



The Trumpet Psalm 150:3a

Editor Linda Clark
Writer Caroline Ong

Member Spotlight: The McIlroy Family

Ten years ago in December of 1997, Jerry and Kim McIlroy were introduced by a mutual friend while working at Electronic Data Systems in Auburn Hills, Michigan. That introduction was providential as three months later they began dating, and were engaged at Christmas in 1999. The third millennium has been kind to the McIlroy's as it has brought them out of the frozen north and to Texas, and blessed them with two children, Kaitlin and Meghan. We are privileged to welcome them as members at Redeemer.

Jerry was born in Grand Blanc, Michigan, as the middle child with two sisters. Jerry later attended Michigan Technological University and earned a degree in computer information systems. His parents were believers and raised him in Faith Tabernacle church in Flint, MI. However, Jerry says "After years of rebellion, I have finally heard our Lord's voice, who has called me into His grace at Redeemer. I'm thankful for our Lord's mercy and forgive-

ness and I praise His holy name."

Kim was born the "baby" in her family (she has an older brother and sister) in Rochester, MI. She later earned a degree in General Studies from Oakland Community College. Of her journey to faith, Kim says "Growing up in a family with a non-denominational religion, I'm proud and extremely excited to say that I belong with my family in Christ at Redeemer." In fact, Kim received the sacrament of baptism upon joining our family in September.

In September 2005, a job transfer brought the McIlroy's to Texas. Jerry continues to work for Electronic Data Systems in Plano as a Technical Delivery Manager. Kim also worked for EDS for 15 years, but had been home for the past two years with Meghan (2) and Kaitlin (about to be 4). Kim rejoined the workforce in August of 2007 as the head chef at Ogle Elementary School in

Frisco. Are school lunches better under her leadership? "Well," Kim laughs, "We have recipes we have to follow!" While they miss family and friends in Michigan, Jerry says, "there is no lost love for the cold and snow." In their spare time, both enjoy traveling and camping; Jerry also enjoys football and collects sports cards while Kim scrapbooks.

How is God working today? "After moving to Texas, Kim and I discussed joining a local church where the girls could grow up with other kids, who they may eventually attend grade school with. Redeemer is about a half-mile from our home. Once we felt that the girls were old enough to start attending church and learning about Jesus (Easter Sunday, April 2007), we figured we would start somewhere close to home, with Redeemer. Together as a family, we are learning the word of God. The Lord is giving us guidance, patience, education and direction in our daily lives as Christians."



KIM, MEGHAN, KAITLIN AND JERRY MCILROY

Pray for the Persecuted Church

CHINA

UPDATE: Case of Arrested House Church Leader Returned to Public Security Bureau - China Aid Association

On November 22, the case for house church leader Zhou Heng was returned to the Public Security Bureau by the Shayibake District People's Procuratorate of Urumqi city, Xingjiang province, China.

According to China Aid Association, "Under heavy pressure from the international community, the prosecutors sent back Zhou's case because of insufficient evidence to indict him." Zhou Heng was arrested in August 2007, for receiving three tons of Bibles donated by South Korean churches. The Bibles were intended for distribution to local believers free of charge. Prior to his arrest, Zhou managed a bookstore,

called Yayi Christian Bookroom, and sold religious books. Authorities have closed the bookstore. Pray for the case against Zhou Heng to be dropped. Ask God to protect Christians who live and share their faith under difficult conditions. Isaiah 26: 3, Psalm 23 **Psalm 118:17, Psalm 91**

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WHY WE WORSHIP THE WAY WE DO *(Hymn and Prayer of Adoration)*



**Bryant McGee,
Senior Pastor**

“our goal is to bring to God what he deserves and what he tells us he desires.”

Last month we began a new series of explanation of each element in our worship service to understand more fully why we worship the way we do here at RPC. We began with the “Passing of the Peace” where God’s children verbally and visually communicate that we are just that, his children and therefore part of a large family as we communicate to one another that we are “fellow grace receivers” as we come together to worship our God. From there we hear God’s “Call to Worship” as he calls us into his presence to receive the renewing of his covenant with us and receives our response of worship. We now move to our response with the *Hymn of Adoration*. Seeing God for who he is (the one who calls us into his presence and the one who is high and lifted up), we also see who we are (in need of grace and forgiveness and renewal). The dialogue of worship now continues as God calls us to come and we respond by coming and singing his praise. The content of this hymn should reflect our adoration for him as we enter his presence. This is not a “response” hymn or a “confession” hymn, but a hymn that declares the attributes of our Triune God. The lyrics are important as we adore him for who he is

and what he promises to do in renewing his covenant with us (which is what worship is all about). I am moved each week as I hear you sing – we really are a singing congregation, and we should be. We have everything to praise God for and that is what we do as we enter his presence and adore him each Lord’s Day.

