

Volume 66 Issue 2

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From Pastor Zina Jacque

UNDERNEATH THE GROUND

Winter in Chicago is never easy. Wind and snow, gray days and frozen ground; it's all a part of the drill. For those who love gardening, the winter can seem interminably long and frustrating. It is a season when your hands and trowels have no power over the frozen ground. At best, you direct your *gardening mojo* to catalogs of seeds and plants. It's winter in Chicago and there is just not much going on. Or is there?

Beloved, though winter seems to be a season when little happens with our frozen ground, this is far, far from the truth. Under the ground, out of the sight of our eyes, much is underway and without it, spring would never sprout.

Underneath the ground, bulbs feel the warmth of the sun, and once they have stored up the appropriate amount of energy, they break through and share their beauty with the topside of the soil. Seeds send down roots and draw nutrients from the ground, preparing to send up stems and flowers. Underneath the ground, earthworms and other insects act like human engineers, changing the structure of their environments. In fact, different types of earthworms can make both horizontal and vertical burrows, some of which can be very deep in soils. These burrows create pores through which oxygen and water can enter, and carbon dioxide leave, the soil. Underneath the ground, out of our sight, the architects of our spring and summer gardens are hard at work, preparing to bring about new beauty and new life.

It is very much the same with our season of Lent and the coming of Holy Week. In Lent we experience the quieter and more solemn side of our faith. We walk through the practice of giving up something for forty days so we might focus on Jesus' sacrifice each time we long for what we have given up. In this season we do not say Hallelujah (or Alleluia), as a way of diminishing even our joy in worship.

Lent is much like the topside of the ground in the midst of a Chicago winter, less brilliant, less joyful, less inviting. And yet, just like the territory under the ground, out of our sight, something is going on that will change the scene in just a matter of weeks. During this period -- under the surface of our lives -- our prayers, our daily devotions, our Lenten study, our sojourn with the Desert Mother and Fathers, and our fasting from that one thing, is all meant to help us store up energy, is meant to help us send down roots, is meant to create paths for the breath of life and the living water of life to find and nourish us. And we, like the bulbs and seeds that will bloom soon, take it all in so that we may rise with new life and beauty in the glorious act of our own resurrection and the resurrection of our Savior.

Beloved, do not let the grayness and cold of winter get you down. New life, new beauty, new power are on their way. And just like the coming resurrection of our Lord, will not be delayed and will not be denied. Oh, I cannot wait to gaze at the beauty of spring flowers.

I cannot wait to say *Halle . . .* May God speed the day.

MARCH
NEWSLETTER 2016



Pastor - Rev. Dr. Zina Jacque
Musician - Natallia Revinskaya

Church Secretary - Sandra Mytys
Moderator - Stu Overby



What a Wonderful World

Stu Overby, Moderator

No doubt you have heard the song *What a Wonderful World*, made popular by Louis Armstrong and written by Bob Thiele (as “George Douglas”) and George David Weiss. This great song was even the subject of one of Pastor Zina’s sermons some time back. The song reminds me of the many things we should enjoy in life, and for which we should be thankful. It includes the following lyrics:

I see skies of blue and clouds of white
The bright blessed day, the dark sacred night
And I think to myself what a wonderful world.

On brutally cold and snowy days in the Chicago area, it may be more difficult to think in these terms. Many of us get frustrated with our winters and at least for a moment, may think winter will never end. However, deep down, we know that God will provide brighter days just around the corner. For us, Mr. Armstrong and the songwriters could have added another verse to their great song:

I see flakes of snow, covering all
Soon we’ll have spring, summer and fall.
And I think to myself what a wonderful world.

We are blessed with the change of seasons, and I do not mean to confine that statement to the weather environment. How boring it would be never to encounter anyone around us of a different age, a different background or a different outlook. That brings me to what I believe is the best verse in Mr. Armstrong’s popular song:

I hear baby's cry, and I watched them grow
They'll learn much more than I'll ever know
And I think to myself what a wonderful world.
Yes, I think to myself what a wonderful world.

Let us all strive to enjoy life to the fullest, see What a Wonderful World God has provided, and take personal responsibility to help keep it as wonderful as we can.

