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# REDEEMER REFLECTION

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**RESPECT:**  
**All the Way Around**  
by John Highlen

God tells us, in the Commandments, to honor (respect) our parents. The book of Proverbs counsels us likewise. We know we should respect our parents (and everyone for that matter) out of love. Love for them and love for God.

Some people demand respect because of their strength or power, some because of their knowledge, and some because of their specific abilities. Now, if we respect these people, then how much more should we respect God who is all-powerful, all-knowing, and able to do all things? Well, part of respecting God and honoring Him is doing His will. But in order to do His will, we have to know His will. And just how do we go about knowing His will?

For one thing, to know His will we need to be in His Word: read it, study it, meditate on it, and live it. The Holy Bible is available in so many forms and translations these days that there's sure to be one that suits us well. As for the approach we take, there are lots of choices. Some people like to use a study guide. Some people like to follow along with a commentary from a biblical scholar. And there's always the straightforward approach of just reading cover to cover. How we go about reading the Bible isn't really that important as long as we DO it!

January  
2010

We also need to be in prayer, which His Word tells us we need to do constantly. That's a tall order. Now I don't know

about you, but the way my brain runs around, about the only thing I can manage to do constantly is breathe. I find that I have to just keep reminding myself to raise things up in prayer: little things, big things, all kinds of things. These individual prayers, large and small, begin to string together and approach being in "constant" prayer.

The third thing we need to do in order to know His will is worship Him. That means participating in worship services regularly, using the gifts and abilities He has specially blessed us with, and living our lives the way he intended us to live them.

Intentional Godly living brings us back to being in His Word and constant prayer. The three go hand-in-hand: Word, Worship, and Prayer. They work together to open our hearts and minds to the Holy Spirit so He can lead us. With the Holy Spirit directing our lives, those lives can't help but be pleasing to God and His will.

So, when we respect God and live according to His will, we will automatically respect and care for other people, too. Not just our families and friends... everyone.

That's respect—all the way around.

## PRAYER MINISTRY

Excerpt taken from walkintheword.com, written by James MacDonald.

Keep your communication open with the Lord. I'm not talking casual prayers over the shoulder. I mean on your face before God—a posture that we've had too little of in our lives. And in that place, the Lord will meet you. If you will humble yourself, the Lord will be present with you. He is an experienced sufferer, fellowshipping with you.



God is never more present than when His children are suffering. Draw near.

## FAMILY LIFE THOUGHTS

Taken from the CD series *Single Parenting: Bringing hope and practical help to single, blended, and reconstructed families* by Dr. Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller, RN, BSN.

“Remember that love doesn't just give but it also sets limits so that others can grow. When your child is feeling hurt or disappointed, empathize with and comfort your child. Comfort is important, but don't allow your child to be demanding or manipulative in the

process. Point out the unacceptable behaviors and encourage a more helpful response such as gratefulness and peace.”

# Family

Excerpt from Max Lucado's book, *Cure for the Common Life*.

Don't heed greed. Greed makes a poor job counselor. Greed has a growling stomach. Feed it, and you risk more than budget-busting debt. You risk losing purpose. Greed can seduce you out of your sweet spot.

Before you change your job title, examine your perspective toward life. Success is not defined by position or pay scale but by this: doing the most what you do the best.

Parents, give that counsel to your kids. Tell them to do what they love to do so well that someone pays them to do it.

Spouses, urge your mate to choose satisfaction over salary. Better to be married to a happy person who has a thin wallet than a miserable person with a thick one. Besides, “a pretentious, showy life is an empty life; a plain and simple life is a full life” (Proverbs 13:7 MSG).

As we start this New Year, let's embrace the privilege of being parents and take it as a serious commitment, but let's also revisit the concept of *Sacred Marriage* and what that truly means. See Craig Britton about this DVD Bible study on marriage to be offered possibly in the coming year. Without a sound, God-based marriage, parenting becomes so much more difficult.



## January Birthdays

Marilyn Rockwell	01/01
Carole Straayer	01/04
Katherine Krauss	01/04
Christopher Krauss	01/05
Jamie Herrick	01/05
Gail Lowe	01/05
Mason Haas	01/07
Dave Voss	01/09
Jessica Ellison	01/10
Ross Noakes	01/10
Bruce Harshe	01/13
Jacqueline Demeuse	01/17
Hayden McFarland	01/17
Bob Varney	01/17
Karlee Gamet	01/21
Susan Sloan	01/21
Meredith VanDerWeide	01/21
Keni Lewis	01/22
Tracy Jones	01/23
Vivianna Richardson	01/23
Bill Walter	01/23
Susan Belt	01/25
Barbara Pulver	01/26
Amber Doxtader	01/29
Ed Faris	01/29
Janet Jean	01/29
Ethan Anderson	01/30

**“Every good and perfect gift is from above...”**

James 1:17a

## KEEP IT CLEAN!

by Peggy Bennitt

Due to budget cuts and other circumstances, our janitorial services are now limited to 10 hours per week. Our janitor will use these limited hours to do only the very basic cleaning. Redeemer is a 25,000-square-foot campus and will be impossible to maintain adequately without volunteers stepping up to help Deb Rockwell, our one remaining janitor.

