

July 2006

Linking us with the ministries of our church

## *Patriotic Service and Ice Cream Social on July 2*

Celebrate your freedom and gratitude to God on Sunday night, July 2nd at 6:00 p.m. at our annual patriotic service and ice cream social. A summer highlight, this service combines music and readings all designed to lift our spirits and appreciate our national heritage. Afterward, we'll enjoy some cool fellowship. Here's what you can expect:

- familiar patriotic music
- special readings and music from our children
- choir and instrumentalists
- adult readings
- a tribute on the harp
- a special solo from Eunice Tavaglione
- good friends and homemade ice cream

We'll see you there!

## *Volunteer Appreciation Day Sunday, August 27*

Again this year, the church staff would like to express its gratitude to all Redeemer volunteers on Sunday, August 27 from 3-6 PM at A.C. Musgrave's house in Garden Valley with an afternoon of fun and fellowship and barbeque supper. Transportation will be provided from the church for those who don't want to drive. There are plenty of activities for the young at heart, including a waterslide, swimming, riding four-wheelers and jet skis. It will also be a wonderful afternoon for sitting in the shade and talking. There is something for everyone to enjoy. We want to say thank you on the afternoon of Sunday, August 27. We'll see you there!

## VBS 2006: Camp Turned Around

"This year our church is crawling with excitement as we go to *Camp Turned Around: Where the Truth Changes Lives* for VBS 2006," says **Lauren Walter**. *Camp Turned Around* begins on July 24 and continues through July 28, meeting at Redeemer each day from 9 AM until 12 noon.

Our *Camp Turned Around* Vacation Bible School program will provide fun, memorable Bible-learning activities for kids ages four through twelve. Each day kids will sing worshipful songs at Big Bear Lodge, play teamwork-building games at Jumpin' Frog Hollow, nibble snacks at S'More Fun Beach, take on a Daily Challenge to let the truth hit home, experience transforming Bible adventures, meet Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of

God's Word, and create Bible Point Crafts to celebrate learning.

*Camp Turned Around* is an exciting way for kids to learn more about the truth of the gospel. We'll be studying stories about Bible characters who had their lives turned around. Plus, kids will join our own missionaries **Jon and Barbara Baker** in

raising money for an upcoming missions conference in Mexico. Each day concludes at Big Bear Lodge — a celebration that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned. Family and

friends are encouraged to join us daily for this special time from 11:45 until noon in the sanctuary. We hope *Camp Turned Around* will leave your kids wanting to know s'more of the truth!



## West Dallas Good News Clubs

Thirty-two Redeemer teens and leaders counseled, helped, and played with children during the Good News Clubs at West Dallas Community Church June 19-30.

Singing, Bible memorization, Bible stories, missionary biographies, games, and a free dinner were all important features of this energized two-week program which had "Turned around through faith in Christ" as its theme. Whether in the gym, classroom, outside in the 90 degree heat, or in a crowded bus, our teenagers and adult leaders' main job was to befriend the 200 enthusiastic and well behaved children (pre-K through sixth grade) and to

be follow-up counselors after the children made public decisions of accepting Christ.

The children showed their love and acceptance of our youth with hugs, repeated requests for piggyback rides, bright smiles, and the constant desire to just be

around them. The love and friendship of these precious little ones made tired legs and every drop of sweat seem like nothing in light of this truly important responsibility and privilege. Many children heard the Gospel and responded with faith in Christ. Our youth and adults already look forward to serving for the third year next summer.



## In a Word

### Treasure this day.

Don Geiger, Senior Pastor

It's important to have goals, plans, dreams, and aspirations for the future — a vision of what we can become and achieve if we plan carefully and strive diligently. It is especially important for young people in their formative student years to understand just how vital to their long-term future are their present studies. It is a wise student who believes his parents and teachers when they tell him or her how important it is to do one's best, even in the subjects that may seem so irrelevant to his life. It's important for our church prayerfully to look ahead, then to plan and prepare for our future together.

But it's also important that we not allow our planning and preparation for the future to rob us of the treasures that are ours today. This *In a Word* is about savoring, treasuring, and enjoying today. *This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it (Psalm 118:24)*. All too often, after someone experiences a life-threatening, life-changing trauma do we hear or read words like, "This tragedy has changed my value system. It has taught me the importance of the little things of daily life, the value of each day." There are better ways to learn this all-important life lesson.

One way to learn is to reflect on our Lord's life and listen to his words. No one ever lived a more goal-oriented life or achieved as much as did our Lord; yet he always took time for, enjoyed, and noted the importance of the little daily things of life — cooking, sewing, planting, harvesting, birds flying,

children playing, people chatting, resting, eating, sunrises and sunsets. His words reflected his actions: *Give your attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things may come up when the time comes (Matthew 6:34, The Message)*.

A second way to learn this invaluable life lesson is to "slow down and smell the roses," as the wise old saying has it. Like Maria in *The Sound of Music*, make a list of a few of your favorite things. Let her delightful song prime your pump:

Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens,

Bright copper kettles and warm woolen mittens,

Brown paper packages tied up with strings,

These are a few of my favorite things.

Now make your own list — a hug from someone you love, an early morning cup of coffee in the back yard, reviewing the day with your spouse, a stroll in the Arboretum, weeding the flowers, relaxed moments at church with new and old friends, an evening with a good book, the challenge of today's crossword puzzle . . . Just listing the countless little blessings of life calms our nerves and restores the contentment God intends each of us to enjoy.

