



BEEKEEPER SAM GOODWIN SHARING ALL ABOUT BEES

# RLC Newsletter

February  
2025

## A Message from Pastor Allman

“When God Builds the Church” Pastor Bob Russell, Principle #6: Harmony: Maintain a Spirit of Harmony.

John 17:20-21 (CEV) reads, *“I am not praying just for these followers. I am also praying for everyone else who will have faith because of what my followers will say about me. I want all of them to be one with each other, just as I am one with you and you are one with me. I also want them to be one with us. Then the people of this world will believe that you sent me.”*

One day a church was involved in a youth sporting event. The coach for the church’s team refused to “play” the child of another member of the church. Tempers flared and the two refused to speak to each other after that. Soon people in the church were choosing sides, with each group sitting on their respective side of the church, with the center aisle as a dividing line, and both groups refusing to talk to the other. Does this sound “far-fetched?” Yet, it is a true story. Sometimes it is interesting how little it can take to divide a church.

Proverbs, chapter six, has a list of six things that God hates. In the nineteenth verse we read that God hates one who sows discord in a family. “Hate” is such a strong word that most people try to avoid using it, and yet Proverbs says that God hates one who sows discord in a family. Imagine how that relates to those who sow discord (disharmony) in God’s family. When there is harmony, God’s Holy Spirit works, and God blesses the church.

Divisiveness negates evangelism and church growth. Since Redeemer is to grow there must be a sense of harmony among the congregation and among the leaders. The leaders need to communicate with the people, and the people need to be supportive of and encouraging to the leaders. Does that mean that everyone will always agree? Of course not! One good reading of the gospels will tell us that even Jesus was not able to please everyone. The important thing is for Redeemer to move forward in keeping with God’s Will and God’s Word.

In his letter to Titus, who was leading a church in Crete, the Apostle Paul told Titus to, “...avoid foolish controversies... because these are unprofitable and useless” (Titus 3:9). It does not say

to avoid all controversy, because some controversies help a congregation move forward. It is important to discern which are foolish and which will help a congregation grow.

On more than a few occasions when things did not exactly go as planned, I have quipped that the word of the day is “flexible.” Someone once claimed there was a lost beatitude, “Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape.” It has been during some of the biggest guffaws of my ministry that I have come to realize God must have a sense of humor, otherwise God would never allow me to be a leader in the Church.

One survey of churches revealed that growing, healthy churches were more likely to be characterized as congregations that laughed together. The church that frequently laughs together is more likely to be healthy because it is more likely to be harmonious.

Finally, Pastor Russell writes that, “*The best way to maintain harmony in the church is to get the congregation to think more of others than they do of themselves... The best way to overcome pride and develop a spirit of humility is to practice servanthood whenever possible*” (page 169).

Pastor Allman 

## January on YouTube

**3 New Subscribers**

**1,025k total views**

**12.5k minutes watched**



## News from the Office Administrator

### February 2025

Happy February everyone! I have taken on a new task at Redeemer, florist. We got notice from Harriets Flowers in late December that they are no longer going to be running their flower shop. I have always enjoyed flowers, so I am enjoying the new task. Make sure to sign up for flowers on Sunday.

In case you had not heard Mike is a Notary Public, he will be offering this service to our congregation. If you have friend in need the cost is \$10 per signature.

***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.***

***Donations to the Pastors discretionary fund can be made at any time and given in any amount. If you would like make a donation, please write Pastor's discretionary fund on the memo line.***



***Movie Night is back!  
Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>***

***Doors open at 5:00 pm  
Dinner at 5:30 PM  
Movie at 6:00PM***

***February's movie is Red Dog***

# FEBRUARY STEWARDSHIP

How much time has God given you? Have you ever considered that question? I do not mean to ask how many years has God given you on this earth. I mean to ask you to think about the amount of time you have each day, week and year. Everyone has the same amount of time. It does not matter whether you are young or old. It does not matter whether you are retired or still working; although I have heard retired people wonder aloud how they got everything done in a day while they were working.

God has given each one of us 24 hours in a day; 168 hours in a week; and 8760 hours in a year. For those of you who have graduated from our youth group (above 70-years-old), you have already used up at least 613,200 hours. What have you done for God with all of those hours?

It should not come as a surprise because you have heard it before... (IMHO) there is only one way to retire from God's work, and then we get an eternity of time to worship God. I have heard some folks say they "have done their time" in their church "up north" and that they are retired now. If you truly believe that, then you may want to be sure you are ready for God to take you to your heavenly home.

I have heard other people, who have had some kind of close brush with death, say that "God must still have a purpose for me here." I usually respond with something like, "That is wonderful. What is that purpose?" Some people can tell me and some people do not know how to answer. My thinking is that if you believe God has left you here for a reason, then God wants you to figure out that reason and do it.

