

January 2009

Linking us with the ministries of our church

## Midweek Resumes

- 5:30-6:30 PM Dinner
- 6:00-8:30 PM Childcare, infants through age 4
- 6:00-7:00 PM Handbell rehearsal
- 6:00-7:00 PM Library open
- 6:15-7:30 PM Pioneer Girls, grades K-6
- Cub Scouts, grades K-5
- Girls of Grace, grades 7-12
- Boy Scouts, grades 6-12
- 7:00-8:00 PM Prayer Meeting  
Adult Elective, John, *What True Love Does*
- 7:00-8:30 PM Adult Choir rehearsal
- 7:30-8:30 PM Upper Room, College & Career
- 7:45-8:45 PM Youth Midweek, grades 7-12
- 9:00-11:00 PM Coffee House, College & Career

## Wednesday Evening Prayer Meeting

Beginning in January we will study prayers of the great and not-so-great men and women of the Bible. We will be struck by the simplicity, spontaneity, sincerity, brevity, and effectiveness of their prayers. We will be instructed, encouraged, and motivated to pray for each other, our church and its ministries, our community, and the world. We will invest the first half hour in informal, interactive Bible study, the second half hour in fervent prayer. Can you think of a better way to begin the new year? Pastor Geiger invites you to join him and others in this bedrock ministry of our church.

## Annual Meeting January 25

Members of Redeemer should plan to attend the annual congregational business meeting at 6:00 PM on Sunday, January 25. Regular attenders are also invited. At 5:00 we'll enjoy hamburgers with all the fixin's, prepared and served by our men's fellowship.

The meeting will include a review of the

year 2008; a look at the year ahead; consideration of the 2009 budget; and the election of three elders, one deacon and three finance committee members. See page four for information about the nominees.

You may pick up your annual report on Sunday, January 18.

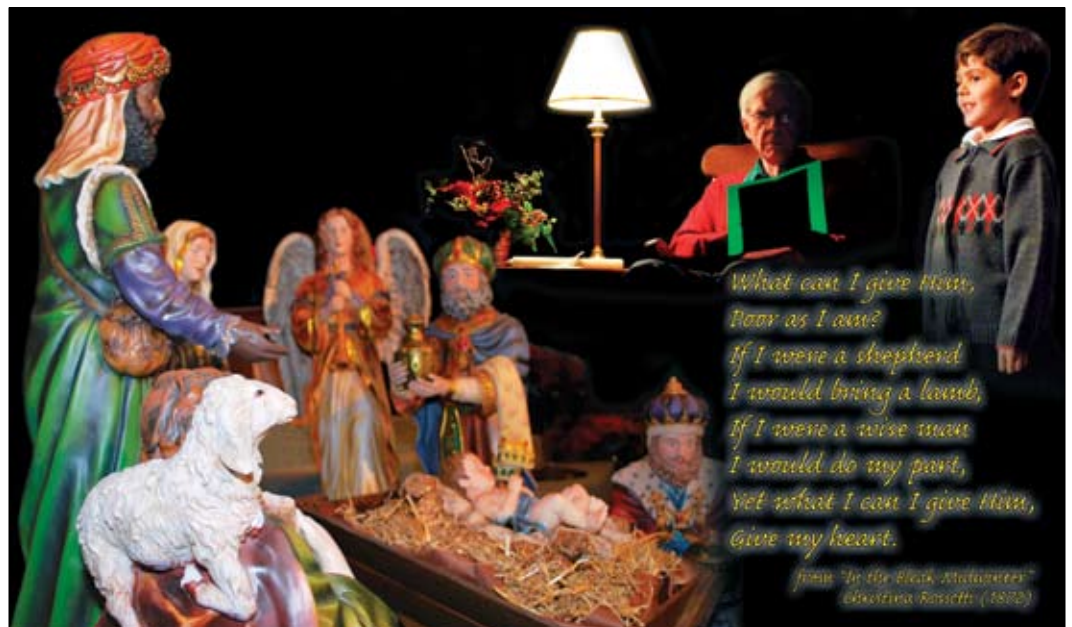
## Young Adults ABF Launching Jan. 18

God is bringing a growing number of hungry-for-Him young adults to Redeemer. On the third Sunday in January (the 18th) we will launch a new adult Bible fellowship through which these fine 20- and 30-some-things can pursue greater spiritual depth, relational authenticity, and ministry impact. Open to both singles and married folks, the group will be led by **Joseph Escobar** and taught (primarily) by **Daniel Ice**.

The fellowship will have a comfortable, informal feel and will seek to connect people in vibrant relationships — on Sunday mornings

and during the week, both on campus and off. Sunday morning studies will focus almost exclusively on Bible books and will be aimed at discovering, discussing, and applying their simple truths in a complex world.

If you (or another young adult you know) have been looking for a good place to begin walking in the light of God's Word with others, this may well be it. **Joseph & Jenny Escobar, Daniel & Stephanie Ice**, and other young adults look forward to growing deep and reaching out with you. See you in room 105 on January 18!



