

The Invitation
by Oriah

MARCH 2010 NEWSLETTER

From Pastor Zina Jacque

*It does not matter
what you do for a living.
I want to know
what you ache for
and if you dare to dream
of meeting your heart's longing.*

*It doesn't interest me
how old you are.
I want to know
if you will risk
looking like a fool
for love
for your dream
for the adventure of being alive.*

*It doesn't interest me
what planets are
squaring your moon...
I want to know
if you have touched
the centre of your own sorrow
if you have been opened
by life's betrayals
or have become shriveled & closed
from fear of further pain.*

*I want to know
if you can sit with pain
mine or your own
without moving to hide it
or fade it or fix it.*

*I want to know
if you can be with joy
mine or your own
if you can dance with wildness
and let the ecstasy fill you
to the tips of your fingers and toes
without cautioning us
to be careful
to be realistic
to remember the limitations
of being human.*

*It doesn't interest me
if the story you are telling me
is true.*

*I want to know if you can
disappoint another
to be true to yourself.
If you can bear
the accusation of betrayal
and not betray your own soul.
If you can be faithless
and therefore trustworthy.*

*I want to know if you can see
Beauty every day,
even when it is not pretty.
And if you can source your own
life from its presence.*

*I want to know
if you can live with failure
yours and mine
and still stand at the edge of the
lake and shout to the silver of the
full moon, "Yes."*

*It doesn't interest me
to know where you live
or how much money you have.
I want to know if you can get up
after the night of grief and despair
weary and bruised to the bone
and do what needs to be done
to feed the children.*

*It doesn't interest me
who you know
or how you came to be here.
I want to know if you will stand
in the centre of the fire with me
and not shrink back.*

*It doesn't interest me
where or what or with whom
you have studied.
I want to know
what sustains you
from the inside
when all else falls away.*

*I want to know
if you can be alone
with yourself
and if you truly like
the company you keep
in the empty moment*

Please See Pg. 2 for Pastor Zina's reflection and a question for each of us.

LEARNING FROM OTHERS AS TRAVEL TOGETHER ALONG THE WAY



Learning from another

The cover page of the March Newsletter shares the poetry of Oriah Mountain Dreamer's book The Invitation. In it she describes the evening she wrote the poem.

I wrote The Invitation late one night after returning home from a party. I was unsettled, disappointed with an evening that had been full of the usual social conventions. Restless, I sat down at my desk in the darkness and listened to the sounds around me gradually diminish as the city settled into sleep. There in the quiet, with the street lamp casting a pale light into the room, I picked up my pen and wrote what I really wanted to say to the people I had met that evening

Traveling together along the way we learn much. Consider the following:

Why are we so concerned with what one "does" for a living"? What would happen in our world if we replaced the question, "What do you do for a living" with "What's most important to you in your life?" or "What makes you who you are?"

When you read the poem which portion of it piques your interest? Why? Which of the questions it raises is hardest for you to answer? Why?

It does not matter to the poet what we do, how old we are, how much money we have, the status of our addresses, or even how we came to be where we are. What matters to Oriah is the story of our lives, the willingness to reach deep within to find out who we are, the ability to sit with pain, and the ability to be a person of courage. What matters most to the poet is who we are and what we are becoming.

The same can be said of our Lord. Jesus is not concerned with the external things of our lives, at least not as a first order. The most important thing to our Savior is that we are on a journey with Christ, believing, accepting, loving and learning; becoming who God has called, and is calling, us to be.

So beloved of God, as you read the poem, as you consider your walk with the Lord, will you accept the invitation to join Christ on the adventure of a lifetime; an adventure that leads to love and service, power and hope, life and joy? Come, he said, and follow me.



THE LANGUAGE OF THE SEASON

The language of the season between Epiphany and Easter can be confusing. What follows is a glossary of sorts. We hope this helps you in your understanding of this powerful season.

LENT: It was in the late Middle Ages, the German word for Spring, i.e., *lenz*, was adopted to symbolize the forty day period before Easter. *Lenz* also was selected because it is derived from the Germanic root for long, as in the lengthening of the spring hours of day light.

THE PASSION: The Passion is the Christian theological term used for the events and suffering – physical, spiritual, and mental – of Jesus in the hours before and including his trial and execution by crucifixion. The Crucifixion of Jesus is an event central to Christian beliefs. The etymological origins of the word lie in the Latin *passus* (stemming from *pati*, *patior*- "to suffer [to happen]", in the passive sense), and it first appears in second century Christian texts precisely to describe the travails and suffering of Jesus in this present context. The word *passion* has since taken on a more general application. The term the Agony of Jesus is more specifically applied to the Agony in the Garden, Jesus' action (Greek *agon*) praying before his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane; similarly to *passion*, *agon* has been extended to denote a frame of mind. Those parts of the four Gospels that describe these events are known as the "Passion narratives".

