



# RLC Newsletter

## January 2023

## A Message from Pastor Allman

“What is your New Year’s resolution?” That used to be a question “back-in-the-day,” although I cannot really remember the last time that I heard it. I am not sure how many of the younger generations even think about making official New Year’s resolutions. To me, it feels like a by-gone era. Certainly, I still hear people talk about starting something... exercise, healthier eating, etc. Yet, I remember a New Year’s Resolution feeling more formal; almost like an oath, covenant, or contract with oneself. Something like, “I promise to...”

January is named for the Roman god Janus, protector of gates and doorways. Janus is depicted with two faces, one looking into the past, the other into the future. In general, New Year’s resolutions came from looking back in time and then making a commitment to be a better person in the future – the New Year. Resolutions seem to be very specific to change a certain aspect of one’s personal life.

What if we each made a resolution, and rather than change something specific to our individual self, we change how we see others? Perhaps those of us who have gone through Lutheran Catechism can remember that for each of the Ten Commandments, Luther responded to his own question, “What does

this mean?” The eighth commandment reads, “*You shall not bear false witness against your neighbors.*” As part of Luther’s explanation, he writes, “...we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light.”

I feel like society teaches that we should interpret the things our neighbor does, especially things we disagree with, in the worst possible light. I have heard some Christians demonize a brother/sister in Christ because they vote for the opposite political party. I wonder how we might begin to change the atmosphere surrounding how we disagree? I think a possible first step is learning to talk to one another rather than about one another.

It cannot be enough to simply stop calling someone names. Luther makes it into something positive: defend the neighbor’s rights, speak well of the neighbor, interpret the neighbor’s actions in the best possible light. Will this be easy? Certainly not! If you think being a Christian is easy, then you are not doing it right. God loves us the way we are, although God does not leave us the way we are. Being a follower of Jesus (Christian) means following the ways Jesus lived and treated others –

especially those who disagreed with him, and even those who wanted to kill him.

*Pastor Allman* ✝



### News from the Office Administrator –January 2023

Happy New Year everyone! There is a lot coming up in January. Our Annual Meeting is on January 29<sup>th</sup>, which means I have been getting the annual report ready.

***Please know that if you are in need of financial assistance, we have funds available at the church to help. This remains confidential. Only Pastor will know that you received aid. We don't want anyone left in need, so please speak with Pastor Allman if we can be helpful.***

#### Upcoming Activities:

Mon. Jan. 16: 5:30 PM – Movie Night- Bring your own beverages. Chili dogs will be provided.

Wed. Jan. 18: Dementia Screening

Sun. Jan. 29: Annual Meeting

Fri & Sat. Feb 3-4: Annual Rummage Sale

Mon. March 20: Lifeline Screening

#### YouTube snapshot of 2022

Here is a snapshot of the 2022 Year in Review of Redeemer Lutherans You Tube presence.

I feel overwhelmed in the way that our Worship, Bible Studies, and whatever other videos are having an impact on God's Kingdom outside our Church walls.

Little steps add up to a big impact.

**Total views: 10.7K**

**Watch time minutes: 95.9K**

**Total likes: 253**

**New subscribers: 41**

**Total subscribers: 237**



# JANUARY

# STEWARDSHIP

What does Gossip have to do with Stewardship? Most people hear the word stewardship and automatically their mind goes to money. In reality we are to be good stewards of everything that God has given us, including the tongue. James 3:8-9 reads, *"...no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse people, made in the likeness of God."*

