



The Redeemer Review

Proclaiming Christ into the 21st Century

Volume 2

February, 2007



Do You Know Your Calling?



Lent has always been a time for Christ's followers to grow in their faith. This year lent begins on February 2

Wednesday (service is at 7:30). On that night we will receive the gift of ashes and communion. During our worship services during lent we will talk about calling, how we each are called to be instruments of God's grace in our own way. We will begin lent on February 25 with a worship of sacrifice and hope, being led by our youth, as they share their experience in the 30-hour famine.

On March 4th, Jim Zimmerman, a lay member from Libertyville U.M. Church, will speak to us about his call to work with those in need of health care, becoming the director of a not for profit clinic in Waukegan. Formerly Jim had been an engineer working with the nuclear energy industry. He is also working with our church as our Natural Church Development coach. During the last four Sundays of lent we will look at ways each of us can identify our call as Christ's followers.

See you in church.

Pastor Bill



Our Deepest Sympathy to: Pastor Bill and his family on the death of his mother, Jennie Mae Shaw

Redeemer Review

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Our Redeemer's

United Methodist Church

1600 W Schaumburg Road
Schaumburg IL 60194-3900

(847) 882-6116

email: orumc@core.com

Website: www.orumc.org

Worship Services at 9:00 and 10:30 am

Pastor:

[Rev. Bill Shaw](#)

Church Secretary:

[Donna Ehtner](#)

Director of Youth Ministries:

[Marianne Rogenski](#)

Director of Discipleship:

[Carolyn Meneely](#)

Co-Editors:

Jim Cottrell & Jerry Mc Daniel

A NOTE OF



On behalf of Diep, the boys and myself we would like to thank you for your support and love at my mother's passing.

Following an illness five years ago Mom came to live with us. Even as she kept her membership at the New Holland United Methodist church in Ohio, she found a new spiritual home at Our Redeemers. Your visits, your cards, your prayers and your friendship were a real gift to her.

I would like to thank our staff for stepping up in these last few weeks, to our church leadership for continuing our ministry in my absence, and to all of you for your loving care. Your efforts allowed me to be with her in her current illness and to help her in her passing. I will miss her at home, but give thanks for her calling to a new home, a home not made with human hands, but one of eternal love and grace.

Pastor Bill

Items for Crisis Center

NEW socks, underwear, sweat suits, pajamas, slippers for women and children, shampoo, hair brushes and combs, Blistek and Chap-stick.

Designed Especially for MOMS!

By Susan Brown

Hi Moms, do we have a special weekend for you March 16-17 in Bloomington/Normal.

Hearts At Home is providing an "Extreme Home Makeover" weekend. So whether it's a hairstyle, wardrobe or a specific room in your home, some people hesitate to take the plunge in a major way. The same is true for motherhood, but it's amazing what small changes can do in your heart and

home. So come join **Diane Rocha** and myself, **Susan Brown** for a get-away weekend.

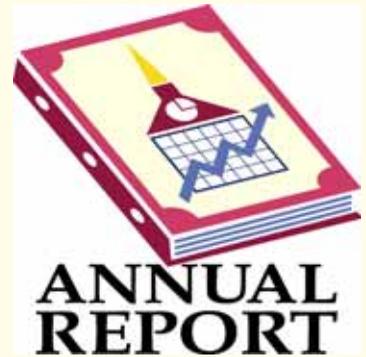
Cost is \$85 for the seminar and concert. Scholarships are available, but space is limited. So go onto www.hearts-at-home.org and sign up or check out the brochures available in the narthex. You will be glad you did.



Finance Report

The following is the year end report for 2006. Final congregational giving is \$305,623.00 or 7% below expected budget. We ended the year in the black, thanks to the hard work of committees keeping their expenses under budget.

The total budget for 2007 will be \$388,000 compared to the 2006 budget of \$369,000. Thank you to the congregation for fulfilling their pledges so *Our Redeemer's* can continue to grow.



Category	Actual	Budget	Change	%
Congregation Gifts & Tithes	\$305,623	\$328,000	(\$22,377)	-7%
Sprint Rent	\$24,101	\$15,600	\$8,501	54%
Other Income	29,866	25,750	4,116	16%
Total Income	359,590	369,350	(9,760)	-3%
Total Expenses	355,470	370,823	(15,353)	-4%
Net Income (Loss)	4,120	(1,473)	5,593	n/m

Where Do Those Food Donations Go?

By Bruce Bedingfield

Our Redeemer's United Methodist has quite a number of Caring Ministries that feed the hungry (eg. CROP, Meals for Millions, Rogers Park Food Pantry, and Richard Vales' WWJD Ministry.) There are two ministries, however, that ask members to bring food donations directly to the church.

