



N A R T H E X

FLOSSMOOR COMMUNITY CHURCH

Where Christ is Central and Diversity is Cherished

April 2011

Holy Week at FCC

Palm Sunday, April 17

9 & 10:30 a.m. Worship

"Seismic Christ: A Crack in the Road" Matthew 21:1-11

Maundy Thursday, April 21

7:30 p.m. A Service of Holy Communion and of Shadows

"Seismic Christ: It's All in the Delivery" John 13:1-35

Come to the Last Supper, Experience the Passion of Christ, Leave in Silence.

Good Friday, April 22

Noon - Good Friday Community Service

(Watch Faith Family Matters for details)

Easter Sunday, April 24

9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

"Seismic Christ: Shaken and Stirred" Matthew 28:1-10

Come celebrate new life and new possibilities with the jubilant sounds of brass and joyful voices singing the Hallelujah Chorus



The Seismic Christ

In Matthew's Gospel, earthquake activity corresponds to the circumstances of Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter. There is something about Christ that shakes the world. With this in mind, the theme of "Seismic Christ" will be explored in worship during the journey of Lent into Easter.

Contemplative Wednesdays

**Wednesdays through April 20
at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.
in the Spirituality Center**

Wednesdays during Lent, observe the spiritual discipline of contemplation.

At both 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., you are invited to gather in the Spirituality Center to reflect on the previous Sunday's sermon, preview the scripture for the upcoming Sunday's message, share joys and concerns, and participate in guided meditation and silent contemplation.

Pastors Kim and Fred will share the leadership of these gatherings, and all are welcome to attend.

Community Lenten Lunch & Worship Series

Tuesdays During Lent at First Presbyterian Church of Homewood

17929 Gottschalk Avenue,
Homewood, IL - 708/798-0490

12:10 p.m. Worship;

12:35 p.m. Lunch

A free-will offering will be received to cover expenses, with remaining funds given to Respond Now.

Lenten Ponderings from Kim Wood, Transitional Associate Pastor

During a recent conversation about Lent with some members of the congregation, I came to a new understanding about my childhood faith journey - I did not grow up with Lent. The season of Lent was not a part of the rhythm of the church in which I grew up. As a matter of fact, I don't recollect anything about a "Church Year" or a "liturgical calendar." Advent, Lent, Ordinary Time/Season of Pentecost, even Epiphany, were not in our collective vocabulary. The only thing I knew of Lent was that my friends who were part of the Roman Catholic traditions of Christianity (and I didn't even know they were Christian at the time!), got to do this really cool thing where they gave something up, and in doing so, they were almost guaranteed to get whatever it was on Sundays because everyone felt so bad that they couldn't have any during the week. How we Baptists got to Easter, I'll never know!

What I do remember is that I knew I was considered "old enough" for all of Easter when I was allowed to go to the Easter Sunrise Service with my Grandma. In our little church out in the country, the Youth Group led the Easter Sunrise Service every year. Unlike the main service during our regular time (which the whole family attended), sunrise worship included the dark

side of Easter - the crucifixion. I remember the first year I got to go to church before sunrise with my grandmother to experience this special worship. That year, the youth re-enacted the entire story from the Last Supper through to the resurrection. But what was most dramatic was that they actually put Jesus on the cross. Oh, we had crosses in church, but never with Jesus on them. I remember seeing this high school senior, who I thought was just the coolest guy in church, attached to the big wooden cross they had built for the occasion, and sensing both how amazing it was that they could pull this off, and how horrible it must be to be up there like that, in front of all these people. Up to that point, the cross had been a pleasant thing - even the occasional picture I saw of Jesus on the cross in a Bible that had lots of illustrations made it look soft and pretty, not gory and horrific. I had never imagined a real person on the cross before - after all, it was Jesus. That morning, Easter took on a whole new dimension. It was no longer just comforting stories about a tomb being empty and Jesus' followers being told that he had risen from the dead. Nor was it defined by how many Easter eggs I found, whether I got the right color of sunglasses in my basket, and how big my chocolate bunny this year was. Easter was no longer something that just happened on a Sunday, but instead was a whole process of God being engaged with humanity through a real, live person, Jesus, who was born in Bethlehem, grew up in Nazareth, and had people who loved him, cared about him, and cried when he died.

