



The Redeemer Review

Proclaiming Christ into the 21st Century

Volume 1

January, 2008



Guided by a Star



Who are the ones that have guided you in your life? Who or what guides you now in living a life of faith? January, our season after Christmas, is called epiphany, a time for revelation. Usually we begin this time in worship by reading about the wise men and how Christ was revealed not just to those who were Jewish, but was a revelation from God for all people. Matthew tells us that those wise men were guided by a star in the sky. This account of these men who came to worship Christ is a wonderful story of faith and of courage. As well as being guided by the light of a star, we assume they were also guided by a curiosity, by wanting to know what God was doing in their world and in their time.

Epiphany is also a time for us to be guided and to look again at the journey of grace. For our part we do not have to “hitch up the camels” or gather a traveling entourage. Yet the light of Christ, the *Star* continues to shine on us as a guide. As followers of Jesus, we hold fast, without apology, to the importance of being guided by Christ, for in that way is true life. Beginning on January 6 we will look at the journey of the wise men as a model for us growing in ways of grace, love and ministry. During our time together we will talk about seeing the light, listening for God’s direction, stepping outside of areas of comfort and examine what it means to follow the wise men to the manger of Christ.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Bill



Miriam Reid
1924-2007

The congregation extends deepest sympathy to **Ray Reid**, the **Reid** family and all the members of *Our Redeemer*'s who knew **Miriam** as a dear friend. Miriam died at home under Hospice care December 10. She had been wheelchair bound for about two years and was hospitalized for most of the last two months of her life.

Miriam and Ray have been an active part of *Our Redeemer*'s for most of their 42 years in Schaumburg. Miriam was an active member of United Methodist Women and could always be seen helping at the Rummage Sale. She was a fan of theater (even the *Our Redeemer*'s kind) and her ready laugh added to the spirit of fun at many fellowship events.

Outside the church, Miriam was a lifelong member of Beta Sigma Phi. She volunteered extensively both in the community and with her children's schools. In recent years she enjoyed volunteering at the Kenneth Young Resale Shop.

Although she suffered from arthritis her entire life, her spirit and good humor were an inspiration to all who knew her. She was a special lady who will be missed by many.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Heifer Project at church.

Redeemer Review

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Our Redeemer's

United Methodist Church

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Rev. Bill Shaw

Church Secretary:

Donna Echtner

Director of Youth Ministries:

Marianne Rogenski

Director of Discipleship:

Carolyn Meneely

Co-Editors:

Jim Cottrell & Jerry Mc Daniel



Twelve Days of Christmas

Our family tradition has been to leave Christmas decorations up until Epiphany on January 6. That's the end of the Twelve Days of Christmas. By then, my neighbors' houses are bare again. We begin seeing decorations in stores so early in the fall that everyone is tired of red and green decorations. So the signs of Christmas begin to disappear before New Year's Eve.

But I like to extend Christmas through the twelve days until Epiphany. At the Meneely house, decorating for Christmas is a major enterprise. We have boxes and boxes of ornaments and decorations that must be revisited every year. It takes till the middle of December before everything is ready. So part of my reluctance is to avoid the process of packing everything up again. But mostly I want to make the Christmas season last as long as possible. The idea of twelve days of Christmas, not just one, is nice.

Epiphany is tied to the story of the Magi, and the gifts they brought to the Christ child. Epiphany means to show or to reveal. The Magi were the first to acknowledge Jesus as "King"; to reveal Jesus as "Lord" to the Gentiles, to the world.

The gifts of the twelve days carry on the tradition of the gold, frankincense and myrrh. In some Latin and South American countries children put their shoes out the night before the Twelfth Day waiting for gifts from the Magi. Sometimes the shoes are filled with straw for the hard working camels.

Another tradition is to write the initials of the wise men over doors of homes or churches: C M B for Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar. It also stands for the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat* which translates to "*may Christ bless this house*". The house blessing lasts into the New Year.

