

November 2011

Linking us with the ministries of our church

Set Your Clocks Back



Sermon Series

- Nov. 6:** Vladimir Pikman
Communion
- Nov. 13:** The Letter to Pergamum: When Believers Compromise
- Nov. 20:** The Letter to Thyatira: Jezebel — She Ain't No Lady
- Nov. 27:** The Letter to Sardis: The Church of the Living Dead

Santa's Day Out

Your kids will have fun at our **Santa's Day Out** on Saturday, December 3, and you can get some shopping done! Childcare will be provided for infants through 5th grade from 11:00AM–5:00PM. Bring a sack lunch and a jacket for your child. There is no cost but donations are welcome. **Contact Heidi to register your children.**

Carols by Candlelight

RBC's music department will again be partnering with the music ministry of Scofield Memorial Church for a Christmas Concert on Sunday evening December 11. Please set aside that evening for this wonderful Christmas concert.

Thanksgiving Banquet, November 18

Dr. Alexander Whyte, a Scottish minister at Free St. George's church in Edinburgh was famous for his pulpit prayers. He always found something to thank God for, even in bad times. One cold stormy Sunday morning with the rain pouring down, the wind gusting and thunder and lightning filling the morning sky, a member of his congregation thought to himself, "The preacher will have nothing to thank God for on a wretched morning like this." But Whyte began his prayer, "We thank Thee, O God, that it is not always like this."

With all that is going on in our world and in people's lives, some might ask what can we be thankful for? Truth be known, there is a myriad of reasons to be thankful — and among them is "that it is/will not always be like this." Someday all of life's burdens will be lifted and we will join with the redeemed in worshipping God for all eternity. But we do not have to wait till heaven to give thanks. Towards that end, for years

RBC has held a Thanksgiving Banquet on the Friday before Thanksgiving. This night has always been a wonderful night of being together as a Church family, singing praises, being ministered to with special music and hearing how God is at work in the lives of others. This year's banquet will take place November 18 at 6:00 PM at the Radisson Hotel, located at Jupiter Road and I635. This year's location is different from previous years. The new location will be less stressful on those who have worked on this banquet in years past and allow many more to enjoy the evening's celebration. The meal will be a wonderful Thanksgiving buffet. The cost for the banquet is only \$10 per person and \$5 for children under 13. We want

our entire church family to be there and do not want cost to be an issue; therefore, if finances are a problem, complimentary tickets are available. Tickets will be available for purchase or pick-up in the lobby of the church beginning Sunday, November 6. We will need the final count by Wednesday, November 16.



Merry Mugs & Muffins, December 3

On Saturday, Dec. 3 from 9:30–11 AM, the ladies of RBC will usher in the holiday season with their annual **Merry Mugs & Muffins**. We will enjoy a tasty brunch graciously donated by **Baby Brother's Bakery** (owned and operated by George Harlan, **Tracie Preston's** brother!) And, to get you in the festive spirit, actor/entertainer, Dave Tanner will perform a musical program entitled "Christmas: The

Stories Behind the Songs."

As with last year, Merry Mugs **Tables** are available for individuals/groups to decorate! Categories for judging are "most festive," "most creative," "most traditional," and "most fun." Contact **Cathy Gentle** (972-771-0690) to reserve a table to decorate.

Bring your favorite mug and a friend (or two!) for a fun-filled morning! Tickets will be available mid-November for \$2.

From the Pastor's Pen

"But if not"

Doug Hornok, Senior Pastor

In May of 1940 the British and their allies sent a force of some 350,000 men into the low countries of Europe to stem the tide of the German advance into France, Belgium and Holland. Caught in a brilliant pincer movement by the German forces, the beleaguered British Expeditionary Force was pushed back to the flat sandy beaches of the small Belgian town of Dunkirk. To everyone's surprise the Germans stopped and took time to regroup. The gentle slope of the shore made it impossible for many of the British Navy's ships to get in close enough to bring the stranded soldiers to safety. As England and the world waited for what appeared to be the certain annihilation of 350,000 men, a three-word message came from the besieged army at Dunkirk. It read, "**But if not.**"

The three-word message spoke deeply to a nation with a strong shared tradition of biblical literacy. The words were from the King James Bible's translation of Daniel 3:18. Three young Hebrew men — Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah — had refused to bow down and worship an image of gold that the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar, had set up. As Jews, they worshipped God alone and would not do as ordered by the king even though they were told that if they remained stubborn, they would be burned alive in a furnace.

