



The Redeemer

Review

Proclaiming Christ into the 21st Century

Volume 12

December, 2007



Christmas Is Here Not Again !!!!!!!



How I love Christmas, *I think*. Now before you say I sound like a wishy-washy Charlie Brown, hear me out. Christmas is filled with the excitement of children, of Christmas carols and gorgeous hymns, of families coming together and times of worship that can draw us closer to God.

Yet Christmas is also filled with “over the top” marketing, anxieties about having too much to do and the temptation to spend, spend, spend. With the hectic pace of the season I have often wanted to just have an old fashion Christmas with plenty of time for family and friends and a connection to the Christ child.

Dream on Pastor Bill! However, what if we made an effort to truly claim the time we need to grow in ways of Christmas love.

I would like to invite all of you this year to *take a time out for Christmas*.

In our worship services this December we will be focusing on the valuable gift of time; seeking to reclaim the true spirit of God’s divine presence that came in the form of the babe in the manger. I know you will all be very busy with Christmas celebrations, buying gifts and sending cards.

We do not want to stop those activities of joy and celebration. However, on Sunday this year, take a time out to rejuvenate in the ways of grace, to renew in the light of the gospel and to marvel at a simple birth that draws us closer to God and each other.

See you all in December.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Bill

O come,
let us
adore
him



C.R.O.P. WALK 2007
*Communities Responding to
Overcome Poverty*

by Edie Machonis

The C.R.O.P. WALK donations totaled \$2,966.00 That is \$200.00 more than last year and one of our highest totals ever. Thank you sponsors for your generosity!

There were 36 walkers - the most we have ever had! Many walked as families. Thank you so much for participating. Thanks to **Bruce and Gail Bedingfield**, and **Laura Ziebel** who volunteered the day of the walk. Thanks to **Pastor Bill**, the Micah Ministry Committee, The Tech Group, the high school youth, and **Jamie Adams** and **Jon Montgomery** for all they did to make this event a success. What a team effort.

The money that was donated will not only help support immediate and long term needs in other countries, but 25% will stay in our community to help fund Pads, the Schaumburg Food Pantry and the Kenneth Young Center.

Way to go, church family! We are making a difference in our world. Looking forward to walking with you again next year.

Carolyn Meneely
Greater Woodfield C.R.O.P. Walk
Co-ordinator
Edie Machonis
ORUMC co-ordinator

Redeemer Review

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Our Redeemer's

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[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



Meet - Greet - Engage

Meet - Greet - Engage.

It's one of **Pastor Bill's** favorite phrases – a signal to seek a person you don't know, welcome them and connect with them in conversation. Many people have told me that the reason they liked *Our Redeemer's* was the friendliness of those they talked to during their first visits with us.

Especially during the next few weeks of Advent, you are likely to see more new faces. It's important to remember to make an extra effort to introduce yourself to visitors and get to know them.

And don't stop when you leave church. There's so much hustle and bustle to get ready for Christmas. It's easy to be focused on your Christmas To-Do list, and not see others around you. Try Meet - Greet - and Engage with strangers – in line at the grocery store, at the fast food restaurant, or the slow food restaurant, or the gas station, at school, at work.

When ever you find yourself waiting for a minute or two, smile and say “Hi, how are you?” and then Engage! Try some pleasant words about the anticipation of Christmas, or sympathetic words about how hectic things are, or just a friendly smile. Consider it a random *verbal* act of kindness.

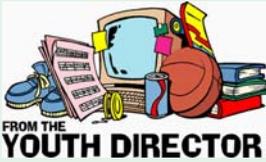
Finally, take a time-out to Meet - Greet - and Engage yourself. Make a quiet moment, maybe close your eyes, and say to yourself “Hi, self, how are you?” Tell yourself how you are feeling - looking for the positive thoughts or memories or joys.

It could be first thing in the morning or last thing at night, sipping your coffee or tea or at a stop light (don't close your eyes though), walking the dog – whenever you can.

