



The Redeemer

Review

Proclaiming Christ into the 21st Century

Volume 9

September, 2006

Summer 2006

It has been a joy to be part of the ministry team at *Our Redeemer's* this summer. There is no doubt in my mind that amazing things continue to happen at this "outpost of grace." Just look at some of the things that took place this summer.

Vacation Bible School

We had an awesome Vacation Bible School this year. The Marketplace curriculum we used helped children understand what it was like in Jesus' time and to learn about his teaching. This year we had over 70 children take part, many who were visitors to our church. The Education committee and directors did an amazing job this year. I am already looking forward to next summer's VBS.

Appalachian Service Project

This year we had 41 youth and adult leaders participate, traveling to Kentucky, repairing homes, learning about growing stronger as disciples of Jesus Christ.

New Orleans Mission Team

A group of 8 adults traveled to New Orleans to help repair homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina. They will be sharing their story on September 10th at both services

Voices of Light

For the 4th year in a row we have been blessed with our youth drama. The group rehearsed throughout the summer then put on a production in August. This year over 30 youth helped to put on the play Godspell. The director and many adults in the church put in countless hours so that our young people might act out the powerful stories from Jesus' life.

Castaway

Finally, this summer we began using our video screens more. With the help of members from our Worship and Tech teams we were able to use the video Castaway as a tool for Sunday morning messages.

Hope you all had a wonderful and restful summer and I am looking forward to an amazing season of ministry this fall.



Redeemer Review

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Our Redeemer's

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Hunger: Do You Know the Facts?

It is estimated that one billion people in the world suffer from hunger and malnutrition. That's roughly 100 times as many as those who actually die from these causes each year.

About **24,000 people die every day from hunger** or hunger-related causes. This is down from 35,000 ten years ago, and 41,000 twenty years ago. Three-fourths of the deaths are children under the age of five.

Famine and wars cause about 10% of hunger deaths, although these tend to be the ones you hear about most often. The majority of hunger deaths are caused by chronic malnutrition. Families facing extreme poverty are simply unable to get enough food to eat.

What hungry people need is simply food. That is why I feed hungry people and do it with your help. God Bless everyone who helps!

Love in Christ to all.

Richard Vales

United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men have two events in September. Our regular monthly breakfast meeting is September 9, 8:00 a.m. at Old Country Buffet. The Northern Illinois Conference UMM Spiritual Congress is a weekend retreat in Williams Bay, WI on September 15-17.

All men of the church are welcome. Contact **Marshall Nystrom**, 847-884-9973, for details.



“Blessed are the peace makers, for they will be called children of God”

Matthew 5: 9

In recent times we have seen how difficult it is to know peace in our world. After World War I there was much discussion about the “war to end all wars.” After the war in Vietnam there were movements in our nation talking about the power of peace instead of war. Yet in our times, to even talk about peace seems empty. How can we even think about being peacemakers in a world such as ours? I firmly believe that when Jesus teaches us about life, his lessons are not just idealistic teaching about God, but are often lessons that give us practical tools for dealing with tough issues in our life.

So, for us as followers of Jesus what does it mean for us to be peacemakers in our world? Let me offer a few suggestions relative to current times.

1) *Be a peacemaker by resisting easy answers:* Often in discussing difficult issues we are told the answers are easy. For example, I have heard that all we need to do is be peaceful and everything will be fine. I have also heard that all we need to do is “make war” against the “bad guys.” History has shown that these answers do not work. As Jesus’ disciples, I would ask you to commit

to read, learn and listen about the issues of our time, especially the issues that surround war.

2) *Be a peacemaker by being the first to “walk across the room”:* Conflicts in our life and in our world are often built around mis-understanding and stereotypes. I would strongly suggest that we at *Our Redeemer’s* be those who make “first contact” with others who are different from us. Learn about other traditions and cultures. Work at knowing all people as children of God.

3) *Know your life’s purpose:* A journalist who has covered many wars (**Christopher Hedges**) suggests that war often gives our lives a meaning and a purpose. War and violence can be extremely seductive as it makes us part of a dynamic, intense cause. What if, for those of us at *Our Redeemer’s*, our purpose to share the love of Christ was so strong; there would be no room for war to give us a purpose? The use of violence would be seen as a tragedy that is used sparingly and with humility, not with bravado.

