



# By the Way

*Celebrating and Sharing God's Love in Christ*

*January 2012*

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## what's in a name tag

by Kathy Haben

Over the years, the LHC council has encouraged our members to wear their name tags. The topic comes, the topic goes... In case you didn't know, the nametags are located in the wooden hinged boxes on a table located at the right hand side of the entry way as you enter the church. If you need a name tag, there is a sign-up sheet for you to list your name and you should have a new supply of name tags the following week.

After a recent church service at LHC a friend, and long-time member, asked me "Why are you wearing a nametag?" My reply was "it is a way of being friendly without even having to utter a word." After contemplating the name tag issue, I went to Google for help and here is a website I found with insightful information on why you should wear a name tag:

<http://www.hellomynameisblog.com/2009/01/22-reasons-why-wearing-nametags-will.html>

I like this one: "A nametag is a mini-sacrifice. Sure, you feel dumb when wearing a nametag. It's uncomfortable. But think about how many people whose lives you just made easier. Like the guy who's been working down the hall from you for six years but didn't know how to spell your name until now. Like the shy person across the room who didn't have the courage to walk up and say hello until now. Like the new yoga teacher who had thirty new students, yet only 29 new names to memorize. Whew! How are you practicing mini-sacrifices each day to make other people's lives (even a LITTLE) easier? What comfort are you willing to forego?" (by Scott Ginsberg)

Until then I just want to sing: "Who are you, who, who, who, who."

See you with your name tag on!



your name here?





Those recently hospitalized or ill:

- † Joyce Cox
- † Elaine Williford
- † Shirley House
- † Barb MacCarthy
- † Dulie Ware
- † Corky Hamill
- † Jim Coleman

Our heartfelt sympathies to the family and friends of Marie Giesecke who passed away December 19<sup>th</sup>. A memorial service is planned for February 11, 2012.

Congratulations to Brittany Winquist & John Miller on the birth of Braedon James on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Proud grandparents are Susi & Jim Winquist.

Dear Heavenly Father,

Please hold our servicemen and women in your strong arms. Cover them with your sheltering grace and your presence as they stand in the gap for our protection.

May the members of our armed forces be supplied with courage to face each day and may they trust in the Lord's mighty power to accomplish each task. Let our military brothers and sisters feel our love and support.

In the name of Jesus. Amen.



Through the season of Epiphany we contemplate what it means that Christ has come...that God's grace is showered upon us.

There is an old story about Abraham, the father of God's people, inviting a poor beggar to his tent for a meal. When the prayer was being said, the beggar shouted, "There is no God! Cursed be God's name!" He blamed God for everything, even his own laziness. Abraham was shocked but he said to the man, "Look around at God's creation and be glad! Thank God for your life, the greatest gift God has given you!" The beggar repeated, "Cursed be God's name!" Abraham could stand no more and stood up, telling the beggar to leave his tent, which he did. That night while Abraham was praying, God said to him, "Where is the beggar I sent you?" Abraham explained, "I sent him away. He cursed your name, O Holy One." God replied, "Abraham, that man has cursed me every day for fifty years and yet I fed him. Could you not put up with him for one single night?"

Amazing grace...the love of God! The calling of the beloved to love, to be love in human form, and we hear God's call, God's will, in the way we are open to God. For some it comes slowly, gradually unfolding as a bud upon a tree. For others it is sudden, out of chaos, as Paul on the Damascus Road.

No one can know the will of God for another, and what we decide today, one path to follow, one vocation, may change with time. We live in the now, trusting God's providence and God's forgiveness.

Asking questions is important. They lead to prayer and discernment. Albert Einstein once asked, "What is the most important question you can ask in life?" The rich man came to Jesus asking, "What can I do to be saved?" Einstein answered his own question, saying that the most important question we can ask is, "Is the universe a friendly place or not?"

To be open and wait is to stand at the "door of joy," joyous playfulness in the presence of the "good news" of God's unconditional love and the mystery and holiness of relationship—with God, creation and one another. We pray for discernment.

"Holiness is not a snapshot; it is a time exposure." That it is. In Corinthians we read, "We...beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed into His likeness from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord who is the spirit." (II Corinthians 3:18)

Have a warm, thoughtful and beautiful winter and May God Bless!

