



IRV-ALERT

Irving Park Baptist Church Newsletter
March/April 2011
Louise Roch, Editor

Pastor's Page

The day was dreary, a few weeks ago. The predictions were for a record-making winter blizzard with high winds and thunder and lightning. A few hours before the storm was predicted to begin, I was looking out the window that opens to the back yard, thinking about what I needed to get from the store. My eye was drawn to one small bit of color in the bleak and weary landscape. A tiny piece of bright red stood out against the dull and lifeless browns, whites and grays of that cloudy winter morning. In the tree, sitting as though it was the most natural thing, was a small, bright red cardinal.

My first reaction was surprise; my second reaction was how beautifully the red stood out against the winter scenery; my third reaction was to thank God for the message of hope; my fourth reaction was to hope that the tiny bird had a safe place to go during the coming storm. I, of course, thought God had sent that bird just for me, to remind me that God is still in control no matter how bleak the outlook may be.

As I think back on what a blessing those few moments were for me, I am reminded that signs of hope and grace are always around us. The question is whether we can see them through the storms that we face. God's presence is always here, but sometimes the struggles we face grab all of our attention, and the world seems worse than it really is. With God, we can trust that hope springs eternal. We know that we will get through the difficulties and that better times are coming, no matter what we

may see and feel in the present moment. We know this is true because even death is no longer a threat to us, through our loving Savior Jesus Christ.

I am also made aware that change is a reality of our existence. Change from what seems bad to what feels good is change that we embrace, quite naturally, but when we are comfortable with the way things are, we resist change. We'd rather not change when we don't know whether the new will bring something better or worse. The seasons tell us that change is simply the way God works. God is always doing something new, and whether we are in good times or bad, change will happen. With a loving God in control, we are assured that all change works together for God's good purposes.

Thank you little bird, so on time for me and yet seemingly so out of time with the world. Thank you God, for the reminder that change is coming, and for the message that with you, no matter how it may appear, life is always good. As we transition from winter into the a new spring and prepare for our Easter celebration, may you always feel the eternal hope of Christ springing forth in your life. *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."* Romans 15:13



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Check Out Our
Website!
www.irvingparkbaptist.org





Mar 2—Kathy Lauritzen
 Mar 13—Harvette Grey
 Mar 14—Tony Wilkerson
 Mar 27—Heather Lauritzen
 Mar 30—LaTonya Ireland

Apr 19—Nathan Golden
 Apr 25—Linda Torrez

Pray for, Call, Visit



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 773-506-6925

June Isbell—Covenant Home of
 Chicago
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 773-506-6939

Frances Smith—1637 Washtenaw
 Chicago, IL 60647
 773-489-6174

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Mar 4—SPRING BREAK AT IPBC!
- Mar 3—Bible Study at Lydia Home
- Mar 6—Worship Ministry Meeting
- Mar 10—Board of Ministry
- Mar 12—Saturday morning VBS
- Mar 13—InReach Ministry Meeting
- Mar 19—Saturday Fun with Lydia Home
- Mar 20—AFP Ministry Meeting
- Mar 26—Community Meal
- Mar 27—OutReach Ministry Meeting

- Apr 3—Worship Ministry Meeting
- Apr 7—Bible Study at Lydia Home
- Apr 9—Saturday Morning VBS
- Apr 10—InReach Ministry Meeting
- Apr 14—Board of Ministry
- Apr 16—Saturday Fun with Lydia Home
- Apr 17—PALM SUNDAY
 —AFP Ministry Meeting
- Apr 21—Maundy Thursday Service & Dinner
- Apr 24—EASTER SUNDAY
 —OutReach Ministry Meeting

Spring Break at Irving Park

Friday, March 4, 2011

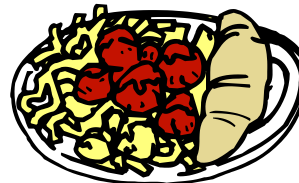
7:00 PM

Irving Park Baptist Church

4401 West Irving Park Road

Chicago, IL

773 286 6800



Enjoy a hot meal of spaghetti and meatballs, salad and dessert. There will be games and cool music, featuring the soothing sounds of Dale Tippett, Jr. and Friends. All are Welcome!

Adults \$20

Children 12 and under Free

Seniors (65 and up) and Students \$15



Each year we gather at the church on Thursday of Easter week to have supper and communion together, remembering Jesus and his disciples at that last supper. We then move to the sanctuary to remember the sacrifice that Jesus made, recalling his arrest, trial and crucifixion. If you've never been to our **Maundy Thursday supper and Tenebrae Service**, you're missing an opportunity to deepen your faith by re-enacting and remembering what Jesus was willing to do to save our souls. If you've come to this service in the past, I'm sure you'll want to come again. We hope you will join us on **Thursday, April 21 at 5:00** for the supper and the service that follows around 7:00 p.m.



He arose! He arose! Hallelujah, Christ arose! The Good News is that the crucifixion was not the end of the story. All are invited to join us on **Easter Sunday** to celebrate the good news of Christ's resurrection on **Sunday, April 24, at 11:00 a.m.**

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

The Saturday VBS Kids Club continues on the 2nd Saturday of March and April from 9:00 until **March 12, 2011** A M



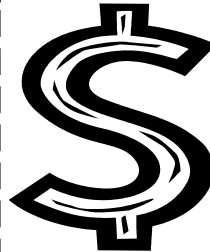
April 9, 2011



Pastor Alice Greene is now an author, too!

Angels All Around is an inspiring novel that will deepen your thoughts about the connection between heaven and earth. You can get the book online at sites like Barnes and Noble and Amazon, or check out the blog at angelsallaroundblog-site.blogspot.com.

You can reach Pastor Alice at alicejbdavis@comcast.net and 708-337-0524.



Good News for Irving Park Baptist Church

We finished 2010 in the **black!!** Can we do the same in 2011? We have a budget for 2011 of \$72,440. To meet our budget we need to take in each Sunday \$1,393.08 or each month \$6,036.67. To do this we need your help. We have not asked people to sign pledges, but trust that you have made a personal commitment amount for your contribution. We need you to maintain this commitment even if you are not in attendance on a given Sunday.

We have wonderful, caring, dedicated individuals who love IPBC. Thank you for your past commitment to God's work being done here and **KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!**



Spring will be here soon! Wednesday, March 9 will be Ash Wednesday, the first day of the Lenten Season leading up to Easter. Please join un for our annual Lenten Service of Healing on Sunday, March 13 at 5:00 PM. This is a

moving service of confession, repentance, renewal and blessing.



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Christ: Our One Love, Our One Hope.

Irving Park Baptist Church is a community of people from different cultures and backgrounds who are united in our belief in Jesus Christ. We are American Baptists who celebrate our individuality and our unity in Christ. Our desire is to center our lives in Jesus, to faithfully serve God by ministering to each other, our neighbors and the world, and to bring the Good News of salvation to those around us.