



The Redeemer Review

Proclaiming Christ into the 21st Century

Volume 3

March, 2008

**Pastor's
Corner**

Easter: New Life in Jesus Christ



On Sunday March 23 we will celebrate Easter. Most of you who are receiving this letter have a good idea what Easter is about. On that day the church celebrates the resurrection of Christ. We affirm, with songs, readings and message, that death does not have the final say in the world. We affirm, with confidence and gusto, that Christ is risen; *IS Risen, IS Risen, IS Risen* (I tend to repeat myself at times). What that means for us is that this is not an historical celebration, but is instead, a *clear and present possibility*.

During our preparation season for Lent we have been focusing on living that new life. At *Our Redeemer's* we know the importance of living out our faith in Jesus Christ through actions of charity and justice. Through the leadership of our caring ministries council and our Micah Ministries (social justice) team we know our "walk" has to match our "talk." Our emphasis on the ministries of feeding the

hungry, home repair for those in need and giving financially toward crisis needs (i.e., Katrina) or only a small part of what we continue to do.

This year, even as we have strongly affirmed our active ministries, we also have reflected on our spiritual journey concerning forgiveness and reconciliation. Each Sunday we have focused on forgiveness as a theme for this season, that we might have the strength and courage to forgive others, but also to have "compassion for ourselves" as we know the great gift of forgiveness we know in Jesus Christ. As you celebrate Easter this year I would ask that you not only continue growing in ways of giving and service, but take the hurt and brokenness, that place where you have not *forgiven yourself*, and give it over to God. New life then can be more than new, it can be amazing.

Grace and Peace
Pastor Bill

"He has risen
from the dead ..."

Matthew 28:7, NIV



Redeemer Review

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Our Redeemer's

United Methodist Church

1600 W Schaumburg Road
Schaumburg IL 60194-3900

(847) 882-6116

email: orunc@core.com

Website: www.orunc.org

Worship Services at 9:00 and 10:30 am

Pastor:

[Rev. Bill Shaw](#)

Church Secretary:

[Donna Echnert](#)

Director of Youth Ministries:

[Marianne Rogenski](#)

Director of Discipleship:

[Carolyn Meneely](#)

Co-Editors:

Jim Cottrell & Jerry Mc Daniel

**March 16, 9:00 & 10:30
a.m.**

Palm Sunday Worship

March 20, 7:30 p.m.

Holy Thursday Worship

March 20-21

Good Friday Fast

March 21, 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday Worship

March 22, 6:33 p.m.

6:33 Saturday

Easter Celebration

**March 23, 9:00 & 10:30
a.m.**

Easter Sunday Worship



Lent

We are in the middle of Lent and looking forward to a joyous Easter. It is one of the most meaningful times of the Christian year. Even infrequent churchgoers are likely to come to worship at Easter (and at Christmas).

Lent for some is a time of sacrifice and penitence – “giving up” something you love, like meat or chocolate or Starbucks coffee or that fixation that rules your life more than it should.

But at *Our Redeemer’s*, Lent is a time for caring for the hungry – a positive action rather than a forfeiting action. We support the Society of St Andrew’s Lenten program, where money collected goes to feed the hungry. The message on the collection bank says it can hold \$100 in quarters — which could pay for 28 Starbucks coffees or 5000 servings of food. It ends with a day of fasting on Good Friday to remember not only Christ’s suffering, but also his teachings to feed the hungry. And it’s hard to forget the glow in the sanctuary when it was covered with orange

globes. Each one represented a starving child - part of the ORUMC youth’s 30-Hour Famine to increase awareness and learn about hunger throughout the world.

While remembering Christ’s sacrifice during Lent, we still look forward to Palm Sunday and Easter with anticipation. Especially during the Holy week services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, we hope you will invite your friends and neighbors to join us in worship and fellowship and to be a part of our church family.

And on Sunday mornings, make a special effort to welcome everyone as if they are family. During passing of the peace, shake the hand of someone you don’t know. During refreshments, offer a cookie to someone you haven’t seen before. During worship, share a smile with a stranger across the sanctuary. With these little acts of friendship we will extend the blessings of Easter.

