

the *Kerygma*



NEWSLETTER OF REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1 JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2005

**Redememer
Presbyterian
Church
is Growing
and Moving!**

January 23, 2005

*New Worship
Location*

**McAllister
Fine Arts Center**

**1300 Block
of San Pedro**

**Sunday Worship
9:30 a.m.**

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**Christian
Education Hour
11 a.m.**

The McAllister Fine Arts Center is located on the north edge of San Antonio College at the corner of San Pedro and West Courtland, immediately south of Temple Bethel and across from San Pedro Park.

THE THEOLOGY OF MOTIVATION

BY JUSTIN G. CLEMENT

The Bible has a great deal to say about God's people living holy lives. But why and how should I seek to live a holy life before God? Should I seek to be a Nike Christian who lives by the credo, "*Just do it*"? The Lord has commanded me to love my enemies; so, by George, I had better go out and *Just do it!* Or am I called to be a Club Med Christian who says, "*Let go and let God*"? Sit back, enjoy the ride, and let the Spirit mystically move me from new life into glory. Obviously neither of these extremes is correct, but what does the Bible say about motivation and why I should seek purity in my words, relationships, and thoughts? Is my primary motivation to follow Christ based upon a threat of condemnation and guilt, or is there possibly another motive to follow Christ? **Essentially, what is the fuel in my tank that keeps me moving along the narrow road of faith?**

My motivation in the Christian life is directly linked with how I view my relationship with Christ. The Christian life is truly "life in Christ," characterized by union and communion with Him. Paul writes in Ephesians 1:3 that I have spiritual blessings in Christ. Every blessing I have, I receive by being united to Christ. A consequence of my union with Christ is that everything that is Christ's now becomes mine too. Being "in Christ," I have every blessing (Eph. 1:3), such as hope (1 Cor. 15:19), redemption (Rom. 3:24), freedom (Gal. 2:4), heavenly reward (Phil. 3:14), holiness (1 Cor. 1:30), forgiveness (Eph. 4:32), and joy (Phil. 1:26). Every blessing of the gospel comes through my union with Christ: my adoption, justification, sanctification, perseverance, and glorification. In Christ, I become a son (Gal. 3:26) and God becomes my Father. Referring to this father-son relationship with God, in his book *Children of the Living God*, Sinclair Ferguson noted that:

It is the *way*—not the only way, but the *fundamental way*—for the Christian to think about himself or herself. Our self-image, if it is to be biblical, will begin just here. God is my Father (the Christian's self-

image always begins with the knowledge of God and *who* he is!); I am one of his children (I know my real identity); his people are my brothers and sisters (I recognize the family to which I belong, and have discovered my deepest 'roots').

Understanding the truth of my union with Christ, Ferguson asserts, is absolutely necessary for understanding the motivation for holiness, for "if the love of a father will not make a child delight in Him, what will?" If I know that I am a beloved son, I do not seek to earn my father's acceptance, since I already possess His acceptance by faith. I now do things because I know they please my father. And since God is my Father, I should live a life that befits one of his children. What could be more natural than a child imitating his father? When people observe my life, they ought to be able to see the character of God in me, because as his son, I am one in whom his image has already begun to be restored. This is exactly what the apostle John wanted his fellow Christians to sense when he wrote:

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called **children of God!** And that is what we are! Dear friend, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. (1 John 3:1-2)

So I do not pursue holiness to earn more of God's acceptance. Rather, I pursue holiness because I am a child of God and long to look more like Jesus. No longer do I need to be shaped and molded by the world in which I live. I am a child in the family of God! In that context I can learn to say 'no' to sin, since I now am beginning to see sin as utterly alien to the joy of the family in which I am being nurtured. It is precisely at this place that I find myself in genuine liberty as a Son of God. Concerning this liberty, the Westminster divines wrote that:

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MINISTRIES OF MERCY

“At Redeemer we are committed to The City and its Culture. Christ came to establish not simply a church, but a Kingdom. As “Kingdom Saints” we believe that it is our responsibility to winsomely and realistically engage San Antonio—its beauty and ugliness—all for the glory of Christ. We are committed to “Deeds of Mercy”, not simply “Words of truth”. Redeemer must be equally committed to “showing” or embodying the reality of Kingdom life through a commitment to the all-encompassing nature of salvation. Central to this commitment is our desire to see Redeemer build bridges into the Mexican-American community of San Antonio.”

