

## A love letter to The Brooke

My dear friends:

This is it...my last "Pastor's Letter" to you. I am envious for what you will continue to accomplish with the next pastor but I feel a profound sense of pride for what we have accomplished together in such a short time.

Together, in the name of Jesus Christ, we have:

- Opened our doors to the children in our community and provided a safe place for them to gather through VBS and Trunk-N-Treat
- Made the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons a time of joy instead of dread for many local families in need
- Sent our love to victims of natural disasters with our donations to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)
- Provided basic assistance to local families through Paper Angel Closet, weekly bread deliveries, monthly luncheons at Carpenter's Place

We have done many more outreach efforts, but I mentioned these four things to remind you of your faithfulness in following Jesus' instructions. In Acts 1:8, Jesus was saying this to his followers as he was lifted up to heaven:

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

In other words, Jesus wanted us to tell others about his love for them, to be witnesses of Jesus' love. Where were we supposed to be witnesses? We were supposed to witness to:

- The immediate community (Jerusalem)
- The surrounding towns (Judea)
- The other states (Samaria)
- The other countries (ends of the earth).

We have witnessed to others inside and beyond the city limits of Rockford – just by being generous with our blessings.

And so, how do I put words into expressing my gratitude to you for allowing me and my family to travel for a short time with you? Words will be inadequate, but please allow me to attempt anyway.

Thank you for showing me what radical hospitality is. Thank you for your kind and supportive words when they were most needed. Thank you for the hugs that were warm and encompassing. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

We will be traveling along different paths, but I take great comfort in the knowledge that we will all end up at the same destination... We will all be warmly embraced in Jesus' arms.

With much love,

*Pastor Nancy L. Vidad*  
(and Alvin and A.B.C.D.)

## *Diabetes Education and Support Group*

The Diabetes Group will meet on May 16, 2018 at 10 AM in the library.

## *United Methodist Women (UMW)*

Thank you

Thank you

Thank you

To those who made donations to our can opener fund. We've met our goal and will soon have the new one installed and working.

On May 8, our program presenter is Anita Bedell, the Executive Director of Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems. She will be presenting on the issue of gambling. The program will begin at 1 PM. Thanks to Alvin Vidad for helping us with the audio/visuals for this presentation. Nancy Wickson is hostess. Thanks to Hazel Dyke, Charlene Mason and Ann Phillips for assisting.

It's time for Peanut Butter Rally! The Rock River Pantry's goal is 20,000 jars. We collected 100 pounds last year. Let's see if we can beat that this year. Collection will begin June 6 and go through June 20. Look for the purple barrel.

## *Fellowship*

Thank you to those who provided delicious goodies during April. The May providers are:

May 6	Potluck
May 13	Vivian Schwab
May 20	Lyla Flynn
May 27	Ann Phillips

## *Monthly Finance Update*

The Finance Committee has provided the following Current Fund information:

<b>March income:</b>	<b>\$ 8,193.10</b>
<b>March disbursements:</b>	<b>\$12,134.45</b>

This information is always available to anyone who wants it by contacting Judy Parks (Finance Chair), or Sandy McCallum (Treasurer).

## *Name Tags*

Don't forget to wear your name tag during worship and fellowship. If you need a name tag, please print name on list in narthex. If anyone has lanyards we can use, please bring to office.

## *Wish List*

- 8 1/2" x 14" white copier paper
- 8 1/2" x 11" green, lavender, pink copier paper
- 10 oz bottled water

## *Thank You*

On behalf of my daughter, Diane and her whole family, I express heartfelt thanks to all who have prayed, and continue to pray, for her. Your prayers, love and support help sustain us and keep us strong.

*Ann Phillips*



**THE CARPENTER'S PLACE™**  
PROVIDING THE TOOLS FOR REBUILDING LIVES™

We are so excited to announce that our “Count My Blessings” bracelets are now available for purchase at Womenspace Gallery2Go! The gallery is located at 3333 Maria Linden Drive, Rockford, IL and is open Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.

