



CHURCH OF THE
HOLY COMFORTER



THE DOVE

May 2010

What is the Comforter? Rector's Message

The 1902 minutes of the Vestry record the selection of the name of our parish—Church of the Holy Comforter. The Clerk indicates "after discussion the name was chosen." Unfortunately, we do not know what that discussion was. Nonetheless, we've been Holy Comforter for over one hundred years.

"Comforter" is the translation of the Greek word Paraclete, taken from John's Gospel. Jesus promises to send to the church God's gift of another Paraclete. [If you type the word "paraclete," spell check suggests that you may mean "parakeet." Now that is interesting. The Holy Spirit has traditionally been depicted as a dove. Parakeet isn't too far off.] The Paraclete has been translated as "Comforter" (KJV), "Counselor" (RSV & NIV), and "Advocate" (JB & NEB). Paraclete literally means, "called to the side of" and came from the legal lexicon. Paraclete was one who advocated for the defendant. In John's Gospel the Paraclete continues Jesus' ministry, advocates for us, encourages us, challenges us to live into the new commandment - to love one another as I have loved you.

Sometimes I hear folks speak about the Holy Comforter as if it were a fluffy blanket or quilt, soft and cuddly. Some

even refer to our parish as the Holy Blanket, the Quilt, as if everything about our life was cozy and nice. Those who live here know we face the same challenges as others.

In early English the term "comforter" carried the Latin meaning - confortare "to strengthen much." The "comforter" is one who "strengthens much." We are named after the "Comforter," the one who strengthens us.

There is an English military painting with caption that tells the General is "comforting" his troops. The picture depicts the General with a whip in his hands thrashing the troops, getting them motivated to act, "comforting" them, strengthening them. Comforter meant one who prods us along to get moving.

Whatever the reason the Vestry selected the name Holy Comforter; they selected the Paraclete, the one meant to stand beside us and encourage us and prod us along. During these months ahead, we fervently pray that the Holy Comforter strengthens us much. May we live into the vision of the people we say we are. Come Holy Comforter and "comfort" us.

Succession Process Update

The Succession Committee continues to hold Listening Sessions - open discussions of the qualities we look for in a new rector and an opportunity to ask questions about the process. The remaining dates/times are Tuesday, May 11, at 7:00 pm, and Sunday, May 16, following the 11:15 am service. The sessions are held in the parish library. If you are unable to attend a session, please submit your comments to successioncommittee@holyccomforter.org. The Succession Committee will also present at this year's final Adult Forum on Sunday, May 16. Regular updates by the Succession Committee can be found on our website or on the parish bulletin board.

The Day of Pentecost

On Sunday, May 23, the church celebrates the Feast of Pentecost. It is a great celebration because it is our Feast of Title and considered the birthday of the Church. It is a time when we welcome new Christians into our faith community through the Sacrament of Baptism.

Those who will be baptized during the 9:00 am Eucharist on Pentecost Sunday include Matthew James Daker, Grace Helena Groncki, Ashby William Semple, Trevor Skiles, William Ellwood Wyner and his father, Christopher Bryan Wyner.

On this day of celebration, it seems most appropriate to also welcome our newest members into our parish family. During the Eucharist, we will acknowledge for the 23 families who have joined the parish over the last year. They include Dorothy Adams, Ginny Grinstead, Pamela McNish, Barbara Rockwell, Lynn Siefert, Holly Shaw, the Brown, Campitelli, Biery-Cornjeo, Drane-Decker, Godbout, Groncki, Harley, Hyman, McKenna, Jon Newsome, Nieman, Ross-Green, Semple, Skiles, Smith, Stutzman and York families.

