



THE  
**Parish**  
christ church  
**Paper**  
WINNETKA, ILLINOIS

april 18 & 25, 2004

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## The Rector's Sermon

Easter Day  
April 11, 2004

What an incredible story! Think about it: your best friend has just been executed, dead beyond a shadow of a doubt. The next thing you know is that he is alive, raised from the dead, standing right in front of you. How to believe it! How to make any sense of it? How to comprehend that from that moment on everything would be different?

I'm tempted to say that the story begins on the Friday before with Jesus' death on a cross. Actually, the story really begins with the birth of Jesus. We know that story well: The announcement




of the Angel Gabriel to Mary that she would bear a child whose name would be Jesus, an Aramaic derivative from the Hebrew *Joshua* which means "God saves;" no room in the inn at Bethlehem with Mary and Joseph forced to take refuge in a stable—"Away in a manger, no crib for a bed;" that his birth was attended by shepherds and angels and wise men; but then having to flee to Egypt to escape the intention of King Herod to kill any pretenders to his throne. If we continue with that sub-story we encounter the viciousness of King Herod who did in fact slaughter the children of Bethlehem, and we are reminded that despite "the hopes and



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# christian foundation

*life in christ*  
Parish Forum



10:10 - 11:00 a.m.  
Mc Clain Room

**Sunday, April 18:**

Christ Church will present a special hour this Sunday with **The Reverend Bobbie McKay, Ph.D. and Lewis Musil, M.A.**, who will present the results of their groundbreaking study on **Spiritual Life in Mainstream Religious Communities**. This interfaith study comprises one of the largest databases of information about people's spiritual lives in Protestant, Catholic and Jewish communities in the United States. The meeting will concentrate on data from Episcopal churches in the Chicago area, including Christ Church.


Dr. McKay is a pastor in the United Church of Christ and a licensed clinical psychologist. Mr. Musil is an educator and writer.

**April 25 & May 2:**

Our forum leader for a two part series in late April and early May is Michael Murphy. Murphy will discuss the challenges of parenting, a topic sure to engage young parents, grandparents and anyone interested in the implications of family and parenting on society.

# currents & tidings

one book  
two  
villages



As part of the Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District's "One Book, Two Villages" project, Christ Church will host a book discussion of *Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague* by Geraldine Brooks. The discussion will be on **Friday, May 7** from 7:30-9 p.m. in the Lea Room of Church House (784 Sheridan Road – enter off Humboldt). For more information or to register, call the church office at 847-446-2850, ext. 24. Books are available at the Winnetka and Northfield public libraries and for purchase at the Bookstall.

planned giving  
& investments  
seminar

On **Saturday, May 1**, Christ Church will present a Planned Giving and Investments Seminar from 9-11 a.m. in the McClain Room of Church House. The seminar will be educational and inspirational and should help parishioners explore how their planned giving might enhance existing Church programs and help build an endowment for the future. Please plan to attend. For additional information, call Rick Taft, 847-446-6938.

# o u t r e a c h



If you are unfamiliar with The Good News Soup Kitchen, a wonderful outreach program sponsored in part by Christ Church, here are some of the highlights:

- The Soup Kitchen is not too far away (just off Howard St. in Rogers Park) but serves a very needy community of homeless and poor men, women and children. Approximately 125 people are served each night.
  - Our scheduling is *totally* flexible and based on *your* availability. Some families go down every month—some only twice a year. If you don't like to cook, you can help with the buying or serving.
  - The financial outlay is only about \$20-\$30 for your fruit or cooking ingredients. Recipes are really easy! Assembling the casserole will take about an hour. If you are serving, you can plan on starting at about 5 p.m. and finishing about 6:30.
  - Currently, over 70 Christ Church families are participating—and when we say families, we mean families! Children age 6 and over pass out fruit, dessert, and milk or, if they are really lucky, run the dishwasher! Children under six often help at home with food preparation. (Adults usually serve the hot portion of the meal.)
  - The camaraderie among volunteers makes the experience even more worthwhile!
- Our Church has committed to providing the entire dinner on the second Tuesday and the fourth Saturday of each month. We could *really* use your help!

If you have any questions, want to be put on the new schedule, or be listed as a substitute, please call Deb Emry (Murdoch) (847) 501-4648.

