

link

a publication of Redeemer Bible Church



Connecting through Community

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From the Pastor's Pen

Growing in Love for One Another

It's been said that we're on a spiritual journey together. Do you know where you are along the path? Some feel disconnected from it, while others aren't sure where they are on their journey. These problems tend to recede when we establish and nurture deep relationships with other believers as part of an authentic Christian community. These Connect Communities — that's what we call them at Redeemer — represent life-changing relationships with other believers who share our love for Jesus and also desire to do life with one another.

Because this spiritual journey with others is so vital, we've included "connect" in the Discipleship Pathway at Redeemer Bible Church. This pathway consists of three steps – WORSHIP (growing in love for God), CONNECT (growing in love for others), and SERVE (helping others grow) – and represents the basics of how we go about maturing as disciples of Jesus.

Connect Pastor, Bert Howard, estimates that only 40 percent of Redeemer's members and regular attenders are regularly participating in a Connect Community.

As Christians, we have been saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. And as a result, we've been brought into right relationship with God and His people. And in both of these relationships, we want to be faithful! That's why the goal of our Connect Communities is to see each of us grow in love for one another, as we learn more about ourselves and the Bible.

And being part of a Connect Community is not only biblical and practical but also a lot of fun! So, if you're part of the majority at Redeemer, why not consider becoming actively involved in an Adult Fellowship, in-home small group, women's group or men's group. There are opportunities for everyone – young or old, short-time or long-time attenders – to build meaningful relationships with others.

Enjoy this issue of the *Link* as we focus on community life at Redeemer. As you read the stories, pray how God might be directing you ... to join a Connect Community, lead one or start a new one. Inside, you'll discover many of the wonderful, supportive, and encouraging Connect Communities already under way at Redeemer.

Serving Together,



Mark Fortney, Senior Pastor



15th Anniversary Back to Church Birthday Bash!

This year Redeemer will turn 15 years old! We will celebrate by kicking off our fall programs on Sept. 21 with a great day of worship, and fun that includes an after-church picnic, birthday cake, band, bounce houses, fellowship, and more! Adult Bible Fellowship hour starts at 9:15 a.m. and Worship hour starts at 10:30 a.m. Picnic immediately following the service.

Celebration includes:

- An after-church community picnic featuring the Texas Zydeco band led by our own Dennis Cavalier.
- Kick off of a new sermon series entitled, "I am the Church."



Gateway to Connection

by: Bert Howard

The weekly fellowship meal provides an opportunity for the Redeemer community and guests to connect over a delicious meal before mid-week activities.

THE MEAL THAT TAKES PLACE ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS truly is Redeemer's gateway to connection. It provides a great meal and an opportunity to get to know others before all the activities kick-off.

After the meal, members and guests can participate in the mid-week Bible study, handbells, choir, and prayer meeting while your students and kids can join in with CRASH, Pioneer Girls and Boys' Brigade activities. These are all key components of Redeemer's disciple-making process of building up believers while equipping them to reach out to the community.



More Than Bread Alone

by: Youssef Sleiman

Young families small group is growing in numbers and in relationships.

POWER BUTTONS, WIFI PASSWORDS AND SEARCHABLE FRIEND LISTS – THESE DAYS, IT'S EASIER FOR COMPUTERS TO CONNECT THAN PEOPLE. At Redeemer Bible Church, forging heart-to-heart connections is now easier for the parents of toddlers, young couples and single parents. More than 10 families spend every other Sunday night getting to know each other and God's Word in the new Young Families Group.

"The small group's growing stronger and more unified as a supportive group the more time we spend together," said Deb Scott. "It is great to bounce ideas off of one another, just shoot the breeze, and gain encouragement from being in some of the same life places together."

Long play dates, picnics and pool parties give these families a fresh infusion of fellowship while they invest in their families' early years. Now, it's not an investment these men and women make alone, thanks to the group's mentors, Mark and Lisa Fortney and Mike and Monte Howard.

