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Redeeming Features

Volume 30

Issue 2

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Greetings from Rev. Kate Ekrem

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Dear friends,

By now you probably have heard that this year we will have a new Bishop of Massachusetts. Our bishop for the past 19 years, Tom Shaw, will be retiring as of this September. You might be wondering, how do we get a new bishop, and who might that be? I thought I should explain a bit about the process of electing a new bishop that we are now engaged in. I think it's interesting, although complicated, because it shows how our Episcopal church is both very democratic yet still quite hierarchical and traditional.

When Bishop Shaw announced his retirement, two committees were formed. One is the search committee, and the other is the transition committee. The search committee works much like the search committee for a new rector: they receive resumes, listen to sermons on tape, check references, and interview candidates. However, their job is not to select one final candidate but a slate of five candidates. The transitional committee is there to assist with the transition: they welcome the new bishop and his or her family, help them find a house to buy if they are from outside our area, organize the worship service to consecrate the new bishop, arrange for farewell parties for Bishop Shaw, and many other similar tasks. These two committees were chosen with help from all the deaneries of our diocese. Each of our twelve deaneries was asked to nominate two lay people and two clergy to each committee. Here in the Alewife deanery, we had a meeting of all the deanery reps to talk about who we wanted to nominate. Out of this pool of 24 candidates, the Standing Committee (which is the "vestry" of the diocese and is elected by Diocesan Convention) chose 8-10 members for each committee.

In August of 2013, the search committee published the application and received names of nominees and applicants. Candidates could apply themselves, or be nominated by someone else. They had to submit the usual resume and so on, as well as answer to some essay questions.



Greetings from Kate (cont'd)

Through the fall, the search committee interviewed candidates and spoke with their references. In late fall, sixteen candidates went on an overnight retreat at the Barbara Harris Camp with the search committee.

On January 15, the final slate of five candidates was announced. They are: The Rev. Holly Antolini, Rector, St. James's Church, Cambridge, and the Dean of our Alewife Deanery; The Rev. Ronald Culmer, Rector, St. Clare's Church, Pleasanton, Calif.; The Rev. Alan Gates, Rector, St. Paul's Church, Cleveland Heights, Ohio; The Rev. Ledlie Laughlin, Rector, St. Peter's Church, Philadelphia, Penn.; and The Rev. Sam Rodman, Project Manager for Campaign Initiatives, Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. You can learn more about them and read their application essays here: <http://mabishopsearch.org/>

There is also a petition process by which other candidates can be added. It's sort of the equivalent of "nominations from the floor" except that it must be done well ahead of the election so that background checks can be completed in time. That process closes on January 31. To be petitioned in, a candidate has to collect 16 signatures from clergy and lay people of at least five different deaneries in the diocese, as well as submit the full application materials. The names of the petition candidates will be announced on March 1.

Between March 14 and 19, there will be "walkabouts" throughout the diocese. These are open meetings, likely in each deanery, where you and I can go meet the candidates, ask them questions, and learn more about them.

On Saturday, April 4 at the Cathedral, the election of our next bishop will take place. Andrew and I will both be voting as clergy delegates, and two of our four deanery representatives will Redeemers' voting lay delegates. Clergy and lay people vote "by orders" which means their votes are tallied separately. The winning candidate must win a majority of both the clergy and lay orders (i.e. 51% of the clergy vote and 51% of the lay vote). Obviously with five or more candidates, it's unlikely that someone will win 51% of both orders on the first ballot. More commonly there are multiple ballots, with a growing consensus emerging over time. Each ballot can take about an hour to tally, so everyone just stays in the Cathedral until the election is complete. Sometimes candidates with a very small number of votes drop out, narrowing the field for the next ballot. That being said, Tom Shaw was elected on the first ballot so it has been known to happen.

One detail that is often forgotten is that after we elect our new bishop, that person must be approved by a majority of the Standing Committees of all the other dioceses in the Episcopal Church USA. Typically this is fairly pro-forma, but when a bishop is a more controversial choice, it can be more complicated.

On September 18, our new bishop will be consecrated in a service Agganis Arena at Boston University, with the presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, presiding. You are all invited to come! It is being held in this larger venue because we won't all fit in the Cathedral. That day will also mark Bishop Shaw's last day in office. We will be celebrating some farewell events for him throughout April and May – stay tuned for more details.

It's an exciting, and also somewhat anxious, time in the life of our diocese. Please keep Holly, Ron, Alan, Ledlie and Sam in prayer, and also pray for our diocese and our voting delegates. One thing is certain: God has exciting new things in store for our church.

Peace, *Kate*



COMING NEXT MONTH... Watch for the *NEW Redeeming Features!*

In March the Communications Team will be giving your parish newsletter a fresh new look with more content, more parish news and some brand new features.

Thank you very much to Lisa Bozkurtian for her excellent work editing and producing Redeeming Features. James Surprenant will be taking over as editor starting with the March issue. Articles, announcements and photos should be submitted to James at RF@our-redeemer.net by February 15 for consideration for the March issue.

If you would like to work on *Redeeming Features*, we welcome volunteers to help with writing, editing and photography. Please contact James if interested.

Redeeming Knitters

Happy Valentine's Day Redeeming Knitters!

We will meet on Thursday, February 13th at 7:30 pm in the Handley Library. If Lexington schools have a snow closure on the 13th, we will meet on the following Thursday, February 20th.

Redeeming Knitters welcome new recruits. We will be making hats, mittens, scarves and prayer shawls.



Mission Committee

Learn more about our oldest, continuing mission ministry!