4) *Finally, pray for peace daily:* Make a prayer for peace a stable part of your devotional life as we continue to discern God’s calling for us in these difficult times.

Peace,
Pastor Bill

Youth News

by Marianne Rogenski

School has started and it is time for the youth ministry at ORUMC to kick it into high gear! Please check out the following schedules for Youth Club (4th-6th grade), confirmation (7th-8th grade), and Sr. High (9th-12th grade). There are a couple of new things for Sr. High so you should take special note there.

Confirmation students:

Your stuff starts on September 10! We will meet from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. with parents and then there is a picnic at 5:00 p.m. Please bring a dish to pass. Meat will be provided.

September 10

Confirmation class 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Dinner 5:00 - 5:45 p.m.

October 1

Confirmation class 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

October 15

Confirmation class 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Freshman being confirmed this fall:

There are two dates this month that are important for you to note. September 10 we are having a potluck dinner at 5:00 p.m. Please bring a dish to pass. Meat will be provided. Immediately following the dinner, at 5:45, we will have confirmation rehearsal which parents should attend. This should only be about half an hour long. Then, on September 17 you will be confirmed in front of the congregation! This will take place at

the second service, 10:30am.

Sr. High students:

We are trying something new this year—a brunch once a month! The youth council is currently looking into places to have it and our first one will be on September 24 at 10:30am. We are looking forward to this meal and fellowship with you every month!

Also new this year is the name for the youth group. We got bored with MYF so this year Sr. High youth group nights will be H2O. This stands for His To Own and of course also ties in with water—essential for life—and living water. We are excited about this new name and hope that you will be too! Your friends are always welcome at our meetings so feel free to invite them to the evening and brunch meetings!

Here is the fall schedule which will also be in the mail for you soon.

September 10 H2O 6:30-8:00 p.m.

September 17 H2O 6:30-8:00 p.m.

September 24 Brunch 10:30-11:30 a.m.

October 1 H2O 6:30-8:00 p.m.

October 8 H2O 6:30-8:00 p.m.

October 15 H2O 6:30-8:00 p.m.

October 22 Brunch 10:30-11:30 a.m.

October 29 H2O 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Youth Club (4th-6th grade)

It was great to see all of you at the picnic in July and very nice to meet all of the families in this group! We have one event planned for you in the fall—a Halloween party on October 29 from 4-5:30pm. Mark your calendars

now and look for more information in the future!

Katrina Mission Team

The Katrina Mission Team was in New Orleans July 15-23, 2006. This was an amazing trip for the 8 adults who went and we look forward to continuing this ministry with some youth next summer. All who went have stories that we would love to share with you, so feel free to strike up a conversation when you see us. We worked on two homes and felt like we did make a difference, although this is going to be a long process for that city. The residents there are full of hope and faith and were so grateful for all of the help that they are receiving. We would like to thank the congregation for supporting this mission and allowing us to do the work that we did. If you are interested in hearing more about our experience we will be talking about it on September 10 at both worship services.

Thanks so much,

The Katrina Mission Team

Jamie Addams, Sue Bruneau, Michelle Hill, Doug Meneely, Carolyn Meneely, Marianne Rogenski, Mert Rutledge and Holly Yee.

Looking ahead:

Open Mic Night will be on November 10 at 7:00 p.m. Dig out those old instruments, poems, jokes, etc. Get it on your calendar now! There will be plenty of fun, fellowship, and entertainment!

Education News

by Amy Johnson

By now, most of our children have started back to school. We are very excited to be starting Sunday School very soon! Rally Day, our first day of Sunday School, is September 10 at the 9:00 am service. Our teachers are busy planning out the lessons and we are looking forward to seeing our students again! We will all be starting in the sanctuary so please bring your children into worship with you!

We are still looking for a co-teacher for our 1st and 2nd graders and we are looking for some song leaders for our Sunday School. These jobs are a wonderful way of meeting our children! The teaching job is only every other month with another adult, and the song leaders are involved for only the first 10 minutes of Sunday School. We will also be starting to work on our Christmas program soon so please watch for more information!

