



## News of The Kenilworth Union Church

211 Kenilworth Avenue • Kenilworth, Illinois 60043 • (847) 251-4272

[www.kuc.org](http://www.kuc.org)

January 24, 2010

### ***Soup and Bread Supper January 24 at 5:00 pm***

***Come and enjoy the fellowship and delicious homemade breads and soups. There will also be games and activities for the kids so bring the whole family!***

***Tickets are \$8 per person and \$25 per family. The supper is hosted by KUC Impact mission trip participants, and proceeds go toward this year's mission trip project.***

### mil estone

We welcomed to baptism yesterday Caitlin Delaney LeFebvre, daughter of Jessica (Bird) and Adam M. LeFebvre.

We extend the sympathy of the congregation to the family of Charles Harrington Solberg upon his death on January 12. The white rose on the altar on January 17 celebrated his life. A memorial service was held at KUC on January 23 at 2:00 pm.

### Alt ar Flowers

The altar flowers are given in celebration of the life of Sallie Van Norden McClure by her family.

### Chil dren's Ministries

**Jesus and Friends (Lambs-4th)**  
Jesus' mission depended on having friends and living in community. Our children's lives also depend on having friends. We want them to know how to attract and keep friends. Jesus, as our example, loved his friends, forgave them, stood by them, taught them, and depended on them.

**Bible Habitat (5th & 6th)** All work on the Habitat will be completed today. Wear your paint clothes.

**Intro to the Gospels(7th & 8th)** The gospels are not biographies of the life of Jesus; rather they are witnesses to God's "good news" as seen in the life of Jesus through his teachings, passion, and resurrection.

### Youth Ministries

**Teen Bible Study:** This small group discussion time for teens and young adults is on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 10:30 am in the manse youth office. The next meeting is on Jan. 24. All are welcome.

**Impact:** Registered Impact participants are expected to volunteer for the Soup & Bread Supper on January 24. Please contact Sarah if you do not have an assignment yet. [sgarcia@kuc.org](mailto:sgarcia@kuc.org)

**JYG Bowling Nite:** January 27, 6:30 to 8 pm. All 7th & 8th Graders are invited to bowl with fellow Jr. Highers at Wilmette Bowling Center, 1903 Schiller Ave. Bring \$10 to bowl. No registration required. Note, there will be NO JYG meeting at the manse on January 27.

## Talent Show, Feb. 28

Save this date! Please contact Sarah Garcia if you would like to help with the preparations or if you have an act to perform, 847-853-2104.

## Lost and found

A man's dress coat was taken from the closet by mistake after the 9:00 am service on January 10. This coat was Navy Blue, full length cashmere/wool blend, single button and a size 46 R. Please contact Laurie Walker at 847-256-2917.

## Book Review

Start the New Year with a book review by Barbara Rinella. All are invited to enjoy Barbara's presentation of SHANGHAI GIRLS by Lisa See on Friday, January 29th from 11 am to 12:30. Invite your friends! Reservations can still be made by calling the church office. Admission is \$25 and all proceeds go to the Christian Outreach agencies we support.

## Book discussion group

We will again be offering a discussion group about the ideas presented in the book, *One Month to Live* by Kerry and Chris Shook. There is no need to have read the book beforehand. The group will meet at KUC on Sunday, January 31 from 11:45-12:45 and will run for six weeks. Class size is limited.

Please contact Beverly Kirk (frankbev@comcast.net) or Jennifer Burch (jenburch@comcast.net) for more information.

## Bible Study

Adult Bible study continues on Wednesdays at 9 am. We will be looking at eight core Biblical stories we all should know. These stories tell us about the powerful presence of God in the lives of God's people. While telling the stories we will have the opportunity to connect them to our own story and to deepen our understanding and practice of faith.

## Tables for Eight

Friday, February 5 will be a KUC night of adult fellowship, food and fun

*The Care Guild Leader for January is Hope Poor. To volunteer or to let us know where help is needed, please call the Care Guild number at (847) 853-3534.*

with dinners at members' houses. Sign up to host a dinner at your house or just come and enjoy an evening out. Contact Sallie Smith for more information, 847-251-0900 or email slsy2k@yahoo.com.

