



Saint Hugh of Lincoln

Episcopal Church

36W957 Highland Ave.
Elgin, Illinois 60123

Voice of the Swan Newsletter

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Rev. Marion Phipps' Email:

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The Holy Eucharist

Sunday: 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Tuesday: 7:00 AM

The Staff

Reverend Marion Phipps, Rector

Dan Dolney, Senior Warden

Craig Skeppstom, Junior Warden

Sue Diebold-Martin, Treasurer

Katie White, Vestry Clerk

Karen Warner, Administrative Assistant

Jeanne Rayner, Altar Guild

February Birthdays Happy Birthday!!

Jose Padilla	2 - 2
Richard W. Rayner	2 - 2
Leslie Scheffel	2 - 5
Beverly Hopson	2 - 10
Pat Moeller	2 - 17
Scott Campbell	2 - 20
Nancy Rayner	2 - 20
Nick Mavros	2 - 25
Caroline Onischak	2 - 26
Jeanne Rayner	2 - 26

February Anniversaries Happy Anniversary!!!

*Jason & Heather Woertendyke 2 - 28
Fay Kitchin & Jeff Maliszewski 2- 29*

Voice of the Swan

February 2016

The News Letter of St. Hugh of Lincoln Church



Volume 19
Number 2

Dear Parish Family,

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 This passage is an apt description of life as I am trying to live it right now. God in God's infinite wisdom doesn't command us to give thanks *for* all circumstances, but rather to give thanks *in* all circumstances. I needn't be thankful my leg is broken, but I am rejoicing that I can recover from a broken leg! Furthermore, I am so thankful that I didn't break my neck, or paralyze, or kill myself in my perilous fall! I give thanks for good medical care, pain meds, loving family and friends and dogs who constantly hang out with me. I even give thanks for naps, movies, TV, good reading material, and the Internet which allows me to pass the time and to stay loosely connected to folks. While I am recuperating, I continue to pray for you all from the confines of Mike's recliner in our family room. It is where I spend 99% of my time! Being on a doctor imposed respite was not exactly the vacation we had planned. We are making the most of it and have had more family together time than we've ever had! Joy and laughter continue to rule the day! We are blessed! I am grateful for all your thoughts, prayers, cards, food, and concern expressed in a variety of ways. The good news is the pain is far more tolerable than it was in the beginning. The jury is still out as far as if I will need surgery in the future or not. If the ligament heals within my knee joint as the bone knits back together, I may not need it. That is my prayer and I hope you will join me in that request!

Thanks to Karen Warner, the finance committee, the vestry, and to all those who are helping to keep things running smoothly at church in my absence. I'm so grateful to Tom Atamian for covering John Adams funeral celebration and to Jane Watson and all who helped with the reception following the service. Thanks to each of you who pledged of your time, talents, and financial resources to further God's work in this place. As we begin the new year we are in financially good shape! Thanks to Mike Phipps who will cook for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper on February 9th. If you'd be interested in helping Mike with this, give him a call on his cell: 815/382-8361. Spiritually, we are looking ahead to the beginning of Lent and the Rev. Linda Green will celebrate the Eucharist on Ash Wednesday, at Noon and 7:00PM on February 10th. Lenten programs have been planned utilizing Living Compass Materials on Thursday afternoons and Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's book *Crazy Christians* during Rector's class from 9:00-10:00AM Sunday mornings. We will also have a Lenten Retreat with our friends from the Church of the Redeemer. Thanks to Caroline Onischak, Mike Minor, and Margaret Brady for their assistance in planning and implementing our Lenten programs.

While I am counting my blessings, I am deeply grateful for the Church Pension group and its short term disability plan. The church will get reimbursed 70% of my salary which will more than cover the costs of the supply priests who are serving in my absence. I was quite relieved to find this out as I didn't want to put additional strain on the church's budget. I'm not sure what lessons I'll be learning as I continue in my recovery, but for now I am keeping my focus on 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. I hope whatever is happening in each of your lives, you will do the same!

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

With Love and Gratitude,

Marion+

Senior Warden Report

Another year is in the books and, once again, The Good Lord continues to bless the St Hugh Parish. 2015 saw many new people in the pews. Some were visitors and others decided to make St Hugh their Church home. Either way, our doors were always open and the parish family welcomed everyone with a smile and open arms. We continue to see many new faces as readers, acolytes, ushers, greeters and coffee hour hosts as we continue to stress the importance of serving at The Lord's Table. Probably the most gratifying sight is seeing the younger members of St Hugh revive the torchbearer position. Each child takes the job seriously and puts full effort into doing it right and serving right along with all of us. If that doesn't put a smile on your face and a feeling of warmth in your heart, I don't know what will. Thank you to all who have volunteered!