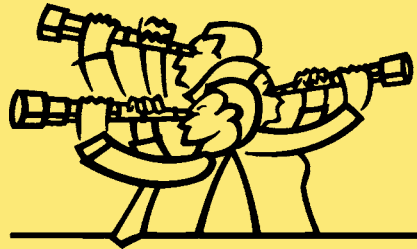
It was many years later when Lent became a part of my personal vocabulary, after we moved away from my home town and became active in another church. It was later still when I began to understand Lent as an important, and for me

necessary, time to prepare for Easter. I have found that it adds both depth and breadth to the joy, and the awe, of Christ's resurrection and God's amazing love that we celebrate on Easter morn.

Lent has not always been a part of the Christian tradition. History shows that it was established later in the development of the church year. In fact, for those of us who come out of the Protestant traditions, it was ignored as one of the ways in which those who protested that Roman Catholic Church identified themselves as separate. But, thankfully, Lent has claimed its place as a much-needed part of the journey to Easter, and I believe that it is not only a time of preparation that the celebration of Christ's Resurrection deserves, but also that it greatly needs. The rhythm of our world, of our lives, is one that leaves little room for anything that is not necessary, and what could be more important that preparing to acknowledge the greatest gift that God has given to us - the Resurrection of Jesus?

For the next few weeks, we will continue to move through Lent, in worship and in study. But the motions alone will not prepare us for the glory of Easter Sunday. I invite you to use what is left of Lent to prepare not only your mind, but your heart, for the Great Easter. Imagine if you should arrive at the empty tomb on that day not having yet grappled with who was placed in it to begin with, why he was there, or why you have chosen to visit it to look inside. What meaning will it have for you if you have not yet listened to Jesus' teachings, if you haven't eaten with him at the table, or prayed with him in the garden, or stood by as he was sentenced to death and was crucified? I didn't know what I was missing of Easter until that first sunrise service, but it made all the difference in the amazing gift I received from God on Easter morning.





Associate Pastor Search Update

The Associate Pastor Search Committee has begun regular meetings, sought input and information from the congregation, and expects to begin dissemination of the position description and church profile by April 15. Please help spread the word, as we never know how we will reach candidates. All information is posted on the church web site at www.fccfaithful.org.

Search committee members ask for your prayers and welcome your questions and insights. Please feel free to contact any member!



Kristiana Bailey



Steve Bennett



Erik Butler



Sandy Cerveny



Nate Grant



Fred Hanzelin



Esther Jenkins



Larry Kane



Julie Lindstrom



Valerie Litchfield



Pat Mucklow



Rebecca Pugh



Chris Riedel



Deb Robertson



Laura Walter



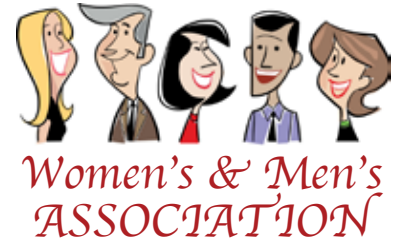
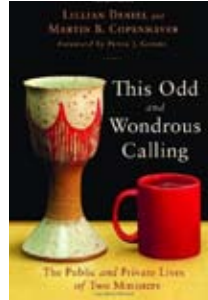
ADULT EDUCATION

DISCOVERY FORUM

Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in the Family Room

Join the continuing discussion of Krista Tippett's *Speaking of Faith: Why Religion Matters and How to Talk About It* on April 3 and 10. No advance preparation is necessary as we read the text aloud and discuss it. Books are available to use during the discussion. This month we're talking about virtue and the distinction between "thick" and "thin" religion.