The three men told the king, "If it be so, our God, whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. **But if not**, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."

With this story in their national memory, the words from Dunkirk resonated deeply with a clear message. The troops trusted that they would be rescued miraculously from the beach somehow, but if not, they would never bow before Hitler's armies. They would die in honor on the beach before they would disgrace their nations with surrender.

The three words hit home. A ragtag flotilla of fishing boats, yachts, and other merchant ships and pleasure craft took to the sea piloting straight into harm's way counting on being the miracle for which the men with their backs to the sea were praying. A total of 860 little ships brought about the miracle evacuation, snatching men shoulder-deep in the frigid sea to the safety of larger ships waiting farther off shore.

There are many lessons to be learned from this Old Testament story, lived out in the miracle at Dunkirk. First, do we know our Bible well enough that if a three word message were sent to us, would we comprehend its meaning?

Second, as we pray for God to work and do miracles, let's be aware that we may be the miracle for which we are praying. For some sailors at home in Britain hearing the plight of the British Expeditionary Force, they were the answer to the prayers of those stranded sailors. God spoke to the hearts of those who came to the rescue.

Third, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. We pray for a long full life for ourselves and those we love, **but if not**, we trust God's presence working through the chances and changes of this life to weave something wonderful out of tragedy.

Redeemer Family Christmas

The Christmas holiday ushers in a season of celebration and giving, with countless toys for boys and girls — and adults — alike! This year will probably be no different. It's generally a happy and warm time for families and friends to gather as the temperature finally cools down. For others, however, it can be a difficult time as their year comes to a close and the ends just don't meet, leaving bills unpaid and gifts non-existent. These situations have led Redeemer to participate in special giving projects over the past twelve years. We have endeavored to demonstrate our love in the form of gifts, just as God demonstrated his love toward us, by sending his Son as a gift to the world. In years past, we have given to such ministries as Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree program, Operation Christmas Child through Samaritan's Purse, toys for West Dallas Community Church families, gifts for Cesar Chavez Learning Center, Henry

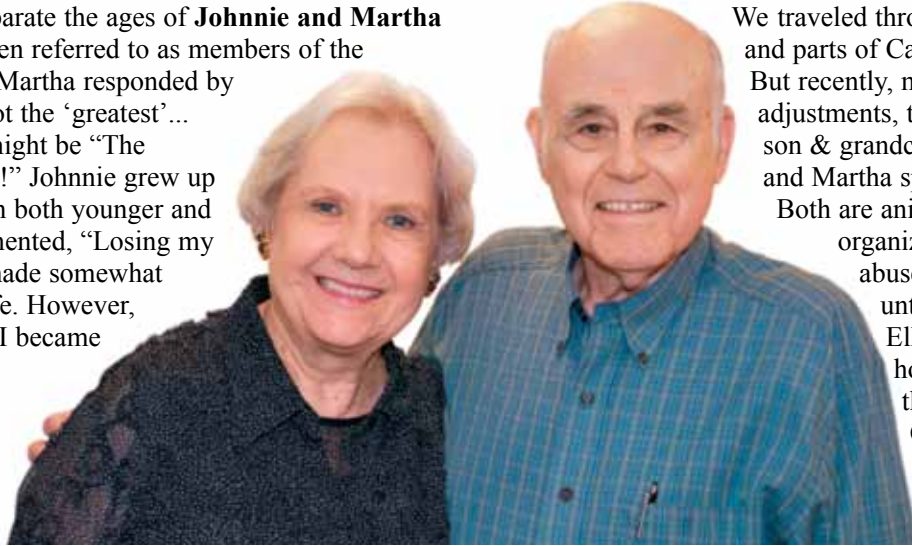
Wade Juvenile Detention Center, and Iglesia Bautista Vencedores. This year, we have observed an increase in the needs of those in our own church family as a result of illness, hospitalizations, loss of employment, loss of a loved one, personal strain, and the like. Therefore, on Sundays, December 4, 11, and 18, we will give you an opportunity to give a special financial gift to go in the Benevolent Fund, which will help specific families in our midst. If you know of someone (or a family) in particular, that you believe qualifies for a special monetary gift this Christmas season, please let us know by dropping their name in the benevolence offering boxes when you make your donation. We want to continue to give to special projects at Christmastime and you all make it possible. This year the needs just hit closer to home. Thank you in advance for your participation and the love that you show to your fellow brothers and sister in Christ Jesus.



