



Church of Our Redeemer
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March 2012

Redeeming Features

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Issue 3

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Greetings from Rev. Kate Ekrem

Dear friends,

When I'm sick, I go to the doctor. I expect my medical professionals to have some wisdom about how to make me feel better. It doesn't always occur to me to pray for healing. Yet, so many times when I've visited people in the hospital or nursing home, or visited them after an illness, they'll tell me "it was the power of prayer, I know all my friends praying for me is what made the difference." Their practical experience is that prayer made them feel better or helped with their healing. In addition, many doctors, nurses, therapists, and other healers I know who are spiritual people very much see their work as a ministry, and themselves as participating in and being agents of God's healing.

Praying for healing from physical illness, especially the practice of laying on of hands, is an ancient part of Christian tradition, reaching back to Biblical times. In today's times, we may be a bit skeptical about it. We know prayer is not magic, we can't wave our hands and get our wish. We also know that God doesn't choose some people to be healed and others to be sick – God's healing is for everyone, and yet not everyone is healed in the ways we hope for. So praying for healing may not always make sense to us.



Greetings from Kate (cont'd)

And yet, we should not stop praying for healing, for ourselves and others. The Christian practice of healing says something important: that we are integrated people, body and soul. We can't really separate out our physical health, spiritual health, and mental health, we are all one person. And God cares about our bodies as well as our souls. When I hear people talk about the power of prayer in their own healing, this is the truth that seems to shine most out of them: that they know God cares about how they feel physically. God loves our whole being, not just the "spiritual" part of us. Healing may not always come in the ways we expect, but from a religious perspective the issue is not so much cure but wholeness, the wholeness that God passionately desires for us, body, mind, and spirit.

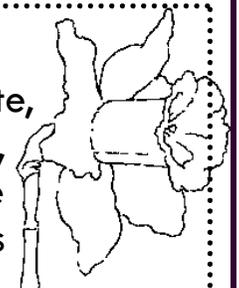
As we seek to be closer to God in Lent, getting ready for Easter by mending and nurturing our relationship with God, it's a particularly good time to seek God's healing, to let ourselves be mended and nurtured by God. Our Special Service Sunday in March will be a healing service, and all are invited to come forward and receive the laying on of hands for healing. Whether you feel in need of physical healing, emotional healing, or just relief from stress or anxiety, God's healing is for you. We don't always know or understand the ways that healing works in us, but countless Christians can witness to the healing power of God's love.

Peace,



Easter Flowers for the Altar

Don't forget to order your Easter flowers for the altar! Celebrate, remember, and give thanks for the important people in your life, and help decorate the sanctuary on Easter morning! Purple flower forms are available at both entrances of the church. Forms are due to the office by **Wednesday, March 28.**



Lent, Holy Week & Easter Schedule

Adult Christian Formation ~ Lent Series

Sundays 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25

10:50-11:50am (*Unpacking the 39 Articles*)

Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion ~ April 1

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I

9:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II

****No Christian Formation**

Maundy Thursday ~ April 5

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

9:00pm - 9:00am Overnight Vigil

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 6

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

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

Holy Saturday ~ April 7

7:30 pm 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 8 (We celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ!)

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Easter Egg Hunt to follow 10:00 am service (* Please bring your own Easter Basket! *)



Baptisms to be celebrated on April 7

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, or are an adult interested in baptism, please contact the clergy to begin to make arrangements for the April 7 baptisms. Just as a reminder, in the Episcopal Church we do not celebrate baptisms during Lent, which this year is February 22 through April 6. The next date for baptisms will be Pentecost, May 27.



Winter Storm Reminder



A reminder to let everyone know of our bad weather procedures. You can call the church office at 781-862-6408 or check for an email update to see if services are cancelled. Usually those are updated by 7am. You can also check the closings on WCVB/Channel 5.

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.



