

The Trumpet

Psalm 150:3a

Redeemer Presbyterian Church Newsletter

Editor: Linda Clark

September, 2007

Member Spotlight Family:

Ben & Ashli Kottwitz



Ben and Ashli and their two children, Zander (2 ½) and Lana (1) share their home in Frisco with Chico, their beautiful Persian kitty.

Ben works as a project manager for JC Penney Corporation, while Ashli, a former high school Spanish teacher, is now a stay-at-home “mom, wife, maid, etc.”

Zander attends Mother’s Day Out at Redeemer, while Lana stays home with mommy.

Redeemer will enjoy Ashli’s teaching gifts this fall as she begins teaching the Conversational Spanish class at the church on Saturday mornings.

In his spare time, Ben enjoys playing hockey in a league in Frisco, woodworking, golf, reading, and camping in their 25 foot trailer.

Ashli loves to cook, bake, scrapbook, watch movies, travel and spend time with her family and teaches an online Spanish course with Plano ISD.

Ben and his younger sister Cathy were born and raised in Lincoln, Nebraska. After graduating from Nebraska Wesleyan College, he was recruited by JC Penney to work in the Plano office.

Ashli grew up as a native Texan. She is an only child, born and raised in Fort Worth. She attended Austin College in Sherman on a full ride scholarship, earning both a BA in Spanish and an MA in teaching. She also ended up in Plano when she began teaching at Jasper High School.

Although living only a few miles apart in Plano, Ashli and Ben met online. They were 28 and 29 years old and felt they knew what they wanted in a mate. Ashli pursued the online route on the advice of her mother, and within two weeks met Ben. Both were immediately smitten; they were engaged in two months and married within a year. With family in both Texas and Nebraska, they chose to “compromise” and have their wedding in Las Vegas in a chapel atop the Stratosphere Casino.

Both Ashli and Ben were raised with God in their lives. Ashli’s family attended a Methodist Church, while Ben’s attended a Presbyterian church in Nebraska. Both were raised knowing God’s love and accepting Him as Savior in their lives at a young age. Both grew spiritually through reading the

Bible, going to Bible studies and taking classes.

Ashli comments “Raised in our churches, we were not certain about a day or moment when we accepted Christ.” But they grew up not knowing a time when they didn’t love God.

Since both had grown up in the church, they decided it was important to find a new church home, especially after having the children and God led them to RPC.

How is God working today?

“When is He not working in our lives is the better question. We ask for His guidance daily and try to listen to His desires for us. Our meeting in the first place was just His guidance, meeting on the web and living a few miles away. Having two wonderful, healthy children and being able to have me stay at home with the kids and building a home /moving into it a month after being married is amazing! What more could we want. God has also helped us to find a church home through the MDO program. We are truly blessed! Of course, there are hard times, but that is when we tend to come to the Lord most often. He leads us to depend on each other and pray for His will.”

Written by Caroline Ong

Some of the Upcoming Activities at RPC

THE MARINES ARE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN, AND SO ARE WE. YOU WILL NOT BE ASKED TO GO ON AN EXPEDITION TO BAGHDAD OR TO PATROL THE STREETS OF FALLUJAH; BUT TO DO SOMETHING THAT CAN MAKE A FAR GREATER IMPACT, TO TAKE THE LIFE CHANGING MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL TO A LOST AND DIEING WORLD; STARTING RIGHT HERE IN CRAIG RANCH AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES. YOU WILL BE GIVEN 13 WEEKS OF VALUABLE TRAINING EACH THURSDAY NIGHT FROM 7 - 9 PM. THIS WILL HELP EQUIP YOU TO DO A CONVERSATIONAL PRESENTATION OF THE GOSPEL.

IN JOHN 14:6 JESUS SAID, *"I AM THE WAY, AND THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE; NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER BUT THROUGH ME."* WE ALL KNOW THAT TO BE TRUE, BUT PAUL POINTS OUT SOMETHING THAT FEW PRESBYTERIANS UNDERSTAND. HE WRITES, *"HOW THEN WILL THEY CALL ON HIM IN WHOM THY HAVE NOT BELIEVED? HOW WILL THEY BELIEVE IN HIM WHOM THEY HAVE NOT HEARD? HOW WILL THEY HEAR WITHOUT A MESSENGER?"* ROM. 10:14. SEE ALSO ROM.10:15

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE OR TALK WITH ANYONE WHO HAS COMPLETED THE EVANGELISM EXPLOSION TRAINING. IT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE. ___Marty Phagan

Promotion Sunday Sept. 2 at 9:15 in sanctuary for all ages!