# i n t h e c o m m u n i t y

interfaith  
weekend

Christ Church, along with Winnetka Congregational Church, Winnetka Covenant Church, and Temple Jeremiah, will participate in a weekend program **April 23-25**, "Tearing Down Walls, Building Bridges," to include:

- Friday evening Shabbat Worship services at 8 p.m. at Temple Jeremiah. The evening will feature Ron Miller, Co-Founder of Common Ground, speaking on "Today's Agenda for Jewish-Christian Dialogue."
- The 5th Annual Stanley C. Golder Interfaith Lecture on Saturday evening at 8 p.m. at Temple Jeremiah. *New York Times* bestselling author Bruce Feiler, author of *Abraham* and *Walking the Bible*, will speak on "Can We All Get Along? Building Bridges Among Jews, Christians and Muslims in the 21st Century."

# i n t h e c o m m u n i t y



Make a reservation!  
Friday, **May 7**, 6 – 11 p.m. will

teem with food, an auction and dancing at “Wild Journey into the Night, a benefit for Cathedral Shelter. The evening at Café Brauer at the Lincoln Park Zoo will include music by the Stanley Paul Orchestra. For tickets or more information, contact Brian H. Myers, [brian.myers@cathedralshelter.org](mailto:brian.myers@cathedralshelter.org) or call 312-997-2222, ext. 238. George Smith is a board member and he would love to see fellow parishioners support the Cathedral Shelter at the benefit.

## good news partners annual dinner dance

Join Good News Partners at

its annual dinner on Friday, **May 7** at 6 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Evanston. The mission of The Partners is to “share good news with the poor” (Luke 4:18). Tickets for the dinner are \$40. For information, contact Molly Lovelock at Good News Partners, 773-764-4998, [molly@goodnewspartners.org](mailto:molly@goodnewspartners.org)

## benefit concert

A hymn festival and concert entitled *Awake, Arise, Lift Up Your Voice!* under the direction of Richard Webster, will be held on **April 23, 2004 at 8 p.m.** at the Alice Millar Chapel, 1870 Sheridan Road, Evanston. The concert benefits Canterbury Northwestern, the Episcopal campus ministry. Tickets: \$35 (\$10 for students). Call 847-328-8654.

## The Rector’s Sermon

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that are met in thee tonight,” Jesus was born into a dangerous world, a world where the innocent were at risk, a world full of injustice and cruelty, a world so in need of the peace the birth of Jesus promised.

To be sure, we live in a dangerous world, frightening, really. How well I remember as a child of five the air raid drills in my first school. The bombing of Pearl Harbor and the threat of German submarines were wakeup calls that our isolation was no longer a security. How well I remember as a young teenager conversations about bomb shelters in case of a nuclear attack. History has taught us how close we came to that particular holocaust, and despite the end of the Cold War there still exist nuclear weapons here and abroad capable of global annihilation. I think of the Lost Boys of the Sudan who as children had to deal with inconceivable deprivation and horror, tens of thousands killed simply trying to find a safe place. I think of baby girls in China who are killed just because they are girls. Thank God we live in America, but 9/11 has punctured any bubble of security we might have had in much the same way that the Laurie Dann shootings in Winnetka made us realize that even in this community we are not immune, that the innocent in all our communities be they Bethlehem, the Sudan, Iraq, Chicago, or Winnetka are at risk.

But if the story of Jesus’ resurrection includes the circumstances of his birth, it also includes the circumstances of his life, especially his extraordinary three years of ministry. That began with his baptism we think at about age 30 when his cousin John the Baptist introduces us to Jesus, “Behold the Lamb of God.” Behold the lamb, the one whose sacrifice

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will forgive your sins. It was however by any measure a ministry of phenomenal success. This young, charismatic carpenter from Nazareth started off like gangbusters and attracted huge crowds with his preaching and teaching. He was known as a healer who could cure leprosy, who could cast out demons, who could even raise the dead. He was something of an iconoclast in his challenge to conventional religion and was therefore perceived as a threat by both of the centers of power in Palestine, the Jewish Sanhedrin, and the Roman procurator.

In many ways the success of Jesus in his ministry is very appealing in today's culture of success. The friendly little church around the corner just like the Mom and Pop store around the corner are being replaced by mega churches and Wal-Mart—read L & A and Office Depot. I remember one article I read that described Jesus' management style as particularly effective—a sort of Herb Kelleher, founder and chairman of Southwest Airlines: thoughtful, decisive, a visionary who can motivate others. And yet, we know today the climate in which leadership is exercised in this country and throughout the world is particularly toxic. We are driven by the need to be popular and tell people what they want to hear, rather than what they need to hear. That was certainly true in Jesus' case and brings us squarely to the story of his death.