Easter Egg Hunt

We are seeking plastic eggs, stickers, tattoos, individually wrapped candies, and other items suitable for toddlers for an Easter egg hunt. We would like them by **March 30**. Also, if any one has a rabbit outfit we would be very interested? Contact Elizabeth or Julia Coons or Ashley Rooney at earooney@rcn.com. Donations can be left in the basket outside Sabeth's office.



Help Fold Bulletins for Holy Week and Easter!

We have lots of wonderful services planned. This means, lots of bulletins, and only one pair of hands to do all the folding! We will fold Wednesday, March 28. Any time you can spare is greatly appreciated! (I am in the office from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm). Please contact the church office to volunteer, office@our-redeemer.net or 781-862-6408.

Redeeming Knitters



"Redeeming Knitters will meet on Thursday, **March 15** at 7:30 pm in the Library. Bring yarn, needles and ideas! Or, just bring yourself for getting started information. Any questions, please call Evelyn Hausslein, 781-861-0378 or Susan Burkhardt, 781-899-8644. In case of snow cancellation, we will meet on March 22, same time, same place.

Daylight Savings time begins on March 11th! Spring Forward!

A reminder that on Saturday night, March 10, you should turn your clocks one hour ahead so you aren't late for church.



NOTHING GOES WITHOUT SAYING

How often do we think to ourselves things like, “She knows I love her – it goes without saying” or “He knows how much I appreciate all his hard work – it goes without saying”? The truth is, words can be a powerful affirmation, and the absence of the right words can leave a void that really hurts. The truth is, very little goes without saying, and the important things should NEVER go without saying. There are things we know, but sometimes we need to hear them loud and clear.

During the 9:30 am service on Sunday, March 25, we will celebrate an important rite of passage with some of our 7th Graders. Their Christian formation class is named Rite-13 after the special liturgy we will celebrate with them on this day. In some respects, this is a new way of saying to our young people things we have meant to convey all along – things like: “We stand with you as you make your way on the journey; we’re here if you need us; we think you are terrific; we love you.”

We often assume that our teens feel appreciated and accepted as a vital part of our parish, but adolescence can be such a time of uncertainty that some things just can’t be said often enough.

One of the unique aspects of the *Journey to Adulthood* program is that it seeks to provide rites of passage that are often lacking in our culture. We help define points along the path to adulthood that tell our young people they are making progress; they are growing; they are becoming adults.

Rite-13 is the liturgical cornerstone that lays the foundation for the entire congregation of Church of Our Redeemer to rise up and in one mighty voice tell our young people, "You matter to us. Your lives are of inestimable value. The journey you are now embarking on is significant." It is a way that we fulfill our baptismal covenant of "seeking and serving Christ in all persons."

The Rite-13 Liturgy is a rite of passage that recognizes the gift that God bestows upon each one of us: the gift of manhood or womanhood. This is a free gift that we cannot earn and need not prove. This gift is the essence of who we are. The same energy that pushes us through adolescence gives us the



NOTHING GOES WITHOUT SAYING (cont'd)

power to change the world. As these young people grow and mature, their knowledge and skills will increase, but the core of who they are remains the same.

Here is a priceless opportunity for us to affirm all that is good in the young people who live and grow around us and to recognize them as young men and women in our midst. Don't miss this incredible chance to say out loud in a very powerful way what we have meant to say to them all along. Remember, **NOTHING GOES WITHOUT SAYING!!**

Please keep all young people, and especially those preparing for the Rite-13 Ceremony (Allison Antonevich, Peter Ekrem, and Zachary Stevens), in your prayers in the coming weeks.

Claiming Their Faith: Confirmation Prep has begun!

In a favorite Old Testament story (Genesis 15:1-20), God promises Abraham and Sarah that their descendants will be as numerous as the stars. Did you ever lie outside in the night grass and look up at the vast sky? So many stars! How could someone have that many descendants? Abraham and Sarah didn't even have one child when God made that promise! And they were already old. God promised the unbelievable. But Abraham and Sarah believed. They left the safety and comfort of the bustling city of Ur and all their relatives for the wilderness on that promise.

Growing toward adulthood is something like the journey of Abraham and Sarah.

