

PAXCHRISTINEWS

Monthly Magazine of Pax Christi Catholic Community in Eden Prairie May 2015

**FAITH
FORMATION
YOUTH**

Random Acts
of Kindness

Pages 8–11

**REMAINING DYNAMIC
AMIDST CHAOS.**

Parishioner Fred Baumer Reflects on Lenten Retreat. Page 6



PAX CHRISTI

Catholic Community

12100 Pioneer Trail, Eden Prairie, MN 55347-4208
Phone: 952-941-3150 Website: www.paxchristi.com

Office Hours

Monday–Friday 8:00am–4:30pm

Mass Schedule

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:00pm
Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

Nursery available at all weekend Masses.
Interpreter for hearing impaired at 11:00am.

Weekday Masses

Mondays 8:30am
Tuesdays 8:30am with Rosary to follow
Wednesdays 6:00pm
Thursdays 6:45am
Fridays 8:30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation (private)

Saturdays 4:00–4:30pm

The Pax Christi News is printed monthly by the Church of Pax Christi of Eden Prairie. We accept unsolicited manuscripts and photos from parishioners, but reserve the right to edit and publish such material at our discretion. Email submissions, photos, and/or questions to Melissa Nault, Communications Specialist, mnault@paxchristi.com, or 952-405-7221. All contributions become the property of Pax Christi Catholic Community.



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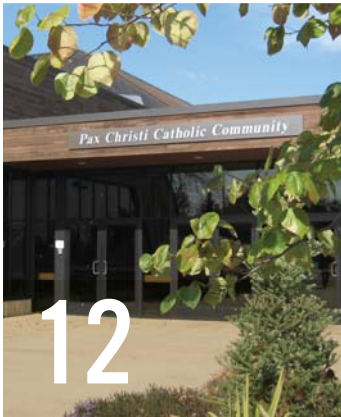
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SINCE YOU ASKED



Fr. Herb Hayek
Sr. Associate Pastor



A FEW WEEKS AGO the Sunday gospel was from John, chapter 3. Nicodemus, a leader of the Jewish community, came to Jesus at night and spoke with Him. He remained in the shadows until the crucifixion, when he helped take Jesus' body down from the cross. From that first conversation comes what is certainly one of the most quoted gospel texts today – John 3:16. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life." You may have seen someone at a football or basketball game holding up a sign with John 3:16 on it. There are those Christians who believe that if only you would read this, you could come to faith and be saved. Certainly it is important to preach the Gospel message and to share our faith. But sometimes we read words and don't fully understand their meaning. For many the words 'faith' and 'believe' have heady connotations, namely that it's an activity centered between our ears, in our head! That's partly true. There has to be an understanding of what our faith is and means. But it is too easy to stop there. For the New Testament authors, to believe was a verb, an action word. Sure, we have to know our faith, but that should lead us to putting our faith into action. In the

Gospel of Matthew 7:21 Jesus warned His disciples: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven but the person who does the will of my Father, who is in heaven."

On that weekend, I also referred to what Mahatma Gandhi called the seven blunders (or sins) of humanity. These are principles that can be used to address our actions both personally or collectively. To my surprise, many individuals personally spoke to me or contacted me asking for them. Since there seemed to be that much interest, I thought that it would be a good idea to share it with a wider community. So here they are.

Wealth without work: We've all heard the adage about getting something for nothing. It can make life easier. But we have seen it skew the social structure in our society. You have heard about income inequality and the decline of the middle class. This is not about criticizing personal initiative. Rather, there is a basic Christian principle that expresses concern that each of us is our "brother's keeper." We don't live in a vacuum, and our lives are interconnected.

Pleasure without conscience: Whenever something gives a person pleasure on any level, it becomes easier and more appealing to do. This is just

common sense. Some would say, "If it feels good, do it!" Others would offer the caveat – as long as it doesn't hurt anyone. At least we are making it less self-centered and more relational. However, in a more positive spin, we would focus less on hurting someone and rather on helping another person. What would actually help someone else grow and become a better person? We also get pleasure in doing something altruistic and other-centered!

Knowledge without character: There is a wonderful quote from St. Bernard of Clairvaux that speaks directly to this: "There are those who seek knowledge for the sake of knowledge, that is curiosity. There are those who seek knowledge to be known by others, that is vanity. There are those who seek knowledge in order to serve others, that is love." Curiosity is a wonderful quality to have, but does it become an end in itself or is it used to help others. We have probably met someone who impressed us with his/her knowledge. But, again, was it meant to help or merely reveal an overly active ego working overtime! Certainly using our learning to serve others reflects the best of Jesus' teaching. I believe that we see this sort of knowledge at work here in our parish community with our



many outreach and volunteer programs that serve so many people.

Commerce without morality: The English economist and moral philosopher, Adam Smith, wrote a famous book entitled, *The Wealth of Nations*. However, many people today forget that he stressed the moral foundation of our economic system. It is not just the "bottom line" that is the only consideration. Rather, it is important that there is fairness and concern for all parties, in particular, the laborers. Monsignor John Ryan, a priest of our archdiocese, wrote a classic work entitled *A Living Wage* over a century ago. This has reflected the teaching of the Popes from Leo XIII through Francis today. It is also a challenge to the Church in how it treats its employees. Yet most of us are not in a position to hire others. But we are called on to support those companies and stores which are fair and just in their business practices. Again, Pax Christi is involved in helping individuals and families who have been affected by today's economy and who are unemployed and/or homeless.

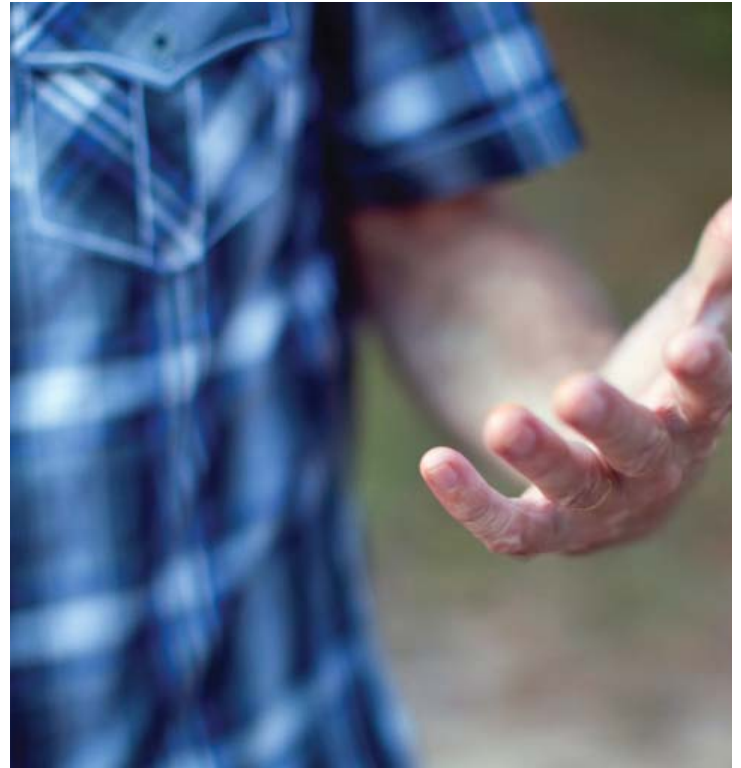
Science without humanity: We have made great advances in developing new technology in treating various diseases or medical conditions. Yet there

are times when a patient seems to become lost in the treatment process. I have seen this happen when an aging parent or other relative is nearing their end of life. Death with dignity is still a value that we should treasure.

