

# Redeeming Features

Volume XXV, No. 1

January - February 2009

www.our-redeemer.net



**Our New Deacon:  
The Rev. Dr. Ted Gaiser**  
\* \* \*

Read his letter  
on the next page.

Don't miss  
**Redeemer's  
Annual Meeting,**  
After the 9:30am  
service on Sunday,  
**January 25<sup>th</sup>.**

## From the Rector

Dear Friends,

Two years ago, in my annual address, I spoke of the leaven in this congregation which is obviously giving rise to the bread which nourishes—the leaven of people making their contributions in many ways. Sometimes we are so close to something we cannot see it like someone who comes from the outside. Sometimes it's nice to have an old friend point out how we are growing. **Below, I include Eliza Bennett's letter, a former parishioner,** who came to visit recently and noticed so many good things about Redeemer. She was kind enough to send her thoughts and I wanted to share them with you, as you are the ones who have created these outward and visible signs of grace. Thank you for being the leaven. There is always more to do but perhaps we could celebrate the goodness of what is.

Faithfully, *Tricia*

Dear Reverend deBeer,

I grew up in Church of Our Redeemer. Several weeks ago, I had the opportunity to visit it briefly when I was in Boston for my partner Sara's squash tournament. It was a great joy to see the "outward and visible signs of the inward and spiritual grace" which you have clearly been able to shepherd happening there.

The labyrinth and Memorial garden, the beautifully maintained grounds (including my mother's memorial tree) and the rack of name tags, some of which I still recognized were the beginning... but I loved reading Redeeming Features and seeing all of the other evidence of life and health there.

In 2001, I had the great joy to be married at Church of Our Redeemer to my partner of 21 years--now 25. It meant more than I can tell you to have that wonderful experience in the church where I had grown up, my children had been baptized, I had led the youth group, sung in the children's choir, and spent hundreds of hours. At that time, the church appeared to be struggling a bit. I take delight in seeing the fruits of your labors.

I have spoken with Janet Kern, and my siblings and I will send her things for the Memorial Book for both my mother and Vivien Murray.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Saakvitne Bennett

## Greetings from Our New Deacon

I am writing to introduce myself as I join the Redeemer ministry team. I can imagine some of you might be asking yourselves, “so what’s a deacon?” A deacon is an ordained person who emphasizes the church’s servant ministry in the world, and particularly to those most in need. From a Prayer Book perspective, a deacon is a servant to the bishop, servant to the needy, symbol of Christ’s redemptive love, interpreter of the world to the church, and revealer of Christ in the world. The deacon’s role in liturgy varies in practice, but most often includes proclaiming the gospel, bidding the prayers, setting the Eucharistic table, and dismissing the people. In my life at Redeemer, as time allows I’d welcome opportunities to participate in the work of the mission and stewardship committees in addition to preaching and participation in the liturgy.

I hail from rural roots, having grown up in small-town New England and graduating in a high school class of ninety-nine students in Vermont. I began my higher education journey at the University of Vermont and finished at Boston College with the completion of a Ph.D. in sociology. My specific academic “area” is sociology of technology. What I study and teach are the ways in which technology impacts everyday life.

I’ve had a wide range of employment opportunities including everything from cooking during my high school and college years—I trained as a garde manger in a French restaurant—to my current work as an entrepreneur and academic. As an entrepreneur, I’m currently in “start-up mode” building a health and wellness business that addresses musculoskeletal

pain. My business partner is an occupational therapist and our company is focused on work-injury prevention and remediation. I also do occasional business consulting and teach part-time in the Sociology Department at Boston College.

Like many of you, my experiences in the church have varied. Some of my church activities include cooking in soup kitchens, serving in a variety of social service capacities, providing historical preservation and financial advice to churches, interning in an incarceration facility for boys, serving in a low-income community for the elderly, and participating in and leading a variety of international mission trips.

