



The Redeemer

Review

Proclaiming Christ into the 21st Century

Volume 9

September, 2005

Richard Vales - *Our Redeemer's* New "Official" Missionary

The Administrative Council voted this summer to sponsor **Richard Vales** as our church's official missionary. It's been quite a while since *Our Redeemer's* has actually sponsored a missionary, but then Richard is "one of our own"!

Richard was a member of *Our Redeemer's* in the early and mid-1990s. While on a business trip to the Philippines, he heard a call to serve the impoverished children he saw there. Richard actually sold his possessions and his business, transplanting himself to this, his new home.

Over the coming months the Caring Ministries Council will work to re-acquaint our congregation with Richard and talk about ways we can all support him. The letter on page 6 is a recent e-mail written to **Robin Erickson**, but intended for the entire congregation.

Bruce Bedingfield
Caring Ministries Chair

What a Wonderful Day for a Picnic!

by Gwyn Greenwalt

We were so glad to see so many people turn out for our all-church picnic on Sunday, August 21. With about 150 people in attendance and not a cloud in sight, we had great food and great fun with volleyball, face painting, snowcones, and a moonwalk (enjoyed by the children *and* a few adults as well!).

A special thanks to everyone who helped out, especially the following people: **Bill and Billy Berndt, Annette Brown, Isaac and Taffy Dean, Donna, Jim and Kim Echtner, Lynn Gaska, Jeff Greenwalt, Amy Johnson, Bob Kapp, Laura Machonis, Dan and Amy Meyer, Penny and Samantha Miller, Jamie Addams and Jon Montgomery, Diep Nguyen, Joe Rocha, Melissa Slife, Sue Swartz, Matt and Emily Young**, and everyone who helped keep a watchful eye on the kids in the moonwalk or clear the tables at the end of the day!

Ed Note: Thanks to Gwyn Greenwalt for chairing the picnic and organizing all the helpers.



LABOR DAY

Redeemer Review

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Our Redeemer's

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Worship Services at 9:00 and 10:30 am

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[Rev. Bill Shaw](#)

Church Secretary:

[Donna Eghtner](#)

Director of Youth Ministries:

[Marianne Rogenski](#)

Co-Editors:

Jim Cottrell

Jerry Mc Daniel



Angel of the Month

Jenna Nystrom

by Bev Wilkes

Jenna has been a member of *Our Redeemer's* for a good many years along with her Father, **Marshall**, her Mom, **Alison** and her brother **Eric**. She will be one of many of our young people who we will sorely miss as she will be headed to college. 18 years sure does go by fast!

Jenna is a member of our Youth Council, has participated with the Voices of Light musical group and has gone to ASP for a couple of years and really connected with her Dad. She has been a great help to him by assisting him to prepare the Web Site for our enjoyment each month. Jenna also helps **Pastor Bill** scan pictures into the computer to be used for Sunday Services.

Our youth are a tremendous part of *Our Redeemer's* and Jenna definitely stands out as a hard worker, dependable helper and a friend to all.

Her family and her church family will miss her a lot and all of us wish her a wonderful and exciting college experience. Our prayers will go with her.



New Life Bible Study Begins

On Monday September 19 we will begin our New Life Bible Study groups. The groups will meet 3 Mondays per month. We will have time for fellowship, learning and small group discussion. The purpose of each group is to support each other and help each other grow in our walk with Christ. **Ellen Kobylewski** will be leading a woman's group, **Ian Rogenski** and **Marshall Nystrom** will be leading a men's group and **Pastor Bill** will be leading a co-ed group. All are welcome. If you have any questions please feel free to call **Pastor Bill** in the church office.

Disciple I Starting in September

Disciple I is a spiritual journey that will begin in September and run through May (roughly the school year). It is a Bible study course (homework is required) that will meet weekly Tuesdays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Amy Johnson and **Annette Brown** will be the leaders. Watch for registration forms in the Sunday bulletins or call the office, 847-882-6116, if you are interested in attending.

