



Please join us for worship.
Midway Kids: 10:30
Worship: 10:30

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Treasurer's Report	2
Birthdays, 2nd Tuesday Lunch	3
Midway Students	4
Give Back Day	5-6-7
Missions Committee	8
Be Closer to God	9
Kitchen Cabinet; Gorgeous Girls	10
Twice Blessed	11
The Back Row	12

THIS MONTH

Sundays —
Women's Bible Study 5:00 p.m.
Midway Students 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Mondays — 6:30 p.m.
Boy Scout Troop 68
Last Monday of Month—
Gorgeous Girls Lunch: 11 a.m.

Wednesdays —
Midway Hotel Lunch—Noon
Choir Rehearsal — 6:29 p.m.

Thursdays — 9-4:00
Sewcial open sewing
Yoga at 11:00
Men's Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
1st and 3rd—Twice Blessed
Open Noon to 5 p.m.

This Month

Friday, February 9—6:30 p.m.
Family Fun Night

Tuesday, February 13—Noon
Second Tuesday Lunch in
Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, February 14
Ash Wednesday

February 16-19
Midway Students Ski Trip

Vacation Bible School is
scheduled for June 9-12

Midway Locust Grove Church

LOCUST LEAVES



Volume 37
Number 2
February 2024



Beyond
the Pulpit

**Pastor
Ben Lee**

Let's Pray!

Since our arrival in the summer of 2020, I have consistently shared of the paramount role the rhythms of grace play in the Spiritual development of believers. Study, prayer, community, silence, solitude, and service are all equally important. However, I have intentionally kept us hyper-focused on the rhythm study for the most significant part of the past three and a half years. I am thankful to see us becoming more comfortable with scripture and studying the Bible daily. This will continue, and now I would like us to begin focusing on corporate prayer as well.

Having journeyed with you long enough, I know that nearly all of you have fervent personal prayer lives. I cannot begin to tell you how encouraged I am by every testimony you share of how the Lord is found faithful as you prevail in prayer. In addition, our prayer team, led so well by Margaret Preus, has been faithfully covering all of your weekly prayer requests daily since 2020. I am incredibly thankful for their dedication and sincerity. Now is the time to take a next step and introduce corporate prayer into our fellowship of believers.

In mid-March, Catherine Shanahan, Margaret Preus, and Karla Sommer will start an in-person prayer time. This will be a one-hour daytime meeting (bi-weekly) here at the church. We hope that even those working will use this time as a break during the workweek to reset and recenter themselves in Christ. The time and day of the prayer meetings will depend on who participates. We may need to add an evening prayer meeting in the future, and we are certainly open to that!

Please consider joining us for in-person prayer, and don't hesitate to get in touch with Catherine, Margaret, or Karla if you have any questions, comments, or ideas. I am sure they would love to hear from you. I very much look forward to adding this vital piece of Spiritual formation to the overall life of our local church. Let's pray!

Peace, *Ben*

TREASURY NOTES

By Nedra Moreau

January was a good start for the year. Contributions to the General Fund totaled about \$17,400. Although we have not yet finalized the budget, this should be fairly close to what will be needed monthly in order to meet our expenses. We will finalize the budget shortly and will have more information available afterward.

If you would like to have your contributions paid automatically rather than writing checks, go to the church website *mwlocust-*

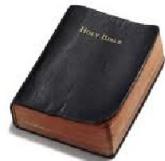
grove.com and click on the button marked Give to the Church. This will lead you through the process of setting up contributions directly from your bank account or credit card.

Unfortunately, there is a fee associated with those transfers. This will be deducted from the amount the church receives, or you can pay it with each contribution. The fee is charged by the company that processes the transfers. This is a drawback, but may be worth it for the convenience.

Thanks to everyone for your help as we work toward meeting our ministry goals for the year.

Want to be closer to God?

By Margaret Preus



Would you like to feel more confident in your prayer life? Want to be able to confidently pray for other people? Prayer intimidates many people whether it is praying out loud in a group or praying on your own. Did you know there are many tools one can use in praying?

Catherine Shanahan, Margaret Preus and Karla Sommer would like to start an in-person prayer time. Anyone interested is welcome. No experience necessary.

What our ideas are:

During an hour-long meeting (bi-monthly), you will learn about a method of praying, then do some brainstorming using the method, writing prayers, and praying.

Our goal is to take the fear out of praying. Like any form of service to God, praying can have many layers. It can be simple or as one gets more involved with

prayer can explore different ways to pray. We would like to use scripture, the Psalms, hymns, and music. That ought to get us started.

