

Redeeming Features

Volume XXVII, No. 3

www.our-redeemer.net

March

Greetings from the Rev. Kate Ekrem

Newsletter

Interim Editor: Lisa Thistle

Layout & Publishing:

Lisa Thistle

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

Dr. Bernadette Colley

Bernadette@our-redeemer.net

Administrator

Lisa Thistle

Office@our-redeemer.net

Sexton

Roy McHoul

2011 VESTRY

Senior Warden

Connie Parrish 781-863-5825

Junior Warden

George Murnaghan 781-862-6923

Treasurer

Frank Kern 781-861-7102

Clerk

Paula Antonevich 781-674-2795

Vestry Members

Bob Bettacchi 781-861-6485

Emily Charlton 781-862-8084

Susan Emanuel 781-652-8032

Ian Fox 781-861-6776

Anna Kern 781-861-7102

Sandy Keshishian 781-942-1752

Peter Lund 781-861-9511

James Surprenant 781-372-3232

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe we are at the half-way point of the priest-in-charge term. As we move toward the end of "Year 2" the vestry and I have been talking a lot about next steps. We met with Phil Whitbeck, our diocesan coach, to start planning the discernment process which will take place this fall. As you know, there are two parts to that. A committee appointed by the vestry will discern what skills and gifts they think Redeemer's next rector should have, and whether they think I am a good match for what Redeemer's needs are. The second part is that I also have to do some discernment about where God is calling me in my ministry, and whether Redeemer is a good match for me. By December, we'll both have come to some final conclusions and we will all know what's in store for us.

Phil reminded the vestry that some parishes don't chose to call their PIC as Rector, and some PICs don't chose to stay on as rector. This can be a healthy thing if a different kind of rector is needed. We will be talking about the discernment process, and especially how it relates to our strategic plan, at two Adult Forums on Feb 27 and March 6. Phil will be part of the March 6th forum. I hope you can be there.

Being at this half-way point is also a good time to think about how well we've done with the goals of the PIC term. The bishop's office says the following: "The major goal of the Priest's-in-Charge ministry is to prepare the congregation for the next phase of their life together. To this end, the Priest-in-Charge shall:

- help the congregation deal with a sense of loss and any unresolved issues arising from the departure of previous clergy,
- deal with internal conflicts and help heal any divisions within the congregation.
- help the Vestry, lay leaders and staff make such changes as may be needed to align parish life and administration with generally accepted standards in the Diocese."

The exec group and I have been talking a lot about how well we feel we've been doing on these goals. I've had a chance to talk to many people one-on-one about their experiences and I hope that's been helpful. In many ways, it feels like Redeemer is a strong, healthy parish and we've come a long way from the losses and conflicts of two years ago. But probably every person in the parish has a slightly different perspective on that. What is your perspective? Do you feel we're ready to move on, or that there are issues that we should be addressing together? Do you personally still have feelings you'd like help with? As we move into this discernment phase, now is a good time to talk about where we are in our healing process. If you have any thoughts or ideas you'd like to share, or issues you'd like to discuss, please talk to me or our wardens Connie and George. It will be helpful to all of us as we enter into this year of discernment.

Peace and blessings,

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

Adult Christian Formation ~ Lent 2011

We are always seeking to know God in new ways, through our lives and experiences, through people we meet and reflecting on God's presence with us. Come journey with us!

Sundays 3/13, 3/27, 4/3, 4/10 – 10:50-11:50am

Bibles, Bread and Battles: Fighting over the Stuff of Faith

We will examine a range of Christian theological positions on the Bible/Scripture and on Eucharist. Led by Bill Fortier, DMin, a member of the congregation, who is a professor at UMass Medical School and a theologian. This promises to be informative and interesting!

Sundays 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27 – 10:50-11:50am

Preparing for the Rite of Reconciliation through Parables

Has it been awhile since you thought about the Rite of Reconciliation (aka Confession)? Does it fill you with dread and anxiety? Have you been thinking about it but not sure how or what to say? Come join a group of adults looking at the same parables our 2nd and 3rd graders are using as they prepare for Reconciliation. It's a gentle (re-) introduction to Reconciliation. Led by Sabeth.

Tuesdays 3/15, 3/22, 3/29, 4/5, 4/12 – 12noon

Contemplative Eucharist

Join us for a quiet, contemplative celebration of the Eucharist.

Tuesdays 3/15, 3/22, 3/29, 4/5, 4/12 – 7:30-8:30pm

Preparing the Soil

Prayer practices show us ways to go beyond the level of the intellect and enter into the "beingness" of scripture. Led by Kate Ekrem and Paula Pryce-Digby, this interactive and practical series will introduce ancient methods of encountering scripture and developing an attentiveness to God.