-Tom Gibbs, Leadership Training Course Fall 200

MISSION MINUTE

❖ Guadalupe Center:

The food drive for the Guadalupe Community Center was received with thanksgiving. Redeemer has provided food for the pantry on three occasions, the largest being the food boxes on December 11, 2004. All of the surplus was delivered on the 14th of December. The food pantry will be remodeled for an Eagle Scout project this spring. The next Redeemer food collection will be Sunday, January 9, 2005 and Sunday, February 13, 2005. Please remember NO GLASS.

The items most requested are: 2 lb. dried beans, rice, small tomato sauce, canned fruits and vegetables, jelly, peanut butter, cereal and baby food. If you have questions or want to help deliver the food next time, please contact Ann and Hobie Fatheree (824-4713).

❖ Agape Pregnancy Center:

Thank you so much for all those who sponsored Tom in The Agape Pregnancy Center’s Walk for Life! All of the sponsors combined gave the APC a great donation from the Redeemer Presbyterian Church family. It was a great day to walk, and we had the opportunity to pray with Kira, one of the ladies who works for the APC. If anyone is interested in training to be a volunteer counselor or in helping to meet the specific needs of the APC, please contact Janice Tapp (561-1231) or Elizabeth Clement (530-0522).

❖ Tobin Community Center:

Redeemer volunteers are tutoring children at the Tobin Community Center every Monday from 4:00-5:00. At times this Fall there have been more volunteers than children. When Ralph Rivera, the director, was asked about the numbers he said, “Be patient. These things take time.” He is very appreciative of Redeemer’s involvement. This Spring we will work on advertising more to the community. Please pray for these efforts to serve the children and build bridges into the community. Volunteers are invited on any given Monday. You don’t have to commit to every week. If questions, contact Margaret Judson (822-5901) or Michael Shay (383-0242).

❖ Coming in 2005

- Eagle Scout projects to renovate the food pantry and clothes closet at Guadalupe Community Center—volunteers will be needed
- Additional counselor training sessions for Agape Pregnancy Care Center
- Vacation Bible School this summer in the Tobin/Guadalupe Community Center area of town
- 2000 Food Baskets next December

BOOK REVIEW

FOR THE HIDDEN ARTIST AT HOME

BY TARA GIBBS

There are so many tasks in the life of a wife and mother, and it is easy for those tasks to become our daily “gods.” I am often extremely frustrated to realize that I have developed a bad case of “tunnel task vision,” losing sight of the beauty and wonder of the privilege God has given me to experience some of the richest blessings known to man in my role as a mother and homemaker.

I would like to recommend two books by a mother and daughter that have both brought light into this struggle. Edith Schaeffer and her daughter Susan Schaeffer McCaulay have an incredible gift for throwing back the heavy dusty curtains of our mind to show us the blazing sun and vivid colors of God’s creation. They show how to be artists even in seemingly mundane tasks of home and parenting.

If we are created in the image of the “First Great Artist,” does that not mean that each of us are to create art all around us? The art of

creation communicates the very existence of God. “The Heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handiwork.” In decorating a beautiful home, setting a beautiful table, crafting a beautiful meal, growing a garden, arranging flowers, writing a poem, painting and so many other artistic activities we, as homemakers, have the opportunity to become more of what God created us to be in His image. We also have the chance to bring more of God’s beauty and truth to our family every single day. Edith Schaeffer considers a myriad of artistic activities and how they apply in our daily lives in *The Hidden Art of Homemaking*. My only caution on the book is, don’t feel like you have to be this beautiful artist in everything you do all at once. Just pick one area.