We would like to begin in mid-March. We will meet during the daytime, during the workweek. The time and day will depend on who will be participating. We may add an evening group in the future, if there is interest. This will be a time of growth for everyone involved. We look forward to learning from each other. As we draw closer to God in prayer, He will draw closer to us. There is much power in prayer (especially where 2 or more are gathered). There are many needs out there and many blessings to express thanks over. Who can even guess at the possibilities our prayer time can affect.

If you are interested please call Catherine at 573-445-4667 or Margaret Preus at 573-698-4011.

Carolyn Doyle to review book at Tuesday Lunch February 13

Due to inclement weather on January 9, the Second Tuesday Lunch was postponed for a month, with the same program planned for February 13.

Carolyn Doyle will review a book she edited from old family letters. We asked her for a preview. She responded:

In the early 2000's, my cousin Art Draper, and his wife Dorie, rediscovered letters written in 1885-86, by our great-grandmother, Fanny McClurg Draper, to her husband Charles Clinton Draper.

They were living in Lebanon, MO, where CC was cashier in a bank, and made the decision to homestead in the Dakota Territory, now South Dakota. CC was to stay in Lebanon for a couple of months, earning money to fund the enterprise, while Fanny, their six children, (ages 13 years to 18 months), her father JW McClurg and her brother Joe went ahead and started homesteading.

Purchasing Procedure Update

As our church continues to grow, we continue to strive to streamline our processes. One of the processes that we will streamline is the ordering of products. This will include cleaning supplies, bathroom supplies, kitchen supplies, coffee and drink supplies, and office supplies.

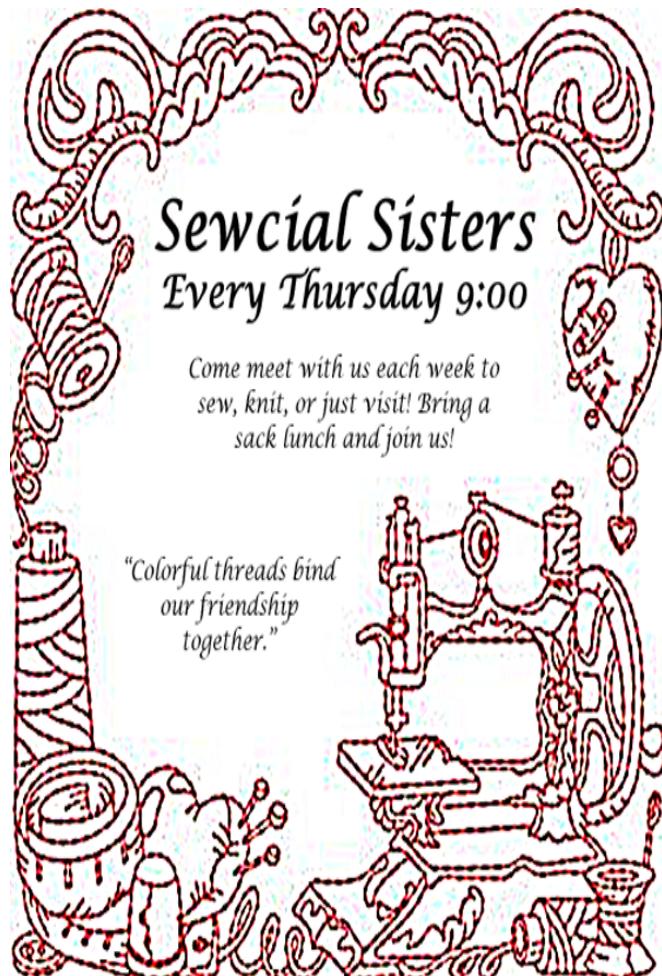
All ordering requests should be directed to the administrative office. This will eliminate double purchasing and inventory under/over stocking. You may make a request to order items by emailing mwlocustgrove@gmail.com.

