



# Family

## West Chicago Church of Christ

Volume 41, Issue 10 • March 8, 2009

### A Preacher's Perspective

God's nature, above all else, is love. As truly as we know that, as surely as scripture teaches it, I believe that God's love is one of the difficult things for us to clearly remember. I admit that this reflects my own struggle, and you may be more free to see God's love than I am.

Many wedding ceremonies feature a reading of the wonderful description of love from **1 Corinthians 13**. I always comment, as I have been taught, that the love described by Paul could not be a picture of human love, but

rather is a description of God's own love for us. I think that is true.

We are fascinated by God's strength, by the span of measureless space and the eternity which transcends time. We look up at the stars and we imagine the vastness of the universe. The

crash of thunder and the flashes of lightning fill us with awe and wonder, with fear and delight.

But the redemptive determination of God, His unceasing quest for our lost souls, and His broken-hearted longing for our return to the safety and love of His arms—this is the grand theme of all history. The powerful arm of God is not the great marvel, it is His gentle caress.

The wonderful images of God are those which are safe for children and which give us peace.

Green pastures.

Clear waters.

Sheep grazing peacefully. Lions and lambs lying together.

A table of joy and love, a wedding banquet with song and celebration. Music and majesty.

The love of husbands and wives. The tenderness of new babies and laughter.

Kisses and hugs. Fellowship of a community of love where kindness is the common currency and where

security and welcome greet each stranger.

How Satan tries to blind us to these virtues and to steal from us these dreams. So many live their lives knowing only fear and poverty, seeing only cruelty and violence.

Yet for each soul who can look into the sky, who can see the beauty of

creation and who can feel the softness of spring, hope calls out again for the author of love to redeem us and bring us home to kindness, patience, and faithful love. How God longs for us to know His love and to accept His redemption.

God is love.



Chuck Miller

# Welcome to the West Chicago Church of Christ

If you are visiting with us, we especially want to welcome you. We pray our time together worshipping our Father in heaven will be uplifting and encouraging.

Bible classes are available for all ages. Babies can be taken to the nursery located at the back of the auditorium. Pre-school and elementary-age children meet in classrooms downstairs. Teens meet in the fellowship room downstairs. Adult classes meet in the auditorium and at the end of the foyer.

Our Small Group Fellowship program takes place during the fall, winter and spring months and is on the first and third Sundays of each month in lieu of the Sunday evening worship. The Small Group Fellowship schedule does change occasionally due to holidays.

You are an honored guest and we want to thank you for being a part of our worship this morning!

Sunday Morning Bible Class . . . . . 9:30 a.m.  
 Sunday Morning Worship . . . . . 10:30 a.m.  
 (The Sunday Morning Worship is interpreted for the deaf.)  
 Sunday Evening Worship . . . . . 6:00 p.m.  
 (No evening worship on Small Group Fellowship Sundays)  
 Wednesday Evening Bible Class . . . . . 7:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of our elders.

**Elders:**

**Don Brewster**                      **Bob Jett**  
**Chuck Miller**                      **Bob Voigts**

**Deacons:**

**Justin Avey:** Benevolence, Fellowship, Stewardship & Leadership  
**Jay Hearn:** Worship & Pulpit, Communications, Outreach, Education, Benevolence  
**Cliff Plummer:** Fellowship, Benevolence, Education  
**Curt Robinson:** Education, Stewardship & Leadership  
**Rick Root:** Communications, Education, Stewardship & Leadership  
**Paul Stirrup:** Stewardship & Leadership, Benevolence



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## This Morning...

Please take a moment this morning to fill out an attendance card, especially if you are a guest. Please pass them to the aisle to be picked up before the sermon. Prayer cards are also available in the pew rack. You may choose to have prayers by the elders, a prayer warrior or by the whole church family. If you choose "whole church family" it will be announced following the sermon.

