

RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

As May and summer approach, we move from the Easter season into Pentecost and the season after it. May 11, Pentecost Sunday, is the third greatest feast day of the Christian year. Often called the birthday of the church, it is the day the Holy Spirit came down and empowered the church (the followers of Jesus) to do the work of ministry and evangelism in the world. Until that time, the disciples were still hidden away from the world behind closed doors. The Holy Spirit freed them to be Christ's witnesses to all people and in all places.

The season that follows Pentecost is that long green season that seems somewhat plodding and bland after the frenzy of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent and Easter. We are approaching that season that spans half of the calendar year. During that time, we will hear gospel lessons about Jesus' ministry in Galilee, on the road to Jerusalem and elsewhere.

This is the time for growth in our journey with Jesus — to learn more about him, to grow closer to him, and to begin to understand what he is calling us to do and be in his name. Join us as we travel with Jesus, to discover mission and ministry. Remember our mission trips (see back page) and pray for them if you can't travel with us.

*Love in Christ,
Nan+*

On a Wheel and a Prayer

Eastwood Bike Center Set in Motion

by Mitzi Coleman

"Our neighborhood is broken and longing to be healed."

Spoken by Rev. Nan Doerr in a Sunday sermon, these words inspired Clinton Rodgers to step into one of the leadership roles for the Eastwood Bike Center last year, as the first phase — the initial build-out of the space — was completed thanks to the leadership of Ray Nunez and Marilyn Horne. Now, with the second and final phase of construction and set-up nearing completion, Eastwood Bike Center is rolling out as an outreach of God's love to our neighbors.

Within a framework of friendship and support, the Center is designed to provide the guidance, appropriate workspace and tools for Eastwood residents to perform bicycle maintenance, repairs and assembly. Although targeted to neighborhood youth, the Center is accessible to anyone with a bicycle need. An investment of a bit of sweat equity, earned by helping others at the Center, will give people the opportunity to build a bicycle for themselves. Located in the garage adjacent to Redeemer's education building at 4411 Dallas Street, the Center is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Plans call for an extension of hours to include a weekday option later this year.



Top: James Flake, left, works with the Scouts on April 5. Bottom: Daniel Coleman, left, and James Flake flank Clinton Rodgers.

As its first formal initiative, the Center hosted the Boy Scouts on April 5, 2008 for an appreciation event. Volunteers worked on several

bikes, the scouts were encouraged to help spread the word of the Center's

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tithing teaser For the children of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring the offering of the grain, of the new wine and the oil, to the storerooms where the articles of the sanctuary are, where the priests who minister and the gatekeepers and the singers are; and we will not neglect the house of our God."

Nehemiah 10:38-39

BIKE CENTER from page 1



Youth minister Mark Ball works on a bike as Rebekah and Bethany Geistert look on.

opening to neighborhood friends, and attendees were treated to a no-holds-barred hot dog lunch.

Clinton believes that once fully operational, the Center will be a place of encouragement, outreach and healing. "I think the healing starts with those of us who will serve in the Center, as we deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Christ," he says. "Then, I hope that those we encounter will see something of Christ in us — through the Spirit and truth and our love for each other. And, I hope they'll see all of that more than our technical skills, which are somewhat lacking at this point!" he adds with a

broad smile.

To hone their technical skills, several of the Center's crew, including co-leader Brian Cour-Palais, James Flake and Daniel Coleman, are joining Clinton in training with the helpful folks at Workshop Houston's Third Ward Bike Shop — which has served Houston's Third Ward residents for several years and served as inspiration for the Eastwood Bike Center.

For James, the training and his involvement in the Center have been rewarding: "I was looking for a way to get more involved in the church and saw a flyer about the establishment of the Center. I ride a bike and was interested in learning how to work on them," he says. "I have a book on bicycle repair, but the way you really learn is by doing it. Now, I'm looking forward to the kids and adults coming to the Center for us to help them fix their bikes. I'm ready for it!"

Further enhancing the Center's level of technical knowledge, Joseph Stayshich, who made his way through college as a bicycle mechanic, recently joined as a Saturday volunteer.

There's a real sense of camaraderie among the Center's Saturday crew. "We're having a wonderful time learning and working together," says Daniel. "Whether you have bicycle knowledge or not, we invite anyone with an interest in the mission to join us in the learning and the work."

In addition to more volunteers, the Center welcomes donations of bicycles, new bicycle parts, an additional bike stand and tools. If you want to join the crew or donate items,

please call Clinton at 832.541.7709 or Daniel at 713.667.9252 or send an e-mail to dantzi@prodigy.net.

Most importantly, Clinton adds: "Please remember to pray for the Center and all who are touched by its mission. We hope our service of words and actions, through the Center, will be sweet incense and intercession for our neighborhood."



