



The Angelus

The Church of the Holy Nativity

• Clarendon Hills, IL •

September 2011

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

FRIDAY, SEPT. 9, 7:30-9:30 P.M.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 10, 9:00 A.M.-9:30 P.M.

Campaign Leadership Meeting in the Downstairs Sunday School Room

SATURDAY, SEPT. 10 & SUNDAY, SEPT. 11

PADS Outreach Opportunity

Join others from CHN for an opportunity to serve homeless and at-risk families in DuPage County. Share our abundance!

SUNDAY, SEPT. 11

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BEGINS

Commissioning of the Church School Teachers, 9:30 a.m.

Christian Education for All Ages 10:45 a.m.

Adult Forum: A Christian Life in the Post 9/11 World

Combined Youth Groups meet, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Parents of J2A Meeting, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

IN THE SPIRIT OF TAIZÉ, 7:00 P.M.

A Simple service of prayer and reflection through music, readings, and silence.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 18

CHN BOOK CLUB, 10:45 A.M.

MONDAY, SEPT. 18

SENIOR LUNCHEON

Worship at 11:00 a.m. – Lunch at 11:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 25

SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM 9:30 A.M.

Adult Forum in the Ford Room, 10:45 a.m.: A Christian Life in the Post 9/11 World

FIND OUT ABOUT THESE EVENTS & MORE INSIDE

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS!

Submitted by Carol Park, Communications Co-chair

Get ready for an exciting fall at CHN with the start of our new capital campaign: **Reaching New Heights!**

Church of the Holy Nativity has always been known as a welcoming place, a community of people who nurture our connections with each other and with newcomers. However, through small discernment group meetings, we identified the limitations that our building presents in welcoming all. Then, through a feasibility study, we set our priorities for removing those limitations:

1) Universal Accessible Entrance

Accessibility has long been a priority of this parish. By creating one identifiable entrance for everyone and including a passenger elevator, we can welcome all into our community of worship, learning and fellowship. The development of this area will also allow for repositioned storage in the Ford Room and a dedicated music storage area on the lower level.

2) Pitched Roof Retrofit

Our flat roof leaks. Our new pitched roof will provide us with not only a solution to our leaking, but will also architecturally identify the main entrance for newcomers and tie in the existing north wing with the original building.

3) Expanded Kitchen and Restrooms

At CHN we love to eat. New bonds are formed and relationships are nourished over food. An expanded kitchen will allow for more generous hospitality and *give our youth more room for flipping pancakes?* And of course, restroom facilities are always a priority.


The goal of the Reaching New Heights campaign is to raise \$585,000 toward the total building cost of \$750,000 for these three priorities. The more we can exceed our goal, the less we will need to borrow.

We have been on this journey together for three years, and this fall brings the opportunity to support the new plan. Through small group discussions, the feasibility survey and now the capital campaign, everyone has a hand in **Reaching New Heights** to create an even more welcoming CHN.

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP

We know that we cannot allow a capital campaign, no matter how exciting, to overshadow the ongoing daily ministries of CHN. Therefore, when everyone at CHN receives a personal visit from another parishioner this fall to explain the campaign goals and invite participation, the visitor will come with **two** pledge cards and will ask you to make your stewardship gift *first*, supporting the ongoing ministries of CHN with at least the same generosity as last year. Once you've determined your participation in our daily life and ministries, then (and only then) we'll invite you to join all the folks who've committed to offering an even wider welcome to our

community through the capital campaign projects that grew out of those long-ago small group conversations.



**In the Spirit of Taizé:
A Service of Reflection and Hope**

**Sunday, Sept. 11, 2011
7:00 p.m.**

A renewing service of music, readings, and silence

**The Church of Nativity
Where All Are Welcome!**

ADULT SPIRITUAL FORUM RECONVENES

Submitted by Terry Johnson

The Adult Spiritual Forum will reconvene on Sunday September 11th. This date will mark the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on the US by Taliban militarists. We will spend the morning Forum session examining the long term impact of this event on our spiritual life and that of our nation. Please come and share with us how you have been changed by this event and what God calls us to do and be in our response as people of faith, hope and love.

We will also have Forum Meeting on Sunday September 25th and depending on the need and interest, may continue in this session on the theme of Christian life in the post 9/11 world. The remaining fall Forum sessions will revisit our spring studies on the New Monasticism as well as serve to support the evolving ministry and work of our Capital Campaign.

Adult Forum Dates for the Fall of 2011

September 11	A Christian Life in the Post 9/11 World
September 25	A Christian Life in the Post 9/11 World
October 9	CHN Youth Mission Trip Presentation
October 23	Topic to be determined

THOUGHTS FROM KELIN...