On April 17, the "Third Sunday Book Club" will discuss *This Odd and Wondrous Calling: The Public and Private Lives of Two Ministers* by Lillian Daniel and Martin Copenhaver. Come share your ideas about this intriguing look into the ministry. The Discovery Forum will not meet on Easter Sunday.



It Might As Well Be Spring!

**Program & Luncheon
Wednesday, April 13 at 12 pm**

Springtime in Chicago tends to be short, gray, and wet, which is why "It Might As Well Be Spring" may be just what you need to lift your spirits and focus on the joys of this season of new life. Musical performer and actor Janet Reed, returns with a spring program featuring songs about April, May, and June, roses, rain, and robins, Mother's Day, Memorial Day and Graduation, spring fever, Easter bonnets, and baseball! Add to that some poems and quotes about spring, and you won't even notice it's pouring outside!

There will be a catered lunch from Scrementi's at noon followed by the program at 1 pm in Fellowship Hall. Tickets (\$10) may be purchased on Sundays, April 3 & 10 at the Information Desk in the Gathering Space or by calling Kim Sifner at 754-2683.

Save the date...

**Bargain Box Fashion Show
Saturday, May 7
at the Community House**

Details to follow!

CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY AND C. G. JUNG'S LIBER NOVUS (RED BOOK)

Sundays through April 10 at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor



Paul Panzica leads this class conceptually exploring the ideas of C. G. Jung through his personal, mystical, and spiritual writings that he collectively amassed, personally illustrated, and bound into the mysterious collection now popularly known as *The Red Book (Liber Novus)* which has only become available in its entirety in published form since October, 2009.



ROMANS STUDY

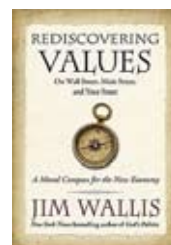
Sundays beginning April 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor

Pastor Fred Lyon, Pat Nordbrock and Tom Tozer will co-teach a course on Paul's Letter to the Romans, The course will follow a book by the well regarded New Testament scholar N.T. Wright, which will be available for purchase. Class space is limited so please sign up at the Information Desk in the Gathering Space.

COMING SOON: REDISCOVERING VALUES

Sundays at 10:30 a.m. beginning May 1

George Francis will lead a discussion of the new book from Jim Wallis about using the opportunity of our nation's current economic insecurity to find moral clarity. The class will last for 5 weeks. The course will follow the book *Rediscovering Values*. We will have copies available for purchase and encourage you to sign up at the Information Desk in the Gathering Space. Those that sign up early will receive their book before the class.





**Easter Sunday, April 24
Following 10:30 a.m. worship**

Children Ministries will sponsor a children's Easter egg hunt. At last year's egg hunt we "hid" over 600 goodie filled eggs. We anticipate just as many children this Easter and need donations of plastic eggs and candy. Being mindful of dietary restrictions and "germs;" candy must be **INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED** and contain **NO NUTS**.

Please leave your candy and/or egg donation in the church office or the Children's Ministries' office. If you have questions or would like to help with the event contact Belinda Lowry at kids@fccfaithful.org or 798-2800 ext. 16



**SportsLife Camp
is coming!**

What is SportsLife Camps?

It is a sports and arts themed day camp that comes right to our church. They bring the staff and materials, and facilitate an outrageously fun camp where our kids get excited about Jesus. We bring the kids and volunteer coaches.

This year's theme is **Bring It!** Taking a lifelong journey with Jesus requires every part of the body God has given us. This summer, SportsLife will journey with campers to see how they can use their eyes, feet, head and heart to know, worship and serve Jesus. Scripture passages that campers, staff and volunteer coaches will explore this summer include: Luke 2: 8-20, Luke 7: 36-41 and John 21: 3-7. Get ready for your journey with Jesus!

