



The Trumpet

Psalm 150:3a

Member Spotlight: The Knutson Family

Brenda and Loren met in their senior year of high school in Platte, South Dakota and soon knew that they had each met “the one”. After high school graduation, Brenda worked as a hair stylist while Loren attended South Dakota State University, graduating with a degree in electrical engineering. Marriage followed graduation and then both enrolled at Iowa State University. Brenda earned a bachelors degree in marketing and Loren earned a masters degree in electrical engineering. After graduating from Iowa State, Loren accepted a job at Texas Instruments and the Knutsons moved to Allen. Brenda and Loren are parents of three children: Alec, age 11; Jaeden, age 7; and Marina, who will soon be five. Loren is a software engineer with Markit, a company that develops communication software for financial institutions. Loren is also a musician, playing the trumpet since 6th grade.

He was in his college symphony and marching band. Brenda is a home schooling mom. Although Brenda recalls emphatically saying she could never home school, she is now enjoying the third year as her children’s teacher. An avid cook, Brenda tries out new recipes almost daily. She is also an advisor for Advocate, a nutritional supplement company.

Although new to Redeemer, Brenda and Loren have a rich background in reformed theology. Both grew up attending reformed theology churches. They drifted briefly from church involvement in college but found their faith commitment renewed after moving to Texas. The Knutsons were involved at Bethel PCA for several years and now have found a welcoming church home at Redeemer. Even before attending Redeemer, they had connections with

two church members. For the past two years, Brenda and Andrea Belonga have shared home schooling on Fridays – Brenda teaches science and Andrea teaches history. Additionally, Alec and Jaeden Knutson have taken art lessons from Cecilia Andis for the past several months.

Both Brenda and Loren’s parents and Brenda’s sister and brother live in South Dakota. Loren also has a brother in Minnesota and a sister in Florida. Besides visiting parents and siblings, the Knutsons enjoy visiting their favorite family destination – Disney World.

Reflecting on how God is at work in their lives today, Brenda replies “ I am currently home schooling our children ... without a doubt, this is God’s doing, not mine. However , He is blessing me and teaching me though this.” She also sees God at work as He has “led us to Redeemer for our new church family.”



Loren, Brenda, Alec, Jaeden and Marina Knutson

Pray for the Persecuted Church

CHINA-UPDATE- Prominent House Church Leaders Released by Police – China Aid Association

On Oct. 27, China’s Public Security Bureau released Pastor Zhang “Bike” Mingxuan, his wife and sister-in-law from detention, China Aid Association reported. Pastor Zhang’s sons Jian and Chuang, who were severely beaten by po-

lice officers on Oct. 16, have been forced to vacate their Beijing apartments, and are currently residing in Nanyang City, Henan province. Praise God for this family’s release. Continue to pray for healing for Pastor Bike’s sons. Ask God to continue His watch over this courageous family that continues to stand unashamed for Christ.

[Psalm 91:1-7](#)

CHINA - Christian Persecution Intensifies — China Aid Association

On Oct. 29, China Aid Association (CAA) reported that since the end of the Olympics in Beijing, cases of religious persecution have increased. CAA has received reports of intensified religious persecution in Beijing, Heilongjiang, Yunnan and (*continued on page 3*)

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“THE CHRIST OF CHRISTMAS”



**Dr. Bryant McGee,
Pastor**

As 2008 quickly comes to an end, the church finds herself approaching the beginning of the liturgical year with the Advent season. Advent is the word from the Latin root meaning ‘to come.’ The Advent season starts the liturgical calendar (or church calendar) as the church prepares for a worthy celebration of the first coming of Christ and in hope we eagerly look forward to his second coming.

There are always competing voices during the Christmas season. There are parties to attend, presents to buy, decorations to drag out and put up, concerts to frequent, family to visit, and on and on the list goes. In addition to these competing voices, many times we think to ourselves, “It’s the same ole thing year after year. I’ve heard the story hundreds of times so what could possibly be any different this year?”