Worship without sacrifice: Jesus railed against this throughout the Gospels. The Pharisees practiced the rituals of their Jewish religion to the exact letter of the law. But their hearts were not in it. To walk in the footsteps of Jesus means that we will often find our Catholic Christian faith uncomfortable and challenging. But in doing that, we grow and deepen our faith.

Politics without principles: For most of us running for political office is not in the picture. However, we are all citizens who vote and are concerned about our society and country. To write letters, attend meetings, organize, and lobby or visit our elected legislators is something that we can and should do when we see an injustice or problem. Matthew 25: 31-46 gives us Jesus' thoughts on what should move us to action. "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers (and sisters) of mine, you did for me."

Gandhi's grandson, Arun, added an eighth blunder.



Rights without responsibility: As Americans, we can be proud of our Bill of Rights. We continue to discern what all is implied in these rights. However, it is easy to talk about "my rights" and freedom to do whatever I want. But with rights come responsibilities. Rights don't exist in a vacuum and our lives are lived in a community. Again the words of scripture apply. Do unto others, as you would have them do unto you. Love your neighbor as yourself. So simple yet profound and challenging.

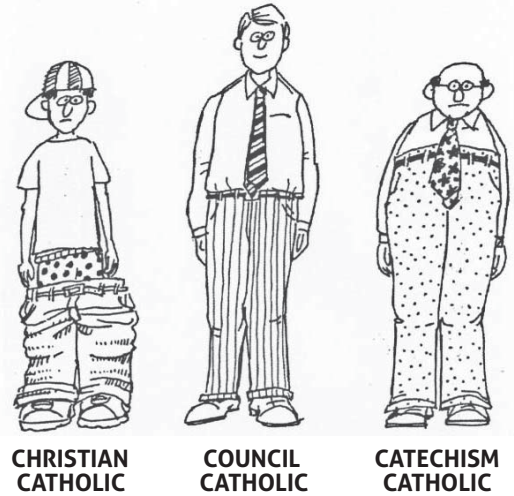
These next two were added in light of more changes in our society.

Technology without direction: Do you text while you drive? Should your phone be grafted onto your ear? Do we use facebook to work out our aggression or anger against others? Such wonderful things, but where are we going with them?

Connection without community: Have you ever watched two or three people having lunch at a table where they were all on their I-phones? Do you spend more time texting family and friends than you do speaking with them? But don't you enjoy that feeling of intimacy and sharing after a good conversation? We have lots of new ways to communicate/connect with other people. Yet the temptation is to use these tools as a substitute rather than to enhance our bonds with those we love.

This may seem like an awful lot to reflect on at one time. Actually, it even leaves me feeling like I have just eaten a huge meal and need a nap! So just take a little bit at a time: like a cup of coffee or a piece of chocolate as an afternoon break. Bon appetit!

WE BELIEVE IN A CHURCH WHO ...



“RECOGNIZE YOURSELF?” Brother Jim Zullo, FSC, a De La Salle Christian Brother with a doctorate in clinical psychology, flashed this slide on the screen in the opening minutes of the Saturday, March 21, retreat entitled: *We are the Church: Remaining Dynamic Amidst Chaos*. We are a diverse Church because we are a community of multiple, sometimes contrasting, expectations of our Church.

110 parishioners and staff engaged in prayer, listened to presentations by Brother Jim, and candidly discussed hopes and concerns about our Church in transition. This article will attempt to describe the retreat day, focusing specifically on the “statements of belief” that participants wrote during the afternoon’s final prayer.

Brother Jim Zullo led the assembled table groups through a series of exercises that helped explain what occurs when an individual or organization is facing uncertainty, going through transition. We could all recount what we face as a Church community:

- Declining Mass attendance, specifically the absence of young people
- Growing shortage of clergy
- Mounting tensions with Church authorities
- Financial pressures at parish and diocesan levels
- The effects of sexual and power abuses

Brother Jim suggested some guidelines for navigating this land of uncertainty:

- Embrace the fact that the only way OUT is THROUGH
- Enter the experience as fully as you can, but DON’T GET LOST IN IT
- Recruit a guide to work through challenging times, because you don’t see things as they are ... rather, you see them as you are

And that was why we gathered, to be guides to one another, to discuss where our Church is going and to reinvigorate our belief that we can become the Church we believe in.

Our Morning Prayer, led by Pax Christi’s choir, centered on our baptismal call to be Church, with participants blessing themselves with water taken from a central font near the paschal candle. Sung table prayer with the breaking of bread and sharing of wine preceded lunch. The retreat day ended with Pentecost Prayer in which each person wrote his/her response to the following on a card and then shared it with table members: “We believe in a church who . . .” These cards were collected to be used as the basis for this article.

Upon analysis, the individual responses can be divided into five large categories. These are given below with the percentage of total cards that fell into each.

We believe in a church who

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Is welcoming and inclusive to all | 25% |
| 2. Is responsive to challenge and open to transformation | 25% |
| 3. Listens to and values its people | 20% |
| 4. Is God-centered | 17% |
| 5. Reaches out to others, embracing diversity | 13% |

WE BELIEVE IN A CHURCH WHO IS WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE

The words and phrases that appeared on 25% of the cards submitted within this category were “welcomes all actively and unconditionally,” “inclusive,” “non-judgmental,” “engaging all.” Welcome and inclusive in what? –“in the circle of love and care to do God’s work.” One attendee summed it up by writing: “We believe in a church who welcomes us like coming home safe.”

WE BELIEVE IN A CHURCH WHO IS RESPONSIVE TO CHALLENGE AND OPEN TO TRANSFORMATION.

Brother Jim used the Emmaus story from Luke’s gospel as a metaphor for what a community experiences. Like the disciples, the community is “on the road” and cannot accept the status quo, but must constantly work to transform itself through encountering Christ as these disciples did – in the breaking of the bread. Another 25% of the cards written by retreatants said we believe in a church community that: “is authentic to the gospel,” “practices what it preaches,” “is proactive in seeking change,” “never embraces mediocrity,” and can “agree to disagree” but is always “respectful of its members. As one retreatant wrote: “We believe in a church who believes that resurrection follows death.”

WE BELIEVE IN A CHURCH WHO LISTENS TO AND VALUES ITS PEOPLE.

Another 20% of the written statements focused on being a church who listens and values its people. These cards spoke of believing in church leaders who “value us for who we are,” and “who treasure the gifts women and laity bring for actively leading worship and preaching.” These leaders “embrace hope and gratitude.” As a community, this church believes in “mercy, forgiveness, love, and compassion.” One card summarized this kind of church with a personal statement. “We believe in a church who is a powerful force in my life...without Pax Christi, I could not go on day to day.”

WE BELIEVE IN A CHURCH WHO IS GOD-CENTERED.

