



The Master's Touch

From the Pastor's Desk

"Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, for each one should carry their own load." Galatians 6:5

"Outsource" is a polarizing term in our society. **Outsource** is defined as **"To obtain goods or service from an outside or foreign supplier, especially in place of an internal supplier."** To some it conjures up images of a hard working individual losing their job to some nameless place overseas. Others see it as a way of life in this new globalized world – a burden off their backs taken care of by someone else. However you feel about it, outsourcing is a reality of our world. Stories of outsourcing occur each week in the business section of the newspaper. Believe it or not, outsourcing is taking place in the church as well. Like the business world, sometimes it is good and sometimes it is bad. Outsourcing our prayer requests or burdens (sharing them with another) is good. But other parts of our **'faith outsourcing'** are bad. We hope others will take responsibility for

nurturing our children's faith. We blame a tepid worship service on the songs or the sermon rather than check our own attitudes before we walk into the sanctuary. We expect someone else to do the evangelizing, the caring, or the giving. Yet come judgment day, the Bible says that we have to give an account for OUR behavior, not anyone else's.



For the season of Lent at Redeemer we are going to be taking outsourcing head on. We are going to ask the question – what parts of our faith have we been guilty of handing over to others? Is it our worship? Our spiritual gifts? The opportunities we alone have? The Gospel teaches us that God wants to use each of us for His Kingdom. We cannot outsource that truth to someone else.

- Mark Mohrweis
PastorMark@RedeemerCovenantChurch.org

Congregational Meeting Report

January 31, 2016, 12:50 P.M.
We accomplished a lot at this year's January Congregational Meeting.

We welcomed and approved nine new members:

- Jeremy Morales
- Lindsay Morales
- Megan Hull
- Kim Hull (not pictured)
- Gaylon Hull
- Jeannie Mullahey
- Richard Flynn
- Sarah Leonhardi
- Warren Leonhardi
- Kimberly Carson (not pictured)



Pastor Mark reported on several things: The foyer makeover, the sale of our land in May, the mortgage reduction, a great year of giving, growth in Celebrate

Recovery, growth in our ESL program, beginning prayer on Sunday mornings, and one small group.

We approved a Nominating Committee, whose job is to find nominations for the Council positions that will need to be filled in June. Please pray for them.

(Continued on page 2.)

Congregational Meeting Report, continued

They are: Mark Mohrweis , Deb Christopher, Megan Hull, and Sheryl Smith.

We voted on and approved two motions that were brought to the church by Council:

Motion 1: Constitutional Bylaw Change Regarding Church Financial Audit.

The Motion: That Bylaw Article VII, Section 5 will be **deleted from Redeemer Covenant Church's constitution** and be replaced with the following bylaw:

"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"

Motion 2: **Prohibition of Open Carry on Redeemer's Property:**

The Motion: In response to Texas Section 30.07 ("Open Carry") Redeemer Covenant Church prohibits any person from entering with a hand-gun that is carried openly.

We recognized the work Denis Lemay has done to standardize the specifications of what we need for our landscaping plans. Marlin Landscaping will begin the initial project of irrigation for the building and trees.

Jayne Wright gave our financial/giving report and Deb Christopher presented the 2016 proposed budget, which was approved. (Copies are available in the foyer.)

Update on our mortgage: We used the \$34,000 surplus to pay down the mortgage. If we stick to the budget, our mortgage will be paid off in December 2016!

4th Annual "Soup-er Bowl" Cook Off Winner!

Congratulations to Sherry Thweatt for winning the January 31, 2016 "Soup-er Bowl" Cook Off! Her Potato Bacon Soup (recipe below) was our favorite!