Thank You

On August 18, 2005 **Bev Wilkes** retired as the secretary of our Administrative Council. Bev has been serving in this capacity for over 7 years. Bev brought a great commitment and a skill level to the task that was truly incredible. We would like to thank her for her commitment to the ministry and mission of *Our Redeemer's*.

Youth Director Expands Hours

For the past 2 months our Staff Parish committee has been working with **Marianne Rogenski**, asking her to increase her hours, in an attempt to strengthen our youth program. As a result Marianne will increase her work hours from 15 to 25 per week. Her additional responsibilities will be to work with our confirmation program. This will include being the primary organizer for the class, communication with parents and students, recruiting and training small group leaders for the class and organizing mission and educational activities. In addition Marianne will teach a summer Bible Study for high school students.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Bill



by *Marianne Rogenski*

Youth Council

The Youth Council of ORUMC has a great year planned and we hope that you will be a part of it! We have activities for 4th-6th grade students, Jr. High students, and High School students. The 4th-6th grade group will meet 3 times during the school year and once in the summer, the Jr. and Sr. High groups will meet regularly throughout the year and also have several special events such as Youth Outreach, the ski trip, and 30 Hour Famine. Thanks to everyone on Youth Council for planning an amazing year!

4th-6th Grade Group

The first event for the 4th-6th grade group will be October 28, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at church. This is a family game night. There will be games of all sorts, food, and plenty of fun and fellowship! The whole family is invited so come and get acquainted with the other families of 4th-6th graders!

Sr High

The Sr. High kick-off is September 11, 6:30-8:00 p.m. We are asking all students to bring their favorite appetizer or dessert to

share and we will also play games and have tons of fun! If you can't bring anything that is fine, too—just come for the fun and fellowship. It should be a great start for the year!

Confirmation Class

The Confirmation picnic will be September 18, 4:00-5:30 p.m. We will supply hamburgers and hot dogs if you will bring a dish to pass! We will have confirmation schedules and other information along with great games and fun! This is an event for the whole family!

Students who have been in the confirmation program for the past 2 years will be confirmed on September 25 at the 10:30 a.m. service. Congratulations to all of you!

Outreach 2005

The Northern Illinois Conference is having Outreach 2005 on September 24, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at North Central College in Naperville. This is a great event that we have attended for the last 3 years. The day begins with music and worship, then lunch is served, we go to serve others at various worksites, and the day ends with a communion service. The cost is \$15.00 for youth and adults which includes bagels in the morning, lunch, worksite materials, and a t-shirt. If you are interested in going I need to know and have your fee by September 11. The registration deadline is September 12. This is really a fun time and a chance to spend the day with youth from all over the conference. I also need adults willing to drive and chaperone for the day.

Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering with the youth ministry, there are several opportunities. We need a couple of adults to lead small groups for the confirmation students. This group gets together twice a month throughout the school year. This is an excellent opportunity to really get to know some of the youth in the church in a deeper way. We also need adults to volunteer with the high school students. They meet every Sunday evening and there are games, Bible studies, and fun! You would not be required to plan lessons, just show up and get to know the students! The youth council is planning on participating in a fall workshop on youth ministry put on by Group Publishing—if you are interested in volunteering, you would be invited (but certainly not required!) to attend with us. If you are thinking about this at all, please feel free to contact **Marianne Rogenski** at marianne@orumc.org or 847-882-6116.

Voices of Light

A special congratulations to all involved with Voices of Light and a HUGE thanks to **Ron Zemke**—you all put on an amazing show! *Wonders* premiered at ORUMC August 12 and 13 and we are all looking forward to seeing it on the road!

Appalachia Service Project

Thanks to all who remembered the Appalachia Service Project team in your prayers. We left church on July 30 with 32 youth and adults. We were in Minnie, KY for the week

repairing homes, bonding with one another, taking in the culture, and truly being touched by God. We fixed bathrooms, built retaining walls, finished bedrooms, stabilized porches, and much more. It was an awesome week for all involved. Thank you **Our Redeemer's** for your love and support and thank you to all on the 2005 team—you are incredible people!

