



The Redeemer Review

Proclaiming Christ into the 21st Century

Volume 10

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The Grace of Giving

“But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.”

(2 Corinthians 8:7 New International Version)

I love this Bible passage from the New International version especially the concept of the “grace of giving.” It suggests that there is generosity in giving or undertaking. What is the “grace of giving?”

St. Paul wrote a love letter to the Corinthians with a commendation to be generous. He started with the idea of excellence for which the Corinthians were highly regarded: *faith, speech, knowledge, earnestness and love*. Paul and the disciples cultivated this love from Jesus Christ. The missionary efforts for the Gentile and Jews were



in full swing and bearing fruits of the spirit. Other communities were affluent, some were struggling but the love of God was a constant companion.

Paul challenged the community to rise to the occasion and support the fellow co-workers by receiving an offering.

Paul stated that the churches in Macedonia, suffered ordeal and affliction but were not stumbling blocks to joy and generosity. First, they gave themselves to the Lord and second they made a commitment to the body of Christ- the church.

Part of that is the art of encouragement to Titus to complete the good work that was begun. Paul urged the Corinthians to “excel in this grace of giving.” If the Macedonians can do it in the midst of extreme poverty, surely the grace of generosity can overflow from the

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Corinthians. Paul said later on in 2 Corinthians 9,

“And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything you may share abundantly in every good work.”

The month of October is our annual stewardship month and we are also launching our campaign drive in order to retire the debt from the roof, wall, furnace and other projects this year. We believe that all of us will step up and commit our fair share because the work of the church extends beyond the walls of ***Our Redeemer's United Methodist Church***. We will hear about 5 Commitments for the next few weeks representing our ministry to which all of us play a vital role: ***Prayer, Presence, Service, Gifts and Witness***.

Like St. Paul, the appeal for stewardship is based on the “grace of giving.” Our stewardship commitment comes from the abundance of blessing which is a result of our relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Our commitment at ***Our Redeemer's United Methodist Church*** is to connect our faith with the everyday world. It is Jesus' faith that moves us to love God and neighbor. All the things that we offer is an extension of this generosity. Let us employ this stewardship month to consider that a portion of our treasure is already committed to a joyful and sustainable ministry.

And finally, the prophetic word from Isaiah 55; 10-11 causes me to rethink giving like a shower of blessing:

*“For as the sky soars high above earth,
so the way I work surpasses the way you
work,*

*and the way I think is beyond the way
you think. Just as rain and snow descend
from the skies*

*and don’t go back until they’ve watered
the earth, Doing their work of making
things grow and blossom,*

*producing seed for farmers and food for
the hungry, So will the words that come
out of my mouth*

*not come back empty-handed. They’ll
do the work I sent them to do, they’ll
complete the assignment I gave them.”*

(The Message)

The Word of God interacts with the gifts that we bring and gifts we used daily. It creates new growth and possibilities. The Word of God endures forever and is expressed in “the grace of giving.”

Please be aware of the following dates.

October 4- World Communion Sunday
(second mile giving for ethnic minority scholarship)

October 18- Laity Sunday

October 25- Commitment Sunday
(receiving our pledges for 2016)

October 26- Annual Charge Conference
with DS Darneather Murph-Heath

See you in the giving place,
Pastor Romir R.
Esguerra

Stewardship

by Dan Murray

There are times in your life when you get the chance to be part of something bigger than yourself. Your name may not be mentioned, and you may not hoist the trophy on the stage; but as the confetti falls, you will know that you played a role. It won’t matter that you are not getting the glory; you get to know that you were a part of it.

Your financial commitment makes it possible for our church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. You play a tangible role in God’s work changing lives, developing leaders and sharing Christ in our church, community and beyond. Your giving has a real impact in the lives of people – both today, in the months ahead and for generations to come.

Jesus says that when we engage in spiritual practices to worship, grow, give, serve and share, don’t do them so that other people will notice or to put on a good show. The truth is that, “God doesn’t look at things like humans do. Humans see only what is visible to the eyes, but the Lord sees into the heart.” (1 Samuel 16:7)

Our giving is connected with our spiritual life. If we want to be generous givers and experience life more fully, we have to be people who are engaging in spiritual practices. No one gives in amazing ways just because there is a great need; extravagant, sacrificial givers do so because their hearts have been changed by spending time with God. When we make an annual giving commitment, it is an

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opportunity to humbly offer God our financial resources. We can be part of something that is better than anything we can achieve on our own. The true power will come from God when our treasure is used to accomplish far more than we can even imagine.

