

THE PRCC NEWS

PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH MAY 2011 ◦ VOLUME TWO ◦ ISSUE NINE

A WORD ABOUT BEING THE (RESURRECTED) BODY OF CHRIST

WHAT JUST HAPPENED? What happened on Easter Sunday? Yes, we attended worship and, probably, sat down to a meal with friends and family. What happened? We, somewhat sophisticated twenty-first century people, came and marked out a day to acknowledge the resurrection of a human being from death. This is something that never, ever happens in the course of our daily lives, this resurrecting of the dead. When we hear of someone who has been revived from cardiac arrest or some other immediate cessation of life by emergency or medical personnel, we speak of that person being resurrected. We do not, however, experience or speak of the resurrection of someone who has been dead and buried for the better part of three days.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN? We are not alone as we stand in puzzlement and wonder in the face of the Easter event. The early centuries of the Church saw much debate of the nature and substance of Jesus and Jesus the Risen Christ. Some of us might recognize ourselves among those who held that Jesus was a great teacher and prophet, but was fully human in all respects. Others maintained that if God was indeed fully present in Jesus, he must have been a fully divine being, a spirit who seemed to have material form. These conflicts were addressed by a council of church leaders who offered the holistic view that Jesus is “fully human, fully divine, truly one.” In other words, God was fully incarnate—body and mind and spirit, as it were—in Jesus.

IT’S ALL ABOUT EMBODIMENT. Jesus and his disciples were faithful Jews—something we Christians sometimes conveniently forget. In the Hebrew worldview, there is no separation of body and spirit. (Think of Genesis, where God created human beings, forming us out of the earth and breathing *ruach*, God’s Spirit into the mud.) Body and Spirit together constitute life. It was Greek philosophy that separated body and spirit. Death meant liberation from this imperfect world. For the Hebrews, Creation was declared “very good,” and so any resurrection of life must involve the whole of what it means to be human, Body and Spirit.

IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING, GOD LONGS TO RESTORE US TO LIFE. As terrifyingly sinful as we can be and so often are, God longs to restore us to the fullness and the goodness of life as God created it. In the bodily and the spiritual resurrection of Jesus, God gives us a portrait of what the new life begins to look like. And it begins here and now. This is why, “on the night before meeting with death,” Jesus broke bread and bless wine, offering them to us as the embodiment of his unending and unmerited love for us, to renew and sustain us in the very midst of this life.

“MAD WITH LOVE AS YOU ARE.” Thirteenth century Christian mystic Catherine of Sienna sings of that great gift:

*O boundless charity!
Just as you gave us yourself, wholly God and wholly human,
so you left us all yourself as food
so that while we are pilgrims in this life
we might not collapse in our weariness
but be strengthened by you, heavenly food.
O mercenary people!
And what has your God left you? He has left you himself,
wholly God and wholly human,
hidden under the whiteness of this bread.
O fire of love!
Was it not enough to gift us
with creation in your image and likeness,
and to create us anew to grace in your Son’s blood,
without giving us yourself as food,
the whole of divine being,
the whole of God?
What drove you?
Nothing but charity,
mad with love as you are!*

WE ARE CALLED TO BE THE EMBODIMENT OF THAT MAD LOVE. To be madly, passionately in love with God, in love with God’s people, in love with God’s Creation. This is real. This is a living, substantial thing active and roaming the world. To sense that love, body and spirit, that death may no longer bind us with fear, that unforgiving hearts may no longer bind us to the brokenness and hurt of sin. When our love is the embodiment of God’s love reaching out into the world then we become the resurrected Body of Christ. When we accept our place in the resurrection, we join with God in creating the world “anew to grace.”

