

# From Pastor Zina Jacque

## A Summer of Sermons



# MAY NEWSLETTER

About every four to six weeks Bill Akerstrom and I sit down to map out the sermon topics and the music for the upcoming weeks. During one such conversation Bill wondered aloud what would result if I asked you, the congregants of the church, what topics you wanted to hear preached. Always up for a challenge, here I am, asking just such a question.

As we move into the summer months and I prepare for a summer sermon series, I would like to move away from the assigned Lectionary texts and take up the topics you most want to hear. So what are they? What questions would you like to take to the Biblical text? What texts have bothered you? What issues are pressing on your heart that you believe might well be addressed in the 20 – 25 minutes we share immersed in God's word on Sunday?

I know it seems a little awkward for me to ask you such a set of question but let me tell you why I think it is *most* appropriate. Each time I sit to prepare a sermon my prayer is that I might offer that which provides hope for those who listen, intersects with the needs present in their lives, opens God's word in new and deeper ways, and presents the love of God for the whole of the creation of God. As I stand to preach, you know our liturgy instructs me to say "May the words of my mouth", and then you join in by saying, "And the meditations of our hearts, be acceptable in thy sight; O Lord, our strength and our redeemer." I do not say these words rotely on Sunday. As I say them I pray that God will allow me to stir the intellect, encourage the heart, lift up the name of Christ, and draw men and women to Him. Because of this, I think it wise to ask not only God what I should preach but what it is that you want to explore in the sermonic moment.

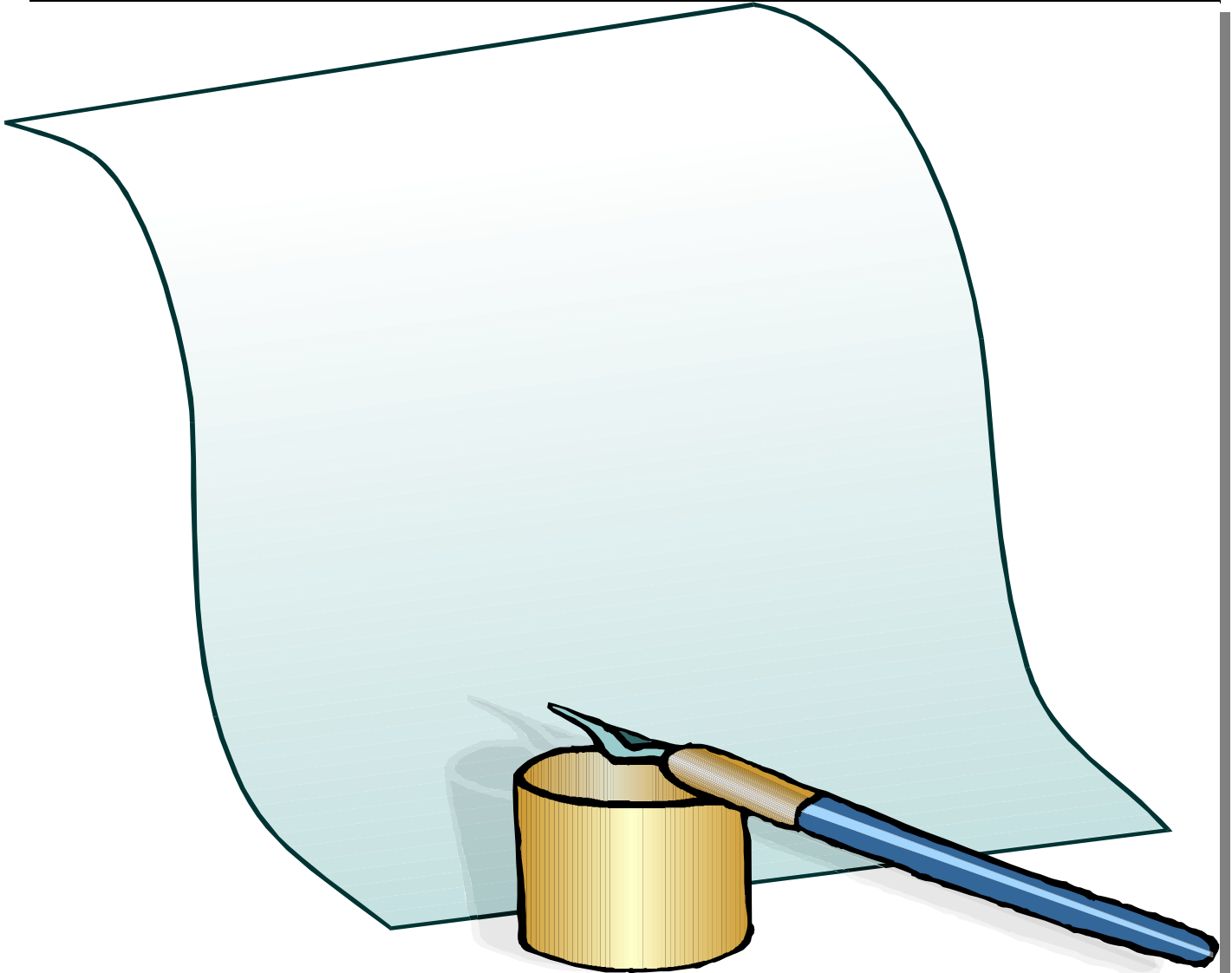
As well, in our Baptist tradition, we honor the *wisdom of* and the *walk with God* of each person. I am not the only one on the corner of Lincoln and Grove who hears from God and who seeks God's guidance for our church. And so, I am not the only one to whom God might speak; offering direction and wisdom for *our* church. Therefore, I would be wise to welcome your thoughts on topics for sermons.

