



The Westside Story

The News of El Divino Redentor

September/October 2010

Living on the Breath of God

Recently we were all invited to come out and "share" our time helping to prepare the church manse for our new *DWELL* volunteers. We were encouraged to get involved in the task of cleaning the home in an effort to ensure our first impression with our volunteers was a positive one. As I sat in church thinking about my own volunteer experiences in a similar program, I could not help but wonder what being a *DWELL* volunteer would be like. My choice to come out and help other members of the church clean the home, allowed me the time to talk to a former volunteer who shared her one year experience with Divine Redeemer through this program. I did not know that they received such a small stipend to "live" on (far less than minimum wage per hour), I did not know that they were expected to fundraise half of the money it takes to support them for one year, I did not know that they were expected to share their financial resources to together and purchase groceries on a monthly basis. We are so blessed to have them, because they come as humble servants only to live on the breath of God; literally!

Most importantly I did not know that their host church (which we are) was needed to support them through their year of service in such an intimate way; literally as their surrogate families. After learning all of these facts about this program, I soon realized that I had more in common with these volunteers than I had differences. The time I spent scrubbing the floor on my hands and knees, all the while telling myself that I had not even done that in my own home like ever; God reminded me just how special the young women and men are who answer this call each year to join this program. And that I can do more myself to help support them; which is why I am writing this article.

So now that you have learned through me sharing my experience with preparing for the arrival of our *DWELL* volunteers, make note that this coming fall until next summer we will have three young men and one young woman in this program who will be residing in the church manse off of Saunders Street. I just want to encourage each of you to explore this program on your own by asking questions, going out of your way to include our volunteers in your lunch plans after church, or inviting them out to an evening of re-discovering San Antonio. You could also extend a ride to church, share a favorite meal, or just consider giving a love offering to support this program with their daily living needs. All funds will be allocated to the expense of items such as household goods, supplies, and unplanned incidentals as needed by the program; which will be managed by the ministry team at Divine Redeemer. No gift is too small and all is greatly appreciated.

Peace~Arlene

It's Coming...Save the Date.

Upcoming Church Picnic

It's time for our Church Picnic! Vengan todos!

On Sunday, September 19th, we will have our annual church picnic at Rodriguez Park starting at 10:00 a.m. with Worship service led by Pastor Rob and the Holy Boys. There will be great food, games, softball, karaoke, dessert contest and lots of fun for all ages. A huge BBQ grill will be provided by Buddy Vasquez so bring your own meat and he will grill it for you or you can just join him at the pit. We ask everyone to bring a pot luck to share. Anyone needing a ride to the park, especially the elderly, transportation will be provided to and from the church. Please leave a message with the church office to let us know if you need a ride: 433-9551. There will not be any Worship services at the church on that Sunday. Please come join in on the fun and celebrate Una Mesa con nuestra gente. Nos vemos, See you at the picnic! The Worship Team

WELCOME DWELLERS

We would like to welcome our new *DWELL* volunteers that will be in community with us for the upcoming year.

David Christophel, Dan Knight, Stephanie Miller, and Aaron Stauffer will be living in the *DWELL* house on Saunders.

WELCOME POTLUCK for DWELLERS

September 12, 2009 after worship

Remembering the Homebound

Recordando a los que estan reclusados en casa



The Homebound Visitation Team invites everyone to send a card, to visit or to call at least two homebound members of Divine Redeemer Presbyterian Church.

If you know of anyone that needs to be placed on the list or if you have any questions, please call Bertha Pena at 434-1800. Please keep our homebound in your prayers especially during the holidays. Below is a list of their names.



Recordando a los que estan reclusados en casa y no pueden salir. Se recomienda que manden una tarjeta, llamarles por telefono, o visitarlos. Si Ud. Conoce una persona quien debe estar en esta lista o tiene preguntas, llame a Bertha Pena 434-1800.

Brown, Agnes (Please identify yourself by name and relationship to Mrs. Brown)

Garza, Leonor

Guerra, Margie

Whitson, Dora

Their phone number and address are listed in the Divine Redeemer Church Directory

House of Teens News

Vacation Bible school, Swimming, Mission Trips, Meditations, Bible studies, manual labor, water games, messy night, Fiesta Texas, Teen Night, Scrap Books, dinner, Ice cream, basketball, team building.... phew!!