When we find ourselves with such thoughts, we need to find refreshment for our souls in the understanding that Christ IS Christmas. That may seem obvious, but oh, how we miss it again and again. With the downturn in our economy we may find our Christmas competitions less this year than before. We may decide to scale back in what we buy, what we put up, and what events we attend, but let us not do the same with the Christmas message.

In an effort not to miss the Christ of Christmas, we will spend the Sundays of Advent studying some of the “I am” passages from the gospel of John. Since Advent is all about the church preparing for a worthy celebration of the first coming of Christ as we eagerly await his second coming, what better way to celebrate than to look to his own words defining

who he is. He is *The Christ of Christmas!*

Dec 7, “I Am the Bread of Life” (John 6:30-35)

Dec 14, “I Am the Light of the World” (John 8:12)

Dec 21, “I Am the Good Shepherd” (John 10:11-18)

Dec 24, I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life” (John 14:5-6)

Dec 28, I Am the True Vine” (John 15:1-5)

Advent marks the beginning of the year for the church. My prayer for you is that this Advent season will also be a time of celebration by this church as we look to the Light of the World who came to shine in our darkness.

Bryant

Session News



**Ed Kaylor, RE
Clerk of Session**

The Session met for its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, Oct 21, 2008 in the church library. All Elders were present.

Stewart Teasley, Building Committee chairman, addressed the Session with an update on the progress of determining a bank for the construction/mortgage loan. The Session approved for Stewart to negotiate solely with Independent Bank of McKinney based on the report given.

The Session received reports from the various Commissions on new member

interviews for the families of Floyd, Kiser, Wallace and Knutson.

The Session approved going to two worship services at 8:30am and 10:45am beginning on January 11, 2009. This will only be during the construction phase and we will return to one worship service as soon as the expanded sanctuary construction is completed. Sunday School will be held between the two worship services at 9:45am.

There will be no Sunday School on Dec. 28, 2008;

January 4, January 11 or January 18, 2009.

The Session has called for a Congregation meeting between the two worship services on Jan. 11, 2009 for the purpose of electing Deacons and Ruling Elders. Also an update on the building construction will be provided. Installation of new officers (Deacons and Ruling Elders) will be at the **second** service on Jan. 18, 2009.

Ed Kaylor, RE
Clerk of Session

Pray for the Persecuted Church continued from page 1

Shandong provinces. In Beijing Pastor “Bike” Zhang Mingxuan and his family members were evicted from their home, beaten and arrested. In Helionjiang province, the city of Yichun recently banned all house churches, CAA also reported. In Yunnan province, house church members were attacked right after the Olympics. In Shandong province, Pastor Zhang Zhongxin was sentenced to two years of re-education through labor. After the Olympics his appeal was denied, according to CAA. Meanwhile, CAA has learned that 29 house church leaders have been serving time in labor camps and prisons in Henan province since July 2007. They are accused of being “evil cult” members. One leader was sentenced

to seven years imprisonment the harshest sentence against a house church leader in recent years, besides Pastor Zhang Rongliang. Pastor Zhang was sentenced to seven-and-a-half years in 2004 for allegedly “attempting to illegally cross the border and forgery of an official document,” according to CAA. Pray for Christians in China who face immense challenges. Pray the Holy Spirit encourages and protects believers as persecution increases in China.

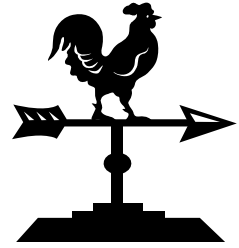
[Joshua 1:8](#)

KYRGYZSTAN - Restrictive Religious Law Passes Parliament – VOM Canada

A restrictive religious law passed its final reading in Kyrgyzstan's parliament on Nov. 6,

sparking concern among the Christian minority, VOM Canada reported. The new law, if approved by President Kurmanbek Bakiyev, requires religious organizations to have a minimum of 200 members whose identities have been confirmed by local authorities, bans the distribution of religious literature in public places, and prohibits private religious schools. Pray for believers in Kyrgyzstan who will come under increased scrutiny because of this law. Ask God to encourage and protect them. Pray believers continue to meet and boldly profess Christ.

