

Upcoming Events

- 2/6 Men's Breakfast (David Souther)
- 2/14 Seasoned Saints' Valentine Luncheon
- 2/28 Children's Volunteer Training
- 3/12 CPR Re-Certification (evening)
- 3/13 CPR Course (for those without current certification); Men's Chili Cook-Off
- 3/14 Daylight Saving (spring forward); Scout Sunday & Spaghetti Luncheon
- 3/19-21 Youth: Spring
- 3/26-28 Youth: Break
- 3/27 Eggstravaganza
- 4/2 Good Friday Service
- 4/4 Easter
- 4/9-11 Missions Weekend
- 4/16-17 Pioneer Girls Retreat
- 4/17 Men's Breakfast
- 4/24 Church Work Day
- 5/12 Last Midweek (until fall)
- 5/16 Scripture Memory Sunday; H.S. Graduation Banquet
- 6/5-19 Geiger Island Family Camp
- 6/12 Men's Breakfast
- 6/19-27 Geiger Island Youth Camp
- 7/4 Ice Cream Social
- 7/19-23 Vacation Bible School
- 7/30-8/8 Hungary Missions Trip
- 8/1 Sunday School Promotion Sunday
- 8/11 Hawaiian Falls Family Day

Intentional Worship at Redeemer

Those God used to establish Redeemer Bible drafted a statement that continues to shape and sustain our worship focus. The full statement is available through the church office, but the first two sentences are: *"We will exalt the Triune God in worship and praise that is joyful, reverent, and heartfelt. Our goal is to experience the presence of God and to hear a word from God."* To better understand Redeemer's corporate worship, consider the following:

We seek an intentional worship experience.

Every element of our worship should point to God and focus our hearts and minds on Him. All worship elements should be conducted in an orderly manner and flow without major interruption. This is why certain aspects of our church life — announcements, welcoming guests, and greeting one another — are generally placed before or after the worship hour. The goal of maintaining a God-focus and flow is also why prayers and reports are often composed beforehand and read aloud.

We seek a Biblical worship experience.

We seek clear biblical support for every worship element. Our hymns and choruses are not only evaluated for biblical and theological accuracy but also are chosen to support the themes of a given service. Great attention is given to the public reading of Scripture. In order to clearly communicate the message of a

particular Bible passage, readers receive training and practice diligently before they lead us in the worship service. Clearly, preaching is another major emphasis of our worship service and our pastors work hard to properly understand and helpfully apply God's Word to our lives.

We seek a sacrificial worship experience.

The worship service is about God, not us. Ultimately, our desires and preferences must yield to Him. We should strive to give sacrificially of our time, talents, money, attention, and wills. In worship at Redeemer, we aim to surrender control to God's will and purposes.

We seek a participatory worship experience.

We constantly struggle against our culture's urging to seek passive amusement. Through creative and varied accompaniment, our musicians seek to inspire whole-church praise by helping us see God in a new way. Congregational worship should encourage and edify one another and should "drown out" the worship leader and instruments. We emphasize acapella singing and the harmony of hymns so the music and voice can be "of the people" and not that of a single musician.

In every element of Redeemer's corporate worship participation and intentionality are key. So, whether through singing, praying, speaking, listening, or committing, let's sacrifice together ... for the glory of God.



From the Pastor's Pen

Doug Hornok, Senior Pastor

In a *Guideposts* article, the late Corrie ten Boom, who was imprisoned for years by the Germans during World War II, told of not being able to forget a wrong that had been done to her. She had forgiven the person but kept rehashing the incident in her mind. Soon, she couldn't sleep. Finally Corrie cried out to God for help in putting the problem to rest.

"His help came in the form of a kindly Lutheran pastor," Corrie wrote, "to whom I confessed my failure after two sleepless weeks. 'Up in that church tower,' he said, nodding out the window, 'is a bell which is rung by pulling on a rope. But you know what? After the sexton lets go of the rope, the bell keeps on ringing. First ding, then dong. Slower and slower, until there's a final dong and it stops. I believe the same thing is true of forgiveness.

