

September 2010

Linking us with the ministries of our church

## Midweek Schedule

- 5:30-6:15 PM Dinner, \$4 (max \$12 per family)
- 6:00-7:00 PM Handbell rehearsal, room. 213
- 6:00-7:30 PM Boy Scouts, Oasis
- 6:00-7:00 PM Library open
- 6:00-8:30 PM Childcare, infants through age 5, rooms 203, 206
- 7:00-8:30 PM Adult Choir rehearsal
- 6:45-8:00 PM Prayer Meetings and Adult Electives
- Adult Elective: "Recorded Prayers of the Bible", Dr. Roy Zuck - room 120
- Adult Elective: "Medical Ethics", Douglas Hornok - room. 113
- 6:45-8:00 PM Youth, "Base," College room, grades 6-12.
- Pioneer Girls, grades K-5th, room. 212
- 8:00-9:00 PM Hideaway Bible Study, College room.
- 9:00-11:00 PM Coffee House, College & Career, Oasis

## Gideon Sunday, September 19

In the autumn of 1898, two businessmen were forced to share a double room and soon discovered that both were Christians. They had their evening devotions together, and on their knees before God the thoughts were given which later developed into an association known as The Gideons. Later, the first Bible was placed in a hotel room in Montana. Today, Bibles and New Testaments are printed for distribution by The Gideons in more than 90 languages and more than 1.6 billion have been placed worldwide.

## Prayer, the Prologue to Praise

In just a few days, RBC's Midweek Family programs will begin (see Sidebar). This Fall's two adult electives will begin with a 30-minute prayer meeting followed by the teaching time. If we're honest, prayer meetings can get you down. No matter how much you look forward to gathering with friends to pray, the requests can be disheartening. A missionary is having health problems. A child has cancer. A

couple from your Sunday school class is getting a divorce. The missionary appointee is having difficulty raising financial support. Add to that your own struggles and it's easy to grow weary. But then God's people begin to pray. With confidence, they thank God for His absolute control over all things. With tears, they plead with God to

*continued on page 3*

## Women's Fellowship, "Forever Friends"

The theme of Women's Fellowship this year is "Forever Friends." We officially kick off with a Salad Supper on Sunday, Sept 19 at 5:30 p.m. Bring your favorite salad, enough to feed 8. Admission is \$1.00. Entertainment includes live music and guest speaker, Tammy Moyer, wife of Evangelist Larry Moyer of Evantell Ministries.

Fall Bible Study begins Tuesday Sept 21 at 9:30 AM. Our video study, for the first hour, is "Discerning the Voice of God," led by Priscilla Shirer.

Study books are complimentary. During the second hour we will divide into intimate groups of eight to dig deeper into our study and build up each other through prayer and friendship. Complimentary babysitting is available (up to age 5).

Finally, this Fall's program will conclude with a holiday gathering with Merry Mugs & Muffins on December 4, and a festive Christmas Home Tour featuring several members' homes on December 11.

This year's Women's Ministry is headed by **Carol Pratt** along with a number of women serving on her committee. Carol says, "It excites me to be a part of Redeemer Women's Fellowship, knowing that I am building

Forever Friends with sweet women such as yourselves. I invite you to join me this Fall as we grow and nurture friendships with each other, and most importantly, with our Sweet Lord!"

Come fill an empty seat. We're saving one just for you!



## From the Pastor's Pen

### The Power of One

Doug Hornok, Senior Pastor

How much impact can one person have? Most of us would say none at all or very little at best. And yet one person can change the course of society if they are but willing to make the sacrifice. What's more, collectively, a group of committed people can turn a nation. That was brought home to me when I read the story of Telemachus who was a fourth century Asiatic monk who spent most of his life in a remote community of prayer, raising vegetables for the cloister kitchen. When he was not tending his garden spot, he was fulfilling his vocation of study and prayer.

One day the monk felt the Lord leading him to Rome, the capital of the world — the busiest, wealthiest, biggest city in the world. He was understandably terrified at the thought of going to that city, but as he prayed, God's directive became clear.

Telemachus arrived in Rome during the holiday festival. In the midst of the festival the monk looked for clues as to why God brought him there.

Perhaps, he thought, it is not sheer coincidence that I have arrived at this festival time. Perhaps God has some special role for me to play.

So Telemachus let the crowd guide him, and the stream of humanity soon led him into the Coliseum where the gladiator contests were staged. He could hear the cries of the animals in their cages beneath the floor of the great arena and the clamor of the contestants preparing to do battle.

