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King Lutheran Church Hosting Guest Speaker

Christ the King Lutheran Church, 305 W. 25th Street, Yankton, is pleased to welcome Toby Waldowski on Sunday, July 15.

Toby will lead the worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Mr. Waldowski is a talented Christian pianist. The program will include traditional favorites and original compositions as well as a message on the 26 Old Testament Prophecies in the oratorio, "The Messiah" that point to the coming of Jesus Christ as the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Toby Waldowski was born and raised in Webster. His mother was a piano teacher and forced him to practice the piano 30 minutes every morning before school. In 1972 Toby graduated from Webster high school, and a few days later South Dakota had one of its most tragic days: the Rapid City flood. One of Webster's leading citizens was killed in the flood trying to save someone from drowning.

The following Sunday morning Toby dedicated his solo in church to this man and his family. It was at that time that Toby received his call in music ministry.

In the fall of 1972, Toby attended South Dakota State University in Brookings, South Dakota. He was a music major with an emphasis in performance. He met his wife, Barb, at SDSU. Barb and Toby fell in love, and also began a singing ministry. They were married on Aug. 9, 1975, in Hayti.

In 1976, after college graduation, Toby and Barb attended a music ministry conference at the Chrystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, Calif. While at the conference they auditioned to sing for Dr. Robert Schuller and his wife Arvela. Toby and Barb were featured soloists on Dr. Schuller's "Hour of Power," program for 20 years giving more than 125 solo appearances on that program.

Toby and Barb were guest soloists in two Billy Graham Crusades, one of which took place in South Dakota. Toby's song "South Dakota My Home," was sung at the 50th anniversary of the Mt. Rushmore Memorial in 1992.

In 1991 Toby read the book, "Love Comes Softly," by Janette Oke. After reading the book Toby felt compelled to write a theater musical to the story which he completed in the summer of 1992. The musical did not reach the stage until the summer of 2003, and since then Toby has done ten productions and 146 performances of the musical in 35 cities throughout America and Canada. In March of 2006, Toby traveled to Didsbury, Alberta to co-produce the musical at Janette Oke's home church in Didsbury. Mrs. Oke was in attendance for every performance. More than 19,000 people have now seen the musical on stage.

St. John's Church Vacation Bible School Set

"PRAISE" Where Kids Get Down & Lift God High! It's time for Vacation Bible School at St. John's Lutheran in Yankton! Join us for "PRAISE! Where Kids Get Down and Lift God High! A Christian Rock Concert Theme where kids will discover that JESUS is Our ROCK! You'll enjoy fun crafts, great music, thrilling Bible stories, tasty snacks and meeting new friends! At St. John's, we provide a Vacation Bible School ministry that is a Christ-centered approach to teaching the faith. We encourage building relationships with people of all ages in Jesus Christ. Call St. John's at 665-7337 to register!

For children ages 3 years old up to those entering 6th grade this fall. We would like to invite parents and families to join us for our "Closing Music Celebration" on Wednesday night, July 25, 8:40 p.m.

Violin And Piano Recital Planned

A special violin/piano recital will be held at Yankton's Trinity Lutheran Church, 403 Broadway Avenue, at 3 p.m. Sunday, July 22.

The recital will feature University of South Dakota students Andrew Paa (violin) and Adrian Ries (piano). The program includes the Sonata in D Major, K. 311 for piano by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Partita No. 2 in D Minor, S. 1004 from Six Sonatas and Partitas for Violin Solo by Johann Sebastian Bach, and Sonata No. 7 in C Minor, Op. 30 No. 2 for violin and piano by Ludwig van Beethoven.

A free-will donation will be asked.

Parish Nurses Help
Congregations Face Challenges

BY PAULA SCHLEIS
Akron Beacon Journal(MCT)

AKRON, Ohio — When Lisa Edwards learned she had cervical cancer in 2009, she called the parish nurse.

"I need you," the mother of three said to Cindy Rocco, a registered nurse who was employed by First Congregational Church in Hudson, Ohio, to help members with health problems.

