONCERT***

***AAA GOD
Awesome, Amazing and Almighty***

***WHEN: Saturday, April 23, 6PM
WHERE: Community Church of Barrington
COST: Free Will Offering***

For the third year, the M and M choir will grace our sanctuary with the sounds of gospel joy. Join us as we welcome the members of the choir, and visitors and friends from across the Northwest suburbs.

Come for the music and enjoy the fellowship while praising God with the exhilarating Multi-denominational and Multicultural (M and M) Community Choir Concert. The concert will feature wonderful gospel, inspirational, and contemporary music

Directed by Carolyn E. Hollins, the 30+ member choir has performed locally for over a decade.

Please plan to join us for an evening of worship and praise.



Report from your American Baptist Churches Metro Chicago Representative

By Steve Jahnke

Recently, I was asked to become the Community Church of Barrington's representative to the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago (ABCMC), following in the footsteps of our previous representative, Mr. Clarke Robinson. I know now that the invitation to become your representative was a calling from God through Pastor Zina.

Allow me to explain. At the recent quarterly ABCMC meeting (February 6, 2016), a representative from the Woodside Baptist Church of Flint, Michigan, spoke to us regarding the reality of the water crisis in Flint, and what their church proposed as a way to serve the people of their faith community. I had been following the news reports about this devastating public issue, as you may have, and was very concerned about unfolding events. As I listened to the representative from Woodside Church, I knew at that moment, that I was called to that meeting for a reason, and that I was there to hear this message. I knew that there was something CCB could do to help.

The Woodside water initiative is securing an industrial-type water filter that will rid the city's contaminated water of lead and other contaminants in order to provide clean and toxin-free water. Woodside serves a varied community, among them the working and non-working poor, and the undocumented. More information about this initiative, and about those in the community that will be served, can be found at the following link: <http://www.woodsidechurch.net/flint-water-emergency>

What we (CCB) are doing:

I asked the Mission and Outreach Committee to consider making a donation to the Woodside church clean-water initiative program. Brenda Overby has responded that the committee will consider a donation to Woodside at their April meeting. Please pray with me for our brothers and sisters in Flint, and that God will show us how we may be partners with them in offering their community life-sustaining, clean water.



Comm(on)unity

Stories are an integral part of our lives. We talk in stories everyday we live. We share stories with everyone. Sometimes they are one and two-line stories. Other times they go on and on and on Stories are more than just facts. They are the truth of who we are.

Joy Ellison, a storyteller in Chicago, put it this way. “Storytelling is integral to healing, transformation, resistance and survival.”

So what is your story? Is it light and does it move along the surface? Does it expose the naughty side of your youth or mistakes in judgment? Maybe your story is about forgetfulness or the ramifications of a missed appointment. Maybe it’s about the role of stubbornness and how that “virtue” changed your life.

Your story will touch lives. Even though we may not know each other, we have all traveled similar paths. Your story may connect with someone in the audience, and could be a catalyst for change.

Can you imagine telling a portion of your story in a safe setting with neighbors and friends? We hope you can because we have created just such a venue. Join us for Barrington’s newest storytelling venue, created and sponsored by Community Church. It is called Comm(on)unity because our common unity is represented in the stories of our lives. Comm(on)unity will provide an opportunity for friends and neighbors to regale an audience with their short-format, first-person, true stories, delivered without notes and from the heart.

Join us on Tuesday, April 19th, at 7 p.m., for a night of stories at one of our newest local retail, music and food emporiums, Grass Roots Clothing and General Store, 211 Park Avenue Barrington, IL (224-655-2344). Admission to our first story-telling event will be \$10, and food and drink will be available for purchase. Join us for the best 90 minutes you have spent with members of our community in a while.

For more information contact David Phinney, djphin@mac.com. See you on the 19th!!





A Light in the Darkness

"A single tiny light creates a space where darkness cannot exist. The light vanquishes the darkness. Try as it might, the darkness cannot conquer the light" Donald L. Hicks

Years ago, I was in Hawaii with members of my family. It was late, or rather it was quite early in the morning, and we were sleeping. As I slept in my bed with my face towards the ocean, I felt part of my body begin to awaken. There was a presence. I heard my name being called and felt a great warmth on my face, and so I slowly opened my eyes. I wondered at that moment who turned the light on, and yet, it was not a light like what one would experience if the light was turned on in the darkness; rather it was a high, warm light from natural causes, like the sun.

As two other members of my family were there with me, I looked over at them but the light was nowhere near them. I went to one family member and kept calling her name and telling her to open her eyes to see the light, but she just lay there. Later, she said she could not move but felt the light. In retrospect, we believe that it was my light, not hers, to see that night.

