

# JANUARY 2012

## REYNOLDS NEWS WRAP

**Reynolds United  
Methodist Church**

2496 Reynolds Road  
Ashton, IL 61006

**PASTOR ALAN MEYER**

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**NEWSLETTER REPORTS  
AND ITEMS DUE  
MONDAY  
JANUARY 16TH**

***PREACH THE GOSPEL  
AT ALL TIMES***

***AND USE WORDS IF  
NECESSARY!***



*“The LORD is  
my light and  
my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?”*

**PSALM 27:1, NRSV**

### ***FOOD FOR THOUGHT FOR THE NEW YEAR***

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with the flocks,  
Then the work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal those broken in spirit,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the oppressed,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among all peoples.  
To make a little music with the heart.  
And to radiate the Light of Christ,  
Every day, in every way, in all that we do and in all that we say.  
Then the work of Christmas begins!

-- Howard Thurman



***Another year is but another call from God to do some deed undone and duty we forgot; to think some wider thought of man and good. It is an opportunity to see and love with kindlier eyes and warmer hearts.***

Dear Members and Friends of Reynolds UMC,

As we begin the New Year I pray that we will continue stepping out in faith. That no matter what the circumstances or trials we may face we do not fear them. Let us find a way through God's Word and each other to go forward never looking back. I know that is hard to do. But think of Israel and what they faced....After being under Egyptian bondage for over 400 years, the New Year or New Day had finally come. Moses was to lead them out of slavery and to the Promised Land. Like us, it didn't take long for them to find themselves with challenges and hard times. Pharaoh and his army were in hot pursuit, deserts, mountains and hills were on all sides, and the Red Sea was in front of them. No matter where they looked it didn't look good. Their hope of something better would fade quickly. What had started with great hope of deliverance had turned to whining and complaining. They started to focus all their energy on the hardships and not on God's promises. They were overcome with fear and suddenly the past didn't look so bad. But Moses would say to them, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians (troubles we face) you see today you will never see again."

The most important thing we need to remember when circumstance, trials and disease come against us is not to be afraid. We can never allow fear to grab hold of us or the ministry. If we give in we will not move forward in what God has planned for our lives. Fear never talks back or fights. It only looks at the situation and trembles. All too often Churches and the people of God try to fight Satan in our own strength. We are no match for him on our own. We will lose the battle every time. Church, we should never worry, fret, complain, or whine. We have a Savior that has already defeated Satan. We only have to rest in His arms and let Him take care of our challenges and problems. We need to do what Moses told the Israelites in Exodus 14:15, "move on, go forward." That sometimes is hard for us to do, especially if it seems that situation doesn't change. Pharaoh's army is still in pursuing us. Church, as we move on in our lives or ministry it may look as if we walking into the desert or destruction. But we have to remember that God is walking with us and that He is fighting the battle for us. When we are facing problems let us remember: Be Strong in the Lord and in His mighty Power, Resist Fear, and Stay Focused on God's Word. It is time to move forward in God. It is not time to get bogged down by small things that derail the ministry. It is time to put our faith in action and move forward. Like Israel, we can rest assured that when the Lord tells us to "move on" he will break down barriers and walk with us. We will no longer see the problems we are facing because the Lord is fighting for us and will give us the victory.

For this New Year let us imagine the possibilities that God has planned for us. I leave you with this thought for the New Year: I know not what waits me as dawns another year; the path untrod I cannot see, yet knows my heart no fear. I know not whether long or short my pilgrimage will be-but I'll daily praise my God in song for all His love for me. With joy I greet the year-it cannot bring me ill since Christ my Lord is ever near, my soul with peace to fill. Let us come together in worship to be connected, inspired, and revived to do God's plan for ministry.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Al*



**INDIVIDUALS:** Ashlynn Riley, 6 yr old Emma, Baby Molly, Bill & Paula Kunkel, Debbie VanDyke, Donald Adams, Ed & Kristen Riley, Gladys Linebaugh, , Jerry Ford & family, Jim Steder, Keith Long, Marie Kurz's Niece, Marion Berry, Mike Olmstead, Nancy Eggers, Neil Miller, Paula Vogeler, Pastor Al & Linda Meyer, Terry Hunley, Tina (Keith Morge's niece), and a young woman recently diagnosed with brain cancer.

**ALSO:** Families who have recently lost loved ones, the homeless, the unemployed, All Members of the Armed Services and Families who have lost loved ones while serving in the Armed forces, Struggling & Needy Families, & Unspoken Requests.

