



# The Redeemer Review

Proclaiming Christ into the 21st Century

Volume 12

December, 2014

**Pastor's  
Corner**

Advent 2014



Happy New Year, liturgically speaking! The first Sunday of Advent is also the first day of the new church year. (Advent, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost.)

Advent, meaning “the coming ” is a time when we wait expectantly. The season began in the fourth and fifth centuries with the lighting of candles, symbolizing our longings for the coming of Jesus Christ into our world. We are inviting our church families from our diverse traditions to lead us in the reading of scripture, litany and lighting candles to remind us that “Christ is the light of the world.”

Advent is also a time of “waiting”. What is it that makes us impatient at times? In some culture bound traditions, waiting is part of the everyday landscape. People wait long hours to see a physician, to check on the status of an application for work or other benefits, to receive food, to await the arrival of a loved one after a long absence, to wait for the

blessing from the community of faith and the list go on. There are some entrepreneurial spirit built around keeping your place in line to minimize your waiting time.

But there is good news in waiting. We can't change some important things like waiting expectantly for nine months before a child is born. We wait for the child to walk. We rejoice in hearing the first word from a child. While waiting is ideally a time to be calm or to use the Gaelic word which suggests “to circle the soul”, it can be a frenetic time with lots of human energy consumed. I hear the popular Christmas music and it says that “*It is the most beautiful time of the year.*” Is there another way?

We are waiting with expectation “in the in-between time”. We rejoice because of Jesus Christ who was born in the manger in the presence of Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, the wise men and the celestial angels.



## ***Redeemer Review***

Published Monthly by

***Our Redeemer's***

**United Methodist Church**

1600 W Schaumburg Road  
Schaumburg IL 60194-3900

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**email: call for address**

**Website: [www.orumc.org](http://www.orumc.org)**

**Worship Services:**

**9:00 and 10:30 am**

**Pastor:**

**Rev. Romir S. Esguerra**

**Church Secretary:**

**Donna Echtner**

**Director of Youth Ministries:**

**Marianne Rogenski**

**Editor:**

**Jerry Mc Daniel**

Mary who sang a song of faithfulness was caught up in the grandeur of the moment; Joseph who was silent was also a fortress of faith.

Every Advent for me is different and I pray that in our anticipation of Christmas, the blessings of God will cover you and lead you deeply into a faith that will transform hearts and minds.

Finally, the word that inspires me this season is a musical term-*Sinfonia*. It is a coming together of sounds. It is also an *Overture*, a musical introduction for the orchestra. *Advent-Sinfonia*. Let us make a joyful noise to the Lord this Advent season. Let us make our presence and our gifts make a statement of faith.

Please join us for the Advent season at ***Our Redeemer's*** United Methodist Church:

November 30- First Sunday in Advent

December 7- Second Sunday in Advent  
and Holy Communion

(Our Redeemer's Players will present a play during worship)

December 14- Third Sunday in Advent.

Chancel Choir will lead us for our *Music Sunday*.

December 21- Fourth Sunday in Advent.

December 24- Christmas Eve services at 5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., and 11:30 p.m. We will have candle lighting in all worship services.

See you in the Advent place,  
***Rev. Romir R. Esguerra***



## Youth News:

### *Appalachia Service Project (ASP) News:*

Our 2015 ASP trip will be June 14-21. If you are interested please see Marianne ASAP! We will begin meetings for this trip in January. All students who have completed 8th grade are encouraged to go.

### *Youth Group (for those in 7th-12th grades):*

December 7 Youth Group @ ORUMC  
6:30-8:30pm

December 14 Youth Group @ ORUMC  
6:30-8:30pm

Christmas fun!

Please check the bulletin and email for our January return date for youth group.

## Education News:

We will again be participating in the Heifer Advent bank program—be sure to watch for the banks and calendars to come home and if you don't get one please see Marianne or Jon Montgomery.

There will be NO Sunday School on December 28.



## Community Crisis Center

*by Sally Donaldson*

Gently used heavy winter coats for all members of a family as well as hats, gloves, scarves and boots are needed for the Annual Coat Give Away. They cannot use lightweight or spring items, sweatshirts, or long trench coats. The Give Away ends in February.