**Order of Worship**

- Welcome
- Singing - *Tim Boyd*
- Announcements - *Rick Root*
- Singing
- Prayer - *Justin Avey*
- Singing
- Lord's Supper - *Steve Link*
- Contribution and Prayer Card Collection
- Sermon - *Chuck Miller*
- Singing
- Prayer Card Responses and Prayer - *Bob Voigts*
- Announcements
- Singing
- Closing Prayer - *Mike Henkel*

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

- March 8 . . . . . Leanna DeMarre
- March 9 . . . . . Don Lemley
- March 10 . . . . . Bev Livermore
- March 13 . . . . . Carson Boyd
- March 14 . . . . . Emily Robinson

## Dates to Remember

- March 8 . . . . . Elder/Deacon Meeting
- March 8 . . . . . Sunday Night Light/Teens
- March 10 . . . . . Flower & Garden Show @ Navy Pier
- March 12 . . . . . Preachers Breakfast
- March 15 . . . . . Small Groups
- March 18 . . . . . Seniors Breakfast
- March 22 . . . . . Sunday Night Light/Teens
- March 28 . Northern Illinois Food Bank Volunteer Day
- March 29 . . . . . Connection Point @ North Park/Teens

## Records You Helped Make

- Sunday Morning Bible Class . . . . . 55
- Sunday Morning Worship . . . . . 106
- Wednesday Evening Bible Class . . . . . 32
- Contribution . . . . . \$5,415.00

**But if it were I, I would appeal to God; I would lay my cause before him. He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted. Job 5:8-9**

## In Our Prayers...

Aaron, friend of Marion Lake and Chris Czernik, overdosed. Please pray for him.

Jed Bruer's nephew Arthur (4 mos.) is having respiratory problems.

Avery Sternberg, the 3-year-old daughter of Jay Hearn's cousin, is having problems with acid reflux and very poor appetite. Test results, so far, have been inconclusive and the new medication isn't helping. They are talking about more tests.

Barb Tincher, Jake's mom, has a serious bacterial lung infection which will take about two years to treat.

Barb Voigts's sister, Caron, had surgery for kidney stones and her aunt, Joan, has pancreatic cancer.

Eudie Voigts had one bypass and heart valve replacement surgery, last week. She is doing well.

Cleta Watson's sister-in-law, Faye, has had several minor strokes.

### Those suffering with long-term issues:

Herman Aultman - Bobbie Whitman's brother

Justin Avey

Paul & Judy Bertrand - Lynette Root's parents

Lisa Beverly - Sandy Boyd's sister has MS

Bonnie Bingham

Leona Boston - Lynette Root's aunt

Jim Brannon - Pat Brewster's brother-in-law

Don & Pat Brewster

Nancy Brewster

Jim & Julie Chavez

Gail Cole - Lori Plummer's mother

John Day

Lisa DeVaney - Marie Hayes's daughter

Al Dorsey and his son Doug

Joyce Eakins

Chad Englebach - Marie Hayes' grandson

Amy Ferguson - a former member from Montana

Sarah Hayden & family - Maria Zeisler's relative

Marie Hayes

Mary Henkel - Mike's mother

Kathy Huml - John Pedersen's sister

Sandy Jones - Marie Hayes's daughter

Amy Kalupski - sister-in-law of Julie Chavez's friend

Rich Kern - Jackie Robinson's father has leukemia

Joe and Sky Kuhnle - Chuck & Bobbye's foster son

Debbie Lawrence - Bobbie Whitman's niece

Don Lemley

Anne Librande - Joanne Johnson's mother

Steve Link

Jack Lockett- the father of Charlie, Mike, Shelley,

Julie Chavez, Missy Kissane, & Becky Pedersen

Mike Lockett - Joan's son

Danielle Nichols - Alyssa Milam's niece

Josh Otte - Chris Czernik's nephew and

the son of Marion Lake's cousin

Doug Peterson

Pat Ronzheimer

Stacey Schnaitman - daughter of Bev Scalone, the

Johnson's neighbor

Kay Schrader

Chester & Phyllis Sitler

Bruce Snyder and Cindy Stewart - Bob Voigts cousin

Mike & Beth Stiger - Chuck & Bobbye's nephew

### Mothers-to-be:

Heaven Alcorn - Chris Czernik's daughter

Caitlyn Czernik - Chris's daughter-in-law

Jamie Holtin - Joe & Terrie's daughter

Shannon (Pedersen) Manny - due first of May

Cathy Miller

Jamie Miller

### Armed forces:

Ryan Gleason - Dana Howard's nephew has graduated basic training and is moving to Maryland for more training

Shane - the son of LeAnn Sexton, a friend of Lori Plummer

Nathan & Angie Stilwell - Bridgette Fordyce's brother & sister-in-law went to Japan with the Air Force for 3 years with their two small children

### Missionaries:

Jarrold, Allison, Soledad & Levi Brown -

Honduras (especially the adoption of Soledad)

Students of Joe Voigts - China

Obadiah Doka & Family - Nigeria

Makinde Olufemi - Nigeria

Ayodele Waleola - Nigeria

Shults-Lewis - the teens, their families, the workers

Enoch & Jeannine Thweatt - Taiwan

## Outreach Meeting & Mexico Mission Trip

An Outreach Meeting is scheduled for next Saturday, March 14, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Kenn & Sherry Watson. We will discuss Lazarus House volunteer opportunities, New Focus benevolence training, and Pray4Chicago - downtown Chicago "prayer walk." If you are seriously contemplating going on the trip to Mexico, please try to attend this meeting and plan to stay for an extra ½ hour for the first Mexico Team Meeting. Please bring a snack and your favorite drink to the meeting.

