

January 2016



REDEEMER EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

The Master's Touch

From the Pastor's Desk

Arise, for it is your task, and we are with you; be strong and do it. Ezra 10:4

"It's not you. It's me." This simple phrase has ended many romantic relationships. If we happen to be the ones speaking those words we think we are letting the other person down easy. If we are the ones hearing them, we know that they ring trite. Like George Constanza from the television show *Seinfeld*, we would much rather hear that the blame was on us rather than watch our relationships crumble and be unable to do anything about it. But what if we could re-purpose those words?

In the book of Ezra, Ezra the priest faced a daunting task. In order to restore the people of Israel to wholeness, he needed them to undertake a difficult action – separating from their foreign wives. Even though Ezra was the only one who could command this, he hesitated. It was not until the people challenged him to take on his God-given responsibility that he did it. In that same way, each of us has a God-given responsibility to live out what He has called us to do. While we can and

will support each other, we cannot do this for each other.

This year at Redeemer, we are going to take a negative statement and turn it into a positive. Our theme for 2016 will be **"It's not you. It's me."** But rather than break-up with one another, we are going to use this phrase to challenge ourselves. We are going to stop trying to live our faith through others but instead experience the living God for ourselves. The way I like to put it: *What would it look like to be a church where no one is on their own, yet everyone takes ownership?* How many spiritual gifts would be discovered? How many new ministries might be launched? How many lives changed? **But it won't start until each look in the mirror and let God work through us, rather than pass it along to someone else. It's not you. It's me.**

- Mark Mohrweis
PastorMark@RedeemerCovenantChurch.org



Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 31
12:45 p.m. - Immediately after the Fellowship Lunch

Redeemer Members: Please make plans to stay after worship for our annual meeting on January 31, 2016. We will have a free soup lunch followed by our meeting.



Everyone is welcome! **You don't have to be a member of Redeemer to come listen!**

At this meeting you will:

- Hear the latest updates on **Redeemer's Mission & Vision**, mortgage, and RENOVATE campaign
- Get your very own updated Redeemer photo directory

Members are needed to:

- Vote on the 2016 budget
- Vote on new members
- Approve the Nominating Committee for June council member changes
- **Vote on a change to Redeemer's Constitution** (See the proposed changes on page 2.)

Please make it a priority to join us!

Proposed Change to Our Constitution

One action at the Annual Meeting is to vote on a change to Redeemer's constitution. This change was first proposed at the June 2015 Annual Meeting and it has to do with our financial auditing procedure. Below is the current bylaw along with the proposed change.

The Bylaws Article VII, Section 5:

"The accounts of Redeemer Evangelical Covenant Church of Dallas, Texas and its committees shall be audited annually by the auditors recommended by the executive committee and approved at the annual congregational business meeting."

Proposed change:

"The accounts of Redeemer Evangelical Covenant Church of Dallas, Texas shall be audited every four years by an external auditing service. The audit service shall be selected by the church council. The congregation shall be notified of the audit and the audited reports shall be

made available at the following congregational business meeting."

Why the change? The simple version: We have not doing this. I (Mark) am not aware of any audits taking place at Redeemer for the past 8 years. It seems that finding a volunteer committee to do this has been difficult and therefore no audits have taken place. Not only that, there is skepticism (rightfully so) that a randomly pieced together committee would have the financial expertise to conduct an audit. The Church Council is proposing is that we hire professionals to do our auditing every four years. Our bookkeeper (who would not be doing the audit) recommends the four year time frame. While it costs more than a volunteer force, we believe the quality of the audit along with not needing to find volunteers every year will be worth it.



Taking Down the Greens
~ Saturday, January 9, 9 A.M. ~
We need your help!
Your participation will make it fun to:

- Put away the Christmas decorations
- Start 2016 out fresh and clean
- Enjoy a continental breakfast
- Get to know each other better

Please help us prepare Redeemer for the new year!
Contact Jake Petty at [Craftsman4Christ \(at\) yahoo.com](mailto:Craftsman4Christ@yahoo.com).



YOU make it fun!!



3RD Annual Soup-er Bowl Cook Off is coming!

