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Redeeming Features

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Issue 6

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 Emily Charlton Sandy Keshishian
 Susan Emanuel Peter Lund
 Ian Fox James Surprenant

Greetings from Rev. Kate

Redeemer is: Intergenerational

Dear friends,

Part of our work as a parish this year is living into – unpacking, exploring, making plans about – the strategic plan that the planning task group, chaired by Peter Lund, presented to us at the Annual Meeting in January. The vestry has certainly been focused on this, as the vestry report on page 8 details.

One part of the strategy plan that’s been thought-provoking for me is the graphic on the cover – the triangle that outlines our core values and ministries. Ever since January, I’ve been noticing how Redeemer is indeed living out the values of being Christ centered, community minded, Episcopal, contemporary, and intergenerational, and how we really are organized around the ministries of worship, formation, and mission.

Over the next few months in this newsletter I want to share how I see those values being lived out at Redeemer, and ask you to think about and be involved in enhancing our commitment to those things that are so important to us as a community of faith.

I’m going to start at the bottom of the pyramid, with intergenerational, because last month we had two wonderful worship services that highlighted that value. The first, of course, was the youth service on May 1. Most of us were moved to tears by how Alex, Lindsey, and Katherine not only expressed their appreciation for this community, but showed what amazing and insightful adults they have become. The entire youth group was (cont’d on p. 2)

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Greetings from Kate (continued)

involved in organizing the service, choosing the music, writing the prayers, and so on. One thing I've heard several times from our high schoolers is that they really appreciate how people at Redeemer treat them as individuals, not just extensions of their families or parents. Their own gifts for ministry and leadership are acknowledged and welcomed.

On May 22nd, we got to thank all those formation leaders who offer so much by being teachers and mentors to our children and youth. It was also a treat to hear the children's and adult choirs singing together. Although sometimes we have formation together (as when we made the Easter Gardens) and sometimes apart, all ages at Redeemer have formation at the same time, engaging in learning and growing side-by-side.

Redeemer really knows how to do intergenerational worship. In fact, when Bishop Tom Shaw visited us last year, he told me he was really struck by how much all ages were involved as readers, intercessors, ushers, and chalice bearers. He was noticing the work of our Liturgy Teams. This past Holy Week and Easter, the Liturgy Team involved people of all ages in leading those special services and it was great to see young and old ushering and greeting together.

Our mission is intergenerational, too. This year a group of all ages will once again be going to El Hogar. Things like the Grow Clinic holiday party, where some of our homebound elders helped with the baking while teens took the food to the Grow Clinic, is typically of how many of our mission activities happen.

This way of being together is part of what makes Redeemer special. It doesn't happen at all churches. It brings people to our parish and makes them want to be part of what's going on here. It's one way we reflect God's Kingdom, which much surely be as intergenerational as it gets. It's worth celebrating, and growing.

If there was one thing we could do to be more intergenerational, what do you think it would be? Improve youth program in some way? Increase handicapped accessibility for elders? Involve our young people in visiting our homebound elders? Have more opportunity for people of all ages to engage in mission, worship, formation together? If you have ideas, share them. I'd love to hear them and I'm sure others would as well.

Peace and blessings!



Kate



Adult Christian Formation aka Adult Forum

Come join us after the 9:30am service on Sundays. We bring our coffee, and gather to learn and wonder and pray together. We usually meet in the Meeting Room (down the hall from the Great Hall). Ages 13-103 are welcome!

6/5 Questions of Faith Series: The Kingdom of God *What is God's purpose for human life and for all of Creation? Is it all about going to heaven? Does the call for justice from the prophets, from Jesus, and from the many faithful folks have anything to do with God's purpose for us? Can the Reign of God be a part of our lives right here and right now?*

The **Questions of Faith** series engages some of the central questions of living as Christians in today's world. Each session will feature a short moderated panel of Redeemer's lay members and clergy examining the questions of the day, followed by small and large group discussion. Please join us for as much of this series as you can!

6/12 Questions of Faith Series: Sin *Is there such a thing as "original sin"? What does 'sin' mean? What are the consequences of human sin, especially in our relationship with God?*

6/19 Conversation with Bishop Bud Cederholm Bishop Bud will be making his final visit to Redeemer before he retires in November 2011. He always wants to have time to talk with the 'people in the pews' informally (at Coffee Hour) and more formally (at Adult Formation).

