



News of The Kenilworth Union Church

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

www.kuc.org

January 31, 2010

Tables For Eight

Friday, February 5 will be a KUC night of adult fellowship, food and fun with dinners at members' houses.

Sign up if you would like to come and enjoy an evening out. Contact Sallie Smith for more information, 847-251-0900 or email slsy2k@yahoo.com

mil estone

We extend the sympathy of the congregation to the family of Elizabeth Anne (Betty) Heitmann upon her death on January 13. A memorial service is being planned for this spring. The white rose on the altar January 17 celebrated her life.

Altar Flowers

The altar flowers are given in loving memory of Lisa Louise Mowry.

A Joyful Noise

It may still be Cold outside, but AJN wants you to THINK SUMMER! Applications are being accepted for our Summer Program for Two and Three Year olds. Taught by our very own AJN teachers, camp meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 to 11 am from June 22 to July 29. Invite a friend! You do not need to be a member of KUC to join the fun. To learn more, please contact Kris Whisner at 847-853-1738 or kristenwhisner@comcast.net.

Children's Ministries

Jesus Teaches Prayer (Lambs-4th)
Lord, teach us to pray. (Luke 11:1) Jesus was in the habit of going off by himself to pray. His disciples wanted to know how to pray as well. Jesus teaches us that God already knows what our hearts desire. Although it may not be in our time frame, a life of prayer does bring answers.

Bible Habitat (5th & 6th) The Bible Habitat rehearsal is today.

Jesus' Baptism and Temptation(7th & 8th) Jesus' public ministry was preceded by his baptism and a period of temptation.

Haiti Outreach

The Children's Chapel offering collected over the next month will be donated to help the victims in Haiti. We are challenging the children with a chapel offering goal of \$500. Please be sure to talk to your children about this situation and how we can help through church donations.

Youth Ministries

Soup-er Bowl Sunday Chili Sale is now ready for ordering, and pick up is on Super Bowl Sunday, February 7. The cost of \$10 per quart benefits the KUC Quest program for youth. Order forms are available at church or you may download the form at www.kuc.org.

talent Show

KUC Talent Show is on Sunday, February 28. If you would like to help with the preparations or if you have an act to perform, call Rev. Sarah Garcia at 847-853-2104 or sgarcia@kuc.org.

New Member Classes

We invite all persons and families interested in joining Kenilworth Union Church to our Winter New Member Classes. The first class begins on February 21 at 9:00 am in the Centennial Room followed by a second class on February 28. New Members will be received by the congregaion on Sunday, March 7, 2010. Please fill out the "Welcome" card in the pew or call Kathy McCabe, 847-853-2636.

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.

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.

Soul Sisters

Enjoy fellowship with other women, interesting discussions and an opportunity to deepen your faith and friendships. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 9:30 in the Culbertson room. Please call Rev. Jane Lionberger, 847-853-2009 if you have any questions. Babysitting is available. Call or email Katie Nahrwold to make babysitting reservation: 847-251-1024; KNahrwold@comcast.net

Stewardship

As of January 20, 2010, we have received pledges and gifts amounting to \$1,804,852.48. This represents approximately 95% of our \$1.9 million goal. 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 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 or Sarah Garcia at 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 e-mail, gwbowen@aol.com. You may also contact Ellie Kilcran at the church, 847-251-4272 or email at ekilcran@kuc.org.

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.

Service of Worship

SUNDAY, January 31, 2010

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

Scripture Readings

First Lesson I Corinthians 13
Second Lesson Psalm 43: 5-8

Prayer of Affirmation

God of mystery and wonder, open our eyes that we may see the hints and signs of your presence in unexpected places and circumstances. Help us to look closely that we might glimpse you in all things: in the high and in the low, in simplicity and in splendor, in happiness and in sorrow, in quiet reflection and in joyful singing. This we pray in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Sermon

“God’s Love Is and Is Not“ Dr. Andrew D. Chaney

Prelude *Wondrous Love*..... Dale Wood
Reflections on Beach Spring..... from The Sacred Harp,
Junior Bell Choir Arr. Larsen

Anthem *Allegro Moderato in C Major*..... F.J. Haydn,
Arr. Rogers

Offertory *Thee Will I Love* Craig Courtney
Chancel Choir

Hymns “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” No. 376
“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me” No. 369
“Breathe on Me, Breath of God” No. 316

Postlude *Hyfrydol* Ralph Vaughan Williams

USHER
8:00 am
Phillis Dunbar

GREETERS
Susan and
Nick Noyes
Kris and
Ken Fishman

USHERS
9:00 am
William F. Walsh
Rob Faurot
G. Reed Eberle, Jr.
John R. Scott
Gretchen Sipiora
Ron Sipiora
Craig Zummer

USHERS
10:30 am
Eric Sutherland
Andrew D. Kerr
Judith McBrien
Vince McBrien
Mary McCarthy
Mike McGill
Phyllis Larson
Myers
Jeff Schneiders

BUS ATTENDANT
Barbara and Burt
Hales

ALTAR GUILD
Bob Cannon
Bob Emerson

MINISTERS

Jane B. Lionberger
Associate Minister

Dr. Andrew D. Chaney
Senior Minister

Sarah E. Garcia
Associate Minister

Lisa R. Bond
Director of Music

Dr. Gilbert W. Bowen
Minister Emeritus

Susan R. Bottum
Director of Children’s Ministries

From the Pul pit: January 17, 2010

Rev. Jane B. Lionberger

“Risk”

Genesis 1: 28-31
John 1: 1-5

In the beginning, writes the author of Genesis, when God created the heavens and the earth God saw that everything that God had made was good, the sea and the sky, the sun and the moon, the vegetation and the animals. Then into this mix God placed humankind, male and female, created in God's own image, to multiply and fill the earth and responsibly manage the rest of creation. So began God's great gamble. In creation God took the huge risk that humans could live together and care for one another and in so doing provide for the rest of creation an ethos of stability and security in which all might flourish.

