

# REDEEMER

R E P O R T

JUNE/JULY 2011

## A TIME TO PRAY, A CALL TO SERVE

BY BRUCE TERRELL

The RENEW Campaign in Fall 2009 seems like only a short time ago, but a lot has happened since we first communicated the vision for the next chapter in Redeemer's story. When I look at how fast things have moved, I realize that the reality of four neighborhood-based congregations is just around the corner.

By the middle of this coming fall our congregations will be poised to move out into the city in the neighborhoods where we work and live in a more tangible way and in a closer relationship to the city than ever before. What an exciting time to be part of this community!

As we head into the summer I want to quickly highlight some of the progress being made to ready us for this season of transition. I hope you will be encouraged as I have been.

- At their latest Huddles Meeting, Fellowship Group leaders began the process of determining their congregational affiliation

- Lead Pastors have begun meeting with their respective elders to plan for ministry transition and pastoral oversight of their congregations

- Lead Pastors have begun gathering with members in their neighborhoods to better understand their unique needs and get to know their prospective congregants

- Plans are being finalized to conduct a major lay ministry training initiative utilizing the **Gospel[in]Life** curriculum which will be facilitated by the four Lead Pastors; we hope to equip and mobilize as many as 1000 people who will play a key role in supporting the ministry of each of the four congregations

- Initial investigative meetings have begun for potential mid-week ministry space for the East Side

- Investigative meetings have also begun for potential Sunday worship space for the downtown congregation

- A 6th Sunday worship service will be added with the opening of the W83 building in January, 2012

While all this progress points to a new Redeemer, the biggest and most important piece of the puzzle is you. And the most important place we can start is with prayer. To that end, let's make this summer a summer of prayer. Let's individually and collectively go to our Father and pray for ourselves, our church and our city. And let's seek to prayerfully discern where and how God is calling us to serve congregationally.

Let me suggest some thoughts on how we should pray:

*First*, pray for a heart soaked in the gospel—that has a consistent posture of repenting

*(Continued on page 2)*



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• NEW WEBSITE FOR THOSE INVESTIGATING FAITH • GOSPEL & CULTURE LECTURES YEAR AT A GLANCE

# HOPE FOR NEW YORK SPRING BENEFIT

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Hope for New York (HFNY) held its Fifth Annual Spring Benefit “Unto Others” on Thursday, May 12, at Holy Apostles Church in Chelsea. Spearheaded by HFNY’s Young Supporters Committee, the evening kicked off with a dynamic gospel choir performance and continued by encouraging 350 attendees to respond to Jesus’ call to service in Matthew 7:12: “So in everything, do unto others what you would have them do

to you.” The Rev. Leo Schuster was the speaker for the evening and HFNY’s board member Paul Horrocks was the emcee.

Each attendee was invited to engage in the greatest needs of NYC’s underserved communities by volunteering and giving financially to HFNY’s affiliates. A generous anonymous donor provided a \$50,000 matching gift 1:1 opportunity so that every contribution received would be doubled. The event was underwritten so that one

hundred percent of the donations will go toward programs that directly impact the communities HFNY serves. If you were unable to attend the benefit but would still like to participate in “Unto Others,” please visit [www.hfnny.org](http://www.hfnny.org) to learn about ways to volunteer and give to Hope for New York. Thank you for supporting our affiliates and partnering in the ministry of justice and mercy to New York City.

## A TIME TO PRAY... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

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and rejoicing—repenting from our bent toward ‘self-salvation’ efforts and the sins that so easily entangle us; instead let us rejoice in the riches of God’s grace and goodness that we have in Jesus; that says “not my will, but Yours;” that seeks God’s glory above all else.

*Second*, pray for a Christian community at Redeemer that genuinely and deliberately shares life together with the common experience of the gospel; that seeks to serve rather than be served; that exists in a context of the life-giving ‘one anothering’ practices of affirmation, honor, hospitality and encouragement; that is Spirit-

filled and therefore models alternate and distinctive ways to live holy and generous lives.

*Lastly*, pray for the city; that it will experience the revitalizing life that God’s people bring to bear as they live, work and play; a city where the poor and disenfranchised experience peace, prosperity and justice; a city in which people are increasingly experiencing the wonder, beauty and reality of the gospel.

Besides encouraging you to pray individually, we’re providing an opportunity for you to pray in small groups. This summer Redeemer is going to hold a “100 Prayer Walks”

challenge. We are hoping for hundreds of people to do small prayer walks all over the city. Organize your own prayer walk with 2 or more of your friends at [www.redeemer.com/summerprayer](http://www.redeemer.com/summerprayer).

