



The Redeemer Review

Proclaiming Christ into the 21st Century

Volume 1

January, 2006

Pastor's Corner

Worship Series Coming



Last year I was speaking with my friend and clergy colleague, **Chris Pierson**. Chris shared with me that often, when it comes to issues of belief and theology, we tend to see things with a “WTA” approach, **Winner Take All**. When it comes to issues of faith there often seems to be lacking a practice of open discussion, honest sharing and Christian loving, and we are afraid to share, to listen and to learn. When those things do not happen, and we treat faith discussions like a bout of professional wrestling (complete with theological “head locks”), then we all lose, and our community is diminished. In January we will be doing a series on some of the basic issues of faith, with an emphasis on the power of having clear beliefs, in the context of a loving church community. Please join us for each of these as we discuss some of the central issues of our faith. Below you will find the dates and the sermon focus for each Sunday.

January 1: *It's the Little Things:*

The Power of Forgiveness

January 8: *Faith and Community:*

Being a Loving Church

January 15: *Theology:*

The Beauty of our Minds

January 22: *Creeds:*

Faith and Trust

January 29: *Our Story:*

The Bible and Arm Wrestling

Also, please note the upcoming series for February and for our Lenten season.

Upcoming Sermon Series:

February

Faith and Addictions: What we can learn from the Recovery Movement

Lent

Revelation: A Book of Hope, Not Fear

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Bill



Crisis Center Items

As the cold and flu season comes around the items for the Crisis Center will be Tylenol, cough syrup (non-alcohol) and aspirin. These items are needed to help keep the Crisis Center's medicine chest filled up. Please leave these products in the church office in the baskets. Thank you for your donations.

Redeemer Review

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Our Redeemer's

United Methodist Church

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Worship Services at 9:00 and 10:30 am

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Rev. Bill Shaw

Church Secretary:

Donna Echtner

Director of Youth Ministries:

Marianne Rogenski

Co-Editors:

Jim Cottrell

Jerry Mc Daniel

Discipleship:

Working for the Kingdom

“And his gifts were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for ministry, for building up the body of Christ.”

Ephesians 4: 11

Many of us come to church to feel the grace of God in Jesus Christ, to be strengthened in our daily walk with Christ, and to share fellowship with one another. Many of the early followers of Jesus met for these reasons. However, they also met to help each other grow as disciples, **equipping** each other through prayer, study and support. Coming in the next 2 months at **Our Redeemer's** we will be offering 2 different classes that can help equip each of us for Christian ministry.

The first will be held on **January 30 and 31** (same class). At this class we will hear about Spiritual Gifts and take a survey to identify our gifts for ministry. **Pastor Bill** and **Jeff Greenwalt** will lead this class.

The second will be a class on ministry by strengths. The class will be held on **February 27 and 28** (same class). For this class we will ask each participant to purchase a book published by the Gallup organization, read the book and take the on-line survey (via the internet). **Pastor Bill** and **Doug Meneely** will lead this class.

Please prayerfully consider being part of one or both of these educational opportunities.

Grace and Peace
Pastor Bill

To all ORUMC Members,

Hi, this is Rev. Richard from the Philippines. Just a short report on how things are going. As far as my health is concerned, it's about the same, maybe a little worse, but as I have learned I thank God for the good he has given me and also for the pain I have.

Hungry people are all around me and I know that I cannot feed them all, but I will feed as many as I can, with the help of your church and the others who send me money for food. I thank you for the money you have sent me already and I will pray that you will continue to send me money for food each and every month.

Every person I feed I feed in the name of the person that has sent me money for food I buy and give out. I am here 8 years now and miss all of you and all of my family very much. I am doing what God has called me to do and with your help I will keep on feeding hungry people, until I am taken from this earth.

Please know that 100% that is every single penny that you send me goes to buy food for the hungry people. I am living off my SS and I give 30% of it to help buy what the hungry people need. I am telling you this because I need you to believe that I am doing all I can to feed as many hungry people as I can with the money you send me. Just as a quick example, in the 8 years I have been here I have spent to date less than \$50.00 on my clothing. This is because I am still O.K. with the clothing I brought when I came here. I need nothing except your love and support.

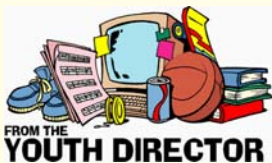
The only thing that is important to me is feeding hungry people. I many many times go to bed and cry because I cannot feed more hungry people, and I remember the people I was not able to give food to. I am 100% devoted to this cause and I am so thankful for all your prayers, support and love. Which without I could not carry on. I know that you all have many problems in your life, and I also realize that the people I feed are very far away from you and you do not see the hunger and the pain they are in. I know the Lord will bless ORUMC and all it's members for your most gracious help.