"It has been a joy getting to know them and their children," Mike said. "These young families bring a vitality and energy to Redeemer that attracts more young people and keeps the church growing as a healthy, multigenerational church grounded in sound biblical teaching and worship."

Across Generations

by: Katie Bowman

Millennials want to learn from YOU! Not the perfect you, but the honest you.

MY NAME IS KATIE AND I AM A MILLENNIAL. It almost feels like an indictment to be labeled a Millennial. Self-involved, entitled, lazy. Those are some the words I hear to describe my peers. And, when I take an honest look at my generation, the accusations aren't far from the truth. Even in my own life I see marks — bruises — from being raised in a "me" culture.

For all my generation's faults, I can tell you we are hungry for Truth. We know we have been fed a lie. We are hungry to connect with the older generation. To hear their stories of triumph and learn from their shortcomings. To learn how they handled those early years of marriage, the isolation of motherhood, the pain of parenting, the hard times in their marriage and how they have handled getting older. In each of those times, we long to hear how they kept the faith and clung to Christ.

To those of you who have weathered the storms of this life and come out on the other side knowing Christ more intimately, we need you. This week, instead of asking, "What is this world coming to?" make an effort to reach out to someone younger. I truly believe that if a church in Dallas becomes known for how their older generation pours into their younger generation there will not be enough pews to contain all who will come.



No More To Do's!

by: Amanda Battaglia

In a world of chaos, women are finding a safe place to share struggles, pray for one another and learn from God's word.

"72 PERCENT OF WOMEN TODAY ARE STRESSED OUT AND 58 PERCENT ARE TIRED," says a

Barna Research Group poll.

Women today don't need another event or task to do. They need a place where they can be honest about their struggles and find insight through prayer and others who understand. The Women of Redeemer are finding a place to be refreshed through the Women's Fellowship on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday nights. Listen to the words of a few who are involved.

"This fellowship offers insightful Bible study, provides a safe place to share my prayer requests and the opportunity to pray for others. It has given me the chance to form friendships with some wonderful, godly women. As a fairly new member of Redeemer, I feel I have been truly blessed by this ministry."

— Dorinda Tuerck

"When someone has an urgent need of prayer, an email goes out to the group. One by one, group members respond with, "I'm praying for you, right now," or "I've been through that before and I know how you feel." The woman in crisis is lovingly surrounded and supported."

— Diane Pettitt,
Director of Women's Ministries

"Not only have we been enriched in the Word through Diane's practical, clear teaching, we have had many opportunities to encourage, support, and most importantly, pray for one another and then see God intervene in unique ways! As one who is in the phase of life where there are end-of-life parent issues, it has been a great comfort to have our loving group members pray with me about these concerns."

— Kris Dain



Give Me the Meat

by: Peter Battaglia

In a culture that isolates and denigrates men, the Men of Redeemer are hungry for a different kind of manhood.

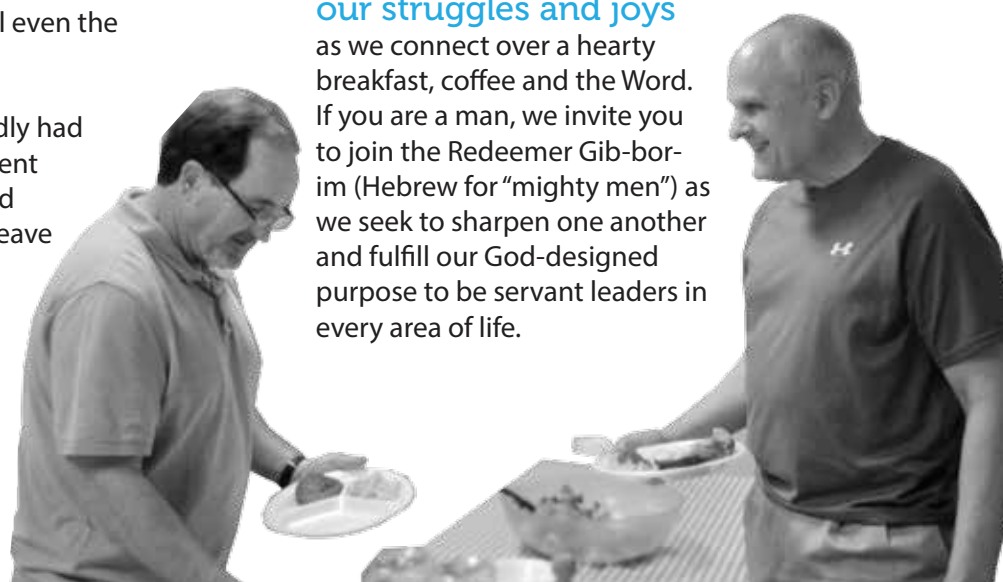
HOW DID GOD PROVIDE NOURISHMENT IN SUCH A DELECTABLE WAY? Such was a comment at the last men's breakfast regarding the delicious assortment of breakfast foods. Indeed, the food at every Redeemer men's breakfast will fill even the heartiest eater.

