

# Redeeming Features

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May 2010

## Greetings from the Rev. Kate Ekrem

### Newsletter

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Dear Friends,

For the past six months, I have been privileged to be meeting with a group of more than 20 members of Redeemer who are enthusiastic and knowledgeable about worship. This worship committee, which includes members of the choir, liturgy team, acolytes, altar guild, and others, has been meeting monthly and will wrap up this stage of its work in May.

The group had three main goals. One was just to inform your new priest-in-charge about the history of worship at Redeemer. One of the most interesting exercises we did was to make a timeline of worship at Redeemer from 1956 (when we moved into the current building) to the present. It took up 2 walls of the library! We learned that the “3 or 2 Sunday services” debate has been going on for over 60 years. We talked about how the parish has gone through many changes in worship over the years, such as the new Prayer Book in 1979 and the move from Morning Prayer to Communion every Sunday. This discussion really helped me to get to know Redeemer’s history.

Another purpose was to address any issues coming from the loss of the former 9am and 11am services. The in-depth, heartfelt conversation helped us all to understand how the musicality and “Episcopalian-ness” of the 11am and the large lay involvement and ownership of the 9am service felt so important to this community. We even talked about the possibility of returning to three Sunday services; just to make sure we were not avoiding any elephants in the room or leaving any stones unturned. It did not seem like a good idea to the group as a whole for many reasons, but we talked about how to incorporate what was important about those services into our current worship.

The most important task was to identify some of our values about worship at Redeemer. I asked the group to prioritize a list of values that they feel are important in our worship life. Providing community for children and youth in worship was at the top of the list, and music, lay involvement, being welcoming, and a sense of community for all were also top values. Worship that is rooted in the Book of Common Prayer, that is reverent without being uptight, and that reflects our mission in the world was also named as important.

These may seem like vague platitudes when you read them on paper, but for me, after spending 6 months discussing them intensely with this group and learning the history and stories that are behind them, they give a real context for planning Sunday worship and thinking about how to “tweak” our current service to be the best possible worship experience for this community.

*PIC's letter, continued.*

After much discussion, most of the committee agreed that while there are ways we definitely can improve our current service, we don't feel the need for major changes.

This large group will meet one more time to discuss some possible "tweaks" and also outline a plan for a smaller, ongoing worship committee which will advise and assist the clergy in planning worship. We hope to share our discussion with you in more detail at an adult forum on May 23.

Sunday worship is central to who we are as a church. I'm so glad I got to learn more about what is important to this community about worship, and grateful for the work of all involved in the committee.

Peace and blessings,



The Rev. Kate Ekrem, Priest-In-Charge  
[kate@our-redeemer.net](mailto:kate@our-redeemer.net)

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## Vestry Summary

At our April 14 meeting, the Vestry took up two important issues that will shape our activities and involve the broader parish community in the coming months, namely strategic planning and fundraising.

Strategic planning is an important undertaking that involves looking at our current situation as a parish and at where we would like to be over time, as well as the various factors in the environment around us that influence our abilities to live into our dreams. Vestry commissioned a Strategic Planning Committee, under Peter Lund's leadership to conduct the strategic plan review and to connect with resources available to us from the Diocese. We will look to populate the committee as broadly as we can to ensure the strategic vision represents as well as possible who we are and what we do at Redeemer.

We also discussed parish fundraising and whether it should be directed to specific mission and outreach activities (like El Hogar or the Grow Clinic) or program areas (like our J2A pilgrimage), or whether we should also have fundraising to support the church's operating budget as we have done in the past. The overall sense from Vestry was to focus our fundraising on specific mission and ministry areas and to rely on pledging and plate contributions as the source for our operating budget. A challenge for us, since we are such an active parish with many fundraising efforts under way and in planning, is scheduling and coordination – how many, how often, and what resources are required – and we agreed that Vestry's role is to approve of and coordinate the calendar of fundraising appeals.

To that end, Vestry had a presentation from J2A members Leah Mirani and Sam Williams about their pilgrimage fundraising plans, and they requested approval for a Home Goods Sale on June 5. Vestry voted unanimously to approve their plan.

As a reminder, the vestry meets on the third Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm in the church library. Vestry meetings are open to all parishioners. Minutes are posted on Redeemer's website under "Documents," and on the bulletin board outside the church office.

