

# the *Kerygma*



NEWSLETTER OF REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 6 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2005

## *A Closer Look at Tom Gibbs*

### **What is in your CD player?**

Waylon Jennings and  
Willie Nelson

### **What are you currently reading?**

*Christ Plays in Ten  
Thousand Places*  
by Eugene Peterson

### **What is your current restaurant of choice?**

The Bombay Bicycle  
Club (at Mulberry and  
St. Mary's)

### **What is your favorite family activity?**

Camping

### **What out-of-town place do you like to visit most?**

The beaches of  
Northwest Florida  
(near my hometown)

## INTERVIEW WITH OUR PASTOR

**T**om Gibbs is the Senior Pastor at Redeemer. In this interview he shares about his personal relationship to Christ and his passion for Redeemer.

### **Interviewer: At what age did the Lord work in your heart to transform you into a follower of Jesus? Who or what was used to lead you to Christ?**

Tom: I don't remember a particular day or moment when I didn't believe in Christ. I think I would say in my earliest days I believed in Jesus and wanted to follow him. But it didn't become clear exactly what Jesus had done for me until I participated in the communicant's class at my church, First Presbyterian Church in Edmond, Oklahoma. During that class the pastor explained that Jesus had died on the cross for our sins and we needed to personally trust and believe on him so that we would receive the benefit of his work and so that we would go to heaven. I remember when I joined the church I personally made a commitment to Christ to follow him and was baptized as a 10-year-old. After that my family moved to Florida and my Christian development really didn't seem to progress. In many ways I was confused about the "what next" part of the Christian life. In middle school and high school I was confused about the role of Christ in my life. Then I went to Auburn University and connected to a Bible study, which I later learned was Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) and part of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). Through that Bible study, the Lord powerfully moved in my heart, convincing me that this was what I was looking for in terms of the clear teaching of his Word, connecting the dots of my life and learning how to further grow in being a disciple of Christ. Then my spiritual development took off; I began to understand the Christian world-and-life view, about not only the doctrines of grace, but about what grace meant for my life.

### **Interviewer: How did you end up coming to San Antonio, and does your family feel at home in San Antonio now?**

Tom: Tara and I came to San Antonio by way of Waco, Texas. Previously, we were in seminary at Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis for three years. During our final year we were asked if we would be interested in starting an RUF chapter at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. I had thought several years before that Baylor would be an interesting campus for us to launch an RUF, given its Christian identity. So we were very interested in potentially being the RUF campus minister there. We loved Waco and the campus on our first visit. We were immediately attracted to the people of Texas and the students at the university. We spent five years there and it was wonderful to be a part of what the Lord is doing there.



*Tom Gibbs works alongside of Bob George during last year's Christmas basket stocking.*

However, once we got to Waco we realized that Texas was in a sense a mission field. We recognized that San Antonio was a major city in Texas that had very few PCA, gospel-oriented churches. Beginning my fourth year we began to

have conversations about a new, gospel-driven church being planted in San Antonio. It wasn't until the end of my fifth year that we were actually called to start a new work in San Antonio, but we had been attracted to the city of San Antonio from the very beginning. San Antonio is a diverse, large, influential city in south Texas, which serves as a regional hub for education, commerce, health care, financial services, and cultural arts. San Antonio has a rich history and a strong sense of place. Its people are very proud of their city and we were attracted to San Antonio for all of these reasons. We recognized that this was a place ripe for harvest through a gospel-driven, city oriented, and urban church. After being here for over three years we feel very much at home. We also feel like we're just getting started in accomplishing the vision that the Lord has set before us.

