

April 2009

Linking us with the ministries of our church

## Pastoral Search Update

Members of the Search Committee continue to work hard and meet weekly to evaluate candidates for senior pastor. The committee has looked at a number of resumes and evaluated some potential candidates, but has not yet recommended anyone to the Elder Board.

As a reminder, here is the process that Redeemer is following to find our next senior pastor:

- The Search Committee will recommend a candidate to the Elder Board for consideration.
- The Elder Board will interview and evaluate the candidate.
- If the board agrees with the Search Committee's recommendation, it will then recommend the candidate to the congregation.
- The candidate will be introduced to the congregation, preach in at least one Sunday morning worship service, and meet with various Redeemer groups and ministries.
- The board will call a special business meeting and members of the congregation will vote whether to invite the candidate to become our next senior pastor.

The committee continues to covet your prayers during this important process.

## Holy Week at Redeemer

Jesus is alive, and so is our worship at Redeemer! This month 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. Our worship and teaching will first focus on the humility of Christ in his obedience and death, then on his exaltation and the glory of His resurrection.

### Palm Sunday, April 5

How fitting that we begin the month with our triumphant and praise-filled Palm Sunday worship service. We'll let our 'Hosannas' ring out to honor our King as we are led by our handbells, organ and choir. Our children will add smiles as they wave their palm branches and recite Scripture.

### Good Friday, April 10

Together, we'll consider our Lord's sacrifice on the cross during our Good Friday service, April 10 at 7:00 PM. Narration, hymns, songs and scripture woven together

will make a seamless flow of reverent worship, culminating in a meaningful celebration of the Lord's Table. This service is a highlight of our church year. You'll leave encouraged, looking ahead to the triumph of resurrection morning.

### Easter, April 12

Easter morning is a victorious declaration of praise to our risen Christ. Songs and hymns, prayers, Scriptures, and musical anthems will help us celebrate our Lord's resurrection. A fourteen-piece orchestra, along with our voices, will rehearse the story and glory of this miraculous event. Music includes great resurrection

hymns, a solo voice and trumpet duet from Handel's *Messiah*, a stirring hymn concerto and a rhythmic setting of the classic hymn, *Christ Arose*. **Pastor Geiger** will highlight the exaltation and glory of Jesus in his Resurrection message.



## Redeemer Celebrates Ten Years, May 31

We will celebrate ten years as a church family on Sunday, May 31. Our worship, fellowship, and celebration will focus on praising God for his provision and direction this past decade. The festivities will begin on Sunday morning with a lively worship service recounting God's faithfulness and will include great music, Scripture, and an encouraging message from God's Word. Sunday evening will be festive. We will enjoy a barbecue dinner on the grounds, fun

activities for the kids, live music outside, a joyful review of God's faithfulness, followed by dessert and fellowship. We'll rehearse ten years of God's grace through drama, a commemorative video, enjoyable music, and brief words from our pastors. You must come! You are Redeemer, and this day is for you. Tickets will be available for the dinner for only three dollars per person. More information will be available soon, so mark your calendars and plan to celebrate on May 31.

## In a Word

### Let's Not Forget His Benefits!

Don Geiger, Senior Pastor

It's Friday afternoon. *LINK* articles are written, edited, and forwarded to the layout artist and printer for their skillful work: producing an attractive, colorful, readable record of Redeemer life. Unexpected showers have postponed a much-anticipated afternoon stroll with **Alice** through our beautiful Arboretum to enjoy *Dallas Blooms*. Disappointed? Never! Doubly blessed. To us, rain is always welcome, and a rainy day is always a good day. *Dallas Blooms* will be there to enjoy on the next sunny day. I paused to thank God for both — the rain and the Arboretum, two benefits we easily overlook or forget. Psalm 103:2 came to mind: *forget not all his benefits!*

We'll never remember them all, but it helps to try. I suggest you begin, as I did, with what you hold in your hand — the *LINK*. Consider the benefits we enjoy that are reflected in the stories and pictures just on these four pages.

Page One: The lead story, Holy Week, calls to mind the greatest blessing of them all, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the countless blessings that flow to us through his life, death, and resurrection.

Not the least of those blessings is God's gift to us of our church and the ten rich years we have enjoyed together, as the second front-page story reminds us. Even the brief notice from the search committee on the sidebar reminds us that God's unique work at Redeemer will continue, and our Lord has his man to lead this very special congregation.

Reading the story of the adventures our young people experienced during spring break, as they explored the worlds of

those less fortunate and ministered to our own shut-ins, stirred gratitude for their caring spirit and provided hope for our future, which will soon be in their hands. The Geiger Island story evoked 65 years of Island memories and reminded me that for a while at least, our teens are still kids. They'll have a great time this summer.