Children's Church starts back on Sept. 2!

Joint Officers Meeting 7pm on Sept. 4.

Prayer Meeting 7pm on Sept. 5.

Intro to Redeemer Class begins 9:15 on Sept. 9.

Men's Bible Study meets Friday mornings at 6:30 at Chic-Fil-A, 380 & 75

Session Meeting on Sept. 18.

Information on **WIC Bible Studies** is on page 5.

Officer Training on Sept. 13 at 6:30 and Sept. 27 at 7pm

Redeemer Day School, Meet the Teacher Night at 7pm on Sept. 13.

September Birthdays

Natalie Meintjes 9-2

Linda Clark 9-3

Alissa Lenhard 9-3

Emma Vender 9-3

Avery Clark 9-4

Joshua Wong 9-4

Olivia McDermott 9-5

Annie Vender 9-6

Don Hatfield 9-9

Kevin Ong 9-10

Rhiane Norman 9-11

Julianna Kunzman 9-13

Emma Wende 9-13

Kennedi Clark 9-14

Drew Lenhard 9-16

Carrigan Blagburn 9-17

Abby Stem 9-17

Shelli Phillips 9-18

Jeff Anderson 9-19

Daniel McDermott 9-21

Kay Westbrook 9-22

Tanner Clark 9-23

Byron Humphrey 9-23

Erin Wende 9-25

Rebekah Lovelace 9-28



Pastor's Page

“THE JOY OF OVERCROWDING”

As most of you may have noticed, it is hard to get down the hallway at the church on Sunday morning. You may have also noticed that when you drop off your children for their SS class and/or go back to get them after SS, the classrooms are packed. You may even be very astute and noticed those coming in the sanctuary a bit later than most are coming all the way down and sitting on the front row since there are not enough chairs in the rest of the room. Ah, the “problems” of overcrowding!! You know what? This is no problem at all but a great blessing from God as He pours out His grace on His body here at RPC.

Back in mid summer, the session invited Stewart Teasley, Don Hatfield, and Jerry Phillips to make up a team that would be responsible for taking a look at the options that are available to us in our current situation. These men have been hard at work for several weeks and have gathered quite a bit of information. A few days ago, these men met with the session and also the men currently in training preparing for ordination, to communicate what they have found and begin the process of discussing and laying out our plan which will be presented to the congregation in the near future. We began with a look at Ephesians 3:14-21 which says:

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-- that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

The “reason” Paul refers to in verse 1 is found earlier in the chapter when he tells the people of God that he has been made a preacher to the Gentiles and now God is at work “through the church” (3:10) revealing himself to his people. This is why Paul then refers to the church as the “whole family” – those making up the visible church here on earth and the invisible church of those already dying in the faith and present with the Lord. Paul’s prayer then is that the church of the Lord Jesus would come together and be built up in the “bigness” of our God – that we would see how wide and long and high and deep he is and then live in response to that. I believe this is what we are experiencing here at RPC. We have not fully arrived because we have not been glorified, yet God continues to reveal just how wide and long and high and deep his love is for us as he pours out his grace on his people and teaches the church how to be the church. The result is growth, both in depth and in number. God is conforming his people into the likeness of his Son and the result of the work is far more than we could ever ask or imagine. How could that be a problem?

So what is our plan? Well, we are working on it! The options before us range from moving in a few modular buildings and moving to two services, to different stages of construction on new additions. We have been given a great deal of information from Stewart, Don, and Jerry, and now we are praying, thinking, discussing, and planning. Our goal is to continue to work together as leaders of the church and bring a plan to the congregation very soon. While that date has not yet been selected, we will give ample notice and publicize it via emails, bulletin announcements, and more Trumpet articles.

What we need from you is prayer! Would you please pray for your leaders as we seek to honor our gracious God by making decisions that are in keeping with his good, pleasing, and perfect will? We are very encouraged and eager to move forward, but we must be sure that doing so is to do what God has called us to do. Even though it is hard to get down the hallway and the classrooms are full and the best seat in the sanctuary (which really is the front seat anyway!) is taken, we are confident that the excitement of experiencing the width and length and height and depth of our great God is what motivates us as we grow deeper spiritually and wider in number.

