

From Pastor Zina Jacque

Random Acts of Kindness



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

It's February and our hearts turn often to cupids, chocolate, greeting cards and the 14th of the month. But this Valentine's season I would like to ask the members and friends of our great church to do something different. Would you be willing to engage in something radical with me? Would you be willing to participate in wonderful, random and radical acts of kindness? The word radical means, *to change from the root*, and if we really do this, I believe we will change our community at its roots.

Here's my thinking; our world has been through, and is still experiencing, a time of tremendous turmoil. Economic upheaval, escalation in violence and war, the loss of 2,000,000 jobs, diminishment of resources to meet the most basic needs at the federal, state and (certainly) local/personal level; have created a general dis-ease and disquiet among even the heartiest souls.

Though we are called to pray for peace and strength in times like these, we are also called to act! I want the members and friends of Community Church to be a vanguard of *activists for random acts of kindness*.

Below you will find 31 acts of kindness. Let us see if we can do one act each day in the (short) month of February. And, here's what makes this exercise uniquely Christian; when we "commit" an act of random kindness, let us whisper a little prayer *for the person* who will receive our gift and end our prayer with ". . . and Jesus, I commit this act of kindness in your name!"

Let's go get radical!

1. Help people load their groceries at the store, or if it's raining hold an umbrella up for them.
2. Give another person your parking space.
3. Pay the toll for the person in the car behind you in the non- I Pass lane.
4. Put an extra quarter in someone's parking meter
5. Welcome someone to step in front of you at the grocery store.
6. Hold the door for someone.
7. Write a letter to the local editor of the paper about random acts of kindness and your own experiences of receiving them.
8. Drop off a plant or a home baked goodie at the police or fire station, thanking these public servants for their work.
9. Give a crossing guard a gift.
10. Leave a kindness card for a waitress or waiter in a restaurant.
11. Leave your change in a vending machine.
12. Volunteer to read a story at the Library.
13. Send someone a handwritten note of thanks.
14. Make a card at home and send it to a friend for no reason.
15. Buy a lottery ticket for a stranger.
16. Walk your friend's dog.
17. Give a compliment about your waiter/waitress to his/her manager.
18. Send someone a small gift anonymously.
19. Treat a friend to the movies for no reason.
20. Give a huge tip to someone when they least expect it.
21. Hold the train door open for someone rushing to get in.
22. Give up your seat for someone, not just an elderly person.
23. Write notes of appreciation at least once a week.
24. Talk to a homeless person and have a "normal" conversation.
25. Pick up some rubbish in the road which would otherwise be lying around.
26. Compliment a work colleague for their excellence.
27. Recommend a competitor to a potential client.
28. Tell all your family members how much you appreciate them.
29. Leave a copy of an interesting book on the bus/train.
30. Buy a friend an inspirational book.
31. Smile a lot.

Getting to Know Your CCB Council Members

MEET MICHAEL CAMPE

Written by Bonnie Stevens



We Love These Walls is the new group that Michael Campe heads. This dedicated group of volunteers work on much needed maintenance projects around our church. As Chairman of the Building and Grounds committee, Michael is well qualified to make sure the most immediate repairs are handled and long-term maintenance is planned. Michael got his training on the job at Helene Curtis where he learned the trades – electrical, carpentry, pipe fitting, welding, and stationery engineering. After 13 years with Helene Curtis he moved to Fellows for 17 years where he learned all about installing new equipment including coordinating the construction. Michael now works for Elgin Corrugated Box and is in charge of Maintenance – both of the equipment and the very old building.

Michael was raised on the north side of Chicago close to the lake (he thought going to Wrigley Field was going to the South side) and attended St. Gertrude School, Quigley Preparatory Seminary North, and Loyola University (downtown). At Loyola he studied Accounting, but after working for a CPA after school, he decided that kind of work was boring. He liked working with his hands and took a job with Helene Curtis doing janitor work then moving on to maintenance work where he was able to get his trades training.

Michael has one brother and two sisters. His youngest sister is 17 years younger and he remembers caring for his baby sister while trying to be a “macho” kind of guy. For a time Michael lived with three other guys but eventually moved back with his parents when he got sick. His parents moved to Schaumburg and his mother got a job working as a teacher’s assistant. The teacher she worked with was Lindsay McLean. Ginny (Michael’s mom) talked Michael into meeting Lindsay and the rest, as they say, is history.

On a very significant day Michael was contemplating accepting a job offer for a very well-paying job. The only problem was that the job required him working the night shift. He was about to make the call to accept the job when he instead received a call from Lindsay announcing that she was pregnant (with Alex). Michael did not accept the job because he wanted to be available during normal hours for his family.

