



# Redeeming Features

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January 2011

## Greetings from the Rev. Kate Ekrem

### Newsletter

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### 2010 VESTRY

#### **Senior Warden**

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#### **Junior Warden**

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Paula Antonevich 781 674-2795

Rose Bennett 781 275-1119

Randy Bowlby 978 244-0245

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Bob Bettachi 781-861-6485

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Peter Lund 781 861-9511

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! January is always an important time in the life of our parish as at the end of the month we have our Annual Meeting. Annual Meeting is a bit like Town Meeting, it's when we officially meet to do things like elect new members of the vestry, vote on changes to our bylaws, and so on. Everyone who "declares his or her intention to support the Parish by regular attendance at public worship and by financial aid" and who acknowledges the bylaws, is a member of the parish entitled to vote at Annual Meeting. That means if you are reading this, you probably are a voting member of our parish!

But Annual Meeting is not just dry procedures and Robert's Rules. For one thing, there is food! For another, it's a chance to celebrate what we've done in the past year and make plans for the coming year. This year is especially important in that regard. Our Strategic Planning Task Force has been working all fall, interviewing parishioners, reviewing strategic plans and mission statements of recent years, and setting goals based on all that input. (See their report on p. 3). Those goals are centered around Redeemer's core ministries of worship, formation, and mission. I especially encourage you to come and be part of the discussion about the recommendations of the SPTG.

Thinking about our core values and core mission lead us to ask, what are we here for anyway? Why do we come to church? What is church for? The Book of Common Prayer gives a clear answer: "The mission of the church is to restore all people to unity with god and each other in Christ." That has to do with knowing God's love and sharing it with others, forming and healing relationships, deepening our relationships with god and Christ, and reaching out to those in need. We do those things through worship, mission, and formation.

Often churches have anxiety about having the resources to do these things, and about "needing to get new members so we have more money." But that's putting the cart before the horse. Our Strategic Planning Group was clear that our goal is not to "grow and get more pledges" but to focus on what makes Redeemer special and unique, how we encounter God and are nourished for ministry through our relationships here. We know that in focusing on that, we do what God has given us to do (and not try to take on what God hasn't given us to do!) Likewise, we're not trying to please or attract certain "customers" (a sure fire way to frustrate ourselves and lose track of God's call) but to bring God's Good News to places of hurt and need in our community. So our goals are not about changing our direction or taking on new things, but about committing to what God is calling all of us at Redeemer to do and be in the world. And that may mean interesting and exciting changes, but changes that make us more ourselves, not different.

So we hope that when you hear the recommendations of the SPTG, you will thing "yes, that's what I always thought, too!" and also, "I want to be part of that!" Come and be part of our Annual Meeting on January 30th.

In Peace-

The Rev. Kate Ekrem, Priest-In-Charge  
kate@our-redeemer.net

## The Annual Meeting of the Church of Our Redeemer Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup>

We will open with worship and the **Report of the Priest-in-Charge** at the 9:30 am 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 2011 are:

<b>Sr. Warden:</b> Connie Parrish	<b>Jr. Warden:</b> George Murnaghan
<b>Treasurer:</b> Frank Kern	<b>Clerk:</b> Paula Antonevich
<b>Vestry Members:</b>	Ian Fox, James Surprenant, and Robert Bettacchi
<b>Youth Vestry Members:</b>	Anna Kern, Emily Charlton
<b>Deanery Representatives:</b>	Mary Ann Burnside, Mary Bicknell, Ingrid Klimoff, Connie Parrish, and Tom Pryce-Digby
<b>Endowment Committee:</b>	Claudia Cooper

*Nominations from the floor will also be taken.*

### **Nominate and elect a five-member Nominating Committee for 2010 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 any positions.)

**Hear the Report of the Strategic Planning Task Group.** This year, the vestry appointed a Task Group to create a strategic plan for Redeemer, including identifying goals for the coming years. The SPTG has proposed goals for worship, formation, mission, and sustainability. Come hear their report and what it means to us.