We enjoy the end of Christmas and look forward with anticipation, remembering the message of the three Wise Men. Jesus comes for all people, all nations, all races demonstrating the work of God is not limited to only a few.

Carolyn Meneely
Director of Discipleship



by Marianne Rogenski

Youth Club

Youth Club will play Laser Tag together at Laser Quest, 860 N. Roselle Rd, Hoffman Estates, on January 2, 2008, from 3-4:30pm. Come out and enjoy the day with friends before you go back to school! The cost is \$8.00 per person per game and we will probably play 2 games. There are also video games and air hockey that are fun but require quarters. Please meet there and be picked up there also.

Youth Club Service Day will be February 24, from 1-2:30pm, at ORUMC. Look in the February newsletter for more details, but get it on your calendar now!

Confirmation

The following is the schedule for January and February:

January 6

No Confirmation Class
6:33 Worship Gathering 6:33 p.m.
Youth Group 7:30-8:30 p.m.

January 13

Confirmation Class 9:00 a.m.
Soup Kitchen 1:30-8:30 p.m.
6:33 Worship Gathering 6:33 p.m.
Youth Group 7:30-8:30 p.m.

January 18-20

Ski Trip

January 20

Confirmation Class 9:00 a.m.
6:33 Worship Gathering 6:33 p.m.
Youth Group 7:30-8:30 p.m.

January 27

Confirmation Class 9:00 a.m.
6:33 Worship Gathering 6:33 p.m.
Youth Group 7:30-8:30 p.m.

January 31

Dinner with Pastor Bill 6:00 p.m.

February 3

No Confirmation Class
6:33 Worship Gathering 6:33 p.m.
Youth Group 7:30-8:30 p.m.

February 8-9

30 Hour Famine

February 10

Famine Sunday
No Confirmation Class
6:33 Worship Gathering 6:33 p.m.
No Youth Groups

February 15

Beth Tikvah Synagogue 6:45 p.m.

February 17

Confirmation Class 9:00 a.m.
6:33 Worship Gathering 6:33 p.m.
Youth Group 7:30-8:30 p.m.

February 24

Confirmation Class 9:00 a.m.
6:33 Worship Gathering 6:33 p.m.
Youth Group 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Sr. High

Don't forget that there is youth group every Sunday night from 7:30-8:30pm!

Souper Bowl Sunday:

We will once again participate in the Souper Bowl Sunday program here at *Our Redeemer's* UMC. On February 3, 2008 we ask that each member of the congregation bring a can of food with a dollar wrapped around it and leave it in the barrels in the narthex. All of the food collected will replenish our pantry here at church and the money will be used for grocery store certificates to help those that seek us out for help. Please consider participating in this wonderful ministry.

30 Hour Famine

The ORUMC 30-Hour Famine will be February 8-9, 2008. This is an event that we have done for several years now and it is truly an amazing experience for all. Any Jr. or Sr. high student can participate and of course we welcome adults to help or participate as well!

We do this event through World Vision and all proceeds go to that non-profit organization. There are 29,000 children who die everyday from hunger and hunger related causes and we are working to bring that number down. World Vision goes into a community and teaches the people to live off the land—to make it on their own. This is what the students raise money for.

The weekend goes as follows:

Friday 3:00 p.m. Students begin fast on their own.

Friday 6:00 p.m. Students arrive at church.

Saturday 9:00 p.m. Students break fast together with prayer partners, family, and the congregation with a potluck dinner.

Beginning in January, fundraising packets will be available for participants and we will have a sign-up sheet in the narthex for those interested in volunteering their time or donating juice and water.

ASP News

We have a wonderfully large group this year! It is just amazing that this has become such a meaningful mission here at ORUMC. If you have not yet turned in your deposit, please do so soon. Our next meeting is February 19, 7:00-8:15 p.m.

