

May 2006

Linking us with the ministries of our church

Summer Dates

June 2-16 Geiger Island Family Camp

Spend a week or two relaxing with your family in picturesque Tennessee.

June 5-9 Pre-Teen Camp

3rd-6th graders are invited to a nearby overnight camp for a week of outdoor adventure and joyful worship.

June 17-25 Geiger Island Guys Camp

In the water and the Word, guys grades 6-12 will enjoy new challenges.

July 24-28 Vacation Bible School

Kids 4-12 years old will have a blast with non-stop activities each morning at Camp Turned Around, where kids can find The Way.

The Da Vinci Code Opportunity

Intimidated or invigorated? How do you feel about the phenomenon that is *The Da Vinci Code* — Dan Brown's book and now Ron Howard's movie? Cultural phenomena like *The Da Vinci Code*,



Mel Gibson's *Passion of the Christ*, and others do more than generate buzz. In the grace of God, these events also provide opportunities for us to dig a little deeper and ask

ourselves harder questions about why we believe what we believe; they also provide

opportunities for us to speak openly with *others* about what we believe ... and what *they* believe.

To help us strengthen our understanding of the pertinent issues swirling around *The Da Vinci Code*, Redeemer has invited *Probe Ministry's Kerby Anderson* to speak on Sunday evening, May 21 — just two days after the movie's national release. If you are able to make it, you (and any friends you bring) will be blessed. Guaranteed. In advance of this special evening service, you may want to check out Probe's Web site (www.probe.org) and get oriented to some of the pertinent issues. In the vein of 1 Peter 3:15, let's get together on May 21 and be better prepared to give reason for the hope that is in us. See you there!

Camped Out

It's just about time to pack up your pre-teen for five days and four nights of outdoor activities and joyful worship at Mt. Lebanon Camp in Cedar Hill, TX from June 5-9. The Mt. Lebanon pre-teen camp is affectionately called "Camp GAP." Each year, the camp acronym — G.A.P. — is the same, but its meaning is different. This year's theme is God's Awesome Promises based on Psalm 145:13, with studies focusing on God's guidance, the promise of salvation, prayer, and forgiveness.

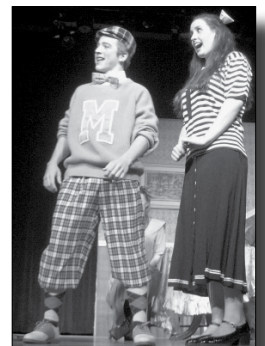
All kids who have finished grades 3 – 6 are encouraged to join us for this week of adventure and challenge. **Lauren Walter** and other Redeemer "shepherds" will accompany our kids to provide leadership alongside Mt. Lebanon's well-equipped counselors and activity leaders.

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Kudos

Hats off to **Sharon Geiger** for continued excellence in journalism on local radio station KCBI. Sharon received three awards from the Associated Press Broadcasting Competition for her features "Refuge from the Storm," "A Tribute to Pope John Paul II," and "After the Wave: A Bridge of Hope."

A number of our youth love to "ham it up" onstage. **Grant Bridgman** and **Saralynn Spears** recently acted in the play, "Cheaper By the Dozen." **Grant, Hillary Bridgman, Stephen Raikes, and Peter Tanksley** also performed in the musical, "Beauty and the Beast" in March.



In a Word

Let's stay fresh for the long haul.

Don Geiger, Senior Pastor

Chuck Swindoll tells of walking along the Gulf beach as a very young boy, hand in hand with the family's elderly handyman, and hearing him say, "The trouble with life, little Chuckie, is that it is *so* daily." Indeed it is. This *In a Word* is about staying fresh in the dailiness of life, staying fresh for the long haul. We eagerly accept the challenge of a new opportunity — taking or teaching a class, working with the youth at church, tutoring in an elementary school, tackling a family or work project, setting our sights on becoming an Eagle Scout or _____ (You fill in the blank). We set our goals and dive in with enthusiasm, energy, and zest. Then life gets daily — so daily. Things don't go as planned, the kids we are teaching didn't learn their verses, colleagues let us down, those goals that seemed so challenging turn out to be overwhelming. We work long and hard, get home tired, but nothing good seems to happen and what's more, we don't feel appreciated. The joy of the Lord gives way to fatigue and futility. The challenge is gone. Or it may just be that the routines of our lives are so demanding and relentless that the goal becomes — just make it through another day.

The current word for all that is *burnout*. Burnout occurs when we work too hard, under too much stress, for too long a period. Symptoms may include chronic fatigue, negativism, irritability, sense of being besieged, discouragement, even depression. It can happen to anyone, and especially to those who give of themselves to others. Even our Lord, when the woman who touched his robe was healed, remarked, *virtue has gone out of me*. Jesus worked long, exhausting days, but he often took time to take a break, either for a few hours or a few days.

