



Church of Our Redeemer
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Redeeming Features

Volume 29

Issue 4

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Inside this issue:

- Greetings 1
- Worship 2
- Christian Formation 4
- Parish Life 5
- Music 6
- Mission 7
- April Calendar 8

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Greetings from Rev. Kate Ekrem

Dear friends,

I'm sure you all know the truism that life is both "being" and "doing" and that part of our spiritual journey is finding the right balance between those two things.

This Lent I've been focusing on the "being". My Lenten disciple of "less email, more poetry" was incredibly fruitful. Turning off all the electronics every Friday really did help me be more centered, present, and prayerful the whole week long. I will try to continue the practice! I learned (or re-learned) a few things about Sabbath time. One important thing is, you need to plan for Sabbath. Jewish families cook a meal ahead of time and get chores done so they can celebrate the Sabbath without having to cook or do other work. Likewise, I found I had to plan ahead, get my sermon written and checkbook balanced before Friday, so I could turn off the computer and have Sabbath time. Once again I was reminded that God calls us to be present to the current moment, and how satisfying it is to be fully listening to and caring for the people I'm with in any given moment.

Lent is a good time to be focused on "being". Easter is a good time to turn outwards towards the "doing". Now that we are re-connected to the Living Christ, how do we share the good news of this new life?

This year your vestry has been thinking a lot about this, how to act out of our shared goals and values as a church, and how we can support all of you in your many ministries living out those goals and values. We decided it would be a good idea to take one Sunday out of our normal routine to focus on this and for all of us to talk together about how we do church.



Greetings from Kate (cont'd)

So, **Sunday April 28** will be our first in-house retreat and learning day: **How We Do Church**. There is a detailed description on page 3. Please note that day our worship starts at 9:00, not 9:30 – we are only asking for an extra 30 minutes over your normal Sunday church time!

There is something for everyone, whether you are a fairly new member who just wants to get the big picture, a committee chair or event coordinator who wants a better idea of how all the pieces fit together, or if you are interested in seeing how your passions can connect with what's going on at Redeemer. And if you are on the other side of all this and consider yourself retired after many years of church service, we hope you'll come and share your wisdom with the rest of us. Although there will be a good bit on support, tools, and the nuts and bolts of things, we will also talk about the why as well as the how – why is this important, and what are our shared values and goals as we “go forth to love and serve the Lord.” I hope to see you there!

Blessings for a fruitful, joyful, wonderful Easter season.

Peace,



Lexington Houses of Worship Open Doors Sponsored by the Lexington Interfaith Clergy Association In celebration of Lexington's 300th anniversary

On Sunday, April 28, from 1:00-5:30 pm, sixteen houses of worship in Lexington will be open to the public. At each half hour, a presentation will be made in each one on the history of the congregation, with tours of the building available. Citizens are invited to drop in to as many as interest you. **These are historical tours only; no attempt to witness or convert to any particular beliefs will be made.** We are proud of the roles we have played in making Lexington a wonderful community for 300 years. Come and see us!

If you would like to be a tour guide for Redeemer for this event, please let Rev. Kate know. Our parish historian Mary Bicknell has written a presentation, we just need a couple of people to share it with our community.

Also, please take the opportunity to visit these other houses of worship that will be open for tours on April 28, and bring a friend with you!

First Parish Unitarian
St. Brigid Roman Catholic Church
Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church
Trinity Covenant Church
St. Paul Evangelical Church
Grace Chapel
Temple Emunah (Conservative)
Temple Isaiah (Reform)

Hancock Congregational Church
First Baptist Church
Lexington United Methodist Church
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
Pilgrim Congregational Church
Church of Our Redeemer
First Church of Christ, Scientist



How We are Church

An in-house retreat and learning day for the entire Redeemer community

On Sunday, April 28 we will do something a little different with our Sunday morning. We'll spend the whole morning focusing on how we are church: what is church, what does it mean to us, and how do we "do" it in ways that are meaningful, fulfilling, nourishing, and purposeful. There will be something for everyone, whether you've been a member at Redeemer for 30 years or 30 days.

We'll begin at 9:00am (please note change in time! We are only asking an extra 30 mins for this special event) with the Liturgy of the Word in the church. Then we will break into groups for various workshops. You will have an opportunity to choose two to attend. At 11:30, we'll gather in the church again for a closing Eucharist. There will be a children's program from 9:20 to 11:30 as well. Teens are welcome to either help with the children's program or attend workshops, as they prefer.

Workshops will include:

From 9:20am to 10:15am:

Episcopal 101: Led by Rev. Danielle Tumminio and Paula Antonevich

Somewhat new to the Episcopal Church or an old-timer wondering what makes our denomination distinctive? Did our church really get started because Henry VIII wanted a divorce? Why do we call ourselves both Protestant and Catholic? These questions and more will be addressed. A great choice if you are fairly new to Redeemer or the Episcopal Church.