A big THANK YOU! to all the cooks who entered the cook off and prepared food. Also, thank you to all who made this lunch possible by setting up, joining us, and cleaning up. - Kathy Joiner, Fellowship Chair [kjlnjj \(at\) yahoo.com](mailto:kjlnjj@yahoo.com)



POTATO SOUP

from Sherry Thweatt

INGREDIENTS:

2 ½ pounds baby red potatoes, sliced into small bite sized pieces
½ regular package uncooked bacon, finely diced (can also use salt pork)
1 medium onion, diced
¼ bunch celery, diced
8 cups milk
4 cups water



4 chicken bouillon cubes (use a cup of the hot potato water to dissolve, then use the cup of hot water in place of one of the above cups of water)
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon black pepper
¾ cup salted butter
¾ cup flour
¼ bunch freshly chopped parsley
1 cup whipping cream (can use evaporated milk)

DIRECTIONS:

In large pot, boil potatoes in water 10 minutes. Drain and set aside. In sauté pan, cook bacon until crisp. Drain bacon fat and place bacon on paper towel over plate to drain more. Add onion and celery to bacon pan and cook over medium-high heat until celery is tender, about 5 minutes. To the large potato pan, add milk, water, bouillon, salt and pepper. Cook over medium-high heat until mixture is very hot, about 8 minutes, stirring often. Do not let mixture boil. In small, heavy saucepan melt butter. Add flour and mix well. Cook over medium-low heat until mixture bubbles, stirring 2 to 3 minutes to make a roux. While constantly stirring soup, add roux slowly until soup is thick and creamy, about 4 minutes. Stir in parsley, reserved potatoes, and cream. Garnish with cheese, bacon bits, onions or all three. Serve hot!

How to Reach Another Level of Worship in 2016

In 2015 we accomplished a number of goals such as obtaining new equipment and exploring new ways to experience worship. I'll give an overview of goals that were accomplished in 2015 and then the goals we will strive to reach in 2016.

In 2015 one goal was to update some of our equipment. We were able to purchase two more handheld mics last year. Another bit of exciting news is that our sound board has been updated. One of Redeemer's member's purchased and donated a brand new digital soundboard. We also made changes to the stage in order to make it more open. We felt as if the pulpit was easy to hide behind and that getting rid of it opened up the stage. That sense of openness and not using anything as a crutch to hide behind is what we wanted to symbolize by removing the pulpit.

2015 was also another year of growth for the praise team. Redeemer uses congregation of all ages to worship. I feel like God has used Redeemer as a "seed planting" church at times. Sometimes we experience the fruit of our labors and

sometimes we do not. In 2015 I was continually reminded of the importance of encouraging talented new musicians and singers. How? In 2015 we welcomed onto our praise team some amazing musicians who are seasoned and

have abundant talent. I am so thankful to God for the churches and people that played a role in these musicians' lives so that they can use their well trained and amazing talents at Redeemer. These musicians are the product of seeds that were planted elsewhere. May we all be encouraged to plant seeds. Water them, care for them, but be open to the plan God has for them and for us.

In 2016 some goals I would like to see us accomplish are, first of all, continue to find ways to allow the worship at Redeemer to be diverse and freeing. No one way of

worshiping is the correct way. We'd also like to continue to make each transition within the services seamless and natural. We, Pastor Mark, Jake Petty (Worship Chair), and I are discussing ways to add certain visual elements to the services in 2016 that are more creative and make us as leaders think outside of the box, in turn, causing the audience to do the same. For example, at the end of 2015 we included a chalkboard with a word or phrase on it that goes along with the sermon. Making time for our worship chair, Pastor Mark, and I to meet throughout the year is a priority for 2016.



Cleaning out space in the church has also been on the forefront of all the leaders' minds. As the worship leader, my goals at the beginning of this year were to clean out the sound room and the worship closet and donate, throw away or sell anything that we did not need or have not used in the last 5-10 years. We have already cleaned

out the sound closet. A lot of the equipment that we did not need, I organized and listed on Craigslist and various other resale sights. As of today, we have sold \$700 worth of equipment. This money will go into a special fund for our music department to use during 2016!

