



CHURCH OF THE
HOLY COMFORTER



THE DOVE

May 2011

The Great Fifty Days by The Rev. Dr. Jason Parkin, Rector

One of my professors in seminary was born into a family with a Jewish father and a Southern Baptist mother. During his childhood and adolescent years, he followed his father's religious traditions, but became a Christian during graduate school. This gentleman ultimately went to seminary in order to study for the priesthood, was ordained, earned a doctorate, and eventually became a renowned scholar in his field. During grad school, however, he experienced a period of severe stress and anxiety, an episode profound enough to prompt him to see his doctor, an old family friend. Knowing that the young man before him had embraced the Christian faith, this kindly doctor, after reviewing various tests and finding nothing physically wrong with his patient, said to him, "You know, my friend, looking at you, no one would ever know that Christ had risen from the dead."

One of the great delights of the Resurrection - as if the mystery and majesty of Jesus being raised to new life beyond the grave were not enough - is that we are given an entire season to revel and luxuriate in it. Much as there are 12 days in which specifically to celebrate the Incarnation following Christmas, so

the Easter season provides us with an extended time in which to rejoice in the incomprehensibly good news that we, in Christ Jesus, have been given a gift beyond compare and beyond hope: a chance to begin anew; reunion with the God who loved us into being; new life in and with God. Easter is not merely a day. It is a celebration lasting a full 50 days - a week of weeks plus the day of Pentecost - in which our worship is devoted wholly to rejoicing in the victory won for us on the cross and in the tomb. And not just our worship, but our very lives should, during this blessed time, be devoted to pondering, and living into, the new life bestowed upon us.

May the wonder well up within us, and wash over us, this Easter season. Make every day an extension of the Resurrection. Change your patterns, your rhythms, your routines. Allow time and space to rejoice, to celebrate, to be immersed in God's gracious goodness. Pray. Offer the gift of yourself to others in a new way. As said St. Francis famously (or, at least, reputedly) said, "Preach the good news: if necessary, use words." And always - always! - rejoice in this: Jesus Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Our 2011 Easter People

Easter People exemplify what it means to be living signs of the hope which Christ's Resurrections brings to the world. We are all called to be an Easter People and to radiate the beauty of this new life of Christ in our everyday lives. Each year we invite two parishioners to come before us to tell how God's love and mercy have unraveled themselves in their lives.

D.A. Molloy will share his journey of faith on Sunday, May 1. SSG Denis 'D.A.' Molloy was raised Roman Catholic in the Sauganash neighborhood of Chicago. Denis has been attending Holy Comforter since the summer of 2007 when he met his perfect match.com sweetheart, Suzanne Sundt Molloy. (The

Sundt family has been members since the mid 70s.) Suzanne and Denis were married in August of 2008 at Holy Comforter and have two boys, William (2) and Tyler (5 weeks). Denis is currently employed as Central Nervous System Sales Specialist with the biotech company Cephalon Corporation. Suzanne has been a gifted 6/7th grade English teacher at Caruso Middle School in Deerfield.

On twelve weekends a year, Denis serves as a training NCO with the Army Reserves at Fort Sheridan IL. He has served as an infantryman, armored scout, Stinger weapon specialist, human resources security analyst, marksmanship instructor,

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A Celtic Spirituality for Today: The Spirit, the Earth, and the Human Mind

This is a time to pray for peace. And it is especially a time to pray for peace within the household of Abraham and Sarah and Hagar. As Jews, Christians and Muslims we are painfully divided, even though we share a spiritual descent. And our divisions are at the centre of much of the world's most serious places of conflict and war today. Chanting for Peace: Praying with the Earth is an attempt to utter the longings for peace that are closer to the heart of the household, and closer to the heart of all earth's spiritual traditions, than our divisions.

-taken from the liner notes of *Chanting for Peace: Praying with the Earth*, companion CD to John Philip Newell's new book, *Praying with the Earth: A Prayerbook for Peace*

The Rev. John Philip Newell, poet, musician, scholar and teacher, is internationally acclaimed for his work in the field of Celtic spirituality, including his best known titles, *Listening for the Heartbeat of God* and *Christ of the Celts*. He is a Church of Scotland minister with a passion for peace in the world and for harmony between our great spiritual traditions.

Celtic spirituality has long held reverence for creation and the Celtic style of prayer is known for engaging imagination through visual and spatial imagery, as well as emphasizing

the life of God within creation. These prayers address more than the transcendent and ultimate questions that most religions define, but also the mysteries and challenges of everyday life.