When we forgive, we take our hand off the rope. But if we've been tugging at our grievances for a long time, we mustn't be surprised if the old angry thoughts keep coming for a while. They're just the ding-dongs of the old bell slowing down."

"And so it proved to be. There were a few more midnight reverberations, a couple of dings when the subject came up in my conversations. But the force, which was my willingness in the matter, had gone out of them. They came less and less often and at last stopped altogether. And so I discovered another secret of forgiveness: we can trust God not only above our emotions, but also above our thoughts."

That is a powerful and needed lesson to learn. Please note, I said powerful and needed: not easy. One of the biggest issues for many is an unforgiving spirit. Are you pulling on a rope tied to the past? Are you hanging onto something from your childhood, a former place of employment or schooling? Now is the time to let it go.

Operation Friendship, A Great Beginning

After months of preparation and prayer, God answered our prayers for a successful Operation Friendship with evangelist Larry Moyer of EvanTell. On Saturday night around 75 people attended the Friendship Dinner as Larry addressed the topic, "If God only had five minutes to talk to you, what would He like to tell you?" Five people responded that they trusted Christ. On Sunday morning Larry opened God's Word from Luke 19 and told the story of Zacchaeus answering the question, "What kind of person do you have to be in order for God to accept you?" Seven checked that they trusted Christ. Sunday night was the training in evangelism where Larry presented a mini-seminar on "How to overcome our fears of evangelism." Ninety-four people listened attentively as Larry addressed the four most common fears of evangelism. First, we don't know how to turn a conversation to spiritual things. Second, we don't know how to present the gospel. Third, we may not be able to answer their objections. Finally, we're not sure we have the time or knowledge to follow-up with a new Christian. Each of these fears was addressed with a common sense approach and a biblical solution.

Conversations are best turned towards the spiritual by listening and finding out about a person's family, job, and background and then allowing God to direct the flow of the discussion. As you listen, ask questions that will help you gauge whether or not a person might be open to the gospel. Questions help move the conversation from the secular to the spiritual, and then to the gospel. The fear of not knowing how to present the gospel is overcome by learning a basic method. Larry presented the good news/bad news approach, which is available in tract form in our main lobby. Anyone who is consistent in evangelism has a basic method, and the bad news/good news approach is simple, clear, and easy to learn. The fear of questions and objections is overcome by an awareness that God does not ask us to defend the gospel but simply to declare it. Often, questions arise because people have not received a clear presentation of the gospel or are using their questions as a "smoke screen." Larry suggested taking the offensive, staying centered on the gospel, learning from each experience, and being willing to admit, "I don't know." The fear of following up with new believers is overcome by realizing that new Christians need *you* more than your knowledge



and that follow-up is a team effort. Getting into a partnership with the Church, other Christians, and the abundance of solid resources will minimize the fear of follow-up.

Operation Friendship was a great beginning, but it was just that: a beginning. Now it is time to put into practice what we've learned. A helpful online resource is the website www.act111.org, sponsored by EvanTell. Four 20-minute evangelism training sessions are available for you to view at your convenience and your own pace. In the coming months we look forward to hearing how God is using RBC saints as we put into practice what we have learned. We will strive with God's help to train people to be an effective witness for Jesus Christ. Remember, God calls us to make the contacts, and it is His job to bring about the conversion. Larry mentioned that only 5% of Christians ever lead someone to Christ. In the grace of God, may we at Redeemer be the exception to that rule.

Larry closed by reminding us of a simple prayer that was put to music. "Lord lay some soul upon my heart, and love that soul through me. And may I humbly do my part to win that soul through me."