"I was overwhelmed with the treatment options. I was worried about what to do with my children. There was so much to think about that I was in total shutdown mode. I didn't want to do research. I needed Cindy to think for me," Edwards said.

Rocco accompanied Edwards to a doctor's appointment, organized volunteers to bring in meals three times a week during her treatment and helped find activities and services aimed at families of cancer sufferers.

"I truly don't know what I would have done without her," Edwards said. As a profession, parish nurses are a fairly recent phenomenon.

The movement was founded in 1985 by the Rev. Granger E. Westberg, a Lutheran clergyman in Chicago who sought to merge his experience as a pastor and hospital chaplain. His first effort was to link medical systems to six area congregations in Park Ridge, Ill., believing that having a nurse available to church members would allow them to discuss health concerns before they became serious conditions.

The ministry spread, and today there are more than 12,000 parish nurses in the United States.

The concept is embraced passionately in Hudson, where the ministerial association and the nonprofit Laurel Lake Retirement Community started touting parish nurses nearly a decade ago.

While the large First Congregational Church can fund its own medical professional, other churches have teamed up to provide the service to their flocks.

Laurel Lake hired Rocco — she turned her First Congregational reins over to another nurse this year — to begin programs at Rejoice Lutheran Church, Christ Church Episcopal and First Presbyterian Church of Hudson.

"I love what I do," said Rocco, who is brimming with ideas for her new congregations. "It's a calling."

Laurel Lake Foundation also provides money to help St. Mary Church have its own parish nurse, Lori Joseph, while First Congregational replaced Rocco with Kaye Collins.

Robinson Memorial Hospital in Ravenna, Ohio, has been bringing area practitioners together since 2008. It hosts a quarterly meet-

ing, where attendance has been as high as 25, said Sallie Messerly, a registered nurse and Robinson Memorial's health educator.

They come from Portage, Summit, Geauga, Mahoning and Jefferson counties and represent denominations from Catholic and Orthodox to Mennonite and Unitarian.

"We knew there was parish nursing and faith community nursing out there, so we talked about it with a few R.N.s who worked here and threw together a program," Messerly said.

Robinson offers continuing education credits in parish nursing four times a year, preceded by a dinner where the nurses can discuss challenges and get advice from group mentor Michalene King, a parish nurse and professor at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

Messerly said there are a few differences between the work of a traditional nurse and a parish nurse.

"Parish nurses don't do hands-on care," like giving shots or changing bandages, she said. Instead, their focus is on promoting health and preventing illness.

Also, while many traditional nurses are no doubt spiritual, parish nurses wear their spirituality on their sleeves.

The Rev. Michael Conklin of Rejoice Lutheran in Hudson said he's thrilled his small congregation of 165 souls has a parish nurse through the Laurel Lake partnership.

"We'd never be able to afford one on our own," he said as he took a break from installing a fence around the church garden. "When you're small, you do everything you can yourself, from building deer fences to changing out the trash bags."

Still, it is taking some prodding to get his flock to understand the roll a parish nurse can play in their lives.

"At first, people don't know what a parish nurse is and can't imagine needing one," Conklin said. "I just keep directing them. When someone has a (health-related) issue, I tell them, 'You should talk to Cindy,'" he said. And when they're too shy to take that step, "sometimes I have Cindy call them."

Sharon Straka took little convincing. The Rejoice Lutheran member joined the Faith & Fitness program Rocco had just started at the church, encouraging people to exercise and eat healthier.

"I've tried every weight-loss plan imaginable, and I was tired of giving Weight Watchers \$40 a month to not lose weight, but I needed to be accountable to someone," Straka said.

So she checks in with Rocco once a week, either in person or by phone. Faith & Fitness participants also can join in biking trips or yoga classes.

"Sometimes if I'm having a bad day, I just

text or email her and she'll write back and tell me, 'Hang in there. You can do this,'" Straka said. "Sometimes, that's all I need."