6/26 How does one use a Labyrinth? After our outdoor worship service, come join us around the Labyrinth to learn a little more about its origins and history, and how people pray using the labyrinth.

Adult Christian Formation will take a break from meeting formally on Sundays during July and August, and will resume in September. Use the summer for your own formation activities – read a spiritual book you've been meaning to get to, take a retreat day at a local monastery/convent/retreat house, worship with a different community – and don't be surprised when the Holy Spirit throws herself upon you and inspires you.

Questions about Adult Christian Formation? Contact the Rev. Sabeth Fitzgibbons (sabeth@our-redeemer.net).



Thank you to Christian Formation Leaders!

One of Redeemer's key values is Christian Formation, and we could not provide quality programming for our children and youth without countless hours of preparation and ministry with our young people by the following amazing volunteers.



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Evelyn Hausslein
Linda Kukolich
Carolyn Schultz
Mary Ann Burnside
Allison Antonevich

J2A

Steve Burns
Judy Downes
Ashley Rooney
Bob King

4th – 6th Grade Class

Peter Koso
Kathleen Mirani

YAC

Alan Kalf
Cara Kalf

Rite-13

Alice Bennett
Sam Stevens

Youth Group

Cathy Burns
Steve Burns
Helene Huggins
Chris Needham

J2A Program Coordinator

Beth Murnaghan

A huge thank you to all of you! Have a restful summer!

Vide-Grenier (REDEEMER'S RELINQUISHED RICHES)

On October 28 & 29, the parish is mounting a fundraiser at which we will sell the attic treasures of our members for the benefit of the Capital Fund. Friday evening will feature finger foods and aperitifs, and Saturday more informal refreshments. If you are downsizing (and who isn't?), set aside your quality items (NO CLOTHES OR ELECTRONICS) for pick-up in the Autumn and informed appraising.



Don't' forget to save the dates for what promises to be a parish-wide social event! If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Ashley Rooney, earooney@rcn.com or Claudia Cooper, cooper.claudia@gmail.com.



Music News



Brava Youth Choir!

Many thanks and congratulations to the Youth Choir for singing on Recognition Sunday in May. The children are now on a well-deserved break for the summer, but will welcome new members to join them when rehearsals resume on Wednesday, September 14, 3:30-4:45. Youth choir is open to children who enjoy singing. No audition required.

Coming up in June...

6/12 - Choir Appreciation Sunday - We will recognize and thank our adult choir for its musical gifts and time commitment throughout the year, and the choir will sing Purcell's festival anthem "Rejoice in the Lord, Always." in observance of Pentecost.

6/19 - Bishop's Visit - We have already had a few voices volunteer to join us for the Bishop's visit on this Sunday. More are welcome - we will be singing a lively arrangement of the "Spanish Hymn" (in English) *Come Christians Join to Sing* for this occasion.

6/26 - Outdoor Service Sunday - Guitarists and other Instrumentalists will join Bernadette in providing music for our Outdoor service, when we will celebrate Ted Gaiser's ministry.

Summer Services Solos

LAST CALL for anyone willing and interested in contributing their musical talents during the summer months. Since the choirs will be on break, Bernadette will be looking for a variety of musical offerings to include as preludes, anthems, postludes. Doesn't need to be fancy - a favorite hymn or piece - all instrumentations/vocals and musical styles welcome. Send Bernadette an email Bernadette@our-redeemer.net

with your music offering and available dates between July 3rd and August 4th, so she can make up the summer schedule.

FREE PIANO LOOKING FOR A GOOD HOME - YOURS FOR THE TAKING

The music committee has decided to keep just one of the pianos downstairs, and so we are looking for a good home for the extra piano (the one on the right as you face the wall, with the light-colored finish). If interested, please call Lisa in the office to arrange a pick-up time for your piano movers to come get it!

Finally, as we move into the summer months, a special note of thanks for the welcome extended by the members of the Redeemer congregation during my first few months here. While I am still unsure of a number of name/face identities among you, please don't hesitate to contact me directly with any thoughts or suggestions on any aspect of the music program, or music in worship, since I will be sketching general plans for next year over the summer months, and would welcome your thoughts.

