

Redeeming Features

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www.our-redeemer.net

January - February 2010

Greetings from the Rev. Kate Ekrem

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Daffodil Day!



Don't forget to place your order. Flip to page 9 for details

Dear Friends,

Blessings of the Epiphany season! This short season of the church year, sandwiched between Christmas and Lent, often gets overlooked, but it contains some of the most fun traditions -- eating Three Kings cake to remember the visit of the Magi and sharing Shrove Tuesday pancakes -- as well as important stories and themes about light, baptism, and our mission and vocation as Christians.

The visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus is the central story of Epiphany. Imagine what their visit must have been like. Mary and Joseph may still have been bedding down in that stable, surrounded by animals and a few unwashed, homeless shepherds. Not a place you would expect a foreign dignitary to visit. But that's where the wise men went; following with single-minded purpose the star that they believed would lead them to the savior of the world. Imagine how out-of-place they must have looked. They were wearing different clothes, probably had different colored skin, and spoke a different language from everyone else in Bethlehem. Everyone must have stared and wondered. Everyone probably thought they were in the wrong place. But they were in the right place.

Epiphany is the season when we renew our commitment to mission, to spreading the Good News that God loves and cares for all people. The joy that we experience at Christmastime won't last even the 12 days of Christmas unless it is shared with others. In our lives, we may encounter those who seem, like the Magi, to be in the wrong place, to be different from the rest of the crowd. We don't always feel comfortable around them or know what to say to them. But who knows, they may be visiting royalty!

The message of Epiphany is that Jesus came not just for one group, but for the whole world. There are no walls and no boundaries around God's love. But most people won't know that, unless you tell them -- and show them. When we reach out to others in mission, it's about more than just writing a check or donating to charity. It's about being in relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ that we are seeking to serve. The story of the Magi can remind us that we need to engage with those who seem different from us and learn from them. We don't know what they might need from us or how we are called to serve them until we ask them about their lives, their hopes, their challenges. Then, together, we can work to shine the light of Epiphany, the light of Christ, into all the dark places of the world.

The Rev. Kate Ekrem, Priest-In-Charge

kate@our-redeemer.net

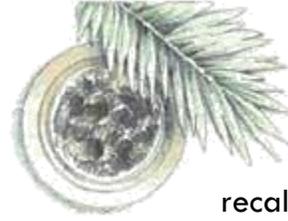


Notes on Our Sunday Worship

Welcome to the Season of Epiphany! The Feast of the Epiphany is observed on January 6, and marks the end of the 12 days of Christmas. The season of Epiphany celebrates that the miracle which came at Christmas – that God became a human person in Jesus – is for the whole world. The visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus is a reminder that Jesus is not just for one group or nation, but for all people.

During Epiphany, we move to a more contemporary liturgy after the relative formality of Advent. Most of our prayers, including the Eucharistic Prayer, are taken from *Enriching Our Worship*, an authorized supplement to the *Book of Common Prayer*. A few prayers we will use in the Epiphany Season, such as the Prayers of the People, are from the Anglican Church of New Zealand's *A New Zealand Prayer Book*, one of the best written and most popular revisions of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer from which all Anglican churches trace their heritage.

For this short season we will use the contemporary translation of the Lord's Prayer. We share this version with many denominations, since it has been officially approved by the ecumenical ICET (International Consultation on English Text) group. Although it is hard to change from the familiar and beloved words of the 1662 translation of the Lord's Prayer, some may be interested to know that the ICET version is actually a closer translation of the Greek original (for example, the Gospel of Luke says "sins" not "trespasses"). We will return to the traditional translation for Lent.



LENT begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17. Lent is a time for recalling and confessing those things which keep us from being in full and whole relationship with God, with ourselves and one another, and with our planet. In Lent we journey with Jesus on his way to the cross, struggling as he did to put God's will before our own. We begin Lent with the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday, reminding us of our humble beginning in the dust of Creation. Beginning the following Sunday, February 21, we will continue the rhythm of our worship life by moving to a more traditional liturgy.

Ash Wednesday Distribution of Ashes

February 17		
7:00am	12:00pm	7:30pm



Celebrating Baptism on April 3

In the early Christian church, baptisms were only celebrated once each year: at the Great Vigil of Easter, the eve before Easter Day. It is still a very special and important time to be baptized. This service begins with a bonfire, continues with candlelight, and includes the re-dressing of the altar that was stripped on Maundy Thursday. We then celebrate the first Eucharist of Easter.

If you have a child to be baptized this spring, please contact the clergy to begin to make arrangements for the April 3 baptisms. Just as a reminder, in the Episcopal Church we do not celebrate baptisms during Lent, which this year is February 17 through April 2. The next date for baptisms will be Pentecost, Sunday, May 23.



Thank you for recycling!

Confirmation is Coming!

**...And Reception into the Episcopal Church
...whatever THAT is!**

What IS Confirmation? “Confirmation is the rite in which we 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).

Who can be Confirmed? Anyone who has been baptized and is ready to make an adult profession of their faith and commitment to Christ can be Confirmed. In The Episcopal Church, we usually consider the minimum age for Confirmation to be around 15 years old. Even adults can be Confirmed!

What if I'm already confirmed in another denomination? That's fabulous! If you would like to renew your commitment to Christ in The Episcopal Church, you can be “*Received into The Episcopal Church.*” The preparation for Reception is similar to that for Confirmation.

I think I'm interested – how do I find out more? If you are in 8th-12th grade, come to Youth Group on January 31 and talk with Sabeth. If that doesn't work for you, you can always contact one of the clergy directly. We will begin preparing candidates for Confirmation and Reception in the early spring.

