



The Word

St. Thomas U M C

July, 2008

St. Thomas United Methodist Church

Introducing Rev. Danita R. Anderson

Beginning July 1, 2008, St. Thomas United Methodist Church will welcome Reverend Danita R. Anderson as pastor. Her greatest love is God's work in and through the church, especially preaching and teaching. She loves the Lord and is not afraid to let the world know it! How incredible it is for all of us to welcome her!

She has been part of the Methodist/United Methodist Church almost all of her life. Her background includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Chicago State University where she majored in Finance, Money and Banking. She received a Masters of Divinity in Worship and the Arts, with a minor in pastoral care and counseling, from Gammon Seminary in Georgia. She was ordained a deacon in 1983 and an elder in 1985, serving the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church in pastoral ministry since being a student in 1980.



Service for Reverend Danita has included:

- Cascade UMC, Atlanta, GA
Student Pastor - 3 years
- St. Mark's UMC, Chicago, IL
Assoc. Pastor - 3 years
- Neighborhood UMC, Maywood, IL
Pastor - 4 years

- Ingleside-Whitfield UMC, Chicago, IL
Pastor - 7 years
- Bethany of Fox Valley UMC, Aurora, IL
Pastor - 4 years
- NIC Aurora District, Aurora, IL
Superintendent - 7 years
- Cabinet representative, Aurora, IL
Conf. Bd. Of Pensions
- Cabinet representative, Aurora, IL
Council on Finance & Administration
- Black Methodists for Church Renewal,
North Central Jurisdiction &
National memberships

"Firsts" for Reverend Danita have included, first...:

- African American clergywoman, Aurora, IL, Senior Pastor of multiple-staff congregation, NIC
- African American clergywoman Aurora, IL
Senior Pastor of Bethany
- African American woman Aurora, IL
District Superintendent, NIC
- African American clergywoman, USA,
Finance & Admin. Chair, NIC

Distinctions for Reverend Danita include:

- Graduate, Academy for Preaching
- Global Board of Discipleship

Graduate, Growth Plus Consultants' Program, Global Board of Discipleship
Chair, Coop. Parish Ministries Task Force
General Council on Ministries
Chair, Legislation Task Force
General Councils on Ministries
Delegate, 2004 General & North Central Conferences
Marshall/Usher, General & North Central Jurisdictional Conferences, 1984-Present
Observer, National Black Methodists for Church Renewal Conference
Chaplin, Chicago Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
Chaplin's Council, Glen Ellyn chapter, Delta Sigma Theta
Chairwoman, Board of Directors, Chatham/Avalon Park unit, American Cancer Society
Volunteer Chaplin, Westlake Hospital of Melrose Park, IL
Workshop Leader, U.S. & Bahamas: stewardship, finance, money management, risk taking for women, Christian education, Bible studies (including the School of Christian Missions)

When Bishop Hee-Soo Jung came with Danita to introduce her to our St. Thomas SPRC group, we learned many more delightful facts and inclinations about Danita. She has an incredible passion for learning/teaching and preaching. She has a close family that includes two sisters, two nephews and a niece who live in the greater Chicago area, who are loved deeply by her and with whom she shares a warm and caring delight in living each day! Danita loves to travel. She has been throughout most of the United States, and has traveled to Israel, Switzerland and made two trips to Angola, Africa. She indicated she doesn't travel as often as she would like and that she never lets travel interfere with her commitments to her parishioners.

She let us know that her passion is congregational work, especially Biblical study and preaching and that she is excited

to be returning to this love with our congregation! She has an open, honest and engaging personality. She is quick to laugh and to find humor in everyday situations! She is interested in opportunities for getting acquainted with us, beginning as quickly as she is settled this summer. She has asked for "chats" in homes with small groups of a dozen or less. She'd like to meet with all of us in relaxed atmospheres where we are comfortable sharing ourselves: hopes, expectations, goals, dreams and beliefs. Thanks to those of you who have contacted SPRC to let us know of your willingness to host a group. If you are willing to serve as a host and have not yet done so, please let me know (dbyant@d41.org or 630-793-9086). Watch for a calendar of opportunities coming to a bulletin board near you soon and sign up.

