



Church of Our Redeemer
 6 Meriam Street
 Lexington, MA 02420
 781-862-6408
 www.our-redeemer.net

Redeeming Features

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Staff

Rector: The Rev. Kate Ekrem
Music Director: Dr. Bernadette Colley
Administrator/RF Editor: Lisa Thistle
Sexton: Roy McHoul

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

Greetings from Rev. Kate Ekrem

Inside this issue:

Greetings from Kate	1
Worship News	2
Parish Life	3
Music News	7
Vestry	8
Christian Formation	9
Mission News	10
June Calendar	12

Dear friends,

Each month I've been sharing with you some thoughts about our vestry theme of "Building up the Church." The last of our three vestry areas of focus for this year is building up the building itself. Our strategic plan calls for a comprehensive survey of our church building, making sure that it's in good shape and that it supports our core ministries of mission, formation and worship. Last year the vestry, finance and property committees joined forces to lay out a plan for making sure we are taking care of our ongoing maintenance needs. Thanks to them we are in good shape for being on track to fund and complete regular maintenance on the building.

So, this year the vestry "building" task group of Ian Fox, Lance Conrad, Frank Kern, and Susan Emmanuel is focused on looking to the future. Given that we want to be engaged in mission to the world, providing excellent formation programs to all ages, and sharing in intergenerational worship that involves everyone, how do we make sure our building is helping and not hindering those goals?

There are a few things that the Redeemer community already knows well and is living out in how we use our space. First, that our building should welcome everyone. All are included in God's family, and our church should be a welcoming, inviting space that is accessible to all, including older folks and those with limited mobility. Second, we know that our space teaches an unspoken lesson to our children. If children's classrooms are in a dank basement, the children know they aren't really important. But beautiful classrooms like our Atriums and youth room tell the young



Greetings from Kate (cont'd)

people that church is a special, loving, welcoming place for them. Third, we know that how we worship reflects what we believe and value. We place a portable altar closer to the congregation and invite children and lay worship leaders to gather around the altar table because we know that worshipping God is something we all participate in and make happen together, not a “spectator sport”. These values speak to people who come to visit us.

There is much to explore here and our vestry task force has been visiting other churches in our area to gather ideas and expertise. They have visited Christ Church in Waltham, which is working on handicapped accessibility and more room for its food pantry, St. Anne’s in Lincoln, which recently renovated its worship space, parish hall, and kitchen, High Rock Church in Arlington, which uses an innovative method of renting different space for weekday and Sunday activities, and even got to tour the Chapel Hill/Chauncy Hall School, where Lance Conrad is Head of School, to see how they are renovating a Swedenborgian chapel into a beautiful student center on a shoestring budget. This group has more church visits planned to continue to gather information and wisdom from other faith communities.

In the fall, you will see the result of some hard work over the summer getting our new Atrium III room ready, hear some exciting news about plans for the Great Hall, and be invited into more conversation about our worship, formation, and mission spaces at Redeemer.

In Peace,



THANK YOU to Connie Chrusciel for 20+ years of Altar Guild service



Connie Chrusciel has been on the Altar Guild longer than she can remember, faithfully preparing bread and wine, ironing altar linens, and making everything ready for our Sunday services along with the other members of the Altar Guild. Connie has decided to retire from the Altar Guild this year, so a big THANK YOU from all of us for her cheery smile in the sacristy early on Sunday morning, and her dedication to our parish. Thank you, Connie!



Bill Fortier to become Redeemer's Theologian-in-Residence

Anyone who has been to an adult forum led by Bill Fortier knows he is an extraordinary teacher and theologian. This past year Bill led a class on The Articles of Religion (known as the 39 Articles). Bill also wrote his talks on the 39 Articles into a booklet, produced by Susan Emmanuel, which is available at the church. The previous Lent, Bill offered a series on the meaning of the Eucharist and interpretation of Scripture, called "Bread, Blood and Bibles."