As a remembrance of this day, a gift from the parish is given to our newly baptized and our new families. The new members will receive The Episcopal Handbook, (Morehouse Publishing) which is "a generous invitation to learn more about our particular expression of the Christ faith" written in a light-hearted manner. In the chapter "Why the Episcopal Church welcomes everyone," it is says, "The Gospel of reconciliation makes Episcopalians a hopeful people who love to laugh, celebrate, and welcome everyone to the party, which means you're invited, too." (p148)

The Day of Pentecost will truly be a parish celebration. Please pray for those who will be baptized, for their parents and sponsors, for our new members, and for the entire parish family as we celebrate our Episcopal life together. Welcome!

The Shawl Ministry

Do you knit? Would you like to learn? If so, the Shawl Ministry would love to hear from you. Knitters gather in the parish library from 1-2:30pm on Mondays to knit shawls for anyone needing a little TLC. Since 2005, the Shawl Ministry has knitted 241 shawls and blankets for those in need. Attached to each shawl is a CHC label and a small wooden cross, a prayer card, care instructions, and information about the Shawl Ministry. Before each shawl is delivered, it is blessed by one of the clergy.

In addition to knitting shawls for our own parishioners, shawls are also provided to several outreach ministries. To date 96 shawls, blankets and scarves were given to Misericordia, 16 to the Cathedral Shelter, and, most recently, seven shawls, included with those from other Shawl Ministries in the area, were sent to the widows of the men killed in the West Virginia mining accident.

On April 22, Fr. Myers took a group of knitters to Misericordia where they presented six shawls and two baby blankets to Father Jack, Misericordia's Chaplain, and Sister Rosemary, Head Angel, who thanked them for their much appreciated efforts. Father Jack said that he had taken some blankets to hospitalized residents, sadly a frequent occurrence, and said it was often their only comfort. As many as 50 of the 600 plus residents have no family at all and are wards of the state. He told of one boy with no family, holding his shawl very tightly around himself; it was his only comfort.

As part of the parish's Easter Outreach project, 16 shawls were sent to Cathedral Shelter. Many of the temporary residents at Cathedral Shelter deal with addiction problems. Our shawls were put aside to be used as a reward for women who achieved a particular goal on their way to recovery.

Completed shawls and blankets are placed in the glass display case in the Great Hall. If you have a friend or loved one who could use a bit of comforting, simply contact the parish office and the Shawl Ministry will provide support and delivery of a specially selected shawl.

By Rosie McDonel Augspurger

I'm So Glad We Had This Time Together by Mary Johnson

One of my all time favorite shows from the past is the Carol Burnett Show. You could always count on it to provide an enjoyable evening's entertainment. The standard close at the end of the show was the song *I'm so glad we had this time together*. As I write this article for the May Newsletter, it sums up how I feel about this school year.

I AM glad we had this time together. The energy and enthusiasm on Sunday mornings is such a joy. The second line of the Carol Burnett song is: *just to have a laugh or sing a song*. And we've done that too. There have been serious moments in our lessons on Sunday but we've had our share of laughs too. We've had terrific teachers, clergy who have shared the Eucharist with us in a very meaningful way, inspiring Children's Chaplains, and music to raise the roof. We've lined the ceilings with nets, covered walls with lessons and played some games. We've learned a little more about each other and our faith community. On Mother's Day, the parish will recognize the teachers, chaplains, musicians and staff who have contributed so generously of their time and talents this year. Please note their names listed at the end of this article and when you see them here at Holy Comforter or out

Recognition Sunday

Sunday, May 9, is Recognition Sunday and Mother's Day. Be sure to join us as we celebrate the women of the parish during our liturgies and acknowledge and thank our Church School teachers and Choir members at the Adult Forum. The last day for Church School is Sunday, May 16.

With sincere gratitude to these individuals who have been a part of our Sunday School Program: Robin Hungler, Laura Koh, Kristin McClamroch, Megan Mrozinski, Lydia Marti, Karen and Gregg Anderson, Caroline Burns, Margo and Vince Browne, Melinda

and about in the community, please extend your gratitude to them.

"Seems we just get started and before you know it, comes the time we have to say so long"so the song goes. That's the way I feel about May. How many teachers and parents say at this point of the year "how did we get here so quickly?" There are three classroom Sundays remaining, then Pentecost and Baptism and before you know it, it's Memorial Day weekend. So I am indeed glad we had this time together. But you don't have to say so long.....! We're still here: every Sunday, rain or shine, indoors or out!

