



Family

West Chicago Church of Christ

www.wcfamily.org

Volume 41, Issue 49 • December 6, 2009

A Preacher's Perspective

Each year I look forward to an opportunity to use the beautiful expression of gratitude created by Paul Lee about 10 years ago in the graphic on this page:

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

I love the beauty of presents wrapped in shiny paper and stacked under the tree. The boxes often exceed their contents in glory! I mean, really, how much glitz do you really need for socks and underwear?

But stacked there, as we behold them in their glittering splendor, our minds just imagine treasures. The children quickly learn to identify those which are for them, and if it happens to be in a favorite wrapping, so much the better.

I admire those who can wrap well. Some of those department store folks are magical with their skills. My boxes just don't have that crisp perfection. Sometimes, Bobbye and Sarah just drive me away when I try to help. (Is he klutzy or cunning?)

In many ways the collecting of beautiful boxes is more satisfying than tearing them apart and stuffing the once-grand wrapping into a black trash bag.

Now, so far, everything we've said here is just a reflection of materialistic, temporal traditions. But you don't have to be a theologian to make some pretty useful applications.

Look at the paradoxical. Jesus, the Son of Glory, born in a stable with only shepherds for witnesses. This is a reflection of a grand theme of scripture: The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief

cornerstone. (Psa. 118)

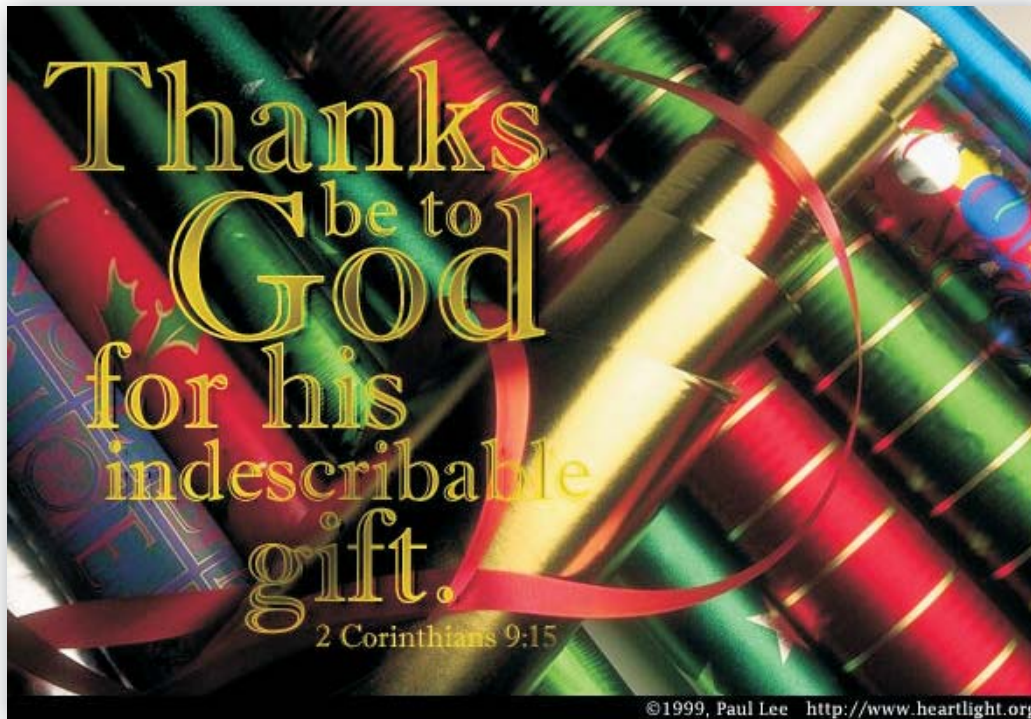
One of the consequences of Eden's upside-down-result is that we have lost our ability to see true glory without the Spirit's help. It is very difficult for us to discern that which is really precious. We often go for the shiny paper.

And then, there is the

truth that Jesus sees shiny boxes where we only see familiar neighbors and annoying friends.

To Jesus, Peter was "the rock." To Jesus, a disreputable Samaritan woman was a profound seeker of God. His eye can see our beauty, and we become to Him a pearl of great price. (Yes, I know that's not the usual way of looking at that parable, but work with me, here.)