[Isaiah 26:3](#)



www.persecution.com

www.prisoneralert.com



Report from the Building Committee

The Building Committee has completed an in-depth review of the construction drawing set from the architect and we are now ready to seek bids from several builders pending approval of our site plan by the City of McKinney. We feel it is important to obtain this approval prior to seeking construction bids so that we can avoid unnecessary change orders with the builder if the city requires changes to our plans.

The required documentation for City of McKinney site plan approval was submitted to them at the end of August. Since our plans are essentially in compliance with the master plan that was approved several years ago, we

felt that 1 month would be a reasonable time to obtain approval, enabling us to solicit construction bids in October. The city, however, used this opportunity to do a complete review of our plans as if they had never been reviewed previously. As a result, the earliest possible time to obtain the required approval from the Planning and Zoning Commission is their December 9 meeting. All this has delayed groundbreaking until January at the earliest, but may still allow us to complete construction in 2009.

As we near the end of the year, it is very important that pledges made for 2008 be completed by December. Our lender will be

evaluating our yearly performance against pledges as one factor in approving our loan request. So far contributions to the building fund have been coming in somewhat slower than expected. If you have not yet made a pledge to the building program or if you are in a position to increase your pledge, please pick up a brochure from the information rack and turn in a pledge card in the offering plate.

Please keep the work of the Building Committee in your prayers. Pray that the funds needed to complete the work will be available and the turmoil in the national economy will not impact our efforts.



**Stewart Teasley,
Chairman**

A Family and Kingdom Christmas



**Rolf Meintjes,
Associate
Pastor**

It's hard to believe that the "holidays" are already upon us. What a wonderful time of year. With the cooler weather, warm friends and fellowship are a welcome part of the Thanksgiving and Christmas season. Yet, it can easily become a strained time of year, with painful reminders of broken relationships and family struggles. What is supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year often is not.

Another difficulty to deal with is taking advantage of the time and remembering what Christmas is all about. So often, within the church, we establish false marks of piety based on extra-Biblical family practices. In addition, I spend so much time trying to avoid the consumerism of our culture that I forget to engage myself and the world with a kingdom focus, both in and outside the home. In other words, by trying to avoid the negative implications of the holiday season, the beauty and positive dimensions of Christmas are often lost. Let us then encourage one another as a family in how to not only maintain a Christ-centered focus, but engage the world around us with the love of Christ.

In the Home:

If you're anything like me, you may be a little leary of advent. What exactly is it? It potentially seems so formulaic and smacks of traditionalism. Yet, like me, you probably look back every year and think that I didn't do a very good job with my family in preserving the focus of Christmas. Advent provides a great opportunity to build off of what is incorporated in corporate worship by carrying it directly into the home. It further-

more, enhances the anticipation of Christmas, not in regard to the presents to be received under the tree, but in the gift that has been give to us in Christ himself. Advent has been incorporated into the church calendar for hundreds of years, and therefore lends itself to a kingdom focus with a historic element that provides a depth and richness to what is taking place. This is what great grandma and grandpa did in preparation for Christmas. This is what Jonathan Edwards, David Brainard, B.B. Warfield, Charles Hodge and other stalwarts of the faith have practiced. But most importantly, in addition to adding the historic element, it preserves what is taking place in the present and shapes our future. Christ is coming, has come, and will come again!!

Practically speaking, there is a great website that lays out daily devotions for the season of advent. This coincides with what Redeemer has established in Biblical Family Worship, so check it out and join me in preparing our hearts and those within our family with a pointed and distince focus on Christ. (See <http://www.cresourcei.org/advent1.html> and also check out this section for some decorations that serve as visual reminders of what we prepare for in our hearts: <http://www.cresourcei.org/cyadvent.html#Wreath>)

Outside the Home:

It's hard to capture a true sense of Christmas without a focus on service and self-denial. The incarnation necessitates such considerations and convictions. In America, we have an opportunity to convince our children of this sort of focus

with the instruction that surrounds Thanksgiving. Here we are pointedly reminded of what we are to be thankful for, and how richly God has blessed us. This, coupled with the self-deprecation and condescension of Christ, leads us to a posture of humility and self-denial. Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to thy cross I cling."