Sunday, January 31 at Noon in Fellowship Hall
Calling All Cooks! We are looking for about a dozen pots of soup for the Fellowship Lunch on Sunday, January 31. If you are willing to make a large pot of soup, watch for signups in the foyer. *Maybe you will win the "coveted prize"!!* Note: We ask for all pots of soup to be delivered to the Fellowship Hall by 10:45 on Sunday morning so we can make sure they are set up and warm by noon. Let us know if you need a crock-pot. Set up/clean up volunteers are needed, too!
Questions? Contact Kathy Joiner at [kjlnjj \(at\) yahoo.com](mailto:kjlnjj@yahoo.com).

Redeemer's Congregational Meeting will immediately follow the lunch.



Adult Teaching Hour in January - Sundays, 9:30-10:30 A.M.

New Year's Prayer

- Sunday, January 3

9:30-10:30 A.M.

Prayer Room

- Join us for this special prayer time on the first Sunday morning of 2016!
- It will be led by our Prayer Team.
- Prayers for healing, blessing on the New Year, etc. Contact Pastor Mark.



Get to Know Redeemer

- A New Class in January

Beginning January 10

9:30-10:30 A.M.

Fellowship Hall

Pastor Mark will be teaching a 4-week Sunday School class introducing Redeemer and the ECC denomination to the congregation. This is a class for new members. All are welcome to join in. Contact Pastor Mark.



Join a new study offered Sunday mornings called *Known by Love*.

Beginning Sunday, January 10

9:30 to 10:30 A.M.

Sanctuary Annex

In Jesus' Church, love is a central theme. As members of Christ's Body, believers are instructed to love one another as Jesus has loved them. Our

love for one another is meant to be the mark of our discipleship, our calling card to the world so that others understand that we belong to Jesus.

We are commanded by our Lord to be known by our love.

Yet, in spite of love's prominence and importance to our faith, many of us are often bewildered when it comes to demonstrating love in our relationships. When we stop to think about it, we wonder what is involved in loving God and our sisters and brothers in the faith. Can we just act loving or do we need something more to happen—perhaps to actually become someone transformed by love in our hearts? Our confusion about love can hinder our progress forward or limit our potential to become all that Christ desires for His followers.

So what is the process to becoming someone known by love? How is God involved? What qualities would need to be present in our relationships with others for us to be seen as loving? How could we, as Christians, revitalize our reputation in the world as a community of people who truly love deeply?

"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."
- John 13:35

Known by Love, will lead you on an interactive journey to explore these questions with God and the members of your small group. Alongside the opportunity to learn what Scripture teaches about love, this study also provides practical exercises to guide you toward becoming a more loving

person in all of your relationships. You could say it is a hands-on experience with love.

Sound intriguing?

You can learn more by contacting Michael or Carolann Duffin by email at [carolannrduffin \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:carolannrduffin@gmail.com) or phone at 714-931-8658.

NOTE:

While the *Known By Love* study is being offered during our Sunday school hour this first time, the format resembles that of a small group. A commitment to the twelve weeks is ideal, and after week two the group will close. Should you be interested in the



topic and this material but these dates aren't convenient, please contact the Duffins for the instructions on how you can still experience and walk through the material in a way that fits your schedule.

CREW Youth Group

A New Chapter for CREW

As many of you know Haley Feuerbacher has faithfully and fearlessly led our CREW students and leaders for the **past 4 years. As Haley's time with us has concluded we** reflect on the amazing journey we shared with her.

There were countless laughs, creative events, and immeasurable spiritual growth for everyone. We are so grateful for the time, energy, and love Haley gave us. We will miss her.

We now look forward to new opportunities. Beginning in January the primary leaders for CREW youth group will be volunteers Joy Persson, Kimmy Petty, and Jake Petty.



We are all long term Redeemer members and have each been working with CREW for several years.

We are excited

to continue our work and relationships with the students and grow together as a group.

Each of us brings a unique set of talents and relationship skills to the group, but there is always room for more.

