



From Pastor Zina Jacque

INTO THE DESERT A LENTEN EXPERIENCE

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert . . . (Matthew 4:1a)

Deserts can be beautiful and arresting places. But metaphorically, and in the text quoted above, the desert represents a barren place and a place of both danger and lack. Can you imagine being led into such a place by one who, moments ago said, this is the one I love and in whom I am well pleased? Can you image being led, *even sent*, into a place of lack and of danger by one who cares for you and desires that you be fruitful and effective in your work? The context of Matthew 4:1a requires just such a question. And the appropriate response is yes! Not only can we imagine such a thing, its occurrence is confirmed in the text.

When we enter the biblical story as told by Matthew Jesus, the beloved of God, *the only son of God*; has just come up from the waters of baptism. As he rises from the Jordan, assisted by John the Baptist's hand, the sky parts, the Spirit of our God in the form of a dove descends, and all who are gathered hear a voice from heaven proclaim, *this is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased*. Then immediately, without a moment's hesitation or explanation, according to Matthew and Mark respectively, Jesus is led or *sent* into the desert, the *ἐρημος* (*eremos*). This desert is defined by [Strong's Greek Dictionary](#) as a lonely place and a place deprived of the aid and protection of friends, acquaintances, and kindred.

Into the desert our Savior goes with purpose and with prayer, with might and with meditation, with a fierce resolve and with fasting; into the desert our Savior goes and now the invitation is extended to all of us. Come beloved of God, into the discipline of Lenten exercises drawn from music and accompanied by your own words (please see items on Narthex Counter or request from church office); come into a series of sermons drawn from stories of deserts; come and see what we might feel and what we might learn of the power of deserts in the life of Jesus and in our own.

Come beloved of God; come into the desert to become all that God desires us to become.

Come child of God, come with courage and confidence knowing we will be accompanied by the Spirit of the living God.

Come, chosen of God, *come with determination and desire knowing we will emerge with knowledge and gifts that can come only from a time in the desert.*

Come beloved of God, into the desert, our Lenten seasons begins . . .

KWRC are People of Prayer

Kicking off the new year with an important focus, KWRC youth are in prayer with one another and with our church. KWRC you have created and continue to add to a prayer wall, with personal and private prayers. Every week in youth group the youth write their prayers, some folded so no one can see, others written to be shared. After writing their prayers, one youth volunteers to pray, reading the prayers on the prayer wall and praying for our congregation as a whole. This prayer wall is a physical representation of their joys and concerns. It is also a physical monument for their community and love of God.

The youth also made a covenant with the women of Women's Fellowship to be in prayer for them and to be prayed for by them. The youth created biographies with prayer requests to share with Women's Fellowship, knowing that these prayer bios would build relationship in our church. To ask for prayers isn't always an easy thing to do, but it is definitely always humbling and our youth were ready and willing to ask for prayer. They also wanted to pray for Women's Fellowship and have included them on their prayer wall and in personal prayer time.

As we enter the season of Lent, prayer becomes an important way for us to prepare our hearts and minds for the death and resurrection of Christ. The practice of prayer that KWRC are instilling in themselves and our church now, will be a resource to connect with God during the season that is to come. In KWRC we know that God desires to be in relationship with us, and prayer is one way that we can build that relationship with our Creator and Redeemer.

Prayer Requests that KWRC is praying for now (that you can pray for too!): for kids in Africa , for Tom Alton and family, for our youth group to grow, for my mom (and all moms), for basketball teammates, for our church.
Ashley Prescott Barlow

DID YOU KNOW?

Do you know why the date of Easter changes every year?

Believe it or not, Easter was not celebrated by the church until the 2nd Century. It was nearly always followed by 50 days focusing on the resurrection. There were two ways the date of Easter was celebrated. In Asia Minor, Christians celebrated Easter on the Jewish Passover, (14th of Nisan in the Jewish calendar) no matter what day of the week. Others used the Sunday after Passover. In 325 A.D., the church declared that Easter was to "be on the Sunday that followed the first full moon after the spring equinox." That means Easter can be as early as March 22nd and as late as April 25th.

The date for Easter for the Orthodox churches, which still use the Julian calendar, still differs from Western churches, which use the Gregorian calendar. As a result, the Easter date is usually one to four weeks later than in the West.

March Newsletter Deadline— February 11th

Women's fellowship news



Channel 11 has nothing on Women's Fellowship! Plan to attend their meeting on Thursday **February 21 at 11:30 a.m.** in Fellowship Hall where the program will be "Antiques Roadshow".