As implied previously, deacons serve their bishop as living expressions of the bishop’s mission to the world. In my case, that’s quite literal in that my primary diaconal placement is working for Bishop Shaw in support of the diocesan mission strategy as the Deacon for Global Partnerships. In that capacity I lead various groups to different countries to develop relationships and seed future mission activities between churches in our diocese and churches elsewhere in the Anglican Communion. I also visit other churches in our diocese to speak about mission, so on occasional Sundays I’ll be on the road.

So, there you have it ... a little about me and a little about what it means to be a deacon. In the coming weeks and months I look forward to getting to know you and becoming a member of the Redeemer community.

Yours in Christ,

† Ted



Thank you for recycling!

## Why I want to go on a pilgrimage with J2A

By Katherine Mirani

I have been a member of Redeemer for six and a half years now. It's hard to believe at first, but then I realize how comfortable I have become at Redeemer. I've made some of my best friends at church, and become so integrated into the community that I can't imagine being anywhere else.

This year, however, I am finding myself becoming a part of Redeemer even more. As part of the J2A class, I am helping to plan a pilgrimage to South Dakota. When our class decided a few months ago that we definitely wanted to go, we began a journey that has brought us even closer together.

Not to say that the journey hasn't involved an incredible amount of work. We spend extra time at and outside of church planning our fundraisers, collecting the money we make, and continuously assessing how far we've come and how far we have to go. But that means that when we finally get to go on this trip, it will be even more meaningful for the effort we put in.

This pilgrimage has stressed me out and freaked me out. At times, I questioned whether or not it was worth it. But the support of my leaders, my friends, and the parish itself has made me realize that this is possible. We will make it to South Dakota, and when we return we will be closer to fellow pilgrims, our God, and ourselves than ever before.

Thank you for your support. We'll send you a postcard from South Dakota!

### Get Us to Our Goal

We would like to extend a great big thank you to the Redeemer community for supporting all of our fundraising efforts, especially our silent auction and Episco-gear sales! We are still collecting rebates from Shaw's receipts and through the Amazon link on Redeemer's website.

**Save your Shaw's receipts** and drop them in the collection box in the side hallway, narthex, or Parish Hall. 1% of the value comes back to the pilgrims!

**Shop online at Amazon.com** for an easy (free) way to help the pilgrims! Simply visit Redeemer's website ([www.our-redeemer.net](http://www.our-redeemer.net)) and click on the Amazon link on the left hand side of the page. You'll be redirected to the Amazon site where a 5% rebate from your total purchase comes back to the pilgrims! To make it even easier, use the link below:

[www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/redirect?tag=churchofourre20&path=subst/home/home.html](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/redirect?tag=churchofourre20&path=subst/home/home.html)

Amazon offers a staggeringly wide array of items, not just books and music. Take a look and see what they offer! Please be sure to either use the link above or go through Redeemer's home page—it's the only way to earn the rebate for J2A.

**Borderlands  
Ranch:  
Education  
and  
Spiritual  
Center**



Learn more at [www.borderlandsranch.org](http://www.borderlandsranch.org).

## Ain't We Got Fun!

### The Redeemer Talent Show

Put on your Thinking Caps and Tickle Your Funny Bones – The Redeemer Talent Show is coming up Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm. We're looking for all kinds of fun acts – Skits, Limericks, Stand-up comedy, Poetry reading, in addition to musical numbers.

The Talent Show builds our Redeemer inter-generational community, by breaking down barriers – for that - we need everyone – we need YOU! And – not to worry - if you're really shy – you can be part of the Powder-milk Biscuit Club and help with refreshments or decorations. Our goal is that no one miss out on the fun of this wonderful evening. Our church has a long history of notorious talented people – and you're probably one of them...

Remember how great it was last year when

- Sally Bittenbender read an original poem?
- When Jack Manes led us in his Grandmother's favorite song?
- When we all got up and snaked the Macarena around the Great Hall?
- And who could forget THE MINOR THIRD????? And those CRAZY GLASSES!!! What will Connie wear this year???

To find out – you'll have to come and see – or better yet – get in on the real fun – and be a part of the Talent Show.