*Some seek knowledge for
The sake of knowledge:
That is curiosity;
Others seek knowledge so that
They themselves may be known:
That is vanity;
But there are still others
Who seek knowledge in
Order to serve and edify others:
And that is charity.*

Bernard of Clairveux

Initially, I did nothing more than skim this quote. I began to look for other ‘useful’ quotes to get across the importance of Christian Education at CHN. However, something brought me back to it; and now I share this gem with you all in the hope that we can all rediscover how important education in the church is for each of us.

Our children hunger for knowledge; they want to know about everything. Which is the reason that 3-year olds will ask you “Why?”: repeatedly they will ask. It is not because they want to be annoying, nor is it because they are necessarily curious, but because they seek ways to use this knowledge. This is the ultimate goal of Christian Education; how do we “serve and edify others” as we are asked to do by the Church and by Christ? We begin our formation of the young soul in Godly Play.

Godly Play: (Ages 3-5): Uses the Montessori approach to education in a church setting. Developed by Jerome Berryman, Godly Play allows the child to become involved with Bible stories using wooden figures followed by work. A child can work with anything in the classroom as a way to respond to the particular story they just heard. This approach fosters independent thinking and lets the child explore as is their necessity. Teachers model appropriate behavior by walking and talking softly; reinforcing that this is a sacred place for learning and working. This encourages listening to others, being kind to others and being patient with others; all behaviors necessary in order to “serve and edify others”.

Workshop Rotation: We are beginning this year with a focus on hunger and poverty leading into our crop walk on October 16th. We will be using a curriculum from World Vision to teach the children about the hunger and poverty which exist in not only other countries, but here in our own backyards. Following the CROP Walk lessons, the children will have many different ways to explore books of the Bible. Through art, science, drama and music, children will be given many tools to engage in the curriculum.

Middle School and High School: In addition to the youth group on Sunday nights, we also offer formation programs on Sunday mornings. In order to coordinate our efforts for the Crop Walk on October 16th, the middle school and high school classes will also be focused on poverty and hunger using activities from new curriculum we are unrolling this year. The following is a description of both of these new programs. We begin with Rite-13 for 6th-8th graders.

The Journey to Adulthood is a complete youth ministry program of spiritual formation for 6th-12th grades. It encourages relational ministry and uses Bible study, prayer, rites of passage, outreach ministries and both serious and playful activities to underscore the two guiding

principles of the program: 1) Manhood and womanhood are free gifts from God; and 2) Adulthood must be earned.

There are three two-year segments of the program:

Rite-13: The first two years celebrate the individuality of each young teen and their creative potential, while exploring Biblical stories of God and God's people. The Rite-13 liturgy (Celebration of Manhood and Womanhood) is the community expression of this and serves as a rite of passage from childhood towards adulthood.

J2A: The next segment helps teens create and understand the importance of Christian community as they develop critical thinking and other skills they will need in adulthood. The end of **J2A** is marked with a spiritual pilgrimage that is often a life-changing experience for the group.

J2A is based on the principles of relational youth ministry. It assumes that at least two or three adults (of both genders) will be leaders for each of the groups. The traditional youth ministry model of a single youth "guru" (paid or volunteer) depends on the personality of that individual -- and when he/she leaves, the youth program often collapses. J2A is designed to engage lots of adults in nurturing the youth of our congregation and community. It is designed to bring young people into full participation in the life of the congregation so they actually ARE the church of today instead of the church of the future!

Let us help our children and youth "serve and edify others." Encourage your child(ren)/youth to attend Christian Education and (if they are old enough) attend youth group. Encourage him/her/them to find ways to help others; there is always something that he/she/they can do that he/she/they would feel comfortable doing! One of the simplest ways is just by attending! So, come out on September 11th, there is an educational opportunity for you!

Questions? Comments?

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INTRODUCING JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD

J2A and Rite 13: A New Direction for Young Adult Education

Before getting into all that J2A and Rite 13 have to offer, I invite you to think about a particular story in the Bible. It is the story of Jesus in the Temple, Luke 2:41-52 and it reads:

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his

mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

With whom do you connect most? I wonder what you would have done in this situation; the situation of the person with whom you connect.

Debbie Buessing, a wonderful resource for J2A, (Debbie has been implementing J2A at St. Augustine, Wilmette, for 14 years (some would call her a guru)) asked that Rev. Aimee, Louisa and myself, think about this story. We each offered the person with whom we connect. However, none of us said that we connected with the teachers in the temple. Debbie encouraged us to be like these teachers who were "amazed" at the understanding of a teenage boy. This is the beauty of J2A. With this curriculum, teachers are given a resource to be truly effective teachers for this age-group.