## Thank You to Our Charitable Foundations

We are grateful to those members who donate to the church through a charitable foundation. Some of these members were not listed in the December 20th bulletin.

## Stewardship

As of January 13, 2010, we have received pledges/gifts totaling \$1,795,252.48. While this represents approximately 94% of our \$1.9 million goal, this is still below the number needed to meet our church budget in fiscal 2009-2010. We strongly encourage families who have not pledged or made a gift this year to do so now. Please call the church office at 847-853-2199 to arrange your pledge/gift or go to [www.kuc.org](http://www.kuc.org) to make a pledge online.

We are grateful to all the KUC families and charitable foundations who have participated in the Stewardship campaign.

## Outreach

There are still opportunities to serve dinner at The Night Ministry on the following dates: April 12 and May 10. Adults or families are asked to provide soup and sack suppers for 150-200 individuals. Sign up with a group for a meaningful evening of service. For more information or to sign up, please contact Susan Bottum at [sbottum@kuc.org](mailto:sbottum@kuc.org) or Sarah Garcia at [sgarcia@kuc.org](mailto:sgarcia@kuc.org).

## Trips With The Bowens

The Bowens are contemplating leading a trip to the Holy Land from April 20 to April 30 and a trip to Germany for the Passion Play in Oberammergau either May 15 to July 4 or August 23 to September 6. If you are interested, contact Dr. Bowen at 847-733-2304 or email, [gwbowen@aol.com](mailto:gwbowen@aol.com). You may also contact Ellie Kilcran at the church, 847-251-4272 or email at [ekilcran@kuc.org](mailto:ekilcran@kuc.org).

# Service of Worship

SUNDAY, January 24, 2010

8:00 am Communion Service-Schmidt Chapel  
9:00 & 10:30 am Worship Services & Sunday School

## Scripture Readings

**First Lesson** Jeremiah 1: 4-10  
**Second Lesson** Psalm 71: 1-6

## Prayer of Affirmation

O Lord, our God, grant us grace to desire you with a whole heart, so that desiring you we may seek and find you; and so finding you, may love you; and loving you, may hate everything which separates us from you; for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Prayer of St. Anselm (1033-1109 A.D.)

## Sermon

“Is God Calling You?” Dr. Andrew D. Chaney

**Prelude** *If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee* ..... J.S. Bach  
..... Georg Böhm

**Anthem** *We Are Called* ..... David Haas  
Chancel Choir and Bill Jenkins, Guitar

**Offertory** *I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ* ..... J.S. Bach

**Hymns** “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!” ..... No. 138  
“I’ve Got Peace Like a River” ..... No. 368  
“God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand” ..... No. 262

**Postlude** *If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee* ..... J.S. Bach

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### USHER

8:00 am  
Phillis Dunbar

### GREETERS

Kris and  
Ken Fishman  
Susan and  
Mike McGill

### USHERS

9:00 am  
Carol Berry  
John A. Dienner III  
Margaret Ann  
Fowler  
Shawn Hunt  
Denise Hillinger  
Bob Underwood  
Bob Zabel

### USHERS

10:30 am  
Dick Hughey  
John Abendshien  
T. Tolbert Chisum  
Lee E. Curtiss  
Pat Haynes  
Greg Skirving  
John Tsarpalas  
Jack Wentz  
Reid Wettersten

### BUS ATTENDANT

Margaret Ann  
Fowler

### ALTAR GUILD

Bob Cannon  
Bob Emerson

### MINISTERS

Dr. Andrew D. Chaney  
Senior Minister

Sarah E. Garcia  
Associate Minister

Dr. Gilbert W. Bowen  
Minister Emeritus

Susan R. Bottum  
Director of Children’s Ministries

Jane B. Lionberger  
Associate Minister

Lisa R. Bond  
Director of Music

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# From the Pulpit: January 10, 2010

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Dr. Andrew D. Chaney “Your Spiritual Resolutions!”

