

Redeeming Features

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April 2010

Greetings from the Rev. Kate Ekrem

Newsletter

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Dear Friends,

Sometimes we spend so much time thinking about how to observe Lent, that once we get to Easter, we tend to breathe a sigh of relief. Now we can eat chocolate again, or sleep in instead of getting up early to pray. Or perhaps we decide to continue our Lenten practice of prayer or reading or giving to those in need because we found it fulfilling and we want to continue.

But in either case, our focus on observing Lent can mean we forget to observe *Easter*. And Lent, after all, is only about getting ready for Easter, getting ready for this season of new life and celebration of God's work for us and in us and through us. So I thought I'd offer some ideas on observing Easter and making, it, too, a special season of the year. (And maybe it's also worth remembering that Easter is not one Sunday, but a season of 50 days – longer than Lent!)

Lent is about engaging in self-examination, to enter our empty places and find in them re-connection with God. But Easter inspires us to get on with the work of being God's people in the world and offers us the joyful reality of a fresh new beginning. Everything we do in Easter should be done with joy.

Easter is a season of new life. If you have been giving up things for Lent, getting something new for Easter is one way to mark the season. Some have a tradition of wearing something new – even if it's as simple as new socks or a new hair ribbon – on Easter Sunday, especially if it's white, the color that symbolizes our new life in baptism.

Since we are also celebrating our baptism, it's often fun to do something related to water on Easter afternoon or the days following. What about a visit to a lake or river, feeding the ducks on a pond, or a walk beside a brook? Or a visit to Drumlin Farm or another of our area farms to see the new lambs can be a fun trip for households with children, especially as the Fourth Sunday of Easter is always Good Shepherd Sunday (April 25th this year), when we remember that Jesus is our Good Shepherd and the Lamb of God.

If you have been having quiet time for prayer during Lent, what about making a point of showing hospitality to others in Easter – calling an old friend, making a date for coffee, or having someone over for dinner (maybe particularly someone who might be lonely).

Although you might be doing some of these things anyway, doing them with intentionality, knowing that they are about making your faith part of your life, makes them holy acts that celebrate renewal and hope in the Easter season.

The Rev. Kate Ekrem, Priest-In-Charge

kate@our-redeemer.net

Children & Youth Programs

The services of the Triduum (Three Holy Days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday) are engaging for school-age children: they take place at 7:30pm each evening. On Good Friday we'll also have Stations of the Cross at 10am appropriate for ages 5+.

- 4/4 Easter Day services at 8:00am, 9:30am, and 11:00am
Easter Egg Hunt at 10:30am – bring your own basket
No Sunday morning Christian Formation programs
No Sunday evening youth group



- 4/10 Youth Group at The Food Project, 9:30am-12:30pm

- 4/11 J2A Pancake Breakfast after the 9:30am service
Regular Christian Formation after the 9:30am service
Confirmation Class 3 from 4:00-5:30pm
Sunday evening youth group meets at 5:30pm
Rite-13 Parents' Meeting at 7:00pm



The Food Project

- 4/18 **No Sunday morning Christian Formation for children or youth**
No Sunday evening youth group

- 4/25 Regular Christian Formation after the 9:30am service
Confirmation Class 4 from 4:00-5:30pm
Sunday evening youth group meets at 5:30pm

What is Catechesis of the Good Shepherd?

A Day to Come and See

Saturday, May 1, 2010 from 9:00am-12noon

You have heard about this revolutionary, Montessori based way of introducing children to the Christian faith, come and see what it actually looks like.

Catechesis is a way of doing "Sunday School" that transforms adults as well as children. See an atrium, the space where children and adults alike "fall in love with Jesus."

- Experience the rich formation in liturgy and prayer offered in no other curriculum
- Explore the unique spiritual & developmental needs of children ages 3-6, 6-9, and 9-12

The Rev. Joyce Scherer-Hook will lead this morning of exploration.

To register, contact Emma in the office
office@our-redeemer.net or 781.862.6408

Questions? Contact Evelyn Hausslein.
ehausslein@rcn.net or 781.861.0378



Adult Christian Formation

Join us after the 9:30 am service on Sundays. We bring our coffee, and gather together to learn and wonder and pray together. We usually meet in the Meeting Room (down the hall from the Great Hall).

4/4 **Easter Sunday : No Christian Formation programs**

4/11 **Pancakes!** Come support the J2A youth and share in fellowship.

