



Church of Our Redeemer  
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# Redeeming Features

Volume 28

Issue 5

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**2012 Vestry**

**Sr. Warden:** George Murnaghan  
**Jr. Warden:** Ian Fox  
**Treasurer:** Frank Kern  
**Clerk:** Paula Antonevich

**Vestry Members**

Bob Bettacchi      Tony Johnson  
 Jim Bradley        Sarah Neumann  
 Lance Conrad      James Surprenant  
 Susan Emanuel

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Greetings from Rev. Kate Ekrem

Dear friends,

Last month I promised to write each month about our three 2012 vestry goals: building up the church community, building up church leaders, and looking at our church building. So this month I want to share with you some thoughts about lay leadership in the church.

There are three main points I believe about church leadership:

1. It should be fun! When you volunteer your time and energy at your church, it should be something you like to do. That's how you know God is in it. When something gives you energy and you look forward to it – maybe it's the camaraderie of flipping pancakes at 4am on Patriot's Day, or the significance you feel being part of the Liturgy Team and reading Holy Scripture to the congregation – then you know the Holy Spirit is saying "yes!" to your ministry. When something is a drag, and you don't enjoy it, you know the Holy Spirit is calling you to set that aside and try something new or have some Sabbath time.

2. There is something for everyone. Everyone has a gift and skill, and all the gifts and skills that we have in our parish family are things that we need in the church. Some people have great leadership skills to employ as committee chairs or vestry members. Others prefer to do behind-the-scenes things like count the weekly offering, iron altar linens, or make coffee. All are equally important to the church and to God.



### Greetings from Kate (cont'd)

3. It should add value to your life. The church is a place we can try out new things and learn new skills. More than one church treasurer has started out knowing little about accounting, and ended up gaining confidence with numbers she or he applied to business. On the vestry, we learn skills of discernment, planning, and leadership that we can apply in many parts of our life. Christian Formation leaders often learn the Bible better than they did before and feel they are building up their own spirituality. Not to mention the friendships, relationships, and support we find in knitting prayer shawls, cooking breakfast, weeding the garden, or balancing a budget together. Church is a great place to try something new, and to grow in body, mind, and spirit.

Our vestry leadership building task group, Bob Bettacchi, Tony Johnson, Jim Bradley, and George Murnaghan, is developing and implementing goals to support our lay leaders. These goals include making sure we thank and appreciate church volunteers, giving lay leaders the support and resources they need, making sure turnover and transition in leadership happens in supportive ways, and finding out more about the gifts and skills of our church members.

You can learn more about these goals and the rest of what the vestry is working on at the "Vestry Q&A Adult Forum on May 6.

In Peace,



### Worship Committee to Evaluate Special Service Sundays

This year, our worship committee tried something new: Special Service Sundays on a theme the third Sunday of each month. Some were more spectacular (the Celtic Service!) some were more low key but meaningful. Some were child-friendly (St. Nicholas Sunday!), some were more geared to adults (the Lenten Healing service).

The worship committee would love to know what you think about the Special Service Sundays. We'd appreciate your feedback no so much on the themes but on the idea of doing "something different" on a regular basis. If we decide to continue next year, the themes and topics will be different (we wouldn't necessarily do a Celtic service again, but might have another visiting musical group and focus on another spiritual tradition).

The music committee and worship committee have both discussed this, and propose having quarterly, rather than monthly, Special Service Sundays, so we can put more effort into them and have more consistency in our regular worship. That of course does not preclude having a guest preacher or special ministry focus on a "regular" Sunday with regular prayers and music, as we do from time to time especially with guest preachers from our mission partners.



## Worship Committee to Evaluate Special Service Sundays (cont'd)

To jog your memory, the Special Service Sundays this year were:

- *September:* Lay Ministry Celebration with preacher Jessie Maeck
- *October:* Celtic Spirituality Sunday with musical group Fellswater
- *November:* Mission Sunday with special prayers from the Mission Committee and guest preacher
- *December:* St. Nicholas Sunday with visit from St. Nick
- *January:* Social Justice Sunday for Martin Luther King Jr. weekend
- *February:* Camp Sunday with guest preacher Sam Gould
- *March:* Lenten Healing service
- *April:* Youth Sunday
- *May:* Garden/Rogation Sunday

Lastly, if you like the Special Service Sundays, would you be interested in helping out with just one service, or do you have an idea for a theme of spirituality, music, formation, or mission to explore next year? If you do, please share your idea with any member of the worship committee (Mary Ann Burnside, Kate Ekrem, Susan Emmanuel, Cara Kalf, Sandy Keshishian, Bob King, Eliza Koso, Linda Kukolich, and Mary Ucci) or just come to our next meeting, June 3 at noon in the Library.