Legend has it: In Ancient Greece, Socrates had a great reputation of wisdom. One day, someone came to find the great philosopher and said to him: Do you know what I just heard about your friend? A moment, replied Socrates. Before you tell me, I would like to test you with the three sifters. The three sifters? Yes, continued Socrates. Before telling anything about the others, it's good to take the time to filter what you mean. I call it the test of the three sifters. The first sifter is the TRUTH. Have you checked if what you're going to tell me is true? No, I just heard it. Very good! So, you don't know if it's true. We continue with the second sifter, that of KINDNESS. What you want to tell me about my friend, is it good? Oh, no! On the contrary. So, questioned Socrates, you want to tell me bad things about him and you're not even sure they're true? Maybe you can still pass the test of the third sifter, that of UTILITY. Is it useful that I know what you're going to tell me about this friend? No, not really. So, concluded Socrates, what you were going to tell me is neither true, nor good, nor useful. Why, then, did you want to tell me this? Gossip is a bad thing. In the beginning it may seem enjoyable and fun, yet in the end, it fills our hearts with bitterness and poisons us, too!

Here are some things the Bible says about gossip: *"I am the subject of gossip for those who sit in the gate..."* (Psalm 69:12). *"A gossip goes about telling secrets, but one who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a confidence"* (Proverbs 11:13). *"A gossip reveals secrets; therefore, do not associate with a babblers"* (Proverbs 20:19). *"They were filled with every kind*

*of injustice, evil, covetousness, malice. Full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, craftiness, they are gossips..."* (Romans 1:29). *"I fear that there may perhaps be quarreling, jealousy, anger, selfishness, slander, gossip, conceit, and disorder"* (2 Corinthians 12:20). *"...they learn to be idle, gadding about from house to house, and they are not merely idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying what they should not say"* (1 Timothy 5:15).

I find it interesting that the Apostle Paul associates gossips with injustice, evil, covetousness, malice, envy, murder, strife, deceit, quarreling, jealousy, anger, selfishness, slander, conceit, and disorder. I would guess that none of us would willingly participate in any of those, so why participate in gossip? Some try to soften their gossip by calling it "concern." If someone is truly concerned, then speak directly to the person, not about the person to others. I recommend a way to avoid listening to gossip is to suggest to the gossip that you both go speak directly to the person the gossip wants to gossip about. Is that not what you would want a sister/brother in Christ to do for you, if someone was gossiping behind your back? I know I would rather have someone speak to me rather than about me. Worst of all, perhaps, is that gossip divides the Body of Christ.

## Triple Filter Test

*before accepting any information*

### Filter of Truth :

*Is it true?*

### Filter of Goodness :

*Is it good?*

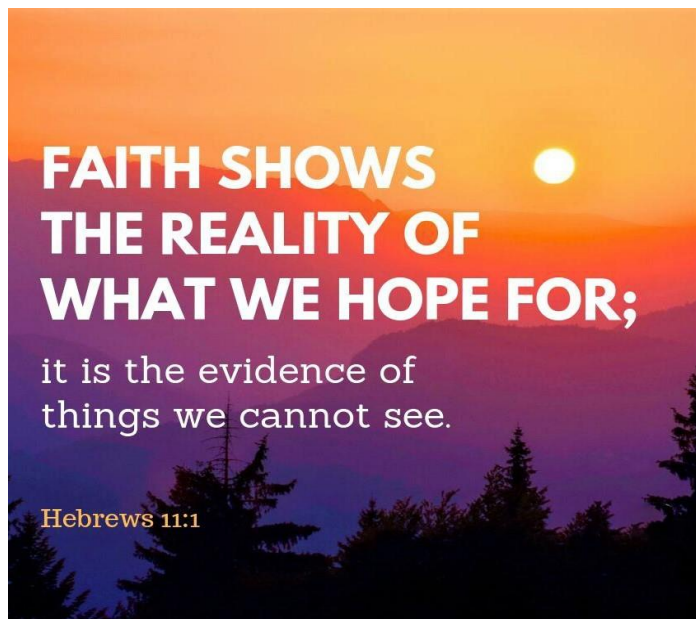
### Filter of Usefulness :

*Is it going to be useful?*



# GROWING IN FAITH

Rev. Richard Rohr says that we grow in faith by letting go of our need for certainty. Rev. Stanley Saunders says that not knowing is a condition we are to embrace, not attempt to overcome. How many of us can comfortably embrace uncertainty? Or, like me, do you feel like uncertainty is thrust upon you whether you like it or not? Whenever I hear that God is mysterious, I feel challenged to solve the mystery. Hebrews 11:1 reads, *“Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.”*



One commentator suggests that the thing we call Original Sin from Genesis is actually about knowing versus uncertainty (not eating an apple). Adam (meaning “from the earth” in Hebrew) and Eve (meaning “source of life” in Hebrew) were not content with having access to the Tree of Life; and, in disobedience ate from the forbidden Tree of the Knowledge between Good and Evil.