In a society that focuses so much on “wants,” it touches our hearts at Carpenter’s Place to see how grateful our homeless guests are for their very few blessings... the basics, such as a friendly greeting and a meal to eat. Their grateful spirits remind us to count our blessings everyday and inspired our “Count My Blessings” bracelet. It’s a gentle reminder to have a thankful heart and count our blessings bead by bead.

The bracelets are hand-beaded by Carpenter’s Place guests and interns. When the bracelets are knotted, a prayer is said for both the future owner of the bracelet and the women in the housing program. Bracelets come in a variety of sizes and colors with an assortment of colored crosses. Each bracelet is packaged in a lovely gift bag with a card explaining the project.

Thanks to a generous donor who covers the cost of supplies, 100% of sales go directly to the women’s housing program.



## ***Ken-Rock Elderly Apartments***

Ken-Rock Elderly Apartments is a HUD Section 8 rent-subsidized elderly apartment complex located in Rockford, IL. Ken-Rock offers 1-bedroom and efficiency apartments to persons 62 years of age or older and handicap/disabled individuals. For more information, please see lobby bulletin board.

## ***Community Clothing Sale***

June 2nd ~ 9:00am - 1:00pm  
Suggested Donation ~ \$1per bag

## ***Directory Update***

**Ann Phillips**  
New email address: [annphillips.206@gmail.com](mailto:annphillips.206@gmail.com)

## Medication Disposal

Think Spring! Time for spring cleaning, including your medicine cabinets! This year we will collect old and unneeded medications during the month of May. Because we have a different collection site, we can collect again in October. Using this service prevents dispersal into the waste stream and waterways. We can only accept pills, capsules and powders; no liquids or creams. Prescription containers should have your name and personal information blacked out, but the meds should be in the original containers with medication information intact. To help with this program, we will offer a box for drop-off of your medications. The box will be available in the narthex from **May 1 through May 31**. Thank you.



## Mission Challenge

Following a very active, destructive hurricane season in 2017, the Northern Illinois Conference Board of Global Ministries has chosen cleaning kit buckets as this year's Annual Conference Mission Challenge. Each district is being challenged to collect designated cleaning kit items to be distributed through the Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC). MMDC, a 501c (3) organization located in Chatham, IL, provides disaster relief kits and resources as well as educational and medical supplies to those in need locally and internationally. It is related to the North Central Jurisdiction and is a cooperating depot in the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Relief Supply Network.

### Rockford District

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| • 18 cleaning wipes (Handi Wipes - NO terry cleaning towels) | District Goal: 200 |
| • 5 dust masks   | District Goal: 200 |
| • 2 pairs kitchen dishwashing gloves                         | District Goal: 300 |

## Community Garden

Saturday ~ May 5th ~ 8am

- Prepare garden beds
- Dirt arriving to top off beds
- Hook up rain barrels and hoses
- Needed: strong volunteers to help move dirt and dig existing soil  
shovels, wheelbarrows, 2 or 3 garden hoses, 100 ft garden hoses

Gardens will be officially open Monday, May 7th on a first-come, first-served basis. Each bed will be numbered. Interested parties should call the church to register for a bed and will be given a bed number. Please pick up rules at the church. There is no charge to use a garden bed, but a free-will donation or sweat equity (helping us prepare or close beds on designated work days) would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you! Looking forward to growing things together.

## *May Birthdays and Anniversaries*

**4th**

Carol Scribner

**6th**

Darrell Malthe

**8th**

Erin Cowan

**10th**

Charlene Mason

**12th**

Sharon O'Hara

**22nd**

Rick Pomeroy

**24th**

Vicki Jacobson

**25th**

Jacki Shaver

**28th**

Damian Helser  
Thomas Helser

**31st**

Judy Parks

**1st**

Ron & Jill Below

**20th**

Jack & Bonnie O'Hara

### *Our Military*

Matt Cowan, Matt Crabtree, Scott Dickson, Thomas Helser,  
Will Hoyum, Ian Long, Joshua Mattson, Jonathan Modler, Jerry Nettles,  
Stacy O'Hara, Christine Tornow, Tommy Turnure, Ryan & Kate (Vowles) Levack