Christmas prods us to service. Recognizing the level of condescension in Christ reminds us that we in turn ought to seek out opportunities to serve others. John Calvin speaks to this in "The Golden Booklet of the Christian Life, "It is an ancient and true observation that there is a world of vices hidden in the soul or man, but Christian self-denial is the remedy of them all." Self-denial, he goes on to say, is the heart of the Christian life, because it is the heart of Christ's life, death and resurrection. If we truly seek to celebrate Christ, this must then be a focus we seek to adopt.

So again, what ways can you and your family seek to engage the world with the gospel and love of Christ? Rather than spending an afternoon shopping, let's spend an afternoon serving. Caroling at a retirement home, serving food at the Samaritan Inn or free babysitting for your beloved Associate pastor are just a few examples off the top of my head. In all seriousness, be creative in engaging in service through self denial out of love and gratitude for Christ. This enhances Christmas in accord with Scripture, in a way that pleases Christ himself.



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

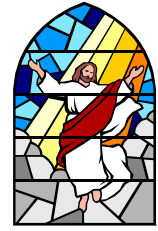
What is your sorrow? Has the hand of death smitten? Is the beloved one removed? Has the desire of your eyes been taken away with a stroke? But who has done it? *Jesus has done it!* Death was only His messenger. Your Jesus has done it. The Lord has taken away. And what has He removed? Your wife? Ah, Jesus has all the tenderness that your wife ever had. Hers was only a drop from the ocean that is in His heart. Is it your husband? Jesus is better to you than ten husbands. Is it your parent, your child, your friend, all of your earthly bliss? Is the cistern broken? Is the earthen vessel dashed to

pieces? Are all your streams dry? Jesus is still enough. He has not taken Himself from you, and never, never will!

Take your bereaved, stricken and bleeding heart to Him—and rest it upon His heart, which was once bereaved, stricken and bleeding, too! He knows how to bind up the broken heart, to heal the wounded spirit and to comfort those who mourn.

What is your sorrow? Has health failed you? Has property forsaken you? Have friends turned against you? Are you tried in your circumstances? Perplexed in your

path? Are providences thickening and darkening around you? Are you anticipating seasons of approaching trial? Are you walking in darkness, having no light? *Simply go to Jesus!* He is an ever open door—a tender, loving, faithful Friend, ever near. He is a Brother born for your adversity. His grace and sympathy are sufficient for you. Go to Him in every trial—cast upon Him every burden—take the infirmity, the corruption, the cross as it arises—simply and immediately to Jesus! Jesus is your loving and confiding Brother and Friend, to go Him at all times and under all circumstances.



Take your heart to Him

Women In the Church

Well, Thanksgiving is over and now we are looking forward to Christmas. This is a special time for us as Christians and yet if we don't work really hard at remembering the "reason for the season", we get caught up in materialism of the world. So my prayer for all of us at Redeemer is that God keeps us focused on Him.

Our WIC Bible studies of the Gospel of Mark are coming to a close the 2nd week of December and I hope everyone was blessed with this study.

After a conversation with Bryant and lots of prayer, the WIC Board has decided to begin a very special Bible

Study for the women called **G.R.O.W.** Through Bible Study. The acronym stands for **God Redeems Our Women**. The way we will set up the 13 week study is:

We will come together in a large group and Bryant will teach us over the preceding week's homework for 45 minutes. Then we will divide into small groups with a leader and will cover the homework and Bryant's teaching. For those of you familiar with BSF, it will be a similar set up.

The book we will use is "Let's Study Ephesians" by Sinclair Ferguson and published by The Banner Of Truth Trust. The cost of the books for each of us will be \$10.50 and we need

to order them soon. So please let Nancy Kerr or me know if you will be participating in the special opportunity.

Also, as the Board talked, we liked the **G.R.O.W.** acronym and decided to use it with our Mother/Daughter Tea in January: **G.R.O.W.** Through Nurturing and our spring retreat: **G.R.O.W.** Through Fellowship.

