

September 2006

Linking us with the ministries of our church

## Midweek Schedule

(Wednesday Evenings at Redeemer)

5:30 - 6:30 PM	Light Supper
6:00 - 8:30 PM	Childcare, infant through age 5
6:00 - 7:00 PM	Handbell Rehearsal
6:00 - 6:45 PM	Jubilee Kids Choir (room 212)
6:15 - 7:45 PM	Girls of Grace, grades 7 - 12
6:45 - 7:45 PM	Pioneer Girls, grades K - 6
6:45 - 7:45 PM	Cub Scouts, grades K - 5
6:15 - 7:45 PM	Boy Scouts, grades 6 - 12
7:00 - 8:00 PM	Prayer Meeting (room 112)
7:00 - 8:00 PM	Adult Electives
7:00 - 8:30 PM	Adult Choir Rehearsal (choir room)
7:45 - 9:00 PM	Youth Midweek

## Midweek at Redeemer

**Midweek meal.** Our tasty, nutritious, inexpensive (\$3.00 for teens and adults; \$1.00 for children) midweek meal is served each Wednesday from 5:30 to 6:30. It not only provides opportunities for fellowship; it also enables families and individuals to participate fully in the many activities and ministries described on this page. This delightful meal is made possible by the many once-a-month volunteers who joyfully serve us. Volunteers are needed and welcome.

**Kids Midweek.** Wednesday nights are filled with exciting festivities for our kids. Our Jubilee Kids Choir can be heard singing, shouting, and ringing instruments, all to prepare for their Christmas, Easter, and outreach programs. Under godly leaders, our Pioneer Girls and Cub Scout boys create, craft, camp, and learn fun life skills.

**Youth Midweek** engages the hearts and minds of teens as they develop their passion for God and compassion for others. Bible study, prayer, worship, food, games and fellowship with friends and caring adult leaders make it extremely profitable. It's also a lot fun!

**Midweek Music.** 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 as we practice new and classic anthems for the worship service and special events.

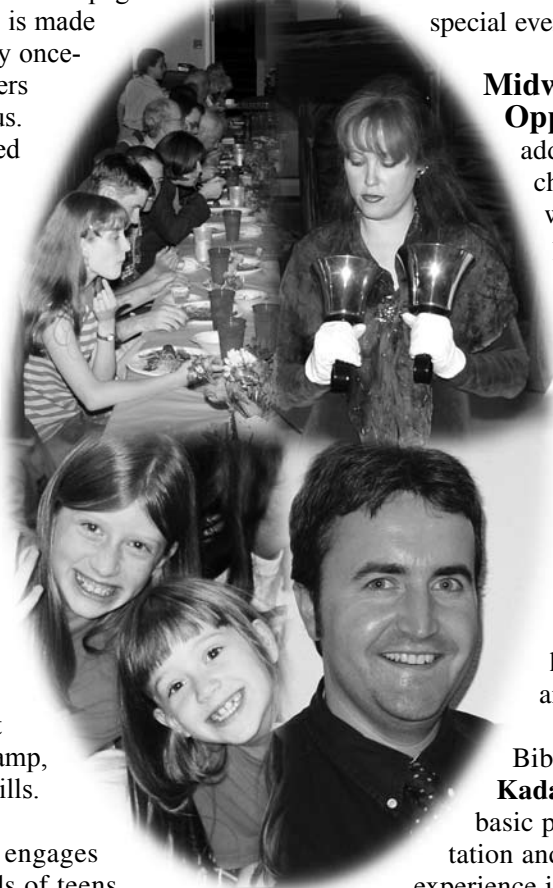
**Midweek Adult Opportunities.** In addition to handbells, choir, and leadership with our children and youth, adults have three opportunities for study and ministry. Each begins at 7:00 and ends at 8:00.

Basics of the Christian Faith, taught by **Don Geiger**, explores truth about God, the Bible, doctrine, the Christian life, the history of the church, and more. Room 120.

How to Interpret the Bible, taught by **Laci Kadar**, will explore the basic principles of interpretation and provide practical experience in applying them.

Room 113.