Now, to talk about J2A and Rite-13. To borrow from Debbie Buesing, the goals of Rite 13 are: celebrating the gift of womanhood or manhood; celebrating the gift of creative energy; establishing and maintaining cross-gender friendships and establishing the church as a safety zone.

Rite-13 achieves these goals through a middle school curriculum leading to J2A (Journey to Adulthood) in high school. Within the curriculum, there are 4 theological bases:

And Jesus increased...

In wisdom (Self)

And in years (Sexuality)

And in divine (Spirituality)

And human favor (Society)

These pieces come together to make up the Rite-13 curriculum. Each week focuses on a new topic within one of these four bases; Self, Sexuality, Spirituality and Society. These topics focus on how our teens see themselves, particularly in context of church and family life. As well as, offer the youth a safe place to explore these topics. The curriculum is set-up for us to pick and choose what lessons work for our tweens and teens. Furthermore, there is an option to create a bridge between Sunday school and Youth group.

The Journey to Adulthood, J2A, is similarly designed. However, the goals for J2A are: celebrating the transition from youth to adulthood; training in the skills of adulthood; exploring the mystery of our faith heritage and establishing our experience in the strength of our community and liturgy.

The curriculum builds to a Pilgrimage. We would continue the mission trip as usual, however, the focus would be on things we learned in J2A. We focus on how to help others in our society and how to find God in places we would not have otherwise thought to look.

Both of these curricula provide a formative base; one that provides specific and meaningful rites of passage. Beautiful ceremonies not only concretize what the youth have learned, but allow the church community to participate in this rite. In one of the liturgies, the Rite 13 ceremony the youth pass from his/her parent(s) to the other youth; they cross over from children to young adults. From what I have heard, it is truly moving.

I think that sums everything up. I can provide any more answers to questions, should you have any. I want to close with the following thought. One of the most of the important resources for implementing J2A and Rite-13 is the church community. Our youth rely on us to support them and provide a safe and supportive environment in which to learn about God in him/herself. I do strongly believe with the commitment of the teachers, vestry, community, staff and rector, we can accomplish this important goal to create the best foundation as possible for adulthood.



YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Group will begin again on Sunday, Sept. 11! Please note that we have changed the times for our meetings. The Middle School group will meet from 1:30-3:00 p.m. each Sunday, and the High School group will meet from 3:30-5 p.m. each Sunday. Both groups will meet at the church in their respective Sunday School rooms. Please note that on Sunday, Sept. 11, BOTH groups will meet from 1:30-3:30 p.m. simultaneously with the Youth Parent Meeting. A schedule of youth group events will be out soon. Stay tuned! If you have any questions or would like to be involved, please let me know. Thanks.

Peace,
Louisa Hallas
chnyouth@sbcglobal.net



PADS--Homeless & Hunger Mission
Submitted by Heidi Hartmann Loffredo

PADS UPDATE: The remaining PADS date is: **Sept. 10/11**. If you have any questions about PADS you can contact any of the following people for more information: Heidi or Dave Loffredo, Jim or Christine Massie, Joe or Joannie Chandler, or Jeanne Widing or contact them to volunteer for this date.

What PADS is: PADS stands for "Public Action to Deliver Shelter". PADS has been in existence for 25 years, providing shelter and support services to homeless or at risk individuals and families in DuPage County. Here are some facts: During the 2009-2010 season, about 1100 men, women, and children were served, including 174 children, 33,100 total nights of shelter were provided, and 109,000 meals were provided. PADS Operates 27 shelter sites which are generally open from October through April, at least one shelter is open May through September.

CHN's Role: The summer host church for PADS is Redeemer Lutheran in Hinsdale (139 E First). The volunteers we need are as follows:

Groceries: done Thursday, Friday or Saturday morning before PADS, dropped at Redeemer.

Cooking - Saturday evening: 4:30-7:30 p.m. (4-5 people)

Setup – Sat evening: 5:30 – 7 p.m. (4-5 people) Set out pads; set up tables, make lunches

Serving/Kitchen Cleanup – Sat evening: 6:30-8:30 p.m. (6-7 people)

Breakfast - Sunday morning: 5:30 -7:30 a.m. (3 people) – Make breakfast, serve, kitchen cleanup

Cleanup - Sunday morning: 6:00-8 a.m. (6 people) – wash pads, take down tables and chairs, vacuum, clean bathrooms, collect laundry

Overnight Supervision: Can be done with 2 people for the entire shift 8 p.m.–5 a.m. or can be broken into smaller shifts (e.g., 8 p.m. -1 a.m., 1– 5 a.m.) Should include 1 man and 1 woman per shift. Laundry: Sheets need to be washed and taken back to CHN or Redeemer by following Friday (4-6 launderers needed)



