

Volume 67 Issue 1

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## From Pastor Zina Jacque

### THE SURPRISING INTERSECTION OF VALENTINE'S DAY AND ASH WEDNESDAY



The origins of Valentine's Day are shrouded in mystery. One legend, supported by the Catholic Church, suggests Valentine was a priest who served in Rome during the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. The day that bears his name, Valentine's Day, is certainly a day focused on matters of the heart.

Though it might not be your first thought, or mine, Ash Wednesday is a day that invites us to focus in the same way, on matters of the heart. You see, Ash Wednesday is not a holiday that is reflected in the Bible. It is an observance created by the church, and first observed by the church of Rome in 1091. The 40 days of Lent are meant to reflect the 40 days of fasting, prayer, and fighting temptation that Jesus experienced as reported in the Gospel accounts according to Matthew (4:1-11), Mark (1:9-14) and Luke (4:1-13). Jesus used this period to prepare for his ministry, and Christians use this time to prepare for the celebration of Jesus' resurrection, Easter Sunday.

The sacrifice that Jesus makes during his 40 day fast is surely a matter of the heart. He denies himself so that he must rely fully on God. He trusts that God and the word of God will sustain him, even in the midst of weakness and temptation. I imagine that Valentine trusted in the same way. He must have believed that God would sustain him even as he put his life on the line, disobeying the emperor, and honoring the love of soldiers and their brides.

As we enter the season of Lent, I invite us to examine what is in our hearts, what matters to our hearts. Now, to be clear, when I use the phrase, matters of the heart, I am speaking of those values and beliefs that are so essential, so bedrock to one's existence that they cannot be violated easily or abandoned without cost.

As we enter this season of Lent, as will be noted elsewhere in this newsletter, the sermon series will be entitled, Matters of the Heart. It is my hope that you and I will experience our Sunday worship as a moment when we ask ourselves what matters to our hearts. What are the essential emotions that drive us and stop us, free us and ensnare us, bless us and bind us? What are the values of our hearts, and how can we strengthen the ones that benefit us, and work to transform the ones that block us.

Also, as we move closer to Lent, please keep your eyes on the Narthex bulletin board. It will become a canvas for Alayne McNulty to depict, artistically, her understanding of my sermon series. May the unfolding of the matters of the heart in word, in art, in worship and in reflection, challenge, strengthen, and bless us all.

Onward through the Lenten night to the glorious light of Easter morning, and the empty cross.

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Zina Jacque  
Musician - Natallia Revinskaya  
Christian Educator—Dr. Samira El-Yasir

Church Secretary - Sandra Mytys  
Moderator - Stu Overby

FEBRUARY  
2018 NEWSLETTER

## A Love Without End

Stu Overby, Moderator

We had a great turnout, both adults and youth, at our Annual Budget and Membership meeting on January 21. Our Fellowship Hall was buzzing with conversation among members and friends, enjoying a meal put together by many hands, and then attentively engaging in the business of CCB. During the meeting, we showed some of the examples from 2017 about how CCB was Growing Spiritually and Serving God. We sincerely thank the members of our congregation for approving a 2018 budget that supports our worship, Christian education, and community service programs at CCB.

It takes resources for Community Church to be Compassionate Christians, Growing Spiritually, Serving God. Those resources include the time, attention, heartfelt prayers, and monetary offerings our congregation freely and voluntarily provides. At CCB, there are many opportunities to show your love for God and for one another. Several years ago, Pastor Zina and I did a “back of the envelope” calculation of the many hours the CCB congregation dedicates over the span of a year to support the church and the community programs in which it is engaged. We concluded that the adults and youth at CCB collectively dedicate over 10,000 volunteer hours per year of “sweat equity”—a true labor of love. With Valentine’s Day approaching, it is quite appropriate to reflect on how much love there is for God and for one another in Community Church. As humans, we most often show our love through our actions, like the 10,000 volunteer hours annually.