At the appointed time, the gladiators marched into the arena, saluted the emperor, and shouted, "We who are about to die salute thee." Telemachus shuddered. He had never heard of gladiator games before, but he sensed within the impending awful violence.

The crowd had come to cheer men who, for no reason other than amusement, would murder each other. Human lives were offered for entertainment. Realizing he could not sit idly by and watch this savagery, he jumped to the top of the wall and cried "In the name of Christ, stop."

The fighting began — no one paid any attention to the puny voice of one man in the crowd, so Telemachus leaped onto the sandy floor of the arena. Dashing back and forth between the muscular, armed athletes he cried, "In the name of Christ, stop!" One gladiator sent him sprawling to the ground with a blow from his shield, but Telemachus would not be deterred — "In the name of Christ, stop!" The crowd began to laugh and cheer him on, perhaps thinking he was part of the entertainment.

Then his movement blocked the vision of one of the contestants; the gladiator saw a blow coming in time. Furious now, the crowd began to cry for the intruder's blood.

"Run him through," they screamed.

The gladiator he had blocked raised his sword and with a flash of steel struck Telemachus, slashing down across his chest and into his stomach. The little monk gasped, breathing his last and cried out, "In the name of Christ, stop!"

Then a strange thing occurred. As the two gladiators and crowd focused on the lifeless body on the floor of the arena, surrounded by sand now crimson red from blood, the arena grew deathly quiet. In the silence, someone in the top tier of the stadium got up and walked out. Another followed. All over the arena, spectators began to leave until the huge stadium was emptied.

Other forces were at work, of course, but that innocent figure lying in the pool of blood crystallized the opposition, and that was the last gladiatorial contest in the Roman Coliseum. Never again did men kill each other for the crowds' entertainment in the Roman arena.

Can one person make a difference? The answer is YES! Our nation and community is reeling from immorality, wickedness, and is adrift on fundamental, foundational values. Can you make a difference? The question is not can you, but will you!

## Hearts Changed Through Summer Missions

This past summer RBC sent teams to serve in Guatemala and Hungary. In Guatemala, **Catherine and Brian Hitch, Steve Paris, Charlane and Rebecca Rack, and Leonard Rees** worked with Ken and Cindy Spaugh at *Alfa y Omega Church* in Patzún. They

Painted, cleaned and worked on various maintenance projects and installed wood-burning cooking stoves in six homes in Patzún.

In Hungary, **Byron Donaho, Wesley Geiger, Edward and William Matthews, Chris**

**Newcomer, Janet, Andrew and Kevin Ramler, Michaela Ruffino, Charlie Reibenstein, and Saralynn Spears** served with RBC missionaries **Laci and Szandra Kadar** at the Word of Life Camp in Hungary teaching English, coaching baseball

and ministering to the campers and staff. In Hungary, over 50 campers made professions of faith.

What touched the Guatemalan team most was "to see the Lord working in the hearts of Guatemalans." The team's goals were to serve, love, be a friend and be used by God to change hearts. Those goals were accomplished and God worked in great ways. However, the consistent message from the team members on their return was not only that God worked in the hearts of those they served, but that God

changed their hearts as well. They now have a greater awareness of the needs and opportunities and want to go back. They would like you to come too.



# Getting to Know You: Steve and Carol Pratt

**Tommie Loveless**

**Steve and Carol** came to Redeemer three years ago, when **Ann Fleming** invited them to visit. Carol shared, "Knowing how much Ann enjoyed the church, we accepted, and realized Redeemer was a great fit for us!" Steve and Carol plugged right in, and beginning September 19, Carol will lead Women's Fellowship.

Carol was born in Houston, Texas. She related, "I enjoyed vacationing with grandparents, who loved me unconditionally! Most importantly, they introduced me to a Christian lifestyle, and took me to church. My dad was not a Christian." At age six, Carol and her family moved to a small oil camp in Venezuela, where her dad worked as a geologist. She started school in a one-room schoolhouse, and spent five years under the direction of a beloved teacher, for whom she named her daughter. Beginning in Jr. High, she came back to the states and lived with her paternal grandparents until her family returned. Carol attended Sam Houston State Teacher's College, where she met her children's dad. Together they moved to Austin, where Carol earned a Bachelor of Science degree, in Elementary Education, from the University of Texas. After the birth of their son, they moved to Dallas, where her daughter and second son were born. Carol shared, "Our marriage ended and it broke my heart to realize it was damaging to my babies!"