Katrina Recovery

This year we will not be going to New Orleans. However, we are still committed to helping with Katrina Recovery here at ORUMC. So, we will be going to Camp Hope in Vancleave, MS from July 27-August 2. This is a trip for young adults (seniors or age 18 or older) and adults. Also looking for 'skilled' volunteers. The following was listed on the first page of packet:

We ask that teams bring at least one skilled team member for every four- five unskilled workers. Skills necessary include carpentry, plumbing, electrical, roofing, dry walling, etc. Skilled does not mean professional, just proficient. If you are interested in this mission, please contact Marianne as soon

Education

Thank you to all of the children for the hard work they put into our Sunday School Christmas program. Everyone did a wonderful job. A special thanks also to the teachers

and parents for supporting our program, and to **Paula Patterson, Sue Zimberoff, and Carolyn Meneely** for their musical work with the children.

Ed Note: Gwyn Greenwalt, too.



Family Ministries

Thank you to everyone who came out for caroling on December 15. We enjoyed a wonderful, snowy afternoon as we spread Christmas cheer to members of our church.

Family Game Night

Friday, Jan 25, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Calling all families for a night of games and fun. We'll have bingo, board games, ping pong, foosball, Dance Dance Revolution and more. Feel free to bring your favorite games to share with others.

We're especially looking for game ideas for the younger children. We're also looking

for donations of snacks, drinks, and trinket prizes for bingo.

It should be a wonderful evening for parents and kids alike. If you have any questions or would like to help with planning, contact **Gwyn Greenwalt** at 847-882-6116.

January Birthdays

Ian Klocko	1/05
Morgan Schmidt	1/20
Megan Gaska	1/26
Jonathan Dean	1/27
Hayley Dombek	1/28
Daniel Launhardt	1/30

Crisis Center Needs

Please note: The Crisis Center cannot take clothing because they have no storage space. The center will take all greeting cards EXCEPT Christmas cards.

Items needed for their medicine chest (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 drop Crisis Center items in the new containers located in our renovated Narthex.

Nothing But Nets Campaign *Send a Net, Save a Life*

The *Nothing But Nets* campaign is a global, grassroots initiative to save lives by preventing malaria, a leading killer of children in Africa. Every \$10 donation to *Nothing But Nets* goes directly toward the purchase, distribution, and education about the proper use of an insecticide-treated bed net.

The offering from our combined Thanksgiving service and from *Our Redeemer's* Thanksgiving envelopes this year collected \$1149.31 to be used by the *Nothing But Nets* campaign. Just as Christ reached out to those who were most in need, so too we can help in our small way to eradicate malaria in sub-Saharan Africa.



**Heifer
Project**

What a wonderful gift for family and friends! Please check out the table in the Narthex between services and finish your Christmas shopping with the Heifer Project. You can do your gift shopping between services every Sunday until January 6.

The Ark Banks and Calendars given to Sunday School students are due back January 6. If you have any questions call **Julie Kuhn** at 847-882-6116.



Mom's Night Out

**January 10, 7:00 p.m.
at Bahama Breeze.**

Mom's Night Out is a chance for mom's to go out and enjoy good food and fellowship. A time for someone else to do the cooking and cleaning! Mom's night out is for all mothers, but especially those who have child that are school age or younger. **You do not need to be a member of ORUMC to attend! All are welcome.**

For more information and to make reservations, contact Annette Brown, 847-882-6116, or e-mail Annetteb421@sbcglobal.net.



January 12, 8:00 a.m.
Place Change - At Church
Tony Dungy Bible Study

Starting January 12 the UMM will hold their regular monthly meetings at church at 8:00 a.m. After a continental breakfast the men will begin a Bible study using the Tony Dungy Study book. The study will run through the June UMM meeting.

If you would like to participate, call **Marshall Nystrom**, 847-882-6116.

United Methodist Men



Service for Christian Unity

January 22, 7:30 p.m.

