

# Redeeming Features

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www.our-redeemer.net

April 2011

## Greetings from the Rev. Kate Ekrem

### Newsletter

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Dear friends,

If there is one thing Episcopalians really know how to do (well, besides the usual jokes about knowing the right fork to use) it's liturgy. Yes, other denominations may do it well, too, but I must admit being partial to our Episcopal way of combining the best of music and poetic language old and new with the deep, ancient traditions and symbols of the church. As a friend of mine once remarked to someone who said, "that was a lovely service this Sunday!", "It ought to be, we've been working on it for 2,000 years".

And this is never more true that during Holy Week. In one week, we participate in five inspiring, thought-provoking, emotional, and deeply meaningful worship services that together tell the whole story of why we're here and what we're all about.

These services are ancient. Egeria, a French nun who travelled to the Holy Land in the year 381, wrote long letters back to her sisters telling all about her participation in the Palm Sunday procession, commemoration of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, and veneration of the cross on Good Friday – all things we still do today, 1,630 years later. The Easter Vigil is the oldest of all, and descriptions of it as a special day for baptism and the first celebration of Easter exist from the year 200 or so. Our Book of Common Prayer services bring us as close as possible to the practices of the early church.

But it's not just old, it's also meaningful. In Holy Week, we follow in the footsteps of Jesus. We retrace his journey through his last days and listen to what his words and actions teach us about servanthood, friendship, love, sacrifice, death, and hope. As Christians, our faith is centered in the events of Good Friday and Easter, Jesus' self-sacrificing love and his triumph over death.

If all this sounds like I'm trying to convince you to come to our Holy Week services – you're right! We have a wonderful crowd on Easter morning. But I often think people are missing out on the really wonderful services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. Celebrating Holy Week may seem a quaint tradition to many. But it's not. In the challenges we face in our lives and in our world, we need more than ever to be reminded that for every Good Friday there is an Easter, for every time we struggle and fall, there is a way to get up again, that for every death – of a loved one, of a relationship, of a dream – there is new life waiting for us, through the gift of God in Christ. Come and I promise you will find a new and renewed perspective on your faith and your life.

Peace and blessings,  
*Kate* Kate

P.S. If you'd like to learn even more about Holy Week, come to the Adult Forum on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

## Vestry Goals for 2011

Vestry determined that it should identify a few, larger goals to live into the intent of the core values (formation, mission worship) of the Strategic Plan, centered on the theme of Sustainability.

The broad goals identified by Vestry for this year include: translating and communicating the Strategic Plan to the congregation, and maintaining oversight of the ministry areas as they relate to the identified core values; developing a strategic view of property maintenance and the capital needs for the optimal use of Redeemer's physical resources; and assessing, identifying and developing the human resources (lay, staff, and clergy) needed to support the ministries and operations of Redeemer. Three Vestry working task groups were created in February to elaborate the action steps within each goal.

### ***Strategic Plan task group report:***

To communicate the recently completed Strategic Plan, the working group is actively pursuing the idea of creating a Strategic Planning bulletin board that will highlight and share the progress of the Strategic Planning process. Two adult formation programs dedicated to the Strategic Plan were held on February 27 and March 6; both were well received and generated thoughtful questions about the historic and current status of Redeemer and the Priest-in-Charge discernment process. The working group looks to program similar meetings in the future. Other ideas include regular updates in *Redeeming Features*, in the newly established church blog and in Sunday morning announcements. They are also actively pursuing creating a Vestry bulletin board with names, photos and liaison information, as well as name badges that easily identify Vestry members at Worship and other church events.

### ***Property/Capital task group report:***

In an effort to develop a strategic view of the Property Maintenance and Capital needs, the working group identified four action steps that include: commissioning a working group composed of property and finance committee members to evaluate the ongoing maintenance needs identified in the "Blue Book" and propose a multi-year capital expenditure plan; commissioning an evaluation of current and anticipated ("wish list") space requirements; evaluating potential means for funding ongoing identified needs; and recruiting new leadership and membership for the Property committee.

### ***Leadership Development task group report:***

To accurately assess the human resources, the working group is contacting every committee and program leader and staff member – either directly or through the Vestry liaison structure – to collect data on committee leadership and membership. Once data is evaluated and synthesized, Vestry will assist the working group to help determine each committee's and program's criticality to the core values identified in the Strategic Plan. The working group will evaluate and create measures to better recruit, support and train lay leaders and committee members. The working group will also engage and support the Priest-in-Charge discernment process to be launched in October.