-Submitted by George Murnaghan, Junior Warden



## Honoring Our Musicians

*Editors' Note: The following was provided by our Music Director, Cheryl Duerr, before she began her sabbatical:*

*Once you begin the journey toward a life of purpose,  
you enter the realm of real magic.*

Wayne Dyer

Since I'll be on sabbatical at the time when we usually thank our volunteers, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all the musicians who work so hard week in and week out throughout the program year. These dedicated people spend 3 1/2 hours per week between rehearsals and worship, and that doesn't include all the special services and rehearsals. They work beyond that time memorizing music and listening to teaching cd's, and they do it all with very little recognition. Musical soul food, the sustenance of our worship, is borne out into the world on their refrains – as Wordsworth so eloquently said *The music in my heart I bore, long after it was heard no more.*

**Adult Choir:** Dan Archibald, Fred Bailey, Mary Bailey, Jim Beaty, Katie Vogele Bongiovanni, Tim Bongiovanni, Erica Brotschi, Emily Burns, Murray Daniels, Ian Fox, Julia Francis, Elizabeth Gable, Charlie Hornig, Tony Johnson, Mary Etta King, Ingrid Klimoff, Chris Klostermann, Sandy Koerber, Linda Kukulich, Lori Martell, Nancy Penland, Adele Purvis, William Arthur Stead, John Steiner, Mary Ann Ziegler

**Youth Choir:** Kayleigh Barrucci, Nataleigh Barrucci, Ryleigh Barrucci, Elizabeth Coons, Molly Fortier, Laura Frustaci, Rene LeBlanc, Kate Williams

**Band:** Jim Beaty, Randy Bowlby, Erica Brotschi, Karen Daniels, Murray Daniels, Charlie Hornig

**Music Committee:** Murray Daniels (Chair), Erica Brotschi, Ian Fox, Lori Martell, Nancy Penland

**Organ Maintenance:** As many of you know, *Bruce Francis* puts in many hours each year repairing the organ to keep it going. I love the way Bruce puts the organ's ailments into perspective with his dry wit! He saves the church a lot of money.

I'd also like to say a special thanks to *Elizabeth Gable* who retired after 10 years as **Music Librarian**, and also retired from the Music Committee as well. Without her, I would now be buried in a mausoleum of paper!

Thank you **all** for your commitment to making music at Redeemer. Well-done, good and faithful servants!



## Recent and Upcoming Mission Activities

The Lenten and Easter seasons are a busy time of the year for our parish mission with an emphasis on food insecurity, homelessness, and the Diocesan program for AIDS in Africa. Parish members have given their time, talent and treasure to these missions through work days, donation of goods, direct monetary gifts to the organizations, and via their annual pledge to Redeemer.

**March 28:** The “Everything-but-the-Baby” ingathering for The Grow Clinic at Boston Medical Center collected 29 bags of diapers, formula, and other much-needed items. A Palm Sunday mission envelope appeal resulted in a \$1,030 gift from the people of Redeemer to The Grow Clinic.

**April 10:** Parish adults and teens, led by Peter Koso, went to a Habitat for Humanity work site in Lawrence and painted ceilings at a house. Habitat is building houses in a city block that was destroyed by fire several years ago. The following day, parish members donated \$915 through mission envelopes while the Mission Committee allocated an additional \$1,000 to the organization from the Mission budget.

**April 19:** Redeemer hosted the Patriots’ Day Pancake Breakfast fundraiser for the Lexington Interfaith Food Pantry. A large team of parish members, led by Randy Bowlby (pictured at right), began cooking pancakes at 3 am. The effort made over \$3000 for the Food Pantry.



**April 25:** Dick Rogers of the Middlesex Human Service Agency in Waltham preached and led an adult education hour about Bristol Lodge and their new program for homeless families.

**May 1:** On behalf of the Alewife Deanery, Redeemer will host the Diocesan Jubilee Ministries – AIDS in Africa fundraising dinner. In addition, \$1,000 from our mission budget will be donated to this program.

### Bristol Lodge Cooking: Try us out.

**May Date: Monday, May 24 at 1:30pm**

Join a team of parishioners who cook for the homeless. We are looking for people willing to cook three times a year, at home or at the church, with three or four other people preparing the food for up to 100 needy individuals.



As we plan for next year, we expect to have three different ways you can help: cook on a scheduled Monday afternoon at Redeemer, gather with a team on a Sunday morning after coffee hour, or cook at home and bring things in to be delivered on Monday.

This grouping allows working people to cook but not deliver, people to deliver who cannot promise to commit time to cook, and people who want to cook at home, perhaps with children to teach them about the needs of the world. If you are interested, contact Evelyn Haussein at 781 861-0378.



## Youth Leadership Academy

Hi Redeemer!