The Crisis Center Food Pantry is always in need of canned fruit, canned meat meals, beef stew, chili, etc. Also needed are: cereal/oatmeal, jelly, peanut butter, Mac & cheese, pork & beans, powdered milk, saltine crackers, soup/Ramen noodles, spaghetti/marinara sauce, Spaghettio type canned items, tuna, and hand canned openers.

You may put your donations in the CCC bins located in the Narthex, the closet left of the Information desk.

Thank you so very much for your continuous support!

## ORUMC Listening Campaign

In the months of September and October your Faith in Action Team invited everyone to participate in our first listening campaign by coming to a “house meeting”. Approximately 50 of you responded by attending one of four meetings. Most of your suggestions centered around our church and community. Pastor Romir participated in each session in order to get better acquainted with us.

Of course it is impossible to follow up on every suggestion that was made. However, the two areas with the most interest centered around local hunger and visibility (PR) for our church. If you expressed interest in either of these, or any other issue, you have already been contacted. If you feel a calling to bring people together on any issue, please take the first step and do it. You may be surprised what God has in store for you and our church.

We know that many of you were unable to participate for any number of reasons. If you have a passion for either of the issues named above, please contact a member of your Faith in Action Team and we will put you in touch with others with the same passion. It’s all about working together as a team in order to move ahead.

If you are interested in our faith and social justice work and want to know more, please contact one of us. We are a work in progress and learning so much along the way.

Thank you.

**Jill Wood-Naatz**

**Ellen Kobylewski**

**Annette Brown**

**Jack Denny**

## Sophie Brynes

**Sophie Brynes** ends her service as nursery care-person with ORUMC this year. Sophie has served in this role for over 30 years going back to when Pastor Fred Rickleff was at our church. During her time, Sophie has lovingly taken care of ORUMC’s babes and toddlers, some of whom are now adults. Sophie has a passion for taking care of children and ORUMC has valued her service in this role. Sophie remains very active in her own church, in other volunteer positions, in her work and family life.

We praise Sophie for her dedication to children and for serving God in this way. We wish Sophie all the best in her new roles, and thank her for her time at ORUMC. If you would like to send Sophie a card, please send it to Donna at the office within the next two weeks.

ORUMC will still provide nursery care during our Sunday morning services. **Kim Echtner** will be the new lead ORUMC nursery care-person. Kim was one of those babies Sophie took care of, and so it would seem fitting that the baton had been passed onto Kim’s equally caring hands.

## UMW Heavenly Treats

Thank you to all the bakers who brought a variety of wonderful homemade cookies and treats to the second annual Heavenly Treats event on November 23rd. THANK YOU to the congregation, who enthusiastically supported our efforts, buying lots of cookies and goodies for the upcoming holidays.

Thanks also to the many women who helped to set up, run the event, and clean up. The proceeds from this sale allowed UMW to support a few extra missions this year!



## UMW Quarterly Potluck

*Tuesday, December 9, 6:30 p.m.*

All women of Our Redeemer's (ages 16 and up) are invited to the United Methodist Women's quarterly meeting, Tuesday, December 9 at 6:30pm in Wesley Hall at ORUMC.

It's a potluck, so bring a dish to pass. We will share an evening of fellowship and holiday games. Bring a white elephant gift (wrapped) to exchange. Gifts are typically inexpensive, humorous items or used items from home.

If you have any questions, ask **Melinda Taylor** or **Cathy Mottar**.

## Paying Our Apportionments *Why Does it Matter?*

by Bruce Bedingfield

Something will be different for Our Redeemer's this year—different from the previous 10 years. For the first time in a decade ours will not be a “Rainbow Covenant Church.” We know that to be true, for we know this year we will not fully pay our apportionments. The Rainbow Covenant refers to “second mile giving”—contributing even more after we have paid that obligation. It is modeled, of course, after Matthew 5:41, “And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.”

Not paying all our apportionments was a very difficult decision, made by our Finance Committee, and reluctantly affirmed by our Administrative Council, early this year. It was made necessary due to disappointing pledging and giving for 2014. Just like in our homes and businesses, bills have to be paid; employees depend on salaries. Church leaders are now monitoring pledged giving for 2015 to see what can be done next year.

We can take one more step, however, toward paying our apportionments for 2014. If you would like to help pay our church's 2014 apportionment obligation, during the month of December please make a specific contribution designated “for ORUMC apportionment funding”. Realize, of course, this would be in addition to your usual pledge.