**CHILDREN AND
FAMILY
MINISTRIES**

OCTOBER CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY EVENTS

Upcoming Events (put on your radar):

October 16th: South DuPage CROP Hunger Walk

I have created an online page for us and if you are interested in walking or donating to the CROP Hunger Walk, please let me know! Signing up to walk is as easy as letting me know of your interest and I will add you to Team CHN! For more information, please visit: www.dgfumc.org/cropwalk/ or contact me and I can help you out. (from <http://www.dgfumc.org/cropwalk/>) CROP Hunger Walks help to provide tools of hope that empower people to meet their own needs. From seeds and tools, to wells and water systems, to nutrition-enhancing Moringa trees, to technical training and micro-enterprise loans, the key is people working together to identify their own development priorities--something CWS has learned through 58 years of working in partnership around the world.

When CROP began in 1947 it was an acronym for the Christian Rural Overseas Program to help Midwest farm families share their grain with hungry neighbors in post- World War II Europe. The first CROP Hunger Walk was held in Bismarck, North Dakota in 1969. Each year, some 2,000 communities across the U.S. sponsor CROP Hunger Walks. Nationally, upwards of 200 corporations match employee gifts and/or volunteer hours to the CROP Hunger Walk. Locally, thousands of businesses and media outlets support their community's CROP Hunger Walk.

October 29th: 2nd Annual CHN Pumpkin Patch

We will once again look for our favorite pumpkin in the Church of the Holy Nativity Pumpkin Patch. Once we pick the one we want, we will come inside and decorate the pumpkin! Feel free to wear costumes (just remember to leave your weapons at home, should you have any with your costume) and bring something that you can either pull over your costume or change into if you do not want to get your costume dirty. We will also have a light lunch, so please R.S.V.P. to me by **October 28th** so that I can make sure the patch is growing enough pumpkins and we have enough Bat's Blood Soup to go around! (It is tomato soup with bow tie pasta for those who

did not get to eat it last year!) Also, let me know if you have any food allergies that I should provide another option for!

October 30th: Intergenerational Forum

We will have an Intergenerational Forum and will not have Church School. You do not want to miss this fun event as we will be talking about how the children and families can help with the Capital Campaign as well as making something special! There will be paint involved so I would recommend bringing a change of clothes or wearing something that can get a bit dirty! **This is for people of all ages!!** It is a time for us to all come together as a parish and just fellowship together.



HELPING HANDS NEEDS

August 28th-September 11th: Breakfast Foods i.e. cereal, oatmeal, fruit bars, etc.

September 18th-October 2nd: Toiletry Items (i.e. shampoo, toothpaste, body wash etc.)

Thank you again for all you do!!



DULCIMER GROUP

Submitted by Judy Brackett

All who would be interested in joining with us in learning to play our Appalachian Mountain Dulcimers and accompanying us with any other stringed instrument, our fall/winter dates are **9/17, 10/1, 10/15, 11/19, 12/3, and 12/17 from 9-11:00 a.m.** We look forward to gathering and having fun. Any questions, call or email John or Judy Brackett at 630-325-4372 (home), 630-323-2047 (office), judbrackett@sbcglobal.net (Judy), jrb1jab2@sbcglobal.net (John).



**CHOIR REHEARSALS
RESUME**

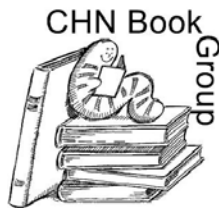
CALLING ALL SINGERS!

Submitted by Marianne Thompson

The CHN Choir rehearses on **Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m.** in the Nave. All ages (high school and up) are welcome to join the Choir. Special musical offerings the choir works on include: Lessons & Carols; Holy Week, including Easter Vigil; other special services. I hope to plan a special event for after Easter in the spring.

The choir has a lot of fun at rehearsals. If you like to sing, like to have fun and laugh, like to enjoy a time of fellowship, please consider joining the Adult Choir. Attendance at most

rehearsals is definitely needed - that's where most of the fun and laughter occur! Your voices are needed to "make a joyful noise to the Lord". If you are new to the church, or have any questions, please contact the Music Director, Marianne Thompson at 630-972-1873 or send an email to: mmthompson54@comcast.net.



Submitted by Carol Park

The CHN Book Discussion Group will resume its monthly meetings on **September 18**. We will discuss a short story, copies of which were available at the message center on the two previous Sundays. Please bring to this meeting the titles of books you might like to discuss during the coming year. We welcome newcomers to the group; we meet in the **choir area after the 9:30 service**, usually until noon. Future dates will be announced soon.

