

May 2008

Linking us with the ministries of our church

Vacation Bible School

Surf's up this summer at Redeemer's VBS where kids will learn to know, speak, and live God's truth on Outrigger Island. Based on Psalm 86:11, this tropical adventure will help kids develop the stability they need to become unshakeable in a world of shifting sands. It takes lots of working hands and smiling faces to make VBS a success. We need Bible teachers, sport instructors, crafty people, snack chefs, mission guides, worship leaders, a decoration crew, and a promotional team. We also need several watchful eyes, listening ears and helpful hands. If you're interested in volunteering on Outrigger Island, call or email **Lauren Raikes** and we'll get you plugged in. Mark your calendar for July 14-18 for a summer adventure on Outrigger Island. Aloha!

Family-Friendly Summer Fun

Dallas Aquarium at Fair Park

Located at 1462 First Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75210. Admission is under \$5 a person. Hours: open daily from 9 AM to 4:30 PM. Call (214) 670-8443.

Old City Park

Dallas Heritage Village is a living history museum portraying life in North Texas from 1840-1910. It's located at 1515 South Harwood St., Dallas, TX 75215. Call for tickets and hours: (214) 428-5448.

Garland Surf and Swim

A 4-acre aquatic complex featuring Wally's Cove splashground, a half-million gallon wave pool, great food and drink, and plenty of space for your family to soak up the sun. For more information, call Surf and Swim Wave Pool at (972) 205-3993, or the Aquatic Office at (972) 205-2757.

Supporting Our Mission Projects

Garage Sale

Reaching out through our short-term mission projects is an effort we can *all* be engaged in through various means. Our garage sale May 23-24 will help fund the 12 people teaching conversational English and coaching baseball at Word of Life Camp in Hungary July 25-August 2 and the team of 16 installing stoves and concrete floors with Helps International in Guatemala August 2-10. Garage sale items small enough to be easily loaded in a car can be brought to the Oasis starting Sunday, May 18. Home pick up of any donated items can be arranged by calling **Byron Donaho** at 214.864.1662. Call **Janet Ramler** at 972.476.9959 to volunteer with the delivery, sorting, pricing, or other tasks necessary to host this fundraiser.

Three Blogs (Web logs)

For up-to-date information about our summer mission projects, go to <http://westdallas08.redeembiblechurch.org> for the West Dallas Community Kids Outreach June 23-27

<http://hungary08.redeembiblechurch.org>
for the Hungary Trip

<http://guatemala08.redeembiblechurch.org>
for the Guatemala trip

Each blog will provide details of the trip, with frequent updates featuring reports and pictures from team members. Visit the blogs now and bookmark them!



Prayer

We are scheduling a special week of focused prayer for our mission projects to cover 8 AM to 8 PM from May 19-26. You may sign up for 15-minute prayer time slots through the PRAYER page on any of the blogs or in the lobby after the worship service. Involving our entire church in fundraising and communicating effectively is important, and any worthwhile work for God's glory must be bathed in prayer.

Problem Solved... Beautifully

One of the beautifully decorated spaces in our church building is the sitting area on the bottom floor of the educational wing. Using funds from memorial gifts, the decorating team designed and furnished the room for comfortable elegance. But there was a major challenge: **the view out the windows was air conditioners!** Recently, **Jerry Loveless** helped solve this problem by crafting two stained glass inserts that blend nicely with the room decor and draw our attention

away from *machinery* and onto *ministry*. Stop by and take a closer look!



In a Word

Enjoy the best of Texas while it lasts

Don Geiger, Senior Pastor

In many ways spring, with its boisterous thunderstorms, blossoming flowers, and brisk mornings, is my favorite time of year. I call it *the best of Texas!* There's still an early-morning nip in the air, and mid-afternoon brings the delightful promise of summer. This spring, timely rains have filled our lakes and brought abundant fresh life and brilliant colors to the landscape. Pairs of turtle doves, cardinals, and just today, blue jays have been checking out our back yard as a potential place to nest and raise their young. We're hoping at least some of them will settle into our little mini-forest. We'll soon replace the winter pansies with bloom-all-summer begonias. I hope to repair the waterfall in time for the Romans 12 hamburger cookout on June 14. (The deadline for memorizing is Sunday, June 8, so you still have time to enrich your life by memorizing this great chapter, then enjoying the fellowship of our backyard cookout.)

