

THE GOOD LIFE

"What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ." — Philippians 3:8, NIV

What do you think of when you hear the expression *The Good Life?* In this beautiful area of the country that we call home, *The Good Life* might mean for some enjoying a sunset at the beach ... (I would have a hard time arguing with that one!) It might mean having a successful career, beautiful home and two paid off cars in the driveway ... It might mean having enough money to take vacations ... It might mean having the health to enjoy all those things. For each of us, this phrase *The Good Life* conjures up images of things we hope for and expectations we have set for ourselves. The group of eleven of us from Redeemer who attended the week-long mission trip to San Diego spent time each day considering this phrase personally and then exploring Scripture to see how God would want us to understand *The Good Life*.



What we learned is that we are created for *The Good Life*. Jesus says in John 10:10 "... I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." God created everything "good" in the Garden of Eden, but mankind and our sin tarnished that beauty and goodness. God, however, never gives

up restoring us to *The Good Life*. Through His Son Jesus, He continues to bring us to a full and good life.

We can trust this because we believe that God Himself is good. (Psalm 106:1 declares, "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.") And in His goodness, He wants good things for His people (Psalm 139:5). But how does one respond when we see so much brokenness and lack of goodness in the world around us? God may be good, but evil still has power in this world, and it seems that it is bound and determined to thwart whatever good God wants to bless His creation with.

Unfortunately, when faced with pain, suffering and brokenness we humans are often led astray by false imitations of *The Good Life* that God intends for us. Have you ever tried to solve your problems with a false imitation? Didn't it promise you relief, pleasure and even freedom? But what did it deliver? The truth is that if you and I are to grasp the only true source of *The Good Life* that Jesus offers us, we are going to have to let go of cheap imitations — to make room for the goodness that God wants to pour into our lives!

What each of us needs to realize as we journey through life is that *The Good Life* is found only in Jesus Christ. He is the Good Shepherd who guides us to where the green pastures are. We do best to follow Him — and to bring others to Him also. If you have found *The Good Life*, don't you think there are

MISSION TRIP EXPERIENCE

For this summer's mission trip, 11 students and adults stayed the week in San Diego and served at three organizations. These were:

St. Vincent de Paul – St Vincent is dedicated to helping the homeless get off the streets and providing resources for them to get on their feet. Father Joe's Village serves about 800 homeless people a meal every day.

San Diego Rescue Mission — this mission handles food distribution, clothing, furniture, electronics and other miscellaneous items that may be sold in nearby thrift stores for low income person. They provide a programmatic opportunity for males with backgrounds in crime, violence, addiction, etc. to work at the mission. This gives the clients work experience for future.

Adult Day Care – this is a safe place for people to come and be stimulated cognitively and socially. They exist to try to maximize independence in their clients, attempting to prolong their time before entering a nursing home.

Here are what some of the participants had to say!

Jonah Glassman: "It was my first mission trip and it really impacted me to do it, and I hope it really impacted others who went. I think that the people that we helped are still homeless, but hopefully we made a small impact and every little bit counts.

One day there was this little boy who had a broken backpack, and I was just very glad to give him a meal because he looked skinny and like he hadn't eaten much. Service like this is a way to put the face of Jesus into the world."

Sophia Hofer. "This was my first mission trip and it really impacted me to really look at all the pain and misery going around in our world. I hope it impacted everyone else who went on the trip too. I know that even when we helped feed the homeless, they are

still homeless, but even that small effort might help them get back on there feet. I'm happy that I went, I got to meet new people and bond with them, and



help the people who need it most. God is working with us everyday to help the people with lots of trouble and hardships in their life. I am happy to serve

God in this way, to help everyone we can. I would go on another mission trip to serve God, help people, and bond with our group."

Bain Ecarius. During this trip I had many great experiences which I will remember from this mission trip. One great thing I learned is the homeless people we saw on this trip were helped out a lot just from us serving them food for one week. Plus I found out during this trip I can help these people in need by just making one good choice. One example would be having the homeless people be included in our games at the barbecue. Another thing I learned is if you put yourself out there you can meet a lot of great people from different places. For example the Arizona group that we spent our service time with were really nice people. Throughout this shows the great experiences I had and the new things I learned from this mission trip.