Your financial support makes our church's ministry and mission possible. Worship, programs for children and teens, adult Bible studies and small groups, pastoral care and support, mission trips and community projects are all supported by annual giving that provides the operating funds for our church. Your annual giving commitment makes it possible for our church to budget, plan and expand our ministries in the coming year.

If we want to experience life more fully, we must respond to all that God has done for us by seeking to participate in what God is doing in the world. We have considered how we are investing our lives and the invitation to invest our time, money, and energy in the things of God.

We have the opportunity to be part of things that are so much bigger than what one or two of us can do on our own. We get to be a part of what God is doing that is "far beyond all that we could ask or imagine" and find joy and meaning knowing that (Ephesians 3:20) we played a role. "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:20-21)

I invite you to make a generous annual giving commitment to support God's work through this church in 2016.



Education News:

by Marianne Rogenski

Sunday School is off to a great start!

Thank you to our teachers—**Sarah Calderwood, Shelley Lukowicz, Kim Maher, and Doug Meneely!**

Thank you to our assistants—**Judy Wayda and Jean Walters!**

Thank you to the many youth who will also be helping this year!

We could not do this without our wonderful volunteers!

Emergency Forms

If you have not yet turned in an emergency form for your child, please pick one up the next time you are at church and fill it out. You can return it to the Sunday School teachers or to Marianne.

Trunk or Treat is back!

Friday, Oct 23, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Come to the church parking lot with your kids all dressed in their Halloween costumes. Make sure to invite your friends and neighbors! This is an event for the whole community!

For this fun evening we are also looking for adults to decorate the trunks of their cars and hand out candy from them. If you are

going to hand out candy please arrive at 7:00pm to park and get ready.

Children (and their parents) should arrive at 7:30pm dressed in costume and ready for the fun! We will also have a campfire and hot cider. All festivities will end at 8:30pm. There will be an event board in the narthex with tons of info and a sign-up sheet for people who wish to hand out candy. Please sign up by October 11.

Youth News:

Youth Group is up and running and so much fun!

Thank you to our leaders—**Michelle Hill, Jon Montgomery, and Stephanie Watson!** They are committed to the youth of ORUMC and we are so blessed to have them!

October

- 4 Youth Group at ORUMC 6:30-8:30pm
- 11 NO YOUTH GROUP
- 18 Youth Group to soup kitchen 1:30-8:30pm @ Roger's Park
- 25 Youth Group at ORUMC 6:30-8:30pm

*For the soup kitchen—bring money with you because we always stop for a fast food dinner on the way home. We meet at ORUMC at 1:30pm and caravan to the soup kitchen. We will be back to church around 8:30pm.

We need to know who will be going by October 4. We also need adults to go with and drive. Please let Marianne know if you are going and if you can be a driver.

November

- 1 Youth Group at ORUMC 6:30-8:30pm
- 8 Youth Group at ORUMC 6:30-8:30pm
- 15 Big Worship Gathering 6:30-8:30pm
Prince of Peace, Hoffman Estates
- 22 Youth Group gets cupcakes 7-8pm
My Sweet Kake, Schaumburg
- 29 NO YOUTH GROUP

ASP (Appalachia Service Project):

ASP is a home repair ministry in the Appalachian region that aims to make homes warmer, safer, and drier. Their summer program is for high school students and their adult leaders. This is always an amazing experience and we encourage all youth to consider the trip. You must have completed 8th grade by the summer to be eligible.

We will go on our youth mission trip June 11-18, 2016.

Please see Marianne if you are interested.



Kayleigh Maher

Oct 27

Our birthday records have been outdated for a while. Marianne is updating the info based on input from emergency forms. Please fill out a form for your children (available in the office).

Community Crisis Center

by Sally Donaldson

I'm sorry to remind you but winter is just around the corner. When you start to go through your closets, please keep in mind the women, men and children at the Crisis Center.