Here are a few ground rules:

- ✍ Please know there are only so many Sundays in the summer (some of which I hope to take off as vacation), but I truly desire to know your thoughts. So, please share them and please do not be offended if your idea does not find its way to the pulpit this summer. I suspect what I receive will provide ideas and food for thought for months to come.
- ✍ I welcome your thoughts and I ask you to offer them with some level of, shall we say, decorum. Even as I type this I am smiling because I know this group is capable of some amazingly witty and maybe conundrum-like thoughts. Be kind, as well as honest, in your suggestions, please.
- ✍ Having said this, the door is open. Now is the time pray and ask away.

The summer season of sermons should be far more interesting, because you have joined me in seeking what God would have us hear. Blessings, and I look forward to your thoughts shared on the form on page 2 and placed in the box on the Narthex counter.

## A Summer of Sermons—List Your Suggestions Here



### **BLESSINGS AND THANK YOU**

As many know I end (or begin) most of my emails with the word “blessings”. In the Hebrew **????** the word *blessings* (Berakah, ber·ä·käh) can be understood as an invocation of good or a prayer that God would provide divine care for the one for whom blessings are asked. Indeed, today, may I whisper a prayer for all of the Community Church family and for all of our friends, ***BLESS YOU!***

I share this prayer on the eve of the anniversary of my installation as pastor of Community Church (May 6<sup>th</sup>). What a year it has been. We have celebrated many things and we have cried together. We have worked hard and we have laughed even harder. We have grown in spirit and depth and even in numbers. Yes, bless you and thank you from the bottom of my heart. Andre and I feel blessed to be among you and excited about all that lies ahead. As May 6<sup>th</sup> arrives on your calendar, please join me in blessing the Lord for God’s goodness to us and for the gift of Community Church in all of our lives.

Blessings  
Pastor Zina



## Church Council Retreat - April 4-5

The Council met on Friday for supper at the Retreat Center of the Society of the Divine Word, Techny, IL. We began with a Taize Worship service after supper and ended with a Communion Service on Saturday. Friday evening we shared ideas about the characteristics and gifts a leader should have and how to make the Council more effective in leading the church and training its members for leadership positions. This was followed by fellowship time where we divided into groups armed with Legos with which to build representations of such concepts as The Word of God, Trinity, etc. We had very creative results!

Saturday we broke into three groups. Using the ideas generated Friday, one group discussed how Council could be more effective in leading the Church and training its members. A second group dealt with the process of creating a short and memorable Mission Statement describing who we are and what we are about in spreading the Gospel. The last group's focus was ideas on engaging the membership and friends in the life of our Community.

Before closing with the Communion Service, we reflected on our time together and were amazed at what we had accomplished, even if it was only a start. There was a feeling we had acted as one body with one mission and were impressed with the number and quality of ideas we had compiled. There was a feeling we had been led by the Holy Spirit during this time of considering the future of our Church.

Now for the Kudos! Zina - for the passion of such a retreat and planning it. To Ashley and her friend, Brittany Richardson, for planning and leading the Taize Worship Service and Fellowship Time. Also, thanks to Bob Reekie who led us in a meaningful Communion Service in the African Chapel. Finally, thanks be to the Spirit who brought us together, and closer together, in and through this experience.