On a more personal note, do you remember buying those big heart-shaped boxes of candy, wrapped in red cellophane, for your special someone on Valentine’s Day? Or maybe you recall buying flowers or having a special dinner. Despite the element of commercialism, having a holiday dedicated to focusing on love is certainly a good thing. We can celebrate love in many forms, not just on February 14, but throughout the year—love for our spouse or significant other, love for our family, love for our friends, love for our church and love for God.

I remember a song from 1990 entitled "*Love Without End, Amen.*" This song was written by Aaron Barker, recorded by country singer George Strait, and released in April 1990. Wikipedia tells us the song spent five weeks at the number one spot on the *Billboard Hot Country Singles & Tracks*. We may wonder why it had such success. In my opinion, its success was mostly sealed in the lyrics—lyrics that spell out how a Dad feels about his children—and how God feels about His children- us.

"Let me tell you a secret about a father's love... daddies don't just love their children every now and then, it's a love without end, amen."

Most likely, neither Aaron Barker nor George Strait have spent any time in Barrington. However, in my experience, those lyrics also embody the way we treat each other at CCB. Thanks to each of you for the love you show year round, and please enjoy Saint Valentine’s Day.



## WHY I SERVE –Karen Palomo

When I was asked to give my story about “why I serve”, I thought it would be easy to describe all of the reasons that I am moved to get involved at CCB. Once I got started writing, it became clear that I needed to tell my personal story; to give the background of my life as a Christian.

I grew up in a large family with an Irish, Catholic father and a Norwegian Lutheran mother. My parents must have had a secret pact between them that my mom would do the child-rearing and house-keeping and my father would provide for his family, and take the kids to church. So I was baptized Catholic as an infant and my God-parents were our neighbors that lived behind us. My siblings were all were baptized in the Catholic faith, as infants, having no say in the matter and really no idea what was happening to us! Every Sunday, my mom would feed us breakfast and help us get ready in our church-best clothing, and my dad would load us all in our station wagon and drive us to church. We always sat in the front of the church, in the second row of pews, on the right. It was our space and we took up a whole pew, so always arrived a little early to secure our spot.

The church service was dramatically different than what we experience here at CCB. The pre-service mingling and catching up that I so love about this place was not something I remember as a child at church. Once we entered the front doors, we were hushed by my father, told to behave or else, and a feeling of doom washed over me. You see, as a child and into my early twenties, I was someone who had a strong faith in God, but never knew the love he had for me. I was taught to fear the wrath of God, and to live right or face the consequences. Maybe it was in part my parents doing, (I will not use the word fault because I think my folks did a great job of parenting). I say it was their *doing* because they were simply carrying on a sentiment and a practice that was taught to them by their parents; that is to have a healthy fear of God and walk the straight and narrow or else. Having seven children all within a year to a year and a half of each other, this sort of fear-mongering was, I’m sure more than useful in keeping us all in line. I never questioned anything, because that was what I knew and had come to embrace over the years. Even looking through my old family photos recently, I came across pictures of us at baptisms, confirmations and weddings at my church and it was all so clear from the look on our faces. We were scared! Scared to mess up, scared to do something wrong during the mass, scared to displease our father, who also looked scared to be there! The photograph that haunts me now is one of me at my oldest son’s baptism which took place at the church I grew up in. It should have been a happy day for me, but I looked sad.

It finally hit me then, the long face represented a symptom of an inner feeling of unworthiness. All of my childhood at this church, I was meant to believe that we were inadequate in the eyes of God if we were anything but perfect. I knew that I wasn’t perfect, I fought with my siblings, I told lies about who broke my mother’s glass lamp shade, and so many more imperfections. There were too many to count, so I knew I fell short of being worthy of God’s love. How could he love me or any of my siblings? We all did these things and more, we weren’t worthy. What makes me so sad today is knowing that my Father felt the same way. He never found a church like this that helped him know the love of Jesus is unconditional. He died some twenty 25 years ago, and my journey to Jesus came after he was gone. The anguish that he lived with his entire life is something that many people who fear the Lord, and never come to understand His love will endure.

