



HELLO FROM THE EDITOR!

I'd like to wish everyone a very blessed holiday season! If you have news or information for this newsletter, please feel free to e-mail it to me (mjmouw@uic.edu).



Mary Mouw

NEWS ABOUT US

Chuck Conklin – working to help start a new church

Ann and Jeff Currie – moved to a new home.

Jennifer Fisher – broke off engagement

Doug Liston – will be a grandfather in March

Pam Khazen, Sue Rasmussen – developing a Dependable Strengths workshop.

Sue Rasmussen – going back to college

Karen Tucker – trying to be accepted into a Lay Ministry program using diakonia as an educational equivalent

Christine Squier – starting a new ministry in her church

John Sperry – heart transplant

Ray Bebee – helping at his church as a liaison while they are calling a pastor

Margaret Nafiseh – moved.

Barb Sanders – son Andrew is engaged

Ronn Brower is a volunteer for Chaplain Services at Sherman Hospital in Elgin

DIAKONIA GETTING “GREATER”

The Greater Milwaukee Synod is interested in starting up the diakonia program in September 2006! Pastor Amy Reumann, on the synod staff there, heard about diakonia from her time in the New Jersey synod. Diakonia has been in New Jersey for about 25 years. Beginning in the new year, we will be getting the program started in the synod. Michael Bennett, a 2005 graduate, will be helping start this new site. Mike will be acting as location manager for the first class as well as helping with publicity. If anyone is interested in helping with this effort, please contact Rebecca Dahlstrom or Mike Bennett.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Jennifer Fisher, Nancy Reinke, Sue Ellen Zagrebelny, Karen Tucker, Rainey Koga, John Sperry, Dennis Wolf and Wayne Bormann – medical concerns

Carol Massat, Wayne Bormann, Carole Edwards, Mary Weiss and Karen Hammer – family concerns
+David Oestreich+ - died

SWO MEETING

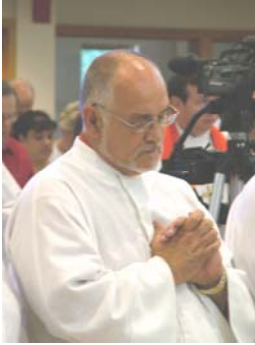
Rebecca Dahlstrom and Sue Rasmussen represented diakonia at the recent Metropolitan Chicago synod Synod Women's Organization (SWO) event. They set up a display table with diakonia information and spoke with several people there.



MAN ON A MISSION

by Chuck Conklin

Editor's note: Chuck is working to help start a new church.



My first real effort is focused in Manhattan in the Leighlinbridge community. (Townhome area.) I knocked on 81 doors, gave out 66 pamphlets, and talked to 12 prospects that want me to check back

I must tell you I am excited at the prospects I am finding. I have one single lady named Kate who is in her mid 20's who loves music and plays piano very well. She is Catholic but is looking for a more relaxed praise filled church. We talked and she has asked me to mail more info and to keep her informed of my outreach into the community. She offered water, cookies and a time to rest, but I told her I have a lot of ground to cover, but I would take a rain check. She was so happy to talk. I see this as the best I have found. The worst was not that bad, just a Catholic that seemed upset that I was bothering them. Even at their worst they were not as bad as I expected.

The weather got bad at the end, and I was tired also. I am sure this will whip my legs into shape. Thank all of you

for your prayers and keep up the support.

11-16-05 - update:

It was another good Saturday and I am greatly encouraged with the numbers that want a newsletter. I will be sending out a newsletter in the first week of December. I am going to use the growth of Living Hope to show what can happen when we put our hearts into it. From a knock on the door to a building in ten years is awesome. I focused on the same area of Manhattan, in the Leighlinbridge development. I knocked on single family homes this week. I have at least two more Saturdays in this development before I move on. Please pray for weather that is suitable for this. I don't mind the cold but the snow could be a problem for my back. For those who don't know me well, I have three fusions in my lower back and can't bend because of the metal frame inside my back. I have been blessed with strength and I am not worried. The Lord put me here not to fail but to serve. Even if one person does not come to this new start it is still a great victory, because they have been made aware of their own existence without faith or the lack of their attending a church. If it drives them closer to a church it has done the job it was set out to do, but I pray it is with this new beginning they chose to come back to God.

A little side note; I have accepted running the Taste of Grace rector's job (leader over the running of the spring 2006 retreat for men on weekend #7 at Sandwich IL.) This is a great honor, and I pray that I do a worthy job.



Our diakonia day

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“BDA” SESSIONS (BEFORE, DURING, AFTER)

Pastor Eric Dawson is proposing before, during, and after sessions to focus on diakonia as a spiritual formation process for everyday living in all aspects of one’s existence. He is starting two sessions in two different locations that would meet once a month for five months starting in January 2006. One location is in Carol Stream, the other in Glenview. This is open to all future and current students and graduates of the diakonia program. Pr. Dawson is a diakonia teacher as well as the Executive Director of diakonia in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. You can contact Pastor Eric at 630-668-0451 or icky1024@aol.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 7, 14, 21, February 4, 11
9:30-12:30 – Revelation and Eschatology class for graduates only.
January 28, 2006 – Metro Chicago retreat
February 11, 2006 – Northern Illinois retreat, except Moline
February 18, 2006 – Moline Retreat
March 11 – diakonia at the Congregational Resourcing Event in Kishwaukee.
April 22,29, May 13, 2006 9:30-12:30 – Changing Colors – the Future of Worship – post graduate class.
June 25, 2006 2 pm – Metro Chicago graduation, St. Luke’s Chicago
July 15, 2006 2 pm– Northern Illinois synod graduation, Alpine Rockford.
Sept. 16, 2006-Barbecue at Ray and Laura Bebee’s home in West Chicago.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS STEERING COMMITTEE CHANGES

Each synod has a steering committee to oversee the diakonia program. At the last diakonia steering committee meeting, Doug Liston became the Chair of the Northern Illinois diakonia program. Diane Nelson became secretary. Pastor Gary Heedum became the Executive Director.

Until now, the Northern Illinois program was in start up mode. This change is exciting as it reflects a “coming of age” of the program in the synod. The Northern Illinois synod program is now independent and on its own.



Doug Liston

PHOTO DIRECTORY

A photo directory of all diakonia graduates from 2001-2005 is being created. Thank you to Don Williams, Wayne Bormann, and Sue Rasmussen for all their work creating it. The photo directory will hopefully be distributed at the retreats. It is still under construction. If you are a graduate and would like a copy and will be unable to attend the retreat, please contact Don, Wayne, or Sue. A photo directory will not be produced again for several years.



NATIONAL BOARD MEETING

Diakonia is overseen by a national board that meets twice a year. The national board met in October in Philadelphia, PA. The board is comprised of pastoral and lay members.

This year, the main topics have been related to expansion. Some synods have expressed interest in diakonia and Florida/Bahamas will be starting the program in 2006. To prepare for expansion the board has been discussing start up materials needed by synods as well as the composition of the board.

WEBSITES

Diakonia has a national website and a webpage on the two synod websites:

www.thediakoniaprogram.org

www.mtselca.org/diakonia/index.html

www.nisynod.org/ministries/diakonia.htm

MERCHANDISE

If you are interested in a diakonia mug, shirt, hat, or tote bag, please contact Rebecca Dahlstrom. The mugs are \$5, shirts are \$20, hats are \$12, and tote bags \$15. These items will be available at the retreats.