Children leave the familiar and enter a foreign land. Like Abraham and Sarah, they don't leave alone. They leave with the promise of God's love, a promise made to us while in our mother's wombs, a promise by the God of Sarah and Abraham. At a Confirmation service on April 28, nine young people from Redeemer will have the opportunity to claim their faith and their place in the community of God's people, one of the stars of Abraham. They are: Elizabeth Coons, Adam Dufault, Eliza Koso, Peter Kukolich, Renee LeBlanc, Julia McLaughlin, Leah Mirani, Sarah Neumann, Monisha Reginald.

In the weeks to come, this group will be exploring the Anglican tradition of worship, Anglican history, the Bible, theology, spirituality, and ministry. Sabeth



Claiming Their Faith: Confirmation Prep has begun! (cont'd)

Fitzgibbons and Nancy Grayson will be their guides, adding provisions for the journey. In addition, each confirmand will be inviting an adult mentor from the congregation to journey with them as they prepare for Confirmation. Some of the provisions will be steps to read the Bible, ways to pray, and all about Sundays. Let us make room in our daily prayers for the confirmands that they continue to be strengthened for the journey, that they have time to gaze at the stars and be filled with God's infinite love.

Adult Christian Formation aka Adult Forum

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 or the Meeting Room on the lower level. We invite ages 13-113 to join us. Bring your coffee and a friend!

Upcoming Christian Formation Sessions

Our Lent Series, *Unpacking the 39 Articles of Religion*, continues through the end of March. We are delighted to have Bill Fortier again leading our Lenten series. He is helping unpack the history and theology of the 39 Articles, and talk about what they mean to us today. Wondering what the 39 Articles are? Check out page 867 in the *Book of Common Prayer*. Join us for one, some, or all of these fascinating sessions.

Committee Members needed

If you are interested in joining the Adult Christian Formation Committee to plan, sometimes create, and implement Adult Christian Formation programs here at Redeemer, please contact Sabeth. The current committee includes: James Surprenant, Melissa Morgan, Ian Fox, Susan Burkhardt, Sabeth Fitzgibbons.

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



Christian Formation – Children and Youth

Christian Formation for ages 3 through 12th grade is held on Sundays from 10:50-11:50am. Nursery care is available for infants and toddlers (through age 4) from 8:30am-12noon so that parents can attend worship, Adult Christian Formation and fellowship time.

Sunday Evening Youth Group meets in the Great Hall from 5:30-7:15pm. Youth in grades 8-12 are invited to join us for fellowship as we prepare and eat dinner together.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

**** We have Sunday School/Atrium every Sunday unless otherwise noted! ****

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| March 25 | Rite-13 Ceremony during the 9:30am service |
| April 1 | Palm Sunday – No Sunday AM Christian Formation <i>All ages activity during Coffee Hour: Making Easter Gardens</i> |
| April 5 | Maundy Thursday Eucharist with Foot Washing, 7:30pm |
| April 6 | Good Friday – All ages Stations of the Cross, 10:00am Solemn Collects and Veneration of the Cross, 7:30pm |
| April 7 | Great Vigil of Easter with Fire, Baptism, Eucharist, 7:30pm |
| April 8 | Easter Eucharist, 8:00am and 10:00am Easter Egg Hunt follows 10:00am service No AM or PM Christian Formation |
| April 15 | No AM or PM Christian Formation – School Break |

Permission Slips are on the Website

Need a permission slip for your youth to attend an off-site event? Check the Youth Ministry page of our website (www.our-redeemer.net/youth.html) for a PDF form to print and fill out.

Questions?

Age 3-5th grade – Evelyn Hausslein (ehausslein@rcn.com / 781-861-0378)
6th – 12th grade – the Rev. Sabeth Fitzgibbons (sabeth@our-redeemer.net)
Youth Group – Cathy Burns (hcburns@verizon.net / 978-663-5022)



Mission

“God’s call is for everyone. You are God’s hands and feet, God’s heart and voice in the world.”