What separates us one from another is not the number of hours available to us each day, week, and year. What separates us is the manner in which we use our gifts and talents within the available time. We can waste time; we can spend time; or we can invest our time wisely. That is what one aspect of stewardship is about: faithfully developing and

using our gifts, talents, and resources within the amount of time God has given to us.

The Bible teaches that each one of us is a steward of the resources with which God has entrusted us. Our time is a resource. It does not belong to us. It is entrusted into our care to see what we will do with it. Typically in Jesus' parables the steward is expected to one day give an accounting of how those resources were used. How have you used the time that God has entrusted to you?

Do not rush through this question. Use some time to think it through. This is the fundamental principle of biblical stewardship: We own nothing! God owns everything! We are God's stewards. We all know that we brought nothing into this world and we can take nothing with us when we leave this world. This should tell us how much we actually own.

The question then becomes, do you follow your will or do you follow God's will? Whether we realize it or not, we face this decision many times in the course of each day. Our answer to this question will determine how we manage the time, abilities, money, truth, and relationships God has placed under our care. A wise steward will treat things according to their true value, treasure the things God declares to be important, and hold with a loose grip the things that God says will not matter in the end



# GROWING IN FAITH

*“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times”* is the opening line of Charles Dickens’ novel *A Tale of Two Cities*. The full quote continues, *“it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.”*

The book is Dickens’ rendition of the events leading up to the French Revolution which began in 1789 and lasted until 1794. About 16,000 people were executed in what was later referred to as the Reign of Terror. The monarchy was replaced by the French First Republic in September 1792, and King Louis XVI was executed in January 1793.

Have you ever thought along that same line in your life, *“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times”*? Has life ever seemed like both positive and negative aspects seem to coexist at the same time? Life can sometimes feel complex and contradictory at the same time. Some would call that a paradox: a situation that combines contradictory features or qualities; like great joy mixed with immense hardship. People often use this phrase to describe situations in their own lives where they feel both fortunate and challenged at the same time.

Matthew 5:1-12 is often called the Beatitudes, and possibly fits into the above discussion. *“When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*

*Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”*

I imagine the disciples, who were regular people, thinking along the same lines as we might think, *“Gee, thanks Jesus; although I would prefer blessings that make me happy. You know, like better health, more money, a nice house, a nice car, a care-free retirement, etc.”* What do we do when our ‘expectations’ do not completely align with Jesus’ teachings? Well, wishful thinking might be that Jesus change to match our expectations. Yet, being a Christ-follower requires that we change to become more like Jesus, and follow Jesus’ teachings.

Theologian and author Brian McLaren describes following Jesus as *“...being a presence in this world that radiates and flavors the world with divine love, a warm and healing presence to a world that is dealing with so much.”* The Beatitudes are not Jesus’ description about how to get to heaven; they are a call to action for the Christ-followers still living on earth. We can weep, when we can identify with the little ones, when we can make peace, when we can be persecuted and still be joyful, etc. This is what holiness will look like among Christ followers.



*From our Parish Nurse Team*



## **MOFFITT CANCER CENTER SOUTHSHORE**

Slated to open on January 27, 2025, Moffitt Cancer Center at SouthShore is a 75,000-square-foot facility located on 9 acres in Ruskin. The location is at 2709 E. College Ave., just a short distance west of I-75.

Moffitt at SouthShore will offer a wide range of services to patients, including cancer screenings, diagnostic imaging, blood draws, clinical labs, medical oncology clinics, radiation therapy and infusion services. There are 22 private infusion bays, 4 MRIs, 4 CT scans, 1 PET/CT Scan, and 2 linear accelerators. You do not need to be a patient to have screenings such as mammograms and dexascans done at this facility.

Specialized oncology services through the following clinical programs are provided at this site:

- Breast Oncology Program
- Cutaneous Oncology Program
- Gastrointestinal Oncology Program
- Genitourinary Oncology Program
- Head and Neck Oncology Program
- Malignant Hematology Program

Redeemer's Parish Nurse Team toured the facility prior to its opening. This location brings Moffitt's comprehensive cancer care closer to home. It is a state-of-the-art facility plus offering many enhancements to the patient experience.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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- 1<sup>st</sup>– Dale Lyndahl**  
**6<sup>th</sup> – Sam Thompson**  
**8<sup>th</sup> – Mary Ann Sigler, Nora Wilhide**  
**10<sup>th</sup> – Kathy Schwartz, Tina Schwartz**  
**16<sup>th</sup> – Marlyn Warren**  
**17<sup>th</sup> – Karin Hagg, Myrna Strom**  
**18<sup>th</sup> – Brigitte Austen, Greg Kiel**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> – Patti Malamas, Kadie Dehne**  
**24<sup>th</sup> – Paul Hanneson**  
**26<sup>th</sup> – Ellen Kleis**  
**28<sup>th</sup> - Janet Demellier, Chris McCann**



## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Deb & Dan Pollert**  
**11<sup>th</sup> – Bill & Joyce Kessel**



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





<b>Time</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Communion Assistants</b>	<b>Lector</b>
<b>Sun. Feb 2 10:00 AM</b>	<b>David Lickfeldt</b>	<b>Jay German, Mary Ann Sigler, David Lickfeldt</b>	<b>Dan Pollert</b>
<b>Sun. Feb 9 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Paul Ó Braonáin</b>		<b>Chuck Kovacik</b>
<b>Sun. Feb 16 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Kathy Schwartz</b>	<b>Kathy Schwartz, Judy Buskirk, Joyce Kuzmick</b>	<b>Chuck Buskirk</b>
<b>Sun. Feb 23 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Joyce Kuzmick</b>		<b>Joyce Kuzmick</b>

<b>February Usher Team</b>	<b>February Altar Guild</b>	<b>Sound &amp; Camera</b>
<b>Dan Pollert Team</b>	<b>Doris Hahn and Judy Buskirk</b>	<b>Volunteers</b>

## March

<b>Time</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Communion Assistants</b>	<b>Lector</b>
<b>Sun. Mar. 2 10:00 AM</b>	<b>David Lickfeldt</b>	<b>Paul Ó Braonáin, David Lickfeldt, Joyce Kuzmick</b>	<b>Paul Ó Braonáin</b>
<b>Wed. Mar. 5 3:00 PM</b>	<b>Kathy Schwartz</b>	<b>Kathy Schwartz, David Lickfeldt, Mary Ann Sigler</b>	<b>Jim Schwartz</b>
<b>Sun. Mar. 9 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Paul Ó Braonáin</b>		<b>Dan Pollert</b>
<b>Sun. Mar. 16 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Kathy Schwartz</b>	<b>Kathy Schwartz, Jenise German, Mary Ann Sigler</b>	<b>Chuck Kovacik</b>
<b>Sun. Mar. 23 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Joyce Kuzmick</b>		<b>Chuck Buskirk</b>
<b>Sun. Mar. 30 10:00 AM</b>	<b>David Lickfeldt</b>		<b>Sherri Knaub</b>

Please contact Carolyn Cole at 813-812-7527 if you have any questions about being an acolyte, lector, or communion assistant or if you would like to be added to the upcoming schedule.





### Thrivent Choice Dollars

For those Thrivent members who are eligible for Choice Dollars, you must direct your 2024 dollars by March 31st or you will lose them. Visit [www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to direct your dollars, or you can call Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" when prompted. For questions or help, see Lois Hobratschk. This is an opportunity to support Redeemer.



### Ash Wednesday Soup Meal

WELCA will be organizing a soup meal following the 3:00 PM service on Ash Wednesday, March 5th. We are looking for donations of a crockpot of soup, bread, and dessert. If you are providing soup, please also bring a ladle. There will be a sign-up sheet on the welcome counter closer to the day. It is always a treat to sample many delicious homemade soups!!



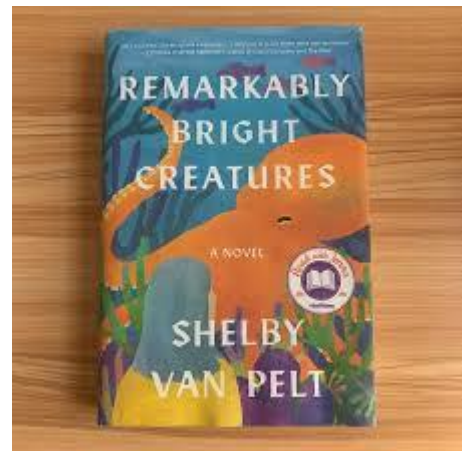
### WELCA Book Club News

If you're looking for a reason to sit down and rest after working so hard on the rummage sale, pick up a book to read and join us for the monthly book club. We will be meeting on Thursday, February 20 at 1:00 PM. to discuss *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. This author's debut novel is a gentle reminder that sometimes taking a hard look at the past can help uncover a future that once felt impossible.

Please visit the welcome table in the narthex to sign up to receive emails and keep up to date with the book club. The Book Club is an open group and we welcome new members.



Diane



### Rummage Sale 2025

The church Rummage Sale is coming soon!

Thursday, February 6 - Friends & Family Day from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM (ticket required)

Friday, February 7 from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Saturday, February 8 from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Donations for the sale will be collected up until February 4th. Items can be dropped off in Buhr Hall Monday to Friday between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM. The items we are 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 will not accept: phones, televisions, vcrs, large exercise equipment, wire hangers, and big furniture such as couches and living room furniture.