Grace and Peace,

Brett W. McCleneghan

**MAY
BIRTHDAYS**

Carla Gorman	5/2
Carol Longman	5/2
Nancy Holland	5/3
Ellie Jacobson	5/3
Kate Nelson	5/3
Graham Schwartz	5/3
Alison Upton	5/3
Noah Zarn	5/3
Zachary Doubek	5/4
Jack Etchason	5/4
Zaryn Gaby	5/4
Dave Holland	5/4
Graham Brunning	5/5
Mark Holihan	5/5
Linda Moffat	5/5
Yvonne Shah	5/5
Donald Walsh	5/5
Matt Calabrese	5/6
Hank Dauphinee	5/7
Lindsay Iberl	5/7
Emily Knoblauch	5/7
John Weber	5/7
David Black	5/8
Isabel Rothberg	5/8
Jessica Self	5/8
Lorie Williams	5/8
Andy Hemphill	5/9
Jeremy King	5/9
Marty Nolan	5/9
Brett Barsanti	5/10
Andrew Holland	5/10
Lucas King	5/10
Bill Williams	5/10
Elijah Marsh	5/11
Pete Nelson	5/11
Judy Artrip	5/12
Patricia Mackin	5/12
Renee Renz	5/12
Stephanie Rifkind	5/12
Kathryn Collins	5/14
Maggie Merz	5/14

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP IN MAY

SUNDAY WORSHIP HOURS:

8:30 AM—9:15 AM: Chapel Worship
Coffee Hour between and following Worship
10:00 AM—11:00 AM: Sanctuary Worship
10:00 AM—11:15 AM: Sunday School

**Our nursery is open every Sunday 8:30 AM to 11:30AM for children ages infant through five.*

May 1—Second Sunday of Easter

Jazz Worship, Holy Humor Sunday, Annual Meeting

Sermon: *The Birth of the Blues*

Text: *Lamentations 3:22-36*

May 8—Third Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

Sermon: *When Our Children Are Called By Name*

Text: *Ezekiel 1:1-14*

May 15—Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sermon: *Celebration In A Cemetery*

Text: *Ezekiel 37:1-10*

May 22—Confirmation Sunday

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sermon: *Surviving Without A Scholarship*

Text: *Daniel 1:1-8*

May 29—Sixth Sunday of Easter

Worship in the Garden 8:30 am weather permitting

Memorial Day Observance

Sermon: *Telling God's Story Through Our Story*

Text: *Hosea 1:1-9*

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

PRAAYER MINISTRY

We keep in our prayers: Donald Anderson (Siri Nelson's father), JoAnn Anderson, Stephanie Beery and her grandsons, Phil Berent, Michael Bianchi, Mike and Pam Brown and family (Barbara and Bill Scharringhausen's nephew), Randal Carpenter (father of Cheri Carpenter), Evelyn Claire, Marie Degaard, Don (co-worker of Martha), Bob Douglass (brother of Dave Douglass), Winnie Erickson, Brian Fogarty, Shirley and Virgil Grand's great-grandsons, Rick Hoyt) co-worker of Mary Crowl), Gary Hughes (father of Cindy Coggin), Alice Keating, Candace Kidston, Grace Koenig and her family, Walter Kotecky (Bernice Zabawski's brother), Geri LeDuc, Jim Lego (Mary Biardo's brother), Lou Limper, Alexis Marsh, Elsie Matthys, Jimmie McSpadden, Evelyn Miller (Judy Artrip's mother), Lurana Nelson, Chester and Leo Netko (father and uncle of Cindy Winter), Pauline Numrych, Lisa & Abigail O'Grady, Carol Potter, Geri Sell, Leah Schaul, Yoshiko Urasaki, Ben Wright (father of Grace Curtis).

We also keep in our prayers the following friends and family:

Prayers of joy for some improvements with Dave Douglass' brother Bob, who is still in the ICU at Northwestern Hospital.

Prayers for a positive resolution to a son's health problems and a daughter's job situation

Prayers for a sister, Beverly, who underwent breast cancer surgery.

Prayers for Devan Shah, while he is doing his basic training at Ft. Benning, GA.

Prayers for a sister in law, Christina Kotecki, who now faces a long recovery and rehabilitation following her second successful back surgery.

JOIN THE FIGHT! JUNE 24TH

Save lives. Create more birthdays. Come, find out how.

