



Church of Our Redeemer
 6 Meriam Street
 Lexington, MA 02420
 781-862-6408
 www.our-redeemer.net

Redeeming Features

Volume 29

Issue 2

Staff

Rector: Rev. Kate Ekrem
Interim Asst. Rector: Rev. Danielle Tumminio
Music Director: Dr. Bernadette Colley
Administrator/RF Editor: Lisa Bozkurtian
Sexton: Roy McHoul

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Greetings from Rev. Kate Ekrem

Dear friends,

When I was a kid, I always gave something up for Lent. Usually it was a favorite food or, as I got older, something I ate or drank too much of like caffeine. Later on, I embraced the idea of “taking something on” for Lent - maybe helping out with a mission project or more prayer time. That often can be more meaningful than merely not eating chocolate. These days, however, I l’ve cycled back to the idea of giving something up, something that would make more time and room for God.

A friend of mine gave up her iPhone for Lent last year. It’s especially hard to imagine her doing this, as she is one of those people who is always on Facebook and email. The fact that I find it hard to imagine how I’d live without my smart phone for 40 days makes me wonder if I should follow in her footsteps. It was only a few years ago that I didn’t have a cell phone at all -- and the world still seemed to turn, and the school nurse still managed to find me. We used to manage just fine without being constantly connected. The fact that so many people now can communicate wherever they are seems to have brought about a feeling that people *should* communicate wherever they are. As people have the ability to respond more quickly, expectations about how long it should take for someone to return a call or email have gotten shorter and shorter. It may be worth taking a 40 day break from all that, to see if God might offer some wisdom and a different perspective into the silence and space.

On the other hand, I’m also aware of how much I use my phone to pray. Not only do I jot down notes about who to pray for, and am able to carry that list with me wherever I go, there are also many “apps” (phone applications) for prayer. The one I used the most is the “Insight Meditation Timer” which is a timer for meditation or prayer. Other favorites of mine are any of the apps that have the Episcopal Daily Office (Morning and Evening Prayer) from the Book of Common Prayer. Mission St. Clare has one that is available on both Android



Greetings from Kate (cont'd)

and iPhone and in Rite II or Rite I. I usually use my phone's browser to access the website dailyoffice.org, which has Morning, Noonday and Evening Prayer and Compline from both the Book of Common Prayer and the New Zealand Prayer Book. The very popular *Forward Day by Day* booklet (you can pick up a paper copy in the church) is also an app now, although only for iPhone/iPad. And this is not even to get started on the number of Bible apps.

Maybe, then, I'm not quite ready to give up my phone for all of Lent. And my friend who gave up her iPhone ended up spending a lot of extra time on her laptop. But I do think I could use a break from "tech" this Lent. So I plan to have a "tech free Sabbath" on Fridays, and not use my cell phone, computer, radio, or TV for 24 hours each week. Fridays works best for me because it's my day off and Danielle is in the church office to be available for any pastoral needs. (I'll still use the "land line" phone if needed.) Instead of checking my email, Facebook, or Twitter, I'll remind myself to pick up my prayer beads or a paper book for some devotional reading – or just go for a walk or play a board game with my kids. I hope it will help me be more mindful and deliberate about being fully present to God and to others.

What about you? Do you find technology a help or a hindrance in your journey with God and in sharing community with others? Do you want to join me in trying out a "tech free Sabbath" one day a week during Lent? It just may tune our ears to hear God's voice a little better.

Peace and blessings,

Preparing for Easter Begins Ash Wednesday, February 13

Lent is a season for reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, Christians imitate Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days.

There are many individual approaches to renewal and self-reflection, including: fasting, experimenting with a new way to pray, reading the Bible or an inspirational book, taking on a service or mission project, or finding more time for silence and solitude.

It is hoped that all Christians will begin their Lenten observance with participation in one of the Ash Wednesday services. Redeemer will hold Ash Wednesday services with the disposition of ashes at:

- 12:00 p.m. The Ash Wednesday Liturgy & Holy Eucharist II, no music
- 7:30 p.m. The Ash Wednesday Liturgy & Holy Eucharist II, with hymns



Lent, Holy Week & Easter Schedule

Adult Christian Formation ~ Lent Series

Sundays 2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24

10:50-11:50am Bill Fortier will be leading a five-part Lenten Series on suffering

Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion ~ March 24

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I

9:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Maundy Thursday ~ March 28

7:30 pm Holy Eucharist, Foot Washing, and Solemn Stripping of the Altars

9:00 pm start Overnight Vigil Remembering Gethsemane: Come wait with us in prayer and meditation as we remember the agonized night Jesus spent in the garden of Gethsemane before his arrest.