Getting to Know You: Johnnie and Martha Denison

Tommie Loveless

Only five months separate the ages of **Johnnie and Martha Dennison**, who have been referred to as members of the “Greatest Generation!” Martha responded by saying, “Well, maybe not the ‘greatest’... perhaps a better name might be ‘The Experienced Generation!’” Johnnie grew up in Hillsboro, Texas, with both younger and older siblings. He commented, “Losing my mom at two years old made somewhat of an unstable family life. However, we went to church, and I became a believer and was baptized at an early age.” Johnnie and Martha met each other in the 1940s, when they were sixteen. Johnnie explained, “Coming out of the ‘Great Depression’ and going into World War II, times were not easy. Knowing I would be drafted as soon as I was eighteen, we, like most young couples in love, got married! We had one year together before the Army sent me to serve in the Aleutian Islands.” When he returned home, Johnnie spent two years training in Air Conditioning and Refrigeration, financed by the G.I. Bill. Martha was in Draughan’s Business College; working while attending school. They both had long, successful careers, before retiring in 1986, Johnnie from Lone Star Gas, and Martha from Southwestern Bell Telephone. The Denisons have one son, also retired, and two grand children, all of whom live in the Austin, Texas area. Martha proudly reported, “Our grand son and grand daughter have received college degrees and are successfully employed.” During their working years, Johnnie and Martha enjoyed many vacations, including some foreign travel. Johnnie commented, “In the past few years we have been ‘RVing,’ and we have loved that the most!



We traveled throughout the United States and parts of Canada, in our motor home.” But recently, making some lifestyle adjustments, they gave the RV to their son & grandchildren to enjoy. Johnnie and Martha spend time volunteering. Both are animal lovers and support organizations against animal abuse. Johnnie also does volunteer maintenance at the Elks Lodge, in the neighborhood. He is involved with the Masonic Lodge and the Children’s Hospital, and is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW); both Johnnie and Martha are supporters of hospitalized

and disabled veterans. Martha is a “Telephone Pioneer,” and has volunteered with the White Rock Center of Hope since its inception, twenty-two years ago. The Denisons were members of Lochwood Baptist Church for over thirty years, before coming to Redeemer. Finally, the Denison’s agreed that sometimes seemingly small incidences have great importance in shaping our lives, and increasing our faith. Johnnie shared, “An example of this truth was a family friend who took me for a ride when I was a young boy. Knowing our family needed money, especially for Christmas, he dropped a few coins on the ground, where I would find them when I got out of the car! I realized later in life, I had not found them, rather he placed them there!” Martha remembered when a compassionate co-worker cried with her during a most difficult time, saying, “This was one act of kindness I’ll remember forever!” Thanks, Johnnie and Martha for reminding us of these truths! **The Redeemer family is blessed and strong, because of members like you!**

Youth Join Scouts for Fall Retreat

The Jr. and Sr. High Students had a fantastic fall retreat! They joined Troop 48, and spent two beautiful days in the Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge. The students had the opportunity

to challenge themselves with rock climbing and rappelling, enjoyed exploring natural caverns and tunnels in a boulder

Youth Fall Retreat continued on p. 4



Welcome, New Members!



Becky Hartmann



Bert & Bing Howard with son Elijah and mother Lolita Reyes



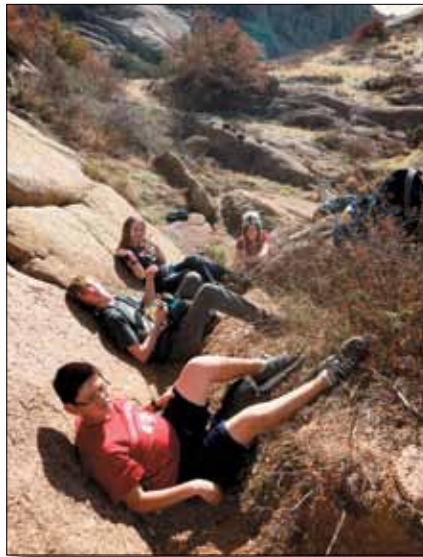
Patty Mathis



Karen Nielsen

Youth Fall Retreat continued from p. 3

field, and ate like kings and queens with Scout leaders **Gordon Robinson** and **David Tatom** preparing the meals. On Sunday morning, the group was blessed with beautiful weather and a devotional on top of Mt Baldy, where each student was personally challenged not only to *acknowledge* God, but to *know* Him. The weekend was a great time of building new relationships and strengthening existing friendships. Thanks to all who helped make the retreat a success!



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