Schaumburg Township Food Pantry

ORUMC has been donating food to the Schaumburg Township Food Pantry on a weekly basis for about ten years. Before that we donated to the Northwest Community Food Pantry in Elk Grove Village, another wonderful agency, closed due to lack of support. Schaumburg Township Food Pantry is "just down the street" from the church, at the Schaumburg Township building. Last year that food pantry served over 3,000 people. Food donations placed in the wagon in the narthex are delivered each week by a dedicated team of church members. Special food needs are highlighted each month in the church bulletin.

Our Redeemer's Food Pantry

Our church also has its own food pantry. Hungry persons often drop by the church seeking food for themselves and their family. The metal cabinet outside Pastor Bill's office serves as a depository for non-perishable food items that can then be shared with these

hungry neighbors. So this week, and every week won't you please buy some extra food items to share. And please place a "Donated in the Name of Christ..." sticker on each item. That way the more we donate, the more we witness! "If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one." Mother Theresa



Soup Kitchen Needs Help

Rogers Park Church in Chicago needs help to serve food to the less fortunate. Please! We Really Need Volunteers!

The following dates are Sunday:

January 28, 2007

March 11, 2007

April 22, 2007

Someone asked, "What do you DO there?" Good question!

We carpool to the church....put aprons on and wash our hands. We assist the cooks....peel potatoes....open cans of veggies... do whatever it takes to get the

Continued on page 5

Soup Kitchen (continued)

food ready for the guests.

The guests usually arrive around 4:00 and wait until 5:00 to be served....Then we ALL serve and distribute a hot meal. (Probably meat, potatoes/mac&cheese/vegetables plus bread and dessert.) The guests can go up and get the drinks they want, which is usually juice, coffee, or whatever they have on hand. After all of the guests have been served, those who are still hungry can go up and get a second meal. If there is STILL anything left, all the guests are giving a tray of food to take back home with them.

Afterwards we put away the tables, clean all the plastic trays, (utensils are plastic and are thrown away) and everything is put in place. THEN we go home....

BUT! . . . not before we stop at a McDonald's!

O.K., so some of us would really eat at McDonald's than at the soup kitchen....BUT, let me tell you...the food here is really good! The only problem is that by the time you're ready to eat, there's nothing left! Now McDonald's sounds pretty good!

You get to work with and know a lot of wonderful people....

For more information please call **Mert Rutledge** at 630-289-4334



Meals for Millions

Fourteenth Annual Meals For Millions Lenten Program

Meals for Millions is a mission project for the United Methodist Men, sponsored by the Society of St. Andrew. UMM have provided literally millions of meals of potatoes and other food to the hungry through fund raising activities.

The funds are used to salvage and transport food (especially potatoes), that are perfectly good to eat but which are not suitable for use by processing plants due to size or shape.

All members and friends of *Our Redeemer's* are invited to join the Society of St. Andrew in a program of spiritual reflection and action to fight hunger during Lent. During last year's Lenten season *Our Redeemer's* raised \$1520. Since 1994 *Our Redeemer's* has raised over \$21,000.

This year's Lenten devotion entitled "Let Justice Roll Down Like The Water" can help you grow spiritually and provide an opportunity to feed the hungry .Money saved from "giving up something" during Lent will go to the Society of St. Andrew to provide food for the hungry .

The Lenten devotion program will begin Ash Wednesday, February 21 and will conclude with a Good Friday Fast on April 6.

Please sign up in the Narthex beginning Sunday, February, 11.



Natural Church Development - NCD



What can Our Redeemer's do to make better progress in reaching other people with the message of the Gospel? In 2006, Our Redeemer's began participating in the Natural Church Development

(NCD) process to begin to answer that question. NCD is a program based on analysis of more than one thousand churches throughout the world. It looked at churches of all kinds, all sizes, all denominations and all stages of growth, from fast growing to declining. As a result, key quality characteristics were identified that affect church growth and development. These characteristics of growing churches include: empowering leadership, gift-oriented ministry, passionate spirituality, functional structures, inspiring worship, holistic small groups, need-oriented evangelism, and loving relationships. The study showed that the least developed quality characteristic plays a key role in limiting the growth of a church.

Thirty members of Our Redeemer's took a survey last spring to identify the relationship among these characteristics for our church. Based on that survey we learned that Our Redeemer's strongest quality characteristics are empowering leadership and loving relationships. Our leaders work to empower others to become all that God wants them to be. They recognize that God has a unique calling for every person. Loving relation-

ships are measured by the amount of time we spend together outside of worship and related events; supporting each other; laughing together.

