



Family

West Chicago Church of Christ

Volume 40, Issue 51 • December 28, 2008

A Preacher's Perspective

Gifts. Children remind us that we all love them. We love to be remembered. How joyful it is when someone notices our special likes and needs. We even like the wrapping. The beauty of the color and shiny textures give a sense of wonder at the mysterious contents. There is a beauty of seeing the presents under the tree that stand on its own.

Some have a special ability to appreciate a gift. We know people who just have the kind of response which makes our gift efforts seem successful. My brother-in-law Bob is like that.

I've always had a reputation as a terrible gift giver. I think too much about what I like instead of focusing on the one receiving the gift. Unfortunately, my tastes are not shared by very many!

I hope you have had a happy gift experience this season. I pray that you gave with love and joy and that you were able to receive with gratitude and grace.

All this brings to my mind the wonderful gift of Mary of Bethany to the Lord Jesus. It was just after her brother had been returned to her from the dead. They were at dinner, and Mary poured out very costly perfume on the Lord. Imagine spending something which cost a year's salary! Very expensive.

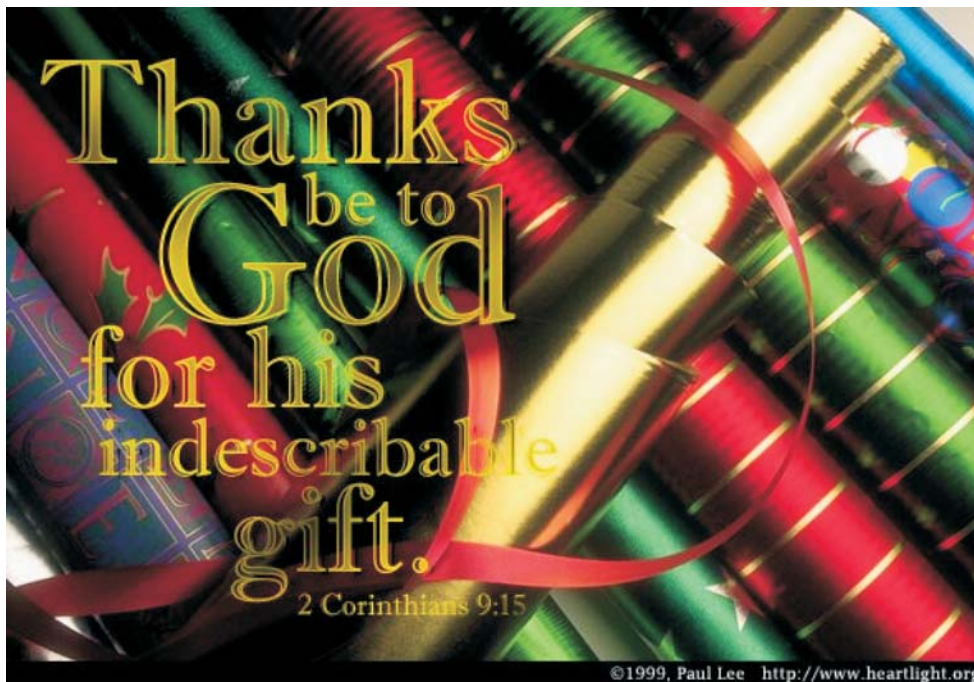
Judas, with a greed-corrupted heart, complained

that her gift could have been sold and the proceeds used to help the poor. You would think his objection would be hard to resist. How could Jesus side with her extravagance as opposed to the frugal practicality of Judas' reproof.

But Jesus accepts her gift. Not only does He understand the selfish wickedness of Judas' heart (he was in the practice of embezzling funds), He is also profoundly grateful to the Father for using Mary's kindness to help prepare Him for the hard things which were to come.

Jesus delighted in the total love and gratitude which Mary poured out on Him with her tears.

He loves our gratitude and appreciation, too. He loves those moments when we truly forget ourselves, when we give ourselves without counting the cost in loving service to one another, or in deep devotion



to Him.

The great God of Gifts has given to us "indescribably," as Paul wrote. I pray that you have had a time of gratitude and thankfulness for all the love which the Father has poured out on us. Let's encourage each other to demonstrate our gratitude with a greater determination to service and contentment.