The stories of **Ray and Judy North** and **Gregg Potter** reminded me of the rich and diverse giftedness of the delightful people God has brought to the Redeemer family. That is a frequent and gratitude-filled subject of conversation in the Geiger home. Ministries as diverse as carving crosses and giving them and a tract to hurting people, and ministering to needy teens in juvenile detention, will bear their fruit and merit Christ's *Well Done!*

I relaxed a bit just reading about our Men's Retreat in May, in mind's eye watching the sun set over Lake Bridgeport as we enjoy supper on the patio. Highlights to me include a few hours with good friends and time to make a few new ones. And always, lively Bible study discussions. As the spritely poem has it, *I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.*

But I suspect **Monique's** may be the story we most need in terms of stirring our gratitude for God's many benefits. Monique became a U. S. citizen a few weeks ago, a priceless benefit most of us have enjoyed from birth. It is so easy these days to see all the problems we face as a nation — the lawlessness, greed, just plain sin — that we may forget the blessings. Monique's perspective is so refreshing and so needed. Read her words again, see our country from her perspective, and thank God for America!

Without denying or underestimating the problems we face whether personally, nationally, or globally, let's take time each day to look for the benefits we all-too-often overlook.

In a word ... *let's not forget his benefits!*

## Youth Spring Break

"Blessed to Bless" was the theme of a three-day youth program during Spring Break in March that gave 22 of our youth a gratitude-building exposure to their blessings, and a realistic and informative glimpse into the needs of the poor, the imprisoned, and the elderly. On Monday they toured Parkland Hospital and rode a lengthy DART bus route back to Redeemer. There, they experience firsthand our church's benevolence process. The girls visited **Heidi Regier** at the Union Gospel Center of Hope, where she works to help homeless women and children. On Tuesday the group learned about the harsh reality of jail life from a veteran volunteer at Hutchinson State Jail. The group received a fascinating, hands-on tour of the Northeast Dallas Police Station. After hearing real stories and testimonies of persecuted overseas Christians imprisoned for their faith, they wrote a personal letter of encouragement to an imprisoned brother or sister in Christ. On Wednesday they journeyed through all stages of care at C.C. Young Nursing Home, met with **Stu and Dorothy Howe** to learn of practical ways to reach out to the elderly, and visited eight of our Redeemer shut-ins to cheer their day with notes and cookies. At the end they joined some friends and spent all night at a youth-oriented activity center in Carrollton.

## Geiger Island

Anticipation is growing for Geiger Island Family Camp, June 6-20, and Teen Guys Camp, June 20-28, on beautiful Dale Hollow Lake in Tennessee. Both camps offer a needed break from the busyness of city life with many opportunities for fellowship, rest, and fun — all while tent camping in the rich setting of God's glorious creation. There are a lot of activities such as skiing, wakeboarding, tubing, swimming, paddle-boating, canoeing, hiking, volleyball, badminton, campfires, skits, singing, table games, tasty meals, daily devotionals, and warm Christian fellowship.

Family Camp is directed by the ultra-organized and always-friendly "Emperor of the Island," **Byron Donaho**, who has overseen this excellent tent-camping experience for families, couples, and singles for 34 years. Anyone interested in Family Camp details may contact Byron at 972.270.0354.

Teen Guys Week is open to any boy going into 7th grade through graduating high school senior. The trip is a worthwhile experience and is a lot of fun. There are challenging outdoor games and activities, spiritual instruction and personal development. The camp's theme is, "Manstruction" as **Tony Gomillion** will be speaking on the topic of becoming a godly man, and the male counselors will strive to help the boys grow in every aspect of life. Anyone interested may contact **Blake Barbre** at the church office for trip details.

# Getting to Know You: Ray and Judy North

**Tommie Loveless**

**Ray North** was born in Manhattan, Kansas. His dad was a professional cabinet maker and his grandfather was a professional wood carver in New York City. "No doubt I have followed in my dad's and granddad's footsteps," Ray said, "as I enjoy wood carving very much and make small holding and necklace crosses. The crosses are carved from small cuts of wood, which are salvaged from larger projects." Ray gives the crosses to friends, relatives, and missionaries, who have shared them all over the United States and around the world. Ray continued, "The holding cross pattern was given to me by Tom Ansley, whose wife was dying of cancer. I promised him I would never sell them, so I give them to people who are suffering. They represent God's greatest gift, as they are freely given to all." An accomplished carver, Ray is a member of several associations and guilds, and he both participates in and judges shows throughout the States. Despite his carving acclaim, Ray says, "The best part of my day is when I am working in my wood shop, and having long conversations with God."



