



## News of The Kenilworth Union Church

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

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

February 21, 2010

*2010 Outreach Benefit Pre-party! Join us at Little Ricky's at 540 Lincoln Avenue, Winnetka, IL on Thursday, Feb. 25, 6-9 pm. Bring spouses and friends. We will also sign up volunteers to help with the benefit. There will be opportunities to help before and during the event. This year's benefit is Friday, Apr. 30 at Michigan Shores, 6:00 pm.*

### Altar Flowers

The altar flowers are given in loving memory of Craig Allan Sethness by his family.

### 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](mailto:kristenwhisner@comcast.net).

### The Robinson Garden

It's time again to order your personalized brick(s). Support AJN and honor a loved one by giving them their own unique piece in the playground. Leave a lasting legacy for your family at KUC. Each brick is \$100 and forms can be picked up at the front desk. Order by Feb. 28; contact Heidi Black if you have any questions, 847-386-6310.

### Lent

Lent begins on February 17, Ash Wednesday, and ends on April 3, the Saturday before Easter. It is a time of renewed attention to our faith as we follow Jesus to the cross. Rituals and worship experiences lift us up from our everyday lives and nurture our spirituality. If you and your family would like additional information about Lent, please ask one of our Sunday school teachers or stop by the Children's Ministries office or send an email message to Susan Bottum at [sbottum@kuc.org](mailto:sbottum@kuc.org).

### Children's Ministries

#### **Jesus Feeds 5,000 (Lambs-2nd)**

We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish. And Jesus said, "Bring them to me." (Matthew 14: 17) The idea of feeding and compassionate nurture was central to Jesus' teachings. He was concerned about people's needs and could not turn them away. Jesus seemed to equate the whole picture - one's physical and spiritual needs.

#### **Bible Habitat (3rd-6th)**

The 5th and 6th grade will host the 3rd and 4th graders in the Bible Habitat.

#### **Sermon on the Mount (7th & 8th)**

Jesus wants his disciples to have a clear understanding of God's will. He gives them the beatitudes; rules to live by. Their content was revolutionary.

### **Fellowship and Service Club**

Our last Fellowship and Service Club for children in 1st through 6th grade will meet on Tuesday, March 9 from 4:15-6:00 pm. During our Club Night, we will focus on service, fellowship and fun! The cost is \$10.00 per child, and dinner is included. Please contact Natasha Mah in Children's Ministries for more information or to register your child. Natasha can be reached at 853-2634 or at nmah@kuc.org.

### **Youth Ministries**

The next teen bible study session will be February 28 at 10:30 am in the manse. All are welcome. Contact Silvi Vahtra at svahtra@kuc.org.

The next IMPACT meeting will be at 7:00 pm on February 21.

The Talent Show is on Sunday, February 28, 4:00 pm at the Winnetka Community House. 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 next class meets on February 28. New Members will be received by the congregation on Sunday, March 7, 2010. Please fill out the "Welcome" card in the pew or call Kathy McCabe, 847-853-2636.

### **Adult Education**

We invite you to see the documentary film "Make No Little Plans" - Daniel Burnham and the American City on Wednesday, Feb. 24, 7:00-8:30 pm. Meet KUC members: Judith McBrien, Director/Producer and Kathy Piegras, Burnham family member.

### **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 Sundays, from 11:45-12:45 through March 7. 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 through March 10. 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 stories 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 a babysitting reservation: 847-251-1024; KNahrwold@comcast.net

### **Stewardship**

As of February 10, 2010, we have received pledges/gifts totaling \$1,813,777 representing approximately 95% of our goal. We strongly encourage families who have not pledged or made a gift 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.

*The Care Guild Leader for February is Lyn Little. 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, February 21, 2010

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT & STEPHEN MINISTER COMMISSIONING

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

## Scripture Readings

**First Lesson** Luke 4: 1-13  
**Second Lesson** Psalm 91

## Prayer of Affirmation

Eternal God, you are present to us through all the times of our lives: when the sun shines brightly and all is well; and when the clouds gather darkly and our lives are disrupted. We confess, dear Lord, that in difficult times it can be hard for us to trust in your goodness. Yet even so, we call on you in prayer, give to you our fears and our questions, and hope to experience your tender care. For the faith to do this, we give thanks. Amen.

