



# THE HAPPENING

August 2016

## What's Happening

### Events

Aug 12 Car Show

Aug 27 Women's Retreat

### Chosen servers

Aug 7 Lohrer

Aug 21 Deacons

## August 2016 Minister's column by Rev. Craig Pinley



There were too many little girl softball games in too short a span, a four-day trip to Tennessee, a visit from both sets of parents, two funerals, a visit from a missionary and a send-off of our own short-termer, a week-long speaking engagement in Virginia, and a bevy of other shorter events (some with friends, parishioners, and newcomers) that have added up to a summer's worth of STUFF.

By the time you get this, we'll be well into our annual Vacation Bible School week and the following week we'll have a Friday night car show on our grounds and the area church softball playoffs start. Then it'll be time for school for our area kids and we'll all be saying, **"Where did our summer go?"** In that same breath some at Redeemer Church might be also thinking, **"Where do we go from here?"**

On July 16, the annual Serve City "Christmas in July" event was held in our Family Life Center and when I walked into that part of the church two weeks ago, I was reminded of our first visit here - we basically snuck into town (an interview, dinner, 'lay of the land,' all in 30 hours) and had so much to digest on our return trip late on a Friday as I had a wedding to do the following day in central Illinois. And during that brief trip to Hamilton, we walked into the Family Life Center as folks decorated for the 2015 edition of "Christmas in July." So it's been quite a year.

The home we bought on Sara Court in Hamilton was bereft of homes behind us when we arrived. Now there's an entire new block of homes right outside our backyard. Mary was without work in October 2015. Now she's just begun at a second workplace. Ellie had lost three baby teeth, grown a few more inches, and found a new place to ride horses recreationally. And I've gotten to know six new Covenant pastors in my regional cluster group and a bunch of others via the Great Lakes Conference annual meeting; I've met a few others through a local ministerial association.

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The Evangelical Covenant Church

Lots of changes have occurred for our family and the Redeemer family too since last August. Ministry staffing, the passing of a number of saints, and changes in our board leadership are among those changes. Of course, there are also the ones that occur naturally when a new pastor comes on board and adds his/her personal touch to ministry with a congregation.

Chances are good that there will be more of them. We discussed at our July Elder/Deacon meeting that we seem to be in a waiting mode, but that improving our relational blueprint on the community would need to be a priority down the road. Finding ways to serve the community further (and better communicating those opportunities to the larger church) seems to be another item on the 'to-do' list. I can't say what some of these changes will mean for us (or how to make them palatable for some), but a reminder at Covenant Mountain Mission Bible Camp in Jonesville, VA, was helpful recently. Six summers ago, my (then) four-year-old daughter and a group of ladies from Paxton Covenant Church went out to the outdoor basketball courts at CMMBC and painted a wooden mural which was hanging on the fence there. The mural they painted was of Jesus and the little children and it's still there today. And camp director Joe Faulkinbury says that the mural of Jesus is the only place that you can get cell phone coverage on the camp grounds.

Whatever the next chapter of our life will be, I'm hopeful that we'll make our best effort to connect to Jesus and to remember the child-like attitude he desired of people as they came to know Him better.

IN CHRIST,

*Pastor Craig*

# Sweet Life Café

Where Women Savor Time With God

Join us at Sweet Life Café to experience a retreat from the busyness of life. Come relax with friends, share laughter and stories, and spend time with God.

When: Saturday, August 28, 2016  
 Where: Redeemer Church  
 Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
 Cost: \$15.00  
 For: Women of all ages (teenagers welcome)  
 Contact: Mary Pinley, 217-721-3846, [singergirl33@yahoo.com](mailto:singergirl33@yahoo.com)

Please register by August 15, 2016 so we know how many to plan for. Registration forms are at the Welcome Center. Please turn them in, clearly marked, with your payment to the church office. (If you are in need of financial assistance to attend please let us know.)



The Evangelical Covenant Church

## President of the Congregation

Work has started around the Redeemer building and grounds fixing items that have been identified as needing attention. Remodeling the bathrooms in the Children's Wing has started and progressing and hopefully will be completed soon. While the Children's wing is currently empty we are preparing to purchase new furniture as the fall school season is closely approaching. Lisa Bowersox is our new Christian Education Leader organizing our teachers, students and classrooms. Soon you will be hearing more about the opportunities that will be offered at Redeemer and the help that will be needed to make this work. If you are asked to help please consider stepping up to help those attending Redeemer.



