

The Visitor

March 2010

St. Paul United Church of Christ

Lent is a period of 40 days, excluding Sundays, in which we prepare our hearts and minds to experience, once again, the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is characterized by the practice of spiritual disciplines, such as prayer, fasting, meditation, study and worship. The season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday with a service of reflecting upon the necessity of changing one's life. Lent culminates this year during Holy Week, March 28—April 4, as we move through Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the sting of his betrayal on Maundy Thursday, his execution on Good Friday, and the glory of his resurrection on Easter Sunday.

This year our Lenten Sermon series will be titled *The Scandal of the Cross*. Using a modified version of the traditional stations of the cross, (a ritual where people stop to reflect upon what happened on the days before and after Jesus' execution) the pastors will help us walk through the life of Jesus and into the scandal of the resurrection on Easter.

Invite your friends to join you in worship and hear all of these great messages!
February 28: **The Fox in the Hen House: How the powers of the world scare the people of God.**

March 7: **A Dose of Dung: Trees that don't get cut down.**

March 14: **A Mother's Welcome: The scandal of role reversal.**

March 21: **Seeing Beyond the Cost: When faith and practicality are at odds.**

March 28: **Palm Sunday: The Scandal of Grace: What it means to receive the Good News.**

Watch the Sunday bulletin and next month's newsletter for information on our Holy Week activities.



A Message from Pastor Jeanne

A Personal Lenten Journey



It's Ash Wednesday as I write this – the first day of Lent. Pastor Jana and Pastor Zina are imposing ashes on the foreheads of those who come to church tonight as a reminder of our fragile human existence. This morning, I imposed Pond's cold cream on my mother's forehead and face, wiped it off, put on her face powder and a little blush on her cheeks, and a touch of Shalimar perfume on her neck. She closed her eyes and smiled – temporarily all the movement she can do on her own as she has been left paralyzed by Guillian Barre Syndrome. I am intensely aware today of our fragile human condition.

One never knows when the symbolic cross of ashes will become the actual journey through the valley of the shadow of death. One never knows if the way out of that valley will be with our physical body as we climb the mountain of recovery to get a glimpse of the Promised Land, or whether it will be with our new and beautiful spiritual body as we enter the Kingdom. Jesus was fairly certain, as he made his way into Jerusalem for the Last Supper, that his journey would take him to the cross.

The invitation during Lent is to walk that path intentionally with our own inevitable death in mind – not to be morbid or depressed in our thoughts, but to be fully alive in the moment, and to ask: What's really important to me? How can I be more Christ-like? What can I give up that has become a false god, requiring my time, attention and resources to the detriment of loving God and God's creation? What are my barriers to serving one another as Jesus taught us?

This past week everything turned upside down for me. Priorities changed. Perspectives shifted. Attitudes got adjusted. In some ways, it is what happened to people when Jesus arrived on the scene. Nothing petty occupies one's thought – only matters of life more abundant, freedom from bondage, and victory over every earthly claim, even death. Jesus' prayer "that they may all be one" is simple and clear and happens in an atmosphere of love and caring. Differences disappear when the gay respiratory nurse becomes my hero as he got Mom's breathing regulated. The Haitian lab tech was the messenger of good news when the blood work was good. The Latina nurse who put in Mom's pick line when everyone else failed was a genius. The Jewish critical care doctor and the Indian neurologist are beautiful and brilliant to me. All have one Father-Mother God, and all are united in providing healing and comfort. There is no us and them; there's only God and us.

Lent is a time to remember how precious life is. Jesus came to save us from wasting our time on anger and resentment. Forgive! Jesus came to tell us not to let the desire for earthly treasure, or the possession of it consume us. Be at peace! Jesus came so that we never regard anyone as less important than we are. Love! Christ took his sacrificial journey to the cross for our sakes, so that we could have victory over all the ills that flesh is heir to. May we take a journey of humility and gratitude for this gracious act of love.

Blessings and peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Jeanne". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION (OCWM)



OCWM is about how the United Church of Christ is participating in changing lives. The following are frequently asked questions about OCWM.

What is it?

OCWM funds your UCC Conference and the national ministries of the UCC. OCWM includes Basic Support, for the funding of our core programs; and Special Support, for specific mission opportunities through the four UCC special mission offerings.

How much of my Sunday offering goes to OCWM?

Every congregation decides for itself how much to contribute to OCWM. Most give between 5% and 20% of their operating expenses to OCWM. This means that local churches use between 80 and 95 cents of every dollar given in the local church. On average, Conferences use about 2 1/2 cents out of every dollar, and the national ministries receive 2 cents out of every dollar given by UCC members. St. Paul currently contributes approximately 2% of our operating expenses to OCWM.