When I was twenty five years old, I was baptized again and this time it was *my* idea and I was fully present in the celebration of a new-found love. I now understood that God loves me with all of my faults, unconditionally. In his eyes, I am beautiful. It was from this understanding that rose within me a profound love in return.....one that changed me forever. My life was saved then and I know that the new church that I found, in the gymnasium of an elementary school was the perfect place for me back then. Coming to Barrington in 2000, I found myself church-seeking once more. It didn’t happen right away and I jumped around until a friend of mine told me about Community Church. Thank you Cindy Alton, it’s just the place I was looking for! This little church was like a warm hug; making me feel comfortable and welcome from the beginning. It wasn’t long before I got involved in the Christian education ministry and have found it deeply rewarding. I love being a part of this committee that provides a bright, cheery and welcome place for young people to learn about the love of Jesus, to understand that we are all in His eyes, perfectly worthy of unconditional love. I believe that this place is uniquely blessed with people of a like-mind who love the Lord and love one another as brothers and sisters. What a privilege it is to me to serve the Christian education ministry, working with children and youth towards an understanding of God’s love that will carry them well into adult-hood.

I serve this church because I believe that in doing so, with enthusiasm, I might give a child the “feeling” of love and nurturance that was sorely missing from my experience growing up. Our experiences early on form and shape our feelings about things and in part; about ourselves as well. In creating a loving, inviting and fun church experience for children, I hope to leave them with lasting positive feelings associated with church, and with an unshakable belief that they are deeply loved by God. It is truly a privilege and an extremely rewarding experience to be involved in the Christian education ministry of CCB and I am grateful for the opportunity to do so. Thank you Community Church of Barrington!



## Christian Education Updates

And the winner of the quilt fundraiser is...

Thank you to all that donated monies, prayers and time to make this year's quilt fundraiser such a success. From painted eggs to jumper cables, we had it all.

The winner of the quilt this year was Liz Rasner who saw the quilt on Facebook.

We made \$1000.00 towards this year's mission trip, and on behalf of all the youth and leaders, we thank you for your generous hearts, wonderful contributions, and joyful participation.

### Annual CCB Sr. High Youth Valentine's Day BAKE SALE

Have you ever wondered what special or unique thing to get for your valentine? And what if the valentine is for you—don't you deserve the best? Start making your list of all those that you wish to share a bit of your heart with. The youth are already planning their delectable offerings for you. And if you do not eat sweets, is there something you would like to bake for them to sell? Ideas are welcome.

Where and when: Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at Community Church of Barrington. Come before or after the worship service to get your favorites. The youth will be in the Narthex until 1:30 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the Appalachian Mission Trip for 2018. Thank you for helping us restore hope to those God puts in our path.

Roses are Red, Violets are Blue, Come to CCB we have the solution for you.

Questions, or want to help with fundraisers, let Dr. Sami or the co-chairs, Sharon Horning or Karen Palomo, know. Thanks.

### Our Partners at Red Bird Mission, Mission Trip – June 2018

Although Kentucky's culture is generally considered to be Southern, it is unique in that it is also influenced by the Midwest and the Southern Appalachian Mountains in certain areas of the state. The state is known for bourbon and whiskey distilling, tobacco, horse racing, and college basketball. But it is also known for its people.

Each year, regardless of any other ministry the youth do, they always want to partner with the folks at Red Bird Mission and the residents that live there. The Red Bird area of Kentucky is deep in the Appalachian Mountains, in Bell, Clay, and Leslie counties. The rugged mountains make for beautiful scenery, but also difficult transportation, little employment, and extreme poverty. While on average, about 17% of Kentuckians live below the federal poverty level, in these 3 counties, the poverty levels are far worse: 35%, 37%, and 29%. These 3 counties are all ranked in the top 20 poorest counties in the entire country.