We would like to inform you about an exciting program that we are involved in this year. The Youth Leadership Academy is a program for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. Last summer, we attended a week of camp at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in New Hampshire. At camp and at our meetings throughout the year, we've learned about leadership in our communities and churches, and our group of 11 teenagers from the Diocese, along with our adult leaders, has become very close. In December, we completed our parish project with the help of our individual mentors Elisabeth Donahue and Evelyn Haussein, which consisted of gathering a group of high-school students to cook and serve a meal at Bristol Lodge.



For one week this August, the members of the YLA will be going on a mission trip to El Salvador, where we will be working in a village on several building projects. We're very excited about this fantastic opportunity, and are eager to participate in this final part of the YLA program. The Mission Committee at Redeemer has generously donated \$500 to each of us in support of this trip already, but we need your help, too! We'll be raising \$4,200 between the two of us for travel expenses and other costs. Stay tuned for more information about how you can contribute to our fundraising efforts and support us on this spiritual journey.

Thanks!

- Submitted by Monisha Reginald and Sarah Neumann

## Our Youth in Action!

On Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup> members of Redeemer's Youth Group volunteered to help prepare the fields at The Food Project, in Lincoln. The Food Project practices sustainable local farming and supplies fresh vegetables to those in need, served by food pantries and other organizations in greater Boston. Redeemer's own Julien Goulet is the director of youth programs at The Food Project.



On Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> the Youth Group will prepare additional raised garden beds in Redeemer's "Giving Garden." The Giving Garden, led by Kathy Mockett, is part of the larger Interfaith Garden program in Lexington that grows food to donate to the Lexington Interfaith Food Pantry. On Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup> Redeemer's Sunday school children will plant the garden.



## *Remember Redeemer\** presents ... “Planning for the Future”

**Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup> Adult Forum at 10:45am**

Have you put your affairs “in order”? Does your current estate plan reflect your faith and values? Do your loved ones know your plans and why you have made them? Do you know what hymns you want sung at your funeral, and have you told anyone? Who will make decisions for you, if you are too sick to make them yourself?



These are difficult questions, and can lead to difficult conversations with loved ones. Many of us put off these conversations, out of personal discomfort, or from the fear we will make others uncomfortable. Society has taught us that “money talk” is distasteful, and impolite. We operate on assumptions about who may feel entitled to what, or what might be considered “fair.” We may have come from a family with a great deal of money, or from one with no money at all, but each of our families had a code about the role of wealth and how money was discussed (or not) in the family. These patterns can help us and hinder us as we make that final stewardship decision about the disposition of our assets.

Similarly, planning for the events around one’s death can be quite difficult. No one likes to cry, or make others cry. Our loved ones may think it is helpful to change the subject, discourage “morbid talk,” or leave the room when we want to discuss the subject of funerals, or final personal wishes. We may be guilty ourselves of not wanting to discuss the death of a loved one, and have pushed the topic away.

Join Janet Needham and Sabeth on May 9<sup>th</sup> at the Adult Forum to discuss money, taxes, estate planning, and family communication. You will leave with some practical advice, a few personal planning tools and, most certainly, some food for thought.

\* *Remember Redeemer* is a new initiative of the Stewardship Committee that specifically addresses future gifts.

### **A Sign of the Times**

Through the Redeemer Endowment Fund, we have been able to purchase two sidewalk stand signs for church-related use. The signs are available to all groups to advertise upcoming programs or events as well for directional purposes (i.e. enter here). Each sidewalk stand sign holds two signs measuring 24” x 36”. They will be stored in the library closet until June and then moved to storage. There is an accompanying chain and padlock to secure the sidewalk sign to the Church of Our Redeemer sign on the front lawn. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Paula Antonevich at 781-674-2795.



## **Remember Redeemer: Have you reviewed your estate plan recently?**

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



## Celebrations

Steve Rooney (former wiggling chorister, confirmand, youth group member) and his wife Chrissy Rooney announced the birth of **Gianna Elizabeth** on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Happy grandparents are Peter Lund and Ashley Rooney.



**Jennifer Burns** is graduating from Hobart and William Smith Colleges on May 16<sup>th</sup> with a degree in European Studies. - Cathy and Steve Burns

In May, we will celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> birthday of our littlest angel, **Mia Bella!** - The Burnside Family

## Getting to Know You

Each month we feature an interview with a parishioner. This month, we are proud to introduce...