It will be slightly different from the one seen on TV. Besides no cameras at work, no dollar value will be given for your "treasures". And actually, the items displayed don't even have to be "old", but it will be fun if they are. Attendees are asked to bring an object that has a story behind it and is truly of value to the owner. Owners are asked to share the objects' histories which make them meaningful. As the stories unfold, there's bound to be an occasional tear brought to the eye or a chuckle heard here and there.

Do bring a bag lunch and join the interesting time. Dessert and beverages will be served by hostesses **Elaine Ott and Bonnie Stevens.**

There will be a Women's Fellowship Board meeting in the library at 10 a.m., prior to the general meeting, on Thursday, Feb. 21 . The subject will be regarding budget matters.



In spite of the weather, our December 1 **Cookie Walk** was a success - we made a profit of \$1715.55, and in addition sent \$564.48 to "A Greater Gift" for the Trade Fair items we sold, so it was a missions success as well. Kudos to a great committee, many workers and our wonderful cookie bakers!

The March Women's Fellowship Meeting has been changed from March 20 to March 28.

More to Follow



World Day of Prayer is Friday, March 7, 2008, 1:00 p.m. at Wauconda Federated Church, 200 S. Barrington Road at Route 176, Main Street.

The women of Guyana have written a worship service that celebrates the WDP theme, "God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding". They call upon wisdom as we join with them in rejoicing God's inhabited world and remind us that we must be open to receiving the new understanding that wisdom provides. Rev. Digna Campanano, Staff Chaplain for Cardiac Care at Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital is guest speaker. Her work with the Disaster and Rehabilitation Coordinating Council, which provided moral, spiritual and psychological support and assistance to victims of war conflicts in the Philippines enhanced Rev. Campanano's passion for the Word and compassion for the world.

Come and bring a friend! Child care will be provided at no charge. Refreshments will be served after the worship service. If you have any questions please call Linda Osikowicz (847)540-5634.

JANUARY 2008 ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

For those who were unable to attend the Annual Church Meeting on January 27th the two primary topics for discussion were the proposed 2008 budget and a draft kitchen remodeling proposal. Highlights of both are noted below. If you have questions about the budget please contact Steve Jahnke, Treasurer (stevejahnke@comcast.net); or if you have questions about the plan for the kitchen please contact Jayne Majzan or Lynn Schreiner (jmajzan@ameritech.net or lynnschreiner@sbcglobal.net), co-chairs of the Kitchen Remodeling Committee. A full packet of all documents shared at the meeting is available at the church office. Feel free to stop by and pick up a copy.

2007 FISCAL RESULTS 2008 PROPOSED BUDGET

2007 Highlights

- ????2007 contribution income exceeded budget by 11% primarily in non-pledge and loose.
- ????The Youth Ministry (Kids Who Rock Christ) led by Pastor Zina and Minister Ashley raised over \$5000 in fund raisers and donations to support youth activities.
- ????Rental income was below budget due to later than anticipated occupancy of Rankin House.
- ????Interest income on investments and our operating account was favorable to budget by 18% due to favorable investing and the market.
- ????Spending in total was near budgeted levels.

Actual spending exceeded budget by 1% or \$1,101 while supporting many new and exciting programs and activities for the congregation.

2008 Highlights

- ????Pledge income at a new high \$161,800
- ????KWRC donation/fundraiser income at \$3,000
- ????Total 08 income at a new high of \$236,163.
- ????\$45,380 or 23.8% higher than 2007 budget
- ????Increased funding in staff development and Lay leadership
- ????Replacement of our 9 year old copier with a more reliable and economical state of the art duplicating equipment/
- ????New categories and programs in Christian Ed, CE budgeted spending has doubled as compared to actual 2007 spending in our commitment to our youth.
- ????A new vision of what our Library should be.
- ????We will be purchasing new audio/visual equipment including a CD duplicating machine to assist and facilitate our many new activities.
- Building Stewardship at \$16,249.

Respectfully submitted for your consideration and approval,

The Church Council
January 2008

Prayers and Personals



I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.
I Timothy 2:1-4

In his letter to his young charge, Paul invites Timothy to pray for everyone; those in leadership and those who are everyday men and women. The goal of this prayer is that all might live in peace and live lives that follow after God (i.e. godliness) and are set apart for God (i.e. holy). Paul's prayer also hopes that all will come to know God and in knowing the creator of all things be saved.

Therefore, let us come together and pray for:

?????The hearts and souls of all humanity. That we may share with them the love and the word of God which has been placed in our hearts, through Christ.

?????The world in which we live; that God's creation may know peace.