Summer has quickly come and gone and now the new school year is rapidly approaching. Thanks to some brainstorming and great ideas H.O.T. is implementing a new finance piece to help the Youth engage and learn about the use of money, investments, check books, and other savings techniques during the upcoming school year. We have also been working on new ways to keep our program fresh so we have decided to celebrate a holiday each day as a way to plan our daily program. These Holidays not only include the traditional: Valentines Day, Rosh Hashanah, Mothers day or Fathers Day but also includes Make a Hat Day, celebrate your neighbor's day, Fire Safely awareness and many more. We are excited about the opportunity to share new ideas and interests with the youth as we dive into the new school year.

We are also excited to see returning volunteers from years past. We are hoping to have a couple young people from universities in the area to come back a few times to share their gifts with the young people of House of Teens. It would also great to see new faces from the Church building relationships with the youth of the neighborhood! Programming is Monday-Thursday 4:30-6:00pm and if you can't make it then teen night is always an option: Tuesday Nights from 7:00pm-9:00pm.

Although we always seem to be asking for more, we can never thank you enough for all your support of this program thus far! Here we GO!!

Worship Readings for the Months of Sept.-Oct., 2010

Sept. 5, 2010

Jer. 18:1-11
Ps. 139:1-6, 13-18
Philem. 1-21
Luke 14:25-33

Sept. 12, 2010

Jer. 4:11-12, 22-28
Ps. 14
1 Tim. 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

Sept. 19, 2010

Jer. 8:18—9:1
Ps. 79: 1-9
1 Tim. 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

Sept. 26, 2010

Jer. 32:1-3a, 6-15
Ps. 91:1-6, 14-16
1 Tim. 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31

Oct. 3, 2010

Lam. 1:1-6
Lam. 3:19-26 or
Ps. 137
2 Tim. 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

Oct. 10, 2010

Jer. 29:1, 4-7
Ps. 66:1-12
2 Tim. 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19

Oct. 17, 2010

Jer. 31:27-34
Ps. 119:97-104
2 Tim. 3:14—4:5
Luke 18:1-8

Oct. 24, 2010

Joel 2:23-32
Ps. 65
2 Tim. 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14

Oct. 31, 2010

Hab. 1:1-4, 2:1-4
Ps. 119:137-144
2 Thess. 1:1-4, 11-12
Luke 19:1-10

HEALING AND WHOLENESS SERVICES: to be or not to be?

By Lisa Duck-Fuentes

Some of the most beautiful worship experiences I have ever had have occurred during the Healing and Wholeness service which our church provides every other month. Each time I have attended that service I have been led through prayer and meditation, through song and incantation, which have reached me to the very depths of my soul. Through candlelight, repeated singing of prayerful phrases, and the time and space for clearing out the unruly world without, I have been given the opportunity to have some one-on-one time with myself and with God. I have come away feeling cleansed, with troubles lifted from my shoulders. I have come away feeling like I am accompanied on my journey in life during tough times as well as the good ones.

But did you know that an enormous amount of time and energy on the part of others takes place in order for this to happen? A team of singers and guitar players must donate several hours of their time and musical ability. Another team must set up the worship space which calls for furniture rearranging and dozens of oil lamps to be filled, placed, and lit. And still another team must provide the communion elements and serve them. Because the service is held on a Sunday night, our pastor must put together his third church service for the day. I can assure you that all of these people do this with an open heart as they know what a huge impact they will make on someone's life during each service.

The efforts of our pastor and these people are by no means useless. The finished effect is something quite extraordinary and extremely meaningful to those who attend. My questions are these: Why do so few people attend the Healing and Wholeness service? Only 10 - 13 people have attended the past two services. Why hasn't this service grown? Why is the room not full with people benefiting from this great offering of spiritual space, time, energy and talent? I have suggested to our pastor that he cut back on these services that require so much of him, to 3 services a year rather than the 6 he is now doing. We're not so sure if that is the answer. What do you think?

Your Worship Committee will be arranging a Sunday to re-create a Healing and Wholeness service during our regular worship times so that more people can experience such a service and as a result more will attend and benefit from the bi-monthly ones at 6:00 p.m.

Meanwhile, I would greatly appreciate your feedback if you have any suggestions or answers to my questions. Please leave me a note in the office or email me at my home address: Fuentes_fam@sbcglobal.net. Or just talk to me some time and let me know what you think. Thanks!