In his wider life, Bill Fortier is a pastoral counselor and psychoanalyst who teaches and supervises at the Massachusetts Institute for Psychoanalysis and UMASS Medical School. Bill earned his Doctor of Ministry Degree from Andover Newton Theological School and was previously a theologian-in-residence for the Worcester Ecumenical Council and Director of Training for the Worcester Pastoral Counseling Center. Bill is married to Barbara and they have three children: Joshua, Luke and Molly.

We are blessed that Bill has offered his gifts and teaching talents to Redeemer on an ongoing basis as our official Theologian-in-Residence. In this role, Bill will teach at least two adult classes each year and preach every few months. Current plans include a class on Faith and Science in the fall and a Lenten series on Suffering.

On June 3, Bill will be our preacher for the day and we will commission him as Redeemer's Theologian-in-Residence. The Eucharistic Prayer we'll use that day is one composed by Bill, and brings together many of the themes from his Lenten class. Bill will also be leading the adult forum that day, Part II of "Roman Catholics becoming Episcopal".



Redeemer's All Parish Weekend at Camp

This article is strictly for parishioners who have never attended Redeemer's weekend at the Barbara C Harris Camp and Conference Center. That means that over one hundred of you can skip it. You don't need to be reminded what a special time this is in the life of the parish: a time when each of us can engage (or not) with nature, the Bible, current events, and each other in ways that are not possible within our busy pattern of activity on Sunday mornings and week nights; a time when we can be completely alone, have intimate conversations with new and old friends, or sing and pray and dance with a joyous gathering of young and old. The camp and the weekend are structured so that everyone can be accommodated, from ages 1 to 100. Lodging is in modest hotel-style lodge rooms or cabins; meals are family-style; transportation within the camp is by foot or golf cart.



The theme for this year's retreat is "Journey Inward Journey Outward", focusing on mission and the way it influences our world, Our Redeemer, and ourselves. The dates are 28-30 September. Come Friday to Sunday or for the day on Saturday. You can pick up a registration form from the tables at both entrances to the sanctuary, or download one from Redeemers' web page (<http://our-redeemer.net/retreat.htm>). There are a limited number of lodge rooms, so they will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis with completed registration form and deposit. Plenty of cabin space should be available, even at the last minute, but we need to submit a guaranteed number to the camp by August 15th. Ride-sharing for the trip up and back is available. If you need financial assistance, please speak with Kate, as we want no one to be excluded by cost.



Battle of the Bands!

Don't miss the "Battle of the Bands" on Saturday, June 16th from 7:30-9:30 PM in the parish hall and help the Music Committee raise money to repair the Bevington Organ! "Off R Rockers," "Highway 49" and "Glass-Eyed Monkey," three local classic rock bands, will compete for bragging rights as they play and sing hits from the 60's right up through today, from the Beatles to Bon Jovi to Adele. **SPECIAL ATTRACTION!!!** The event also features the Random Chants, a Boston-based women's a cappella group with a repertoire ranging from folk to pop, from country to rock, from the 70s to now. Invite your friends and family, enjoy some great live music and dancing and vote for your favorite band. The more, the merrier! The suggested donation is \$10 per person or \$20 per family and will help put the Bevington Organ back in shape to enhance our worship services and provide us with the very unique sounds from that instrument. Refreshments, including coffee, sodas and baked goods will be available. (Volunteers to provide baked goods needed!!!) Kick off your summer as you kick off your shoes and dance to some great music that is sure to bring back fond memories. For more information contact Randy Bowlby at 978-244-0245, email at squawk5432@verizon.net.

Off R Rockers



Glass-Eyed Monkey



Highway 49



Also...Featuring the Random Chants



Our own Sarah Neumann heads to General Convention in July

Sarah Neumann has been selected as a youth delegate to the 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church to be held this July in Indianapolis, IN. Through a rigorous selection process, Sarah was chosen as one of 18 in the Official Youth Presence and will be representing Province I that is composed of all six New England states. In addition to the youth delegates, Sarah will join 800 lay leaders and clergy and 300 bishops at Convention.