Ironically, while the speaker undoubtedly had delightful foods in mind, the nourishment at these breakfasts extends well beyond physical food. One can fully expect to leave

every men's breakfast encouraged in the faith from both the insightful and biblically grounded teaching and the group discussion.

We are defying the cultural mold of manhood by rejecting unhealthy independence and honestly sharing our struggles and joys

as we connect over a hearty breakfast, coffee and the Word. If you are a man, we invite you to join the Redeemer Gib-bor-im (Hebrew for "mighty men") as we seek to sharpen one another and fulfill our God-designed purpose to be servant leaders in every area of life.



Connect Communities

by: Bert Howard

Looking for mentors? Friends in a similar life stage? Are you looking to give back to other generations? No matter where you are in your walk with Christ, Redeemer has ways to connect you to the local body for support, encouragement and growth.

*childcare is provided for most activities

Sojourners

Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in Room 105

A welcoming Adult Bible Fellowship filled with interaction and learning about God's word. The Sojourners range from young adult to empty-nest stage and warmly welcome all who enter their fellowship.

Discipleship

Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in Room 110

Combining biblical in-depth analysis and instruction with practical life experience and application. Members of the Discipleship Adult Bible Fellowship are in the 45-plus age range but welcome and enjoy those of any age and stage.

Seekers

Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in Room 112

Striving to understand the ancient author's contemporary message, participating in lively discussions and asking difficult questions. The Seekers Adult Bible Fellowship currently ranges from young adults to empty-nesters.

Berean

Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in Room 113

In-depth studies that help apply biblical truths in our complex world by focusing almost exclusively on the books of the Bible. The Berean Adult Bible Fellowship is a group of seasoned and mid-life stage believers.

Koinonia

Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in Room 120

Biblical instruction leading members into a dynamic walk with God. The Koinonia Adult Bible Fellowship is comprised of believers from every life stage and many seasoned saints.

Small Groups

Redeemer Small Groups help you grow by developing a deeper sense of community while providing opportunities to participate in all that we have been called to do as believers. Small Groups connect you to others who, in the Spirit and love of Christ, will care, pray over, encourage, inspire and provide you opportunities to share life experiences. Small groups meet throughout the week at various locations and times.

Mid-Week Fellowship

Wednesday evenings include a mid-week Fellowship Meal and Bible Study for the entire family, Pioneer Girls, Boys' Brigade, Students at Redeemer, Bible Study, Prayer Meeting, Handbells and Choir – all are excellent choices to help you connect in community. Mid-Week Activities begin at 5:30 every Wednesday night.

Men of Redeemer

Pursuing biblical manhood through the study of God's word and engaging in projects and activities in the company of men across all generations. Monthly breakfasts and weekly prayer opportunities

Women of Redeemer

Encouraging godliness by meeting the needs of women through Biblical truth in all areas of life. Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday nights.