4/18 **Question & Answer Session with the Priest-in-Charge and the Vestry**

Come one and all to the quarterly “ask you Vestry and Priest-In-Charge anything” session. Our forum this time will especially focus on goals and priorities for this year, as well as explaining a bit about the Priest-In-Charge discernment period that will start in late 2011. However, feel free to bring questions on other topics, as well. Grab some coffee and join us!

4/25 **Question & Answer Session with Dick Rogers of Sandra’s Lodge and Bristol Lodge**

Hosted by the Mission Committee, we will hear about Redeemer’s partnership with these two organizations that help address the basic needs of food, shelter, and safety, as well as long-term affordable housing and other human services right in our local community.

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The Endowment Committee is inviting applications for distribution of approximately \$2000 of available funds for 2010. Redeemer’s modest endowment is intended to fund parishioner or committee projects that are outside Redeemer’s normal operating budget, including capital improvements, educational programs, outreach and mission work either within or outside Redeemer. If you would like to apply for endowment funds, please send your proposal, including a description and amount of funds requested, to Tom Swithenbank, Endowment Committee Chair (tom@swithenbank.org), or mail to the church office (Attn: Tom Swithenbank).
.....

Vestry Summary

It was a real challenge for the newly-elected vestry to actually gather for our first meeting in February - we had two cancellations due to snow (or expectation of snow). We finally met on Feb. 24. At that meeting, new members were introduced to the “vestry liaison” responsibility. Each member of the vestry serves as a liaison to one of the committees listed below, to help vestry and the committee stay connected and to facilitate on-going communication. The liaison is expected to regularly attend the committee meetings and serve as the voice of the vestry, and then periodically report back to the vestry on committee plans and activities.

The following liaison assignments were selected: Stewardship Committee – Bob Bettacchi; Welcome Committee– Sandy Keshishian; Finance Committee – George Murnaghan; Dinesh Dulipsingh; Personnel Committee – George Murnaghan; Property Committee – Peter Lund; Music Committee – Randy Bowlby; Mission Committee – Connie Parrish & Paula Antonevich; Worship Committee – Susan Emanuel

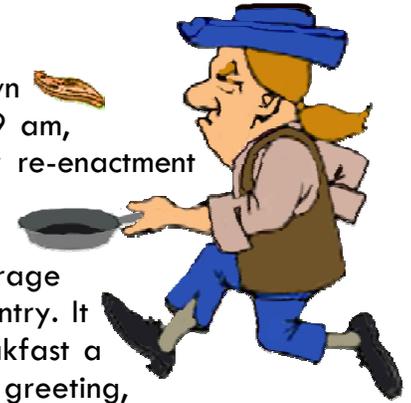
Our March meeting included a hint of the promise of summer - Kathy Mockett presented a proposal for an expanded Interfaith Giving Garden. The vestry unanimously approved the proposal.

~ Submitted by Connie Parrish, Senior Warden



Patriot's Day Call to Arms!

Monday, April 19, 2010 is Patriots' Day. Visitors stream into town to watch the Battle of Lexington re-enactment. Between 6 and 9 am, the Redeemer community hosts a pancake breakfast for hungry re-enactment spectators. It's an activity that is a lot of work and a LOT of FUN!



This year, the proceeds from the Pancake Breakfast, which average around \$3,000, will again go directly to the Lexington Food Pantry. It takes a small army of bleary-eyed volunteers to make the Breakfast a success. We need help before, during, after, inside, outside, greeting, counting, cooking, cleaning, serving...

Please Join Us for this longstanding tradition of fellowship, outreach and service.

Sign up sheets will be posted soon. Please help if you are able and contact Randy Bowlby with questions. squawk5432@verizon.net or 978.244.0245

Mission



Redeemer's volunteer kitchen crew at 6:05 am on a recent Patriots' Day ...



Jean Ricci & two of her very hungry patriots!



The line always wraps around the building for Redeemer's famous pancakes!



Music Director's Upcoming Sabbatical

~ Submitted by Cheryl Duerr

On April 12th I will be beginning my second sabbatical. I have worked with you here at Redeemer now for 10 ½ years – and witnessed a lot of changes. Sabbatical time is designed for rest, contemplation and retooling, which is exactly what I plan to do. It won't all be time off from music, though, as I'll be teaching at the *Pipe Organ Encounter* sponsored jointly by the New Haven and Fairfield West Chapters of the American Guild of Organists, held at Fairfield University in Fairfield, CT. My sabbatical and continuing education at the American Guild of Organists national convention in Washington, DC, will last until July 12th, and after that I will take my vacation.