The American Cancer Society is creating a world with less cancer. You can inspire hope by participating at the Relay for Life. Funds help the ACS by helping people stay well and get well, by finding cures, and by fighting back.

Join us at the Relay for Life of Des Plaines, Park Ridge:

June 24th, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Maine West High School

1755 S. Wolf Rd. Des Plaines, IL

Contact Rachel Schindler at 847-368-1166 or rachel.schindlet@cancer.org.

Visit relayforlifeillinois.com for more information.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Aileen Williams	5/15
Will Coyle	5/16
Elise Dauphinee	5/17
Matthew Ladley	5/17
Ryan Pembrook	5/17
Edde Young	5/17
John Crowl	5/18
Irene Ginger	5/18
Brian Kontek	5/18
Amy Kopecky	5/18
Matt McHugh	5/18
Kathy Logan-Keady	5/19
Eleanor Rowley	5/19
Carol Cornelisen	5/20
Katie Reboletti	5/20
Maggie Rubeo	5/20
Susanne Sarullo	5/20
Jeff Coggin	5/21
Mark Janas	5/21
Gregory Kemerer	5/21
Jon Dombro	5/22
Dorothy MacConnell	5/22
Dorothy DuSold	5/23
Kate Zoellner	5/23
Rick Bartells	5/24
Nic Kremer	5/24
Emma Lemke	5/25
Michelle Priefer	5/25
Ben Zarn	5/25
Eleanore Clemmer	5/26
Inge Carlson	5/27
Cindy Duwel	5/27
Drew Huening	5/27
Jonathan Black	5/28
Sean Cara	5/28
Karl Sissman	5/30
Ann Swindell	5/30
Annie Clapper	5/31
Judy Johnson	5/31
Marcia Spencer-Pierce	5/31

YOUTH SCOOP—MAY SCHEDULE

Head2Heart Middle School Youth Group Wednesday, 6:30-8pm (unless otherwise noted)

May 4	8TH GR. CONFIRMANDS ONLY “Call”
May 11	8TH GR. CONFIRMANDS ONLY “Confirm”
May 18	Confirmand Interviews
May 21 Sat.	Serving with The Night Ministry <i>Details TBA</i>
May 22 Sun. 10a	Confirmation Sunday <i>Continental Breakfast beforehand</i>

High School Youth Group Sunday, 6-7:30pm (unless otherwise noted)

May 1	5p Youth Leader Mtg 6p Welcome Night!
May 8	OFF—Mother’s Day
May 15	Canned Good Neighborhood Scavenger Hunt
May 22	Senior Send-Off <i>Events open to all youth & friends!</i>

Visit www.prccyouth.org or the church calendar for more information about these upcoming activities.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

May 22nd, 10 a.m.

Support the commitment of our 8th grade youth and welcome them as adult members of Christ’s holy church.

A continental breakfast for the families of confirmands will precede the service.

RSVP to the church office by Friday, May 14.

847.823.3164

office@parkridgecommunitychurch.org

SATURDAY, MAY 21, confirmands will serve with The Night Ministry (TNM)

SPRING STOCK SALE!

YOUTH RAISE \$ FOR COSTA RICA!!!

Sales to church members have concluded,

BUT, REMEMBER!

YOUTH CAN RAISE THE MOST MONEY by approaching their teachers, friends, family, and neighbors to sponsor their mission efforts!



Fantastic job, H2H Middle Schoolers, serving with Good News Partners in Rogers Park.



STEPHEN MINISTRY MESSAGE BY ANITA RIFKIND



“The King will reply,

‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for

one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’” Matthew 25:40

For a Jewish guy, Woody Allen sure has a keen understanding of what being a Christian is all about. He famously said, “Standing in a garage no more makes you a car than standing in a church makes you a Christian.” He also seems to have an intuitive understanding of what ministry is all about, since he also said, “Eighty percent of success in life is just showing up.”

Interestingly, another Jewish guy said much the same thing a couple of thousand years earlier. He famously told a story about people who lined up on judgment day and were rewarded for just *being there* for the needy, the lonely, the sick, and the prisoner—and a second story about those who had not responded to those in need around them.

