



## Lenten Vespers 2011 Kirkwood Baptist Church

**Theme:** *The love of power and the power of love – the call to radical/respectful love.*

**Dates:** March 13 – April 17 (Sunday)

**Time:** 4:30 to 5:30 pm (to coincide with children's choirs)

**Objective:** To learning to love our neighbor with Christ-like respect. (Based on this passage, among others: Rom. 13:9ff: "whatever other commands there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself... Love does no harm to a neighbor.")

**Background:** One of the difficulties Christians face in "*loving our neighbor as we love ourselves*" is that our neighbors are often quite different than us! This has always been true, but has never been truer. We are surrounded by neighbors who don't look or act like us. How do we love them? The answer to that is often this: get them to look, act, think, and believe, like us (makes them so much easier to love). But that is an abuse of power. God calls us to make disciples of Christ, not disciples of us. Learning to love is partly learning the restraint of power and the power of respectful restraint. Learning to love is partly about seeing that some differences are evidence of the glory of God.

**Music:** Glen Calvin will be leading an old-fashioned sing-along with guitar, focused primarily on folk songs which deal with love, power, oppression, poverty, etc.

**March 13:** *Our Neighbors in the North City* – our responsibility in this era and culture of violence. **Norm White** – SLU professor of Criminal Justice and advocate for anti-violence in Saint Louis.

**Following weeks TBD**