

# ROCKBRIDGE REPORTER

A Newsletter for Rockbridge Academy

October 2004

## CONSIDER THE WORKS OF HIS HANDS

Five years ago, our family was able to travel to Nevada and visit Hoover dam. It is a colossal concrete structure filled with enormous turbines and is responsible for generating much of the power for the area. My immediate impression of the dam was awe that man accomplished such a work. That awe was then “validated” by a large monument complete with art deco cherubim like sculptures, which gave man the credit for the task achieved. A flood (pardon the pun) of sadness overwhelmed me, and I had a heightened sensitivity to our triune God having his say at the Tower of Babel.

The words of David in Psalm 28:5 are sobering: “Since they show no regard for the works of the Lord and what His hands have done, He will tear them down and never build them up again.” God is serious about His creation glorifying Him and giving Him the praise and honor for anything we “create.” After all, everything of human origin is destined to be



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destroyed. Only the work of Christ will last.

Well, that being said, one might ask why are we putting so much effort into teaching our children about man-made “stuff?” Why drag the rising senior class to look at crumbling dying things thousands of miles away from the comfort of Uncle Sam? To answer

by Erika N. Blair

this I think one has to discern the purposes God has had behind allowing us a creative history, one which has left us with crumbling, dying things.

God has cared about our ability to create from the beginning when He created us in His image. His hand is revealed in history as we, made in His image, vainly attempt in our frustrated frame to capture His skill of beauty, enormity, and wonder. We are thieves and imitators, but God permits us because He will not be mocked. He will be glorified, because all things are “from Him, through Him, and to Him” (Romans 11:36). What we have made reveals the contrast of His holiness and perfection with

our unholy imperfection. What else could explain Michelangelo’s fascination with human dissection? Just as a toddler innately knows he has the potential to copy dad in a task, yet wrestles with the prideful frustration of discovering he can’t do it. God has seen us in our condition and mercifully desires to remind His people of their hope

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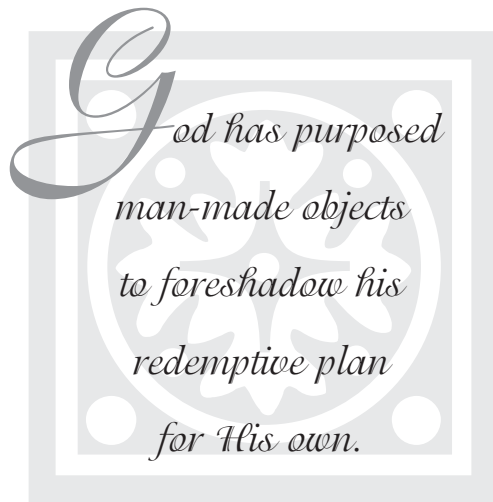
## CONSIDER THE WORKS OF HIS HANDS...*continued*

in Him using the created things to foreshadow what is to come.

God has purposed man-made objects to foreshadow His redemptive plan for His own; the temporal pointing to the eternal, the physical pointing to the spiritual. Man, who craves the temporal and the physical is challenged by God to make a choice between worshipping Him or the created things. For the same God who made it clear that He does not dwell in temples made with hands (Acts 17:24) was very specific in His directions to David for Solomon to build his temple in Jerusalem. The details in the architecture and ornamentation were amazing. Why? It is because God cares about the beauty of His glory. The beauty of a man-made temple mattered because it foreshadowed the beauty of Jesus Christ.

I had the privilege of taking my daughter to the National Gallery of Art in London last year. Without telling her, I took her into a gallery filled with paintings by Impressionists, one of which was Van Gogh's "Sunflowers." Heidi had copied this painting from a reproduction under Carol Seitz a couple of years before. What a joy for me to cover her eyes, position her in front of it, then remove my hands! Her face was filled with amazement and joy. This was the real "Sunflowers" and not the reproduction copied in a classroom thousands of miles away. How much more glorious and joyful will she be when she sees face to face the beauty of her Lord Jesus! "For now we see in a mirror dimly, but

then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known" (1 Corinthians 13:12). It seems that God is saying, "If this amazes you, just wait to see what is yet to come!" For scripture records in 1 Corinthians 2:9, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him." These truths demand a response from us in our daily lives.



Since God has gone to all the loving effort to purpose what is around us for His glory and to facilitate our enjoyment of Him forever, shouldn't we desire discernment in viewing items of human origin? Shouldn't we desire wisdom to understand those things which actively stretch us and challenge us to a greater knowledge of our Creator versus those which represent the passive entertainment of our flesh? Shouldn't we look beyond the matter to know that the unseen is more real than the seen? Shouldn't we remember that whatever occupies our minds

will affect our speech and actions? Shouldn't we remember that we are accountable to our beautiful Savior?