To be fair to the other three seasons, each has its charm to offer and contribution to make. Each is a gift from God and makes its unique contribution to our wellbeing and joy. We'll give equal space to each in its turn. To give us the seasons, and life itself for that matter, God, in his infinite wisdom and creativity, tilted the earth on its axis to 23 degrees, set

it spinning at 1042 miles per hour (at the equator) in a 365-day, 67,000 mph orbit around the sun, which is exactly 92,955,801 million miles away, to mention only a few of the myriad exactly-right-for-us creative acts that make life on our wonderful planet both possible and delightful.

But more important than verdant countryside, delightful weather, brilliant flowers, and nesting birds, this spring season can nudge us toward renewed energy and fresh vision, reminding us of his mercies, which are fresh and new every morning, and invigorating us to grasp the many surprising opportunities he daily gives us to serve him by serving others. For instance, I learned just this week that **Beth Winterbauer**, who had been praying for our service men and women listed on the back page of the weekly bulletin, decided to call their families in order to learn how to pray more specifically. In doing so, Beth ministered significantly to the families as well. Thanks, Beth, for yet another reminder to *follow your good impulse!*

Springtime brings fresh opportunities to us as a church family as well. Plans and training are well underway for our summer missions trips to Hungary and Guatemala. A team of teenagers will again this year help run a day camp at West Dallas Community Church. As always, our own V B S provides abundant opportunities for us all, no matter what our age, experience, energy, and talents. (See the sidebar on page one for details.)

May the new life and promise of this best-of-Texas springtime remind us of our life in Christ that is new, not just each springtime, but, like his great love and compassion, *all his blessings are new every morning!* (*Lamentations 3:22-24*).

In a word, enjoy the blessings of spring all year long!

Gideon Sunday at Redeemer

On Sunday, April 20, Redeemer welcomed the Gideons, who gave an excellent presentation and report of their ministry both in America and around the world in 180 countries. Gideons International is a volunteer organization that distributes millions of Bibles each year. At the end of the worship service, our Redeemer Gideons received an offering totaling \$1,976, enough money to place 1,464 testaments into the hands of school children or to place 395 Bibles in hotel rooms! Praise the Lord for this important work.

Our Redeemer Gideons and two representatives



God Loves Refugees

When **Kristen Raikes** graduated from college (John Brown) and moved back to Dallas, her heart for international people guided her to work with refugees. A summer internship with Friends of Refugees in Atlanta had put the "bug" in her for this kind of out-

reach. Refugee Resources, Inc. directed her to several Karen refugees living in Garland. At least once a week, Kristen teaches English to a motivated group of 10 to 25 of these refugees



from Burma. Her "schoolhouse" is the small apartment of one Karen family (those of us who attended the Eggstravaganza got to meet the eight children of that family, pictured above). Kristen emphasizes that *"anyone"* can work with refugees. You don't need a college education or specialty in ESL. Refugees just need a friend, just like anyone."

Additionally, Redeemer's recent emphasis on Muslim outreach has been an encouragement to Kristen. She joins other members of a Muslim outreach team once a week in meeting with a Somali family.

Getting to Know You: Bob and Becky Sander-Cederlof

Tommie Loveless

Bob and Becky met in a singles class at Reinhardt Bible Church in 1978. Bob reported, "After only three weeks, I asked Becky to marry me. **Don Geiger** performed the ceremony in 1979 and we have been happily married for 29 years!" They have a yours-mine-ours family of five children and thirteen grandchildren. Becky fondly recalled, "All five children grew up at Reinhardt and participated in all clubs, musicals and camps. Now they are grown and are scattered around the country, with children of their own."

Bob and Becky were born in Bakersfield, California and McKinney, Texas respectively. Bob attended kindergarten through 12th grades in California, Texas, and Florida! Becky moved all over the country until she was ten years old. She explained, "My dad was in the oil business and my mom was an artist. Whenever dad had to move, we gladly went with him; otherwise, I never would have known him! Consequently, we lived in trailers and I attended twelve elementary schools, two junior highs and one high school." Becky's family settled in the Dallas/Fort Worth area in 1960. Her parents still live here.

Days before beginning college at the University of Wyoming, Bob accepted Christ as his Savior. Being a new Christian, he was greatly influenced by students associated with Navigators and Campus Crusade who encouraged him to attend retreats at Glen Eyrie in Colorado. Bob's computer career began after he joined the U.S. Air Force and moved to Minneapolis. He



joined a church which sponsored special meetings led by Dallas Theological Seminary Drs. Walvoord, Hendricks and Ryrrie. Bob decided to attend DTS and moved to Dallas in 1973.