Working to strengthen our minimum quality characteristic will naturally lead to growth for Our Redeemer's. We have identified need-oriented evangelism as our quality characteristic that is least developed. This is not "pushy" or "manipulative" evangelism. Instead, by meeting the needs and addressing the questions of non-members, we can show by example the fulfillment and joy that is possible through belief in Christ.

It's not hard to think of many needs today that could be improved with Christian love and fellowship. The NCD Committee chose two that Our Redeemer's will address by inviting others to join us for special events.

First, many families struggle to spend quality time together at minimal cost. Friday Nights Flicks will be a free night at the movies with lots of family fun and fellowship. Hoodwinked, an animated film about Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf, will be shown on Friday, Jan. 26 at 7 pm. We encourage Our Redeemer families to invite neighbor families to join them for the show.

Second, for many, questions of cultural



Continued on page 7

NCD (continued)

diversity provoke anxiety or fear or even outright conflict, especially when religious beliefs are involved. On Monday, Jan.29 at 7 pm, New Life Bible Study will host Dr. Mohamed Aafif, a visiting Fulbright Scholar from Morocco. He will speak about Islam and Christianity in Northern Africa. We will invite members of churches, mosques and synagogues to join us because we know it is

important to establish dialogs to eliminate fear.

By developing all of our quality characteristics, we will develop the potential God has given Our Redeemer's to live the gospel everyday.

Carolyn Meneely

Director of Discipleship

NCD Update

The NCD team has been working hard to develop a plan to improve our minimum factor which is Need-Oriented Evangelism. As we know Our Redeemers (O/R) has many wonderful activities going on all of the time, but what we realized is that we were missing opportunities to reach out to people beyond our church members.

To do this we are suggesting a new mind-set, a clear plan for intentional outreach to the community. At each event we must advertise both internally and externally using our Communications Manager (Carolyn Meneely is acting as the Communication Manager until one is found); we must have an awareness to invite friends and neighbors; we must welcome everyone with the emphasis on visitors; and a follow up plan to thank and invite visitors to another event at O/R.

The committee feels it essential to do this and to aid in establishing this mind-set we

have created this Event Planning Guide to be used for EVERY event at O/R. In addition, a representative from the NCD committee will assist the responsible organizer in order to reach this goal.



This Event Planning Guide is a work in process and we plan to fine tune it as we use it, after each event we have planned a post event evaluation, this will be an excellent tool to learn what went well or perhaps what needs to be changed for the next event.

If you have any ideas please feel free to talk to any of the team members, they are **Pastor Bill, Sherrie Cottrell, Jeff Greenwalt, Carl Jeziorski, Carolyn Meneely, Steve Miller, Melinda Taylor & Jim Zimmerman** (outside coach).



“Habitat for Humanity, Lake County (Waukegan), is a Christian housing ministry which welcomes all people dedicated to building decent, affordable housing for families in need, while empowering families to help themselves. HFHLC builds partnerships with diverse members of the community who break down the walls that divide and builds a sense of community among all people. HFHLC seeks to make safe, simple, decent housing for all people a matter of conscience and action.

Following dates are scheduled:

January 27, 2007

February 24, 2007

March 24, 2007

Please join this dedicated group in helping to build houses for the poor. For more information call Mert Rutledge at 630-289-4334.

Heifer Project

By Julie Kuhn

Thank you to the many families who gave the gift of livestock from Heifer this Christmas, and special thanks to all of the Sunday school children who participated in the ark bank collection. Through the generosity of this congregation, a gift of an Ark will be provided to hungry families wherever in the world it is needed. The Ark includes cows, sheep, camels, oxen, water buffalo, pigs, beehives, goats, donkeys, ducks, rabbits, guinea pigs, geese, chicks, and llamas. Although the final count is not complete, preliminary estimates are that our church will be contributing an entire Ark plus more - over \$5000 was given during this Christmas season.

Thank you to the Schmidts, the Machonis', the Bedingfields, and Micah Ministries, and thanks to everyone who participated. The final tally will be reported in the next newsletter. Please remember to keep the Heifer program in mind throughout the year. You can learn more about the projects and success of Heifer at www.Heifer.org.

What is Your MAIN Caring Ministry?

By Bruce Bedingfield

I long held a vision for Our Redeemer's Caring Ministries program. That vision was that every member of the church would have ONE caring ministry to call their own.

The idea never really caught on. Other's with whom I discussed the idea seemed some-

what cool to the idea. And perhaps that's all to the best. For many of our caring ministries depend on a majority of our congregation's support. We need your support for Gifts from the Heart AND Easter Baskets, AND the Elgin Crisis Center AND the Appalachian Service project, etc.