A man said to his friend: “There’s nothing like getting up at six in the morning, going for a run around the park, and taking a brisk shower before breakfast. Then I like to sit down and read the Bible for about fifteen minutes, then spend another fifteen in prayer.” The friend answered, “How long have you been doing this, anyway?” He answered, “I start tomorrow.”

January is the month when people are starting resolutions. New Year’s resolutions give people an opportunity to feel as if life can be made better. Everyone has made a resolution at one point or another. “This year I am going to read more. This year I resolve to make amends. This year I resolve to eat right. This year I resolve to exercise.” It is difficult to keep resolutions. Most fall by the wayside within the first month. There is an internet site called resolution reminders that will email you monthly motivational reminders to keep your resolutions on track!

We wonder why we fail so quickly. It could be that the reason why our resolutions fail is because there is something else beyond what we are resolving to do- maybe something spiritual. If we fail to address the spiritual side of our lives, we may not be able to make progress in other parts of our lives. For example, if we are not at peace with God we may not be able to keep a resolution to be less angry. Or if we feel an emptiness in our lives we may not be able to stop overeating until we address that void. If we have a poor self image we may not feel motivated to exercise and feel healthy. Or we may turn to alcohol or stimulants to address disappointments in life instead of turning to God’s comfort and strength. There may be a deeper problem behind the behaviors we want to correct.

I once heard that the mind and body may get on the treadmill, but they won’t last long if the spirit is still on the couch. Yet knowing what we know about resolutions, if we get our spirits involved and create a list of spiritual resolutions, aren’t they just as likely to fail quickly, too? Keeping regular resolutions has proven difficult. Keeping spiritual resolutions seems impossible! How do we make spiritual resolutions that are long lasting and life changing?

Some exert a lot of effort looking for the right tool toward spirituality. Do we need to subscribe to a new internet spiritual resolutions reminder program? I heard that there is also an IPOD and MP3 Bible devotional. Maybe what we are looking for is found within ourselves.

Today’s Scripture lesson from Corinthians 12 provides hope in this matter. The Scripture is a portion of Paul’s letter to the church at Corinth. Reading Paul’s letters is a bit like listening to a one sided telephone conversation. Paul responded to questions and issues the Corinthians had. He begins this portion of the letter with, “Now concerning the spirituals...” The Corinthians had asked Paul about the people who were spiritual. They were former pagans who were very misguided as to what spirituality was. Spirituality had become adversarial- they were putting each other down by doing things such as cursing people in the name of Jesus.

A curse tablet found in the temple of Demeter in Corinth read, ‘Hermes of the underworld [grant] heavy curses’. *Jesus be cursed* can be translated ‘Jesus [is] a curse’ or ‘Jesus [grant] a curse’ for the two words are literally ‘anathema Jesus’ or ‘let him be anathema’ where the verb is in the present tense.

This was not genuine spirituality to be cursing one another. Paul stated that God gave spiritual gifts that may be manifest in different ways, but in the end the gifts do not compete with each other; they complement each other since all of the spiritual gifts come from God.

Spirituality is first connecting to God and then connecting to one another. The Corinthians were very spiritual but they were lacking in love. Love is the power behind the spiritual life. Love unites people in the spirit. That is why the next chapter, Corinthians 13, is the chapter about love.

Paul wrote that they are all valued in God’s eyes because God created them to be a spiritual family of faith. They do not have to do anything to prove that they are more spiritual than another. All are gifted in the spirit, and spirituality brings people together.

This is very good news. Instead of trying to manufacture the spirit in our lives, we can be assured that God has already given us the gift of the spirit. We do not have to go out and buy a new computer program to teach us how to be spiritual, or subscribe to a reminder program. It may help us if we begin a new devotional practice, but we can begin our spiritual lives with one on one contact with the presence of God.

Paul is saying that spirituality blooms from love, which logically makes sense if God is love and connecting with God's spirit is what makes us spiritual.

Maybe we do not have to make a list of spiritual resolutions. We only need to realize that God has already reached out to us and has initiated the spiritual life through love. Instead of trying to stop doing something, we need to gain control over our desires. Instead of trying to repress urges, we need to master ourselves and desire what is healthy and right. If we desire what is right, we do not need to fight ourselves all of the time.

