

October 2009

Linking us with the ministries of our church

## *Volunteer Appreciation: Saturday, October 10, 5-7 PM, Flag Pole Hill*

It's time to serve the servants! Volunteers, no matter your stage of life or interests, you will find your niche at this event. Eat a tasty meal, play on the playground with the kids, engage in a lawn or table game, visit with friends, or try to dump a pastor into the dunk tank. If you are able, please come and help us celebrate God's goodness.

## *Seasoned Saints Luncheon: Sunday, Oct. 11, Fellowship Hall*

Calling all Redeemer folks 55 and older! Seasoned Saints activities provide excellent opportunities to get and stay connected, lift your spirit, and put a smile on your face. Our next event is a quarterly luncheon on Sunday, October 11, immediately following the worship service. Come on out and enjoy a barbeque lunch and memorable entertainment. If you have not done so already, please use the registration card this Sunday to sign up.

## *Make Plans to Attend Our Annual Thanksgiving Banquet.*

Please save the date now so you can join us for our annual Thanksgiving Banquet on Friday, November 20, 6:30 PM, at the Dallas First Assembly of God (Northwest Highway between Jupiter and Lake Highlands). We'll enjoy a time of celebration and sharing, a scrumptious meal, warm fellowship, and uplifting music. Watch for more information in the coming weeks. Get a pen and mark it down!

## Doug Hornok Installed as Redeemer's New Senior Pastor

Nearing the end of our worship service on Sunday, September 29, 2009, Redeemer's new senior pastor, **Douglas S. Hornok**, read from the fly leaf of a well-worn Bible promise book his father had given him years before. In his inscription, the elder Hornok quoted 2 Timothy 2:1-2: "You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others." These verses are especially fitting and encouraging for the Redeemer family on the occasion of Pastor Hornok's installation. Redeemer's first and founding senior pastor, **Donald M. Geiger**, has been a reliable and qualified pastor of the highest order for our first ten years, and we are confident Pastor Hornok will be as well. We are a blessed people.

On this special Sunday morning, Doug and **Connie** were joined by more than

thirty of their close friends and family, including the Hornok clan matriarch, 88 year-old **Frieda**. What a service it was! **Josh Bailey**, with orchestra and choir, lifted our hearts in exalted praise of God. From 1 Peter 5, **Dr. John Reed** reflected on the high calling of both sheep and shepherds. Doug's youngest

brother, **Richard**, then challenged Doug to maintain his marriage/family focus and affirmed to us that Doug and Connie have a marriage/family worth emulating. Older brother, **Ken**, challenged Doug to be a discerning and life-long student, primarily of God's holy Word. Then, after elder chairman **Stu Howe** received Doug's sincere commitment to minister to us in the power of the Holy Spirit, the elders and pastors laid hands on the Hornoks and committed them and our church's future to the Lord.

The transition of leadership from Don to Doug has been smooth, unified, and God-honoring. As we reflect on Doug's installation as Redeemer's senior pastor, it is obvious that God has blessed our many prayers, planning meetings, and good old-fashioned hard work. As we look toward a future of ministry with the Hornoks, may each one of us be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. To Him be the glory, now and forever!



## From the Pastor's Pen

Doug Hornok, Senior Pastor

When he first arrived, the new pastor was on his best behavior. For the first few months everybody was happy.

Some members recalled their first disappointment being the day the pastor failed to show up for a committee meeting. The next day he explained that company had come unexpectedly. "I knew you could carry on without me," he said with a disarming smile.

When he first missed prayer meeting is a matter of dispute because not that many attended. Not that he ever failed to ask someone to take his place; it was just that, well, people kind of expected the pastor to be at prayer meeting. A member recalls one of his explanations: "A little job had to be done at home," he said. "I knew there wouldn't be many out for prayer anyway."

Then there was that special Sunday evening he missed. The members remember the date, because just the Sunday before, he had preached from Hebrews 10:25, emphasizing "so much the more as you see the day approaching." The theme was, "The Necessity of Christian Fellowship." "The fact is," he explained to an Elder Board member, "I wasn't preaching that service and the family was at home for once. I decided to take time out to be with them. Besides, I was tired and probably wouldn't have gotten much out of the service anyway."

Probably all this would have been overlooked, if it hadn't been for the Sunday morning he arrived ten minutes late for the worship service. He didn't give any explanation – just marched up the aisle to the platform and went on as if nothing happened. Before long he was late more often than not, and the pastor was dragging in with the latecomers.

The whole thing came to a head the morning he didn't show up for the worship service at all. Members learned that he had decided to go for a drive, since the colors were so beautiful that fall Sunday. "Not many more nice days left," he said.