Brianna and Maria Boyle have resigned from their janitorial positions as of the middle of December. When you see these young ladies, please let them know how much we have appreciated their work and their weekly commitment to this service.

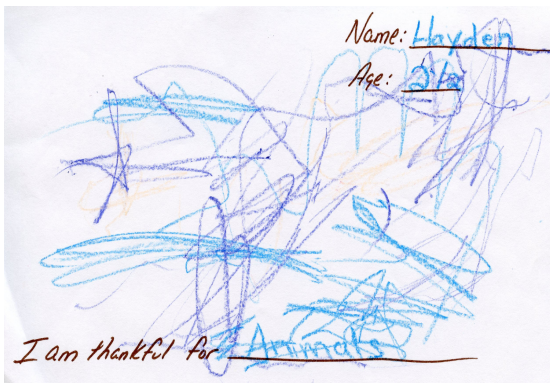
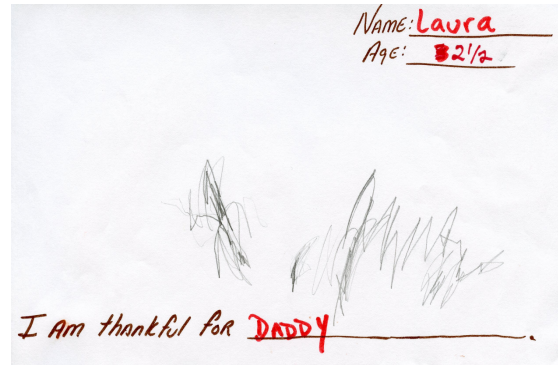
Where previously we had three part-time janitors spending 24 hours per week on cleaning, we will now need all our members to pitch in and do any extra cleaning that we may notice. If we notice a floor that needs vacuuming, let's do that. Waste baskets that need to be emptied, sinks that are grimy, floors that need to be swept and mopped, pews that need to be cleaned—we can all help by doing a few small things here and there to keep God's House clean and beautiful for serving Him.

This is just another challenge that we at Redeemer have been given to show our trust in the Lord and our resilience to adapt to the changes He allows. These cleaning opportunities can be an excellent service project for Bible study groups or ministry opportunities for individuals or families.

If you or your group can help at any time, contact Deb Rockwell or the church office for areas that are in need of attention week-to-week.



The following artwork is provided by our KidsVenture! kids. They were asked to draw something that shows what they've learned in KidsVenture!



These are glimpses of God by KidsVenture! kids and show His many blessings to us all! There are so many ways to praise our God, and children do it so wonderfully and simply.

We will include more children's art and writings in future issues of the *Reflection*. Come visit and learn with the kids once a month on Family Day in KidsVenture! or whenever your schedule allows. Visitors are always welcome in our classrooms.

January's Family Visit Day will be January 17th.

*"Fix these words of Mine in your heart and minds...teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home..." Deuteronomy 11:18-19*

## MEET THE TEACHERS

Editor's note: Over the next few months, the newsletter will introduce you to some of the dedicated people who are teaching our children and youth in the KidsVenture! and Junior/Senior Youth learning venues. We hope this will help the congregation become more connected with our next generation and to encourage everyone to feel free to visit any of the classrooms at any time, but especially on the *Family Visit Days* each month.

### Steve Hall

Steve and his family have been members of Redeemer for about three years, and both he and his wife, Tammy, are active in the area of children's ministry. He is currently co-teaching in the new *Tree House* room, which is home to the 4th and 5th grade KidsVenture! class. Along with David VanDerWeide, Steve has accepted the exciting challenge of taking our youngsters in this age group to the next level in their spiritual growth.

Steve says that what he enjoys the most about his teaching experience so far is being able to share the Word of God with these youngsters. Spending time with them and helping them learn about their Lord is a rewarding experience.

When not teaching or at work, Steve enjoys sports and spending time with his family. He has been married to Tammy for 10 years and they have two children: Melanie, age 5 and Emily, age 3. Steve is also on the Leadership Board and Chairman of the Call Committee.

### David VanDerWeide

David and his wife, Monica, joined Redeemer 12 years ago, and both are active in church ministry. David is co-teaching the 4th and 5th grade class in KidsVenture! with Steve Hall. In his free time, David enjoys his two children, Meredith, age 5, and Laura, age 2, as

well as going to musicals and the theatre. In the summertime, they all enjoy excursions to the family cottage on Lake Michigan.

