



# Family

## West Chicago Church of Christ

Volume 40, Issue 9 • March 2, 2008

### A Preacher's Perspective

**A**s a self-confessed (and hopefully recovering) heart-grinch, I am frequently struck by how important it is to simply “think love.”

I have shared with you on a few occasions, now, about the idea of mature Christian love which I borrowed from Dallas Willard's *Renovation of the Heart*. Willard makes the observation that to have mature, spiritual love, four levels or dimensions of love have to be developed: First, we experience God's love for us, demonstrated in many ways but supremely by the giving of His Son. Second, we experience the love we feel for God as a response to His love. Third, we are directed to love one another as fellow members of Christ's body. Finally, we are to experience shared love together in a Christian community.

Now, those of us who tend to be introverts may have settled in on the idea that we can have a full relationship with God with a one-to-one love, irrespective of others. I have tended to view God that way. It's a private relationship which is more comfortable for those of us who are relationship-challenged. But I think Willard is correct.

I believe that scripture is pretty clear that for us to know and love God as we should, we are forced to expand our hearts to take in the whole of the church. It doesn't make any sense, does it, to think of a body in which the head only had affection and love for its

favorite body part? The wholeness of the “body” metaphor has profound application.

Now, I do love the inner, private relationship with God which is my more natural inclination. But if I truly trust and believe God, I must also believe that He has riches and blessings of love for me which are only available through my brothers and sisters.

Of course, I'm stretching the point a little here for

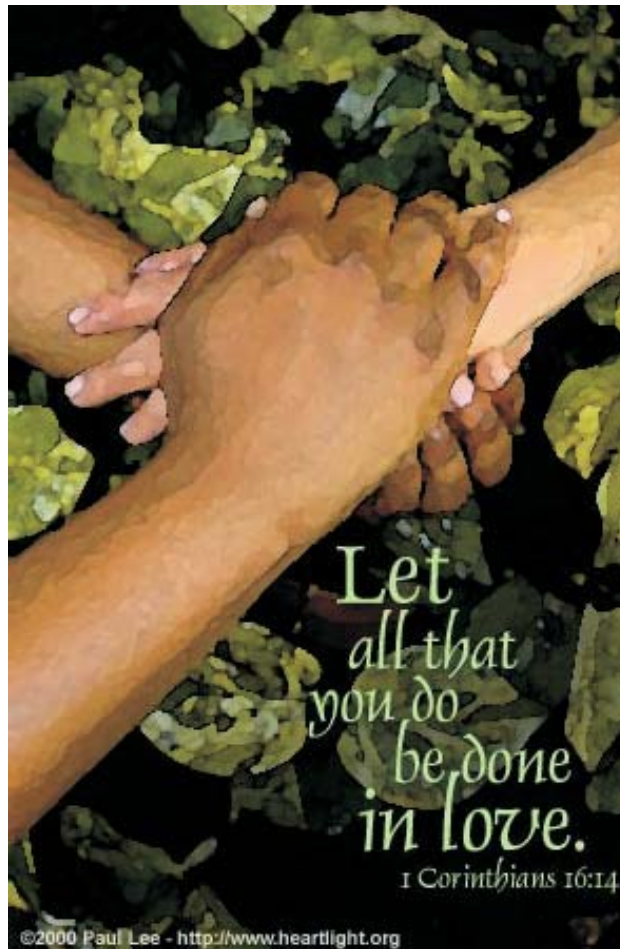
emphasis. I have always been blessed by the love I have shared with my brothers and sisters. But it is truly profound to me to realize that by focusing on you, by intentionally opening my heart to my family and my fellow believers, that I am actually drawing nearer to God.

Isn't it true that it's much easier to love God (whom we have not seen) than to love each other? I think we all share in that. And isn't it clear that Satan works overtime to steal our joy in God by pre-occupying us with irritations with one another?

I challenge you to join me in trying to remember that the inner love you feel for God is only to be deepened and enriched as you commit yourself to deeper love for the family of God. We must be alert to Satan's schemes to divide us and break our

fellowship. He knows how much more powerful the Church of God is when we are bound together in genuine love.

