

A prayer written by the Rev. Yousif al Saka, an elder in the Presbyterian Church in Baghdad, offers an Easter word, full of poignancy and promise:

We beseech You, we humble ourselves for the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, to send your Holy Spirit to shade the land of Iraq,

so that peace may prevail in its dwellings, and the acts of violence, kidnapping, and persecution may cease;

so that the displaced may return to their homes, the churches may reopen their gates without fear from shells and explosion;

so that smiles may be seen again on the faces of children that have been stolen from them here in this difficult time;

so that the elderly may lean back on their chairs in comfort and tranquility saying farewell to their children when leaving for school or work without anxiety or fear;

so that mothers think only of happy, prosperous, and peaceful future for their daughters and sons.

O Lord, have pity on us, we Iraqis. Let the light of your face shine on us, bless us, strengthen our belief, and bestow patience upon us.

Amen



**THANK YOU**



Thank you for all the get-well cards, phone calls, visits and prayers during my knee replacement surgery and recuperation.

Also, thank you to Pastor Sue for her hospital visit.

Jan Freese

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

To all our St. Philip's Pizza Eaters:

Thanks again for all your support of our Cecil Whittaker's pizza fundraiser. Thanks to all who made cash donations, also. We made almost \$300 towards our mission trip to New Orleans in July. Thanks again.

St. Philip's Youth

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

With gratitude and many thanks –

I enjoyed the fellowship with you. The personal care items are truly a blessing for our people. Thank you once more for the support of the mission work we do at St. John's Community Service Ministry. May God bless and keep you.

(signed) Johnniest B. Henry, director

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At the last minute on Good Friday we decided to make sandwiches for the volunteer sand baggers. Thanks to Sandy Stevenson, Alice Noland, and Joan Schumacher for helping organize and getting food together on a minute's notice. Also thanks to Alice Hillyard and Elvira Rebienne, who came to help before church. After church people stayed to help finish up and then load up. Thanks to Brad for making the tea. All this was delivered by 2:00 pm and was greatly appreciated. Thank you to everyone.

Virginia Hladnick

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Easter Brunch – to those who helped with the Easter Egg Hunt – to the confirmands for reading on Maundy Thursday – to the Choir for their ministry of music.

Pastor Sue

**TRIVIA NIGHT REPORT**

We would like to thank everyone for making the Super Trivia Weekend another success. Thanks to the Trivia Committee; those that contributed prizes or money toward the purchase of prizes; those that helped set up; those that helped during the evenings with running, manning the raffle table, manning the kitchen, scoring, Mr. MC, and the AV team; those that purchased seats at tables; those that helped clean up afterwards. Because of you all, we had the most successful Trivia Weekend yet.

Income:

Tables	\$3,500.00
50/50 Drawings	230.00
Raffles	603.00
Mulligans	320.00
Silent Auction	380.00
Miscellaneous Income	196.50

Total Income \$5,229.50

Expenses:

Drinks	\$ (169.44)
Miscellaneous Expenses	( 4.99)

Total Expenses \$ (174.43)

Total Contribution \$5,055.07

**KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS**

Lucille Brand at Green Park Resident Home,  
John Schuette at Green Park Nursing Home,  
Walt Miller at Orchid Terrace, Ann Goetz at



Delmar Gardens-South, Melba Schulz at Old Orchard, and the family of Hildegard Placial, who passed away on March 2nd, 2008.

**APRIL DINNER**

Join us on April 11th at 6:00 pm for our April Dinner. The sign-up sheet for either Sandy's or Virginia's is on the bulletin board. This is a fun evening with lots of good fellowship.

**CAMP SUNDAY**

Camp Sunday has been set for April 27<sup>th</sup>. Watch the bulletin for more details on this.

**FAITHFUL READERS BOOK CLUB**

Here are the books we are reading and the dates we will discuss them. Everyone is welcome to join us for lunch and discussion.

March 30 <sup>th</sup>	Faith Club
June 1 <sup>st</sup>	Middlesex

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

Women's Fellowship will be collecting books, CDs, and DVDs, for the second annual Neighborhood Houses Book Sale. Items will be collected during the month of March in boxes in the gathering area. The sale will be at St. John's Chesterfield on April 4, 5, and 6. Last year over \$4000 was raised at the book sale for Neighborhood Houses. March 30<sup>th</sup> is the last Sunday to bring them.

Thanks. Nancy Krenning

The Women's Fellowship will be going to St. Charles on Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> for lunch and shopping. They will eat at the The Mother-In-Law's House. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Meet at church at 10:30 am to carpool.



