

# The Word

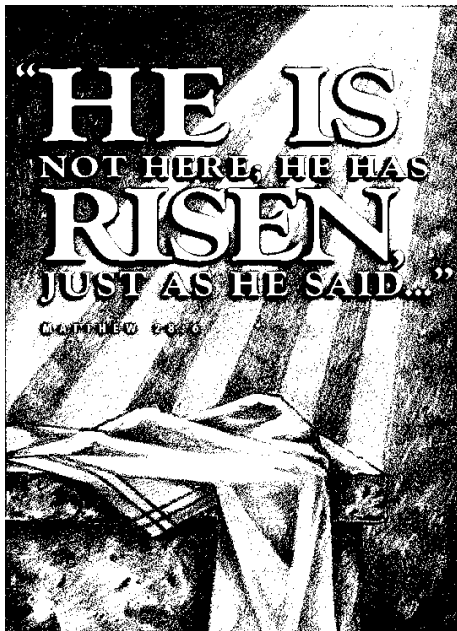
St. Thomas U M C

St. Thomas United Methodist Church

2 S 511 Route 53

Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

(630) 469-1214



*“Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.”*

*- Matthew 28: 5-6a*

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# The Word



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April 2009

St. Thomas United Methodist Church

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Our Consecration and Open House celebration was indeed that **A CELEBRATION**. We have reached a major marker on our journey as a people of faith and what a way to celebrate! We had a great time together and many people pulled together to make our day a great one. Thanks to all who participated in the many different ways and for Nancy Calhoun and her committee for giving their guidance and encouragement to get us organized. Our hats go off to you for a tremendous job! What an outstanding way to enter a season that goes from one extreme emotion to another!



The season of Lent is the "spring cleaning" season for those who believe. It is the time when we examine and assess who we are and how we might work toward a closer and stronger relationship with God. It is a time to clean out the "cobwebs and dust bunnies" that pile up in our lives and block our view and perspective. It is a time to lay aside our differences, grudges and disagreements to work on our relationship with our neighbors and each other. It is a time of intense emotion and even includes the crucifixion of our savior. During this season of Lent we are to take a good look at who we are and what our lives **should** be and what are the ways we need to make improvements. Can we really live as God would want us - fully trusting and faithful, thinking of others above ourselves, worshipping and praising from the depths of our beings? This season gives a resounding "yes" to those questions. And why not..... We serve a God who gave us the very best of all that was - his only Son.

But it is also a season of hope and expectation. It is a season that reminds us of God's grace through Jesus Christ in the midst of betrayal and mistrust. It is a season that reminds us that love is always stronger than hate. It is a season of victory when defeat seems to be all around. Let us travel through this season together... not missing out on any of the stops. Let us spend this season in prayer, fasting and self-denial, cleaning up the dark and sometimes overlooked corners of our lives, wiping clean the slate of bitterness and hatred so that we can all arrive at the foot of the cross together!

Blessings and peace, *Pastor Danita*

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**DEAR MEMBERS OF ST. THOMAS...**

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It is through necessity and with regret that this news is being shared with you today. As a congregation, we have shared time, love and concern with our Student Pastor, Bea McGuire since she joined our congregation in September of 2008. As some of you may know, she suffered the loss of her father in November. In December, she found herself with an injury that severely limited her time and availability to be with us. January brought corrective surgery along with therapy that continues today. In February, Bea lost a beloved older brother, Addel DeJesus.

As Margot and I met with Bea, she shared with us her overwhelming need to find again the "face of Christ" in her life each day and to continue to strengthen her faith throughout these days of challenge. She is asking for our prayers for support and strength, for healing and renewal, and for the love and grace of Jesus Christ to continue to be a powerful and positive influence in her life every day!

In meeting with us and her Garrett mentor, Bea has decided that she needs to take care of her spiritual, emotional and physical needs now as they continue to unfold, in order that she might once again, at a later time, be able to minister to others. Toward that end, and in consultation with Garrett, she has decided to discontinue her covenant with St. Thomas. She shared her regret at leaving us as she felt connected and had learned much in her time with us.

When she is able, Bea is interested in bringing closure with her St. Thomas site committee and in letting the St. Thomas congregation know just how much we have meant in her life. She is anticipating reflective time to consider her lessons learned while she has been with us. Please join us in adding Bea and her family to our prayers as they continue to deal with each day ahead, asking that they are renewed in their faith and strengthened in His name!

Dinah Bryant, Chair, SPRC  
Margot Zwierlein, Chair, Site Committee

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## UMW & LOBBY DAY

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(STUMC UMW President, Martha Lobb, asked that this message to shared with the St. Thomas family.)

The United Methodist Women are active in speaking out for issues that concern women and children. In that role, the UMW of the Northern Illinois Conference and the Illinois Great Rivers Conference are partnering with Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems (ILCAAAP) for a Legislative Day on Thursday, April 2, at the State Capitol in Springfield.