What is the total of OCWM monies that is received by the national UCC?

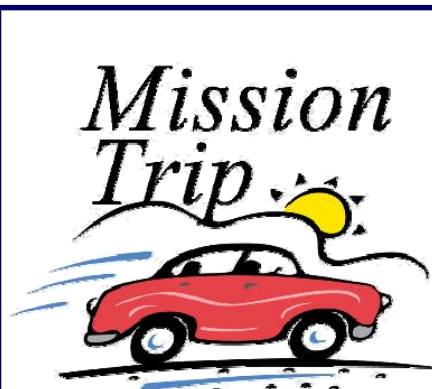
In 2008, the UCC national ministries received \$15,189,241 in OCWM contributions. This included \$6,093,729 in receipts from our four special mission offerings (Neighbors in Need, The Christmas Fund, Strengthen the Church and One Great Hour of Sharing.) These contributions for OCWM represent about 2% of total church giving by UCC members.

How much OCWM money is spent on administration?

In the national ministries of the UCC, 7.4% (\$688,200) of total OCWM contributions were budgeted in 2008 for administration, which includes the costs of overall organization of the national ministries and those parts of salaries, benefits, financial operations, rent, office costs, insurance and professional fees that apply to administration. Each Conference can tell you how much OCWM money it spends on its own administration.

How is giving to OCWM different from giving to other good causes?

OCWM keeps the church strong, even as it engages in mission and outreach to others. The church has a unique and important role to play in our society and the world, today and for future generations. You can help sustain the church and its ministries by supporting OCWM through this congregation.



A Mission Trip to Iowa is being planned for April. During the trip volunteers will help to rebuild the areas of Cedar Rapids that are still suffering from the affects of the 2008 floods.

Dates for the trip are April 12-23. You can sign-up to participate for one day or the entire two weeks.

For more information please call Ed Merritt, Missions Chairperson at 630-809-4288.

St. Paul Kids



**Stopping
to
See Jesus**

***Journeys* is the Sunday morning Christian Education program for kids ages pre-school through 5th grade. All kids and their friends are invited to participate!**

The unit for the season of Lent is *Stopping to See Jesus*, and is adapted from the traditional understanding of the Lenten stations of the cross. The traditional stations concentrate on the last three days of Jesus' life and are designed to encourage people to stop and think about how much Jesus loved God's people as he went to the cross. *Stopping to See Jesus* will focus upon "stopping" to see how Jesus showed God's love in various stages of his life and ministry.

Your spiritual gifts are needed on the Christian Education Team. If you like teaching, crafting, cooking, or are great at organization and purchasing supplies, please call Lauri Ducharme at 847-526-4307 or Pastor Jana at 847-381-0460.



LENT: Listen - Reflect - Receive

St. Paul Kids will be holding their annual Easter Egg hunt for missions on Easter Sunday, April 4. Each year the kids search throughout the entire church looking for over 200 eggs that have been filled with coins and hidden. The coins they collect will be given to help the Youth mission effort for Haiti.

Please help their efforts by donating loose change to fill the eggs. You can drop the change by the church office anytime before April 1. Thanks!





There's something for you...



Women's Fellowship will meet on Thursday, March 4, at 12:30 PM, to share a dessert in Memorial Hall. All women of St. Paul and their friends are invited. Gents, too!

After dessert Candy Purdy will present a travelogue program. For more information, please call Marion Miller at 847-381-1647.



Meet for Breakfast

Women's Breakfast Bunch will meet for a delicious breakfast on Saturday, March 13, at 9 AM, in Memorial Hall.

All women of St. Paul and their friends are invited and encouraged to attend. For more information please call Martha Duke at 847-381-9096.



Barrington Bell Festival

On Sunday, March 14, 7:30 PM, seven Barrington church bell choirs, including St. Paul Ringers, will hold the 11th Annual Barrington area Handbell Festival at Village Church in Barrington. Included in the concert will be 330 bells, 250 hand-chimes, an organ and a clarinet. Come and enjoy some beautifully arranged old favorites!

Village Church is located at 1600 E. Main St. Doors open at 7 PM. For more information, please call Cathy Gathman at 815-477-2565 or Renee Kruper, St. Paul Music Director at 847-516-3198.



Living the Questions is a video discussion group that meets every month to listen to contemporary theologians talk about a current issue in our world and then talk about their thoughts and feelings about the issue.