## **50+ GROUP**



The 50+ Group will be going to Hodak's for lunch on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. Meet at church at 11am to carpool.

After lunch we'll return to church to play games. Sign-up list will be posted.

Hostesses: Elvira Rebienne and Alice Hillyard

## **COPY MACHINE AVAILABLE**

The church office is now the owner of a different copy machine – one that does many more things than the old one. So, the old machine is available to anyone who might be interested in taking it for their office or home. Just call the church office 843-5100.

## **NEW MEMBERS TO BE RECEIVED**

There will be an informational meeting for those interested in knowing more about St. Philip's and the United Church of Christ on Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> following worship. We will receive new Members on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Please let Pastor Sue know if you are interested in learning more and/or formally joining with us.



## **THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE**

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee will be taking orders for the Anniversary T-shirts until Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. The t-shirts are \$12.00 each and we can order children's sizes through adult 2X. The t-shirts will be delivered sometime in May.

## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

Our spring congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. If you are a committee chairperson please have your year-end report in to the church office by Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, so that Shirley can have them typed and ready for distribution on or before the 20<sup>th</sup>. Thank you. Also enclosed with the Crier is a proposed amendment for the Church Constitution and By-Laws

related to the Memorial and Special Gifts Committee. Please read it over as it will be voted on at the meeting.

## **ANNUAL BARBECUE – SUNDAY, APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup>**

The barbecue is approaching, April 27<sup>th</sup> to be precise. As always, we are looking for contributions to help make the dinner a success. Please be on the lookout for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the next several weeks. Every little bit helps.

Thank you in advance for all that have contributed items for the barbecue. Now we need your help on working that day. Dinner will be served 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM and shifts will be in two hour increments. Also, we will need help Saturday setting up as well as Sunday evening cleaning up. Thank you for all your help.

## **BACK BAY MISSION- Buloxi, Mississippi**

As of now, I will be going to Buloxi on April 28<sup>th</sup> to meet with groups of volunteers from Eden UCC and St. John's UCC at Mehlville. I understand we will be staying in a dormitory type building. Last year we gutted a house and cleaned it. In another house we put up wallboard. I do not know the job description this year. I will find this out later. This, of course, is a good mission project, but along with that – it is fun and then the many friends you meet.

If you are interested in going with me, call Shirley or call me.

Virginia Hladnick 843-3605

## **PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, we will have a Pancake Breakfast at 11 am. The Emmaus Home Choir will be here to share their many talents with beautiful



singing. Look for more information later. There will also be a sign-up sheet for supplies.

## **MUSIC NOTES**



The Chancel Choir will continue rehearsal during April.

The Children's Choir will continue rehearsing after church during the month of April.

## **50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY UPDATE**

Speeding right along, here we go – 50's Sundays to Remember

May 18 Emmaus Home Choir and Pancake Breakfast

June 8 Finally our Goal!

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Church Service – We hope to welcome back some of our former pastors - then the gala luncheon. See enclosure for all the details.

Tickets on sale soon !! Get your's early as it's sure to be a sell-out.

And don't forget Nancy and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary t-shirts. A real bargain at \$12.00 and great to wear at some of our church functions.

WE ARE SO EXCITED ABOUT EVERYTHING !

Your 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWS**

We are currently collecting the following items for our Summer Program:

Any camping related items

Empty (and clean) ice cream tubs

Large pom poms or styrofoam balls

Ice Cream scoops

Plastic sundae dishes

Empty (and clean) containers of chocolate sauce, strawberry sauce, caramel sauce

Aprons

New or gently used shopping bags with handles – like what you get from department stores

Thank you to Pat Siewing for the shoeboxes.

Thank you to Tom Nottelmann for helping to keep our playground clear of debris.

We are looking for someone who would be interested in temporarily working in the kitchen during the month of June. The hours would be 9:30 am – 2:00 pm, Monday thru Friday. Please contact Sarah Spencer at 314-843-2115 if you know someone who might be interested.

## **NEW PRAYER AND MEDITATION SERVICE**

Beginning in April Pastor Sue will lead meditation services on select Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. The services will be held twice a month, and will incorporate meditation techniques similar to those we've experience during Pastor's meditative sermons. See the enclosed brochure. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday evenings.

## **APRIL MISSION MOMENTS**

Our April 20<sup>th</sup> mission moment will be given by Dawn Williamson on behalf of BeadforLife.

BeadforLife partners with over 200 women in Uganda, providing opportunities for them to lift their families out of poverty through the creation of beaded jewelry. The beads are handmade by rolling colorful recycled paper. The love and hope of the beader is present in each bead. Once strung together, they become beautiful necklaces and bracelets.