The most important goal I have for 2016 is for the worship leaders at Redeemer to effectively be used by the Holy Spirit to encourage and support worshippers to approach God, grasp the word of God and to respond to God. We must not take our position as worship leaders

lightly, but see it as a sacred responsibility. The main goal and true reason or motive for serving on the praise team is to be used by God to help people experience the presence of God and feel connected to Him. When we lead we must be committed to both musical and spiritual excellence. But my prayer is that we always be aware that the spiritual is more important and far more powerful than the musical. We are not performers but responders to the Holy Spirit.

- Cassie Watson

CassieWatson_music@yahoo.com

Praise Team Appreciation!

The month of February is Praise Team Appreciation month! There is a table set up in the foyer for you to write notes or leave cards for members of the team. We will recognize and thank them during the service on February 28th. Show our volunteers how much you love them by taking a moment to say thank you!

Thank you so much,
Cassie Watson
(903)736-2211
CassieWatson_music@yahoo.com



CREW Youth Group

CREW Fight Club

Sunday, February 7, 7:30-8:30 P.M.



High school girls - join Joy at Café Brazil for food, laughter, and our continued discussion of *A Year of Biblical Womanhood*. See Joy if you need a copy! This month we will be

discussing the "January" chapter on Valor. If you need a ride between CREW and Café Brazil, let Joy know.

Mission Trip 2016

Has Been Announced!



We are excited to share that for our 2016 mission trip we will be partnering with Merge Ministries and CORE to minister to a low income population in Tulsa, OK. The trip will be June 9-12. Possible work includes: construction work on homes, VBS, music/sports camp, cleaning and organizing. Interested? Pick up an application from one of the youth leaders!

Applications and a \$50.00 deposit are due by Sunday,

March 6. Space is limited. Questions? See a youth leader!



Valentines Day is Coming!

Do you need a special gift for someone you love?



CREW has expanded our annual Jars of Love fundraiser to become Gifts of Love! Check out our catalogue of beautiful and delicious items and find the perfect Valentines gift for someone you love. All items are handmade by our CREW students. Orders are

due by February 7 and can be picked up February 14. See any CREW student for details!

CREW Youth Group

Meets Sundays at 5:30-7:15 P.M.!



All 6th-12th grade students are invited to join us for youth group on Sunday evenings in the CREW room at Redeemer! We play games, explore what it means to be a Christ-follower in our world through Biblical and topical studies, and

participate in creative and service projects. We are continuing our study theme "Christianity Is a Verb." Each month, we are focusing on a different verb that describes how Christ demonstrates His love for us and discuss how we can take action so that we are not just Christians in belief but in how we live our lives in relation to others. Come join the fun!

CREW Is Excited to be Partnering with The Ridge for our February Disciple Now Conference!



The Ridge church will be hosting this awesome event February 26-28. The theme is Project Serve. Students will be given the opportunity to worship, learn, discuss, grow, serve and play! We

will be participating in a service project, a couple fun outings, and join The Ridge family for their Sunday morning service. Cost is \$30 per student (\$5 discount for any additional student from the same family) and includes a t-shirt! Sign up at <http://www.ridgeonline.org/students> and talk with your youth leaders. Sign Up deadline is February 10.

Questions?

Contact our Youth Leaders:


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)

The Season of Lent Begins this Month

The season of Lent begins on February 10th this year. The word *Lent* comes from an Anglo-Saxon word referring to the lengthening of days in the move from winter to spring. The season begins with Ash Wednesday and lasts for forty days (excluding Sundays). This is a reflective and penitential season, asking Christians to examine themselves as they remember the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus on their behalf. Significant days observed during the Lenten season include Ash Wednesday, the Sundays in Lent, and the days of Holy Week, including the special days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**
Worship Service
February 10*
7-7:30 P.M.
in the sanctuary

Ash Wednesday calls Christians to remember their mortality and their need for a Savior. It is a time of new beginning... putting aside the sins and failures of the past in light of who we are yet to become by the grace of God. The ashes are a sign of both mortality (“ashes to ashes and dust to dust”) and purification and cleansing. The tone and atmosphere of the worship service is solemn and meditative.