The physical structure of St Hugh of Lincoln continued getting refreshed in 2015. The last few years saw the wood siding on both sides of the Church get replaced, helpful signage indoors and out, upgrades and repairs on the Rectory, upgraded lighting at the Church entrance, a fabulous electronic sign and a continuing refresh of the church grounds. This past year we put a brand new roof on the Church, the Rectory and the shed. I'm so happy to say that we accomplished this ahead of schedule.....before any damage and leaks.....AND without any loan debt. For our small Church family, no loan debt is quite a feat and something we can all be grateful for.

Once the roof got replaced, the new fascia installed behind the gutters was bare and needed to be painted. We asked the parish for any volunteers to tackle this job and we actually did get a raised hand. However, a volunteer wasn't needed. In another "God moment" a painter from the area came to Marion and asked if we needed any painting done as he needed to fulfill a community service obligation. DO WE NEED ANY PAINTING DONE?!?!?!? Not only did we get the fascia painted, but the cross in front of the Church got sanded and painted, the sidewalk area around the Church got pressure-washed, the hallway along the narthex got painted as did Wiedrich Hall. On the agenda in the weeks to come will be a fresh coat of paint in the Sacristy, a bathroom downstairs and a sanding and repainting of the bell tower. Is there any question God answers prayers? A couple of side notes.....Many thanks to Ele Proctor, Deanna Engelke, Bev Hopson, Karen Lemke and Sue Campbell for giving the nursery a complete refresh and to Craig Skeppstrom and Roland Hopson for laying new tile in that downstairs bathroom. Both tasks were long overdue. If I left anyone out in mentioning these projects, I'm sorry. So many different people come together for all of the Church's needs, it's difficult to keep track. Thank You!

On the financial front: It's been a long, difficult road, but we're finally at the point where we should and need to be. When Bishop Lee visited with us on December 20th and met with the Vestry for a brief time, he asked what our biggest challenge was. I shared with him the problems we encountered after losing our treasurer starting in January 2014. While we did lose some revenue through deaths or people moving on, we were always able to meet our financial obligations, in both 2014 and 2015. The heart of the problem comes down to computers and the accounting system not communicating properly. Items input to Quicken on one computer sometimes did not come through to the treasurer's computer. At one point the Quicken program became corrupted which just exacerbated the problem. The numbers weren't making sense even though we had money in the bank and the bills continued to be paid. We could see the bottom line, but we didn't know how we got there. Over the last few months, our new treasurer, Sue Diebold-Martin, reconciled each and every bank transaction from 2014 and 2015 with the bottom line being that we were roughly \$700 off.....IN OUR FAVOR. This was a HUGE undertaking and I can't thank Sue enough. I, along with the rest of the Finance Committee feel very positive with where we are right now in in this process and the prospects going forward. Going forward a statement of our finances will be included in the monthly newsletter that will update you on Income and Expenses. I thank you all for your prayers and patience in this matter.

We look forward to 2016 and all it promises to be. The Parish of St Hugh of Lincoln has become the second home for many of us. Because of Marion and all the ministries that we're so fortunate to be a part of, we have a chance to enhance our spiritual life in a way that few of us have been a part of. So, I encourage one and all to jump in with both feet and be a part of a spiritual vision that is sure to lift you up by your heart and soul to that higher place to which we aspire. Together we can do wonderful things in the name God.

Dan Dolney, Senior Warden

FLOWERS

Please remember to sign up to remember someone or a special occasion on the Flower list in the narthex. The cost per Sunday is \$30. Envelopes are available near the list. Please drop the completed envelope in the offertory plate or the mailbox on the office door.

2015 Year — end Pledge Statements are in your Wiedrich Hall mailbox. Contact the office, if you have a question/concern.

Soup Kitchen at Church of the Redeemer
Thursday, February 25 5 – 7PM

Sign up to volunteer on the bulletin board by the nursery.

Watch the bulletins, email and newsletter regarding the Lent Retreat to be held at Church of the Redeemer, Saturday, March 5th.

St. Hugh received this letter from the MOM organization. We will be collecting their needed items as donations until March 27th on their behalf. Time to spring clean those closets and see what you've got that you aren't wearing or planning to wear again. Please bring your donations to the classroom on the right by the outside door. Pick up and fill in a donation slip, so that this organization can recognize your donation. Question? Contact Karen in the office. Thanks!



MessengersOfMercy

www.mommercy.org

25 W 560 Geneva Road • Box 20 • Carol Stream, IL 60188 • (630) 580-5074 • mommercynho@gmail.com

We are collecting **wedding clothing, fancy party clothing, and accessories** for the gospel outreach work of Messengers of Mercy (M.O.M.) overseas. These outreaches have given us MANY open doors to share the Good News of Jesus Christ! (M.O.M. is a 501 © 3 non-profit organization.)