When is Confirmation in 2010? Confirmation and Reception will happen at the Alewife Deanery Confirmation service, scheduled for May 22 at Christ Church in Waltham.



Parishioners on the Move

Long-time parishioner Sally Bittenbender has recently moved from her apartment at Lexington's Brookhaven retirement community to the nursing home at Brookhaven. Her address and phone number in the directory are no longer valid.



Sally's family says she would love to have visitors. She can have short visits (15 minutes). Right now it's hard for her to get mail at Brookhaven, so her family has requested that any cards or letters be sent to Sally care of the church and the clergy and/or pastoral care team visitors will bring them to her on a regular basis. If you have any questions or would like to know how she is doing, feel free to talk to Kate. The pastoral care team welcomes new members and any interested parishioners to help us keep in touch with all of our homebound and limited-mobility parish members.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 31

Confirmation Class sign-ups begin

Sundays, March 21 & 28

Confirmation Classes 1 & 2

Saturday & Sunday, March 26-27

Diocesan Pre-Confirmation Retreat at Barbara C. Harris Camp (optional)

Sundays, April 11 & 25

Confirmation Classes 3 & 4

Sundays, May 2 & 9

Confirmation Classes 5 & 6

Saturday, May 15

Confirmation Retreat

Saturday, May 22

Deanery Confirmation Service at Christ Church, Waltham

Sunday Snow Day Procedure

There is often one Sunday in January or February when you wake up in the morning, look out the window at several feet of new snow, and wonder, “are we really going to have church today?”

It’s easy to get an answer to that question. Redeemer does have an official “snow policy.” If a storm is on the way, the clergy, wardens, and event leaders (i.e. who ever is in charge of a particular church event) will consult together to decide what to do. For Sunday worship and weekday office closings, the decision to close will be made by 6:30am. Weekday office closings will generally follow the pattern of the Lexington Public Schools (if there is no school, it’s likely the church office is closed, too). For evening events, the decision might be made later in the day.

If we do decide to close or cancel, we will communicate that in several ways. First, you can always call the church and listen to the message on the answering machine. It can be changed remotely, so even if we can’t get here, we can still change the phone message to update everyone who calls in. Second, Kate or Emma will send out an email to the parish email list with any schedule changes.

Third, we will update the Redeemer website with storm information.

(www.our-redeemer.net)



So, when in doubt, check your email, check the web site, or call the church to find out about any storm cancellations. Remember, the most important thing is that you be safe – don’t travel if you don’t feel comfortable doing so. Even if we can’t have services on a Sunday morning, God can hear your prayers wherever you are. Stay warm and stay safe!

Lexington Choral Festival

~ Cheryl Duerr, Music Director



The 5th Annual Lexington Choral Festival will take place Sunday, February 7th at 3:30 PM, at Sacred Heart Church. The festival has grown steadily every year – this year we will have choirs from 10 Lexington churches and temples including, in addition to Redeemer, Sacred Heart, St. Brigid’s, First

Baptist, Lexington United Methodist, Hancock United Methodist, Temple Isaiah, Temple Emunah, The Chinese Bible Church of Greater Boston, and Trinity Covenant.

The founding principle of the festival is to provide a forum for choral exchange and inspiration, how our respective religious traditions differ as well as resemble each other. Each choir presents one or two pieces from our own traditions and repertoire, and then the massed choir of all the singers presents a combined work. This year’s combined work is *The Heavens are Telling* from Haydn’s *The Creation*, which I will be conducting.

Over the 5 years that the Choral Directors have been sponsoring the Lexington Choral Festival, we have continued to build bridges among the churches and temples, and among ourselves as music directors. We have learned that song can unite us through our differences in a very powerful way. The concert is always followed by a reception of great food and *convivial fellowship* during which relationships among the choristers and the audience are built and sustained.

The Festival is always an inspiring afternoon. We plan to repeat our performance of *Keep Your Lamps* – so don’t miss it! There will be plenty of time to get back home for The Super Bowl. Sacred Heart Church is located on Follen Road at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue in East Lexington. See you there!



Thank you for recycling!

A Still Quiet Place: A Lenten Retreat

Saturday, February 27 from 9:30am–3:30pm
Bethany House, Arlington

During this Lenten retreat, we will practice coming home to ourselves and to God. Join us as we contemplate the spirituality of stillness through prayer, reflection, meditation, scripture, song, and silence. Come awaken your innate capacity to be still and quiet in a busy life, which can bring forth the gifts of acceptance, compassion, presence, and letting go. This retreat will be facilitated by parishioner Mary Ann Christie Burnside, Ed.D., founder of Hearts and Minds, a Lexington-based educational organization.

www.withheartsandminds.com

REGISTRATION begins Monday, January 10 and ends Friday, February 12. Space is limited. To reserve your place, please contact Emma at office@our-redeemer.net or call 781-862-6408.



A Heartfelt “Thank You”



- from Cheryl Duerr, Music Director
Ben, Noah and I would like to say a big *Thank You* for all your letters, cards and gifts of support after the death of my father, Stanley Duerr on November 12th. We all miss him terribly.

Christian Formation Notes for ALL ages

Happy 2010! As we head into the early months of the new year, a few general notes about the Christian Formation schedule.

- The Parish Annual Meeting on January 31 takes the place of all Christian Formation programs so that all adult members of the parish (age 16+) can attend and participate. Brunch, a children’s program, and nursery care are provided.
- Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on 2/17.
- In the case of a heavy snowfall on Saturday night or Sunday morning, it is possible that we *would* have worship, but cancel the nursery or Christian Formation programs. See the snow policy on the opposite page.