### *Our Homebound*

John Pippel, John Sauer, Doug Skrinkski, Charlene Taylor

### *Family and Friends*

Chris Beebe, Rick Bried, Dorothy Carpenter, John Dyke,  
Ardene Friest, Mike McClanahan, Dan O'Connell, Phil & Vivian Schwab,  
Ronna Tewell, Laurece Thompson, Ruth Winger, Diane Zwirblis

# May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> 6:00pm Celebration Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u> 8:00am Community Garden Work Day
<u>6</u> 10:00am Worship Following worship Birthday & Farewell Potluck 5:00pm Girl Scouts	<u>7</u> 5:30pm Christian Ed	<u>8</u> 1:00pm UMW 5:45pm Finance 6:00pm Trustees	<u>9</u> 6:00pm Celebration Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>13</u> 10:00am Worship 5:00pm Girl Scouts	<u>14</u> 5:00pm Book Group at Warners'	<u>15</u> 10:30am Paper Angel Closet 6:00pm Council	<u>16</u> 10:00am Diabetes Group 6:00pm Celebration Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u> 9:00am - 3:00pm Quilters	<u>19</u>
<u>20</u> 10:00am Worship 5:00pm Girl Scouts	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u> 9:00am Breakfast at Alpine View 6:00pm Celebration Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>27</u> 10:00am Worship 5:00pm Girl Scouts	<u>28</u> Office Closed	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u> 6:00pm Celebration Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<u>31</u>		



**YOU'RE INVITED TO CELEBRATE WITH US!**

**Nancy Vidad's 50th & Bob Westlund's 95th  
Birthdays**

**Pastor Nancy's & Alvins Leaving**

**Sunday, May 6, 2018  
Brooke Road UMC  
After Church**

**Please bring:  
Last Name begins with A - M ~ Sides  
Last Name begins with N - Z ~ Main Dish**

**Dessert & drinks provided**



*Our Mission at The Brooke is.....*

to transform lives  
through faith, love, and service.

*Our Vision for The Brooke is.....*

to be a transforming congregation  
of believers to serve the community,  
renew lives, and build faith.

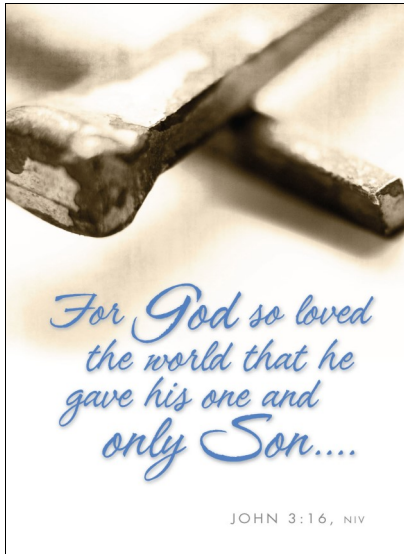
**BROOKE ROAD**

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

1404 BROOKE ROAD

ROCKFORD, IL 61109

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**Sunday Morning Schedule**

**Worship ~ 10:00am**

**Children's Sunday School during Worship**

**Nursery available for NB - 4 years**

**Fellowship ~ Following Worship**

**Pastor Nancy**  
**(through May 6)**

Phone: 815-988-9976

Email: nancy.vidad@gmail.com

Address: 4949 Radnor Drive  
Rockford, IL 61109

**Pastor Joe**  
**(May 7 - 23)**

Phone: 815-222-2100

Email: jojoewarn@aol.com

Address: 7543 McGregor Road  
Rockford, IL 61102

**Church Office**

Phone: 815-398-8914

Email: brookeroadumc@outlook.com

Website: the-brooke.org

Address: 1404 Brooke Road  
Rockford, IL 61109

Hours: Monday - Thursday  
9:00am - 3:30pm