“By this will all men know that you are my disciples, that you love one another.” **John 13:35**



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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 - *Tim Boyd*
- Announcements - *Paul Mullins*
- Singing
- Prayer - *Justin Avey*
- Singing
- Lord's Supper
- Contribution and Prayer Card Collection
- Sermon - *Chuck Miller*
- Singing
- Prayer Card Responses and Prayer - *Bob Voigts*
- Announcements
- Singing
- Closing Prayer - *Steve Massie*

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

- March 3 . . . . . Paul & Molly Mullins (anv.)
- March 5 . . . . . Quinten Link
- March 6 . . . . . Christian Mathews
- March 7 . . . . . Daniel Henkel

## Dates to Remember

- March 2 . . . . . Small Groups
- March 6 . . . . . Food Pantry Delivery
- March 8 . . . . . Elder/Deacon Meeting
- March 8 . . . . . RCC Board Meeting
- March 9 . . . . . Daylight Savings Time (Spring Ahead)
- March 9 . . . . . Ladies Scrapbooking
- March 9 . . . . . Sunday Night Light/Teens
- March 11 . . . . . VBS Planning Meeting
- March 13 . . . . . Preachers Breakfast
- March 14 . . . . . Flower & Garden Show
- March 16 . . . . . Small Groups
- March 19 . . . . . Seniors Breakfast
- March 19 . . . . . Mission Alive Visit

## Records You Helped Make

- Sunday Morning Bible Class . . . . . 68
- Sunday Morning Worship . . . . . 110
- Sunday Evening Worship . . . . . 44
- Wednesday Evening Bible Class . . . . . 35
- Contribution . . . . . \$5,606.01

## In Our Prayers...

Janice Gard, the sister of Sally Hearn's brother-in-law, has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. The prognosis is very bad.

Marcel Hill, a 15-year-old member of the Park Forest Church of Christ youth group, was murdered.

Jason & Jackee Johnston, the stepson & daughter-in-law of Lynette Root's friend, lost their baby.

Jeremy McGill, a teacher in China where Scott and Bridgett worked, is returning to the U.S. for a medical evaluation. Funds have been raised to meet his expenses.

Fintan Schiltz, the infant son of Jay & Sally's neighbor, had a heart transplant and is struggling with complications.

### Those suffering with long-term issues:

Herman Aultman - Bobbie Whitman's brother  
 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  
 Jim & 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 Vantreese's sister  
 Elizabeth Griffin  
 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 & Bobby's foster son  
 Sue Lake - Marion's sister-in-law  
 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  
 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  
 Neal & Pat Ronzheimer  
 Kay Schrader  
 Chester & Phyllis Sitler

Margo Smetana - infant daughter of Steve Link's friend  
 Bruce Snyder - Bob Voigts cousin  
 Cindy Stewart - Bob Voigts' cousin  
 Ollie Taylor - the niece of Lynette Root's friend  
 Linda Vantreese  
 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 - due is a couple of weeks

### Armed forces overseas:

Greg Billings - Justin Avey's employee  
 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  
 Enoch & Jeannine Thweatt - Taiwan  
 Joe Voigts - China - also pray for the churches and all the new Christians

## Nursery Workers

Molly & Caitlin Mullins



## Collection Counters

Jeff Ieler, Rick Root



## Wednesday Ladies Class

The book reviews continue the next several weeks with the following:

March 5-12 Power of the Praying Women/Wife/Parent  
 March 19-26 Ultimate Book Review: Survey of the Bible  
 The atmosphere is casual and refreshments are served.

## Chicago Celebration for Women

Plans are underway for the next **Chicago Celebration, October 25 - 26, 2008**. We are inviting our Christian women to utilize some of the convention space which will be available to have a special women's event at Chicago Celebration 2008. We believe that Christian women are the heart and soul of the Lord's church. For more information pick up a flyer in the foyer or check the bulletin board. **Please reply to Chuck Miller, miller.chuck@comcast.net, by March 15, if you are interested.**

## Sunday Morning Bible Class Teachers



The spring quarter starts today and runs through the end of May. The children's curriculum is **21st Century Christian's New Life Through His Word, the HeartShaper Series** and the Adult 2 class will be continuing to study spiritual warfare using a book by Joe Beam titled **Seeing the Unseen**. The teachers for this quarter are: Nursery - Bev Day, Preschool - Marilyn Smith, K-Grade 1 - Frances Shearer, Grades 2-4 - Steve Link, Grades 5 & 6 - Jay Hearn, Grades 7-12 - Cliff Plummer, Adult 1 - Chuck Miller, and Adult 2 - Scott Fordyce.