A simple way to look at this might be if we were to take a blank sheet of paper and sign our names to the bottom and then hand it over to God, saying, "Here God, you take this and fill in what I need to do. You know my weaknesses, my rough edges that need to be smoothed out, my desires, my lack of discipline." Instead of starting from the outside by ourselves, we are asking God to change us from the inside out. That is where lasting change happens. That is where the spiritual resolution will endure!

Helen Roseveare discovered that. She was a medical missionary in Africa. She considered herself a very spiritual person and had a very big job- she was the only doctor in a large hospital. Her patience began to run out. She was too busy and constantly being interrupted. One of the African pastors noticed that she had become irritable. He didn't want her to burn out, so he invited her to a two day retreat at his house. Two full days of prayer would help her find peace. She lasted one day and told him that her prayers were bouncing off the ceiling. She was frustrated. With his bare toe, the pastor drew a long straight line on the dusty ground. "That is the problem, Helen: there is too much 'I' in your service. I have noticed that quite often, you take a coffee break and hold the hot coffee in your hands waiting for it to cool."

Then he drew another line across the first one. "Helen, from now on, as the coffee cools, ask God, 'Lord, cross out the "I" and make me more like you.'"

Soon after this simple spiritual practice, Helen Roseveare realized that the spiritual solution was within. Her whole life was energized again and her work became fulfilling again. She was too full of herself to realize God's peace in her life. This was the master principle of Jesus: freedom comes through service, and service comes by releasing our ego. In the midst of the busyness, she had lost sight of God's love in others, just like the Corinthians, in the midst of their misguided spirituality, had lost sight of true spirituality- God's love flowing through the lives of disciples to others.

I believe there is an opportunity in each of our lives for a spiritual awakening when we locate and unlock our spiritual awareness of God. In 17<sup>th</sup> century Paris, Brother Lawrence, a Carmelite monk, discovered a powerful inner spirituality that he did not realize he had. He felt connected to God through his daily chores in the monastery. Instead of going through the frustration of trying to find mountaintop experiences that would suddenly illuminate his being, or waiting on the proverbial Damascus road to be blinded and renewed by a vision of Christ, he discovered a spirituality in his day to day living. In 1692 his ideas were put together in a book posthumously, but here are a few very powerful points that might be called his spiritual resolutions:

*Renounce anything that doesn't lead to God*

*Trust in God.*

*Recall God's presence in your past that you may have forgotten.*

*Work at being aware of God, carrying on a silent, habitual, conversation from your soul.*

*Pray for a sense of the love of God.*

*Pray for an ability to endure suffering with courage.*

Let us hope for moments in our lives when we find ourselves becoming less materialistic, less self-absorbed. How ironic that an inner spirituality would lead to looking outside of ourselves!

So many people live only for themselves- their whole world centers around themselves. Jesus calls us to lives of giving not getting. Jesus tells us to serve rather than be served- that is how we serve God. Jesus calls us to

realize the irony of an outward focus creating and inward peace.

Making spiritual resolutions with this in mind is like changing your whole framework of thinking of resolutions in the first place. Instead of fitting a resolution into your life like a piece of pie in a pie chart with yourself in the center, let us move God to the center- let us put God at the center of the spokes of the wheel.

What would our lives look like if we gave God the blank sheet of paper? Every day we can start with a blank sheet and commit to God's strength. How would our lives change if we put God at the center of the wheel of our lives? We would have all of the answers and we would always be going the right way! We would connect God's love through our lives outward to the world.

Paul wrote that when we allow God to build up our spiritual lives, the whole body of Christ is built up. When we become aware of God's presence in our daily lives, our spirituality blossoms with love...when we decide to let God use our lives in service, the whole world profits, and we gain the whole world- things of the world that truly matter- love, hope, peace, relationships. That is what Jesus was talking about when he told the disciples about the kingdom of God:

“Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:33) May your new year begin right- with spiritual resolve to connect with God as never before!

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