I love the way Paul puts it in **Eph. 1:** We are God's "glorious inheritance." To God, we are shiny boxes and on the inside, it's even better. I can't wait to see us in our heaven-attire.



©1999, Paul Lee <http://www.heartlight.org>

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

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. If you are interested in joining a Small Group, please speak with one of our Deacons. The Small Group Fellowship schedule does change occasionally due to holidays.

We are planning a weekly web-cast of our Sunday morning auditorium class and worship services. Please follow these instructions:

<http://wcfamily.viewnetcam.com>
 Username: wcfamily
 Password: 6302312062
 Click "SINGLE" tab
 Allow any Active X controls

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of our Elders:

Don Brewster Bob Jett
 Chuck Miller Bob Voigts

Our Deacons are:

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

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



350 East James Avenue
 West Chicago, Illinois 60185
 (630) 231-2062
wcfamily@wcfamily.org • www.wcfamily.org

This Morning ...

Please take a moment this morning to fill out an attendance card, especially if you are a guest. 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 Chuck Miller
 Singing Tim Boyd
 #997 O Come all Ye Faithful
 Prayer Updates & Scripture Bob Jett
 #202 Joyful, Joyful
 #797 Lord, We Come Before Thee Now
 Prayer John Johnson
 #1008 Angels from the Realms of Glory
 382 Why Did My Savior Come to Earth?
 Lord's Supper Jon Miller
 Contribution and Prayer Card Collection
 Sermon Chuck Miller
 #497 O Listen to the Wondrous Story
 Prayer Card Responses and Prayer Bob Voigts
 Announcements Bob Jett
 #1001 Hark the Herald Angels Sing
 Closing Prayer Steve Massie

Birthdays & Anniversaries

December 6 Donnie Lemley
 December 8 John Pedersen
 December 11 Alec Boyd, Bobbie Whitman

Dates to Remember

Today Small Groups
 December 10 Preachers Breakfast
 December 11 Men's Bible Study
 December 12 Moms In School Breakfast with Santa
 December 13 Holiday Dinner
 December 15 The Bridge
 December 16 Seniors Breakfast
 December 18 Men's Bible Study
 December 20 Sunday Night, Light
 December 23 Living Room Café
 December 28 Teen Skating
 December 31 New Year's Eve Lock-In

Records You Helped Make

Sunday Morning Worship 98
 Wednesday Evening Bible Class 28
 Contribution \$4,548.65

Nursery Workers Jackie Robinson, Lynette Root
Collection Counters Jeff Ieler, Paul Mullins
Lost and Found

A watch was found in the auditorium – see Sally!

In Our Prayers...

Helen Devereaux, Rick Root's aunt, had a pacemaker put in this week.

Bridgette Fordyce, a former member, may be induced tomorrow. She has been on bed-rest and struggling with gestational diabetes.

Victoria Greer is a young woman blessed by our clothing giveaway several years ago. Since she has moved away to college, she is organizing a clothing giveaway in her community.

Jon Mercer is doing fine after his collapse at church last Sunday. Tests done in the emergency room found no problems.

Stacey Schnaitman, the daughter Bev Scalone who is John & Joanne Johnson's neighbor, is struggling with several family, health and financial issues.

Brandon Thorton is an employee of Justin's from Tennessee. When Brandon was in this area several weeks ago, his family was murdered over a girlfriend issue and those responsible, who are in custody, burned down his home with the family inside. Everything and everyone was lost. If you would like to give a monetary donation to help Brandon, see Justin or Cliff.