Good Friday ~ March 29

10:00 am Stations of the Cross (appropriate for ages 5+): Join us to symbolically walk Jesus' journey from his trial to his tomb.

7:30 pm Good Friday Liturgy with Solemn Collects and Veneration of the Cross

Holy Saturday ~ March 30

7:30 pm The Great Vigil of Easter, with Holy Eucharist and Baptism

This first service of Easter moves us from the darkness of Lent into the light and new life of Easter.

Easter Sunday ~ March 31 (We celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ!)

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I with hymns

10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II with festival choir and music

No Christian Formation

Easter Egg Hunt following 10 am service. Please bring your own basket.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 12, 5:15-7:00pm

The Youth Group invites all members of the Redeemer community to the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, to be held in the Great Hall between the hours of 5:15 and 7:15. Fundraised money will be used to complete the purchase of kitchen items started by the 2011 - 12 youth members.

The suggested donation is \$5 per person or \$20 per family of 4+. The menu includes pancakes and warm syrup, sausage, fresh fruit, Juice, coffee and milk.

We look forward to serving everyone good food and great community.



Music News

The Atrium Singers will offer selections in services on **February 3rd, March 31st (Easter Sunday), and May 5th**. Children in Atrium II & III are building quite a repertoire of songs (numbering now over 20!) into their Christian formation curriculum. And, this month, on February 3rd - for the first time, they will process, vested, into the sanctuary with the clergy and adult choir during our opening hymn.

On **Sunday afternoon February 10th at 3:00**, our Adult Redeemer choir sings once again, along with 12 other Lexington choirs, in the **8th Annual Lexington Choral Festival** at Hancock Church, Redeemer's choristers will present "If Ye Love Me" by Thomas Tallis, "Veni Jesu" by Luigi Cherubini, and "O Sing Unto the Lord" by Hans Leo Hassler. The combined finale choral selection will be the grand and beautiful *Dona Nobis Pacem* from **J.S. Bach's B minor Mass with organ and brass**.

On **Sunday morning March 3rd** we will welcome the Back Bay Ringers (www.backbayringers.org), - Boston's premiere auditioned touring hand bell ensemble, for a special Lenten service. The Ringers will be featured in prelude, offertory, and postlude, and perhaps a combined bell-choral selection.

Adjunct Singers are always welcome to join the choir for Holy Week and **Easter Sunday (March 31st)** services, when we will once again have guest brass instrumentalists. Please let Bernadette know if you are planning to join us.

A reminder to mark your calendars! The music committee and Redeemer will host a full scale concert by the **Back Bay Ringers, on Saturday evening, June 8th**, in our sanctuary, for Lexington and neighboring communities.

The music and worship committees welcome your input and ideas pertaining to any and all music-related topics.

Choir Rehearsals

Please note the following choir rehearsal dates: Wednesday Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27 7:30-9:00, and on Sunday February 10th **at 3:00 (NOTE EARLIER TIME CHANGE!)**, the Lexington Choral Festival at Hancock Church.

Stewardship

As of January 19, Church of Our Redeemer has collected 98 pledges totaling \$301,690 (FY 2013), in comparison to 94 total pledges collected for FY 2012 (\$290,051). The committee expects additional pledge commitments and predicts total pledges could reach \$305,000. It is worth noting that in an effort to broaden our base of financial support, the committee sought to collect 10 new pledges for FY 2012. At present, it has collected 16. At the same time, 13 of the 94 pledges received FY 2012 were not renewed, and while some of those pledges are yet expected, it would appear that Church of Our Redeemer will need to continue this pace of adding new pledges in order to maintain current levels of financial support. The stewardship committee also set goals of obtaining ten pledge increases to \$3,000-\$4,999 and two pledge increases to \$5,000 or more. Thus far, there have been six pledge increases to \$3,000 or more and zero pledge increases to \$5,000 or more. Overall, 31 pledges were increased (+\$13,000) and 9 decreased (-\$9,500).