Please see the accompanying article, explaining where our apportionment dollars go. And please prayerfully consider what you can give toward this important ministry.

Apportionments  
Questions  
See page 7



Newsletter  
Deadline  
December 11

Given the holiday schedule, we need to move the newsletter deadline one week earlier in order to mail the January newsletter before Christmas.

Please work on your January information soon.

## Apportionments: Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What are apportionments?

Apportionments are the way that local churches combine their financial resources to enable our vision for mission and ministry at every level of the United Methodist Church. In the Northern Illinois Conference there are three Apportioned Funds:

- ◆ Support for Ordained Leadership
- ◆ Mission & Evangelism
- ◆ Strengthening the Connection

Equipped with these funds, United Methodists are able to do together what no individual, church, cluster, district, or conference could support on their own. These funds support our shared mission and ministries not just as a conference, but also as a denomination. When your local church pays its apportionment in full, we can fully support our Conference's share of the seven General Church Apportioned Funds. By faithfully paying 100% of our Apportionments, we ensure that the mission and ministry we have collectively accepted are realized for the transformation of the world!

### 2. Why do we pay Apportionments?

Apportionments are the primary financial way we live out our connection. By contributing its share, each local church—no matter its size—is engaged in ministry locally, regionally and globally.

### 3. Where do Apportionment dollars go?

Apportionment dollars are distributed to

ministries here in the Northern Illinois Conference and around the world. Looking at the NIC budget is one of the easiest ways to understand how apportionment dollars are used. In 2014, apportionment giving will account for over 85% of the total sources of giving.

#### **Support for Ordained Leadership Fund**

- 21% NIC Support for Local Church Leaders
- 5% Ministerial Education Fund

#### **Mission and Evangelism Fund**

- 26% NIC Programming & Benevolences
- 15% World Service Fund
- 2% Black Colleges Fund
- 1% Africa University

#### **Strengthening the Connection Fund**

- 25% NIC Administration
- 3% Episcopal Fund
- 2% General Church Administration

### 4. What happens if my local church can't or doesn't pay its Apportionments?

Simply put, staff positions are reduced, resources are constrained, ministries suspended, and the work of the church simply doesn't get done. The bottom line is that fully funding the apportionment is mission critical for The United Methodist Church.

### 5. Where can I find more information and resources?

Apportionment Resources for 2015 (<http://www.umcnic.org/5-great-apportionment-resources-for-2015/>)

# UNITED METHODIST MEN

## United Methodist Men Holiday Snacks

The United Methodist Men are taking orders for their (killer) Garlic Parmesan Pretzels and Puppy Chow (for human consumption) Holiday Snacks. Orders will be available for pickup on Sunday, December 14 after both services.

The delicious treats make great munchies for family and friends during the Christmas holiday and they are excellent as gifts for co-workers. Please check out the samples of the goodies and place your Holiday Snack order ASAP.



## United Methodist Men Make Holiday Snacks *December 13, 8:00 a.m.*

All men of *Our Redeemer's* are invited to join the United Methodist Men Saturday, December 13 at 8:00 a.m. Instead of the regular breakfast meeting, we will be assembling UMM holiday snacks.

Thanks to all who purchased UMM pizzas.



## Pizza Making



## Personal Notes



### Hannah Greenwalt

We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to our ORUMC family for all of their well wishes as Hannah was selected as homecoming queen at Hoffman Estates High School back in October.

The positive influences and experiences at *Our Redeemer's*, including pastoral leadership, Sunday School teachers, youth leaders and youth activities (soup kitchen, 30 Hour Famine, and ASP), musical mentors in youth choirs and Ember Days, and the general support and encouragement from a loving congregation have contributed to the person who Hannah is today.

Thank you!

**Jeff and Gwyn Greenwalt**

### Thank You

The Miller family (Pam, Dave and Sarah, that is) would like to say thank you to our church friends/family for all you have done for us the last few months during our surgeries and recovery times.

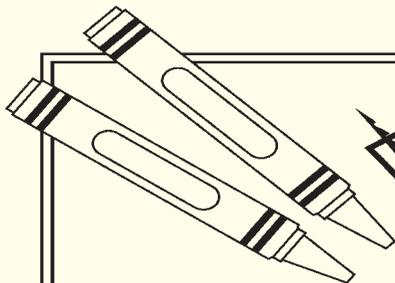
Nobody went hungry thanks to the meal train and all the food that was delivered. Rides were appreciated. Visits, cards and flowers were nice surprises.