The camp dates are **June 13 – 16, from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.** Registration is \$60 per child and includes a t-shirt, daily snack and activities. The camp is open to kids who will be entering 1st – 5th grade in the fall of 2011. For more information, registration forms or to find out how you can be a volunteer coach or munch time coordinator, please contacts Belinda at kids@fccfaithful.org or 798-2800 ext. 16.

*G.L.O.W. - God Lights Our Way
Belinda Lowry,
Director of Children's Ministries
kids@fccfaithful.org
798-2800 ext. 16*



FCC Weekday Preschool



The Sunshine Room class demonstrates good stewardship to our earth by showcasing some of the recycling efforts continuously done at FCC Weekday Preschool.

✦ YOUTH MINISTRIES

30 HOUR FAMINE

On April 21-22 (Maundy Thursday into Good Friday), our Youth Ministries will participate in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine. For the second year, we're fasting for 30 hours to get a taste of hunger—and to raise money to help feed and care for hungry kids and their families around the world. Our funds will be directed to the people of Haiti!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We'd like the whole church to be involved in our Famine. Here are some ways you can be part of the action . . .

1. **PRAY** Ask God to bless our students as they go without food so others can eat.
2. **PARTICIPATE** We need volunteers to help with our Famine weekend event!

HERE IS WHAT WE NEED

- **Adult Chaperones:** If you are available to assist at anytime between 6 p.m. Thursday, until 6 p.m. Friday, we would love your help. Chaperones don't necessarily have to fast, but you are welcome to participate at whatever level you like.
- **Drivers for our Outreach Project:** Friday morning, we will travel off site to do a service project and could use additional hands to assist with transportation.
- **Cooks:** We end the fast with a simple communal meal, and are looking for helpers in the kitchen.

If you are willing and able to assist with the Famine, please contact Betsy Hanzelin at 798-2800, ext. 19 or bhanzelin@fccfaithful.org

3. **GIVE** Support our students' fundraising efforts—every \$30 they raise can help feed and care for one child for a month! You can give directly to one of the youth who are participating, or support our Youth Team by dropping your donation in the Youth Mailbox or online at www.30hourfamine.org, and go to the "donate" tab and search for the "Flossmoor Community Church" team.



FCC'S GOT TALENT ... COMING SOON!

**We Want You...
To Entertain Us!**

**We Want You...
To Make Us Smile!**

Sing? Dance? Juggle? Joke? Solo or with friends, put your act together and strut your stuff. We're planning our own variety show for May 1, but first we need YOU! Send a note with your name, the name(s) of anyone else in your act, and tell us a bit about what you've got planned.

**Deadline for entries is
Friday, April 1.**

Send your info to Christine Marks at 4marks@ameritech.net or drop it off to Brooke Parry in the office.

*Sponsored by the Board of
Congregational Life*

Outreach Ministry



What Can We Do?

Donate Your Old Computer to Respond Now



Most of us mainly know "Respond Now" in Chicago Heights as our partner for years in annual food drives with the Board of Outreach Ministries. They also help area residents in other ways too and are in need of a used computer to help with their work in job placement. Do you have a used desktop or laptop computer you can donate? It needs to have Microsoft XP operating system and Microsoft Office. It needs 4GB or more of memory and a 500 GB harddrive or more. If you have one or think you might but are not sure - call Francis Fullam at 708-595-5831. Also, if you know how to clean up an old computer or turn one into a more powerful machine, we could also use your help.



Shawl Ministry

Many years ago, a Prayer Shawl Ministry was formed to provide a visible sign of the prayers and support given to people in need. Over one hundred shawls have been created and given to individuals facing health, mental or spiritual distress or crisis in their lives. This quiet, but important ministry has touched the lives of many people, both in and out of our church.

Each shawl is made with love and prayers in addition to three skeins of yarn! In continuing this ministry, it would be helpful to assist the knitters in paying for the yarn. Each prayer shawl costs about \$20. If you would be interested in sponsoring a prayer shawl, please make your checks out to Flossmoor Community Church, with "Prayer Shawl" in the memo line. Checks can be placed in the offering on Sundays or given to Judy Jensen in the Church Office.