Annual Meeting

SAVE THE DATE!

Redeemer’s Annual Meeting will take place on **Sunday, January 31st**. The Annual Meeting is an important event in the life of the parish. We will elect new vestry members and other officers, review the past year, and talk about our plans and hopes for 2010. Delicious food will be served! Please mark the date and make plans to be there.

See page 19 for more information.

A Look at Our Grow Clinic Ministry

Redeemer's Mission Committee has focused the Church's resources on two primary ministries: addressing hunger and ministry to children. Our relationship with The Grow Clinic at Boston Medical Center exemplifies both ministries.

The Grow Clinic for Children, www.bmc.org/pediatrics-growclinic.htm, is an outpatient subspecialty clinic at Boston Medical Center that started in 1984 to provide comprehensive specialty medical, nutritional, developmental and social services and dietary assistance to children from the Greater Boston area referred with Failure To Thrive (FTT). Children with FTT do not gain weight or height at rates comparable to other children leading to very significant health and developmental problems.



**Ginny Neumann & Marilyn Williamson
serve food**

bags with lists of greatly needed items for the Emergency Cupboard at the entrances to the sanctuary. Please, take a bag, fill it and return it by Palm Sunday. Members of the Mission Committee will deliver the bags to the clinic during Holy Week to make the Easter season, a little brighter for Grow Clinic Families.

Christmas time is very special in our Grow Clinic relationship because of our donations and help with their holiday party. At the party, families have a day of laughter and plenty. Every family receives presents for all of their children. There are music, crafts, nutritious food and lots of fun. Redeemer played a big part this Christmas:

- \$2,000 from the Mission budget was donated to pay for party expenses.
- Redeemer musicians performed for the families.
- We baked cookies and cupcakes.
- The Youth Group shopped for toys and read-to-me books for presents.
- Several parish members helped the staff sort the presents before the party.
- Six parish members, together with volunteers from Hanscom Air Force Base, provided helping hands and good cheer wherever needed at the party.



Randy Bowlby & Murray Daniels provide music

Throughout the year, we have programs to help the Grow Clinic serve its families. Coming up in Lent, we have the ***Everything but the Baby*** drive for the Grow Clinic Emergency Cupboard. Late winter is a tough time for the Grow Clinic families. Heating costs are high and families struggle to pay for rent, food and other expenses. The Emergency Cupboard provides diapers, formula and other supplies when families come to the clinic. **Starting February 21, through Palm Sunday, March 28, there will be grocery**



Thank you for recycling!

Grow Clinic (cont'd)

Throughout December and especially at the Crèche service we have a special collection for the Grow Clinic and the Sandra's Lodge family shelter in Waltham. This collection pays for our Rite 13 and Youth Group to shop for presents for children in those programs and provides extra funds for fuel assistance and many other needs. Last year, we gave over \$3,000.

During the summer, Grow Clinic families bear a special burden because older children no longer receive free breakfasts and lunches at school. In June, Redeemer holds an appeal for money to buy Stop & Shop gift cards to help out when parents visit the clinic. Last year we gave 125 \$10 gift cards.

Last October, The Grow Clinic sent an urgent request for advocacy. The Massachusetts budget was in terrible shape. Among the cuts near the top of the list were the de-funding of grow clinics statewide and drastic cuts in the funding of WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children). Many parishioners called the governor's hot line. The cuts were not made. The Grow Clinic was deeply appreciative.

Special thanks to Chris Neumann, Ginny Neumann, Sarah Vogel and Chris Needham who helped sort presents for the families served by the clinic. The toys and books are given to each family for all the children in the family.



YLA is Really Cookin'!



On Monday, December 28th Monisha Reginald and Sarah Neumann (of Redeemer's Youth Group) invited members of other youth groups in Lexington to join them in cooking for Bristol Lodge shelter. This is part of their project for the Diocese Youth Leadership Academy (YLA), of which they are both active members. Five teens joined them to make salad, chicken, and brownies for 100 people!

Redeemer cooks for Bristol Lodge on the fourth Monday of every month. If you would like to volunteer to cook with us (or to drop off a pre-made something), please contact Evelyn Hausslein (ehausslein@rcn.com or 781-861-0378).



To learn more about the Youth Leadership Academy or the Diocesan Youth Council, visit www.diomassyouth.org.



Murray Daniels plays a duet

Some of our Redeemer crew at the party

Do You Know?

By The Rev. Ted Gaiser

Do you know... that in East Jerusalem 4,577 Palestinians were deprived of their Jerusalem residency status last year? And that most Palestinians in the West Bank live on small pieces of land encircled by coils of razor wire?



To exit or re-enter the West Bank, they must endure long lines in process centers at check-points in the

walls that encircle their homes. In much of the West Bank, water is turned off Monday through Friday, requiring Palestinians to maintain water tanks for mid-week water usage and to carefully ration water, while at the same time neighboring settlements use the same water supplies to fill their swimming pools. Do you know what it's like to have your water turned off and yet witness water waste, or to be evicted from a home in which you've lived most or all of your life only to watch someone else (a settler) move in?

Do you know... that every time there is a natural disaster in El Salvador, the economic livelihood of a significant number of people is wiped out? Much of the problem has to do with the destruction of forests. There is no growth (roots) to hold the soil in place, so hard rains create major floods, washing away top soil and homes, and continuing a trend of erosion. Sustainable (economic) development programs assist farmers in the Bajo Lempa region (the low lands) to grow and expand their farms only to have them destroyed by flood with the next major storm. Do you have any idea what it's like to lose your



farm... your economic livelihood... when there isn't any farm aid or government program to help get you back on your feet or feed your family while you rebuild?

