

Sermon Series

- December 4 The Letter to Philadelphia: Kept From the Hour of Trial
Communion
- December 11 The Letter to Laodicea: Standing at the Door Wanting In
- December 18 Christmas Message
- December 25 Christmas Message

ABF Christmas Parties

- December 4 Koinonia Christmas Luncheon
- December 11 Berean Christmas Luncheon

Ken Hornok Wed., December 7, Current Trends in Mormonism

Mormons believe some rather bizarre things — most of which they hide successfully from the public: golden tablets translated with “magic glasses,” an advanced society of ancient American Indian Israelites who left behind no archaeological evidence, a “revelation” of polygamy that was reversed when Utah needed to do so for statehood, a “revelation” barring black Mormons from the priesthood that was reversed after the triumph of the civil rights movement, and special protective underwear. This is one of the many trends in Mormonism: sanitizing their belief system. Ken Hornok grew up in SLC and has been a pastor there for over 35 years. His topic is a timely one you will not want to miss!

Redeemer Family Christmas

Christmas is the most anticipated holiday on our calendars. To help you prepare for Christmas at Redeemer, here are some highlights:

COMBINED CHRISTMAS CONCERT, SUNDAY DECEMBER 11, 7 PM.

Be sure and join us at Scofield Memorial Church for a wonderful Christmas concert featuring the combined choirs, orchestra and ensembles and scripture readers from our two churches. The evening of Christmas music will provide you with a wonderful opportunity to truly worship and prepare your heart for Christmas.

CANDLE LIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, DECEMBER 24, 6 PM.

An annual highlight of Redeemer Bible Church is our Christmas Eve service. The service will provide a wonderful opportunity to truly worship as the scriptures are read, Christmas carols sung, instrumental and vocal specials are given and a timely Christmas/evangelistic message is given by Pastor Hornok. The evening will conclude with the singing of Silent Night and watching the Christ candle's flame slowly fill our sanctuary as worshippers light their candles.

This wonderful tradition is an excellent opportunity to have your friends and loved ones hear the Christmas gospel message.

SUNDAY CHRISTMAS DAY:

With Christmas falling on a Sunday this year, RBC will not be having Sunday

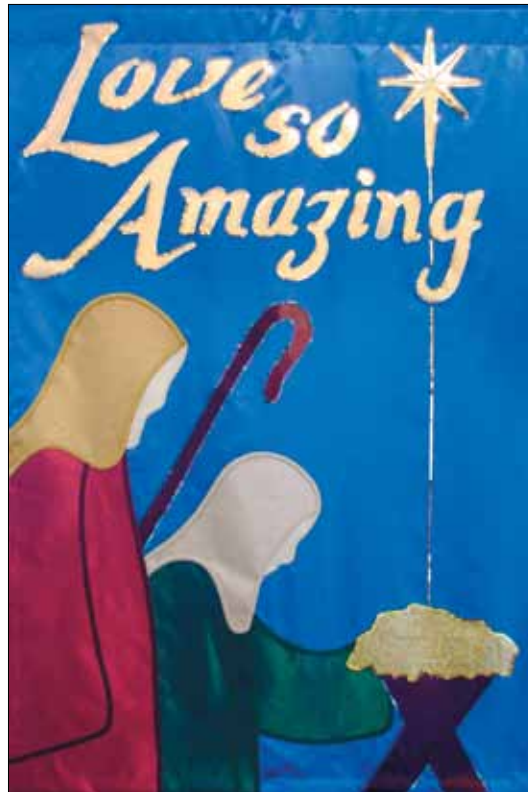
School or ABF's. We will just meet for our morning worship service at our normal time — 10:30 AM. This service will be very family-friendly with many of our children participating along with the choir and other special music.

SUNDAY NEW YEARS DAY:

The ABF's and Sunday School will not be meeting, Sunday, January 1. There will be just one service at 10:30 AM. At that time we will be observing the Lord's Table.

CHRISTMAS GIVING:

This year's Christmas giving will go towards the many families and individuals who are in need within the Redeemer family. Your gifts can be given through the benevolent fund, and will then be distributed. If you know of a family or person in need, please speak to one of our Elders or Pastors.



