



Family

West Chicago Church of Christ

Volume 39, Issue 52 • December 30, 2007

A Preacher's Perspective

The end of selfishness is loneliness. Some are lonely because they simply have no one to be with. But the loneliness born of selfishness can darken the soul of those who are surrounded by loving friends, family and those who would welcome relationship.

Life lived in the pursuit of pleasure for the self does not enter into the joy of agape. Such life does not know the blessing of full partnership in the world-spanning and Spirit empowered body of Christ. A thousand open doors not entered, and ten thousand conversations unspoken mark the sadness of those who are so absorbed in themselves that they never knew the blessing of daily discourse and simple loving laughter with those whom God sent to cheer them and show them His own heart.

I reflect on the failure of my own life to recognize the little times of fellowship which have been available but unused. Last week I was being a chauffeur for my wife as she shopped for last minute things. My custom is to wait in the car. I did so. I heard a great jazz piece and some wonderful choral music. But suddenly, I realized that I was missing out on the evaluation of dolls and the search for things which would give delight to my grandchildren. I was missing being with my wife. I went in to join the search, and I felt an extra measure of happiness.

But I also thought of all the times I have missed out on the busyness of the heart. I have tended to be the photographer, not the participant. I have used time alone to reflect and to think, but also just to indulge in

selfish disconnection.

I know that balance is important. It's o.k. to be reflective, and it's a rich blessing to enter the joy of quietness, reflection and solitude as part of spiritual discipline. But for those of us who are introverts by tendency, we must always be on guard against the corrupting influence of simple selfishness.

Another great assault on our soul which leads to loneliness is general carnality and sin. I know that all selfishness is sin, of course, but the kind of thing I'm thinking of is like Paul's admonition to set our minds on things above, not on things of the earth. In

countries with fewer choices than ours, where finding daily food takes up the bulk of time, it may not be so great a problem. But here in America, we can literally go from one more new hobby, one new acquisition, new clothes, new shoes, a new gadget, new CDs or iTunes downloads... you get the idea.

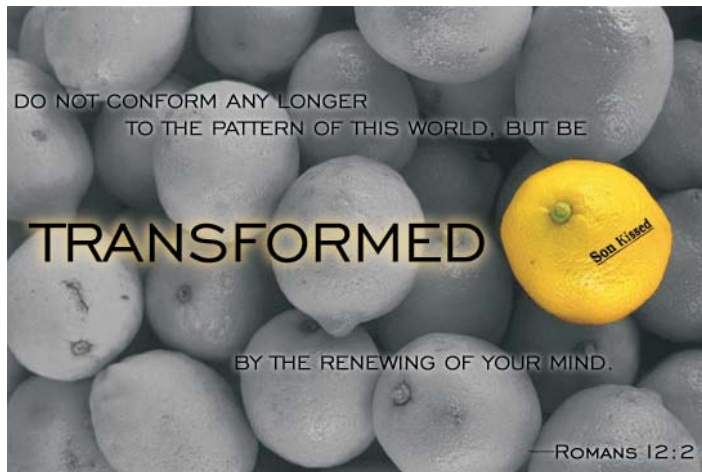
Behind all the assaults on our spirit is the Enemy. He takes blessings and

makes them curses. He tries to substitute things for relationships. He helps us rationalize our indulgences and justify shallow living.

Have you settled for the contentment of the HD screen, the redecorated room, the trips and cruises and special events? Simplicity, as our disciplines studies have reminded us, calls us to know the joy of being filled with God in the inner places. We are called to enter into relationships with one another and to delight in the uniqueness of each soul.

If you are lonely, look up and look in and allow yourself to nestle against the mighty heart of God-Who-Loves-You. And then gently love your friends, and neighbors, and all who need you.