Please make your requests by the end of the day on Wednesday for items needed the following week. We thank you for your cooperation. *Catherine*

Happy Birthday February 2024

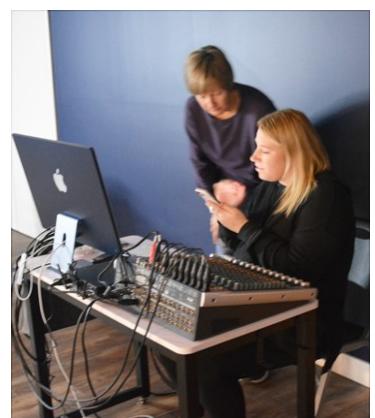
1 Lee Sommer	14 Steve Luetjen
6 Jessica Martin	14 LeeAnn Martin
8 Bill Wegener	15 Abigail Gessling
8 Missy Barnes	16 Rena Crane
11 Flo Praiswater	16 Teagan Groh
11 James Roberts	20 Clay Moore
13 Jill Walker	20 Robyn Kaufman
14 Emma Klaas	23 Karla Sommer
14 Jaxyn Moore	24 Huyen Le
14 Wick Lee	26 Herb Stanley

If someone's name does not appear here and they do have a birthday this month, please let us know by email and we will update our records.





The Midway Students held their first session in their new sanctuary January 21 under the guidance of Bill Roop, Mary Scott and Lauren Steinhoff. Unless otherwise announced, the group will meet each Sunday evening from 4:30 to 6 p.m for food, fellowship and worship. Attendees, who are students in the 6th through 12th grades, need not attend our church to participate.





First Give Back Day of 2024 draws 19 volunteers

*By Jessica Kempf
Missions Committee Chair*

The Missions Committee hosted the first Give Back Day of 2024 on January 19th. We had 19 volunteers band together at City of Refuge for two hours of work. We began our time with introductions to the facility with Lori Stull. She explained all of the things they are doing for refugees who are new to Columbia (and the USA).

Then we got to work! We sorted through many bags of donations, and selected clothing to be displayed in the Wardrobe for the refugee families. We also cleaned out the current inventory and ensured that clothing was appropriate for the current winter weather.

We also re-organized and sorted the items from baby & children's clothes to men's & women's clothing, to linens & shoes. We then spent some time sprucing up the City Boutique! We finished our time with a tour of their brand new preschool!

On a daily basis, the City of Refuge helps refugee families with basic needs like clothing, shoes, & household items to stock their homes. They are also helping with things like obtaining driver's licenses or other

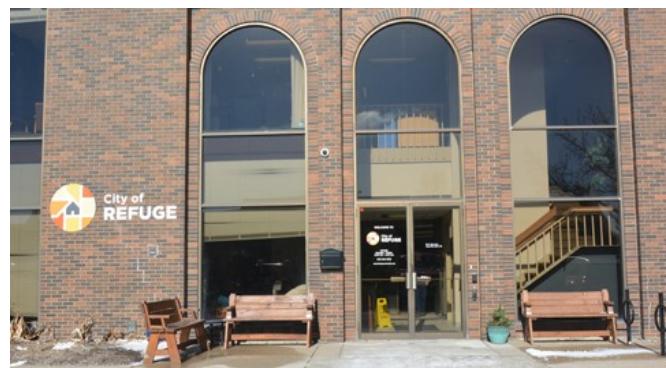
documentation, using a computer, driving simulation, a basic food pantry, childcare & more. They offer assistance with navigating the school system for their children, and provide homework help and social nights for high school kids. They offer English classes for adults as well, and offer professional development training to better prepare refugees for the workplace. They have just opened their preschool which will have half refugee children and half local children to help assimilate refugee children into our community. In addition to these services, they have the Wardrobe which is a store for refugees where they can pick items, free of charge for their family.

To help raise funds for their cause, they also have The City Boutique open to the public. This store sells items at a very reasonable price and funds go directly to City of Refuge. Definitely make time to stop by their store and see it! They are open Monday – Friday, 9 am – 4 pm. Thanks to all who came out to volunteer their time and energy towards this very special place in our community. (See photos on next page)

Big Time Give Back at City of Refuge

Mission team helps agency devoted
to welcoming immigrants to area.

See story on Page 5.



In addition to immigrant selection rooms, there is a City Boutique open to the public to buy items donated to the agency.





Missions Committee has big year planned for 2024

*By Jessica Kempf
Missions Committee Chair*

Our Missions Committee is already hard at work planning some fun ways for everyone to participate in giving back this year! As a committee, we have a 3-tier system for our missions program and those we serve.

First is our Local Missions. This includes all of our Give Back Days, our Twice Blessed store, the Transformation Home, the hotel lunch, & other ways of serving in our local community. Second is regional. This includes some of our Sewcial Sisters projects, along with activities at Re-Member, and will also include providing support when needed to our youth group on their mission trips. And third is international. We are very excited about expanding this program within our church, so stay tuned for upcoming opportunities!