ON BEING BAPTIST

Though you may not realize it, Community Church is among the most diverse churches in Barrington. How, you ask? Well, based on casual conversation, we have approximately a dozen cradle (meaning they were born into a Baptist family) Baptists and many cradle Methodists, Episcopalian, Presbyterians, Covenant, Catholics Orthodox Lutheran and United Church of Christ.

How blessed we are to draw upon the histories and traditions of these expressions of faith and life. However, there are some distinctives to *being Baptist* and, from time to time, I like to share them as a reminder of the foundation of the church we share.

One of the best and most accessible books about being Baptist was written in 1993 by Walter Shurden. The title is *Baptist Identity: Four Fragile Freedoms*. In this short, 115-page book, Shurden suggests there are four freedoms, coupled with four responsibilities, which mark Baptist life and identity. The freedom/responsibility pairings are noted below.

I view this description of our life together in a Baptist church as a foundation on which we stand, whether we think of ourselves as Baptist or not. In my heart I am very proud to be Baptist, but that pride is not in the name or the association alone. Instead, my delight rises out of my understanding that those who gather around Baptist principles are willing and able to take their faith within their own hands, as part of a community. We are willing to be active participants in the shaping of our faith, receiving wisdom and guidance from a personal, first-person search for God, not from human structures. Though I honor other ways of being church, I am deeply grateful that I, we, worship in a way that requires us to be personally responsible and affords us the freedom to do so.

I hope the following synopsis of Shurden's words piques your interest. If so, I would be glad to have a cup of coffee and talk further.

Bible Freedom is the historic Baptist affirmation that the Bible, under the Lordship of Christ, must be central in the life of the individual and church, and that Christians, using the best and most scholarly tools of inquiry, are both free and obligated to study and obey the Scripture. **We are free** to access the Bible and interpret the Bible, and we are free from the limiting nature of creeds. And **we are responsible** to bring the best of scholarship to bear on our study and interpretation.

Soul Freedom is the historic Baptist affirmation of the inalienable right and responsibility of every person to deal with God without the imposition of creed, the interference of clergy, or the intervention of civil government. **We are free to** see ourselves as made in God's image and likeness, and to seek God's presence directly. And **we are responsible** to make moral, spiritual and religious decisions with the best application of an understanding of Jesus Christ and what He teaches, and to commit to growth and maturation in the faith.

Church Freedom is the historic Baptist affirmation that local churches are free, under the Lordship of Christ, to determine their membership and leadership, to order their worship and work, to ordain whom they perceive as gifted for ministry, male or female, and to participate in the larger Body of Christ. And, **we are responsible** to engage in witness and mission with other congregations and denominations, participate in the official decision-making of the church, and participate in deciding how the church will witness as regards evangelism, mission, and social justice.

Religious Freedom is the historic Baptist affirmation of freedom OF religion, freedom FOR religion, and freedom FROM religion, insisting that Caesar is not Christ and Christ is not Caesar. And **we are responsible to** move to maintain the distinction between and separation of, church and state for civic leadership, pray for the state and declare the judgments of God related to government, citizenship and the rights of all, and provide moral and spiritual reinforcement for the truths which undergird justice and peace.



CHOSEN

But you are a CHOSEN RACE, a ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, a HOLY NATION, a PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellences of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 1 Peter 2:9

You know how it is. You are lying in bed and you're supposed to be sleeping, and your mind does not shut off. Then you realize that your head is hurting because you are forcing your eyes to shut really tight and frowning, so that your forehead is squished together. Well, that is what was happening one night as I lay in bed after my prayers.

I had been chatting with God about His grace, His mercy and His love for me, asking for guidance and strength as I continued on my Lenten journey. All of a sudden, I recalled an event that had happened to me in my late 20's which was as vivid and real as the actual event itself.

I was visiting one of my aunts and uncles and their children, who were visiting from Jordan. They were in Canada, and I was staying with them for a couple weeks. Of course we went everywhere, sightseeing, visiting, and meeting new people. One afternoon, the doorbell of my aunt and uncle's home rang and my aunt called out my name. As I walked toward the door, a young man, holding a single red long stemmed rose was standing there. He looked at me, stretched out his arm with the rose, and said, "*I Choose You.*" We had met only once and yet, he had decided that I should be his wife.