Carolyn Meneely
Director of Discipleship



by Marianne Rogenski

6:33 Worship

Come and join us in our current series, *Back To Basics!* Struggling with who you are? Not sure if God is real? Wondering what is at the heart of being a Christian? Need a “Bible Boot Camp?”

In this 6 week Lenten Series titled, *Back to Basics*, we will get back to the grassroots of Christianity and explore in depth who we are and who we are to become in our resurrection life through God’s grace. God sacrificed His son so that we can have life eternal with Him, but our life with God doesn’t start in Heaven...it begins NOW!

Don’t miss out on knowing how believing and trusting in God can change your life!”

Back to Basics Series Outline:

February 17: Who am I?

God created us to be with Him.

February 24: Caution: Bridge Out Ahead!

Our sin separated us from God.

March 2: I’m a Good Person, Isn’t that Enough?

Sins cannot be removed by good deeds.

March 9: I Was Saved By Body Piercings
Paying the price for our sin, Jesus died and rose again.

March 16: “Deal or No Deal!”

Everyone who trusts in Him alone has eternal life.

March 22: (Easter Service: Saturday)

Celebration! Life that’s eternal means that we will be with Jesus forever—and it starts now!

Beginning on March 30 we will begin a 3-week series all about prayer.

Sr. High News

Beginning the last week in February we are having a great discussion in Sr. High youth group (Sunday nights 7:30-8:30 p.m.). We are talking about the upcoming presidential election—looking at what issues are important to us and who stands for what. Come and bring a friend—even if you don’t know much about politics it should be interesting!

Jr. High News

There will be no youth group on March 9. On March 9 the confirmation class is going to the soup kitchen—all confirmation students should make an effort to attend. We leave the church at 1:30 p.m. and return around 8:30 p.m. Bring money for McDonalds dinner on the way home. Parents, if you are able to come, please do. Please contact Marianne by March 2 and let her know if you will be coming or if you cannot make it.

Youth Group News

There will be no youth groups Easter weekend. The Easter 6:33 service is *Saturday*, March 22 so there is no 6:33 on Sunday, March 23.

ASP

Appalachia Service Project News: Our next meeting is the retreat on May 16-17. All forms for the trip are to be turned in at this time. If you need forms please see Marianne. If you fill them out early and would like to turn them in that is fine!

If you are an adult leader that did not go on the trip last year we need you to have a background check done. This is an ASP rule now. The church will provide the necessary forms and also will take care of the nominal fee. Please see Marianne for necessary paperwork.

The group leaves June 14 and returns June 21!

Katrina Relief Team

There will be an informational meeting for this trip on March 12, 7:00 p.m. at church. The team will leave on July 26 and return on Aug 3. They will be staying at Camp Hope in Vancleave, MS. The cost per volunteer will be \$100. Anyone 18 years old or older is wanted and needed to go on this trip. It should be a wonderful way to serve the people who are still in need after the 2005 storm.

Education

by Gwyn Greenwalt

How quickly the Easter season will be upon us this year! There are several things to note for the month of March.

March 9 – Day Light Savings Time – Be sure to set your clocks ahead one hour

March 16 – Palm Sunday – The children will join the congregation at the beginning of the service for the waving of the palms, followed by their regular Sunday School classes.

March 23 – Easter Sunday – No Sunday School. Please join us for our traditional Easter Sunday services.

Summer Camp

*Oh, the weather outside is frightful,
But the thought of Summer Camp is so
delightful!*

What's your child's thing? Maybe it's fishing and hiking. Maybe it's music and drama. How about water sports or horseback riding? The UMC Northern Illinois Conference has a variety of safe, spiritual, and fun summer camps for everybody! Summer camps are for kids entering 2nd grade up through high school, and are offered at Reynoldswood in Dixon, IL, and at Wesley Woods in Williams Bay, WI.

A limited number of summer camp brochures are available in the Narthex. For more information, check out the NIC website at www.niccamp.org.

30-Hour Famine

February 8 & 9

Nineteen youth were joined by about thirty adults in the 30-Hour Famine to raise money and awareness to fight world hunger.