As chair of the Music Committee, Murray Daniels does a great deal behind the scenes which many people don't realize. I'd like to say a special thank you to Murray and to the Music Committee for steering the ship while I'm gone.

Editors' Note: Watch the May, 2010 issue of *Redeeming Features* for special thank-you's from Cheryl to all who participated in making music at Redeemer this program year.

Introducing Fred Backhaus

During Cheryl's absence, *Frederick Backhaus* will be leading the Adult Choir and playing for Sunday worship. Fred was Organist & Choirmaster of All Saints, Ashmont, where he led the fully-professional Choir of Men & Boys and two volunteer choirs. He has performed in the United States, Great Britain, and Eastern Europe, and is a past Dean of the Nassau (Long Island) chapter of the American Guild of Organists. As the Assistant Director and Organist of the Long Island professional vocal ensemble *Voci da Camera* from 1999 to 2004, he accompanied them on tours of Eastern Europe and the United Kingdom, and served as organist when they were the choir-in-residence at Gloucester Cathedral. Fred has served on the music staff of the King's College Training Course of the Royal School of Church Music and has studied choral conducting with Sir George Guest and Stephen Cleobury. His choirs released two compact discs, and were chosen by filmmaker Ken Burns for his History Channel documentary on Theodore Roosevelt. He is married to the distinguished soprano and choral conductor Kathleen Blixt.



Kean University Concert Choir to Rock Redeemer on April 11th

On Sunday, April 11th, the Kean University Concert Choir, directed by Dr. Mark Terenzi, will provide music for the 9:30 am service. Arrive early to hear the entire Prelude (around 10 minutes); they'll also sing the Psalm, Anthem and Communion music. Kean is a university of 13,000 students, primarily commuters in Union, New Jersey, and is well-known as a teachers college. The choir will sing Russian, Brazilian, gospel, and jazz music, selections from Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, and Moses Hogan's famous *Elijah Rock*, so it promises to be an exciting service!



Editors' note: We'd like to introduce some new "redeeming features" to our newsletter. This page is intended to help build our community - to get to know each other better, share our celebrations, and match talents with the needs in our church.

Celebrations and Thanks

Sabeth Fitzgibbons, Julien and Esteban Goulet celebrate the news that their application for a second adoption has been approved by the adoption house in Colombia. This means it is likely (but not guaranteed) that they will be adding another member to their family this year!

The Bennett family would like to thank the parish for their prayers for Dell, during his recent deployment with the United States Coast Guard in support of the Haitian relief effort. Having recently completed their mission, the USCGC Hamilton is slowly making its way back to home port in San Diego!

Possibilities An Art Exhibit by parishioner **Barbara Beinhooker**

April 1st—30th at Trinity Episcopal Church, Concord Reception Sunday April 18th at 12:30pm

As Winter fades, new possibilities fill the earth and ourselves. There are exciting patterns and colors just under our feet as we walk along a woodland path. The shapes formed by tree branches, patterns of light and dark, color and texture open new vistas.

~ Barbara is a natural science artist who works in a variety of media. She's run Redeemer's Thursday morning art class for many years, and conducts workshops, demonstrations, and lectures for churches, environmental organizations, and schools. Her work has hung in national and international exhibits including the National Cathedral, and the Massachusetts Audubon Society.



HELP WANTED

Redeemer's Greeners

A few warm days in March remind us that grass growing season is just around the corner. Once again we are looking for volunteers to help cut Redeemer's lawn save the church the expense of a commercial service. We've lost some help as people have moved away, so please volunteer! Check your vacation calendar and let us know if you can help even one week this summer. A sign-up sheet is in the hallway or contact Claudia Cooper.

cooper.claudia.g@gmail.com
781.860.9396.



Parish Yard Clean-up Day

Saturday, April 24th from 8:00am to noon
Rain date: after Church April 25th
Dress in your work clothes, and bring a rake, if you've got one!

Remember Redeemer: Have you remembered Redeemer in your will?

The **monthly deadline** for all Redeeming Features submissions is the **15th of the Month**. 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.



Getting to Know You

Each month we will feature an interview with a parishioner in an attempt to give readers a chance to get to know their fellow neighbors better. This month, we are proud to introduce...