From: <http://diomass.org/content/our-mission>

During Lent, the Redeemer community focuses our efforts on hunger, and supporting those organizations that serve our neighbors suffering from hunger. In addition, as always, through this support we hope to offer opportunities for individuals not only to serve others, but also to develop and deepen connections and friendships with fellow parishioners. The following announcements share important information about upcoming opportunities.

Everything but the Baby bags are here!

Throughout the year, we have programs to help The Grow Clinic for children serve its families. This time of year, we have the ***Everything but the Baby*** drive for the Grow Clinic Emergency Cupboard. Late winter is a tough time for 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. **Through Sunday, March 25**, there will be grocery bags with lists of greatly needed items (also copied below) for the Emergency Cupboard at the entrances to the sanctuary. Please, take a bag, fill it and return it by April 1, 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.

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.



Mission (cont'd)

Wish List

**Thermos, straw bottles, 12 oz, Foogo- Target
16 and 32 oz calibrated plastic bottles with cap
Baby Bottles with nipples- Advent, Dr. Brown



Sippy cups- non spill - all ages

Cups with straws attached

Spoons for babies

Spoons and forks for toddlers



**Toddler plates, suctioned

**Blenders

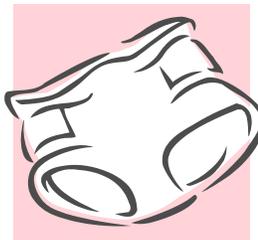
Gerber graduate meals

**Stage 3 and 4 Gerber, beechnut foods

Flintstones complete chewable vitamins with iron and zinc

**Poly-vi-sol with iron- liquid

**Diapers, all sizes



Pull Ups- all sizes

**Wipes

Cereal bars, no nuts

Cook books for kids

Spanish books for babies and toddlers

Board books, picture books (food related would be great!)

** Would really like to have these items

Another way to support The Grow Clinic, stand and be counted!

Justin Pasquariello, Executive Director Children's HealthWatch - <http://www.childrenshealthwatch.org/>, presented from his organization's work in Adult Ed on February 5. Children's HealthWatch is the research arm of the

Grow Clinic in Boston and a number of other Grow Clinics around the U.S. Justin has asked us to help his organization deliver their medical data about failure to thrive and the adequacy and effectiveness (or lack thereof) of programs like SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – formerly food stamps) and WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for



Mission (cont'd)

Women, Infants, and Children) to our political leaders. There is a lot of interest in our parish in advocacy for the poor. **On March 12 at 1 p.m., there will be a Witness to Hunger event at the State House in which a number of organizations in Massachusetts that serve the poor will be represented.** Parents of children served by The Grow Clinic will be testifying. Justin asked Redeemer to be there to support them and to speak to state legislators. If you would like to participate, please contact Chris Needham at 617-835-4396.

Now it is even easier to cook for Bristol Lodge!

For over 30 years, members of Redeemer have faithfully cooked and served meals each month at the Bristol Lodge soup kitchen in Waltham, a program of the Middlesex Human Service Agency, Inc. The cooking team is now offering more ways for volunteers to contribute to this important ministry.

Join the Sunday Cooking Team! In addition to the Monday and summer cooking teams, on the fourth Sunday of January, March, and October (more months available!) a fun and interesting group will join at 2 p.m. in the church kitchen to cook for Bristol Lodge. Learn new recipes, enjoy time with friends, make new friends, and celebrate the opportunity to serve others in need.

If you aren't available on Sunday afternoon, contribute a salad or dessert to accompany the cooked meal. These can be dropped off at the church before 4 p.m. on the 4th Sunday or Monday of each month.

If you are interested in joining the Sunday Cooking Team or are able to contribute other items to accompany the cooked meal, please contact Shoba Reginald at sreginald@belmont.k12.ma.us.

The Patriots' Day Pancake Breakfast

Mark your calendar! A great event, serving a great cause, and the chance to build fellowship within the church awaits.