Over the next couple weeks, we got to know each other. He told me about the house he had bought for us, the job he was going to take, all about his friends, what my role would be as his wife, and when we would marry (in 3 months). Needless to say, after a couple weeks I told him that I did not choose him, but I was flattered.

I tell this story as for me, on my journey, this year, it's about truly feeling that I am chosen by God because Of His love for me. John 15:16 says, *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.* Wow, how cool is that. He chose me before I was even thought of or known by my parents. He planned for me. But the coolest thing is that He did not tell me to accept His love, He gave it freely and then let me choose!

As we go through the 40 days as a faith family and as individuals, remember, there will be challenges, temptations and discomfort. These are all feelings and emotions Jesus must have gone through in His human form on this earth. May we all be strengthened, encouraged, and lifted up, knowing we have been chosen. As we walk through the desert these forty days, remember the following: to find that perfect rose, we must walk through, and journey around, the thorns of our human life. Do the walk, do the journey, know that the joy, fulfillment and peace at the end of the journey is our risen Savior!

By the way, I have also learned that if I cannot sleep, maybe I haven't finished being in dialogue (two-way) with my Savior.

On this journey and in prayer with you. *Dr. Sami*

We're Cooking Up a New Ministry For Community Church!



How many times have you been feeling under the weather – or know someone who just doesn't feel up to cooking – but you don't have anything in the frig or freezer? Now you can turn to CCB for a little help.

Members of the Soul Food Committee met on Saturday, Feb. 20th and prepared three different entrees that have been frozen and are ready to be distributed to church members or friends that may be in need of a temporary helping hand in the kitchen.

Would you like some chicken noodle soup? Or would you prefer a chicken & artichoke pasta dish or some zucchini lasagna roll-ups?

All you need to do is contact Sandy Mytys in the Church Office and we'll be happy to deliver a ready to cook meal to your home. Let us know what you'd like and we'll be happy to help!

Many thanks to everyone who has cooked, planned and purchased food to get our program off the ground.



The Soul Food Committee:

Marge Boynton, Dr. Sami El-Yasir, Sharon Hornig, Bunny Jahnke, Sandy Mytys, Stu Overby, Kim McLean, Lynn Rice & Marlene Tourville
Jayne Majzan & Jackie Phinney, Co-Chairs

Congregational Life Newsletter Report

Thank you to all our cooks and bakers and soup makers who have so lovingly provided treats and food for our January budget luncheon and for the Ash Wednesday supper. We will be hosting Easter Sunday Brunch on Sunday, March 27th -- look for some upcoming signup sheets in the Narthex and Online. The Sunday brunch, served at 9:30, is a very special time to come together and share a meal on our holiest of holidays. Please feel free to welcome your friends and neighbors to spend some time with us -- it was last year at this time that I first met our intern, Alissia, at Easter Sunday brunch.

We could use some more hosts for post- church coffee hour -- signup sheet is posted on the refrigerator door in the kitchen. My thanks to those of you who do this as a ministry to others. I love to watch people relaxing and socializing and exchanging ideas after worship. The coffee and treats you provide when you host really help to enhance our time together.

Upcoming : Look for a little Celtic music to brighten your dining pleasure at the next potluck on Wednesday, March 9th, at 6 p.m. The April potluck theme will be poetic.... anticipate some good fun as I host and we write a little poetry together!

We are trying to get a group of movie buffs together for a monthly movie outing, with time afterwards for some coffee and discussion. More to come in future Flashes and Sunday morning announcements.