**Judy**, born in Pasadena, California, was the daughter of a banker, while her mom was a homemaker and dance teacher. She enjoyed an exciting high school and college career and graduated with a major in journalism and psychology from the University of Arizona. She met Ray during her junior year, while he was visiting the university as a representative of the National Offices of Alpha Kappa Lambda, his Kansas State University college fraternity. Ray fondly remembered: "My

fraternity brothers wanted me to stay for the Christmas dance, promising to get me a date with any available girl pictured in the year book! Initially I declined, but then I saw Judy while I was walking through the Student Union with the President of the fraternity. I told him I would stay if I could meet and go with her! He choked and hesitated before he agreed. But he added that *he* was planning to ask Judy to the party!" Ray laughed and continued, "We had a great time ... and the rest is history!"

Ray and Judy were married after she graduated and while Ray was in law school at SMU. Ray served as Student Chief Counsel of the SMU Legal Aid Clinic and was a member of the Honor Society and Barristers. Upon graduating he became a member

of the State Bar of Texas and the Dallas Bar Association. He has held prestigious positions on city and statewide committees. During their first years of marriage, Judy worked at Eastman Kodak and was the editor of *American Fashion Magazine* and the *Dallas Apparel Mart Buyers Guide*. She was a stay-at-home mom until their two daughters, **Risa** and **Renee**, entered school. The daughters are both married and have given the Norths five grandchildren!

Ray and Judy followed **Roy and Dottie Zuck** to Redeemer. Judy shared, "The Zucks have been our friends and mentors, and we are grateful for the tract that Dr. Zuck wrote, entitled, 'The Meaning of the Cross,' which is given with each one of Ray's crosses. We like Don's preaching and Dr. Zuck's teaching. We feel the Lord's presence every time we come to Redeemer."

## Welcome, New Members



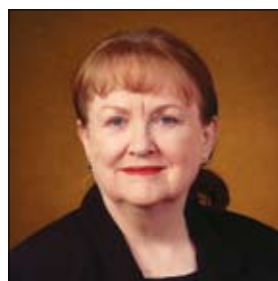
Stephanie and Michael Breznau with Hudson



Mary Lynn Gilley



Colin McCaslin



Ela MacDowell



Jonathan Taylor

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

## Annual Men's Retreat, May 15-17

Get away. Get focused. Get rest. Get laughing. Get encouraged. Get to Camp Bridgeport with Redeemer men on the third weekend in May. God will challenge you this year through the life of Joseph: a man who lived to be 110, a godly man who said to his betrayers *"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good,"* a man about whom no cross word is given in Scripture, a man who is a poignant picture of Jesus Christ. Want to be that kind of man? Want to better know others who do? Want to become a better servant-leader? Save the dates and your pennies: one night is \$55, two nights are \$85. More details will be provided in the coming weeks.

## Monique Byron, US Citizen

A native of France, **Monique** came to the United States in 1968. She and **Richard** met on a blind date and were married in 1971. Monique became a citizen of the United States on March 16, 2009. "I've always loved America. I agree with fellow Frenchman Alexis de Tocqueville, who said, 'America is great because America is good.' I believe America is still good. It is the people who make America so good. Becoming an American citizen touched my heart at a depth I did even know was there." Congratulations, Monique! And thanks for the reminder of the treasure that is ours.



## Behind the Curtain

**Gregg Potter** is another Redeemer minister who is out of our weekly spotlight, but who regularly turns the spotlight of God's love on some of the most needy members of our society. Gregg has served detainees at the Henry Wade Juvenile Justice Center alongside folks like **Gene Burrows, George and Linda Esterly, Bill Keene, and David Wisley** for the better part of two years now.

When asked why he got and stayed involved in this ministry, Gregg said, "It struck me as ironic that in our free society we are not really encouraged to talk about our faith, but inside a government detention facility we have a captive audience and are allowed to talk about Jesus. Then, to find out that the Muslims are involved there, I thought, 'I need to get down there and tell those kids the Good News!' We're just scatterin' seeds, trusting God to grow 'em. I really feel like I've been involved in something there that's productive in the



Lord's work." We agree, Gregg, and you're not alone. The first thing out of Gregg's mouth when asked about his prison ministry was: "Make sure in your article you thank any person at our church who's had anything to do with making homemade cookies for those kids. You can't imagine what a big deal those treats are. Think about it. In their daily lives they get very little from home and absolutely no sweets. They'd walk through walls to get to sugar. And we give them one just for memorizing a Bible verse. (Actually, we give them one even if they don't, but we don't tell them that up front!)"

Thank you, Gregg, cookie-makers, and the entire Henry Wade ministry crew. You're doing us and the Lord proud.

(If you'd like to help or join this team, contact David Wisley and he'll get you plugged in.)

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

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

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