



# The Red Door

Volume 1, Issue 3  
June 2009

## Ministry fair encourages involvement

By Bryan Finch



*Above: Elizabeth Fulmer, signing a volunteer form, and Jessica Bell visit at the women's ministry table learning about ways to volunteer. The Women in the Church (WIC) help minister to the whole church body.*

Similar to vocational job fairs in purpose and composition, the ministry fair, held 3 May 2009, showcased Redeemer's ministries, connecting potential volunteers to areas of service within the church. The organizers created a relaxed, fun, and light-hearted atmosphere, encouraging both members and visitors to inquire and participate.

In addition to offering a catered lunch and a color pamphlet cataloging the ministries, the organizers "raffled" door prizes. "We wanted the visitors to see the scope of ministries available at RPC and discover an inviting place to inquire. Furthermore, we wanted to make the event engaging. Therefore, we required visitors to qualify for the [door] prizes by simply inquiring at 6 of the 21 ministries," Todd Christian, lead organizer, said.

One ministry fair attendee, Jonathan Kubacz, visited several different ministry tables, learning about eight ministries and offering his service with the men's ministry and hospitality. "I'm already involved in several ministries; and although I'd love to offer more service, I have limited resources," Kubacz said. "I'm glad I went," he continued, *see MINISTRY FAIR; continued on page 3*

## RPC returns to Uganda with renewed purpose

By Missions Committee

Because of the provision of our great God and His heart's desire to allow our involvement in His work of restoration, Redeemer traveled to the district of Lira in Northern Uganda both in 2006 and 2008.

Much of who we are as a church has been formed (and transformed!) by these trips as the Lord has opened our eyes to the greatness of the harvest, revealing that we, a small congregation in

Charleston, S.C., could be used mightily in the spreading of the Gospel and building of His Kingdom half a world away. While discouraged by the vast sea of need, we marveled at the abundance of open doors to evangelism and the ready response of many to receive Christ when presented with the Gospel's powerful hope!

Though each team has returned spilling  
*see UGANDA; continued on page 7*

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Culture Maker	6
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## Upcoming Arrivals, Nuptials

JUNE 2009

Bryan & Carrie Finch  
Seth & Gray Morgan

JULY 2009

Brock & Barb Rabon  
Nathan & Angie Holleman  
Alex & Amanda White

AUGUST 2009

Robert & Christine Brinson

OCTOBER 2009

Sam & Margaret Mattox

NOVEMBER 2009

John & Alla De La Cruz

OCTOBER 2009

Alice Wedeking &  
Andrew Ross

MAY 2010

Brittany Holcombe &  
Evan Hildreth

## Summer book clubs offer women refreshment, fellowship

This summer through three book clubs, the women of Redeemer, both young and seasoned, uniquely and wonderfully made by the Creator, seek to understand what it means to be the women God has designed—as girls, sisters, mothers, wives, daughters, and friends.

In Mt. Pleasant on Monday evenings at 7, Leah Emory and Angela Works will host a club studying *The Uncommon Woman: Making an Ordinary Life*

*Extraordinary* by Susie Larson, examining the “longing to be an uncommon woman” that lies deep within our souls.

At the church on Friday mornings at 9:30, Barb Hildreth and Mel Pearson will host a club studying *The Return of the Prodigal* by Henri Nouwen. Inspired by studying Rembrandt’s painting, Nouwen explores what it means to be embraced by the Father.

Open to girls and women, Jessica Bell and Erin Barton will host a club

on Wednesday evenings at 7 on James Island, studying *Graffiti: Learning to See Art in Ourselves* by Erin Davis. Learn to overcome the desire to create a false self, and discover your true self in Christ!

Enjoy fellowship and learning with other women this summer by joining a book club. Contact the church office at 843-724-1164 for more information on specific clubs, including locations and starting dates, and to order books. ▲

## VBS to teach importance of prayer in ‘coarse’ culture

Come enjoy a one-week safari at Redeemer’s vacation Bible school! This fun-filled, safari-themed week is designed to minister to little ones and families in our church and community.