So, ladies, our exciting new **G.R.O.W.** Through Bible Study will begin January 26 & 28. The meetings will again be Wednesdays at 9am and Mondays at 7:30pm, with babysitting for the Wednesday mornings and none for the Monday evenings.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



"This is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at My word."

Isaiah 66:2b (ESV)



**Steve
Buchanan,
Clerk of
Diaconate**

Diaconate Report

The entire diaconate was in attendance when they met on October 30th for their monthly meeting. Topics discussed included the following:

1. Requests sent to the diaconate via e-mail will be followed-up on within 24 hours.
2. The diaconate is awaiting the outdoor play equipment company to provide a new design to incorporate individual pieces of equipment that can be purchased with the funds donated for the playground.
3. Jared Page, Gary Loney, and Mark Conrad are working to organize a team of individuals to assist in the passing out of bulletins and collection of offering when we move to two services in January.
4. The deacons will be working at the 3E Garage Sale Opportunity on November 22nd.
5. For a second year, the diaconate approved a donation from Redeemer for the annual support/fund-raiser for St.

James A.M.E. in McKinney as this young body of believers seeks to gain additional funding to build a church home.

6. Known mercy needs within the body were discussed, with additional actions to be followed up on by the diaconate individually and collectively.

7. The needs within the body are growing, and the diaconate is searching for others to assist in our efforts to collectively support the body.

8. The diaconate will further discuss, during their December meeting, which service each of the deacons will be attending beginning in January.

9. Additional chair and table needs in the 1st - 3rd graders room will be determined by the Sunday School teacher, and RDS teacher that hold their classes in this room.

10. A local nursing home sent out information to area churches requesting donations be made to the food pantry

that Redeemer currently supports. The diaconate decided to continue making contributions directly to the food pantry and pass on making the donations through the nursing home. However, we will communicate if we have future opportunities for having a bible study, and Christmas caroling at the nursing home.

11. Please use the following deacon contacts when you address any issues related to the following ministries:

Anthony Broadfoot - Financial
David Vender - Inside Building Maintenance

Jared Page - Mercy Ministry

Gary Loney - Keys

Steve Buchanan - Outside Building Maintenance

Will Wende - Chairman

Thanks,
Steve

Redeemer Day School

For the Month of December, RDS will be celebrating Jesus' Birthday. Our bible objective is Jesus was born to Mary and is God's son sent to Earth to save sinners.

RDS would also like to celebrate our two new staff members. Amy Nance was hired to be the 3 year old aide and Lyndee Lewis will be the teacher for our 18-24 month classroom.

RDS will be introducing new bible verses for our children to learn: *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."* Philippians 4:13 and *"Jesus said unto Him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life..."* John 14:16

Our 4 year old classroom is working very hard in learning their bible verses each week. Our teacher Wendi Sands has a bible verse chart to place stickers by each child's name for when they have memorized their verse. We are very proud of our students and how quickly they are learning their bible verses.

Fall Festival was a huge success for RDS this year. We would like to share some of the pictures from this event. All the children had a blast and came in costumes.



How to Prosper in a Declining Economy *Crown Financial Ministries*

Newscasts report daily that our economy is unstable and vulnerable. People are losing their homes, highly-paid executives are losing their positions and having to settle for lower-paying jobs, food and energy costs continue to increase, and the list goes on.

While these facts are true, what we are experiencing is not new. In Jeremiah 29, the “weeping prophet” predicted long-term captivity. Israel would endure 70 years of hard labor before they would be allowed to return to their homeland. Let’s all hope and pray that our current economic downturn won’t last that long!

We have compiled a list of things you can do to survive or thrive in our current economy:

- **Pay your bills faithfully.** Making your payments on or before the due date is a positive testimony to your creditors and a good example to your family/neighbors.
- **Prioritize your debt,** making sure you don’t compromise your home or your transportation.
- **Negotiate with creditors** as needed. Be proactive, seek a meeting with them to make payment arrangements rather than waiting until you miss payments and they come looking for you.
- **Downsize** if it puts you in a better cash position.
- **Pay extra** whenever possible to accelerate payoff dates.
- **Have a garage sale** to generate extra cash to pay down debt or to increase savings.
- **Work your way through the Crown Ministry Map.**
- **Capitalize** on your most valuable assets, your family.
- **Learn to garden,** use fresh vegetables and fruit when in season, try a new recipe.
- **Cancel cable/satellite.** Instead, read a book, play a table game or share coffee with friends.
- **Explore bartering** to save on outgoing ex-

penses.