David's favorite part about teaching children is connecting with them through games and shared laughter while studying the application of Bible stories to the "here and now." He is also on the Leadership Board and the Call Committee.

*"Teach me, O Lord to follow Your decrees; then will I keep them to the end." Psalm 119:33*

## RUMMAGE SALE

by Carol Dicks

The second annual spring rummage sale will be held here at Redeemer the first week of May. It is not too soon to start putting aside the items you wish to donate. Clean clothing, shoes, linens, jewelry, furniture, appliances, bikes, toys, etc. will all be accepted for the sale. Many hands will be needed to set up, sort, organize and work at the sale.



We will again have a delicious lunch for our customers and members too. This was a very enjoyable event last year and, once again, the profits gathered from the sale will be used to help the needy in our church and community. Any questions can be directed to Carol Dicks at 517-769-6992.

## VOTERS' MEETING

by Peggy Bennett

On December 8, 2009, Redeemer Lutheran Church held its annual voters' meeting to approve the budget for 2010. Many items were cut throughout the operating budget. It was noted that only 12% of our budgeted monies actually go for ministry, while the majority of our financial giving is allocated for building maintenance and salary expenses. Salaries were frozen, and Pastor Roper announced that his last day of employment with Redeemer will be June 13, 2010.

David VanDerWeide agreed to remain on the Leadership Board for another three-year term, and Jim Keat and Paul Rumohr were elected to three-year terms to begin this month. Let's keep our Board members constantly before our Lord with prayer. This next year will be critical for our congregation, and our Board will need to make some difficult decisions.

Sunday morning education in the new year, will begin January 10<sup>th</sup>. Pastor's Bible study will be on the book of Romans, Jim Keat's class on *Sharing Your Faith*, and Tom Simonsen's class on Lutheran doctrine. Inquiries on other class offerings may be directed to Pastor Roper and the Education Committee.

The staff gave reports and all stressed that in spite of the economy, a lot of positive things are happening at Redeemer, including more involvement in events, increased volunteerism, and an upswing in financial giving. We are not out of the woods by any means, but the Lord is blessing our people as they step out in faith to increase their giving.

The Call Committee has reviewed two "Call" lists, with some candidates removing themselves from

consideration. After reviewing the remaining candidates, the call committee will bring a call recommendation to the congregation. John Highlen, our congregational chairman, clarified that the congregation will be informed of all that has been involved in this process before they are expected to vote on extending a call to any pastor.

Steve Hall remarked on the intricacies and drawbacks that have been encountered by the committee as the prayerful search continues. He also expressed wonder and appreciation at the prayer focus that has been key to this call process. The Prayer Action Team was sincerely thanked for their continued prayers for God's guidance through this process of pastor selection.

A film clip, from the CRAVE church where our own John Rathje is pastor, gave an update on that coffee house ministry and encouraged and thanked us for our support. We, as a congregation, have opted to redirect more of our mission support to Pastor John and CRAVE, and encourage more individual giving of financial support to our local missions.

The voters' meeting was very informative and positive. Much was discussed and good information and answers to questions were given. Communication was open and comments and opinions were volunteered. If we want to know what's happening in our church, and want a say in how things are done and where money is spent, this is the place to do it.

Please choose to get involved by being a part of the next voters' meeting.



## MYSTERY OF THE MANGER



The cast and crew for the Christmas program did it again! They gave us the facts about the birth of Jesus, eye witness accounts from Scripture, and entertained us as well! What more could we want! I hope you were there. I know if you were, you were blessed by the message and by the joy of the season that the program inspired.

Jane Blonde and Mrs. Evans,



the wonderful Children's Chorus with their well-practiced choreography and singing, the "Cleaning Crew," the children reciting the Christmas story from Scripture, the audio/visual team, the kitchen crew: *all* made this rendering of the CHRISTmas story a beautiful addition to our celebration of the birth of the Christ Child. What a blessing we have with this wonderful group of dedicated people of all ages

who came together to enhance our celebration of Christmas!

## RESPECT

by Peggy Bennitt

I'll admit it: I'm old-fashioned—at least about some things. Respect is one of those things.

When someone else is talking—I'm not! Respectful listening is a lost art. Treating my own remarks as more important than another who is speaking is disrespectful and rude—always!

When I spill something—I clean it up. Responsibility for our own actions is often assigned to others. "The janitor will get that." That disrespects the janitor's efforts, as well as the building or area itself.

When I make a mistake or cause someone grief—I 'fess up and ask their forgiveness; I say "I'm sorry." Nope, it's absolutely NOT easy, but it is necessary. God says so! That's respect.