Youth Schedule

September

- 11 *Sr. High Kick-Off* 6:30 -8:00 p.m.
- 18 *Confirmation picnic* 4:00-5:30 p.m.
Sr. High MUF 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- 24 *Outreach 2005* 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- 25 *Confirmation Sunday* 10:30 a.m.

October

- 2 *Confirmation* 4:00-5:30 p.m.
Sr. High MUF 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- 9 *Sr. High MUF* 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- 16 *Confirmation* 4:00-5:30 p.m.
Sr. High MUF 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- 23 *Sr. High MUF* 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- 28 *4th-6th grade family game night* 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- 30 *Sr. High MUF* 6:30-8:00 p.m.

From Richard Vales

Dear *Our Redeemer's*

I was able to give out over 100 bags of food this week. Everyone gets a Christian book worth about \$4.95 in the store. I ordered 600 more and will get them delivered in the Philippines native language. I do not pay for the book and I do not have to pay for delivery.

I have several teams of people who help me in all that I do. I have people who go with me when I get the food and people who help pack the food, weigh it out, and give it out. None of these people get paid but sometimes I can provided them with a snack like a drink and bread for there help.

In each bag of food there is a note telling the people who receive the food the name of the person or church who has provided the money to buy the food and I ask them to say a prayer for them. We also give an invitation to the people to a local church if they can figure out how to get there. Sometimes we can arrange for someone to bring them back. I always get several pastors and pastor's assistants to come with us. After they receive the food they get together and pray with them and their families. We lay a plastic tarp not he ground for the children to sit on and the teachers tell them stores and play games with them. We teach them songs and prayers and tell them stores about Jesus.

On my last visit out to the field several people were crying and when I asked why they said no one has ever come to help them

no one cares about them. There was a lady who was over 50 years old and said I was the first person to come and help them. Before we go to a place we send people out weeks in advance to check out the people so that we know who is the most needy. These people are not lazy. They just have no way to care for their families. We have the people line up and give out the food, cross there names off of the list that was provided and have them sign a thank you note and then pray with them.

My ministry is growing bigger all of the time. When I first arrived here I had no help and now there are so many people who are helping me with this important ministry. I continue to give out WWJD bracelets, make a daily devotional card holder, a children's Bible game, cakes and cookies that I sell to get money for food. So all of this keeps me quite busy. My day starts at 5:30 AM and ends around 12:00 PM and except for lunch and dinner I never stop working. I do not tell you this to feel sorry for me I tell you his to show you how much I am dedicated to this work and loving every minute of it. I am so blessed that the Lord gave me this work!!

An update on my health-I am getting better each day but it is a slow progress. I have pain all of the time but it is not as bad as before. I can now do more things than I could before. Praise the Lord. Thank you all for your prayers-PRAYERS DO WORK.

Love in Christ,
Richard

Sunday School Has Started!

We are really excited about this year and we hope that you are too! We have many returning teachers as well as new teachers to help our children. A new aspect of our program is song time where the children will be singing as a regular part of our curriculum. We encourage everyone to make sure you are on time on Sunday mornings so that we all can get the most out of our program!

The Education committee always welcomes any one who would like to be a part of our program as a teacher, substitute, or aide. If you are interested, please contact **Amy Meyer**, **Amy Johnson**, or any member of the education committee.



01	Simon Enriquez
01	Wesley Enriquez
01	Ryan Randall
04	Jenna Edwards
04	Chris Machonis
04	Sean Nichols
05	Ian Shaw
09	Sarah Pepper
19	Abby Kielhack
23	Garrett Brown
29	Josh Brown
29	Taylor Swartz

Acolyte Training

Attention Confirmation Students, 4th, 5th, and 6th Graders! Acolyte training starts soon. Contact **Denise Pepper**, (847) 304-0146, for details.



**There's
Music
in the
Air...**

...as ORUMC's choirs and ensembles begin rehearsals for worship. The week of September 4th will find most groups rehearsing and preparing music for the September services.