Soli Deo Gloria!!

Bryant

Associate Pastor's Page:

Little Moments That Change the World

By Paul David Tripp

When does radical makeover occur? The simple answer is this: Radical makeover happens when radical intervention meets radical need.

Radical Need: Consider Matthew 5:14-16, a very familiar passage of Scripture. You are light of the world. What does it mean to be part of God's radical makeover on earth? First, you need to know your environment. Why does Christ say that the earth needs light? Because this world is dark. Sin envelopes the cosmos in darkness. Sin darkens the heart of every human being. You cannot look around without seeing darkness. This present darkness can be characterized in two ways. First, this darkness is the darkness of foolishness. Psalm 14 says, "The fool says in his heart there is no God." There is nothing more foolish than living in the middle of the world God created and saying, there is no God. Isaiah delighted in what he saw around him: "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty; the whole earth is filled with His glory." Yet, people ignore this glory and live in darkness. My wife Luella manages an art gallery. I love visiting her gallery the evening before an exhibit. As final preparation, she gets up on a ladder and moves the track lighting to illuminate each painting. Then she turns the spotlights on. In an instant, the gallery comes alive with artistic glory. When we view the brightly lit gallery from across the street in the dark of night, it is glorious. This is radical change.

As the evening ends, Luella turns off the gallery lights, punches the numbers on the security system, and closes and locks the door. I look back at the gallery and think, "This isn't right. These lights should be on all night because there's glory in that darkness." Millions of people stand in the gallery of God's glory, but for them, the lights are out. The glory is there. Paintings of spectacular glory festoon the walls of His world. Yet people stand in the middle of the gallery and see darkness. The foolishness of unbelief turns the lights out.

There's a second part of the darkness: the darkness of selfishness. If I don't see God's glory, if I am not magnetized by the greater glory of God, then there's only one other glory that will grip me. It's the glory of *me*, the glory of *my* life, the glory of *my* agenda.

Radical Intervention: For us to become part of God's radical makeover, we need to know God's remedy. How does God set about to radically alter this grave darkness? The gospels give us the answer. God's radical intervention is through a Person. Its not apparent when God enters this world and gets to work. His solution is not a theology. His solution is not a paradigm. Its not a model. Think about it this way. The solution for darkness is not a theory about light. The only solution for darkness is light. God is Light. Because the solution is personal, it is also relational. Light gets dirty feet walking on dusty Palestinian roads, talking with people. Light lives with kindness and wisdom and love. Light lives in busy inner-city Jerusalem. Light lives in a rural village on the rural shore of a small lake. Light walks the hill of Golgotha, hangs on a cross, and dies. But light shines again, in the resurrection. There's only one hope for darkness. It's not theory. Its a person. People in darkness see Light once again when God enters darkness. There is only one hope for darkness: the Light.

There is an intimate connection between Christ who is the Light of the world (John 1) and us who become the light of the world (Matt. 5) In Matthew 5, Jesus gives both the "is" and "ought" in His statement. Here is the "is": You are the light of the world. Something magnificent has happened. He says, "I have come to place my Spirit on you. When I do so, My Spirit lights you." If you are a believer you are different. You have different motivation. You act differently. You have a different purpose. Your character is different. Christ lights you up. Now you are that light too.

And this is the "ought": He says, "Let your light shine." He calls us to new intention and new motivation. He calls us to a new mission as we live every day where we live. You have a high calling. You are the light of the world. Know your environment: this dark world of foolishness and selfishness. Know God's remedy: the Light has come, a personal relational remedy. Know your place: you are the light of the world. Finally, know your job description. (Matt. 5:14-16) Our ministry to one another and our ministry to the world are often too "wordish". We frankly have too much to say. But Christ says something profound in this passage. He says it, and He incarnates it. Jesus implies that the leading edge of my radical makeover is not words. The leading edge of my radical makeover is deeds. Its easy to speak words. Its easy to critique. Its easy to judge. Its easy to have an opinion on everything. The church of Jesus Christ has a grossly negative posture in Western culture! "Let your light shine before men that they may see your good deeds." God calls us to light our world with remarkable kindness. God calls us to live with faithful love. He enables us to live with gentleness, patience, and forbearance.