Plans for the week include participating in activities, crafts, and skits and, most important, learning about God’s love. Students will work on memorizing the Lord’s Prayer and will be taught the importance of prayer. Redeemer focuses on the children during this week to let them know that adults consider them an important part of our church body. VBS also gives the children an opportunity to build relationships with one another.

Margaret Mattox is heading up VBS this year, and she is passionate about the work at hand. “I want to promote a desire and commitment within our church body of passing the faith down to our young ones in a context that is fun and engaging and that helps build relationships between adults and children,” Mattox said.



Through Scripture we are given instruction to teach our children about God's love and His commandments: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” (Deuteronomy 6:5-7)

VBS is not just for our Redeemer family. Members are encouraged to invite all of their friends and family members to attend as well. It should

be a great opportunity for outreach and ministry. “I think parents today, with the intense coarseness of our culture, are quietly desperate for a safe place to bring their children,” Mattox said. “The Church can provide that; it should be a shining light and stand in stark contrast to the moral decay outside of its walls.” Mattox hopes to see unchurched children attend and then bring their families to Redeemer after VBS.

VBS is scheduled for 22-26 June from 9 am - noon. If you want to be involved, please contact Mattox at [margaretmattox@yahoo.com](mailto:margaretmattox@yahoo.com) or 843-559-2318. ▲

### *Opportunities to Help with VBS Setup*

*Craft Nights: Thurs, 11 June &  
Mon, 15 June @ 7 pm @ RPC*

*Construction Days: Sat, 13  
June & Sat, 20 June @ RPC*

*MINISTRY FAIR; from page 1*

“because I met new people, people with whom I wanted to develop relationships. Further, the fair allowed me the opportunity to connect the spiritual gifts that were revealed from the spiritual gifts survey and the ministries best suited to use my gifts.”

Although the fair was successful in linking volunteers to RPC’s ministries, there is more need for volunteerism. RPC desires that the body of Christ grow in relationships with each other and the Lord, using the distinctively appointed gifts each one has received. Volunteerism effectively fosters this growth. According to 1 Peter 4:10, we are instructed to “use whatever gifts we have received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”

Similar to a physical body, the spiritual body of Christ requires use and exercise. If you are gifted in prayer, exercise the muscles of prayer. If you are gifted in teaching, exercise the muscles of teaching. If you are gifted in hospitality, exercise hospitality. Serve others by using the gifts Jesus has graciously given you. By doing so, you participate in one of God’s greatest gifts to all of us: the administration and distribution of grace! Whenever you exercise the gifts—regardless of what the gifts are and regardless of how meaningless they may seem—you are releasing God’s grace to others; and by virtue of your connection to others who are likewise channeling grace, you will receive grace as well.

We are all members of one body, individuals with individual giftedness and interests, operating in the

context of one corporate body, each for the benefit of the body. None of us are designed to be isolated from another. In Romans 12, Paul states, “Just as each one of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”

Spiritual health comes through abiding, staying connected in, or being plugged into both Jesus and the body. In order to develop and maintain good spiritual health in the Church, each member must abide or live in Christ. Jesus says (to us) in John 15 “He who abides in me, and I in him, bears much fruit...by this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit.”

Fruit is meant to be eaten and enjoyed by others. It will nourish the body. In the same effect, when you are abiding in the body, you will

enjoy other members’ fruit, too. Remember that we (and the fruit we bear) belong to one another.

If you were unable to attend the ministry fair, check out both the spiritual gifts survey, found on the church’s Web site, and *A Guide to Ministry*, a color pamphlet available in the church office. After you determine what gifts you have been given, find a specific ministry needing your gifts. Get plugged-in. You will be a blessing to others, and similarly, others will bless you for your participation. ▲



**Top:** Cousins Margie Moore and Macie Turner enjoy talking to the cow during the ministry fair, which offered various activities for kids including a jump castle, face-painting, and popcorn. **Bottom:** Twenty ministries were represented at the ministry fair; each ministry’s coordinators explained opportunities to potential volunteers. Nearly 150 people attended the ministry fair.

## MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT: Ferguson heads to Sudan

By Christy Reid

**W**here is your mission field? For Bethany Ferguson, it's in Sudan for the next five years. A native of South Carolina and graduate of the College of Charleston, Ferguson connected with Redeemer while she was in college. She feels a personal connection to the church and shares the common goal of spreading the Gospel. She is appreciative of Redeemer's support, and she hopes that her story and the stories of those she encounters will strengthen the faith of the church. "I feel blessed to be a part of Redeemer, and also to be sent out from you," Ferguson said.

After she graduated from college, Ferguson interned with World Harvest Mission in Ireland. Afterwards, she moved to St. Louis to be a teacher. While there, she attended a World Harvest Mission conference. During the conference, a speaker asked those who were considering

missions to come forward for prayer. Ferguson wasn't planning on becoming a missionary, but she felt compelled to go forward. She began receiving letters from missionaries across the world; one letter from a missionary in Uganda said he needed teachers, and she felt a tug at her heart. Months later, Ferguson moved there.

Ferguson was in Uganda for two years teaching missionary children and local students. Then she was offered a job with World Harvest Mission in Philadelphia, where she earned her Master's degree in Biblical counseling, while continuing to spend her summers serving in Uganda. During her last summer there, she visited Sudan. She was deeply touched when the people there pleaded for help in rebuilding their torn nation.

In October 2009, Ferguson plans to leave for Sudan, joining a team of

six missionaries. While there, she will partner with a local counselor and teach. With no running water or electricity, she will be relying on solar power. She'll also be learning a different language. The area is remote and destroyed by war.

"Are you scared?" I asked. "Well, it's not a safe place," Ferguson replied. She is praying that peace will be maintained there. She has some fears about not only physical safety but also loneliness, isolation, and disconnect. However, she knows that Sudan is where God has called her, and she has great faith: "I entrust my life to God," Ferguson said. "I have witnessed people living there, and love compels me to go."

Five years from now, Ferguson hopes that the Gospel has been spread and that people there can apply the Gospel to their lives. She hopes her team will be able to address a gap between older and younger generations—a gap where the Gospel is missing. She also wants the people of Sudan to use counseling to help themselves and each other. She would love to see the community and schools rebuilt. "I want to see an equality in Sudan that compares to the rest of the world," Ferguson said. Personally, she hopes that her skills as a counselor, missionary, and friend are strengthened. "I hope to develop a deeper confidence in Christ's love and freedom in my identity in Christ—to be confident and secure in my faith," Ferguson said.

As Ferguson works to raise support and prepares to go, visit her blog at [www.bethanygrace.wordpress.com](http://www.bethanygrace.wordpress.com) to keep up with her progress. ▲



*Above: Bethany Ferguson surveys the peanut butter options at a market in Mundri, Sudan. She visited Sudan and her future team members while serving in Uganda back in January 2009.*

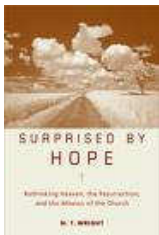
# Summer reading list offers fiction, nonfiction

## Christian Non-fiction



*Culture Making* by Andy Crouch—A wonderful, Biblical assessment of what culture is and why it is inherent to human nature. Crouch urges

Christians to become great culture makers and cultivators, because a) if it is inherent to humanity, we don't have a choice but to create it, and b) we image the supreme Culture Maker when we do. He also offers five practical questions for assessing pop-cultural artifacts and how they fit into, and inform, our world.



