

Redeeming Features

Volume XXVI, No. 5

www.our-redeemer.net

Summer 2010

Greetings from the Rev. Kate Ekrem

Newsletter

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Dear Friends,

Have you ever had the experience of arriving at work and not being able to remember anything about your commute? That's when you know you need a vacation. Summertime is a yearly reminder that perhaps we have gotten over-busy and over-tired, as we look forward with longing to time off or just a slower pace.

Every once in awhile I am struck anew by the fact that the word "recreation" is really "re-creation," being created again. We need to be created again, to let God in and make us new, to get us back in touch with our soul's true essence. But it simply won't happen unless we do some recreation – some playing, having fun, and taking time off.

A few years ago the Massachusetts Council of Churches started a lobbying group called "Take Back Your Time." The group urges people to resist the relentless pace of work and school life and reclaim time for rest and renewal. They cite some interesting statistics: last year only 14% of American workers took two weeks or more for vacation, and 80% of men and 62% of women (far more than half of us!) put in more than 40 hours a week on the job. We actually work longer hours than medieval peasants did. They also cite the toll this takes on our health, our economy, our environment, and our spiritual lives. (You can find out more about the campaign at www.timeday.org).

Probably you are planning some vacation time this summer. But unstructured time can also be scary – we rush to fill it with activities and "things I just need to catch up on." It's hard to enjoy just *being* when we are so used to *doing*. Sometimes when I set aside time for prayer and quiet, and find myself cleaning out the fridge or folding laundry instead, I realize that I'm wrestling with an issue that I don't want to share with God, because I worry God's answer to my prayer will not be the answer I want. Sometimes keeping busy is a way of keeping God at arm's length, and we avoid rest and recreation because we know it makes us vulnerable to being more aware of our anxieties. Perhaps in allowing time for recreation and re-creation, we'll also be renewed in our ability to trust in God and face our concerns.

Always at this time of year people are apologizing to me about not being at church much over the summer. I hope that you might find church is actually relaxing, contributing to your slower pace and reconnection with God. If Sundays in the summer don't fit your schedule, there is also always the option of Wednesday night Summer Home Worship, which is a lot of fun and a relaxing and renewing way to connect with your Redeemer community if you are away on weekends. But if you are out

PIC's letter, continued.

of town for a few weeks on vacation, that's a good thing, and not something to feel guilty about. We need time and space to hear the small quiet voices, to listen to ourselves, to our souls and hearts, to the cry of the needy, and most importantly, to listen to God. Perhaps in listening to these voices we will find the time and space to let God re-create us.

Peace and blessings,



The Rev. Kate Ekrem, Priest-In-Charge
kate@our-redeemer.net

Vestry Summary

Our monthly Vestry meeting on May 20 had a full agenda; among other things, we approved a Fundraising Policy Statement to help guide and coordinate our many appeals, and we appointed members to the Strategic Planning Committee, both carrying forward the work done at our April meeting. We also heard about - and endorsed - the Mission Committee's plans and calendar of appeals and activities over the balance of this year, which give strong testimony to Redeemer's people at work spreading Christ's message and extending the reach of our community. A busy, full, and inspiring evening!

We also heard two requests from the Stewardship Committee about changes to enhance our Stewardship efforts. One was to allow the committee to report and publicize within the parish those who make a pledge - and who would elect to be so acknowledged - as an important way of thanking parishioners for their financial support. Vestry passed a motion to allow the Stewardship Committee to request from parishioners authorization to publish their names as contributors (without contribution amounts) in the stewardship report presented at annual meeting.

The second request relates to our practices about who is allowed to have access to confidential stewardship (pledge) data, beyond the Treasurer, Finance Chair and the church staff who support them. The Stewardship Committee requests that we allow its committee members, including the Priest-in-Charge or Rector, to have this information to assist it in managing the stewardship process and dividing the work of contacting individuals. A Vestry motion was made to authorize the active members of the Stewardship committee to have access to parishioners' current and historical contribution information. After a good discussion, we chose to delay a vote on this motion to give an opportunity for anyone in the parish to share their views or concerns about this important change. So, we ask that you talk to Kate, one of the Wardens or any member of Vestry to share your views so Vestry can be informed and aware as it acts on the request before it. Please let us hear from you! Our next Vestry meeting is Wednesday June 16.

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

- Submitted by George Murnaghan, Junior Warden

Remember Redeemer: Are your Beneficiary Designations up to date?



Feeding the Hungry...our Children and Youth in Action



This May, the children in the Atrium classes focused on people who are hungry and poor. By selling lemonade on the Bike path, one Sunday and one Tuesday, they made \$140! They collected money in mite boxes to buy a flock of chickens for the graduates of El Hogar. In this way they connected their concern with other mission projects of Redeemer.

On Saturday, May 8, the Youth Group prepared the newly expanded 4-frame Giving Garden. They dug, hauled, built, and got very wet! It rained, thundered, and poured, yet they worked 5 hours straight!!

