

April 26, 2009

For Your Information ...

Guests! We are especially glad that you have chosen to worship with us this morning. It is our hope that worship is an encouragement to you and that you will have opportunity to return soon. Give us an opportunity to meet you today and introduce ourselves by staying around for coffee in the foyer after the service. Also, please assist us by **filling out the Guest Pad** when it is passed during worship.

Welcome Station: Located in the foyer, our Welcome Station is designed to assist you in understanding the ministry of Redeemer. Please help yourself to the purple guest packets, The Continuing Vision of Redeemer Presbyterian Church document, the Kerygma, our newsletter pronounced ke-rîg'me, and other materials.

Redeemer Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) and a member of South Texas Presbytery. For more information about Redeemer Church visit: www.redeemersa.org. For more information about the Presbyterian Church in America visit: www.pcanet.org.

Community Groups: Community Groups are small fellowships of six to twelve people meeting every other week in homes, apartments and restaurants throughout San Antonio. They are the first place where we hope our people turn for applying the gospel to their lives. To find out how you can join a community group, please contact the church office at 930-4480 or a community group leader identified on the Making Contact page in the bulletin.

Book Table: The books found here are designed to assist you in understanding the Christian life. If you want to purchase a book, please fill out the appropriate form with money enclosed. Sermon CDs are also available; simply sign up at the table. Make all checks payable to Redeemer Presbyterian Church.

Sunday Schedule

9:15-9:25 a.m. **Prayer**
9:30-10:55 a.m. **Worship**
11:10 a.m. **Christian Education**

Nurseries

Redeemer offers fully staffed nurseries for children ages newborn to 3 years of age. Redeemer encourages parents to utilize our *Training in the Pews* children's worship time during each service to better prepare your children, ages 3-5, for worship. All nurseries are at the Northeast end of the McAllister Fine Arts Center. (See map at **Welcome Station**.)

Infants I: newborn – 9 months

Infants II: 10 – 18 months

Toddler I: 19 months – 27 months

Toddler II: 28 months – 36 months

Training the Pews: 3 - 5 years

Christian Education

Toddler I (age 2)

Toddler II (age 3)

Pre K- K (age 4-5)

Primary I (ages 6-7)

Primary II (ages 8-9)

Junior (ages 10-11)

Youth (7th-12th grades)

Pastor's Forum (All ages)

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Redeemer Presbyterian Church

April 26, 2009

Second Sunday after Easter

In consideration of other worshippers, please program all communication devices to silent mode. Parents, nurseries are available during the worship service for children ages 6 weeks to 3 years. Babies and toddlers are also welcome in the auditorium. The balcony is available for nursing mothers; you may enter the balcony through the side door upstairs. The service is broadcast in the lobby area immediately outside the auditorium for the convenience of parents whose children become restless during worship.

Reflection & Preparation

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. Proverbs 9:10

Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. Proverbs 4:7 (NIV)

“The book of Proverbs adds an important dimension to the Old Testament. It is conceivable that a Jew could be in complete obedience to the Law of Moses, yet he still might not be leading a full life. The book of Proverbs meets this need by setting forth a skillful approach to daily living. It might be considered God’s book on ‘how to wise up and live.’ It applies God’s principles to the whole of life—to relationships, the home, work, justice, decisions, attitudes, reactions, everything a man says and even thinks.”
Ron Rhodes

Welcome and Announcements

Mr. John Y. Ames

Prelude

Call to Worship

The Rev. Thomas C. Gibbs

Minister: Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and earth.

