



St. Hugh of Lincoln Episcopal Church
36W957 Highland Ave.
Elgin, Illinois 60123

Voice of the Swan Newsletter

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The Holy Eucharist

Sunday: 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM

Tuesday: 7:00 AM

The Staff

Reverend Marion Phipps, Rector
Dan Dolney, Senior Warden
Craig Skeppstom, Junior Warden
Karen Warner, Administrative Assistant
Cherry Babo, Treasurer
Mary Baumrind, Asst. Treasurer
Carrie Reynolds, Vestry Clerk

**May Birthdays
Happy Birthday!!**

Jim Ceithaml	5 - 6
Kathleen McCaffery	5 - 9
Carrie Reynolds	5 - 16
Jewell Graves	5 - 17
Bryce Warner	5 - 18
Bert McConnell	5 - 21
Joseph Herrmann	5 - 26
Lillian Brubaker	5 - 30

***May Anniversaries
Happy Anniversary!!!***

<i>Marge & Gabe Zawadzki</i>	<i>5 - 3</i>
<i>Barbara & Phillip Badeau</i>	<i>5 - 11</i>
<i>Carrie & Reynolds</i>	<i>5 - 17</i>
<i>Donna & Ed Jamrog</i>	<i>5 - 23</i>

Voice of the Swan

May 2013



The News Letter of St. Hugh of Lincoln Church

Volume 16
Number 5

Dear Parish Family,

If "April showers bring May flowers" we are due for a beautiful May! After the middle part of the month, it's hard to believe that April 6th's headline in our edition of the Northwest Herald was "Horse owners pray for rain: As hay growing season nears, county's weather still too dry." How things can change in a couple weeks!! I posted a picture of the headline on my Facebook page during our deluge of rain and pondered that "Perhaps the horse owners have a direct line." All kidding aside, it did make me wonder if there was a connection between the prayers of the horse owners and the recent flood producing rain!

I do believe in the power of prayer and though it can seem ineffective at times, I am with the horse owners. There isn't much I won't bring to God in prayer! James 5:16 says, *"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."* Sometimes God doesn't answer prayers in the way we want them answered, but praying matters and at the very least, it changes us. As we spend time in conversation with God we soon find out the truth of God's words to the prophet Isaiah, *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."* (Isaiah 55:8-9) When God says "no" to a specific prayer request we can trust that God has reasons we cannot comprehend. Still, I ask, hoping and praying for healings and miracles, trusting God with the outcome, and every now and then I am privileged to be a witness to God's healing powers! Jesus said, *"Very truly I tell you, all who have faith in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."* (John 14:12-14)

That is a wonderful promise! We have several among us in need of God's healing touch and I pray we all will be witnesses to God's glory and power! I don't know any perfect formulas for getting prayers answered affirmatively, but I look at how Jesus prayed and try to emulate Him the best I can. He prayed with confidence and gratitude, offering thanks for five small loaves and two small fish when He was faced with feeding over five thousand people. When all was said and done, there were twelve baskets left over! So, when I pray, I often begin by thanking God for what I already have or for what God has already done. We see Jesus begin another prayer with gratitude when He stood outside Lazarus's grave, *"Jesus looked up and said, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard me.'*" (John 11:41) The next thing you know, He is calling Lazarus back from the dead and out of the grave! May we, like Jesus, give thanks for God's goodness and love, and trust God with all our needs!

I don't know if the horse owners who prayed for rain are in part responsible for the recent downpours, but I won't rule them out either! Jesus said, *"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven."* (Matthew 18:19) At our recent vestry retreat we talked about the power of prayer and how much it matters to pray together. Our prayer time is my favorite part of our meetings! May God continue to grow each of us in our prayer lives and help us to be a deeply praying community that we may better fulfill our mission "To Know Jesus, To Glorify Jesus, and To Share Jesus" with the world around us!

With Love and Prayers,
Marion+

Senior Warden Report - May, 2013

Spring has sprung! And the abundant rain we've received in April will certainly bring us those May flowers and greenery that will decorate the grounds of St Hugh just as the wonderful Easter flowers adorned our Chapel inside. The Good Lord certainly smiles on us!

The Spiritual Life Core group is underway with three more meetings in May and June. As any successful company will meet to focus and plot its future growth, St. Hugh Church will be doing the same. However, we won't be looking to see how we can best increase sales, per se, but we will be looking to see how we can best increase our spirituality. A successful church, like a successful company, isn't satisfied with just keeping things as they are. Let's face it, Marion....our "CEO"....wouldn't be doing her work if she wasn't putting forth a vision for St. Hugh and help each and every one of us grow in our spirituality.

So as we look forward to spring and all the beauty it brings, we look forward to what God wants for us and where he wants us to be in our faith. In the past, I've asked everyone to take a chance and stray from your comfort zone with your time at St. Hugh. And while we may be able to say that we like things as they are.....we can DO better and BE better in our life in Christ.

LET'S MOVE IT!

Dan Dolney
Senior Warden

ALTAR 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

The quarterly pledge statements are available in your Wiedrich Hall mailbox. If there is a question, please contact the office. Most Easter offerings will be found on the 2nd Quarter statement.



May 5th is Food Pantry Sunday. Please bring non-perishables to church to be blessed and delivered to the Elgin Community Crisis Center.

Our plate offering for Easter Day totaled \$542.00. This generous offering was sent to the Toliara Diocese to assist with the recovery from the cyclone that hit Madagascar.