On Good Friday we rehearsed the story of that death and are painfully aware that the bread and circuses of Jesus' success in ministry, all of those hosannas on Palm Sunday, could not save him from the disappointment of those who would set him up as the Messiah King and those who understood that any description of a king was a threat. Much has been made this past year of "Who killed Jesus?" The answer is that all of us killed him: the Jewish religious leaders, Pontius Pilate and Roman soldiers, those in the crowd, and you and me. It is human sin that nailed him to the tree and like Jesus' birth, and like Jesus' life, the story of his dying and death is very much our story as well. The centuries and centuries of violence and inhumanity and injustice and hatred and greed continue to plague us. And yet the tree of his death turned out to be a tree of life revealed early that Sunday morning with Mary Magdalene's discovery that Jesus was alive.



And so the penultimate story in these series of stories confronts us with the dazzling, overwhelming fact that death could not contain Jesus. All of a sudden the women see something that the world has been trying ever since to comprehend. The stone has been rolled away from the tomb of this world. The tomb enclosing death itself has been cracked open. A world of violence and fear need not be the last word.

Now I said *penultimate story* because the story doesn't end with the Resurrection. Penultimate means next to last, and that last story is *your* story and *my* story as we incorporate faith and hope and confidence that death—not our death, not anyone's death—that death cannot defeat the life God has in store for us. Moreover, this resurrected life business isn't just for later, it's for right now.

But there's the rub. How willing are we to have those stones rolled away in our lives? All  
(continued on page 6)

**The Rector's Sermon** *(continued from page 5)*

of us, obviously, hope for the healing of others, the signs of resurrection in their life. And all of us know people in whom the Resurrection is working miracles right now. Someone celebrating the anniversary of sobriety. Someone who calls chemotherapy her best friend because it's working. A premature baby who takes an agonizingly long time to suck and swallow, but who is finally home with her parents and siblings, a very happy family. Or one with chronic and disabling back pain who discovers in all of his tests there is a tumor on his pancreas, and because it was caught so early could be successfully surgically removed. He still has back pain but being cancer-free is resurrection enough for him. Or a ten-year old who presents himself at the altar rail on a Healing Sunday and says simply, "I want to grow closer to God." Dramatic and not-so-dramatic examples of our gratitude that the Resurrection can be seen in the lives of those we love, in examples of bravery and heroism and sacrifice here at home and throughout the world that insist that life is God's dream for us as well as God's reality for us. Archbishop Desmond Tutu knew the truth of this when he preached recently in Chicago citing the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa, when "we went the route of magnanimity and generosity of spirit, and we have scored a spectacular victory over the viciousness of apartheid [through forgiveness and love]."

Such is our gratitude for others, but what of ourselves? A hospital chaplain once commented that 85% of people waking up in the recovery room after surgery said the same thing first. It is not, to our surprise, "Am I OK?" or, "Did you get it all?" What they say is, "Did I talk much and what did I say?" That chaplain said it means that 85% of us would rather die than make a fool of themselves. But he also went on to say that what people are really asking is the human question: Can I be loved if I am known? Could it be possible that, if others knew the secrets of my heart, the failures, the fears, the corners cut, and the love of self, could it be that if the real me is exposed that anyone could love me? So often it's because we are so afraid to find out whether the answer could be "Yes," that we hide or we cover up or we push away. If the real me is exposed, can I be loved? (I am grateful to Jim Donald and his Easter Sermon in 2003 for this illustration.)

The proclamation of Easter Day—now let's take a deep breath everyone—is that every person here today, however you found yourself here today, that every person is known just as we are, and loved by God just as we are. God knows all of us are a work in progress, but the Resurrection wasn't just for the spiritual giants among us. It's for the doubters, for those who don't think they know enough of the story or when to say "Amen," for those who are afraid to give up their secrets lest we invoke the judgment of others, for those on the way up and on the way down, it's for whatever winning team or losing team you play for, for the tiniest child and our most senior citizen, for the visitor, for the hesitant, the worried and anxious, the distracted, (anyone distracted lately?), for the Senior Warden and the Sexton, for the Flower Guild and those who are allergic, for the lovers and makers of music and for those who can't carry a tune in a bucket, for those who only put a quarter in their mite boxes yesterday and for those who put a quarter in every day for 40 days, for those who are hanging on by their fingernails and those for whom the world is their oyster (at least for now)—surely you get the picture: the Resurrection is for you. God loves you completely and utterly, Jesus died for you and was raised for you, the Holy Spirit will heal you and strengthen you. We are so blessed, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ, so blessed. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