# Worship Schedule

**January 15**      **Baptism of Christ**  
Sermon:      “A Messenger Arrives to Unwrap the Present”  
Scripture:     Mark 1:4-11; Luke 4:14-21  
Theme:        Loving Justice (Hesed)

**January 22**  
Sermon:      “What’s In a Name Anyway”  
Scripture:     Hosea 2:14-20; Matthew 16:13-20  
Theme:        As We Name Christ, God Names Us.

**January 29**      **FIFTH SUNDAY**  
Afternoon service 4:00 p.m. followed by a potluck supper.  
Theme:        Comparative Religions:  
                    Judaism, Christianity and Islam

**February 5**      **Holy Communion**  
Sermon:      “The New Wine of Faith in Christ”  
Scripture:     John 2:1-12  
Theme:        God Advocates for Us as We Advocate  
                    for Christ.

## COMPARATIVE RELIGIONS SERIES

On Sunday, January 15th, from 3:00–5:00 p.m. we will have the first in a series on Comparative Religions led by Rev. Ron Purser. The first will concern Islam and its relationship to Christianity. Light refreshments will be provided. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

## PHOTO DIRECTORY UPDATE

After various revisions the Church Photo Directories are at the printer! We expect them in a few weeks and we'll let you know when they arrive!



The New Year brings new opportunities. We have new opportunities in 2012 to provide flowers to decorate our altar table or host a fellowship hour after worship!

Providing flowers is a wonderful way to recognize a special occasion in your family or to remember someone special. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. You'll get a reminder call from the church office at which time you can let Lori know what you would like listed in the Sunday bulletin.

Don't let the words Fellowship Hour scare you. It's a simple and heartfelt way to volunteer your time. The coffee is already made. You just bring whatever treats you want, lay them out before church begins and that's it. If you'd like to provide juice for the kids that's great as they always appreciate it. We have plenty of trays and baskets to lay out the goodies and there is usually a helping hand to assist in your efforts. Again, a reminder call is made earlier in the week The sign up sheets are in the Parish Hall.

Please consider signing up. Your generosity is appreciated!



(Read to the Congregation on December 4)

Our Family wanted to deeply thank this church for the outpouring of love and genuine care as we confront this time of pain and sadness. There have been so many who contributed tirelessly to help our family during this most difficult time, and we just wanted all of you to know how much it is appreciated and has helped. We won't forget.

We are all blessed and should feel so fortunate that God has brought us together in this little church. But as a congregation, we are a big church who share our joys and concerns in a big way. We have a meaningful community. When each of us is faced with difficult times, there is a comfort here that cannot be found anywhere else. We have been shown the way through Jesus Christ and you all have certainly express His love. We are grateful. Thank you.

And to the choir, thank you for sharing your music and honoring John in the most loving way. Again, we won't forget. We are grateful. We all could free your open arms as you sang so beautifully. It was a cherished tribute. And to Larry, your exceptional talent and the way you consistently minister to others is deeply felt each day. Not only does our family thank you for planning the most beautiful service, but we all thank you for your friendship and rich presence each week.

And Ron, who has led by example and has shown us to welcome everyone, and to love and support each other as Christ would want us to do, we thank you. Our family will always cherish this church and together our love for John and his love for us will comfort us.

Carol, Jonathan, Elizabeth, and Caroline Berger



## MEET THE AUTHOR

January 23, 2012



How does the book title the *Yada Yada Prayer Group* grab you? It is an enjoyable, light read, by local author Neta Jackson. To help us kick off our newly formed group, Neta has agreed to attend our January 23 meeting! So, pick

up a copy of her book, or download it to your Kindle or e-Reader, and be ready to meet Neta and find out about her writing and ministry. We'll discuss the aspects of the book and characters over coffee, treats, fellowship and of course, prayer. Neta has offered to sign copies of her book for you, if you're interested.

We'll also look at other suggested readings for the year, so if you have a favorite book or if there is something you've been wanting to read please be ready to share it with the group. We can also explore ways to make our group successful by agreeing on some basic book club etiquette.

Please join us, and bring a friend, to our inaugural meeting on January 23, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Submitted by:  
Kathy Haben, Member at Large

## WE NOTICED

A huge thank you to ALL who set up, cleaned up, participated in or otherwise made our Pageant successful again this year. It was most wonderful and filled our church with so many members and guests.