There is an opportunity for 8 more of our members to go on a mission trip to **The City of Children, Ensenada, Mexico** with Kenn & Sherry Watson. Seven of our members are already planning to go. We will be joining teams from Arlington, TX and Western Hills, TN.

The trip is scheduled from **Saturday, June 27, to Friday, July 3**, and the cost is \$200.00 plus the price of airfare (approx. \$300.00 O'Hare to San Diego Non-Stop). Please contact Kenn or Sherry Watson with questions or to sign up! **March 15 is the deadline.** Contact information: hydrakenn@gmail.com; watsonsherry@gmail.com, Kenn's Cell: 630-776-0694. The City of Children website is: www.cityofchildren.com.

## It's a Boy!

Gerry & Jennifer (Doggett) Piehl are the proud parents of Micah William Piehl, born on Saturday at 12:02 a.m. Micah weighed 9 lbs. 2 oz. and was 21" long. Congratulations to Gerry, Jennifer, Tom and Nancy.

## Small Group Fellowships

The next Small Group Fellowship is next Sunday, **March 15**. Remember there is NO evening worship on Small Group Sundays. A small group meets at the building Sundays at 5:30 p.m.

## Ladies Class

The Wednesday Evening Ladies Bible Class has started lessons on how we got the Bible. To receive class notes send an e-mail to: joanie.m.johnson@comcast.net. If you are interested in leading a class or have topic ideas for the class, please contact Joanne Johnson.

## RCC Junior Camp

Cliff will be looking for adults to teach at RCC Junior Camp this summer, July 25 to August 1. Please prayerfully consider if this is something the Lord is leading you to do.

## Mission Lazarus Update

### And Then There Were Four March 2, 2009

Well, it's done. After six hard days of work the 27 men from Berry's Chapel church of Christ did it. We now have four homes at the Mission Lazarus Refuge. The team work by the guys was outstanding. Thanks for all the hard work!

### Got Milk? February 27, 2009

Our kids at the children's home have been busy during their summer break, which ended 2 weeks ago. All of the kids above 8 years old now have farm chores. They really do love their chores. It's been great to watch them gain self confidence working with the cows and horses and to see the pride they have for their family garden. Attached is a picture of Selvin milking a cow. He's really gotten the hang of it and he milks two cows everyday to provide milk to his home.

- Jarrod Brown

For more information, go to [www.missionlazarus.org](http://www.missionlazarus.org).



# Youth & Family News

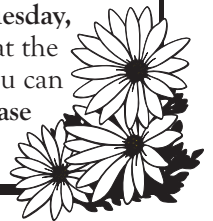
**TEENS:** The theme at Winterfest was "Love God, Love Others" taken from Matthew 22:34-40. This month we have several opportunities to practice some "L1" and "L2"...

**L1** We have a **Sunday Night Light** TONIGHT after evening services, here at the building. Bring \$3 for food. (Another SN,L is planned for March 22.)

**L1** There's a **Connection Point** at North Park on Sunday afternoon, March 29.

**L2** Sign-up to volunteer at the **Northern Illinois Food Bank** on Saturday, March 28th, from 9 to 11 a.m. We'll work in the warehouse cleaning, sorting, and repackaging food and other products for distribution to area food pantries (like ours).

**SENIORS:** The Flower Show is this Tuesday, **March 10**, at Navy Pier. We'll plan to meet at the building at 8:30 a.m. Tickets are \$12, but you can get a \$2 discount from a Diet Pepsi can. **Please sign up TODAY on the sheet in the foyer.**



## VBS

We'll be considering some different options for our Vacation Bible School program this year. Are you interested in helping plan this special summer-time event? Please talk to Cliff if you're interested.

## Nursery Workers

Bev Day, Lynette Root



## Collection Counters

Justin Avey, Jeff Ieler