We will begin our engagement with Newell's latest work on Friday evening with a discussion and use of chant as we strive to find a space for healing and peace within our world today. On Saturday morning, we will continue to seek and reflect upon answers to: How are we to view the brokenness of our lives? How can we be a part of creating wholeness in our world? A selection of John Philip Newell's books and CD's will be available both days, with an opportunity on Friday night for having the author sign them.

Friday, May 13

7:00 - 9:00 pm at Kenilworth Union Church

Saturday, May 14

9:00 am - Noon at Holy Comforter

Registration is required; you may sign up for one or both sessions. Contact Susan Quigley at 847/328-9300x45 to register.

Upcoming Events—Continued from back page

Annual Parish Picnic, June 5

Our annual parish picnic will be held on the church grounds beginning with an outdoor Eucharist at 10:00am with the theme, "God Bless America." The Bill Porter Band will play patriotic songs during the liturgy as we recognize those parishioners and family members who are serving, or have served, as members of the Armed Services, First Responders, or Reservists. Special seating will be available for anyone in this group who is in attendance, and names and pictures will be posted of those who are not able to attend or are deceased. Please submit names to Mary Johnson of those you wish recognized, including the capacity in which they served.

Traditional picnic fare is provided with the men of the parish doing the grilling. Events for children include face painting, a balloon artist, and the moon walk. And back by popular demand—competitive Bingo for everyone!

ATB&B Summer Camps

All Things Bright and Beautiful will offer a six week Summer Camp Program in addition to the two week Vacation Bible Camp held in August. Dates for the Summer Camp are June 21-July 28. Camp days are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:15 to 11:30 and will take place in the ATB&B classrooms with the goal of being outside as much as possible.

Vacation Bible Camp will be the first two weeks of August on Mondays through Thursdays from 9:15 to 11:30. [August 1-4 and 8-11] Please contact Mary Johnson with any questions. or for registration information.

The Spiritual Life: An Experience in Prayer

A new offering this summer by Father Chris Hardman

When I was a young family man financial constraints forced me to learn how to do simple repairs around the house. I learned most of what I know from my older brother and from a man who worked for us at our lumber company. Both my mentors showed me how to repair all kinds of things. But, most of all, they taught me the importance of having the "right tool." Having the right tool is often the difference between getting the job done and having to call someone to do the job - now much worse!

As I have grown older I have begun to realize how important having the right tool is, not only for repairing the house, but also for repairing the soul. Most of us, for instance, have grown up with only one "prayer tool" in our belts, the prayer of petition. Prayers of petition are very helpful when we are praying for a sick friend, but not so helpful when we are trying to make an important decision. In fact, that type of prayer may be a hindrance when we are trying to "let go" of some destructive behavior and trying to "let God" lead us into fullness of life.

This summer I would like to introduce some new "prayer tools." They are not new in the sense of just being invented. In fact, some of them have been around for centuries. But, they are new to most people today, and so they may be new to you too.

The "prayer tools" I would like to introduce will include: noticing God in nature, discovering God's call through nature, centering prayer, walking the labyrinth, praying with scripture, body prayers, the Anglican rosary, icons, chanting, and . . . a whole lot more. In addition, we will explore several books on prayer as well as two new movements, Quiet Gardens and Contemplative Fire.

This series begins on June 1 and will continue each Wednesday at 10:00am throughout the summer. Since some of these prayers will be experienced outside, please wear comfortable clothes and shoes. Bring, also, your sense of exploration and fun. Drawing closer to God is sometimes awe inspiring and frightening, but it is never dull.

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combat medicine instructor, and facilities manager. Denis first served back in the 90s and rejoined after 9/11 to train soldiers going overseas.

Denis was in an 88th Training Battalion and never envisioned being activated to serve overseas again. In his first year of marriage, Denis was activated to deploy to Iraq at the age of 38 with his first child on the way. God had a different plan for Denis. SSG Molloy will present a slide show on his experiences with God during his deployment to Kuwait/Iraq from March 2009-March 2010. His stories will have a positive spin on the war, God, the Arab world, Iraq, fatherhood, and service to others. His deployment was a blessing in disguise and grounding for being a good family man, father, and husband.

Carrie Cazolas, our May 15 Easter People, was raised Catholic and has been a member of Holy Comforter since 2008. She lives in Glenview with her partner of fourteen years, Sarah Crawford (daughter of long-time parishioners Steve and Cissy Crawford) and their two children, Connor (6) and Mattelyn (4). Carrie has two sisters, six nieces

(including triplets), and a deceased sister who was born with significant developmental disabilities and lived at Misericordia.