New members are always welcome in these groups and we invite you to join us. Please see a music committee member or call the church office if you have any questions.

Weekly Rehearsal Begins:

Tuesday, Sept.6 - 5:00 - Cherub Choir
Tuesday, Sept. 6 - 5:20 - Children's Choir
Tuesday, Sept.6 - 7:15 - Praise Team
Wednesday, Sept.7 - 6:30 - Chancel Choir and Chimes potluck
Wednesday, Sept. 7 - 7:30 - Chancel Choir
Sunday Sept 11, 7:45 Chancel Choir rehearsal - choir sings at both services.
Wednesday, Sept.14 - 6:30 - Chancel Chimes rehearsal
Random Ringers and Men's Chorus - to be announced

Mom's Night Out September 8, 7:00 p.m.

Mom's Night Out for September is Thursday the 8th at Applebee's on Barrington Road at 7:00 p.m. Please call or email **Annette Brown** if you know you are coming.

Reservations are not required, but helpful. If you don't know until the last minute still feel free to join us for dinner or just dessert. We will also be setting the calendar for the rest of the school year.



ORUMC Family Camping

The camping season is winding down, but there is still time for some more fun, food and fellowship. Reservations are already in for the September campout, but space may still be available.

The location for the October campout has been changed so that we can make reservations. If you plan to go to either campout or would like more information, contact the hosts as soon as possible.

September 9-11

Devil's Lake State Park, Baraboo, WI
John Montgomery & Jamie Addams
630-830-6831

October 7-10

Shabonna Lake State Park
Shabbona, IL
Ian & Marianne Rogenski
847-969-1741



Anybody looking for a good time and some fellowship should join **Our Redeemer's UMC** bowling league.

You do not have to be a good bowler to join. We bowl every other Sunday night at 6:30 p.m. at Poplar Creek Bowl in Hoffman Estates. The league starts Sept. 11 and ends in early May. If you are interested in joining us, please contact **Dan Meyer** at (847) 884-9629. Hope to see many of you Sept. 11.

Sep.	11 & 25
Oct.	9 & 23
Nov.	6 & 20
Dec.	4 & 18
Jan.	15 & 29
Feb.	12 & 26
Mar.	12 & 26
Apr.	9 & 23
May	7 & 21

United Methodist Men

All men of **Our Redeemer's** are invited to participate in all of the UMM activities.

You are automatically members.

UMM Breakfast Meeting September 10, 8:00 a.m.

Our September breakfast meeting is at 8:00 a.m. on September 10 at Old Country Buffet on Barrington Road. The doors open at 8:00 a.m. Make sure you say you are part of the UMM group to get the discount price. Look for us in the banquet room.

United Methodist Men's Spiritual Congress *September 16-18*

The **Rev. Tony Campolo**, inspirational speaker and noted evangelism authority, will be the featured speaker at the Northern Illinois Conference United Methodist Men's Spiritual Congress at Conference Point in Williams Bay, Wis.

The congress will be Friday evening, September 16, through Sunday afternoon, September 18. Bishop Hee-Soo Jung is also scheduled to be a speaker at the congress.

Contact **Marshall Nystrom**, 847-884-9973, if you need more information or would like to attend.

United Methodist Women *September 17, 9:00 a.m.*

Now that summer is over and fall is just around the corner, we are back on track with our UMW meeting schedule. All women of the church are invited to attend our next UMW Breakfast meeting on Saturday, September 17 at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting will be held at our church in the Wesley Room and breakfast is provided. The program is entitled "Praying Women" and will be presented by **Annette Brown**. Please join us for a wonderful morning of fellowship, friendship and FUN!

Mending God's Broken Heart

All are invited to lunch and discussion on justice issues on Sunday, September 25 at 11:45 a.m. in the Wesley Hall. Please call the church office, 847-882-6116, if you plan to attend.

Church Ladies Nite Out

The Church Ladies will be going out to Red Lobster on Golf and Plum Grove Rds. on September 28 at 7:00 p.m. Please join us and bring a friend! If you need a ride or have any questions, please call **Bev Wilkes** at 630-837-7889. Come join us in good fellowship, good fun and good food!