If you can knit and are interested in knitting prayer shawls, instructions are available on the shelves in the Spirituality Center. Knitting requires three skeins of Lion Brand yarn and receipts can be turned in to Judy Jensen for reimbursement. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Judith Hanzelin at Judith@hanzelin.com or 799-6295.

CROP WALK

South Suburban
CROP Walk
Sunday, April 10

The CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) walk is an annual event that involves either a 6.2 mile or 2 mile walk to raise money for food-providing agencies. One fourth of the funds goes to local agencies and three-fourths of the money raised goes to world service organizations whose purpose is to fight hunger. The walk starts this year at St. Paul Community Church in Homewood at 2 p.m. (opening ceremony at 1:30 p.m.). If you or a group of you are interested, please contact Priscilla Boyd at (708) 612-4898.

PEGs

(Parent Education Groups)



The PEGs Boutique-Bazaar Tuesday evening workshops will begin on Tuesday, April 5 in the Multi-Purpose Room off Fellowship Hall at 7 p.m. Carolyn Parsons will lead a workshop teaching you to make a knit and crocheted headband and flower. All supplies will be provided. Bring your own size 8 knitting needles or size H or I crochet hooks or use ours. If knitting and crocheting isn't your idea of fun, explore the other opportunities to create. Painting supplies, sewing machines, hand sewing materials, jewelry findings and a plethora of beautiful fabrics and base materials abound in the many shelves behind the closet doors. Join us for fun, fellowship and creativity. All talent levels are welcome!

If you can't come on April 5, the workshop will be open every Tuesday between 9 a.m. and noon and on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. Call Karen Tapscott at 799-6494 or Carolyn Parsons at 798-2297 or caroparsons@gmail.com or email Trina Hayes at trina@bookhungry.com for information. Join us as we reuse, recycle and recreate materials for the Boutique Bazaar coming in October, 2012.



The Morton Arboretum

Excursion to the Morton Arboretum

sponsored by PEGs Day Grads

Wednesday, April 20, 2011

- 9 a.m. Car pool from the Community House
- 10:30 a.m. Acorn Express Tram Tour of the Arboretum - \$13.00
- 11:30 a.m. Dutch treat Lunch in the Ginkgo Room Restaurant

The outstanding daffodil display and many wild flowers will be in bloom. We will have time to browse the lovely Arboretum Store and see the Children's Garden. Come join the group! Guests are welcome!

Please make your reservations by Wed., April 13 to:
Julie Lindstrom 798-8461 or email: jglinds@comcast.net





Easter Lily Plant Order Form

If you would like to beautify our Sanctuary with a lily on Easter Sunday, please use the order form below. The Lily Dedication List will be in the Easter Sunday worship bulletin. **The deadline to order is Palm Sunday, April 17.**

Quantity: _____ lily plant(s) at \$10 each = \$ _____

Choose one:

_____ I will pick up my plant(s) following the 10:30 a.m. Easter worship

_____ I will give my plant(s) to someone who is ill or homebound.
(Delivered by a member of the Diaconate)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

My lily is to be dedicated (Choose one.)

_____ In honor of _____

_____ In appreciation of _____

_____ In loving memory of _____

From: _____

Order forms and checks (payable to Flossmoor Community Church) must be returned to the church office (Attn. Brooke) no later than Palm Sunday, April 17.

Flossmoor Community Church, 2218 Hutchison Road, Flossmoor, IL 60422

Questions may be directed to Brooke Parry at 708-798-2800, ext. 13 or bparry@fccfaithful.org

Diaconate Board Asks for Your Involvement



Each Sunday, Christmas and Easter, the Diaconate Board delivers flowers to designated members. Receiving flowers always warms the heart of both the recipient and the deliverer. Each Easter, members have the opportunity to purchase a lily to be displayed in the sanctuary. The response is typically strong, making delivery a challenge.