Can't commit to a whole series? Don't worry about it – come for one, some, or all, as your life permits. Questions? Contact The Rev. Sabeth Fitzgibbons (sabeth@our-redeemer.net).



Pastoral Care: A Community of Care and Love

Part of what a faith community does is take care of one another when we are sick or in any kind of need. At Redeemer, that often happens very naturally as we visit or call a sick friend, help a family with a new baby, or just send a card to someone. But we also want to make sure that we are reaching out to everyone. And in today's culture of self-sufficiency, sometimes we are tempted to say "I'm just fine, I don't need any help" when really we all need help from time to time.

We have several ways of taking care of one another at Redeemer.

Our pastoral care team visits all of our homebound members approximately monthly. We're very grateful to this team, which includes Mary Nokes, Julia Francis, Evelyn Haussein, and Nancy Williams as well as several newer members, some of whom will be attending the diocesan Eucharistic Visitor training on March 19. With so many new members we are well able to visit all of our elders, so let us know if you think there's someone that needs a visit. We always welcome new members if you'd like to join this group.

Clergy visit the homebound and also make hospital or home visits to any parishioner. But we can't do this if you don't let us know when you are in the hospital or sick! Due to today's health care privacy laws, we can't find out if you are in the hospital unless you tell us directly. There is always a clergy person on call, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Just call the church office and press 8 to find out who and get their cell or home number. It really is OK to call at 3am if you are in the emergency room – we want you to, that's what we are here for.

Our prayer shawl ministry is another way to let people know our thoughts and prayers are with them. Many members of the parish knit, crochet or sew at home (patterns are available at the church office if you'd like to join them). We bless these shawls and bring them to anyone who is sick, hospitalized, or in need of prayers.

Lastly, our experiments with "Take them a Meal.com" have been very successful. Many thanks to all who have signed up to bring meals. If you let the clergy know that you are sick or in the hospital, we will ask you if you'd like us to sign you up for "Take them a meal." If you like to cook, watch the announcements and sign up to bring a meal or two. This is an easy way we can help each other and continue to make our community one of care and love.



Looking for more than warm bodies

Throughout the church, and particularly in Christian Formation sometimes it seems, we are always looking for more people to help lead. Not to be “the leader” but to join in a team effort of leadership, to bring their gifts to the body of leadership. For whatever reason, we have a hard time specifying what gifts we need, or what gifts we have, and so resort to “any warm body to fill the vacancy.” Sometimes related to time constraints, or lack of understanding about what the position entails. And then we forget to tell people how long they have committed themselves for – and it can feel like it’s a commitment that ends the day AFTER they die.

We are trying a new format for identifying and creating the body of leadership we need for our Christian Formation programs for 2011 and 2012. We are hoping to invite people early this spring to join our ministry group, with specific details (i.e. ‘job descriptions’) available up front. We will be inviting people we think have some gifts to offer, even if not all of us can name those gifts specifically, to join us to think about whether Christian Formation ministries can benefit from their gifts for a one or two year commitment.

Christian Formation currently encompasses the range of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Journey to Adulthood, Confirmation preparation, Sunday evening youth group, Adult Christian Formation, and probably some ministries I haven’t included (Parish Retreat? Nursery? Oversight/Advisory Committees for all?). All of these models of Christian Formation (not programs because they are all about our journey together, not a set of learning goals) depend on teams of leaders in one and two year commitments.

This coming fall we will have a full turnover in leadership (except perhaps some youth group leaders) – and we are wanting to be intentional as we invite new leaders this spring for fall commitments. The early conversation allows new leaders to get to know one another in advance, to spend time learning about the formation model they will be using, and to have fall planned in advance (maybe even before they get involved in summer!).

If you would like to think more about what gifts you have to offer, check out http://www.umc.org/site/c.lwL4KnN1LtH/b.1355371/k.9501/Spiritual_Gifts.htm. Contact Sabeth (sabeth@our-redeemer.net) if you would like to be invited to think about how your gifts might intersect with Christian Formation ministries – adults of all ages are welcome!



ECOLOGY AND SPIRITUALITY RETREAT
For people concerned about healing the Earth
& our relationship with it

Saturday March 19

9 AM-2 PM

Sacred Heart Parish Center

21 Follen Rd., Lexington MA 02421

Led by Yvonne Prowse, Spiritual Director & Environmentalist

Cost of \$25 includes simple lunch

This retreat is rooted in developing a deeper relationship with Creation as a part of our relationship with God. We will consider the rich Christian tradition that tells us that everything in Creation is an expression of and reflection of the Creator. We reflect in gratitude upon Creation and pray with the natural world, listening to what it can teach us. We address healing the Earth in practical terms – approaching all of this through hope.