From the Pastor's Pen

The Indescribable Gift

Doug Hornok, Senior Pastor

All human presents are describable. What makes a gift indescribable is that it is more than human. It has to have something of God mixed with it. And, of course, that is precisely what Paul was thinking of when he penned the words that are found in 2 Corinthians 9:15. In the context, Paul had been thinking of human gifts: the gifts of the Corinthians to the poor in Jerusalem. But the subject of giving had turned his mind to God and the gift of Christ to his people, which is the greatest of all possible gifts. Having made reference to this special blessing, Paul says, *"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"*

Why is the gift of God beyond description? First, the nature of the gift itself: Jesus Christ. Jesus described himself as being one with God the Father, and the Scripture everywhere testifies to that fact. His names Jesus (Jehovah saves) and Immanuel (God with us) affirm that Jesus is God. Because Jesus is God, and God is indescribable, we cannot describe the gift. But the gift also consists of what he has done for us. Jesus came to provide salvation for us by his sacrifice on the cross, and we cannot adequately describe that. God has given us words and terms by which to understand it. We have words like sacrifice, atonement, propitiation and reconciliation. But how Jesus achieved the work of reconciliation by dying for us remains an indescribable mystery.

The gift of God is also indescribable because of the grace by which it is given. Most of our gifts have nothing to do with

grace. We give to others because they're in our family, they're our friends, or they've helped us in the past. Rarely do we give to our enemies. Yet God's gift was granted to those who are in sin and have risen up against God and declared war against the Almighty. God's actions go beyond the limits of human speech. God's gift at Christmas is not given to a selected few; it cries out, "Joy to the world!"

The third reason why the gift is the effects it produces. The gift accomplishes forgiveness of sins; our being justified before the bar of God's justice; we are adopted into God's family; as God's children we are God's heirs; we are given the gift of the Holy Spirit who unites us to Christ forever; we have a divine peace which goes beyond circumstances and is beyond any poor human efforts to describe; finally, we have a home in heaven prepared for us by Christ.

As Christmas approaches we celebrate the fact that we have been given the gift of Jesus Christ. But, even though the gift of God in Christ is "unspeakable" as the KJV has it, it is nevertheless to be spoken of. As Christmas approaches, let's not forget to return thanks. But we also speak to others. Re-read the Christmas story and notice how nearly everyone spoke to others about God's gift. The wise men said, *"We have seen His star in the east and have come to worship Him"* (Matthew 2:2). The shepherds *"spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child"* (Luke 2:17). Simeon *"praised God"* (Luke 2:28). Anna, the prophetess, *"gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem"* (Luke 2:38). This Christmas, let's declare the message!

Ramp Project

The cover of our bulletin reads: *To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; mourn and long for comfort; struggle and desire victory; sin and need a Savior; are strangers and want fellowship; hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to whoever will come, this church opens wide her doors and offers her welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

That statement is not simply words on a page —

it is something we want to be a reality! We also want our church building to be as accessible to those who may have physical handicaps. This year the downstairs bathroom was remodeled, making it handicap-accessible. The elevator makes getting to the three levels in our educational wing quite easy for those in wheelchairs and walkers. However, since the purchase of this building there has always been the need for a handicap ramp at the front entrance as well as increased handicap parking in the front.

The Deacons have secured a bid for this project (\$8000) and desire to complete it through special designated gifts. If you would like to give towards this project, please designate your gifts, "Ramp Project." These gifts should be above your regular giving to the general fund. We have received some money towards this project and any funds received in excess of the project will go towards other improvements on our building.



Getting to Know You: Nick and Sheryl Sears

Tommie Loveless

Nick and Sheryl Sears were introduced as New Members in November. Nick shared how they came to Redeemer: “**Andy Reibenstein** and I have been friends since high school. A few years after college, I was at a low point, and something just told me to call Andy. He happened to be moving back to Dallas that week and later I agreed to meet with him for Scripture reading and prayer.” In January, 2011, Andy and **Shannon** invited the Sears to visit Redeemer. Sheryl added, “Nick and I both grew up in the Catholic Church, but we felt something was missing. We decided to look elsewhere, and accepted their offer to visit the church.” She continued, “Since we first came to Redeemer, we knew this is where we wanted to worship. We have fallen in love with Redeemer and want it to be our home!”

Nick and Sheryl grew up in Dallas, and both attended St. Bernard’s and Bishop Lynch High schools. However, they did not actually meet each other until after college, when they found each other on the Internet! Nick commented, “Little did I know, for all those years, I was Sheryl’s ‘crush’, and in the end, God brought us together!” Sheryl confirmed his words, “It is true! I had drooled over him since the 5th grade. I really am married to the man of my dreams!” They were married on August 29, 2009. The Sears have a seventeen-month-old son, **Wyatt**, and they were



excited to announce there is one on the way! Sheryl reported, “We are close to our families. I have five brothers and Nick has one, making us one big happy family!” Nick studied at Texas

Lutheran University, and his first job was with the Dallas Police Department. Nick relayed, “Hard work and intense labor-filled jobs are a part of my work history. This encouraged me to move on to the construction world, in the commercial sector, and I worked for a window covering business.”