Tessia ladicicco: Our San Diego Mission Trip was very impactful. It didn't only impact us, but the San Diego community. The group I was a part of helped every day at San Diego Rescue Mission and an Adult Day Care. At the Rescue Mission, we organized hundreds of donations, from books to clothes to household appliances, every day. At first it felt like we weren't doing much, being behind the scenes. But soon enough, it made me realise just how important our work was. We may not have been on the front lines, but we were helping the community just as much. Similarly, at the adult day care, It didn't feel like we were doing all that much, at first, but we were still helping people. It taught me that people don't have to have the world against them to need help. Even just by helping those one or two people that we spent a few hours getting to know every day, we were making a difference in someone's life.

We were also able to get to know the other people that were taking part in the mission trip and learn more about them and where they're from. This mission trip was a very special experience, and I look forward to taking part in many more, in many places, in the future."

Rae Lee: Certainly this mission trip was out of my comfort zone, however, one of the most rewarding experience in many ways. Serving meals to the

MISSION TRIP EXPERIENCE, CONT.

homeless people was indeed caring gesture of my heart and conveying what I learned from our Lord, Jesus Christ.

I'm very grateful for the opportunity to serve where it needed and awaken me to care about them with respect and dignity. Also realized how blessed we are. When I saw

their tired, sunken eyes, my heart ached for them. Once, they were precious child of their mothers. We need better parenting education. How do we do that? I suppose we take small steps to big steps toward betterment.

From this mission trip, I saw, out there, many good people are at

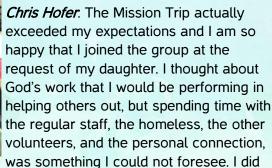
work to serve the
Lord. As I was serving
at the St. Vincent for
two days, I met two
gentlemen
volunteering every
Monday. One elderly
gentleman was
standing next to me
and passing out
plastic forks to each
homeless people for

their lunch and he warmly greeted to every one of them. I was impressed and moved by his kindness and caring. He's been coming to St. Vincent every Monday, to serve for a couple of years. The other gentleman was at the main dish serving area, for seven years on Mondays. I don't know what it takes to serve like that. God must be at work.

Watching our youth group people working hard and enjoying each other, made me feel good about our future as a Christian.

For another two days, I served at the Rescue Mission and Adult Day Care Center. At the Rescue Mission, we sorted out donated items, and at the adult day care center, I listened to their life experiences and helped their small activities. One client played piano for me and prayed together as we were holding hands. I felt like sharing Jesus's love.

From this mission trip I found two dear friends, "B" and Chris. They took me to many different places and most wonderfully nice and funny, what a blessing for me. Our beloved Pastor Augie, he's always considerate and thoughtful in guiding us during this mission trip. This mission trip was truly rewarding experience for me.



not realize we have a tent city in downtown San Diego, with the 4th largest homeless population in the nation. Seeing this first hand was eye opening to me. We had the understanding that we would be rotated throughout the week and participate in assisting different organizations. That actually did not happen, as our assignments were pretty much made before we arrived.

My group was assigned to one of Father Joe's Villages (St. Vincent de Paul) working the kitchen for the week. Hard work for about 5 hours each day prepping the food, serving 800+ plates a day, clean up, and prepping food again before our shift was over. Spending time with the people, helping the handicapped with their food and drink, bonding with the other youth group from Phoenix and of course the full time staff was amazing. Folks were really appreciative of us donating our time, rolling up our sleeves and helping out. This type of work requires many hands to get the work done. The more that are present, the easier it is on everyone as a whole.

I really felt good about myself, a personal satisfaction that I was making a small difference in their lives with God working through me. I am very proud of our youth as they worked hard and were very responsible. We live in a bubble up here in North County, and this is a really good experience for our youth to see people are struggling out in the real world and need our help. Each day we had devotions in the morning and evening, and an evening round up discussing each other's day was very enlightening. I truly hope the Youth Group participates in a Mission Trip like this once a year.



ALTAR FLOWERS

Thanks to everyone who has donated to help support the altar flower arrangements for each Sunday. There are still a few opportunities to signup. You can do so by signing the FLOWER CHART at the bottom of the steps. Flowers may be taken home after services are over, or if you leave them, they are used to take to sick and homebound. A special note: on July 30, a Hawaiian arrangement was done thanks to the generosity of a local orchid grower, Southeast Orchids, who donated the two orchids to the church as "thankfulness for the many blessings he has received". If you are interested in purchasing ones like this for \$9.50, email me for more information at di.haarmeyer@icloud.com.