The Stephen Ministry program formalizes the *being there*, the showing up when someone is hungry for food or companionship, needs companionship or understanding, is physically or emotionally ill, or is trapped in a situation or a location with no respite. But it is important to point out that Jesus’ parable doesn’t read, “Truly I tell you, whatever a *Stephen Minister* does for one of the least of these...” Nope, Jesus didn’t seem to think that we need any special training to minister in his name.

It is true that a Stephen Minister gets many hours of training. For example, when Katie Reboletti is commissioned this month as the newest Stephen Leader in PRCC’s Stephen Ministry program, she will have had another 50 hours of specialized training in addition to more than the 50 hours of initial basic training, and many more hours of continuing education. However, Katie will be the first to tell you that each of us as members of a community of faith already has what it takes, including:

Listening closely and patiently, without judgment;

Accepting people where they are in their journey;

Empathizing with another’s grief or loss

Encouraging the expression of feeling, whether anger or guilt or regret; and

Being there, not just once, but as long as needed.

These are fundamental skills that any Christian may possess, simple actions that any Christian can undertake for the least of Jesus’ brothers and sisters.

Often the hardest part of *being there* for any Christian is what is also the hardest part for a Stephen Minister, what the program calls “setting process-oriented goals.” That means rather than focusing on the outcome we think should happen, and on when we think things should happen, the focus should be on the other person’s needs and progress, staying in the present, remembering that servanthood and slavery are not the same thing, and finally—and most importantly—focusing on caring, not curing. Put succinctly, the Stephen Minister mantra is, “We are the care-givers; God is the cure-giver.”

Jesus’ words make it clear that our ministering should always be about the other person, but—and here is the mind-blowing part—when we minister to each other, we minister to God as well.

So if you see someone in need, *be there*. Your reward will be great, here and now as well as later. And if you are in need or someone to be there with you, say something to someone. If that someone is Pastor Brett (847-823-3164), or Ginny Feurer (847-299-1781), they will put you in touch with a Stephen Minister.

CELEBRATE SECOND ADULTHOOD

You're Invited to the PRCC Dinner and MSHS Theater on May 5th

"Once Upon a Mattress" is the spring musical presented at Maine South High School this year. Many PRCC youth will be appearing on stage, and let's have many PRCC seniors appear in the audience on Thursday, May 5th at 4 p.m., too! Seniors (self-define please) are invited to attend this special performance at no charge. The kids/actors/singers/musicians always give this performance their all, so do come!

The school is located on Dee Road between Devon and Talcott. Park in the north parking lot (between the football field and the northwest end of the school building).

After the play, which is the musical comedy of the age-old "Princess and the Pea," come back to PRCC for a special dinner prepared by PRCC's Senior Contact Committee. Be our guests for a wonderful after-the-theater meal and fellowship. Dinner begins after the show, usually around 6:15, in Jordan Hall. All are welcome.

PLEASE call the office by Monday, May 2nd, with your reservation. We need to know the name and number of each person attending so that we have plenty of food for everyone.

If you need transportation, please leave that information with the PRCC office, too, and we will do our best to help you be part of the evening's fun.

Kindred Spirits Café

All seniors are invited to our Tuesday lunch from 11:30 to 1 p.m. in Jordan Hall. Bring a brown bag lunch, and we will take care of the rest – dessert, beverages, and occasional entertainment. Join the three dozen regulars in conversation, laughter, and just plain fun! All are welcome.

A moment's thought:

The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit. —Nelson Henderson

RAINBOW HOSPICE BEREAVEMENT SERVICES

The Bereavement Department at Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care offers a number of programs and events throughout the year for anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one. The programs are throughout Chicagoland and are free of charge or ask a nominal fee.

Here is a sampling of some of the groups that meet regularly: Men's Grief Workshop, Motherless Daughters, Father Loss, Adult Loss of Sibling, and Spousal Loss. Rainbow Hospice also offers a Good Mourning Program, a monthly support group of children, teens, young adults, and families who have lost a loved one through death. (There is also a similar Spanish-speaking adult group.)