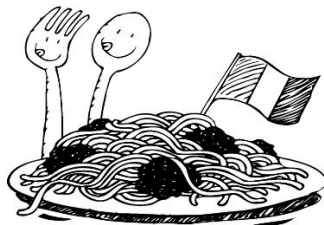


Submitted by
Deacon Kathie

**GOOD FOOD! GREAT FELLOWSHIP!
INTERESTING DISCUSSION!
LOTS OF FUN!**

Please join us for the next Senior Lunch, Monday, **Sept. 19**; Worship at 11:00 a.m., Lunch at 11:30 a.m.

	<p>BAPTISM</p> <p>On Sunday, Sept. 25, Bill and Trish Oldham's granddaughter, Payton Riley, will be baptism at CHN. She is the daughter of Kristen and David Oldham.</p>
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**ANNOUNCING:
FEAST GROUPS TO START IN THE FALL**

Who wants to make time for:

- Fun
- Eating
- And
- Socializing
- Together????

Eating and talking are two things we do very well here at Holy Nativity. Let's get to know each other better and celebrate abundant blessings of food and fun in each others' homes. You don't have to cook or host a gathering in your own home. We will match talents and desires to make it work for everyone. Sign up now and tell all your friends. The more the merrier!

The following committee members will serve as coordinators for groups from 8 to 10 people: Judy Bracket, Joan and Joe Chandler, K.C. Cooke, Shari Intagliata, Regina Murray, Paul Redmann and Roger Youngs. Sign up will be available at the church picnic this weekend and on following Sundays in the Ford Room.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP 2011

Submitted by Louisa Hallas

On Tuesday, July 12 6 youth and 4 adults from CHN set out on an adventure. I think that many of us were a little nervous about just what we were going to experience at the Heifer Ranch in Perryville, Arkansas. On Wednesday we pulled into the Heifer Ranch just before dinner, and it's safe to say that a few of us were a bit surprised at just how rustic our accommodations were. We stayed in an open-air barn, which had in the past housed the bulls on the Ranch. Bunk beds and plywood replaced what used to be troughs and stalls, and they also had added bathrooms and showers. We all claimed bunks (surprisingly, not much conflict over who got the top bunks!) and headed to dinner.

The food at the Ranch was for the most part from their property, including the meat. On Thursday when we got a hayride tour of the Ranch, we were told that the pigs had been "sent to...college." Over the next few meals we enjoyed pork chops, bacon and BBQ pulled pork sandwiches. College tastes delicious.....

Our overnight stay in the Heifer Village was an eye-opening experience. We were paired up with another group from Missouri, and we all headed to the village together. We were assigned different "villages" to live in, each of which was based upon poor conditions in different countries. Our group was divided into two groups, one of which stayed in the Guatemala hut, the other stayed in Thailand. The conditions in these areas of the world were among the best that we could have had. The Guatemala crew had beds, as well as an actual house with a water pump and a bathroom (with a toilet seat!). Thailand did not have any furniture, but it was located about six feet from the ground (mosquitoes rarely fly above six feet in the air, turns out!) and we also had plenty of space. The Thailand toilet, however, was a "squatty potty," just a hole in the ground. The Missouri group were assigned to the Zambia hut, neighboring the Thai hut, and had very few resources. The other half of their group was in the Urban Slum, a village modeled after slums in Mexico city but typical of slums in most major cities in the world. They had no furniture, and very little food.

Each group was given meager resources for food-and we were told "there is enough food in the village, but not every group has enough food." Some groups were given rice, eggs, and a vegetable or two. Some groups were given only a few vegetables, or only a cup of rice, all of which would need to feed that entire group in reality. The youth from CHN were model citizens-they had the idea to pool everyone's resources, come together, and cook one big meal so that everyone would have enough to eat and meet nutritional standards. At the invitation from our youth group, all four villages came together and shared what we had. Even more impressive was watching them cook-they cooked on a basic brick stove, with only a few skilletts. It was inspiring to see our youth take the lead, while the adults stayed quiet. They figured it all out on their own, without guidance from us adults. And on top of it all, dinner didn't taste half bad, and there was enough to go around for everyone.

We wrapped up our experience in the village the next morning with breakfast cooked by the group living in the Urban Slum-a small portion of oatmeal-and discussed our experience and how it had changed us. I was again impressed at how willing our youth were to speak up and share what they had gained from the Village experience, and how it had shown them some of the needs in the greater world.

