



The Scribe

St. Paul UCC

144 E Palatine Road, Palatine IL 60067
(847) 358-0399 www.stpaul-ucc.org

May 2015 Edition

Monthly
Newsletter

Pastor's Pen...

This morning as I was walking into the east side of the church building, I noticed blue-colored spring flowers coming into full bloom. Their beautiful heads were rising above the mulch, as if to announce to the world that they had arrived. Then my eyes glanced further to the left, to the large patch of lawn on which the yellow house once stood. Almost as if overnight, the east side lawn is beginning to take on a vibrant shade of green....a far cry from the dead, brown grass that had emerged from beneath a blanket of snow and ice just a month ago.

Signs of new life all around!

One of the striking things about the natural world is that isn't doesn't remain in death. Trees, flowers, and grass all die....but the earth regenerates and new life comes forth from the very spot where the others had stood. Springtime always makes one think of resurrection.

Of course, as pretty as it is, the springtime analogy doesn't really do justice to the gospel. That is because the gospel goes way beyond promising that new life will spring up in our place. The gospel, rather, says that we will be given new life. Jesus said, *"This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day."* (John 6:40)

We can take great comfort and inexpressible joy in knowing that God has promised us a Springtime after the winter years of our mortality have melted away. The death and decay of our "golden years" will eventually be swept into a pile, ready to be hauled away by the Son of God. Then we will be renewed, and we will be raised, and we will be restored to the original goodness that God had intended since eternity past.

May your spring of this year be filled with hope and assurance as we await our final redemption from Christ our Lord.

Pastor David



St. Paul UCC Executive Board Members: Karl Bethke, Bernadette Chvoy, Kim Ferris, David Freeman, Ellen Graham (Admin. Board Rep.), Greg Mayer (Spiritual Life Board Rep.), David Mercer, Chuck Oberly (Admin. Board Rep), Holly Petersen (Spiritual Life Board Rep.).



WATER: GOD'S GIFT FOR LIFE

Over the next twelve months, the St. Paul faith community is going to focus on this gift of **water** that God has made essential to every living thing on the earth He so lovingly created.

Humanity needs water. In Genesis 1, the *very first* story in the Bible, God charged us with caring for the earth He created.

EVERY drop of water is flexible.

EVERY drop of water is powerful.

EVERY drop of water is in demand.

OUR journey with water began on March 22nd as we celebrated World Water Day at St. Paul along with people all over the world. We have just begun to think and learn about this amazing gift of water that God has provided for us. We resumed our journey following Easter, to contemplate the enormity of how God has designed water to flow through our daily lives, our faith practices, and our hands as we reach out into the world striving for justice and mercy, and living responsibly as stewards of God's creation.

In April we focused on these topics:

Water is Health: Clean hands can save your life.

Water is nature: Ecosystems lie at the heart of the global water cycle.

Water is Urbanization: Every week, one million people move into cities.

Come to worship each Sunday during May to learn more about God's gift of water and how it impacts your life in ways you may not have thought of, the lives of others all over the world, and how we can better use this life-sustaining gift God has entrusted us with.

Do you want to learn more? Begin your own exploration at www.unwater.org/worldwaterday, or in the Bible, where water is mentioned 722 times.

School Ends, but Hunger Doesn't

School ends in June, BUT hunger doesn't. During the school year, children living within the Palatine Township are able to receive free or reduced-price breakfasts and lunches at school. During the summer, struggling families need help to be able to provide these meals for their children. Nutritious, non-perishable food items are available to them through the Palatine Township Food Pantry. Currently, the Palatine Food Pantry is assisting over 300 families each month.

The **School Ends, but Hunger Doesn't** summer food drive will again be held during May, June and July at St. Paul. Non-perishable food items needed include canned vegetables, canned fruit, hearty soup, peanut butter, canned meats—tuna and chicken, boxed dinner mixes like Tuna and Hamburger Helper, tomato products (e.g., tomato and spaghetti sauce), cereal, cereal bars, baby food, crackers, juice and baking items. Donations may be placed in the grocery cart in Fellowship Hall. The Township Food Pantry also accepts fresh produce AT the Township Office at the corner of Quentin Road and Illinois Avenue. Consider planting a little extra this spring so you can share your extras with the Palatine Township Food Pantry. Thank you for your generosity. Your Community Outreach Committee

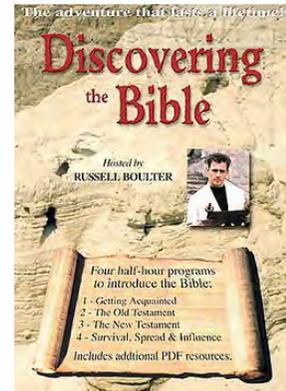




Service of Prayer
at St. Paul UCC
Thursday, May 7th at 8am
With Continental breakfast
to follow

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Discovering the Bible -- A four-session DVD series hosted by Russell Boulter and produced by the Christian History Institute.