## Commissioning of Newly Elected

George Murnaghan and Ian Fox as Wardens; Frank Kern as Treasurer; Paula Antonevich as Clerk of the Vestry; Jim Bradley, Lance Conrad, Tony Johnson, Leah Mirani and Sarah Neumann, as Members of the Vestry; Mary Ann Burnside, Mary Bicknell, Hao Doan, Connie Parrish, and Jackie Potdevin as Deanery Delegate, and Convention Delegates and Alternate.



### Easter Sunday Service



Worship



### Easter Egg Hunt



### Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



Parish Life



## What's Your Vestry working on?

The 2012 vestry year kicked off with a retreat the first weekend of February. The retreat was an opportunity for vestry members to get to know each other and to develop the priorities for the year. *Building the Church* became the common thread throughout the retreat discussion and was subsequently adopted as this year's goal.

With the overarching goal identified, as well as vestry's commitment to live into the 2010 Strategic Plan, three priority areas were developed to focus this year's efforts:

- strengthening our church community;
- supporting and developing our lay leadership and lay volunteers;
- and identifying our building/physical plant needs and planning for potential renovation.

Vestry task groups were established to create action steps to meet the identified priorities. Details about the action steps will be shared through future editions of *Redeeming Features* and announcements from the lectern.

In addition to working on the goals and priorities mentioned above, vestry has been focusing its efforts on usual business, including financial and budgetary issues, liaising with existing ministries, and providing support for mission and administrative items. Details of vestry's work can be found in the minutes of its monthly meetings posted on the website and the bulletin boards at the church.

If you at any time have any questions or concerns regarding vestry's work, please contact George Murnaghan, Senior Warden, or Junior Warden, Ian Fox. Please plan to join us on May 6 for Vestry Q & A during Adult Formation. We look forward to sharing more details with you!



## Music News

**Thanks again** to those members of the congregation who stepped forward to swell the choirs' ranks for the Holy Week and Easter services, and especially to "recruiters" among you.

**A reminder** - that the music and worship committees are currently beginning fall and winter planning, so we ask for your feedback on a number of music-related initiatives in worship this past year, e.g.: the Special Service Sundays which departed from our regular weekly liturgy to observe a particular theme, feast day, or purpose (*Celtic Sunday, Mission Sunday, St. Nicholas, Social Justice Sunday, Camp Sunday, and the March Healing service*); our Advent Service of Lessons and Carols, the prelude carol-sings before the Christmas Eve services, the occasional placement of the choir in and amongst the congregation, the change from "Youth Choir" to "Atrium Singers," etc.

Representatives to your music and worship committees welcome your thoughts on these and other changes in worship at Redeemer.

### Sunday Worship:

**May 6th Music Appreciation Sunday:** Guest Organist Geoffrey Wieting; Recognition of all Redeemer Singers; Sermon by our Music Director;

**May 13th Rogation Sunday:** Music on themes of planting and prayers for healthy crops;

**May 20th: Christian Formation Sunday,** Atrium Singers anthem, "Sing O People"

**June 3rd: Adult Choir's Last Sunday,** anthem by Hassler "O Sing unto the Lord"

**June 10-September 2: Redeemer Roster: Singers and instrumentalists** willing to contribute their talents in Sunday services while the choir is on break for the summer please contact Bernadette at: [bernadette@our-redeemer.net](mailto:bernadette@our-redeemer.net). Do you have a favorite hymn you'd like to sing; an instrument you play? Your talents are welcomed in Sunday services, always, but especially during summer when our choir takes its much deserved break...

### **SATURDAY, JUNE 16TH 7:30-9:30, PARISH HALL - BATTLE OF THE BANDS**

**ORGAN FUND FUNDRAISER!!! - SAVE THE DATE, INVITE YOUR FRIENDS, VOLUNTEER!!** The music committee is sponsoring a fundraiser to raise money for the repair of our sanctuary instruments!!

Singing music from the Beatles to Bon Jovi to Adele, three local classic rock bands, "Off R Rockers", "Highway 49", and "Johnny and the Sierras", will compete for your votes, (and bragging rights), as they contribute their talents for this worthy cause of helping our music program!!!