YHWH/God said, *“You may indeed eat of all of the trees in the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge*

*of good and evil you are not to eat”* (Genesis 2:16–17). Why would that be a sin? It sounds like a good thing! Sadly, instead of using the knowledge of good and evil to make sure each one of us individually lives in a good way, we too often use it to judge others about whether we think the “other” is good or evil. Jesus taught, *“Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged”* (Matthew 7:1–2, NLT).



Perhaps trying to decide who is good or who is evil, who is holy and who is unholy, who is going to heaven and who is not, says more about our need for control than it does about our search for truth, love, and God. Perhaps an absolute need for explanation, resolution, and answers makes biblical faith impossible. Our faith, frail as it is sometimes, must also be flexible – it needs to grow - if we are willing to be humble.

Rev. Richard Rohr continues that, *“...the very core concept of faith, (is) where we trust that God alone steers this mysterious universe, where there is clearly much hidden from us and much still before us—and where ‘eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and the human heart has not conceived, what God has prepared for those who love God”* (1 Corinthians 2:9).

There is a cliché that says, *“Let go and let God.”* Admittedly that is not always easy to do, especially for those of us who like to know the plan ahead of time. What certainty would you be willing to let go in order to grow in faith?

*From the  
Parish Nurse  
Team*

# NORMAL MEMORY LOSS VERSUS DEMENTIA

## RECOGNIZING THE DIFFERENCE

Forgetting someone's name or a word during conversation, but remembering later.

Losing oneself in conversation, stopping abruptly & forgetting what to say next, repeating oneself often.

Forgetting an appointment from time to time.

Forgetting recently learned information, or having to ask for it over & over. Increasing reliance on others for help remembering to complete tasks.

Forgetting what day it is occasionally, but figuring it out later.

Completely losing track of the day or season. Forgetting where you are & how you got there.

Getting irritated when one's normal routine is altered.

Getting extremely agitated by a change in routine, especially when the agitation is atypical of one's personality.

Making bad decisions occasionally when it comes to money.

Consistently exhibiting poor financial decision-making ability.

Feeling tired or worn out from time to time & wanting to stay home to rest.

Removing oneself from favorite hobbies due to forgetfulness or difficulty completing; becoming isolated & not wanting to venture out of the comfort of one's home.

Losing an item occasionally.

Putting items in strange places & being unable to retrace one's steps to find them.

Vision changes due to cataracts, or needing a new glasses prescription.

Increased difficulty understanding what one is seeing.



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Howie Warfield**  
**7<sup>th</sup> – Marlene Scharback**  
**8<sup>th</sup> – Richard Meredith**  
**10<sup>th</sup> – Mary Ann Romano, Lorri Davis**  
**12<sup>th</sup> – Shari Fleming**  
**15<sup>th</sup> – David Cockerham**  
**17<sup>th</sup> – Janine Johnson, Janet Thompson**  
**20<sup>th</sup> – Mary Ihrke**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> – Miriam Zane**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> – Dieter Quitsch, Jane Sturmer,  
Sheila Smith**  
**28<sup>th</sup> – Michael Knaub**  
**31<sup>st</sup> – Charles Bennett**



## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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- 2<sup>nd</sup> – David & Deya Schierenbeck**  
**11<sup>th</sup> – Jay & Audrey King**  
**14<sup>th</sup> – Vern & Verbal Loepf**  
**21<sup>st</sup> – Kay & Dale Lyndahl**  
**26<sup>th</sup> – Dieter & Judy Quitsch**  
**27<sup>th</sup> – Nancy & Bill Frey**  
**29<sup>th</sup> – René & Sandra Buggs**