When I got to the end of my Bible study on this passage, I was excited about what God has shown me. But I raised my hands and said to my Lord, "Too high, too high, too high. I can't do this. What you ask is too hard for me." I stood in my room realizing that I can't do it myself and said, "Lord, light me once more with your grace so, in some way, I can be the light of the world." I encourage you to pray that prayer.

Women In the Church

1 Peter 3:3-4, *“Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold or putting on fine apparel—rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.”*

We have scheduled the Fall Kick-off for Thursday, September 13, at 7:30 pm, at the church. So be sure to mark your calendars! We will have a very special speaker, who we are sure will challenge and encourage each of us. Her name is Lorraine Brock with Get Organized. We will have some flyers for everyone, so you can invite your family and friends to come with you. Lorraine will have packets for everyone and there is even a drawing for a door prize. Also, of course, there will be some delicious desserts for everyone and an opportunity to meet some of our newest members.

We have also scheduled a **Spring Retreat for April 4 & 5, 2008**, that's a Friday night and Saturday morning. We decided this year to go for an overnight retreat and it will be at **Turtle Hill Lodge and Conference Center in Muenster, Texas**. Supper on Friday and breakfast and lunch on Saturday will be provided in the cost of the weekend, which will be \$60.00 each for 4 ladies to a room. If you want to have less ladies in a room, then the cost will increase \$85.00 each for 2 to a room. Our Speaker will be Kari Stainback from Park Cities Presbyterian Church. Some of you will remember her from being our speaker at our very first Ladies Retreat. She plans to center her talks around our theme scripture for the year.

Our upcoming Women's Studies *have been changed* as follows:

1. **Wednesday (moved from Tuesdays) evenings at the Plano home of Cecilia Andis.**
Cecilia will be leading a study of the book *Humility, True Greatness* by C. J. Mahaney.
A fantastic little book to challenge you to get your focus off the human audience and on to the One whose attention can be captured by a heart of humility.
2. **Wednesday mornings at the church**, Teri Lytle will be leading a study of the book *Feminine Appeal: Seven Virtues of a Godly Wife and Mother* by Carolyn Mahaney. This is a fantastic book of practical and heart warming advice by which you will be wonderfully blessed.
3. **Tuesday (moved from Thursday) evenings at the church**, Linda Clark will be leading a study of the book *Living By the Book: The joy of Loving and Trusting God's Word* by James Montgomery Boice. This very special book will help you to learn from, love, trust and obey God's word.

We will have sign up sheets in the foyer, for each class and it is important that you sign up, so the books can be ordered and plans made for the first class. The classes will begin the week of Tuesday, September 18. For meeting times you need to check with the leader of the group you plan on attending.

Have a blessed September and be sure to get involved with the many wonderful opportunities for Spiritual Growth available. So that you can gain that *“incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.”* Remember to pray for each other, too.

Doing much better than I deserve,
Linda Clark, President
Women In the Church

Pray for the Persecuted Church

PAKISTAN

Religious Minorities Told to Convert or Die - VOM Sources

Christians in northern Pakistan have been receiving letters threatening them with death if they refuse to become Muslims. The Voice of the Martyrs' contacts in Pakistan report Peshawar's minorities are living in fear after receiving dozens of letters mailed to them in August. VOM contacts report, "There have been numerous threats sent to Peshawar's Kohati area. The letters say if we don't become Muslim we will be killed." Praise God it has only been threats so far. Pray God protects Christians in the area. Pray the testimony of believers in Pakistan will draw nonbelievers into fellowship with Jesus Christ. **Psalm 27:1, Romans 8:31**

CUBA

Authorities Threaten Pastors with Imprisonment - VOM Sources

In May, secret police in Cuba threatened four pastors with 25 to 50 years in prison if they continued receiving financial assistance from international ministries around the world. The pastors were forced to sign documents renouncing the help. The Voice of the Martyrs' contacts in Cuba report, "The secret police told them (pastors) that if they did not give up the financial help, they would be considered anti-revolutionary and conspirators against the government. As a result, the pastors are afraid and have not accepted help." Pray for pastors in Cuba as they share the gospel of Jesus Christ while facing difficult conditions. Ask God to provide for the four pastors and their families, and that their lives will be a testimony to nonbelievers. **Psalm 68:19, 3 John 2**