Do you know... that an estimated 22.4 million people are living with HIV in Africa and that they represent approximately two thirds of the global total? In 2008, around 1.4 million people died from AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa



and 1.9 million people became infected with HIV. Another sad statistic is that since the beginning of the epidemic more than 14 million children have lost one or both parents to AIDS. Do you know what life is like for those children? Do you know what an orphanage is like or what it takes to run one, particularly when the needs feel endless?

Do you know... that Honduras has the highest rate of HIV infection in Central America; 60% of all AIDS cases in the region are Honduran. Within the next 5 years ~15% of the population will be orphaned... that's roughly 1/2 million children, many of whom will be infected with AIDS because of their parents. Most of these orphaned children will be displaced... a fancy word for thrown out... by their relatives, due to the social stigma of AIDS. Do you know what it's like for a six year old to sneak into a bar at closing time so that she or he can find refuge from rape or abuse on the street by sleeping on the bathroom floor?



Do you know (cont'd)

Hearing stories like these is heart breaking. Many of us shed tears just thinking about it. Many of us exclaim, "But I didn't know it was so bad!" And that's right; we didn't know. And that's precisely the point. It's difficult to know. It's even more difficult to internalize what these things mean to the people who live them... that is, until we go and experience it for ourselves. So go. See the destroyed farm. Get your hands dirty helping to rebuild a community. Play with the children in an orphanage. Pray with your brothers and sisters. Listen to their stories. Learn about their hopes and dreams.

In the words of an orphanage director, "come... come be with us. Hold an orphaned baby or play with a dying child. Teach an abandoned child that he or she is loved, and that he or she isn't forgotten by the world. **Just come!** So that by knowing and experiencing for yourself, you can learn what it takes to make a difference in this world."

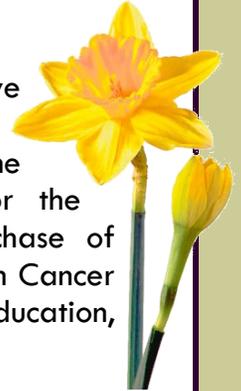
Here I am Lord.



Send me.

Daffodil Days

Although daffodils will not arrive at Redeemer until the fourth week of March, February is the time to place your orders for the "Flowers of Hope." Your purchase of daffodils helps fund the American Cancer Society in its work of service, education, and research.



Look for more details in the weekly announcements. If you have any questions, please contact Ginny Neumann (781-862-3655) or Mary Ayvazian (781-862-5279). Thank you for all your past support! Let's make this the best year yet!

🌸 **Bouquet (10 stems) - \$10 each**

A bouquet consists of 10 fresh-cut daffodils.

🌸 **Potted Daffodil Bulbs - \$15 each**

Three multi-stem bulbs in a pot.

🌸 **Bear and a Bunch - \$25 each**

Celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Boyds® by Enesco® bear created especially for the American Cancer Society Daffodil Days! Birthdays R. Hope is a 10-inch-tall oatmeal-colored bear holding a cupcake with the message "Celebrating Hope." You can give him a home with a contribution of \$25, which includes 10 fresh-cut daffodils.



“The Episcopal Church Welcomes You”

-submitted by Paula Antonevich

Most have seen those official white, blue, and red signs declaring “The Episcopal Church Welcomes You”. If you search the Episcopal Church (US) website (www.episcopalchurch.org) it is the banner on every page. In fact, there are over 7,000 Episcopal churches in this country and ALL use that phrase or the words “All Are Welcome” on their website home pages, or in their print literature. There is little doubt that the Episcopal Church (big “C”) is committed to welcome.

But how does a church (small “c”), like Church of Our Redeemer, put that official phrase - those words of welcome - into practice? How do WE welcome visitors, neighbors, friends, strangers, and guests to the Redeemer worshiping community?

Clearly, it is the friendly greeting by the liturgy team member at the front door on Sunday morning; the commitment of the property committee which keeps the church building functioning, safe and accessible; the altar guild that ensures enough bread and wine is available for all; a music program that draws people in and keeps bringing them back; an education program taught by lay leaders who nurture our religious curiosity; the mission committee that provides opportunities great and small for us to show our care for others; an active youth group; a user-friendly website; and the list goes on, and on, and on. Wow! We are blessed with many people who are committed to making Redeemer a welcoming place!

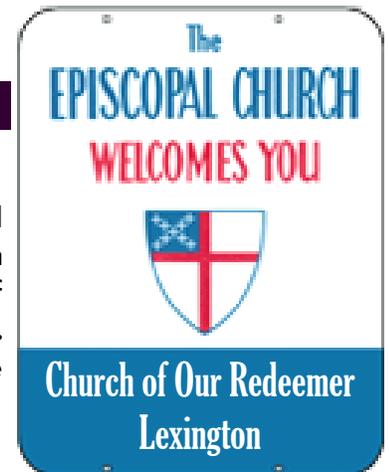
In 2006, it was determined that, **although Redeemer does a great job of welcome, there was a need to look further into how we could live the phrase “All Are Welcome.”** Two needs were identified: to create a deliberate system to familiarize newcomers to Redeemer; and to investigate how the Redeemer community could deepen its commitment to welcoming, particularly to those who may challenge our long-held beliefs and practices, as well as the

access to worship and fellowship (also known as the practice of “*Radical Welcome*”). Thus, the Welcome Team was formed!