From the Hymn of Adoration, we move into the *Prayer of Adoration*. Some churches refer to this as an “Invocation” and we did so for some time as well. In worship God promises to renew his covenant with us. While we often times speak of our not gathering to get something in worship but give something, we still receive what God promises to do. We do gather to respond, all of us and not just “the guy up front,” but we do have the promise that God is present if he in fact calls us into his presence and promises to forgive our sins, assure us with his word, nourish us with word and sacrament, and so on. If God calls us and it’s not up to us to enter on our own, then we really do not need to invoke his presence among us because he is the one who called us there to start with. An ‘invocation’ invokes or invites God to be present and we should do this is we were praying

at committee meeting or sporting event or something similar to that, but we enter into worship because he calls us there so he is already present and therefore our prayer is one of adoration and not invocation. After singing his praise and worth, we declare it in prayer as we lift high the name of our God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Equally, this prayer is not our opportunity to lay our petitions before him as we later do in our prayer of intercession. We respond to his call to come before him by adoring him for who he is and what he promises to do to us and for us.

There is reason behind doing what we do in worship and our goal is to bring to God what he deserves and what he tells us he desires. Next month we will continue with a look at the Lord’s Prayer and the corporate amen that ends our responding to his call to come into his presence with thanksgiving.

Soli Deo Gloria!
Bryant

Afflictions (Joseph Williams)

“I find afflictions to be good for me.”

“It was good for me to be afflicted!” Psalm 119:71

I find afflictions to be good for me. I have always found them so. Afflictions are happy means in the hands of the Holy Spirit to subdue . . .

My corruptions,
My pride,
My evil passions,
My inordinate love to the creature.

Afflictions . . .

Soften my hard heart,
Bring me to my knees,
Increase faith,
Increase love,
Increase humility,
Increase self-denial.

Afflictions make me poor in spirit, and nothing in my own eyes.

Welcome the cross!

Welcome deep adversity!

Welcome stripping Providences!

“Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey Your word.” Psalm 119:67

Pray for the Persecuted Church continued from page 1

NIGERIA

Ten Killed, Churches and Homes Burned - Compass Direct News

Ten people were killed, several Christians injured seriously and churches, businesses and homes burned, when Muslim extremists went on a rampage in Yelwa Tudu, Bauchi state, Northern Nigeria on December 11, 2007. According to Compass Direct News, the violence occurred after unidentified people pulled out two bricks from the foundation of a mosque under construction at the Baba Tank Secondary School in Kagadama shortly after construction began on December 2. Compass Direct added, "Muslim extremists believed Christians were responsible for the damage and threatened to attack local believers. Area Muslims joined the attacking students, resulting in the deaths and damages in the city, including the burning of dozens of homes belonging to Christians. The Redeemed Christian Church of God, the Assemblies of God Church and

Elim Church were set on fire and damaged. At least a dozen Christian homes were destroyed in the attack." Only one of those killed has been identified as a Christian. The identities of the other nine were reportedly kept a secret by the government and their bodies were hurriedly buried in one grave. Pray the Lord will fill Christians with His peace and strength as they recover from this attack. Ask God to comfort those who have lost loved ones. Pray Christ will be exalted through this tragedy and that people in this area will continue to be drawn to Him.

Philippians 1:20, Psalm 107:2

AZERBAIJAN

Imprisoned Baptist Pastor in Poor Health – Christian World News

Recently, imprisoned Baptist pastor, Zaur Balaev, was transferred to a prison colony in Azerbaijan where his family is forced to bribe prison guards to bring him food. According to a

Christian World News (CWN) report, Mission Network News and the Slavic Gospel Association reported the frail pastor was experiencing harsh conditions at the prison. CWN reported, Joel Griffith of Slavic Gospel Association said, "Officials at this prison where he's being held are demanding a high level of payment in what seems to be basically bribes. They're demanding these bribes before Pastor Balaev is getting food or being able to meet with his family." The report added that since Pastor Balaev's transfer to Darnagyul, the pastor has been in poor health, and his church and family are concerned. However, they have been able to supply him with warm clothes, blankets and food. Pray God heals Pastor Balaev and works in his favor during the appeal process. Pray the Holy Spirit will encourage his family and church during this difficult time.