Yvonne Prowse is a spiritual director and environmentalist with an M.A. from Fordham University in spirituality & spiritual direction. She is adjunct staff at St. Ignatius Retreat House in Manhasset, NY.

Sponsored by **Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light**. Fee is \$25 in advance; \$30 at door. Register by March 12, 2011 by logging on to www.MIPandL.org; or mail checks payable to MIP&L to: RETREAT, MIP&L, 197 Herrick Rd., #22, Newton Centre, MA 02459. For more information email vince@MIPandL.org or call 617-244-0755.



A Recipe from The Giving Garden

This is the time of the year where years ago people went into their root cellars, carefully deciding on how much to use until harvest time again. As a young girl, I used to accompany my aunt as she made her way from her cottage on the J.P. Morgan estate in Long Island to the root cellar. My uncle was head gardener on the estate and many weekends our family stayed with them. The root cellar was a fascinating place for me; a stairway that led into the earth and down into darkness and cold. There in the cellar my aunt would collect vegetables for our dinner or soup for the next day.

From our own Giving Garden, last summer we grew two root vegetables, potatoes and carrots. The children of Redeemer helped us plant all the vegetables and tended the Garden throughout the summer along with their parents. The children at the Lexington Playcare center helped us harvest the potatoes and carrots. All the vegetables went to either the Food Pantry or to Bristol Lodge in Waltham.



The Children of Redeemer help plant the Giving Garden, May, 2010



Watering the Potatoes, August, 2010





The Potatoes and Carrots are harvested

And so, as we think about our own winter season, here is a recipe which uses the root vegetables of our Garden.

Carrot and Potato Soup (Serves 8)

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 onions, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 5 cups chicken broth
- 3 cups diced carrots
- 3 cups diced potatoes
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 1 bay leaf
- salt and pepper

Saute onions and garlic in butter until tender. Add chicken broth, carrots, potatoes, Italian seasoning and bay leaf. Simmer, uncovered, until vegetables are tender, about 20-25 Minutes. Discard bay leaf and puree soup.

Katharine Mockett
Redeemer Giving Garden, head shepherdess



Lenten Practices ~ Lent 2011

The Ash Wednesday liturgy invites us to “the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and a meditating on God’s holy Word” (Book of Common Prayer, 265). Here are some possible resources for keeping a holy Lent.

Online Resources

www.livingthegoodnews.com – offers rich resources in the form of 1-2 page PDF files filled with interesting history, liturgy information, and practical ideas for individuals and families. Titles include: “Keeping Lent in Your Household,” “Lent and Ash Wednesday,” and “Lenten Disciplines.”

From the home page, click on “Spring 2011” and then “Episcopal”

“Unapologetically Episcopalian” blog – http://ronpogue.typepad.com/unapologetically_episcopa/ - offers Morning and Evening Prayer to read daily, with an audio or video file of an anthem to finish the Office.

Podcasts

<http://www.pray-as-you-go.org/> - 10-13 minutes of daily prayer for your MP3 or WMA player. Site includes downloadable breathing exercise and body exercise to help you relax and focus.

Daily Email Reflections

Sign up at these websites (among others) to receive short daily devotionals
<http://www.er-d.org/Lent>

<http://blog.sojo.net/category/verse-and-voice/>



Lenten Practices ~ Lent 2011 (cont'd)

Reading

Lenten Meditations 2011 from Episcopal Relief and Development – available to download from <http://www.er-d.org/Lent> - same reflections as the daily email

Forgiven and Forgiving by L. William Countryman (Morehouse, 1998) – Forgiveness is not a step-by-step process, but one of conversion and seeing God's way. Once you discover the depth of God's love and the knowledge that you are forgiven, you can see the world anew. And only when you accept God's forgiveness can you offer it to others.

A Season for the Spirit: Readings for the Days of Lent by Martin L. Smith (Church Publishing, 2004) – A 40-day pilgrimage of self-discovery, with themes of compassion, self-knowledge, wholeness, and reconciliation of the conflicting forces within us.

The Spirituality of Imperfection by Ernest Kurtz and Katherine Ketcham (Bantam, 1992) – “I am not perfect” is a simple statement of profound truth, the first step toward understanding the human condition – for to deny your essential imperfection is to deny your own humanity. More than 100 stories explore the inevitability of failure so we can move toward wholeness.