We will need newspaper, packing paper, bubble wrap, plastic bags (grocery size, large, x-large), and large paper bags.

Prep days to price and sort are Monday- Friday from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM up until the date of the sale.

Workers for the sale are needed and there is a job for everyone. Workers need to be there by 7:30 AM each day. Friday workers need to wear a red Redeemer shirt (or any red shirt), and Saturday workers a gray Thrivent shirt. The gray shirts are free and come in all sizes. They are available in the conference room. Wearing uniform colors helps identify volunteers during the sale.

We will be having a bake sale and there will be hot dogs for lunch. There will also be a 50/50 raffle and a drawing for a quilt on Saturday.

We are in need of a crew to come in at 1:00 PM on the 8th (Saturday) when the Rummage Sale closes to vacuum and clean up so that we can have Fellowship following the service on Sunday. Bringing an extra vacuum will help speed up the cleanup process.

A special thanks to Tina Schwartz for leading the sale again this year, to all the workers who spent hours pricing and sorting, to all those who filled other jobs, and to all who donated. It takes the congregation to make this sale possible. Profits are used to support Redeemer.

Everyone - Come shop and find a bargain.

**RUMMAGE**  
**SALE**

## Bake Sale Signup

WELCA is sponsoring a bake sale fundraiser to be held on the days of the Rummage Sale. Your help is needed and appreciated.

We welcome donations of homemade baked goods:

cookies, muffins, bar cookies, breads, coffee cakes, brownies (no frosting please), pie, scones, fudge, candy, sugar-free baked goods (please label what sweetener is used), and gluten-free items. Please label items containing any allergens, such as tree nuts and peanuts. Please bring your items in disposable containers (or mark any container with your name if you want it returned to you). Please visit the welcome table and sign up to let us know what goodies you'll be sharing with us.

Please plan to drop off your donated items to the volunteers in the kitchen on **Thursday, February 6, 2025 between 10:00 AM. and noon.** THANK YOU!



## Teacher Supplies

Thank you to everyone that brought in items or gave a donation for teacher supplies. All school supplies received will go to support the teachers at Reddick Elementary School in Wimauma.



## Bible Study

Pastor Allman is discussing Revelation in his newest Online Bible Study. Videos will be available every Thursday. Prior bible study videos on Prayer will remain online along with Acts of the Apostles videos for you to view at your convenience.

Our YouTube channel is:

## Redeemer Lutheran Church Sun City Center Florida



## All About Bees

On Tuesday, January 14th we had local Bee Keeper Sam Goodwin give his presentation "All About Bees". Sam Goodwin, a licensed Florida beekeeper and Army veteran, talked about the three types of honey bees found in a hive; their differences and specific jobs. He spoke about pollination, food gathering, honey production, bee removals, reproduction, what it's like to keep bees in Florida, and gave hands-on experience. He had his Beekeeping equipment on display and participants were encouraged to touch, explore and ask questions. Thank you to our WELCA team for inviting Sam to share his knowledge with us all.



Sam talking about the Tiny Home Apiary



Beekeeper gear



Bee boxes and more



Mrs. Goodwin at the honey table

# February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	<b>3</b> 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	<b>4</b> 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	<b>5</b> 9:00 AM-Gold Star Mtg	<b>6</b> 1:00 PM-Friends & Family Day	<b>7</b> 8:00 AM-2:00 PM Rummage Sale	<b>8</b> 8:00 AM-1:00 PM Rummage Sale 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice
<b>9</b> 10:00 AM-Worship	<b>10</b> 10:00 AM-PA SD 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	<b>11</b> 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 1:00 PM-Worship & Music 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	<b>12</b> 9:00 AM-Gold Star Mtg 10:00 AM-Fundraising Team Mtg	<b>13</b> 9:00 AM-Parish Nurse Mtg 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	<b>14</b> 9:30 AM-Quilters 1:00 PM-Wedding rehearsal	<b>15</b> 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice 1:00 PM-Julian/Fullmer wedding
<b>16</b> 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	<b>17</b> 9:30 AM-Council Orientation 10:00 AM-WELCA Board 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	<b>18</b> 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 11:30 AM-Southshore Coalition 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	<b>19</b> 9:00 AM-Gold Star Mtg	<b>20</b> 1:00 PM-Book club meeting 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	<b>21</b> 9:30 AM-Quilters	<b>22</b> 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice
<b>23</b> 10:00 AM-Worship	<b>24</b> 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	<b>25</b> 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting 5:00 PM-Movie night	<b>26</b> 9:00 AM-Gold Star Mtg	<b>27</b> 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	<b>28</b> 9:30 AM-Quilters	

*God bless our country, our first responders,  
and our military men and women.*

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