The remainder of our experience on the Ranch was spent doing teambuilding exercises-we learned that "if you need help, just ask," and that by working together we can solve issues bigger than ourselves. We arrived back at CHN (after an overnight in the St. Louis area for some R&R) as many of you were leaving church-thank you for the warm welcome home! It's always nice to come home to smiles and friendly faces.

I am changed by my experience on the trip to Heifer Ranch. It really is possible to solve problems like hunger and lack of resources. "If you need help, just ask." There truly are enough resources in the world for everyone to have food, shelter and water. By working to overcome differences of pride and circumstance and listening to our neighbors and to each other, we can begin to work on ending disasters such as hunger and lack of education. We really are not all that different from our neighbors in Zambia, Thailand, China, Appalachia or the slums of the cities of the world. And by combining resources not only can we educate those in need and ourselves, we can create stability in places that hunger for it badly.

And I cannot begin to say how proud I am of our youth. They jumped right in, did every activity and experienced it all without complaint. They led each other and the adults in this experience. Their guidance and confidence has inspired me to look at the world differently, and has assured me that this world is in wonderful, and very capable hands. I would like to thank Mary Lu Connelly, Jeff Dillon and Elle Reitsma for their willingness to chaperon the trip. I would also like to express profound thanks to Haley Congdon, Claire Dillon, Faith LaMantia, Jack LeBaron and Caroline and Matt Loffredo for going on this trip and for their inspiring leadership. And thank you to you all, the CHN community, for the gift of your support.

SUMMARY OF THE YOUTH MISSION TRIP

Submitted by Haley Congdon

Would you ever sleep in an open barn, unaware of what bugs could be on you at any point and time? Or what about live the life of a typical Guatemalan family for a day? Well, that's exactly what I spent part of my summer doing down in Arkansas. To be exact, I was at Heifer International Farm in Perryville, Arkansas on a mission trip for my church.

The car ride down there was split up into two days of driving. One day it was 5 hours and the next day it was 8 hours. We stayed at the Hampton Inn in Collinsville (which is in Southern Illinois) overnight, both there and back. Once we got to the Farm, we were all relieved to get out of the van for two reasons. One, there were 11 of us and we were scrunched together in the van and two, we were all at least a little car sick. Once we got out of the van, some chickens, hens, and roosters just roaming freely (of course they belonged to the farm and didn't bite) greeted us with some really obnoxious and quite odd farm animal noises. The place we were sleeping in was an old barn called the Heifer Hilton. It was an open air barn full of insects and bugs. We chose our beds, unrolled our sleeping bags, placed our pillows in their proper positions, and headed to lunch. I will never forget that first walk to the dining hall. We all had to walk uphill the whole way.

After lunch, two volunteers at the farm (Andy and Dieterich) showed us around. They showed us the show barn with some of the animals, including llamas, sheep, goats, and bunnies. After that, they led us into an actual building (which made me feel so much more at home) and told us all of the rules and everything we needed to know about Heifer International. After dinner, our youth group went to a pavilion close to our barn and played games like cards. For the first time in my life, I saw a double rainbow in the sky, since it had rained earlier. I started freaking out and saying "DOUBLE RAINBOW! SO INTENSE!" You had to be there to understand its joy-bringing colors. We went back to the barn around 10. The next morning when a rooster woke everyone up at four AM, I was still sound asleep.

Breakfast that morning consisted of eggs and bacon, two of my favorite breakfast foods. After breakfast, our youth group and another youth group went on a hay ride tour of the farm. After the tour, we did some mental challenges with another volunteer named John. He told us something that caused a lot of stress that day. He said “The answer is almost always in the question.” We all learned that from the exercises he had us do that he wasn’t kidding. At the place we did the challenges at, there was this composting toilet that you had to throw sawdust into after you went to the bathroom because apparently it helps the whole composting process.

After the mental challenges, we ate lunch and packed our bags in preparation for (dun dun dun!) the Global Village. In the Global Village, we were separated into groups. We would stay in “Zambia”, “Urban Slums”, “Thailand”, or “Guatemala”. I was put in the Guatemala house, which, in my opinion, was the nicest house since it was the only one with beds and a door, so the bugs mostly stayed out. I was so happy not to be in urban slums, since they got bit by fire ants, they told us. Since these were symbolizing real life situations, I was chosen to have a broken leg that I got working in the fields, because a member of our group had to have a medical condition. I walked around all evening with a splint on my calf. It was not fun, but I had to do it. All the groups were given a certain amount of food they could use for dinner. Instead of separately using what we all had, we came together and ate a dinner combining all of the foods we got. I ate rice (with scrambled eggs, which I made), sautéed onions, wild zucchini, and water. After the sun went down, our group went back to our little 3-room house and went to bed. The next morning, we were just hanging out when all of a sudden Andy came and asked if we were all ready to do some chores. I was pretty happy with the chores we got because they weren’t too bad. All we had to do was feed some animals, including a few goats, chickens, roosters, hens, and bunnies (I got to pet a few), sweep out the house and bathrooms, and water the garden. After that we were DONE! We packed up our things and went back to the barn.