Carrie graduated from Miami University in Ohio as an accounting major and has spent her career in business, primarily working for large financial firms. She has been working at the Allstate Corporation for the past fifteen years in a variety of primarily investment roles, and currently oversees the management of approximately \$10 billion of private placement bonds and hedge fund assets. Carrie was responsible for leading the team responsible for managing Allstate's securitized residential mortgage assets through the recent financial crisis. Carrie and her family are active members of the Church; Sarah is a member of the vestry for outreach programs and Carrie is a member of the investment advisory committee.

The Easter People presentations take place during our Adult Forums on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am in the Great Hall. All are invited to hear these traditionally moving, inspiring, and very personal stories.

Music Notes by Derek Nickels, Director of Music

Choral singing has been one of the most visible forms of building a community through music. Whether singing in a church choir, school choir, or community chorus, the social interaction and community spirit that is developed by singing together is rarely surpassed. Many of us start off singing together for the first time in kindergarten and continue singing throughout our young academic lives, grade school through college. When we are lucky enough to experience choral music in our religious lives, we discover how powerful music can be, transcending many boundaries and uniting sacred text with music. How many times does a familiar text take on a new depth of meaning when expressed through music? If you asked a choir member what is most meaningful to them about singing in the choir, you would naturally find a variety of answers. Several answers would include the love of music and the love of singing. But, two of the more striking aspects of singing in the choir remain the sense of involvement in our

liturgies and the sense of community developed by singing together.

I have learned many things since I started my career as a church musician...a few, well, several years ago. The choir has the unique responsibility of providing the congregation with something special that enhances the congregation's worship experience. Learning something new about a text, learning something new to sing for or during a ritual we regularly participate in, and learning a new anthem or hymn provide ways in which a choir serves as a teacher. Offering an anthem every week is not merely an "ornament" to our worship but a presentation of a gift to God on behalf of those gathered together. I think that the 19th century religious poet Soren Kierkegaard summed it up best when he wrote that "liturgy is a drama; the worship leaders are the prompters, the congregation is the participant, and God is the audience."

The Best Tradition by Mary Johnson, Director of Children's /Youth Ministries

As we look ahead a few weeks to our closing celebration on May 26th, we recall another year filled with great traditions. The classroom parties that celebrate all the holidays include: the Thanksgiving feast with the Native Americans and the Pilgrims, the wonderful Christmas parties where the two year olds make Baby Jesus dolls, the three year olds decorate Ginger Bread houses and Junior Kindergarteners sing for their families, and most recently, the Easter Egg hunts. Another fun tradition is the Junior Kindergarten field trip to Long Grove Confectionary. The Junior Kindergarteners also go to the Eighth Grade play at Joseph Sears School each spring. This year we will see *Willy Wonka* that features the choreography of Mrs. Anne and includes as cast members Mrs. Anne's daughter and the older sibling of one of our JKers.

May 5th will be the traditional visit from the Winnetka Fire Department and the Kenilworth Police Department. The children are invited to squirt the big fire hose, climb aboard the fire truck, and sit in the back seat of the squad car. Both departments conduct a safety lesson so it's not only FUN, it is very valuable as well.

The moms will tell you that one of our best traditions is the memory book that each child receives at the close of the school year. The presentation is a little different between all the classes but they all accomplish the same thing. They are such a profound summary of a wonderful year of growth for each child.

We have a tradition in the three years old classes of celebrating the Angel of the Day. At the end of one child's Angel of the Day this

spring, the student turned to his mom and said he didn't want the day to end. He said he really loved his school and when the mom asked him why he replied; "...because they really love me here." This is my favorite tradition. A tradition of unconditional love, where each child is celebrated and experiences the joyful, compassionate heart of God as shown to them by an amazing staff!



I'm OK—You're OK . . . He's OK, too!

by Patti Pateros, Director of Community Building

"So how are things going?" they ask. "Great! Fine!" I answer. Then they move in a little closer and whisper, "Come on . . . you can tell me. How are things REALLY going?" "Great! Fine! Really!" I reply.

And really, they are. I have nothing negative to say; no gossip to spread. The transition from our 8th Rector to our 9th Rector has gone as smooth as silk. Honestly, it surprises me as much as it does you.

When Father Myers announced his retirement more than a year ago, I think we all knew that he was ready to move on. I'm not sure he knew that . . . and I certainly was not ready to have him go. But his last few years at Holy Comforter were hard for him. And after 25 years as rector, there was no way Father Myers was going to turn the reins over to just anyone who wanted the job. Fortunately, the Succession Committee found someone very much rooted in our parish life and connected to our community. Father Parkin may have come from San Francisco, but he left his heart in Kenilworth twenty years ago. It's almost like he was biding his time elsewhere, waiting to return to Holy Comforter when the time was right. And this happened to be the right time.