Got News to share? Family announcements, poems, short stories, ministry reports, upcoming events, tidbits, awards, or achievements. Submit your newsletter articles to Stephen Rivera, newsletter editor hr868@aol.com or drop them off at Divine Redeemer Presbyterian Church 407 N. Calaveras St.

September/October Celebrations

Below are the birthdays and anniversaries for the months of September and October. If you have any correction or additions, please contact the church office.

September Birthdays

- 3- Brian Flores
- 6- Donna Rivera
- 9- Judy Lucio & Allison Parry
- 11- Zach Lopez
- 12- Margaret Martinez & Kathy Mendoza
- 13- Sergio Orozco
- 14- Caleb Armendariz, Dolores Chavez & Joseph Ramirez
- 16- Alex Cornejo & Margaret Rivera
- 17- Aidan Alcocer
- 20- Andrea Russell
- 25- Joanna Rivera
- 26- James Monteagudo (Rivera)
- 27- Angelica Cornejo & Bryan Lucio
- 28- Rosalinda Maldonado
- 30- Lucy Elizondo



October Birthdays

- 2- Clare Lozano
- 6- Lauren Deal
- 7- Manuel Pelayo
- 9- Angela Abrego, Cynthia Diaz de Leon, Alexis Rodriguez, & Gwynneth Livesay
- 10- Eric Martinez
- 11- Marcus Bernal & Earl Leija
- 12- Janie Garcia
- 13- Elily Martinez
- 14- Alicia Farias
- 15- Roland Rivera
- 18- Ziana Elizondo
- 19- Michael A. Pompa
- 23- Krystal Trevino
- 24- Margie Cornejo
- 26- Pilar Martinez & Rob Mueller
- 27- Elvira Saldana
- 31- Guillermo Rodriguez & Santos Venzor



September Anniversaries

- 1- Michael & Maggie Bernal
- 2- Harold & Judy Morris



October Anniversaries

- 4- Jerry & Joanna Rivera
- 7- Cervando Martinez & Sylvia Sanchez
David & Sandra Rivera
- 16- Tomas & Dolores Chavez

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: Allison Parry Moreno was received as a New member by the congregation on Sunday, August 8, 2010

Please join us for an evening of Taize music, candles and meditation. A special kind of service to just be.



Healing & Wholeness Services:
*Last Sunday of every other month
Sunday, September 26 2010*

7:00 PM

*Mark your calendars for upcoming dates:
November 28*

Dates are subject to change, call the church office for more information 210-433-9551

Greeters, Liturgist, Money Counters, Tech Support

Volunteers are needed to serve.

Individuals or families wanting to participate in one of these areas for one or more Sundays in the month may contact the following individuals:

Greeters: Bilingual Service: Leticia Alcocer 824-4986
Spanish Service- Rosa Linda Maldonado 432-5062

Liturgist: Bilingual Service: Lisa Fuentes 344-6050
Spanish Service: Gracie Martinez 923-6268

Offering Counters: Helen Rivera 534-1955

Technology Support: Janie Garcia 789-1246



Church Directory Updates

Change of Address:

Arlene Esparza:

335 Gardina, San Antonio, TX 78201-2903.
Same phone number.

Irma Diaz de Leon

303 Dawnridge Dr. San Antonio, TX 78213-3107
New Phone # 210-525-1877

Cindy Martinez-

3903 SE Military Dr. Apt 5206
San Antonio, TX 78223-4099

Divine Redeemer has a new website...

divinredeemersa.org is under construction.



If you have any information that you would like to post on the website please email a copy to Robert Vargas at

robert@sanantoniowned.com. Include

any graphics on your announcements, special fonts, layout, etc. Pictures can also be sent. The Website will not be current unless you submit the information to Robert. Let's all do our part.