As we are all working on a volunteer basis, we will need

all the help we can get! If you are interested in joining the adventures that our CREW students will have this year please come along! Contact one of our leaders for more information and stay tuned for more specific opportunities and ways to help. Our students would love to spend some time with you, and you never know what you might gain from them.

Joy Persson: [joy.persson \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:joy.persson@gmail.com)

Kimmy Petty: [Kimberly.petty28 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:Kimberly.petty28@gmail.com)

Jake Petty: [craftsman4christ \(at\) yahoo.com](mailto:craftsman4christ@yahoo.com)

CREW Parent Meeting

Sunday, January 17, 12:30 P.M. (AFTER CHURCH)

Parents and youth, please join us for lunch in the Fellowship Hall. We will discuss the CREW plans for 2016, including our summer mission trip! Contact Joy Persson for details [joy.persson \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:joy.persson@gmail.com).

CREW Fight Club

Sunday, November 8, 7:30P.M.

All high-school girls are invited to meet at Café Brazil for food and great conversation!

Contact Joy Persson for details

[joy.persson \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:joy.persson@gmail.com).



We Want to Include You!



The start of a New Year means it is time for Redeemer to update our database.

We need all of our members and attenders to help us out by doing the following:

1. UPDATE OR CONFIRM YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

How can we contact you? Also, what would you like in the photo directory?

- Home address/ mailing address
- Phone numbers (home, cell, work, whatever you want to give to people)
- E-mail address (We will use this to announce emergency closures, etc.)
- A photo (If you need us to take one of you or your family, we can do that!)
- *Note: Tell Lori if there is contact information you want the church to have, but do not want in the directory.*

2. TELL US WHICH EMAIL LISTS YOU WANT TO BE ON

- Prayer Partners Email List - **Let us know if you'd like to receive prayer requests via Email.**
- Newsletter Email List - Let us know if you would like to receive ***The Master's Touch*** via Email.

3. TELL US YOUR SPECIAL DATES

- Please give us birth dates and anniversary dates, to **add to our Special Dates list. (We'll try to remember to send you a card!)**

4. PICK UP YOUR 2016 PHOTO DIRECTORY

- **We will hand out the new directory at Redeemer's annual meeting on Sunday, January 31.**

Sharing this information will help us all keep in touch with each other and build our community!

See the Sunday bulletin insert or email the church office for details: RedeemerECC@gmail.com.

Sundays at Redeemer

Nursery Care for Infants and Toddlers

9:30 A.M. - noon - Infants from birth to age 1 are cared for in room 115. Toddlers are in room 114.

There is also a "Cry Room" at the back of the sanctuary for parents with fussy babies.

Sunday School for All Ages

9:30 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.

Preschool – Kdg. meet in room 113

Grades 1-5 meet in room 109

Grades 6-12 meet in room 108

Adults meet in Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary Annex

Children's Church

We provide age-appropriate opportunities for children to learn and have fun during the worship service.

The toddlers meet at 10:30 A.M. to noon in room 114.

Preschool—Kindergarten meet from 10:30 A.M. to noon in room 113.

Grades 1-5 join their parents during the first part of the worship service at 10:45 A.M. Then, during the offertory, they are dismissed to room 109 for their own worship.

CREW Youth Group

Middle school and high school students are invited for a fun time of activities, study, and service to others. **NOW ON SUNDAYS at 5:30 P.M.** Contact Pastor Haley for details at Feuerbacherh@gmail.com.

Wednesdays at Redeemer

Bible Study

7:00 to 8:30 P.M. - Everyone is invited to join Pastor Mark in the Conference Room for a study of the book of Acts.

ESL Classes

7:00 to 8:30 P.M. - Currently we are offering two English as a Second Language classes: Basic and level 1. Classes meet weekly in Fellowship Hall. It is taught by a group of volunteers. Contact Pastor Dieula Previlon at DieulaPrevilon@gmail.com.

Prayer Ministry

7:00 to 8:00 P.M. - Women meet in the Prayer Room. Men meet in the Sanctuary Annex. For details contact Lori Vriend at RedeemerECC@gmail.com.

Redeemer Kids

7:00 to 8:30 P.M. - Elementary age students get together for snacks, Bible learning, and a variety of activities. Contact Julie for details: rjpersson@verizon.net.