30 Hour Famine

*World Vision's 30 Hour Famine
February 23-24!*

This is a very exciting weekend for the youth of our church. If you are a jr. or sr. high student that is interested and has not yet picked up a packet, please have them see Marianne--there is still time! It is an amazing weekend when the students raise money to help others. They fast for 30 hours while they have fun, grow spiritually, and bond together. If you are able to donate 100% fruit juice or water, please sign up in the narthex.

Also, if you would like to chaperone we are looking for people to help throughout the weekend--you don't need to be a parent of a participant to help! We are also in need of prayer partners for this event. This would involve getting 3 notes to your student participant (one Friday night, one during the day Saturday, and one at the breaking of the fast--these can be given to a youth council member before the weekend or dropped off during) and also coming to the breaking of the fast at 9pm Saturday evening.

If you have any questions about this weekend please talk to a youth council member or Marianne!

February 25 is Famine Sunday. This is when the 30 Hour Famine participants tell you about their experiences over the weekend. This will be a great way for the congregation to see all that the youth have learned and accomplished. There will be music by the 6:33 band and a great message! Please plan on being there!

Sr. High

4	H2O	6:30-8pm
11	H2O	6:30-8pm
18	Brunch	10:30-11:30am
23-24	30 Hour Famine	
	6pm Friday to 9pm Saturday	
25	Famine Sunday	Both services

Confirmation (Jr. High)

4	Confirmation	4-5:30pm
16	Beth Tikvah Synagogue	6:15pm
18	Confirmation	4-5:30pm
23-24	30 Hour Famine	
	6pm Friday to 9pm Saturday	
25	Famine Sunday	Both Services

Beth Tikvah Synagogue on February 16

We will meet at ORUMC at 6:15 and caravan over. Please let me know if you are able to drive and chaperone--we still need help with this! The service is family oriented and only lasts about one hour. The students are to wear nice slacks and shirts, or skirts and dresses--no jeans or t-shirts!

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Movie Memorabilia

We need you, movie fans! **Dann Gire** is donating three decade's worth of his personal movie memorabilia collection to Our Redeemer's. This includes zillions of movie T-shirts, backpacks, candles, Frisbees, nick-nacks, towels, blankets, photos, and specialty items created exclusively for the press that were never available to the public. We need movie fans interested in helping us sort, inventory, photo and organize this movie memorabilia, which has been growing and growing in Dann's attic since 1988. Contact **Pastor Bill** or **Carolyn Meneely** if you're interested in helping with this project. Profits from the sale of this memorabilia will be used for *Our Redeemer's* charities.



Youth Club (4th-6th grade)

The youth club will meet this month for a Service Day. This will be February 17, the Saturday before the 30 Hour Famine. This is your chance to participate in the fight against hunger! Bring a canned good to stock our own church pantry and come to learn about hunger in the world and in our country and to do something about it. Of course there will also be snacks and games! Please RSVP to church at 847-882-6116 or marianne@orumc.org by February 9. The event is February 17, 1-2:30pm.

NEW Caring Ministry

by *Laura Machonis*

On March 3rd from 3-11pm we will be hosting a silent auction and scrapbook night to benefit Multiple Sclerosis. E-mail cropforacause@msn.com for a reservation form.

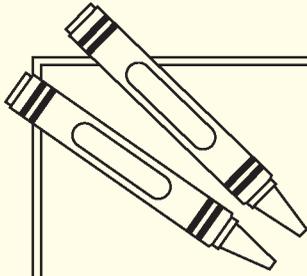
If you are interested in getting involved with a caring ministry event that is a **SHORT TERM** commitment this is the job for you!

Jobs include: set up/ take down, registration, food service, donations and many more...Please call **Laura Machonis** 630-736-9573 or send an e-mail to cropforacause@msn.com

Also if you or your company would be interested in making a donation to the silent auction please let me know.

United Methodist Women

The UMW has an exciting selection of meetings planned for 2007, all centered around the theme- "**Embracing Women and Children.**" All women of the church are invited to join us for our Saturday, February 17th Breakfast Meeting at 9:00 a.m. in the church. Our program for February is entitled "Shine, Shine, Shine" (showing God's light in the world) and will be presented by Annette Brown. Also at this meeting we will have a "School Supplies" Service Project to benefit the Community Crisis Center in Elgin. Please join us for **FUN, FELLOWSHIP & FRIENDSHIP**. Breakfast is provided.



Just for **KIDS**

But the Greatest of These Is LOVE!

God shows love to us every day and in many ways. Fill in the blanks below with the missing letters to see how God loves us perfectly!

“For God so lo _ _ ed the world,

that he g _ ve

his on _ y

begott _ n

So _ ,

_ hat whosoever

believeth _ n Him

should _ ot perish,

but have _ verlasting life.

—John 3:16, KJV

Our Redeemer's United Methodist Church

1600 W. Schaumburg Road
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