He continued, “However, most recently, I have felt the desire to serve my community again and have applied to the Dallas Fire Department and to the Kaufman County Sheriff’s Department.” Sheryl received a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology from the University of Phoenix’s on-line program, and an Associate Degree in Finance. She stated, “I work for a finance company in downtown

Dallas, and I love my job. I always wanted to be in that line of work.” Sheryl’s other interests include arts and crafts, while Nick enjoys hunting, fishing, and outdoor activities. Nick said of his future goals, “I would like to own some property where my kids and grandkids can come and enjoy the outdoors also.” Nick has been helping with the parking lot security team, and they both are looking forward to being involved with other church ministries.

Nick, Sheryl, and Wyatt, we are thankful that you have chosen to become a part of our church family, and we also look forward to worshipping and serving with you.

Trunk or Treat Report

Our 2011 Trunk or Treat was a huge success as we reached out to an estimated 200 children from our neighborhood. A big thank-you goes to all who volunteered to make our Trunk or Treat a success by bringing candy, decorating cars and coming by to give your support. A special thanks to **Heidi** as well. We hope to make this an *annual* event and even bigger next year!



Student Christmas Party!

What do smelly old socks, green pizza and chuckling gnomes have to do with Christmas? The only way you’ll find out is to come to the Oasis for the annual RBC Student Christmas Party at 5:30 PM on December 14. It will be a great night, filled with food, hilarious games, and an absurd amount of fun. If you are a student, you won’t want to miss it!

Finishing Well

John Akhwari was determined to finish his race. Competing in the summer Olympic Games in Mexico City as a marathoner, John fell early in the grueling 26 mile race and injured his leg, requiring medical attention. But John refused to quit. An hour after the other runners had finished, Akhwari limped into the nearly empty stadium and courageously crossed the finish line. A reporter asked the runner from Tanzania why he had persevered. "My country did not send me twelve thousand miles to start the race, Akhwari said. "They sent me to finish the race."

Last January Pastor Hornok challenged us to read the Bible through in the New year begin the New Year and to begin a systematic discipline of memorizing scripture. Without embarrassing anyone or wanting to make you feel guilty: How are you doing? Did you start strong and then give up? Did you fall behind and think, why bother?

We all want to finish well, whether it's a race or a reading.

Author Ken Boa suggests that there are seven crucial characteristics for finishing well. They are:

- Intimacy with Christ: desiring to know him in a more personal way.
- Fidelity in the Spiritual Disciplines of prayer, fellowship, study and worship.
- A Biblical perspective on the circumstances of life. Allowing life's trials to drive us to dependence on God alone.
- A teaching, responsive, humble and obedient spirit.
- A clear sense of personal purpose and calling.
- Healthy relationships with resourceful people.
- Ongoing ministry investments in the lives of others.

What does it take to finish well? How can we run in such a way that we can say with Paul, "*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith*" (2 Tim 4:7)? Taking to heart the above seven characteristics will help you finish well day by day, as you "*run with endurance the race that is set before [you]*" (Heb. 12:1).

Behind the Curtain: Our Media Team

"If we're doing our job right, the congregation is *unaware* of what we're doing." That is how **Don Rose** describes the work of the Redeemer media team that he has faithfully lead for eleven years. If you ever get to watch the media team in action, here's what you'll see.... As the worship service progresses, each member of the team is concentrating on his or her part of the job. **Angie Clark** is watching the bulletin and subtle cues from the musicians and speaker to change slides. Since the slides are prepared beforehand, she has to hope that someone doesn't throw in



a chorus at the last minute! At the video camera, **Sammy Samuelson** is also watching for cues to smoothly pan between musicians and speakers. No jerky camera work here! He also has to listen and adjust the sound for the video that is being made for our shut-ins. At the sound boards and

recording equipment, Don and **Tom Newcomer** are expertly mixing the sound levels for both the congregation and for the CDs and Web site recordings. There isn't room here to describe all the work *before* and *after* the worship service, as equipment is set up and taken down, recordings are edited and duplicated. There is easily an additional 10 hours of work each week that goes into helping the whole church body worship God.

Meeting Location:
721 Easton Road
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BIBLE CHURCH
Redeemer