Then take a minute to remember the Son of God, born more than two thousand years ago but still alive for us today.

Merry Christmas

Carolyn Meneely
Director of Discipleship



by Marianne Rogenski

Youth Ski Trip January 18-20, 2008 Wesley Woods and Alpine Valley, WI

This trip is open to all ORUMC Jr. and Sr. High students and friends. We will leave ORUMC at 6:30 p.m. Friday evening and return after a Sunday morning worship service. On Saturday there will be skiing and snowboarding followed by entertainment by a live Christian band in the evening.

The cost is \$110 for lodging, food, equipment rental, lesson and lift ticket at Alpine. **Registration and payment is due December 2. Scholarships are available.**

If you are interested please check the bulletin for inserts and call **Cathy Mottar**, 847-882-6116.

Appalachia Service Project June 14-21

We had our meeting in November and the attendance was just incredible. Thanks to all for making the effort to be there. If you are planning to go on the trip, please get your deposit to **Marianne** ASAP! Our next meeting is February 19, 7-8:15pm.

If you are interested in going and have not yet been to a meeting or spoken to Marianne, please contact her NOW!

6:33 Worship Gathering

This is an amazing hour of worship every week and I would like to encourage all youth, young adults, parents, just everyone to come out and give it a try! Our Advent and Christmas series will be The Kingdom Experiment and we are very excited about it.

Youth Groups

Every Sunday night between 7:30 and 8:30 p.m. both the Jr. High and the Sr. High youth groups meet for fellowship—come join us!

Confirmation

Confirmation classes will be a little bit different this month—please take note of the following schedule:

December 2, no class, communion Sunday
December 9, regular class
December 16, no class, children's program in church
December 23, regular class
December 30, no class, winter break

Regular schedule—confirmation class on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays will begin again on January 13!

Other reminders for confirmation:
Soup Kitchen
Serve at the Roger's Park Soup Kitchen in Chicago January 13, 2008 or March 9, 2008. (Other dates are 12/9/07, 2/10/08 and 4/13/08)

Attend the family service at Beth Tikvah Synagogue
February 15, 2008

30-Hour Famine

One other important date for all youth in the church—30-Hour Famine will be February 8-9, 2008 and Famine Sunday is February 10! Mark your calendars now and see Marianne right after Christmas for the fundraising packets!

Education Notes

by Gwyn Greenwalt

Sunday School Program

Dec 16, 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Please join us on Sunday, December 16 for our Sunday School Christmas Program. Our Sunday School children are learning their songs and preparing for our upcoming Sunday School Christmas program. Join us as the children tell us the story of our Savior's birth.

Information for parents:

Our dress rehearsal is on Saturday, December 15, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. If you have any questions about our program, contact **Gwyn Greenwalt** at 847-882-6116.

Note: There will be no Sunday School on December 30.

We would like to wish a very Merry Christmas to our teachers, our Sunday School children and their families. Many blessings to everyone from the Education Committee.



Family Ministries Notes

by Gwyn Greenwalt

Advent Festival

December 1, 4:00 p.m.

Bring the whole family to the Advent Festival at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 1. We'll have the fellowship of a potluck, crafts for the kids, and an uplifting time together as we prepare the church for the celebrations of Christmas.

Church Christmas Caroling

December 15, 2:30 p.m.

Join us at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 15 for Christmas caroling. We will visit Friendship Village as well as other locations throughout the Schaumburg area, and then return to church for hot chocolate and a potluck dinner. We'll provide sloppy joes and hot dogs, but would welcome buns, chips/side dishes, or desserts.

If you know someone who could use a visit from our carolers, or if you have any questions, please contact **Gwyn Greenwalt** at 847-882-6116.

**Coming in January
Family Game Night**



Christmas Giving: Heifer Project

by *Julie Kuhn*

Christmas is a wonderful time of year for those of us who follow Jesus. We remember the hope that God sent into the world with the birth of his son. So often, however what is for us a simple time of receiving God's gift of a child, has become a time of frustration. With Christmas literally becoming a marketing event, it often loses its significance as a time of hope and a time of grace. In our rush to make sure we fulfill the cultural obligations of the season, and do the things "expected" of us by society, we often forget what this season is about.