Workshops on "How to Lobby" will be presented from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. in the South Hallway on the first floor of the Capitol. Refreshments will be provided.

Displays from statewide organizations and the Northern Illinois Anti-gambling Task Force will line the hallway of the Capitol. The Faith, Family & Future Rally will begin at 11:00 am in the Capitol Rotunda. Legislators and individuals who have been instrumental in fighting the expansion of gambling, alcohol and drugs will receive awards and speak to the group. Rita L. Smith will be speaking for the United Methodist Women.

A dramatization of Peter Cartwright will be portrayed by United Methodist minister Joel Catlin. Cartwright, a contemporary of Abraham Lincoln, rivaled Lincoln in political power in Sangamon County during Lincoln's early political career, even defeating Lincoln for the office of state representative. Peter Cartwright's humorous and powerful style of preaching converted many to the Lord.

Gospel music will fill the Capitol at noon as rally participants prepare to visit their Legislators. Grassroots lobbying is very important as legislators pay special attention to those who have traveled from their districts to the Capitol to have their voices heard.

This is a wonderful opportunity to make our united voices heard at the capitol to influence public policy. For more information, call Rita L. Smith (773-237-4470) or visit [ILCAAAP](http://ILCAAAP)

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## **MIDWEST MISSION SUPPLIES**

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A team of nine is ready to trek down to Chatham, IL for our annual Holy Week work time at the Midwest Mission Distribution Center. As usual, we invite everyone who could not join us but would like to participate in this work to do so by donating supplies for us to take with us. The complete listings are in the brochure available on the counter in the Narthex. We need supplies for school kits and health kits, for filling flood buckets, etc. Remember, you do not need to put any of these kits together – that is what we do at the Center – we just need your donations of some of the supplies to put in them. If you have any questions, see a member of the mission team: Dave Thorpe, Norma Thorpe, Rolland Grenzow, Sally Grenzow, Nola Altenhoff, Martha Blumer, Mary Kay Sheldon, Jean Jaques, and Beth Pearson

--Mission Outreach Work Area

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## **THE PASSING OF FRIENDS**

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STUMC member Phyllis Ostick passed away in December. She died peacefully at home after a long illness. She and husband Lloyd have been members of St. Thomas for many years but have been unable to attend for a long time. They were very active in the St. Thomas bridge group. Phyllis was a nurse for 55 years and worked the ER at Gottlieb Hospital in Melrose Park for 30 years. Lloyd was her loving caregiver throughout her eighteen major surgeries and still resides at 426 Sandhurst Circle in Glen Ellyn.

Word was also received of the passing of Harold Dent. Harold and Judy were members for many years before moving to Muncie, Indiana. Notes of condolence can be sent to Judy as 5121 West Preakness Court, Muncie, Indiana 47304-5327.

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## **SPECIAL THANKS...**

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A special word of thanks to Al Pearson who used his photographic skills to re-take and reframe the pastoral pictures. These newly

created photos now hang proudly in the parlor, reflecting our STUMC leadership history. Thank you, Al, for all your work on these. They are a special part of St. Thomas again.

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## **FEED OUR STARVING CHILDREN TRIP PLANNED**

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Just a Reminder: The Fellowship committee is planning another trip to Feed Our Starving Children on Saturday, April 18 from 9-11am. FOSC feeds children around the world for only pennies. Our last group that went fed 33 children for one whole year by packing dried vegetables and proteins for two hours. There are 15 spaces available for this April trip. Use the sign-up in the narthex to indicate your plan to participate in this wonderful mission/fellowship opportunity. Please join the cause.

--Anne Flood, Fellowship

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## **MISSION WORK FOR SUMMER 2009**

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At our March meeting, the Mission Outreach Work Area decided that we would get a team to work at the Humboldt Park Social Services (HPSS) Friday and Saturday, June 26/27. After a site visit, it was decided that we could do several projects that will greatly enhance their operation. Some of these projects are: re-mulching the playground area for the church and the transitional housing attached to the church, sanding and varnishing the bench in the playground, replacing the sand in the sandbox and building a cover for the sandbox, building shelving in two of their offices, and painting an office or two in their Center for Changing Lives.

HPSS is a very dynamic operation in the near west side of Chicago, which offers, job counseling, a food pantry, clothes closet, support groups for victims of domestic violence, substance abuse programs, training for commercial driver's licenses, programs to help people manage their

money, a soup kitchen, and an overnight shelter.

This mission will cost a bit for the mulch, paint, shelving, sand, etc. so we will be thinking of ways to raise the money. Look for some upcoming bake sales, etc. In the meantime, all donations are welcome. Put your check in the offering plate with a memo for: HPSS Mission.

--Norma Thorpe, Chair, Mission Outreach

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### TIME TO VOTE

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Just a reminder that on April 7 there will be a very important election of members to the College of DuPage Board of Directors. Please plan to participate in this election by casting your vote. Sally Grenzow would be happy to discuss with you her recommendations for the seats to be filled.