Bernadette Colley

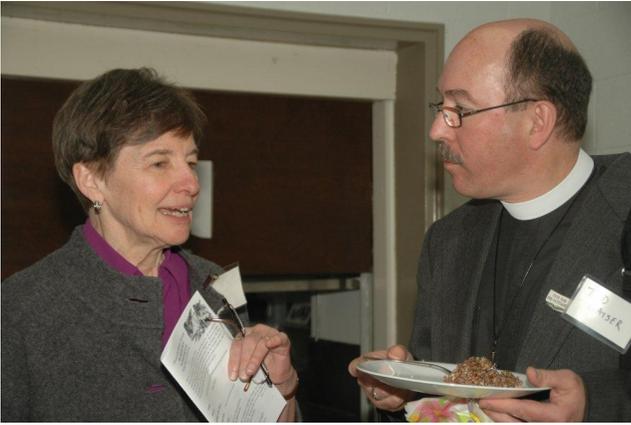


Farewell Ted.....Memories



Staff





We will miss you!



Staff



Vestry Summary

Each month vestry reviews progress on the goals we established based on the Strategic Plan. (See the March 2011 issue of RF for a description of vestry's 2011 goals.) The Property/Capital task group met with Property Committee representatives to begin review of the "Blue Book" for the purpose of evaluating ongoing maintenance needs and developing a multi-year capital expenditure plan. As part of their human resource needs assessment, the Leadership Development task group shared an impressive spreadsheet that details information about each of Redeemer's ministries and committees, such as who the current chair / leader is and number of years served, the number of actual versus desired members, time commitment, whether there is a "job description" etc.

New business included approval of an "Instrument and Music Area Building Use Policy" that was developed by the Music Committee to respond to requests from individuals and groups seeking to use the church's music facilities and instruments for rehearsals and performance space. The intent of the policy is to enable access to the Church's instruments and rehearsal spaces which might not be otherwise available to professional or student musicians who need them while ensuring sufficient access to staff to carry out our music program. We also approved a proposal for a "Redeemer's Relinquished Riches" sale to be held in October for the benefit of the Capital Fund. (It's not too early to start thinking about what is in your attic or basement that you could donate...). If you are interesting in helping with this sale, please contact Ashley Rooney.

As a reminder, the vestry meets once a month, on the third Wednesday of every month. Vestry meetings are open to all parishioners. Minutes are posted online under "Documents" on Redeemer's website (http://www.our-redeemer.net/community_docs.htm), and a paper copy is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office.

- Connie Parrish, Senior Warden



Education for Ministry: Is it for you?

This fall, Redeemer will start its own “EfM” or Education for Ministry group. EfM is an in-depth Christian Formation program for adults. It includes Bible study, personal sharing, reflection, theological thinking, and worship. EfM is an enriching, satisfying, soul-nourishing experience.

It’s called “Education for Ministry” because it’s based on the idea that we are all ministers, in whatever we do, and need support and sustenance for our ministry. EfM was created by the faculty of the University of the South, an Episcopal seminary and university.

Six to eight adults meet with a trained mentor once a week over the course of a nine-month academic year. They use both the Christian tradition of scripture, history, and theology, and the collective experience of the group’s members to see how God is working in the world and in their lives.

Participants read a chapter each week in the resource guide, and are given more suggestions for further reading if they chose. Each person sets their own learning goals and can put in as much (or as little) preparation time as they want. In the weekly meetings, members have an opportunity to share their insights and discoveries and discuss questions that the materials raised for them.

More important is the development of skills in theological reflection. The goal is to learn to think theologically. By examining their own beliefs and their relationship to our culture and the tradition of our Christian faith, participants can learn what it means to be effective ministers in the world. In coming to terms with the notion that everything we do has potential for manifesting the love of Christ, we discover that our ministry is at hand wherever we turn.

The weekly meetings also include worship. Each member has the opportunity to share in worship leadership.

EfM is a four year program, but members only commit to one year at a time. The first year’s resource materials focus on Hebrew Scripture, the second year on Christian Scripture, the third on Church History, and the fourth on Theology. It’s a “one-room schoolhouse” where different members may be in different years of the program, but all share together what they’ve learned.

We already have interest from six Redeemer members, enough to know we’ll very likely have a group. Kate Ekrem will be the mentor for the first year. Kate did EfM many years ago, and will attend mentor training this summer. There will be a meeting on Sunday, June 12th at noon (after adult forum) in the library to share more information, answer any questions, and talk about potential weekly meeting times. If you are interested, please come to that meeting or speak to Kate, Evelyn Hausslein, or Mary Ucci.





"ReStore" for Humanity

As we enter into the "Habitat" portion of our Mission calendar, it is clear that many members of Redeemer have great interest in supporting Habitat for Humanity.