To find out more in detail, contact Rainbow Hospice at 847-692-8884, or visit rainbowhospice.org. A Polish intake line is available at 847-292-2342.

PRCC AND THE ICCC NEWS

A personal note to our PRCC membership,

Last October I received The Christian Community, the newsletter from the ICCC (International Council of Community Churches). For many years I was involved with the Council representing our church. Michael Livingston, the executive director, wrote an excellent farewell article which I would like to share, in part, with you:

“What a fine time I’ve had working, living, and serving with and among you. I had no idea that God would call me to work such as that I’ve been engaged in with you these last eleven plus years, since July 1st, 1999. What can I say? I’ve been so, well, Presbyterian for so long. I couldn’t really imagine working outside my own narrow tradition even though within that tradition I spent so much time laboring in ecumenical vineyards.

If working in the ICCC means anything, it means first of all an appreciation of the boundary breaking good news of the gospel of Jesus. Over sixty years ago, black and white community church folks were convicted by the simple truth of the word of God—we are all created in the image of God. Jesus died for all. Your founding heritage, absolute respect for the other, is critical to the future of humanity. Our unity is the ground of our being. To work for that unity is the purpose and mission of this Council.”

Our PRCC was one of three churches that first formed the ICCC. We have a great heritage.

Sincerely,

Marty Nolan

BETHEL NEW LIFE UPDATE

April 11, 2011

Dear Rev. McCleneghan and Congregation;

What a joy to receive your gift. Thank you for investing in Bethel New Life and helping us strive to achieve God’s vision for a restored community.

As you may know, Bethel New Life was started by faithful members of Bethel Lutheran Church in 1979. They pooled their resources and mortgaged the Sanctuary (more than once!) to build housing, create jobs, and strengthen our Westside community.

For more than 30 years, Bethel New Life has continued that work, serving more than 7000 families last year. Thanks to you, this year we will help even more people start businesses, find work and housing, buy homes, nurture their families, embrace aging with dignity, and advocate for safer neighborhoods and better schools.

These are not easy times. As foreclosures fan out across our neighborhoods and families fight to find jobs, we feel the pain personally. But your support invigorates us and keeps us going.

We look forward to sharing our accomplishments and vision with you, your family, and friends throughout the year. Should you have any questions or would like to learn more about the work we are doing, please contact us at 773-473-7870.

From all of us at Bethel, we thank you for your heartfelt generosity.

In God’s love,

Lawrence Wilson and Sara Spoonheim

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Park Ridge Community Church

Vacation Bible School - 2011



All children preschool - through completing 5th grade are invited to Shake It Up Café - PRCC 2011 Vacation Bible School on June 27 - June 30 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

For more details and to register, visit us at: parkridgecommunitychurch.org/christianeducation

Christian Education Schedule:

May 1 Bible Olympics in the field	All grades welcome. (View the study guide online!)
May 8 Mother's Day	Sunday school in session.
May 15 Sunday school wrap up day	Our last lesson.
May 22 Confirmation Sunday	Younger grades will have a kids club style Sunday school. All older grades will attend worship and watch their 8th grade friends get confirmed.
June 27 – 30 V.B.S.	Shake it Up Café — Daily from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Sunday School Volunteers Needed!

Interested in getting more involved in Sunday School? We would love to have you join us and help teach Sunday School next fall. Teachers work in teams and offer alternate Sunday so Sunday School teachers still have time for worship and other commitments. A weekly lesson plan, music, and crafts are provided. We are seeking loving adults who will help our children on their faith journey by reading scripture or a weekly Bible story and then leading a class discussion. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Carol Longman at 847-823-3164 or carol@parkridgecommunitychurch.org.

MEET TERI BIEDKE—*NEW* DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Although new to the position of Director of Christian Education, Teri is proud to have been a member of PRCC since marrying Tom and moving to Park Ridge thirteen years ago. She quickly joined Women's Circle 2 and came to know a wonderful group of wives and mothers.

