

June 2007

Linking us with the ministries of our church

Summer Reading Program

Loop 1728

Lasso some reading and prizes this summer with Redeemer's Loop 1728 reading program. Adults can pick books or recordings on terrific topics like parenting and prayer, Christ and culture, religions and relationships. Youth and younger can corral their top choices from both classic and current favorites. To learn more, loop down to the library in the lower educational wing on Sunday, from 8:45-10:25 and after the service. Running from June 3 to August 12, Redeemer's summer reading program welcomes you to check out the reality of its theme verse: "For in Him we live and move and have our being." Acts 17:28

VBS '07 Coming!

Next month's "Run the Race" vacation Bible school will blend various biblical, sports and fun elements to help our children learn to stand firm in their faith. VBS will run from 9:30 AM until 2:30 PM on three consecutive Wednesdays: July 11, 18 and 25. (Redeemer will provide lunch and snacks.) During VBS, children will enjoy memorable cheers, invigorating songs and active games and will explore missions, learn four Bible verses and sing a new hymn each week. In the grace of God, we will host a hamburger dinner for our VBS families and workers on July 25 at which the children will sing and share things God has taught them. Over thirty members of our Redeemer family have already volunteered to use their gifts in this VBS effort. If you would like to join them, please call **Debbie Raikes** and let her know in what areas God has led you to serve.

[register to volunteer or attend at www.redeemberiblechurch.org]

Lauren Raikes Named Director of Children's Ministries

In September we will welcome our own **Lauren Raikes** as Director of Children's Ministries. Lauren is a 2006 graduate of John Brown University with a Bachelor of Science in Children and Family Ministries. She will join the Redeemer leadership team after completing her summer leadership responsibilities at Camp War Eagle in Arkansas.



In addition to her formal training in Christian education, Lauren's broad practical experience in both church and camping ministries has equipped her with a rich background on which to draw, as she leads and

develops our children's programs.

Her enthusiasm, energy, love for the Lord and for children, leadership skills, and ability to work in a team situation will enrich us all.

Lauren: "I want to see children enjoying themselves; I want to see the Bible come alive by putting an emphasis on Bible memory and knowledge. My vision for children's ministry is, 1. To **impact** children with the message of Christ's love and sacrifice so that they will learn to trust Him as their personal Lord and Savior. 2. To help children **utilize** the Bible as a guide for their faith and lifestyle. 3. To **provide** trained Christian role models who will creatively demonstrate Christ's love and the joy of being a Christian. I want children to be able to explore, to use their imaginations and memories, to jump into God's story and find His truth for them."

Lauren, We welcome you to the Redeemer Leadership Team!

Ray Crelia Awarded DISD Outstanding Older Volunteer in Education

For the past four years **Ray Crelia** has quietly and faithfully volunteered at the Martha Turner Reilly Elementary School. Each week Ray tutors and mentors two students in basic reading and math skills. Ray and J. Lon Kimbrel also maintain and develop the school's beautiful and popular flower and butterfly garden. Reilly Principal Ada McPhaul: "Mr. Crelia is a wonderful person, hardworking, and always has a smile. We all love him and appreciate what he does for us!"

On April 24 at the World Trade Mart at a luncheon for 1500 DISD teachers, volunteers, and staff, Ray was recognized as "Outstanding Dallas Independent School District Older Volunteer in Education." He

was one of only seven individuals honored as Outstanding DISD Volunteers. Ray commented, "Volunteering at Reilly is a fun and fulfilling opportunity to help kids with their homework or to learn English.

They are sweet and eager to learn. They keep me going!"

To explore this great opportunity to tutor at Reilly or Highland Meadows Elementary next fall, please call the church office.



In a Word

What's so great about summer camp?

Don Geiger, Senior Pastor

It sometimes takes a lifetime to appreciate the impact of something as ordinary as a week or two at summer camp, or even a weekend retreat in the country. As kids we thought a week at camp was just great fun with your buddies — swimming three times a day, hiking, riflery, archery, canoeing, softball, crafts, sleeping (or not) in a tent or cabin with your friends, campfires with skits and fun songs, or just hanging out. Bible classes were usually interesting and always outdoors by the lake or in the woods. Your counselors were great, really cared about you, and seemed to practice what they preached.