Brother Jim shared a diagram he called “circles of support in challenging times,” which placed God in the center, suggesting that all of our support groups, family networks, work colleagues, and social groups will be less effective unless God is central to the transformative change we seek. God’s transformative purpose is “not about the preservation of an institution, but about the new creation of justice, peace, and hope in the midst of the old creation of alienation, hostility, and despair.” These sentiments were echoed in 17% of the cards in we believe statements such as: “we believe in the church who is the hands and feet of Christ on earth,” and “we believe in a church who is God-centered, taking responsibility to build the kingdom of God as individuals and community.”

WE BELIEVE IN A CHURCH WHO REACHES OUT TO OTHERS, EMBRACING DIVERSITY.

Finally, 13% of the we believe statements reflected back Brother Jim’s recommendation on breaking with the status quo, recognizing that no issue is all black or white, and that diverse views are a value in a community. Written on the cards were the belief that we are a church who “seeks out people who are hurting,” “appreciates diversity among its members,” is “compassionate to those less fortunate,” and “acts on issues of social justice.”

These statements of belief show a community of people who call themselves church, who are outwardly focused, willing to endorse and work for transformation despite the challenges facing the institutional Church. These belief statement created at the end of the retreat can be guiding principles for Pax Christi or any parish community going forward. **WE BELIEVE ...**

Written by Fred Baumer, Ph.D. , Pax Christi Parishioner



PARISHIONER NEWS

MARCH FUNERALS

Elizabeth (Ward) Baker	3/2/2015
Robert (Bob) Wyman Churchill	3/6/2015
John Pirola	3/14/2015
Matthew L. Smith	3/18/2015
Oliver M. Hage	3/20/2015

MARCH NEW MEMBERS

Jake and Becky Bills
 Vicki Crum
 Grenville and Linda Francis
 Jason and Erin Gunelson
 MJ Harshbarger
 Candice Jackson
 Susan Kilby
 Mike Krook
 Mary Larson and Jeff Craig
 Lee and Jill Madison
 Dennis and Peggy Murphy
 Pat and Lisa Neunsingerr
 Steven and Jody Patterson
 Dave Pivec and Terry Touran
 Kyle Roe and Rachel Nykholat
 Katie Spitzmueller
 Erik and Andrea Vieyra
 Debra and Robert Ward
 Billy and Suzie Wermerskirchen

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS FROM THE CHILDREN IN THE FINDING GOD PROGRAM

WHEN I WAS a little girl, my mom always said it was better to give, than receive, and to just be nice, something we all learned in Kindergarten 101. Be nice even if it meant smiling at Christmas and thanking a grandparent for some socks, or something completely unusable. My family taught me to show kindness to one another, and I learned kindness is a hard thing to give away because it keeps coming back to the giver. As I grew older, I understand what it means to pay it forward and to lend a helping hand to friends or to people I have not yet met. Why? Because Jesus said so. Loving one another is one His

greatest desires for each of us. Jesus is the ultimate example of what is good and just.

Mother Teresa once said, "Spread love wherever you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier." What does it look like and feel like to be the 'hands and feet of Christ' in our world?

This year, the children in the Finding God program were asked to offer Random Acts of Kindness in a variety of ways. We were asked to 'think kindly of others,' to 'speak kindly of others,' and to 'show kindness' with our hands and feet. The famous author Henry James once said,

"Three things in human life are important. The first is to be kind. The second is to be kind, and the third is to be kind."

The song, *Do Something*, from singer/artist Matthew West says: *I wanna be the one who stands up and says, I'm gonna do something. We are the salt of the earth. We are a city on a hill. But we're never gonna change the world by standing still, no we won't stand still.*

From the album *Into the Light; Songs of Southside Independent Music Publishing/ External Combustion Music/Songs for Delaney (ASCAP)*

The following articles were written by some of the catechists and children in the Finding God program on Sunday or Wednesday evenings. Enjoy reading the words of wisdom and remember what the Lord requires of us: "To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." —*Micah 6:8*

WILL YOU ACCEPT THE KINDNESS CHALLENGE?

*Written by Renee Dignan,
Faith Formation Minister.*

BOOKMARKS

THIS YEAR I had many challenges teaching that I never thought I would face, but I did, and I was lucky to have. You are probably wondering what I am talking about. Last year, I thought the same grade and all of them could read this year. This year I had quite a few kids that couldn't read and I didn't want them to feel ashamed that they couldn't read. So, in the fall, I had to change everything up which was fun. In the fall, I asked all the kids to bring in one item they could share for thanksgiving. I was so amazed the kids brought in bags and bags of food. Then there was another idea in the book to make bookmarks. I thought yeah awesome and then to give them to elderly who needed something special. These kids gave so much time to it. I was so impressed. Like church and something special, we gave our entire positive attitude and a blessing over the bookmarks. These bookmarks looked so well, and instead of reading about how to take care of others they showed compassion for others. I was so impressed and so proud of the kids. *Written by Sheila Banigan, Parishioner and Faith Formation Catechist.*



THANKSGIVING YEAR ROUND

THE CHILDREN in the Finding God program heard the gospel story of one small boy with some bread and fish and how his act of kindness helped to feed more than 5,000 people. It is with great honor that we carried on the Pax Christi tradition of supporting the Twelve-Basket Ministry with the annual Thanksgiving meal appeal. We decorated over 100 boxes for those in need and added prayers, blessings, and wonderfully created placemats. Our hope was to provide a little joy and support to those receiving our gift of love. We invited the children to add food to the boxes, and some children donated candy as well. This third grade group donated over 35 pounds of candy. A huge thank-you to all the leaders and children who participated in this incredible experience. May the joy of a simple gesture multiply in their hearts.



OUR CATHOLIC FAITH CONNECTS US

IS IT DIFFICULT to understand faith when you're young? You can't touch it, you can't taste it, and you can't see it. Throughout the year, the Pax Christi Wednesday 4:45pm - 6th Grade class has been discussing our Catholic faith and its place in the children's futures. The twelve 6th graders were challenged to think about and write about what their Catholic faith would look like in 50 years. As a part of this class discussion, the children wrote letters to anonymous seniors at The Colony, an assisted living facility, to ask their resident seniors about their faith journey. The children demonstrated an inspiring sincerity of interest in the letter-writing endeavor.

The letters were delivered via special Pax Christi courier, Jane Schmitz. Shortly after the New Year, we learned that we had received two responsive letters from senior residents

of The Colony. One very special letter was from Norma Anderson, a longtime Pax Christi parishioner, written in response to a thoughtful letter from 6th grader, Anna Madison. Norma's letter shared that she was in her early 90s, that she loved to golf whenever she had the opportunity, and that she has had faith experiences in her life that were so impactful they needed to be shared in person.

A visit to the Colony to meet Norma was scheduled for the 25th of February in the gathering room at The Colony. We found Norma to be a pleasant, petite lady who greeted us upon our arrival and then sat in a traditional wing chair as the 6th-graders gathered round. Norma shared stories of her experiences in her Catholic faith journey going back to when she was a young girl in the 1920s and 30s.

Her Catholic faith-related memories were personal and touching. Amongst the memories she shared were stories that helped the 6th-graders understand how the Church has changed since Norma's early days. Norma spoke of how in her childhood, women were required to wear hats in church and were required to go to Reconciliation every other week. She shared how as a young person, she had thought God, in essence, watched over everyone with a "checklist" on a clipboard, making bad marks when a person did bad acts and giving good marks when a person did good deeds. She shared captivating moments in her life that challenged her faith and were nothing the 6th graders have had to experience in their short lives; such as, how her second husband's spirit "touched her" in a playful way upon passing, and how she was hysterical upon finding her



adult daughter after she had committed suicide.