All Things Bright & Beautiful

At the close of this school year, ATB and B celebrates 15 years of excellence in Early Childhood Education. This vital ministry of Holy Comforter has introduced so many families to this parish, many of whom have become parishioners. An Open House will be held from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. on May 23rd. All are welcome to attend. Following the Open House, we will march in the Memorial Day Parade!

and Bill Hurley, Courtney VandeVelde, Tamara Tangney, Alec Dike and Siobhan Flynn, Kathryn and John Mangel, Allegra Biery, Laura Linen, Mark and Reed Richardson, Amy and Scott Wilkin, Janet Beatty, Charlie Wise, Marcia Cleveland and Mark Green, Stacey Caywood, Jane Fraleigh, Colette Kenyon, Heidi Ziomek, Stephen Citari, Cricket Lind, John and Julia Hinshaw, Bill Haljun, Melissa Perrin, Oscar and Melissa David, Ann Barrett, Steve Crawford, Jon Bunge, Tom D'Arcy, Cyndi Chase, Mark Franson, Mark Piekos, Youna Cho

*Church of the Holy Comforter
222 Kenilworth Avenue
Kenilworth IL 60043*

To read more about our parish or to register for a parish event, go to www.holycomforter.org.

Mother's Day Diaper Drive Sunday, May 9

Due to the incredible need and high cost of disposable diapers, Connections for the Homeless has asked our parish to participate in their one-day Diaper Drive on Sunday, May 9. Disposable diapers for newborn through toddler sizes will be collected in the parlor throughout the morning. This is a wonderful gift for moms unable to provide such a basic necessity for their children. Thank you for your support.



Save the Date: Parish Picnic Sunday, June 6

Our Annual Parish Picnic will be held on the parish grounds on Sunday, June 6, beginning with the Holy Eucharist at 10:00 am, followed by a picnic lunch and special entertainment for children. Please RSVP to the parish office or online at www.holycomforter.org. Volunteers are also needed to help with cooking and clean up.

Gone Country by Patti Pateros, *Community Building*

Many of you will cringe at this statement: ***I am a country music fan.***

Not the Conway Twitty/Johnny Cash kind of music, but the "country pop" (as Pandora Internet radio calls it). I don't own cowboy boots or a silver-studded belt, I've never had a desire to visit Nashville, and I can't sing worth a lick. I do like today's country singers, though - with their "pair of jeans that fit just right," t-shirts that are a little too tight, and cowboy hats that dip low enough to create a bit of mystery. But this isn't about who they are but what they do.

They sing with passion, commitment, honesty and pure pleasure. And they tell great stories. They're about real life - love lost, love found, birth, death, mom, America, and apple pie. The girl sitting on the front porch with a cold lemonade waiting for her man to pull up in his brand new pick-up truck. (Okay, maybe it's not my life, but it sure sounds like Lori Lakin Patti's.) They apologize for mistakes they've made, and they plead for forgiveness. Some songs are fun, like the Alan Jackson/Jimmy Buffett duet "It's Five O'clock Somewhere" (you can probably guess at its lyrics!). Other are down-right funny, like Brad Paisley's "I'm Gonna Miss Her," about a woman who gives her man an ultimatum: give up fishing or give up me. Tongue in cheek, he sadly sings, "I'm gonna miss her . . . when I get home tonight . . . Oh, lookie here, I've got a bite!"

There are songs that offer advice, encouragement and country wisdom. Rodney Atkins suggests, "If you're going through hell, just keep on going." Eric Church warns, "She's heaven on the eyes, but boy she's hell on the heart." And my favorite from Billy Currington, "God is great, beer is good, and people are crazy." I could go on and on 'cuz (as they say in the business) there are some great country songs on the radio today.