**Randy Bowlby** is chairing this event - watch for details in the weekly announcements, and let him know if you can help **before or during** the event at: [squawk5432@verizon.net](mailto:squawk5432@verizon.net), or 978-244-0245; **Randy has a whole list of tasks-many small,... and many hands will make light work. Thank you!!**



## 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 11:00-11:50am, 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 Adult Christian Formation Sessions*

**5/6 Vestry Q & A** – A chance to ask the Vestry and Rector any questions that are on your mind and find out what the Vestry (and Assistant Rector Search Committee) have been working on.

**5/13 The Journey of a Reluctant Contemplative: Prayer and PhD. Research with Monks in America, by Paula Pryce** - How in heaven's name does one end up studying with Christian monks for a PhD. in cultural anthropology? This was a long journey, the tale of which may not be so different from your own. After two years of research among Christian monastics in the United States (and before my family and I move to Switzerland), I will share a little of what I learned about how Americans, inside and out of the monastery, attempt to live contemplative lives in our fast-paced and complex world.

**5/20 Roman Catholics becoming Episcopal Part I** – Many of us who have come to the Episcopal Church from the Roman Catholic Church bring along a particular set of questions and concerns. Rev. Kate Ekrem will introduce this topic, explore the differences and similarities between these traditions, and welcomes your questions and concerns. Bill Fortier will follow up with several sessions in June unpacking the issues raised at this introductory session.

**5/27 Memorial Day Weekend – No Christian Formation**

**6/3 Roman Catholics becoming Episcopal Part II** - Bill Fortier will continue the discussion, offering his "top ten list" of Roman Catholic gifts that extend and continue in the Episcopal Church. This discussion will continue into other Sundays in June as there is interest.

*Adult Christian Formation Contact Person:* The Rev. Kate Ekrem ([kate@our-redeemer.net](mailto:kate@our-redeemer.net)).



## Christian Formation – Children and Youth

Christian Formation for ages 3 through 12<sup>th</sup> 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! \*\***

**May 5** Parent Meeting for parents of ages 2.5-5<sup>th</sup> grade, 10am-12noon

**May 20** Last Day of Sunday AM Christian Formation for children/youth  
Teacher Recognition during 9:30am service

### **Parent Meeting – Saturday, May 5, 10am to 12noon**

All parents of children ages 2.5 to 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to come *share some of the joys and challenges* of Christian formation (in worship, and formal classes, and parenting) of our children AND to *plan for our Fall 2012* programs. This follows from an excellent session in early February. Childcare provided. Contact Evelyn Hausslein ([ehausslein@rcn.com](mailto:ehausslein@rcn.com)) or Kate Ekrem ([kate@our-redeemer.net](mailto:kate@our-redeemer.net)) for more information or questions.

### ***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](http://www.our-redeemer.net/youth.html)) for a PDF form to print and fill out.

### **Questions?**

Age 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade – Evelyn Hausslein ([ehausslein@rcn.com](mailto:ehausslein@rcn.com) / 781-861-0378)

6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade – the Rev. Kate Ekrem ([kate@our-redeemer.net](mailto:kate@our-redeemer.net))

Youth Group – Cathy Burns ([hcburns@verizon.net](mailto:hcburns@verizon.net) / 978-663-5022)



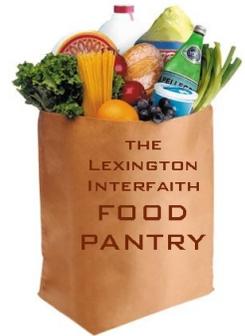
## Mission

*A heartfelt thank you!*

The Mission Committee and entire parish would like to say “thanks!” to Sam Stevens, Charlie Coons, Hao Doan, and their dedicated volunteers, for making the Patriot’s Day Pancake Breakfast a huge success!

### ***More opportunities to support the Lexington Interfaith Food Pantry!***

The Food Pantry’s “Item of the Month” for May is **15oz “Meals in a can” (hashes, chilis, stews, etc)**. They ask for specific sizes so each family gets an equal share. Please check expiration dates! You may drop off your donations in the baskets at church entrances. Visit the website to learn more: [www.lexingtonfoodpantry.wordpress.com](http://www.lexingtonfoodpantry.wordpress.com).



**Saturday, May 12** is the National Association of Letter Carriers 20<sup>th</sup> “Stamp Out Hunger” annual national food drive. This is the “largest one-day food collection event in the nation” and Lexington is no exception.