- Di Haarmeyer

SUNDAY SCHOOL

During the Summer we have been using a curriculum for our Sunday School called "Hands On Bible" and have received great reviews from both the teachers and kids. This curriculum works on the same idea as VBS and creates great interaction with the kids and helps them connect their daily lives to God. We have also added a curriculum for our nursery children to teach them about God.

Rally Day is fast approaching and will be held on August 27 with a performance during the 10:30 service. The children will sing and present the "Armor of God" followed by fun activities in celebration of their promotion to the next grade level and the beginning of a new school year.

Speaking of promotions, we are mixing things up a bit in our Sunday School and Confirmation!

- Toddlers Classroom #1 (Nursery)
- PreK-K Classroom #2
- Grade 1-2 Classroom #3
- Grade 3-4 Classroom #4
- Grades 5-6 Pre-Confirmation Class (details to follow).
- Grades 7-8 Confirmation

The children will check in to their new grade levels on September 3^{-d}, so be sure to register in your new classroom on that date.

Christmas is just around the corner and we are already making plans for the Children's Pageant, so if you are interested in being a part of the team, please let me know.

Until next time, keep serving the Lord!

- Rhonda Sutherlin Sunday School Director

CONFIRMATION

Starting September 3rd, we will begin the new confirmation year. Class for 7th and 8th grade Confirmation students will be held on Sunday mornings in between the 2 services allowing families to attend whichever service they prefer. September 3rd is parent/student orientation as well as acolyte training. If you are not able to make it, please let the office know.

5TH—8TH GRADERS!



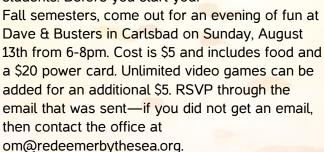
Join the back to school

event for pre-Confirmation and Confirmation students at Glowzone in Vista on Sunday, August 20th from 6-8pm. Check out this new family entertainment facility that includes bumper cars, a climbing wall, mini golf, and much more! (please wear close toed shoes) The cost per student is only \$5 for 2 hours of umlimited fun! Friends are invited too. Siblings and parents are also welcome at a cost of \$10. This is regularly priced at \$35! You must RSVP for this event—so if you did not get an email, please let the office know (om@redeemerbythesea.org). Submit your non-refundable payment by Sunday August 13th (put "GlowZone" in the memo of your check or on the envelope and place it in the offering plate).

- Pastor Augie

HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE

High school and college students! Before you start your



- Pastor Augie

College students—join us on Sunday morning, August 13th at either service as we have a prayer for you before you return to your classes.

GROWTH GROUPS

Our Growth Groups continue to provide people an opportunity to connect with other believers and do life together in a supportive and faith-nurturing cluster of friends. Visit our web site for a complete listing and information concerning our Growth Groups.

GRIEF GROUP

We will meet August 17th, 1:30 P.M. at Norma's house looking at Chapter 12.

Anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one is invited to join us. Together we support one another and share Jesus' loving message of His comfort and strength.

- Norma Russell

BRIDGE GROUP

It was another lovely Carlsbad day when we met on the 28th of July at Marie Voien's home for lunch. Three games of bridge followed and you can guess what comes next! The Scores!

Our hostess came in with the highest score followed by second high, Carolyn Schmaltz. Jo Voertmann and I tried for low score but Jo won that contest.

This group meets on the 4th Friday of each month with the exception of November when we play on the 3rd Friday. The holiday season is upon us and December is dark but for us we all prepare for the Christmas season; before we all know it the year comes to a close. In January we begin all over again.

If you would like to play bridge or substitute please let me know by calling 760-707-6677 or email: baconfaye3@gmail.com. I will be happy to include you in the group.

On August 25th we will play at the home of Carolyn Schmaltz.

God has richly blessed us and friendships are just one of His many blessings. As we sat around the table enjoying our lunch we each told the story of how we met our husbands for the very first time. So many of the stories were centered around military uniforms of the Army, Navy, Air Force, blind dates, dress codes of the day and the yellow shirt story!