### *The Wright Family*

The Wrights have been attending Redeemer for about five years and have enjoyed the church's community spirit and the sanctuary it affords them from the 21<sup>st</sup> century world. They are now a family of five: Ashley turned six in April, Lindsey will be three in May, and, as the photo shows, they just added a new member as John III was born March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Both John and Lori were raised in the Episcopal Church: Lori grew up in Wakefield, MA, and was baptized and confirmed at Emmanuel Episcopal Church where she was active in chorus; John grew up in Warwick, RI and was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, was an acolyte and enjoyed helping his dad with Easter breakfasts there, which did not start nearly as early in the morning as Redeemer's Patriots' Day efforts! Lori currently is a stay-at-home Mom, John works for NMT Medical which designs and develops percutaneous devices to repair congenital heart defects and Ashley and Lindsey attend the Waldorf School.



After considering other Episcopal churches in adjacent towns, the strong program and dedicated staff of Redeemer's Sunday school, especially the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Atrium and the music programs, drew them to this parish. As they get to know a bit better the Redeemer community, they look forward more each week to Sunday mornings.

The Wrights have very much enjoyed the Atrium, the Christmas pageants (they were the Holy Family in 2007), the Easter egg hunts, and planting of the Giving Garden last year. They appreciate the parish's support and involvement with the food pantry, the Patriots' Day breakfast, and the Grow Clinic at BMC.

Outside church, family fun is centered on outside activities such as skating and playing in the snow, hopefully getting back on skis next year, gardening, and their annual summer pilgrimages to York Beach, Maine, to chill out from the heat in the water and spend time with extended family.

Please suggest subjects for future "Getting to Know You" interviews, or send us information about yourself! Email to [RF@our-redeemer.net](mailto:RF@our-redeemer.net) or contact the church office.

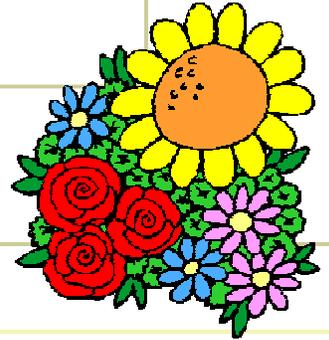


## CHURCH OF OUR REDEEMER

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# May Calendar



Saturday	1	9:00am Catechesis Meeting, 9:00am Liturgy Team Meeting, 5:00pm Film Screening, 6:00pm Jubilee Dinner
<b>Sunday</b>	2	Walk for Hunger, 10:45am Adult Christian Formation: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, 12:00pm J2A Pilgrimage Meeting, 1:00pm Youth Rock Climbing trip, 4:00pm Confirmation Class, 5:30pm Youth Sunday Rehearsal
Monday	3	7:30pm Property Committee Meeting, 7:30pm Mission Committee Meeting
Tuesday	4	3:30pm Tuesday Atrium, 7:00pm Good Shepherd Meeting, 7:30pm Stewardship Committee Meeting, 7:30pm Adult Choir Practice
Thursday	6	10:30am Art Class, 7:30pm Worship Committee Meeting
Saturday	8	9:00am Youth Group Dig Day, Letter Carrier Food Drive for Food Pantry
<b>Sunday</b>	9	Mother's Day, Adult Christian Formation: Planning for the Future, 4:00pm Confirmation Class
Monday	10	7:30pm Executive Committee Meeting
Tuesday	11	3:30pm Tuesday Atrium, 7:30pm Adult Choir Practice
Thursday	13	10:30am Art Class, 3:00pm Communications Meeting
Friday	14	7:00pm Youth Sunday Rehearsal
Saturday	15	Due date for summer (June-August) newsletter submissions, 8:30am Confirmation Retreat, 7:00pm Rite-13 Ceremony Rehearsal
<b>Sunday</b>	16	Youth Sunday and Rite-13 Ceremony, 10:45am Giving Garden Planting 10:45am Adult Christian Formation: TBD
Monday	17	7:30pm Finance Committee Meeting
Tuesday	18	NO Tuesday Atrium, 7:30pm Adult Choir Practice
Wednesday	19	7:30pm Vestry Meeting
Thursday	20	10:30am Art Class
Saturday	22	10:00am Deanery Confirmation (Christ Church, Waltham)
<b>Sunday</b>	23	Pentecost, Baptism, Recognition Sunday, 8:15am Welcome Team, Last day of Sunday School, 10:45am Adult Christian Formation: Worship Committee Report 1:00pm Acolyte Cookout (offsite), 2:30pm Interfaith Garden Dedication (offsite)
Monday	24	1:30pm Cook for Bristol Lodge
Tuesday	25	3:30pm Last Tuesday Atrium, 7:30pm Adult Choir Practice
Thursday	27	10:30am Art Class
<b>Sunday</b>	30	Trinity Sunday, Lemonade on the Lawn begins
Monday	31	Memorial Day, Office is closed