This year we want to encourage you to reclaim Christmas in your practice of gift giving by giving to the Heifer Project. Through the Heifer Project we contribute money to purchase heifers, goats, chickens, llamas and other livestock that are given to families in need around the world.

Many of you have purchased some of these as a gift for your family and friends in the past. In doing that, you have not only provided a way for families to feed themselves around the world, you have also reclaimed the true spirit of the Christ child. This year we will again be working with the heifer project. Please consider becoming part of this giving program and reclaim the true meaning of the season.

A table will be in the Narthex between services during Advent to accept Heifer donations and provide cards for gift-giving.

Visit Heifer.org for more information. If you have any questions, please contact **Julie Kuhn** at 847-882-6116.

Caring Ministries Corner

(Where did the Schaumburg Food Pantry wagon and Elgin Crisis Center basket go?)

Thanks to the beautiful renovation of the narthex, we have a new location for food pantry and crisis center donations. Both of these caring ministries now have their drop-off locations in the far-left panel drawers.

Please keep up your weekly support of these important ministries.

Voter Registration Information

If you have moved (even across the street), changed your name, or never registered to vote - you must register in order to vote in the coming primary election. You must be registered by January 5, 2008 in order to vote on February 5, 2008.

You may register at the Schaumburg District Library on weekends and evenings, at the various township offices, or at the Driver License facility on Golf Road. You must show 2 forms of ID, with one showing your current address.

Shirley Odegaard (847-882-6116) is a voter registrar and can help with any questions you may have.

Micah Ministries Corner

Micah Ministries, our church's social justice ministry, asks the question, "If we could shrink the world's population to a village of 100 people, would you recognize it?"

1) How many villagers would be college educated?

- (a) 1 (b) 4
- (c) 5 (d) 10

2) How many villagers would be accounted for as persons of color?

- (a) 50 (b) 60
- (c) 70 (d) 80

3) How many villagers would own half of the Village's wealth?

- (a) 6 (b) 8
- (c) 12 (d) 15

4) What portion of villagers would speak English?

- (a) 6% (b) 9%
- (c) 12% (d) 15%

5) How many villagers would suffer from malnutrition?

- (a) 30 (b) 40
- (c) 50 (d) 60

6) What portion of villagers would reside in substandard housing?

- (a) 1 out of every 2
- (b) 2 out of every 3
- (c) 3 out of every 4
- (d) 4 out of every 5

7) How many villagers would not have access to clean, safe drinking water?

- (a) 38 (b) 44

(c) 56 (d) 66

See the answers on page 10.

The next meeting of Micah Ministries will be Tuesday, Jan 8 at 7:30 PM. All interested church members and friends are welcome and encouraged to attend.



Fair Trade Sales
*Second Sunday of
Each Month*

Micah Ministries, our church's social justice ministry, is now selling fair-trade coffee, tea and cocoa in the narthex the second Sunday of each month.

We participate in fair trade through Equal Exchange in association with the United Methodist Council on Relief (UMCOR). In fact, Equal Exchange donates a portion of every sale to UMCOR. In 2006 this amounted to \$17,191.07, which was used to support agricultural development in West Africa.

Please join in supporting this justice ministry as you enjoy some excellent hot beverages. (And fair trade products make excellent Christmas gifts!)

Church Ladies Nite Out December 19, 7:00 p.m.

The Church Ladies will be going out Wednesday, December 19, 7:00 p.m. to the Big Bowl located at the Streets of Woodfield shopping center. Please join us and bring a friend!

If you are in need of a ride or have any questions, please call **Bev Wilkes** at 847-882-6116. Come join us in good Christmas fellowship (no gifts), good fun and good food.



Mom's Night Out December 13, 7:00 p.m.

