



FROM THE CHURCH HOUSE

HOW TIME FLIES

– Rev. Dr. James E. Roghair, Interim Pastor

Time flies. Christmas is gone, and in February we begin Lent! When we were kids, time crept by – waiting for our birthday, or Christmas, or summer vacation! Now, we know. The drama of flying time is the change of the seasons – meteorologic seasons, seasons of our lives, seasons in the life of the church.

When I lived in the Arctic, the meteorologic drama was high. Winter was a bit of a drag – no sun for almost 3 months, but when it did come back in late January the increasing light everyday was palpable – going from no sunrise to no sunset in only 3 months! You were never ready for the changes each new day brought!

But is that any different from what we always experience? Are we ever ready for the changes that come our way? Going through the church year gives us practice: We've hardly put away the Christmas decorations and here comes Lent. The speeding year reminds us to hold on! God's gifts are ongoing. The gift of the Incarnation continues as we remember God's ongoing care for us. Holy week identifies gifts of the agony and the victory. As the year rolls along, so does God's presence in all of the forms.

The life of your church rolls along, too. It was a year since your pastor resigned, and a transition team is working hard to bring your defining words back to you. Now the search committee is poised to begin – ready or not! An interim pastorate rolls along – zipping by like one of the seasons.

As time rolls by, we might well offer up all time to God – knowing it is all in God's hands. We pray for God's guidance and blessing.

Jim

PASTORAL SEARCH TEAM FORMED

The Pastoral Search Team that will seek and evaluate candidates for our Senior Pastor position was elected at the January 28 annual meeting. Over the next several months, this team will work together with the Transition Team, Ministry teams and staff to develop a church profile, identify and contact potential candidates, and evaluate those candidates.

The members of your FCCE pastoral search team are:

- Megan Cahill
- Beth Chill
- Travis Clifton
- Alan Cubbage
- Eric Erickson
- Merna Johnson
- Lacey Ogbolumani
- Bob Phelps
- Carole Schumacher
- Kwesi Steele
- Nick Tucker
- Ann Vikner

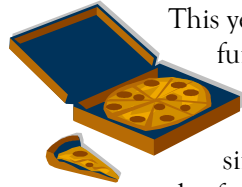
We congratulate this capable team as it begins its important role in the life of our church. We also offer them all our prayers and best wishes!

COME SING WITH US!

The Chancel Choir welcomes singers to join them in presenting music from Part II of Handel's "Messiah" on Palm Sunday, April 1st. The mid-week Lenten study, led by Dr. Roghair, will also focus on this portion of Handel's "Messiah". Choir rehearsals will begin on Sunday, March 4th at 11:30

in the Choir Room of the Church House. Come join us!

READY, SET, GO....SELL PIZZA!!!



This year we will have an all church fundraiser selling Chicago's Legendary Gino's East Deep Dish Pizza! It will be fun and simple. You will be given an order form to take orders and collect the \$10.00 per pizza ahead of time. We will be selling the four different pizzas from April 8-22, 2007. The pizza will be delivered to the church on Sunday May 6, 2007 for you to pick up and deliver to your customers.

Prizes will be awarded to the family or individual who sells the most pizza.

Everyone should have a supply of these delicious pizzas in their home freezer for a quick meal or when company stops by.

Let's make this the best pizza sale ever and make money for our church.

This fundraiser will take the place of the Pancake Breakfast. Questions call Barb Lee 847-251-0007.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Since Rev. Roghair's arrival, members of our congregation have been sharing their prayer concerns at the time of the Prayers of the People. This addition to our Sunday service has been received quite warmly. It seems to be an opportunity for mutual care and support ~ a demonstration of who we are as a church.

In an effort to accommodate people who do not wish to share prayer requests in such a public manner, the Music and Worship team will place prayer cards in the pews for writing specific prayer requests. These prayer cards can be handed to an usher before the service or at the offering, or given to the pastor when the prayer requests are asked for.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF EVANSTON List of Positions as of 02/01/2007

Position	Current Position Holders	Status – Term Ending
Officers (5)		
Moderator	Kathy Koestring	1/08
Vice Moderator	Joe Page	1/08
Clerk	Bob Gaskill	1/09
Treasurer	Roger Lehman	1/09
Assistant Treasurer	Paul Lawless	1/09
Communications Leaders (4)		
Newsletter	Diana Durkes	1/08
Web Site	Nathan Pendretti	1/09
Public Relations	Alan Cabbage	1/08
Church Historian/Archivist	Irene Doberstein	1/08
Development & Finance Team (12)		
Team Leader (1)	Andrew Plasz	1/09
Finance (5)		
1	Glennis Lundberg	1/09
2	Vacant	-----
3	Sandy Whiteley	1/08
4	John Lee	1/08
5	Bob Grant	1/08
Buildings & Grounds (1)	Carole Schumacher	1/09
Stewardship (4)		
1	Adam Doty	1/09
2	Bob Krause	1/08
3	Jennifer French	1/08
4	Vacant	-----
Planned Giving (1)	Bernice Valantinas	1/08
Membership Team (8)		
Team Leader (1)	Beth Babbitt	1/08
Membership (3)	<i>Greeters, recruitment, new member orientation and integration</i>	
1	Chris Julcher	1/08
2	Sheran Fiedler	1/09
3	Heather DiSabato	1/09
Fellowship (3)	<i>Coffee hour, special events, meals, family ministry, retreats</i>	
1	Kwesi Steele	1/08
2	Patty Sprague	1/08
3	Sharyn Julcher	1/09
4	Betsy Homan	1/08
Pastoral Calling Teams (1)	Barb Fonda	1/08
Music & Worship Team (6)		
Team Leader	Kinglsey Day	1/09

