

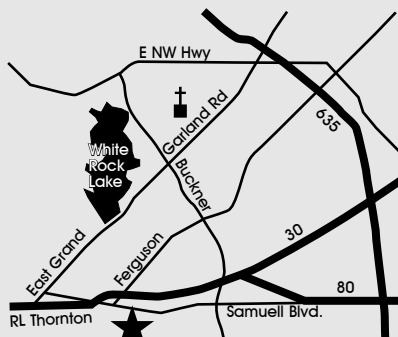
December 2008

Linking us with the ministries of our church

Caroling and Cookie Outreach: Wednesday, December 10

Pioneer Girls, Cub Scouts, Girls of Grace, Boy Scouts (and parents!) are encouraged to sustain an annual Redeemer tradition by helping serve elderly members of our community at the Buckner Retirement Village next week. Parents and students should arrive at the facility (4800 Samuell Blvd.; Dallas, TX 75228) at 6:00 PM. Each family represented should also bring two dozen Christmas-themed, **homemade** (not store-bought) cookies or brownies to share with Buckner residents. After caroling and cookie sharing, our team will meet in Buckner's main assembly room from 7:30-8:00 PM to enjoy some hot chocolate and the remaining cookies. [If you arrive later than 6 PM call **Blake Barbre** (972.333.3380) or **Kristen Raikes** (972.965.0984) to hook up with the carolers.] We hope you can join us for a meaningful night of service to those who need a special reminder of Christ's love at this time of year.

www.bucknerretirement.org/dallas-directions.shtml (include the hyphen)



Buckner Retirement Village
4800 Samuell Blvd.
(about halfway between
Ferguson Road and Jim Miller)

Our Tenth Christmas! This Year's Theme: The Gifts of God

Familiar carols, stirring anthems, flickering candles, bright banners, smiling children and more will adorn our Christmas praise to God in 2008. We'll spend four weeks exploring the gifts of God through uplifting music, Advent scriptures, and relevant sermons. Special highlights of the season include children's choir, handbells, a mass choir singing the first movement of Vivaldi's *Gloria*, and our Christmas Eve candlelight service. We hope you'll make our worship services an important part of your family's celebration of the Savior's birth.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: December 24, 6:00 PM

Our Christmas Eve service is always the highlight of our Christmas season. For one hour, a worshipful mix of carols, Scripture readings, special musical reflections, a moving recitation of Luke 2 by one of our children, and a Christmas story all serve to move our minds and hearts to "worship Christ, the newborn

King." We'll complete our service and prepare for Christmas morning with a stirring candle-lit rendition of *Silent Night*.

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you for filling a record 206 shoe boxes for the world's neediest children during our Operation Christmas Child drive. Please pray that with these boxes the good news of Jesus will be received by many this Christmas. Thank you for your part in bringing joy to these children and hope for the nations. To God be the glory!



In a Word

Let's Keep Counting Our Blessings!

Don Geiger, Senior Pastor

It's Thanksgiving morning, and I'm sitting on a rocky knoll near our campsite in the heart of the Palo Duro Canyon in West Texas. The canyon is about one-half mile wide where we're camped, so we get the full impact of the grandeur of the craggy, multi-layered, many-colored geologic strata of both canyon walls. It's been breath-taking to watch the rising sun gradually illuminate the variegated textures of the well-named *Spanish Skirt* formation just opposite our camp. And awesome at day's end to experience a canyon sunset, as the evening shadow creeps up the opposite wall. Palo Duro is the second-largest canyon in the country; and while it's no Grand Canyon, still, to spend a few days in its pleasant isolation, enjoying the profound late-night silence, absorbing its scrubby West Texas beauty and other-worldliness, slows life's pace and restores perspective. Three birds new to our limited birding experience have graced our camp and added to our enjoyment: the Western Rufus-Sided Towhee, the Gilded Flicker, and the Grey Vireo. We also enjoyed visits by more familiar Mockingbirds, Cardinals, and Roadrunners.

I'm counting today's blessings and reviewing November's five-blessings-each-day list. The poetic line comes to mind, *I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.*

Each day's list includes a family member, a friend, and a spiritual blessing — chief of which is the knowledge of Christ. You the Redeemer family figure prominently and often in one form or another. The blessings range from the large and obvious — the freedoms and attendant benefits we enjoy as

citizens of our grand country — to the small and oft-overlooked, like a fresh hot cup of McDonald's senior coffee for only twenty-seven cents!