Well, it was then that the Board met, talked over the problem, and decided the time had come to find a dependable pastor.

The Secretary of the Board summed up the reason for the pastor's dismissal: "It was clear that he cannot be a minister here

if he insists on acting like the rest of the members!"

It's amazing the way we set standards for others that we have trouble keeping ourselves.

I've always enjoyed the story about the two elders who liked fishing. One weekend, they felt the urge to drop their lines in a lake and spend the day fishing. So early Sunday morning, they put the boat on top of the car and took off.

After a couple of hours of fishing, one of the elders said to his friend, "This sure is a beautiful day, but I feel bad about not being in church this morning. Just think of poor Pastor Fred back there leading the service and preaching just about now!"

His friend replied, "I don't feel too bad. I couldn't have gone to church today anyway. My wife is sick!"

It's amazing the excuses pastors hear for church members not attending regularly. Most excuses make about as much sense as the elder's excuse.

Of course there are legitimate reasons for not being in church at times. According to recent statistics, 30% of evangelical church members are absent every week for circumstances like sickness, annual vacation, and business travel.

Redeemer Bible mirrors this statistic. Each week, about 30% of our congregation is not present. On certain Sundays, that figure is even higher. Such absences don't concern me. But I will always be concerned if I hear *empty* excuses.

Regular church attendance is a spiritual discipline that builds character and spiritual maturity. It's biblical. Each time you attend church, you add a bit of biblical knowledge that builds your faith. You see other precious saints within the family of God. You also set an example for your family. And let's face it: our children and grandchildren watch us more than we realize.

Church isn't a duty; it's a delight. It's a positive experience that makes you stronger in your walk with Jesus Christ. It's uplifting. It's helpful. It's important.

As we begin our ministry together, I want to challenge you to make Sunday morning worship a priority. I am praying that the next few months will be a brand new beginning. A new beginning of continued commitment and unity. A new beginning of outreach, growth and maturing for God's people. I trust you will join me toward that end.

## Redeemer Supports Operation Christmas Child

Again this year, we are partnering with Samaritan's Purse to bless needy children around the world with a meaningful Christmas gift. Some details....

**WHAT:** Use an empty shoe box (standard size, please) or a small plastic container. You can wrap the box (lid wrapped separately), but wrapping is not required.

**WHO:** Pick either a boy or girl and an age category: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. Fill out a box label (found in one of the church lobbies). Mark the correct age category on that label, and tape the label to the top of your box.

**HOW:** DO fill the box with a variety of gifts that will bring delight to a child. Include items such as small

toys, school supplies, hygiene items, small books, and candy. DON'T include used or damaged items, war-related items, chocolate, food, liquids, lotions, medicine, vitamins, breakable items, or aerosol cans. Include a \$7 donation to "Samaritan's Purse"

and write "Operation Christmas Child" on the memo line. Seal the check in an envelope, and place the envelope on top of the items inside the box. Place a rubber band around the box and lid.

**WHERE:** Bring your shoe box to our collection center inside the main church lobby. So that children can receive the gifts by Christmas, please bring your boxes by Sunday, November 15.





# Getting to Know You: The Regier Family

## Tommie Loveless

**Jan Regier** grew up in Kansas, the daughter of a Mennonite wheat farmer. **Don** descended from a Mennonite family of farmers, builders, and preachers. He was born in California, and lived in Oregon and Nebraska. Don and Jan's ancestors immigrated to America from West Prussia — on the same ship! — in 1874.

During the summer of 1959, while working on a farm in Jan's community, Don met Jan at a Mennonite youth event during a game of "Walk a Mile." Jan explained, "Boy and girl couples walked a mile, then changed partners at the girls' whim! Don likes to tell that this was where we first held hands ... fifty years ago, to be exact!" They met again in October of that year, and two years later (June 1961) they participated in a wedding together. It wasn't until Jan enrolled at Grace Bible College, however, that their relationship really deepened. Don asked her to join him at a rescue mission and help by playing the piano. But due to a miscommunication, Don went to the mission without her! Don's mom, embarrassed, asked Jan over for dinner the next day. Don remembered, "During dinner, I finally 'got it,' and fell hopelessly in love with Jan! Thank goodness for second and third chances! This year we celebrated our 45th wedding anniversary!"

Married one year, they moved to Texas for Don to study at Dallas Theological Seminary (DTS). Don shared: "Those were four of the best years of our lives! We lived and thrived in a small apartment; and while I studied, Jan practiced hairdressing. Since graduating, I have worked at the seminary in media production



for forty years and have taught media presentations for thirty-five years. Caring for people all of her life, Jan continues to dress hair for nursing home residents. She also homeschools our two ninth grade daughters, **Hannah** and **Helene**."