**We ask if you notice information is missing or incorrect please let us know. Thank you!**





# 2023

Time	Acolyte	Communion Assistants	Lector
Sun. Jan 1 10:00 AM	Kathy Schwartz	Kathy Schwartz, Mike Corbett, Walter Geissler	Jim Schwartz
Sun. Jan 8 10:00 AM	Paul Ó Braonáin		Wendy Kitzman
Sun. Jan 15 10:00 AM	Walter Geissler	Wendy Kitzman, Sandra & René Buggs	Rosalie Kelleher
Sun. Jan 22 10:00 AM	Walter Geissler		Diane Brace
Sun. Jan 29 10:00 AM	René Buggs		Chuck Kovacik

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

**Please consider being an acolyte and/or communion assistant**

If you are not on the schedule but would like to be scheduled in the future, or if you are unable to help on your scheduled day, please contact Carolyn Cole at 813-812-7527.

<b>January Usher Team</b>	<b>January Altar Guild</b>	<b>Sound &amp; Camera</b>
Chuck Kovacik's Team	Cathy Lindsey, Jean Jackson & Judy Buskirk	Volunteers



### Calling ALL ladies of Redeemer!

Join Candy Allman for a fun relaxing weekend at God Spa. April 21-23, 2023.

Soak in the beautiful scenery and solitude of Luther Springs, relaxing your mind, body and spirit. Activities may include faith-filled conversation, devotions, music, journaling, guided meditation, relaxing and spa-type activities such as facials, manicures, and pedicures. Come with other ladies from Redeemer and make new friends along the way. We will hold monthly get-togethers so we all will know each other before the weekend. Copy the link below for all the details. Make sure you add a note that states you are with Candy Allman and our group. If you have any questions, please let Candy know. She is looking forward to a great fun weekend with you all.

[https://luthersprings.org/fall\\_spring\\_programs/god-spa-for-women/](https://luthersprings.org/fall_spring_programs/god-spa-for-women/)



### Movie Monday

Our Movie Monday is January 16<sup>th</sup>. We will be watching the movie *Ticket to Paradise*. Dinner will be chili dogs and coleslaw. Please sign up so he knows how much to make. The signup sheet can be found on the welcome table. Bring your own beverages.

**This event is free but please bring a nonperishable food item for donation to the local food pantry.**



A man and his ex-wife race to Bali, Indonesia, to stop their daughter from marrying a seaweed farmer. As they desperately try to sabotage the wedding, the bickering duo soon find themselves rekindling old feelings that once made them happy together.



## Small Group Bible Study

Redeemer's small group Bible study will begin a fresh new season the week of January 22, 2023. We will start with Ephesians for 3 weeks, then 3 weeks on 1st Thessalonians, and finish with 3 weeks on 2nd Thessalonians. The program is set up with Bible readings designed to help you answer questions before you meet with your small group. The group will then review the answers together, and discuss different perspectives and viewpoints. As with the last study, there are no wrong answers and questions are encouraged. The small groups are open to everyone (even non-Redeemer individuals) and we invite you to join a group that fits your schedule. Please prayerfully consider joining by January 15th so we can order the study guides. Please contact Judy or Greg Kiel to join or ask questions. With studies beginning during the week of January 22, they will end before Easter. We hope that this enables our snowbirds to participate.



## Food Pantry

Thank you for your continued support of our local food pantry.

Please place donated items for the food pantry in the narthex closet.

**Please remember, NO open packages or containers and NO items requiring refrigeration.**



## Decembers ABC's of Dementia

On December 7th, Deborah Selsavage from Coping with Dementia presented a two-hour program that provided an overview of dementia and ways for us to better understand, interact, and respond to those living with dementia. Debbie presented us with a certificate for having received training on Dementia. Thanks to a Thrivent Action Team for providing lunch following the presentation.



