



The Redeemer Review

Proclaiming Christ into the 21st Century

Volume 2

February, 2008

Pastor's Corner

Lent: A Time for Connection



February 6 begins our season of Lent. During that time we as followers of Christ are asked to prepare ourselves for Easter. The purpose of our preparation is not only to be ready for Easter Sunday, with family and friends and in worship, but to know again the *new life* that is available to us as we live out our faith in Jesus Christ. *New life is New*. The resurrection we know at Easter time is not just a first century phenomenon, but is the working of God's spirit in our hearts, our lives and our ministry.

At *Our Redeemer's* this year we would like to offer 2 opportunities for you to grow in the new life of grace we celebrate at Easter. The first concerns the church's emphasis to minister to those who are hungry. During Christmas last month our church again contributed over \$5,000 toward the Heifer Project (a program that provides livestock and seed). This is our 4th year in achieving this level of giving and becoming an "Ark Church." During Lent we want to continue our support for

our hunger ministry to those who are in need of food with the following:

Food Pantry: I would challenge us all this year to fill up our food pantry container (which goes to the Schaumburg food pantry). These contributions are an important way we minister to those in need within our own community.

Super Bowl of Caring: On February 3 there is a football game being played in Phoenix this year. Our youth group has led us in this effort to use this opportunity to help those who are in need. Bring one can for our pantry at the church with a dollar wrapped around it. Both contributions will help provide food for those in our local community.

United Methodist Men's Lenten Study: Our Men's group sponsors a Lenten devotional book and an opportunity to give to the Society of St. Andrew (an interfaith hunger-fighting ministry). The devotional books can be picked up in our lobby area after each worship service. (cont. on pg. 2)

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

**3:36 p.m.
633 Schedule Change
1 Day Only
633 Worship**

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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Director of Youth Ministries:

[Marianne Rogenski](#)

Director of Discipleship:

[Carolyn Meneely](#)

[Co-Editors:](#)

Jim Cottrell & Jerry Mc Daniel

(cont. from pg. 1)

30-Hour Famine: Each year our youth group meets for a weekend, fasts for 30 hours, and raises money to fight world hunger. During the time they fast they stay at church for fellowship, activities and Bible Study. We are all asked to contribute and to sign up to help during the weekend of the fast (from contributions to being prayer partners). Also, make sure and attend worship on February 10 to hear the testimonies of those who have been part of the fast.

By being part of these ministries we affirm both the hope and the faith that we know in our spirit, with concrete actions of giving (Matthew 25: 31-46; Isaiah 58: 6-12).

The second opportunity we would like to share with you is our ***New Life Bible Study***. On Monday February 11 we will begin our Lenten Bible study focusing on the importance of forgiveness and reconciliation. The class will meet from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. each Monday from February 11 through March 10 (5 sessions). During the study we will look at spiritual leaders who have struggled with forgiveness (i.e., **Elie Wiesel, Thomas Moore, Marianne Williamson**). We will also look at specific incidents of forgiveness (tragic shooting of students at an Amish school in 2006, Northern Ireland, etc.).

Please join our church family as we take advantage of each of these opportunities.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Bill



Big or Small — Your Commitment Says It All

The focus at *Our Redeemer's* in February is on fighting hunger. Beginning the first weekend, February 3 - Super Bowl Sunday is also Souper Bowl Sunday. Not only can you satisfy your own hunger at the United Methodist Men's Spaghetti Dinner, but when you bring a can of soup, fruit, vegetables, or other non-perishable food and a dollar, you contribute to *Our Redeemer's* food pantry to fight hunger locally in our own neighborhoods.

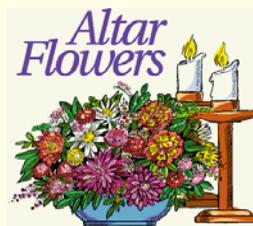
The second weekend, February 8-10, is the 30-hour Famine. The youth will be participating in a 30 hour fast (only water and juice for nourishment!) to increase their own and our awareness of the costs of hunger in the world. If you want to help, you can bring water or juice or other supplies. If you have a little more time, you could be a prayer partner for one of the hungry participants or help with some of the activities which range from prayerful to educational to just plain fun. (Sign up in the Narthex) I have been a prayer partner in the past. It's satisfying to see the links that grow stronger within the group during the 30 hours. Their enthusiasm at the end when they break the fast is fun to be part of. And the sanctuary on Sunday filled with orange streamers is just awesome.

Maybe you will be inspired to do more.