They could use the following items:

- ◆ Coats, gently used or new,
- ◆ Hats/gloves/mittens,
- ◆ Children's Halloween costumes (non-violent)
- ◆ Bath towels/washcloths (new or used)
- ◆ Twin size blankets (new or used)

Medicine Chest Items (all items must be new, sealed and with current dates):

- ◆ Non-alcohol cough syrup and non-aspirin pain reliever (adults and children)
- ◆ Antacids
- ◆ RID shampoo
- ◆ Anti-Diarrhea medication
- ◆ Orajel
- ◆ Pedialyte
- ◆ Band-Aids
- ◆ Antibiotic ointment
- ◆ Gauze, adhesive tape
- ◆ Disposable thermometers
- ◆ Peroxide, rubbing alcohol
- ◆ Facial tissues

Baby Needs:

- ◆ Disposable diapers (larger sizes and pull ups)
- ◆ Diaper wipes

Toiletries:

- ◆ Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- ◆ Bar soap
- ◆ Shampoo and conditioner

Food and Snacks (non-perishable)

- ◆ Granola bars
- ◆ Fruit and pudding cups
- ◆ Canned meat
- ◆ Juice boxes

Please place your donations for the Crisis Center in the CCC bins in the cabinet to the left of the information desk located in the Narthex. Thank you so much for your generous and thoughtful donations. Your gifts mean so much to those in crisis.



Pizza

All men of the church are invited to our meeting October 3, 8:00 a.m. at church. We will be assembling pizza for delivery October 4.

Retreat

All men are also invited to our local UMM retreat at Conference Point October 30-31. Contact Marshall Nystrom if you are interested.

Holiday Snacks

The men will be taking orders for holiday snacks in November and December for delivery December 13.

Local Mission Opportunities

by Glen Hollingsworth

This summer *Our Redeemer's* started supporting the “Meals on Wheels” program. Once a week a driver from our church picks up meals prepared by the Kenneth Young Center, and delivers them to residents of Schaumburg and Hoffman Estates who need them.

In addition to providing a nutritious meal, these visits serve as a “wellness check” for the resident and their family. About a dozen people from our church have signed up to support this program. Pick-up time is 11:30 a.m. in Schaumburg, and deliveries take about an hour. If you have questions or are interested, please contact **Betty Miller** at 857-884-9388.

Recently I saw a news story about the American Cancer Society’s “**Road to Recovery**” program. This program provides rides for cancer patients who cannot drive

themselves to their cancer treatments and appointments. I was able to find more information online.

There is online registration, a background check requirement, and online training. The program is also supported by an online “Service Match” program which provides drivers with opportunities matching their availability and parameters they establish in their profile.

There is a significant need and many opportunities within a 20 mile radius of Schaumburg. Patients may need multiple treatments a week. Drivers can opt for round trips or individual legs of the trip, depending on the length of the treatment.

As we have witnessed the devastating impact of this disease within our church and families, this is one way we can help those suffering from cancer and support the American Cancer Society. If you have questions about the program or process, please contact **Glen Hollingsworth** at 847-310-0491.



Mary Johnston College of Nursing Chicago Alumni Association - September 20

Personal Notes



Congratulations to **Lee and Marilyn Gac** who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on September 18



A special “thanks so much” to our **Betty Miller** for all her watering and “TLC” with our outdoor plants!



The congregation extends deepest sympathy to the **Wiebel** family on the death of **Evelyn Wiebel**.



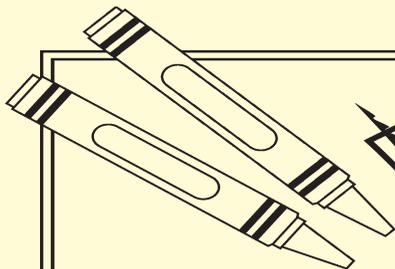
We have a member of our church family who celebrated a very special birthday on September 26.

Leota Sahr, who is at Friendship Village, celebrated her 107th birthday on September 26. If you would like to send a card, her address is:

Leota Sahr
350 W. Schaumburg Road
C184
Schaumburg, IL. 60194



The congregation extends a special thank you to **David Judycki** and to **Classic Builders, Inc.** for their generous contribution toward the excellent reconstruction of the south wall of the Wesley Room.



PUZZLE

meeting needs

The Bible emphasizes the importance of giving to people in need. In Matthew 6:1-4, Jesus describes the proper attitude for giving.

*Directions: Starting at the *B and going counterclockwise, write every other letter on the lines below. Continue until you've completed Matthew 6:3, NIV.*



"B _____

 _____ g."

MATTHEW 6:3, NIV

Answer: "But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing." Matthew 6:3, NIV

Our Redeemer's United Methodist Church

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