The good news is that we can handle the dailiness of life, with all its stress and setbacks, disappointments, and unwelcome surprises, and still stay fresh for the long haul, still experience the joy of the lord. Although this is far too important a subject to address adequately in this space, here are four strategies to keep us fresh for the long haul.

1. Monitor yourself. Those symptoms listed above are like the warning lights on your car's dashboard. Just as you fill your tank before the gas gauge bumps E, add oil when that light glows, even so when the burnout lights begin to flicker, it's time to pull in for a check-up and make some changes.

2. Check the physical. Am I getting enough rest? How about exercise? Am I eating right? A few adjustments here can make a world of difference. The old saying, "I'd rather burn out than rust out" is fatally flawed. It is far better to stay fresh for the long haul. It begins by staying as physically fit as our circumstances allow.

3. Next, check the spiritual. Ironically, the very pressures of life that should call us to a closer walk with God — Scripture, prayer, worship, fellowship with other believers — too often distract us from those things we need most. We must not allow the urgent tasks of life to distract us from the important ones. Take time daily with the Lord in prayer and Scripture, and time weekly for worship and fellowship with others.

4. Take a break. A relaxed vacation can do wonders in restoring the joy of the Lord and zest for life. Even taking a break for a day, or an hour, can make a big difference. Playing on our Lord's words to his disciples, *come ye apart with me*, someone quipped, "If you don't come apart, you'll come apart!" So God in his wisdom gave us one day in seven to do just that — worship, relax, refresh. Let's not neglect this gracious provision.

Feeling stressed? Experiencing symptoms of burnout? Take a moment to reflect, then act on these four simple strategies.

In a word, let's stay fresh for the long haul!

Hospitality's Grace Notes

We are thankful for the many ways and individuals God uses to administer his grace. Two grace-vessels for whom we offer special thanks are **Starr Franklin** and **Hazel Sandlin**. Starr began making beautiful silk and live flower arrangements six



years ago while Redeemer met at the Seventh Day Adventist Church. She dipped into her vast silk flower collection to create a number of gorgeous arrangements that have enhanced our regular and holiday worship for years. Together with her husband Bob, Starr beautifully decorated our sanctuary at Easter and Christmas every year. As Starr prepares for a move away from the

Metroplex, **Fran Fletcher** will continue the decoration ministry that Starr so ably began and creatively maintained.

Like Starr, Hazel Sandlin also enthusiastically stepped up to apply her gifts of hospitality through oversight of mid-week dinners from fall 2005 through spring 2006. All who



enjoyed her delicious cooking recognized the time and effort in preparing hearty "made from scratch" meals, week-in and week-out. As she completes a year-long commitment in this practical ministry to the ever-hungry Wednesday night crowd, we are thankful for her faithful and able ministry that allowed many in our church

family to start off their Midweek activities with good meals and meaningful fellowship.

Getting to Know You: Mike and Eunice Gick

Tommie Loveless

Eunice (pronounced you-Niece) was born in New York, but grew up in California with her two brothers, who still live there. God brought her to Texas, where she graduated from Baylor University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Nursing is a natural fit for Eunice, as she dearly loves helping those in need. Her caring spirit is evident to anyone who knows her or visits the Gick home, where many pictures of family and friends are proudly displayed and kept. Eunice is presently a parish nurse at Ross Avenue Baptist Church and for the past fifteen years has worked with Creative Memories.

Mike was born in Long Beach, California, and grew up with five sisters on a farm in Indiana. He graduated from St. Meinrad College in Indiana, where he earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy and began studies toward becoming a Catholic priest. Later, Mike earned a master's degree in mathematics from University of Texas at Dallas. Mike shared: "I was studying to be a priest, but I went into the Navy instead! That must have been the Lord's will, as I became a Christian in the Navy through the ministry of the Navigators." Following the Navy, Mike worked as a civilian with the United States



Submarine Service, Texas Instruments, and Cadence Design Systems and also attended Dallas Theological Seminary.

God brought Mike and Eunice together through the Scofield Memorial Church college/career group and has blessed them with thirty years of marriage. They have three children and a cat, "Scooter." Updating us on their kids, Eunice reported: "**Ruth**, our oldest daughter, is married and lives with her husband, **Woody**, in Florida, where she teaches art and he is a youth pastor. **Renee** is a graphic designer in Dallas; and **Tim**, after graduating from Texas Tech later this month, is headed for naval officer training school in the fall."

