

June 2013

Linking us with the ministries of our church

Summer Midweek Activities Begin June 19

Bring your own meal and join us Wednesday evenings for an eight-week Bible Boot Camp. The Bible studies, which will meet in the Fellowship Hall, will be held 6-7:30 p.m. Childcare will be provided.

Swim 'n Study for Students Begins June 19

Junior high and high school students are encouraged to participate in weekly Swim 'n Study get-togethers on Wednesdays 5:45-7:30 p.m. beginning on June 19. Beat the heat with snacks, cold drinks and a refreshing swim. Bring your Bibles, one-piece swim suits and goggles for a great time. Check redeemerbiblechurch.org or call the church office at 214-340-3633 for directions.

Seasoned Saints Luncheon June 23

Seasoned Saints will enjoy a special luncheon after the worship service on June 23. Adventurer, lecturer and wily intellectual Mark Twain will share some of his thoughts after the meal ends. Sign up by June 16. A donation of \$7 will help cover expenses.

Special Independence Celebration June 30

Redeemer's annual celebration of our nation's independence will be held Sunday evening, June 30, at 6 p.m. Come enjoy special music and readings and then stay for an ice-cream social.

First and Main is Here for You!

First and Main — the Redeemer library's summer reading program — takes place June 30-Aug. 4. This is a great opportunity to read about topics that interest you. For juniors, youth and adults, only one book per sheet gets you an entry into the program's prize drawing.

Redeemer members call Mark Fortney as senior pastor

Redeemer members are eagerly awaiting the leadership and ministry of Mark Fortney, who was called as senior pastor during a special congregational business meeting on May 19. Mark begins his ministry in early June, and his first Sunday as senior pastor is scheduled for June 9.

"Lisa and I are grateful for Redeemer, for its tremendous witness in the community and around the world, and for the trust you've placed in us as we become part of the Redeemer family," Mark said. "We are very excited about serving with you to glorify God, build each other up in love and reach out to unbelievers to win them to Christ."

Following a year-long search, both the Pastoral Search Committee and Board of Elders unanimously and enthusiastically

recommended that Redeemer members call Mark as senior pastor. Mark preached as a candidate on May 12 and May 19. Members had a chance to meet him and his wife, Lisa, during a town hall meeting and at receptions during the week.

The ultimate responsibility for calling a senior pastor lies with members of the congregation, and they also were enthusiastic in their call to Mark. At the special congregational



Receptions were a great time for us to meet Mark and Lisa

business meeting on May 19, 94 percent of members in attendance voted to call him as senior pastor.

"We can't wait to welcome and serve with Mark and Lisa!" said Tommie Loveless, a charter member of Redeemer.

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VBS scheduled June 10-13

Children won't want to miss Vacation Bible School, which will be held June 10-13 from 6-8:15 p.m. VBS is for ages 4 years through fifth grade. The theme this year is *Answers in Genesis Incrediworld Amazement Park, A Thrill Ride Through God's Creation*. Activities will include

singing, crafts, great teaching and Bible memory, games, and snacks. Register at redeemerbiblechurch.org. Contact **Heidi Regier**, director of Children's Ministries, if you are a Redeemer member or regular attender who wants to volunteer with VBS.



Our Growing Family

Mark Fortney, Senior Pastor

I remember when I first found out that I was going to be a father. I loved my wife so deeply. I wasn't sure that I'd be able to add another member to our family and love that person too. Maybe I'd have to love Lisa less so I'd have some left over for our new child. In short, I must have thought of love as a kind of zero-sum game — there's only so much to go around so you'd better parcel it out carefully. And yet, we know that this is anything but the case when it comes to living the Christian life (and a lesson I would soon learn as our family expanded and expanded again).

As we learn from the Scriptures, the more we love, the more we're capable of loving! This is made possible by the indwelling Holy Spirit. He empowers us not only to love God with all that we are but also to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. And thus, we are capable of loving many, many people fully.

Lisa and I want to thank you for demonstrating this principle to us in the relatively short time we've been acquainted. We are truly thankful for the love you've shared with us as the newest family members of Redeemer. We look forward to getting to know you better just as we hope you get to know us

better. We also look forward to doing the things that all loving families do together ... rejoicing together, crying together, and encouraging and supporting one another.

And interestingly, those "neighbors" that God empowers us to love don't always look like us, think like us or even live where we live. So, we would be remiss if we let our love stop with one another ... those who are already part of God's family. We need not only to love each other and grow in our faith but also actively engage in expanding our family. And in this, we find our biblical purpose. Thus, I look forward to doing life together as we "glorify God, by building each other up in love and reaching out to unbelievers to win them to Christ." It promises to be a most excellent journey and **we are thankful that we have you as our loving family to journey with!**

Your Fellow Traveler in Christ,
Pastor Mark



Garage Sale Helps Support Summer Missions

Treasures that Redeemer people donated from their garages, closets and attics were sold at the annual missions garage sale for \$17,968 to help support short-term mission trips.

"God again worked in amazing ways to provide for the summer missions program," said **Paul Ramler**, chairman of the Missions Leadership Team. "The garage sale helps us raise money to reach the world with the life-transforming gospel of Christ."

Volunteers and those going on the mission trips worked many hours to sort, organize, price and then sell items that included clothing, furniture, electronics, appliances, decorative pieces, dishes and books.

Proceeds from the garage sale will help fund expenses for those traveling in July and early



August to teach English and baseball skills to young people at Word of Life Hungary. In addition, members of Redeemer's youth group will travel to South Texas to build bunk beds for needy families.

Many thanks to **Janet Ramler**, who organized the massive project with help from Paul Ramler, **Byron Donaho** and many others.