Last year, our church founded **Midway on a Mission**, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Midway on a Mission allows us to raise more funds for various mission activities and helps reduce the liability for the church that may be associated with operating some of our missions. To help grow our missions program, we are going to conduct two new fundraisers for Midway on a Mission this year!

On May 4, we will host our first ever **Midway Market!** Think garage sale meets craft sale! We have several people already helping to plan and organize the

UPCOMING DATES!

- **Jan 19, 12-2 PM:** City of Refuge
- **March 9, 9-12 PM:** Church & Street Clean Up Day!
- **May 4:** MIDWAY MARKET FUNDRAISER!
- **July 19, 10-11:30:** Ronald McDonald House
- **September TBD:** Veterans Activity
- **NOVEMBER 9:** MIDWAY ON THE MOVE 5K RUN/WALK FUNDRAISER



event, but we need your help as well! We will host this event in the parking lot at the church and it will be set up like a garage sale. If you are spring cleaning and looking for a place to donate your gently used items, please consider holding them until May for our Midway Market! We will also be selling baked goods, homemade items, and any other things that members or the public would like to donate to be sold at the Market. We look forward to this event being a huge success! Please stay tuned for more information as the date approaches.

On November 9, we will host our **Midway on the Move 5K** run/walk! We will need volunteers to help with this event as well, so if you are interested in volunteering, please let Jessie Kempf know.

Our next **Give Back Day** will be March 9th from 9 – 12 at the Church. We will spring clean the interior and exterior of the church grounds and do some street litter clean up as well if we have enough manpower! We are looking forward to making the church & community brighter & beautiful as we enter the Easter season.

With several days of rain, following a considerable drought, water has been the topic of conversation amongst farmers and their neighbors in Missouri. This month's copy of Missouri Life had an editorial about safe and convenient water not being taken for granted. And a recent evening with friends at Rag Tag viewing the film END OF THE LINE: THE WOMEN OF STANDING ROCK has the sacred importance of water on my mind.

The film focused on "a group of Indigenous women who unexpectedly became the leaders of the global movement against the construction of the Dakota Access oil pipeline. In September 2016, members of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe issued a call for help in their protest against the pipeline, whose proposed route would endanger their ancestral land, water, and entire way of life. More than 10,000 people answered the call and joined their protest, including director Shannon Kring. Kring follows four women—Sky Roosevelt-Morris, Wašté Win Young, Phyllis Young, and LaDonna Brave Bull Allard—as they navigate their new leadership roles amidst radical identity transformations."

Kring did an amazing job of weaving footage of the protest with interviews of the women involved, illuminating their motivation, and giving enough Lakota background history to educate the audience. Not only was the protest about sovereignty, treaty land violations and ethics, but it was primarily about protecting water and water rights.

Mni is the word for water in Lakota. It translates to "first medicine." Mni Wakan expresses the feeling and acknowledgment of water's importance and the spiritual elevation of water, our gift from God. Wakan "to make something live or make something die." Water is life within us and within water is all life. This should inspire all humanity to protect, honor and respect the water.

In their explanation of the existence of life, scientists, politicians, and religious leaders have failed to understand that water is not so much a

ON THE REZ

With Kathy Hughes

resource as it is the source of our existence. This lack of understanding influences policy development and causes us to forget that we fail to exist without water spiritually and physically.

As an example of this, Nestle Waters of North America buys the rights to water all over the United States. They take advantage of states with weak water ownership laws, buying up public lands, and taking advantage of people not understanding that water should not be owned and sold privately.

In February 2021, Florida gave the company the right to increase water bottling to nearly 1 million gallons of water a day from the Ginnie Springs. When water is bottled and transported away from its source, it becomes anonymous. We forget its message of healing and sustaining life in return for control and profit and deny access to the people who relied on it.

The Great Plains of Central America, the ancestral land of the Lakota, is home to one of the world's largest aquifers. It underlies parts of Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming. Unfortunately, agriculture in the area relies nearly exclusively on this aquifer for irrigation, extracting it much faster than replenishing it—a map on climate.gov details where water tables are declining everywhere in the region, except Nebraska.

What exactly is an aquifer? The National Geographic Society defines an aquifer as a "body of rock or sediment saturated with groundwater. Groundwater enters an aquifer as precipitation seeps through the soil". When we extract more water than we restore, the result is a depleted aquifer.

With the development of dams, cities, transference of water, and the destruction of trees that protect water, we are caught between advancement and honoring earth's gifts. Yet, we can design around and in concert with these gifts when we remember our connection.