Clinton Rodgers gets in gear.

Redeemer Retreat at Villa de Matel

June 14, 2008

There are 35 spots open for this parish-wide retreat. Spend a day on the beautiful, serene grounds of the Villa, with time to reflect and time to connect with your brothers and sisters in Christ. The cost is \$35 per person. To reserve your spot, please contact Diane Andrew.

Diocese of Texas Art Show & Sale

October 4th & 5th

Register by July 1, 2008

You are invited to show and sell

your artwork at a show designed to honor and affirm all artists' gifts across the entire spectrum of endeavors, from the recreational artist to the professional. Artists may include but are not limited to three-dimensional media such as clay, wood, metal, fiber, glass, paper; two-dimensional media such as painting, drawing, printmaking, photography, and any other artistic endeavors. Please contact Diane Andrew in the Redeemer office for Registration Form.

To submit event listings or comments for *The Light*, please e-mail them to cindy.adams@chron.com

Thank You Gracias
Merci Dziynkuja
Danke Grazie

Rev. Nan Doerr and Administrative Assistant Diane Andrew wish to extend a hearty thanks to Nancy Taylor, Stephanie Sawyer, Peggy Fergus and Louise Alexander, all of whom sat in for Diane in the church office while she was recovering.

prayers of the heart

Prayer is not a pious gesture at all. It is a response to the One whose heart beats with ours.

— Joan Chitester

Getting to KNOW YOU...

From time to time The Light will interview Redeemer folks whose faces are familiar, whose names you may hear often, but whose souls you may never have touched. This issue, Janet Troy sat down with two women in the Redeemer community who are quite different but who share a common livelihood. Lois Ham and Lucille Dailey are both home health care nurses, and each of them shared how she was drawn to this profession and how it has affected her life.

Has your relationship with God consciously affected your choice to make a living as a home health nurse, and if so, how?

Lois: I felt like the Lord led me to it. I had been taking care of my mother and working at the same time. When my job ended, I became mom's fulltime (paid) caregiver for three years. After she died, one of the things that led me into this line of work was that I knew how hard it was to find someone to take care of her that really cared about her, about her dignity, about what was on TV — all sorts of little things.

You know, you don't hear an audible voice, but you hear a voice inside, and it was very definite. I was a nurse; I had worked in my husband's medical practice for 24 years, and as a doctors' office manager doing whatever needed to be done. After my mom died, I thought about going back to an office job and I just couldn't get back into that. ... I just felt like the Lord said, "Why don't you take care of other people?" Somebody called just the next day or so and said, "Would you consider taking care of my mom in the hospital — you know, to sit with her at night?" And things just kept going like that. When one job would end, within just a few days I'd have another job, and I never went out looking for them.

They're such interesting people. I just love it! One of them I may have led to the Lord, and others I've been able to share the Lord with. It's been a wonderful journey. ... For the first time in my life I felt like I was exactly where the Lord wanted me.

Lucille: Consciously, no. As I look back, I can see how the Lord was leading me slowly into this. I come from a totally different kind of background. I did accounting — payables and receivables. But I came to realize I was building up a distaste for that kind of work. I had worked with figures and computers for so many years and I had ruined my eyes, so I couldn't continue doing that kind of work. I had been the oldest girl with four brothers and four sisters, so I took care of my younger siblings and cousins.

For the past 15 years I have been taking care of adults. I took care of my husband, who had a heart transplant and was desperately ill for a couple of years, and I took care of my mother-in-law off and on.

When my husband's aunt was dying but didn't want to go to a facility, I agreed to stay with her in her home for the two weeks before she died. That was really learning in the raw! I had no idea how to take care of anyone with that degree of need. Then I had a friend with Alzheimer's who came to live with me for three months. She couldn't take care of herself. I knew that if she went back into a nursing home, she was going to die. She was bedridden when she got to my house, but my husband and I worked with her until she could get up, walk, feed herself, dress herself, toilet herself.

I felt like I was exactly where the Lord wanted me.

I had been volunteering at Villa de Matel with the elderly sisters. I so loved them! My desire was really to work there. So I went back to school. Two days after I took my state boards, I was hired by a long-term acute care facility. By the way, I couldn't get hired at the Villa. My heart was crushed. I said, "Well, Lord, I felt like that was what you wanted me to do," but when this happened, I knew the Lord had another plan. I may have moped around for a while, but then, "Okay, we're going to Plan B." So I started working at the hospital. It was very hard work, 12-hour days, but I enjoyed it. From there, I went to work in an Alzheimer's facility. Now I'm doing private duty, and I absolutely love it.

What is the hardest thing about doing what you do?

Lois: It's one of the things I do the best — death. I had so much experience with it early on. First there was my mom, and then my first patient who died was Lois Guerke (a former Redeemer member). I never went through hospice

training, but I've been in nursing all my life and I've learned to know when death is approaching.