Session Notes

- On August 30th, the title to the Palomo house was signed. This finalizes the paperwork and the House has a new owner. May God Bless the new owner as did our sister Lupe Palomo who shared this house with us.
- The next Presbytery Meeting will be on October 22nd and 23rd, 2010 at 1st Korean Presbyterian Church in Austin, TX. Jo Ann Saldana and Rosalinda Maldonado are our commissioners.
- Martha Flores has enrolled in the 2010-2011 Lay Leadership Institute Class and she has the endorsement of our session. May God Bless her in her endeavor.
- The Back to School Blessing on August 27 at Crocket Elementary School was very successful. Sacred Heart, St. Agnes, and New Hope Covenant joined us for this event.
- Una Mesa Breakfast was cancelled for the month of August and it was really missed. Breakfast starts again on September 6th
- The Church retreat scheduled for Halloween weekend is cancelled due to scheduling conflict. The retreat for Battle of Flowers weekend will be for four days.
- We will hold a joint service with New Hope Covenant Ministries on November 21st. We will hold both our Sunday Services in the Lincoln Heights Courts at the Frank Garret Center
- A Healing and Wholeness service will be held on a Sunday Morning at a later date
- Youth Group members will take turns acting as assistant liturgists along side the regular liturgist
- The new bus is getting some good use for transportation to camp, to classical music concerts and swimming events. Thanks to all for supporting this project.
- Homebound Ministry had a training session in preparation to taking Communion to homebound on Communion Sunday.
- Need volunteers for Peace PALS and HOT, also food donations
- Buddy reported that a new air conditioner is in place and working in the Yellow House at a cost of \$5400.00
- Budget Report for January thru August is: Income = \$87,605.72 and Expense = \$101,743.76 with a deficit of \$14,138.04
- The Growing ministry team is focusing on the Christian Education program for the school year. It has been a challenge looking for and getting a commitment from individuals who will volunteer to assist with Sunday school for elementary education. The middle and high school children meet regularly for Sunday School. Carrie is the lead teacher for that age group. Sunday school classes for adults and Spanish adults are being held on Sundays
- A Chile Relleno plate fundraiser was held and successfully raised \$655.72. This helps to defray the cost of the Spring Retreat and a good start for the next retreat.
- Our minister presented a very full pastors report for July and August. All the Elders have a copy of his report. Please ask the elders to share his report with you. You need to know what an exhausting pace this is. We need to find a way to help him with all the work that has to be done in our church. Please everyone help!

Lucy Rivera, Clerk of Session

Divine Redeemer Youth Group

The youth group has a new meeting time every 2nd and 4th Sunday after church until 2/2:30pm! This "youth group" time is for fellowship among the group. It is to be completely separated from the Sunday school time which happens from 10:30-11:15. We invite all youth in 6th grade through the 12th grade to come have fun!

Coming up in October we will have our first fundraiser for Mid Winters which happens in January. We are going to have a plate sale on October 3rd which is the first Sunday in October! We will have more information for you as we get closer to the date but put it on your calendars and come support the youth!

The youth also have another Youth Sunday on October 24th. If you weren't able to make it to the last service (Pentecost) it was incredible. And if you missed the August 29th service when the youth helped out you REALLY need to come out and participate in the October worship service. I am extremely proud of the youth group and their ability to grow and worship together and we hope you will all be there to experience worship and glorify God together!

PEACE PALS

This was a great summer! I had an average of 15 children every Wednesday, Thursday Friday. We met from 12-2pm in the Yellow House right after Time Dollar's Gardening class. Our last day was July 30th and we took a trip to Splashtown. Our group was 32 strong. This includes all of the PEACE PALS participants, parents, friends, brothers, sisters and volunteers. I have to thank Betty Jean Gomez for all the support she gave our program. Betty Jean helped me every Friday, at the pool, at our small classical concert we attended and at Splashtown. She was a blessing to the children as well as me, thank you Betty Jean!

Now for the school year!!! We started August 23rd. Our new time is from 3:30-5:30pm. I chose this earlier time due to the children coming to program by 3:30 last year when we started at 4:00! Also, this is allowing the Fellowship Hall to be free at an earlier time in the evening.

For program this year I am asking for food donations. The children enjoy chicken nuggets, tostadas, bologna and cheese sandwiches, corn dogs, macaroni and cheese, hot dogs, etc. We would appreciate any food donations, or monetary donations and I will purchase food from Costco in bulk.

And the most important piece of information I have to put on this newsletter is VOLUNTEERS! I need volunteers, after the first year of program I have learned a lot, what works and what doesn't and how the structure of the program needs to be. When the children first get to program we have a 30 minute time frame of working on homework, practicing flash cards (multiplication, division, subtraction and addition) or read books. After those 30 minutes we eat snack, play games and do crafts but inevitably there are still children finishing homework. When a volunteer comes in I ask they first help complete homework. Then it is great to be able to play with the children, build relationships with them, and come and see what this program is offering our future!

**PEACE PALS in the Fellowship Hall
Monday-Thursday 3:30-5:30**