

Church Work Day, Saturday, April 24

It's that time of year again: spring cleaning time! How we care for our property says a lot — especially to our fine neighbors in the White Rock Community — about the value we place on God and one another.

Under the leadership of **Jim Raikes** and our Deacon Board, things-to-do lists are being prepared by various church departments. No matter your physical ability or stamina, there will be something you can do to make a positive contribution. You will be hearing more details in the coming weeks, but plan on showing up at 8:00 a.m. or so, eating a hamburger lunch, and working till early afternoon. If you are able and available, we need you! Thanks, in advance, for the help.

April Men's Breakfast Rescheduled to May 16

Several scheduling and logistical details have arisen that compel us to reschedule the April 14 men's breakfast to May 16. (The core truth is that chief chef **Jerry Piering** is rehabbing a knee right now and we didn't want to settle for less than his usual amazing breakfast feast.) Men, mark your calendars, invite a friend, and bring \$3 for each. We are in conversation with a speaker who will bless and inspire you. Pray his schedule frees up. See you there!

Missions Weekend: April 9-11

Redeemer Bible Church is committed to world missions. This year's missions emphasis will be April 9-11 and will provide numerous opportunities to be challenged and blessed. **Friday night** will be the dinners for 8/9 in homes throughout Dallas and will provide a wonderful opportunity to get to know new people and be introduced to our missionaries. There will be opportunity for discussion of world missions, followed by a time of prayer for those who represent Christ on our behalf all over the world.

Saturday night, Holocaust survivor Alexandra Goode will share her *Message of Hope*. Born in Yugoslavia to Russian parents, Alexandra was orphaned during WWII and was forced by the Germans to live in both a concentration camp and a slave labor camp. Her story is one you will not want to miss, and is one your neighbors and friends would like to hear. Invite them!

We will hold five missions-focused electives on **Sunday morning** during the ABF hour. **First:** Former Redeemer member, **Dr. Oscar Lopez**, will offer practical suggestions for overcoming cultural barriers to more effectively spread the gospel where we live. **Second:** Gary Glahn from EastWest Ministries International will

discuss the gospel and humanitarian aid work being done in Kenya. **Third:** Tom Beard of ChinaAid will give us an update on the persecuted church in China. **Fourth:** Our missionary **Cara Cozart**, serving with Wycliffe Translators, will share the challenges of translation work being done in East Africa. **Fifth:** Alexandra Goode, along with husband George, will discuss their ministry to Russian orphans. Since its founding in 1999, International Guardian Angels Outreach has placed more than 240 needy children into homes.

Sunday morning will conclude with a challenge from Dr. Oscar Lopez. Dr. Lopez has been with CAM International for more than 30 years and has a strong interest in worship in Latin America and within the Spanish context. He is an international worship consultant who has taught seminars in the United States, Canada, Latin America, and Spain. Oscar has taught at the Central American Theological Seminary as well as Dallas Theological Seminary. Before moving to Houston, Dr. Lopez and his wife, **Peggy**, lived in Dallas and were active members here at Redeemer. We are excited to have them back home for this missions weekend.

Updated Web Site

We encourage you to explore our updated Web site at www.redeembiblechurch.org. Special thanks go to **Don Geiger Jr** (project manager), **Brad Hepp** (design), the pastoral staff (content), **Daniel Ice** (technical advice), and **Glenn Clark** (photography). Together, they have produced a site that will give potential visitors a preview of the excellence in ministry and fellowship that we enjoy at Redeemer. As you explore the site, be sure to use the "Contact Us" page to let us know about any typos or other problems you find.



From the Pastor's Pen

Preparing for Easter

Doug Hornok, Senior Pastor

When John Todd, a nineteenth-century clergyman, was six years old, both his parents died. A kind-hearted aunt raised him until he left home to study for the ministry. Later, his aunt became seriously ill, and in distress she wrote Todd a letter. Would death mean the end of everything, or could she hope for something beyond? A short while later Todd sent his aunt the following letter:

"It is now thirty-five years since I, as a boy of six, was left quite alone in the world. You sent me word you would give me a home and be a kind mother to me. I have never forgotten the day I made the long journey to your house. I can still recall my disappointment when, instead of coming for me yourself, you sent your servant, Caesar, to fetch me."