Mike and Eunice participate in individual and couple ministries at Redeemer. Individually, Mike is an usher and Eunice a vocalist. Together, the Gicks continue to enjoy the camping and small group ministries they have participated in for more than twenty-five years. The care group they now lead is currently studying Dr. Ryrie's book, *Basic Theology*. The Redeemer family is richer and more caring because the Gicks are a part of us. **We are glad you are here!**

Men's Retreat and Breakfast

Men's Retreat to Bridgeport

On April 21, twenty-four Redeemer men escaped the metroplex for a weekend beside the lake in Bridgeport, Texas. Bridgeport Camp's newly-renovated campus provided a great location for two relaxing days of cards, dominoes, fishing, baseball and relationship building. **Pastor Geiger, Tony** and **Josh** discussed "Three Things Real Men Do": serving, leading and opening up. Pastor Geiger remarked that "it was a good and substantive retreat" and attributed a great deal of the retreat's success to its primary planners: **Charlie Reibenstein, Jerry Piering** and **Mike Norten**. Real men were indeed blessed at Bridgeport!

Men's Breakfast Saturday, May 14, 8:00 AM

Redeemer men will gather Saturday morning, May 14, at 8:00 for a tasty serving of eggs and encouragement in the fellowship hall. Our missionary to India, **Joy George**, will be in town and will share a bit of what God is doing through their dynamic, multi-faceted ministry in India. Come to the breakfast, *especially* if you are new to Redeemer. Men, teens and up, are invited and encouraged to attend. We're confident that God has something for our men on May 14, so invite a friend and come!

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

Troop 48 Celebrates Growth

This spring has been a busy and productive time for Troop 48. Our energetic and earnest scouts were recognized March 8 during their biannual Court of Honor. The troop earned 51 merit badges, 16 rank advancements, and 4 special awards.

At a special Eagle Court of Honor on April 5, **Peter Barton** and **Jason Pedigo** were recognized as having achieved the Scout's highest honor. As several other boys near the completion of their Eagle requirements, adult scout leaders are challenging them to consider the responsibility of leadership and service that being an Eagle Scout demands.



On April 23, "Scout Sunday," the troop assisted with the invocation, ushering, prayer, and recitation of several verses from the 100 Verse Club during the worship service. A well-attended and delicious spaghetti lunch fundraiser, overseen by **Debbie Raikes**, provided the church family a great opportunity to get to know the boys and their leaders.

Summer scout plans include: weekly midweek meetings, a week-long trip to Oklahoma for scout camp in July, and preparation for another Philmont backpacking trip in 2007. While the boys continue working together and serving others, it's easy to recognize the fun and camaraderie they share in this worthwhile outreach ministry.

April 9 Baptism



On April 9, we celebrated the baptism of **Edith Hodson** and **Brian Coppinger**

Camped Out

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Speaking of activities ... each morning at Camp GAP begins with breakfast, Bible study and a worship rally, followed by any number of exhilarating endeavors. Every child will have the opportunity to fly down the zip tower, zip up the climbing wall, learn team-building skills on the challenge course, slip down the slides at the two pools, sweat on the sports fields, hula at Beach Night, blast BB guns and fire arrows. After evening worship, things wind down and the campers reflect on their day through a cabin devotional.

This unforgettable, life-changing week will begin at Redeemer on Monday morning June 5. From the church, we will caravan out to Mt. Lebanon Camp, nestled in the trees and hills of Cedar Hill, TX, only 20 minutes southwest of downtown. After four packed days, we'll wrap up the fifth morning and caravan back to Redeemer. Our God-touched kids will arrive early Friday afternoon with dirty laundry, a commemorative T-shirt, stories of unexpected accomplishment, and all the while saying, "Next year at camp . . ."

Behind the Curtain

1 Corinthians 12 speaks of the differing gifts God has given the Church, and if you read closely you just might discover a green thumb in verse 15. Then, if you root around looking for green thumbs at Redeemer, you'll find four of them in the husband-and-wife team of **Stacy and Bonnie Reese**.

At some point in the last few years as you approached the main building your eye was likely drawn to a splash of pink, or your nose enticed by some unexpected sweetness. In that moment, God touched you through the Reeses. Before the ink was dry on our purchase of 721 Easton, Bonnie and Stacy were wearing the knees out of their blue jeans, pulling weeds from the existing and overgrown flower beds. They helped us gratefully make the most of what we had at the time... all the while dreaming of what might someday be. And, after



untold hours of Bonnie's design work, trips to the nursery in Stacy's truck, and buckets of volunteer sweat, our gracious God established most of those "someday plans." (The Reeses are still dreaming!)

Isn't it refreshing to step out of the gray, bumper-to-bumper world a couple of times per week into a tiny but brilliant slice

of Eden? The deep-green annuals, the vibrant perennials ... each of them reminding us that the new heaven and new earth are not yet here but will soon come. The healthy trees, bushes and plants also remind our neighbors and passersby that something good is happening on our property, that we are a people who appreciate beauty and excellence, and that we might be folks they'd like to know someday.

Thank you, Stacy and Bonnie, for keeping the beds mulched, pulling the weeds, and watering the trees. **Thank you for your ministry.**

Meeting Location:
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P.O. Box 570545
Dallas, TX 75357-0545

BIBLE CHURCH

Redeemer