Redeeming knitters

Redeeming Knitters are meeting in the Library, Thursday, February 21 at 7:30 p.m. We will be working on hats, scarves, mittens, and prayer shawls.

If you have any questions, please call Susan Burkhardt at 781-899-8644 or Eveleyn Hausslein, 781-861-0378.



Bad Weather

A reminder of our bad weather procedure: You can call the church office at 781-862-6408 for a voice recorded message, check for an email update, or go on our Facebook page to see if services are cancelled. Usually those are updated by 7am. It's our general policy not to cancel worship if the clergy can get here. However, that does not mean you have to be here! On stormy days, all those with official duties are excused. Often we hold worship but cancel choir, Christian Formation, coffee hour, and other non-worship events, and operate without acolytes or Liturgy Team. Please use your own judgment and only come to church if it's safe for you to travel.



Also, WCVB-TV/Channel 5 and their website, WCVB.com, are again ready to handle our closings and delays.

You may also sign up for text message or email alerts at this page: <http://www.wcvb.com/weather/closingsignup>

Mission News

1 Corinthians 12:17-20

If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

What can happen when we all work together?

In 2012 the Mission Committee sought to consider ways to encourage the whole parish community to contribute to and become involved with our mission ministries and priorities. We seek the same in 2013, and offer just one example to demonstrate the diverse ways many of our community members found to give of their time, talent, and treasure to one ministry and hope others will recognize and seek out the many opportunities that exist.

The Grow Clinic is located at the Boston Medical Center and serves families who have a baby or toddler who has been diagnosed with Failure to Thrive (FTT). For the last four years, Redeemer has co-hosted the Clinic's holiday party for families and prioritized providing financial support for their work. As highlighted in previous Redeeming Features, this annual event offers a myriad of opportunities for people to get involved and without the diversity of time, talent, and treasure of our community the party would not have been the great success it was. Below you can find a sampling of the many contributions.



Mission News (cont'd)

Time

- ⇒ More than 15 members of our community traveled to Boston on the day of the party to: help with set up, man the food tables, celebrate with the families, clean up, and more
- ⇒ Members of the youth group took time to shop for presents for the families, from books in a variety of languages to toys to clothes
- ⇒ Much planning went into the meeting with phone calls and meetings to coordinate the events with Clinic staff and our co-hosts from Hanscom
- ⇒ The mitten tree was picked up at the church and delivered to the party, along with all the warm decorations
- ⇒ Car pools were arranged to get adult and youth group members to Boston for the celebration
- ⇒ A fun dance mix was put together to add a little activity to the party at the request of the Clinic

Talent

- ⇒ Members of Redeemer's Knitters created many hats, mittens, and scarves to adorn the mitten tree to be delivered to the families of the Grow Clinic (enough, with some others, to decorate the tree three times over!)
- ⇒ Redeemer musicians performed at the party, including a rousing rendition of *Here Comes Santa Claus* as Santa joined the party
- ⇒ Dozens of cookies were baked by our members with a penchant for the sweet
- ⇒ Kid and parents alike had the chance to dance to YMCA and other great songs with the leadership of some Redeemer dancers

Treasure

- ⇒ Throughout December and at the Creche Services, our community contributed more than \$4100 for the Grow Clinic.
- ⇒ Parishioners purchased hats, mittens, and scarves to the help fill out the mitten tree .



As Dr. Deborah Frank, founder of the Grow Clinic wrote just after the party, “please convey to all the wonderful people who came yesterday how very thankful I am for your and the congregations talent (unbelievably multilingual, knitting, baking, performing), generosity, and hard, hard work and my gratitude to the clergy for making time for this event in one of the professionally most demanding times of their year. I hope the memory of the shining eyes and smiles of the children and parents will brighten your holidays as your kindness has brightened theirs!” While everyone who contributed did not have the chance to see the “shining eyes and smiles,” we know it was not simply the people who attended the party who deserve the thanks, but everyone who knit a hat, bought a book, made a financial donation, baked cookies, or made arrangements so that others in their family could contribute. Thank you!

Last call for El Hogar 2013!

NOW IS THE TIME to reserve your place for the 2013 El Hogar Mission Trip July 12-19!

The two-week trip is filled, but at press time, spaces remain in the full group trip July 12-19.



Adult Christian Formation

The Adult Formation hour will be seeing a number of guest speakers and special Lenten events over the next few weeks.