I ask for your prayers on a daily basis to help me continue here and to also inspire many people to send money to feed more hungry people. I promise each and every one of you that when we meet in heaven I will be there waiting for you and give you the biggest hug you have ever had, and thank you personally for all your help in feeding the hungry people.

May you all have a fantastic Christmas and happy New Year, and may the Lord bless you and everyone in you life and give you the best year in 2006. May his love be with you at all times and may you feel his arms around you always.

Love in Christ to All,
Rev. Richard

Richard Vales is a former Our Redeemer's member who went to the Philippines on business and was so struck by the plight of the people that he moved to the Philippines to help feed the people.



by Marianne Rogenski

Attention Confirmation Students:

As was presented at the beginning of the school year, you are required to serve at the Soup Kitchen in Roger's Park twice this year. All soup kitchen dates from January through May will be available for the Confirmation students. The dates that are set are as follows:

- January 29
- February 26
- March 26

The April and May dates have not been determined but you will be informed as soon as they are. In addition to students going to serve, we need parents to drive and be there with the students, so please let Marianne know if you are interested in this.

Look for more information soon pertaining to the outing to Beth Tikvah Synagogue on February 17. We will also need parents at that event.

Attention Sr. High

On January 8 we will go bowling at Bowling and Beyond. We will be there from 2-4pm and hopefully get a couple of games in. Please meet there and plan on having someone pick you up there. Bring enough money to bowl 2 games plus rent shoes if you need to. If you want to eat, you need to bring money for that also. Please feel free to invite your friends!

The new schedules have been revised so if your latest one is pink, please pick up a new blue one!

30 Hour Famine

This year's famine is February 24-25 with Famine Sunday the 26th. Please consider participating in this amazing event. It is for all Jr. and Sr. High students. The fast starts at 3pm on Friday and students come to the church at 6pm. During the fast students are allowed to have water or 100% fruit juice. If you have a child that would like to participate but is unable to fast, please talk to Marianne and we can work something out. The fast ends at 9pm on Saturday with a huge potluck in Wesley Hall. During the fast we play games, do Bible studies, participate in a service project, go on one outing, and just have tons of fun and fellowship together. There will be a letter sent home soon with more details.

This is an event that is great fun to help with! If you are interested in helping in any way, please let Marianne know.

30 Hour Famine packets are available now so please see Marianne if you are interested!

Schedule of Events

Confirmation

January

- 15 Class 4-5:30pm
- 20-22 Ski Trip
- 29 Class 4-5:30pm

February

5 Confirmation 4-5:30pm
17 Beth Tikvah Synagogue
19 Confirmation 4-5:30pm
24-25 30 Hour Famine
26 Famine Sunday Both Services

Sr. High

January

8 Bowling at Bowling and Beyond 2-4pm
15 MYF 6:30-8pm
20-22 Ski Trip
29 MYF 6:30-8pm

February

5 MYF 6:30-8pm
12 MYF 6:30-8pm
19 MYF 6:30-8pm
24-25 30 Hour Famine
26 Famine Sunday Both Services



01/05 Ian Klocko
01/07 Nathan Kessler
01/08 Noni Victoria
01/11 Nicole Victoria
01/20 Morgan Schmidt
01/26 Megan Gaska
01/26 Tim Shaw
01/27 Jonathan Dean
01/28 Hayley Dombek
01/30 Danny Launhardt
01/31 Nick Penev



January 20-22

Schedule:

Friday evening-leave ORUMC at 6:30 p.m.
Saturday-Skiing or snowboarding at Alpine Valley
Saturday evening-Entertainment by a live Christian band
Sunday morning-Worship service and return to ORUMC

Cost:

Includes lodging, food and fellowship at Wesley Woods as well as the lift ticket and a lesson at Alpine Valley:

\$95 per person (with ski/snowboard rental)

\$76 per person (without rental)

Note: Scholarships are available; please do not let the cost of the trip prevent you from going.

If you are in junior or senior high school or want to chaperone please call **Cathy Mottar** at 630-682-5890 or 630-802-5976 or email mottarc@sbcglobal.net for a registration form.



Mom's Night Out
Thursday January
5, 7:00 p.m.

Come to Bennagin's January 5 at 7:00 p.m. for a night of food and fellowship, where someone else does all the cooking and cleaning!

Mom's Night Out is for all moms, but especially for those with school aged or younger children. To find out more or to make a reservation please call Annette Brown, 847-882-8629, 847-341-8445, email at annetteb421@sbcglobal.net.

Reservations are not needed but it is always helpful to know how many people are coming when getting a table. If you can't make it until later please feel free to join us for dessert!

UMM Breakfast Meeting
January 7, 8:00 a.m.
Note - Date Change

The United Methodist Men's monthly breakfast meeting is a week early in January. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. on January 7 at Old Country Buffet on Barrington Road. Don't forget to ask for the group rate.