What is amazing is how often religion is mentioned in these songs - sometimes just in passing, other times it's the moral of the story. God is thanked for the day

a new love walked into his life, then blamed when she walks out on him. His work is seen as a miracle when the newborn wraps her hand around daddy's finger, and as punishment when the twister levels the town. Many are prayers put to music - with a country twang. Chris Young: "God, I'm asking you to come change me into the man I wanna be." Kenny Chesney (who bears a remarkable resemblance to our Junior Warden): "I changed when I found the Lord; Glory, Hallelujah, Good God Almighty, I never wanted nothing more!" Keith Urban: "Oh Lord I'd be lost, but for the grace of God." Carrie Underwood, in her story of a girl whose life and car are spinning out of control: "Jesus take the wheel, take it from my hands, 'cuz I can't do this on my own." Phil Vassar: "Life takes its toll on the heart and soul, but I'm doing the best I can. Lord hear the prayer of a common man." Brooks and Dunn: "I know in the big picture I'm just a speck of sand and God's got better things to do than look out for one man."

Maybe we haven't used those exact words (after all, songwriters are making millions writing those words), but we've certainly had the same sentiment during happy times, sad times and in times of need. Every morning and every evening I get 30 minutes of religion on my drive to and from work - a simple reminder that there's somebody bigger out there watching over us, and He just might be wearing a cowboy hat. There's a little bit of spirituality in every country song, and I've got to tell you, country music has made me a believer.

I recently heard the latest Alan Jackson song, and Derek really should think about using it during the outdoor summer liturgies. I can just hear the congregation belting out the lyrics for all of Kenilworth to hear, "If Jesus walked the world today, He'd probably be a hillbilly. . ."

God **IS** great, beer is good, and maybe I'm a little crazy. Amen and hallelujah!

Mother's Day Hymns by Derek Nickels

We will celebrate Mother's Day on Sunday, May 9th. While not an official Holy Day on the Church's calendar, mothers and women have played an important role in all our lives and the Church. On May 9th we will sing three hymns written by women who have written hymns that have become favorites of many.

Hymn 405 "All things bright and beautiful" was written by Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895) was married to the Anglican bishop of Ireland and wrote nearly 400 hymns during her lifetime. *All Things Bright and Beautiful* appeared in *Hymns for Little Children* in 1848. Martin Shaw (1875-1958), the former Director of Music for the Anglican Diocese of Chelmsford and founding member of the Henry Purcell Operatic Society, adapted a 17th century melody that is now known as *Royal Oak*.

Hymn 335 "I am the bread of life" is a rendering on John's Gospel (6:35, 44, 51, 53) by Sr. Suzanne Toolan (b. 1927), a prominent American spokesperson for the music and prayer of the Taizé ecumenical

community from France and leader of many Taizé-style retreats. Written for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco in 1966, this hymn has been translated into many European and Asian languages and has become a favorite for celebrations of the Eucharist and funerals.

Hymn 539 "O Zion, haste, thy mission high fulfilling" was written by the London-born Mary Ann Faulkner Thomson (1834-1923), wife of the librarian of the Free Library in Philadelphia, John Thomson. She wrote many poems and hymns that appeared in the *Churchmen* and the *Living Church*. She bore twelve children, five of whom died in infancy. She wrote the text to "O Zion, haste" in 1868 while sitting up one night with one of her children who was suffering with typhoid fever. Her text was matched with the tune *Tidings*, composed by James Walch (1837-1901), organist for several churches in Bolton, England, and later conductor of the Bolton Philharmonic Society. This hymn is a favorite of the Rt. Rev. James W. Montgomery, retired Bishop of Chicago.

In the Vineyard

We express our sympathy to . . .

Genny Wert on the death of her mother, Josephine Kwiatkowski, on April 17.

Dorothy Hussey on the sudden death of her husband, Dr. Frank Hussey, on April 26.

We joyfully announce the birth of . . .

Caroline Chohecy Blandford to Katie and Justine Blandford. Caroline is Sue Toth's first grandchild.