

The South Church News

A Publication of The South Church, Mount Prospect, IL

March 2012

Dates to Remember

**Sunday, March 11 –
Daylight Savings Time
begins – Spring Ahead!**

**Saturday, March 17 – St.
Patrick's Day**

**Wednesday, March 21 –
Spring Begins**

**Tuesday, March 27 –
Deacon's Meeting**



**Every Wednesday at 10
am, Bible study, in the
sanctuary**

**2nd & 4th Sunday of each
month, World Religions
class, 9:00 am, Library**

*Why should you never iron a
4-leaf clover? You don't want
to press your luck.*

-Daryl Stout

Message from the Pastor.....

"Church Online"

It seems that each week that passes I do more and more of my sermon preparation online. For years my favorite website for Bible related study has been The Text This Week (www.textweek.com). This site is a compendium of links to other websites based on that week's series of lectionary texts. From the site you can move on to other people's sermon notes and commentaries written hundreds of years ago or yesterday. There are also links to drama, music, and art that relates to the given texts.

There are literally new sites each week, and some of them are worth paying attention to. Here's an informative and entertaining link that explains Ash Wednesday and Lent in two minutes: <http://bustedhalo.com/video/ash-wednesday-in-two-minutes>.

I also find myself spending more time with online religious communities. New online networks are growing daily, focused on exciting and viable new ways to communicate a 21st century version of the Christian faith. One I have spoken of before. It's the group known as Progressive Christianity. We currently buy our children's Christian Ed materials through the Center for Progressive Christianity. Here's the link to their new site: <http://www.progressivechristianity.org>.

The site contains essays by many different writers about an emerging interpretation of Christianity that dovetails with many of our perspectives here at South Church. From their site you can look for progressive churches in your area. We are one of five churches that pop up when you search "Illinois." We have had visitors come to South Church after finding us on the Progressive website.

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Another site I'd recommend is that of Episcopal Bishop, teacher, and prolific author, John Shelby Spong. Some of his earlier books helped me decide that there might be a place for me in the world of Christianity. (See *Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism* and *Liberating the Gospels*.) Spong's site features many short, well-indexed essays on topics of contemporary interest. You can sign up for a weekly email from the site called Q & A, where Bishop Spong answers questions that have been emailed to him. His work is a great guide and comfort to those of us who are searching for ways to create a Christianity that is relevant, evolving, and compatible with the discoveries of modern science. Drop and see for yourself. You'll find it here: <http://johnshelbyspong.com>.

Serving with you,
Pastor Rick Kesler

Anniversaries

Lucyille Keller March 24

Birthdays

Madeline Beattie March 1
Melissa Ciske March 3
Coleman Gailloreto March 6
Tom Suhar March 6
Theresa Mathena March 9
Patricia McNabb March 11
Diane Beattie March 14
Katherine Suhar March 15
Mary Meskan March 16
Pat Sajbel March 16
Tammy Morgan March 16
Patricia Pauls March 19
Jacqueline Dick March 21
Angela Nicolosi March 21
Rachel Hess March 23
Lynelle Knutson March 23
Tim O'Brian March 24
Zachary Surico March 26
Paul Zimmerman March 31

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Figures Represent January 2012.

INCOME

YTD Income	\$14,899.54*
YTD Budget	\$14,992.89
YTD Income Under Budget	- \$ 93.35

*Represents 99.4% of Anticipated Income For This Period.

EXPENSES

YTD Expenses	\$11,839.90
YTD Income Over Expenses	+ \$3,059.64

-Pat Piper
Comptroller

Children's Sermon Volunteers Needed

Time with Our Children is an important part of the worship service at The South Church. Volunteers are needed to lead the short children's lesson each week. Rev. Rick can share some helpful websites for ideas. If you are interested, please contact Laura Lukas, Rev. Rick or the church office. Kids say the darndest things....

From the Pastoral Relations Committee:

Thank you to the congregants for your willingness to use the Sermon Feedback box and forms in the narthex. Pastor Rick is getting valuable feedback from you. For example, he has learned that people appreciate his sharing of personal stories.

Please use the box regularly, even if you've talked to Rick about the sermon that day. For example, Rick received several compliments on his February 12 sermon, but we only received two feedback forms. So our analysis does not reflect what people thought that day. Our goal is to get comprehensive feedback over the course of the year, which requires a few minutes from everyone regularly.

Sermons are available on the church website – www.thesouthchurch.com - under the "Gallery" heading. In addition, several sermons and worship services are posted on You Tube, on The South Church channel. (Thanks to Tom Suhar and Laura Lukas!) You can review the sermons and turn in a feedback form at any time.

Thank you so much for your willingness to take part. And thank you, Rick, for welcoming feedback.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU....

100 YEARS OF ZANOBIA IRWIN

"The first thing everyone always asks me," Zanobia says with a smile, "is where I got my unusual name. I don't want to be rude and say 'My parents gave it to me,' so I tell them my mom had a friend who read a book by Nathaniel Hawthorne and there was a character named Zenobia. My mother was intrigued by that and changed the spelling to Zanobia." She adds that Zenobia comes from a Greek word meaning 'having life from Jupiter.'