?????Men and women around the world who are unable to practice their faith in Jesus openly because of oppressive cultural sanctions.

?????The leadership of our country and those who seek to lead locally and nationally. May a spirit of truth be in their hearts and in their mouths.

?????With and for all of the families whose sons and daughters stand in the gap in war torn areas around the globe.

?????Those who have lost loved ones; especially the families of Eileen Meadors, Kay Baer, Ethel Hanson and Harry Alton.

?????The ones for whom we pray on Sunday morning who are fighting disease, standing under the weight of disappointment, or have needs of any kind.

?????All those who have come to the church seeking solace and comfort.

?????Our church as we begin a new year following God, loving one another and serving the world.

?????For all who have visited our church over the past month. May God bless them and keep them and have them know they are always welcome here on the corner of Lincoln and Grove.

I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name. (Psalm 9:2)

We rejoice that God has blessed us to move into the New Year with vigor and with hope. We will be glad, we will sing and we will rejoice because:

?????In December we baptized Ella Cole Edgerton into the family of God.

?????In December twenty four young people participated in the Christmas Pageant which was written by KWRC (Kids Who Rock Christ).

?????We have been able to present not only a balanced budget for 2008 but a balanced budget that shows increases in giving (see Annual Budget Highlights).

SUPPORT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



On February 23, 2008 Habitat will host its annual Walk-a-Thon at Spring Hill Mall. The event is open to all area churches, schools and youth groups and all it takes is a phone call to the office (847-836-1432) to register. Every participant will receive a t-shirt. And a trophy will be awarded to the school, church or group that raises the most money.

Please help us spread the word by distributing the flyer or this email to your churches, youth ministers, schools, Honor's Society club, etc. Thank you.

calendar page

REPORT FROM THE KITCHEN REMODELING COMMITTEE

Community Church was truly blessed in 2007. We welcomed our new Pastor and throughout the last year, Pastor Zina has continued to infuse new life, spirit and ideas to help us grow and remain vital in this community. As part of this new growth, Women's Fellowship at Community Church has begun planning for the renovation of the church kitchen. Please review the following preliminary information on this project and see how you and your family can join us as we begin this exciting journey to renovate the "heart" of Fellowship Hall - the kitchen!

COMMUNITY CHURCH KITCHEN REMODEL PROPOSAL

Plans for the kitchen include:

- ✂ New cabinets with slide out drawers, several locking.
- ✂ Cabinet storage for garbage and recycle containers
- ✂ New Formica countertop
- ✂ New stainless steel sink/faucet
- ✂ Tile between cabinets and countertops
- ✂ New energy efficient appliances
 - Double doors refrigerator with bottom freezer
 - Dishwasher
 - Garbage disposal
 - Microwave above stove/with exhaust fan
- ✂ New easy maintenance vinyl flooring
- ✂ New ceiling
- ✂ Energy efficient recessed lighting
- ✂ Relocated attic access with pull-down stairs
- ✂ Paint/wallpaper on remaining walls

Key Benefits

- ✂ Kitchen essential to multiple programs: fellowship, youth, weddings, funeral, cookie walk, etc.
- ✂ Better use of limited space
- ✂ More attractive facilities
- ✂ Improved sanitation
- ✂ Better energy efficiency

Estimated Budget: \$32K

- ✂ 16K from existing budget
- ✂ 16K from designated gifts

Next Steps

- ✂ Get sense of the church
- ✂ If positive, pursue contractor

The Kitchen Committee:

Lynn Schreiner, – Co-Chair
Marge Boynton

Jayne Majzan – Co-Chair
Jean Capellos

Joanne Jacobsen
Wayne Jacobsen

BIRTHDAYS & ANNI VERSARI ES

02/02/07 Betsy McGaughey Birthday	02/14/07 Marge Boynton Birthday
02/0207 Chris & Marjorie Newman Anniversary	02/16/07 Peggy Reekie Birthday
02/08/07 Coral Ferry Birthday	02/23/07 Joyce Tardrew Birthday
02/13/07 Ken Easterday Birthday	



Flowers



Our Flower sign up sheet is located on the Narthex Bulletin Board. Feel free to sign up. Mail or drop your \$25.00 check off at the Church office.

This is a great way to celebrate a special event or honor a deceased loved one. There are lots of dates open in 2008 at this time.

Potluck



Join us on February 13th at 6:00 p.m. for our monthly pot luck supper. It's easy and fun! Just bring a dish to pass along with your own dishware and utensils. Family and friends are welcome. Bring an appetite for food and fellowship.

The Community Church of Barrington
407 S. Grove Avenue
Barrington IL 60010