Since my parents had founded the first Bible camp in the area, I spent all my youthful and early adulthood summers either helping get ready for camp, camping, or cleaning up and putting away at summer's end. As camper, then work boy, counselor, and eventually director, camp consumed my summers. I believe in summer camp, mission trips, weekend retreats, a week on Geiger Island - anything to escape for a while the confines, stresses, and luxuries of modern city life, and learn the lessons better caught than taught. What can one learn at summer camp? We learned...

- The discipline of a schedule. And what a schedule we had! I'm exhausted just remembering:

Reveille at 6:00 AM, followed by calisthenics, polar bear swim (well named!), cabin devotions, colors, breakfast, cleanup and inspection, Bible class, morning adventure (canoeing, riflery, hiking, cave exploring, etc), swimming lessons, lunch, snack

shack, rest hour!, sports, afternoon swim, loaf hour, supper, softball, colors, campfire, cabin devotions, finally, taps. No kidding, that was our typical day. Kids at Cedar Lake Camp got their money's worth!

- To endure a little hardship. A brisk hike to the top of Gullet Mountain. A frigid plunge at 6:30 AM, hard bunks, and leaky cabins. A week of the above schedule (all summer if you were a counselor).

- If it's there, do it. That's now a saying on my wall. Then, if it was there, we did it, favorite thing or not. We took the hike, learned the names of the trees and birds, and the books of the Bible. If it was there, we did it. Turned out to be a pretty important life lesson.

- We learned to simplify. We lived without electricity, indoor plumbing, and telephones. Back to the basics. If we needed that lesson then, before the days of TVs, laptops, Ipods, Blackberrys, Game Boys, and cell phones, how much more, now?

- We discovered teamwork. Boat fights, canoe races, softball games, or cabin cleanups. It didn't matter. We learned to work together to achieve common goals.

- We met God in quiet moments. Even in the too-busy schedule described above, there was time each day to catch a moment alone with God. In later years, early mornings by the lake on Geiger Island were my favorite times.

Even if camping isn't your idea of a great vacation, and a week at the Hilton Head Holiday Inn is your concept of roughing it, I hope you will this summer find a way to enjoy God's wondrous creation. After all, He made it for our re-creation. And as you're able, help make sure your kids and grandkids experience the joys and challenges of summer camp.

In a Word, there's a lot that's great about summer camp.

[see images of Cedar Lake Camp and a young Pastor Geiger at www.redeembiblechurch.org/archives]

Goodbye for Now to Oscar and Peggy Lopez

Oscar and Peggy Lopez are moving to Houston this month so Oscar can join the faculty at the Dallas Seminary Houston Extension. We're sad to see them leave Redeemer, but we can rejoice with them during this new chapter in their life and ministry. Oscar will teach pastoral ministry and evangelism courses at the extension campus located at the College of Biblical Studies in Houston. At Redeemer, both Oscar and Peggy were

involved in a variety of ministries. Both sang in the choir. Oscar taught the Barnabas ABF and Peggy was involved in the Women's Fellowship. Oscar and Peggy, you will be missed!



Perspective on Perspectives

After a year of prayer, planning, and old-fashioned hard work, Redeemer's first Perspectives class ended last month. We thought you'd be encouraged by a brief report.

Led by **Paul and Janet Ramler**, our Perspectives Task Force (**Larry Foster, Don and Sharon Geiger, Diana Oudin, Steve Paris, and Charlane Rack**) successfully organized and executed one of this area's largest Perspectives classes to date. From January 15 to May 7, 2007, 78 students from more than a dozen different churches gazed at God's heart for the world and asked themselves the question: "Father, what is my part in Your global plan?" While each participant studied topics like "The Living God is a Missionary God" and "The Task Remaining," his/her prayer partner prayed. More than 50 volunteers (most from the Redeemer family) prayed each week for an assigned student.

God blessed those prayers and fanned the missions flame in attendees' hearts. Class members plan to pursue ministries like planting churches among Muslims, translating Scripture among unreached Indonesians, teaching English to inner city children, and infusing other local churches with God's global vision. Now *that's* strategic impact!