Most of all, we would like to thank you for all your thoughts and prayers. God does answer them and we have made great progress toward recovery.

Thank you!

### Madelyn Wrobel

We have a new grandbaby! **Madelyn Renee Wrobel** born on November 21. Parents are **Callie** and **Matt Wrobel**, 4079 N. Newport Ln, Arlington Hts, IL 60004. Proud grandparents are **Robyn** and **John Gatti**.



# PUZZLE

## Born king of the Jews

Matthew 2:1-2 says that after Jesus was born, wise men came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?" Complete the puzzle to discover what they found in Bethlehem.

**Directions:** In the grid below, draw lines by starting at the first number in each list and stopping at the last.



- |             |          |              |          |                      |                             |
|-------------|----------|--------------|----------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 16-17       | 28-17-6  | 61-50-39     | 8-7-18   | 106-96-85-97-107-106 | 42-41-52-63-64-53           |
| 3-14-25     | 36-47-58 | 104-105-106  | 38-49-60 | 89-100-111-123       | 107-108-109-120-130         |
| 2-3-4       | 5-16-27  | 19-18-29-30  | 69-79-89 | 80-92-103-104        | 125-135-134-124-123-133-134 |
| 40-51-62-39 | 37-47-59 | 105-95-84-96 |          | 124-125-126-127-128  | 69-80-91-102-103            |
|             |          |              |          | 129-130-142-141-129  | 141-140-128-129             |

• 1	• 2	• 3	• 4	• 5	• 6	• 7	• 8	• 9	• 10	• 11
• 12	• 13	• 14	• 15	• 16	• 17	• 18	• 19	• 20	• 21	• 22
• 23	• 24	• 25	• 26	• 27	• 28	• 29	• 30	• 31	• 32	• 33
• 34	• 35	• 36	• 37	• 38	• 39	• 40	• 41	• 42	• 43	• 44
• 45	• 46	• 47	• 48	• 49	• 50	• 51	• 52	• 53	• 54	• 55
• 56	• 57	• 58	• 59	• 60	• 61	• 62	• 63	• 64	• 65	• 66
• 67	• 68	• 69	• 70	• 71	• 72	• 73	• 74	• 75	• 76	• 77
• 78	• 79	• 80	• 81	• 82	• 83	• 84	• 85	• 86	• 87	• 88
• 89	• 90	• 91	• 92	• 93	• 94	• 95	• 96	• 97	• 98	• 99
• 100	• 101	• 102	• 103	• 104	• 105	• 106	• 107	• 108	• 109	• 110
• 111	• 112	• 113	• 114	• 115	• 116	• 117	• 118	• 119	• 120	• 121
• 122	• 123	• 124	• 125	• 126	• 127	• 128	• 129	• 130	• 131	• 132
• 133	• 134	• 135	• 136	• 137	• 138	• 139	• 140	• 141	• 142	• 143



## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

The cold has come early this year which reminds us that advent and Christmas are closer than we realize. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Christ child, it is time for the ***Our Redeemer's*** tradition of “decking the halls” with poinsettias. What a wonderful way to celebrate new life! These flowers will be displayed in the sanctuary to celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus who came to save us all. We invite all who love to celebrate Christmas with the beauty of flowers to help us adorn the church in celebration our savior’s birthday. Here at ***Our Redeemer's*** individuals order and pay for the flowers and then “lend” them to the church until after Christmas when they may be taken home. It is easy as we do all the work for you. We order them from our florist, arrange them and then make them available for you to take home.

To participate, you may order white, pink or red poinsettias. Please fill in the order form below and place with your payment in the beautifully decorated special basket located in the narthex or in the offering plate. We have a new florist this year so we need to do things a little differently. The price of this year’s flowers is \$10.00.

***Sunday, December 14, is the absolute deadline for placing your order. However, if you want pink or white, we need to know a week before that (December 7). Our new florist wants to make sure they have enough of white or pink to meet our needs and so the early deadline for pink or white.***

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Choose White (\$) \_\_\_\_\_ Pink (\$) \_\_\_\_\_ Red (\$) \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

*Our Redeemer's United Methodist Church*

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