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



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. 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 - *Dewayne Smith*
- Announcements - *Paul Mullins*
- Singing
- Prayer - *Cliff Plummer*
- Singing
- Lord's Supper
- Contribution and Prayer Card Collection
- Sermon - *Chuck Miller*
- Singing
- Prayer Card Responses and Prayer - *Bob Voigts*
- Announcements
- Singing
- Closing Prayer - *Ryan Stirrup*

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- December 29 Jon Mercer
- December 29 John & Bev Day
- December 31 Ryan Stirrup
- January 2 Brian Brewster

Dates to Remember

- December 28 Sunday Night Light/Teens
- December 29 Teen Christmas Party
- December 31 New Year's Eve Lock-In/Teens
- January 2 Food Pantry Delivery
- January 4 Small Groups
- January 7 Harding Chorus at Cardinal Drive
- January 11 Chili Luncheon Fellowship
- January 25 Connection Point/Teens
- February 19-22 Winterfest/Teens

Records You Helped Make

- Sunday Morning Worship 106
- Contribution \$3,926.25

Nursery Workers

Bev Day, Theresa Link



Collection Counters

Scott Drumheller, Mike Henkel



In Our Prayers...

Herman Aultman, Bobbie Whitman's brother, is home from the hospital.

Jim Chavez has been diagnosed with Bells Palsy and high blood pressure.

Bert Deveroux, Rick Root's uncle, is in the hospital and is not doing well.

Bob Gray, Linda Vantrees's brother-in-law, passed away from a heart attack. He was Jean's husband. Dan, Linda & A.J. traveled to Arkansas for the funeral. Jean's address is: 1725 Hill Street, Batesville, Arkansas 72501.

Jackson Mearse is the new baby of **Adam Mearse,** the Naperville Youth and Family Minister. He was having some breathing problems, but is doing much better and scheduled to be home from the hospital for Christmas.

Dorothy Hentch, Nana Lake's grandmother, passed away last week.

Stacey Schnaitman, daughter of Bev Scalone, the Johnson's neighbor, has some family and health issues.

Ivan Tesic, our recent guest speaker, suffered a ruptured appendix; he hopes to be able to return to Croatia on Monday and sends his love and appreciation.

Betty Whitman, Bobbie's sister-in-law, fell down some stairs and broke a vertebrae. She had surgery this week.

Those suffering with long-term issues:

Justin Avey

Paul & Judy Bertrand - Lynette Root's parents

Lisa Beverly - Sandy Boyd's sister who 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, Star 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

Kay Schrader

Chester & Phyllis Sittler

Bruce Snyder and Cindy Stewart - Bob Voigts cousin

Mothers-to-be:

Jamie Holtin - Joe & Terrie's daughter

Jenn Kirts - Joe & Terrie's daughter-in-law

Shannon (Pedersen) Manny

Cathy Miller

Jamie Miller

Jennifer (Doggett) Piehl

Shelley Prosser - Joan Lockett's daughter

Armed forces:

Ryan Gleason - Dana Howard's nephew is in basic training in Oklahoma

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

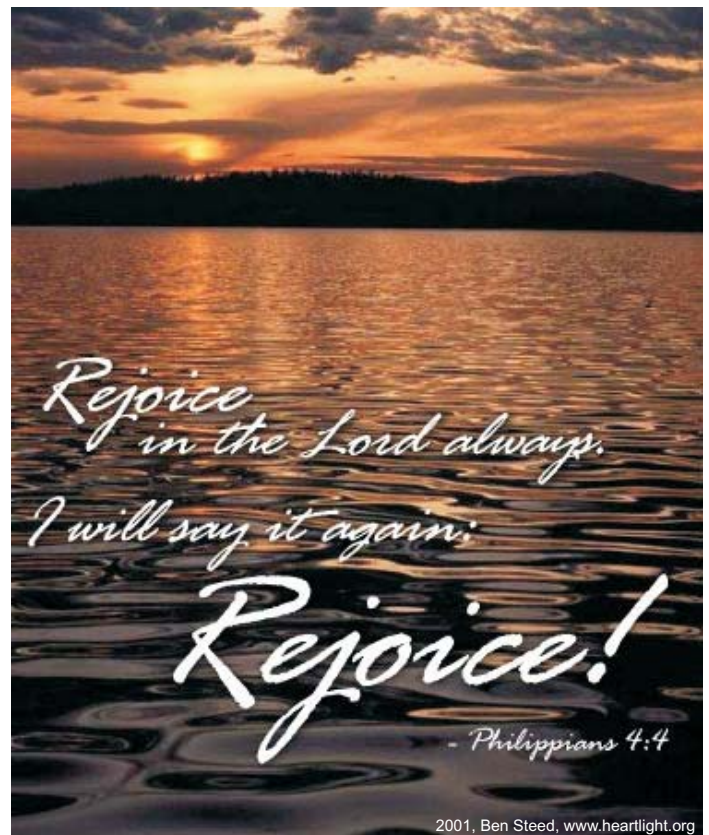
Obadiah Doka & Family - Nigeria

Makinde Olufemi - Nigeria

Ayodele Waleola - Nigeria

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

Enoch & Jeannine Thweatt - Taiwan



Gift for Scott & Bridgette

There is a Bible in the foyer that will be sent to Scott & Bridgette Fordyce. Find your favorite verses, highlight them with the colored pencils and write your name in the margin. We will send the Bible to Scott & Bridgette in a few weeks.

Children's Library

We are looking for elementary Christian books to create a library for the children. If parents want to donate their used books that their kids have outgrown, they can give the books to either Joan Avey or Cindy Drumheller.

Ladies Class

Following is a list of topics for the Wednesday evening Ladies Bible Class. Barb Voigts is leading the discussion.
December: Daily focus on God for handling life struggles
January: Refreshing and rejuvenation for weary women.

Small Group Fellowships

The next Small Group Fellowship is next Sunday, January 4!

Remember there is NO evening worship on Small Group Sundays. A small group meets at the building Sunday evenings at 5:30.



Directories

New directories will be published in January. A directory is posted in the foyer. Check your phone and address to make sure it is correct. If it is correct, place your initial by your information. If it is incorrect, please indicate the changes on the directory.

Moms In School Shop & Share

Shop & Share slips for Moms In School are available in the foyer. Shop at any Jewel/Osco on December 29 - 30 and give the cashier the slip and 5% of your purchase will benefit Moms In School.

Harding University Chorus

The Harding University Chorus is offering a free concert on Wednesday, January 7, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cardinal Drive Church of Christ in Rolling Meadows.

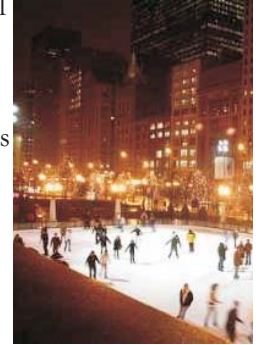
Food Pantry Delivery

Please note that the food pantry delivery for January will be on Friday instead of Thursday because of the holiday. The Northern Illinois Food Bank will deliver this **Friday, January 2**. Volunteers are always welcome to help carry boxes downstairs and stock the shelves. We will begin working at 10:00 a.m. Teens - this is a great way to volunteer some time while on a break from school!

Youth & Family News

TEENS: We have a **Sunday Night Light** tonight after evening services at the Stirrups. Bring \$3 for food. J.J. is leading our devotional and Joey is leading singing.

Tomorrow we're going **ice skating at Millennium Park** for our Christmas Party. (Yes, this was postponed from last Monday to this Monday!) We'll meet at the building at 12:15. (Eat lunch before you get here because we won't be eating until after ice skating.) We'll skate, eat dinner downtown, and see some of the Christmas decorations before heading back home. The cost is \$24, including skate rental, train and bus fares (you'll need singles). Sign-up in the downstairs classroom if you plan to go.



Our annual **New Year's Eve Lock-In** is this Wednesday night! We'll start gathering at the building at 10:30. Bring \$28 cash (or check made payable to the church). We need a good 2-person team so that we can keep the "King Pin" trophy!

PARENTS/ADULTS: For the New Year's Eve Lock-In we're meeting at the building at 10:30 p.m. You can pick-up your exhausted son/daughter at the Brunswick Zone (corner of Gary & North Aves.) at 6:00 a.m. **Cliff needs a driver or two to transport kids from the building to the bowling center at midnight.**