Reverend Danita has a deep and abiding love of our Lord that is pervasive in her conversations, actions and work. It is the core of her very being and the focus of her life! Recognizing this, it is our job as congregants to welcome her, to support the authority vested in her by our Northern Illinois Conference as our spiritual leader, and most importantly to see the Lord reflected in her as she leads us forward into our future, focusing us on our goals identified during the February 2008 Leadership retreat.

As we walk our journey to Emmaus, may we remember to seek His presence in those around us, to recognize our work in His name and by His direction, and to celebrate those on the journey with us!

Blessings! Dinah Bryant, Chair & SPRC members: Margot Zwierlein, Steve Weaver, Dolores Koopman, Lea Cizek, Anne Flood, Janet Gilbreath, Nancy Leguizamon, Norma Thorpe, Thom Brown, Sally Grenzow and Juanita Brown.

For Book Buddies

September Selection:

Up Country by Nelson DeMille

Date and Place to be announced

STUMC DIRECTORY UPDATES & ADDITIONS

Please add our newest members:

Carol Miller
2 S 570 Ashley Drive
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
(630) 942-0402

Lauren Koopman
Daughter of Keith & Jill Koopman
135 Daniel Drive
Bensenville, IL 60160
(630) 860-8921

Updates to the church directory:

Pastor Danita Anderson
3S147 Mulberry Lane
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
(630) 469-2448

Beth Bilsley's email address should be:
bilsley@netzero.com

Pastors Dan & Diana Facemyer
1690 Merle Dr.
Aurora, IL 60504
(630) 375-5858

Ron and Stan Smith's phone number:
(630) 241-2343

SPECIAL THANKS...

To our St. Thomas Family and Especially
the Youth Families,

Thank you so much for making our time and our last official Sunday together so special. All the surprises were wonderful! I have my LUSH gift certificates tucked into my wallet just waiting to be spent on something green and pretty. You all are so thoughtful for getting me something like that! Thank you for all the cards and little tokens of thanks and appreciation. It was all so overwhelming and so affirming. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

We also want to thank you all for keeping my mom and us in your prayers as we travel

and take care of things regarding my Grams' passing. We'll be returning soon, but appreciate all your care and thoughts at this time as well.

Thank you so much. Stephanie, Chad, & Shane Sutton and Meg Ziegler.

GARAGE SALE UPDATE

In response to your questions about the annual garage sale...yes...it will be happening, August 23rd...and we'd appreciate you collecting things to donate to the sale. However, because of the current transitional status of the move to the new church facility, we cannot...**ABSOLUTELY CANNOT** store any garage sale donations at the church at this time.

So, what do we ask in the meantime? We ask that you gather items that you wish to donate. We ask that you remember to make sure all the clothes and other items are clean and need no repair. (The church pays for garbage pickup the same as you and we don't want to waste our profits on garbage pickup.)

When space is available at the church to begin receiving your donations for the sale, you will be notified. Until then...thank you for your willingness to continue to collect and store items at your home.

--The Garage Sale Committee

ROBERT W. ELLIOTT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

This year the Robert W. Elliott Scholarship has been awarded to Gloria Grasse-Hendrix. She is a member of Ravenswood Fellowship United Methodist Church. Gloria graduated with a Master of Arts in Pastoral Care and Counseling from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary this spring of 2008. In the fall she will begin work on a Ph.D. at Garrett in the same field.

The \$500 scholarship was established in 1994 by his family upon the death of Rev.

Elliott. It is awarded to a student in the Northern Illinois Conference preparing for pastoral ministry. Rev. Elliott served in the NIC for 37 years at churches in Shirland-Owen Center, Chicago, Rockton, Lisle, Glen Ellyn and Blue Island.