We always enjoy driving through west Texas; and on this trip, as we imagined what it must have been like to cross the high plains in a covered wagon and endure the winters in a sod hut or log cabin, our blessings list grew longer: Highway 287 and charming sleepy towns like Chillicothe, Claude, and Clarendon along the way. We camped near Clarendon on our way to Colorado years ago and had a memorable little incident late that night, a memory now added to my blessing list (If you're curious, I'll happily recount it for you.). Don't forget to add your many pleasant memories to your own list.

This year, the first Sunday of Advent falls just three days after Thanksgiving. This is yet another blessing to add to the lengthening list, because the two celebrations clearly belong together, as Paul so well put it in 2 Corinthians 8:9 — *Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!*

Our Advent theme this year is *The Gift of God*, strikingly proclaimed on this year's banner (designed by **Don Card** and crafted by **Becky Sander-Cederlof**). By the way, those banners made my blessings list, as did all the folks who designed and crafted them *and* the hundreds more of you who serve in so many amazing and helpful ways. Our Advent theme will also include the other gifts of God which flow from the indescribable gift of his Son. Finally, we'll explore the gifts we offer to God, to each other, and to a world in desperate need of both *the gift* and the gifts of basic necessities, which we too often take for granted.

Tomorrow morning we'll pull out of this canyon we've so quickly grown to love, refreshed and ready to return to the routines of life, adding yet more precious memories to the blessing book.

In a word, let's keep counting our blessings!

Prayer Needed for Our Missionaries in India

Hostile opposition to Christianity by fanatical Hindu groups is spreading in India. Our missionaries **Joy and Leela George** are actively involved in relief work for believers whose homes and villages have been destroyed.



Joy and Leela George

Joy writes, "Two weeks ago, we called all our missionaries to our campus for a time of fellowship and encouragement.... They came with their families and we had a wonderful time. We were able to discuss the situation and provide proper guidelines to work in the present environment. Please

pray for them as they are in church planting ministries and vulnerable to attacks from the militants. In spite of these problems, they are doing a good job in their respective places in establishing Bible-centered churches." Prayers are especially needed



Hanok Bangennawar

for wisdom, courage, safety, and the continued spread of the gospel.

Hanok Bangennawar, the ACA church planter we are supporting as a church, has relocated his church planting ministry to Mysore. He is looking for a house to rent where he can hold Bible studies and church services. Please pray for this need as well.

Joy writes that in spite of the opposition, God's work is progressing well and reminds us that "Our God is strong and mighty, and He is our protector and shield." What a challenging and encouraging word! Let's continue to be faithful in prayer for our brothers and sisters in India and for the work of Asian Christian Academy.

Getting to Know You: Michael and Gale Perry

Tommie Loveless

In a recent Sunday morning sermon, **Pastor Geiger** spoke about the power of prayer and Christ's encouragement to pray persistently. **Gale Perry** is excited to testify about how powerfully God used persistent prayer for her mother, who had many times rejected the gospel. She explained: "As Mike and I traveled to Houston to see my mother, I was praying all the way that her heart and mind might be prepared for the Holy Spirit to do His work, and that I would speak God's words to her. Mom was on her death bed and I was dreading being rejected again, but it was on my mind constantly. God willing, I would be able to ask her one more time!" Gale continued, "Talk about prayer being answered in a miraculous way — Mom did receive Christ as her Savior, and we believe the Holy Spirit was smiling, as He already knew that God had answered my persistent prayers." God has impacted generations of Gale's family and friends through her evangelism, writings, and persistent prayers.

Mike Perry is a "dyed in the wool" Texan. He tells us that his birthplace, Quanah, Texas, got its name from the American Indian Chief, Quanah Parker! Mike met Gale while he was stationed at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma, serving as an electrical technician. Gale is from Boston, Massachusetts, but grew up in Florida. And as unlikely as it may seem for God to bring a Texan and someone from Massachusetts together, He did so through Mike's buddy, who was dating Gale's good friend. The friends felt that Mike and Gale would be perfect for one another; and evidently the friends were correct, as the Perrys

recently celebrated their forty-sixth wedding anniversary! Mike and Gale have been blessed with four children and five grandchildren: two of whom, **Maxwell** and **Mary**, Pastor Geiger baptized. Mary attended Redeemer until she went to college, and Maxwell is still at Redeemer. "Max" is active in our youth group and Scouts and plays football for Berkner High School.