Suddenly things on earth aren't that important to the patient, they're on another plane. They may walk around and talk, but something changes and I become aware of it. Then I can talk to their families and ask if there's anything they need to get straightened out, any forgiveness, anything they want to say to their mom or dad; they need to make time to do that soon and not take the person for granted because the time is drawing near. Sometimes it's a good time to witness to the family. It's hard to let them go, but I know I'll see them again, and they're in much better hands than mine.

Lucille: Well, I think the hardest thing was in the nursing home, being so overwhelmed by the number of people I had to take care of, and knowing that it's just an impossible job. Right now I just have one lady. In the Alzheimer's unit I had a lot of patients. There were five wings, and the wing that I was in had 29 patients, two aides, and one nurse. It was overwhelming! I went every day to do my very best, but I knew my very best was not going to cut it.

Where do you find joy and meaning in what you do?

Lois: The people I'm working with right now appreciate me so much. Every little thing I do they say, "Oh thank you so much. You just don't know how hard it is for me to get the mail," and things like that. That gives me a sense of joy. I just consider it a ministry. And I feel like it ministers back to me.

Lucille: Where do I find joy? When I see results. When I can work with a patient and I see that they're able to regain strength or able to walk, to feed themselves and dress themselves. Their lives are not over. When I was working in ICU, I'd bathe patients and shave them and comb their hair, and put fresh sheets on the bed and fresh gowns on them, and the nurses and doctors would come in and they'd all stop and look, because (the patient) would look so good and so handsome. That's results, when people notice a difference, and when the patients feel good about themselves.

What have you learned about yourself doing this work that you didn't know before?

Lois: Well, I never dreamed that I'd be one to do this type of work with elderly people. They all have stories, they're just so much fun to talk to, and I love digging out their childhood, asking them what they remember about old-timey things. It surprised me that I took to it so much. I was surprised that I'm more of a nurturing person than I thought.

ON THE CALENDAR

**Redeemer
Friday Nights**
Every week.
Starts at 7:30 p.m.

Bishops' Walkabout
Saturday, May 10
8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Episcopal High School
Chapel
*Meet, greet and hear
from Bishop Coadjutor
candidates. Make a res-
ervation at epicenter.org
or call 979-254-2557 for
more information.*

**Redeemer
"Block Party"**
Sunday, May 11,
*Service and hospitality
outside (weather
permitting) to celebrate
Pentecost and
Mother's Day*

**Bishop Coadjutor
Election**
Saturday, May 24
8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Register at epicenter.org

**Redeemer Movie
Seminar**
1st Saturdays at 7 p.m.
June 7: The Lives
of Others

**Episcopal Night
with the Astros**
Wednesday, June 11



Rohr Talks, Redeemer Listens

Several carloads of Redeemer-ites made their way to Tomball on April 18-19 to hear Fr. Richard Rohr speak at Life Revealing Community's new digs. As ever, his musings, this year on the topic of the emerging church, were thought-provoking and enlightening, and during a break Fr. Richard remembered his trips to Redeemer in the 1970s fondly. From left: Louise Alexander, Diane Andrew, Ginger Fabian, John Roberts, Cindy Adams, Fr. Richard Rohr, Nancy Taylor, Peggy Fergus and Robert Burlingame. Also in attendance were Allen Ansevin on Friday night, and Taft Metcalf, off perusing the bookstalls during the Saturday photo.

SUMMER2008: We're On the GO!

LaRoca Summer Camp
Friday evening May 16-Sunday
afternoon, May 18
Camp Cullen
Contact: Peggy Fergus
or Nancy Taylor at 713-926-4977

Youth and Young Adult Trips
Rebuilding on the
Mississippi Gulf Coast
Youth and Scouts Trip
July 13 - 19
SeekFirst Group
August 10-16
Contact: Mark Ball at 832-457-3208

Don't forget to buy your own commemorative 2008 Parish Photo print, on sale in the Parish Hall beginning Sunday, May 4. Proceeds will be used for scholarships for youth going on the mission trips.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU from page 3

Lucille: This is hard to admit because I always thought I had patience, but I've learned that when I am overly tired and overworked, I can lose my "sweet." I can be short and sharp.

How has your worked changed you? Are you different in any way that you're aware of?

Lois: Well, I've been put in a position to live completely by faith. Sometimes money gets real short and I have to leave this up to the Lord. He's never forsaken me yet and I don't think he's going to start now. I honestly just rely on the

Lord for everything. I'm a lot more grateful. It's a good life!

Lucille: I have a stronger, deeper trust that the Lord is going to provide, that he's still in control. He's been such a lover of my soul in so many ways. It's my time for healing. I'm working, I'm making an income, but I'm healing, as well. †