## Sermon

“**Temptation’s Lure**“ Dr. Andrew D. Chaney

**Anthem** *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*..... Michael Bedford  
Rejoice Singers; Annie Liu, Piano

**Offertory** *Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God* ..... Carl F. Mueller

**Solo** *Wilt Thou Forgive* ..... John Hilton  
Cynthia Hill, Soloist

**Postlude** *O Lamb of God, Most Holy* ..... Johann Pachelbel

### USHER

8:00 am  
Phillis Dunbar

### GREETERS

Amy Rogers  
Carol Berry  
Mike McGill  
Debbie Van  
Solkema  
Betty Fox  
Denise Wilkinson  
Carrie Chisum  
Denise Akason

### USHERS

9:00 am  
Amy Rogers  
Mike McGill  
Betty Forbes  
Carol Berry  
Tolbert Chisum  
Scott Walker

### USHERS

10:30 am  
Melanie Flynn  
Taylor Lindstrom  
Paul Sortal  
Betty Forbes  
Tolbert Chisum  
Scott Walker

### BUS ATTENDANT

Hyde Perce

### ALTAR GUILD

Nancy Johnson  
Doris Wolfe

## 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

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# From the Pulpit: February 7, 2010

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Rev. Sarah Garcia “Into the Deep”

Luke 5

*“Once when Jesus was standing on the shore of Lake Gennesaret, the crowd was pushing in on him to better hear the Word of God. He noticed two boats tied up. The fishermen had just left them and were out scrubbing their nets. He climbed into the boat that was Simon’s and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Sitting there, using the boat for a pulpit, he taught the crowd.*

*When he had finished teaching, he said to Simon, “Push out into deep water and let your nets out for a catch.” Simon said, “Master, we’ve been fishing hard all night and haven’t caught even a minnow. But if you say so, I’ll let out the nets.” It was no sooner said than done—an abundance of fish, straining the nets past capacity. They waved to their partners in the other boat to come help them. They filled both boats, nearly swamping them with the catch.*

*Simon Peter, when he saw it, fell to his knees before Jesus. “Master, leave. I’m a sinner and can’t handle this holiness. Leave me to myself.” When they pulled in the catch of fish, awe overwhelmed Simon and everyone with him. It was the same with James and John, Zebedee’s sons, coworkers with Simon.*

*Jesus said to Simon, “There is nothing to fear. From now on you’ll be fishing for men and women.” They pulled their boats up on the beach, left them, nets and all, and followed him. “ Luke 5*

Today is Gospel Sunday and it got me thinking about that word, gospel. The word is derived from the Old English *god-spell*, meaning “good tidings.” It is a word-for-word translation of the Greek word *euangelion* meaning good message. The gospel is good news. This is a Sunday to celebrate the good news in word and song with special music, and what is that good news we are celebrating? It is the news of Jesus’ all encompassing love and the invitation to all to follow Jesus and live that love.

The other good news I hear this morning is about “abundance.” In the story we read, we know Jesus taught the crowd but it doesn’t tell us what Jesus said to that crowd. We could guess that it had something to do with the overflowing abundance of life in God. In God’s love – a love we’re called to share with everyone – there is more than enough for each and every one of us. There is more than enough forgiveness, more than enough healing, more than enough grace. Jesus shows the fishermen abundance in leading them to catch so many fish that their boats almost sink. Jesus tells the fishermen that they cannot keep the good news of how God has provided for them to themselves but they must follow Jesus and spread the word. When we trust in God’s abundance, it frees us from many of our fears about scarcity that

stop us from living more fully.

Jesus uses such an interesting image. He says they will fish for people. When I think of fishing, I remember that when I was younger I had a Snoopy fishing pole. In the summer time my family and I would go to a nearby lake and fish. I hated fishing. I am not trying to criticize any of you who enjoy it, but I thought it was so mean to snag the fish with hooks and pull them in flopping every which way. I always wanted to throw them back in the water immediately. So when Jesus says he will make Simon Peter fish for people that sounds like an awful way to bring people into the Christian faith. I don’t think people should be brought into the Christian faith tricked by a lure and dragged in flailing. I was relieved to read Craig Evans’ helpful explanation in the *Lectio Commentary* that the “word that Luke uses (i.e., ‘catching [or taking] alive’) is used in the Greek Old Testament for saving the lives of persons from danger.” So when Jesus says that they will be fishing for people he means that they will be saving their lives. The message of God’s love is so transformative that it can change people’s lives for the better.