First held in 1789, the General Convention meets every three years and is the governing body of the Episcopal Church. It is an eight-day legislative session and has the authority to amend the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church; adopt the triennial budget for the church; authorize liturgical texts and amend the Book of Common Prayer; adopt communions and covenants with other churches; and elect candidates and committees for the next three years.

As a youth delegate, Sarah will have a seat and voice during the hearing and legislative processes. There are 240 pieces of legislation (Resolutions) on the agenda for consideration at Convention. To prepare for her participation, Sarah attended an orientation in Indianapolis in April specifically designed for the youth delegates. There Sarah learned about the legislative process, how to participate, as well as how to share her experience and the Convention decisions with youth membership of Province I, including the MA Diocesan Youth Council.

Prior to Convention, Sarah will also review the voluminous summaries and supporting documents for the Resolutions and determine the ones that are of particular interest. Once she selects the Resolutions that are most compelling to her, Sarah will plan her Convention schedule to allow her to fully follow the Resolutions through the whole process. One Resolution that Sarah has already identified to follow closely is A049 that would authorize for a trial use, liturgies for blessing same-sex marriages.

Sarah is finishing her junior year at Lexington High School, is an accomplished flautist, and will spend six weeks this summer at the Barbara C. Harris camp as a junior counselor. For more information about the Convention and the proposed legislation, please visit www.generalconvention.org. If you'd like to stay informed about the youth delegates' involvement at Convention, look for the link to their blog once Convention starts on July 4. We can look forward to hearing about Sarah's experience this fall through Christian Formation and/or an article in *Redeeming Features*.



Summer Home Worship – will you host?



Summer is almost here and that means summer home worship! These informal gatherings are a wonderful way to celebrate the Eucharist, pray together, and engage in fellowship. They are held on Wednesday evenings from July 11 through August 22, starting with a potluck dinner at 6:30 and worship at 7:45. If you are interested in hosting, please contact Paula Antonevich at paulaandruss@verizon.net or 781-674-2795. Thank you.

Music News

Sunday June 3rd will be our **Adult Choir's Last Sunday**, when they will sing a special anthem by Hans Leo Hassler "O Sing unto the Lord." Special musicians are still sought to enhance summer worship services between **JUNE 10 and September 2. THANK YOU to those singers and instrumentalists** who have already stepped forward. Dates are still being confirmed. For June and occasionally throughout the summer, Bernadette will play a series of fugues on the "Magnificat" by Johan Pachelbel. Murray Daniels will play a keyboard solo in our outdoor "sabbath" Special Service Sunday on June 17th. Others willing to contribute their talents in Sunday services while the choir is on break for the summer should please contact Bernadette at: bernadette@our-redeemer.net.

Mark your Calendars!

"Battle of the Bands" on Saturday, June 16th from 7:30-9:30 PM in the parish hall (For full details, see article on page 5).



What Is Your Vestry Working On?

As we outlined last month at the May 6 Vestry Q&A, the Vestry's key goals for this year relate to "building our church" or enhancing the experience we have as members of this vital and active community. We established working groups of Vestry members to focus on three goals: building community, developing and supporting our lay volunteers and leaders, and assessing our physical needs and potential changes to our building to support better our range of activities together.

At our May meeting, Vestry heard from each of the working groups on their progress. Our property working group has been out visiting area churches to scout for ideas about how we could use our space better, as they think through changes we might consider in the shorter term (in the next 12 months) and beyond (1-3 years) that would enhance our worship, Christian formation, Mission and fellowship activities. Our leadership working group is focusing on several key committees where leaders are ready to pass the baton on to a successor, providing a good opportunity to review the workings of those committees to ensure that they are well-aligned with our Strategic Plan priorities. And the community building group has been looking at how to support and enhance our fellowship together, looking both some new fellowship ideas that are springing up and at how we can improve on things we are already doing, like Coffee Hour.