It is vital for us to remember our own drinking water comes from the Missouri River which the DAPL protestors fought to protect. Mni Wiconi – water is life.



The Kitchen Cabinet

Remembering
Mary Kaye's
Food Ministry

February is for lovers.

Share this favorite eclair torte with your sweetheart.

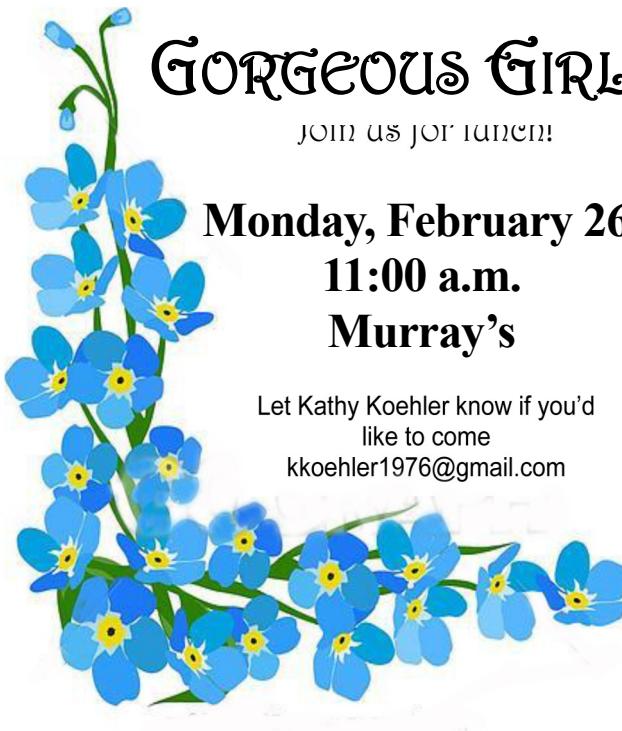
Enjoy, *Hope Burkart*

Chocolate Éclair Torte (No Bake)

1 lb. graham crackers
2 small boxes French vanilla pudding
3 cups milk
1 tsp vanilla
1 12-oz. Cool Whip
1 can chocolate frosting

Line a 9 x 13 pan with graham crackers. (May need to trim some to completely cover bottom of pan).
Mix pudding, milk and vanilla till thick. Fold in Cool Whip. Spread half of mixture over crackers.
Place second layer of crackers on top and spread rest of pudding.
Frost final layer of graham crackers and place evenly covering torte.
Gently smooth chocolate so there are no cracks. Cover airtight. Refrigerate for at least 24 hours before serving.

**Join us for
Second Tuesday Lunch
February 13, Noon,
in Fellowship Hall.**



JOIN US FOR LUNCH!

**Monday, February 26,
11:00 a.m.
Murray's**

Let Kathy Koehler know if you'd like to come
kkoehler1976@gmail.com

Gorgeous Girls did not meet in December, and our January 22, lunch was cancelled due to inclement weather.

On February 26 at 11:00, we are going to Murray's, one of our favorite places at 3107 Green Meadows in South Columbia.

Help us launch the new year.



