

January 2012

Linking us with the ministries of our church

Sermon Series

Sermon Series: 12 Healthy Attitudes for 2012.

Jan 8: Healthy Attitude Towards Tragedy

Jan 15: Healthy Attitude Towards Conflict

Jan 22: Healthy Attitude Towards Evangelism

Jan 29: Healthy Attitude Towards Church

Future messages: Healthy Attitudes towards money/possessions, death and dying, marriage, parenting and more.

Welcome to Patricia

Our new office manager is **Patricia Boyd**. Patricia was born in Puerto Rico and graduated from the University of Puerto Rico in 2010. After graduation she moved to Dallas to attend DTS and met Josiah Boyd, another DTS student. They were married on December 30, 2011. Josiah is a ThM student and their goal is to serve the Lord together wherever He may lead them.

"Must-Have" Tool

Our Web site is a great resource for information about upcoming events and important dates. You can use the Web site to stay updated on the daily reading for RBC's Bible Reading Plan for 2012, or catch a sermon that you may have missed! Take a moment to check it out for yourself: www.redeemerbiblechurch.org

Annual Meeting January 29, 6 PM

Members of Redeemer should plan to attend the annual congregational business meeting at 6:00 PM on Sunday, January 29. Regular attenders are also invited. At 5:00 PM we'll enjoy hamburgers with all the fixins', prepared and served by our men's fellowship.

The meeting will include a review of

the year 2011; a look at the year ahead; consideration of the 2012 budget; and the election of 3 elders, 1 deacon, 1 nominating committee member, and 4 finance committee members. See page 4 for information about the nominees.

Pick up your annual report on Sunday, January 22.

Thoughtful Christianity and Women's Ministry

Wednesday Night Adult Program

Our Wednesday night adult program for the spring semester will begin January 11 with six lessons entitled "**Thoughtful Christianity**" taught by Daniel Wallace. This series will address such topics as: Why should I care about developing a thoughtful Christianity (Apologetics)? What is truth? Can truth be known? Why should we care about truth? Shouldn't we be tolerant? How we can know God exists from cosmology and from philosophy. If God is good, how do you explain all the evil in the world? Daniel is the son-in-law of **Dan and Fran Fletcher** and lives in Garland with his wife Karis and their 3 children. Daniel has a MA in Philosophy of Religion from Talbot School of Theology and is passionately committed to understanding, proclaiming, and defending the truth of Christianity. This series will take a one week break on January 18, when **Pastor Hornok** will teach a lesson on the "Prosperity Gospel" so popular today. The lesson will be entitled: "Preying on the Saints."

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

The women's Tuesday Bible study for our Spring session will begin January 17. Our main focus of study this session will be a 10-week DVD series (beginning January 31) entitled "The Shelter of God's Promises" by Sheila Walsh. This series will be bookended with *mystery guest speakers* (January 17 & January 24 / April 24 and May 1)! Plus, we have a SPECIAL event TBA for the 'heart' day, on Tuesday, February 14. We hope the ladies will be excited (and curious!) about the upcoming months. We will continue to enjoy Small Group time during the second hour each week.

Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study

We will also be offering a Wednesday night Bible Study beginning on January 18. **Sarah King** will teach a three week session on the woman, Hannah. They will then begin the 10-week DVD series offered on Tuesdays ("The Shelter of God's Promises" by Sheila Walsh).

From the Pastor's Pen

Nothing Else to Offer

Doug Hornok, Senior Pastor

Jesus Christ is the only message we have to a desperate world. We have nothing else to offer. People gain nothing if Christ has not saved their souls. As we begin the New Year, I want to remind us all about the nature of the gospel.

First, the gospel was given to us by God. *“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the scriptures”* (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). The Bible clearly teaches that we are sinners (Romans 3:10, 23) and our only hope is the substitutionary work of Jesus Christ on the cross. The Apostle Paul received the gospel and passed it on as a message of high importance. Just as we received it, we too must pass it on without changes.