As with all that we do on Vestry, it's important to remember why we are doing it, which is to represent our Redeemer community in its entirety and to help us all answer Christ's call to us. We started our meeting with dinner together, something we plan to do 4 times a year, and Kate led us in a wonderful discussion that helped us see how our work on the Vestry, which by necessity can be mundane and businesslike, can and should be viewed in the light of our furtherance of Redeemer's mission. We don't exist to maintain a building and to employ clergy, although both are highly necessary. We exist to do God's work in the world, and the building, our staff and lay volunteers provide us with important ingredients that sustain us in that work, like worship, fellowship and Christian formation. While that might seem obvious, I think it is great to be reminded why we are here, especially when we get deeply focused on budgets and building repairs.

Also inspiring was the presentation from the Mission Committee, full of examples of the people of Redeemer at work in the world around us, whether helping Boston children through the Grow Clinic to helping to provide young men with vital life skills at El Hogar, and many places in between. That Mission is central to Redeemer is easily seen in the long list of names of those involved with our mission activities. How very heartening to see the scope of Redeemer's efforts, which embody of our response to Christ's call!

So, as you can see, the Vestry has a lot going on! And, as we make progress towards our goals, we need your input and viewpoints. Do you have ideas about the building and how it might serve us better? Thoughts about drawing us closer together as community? An interest in volunteering for something? Or anything else you'd like to discuss? Please seek me or any of your other Vestry representatives out and let us know what's on your mind. We're the ones with the blue nametags!

In faith,

George



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

Adult Formation for June

Our Theologian-in-Residence, Bill Fortier, will offer two adult forums in June, continuing our theme of Roman Catholics becoming Episcopal.

June 3: "Top Ten Gifts from the Roman Catholic Church with an Episcopal Spin": Many of us brought beliefs and gifts from our Roman Catholic upbringing that we don't want to lose as we become Episcopalian. Bill Fortier will show how we can value, re-interpret and keep treasures like the Marian Dogmas, Papal Dogmas, The Sacred Heart, the Rosary and the Corporal Works of Mercy as Episcopalians.

June 10: Wrapping up and Responding to your Questions: Bill will respond to the questions and themes that have arisen from the discussions on May 20 and June 3.

June 17: No adult forum as we enjoy the Holy Frijoles Brunch with the El Hogar team. Adult Forum will be on summer break from June 24 through September 3. Join us for Wednesday night Summer Home Worship for continuing fellowship and discussion!

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



Mission News

Thank you!

On Sunday, May 13 the Atrium classes, teachers, parents, and friends all contributed to a great morning of service! The Giving Garden was planted with potatoes, tomatoes, peas, and more, all of which will be



cared for and harvested through the summer for the Interfaith Food Pantry, housed in our Great Hall, and Bristol Lodge. In addition, 12 children from both Atria ran a very successful Lemonade Stand on the Bikeway (you probably heard them!), which earned \$59, also to benefit the Food Pantry. Thanks to all the thirsty friends who stopped by to support the children and the Food Pantry! Next fall we will have a tour of the Food Pantry, so that the children may have a concrete picture of where their efforts go. Special thanks goes to Kathy Mockett for leading the planting and Evelyn Haussein for organizing the Lemonade Stand.



A Giving Garden Opportunity

The Giving Garden is looking for shepherds and shepherdlings! Now is the time to start tending the Giving Garden so that plants can grow and bear fruit. Each shepherd takes a one-week period that starts on Sundays. Shepherds are responsible for watering the garden during the week. The best time to pick the vegetables is Friday before 6 p.m. or Saturday before 8:45 a.m. so that they can get to the Lexington Food Pantry, which opens at Saturday at 9 a.m. Detailed instructions will be available as the season unfolds. If you are interested in volunteering as a shepherd, please contact Kathy Mockett, skyecatriona612@gmail.com

Contribute to El Hogar

The El Hogar 2012 volunteers are looking for your help! Sunday, June 17 – Sunday, July 1 will be the annual blue jeans ingathering. Donating blue jeans is a great way to help meet the needs of the boys of El Hogar and to show our support for our team of volunteers that will be traveling to Honduras this summer. You may contact Calie Koso or Jessie Maeck – jmaeck@aol.com - 781-863-8053 for more information.