In 1995, Don, Jan, and **Heidi** traveled to China to adopt fourteen-month-old Hannah; and in 1997 returned to adopt three-year-old, Helene. Their other children, **Bryan, Brent, Brad,** and **Heidi**, provided the Regier home with love, laughter and music, while growing up. Jan reported, "We replaced the television with books,

music, and good old fashion washin' and dryin', and talkin'!" Their home is filled with two pianos, an organ, a keyboard, a harp, a cello, viola, several violins, two mandolins, a guitar, ukuleles, a flute and a banjo! Don commented, "There are no drums since the boys left home, but we do have two cats and a rabbit!" Heidi and Bryan are both DTS graduates. Bryan serves as an associate pastor in Iowa with his wife, **Amanda**, and has three children. Brent is in Oregon studying animation, while Brad is in New Jersey and has just completed an animation project for Sesame Street.

Don often quips, "We didn't hear about Redeemer until the third meeting in the Quonset hut, but we got here as soon as we could!" The Regiers are involved in our youth ministry and Girls of Grace. They have sung in the choir, and Don has served on the Board of Elders. Heidi often helps us worship through her voice and organ/piano playing and recently served on the Pastoral Search Committee. Thanks, Regiers, for your godly example and faithful service at Redeemer!

## Probe Begins Midweek Ministry October 7

Probe Ministries is an internationally-known and well-respected Christian organization whose writers and lecturers include Kerby Anderson and our own **Rick Wade**. Each Wednesday through December 16 Probe will stimulate, challenge, and equip participants through an engaging look at subjects like "Essentials of the Faith," "Jehovah's Witnesses," "Evil and Suffering," and "Is Jesus the Only Way?"

God tells us in 1 Peter 3:15 to "*always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have....*" Would you like to be more prepared to graciously step others through why you believe what you believe on issues like those mentioned above? This midweek series may be just what you need. Workbooks are \$12 and the class will meet in room 120 from 7:00 – 8:00 PM on Wednesday nights. Go for it!

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

## Men's Retreat, Oct. 23-25

Steven Covey's best-selling book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, stressed character over personality when pursuing success. This idea, of course, is not new to Covey. God said in Isaiah 32:8, "*The noble man makes noble plans, and by noble deeds he stands.*"

At this year's men's retreat to Lake Bridgeport, pastors **Hornok, Gomillion,** and **Bailey** will encourage us to be noble men by considering *7 Habits of Ineffective Christians*. Would you like to be more noble? Would you like to shed some ineffective habits and gain some effective ones? Would you like to take a break from the hustle and bustle of Dallas to relax and make a few new friends? If so, spending time with Redeemer men on Bridgeport's 200 scenic acres may be just what you need. Good views. Good food. Good friends. Good times!

You may sign up by using the registration cards on Sunday or by calling the church office. One night is \$55 and two nights are \$85, but don't let money keep you away. If you need financial assistance, please talk with one of the pastors. Come to Lake Bridgeport this month and leave a more noble man.

## Fall Bash at the Raikes' Ranch!



Fall is here, and five acres of land await you. Dress your children in their favorite costumes and come enjoy a festival at the Raikes' Ranch. Kids, families, and friends are all welcome! Please bring chairs (or a blanket) to sit on. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided but please bring a side dish to share. You can also choose to enjoy a hay ride, s'mores, face-painting, a zip-line, swings, archery, carnival games, lots of candy to win, or hills to roll down. In the grace of God, this fun-filled day will take place on Saturday, October 31, from 3:00 – 6:00 PM at the Raikes' (5325 Milam Rd., Mesquite 75181). See you there!

Hay Rides are always a big hit at the Raikes' Ranch

## New Middle School Ministry Launches

These days the atmosphere is electric around our fifteen sixth-eighth grade students, whose new class kicked-off in August. On Sunday mornings, these middle schoolers meet in room 211, which was recently repainted and decorated in vibrant colors to match the students' energy. Lead teachers **Benji and Rebekah Baker** are assisted by an enthusiastic and loving crew, including **Fran Geiger, Diane Keene, Jason Pedigo, and Don and Jan Regier**. The group teaching times are active and often involve friendly competition between boys and girls. After completing their first six-week study on biblical identity, the students are now taking a look at "Eight Foundations of Faith." The group's first off-campus outing was Whirlyball (which combines basketball, track ball, and bumper cars) in August.

Middle School youth enjoy their newly-decorated, bright, comfortable classroom



Meeting Location:  
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