To sign up your act, of help with refreshments, decorations, or programs, please contact:

Music Director, Cheryl Duerr, 781-860-8893, [Cheryl@our-Redeemer.net](mailto:Cheryl@our-Redeemer.net),

Music Committee Chair, Murray Daniels, 781-275-8092, [murray.daniels@gmail.com](mailto:murray.daniels@gmail.com)

## Lexington Choral Festival

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Lexington Choral Festival will take place Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at St. Brigid's Church. This year we have 8 churches and temples participating. Each choir sings a couple pieces, followed by a group anthem and convivial fellowship with the musicians and audience at a festive reception. This year our choir plans to present one or two pieces from Robert Ray's *Gospel Mass*. We sing in the spirit of peace and ecumenical unity as we build bridges. Working on this over the years, I have been so impressed with the divine spark alive in the Music Directors of the other churches and temples, and also in the choirs. Their passion for music and the Lexington community has been inspiring. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with great music and our Lexington neighbors.

### You're Invited!

The women of Redeemer are invited to start the New Year with friends at an

 *Epiphany Tea*  
with Holy Eucharist

Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>  
at Two O'clock



Hosted by parishioner Peg Wright  
with the Rev. Tricia deBeer

53 Hancock Street, Lexington

RSVP to the office at 781-862-6408



Thank you for recycling!

## Leadership in the Youth Program

The Journey to Adulthood program provides amazing and age-appropriate Christian formation for pre-teens and teenagers at Redeemer. Through three 2-year segments (Rite-13, J2A, and Young Adults in the Church), young people stay with the same cohort of peers as they explore their faith, Christian traditions and Scripture, and what it means to journey with and toward God.

Leaders in the Journey to Adulthood program say that their own spiritual journeys are blessed and nurtured by their interactions with young people and by walking alongside younger people on their faith journeys. Unlike programs for younger children, leaders in Journey to Adulthood cannot be in a group with their own children. Journey to Adulthood leaders work in teams, and—since they embody the wisdom and breadth of the congregation—they often include a broad range of ages and backgrounds.

Leaders in the Journey to Adulthood program change every two years. When a group completes its current segment of the program, they move to the next segment and their leaders take a break for their own spiritual refreshment.

This Spring, Redeemer will begin a discernment process for prayerfully inviting a new set of leaders to guide our Journey to Adulthood program from Fall 2009 through Spring 2011.

### Leaders for Journey to Adulthood:

- Enjoy working with middle school or high school age youth
- Work as part of a team of at least two, and preferably three, leaders per group
- Usually work in a team that includes a man and a woman
- Ideally, the leaders of a group are not married to one another or inclined to become romantically involved with one another
- Are not related to a member of their group
- Attend training in the program (1.5 days) and in Safe Church practice (1 day) before the beginning of the program
- Are CORI checked
- Spend about 90 minutes a week preparing for the program, using the provided lesson plans (which are easy to use and flexible)
- Meet with the group on Sundays, with a few additional events throughout the year (including overnights & weekends)

There are also roles for people who have gifts for coordinating programs and events.

Please consider how the Holy Spirit might be inviting you to use your gifts in partnership with our young people. Contact The Rev. Sabeth Fitzgibbons to find out more ([sabeth@our-redeemer.net](mailto:sabeth@our-redeemer.net)).

*Loving God, you have blessed me with wonderful gifts. Through baptism I am a member of Christ's Body, the Church, and share in its mission of proclaiming the Gospel and becoming a Holy People. Help me know how I am called into ministry with and for our young people. Keep my heart open to following Jesus' way of serving others in love, and to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

## Confirmation, Reception, & Reaffirmation FAQs

### What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is the sacramental rite in which the candidates "express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop" (*Book of Common Prayer*, 860). Those who were baptized at an early age and those baptized as adults without laying on of hands by a bishop are expected to make a mature public affirmation of their faith, recommit themselves to the responsibilities of their baptism, and receive laying on of hands by a bishop (*BCP*, 412). Adults baptized with the laying on of hands by a bishop are considered to be confirmed.



### What is Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows?

Any baptized adult can make a Reaffirmation of their Baptismal Vows. Those who have returned from a time of religious inactivity to an active practice of faith may publicly reaffirm their baptismal vows. Others who have experienced a renewal of faith or desire to renew their Christian commitment may also reaffirm their baptismal vows. Reaffirmation may be repeated.