HOLY WEEK: In Christianity, Holy Week is the last week of Lent and the week before Easter. It includes the religious holidays of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday (Holy Thursday) and Good Friday, and lasts from Palm Sunday (or in the Eastern, Lazarus Saturday) until but not including Easter Sunday, as Easter Sunday is the first day of the new season of The Great Fifty Days. It commemorates the last week of the earthly life of Jesus Christ culminating in his crucifixion on Good Friday and his resurrection on Easter Sunday.

MAUNDY THURSDAY: Maundy Thursday is the Christian feast or holy day falling on the Thursday before Easter that commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles. It is the fifth day of Holy Week, and is preceded by Holy Wednesday and followed by Good Friday. The word *Maundy* comes from the Latin *mandatum*, which means "commandment." At the Last Supper, Jesus gave the disciples a new commandment to love one another as he had loved them (John 13:34). Prior to breaking the bread with the disciples, Jesus washed their feet. Maundy Thursday worship services often include Holy Communion and/or the washing of one another's feet.

TENEBRAE: Plural of the Latin for darkness, the word *Tenebrae* means shadows. It is often observed as a Christian religious service on the eves of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, which are the last three days of Holy Week. The liturgy of *Tenebrae* is characterized by the gradual extinguishing of candles while a series of readings and psalms are chanted or recited.

GOOD FRIDAY: Good Friday, also called Holy Friday, Great Friday or Black Friday, is the Friday preceding Easter Sunday ("Pascha"). It commemorates the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death at Golgotha. No where have I been able to find a definitive reason tradition invites us to call this Friday *good*. But when we consider what was done to forgive our sin, to wash us clean, to invite us into a new and redeemed relationship with the God who created us; well, each of us might be able to craft our own reason for calling this day, *good*.

EASTER TRIDUUM: (Holy Triduum, or Paschal Triduum) is a term used by some Christian churches, particularly the Roman Catholic Church, the Lutheran Church, and many Anglicans, to denote, collectively, the three days from the evening Maundy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday. The Triduum begins with observance of the Lord's on Maundy Thursday and ends sunset on Easter Day.

Young Theologians:
KWRC Youth Group is Deepening their Faith and Journeying with One Another
Youth Group Focus this March: Forgiveness and Reconciliation



Focused on real relationships, the youth will spend the 6 weeks of Lent thinking about the role of forgiveness and reconciliation in our lives. Thinking first about forgiveness (the way one individual moves forward in complete relationship) and then moving to reconciliation (when all parties involved move back into full relationship with one another), our six weeks will be centered on how we forgive and reconcile with ourselves, others, and with God.

God created us to be in relationship with God and with others. When our “relational web” gets frayed and torn, we need to learn how to name and let go of the wrongs we have suffered and the wrongs we have done. Receiving and sharing God’s forgiveness.

Sunday School: The Tough Stuff

Because of the thoughtfulness and compassion of the youth in our church, because they are becoming more autonomous and are meeting their world with new questions and important issues that they want to discuss, 7th-12th grade Sunday school is now a safe place to ask tough questions. Our youth are confident, faithful people who want to learn more about how to be in the world in godly and loving ways. Indeed, I am blessed to hear their powerful witness about the ways they want to change the world and make it a better place.

Because of their desire to know more about interacting in the world, Aimee Trump and I began a new kind of Sunday School class with them at the beginning of 2010. Asking them about the ways in which we separate and stereotype others in our schools, media and world, we created a list of the categories that we use to organize people: popularity, race, age, class, religion and gender, to name a few. Next, we asked the youth to think about the questions they have about how to interact with, love, learn more, serve and relate to each of these categories of people. The youth responded with powerful and deeply faithful questions, desiring to know better how to get to know people who are different from them.

Since then, Aimee and I have been facilitating conversation about these topics, one by one, asking the youth to share their experience and wisdom on each, talking about the reality in our schools, neighborhood, country and world, and thinking about what each of these issues has to do with our faith. We are finding that God wants each of us to live fully into our own value as children of God, and desires for us to love others because they are also God’s children. Our conversations are deep, heartfelt and life changing. Even though these topics are difficult, they rise to the occasion in covenant with one another to take this conversation, one another, and our calling as Christians seriously as they learn how to face their world and this tough stuff.

Because they make their faith their own... because they question and then believe... because they share and wish to hear the voices of others... because they know God...**our youth are Theologians.** Let us go by their example and do theology too!