Some of the proceeds will enable our youth to GO! serve in South Texas



Getting to Know You: Don and Virginia Reed

Tommie Loveless

Don and Virginia Reed, new members of Redeemer, were featured in one of the nation's first television reality shows.

They grew up in the small town of Pittsburg, Texas. Don and his brother grew up with Christian parents, while Virginia was reared by loving grandparents and a host of uncles and aunts. They both accepted Christ as Savior at an early age.

They met during high school. "Virginia was a sophomore and I was a senior," Don said. "When we met, I fell in love with her, and I knew she was going to be my wife." They've been married for 55 years, and Virginia still gets excited when she tells how they were selected, from thousands of applicants, to be married on a national TV show, *Bride and Groom*, which was filmed live in New York. "My wedding dress and the beautiful wedding was given to us, along with gifts of linens, silver and china," Virginia said. "They even included a week's honeymoon in Mexico City."

During their early marriage, Don received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Rice University in Houston. He also earned a master's degree in engineering management from SMU. He began his career at Western Electric in North Carolina, but they soon returned to Dallas, where Don worked at Texas Instruments for 30 years. He retired in 1991



On the set of *Bride and Groom*

after serving in various engineering management positions.

The Reeds have two sons, Russell and Randal, who married wonderful, Christian ladies, Terri and Jayne, respectively. They have presented the Reeds with eight grandchildren and soon to be seven great-grandchildren. Along with enjoying their big family, Don is an avid reader of history, with interests in genealogy.

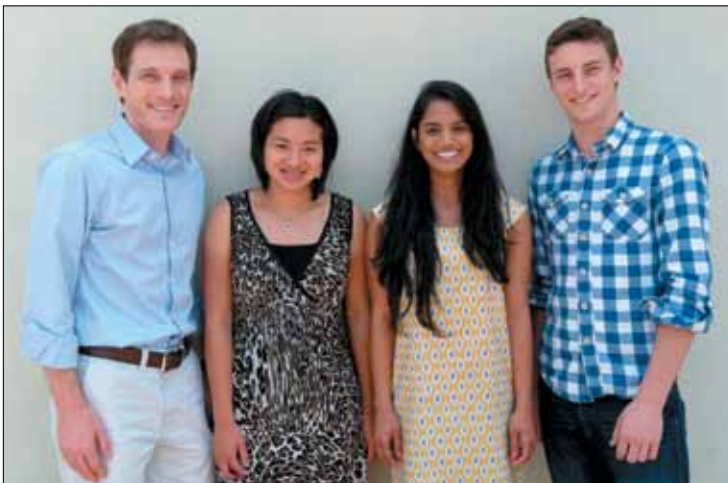
"Virginia is a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother who is dedicated to making people feel loved," Don said. She delights in having played host to many wedding and baby showers for prospective brides and moms-to-be.

San Francisco is a favorite destination. They have traveled to the Holy Land and on short-term mission trips to Russia. Don also went to the interior of Irian Jaya. Don served as a teacher, deacon and elder at a previous church and also has assisted with a church plant, where he served as an elder and building chairman.

The Reeds are happy to be among many old and new friends at Redeemer. "We are especially enjoying our small group, meeting at **Susan Millet's** home," Virginia said. **Don and Virginia, welcome to the Redeemer family!**

Graduates Celebrate Milestone

Congratulations to Redeemer's graduates! Pictured from right to left: **Jared Shaffer** is graduating from Lakewood Presbyterian



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

School and plans to attend Texas A&M University. **Nicole Nogueira** is graduating from Wylie Preparatory Academy and plans to attend Collin Community College in the fall. **Hannah Regier** is graduating from home school and will take online classes through College Plus. Redeemer's student pastor, **Jeremiah Bakk**, graduated from Dallas Theological Seminary with a Master of Theology degree.

Jonathan and Liesl Raikes (pictured on the right with son, **David**) graduated from John Brown University with bachelor's degrees in mechanical engineering (Jonathan) and photography (Liesl).

Not pictured: **Joshua Preston** of Carrollton, son of Joe Preston, graduated early with his GED and plans to enter college in the fall. **Teri Porterfield**, daughter of **Bob and Shirley Porterfield**, graduated from El Centro College with an associates degree in food and hospitality services. She is starting her own business: www.justeatsdfw.com.



Welcome, New Members!



Darlene Pyburn



LaVerne Pyburn



Mary Ruth Gerhart



Dr. Marion Walton



Dot and Dick Rawles

Women's Fellowships Wrap up Great Season

The Tuesday and Wednesday Women's Fellowships wrapped up a year of activities in May and will be off for the summer. Both groups benefitted from the Chip Ingram video series *The Miracle of Life Change*. The Wednesday Evening ladies finished the term with a dessert fellowship. The Tuesday Women's Fellowship ended with a luncheon that featured guest speaker Rebecca Carrell of KCBI Radio. The luncheon had an international theme, with DTS International Student Wives as special guests. On May 9, ladies enjoyed a day trip to **Susan Millet's** farm in East Texas. Thanks to our hostess for a relaxing afternoon in the country.

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Mark's initial series of messages — Life Off the Bench — will look at some of Jesus' parables and challenge us to put our faith into action. As part of his transition to Dallas, he will be away from Redeemer on June 23 for his son's high school graduation in New York and on July 14 to relocate his household belongings and family. Dr. Mike Pocock, senior professor emeritus of world missions and intercultural studies at Dallas Theological Seminary, will fill the pulpit those two Sundays.

"Mark is a man of God. He is a strong leader who has a heart for the Lord, a deep love for the local church, and a passion for discipleship, missions and outreach, and expository preaching," said **Don Geiger Jr.**, chairman of the Board of Elders. "We at Redeemer eagerly anticipate serving in ministry with him."

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

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

B I B L E C H U R C H
Redeemer