See you at the next celebration,

Heloise



THE BEST SERMONS ARE LIVED, NOT PREACHED

This has circulated on the internet for many months. We share it here because indeed, the way we live our lives preaches more sermons far more powerful than any I might share from the pulpit. May our lives be both sign and symbol of God's presence and power in our lives. Preach on my brothers and sisters, preach on with your life. *Pastor Zina*

- Today, after a 72 hour shift at the fire station, a woman ran up to me at the grocery store and gave me a hug. When I tensed up, she realized I didn't recognize her. She let go with tears of joy in her eyes and the most sincere smile and said, "On 9-11-2001, you carried me out of the World Trade Center."
- Today, after I watched my dog get run over by a car, I sat on the side of the road holding him and crying. And just before he died, he licked the tears off my face.
- Today at 7AM, I woke up feeling ill, but decided I needed the money, so I went into work. At 3PM I got laid off. On my drive home I got a flat tire. When I went into the trunk for the spare, it was flat too. A man in a BMW pulled over, gave me a ride, we chatted, and then he offered me a job. I start tomorrow.
- Today, as my father, three brothers, and two sisters stood around my mother's hospital bed, my mother uttered her last coherent words before she died. She simply said, "I feel so loved right now. We should have gotten together like this more often."
- Today, I kissed my dad on the forehead as he passed away in a small hospital bed. About 5 seconds after he passed, I realized it was the first time I had given him a kiss since I was a little boy.
- Today, in the cutest voice, my 8-year-old daughter asked me to start recycling. I chuckled and asked, "Why?" She replied, "So you can help me save the planet." I chuckled again and asked, "And why do you want to save the planet?" "Because that's where I keep all my stuff."
- Today, when I witnessed a 27-year-old breast cancer patient laughing hysterically at her 2-year-old daughter's antics, I suddenly realized that I need to stop complaining about my life and start celebrating it again.
- Today, a boy in a wheelchair saw me desperately struggling on crutches with my broken leg and offered to carry my backpack and books for me. He helped me all the way across campus to my class and as he was leaving he said, "I hope you feel better soon."
- Today, I was feeling down because the results of a biopsy came back malignant. When I got home, I opened an e-mail that said, "Thinking of you today. If you need me, I'm just a phone call away." It was from a high school friend I hadn't seen in 10 years.
- Today, I was traveling in Kenya and I met a refugee from Zimbabwe. He said he hadn't eaten anything in over 3 days and looked extremely skinny and unhealthy. Then my friend offered him the rest of the sandwich he was eating. The first thing the man said was, "We can share it."



THE LANGUAGE OF THE SEASON

Reprised from our 2012 Newsletter

The language of the Lenten and Easter season can be confusing. What follows is a glossary of sorts. We hope this helps you in your understanding of this powerful season.

LENT: It was in the late Middle Ages that the German word for spring, i.e., *lenz*, was adopted to symbolize the forty-day period before Easter. *Lenz* also was selected because it is derived from the Germanic root for long, as in the lengthening of the spring hours of daylight.

THE PASSION: The Passion is the Christian theological term used for the events and suffering – physical, spiritual, and mental – of Jesus in the hours before, and including, his trial and execution by crucifixion. The Crucifixion of Jesus is an event central to Christian beliefs. The etymological origins of the word lie in the Latin *passus* (stemming from *pati*, *patior*- "to suffer [to happen]", in the passive sense), and it first appears in second century Christian texts precisely to describe the travails and suffering of Jesus in this present context. The word *passion* has since taken on a more general application. The term the Agony of Jesus is more specifically applied to the Agony in the Garden, Jesus' action (Greek *agon*) praying before his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane; similarly to *passion*, *agony* has been extended to denote a frame of mind. Those parts of the four Gospels that describe these events are known as the "Passion narratives".

HOLY WEEK: In Christianity, Holy Week is the last week of Lent and the week before Easter. It includes the religious holidays of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday (Holy Thursday) and Good Friday, and lasts from Palm Sunday (or in the Eastern, Lazarus Saturday) until, but not including, Easter Sunday, as Easter Sunday is the first day of the new season of The Great Fifty Days. It commemorates the last week of the earthly life of Jesus Christ culminating in his crucifixion on Good Friday and his resurrection on Easter Sunday.

MAUNDY THURSDAY: Maundy Thursday is the Christian feast or holy day falling on the Thursday before Easter that commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles. It is the fifth day of Holy Week, and is preceded by Holy Wednesday and followed by Good Friday. The word Maundy comes from the Latin *mandatum*, which means "commandment." At the Last Supper, Jesus gave the disciples a new commandment to love one another as he had loved them (John 13:34). Prior to breaking the bread with the disciples, Jesus washed their feet. Maundy Thursday worship services often include Holy Communion and/or the washing of one another's feet.

