

January 2013

Linking us with the ministries of our church

Warm Feet

This winter, 109 children will have new shoes to keep them warm because of the generosity of Redeemer people during our Shoes for Orphan Souls shoe drive. Twenty Operation Christmas Child shoe-boxes were sent from Redeemer's Pioneer Clubs and Women's Ministries. Thanks to all who helped make these giving projects a big success!

CPR Course Set for Jan. 19

Redeemer will sponsor a course on Saturday, Jan. 19, to certify people in CPR, first aid and AED (automated external defibrillator). The class will be held from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The course, taught by an American Heart Association trainer, will provide certification that lasts for two years. The cost is \$12 per person. Contact Heidi Regier in the church office to register.

Annual Meeting Set for Jan. 27

Redeemer members should plan to attend the annual congregational business meeting at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 27. Regular attenders also are invited. At 5 p.m., we'll enjoy a hamburger meal together.

The meeting will include a review of the year 2012, a look at the year ahead, consideration of the 2013 budget, and the election of one elder and three deacons. See Page 4 for information about nominees. Pick up your annual report on Jan. 20.

"Pray for Me to Know Jesus More"

Q & A with Kristen Raikes

Kristen Raikes, daughter of Jim and Debbie Raikes, served as Redeemer's director of Children's Ministries before going in 2011 as a Redeemer-supported missionary to Thailand, where her ministry has been focused on the Shan people. She was back in Dallas recently for a Christmas visit with her family.

How has your heart been changed for the Shan since you've been in Thailand?

They are not just an unreached people now who need Jesus, they are individuals such as Pao, Laa, and Bua. They are children, youth and families all looking for hope and steadfast love, just as people do anywhere.

What is the spiritual condition of the people of Thailand?

The people are lost. There is freedom of religion in Thailand, but only 1 percent or less of the population are believers. They hold fast to the saying, "To be Thai is to be Buddhist."

How have you adjusted to the culture there?

I am constantly adjusting to the different values, lifestyles and cultures — especially living in the northern city of Mai Sai, where there is a melting pot of Thai, Chinese and Burmese people.

You have moved to the city of Chiang Mai while your wrist heals. How will your life there be different than when you were in Mai Sai?

In Chiang Mai, I am living with another missionary family instead of by myself. However, I am not in contact with Shan youth and children every day like before. Also, I have not begun teaching English again but am in Thai language study more. I am part of a Thai college small group, meet one-on-one with a Thai woman my age, and visit regularly with a young Shan family.

How can the people of Redeemer pray for you? For the Shan people?

Pray for me to know Jesus more. Pray that the tendons, ligaments and bones in my wrist will heal over the next three months to avoid surgery. Pray for the Shan youth to have courage to trust in Jesus as their only Savior and for them to cast their cares on Jesus, knowing he will care for them.



Redeemer Volunteers Serve at White Rock Center of Hope

For 25 years, **Ninva Barkham** has faithfully volunteered at White Rock Center of Hope, a community resource that provides emergency aid and steps toward self-sufficiency for our less-fortunate neighbors.

"I feel very fortunate that God has blessed me," she said. "I want to help those who need help. I want them to know that somebody loves and cares for them."

Ninva coordinates a small team of Redeemer people who staff the center the second Saturday morning of every month. In addition to Ninva, volunteers include **Arch Oldham, Don Owens, Jo Waters, Alice Dakin, Jerry Newman, Autumn**

Potts, Ann Fleming and Diane Keene. They serve in a variety of ways, including interviewing those who come to the center for assistance and distributing food and clothing.

"I really love meeting the people," said Diane, a Redeemer member who was volunteering recently with her granddaughter, **Elizabeth Cordy.** "I like helping people. There's a very real need."

The center is a coalition of individuals, civic and social organizations, and more than 50 churches, including Redeemer. More than 250 people volunteer each month.

It began in 1988 in the basement of the former Colonial Presbyterian Church near Casa Linda. Today, the center operates out of a large facility near the intersection of Garland and Peavy roads, where it provides a food pantry, clothing

closet, transportation assistance, financial assistance, school supplies and Christmas toys to needy residents in the East Dallas area. In 2012, the center assisted 8,257 families, up from 6,913 the year before.

In addition to providing volunteers, Redeemer makes a quarterly financial contribution to the center.

"The real reason we're here is to give the volunteers an opportunity to do the things they're supposed to be doing," said Ted Beecher, executive director of the center. "Jesus said to 'Feed my sheep,' and the center provides an opportunity for us to minister to one another."

To learn more about volunteering with the Redeemer team, contact Ninva Barkham at 214-324-4283.

For more information about the center, visit www.whiterockcenterofhope.org.



Ninva Barkham



Diane Keene with granddaughter, Elizabeth Cordy

Search Committee is Working Hard to Find a Senior Pastor

The Search Committee has been hard at work since early May in the search for a new senior pastor. The committee has reviewed more than 70 resumes, listened to dozens of sermons, had initial conversations with many men and had serious face-to-face conversations with several. Members of the Search Committee have visited other churches to observe potential candidates in the pulpit. The committee is evaluating potential candidates in five areas:

- **Biblical qualifications:** Someone who meets the scriptural standards defined in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.
- **Preaching:** Experience delivering God's word with deep, rich exposition in a way that will draw us closer to Him.
- **Leadership:** Experience as a pastor and the ability to provide strong leadership.

- **Pastoral heart:** Someone who will be there for people with a comforting presence, a listening ear and wise counsel in times of need.
- **Good fit:** The right match for Redeemer, its culture, worship style and mission.

When the Search Committee identifies the man it believes is God's choice for Redeemer, it then will make a formal recommendation to the Board of Elders. The board will conduct its own evaluation and, if it agrees, will make a recommendation to the congregation. At that time, the individual will become a candidate and will go through a formal candidating process that will include preaching and opportunities for the congregation to get to know him and his family.