*Clarke Robinson*



## Peace Party with KWRC

Say 'Peace' to your normal routine and join KWRC Youth Group for our Spring Lock-In!

On **May 9-10**, KWRC will have a lock-in here at CCB from 6pm-10am the next morning! This overnight "**Peace Party**" will be filled with games, discussions, worship, and fun focused around God's peace and its meaning for us in the world!

More information and sign up sheets to come!

Contact Ashley at 262.853.6609 or [ashley.barlow@garrett.edu](mailto:ashley.barlow@garrett.edu) to learn more!

## Women's Fellowship News

Church Women United's May Friendship Day is to be on Friday, May 2. Details were in the April Newsletter to allow for planning ahead, but let this tidbit be a reminder. It will be held at Presbyterian Church of Barrington on the corner of Lake Cook and Brinker Roads at 11 a.m. Young women named by various churches who live up to the motto of CWU, "Agreed to differ, resolved to love, united to serve", will be honored. Our own Laura Gilleland will be among those honored. Congratulations Laura!

On Saturday, May 17, our Women's Fellowship will have their final meeting before the annual summer hiatus. We will end our busy, fulfilling, inspiring, and fun-filled '07 - '08 year's activities with a potluck salad luncheon at Lynn Schreiner's home at 360 Roberts Road in Inverness. Directions: Go east on Dundee (Rt. 68) to So. Ela (by Deer Grove Cemetery). Turn right and go short distance to Florence Ave. Turn right again. Another short distance will take you to Roberts Rd. Turn left there. When you turn left, you'll see a set of mailboxes there and you'll be turning onto a private drive which is an extension of Roberts Rd. Watch for 360. If needed, her Ph. number is (847) 776 - 5848. Looking forward to warmer May days, Lynn hopes it can be a "Cook Out"! Joining Lynn as co-hostesses will be Jayne Majzan and Marge Boynton.

Carol Eich will present the program. She will share some of her experiences this past year, contemplating the question, "What Do We See?" At the time of this writing, she hasn't decided whether that will focus on her travels, her experiences at C.C.B., her own personal journey, or perhaps a potpourri. Sounds intriguing, so come and see where she takes us.

Thanks to all the donors to "Blanket & Tools" Sundays on April 7 and 13. We were able to make a donation of 547.00 to the very worthy annual project sponsored by Church Women United.



## A New Kitchen is coming to Community Church!

Members of Community Church are busily working on the preliminary plans for renovating our kitchen. We're working with Kraftwerks, Inc. of Barrington and will be ordering our new cabinets in the next week.

We hope to be starting the construction within the next 4-6 weeks. We'll be looking for some able-bodied volunteers to help build some "sweat equity" by lending a hand with clearing out the kitchen, light demolition, etc. We'll put the word out for volunteers as soon as we have a definitive construction schedule. Updates in your Sunday Bulletins and Newsletter will help keep everyone informed of our progress throughout the renovation.

Plans are also underway for a fund-raising event in early June. Watch for more details on this summer event. Of course, we're always looking for donations to help fund this project. Please send your donations to the Church Office marked "CCB Kitchen Fund". Any questions? Please call Jayne Majzan at 847.381.03088 or Lynn Schreiner at 847.776.5848.

### The CCB Kitchen Committee:

Jayne Majzan, Lynn Schreiner –Co-Chairs

Marge Boynton                      Jean Capellos

JoAnne Jacobsen                      Wayne Jacobsen

Joyce Tardrew                      Rev. Zina Jacque

**Join us on May 14th 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.



## Birthdays and Anniversaries in May!

May 2nd	Jean Capellos Birthday	May 16th	Lillian and Ralph Anniversary
May 4th	Bill Akerstrom Birthday	May 21st	Tim & Lyn Hannahs Anniversary
May 4th	Elaine Ott Birthday	May 21st	Cheryl & Sandy Schroeder Anniversary
May 5th	Bunny Jahnke Birthday	May 22nd	John Grom Birthday
May 13th	Tom Alton Birthday	May 29th	Don McLean Birthday
May 14th	Jenny Vickery Birthday	May 31st	June and Bob Moe Anniversary
May 15th	Annie Vickery Birthday		



### A Pentecost Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Christ Jesus,  
before ascending into heaven,  
You promised to send the Holy Spirit  
to Your apostles and disciples.  
Grant that the same Spirit  
may perfect in our lives the work of Your grace and love.