### What is Reception into the Episcopal Church?

When someone has already been confirmed or made an adult profession of faith in another Christian denomination, they may be received into the fellowship of The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion.



### What happens during Confirmation/Reception/Reaffirmation?

The candidates reaffirm their renunciation of evil, and renew their commitment to Jesus Christ. They reaffirm the promises made by them or for them at the time of baptism. Those present in the congregation promise to do all in their power to support the candidates in their life in Christ.

### What is the Episcopal Church's theology of these rites?

The Episcopal Church's theology of Confirmation has continued to evolve along with its understanding of baptism. Confirmation is no longer seen as the completion of Christian initiation, nor is Confirmation a prerequisite for receiving communion. Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's body the church (*BCP*, 298). Accordingly, Confirmation has been increasingly understood in terms of a mature, public reaffirmation of the Christian faith and the baptismal promises.



## FAQs, cont'd.

### When do Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation happen?

Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation require the presence of a bishop for the laying of hands. In the Diocese of Massachusetts (of which we are a part), regional services happen throughout the year. Church of Our Redeemer will host a regional service on Saturday, May 31, 2009.

### Where are these rites found in the BCP?

The Confirmation service, which includes Reception and Reaffirmation, is found on pages 413-419 in the *Book of Common Prayer* (the red book in the pews).



### I think I'm interested in preparing for Confirmation, Reception, or Reaffirmation – who do I talk to?

You can contact The Rev. Sabeth Fitzgibbons ([sabeth@our-redeemer.net](mailto:sabeth@our-redeemer.net)) or The Rev. Tricia de Beer ([tricia@our-redeemer.net](mailto:tricia@our-redeemer.net)). Based on interest, we will be forming separate preparation groups in the spring for youth and for adults.

Much of this article is taken from "Confirmation." *An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church, A User Friendly Reference for Episcopalians*. Don S. Armentrout and Robert Boak Slocum, editors. Church Publishing Incorporated, New York, NY.

## Dancers of Spirit

Sunday Nights from 7:00-8:30pm

Led by former dancer Jessie Maeck, Dancers of Spirit is a small group which meets in the chancel on Sunday evenings to dance together using spiritual themes. Warm-up, dancing based on a spiritual image or meditation, and circle dancing are part of every session.

This January and February is an especially good time for new members or drop-in explorers to join us. We will be dancing to and working with the Prayer of St. Francis.

This activity is open to anyone in high school or older. Wear sweat pants or loose clothing. Every body is welcome. Use the side office door to enter church; we meet in the chancel.

Questions? Call or e-mail Jessie Maeck: 781-863-8053 [jsmaeck@aol.com](mailto:jsmaeck@aol.com)



*Sing to the LORD a new song,  
his praise in the assembly of the saints.  
Let Israel rejoice in their Maker;  
let the people of Zion be glad in their King.  
Let them praise his name with dancing  
and make music to him  
with tambourine and harp.*

## Adult Christian Formation

In January and February our Adult Formation continues to look at this year's theme of *Abundant Gifts* in relation to the abundance of opportunities we have for justice-making in our world. Ages 13-103 are welcome to join in adult formation sessions. Please, bring your coffee and a friend, and come join us on Sundays from 10:45-11:50am.

### January 4, 11 and 18: *Traces of the Trade*

First-time filmmaker Katrina Browne makes a troubling discovery - her New England ancestors were the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. She and nine fellow descendants set off to retrace the Triangle Trade: from their old hometown in Rhode Island, to slave forts in Ghana, to the ruins of a sugar plantation in Cuba. Step by step, they uncover the vast extent of Northern complicity in slavery while stumbling and stretching their way through the minefield of contemporary race relations. The film was released in 2008 for the bicentennial of the U.S. abolition of the slave trade.

**We will watch approximately 30 minutes of the film each Sunday, followed by a discussion period.**

Dain and Constance Perry, members of Katrina Browne's family, will join our conversation on January 11.