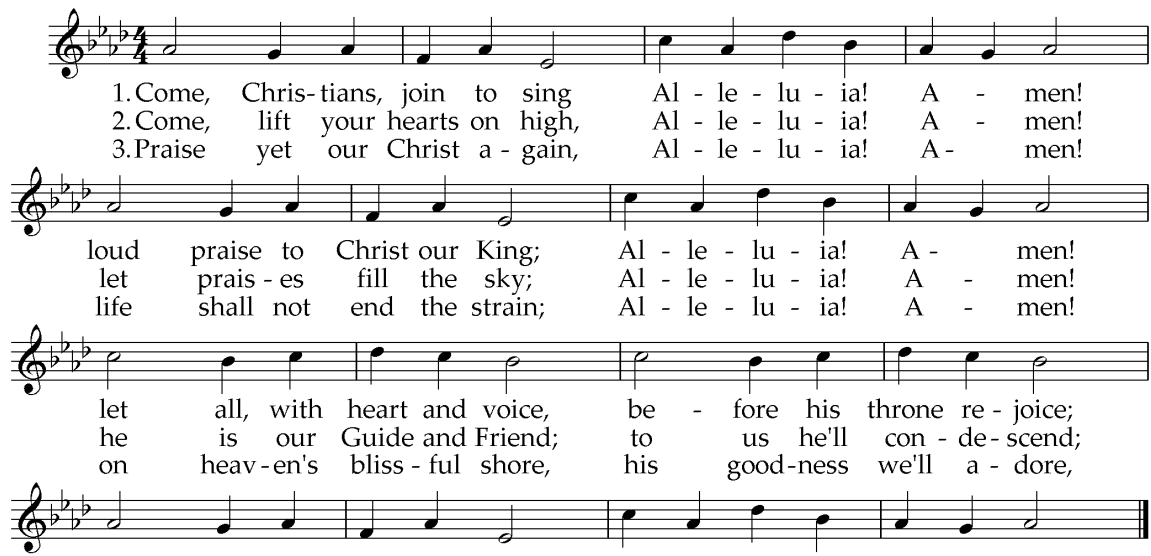
People: For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God.

Minister: He is your praise. He is your God, who has done for you these great and terrifying things that your eyes have seen.

People: And now, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

***Hymn of Adoration**

Come, Christians, Join to Sing



1. Come, Chris-tians, join to sing Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
2. Come, lift your hearts on high, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
3. Praise yet our Christ a - gain, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

loud praise to Christ our King; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
let prais - es fill the sky; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
life shall not end the strain; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - joice;
he is our Guide and Friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;
on heav - en's bliss - ful shore, his good - ness we'll a - dore,

praise is his gra - cious choice. Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
his love shall nev - er end. Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
sing - ing for - ev - er - more, "Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!"

Words by Christian H. Bateman; Traditional Spanish Melody

***Prayer of Invocation**

Mr. Gibbs

***Affirmation of Faith**

1 Corinthians 15:3-7; Romans 1:16-17

Minister: What is the *Gospel* we preach, that which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved:

All: Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

We are not ashamed of the *Gospel*, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

***Song of Praise**

Doxology

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all crea - tures
here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; praise
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Tune: Old Hundredth, Genevan Psalter

Understanding Ourselves Rightly

The Rev. Brandon S. Eggar

Minister: How do you come to know your misery?

People: **The Law of God tells me.**

Minister: What does God's law require of us?

People: **Christ teaches us this in summary in Matthew 22: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.**

Minister: Can you live up to all this perfectly?

People: **No. I have a natural tendency to hate God and my neighbor.**

Adapted from the Heidelberg Catechism Q/A # 3, 4, 5

Public Confession

Minister: Let us confess our sins together

All: **Most merciful Father, we acknowledge and confess that we are prone to evil and lazy in doing good. All our shortcomings and offenses are against you. You alone know how often we have sinned by wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts and in forgetting your love. O Lord, have pity upon us. Teach us to hate our errors. Cleanse us from our secret faults. Forgive all our sins on account of your dear Son, our Savior. Send your purifying grace into our hearts, that we may live in your light and walk according to the commandments of Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

Romans 8:1

Minister: There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Song of Renewal

Que Sería de Mi

¿Qué sería de mi si no me hubieras
alcanzado?
¿Dónde estaría hoy si no me hubieras
perdonado?
Tendría un vacío en mi corazón vagaría
sin rumbo, sin dirección.

Sino fuera por tu gracia y por tu amor.
(2X)

Sería como un pájaro herido que se
muere en el suelo.
Sería como un ciervo que brama por
agua en un desierto.

Sino fuera por tu gracia y por tu amor.
Sino fuera por tu gracia y por tu amor.
Sino fuera por tu gracia y por tu amor.

What Would Be of Me

What would be of me if you hadn't
reached out to me?
Where would I be today if you hadn't
forgiven me?
I would have an emptiness in my heart,
I would be wandering without direction.

If it hadn't been for your
grace and your love. (2X)

I would be as a wounded bird
dying on the ground.
I would be as a deer panting for
water in a desert.

If it hadn't been for your
grace and your love.
(3X)

Words and music by Jesús Adrián Romero

***Scripture Reading**

Dr. and Mrs. Jason Higey

1 Kings 3:5-14
James 1:5-11

Reader: The Word of the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**Prayers for Redeemer Church,
San Antonio & the World**

Mr. Eggar

***The Greeting of Peace**

Children, ages **three through five**, are dismissed through the side door to your right when facing the stage to *TRAINING IN THE PEWS*. After the sermon, parents will meet their children in the back of the auditorium so that the children can join their families for communion.