TENEBRAE: Plural of the Latin for darkness, the word *Tenebrae* means shadows. It is often observed as a Christian religious service on the eves of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, which are the last three days of Holy Week. The liturgy of *Tenebrae* is characterized by the gradual extinguishing of candles while a series of readings and psalms are chanted or recited.

GOOD FRIDAY: Good Friday, also called Holy Friday, Great Friday or Black Friday, is the Friday preceding Easter Sunday ("Pascha"). It commemorates the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death at Golgotha. Nowhere have I been able to find a definitive reason tradition invites us to call this Friday *good*. But when we consider what was done to forgive our sin, to wash us clean, to invite us into a new and redeemed relationship with the God who created us, well, each of us might be able to craft our own reason for calling this day *good*.

EASTER TRIDIUM: (Holy Triduum, or Paschal Triduum) is a term used by some Christian churches, particularly the Roman Catholic Church, the Lutheran Church, and many Anglicans, to denote, collectively, the three days from the evening Maundy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday. The Triduum begins with observance of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday and ends sunset on Easter Day.

AN OBSERVANCE OF HOLY WEEK

There is no more sacred time on the calendar of the church than Holy Week. The death and resurrection of our Lord is the ultimate moment of grace and power, of forgiveness and salvation. The outcome of this week holds within its movements the promise of life and joy.



And so, as we enter Holy Week through the pomp and cheers of Palm Sunday, pass through the challenge of Maundy Thursday, and end in the deep sadness of a Friday we call *good*, we have many opportunities as a community of faith to gather and to ponder Christ's love for us.

Come and join us for any or all of the activities planned for Holy Week. Join us so that we might together understand the journey in its wholeness and grasp the story from its beginning through its Easter Sunday end.

Join us for the story of our Lord's journey, sacrifice, death and RESURRECTION.
It is a story worth remembering and worth knowing in the depth of our hearts.

PALM SUNDAY - MARCH 20, 2016

Sunday School

- 9:30 AM

Worship

- 10:30 AM
 - Easter Egg Hunt for Children During Worship

THURSDAY - MARCH 24, 2016

Maundy Thursday – St. Paul United Church of Christ

- 6 PM
 - Soup and Salad Dinner (\$7.00 per person, \$20 per family)
- 7 PM
 - Worship

TUESDAY - MARCH 22, 2016

Lenten Bible Study: On Ma Journey Now

- 11:30 (Bring your lunch)

FRIDAY - MARCH 25, 2016

Good Friday Service – Community Church of Barrington

- 7 PM

HOLY WEEK SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

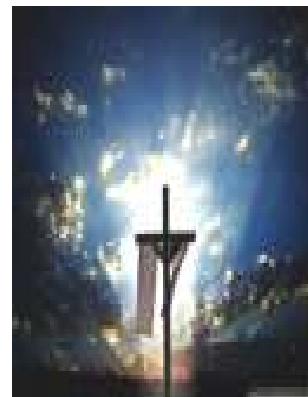
RESURRECTION DAY ~ EASTER SUNDAY

MARCH 27, 2014

Brunch 8:30 Choir

Brunch 9:30 All Others

Worship 10:30 AM



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3-07-16 Ryan Overby Birthday

3-19-16 Bill Athmann Birthday



Women Who Breakfast will meet on Wednesday, March 2nd at the Breadbasket. Start your day out with a smile and a good cup of coffee. Bring a friend!

Fellowship of Men will meet on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. This month they will meet on March 12th & 26th. All men of the church are welcome. Bring a friend!



The **Ladies of G.R.O.W.** will meet on Thursday, March 17th. Please bring a sack lunch and dessert and beverages will be provided. Watch your bulletins and flashes for further information. Please be sure to call the church office to RSVP by Monday March 14th. The luncheon begins at 11:30 AM. See you there.

2016 CCB DIRECTORY— Have you picked up your new directory? They are located on the counter under the nametags. If you haven't been able to attend church and would like one, please call the church office and we will put one in the mail. A PDF version was also sent with the Flash last week for your convenience. If you find errors, please notify the church office.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS— It's that time again. Spring ahead on Saturday night, March 19th.

March 2016

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
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