The week of January 21– 25 is designated as the week of Christian Unity. As part of that week a Service for Christian Unity will be held at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church January 22 at 7:30 p.m. Prince of Peace is located at 930 W. Higgins Rd, Hoffman Estates.

It should be a powerful service and the whole community is invited. We would especially encourage you to come and be part of this time of worship.



**United
Methodist
Women**
January 19, 9:00 a.m.

Get ready for another exciting year of United Methodist Women programs. Our program theme in 2008 is entitled “Religious Awareness in Today’s World.” The January meeting will be our annual Pledge Service.

All women of the church are invited to this Breakfast meeting on Saturday, January 19 at 9:00 a.m. Please join us for FUN, FELLOWSHIP AND FRIENDSHIP. Breakfast is provided.



Church Ladies Nite Out

January 23, 7:00 p.m.

The Church Ladies will be going out Wednesday, January 23 to Joe’s Crab Shack on Gulf Rd at 7:00 p.m. We would like to make reservations, so please let us know in advance if you will be coming.

Call **Bev Wilkes**, 847-882-6116, for the reservation, a ride or if you have any questions. Please join us and bring a friend for good fellowship, good fun and good food.



Choir Workshop January 26, 9:00 a.m.

All singers are invited to join with our Chancel Choir in a choir workshop Saturday, January 26, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. **Craig Courtney**, a nationally known pianist, cellist, vocal coach, choir director and composer will lead the workshop.

All members and friends are welcome. You don't have to be a member of any of our choirs (although we would really like to have you join us). We have invited choirs from several area churches to join with us.

Lunch will be available. Please call **Donna** in the office if you would like to participate.

Habitat for Humanity January 26, 7:00 a.m.

All members and friends of **Our Redeemer's** are invited to participate in the Habitat for Humanity project. There are tasks available for a variety of skill levels. All you need is a desire to help. It's a co-ed activity and youth are welcome, too.

We meet January 26 at 7:00 a.m. at church and caravan to the project. We are usually back home by 5:00 p.m.

Call **Mert Rutledge** or **Rob Mottar**, 847-882-6116, if you are able to help.

Super Bowl Spaghetti Dinner February 3, 11:45 a.m.

The Bears won't be in the Super Bowl, but we can all still enjoy fellowship and world-famous United Methodist Men meat balls at the annual UMM Super Bowl Spaghetti Dinner.

We will start serving right after church on Februay 3. Come and enjoy the fun.

Chili Dinner for New Families February 28, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Fellowship for families and individuals new to **Our Redeemer's**. Meet with other church members to talk and get to know **Our Redeemer's** activities, history and beliefs. It will be casual and fun, with lots of chili, and other goodies to eat.

Childcare will be available.

Voter Information

The presidential primary election is February 5. If you are a registered voter, but will not be able to vote that day, you can get an absentee ballot at the Schaumburg Township office on Illinois Ave.

You may vote absentee either by mail or in person. You must request an application for an absentee ballot or vote in person at least 5 days before, but not more than 40 days before Election Day. Call the Township Office, 847-884-0030, to request an application or vote absentee in person at the Township Clerk's office.



A Dozen New Year's Resolutions to Consider

by Bruce Bedingfield

I recently found myself making a few “New Year’s Resolutions” toward becoming a better member of *Our Redeemer*’s. It led me to offer some resolutions for others to consider as well. I speak from no position of authority, so take them for what they’re worth. But here are 12 resolutions for you to consider; the first four correspond to the four-part pledge we all made when we joined ORUMC.

1) Pray for Our Church

This pledge was indeed one I made upon joining the church, yet so often forgot to do. But we all believe in the power of prayer. How powerful, then, for us ALL to pray that our church becomes that which God wants it to be.

2) Attend Worship Services As Often As Possible

There’s no doubt about it, life in the 21st Century is busy and families have plenty to do—even on their weekends. God doesn’t necessarily *need* us to worship Him, but I’m convinced that He desires it. It’s likely, in fact, *we* need to worship Him!