Second, the gospel cannot and should not be changed. If Paul or the angels of heaven could not change the gospel, it is safe to say we cannot either. Paul viewed the purity of the gospel as so crucial that anyone who changed it should be eternally condemned (Galatians 1:6-9). The gospel does not need to be tweaked or be made politically correct. Adding to — or subtracting from — the gospel is leading people to accept a message which will result in their eternal punishment.

We do not know the motives of those who distort the gospel. Perhaps their desire is to not offend, or to protect their celebrity status, or to sneak up on the unbeliever, or build their own kingdoms. The Apostle Paul says in Galatians 1:10 that our responsibility is to please God, not men. *“If I were still*

trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.” It is all about the message, not the messenger.

In the course of preaching the true gospel we may not be applauded, but persecuted. The desire for popularity is in conflict with the words of Jesus, *“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you”* (John 15:18).

Third, the gospel will always be offensive. *“But we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Gentiles foolishness”* (1 Corinthians 1:23; 1 Peter 2:7-8; Galatians 5:11). Man’s sinful nature, along with the saving power of the cross, will not be words welcomed by contemporary culture. And yet, to soften the message for whatever reason will neither change a man’s heart or his eternal destiny. Jonathan Edwards, America’s greatest theologian, wrote, *“When the true gospel of Christ is taught, we cannot help being changed — either by our conversion or by the cementing of our already hard hearts. No man encounters the Living God, and remains the same.”*

Fourth, the gospel is the only way of salvation. It does not matter how deep one’s sincerity may be, if the content of belief is not the gospel of Christ, they are lost. The message of the early church was simple: *“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved”* (Acts 4:12). To deny this truth is to deny Christ. The gospel is exclusive when it says there is no other way, yet inclusive when it says whosoever will may come.

Let’s make 2012 the year of sharing the gospel.

Communion Table

Redeemer Bible Church is a richly blessed church — rich in the maturity, godliness and generosity of its saints who have served, and serve God together. But one of the challenges for us is that some of those wonderful saints have been given the ultimate promotion. That is that they have gone onto heaven before us. It’s a “far far better place than anything down here,” but we miss them nonetheless!

One such couple was **Claire and Darlene Clark**, who were very special to all of us. They are now both in heaven. Their son, **Glenn** — along with his wife, **Angie**, his sister **Connie**, and her husband **Fred** — wanted to do something for the church to honor the memory of Claire and Darlene. Ever since Redeemer moved into our current facility, we have had the need for an appropriate communion table. So Glenn asked if he could build one in their memory. If you have not done

so yet, take a close look at the beautiful table — which we used for the first time in December.

Together with Glenn and Angie, Fred and Connie, we look



forward to that day when we’ll be rejoined with the loved ones who have preceded us into the Lord’s presence. Until then, we remember that *“The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”*

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Getting to Know You: Mike and Ann Norten

Tommie Loveless

Many know **Mike and Ann**, who have worshipped and served at Redeemer for some time. However, they were married on October 1, 2011; consequently, our church family *now* acknowledges them as **Mr. & Mrs. Mike Norten!** They share many things in common, beginning with having godly mothers; Mike in Oklahoma, and Ann in Dallas. Ann shared, "When I was born they weren't sure if I would live, and my mom was also very ill. When mom found out, four days later, that I had survived, she dedicated me to the Lord at that moment!" Ann made a profession for Christ when she was five. Mike shared, "Mom was a new believer and told me of her love for



God, how the world came into existence, and shared the Gospel message!" Mike was six, and trusted Christ immediately. He recalled, "I told my six-year-old friend and neighbor that I was saved and when I died I would go to heaven and live happily ever after!" His friend proceeded to tell Mike about the rapture, the tribulation and the 1000-year kingdom! Mike explained, "We argued, and I told my mom, but after a little research, my mother discovered my friend was right! We gathered all the neighborhood kids together, every week, and told them about Salvation and all these things!" This continued until Mike was nine, and his family moved to Dallas. Mike and Ann graduated from the same Jr. High, Bryan Adams High School, and from Stephen F. Austin State University. However, they never met until years later! Mike holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, and a minor in Forestry. He also earned a

