

August 2006

Linking us with the ministries of our church

Highlights of Redeemer's First Seven Years

1999

First Meeting
Officially Became a Church
Moved to Garland Road
Carolyn Owens Joined Staff
Blake Barbre Joined Staff

2000

Josh Bailey Joined Staff
First *Link* Published
First Geiger Island Teen Week
Care Groups Started
Missions Ministry Started

2001

Tony Gomillion Joined Staff
Mission Trip to Guatemala
Women's Ministry Started
Men's Ministry Started

2002

Moved to Easton Road Property
Boy Scouts Started
Seasoned Saints Started
First VBS
Eunice Tavaglione Joined Staff
First Missions Conference
Billy Graham & Friends Outreach

2003

Buddy Wallace Joined Staff
First Hungary Mission Trip
Pioneer Girls Started
Girls of Grace Started
Cub Scouts Started
Midweek Started
Lauren Walter Joined Staff

2004

Tony Gomillion Ordained
Major Property Improvements

2005

First Country Gospel Sing
First West Dallas Outreach
First Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

2006

First Redeemer Art Exhibit

Congregational Meetings August 13 and 20 to Consider Land Sale

Over the past seven years of our life as a church God has faithfully guided our steps, opening doors and closing them, teaching us when to wait and when to move ahead. We have enjoyed a spirit of love and unity in all our congregational deliberations and decisions. Once again, it is decision time. This time it concerns the sale of the one-acre lot across Lake Highlands Drive from our playground that we acquired with the purchase of our present property. After careful and prayerful consideration, our church leaders have concluded that, because of the hill that hides fast oncoming traffic, it is not safe to develop for either future parking or buildings. The church

has now received a written offer in the amount of \$250,000, its appraised value, to purchase that property. The prospective buyer wants to build a few town houses on it and live there himself. The joint boards (elders and deacons) have recommended to the membership that we accept this offer. They have called an informal town hall meeting at 6:00 PM on Sunday evening, August 13, to discuss the proposal, to be followed by an official congregational business meeting at 6:00 PM on August 20 to vote on the proposal. While the discussion and the vote are limited to voting members, regular attendees are welcome to attend both meetings.

Summer Missions Sunday, August 13

Hear five of our passionate and energetic adventurers as they lead us around the world and share what God is doing in some of the most remote places. **Grant Bridgman, Kristen Raikes, Nathan Ramler, and Emma and Michael Wade** will represent all of our summer missionaries. This morning service will be a full, uplifting, missions-

themed morning featuring several from Redeemer who became short-term missionaries this summer. Our celebration and worship will include lively music and inspiring reports as well as timely scripture and heartfelt prayers. From Mexico to Hungary, from Indonesia to Fiji to here in Dallas, come see our Lord at work!

Volunteer Appreciation Day at A.C. Musgrave's House Sunday, August 27

It's a day to trade in that security vest for a life jacket. Instead of setting out chairs, sit on a jet ski. Do you work in the nursery? Are you a greeter? Do you make coffee each week? Are you involved in any regular volunteer work at Redeemer? If that's you, mark your calendars on Sunday, August 27, for this much-deserved afternoon of fun, food and fellowship at **A.C. Musgrave's** house in Garden Valley. The staff would like

to show their appreciation for your service to the Lord and to the Redeemer family by treating you to a day of relaxation and fun. Just like last year, swimming, water slides, four-wheeling, walking and talking in the shade, games for children, a zip line over the lake, and a hamburger dinner is yours to enjoy. Transportation from the church will be provided for those who want or need it. It's your day! We hope to see you there!

In a Word

Take time to get away!

Don Geiger, Senior Pastor

My brothers and I grew up in the Cumberland foothills of Tennessee, surrounded on three sides by forested mountains and on the fourth by a deep valley. We never tired of exploring those wooded hills and rugged valley. Memories include swinging from grapevines, damming little streams, and each Christmas climbing Gullet Mountain in search of the perfect tree. There is something strong, dependable, enduring, restful, and challenging about mountains. With the writer of Psalm 121, *We lift our eyes to the hills and are reminded that our help comes from the Lord, the maker of those hills, of all of heaven and earth.* We draw strength and renewal from the creator of those magnificent object lessons, the hills. By the way, in January **Paula Ibach** will lead the Women's Fellowship Bible study in exploring some of the biblical mountains as places of encounter with God. A fascinating and unique approach. Don't miss that study, or any of the others, for that matter.

So when last spring our daughters called to suggest we meet this summer in the Colorado Rockies, it took us at least 30 seconds to ponder that prospect before signing on. Our love affair with the Colorado Rockies began 35 years ago when **Orv Mitchell Jr.** first took me skiing. My initial reaction to that experience: the Geigers must camp up here this summer! And

we did. Over the years we parked our pop-up camper in many delightful Colorado camp sites — often near a sparkling stream and always with a mountain in view. This year we graduated to a delightful little cedar cabin, with seven grandchildren (and their parents) camped nearby.