After we dropped our stuff off at the barn, we went back to the building where we did the mental activities the day before, and did some physical challenges. That was the day we learned “If you need help, just ask.” That is sort of a youth group inside joke now. We say that whenever we see someone else in the group struggling. The funny thing is, on the way home from the farm, we saw Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows part 2, and Dumbledore directly quoted “Harry, if you ever need help at Hogwarts, all you need to do is ask.” We all started cracking up when he said that in the movie. After the physical challenges we ate dinner and I attempted milking a goat (but chickened out because it kept kicking), held a baby chicken, and literally took a goat for a walk. It was all so tiring that bedtime was heaven to me.

When I got home, my dad was happy to see me and so was my mom. My bed felt like a cloud to lie on because it is so much more comfy than the beds at the farm. I have to admit, I kind of miss the ranch. One thing’s for sure, that was one experience I will certainly never forget.



HAVE A CAMEL!.....HAVE THREE!

Would you believe 3 Camels, 7 Heifers, 14 Alpaca/Llamas, 20 Goats, 18 Sheep, 8 groves of tree seedlings, 700,000 Honeybees, 100 Rabbits and 4,000 Chicks/Ducks!!! 4 ARKS-over \$23,000 to assist families achieve Heifer Cornerstones including Self-Reliance and Sustainability.

What other blessings did the CHN family receive from their Family Farm Fest efforts? FFF welcomed a significant increase in the number of families attending this year. Many enjoyed the tasty food served at FFF. We heard comments like “the food was great”, and “sooo good”. Once again we are blessed by our relationship with Whole Foods donating half the cost of the chicken and Uncle Bubs donating the barbeque sauce.

Community outreach from the CHN family was outstanding this year. Over 130 places of business promoted FFF in many surrounding communities. FFF and CHN were represented at the Green Fest in Lemont, Daisy Days, Westmont Days and the Rotary Festival in Downers Grove. Interdenominational participation from Christ Lutheran Church of Clarendon Hills and Union Church of Hinsdale expanded community outreach.

Further examples of community outreach include help from St Leonards in Chicago and the Willowbrook Police Dept Cadets Explorer Group. Divine Treasures, Esthers' Place-Big Rock, Kathleen and her cute alpacas-St Charles, Hansen Center-Burr Ridge, the Feed Store-Stickney all donated time and service to help make FFF 2011 a huge success. We can't forget about Camel Joe “reaching out” and we are grateful to our expanding program guide supporters.

FFF provided a warm, welcoming “neighborhood block party” atmosphere with volunteers and guests serving in some capacity. Families received a cost effective, relaxing and fun day together. Our own CHN family worked together, uniting and increasing our strength as one to serve physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

Our CHN family was blessed again this year having many conversations with guests leading to questions about our church, faith, their previous experiences. We heard never ending comments “thank you for doing this”, “we enjoyed ourselves” and “what a wonderful event”. We again heard “is everybody here really this nice?” and answered to another question “yes, that is the priest running around the parking lot with the children”. Our guests left knowing wherever they are on their spiritual journey they are welcome. To feel comfortable enough to discuss one's spirituality at FFF changes lives right here in our own community. That's priceless.

Many CHN family members have shared how wonderful they felt FFF 2011 was and have already volunteered for next year. We thank you all for the great physical, mental, emotional and spiritual energy given before, during and after Family Farm Fest 2011.

The results: Saving Lives!!!

We thank you for the privilege of serving with you - *FFF Committee 2011*

See you next year, Saturday, August 4th 2012!



September Birthdays

2	Harriet Hoag	24	Sarah Dillon
	Peter Capulli	26	Joan Fox
9	Kitty LeBaron		Kelin Fulkerson-Smith
10	Katie Sweeney	27	Sarah Willis
15	Henry Bird		Emily Andrulis
16	Leigh Moorehead	27	Ella Lou Trekles
17	John Olsen	29	Jack LeBaron
	Charlotte Nelson	30	Jane Youngs
18	Gladys Devaraj		Jan Munneke
19	Cindy Houghton		

BIRTHDAY EMAILS (copy and paste in internet address window)

If you follow this address you can bring up the months birthday list. Alongside each birthday date and person (if they have an email address) is a little envelope icon. Click on the icon and it will bring up a window where you can write your birthday message to the person of the day!