Ann Svennungsen says “The calling is not to hook people and drag them in, it is rather to cast the net of God’s

love all around and then wait with patience for the Spirit's work and to see if any are caught by God's vision and grace." In Confirmation class I teach the youth that even if they don't remember anything else, the most important message to remember of the Christian faith is to love; to love God, to love ourselves and to love others. When we are called to follow Jesus we are called to follow the way of love and cast our nets wide so that others will experience that love in their own lives.

Many people hear the powerful message of Jesus' call to follow him and think, are you telling me I'm supposed to go become a missionary in a foreign country? In a presentation that Mother Teresa once gave here in the States, she said that Americans are always saying they think they need to leave their lives here and go to India to work with her. And she says to them, "Stay here, right where you are, and love the people God has given you to love. Care for people right where you are." This is a powerful message. If you truly want to follow Jesus, you don't have to leave your home and family. The water is plenty deep right where you live. There's plenty of challenge, plenty of possibility, and a very clear call to serve right here and now.

Before Jesus tells the men to leave their boats and follow him, he instructs them to go out into the deep water. They have already been fishing unsuccessfully and are ready to head home but they dare to trust Jesus' words enough to strike out into the deep. The deep waters can be dangerous. Have you ever been swimming in deep water where you can't see the bottom or what else might be swimming around you? It can be truly scary.

Maybe "the deep waters" also represent those places we would rather not go, the places of discomfort, vulnerability and unfamiliarity in ourselves, where we might "get in over our heads." We might be in deep waters if we dare to follow Jesus. What if we forgive someone who has hurt us – how will we hold on to the feeling of being right? What if we open our hearts or our church to those who are different than us? What if we share what we have to build a more compassionate world? What if we make sacrifices for the good of others? It is a challenge to trust God enough to strike out into those deep waters. Sometimes we're

too tired or sure it won't work, or we've gotten the message that it is most important to take care of our own needs regardless of the well-being of others. We convince ourselves that we would be better off just calling it a day and staying here, in the shallow water, even if we're quietly dissatisfied in the end by the results of our efforts.

Writer Kate Huey says "We'd rather stay right here, in the shallow end of things where our boat won't be rocked, where life is safe, and not strike out into the deep water of possibilities and change; we'd rather mind our own business and keep working on our own security." If we do that our lives will not be as full. If we live in a shallow way we exclude ourselves from unknown joys that can come with the risk of the deep. What does it really mean for us to "leave everything and follow Jesus"? It means that we let go of the idea that there will ever be enough things to secure our future if we don't make room in our hearts and our lives for others and for God. It means that we let go of clenched fists that convince us that our money and our possessions belong to us, not to God. When we let go we find freedom and fulfillment instead of fear.

We can't just go back to our nets and our ordinary lives as if this story is not about us, as if this call were not our call too. Could it be possible to get up every day, do the work of our lives and yet, at the same time, live lives true to the gospel, true to the good news? What if, like Mother Teresa said, our lives could be transformed right where we are, with the people we love and know and our neighbors who we could get to know? It would take imagination, courage, trust, and openness to all the wonders that challenge our expectations. As theologian Rev. Renita Weems says, "the last thing those tired fishermen were expecting was a showing of God's awesome power right there, at the end of another workday. Why couldn't the same be said of our workdays: that they hold the possibility of seeing God's hand at work in our lives and all around us, even when we least expect it?" It is challenging to think that when we're tired, when we've been trying with no success and are ready to give up, that is when Jesus surprises us with abundance if we're willing to follow him.

Can you go out into deep waters? What would it mean for you to follow

Jesus? God didn't just call the fishermen. God calls us. God is calling you to experience abundance, to be transformed and to share that transforming love with others. What will your answer be? Will you follow Jesus?

Yes!

Amen!

Kenilworth Union Church  
211 Kenilworth Ave.  
Kenilworth, IL 60043-0308  
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