Those suffering with long-term issues:

Herman Aultman - Bobbie Whitman's brother
 Justin Avey
 Paul & Judy Bertrand - Lynette Root's parents
 Bonnie Bingham
 Nancy Brewster
 Jim & Julie Chavez
 Gail Cole - Lori Plummer's mother
 John Day
 Al Dorsey & his son, Doug
 Joyce Eakins and her brother, Hubert and her two sisters, Eunice and Frances
 Chad Englebach - Marie Hayes' grandson
 Sarah Hayden - Maria Zeisler's relative
 Marie Hayes and her daughter, Sandy Jones
 Lauren Helton - Josephine Haggerton's nephew
 Mary Henkel - Mike's mother
 Kathy Huml - John Pedersen's sister

Debbie Lawrence - Bobbie Whitman's niece
 Don Lemley
 Anne Librande - Joanne Johnson's mother
 Steve Link
 Jack Lockett - father of Charlie, Mike, Julie Chavez, Shelley Prosser, Missy Kissane, & Becky Pedersen
 Mike Lockett - Joan's son
 Jackie Milam, the mother of a former member, Alyssa
 Bobby Miller
 Danielle Nichols - Alyssa Milam's cousin
 Josh Otte - Chris Czernik's nephew and the son of Marion Lake's cousin
 Doug Peterson
 Pat Ronzheimer
 Kay Schrader
 Chester & Phyllis Sitler
 Bruce Snyder and Cindy Stewart - Bob Voigts cousin
 Barb Tincher - Jake's mother
 Jim Whitman

Mothers-to-be:

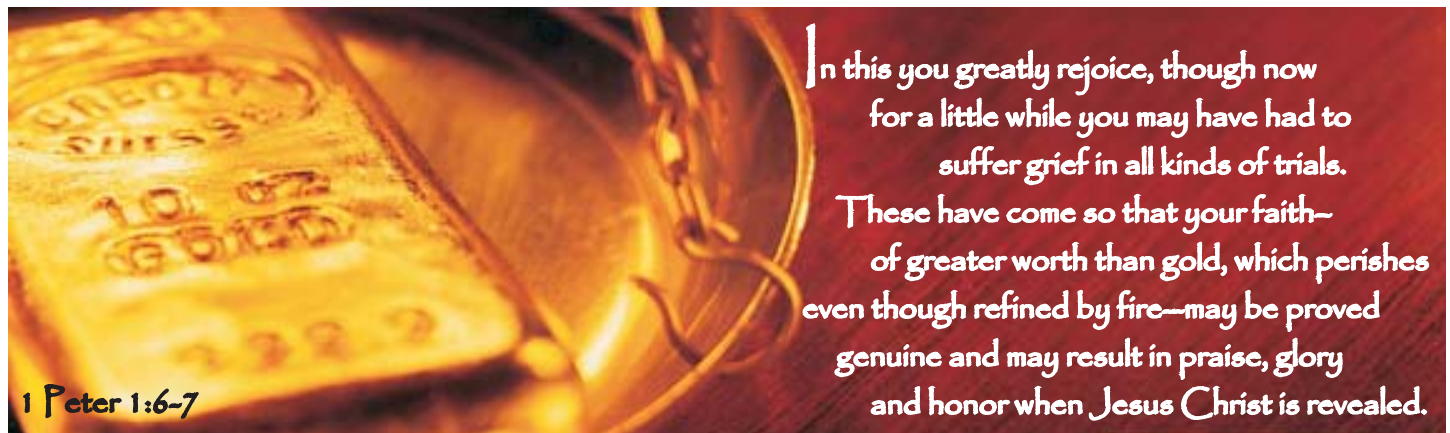
Lizz Bartalone - Doris Biancalana's daughter

Armed forces:

Ryan Gleason - Dana Howard's nephew
 Mike Hagan - Doris Biancalana's nephew in Baghdad
 Jacob Headtke - U.S. Marines, RCC alumni
 Shane - the son of LeAnn Sexton, a friend of Lori Plummer
 Joey Wertz - the friend of Lynette Root's friend, Iraq
 Chris Yauch - the husband of Wendell & Margaret Mott's granddaughter, Mallory

Missionaries:

Jarrold, Allison, Soledad & Levi Brown - Honduras
 Students of Joe Voigts - China
 City of Children - Ensenada, Mexico
 Obadiah Doka & Family - Nigeria
 Ayodele Waleola - Nigeria
 Shults-Lewis - the teens, their families, the workers
 Enoch & Jeannine Thweatt - Taiwan



In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Shults-Lewis Wishes

Today is the deadline for Shults-Lewis donations. A gift basket is available in the foyer for the Christmas gifts. The items **do not** need to be wrapped. You may still give Joan Avey a monetary donation to purchase items. **Also, don't forget about the commodity item** – canned soups, and they are totally out of honey, pancake syrup and vanilla. Change cans and printer cartridges are welcome, too!