- **Learn to be content.** (1 Timothy 6:6-9)

“A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.” Proverbs 22:2

Finally, as the Lord enables you, be generous and open to opportunities to continue giving faithfully to the work of Christ. As the potential fear about the economy rises, tithes, offerings and other charitable giving tend to decline—at the very time the need for ministry is the greatest.

Join an online Crown community that offers financial help⁰ and hope during this unstable economy.

Visit us online at

Crown.org

Submitted by

Elder Bill Caldwell



**Crown
Financial
Ministries**

“A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.”

Proverbs 22:2



Applause – For Whom are You Clapping?



As a professional musician, I am accustomed to applause. This is what a performer walking out on the concert stage expects and anticipates again following a successful performance. But musicians and pastors alike are quick to state that when it comes to worship services, we are not “performing”. Music in church, we rightly understand, in an essential part of “worship” – an offering, prayer, or praise. So how does applause fit into the worship service, or does it fit at all?

Psalm 47:1 urges all the nations of the world to clap their hands and exhorts them to shout to God with cries of joy. Later in Psalm 98:8, it is the rivers that “clap their hands”, while in Isaiah 55:12, the trees of the field partake in this joyous activity in praise of their Creator. In Lamentations 2:15, however, the clapping of hands is associated with scoffing and shaking of the head in mockery of the Daughter of Jerusalem. And in Job 27:23, it is the east wind that “claps” in derision at the wicked, ruthless man judged by God.

Clapping, then, by evidence of Scripture, has more than one socio-cultural meaning according to both the time and place in which it occurs. Thus, it is possible for us to mean different things when we applaud in the concert hall or when we applaud in church; and further, it is possible to be both informed and intentional in our distinction about what clapping means in each context. My suspicion, however, is that our understanding is not all that clear.

On vacation in August 2000, I visited three different churches one Sunday morning. The largest of these churches

had a congregation that applauded frequently. They applauded at the end of each praise song led by the worship team. (And it should be noted that applause following a performance is different than clapping in rhythm with the music as one sings.) They applauded when a baby was dedicated to the Lord and also when his mother left the platform. I have also witnessed congregations applauding their preacher, particularly when a powerful demonstration of oratory skill was displayed. For me this response, whether cognitive or emotional or both, begs the question, “For whom are you clapping?”

To applaud means, literally, “to give praise to” [*aplaud*]. In worship, our thoughts and actions are to be directed to the subject and object of worship – God himself. Jehovah merits our praise, so applauding him for his acts or attributes in the context of worship may be defensible. Otherwise though, clapping has no biblical place in worship and should not be directed at musicians, or preachers, or babies. There are not many genuine “clap offerings” to God – and this does not appear to be an activity he requested. More often we applaud people with the hope of making them feel appreciated, or to demonstrate our approval of the rendition, or to show that we affirm the message of the music. Encouraging, approving, and affirming are not wrong actions in and of themselves.

Although applause directed to God in worship is defensible, in our cultural context applause is the stuff of the theater, the concert stage, and the political convention. With such strong associations, applause in worship is at best inappropriate and at worst could be

sacrilegious. In worship, if we applaud someone other than God, we effectively rob him of the glory that is due him alone. Most people sitting in the pews each Sunday are not bothered by this relatively new phenomenon, however. In fact, it has become so customary to clap that we instinctively applaud for almost anything. This particularly seems to be true at the conclusion of a solo piece that ends fast, loud, and high.

More often than not, this is simply an unexamined carryover from the entertainment industry. We applaud in church because we have not thought much about it and instead have allowed our secular society’s response to entertainment to gain a place where it does not belong. Pastors and musicians should address this subject in their churches. If they do not, who can or who will?