3) Give to the Church

Just as we have plenty of possible uses for our time, we certainly have many possible ways to spend our money. And as we learn this time of year, there are plenty of

worthy charities out there. But the ministries of *Our Redeemer*’s cost money, and we would never expect our church’s many blessings to come to us for free.

4) Serve the Church

Again when we joined the church we pledged to serve it as well. If you are not yet a part of *Our Redeemer*’s ministries, prayerfully ask God how you might serve. Then feel free to contact **Pastor Bill** and ask him where your talents might best be used.

5) Volunteer to Read Scripture

Our Redeemer’s presently has a “team” of scripture readers. We are especially blessed when the youth of the church read Scripture. But it’s always nice to see a new face offering the New Testament reading. Why not give it a try?

6) Choose a Caring Ministry to Call Your Own

I am currently the chairperson of Caring Ministries, and our congregation has always been very supportive of those ministries. But I’ve long had a vision that *every* member of *Our Redeemer*’s would have a caring ministry to call their own (or better yet, start a new one!) Please see our Caring Ministries brochure for ideas.

7) Watch for Those “Justice Ministries” as Well

I am also a member of our church’s Micah Ministries, dealing with social justice issues. The emphasis here is to go beyond charity and look at the conditions that cause problems in the first place. We will attempt to keep you informed on issues YOU may wish to explore.

8) Join a Bible Study

Through the years, members of **Our Redeemer's** have formed many Bible study groups, and the church is all the stronger for it. Watch for future opportunities that bring you both education and fellowship.

9) Pray for Fellow Church Members

This is another of my resolutions to improve upon this year. Each week we hear and pray for joys and concerns at our service. Continue those prayers throughout the week. If a member “pops” into your mind (especially one you haven’t seen for awhile) pray for them as well.

10) Give a Call to Those You Haven't Seen Lately

Do pray for those you haven't seen lately, then take this further step. Make sure they're doing okay and let them know they've been missed. You'll be surprised to learn how much it can mean to them.

11) Invite Someone New to Our Redeemer's

We are all so very lucky to have a “church home”; not everyone is so fortunate! Consider inviting a friend, neighbor or co-worker you think may have this need. Or if (like me) this isn't in your comfort zone, consider a written invitation or note.

12) Use Your Gifts

God has given each of us “gifts” to be used in his service. If you can sing, consider joining the choir. If you can teach consider Sunday school teaching. If you have financial know-how, the finance committee would love your services. If you can speak become

a liturgist and/or a lay speaker. If your gift is hospitality, find and greet church visitors.

And if you’re not too sure just what your gifts may be, feel free to speak with Pastor Bill to go through a gift inventory.

If each of us, as members of ORUMC, considers a New Year’s Resolution or two for the coming year, the church can’t help but be the stronger for it. We must remember, of course that it is indeed **Our Redeemer's** United Methodist Church and we are called to be its stewards.



Blood Drive

**Schaumburg Park District
January 31, 3:00 - 8:00 p.m**

The Schaumburg Park District, 505 N. Springinsguth, will host the Schaumburg area blood drive on Thursday, January 31, from 3:00 to 8:30 p.m.

This drive is a Replenishment Drive in honor of 5 year old Corina Najjar. Corina was diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia in November of 2006. Although her treatment will take another year, she has already had four transfusions.

Call 847-803-7943 to make a reservation to donate.

WOW! Beyond our Expectations!

WOW! The success of the Silent Auction (sponsored by the United Methodist Women) was BEYOND OUR EXPECTATIONS! We had 52 items donated and we were able to send a check in the amount of \$1,247.00 to the Community Crisis Center. A HUGE Thank You to the people who donated and a SUPER HUGE Thank You to the people that attended and purchased the items.

THANK YOU!