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### SPECIAL OFFERINGS FOR APRIL

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On Sunday April 12, we will have the opportunity to support UMCOR's (United Methodist Committee on Relief's) North Korea Emergency fund. This fund provides assistance to the people of North Korea, who continue to suffer from famine that is compounded by severe winters.

On April 26, we will have another opportunity to support a worthy cause as we celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday through our worship service and our special offering. This Sunday is an annual reminder of the contributions of Native Americans to our society.

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### BOOK BUDDIES – MAY 15

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Our next book discussion will be Friday, May 15, 7:30 pm, at the home of Juanita Brown. The book, Once Upon a Town, by Bob Greene, is about the town of North Platte, Nebraska. It tells the story of how the townspeople started to work together in the early 1940's to provide food and drink for

the soldiers traveling through on the Union Pacific railroad. Later, it contrasts what the town is like today. Join us as Dave Thorpe leads the discussion from the nostalgia of the past to the reality of the present.

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### GOING GREEN... ELECTRONICS RECYCLING COLLECTION

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#### One Time Collection:

**Where:** SIMS, 1600 Harvester, West Chicago

**When:** Sat, April 18, 8 am - 2 pm

**Items Accepted:** Computers/computer systems, televisions, scrap metal, telephones, VCRs, fax machines, scanners, answering machines, printers, electronic games.

For more info contact (630) 231-6060.

#### Monthly Collection:

**When:** first and third Saturdays of each month, 9 a.m. - noon

**Where:** Public Works Storage Facility, West Liberty Drive, just east of the Police Department in Wheaton

--Sally Grenzow

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### EASTER FLOWERS

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The signup sheet to donate flowers to adorn our altar on Easter Sunday is available on the shelf in the narthex. If you would like to purchase a lily, hyacinth or tulip toward this purpose, please signup no later than Palm Sunday, April 5. Flowers can be taken home immediately following the Easter Morning 10:00 a.m. worship service.

And speaking of Easter flowers, your donations to the Easter Flower Cross may be dropped off at the Good Friday Service or at the church on Saturday, April 11, 2009 from 11am-1pm. Cash donations are always welcome and should be given to Nancy or Tricia Valenta by Good Friday. Thank you in advance for your support and your donations.

## ST. THOMAS GARAGE SALE

When: Saturday, June 13  
Times: 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Start saving your gently used clothing, tools, toys, household goods, books, etc. !!!**

**And we need volunteers to make this a Great success.**

--Liz Whitney & Carol Johnston

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### MANY HANDS...

#### Partners in Process

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*Thanks to those who lend their hands to the tasks to be done at St. Thomas each Sunday.*

Fellowship Table for April:  
Fellowship Work Area

#### April 5

Ushers: Dave & Kathy Kuphal  
Dave Thorpe  
George Graham  
Counters: Sharon Koopman &  
Lynn Rumbaugh

#### April 12

Greeter: Lois Baker & Lynn  
Rumbaugh  
Ushers: Al Pearson  
Barbara & John Skarha  
George Graham  
Counters: Nola Altenhoff &  
Larry Horn

#### April 19

Flowers: Charlie & Elaine Brown  
Ushers: Sally Hatcher  
Mary Umberger  
George Graham  
Tim Martin  
Counters: Tim Martin & Marcy Null

#### April 26

Ushers: Janet Gilbreath  
Larry Horn  
Nancy Leguizamón  
Loni Burdi  
Counters: Martha Blumer &  
Betty Pearson



## Bible Readings *for the Month*

#### April 5 – Palm Sunday

##### Liturgy of the Palms

Mark 11: 1-11  
Psalm 118: 1-2

##### Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50: 4-9a  
Psalm 31: 9-16  
Philippians 2: 5-11  
Mark 14: 1-15; 47

#### April 12 – Easter Day

Acts 10: 34-43  
Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24  
1 Corinthians 15: 1-11  
John 20: 1-18

#### April 19

Acts 4: 32-35  
Psalm 133  
1 John 1: 1-2; 2  
John 20: 19-31

#### April 26

Acts 3: 12-19  
Psalm 4  
1 John 3: 1-7  
Luke 24: 36b-48

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### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

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On April 13th the UMW will meet in the home of Juanita Brown, 2268 Hidden Creek Court, Lisle. (Just a reminder that the meeting time is 7:30.) The program "All About Crosses" will be presented by Margot Zwierlein and Sally Grenzow. Everyone is invited to bring a cross (jewelry, wooden, etc.) that has meaning for them.

Ladies Lunch Out will be on Tuesday, April 28, at 11:30, at Bohemian Crystal Palace, 639 Blackhawk Dr., Westmont (just North of Ogden). If you plan to attend, please call Dolores Koopman, 630-469-5747. A very blessed Easter to all.

-- Dolores Koopman, Secretary