Minister: Let the peace of Christ dwell in your hearts. To this peace we are called as members of a single body. The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The Sermon

Mr. Gibbs

“The Way of Wisdom”

Starting the Series: Ancient Wisdom for Today's World
Proverbs 8:1-11; 22-36

A Word About Communion at Redeemer:

This is a time for all people to seek the Lord. For Christians, Communion (also called The Lord’s Supper or The Eucharist, which means ‘thanksgiving’) is a time to meet with their Savior by faith, to be strengthened and renewed by Him as they eat bread and drink wine. All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior and Lord, belong to a church that embraces the gospel, are at peace with their fellow neighbor, and seek strength and grace to live more faithfully to Christ, are invited to participate. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer and to consider more deeply your relationship to Jesus Christ. We also ask that children who have not yet publicly professed their faith in Christ to refrain from partaking until doing so.

The Great Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to our Lord God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Minister: It is indeed good, right, and our delight that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and singing:

All:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts;
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts! The
 whole earth is full of His glo - ry, the whole earth is full of His glo - ry, the
 whole earth is full of His glo - ry; Ho - ly is the Lord!

Words from Isaiah 6:3; Music by Nolene Prince

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

Minister: Let us proclaim the mystery of the faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again! Hallelujah!

Minister: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Holy Communion

If seated in the front outer sections, please exit toward the center aisles to partake, returning to your seat by the outer aisles. If seated in the front center section, upon usher's direction starting from back row, exit to the aisle closest to you. Please use the outer aisles to return to your seats. If seated in the back section, upon usher's direction, please exit your row to the left and return to your row from the right. Please use our communion time to sing and/or meditate as communion is being served. Redeemer serves wine for communion. The outer circle of the tray contains grape juice for those desiring it. After partaking, place your cup in the baskets provided on the aisles.

Prayers for Those Not Communing

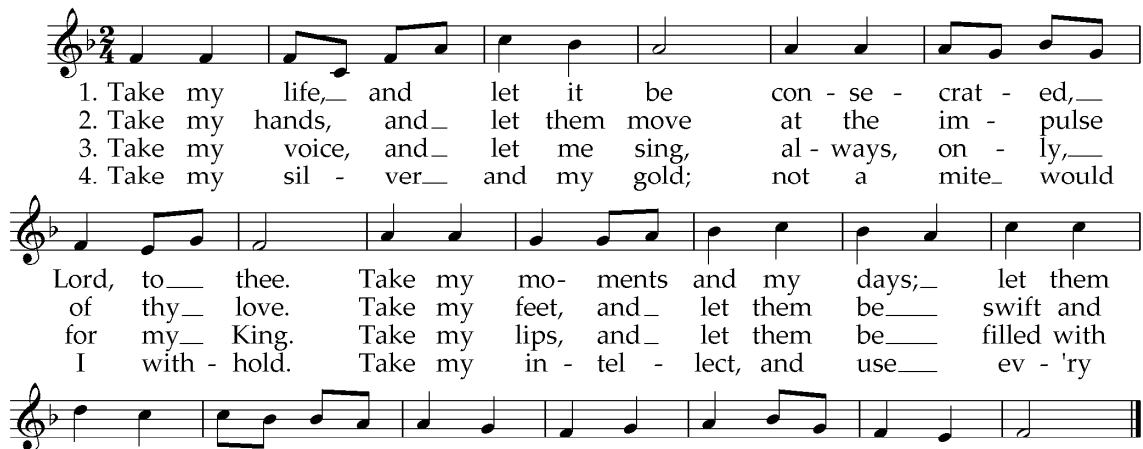
Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding for you that is coherent, convincing, and leads to the life that you promise. Amen. **Prayer of Searching for Truth**

Lord, Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my savior. Amen. **Prayer of Believing on Jesus**

Lord, Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my needs, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely to me, and run with perseverance the race that you have set before me, looking only to you, the pioneer and champion of my faith. Amen. **Prayer of Struggling Against Sin**

Songs of Communion

Take My Life, and Let It Be



1. Take my life, and let it be con - se - crat - ed,
2. Take my hands, and let them move at the im - pulse
3. Take my voice, and let me sing, al - ways, on - ly,
4. Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would

Lord, to thee. Take my mo - ments and my days; let them
of thy love. Take my feet, and let them be swift and
for my King. Take my lips, and let them be filled with
I with - hold. Take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry

flow in cease - less praise, let them flow in cease - less praise.
beau - ti - ful for thee, swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
mes - sag - es from thee, filled with mes - sa - ges from thee.
pow'r as thou shalt choose, ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5. Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.