Redeemer’s Ash Wednesday Service will be at 7:00 P.M. in the sanctuary.

*PLEASE NOTE: Our regular Wednesday activities (Bible study, prayer, Redeemer Kids, and ESL classes) will begin at 7:30 P.M.

Gifts of Love

The perfect way to let someone know you appreciate them this Valentine’s Day!

- Customized mason jars filled with candies
- Packets of cookies
- Jars of Light
- Handmade Valentines
- Candy coated pretzels or popcorn



Looking to show your appreciation for that special friend, relative, teacher, coach, or minister?

Order a hand-decorated “Jar of Love,” filled with your choice of candy and attach a personal note!

ORDER BY Sunday, FEBRUARY 7 ~ Order forms are in the church foyer.

PICK-UP YOUR ORDERS ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

~ Proceeds go toward the youth ministries like the summer mission trip with Merge Ministries.

Redeemer’s Denomination

Redeemer is a member of The Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC). To learn about our denomination, what we believe, our college and seminary, and various Covenant ministries, departments, and activities, visit us on the web: covchurch.org and facebook.com/covchurch.



Find Us on Facebook

Redeemer: www.facebook.com/redeemercarrollton

Redeemer Men’s Ministry: www.facebook.com/groups/177117385741727/

Redeemer Women’s Fellowship Marys and Marthas: www.facebook.com/groups/226778084046250/

Redeemer CREW: www.facebook.com/groups/157436294355726/

February Dates

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

Happy Birthday!

2/03	Marcia Seebachan
2/06	Zoe Plouff
2/07	Lori Vriend
2/08	Michele Dryden
2/11	John Seeley
2/12	Debbie Swindoll
2/14	Sarah Leonhardi
2/14	David Obinma
2/16	Ellis Mohrweis
2/17	Erica Jaime
2/20	Jan Erickson
2/20	Walker Moore
2/21	Emme Basnett
2/21	Eddie David
2/23	Stanley Campbell
2/23	Julie Muncy
2/23	Devin Previlon
2/23	Justin Previlon
2/24	Garrett Lemay
2/26	Marilou Castelli
2/26	Steven Schwartz
2/27	Solomon Page

Happy Anniversary!

2/03	Ken & Jessica Olson
2/26	Andy & Darlene Clark

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

Financial Report

Month:	DECEMBER
Monthly Contributions:	
General	43,366.23
Crisis Relief	536.00
Missions	0.00
Facilities	181.00
Designated	
Advent Dinner	623.00
Penny Manna	120.00
Pastor Appreciation	0.00
Mortgage Fund	5,725.00
Youth Missions	543.00
Total Monthly Contributions	\$51,094.23
Year-to-Date Contributions:	
General	403,276.07
Crisis Relief	5,536.13
Missions	30.00
Facilities	5,730.00
Designated	
Advent Dinner	623.00
Hearts & Soles	3,863.00
Penny Manna	470.00
Pastor Appreciation	4,825.00
Mortgage Fund	5,725.00
Youth Missions	10,364.66
Total YTD Contributions	\$440,442.86
YTD General Budget	\$377,088.00
Wk General Budget Contributions	\$7,251.69
Wk General Actual Contributions	\$7,755.31
Wk General Contributions	
Difference	\$503.62

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.

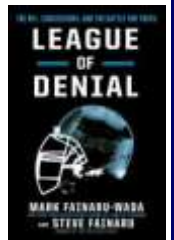
For questions or assistance call 469-751-7596 or email RedeemerCR@gmail.com.

Redeemer's Book Club

Sunday, February 21, 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

All men and women are welcome! This small group of readers is getting to know one another by discussing one book a month. We read from a wide variety of genres. If there is a movie version of a book we've read, we try to get together to watch it and discuss it, too.