## In a Word

### Let's Pause for Perspective

Don Geiger, Senior Pastor

Reflecting on the year just past, the words of an old hymn came to mind: *We are living, we are dwelling, in a grand and awful time. In an age on ages telling, to be living is sublime* (We'll sing it on Sunday.).

Understandably, in these days we are hearing more of the awful than of the grand. In many ways these are difficult days for us all, and especially trying for some. World-wide recession, global warming, two worrisome wars, unbelievable suffering in the Sudan, Zimbabwe, and many other places, random road-rage shootings.... The *awful* list is long and seems to grow with every newscast. The issues — global, national, local, and personal — should concern us all. Concern and address as we are able, but not overwhelm. We're sometimes tempted to think nostalgically of the "good old days" when life was simpler and better. Or was it?

Curious about those simpler and better days, I googled "life in 1908." Here's a sampling of what I found. The average life expectancy was 47 years. Only 14% of homes had a bathtub. Only 8% had a phone. There were 8000

cars in the entire U. S. and 142 miles of paved roads. The average wage was 22 cents an hour. 90% of all doctors had no college education. Only 6% of all Americans graduated from high school. One of every five adults couldn't read or write. Air conditioning was not even a dream. Heroin was sold over the counter and was touted as "clearing the complexion, giving buoyancy to the mind, a perfect guardian of health." The Wright brothers' invention was a curiosity with no practical application. No Facebook! Anybody still long for those good old days, when the leading causes of death were pneumonia, flu, tuberculosis, and diarrhea?

Perspective. It's wise and biblical occasionally to remember and reflect on *those earlier days* (Heb. 10:33) — calling to mind both the blessings and the burdens, letting God use both to show us just how blest we are, nudging us to accept our hardships, and allowing him to use them to teach us the life lessons that can be learned in no other way.

I chose the January Bible reading chapters to help us gain perspective for the year ahead and focus on the *grand* rather than the *awful*. Psalm 16, our reading for Saturday, gets right to the heart of the matter, especially verses five and six.

Want a fresh, biblical, promising, positive perspective on this challenging new year? Make Psalm 16 the meditation of your heart and the North Star of your direction for 2009.

In a word, let's pause for perspective.

*Lord, you have assigned me*

*My portion and my cup;*

*You have made my lot secure.*

*The boundaries have fallen for me*

*In pleasant places;*

*Surely I have a delightful inheritance.*

*(Psalm 16:5,6)*

## Search Committee Update

The Search Committee has spent the last couple of months laying the groundwork required to consider possible candidates for senior pastor. The committee's work has included developing a thorough questionnaire that will provide an important initial evaluation of possible candidates.

A number of Redeemer members have suggested potential candidates. Thank you! The committee is continuing to accept suggestions and also has been in contact with Dallas Theological Seminary to gather the names of additional individuals.

We are looking for a senior pastor who, among other characteristics, has a pastor's heart, agrees with our theology and doctrine, is committed to our progressive-traditional worship style, is committed to strong missions and community outreach programs, and is an effective expository preacher.

If you know someone whom you believe may be a good candidate, e-mail the Search Committee at [search@redeemerbiblechurch.org](mailto:search@redeemerbiblechurch.org) or contact one of the Search Committee members directly. They are **Kent Barnard, Gene Burrows, Glenn Clark, Kris Dain, Don Geiger Jr.** (chair), **Stu Howe, Charlane Rack, Jim Raikes, Paul Ramler, John Reed, Lillian Rees, Heidi Regier, Hazel Sage** and **Scott Shaffer.**

## Midweek Elective: "What Love Does"

The 1950s movie title "Love is a Many Splendored Thing" is truer than its writers knew. Love is something we often talk about but will spend an eternity learning about, because God Himself is love. Perhaps no passage of Scripture contains as much teaching on the many-splendored love of God than does John's "Upper Room Discourse" in chapters 13-17.

Jesus says in chapter 13, verse 34b, "*As I have loved you, so you must love one another.*" What does that mean? How does that work? He says in chapter 15, verse 9, "*As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.*" Got that one figured out? The Father's love for the Son, the Son's love for us, our Son-like love for one another: truly, godly love *is* a many-splendored thing!

If you would like to grow in your understanding and expression of God's love, join a group of like-minded folks on Wednesday evenings this spring to consider "*What Love Does.*" **Tony Gomillion** will teach this midweek course from 7:00 to 8:00 PM in room 112, beginning January 21 and ending May 20.

# Getting to Know You: Leona Maxwell

**Tommie Loveless**

**Leona Maxwell** was born and reared in Lubbock, Texas. She had two older brothers, and all of them celebrated August birthdays! She attended Texas Tech University, and for twenty-two years she was the Assistant Director of Electric Utilities for the City of Lubbock. Also during that time she served as Chairman of the United Way of Lubbock and received the United Way Humanitarian Award, the highest award given.

Leona received Christ as her Savior and was baptized when she was twelve years old. Later on, Leona met and married Ray Maxwell. She is the proud mother of a daughter and two sons. Leona shared: "In 2006, we had a tragedy in our family when my wonderful daughter-in-law, Jill Maxwell, the wife of my youngest son, Todd, died suddenly as a result of a cardiac arrest on the evening of their anniversary." She continued, "After Jill's death, I felt God's wonderful love, and knew my faith in Him would give me the strength I needed to support Todd and their three girls through the days that followed."