Psalm 91, Isaiah 40:31



Pray for strength and boldness for our brothers and sisters, who suffer for their faith.

Redeemer Day School

Redeemer Day School is happy to announce open registration for the 2008-2009 school year. **Open enrollment began January 22nd.** We will accept currently enrolled children and their siblings first. Therefore **currently enrolled families should submit registration forms and fees by February 21st, to secure their child's enrollment for next fall.**

Families who are not currently enrolled should submit their completed forms as soon as possible, in order to be put on the

waiting list. Registration fees for those on the waiting list will not be collected until notification has been given of their child's placement into the program.

February is our time to celebrate Valentine's Day by learning about what the word "love" means. We'll be singing the song "Jesus loves Me" and learning of the wonderful love of Jesus for each of us. Also, this month, we'll be celebrating our first **Donuts for Dad.** This is a special day fathers can join their children

in school to share a special breakfast together. This is a wonderful day to show how much we love our dads here at RDS!

The 3's and 4's are busy learning that "God Cares about Us" and this month will concentrate on Bible verses and stories which teach us to help others. The children enjoy learning Bible verses, stories, songs and crafts each week that go along with the themes.

Shelli Phillips
Director



Shelli Phillips,
Redeemer Day
School Director

Family Worship *Deuteronomy 6:4-12*



Rolf Meintjes,
Associate Pastor

"...within this text are commands from God to parents to constantly be teaching their kids the truths of the faith."

Now well into 2008, this article will make a final plea for a re-focus on Family Worship as a church body. Let me begin by saying that it is abundantly clear that Deuteronomy 6 does not prove the case of Family Worship. As stated in previous articles, the term, "Family Worship" does not appear in Scripture and is not taught explicitly in the Bible. The primary focus of this text is on God's covenant faithfulness to His people. Moses reminds the Israelites of their deep rooted history and God's preserving grace to His people. This is evident in the words of verse 12, "take care, lest you forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery." This is true of us as well, since God has brought us out of slavery to sin, into a rich and meaningful relationship with him through Christ!

Having said that, there are some inferences that can be made from this text which do apply to the concern of Family Worship. Laced within this text are commands from God to parents to constantly be teaching their kids the truths of the faith. This includes reminding them of their heritage and that God will remain true and faithful to His people. Again, this confidence is more pronounced for those who have received the grace of God in Christ. Truly He will go and has gone to great lengths to

sustain his people and uphold his promise. Yet, the question still remains - how are you doing as a parent? Are you instilling the truths of the faith in your own heart and the hearts of your children, "as you talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down and when you rise." In our fast paced culture this is *almost* impossible! We must not, however, allow our culture to excuse our responsibility and deprive us of the rich blessings that a time of Family Worship offers.

One final and pointed application of the text is that these words should be on your heart (v. 6). How can this take place if we are not spending time in the Word? Family worship by definition, focuses our attention of the Word of God and his grace and mercy to us in Christ. This, again, reiterates the value and benefits of a directed time in God's Word as a family. While not advocating family worship as the only application and fulfillment of Dt. 6, and certainly not presenting this as a cure all in a spiritual lives, the need for family worship is clear. Our fast paced culture seeks to strip us of every opportunity to teach ourselves, and our kids the truths of God's Word. While all of life is indeed an opportunity to impress the truths of the faith on the hearts and minds of our

kids, family worship readily lends itself to such a practice. If we neglect to teach as we ought when, "we walk by the way, when you lie down and when you rise", (i.e. - in all of life) then family worship serves as a safeguard to either address or reinforce issues that arise on a daily basis. To summarize, family worship, while not explicitly commanded, finds support implicitly in many passages of Scripture and serves as a wonderful practical tool in helping families toward fulfilling what we have been called to do in Scripture.