What became very clear to us from our time with Norma was that our Catholic faith can evolve and be stronger and more meaningful as our earthly bodies age and our time to share eternal life with our Lord comes near. Thank you to Norma for sharing her Catholic faith journey with these young people, and connecting the generations through our faith in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. *Written by Murphy and David Schoenecker, Parishioners and Faith Formation Catechists.*

SPREAD THE SMILES AROUND AND AROUND

ONE OF OUR third grade groups on Sunday evening has been dedicating a portion of their time together to service and outreach. Our leaders, Julie Osborne, Kristina Lybeck and Martha Huschka truly believe the words of the poem WWJD?

Lord, throughout this day, as I try to follow You,
 Let this be my rule to live by: What Would Jesus Do?
 In all my actions, help me to be honest, fair and true,
 To make all my decisions by: What Would Jesus Do?
 And let me promise each new day to live my whole life through
 In love and peace, remembering: What Would Jesus Do?

Service is part of strengthening our relationship with God. The third graders have decorated place mats for the residents in the Alton Memory Care center in St. Paul. The children shared messages of love



and happiness so the residents may experience joy with each meal. Spreading kindness is a way of life for these third grade children! They have accepted the Kindness Challenge and invite you to do the same. Here are some of their ideas for showering the world with kindness: Open a door for someone, sit by someone new, smile at someone, carry a load to help another, do the dishes without being asked, make a bed first thing in the morning, put away your clothes in the right places, walk your dog, bake cookies for someone who is sick, forgive someone, and send a happy note to someone. Just be nice!!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10.

OPERATION MILITARY

IN THE FALL, the children were invited to write letters and create cards to the men and woman serving in the Middle East. It is with great honor and respect that we continue to keep these peacemakers in our thoughts and prayers.

Our Wednesday night 4th grade Faith Formation class participated in a service project that touched the lives of some of our soldiers stationed in Kuwait. This past November, we talked with the kids about Veteran's Day and differences between a soldier's life and our own, which got everyone thinking about how blessed we are and the sacrifices these men and women make for us every day.

We then asked the students to write a letter and draw a picture for a stationed soldier. They enjoyed writing down information about themselves, sharing current events, and drew pictures of anything that came to mind of what it meant to be serving for our country, some even offered a prayer! The students were engaged throughout the project and asked many good questions, which we felt gave them a greater sense of purpose and meaning for creating their letters.

We understand the soldiers were thrilled to receive this special Minnesota care package, and look forward to the next opportunity the children have to give of their time and many talents! *Written by Dan and Martha Newell, Parishioners and 4th Grade Faith Formation Catechists.*

Dear Pax Christi,

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to all of the youth from Pax Christi who took the time to write our team letters this year. It's great to read all of your kind thoughts and words of encouragement while we are away from home serving our country. Your letters were shared with the soldiers of Task Force Shield serving across the Middle East. The unit is part of the 34th Combat Aviation Birgade "Red Bulls" out of St. Paul, MN supporting Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Enduring Freedom. Knowing that each card or letter was made as an act of kindness, caring for others as Jesus taught us, creates a special connection with someone we have never met. We cherish the connection and are so thankful for its blessings as it reminds us of all of our beloved family and friends back home.

Thank you all again and I hope to come say thank you in person when I get back home to Minnesota.

God Bless, CPT Bill Alms
"Task Force Shield Operations Officer"



DO YOU HEAR THE BELLS?

LAST ADVENT, the Faith Formation and Pastoral Care ministries teamed up to visit some of our local nursing homes. We brought the love of the season into the hearts of our friends, through caroling and smiles. Take a look into one of our participants reflection about the experience:

Our decision to take part in the Christmas caroling event last December was a random one mostly because our two boys think that we're better stewards by actually not singing. They fear windows will shatter, tomatoes will fly... Nonetheless, this didn't make a world of difference to any of those unsuspecting and loving people in the care center. Several people followed us around and joined in the singing as we walked through the halls and into rooms, handing out Christmas cards. I'm sure we helped lower any inhibitions about singing off key. In fact, our level of skill or lack thereof helped our approachability. It became clear that we were there not to bring honor to our own lovely voices but instead to simply share the love of Christ. It really is beautiful to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord." *Written by Liz Georgioff, Parishioner and Faith Formation Catechist.*



BE A FRIEND, MAKE A FRIEND

THE OXFORD DICTIONARY defines 'friend' as a person with whom one has a bond or mutual affection; one who supports a cause, organization, or country.

When we first joined the parish of Pax Christi twenty-five years ago, Fr. Tim Power was pastor. There was a welcoming supper, an explanation of Pax Christi's Mission statement, then an invitation to make a commitment to serve in a ministry of our choice.

My husband, Jim, and I had served in our former parishes in Michigan and Minnesota in various capacities...organize a Seniors group, develop a Parent Teacher Association in the parochial schools, Parish Councils, teaching religious classes to high school students. We always hoped to serve together rather than on separate committees. The Prepare Ministry at Pax Christi was the perfect fit for us. We had been married over 25 years, raised three terrific daughters, and discovered we needed to know what young couples in love and planning marriage were discussing at the time. Our eldest had just met her future husband.

So, we embarked on our mission to serve engaged couples in the Prepare Ministry. We were trained to use the Prepare Inventory (developed at the University of Minnesota) as the tool to help engaged couples prepare for their marriage ~ not for their wedding. It is the catalyst for discussion about marriage expectations, communication, conflict resolution, family and friends, financial management, sexual expectations, leisure activities, spiritual beliefs, personality, children and parenting, and relationship roles.

The Ministry is such a vital part of our life at Pax Christi. We like to invite engaged couples to our home. Welcoming them to our house and the Pax Christi Community is so important. We receive much more than we give in this Ministry, learning greater communication skills and resolving conflicts. These have taught us to be better listeners and more accepting of people on their life journeys. In addition, we have made some remarkable friends among the other facilitator couples with whom we work. They share our beliefs, values, playfulness, and sense of humor. About five years ago, the Spirit moved us to take on the coordination role of the Prepare Leadership Team when someone resigned. No group has better team couples who pull their weight and have more creative ideas to keep this ministry vital. We believe that being a friend in any Pax Christi ministry brings new friends. Together we support each other, pray for one another, and laugh hysterically as we work and play together.

Join Prepare or any other Ministry at Pax Christi. Be a friend....Make a Friend! Questions? Contact the parish office, 952-941-3150. *Written by Mary Payne, Parishioner and Prepare Minister.*



RCIA: A PROCESS ALWAYS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is the process the Church offers to meet people making inquiry about the Catholic, Christian faith, and to walk with them as they explore the spiritual prompting in their lives. If this journey draws them into a relationship with God, the RCIA helps them discern how to participate in this relationship.

The prayer and example of the parish community play a significant part in this process. It is in parish life that inquirers find a glimpse of what this faith might be about. Sometimes this comes through spouses/significant others. Friends, even work colleagues can play a role. Sometimes folks just stop by on a Sunday, like what they experience, and then stick around for more.

At the Easter Vigil this year, the Pax Christi community welcomed Henry Dam into the faith through Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. We also welcomed Christopher Gran, already one with us in Baptism, through a profession of faith, Confirmation, and Eucharist. What was new for them is an important opportunity of renewal for the established community.