Our neighbors' need continues in the summer...

Our Redeemer will be cooking for Bristol Lodge this summer on **June 25, July 23 and August 28**. The cooking team needs help!



If you can:

make a salad bake cookies or squares,
bring fruit, and/or cook from approx. 1:00 to 3:30 on the Monday afternoon

Please call Dorothy Swithenbank (781-646-9406) or email her at swithenbank@rcn.com.
Thank you!

Supporting Ted Gaiser's Ministry

Ted Gaiser, a former Deacon at Redeemer, accepted a call to serve as a missionary in Colombia. As most of the parish knows, in order to support Ted and the Episcopal Church around the world, the Mission Committee has allocated \$3000 from the mission budget this year. In addition, the Rite 13 group raised over \$200 for a hot water heater for Ted at their bake sale and the Bridge Group gave \$400.

If you are interested in contributing personally to Ted's ministry, you can send donations to:

Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society
c/o Yanick Fourcand, Mission Personnel
The Episcopal Church Center
815 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10017

On contribution checks, include: "Ted Gaiser's ministry" in the memo line. If you are sending a contribution, please let Ted know by sending an email, ted.gaiser@bc.edu.

Holy Frijoles! Father's Day Brunch!

Treat Dad to a Scrumptious Holiday Brunch and Support El Hogar at the same time!

When: Father's Day, Sunday, June 17, right after the 9:30 a.m. outdoor service

Where: Redeemer Great Hall; outdoor seating option if weather permits

Menu: family-friendly Honduran-American menu includes "panqueques," scrambled eggs, cheese quesadillas, fruit, "holy frijoles," and more

Brought to you by: 2012 El Hogar Volunteers

Cost: please donate what you would spend on a restaurant brunch with Dad
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 7th Mission team to Honduras leaves July 6 for the Agricultural School. For more information, contact Jessie Maeck, jmaeck@aol.com, 781-863-8053.



Calendar

June	Date	Event Details
Friday	1	6:00 pm - Formation Leaders Dinner
Sunday	3	8:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite I 8:30 - 9:15am - Choir Rehearsal 9:30am - Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:50am - Adult Christian Formation: <i>Top Ten Gifts from the Roman Catholic Church with an Episcopal Spin</i> 12:00 noon - Worship Committee meeting
Monday	4	7:00pm - Stewardship Committee meeting
Wednesday's	6, 13, 20, 27	7:30pm - Adult Choir Rehearsal
Sunday	10	8:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:00 - 9:45 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:50am - Adult Christian Formation: <i>Wrapping up and Responding to your Questions</i> 12:00 noon - Executive Committee meeting 5:30pm - Family Circle Potluck dinner
Monday	11	7:30 pm - Executive Committee meeting
Saturday	16	7:30 pm - Battle of the Bands - Organ Fund Fundraiser
Sunday	17	8:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite I 8:30 - 9:15am - Choir Rehearsal 9:30am - Holy Eucharist Rite II - Outdoor Worship 10:50am - No Adult Forum Holy Frijoles! Father's Day Brunch at Redeemer
Monday	18	7:30pm - Finance Committee meeting
Wednesday	20	7:30pm - Vestry Committee meeting
Sunday	24	8:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite I 8:30 - 9:15am - Choir Rehearsal 9:30am - Holy Eucharist Rite II No Christian Formation
Monday	25	1:30pm - Cook for Bristol Lodge 7:30pm - Mission Committee Meeting
Thursday	28	4:00 pm - Wardens meeting

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 all Redeeming Features submissions is the **15th of the Month**.