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 - Rick Root
- Announcements - Cliff Plummer
- Singing
- Prayer - Dewayne Smith
- Singing
- Lord's Supper
- Contribution and Prayer Card Collection
- Sermon - Chuck Miller
- Singing
- Prayer Card Responses and Prayer - Bob Voigts
- Announcements
- Singing
- Closing Prayer - Peter Drumheller

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- December 31 Ryan Stirrup
- January 2 Brian Brewster

Dates to Remember

- December 31 New Year's Eve Lock-In/Teens
- January 3 Food Pantry Delivery
- January 4 Teen After Christmas Party
- January 5 Elder/Deacon Meeting
- January 6 Small Group Fellowships
- January 7 York College Chorus Concert
- January 10 Preachers Breakfast
- January 13 Chili Potluck Luncheon
- January 13 Sunday Night Light/Teens
- January 20 Small Group Fellowships
- January 27 Connection Point/Teens

Records You Helped Make

- Sunday Morning Bible Class 56
- Sunday Morning Worship 105
- Wednesday Evening Bible Class 15
- Contribution \$3,872.25

Happy New Year!

In Our Prayers...

Kim McGuire, Rick Root's sister, had surgery to remove a spot on her lung caused by an infection. She had some complications this week, but is doing better.

Michelle is a young mother of two who suffered a broken neck and severed spine from a broken limb which fell on her. Please pray for her and her family.

Joe Luttrell, the son of Woodrow, one of our former elders, passed away unexpectedly while on a trip in Mexico.

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

Gina, Lynette Root's cousin, was run over by a car last week when she was out running. She has some head injuries, a broken wrist and some internal bleeding. She is improving.

Steven & Elizabeth Rose lost their two children in a car accident on their way to church last Sunday in Arkansas. They were hit head-on by a tractor/trailor which rolled onto their vehicle. Steven & Elizabeth were in the hospital in stable condition. The children were killed instantly. They are relatives of friends of Jackie Robinson's sister and Christina Voigts.

Fintan Schiltz, the infant son of Jay and Sally's neighbor, received a heart on Christmas evening and had the transplant the next day. He is doing very well. The family is very grateful for our prayers.

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 has an infection which is complicated by the anti-rejection drugs she must take.

Catherine Stiger, the premature twin grand-niece of Chuck and Bobbye Miller, had open heart surgery and is doing well.

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 Vantrees's sister
 Elizabeth Griffin
 Josephine Haggerton
 Sarah Hayden & family - Maria Zeisler's relative
 Mary Henkel - Mike's mother
 Kathy Huml - John Pedersen's sister
 Kelly Ieler

Amy Kalupski - sister-in-law of Julie Chavez's friend
 Joe and Star Kuhnle - Chuck & Bobbye'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

Tim Miller

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 - Bobbye Miller's infant niece

Ollie Taylor - the niece of Lynette Root's friend

Linda Vantrees

Bob Voigts

Eudie Voigts - Bob's mother

Jim & Jamie Winner

Jeremy & Jim Whitman

Rick & Gina Zamora

Mothers-to-be:

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

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

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

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

It's a Boy!

Brian and Natalie Conner, Sally Hearn's niece and her husband, are the proud parents of a new baby boy, **Dustin Nathan**. He was born on Friday, December 21, and weighed 8 lbs. They are all doing great!

York College Choir

The York College Choir will be presenting a concert on **Monday, January 7th, at 7:00 p.m.** Be sure to invite your friends!

We will be serving the choir dinner Monday before the concert. Please let Sally know if you are available to help serve dinner probably starting around 5:00-5:30.

We still need host families to house the choir members Monday night. Hosting members of the choir includes serving them breakfast Tuesday morning and bringing them back to the church building by 8:30 a.m. If you are able to be a host family, but cannot get your guests to the church building Tuesday morning, let Sally know and special arrangements may be made.

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the foyer to be a host family and/or to help with items for the dinner.



Planning & Prayer Session: 2008 Wednesday Ladies Class

Friday's planning session was cancelled due to the weather. It will be rescheduled in the near future. See Joanne Johnson with any questions.