Contact our Discipleship Chair

Email Julie Persson at rjpersson@verizon.net.

Contact our Nursery Coordinator

Email Julie Muncy at jkmuncy@yahoo.com.



Sunday's 9:30 A.M. Classes

Date	Adults (Fellowship Hall A)	Adults (Sanctuary Annex)	Youth (Youth Room 108)	Children (CE Rooms 109 & 113)	Prayer Room
January 3	Special Prayer Meeting Praying for each other and the New Year			Luke 1:26-45; 2:1-20 Jesus is born	Open for prayer
January 10	Getting to Know Redeemer ECC	<i>Known by Love</i> Small group	Organized by Joy Persson	Luke 2:39-52 Jesus grows up	Open for prayer
January 17	Getting to Know Redeemer ECC	<i>Known by Love</i> Small group	Organized by Joy Persson	John 1:1-18 The Word became flesh	Open for prayer
January 24	Getting to Know Redeemer ECC	<i>Known by Love</i> Small group	Organized by Joy Persson	Luke 4:1-13 Satan tempts Jesus	Open for prayer
January 31	Getting to Know Redeemer ECC	<i>Known by Love</i> Small group	Organized by Joy Persson	John 2:1-11 Jesus performs His first miracle	Open for prayer

December Dates

Please join us in praying for these people on their special days:

Happy Birthday!

1/04	Erin Hull
1/04	Michaelle Schwarz
1/07	Ben Nielsen
1/08	Niam Sachdev
1/10	Victory Obinma
1/11	Ava Moore
1/14	Nancy Donley
1/14	David Petty
1/16	Luisa Salazar
1/16	Adam Thweatt
1/21	Luke Bayard
1/24	McKenna Moore
1/26	Jennifer Burdett
1/30	Lyn Hall
1/31	Presley Hitzeman

Happy Anniversary!

1/14	Steve & Julie Walker
1/16	Matthew & Marcia Seebachan
1/21	Eddie & Duana David
1/23	Jerry & Erica Jaime
1/31	Claude & Amy Judd

If we do not have your special day, please let us know so we can add you to the list.

Financial Report

Thank you for giving to the Lord's work at Redeemer.

Monthly Contributions:		NOVEMBER
General		42,087.30
Crisis Relief		630.00
Missions		0.00
Facilities		543.00
Designated		
	Penny Manna	10.00
	Pastor Appreciation	2,000.00
	Mortgage Fund	2,500.00
	Youth Missions	295.34
Total Monthly Contributions		\$48,065.64
Year-to-Date Contributions:		
General		355,893.74
Crisis Relief		5,000.13
Missions		30.00
Facilities		5,549.00
Designated		
	Advent Dinner	0.00
	Hearts & Soles	3,863.00
	Penny Manna	350.00
	Pastor Appreciation	4,825.00
	Mortgage Fund	2,500.00
	Youth Missions	9,821.66
Total YTD Contributions		\$387,832.53
YTD General Budget		\$348,081.23
Wk General Budget Contributions		\$7,251.69
Wk General Actual Contributions		\$7,414.45
Wk General Contributions Difference		\$162.76

Redeemer's Book Club

Sunday, January 17, 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

All men and women are welcome! We are getting to know each other by reading and discussing one book a month (from a wide variety of genres). Our book this month is *The Forgotten Garden* by Kate Morton.

Contact Lori at RedeemerECC@gmail.com.



Celebrate Recovery

HERE. THURSDAYS AT 7PM.

Join us as we lean on Jesus to free us from our hurts, habits, and hang ups.

Weekly Schedule

- 6:00 P.M. - Dinner
- 7:00 P.M. - Main Meeting
- 8:00 P.M. - Open Share Groups
- 9:00 P.M. - Café Koinonia

Learn more at the Celebrate Recovery page on our website redeemerecc.org.

For questions or assistance call 469-751-7596 or email RedeemerCR@gmail.com.

Harvest Community Garden

Redeemer's community garden

has been moved from the sold property to the area just south of the playground.