6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure-store.
Take my self, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever only, all for thee.

Words by Frances R. Havergal; Music by Henri A. Cesar Malan

Always Thou Lovedst Me

I sought the Lord and afterward I knew,
He moved my soul, to seek Him, seeking me.
It was not I that found O Savior true;
No, I was found of Thee.

Chorus: I find, I walk, I love,
But oh, the whole of love
Is but my answer Lord, to Thee!
For Thou wert long beforehand with my soul,
Always, Thou lovedst me.
Always, Thou lovedst me.

Thou didst reach forth Thy hand and mine enfold;
I walked and sank not, on the storm vexed sea.
'Twas not so much that I on Thee took hold,
As Thou, dear Lord, on me. (Chorus 2x)

Words anonymous; tune by Jonathan Card

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;
Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me, is the current of thy love;
Leading onward, leading homeward, to thy glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Spread his praise from shore to shore;
How he loveth, ever loveth, changeth never, nevermore;
How he watches o'er his loved ones, died to call them all his own;
How for them he intercedeth, watcheth o'er them from the throne.

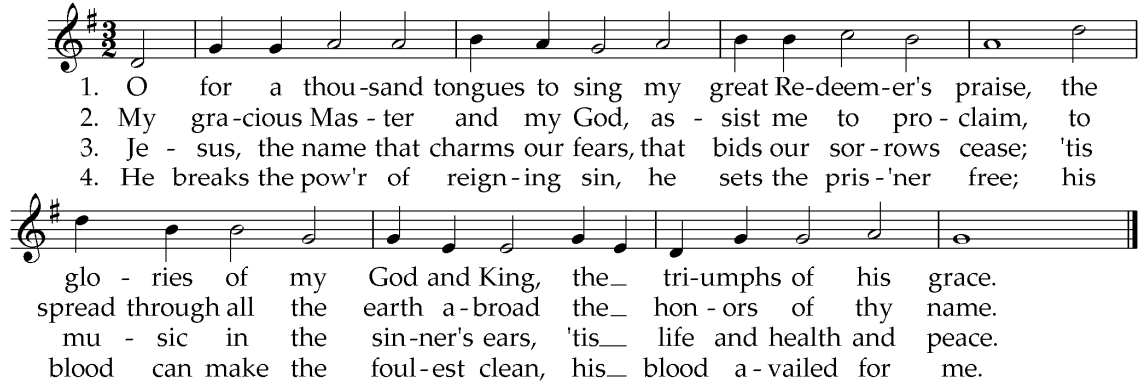
O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Love of ev'ry love the best:
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing, 'tis a haven sweet of rest.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus! 'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;
And it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to thee.

Words by Samuel Trevor Francis; music by Thomas John Williams

The Offering

Hymn of Blessing

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing



1. O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise, the
2. My gra-cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim, to
3. Je - sus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sor - rows cease; 'tis
4. He breaks the pow'r of reign-ing sin, he sets the pris -'ner free; his
glo - ries of my God and King, the_ tri-umphs of his grace.
spread through all the earth a-broad the_ hon - ors of thy name.
mu - sic in the sin-ner's ears, 'tis_ life and health and peace.
blood can make the foul-est clean, his_ blood a - vailed for me.

5. He speaks and, list'ning to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice;
the humble poor believe.

6. Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,
your loosen'd tongues employ;
ye blind, behold your Savior come;
and leap, ye lame, for joy.

Words by Charles Wesley; Music by Lowell Mason

***Benediction**

Mr. Gibbs

Minister: Salvation and glory and power belong to our God.

People: **Hallelujah! Our Lord God Almighty reigns.**

Minister: Christ is risen!