This year the youth would like to go for two weeks to help—they want to help restore hope to so many more.

If you are interested in helping to sponsor a youth this year or would like to attend a work camp as an adult, please let Dr. Sami know, and she can provide dates and additional information.

### J2A- Journey to Adulthood-2018

We are most excited about offering our J2A (Journey to Adulthood) program this year. By mid-February we will know who will be engaged in this process and we look forward to a journey that includes exploration, growth, community, and fun.

For those not aware of this ministry, it is offered to our young people, this year our Sr. High Youth, and is a journey to adulthood. This is a *rite of passage program where young adults explore their faith, learn more about their and other religions, and continue to form their ideas regarding Scripture, the Trinity, the church and much more. This kind of program is not uncommon in church settings, but J2A has a bit of a twist. Denominations that practice infant baptism invite young people to confirm their baptismal vows after completing a confirmation program. At Community Church, we are blessed to have many different faith traditions present among us which truly enriches the faith journey experience. At the end of the J2A experience, all participants are celebrated for completing their participation in the program. Additionally, if a participant chooses, he or she may: Choose to be baptized as a member of the body of Christ (if they have not been previously baptized). Choose, if already baptized, to be confirmed as a Christian and, if it is so desired, to be welcomed as a new member of Community Church.* And finally, it is important to note that participation in J2A does not require either choice listed above; rather, we want each participant to feel free to learn and grow in their Christian faith with no strings attached. Watch for more information as we move forward.



# refugee



Thirty Years. Many Voices. One Vision.

## AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

by Pastor Zina

During the recent January 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting, I asked the members and friends of CCB if they would be interested in joining with another church in order to help settle a refugee family in the greater Chicago area.

About two-thirds of the 50+ people raised their hands in support of this *idea*. Since the Annual Meeting, the Council of Community Church has given me permission to continue investigating the possibility of Community Church joining with St. Mark's (Episcopal – Barrington) to help a newly-arrived refugee family settle in Chicago.

How might this happen? The answer is through and with the organization Refugee One. ([www.refugeeone.org](http://www.refugeeone.org)). Refugee One is a federally-approved resettlement agency located in the Uptown area of Chicago. For the past 30 years Refugee One, a faith-based organization, has settled thousands of families from all over the world here in the Chicago area.

Families assigned to Refugee One are vetted first by the US State Department, then assigned to Refugee One. Refugee One then does the heavy lifting. They find the family an apartment, enroll the children in school, and work with the parents to enroll them in appropriate educational or employment opportunities. Refugee One also identifies outside groups (like CCB), to journey alongside the family as they learn the culture of Chicago and settle into their new home.

*If* we choose to participate in this program there is both a monetary and a human cost. The monetary cost is between \$6,000-\$8,000 dollars. The human cost is time. Refugee One asks partner agencies to visit with the family, face-to-face, once or twice each month. Conversations underway with St. Mark's indicate they are very interested in participating with us and sharing both the human and monetary costs.

The question I wish to raise is this, are we ready to participate in the programs of Refugee One? Are there three to four people who are willing to participate and venture into the city once, maybe twice, per month and share with a family new to the US, what it means to live in one of the greatest nations of the world? If you are interested, please give me a call. Your call does not indicate you will participate, just that you are interested. And, as regards the funding necessary, I believe there are ways to fund our portion of the costs in ways that will not affect, negatively, the budget's bottom line.

I believe this will be a life-changing experience, an opportunity to live out Jesus' call to welcome the stranger. If we go forward with this project, we will do so as a team, along with our friends from St. Mark's.

Please join me in prayer, asking God if this is your moment and this is the place where God will use you and your gifts. I hope you and the Spirit have a great conversation, and that at least three or four of you will hear a resounding "yes!" in your soul. Blessings, and I cannot wait to see who just might raise their hands, saying, this one sounds like me.