LAOS

Released Laotian Pastors Express Gratitude - VOM Sources

On August 14, The Voice of the Martyrs received a letter from Laotian Pastor Khamphuy, who was released from prison in May. Pastor Khamphuy wrote, "As one of 12 prisoners released in May, all of us want to express our appreciation for your prayers and support while we were in prison. Our wives told us that you sent help to our families and bought food and medicines for us. Thank you for sustaining our families while we were in prison." Pastor Khamphuy and 11 other pastors were arrested after attending a Christian meeting on November 21, 2006. After the release of nine in May, three pastors still remain imprisoned. Khamphuy added, "Please continue to pray for Pastors Amkha, Bua and Van Thong and their families." The Voice of the Martyrs encourages you to continue praying for the pastors in prison. Pray they will love their persecutors and have opportunities to share the love of Jesus with them. Also, pray for God's protection for the released pastors and their families, as they continue preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. **Philippians 4:8,**

1 Corinthians 15:57

CHINA

Imprisoned Elderly House Church Member's Health Worsens - China Aid Association

UPDATE: On August 17, The Voice of the Martyrs received information that imprisoned 76-year-old Shuang Shuying is seriously ill, and her family is seeking her immediate release on medical parole. According to China Aid Association (CAA), a letter from Shuying's daughter-in-law, Wei Jumei, reports that on a recent visit the family found Shuying in poor health. Jumei's letter said, "When my family and I visited her, my mother-in-law was extremely sick. Her hands were trembling and she looked pale. Just a few hours of sleep a day has seriously damaged her health. Prior to her imprisonment she weighed 121 pounds, but now weighs 88 pounds. The verbal abuse she gets from fellow inmates and the psychological pressure she is subjected to, have made her miserable. We appeal for her immediate release on medical parole." Pray for the healing and release of Shuang Shuying. Ask God to protect Christians in China. **Psalm 118:17, Isaiah 40:31**

Wonderful opportunity to see a DVD made by Voice of the Martyrs. It covers a trip by some young people to smuggle bibles to the underground church in Viet Nam. It is available to anyone who would like to borrow it. All you need to do is contact Linda Clark and let her know you would like to watch it. As you read this, some of our youth will have seen it during the youth retreat in July. It will really encourage your faith and show you how some of our brothers and sisters on the other side of the world are living their faith.

www.persecution.com

The Voice of the Martyrs official homepage

Learn about Christians who suffer for their faith around the world, and find out how you can stand with them through sending actual letters to them for encouragement.

HOPE Resource Center of McKinney

a pregnancy care ministry in North Collin County

cordially invites you to attend the

2007 Seeds of Hope

fund-raising banquet

featuring

Jerry Little and Candy Gibbs

of Care Net Crisis Pregnancy Centers of Amarillo

A former youth minister and his daughter will share their poignant story of their tragic choice of abortion and how God's unfailing love restored their devastated lives.



6:30 pm

Thursday, September 27
Hilton Garden Inn--Allen
705 Central Expressway, South
Allen, Texas 75013

For information and reservations call 972.837.5580



The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed!
Though it is one of the smallest of seeds . . . it grows
and becomes the largest of plants with long branches
where birds can build their nests and be sheltered.

Mark 4: 31-32

Banquet Committee Honorary Chairman: Collin County Judge Keith Self Banquet Committee Chairman: Connie Caldwell
HOPE Resource Center of McKinney . PMB #314 5100 Eldorado Pkwy., ste. 102 . McKinney TX 75070 . 972.837.5580 . www.hrc-mckinney.org

Redeemer Presbyterian Church

7820 Silverado Trail
McKinney, Texas 75070
972/529-1502



Redeemer Elders & Deacons:

Teaching Elder:

Pastor:

Bryant McGee

Worship

Associate Pastor:

Rolf Meintjes:

Youth & Family

**Ruling Elders & their main
Responsibilities:**

Bill Caldwell:

Operations

Ross Earley:

Outreach

Ed Kaylor :

Clerk & Nurture

Tim Yates

Education

Deacons :

Curtis Blagburn, Chairman

Anthony Broadfoot

Bob Burgess, Clerk

Mike Lovelace

Jared Page

Will Wende

**Check out some of the past
Trumpets on our
Church web page**

At

www.redeemer-mckinney.org

And some other Web pages:

www.northtexaspreswic.org

www.persecution.com