



We joyfully greet our members and visitors on this first day of the new year! We have come to praise the living God who makes all things new. Paul reminds us that it is God who enables us to “walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4). Let us glorify God with that reality in mind.

Join us for refreshments, between the services, in our fellowship hall.

January 8, 2012

OFFERING TODAY— Mission Fund

Next Sunday — Benevolence Fund

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASS—We'll be continuing Ray VanderLaan's *Faith Lessons* series today at 10:20am in room 3, next to the library. Please join us for an interesting discussion!

VISUAL ARTS—Pastor Mike begins a new sermon series today: *Abraham: Living between Promise and Reality*. Living between promise and reality is represented on stage with a green tent. Green is the liturgical color of what is called 'Ordinary Time', the time between Epiphany and Lent. The tent reminds us that we are on a journey of faith, and this is our temporary home. The maps and compasses and Bibles signify how we try at times to chart our own course, but we need to seek guidance from God.

W.O.W. has been looking at the ways God has woven his story into our life story. He uses events, people, and particular circumstances to shape us as his servants. This week Wednesday, we consider God's purposes for our lives as we focus on what he is calling us each to do as we follow Jesus. Coffee and dessert begin at 6:30pm, the discussion group starts at 7:00pm.

EACH OF THE MISSION COMMITTEE AND THE CARE COMMITTEE IS IN NEED OF MORE MEMBERS. The Mission Committee reviews the mission activities of our local congregation. The Care Committee meets every other month to arrange for visits to those of our members who, because of illness or other reasons, are unable to attend church functions with regularity. If you are interested in serving on the Mission Committee, contact Sue Weidenaar. If you are interested in serving on the Care Committee, contact Bill Weidenaar.

PRAYER PARTNER UPDATE—Our Prayer Partners have been supporting the children of our congregation, as well as those who attend REACH and GEMS, with prayers and encouragement over the past year. We are very grateful for your participation in this vital ministry. We are now in the process of updating our lists for this year. If you are currently a Prayer Partner, you don't need to do a thing. We will assign you a new child and let you know as soon as our lists are complete (sometime after the first of the year). If you would like to keep the child you have, or if for some reason you are not able to continue in this ministry, please let Tom Huisenga know as soon as possible. If you are not currently a Prayer Partner, but would like to participate in this ministry, contact Tom Huisenga at 708-499-3538 or at huisengatd@comcast.net. *Thank you for holding up our young people in your prayers!*

Our church newsletter, *Reflections of Grace*, is currently undergoing a change in staff as well as format. The next issue of the newsletter you see will be an abbreviated version. If you have anything to submit for the newsletter, please either email it to church_gracechurch@gccrc.org, or give a hard copy to the office. If anyone is interested in being a part of putting together the newsletter, please contact the office or Gordon Vander Meulen.

GUATEMALA MEDICAL MISSION TRIP—On Feb. 18, LeAnn Kooyenga will once again be going to Guatemala. Your prayers for the preparations will be appreciated. Monetary donations are also appreciated and will be used to purchase medications to take with as we visit the villages in the jungles of Guatemala. Checks can be made out to Maranatha Chapel, the organizers of this trip. If you have any questions, feel free to call LeAnn at 708.275.6250. *Thank you!*



—**Our Christian Sympathy to** Clara Knol's family and friends in Clara's death Saturday, December 31. We pray for Clara's daughters Elaine MacQueen & Carol Schriener, son William and brother-in-law Pete Buwalda. " *'Blessed are those who die in the Lord from now on.'* 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.' " (Rev. 14:13)

—**Our Sympathy to** Lorraine Foster and Patty Young and family in the death of Lorraine's son-in-law, Don Zimmerman, this past Wednesday. Our prayers are especially with Don's wife, Karen, and her family as they mourn. May God keep and comfort them in their need by the grace of Jesus, who is the resurrection and the life.

—**Ange Dykstra** was in Christ Hospital for tests and for installing a pacemaker. She is recuperating at home. We thank God for his protection for Ange and pray for his healing as she and Ben look to the Lord for strength.

—**Jennie Beenes** was in Palos Hospital this past week for treatments and testing. We pray that God will give insight to her care team and that God will give Jennie strength and continued encouragement as she rests in the Lord.