Learn more and watch clips online at <http://www.tracesofthetrade.org>

### January 25: *Brunch and Annual Meeting*

All adult (**16 and older**) members of the congregation have voice and vote as we celebrate the many gifts of our life together this past year and plans for 2009. We will elect Vestry members, Wardens, Officers, and Diocesan Convention Delegates. Your vote counts!! **Childcare and an activity for children & youth aged 15 and younger will be available.**

### February 1: *What is Radical Welcome?*

The Rev. Stephanie Spellers will facilitate our conversation about becoming a Radical Welcome Congregation, where we actively seek out and engage the gifts of a broad diversity of people.

### February 8: *If we became Radically Welcoming, what would Redeemer look like?*

Redeemer's Welcome Team leads this conversation about our welcoming practices and how every member of the congregation, and even the building itself, contribute to how people feel welcomed to become part of our community.

If you have an idea for a Christian Formation session or series, or if you would like to be part of the group that meets 3-4 times/year to plan Christian formation sessions for adults, please contact the Rev. Sabeth Fitzgibbons.

[Sabeth@our-redeemer.net](mailto:Sabeth@our-redeemer.net)

We look forward to seeing you soon!

The Adult Formation Committee

Barbara Beinhocker, Susan Emanuel, Jessie Maeck, Jack Manes, Greg Ruth, Dorothy Swithenbank

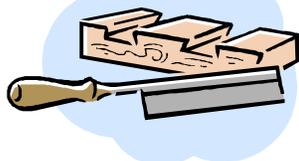


Thank you for recycling!

## WANTED

### Woodworker

Children's ministries is looking for a woodworker to make simple materials for the Atrium classes. Instructions and examples are available. Please contact Linda Kukulich [LindaKukulich@alum.mit.edu](mailto:LindaKukulich@alum.mit.edu) or at 781-862-1299 if you can help.



### Church Communication Strategy

Be a part of the conversation! We hope to begin a process of assessing and updating Redeemer's various methods of communication, but it all starts with developing a strategy. We welcome all to the discussion table! Please contact the office if you are interested. 781-862-6408 or [Office@Our-Redeemer.net](mailto:Office@Our-Redeemer.net).



### Public Relations Experience

We are looking for someone with Public Relations experience who can assist us by creating a procedure for clergy and lay leaders to publicize events and programs (print and electronic media) to the greater Lexington community. Please contact Paula Antonevich to volunteer ([paulaandruss@verizon.net](mailto:paulaandruss@verizon.net)).

### Submit your photos! ...to the Annual Meeting Slideshow

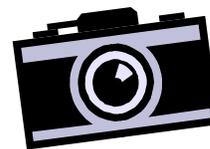
What a year we've had!

Dig out your photos from Redeemer's past year and see friends and relatives up on the big screen!

Email Seddon Beaty your photos at [seddon@theJBeatys.com](mailto:seddon@theJBeatys.com) or hand her a photo CD at coffee hour.

Don't have digital photos? No problem! Call the office for more information.

781-862-6408



### Empty Bowls Volunteers

As we begin a new year of parish activities, can you give a few hours of your time to help prepare for the Empty Bowls Community Dinner? This March Redeemer will be hosting a fundraising dinner to support the Lexington Food pantry by raising community awareness of what they do and funds to support what they do. The many of the faith communities of Lexington will join forces for this event, and we need YOUR help in reaching out to the restaurants and shops in our community to ask for their support as well.

**What will it require?** After a brief and friendly phone call (or coffee) with Katie Vogele, you'll be given a list of a few local companies to contact along with a phone script and page of event details. Please contact Katie to volunteer.

[Vogele.katherine@gmail.com](mailto:Vogele.katherine@gmail.com).