The youth participated in Bible studies, service projects, letter writing and games to pass the time and ward off hunger. They broke the fast at 9:00 p.m. on Saturday with a potluck supper.



United Methodist Men

March 8, 8:00 a.m.

Tony Dungy Bible Study

All men are invited to the UMM monthly meeting and Bible study. We will have a continental breakfast at church 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.

United Methodist Women

March 16, 9:00 a.m.

To all women: Please join the United Methodist Women at ***Our Redeemer's*** on Saturday, March 16 at 9:00 a.m. for breakfast and fellowship.

We will have a guest speaker from the Mennonite religion. This will be a great opportunity for us to learn about the similarities and differences in our religions.



Heifer Project Update

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.

The final count is in, and we increased our contribution by a goat over last year! We will be purchasing an Ark, a Heifer, and a Goat for a total of \$5620. The Sunday School children contributed approximately \$200 in change they collected in the Banks.

Thanks to everyone who participated in this Micah Ministry.

Please remember to keep the Heifer program in mind throughout the year. You can learn more about the projects and successes of Heifer at www.Heifer.org.



Camping Planning Meeting

March 2, 4:00 p.m.

All members and friends of *Our Redeemer's* are invited to attend our week-end 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 6:33 service.

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

Mom's Night Out

*March 13, 7:00 p.m.
at The Big Bowl*

Mom's Night Out is a chance for moms to go out and enjoy good food and fellowship. All are welcome.

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

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 January.

YTD Actual vs. Budget Through January 2008

	Actual	Budget	\$ Change	% Change
Congregation Gifts & Tithes	22,635	24,621	(1,986)	-8%
Sprint & T-Mobile Rent	2,273	2,873	(600)	-21%
Other Income	3,312	1,674	1,638	98%
Total Income	28,219	29,167	(948)	-3%
Total Expenses	40,029	38,069	1,960	5%
Net Income (Loss)	(11,810)	(8,902)	(2,908)	



Chili Supper for New Families

February 28, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

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.

Church Ladies Nite Out

March 19, 7:00 p.m.

The Church Ladies will be going to Charlie's Char House on Wednesday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m. Come join us and bring a friend!

Watch your Newsletter for our May outing as it will be very special! We will be going out on THURSDAY, May 22 at 7:00 p.m. to the Melting Pot on Golf and Roselle Rds for their dessert special for Ladies Only. Eat a light dinner at home that night!

If you have any questions or need a ride, call **Bev Wilkes** at 847-882-6116. Come join us for good food, fun and friendship!



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. To date, 226 people have registered to participate.

Even if you haven't registered to scrapbook, please feel free to come and join in on the silent auction.

Volunteers are needed to help set up February 29. If you can help, call **Laura Machonis**, 847-882-6116.

Scrapbook Club

April 18, 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.

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

The church doors will be locked after 8:00 p.m. If you arrive after 7:00, please call the church, 847-882-6116, to be admitted.



Caring Ministries Corner

(Upcoming Caring Ministries Activities)

Crop for a Cause	March 1
Rogers Park Soup Kitchen	March 9
Habitat for Humanities	March 1
Good Friday Fast	March 20-21
Child Serv Easter Collection	March 16, 23, and 30
Louisiana Storm Recovery Center	July 12-August 3
Appalacian Service Project	June 14-21

*“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can
In all the ways you can, in all the places you can,
At all the times you can, to all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.”*

John Wesley’s Rule



Crisis Center Needs

The Crisis Center needs for March are: **BABY NEEDS:** disposable diapers (larger sizes and pull-ups) diaper wipes, baby bottles, cups with lids, high chairs (sturdy) car seats and **OFFICE SUPPLIES:** pens/papers/markers, white copy paper, 8 1/2" x 11", letter and legal size manila file folders, notebook paper, white #10 envelopes, paper clips/post-it notes/staples.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

By Mary Knoppel

The Prayer Shawl Ministry was begun at *Our Redeemer’s* in Sept 2006. This is one of the many ways that we tend to the varied needs of our congregation and the community. As the shawls are being knitted or crocheted prayers are being said for those that may receive them. Each shawl is blessed and then a prayer is read when it is presented to the recipient.