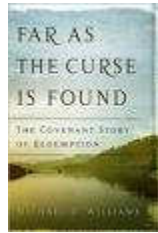
*Surprised By Hope* by N.T. Wright—A condensed version of his mammoth and scholarly *The Resurrection of the Son of God*, Wright outlines the historical

evidence for the resurrection of Jesus in an accessible and readable way. He also thoroughly delineates the radical implications—and hope—for daily life in the world that result if the resurrection of Jesus Christ is true.

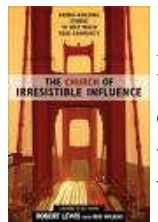


*Till We Have Built Jerusalem* by Philip Bess—A Christian architect and the director of graduate studies at the University of Notre Dame school of architecture, Bess offers a compelling set of essays on “new urbanism.” This school sees cities as the best social arrangement for human flourishing. While not overly technical or scholarly, it is a bit more heady and philosophical than other selections on

this list. Yet *Till We Have Built Jerusalem* is an important read for those with a passion for living and worshipping in urban areas that mix use and class among all of city life.



*Far as the Curse is Found* by Michael D. Williams—Williams takes us on a tour through the Bible to show the continuity and consistency with which God redeems His people. From the first page in the Bible to the last, God tells His people the story of His love for them, how He will save them and fix what they damage, and how He makes them—and you and me—an integral part in His story.



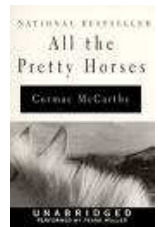
*The Church of Irresistible Influence* by Robert Lewis—Lewis calls the Church back to “incarnational bridge-building,” where the church becomes vital to its surrounding community. He gives practical applications for how individual churches can be irresistible to neighborhoods, businesses, and the pagan cultures that surround them. Largely anecdotal with quite a few graphs, this book was a quicker read than the other selections on this list.

## Non-Christian fiction



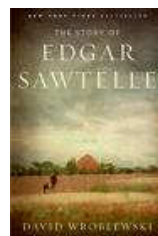
*Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell* by Susanna Clarke—This book is a sort of *Harry Potter* for adults, set in an alternative 19th-century

England. Both critically and popularly acclaimed, despite its length it is one of the most engaging and thoroughly intriguing stories you will ever read. “It does everything a story should: enchant, confuse, anger, and ultimately cause a shift in your thinking.” —Aspa Clark



*All the Pretty Horses* by Cormac McCarthy—McCarthy is one of our greatest living literary artists, with recent works like *No Country for Old Men* and *The Road* being made into movies after winning prestigious and lucrative literary awards. But we recommend starting with something easier and less dark, like *All the Pretty Horses*. It is a modern-day western set in 1940s Texas and Mexico with gun fights, romance, and horsemanship. “His elegantly sparse language eases readers into the story before it humbles you with thoughtful explanations on the human condition.” —Aspa Clark

*The Story of Edgar Sawtelle* by David Wroblewski—This longer debut novel is a modern-day take on Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, set in rural Wisconsin. Edgar's family lives an idyllic life of farm-work and dog breeding until Edgar's father dies, and Edgar's uncle inserts himself into the family. Wroblewski is a master storyteller; and although it is slow at the start, the story gains momentum and tension, particularly after Edgar's attempt to implicate his uncle in his father's death fails spectacularly. ▲



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## Create, cultivate culture to influence world for Christ

By Matt Lambert

*Genesis 2:15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.*

*Genesis 2:19 Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.*

These two short verses in the beginning of the human story, at first look, are not all that intriguing. In the first verse God makes His man a gardener and a farmer. In the second verse He makes the man a zookeeper of sorts. Seems kind of boring. Even if zoo-keeping is not too boring to you, it still seems rather similar to Rudyard Kipling's *Just So Stories*; it's merely a way to answer toddlers inquiring about why we call them tigers.

But there is a lot more going on here. God doesn't tell the man to go plant a garden or hack an existence out of the jungle. God Himself plants it but then gives the man the freedom to work it and cultivate it. And in the latter verse God has already created the animals with care and creativity, but He does not finish the job and name things the way He names people throughout Scripture. God steps back and lets the man put his mark on the Creation. It

establishes a hierarchy to be sure. God names the man as He is the man's authority, and the man names the animals establishing his own authority. But the man is also taking what God has made and putting his stamp on it. The man cultivates, in both of these verses, the raw materials of the world into something he likes, uses, rules, and grows.