## Report from the Diocesan Convention

### 223<sup>rd</sup> Annual Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Massachusetts

*Submitted by Paula Antonevich*

Church of Our Redeemer has five representatives to the Alewife Deanery (Tom Pryce-Digby, Dinesh Dulipsingh, Nancy Williams, Leah Archibald, and Paula Antonevich). Leah Archibald and I are the voting delegates and attended the Diocesan Convention, November 7 & 8 in Hyanis, MA. This is a brief summary of the Convention but if you would like more information go to the Diocesan Convention section of the website, [www.diomass.org](http://www.diomass.org)

**Guest Speaker:** This year's guest speaker was the Rt. Rev. Suheil Dawani, Bishop of the Diocese of Jerusalem. Rt. Rev. Dawani spoke of the joys and challenges of his ministry area that includes five countries where less than 2% of the population is Christian. I shared some few details Rt. Rev. Dawani's speech with you on Sunday, November 9 and his hopeful message helped affirm our Diocese's support for the work of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

**Elections:** There were several contested and uncontested Diocesan elections, including the *Provisional Clerical Deputies to General Convention* in which our Assistant Rector, Sabeth Fitzgibbons, was slated. Sabeth was selected as the second alternate if the first alternate is unable to attend.

**Budget:** The 2009 Diocesan Budget reflects the review of the Diocese's organizational structure. The reorganization of

the diocesan operations has five functional areas: Deaneries, Congregation and Clergy; Congregational Resources and Training; Strategic Ministries; Episcopal and Diocesan Support; and Administrative Services. The Convention approved the \$6.9 million core operating budget in which an unallocated reserve of \$128,092 was created by the bishops and the Budget Committee in anticipation of "a challenging economic environment" in the year ahead. The core budget is funded through assessments and investment income with supplemental income generated through fundraising, grants, and the Diocesan Bishops' discretionary funds.

**Leadership Team:** Included in the review of the Diocese's organization structure was a realignment of the responsibilities and activities of the three bishops, The Rt. Rev. Tom Shaw; The Rt. Rev. Bud Cederholm; and the Rt. Rev. Gayle Harris. An Episcopal oversight and responsibilities report was distributed. Additionally, the Rev. Mally Lloyd was newly appointed as the canon to the ordinary.

**New Ministry:** Within the Strategic Ministries operation one of two new programs that has been created is the Ministry for Veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan war, initiated at this time because of the very large numbers of returning Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, and led by our own Rob Bacon. The goal is to meet the spiritual needs of the men and women in the Diocese, and their families, who have experienced the



Thank you for recycling!

*(Convention, contd.)*

stresses of military operations. The hope is to create a 'sensitize – energize – mobilize' format for this ministry in four key geographical areas in Massachusetts. If you are interested in learning more or would like to volunteer, contact Rob Bacon at 617-482-4826 x 310 or via email at [revbacon@diomass.org](mailto:revbacon@diomass.org).

**Resolutions:** As mentioned above, seven resolutions were presented, discussed and some amended. The seven approved resolutions are: 1) Resolution creating a diocesan policy on immigration; 2) Resolution in support of transgender civil rights and inclusion in the ministries of all the baptized; 3) Resolution affirming the actions of the 75<sup>th</sup> General Convention on slavery and reconciliation; 4) Resolution on Christian formation/education regarding the spirituality, history and practice of nonviolence in the Christian tradition; 5) Resolution for General Convention endorsing a Feast Day on May 17 for Saints Andronicus and Junia, Apostles; 6) Resolution for continued trial use of the Diocese of Massachusetts of Feast Day on May 17 for Saints Andronicus and Junia, Apostles; 7) Resolution confirming the support of the Diocese of Massachusetts for the work of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

**Additional Business:** The Church of the Holy Spirit in the City of Fall River was admitted as a parish in union with the Diocese and two amendments to the *Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, Constitution and Canons as of Convention 2007* were approved.

## Daffodil Days<sup>®</sup>

Although daffodils will not arrive at Redeemer until the third week of March, the month of February is the time to place your orders for the "Flower of Hope." Your \$10 purchase of bouquets of ten daffodils in each bouquet helps fund the American Cancer Society in its work of service, education, and research.

On a personal note, I had considered discontinuing this fund raiser after having done it for so many years, but the sudden loss of my beloved husband to cancer last summer has renewed my dedication this cause.

Details of the sale will be available in future Sunday leaflets. Please call me if you have questions or comments (781-862-5279). Thank you for all your past support.