—**Theresa Ter Maat** is receiving therapy at Alden Rehabilitation & Health Care, 16450 S. 97th Ave., Orland Park, 60467. We pray that God will strengthen Theresa and give encouragement and hope for her and John as they wait on the Lord.

—**WE REMEMBER** those who are serving in the military, that the Lord may watch over them: Stephen & Dan Brucken, Elizabeth Boldt, Ernest Soderlund, and Thomas Tate.

—**WE ALSO REMEMBER** those who are in continuing care or homebound, including: Jennie Beenes, Florence DeWit, Grace Ozinga, Nell Ridderhoff, Theresa Ter Maat, Tina Stovall, Jeanette Veen, Jacob (Bud) Stoit, Elsie Sluis, Lorraine Bakker, Evelyn Vloedman, Julius Sias, Harold & Janet Wierenga, Millie DeVries, Bill Van Wyk, Marian Weidenaar, Jeannette Fischer, and Rose Pels.

Thank you's

"I'd like to thank my Grace CRC family for all the Christmas cards, the poinsettia, and prayers I received over the holidays. Since I find it hard to get to church these days, it's nice to know I'm in your prayers."
—Evelyn Vloedman

"Thank you for the prayers, cards and Pastor Mike's visits on behalf of our family during Wes' recent hospitalization and now as we mourn his passing." —Char Kros, Shari & Dave Wolfe and family

"Thanks for all the prayers, cards, flowers and visits. We have much appreciated the concern and care shown to us."
—John & Lorraine Bakker

"Thank you for the birthday cards for my 95th birthday, as well as the poinsettia plant, visits and prayers. I thank everyone for remembering me."
—Grace Ozinga

"Thank you to all who donated towards my Operation Mobilization arts ministry in southern Spain during the Thanksgiving offering at your church! I was pleasantly surprised and also humbled at the notification of your generous gift. Your gift is a great blessing to my ministry and life in Spain as I continue to share my faith with my friends there. Again, THANK YOU!"
—Libby Dykstra (granddaughter of John & Jean Rosier)

SENIORS—Join us for a Potluck Luncheon on Thursday, Jan. 19 at 12 noon. Food & Fellowship!

BOOK CLUB—Join us Tuesday, Jan. 24, 7pm at the EP campus (3450 W. Maple), for a discussion of the book, "The Book Thief", by Markus Zusak.

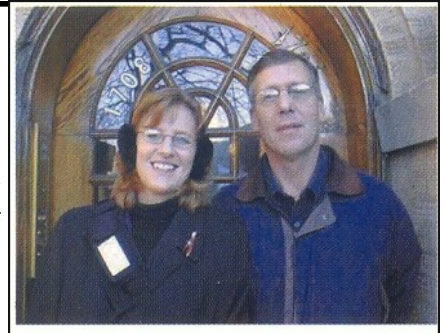


The GEMS Girls are continuing to sell assorted **World's Finest chocolate bars for \$1 each!** This fundraiser will help to cover the cost of our end-of-year campout at Camp Tecumseh. Thank you for your continued support!



Mission News

John & Ruth Hoekwater conduct their ministry at Many Peoples Church in Rogers Park, the most northern community within the Chicago city limits. They have established relationships with local residents through the operation of The Common Cup, a coffeehouse located next to the church. Many residents are seniors dependent on social security. The church demonstrates the love of Christ by focusing its ministry directly on the needs of its community neighbors. Please continue to pray for the Lord's blessings on the Hoekwater's ministry.



Serving with a Glad Heart...