The money women earn from the sale of beads goes directly into feeding their families, buying medicine, paying for school fees, and perhaps saving to start small businesses. All profits from the sale of the beads are invested in projects that fight extreme poverty including health education, housing, and sustainable livelihood. BeadforLife offers people opportunities for jobs, rather than handouts.

You will have a chance to buy unique handmade jewelry and watch a short DVD about BeadforLife. This is a great way to do something to improve the world.

### **LYDIA'S HOUSE COMMUNITY MEAL**

Our next community meal for Lydia's House will be on Wednesday, April 2. Please consider preparing an item to be included in our dinner for them that evening. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Food needs to be at church by noon on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. As usual, thank you so much for all you do.

### **ST. LOUIS ASSOCIATION WOMEN, UCC SPRING GATHERING**

On Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, you are invited to the spring gathering of SLAW to be held at St. Lucas UCC from 9:30 am until 3:00 pm. You'll have an opportunity to be with other UCC women, meet the new conference minister, share in small groups and enjoy a delicious lunch. The cost is \$10.00 per person, which includes lunch. Sign up on the bulletin board by April 15 and be part of the St. Philip's group attending.

### **THANKS FROM THE MISSOURI CONFERENCE OFFICE**

Recently four women from St. Philip's went to the conference office to help sort literature and stuff envelopes for the Camp Mo-Val mailing. Many thanks to Virginia Hladnick, Janet Remmers, Joan Schumacher, and Sandy Stevenson for helping with this important task.

### **YOUTH NOTES**

Two upcoming discussion groups for high school and college students.....

- Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, immediately after worship – the topic will be "Fear, Love, and Security". This is the second segment in the Peace of the World series. Location to be determined. Contact Terri Karcher to RSVP or with questions.
- Sunday, May 4, again right after worship....mark your calendar and stay tuned for more details.

### **APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

April 1	April Schillinger
April 3	Ben Kotthoff
April 4	Carley Nickel
April 4	Tara Siewing
April 7	Steve Werner
April 9	Elvira Rebienne
April 10	Judy Parkinson
April 10	Stan Parkinson
April 10	Bradley Knoll
April 10	Dorothy Strobl
April 12	Ron Saulka
April 13	Bryant Rohlfing
April 15	Alice Noland
April 18	Alyse Gordon
April 18	Kayla Gordon
April 23	Al Bowles
April 24	Steve Hladnick
April 26	Linda Haman
April 27	Lucy Vogt
April 27	Abby Hodges
April 28	Kate Kimker
April 28	Mary Darr
April 28	Helen Wright

### **COMING EVENTS**

April 1	Bell Choir 7 pm
April 2	Choir 7 pm
April 3	Yoga 6:30 pm
April 6	Communion Sunday Informational Class after worship Engaging Youth Koffee Klotch after worship
April 7	Bible Study 8:30 am Council Meeting 7 pm
April 8	Bell Choir 7 pm
April 9	Choir 7 pm
April 10	Willing Workers 10 am Yoga Class 6:30 pm



April 12 Work Day at church  
 April 13 Birthday Sunday  
           New members received  
 April 14 Bible Study 8:30 am  
 April 15 Women's Fellowship – St. Charles  
           Bell Choir 7 pm  
 April 16 Choir 7 pm  
 April 17 Yoga 6:30 pm  
 April 19 50+ Group to Hodak's Restaurant  
 April 20 Congregational Meeting  
 April 21 Bible Study 8:30 am  
           Crier articles due  
 April 23 Choir 7 pm  
 April 24 Willing Workers 10 am  
           Yoga 6:30 pm  
 April 26 Set up MPR for barbecue  
 April 27 Barbecue 11 am – 7 pm  
 April 28 Bible Study 8:30 am  
 April 29 Bell Choir 7 pm  
 April 30 Choir 7 pm

**COMMUNITY EVENTS**

Be sure to check the bulletin board for events occurring in April.

Sunday, April 6 – Pork Sausage Dinner – Carondelet UCC  
                   Church 7423 Michigan serving 11 am – 3 pm  
                   adults \$8.00 in advance, 8.50 at door  
                   Children (5-11) \$4.00 at the door

Sat/Sun April 12 & 13 – Rotary Arts and Crafts Fair – Lindbergh  
                   High School Saturday 9-4 Sunday 10-4

Saturday, April 12 – 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Camp Mo-Val Walk-a-Thon 10  
                   am - Hope UCC and Francis Park

Monday, April 14 – Auxiliary Spring Luncheon – Immanuel UCC –  
                   (Ferguson) 221 Church Street