Donations to the scholarship fund may be made through the United Methodist Foundation c/o Harry Nicol, 77 W Washington St, Ste 1820, Chicago IL 60602.

--from Fran Elliott

ICE CREAM SOCIAL & TALENT SHOW

**Sunday, July 27,
3:00 – 6:00 pm
at STUMC**

Do you have this date on your calendar? Yes...I'm sure your calendar has that date... every calendar has a July 27 on it. But have you reserved it to be at STUMC from 3 – 6? And while we're asking questions, do you have a song to sing, a dance to do, a joke to tell, a reading to read? Have you been looking for an opportunity to introduce your friends to the STUMC family? And do you love ice cream, chocolate, whipped cream? Well the STUMC Ice Cream Social and Talent Show is certainly the answer to all those questions!

For the Talent Show, individuals can sign-up for a 5 minute slot or a group performance for a 10 minute slot. There will be 24 slots and, depending on the demand, you can sign up for only one slot. If there are leftover slots, the same person can sign up again with another kind of talent to share. Suggestions for your performance could be a poetry reading, a skit, a comedy routine, vocal or instrumental music, a karate demonstration, juggling, etc. A sign-up sheet to participate in the talent show will be posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Nancy Leguizamón, who was our master of ceremonies last year, has consented to liven up the Talent Show again.

And does a sundae with a chocolate or vanilla ice cream base, smothered in chocolate or butterscotch ...or fruit and nuts...sound like a special treat to you? Well all that awaits you on the 27th as well!

Plan to share your talent and have some fun with friends. Or just come for ice cream and watch the show. Ice cream will be served at 3 with the Talent Show to follow. And as a special incentive...any money donated toward the ice cream sundaes will go the building fund. Sounds like a win-win to us!

--Sally & Rolland Grenzow

FOOD PANTRY SUPPORT

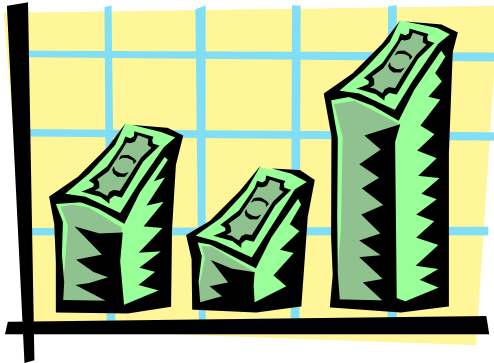
August is the month that the members of St. Thomas are asked to support the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry. There are several ways to do this. One way is to bring your donations of food to the church to be transported to the pantry. The list of items of donations has changed this year in that we need 1 and 2 pound boxes or bags of sugar and the small cans of coffee, not the large quantities to be divided. A second way to donate is to write a check to St. Thomas, designating the Food Pantry on the memo line.

Another way we can support the food pantry is through Jewel Shop and Share for 3 weeks in August. The dates are August 4 - 6, August 11-13 and August 18 – 20. Shopping tickets will be available each week with all the dates.

Dominicks has changed how they support the food pantry by providing an ongoing program that can be used all year. While we have previously supported the Food Pantry by shopping on specific days, much as the Jewel Shop and Share, Dominicks is now using the internet and your Dominicks Card to allow you to earn 4% donations to the Food Pantry throughout the year. I will have forms for this also.

--Carol Johnston, Food Pantry Volunteer

FINANCIAL UPDATE



A review of our latest financial statements shows a shortfall of funds to pay the bills that have been submitted for payment. Because of this shortfall we are requesting that, if at all possible, any and all church members dig a little deeper into their pockets and pay extra monies to the church to bring our finances in line.

As of 6/27, we had \$20,423 in bills, and approximately \$9,632 in receipts for June. We do have 2 more Sundays in June, but the last two Sundays are usually our less robust collections. We are in need of help, and we don't want to curtail any of our programs because of lack of financial resources.