Prayer meeting, led by elders, begins with interactive, fellowship-oriented Bible study, followed by prayer for each other, our church, our community, and the world. Room 112.



## In a Word

### It's time for a fresh start!

Don Geiger, Senior Pastor

To me, September is a special month; it brings with it the hope that the steamy dog days of late summer will soon be over. Those best-of-Texas seasons — fall, winter, spring — now stretch before us. The kids and grandkids are back in school, facing new goals and challenges. And for most of us, vacation is a pleasant, if fading, memory. There's a new energy and sense of anticipation in the air. Ministries in the church are launched or reenergized (see page 1). It's time for a fresh start. In a way, it's a second New Year. Incidentally, the Jews celebrated two New Year's Days: Passover in April marked their religious new year, and the Feast of Trumpets in October their civil new year.

So the word to us for September is this: don't miss this golden opportunity to take stock, correct course if appropriate, and consider a fresh challenge. To that end, I suggest we incorporate this simple, three-step exercise into our devotions throughout the month.

1. Take stock of our lives by prayerfully asking ourselves these questions. What am I accomplishing? How am I growing?

## Fellowship Hall's New Baby

The fellowship hall gladly welcomed an upgrade in appearance and sound this past month with the addition of a vintage, four foot, eight inch Baldwin baby grand piano. This piano was a gift from **Frank and Julie Dunlap**. It was made in 1935 in Cincinnati, Ohio. For most of its life, it sat on the 31st floor of the Mercantile Bank in the sky lobby. In 1976, the Dunlaps purchased the piano, which features real ivory keys and the original art deco legs which can be attached to the body. On Sunday, August 6, **Eunice Tavaglione** gave us the proper introduction to our new instrument by playing a couple of arrangements after the worship service. The exterior of the piano was refinished about ten years ago and beautifully complements the fellowship hall décor. The piano will be a nice addition to our special functions and regular ministry.



Am I drifting? What do I need to change? Am I ready for a new challenge? Let's write out our thoughts so we won't forget them.

2. Let's correct course as needed. From time to time we all drift into unprofitable habits. The sooner we recognize them and the more decisively we deal with them, the easier it is to correct course. For instance, we need to look for and eliminate time wasters like worthless T V shows that rob us of our priceless and irreplaceable treasure — time. As the motto on my wall daily reminds me, *Be As Drastic As Necessary!*

3. Consider taking on a new challenge. More than one, perhaps. Have our devotions been hit or miss lately? Let's set a goal and implement a plan. Redeemer has a Bible reading plan, you know. This month we're reading *The Acts of the Apostles*. Been intending to get that exercise program going? Make your plan and get started. How about finding a fresh way to bless your family? Helping a young kid learn to read through our tutoring program could turn his or her life around, to say nothing of the immense satisfaction you will experience by making a significant difference in a young life (To learn more about tutoring in one of our neighborhood schools, call **Lauren Walter** at the church.). Now make your own list.

Give yourself time to reflect and pray. Record your thoughts and ideas, then prayerfully, carefully make your plan. In the words of Proverbs 16:3, *Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established*. Here's to an energized September!

In a word, it's time for a fresh start!

## Women's Fellowship 2006-2007

Women's Fellowship at Redeemer kicks off the 2006-2007 year with its famous Super Sunday Salad Supper. All ladies are warmly invited to this delightful evening on September 17 at 5:30 PM to hear **Mrs. Shirley Bryan**, a well-known speaker, to be serenaded by a men's quartet, to enjoy a women's trio and the **Higgins** singers, to be served by our own Redeemer men, and to learn what is in store for the coming year. You may even win a door prize! Just bring your favorite salad and pay \$1.00 at the door.

On Tuesday morning at 9:30 beginning September 19, Women's Fellowship begins its weekly sessions. These consist of group Bible studies led by Redeemer teachers; a Sparkler where we hear either a book review, an interview with one member of the group, a missions report, or a report from a Redeemer outreach effort; prayer time; and of course, delicious snacks. Some features of the second hour will focus on decorating ideas for the home, finances, safety issues for women, and getting to know each other better.