SAVE THE DATE

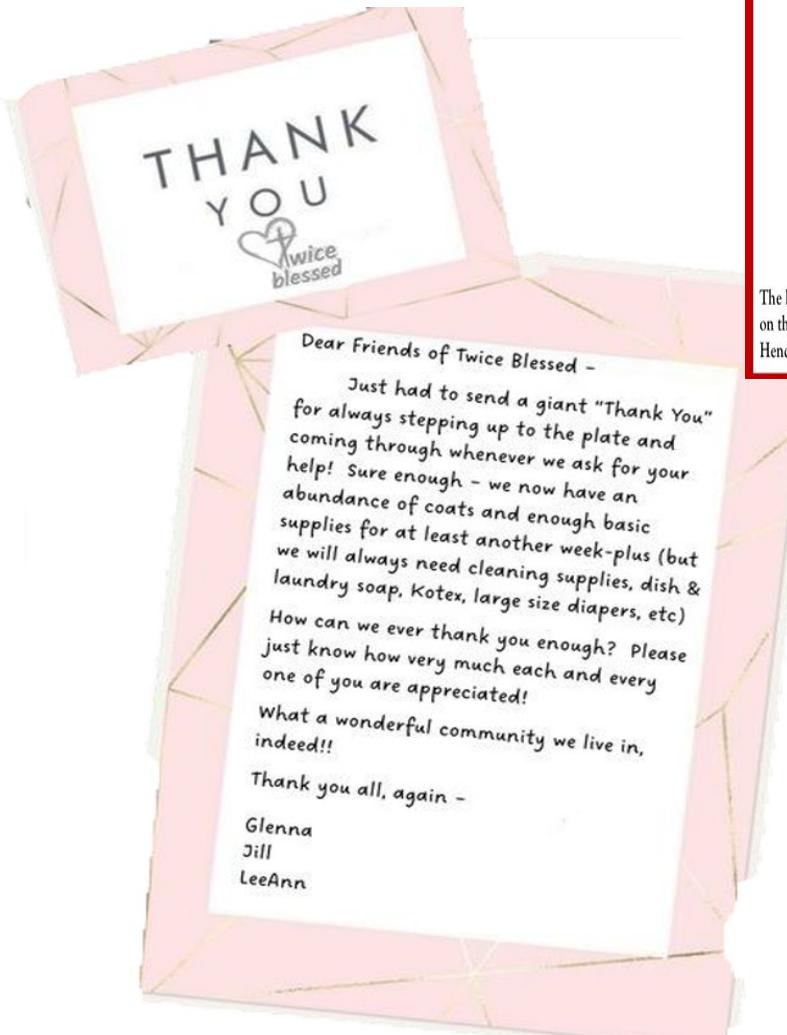
Vacation Bible School

June 9th-12th 2024 ~ (in the evening)

Midway Locust Grove Church

Kids ages 3 - incoming 6th grade

*More information about registration and volunteering in May.



**Check the
Bulletin Boards in Fellowship Hall.**

Thanks to
Angie Gerzen for
preparing these boards for our
information and fun.

Basic necessities free of charge
to those temporarily in need

Midway Locust Grove
United Methodist Church

Open
Feb. 1 & 15

**Twice
blessed**

Open 1st & 3rd Thursdays
12:00 – 5:00

The little white building
on the corner of
Henderson and Locust Grove Church Road

**Bingo
Bonanza**

Join us for our February Family Fun
Event! Pizza, BINGO, prizes, and an all
around good time!

FRIDAY, FEB. 9TH

6:30 PM - Locust Grove Church

**Invite your friends and
neighbors!**



MIDWAY LOCUST GROVE CHURCH

2600 N. Locust Grove Church Road
Columbia, MO 65202

Pastor: Rev. Ben Lee
Administrative Assistant: Catherine Shanahan
Church phone: 573-445-4667
Pastor's cell phone: 478-447-4438
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YouTube: \[mwlocustgrove\]\(https://www.youtube.com/mwlocustgrove\)](https://www.facebook.com/mwlocustgrove)

***Our Mission:
We exist to
gather in grace,
grow in Christ,
and go share the Gospel.***

Locust Leaves Editor: Gene Baumann
Rocheport@aol.com 445-1998

The Back Row By Gene Baumann

Good deeds generally refer to actions or activities that are considered morally positive or helpful to others. These can include acts of kindness, charity, volunteering, or any action that benefits others or contributes to the well-being of society.

I had an opportunity to do such a deed on a recent trip to the grocery store. As often happens, my first stop was the restroom. As I entered, I noticed a grocery cart with a cane in it by the door. Inside, an elderly man (my age) was just exiting one of the stalls and asked if I could lend him an arm to get back to his cart and cane. I did, we had a nice chat, and he went on his way to continue shopping. It made my day to have helped him.

As I continued my shopping, the item I most wanted was not on the shelf where it

 ***Find the hidden Bible in this issue.***

Visit our Web Site: www.mwlocustgrove.com

Volume 37 Issue 2 February 2024

***If we had a
Message Board...***

***Tuesday Lunch will be
at noon on February 13
in our Fellowship Hall.***

belongs, but was on the top of the rack out of reach. In another good deed, I did NOT climb the nearby ladder; I found an employee stocking a nearby shelf and asked for his help. He retrieved one item and it was my favorite flavor so I asked for another one, which required moving the ladder. He graciously got me another one, which I strongly recommended to him; he seemed interested. My good deed in the restroom had paid back.

A couple of days later I went with a group of our church family on a work day mission to the City of Refuge, and saw more good deeds than I could imagine. See the story on pages 5-7.

Perhaps the best deed of my day there was a two-or three-year-old immigrant girl who greeted me and others as we arrived in the lobby; she walked right over and stood in front of me, so I took her photo. She was the personification of why we were there.