<http://www.mychurchbirthdays.com/birthdays.aspx?id=2274766>

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Previous issues of the Angelus can be viewed or downloaded from the website...a calendar of church events...birthday listings...special events...too much to list here.

IN SYMPATHY

Margaret (Peggy) Fake, the sister of Henry Bird, died peacefully in her sleep in Oakley, FL. at the age of 94 years. Peggy helped with many receptions at CHN when she lived her. May her soul and the soul of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

SEPTEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 11 PENTECOST 7:30 & 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist Aimee on vacation Bettie on Vacation Clint Moore Supply Celebrant EFM Reg Mtg 10:30 a.m. Louisa off 10:45 AM Parent Orientation for Christian Ed	29 Bettie on Vacation 10:30 AM Pastoral Care Planning in the Downstairs Conference Room 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM EFM Meets in the Ford Room	30 Bettie on Vacation	31 Bettie on Vacation 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM First Choir Rehearsal in the Nave	1 Bettie on Vacation	2 Bettie on Vacation Office closed Rev. Aimee's Day Off	3 Bettie on Vacation 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Dulcimer/String group meet in the Undercroft 5:30 PM - 10:00 PM Thompson Family in the Ford Room
4 12 PENTECOST 7:30 & 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist Bettie on Vacation 12:00 PM Aimee, Louisa and Kelin Meet	5 LABOR DAY - Office Closed	6	7 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Choir Rehearsal in the Nave and Ford Room	8	9 Office closes at noon Rev. Aimee's Day Off 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM Campaign Leadership Meeting in the downstairs Sunday School Room	10 PADS 9:00 AM - 9:30 PM Campaign Leadership Meeting in the downstairs Sunday School Room 10:00 AM Taize Rehearsal in the Nave
11 13 PENTECOST 7:30 & 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist Christian Education Begins PADS 9:30 AM Commissioning of Teachers and Choir 10:45 AM Adult Forum in the Ford Room 10:45 AM Church School 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM Combined Youth Groups meet 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM Parents of J2A Meeting 7:00 PM TAIZE	12 10:30 AM Pastoral Care Meeting in the Downstairs Conference Room 6:45 PM - 10:00 PM C.H. Women's Group meets in the Ford Room 7:00 PM Building and Grounds Mtg. in downstairs Conference Room 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM EFM Meets in the Comfy Room	13	14 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Choir Rehearsal in the Nave and Ford Room	15 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Vestry Meets in the Downstairs Sunday School Room	16 Office closes at noon Rev. Aimee's Day Off	17 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Dulcimer/String group meet in the Undercroft 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Marianne's Practice in the Nave
18 14 PENTECOST 7:30 & 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist Book Discussion Group meets in the Choir Area after the 9:30 service 10:45 AM Church School 12:00 PM Staff Meeting in the downstairs Conference Room 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM Jr. High Youth 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM Sr. High Youth	19 ANGELUS ARTICLES DUE Sr. Luncheon 11:00 worship, 11:30 lunch, Guest Speaker: Peter Thompson 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM EFM Meets in the Ford Room	20 7:30 PM Oldham Baptism Preparation	21 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Choir Rehearsal in the Nave and Ford Room	22 New Beginnings	23 New Beginnings Office closes at noon Rev. Aimee's Day Off	24 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Marianne's Practice in the Nave
25 15 PENTECOST 7:30 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist and Oldham Baptism 10:45 AM Adult Forum in the Ford Room 10:45 AM Church School 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM Jr. High Youth 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM Sr. High Youth	26 Kelin's Birthday 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Dulcimer/String group meet in the Undercroft 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM EFM Meets in the Comfy Room 7:30 PM DARC Meeting in the Nave	27	28 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Choir Rehearsal in the Nave and Ford Room	29	30 Rev. Aimee's Day Off	1 Deacon Kathie's Birthday 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Dulcimer/String group meet in the Undercroft 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Marianne's Practice in the Nave



All Creatures Great and Small



Pet Blessing
Sunday, October 2
9:30 a.m.

Church of the Holy Nativity

Church of the Holy Nativity

Corner of 55th St.
& Richmond Ave.
Clarendon Hills, IL

630-323-6820
www.holynativity-church.org

Join the Chorus of All Creation
at Church of the Holy Nativity's
Pet Blessing.
Bring your favorite furry, feathered,
or finned friend
and a lawn chair to a
Mass on the Grass in the Courtyard*!!



Church of the Holy Nativity

Where All Are Welcome!

*In case of rain, gather in the church.

SAVE THE DATE! CHN'S ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION AND DINNER DANCE will be held on Saturday, Nov. 12 in the Signature Events Room in Woodridge. More information will be forthcoming soon!