Getting to Know You: Larry and Julia Foster

Tommie Loveless

Larry and Julia Foster were raised in Dallas, each having loving and caring parents. Larry's mom passed away in March, and his dad, **Roscoe**, is one of Redeemer's newest members. Larry is the middle brother of three, while Julia is an only child. Julia commented: "Our parents were good role models, and that is what we have tried to be to our three lovely daughters and five grandchildren. We love getting together with them, at least once a month, in either Dallas or Tyler."

Interestingly, Larry and Julia were born in the same Dallas hospital, Florence Nightingale, and both grew up in the East Dallas area. However, they did not meet until they were attending East Texas State University, now known as Texas A&M, Commerce. Larry graduated with a degree in Business and Political Science, and Julia earned her degree in Communications. Larry shared, "When I met Julia, it was love at first sight, but she quickly explained that I would have to have a 'spirit-filled' life to be her husband! I had accepted Christ earlier, but hearing this made me get my act in order!" Obviously, Julia had grown up with a rich spiritual background and recalls receiving Jesus as her Savior at a church revival. Julia relayed: "Having attended Scofield Bible Church, the pastor, Dr. Harlan Roper, married Larry and me in 1966 when Scofield was at the Old Swiss and Carroll location." Since then, Julia has enjoyed being a wife, mother, homemaker, substitute teacher, and girls'



ministry leader. She expounded, "When Larry and I joined Reinhardt Bible Church, we began a journey with the Lord that has continued to weave a tapestry of spiritual growth into our lives." This growth has continued at Redeemer, where Larry is presently serving on the Elder Board, supervises Communion, and takes pleasure in giving special care to many who need a ride, a smile, or a personal prayer. Both Larry and Julia have served in positions of leadership and teaching through Bible Studies, small groups, and children's ministries. One of their fondest memories is a trip to the Holy Land, in 1985, with a group led by **Don Geiger, Sr.** and **Dr. Roy Zuck**. Presently they are enjoying Dr. Zuck's Sunday morning teaching in the Koinonia Adult Bible Fellowship.

Larry loves the outdoors and spends time hunting on their lease in West Texas. Until June of 1987, he raised American Quarter Horses, caring for and imprinting colts. Larry worked for his dad for thirty-six years, until they sold their last pawn shop, at which time he went to work for the Dallas Beretta Gallery. Recently, after five years in management at the Gallery, he accepted a position with Millet the Printer. Larry commented, "I am excited and feel blessed for the opportunity to begin a new career with the **Millets**, even though I am at the age where I could be retiring!"

Larry and Julia are mainstays of Redeemer, and we are thankful for the faithful service and care they give our church family.

Beginning this Month: Arts, Culture, and the Church

Starting in February, on the third Saturday of each month, Redeemer will host a course on how we can understand and engage our culture through the arts. The course will be led by **Shannon Lauer**, who will receive her Master of Theology degree (media arts emphasis) from Dallas Theological Seminary this May.

Created in the image of a creative God, people reveal their view of the world around them through art. The arts are an ever-expanding venue for Christians to engage their world. In recent years, Americans have experienced a cultural renaissance. Annual American museum attendance has increased from 200 million to 500 million between 1965 and 1987. Since 1972 the number of



professional dance companies has increased by 700%. And New York's Broadway Theater sells more tickets annually than the Yankees and the Mets combined.

If you have an appreciation for the arts or want to know more about engaging our culture through them, join Shannon and others (10:00 AM – noon at the church) in this once-per-month course. The first class will be Saturday, February 20, and is open to anyone who is interested. Come and discover some of what the Bible teaches us about art, God as the source of all beauty, how we can engage our culture through the arts, and what makes us like The Artist.

Annual Meeting Review

Meeting held on Sunday, Jan. 31

Attendance: 143 voting members

The following nominations were approved, as was the 2010 budget:

Board of Elders

- Don Geiger Jr.
- Stu Howe

Finance Committee

- Sandy Sparks

Board of Deacons

- Kris Dain
- Byron Donaho

Nominating Committee

- Mary Lou Green