This is not the first time Leona relied on God's faithfulness and mercy, because on Christmas Eve, 1994, she suffered a devastating stroke. She lay on the floor of her home for three hours before her daughter discovered her. Leona reported that the doctors told her family she would be like a vegetable for the rest of



her life, having lost the ability to walk or talk, and the use of most of her body. Leona continued: "I knew that God had something else for me to do, and He gave me the gift of Life." Leona did recover. However, in June 2005 a second stroke left her unable to walk. Against all odds, and after several months in the Baylor Institute of Rehabilitation, she once again learned to walk and to use her left hand to do everything. Eventually, she became interested in making ceramics, with her rooster and seven churches winning various first place awards. She also received second- and third-place awards from the State Fair of Texas.

Leona bought her home in Plano, where she still resides. And in 2003, as further proof of recovery from her first stroke, she was able to travel to France, Italy, Spain, and even took an Alaskan cruise.

Leona was invited to visit Redeemer when the church was meeting in what is now known as *The Oasis*. She expressed, "I found it to be a very loving church, and I knew the sermons

were from God's actual words. I joined the choir when it first started. As **Josh Bailey** says, we are praising God through all of our songs. He is a great and Godly leader. We love to hear him and **Emily** sing."

Thanks Leona, for your faith, and for your courageous example of God's healing power. It is a blessing to have you in our Redeemer church family.

## Kudos Corner

A hearty "Congratulations!" to **Susan Hepp, Jana Newcomer,** and **Karen Shoholm** who recently completed half marathons.

Jana ran the Rock 'n' Roll San Antonio Half Marathon on November 16, finishing the 13.1 miles in 1 hour and 54 minutes



and placing an impressive 7th out of 63 youth under the age of 17. **Tom Newcomer**, Jana's father, coach, and running companion ran the race with her and gave her a memorable "high-five" as they crossed the finish line together. Jana said, "Even

bigger than just completing a half marathon, I came away realizing that with some determination and self discipline, you can achieve nearly anything. Two years ago, when I started distance running, I couldn't run a mile without stopping a few times."



Susan and Karen earned medals for walking the Dallas White Rock Half Marathon on December 14, completing the 13.1 miles in 3 hours, 43 minutes. Karen said, "Susan and I walked alongside senior citizens, the physically handicapped, and even the blind, who walked with the help of a guide. It was truly inspiring." What a joy to see Redeemer friends running the race of life with gusto and reaching huge goals like finishing a half marathon. Way to go!

# Nominees to Be Voted on at Annual Meeting

In preparation for our annual business meeting on January 25, here are the nominations for your consideration for 2009:



## Larry Foster - Elder

- Premium Gun Manager with the Beretta Gallery
- Met wife, Julia, at thier alma mater, East Texas State in Commerce
- Married for 42 years
- Trusted Christ and was baptized in 1953 with his father and sister
- Led boys in Stockade at Reinhardt for 9 years
- Ministers to Redeemer in many ways including facilitating communion



## Arch Oldham - Finance Committee

- Owned and operated his own independent insurance company; retired since 1993
- Met wife, Kay, at University of North Texas; they will celebrate 60 years of marriage this year
- Has flown airplanes all of his adult life
- He and Kay currently lead our GriefShare ministry



## John Rack - Elder

- Residential property manager for 37 years
- Met wife, Charlane, at a home Bible study; married for 33 years
- Teaches Discipleship Fellowship
- Previously served as Chairman of the Finance Committee at Redeemer



## Martie Syms - Finance Committee

- Retired accountant with CAM international
- Junior High teacher in inner city Kentucky and Michigan for 17 years
- Twin sister of Barbara Christmas
- Grew up in a Christian home and trusted Christ at age 8
- Has a special place in her heart for cats



## John Sparks - Elder

- Many years experience in producing the broadcasts of television news
- Married to Sandy for 18 years
- Raised in a Christian home and trusted Christ in the 7th grade
- Actively involved in the Koinonia ABF
- Leads our outreach ministry at Redeemer
- Avid baseball fan



## Jim Raikes - Deacon

- Carpenter/Contractor
- Married to Debbie for 31 years
- Father of Kristen, our Children's Director
- Trusted Christ at Purdue University through Campus Crusade for Christ
- Teaches 4- and 5-year-old Sunday School Class with Debbie



## Bob Kollmansberger - Finance Committee

- C.P.A. for 31 years
- In public practice with Bill Ragsdale for 12 years
- Married to Joan for 41 years
- Trusted Christ in 1974
- Active member of the Berean ABF

## Thank You Don Geiger Jr. for Your Faithful Service



Don has served as the chairman of the Board of Elders since its inception, 9 years ago. Thank you, Don for your excellent leadership during the formative years of Redeemer Bible Church!

Dallas, Texas • 214-340-3633  
721 Easton Road  
Meeting Location:

P.O. Box 570545  
Dallas, TX 75357-0545

B I B L E C H U R C H  
*Redeemer*