- Faye Bacon Bridge Coordinator

BIRTHDAY GROUP

The Birthday Celebrants not-so-small group was started about the same time the congregation started. There were four couples in the beginning and Renata Hartley made the arrangements. The purpose was fellowship and the group ate lunch out to celebrate each other's birthday. We still get together on a THURSDAY or FRIDAY each month to celebrate the birthdays in that month. Everyone is welcome to join but you do need a reservation with the Birthday Coordinator, Jo Voertman, jvbythesea@cox.net, 760-721-6674. In addition to your meal, we do request a one dollar contribution per celebrant which goes to a charity selected by the month's honorees.

We celebrated the birthdays of Jim Brunner, BJ Lahr, Lois O'Donnell, Lois Palmer, Patricia Sax and Marie and Earl Voien in July and contributed one hundred eighty (\$180) dollars to Lutheran World Relief.

The August Lunch will be THURSDAY, August 10 at 11:30 a.m. at the Hunter Steak House, 1221 Vista Way in Oceanside (by the southbound I-5 onramp). Lunches range from eight (\$8) to fifteen (\$15) dollars.

In addition to your lunch we request a one dollar per celebrant contribution that will go to Rady's Children's Hospital.

- Jo Voertman

HOLY HACKERS

The golf lovers meet the 3rd Saturday of each month for an afternoon of golf. The format is a scramble format so all levels of expertise are welcome....beginner to expert. It's all about meeting and establishing new friends. Afterwards many enjoy a meal together where spouses/significant other non-golfers may join the group. For more detailed information of time and location email di.haarmeyer@icloud.com to be added to the email list. Come join us, we have a lot of fun!-

- Di Haarmeyer

BELL CHOIR

Ring those bells! Redeemer By the Sea does have a beginning adult bell choir that meets on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 7 in room 3! We currently have 6 faithful ringers but we have bells for 5 more. The plan is to ring once a month and to venture to both services. Reading music is a plus. Contact Kay Boland in the office: Kay@redeemerbythesea.org for more information. Come on out and give it a try!

- Kay Boland

CHANCEL CHOIR

NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL GOOD MEN AND WOMEN TO JOIN US FOR CHOIR THIS YEAR

This is a personal invitation for you to join our Chancel Choir in August as we begin our new church year. The RBTS Chancel Choir has been off for the month of July, and we are ready to sing for the First Service on Sunday, August 6.

We are in need of more voices in our choir and you are welcome to come and help us "Sing Praises to the Lord" for three Sundays in August. We take the fourth Sunday off every month. The Chancel Choir is a special group of men and women over 12 years old who love to sing together and enjoy new choir anthems. You don't have to be a professional singer, just a willing person, wanting to work together with the rest of us to serve and learn new music for our First Service Offertory. We need you to help us grow our Chancel Choir and as the Bible says in Matthew 18, verse 20, "Whenever two or more are gathered together in my name, there I am with them" ...singing in the choir.

I have talked to many of you over the last year and have invited you to join our Chancel Choir. Now is the time to try us out for a month. Please join us for rehearsal any Wednesday in August at 7:00-8:30pm in the Sanctuary. Refreshments will be served, and WE NEED YOU!

DATES TO REMEMBER THAT INCLUDE YOU:

- Wednesday, August 2, Choir Rehearsal 7:00-8:30pm in the Sanctuary
- Sunday, August 6, Chancel Choir sings for the 8:30am service
- Sunday, August 6, Annual Chancel Choir Dinner at Gary and Joan Wilson's house from 4:00pm on.
 Details will be given out at rehearsal and Sunday, August 6
- Wednesday, August 9, Choir Rehearsal 7:00-8:30pm in the Sanctuary
- Sunday, August 13, Chancel Choir sings for the 8:30am service
- Wednesday, August 16, Choir Rehearsal 7:00-8:30pm
- Sunday, August 20, The Chancel Choir is off today and our RBTS Bell Choir will play for the first service
- Wednesday, August 27, Chancel Choir sings for the 8:30am service

Please join us any Wednesday in August for Choir Rehearsal.

