

April 2007

Linking us with the ministries of our church

## Corrie ten Boom to Visit Redeemer

On May 6 at 6:00 PM, Evelyn Hinds, actress, speaker, and founder of *Arts Touching Hearts*, will give a one-person presentation of Corrie ten Boom, heroic survivor of the Holocaust. Evelyn has performed across the nation as well as internationally. She has studied the life of Corrie ten Boom for more than 20 years and considers it her mission to keep alive the spiritual heritage of the ten Boom family.

You will be blessed and challenged by her moving portrayal of this heroine of the Christian faith. To learn more about Corrie, she suggests that you read *The Hiding Place*. **This is a mustn't-miss event!**

## Good-bye to Lauren Walter

This Sunday, April 1, we will give a fond farewell to **Lauren Walter**, our Director of Children's Ministries. There will be a reception in the fellowship hall immediately after the worship service to give you a chance to express your appreciation for her ministry to our Redeemer children.

## Easter At Redeemer

April begins a significant time in the life of our church as we celebrate our Lord's life, death, burial, and resurrection in our holy week services. This year our worship and teaching will highlight several aspects of the resurrection. Pastor Geiger will lead us in considering the evidence for the resurrection, the event itself, and effects of the resurrection in a series that will surely encourage and enrich your walk with Christ. Pastor Tony Gomillion began the series last Sunday with the necessity of the resurrection.

Our Palm Sunday worship service on April first will include our praise and loud 'hosannas' to our King and contain a sermon on the evidence for the resurrection. Jubilee, our children's choir led by Elizabeth Sarles, will guide us in uplifting songs and scripture readings. The adult

choir will help us declare our worship and love for our King Jesus.

We'll come together to consider our Lord's sacrifice on the cross during our Good Friday service, April 6, at 6:30 PM. This service will blend music, scripture, prayer and a celebration of our Lord's Table. You will be stirred to worship in this quiet and reflective service. This service has always been a highlight of the spring season. You will leave moved but not discouraged, because 'tragedy turns to triumph' on Resurrection morning.

Our Easter service on April 8 is a victorious declaration of praise to the risen Christ. Our songs and hymns, prayers, and musical anthems will celebrate our Lord's resurrection. Instruments and voices will rehearse the story and glory of this pivotal moment in human history. Bring your family and friends to this positive and inspiring service.

## Men, Are You H.I.P.?

Men, it's time for your annual biblical masculinity check-up. That's right, it's annual men's retreat time: time to find out whether you are a real man... from God's perspective. Last year we found out that *"Real men take it S.L.O.: they serve, lead, and open up."* This year we will discover that *"Real men are H.I.P."* Are you H.I.P.? You likely are — more so than you (or your family!) give you credit for being. You should plan to join other H.I.P. Redeemer men, just to make sure.



In the grace of God, we will gather at Lake Bridgeport ([www.bridgeportcamp.com](http://www.bridgeportcamp.com)) from Friday, April 27, to Sunday, April 29. The weekend will include lots of laughter, time in nature, good food, new friends, and an encouraging word or two from the Lord. Although we hope you are able to participate the



entire weekend, you do have options. Please have your questions answered and sign up for the retreat in the lobby following

worship services, beginning this Sunday.

## In a Word

### Rejoice in the Resurrection!

Don Geiger, Senior Pastor

In the days and weeks ahead we will remember and celebrate what we hold to be the defining event of human history, certainly the cornerstone of the Christian faith - the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Although we commemorate our Lord's death on our behalf every Communion Sunday and celebrate his resurrection every Sunday, we all need this annual extended season of concentrated focus to reorient and re-prioritize our lives to that which is *of first importance*, to use Paul's words.

Last Sunday **Tony's** powerful message, *The Necessity of the Resurrection*, launched our Resurrection sermon series. Next Sunday we will examine the many evidences for our Lord's resurrection. Luke called them *many infallible proofs*. Our Good Friday service, perhaps the most spiritually moving service of our year, will focus our minds and hearts on our Lord's sacrificial death, culminating in Communion on our knees before God. On Easter Sunday we will recount what Fulton Oursler called *The Greatest Story Ever Told*. The following week will find us asking, "So what? What

significant difference does the reality of our Lord's resurrection make in my daily life?"

To maximize the blessings of this most-important Christian season and experience a significant difference, I suggest the following.

1. On each day till Easter, read (and re-read) 1 Corinthians 15, sometimes all 58 verses at a time, sometimes just a few. In addition, read at least one of the Gospel accounts of our Lord's death and resurrection. (Matthew 26-28; Mark 14-16; Luke 22-24; John 13-21). If you have a *Harmony of the Gospels*, I encourage you to use it, comparing the four accounts. Choose a quiet place and give yourself some extra time to draw near to God, remembering his promise that if you will *draw near to God, he will draw near to you* (James 4:8a). It will do us all good to check that passage and read on through verse 10, applying it as needed. (Let me know if you do so, and I'll share a personal incident from *long* ago!

2. As you are able, please attend these next services, especially our Good Friday service.

As you probably have observed, many in the Redeemer family are experiencing difficult times of trials and testing. As always you have responded and continue to respond to needs and opportunities as they become known. Grant Colfax Tullar's classic poem is an encouraging reminder for us all.