Currently, there are 4-5 recent inquirers who are actively discerning their own path in faith. God's call is not directed by the calendar. As a community of faith, we are always open for business. We continue to offer a safe, supportive environment for people to explore. Call the parish office for more information, or email Michael Griffin, mgriffin@paxchristi.com.



ASCENT OF PEACE

AS MANY PARISHIONERS may remember, just about a year ago, near Easter time last year, Pax Christi Catholic Community was the recipient of a very generous monetary gift from one of our members earmarked for long-range capital expenditures and maintenance. Father Bill formed a committee with the Pax Christi trustees, some staff members, and several Finance Council members to advise about how the money should be invested and to develop guidelines for its expenditure.

The advisory committee made investment decisions that will help maintain Pax Christi – hopefully well into the future. The committee also determined that a minor portion of the money should be used for some special purpose to commemorate the gift – something Pax Christi would probably never have if this gift had not been given. Another smaller group of parishioners, the gift committee, was gathered to determine what that special thing might be. Members from the Art Committee were included along with several parishioner artists and Donna Kasbohm, Director of Worship, and Ken Reineccius, Director of Operations. Father Hayek was new to the parish at that time and he agreed to help with the selection process also.

The gift committee solicited and funded proposals from several artists both locally and in the surrounding area. Three artists chose to submit proposals. From those, a proposal entitled “Ascent of Peace” submitted by Nick Markell was chosen. As you can see from the accompanying picture, Nick’s creation incorporates a winged figure, symbolic of the spirit, rising upon itself over and over and culminating with the universal Christian symbol of the cross. His title calls to mind our own community’s title which translates to “The Peace of Christ.” Nick’s versatility as an artist is evident in the fact that he is also the creator of the Thomas Merton icon in the Pax Christi chapel.

Nick and the selection committee members envisioned Ascent of Peace being placed outside near the front of the triangular garden which is in the plaza near Door 3, the door many people consider the “Pax Christi front door.” The committee determined that it would be fitting if the piece chosen could be installed and celebrated for the first time as part of the first Easter season after we received the gift that made it all possible. So, we have selected the feast of Pentecost at the end of this Easter season on the weekend of May 23/24, 2015, as the target date for the art work to be installed and blessed as a new part of the Pax Christi art collection. The feast of Pentecost commemorates the Holy Spirit descending upon the apostles after Jesus’ ascension into heaven. It seemed a fitting time to focus on the theme of the spirit which Nick has depicted in his work. More information about the dedication of Ascent of Peace will be available in the weekly bulletins and Pax Christi eNEWS in the next few weeks.

Written by Shari Steffen, Trustee.

ON EAGLE’S WINGS: MINNESOTA’S SACRED MUSIC

This one-hour documentary about sacred music, narrated by Fr. Michael Joncas, was aired on public television in February. A short piece of it was filmed on a Sunday morning last spring at Pax Christi. You will recognize two familiar faces from music ministry. Check it out!

You may view it on the Pax Christi YouTube Channel/Video Library under the “Media” tab at www.paxchristi.com. Click on “Featured Videos.”

SOCIAL JUSTICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES MINISTRY

OUR FAITH helps us recognize that the gifts we have are from God and our response to this generosity is to share these gifts in service of the world around us. This includes the gifts we have been given and share in our work. Too often we think that these gifts are for work alone and if attached to for-profit efforts, they are not beneficial to serving others.

The Pax Christi "Social Justice Professional Services Ministry" hopes to change this. This ministry calls on members to examine skills and God-given talents to help non-profit social justice organizations improve their services. You might be surprised how directly these skills transfer to the non-profit setting.

The mission is to "Utilize Pax Christi's gift inventory to engage community members in providing free professional services to our non-profit Social Justice Grants organizations with a focus on 'Educating Children in Poverty' and 'Homelessness.'"

Watch the parish weekly eNEWS and website for opportunities. For more information, please contact parishioner Ed Ogrin, 952-934-3639, or eogrin@comcast.net.

HOUSING ADVOCATES BUILDING MORE THAN MOMENTUM

AT PAX CHRISTI, advocates for affordable housing have been building legislative momentum by building relationships inside the parish and beyond. The coordinating leadership group is chaired by parishioner Joan Paré. Last year they helped Pax Christi members participate in a state wide effort to secure \$100 million in funding for affordable housing through the "Three Words about Home..." campaign. This year they have engaged the parish through the "Home is..." effort to secure \$39 million in funding for support services and case management.

This year's card campaign generated over 300 responses that were then shared with elected officials. Advocates then asked for a greater effort in a follow-up letter writing activity. Because of relationships built and maintained, over 50 letters were assembled to be shared at the capitol.

Finally, a group of Pax Christi advocates will travel to the state capitol for in-person visits with their senators and representatives to call for support for the poor and vulnerable. Most have communicated regularly with elected officials throughout the session and built momentum for these visits.

Stay tuned and stay involved. The session will end, but the advocacy efforts will continue to build the next steps for the common good of our community.



HELP FIGHT SEX TRAFFICKING

DID YOU KNOW that the average age for girls to start being trafficked is between 12 and 14? Young girls are preyed upon by men who pretend to care for them, but who then abuse them and force them to work for them, many times getting the girls hooked on drugs so they are further dependent on their "boyfriends." It's estimated that human trafficking is now a \$32,000,000,000 international industry, second only to the drug trade in volume of illegal money and growing faster.

The depressing statistics of sex trafficking don't leave much room for hope. Recidivism is high and it takes many girls several attempts to leave trafficking. Add to that the drug addictions and possible criminal records and any chance of leaving that lifestyle behind looks impossible. But it's not impossible. The term "prostitution" has been updated to sex trafficking as it more accurately portrays the true victimization of these girls and women. There are organizations in the Twin Cities working toward ending sex trafficking and helping survivors escape and lead healthy lives. Minnesota passed Safe Harbor legislation so that girls are treated as victims instead of criminals when sex rings are caught and prosecuted. It is a start toward reducing trafficking in Minnesota. The good news is that we have countless opportunities to help! Organizations that help vulnerable youth are all over the cities. Breaking Free and other trafficking survivor led groups can use volunteers in many areas. It can start with teaching children they are valued and cared for by a loving God who is ALWAYS with them.

Awareness is the first step toward demanding change. Join others in walking (or running) in the Stop The Trafficking 5K run/walk, June 13, at Purgatory Creek Park; sign up at www.stopthetraffickingrun.org. All proceeds go to end Sex Trafficking in the Twin Cities, or choose another group and get involved! *Written by Liz Solheid, Parishioner.*



MEANWHILE, STANDING NEAR THE CROSS OF JESUS WERE HIS MOTHER, AND HIS MOTHER'S SISTER. –JOHN 19:25

GRACING LIFE WITH FUNERAL MINISTRY AT PAX CHRISTI

OFFERING COMFORT AND HOPE DURING A TIME OF GREAT LOSS

AT THE PRAYERS of the Faithful during the weekend Masses at Pax Christi, we remember those who have died, completing their baptismal journey into eternal life, and more often than not, there are names attached to this petition. Naming our deceased parishioners and relatives of our parishioners provides the comfort and hope that we seek when someone we love passes from this life. Those prayers are meaningful, and it helps to know that the faithful, and particularly at this time, the members of the faith community, are extending their prayerful support.