**SERVING IN January:**

**Communion Steward: Barb Uphoff**

**Ushers: Duane Ackland, Vernon Gittleson, Chad Murphy, Keith Roop**

**Greeters: January 1st & 8th - Vernon Gittleson Family**

**January 15th & 22nd - Jerry & Lynnette Lawrence**

**January 29th - Justin Rueff Family**

**Flowers: Linda Meyer or Lynnette Lawrence**

**Church Hostess: Lois Heimbaugh**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Children's Moment</u>	<u>Nursery</u>
Jan. 1st	Kathy Clark	Help Needed
Jan. 8th	Pastor Al Meyer	Help Needed
Jan. 15th	Kathy Becker	Help Needed
Jan. 22nd	Lois Heimbaugh	Help Needed
Jan. 29th	Rhonda Brown	



<u>Date</u>	<u>Snow Removal</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>
Jan. 1st	Help Needed	Help Needed	Lois Heimbaugh
Jan. 8th	Help Needed	Youth	Audrey Roop
Jan. 15th	Help Needed	Help Needed	Keith Morge
Jan. 22nd	Help Needed	Help Needed	Leslie Gittleson
Jan. 29th	Help Needed	Help Needed	Joyce Brake

**January Mission Project: Heifer International**

**Bring Mission Offerings on the 4th Sunday (January 22nd)**

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## SAFE SANCTUARY

Rhonda Brown, Chair

With the Penn State sex abuse scandal being in the news every day, I decided that this would be a good time to discuss some of the dynamics of Child Sexual Abuse. Before I start, I want to state a disclaimer that this article may contain language not suitable for children. It may not even be suitable for survivors of sexual abuse. Reading articles pertaining to abuse can trigger flashbacks or other effects of PTSD in survivors. I know that this is not a subject most want to talk about. However it is important that we do talk about it if we are to prevent it from happening in our church or if we are to respond appropriately if/when it does happen.

Child sexual abuse can be defined in a couple of different ways. According to <http://sexualviolence.uchicago.edu/assault.shtml> it is defined as: "constitutes unwanted sexual contact up to penetration. That is, sexual abuse is 'any intentional or knowing touching or fondling by the victim of the accused, either directly or through clothing, of the sex organs, anus, or breast of the victim or the accused.... For the purpose of sexual gratification or arousal of the victim of the accused.' Please note that according to The IL Criminal Sexual Assault Act of 1984, sexual assault and sexual abuse can be perpetrated against both sexes and any age group, by assailants of all ages." However, [www.apa.org](http://www.apa.org) defines it as : "a central characteristic of any abuse is the dominant position of an adult that allows him or her to force or coerce a child into sexual activity. Child sexual abuse may include fondling a child's genitals, masturbation, oral-genital contact, digital penetration, and vaginal and anal intercourse. Child sexual abuse is not solely restricted to physical contact; such abuse could include noncontact abuse, such as exposure, voyeurism, and child pornography. Abuse by peers also occurs." No matter what definition you use, all abuse is about power and control. Child sexual abuse is not about sex, it is about the perpetrator having power and control over the child. In most cases the perpetrators coerces the child, not forces him/her.

Any child can become a victim of sexual abuse, regardless of their race, culture, or economic status ([www.apa.org](http://www.apa.org)). It is estimated that one in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused before they reach the age of 18. some studies suggest that the statistics may be affected by the fact that most boys do not report.

In 90% of child sexual abuse cases the victim knows the perpetrator in some way, and 68% are abused by a family member ([www.childhelp.org](http://www.childhelp.org)). "Sexual abuse by strangers is not nearly as common as sexual abuse by family members." ([www.apa.org](http://www.apa.org)) Research also shows that men perpetrate more often than women, but there are known cases where a women is the offender. "Despite a common myth, Homosexual men are not more likely to sexually abuse children that heterosexual men are." ([www.apa.org](http://www.apa.org)) Below I have listed some common characteristics ([www.oprah.com](http://www.oprah.com) & <http://crimeabout.com>) of Pedophiles. However keep in mind that just because someone shows some of these characteristics does not necessarily mean that person is a perpetrator.

A person could have all the characteristics and not be a pedophile, just as someone could not show any of the characteristics and still prey on children.

- Adults who seemed preoccupied with children.
- Single adults who work or volunteer with children's clubs/activities and frequently spend their free time doing "special" things with kids.
- Adults who spend time volunteering with youth groups who do not have children in those groups.
- Adults who seem to engage in frequent contact with children, i.e., casual touching, caressing, wrestling, tickling, combing hair or having children sit on their lap.
- Adults who act like children when with children or who allow children to do questionable or inappropriate things.
- Adults who want to take your children on special outings too frequently or plan activities that would include being alone with your child.
- Adults who do not have children and seem to know too much about the current fads or music popular with children.
- Adults what your children seem to like for reasons you don't understand.
- Adults who seem able to infiltrate family and social functions or are "always available" to watch your kids.