In 2009, the Welcome Team continued to make great strides toward both goals by inviting guest preachers - the Rev. Stephanie Spellers and Ms. Megan Rasbold-Gabbard, securing a site visit from the Diocesan Disability Concerns Committee co-chair, completing a sign audit and the subsequent addition of directional signs, formalizing the welcome announcement at the end of Sunday worship, systemizing contact with newcomers, and organizing the Cultural Potluck all-Parish Breakfast and the intergenerational Advent program.

The work of the Welcome Team is not done... We have high hopes for 2010 and we'd love for you to help us reach them! This year, the Welcome Team would like to improve our contact with newcomers (did you see the new, updated pew cards?), continue the discussion of *Radical Welcome*, enact practices that allow us to truly welcome all, reach out to our neighbors, evaluate good welcome practices at other parishes, help launch a Parish Life Committee, and increase the Welcome Team membership.

If you are interested in joining or learning more about the Welcome Team, please contact Paula Antonevich (781-674-2795, or paulaandruss@verizon.net) or, speak with current team members Elisabeth Donahue, Evelyn Hausslein, Sandy Keshishian, Jack Manes, Kathy, Mockett, Kate Needham, and Helene Sullas-Huggins. **If you would like to share your perspective on our current welcome practices,** please contact Paula.



Thank you for recycling!

Adult Christian Formation

We have a great schedule of programming for January and February – as well as rich resources outside the congregation.

◆ The Vestry and Priest-In-Charge (Kate) will hold an open Q & A session on January 17 – conveniently scheduled just before the Annual Meeting! Bring those questions you've been dying to ask!

◆ The Welcome Team sponsors a 3-part series called Episcopal 101. See the description below – and plan to be there!

◆ We will have a Lenten Day Retreat on Saturday, February 27, led by our own Mary Ann Burnside. See the description below – registration begins soon!

◆ Our Lenten series, led by Kate, will be on Prayer and Fasting. We will explore developing a personal Rule of Life, forms of prayer, kinds of fasting (is there more than one?), and our own need for Sabbath time.

Episcopal 101

These classes are stand-alone: you can come to one, two, or all. Intended for those who have been Episcopal all their lives, those who came to the Episcopal Church later, and those who are still seeking. Sponsored by the Welcome Team. Try your hand at some Episcopal trivia right now! (Answers on page)

Q: A Narthex is a...

- a) new sleeping pill b) small dinosaur
c) small bone in the inner ear d) church lobby

Q: A Verger is a(n)...

- a) pending partnership b) master of ceremonies
c) verge, but more so d) aspiring vegetarian

Q: A Canon to the Ordinary is a...

- a) small weapon b) mediocre church rule
c) bishop's assistant d) boring song

Adult Christian Formation Contact Person:
The Rev. Sabeth Fitzgibbons (sabeth@our-redeemer.net or 781-862-6408).

1/24 *Background on The Episcopal Church*

How did The Episcopal Church start? When did it come to the US? How is it organized? The Episcopal Church's history is filled with scandal, murder, and conspiracy – come find out more!

2/7 *Becoming an Episcopalian*

How do you become a “member” of The Episcopal Church? What are the Sacraments, and how do you “get” them? How is all this different from how it works in other denominations?

2/14 *Being an Episcopalian*

What is the difference between “high” church and “low” church? What does The Episcopal Church believe about saints, Mary and the Eucharist? What is the mission of the church? And how am I part of it?

Adult Christian Formation Schedule

Sunday, January 17

Q & A with the Vestry and Priest-in-Charge

Sunday, January 24

Episcopal 101, part 1

Sunday, January 31

Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 07

Episcopal 101, part 2

Sunday, February 14

Episcopal 101, part 3

Sunday, February 21

Prayer and Fasting, part 1

Saturday, February 27

Lenten Retreat Day, 9:30am-3:30pm

Bethany House of Prayer, Arlington

See page 5 for more information.

Sunday, February 28

Prayer and Fasting, part 2

Continues through March 21



Outside Adult Christian Formation Opportunities

Building an Ethical Economy:

Theology & the Marketplace

Friday & Saturday, February 5th & 6th

MIT's Stata Center (32-141, 32-144, 32-155)

- * Theology & Economics: Two Different Worlds?
- * Is Capitalism a Belief System?
- * What Is Wealth?
- * What Do We Owe the Future?

With small-group conversation to deepen insight, form community, and build synergy for taking action.

Featuring video presentations by:

- ◆ **Archbishop Rowan Williams**,
104th Archbishop of Canterbury
- ◆ Sir Partha Dasgupta, Professor of Economics at the University of Cambridge
- ◆ Kathryn Tanner, Professor of Theology at the University of Chicago Divinity School

On-site reflections from:

- ◆ Catherine Mann, Professor of Economics, Brandeis University
- ◆ Joan Martin, Assoc. Professor of Christian Social Ethics, Episcopal Divinity School
- ◆ Anthony Zuba, Lead Organizer, Massachusetts Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice

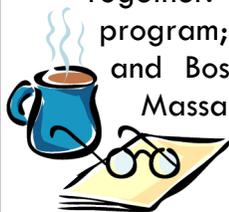
Cost: \$30

Registration deadline: January 27

More info at <http://web.mit.edu/tac>.

For details & to register contact Christina English: cenglish@mit.edu / 617-253-7707.

Sponsored by the Technology and Culture Forum at MIT, Episcopal Divinity School; Life Together: DioMass young adult intern program; the Diocese of Massachusetts; and Boston Faith & Justice Network; Massachusetts Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice



Bethany House of Prayer

Sisters of St. Anne Convent, Arlington, MA

www.bethanyhousearlington.org

Seeking a quiet space for reflection and prayer?

