

March 2006

Linking us with the ministries of our church

Upcoming Events

- March 3 First Friday Childcare
- March 4 Tutoring Orientation at Reilly Elementary
- March 5 Seasoned Saints at Eisemann Center
- March 18 Chili Cook-Off
- March 24 Youth Lock-Out
- March 31 First Friday Childcare
- Mar. 31-Apr.1 Marriage Enrichment Seminar
- April 2 Daylight Saving Begins
- April 5 Eagle Scout Court of Honor
- April 9 Palm Sunday
- April 14 Good Friday Service
- April 15 Easter Egg-stravaganza
- April 16 Easter
- April 21-23 Men's Retreat
- April 23 Scout Sunday
- April 23 Pioneer Girls Mother/Daughter Tea
- Apr. 28-May 2 Men's Canoe Trip
- April 29 Women's Spring Fling
- May 5 First Friday Childcare
- May 14 Mother's Day
- May 14 H.S. Grad. Celebration
- May 21 Scripture Memory Sun.
- May 24 Midweek Ends
- June 2 First Friday Childcare
- June 2-16 Geiger Isl. Fam. Camp
- June 4 Seasoned Saints Luncheon
- June 5-9 Pre-Teen Camp
- June 17-25 Geiger Isl. Girls Camp
- June 18 Father's Day
- June 24-July 2 Geiger Isl. Guys Camp
- July 7 First Friday Childcare
- July 16-22 Boy Scout Camp
- July 24-28 Vacation Bible School
- August 6 Promotion Sunday
- Sept. 13 Midweek Resumes
- Sept. 13 Boy Scout Court of Honor

## Marriage Enrichment Opportunity

Looking for a good way to improve your marriage? Do we have a deal for you! You, your spouse, and any other interested couples you may know are invited to attend our *Toward a Growing Marriage* seminar on **Friday evening (6:00 – 8:30 pm), March 31, and Saturday (9:00 am – 1:15 pm).**

This DVD and discussion seminar is led by the insightful and humorous Dr.

Gary Chapman, author of *The Five Love Languages*. The seminar will cover practical topics like: communication, understanding, positive change, sex as a mutual joy, and sharing things that bug you. Who doesn't need more skill in those areas?

Childcare will be provided both days, and an early lunch will be served on Saturday. The cost for the seminar is \$15.

## Men's Retreat Next Month

Men, listen up! **Friday, April 21, through Sunday, April 23**, more than forty Redeemer men will head to the Bridgeport Camp (due west of Denton) ... to think, to laugh, to grow, to make some memories. You can look forward to forming new relationships and deepening old ones as you consider *Three Things Real Men Do* while you fish, pitch some horse shoes, eat some good food, or take a bike ride. (Check out

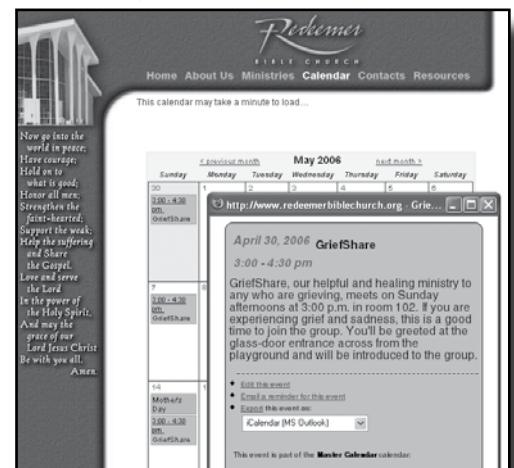
the facilities at the camp's website: [www.bridgeportcamp.com](http://www.bridgeportcamp.com).)

Men will be arriving and leaving at various times—some staying the entire weekend, some arriving Friday and leaving Saturday, and some arriving Saturday and leaving Sunday. The cost is \$50 for one night and \$80 for two. Sign ups will be ongoing in the church lobby following worship services during the month of March.

## Visit [www.redeemberbiblechurch.org](http://www.redeemberbiblechurch.org)

Redeemer's Web site has been an important communication tool since Redeemer's early days. It has served us behind the scenes, through the weekly pastoral e-mails—now going out to over 270 recipients every week. It serves as our 24/7 information center to members and potential visitors, with essential information like services schedule, location map, and contact information. Recently, we have added links to some excellent tools on our "Resources" page. There you will also find our online version of the Link Newsletter. The most helpful addition to our site may be the "Calendar" page, where you can click on event titles to get full details and—you *have* to check this

one out—schedule an e-mail reminder to be sent to you. Try it!



## In a Word

### It's the little things that count

Don Geiger, Senior Pastor

The longer I live the more I realize how often the seemingly "little things" make a big difference in someone's life. Goliath certainly would have agreed, had he been able to think after David's small stone found its mark. Moses' rod was just another stick until God used it to intimidate the most powerful man alive. Only God knows how often such small things as a follow-your-good-impulse phone call, note, email, or visit have not only brightened an otherwise dark life, but have actually provided the encouragement and hope that saved someone from self-destruction. In eternity we'll discover the impact some of you have made in a child's life during those hours spent tutoring at Reilly or Highland Meadows Elementary Schools, or teaching and loving teens at the Henry Wade Juvenile Detention Center, or touching lives at the White Rock Center of Hope. The list is long indeed.