*President of Coping with Dementia presenter Debbie Selsavage with Pastor Allman and friends of Redeemer.*

## WELCA Women's Christmas Luncheon

45 women enjoyed a special holiday luncheon provided by WELCA. The women also enjoyed some music by the Barbershoppers and some Bingo. And several women received door prizes. Thanks to Board members for arranging the luncheon and to a Thrivent Action Team card which covered part of the food cost.



## Rummage Sale News

January is the month we start collecting items for the rummage sale to be held on February 3-4.

The items we will be collecting to sell are; clothes (no stains), plastic hangers, household items, jewelry, books (no magazines), puzzles, linens, collectibles, Knick knacks, small appliances, tools, DVDs, CDs, toys, office supplies, craft supplies, and home décor.

We are unable accept any large items until January 31st. These include lamps, small tables, small chairs, large mirrors, golf equipment, umbrellas, beach chairs, no big furniture such as couches and large living room furniture.

We will not accept: phones, tvs, vcrrs, large exercise equipment, or wire hangers.

We will need bakers to donate treats for our baked goods table. Baked goods drop off will be on Thursday, February 2, between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM. Please be sure to label all baked goods, especially item containing nuts.

**Collection dates: Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, starting on January 2**

**Last day for donations will be January 27, 2023**

**Baked goods drop off: Feb 2, Thursday, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM**

**Sale dates: Feb. 3, Friday 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**Feb. 4, Saturday 8:00 AM -1:00 PM**

**Family and friends will be Feb. 2, Thursday from 2:00 PM-6:00 PM**

Volunteer sheets will be available on Sundays on the welcome table and following worship in Buhr Hall on January 15, 22, 29. Please consider this volunteer opportunity to help your church for this very important project.

We will need volunteers for the following job/areas: pricing items, organizers, kitchen, books, parking lot attendants, outside greeters, floor workers, handing out bags for shopping, baggers, cashiers, door attendants, clean-up, people to vacuum (please bring a vacuum) and moving tables for set up and take down.

Please note on sale dates everyone should wear red Redeemer shirts (or just a red shirt) on Friday, and a black shirt on Saturday, with name tags please.

We need many hands to make this year's rummage sale a success

Please mark your calendars today!

Thank you for all your help.

Tina Schwartz and all of the Fundraising Team.



## Toys for Christmas

Thanks to everyone for their donations of toys, cash, and other items for AMI Kids and Good Samaritan Mission. Through your generous donations and a Thrivent Action team card, we were able to provide them with many items that should help brighten someone's Christmas. Thanks also to Diane Brace and Lois Hobratschk for shopping, Diane Brace for delivering to AMI Kids, and Nancy Carrier and Jeanne Pruet for delivering to GSM. The picture shows Nancy and Jeanne ready to leave with the toys for GSM.



*Jeanne Pruet and Nancy Carrier deliver toys to GSM*



## Free Community Memory Screenings

USF's Preventing Alzheimer's with Cognitive Training (PACT) lab will offer free memory screenings and information about memory loss **9:30 AM to 12:30 PM on Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at Redeemer.**

Trained USF psychology students will administer memory screenings, which consist of a series of questions and tasks. Screenings last approximately 30 minutes. Screening results are not a diagnosis, and individuals with below normal scores or who have concerns are encouraged to pursue a full medical examination.

Anyone concerned about memory changes or who wants a memory check for future comparison may benefit from a screening. Screenings are key for the early detection of cognitive impairment. Screenings are not recommended for persons already under a physician's care for dementia or Alzheimer's disease.

Older adults often do not seek out cognitive assessment until symptoms of decline are well advanced, and are negatively impacting daily activities and/or quality of life. According to research, more than half of those diagnosed with dementia have never been screened before getting their diagnosis.

To register, contact the office to sign up for your desired time slot.