Our work day in Lawrence is scheduled for Saturday June 4th, but there are limits to the number of helpers that they can safely accept at one time. The question that many ask is, "other than working at the Habitat site, what can I do to help the effort?". Until recently, the only answer that has been available was a cash donation.

Last Spring, Habitat opened an outlet named the "ReStore". The ReStore sells new and gently used furniture, fixtures, home accessories, appliances and building materials. The ReStore outlet accepts donated goods which are sold to the general public at a fraction of the retail price. The proceeds from these sales help the local Habitat team fund the construction of new Habitat homes in the community.

This is a great way to dispose of unwanted home improvement items while promoting re-use of items that might otherwise end up in Landfills. The ReStore is located at 4 Union Street in Lawrence, MA and can be contacted at.....[978-686-3323](tel:978-686-3323).....info@mvrestore.org. This is terrific way to recycle good items and get a tax break too!

Summer Solstice Labyrinth Walk

June 21st marks the first day of summer and the summer solstice, the longest day of the year. In this season after Pentecost, we celebrate the green, growing days of summer and God's gift of creation. Join us in marking this day by prayerfully walking our candle-lit Labyrinth. Come anytime from 7:30pm to 9pm (sunset is at 8:31). Prayer cards to guide your walk are available. Walk the labyrinth for fun, to ponder or pray on a problem, to focus on an intention, or to celebrate God's creation and enjoy our beautiful gardens of the year. All ages are welcome.



Easter Sunday Easter Egg Hunt



Summer Home Worship

The summer is a special time to slow down and savor each moment. It's time for relaxation and enjoying the company of friends.

If you have some extra time this summer and want to spend it eating and worshipping with your Redeemer friends, please join us for Summer Home Worship on Wednesday evenings. It's also perfect if your summer plans take you away from Lexington on the weekend. Just because you're somewhere else on Sunday doesn't mean you have to miss church!

Each Wednesday night we'll meet at 6:30pm at the home of someone in the Redeemer community. We'll enjoy food (either a potluck supper or lighter refreshments) and worship (either Eucharist, or, when the clergy are both on vacation, a service of Compline or Evening Prayer).

Peg Wright has been organizing these services the last few years. She is looking for an "assistant" organizer, so if you're willing to help out please speak to Kate or Peg. Also, if you'd be willing to host a Summer Home Worship, let them know!

The first Summer Home Worship will be June 29th at 6:30pm at the Rectory, 12 White Pine Lane. We'll have a potluck supper followed by Eucharist. Stay tuned to the July *Redeeming Features* and the weekly announcements for more details about

Do you receive Redeeming Features and /or Announcements by mail?

If so, you can help us to save paper and postage by informing the church office if you wish to be removed from the mailing list. Provide us with your email address (if applicable) and receive the monthly newsletter and weekly announcement via e-mail.



Calendar



June	Date	Event Details
Saturday	4	7:45 am – Habitat Build Day 9:00 am – Liturgy Team meeting
Sunday	5	8:00 & 9:30 am - Holy Eucharist—Youth Sunday Adult Formation Topic: Questions of Faith Series: The Kingdom of God 12:00 noon - Worship Committee meeting
Monday	6	7:30 pm - Property Committee meeting
Tuesday	7	7:30 pm - Stewardship meeting
Wednesday	8	7:30 pm - Executive Committee meeting
Sunday	12	8:00 & 9:30 am - Holy Eucharist Adult Formation Topic: Questions of Faith Series: Sin 12:00 noon—EFM Meeting 4:00 pm - Family Circle 5:30 pm - Family Circle Potluck
Tuesday	14	7:00 pm - Youth Group Leaders meeting
Wednesday	15	7:30 pm - Vestry meeting
Sunday	19	8:00 & 9:30 am - Holy Eucharist (Bishop’s Visit) Adult Formation Topic: Conversation with Bishop Bud Cederholm
Monday	20	7:30 pm - Finance Committee meeting
Tuesday	21	6:00 pm—Labyrinth Walk
Sunday	26	8:00 & 9:30 am - Holy Eucharist (Outdoor Worship at 9:30 am) Adult Formation Topic: How does one use a Labyrinth? Farewell Celebration for Ted Gaiser
Monday	27	1:30 pm - Cook for Bristol Lodge 7:30 pm - Mission Committee meeting
Wednesday	29	6:30 pm - Summer Worship Service & Potluck at Rectory

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.

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