As we begin writing this new chapter together as a church let’s write on our hearts and practice with our lives one of our frequent worship service dismissals:

*Minister:* Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*Congregants:* Thanks be to God!

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### REDEEMER REPORT

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Kathy Keller  
Heather Klein

HUNTER COLLEGE AUDITORIUM  
East 69TH (Between Park & Lexington)  
services at 10:30AM & 6:00PM

ETHICAL CULTURE  
West 64TH and CPW  
service at 9:15AM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
Corner of West 79TH and Broadway  
service at 5:00PM & 7:15PM

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# TENDING TO OTHERS GENEROUSLY

BY HOWARD FREEMAN, SR. DIRECTOR OF GENEROSITY

Before our family moved back to New York City with our kids we lived north of Boston for eight years.

In our area of New England people took gardening almost as seriously as they did their baseball. Nurseries abounded alongside local ice cream stands and fried clam restaurants. Most homeowners spent weekends taking care of not just the lawn but also the flowerbeds—tending to them, making them beautiful for themselves and for their neighbors. Bringing order out of chaos, making things beautiful, is in our DNA.

For this is how God made us; it is how he himself is. And he is not only our Creator; he is our Master Craftsman. The psalmist

sings to the Lord, ‘I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well’ (Psalm 139:14). Paul writes to the Ephesians, ‘For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do’ (Ephesians 2:10). ‘Workmanship’ in the Greek is *‘poeima,’* from which we get our English word ‘poem.’ You, my friend, are God’s poem, His masterpiece.

What, then, are the implications of this truth for generosity?

First, if I am God’s workmanship, then so is my brother or sister in Christ and even my neighbor who is not yet a believer. We see that this

affects our ‘theology of people,’ because we realize that God is Creator and Master Craftsman of all. Second, if we see others being made into masterpieces by God, isn’t it our responsibility to pour our lives into them generously and holistically—not only our time and money, but also our vulnerabilities and strengths, our names and reputations and resources? If God has freely given his us own Son Jesus, then shouldn’t we be willing to give to others—even to our ‘enemies’—from what we have, which is given to us by God ‘to do good works,’ as Paul says?

The Gardener got his hands dirty with proverbial soil to tend to us, to make us beautiful. How can we do less for others?

# NEW WEBSITE FOR THOSE INVESTIGATING FAITH

BY TIM AND KATHY KELLER

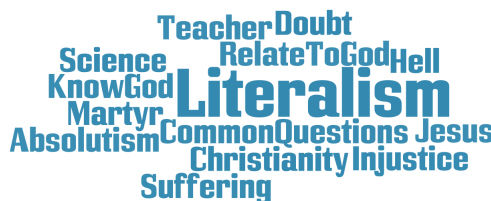
Redeemer Presbyterian Church began as a community committed to, among other things, engaging in respectful dialogue with those who are curious about the historic Christian faith. We remember what it is like to not believe and to find faith difficult. We recognize that there are many people in our community who aren’t sure what they believe about Jesus and his claims as they are found in the Bible. There are many ways to process one’s doubts and questions, and we hope that this new website will be helpful

as one of those ways.

*Discover.redeemer.com* is designed in a way that we hope helps each person in his or her particular journey, allowing an individual the freedom to explore the particular questions he or she may have. On the home page you’ll find videos that feature questions and perspectives of both Christians and non-Christians. These videos introduce three main

areas of interest: 1) Common Questions, 2) Jesus, and 3) Christianity. In each of these three sections there are papers to read, talks to listen to and other videos to watch.

Whether you are exploring Christianity for first time or are already a Christian we invite you to visit this new site. And we hope that you’ll forward this link on to the people in your life who aren’t sure what they believe about Christianity or about Jesus. What what he finished can change their lives forever.



# GOSPEL & CULTURE LECTURES YEAR AT A GLANCE

BY AMILEE WATKINS

Last year the Center for Faith & Work initiated a monthly lecture series to engage the broader Redeemer congregation, particularly those who are not available to regularly participate in monthly vocation groups. The goal of the series was to help process what it looks like for Christians to

participate in culture.

What is the link between the gospel and culture? Our work! As creatures made in the image of God, we reflect his character—of cultivation, of creation, of molding and shaping. In our daily work, as we steward the gifts and skills we’ve been given, we have the

greatest ability to both create and influence culture. By looking at the society around us from various vantage points over the course of the past year our guest lecturers have helped to point us towards where God’s Spirit is at work and how we can join into His work of renewing all things.