Mom's Night Out will be at Charlie's Char House December 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Mom's night out is for all mothers but especially those who have child that are school age or younger. It's a chance for moms to go out and enjoy good food and fellowship and let someone else do the cooking and cleaning!

You do not need to be a member of ORUMC to attend! All are welcome. For more information contact **Annette Brown**, 847-882-6116 or e-mail Anneteb421@sbcglobal.net.



Crisis Center Items

The Community Crisis Center is very appreciative of all the items sent to them from Our Redeemer's. For December they would like items to be used for gifts: Wristwatches for women and teens, clock radios, steam irons, journals/pens for women; Walkman or similar type items, wallets or purses on a string, bath sets for teens; Children's gifts such as dolls, puzzles, games, actions figures and trucks/cars.

Please put your contributions in the Crisis Center box in the office.

Church Calendar

The *Our Redeemer's* calendar is used to avoid conflicts especially when scheduling all-church events. Since we will not have an Ad Council meeting in December, it is important that the calendar is up to date for January and February events.

Please review the events that your work area is planning and make sure it is included on the calendar. Call Donna in the church office to check the current calendar and make updates.

Answers to the Micah Quiz

1 a; # 2 c; # 3 a; # 4 b; # 5 c;
6 d; # 7 d

Save Planet Earth "Go Green"

That's a term that all of us will be hearing more and more in the coming months and years. It has to do with global warming, pollution, recycling, carbon dioxide, landfills, energy, and more. We have so much to learn about our environment, our planet, and our responsibilities to both. Last month the League of Women Voters/Palatine area held a luncheon at the home of one of the members. The luncheon was served on stoneware plates (not paper, Styrofoam, or plastic) and drinks were served in glasses and cups (again not paper, Styrofoam, or plastic). Everything went into the dishwasher, nothing into a landfill. Church Women United had their fall meeting at the Mennonite Church in Schaumburg. Again, refreshments were served on glass dinnerware. They are "going green".

Try "going green" in your home by limiting the use of disposable cups, plates, silverware, and napkins. Fill that dishwasher (no half loads)! Doing that uses less water and soap than doing the dishes by hand. And of course, Styrofoam doesn't decompose for hundreds of years! So no more Styrofoam cups and plates! (Perhaps you've noticed at church that we're now using paper cups for our cold drinks and we're recycling paper.) Let's all try to do our part to be responsible citizens of the Planet Earth.

Shirley Odegaard



**Scrapbook
Club**
Date Change
December 28,

6:00-11:00 p.m.

We will be meeting the 4th Friday of December instead of our usual 3rd Friday due to Christmas.

If you are an experienced scrapbooker/card maker or 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 a list of basic supplies or would like more information, call **Laura Machonis**, 847-882-6116.

Giving Envelopes

Using giving envelopes makes processing your weekly or monthly giving easier and more accurate.

Please include your name, amount and designation (if other than giving to the normal budget) on your envelope.

If you would like giving envelopes for 2008, call Donna in the office, 847-882-6116.

United Methodist Women December 15, 9:00 a.m.

Are you ready for Christmas? Join us and catch that Christmas spirit!

All women of the church are invited to attend our Annual Prayer Partner Ornament Exchange on Saturday, December 15 at 9:00 a.m. in the Church. Even if you didn't have a Prayer Partner this year, join us for a delicious breakfast, Christmas music and a lot of Holiday cheer.

If you have a Prayer Partner, bring a wrapped Christmas Ornament to give to her. This is always a favorite event. Join us for FUN, FELLOWSHIP, AND FRIENDSHIP! Breakfast is provided.

Habitat for Humanity December 8, 7:00 a.m.

Meet at church and leave for the Habitat site at 7:00 a.m. We are usually home by 5:00 p.m. Call **Rob Mottar**, 847-882-6116, if you would like to help.

United Methodist Men Date Change December 15, 7:30 a.m. (instead of December 8)

The UMM has cancelled its regular December meeting (December 8). Instead the men will be attending the UMM District Advent Breakfast December 15. We will meet at church and caravan to Elgin at 7:30 a.m.