**Hear about our financial situation as we close out 2010 and look ahead to 2011 with the budget presentation.** Hopefully, you've made a pledge commitment to support all that you can occur at Redeemer in 2011. 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 2011. **Childcare and an activity for children and youth aged 15 and younger will be available.**



## Strategic Planning Task Group

This fall, the Strategic Planning Task Group collected information about our parish's past and present to help plan for our future. The most important part of the work has been in identifying our core values. Describing *who we are* is critical to any serious attempt to plan for the future. By identifying who Redeemer is, we begin to have a more precise idea about how we should spend our resources.

The SPTG interviewed dozens of parishioners and spent many evenings discussing Redeemer's core values. At the top of the list was worship. Our most highly attended church activities occur immediately after worship; adult formation, parish breakfasts, children's education, critical meetings, etc. The SPTG created this illustration to show how those things that are most important to us—worship, formation, and mission—all fit together. They are surrounded by "sustainability" of resources, including finances, building, and staff and volunteer leadership.



Our next step is to come up with specific goals for each identified core value area. The SPTG will be working on this in early January. It will be the vestry's role to approve the plan, share it with the parish, and lead the implementation of the goals by laity and staff.

The Strategic Planning Task Group: Peter Lund (chair), Mary Ayvazian, Randy Bowlby, Mary Ann Burnside, Jed Geyerhahn, Kate Ekrem (ex officio), Chris Needham, Jim Neumann, Mary Etta King, Peter Koso, and Sally Zimmerman.

## News from our Youth

### Hi Redeemer!

We want to say thank you to everyone who purchased baked goods or pies at our fundraisers in November! We raised a total of \$340 dollars, and we really appreciate your support. Don't forget to click on the Amazon link on Redeemer's website when doing your online shopping—5% of your purchases goes to our pilgrimage to the Five Oaks Retreat Center in Ontario. Keep listening to the announcements for updates and more information about our next fundraiser, the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper!

- The J2A Pilgrimage

**Rose Bennett**, a Redeemer Youth Vestry member and senior at Bedford HS, just received an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Rose earned a nomination from President Obama in September, enabling her to compete for an appointment, given to about 18% of applicants. Rose reports for Basic Cadet Training June 23, 2011 and is expected to graduate June 2015 with a Bachelor's degree and an Air Force 2nd Lieutenant commission.

**Aim High, Rose!**



**CHURCH OF OUR REDEEMER**

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**Calendar**

January	Date	Event Details
<b>Sunday</b>	2	8:00 & 9:30 am Worship Adult Formation Topic: What kind of programs would you like to see 12 noon Pilgrimage meeting 4:00 pm Advent Procession
Monday	3	7:30 pm Property Committee meeting
Tuesday	4	7:00 pm Strategic Planning Committee meeting 7:30 pm Stewardship meeting
Thursday	6	3:00 pm Epiphany Service at Brookhaven 7:30 pm Worship Committee meeting
Saturday	8	9:00 am—Liturgy Team meeting
<b>Sunday</b>	9	8:00 & 9:30 am Worship Adult Formation: Parish Breakfast 4:00 pm—Family Circle 5:30 Family Circle Potluck
Monday	10	7:30 pm Executive Committee meeting
Tuesday	11	7:00 pm Strategic Planning Task Group meeting
Friday	15	Newsletter Deadline!
<b>Sunday</b>	16	8:00 & 9:30 am Worship Adult Formation Topic: TBD
Monday	17	7:30 pm Mission meeting 7:30 pm Finance Committee meeting
Wednesday	19	7:30 pm Vestry meeting
<b>Sunday</b>	23	8:00 & 9:30 am Worship Adult Formation Topic: TBD
Monday	24	1:30 pm Cook for Bristol Lodge
Wednesday	26	4:00 pm Warden's meeting 6:30 pm Deanery Assembly
Saturday	29	9:30 am Youth Group Ski Trip
<b>Sunday</b>	30	8:00 & 9:30 am Worship Parish Annual Meeting No Christian Formation

The **deadline** for newsletter submissions is **15<sup>th</sup> of each month**. Please email all submissions to [RF@our-redeemer.net](mailto:RF@our-redeemer.net) or send to the church office, with "RF" clearly marked.