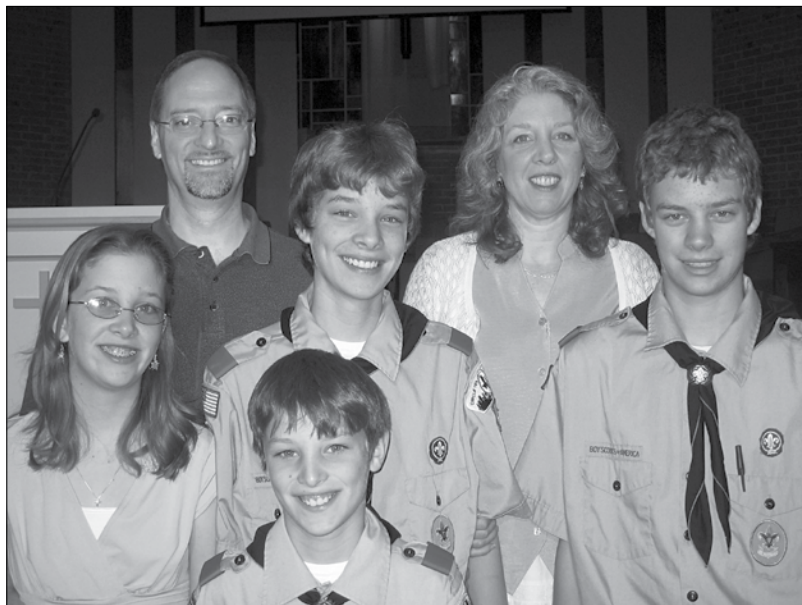
In late October, Redeemer's first cookbook, *Sharing Our Best*, will go on sale. We look forward to Merry Mugs and Muffins at Christmas, an auction of Redeemer crafters' and artists' wares in February, once-a-month Out-To-Lunch-Bunch fun, and in early May an impersonation of Corrie Ten Boom by **Evelyn Hinds**, a well known actress and speaker.

# Getting to Know You: The Shaffer Family

**Tommie Loveless**

**Scott Shaffer** made two very important decisions in 1975. At that time he was in the Navy, stationed in Hawaii. The first decision was to accept Christ as his Savior, and second, he met, fell in love with, and married **Pam!** Both actions of love and trust would dramatically shape his life, and nothing would ever be the same. After the Navy, they moved to Maryland for eighteen months, then back to Buffalo, New York, Scott's birthplace. Upon their return, he attended the University of Buffalo, earning an engineering degree. Pam had received a BA in psychology at the University of Hawaii, and her Masters in Special Education at Buffalo State College. From there they moved to Syracuse and attended the Liverpool Baptist Church, where Scott served as a deacon and Sunday school teacher. Pam added: "Scott is an avid student of God's word, and he loves to read. However, he also enjoys the outdoors. He and the children scuba dive and like to go camping."

Scott's work eventually moved them to Dallas, Texas. Scott commented, "If you ask us, we would love to tell you about that story!" He is currently the Director of Sales at the



Whitmore Group in Rockwall. The Shaffers now reside in Rowlett.

Pam taught for five years and then became a homemaker, homeschooling their four children. Pam elaborated, "**Cameron**, our 16-year-old, really likes the book of James; **Braden** is 15, and his favorite verse is Romans 1:20; **Regan** is 13, and her verse is Proverbs 3:5; while **Jared**, 11, loves Revelation 20:15." The children are very involved in scouting, Girls of Grace, and the youth group. Scott commented, "Also, they really enjoy hanging out with their friends."

Scott and Pam's favorite Bible verses are Galatians 2:20 and Philippians 4:13, respectively. They both agreed that God has been

very good to them, providing abundantly. Scott concluded: "We look back on our 25 years together, and we can see how God has woven the threads in the tapestry of our lives. We love the Lord, and we enjoy serving Him at home and with our Redeemer family." Scott is presently teaching the 24/7 Adult Bible Fellowship. It is indeed a blessing to have the Shaffers at Redeemer.

## Men's Fellowship Opportunities

On Saturday, September 30, at 8:00 AM our fall men's breakfast will feature a delicious hearty meal, great fellowship, and a briefing on ministry opportunities and upcoming activities. We will also get better acquainted with several men who have recently joined the Redeemer family.