On Tuesday, May 11, the volunteers for the Lexington Interfaith Garden (just off the Battle Green), led by Carla Fortmann, helped complete the preparation of the beds. They dug and they hauled, and they did not get wet.



Sunday, May 16, was planting day for Redeemer's Giving Garden, and many of the parish's littlest members turned out to help! Each of the 4 beds was planted by theme. In the "Colonial Garden" bed we planted potatoes, peas, carrots, radishes and onions. In the "Native American" bed we planted corn, beans and squash. In the "Italian" bed

we planted tomatoes, basil, and parsley. In the "Mediterranean" bed we planted cucumbers, hot peppers, and garlic.

Thank you, all!

- Submitted by
Katharine Mockett



Redeemer's Graduates



Lucia Bennett, daughter of Dan and Alice Bennett, is graduating from Bedford High School, June 10, 2010. Lucia will attend Charleston Southern University, in Charleston, South Carolina, majoring in Elementary Education.



Michelle Lee Daniels, daughter of Murray and Karen Daniels, received her Masters Degree in Music from the University of California at San Diego. She is now in their PhD program.



Stephanie Catherine Kukulich, daughter of Linda and Stephen Kukulich, is graduating from Lexington High School on June 6, 2010. Stephanie will attend Boston University as a member of the Honors College.



Karla Faber, the daughter of Ralf and Andrea Faber, sister of Meike Faber, is graduating from the Cambridge School of Weston on June 11, 2010. Karla is very excited to attend Smith College in Northampton, MA in the fall. She is interested in English literature.



Leslie King-Schultz, daughter of Bob and Mary Etta King, graduated from Mayo Medical School on May 22, 2010, in Rochester, Minnesota. Leslie is a 1998 graduate of Lexington High School, and graduated from Duke University in 2002. She earned a Master's in Public Health from the University of Minnesota in 2004. She will begin her residency in pediatrics at the Mayo Clinic in June, 2010.



Kathryn Elizabeth Needham, daughter of Chris and Janet Needham, will graduate from Lexington High School on June 6, 2010. She will be attending Gettysburg College in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania in the fall.





Sarah Vogele, daughter of Connie Parrish and Bill Vogele, graduated from the College of Wooster (Wooster OH) on May 10, 2010, with a major in Biology. Sarah plans to first "relax into the real world" then pursue a career in agricultural science.



Christopher Neumann, son of Jim and Ginny Neumann, is graduating from Clearway School, and will attend Middlesex Community College, in September, as a Criminal Justice major.



Eva Bowen Nokes, daughter of Mary Bowen Nokes is graduating with a Ph.D. in biology from Brandeis University. Eva will be working at Proteostasis Therapeutics in Cambridge.



Parish Life

Rite-13 Celebrities

On May 16, the following members were recognized as they began their journey toward adulthood in the Rite-13 ceremony: Elizabeth Coons, Lily Ghorbani, Benjamin Martell, Kevin Antonevich, and Peter Kukolich.



Youth Confirmands

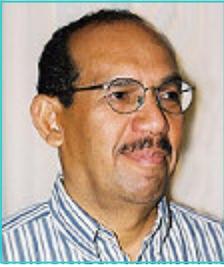
On Saturday, May 22, the following young adults were confirmed as members of the Episcopal Church: Katherine Mirani, Meike Faber, Rose Bennett, Anna Kern, Sam Williams, Lindsay Koso, and Mary Lora Muller-Robinson. *(pictured on their day-long retreat with Peter Koso and Rev. Sabeth Fitzgibbons.)*



Summer Home Worship

Away on weekends this summer? Unable to attend Sunday morning worship at Redeemer? Stay connected to the parish community and join us on Wednesday evenings for "Summer Home Worship". We gather at 6:30 on Wednesdays from June 30 to August 18 in parishioners' homes; the worship will vary from simple prayers to a full Eucharist, and everyone is welcome. Stay tuned to the weekly announcements for more information and a schedule.

Bienvenido Raul and Claudia Castro!



On Sunday, June 13, Redeemer will welcome Raul and Claudia Castro from the El Hogar schools in Honduras. The Castros will be in the Boston area for the El Hogar Boston Fiesta fundraising dinner on June 14. Raul will join us at Redeemer to share the current work and vision of the schools and the impact that our mission has on the children and families in Honduras.

Raul is the coordinator and host for work teams in Honduras. Claudia is the director of the school for young children in Tegucigalpa, El Hogar de Amor y Esperanza. They are open, generous, and passionate about their work. Please join them at 10:30am in the meeting room for coffee, lemonade, and inspiration!



Please Note: There will be an ingathering of needed items that our mission group will be taking to distribute at El Hogar this summer. The list will be available soon!

Redeemer's Fall Retreat

Reserve your place today for Redeemer's 7th annual All Parish Weekend, October 1- 3 at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in New Hampshire. Each year we've had 60-90 parishioners, ranging in ages from under 1 to over 80. Come for the weekend or for the day on Saturday. Enjoy the cool, brisk air. Smell the crackling fire. Worship by the lake. Climb the high ropes. Canoe on the lake. Participate (or not) in the programs on Saturday. Spend time in quiet contemplation. Meet new parishioners, and get to know those you may only see on Sunday. Experience the Redeemer community at its best! This year's program theme is "Encountering Scripture," to be realized in a variety of formats suitable for all ages, viewpoints, and learning styles.