GREETERS TODAY:

(No. entrance)

Carol DenBesten & Phyllis Johnson

(Sanctuary)

Warren & Ruth Kuipers

USHERS TODAY:

Rich Mulder—Joe Vloedman
Rich Boersema

INFANT-TODDLER NURSERY TODAY:

1st—Sarah Huisenga
2nd—Adeline Molenhouse

PROJECTION TODAY:

1st—Ed Ritzema
2nd—Dave Phillips

SOUND TODAY:

1st—Bill Kamp 2nd—Chris Van Kuiken

REFRESHMENTS TODAY:

Annette James—Diane Mudde
Bonnie Vloedman

REFRESHMENTS Next Week:

Rich & Cherene Kooyenga
Joann Hofstra

SHARE-A-MEAL:

LaVerne Yff (614-1986)

LIBRARY TODAY: Ruth Huizenga

Community News

Southwest Chgo. Christian Schools has begun planning for the 2012/2013 school year! The following informational meetings will be held:

Thursday, January 19, 7 pm—Oak Lawn campus (101st & Central)
Prospective kindergarteners and their parents

Thursday, January 19, 7 pm—Tinley Park campus (17171—84th Ave.)
Prospective kindergarten parents

If you have a child who will be 5 on or before September 1, 2012, we invite you to attend. Application materials will be available that evening or by calling the Association Office at (708) 388-7656.

Please join us for the **10TH SEMI-ANNUAL SCRAPBOOK AND CARD MAKING EVENT AT TRINITY CHRISTIAN COLLEGE** on Friday, Jan. 20 and Saturday, Jan. 21. The Women's Guild is excited to have all of you come for a wonderful time of Christian fellowship while reminiscing about the "good old days" even if you are working on pictures from last week. Please download the application off of the Trinity College website, under "Student Life" and then "The Women's Guild", or contact the school at 708-597-3000 for an application to be mailed. We look forward to seeing you! Trinity Christian College is located at 6601 College Drive in Palos Heights, IL.

SOUTHWEST CHGO. CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS' PARENTS CLUB WILL BE SPONSORING A SCRAPBOOKING EVENT on Sat., Feb. 25, from 9am-8pm at the Oak Lawn campus (101st & Central). If you are interested in attending, you can pick up a registration form at the Oak Lawn campus, print one online at the Oak Lawn News webpage, or contact Debbie at caliwal@aol.com and a form will be emailed to you.

SUFFERING FROM THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE? Little Company of Mary Hospital, Evergreen Park, offers two support programs for those grieving the loss of a loved one through death. For adults: "Living: When a Loved One has Died" will be held on six consecutive Wednesdays, beginning Feb. 29, 2012, from 7:30-9:30pm. Support groups formed specific to loss and age of participant. Registration is required. For children: "The Heart Connection" will be held on 8 consecutive Mondays, beginning, March 12, 2012, from 6-7:30pm. The program is for children ages 5-18 years old who have lost a loved one through death. Early registration is required. For further information or registration, please call the Pastoral Care Department, 708-229-5484, Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm.

The Week Ahead...

Sun-Jan 8	9:00 am	Worship Service (new sermon series begins)—Abraham: Faith Walking Genesis 11:27-12:9 Refreshments in the Fellowship Hall between the services <i>Pastor Mike & Rich Kooyenga</i> will be available, after the service, in the Prayer Room (located in the hall by the mail slots), to have a time of prayer or reflection with anyone who wishes to join them.
	10:20 am	Adult Sunday School class
	10:45 am	Contemporary Worship Service
	12 noon	2nd Sunday Luncheon
Mon-Jan 9	9:15 am	JAZZercise
Tue-Jan 10	9:15 am	Coffee Break
	9:30 am	Men's Life
Wed-Jan 11	9:15 am	JAZZercise
	9:30 am	Coffee Break
	6:30 pm	Coffee/Dessert before W.O.W.
	7:00 pm	W.O.W.
Thu-Jan 12	7:30 pm	Praise Team rehearsal
Fri-Jan 13	9:15 am	JAZZercise
Sun-Jan 15	9:00 am	Worship Service —Abraham: Got to Get Back to the Garden? Genesis 13:1-18 Refreshments in the Fellowship Hall between the services <i>Gary Schutt & Tom Huisenga</i> will be available, after the service, in the Prayer Room (located in the hall by the mail slots), to have a time of prayer or reflection with anyone who wishes to join them.
	10:20 am	Adult Sunday School class
	10:45 am	Contemporary Worship Service
	12 noon	Worship Symposium Debriefing meeting



SUNDAY SERMONS ARE AVAILABLE IN AN AUDIO VERSION ON OUR WEBSITE at www.gccrc.org!
Go to the 'weekly bulletins/audio sermons' page to check it out!