For more information about the Strategic Plan, please visit [www.our-redeemer.net](http://www.our-redeemer.net)



# "Growing Good Food for Good Neighbors"

This summer, Redeemer will expand its involvement in growing vegetables for donation to the Food Pantry, from the raised bed "Giving Garden" in our side yard to working with those in other faith communities at the large Interfaith Garden at 5 Harrington Rd (near the Lexington Green, next to First Parish Church). In its third year, Redeemer's Giving Garden will provide opportunities to families with small children to be involved with the joy of planting a seed, watching it grow, and harvesting the bounty. And this year, we also have the opportunity for interested older children, teens (think community service hours!) and adults to work with others from other faith communities to provide even more produce for the Lexington Food Pantry. If you are interested in helping in either garden, either on a one-time basis, or on a regular schedule over the summer, please let us know!

Sign up here: <http://tinyurl.com/Gardens-2011> Contacts: Janet Kern - 781 861-7102 or Kathy Mockett - 781 861-0960



Interfaith Garden at harvest time

Interfaith Communities



Members of different faith communities working together in the garden.



Ready for delivery to the Food Pantry



Redeemer Giving Garden: Sunflowers



Redeemer Giving Garden: Bed Preparation Day with Youth Group



## *Patriot's Day Call to Arms !!*



Monday, April 18, 2011 is Patriot's Day. Visitors stream into town to watch the Battle of Lexington reenactment. And then around 5:45 AM they all go looking for a nice hot breakfast. Breakfast is served from 6:00 to 9:00 a.m. For several years, the Redeemer community has rallied to feed scrumptious pancakes to these hungry Reenactment spectators. It's an activity that is a lot of work but a LOT of FUN!

Proceeds from the Pancake Breakfast, which average around \$3,000, go directly to the Lexington Food Pantry, so it is a very worthwhile activity as well.

It takes a small army of bleary-eyed volunteers to make the Breakfast a success. There are numerous opportunities for all ages and abilities. To whet your appetite, here is a sampling:

Great Hall set-up and clean up

Pre-cook sausage Sunday afternoon

Chef & sous-chef cooking shifts, starting at 3:00 AM Mon.

Kitchen help of all kinds

Ticket sales help

Dining room help

Parking lot help

Randy Bowlby is coordinating this year's Breakfast and will need lots of help. Have no fear - you will not be working in the dark (well, actually you will)! Veteran workers from previous years have put together notes and lists to guide the process. If you are interested, please contact Randy. ([squawk5432@verizon.net](mailto:squawk5432@verizon.net) or 978-244-0245).

Sign-up sheets will be posted as April 18 nears – meanwhile please check your calendar to see if you will be in town on Patriot's Day and are able to help. It is a wonderful community event and a great way for Redeemer to show the Lexington community what we are all about. (And did I mention how much fun it is?)





Community



## Everything-but-the-Baby Ingathering,



Each Lenten, the Redeemer Community donates "Everything but the Baby" Bags to our Mission Partner, The Grow Clinic at Boston Medical Center <http://www.bmc.org/pediatrics-growclinic.htm>. Late winter is a tough time for the Grow Clinic families. Heating costs are high. Further, the Grow Clinic Emergency Cupboard, which is well stocked at the end of the winter holidays, is badly depleted. Starting Sunday, April 3, there will be grocery bags with lists of needed items stapled to them at the entrances to the sanctuary. Take a bag, fill it, and return it either April 10 or April 17 (Palm Sunday). Members of the Mission Committee will deliver the bags to the clinic.

### Priority Supplies

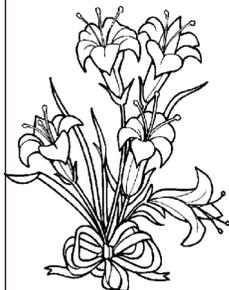
- \*\*Thermos, straw bottles, 12 oz, Foogo- Target
- 16 and 32 oz calibrated plastic bottles with cap
- Baby Bottles with nipples- Avent, Dr. Brown
- Sippy cups- non spill - all ages
- Cups with straws attached
- Spoons for babies
- Spoons and forks for toddlers
- \*\*Toddler plates, suctioned
- \*\*Blenders
- 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





## 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 **Thursday, April 14th.**



## The Easter Bunny is Coming!

Help the Easter Bunny get ready for Easter Sunday. Drop off plastic Easter eggs, individually wrapped candy, and small trinkets in the basket outside Sabeth's office through Tuesday, April 19th. Contact Dianne Barrucci with questions ([dianne.barrucci@verizon.net](mailto:dianne.barrucci@verizon.net) or 781-718-7171).