Sign Up for Potluck Groups

Sign up during September for the fall/spring series of Potluck Groups. Groups consist of four couples and/or singles who meet for a potluck meal and an evening of fun and fellowship. Each member of the group takes a turn at hosting and providing the main dish with the others providing the salad, veggie, and dessert. It's a great way to get acquainted with other members of ***Our Redeemer's***.

When recruitment is complete, groups will be assembled and you will be contacted in October. If you are interested in being in a group or would like more information, call **Jerry** or **Shirley McDaniel**, 847-895-7385.



Credit Seminar

Shirley Odegaard attended a Credit Seminar at Heritage Bank recently. Shirley wrote a summary of the information presented at the seminar. You can get a copy of Shirley's complete summary in the office.

The following is a condensed version touching on a few of the high points of the seminar. Shirley's complete summary addresses precautions that should be followed to maintain a clean credit record and minimize the chance of identity theft.

1. You are entitled by law to a free credit report given by the 3 credit companies every year. Check them annually.
2. The Credit Companies score your credit history and give that information to banks, mortgage companies, and other credit companies.
3. There is new credit and old credit. New credit is any credit that doesn't have a history of payment. Old credit is your history of payment of mortgage, car loans, and credit cards.
4. When you get a new credit card don't sign it. Instead write "Check ID" the clerk will then have to ask for your driver's license or other photo ID.
5. Try to make all of your credit payments on time. Late payments affect credit rating.

6. A rule of thumb for credit card debt is not to carry more than 75% of the credit limit on any card. (eg. Limit \$10,000 no more than \$7,500.)
7. When you consolidate your credit card debt into a new credit card, it creates debt without a history of payment that can affect your ranking score.
8. Reconcile your bank statement every month.
9. Save your credit card receipts. When your bill is received, check your purchases against the receipts.

The Three Credit Bureaus are:

Equifax: (800) 685-1111

Experian (formerly TRW): (888) 397-3742

TransUnion: (800) 888-4213

If you think your identity has been stolen:

1. Contact the fraud department of any of the 3 bureaus.
2. Close accounts that you believe have been tampered with.
3. File a police report and give to all your creditors.
4. File a complaint with the FTC call Toll Free 1-877-IDTHEFT.



Finance Committee Report

Below is the Finance Summary as of the end of July as reported in the Finance Meeting on Tuesday August 16.

Regular envelope income is \$178,000 which is 8% below budget, but 4% ahead of July, 2004. July was a 5 Sunday month, but considering it was the height of the summer, Finance is pleased we are ahead of last year.

Total income (including Sprint) is \$207,000 and total expenses are \$201,000, so our overall picture is in the black. July expenses include more than half of the total cost of the new windows from Home Depot. The rest will follow, probably this month or next.

Budgeting process will begin in September for all committees with expenses to be included in the 2006 Budget. Letters and summary reports for the last 12 months will go to each committee head.

Our Charge conference is October 2, which is early this year. Finance will not be submitting a final 2006 budget for approval at that time, since the Consecration Lunch and EMC gifts will still be in progress. If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Finance chair, **Carolyn Meneely**

YTD Actual vs. Budget Through July 2005

Category	Actual	Budget	\$ Change	% Change
Congregation Gifts & Tithes	178,091	192,610	(14,519)	-8%
Sprint Rent	14,729	14,729	-	0%
Other Income	14,402	13,790	612	4%
Total Income	207,222	221,129	(13,907)	-6%
Total Expenses	200,748	222,372	(21,624)	-10%
Net Income (Loss)	6,474	(1,234)	7,718	



Crisis Center

The items for the CCC for September will be facial tissues, band aids, and RID shampoo. Please leave these items in the church office in the baskets.

