

Issue 3, March 2010

In Focus...

Natalie Ullman



Natalie, from Oregon USA, has been with us for the past few months. She goes back home next week. We asked her for some reflections on her time with SICC.

"I came to Salzburg on an au pair visa and was connected to SICC by my host mother.

After attending my first service I knew I would keep coming without any effort. At my arrival, Glynn was fresh to the congregation and I was happily surprised to find myself at the beginning of a new chapter for SICC. It felt exciting to come and watch and participate in the growth of the church under new leadership, especially the appointing of new council members. I was also excited to take part in a service with a female minister, which is a change from my Catholic roots. As I met some of the active members of the church, Sundays became more than time for prayer but a time to unwind and be with friends in God's love.

As I depart, I cannot display enough gratitude for the time of prayer, reflection, and worship shared with you each Sunday. I implore you for your goal to vision a new and improved SICC but my caution would be to embrace your limits in serving a transient community by putting intentional energy in Sunday service, bible study and coffee time after service. This is where friendships blossom and relationships take root.

My prayer: Dear SICC, know that you are in my heart wherever I may be. You, with your welcoming arms like Jesus', will embrace

another prayerful soul like me. God is smiling for the work you do. May your loving light glow and bring God's followers to you! God bless you"

Thank you, Natalie and may God bless and keep you as we have been blessed by your friendship.

God does not wait for us to become perfect and in possession of only high, pure thoughts and unmixed motives before [moving] through us. God waits only for the sign of faith."

Eugenia Price, American novelist and community activist (1916-1996)

SICC CALENDER

Sunday, 11am – **Worship**, followed by Coffee time;

Lenten Bible Study in the Gemeindesaal

Tuesday, 7.30 pm – **Lenten Bible Study**, Strubergasse 49/5/12

Wednesday, 2.30 pm – **Women's Bible Study Group**, Strubergasse 49/5/12

Thursday, 1 pm – **Sacred Space**, hospitality lunch at the Mozarteum Cafe

SICC COMING EVENTS

Holy Week:

Palm Sunday 28th March, 11am

Maundy Thursday 1st April: Agape Meal, 6pm, Strubergasse 49/5/12

Resurrection Sunday 4th April, 11am

Sunday April 11th: **Vision Sunday**: Being Church in 2010, 11a.m. and lunch

Sunday April 18th: **Service with Christus Kirche: Television programme**

ECUMENICAL NEWS

Restoring work-free Sundays is goal of European lawmaker

A German politician has launched the

European Union's first international citizens' referendum, demanding the restoration of Sunday as a day for rest and family life. "This is the right time to show that, as European citizens, we want to involve ourselves, not only through elections, but also in other ways," Martin Kastler, a European Parliament member for Germany's co-governing Christian Social Union, explained on the petition "The work-free Sunday is part of our European culture. We need time for our families and relationships, for civil society and religion."

Less than half in US link Easter to the Resurrection, survey shows

While most Americans describe Easter as a religious holiday, less than half of U.S. adults surveyed link it specifically to the Resurrection of Jesus, a Barna Group study shows. Seven in 10 respondents mentioned religion or spirituality in their response to an open-ended question about how they describe what Easter means to them personally. But just 42 percent tied Easter to the Resurrection following the death of Jesus on the cross.



Jottings from the Pastor's Desk

I received this poem recently. It has much to say to us as we come to Easter. Bono is lead singer with rock band U2 and an activist on behalf of the poor.

*"God has a special place for the poor.
The poor are where God lives,
God is in the slums, in the cardboard boxes
where the poor play house.
God is where the opportunity is lost and lives
are shattered.
God is with the mother who has infected her
child
with a virus that will take both their lives.
God is under the rubble in the cries we hear
during wartime.*

*God, my friends, is with the poor, and he is
with us,
if we are with them".*



God bless,
Glynthea