## **SOUL STORIES: A STORY'S END**

David Phinney

I really like stories. Hearing personal stories makes me come alive. I like how they make me feel as I listen. Stories make me look deep inside my life to recognize how I might fit in that story.

While hearing stories I experience joy, excitement, sadness and tears. Most of all I experience a part of the storyteller's life; a part that made them who they are today.

Everything about Soul Stories has been so positive. However, it has become increasingly difficult to find storytellers and to grow our audience. So, the leadership team has decided to end Soul Stories.

We want to thank all of our storytellers for their effort and willingness to share with everyone a part of their life.

We want to thank our audience for their love of stories. For their loving acceptance of the storytellers as they shared the fun and difficult parts of their lives.

I want to say thank you to the Leadership Team: Pastor Zina, Joe Besenjak, Alissia Thompson, Kieta Wheeler, Stephanie Battista and Jackie Phinney. I will miss your energy, excitement and love. May God continue to fill your lives with imagination and "experiences" to share.

Dave Phinney

Beloved,

As we contemplate the coming of the season of Lent, I thought I would invite you to recall the Biblical text that introduces Jesus' 40-day period of testing and temptation (found in one version or another in Matthew, Mark and Luke). And I have added a fun exercise, remembering some of the important concepts that comprise the story of the Temptation of Jesus. Enjoy. Pastor Zina

# The Temptation of Jesus

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. Luke 4:1-2a (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 4:1-13 (NIV).



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F I A W G Z J R B O N U Q T O  
W P V B E F E U W Y X G R H R  
G C L E L J D C W H Z E R N I  
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K I N G D O M S D S P E N Z Y

Spirit  
Holy  
desert  
tempted

devil  
live  
temple  
forty

days  
angels  
command  
kingdoms

Jordan  
authority  
bread  
Jerusalem

stone  
worship  
world  
hungry

## IN THIS SEASON OF LENT

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, and continues through Holy Saturday (March 31<sup>st</sup>). The 40 days of Lent (not counting Sundays) are a time of preparation and drawing closer to the one who gave His life for us. I pray there will be something listed below in which you will participate, and that will allow you to think, share, learn, and grow. Blessings, and may the season of Lent be one that opens you to the love and sacrifice of Jesus, our Christ.

### ASH WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 14<sup>th</sup>

On Ash Wednesday, we will share in worship with our brothers and sisters from St. Paul UCC and Salem UMC. Worship and dinner will take place at St. Paul UCC. Dinner will be served for choir participants at 5 p.m. and 5:45 p.m. and for all others between 5:00 and 6:45. You are welcome to come at any time as long as you leave enough time to dine. Worship will begin at 7 p.m. A sign-up sheet will be posted near the name tags in the tower hallway. Those who intend to attend must sign up by Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> and the cost is \$5.00 per person.

### DAILY DEVOTIONS

Beginning Ash Wednesday, Pastor Zina will send an electronic morning thought. For those who do not receive email, the devotions will be available in print and can be picked up at church. This year, these meditations will be written by several ministers and shared among several churches. The final list of ministers is still being confirmed.

### LENTEN SERMON SERIES - MATTERS OF THE HEART

I Samuel 16:7, says in part, "*But the LORD said to Samuel . . . the LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.*" It is always a matter of the heart. As we journey toward the cross, through the season of Lent, we will spend our Sunday mornings considering the hearts of those who are part of the Biblical story, and part of the story being written at Community Church. Join us, Sundays in Lent, for an unfolding understanding of the matters of the heart.

### LENTEN SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES – BEGINNING SUN. FEB 18<sup>th</sup> – PALM SUN. MARCH 25<sup>th</sup>

**Seven Words – Seven Signs.** From the cross Jesus speaks seven words. Taken separately, their story is powerful. Taken together, the wisdom they provide for the church of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is breathtaking. Join us the six Sundays of Lent as we take up the Seven Last Words of **Christ**.