Later, Carol met Steve and his two daughters, when he was remodeling her home! They successfully blended their families, and celebrated their **twenty-fifth anniversary** this summer!



Steve, born in Missouri, has lived in the Dallas area since he was two; he asks to be counted, "a Texan!" He stated, "I had four brothers, three were much younger than I, so we weren't close. My dad was a carpenter and cabinet maker. He taught us to work hard! As early as first grade, I remember running shingles up to roof tops!" Steve's excellent carpentry and business skills have given him success and satisfaction. Carol commented, "Steve loves to help people, and I feel so proud for his accomplishments. He has a gift for design and making client's dream homes come true! My "favorite date" with Steve, is buying a new home, planning desired changes, and remodeling! We have just purchased our 6th house together! He is an excellent boss, and I enjoy assisting

him with his business matters." Experiencing health issues and surgeries, Steve has slowed down. He commented, "Carol is a pro at creating video stories, highlighting family, and we are saving energy for keeping up with our nine grandchildren!"

In the summer of 1990, Carol was reading through John 14; she related, "I suddenly felt the Holy Spirit come to me in a new way, and everything fell into place, spiritually. I told others of my discovery that God is God, and Jesus is His Son, and my Savior!" Asking about his spiritual life, Steve replied, "I know God is nearby, and I have always found comfort in prayer." We are glad you are here, **Steve and Carol**, and we look forward to your leadership in the months ahead.

## Cameron Shaffer's Basic Training Graduation

**Cameron Shaffer** graduated from Ft. Jackson basic army training after a ten-week intensive stay. After basic training, Cameron enrolled in Midwestern State University to complete his final year for a bachelor's degree. Currently, he is an officer candidate and will have training once a month to prepare him for that role. In January, he will be participating in officer training school through the National Guard unit in Grand Prairie. He hopes to enroll next year in seminary and become a Chaplain in the Army. Cameron is the son of **Scott and Pam Shaffer**. We are proud of you Cameron!



## Prayer, the Prologue...

*continued from page 1*

work in the lives of those for whom prayer is requested. With honesty, they acknowledge that we don't always understand what God is doing. Like the psalmist, we turn a time of complaining over man's problems into a time of praising God for His listening ear. Prayer turns our hearts to praise because God "will respond to the prayer of the destitute; He will not despise their pleas" (Psalm 102:17).

## Welcome, New Members!



John and Diane Pettitt

## Camp Eagle Report

Our Summer camp trip to Camp Eagle was a huge success! It was a great time of fun, fellowship, and growth for our teens. Our days were packed with activities like climbing a real rock face, flying down a huge zip line, shooting off the blob, relays in the mud, and enjoying the cool clean Nueces River.

The theme this summer at Camp Eagle was "Ready," and we learned in practical and powerful ways what it means to follow Christ in today's world, despite the struggles we face. We learned what it means to be "Ready to Trust" God with everything in our lives. We then built on this with lessons about being ready to surrender, love, pray, and then to go into the world to practice these things. It was a great time of relationship building, growth, and fun.



## Seasoned Saints Luncheon on Sunday, September 26

If you are fifty-five or older, you are invited to take part in the many activities of the Seasoned Saints. Perhaps you are new to the church. Attending an outing or game day is a great way to get connected at Redeemer, lift your spirit, put a smile on your face and get to know some new friends. Join us for our next **luncheon on Sunday, September 26** in the fellowship hall following the worship service. We'll enjoy an Italian-themed meal (homemade lasagna) and entertainment as well as a door prize, jokes and more. During our luncheon, we'll also honor and thank **Stu and Dorothy Howe** for their leadership to our Seasoned Saints these past seven years. The cost is \$7, however if that is a problem to anyone, please come as our guests! Watch the bulletin for more information and your chance to sign up.

## Reilly and Highland Elementary School Supplies

Each year as a church family we give the children in our neighborhood school supplies to encourage their families and help them thrive in school. Many families simply cannot afford school supplies. Let's see how we can encourage our community these next two weeks as we give! Clothing needed: Polo's: white or red (youth sizes). Underwear, socks, belts (all child sizes). Supplies needed: regular lined spiral notebooks. Lined filler paper. Black books to use for journals. Folders, brads and no brads. Regular #2 pencils, crayons and markers. Items will be collected Sunday September 5, through Sunday September 12 and should be placed in the box in the lobby that says "School Supplies." Thank you in advance for your giving! Also, if you are interested in volunteering at Reilly Elementary, they would love for you to come and will work with your schedule. Contact Helen Stedler for details: 972.749.7800

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

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

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