Committee Spirituality: Led by Rev. Kate Ekrem and George Murnaghan, Sr. Warden

What do we do at church besides Sunday worship? Go to meetings! If you want to talk about how church meetings can be ever more spiritually nourishing, productive, and fun (and maybe shorter and fewer, too...), come join in this discussion. How might our parish strategic plan influence with what we do when we gather for meetings? How might our baptismal vows do the same? Share your wisdom and learn from others. The goal of this workshop is to put our church ministries in a bigger context.

10:15-10:35 Coffee & Refreshments Break

From 10:35 am to 11:30am:

Redeemer 101: Led by Rev. Kate Ekrem and George Murnaghan, Sr. Warden

Who's in charge here, anyway? What does the vestry do and why do we have all these committees? What is Redeemer all about in terms of our central goals and mission? If I want to get involved – but not overwhelmed – what are my options? If you'd like to get the "big picture" of life at Redeemer, this workshop is for you.



How We are Church: An in-house retreat and learning day for the entire Redeemer community (cont'd)

Redeemer 201: Toolkit for Ministry: Led by Frank Kern, Janet Kern and Paula Antonevich

This workshop is for all those who already understand the basic workings of Redeemer and want to learn some best practices for working together in community to accomplish our ministry goals. Whether you are involved (or want to be) with a longstanding event or ministry that raises money, or have an idea for a new project that you want to get off the ground, this workshop will provide you with a “toolkit” for success at Redeemer. Using an example of running an all-parish event, we’ll review guidelines and best practices for every type of communication, and introduce you to some ideas and easy procedures to be organized, welcoming, get a great turnout, have fun, and keep within your budget.

Christian Formation

On April 7, we will host Roman Catholic priest and theologian Richard Viladesau, who will deliver a sermon and lead our adult forum. The Rev. Dr. Viladesau is a professor of theology at Fordham University, where he researches theological aesthetics and the notion of God in different religious traditions.

On the following Sunday, April 14, our own associate Danielle Tumminio will lead a forum on the relationship between Christian thought and the *Harry Potter* series. Danielle teaches a class at Yale on the intersection between Christian thought and this popular work, and she’ll be basing her adult forum talk on topics like the ones she covers with her college students.

On April 21 and April 28, regular adult and children’s formation will be suspended, first due to a parish breakfast and then for a special membership workshop (see other parts of RF for more information)! Regular adult and children’s formation hour will resume on May 5, with a two-part spiritual story series led by our associate, Danielle. Be sure to bring a pen and some stories of faith!

Parish Yard Clean-up Day: Saturday, April 27 from 8:00am to noon



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!



Redeeming Knitters

Redeeming Knitters will meet in the Library on Thursday, April 18 at 7:30 p.m. We will be working on hats, scarves, mittens, and prayer shawls.



If you have any questions, please call Susan Burkhardt at 781-899-8644 or Eveleyn Haussein, 781-861-0378.

Knitting Trivia

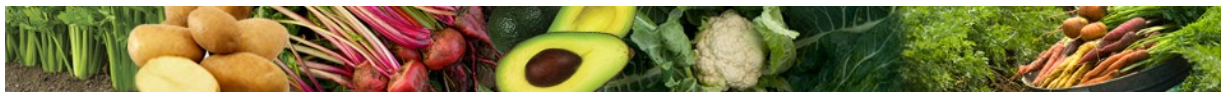
Who knows what was the first article of clothing known to be knitted?

Greeners Schedule Signup



As we begin to enjoy the start of Spring this year, it's once again, time to think about Redeemer's lawn. We are looking to save the church precious resources by cutting the lawn ourselves, and need volunteers to help out.

We've had a faithful group of volunteers for several years, and could use a few more hands. We organize into small teams to cut and trim the lawn and generally cut on Saturday mornings starting in late April. Any time close to the suggested dates is fine. **We use a very user-friendly on-line system to sign up.** The link is [http://bit.ly/COOR Greeners Signup](http://bit.ly/COOR_Greeners_Signup). The form will save your additions-you don't need to do anything else. Training on the riding mower is provided! Please sign up on-line or contact Lisa Bozkurtian at office@our-redeemer.net. Or 781-862-6408.



Lexington Interfaith Garden

The Lexington Interfaith Garden is a large organic garden located at 5 Harrington Road, near the Lexington Battle Green. Over thirteen faith communities share in tending the garden twice per week from April through October, providing organic produce for donation to the Lexington Interfaith Food Pantry. Redeemer has committed two people for each day we are assigned, usually about 2 times per month from April through October.