Living in our complex, fast-changing culture does require careful planning, hard work, and often, long hours. Too many lives are characterized by stress, much of it unavoidable. All the more reason to slow down, take a deep breath, smell a rose, and remember, today — this day — is the day the Lord has made. Give your attention to what God is doing right now. Rejoice and be glad in the little pleasures you may have overlooked.

In a word, *treasure this day*.

## Our Summer Missionaries

Several folks in our church family are still sharing Christ outside the Metroplex this summer. Please continue to pray that God would work in and through them during the remainder of their ministries. **Grant Bridgman**: in Mexico City serving children through Bible clubs and church activities; **Matthew Bridgman**: in Ukraine ministering to European youth; **Tim Gick**: in Bolivia serving alongside resident missionaries; **Lauren, Stephen and Valerie Raikes**: at Camp War Eagle in Arkansas serving teenagers through adventure camping; **Nathan Ramler**: in Indonesia serving alongside **Roger and Suzanne Doriot**; **Becky Sander-Cederlof**: in Wales sharing for various evangelistic outreaches; and **Emma and Michael Wade**: in Hungary ministering to teenagers at the Word of Life Camp.



## Keeping up with the Seasoned Saints

In the last two months Redeemer's Seasoned Saints have been very active as they ventured out for a concert in the state-of-the-art Eisemann Center, enjoyed a picnic lunch in the fellowship hall, competed in dominoes at game day and took in a classic movie complete with cold drinks and popcorn. Room 105 became our movie theater for the afternoon. It featured a big screen, stereo speaker and plenty of free and tasty treats.

For the quarterly luncheon, the Seasoned Saints enjoyed a unique picnic, with great shade and air conditioning. The picnic included good food, fellowship, and a trip down memory lane, featuring classic picnic and folk songs.

If you are over 55, you are invited to join this active Redeemer group for fellowship, fun and encouragement. Stay tuned to future announcements and activities provided for the Seasoned Saints and led by **Stu and Dorothy Howe**.





# Getting to Know You: Don and Dorothy Homerstad

**Tommie Loveless**

**Don and Dorothy Homerstad** have many common interests! They both enjoy reading, music, cooking, working out at the fitness center, walking, and lovingly spoiling their fifteen-year-old orange tabby cat! Their son **Paul** and daughter-in-law **Deborah** have four children ranging in age from twelve to twenty-one. Dorothy commented, "We have always loved summer, and having the grandchildren visit and attend Vacation Bible School, and go to Camp El Har. One of our grandsons, **James**, received Christ as his Savior when he attended VBS at Redeemer. We are thankful for these wonderful ministries for children."

Don and Dorothy met in 1955 when Don walked into Dorothy's office at the First Methodist Church, in Midland, TX, looking for a Singles Sunday School Class! They were married in 1957 and moved to Lubbock, where Paul was born. In 1967 they moved to Dallas in order to help Don's parents. Don grew up in Oak Cliff and attended W.H. Adamson High School, and Southern Methodist University. He also served in both World War II and the Korean War. He worked for the Post Office and retired from Dun and Bradstreet. Dorothy, a graduate of Texas Tech, taught in Lubbock and in Garland. She is also retired.



Don shared: "I was saved as an adult after reading a Christian tract that I received in the mail. Dorothy accepted Christ as her Savior when she was a teenager attending a Baptist church." He continued, "Although we both grew up in a Methodist church, we started visiting Bible churches in order to study Dr.

Roper's *Thru the Bible* lessons. We settled in at Scofield Memorial Church, where we were able to hear both Dr. Roper and Dr. Messenger." Don served on the Elder board and the Deacon board at Scofield, and Dorothy sang in the choir.

They both agreed that they were led to

Redeemer because of the rich, sound and challenging preaching of **Pastor Geiger**. They also enjoy **John Rack's** teaching in the Discipleship Class. Dorothy added, "We are so thankful to God for bringing us to a fellowship of love and unity, which is always encouraged by the pastors. Don concluded, "At the present time, we don't have a specific ministry at Redeemer. However, we were encouraged by a recent devotional, by David McCasland which stated, "As Christians, our value to God comes not from what we *do* for Him, but in what we *are* to Him. *Our being, more than our doing glorifies His name.*"

## Girls of Grace Retreat

Led by **Meredith Escobar** and **Diana Oudin**, seventeen Girls of Grace (grades 7-12) canoed, swam, made crafts, discussed scripture, played games, and ate gourmet food during a thoroughly enjoyable, creative, and refreshing retreat at a beautiful cabin in Lone Oak, Texas June 8-11. This retreat prepared them well for two weeks of helping with Good News Clubs at West Dallas Community Church.



## Michael Wade Makes Eagle!

In a predominantly scout-led Eagle Court of Honor June 24, 18-year-old **Michael Wade** became the fourth scout from Troop 48 to be recognized as achieving the highest rank in scouting — Eagle Scout. Michael recently served as a counselor for special-needs children with Joni & Friends, worked on the maintenance staff at Camp El Har in June and is joining his mother, **Emma Wade**, and **Stephanie Burrows** in teaching English to campers at Word of Life Camp in Hungary in July.