The Chancel Choir, including Praise Band Singers and the community will sing our annual Christmas Cantata on Christmas Eve, December 24, at 7:00pm. We will begin rehearsing the Cantata in August as part of our Wednesday evening regular rehearsals. We will be featuring the combined choirs, instrumentalists, piano, narration, and soloists for this dynamic performance. Please come and join us.

In His Service,
- Gary Wilson, 858 864-3491

LADIES FALL STUDY

This fall we will be studying "Nehemiah" by Kelly Minter. Nehemiah's heart was so broken for those in need that he left the comfort of his Persian palace to help them. This study challenges women to let God break their hearts for a hurting, lost world and move them in compassion to lead people to Jesus. Nehemiah is a 7 week study that includes 7 video sessions and real-life ways to put feet to your faith. Are you ready to let God break your heart for a hurting, lost world and move you in compassion to be the hands and feet of Jesus? We will start on Sept 13th and finish November 1. Mark your calendars . The books will be \$15.00.

- Evelyn Meyer

WOMEN'S MINISTRY SEPTEMBER 12 AT 9:30AM

Come join us in the 75th year celebration of LWML (Lutherans Women's Ministry League) our own BJ Lahr will speak on the history of LWML. All women of RBTS are members and welcome. Also, please remember to bring a chocolate item for a basket to be raffled off at the Oct 7th held at Faith in Vista. Save the date!!!

We also, have 3 wonderful service opportunities for the women of RBTS. Please consider the positions of president, vice president or treasurer for the 2018 calendar year.

Looking forward to praying and playing together!

SALT & LIGHT

Do you remember sitting in class while your teacher or professor lectured and you realized he/she had left out a very important piece of information? You listened intently for that missing piece when you concluded that the instructor was not going to mention it. Did you raise your hand to offer the missing element or did you do nothing? The Salt & Light Ministry is raising its hand to remind us all that God had a significant role in the formation of this nation. Our ministry wants to partner with you to restore our nation's biblical and moral foundations, currently under attack by public policy, increasing intolerance, social engineering within the public education system and, of course, the media. To right the ship, we believe that Christian citizenship must be understood; that we become knowledgeable on the issues and what our elected officials' positions are; then vote accordingly. We are not Democrat or Republican, Independent or Green. We belong to the 'Biblical party'. We are interested in candidates and issues that defend and promote the Christian beliefs into which this nation was born, regardless of party affiliation.

What motivates a Christian to knowingly vote for people, or approve actions that endorse abortion, same sex marriage, or diminishing the rights accorded to all religions in the Constitution? How did we allow such a secular intrusion into areas of Gods' Law. It did not happen overnight and will not be corrected quickly unless Christians rise up and get involved. As Dr. Thomas Sowell said, "Much of the social history of the Western world over the past three decades, has been a history of replacing what worked with what sounded good"

Living a Christian life benefits the Christian as well as others. Studies have shown what we know to be true, that religions belief and practice improves our mental and physical health and helps to reduce societal problems such as violence, suicide, substance abuse and divorce. Religion helps strengthen families, improves coping skills, improves scholastic attainment which then helps to reduce poverty.

Even as Christianity comes under attack in the secular media, and as Christians, in many cases, are ridiculed as backwards or ignorant, it is Christian values that form the thread that holds the social fabric together. And even those who would deny its truth cannot help but benefit from its protections.

Government is inherently political and it requires the watchful eye of a religious people, or it will most surely abolish the freedom of religion we now enjoy. Because of what the Bible teaches and the inevitability of its effect on our culture, Christians must care about politics.

Your Salt & Light Co-Leader, - Jerry Meyer

NEW WORSHIP TIME

September 3rd
NEW SCHEDULE:

8:30 am Traditional Worship 9:45 am Enrichment Time (5th grade-Adult) 10:45 am Contemporary Worship