So **Ray North** finds time to whittle simple pocket-size crosses and give them away, along with a **Roy Zuck** tract on the Cross. Redeemer ladies have made dozens of heirloom-quality baby quilts that are given at Parkland Hospital to mothers of new-borns. **Monique Byron** (pictured here) recently crocheted 200 (!) sets of cap and booties for those newborns. Parkland nurses and staff enthusiastically report on the profound impact made by such seemingly small gestures. The opportunities are limitless.



Peter put it best (1 Peter 4:10), *Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.* We're all aware of, benefit from, and appreciate gifts we consider to be "spiritual"—teaching, counseling, leading, preaching, etc. But we sometimes forget that every ability and interest—crocheting, whittling, whistling, singing, plumbing, electrical, artistic, green thumb, soothing babies, listening with your heart—is a God-given gift that He desires us to use for His glory and others' benefit. Too

often we underestimate the importance of the little things God has given us. Too often we're like Moses at the burning bush, mistakenly thinking we are of little or no use to God. Hear God ask Moses (and us), *What is that in your hand?* When Moses replied, *A staff*, he was doubtless thinking, *Only a relatively useless dead stick.* God thought otherwise. We need God's object lesson as much as did Moses (See Exodus 4).

So let's ask ourselves, "What *is* that in my hand? What hobby, ability, interest, skill do I have that I haven't yet considered to be of use to God and others?" Then let's prayerfully offer it to God, then watch him surprise and delight

us with his answer. Two great quotes jump to mind. The first (anon.), "Little is much if God is in it." The second, a favorite from Amy Carmichael, "A little thing is a little thing, but faithfulness in a little thing is a great thing."

I often thank God for the countless ways so many of you are using those "little things" to bless others, both within the Redeemer family and beyond. And I often pray that we all will regularly inventory our lives in search of gifts and interests by which to glorify God by serving others.

In a word, it's the little things that count!

## Redeemer's First Art Exhibit a Huge Success

A total of 250 guests kept Redeemer's first art exhibit humming, as they enjoyed the beautiful and varied work of twenty-five artists. The 50 exhibits included oils, water color, acrylics, pastels, and stained glass. "I had no idea we had so many outstanding artists," was an oft-repeated quote. Thanks to **Sandy Sparks** and the Women's Fellowship for giving us a delightful Saturday evening.



## Offering Hospitality

At Redeemer, hospitality is not just a noun, it's a verb! God's love is freely shared through many forms of hospitality—a smile at the door, a kind word in the hallway, a lunch invitation, and more. Another way that we intend to begin offering hospitality is through a welcome wagon of sorts that will share a personal greeting and gift with return visitors.

Under the able leadership of our newest elder, **John Sparks**, and our outreach committee, plans are being formed that will enable us to deliver one-of-a-kind hospitality bundles to those who visit Redeemer. This warm, non-invasive gesture will communicate God's love and Redeemer's hospitality in a compelling way.

Please pray for John and the team as they work to creatively and appropriately build the framework for this new ministry. As this new outreach structure takes shape, they will let us know about ways we can get involved in offering hospitality.

# Getting to Know You: Todd and Connie Stallings

**Tommie Loveless**

“Home, home on the range...,” could have been one of **Todd’s** favorite songs. He recalled, “Some of my fondest childhood memories were the days on the family farm and working cattle on my grandfather’s ranch.” Todd was born in Big Spring, Texas. However his dad’s insurance occupation moved them to Richardson, San Antonio, and Brownfield, before returning to Big Spring when Todd was twelve. **Connie**, born in New Mexico, also had her share of moving. She explained, “I grew up in Japan, Kansas, Alabama and Virginia.” Her dad was an Air Force fighter pilot, and the military life taught her family to be flexible, adaptable, and lent itself to having a very close-knit family life. Both were raised in Christian homes and accepted Christ as their Savior during their childhood. They credit their parents’ and grandparents’ example of faith and prayer for their own commitment to each other and family.

Todd and Connie met in 1986 in a singles Friday night Bible study in Midland, Texas. They were married a year later. Todd’s job moved them to Dallas shortly thereafter. Todd shared, “We quickly plugged into a church, which made our move to the big city much easier. We also returned to college part-time.” Connie continued, “At the age of thirty and five colleges later, I completed my B.S. in Accounting at the University of Texas at Dallas. Todd completed his M.S. in Geophysics while working at Enserch Exploration.”