So, we request your help! Sign up sheets will be available soon. Brighten someone's Easter this year!



The Lyon Choir during the FCC Ash Wednesday Worship Service



*Our Sympathy
and Prayers to:*

Lori Tozer and family in the death of her grandmother, Alice Gilbert (MA), on March 11.

Judith Hanzelin and family in the death of her brother, David Nielsen (AZ), on March 13.

Wendy Pitcock and family in the death of her mother, Jeanne Fuerstenberg, on March 15.

Vonda Hardesty and her extended family in the death of her stepmother, Shirley Koehn, on March 19.



*We celebrate
the births of:*

Paul Victor Uzureau, born February 28. Paul is the son of Erik Uzureau and Jesica Lopez-Sol (France), the nephew of Stephanie Uzureau, and the grandson of Linda and Paul Uzureau.

Julianna Marie Scariano, born February 26. Julianna is the daughter of Tony Scariano, III, and Samantha Musich, and the granddaughter of Jody Scariano.

APRIL

Worship from 9-10 a.m. & 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Adult Education: 10:30 a.m.

Fellowship Time: 10 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

Youth Groups: 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Promised Land Church School: 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Preschool Groups: 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Nursery Care: 9 - 11:30 a.m.

Sat	04/02	Nora Jean Dickinson Memorial Service (CP)	10 am	Wed	04/20	Contemplative Wednesdays (SC)	7 am
		Mary Ellin Perrin Memorial Service (SA)	4 pm			Contemplative Wednesdays (SC)	7 pm
Sun	04/03	Fourth Sunday of Lent Communion Sunday John Woosley Organ Recital (SA)	3 pm	Thurs	04/21	Maundy Thursday Service of Shadows (SA)	7:30 pm
Mon	04/04	Women's & Men's Association Executive Board Meeting (FR)	12 pm	Fri	04/22	Good Friday Good Friday Community Worship	12 pm
Tues	04/05	Diaconate (PA)	6:30 pm	Sun	04/23	Easter Sunday Children's Ministries Easter Egg Hunt (Front Lawn)	11:45 am
		Children's Ministries (A2C)	7	Mon	04/24	Women's & Men's Association Executive Board Meeting (FR)	12 pm
		Adult Ministries (Rm.23)	7:30	Tues	04/26	Governing Board (FH)	7 pm
		Personnel (FR)		Wed	04/27	Foundation (FR)	7:30 pm
Wed	04/06	Contemplative Wednesdays (SC)	7 am				
		Contemplative Wednesdays (SC)	7 pm				
Fri	04/08	<i>Youth Disciples & Sophs Retreat departs</i>					
Sun	04/09	Fifth Sunday of Lent Outreach Second Sunday Spring Inquirers' Breakfast (FH)	9 am				
		DEVELOP Diversity Discussions (FH)	10:30 am				
		<i>Youth Disciples & Sophs Retreat returns</i>					
Tues	04/12	Finance (LB)	6:30 pm				
		Christian Education (GE)	7				
		Congregational Life (Rm. 22)	7:15				
		Outreach (PA)	7:30				
		Properties (Rm.23)					
		Nominating (FR)					
		Lay Ministries (A2C)					
		Worship & the Arts (GS)					
Wed	04/13	Contemplative Wednesdays (SC)	7 am				
		Women's & Men's Association Luncheon & Program (FH)	12 pm				
		Contemplative Wednesdays (SC)	7				
Fri	04/15	May Narthex Deadline	12 pm				
Sun	04/17	Palm Sunday New Members Join	10:30 am				
Tues	04/19	Stephen Ministries Peer Support (FR, PA)	7 pm				
		Stewardship (SPO)	7:30				