For more than 25 years, Redeemer parishioners have been cooking for and serving at Bristol Lodge, a soup kitchen in Waltham serving people who are homeless. Bristol Lodge relies on volunteers to serve between 60 and 100 people every night. Over the last 25 years, the Bristol Lodge ministry has offered a wonderful way for new parishioners to meet others while working for a good cause. It also has been the ministry that has kept some of our self-named “typical church ladies” active for many years.

There are many ways that parishioners have participated in the Bristol Lodge ministry. For many years, we had two regular teams, each cooking for three months a year. Sally Bittenbender and her team loved making Shepherd’s Pie in November, February and May. Marilyn Williamson captained a team of five, many of whom are no longer with us. They cooked October, January and April. Currently Dorothy Swithenbank leads various individuals willing to prepare the summer meals, with fresh tomatoes and basil from the Giving Garden. Dorothy also has developed the Bristol Lodge cookbook with super recipes for delicious meals that will serve 100 people at one time. Shoba Reginald and Kathleen Mirani cooked on Sunday afternoon because they and their team worked on weekdays. Evelyn Hausslein would then heat up the casseroles on Monday, and various volunteers would drive the meal over to Waltham around 4 p.m., to be ready for serving it at 5 p.m. Most recently, a family has volunteered to deliver the food to Bristol Lodge once a month so that the family can be together at Bristol Lodge to serve the guests. In the past, the Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops participated and found the opportunity to be very meaningful.

In addition to the teams that gather to cook in the kitchen, we have individual volunteers who make salad at home and bring it into the church for delivery. Regina Rockefeller and Ellen Cosgrove are regulars! It’s also always a great treat to have people make cookies, brownies, or another dessert at home that we can have to serve with the dinner.

As you can see, there are many ways to be involved in this wonderful ministry. New volunteers are always welcome and we are trying to develop a few teams of people who enjoy the camaraderie of working together for a good cause. And, from the description above you can see we have things an individual can do at home as well. If you are interested in becoming involved with Bristol Lodge, please talk to Evelyn Hausslein, or drop by the kitchen on February 27 in the afternoon to see it all in action. We look forward to continuing this important Redeemer tradition!



Adult Formation News

Our Adult Christian Formation programs inform us about issues and concerns in our lives, our community and the world, AND help us consider how we respond to those issues and concerns as faith-filled Christians.

Adult Christian Formation meets Sundays from 10:50-11:50am, in the Great Hall. We invite ages 13-113 to join us. Bring your coffee and a friend!

February 2, 2014: Parenting in the Pews Part I

The worship life of the Redeemer community is for all people, including our children. Our sons and daughters are essential parts of our liturgy and prayer. For two weeks we will come together to discuss what it means to be a faithful parent. We will share our wisdom about the challenges of teaching our kids how to worship, and how parents can nurture their own worship life. Please join us to think about how we can best support our children in their spiritual exploration, and what we do together as a community of faith. Parishoner Mary Ucci will facilitate this two week mini-series.

February 9: Parenting in the Pews Part II

February 16: NO FORMATION – school vacation week

February 23: Creation Care Team

Members of our newly formed Creation Care Team will join us to share ideas about how we can continue to be good stewards of our space and resources. Please join us to consider new ways for us to care for God's gifts.

In the coming months Adult Formation will feature forums led by members of our parish including a Lenten Series around Aging and Dying, as well as updates from the Realizing Our Vision Team and a forum with Bernadette reporting back on her travels to South Africa and her work with the South African ministries in Massachusetts.

If you have input about Adult Christian Formation topics or themes, please contact a member of the Committee (Ian Fox, Susan Burkhardt, Jed Geyerhahn, Mary Etta King).

Adult Christian Formation Contact Person: The Rev. Andrew Goldhor (Andrew@our-redeemer.net)



Diocesan News

Nominees announced for bishop election

The Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts has announced its slate of nominees for election as Bishop. They are:



*The Rev. Holly Antolini, Rector,
St. James's Church, Cambridge, MA*



*The Rev. Ronald Culmer, Rector
St. Clare's Church, Pleasanton, CA*



*The Rev. Alan Gates, Rector,
St. Paul's Church, Cleveland Heights, OH*



Nominee's (cont'd)



*The Rev. Ledlie Laughlin,
St. Peter's Church, Philadelphia, PA*



*The Rev. Sam Rodman, Project Manager for Campaign Initiatives,
Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts*

More information about each of the nominees is available at www.mabishopsearch.org



Calendar

February		
Sunday	2	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>Parenting in the Pews Part I</i> 12:00 noon - Pastoral Care meeting
Monday	3	5:30pm - Men's Group dinner meeting 7:30pm - Church Community meeting 7:30pm - Property Committee meeting
Tuesday	4	9:00am & 7:00pm - EfM class 7:30pm - Stewardship Committee meeting
Wednesday	5	7:00pm - Communications Committee Web training
Sunday	9	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>Parenting in the Pews Part II</i> 12 noon - Executive Committee meeting 4:00pm - Lexington Choral Festival
Tuesday	11	9:00am & 7:00pm - EfM class
Thursday	13	7:30pm - Creation Care Team meeting 7:30pm - Redeeming Knitter's
Sunday	16	8:00am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II No Children, Youth or Adult Christian Formation
Monday	17	Office closed in observance of President's Day
Tuesday	18	9:00am & 7:00pm - EfM class
Sunday	23	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>Creation Care Team</i> 12:00 noon - Worship Committee meeting
Monday	24	1:30pm - Cook for Bristol Lodge 7:30pm - Mission meeting
Tuesday	25	9:00am & 7:00pm - EfM class
Wednesday	26	7:30pm - Vestry meeting
Thursday	27	4:00pm - Warden meeting

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

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