Prayerfully submitted,
Dave Flood, Stewardship

GOING GREEN

Do you have old clothing that isn't good enough for the garage sale or a thrift shop? Take it to Goodwill www.goodwill.org or Salvation Army www.salvationarmy.org. They will send them to "rag sorters" that specialize in recycling pieces of fabric large and small. These textile recyclers sell about half the clothing they get overseas to developing countries, while unusable garments, especially cotton t-shirts, are turned into wiping and polishing cloths used by a variety of industries. Other textiles are shredded into fibers used to make new products, such as sound-deadening

materials for the automotive industry, archival-quality paper, blankets and even plastic fencing.

Outdoor clothing and gear maker Patagonia www.patagonia.com will take back Patagonia fleece and cotton-t-shirts as well as Polartec fleece from other manufacturers. Take the items to any Patagonia retail store or mail them to the company's Reno, NV service center.

Another good use for threadbare clothes, sheets or towels is to use them as pet bedding, whether in your home or donated to a local animal shelter.

So recycle your textiles---don't send them to the landfill!

*On Sunday July 6
we welcome Pastor Danita!*

Please assist her in welcoming us by wearing your **name tag**.

Members of our Work Area will be there to help you locate your name tag.

Can't find your name tag?

Don't like the clip on name tag?

We'll have paper name tags available.

Or wear one of your own making.

See you Sunday!

--Membership & Evangelism Work Area,
Nancy Calhoon.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Very soon they'll begin putting up the drywall in the new addition. As a special tribute to the STUMC congregation that has supported this project, all members will be invited to sign one piece of drywall prior to its being hung. The sheet of drywall will be brought to a Sunday service very soon. Be watching for it so you can add your name to the list of those supporters!

SOUTH DAKOTA MISSION TRIP

Thanks to all of you who contributed school supplies, clothes & blankets, and money for the South Dakota Mission Trip! And thank you even more for your thoughts and prayer support as we traveled and worked with Americans, who just happen to be Native Americans, on the Rosebud Reservation in the southern part of the state.

Our work included repairing houses, digging a ditch for drainage, preparing a site for a Pow Wow Celebration, sorting clothes for a clothes closet, serving meals, stocking food shelves, mowing the Guest House lawn, helping with a summer school class, visiting a nursing home and the local hospital, attending a cultural conference at the local college, and playing with children in a crisis center. We cooked our own meals, which were delicious and nutritious, and washed our own dishes. We worked beside some wonderful Native Americans, who spoke just like us and have the same feelings as us.

Morning devotions were led and work projects arranged by Donna & Russ Masartis, Executive Director & Mission Coordinator, at the Tree of Life Center. They have been leading this ministry of the UM Church for the past 12 years and have developed a good rapport with the people of the town, Mission, and beyond. Their challenge continues to be how to help these Native Americans.

We enjoyed evening educational events that helped us learn about the area, the people and their traditions. It was hard to hear that this area deals with 70-80% unemployment, rampant alcoholism, an unusually high suicide rate and an excessive number of diabetic people. Many years ago the white

man and the government pushed these people off their land and told them not to speak their language or follow their traditions. These Native American people are striving to realize their self worth and improve their lives.

On Wednesday we had a mini-vacation! As we drove west, we saw some of the Badlands with its desolate landscape. Then we viewed Mount Rushmore, the Crazy Horse Monument, Custer State Park with wildlife (buffalo, antelope, burros), Sylvan Lake and the Storm Mountain UM Camp, where we had dinner with the campers. Wall Drug was on our agenda but we ran out of time.

It was a treat to have Pastor Matt Richards come from Brookings S.D. with a parishioner, Bob Oda, from his White UMC.

And we had Pastor Mary Dadisman fly in from Virginia and joined us for the trip too. We were doubly blessed.