That is culture. Whether it's pop or haute, the first man or the trillionth, culture is what we make of the world around us (read *Culture Making* by Andy Crouch from the summer reading list). Sometimes we make things out of raw materials; more often we make things out of what other people have made out of raw materials. Either way, we take our world and the things in it, and we make them better. We make them more enjoyable. We make them funnier. We make them easier. We make those things—whether songs, art, movies, sales, food, games, clothes, cars, literature, or even our vices and addictions—image our personalities, our tastes, our longing, our needs, us.

There is actually culture being made and cultivated in the paradise of the Garden of Eden. Even before sin and misery or before countless rebellious cultures try to divert attention away from the Creator with endless diversions, the man is told by that Creator to make something of his world. Culture is there from the start, before things go bad. It is inherent in the life of the man, and when he makes it, when *we* make it, that culture images the man *and* his Creator. And the culture man creates brings an order and efficiency to his world.

One of RPC's adult Christian education classes this spring took a look at culture throughout the Bible. We saw how the people of Israel approached and responded to the cultures around them. Sometimes they were noble and Godly in their approach. More often they were not. Sometimes they worshiped the true and living God and called those in the foreign cultures around them to do the same. But most of the time they blended right in, or they worshiped God one day while living like a pagan the next. Sometimes they ignored their God or lied about Him; or, just as grievous, they flatly ignored the culture around them that so desperately needed to hear of the great and merciful God that had created them both.

So which are we? What do we make of our world? What kind of culture do we cultivate? I hope that we understand culture in a way that would inspire us to be in it, make it, inform it, and be good at it, while we image the grace and purity that our Creator shows to us. But I fear that often we don't. I fear we too often take one of those false approaches. We make bad jokes, like our culture does, that cut people and don't reflect God's kindness. We ignore people, like our culture does. We lust, like our culture does. We cling to a law that is not right and in our hearts condemn others for not obeying our law, like our culture does.

I am reading a book that is on the summer reading list called *The*

*see CULTURE; continued on page*

*CULTURE; from page 6*

*Church of Irresistible Influence.* A lot of it is great, some of it not so great. But what is great—why we put it on the list—is reflected in the title. How can we be of irresistible influence to our world? How can we cause the community around us to love that we are here?

How can RPC be so radical that even if we decrease in attendance, the culture and the community around 43 Wentworth St. would still love that we are here? What culture can we cultivate for the marketplace? Or for Ansonborough? Or for the fire station? Or for MUSC? What culture can we cultivate for hot,

tired, elderly folks at the bus stop around the corner? Or Hanahan? Or James Island? Or any other neighborhood? What culture *will* we cultivate?

We haven't done much so far, and I am sorry for it. We should by now be so entrenched and ensconced in this neighborhood and the surrounding culture that they don't want us to vacate these buildings. We should be so irresistible that people would not just fight to keep the buildings from being condominiums, but fight to keep us, RPC, in them. But we aren't, and I am sorry for it.

Until we do that, let's stop giving

lip service about staying around here. Because until we learn to do that, until we cultivate the culture or become an unavoidable grace to it with no strings attached, it won't matter where we worship.

But thankfully our Creator is merciful to people, cultures, nations, and RPC. Thankfully He exhibits His mercy to His Church while He grows her and perfects her, so that she will be so irresistible that all families in the culture, in the city, in the world, are blessed. That should be the focus of our future. That should be our prayer: Lord, make us into heroic culture makers. ▲

*UGANDA; from page 1*

over with countless stories of God's amazing goodness, sadness pervades our growing awareness for the large number of new believers who will not receive the sound doctrine needed to help them resist cults and prosperity gimmicks.