Our picture-window view included the Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range, and from the porch we enjoyed the Collegiate Range and the soothing sounds of nearby Chalk Creek. Each cool morning began on the porch, hot coffee in hand, savoring the sunrise and watching a variety of birds preen themselves as they prepared for their day. Hummingbirds quickly found our feeder and ignored us as they behaved all too much like humans, fussing and fighting over who would be king (or queen) of the feeder. Why couldn't they see that there was plenty for all and that life is so much more enjoyable when we share God's abundance rather than hoard it? For that matter, why can't we?

Days included exploring a few mountain trails, reading a couple of light-hearted books, a family rafting trip down the Arkansas River, a meal or two at the venerable Casa Del Sol, our all-time favorite Mexican restaurant in nearby Buena Vista, and simply being there in the mountains.

Whether you prefer the mountains, the beach, the piney woods of east Texas, the high plains of west Texas, or simply a walk in the Aboretum, I hope you will take advantage of God's magnificent creation, allowing him to use its limitless variety to restore your soul. He did that for us. We were eager to get away, and almost as eager to return to the routine rhythms of daily life at home.

In a word . . . take time to get away!

Our Fifth VBS was Fantastic

Our annual Vacation Bible School, *Camp Turned Around* is all packed up and the campers have returned home, equipped with the truth to change lives. We had 107 children enrolled this year, 21 from unchurched homes, 19 decisions for Christ, and 10 Bibles given to those who had never owned one. Our staff of 55 volunteers served faithfully and enthusiastically. They included **Linda Anthony, Josh and Emily Bailey, Blake and Juliet Barbre, Don Card, David Chapman, Viola Cope, Amy Curtis, Kris Dain, Bob Eppler, Jessica Eppler, Dan Estes, Julia Foster, Fran Geiger, Tony and Melissa Gomillion, Susan Hepp, Ginger Higgins, Nancy Higgins, Laura Martin, JeriLynn McCormack, John and Carol Morgan, Jerry Newman, Angelique Noguiera, Diana Oudin, Clay Patrick, Julie Piering, Sarah Rehlander, Debbie Raikes, Kristen Raikes, Janet Ramler, Jan Regier, Laramie Sage, Pam Shaffer, Jennifer Smith, Connie Stallings, Kellie Tarry** and our fabulous youth:

Alicyn Anthony, Melissa Anthony, Meredith Anthony, Brittany Butler, Hannah Joy Cope, A.J. Geiger, Chad Gegier, Connor Henry, Abigail Higgins, Anneliese Higgins, Lilly Hoggat, James Homerstad, Ashley Long, Courtney Long, Joanna Martin, Grace Naylor, Cathryn Oaks, Victoria Oaks, Amy Oudin, Maddie Oswald, Autumn Potts, Jonathan Raikes, A. J. Ramler, Rebekah Scott, Braden Shaffer, Cameron Shaffer, Regan Shaffer. We are so grateful for these adults and teens who taught and modeled the truth to our children.

Singers and Ringers

When our midweek activities resume this fall, our adult choir and handbell ensemble will be in full swing, ring and sing. Joining the choir or ringing the bells is an excellent way to get involved in the life of our church. One of these groups might be just right for you. Both groups meet each Wednesday evening to rehearse. Our first evening of rehearsals will be Wednesday, August 23. The bells begin at 6:00 and practice hymn arrangements and other seasonal selections for our worship service. Choir rehearsal begins at 7:00. It's fellowship, singing, and praying. You will be encouraged and uplifted the entire ninety minutes. Come to one of these rehearsals if you are interested in being a part of the music ministry. We need singers and ringers for the fall. Help us make music to praise and glorify our Lord.



Getting to Know You: Daniel and Stephanie Ice

Tommie Loveless

On July 31 **Daniel and Stephanie** celebrated their second wedding anniversary! Daniel commented, "We have been happily married for almost two years, and we have enjoyed many things together, especially cooking and shopping for grocery products that we need for our unusual dishes!" Stephanie explained, "We make our own pasta, yogurt, sausage, cheese, ice-cream, and we roast our own coffee! We try to practice cooking styles from around the world." Needless to say, they visit ethnic grocery markets very often. They added: "We enjoy balcony gardening and drawing blueprints for our future *cob house*, and you can ask us what that is!" However, they don't spend all of their time in the kitchen, as they love the outdoors and enjoy hiking, camping, and kayaking.