In addition to planned programs, Rocco spends a lot of time helping congregants with personal issues. They come to her if they've been diagnosed with an illness or get a new medication that they don't understand.

"They may need volunteers to make meals or give them rides to chemotherapy," Rocco said. "Maybe they just need me to pray with them."

All of the Hudson churches also have access to Laurel Lake's community resource coordinator, Kristin Keller.

She said she has worked with women who are getting divorced and face a tremendous emotional crisis. "They want to know how to apply for benefits, food stamps, Medicaid, the lunch program for their kids," she said.

Because Keller's office is an Ohio Benefit Bank site, "we can sit in their home or in my office and apply for those things," she said.

When caregivers are stressed out while looking after their aging, ill parents, "the pastors can do the spiritual side, and the parish nurses work with the medical side, but I can also maybe arrange for respite, or see if they qualify for (home health aide financial help), or find them support groups," Keller said.

Other folks have been directed to Keller because their homes were in foreclosure or their utilities have been cut off.

"Their pastor knows what has happened and can send them to us, and we can head off a lot of things, maybe foreclosure intervention or get them credit counseling," she said.

In return, some parishioners who have been helped by a parish nurse are eager to pay the favor forward.

Lisa Edwards, the cancer survivor, is working with First Congregational's new parish nurse to start a support group for women with cancer or cancer survivors who have children at home.

"These women have different types of cancers, but they are all facing the same life issues involving their family," Edwards said.

Parish nurse Kaye Collins is still getting her feet wet in that new job, although she has 30 years of experience to draw on.

"For me, nursing was always a mission," Collins said of her decades working at county hospitals and emergency rooms.

When she was asked to take the job at First Congregational so Rocco would be free to help smaller churches in town, Collins took three months to give her response.

Now on the job for two months, there are no regrets.

"I absolutely made the right decision," Collins said.

CHURCH SCHEDULES

Abundant Life, Baptist, Catholic, Episcopal, Lutheran, Reformed, KYNT 1450 AM Radio, Seventh-Day, United Church, Non-Denominational, Presbyterian, Church of Christ, Church of Jesus Christ, etc.

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ST. BENEDICT CATHOLIC CHURCH, 1500 St. Benedict Drive, Yankton, Father Ken Lulf, 664-6214 (church), Masses: SAT. 5pm, SUN. 8:30am&10:30am.

ST. BONIFACE CATHOLIC CHURCH, Menominee, Neb., Rev. David Fulton, pastor. SUN. 8:30am Mass.

CHURCH OF CHRIST, 1114 West 12th, Yankton, 665-6379. SUN. 9:30am Bible study; classes for all ages. 10:30am Worship.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS, 2300 Douglas, Yankton. Randy Campbell, (605)565-2016. Family History Ctr 665-0901. SUN. 10am Sacrament meeting.

Martinus Lutheran Church, Utica. Pastor Dean Schroeder Sunday Divine Service 8:30am (605)589-3195 www.MartinusLutheran.org

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN, LCMC/NALC, Menn. Pastor Theresa Jacobson Office 605-387-5241 Worship 9am, Brunch, SS 10:20am Wednesday Lenten Services at Grace, 7:30pm

GLORY CHRISTIAN CENTER, 901 E 11th St. Yankton. Gail Ryken, pastor, 665-2369. SUN. 10am Service. WED. 6pm Prayer. GC School, call (605)665-1988.

PEACE PRESBYTERIAN (PC/USA), 206 E. 31st. 665-0448. Rev. Dr. Nelson Stone & Rev. Marilyn Stone. Sun-10am worship, Coffee to follow. SS for kids 10:30am. Aired at 8pm Fri. on Ch. 3 & 98.

GAYVILLE-VOLIN UNITED METHODIST, Rick Pittenger, pastor. 624-2179. 9am Worship Service. 10:00am Sunday School.

WAKONDA, IRENE, VIBORG, UNITED METHODIST, Pastor Mark Gronseth. SUN. 8:30am Worship at Wakonda; 9:45am Worship at Irene; 11am Worship at Viborg.

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