We end our meetings with a short time of prayer for one another. We also enjoy a meal together now and then. The book club usually meets in the conference room on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Our book this month is *League of Denial: The NFL, Concussions, and the Battle for Truth* by Mark Fainaru-Wada and Steve Fainaru. Contact Lori Vriend at 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 Joy Persson for details at [Joy.Persson \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:Joy.Persson@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.

Open Prayer

7:00 to 8:30 P.M. - The prayer room is open for prayer. A prayer guide with our prayer requests is available. 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 \(at\) verizon.net](mailto:rjpersson@verizon.net).

Contact our Discipleship Chair

Email Julie Persson at [rjpersson \(at\) verizon.net](mailto:rjpersson@verizon.net).

Contact our Nursery Coordinator

Email Julie Muncy at [jkmuncy \(at\) yahoo.com](mailto:jkmuncy@yahoo.com).



Sunday's 9:30 A.M. Classes

Date	Adults (Fellowship Hall)	Adults (Sanctuary Annex)	Youth (Room 108) <i>The Top 13 Questions About God</i>	Children (CE Rooms 109 & 113)	Prayer Room
February 7	Lenten Study Led by Megan Hull	Known by Love Led by Carolann Duffin	What happened when Jesus died on the cross and was resurrected?	Luke 9:28-36 Moses and Elijah appear with Jesus	Open for prayer
February 14	Lenten Study Led by Megan Hull	Known by Love Led by Carolann Duffin	What is salvation all about?	Luke 6:17-26 Jesus teaches about rewards	Open for prayer
February 21	Lenten Study Led by Megan Hull	Known by Love Led by Carolann Duffin	Will God forgive any and every sin?	Luke 6:27-38 Jesus teaches about loving enemies	Open for prayer
February 28	Lenten Study Led by Megan Hull	Known by Love Led by Carolann Duffin	<i>No Sunday school.</i> Youth participating in <i>Disciple Now</i> will be attending The Ridge Church.	Luke 6:43-45 Jesus teaches about good fruit	Open for prayer

Opportunities

Metrocrest Services

Start the Year with a Visit! See What's Happening at Metrocrest Services

Curious about needs in our community? Ready to explore ways you can get involved in helping people in our local neighborhoods? Bring a friend and spend an hour with us at Metrocrest Services to learn more. Saturday, February 6th--10 a.m. (View additional 2016 tour dates and register online.)

Calling All Community Leaders: Sponsorships Available! Our March 17th Keyholder Breakfast is our biggest fundraiser of 2016 to provide funding for programs that benefit families in crisis situations. A variety of sponsorship opportunities are available now for businesses and groups interested in participating. Email Mike Harris, Development Manager, or call 972-446-2130. Choose to make a difference in your local community as a Keyholder Breakfast sponsor.

Penny Manna

Someone in need is trusting God to provide.



Most Americans consider pocket change worthless. Many people leave coins laying in cars, homes, offices and **won't bother picking them up on the street.** God can take what is considered worthless and magnify it

for His glory. God is trusting YOU to pick up that coin. Please collect abandoned coins and put them to use: Put them in the Penny Manna jar in the foyer. We donate them to the Covenant World Relief (CWR) fund (www.covchurch.org/cwr), which helps people who are in devastating poverty. **Feel the joy of giving to God's Kingdom work!** Questions? Contact Joe Wakeman at [joellewakeman \(at\) verizon.net](mailto:joellewakeman@verizon.net).

Collegiate Day of Prayer

Thursday, February 25



Please remember to pray for our colleges and college students on this day. There are 4,706 colleges and universities, 21 million students, and 1.5 million professors in America! Also, pray for Justin Christopher and the mission of Campus Renewal Ministries. (We support Justin financially.) For more information, see www.collegiatedayofprayer.org.

Midsouth Family Camp

April 15-17, 2016.