Daniel grew up with his two younger brothers in and around Austin, Texas, and Fredricksburg, Virginia. His father was a pastor, and Daniel came to know the Lord very early. Daniel shared, "I was greatly influenced by my parents. They taught me the importance of following the teachings of the Bible." He continued, "Stephanie grew up in a devout Mormon household, but left that church when she was eighteen

as a result of taking a high school philosophy course." Stephanie shared, "I came to know the Lord as my Savior six years ago when I met Daniel. My mother-in-law has been a wonderful mentor and influence to me."



Daniel graduated from Cedarville University, a Christian college in Ohio. He majored in Computer Science and minored in Biblical Studies. Stephanie recently graduated from Criswell College in Dallas, with a major in Biblical Studies. Daniel is working for Heritage Galleries, a fine art and coin auction house, while Stephanie is starting her own math tutoring business. She also volunteers for the Dallas Pregnancy Resource Center. Daniel added: "We are currently learning and practicing Dave Ramsey's Total Money Makeover, and as a result, budgets and financial plan-

ning have become topics of interest."

It is a blessing to have young couples in our Redeemer family. **Tony Gomillion** added, "Daniel and Stephanie have been ministering in the Sunday morning youth Bible study. Daniel's teaching is great and very well received. Thanks to both of you for your dedication and example."

Welcoming Outreach

Our welcome bag ministry is officially underway, and God is already blessing it. A recent welcome bag recipient passed along a note, which included the following remarks: "*Many thanks to all the folks who worked on the Welcome Bag.*



We enjoyed everything we found in it. It sure gave us a good warm fuzzy feeling." Our prayer is that God will continue to use this prompt, personal, and warm touch to remind visitors of Christ's love. If reaching out to visitors in this meaningful way is something that interests you, contact **John Sparks** or a church staff member and begin to investigate where you might fit.

Sunday School Promotion Sunday, August 6

Our Redeemer children are moving up a grade on August 6, promotion Sunday. Each year our children make more friends

as they change classes. Teachers are refreshed by the challenge of new learners as well. Again this year all boys and girls will be dropped off at their old room and picked up in their new room. Be encouraged during this season of change to start anew with Sunday school if you haven't attended consistently in the past. Regular participation is a great way to forge friendships and grow in Christ together!

Mr. James Walvoord Honored with Leadership Award

James Walvoord, son of the late **Dr. John F. Walvoord** and our own **Mrs. Geraldine Walvoord**, resides at the Marbridge

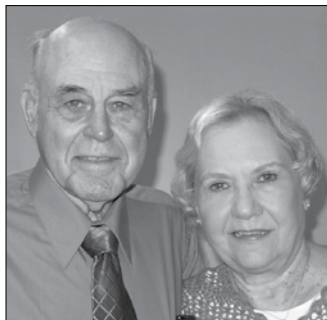


Ranch in Manchaca, Texas, near Austin. He is involved in many activities, including choir and drama, and is an effective leader of the residents there. He was recently given the first ever **Gold Medal Leadership Award**, inscribed as follows: "You were chosen the best all-around student among all Ranch residents. We applaud your efforts. You are an outstanding role model." Congratulations, James!

Welcome New Members!



David Wilson



Johnnie and Martha Denison



Charles and Fran Anderson



Tim and Debbie Long, Courtney, Ashley, and Stephen

Behind the Curtain

Diana Oudin is another of Redeemer's faithful gospel ministers who passionately serves God out of the limelight. God is using Diana to shape both our present and our future, as her primary areas of ministry are youth and evangelism.

Diana confesses that she initially got involved with youth because she wanted to know more about what her kids were experiencing and who their friends were. Then, as God's plan unfolded, she found herself really enjoying teenagers and growing with them in Christ. During the fall and spring, she serves the *Girls of Grace* (grades 7-12) on Wednesday evenings and the youth (alongside husband, **Bob**) on Sunday mornings and during activities. Diana has a passion for helping the youth share the gospel through their lives, so she especially enjoys watching them serve one another week-to-week, the underprivileged at the Union Gospel Mission, campers at Pine Cove, and

inner-city children in West Dallas. Diana also has a passion for personally sharing the gospel and enjoyed ministering alongside Bible teacher **Melissa Gomillion** and others to share the life-changing good news about Jesus Christ with children during our recent Vacation Bible School.

In reflecting on *why* she does *what* she does at Redeemer, Diana quoted Philemon 6 which says, "*I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing that we have in Christ.*" She added that God is not only doing things *through* her as she shares Him with others, but *in* her as well. "It is such a joy," she said, "to give your life to something that has eternal value!"

Diana, thank you for showing us what it means to live and give with an eternal perspective. And we appreciate your faithfulness in preparing the next generation in God's Church to do the same.



Meeting Location:
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BIBLE CHURCH
Redeemer