When I don't agree with someone, I go to that person and try to resolve the issue. This is not easy either, but God tells us to do this, too.

No one deserves to be ignored. This is the worst kind of disrespect: disrespecting someone's personhood. I don't have to like a person or even agree with him, but I still need to respect him as a person.

Everyone's opinion is valid and should be courteously considered. Opinions are just that: opinions; they are as individual as snowflakes and none should be labeled right or wrong. They are, after all, just opinions. Respect each unique opinion and those who have them.

["Show proper respect to everyone..."](#)

1 Peter 2:17a

## CHRISTMAS SEASON UNDECORATING

by Deb Fall

A huge thank you goes out to those who decorated the RAC for Christmas and to Kim and Dave McFarland who organized the event!



Plans are for an Un-decorating Party to take place on Sunday, January 10th following the 10:30 worship service. Plan to join the fun! Lunch will be served!



Thank you to all those who helped decorate the RAC, the sanctuary, and the narthex/lobby area for Christmas. The whole church reflected the joy and beauty of this special season when we welcome the newborn King!

If you or your group are interested in helping to un-decorate the church, contact Kim or Dave McFarland, Jan Wetters, or Deb Fall. Decorating the church is a huge job, but un-decorating never gets the appreciation it deserves. Please plan on helping with this huge undertaking...make it a family event this

year, or get your Bible study group involved...and plan it for next year, too!

*Serving is love with work gloves on!*

*“Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, for you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does...” Ephesians 6:7-8.*

## TOPIC FOR FEBRUARY

By Peggy Bennett


This month’s topic seemed to present a challenge to our writers, or maybe the holidays interfered with the creative flow. Whatever the cause, the challenge to put together an interesting and informative newsletter was and is a constant for the Communication Team. This month’s was no exception.

The topic for February is “relationships,” and I’m hoping and praying that many of you will be up to this challenge. The deadline for the February issue is January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Relationships as a topic may be approached from a personal angle, the perspective of what one has observed about relationships, family relationships or accounts of a special time of growth in a relationship. The relationship could be of a spiritual nature or relational growth or challenges that could help others in similar circumstances.

Our God is a relational God, and He created relationship from the beginning in the Garden of Eden when He walked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the evening.

Please send your relational stories to me at [bennitt49@yahoo.com](mailto:bennitt49@yahoo.com). I encourage your comments and suggestions to make this publication more enjoyable for you.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1 style="color: red;">January</h1> <h2 style="color: red;">2010</h2>						1 2 Men's Choir 9:30 a.m.
3 Blended service— C 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.  KidsVenture/Youth & Adult Bible Classes 9:20 a.m.-10:20 a.m.  Praise Service 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	4 Adult Choir 6:30 p.m.  Confirmation Class 7:00 p.m.  Praise Team-RAC 7:00 p.m.	5 Open Prayer 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.	6 Young At Heart 12:00 Noon-3:00 p.m. at Countryside  Countryside Bible Study 2:00 p.m.	7 Community Prayer Gathering 6:30 a.m.  Communication Team 7:00 p.m.	8 9 Men's Choir 9:30 a.m.	
10 Blended service 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. KidsVenture/Youth & Adult Bible Classes 9:20 a.m.-10:20 a.m. Praise Service— C 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	11 Adult Choir 6:30 p.m.  Confirmation Class 7:00 p.m.  Praise Team-RAC 7:00 p.m.	12 Open Prayer 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.	13 Quilters 9:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon  Countryside Bible Study 2:00 p.m.	14 Community Prayer Gathering 6:30 a.m.	15 16 Men's Choir 9:30 a.m.	
17 Blended service— C 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.  KidsVenture/Youth & Adult Bible Classes Family Visit Day 9:20 a.m.-10:20 a.m.  Praise Service 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	18 Adult Choir 6:30 p.m.  Confirmation Class 7:00 p.m.  Praise Team-RAC 7:00 p.m.	19 Open Prayer 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.	20 Countryside Service 10:15 a.m.  Countryside Bible Study 2:00 p.m.	21 Community Prayer Gathering 6:30 a.m.  Outreach Planning 7:00 p.m.	22 23 Men's Choir 9:30 a.m.	
24 Blended service 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. KidsVenture/Youth & Adult Bible Classes 9:20 a.m.-10:20 a.m. Praise Service— C 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Communion at both services on the 31	25 Adult Choir 6:30 p.m.  Confirmation Class 7:00 p.m.  Praise Team-RAC 7:00 p.m.	26 Open Prayer 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.	27 Countryside Bible Study 2:00 p.m.  Leadership Board 7:00 p.m.	28 Community Prayer Gathering 6:30 a.m.	29 30 Men's Choir 9:30 a.m.	