- 1.) **Marriage School Ministry Project:** In many of the countries where we serve, the poor and underprivileged live together outside of marriage. They usually have no income for a marriage license or clothing for a beautiful wedding ceremony. M.O.M. is working to establish strong, God-honoring marriages in these countries. After a couple completes Marriage School classes, they are lent some beautiful wedding clothes from MOM which they wear for a ceremony celebrating their marriage.
- 2.) **Quince':** We also have a program called Quince' that teaches young girls about their value in God's eyes, created in His image. They are taught what godly womanhood looks like. After completing the Quince' classes, we help them celebrate their coming-of-age with a ceremony where they dress in beautiful party clothes and take a public stand for moral purity. This ceremony is rescuing many young girls from abuse and unwanted pregnancies.

We are in need of the following clothes and accessories for these ministry outreaches:

- 1.) **Women's: Wedding Gowns, Wedding Veils and Headwear, Bridesmaids' Dresses, Gloves, Formal Dresses/Gowns, White Dress Shoes, Jewelry & Fancy Accessories**
- 2.) **Men's: Formal Black/Navy Suits, Bowties/Ties, Black/Navy Dress Shoes**
- 3.) **Children's: Fancy Dresses (Flower Girl) & Suits (Ring-Bearer)**
- 4.) **Family Members: Formal Dresses/Suits, Dress Shoes**

Lent materials for St. Hugh

The Lent season is fast approaching. Ash Wednesday is February 10th. St. Hugh will be offering two programs for Lent this year. Fellow parishioners will facilitate the 2 series in Marion's absence.

St. Hugh will also offer a Lent Program from Living Compass, developed by the Reverend Scott Stoner.

Living Compass integrates faith and wellness principles to help guide people toward the abundant life that God intends for them. Change is facilitated and fostered through discussion and support from our peers. Our Lenten group will follow a format similar to the Living Compass Spiritual Practices group that met last year. We will be reading from the Lent Daily Devotional from Living Compass entitled, "Living Well Through Lent 2016: Letting Go with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength and Mind."

The group will meet from noon to 1:30 pm on Thursdays, beginning on **Thursday, February 18th and ending on Thursday, March 24 (which is Maundy Thursday)**. Please feel free to bring a brown bag lunch. An evening program offering this material is currently under consideration. Please stay tuned for more information. Books for the group are free, and will be available Sunday, February 7th.

There will be a sign up sheet for the program on the bulletin board. Please join us!

The Sunday Rector's Class, which meets at 9:00 am between the Sunday services, will be studying Bishop Michael Curry's book "Crazy Christians: A Call to Follow Jesus." The book is based on Bishop Curry's 2012 General Convention address:

We need some Christians who are as crazy as the Lord. Crazy enough to love like Jesus, to give like Jesus, to forgive like Jesus, to do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with God—like Jesus. Crazy enough to dare to change the world from the nightmare it often is into something close to the dream that God dreams for it. And for those who would follow him, those who would be his disciples, those who would live as and be the people of the Way? It might come as a shock, but they are called to craziness.

—from Bishop Curry's "Crazy Christians" address to the 2012 General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Indianapolis.

Our discussion of "Crazy Christians" will start on **Sunday, February 14th**. Books are \$13.43 on Amazon.com

Come be energized in your faith and learn from the preaching of our new Bishop.

GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION & FILM

"The greatest faculty in the world."

Join our Great Book discussion Group that meets on the first Monday* of each month in our home on Oak Hill Road 7:00-9:00 pm. Participants attend to discuss only those books that interest them--those chosen by the group.

The focus of our group is great book authors and writers of the 20th century. Some favorites of previous groups that generated robust discussion were: F Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*, Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*, Ambrose Bierce, *The Devil's Dictionary*, and Flannery O'Connor, "Parkers Back," as well as the book of Job and Robert Frost's "A Masque of Reason," and William Faulkner's short story, "Two Soldiers."

Our group will have our first organizational meeting on February 1 Monday. We will discuss America's favorite poem, "The Road Not Taken" and W. H. Auden's poem of "The Unknown Citizen" to help you decide if this is your cup of tea. *We will decide which day of the week is best.

Please do call or write me if you are interested: Victor Moeller, 535 Oak Hill Road, Elgin, 224.856-5682, victormoeller@comcast.net

Other titles to consider for future group discussions:

Barn Burning

Pigeon Feathers Compulsion

Hamlet "To be" Macbeth "Tomorrow" Stone Boy

Pride and Prejudice Cyrano de Bergerac Doll's House

Major Barbara 1984

Animal Farm Brave New World