Becky received Christ as her Savior at the age of six. She recalled, "Ricky, age eight, led me to the Lord."

Because of my family travels, I did not find a great church until I moved to Dallas and started attending Reinhardt Bible Church in 1973. Bob and I started singing in the choir at Reinhardt in 1978. Now we sing in the Redeemer choir." Becky also plays handbells and has joined The Flutes of the Spirit. She has many other talents including fashion, quilting, crocheting, and building dollhouses. She recently finished building her second dollhouse! She and Bob enjoy genealogical searches and have made several research

trips. They plan to write their own family history book someday.

Becky applied for and received a Texas Historical Marker for a cemetery in Farmersville, TX, where her great-grandparents are buried. They received the marker last spring and dedicated it in October, 2007. Becky was also invited to join the Daughters of the American Revolution after proving her lineage to Joseph Hardin, a Revolutionary War participant.

Becky requests our prayers for God's clear leading regarding another missions trip to Wales where she has gone for the past three summers. Thanks Bob and Becky for your dedicated and loving service at Redeemer.

WEB EXTRA: www.redeemerbiblechurch.org/tour

Scouts Earn Honors

Troop 4:8 and Pack 4:8 have had a flurry of worthwhile spring activities. In March, our Boy Scouts were recognized at the Court of Honor for 7 rank advancements, including **Austin Buster** and **Chad Geiger** earning the rank of Life Scout. There were 27 merit badges earned by the troop, and 14 scouts participated in the Scouting-For-Food service project. On Scout Sunday, April 13, **Jonathan Dillahunt**, **Braden Shaffer** and



Cole McCullar were honored for completing the 100 Verse Club. All three scouts and **David Paul Sansing** were also honored for completing the God & Country Award.

That morning the troop was responsible for greeting, ushering, the invocation, and reciting scripture. Following the service, the scouts raised \$1,200 while cheerfully serving a delicious spaghetti lunch. In March and April, the troop enjoyed campouts at Camp Constantine on Possum Kingdom Lake, and Camp Cherokee in Athens, Texas.

Friendly competition ensued when the Cub Scouts raced their own hand made cars at their first Pinewood Derby March 29. Top finishers were **John Barbre**, **Jonathan Hepp**, and **Roland Hooten**. The Best Design Award went to **David Robinson**. The pack also hiked, played field games, fished, had a treasure hunt, and made leather patches during a family campout at Lake Bob Sandlin State Park in April.



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

WEB EXTRA: www.redeemerbiblechurch.org/pinewood2008

Current Security Needs

Each Sunday morning a team of two volunteers “walk” the Redeemer campus to monitor foot and automobile traffic. Separate teams volunteer one hour per month during the Sunday School or Worship hour. They also use our “people” cart to pick up anyone needing assistance from parked cars to the building entrance. We need more volunteers on Sundays to help with this important area of service. If you are willing to serve the body one hour per month for parking lot security, please contact **Carolyn** in the church office or Deacon **Charlie Reibenstein**. And by the way, when you see them, please give a word of appreciation to those now serving. These include: **Neal Kelley, Mike Jones, Jim Sage, Dan Estes, Joseph Escobar, Scott Shaffer, Alan Sandlin, Terry McCullar and Jack Lininger. David Wilson, Byron Donahue and Matt Lipscomb** serve on Wednesday nights.



Ministers of the Mop

Once again, we are privileged to pull back the velvet curtains of ministry at Redeemer to catch a glimpse of those serving God... by serving us. This month: our building maintenance crew. Our current “ministers of the mop” are **Brian Larson, Joanna Martin, Jacob Quick, Jonathan Raikes, Kristen Raikes, and Stephen Raikes**. Under the direction of **Buddy Wallace** and in cooperation with **Lois Martin**, these fine young people work throughout the week to prepare our church building for worship and an ever-expanding slate of ministries. Virtually each day of the week, one or more of these servant-hearted folks can be found vacuuming, replacing hymnals,



scrubbing toilets, emptying trash, moving chairs, and so much more. Recently one of Redeemer’s faithful, **Mrs. Evelyn Morton**, voiced the sentiment many of us share: “This is absolutely the cleanest church I have ever been in!” The Bible may not say that “cleanliness is next to godliness,” but these behind-the-scenes ministers model godliness and encourage us to pursue it in a well-kept facility. They should be profoundly encouraged by our Lord’s promise in Matthew 6.4 that the Heavenly Father sees in secret and will reward in the open. Your reward is great! Thank you.

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

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

B I B L E C H U R C H

Redeemer