Musicians who recognize that their offerings in the context of worship are solely for the glory of God – *soli Deo gloria* – do not desire your applause. In fact, it may trouble them and diminish their joy in giving back a small part of what God has given them. A better response to the musician would simply be to say “I thank God for how he blessed me through you this morning” or “I appreciate you and pray for you.” Comments like these are encouraging to the church musician. But the best response to music or other ministry that blesses you is to thank God for it.

Paul S. Jones (D.M., Indiana University) is the organist and music director of Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Youth Report

This month the youth continued a study of biblical manhood and womanhood on Wednesday nights and a Sunday morning survey of Genesis.

In the Sunday morning Genesis study, the youth have been outlining several aspects of Genesis as they work through the material in each chapter. These themes can be traced through biblical history and followed as you work your way from the beginning to the end of Scripture.

The first theme the youth are mapping is the line of Cain vs

the line of Seth (or, the world's offspring vs. the line of Christ). A second theme is the growing, widening line of the Covenant (from just one man -- Adam, to one whole family -- Noah's, to one whole, ethnic people group -- Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob's offspring). Along the way we see the enmity that exists between the members of the line of Christ and those that represent the world and its ways.

We also see how so many of God's chosen people are themselves sinful and undeserving, in need of a Savior and chosen not because of their good behavior or

intrinsic nobility, but because of God's sovereignty, mercy, and love. It is hard not to see God's message of redemption even as we look back at the dawn of time, even before anyone on earth had gazed upon the finished work of Christ on the cross.

Indeed, all of these studies point beautifully to God's complete sovereignty, His perfect plan, and to Jesus Christ, an offspring in the line of Seth and yet also the Second Adam, who came to save this world, to bring all tribes and nations to the brightness of His light and truth.



Mercy Ministry

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.
Galatians 6:9

We have several opportunities to be of service to our Collin County/Texas community this fall. Please consider any or all of the following in your plans.

December

Prison Fellowship Angel Tree
Silver Angel Ministry-Collin County Committee on Aging
Salvation Army Kettle Drive

Marilyn has gathered individual requests from Prison Fellowship families for gifts for their children. These requests are located on the Prison Fel-

lowship Angel Tree at the church. Please select one or more to buy gifts for and return to the church by **Sunday, December 14** at the latest. In addition, we need volunteers to deliver the gifts to these families (McKinney addresses). Please contact Marilyn if you can help: howvanpelt@aol.com or 214 783-3854.

Marilyn has also prepared cards for the church to select Silver Angels for the Collin County Committee on Aging. The Committee on Aging is requesting Walmart gift cards for each Silver Angel, no denomination specified.

And, our church body has signed up to be Bell Ringers

for the Salvation Army. We will man/woman/kiddo the kettle on Saturday, December 13 from 10 -8 p.m. at Sam's Club on Highway 380 in McKinney. Please contact Stephanie Hanson at shanson@ccccd.edu or 972.548.9560 for the one-hour shift that works for you, your family, or group. And FYI--when there are not volunteers for a day, the Salvation Army has to pay \$80 dollars for each kettle person.



Redeemer Presbyterian Church

7820 Silverado Trail
McKinney, Texas 75070

Phone: 972-529-1502

Grace upon Grace: Receiving as a Body and Reaching Out as Believers.

Redeemer Elders & Deacons

Church Staff:

Dr. Bryant McGee: *Senior Pastor*

Rolf Meintjes: *Assoc. Pastor*

Wendy Meintjes: *Admin. Assistant*

Dr. Christine Yang: *Music Director*

Shelli Phillips: *RDS Director*

Ruling Elders & their main

Responsibilities:

Bill Caldwell: *Operations*

Ross Earley: *Outreach*

Ed Kaylor: *Clerk*

Matt Lenhard: *Nurture*

Steve Lytle: *Nurture*

Deacons:

Will Wende, Chairman

Anthony Broadfoot, Financial

Steve Buchanan, Outside Maintenance

Gary Loney, Keys

Jared Page, Mercy Ministry

David Vender, Inside Maintenance