The fifth annual Family Camp will be a great time of praise, worship, and fellowship. The Covenant Affirmations will be the theme. It will use the new facilities at *Fossil Creek Camp*, the new, second campus built by Frontier Camp in Grapeland, TX. These camp facilities are self-contained under one roof so we can enjoy a family style gathering. Registration information will be sent to Midsouth Conference churches soon, so stay tuned... www.midsouthcov.org

Midsouth Family Reunion

April 29-30, 2016

The 2016 Midsouth Family Reunion (Annual Meeting) will be hosted by Pastor Elliott Scott and LifePath Church in Houston, TX. The Pastors' Gathering will be during the day on Friday 4/29/16. The Midsouth Family Dinner and Worship will be Friday evening. Saturday 4/30/16 will begin with Communion and move into our Annual Business Meeting. The Midsouth Family Reunion helps strengthen our identity and cohesion in our shared Midsouth mission. The goal is to have every Midsouth Covenant church represented at this gathering. Please pray for this gathering of our Midsouth churches.

Midsouth Summer Camp

July 31-August 6

"I Am Not A Robot!" is the theme. Watch the church foyer for information and registration materials. www.midsouthcov.org

The ECC's Women's Triennial Conference

July 28-31

The Evangelical Covenant Church's Women Ministries presents "Quench" - a time of refreshment and renewal. It will be in Kansas City, and women can register online at www.covchurch.org/triennial.

Regular registration: \$399 (January 16 – April 15th, 2016)

Late registration: \$439 (April 16th – July 15, 2016)

If a group of ten or more women is going, contact Covenant Events at [events \(at\) covchurch.org](mailto:events@covchurch.org) for a group discount code to receive \$25 off each registration in the group. *PLEASE NOTE: these fees do not include housing.*

Covenant World Relief

Our denomination has a ministry of mercy, benevolence, justice, and disaster relief called Covenant World Relief (CWR). Redeemer supports this ministry. (For example, our “Penny Manna” funds go to this ministry and both CREW and VBS also supported CWR in 2015.) Here is an excerpt from a newsletter showing some of the ways those funds get used:



Project Blue Initiative Provides Access to Clean Water

2015 was a year of special emphasis on the clean water work of Covenant World Relief through Project Blue. In this year, we have created new resources like *Kids Helping Kids: Clean Water and the Walk for Water* to help churches engage in the work of providing access to this precious resource. All gifts to Project Blue go to CWR water projects.

Updates on what is happening because of your gifts include:

In Haiti providing a source of water for one community for the first time and a second community whose water source is unreliable.

In India drilling 8 new open wells, increasing the water availability of 6 existing wells, conserving 60,000 liters of rain water each year, repairing 8 broken hand pumps, and drilling 12 new bore wells.

In Cameroon constructing 3 new wells, providing 40 bio sand filters, and 30 drip irrigation kits.

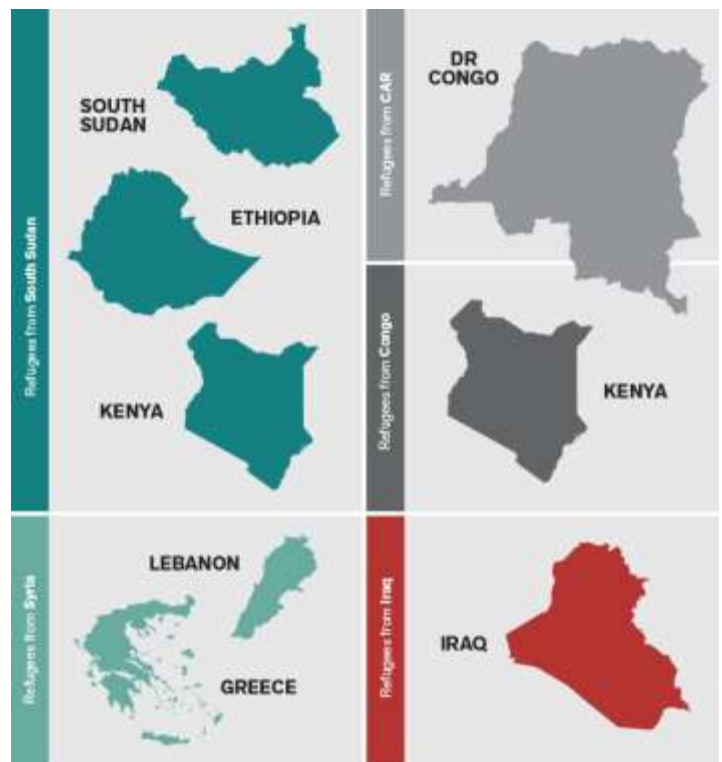
In Honduras water system is being constructed that will provide access to water for the first time for 106 households and 4 community centers. Each household will also build a toilet and receive hygiene education.