Want a plot? We still have two plots available. Contact Stan at grow@HarvestCommunitGarden.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Harvest-Community-Garden/211811232239434>



January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
PURPLE = Fellowship Hall BLUE = Conference Room RED = Sanctuary GREEN = CE Wing PINK = Whole Church	PLAN AHEAD: April 15-17: Midsouth Family Camp July 31-August 6: Midsouth Covenant Camp - "I am Not a Robot"				1 New Year's Day Office closed	2
3 CREW 5:30pm CREW Fight Club 7:30pm	4	5 E Team 7:15pm	6 7-8:30pm: Prayer, Bible Study, ESL, Redeemer Kids	7 Council/Staff Meeting 7pm Celebrate Recovery • Dinner 6 pm • Meeting 7 pm • Share Groups 8 pm • Café Koinonia 9 pm	8	9
10 CREW 5:30pm	11 Missions Team 7:30pm	12	13 7-8:30pm: Prayer, Bible Study, ESL, Redeemer Kids	14 Celebrate Recovery • Dinner 6 pm • Meeting 7 pm • Share Groups 8 pm • Café Koinonia 9 pm	15	16
17 CREW Parent Meeting 12:20 p.m. CREW 5:30pm Book Club 7-9pm	18	19	20 7-8:30pm: Prayer, Bible Study, ESL, Redeemer Kids	21 Celebrate Recovery • Dinner 6 pm • Meeting 7 pm • Share Groups 8 pm • Café Koinonia 9 pm	22	23
24 CREW 5:30pm	25	26	27 7-8:30pm: Prayer, Bible Study, ESL, Redeemer Kids	28 Celebrate Recovery • Dinner 6 pm • Meeting 7 pm • Share Groups 8 pm • Café Koinonia 9 pm	29	30
31 Soup-er Bowl Lunch 12pm Annual Meeting 12:45pm CREW 5:30pm						

Redeemer

Evangelical Covenant Church



Contact Us

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FAX 972-323-1413

RedeemerECC@gmail.com

Senior Pastor – Mark Mohrweis

MarkMohrweis@gmail.com

Associate Pastor – Dieula Previlon

DieulaPrevilon@gmail.com

Youth Pastor – Haley Kroboth

Feuerbacherh@gmail.com

Music Leader – Cassie Watson

CassieWatson_music@yahoo.com

Office Administrator – Lori Vriend

RedeemerECC@gmail.com

We are
on the web!

www.RedeemerECC.org

www.facebook.com/redeemercarrollton

Redeemer is a member of
The Evangelical Covenant Church
www.covchurch.org

Redeemer Covenant Church

Our vision is to be
a multi-ethnic community
that is committed to
walking alongside
anyone seeking healing or
wholeness in Christ.

Worship at Redeemer

Worship Services

Please join us in worshipping our Lord on Sundays at 10:45 A.M.

January Sermon Series

“The Redeemer Way” - A five week overview of Redeemer’s vision, as well as addressing the areas which make Redeemer be **Redeemer**. **Themes: Redeemer’s identity. Living out our specific calling. Community and healing.**

January 3 - Acts 13:1-3 **“The Redeemer Way: Our Mission & Vision”**

January 10 - Acts 2:42-47 **“The Redeemer Way: Koinonia”**

January 17 - Acts 16:11-34 **“The Redeemer Way: Healing”**

January 24 - Acts 2:1-21 **“The Redeemer Way: Women in Ministry”**

January 31 - Acts 6:1-7 **“The Redeemer Way: A Multi-ethnic Community”**

Master’s Touch Submissions

To submit information or an article, e-mail it to Lori at RedeemerECC@gmail.com.

Submissions are due no later than the 20th of the month in order to be considered for publication in the following **month’s newsletter**.

Submissions will be reviewed by RCC leadership for approval and are subject to editing.

Office Hours

Monday: 9 AM — 4 PM
(Pastor Mark’s day off)

Tuesday: 9 AM — 4 PM
(Staff meetings 1 — 2 PM)

Wednesday: 9 AM — 4 PM

Thursday: 9 AM — 4 PM

Friday: 9 AM — 4 PM
(Lori’s day off)

Saturday: Closed