Dottie Fietze

We asked Dottie to tell us about her experience of Redeemer over the years. Here is what we learned:

Dottie was baptized, confirmed, and married at Redeemer by the same minister, the Rev. Harold Handley. She married Ron Fietze on Thanksgiving Eve, November 23, 1955 and her five brothers and sisters all were all in the wedding party. The wedding took place in the old church across Meriam St.*

As a child, Dottie remembers singing in the choir. She also remembers her mother baking apple pies for the church fair. Her father was sent down to the church to deliver the pies, but a few of them would always return back home, having been bought back by her father immediately upon arrival at the church.

When Dottie's children, Debbie (now LeBlanc) and Mary Jane were kids, there were so many children at the church, that activities had to be held on weekdays in addition to Sundays. Dottie taught "Sunday School" on Thursday nights and also provided casseroles for the hungry young parishioners who enjoyed a meal together as a part of their Thursday church activities.

One of nicest things for Dottie is seeing and hearing about friends that she remembers from her youth at Redeemer. She mentioned May Baskin especially, who, as a friend of her parents attended her wedding in 1955. May has recently moved to Maine, but still receives Redeeming Features, so Dottie sends her greetings to her through this newsletter and to friends old and new at Redeemer.

**Editor's note:* the "old church" is the building that is now St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, "kitty-corner" to the current Church of Our Redeemer which was consecrated in 1956.



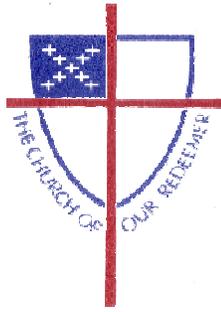
*Please suggest subjects for future "Getting to Know You" interviews,
or send us information about yourself!*

Email to RF@our-redeemer.net or contact the church office.



CHURCH OF OUR REDEEMER

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April Calendar



Maundy Thursday	1	10:30am Art Class, 7:30pm Maundy Thursday Service, 9pm Overnight Vigil
Good Friday	2	10am Stations of the Cross, 12pm Overnight Vigil ends, 7:30pm Good Friday Service
Holy Saturday	3	9am Liturgy Team Meeting, 7:30pm The Great Vigil of Easter
Easter Sunday	4	8:00am, 9:30am, and 11:00am Easter Services, Easter Egg Hunt after 9:30am service
Monday	5	Office is closed. 7:30pm Property Committee Meeting
Tuesday	6	3:30pm Children's Choir & Tuesday Atrium, 7:30pm Adult Choir Practice, 7:30pm Stewardship Meeting
Thursday	8	10:30am Art Class, 3pm Communications Meeting, 7:30pm Worship Committee Meeting
Saturday	10	Habitat for Humanity Work Day, 9:30am Youth Group at The Food Project
Sunday	11	Kean University Choir at the 9:30am Service, 10:45am Christian Formation and Pancake Breakfast, 4pm Confirmation Class, 5:30pm Youth Group Dinner, 7pm Rite-13 Parents' Mtg.
Monday	12	7:30pm Executive Meeting
Tuesday	13	3:30pm Children's Choir & Tuesday Atrium, 7:30pm Adult Choir Practice
Wednesday	14	7:30pm Vestry Meeting
Thursday	15	Due date for newsletter submissions, 10:30am Art Class
Sunday	18	10:45am Adult Christian Formation: Q&A with Priest-In-Charge & Vestry, No Children's or Youth Formation
Monday	19	Office is closed. 6am Patriot's Day Pancake Breakfast, 7:30pm Finance Committee Meeting
Tuesday	20	7:30pm Adult Choir Practice
Thursday	22	Earth Day. 10:30am Art Class, 7pm Regional 2011 Diocesan Budget Hearing (Alewife Deanery) St. Anne's-in-the-Field's, 7:30pm Mission Committee Meeting
Saturday	24	8am Parish Lawn & Garden Clean-Up Day
Sunday	25	9:30am Guest Preacher, 10:45am Adult Christian Formation: Q&A with Guest Preacher Dick Rogers-Bristol Lodge/Sandra's Lodge, 4pm Confirmation Class, 5:30pm Youth Group Dinner
Monday	26	1:30pm Cooking for Bristol Lodge, 7:30pm Calendar Planning Meeting
Tuesday	27	7:30pm Adult Choir Practice
Wednesday	28	4pm Warden's Meeting
Thursday	29	10:30am Art Class
Friday	30	7pm Youth Group Dinner