You hear it read from each Sunday during worship, and you likely have a copy of it somewhere around the house....but how much do you actually know about the Bible? Do you know where the Bible came from and how we got it today? Why were some writings included in it and others left out? What is the message of the Bible? How do we know that we have the actual words of Jesus? What are the Dead Sea Scrolls?

Join with Pastor David in the main floor conference room as we explore these and other matters related to the formation of what we know as the Holy Bible. As usual, participants have the option of the morning session or the evening session. RSVP is requested but not required.

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| Tuesday April 28th -- 10-11am & 7-8pm | <i>Getting Acquainted</i> |
| Monday May 4th -- 10-11am & 7-8pm | <i>The Old Testament</i> |
| Tuesday May 19th -- 10-11am & 7-8pm | <i>The New Testament</i> |
| Tuesday May 26th -- 10-11am & 7-8pm | <i>Survival, Speed, and Influence</i> |



Blessed are those who are generous,
because they feed the poor.
- Proverbs 22:9

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

St. Paul will be participating in a combined (PFA – Palatine Faith in Action) church event on Saturday May 30th at the FMSC location in Schaumburg. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

When: Saturday, May 30
Where: 1072 National Parkway, Schaumburg, IL.
Time: 4:30 – 6:30 pm or 7:00 – 9:00 pm

BRING A FRIEND!



Pastoral visitation is available to those who are hospitalized, temporarily laid up at home, or going through rehab at a facility. Because hospitals and other institutions do not notify the church when a patient is admitted, we need for you or your family member to notify us. We will be more than happy to accommodate your request for pastoral care. Please note also that the pastor may be reached for emergencies at [\(847\) -963-6114](tel:847-963-6114) (home) or [\(847\) -445-7248](tel:847-445-7248) (cell phone).

Pastor David's procedure in visiting St. Paul's shut-ins, as well as, those members who have a difficult time getting to church is to offer support, bring Holy Communion (their option) and to let them know we journey together in worship. Pastor David understands that scheduling may depend frequency of doctor's appointments or the church member's schedule. Visitation is always available, however, as the shut-in member's health and life situation may change and more extensive pastoral care is needed. Any church member or their family member desiring more frequent pastoral visitation, or to be placed on the visitation list in the first place should contact the church office at [\(847\) - 358-0399](tel:847-358-0399) to make arrangements.



"Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord." (James 5:14)



May birthdays

3 Sharon Khan	23 Amanda Graham
3 Cassie Kerlin	23 Shirley Schimka
4 Wilhelm Strohmeier	25 Sandy Chesny
4 David Gumm	26 Mary Faust
9 Afif Rahman, <i>Compassion Int'l Sponsored Child</i>	
11 Bev Young	29 Bill Davenport
14 Dawn Drost	
15 Amanda Faust	
16 Safiatou Djihuemde, <i>Compassion Int'l Sponsored Child</i>	
20 Tammy Bolf	

*If there is anyone I missed, please call the church office,
so we can update our records. Thank you!*

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP IS DOING SPRING PLANTING

The Women's Fellowship group is meeting at church on Saturday, May 16th at 9:30 for a spring planter workshop. We will then head to Hawthorn Gardens to take in some of the beauty God has created in the form of flowers and plants as we experience the joy of Christian fellowship together.

If you are a gardener, you may learn something new. If you are not a gardener, come see if you would like to try it out on a small scale in a container this season. You need not be a gardener to enjoy the miraculous beauty that spring brings. All women are welcome to join us. We will car pool up to Hawthorn Gardens (a 15 - 20 minute drive). Sign up in Fellowship Hall and indicate if you can drive that day. Contact Holly with questions at hpdesignsforyou@gmail.com



May is Mental Health Month

Jesus helped many people by curing them of their demons. Many of these people were on the margins of society way back then, and so became all but invisible to the people that they lived near. Today there are numerous marginalized people right here in our own community. They are invisible to almost everyone here.