People: *(with great volume)* **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia.**

Postlude

**The Congregation Stands*

Pastor: Rev. Thomas C. Gibbs

Associate Pastor: Rev. Brandon S. Eggar

Assistant Pastor: Rev. Victor R. Martinez

Director of Music Ministries: Dr. Brent M. Watkins

Musicians: Brent Watkins, piano; Jonathan Card, guitar; Carlos Ramos, guitar;

Patrick Shay, trumpet; Michael Shay, trombone;

Brandon Woods, saxophone; Sergio Cruz, percussion;

Song Leaders: Jonathan Card, Carlos Ramos

(Music printed by permission: CCLI # 2357621)

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REDEEMER Highlights..... April 26, 2009

This Week

Today	11:10 a.m.	"The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit" CE class: This 4-week class will be held in Rm. 121, and led by Brandon Eggar.
Today	11:10 a.m.	Vacation Bible School Sign-up: There will be a registration table in the foyer to sign up to volunteer at this year's VBS, which will take place June 22-24 from 9:00-11:45 a.m. at the Guadalupe Community Center.
Tonight	6:00-7:15 p.m.	The Doctrine of the Church: At the church office, 3737 Broadway, Suite 300, 78209. Call 930-4480.
Monday	9:00-10:00 p.m.	RUF Bible Study: At Trinity University's Meditation Chapel. This is the last Bible study of the spring semester. Call Justin, 267-7884.
Thursday	7:00-9:00 p.m.	Women's Fellowship Night: At Coco Chocolate Lounge and Bistro, 18402 Hwy. 281 N. St. 114, 78259. Come for fun fellowship, drinks and amazing desserts. Cost is \$10/person for desserts, and doesn't include price of drinks. Bring friends. Call Mary Alice MacDiarmid, 326-2145.
Friday	9:30- 11:30 a.m.	Redeemer Park Day: In Brackenridge Park; Call Brandi Rickels, 826-2628.

Upcoming Events

May 5	6:30-7:30 a.m.	Men's Downtown Breakfast: At Mi Tierra in Market Square, 218 Produce Row, 78207. Call Bowman Williams, 860-5404, or John Ames, 725-3630.
May 6	7:00 p.m.	Young Professionals 1st Wednesday: At the Harrisons' home, 110 La Jara Blvd, 78209. Call 930-4480.
May 7	7:00-8:30 p.m.	Women's Evening Bible Study: Studying Ephesians. At Ann Bingham's home, 709 Canterbury Hill, 78209. Please read chapters 26-29.
May 7	7:00 p.m.	Men's Fellowship: At the Flying Saucer in Huebner Oaks, 11255 Huebner, 78230. Call Henry Sauer, 834-7530 or Jeff Judson, 822-1292.
May 21	7:00 p.m.	Baby Shower: At Harriet Peavy's home, 627 Lamont, 78209; to honor Kim Scott, Erin Specia, Liz Goedecke, Stacy VanKlaveren, and Carolyn Liller. Call Anne Davidson regarding a group gift, 683-9168.
May 23	7:00 p.m.	Youth Open Mic. Night: In the Youth Room at Alamo Heights UMC, 825 E. Basse, 78209. Come support the youth as they perform skits and display their talents. Free admission, although donations are welcome to help fund summer mission trips. Call Matt Beham, 508-7662.
May 29	7:30 p.m.	The Redeemer Fine Arts Series presents Brent Watkins in concert. Mark your calendars! More details to come. Call 930-4480.

Making Contact

Administrative.....Harriet Peavy, Heather Shimek 930-4480
Book Table/ Media Brandon Eggar 930-4480
Children's Ministries.....Jill Higey 930-4480
Clerk of the Session.....Brandon Eggar, 930-4480
Community Life & Membership Brandon Eggar 930-4480
Financial (church).....Bob George 822- 2016
Local Missions.....James Sedgwick, 954-2698
Men's Ministries.....Jeff Judson 822-1292; Henry Sauer 310-6542
Mercy/ Financial Aid.....Jake Gray 884-4729
Mission, Cultural Engagement & OutreachVictor Martinez 930-4480
Music Ministry..... Brent Watkins 785-0912
Pastoral Care.....Tom Gibbs 930-4480
Reformed University Fellowship (RUF).....Justin Clement 930-4480
Training in the Pews.....Ralph and Debbie Shay 488-2561
Usher/ Greeter Coordination.....Jason Register 829-0747
Women's Ministries.....Margaret Judson 822-5901; Heather Card 467-5792
World Missions.....Elizabeth Bright, 995-3600
Worship/ Event Assistance.....Ken Harrison 828-8864
Young Professionals Community.....Brandon Eggar 930-4480
YouthMatthew Beham, 930-4480
Redeemer Prayer Requests.....930-4480, ext. 330