Your gifts to CWR and Project Blue are providing access to clean water for the first time.

Stay updated on the progress of these projects by following CWR on facebook, twitter, and Instagram.

Work with Refugees Around the Globe...

In the Jewi refugee camp in Ethiopia, sixty widows and thirty-four children from South Sudan have benefited from a recent garden project implemented by the Evangelical Covenant Church of South Sudan and funded by Covenant World Relief. This garden project helped undernourished women and children grow their own food tomatoes, okra, onions, cabbage, and carrots. One of the coordinators of this program is Priscilla, a widow who bore twins while fleeing from the violence in South Sudan to Ethiopia. Today there are more refugees in the world than ever previously recorded, and more than half of them are children. Because of generous donations from individuals and Covenant churches, Covenant World Relief has been able to engage with partners in caring for Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Greece, South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia and Kenya Central African Republic refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and internally displaced people in Iraq, South Sudan, and the Central African Republic. You can send designated donations to any of the above mentioned refugee projects or send a donation designated to CWR Refugees.



Learn more and give at CovChurch.org/cwr.

HARVEST Community Garden

The Harvest Community Garden is a non-profit organization jointly developed by Redeemer Covenant Church and Keep Carrollton Beautiful. It is open to anyone who wants to do organic gardening and provide produce for a local food bank. We started the community



garden on the south end of our property in the spring of 2012.

We built 12 (20' x 4') raised beds, along with a shed and fence. People from the community sign up to

rent a plot (or half plot) for a year, with the commitment of giving half their organically grown produce to a local food bank.

2015 Highlights:

Looking for gardeners/contacts: Several gardeners did not re-apply at the beginning of 2015. We were particularly sad to say goodbye our master gardener, Sue Hudiburgh, who helped us build the garden. To find new gardeners we posted fliers in apartments, handed out fliers to the Rainwater elementary parents, and set up a **booth at Brookhaven College's Earth Day Fest to give out fliers and seeds.**

Organic gardening education: One of the goals of HCG is educating people about the joys/benefits of organic gardening and teach them how to grow produce organically. We did that several ways this year:

- Set up a booth at Brookhaven's Earth Day Fest
- Two gardeners went to *the Dig Deep: A Community Gardening Conference* put on by Tarrant Area Food Bank
- Gardener meetings [2/7, 11/14] and emails were used to teach about growing seeds at home, transplanting, what to grow in North Texas, organic soil amendments, composting, identifying pests and controlling them organically, harvesting how-to's, and more

We partnered with the North Texas Food Bank (NTFB): Since we contribute to Christian Community Action (CCA), which is one of the North Texas Food Bank affiliates, we were eligible to partner with NTFB. We report to them our monthly total of pounds donated and they give us visibility on their website, help coordinate extra volunteers for special projects, and gave us a sign to post at the garden. They gave us sample organic gardening

products and a nice assortment of hand tools.

We received a large donation of seeds from Cindy Baxley who is from Keep Carrollton Beautiful and The Giving Garden.

THE GARDEN WAS MOVED THIS YEAR!

In May Redeemer Evangelical Covenant Church sold the property that Harvest Community Garden was located on. Part of the land deal was that the developer would move the garden. We were told that would probably happen in June, so several gardeners stopped gardening then.

However, the move did not happen until October.