While enjoying worship and circle activities, Teri wasn't very involved in Christian education at PRCC until Mark (now 11) turned three. She became a Sunday School teacher and Vacation Bible School volunteer and has since watched many former students grow into fine young Christians. Her younger son, Eric (8) celebrated his first communion this Easter season. This year she also delved into adult education at PRCC, through Pastor Nicole's women's Bible study last summer and the ongoing Grand Sweep Bible study offered by both pastors.

Having moved numerous times as a child and young adult, Teri cherishes the opportunity to put down roots at PRCC. She has lived in Pennsylvania, Delaware, upstate New York, St. Louis, and even France, but this is definitely home. Likewise, she has held a variety of jobs—office worker, college French instructor, teacher of English as a Second Language (which will continue in addition to this new work). Now she looks forward to getting to know and serve this congregation on a deeper level. Please feel free to let her know your thoughts about the educational needs of adults, youth and children in our midst. Teri wants to thank Pastor Brett, Pastor Nicole, and the staff in general for their warm welcome. And she can't thank Carol Longman enough for her vision in establishing this position and for her efforts to make the transition as smooth as possible for everyone involved.

MEET LIZ SWANSON—*NEW* DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL SERVICES

Liz Swanson has enjoyed living in Park Ridge for the last 24 years. She especially appreciates being in walking distance to church and all the great uptown establishments. She and her husband Dave have been attending PRCC since the mid 1990's. Their two girls have also been a part of the church and now Karryn is 22 and Leena is 20. As a family they have enjoyed many things about PRCC including mission trips, the choir trip to Italy, many Pasta Divines, Pumpkin Patches, Holiday Bazaars, Winter's Farmers Market and Beatles Nights.

In her spare time Liz likes to knit, including items for the homeless with the church knitting group; Bible Study, bike rides with Dave, relaxing in Wisconsin and reading. As Pastoral Care Coordinator, Liz's primary responsibilities include Stephen Ministry, Kindred Spirits Cafe, Medical Lending Closet, Senior Contact and the general care of our congregation. Liz's hope for her first year in this role is to continue developing relationships with the members of our congregation and connect people with meaningful ways to enrich their lives.

HANDMADE FOR THE HOMELESS UPDATE

Thank you to all the knitters and crocheters who have been making handmade items for the homeless. Nearly 100 hats, scarves, and other items have been handmade and donated to the Night Ministry and to Good News Partners, both agencies working with the homeless. You can join in our effort by

1. Knitting or crocheting items at home
2. Donating your leftover yarn for us to use
3. Coming to knit with us the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month.

We'll meet in the Park Place Room at 7:00 p.m. on May 2nd and May 16th. If you'd like more information or have items to donate, please call Liz Swanson at 847-698-9086.

**PARK RIDGE
COMMUNITY
CHURCH**

100 S. Courtland Avenue
Park Ridge, IL 60068-4187
www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org
847-823-3164
847-823-3165 (fax)

Email:
office@parkridgecommunitychurch.org

Office Hours: 8:30 AM—12 PM,
1:00 PM-4:00 PM
Monday through Friday

Medical Lending Closet Hours:
9:30 AM—12:00 PM
Monday through Friday

Our Staff:

Rev. Dr. Brett McCleneghan
Senior Minister

Rev. Ms. Nicole Urbach
Associate Minister

Teri Biedke
Director of Christian
Education

Patrice Dombro
Parish Secretary

Sasha Gerritson
Minister of Music

Rick Hagedorn
Organist

Nicole Kremer
Parish Coordinator

Liz Swanson
Director of Pastoral
Services



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To:

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MAY 2011

Save the dates!

Knit or crochet for the homeless
Park Place Room
May 2nd & May 16th, 7:30 p.m.

St. Paul of the Cross
Sunday Suppers
Prayer Pilgrimage
Sunday, June 26th, 4:00 p.m.

PRCC
Confirmation Sunday
May 22nd at 10:00 a.m.