In *For the Children’s Sake*, Susan Schaeffer McCaulay brings many of these same principles into educating our children. Are our children machine-like receptacles into which we pour

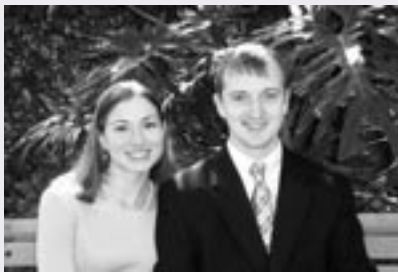
facts on history, Bible and catechism? Or are they beautiful images of God, sinful and needful of much guidance, yet still deserving honor and respect. What does it look like to help our children restore the beautiful humanity God created in the Garden—to allow them to explore, create and surround them with beauty? It makes me weep sometimes when I think of how my 6-year-old responded to her first Shakespeare story. Her eyes were glowing with excitement and joy. There was something in her that responded so strongly to the truth and beauty of that great artist. I would recommend this book to mothers of toddlers as well as older children who are in school, because we begin educating our children way before the school years and we are still doing it even after we have sent our children off to school.

I highly recommend these books for anyone who wants to see more of the richness of God’s daily tasks for us.

NEW MEMBERS



*Blake & Ashley Boyd,
Cooper**



Luke & Angelina Leppla



Rebekah Stukey



*Don & Connie Hendrix,
Zachary*



Josh & Mary Alice MacDiarmid



Larry & Brandi Rickels



*Joseph & Jennifer Sambrano,
Cristina**



Paul Gravel



Greg Sanderson



*Tobin & Gina Walker,
Julia Grace*, Trinity**

**Non-communing members*

THE THEOLOGY OF MOTIVATION . . . (Continued from page 1)

The liberty which Christ hath purchased for believers under the Gospel consists in their freedom from the guilt of sin, **the condemning wrath of God**, the curse of the moral law; and in their being delivered from . . . the dominion of sin; as also, in their free access to God and their yielding obedience to him, not out of a

slavish fear, but a **child-like love and willing mind**. (emphasis mine)

I now desire to do things that please my Father. The love of God now compels me towards others (2 Cor. 5:14). I close with this final quote from J. I. Packer in *Knowing God* that encompasses much of what I have tried to articulate:

If you want to judge how well a

person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his Father. **If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all.**

PRESBYTERIAN REDEEMER

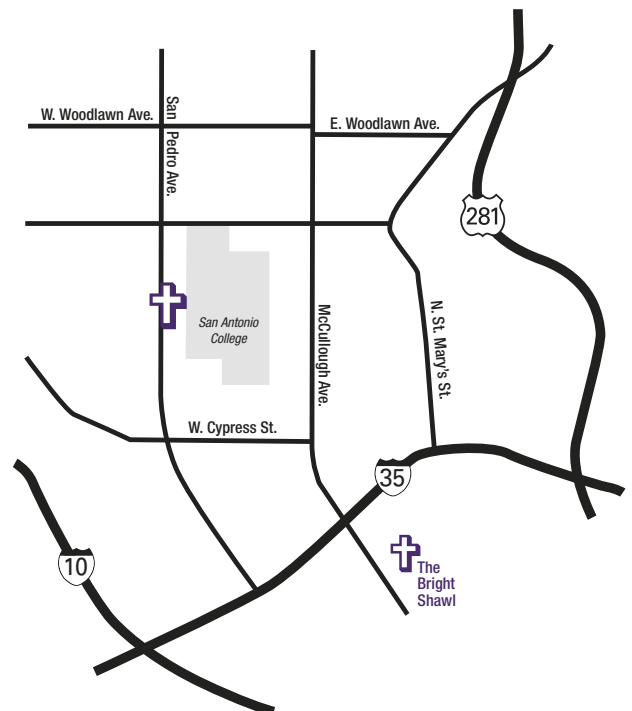
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**Redeemer is moving
to the McAllister Fine
Art Center on
January 23!
Join us at our new
worship location on
Sundays at 9:30 a.m.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

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|---------------|---|
| January 20 | Women's Book Night at the Gibbs' home |
| January 23 | Worship begins at McAllister Fine Arts Center |
| January 28-29 | PCA Women's Retreat in Austin |
| February 1 | Newcomers Dessert |
| February 4-5 | Intro to Redeemer Class |

MAP



✝ Sunday Morning Worship Services move from the Bright Shawl to the McAllister Fine Arts Center beginning January 23, 2005.