"I feel as though I have discovered a secret garden, a place well prayed in" – these words are spoken often by those who come through gates of Bethany and enter the garden and Chapel. Come and find a place of prayer and hospitality, beauty, worship and the companionship and witness of others.

REFRESHMENT DAYS

A quiet day each month, usually the first Tuesday of the Month: October – June, 9am-2pm. Join us for a day of reflection, shared wisdom and refreshment. The next quiet day will be Tuesday, Feb 2, led by a Redeemer parishioner, the Rev. Dr. Christopher Duraisingh. Other dates will be: March 2, April 6, June 1. Registration required. The \$35 fee includes the midday meal.

EVENING CONTEMPLATIVE EUCHARIST

"Come and See:" Evening Eucharist, Wednesday, January 20 at 7:00pm, in St. Anne's Chapel. As evening shadows lengthen, come into the beauty and warmth of the Chapel of St. Anne for music, silence, reflection and Eucharist.

GREEN GATHERING

Caring for the Sacred and the Environment. Whether in the trenches of green activism or trying to be faithful stewards of the earth, participants are women and men who gather monthly as a circle of hope, nurturing their work through readings, silence, and shared reflections. Join us for our next gathering Wednesday, January 13, with a light supper at 6:00pm, followed by the gathering from 7:00-8:30pm. Suggested donation is \$20. Registration required.



Christmas at Redeemer

Almost **70** parishioners gathered for fun and fellowship on Sunday afternoon, December 13th. 20 youngsters with parents decorated gingerbread people cookies at the Donahue's house. They then joined other parishioners for lasagna, salad and dessert down the street at the Hausslein's. Ages ranged from four months to 90, with toddlers on the floor, teens in the back room, adults around tables and on sofas, all enjoying each other's company. This event was sponsored by the Welcome Team, and several families who recently joined the parish met the many old timers who know a good Redeemer party when they see one. The evening ended with carol singing inside, since the rain was too heavy for neighborhood caroling. This tradition matches the Crèche Service in fun, intergenerational traditions we cherish at Redeemer.



All ages gathered around the cookie table!

Catching up with friends at dinner.



Good fun, good friends, good food!



The Archibalds were this year's Holy Family



The angels, shepherds, and sheep shared a snack before the Christmas Eve Crèche Service.

Our very dashing Angel Gabriel



Our Youth in Action

Did you know...

... Redeemer has a **FABULOUS** youth program?

... Redeemer has the biggest youth program in the Alewife Deanery?

Believe it or not, most Episcopal churches around do not have the fabulous and involved youth we have here at Redeemer. Our Journey to Adulthood program is one reason we have such great youth participation in our congregation.

The Journey to Adulthood is a complete youth ministry program of spiritual formation for 6th through 12th grades. It uses Bible study, prayer, rites of passage, outreach ministries and both serious and playful activities to underscore its two guiding principles:

1. Manhood and womanhood are free gifts from God.
2. Adulthood must be earned.

At Redeemer, we use the Journey to Adulthood program on Sunday mornings. There are three two-year segments of the program:

Rite-13: The first two years (6th & 7th graders) focus on celebrating the individuality of each young person and their creative potential. Our current Rite-3 group has 17 young people in it! We are lucky to have Sam Stevens leading the group right now – all by himself!!

Rite-13 needs another adult leader, preferably two – one male and one female, who are not parents of youth in the group. This is a 2-year commitment, mostly on Sunday mornings. With a team of three, it would not necessarily be every Sunday. If you believe you are being called to this ministry, please contact our Journey to Adulthood Program Coordinator Beth Murnaghan (eliordpar@aol.com or 781-862-6923).

J2A: The middle portion of the program (8th & 9th graders) engages youth with the skills and critical thinking involved in adulthood. The youth plan and embark on a pilgrimage together at the end of this segment. Our current J2A group of 12 youth is being ably led by the team of Judy Downes, Steve Burns, and Ashley Rooney. As you may know, the group is already beginning their fundraising for their pilgrimage in 2011. Sometime in the spring they will come to a decision about their pilgrimage destination.

YAC: This mentor-based program helps older teens (10th through 12th graders) discern and carry out a ministry within their church or in the larger community. Vocation and development of a personal credo are also emphasized. Our current YAC group has 8 active youth who are being mentored by Cara and Alan Kalf. Many in this group already engage in active ministries in the church and they are continuing to explore what it means to live out their faith. You're not done hearing from this group!

Our Fabulous Leaders in the J2A Program

J2A is based on the principles of relational youth ministry. It assumes that at least two or three adults (of both genders) will be leaders for each of the three groups and that these leaders will only serve for two years before taking a "break." This engages many more adults in building relationships with youth and providing positive role models for them. The traditional youth ministry model of a single youth "guru" (paid or volunteer) depends on the personality of that individual -- and when he/she leaves, the youth program often collapses. J2A is designed to engage lots of adults in nurturing the youth of your congregation and community. It is designed to bring young people into full participation in the life of the congregation so they actually ARE the church of today instead of the church of the future!



Thank you for recycling!

Youth (cont'd)

Sunday Evening Youth Group

Sunday evenings see anywhere between 8 and 20 young people, grades 8-12, gather in Redeemer's kitchen to prepare, eat, and clean up dinner together. Often they have a program or discussion topic for the evening as well. Chris Needham, Cathy Burns, Jack Manes and Helene Huggins provide adult leadership for this group, assisted by youth leaders Kate Needham, Chris Neumann, and Stephanie Kukolich.