We are talking about those who have a mental illness. It is estimated that six percent of the population lives with a serious mental illness, and yet mental illness has been stigmatized in societies since before Jesus' time. In our own church and other organizations we belong to, if a member or friend has a heart attack, we send cards, visit, and make meals because we care for them. If another member has a bout of depression and is hospitalized, there are no get well cards, meals or visits, and they just become invisible. When we apply *What Would Jesus Do*, we all know the answer, but we still are not motivated or don't know how to help.

Each year millions of Americans face the reality of living with a mental health condition. During the month of May, the National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI) is bringing awareness to mental illness. Each year they fight stigma, provide support, educate the public and advocate for equal care. Each year, the movement grows stronger. In 2013, President Obama proclaimed May as National Mental Health Awareness Month and brought the issue of mental health to the forefront of our nation's thoughts. Mental health issues are important to address year round, but highlighting these issues during May provides a time for people to come together and display the passion and strength of those working to improve the lives of the tens of millions of Americans affected by mental illness.

NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. What started as a small group of families gathered around a kitchen table in 1979 has blossomed into the nation's leading voice on mental health. Today, they are an association of hundreds of local affiliates, state organizations and volunteers who work in communities to raise awareness and provide support and education that was not previously available to those in need, with chapters right here in the northwest suburbs. You can learn more at www.nami.org.

NAMI educates in thousands of communities across America through NAMI State Organizations and NAMI Affiliates. Their education programs ensure hundreds of thousands of families, individuals and educators get the support and information they need. *NAMI advocates* to help shape the national public policy landscape for people with mental illness and their families and provides grassroots volunteer leaders with the tools, resources and skills necessary to save mental health in all states. **NAMI listens.** Their toll-free NAMI HelpLine allows them to respond personally to hundreds of thousands of requests each year, providing free referral, information and support—a much-needed lifeline for many. The NAMI Helpline can be reached at 1-800-950-NAMI Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST. **NAMI leads** public awareness events and activities, including Mental Illness Awareness Week (MIAW) and other efforts to combat stigma and encourage understanding. NAMI works with reporters on a daily basis to make sure our country understands how important mental health is.

Those with a serious mental illness are often the poorest of the poor. Without proper support and access to treatment, they may have difficulty functioning in our society. They are often forced to live in inappropriate settings. Many are homeless. There are the many who are caught in the expensive revolving door of homelessness, emergency rooms, hospitals and jails. In Cook County, Sheriff Tom Dart is the largest provider of health care for the mentally ill. Many of these individuals who have ties to the north and northwest suburban area are inappropriately housed in facilities in other areas of Chicago, far away from their families and support. Others may be living with aging parents who are not fully prepared to serve as medical case managers for their adult children.

For these individuals to have the best chance for recovery, proper housing and supportive mental health care is a necessity. One of the best ways to deliver those services is through permanent supportive housing. The North/Northwest Suburban Task Force on Supportive Housing for Individuals with Mental Illness was formed ten years ago to address the lack of housing for those with mental illness in the north and northwest suburbs of Chicago. The task force is made up of representatives from the five north and northwest suburban NAMI chapters, mental health professionals, community leaders and others concerned with the complex problems those with mental illness face every day. You can learn more at <http://housingtaskforce.org/>.

Remember, when you awake and say, "Good morning God," there are those who need your help. They say the same words in a different order, "Good God, its morning." Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide for those who have too little." May God give us the grace and the wisdom to educate ourselves to support and care for each of God's children.

The Spiritual Life Board



**PRAYERS FOR OUR
COMMUNITY OF FAMILY
AND FRIENDS**

Eva Balogh
 Dr. Sean Benham
 Charlie Betzhold, 18 month old
 Evie Buenzow
 Jim & Flo Dailey, friend of Charlotte Mally
 Marta Davy, friend of Greg & Claudia Mayer
 James Dickson, family member of Randy Cichon
 Dennis Douglas
 John Dybdal, brother of Julianne Glesne
 Capt. Mark DeMuth MD., cousin of Linda Hayford
 Joe Enockson
 CJ Ford, friend of the Harlow family
 Margaret Gintz
 Francisco Gomez, friend of Bob & Pat Kolze
 Kari Harvey, daughter of Dolly Chamberlain
 Austin Hayford, grandson of Ralph & Linda Hayford
 Carol Hennings, sister of Pat Kolze
 Larry Herron
 Jeff Johnson
 Barbara Kerlin, mother of Bruce Kerlin
 Tracy Kerlin
 Charles Leseberg, brother of Mary Ann Leseberg
 Dorothy & Paul Mende, sister & nephew of Charlotte Mally
 Maureen Newman-Krause, friend of Charlotte Mally
 Rick Paolisso, Uncle of Bruce Kerlin
 Sherry Stephens, sister of Shirley Ann Kolze
 Trish Vanderploeg, friend of Kim Cichon
 Fran Werner, sister-in-law of Sharon Florey