Michael and Lindsay have two children, Alex and Hailey. Michael has a tradition of taking each of his children and his wife on one-on-one special weekend trips every year. Michael, Lindsay and Alex all love to golf. The whole family also enjoys watching movies (DVDs) and listening to old time radio. Michael’s favorite vacation spot is Disney World. Cooking is a talent that Michael enjoys, especially when he has the chance to cook for a group – family and friends. He enjoys cooking Chinese style meals in a Wok, and when choosing a restaurant he would prefer a good Sushi restaurant because he likes the artistry of sushi – the hot and cold, the sweet and sour, the raw and cooked, the colors.

On a personal note, I have been lucky in that Michael and Lindsay have always treated me just like family. Michael made wonderful built-in book shelves for a long wall of my prior condo. The whole Campe family (and Heather McLean) have decorated my house for Christmas when I was sick and unable to do it myself. I have had many dinners at the Campes and have enjoyed the wonderful grilling that Michael does. For a time we attended Willow Creek together and shared in some meaningful worship services. Now, at CCB, we can be together at Bible Study, worship services, and dinners, growing together in our knowledge and Christian walk.

“It is a family atmosphere at this church. People matter to each other” is how Michael feels about Community Church.. Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” is Michael’s favorite Bible verse.

Michael is strong, in his faith and his love of family.





The Rock Solid Group of kids that meet on Wonderful Wednesday have enjoyed the tutelage of **Patricia Roig** this past month of January. We thank her for her time and talent while Sandy is on hiatus.

This past month the kids have discussed Epiphany and the story of the three kings and enjoyed making their very own crowns in class. They also discussed the story of Jesus as a child teaching in the Temple and put their diverse creative talents to work decorating a kit which included a copy of their own place of worship; Community Church of Barrington. They are a terrific group of kids filled with energy and enthusiasm for their faith and fun. There is much more ahead in the months to come for them to enjoy!

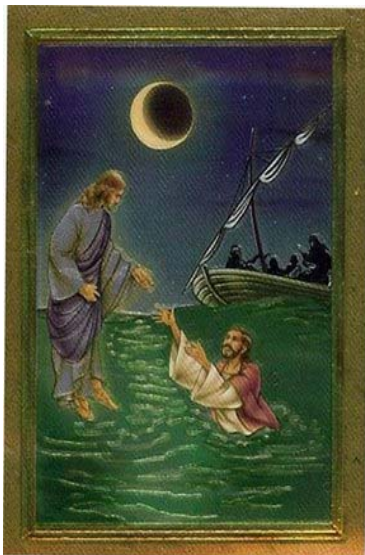
WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY FOR ADULTS!

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY'S FOR ADULTS BEGINS **FEBRUARY 4th!** Mark your calendars and plan to join the adults on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday in February, March and April for "Teach Me How to Pray" A study of prayer through the words of Jesus and the Disciplines of the Christian Family.



Over these six weeks we will study the prayers of Jesus and learn to appreciate them through art we create, art we appreciate, silence, and ancient prayer forms. Come one, come all and join us for this time of discovery and prayer.

SUNDAY SCHOOL!



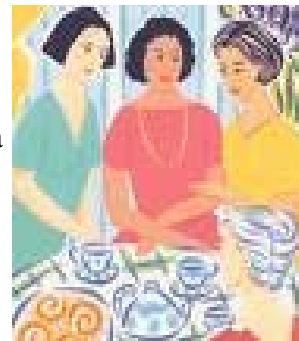
Mark your calendars and plan to join us at 9:30 each Sunday morning for our Church School. Classes are available for our very youngest to our most venerable members.

Andre Bell has begun an exploration of John Ortberg's, "If You Want to Walk on the Water, You Have to Get Out of the Boat."

Each week our elementary through middle school students participate in a study called Live BIG (Belief in God) and our high school students, along with Minister Ashley, consider topics that are germane to their lives. So, come one, come all and join us for Sunday School

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

The weather has been playing havoc with the Women's Fellowship schedule lately but "ya can't keep a good woman down"; ergo, we've just adapted! We've "piggybacked" the January and February meetings. Or shall we call it "a double feature"?



The meeting will be in Fellowship Hall at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb.21. Bring a bag lunch and hostesses **Bonnie Stevens** and **JoAnne Jacobsen** will provide dessert and beverages.

And what a treat will be the program(s)! First, we'll take a trip to Greece . . . and you won't even need to go through security! **Pastor Zina Jacque, Jayne Majzan, and Lynn Schreiner** will be our guides while they relive their journey, complete with lots of photos.

Following that treat, **Clarke Robinson** will take us on another trip: a trip back in Time. He will preside over The Antique Road Show #2. The procedure will be the same as it was last year. Attendees are asked to bring an antique or two; please, no more than 2 . Be prepared to share their stories . (All antiques have stories don't they?). Then Clarke, with his experienced eye and knowledge of antiques, will give his observations about the objects.