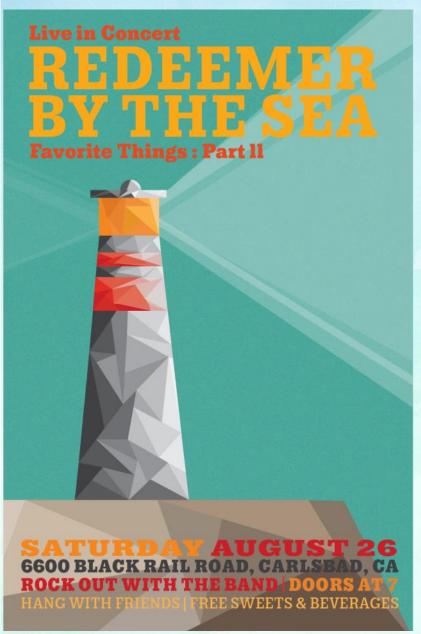
AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

| Eva Bruning | Aug 1 |
|------------------------|--------|
| Pat Lynch | Aug 2 |
| Gary Wilson | Aug 4 |
| Pastor Augie ladicicco | Aug 5 |
| Janice Oplinger | Aug 5 |
| Sherrill Moore | Aug 7 |
| Karen Leber | Aug 9 |
| Alice Lehmann | Aug 9 |
| Deo ladicicco | Aug 9 |
| Carolyn Schmaltz | Aug 10 |
| Jonathan Woods | Aug 11 |
| Nancy Golnick | Aug 11 |
| John Russell | Aug 15 |

| Ken Voertman | Aug 16 |
|---------------------|--------|
| Christopher Ambrose | Aug 17 |
| Melanie Burkholder | Aug 18 |
| Roy Faulstick | Aug 21 |
| Lois Taron | Aug 22 |
| Christina Shourds | Aug 22 |
| Luke Christensen | Aug 23 |
| Christina Fugitt | Aug 23 |
| Mary Meyer | Aug 24 |
| Marguerite Kaupp | Aug 24 |
| Norienne Saign | Aug 24 |
| Carol Jacoby | Aug 24 |
| Carl Gehring | Aug 25 |
| David Taylor | Aug 27 |
| Billy Fulton | Aug 31 |

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

| Daniel & Janice Oplinger | Aug : |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Bill & George Ann Barnes | Aug : |
| Charles & Cindy Um | Aug 5 |
| Craig & Cheri Huenergardt | Aug 6 |
| Patrick & Tracey Kiernan | Aug 10 |
| Tony & Karen Whitmarsh | Aug 17 |
| Kevan & Courtney Bustillos | Aug 18 |
| Roy & Joyce Faulstick | Aug 2 |
| Joel & Roxana Rabe | Aug 26 |
| | |



THE GOOD LIFE, CONT. FROM PAGE 1

others who would like to know where to find it? The problem is that just like in Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), it can be so easy to pass along on the other side of the street – having even some very good reasons to do so.

But as we have been learning from the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Philippians during our summer "Joy" message series, we should put ourselves on the line for the good of others. In Philippians 2:4 Paul clearly tells us to put the needs of others ahead of our own needs! But if we do that, then won't we sacrifice our own reception of *The Good Life?* The answer is no. To the contrary; what we have received from Jesus is meant to be shared! When Jesus served His disciples by washing their feet, He gave them instructions to go and do likewise. (John 13:15)

What Jesus knows is what the Apostle Paul eventually learned and wants us to know and live out as well — and that is that we truly experience joy and enjoy *The Good Life*, as we serve others. In fact, this joy is so great that it would be worth letting go of everything we have in this world in order to grasp, Paul says (Philippians 3:8). All of those cheap imitations offer only a false and partial experience of the surpassing greatness of knowing and serving Christ.

May you and I learn to experience *The Good Life*, by loving and serving others with what we have received freely from Jesus Christ – for our good and for His glory!

Joyfully sharing Jesus with you, Pastor Augie

WHO ARE YOUR ELDERS?

Otis Haarmeyer

<u>elders@redeemerbythesea.org</u> <u>936-537-4256</u>

Your elders are a resource to you for your spiritual and ministry needs. Feel free to contact them with any needs or concerns — or just to say hello!

They are: Dave Berrier, Jim Brunner,
Tom Burke, Matt Busch, Wayne Chapman,
Carl Gehring, Otis Haarmeyer,
Ed Meinardus, Jerry Meyer, Lyle Meyer,
Joel Rabe, Ken Swick, Charles Um

WHO CAN I CONTACT?

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Church Council President, Kris Urdahl president@redeemerbythesea.org, (562) 673-7346

Trustees, Shawn Burkholder trustees@redeemerbythesea.org, (307) 690-7814

Prayer, Jo Brandt prayer@redeemerbythesea.org, (760) 729-0112