This is one piece of the outreach to support the family that is provided. There are many hands and hearts that are extended by this parish family. Once Pastoral Care staff meet with the family of the deceased to discuss

plans for the liturgy, a great movement is set in motion by the dedicated volunteers of the Funeral Hospitality Ministry. The Pastoral Care staff make one phone call to Diane Schulte, Volunteer Coordinator for the Funeral Hospitality Ministry, who in turn orders the food for the luncheon and calls other volunteers, who then call those who will help set up for the meal, those volunteers who will serve the meal, and a final set of shared ministers who assist in the clean up, washing dishes, clearing tables, and packing up the remainder of food to be taken home by the family. Another set of volunteers are called to bring vegetable trays, desserts, and salads to supplement the sandwiches at the funeral luncheon. All of this happens within a few days from the notification of the death of

a parishioner. There are 307 volunteers in this ministry now, but as one can imagine, not everyone is available at the time of a phone call to volunteer for a specific day. In the 2008-2009 fiscal year, there were 26 funerals held at Pax Christi. Six years later, we have more than doubled the number of funerals held at Pax Christi. Because of this, we have a greater need for more volunteers to assist at the time of the funeral.

Joyce Rupp, in her book *Inviting God In*, speaks of the importance of being with someone who has suffered a loss due to death:

As Mary stood beneath the cross of her dying son, she must have been immediately grateful for those who stood near her. They could not take her pain away, but they would have given Mary great solace just by being there.

Any of us who has been in a painful situation knows how consoling it is to have someone there who understands our hurt.

This ministry is offered to the families of the deceased without cost to the family, although most families are able to offer a donation to the parish. Please prayerfully consider being a part of the Funeral Hospitality Ministry, in one or many facets of this outreach, and contact Mary Ann Callahan, Pastoral Care Specialist, macallahan@paxchristi.com, or 952-405-7227. As those who stood by Mary, the Mother of Jesus, after His crucifixion, offering comfort and solace, you will be providing support and consolation in ways that can only be imagined. *Written by Jane Schmitz, Director of Pastoral Care.*

WHAT EVERYONE OUGHT TO KNOW ABOUT ULTRAVIOLET RAYS

WHEN MANY of us were growing up, a suntan was considered a sign of health. We now know that exposure to ultraviolet (UV) rays from the sun and indoor tanning can result in premature aging of our skin, skin cancer, immune suppression, cataracts, corneal sunburn, and even macular degeneration. Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer; exposure to the sun is its main cause and can occur at any age to any skin type. The good news is that skin cancer can be prevented, and it can almost always be cured when it's found and treated early. Most of us are aware of the damage that UV rays cause to the skin, but few realize the dangers of this exposure to their vision.

During May, the American Academy of Dermatology and the organization, Prevent Blindness America, schedule events and provide resources for education on the dangers of UV rays, including ways to protect skin and vision today and in the future. The Environmental Protection Agency's SunWise program's goal is "preventing skin cancer and eye damage by changing the sun protection practices of children and their caregivers."

Taking simple steps today can protect you tomorrow. Consider incorporating the following into your life: (1) Stay out of the sun between 10:00am and 4:00pm; (2) Use sunscreen with SPF 15 or higher; (3) Put on sunscreen every 2 hours and after you swim or sweat; (4) Cover up with long sleeves, a wide-brimmed hat, and UV-blocking sunglasses; and (5) Check your skin once a month for changes (size, color, or shape).

Prevent. Protect. Detect. Don't Burn. Seek Shade. Wear Sunscreen. Contact Ann Dunagan, Parish Nurse, adunagan@paxchristi.com or 952-405-7200, with questions or for additional information/resources.



MONDAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT PAX CHRISTI

Duties may include vacuuming sanctuary carpet, dusting pews, and cleaning altar and Reservation Chapel areas. You can pick and choose what you like to do. Volunteer Mondays, 1-2 hours between the hours of 6:00am-12:00pm. If interested, please contact Al Haider, 952-7232, or ahaider@paxchristi.com.

KITCHEN CLEANING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT PAX CHRISTI

Help is needed for general cleaning of our kitchen. Duties would include cleaning dishes using commercial dishwasher, sanitize counter tops, sweep/mop floors, and overall tidying up/organizing kitchen spaces. Hours of service would be Monday - Friday between 6:30am-3:00pm, hours flexible to your schedule, usually a 1½-2 hr. commitment. Contact Al Haider, 952-405-7232, or ahaider@paxchristi.com, for more information or to volunteer.

BLESSED TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL - JUSTICE GRANT RECIPIENT

Fiesta Latina, Sunday April 26, 10:00am-3:30pm
Volunteers are needed to help with food and games. Please contact parishioner Jim Sylvestre, jimsyl123@aol.com, for more information and/or to sign-up to help (and have FUN!).

RISEN CHRIST CATHOLIC SCHOOL - JUSTICE GRANT RECIPIENT

Annual Gala, Friday, May 1, 5:30-9:30pm, The Depot, Minneapolis
Volunteers are needed to help in many areas. Contact parishioner Eileen Bradley, Bradley.eileen@comcast.net, for more information and/or to sign-up.

CRISTO REY JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL - JUSTICE GRANT RECIPIENT

The Social Justice Professional Services Ministry is looking for 1-2 people to help with a website review project for Cristo Rey. For more information please contact parishioner Ed Ogrin at eogrin@comcast.net.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT GRANT:

GRANT PROPOSALS FOR THE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FUND 2015

Applications are being accepted for grants from the Pax Christi Leadership Development Fund. The Fund was created in 2004 to further Pax Christi's mission of welcoming all as leaders in faith for service to the world. The purpose of the Leadership Development Fund is to provide funding for Leadership Development activities for Pax Christi Community members and staff, both lay and ordained. In the past, grants have been available only to leadership council members and staff. This year, the grant process is open to any Pax Christi parishioner. Complete details online at www.paxchristi.com/devgrant.

VOLUNTEERS DON'T
GET PAID,
NOT BECAUSE
THEY'RE WORTHLESS,
BUT BECAUSE
THEY'RE PRICELESS.
~SHERRY ANDERSON



WE MAKE A LIVING BY
WHAT WE GET,
WE MAKE A LIFE BY
WHAT WE GIVE.
~WINSTON CHURCHILL

GRATITUDE FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP

THEY SAY, "It takes a village," and that is certainly true when it comes to this place. What would happen if all the people who shared their gifts around this place suddenly didn't? Thankfully, we haven't had to experience that ultimate power shortage. In fact, last year our members shared 3,129 volunteer instances amounting to over 99,000 hours of time to the ministries and programs of Pax Christi.

We are blessed with some very talented people in this community of faith. Our quilters group has provided custom quilts and pillowcases to graduates of Cristo Rey High School, as well as hundreds of charity quilts to comfort those in need. The beautiful Stations of the Cross, altar, and pulpit in the Thomas Merton Chapel were lovingly handcrafted by a parishioner. The metal

candlesticks and handles to the door of the Reservation Chapel were the handiwork of another member; yet another made sure those doors and woodwork were stained to perfection. Each of these people shared their gifts to make this building and grounds more beautiful and welcoming. But there are many, many more gifts that have been shared over the years, from trimming hedges and candles, to those who lift up our children and others who lift the cross. We have singers, writers, speakers, instrumentalists, landscapers, knitters, prayer warriors, and caretakers. Some welcome, serve, count, plant, teach, bake, clean, and just about anything else you can think of is done by volunteers every day at Pax Christi.