Through long and careful consideration of this vast unmet need in light of the unique "tools" we see God placing in the hands of those in our church, the missions committee, in full agreement with the leadership of Redeemer, has decided to make a strategic shift from large-scale, repeated pastors' conferences

and evangelistic outreaches to strategic, discipleship training of carefully selected leaders. These leaders equip others who then encourage others (1 Timothy 2), allowing for bountiful duplication of well trained Biblical leaders. Most important, the approach places the power of the Gospel—to change hearts, lives, and ultimately an entire country—into the hands of Ugandan believers, permitting us to move our efforts into other areas of the world as God allows.

To better plan and implement the vision, a small delegation of missions committee members, John Eckley, Christine Alele, Lori Moore, and Kathy Bailey, will return to Uganda this summer (16 June–4 July) with the sole purpose of conducting further research, interviewing respected Christian leaders, assessing their needs, and documenting the results. Eckley, sensing God's call to continue building bridges with these leaders,

will stay through September.

RPC hosted a fundraiser on Thursday, 4 June to help defray the cost of transportation, food, accommodation, and discretionary gifts. Further, it gave us an opportunity to sell the remaining third of the widows' beads. Already \$7,000 has been sent back to Uganda from the sale of the beads—an incredible, tangible way of seeing how we, the body of Christ here at Redeemer, can walk beside our own widowed sisters from such a great distance!

Though each team member confesses a keen sense of inadequacy and unworthiness, they are equally compelled to answer the call to leave friends and family, comforts and culture, in a servant-hearted effort to hear the hearts of God's people in Uganda thus enabling our body to better fulfill the desire of our Father in the building of His kingdom. ▲

***Missions Committee Purpose:***  
*Declaring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the nations (peoples) of the world to the end that God may be known and worshiped.*



REDEEMER  
Presbyterian Church  
43 Wentworth Street  
Charleston, SC 29401

## **SAVE THE DATE: 10-Year Anniversary Celebration**

Plan to celebrate God's faithfulness and goodness with us **29-30 August 2009** as we look back on ten years as a church. We're planning multiple events during the weekend to remember the good 'ole days while looking to the future and anticipating what God will do through Redeemer. More details to come. Make plans now to attend this exciting event in the life of RPC!

## **FOCUS ON A FAMILY: Get to know Linnea Wildenradt**

**L**innea Wildenradt has been attending Redeemer since its first Sunday service back in August of 1999. Known then as Island Community Church and located on James Island, "I was hooked after my first week and immediately felt that God directed me there so that I would have a spiritual family in Charleston," Wildenradt said.

Wildenradt grew up in the Chicago area, and her family is scattered around the world: Her brother Clark and his fiancée Megan live in Seattle, and her sister Corinne and husband Mason live in Milan, Italy, with their children Sofia, Theo, and Mason. "Since I don't have any actual family in the South, I have relied heavily on Redeemer for many things: When I was going through my separation and divorce, I felt like Redeemer was my only earthly

support in Charleston," Wildenradt remembered. "I had many needs met through our members—financial, physical, and emotional. Church members had me over for dinner, helped me move, allowed me to stay in their homes, and counseled me."

Through her years at Redeemer, Wildenradt has used her many gifts to encourage others in the church and to further the Kingdom. Teaching the junior high and high school girls has been an extension of her job as a math teacher at the Academic Magnet High School. "I enjoy the humor and challenge that is presented (daily!) when working with teenagers. I love their energy and fresh outlook," Wildenradt said. "Working with high school students is a constant opportunity to make an impression and to minister. They watch everything we do."

Wildenradt currently serves on the women's events committee, helping

plan showers for expectant moms and brides. "Because I have been a member while I was single, married, and now single again, I have participated in many different types of fellowship and teaching at the church," Wildenradt said. She has served on the music team since her second week at Redeemer. "I have learned more about worship at Redeemer than anywhere else." ▲



*Above: Linnea Wildenradt*