SPECIAL WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS

Mon	HFHS Moms in Touch Prayer Group (OAS)	9 am
	Associate Pastor Search Committee (FR)	7 pm
Tues	PEGs Bazaar Workshop (MP)	9 am
	Yoga with a Spiritual Vein (SC)	9:30 am
	Staff Meeting (FR)	11 am
	PEGs Bazaar Workshop (MP)	7 pm
Wed	Chair Yoga (SC)	11 am
	Yoga with a Spiritual Vein (SC)	12:30 pm
	Cherub Choir (FR)	4
	Jubilate Choir (CP)	
	Youth Leadership (CP)	7:30
Thurs	Women of Note (CP)	1:15
	Chancel Ringers (RRB)	6:30
	Chancel Choir (CP)	7:30
	Yoga with a Spiritual Vein (SC)	7:30
Fri	Yoga with a Spiritual Vein (SC)	9:30 am
Sat	Men's Church at the Train Station (CATS) - Flossmoor Station Restaurant	8 am
Sun	PADS (FH)	6 pm

CALENDAR CODES

A2C	Acts2Crew (Rm. 10)	GS	Gathering Space	OAS	Oasis (Rm 11)	SPO	Sr. Pastor's Office
CP	Chapel	GE	Genesis Room	PA	Parlor	TR	Tower Room
CH	Community House	LB	Library	PEGs	Parent Education Groups	TP	Temple (Room 12)
CS	Creation Station (Rm. 15)	MPT	MasterPeace Theater (Rm. 14)	RRB	Rehearsal Room B	WMA	Women's & Men's Association
FR	Family Room	MPR	Multipurpose Room	SA	Sanctuary	WPS	Weekday Preschool
FH	Fellowship Hall	NU	Nursery	SC	Spirituality Center	YC	Youth Crossings

N A R T H E X



April
2011

FLOSSMOOR
COMMUNITY CHURCH
2218 Hutchison Road
Flossmoor, IL
60422-1325
708-798-2800

FROM FRED

“Finding Our Character in the Resurrection Story”

In seminary, our professors often reminded us that if we really wanted to understand the gospels, we should start with Easter and work our way back. This is because Easter is the lens through which to see with greatest clarity what God is up to in the ministry of Jesus, a ministry strewn with glimpses of resurrection. The good news, after all, is that Jesus has been raised from the dead, and this is the presupposition with which Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John set out to write their versions of Jesus’ words and deeds. As we carry on our Lenten journey, I invite you to prepare for the arrival of Easter by exploring how each of the four gospels identifies a distinctive characteristic of the resurrection story.

Pastor Kim and I have been emphasizing the 2011 Lent to Easter theme of “Seismic Christ” because **Matthew 28:1-10** highlights an earthquake and the women actually witness the stone being rolled away from the tomb. Turn to **Mark 16:1-8** (verse 8 is the original ending) and you will discover that there is the glaring complication that this gospel’s Easter story ends with the women seized with terror...uh, which caused so much tension among first century Christians that those after Mark added extra verses to bring an appropriate measure of closure and resolution to the stunned silence. **Luke 24:1-35** shows how Jesus is revealed in the simple yet profound act of blessing, breaking, and bestowing bread. A kind of reverse name recognition takes place in **John 20:1-18**, as Mary finally recognizes Jesus when he calls her by name.

After reading these various accounts of Jesus’ resurrection, reflect upon the extent to which the different characteristics of the resurrection story conveyed by the four gospels have something to do with the character of the narrative of your life. For instance:

- Are you shaking up your world with a living witness to the empty tomb [Matthew]?
- Are you helping others find their voice for sharing good news [Mark]?
- Do you see the risen Christ in the common gestures of life [Luke]?
- How do you respond when you hear Jesus calling you by name [John]?

The crux of our faith is that God has raised Jesus from the dead. Here, “has raised” is a perfect tense construction where grammar gives way to the theology of a past action having continuing results. Because of Easter the present is always ripe with future prospects that are wide open for participating more fully in heavenly possibilities.

How do, and how will, the continuing results of the resurrection play out in the character of your life?

Godspeed and Peace,