Todd and Connie have lived in the same house for twelve years, which is quite a feat for them! Staying busy with school and careers, nine years passed before they began their family. Connie shared, “**John Creighton** is almost ten, and he is a fine young man who keeps everyone in line! He has already led one neighborhood child to Christ. **Catherine** is eight and is very perceptive, while **Kate Nicole** is almost five and shines bright as the sun, most days!” Todd and Connie agreed, “Our children have truly been our greatest blessings.” Connie: “Challenges, with blessing, have included several years of home schooling, Todd starting his own business in 1997, our parents’ health

issues, and living life apart from our grandparents and other family members.”

The Lord recently led the Stallings to Redeemer. “We felt at home, from the first visit!” Todd has enjoyed the Romans series on Wednesday night and has recently started serving as an usher. Connie enjoys working with the two and three-year-olds and has helped with Vacation Bible School. She and Todd concluded, “We are looking forward to continuing to plug into the body of Christ at Redeemer as the Lord leads.” We are very grateful for the Stallings and we thank God for His faithfulness in answering our prayers for more new families to visit and join our church family.

## Chili Cook-Off and Bake-Off

Mark your calendars for a tasty treat, Saturday, March 18, from 4-6 PM. Redeemer’s Men’s Ministry will sponsor our first-ever Chili Cook-Off and Bake-Off, which will be held on the church grounds and is free for everyone to enjoy. There will be plenty of chili and desserts to taste. Everyone is encouraged to come. We’ll open the cook-off to the neighborhood, so bring your friends and neighbors to sample some of the finest chili and baked goods around. Prizes will be awarded for achievements such as best of show, most interesting, hottest, etc. The competition is open to anyone in the church, both for the chili and the baked goods. If you would like to participate in cooking, please sign up in the church lobby or contact **Charlie Reibenstein**. Don’t miss this entertaining, family-friendly event at the church on Saturday, March 18.

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

## Feats of Flight

Golfers of every age and skill have a common dream—the elusive **hole-in-one**. On December 30, 2005, **D J Davis** received a late Christmas gift when he hit a four iron 195 yards into the par three fourth hole at Buffalo Creek Golf Club in Rockwall. D J’s playing partner and witness, **Jim Kratz**, said it was exciting to be with D J, and it couldn’t have happened to a nicer guy. We agree. Congratulations, D J!



On February 11, **Sheila Kratz** enjoyed a double victory when she not only completed The Texas Half (half-marathon) at White Rock Lake (a victory in itself just to run 13.1 miles), she was the winner among women in her age bracket. Congratulations, Sheila!

# Kids' Corner

Spring is a time for new trees, plants, and flowers to grow and bloom. Did you know the Bible tells us that as we grow we can know Jesus better? 2 Peter 3:18 says, "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." This spring as you see the plants growing bigger, let

it remind you to grow better. The puzzle below gives some ways that we can know Jesus better. Unscramble each of the clue words. Take the letters that appear in boxes with circles and unscramble them for the final message.

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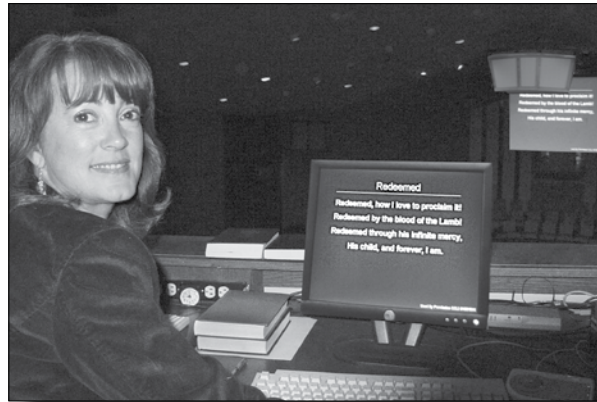
Final Message:

# Behind the Curtain

Has it ever helped you to see Pastor Geiger's sermon outline or a map on the big screen during the worship service? Has your worship in song ever been more focused because you had the words up front? **Angie Clark** is one of Redeemer's "behind the curtain" ministers who quietly help you worship the living God, week in and week out.

A bit more than a year ago, Angie's husband, **Glenn**, heard about the worship team's need for some help with PowerPoint and thought she might enjoy it. Thinking back about joining the team, Angie recalled: "I thought doing the PowerPoint slides would be a cinch. How hard could it be to type up the words to the hymns and project them? I was so wrong! I didn't realize how stressful it actually could be." Angie's stress comes from a realization that what she

does affects everyone in the sanctuary. "If I put up the wrong song or the wrong words it could mislead the entire congregation and detract from the service," she said. "The slides should communicate the words to be sung or read in such a way that the service flows smoothly and the



focus is on God." Skillfully using your abilities to point others to God ... that's *ministry!*

Angie is quick to praise the other regular members of the worship team: **Josh Bailey, Eunice Tavaglione, Don Rose, Tom Newcomer,** and her PowerPoint mentor, **John Morgan.** "It takes the whole team to make the worship service run smoothly, and I think we all work well together." We agree, Angie.

Thank you, Angie and the worship team for so faithfully and in such an excellent way turning our attention to the living God. You and your ministry are appreciated.

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