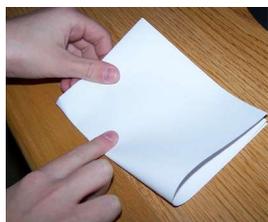
## Are you an Easter Bunny in training?

Our Easter Egg Hunt coordinator has notified us that she's hopping on to other things in 2012. If you'd like to understudy this year, and coordinate the 2012 Easter Egg Hunt, please contact Sabeth ([sabeth@our-redeemer.net](mailto:sabeth@our-redeemer.net)).



## 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! Please contact the church office to volunteer. We will fold Wednesday, April 20 and Thursday, April 21. Any time you can spare either day is greatly appreciated! (I am in the office from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm).



## Choir News

Choir Rehearsals Wednesdays  
3:30—4:45 pm—Youth Choir  
7:30—9:00 pm—Adult Choir

On Wednesday, April 20th, there will be a **DRESS Rehearsal for Holy Week/Easter Sunday (Adult Choir only), 7:30—9:30 p.m.**

On Easter Sunday, April 24th, Hymns **will** be sung at the 8:00 am. Service.

Call for singers....The Adult choir welcomes additional singers for Easter Sunday. We now rehearse on Wednesday, 7:30—9:00 p.m. If you are interested, please just show up at any rehearsal between now and then, or email director Bernadette Colley your intentions to sing, and preferred voice part ([berncolley@gmail.com](mailto:berncolley@gmail.com)) Dress rehearsal on Wed., April 20th is **very** important.

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## Save the Date

**Christian Formation Leadership Event**  
**Sunday, May 15 - 12noon-2:00pm**

Have you been wondering how your gifts might help support our Christian Formation programs? Wondering how you might help with children, youth, or adults directly—or maybe behind the scenes? In our effort to avoid the last minute scramble for any leaders in the fall, we are starting this spring. We'll be looking at the spectrum of gifts we have present amongst us and how they fit our Christian Formation needs. Interested? Contact Beth Murnaghan at [eliord-par@yahoo.com](mailto:eliord-par@yahoo.com) or 781.862.6923.



## Youth Group Ski Trip

The Youth Group enjoyed adventure and fellowship on their annual ski trip March 18-19, this year an overnight at the Ekrem's cabin in New Hampshire.



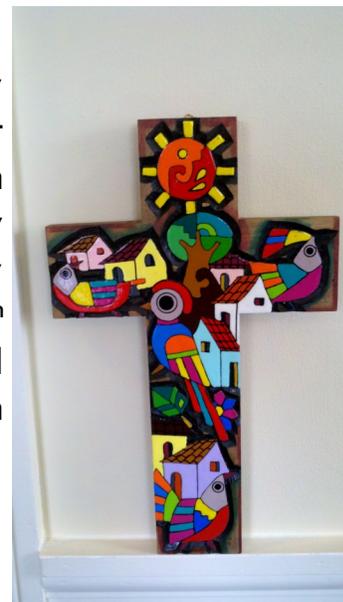
Youth Group Ski Trip, March 18, 2011

A cut-throat game of Cranium on Friday night was followed by an excellent day of spring skiing at Mount Sunapee on Saturday. Thanks to our organizer, Chris Needham, quartermasters and lodge crew Cathy and Steve Burns, chef Seddon Beaty, and all-around helper Sam Stevens for making the trip possible.

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## New Cross

This beautiful cross was donated to the parish by Monisha Reginald and Sarah Neumann. They brought it back from their Youth Leadership Academy mission trip to El Salvador, where they helped to build a new church. The parish enjoyed a slide show presented by Monisha and Sarah about their trip at the March 20<sup>th</sup> parish breakfast. At their suggestion, the cross will hang in our new youth group room. Thank you, Sarah and Monisha!



## CELEBRATIONS

Please send us announcements of your “Life Celebrations” — graduations, anniversaries, births of children, grandchildren, retirements, etc. ... Or send us special thank you messages to your church community that you would like to publish.