In the upcoming months, I hope to provide the entire church body with a Family Worship Guideline that will help facilitate family worship within Redeemer. Let me simply add that I am not advocating that Family Worship *must* take place daily. Maybe 1, 2, or 3 days a week is all you can afford. That's still a great place to start and probably more valuable than any of us realize over time. Furthermore, I am not advocating that it *must* take place at dinner. Maybe its best for your family early morning before everyone runs in different directions that day. Or, possibly right before bed would be a good time for your family... The point I'm simply trying to make is that Family Worship is a worthwhile and valuable endeavor; well worth the sacrifice it requires.

From the Church Office

Greetings from the office! Just a few friendly reminders:

The office sends out a "Weekly Announcement" email on Wed. or Thurs. of each week. While it comes from Pastor McGee's computer, I am the one sending it. Consequently if you have any corrections or additions, please send them directly to me

at: amyvender@hotmail.com.

If you are not receiving these and would like to be added to our list, please email me your address and we will be sure that you begin receiving the mailings.

Sherry Arp has kindly been updating the Intercessor. This is a wonderful way to inform our church family of

any prayer requests or praises. We do not, however, place anything in the Intercessor unless we have your permission. So, if you have anything that you would like lifted up in prayer by your church family please notify me in the church office or email Sherry directly at: daisyquilt1@netzero.net. Amy Vender



Amy Vender
Administrative Assistant

Christ's Sympathy to Weary Pilgrims by Octavius Winslow 1808-1878

"Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid." Mark 6:50

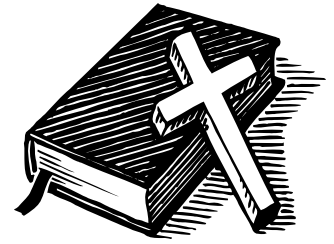
Listen, then, to the voice of Jesus in the storm. It is I who raised the tempest in your soul, and will control it. It is I who sent your affliction, and will be with you in it. It is I who kindled the furnace, and will watch the flames, and bring you through it. It is I who formed your burden, who carved your cross, and who will strengthen you to bear it. It is I who mixed your cup of grief, and will enable you to drink it with meek submission to your Father's will. It is I who took from you worldly substance, who bereft your child, of the wife of your

bosom, of the husband of your youth, and will be infinitely better to you than husband, wife, or child. It is I who have done it ALL.

I make the clouds my chariot, and clothe myself with the tempest as with a garment. The night hour is my time of coming, and the dark, surging waves are the pavement upon which I walk. Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid. It is I—your Friend, your Brother, your Savior! I am causing **all** the circumstances of your life to work together for your good. It is I who permitted the enemy to assail you, the slander to blast you, the unkindness to wound

you, the need to press you! Your affliction did not spring out of the ground, but came down from above—a heaven sent blessing disguised as an angel of light clad in a robe of ebony.

I have sent **all** in love! This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God. This bereavement shall not always bow you to the earth, nor drape in changeless gloom your life. It is I who ordered, arranged, and controlled it **all**! In **every** stormy wind, in **every** darksome night, in **every** lonesome hour, in **every** rising fear, the voice of Jesus shall be heard, saying, "Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid."



Spiritual meditation for pilgrims in a weary land on their way to glory!

Women In the Church



As you can see from the pictures on this page and on page 7, the Women's Tea was a wonderful success! We had 63 ladies and girls in attendance with lots of wonderful things to eat along with hot tea and hot cider to drink. Each table was decorated by the Hostess and her helper and the tables ranged from Western Casual to South African Formal and many lovely things in between. Ashli Kottwitz even made a cake in the shape of a Teapot for her centerpiece! Many ladies brought their daughters, daughters-in-law and some of us brought our granddaughters and others brought their mothers or friends or simply came alone to enjoy the

very special fellowship. Some of the ladies even wore hats!

Linda Clark, WIC President, gave a short personal testimony and devotional on the blessings which come from the afflictions Christians can expect to undergo in this life. Then she introduced the rest of the Board and Council to the ladies.

We had such a great time, we are planning on making



this an annual Tea for the month of January to wrap up all the holidays from the year before.

If you missed the Tea, please make plans on participating next year. You will be glad you attended.

There are lots more

more pictures on page 7

pictures to see, which will be available soon on the RPC Web site.