You might join UMM's study of Tony Dungy's book *Quiet Strength*. Or during Lent, participate in the Society of St. Andrew's work against hunger with a bank and Lenten devotions. Both Micah Ministries and Caring Ministries also have initiatives underway to fight hunger and poverty that contributes to it - from using fair trade coffee and other products to book studies to serving at a soup kitchen or PADS to writing letters to lawmakers. It's your choice based on the time you are able to commit.

For me, one of the best things about *Our Redeemer's* is that I can choose to do a little — or a lot — based on the time (and inclination) I have. And I know I will be surrounded with fellowship and caring.

Carolyn Meneely



Altar Flowers Price Increase

Our supplier has increased the cost for altar flowers to \$25.00.



Souper Bowl of Caring *February 3*

The Youth Council would like all those attending ORUMC February 3 to bring a can of soup and \$1. All donations will go directly to benefiting the food pantry at the church! This is a great way to support those in need right here in our community.

30-Hour Famine *February 8-9*

World Vision's 30-Hour Famine is here again. February 8-9, 2008, with Famine Sunday being February 10. This is the 7th year that the youth of ORUMC have participated in this amazing event. 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 that die everyday from hunger and hunger related causes and we are working to bring down that number. 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
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.

Fundraising packets are now available. We need many volunteers to make this event a success. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex for adults who would like to help throughout the weekend, be a prayer partner, or donate 100% fruit juice or water. Please contact Marianne if you have any questions.

Youth Club Service Day *February 24*

Attention all 4th-6th Graders—we will have our service day on February 24, from 1:00-2:30 p.m. You will get to do some of the things that the 30-Hour Famine participants have done, but you get to eat while you do it! Come for an afternoon of games, fellowship, and service projects. Contact Marianne with any questions.

Appalachia Service Project (ASP) News:

Our next ASP meeting is February 19, 7:00-8:15 p.m. Please remember that these meetings are mandatory and a very important part of the ASP experience. At this meeting you will receive the forms that need to be filled out and returned to Marianne by the retreat in May. If you have not yet turned in your \$120 deposit or spoken to Marianne about alternatives, please do so at this meeting or before.

Katrina Relief Mission Trip

July 26 - August 3

The Katrina mission trip will go to Mississippi this summer. We will leave on July 26 and return on August 3. Volunteers must be 18 years old or older. We'll be staying at Camp Hope in Vancleave, MS. There will be a fee of \$100 per volunteer, but please don't let the cost prohibit you from going. Contact Marianne if cost is a problem. There will be a meeting in March. Date TBA.

Youth Groups

There will be no regular youth groups on February 3 or February 10. They will resume the regular time of 7:30-8:30 p.m. every Sunday on February 17.

633 Worship

Come to the final 2 weeks of the 633 GO! Series! This series is all about service to others and the final weeks should be very interesting.

February 3, 3:36 p.m.

NOTE Special Time - 3:36 p.m.

GO! Local, with Guest speaker Susan Forbes, from Northwest Housing.

February 10, 6:33 p.m.

GO! Global, with 30-Hour Famine participants. This is Famine Sunday and we invite everyone to the 633 service to listen to the stories of the students.

We will begin a new series on February 17 that will run through Easter. We are very excited about this series—it is called Back To Basics. We know that many people are

intimidated by the Bible—they have not read much or maybe don't understand what they do read. This series will take 6 weeks and go through the whole Bible—hitting the key points of our Christian beliefs.

This is for everyone—those that don't know anything about what we believe and why to those who already have a strong faith and relationship with Jesus—we look forward to exploring and learning together.

February 17, 6:33 p.m.

Who Am I and Why Am I Here?

February 24, 6:33 p.m.

Caution: Bridge Out Ahead

March 2, 6:33 p.m.

I'm a Good Person, Isn't That Enough?

March 9, 6:33 p.m.

I Was Saved By Body Piercings!

March 16, 6:33 p.m.

Deal Or No Deal

March 24, 6:33 p.m.

Easter, Celebrate!

633 is looking for a "Marketing Coordinator". We are looking for someone who can help us think of ways to bring more people in to the 633 worship gatherings.

Finally, we are currently in the middle of our "Youth Challenge!" We are challenging all youth to bring a friend to 633. If they do, they will be entered into a drawing that will take place on February 24, 2008. The prize is an iTunes gift card and some other cool stuff. So, bring someone new every week and increase your chances of winning!