After several moments, the light became brighter and what I thought was a light in the sky was actually a light that was inside the room with me. My eyes saw an outline of what to me was a human image. The image was filled with light, and the light extended outside of the image as well.

It was as though a visitor called my name and was talking to me. For me, it was a sign and a gift. As I stood in front of the light there was a peace that filled me, and just before the light disappeared, a voice said, "It will be all right; all is well." I will never forget this experience.

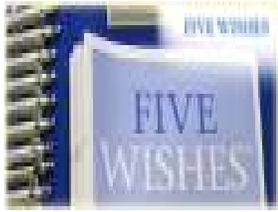
When the light left my sight, I called the hotel operator and asked if there was anything like a bright light reported by anyone, or anything else that would have caused a great warmth at or near the hotel. They told me no.

The next day, the family received a call that my grandmother had passed from this life at the exact time I saw the bright light, 2:03 a.m. There was no fear that night, it was as though it was a moment in time; as if time stood still and a message was to be seen and heard.

As we anticipate Easter, I imagine that what I experienced that night might be what the disciples felt as they watched their Savior rise to the heavens after His resurrection. A comfort, a calm, a knowledge that they were loved and safe, and that all would be well. Whatever you believe, as you come to the risen Christ this Easter, know without a doubt that you are forgiven, saved, accepted and loved. Just as you are! May you always feel the warmth of God's love and know His spirit surrounds you in all things and at all times. May you be able to say this Easter, "It is well with my soul."

Romans 13: 11 "Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; or now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore, let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light...." He is Risen...

Rejoicing together with you, *Dr. Sami*



IF I KNEW - Thoughts from Pastor Zina

In recent days three families of Community Church have experienced the loss of a family member. One such sister and friend is Betty Blasé, the daughter of our oldest congregant, Evelyn Peters. Evelyn went to be with the Lord just a few weeks ago but, when I spoke to her daughter I could hear the peace in her voice.

Evelyn had planned every aspect of her final days, including her memorial service. The amazing gift she leaves her family is that her wishes were clear, written down and well known to her family.

Another dear one among us has, recently, asked me to sit down and create a clear and wonderful plan for her last days, as well. I know, when the moment comes, this sister's family will have the benefit of knowing what she desired and will be able to abide by those wishes, easily.

In this season of Resurrection, these two experiences remind me that we are a people who know we will not live on earth forever. And, we are a people who trust that God's promises of life eternal are true and good.

Given this, I would like to ask you to consider giving your loved ones a gift. This gift would be the assembling of all of your wishes and desires for your final moments. This gift can be given with clarity and direction by completing the document, Five Wishes. With and through the Five Wishes you will be able to plan for possibilities and you will be able to speak for yourself regarding how you wish to be treated and remembered as you near the end of life.

I would welcome a conversation about completing the form, FIVE WISHES. I would count it a privilege to meet and speak with you regarding the ins and outs of this document. All I need is an invitation from you and we will set up a time and a place to pray, plan and dialogue.

Finally, a wonderful member of CCB gave me a copy of a very thought provoking poem. The title of the poem is, If I Knew. If we knew all things, we would not have to spend so much time preparing. But we are a people who believe in and who trust in the God of resurrection, and it is with this hope that we speak from the heart about this matter. Please enjoy the poem knowing that you do not have to live with a long list of ifs. Through the gift of the Five Wishes you may answer questions your loved ones do not even now or know how to ask. And you may bring the same smile I heard in Betty's voice to those who love you and will be left behind.

***If I knew it would be the last time that I'd see you fall asleep,
I would tuck you in more tightly and pray the Lord, your soul to keep.***

***If I knew it would be the last time that I see you walk out the door,
I would give you a hug and kiss and call you back for one more.***

***If I knew it would be the last time I'd hear your voice lifted up in praise,
I would video tape each action and word, so I could play them back day after day.***

***If I knew it would be the last time I would be there to share your day,
Well I'm sure you'll have so many more, so I can let just this one slip away.***

***For surely there's always tomorrow to make up for an oversight,
and we always get a second chance to make everything just right.***

***There will always be another day to say "I love you,"
And certainly there's another chance to say our "Anything I can do?"***

***But just in case I might be wrong, and today is all I get,
I'd like to say how much I love you and I hope we never forget.***



As our members know by now, we had a very successful year for Cookie Walk 2015!

Now as members of G.R.O.W. (God Renewing Our Women) we need to make some thoughtful decisions about which local organizations shall benefit from these funds.