# administrative matters

recap of the minutes  
of the vestry meeting  
of February 24, 2004

- Following the opening Meditation, the Rector welcomed new Vestry members Esther Berry, Ken Gould, Rick Jones and Jim McGee and Junior Warden Bob Wilcox. The Vestry passed a resolution that Melanie Cody, John Lien and Lawson Whitesides be elected to serve another year as Clerk, Chancellor and Treasurer, respectively.
- The Vestry passed a resolution to confirm the members of the Investment Committee for 2004 (Rick Taft, Chair, Lawson Whitesides, Carol Schroeder, Bob Wilcox, Tom Hodges, Stuart Miller), those with access to funds (any two of Edward Prevost, Patricia Snickenberger, Robert Wilcox) and approved signers (the clergy, the treasurer, the wardens).
- Jim McGee and the Funds Disbursement Committee will create and manage a process for receiving and evaluating proposals to spend investment funds. Committee members are Jim McGee, Steve Anderson, Robin Anstaett, Barb Spencer, Rick Potter, Patti Snickenberger and Bob Wilcox. The Treasurer has made a historical record of gifts received and their designated purposes and recommends that the committee review this in order to ensure spending is done appropriately. Further, a system to formalize receipts of gifts and intentions will be created.
- The Treasurer reported approximately \$200K in cash resulting from prepaid pledges. The annual canvass is short \$40K of its goal at this time, with 40 who pledged last year not yet responding to the 2004 campaign. The Treasurer will send reminder notes to those persons.
- The Vestry approved the appointment of Gail Hodges as an official member of the West Building committee, comprised also of Bob Bradner (Chair), Bob Wilcox, Robin Anstaett, Roger Lump, Ned Prevost, Barb Spencer, Jack Townsend and Lawson Whitesides. The committee's mission is to research, evaluate and communicate to the Vestry the utilization possibilities of the West Building for enhancing the fulfillment of the Parish's mission, including concerns for financial resources, Rummage and service to the community.
- **Rector's Report.** Dominic DiPaolo has been hired as Sexton. The Vestry Retreat and orientation was held at Lawrence Hall, with the Lobster Boil that evening. The choir traveled to Washington DC to sing at the National Cathedral. The successful CALBOS Benefit was followed on Sunday by the Pancake Supper. Pastoral care in the prior month included four memorial services, the deaths of mothers of three parishioners and a wedding celebration. The confirmation class has designated the Mite Box collection for donation to the Kellogg Cancer Care Center, in support of Melly Turner.
- **Committee Reports.** Rick Taft reported two modifications to existing investments in the Investment account. The Treasurer explained that a group is being formed to recommend a financial system, and Barbara Hambleton will assist as a consultant and to provide accounting support on an hourly basis to Cathy O'Brien. Following the approval of resolutions required by our banks, the meeting was adjourned at the conclusion of Compline.

**Clergy and Staff**

Church Office: (847) 446-2850  
The Rev. Edward S. Prevost, ext. 33  
rector@christchurchwinnetka.org  
The Rev. Patricia Snickenberger, ext.

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*Curate:* The Rev. George Smith, ext. 27

*Choirmaster:* Richard Clemmitt, ext. 22

*Director of Children's Ministries:* Melly Turner,

*Parish Administrator:* Molly Ethridge, ext. 23

*Office Assistant & Rummage Coordinator:*  
Mary-Anne Badenhorst, ext. 35 or ext. 26

*Bookkeeper:* Cathy O'Brien, ext. 28

*Facilities Manager:* Jim Caldwell, ext. 31  
Kirstin Synnestvedt

*Primary Choir Director:*  
*Sextons:* Mario Ruiz, Sylvestor Bona, Dominic

*Parish Paper Editor & Layout:*  
parishpaper@christchurchwinnetka.org

**Sundays:** 7:45 am Eucharist; 9 am Eucharist with choir, Children's Atria; 11:15 am Eucharist with choir [Morning Prayer & Holy Communion on 2nd & 4th Sundays]; 3rd Sunday, services with healing (Church)

**Wednesdays:** 9:30 am Eucharist (Chapel)

**Fridays:** 7:30 am Eucharist (Chapel)

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**Vestry**

Robin Anstaett, *Senior Warden*  
Robert Wilcox, *Junior Warden*  
Steven Anderson Molly  
Bayley

Esther Berry Kenneth  
Gould Richard Jones  
James McGee

Stuart Miller Annette  
Peck

Richard Potter Kevin  
Sido Barbara  
Spencer Richard Taft

PARISH HOUSE, CHAPEL, RUMMAGE &  
LAVATORY, CHURCH OFFICE  
Melanie Cody, Clerk  
470 Maple Street, Winnetka, Illinois 60093  
John Liaw, Chancellor

CHURCH ON THE HILL & CHURCH

784 Sheridan Road, Winnetka, Illinois 60093

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

the **P**arish **P**aper

year and monthly in July and August.

The deadline for submitting information or

**Tuesday, Apr. 20.** Please submit materials to  
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parishpaper@christchurchwinnetka.org

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