The next event coming up is our **Spring Retreat on April 4-5**. If you haven't signed up, it's not too late to do so. We have a very special speaker, Kari Stainback, Director of Women's Ministries from Park Cities PC. She is preparing a series using our scripture from 1 Peter. So please contact Rowena Yates and she will be glad to give you the details.



1 Peter 2:3-4

"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."

Report from the Session

Membership Update:

	Dec 2006	Dec 2007	
Communing Members:	159	185	+16%
Non-Communing Members:	55	81	
Total:	204	266	+30%

Within the numbers:

Additions:

Profession of Faith – Adult:	2
Profession of Faith – Child:	4
Transfer of Letter:	13
Reaffirmation of Faith:	19

Losses:

Transfer of Letter:	2
Removal from roll:	10

Also, there were 12 infant/child baptisms.

God has truly blessed RPC with growth in 2007!!!

Other items to report from the Session:

During the past few months (September – November) the Session met numerous times

with the Building Advisory Committee on the issue of overcrowding and what our strategy should be toward the next phase of building.

- Different options were proposed for consideration and discussed over several months.

- Met with architect, Thomas Newson.

- Session approved for architect to prepare a Schematic Design of the three options decided upon.

- The Schematic Design, expected to be ready in late December 2007 or early January 2008 will be forwarded to the builder for preliminary building costs.

- Held a joint meeting with the Diaconate in November:

-The Session recommended the Diaconate establish a building committee of 6-8 members from the congregation. The Diaconate will notify the Session of the members at a later date.

- Session approved the upgrade to the church phone system. The new system will offer more lines and the phones will have more

capabilities. It should be installed within the next 60 days. The Diaconate will oversee this project.

Having completed an 8 month training, the Session interviewed nominees for the office of Ruling Elder and Deacon in December.

- The following men will be recommended to the congregation for the office of Ruling Elder: Jeff Anderson, Matt Lenhard, and Steve Lytle.

- The following men will be recommended to the congregation for the office of Deacon:

David Vender and Steve Buchanan.

- Session met for a one-day retreat to finalize strategy for the next building phase. More information will be communicated to the congregation over the next two months.

- Elected RE Kaylor and RE Lenhard as commissioners to the North Texas Presbytery on February 1-2, 2008 at Christ Presbyterian in Flower Mound, TX.



Submitted by
Ed Kaylor
Session Clerk

God has truly
blessed RPC
with growth in
2007!!!

COMMUNICATION, COMMUNICATION on our CHANGES, CHANGES, CHANGES:



Mark your
Calendars!!

More information will be coming each month through various means of communication, but below are some "dates to remember" as they pertain to the session's plan on our overcrowding / building issues.

Mark your calendars!!

Feb – Mar = the elders will be calling you to make appointments to visit you in your homes to go over all the issues of our plan so you can ask your questions and get the full picture.

Feb = Pastor McGee will be preaching from 2 Corinthians 8-9 on "Biblical Generosity" (not just the

giving of our financial resources, but a biblical perspective of God owning everything and how we respond with our time, talents, finances, etc).

Mar 30, 6:00-8:00pm = Fellowship Meal at the church and the "kick off" of our stewardship campaign. We will share the vision of RPC, the drawings from the architect, the scope of phase 2, the costs, and all that good stuff. Pledge cards will be distributed and then collected each week in the offering plate.

Apr 27 = the elders are asking that all the pledge cards be turned in by this Sunday morning.

May 4 = Fellowship Meal and Celebration Sunday. The results of the pledge cards will be announced as well as what we will actually be doing.

Jan – Aug = small groups will not be meeting in the spring or summer due to the extra fellowship events we will be having over these months.

July = no SS during this month.

Aug = SS will begin again with some changes. More info will be coming on this.

Sept = small groups will begin again and they will all have a "Family Worship Focus." More info will be coming on this.

SABBATICAL NEWS

In many ways it seems awkward for me to write articles on my upcoming sabbatical because it almost appears as if I am trying to justify the time off. That being said, I do know that the saints of RPC have not had the opportunity to send their pastor on a sabbatical in the past and therefore could benefit from learning more of what it entails. That being said, I hope to do just that over the next few months by way of these articles.