POWERFUL WOMEN IN THE BIBLE QUIZ



March is National Women's History Month. Did you know that the first women to earn a medical degree in the United States was Elizabeth Blackwell, in 1849; the first woman to practice law before the Supreme Court was Belva Ann Lockwood, in 1879; and the first woman to be named a Four Star General in the United States Army was Ann Dunwoody, in 2008.

There are historic firsts for women in our nation and in our Bible. Want to take a quiz? Below are questions about some women in the Bible. Some are easy, some are not; but the answers are included, upside down below. Have fun. And to all of the women in our community, you are making history each day with your being and your doing! Be blessed.

Clue half of the answers are in the Old Testament and half are in the New.

1. Who was the woman who owned her own home and was a seller of purple cloth?
2. Who is the only woman to ever give God a name?
3. Who was the woman who was such a good worker when she died the women cried, and cried, showing the apostles articles of clothing she had made?
4. What woman was so beautiful that her husband to be upon seeing her said, half of my kingdom, half of my kingdom, I will give you whatever you want up to half of my kingdom?
5. What woman in the Bible was called a Deacon?
6. What woman in the Bible was called an Apostle?
7. Which woman had nerve enough to tell Jesus he was too late to help and had he only arrived earlier her brother would not have died?
8. What was the name of the only female Judge in the Old Testament?
9. Who was the first woman to dance in the Bible?
10. What Hebrew Midwife lied to the Pharaoh in order to save the newborn Hebrew children (bonus) there are two midwives named in this text.

Answers:

Happy Birthday To....

March 4, Maggie Menso March 16, Peg Reekie March 23, Meg Simmons
March 5, Jennifer Bulandr March 19, Bill Athmann



Adult Sunday School—Join Us! I never really wanted to rush getting ready in time to attend Sunday School. After all, God declared a day of rest for one day each week, so why rush to be at church at 9:30 AM? Furthermore, I don't consider myself that well-versed in the Bible. So, wouldn't it be better to have a leisurely breakfast and just come to church for worship service at 10:30 am, rather than embarrassing myself by showing what I don't know in Sunday school? Well-- that's what I used to think.

Over the past several months I have attended the adult Sunday school class that Pastor Zina leads with help from Andre, and I wholeheartedly recommend it to every adult at CCB regardless of where you are in your spiritual journey. We are learning how to better understand the Bible, not just memorize it, and apply these teachings to "the good, the bad and the ugly" in our lives. After one or two Sundays, you will wonder how you ever got through the week without the learning and discussion that occurs in this class.

By the way-- here's a secret-- you don't have to give up breakfast to attend. We have food and juice every Sunday. Also, you can come test out the new coffee machine that Lillian Riddell somehow influenced Pastor Zina into purchasing! If you want more on that story, join us next Sunday at 9:30 AM --- you can feed your body and your soul.

Stu Overby

Reminder : The Community Meal will be held March 11 at the Barrington United Methodist Church from 5 pm to 7 pm. The Community Meal is a FREE meal hosted once a month at various churches and community centers in the Barrington area. All are welcome! Please participate if possible to share fellowship with your neighbors.



March 21st	PALM SUNDAY
April 1st	MAUNDY THURSDAY - 6:00 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m. Service
April 2nd	GOOD FRIDAY - 7:00 p.m. Service
April 4th	EASTER SUNDAY 9:30 Brunch - 10:30 Worship

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY PASTOR ZINA!

Community Church expresses its sincere thanks to Pastor Zina on her third anniversary as our Pastor. She has brought new insight, boundless energy and a wealth of expertise and organization to the "Corner of Lincoln and Grove." We look forward to many more exciting years of her leadership and to her husband Andre's many contributions as well.

CALENDAR PAGE

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

The Season of Lent



*Remember man thou art dust
and to dust thou shalt return*

Ladies Who Breakfast will meet on Wednesday March 31st at 7:30 a.m. at the Breadbasket Restaurant in Barrington. Have a delicious breakfast or just a cup of coffee while networking with the Ladies. A great way to start the day!



Wednesday, March 10th, at 6:00 p.m. is **Potluck**. Bring a dish to pass, your own dish-ware and an appetite for fellowship. Bring a friend.

Save the Date! Please mark April 18 on your calendar for a luncheon and meeting following Worship Service.



Mark Your Calendar - **Wonderful Wednesday** are the first and third Wednesday of each Month. There are activities for children and youth. It's fun so join in and have a terrific evening. It starts at 6:30.

EVEN THOUGH EASTER IS SIX WEEKS AWAY, IT'S TIME TO START PLAN-
NING EASTER BRUNCH AT CCB. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO BRING DISHES SUCH AS EGG
CASSEROLES AND FRUIT SALADS. HELP IS ALSO NEEDED WITH SET-UP AND CLEAN UP. PLEASE
SEE LAURA GILLELAND IF YOU CAN HELP.