Mission (cont'd)

Redeemer looks forward to the Annual Patriots' Day Pancake Breakfast to benefit the Lexington Interfaith Food Pantry on **April 16, 2012**. We are looking for volunteers to work this event – from flipping pancakes to crowd control to set-up and clean-up – all opportunities available! Keep an eye out around the church for sign-up sheets requesting volunteers for specific tasks. This is an open invitation to all in the Redeemer community. Don't miss this great opportunity for service and fellowship!

If you have any questions, please call or email one of the organizers: Charlie Coons, 781.861.7067, coonsfamily224@yahoo.com; Hao Doan, 808.554.7940 marcia.hao@yahoo.com; Sam Stevens, 781.271.9029, yosemite-sam@version.net

A great way to help right now!

The Food Pantry's "Item of the Month" for March is **16 oz baked beans, including vegetarian**. They ask for specific sizes so each family gets an equal share. Please drop off your donations in the baskets at church entrances. To learn more; visit: www.lexingtonfoodpantry.wordpress.com.

Supporting the work of our Redeemer community

The mission committee joyfully acknowledges the support of our community from near and far. The timing is providential, just as we were hoping to expand our mission work and service to include Ted's ministry, as well as to help with rising costs in other core ministries, gifts were contributed that covered the costs almost precisely.

We received memorial gifts honoring Viola Semonian and Penny Grodin. Both women were active with mission while members at Redeemer. In addition, we appreciate the generous gift from our own J2A group.

Thank you to all for your ongoing contributions of time, treasure, and talent!



MUSIC

Thank you to Murray Daniels and Mary Etta King for filling in for Bernadette conducting rehearsals and playing services for Ash Wednesday, February 26, and March 4 while she is in Capetown, South Africa.

In Lent we return to the singing of psalms, a practice we re-introduced to worship in Advent. This month, I'd like to share with you some liturgical history on psalm singing:

The psalms are the hymns of ancient Israel. In them, every mood and emotion of the human heart is given voice, from the heights and ecstasy of praise to the depths and darkness of despair. While the texts of Israel's hymns have survived, sadly, the music has not. We can only imagine the rugged marching tune that must have carried a wilderness psalm like Psalm 107 or the delicate, homespun melody to which Psalm 131 must surely have been hummed or the protest song to which Psalm 137 was defiantly sung. Certainly, they must have been tunes that were much loved by the people, and certainly they must have been known by heart.

The early Christian church, springing as it did from Jewish soil, naturally continued the tradition of offering its life to God in song through the prayer and praise of the psalms (which, being hymns, were meant to be sung). Thanks to the eventual development of a convention like standard musical notation, we retain some vestiges of this ancient tradition and its evolution. Plainsong melodies, some which may be traceable to ancient Jewish origins, have conveyed to us (with Latin texts) a priceless body of Judeo-Christian song. Subsequently, at the Reformation the concern that the sacred texts of the Church be available to ordinary people in the vernacular resulted in two significant developments: Latin chant texts were translated into English, and the melodies adapted to fit; and the metrical versions of the psalms (precursors of the modern hymn) gained broad popularity. A further refinement of the chant resulted in the 18th-century development of what is now known as Anglican chant, facilitating the singing of non-metrical translations of the psalms.

(A Hymn Tune Psalter, Book II, by Carl P. Daw, Jr. and Kevin R. Hackett, SSJE, Church Publishing, 2008, p. v)

Choir anthems for Lent include works by Palestrina, Stroepe, and Mollicone, and for Palm Sunday the traditional spiritual "Ride on, King Jesus" and Vaughan Williams "He that is down need fear no fall." Looking ahead to Easter, we are pleased to have engaged again trumpeters Jason Stein and Etyan Wurman and soprano Lisa Correnti for Easter Sunday, April 8. The Easter service will feature works by Handel, including the soprano aria "Let the Bright Seraphim," as prelude, and the "Hallelujah" chorus from Handel's