Some of you may not know that I will be taking a sabbatical this summer (June, July, and August 2008). Several years ago the Session adopted a "sabbatical policy" that allows the pastoral staff to do this every five years in part as a response to my research on my dissertation (*Care for the Caregiver: Stress and Burnout in Pastoral Ministry*, a copy can be checked out from the church library). I have now been at RPC for 7 yrs. At my 5 yr anniversary, we had just moved into our new facility and we did not feel that would be a good time to be gone. At my 6th yr anniversary I applied for a sabbatical grant from the Lily Foundation but did not get it and therefore had no funding for

it. I applied for that same grant again this year my 7th anniversary, but did not get it again this year. Anticipating this would be the same response each year, we decided to go ahead and plan the sabbatical for the summer of 2008 and received a personal gift that will help fund my plan.

It may also be helpful for you to know the wording of the policy written and adopted by the session several years ago. Here it is:

Recognizing the intensity of ministry responsibility and the positive benefit of extended time away from normal duties for study, reflection and spiritual discipline, RPC provides for sabbatical leave for the Senior Pastor and other Pastoral Staff as follows:

Following each five years of service as Senior Pastor, the Pastor shall be entitled to take a sabbatical of three months (thirteen weeks)

for rest, renewal, ministry and/or education.

The Session may grant at its discretion up to three-month sabbaticals following five years of service with RPC for other Pastoral Staff Members.

It is the responsibility of the Pastoral Staff and the Session to provide for suitable coverage during a sabbatical, where necessary.

Over the next few months I hope to lay out for you the value of this wonderful policy and opportunity and also communicate to you what my plans are for this time. Sabbaticals are *not* extended vacations, but I will save the explanation of what they are for next month.

Grace and peace,
Bryant



Senior Pastor
Bryant McGee

WIC Tea continued





A Pregnancy Care Center Ministry

Baby Bottle Campaign

What is the Baby Bottle Campaign?

- It is an easy and fun way for families to raise funds that will help girls, women and children in need.
-
- It is a time when parents can educate their children about the unborn, the sanctity of human life, and about those who are less fortunate.
-

What should you do with the bottles?

- Pick up one or more and keep it until February 17th. Place it in a popular spot like the kitchen counter.
-
- During the next several weeks place your spare change in the bottles as an offering to help HOPE minister to women, men and children. (Checks and paper currency welcome!)
-
- Pray for the ministry of HOPE Resource Center, for the salvation of our clients, and the safety of the unborn and their mothers.
-

What happens to the bottles then?

- On **February 17th, return the bottles** to your church.
-
- Please **return even empty bottles**, as that saves us from having to purchase additional bottles for next time.
-
- If you would like more information about donation or volunteer opportunities at HOPE, fill out the pink bottle insert and return it with your bottle.

Thank you for your participation!

God bless you!

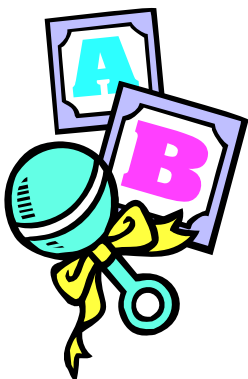
Here are examples of what your spare change can provide:



- \$1.25 1 Pregnancy Test
- \$3.50 2 New Testaments designed for women in crisis pregnancies
- \$5.00 1 new mother / new baby gift
- \$10.00 40 brochures detailing the positive option of adoption
- \$50.00 Training materials for 1 new client advocate volunteer

Thank You
for
Supporting Life!

HOPE Resource Center of McKinney
972.837.5580



Redeemer Presbyterian Church

7820 Silverado Trail
McKinney, Texas 75070

Phone: 972-529-1502

Demonstrating and sharing the reality of a relationship with Jesus Christ!

Redeemer Elders & Deacons

Church Staff:

Bryant McGee: *Senior Pastor*
Rolf Meintjes: *Assoc. Pastor*
Amy Vender: *Admin. Assistant*
Christine Yang: *Music*
Shelli Phillips: *RDS Director*

Ruling Elders & their main

Responsibilities:

Bill Caldwell: *Operations*
Ross Earley: *Outreach*
Ed Kaylor: *Clerk*
Steve Lytle: *Nurture*
Matt Lenhard: *Nurture*
Jeff Anderson: *Education*

Deacons:

Will Wende, *Chairman*
Anthony Broadfoot
Steve Buchanan
Gary Loney, *Clerk*
Jared Page
David Vender