It would help to have a preliminary headcount by the end of June!

Call Bob King at 781 862-8437 if you hope to attend.

Lodge rooms (as opposed to cabins) are first-come first-served with a completed registration form and deposit. Forms are in the narthex and side entrance.

We will resume monthly publication in September. The **next deadline** for Redeeming Features submissions is **August 15th**. 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.



Summer Mission Trip

This year's mission trip to El Hogar will take place from July 16 - 23!

Please hold our pilgrims in your prayers as they travel: Chris Needham, Bill Vogele, Sarah Vogele, Stephanie Kukolich, Linda Kukolich, Callie Koso, Lindsay Koso, Erica Brotschi, Alan Kalf, Cara Kalf, Steve Burns, Cathy Burns, and Susan Youmans (Epiphany Winchester)

Getting to Know You

Each month we feature an interview with a parishioner. This month, we are proud to introduce... a pilgrim returning to El Hogar this summer:

Sarah Vogele

Q: Tell us about you! Where you are from? How long have you attended Redeemer? What activities have you been involved in here?

I'm Sarah Vogele, from Lexington, though at heart now I partly belong to Ohio... We've been attending Redeemer since I forced it on my parents at age six, making my Redeemer career about 16 years long, and counting. I've done everything from attend children's chapel, Sunday school, middle school and high school youth groups, directing the cherub choir, sung in the choir, was an acolyte, through being on Vestry for two years instead of the usual one. Then I ran off to college and was rarely heard from again...



Q: Why did you travel to El Hogar the first time?

My father went the on the first trip, so half of my inspiration was from hearing about his experiences. I had also taken a year off between high school and college, (2005 -2006) and for the spring semester of that year I had lived in Ecuador. I had clearly been bitten by the travel bug, but also the drive to want to combine travel with a purpose. After my first year in college, it seemed only natural to want to return to Honduras with my dad on the church's second trip.

Q: Are there particular events or memories from your trip(s) that stand out for you?

Some of the strongest memories I have from my trips to La Escuela Agrícola are from the evenings. They are either of sitting together on the front porch of the volunteer house recollecting ourselves through Compline, or watching an evening storm out across the fields over the mountains and being in awe of how stunning weather can be.

Q: What are your hopes for what the trip this summer will hold?

I can't wait to reconnect with old friends; having to miss last summer was hard, even if it was the right choice to make. There's also a wonderful feeling that comes with going back to a place that has become familiar, but being able to introduce someone else to it for the first time. And honestly, I'm hoping for a little more manual labor than we've had in past years...

Q: What else would you like parishioners to know about you, El Hogar, and/or Redeemer?

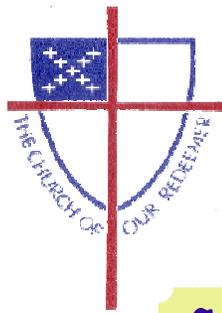
If anyone has even the slightest inclination about joining a trip to El Hogar in future years, explore further, talk to people who have gone, and go, you won't regret it.

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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Summer Calendar

JUNE		
	<i>Date</i>	<i>Event Details</i>
Saturday	5	9am-Noon J2A Rummage Sale
Sunday	13	Ingathering for Supplies for El Hogar Schools, 10:45am El Hogar Guest Speaker, Raul Castro, 4pm Family Circle Meeting and 5:30pm Potluck, Youth Group Pool Party, 6pm Mission Committee Dinner (offsite)
Sunday	20	Father's Day, Labyrinth Sunday, 9:30am Outdoor Eucharist
Sunday	27	Ingathering of Food Cards for the Grow Clinic, 10:45am Pastoral Care Team Meeting
Monday	28	1:30-4pm Cook for Bristol Lodge
JULY		
	<i>Date</i>	<i>Event Details</i>
Sunday	11	Commissioning of El Hogar Mission Team, 4pm Family Circle Meeting and 5:30pm Potluck
Friday-Saturday	16-24	El Hogar Mission Trip to Honduras
Sunday	25	Ingathering for Classroom-in-a-Bag for Esperanza Academy
Monday	26	1:30-4pm Cook for Bristol Lodge
AUGUST		
	<i>Date</i>	<i>Event Details</i>
Sunday	8	4pm Family Circle Meeting and 5:30pm Potluck
Sunday	15	September Newsletter Deadline
Monday	23	1:30-4pm Cook for Bristol Lodge

The church office will be closed on:
 Memorial Day, Monday, May 31
 Thursday, June 3 (clergy will be in)
 Monday, July 5
 Labor Day, Monday, September 6

Summer Home Worship
 Wednesday evenings from 6-9pm
 June 30-August 18
 Casual prayer or Eucharist services
 Hosted in parishioner's homes
 Light refreshments