To my committee, **Sally Donaldson, Shirley McDaniel, Peggy Sanford** and **Carlene Thompson.**

Thank you,
Sherrie Cottrell.

Gifts From the Heart

by Carol Hollingsworth

On behalf of ChildServ, I would like to thank the 70 families who bought Christmas gifts for 117 children served by ChildServ. It is always so heart warming to see how our congregation responds to this program and provides so generously. A special thanks to our angels and 3 wise men, Kathy and Jack Arcurie, Jerry and Shirley McDaniel and Glen and Kristen Hollingsworth for helping out on Sunday morning by checking in gifts, loading bags of gifts and delivering gifts to ChildServ and to the many others who offered to help.

Ed. Note: Special thanks to Carol Hollingsworth, too.

From Richard Vales ORUMC Member in the Philippines

Hi to all ORUMC. I am writing to you to let you know all that is going on here, and how many people we are helping. As I said once before we help a lot of people but this is just a drop in the bucket compared to all the people who need help. When I say we are helping a lot of people the word **we** means me and my helpers but most importantly in means you, because without you most of this would not be possible.

I am not sure you know what it feels like not to have food to eat. I mean no food at all. Some people think I mean very little food....no I mean **NO** food for days on end, and when they finally find something to eat it might be something you would throw in the garbage. Adults have a good understanding as to why they have no food to eat, Children do not know. All they know is they are hungry and get nothing to eat. When they live in the outreach areas there is no place to go to get food from other people as the people in the outreach with them also have no food.

In the towns or cities when children have no food they beg on the streets or walk up to cars waiting at a traffic and knock at the windows and hold their hands out asking for money.

It is heart breaking, Sometimes it is hard for me to eat my food, as I am always thinking of how many people do not have food. We conserve the money we spend and the amount of food we buy so we can give more food to hungry people. I am lucky that

my wife feels as I do about helping them. We do not live a life style devoted to us but to the people we try to help. I write this because it needs to be said so that you understand how much your help has been and how much it is needed. Try when you go to sleep at night to think about some little child eating that day because of the help you have provided. I am sure that will make you feel good. Also remember what the Lord has said in the Bible if you help one of them you have helped me.

We pass out food as often as possible, whenever we have money. When we get a check or money we go out the next day and pass out food as fast as possible as we want the food to get to hungry people as soon as possible.

I also go out to the outreaches and give Bible lessons to the people who do not know about God but want to know. And to date over 300 people have been born again and have accepted Jesus as their Lord and will follow him the rest of their lives. Some day I will have the pleasure of meeting them in Heaven. Fantastic!

You might think of this e-mail as a plead-

ing for money and help and you are correct I beg in the name of the people who cannot beg for themselves. But most of all it is a report to explain to you all we are doing because of your help. Words cannot say enough. Thanks for all the help you have given us. We will continue to do all we can and work as many hrs as we can and as hard as we can to use the money you sent to the best advantage. Rest assure we are good stewards of the help you are giving us.

Also I have said this before that I give 30% of my income from SS to buy food for the hungry and I tell you this information not to brag but to let you know how serious I am about feeding these people. The exchange rate of the dollar to pesos has dropped real low so the money I get from SS is very low but we still give 30% to buy food for the hungry and we have cut our spending down to the bare bones.

You have no idea how much your support has meant to all these hungry people. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. thanks again for all your help.

Love in Christ to all,
Richard

Finance Report

The following is our status through the end of November.

YTD Actual vs. Budget Through November 2007

	Actual	Budget	\$ Change	% Change
Congregation Gifts & Tithes	283,040	292,979	(9,939)	-3%
Sprint & T-Mobile Rent	32,342	24,872	7,470	30%
Other Income	24,402	23,187	1,215	5%
Total Income	339,783	341,038	(1,255)	0%
Total Expenses	338,218	356,898	(18,680)	-5%
Net Income (Loss)	1,565	(15,860)	17,425	

Our Redeemer's United Methodist Church

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