Things are definitely a little different around here. Parishioners have finally stopped calling me to make an appointment with Father Parkin (he answers his own phone and schedules his own appointments) and, believe it or not, with Father Myers (I did offer to do it as a side job, but he didn't offer to pay). Father Parkin just smiles every time I say, "Well, when Father Myers was here . . ." (I'm really trying to stop doing that) or when people accidentally refer to him as "Bob." Minor changes have been made to the Sunday liturgies, and if you don't like them, you can, as Father Parkin says, "blame it on the new guy." But the "new guy" isn't really so new. He's like that old pair of slippers

you discover in the back of your closet that always fit so well. Nice and comfortable. The Parkin family is thrilled to be "home" again. The parish - which traditionally doesn't do well with change - has welcomed them back with open arms, allowing Father Myers to easily let go.

So I'm ok, you're ok, Father Parkin is ok. And Father Myers is doing great. When I saw him about a week after his retirement, I actually had to do a double-take. It wasn't because he was dressed casually, or that I wasn't expecting to see him in the office. It was actually the first time I ever noticed his dimples! He was grinning from ear to ear and I don't remember ever seeing him so relaxed and happy. Retirement - whatever that is for him - has done wonders for him.

As a gift on the day he left, I gave Father Myers a "Story People" print (quirky pictures with odd little stories, several of which are hanging in my office). I knew it didn't fit in with the décor of his new apartment (which he loves), but it was something uniquely me. It says, "*I know he's not really gone, she said, but the world still feels smaller to me today.*" It is a pleasure working for and with Father Parkin - the "new guy" has certainly made the transition easy. But when I hear his office back door open, or the squeak of his desk chair, or notice his light flashing on my phone, I still expect to see the "old guy" (figuratively speaking, of course).

Father Myers will be the keynote speaker at his retirement party on May 14, and I'm sure there won't be a dry eye in the room. I, as many of you, miss him terribly and look forward to celebrating with him that evening at Misericordia as he officially passes the baton to the "new guy."

But let us always remember that he's not really gone . . . he's just a few miles down the street.

In the Vineyard

We express our sympathy to . . .

- Michael and Caroline Burns on the death of his father, John Burns, on April 25 in Cape Cod MA.
- Jim and Char Washburn on the death of his father, Verne Washburn, on April 18.
- Jason and Laura Koh on the death of her grandmother, Miriam Howe.

- Ron and Bonnie Phemister on the death of his mother, Marjorie Campbell Phemister, on March 30.
- The family and friends of former parishioner Robert Chelius who died on April 3.

We joyfully announce the birth of . . .

- Everett Davis to F.J. and Carrie Phillips on April 8. Grandparents are John and Mary Phillips.

Upcoming Events

Meet & Greets Continue, May 4 & 25

There is still availability at the final two receptions with Father and Mrs. Parkin.

- ◆ Wednesday, May 4 at 9:30am in the Church Parlor
- ◆ Wednesday, May 25 at 6:30pm hosted by Carol & Wayne Lockwood (especially for our "snowbirds")

Flower Ministry Workshop, May 4

The Flower Ministry will hold a workshop from 1:00-3:00pm in the Great Hall for anyone interested in learning about floral arranging. Joan Dodson, a former Flower Ministry director, will share her wit, wisdom and expertise as she leads the demonstration. All are invited and will have a chance to learn some techniques and "tricks."

Mothers' Day Diaper Drive, May 8

The parish will hold a one-day collection of disposable diapers for Connections for the Homeless, an Evanston organization which provides financial assistance, housing, and support services for those in need. Any size or brand of diapers will be collected in the church parlor that morning. A perfect outreach event for Mothers' Day!

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AIM Mission Trip, May 6-8

Please keep our confirmands in your prayers as they embark on their mission trip to Chicago. Twenty-three 7th and 8th graders and their five adult leaders will be working in soup kitchens, food pantries and community centers throughout the city. The Center for Student Missions is hosting the trip and has reserved a 2-flat apartment building on the North Park University campus as their homebase. They will have dinners at local ethnic restaurants and attend Sunday service at the Lawndale Community Church.

Recognition Sunday, May 8

Derek Nickels and Mary Johnson will host this annual tribute to the choir and Church School teachers at the 10:00am Adult Forum.

Father Myers' Retirement Party, May 14

The parish community will "officially" bid farewell to our 8th rector at a dinner at Misericordia. Because the dinner was underwritten by several generous parishioners, attendees have graciously donated to the Bonnie C. Myers Memorial Fund which was established as a gift to Bonnie to help support Andrew's residency at Misericordia. Father Myers will be the keynote speaker at the dinner.

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