Students at Redeemer

Equipping students (sixth-12th grade) to grow in their faith and serve others. We do this through Sunday morning Student Bible Fellowship, Wednesday night CRASH at the Oasis, and monthly service opportunities.

King's Kids

Partnering with parents to raise spiritually strong kids (birth-5th grade), through Sunday School, Children's Church, Wednesday evening clubs and providing resources for parents.

Contact Connect Pastor
Bert Howard to get
involved and
find out more at
bert@redeemberiblechurch.org
or via text message at
214-843-1463

Outreach Corner

CHILDREN IMPACTED THROUGH VBS SPORTS CAMP AND REDEEMER'S PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS.

"I'm going to miss this place," he said on VBS Sunday. Kevin was one of 90 kids who joined us for our VBS Sports Camp here at Redeemer June 23-27. Kids enjoyed learning new sports skills, singing with friends, and hearing the Gospel message along with Bible stories and sports stories. VBS Sports Camp reached many children in our neighborhood for Jesus Christ.

Our church's outreach into our neighborhood continues this Fall as we respond to opportunities to serve Martha T. Reilly Elementary School and Robert T. Hill Middle School. Heidi Regier, Diane Pettit and Tahle Carter are meeting the leaders of the schools to find ways Redeemer can serve. Through this, the Women's Ministry hosted a teacher's appreciation lunch at Reilly Elementary, where they were welcomed by thankful teachers.

Reilly Elementary asked for help recruiting reading tutors and lunch buddies. The lunch buddy program allows members to build mentoring relationships with students. It is a commitment, but the reward is much greater. Helen Stettler, community liaison at Reilly Elementary, says, "To all our friends at Redeemer: Thanks for the support!"

Join us during the school year as we serve local schools. Contact heidi@redeemerbiblechurch.org for more details.

Crashing into RBC

by: Patrick Boyd

Teen Students ARE the church of today & tomorrow.

YOU MAY HAVE HEARD IT SAID THAT TODAY'S TEENS ARE THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW. Though this is true, it also implies that today's teens are not the church of today. Today at Redeemer Bible Church, we have living, breathing, actively talking and thinking teenagers that are a part of what Jesus so lovingly refers to as his bride, the church.

Katherine Rodgers, 17, says, **"The sermons and teachings have helped me grow closer to Christ and strengthened me through hard times. Every time I go to church, I am eager to learn!"** May we encourage her and edify her earnest spirit.

If you have ever heard a piano being played in the church, and the service is not under way, you can be sure that it is Thomas Barbre, 14. "My time here at Redeemer has helped me grow, reach out and serve, and I am blessed to be a part of this family," he said.

The point is that we are all part of the same body. Let us worship, connect and serve together to know Christ and to make Him known.



Redeeming Reading

by: Amanda Battaglia

Over six thousand biblically based resources to check out.

SOMETHING TWO SIBLINGS CAN AGREE ON IS HARD TO FIND, but both Katherine, 10, and Andrew, 9, Wisely agree that they **"feel more comfortable at this library because it's at our church,"** and they should. Our librarian, Hazel Sage, and other committed Bible-believing members of the church help screen every resource that comes into Redeemer's library.

There are over 6,000 books and media resources in the library, including:

- Adult fiction, non-fiction, and biography
- Youth fiction and non-fiction
- Children's and juniors' fiction, non-fiction, and biography
- CDs and DVDs

The library even has commentaries for small-group leaders and seminary students, as well as resources for homeschooling families. Take advice from Katherine: "Sometimes reading gets you out of things, like building a fence," and start your Fall off right by learning something new or escape into a good book. The library is open before and during Adult Bible Fellowships and after the church service on Sunday mornings. This Fall, it will be open early most Wednesday evenings. Call the church office for more details.

Connecting with Laura Martin

by: Tommie Loveless

Laura Martin is one of Redeemer's most active & well-connected young adults.