*In a word, rejoice in the Resurrection!*

My life is like a weaving  
Between my God and me  
I do not choose the colors  
He worketh steadily.  
Sometimes he weaveth sorrow  
And I in foolish pride  
Forget he sees the upper  
And I the underside.  
Not till the loom is silent  
And the shuttles cease to fly  
Will God unroll the canvas  
And explain the reason why.  
The dark threads are as needful  
In the skillful Weaver's hand  
As the threads of gold and silver  
In the pattern he has planned.

## Peter Mitskevich's Visit

On Sunday, March 4, our missionary to Russia, **Peter Mitskevich**, gave a compelling overview of the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the Russian people and an encouraging glimpse of the growing ministries with which he is

involved in Russia. Peter, who preached from Hebrews 12:1-3, was a medical doctor for 10 years in Moscow. He currently pastors Golgotha Church in Moscow, and is vice president of the Union of Evangelical Churches of Russia. He mentors other pastors, has a radio show, and assists with the Russian radio broadcast of *Insight For Living*. Peter and his wife **Tatiana** have four children and are expecting their fifth soon.



## Garage Sale Fundraiser

Preparations are underway and teams are being assembled for our summer short-term mission trips to Serbia, Hungary, and Guatemala. We need your donated items of all shapes and sizes for the church-wide garage sale May 25 and 26. Proceeds will be applied to the cost of the mission trips. Bring all items to the wood storage building in the parking lot. Drop-off times include church office hours, before and during Midweek, and before or after services on Sunday morning. Youth and scouts at the Oasis will be available on Sundays and Wednesdays to help those who need assistance in unloading items. Please call the church office before bringing items during office hours. To arrange for larger items to be picked up from your home, please call **Byron Donaho** at 972.270.0354 or **Blake** at the church office.



# Getting to Know You: Andrea Burciaga

## Tommie Loveless

**Andrea**, an only child, was born in Chihuahua, Mexico. Her ancestors on her father's side were immigrants from Spain, and on her mother's side, from Italy. Andrea knew she was very blessed to be born in a Christian home. She remarked, "I grew up in both Baptist and Methodist churches and was very active until I got married! I remember during my first five years of life, we lived on a college campus, located in Saltillo, Coahuila, close to Monterrey. My father was a professor and my mother was the nurse. The other residents were all single adults, missionaries, and teachers.

"As an adult, professing my faith meant facing daily rejection, hostility, and closed doors to any opportunities. However, through this environment, the Lord strengthened my beliefs!"

Andrea told of her youthful dreams to be an airline stewardess and to travel all over the world meeting interesting people. Instead, she married and became a homemaker and a mother. "My first home as a married woman was in Wertheim, Germany, near Warzburg. But then we moved to El Paso, Texas, then to Dallas. I have two sons, **Ismael** and **Andrew**, and four grandchildren."



Andrea was one of the first students to attend Richland College when it opened several years ago. "I was so happy to earn my associate degree in business," she reported, "even though I did not go to work right away because my sons were still so young, and I felt I should wait until they were older. Presently, I am single and live in Garland. I work at Allstate Insurance Company as a claim support associate. It takes me four to five hours to commute to and from work!"

Finally, Andrea told how the Lord ministered to her during the worst time of her life. She described how her world was turned upside down, and she prayed that God would take her. She continued, "When I look back now, I realize that going through that suffering turned into a great blessing for me, because spiritual growth came out of it." She continued, "Approximately two years ago I was serving on jury duty in Dallas when I met Gail Boyne. I told her I was looking for a church and she invited me to Redeemer and the Berean Adult Bible Fellowship. Dr. Waters' teaching and the love that everyone shares in the class and at Redeemer make me feel the presence of God. The church is such a blessing in my life."

## March Highlights



March highlights included a Scout Lunch, Cub Scout train ride, Hamburger Fry, Youth Choir, and fellowship with friends.



## Welcome New Members



Richard and June Blair



Charles and Beth Brant



Joseph Escobar



Jason Pedigo

## Behind the Curtain

**Meredith Escobar** has an infectious passion to invest her life in things that matter, and she's doing it (in part) through our *Girls of Grace*, grades 7 to 12. Co-leading with **Diana Oudin**, Meredith serves the girls by consistently and creatively planning mid-week and off-campus activities, facilitating discussion groups, organizing service projects, scheduling guest speakers, and mentoring girls one-on-one during the week.

When asked how she got involved in this ministry, Meredith replied, "I remember being where these girls are and there not being anyone just ahead of me in life that I could turn to outside of my family. That was hard. So, after talking to **Blake [Barbre]** about some needs at Redeemer I decided to give myself to being these girls' big,

involved sister while I am in college."

Quick to answer the question about what keeps her



involved with the girls, Meredith said, "It is so rewarding to help them discover their place in God's big world. I want to help them see the world through compassionate eyes. I want to help them ask and answer tough questions about how they see themselves and about what's really important in life. I love it when the walls come down and the girls are just... *real!*"

Meredith, thank you for investing in our girls and their future. Thank you for investing in Redeemer and its future. Thank you for so humbly and energetically modeling for us what it means to invest your life in things that truly matter... to the glory of God. You are an inspiration.

Meeting Location:  
721 Easton Road  
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