Anyone may be given a Prayer Shawl. We have been blessed to be able to present shawls to over 50 individuals since we began. The shawls have been presented to individuals in Kentucky, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Florida, and we will have one presented in Hawaii shortly. This is a far-reaching ministry. If you know of someone who is in need of a Prayer Shawl please either contact me or the church office.

We also recently have begun making Baptismal Blankets to be used when a baby is baptized. We have a few dedicated women who work on the shawls but we could always use more.

If you can knit or crochet or would like to learn please give me a call. We also have members who do not knit or crochet but believe so strongly in this ministry that they have donated money to buy yarn for us. This is also very much appreciated. We hope that you will be able to join us in this wonderful ministry.

Choir Workshop

January 26 the *Our Redeemer's* Music Committee and Chancel Choir hosted a choir workshop with internationally-known musician, composer and director, **Craig Courtney**. *Our Redeemer's* choir members were joined by singers from 5 or 6 area churches. The total of 65 voices truly made a joyful noise. We worked on several pieces by Mr. Courtney that you can look forward to hearing in the near future.



Cathy Scott, Craig Courtney & Jill Wood-Naatz



Workshop Attendees



Rummage Alert!

We are in NEED of your Rummage (Treasures)!

When – the week of May 4. The Rummage Sale will be May 9 & 10! **Remember no computers, no plumbing parts or tires!**

All profits go to charity. Any questions, call **Sherrie Cottrell** or **Shirley McDaniel**.

Habitat for Humanity

March 1, 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.

We meet March 1 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.



Personal Notes



The congregation extends deepest sympathy:

To **Mary and Herb Knoppel** and family on the death of Mary's great nephew, **Derrick Herman**; he was 8 years old and lived in Arkansas.

To **David and Carlene Thompson** and their family on the death of David's sister, **Carol Saunders**.

To **Adeline DeGraaf** and her family on the death of her husband Rev. **Doug DeGraaf**, who passed away February 7.

Rev. DeGraaf was a former minister of *Our Redeemer's*.

Messages of condolence may be sent to Mrs. Adeline DeGraaf, 210 Spring Ridge Drive, Bloomington, IL. 61704.



March Birthdays

Ashley Mottar	3/24
Madeleine Jane Almazan	3/25
Adam Lukowicz	3/26
Ellyanna Rogenski	3/31



Family Ministries Game Night - January 25



Easter Blessings

by JoAnne Gregorash

I know what you are thinking, Easter Blessings in February? It is February and I grant you we don't normally think of Easter in February. This year though, we must. Easter comes very early and falls on March 23. It really is time to think about ordering our Easter flowers to make our sanctuary and church into a place of celebration and joy as we remember and glory in the resurrection of the Christ.

Celebrating special occasions with flowers is a time-honored tradition for many parts of the world and in the United States, in northern Illinois and in *Our Redeemer's*, we are no exception. Every year we follow "our" tradition of buying Easter flowers and loaning them to the church until after the services on Easter Sunday. For those of you who are new are *Our Redeemer's* we invite you to join us. It is fairly simple.

Please fill out the form below, place in the basket in the narthex or turn into the church office with your check and we will order the flowers, take delivery of the flowers, arrange the flowers throughout the sanctuary and narthex and then when the services are over on Easter Sunday, you are free to take home whatever it is you ordered. The deadline for ordering is Sunday, March 16, Palm Sunday.

It is important that you order before this as I cannot guarantee any orders that come in after that date. If you need to order now and pay later, that is perfectly OK. I just need the order. Our florist is very good about trying to get us the best possible flowers. With Easter being so early, I think this year's supply will probably be a little more limited than usual, so don't delay, order today! The prices this year will be \$12.50 for lilies, \$11.00 for tulips or hyacinths.

Name _____ Telephone _____

Quantity: Lilies _____ Tulips _____ Hyacinths _____

In Honor Of: _____

In Memory Of: _____

Our Redeemer's United Methodist Church

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