Usher Team Leaders (3)		
1	Nick Tucker	1/08
2	Eric Erickson	1/09
3	Steve Wilson	1/08
Music (2)	<i>Sunday worship/choir, special music programming, etc.</i>	
1	Georgia Evans	1/09
2	Andrew Nelson	1/08
3	Peggy Tinzmann	1/09
Christian Education & Formation Team (7)	<i>Church school, youth programming, study groups, adult ed., weekday studies, children's music, etc.</i>	
1	Laima Day	1/08
2	Brian Connors	1/08
3	Beth Chill	1/08
4	Randy Wait	1/08
5	Jeff DiSabato	1/09
6	Lacey Ogbolumani	1/08
7	Kristen Julcher	1/08
8	Melissa Pinney	1/09
Outreach Team (8)		
Team Leader (1)	Betty Phillips	
Mission Fund Raising (2)		
1	Gary Hardesty	1/08
2	Barb Lee	1/08
Benevolence Fund Distribution (1)	Lyn Page	1/09
Mission Promotion (1)	Laurie Murphy	1/09
Hands-On Mission Efforts (2)	<i>Warming Ctr., Sat. night dinners, volunteer placement, mission trips, etc.</i>	
1	Elaine Frangedakis	1/08
2	Laurie Brown	1/08
Faith and public issues (1)	Laura Wilson	1/08
Ministry Council: At Large (3)		
1	Ann Vickner	--
2	Jean Cleland	--
3	Louise More	--

NEARER MY GOD TO THEE

The New Year got off to a slow start with only six members able to attend the January 8 meeting. Each person brought an article from the paper that interested them. We are ecologists because two articles concerned the cutting down of Ash trees in Wilmette. Other articles were about aging and aged people. That left time to discuss the "state of the church" which is of interest to everyone. We look forward to meeting in February when we will make valentines and also have a topic. If you are over 75 and interested in fellowship, come with your sandwich and join us in the Guild Room at noon on February 5.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

January 14 and February 11 *A Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* by **Doris Kearns Goodwin** - politics around Abraham Lincoln.

March 11 *Terrorist* by **John Updike** - an Egyptian-Irish-American's struggle to reconcile his love of Islam and alienation from U.S. culture.

April 15 *Resurrection* by **Tucker Malarkey** - a thriller revolving around the discovery of the Gnostic Gospels.

May 20 *Lazy Bee* by **Justice Sandra Day O'Connor** - autobiography.

Please join us at 4:00 pm in the Cora Brown Parlor. All are welcome.

DID YOU KNOW...

CENTER FOR TAX AND BUDGET

ACCOUNTABILITY

70 East Lake Street _ Suite 1700 _ Chicago, Illinois _ 60601 P: 312/332-1041 _ F: 312/578-9258

The Current Status of Public Education Funding in Illinois

The current Illinois school funding program is a national disgrace:

Illinois has the most inequitable education funding system in the country, with per pupil spending ranging from a high of almost \$23,700 to a low of less than \$4,500.

Illinois received the failing grade of D+ in school funding fairness by *Education Week*.

Illinois ranks 50th in the nation in the amount of school funding provided by state revenues. Nationally, states provide an average of 51% of the funds for education. Illinois provides only 30%.

Illinois' over-reliance on local property taxes to fund schools has tied the quality of a child's public education to the affluence of that child's community. This prevents thousands of children across the state from receiving a quality public education.

In 2006, the Education Funding Advisory Board determined that an adequate education in Illinois would require a Foundation Level of \$6,405 per pupil. They also recommended the level increase

every year by the Employment Cost Index (\$6,675 for FY 2007). The FY 2007 current foundation level is only \$5,334.

Over 40% of school districts are deficit spending. Inadequate funding is forcing schools across the state to take drastic measures, including increasing class sizes, reducing staff, continuing the use of outdated textbooks and cutting extracurricular program, to name a few.

As reported by the Education Trust, Illinois had a gap of \$2,065, the 2nd largest in the nation, between dollars available for students between the highest and lowest poverty districts.

In a typical school of 1,500 students, that translates to a gap of over \$3 million.