Tour of Hindu Temple

by Shirley Odegaard

On Monday, July 18, 2005, a group us from *Our Redeemer's* and friends visited the BAPS - Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Hindu Temple. The temple is located on Route 59 just south of Army Trail Road in Bartlett, Illinois. A tour guide was waiting for us and showed us where to place our shoes (shoes are not permitted in the facility or Mandir). No mini skirts or shorts either. He explained a lot of information about the Hindu faith and answered many of our questions before we even started the tour.

The education facility was dedicated in 2000. The Mandir (Temple) was dedicated in August of 2004 with a 15-day celebration. The gardens have not been completed and I am sure they will be beautiful when finished.

The Hindu faith dates back over 11,000 years, and started in caves in the Himalayan Mountains. The Hindu prays 5 times a day. They believe that everyone receives blessings from God in the form of Wind, Water, Fire, Earth, and Light. There are followers of the Hindu faith all over the world.

The education facility is made primarily of hand carved teakwood that was carved in India and shipped here for assembly. The Mandir is 8000 tons of marble (much of it from Italy) again hand carved in India and brought here for assembly, almost exclusively by volunteers! There are no metal supports in either building. Everything is perfectly fitted together, much like a log cabin or Lego's. All of us agreed that it is

breathtakingly beautiful.

The Education Facility and Mandir are handicapped assessable and there is an elevator for those that have trouble walking the stairs and there are a lot of marble stairways. There are no windows in the Mandir so light is provided by fiber optics that are run through the numerous pillars to the roof and steeples. The paintings, statues, and lighting are beautiful.

We had an opportunity to attend a brief prayer service in which candles were lit and passed in the congregation by volunteers, you hold your hands over the flame for a brief moment and then rub your hands over your head. That is a blessing from God. Men and women sit in different parts of the marble floor (no pews, benches, or chairs) or stand in the rear.

The only other Mandir in the United States is in Houston, Texas. There are several located in other parts of the world. The Temple is open for tours from 9:00 a.m. to noon daily at no charge. It is well worth the time and effort to learn about another faith.

I was glad that I was able to arrange and take part of this tour. It was beautiful.

Secretary Needed

The Ad Council is looking for a secretary to take the minutes at the monthly Ad Council meetings. The secretary also sends minutes to the Ad Council members and to **Marshall** to post on the web. If interested please call **Sherrie Cottrell**, 847-895-0176.

Rogers Park Anniversary

by JoAnne Gregorash

The United Church of Rogers Park will celebrate their *100th* anniversary on October 15, 2005. To celebrate, they will have a combination Open House and Bake Sale fundraiser on that day. Anyone who would be willing to bake for this, please bring you baked goods to church on Friday, October 14. I will personally deliver them on Saturday.

The fundraiser is to help them remodel their kitchen that serves between 50-100 homeless and/or hungry people every Sunday night. The soup kitchen at this church has been an integral part of this neighborhood for many, many years. It is in very poor condition and needs to be updated very badly.

They have raised about 2/3 of the funds that they need. They are going forth in faith with the remodeling knowing that God will provide.

If you are unable to bake something, they would also welcome any monetary donations regardless of size. You can make a check payable to the "United Church of Rogers Park" and put Soup Kitchen on the memo line and that money will be put towards their kitchen. If you would like to mail the check, their address is United Church of Rogers Park, 1545 W. Morse Ave., Chicago, IL 60626. Please put attn: **Judy Klein** on the envelope as she is the gal in charge of the soup kitchen.



Personal Notes

Rickleff's Weathered the Storm

Former *Our Redeemer's* pastor, **Fred** and **Doris Rickleff**, came through the recent tornadoes that hit the Stoughton, WI area without damage to their home. Several homes were destroyed and one person died when the tornado touched down north of town.

Doris reported that they slept through the storm. Fred said they had received several calls from ORUMC folks checking on their status and they were glad to be remembered by their *Our Redeemer's* friends.



Paige Eleanor Stout

Congratulations to **Cathy** and **Andreas Stout** on the birth of their daughter, **Paige Eleanor**, on August 3, 2005.



The congregation extends deepest sympathy to **Denise Pepper** and her family on the death of her brother, **Mark Woodward**.

Our Redeemer's United Methodist Church

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