LAURA WAS BORN IN DALLAS to longtime members Carl and Lois Martin. "I have a younger sister, Joanna, 25, and I look forward to meeting my older sister, Linnea, who is in heaven," she said. Laura graduated from high school in 2004. She earned a bachelor's degree in Communication Sciences, speech therapy track, from Texas Woman's University in 2011.

"Recently, I became a licensed assistant in speech-language pathology, which prepared me to help children and adults with their communication challenges, including articulation, fluency, voice issues, grammar, vocabulary and social skills," she said. Laura has served as a nanny and tutor for a family with five children for the past seven years. "It has been a joy and pleasure to help raise and educate these children," she said. While seeking further work and volunteer opportunities in the speech therapy field, she has also been a caregiver for an Alzheimer's patient.

Laura became a believer when she was 4 years old, realizing at an early age that she needed Jesus as her Savior. **She attributes learning basic spiritual principles to her involvement with mid-week church children's clubs, where she was taught the value of reading and memorizing Scripture.**

"During my 2004 trip to Word of Life, in Hungary, I was with believers from another part of the world, and experienced deeper spiritual discovery. It challenged me to explore my faith and be more honest regarding the struggles that come," she said.

"Most recently, I have been challenged in my walk by the health crisis with my mother," she said. "I know I am a different and better person because we have experienced this. **I have a better understanding that the Lord does not promise us a pain-free journey.** Consequently, I seek Him as the answer and look forward to heaven more eagerly! We are ever grateful for the support given to our family during this time and over the years."

Winning all-state musician awards earlier in life, Laura is one of Redeemer's choir members and performs solos and joins ensembles. She has been active in the Seekers Adult Bible Fellowship and finds joyful renewal in the worship services. Thanks, Laura, for your loving involvement at Redeemer!



Missions Corner

CONNECTING ACROSS THE GLOBE

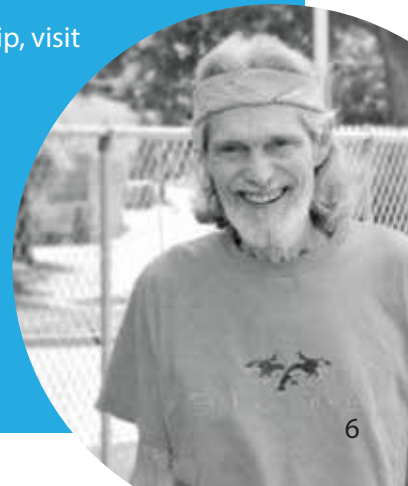
More than \$7,000 was raised to help buy a car for Kristen Raikes' work with the Shan youth in Thailand. Kristen is pictured in her new car on the left.

We had a very successful garage sale this year to raise money for the Hungary missions trip. The church raised \$20,790.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this garage sale a success and helped provide for Redeemer to serve in Hungary! We had 20 people go to Word of Life Hungary this year. Byron Donaho is pictured at the sale on the right.

To see photos and read all about the trip, visit www.hungary.rbcdallas.org.

The teens went to Tucson, Ariz. to distribute food and conduct street evangelism this August. The teens raised \$1,397 through a bake sale and car wash to help fund their trip. Thanks to all who supported by giving, praying, and purchasing baked goods.



Key Dates

- Sept. 14 Women's Fellowship Fall Kick-Off Dinner 6-8 p.m.
- Sept. 16 Tuesday Women's Fellowship begins a study on the book of Nehemiah at 9:30 a.m.
- Sept. 17 Fall Midweek begins 5:30-8 p.m.
- Sept. 17 Wednesday Women's Fellowship begins
- Sept. 21 Back to Church Birthday Bash 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. (immediately following the worship service)
- Sept. 28 Connections Fair at 11:30 a.m. (immediately following the worship service)
- Oct. 10-12 Youth Fall Retreat
- Oct. 31 Fall Carnival from 6-8:30 p.m.
- Nov. 2 Membership Class Starts contact the church office at (214) 340-3633 for more information

“ Joyfully introducing
Davied Holmes Stanton
born May 16, 2014
to Erica and Ryan Stanton ”