There are some standouts; a couple of examples follow:

When we were in the midst of the Crossroads Fund campaign, I was

approached by a parishioner who told me that although he couldn't contribute more money beyond his annual pledge, he really wanted to participate in the campaign. He decided to see if we would accept a pledge of hours in lieu of money. "Absolutely," I replied. So he wrote out a pledge card and gifted the Pax Christi Community 2,000 hours of time for a 3 year period. 2,000 hours of time and talent were blessedly and remarkably shared with Pax Christi, freeing up staff to attend to other needs, saving us countless hours of labor which far exceeded many of the monetary contributions to the Crossroads Fund. This community was blessed by the selfless gift of the individual.

Another parishioner stopped me to share that her diminished health dictated

that she really couldn't give much to Pax Christi any longer, but there she was a few weeks ago holding a candle at a foot washing station. Ten minutes of shared time to this community was a priceless gift given.

Let's celebrate all the gifts given to Pax Christi. Consider this your engraved invitation to join us as we celebrate our community over the weekend of **MAY 2/3** following all the Masses. We will gather and enjoy some treats and congratulate one another for a job well done. We want everyone to join in and celebrate Pax Christi and all that each and every member has done to prove **WE ARE THE CHURCH!** Mark your calendars and plan to stop by after Mass the first weekend in May to thank and be thanked for a job very well done. *Written by Mary Kennedy, Director of Stewardship.*

THE POWER OF PAX CHRISTI – MEET KATIE LENIUS

KATIE, her husband Chris, and their three children, Maddie, Olivia, and Ben, live in Chaska. They have been members of Pax Christi since 2000. As Katie says, “We found the church we love.”

Katie began singing at Pax in 2006 and has continued sharing her talent as a member of the choir and a cantor. Her voice is nothing less than amazing! She is wonderful and supportive of the choir, always eager to help with singing at the Sunday liturgies, funerals, and weddings. While being a mom

is her first job, Katie manages to share her tremendous talent and gifts with us.

Katie attended Richfield public schools and the College of St Benedict. Majoring in English and theatre, she has expanded those interests working in illustration and design and teaching classes in art and design for the Chaska Community Center and community camps. She also does freelance work in illustration and design and sells art prints at her online “Etsy Shop.”

Teaching and education are in the family. Chris, Katie’s husband, is a secondary education and chemistry major and is the coordinator of the gifted and talented services for the Chaska and Chanhassen high schools. Together with their children, they love to visit the zoo, take nature walks, and visit the arboretum, which is close to their home.

Thank you Katie! We are grateful to you for sharing your gift of music at Pax Christi.
Written by Bernie Cable-Prokop, parishioner.



JOIN US FOR THE 3RD ANNUAL RUNWALKPRAY5K ON SATURDAY, MAY 16

THE STEWARDSHIP Council along with member fitness enthusiasts at Pax Christi are planning the 3rd Annual RunWalkPray 5K to be held on **MAY 16, 2015**. This parish-wide effort will benefit Crops for PROPC community garden and build community among Pax Christi families and the greater Eden Prairie neighborhood. In the RunWalkPray5K, we aim to focus on finding balance through use of our healthy bodies while building relationships and enjoying God’s creation. With this 5K, we will strengthen our community and our spiritual and physical fitness.

All are welcome! Pax Christi families and residents from the surrounding communities are invited to join in the fun. Bring someone along who is not a Pax Christi member. Our goal is 250 participants, so come and join in the fun. Register online by visiting www.paxchristi.com no later than May 11.

- \$20 for first participant; \$10 each additional participant within household (Fee includes t-shirt and pancake breakfast)
- Mail-in registration must be postmarked by May 9; online registration cut-off is May 11.
- Day of event registrations accepted, but there is no guarantee that T-shirts will be available.

SATURDAY, MAY 16 – FUN RUN DAY LOGISTICS:

8:00AM

REGISTRATION OPENS

Lower level/Nazareth Hall gym

9:00AM

START IN LOWER LEVEL PARKING LOT

- Run, jog, or walk the 5K course starting and ending at Pax Christi
- Walk the prayer labyrinth or pray the rosary in our Thomas Merton Chapel
- Enjoy a tasty pancake breakfast
- Bring the whole family – it’s a community event



To volunteer for the event, contact Laurie Hanscom, hanscom22@comcast.net, or Mary Kennedy, mkenney@paxchristi.com, 952-405-7220, to assist with the RunWalkPray5K and/or the Pancake Breakfast.

MAY

GARDENING/OUTDOOR MAINTENANCE SIGNUP

**Sign-Up Any Day Through May at Entrance Three
or "Online" at www.paxchristi.com/outdoormaintenance**

Do you love the outdoors? Do you like to see the results of your efforts? Come join the Summer Gardening and Outdoor Maintenance Group. We have split up our Pax Christi property into approximately 15 different areas and are looking for people to sign up to take care of various areas through the summer. The amount of time is dependent on the condition of the area, maybe once every other week or less. We are looking for volunteers to do a little trimming, weeding, and/ or sweeping to keep our facilities looking great. It's a great way to take pride in our wonderful facilities and a great individual or family activity.

SOUTHWEST GRIEF COALITION SPRING SCHEDULE

Thursdays, 5:30–7:30pm, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie

May 7 "Imagining God in your Grief" Kim Izaak, Spiritual Director
May 14 "Finding Joy Again" Cheryl Harjes, SWGC Facilitator
May 21 "Moving on in Hope" Pastor Paul Nelson, Immanuel Lutheran

Pax Christi partners with four other area churches as the Southwest Grief Coalition to offer this seven-week series. Each evening begins with a light dinner followed by a speaker. Participants are then invited to join facilitated small groups with others who have experienced similar losses. Adults may attend any or all of the speaker sessions. Registration for adult small groups is accepted during the first two weeks of the series only. Participation in a group for children ages 8-12 who have experienced a loss is available by calling Karen, 952-460-0030. There is no charge to attend Living and Growing Through Loss, and free childcare is available by calling MaryKay Copp at 952-937-8123. Brochures with complete details are on the resource rack in the back of the sanctuary.

A NOTE ABOUT EVENTS AT PAX CHRISTI

Due to the large volume of events we offer at Pax Christi, we have to keep our announcements brief. Please visit us online at www.paxchristi.com for additional information and details. If an event indicates RSVP, you may register/signup online at www.paxchristi.com/event registration. Questions? Contact the parish office, 952-941-3150.



MENTAL HEALTH AND SPIRITUALITY SUPPORT GROUP

**Next Meeting Thursday, May 7,
3:00–4:30pm, Room 221 - Sojourner Truth**

The Mental Health and Spirituality Group is an opportunity for participants who have mental health concerns to both give and receive support, to make a deeper connection with God and oneself, and to be exposed to tools which might help make one's life more manageable.