Redeemer Presbyterian Church

3737 Broadway, Suite 300 ~ San Antonio, TX 78209
210-930-4480 ~ fax: 210-930-4481 ~ www.redeemersa.org

Serving Today

Nursery Greeters: Jason & Lizette Crosson

Infants 1 (9:30): Rick & Susan Basse, Cara McVicar

Toddlers 1 & 2 (9:30): Michael & Kelly Bozard, Stephanie Woodward, Corrie Box

Training in the Pews: Ralph & Debbie Shay, Jeremy & Angel Whitley, Caleb Martinez

Greeters: Walt & Annie Mays, Roger & Jessica Castano, Clay & Amy Miller

Worship Set-up/Take Down: Ross VanKlaveren, Mike Davis, Josh Brack, Jeff Brouillard, Charley Hollimon

Communion Set-up/Take Down: Elizabeth Bright, Mary Williams

Nursery Set-up/Take Down: Lisa Shay, Basse Family

Cookies: Tara Gibbs, Jeannie Martinez

Serving Next Week

Nursery Greeters: Elizabeth Berenguer

Infants 1 (9:30): Ruth Anderson, Marissa Gabrysch

Toddlers 1 & 2 (9:30): Jonathan & Debi Briggs

Training in the Pews: The Walker Family, Bonnie Anderson

Greeters: Elizabeth Bright, George & Evie McVicar, Bernard & Georgianna Hildebrand, Ross VanKlaveren

Worship Set-up/Take Down: Henry Sauer, Glen Glass, Steve Browne, Reeves Hollimon, John Ames

Communion Set-up/Take Down: Cara McVicar, Ginny Glass

Nursery Set-up/Take Down: Dan Whyte, Jordan Inman

Cookies: Redeemer Bakers

Redeemer Staff

Tom Gibbs, Senior Pastor
Brandon Eggar, Associate Pastor
Victor Martinez, Assistant Pastor
Justin Clement, RUF Pastor at Trinity
Brent Watkins, Music Ministries Director
Jill Higey, Children's Ministries Director
Matt Beham, Youth Director
Harriet Peavy, Office Administrator
Heather Shimek, Assistant Administrator

Stewardship Corner

Actual Giving (YTD)	\$248,523
Budgeted Expenses (YTD)	\$276,339
Actual Expenses (YTD)	\$253,263
Actual Ahead (Behind)	(\$ 4,740)

YTD includes all activity for the fiscal year, which begins January 1.

Community Groups

Manny Alaniz--558-4714

& Victor Martinez--509-7716

Josh Alley--862-8305

& Jonathan Card--467-5792

Wes Bright--826-3100

& Jordan Inman--265-1812

Brandon Eggar--542-4012

John Fitch--824-5973

& Mark Randolph--822-6057

Bob George--822-2016

Tom Gibbs--930-4974

& James Sedgwick--954-2696

Jerry Hesko--659-3004

& Clay Miller--830-438-5218

Jason Higey--354-7444

& Bernard Hildebrand--833-7616

Charley Hollimon--829-5760

& Jason Register--829-0747

Jeff Judson--822-5901

& Larry Rickels--826-2628

Chris Olderog--491-4101

& Jason Smith--257-0677

Henry Sauer--832-9892

& Jeremy Whitley--320-5520

Ralph Shay--488-2561

Please visit www.redeemersa.org
to find a community group near you.

Sermon Notes

“The Way of Wisdom”

¹ Does not wisdom call? Does not understanding raise her voice? ² On the heights beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; ³ beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries aloud: ⁴ "To you, O men, I call, and my cry is to the children of man. ⁵ O simple ones, learn prudence; O fools, learn sense. ⁶ Hear, for I will speak noble things, and from my lips will come what is right, ⁷ for my mouth will utter truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips. ⁸ All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them. ⁹ They are all straight to him who understands, and right to those who find knowledge. ¹⁰ Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold, ¹¹ for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her...²² "The LORD possessed me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old. ²³ Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. ²⁴ When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. ²⁵ Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth, ²⁶ before he had made the earth with its fields, or the first of the dust of the world. ²⁷ When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, ²⁸ when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, ²⁹ when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, ³⁰ then I was beside him, like a master workman, and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, ³¹ rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the children of man. ³² "And now, O sons, listen to me: blessed are those who keep my ways. ³³ Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it. ³⁴ Blessed is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors. ³⁵ For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favor from the LORD, ³⁶ but he who fails to find me injures himself; all who hate me love death." **Proverbs 8:1-11; 22-36**