"I remember my fear and anxiety as, perched high on your horse and clinging tight to Caesar, I rode to my new home. Night fell before we finished the journey, and I became lonely and afraid. 'Do you think she'll go to bed before we get there?' I asked Caesar. 'Oh no!' he said reassuringly, 'She'll stay up for you. When we get out of these here woods, you'll see her candle shinin' in the window.'"

"Presently we did ride out into the clearing, and there, sure enough, was your candle. I remember you were waiting at the door, that you put your arms close about me — a tired and bewildered little boy. You had a fire burning on the hearth, a

hot supper waiting on the stove. After supper you took me to my new room, heard me say my prayers, and then sat beside me till I fell asleep."

"Someday soon God will send for you, to take you to a new home. Don't fear the summons, the strange journey, or the messenger of death. God can be trusted to do as much for you as you were kind enough to do for me so many years ago. At the end of the road you will find love and a welcome awaiting you, and you will be safe in God's care."

As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ at Redeemer, I trust and pray that you've come to realize that death has been defeated and that you need not fear its summons. Additionally, Easter is when we celebrate the cornerstone of our faith. If Jesus had not been raised from the dead, our faith would be meaningless and we are to be pitied more than all men (1 Cor 15:19).

To prepare for Easter let me suggest a few practical items. First, read again the events surrounding the final week of our Lord's life as given in the gospels. Second, learn a hymn or song by heart and sing it to the Lord as part of your daily worship. Some ideas for hymns are *What Can Wash Away my Sin?*, *My Hope is in the Lord*, or *Jesus Paid it All*. A newer song that is just wonderful is *In Christ Alone*. Finally, pray during the time leading up to Easter that God will reveal to you more of your sin. We each have plenty of sin inside for God to show us. As He shows you your sin, praise God for your wonderful and perfect Savior, Jesus.

I trust God to grant you a blessed Easter and to move this year in the hearts of men and women like never before.

Redeemer Youth: Change, Change, Change

The ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus is quoted as saying, "Nothing is permanent but change." This is not only a general life truth, but certainly describes life in the Redeemer youth group these days ... and this month. Several noteworthy changes and events might interest you.

Acting Youth Pastor

As Redeemer begins its search for a permanent youth pastor to succeed **Blake Barbre**, **Josh Reed** has agreed to serve as our acting youth pastor through June. Josh has a long-standing relationship with our church and its youth. He has actively served in numerous youth capacities and did his semester-long youth ministry internship with us. Josh graduated from John Brown University in May 2006 with a Bachelor of Science in Youth Ministry and brings with him a genuinely caring, consistently energetic, and servant-hearted spirit. We are grateful to have Josh with us during this transitional time.



Josh Reed has been wrangling RBC youth for several years

"Reflex"

This is the second month Redeemer will participate in a high-energy event called Reflex. Bringing to mind the focusing lens of a camera, these last-Sunday-night-of-each-month events are aimed at helping East Dallas youth focus on God with friends. Partnering with other local churches such as Scofield, North Highlands, Lake Ridge, and Household of Faith, Redeemer hopes to connect area Christian youth with one another and the Lord in an up-beat and life-changing way. Reflex events are youth-oriented, both in music style and message content, and aim to challenge youth to live their faith boldly. Last month, quadriplegic speaker and Dallas Seminary student Chris Skinner spoke to more than 50 youth about being grateful and making wise choices that honor God. This past weekend, Wes Peterson spoke about living life with a missional mindset: being intentional about living life to make the gospel known. These events not only remind our youth how significant their lives are to us and God, but also demonstrate to their friends how large

REFLEX
East Dallas youth ...
gathering to focus with friends

Getting to Know You: Barb Christmas and Martie Syms

Tommie Loveless

“The Secret is Out” ... with pictures to prove it! Yes, **Barbara Christmas** and **Martie Syms** are TWINS! In fact, Barb insists that she is the “evil twin.” To know the twins is to love them. Everyone quickly testifies to the sisters’ loving and faithful personalities — always being true to their friends and eager to serve God, for His glory.