"Dates for Redeemer volunteers to work in the Interfaith Garden have been set through May, and our first workday is Saturday, April 6! (Other dates are all Saturdays: April 27, May 8 and May 11) Redeemer has committed two people for each of our assigned dates, so please sign up here: http://bit.ly/IG_SignUp2 if you want to get digging in the dirt to grow food for the Lexington Interfaith Food Pantry. Call or email Janet Kern with questions: janet@mackhillfarm.org"



Music News

After many attempts to reschedule, a decision was made by organizers to cancel the **8th Annual Lexington Choral Festival** at Hancock Church, which did not occur, due to the snow conditions.

Many thanks to the Adult Choir and Atrium Singers for their special contributions to our **Easter Service**, and to the choir, soloists, and guest singers and musicians for their extra efforts to provide music for Holy Week services. The **Atrium Singers** will offer a selection in the 9:30 service on **May 5th**, before breaking for the summer, and our observance of **Music Sunday** will coincide with **Pentecost** this year on **May 19th**.

If you missed the wonderful service featuring the **Back Bay Ringers** on March 3rd, you and your family and friends have a chance to hear them in a full program in our sanctuary on **Saturday evening June 8th**, when they will present a variety of musical selections and styles of music. The music committee is in discussion about perhaps presenting some sort of social-fellowship event in conjunction with the concert as well, so **save the date**.

The final special music Sunday for the year will be our **Outdoor service on Sunday, June 30th**.

We are still looking for a home for the **piano** in the Main Hall downstairs - yours for the taking!, and also a buyer for our **harpsichord in Room 208**.

As always, parish members who enjoy singing are welcome to join us at any choir rehearsal Wednesday evening 7:30-9:00 or Sunday mornings at 8:30.



Mission

"We each are part of something bigger than ourselves alone, a necessary part, and we accomplish more when we do it together."

-Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts – Our Mission
<http://www.diomass.org/content/our-mission>

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.

Redeemer looks forward to the Annual Patriots' Day Pancake Breakfast to benefit the Lexington Interfaith Food Pantry on **April 15, 2013**. We need volunteers to work this event – from flipping pancakes to crowd control to set-up and clean-up – all opportunities available! Sign-up sheets requesting volunteers for specific tasks are posted around church. 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

Support El Hogar – Join Team Redeemer

El Hogar's annual bike/walk-a-thon is coming up on **Saturday, May 11 at 2 p.m.**

This is a great opportunity to join with fellow parishioners and friends as we partner with several local parishes to raise funds for El Hogar. For information, contact Jessie Maeck 781-863-8053, jmaeck@aol.com

Busy that day? Are you unable to participate this year? You can still make a difference, sponsor a 2013 volunteer!



Calendar

April	Date	Event Details
Mon-Thurs.	All month	9:00am - Morning Prayer
Monday	1	Office Closed for Easter 7:30pm - Church Community Team meeting
Tuesday	2	7:30pm - Stewardship Committee meeting
Saturday	6	9:00am - Liturgy Team meeting
Sunday	7	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>Guest Speaker: Roman Catholic priest and theologian Richard Viladesau</i> 12noon - Executive Committee meeting 7:00pm - Vestry Community Task Group meeting 7:30pm - El Hogar volunteer meeting
Monday	8	7:30pm - Mission Committee meeting 7:30pm - Property Committee meeting
Wednesday	10	7:30pm - Vestry meeting
Thursday	11	6:45pm - B-Peace for Jorge meeting at St. Peter's Church, Cambridge
Saturday	13	8:00am - 12:00 noon - All Parish Spring yard clean-up
Sunday	14	8:00am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II No Christian Formation for children and youth 10:50am - Adult Christian Formation: <i>Danielle Tumminio will lead a forum on the relationship between Christian thought and the Harry Potter series.</i> 7:30pm - Conversational Spanish class
Monday	15	Office Closed—Patriot's Day 6:00am - Patriot's Day Pancake Breakfast 7:30pm - Finance Committee meeting
Tuesday	16	7:30 pm - Vestry Leadership Team Group meeting
Thursday	18	7:30pm - Redeeming Knitters
Sunday	21	8:00am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:45am - Parish breakfast No adult, youth or children's Christian Formation 11:30am - Worship Committee meeting 7:30pm - El Hogar volunteer meeting
Monday	22	1:30pm - Cook for Bristol Lodge
Thursday	25	4:00pm - Wardens meeting
Saturday	27	8:00am - Parish yard clean-up day
Sunday	28	8:00am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:00—12:00 - How We Are Church: In-house retreat and learning day No adult, youth or children's Christian Formation 1:00 - 5:30pm - "Open Doors" House of worship historical tours for 300th celebration 7:30pm - Conversational Spanish class

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 the May Redeeming Features submissions is April **15**.