Small Group Fellowships

Today is a **Small Group Fellowship!** Upcoming Small Group Fellowship dates are: January 10, 24, February 7, 21, March 7, 21, and April 18. **There will be no evening worship at the building on Small Group Sundays.** The Small Group led by Dewayne Smith meets here at 5:30 p.m.



Holiday Dinner

Our annual Holiday Dinner will be after morning worship **next Sunday, December 13**, in the fellowship room. A sign-up sheet for side dishes is in the foyer. Every family should bring a dessert. Meat and drinks will be provided. Everyone's help to clean up is appreciated! **There will be no worship that evening.**

December Calendar Additions

Three birthdays were missed on the December calendar. Our apologies to Cathy, Pat and Joyce! Please make these additions: December 21, Cathy Vaden; December 23, Pat Ronzheimer; and December 24, Joyce Eakins.

Outreach Opportunity

Teen Parent Connection is a non-profit group whose mission is to prevent child abuse by teenage parents through education, support, and in-home visits.

They have requested to use our building for a new West Chicago teen parent group that will meet on Thursday evenings. They depend on their host church to provide a meal for their clients. **If you are willing to cook a simple meal for 15 to 20 guests, about once every four to six weeks, please see Cliff.**

The Living Room Cafe

We're serving Christmas Dinner at the Living Room Café on **Wednesday, December 23rd!** Sign up in the foyer if you'd like to volunteer. Cooks will need to leave from the building at 1:30 p.m. They are in need of **new or gently used hats and gloves.** Please place your donations in the bin in the foyer.

Our mid-week Bible study will be held on **Tuesday, December 22, instead of Wednesday, December 23, to allow you to go to the Living Room Café if you wish.**

youth & family news

TEENS: Sign-up on the sheet in the downstairs class area for **WinterFest**, which is February 18-21, 2010. A \$50 deposit is due **TODAY.** (Please see Cliff if you can't pay your deposit today.) The total cost for this event will be about \$100 (including your deposit), plus meals.

At last! We have a **Sunday Night, Light** after evening services on December 20th at the Boyd's.

On Monday, December 28th, we're going **ice skating downtown at Millennium Park.** Plan to meet at the building at noon. The cost is \$10 for skate rental, and about \$7 for dinner. Sign-up on the sheet downstairs. **Adult chaperones are needed.**

The **New Year's Eve Teen Lock-In** is just around the corner, December 31. We'll meet at the church building at 10:30 p.m. for a time of fellowship and worship, then count-down to the New Year! The cost is \$33 for unlimited pizza, pop, bowling, laser tag and video games. **Bring a package of athletic socks to support The Night Ministry, which serves homeless adults and teens in Chicago.** Sign up on the sheet in the downstairs class area if you plan to attend. **Parents:** Teens should be picked up at Brunswick Zone at 6:00 a.m.

The Bridge

We are the host church at "The Bridge" on **Tuesday, December 15**, and are responsible for greeting guests and providing the meal. Justin Avey has volunteered to grill meat and cook some of the vegetables, but other food items are needed! **Sign up on the sheet in the foyer for items you can donate or to volunteer.** Volunteers meet at the building at 5:00. *Hand-made scarves are due next Sunday, 12/13!*

Men's Bible Study & Coffee

Each **Friday morning at 6:30 - 8:00 a.m.** at the building there will be a **Men's Bible Study & Coffee** hosted by Bob Voigts and Kenn Watson.

Come Join Us For The 11th Annual

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Saturday, December 12, 2009
8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
at the Methodist Church
643 E. Washington
West Chicago

Proceeds benefit:

\$3 for Children (12 and under)
\$6 for Adults
\$15 for a Family
(2 adults, children from one generation, 12 & under)

Pictures with Santa will be \$5
Tickets can be purchased at the door
or by calling 231-0231

Proceeds benefit: MOMS IN SCHOOL
A state licensed 501c (3) childcare center for teen parents offering an enriched childcare environment for children (ages 6 weeks-3 years) of students at any area high school.
www.lbxmcc.org/momsinchool.htm