The outdoor grill area, a major men's fellowship project, is well underway. With the demolition complete and the foundation poured, the fence and cover are scheduled for completion in September. A large stainless steel grill has been purchased and should be ready for use in October.

While not a men's fellowship activity, our Bible church golf scramble on Saturday, September 9, at Buffalo Creek in Rockwall, beckons all golfers and duffers, men and women. Deadline for registering is Sunday, September 3.

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

## Tutor to Make a Difference

"To prepare all students to graduate with the knowledge and skills to become productive and responsible citizens." If that is your desire for the children in our community, then you share something in common with the Mission Statement of Dallas Independent Schools. This year we have been invited to become partners in education at our neighboring schools — Reilly Elementary, Highland Meadows Elementary and Hill Middle School. One tutor remarked, "I hope to be a positive role model for a young child and to encourage him to try his best in all he does." Research has shown that students begin to be what they believe other people think of them. In addition to the kids, many of us could benefit from spending an hour a week befriending a child and helping him review lessons and material learned in the classroom. If you are interested in making a difference in the life of a child through tutoring, please contact **Lauren** in the church office.



## Summer Reading Travelogue

This summer Redeemer folk of all ages traveled to such places as Alaska, New Guinea, Burma and Lebanon without ever leaving home. Okay, they made one stop, the church library! Librarian, Hazel Sage, challenged all to expand their literary horizons through the Flight 122 summer reading program. The flight number was assigned because of Romans 12:2a, *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”* Many minds and books were renewed as numerous youth and several new adults jumped on board. Our most frequent flyers for each of the three divisions were **Nathan Gomillion, Sarah Gomillion** and **Courtney Long**. Every participant is eligible for the grand prize drawings to be held at the first Midweek meal on Wednesday, September 13th at 5:45 PM. We look forward to your arrival!

## Behind the Curtain

One house. Two servants. One goal. Husband and wife, **Tom and Chris Newcomer**, serve in different Redeemer ministries; but they are alike in their desire to help others worship God.

Chris has been serving the Redeemer family through our greeting ministry for more than three years now. Almost every one of us has a story about how God used a greeter’s smile to lift our spirit or a greeter’s information to solve our dilemma.

God is using our greeters. When asked why she serves in this ministry, Chris exclaimed, “I love people! By greeting, I get to meet and talk to a lot of people that I wouldn’t otherwise. It’s a lot of fun.” Chris, her team, and all those involved in the greeting ministry help us worship the living God by making us feel welcome in “His house,” by resolving unexpected problems, and by helping us get plugged-in.

Tom also helps us get plugged into worship, but he does so through Redeemer’s audio/visual ministry. You have probably noticed that the



## Stephen Ministry Training

There are hurting people all around you. Would you like to be better equipped to help some of them? If so, consider joining some folks like you from the Redeemer family who are planning to attend a Stephen Ministry workshop on Saturday, October 21, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The overarching goal of the Stephen Ministry (check them out at [www.stephenministries.org](http://www.stephenministries.org)) is to train people from all walks of life to provide “one-on-one Christian care to the bereaved, hospitalized, terminally ill, separated, divorced, unemployed, relocated, and others facing a crisis or life challenge.” You will benefit – either as the care giver or the care receiver – from the solid Christian training that the Stephen Ministry offers. If you are interested in this workshop, please contact the church office for more details.

number of worship service participants (speakers, musicians, readers, etc.) changes week to week. Have you ever thought about what goes into making sure we can see and hear all of those folks at just the right time and in just the right way? Tom quipped that “just about the only time most people think of sound people is when things go wrong.” He’s right. Tom and the rest of the A/V crew show up early to pull cables, adjust microphone

stands, and test the lights in order to keep our attention off them and on God. And, they faithfully do so, week-in and week-out. *(If you think that you might like to join this ministry, speak to **Don Rose**; the team could use your help.)*

Tom and Chris are two remarkable ministers who help us see once again how God is using behind-the-scenes folks to help others in life-changing ways. Thank you both for humbly and faithfully modeling for us God’s active, sacrificial love. He is using you to help us worship Him.

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