Parents, please remember to pick-up your children promptly after the worship time is over. Many of our teachers have children at other age levels so we want to make sure dismissal goes quickly for all who are involved! ORUMC is concerned about child safety and we want to make sure that all children are supervised to avoid any accidents that may happen.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate in calling! You can reach **Amy Johnson** at 630-372-4722

Thanks for all of your support and see you on September 10!

Memorial Committee

The Memorial Fund was established to provide a way for family, friends, and members of Our Redeemers to remember loved ones. Donations to the Memorial Fund may be earmarked for specific gifts to the church at the discretion of the family of the deceased.

The most important responsibility of the Memorial Committee is to insure that donations are fulfilled at the request of the family. The Memorial Committee keeps records of donations to the fund and disbursements from the fund.

The Memorial Committee does not meet on a regular basis, but meets as needed. When another committee of the church needs funds from the Memorial Fund for a specific project, a form for disbursement of funds from the Memorial fund is available in the church office. This form must be completed and approved by the Memorial Committee and the pastor before funds are disbursed.

The Memorial Committee has been hard at work this spring and summer developing new procedures and new forms. In addition, several projects have been completed, including renovation of the kitchen and the video projection system.

Please feel free to contact any member of the committee if you have any questions or suggestions.

The Memorial Committee
Jean Homeyer, Kathie Kapp, Mary Knoppel, Shirley Odegaard, Miriam Reid, Eufrocina Victoria

Church World Service

Founded in 1946, Church World Service is the relief, development, and refugee assistance ministry of 35 Protestant, Orthodox, and Anglican denominations in the United States. Working in partnership with indigenous organizations in more than 80 countries, CWS works worldwide to meet human needs and foster self-reliance for all whose way is hard.

Within the United States, Church World Service assists communities in responding to disasters, resettles refugees, promotes fair national and international policies, provides educational resources, and offers opportunities to join a people-to-people network of local and global caring through participation in CROP Walks, the Tools and Blankets Program, and the “Gift of the Heart” Kit Program.

... let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

1 John 3:18

Acolyte Training

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

Caring Ministry Comer

The C.R.O.P. Walk, sponsored by Church World Service, is a 6.2-mile walk to help fight hunger and provide relief and development assistance in more than 80 countries. Twenty-five per cent of funds raised remain in our community, benefiting The Kenneth Young Center, food pantries and P.A.D.S programs. This year the walk will be held on Sunday, October 15 at Our Saviors United Methodist on Schaumburg Road. Registration will be at 1:00 p.m. the walk begins at 1:30 p.m. If you are unable to walk, please consider sponsoring a walker. We are looking forward to walking with our church family again this year.

If you have any questions, call **Edie Machonis**, 847-882-1966, or **Doug Meneely**, 847-619-5652.

United Methodist Women

All women are invited to our Fall Kick-off meeting on Saturday, September 16 at 9:00 a.m. in the church.

Our program this month continues our "Year of the World" series and is entitled "RUSSIA-Then and Now." It will feature presentations by **Shirley Odegaard**, as well as representatives from the Community Crisis Center in Elgin (who recently visited Russia).

Breakfast will be provided by our Hostesses, **Eufrocina Victoria** and **Peggy Sanford**. Devotions will be presented by **Diep Nguyen**.

Please mark your calendars for this special event. Join us for FUN, FELLOWSHIP & FRIENDSHIP.

Finance Report

The following is the financial report through July 2006.

YTD Actual vs. Budget Through July 2006

	Actual	Budget	\$ Change	% Change
Congregation Gifts & Tithes	175,807	191,849	(16,042)	-8%
Sprint Rent	15,275	9,100	6,175	68%
Other Income	14,181	12,841	1,340	10%
Total Income	205,564	215,082	(9,818)	-5%
Total Expenses	208,065	214,780	(6,715)	-3%
Net Income (Loss)	(2,801)	302	(3,103)	

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The first meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the church. We will be explaining the Prayer Shawl Ministry, deciding how many times a month we should meet, what kind of brochure we should produce and how we will keep track of the shawls that we make.

No experience is required, we will teach you to knit or crochet. Please feel free to join us!

Mary Knoppel and Sherrie Cottrell



Sherrie Cottrell presenting a shawl to Evelyn Wiebel.

Church Ladies Nite Out

The Church Ladies will be going out Wednesday, September 20 at 7:00 p.m. to Macaroni Grill on Higgins and Barrington Road. Please join us and bring a friend; ALL ARE WELCOME! 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!