The next class will meet at St. Paul on Sunday, March 21, at noon. All adults and their friends are invited. For more information about the class please call Pastor Jeanne at 847-381-0460.

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Memorial Gifts

Thank you to the all of the people who have given gifts to the Memorial Fund in honor of their loved ones.

In memory of Grace Kampert: Patricia Keating; Dorothy Lange; Sharon Leach; Marion Miller; Helen Mollenkamp; Rick Jurs; Shirley Jurs; Audrey Veath; Hudson & Diane Motley; Esther Schultz.

In memory of Evelyn Rieke: Alice Reike.

In memory of Gil Murdock: Rick Jurs; Shirley Jurs.

Operating Funds

Actual Giving
Jan. 24—Feb. 14:
\$21,341

Average Weekly Giving:
\$5,335

FINANCE

FINANCE



Easter Flowers

The time has come to sponsor flowers for the altar for Easter Sunday. Please indicate which type of plant you would like and the number you wish to sponsor. You may also give a donation to our benevolent fund, Paul's Purse, in addition to or in lieu of flowers.

Please return form to the offering plate or office by **March 21.**

I would like to order:

_____ \$10 ea. Single plant

_____ \$20 ea. Double plant

_____ \$20 ea. Blue Hydrangea

_____ I would like to give to Paul's Purse
in the amount of _____

I would like the following dedication:

In memory of: _____

In recognition of: _____

Name: _____



Prayer List

We are grateful for health and joy restored through God's abundant grace and powerful love. Please keep these people in your thoughts and prayers this month as they go through challenging times.

Concerns:

Nancy Klehm	Joan Greenwood	Wayne Duke
Bob Ludovice	Esther Wendt	Marge Gilly
Jean Pearson	Audrey Hartz	Susan Kampert
Jeannine Moore	Nancy Hamelberg	Don Smith, at Prairieview
Norma Koenig, Pastor Jeanne's mother		Bonnie Dobler, Barb Neal's friend
Barbara Whistle, Sally Price's sister		Gloria Johnson, Lauri Ducharme's mother
Emory Cole, Joan Greenwood's son-in-law		Jeff Young, Rick Jurs' cousin
David Ligda, Matthew Ligda's brother		Sabrina Easley, Erin Roessler's friend
Kaydi, friend of Maggie Minton		Charlotte, friend of Claire Minton
Doug Schick, Sue & Fred Schick's son		Jordan, Terry & Linda Immel's granddaughter
Norm Merritt, Chuck Merritt's father		Linda Smith, friend of Sue Carsello
June Ruffalo, Duane Tompkins' aunt		Baby Anna Schroeder, Bachmann family friend
Those touched by war		The People of Haiti, and the relief workers
Those serving their country in the military: Capt. Keith Katzenberger, Marion Miller's grandson;		
Christopher Millonzi, Linda Leyden's friend; Staff Sgt. Joseph Konieczny, Mark & Chris Schmitt's son;		
Master Sgt. Mark Hempenius, Walt & Sue Hempenius' son		
The Family of Robert MacMillin, Marion Hubbard's brother-in-law		
The Family of Delores Surd, Kim Roessler's cousin		
The Family of Patty MacNamara, friend of Lorel & Jordan Cunningham		
The Family of Amy Smith, Dawn Hamelberg's friend		
The Family of Lois Zinck, David Zinck's mother		
The Family of Winston Bode, Georgianne Harms' father & Derek's grandfather		

Joys:

The birth of Evie Ann, Shelley Carlson's 5th great grandchild
 Theresa Summers finished her chemo, Dawn Hamelberg's mother
 60th Anniversary of John & Sybil Gilbert, Charlotte Drayer's parents
 Birthdays of grandchildren
 Baptism of Zachary Naples-Rainey

New members—Linda Leyden and Charles & Loretta Fanning
 Kristen Hanson is engaged, Pastor Jeanne's daughter

Please remember our members who are home-bound. Prayers, visits, calls and cards are appreciated so much.