Thanks to all who are teaching! Come be a part of the learning and fellowship!

## Food Pantry Delivery

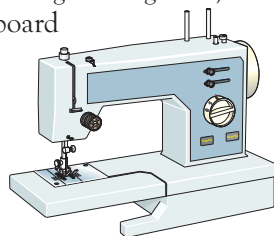
This **Thursday, March 6**, we will receive our food pantry delivery from the Northern Illinois Food Bank. We need volunteers to help carry boxes downstairs, unload the boxes and stock the shelves. The fun begins at 10:00 a.m.!

## VBS

Would you like to help plan this year's Vacation Bible School program? We're having an "early planning" meeting on **Tuesday, March 11**, at 1:00 p.m. here at the building (note time change). Please see Cliff if you'd like to attend. (This year's VBS program is tentatively scheduled for the week of June 22.)

## Ladies Day Out - Quilting

Francis Shearer is hosting a **Quilting Party on Saturday, March 29**, in the fellowship room. It will start at 10:00 a.m. and will finish around 3:00 or 4:00 p.m. Bring a salad to share for lunch. Francis is putting kits together, so **PLEASE** sign up on the bulletin board in the foyer to make a color choice (red, green, brown, etc.). Also, let her know if you really dislike floral prints. After you sign up, Frances will give you a supply list. Hope to see you there!



## Youth & Family News

**TEENS:** What would you do if you were handed a bundle of cash and told to give it all away to complete strangers? This is the premise for a new TV show, "Oprah's Big Give." The teens are invited to watch the first episode **tonight at Chuck & Bobby Miller's at 7:30** (the show is from 8:00 -10:00).

Cliff is considering a trip to Oklahoma Christian University in late March. See him if you're interested.

**SENIORS:** Join us for a trip to the **Chicago Flower and Garden Show** on Friday, March 14. Tickets are \$12 and Cliff needs to order them in advance; sign-up on the sheet in the foyer by Sunday, March 9, if you'd like to go.

## WARNING!!

The following is from Enoch and Jeannine Thweatt - several warnings you need to know about when you take part in their outreach program in Taipei, Taiwan.

**WARNING # 1** - Teaching English, using Bible material, to people who have never heard may cause tears to flow from your eyes. The power of God's Truth does change lives: both teachers and students.

**WARNING # 2** - Exposure to this kind of experience over a period of a few weeks can bring a deep desire to do this more often.

**WARNING # 3** - Continuing to do this kind of activity may cause you to sleep peacefully with an inner satisfaction that calms the soul.

**WARNING # 4** - This kind of behavior has a direct connection to causing anger and frustration to Satan. Satan may bring you to court for violating his politically correct views and using unauthorized ways.

**WARNING # 5** - The use of God's Truth continually is known to be able to destroy evil thoughts and actions, and make room for love, mercy and truth to take its place.

**WARNING # 6** - Continuing this kind of close relationship with your students may cause deep, life-long friendships.

**WARNING # 7** - This kind of conduct may destroy that feeling of not doing enough for the Lord and leave you at peace with our Savior.

**WARNING # 8** - Your failure to come and take part when you are able will cause deep disappointment in our hearts.

**DISCLAIMER:** Let it be known that you have been fully advised of the dangers involved in this kind of missionary activity.

The Lord willing, the Thweatt's will leave for the Seattle/Portland area on March 10 and from Seattle to Taipei on March 13. Their return to Seattle is scheduled for May 17 and to Nashville on Monday, May 19. They are due in Searcy, Arkansas, on May 20 to assist in the orientation program for teachers going to China.