Mary Ayvazian



Give Daffodils.  
Give Hope.™



## Children's Ministries

### What goes on in the Atrium during Epiphany and Ordinary Times before Lent?

The children in the Atrium between the ages of 3 and 9 celebrate Christmas and Epiphany by welcoming the Light that Christ brought into the world. When they leave church "marching in the light of God," they know that is a very special gift.

Many of these Sundays before Lent every year are spent learning about parables. The younger children learn about the parables of the Kingdom of God and its growth and value, and the older children learn more of the moral parables and parables of prayer. Parables tell a story about every day things and leads to profound questions about the Kingdom of God, prayer, or moral behavior. The children ponder on this. The catechists do not give simple answers. Parents and other visitors who want to learn about parables are always welcome as observers or assistants in the Atrium.

The 4th-6th-grade classes will continue to focus on gaining familiarity with the Bible and how its message connects with our daily lives, often beginning with the day's Gospel reading.

All the classes will spend time at the beginning of February discussing welcoming the stranger in our midst. This will parallel the sermon and adult formation discussion sponsored by the Welcome Team when Stephanie Spellers preaches on radical welcome (see Adult Formation article in this issue, or refer to the Welcome Team article in the last issue).

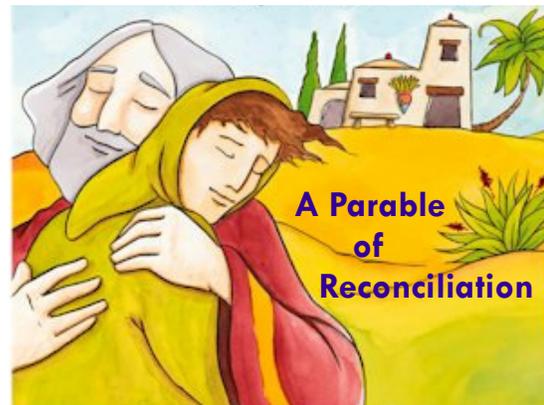
### Reconciliation Retreat and other rites of passage.

During Sunday mornings in Lent, second and third graders in the Atrium, and interested older kids, are invited to go deeper into their relationship with God. We do this through a series of four sessions where the children have an opportunity to think deeply on the abiding love of God, and by recognizing the blockages they have in their relationships with God and others.

This will lead up to the final service of Reconciliation. These sessions will take place on March 8, 15, 22, and 29. Children are required to attend all sessions and at least one parent is expected to attend with the child.

For more information about this and other sacraments and rites in the Episcopal Church, please see our pamphlets on education on the welcome table in the Narthex.

We encourage all parents and children to be aware of these steps in Christian formation and to participate in the preparation for the sacraments and rites. For more information, speak to your child's teacher about this opportunity.



## Getting to Know You: Parish Profiles

What do you know about our children's teachers? What do they do outside of Sunday?

### Atrium I

**Evelyn Hausslein** has been teaching young children professionally and in the church for over 40 years. She is trained in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and is happiest with the little kids in the Atrium.

**Carolyn Schultz** is a professional early childhood educator at Pilgrim Nursery School and brings this experience into her work in Atrium.



### Atrium II

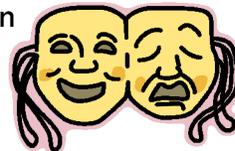
**Linda Kukulich** is trained in the Catechesis. She works at Lincoln Labs, sings in the choir, is active in Boy Scouts, and does lace work.

### 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> grade

**Bob King** has been teaching fourth and fifth graders at Redeemer for over 25 years continuously. He teaches creation from his perspective as a geo-physicist and sees the poetry in Genesis.



**Peter Koso** builds homes for Habitat, travels to El Hogar, knows all about computers, and loves including children in drama and worship.



**Kathleen Mirani** has a passion for mission and outreach to the community particularly Esperanza Academy. She, like most other teachers at Redeemer, works full time and manages to teach every week.

**Elisabeth Donahue** brings family experience from the Catholic and Jewish tradition to her teaching team. She directs a children's policy project and regularly travels to Princeton, NJ and Washington, DC as part of her job.