We are grateful to Kathleen Kaska, Nancy Schatzeder and the many women who planned and participated in the Women's Advent Worship and Tea. It was beautiful and pleasing to see so many guests. The \$520 in donations for the Crisis Center will be helpful to them as they continue their work.

Gary Estes is so deserving of our gratitude and it is almost impossible to enumerate all the maintenance work he has done daily, weekly and month after month. Thank you Gary for everything you do. Much of your work goes unnoticed, but would indeed be noticed if you did not step in to resolve the problems.

Thank you to Kathleen Kaska and Lori Prang for their work with Constant Contact to set up email lists which will enable us to provide instant information to our members and friends.

Thank you to Nancy Schatzeder for starting an evening bible study. It has been long awaited and we are grateful to you for leading the discussions.

### A note from Stewardship

If you have submitted your 2012 pledge, we thank you! If you have not yet submitted your pledge, please try to do so as soon as possible.

If you are up to date with your 2011 pledge, we thank you! If your 2011 pledge is not up to date, please consider if you will be able to bring it current as soon as you can.

If you have a need that we, your church family can fill, please let us know. We are a family and we are here for each other.

Sincerely,  
Suzanne



Thank you to everyone for contributing to the music program during Advent and Christmas. It is an honor and joy to work with so many talented musicians in our church and to be able to serve such a wonderful congregation.

Looking forward to another great year of music in 2012

Larry

# CHILI COOK-OFF TIME!

Saturday, January 21, 2012

6:30

Join us for what's become a Little Home Church tradition!

Sign up to be a chef and see how your recipe fares against the others and see if your chili wins you the coveted Chef's Hat Award!

Or sign up to be a judge! Vote...and vote often!

Winners are determined by votes purchased as donations.

The donation "votes" can be made for your favorite recipe as well your favorite Outreach Ministry!

\$5 per person admission is requested.

BYOB...water and soda will be provided.

See you there!

RSVP to the church office 630.584.4013 or [lhchome@aol.com](mailto:lhchome@aol.com)



## THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who played a role in our annual Christmas Pageant:

- the children & their parents
- the musicians
- those who set up the risers and the lights.
- the lasagna dinner helpers...those who served, set up and cleaned up.
- the audience
- and of course the director!!

There are more pictures on our website. Check them out!



# JANUARY—FEBRUARY

January 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January 10 Church Council Meeting 7 p.m.  
 January 12 Adult Evening Bible Study 7 p.m.  
 January 15 1st in a series of Comparative Religions 3—5 p.m.  
 Presented by Pastor Ron  
 January 21 Annual Chili Cook-Off 6:30 p.m.  
 January 22 Janual Congregational Meeting after worship  
 January 23 A Book & A Prayer Book Club meets 7 p.m.  
 January 29 Fifth Sunday Worship Service & Potluck 4 p.m.  
 (NO 9:30 a.m. worship that day)

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY  
 10 A.M. IN PASTOR RON'S OFFICE

February 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

February 9 Adult Evening Bible Study 7 p.m.  
 February 14 Church Council Meeting 7 p.m.  
 February 22 Ash Wednesday Worship Service 7 p.m.  
 February 27 A Book & A Prayer Book Club 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY  
 10 A.M. IN PASTOR RON'S OFFICE



**Pastor Ron's Cell Phone**  
**(630) 886-5677**  
**Church Office (630) 584-4013**  
**lhhome@aol.com**  
**www.littlehomechurch.org**

Little Home Church by the Wayside  
United Church of Christ  
32W128 Army Trail Road  
Wayne, IL 60184

## Join us for Worship:

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9:30 Sunday Worship and Children's School

Childcare provided from 9:00-11:00

630-584-4013

fax: 630-584-8427

[lhchome@aol.com](mailto:lhchome@aol.com)

[www.littlehomechurch.org](http://www.littlehomechurch.org)

[www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)



## Along the Way...

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### 'JANUAL' CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 22

Please take some time after worship this day to join us for our congregational meeting as budgets are discussed and approved. There will also be an update on our properties.

In these tight budgetary times your thoughts and opinions are important. Grab your coffee and join us immediately after worship.

### Little Home Church by the Wayside

#### Pastor

Rev. Ron Purser

#### Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Don Heinrich

#### Minister of Music

Larry Dieffenbach

#### Moderator

Ann McLaughlin

#### Moderator-Elect

Wally Setlock

#### Office Manager

Lori Prang

#### Custodial Services

Odie Perry