Practices

Carbon Fast - <http://www.macucc.org/pages/detail/2410> - **join us as we commit to fasting from carbon during Lent.** Beginning Ash Wednesday and throughout Lent, participants will receive a daily email with the day's suggested carbon-reducing activity. When possible, this will include a quantitative measure of the carbon reduction resulting from the activity.

Remember, Lent is NOT about doing it all – it IS about doing something that helps you create quiet time and space for God to be with you.



Daylight Savings time begins on March 13th! Spring Ahead!

A reminder that on Saturday night, you should turn your clocks one hour ahead so you aren't late for church.



Daffodil Fundraiser Pick-up Date

For those who ordered Daffodil's in support of the American Cancer Society, pick-up will be in the Handley Library at Redeemer on Tuesday, March 15th from 3:30 –7:30 p.m. If this time is not possible for you, please contact Ginny Neumann at 781-862-3655 or

Lost and Found

Have you lost something at church? Check the lost & found box in the church office. Contents include sweatshirts, mittens/gloves, eyeglasses, plus a few odds & ends. **Please call (781-862-6408) or stop by the office by the end of March.** All items will be donated or discarded in April.



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday ~ April 17th

8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite I

9:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Maundy Thursday ~ April 21st

7:30 P.M. Holy Eucharist, Foot Washing, & Stripping of the Altars

9:30 P.M. - 12:00 P.M. 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 ~ April 22nd

10:00 A.M. Stations of the Cross (appropriate for ages 5+) (The Stations of the Cross depict Jesus' journey from his trial to his tomb.)

7:30 P.M. Good Friday Liturgy with Solemn Collects & Veneration of the Cross (With Holy Eucharist from the reserved sacrament.)

Holy Saturday ~ April 23rd

7:30 P.M. The Great Vigil of Easter, with Holy Eucharist and Baptism
This dramatic service ends the season of Lent and begins the joy of Easter.

Easter Sunday ~ April 24th (We celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ!)

8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite I

9:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

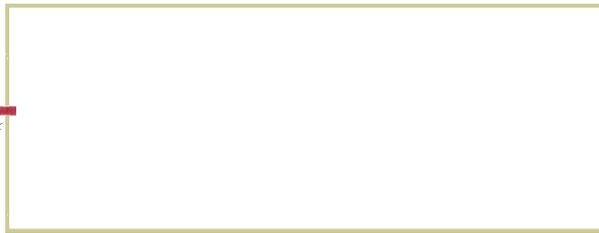
Easter Egg Hunt to follow 9:30 A.M. service (* Please bring your own Easter Basket! *)

** (No Christian Formation Today)



CHCHOF OUR REDEEMER

6 Meriam Street
 Lexington, MA 02420
 Phone: 781 862-6408
 office@our-redeemer.net

**Calendar**

| March | Date | Event Details |
|---------------|------|---|
| Tuesday | 1 | 7:30 pm Stewardship meeting |
| Saturday | 5 | 9 am Liturgy Team meeting 9 am Catechists Retreat |
| Sunday | 6 | 8:00 & 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Acolyte Training Adult Formation Topic: Strategic Plan & PIC Discernment Process Part II 12 noon Worship Committee meeting |
| Monday | 7 | 7:30 pm Property Committee meeting 7:30 pm Executive Committee meeting |
| Tuesday | 8 | 5:30 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper |
| Wednesday | 9 | 12 Noon Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service |
| Sunday | 13 | 8:00 & 9:30 am Worship Adult Formation: Lent Series 4:00 pm Family Circle 5:30 Family Circle Potluck |
| Tuesday | 15 | 12 noon Holy Eucharist 3:30 pm Daffodil Pick-Up Day, Library Newsletter deadline! 7:30 pm Lenten Class |
| Wednesday | 16 | 7:00 pm Deanery Program on Anglican Covenant at All Saint's, Belmont 7:30 pm Vestry meeting |
| Thursday | 17 | St. Patrick's Day |
| Sunday | 20 | 8:00 & 9:30 am Worship Parish Breakfast No Adult Formation 7:30 pm El Hogar meeting |
| Monday | 21 | 7:30 pm Finance Committee meeting |
| Tuesday | 22 | 12 noon Holy Eucharist 7:30 pm Lenten class |
| Wednesday | 23 | 4 pm Wardens meeting 7:00 pm Deanery Assembly |
| Sunday | 27 | 8:00 & 9:30 am Worship Adult Formation Topic: Lent Series 12:00 noon Wardens meeting |
| Monday | 28 | 1:30 pm Cook for Bristol Lodge 7:30 pm Mission Committee |
| Tuesday | 29 | 12 noon Holy Eucharist 7:30 pm Lenten class |