Please join Food Pantry volunteers at the Post Office on Saturday, May 12 between 1 and 4 p.m. to sort and stack the many generous donations. You do not need to stay the full time; any time you can offer will be appreciated! No need to RSVP, but please contact Carolyn Wortman, [carolynwortman@verizon.net](mailto:carolynwortman@verizon.net), with any questions.

### ***Support Atrium Classes on May 13!***

On Sunday, May 13 the Atrium classes will be planting the first seeds of Redeemer’s Giving Garden, which will be tended by devoted shepherds all summer (let us know if you’re interested!) and the harvest will be donated to the Lexington Food Pantry and Bristol Lodge.

In addition, on that day, Atrium classes will have a lemonade stand on the bike path in order to raise money to donate. Please enjoy a walk or ride on the bike path and be sure to quench your thirst with some delicious lemonade to support our kids and our mission ministries!

### ***Help families be ready for the challenges of the summer...***

Many of us wonder about what we will do when schools close down for the summer and we need to find another way to keep our kids occupied, engaged, happy, and learning. What happens when you also count on school for a healthy breakfast and lunch for your child?



## Mission (cont'd)

On Sunday, May 20 and May 27 we will be collecting Stop & Shop gift cards and monetary gifts for the Grow Clinic. Please join with us to support the Grow Clinic's families as they prepare for the summer and the additional food pressures that come with it.

*Treat your dad (or your aunt, your friend, your neighbor) to brunch at Redeemer on Father's Day!*

### **Join us on Sunday, June 17 for "Holy Frijoles!"**

Come to brunch right at Redeemer after the outdoor service and support El Hogar. There will be a delicious Honduran/American menu and celebratory environment!

Please donate what you would spend for brunch at a restaurant. All profits will go to El Hogar, a joint project of the Episcopal Churches of the United States and Honduras, which provides education and a home to 250 impoverished boys and girls.

Redeemer's 7<sup>th</sup> Mission team to Honduras leaves July 6 for the Agricultural School. For more information, contact Jessie Maeck, [jmaeck@aol.com](mailto:jmaeck@aol.com), 781-863-8053.

### **We are pleased to announce...**

After traveling to El Hogar last summer and recognizing the technological limitations at the school, Steve Burns and others began planning for how they might be able to help. With grants from the Deanery and others, Steve has undertaken an information technology project that will allow the school to update their computer systems with new software and a more unified system. Thank you to Steve and his team!

**El Hogar**

The Home of Love and Hope,  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras



# Calendar

May	Date	Event Details
Tuesday	1	7:30pm - Stewardship Committee meeting
Wednesday's	2, 9, 16, 23, 30	7:30pm - Adult Choir Rehearsal
Saturday	5	9:00am - Liturgy Team meeting 9:00am - Interfaith Garden work day 10:00 am - Christian Formation Children & Youth Parent Meeting
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>6</b>	8:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite I 8:30 - 9:15am - Choir Rehearsal 9:30am - Holy Eucharist Rite II: Music Sunday 10:45am - Christian Formation for children and youth 10:50am - Adult Christian Formation: Vestry Q & A
Monday	7	7:30pm - Property Committee meeting
Tuesday	8	7:00pm - Alewife Deanery meeting
Saturday	12	8:30am - Interfaith Garden work day 10:00am - Catechesis Parent Meeting
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>13</b>	8:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:00 - 9:45 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:45am - Christian Formation for children and youth 10:50am - Adult Christian Formation: <i>Modern Monastic Communities and Contemplative Prayer</i> 5:30pm - Family Circle Potluck dinner
Wednesday	16	6:30 pm - Vestry Dinner followed by Vestry meeting
Thursday	17	2:00 pm - Ascension Day Service at Brookhaven
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>20</b>	8:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite I 8:30 - 9:15am - Choir Rehearsal 9:30am - Holy Eucharist Rite II: Teacher Recognition 10:45am - Christian Formation for children and youth - Last Sunday 10:50am - Adult Christian Formation: <i>Roman Catholics becoming Episcopal</i> 12:00noon - Pastoral Care Team
Monday	21	7:30pm - Finance Committee meeting
Saturday	26	8:30am - Interfaith Garden Work day
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>27</b>	Pentecost 8:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite I 8:30 - 9:15am - Choir Rehearsal 9:30am - Holy Eucharist Rite II w/ Holy Baptism No Christian Formation
<b>Monday</b>	<b>28</b>	Memorial Day—Office Closed 1:30pm - Cook for Bristol Lodge 7:30pm - Mission Committee Meeting

Please send all announcements by email to [office@our-redeemer.net](mailto: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.**