2008 ASP Workday

The adults and youth of the 2008 ASP team need your help. On May 17, we are planning a workday to get prepared for our mission trip. What we need from you are some work projects. If you have any projects that you have been putting off or maybe it's more than you can handle, we can help. A crew of 5-7 adults and youth will come to your home and work their magic and all you need to do is supply the materials.

Some projects may include but are not limited to:

- painting
- drywall repair
- drain tile
- some floor repair or replacement
- door repair or replacement
- shelf installation
- deck repair
- retaining wall repair or installation

All applications will be evaluated by our project leaders to determine what projects we will be taking on. Please submit applications to **Marianne Rogenski** or **Rob Mottar** by 4/1/08.

2008 ASP Workday Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Project description (Be as specific as possible. More than one project may be accepted):

Finance Report

The following is our status through the end of December.

YTD Actual vs. Budget Through December 2007

	Actual	Budget	\$ Change	% Change
Congregation Gifts & Tithes	316,098	331,050	(14,952)	-5%
Sprint & T-Mobile Rent	35,814	27,146	8,668	32%
Other Income	32,458	30,224	2,234	7%
Total Income	384,369	388,420	(4,051)	-1%
Total Expenses	371,376	388,420	(17,044)	-4%
Net Income (Loss)	12,993	(0)	12,993	



Fifteenth 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 \$890. Since 1994 *Our Redeemer's* has raised over \$22,000.

This year's Lenten devotion entitled "I Wonder..." 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 6 and will conclude with a Good Friday Fast on March 21.

Please sign up in the Narthex beginning Sunday, January 20

Food Coupons

by *Shirley Odegaard*

You never know what's going to happen when you go to the grocery store! Just ask **Sue Brown** or **Diane Rocha**. They have some stories to tell. The United Methodist Women give Sue and Diane \$50 almost every month to shop for groceries and sundries for our pantry here at *Our Redeemer's* and the Crisis Center. Every week they collect coupons that have been donated by the congregation and off they go shopping. They get so much food and sundries that it is unbelievable.

Shortly before Christmas while shopping, a young girl who was with a young man asked for a Polly Pockets. The young man said they didn't have enough money and the food was more important. Sue and Diane stepped up with all their coupons and there were enough coupons so the little girl got her Polly Pockets. A very happy little girl and young man.

On other occasions Sue and Diane were able to use their coupons to help shoppers get more for their money. The coupons helped provide items for the Teen Runaway House in addition to the Crisis Center and the *Our Redeemer's* pantry.

The coupon program has been a great service to those in need and has been very rewarding to Sue and Diane. If you would like to help, leave grocery coupons on the bottom shelf of the food pantry.



Caring Ministries Corner

ORUMC - A Rainbow Covenant Church (Again)

Once again in 2007, *Our Redeemer's* was a "Rainbow Covenant Church". That means that we paid 100% of our apportionments—our financial obligation to the United Methodist Church itself. But it also means we went the "extra mile" by going on to support mission projects across the spectrum.

There are eight "colors" in the rainbow covenant—eight types of mission projects to support. Those are International Advance projects (Burgundy), U.S.A. Advance projects (Red), United Methodist Committee on Relief (Orange), The Children's Fund (Yellow), Northern Illinois Conference benevolences (Green), District projects (Blue), Support of Missionary Personnel (Indigo), and Special Sunday offerings (Purple).

We can take some pride in this accomplishment. You, the congregation fulfilled your financial responsibilities, allowing the church to fully pay its apportionments. But the extra mile giving came from our church's special blessing—our cell tower cross fund. Years ago our administrative council voted to tithe that income, giving half to Richard Vales' WWJD Ministry" (see accompanying article) and putting half toward the rainbow covenant.

Thanks to that extra income and to a commitment toward the Rainbow Covenant

on the part of **Pastor Bill Shaw** and the finance committee, *Our Redeemer's* has been a "Rainbow Covenant Church" every year since 2000, the beginning of the new millennium. The goal now, of course, is to continue the tradition each year for the *rest* of the millennium!

Bruce Bedingfield,
Caring Ministries Chair



Take a *Second* for Fair Trade Coffee

Micah Ministries sells fair trade coffee **between** services on the *second* Sunday of each month. So we will be selling on Sunday, February 10 in the narthex.

This is one of *Our Redeemer's* social justice ministries. "Fair trade" means that a fair portion of the profit from coffee sales goes to the farmer who labored to grow it. We participate in fair trade through Equal Exchange, a multi-denominational organization that includes The United Methodist Church, and supports the United Methodist Council on Relief (UMCOR).

