



Family

West Chicago Church of Christ

Volume 39, Issue 48 • December 2, 2007

A Preacher's Perspective

Festivity and gifts and thinking of others are some of the reasons we love the holiday season. You can take an old item, or even underwear, and put it in a beautiful gift box with a nice ribbon and for weeks before Christmas morning, it radiates a promise of joy. Kids rate their pile of presents based on size, weight, and the way the package looks. How good to have pre-joy. Anticipation.

Some, of course like their anticipation more well-defined. Tim Sitler used to carefully unwrap his packages to check out the gift inside, then restore it to its former state. Pretty sneaky. His artistic gifts made this, for him, a piece of cake.

God understands our need for anticipation joy. Paul writes in **Ephesians** about things he wants to fill our minds with joy and anticipation:

"I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints" **Ephesians 1:18**

God wraps our presents in so many beautiful wrappings and festive designs. There are the standards we always enjoy—summer, spring, winter, fall. And each day brings glories of light, color, and design.

Magnificent mountains, beautiful flowers, patterns of light and shadow are daily delights. New babies, wonderful smiles, beautiful eyes and the sound of laughter are ornaments from the God's workshop.

And don't forget the wonderful gift of artistic expression from men. God has poured His creative gifts into the minds of men and we are surrounded by wonderful designs, glorious colors, and invention and

creative wonders.

God wants His church to be, perhaps, the most glorious source of the joy of anticipation in all creation. It demonstrates the "manifold wisdom of God," and it reveals those blessings and beauties not only to us but also to the "heavenly realms."

(Ephesians 3:10) The angels rejoice at the glory of God in His people. We

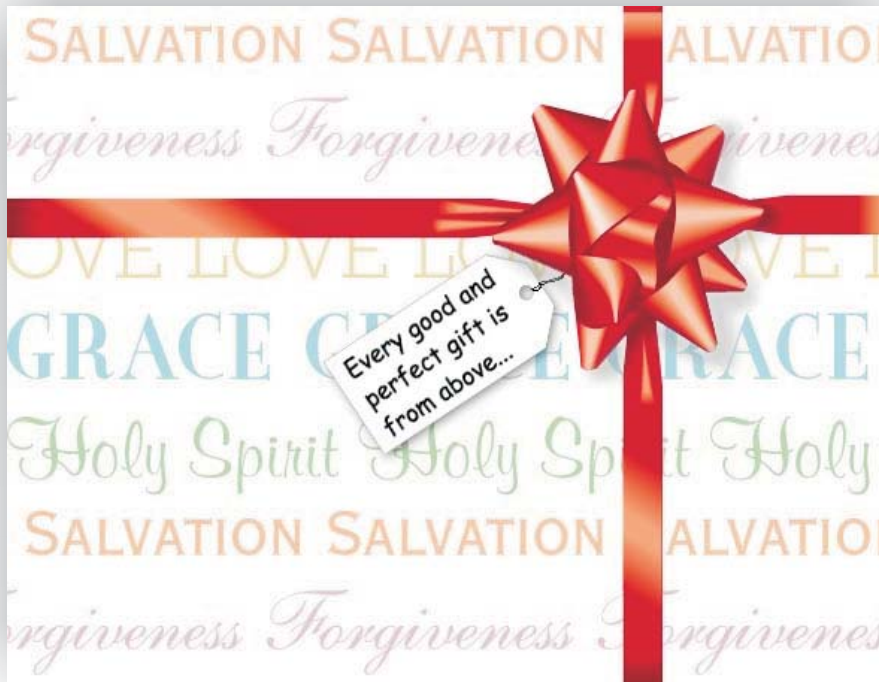
are learning to know more each day the love of God which has been poured out in His church.

As you look at those packages under the tree, or as you think of the Magi Boxes which are so precious to the children of poverty, remember that every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father of Lights.

(James 1:17)

It's hard to wait for the day of revealing to come! Thank you, Father.

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. All other children meet in classrooms downstairs. Teens meet in the teen room, which is also located at the back of the auditorium. Adult classes meet in the auditorium and in the fellowship room downstairs.