The Youth group raided Target for the Grow Clinic's holiday party

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 16 from 5:00-6:30pm

Hosted by the J2A Group

Take this opportunity to celebrate one last time before we enter the season of Lent. Come eat, visit with friends, and catch up with the youth! The proceeds of the dinner will go towards the J2A Pilgrimage Fund. Last year we raised over \$600!



2009 Pancake Supper



Dates to Remember

Sunday, January 17

No Sunday PM youth group

Sunday, January 31

Annual Meeting – all parish members age 16+ are eligible to vote

Friday—Sunday, February 5-7

Diocesan Senior High Retreat at Barbara C. Harris Camp

Sunday, February 7

No Sunday PM youth group

Sunday, February 14

No Sunday AM Christian Formation

No Sunday PM youth group

Tuesday, February 16

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Wednesday, February 17

Ash Wednesday, services at 7am, 12noon & 7:30pm

For more information, contact:

Journey to Adulthood – Program Coordinator

Beth Murnaghan

781-862-6923 / eliordpar@aol.com

Sunday Evening Youth Group:

Cathy Burns

978-663-5022 / hcburns@comcast.net

Chris Needham

781-862-0591

Children's Christian Formation

Our Children's Christian Formation programs engage our children ages 3 – 5th grade in exploring Christian history and their faith through parables, prayer, geography, scripture and worship.

Children's Christian Formation meets Sundays from 10:45-11:45am, in classrooms on the upper level. There is an alternate Tuesday Atrium for children aged 3 through 3rd grade. They meet for snack at 3:30pm, followed by class from 4:00-5:00pm. We are always happy to welcome new children and visitors!



ATRIUM

In January and February the Atrium classes will learn about the parables Jesus told. They are stories about everyday life with a profound lesson that the children tease out by themselves.

Ages 3-Kindergarten: Good Shepherd Atrium

In the younger Atrium, the children wonder about the parables of the Kingdom of God and the parables of growth.

Evelyn Hausslein is the Lead Catechist (teacher) for the Good Shepherd Atrium. Evelyn is ably assisted by Carolyn Schultz on Sundays, and by Kalpana Dulipsingh, Barbara Fortier, and Jennifer Voss on Tuesdays. If you would like more information



about the Good Shepherd Atrium, please contact Evelyn Hausslein at 781-861-0378 or ehausslein@rcn.com.

1st – 3rd Grade: True Vine Atrium

The True Vine Atrium covers many of the same lessons as the Good Shepherd Atrium, presenting the material age-appropriately in a slightly more complex way than the younger children's lessons.

In January and February the older children in Atrium II explore the Moral Parables of the Good Samaritan, The Insistent Friend, The Found Coin, and others. The moral parables and the Maxims, verses from the Bible, are essential pre-requisites for the Solemn Celebration Ceremony which we offer every other year, and is scheduled for Spring 2011.



Thank you for recycling!

Children (cont'd)

Linda Kukolich is the Lead Catechist (teacher) for the True Vine Atrium. Linda is being assisted on some Sundays by Betsy Wilkinson, and **still needs additional assistants**. If you would like more information about the True Vine Atrium, or to be in the rotation of Sunday assistants, please contact Linda at 781-862-1299 or lindakukolich@alum.mit.edu.

4TH AND 5TH GRADERS

Peter Koso and Kathleen Mirani are the teachers for the 4th and 5th grade class. They engage the themes of the season, as well as topics about liturgy and scripture through Bible Study, games, and fun activities. If you would like more information about this class, you can contact either of them directly: Peter Koso (peter@peterkoso.com or 781-863-8047) or Kathleen Mirani (781-674-2229 or kmirani01@yahoo.com).

Dates to Remember

Monday, January 11 at 7:30pm

Parent Meeting for Atrium (ages 3-3rd grade)

Sunday, January 31

Children's Activity during Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 14

No Sunday Morning Christian Formation

Tuesday, February 16

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Wednesday, February 17

Ash Wednesday Services

7:00am, 12:00pm, & 7:30pm

Children's Christian Formation Contact Person:

The Rev. Sabeth Fitzgibbons (781-862-6408 or sabeth@our-redeemer.net) or the lead teacher(s) for specific classes as noted above.

Parent Night in the Atrium

Monday, January 11 7:30 - 9:00

For parents of children ages 3–3rd grade
Our parent nights are a chance to hear what the children are learning and working with in the Atrium. It is also an opportunity to get to know other parents and to speak to the teachers and ask questions. We will be talking about Parables in January and preparing for Lent in February. Come see how the children do this.

**Family Ministry Newsletter**

The Diocese of Massachusetts publishes a newsletter just for families! Written by educator and Redeemer parishioner Mary Ann Burnside, Ed.D, *Family Ministry News* guides families through the church seasons (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Pentecost, Ordinary Time). With an emphasis on spiritual parenting, the newsletter also includes practices for both adults and children. If you are interested in signing up, please contact the church office.