Betty Bielke	Gladys Johnson	Helen Kalland
Pauline Lahti	Ruth Lindbergh	Walter Moeller
Esther Wendt	Henrietta Sturm	

Ruth Loucks	3/1
Chris Geissler	
Jonathan Rylatt	3/3
Verdell Pohlman	3/6
Catherine Detlefsen	3/7
Auli Hartikainen	
Tommy Harvey	3/8
Pat Gerhke	3/10



Cyndi Burman	3/13
Joshua Rieke	
Diane Motley	3/15
Fred Schick	3/16
Steve Chwalisz	3/18
Henrietta Sturm	3/23
Mark McCarthy	3/29
Mary Krabbe	3/31

St. Paul Ministry Support

Ushers & Greeters



Greeters

March 7	Larry Breidenbach & Tim Michelsen
March 14	The Baron Family
March 21	Rodie Wright
March 28	Jeannine Moore

Ushers

March 7	Marion Miller Sue Schick	Dorothy Lange Susan Robertson
March 14	Mary Krabbe David Holtermann	Ralph Gaulke Dee McCarthy
March 21	Dick Price Bonnie Smith	Rose Chen Marty Gregory
March 28	Rick Jurs Bill Bishop	Phil Harvey Barb Neal

Coffee Hosts

March 7	Barb Nester & Rodie Wright
March 14	Mission Sunday
March 21	Dee McCarthy
March 28	Robb & Loretta Fanning



Coffee Fellowship

Help is always needed for Sunday Servers. Please call:

Martha Duke for ushering	847-381-9096
Marion Miller for greeting	847-381-1647
Sally & Dick Price for coffee hosting	847-359-1358



**Spring
Forward!**

Please remember to set your clocks ahead one hour as you retire for the evening on Saturday, March 13!



The deadline to purchase gift cards for March is Sunday, March 7. Your purchase helps the Women's Fellowship group support various ministries of St. Paul UCC. An order form is included for you in this newsletter.

The Missions Team has discovered a way to double our giving power! By purchasing grocery store or gasoline cards from Women's Fellowship and then donating the card to Paul's Purse, you would not only help Women's Fellowship to support St. Paul through the proceeds of the sale. You would be helping members and friends receive vital supplies. These cards will be distributed by one of the pastors if someone is in need of food or gas. Many Thanks to Ruth Gregory, Bonnie Smith and Marion Hubbard who have started this effort on its way!

The Missions Team has added the support of Women's Fellowship through the purchase of gift cards for Paul's Purse to its annual giving calendar. Your order will help both teams support St. Paul's ministries!

For more information about the MANNA program, please call Marion Miller at 847-381-1647.

MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6 PM Judo Club 7 PM Christian Believer Class	2 2:30 PM Bible Study LBW	3 Noon Bible Study 6 PM Bells Confirmation 7 PM Chancel Choir 8 PM Praise Team	4 12:30 PM Women's Fellowship 7 PM Disciple Class	5 World Day of Prayer	6 10:30 AM Judo Club
7 9:30 AM 3rd Lent/Communion Sunday/Pastor Jeanne	8 6 PM Judo Club 7 PM Christian Believer Class	9 2:30 PM Bible Study LBW	10 Noon Bible Study 6 PM Bells 7 PM Chancel Choir 8 PM Praise Team	11 6 PM Judo Club 7 PM Disciple Class Finance Mtg	12	13 9 AM Women's Breakfast Bunch 10:30 AM Judo Club
14 9:30 AM 4th Lent/OGHS/Mission Sunday/Pastor Jeanne 10:30 AM Missions Mtg	15 6 PM Judo Club 7 PM Christian Believer Class	16 2:30 PM Bible Study LBW <i>Articles due for next issue of The Visitor</i>	17 Noon Bible Study 6 PM Bells Confirmation 7 PM Chancel Choir 8 PM Praise Team	18 6 PM Judo Club 7 PM Disciple Class	19 7 PM REEL People	20
21 9:30 AM 5th Lent/Praise Sunday/Pastor Jana Noon Living the Questions at St. Paul	22 6 PM Judo Club No Christian Believer	23 2:30 PM Bible Study LBW 7 PM Council Mtg	24 Noon Bible Study 6 PM Bells 7 PM Chancel Choir 8 PM Praise Team	25 6 PM Judo Club No Disciple Class	26 6:30 PM Social Fellowship	27 10:30 AM Judo Club
28 9:30 AM Palm Sunday/Pastor Jeanne 	29 6 PM Judo Club 7 PM Christian Believer Class	30 2:30 PM Bible Study LBW	31 Noon Bible Study 6 PM Bells 7 PM Chancel Choir 8 PM Praise Team	April 1 	April 2 Good Friday 	

Our Mission: Welcoming all people and transforming all of our lives through Christ's gospel.

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Rev. Jeanne K. Hanson—Senior Pastor
jeanniehan@aol.com

Rev. Jana Chwalisz—Associate Pastor
jchwalisz@aol.com

Martin Gregory—Church Sexton

Renee Kruper—Music Director

Deb Weaver—Office Manager

Tiffany France—Youth Director

Church email
stpauluccchurch@yahoo.com

Worship/Church School
9:30 AM Every Sunday