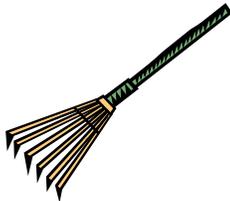
Please send all announcements by email to [RF@our-redeemer.net](mailto:RF@our-redeemer.net) or for those without email, call or send to the church office, with “RF” clearly marked.

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

### Parish Yard Clean-up Day

Saturday, April 30th from 8:00am to noon  
(some of us will arrive by 7:00 am)

Dress in your work clothes, and bring gloves, a rake, if you’ve got one, and energy to jump start the glorious days of summer!



### Watch and Wait

Please sign up to join in the Vigil from Maundy Thursday to Good Friday, to watch and wait in prayer, as Jesus did in the garden at Gethsemane. The vigil will begin at the conclusion of the Maundy Thursday service and continue until 9am, or longer if there are interested people. This quiet time of prayer can be a very meaningful part of your Holy Week observance. There will be devotional materials and books available. Please sign up on the bulletin board across from the church library or contact Lisa in the office ([office@our-redeemer.net](mailto:office@our-redeemer.net) / 781.862.6408) to sign up.



## Lent, Holy Week & Easter Schedule

### Adult Christian Formation ~ Lent Series

**Sundays 4/3, 4/10 – 10:50-11:50 am** *Bibles, Bread & Battles: Fighting over the Stuff of Faith*

**Tuesdays 4/5, 4/12 – 12 noon** *Contemplative Eucharist*

**Tuesdays 4/5, 4/12 – 7:30-8:30 pm** *Preparing the Soil*

### Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion ~ April 17<sup>th</sup>

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

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

### Maundy Thursday ~ April 21<sup>st</sup>

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

9:00 P.M. – 9:00 A.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 22<sup>nd</sup>

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

### Holy Saturday ~ April 23<sup>rd</sup>

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 24<sup>th</sup> (We celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ!)

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

10:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite II with choir and festive music

**Easter Egg Hunt to follow 10:00 A.M. service** (\* Please bring your own Easter Basket! \*)

\*\* No Christian Formation

\*\* Nursery Care available for infants to age 4, 8AM—noon



**CHURCH OF OUR REDEEMER**

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



**Calendar**

April	Date	Event Details
Saturday	2	9:00 am - Liturgy Team Meeting
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3</b>	8:00 & 9:30 am - Worship Adult Formation Topic: Bibles, Bread & Battles: Fighting over the Stuff of Faith 12 noon - Worship Committee
Monday	4	7:30 pm - Property Committee 7:30 pm - Executive Committee
Tuesday	5	12 noon - Lenten Eucharist 7:00 pm - Traces of the Trade 7:30 pm - Lenten Series on Prayer; Preparing the Soil
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10</b>	8:00 & 9:30 am - Worship Adult Formation: Bibles, Bread & Battles: Fighting over the Stuff of Faith 12 noon - Pastoral Care Team meeting 4:00 pm - Family Circle 5:30 pm - Family Circle Potluck
Tuesday	12	12 noon - Lenten Eucharist 7:00 pm - Traces of the Trade 7:30 pm - Lenten Series on Prayer
Wednesday	13	7:30 pm - Vestry meeting
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>17</b>	8:00 & 9:30 am - Worship Parish Breakfast & Making Easter Gardens Adult Formation: Invitation to Holy Week
Monday	18	Patriot's Day - Office Closed 6:00 - 9:00 am - Patriot's Day Breakfast
Thursday	21	7:30 pm - Maundy Thursday: Foot-washing & Stripping of the Altars 9:00 pm - Overnight Vigil
Friday	22	9:00 am - conclusion of Overnight Vigil 10:00 am - Stations of the Cross 7:30 pm - Good Friday Liturgy
Saturday	23	7:30 pm – The Great Vigil of Easter (with Holy Eucharist and Baptism)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>24</b>	8:00 & 10:00 am - Easter Worship After 10:00 am Worship—Easter Egg Hunt No Christian Formation
Monday	25	Easter Monday - Office Closed 1:30 pm - Cook for Bristol Lodge 7:30 pm—Mission Committee
Wednesday	27	2:00 pm - Brookhaven Easter Service 4:00 pm - Warden's meeting
Saturday	30	8:00 am - COOR Yard Clean-up