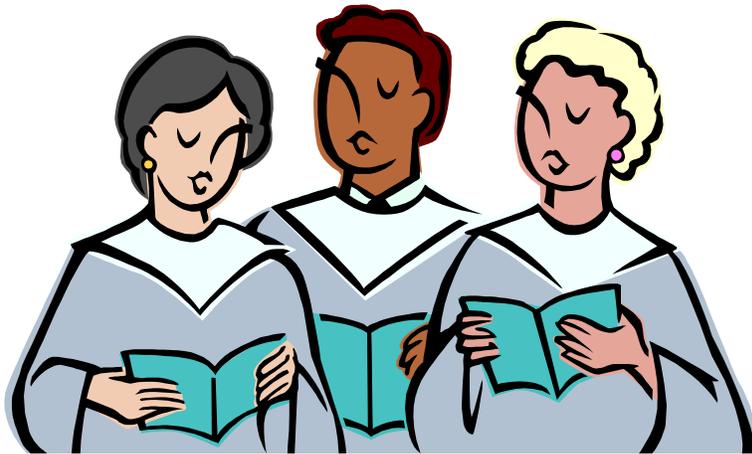


MUSIC (cont'd)

Messiah as participatory postlude. Our Atrium singers will contribute a setting of Psalm 47 "Clap Your Hands" by Owens and Larsen, and our adult choir will sing a pair of anthems by Carl Hirsch and Katherine Davis.

SINGERS!! - it's not too early to consider joining the choir for Holy Week and/or Easter Sunday. We welcome you all. Let Bernadette or a choir member know if you are interested. Packets of music should be ready in early March.

Bernadette D. Colley



Calendar

| March | Date | Event Details |
|-----------------|---------------|--|
| Thursday | 1 | 4:00pm - Warden's meeting |
| Sunday | 4 | 8:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite I 8:30 - 9:15am - Choir Rehearsal 9:30am - Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:45am - Christian Formation for children and youth 10:50am - Adult Christian Formation: <i>Unpacking 39 Articles</i> 4:00pm - Family Circle |
| Monday | 5 | 7:30pm - Property Committee meeting |
| Tuesday | 6 | 7:30pm - Stewardship Committee meeting |
| Wednesday's | 7, 14, 21, 28 | 7:30pm - Adult Choir Rehearsal |
| Thursday | 8 | 7:00pm - Alewife Deanery meeting |
| Saturday | 10 | 6:00pm - Christian Formation Pow Wow |
| Sunday | 11 | 8:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite I 8:30 - 9:15am - Choir Rehearsal 9:30am - Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:45am - Christian Formation for children and youth 10:50am - Adult Christian Formation: <i>Unpacking 39 Articles</i> 7:30 pm - Mission meeting |
| Monday | 12 | 1:00pm - Mission Advocacy at State House |
| Thursday | 15 | 7:30pm - Redeeming Knitters (snow date: March 22) |
| Sunday | 18 | 8:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite I 8:30 - 9:15am - Choir Rehearsal 9:30am - Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:45am - Christian Formation for children and youth 10:50am - Adult Christian Formation: <i>Unpacking 39 Articles</i> 7:30 pm - El Hogar Meeting |
| Monday | 19 | 7:30pm - Finance Committee meeting |
| Wednesday | 21 | 7:30pm - Vestry meeting |
| Thursday | 22 | 4:00pm - Warden's meeting |
| Saturday | 24 | 7:00pm - Rite 13 Ceremony Rehearsal |
| Sunday | 25 | 8:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite I 8:30 - 9:15am - Choir Rehearsal 9:30am - Holy Eucharist Rite II w/ Rite 13 Ceremony 10:45am - Christian Formation for children and youth 10:50am - Adult Christian Formation: <i>Unpacking the 39 Articles</i> 12:00noon - Worship Committee meeting 7:30 pm - El Hogar meeting |
| Monday | 26 | 1:30pm - Cook for Bristol Lodge 7:30pm - Mission Committee meeting |
| Saturday | 31 | 9:00am - Liturgy Team 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 all Redeeming Features submissions is the **15th of the Month**.