Calendar

JANUARY		
Sunday	3	Christian Formation Resumes
Wednesday	6	Epiphany service at Brookhaven at 3:00pm
Sunday	10	Adult Christian Formation: Sustainability Roundtable Discussion
Monday	11	Atrium Parent's Meeting from 7:30-9:00pm
Sunday	17	Adult Christian Formation: Q & A with Vestry & Priest-In-Charge No evening youth group
Monday	18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day– Office is closed.
Sunday	24	Adult Christian Formation: Episcopal 101, part 1
Monday	25	Cooking for Bristol Lodge from 1:30-4:00pm
Saturday	30	Vestry Retreat from 9:00am-6:00pm
Sunday	31	Annual Meeting begins at 9:30am Confirmation class sign-ups begin
FEBRUARY		Place your Daffodil Day orders this month!
Friday-Sunday	5-7	Diocesan Senior High Retreat at Barbara C. Harris Camp
Saturday	6	Acolyte Training in the morning, time TBD
Sunday	7	Adult Christian Formation: Episcopal 101, part 2 Lexington Choral Festival, Sacred Heart Parish at 3:30pm No evening youth group
Wednesday	10	Deadline for newsletter submissions
Friday	12	Lenten Retreat registration ends
Sunday	14	Adult Christian Formation: Episcopal 101, part 3 No children or youth programs
Monday	15	President's Day- Office is closed
Tuesday	16	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at 5:00pm
Wednesday	17	Ash Wednesday Services at 7:00am, 12:00pm, and 7:30pm
Sunday	21	Adult Christian Formation: Prayer & Fasting, part 2 Start of Everything-but-the-Baby Drive for the Grow Clinic
Monday	22	Cooking for Bristol Lodge from 1:30-4:00pm
Saturday	27	Lenten Retreat at Bethany House from 9:30am-3:30pm
Sunday	28	Adult Christian Formation: Prayer & Fasting, part 2



THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE CHURCH OF OUR REDEEMER
SUNDAY, JANUARY 31ST



We will open with worship and the **Report of the Priest-in-Charge** at the 9:30am service. We'll continue with brunch downstairs as we:

❖ **View our annual slideshow**

Many thanks in advance to Seddon Beaty, who snaps photos throughout the year and then sorts, crops, and arranges them for us to view. Not to be missed!

❖ **Elect Vestry, Deanery and Endowment Committee members**

This is the culmination of the months of work of the Nominating Committee, and a time to join together to support their work as those they have selected are formally placed into nomination for election by the parish. The slate of nominees for 2010 is:

Sr. Warden: Connie Parrish

Jr. Warden: George Murnaghan

Treasurer: Dinesh Dulipsingh

Clerk: No nominee found

Vestry Members: Paula Antonevich, Susan Emanuel, and Robert Bettacchi

Youth Representatives: Rose Bennett, Alex Davis

Deanery Reps: Paula Antonevich, Mary Ann Burnside, Tony Johnson, Greg Ruth, and Tom Pryce-Digby

Endowment Committee: Sally Zimmerman

Nominations from the floor will also be taken.



❖ **Nominate and elect a five-member Nominating Committee for 2011 positions**

Are you interested in helping to identify candidates for vestry next year? Do you know members of the parish that you'd like to see serving on vestry? If so, please consider standing for election to the Nominating Committee! (Committee members cannot be nominated for a vestry position.)

❖ **Hear about our financial situation as we close out 2009 and look ahead to 2010 with the budget presentation.**

You've heard about the challenges of 2009 and perhaps you helped with a contribution to the "13th Month" initiative to reduce the 2009 budget gap. You may have attended one of the Stewardship Committee-sponsored "cottage meetings" to talk about your hopes for Redeemer in 2010. Hopefully, you've made a pledge commitment to support all that you hope can occur at Redeemer in 2010. Now it's time to hear from the vestry about what we will be able to financially support and how we can do it, given income projections.

All adult (age 16+) members of the congregation have a voice and a vote as we celebrate the many gifts of our life together this past year and plans for 2010.

Childcare and an activity for children & youth aged 15 and younger will be available.

Want to learn more about how things work at Redeemer, and prepare for Annual Meeting? Read our by-laws, minutes from vestry meetings, and soon-to-be-posted minutes from 2009 Annual Meeting. All are available online at: www.our-redeemer.net/community_docs.htm

CHURCH OF OUR REDEEMER

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Phone: 781-862-6408
office@our-redeemer.net

STAFF

Priest in Charge

The Rev. Kate Ekrem
Kate@our-redeemer.net

Assistant Rector

The Rev. Sabeth Fitzgibbons
Sabeth@our-redeemer.net

Deacon

The Rev. Ted Gaiser
Ted.gaiser.1@bc.edu

Music Director

Cheryl Duerr
Clduerr@gmail.com

Administrator

Emma Staatz

2009 VESTRY

Senior Warden

Connie Parrish 781 863-5825

Junior Warden

George Murnaghan 781-862-6923

Treasurer

Dinesh Dulipsingh 781-862-4470

Clerk

Janet Kern 781-861-7102

Vestry Members

Randy Bowlby 978 244-0245

Erica Brotschi 617 484-1334

Jed Geyerhahn 781-750-8793

Sandy Keshishian 781-942-1752

Lindsay Koso 781-863-8047

Peter Lund 781-861-9511

Jack Manes 781-862-8648

Katherine Mirani 781-674-2229

2009 DEANERY REPS

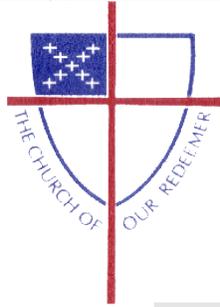
Paula Antonevich 781 674-2795

Mary Ann Burnside 781-860-9857

Tony Johnson 781-646-6866

Tom Pryce-Digby 781 734-0415

Greg Ruth 781-944-4935



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 or hand her a photo CD at coffee hour. seddon@theJBeatys.com

Have photos that aren't digital? No problem! Call the church office at 781-862-6408 for more information.



(some of) Our Ladies of the Children's Choir

The Submission Deadline for the March/April edition of *Redeeming Features* is Wednesday, February 10. Contact the parish office for more information.