On December 21, just four days before Christmas, Barb and Martie were born in Phoenix, Arizona. Barb shared: “The Phoenix paper put its own slant to it and ran the front page headline: *Christmas Twins are Born Christmas Day!*” Martie continued: “Folks, from all over town drove out to see us, and our brother [pictured here], only a year-and-a-half older and barely talking, would proudly say, ‘...and I am the boy!’” The twins numbered two and three of four children, and at the age of six moved to Dallas with their family. They both remarked how wonderful it was to grow up during a time when you could play outside, leave the doors unlocked, and still feel safe! Shortly after moving to Dallas their family joined the Gaston Avenue Baptist Church, and they counted it a blessing to grow up in a Bible-teaching church where they felt loved and supported by the members.

Barb describes Martie as her hero, saying: “When Martie went away to Howard Payne College, I missed her so much! She was not only intelligent, but she made friends as easily as she made A’s.” In 1958, Martie married and moved with her husband to Kentucky, where he attended seminary. “However,” Martie sadly shared, “In 1965 we moved to Michigan, where my husband joined the Air Force instead of the ministry. Shortly thereafter, he left me to marry another woman. I was devastated. My spirit was broken, and I was mad at God! So, I focused on earning my master’s degree and teaching, until I returned to Dallas in 1978.” Martie also had a

successful accounting career and worked for CAM International until she retired in 2003. “Most importantly,” Martie continued, “In 1982 I became a member of Reinhardt Bible Church, where God restored my love for Him and started my incredible journey of healing and forgiveness. Thankfully, God did not give up on me and continued to lead me to Redeemer.”

Barb has enjoyed a long — and equally successful and passionate — career in nursing. Her impressive resumé includes working in the communicable disease unit during the Polio crisis, as well as serving as the Head of Nursing at Texas Children’s Hospital in Houston, where she also supervised the leukemia and infant post-cardiac surgery units. Barb returned to Dallas after her father was diagnosed with a brain

tumor. While helping her parents, she continued her career by working with burn victims and eventually supervised five internal medicine units. Barb explained, “After ten years, I worked with Mental Health & Mental Retardation in the West Dallas projects. Ten years later I was employed by Green Oaks Hospital, where I worked for twenty-two years before retiring, and where I have returned to continue working part-time.” In 2005 Martie invited Barb to visit Redeemer. Barb exclaimed: “I loved this church and the dear saints who worship and serve here. As soon as I could, I interviewed with Elders **Jerry Loveless** and **Dave Higgins** for membership. Thanks to those gentlemen, and to everyone who has welcomed us with loving hearts.”

God has indeed blessed our church with Martie and Barb, who are serving on the finance committee and in the areas of hospitality, respectively.



Pictures from the 2010 Eggstravaganza



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

Welcome, New Members!



James and LeEtta Detrich



Margaret Hannon



Shannon Lauer

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Redeemer Youth: *Change, Change, Change*

and unified the Body of Christ truly is. Please pray on the last Sunday night of each month that the Holy Spirit would move during these events. And, if you'd like to provide finger foods for these gatherings, contact Josh Reed in the church office.

Spring ... Break

Just last weekend, March 26-28, a good number of our youth participated in a three-day adventure with two basic themes: spring and break. They were challenged to "spring" into action in terms of owning their own faith, especially by

being "broken" before God. Through Bible-focused devotionals, volunteer service projects, memorable discussions, and some just-plain fun, the youth were encouraged to put their own faith into action. After 48 hours of focused activity, culminating with Sunday night's Reflex event, the youth returned to their homes — tired, but invigorated.

God has brought change not only to our church family, but also to the hearts, minds, and lives of our amazing youth. Thank you for your ongoing support of our youth and their dedicated leaders. They are our future!

Meeting Location:
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BIBLE CHURCH
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