Besides coffee, Micah Ministries also sells fair trade cocoa and tea. We encourage you to buy and enjoy these delicious products as you support this important justice ministry.

ORUMC Continues Its Support of Richard Vales' WWJD Ministry

Our Redeemer's gave continued support this past year to **Richard Vales**, our own personal missionary. Richard is a former member of our church who traveled to an impoverished area of the Philippines on a business trip in the early 1990s. He heard, and he followed a call to serve the hungry children he saw there—leaving his home, selling his business, and his possessions. Although now in his eighties, Richard has been serving tirelessly ever since.

Our Redeemer's has been formally supporting Richard and his “What Would Jesus Do?” ministry for three years now. We make our contribution through a tithe of our cell tower income (see accompanying article.) This past year we were able to send Richard three \$500 checks to help him feed the hungry.

If you would like to make a personal contribution to Richard's ministry, checks can be made out to **Richard Vales** and sent to:

**Richard Vales, Unit 1-62
Andress Abellana Street,
Barangay Gualalupe,
Cebu City, Philippines 6000.**

From Richard Vales

Hi everyone this is Richard.. Sorry this is a general Christmas Greeting to all who have helped me through the years, but the list of people who have helped me is so long that I just cannot personalize it. Thank you all so much for all you have done, helping me feed hungry people, and in the many other ways we have helped them. The list of what we have done with your help is exciting and I pray that your help will continue through this coming year of 2008.

Right now we are getting our things ready to pass out on Christmas day. We are so happy that we will be able to pass out bags of goodies from Santa to many children. Not 10 children not 20 children not 30 children, but are you ready for this..... 500 Children. WOW!!!!!!! Thanks a Lot everyone. We will go to 5 different places and give things to 100 children at each place. This is the most children we have ever been able to pass out goodies for Christmas, thanks again to you guys.....

Love to all in Christ Richard..... God Bless you all. Merry Christmas.

This is a portion of two of Richard's e-mails. His Christmas deliveries were hampered by a truck breakdown and a bite that put him in the hospital for 4 days, but his team did get the presents delivered and he is back in circulation. When the hospital found out about his Christmas project they gave him his bill marked “Paid in Full”. See the web site for Richard's complete e-mails.

United Methodist Men



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

Come and enjoy spaghetti, fellowship and the UMM world-famous meatballs at the Super Bowl Spaghetti Dinner.

*February 9, 8:00 a.m.
Place Change - Our Saviour's UMC
Tony Dungy Bible Study*

All men are invited to the UMM monthly meeting and Bible study. We will have a continental breakfast followed by the study. The study uses the Tony Dungy Study book and will run through the June UMM meeting.

Each month's study will stand alone, so feel free to attend even if you can't make it to all of the meetings.

Due to the 30-Hour Famine we will meet (this month only) at *Our Saviour's* UMC.

United Methodist Women

February 16, 9:00 a.m.

The program theme for the United Methodist Women for the year 2008 is "Religious Awareness in Today's World." On February 16, we will be learning more about the "Mennonites". Please come and join us on Saturday 9:00 am for breakfast and fellowship. All are welcome!

Scrapbook Club

February 15, 6:00 p.m.

Any adults interested in scrapbooking or making cards are invited to attend the Scrapbook Club every 3rd Friday of the month from 6:00 - 11:00 p.m. in Wesley Hall. A group of adults will be gathering to share in fellowship and a common hobby. If you are an experienced scrapbooker/card maker or if you would like to stop by and learn more about this hobby, please feel free to attend. No reservations required. Please bring all of your own supplies and any snacks or beverages for the evening. If you would like more information or a list of basic supplies, call **Laura Machonis**, 847-882-6116.

Due to the March 1 Crop for a Cause event, the club will not meet on March 21, but will resume on April 18.

Church Ladies Nite Out

February 20, 7:00 p.m.

The Church Ladies will be going out Wednesday, February 20 to Yu's Mandarin Restaurant on Golf Road at 7:00 p.m. We will be making reservations so please let **Bev Wilkes** know in advance if you would like to join us. If you need a ride or have any questions, please call Bev at 847-882-6116. Come join us in good fellowship, good fun and good food.



Mom's Night Out

February 21, 7:00 p.m.
at Friday's on Barrington Road.

Mom's Night Out is a chance for moms 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 children 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 Annetted421@sbcglobal.net.



Chili Supper 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.