Getting to Know You: Hunter and Sarah Matthews

Tommie Loveless

Hunter grew up in Prosper with his parents, an elder brother and his younger twin brother and sister. **Sarah** grew up in Garland with her parents, **Steve and Kay Paris**, who are members of our church family and serve the Lord with energy and faithfulness. Sarah is the youngest of four children. She and **Phillip**, her older brother, parents and grandparents, **Evelyn** and the late **Jack Paris**, were members of Reinhardt Bible Church until Redeemer was founded.

“We are a very close family,” Sarah said. “My Mom and Dad have been a great source for us to go to for Godly, spiritually advice. My dad has been a surrogate father to Hunter.”

Sarah was saved and baptized at an early age. Hunter became a believer later in life and was baptized at Redeemer in May 2011.

They met in 2001 and were married in 2006. They live in Garland, close to her parents and just a few houses down from Phillip and his new bride, **Rebecca Rack Paris**. The Matthews have two children, **Stephen**, 5, and **Clayton**, 4.

“Both of our boys are best friends and are not complete without each other,” Hunter said.

Sarah said finding out about her pregnancy with Stephen actually brought them back into church. “Our marriage had been difficult because of the way it started, but God has really touched our lives through the lives of our boys and being a part



of our wonderful church,” she said.

Hunter works in the early morning at UPS and during the day for Legacy Heating & Air. “I would like to have my own business, when the timing is right,” he said.

Sarah is a stay-at-home mom and is home-schooling Stephen. She enjoys scrap-booking, photography and working on different craft projects, which she hopes to sell in the near future. Turning the conversation to Hunter, she said, “He has earned the nickname ‘Basstron’ around our house because he loves playing his bass guitar.”

“We have been going to Redeemer as a couple since the summer of 2006, and we love our church,” Sarah said. “Hunter worked at the church for a year, which really boosted

his spiritual life. We appreciate that there is no judgment within our church body.”

Sarah enjoys going to Women’s Bible Study on Tuesdays when she can. “Tony Evans’ program has been a great encouragement to me when I am at home, along with most of the programs on KCBI,” she said.

Hunter and Sarah, Stephen and Clayton, you are an answer to our church’s prayers for young, dedicated believers who will worship and serve with the Redeemer family!

Women’s Fellowship to Focus on Life Change

No matter how long you have been a Christian and no matter your stage in life, spiritual growth and life change is possible. “Life change” is the theme for the Women’s Fellowship Spring term.

The Tuesday Women’s Fellowship will begin on Jan. 22 with a presentation on movement and fitness by personal trainer Richard Fine. Richard, a senior adult, works with clients of all ages at the Jewish Community Center of Dallas. The following week, **Diane Pettitt** will speak about living a disciplined, Spirit-filled life.

Beginning in February, both ladies’ groups will participate in a 10-week Chip Ingram video series, *The Miracle of Life Change*. The Tuesday ladies will begin the study on Feb. 5 and the Wednesday evening women begin the study on Feb. 27.

Beginning on Feb. 6, the evening women have a special treat. Bible teacher Rebecca Carrell will present a three-week study of three women of the Bible. Rebecca has been a radio personality in the Dallas area since 1998 and can be heard on a part-time basis at Christian radio station 90.9 KCBI. All Redeemer ladies are encouraged to come Feb. 6, Feb. 13 and Feb. 20 for this presentation.

Nominees to Be Voted on at Annual Meeting



Kris Dain – Deacon

- Speech therapist at Lake Highlands Junior High School.

- Born and reared in Austin, Minn., and moved at the end of tenth grade to Decorah, Iowa.
- At Redeemer since 2005; a leader in the Sojourners ABF; attend various Wednesday evening classes.
- “I feel constantly blessed by the loving, mature believers at Redeemer!”



Byron Donaho – Deacon

- retired Colgate/Palmolive sales representative of 32 years.

- Met late wife, Claudette, through mutual friends; married 40 years.
- Trusted Christ in a local church at age 10; became fully committed at age 30.
- Geiger Island director, parking lot security, short-term missions, Deacon Board
- Enjoys fitness, water skiing, and spending time with friends and family.



Scott Eickman – Deacon

- Residential construction and remodeling in the

- northeast for five years. Manufacturers representative in commercial HVAC for 30 years in North Texas.
- Born and reared in Belleville, Kansas, and attended high school in Hastings, Neb.
- Married to Mary for 32 years. Daughter Lindsey, 25, and sons Travis, 27, and Trevor, 22.
- choir and special music, Berean ABF
- 1.5 years at Redeemer



Don Geiger – Elder

- Self-employed for 13 years as a corporate communications strategist,

project manager and writer. Worked previously as a communications manager at Texas Instruments and as a newspaper journalist.

- Married to Sharon for 25 years. Son, Wesley, is a senior at Biola University in the Los Angeles area.
- Reared in Houston and Dallas.
- Elder Board, Search Committee, Children’s Department and other ministries.
- 13 years at Redeemer

We Are Grateful for Your Service!



Bob Porterfield – Retiring after 2 terms on the Deacon board

Tower to provide a reliable water supply for ACA

The people of Redeemer raised enough money during a special year-end project to build a critical new water tower for Asian Christian Academy in Bangalore, India. The tower will serve as a reliable source of drinking water for 300 on-campus residents and 2,300 elementary-school students when supplies run short.

The Missions Leadership Team designated \$20,000 in previous special giving to fund the tower, and the people of Redeemer generously donated an additional \$10,585 during November and December for a total contribution of \$30,585. The tower was estimated to cost \$30,000, so the extra money will be used to pay for unexpected costs or go toward additional projects at ACA.

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

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

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Redeemer