Please join other members of Women's Fellowship for the upcoming meeting in April, when we will take some time to discuss our missions ideas.

Do you have an organization that could benefit from some of these funds that you'd like to "nominate"? Locate the email address for the organization and please write up a paragraph or so about your group and send it to the Church office. We'll be putting a booklet together so our members can review the details carefully to make informed decisions about the distribution of up to \$3,200 in Cookie Walk proceeds.

Some of the mission projects that benefited from the 2014 Cookie Walk funds included:

- Camp Courage - JourneyCare's week long summer day camp for children ages 6-13 who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Participants explore and express their feelings in a safe, supportive environment, led by professionally trained counselors from JourneyCare.
- Community Closet - A non-profit organization located within New Hope Christian Community Church in Round Lake Heights. The closet provides a place where families and those of the surrounding communities can shop for clothes, toys and home goods at no charge to them. The Closet relies on donations of gently used goods to donate back to local families
- Let It Be Us - This Barrington-based group has as its mission to build awareness and inspire the care and adoption of foster children. Currently 3,300 of the 96,000 children in the United States foster care system are in the state of Illinois.
- Team Expansion - We supported Glenna Gilleland's niece in her work with Team Expansion, a Kentucky based group with missionaries working around the world, planting churches and ushering new believers into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Please note that we will need any written submissions for this booklet by Monday, April 4th, so we may print out the booklets and distribute all information to all CCB members on Sunday, April 10th. We will also have the booklets available for the meeting on Thursday, April 21st.

Please give thoughtful consideration to your mission ideas. We all put a great deal of time and effort into preparing all those cookies, so let's put that same time and effort into distributing the cash to worthy local organizations.

Jayne Majzan, Chair 2015 Cookie Walk



HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED . . .

If you take the word

H E A R T

d move the “H” to the end, you get

E A R T H

Pastor Zina

On April 22, 2016, the celebration of Earth Day will turn 45 years old. The following article is taken from the Earth Day 2016 Network website (see italicized comments below). As you will see, the Network wants to encourage communities to plant trees. Maybe Community Church can plant a tree in our beautiful peace garden in honor of Earth Day and for the heart of our planet. Perhaps you can plant a tree on your property, or in honor of a loved-one at the Botanic Garden, or in a park/garden of your choice.

Over the next five years, as Earth Day moves closer to its 50th anniversary, [the Earth Day Network] is calling on you to help achieve one of our most ambitious goals, planting 7.8 billion trees and we're starting now.

Trees will be the first of five major goals we are undertaking in honor of the five-year countdown to our 50th anniversary. On their own and together, these initiatives will make a significant and measurable impact on the Earth and will serve as the foundation of a cleaner, healthier and more sustainable planet for all.

Why Trees?

- *Trees help combat climate change.*
- *They absorb excess and harmful CO₂ from our atmosphere. In fact, in a single year, an acre of mature trees absorbs the same amount of CO₂ produced by driving the average car 26,000 miles.*
- *Trees help us breathe clean air.*
- *Trees absorb odors and pollutant gases (nitrogen oxides, ammonia, sulfur dioxide and ozone) and filter particulates out of the air by trapping them on their leaves and bark.*
- *Trees help communities achieve long-term economic and environmental sustainability and provide food, energy and income.*

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4-2-16 James Goldstein Birthday
4-5-16 Marjorie Kiefer Newman Birthday
4-9-16 Helen Mollenkamp Birthday
4-10-16 Lindsay Campe Birthday
4-16-16 Jim Majzan Birthday
4-18-16 Jayne Majzan Birthday
4-21-16 Emily Troxell Birthday



Women Who Breakfast will meet on Wednesday, April 6th at the Bread-basket. Start your day out with a smile and a good cup of coffee. Bring a friend!



Men's Fellowship will meet on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. This month they will meet on April 9th & 23rd. All men of the church are welcome. Bring a friend!

The Ladies of G.R.O.W. will meet on Thursday, April 21st. Watch your Sunday bulletins and CCB flashes for more information. Bring your lunch. Coffee and dessert will be provided. All women of the church are invited.



POTLUCK! - Join us on Wednesday, April 13th for a delicious meal and stimulating company. Bring a dish to pass and an appetite for good food and fun. It starts at 5:00 p.m.



If you have been under the weather and unable to attend church, you are invited to give the church office a call. Communion can be brought to you. Pastor Zina or one of the pastoral staff will be happy to administer communion to you in your home.

We are looking for hospitality volunteers for the month of April. If you are able, please sign up on the list in the kitchen. You are appreciated!

April 2016

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																	
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