We continue to work in smaller groups to evaluate the many areas of the church and the proposals will be presented to our Consistory and then we will plan to hold a Town Hall meeting to present the findings to all of you and look for your support.

If you have any questions, concerns, input or compliments please do not hesitate to contact me.

May God bless and keep each of you safe.

In Christian love,

*Sam*

### The Kroger Parable

What is a parable? According to Wikipedia, a parable "is a succinct, didactic story, in prose or verse, which illustrates one or more instructive lessons or principles. It differs from a fable in that fables employ animals, plants, inanimate objects, or forces of nature as characters, whereas parables have human characters." I don't know about you but the first thing I did after I read that definition was look up what "didactic" means (it means "designed or intended to teach people something").

I wonder if parables could still be used in this day and age to illustrate an idea. Maybe... let's try one.

*A family must sustain itself but even a well-nourished family can starve. You can fill your table with all manner of sustenance and still be lacking if you don't have and use your Kroger Community Rewards card.*

Parables are hard! I kind of cut to the chase on the above attempt.

Redeemer Church benefits greatly from this program. Our most recent update from Kroger shows that we received \$1,545.56 through member participation in the Kroger Community Rewards program. This was the amount donated in 2015. For those of you who may not be familiar with the program, it consists of Kroger contributing a percentage of purchases made by individuals to that individuals selected charity.

If you regularly shop at Kroger, you can easily help Redeemer by designating our church as the recipient for the Kroger Community Reward contribution resulting from your normal everyday purchases. If you have not registered for a Kroger Community Reward card, perhaps you might consider doing so and, as noted above, designating Redeemer Church as the rewards beneficiary. Our registration / participation number within the program is **80053**.

Unlike parables, which really are hard to come up with, helping Redeemer by participating in the Kroger Community Rewards program is easy. If you have questions about the program, please talk with me. I'd be happy to give you more details or help you sign up.

Duane Cantrell



## Merillats visit Redeemer

Dan and Pada Merillat came to Redeemer on July 19<sup>th</sup> to tell more than a dozen people about the work they're doing as missionaries in Bangkok, Thailand. It's one of many visits to churches they've made before they head back home July 27, a day before their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They've been in the United States since late May.

The Merillats – who've been supported by Redeemer on and off for more than a dozen years - last were in Hamilton five years ago. Since then their children Samuel and Benjamin have grown nearly a foot – they are in their senior and junior years of high school respectively and a slew of college visits have been part of the itinerary this summer.

Thailand is 92 percent Buddhist, but have an animistic belief system and Hindu teachings. As a result, Christianity is a very REAL minority. Roman Catholic missionaries have been around 488 years, said Dan. Protestant missionaries have been around 188 years. Less than 1 percent are Christians in Thailand. The Merillats do what they call a lot of “planting and watering” and they trust that planting seeds of hope will lead to others being able to bring Thai to Jesus.

In Thailand, people's prayer life is important – but they're not always sure which of their many gods is most powerful. So in their ministry, the Merillats ask people for prayer experiences, pitting any of their gods with the Protestant God that is active in answering prayer. However, because Christianity is a faith that asks for higher commitment, many Thai people would rather believe in gods that don't ask for such high commitment.

But the Merillats know prayer works – they had prayed that Pada's mother would come to know Jesus as her savior and after 26 years of prayer she finally made that decision. And recently they've seen some people they work with come to know Christ as savior as well.

The Merillats have been working with regional orphanages to provide practical helps. They're part of the Thailand Church Association congregation (which began its work in 1974). Dan teaches English at the church on Sunday afternoons, he occasionally preaches, and having a native speaker is helpful. His full-time job is as a teacher at Assumption University. Meanwhile, Pada teaches children's Sunday school, but her main work is helping with a ministry (called “The Well”) to stop human trafficking in that area. A primary means of helping women there is to improve their education and to help them find employment and giving them small business loans to help their businesses grow.

Part of Pada's job is to lead parenting workshops and she teaches each morning and worships with the women, along with doing some counseling and attempting to lead prostitutes in the Red Light District there to better their lives and find alternate options for work. Dan and Pada's sons are part of the worship band when they're at home and they and their mother teach English classes in a poor neighborhood; this summer while they've been in the United States, they've been helping at a local farm where the family has been staying near Traverse City, MI.