ThM Degree from Dallas Theological Seminary. Having many successful careers, he worked as a financial advisor for over thirty years, and hosted an organic gardening TV program for seven years, while conducting seminars for the city of Garland. He was known as "The Garden Guy," which was the name of his TV show! Mike also served as a pastor, and a staff member of several ministry organizations, including Campus Crusade for Christ. His love for God's Word is further evidenced by his gift of teaching, having substituted for Redeemer Adult

Bible Fellowship classes, including Dr. Zuck's Koinonia class, in which they are members. He authored a book entitled **Unlocking the Secrets of the Feasts**, soon to be published. Ann holds a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Home Economics and Secondary Education. She taught school for 34 years, including 22 years at Scofield Christian School and First Baptist Academy, retiring in 2008. Ann was a lifetime member of Scofield Memorial Church, until making Redeemer her church home. She has taught Bible studies, and been involved in many church and camp ministries. She enjoys helping at Luke's Pantry and attending the Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study. The Nortens love studying Scriptures together. Mike commented, "I call her my living concordance!" **Mike and Ann**, your church family is thankful that you are such a dynamic couple and members of Redeemer!

Welcome, New Members



Scott and Mary Eichman



Howard and Fran Joslin



Robert and Martha Kennard



Andrew (Sammy) Samuelson



Dr. Robert Samuelson



Loretta Wynn

The Link is Redeemer Bible Church's monthly newsletter, produced by the pastoral staff, Brad Hepp (layout), and various contributors.

Nominees for Boards and Committees

The Nominating Committee recommends these candidates for membership on the Elder and Deacon boards and on the Finance and Nominating committees. Members of the church are encouraged to attend the annual business meeting on Jan. 29, where these individuals will be presented for election to these offices.

Elder



Larry Foster previously served on the Elder Board from 2002 to 2011. He and his wife, Julia, met in college and have been married 45 years. They have three adult daughters and five grandchildren. Larry is semi-retired after working as a pawnshop owner for 36 years, as premium gun manager and assistant store manager at Beretta Gallery Dallas, and as a sales associate at Millet the Printer.



Jim Jenkins serves as a member of the greeting ministry. He and his wife, Louise, met in college and have been married 54 years. They have three adult children, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Jim worked for State Farm Insurance for 42 years in underwriting management and now works

part time as a sales representative for a glass-replacement company.



Don Regier is a sponsor of Redeemer's Junior High group and sings in the choir. He previously served on the Elder Board from 2000 to 2004. Don and his wife, Jan, have been married 47 years. They have six children and three grandchildren. Don is associate professor emeritus of Christian Education and director of special projects in the communications department at Dallas Theological Seminary.

Deacon



Tom Newcomer is a long-time member of the team that manages Redeemer's sound system. He and his wife, Chris, have been married 23 years. They have two children in college. Tom is a software developer for Verizon.

Finance Committee



Arch Oldham is being re-nominated to the Finance Committee. He and his wife, Kay, met in college and will celebrate 63 years of marriage this year. They previously led Redeemer's GriefShare ministry. Arch retired in 1993 after owning and operating an independent insurance company.



Jim Fleming serves Redeemer as a member of the greeting ministry. He and his wife, Ann, met while they both worked for IBM in Iowa. They have been married 48 years and have two adult daughters. Jim is a retired insurance executive.



Cathy Williams previously served on the Finance Committee from 2005 to 2008. She is a financial advisor with Edward Jones. Cathy enjoys the fellowship in Howard Joslin's ABF (the "Seekers Fellowship").



Dick Lane has worked in investments for about 40 years. A graduate of O.U., he entered the military through the ROTC program, and served as an officer in the U.S. Army Infantry. He participates in Dr. Zuck's ABF ("Koinonia").

Nominating Committee



Leonard Rees has served as a long-time member of Redeemer's greeting ministry. He and his wife, Lillian, have been married for 41 years. They have two adult daughters and two grandchildren. Leonard works as the postmaster for the UT Southwestern Medical Center.

Thanks, Retiring Officers



Stu Howe
Elder



John Rack
Elder



John Sparks
Elder



Jim Raikes
Deacon



Bob Kollmansberger
Finance Committee



Sandy Sparks
Finance Committee



Martie Syms
Finance Committee



Mary Lou Green
(deceased) Nominating Committee

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

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