Grant us the Spirit of Fear Of The Lord  
that we may be filled with a loving reverence toward You.

The Spirit of Piety  
that we may find peace and fulfillment  
in the service of God while serving others;

The Spirit of Fortitude  
that we may bear our cross with You  
and, with courage, overcome the obstacles  
that interfere with our salvation;

The Spirit of Knowledge  
that we may know You and know ourselves  
and grow in holiness;

The Spirit of Understanding  
to enlighten our minds  
with the light of Your truth;

The Spirit of Counsel  
that we may choose the surest way of doing Your will,  
seeking first the Kingdom;

Grant us the Spirit of Wisdom  
that we may aspire to the things that last forever;

Teach us to be Your faithful disciples  
and animate us in every way with Your Spirit. Amen

For those who are mother's because they have given birth and for those who are mothers because they have given life, Happy Mother's Day.

### A Mother's Love

A Mother's love is something  
that no one can explain,  
It is made of deep devotion  
and of sacrifice and pain,  
It is endless and unselfish  
and enduring come what may  
For nothing can destroy it  
or take that love away . . .  
It is patient and forgiving  
when all others are forsaking,  
And it never fails or falters  
Even though the heart is breaking . . .  
It believes beyond believing  
when the world around condemns,  
And it glows with all the beauty  
Of the rarest, brightest gems . . .  
It is far beyond defining,  
it defies all explanation,  
And it still remains a secret  
Like the mysteries of creation . . .  
A many splendoured miracle  
man cannot understand  
And another wondrous evidence  
of God's tender guiding hand.

## Prayers and Personals



*So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind.*  
I Corinthians 14:15

In this letter to the Church at Corinth Paul invites his listeners to pray purposefully with both mind and spirit and in a manner that edifies and helps all who hear to grow stronger. We pray, together in the pages of our newsletter, so that we may join our hearts and minds together, share our concerns, strengthen one another and seek the guidance and hope of God. Therefore, let us pray. We pray for:

????The peace of God's creation; especially for those places beset with war, violence and brewing unrest.

????The family and friends of Betsy McGaughey as we remember and celebrate the life of this amazing woman and as we heal from the hurt that occurs when one moves beyond our physical reach.

????Those who are hungry, cold, frightened, and without hope; especially those who are homeless and feeling abandoned.

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

????All of those who are in positions of feeling overwhelmed by the circumstances that are before them.

????Fred and Pat Foesterling as our dear brother Fred continues his recovery.

????All of our Arizona and Florida "families" who will soon be back with us.

????Mary Kelly, whom we love and who will be relocating to Austin Texas in the month of June.

????The ones for whom we pray on Sunday morning out loud and in our hearts who are fighting disease or pain, standing under the weight of disappointment, caught in the grip of bereavement, or have needs of any kind.

????The ministries, programs and committees of our church: Christian Education, Choir, Congregational Life, Diaconate, Finance Committee, KWRC, Membership Development, Missions and Outreach, Music and Worship, Nominating, Pastoral Relations, Properties and Personnel, Stewardship, Sunday School, Women's Fellowship and Wonderful Wednesdays.

????Those around the world who are struggling with food insecurity brought on by drought, war, rising cost of food and internecine political conflict.

????The families of the fundamentalist portion of the Mormon Church living in Eldorado, Texas, that all who have been injured may be safe and allowed to heal and all those who have injured seek forgiveness and be allowed to heal and grow.

????????????People who are thought to be enemy by someone; may we each name our enemies and pray for them, as Jesus calls us to do.

*Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done.*

*I Chronicle 16:8*

As a Community we have so much for which to give thanks. Among the people and circumstances for which we give thanks to God are:

????The presence of God's Spirit in our lives.

????The marriage of Barbara Poling and Oscar Zamudio on April 5, 2008. May God richly bless their marriage and fill it with agape love.

????The talents of Alex Campe displayed for all to see in the play the Music Man.

????The selection of freshmen Karl Eiring as a runner on the Varsity Cross Country Team for Barrington High School.

????The grace and charm of each of our acolytes who each Sunday bring the light of Christ into our sanctuary for all to see.

????The selection of Laura Gilleland as the Women's Fellowship Woman of the Year.

????The excellent work of the Kitchen Committee and the gifts of our members and friends toward the renovation of our Church Kitchen.

????The presence of Minister Ashley and her decision to spend her third year of seminary with us in her role as Youth Pastor. (Hallelujah!)

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CALENDAR PAGE

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



**Mother's Day**

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