Fri-Sun April 18-20 – Men's Retreat at Camp Mo-Val

Wednesday, April 30 - St. Louis Assoc. Women, UCC Spring  
                   Gathering – registration 9 am

**DON'T FORGET YOUR TICKETS  
FOR THE BARBECUE – APRIL 27TH**



**LITURGISTS, USHERS, ACOLYTES AND CHILDREN'S TIME  
FOR APRIL**

**Liturgists**

April 6 Brad Urban  
April 13 Dana Faerber  
April 20 Mike Shelton  
April 27 Ellen Disseler



**Children's Time**



April 6 Kit Norton  
April 13 Kathy Shelton  
April 20 April Schillinger  
April 27 Brad Urban

**Ushers**

April 6 Youth  
April 13 50+ Group  
April 20 Stewardship and Finance  
April 27 Women of St. Philip's



**ACOLYTES**



**Acolytes**

April 6 Alex Balzer  
April 13 Rachel Fischer  
April 20 Haylee Thibodeaux  
April 27 Brent Rohlfing

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Twenty years ago, I drove a cab for living. When I arrived at 2:30 a.m. the building was dark except for a single light in a ground floor window. Under these circumstances, many drivers would just honk once or twice, wait a minute, and drive away. But I had seen too many impoverished people who depended on taxis as their only means of transportation. Unless a situation smelled of danger, I always went to the door. This passenger might be someone who needs my assistance, I reasoned to myself.

So I walked to the door and knocked. "Just a minute", answered a frail, elderly voice. I could hear something being dragged across the floor. After a long pause, the door opened. A small woman in her 80's stood before me. She was wearing a print dress and a pillbox hat with a veil pinned on it, like somebody out of a 1940s movie. By her side was a small nylon suitcase. The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered with sheets. There were no clocks on the walls, no knickknacks or utensils on the counters. In the corner was a cardboard box filled with photos and glassware.

"Would you carry my bag out to the car?" she said. I took the suitcase to the cab, then returned to assist the woman. She took my arm and we walked slowly toward the curb. She kept thanking me for my kindness. "It's nothing", I told her. "I just try to treat my passengers the way I would want my mother treated." "Oh, you're such a good boy", she said. When we got in the cab, she gave me an address, and then asked, "Could you drive through downtown?"

"It's not the shortest way," I answered quickly.

"Oh, I don't mind," she said. "I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to a hospice."

I looked in the rear-view mirror. Her eyes were glistening. "I don't have any family left," she continued. "The doctor says I don't have very long." I quietly reached over and shut off the meter.

"What route would you like me to take?" I asked.

For the next two hours, we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she had once worked as an elevator operator. We drove through the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newlyweds. She had me pull

up in front of a furniture warehouse that had once been a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl.

Sometimes she'd ask me to slow in front of a particular building or corner and would sit staring into the darkness, saying nothing. As the first hint of sun was creasing the horizon, she suddenly said, "I'm tired. Let's go now."

We drove in silence to the address she had given me. It was a low building, like a small convalescent home, with a driveway that passed under a portico. Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as we pulled up. They were solicitous and intent, watching her every move. They must have been expecting her. I opened the trunk and took the small suitcase to the door. The woman was already seated in a wheelchair.

"How much do I owe you?" she asked, reaching into her purse. "Nothing," I said.

"You have to make a living," she answered. "There are other passengers," I responded. Almost without thinking, I bent and gave her a hug. She held onto me tightly. "You gave an old woman a little moment of joy," she said. "Thank you."

I squeezed her hand, and then walked into the dim morning light. Behind me, a door shut. It was the sound of the closing of a life. I didn't pick up any more passengers that shift. I drove aimlessly lost in thought. For the rest of that day, I could hardly talk. What if that woman had gotten an angry driver, or one who was impatient to end his shift? What if I had refused to take the run, or had honked once, then driven away? On a quick review, I don't think that I have done anything more important in my life. We're conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments. But great moments often catch us unaware – beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small one.

People may not remember exactly what you did or what you said, ~but~ they will always remember how you made them feel.

Think about that!

An internet article from a friend of Shirley Nottelmann

## **NEW – PRAYER AND MEDITATION SERVICE**

**2<sup>ND</sup> AND 4<sup>TH</sup> Wednesdays – 6:30 PM**

**APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup> AND APRIL 23<sup>RD</sup>**

Format -        Opening Prayer  
                      A reading of instruction or inspiration  
                      Lord's Prayer  
                      Meditation  
                      Prayers for healing  
                      Closing  
                      Discussion and homework

This will be a quiet reflecting service of prayer, meditation and music. We come seeking peace and understanding and spiritual growth. Please join Pastor Sue for this time.