Women's Spiritual Disciplines Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Chapter
January 2, 2008	Stewardship: Money	8
January 9, 2008	Simplicity	None
January 16, 2008	Evangelism	6
January 23, 2008	Perseverance in Disciplines	13

Food Pantry Deliver

The Northern Illinois Food Bank will be delivering food for our pantry this Thursday, January 3. We will begin working at 10:00 a.m. to carry the boxes down to the pantry and stocking the shelves. Volunteers are welcome!

Nursery Workers

Joan Avey, Bev Livermore



Collection Counters

Steve Link, Paul Mullins



Youth & Family News

TEENS: Sign up NOW to attend our annual **New Year's Eve Lock-In!** Make sure to bring a friend! It's \$28 per person, which includes bowling, video games, laser tag and unlimited pizza. We'll start out at the church building at 10:30 p.m. with a devotional and bring in the new year. At 12:15 a.m. we'll head over to Brunswick Zone. **Parents can pick up their teens at Brunswick Zone at 6:00 a.m.** Sign up on the sheet in the foyer.

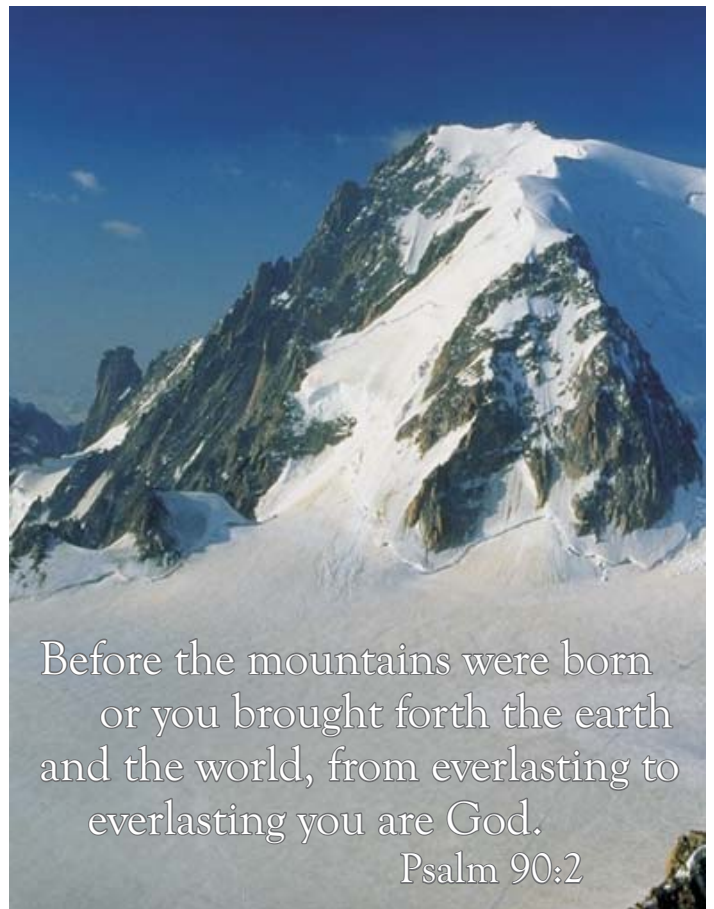
Join us for an **"After Christmas Party"** on Friday, January 4th. We're taking the train downtown to go ice skating at Millennium Park, have dinner and see the Christmas lights. Cost is \$22. Be sure and sign-up on the sheet in the foyer if you plan to go. We'll meet at the building at 10:15 that morning.

Our next **Sunday Night, Light** will be on Sunday, January 13.

There's a **Connection Point** at Cardinal Drive on Sunday, January 27.

PARENTS /ADULTS: Chaperones are needed for the New Years Eve Lock-In and the After Christmas Party. Please contact Cliff if you can help.

Parents: Don't let the cost of an activity prevent your child from attending. We have a little extra in the Youth Budget to help those who need it. See Cliff if money's ever a problem for a Teen Activity.



Before the mountains were born
or you brought forth the earth
and the world, from everlasting to
everlasting you are God.

Psalm 90:2