**The Rev. Sabeth Fitzgibbons** comes to us from a parish, Trinity in Topsfield, which is dedicated to the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. She continues that support here at Redeemer, and brings lots of new fresh ideas as well.

*Youth leaders will be profiled in a future edition of RF.*



# Calendar

| Day             | Date | Event   |
|-----------------|------|---|
| <b>JANUARY</b>  |      |   |
| <b>Sunday</b>   | 4    | Adult Formation: watch "Traces of the Trade," part 1                    |
| Tuesday         | 6    | <b>The Epiphany of Our Lord</b>   |
| Saturday        | 10   | Mission Day Retreat 1:00-7:00pm   |
| <b>Sunday</b>   | 11   | Adult Formation: watch "Traces of the Trade," part 2 with guest speaker |
| Wednesday       | 14   | Valentine's Day   |
| <b>Sunday</b>   | 18   | Adult Formation: watch "Traces of the Trade," part 3                    |
| Monday          | 19   | MLK Jr. Day (Office is closed)  |
| Tuesday         | 20   | Inauguration Day  |
| Thursday        | 22   | Epiphany Tea & Eucharist at Peg Wright's 2:00pm                         |
| <b>Sunday</b>   | 25   | <b>All-Parish Brunch &amp; Annual Meeting!</b>                          |
| <b>FEBRUARY</b> |      |   |
| <b>Sunday</b>   | 1    | Adult Formation: "What is Radical Welcome?" with guest speaker          |
| Monday          | 2    | Groundhog Day   |
| <b>Sunday</b>   | 8    | Adult Formation: Radical Welcome at Redeemer                            |
| <b>Sunday</b>   | 15   | Adult Formation: to be announced  |
| Monday          | 16   | President's Day (Office is closed)                                      |
| <b>Sunday</b>   | 22   | Adult Formation: TBA  |
| Wednesday       | 25   | <b>Ash Wednesday</b>  |



## One Way to Experience the Walk

### Nurture Strength & Perseverance During Challenging Times

*Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the holy One of Israel, your Savior... because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you... Isaiah 43:1-4*

Enter the labyrinth, quiet your mind, and breathe deeply. When you breathe in allow strength to flow into your body. Breathe out and release any obstacles you feel are in your way. Remind yourself that you are a child of God and precious in God's eyes. Notice any self-generated critical voices. If so answer them from your strength, the strength God has placed in you. Remind yourself of your short term goals. Ask God for what you need. Pray the prayer: God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference...

### Walking the Labyrinth

A labyrinth has a single path that leads dependably, although circuitously to the center and out again. There are no forks or dead ends. If you follow the path, you will reach the center. The destination is not important, but the journey is! Because you do not need to make choices, your mind can relax and travel where it will.

Each person who walks the labyrinth will have a different experience because we all bring different mind sets and experiences to the labyrinth. Walk it with an open heart and mind.

There is no right or wrong way to walk the labyrinth. Enter the labyrinth and follow the path. Proceed at your own pace, pausing at turns, or where and when you wish. Listen to your body. You can walk, run, skip, or dance along the path.

If you overtake a walker going at a slower pace, simply step around them. If you meet someone coming out from the center, step to one side of the path and then back on the path after they have passed. You may acknowledge them or stay focused on your walk.

When you reach the center you may wish to pause and take time to reflect or pray. You may spend as much as or little time as you wish.

Trace your way back to the entrance. Sometimes the journey out is even more important than the journey in. Upon completing the walk sit and enjoy the relative stillness for a while. You may wish to reflect on your experience. What touched, inspired, challenged, or surprised you?

Pamphlets and journals for walking the Labyrinth are available on the Welcome Table in the narthex.



## CHURCH OF OUR REDEEMER

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### STAFF

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The Rev. Tricia de Beer

**Assistant Rector** extension 6  
The Rev. Sabeth Fitzgibbons

**Deacon**  
The Rev. Ted Gaiser

**Music Director** extension 7  
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The deadline for the  
March/April edition  
of *Redeeming Features*  
is Friday, February 6.