ART EXHIBIT: GOD'S BEAUTY – PAPER COLLAGE

On Display Through May 10, Pacem in Terris Gallery

Join us in welcoming Twin Cities artist, Raynele Schneider, to the Pacem in Terris Gallery. God's beautiful creation inspires much of her work. Her style is restful, gentle, and filled with springtime colors. Raynele's primary medium is paper collage. She then embellishes it with paint, markers, gel pens, and colored pencils. Feast your eyes on her work and give a big sigh of joy and thanks for God's beauty. Raynele says, "Depicting nature is a passionate adventure. It gives me joy to bring beauty, meaning, and inspiration."

PAX CHRISTI BLOOD DRIVE

Monday, May 11, 1:00–7:00pm

You can make your appointments to donate blood at Pax Christi's Blood Drive by signing up at Entrance #3 after all Masses on April 25/26 or May 2/3 or by calling the parish office, 952-941-3150. Appointments are encouraged. Walk-ins are welcome as schedule permits between 2:00-6:00pm.

PAX CHRISTI'S ANNUAL RUNWALKPRAY5K

Saturday, May 16, 9:00am, Fee \$20/\$10 Additional Family Participant

The Stewardship Council along with member fitness enthusiasts at Pax Christi are planning the 3rd Annual RunWalkPray5K. This parish-wide effort will benefit Crops for PROP community garden and build community among Pax Christi families and the greater Eden Prairie neighborhood. All are welcome! Pax Christi families and residents from the surrounding communities are invited to join in the fun. Bring someone along who is not a Pax Christi member. Our goal is 250 participants, so we need you to join in the fun. Register by May 11. Additional details on page 17. **RSVP**

JOIN FR BILL MURTAUGH IN GREECE OCTOBER 4–13, 2015!

INFO SESSION: Wednesday, May 20, 6:45pm

Follow the Footsteps of Paul. This trip includes a Greek island cruise. A limited number of seats remain. To learn more about this special pilgrimage, please join us on May 20 – please bring a friend! To view this trip's website, please visit magitravelinc.com, click Tours & Pilgrimages, click Greece, and then click the link below the trip dates. You may view the itinerary, airline arrangements, hotel accommodations, and more. You may also register online. Please contact Magi Travel at 952-949-0065 with any questions. We hope to see you at the informational meeting on May 20!

MAKE PLANS NOW

SUICIDE PREVENTION IN MINNESOTA: A PROGRESS REPORT

Monday, June 1, 6:30–8:00pm

Preventing suicide is becoming a top priority for health care and mental health services around the country. Here in Minnesota, a public-private task force has been working on the development of a statewide suicide prevention plan. The goal of the plan is to reduce suicide deaths in Minnesota by 10 percent in five years, and by 20 percent in ten years, ultimately working toward zero suicides. This educational program will provide information about the activities outlined in the state plan and help participants identify how they can take steps to reduce suicide in their own community. In particular, participants will learn how they and their organizations can promote messages of resilience and recovery for people with mental illness and their families. This event is co-sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and Pax Christi Catholic Community. The presenters will be Donna Fox, Program Director, NAMI Minnesota, and Melissa Hensley, Assistant Professor of Social Work, Augsburg College. This event is free.

YOUTH IN THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

June 14–27, St. John's University, Grades 9–12, Fee of \$250

Spend two weeks at St. John's University with other high school youth serving those in need, making new friendships, and having fun! Live on a college campus and hang out with monks and nuns (this is actually very cool)! The cost is \$375. Scholarships are available! Register with a \$50 deposit. **RSVP**

VACATION BIBLE CAMP

July 27–31, 9:00am–Noon, Age 3–Grade 6

There is no better place for children age 3-grade 6 to have fun singing, praying, doing crafts, playing games with friends old and new in a very supportive, caring environment. The theme this year is "God is our Rock" and will feature great presentations making bible stories come alive to learn and live the message of God's love. **RSVP**



READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 3, 2015

Sunday: Acts 9:26-31/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8
 Monday: Acts 14:5-18/Jn 14:21-26
 Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Jn 14:27-31a
 Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Jn 15:1-8
 Thursday: Acts 15:7-21/Jn 15:9-11
 Friday: Acts 15:22-31/Jn 15:12-17
 Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/Jn 15:18-21

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 10, 2015

Sunday: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/1 Jn 4:7-10 or 1 Jn 4:11-16/Jn 15:9-17 or Jn 17:11b-19
 Monday: Acts 16:11-15/Jn 15:26--16:4a
 Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34/Jn 16:5-11
 Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22--18:1/Jn 16:12-15
 Thursday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Jn 15:9-17
 Friday: Acts 18:9-18/Jn 16:20-23
 Saturday: Acts 18:23-28/Jn 16:23b-28

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 17, 2015

Sunday: Acts 1:1-11/Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13 or Eph 1:17-23/Mk 16:15-20
 Monday: Acts 19:1-8/Jn 16:29-33
 Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27/Jn 17:1-11a
 Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38/Jn 17:11b-19
 Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Jn 17:20-26
 Friday: Acts 25:13b-21/Jn 21:15-19
 Saturday: Morning: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Jn 21:20-25

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 24, 2015

Sunday: Acts 2:1-11/Gal 5:16-25 or 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13/ Jn 15:26-27; 16:12-15 or Jn 20:19-23
 Monday: Sir 17:20-24/Mk 10:17-27
 Tuesday: Sir 35:1-12/Mk 10:28-31
 Wednesday: Sir 36:1, 4-5a, 10-17/Mk 10:32-45
 Thursday: Sir 42:15-25/Mk 10:46-52
 Friday: Sir 44:1, 9-13/Mk 11:11-26
 Saturday: Sir 51:12cd-20/Mk 11:27-33

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 31, 2015

Sunday: Dt 4:32-34, 39-40/Rom 8:14-17/Mt 28:16-20
 Monday: Tb 1:3; 2:1b-8/Mk 12:1-12
 Tuesday: Tb 2:9-14/Mk 12:13-17
 Wednesday: Tb 3:1-11a, 16-17a/Mk 12:18-27
 Thursday: Tb 6:10-11; 7:1bcde, 9-17; 8:4-9a/Mk 12:28-34
 Friday: Tb 11:5-17/Mk 12:35-37
 Saturday: Tb 12:1, 5-15, 20/Mk 12:38-44

MAY

at Pax Christi

See pages 18-19 for details.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26 FAITH FORMATION	27	28	29 FAITH FORMATION	30	MAY 1 FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE/SOCIAL	2 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEKEND
FEATURED ART EXHIBIT: GOD'S BEAUTY – PAPER COLLAGE – ON DISPLAY THROUGH MAY 10						
3 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEKEND FAITH FORMATION	4 CONFIRMATION AT THE BASILICA AT 7:00PM	5 LEADERSHIP COUNCILS COMMITMENT NIGHT	6	7 MENTAL HEALTH/ SPIRITUALITY SUPPORT SW GRIEF COALITION	8	9
10	11 BLOOD DRIVE	12 BOOMER'S RETREAT	13	14 SW GRIEF COALITION	15	16 RUNWALKPRAY5k
17	18	19 LEADERSHIP MTGS.	20 GREECE TRIP INFO	21 SW GRIEF COALITION	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1 SUICIDE PREVENTION	2	3	4	5 FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE/SOCIAL	6





**PAX CHRISTI
CONTACTS**

PASTOR

Fr. Bill Murtaugh 952-405-7245

SR ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Fr. Herb Hayek 952-405-7219

DEACONS

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