On **February 3rd**, we will be welcoming Dr. Meghan Henning, who will lead an adult forum on New Testament perceptions of disability. She will begin by talking about two different perspectives on suffering in the Bible. She will then help us think together about how these ancient perceptions of suffering fit with our own cultural notions of disability. Dr. Henning teaches at Boston University and Lesley University and is a graduate of Emory University, Yale University, and Denison University.

On **February 10**, we will welcome Canon Libby Berman, the diocesan Canon for Congregations, to our adult formation hour. Canon Berman is responsible for overseeing the development of congregations that currently are not undergoing any kind of clergy leadership transition. She also helps implement new programs and ministries and aids in their vitality and viability as they strive to grow and flourish. Finally, Canon Berman is responsible for overseeing the health and wellness of clergy. Prior to holding this diocesan position, Canon Berman served in churches in Medfield, Wakefield, Sudbury, and Jamaica Plain. She holds degrees from Harvard University and Episcopal Divinity School.

Beginning **February 24**, Bill Fortier will be leading a Lenten series on suffering. This five-part series will be jam-packed with theological information about how Christians understand the nature and purpose of suffering; it also includes opportunities to apply these ideas to our everyday lives. In addition to his lectures, Danielle and Kate will lead a discussion for participants during the latter half of each session.

Children & Youth Christian Formation

As Lent begins, many of the parish youth—those in second through fifth grade—will be participating in the **Solemn Celebration**. This celebration is similar to first communion. It includes a special Eucharistic Celebration on **Sunday, March 24**, as well as time for each young person to participate in the Rite of Reconciliation with either Kate or Danielle as part of the retreat scheduled for **Saturday, March 23**.

As you may know, in the Episcopal Church, everyone, children included, is welcome to participate in the sacrament of Holy Eucharist beginning at Baptism. While that opportunity makes sense theologically and pastorally, it doesn't address all the practical issues involved in the participation of children. Much is left up to the church and the family and the work we do in Christian Formation following baptism. The Solemn Celebration and the preparation our young people and their parents engage in addresses this.

The preparation for the Solemn Celebration takes place during normal formation hour. Parents of the children participating are invited to attend their children's formation sessions during this time. The sessions are scheduled for **March 3, March 10, and March 17**.

In addition, there will be a retreat for youngsters on **Saturday, March 23** from **9:30-1**. The retreat is a fun day for the children with crafts, singing, reflection, writing prayers and celebrating their unity with God and one another. During the retreat children will prepare for their special participation in the Eucharistic Celebration the next day, Palm Sunday, March 24. Siblings, godparents, and friends are invited to attend the **11am** service on that Saturday that is followed by lunch.



Calendar

February	Date	Event Details
Monday-Thursday	All month	9:00am - Morning Prayer
Saturday	2	9:00am - Liturgy Team Meeting
Sunday	3	8:00am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:50am - Christian Formation for children and youth 10:50am - Adult Christian Formation: Dr. Meghan Henning, New Testament perceptions of disability.
Monday	4	7:30pm - Church Community meeting
Tuesday	5	7:00pm - Property Committee meeting 7:30pm - Stewardship Committee meeting
Sunday	10	8:00am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:50am - Adult Christian Formation: Guest Speaker: Canon Libby Berman, Canon for Congregations 12:00noon - Vestry Retreat
Tuesday	12	5:15pm - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Wednesday	13	Noon and 7:30pm - Ash Wednesday Service
Thursday	14	4:00pm - Wardens meeting
Sunday	17	8:00am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II No Christian Formation for Children, Youth, or Adults due to President's Day weekend
Monday	18	Office Closed - President's Day 7:30pm - Finance Committee meeting
Thursday	21	7:30pm - Redeeming Knitters
Sunday	24	8:00am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:50am - Christian Formation for children and youth 10:50am - Adult Christian Formation: <i>Suffering, Part I</i> , led by Bill Fortier 12:00noon - Executive Committee meeting
Monday	25	1:30pm - Cook for Bristol Lodge 7:30pm - Mission Committee meeting
Wednesday	27	7:30pm - Vestry Meeting

Please send all announcements by email to office@our-redeemer.net or for those without email, call or send to the church office, with "RF" clearly marked.

The **monthly deadline** for the February Redeeming Features submissions is **March 15**.