*Continued on page 2*

## REDEEMER EXTENDING THE KINGDOM

### MISSIONS MINUTE : LOCAL MISSIONS

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

Colossians 3:17

<i>Tobin Community Center</i>	<i>Guadalupe Community Center</i>	<i>Agape Crisis Pregnancy Center</i>
<p><b>Tutoring:</b> Every Monday afternoon. If interested, contact Michael Shay at 930-4720. (if you are available on another day beside Monday, let Michael know)</p> <p><b>Christmas Baskets:</b> <u>Pack Boxes and Distribute--December 10, 2005</u> If interested, contact Bowman Williams at 930-5915. (We plan to make and distribute 1500-2000 boxes this year. More details to come...)</p>	<p><b>Food Drive:</b> 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month. If interested, contact Ann and Hobie Fatheree at 824-4713. Needed—non-perishables, no glass containers, small containers (bulk hard to distribute)</p> <p><b>Teach Kids to Play Chess:</b> (Or just go to play with kids or shoot baskets with them.) If interested, contact Greg Sanderson at 288-6457</p> <p><b>English as a Second Language (ESL):</b> If interested, contact Hannah and David Miller at 512-392-9005.</p>	<p><b>Volunteer Counselor:</b> If interested, contact Teresa McCaleb 826-7634 (We would like to organize a Friday/Saturday training session for women interested in volunteering. Then we would like to have a “Redeemer day” where we supply one volunteer [rotate amongst trained volunteers] at the center)</p> <p><b>Volunteer to Answer Phones:</b> If interested, contact Teresa McCaleb at 826-7634. (they are in desperate need to have someone just answer the phones while Kira, or another volunteer counselor, is doing counseling with clients)</p>

## INTERVIEW WITH OUR PASTOR (CONTINUED)

**Interviewer: What makes you excited about being the pastor of Redeemer, and what is hard about being the pastor?**

Tom: What gets me excited about being the pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church is the opportunity of our church to resource and anchor lots of different ministry throughout the city. Maybe a better way to say it is: I want to touch lots of different lives in lots of different parts of the city with the wonderful message of the Gospel. It is such a privilege to see individual lives captured by the freeing power of Grace. There is just nothing better, for me, than to see an individual rejoice in the fact that Jesus loves them and that he has set them free. As a pastor, I love to shepherd people in that moment and help them see, as Paul says, how great and high and far and wide is the love of God that is in Christ Jesus.

What's hard about being the pastor of Redeemer is recognizing that things often don't happen as quickly as I or others might like them to happen. We have to be patient with God's timing and learning how to be patient is often difficult. It's also hard when you

recognize that not only can you not do everything as fast as you would like, but sometimes you just can't do everything. You have to focus your energies, and I'm continually learning that my calling is not to do everything, but it's to equip others to do the work of the ministry. Paul teaches us that in Ephesians 4. Nevertheless, even though these are challenges associated with being a pastor, these are also the places where the Lord is stretching and growing me.

**Interviewer: What is one thing that God has done at Redeemer that you were surprised or amazed by?**

Tom: I think I was amazed by how the Lord rapidly gathered so many people around the vision of this new church, given that we did not have, at least on the surface, the kind of relational networks that one might think would be required for starting a new church. It was amazing to see how quickly the Lord added to our numbers and continues to do so. Also, it was amazing to see how the Lord provided for our church to minister to the Guadalupe and Tobin community centers on the west side of downtown San Antonio.

Through the leadership of Bowman Williams, the Christmas basket program has been a huge success. When he talked to me about doing it I had no idea that such a thing could be done and that our church could be a part of it. The Lord totally surprised me and has so richly blessed that ministry.

**Interviewer: Where do your God-given talents lie, or what are you passionate about, in relation to ministry?**

Tom: I have a strong interest and desire for preaching and teaching. But I also like to dream, to cast vision and think about the possibilities of what might happen through our church. It is exciting for God to reveal that, without our even knowing all the things he's calling us to. I also love to shepherd groups of people in lots of different ways: helping people understand grace, helping launch a new ministry team or addressing an aspect of the vision. One of my favorite things to do at Redeemer is the Intro to Redeemer class, because I love to explain what makes our church tick. I think there's nothing more exciting than helping people understand the core values of who we are as a church.

## MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

# MEN'S MINISTRY AT REDEEMER BY JENNIE SMITH

I know it seems a little strange to have a woman writing an update on the Men's Ministry, however I think I have an interesting perspective. I can see the impact of the Men's Ministry on the lives of the individuals and families at Redeemer. For one thing, I'm married to Steve and can see that the fellowship, spiritual nourishment and accountability he receives encourages him in his walk with the Lord. This in turn helps our family to move forward in grace to a better understanding of who we are in Christ.

I also see these effects played out on a larger scale within the Church body. Other wives and families are strengthened as their husbands and fathers grow and hold one another accountable. Students, singles, and new members are drawn into fellowship and are encouraged to become active members of the body. Older men mentor younger men offering wisdom and reminders of God's faithfulness.