Rotary Club Art Auction

February 29, 7:30 p.m.

by **Benda Raffaelli**

The Schaumburg A.M. Rotary Club would like to announce their 16th Annual Art Auction & Silent Auction Fundraiser. The Fundraiser will be held at the Schaumburg Golf Club (Chandler's) on February 29, located at 401 N. Roselle Rd. in Schaumburg. The art preview begins at 6:15 p.m. and the live auction begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30.00 in advance or \$35.00 at the door. Refreshments include: hor d'oeuvres, wine & cheese, 2 free drinks, additional cash bar with coffee & dessert.

Rotary is a humanitarian, nonprofit organization which raises money just to give back to our community. Last year we gave grants to the library, the YMCA, to Boy Scouts summer camp, for the high school bus prom trip, for several vocational scholarships, to the food pantry and many other worthy organizations.

All of the Rotary clubs work on service projects relating to health, hunger, literacy and educational assistance. We are seeking donations of high-quality merchandise or gift certificates for our Silent Auction, which is 100% profit to our club. For ticket or merchandise donation information, please contact **Brenda Raffaelli** at 847-882-6116.



Crop for a Cause

March 1, 3:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Crop for a Cause is a charity Scrapbook Night and silent auction to benefit the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. The event is sponsored by *Our Redeemer's* member **Laura Machonis**.

The evening includes scrapbook space, a light dinner, snacks, door prizes and fun. Soft drinks and water will be available for a small cost.

The cost of registration is \$25 (\$30 after February 1). 100% of your donation will go to the National MS Society. The registration form is available at www.cropforacausemakingmsamemory.com.

Admission to the silent auction is free. The auction will include a variety of scrapbook supplies and weekends away.

You may contribute silent auction items and gently used scrapbook material for the bargain table.

Volunteers are needed to help set up February 29. If you can help, have items to donate or would like more information about the event, call **Laura Machonis**, 847-882-6116.

Camping Planning Meeting March 2, 4:00 p.m.

All members and friends of *Our Redeemer's* are invited to attend our weekend family campouts. We go out once a month from June to October. We do all the normal camping stuff and share a potluck on Saturday evening. On Sunday we attend a worship service at a local church or at the campground.

Come to the planning meeting Sunday, March 2 at 4:00 p.m. and help set up the schedule for the year. We will have pizza after the meeting and get you out in time for the 633 service.

All campers, new and old are welcome. If you would like more information, call **Jerry McDaniel**, 847-882-6116.



Crisis Center Needs

Please read the new guidelines!

Because of lack of storage, the Crisis Center CANNOT ACCEPT clothing unless specifically requested. Also, they CANNOT ACCEPT used stuffed toys because of health reasons. For February the Crisis Center would like NEW socks, underwear, sweat suits, pajamas, slippers for women and children. Ice-melt for sidewalks and parking lot. Shampoo, hairbrushes, combs, Blistek and Chapstick.

Please place items in the new collection area in the narthex.

Save Planet Earth

by Shirley Odegaard

It will soon be time to give some thought to your garden (really it will) and the turf around your “corner of the world”. Here are some ideas.

1) How about installing a rain barrel? A rain barrel attaches to a down spout and keeps rain water from flooding your yard, yet is accessible for watering your flowers and vegetables. The cost, including the hardware, is only \$35 from the Environmental Committee of Schaumburg. You can call for one at 847-923-4430.

2) Research native plants of Illinois on the internet. Native plants have a longer root system and require less water during times of drought.

3) Consider planting some broccoli, leaf lettuce or onions in amongst the flowers. They’re good to eat and look good, too.

Happy planning and planting!



Heifer Project

Thanks to everyone for their generous contributions to Heifer. At press time we don’t yet have a final total but we are optimistic that ORUMC will be able to buy an Ark again this year!

If you still have Ark Banks, please turn them in as soon as possible. If you have any questions call **Julie Kuhn** at 847-882-6116.



Personal Notes

Baptisms

Ruby Jane Addams Montgomery

Ruby Jane was baptized January 6. Her proud parents are **Jamie Addams** and **Jon Montgomery**.

Andre Wesley Cruz Santiago

Andre Wesley was baptized January 13. His proud parents are **Andrimel Ventura Santiago** and **Alpha Frelix Cruz Santiago**.



February Birthdays

Karen Greenwalt	2/03
Ellen Swartz	2/11
Annika Vallejo	2/12
Ian Vallejo	2/12
Michael Hernandez	2/20
Caitlin Wilkes	2/21
Justin Edwards	2/26
Kelsey Lukowicz	2/29

Our Redeemer's United Methodist Church

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