Crisis Center Items for September

Autumn's in the air. The Crisis Center can use: hats/gloves/mittens; ice-melt for sidewalk and driveway.

Medicine chest items (all items must be new, sealed and with current dates): non-alcohol cough syrup and non-aspirin pain reliever (for adults and children); antacids; RID shampoo; diarrhea medication; Orajel; Pedialyte; Band-Aids; antibiotic ointment; gauze; adhesive tape; disposable thermometers; peroxide; rubbing alcohol; and facial tissues.

Please place items in the baskets in the office.



Family Camping September 8-10 Campout Cancelled

**September 29-October 1
Starved Rock State Park
Utica, IL**

Saturday's potluck is Chili. Bring your mixture to add to the big mix.

Contact **Mark and Tracy Torgerson**,



The first choir rehearsals of the season will be as follows:

Sounds of Grace- Tuesday, Aug. 29

Cherub and Joyful Noise- Tuesday, Sept.5

Chancel Choir- Wednesday, Sept.6

Chancel Chimes- Wednesday, Sept. 13

Random Ringers- to be announced

For further information, please call the church office or the choir director.

On Saturday, September 16, the Music Committee is sponsoring a choral workshop. We invite and encourage all interested adults and youth to come to this special event. Our clinician is **Scott Foss**, a music editor at Ward-Brodt Music Publishing and the Director of Music at 1st United Methodist Church in Madison, WI.

Scott is an inspiring and accomplished musician as well as a fun director. The day will begin with a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and should conclude at 2:00 p.m. Please join us for a great day of singing!

Faith and Money

Faithfully Employing our Resources

John Wesley, the founder of our church, wrote powerfully on theology, how we know the saving power of God. His ideas about grace are still used to teach the faith to many. Yet Wesley was also a very practical man. He understood that the Christian faith ought to help us understand how to live in a real world. His practical side led him to establish schools, businesses and banks for those who were in need in England.

Wesley also wrote words about the use of money in the life of a Christian. He notes that money, when used for it's true purpose, can be a source of "doing all manner of good." Money, he notes, can become "food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, a means of health to the sick, even a defense for the oppressed." Wesley also said that as Christians we ought to: 1) *make all we can*; 2) *save all we can*; and then; 3) *give all we can*.

This year our Stewardship team is putting together 3 classes to help all of us look at the use of money in our lives. On September 25 **Mark Higgins** will lead a class on being good stewards of God's gifts. On October 2 **Mike Johnson** will lead a class on financial freedom, dealing with the issue of debt. Finally, on October 16, **Marian Wagner** will lead a class on Kingdom Giving, how to invest in your family and in God's kingdom work. Registration for each of the classes will begin in September.



Personal Notes



50th Anniversary

Congratulations to **Eldon and Shirley Genschorck** (former ORUMC members) and to **Larry and Barbara Bieschke** on their 50th wedding anniversaries.



Eldon and Shirley



Larry and Barbara

Maggie Bonner

The congregation extends deepest sympathy to **Ralph Will** and his family on the death of Ralph's sister, **Maggie Bonner**, on August 15.

To: Administrative Council/ Board of Trustees

Thank you so much for making arrangements for Life Line Screenings to be held at *Our Redeemer's*. I took the three tests (carotid artery/stroke screening, abdominal aortic aneurysm screening, and peripheral arterial disease screening) at a cost of \$109. I just received the results and passed with flying colors. A fear of stroke has been in the back of my mind for some time, even though neither my father nor mother died of a stroke. My mind is at ease as far as stroke is concerned.

Thanks again for making these tests available to the congregation.

Shirley Odegaard

September Birthdays

- 09/01 Simon Enriquez
- 09/01 Wesley Enriquez
- 09/01 Ryan Randall
- 09/04 Jenna Edwards
- 09/04 Chris Machonis
- 09/04 Sean Nichols
- 09/05 Ian Shaw
- 09/09 Sarah Pepper
- 09/29 Josh Brown
- 09/29 Taylor Swartz

All Church Picnic

The All Church Picnic, August 20, featured lots of food, games and fun. The fun included moon walking, face painting, bean bag, volley ball and just plain relaxing.

Thanks to **Gwyn Greenwalt** and all who helped to make the picnic a success.



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