The men of Redeemer are being transformed by the renewing of their minds as evidenced in their

leadership, service, ministries, outreach and teaching. With all of these dynamics in place it is impossible not to see a direct effect in Sunday worship, Community Groups, the workplace, our neighborhoods and our homes.



So where is all of this taking place? There are several opportunities for the men at Redeemer to fellowship and grow:

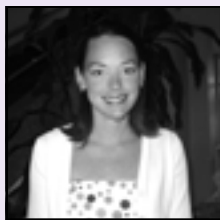
On Thursday mornings the **Bible Study** is an opportunity to nourish body and soul as the men gather to eat breakfast and hear Pastor Gibbs teach on becoming a man of conviction in a promising age. The third Thursday of each month

is **Men's Fellowship Night** at the Flying Saucer where men can relax and build relationships. The **Fall Retreat** (photo to the left) was a recent success with more than two-dozen men in attendance. Friday was a cold clear night perfect for a campfire and sleeping out under the stars (well, some slept while others attempted fire-walking). Next came a day of skeet shooting and plenty of food. The true focus of the weekend was on lessons, given by guest pastor Bill Boyd, on gaining a God-centered life. Pastor Boyd admonished the men to take a Biblical perspective on the circumstances of life. Many men were challenged and encouraged by this time and I know we will see the fruits of their learning in the future.

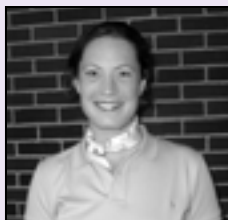
Our Father has raised up godly men at Redeemer to lead and serve, and certainly the Men's Ministry opportunities are a source of great support. We are blessed as the Body of Christ by the fruits of the encouraging relationships being built through the Redeemer Men's Ministry. **For more information about the Men's Ministry contact Jeff Judson at (210) 822-1292.**

## REDEEMER NEWS

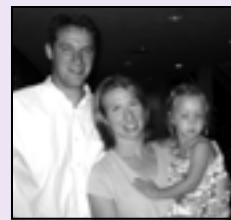
### NEW MEMBERS



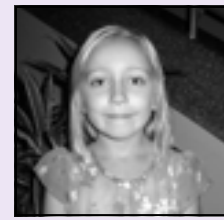
*Lisa Barnett*



*Christy Cronin*



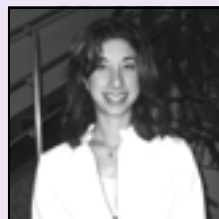
*Josh and Katie Day Taylor\* and Aubrey\**



*Katharine Faucett*



*Anne Murphy*



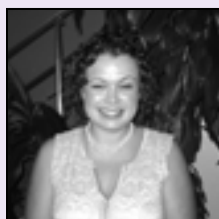
*Kristin Murphy*



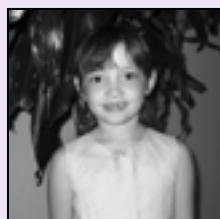
*Matt and Cindy Pantsari Ansley\*, Keller\* & Arden\**



*Ralph and Debbie Shay*



*Bekah Stolhandske*



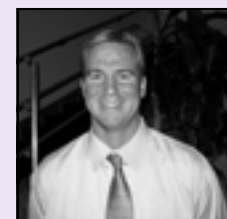
*Kateriñe Treviño*



*West and Kendra Vita Eliza\*, Kate\* & Simon\**



*Julia Grace Walker*



*Steven Zieschang*

*\* non-communing member*

# PRESBYTERIAN REDEEMER

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www.redeemersa.org

Join us  
at our worship  
location,  
The McAllister  
Fine Art Center  
on Sundays  
at 9:30 a.m.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>Nov. 1</b>     | <b>Newcomer's Dessert</b>                               |
| <b>Nov. 5</b>     | <b>Women's Retreat</b>                                  |
| <b>Nov. 11-13</b> | <b>Christianity and Contemporary Culture Conference</b> |
| <b>Nov. 17</b>    | <b>Men's Fellowship Night</b>                           |
| <b>Dec. 11</b>    | <b>Christmas Party</b>                                  |
| <b>Dec. 15</b>    | <b>Men's Fellowship Night</b>                           |
| <b>Dec. 25</b>    | <b>Christmas Morning Worship Service</b>                |

## MAP



 Sunday Morning Worship Services are held at the McAllister Fine Arts Center