The State's inadequate, inequitable school funding system has had a severe, negative impact on student academic performance:

In 2002, 49 Illinois schools were on the Academic Watch list. By 2005, the number was 516, an increase of over 955%

Throughout the state, academic proficiency scores are lower in high-poverty schools and schools enrolling large numbers of racial and ethnic minorities, special education students and students that speak English as a second language.

Children that reside in communities of concentrated poverty or significant minority concentration are more likely to attend a school on the state's academic watch list.

In Illinois, three of every four African-American students, as a group, rank last on state tests in every grade and subject.

Statewide tax reform is necessary to achieve school funding reform:

The state's structural deficit is the primary reason Illinois doesn't pay its fair share of school funding.

The state must fix its tax structure so it can generate adequate, reliable, sustainable revenue now and into the future, in a fair fashion with rates that are competitive nationally.

For additional information, contact Chrissy Mancini at cmancini@ctbaonline.org or 312/332-1481.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January	2	Shelby Donnan	
	2	Barb Fonda	
	4	Robert Phelps	
	5	Elena Daniels	
	6	Joan Lindsey	
	7	Nathaniel Crocker	
	9	Tom Stafford	
	9	Asher Stamell	
	10	Molly McKenna	
	10	Zoe Snider	
	11	Michael Colton	
	14	Casey Wait	
	16	Russell Maylone	
	18	George Menco	
	19	Heather DiSabato	
	20	Christopher DiSabato	
	23	Moulton (Bud) Goff	
	24	Tyler Fonda	
	25	Andy Plas	
	February	2	Amy Colton
		2	Jake Snider
		2	Hal Sprague
		3	Jason Conzemius
		5	Pat Snyder
		7	Margaret Cothrine
7		Ruth Robinson	
10		Jean Herbert	
10		Julia R. Weertman	
12		Melissa Pinney	
12		Maggie Stamell	
13		Trimmy Stamell	
15		Vera Ward	
17		Alex Doty	
18		Dominic Daniels	
20		Charles Boulton	
22		Madeline Hoerner	
22		Monica Hoerner	
22	Cybele Maylone		
23	Barbara Ferguson		
23	Barry Lundberg		
24	Kate Todd		
26	Erv Stromer		
27	Bernie Armour		
27	Henry Doyle		
28	Matthew Perkins		

MEMOIR FROM OTTO TINZMANN

In this season, we celebrate Epiphany, “the coming of light.” An epiphany is a life-changing moment of understanding, often experienced in a very simple event or image, God on planet earth.

Otto Tinzmann experienced many of these moments in his war time service. Like many in our congregation, past and present, Otto served in World War II as a pilot. He wrote of his experiences in an autobiography *No One Knows My History Either*.

In 1943 and age 20, Otto signed up for Army Air Force flight training. He had fallen in love with flying as a young boy, following patterns of planes in the sky above his Chicago backyard. He read *I Wanted Wings*, joined ROTC, and then found himself flying a B-24, “The Liberator.”

During the Italian campaign, Otto kept a daily journal, and in the recording of details, learned about war and learned about himself. “It is routine that saves us from fear, the details that must be served to whatever end we go. It is the endless weave of small cares that is the grace through which all things are endured. Sometimes they are more than the events that follow, for they are pieces of truth beyond which are only dreams.”

Although Otto had been an Eagle Scout as a boy in Chicago, he was not ready for the temperatures within an army tent in December Italy. Saddled with a soot-belching stove, Otto, his savvy bombardier, and two other officers banded together one night and scrambled through freezing mud to the scrap heap. The outing and dump of discarded parts were off-limits. The four “bandits” found a heavy pipe to fix the stove, but during the return through pitch dark, headlights appeared in their path. They hid in a ditch, arms around the pipe, and exploded into laughter once the jeep had passed them. “It was some elusive spirit of comradeship which had transformed a miserable night into a shared adventure,” Otto wrote in his journal.

He gave away the fruitcakes sent by his home church, North Shore Baptist of Chicago, but Otto kept a pair of brown mittens from his sister, and

the memories of gnarled olive trees behind the army tents, the shore lights of Naples, and the “black flower” of flak.

Epiphany does not require a war. Perhaps it does require reflection but also a life lived fully in the present with eyes attentive to the small moments, the child in the lowly manger. We are lucky that Otto Tinzmann survived WWII and lucky to have him in our midst.

Stewardship 2007

We are grateful for the 98 pledges which total \$241,871 for the ministries and missions of First Congregational Church in 2007. If you have yet to make a pledge and would like a pledge card, please speak to an usher or call the church office. Thank you!



**CHANCEL CHOIR MUSIC FOR
FEBRUARY**

	February 4	
Durufié		"Ubi Caritas"
	February 11	
Haan		"Give Me Jesus"
Patterson		"Jesus Calls Us"
	February 18	
King		"The Transfiguration"
Wyton		"Transfiguration"
	February 25	
Mendelssohn		"Ye People Rend Your Hearts/ If With All Your Hearts" (Elijah)
Mendelssohn		"For He Shall Give His Angels Charge" (Elijah)

**First Congregational Church of
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