Our group totaled twenty-one with six of them being youth: five jr. high age and one high school age. Their enthusiasm and helpfulness with the work projects was wonderful. They are to

be complimented on their perseverance and diligence in rising early and being an integral part of the Mission Team!

Mission Team Members: Beth Bilsley, Martha Blumer, Nancy & Rick Calhoon, Mary Dadisman, Sara Flood, JoAnn Foss, Janet & JenLin Gilbreath, Rolland & Sally Grenzow, Carol Johnston, Teresa, Kara & Emily Kroclic, Nancy Leguizamon, Tim Martin, Barb, Julie & Matt Skarha and Parvaneh Smith.

-- Sally Grenzow



Can you match the Mission Team member with his/her adopted Lakota name?

Beth Bilsley	Aunt Healing Hands
Martha Blumer	Aunt Nancy Speaks-with-the-Wind
Nancy Calhoon	Aunt Smiling Turtle
Rick Calhoon	Aunt Teresa Good Spirit
Mary Dadisman	Auntie Able Medicine Woman
Sara Flood	Auntie Butterfly
JoAnn Foss	Auntie Laughing Coyote
Janet Gilbreath	Bubbling Brook
JenLin Gilbreath	Buffalo Master
Rolland Grenzow	Dances on Pines
Sally Grenzow	Dove Spirit
Carol Johnston	Dreaming Bear
Teresa Kroclick	Grandma Good Voice
Kara Kroclick	Grandmother Golden Eagle
Emily Kroclick	Great Grandma Spinning Spider
Nancy Leguizamon	Lynx Whisperer
Tim Martin	Mission Dad
Barb Skarha	Mission Mom
Juliann Skarha	Running Antelope
Matthew Skarha	Sister Singing Spring
Parvaneh Smith	Uncle Bear Kind-of-Heart

**IT'S A BEACH PARTY!!!
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

We are having a "BEACH PARTY"! VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS ON AND DATES ARE SET... July 14-18 from 5:30 - 8:00 P.M A light meal will be served from 5:30 – 6:00 Lots of fun is in store for that week... Think water balloons!!!!... if you are interested in helping out in any capacity please see Dave Flood or Lea Cizek... we can use all the help we can get this year, since the education committee is putting it on ourselves. Look for sign up sheets in the Narthex.....and please, bring all your friends, neighbors and relatives.... There will be prizes for those St Thomas Children who bring the most kids.



Bible Readings for the Month

July 6, 8th Sunday after Pentecost
 Genesis 24: 34-38, 42-49, 58-67
 Psalm 45: 10-17 or Psalm 72
 Romans 7: 15–25a
 Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30

July 13, 9th Sunday after Pentecost
 Genesis 25: 19-34
 Psalm 119: 105-112 or Psalm 25
 Romans 8: 1-11
 Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

July 20, 10th Sunday after Pentecost
 Genesis 28: 10-19a
 Psalm 139: 1-12, 23-24
 Romans 8: 12-25
 Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

July 27, 11th Sunday after Pentecost
 Genesis 29: 15-28
 Psalm 105: 1-11, 45b
 Romans 8: 26-39
 Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

SUMMER SUNDAYS

Does Summer make you feel like a kid again? Well – Celebrate the feeling! There are 6 Sundays left and "Summer Sundays" (with the Children of St. Thomas) is calling YOU!

Sign up in the Narthex to supervise/play/engage the children of St. Thomas during Sunday worship.

Rick's MS Ride

Rick Calhoon rides in a 150-mile bike tour to support the National Multiple Sclerosis Society on August 2-3. He asks you to consider sponsoring him in this event.

The Word

St. Thomas U M C

St. Thomas United Methodist Church
2 S 511 Route 53
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137
(630) 469-1214



***“Make every effort to
live in peace with all
men and to be holy;
without holiness no
one will see the Lord.
See to it that no one
missed the grace of
God and that no bitter
root grows up to
cause trouble and
defile many.”***

--Hebrews 12:14-15