(This uncertainty made it difficult for gardeners to know what and when to plant and made planting winter crops difficult. It put a huge dent in our

annual productivity. It also made it hard to recruit new gardeners.) We are grateful for the hard work some of our gardeners did to help with the move.

Food donations: We gave 247 pounds of organic produce to Christian Community Action (CCA) in 2015.

Volunteer hours: Gardeners and garden friends volunteered well over 150 hours cleaning, planting flowers, weeding, turning compost, harvesting, delivering produce to CCA, spreading mulch, teaching and advertising, mowing the perimeter, putting down flagstones, and more.

Our hopes for the future and needs for help:

- Involve more people from the church and community
- Cover the walkways with a fresh layer of mulch
- Increase the amount of food we produce and give away
- Put in a perimeter garden around the fence; build a xeriscape garden; expand with 12 new plots; build a shade structure and a place to sit/picnic/work

Next Meeting:

Saturday, February 6, at 9:00 A.M. in Fellowship Hall.

Learn more:

Email Stan: grow@HarvestCommunityGarden.org

On the web: www.HarvestCommunityGarden.org

www.keeptcarrolltonbeautiful.org

Find us on facebook:

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



February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
PURPLE = Fellowship Hall BLUE = Conference Room RED = Sanctuary GREEN = CE Wing PINK = Whole Church	1 AARP tax help 9:30am-6pm	2 E-team 7:15pm CR Step Study 7pm	3 7-8:30pm: Prayer, Bible Study, ESL, Redeemer Kids	4 Council/Staff Meeting 7pm Celebrate Recovery • Dinner 6 pm • Meeting 7 pm • Share Groups 8 pm • Café Koinonia 9 pm	5	6 Harvest Community Garden meeting 9am
7 Gifts of Love orders are due to CREW CREW 5:30pm CREW Fight Club 7:30pm	8 AARP tax help 9:30am-6pm Missions Committee 7:30pm	9 CR Step Study 7pm Exec. Committee	10 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m. 7:30-8:30pm: Prayer, Bible Study, ESL, Redeemer Kids	11 Celebrate Recovery • Dinner 6 pm • Meeting 7 pm • Share Groups 8 pm • Café Koinonia 9 pm	12 Office closed	13 CREW 12:30am 7pm
						
14 Pick up Gifts of Love from CREW CREW 5:30pm	15 AARP tax help 9:30am-6pm	16 CR Step Study 7pm	17 7-8:30pm: Prayer, Bible Study, ESL, Redeemer Kids	18 Celebrate Recovery • Dinner 6 pm • Meeting 7 pm • Share Groups 8 pm • Café Koinonia 9 pm	19	20
21 CREW 5:30pm Book Club 7pm	22 AARP tax help 9:30am-6pm	23 CR Step Study 7pm	24 7-8:30pm: Prayer, Bible Study, ESL, Redeemer Kids	25 Celebrate Recovery • Dinner 6 pm • Meeting 7 pm • Share Groups 8 pm • Café Koinonia 9 pm	26	27
						
28 CREW: Disciple Now CREW 5:30pm	29 AARP tax help 9:30am-6pm				PLAN AHEAD: April 15-17: Midsouth Family Camp April 28-30 - Midsouth Annual Meeting June 9-12 - CREW Merge Mission Trip July 31-August 6: Midsouth Covenant Camp - "I am Not a Robot"	

Redeemer

Evangelical Covenant Church



Contact Us

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Youth Coordinator – Joy Person

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

Lenten Sermon Series - “**Outsourced**”

Our sermon series will look at the ways we pass off our own faith responsibility to others. The sermons will all be rooted in the Gospel of Matthew.

February 7 - Matthew 25:1-13 “**Outsourced: The Problem Facing Christian Ministry Today**”

February 10 - Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 P.M.

February 14 - Matthew 21:12-17 “**The Worship Leader in the Mirror**”

February 21 - Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 “**Tossing the Disciple Out with the Bathwater**”

February 28 - Matthew 25:31-46 “**The Hospitality Industry Has Nothing on Us**”

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