**SERVING CHRIST
IN WORSHIP**

Greeters for May:

3: Lyman & Janet Walter
10: Jackie Schultz
17: Bonnie Rendl
24: Larry & Marlene Ingram
31: Shay Storm

May Usher Captain:

Justin Everett

May Nursery Attendant:

Melissa Gumm

May Acolytes:

3: David Mercer & Katie Gregor
10: Usher Captain (Retreat)
17: Holly Chvoy & David Mercer
24: Katie Gregor & Holly Chvoy
31: Katie Gregor & David Mercer

May Lectionary:

3: Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8.
10: Acts 1:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17.
17: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19
24: Acts 2:1-21; Ezek 37:1-14; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Rom 8:22-17, Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27,16:4b-15.
31: Isa 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Rom 8:12-17; John 3:1-17.



How to recognize child abuse

In 1983, President Ronald Reagan declared April to be National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Since then, government and social service professionals have worked tirelessly to raise awareness of child abuse and what people can do to prevent it.

Children who are being abused often have difficulty asking for help. They may not want to get their abuser in trouble, especially if the abuser is a parent or relative. The child may fear that the abuser will hurt him/her or a family member if the child reports the abuse. Very young children and children with disabilities may have difficulty communicating their abuse to others.

Because it can be so difficult for children to disclose abuse, adults must be vigilant about identifying signs of abuse and neglect, which may include:

- Sudden changes in personality or behavior, such as becoming withdrawn or moody.

- Frequent injuries.

- Attempts to cover up injuries by wearing weather-inappropriate clothing, such as a long-sleeved shirt on a hot day.

- Fear of going home.

- Untreated illnesses or injuries.

- Age-inappropriate behavior. For example, an older sibling in an abusive or neglectful home may “parent” his or her younger siblings.

- Poor grooming and personal hygiene.

If you believe that a child might be the victim of abuse or neglect, it’s important to speak up for that child. In Illinois, you can contact the Department of Children and Family Services child abuse hotline 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 800-25-ABUSE. If you believe that a child is in immediate danger, call 911.

How faith communities can prevent child abuse

Child abuse happens in all kinds of families. In addition, non-family members also commit abuse. Faith communities play an important role in preventing, identifying and reporting child abuse.

Here are some ways that congregations can protect children:

Developing educational programs

Faith communities can work with child advocates to educate their congregations about neglect and abuse. Education can take the form of in-person programs offered at the church as well as training for clergy and religious educators.

Identifying and reporting child abuse

While Illinois clergy are legally required to report suspected child abuse, all congregants, particularly those who work with children, should be trained to identify and report abuse.

Developing safe congregation policies

Congregations can help prevent abuse by creating policies that protect children. These policies may include:

- Requiring regular background checks for clergy, educators and staff members.

- Establishing guidelines for adult staff or volunteer members who work with children or youth, such as requiring the presence of at least two unrelated adult supervisors at youth or children’s activities.

- Requiring staff and volunteers to undergo regular training on safe congregation issues and policies.

Providing support to families

In some cases, abuse and neglect can be prevented by providing adequate support to families under stress. Ways of providing support to families include:

- Connecting families with social service and mental health resources.

- Providing practical support by helping with transportation, child care, utility bills and other basic needs.

- Taking time to listen to parents who are struggling.

FLOWER NAMES WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



ALSTROEMERIA
 AMARYLLIS
 ANEMONE
 CARNATION
 DAFFODIL

DELPHINIUM
 FREESIA
 GARDENIA
 GLADIOLUS
 HYACINTH

LARKSPUR
 LIATRIS
 LISIANTHUS
 ORCHID
 RANUNCULUS

SNAPDRAGON
 SOLIDASTER
 SUNFLOWER
 SWEET PEA
 TIGER LILY





Cinco de Mayo Celebration

SATURDAY
May 2, 2015

ENDLESS FOOD,
FUN AND LAUGHTER

Serving a variety of tacos and other delicious food items

ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

144 EAST PALATINE ROAD
PALATINE

Time: 5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

ADULTS to CHILDREN AGE 12 = \$8.00

CHILDREN - AGES 3 TO 11 = \$5.00

CHILDREN UNDER 3 FREE

Proceeds to benefit the 2016 international
mission initiative