<i>Month</i>	<i>CFW Group Sponsor</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
Apr 2010	All CFW	N. T. Wright <i>After you Believe</i>	In light of the resurrection, we are new creatures, more fully human, given a tangible purpose of participating in God’s work of building for his Kingdom.	800
Oct 2010	Business Fellowship	Jeff Van Duzer <i>Why Business Matters to God</i>	Exploring the purpose of business through the lens of the biblical narrative reveals its created good as being intended for the service of society, its brokenness displayed in both individuals and institutions, and a vision of its potential to serve God’s purposes of renewal.	189
Nov 2010	Entrepreneurship Initiative	Andy Crouch <i>Creating Power</i>	In opposition to Nietzsche’s view of power as a force of domination, the biblical view of power shows us an all-powerful god creating mankind in his image, and pouring out his power to make all things flourish. Through worship, we are re-oriented towards this God in order to steward our power in like manner.	288
Jan 2011	All CFW	Tim Keller <i>Why Work Matters to God</i>	God matters to our work and our work matters to God. He has given us co-regency over His creation, to cultivate and steward all things towards their intended end—that is, His glory. Our work is thereby not only validated but also vital to his purposes.	923
Feb 2011	Arts Ministry	Adrienne Chaplin <i>Art Matters for God’s Sake</i>	The arts saturate our culture and if Christians are not shaping the arts, they are certainly being shaped <i>by</i> them. Thus, the call to transform culture is as necessary in the arts as in any other area of culture. <i>(Continued on next page)</i>	225

			The arts nurture our imagination and encourage empathy, allowing us to make sense of the world, to experience the transcendent, and thereby to be as fully human as God intended.	
Mar 2011	Legal Fellowship	Robert George <i>Natural Law, God, &amp; Human Dignity</i>	Natural law provides a compelling basis— for both those inside and outside the church—for human rights and social structures that promote human flourishing.	236
Apr 2011	Gotham Alumni	Os Guinness <i>Challenging the Darkness: Towards a New Christian Renaissance</i>	We are living in an age that yearns for a new Reformation, but one of humility and realism. As followers of Christ, we must acknowledge the brokenness of the church alongside the brokenness of culture and rely upon the unique and powerful cultural dynamics of the Kingdom and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit in seeking cultural renewal.	685
May 2011	Educators Groups	James K. A. Smith <i>Culture as Liturgy</i>	We are primarily creatures of love and desire—creatures created to worship. Cultural institutions put forth varying ideas of human flourishing. The “liturgies” (rituals, practices) inherent in culture form and shape human beings into creatures who desire the specified end-goal. The practices of Christian worship bring about a counter-formation—in essence, re-ordering our loves that we may desire the kingdom.	TBD
June 2011	International Diplomacy	Douglas Johnston <i>Faith-Based Diplomacy: Bridging the Religious Divide</i>	Emphasizing the tenet taught by Muhammad that God created people to do good works, and therefore Muslims are to respect people of other faiths, Johnston enters diplomatic relations in the Middle East with the name of Jesus. He has found that operating on faith-based principles rather than a secular construct provides grounds for cross-cultural peace-making.	TBD



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## WHAT IS A "PIGGERY"?

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According to Webster's, a piggery is "a place where swine are kept." It is also a place where members of Redeemer's Youth will be spending a portion of their summer. Come July 14, four leaders and eight students will fly into Kampala, and drive northeast toward the Nile, to the city of Jinga. Once there, the students will meet face to face with two communities they've long supported with prayer and resources.

The AIDS Orphans Support Trust (TAOST) and Redeemer's Youth are "old friends," having worked together now for three years to create a sustainable school for orphans who've been affected by AIDS and HIV. Through

various fund raisers this student ministry has provided for things like: annual rent for the TAOST school building, school supplies for hundreds of students, school uniforms (including shoes) for every student and Bibles in their native language. All of these have helped to bring about a higher level of education, attracting a greater number of regularly attending students.

With the start-up school now over the initial "hump," we will be able to officially say "farewell" to TAOST, and begin a new relationship with another community in need just down the road. It is at Rock Primary School, where Redeemer students will work to create a pig farm. The hope

is that this "piggery" will sustain Rock Primary with financial resources for years to come.

Our team needs your prayers and support. Please pray regularly for us this summer. Pray for the team's preparations, safety and health, and for the students and teachers of TAOST and Rock Primary School whom we will be serving. Also please consider supporting our team. The amount needed to cover costs of travel, lodging, supplies and vaccinations for the entire team is \$36,000.

If you would like to help us financially, you can make a donation online: <https://giving.redeemer.com/giving/gift>. Select: *Jinja, Uganda Youth Team 2011*

BY DAVID PLANT