Mike had a long career in middle management at Texas Instruments and was a member of their flying club for many years. Mike shared that he loves to soar the skies, where one can almost "touch the face of God" (a quote from one of his favorite poems). Gale was a stay-

at-home mom until the "empty nest syndrome" set in, at which time she pursued and completed a degree from Texas Women's University and became an occupational therapist. She loved her career and was once honored by being chosen as the feature person on the cover of the national *Occupational Therapy Weekly*. An avid writer and artist, Gale shares her passion for God and His Word through photography, pastel portraits, and regular contributions to a periodical in India and a weekly prophecy newsletter.

Mike and Gale's faith in God has been strengthened through a number of trials and tribulations. As a word of testimony and exhortation, they shared: "No matter what happens, TRUST IN HIM!" Thanks, Mike and Gale, for your example of trust in the living God and for your contributions to the Redeemer family. It's good to get to know you!

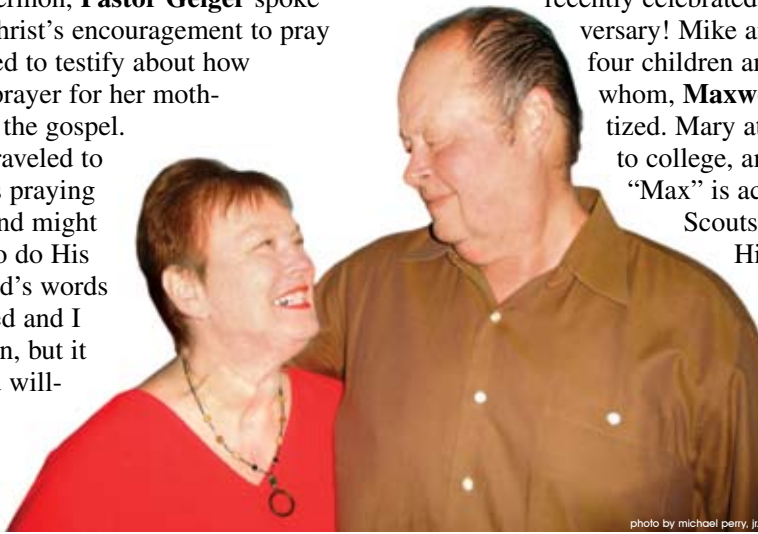


photo by michael perry, jr.

Highlights from our Children and Youth Fall Events



photo by don regier



photo by don regier



photo by jason pedigo

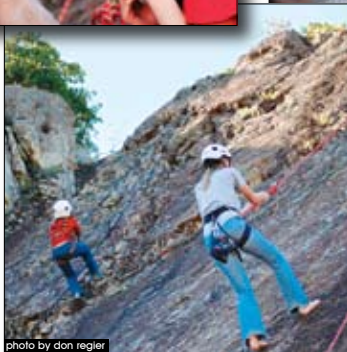


photo by don regier



photo by laramie sage



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

left: Wichita Retreat; middle: Costume Carnival; right: Raikes' Ranch
MUST SEE: www.redeemberbiblechurch.org/wichita

Welcome New Members



John and Maellen Mathews



Robert and Connie Sherrill with Sadie



Jay and Linda Welch



Andy Reibenstein



Sarah Lynn Spears

Behind the Curtain

Leonard and Lillian Rees

embody well the heart of our church and the heart of God. Joyful, energetic, and engaged, their fingerprints are common on many of Redeemer's less visible ministries.

As long-time greeters, their broad smile and heartfelt "Good morning!" was the first impression many of us had of our church. Visitors regularly attribute their feeling of being truly valued and welcome directly to Leonard and Lillian, who are often able to greet return visitors by name on their second visit. As likely as you are to find the Reeses serving at the door on Sunday mornings or with the Scouts on Wednesday nights,



you are just as likely to find them joyfully engaged in any number of other behind-the-scenes ministries. If you stand still and look around the church building, you're likely to spot Lillian removing a stubborn carpet stain, Leonard taking pictures for a special project, Lillian at a deacons' meeting, Leonard flipping pancakes at a men's breakfast, or the two of them working to organize a storage closet or dust a light fixture.

Leonard and Lillian, the Redeemer family is encouraged by your devotion to God, visitors, and the Body of Christ. Thank you for helping us see and feel the very heart of God.

Meeting Location:
721 Easton Road
Dallas, Texas • 214-340-3633

P.O. Box 570545
Dallas, TX 75357-0545

BIBLE CHURCH
Redeemer