## Quilting Retreat at Luther Springs March 6-10, 2023

Spend a week with other quilters in a relaxed atmosphere. Teachers will assist with projects, as well as answer questions regarding different techniques. Quilters may work on provided projects for gift ideas and to benefit non-profits, as well as their own projects. There will be a day trip to a local quilt shop and the opportunity to share some of your own creations through a time of show and tell.

Double room \$345 or Single room \$410



*Nancy Carrier and Mary Cristiano at a past quilters event.*

## Bakers Needed!!

The Rummage Sale on February 3 & 4th will include a bake sale, and any help with baking items would be greatly appreciated. Items will need to be brought to the church on Thursday, February 2nd between 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. If your baked item contains nuts, please note it. If you can help bake, please sign the sheet on the narthex counter.



## Preventing Alzheimer's with Cognitive Training



MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH FLORIDA



## Socks And Underwear

WELCA is organizing a project for the month of January. We will be collecting socks and underwear for Cypress Creek Elementary School students. Since they include preschool, sizes needed are 4T to 6T and child's 8 to 14. The social worker was elated to hear that we would be donating these items as that is a big need. Donations can be left on the table in the narthex. If you want us to do the shopping, please place your check or cash in an offering envelope and mark it "underwear project".



## Event sign-up

Many of our events include a lunch for which we ask everyone who is attending to sign up so that we know how much food is needed. We know that things happen that may prevent you from attending after you sign up. All we ask is that you either take your name off the list or let the office know that you will not be able to attend. That will help us better plan.

## Annual Reports for Meeting

Our annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> following the worship service. If you head one of the many groups (altar, ushers, fellowship, etc.); please plan to email your report by January 13<sup>th</sup> at the very latest.



## Food Pantry Donations

As many of you know year-round Redeemer collects non-perishable food items that are donated to the local food pantry at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Wimauma. The volunteers at Our Lady's Food Pantry are always so grateful to receive a donation from their friends at Redeemer.

Thank you for everyone that has dropped off items during the year and a special thank you to the gentleman that donated a whole car full of groceries to be donate to the food pantry in December. The world needs more people like the ones we have in our congregation. Thanks everyone, Our Lady has been feeding 340 families every week, and they still need our support. We look forward to offering our support to Our Lady this year!



*Redeemers December food pantry donation.*

## Flower Book 2023

The New Year is upon us and we hope to see the flower book fill up. Don't forget to sign up in the flower book to honor your important dates in 2023.



# January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	<b>2</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>3</b> 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA	<b>4</b> 9:30 AM Undecorate the church	<b>5</b> 10:00 AM-OA Group 10:00 AM-WELCA Meeting 5:30 PM-AA Group 6:45 PM-Choir practice	<b>6</b> 9:30 AM-Quilters	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 10:00 AM-Worship	<b>9</b> 10:00 AM-Fundraising Team Mtg 10:30 AM-AI-Anon	<b>10</b> 1:00 PM-Barbershop 1:00 PM-Worship & Music 3:30 PM-Women's AA	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:00 AM-Parish Nurse Mtg 10:00 AM-OA Group 5:30 PM-AA Group 6:45 PM-Choir practice	<b>13</b> 9:30 AM-Quilters	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	<b>16</b> Office Closed 5:30 PM-Movie Night	<b>17</b> 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA	<b>18</b> 9:30 AM-Dementia Screening	<b>19</b> 10:00 AM-OA Group 5:30 PM-AA Group 6:45 PM-Choir practice	<b>20</b> 9:30 AM-Quilters	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 10:00 AM-Worship	<b>23</b> 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 1:00 PM-Council Meeting	<b>24</b> 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 10:00 AM-OA Group 5:30 PM-AA Group 6:45 PM-Choir practice	<b>27</b> 9:30 AM-Quilters	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10:00 AM-Worship 11:00 AM-Annual Meeting	<b>30</b> 10:00 AM-WELCA Board 10:30 AM-AI-Anon	<b>31</b> 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p><b>Rummage Sale Collection dates:</b> <b>Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM</b></p> </div>			