Our goal for our children should not be to entertain them with crumbling dying things, but to challenge them by pointing to the truth of Christ in them. God has given us intellect and imagination to allow us a glimpse of the divine riches to which we are destined. That is why it is worth crossing an ocean and looking up at the Pope's ceiling in the Sistine Chapel. For there is the handiwork of a dead man who recognized the perfection and beauty of the human form created by a Holy God. Michelangelo's work is destined for destruction, but what a beautiful foretaste of glory divine. So let us take to heart the words of David in Psalm 27, "One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek Him in His temple."

## YEARBOOK ORDERS

Yearbook order forms will be coming home early in October. The cost is \$29/book, and forms may be returned to your child's teacher or directly to the office. Sales will end on October 29.

# EUROPE TRIP PRESENTATION

Each September, the seniors returning from Europe are required to make a presentation before the faculty regarding some aspect of their recent trip to Greece and Italy. This year, the faculty has chosen Janet Schonhaler to make her presentation before the 7th–12th grades. You are invited to join us as Miss Schonhaler shares her perspective on the Senior Europe Trip. This presentation will be held in the Fellowship Hall at Rockbridge Academy on October 6th, at 1:30 p.m.

## Are You Interested in Participating in 2005?

Rockbridge Academy will host an after school meeting for those interested in participating in the Europe trip scheduled for the spring of 2005. Please join us on October 6th, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. in the conference room at Rockbridge Academy.

## Pastors' Lunch

This year, in conjunction with our annual History Parade, Rockbridge Academy will be hosting a pastors' lunch. We believe it is crucial for the pastors of our local churches to know what Rockbridge is doing and to see firsthand the fruits of a classical and Christian education in the lives of our children. Pastors will be invited to attend a lunch prior to the beginning of the parade at which Mr. McKenna and members of the school board will speak to them about Rockbridge Academy. Following lunch, the pastors will be invited to attend the parade and program which follows. This year's History Parade is on **October 29th**.



## Art Opportunities and Achievements

Mrs. Stevens keeps a running list of Art Competitions that Rockbridge students of all ages may enter. She also has information available about current local exhibits and community art classes for both kids and adults. Please see the art bulletin board in the main upstairs hallway or contact Mrs. Stevens if you would like information about any of these opportunities. Congratulations to Tyler Antkowiak and Maddie Stevens for their recent achievements in the *Lemony Snicket* art contest! For their winning entries, Tyler and Maddie will receive V.I.P. treatment and front row seats at this nationally acclaimed author's upcoming visit and book signing in Columbia, Maryland. Way to go, Ty and Maddie!

## ROCKBRIDGE ATHLETICS

The Rockbridge Academy Soccer teams have been steadily making their way through the 2004 season. Our coaches would agree with Pat Reilly who once said to his team, "From nobody to upstart. From upstart to contender. From contender to winner..." September's work on the field has trained the students in skill and strategy and has provided a crucible for character development. Win records for both girls' and boys' have already improved for this year, and with the heightened competition have come plenty of opportunities for coaches to model godly attitudes to players. As our athletic program continues to grow with tally marks in the win column, might we never forget as stated in the Westminster Confession that, "Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever."

Plans are actively being drawn for our winter basketball teams. Coaches and facilities are needed for both our girls' and boys' teams. If you would like to be a part of our coaching staff or have ideas for indoor basketball locations, please contact Donna Griffith at [dgriffith@rockbridge.org](mailto:dgriffith@rockbridge.org).



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- OCT 6 .....Europe Trip Presentation@ 1:30 p.m.  
Europe Trip 2005 Mtg. @ 3:00 p.m.
- OCT 8 .....Picture Day—Grades K-4  
Clothing Exchange 8:30-11:00 a.m. & 2:00-4:00 p.m.  
Back to School Night @ 7 p.m.—Grades 7-12
- OCT 15 .....Picture Day—Grades 5-12
- OCT 22 .....Open House—Daytime 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- OCT 29 .....Pastors' Lunch & History Parade for Grades 1-6
- NOV 2 .....SCHOOL CLOSED—Teacher Planning Day
- NOV 5 .....College Night @ 7:30 p.m.
- NOV 16-23 .....Parent/Teacher Conferences After School/Evening

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

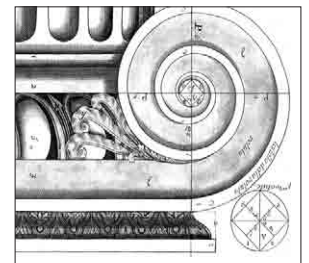
*We have the greatest opportunity the world has ever seen, as long as we remain honest—which will be as long as we can keep the attention of our people alive. If they once become inattentive to public affairs, you and I, and Congress and Assemblies, judges and governors would all become wolves."*

—THOMAS JEFFERSON

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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