However we know what happened. Refusing to live within the boundaries God had created for them, Adam and Eve broke faith with God and each other and started down a path of fear, competition, envy, and alienation that would lead to murder in their own family within the next generation.

This story metaphorically sets the stage for an understanding of why we all have such a hard time getting along. From the very beginning of time humans have looked at their neighbor, or even brother or sister, and not seen in that person a reflection of God and of ourselves but of “the other,” someone threatening with a different way of being, a different skin color, a different way of worshiping and a different way of understanding God. German philosopher Hegel wrote about the idea of “the other” when he said, “Each consciousness pursues the death of the other.” In other words, in seeing a separateness between you and another, a feeling of alienation is created. The Biblical creation story, however,

continues to put before us the challenge of responding to the risk God took and working to break through that sense of alienation to live in harmony with one another and the earth.

I'd like to tell you my own story of meeting and opening myself to “the other” as an example of how God, even today, continues to risk the peace and harmony of creation by making it our responsibility to imagine and live into a different way of being; to make it our responsibility to grow out beyond the barriers that we humans have created for ourselves.

I grew up as a good, compliant middle class white girl here in Evanston in an all white neighborhood. My family was very involved in our Presbyterian church. It was the center of our social and religious life. Roman Catholics were “the other” in my childhood experience. “What religion are you?” Catholics and Protestants would ask one another, not comprehending that both were Christians. Then in junior high I began to go to school with African Americans. Sheila sat behind me in my 8th grade homeroom, and one time she took a risk and asked me if my mother would allow me to play at her house. My mother said yes but Sheila never invited me, nor did I invite her to my house. We were classmates but we were also strangers. Then in high school I became good friends with two Jewish girls. But they didn't come from religious families, and my understanding of the world that came from my very narrow experience of life remained unchallenged.

In college I became involved with, and eventually worked for,

an evangelical Christian organization where I struggled with their belief that Jesus was the only way. I quickly found out I was not an evangelist and left the organization but not before I had the chance to spend an amazing weekend with a black family in the Watts neighborhood in Los Angeles just two years after the riots there. I slept on their living room floor, ate at their kitchen table and worshiped at their church. That family and I took a risk that we could live together, if only for two days, with interest, respect, enthusiasm and joy. It was a transforming experience for me of "the other."

The practice of my Christian faith continued to challenge me and lead me down new pathways where I encountered all sorts of different and wonderful people....working with battered women, offering pastoral care to those in need at my church and supporting women going through divorce. Eventually, going to seminary led me to face the fears I had of releasing myself from long held prejudices and beliefs. I clearly remember the day a lesbian classmate of mine preached in chapel and told the story of her struggle to accept her sexual identity and, at the same time, accept her sense that God had called her into ordained ministry. First she had rejected her sexuality, then the church, and finally she had come to understand, through Psalm 139, that God knew her intimately and loved her. "I praise you," wrote the Psalmist, "for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well." Another wall with which I had divided people into them, and us, acceptable and unacceptable, fell at my feet.

Still in the back of my mind was the question, "Does God accept everyone? Does God hear the prayers of the Christian, the Jew, the Muslim, the Hindu or does God

only pay attention to prayer in Jesus' name?" With fear and trepidation I tried to tackle this problem head on. I read and prayed and thought and reasoned but it was through countless stories, over time, of the dreams and hopes, fears and joys of others that I felt my heart open to the message of God's overwhelming love for everyone.

Eknath Easwaran, founder of the blue Mountain Center of Meditation in California, tells the story of how he came to the United States on the Fulbright exchange program, and all the talk among his fellow students was about how different everything was going to be; "you'd have thought I was going to Mars," he writes. Some of the orientation programs he went to seemed to be intended to disorient him instead, because the emphasis was never on what Indians and Americans had in common but always on how they differed. To Easwaran this was absurd, because all those little differences were only on the surface, they were no more significant than differences in food or dress. "The mystic doesn't deny these differences;" writes Easwaran, "All he or she says is, 'So what?'" Standing in Times Square the night he sailed into New York harbor, as his Indian colleagues stood around looking up at the tall buildings and neon lights Easwaran took great delight instead in looking around at the people; seeing how different they all looked, knowing how alike they all were on the inside. "The more you take the time to stop and look beneath the surface level of life," he thought, "the more you will be able to see the unity of life." Paul put it this way in the letter to the Galatians in the Christian Bible, "Because all of you are one in God, a person is no longer a Jew or a Greek, a slave or a free person, a male or a female."

The message of all our scriptures, I believe, is that the concept of "the other" is a human construction we use to shut God and others out of our experiences. But this construct goes against God's desire that we welcome, care for and love the other as we love ourselves. May we all show God that the risk that God took at the beginning of creation was worth it as we live together and care for one another with a respect that goes beyond tolerance to embrace.

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