We thank God for the lasting mark He made (and will make) through this Perspectives class, and we thank all of you whom He used in making that mark. It is indeed a joy and honor to worship and serve at a church giving itself to increasing God's glory in all the earth!

Getting to Know You: J. Lon and June Kimbrell

Tommie Loveless

J. Lon and June Kimbrell believe God planned their life together long before they met, and His timing for their relationship was (and is!) perfect. Though they did not know each other in their youth, J. Lon and June were born, raised, and educated in Rockwall, TX, during the same era. They grew up in Christian homes and came to know Jesus Christ as their Savior during their teenage years. When God caused their paths to cross in January 1968, J. Lon and June discovered their similar Rockwall background and connected immediately. The similarities did not stop there, as they were both (by that time) single parents with teenage children. Their friendship blossomed, and when they married on June 14, 1968, their two families became one—J. Lon's three sons: **Kim, Mike, and Guy**; and June's daughter: **Patti (Pedigo)**.

J. Lon and June built a house in (where else?) Rockwall in which their whole family could be comfortable, and they lived there happily for nine years. The Kimbrells are quick to thank God for their family, saying: "God blessed us with four children who never had a serious disagreement. Even now, when we get



together on special occasions, they show love and respect for each other." After their children moved away to college, J. Lon and June moved to Dallas. J. Lon retired in 1994 after twenty-two years with the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, and June no longer works as a receptionist or physician's bookkeeper.

In October 1999 they visited Redeemer for the first time and decided this would be their church home. From those earliest days, the Kimbrells have enjoyed ministering in the greeting ministry. J. Lon also assists the finance committee and delights in helping with church renovation and construction projects. Three of J. Lon and June's favorite things about Redeemer are: 1) sitting with their grandchildren, **Jason and Melissa**, during worship services, 2) participating (J. Lon) with men's breakfasts and ministries, and 3) spending time with the Seasoned Saints at monthly luncheons.

J. Lon and June count it a joy to worship and serve with the Redeemer family, and give thanks for the pastoral staff and their devotion to biblical teaching. We, your church family, count *you* a joy, J. Lon and June, and thank God for leading you to us.

Motivational Speech Contest

Abigail Higgins won first place and \$200 for her speech at the youth motivational speech competition in April. All 19 youth and scouts who participated gave it their best in delivering speeches that ranged from 1 to 5 minutes to a large enthusiastic crowd at the Oasis.



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

Redeemer Men Ready and Willing to Help

The Redeemer Men's Ministry has many willing volunteers to help our widows and seniors with projects around the house or small, specialized tasks which would otherwise be difficult to accomplish. If you fit that category or if you know someone in the church family who could use help, please call the church office and speak to **Josh**. We'll contact some capable and friendly men to assess your situation and provide help where they are able. There are some men who can provide specialized help, but many are willing to help with small but important jobs. Thanks, Redeemer men!



Welcome New Members



Harvey Alford



Meredith Escobar



Earl and Dorothy Robison

Kádár Ordination



On May 20, we celebrated the ordination of Láci Kádár.

'07 High School Grads



Our 2007 high school graduates include: (top, left to right) **Jeremy Reed**, **Jonathan Raikes**, **Andrew Ramler**, **Michael Wade**, and **John Kelley**; (bottom left to right) **Saralynn Spears**, **Michaela Ruffino**, **Liesl Tanksley**, **Brittany Rodgers**, **Hailey Swearingen**, and **Joanna Martin**. [Grant Bridgman is not pictured.]

Seminary, College Grads



Our Dallas Seminary graduates this year are (left to right): **Láci Kádár** (ThM, Bible Exposition), **Chris Noguiera** (DMin, Pastoral Leadership), and **Clay Patrick** (ThM Educational Leadership).

College graduates (not pictured) are **Molly Jones** (University of Texas at Dallas, BS in Education), **Jonathan Oudin** (Texas A&M, BS in Biology) and **Kristen Raikes** (John Brown University, BS in Children and Family Ministry).

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