After breakfast we will go to church and remove the Christmas decorations. All men of the church are invited.

United Methodist Women
January 21, 9:00 a.m.

Celebrate the New Year by surrounding yourself with the fun and fellowship planned by the United Methodist Women for 2006. We have a whole series of programs centered on the theme- "Year of the World".

All women of the church are invited to attend our meetings. Our January Breakfast meeting will be held at the church at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, January 21. The first program of the year is entitled "Trip to China" and will be presented by Jill Wood-Naatz. Also at this meeting we will have an abridged version of our annual pledge service.

Join us for Fun, Friendship and Fellowship. Breakfast is provided.

Super Bowl Spaghetti Dinner
Feb 5, 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

February 5 the United Methodist Men will host their annual Super Bowl Sunday Spaghetti Dinner featuring their world famous meatballs. The prices are: Adult \$7; Child \$5; Family \$20.

This year the proceeds from the dinner will help provide *Strength for Service* devotional books for our military men and women on active duty. The books are updates of the devotional books originally printed by the Methodist Publishing House and issued to service men during World War II.

Disciple Bible Study *Moving to a New Time*

Was your New Year's Resolution to study the Bible more? Guess What! After a little break, we have decided to move our meeting time to Tuesday mornings at 11 am. We have not gone too far into the study so if you are interested in joining us, grab your Bible, a sack lunch, and meet us for our first meeting of the New Year on January 17. This Disciple study will go from January until the first week of June (Old Testament through the Gospels). We will then take a break and start up again in September and finish the New Testament by the end of November. We hope that some of our church family will join our group! If you have any questions, please contact **Amy Johnson** at 630-372-4722.

Sunday School Christmas Program

by Amy Johnson

How wonderful it was to see the children of *Our Redeemer's* performing the Christmas pageant that we love to see at this time of year! There were actors, singers, chime ringers, readers, and narrators! We really enjoyed the fabulous performance given by our Sunday school children and many thanks go out to those that helped put this performance together.

To our wonderful director **Lynne Gaska**, the wonderful parents that bring the children to all the church activities, the children themselves, and the adult volunteers that gave the extra support when it was most needed, Thank-you for a Wonderful Gift of Christmas!

Finance Report

The following are the financial results through the end of November. Income from congregational gifts and tithes is \$273,490 which is about 8% below budget. Operating expenses are about 8% below budget. Total operating income of \$327,163 includes \$11,000 that was transferred from the capital account to pay for window replacement in the Wesley Hall. Total expenses are \$320,091 for an operating surplus of about \$7,072 (after the \$11,000 transfer).

At the November 17 meeting the Ad Council approved the Finance Committee's recommended budget of \$369,000 for 2006. This is down \$10,000 from 2005 total of \$379,000 primarily because Staff Parish took out the 2nd pastor salary that was part of the 2005. As of December 13 projected 2006 congregational gifts and tithes is \$329,000. If all commitments are received, that will cover 89% of expenses.

YTD Actual vs. Budget Through November 2005

	Actual	Budget	\$ Change	% Change
Congregation Gifts & Tithes	273,490	298,235	(24,745)	-8%
Sprint Rent	23,216	23,216	-	0%
Other Income	30,457	18,835	11,622	62%
Total Income	327,163	340,286	(13,123)	-4%
Total Expenses	320,091	346,401	(26,311)	-8%
Net Income (Loss)	7,072	(6,116)	13,188	

Personal Notes



New Address

Jim and **Kim Seamon** have survived their first hurricane and are now enjoying warmer weather in their new Florida retirement home. Their new address is:

1460 Blue Lake Circle
Punta Gorda, FL 33983-5903

Wedding Bells

Congratulations to **Kelly Brown** and **Roy Desmond** who were married on December 10. **Sally Brown** is the proud mother of the bride.

Blood Drive

Thank you to all who donated at the December 1 Blood Drive. Your gift is truly a gift of life.

Missing Coat

Someone wore the wrong coat home from church on December 11. If you have a black London Fog, size 12 with a hood and velvet lining, please make sure it's yours. If it's not, please call the church office, 847-882-6116.



Deaths

The congregation extends our deepest sympathy to:

Randy Schmidt and his family on the death of his father, **Stanley W. Schmidt**.

Jay Walkington and his family on the death of his father, **Paul Walkington**.

'Hi' from Ohio

...All's going OK here in the cornfields of Ohio!! David is finally set to retire completely (*about December 1*). What a long and drawn out process this has been.

We have kept up with the comings and goings of ORUMC and especially love getting the newsletter. We're still searching for a church home and we must stop comparing it to ORUMC! That's hard.

We're off to AZ for Lisa's son's birth—and some sunshine!...

Hugs,
David and Roberta Frederick
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Dublin, OH 43016

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