

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN NEWSLETTER

REDDING

January

2012



2095 El Verano St. Redding, CA 96002
(530)223-5288



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next Fellowship Dinner is February 6th.
- Don't forget to sign up on the cleaning list for the new year!
- Bible Study is on Wednesday evenings. Please come join us!
- The New Catechism for Young Christians & Antioch and Home Missions (written by Pastor Stark) are both available in the GPC Bookstore online:
www.lulu.com/spotlight/GracePresbyterian
- More book projects are in the works. Pastor Miller is working to make both current books available as free downloads.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- The Millers and their efforts to move to Red Bluff
- Our elders and deacons
- Expecting mothers
- Ansel Wilder and Cora Dore with their health issues
- Those in our congregation looking for work

Grace Presbyterian Church

Worship 11:00 am
Sunday School (all ages) 10:00 am
Red Bluff Mission Worship 5:00pm

NEW YEARS 2012

by Pastor David Th. Stark

There it was sitting on a shelf in a local thrift shop. It was literally covered in dirt and grime. None of the keys moved. It was frozen up and pretty much worthless. It obviously had been sitting there for a number of years. It had been at least two years since I had first seen it there. I'd thought about it from time to time during that period. I kept telling myself that it could be repaired. When I was a kid I enjoyed taking things apart and figuring out just how they worked. Old clocks, toys, or pretty much anything that had accessible screws that could be taken out. Looking back on it, I remember my folks actually encouraging me in my efforts, so long as it was a toy already broken, or something that was going to be tossed out as beyond fixing. I had in my treasure chest a lot of clock and wind-up springs, gears, little electric motors, and the remains of a multitude of other "projects" that I hadn't been able to figure out how to put back together.

As the years went by I would occasionally find a use for some of the parts in my box. Slowly over time I became more and more adept at actual repairs. I went on to learning about tractors and cars. My first car was a '58 Chevy Bel Air that my Dad gave to me. (at that time, it was only a twelve year old car!) That's how I learned that to get to the part that needs fixin' you sometimes have to take off about five other parts first. I learned a lot of lessons about patience during those days. The most important lesson, I suppose, was that some things are worth the effort to repair them. But I also suppose that the value of something, like beauty, often lies in the eyes of its beholder. I also had to learn that some repairs were beyond my own abilities. It could be fixed, but I wasn't the guy who was going to do it. That was a good lesson for a future pastor to learn. I wish I'd remembered it better in a few situations.

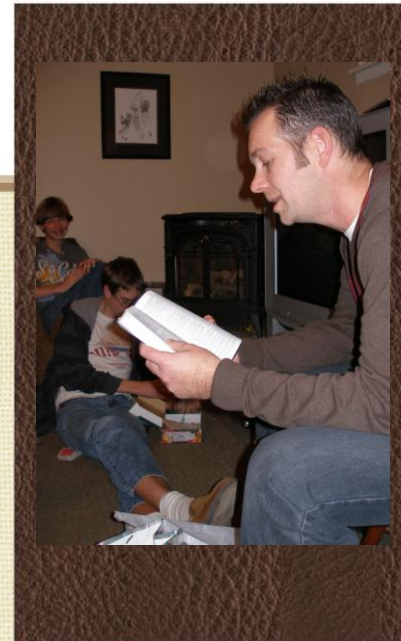
Meanwhile, back to my original story. I finally decided to buy the old broken typewriter. (Yes, it was a typewriter. For those of you reading this who are under twenty-five years of age, you'll need to ask an older person what that is. In the mean time, think of a key board directly connected to a printer.) It's funny to me now, but when I was driving to the thrift store I began to be anxious that perhaps someone else would get there and buy it just before I arrived. Once I saw it again, I realized that wasn't anything to worry about. It would have sat here for another ten years. When the lady at the counter saw it, she asked me if I'd not rather have one that worked. She brought out another one for me to look at. I politely declined and joked that if I couldn't fix it then it would make a good boat anchor. I took it home after paying for it. (She only charged me two dollars for it!) The more I studied it, the more I wondered just what I'd been thinking. I'll spare you the details, but with a lot LOT of cleaning and some pretty fancy lubricants (industrial strength) slowly but surely things began to loosen up and start to move. I bought a ribbon for it, and found out that it not only worked, but had a "fancy" type font on its keys. My wife, Patsy, told me that it is the same type of font that was on the typewriter she rented years ago to type our wedding invitations. It apparently was "cutting edge" in its day. But that day has long passed. Well, I enjoy it now. You've probably figured out that this letter was typed on it. Most people would still consider it pretty much junk today, but I like it, and now it works, so it has value to me.

A lot of people are like old typewriters. We're pretty gunked and grimey, but God sees value in us because of His love to us in His Son Jesus. He sees what we can become if we are cleansed by the blood of Christ. The value of our lives depends on His love and saving work in us. The world may esteem us useless and "junk" but our gracious God sets His own value on those who are His. Have a blessed New Year in 2012!



GPC YOUTH NEWS AND UPDATES

Mr. Doebler reading at the Christmas Party



Youth Group: January 18th and 25th at the church

*Come join us for youth group on Wednesday nights for fellowship,
Bible Study, prayer and fun!*

We begin studying Genesis, the book of beginnings, in January.

Youth group is for those 5th – 12th grade