With the absence of a January meeting, there was not an opportunity for the Women's Fellowship to get the final report regarding the Cookie Walk activities. **Jayne Majzan** will give that report at this meeting.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This yearly event will take place on Friday March 6th, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. First Church of Christ in Barrington will host the women of Papua New Guinea as they welcome us to a land of many languages, cultures, traditions and beliefs. The theme they've chosen is "In Christ, there are many numbers, yet one body". They invite us to join them in celebrating their unity in Christ, where diverse communities are of one heart and one soul, and where women have faced the violence in their societies with courage and solidarity. **Rev. Zina Jacque** will be guest speaker.

After the worship service there will be time for refreshments and fellowship. Please come and bring a friend. If you have any questions regarding this event, please call Linda Osikowicz at 847-540-5634.



DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH NEWSLETTER IS FEBRUARY 16TH. PLEASE EMAIL OR DROP OF ANY INFORMATION YOU WOULD LIKE INCLUDED. THANKS!

Birthdays and Anniversaries in February!

February 2nd Chris & Marjorie Kiefer Newman Anniversary
February 8th Coral Ferry Birthday February 23rd Joyce Tardrew Birthday
February 13th Ken Easter Day Birthday February 23rd Ned Viller Birthday
February 14th Marge Boynton Birthday February 28th Lenora Hylander Birthday
February 16th Peggy Reekie Birthday



Seven Hundred Thirteen Days ago . . .

You welcomed me into this church as, pastor and friend. Seven hundred and thirteen days ago we both wondered what it would be like and how we might walk together in the holiness of God, the love of Christ and the power of the Spirit. Seven hundred and thirteen days later I would not dare speak for you, but my heart is filled to overflowing, my hands are engaged with your hands in the work of our Savior and I have found a home church that is more than I ever imagined. Blessings to you, Community Church of Barrington, we have made it (well almost, February 18th) to the two year mark and only God knows what is ahead of us as we continue to listen for and follow God's marvelous call. Thank you for welcoming me into this church and into your lives. I am as honored today as I was 713 days ago. Let us continue to pray for one another, our church and our world. God has given us many tasks to do, and I just believe we are committed to deepening our understanding of these tasks and then moving ahead, with and by the Spirit of our God. Bless you and Happy Anniversary

Pastor Zina

SERMON CD'S

CD recordings and typed copies of the sermon are available. Suggested donations of \$5.00 for the CD's are welcomed to help defray the cost. Hard copies of the sermon are available after worship, each Sunday, in the Fellowship Hall. CD orders may be made by leaving a note in the office on the Secretary's Desk. Please indicate your address so we may mail



FLOWERS

Our New Flower list for 2009 is up on the Narthex Bulletin Board. If you would like to pick a date for a special occasion, to honor a deceased loved one or just to beautify the Sanctuary, sign up and send a check for \$25.00 to the church office.



If you've forgotten to sign up, give the office a call and Sandy will sign up for you.

JOIN US ON February 11th, at 6:00 p.m. for our monthly potluck 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.

Thanks to all of you who have been donating to our food boxes located at the tower and Grove Avenue doors. There are many who come here for assistance that are thankful for the extra groceries. The rest goes to the Food Pantry for people in need. Please continue to give generously. You are appreciated!



Prayers and Personals



PRAYERS AND PERSONALS

The letter from James tells us that the effective, fervent prayers of one who is right with God accomplishes much (James 5:16). We are the beloved of God and God longs to hear our voices raised, individually and collectively, in prayer. Let us come to God first, asking God to forgive us for anything that might separate us from God (doesn't forgiveness feel good). And then, in humility and with sincerity, let us go to God in prayer for those among us and those far away.

We Pray for:

- _____ . *Fill in those prayer needs that are closet to your heart.*
- Lucia Beth Robinson, Marion and Gene Nyman, and all whose names and circumstances we lift each time we pray.
- Our service men and women and those who serve in auxiliary services in any area of conflict or war. We pray God's protection and we pray for the cessation of violence where ever it is found.
- All of those who come into my office with hearts filled with anguish, concern, dread or fear.
- Mary D'Agostin who has relocated to Florida. She is doing well and requests our prayers.
- All of our Christian Education activities. May they be a blessing to those who participate and may the Spirit of our God draw more to join in.
- All of those men and women who have come to a position of leadership in our nation, state, and local governments and especially for our 44th President. May all be led by the Spirit of God and filled with Christ's compassion and love.
- For Missionaries where ever they serve the great name of God.
- For Gaza and Israel, for peace and reconciliation

We are also called to rejoice in the Lord always. And so, we rejoice:

- Community Church has approved its 2009 budget. We praise God for the accomplishment and for all of the hard work that lay behind its preparation and presentation
- The Youth and children of this church who so minister to our hearts and souls throughout the year and especially in their "sermon in Pageant form" during the Advent season.

God is in our midst blessing, healing, guiding and loving. May we continue to seek God's presence and grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

CALENDAR PAGE

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