\$307.36 was gathered during Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services for the support of the ministries of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East.

MAY 5 YOUTH MISSION TRIP BENEFIT CONCERT

Everyone is invited to the Youth Mission Trip Benefit Concert on Sunday May 5th at 3-4PM at Church of the Redeemer! The choirs of St. Hugh and the Church of the Redeemer welcome their special guest Rise' Dawn Jones for the concert. There is no charge for the concert. We will receive a free will offering to benefit the Youth Mission Trip. Everyone is welcome and we hope to see you there!

Help Wanted:

We need an acolyte at the 10:30AM service on Sunday, May 12th.

Additionally, we are in need of an additional Keeping God's People Safe Level 1 certified person in the Nursery on Sunday, May 19th.

Please contact the office if you are able to serve.



Sunday May 12th!

Please join us after the 10:30am service to learn about the Episcopal Chicago Summer Camp and Happening. Kitty LeBaron is coming out to speak from the Diocese.

GRAND ULTREYA

Another spiritual opportunity is on the calendar this month. You may wonder about the event on the calendar for Saturday, May 4th, called a Grand Ultreya. This is a Cursillo event, but all are welcome. Cursillo is a Spanish word that means "short course" and the full title of an initial weekend is "Cursillo de Cristiandad" or "short course in Christianity." Cursillo was a renewal movement that began in Spain in the 1940's and came to the United States in the 1950's. Though it began in the Roman Catholic Church, many other denominations have benefited from this renewal movement and adapted the format for their own use. After people make their Cursillo weekend they are encouraged to meet in small "reunion groups" weekly to share their walk in faith. They are also encouraged to attend monthly gatherings called "ultreyas" which is another Spanish word for onward. These gatherings are intended to help us encourage one another in living a vibrant Christian life. A Grand Ultreya is a gathering of the many small groups. It is a time of fellowship, sharing, singing some songs, and hearing a couple folks tell what God is doing in their lives. If you have been on a Cursillo come join us, or if you are just curious about what Cursillo is about this is an opportunity for you to experience a glimpse of the fellowship and encouragement that Cursillo brings to those involved in it.

Rector's Discretionary Fund

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all the people who contribute to my "discretionary fund" and explain what it is to those who may not be familiar with it. This fund is there to be used at my discretion to help folks in need. I have used it to help people pay bills, buy gas, food, tires, car batteries, etc. and recently purchased a train ticket so someone could go to her aunt's funeral. In these difficult economic times, the requests that come my way are numerous! Many of these requests come from outside the congregation, but those funds are there to help any of our own folks in need as well. I am amazed at how often when there is a need, I have funds in my account that can help meet that need and I am so grateful to all who contribute to it! When I help someone outside the church community, I look at it as an opportunity to share God's grace and sow seeds of God's love into someone's life who needs it. When I can help someone within our church family, I am grateful to be able to continue in the apostles practice of caring for one another by sharing what we have. If you have a need, please let me know if we can help and if you have some surplus, I know a lot of folks who can benefit from your sharing it! Thanks for all you do to extend God's grace to this community and beyond. It is a joy and privilege to serve God and God's people among us! If you want to contribute to this fund, you can make a check out to St. Hugh and mark in the memo "Rector's Discretionary Fund." Likewise, if you are in need and I can help in some way, please don't hesitate to ask!

Adult Education and Conversation

During our evening Lenten discussion groups a desire was expressed for ongoing Adult Education that met during the week. In a followup conversation during the vestry retreat that idea was revisited and we came up with the idea to offer two Wednesday evenings a month for Adult Education. Starting this month we are going to meet the 2nd Wednesday and the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7:00PM. We will meet for an hour to an hour and a half, depending on the will of the group. We are going to have some kind of educational piece on the 2nd Wednesday and a topic for conversation on the 4th Wednesday. Please feel free to let me know ideas for things you're interested in learning about and/or topics for conversation. I look forward to this time together and the lively conversations that are sure to ensue!

Marion+



*Happy Mother's Day to our St. Hugh Mom's
on Sunday, May 12th.*



Prayer Chain

Sincere.....Spiritual.....Simple

Please join many of us in the St. Hugh family in a private ministry called the Prayer Chain. The modern technology of today (email) and the age old custom of prayer combine to create a powerful force for support , caring and love.

I.e. Please pray for all those hurt at the Boston marathon! Or Please pray for Jo Shelby as she gains her strength and physical abilities as she recovers from the stroke!

What do we do? Members of the prayer chain receive an email that identifies someone at St. Hugh cares about and the particular concern that warrants attention! Simple

Pray for those identified and all who you know can use the support in the privacy of your home, office or car! Spiritual

How to get involved? Just let the office, or Marion , or Fay know of your wishes for participation and...done! Sincerely

Want to join the chain? Send an email to Fay Kitchin - hatfay@aol.com or call 312-816-9947 with your email address!

Questions? Just ask...thanks for your attention!
Fay Kitchin hatfay@aol.com

More From Your Senior Warden...

Shortly, I will be talking to the parish regarding a sign for St Hugh to be erected on the grass in front of the cross in front of the Church. I've long believed that an electronic sign could distinguish our "little Church on the corner" and also be a tool to attract new families. When I found out that a sign was also one of our late Senior Warden, Jim Kuttnauer's hopes for St Hugh the wheels in my head started to turn. What better way to use the money in his Memorial Fund? I will present this to the 8 and 10:30 services at announcement time on May 5th as I've received some great information from a sign company and I'm excited to share it with you.