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 and is 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 to fill out an attendance card, especially if you are a guest this morning. 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 - Jay Hearn
- Announcements - Cliff Plummer
- Singing
- Prayer - Paul Stirrup
- Singing
- Lord's Supper
- Contribution and Prayer Card Collection
- Sermon - Chuck Miller
- Singing
- Prayer Card Responses and Prayer - Bob Voigts
- Announcements
- Singing
- Closing Prayer - John Pedersen

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- December 2 Taylor Mathews
- December 4 Kay Schrader
- December 5 Winter Ann Massie, Cyndi Perez
- December 6 Donnie Lemley
- December 8 John Pedersen

Dates to Remember

- December 6 Food Pantry Delivery
- December 8 Elder/Deacon Meeting
- December 8 MIS Breakfast with Santa
- December 8 Couples Night Out
- December 9 Holiday Dinner
- December 19 Seniors Breakfast
- December 25 Merry Christmas!
- December 31 New Year's Eve Lock-In/Teens

Records You Helped Make

- Sunday Morning Bible Class 93
- Sunday Morning Worship 132
- Sunday Evening Worship 42
- Wednesday Evening Bible Class 40
- Contribution \$4,165.17

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?" Matthew 6:25

In Our Prayers...

Cliff Plummer, Christian Mathews, Caitlin Mullins and Nick Pedersen, are traveling back from Harding today.

Tanya Baum, Taylor's mother, is having some health issues and is having tests done. **Taylor's grandmother, Diane**, is also experiencing health issues. Taylor passed away a couple of weeks ago after her struggle with leukemia.

J.J. Chavez is going to physical therapy for his shoulder.

Ellen Lee Flenar, Sally Hearn's aunt, will be in a nursing center for at least 8 weeks to receive antibiotic treatments for a staph infection in her knee.

Kelly Ieler suffered a heart attack early Monday morning. After tests on Friday, she has to stay in the hospital for several more days.

Dan Knutsen is the son of a teacher from the Link's school. He is in his early 20's and fell while on a mission trip last year and became a quadriplegic. He is struggling with many health, mental and spiritual issues.

Kim McGuire, Rick Root's sister, is having surgery soon to remove a spot on her lung.

Tim Miller has severe nerve damage in his spine at the L4 to L5 vertebrae, which is causing him extreme pain. He is having a very difficult test done on Wednesday.

Caitlin Mullins is having problems with her shoulder and is scheduled for surgery around Christmas.

Fintan Schiltz, the infant son of Jay and Sally's neighbor, is still waiting for a heart transplant.

Ed Thoen, Phyllis Sitler's brother, had cancer surgery.

Margo Smetana, the infant daughter of Steve Link's friend, has been in the hospital since the day she was born, September 17. She had a heart transplant and then open heart surgery. She also has contracted a stomach flu virus which has attached to the heart. She is very ill.

Bob Voigts is waiting for test results.

Those suffering with long-term issues:

Andrea Bailey - a former member from California

Irene Barnes - Lynette Root's aunt

Paul & Judy Bertrand - Lynette Root's parents

Lisa Beverly - Sandy Boyd's sister who has MS

Bonnie Bingham

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

Mary Brent - Joe Kirts' sister

Nancy Brewster

Julie Chavez

Bob Czernik - Chris's husband

John Day

Lisa DeVaney - Marie Hayes' daughter

Al Dorsey

Chad Englebach - Marie Hayes' grandson

Amy Ferguson - a former member from Montana

Jean Gray - Linda Vantreese's sister

Elizabeth Griffin

Josephine Haggerton

Sarah Hayden & family - Maria Zeisler's relative

Mary Henkel - Mike's mother

Kathy Huml - John Pedersen's sister

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

Joe and Star Kuhnle - Chuck & Bobby's foster son

Sue Lake - Marion's sister-in-law

Don Lemley

Debbie Lawrence - Bobbie Whitman's niece

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

Laura Mahan - Shirley Rucker's daughter

Steve & Melissa Massie family

Danielle Nichols - Alyssa Milam's niece

Josh Otte - Chris Czernik's nephew and the son of

Marion Lake's cousin

Doug Peterson

Melinda Poff - the sister of Jason Willis

Pat & Neil Ronzheimer

Kay Schrader

Chester & Phyllis Sitler

Bruce Snyder - Bob Voigts cousin

Cindy Stewart - Bob Voigts' cousin

Katie Stiger - Bobby Miller's infant niece

Ollie Taylor - the niece of Lynette Root's friend

Linda Vantreese

Eudie Voigts - Bob's mother

Jim & Jamie Winner

Jeremy & Jim Whitman

Rick & Gina Zamora

Mothers-to-be:

Natalie Conner - Sally Hearn's niece

Renell Johnston - former member

Erin Livermore - Craig & Bev's daughter-in-law

Armed forces overseas:

Greg Billings - Justin Avey's employee

Toby Logsdon - Dewayne & Marilyn Smith's son-in-law
in Iraq along the Iranian border

Dustin Meritt - Justin Avey's employee

Chris & Jennifer Roberts - Cathleen Longfellow's
sister & brother-in-law are going to Iraq for 16
months, they have a 1-year-old daughter

David Teel - Justin Avey's employee

Missionaries:

Jarrold, Allison, Soledad & Levi Brown - Honduras
(especially for their adoption process of Soledad)

Obadiah Doka & Family - Nigeria

Dry Bones Ministry - homeless teens in Denver, CO

Juan & Roxanna Flores - Honduras

Leonardo Ken & family - Honduras

Keith, Kim, Candace, Laura & John Mark Lango
- Brazil

Makinde Olufemi - Nigeria

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

Joe Voigts - China

Nursery Workers

Becky Pedersen, Jackie Robinson



Collection Counters

Steve Link, Paul Mullins



Shults-Lewis Christmas Gifts

Gerald Frump from Shults-Lewis is planning to be here this Wednesday morning to pick up Christmas gifts, commodity items, printer cartridges, change cans, etc. **If you would like to bring items during the day this week, please make arrangements with Sally.**

A separate wish list for one of the campus homes is also included on the bulletin board. They are asking for items, such as, towels, dishcloths and a DVD/VCR.

Please note: Gerald will definitely take any 100% fruit juice that has been donated. **However, they really need CATSUP – they are totally out!**

Also, you can give a donation for their **milk and fresh produce.** Their weekly budget for this is \$500. Give donations to one of the elders or deacons.



Holiday Dinner!

Our annual **Holiday Dinner** is **next Sunday, December 9**, in the fellowship room immediately following morning worship. Meat and beverages will be provided. **Please sign up** in the foyer for the side dishes you will bring. Each family should also bring a dessert. If you would like to help set-up or decorate, please see Joan Avey or Don Brewster. Everyone is welcome to clean-up. There will be no worship that evening.



Moms In School Breakfast with Santa

The **Moms In School Breakfast with Santa** is **next Saturday, December 8**, from 8:30-11:00 at the Methodist Church in West Chicago (just east of Walgreens). Tickets are \$3 for children 12 and under, \$6 for adults, and \$15 for a family, and can be purchased at the door or by e-mailing Tammy at momsinschoolwc@yahoo.com or calling her at 630-231-0231. If you would like to help serve or work in the kitchen that morning, you can contact Tammy at the information above. Photos with Santa are \$5. See you there!

Food Pantry Delivery

This **Wednesday, December 6**, we are scheduled to receive our Food Pantry delivery from the Northern Illinois Food Bank. We will start carrying the boxes down to the pantry and stocking the shelves at 10:00 a.m. and are usually finished by 11:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join us!

Caroling!

We are going caroling on **Friday, December 14**. We'll start out caroling at Franciscan Court at 6:30 p.m. – towards the end of the residents' dinner. We will sing at Franciscan Court for about 30 minutes and then visit several members' homes. The evening will end with a fellowship. Look for more details in next week's bulletin. If you have questions, see Sally Hearn or Cyndi Perez.

Youth & Family News

TEENS: This Friday night, December 7, the teens who attended Qodesh this fall are meeting at Cardinal Drive to pray for our youth groups, then heading over to Starbucks to hang-out and visit for awhile. Those of you who didn't attend Qodesh but want to come along are welcome. See Cliff if you're interested.

Our next **Sunday Night, Light** is Sunday, December 16th.

Plan now to attend our annual **New Year's Eve Lock-In** and bring a friend! It's \$28 per person, which includes unlimited bowling, laser tag and pizza. Sign-up on the sheet outside the Teen Room.

Couples Night Out

A couples night out is planned for **this Saturday, December 8th**. We're going to see the ComedySportz improv show at Pheasant Run in St. Charles. Tickets are \$22 each, and the show starts at 9:00 p.m. (Maybe we can meet for dinner together before the show?) **Please sign up on the sheet in the foyer.** See Cliff or Lori with any questions.

Sunday Morning Bible Class Teachers

The winter quarter starts today and runs through the end of February. The curriculum we are using is 21st Century Christian, New Life Through His Word, the HeartShaper Series. All of the classes will have the same teachers as last quarter, which is as follows:

- Nursery: Bev Day
- Preschool: Frances Shearer
- K - Grade 1: Becky Pedersen
- Grades 2 - 4: Steve Link
- Grades 5 & 6: Jay Hearn
- Grades 7 - 12: Cliff Plummer
- Adult 1: Chuck Miller
- Adult 2: Rick Root



Women's Spiritual Disciplines Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Chapter
December 5, 2007	Learning	12
December 12, 2007	Service	7
December 19, 2007	Submission	None
December 26, 2007	Stewardship: Time	8
January 2, 2008	Stewardship: Money	8
January 9, 2008	Simplicity	None
January 16, 2008	Evangelism	6
January 23, 2008	Perseverance in Disciplines	13

Please see Joanne Johnson if you would like to be involved in planning curriculum for the ladies class.