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 do the Tony Dungy Bible Study.

Study books will be available December 15 at the Advent Breakfast. All men of the church are invited to attend. If you would be interested, call **Marshall Nystrom**, 847-882-6116, to reserve a study book.

Finance Report

The Finance Committee thanks you for your support of *Our Redeemer's* in 2007 and for your commitments for 2008. Giving through October is 97% of the budgeted income. Projected income is up for 2008. If you wish to make a commitment for 2008, please get a commitment card from Donna in the office.

YTD Actual vs. Budget Through October 2007

| | Actual | Budget | \$ Change | % Change |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|
| Congregation Gifts & Tithes | 258,334 | 267,554 | (9,210) | -3% |
| Sprint & T-Mobile Rent | 29,469 | 22,598 | 6,871 | 30% |
| Other Income | 22,862 | 21,350 | 1,512 | 7% |
| Total Income | 310,674 | 311,502 | (828) | 0% |
| Total Expenses | 312,629 | 324,297 | (11,667) | -4% |
| Net Income (Loss) | (1,955) | (12,795) | 10,840 | |

Narthex Project

Our narthex renovation is 95% complete! There is much you need to know about its use.

- The right hand alcove is our welcome center where you will find brochures of our various ministries, newsletters, Upper Rooms, guest book, and name tags.

- The left-hand alcove serves several purposes. The most important is to highlight the many ministries of our church. There are clipboards on the counter for signing up for any particular event or activity.

- The posters for those occasions will be displayed on the tack board behind the counter. Please use either full sized or ½ sized poster board for a more uniform look. Poster board of both sizes will be available and stored behind the counter.

- Please refrain from using easels in the narthex.

- Please do not tape fliers on the wood cabinetry.

- Youth specific activities will be posted on the youth board on the wall to the left of the alcoves.

- The two lower cabinets have 4 pull out shelves to be used for the food pantry, crisis center, recycling paper, and garbage. The red wagon will be relocated across from the nursery under the coat racks. It may still be used to transport items.

- Please put prayer request cards through the slot in the cabinet.

- It takes 2 people to very carefully pull out either counter.

- Those promoting an event may stand behind the counter to answer questions and encourage sign up.

- The door for the food pantry and crisis center will be left open on Sundays to encourage donations.

Financing of this project was made possible by use of memorial fund money. There will be a dedication service in the near future in memory of those people in whose names the money was given.

We hope the new look will be welcoming to visitors and that it will be fully utilized to meet the needs of our ministries. If you have questions or suggestions please contact **Sherrie Cottrell, Carolyn Meneely, Jill Wood-Naatz, or Mary Zalay.**



Blood Drive December 6

Our Redeemer's will host the Schaumburg area blood drive on Thursday, December 6 from 3:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Feel free to drop in at any time even if you did not make a reservation to donate.

Open Mic Night

Approximately 80 members and friends attended the 6th Annual Open Mic Night November 16. The crowd was entertained by a variety of musical acts by the young and old(er) performers, an educational skit about the many uses for a bandana (or was that a banana), and a few corny jokes.

Thanks to all who helped set up and clean up and especially to all the performers.





Personal Notes



The congregation extends sympathy to **Debbie Hernandez** and her family on the death of her mother, **Beverly Jacobson**.



December Birthdays

| | |
|-------|------------------------|
| 12/5 | Matthew Young |
| 12/6 | Meghan Lowry |
| 12/7 | Blake Breda |
| 12/7 | Lukas Torgerson |
| 12/8 | Joseph Dombek |
| 12/14 | Chalisa Kulprathipanja |
| 12/21 | Abigail Hill |
| 12/22 | Jill Murphy |
| 12/27 | Dominic Gomes |
| 12/27 | Brendan Gorvett |
| 12/27 | Eric Theile |
| 12/29 | Nick Pope |

Our Redeemer's United Methodist Church

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