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One way the church has helped the community is by helping young people in the area get educated in order to pass university tests; many in the local village have been assisted through the church. And the young people have become more open to spirituality in the Christian God, which is a huge blessing. The church has also gotten known through two other means.

First, a young man who won Thailand's version of "America's Got Talent" is part of that congregation. Second, a television show with a Christian bent has gotten play with help of people of the church, including a pastor. The mother church has spawned some 15 other congregations and they are making inroads in their areas (most congregations are 20-30 people currently). Church planting missionaries are now being trained and sent out via these church plants.

**Editor's note: The ministry of the Merillats is one of seven Redeemer currently resources through our Deacon board. More information about the mission work in Thailand is on the bulletin board at church in the hallway.**

## Jim Van Lieu Memorial Car Show

Friday, August 12th

5:00–8:00 PM

Registration opens @ 4:00 PM

Come out and enjoy the many cars that will be in the Redeemer Church lot. Cars, fun and great people!



## WELCOME CENTER

### "Help With the Welcome Center"

We are looking for volunteers to assist with the Welcome Center after the Heritage and Praise service. This would entail being at the Welcome Center after church lets out to provide pre-packaged bags for any visitors and answer any of their questions. The time commitment would be

approximately 15 minutes after the respective church services. We would like to get a number of volunteers to work in a rotational basis similar to the rotation we use for ushers. At this time we have 8 volunteers, but would like to have 12 to 14.

If you are interested, please contact Kyle Schuppie at 513-863-8068 or send me an e-mail at [kyleschuppie@gmail.com](mailto:kyleschuppie@gmail.com).

# CHOSEN

We are serving dinner at CHOSEN on Sundays. Currently, we are serving approximately 40-50 homeless. This is such a rewarding outreach and it is not difficult for anyone to participate in. Please volunteer to be in charge of a meal and get your friends and/or neighbors to help out or sign up to prepare one or two dishes and help serve. Redeemer will reimburse you for the food; we just need your time. For complete information and meal ideas, grab a brochure on the table by the front door or contact Linda Hoover.



**REMEMBER OUR SHUT IN'S**  
 Redeemer Church has a number of members who are either confined to their homes or residing in Care Centers. Please remember them with a card or call. Remember, if you send a card please be sure to add "Redeemer Church" after your name!

Norma Gammell  
 800-451-2262  
 1000 S. 10th St.  
 Lincoln, NE 68502

Evelyn Warner  
 402-441-1111  
 1000 S. 10th St.  
 Lincoln, NE 68502

Hester Childs  
 402-441-1111  
 1000 S. 10th St.  
 Lincoln, NE 68502

Janet Evans  
 402-441-1111  
 1000 S. 10th St.  
 Lincoln, NE 68502

Zelma Miller  
 402-441-1111  
 1000 S. 10th St.  
 Lincoln, NE 68502

### Birthday list

- 08/01 David Hopkins
- 08/02 Darryl Tillman
- 08/12 Phyllis Dickson
- 08/13 Barbara Robinette
- 08/19 Donald Hahn
- 08/19 Fred Anderson
- 08/25 Tami Anderson
- 08/27 Gary Maschmeyer
- 08/27 Ellen Grammel
- 08/27 Max Jorgensen
- 08/28 James Dermen
- 08/30 Ronald Spurlock
- 08/31 Nancy Wolpert



### Serving in Worship

#### Liturgists

- 8/7 Larry Kachner
- 8/14 Dan Childs
- 8/21 Amy Dermen
- 8/28 Bill Hyatt

#### Prayer Intercessors

- 8/7 Linda Hoover & Charlotte Burkhart
- 8/14 Carrie DeFevers & Carol Moore
- 8/21 Joan Riley & Nancy Henry
- 8/28 Gary & Carolyn Maschmeyer

### Ushers

#### 1st Service

- 8/7 Dan & Bev Childs, Kyle & Janie Schuppie
- 8/14 Bill & Sherry Phillips, Ron & Gloria Spurlock
- 8/21 Ed & Kathy Swope, Nancy Henry, Mary Van Lieu
- 8/28 Ron & Mary Sue Peters, Dewayne & Sharon Grammel

#### 2nd Service

- 8/7 Lori Lohrer & Lee Skorupa
- 8/14 Karen Wittmer & Carol Hahn
- 8/21 Jon & Tari Lawson
- 8/28 Teens