Zanobia is certainly full of life! She will celebrate her 100th birthday on February 28. Her philosophy of life is "Enjoy your family.....that's what makes it all worthwhile."

Born in Washington County, Indiana near Beck's Mill, Zanobia was the fifth of seven children. Her father was a blacksmith and her mother a homemaker. The family lived in Indiana until Zanobia was four years old. "My mother watched three of her siblings die of tuberculosis," she remembers. She said Indiana was beautiful, but damp and woody, so the family moved by railroad to the "new" state of Oklahoma. The high plains were quite a contrast to southern Indiana, she said. It was a dry prairie but no one suffered from tuberculosis.



Zanobia's father died young from diabetes. Her three older siblings moved on and the rest of the family lived through the terrible times of the Dust Bowl and the Depression. Her mother developed asthma so the family moved once again, this time to Boulder, CO.

She earned bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado in Boulder, and graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a major in English and English literature, grammar and mathematics. Zan taught for 10 years in Oklahoma and Colorado, then she married her husband Everett and moved to the Midwest.

Everett was a journalist and worked as a night editor for United Press, which later became United Press International (UPI). The two met through mutual friends in 1941. The couple visited all 50 states together, but her favorite place is still the Rocky Mountains. They had one daughter, Linda, who lives in Ely, MN, and their marriage produced five grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Most of the family lives nearby, and Zan enjoys spending time with everyone.

Zanobia and Everett started attending The South Church when Linda was young. He served on the Board of Deacons and Zan taught Vacation Bible School. "It was the only Protestant church in town," she recalls. Mount Prospect was a very different village in the early 1950s, but Zanobia loved it then and still loves it now. "This area was a prairie," she said, "and with the post-war boom, the village and the school system just burst out!"

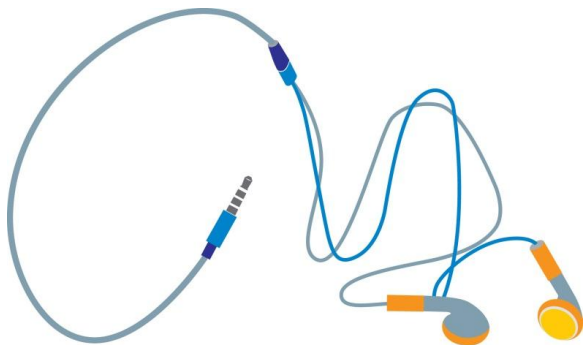
She should know about the school system in Mount Prospect – Zanobia was a teacher here for 34 years, 24 of those at Lincoln Junior High School, which is just down the street from her home. Quite a few South Church members, including Trina Bryant, Lisa Zwilling and Mary Faith Weiss, had "Mrs. Irwin" as their teacher.

Zanobia says she "has no spare time" and is obviously not slowing down as she hits the century mark. She reads a lot, plays piano, bicycles 5 miles a day on her stationary bike, and spends quality time with her family. Her home is filled with beanie babies, roosters, Hummel figurines, family pictures, cardinal statuettes and refrigerator art – mementos of a full and joyful life. She is lovingly known in her family as "Grandma Honey."

When asked about some of the "good" changes she's noticed through her life, Zanobia said, "People are friendlier today." The "not so good" change she's noticed is increased gang activity, not just in Mount Prospect, but in general. Zan doesn't use a computer or a cell phone, but still thinks they are wonderful technological tools.

After Everett died in 1951, Zanobia and other South Church widows formed the Ring of Friendship, a social group of 18 widows who met once a month. They formed a very

strong bond. The group now has five members. Though small in numbers, they are mighty in spirit; her church friends threw her a birthday party last Sunday. Zanobia has made a conscious choice to be cheerful and positive in her life. "Of course I'm still happy," she smiles. "Why wouldn't I be?"



Keep in touch!

Have you moved? Got a new email address? Changed phone numbers? We at The South Church want to stay connected with all our friends and family, so call the church office with any updates.

Stay Connected 847-253-0501.

Sink or swim?

When a boat started sinking, the skipper shouted, "Does anybody know how to pray?"

One man confidently answered, "Yes, I do."

The captain nodded. "That's good then," he said. "You go ahead and pray. The rest of us will put on life jackets. We're one short."



The South Church News is published monthly for the members, families, and friends of The South Church of Mount Prospect, Illinois. Articles for publication should be submitted by the 15th of each month, either by email or on a diskette to: Ricki Sajbel at sajbel@sbcglobal.net.

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Worship Service: Sunday, 10:30 am
Office Hours: 9 am– noon Monday through Thursday

An Irish blessing

May God grant you always
A sunbeam to warm you.
A moonbeam to charm
you,
A sheltering angel
So nothing can harm you,
Laughter to cheer you,
Faithful friends near you —
And whenever you pray,
Heaven to hear you.

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Address correction requested

FIRST-CLASS MAIL