My main issue with this list is that it only focuses on adult offenders. Offenders can be any age. I know of a few cases where the offender was a minor. They first were victims, but then started abusing younger kids. Due to recent changes in the laws, juvenile offenders are protected. There is a juvenile sex offender registration list, but the public doesn't have access to it as they do with the adult list. Adult offenders who have been caught and placed on the adult list are not allowed to live near schools, daycare centers, or parks. This is not the case for juvenile offenders. They do not have the same restrictions. Many times schools and daycares are not even notified that there is a juvenile offender living in the neighborhood. Juvenile records are sealed, and then can be expunged after a couple of years. Therefore, a background check may not show that a person is an offender if they were caught before they turned 18. As I said above, anyone can be a perpetrator, not just adults. A lot of the time it may be the last person you would ever suspect, like a prominent coach, a church leader, teacher, a peer, or someone in your own family. In most cases it is not the scary stranger. It is someone the child knows & trusts.

In the next article I will continue to provide the dynamics on child sexual abuse. I will share the impact on the victims and what can be done to help them.

*Rhonda Brown*



FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR AL

As we continue to look at our Church and its committees I would like to lift up the Staff-Parish Relations Committee. As with other boards and committees of the local church, the broad purpose of this committee is to achieve and maintain effective pastoral and professional staff ministry in the local church context, based on healthy and harmonious relations between the pastor(s) and other professional staff and the members and constituents of the church. One of the major elements required for a healthy relationship is **communication**, so that is one of the major priorities of the Staff-Parish. The duties of the Staff-Parish are described in 258.2 of The Book of Discipline. As we read this part of The Book of Discipline notice words such as “confer,” “counsel,” “advise,” and “consult.” This provides the pastor and staff with a very valuable channel of feedback concerning the effectiveness of their ministry. For this purpose, the members must strive to be truly perceptive, objective, balanced and unbiased. Notice also that the Committee is a channel of two-way communication; first a flow of communication from the people to the pastor and staff; and second from the pastor and staff to the people, to be sure the people have an accurate, Biblical, constitutional understanding of the goals and work of the pastor and staff. To do so the Staff-Parish shall engage in prayer, Biblical, and theological reflections on the mission of the church, the primary task, and ministries of the local church. One specific topic of communication for which this staff is responsible for deals with the terms of the arrangements between the local church and the pastor and staff is concerning salaries, allowances, and other benefits such as medical insurance, pension, housing, vacation, financial assistance, and time for continuing education. The committee shall assist the pastor and staff in assessing their gifts and setting priorities for leadership and service. The committee shall be composed of not fewer than five nor more than nine persons representative of the total charge. One of the members shall be a young adult and one member may be a youth. In addition, the lay leader and lay member of the annual conference shall be members. No staff member or immediate family member of the pastor or staff member may serve on the committee. Only one person from an immediate family residing in the same household shall serve on the committee. In order to secure experience and stability, the membership shall be divided into three classes, one of which shall be elected each year for a three-year term. The lay member of the annual conference and the lay leader are exempt from the three-year term. Members shall not be able to succeed themselves for one three-year term. The committee shall meet at least quarterly. It shall meet additionally at the request of the bishop, the district superintendent, or the chairperson of the committee. The committee shall only meet with the knowledge of the pastor and/or the district superintendent. The pastor shall be present at each meeting of the committee except where he or she voluntarily excuses himself or herself. The committee may meet with the district superintendent without the pastor or appointed staff under consideration being present. However, the pastor or appointed staff under consideration shall be notified prior to such meeting with the district superintendent and be brought into consultation immediately thereafter. The committee shall meet in closed session, and information shared in the committee shall be confidential. The duties of the committee shall include the following: to encourage, strengthen, nurture, support, and respect the pastor and staff and their family(s). The committee shall promote unity in the church. Next month we will look at duties of this committee.



- I’ve learned . . . .
- When you’re in love, it shows.
  - Just one person saying to me, ‘You’ve made my day!’ makes my day.
  - Having a child fall asleep n your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.
  - Being kind is more important than being right.
  - You should NEVER say no to a gift from a child.
  - I can always pray for someone when I don’t have the strength to help in some other way.
  - No matter how serious your life requires to be, everybody needs a friend to act goofy with.





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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## UPCOMING EVENTS

January 2nd - 7:00 pm - Trustees Meeting  
January 9th - 7:00 pm - Church Council  
January 21st - 8:30 am - 3:00 pm Safe Sanctuary

PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY EACH WEDNESDAY AT 6:30 pm  
YOUTH MEETS THE FIRST AND THIRD SUNDAYS AT 6:30 pm