### LENTEN EVENING SERIES 6 – 7:15 p.m. – WEDNESDAYS, BEGINNING MARCH 21<sup>st</sup>

Gathering in our new adult living room space (in the adult Sunday School room), we will study Thomas Merton's work, *Bridges to Contemplative Living*. The study provides an introduction to Merton and contemplative living through prayers and readings from Merton and other spiritual masters. Thomas Merton (1915-1968), was an American Catholic writer, theologian and mystic. A Trappist monk of the Abbey of Gethsemani, Kentucky, he was a poet, social activist, and student of comparative religion. He is the author of more than 70 books on spirituality, social justice, and a quiet pacifism. Among Merton's most enduring works is his bestselling autobiography *The Seven Storey Mountain* (1948). Join us for this wonderful, gentle study as we walk through the season of Lent.

### MAUNDY THURSDAY – MARCH 29<sup>th</sup>

Salem United Methodist Church will host a Maundy Thursday Seder. We will join the members of Salem and St. Paul UCC. Dinner will be served however, the details are all being worked out. More details to come about the specific timing. However, those who intend to attend must sign up by Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### GOOD FRIDAY – MARCH 30<sup>th</sup>

Our annual Good Friday service will take place at Community Church on Good Friday at 7 p.m. This one-hour worship service always proves to be meaningful preparation for the miracle of Resurrection Sunday.

*Birthdays & Anniversaries*

February 2 Chris & Marjorie Newman Anniversary  
February 10 Leslie Lirgameris Birthday  
February 14 Marge Boynton Birthday  
February 14 Daniel Jahnke Birthday  
February 16 David Mitori Birthday  
February 23 Phil Lageschulte Birthday



**G.R.O.W.** The ladies of GROW will meet on Thursday, February 22 at the church. . All women of the church are invited. Please RSVP to the church office by February 15th. Hope to see you!

**WOMEN WHO BREAKFAST** - Join us on February 7th for breakfast and coffee, or just drop in for a chat at the Bread Basket 7:30 a.m. All ladies are welcome.



**The Youth will hold a Valentine Bake Sale on February 11th to raise funds for their Mission Trip. Treat yourself to a yummy treat while contributing to a wonderful mission project.**

**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP** meets on the second and fourth Saturday of each month at the church. This month they will meet on February 10th and 24th.



**A WORD FROM THE PRC**

**HELP NEEDED! THE PRC NEEDS YOU.** The Pastor Relations Committee (PRC) of CCB is charged by our constitution to be responsible for relations between the pastoral/professional staff and the congregation. Without your input, we cannot fulfill our responsibilities. So we are asking you to take a few minutes, think carefully about any concerns or joys that you have regarding anything to do with the pastoral staff—e.g., worship services, pastoral counseling, youth group, community involvement—and share that with one of us. This is not a one-time opportunity. You are welcome throughout the year to be in touch with us. Everything you tell us is treated in complete confidence. Call, email, write—whatever is best for you. PRC members are: Judy Hack ([msj1h2@hotmail.com](mailto:msj1h2@hotmail.com)); Sandy Schroeder ([sandy826@comcast.net](mailto:sandy826@comcast.net)); Peter Luchsinger ([achieveyourdream.us@gmail.com](mailto:achieveyourdream.us@gmail.com)); and Margaret Akerstrom ([m-akerstrom@northwestern.edu](mailto:m-akerstrom@northwestern.edu))--committee chair. Thank you!

# February 2018

ASH WEDNESDAY FEB 14TH

## Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																		
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Community Church of Barrington  
407 S. Grove Avenue  
Barrington IL 60010



## LENTEN PRAYER SERVICE

“O God, bless during this season of spiritual renewal. Fill our minds and hearts with love, that we may be a sign of Jesus to all those living in our midst.”

