



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: Rev. Kate Ekrem
Interim Asst. Rector: Rev. Danielle Tumminio
Music Director: Dr. Bernadette Colley
Administrator/RF Editor: Lisa Bozkurtian
Sexton: Roy McHoul

2013 Vestry

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Greetings from Rev. Kate Ekrem

Dear friends,

A few weeks ago I had the opportunity to attend one of the best church conferences I've ever been to. It made me very excited and hopeful about the future of our church.

The conference was called "Gathering 2013" and was the most recent in a series of gatherings of Generation X clergy (i.e. those born between 1961 and 1981). The first Gathering happened in 1999 (before I was ordained) when some folks realized that, out of the 8,000 Episcopal priests in the United States, only 300 were under 40. Most of those 300 gathered at Virginia Theological Seminary that year to talk about how to make sure that the church did not lose a whole generation of leaders. The group has met every 3-5 years since then.

This most recent conference, in Colorado, had no main leader or keynote speaker. Instead we spent our time sharing, praying, dreaming, and planning together. The conference was organized around the public narrative method, in which we tell the story of me, the story of us, and the story of now.

The first day we shared the story of me: in small groups, we shared our spiritual autobiographies and looked for common themes and threads. The second day was the story of us: we found common values and commitments in our stories, including faithfulness, authenticity, transformation, discernment, justice, engaging the culture, and community/connection. We shared stories, ideas, and best practices around these values.

The third day was the story of now. We asked, what has to change so the church of the future can be born? We focused on what each of us as individuals can do and what we personally can change (rather than fruitlessly creating agendas that other groups or institutions "should" carry out). That personal focus made the conversation very dynamic and interesting. A major theme was



Greetings from Kate (cont'd)

clear: all of us felt the need to pray more, and focus on our core ministry of proclaiming the Gospel to a world that desperately needs to hear it. We talked about models of “success” that may not be helpful or what Jesus would define as success.

I came away with a renewed sense of call and purpose. One of the bright spots for me was seeing so many talented and energetic clergy in their 20's and early 30's – the church is clearly doing something right! Although the conclusions of the conference weren't earth-shattering, many new grassroots initiatives were seeded (for example, one group decided to get together to write a “theology for parenting” curriculum, which may be a great resource for Redeemer in the future). Most of all, it was inspiring to hear 87 other people of my generation reaffirm a commitment to spreading the Good News of Christ.

Peace,



Summer Home Worship – will you host?

Summer is coming and so are our Wednesday Night Summer Home Communion and Pot Luck Supper. These informal gatherings are a wonderful way to celebrate the Eucharist, pray together, and engage in fellowship. They are held on Wednesday evenings beginning July 10 through August 21. We begin our Wednesday nights at the Murnaghan' on July 10, starting with a potluck dinner at 6:30 and worship at 7:45pm. Open dates are July 24 and August 14

If you are interested in hosting on either of these dates, please contact Karen Schragle: karen@waylandtravel.com 617-974-7300-cell.

Worship Committee Update: Announcement Guidelines

The worship committee discussed the length of announcements during worship at our meeting last week. We wanted to share some announcement suggested guidelines. We know announcements are incredibly important to helping everyone feel connected in our large church community, but we also know they can sometimes be longer than necessary. We suggest:

- Please let the clergy know before the service if you have an announcement to make, and check in to make sure there are not already a large number of announcements that week. A quick email over the weekend is often the easiest way.
- Please consider only making 2 announcements for each event: one when it is first announced and one a week or so before the event.
- Monthly events don't need to be announced every month. Perhaps a reminder once per quarter?
- Consider having a sign-up table at coffee hour to publicize your event.
- Consider keeping announcements only to events and things to sign up for. Prayers of thanksgiving and recognition to helpers are things we can (and should!) pray for in the Prayers of the People.

Thank you! We are so grateful for all those who work so hard on all of our many ministries – our lively announcements show visitors what an active and engaged community Redeemer is.



New Assistant Rector for Redeemer

Andrew Goldhor has accepted the call to be the next Assistant Rector of Church of Our Redeemer. His first Sunday at Redeemer will be July 7.

Andrew graduated from the General Theological Seminary in New York City on May 15. Andrew is engaged to Jack Clark, who is herself a candidate for Holy Orders in the Diocese of Chicago. They will be married this fall in Chicago. Andrew grew up in Belmont, and attended the Parish of the Epiphany in Winchester from an early age. He attended college at the University of Colorado, Boulder. He has a basset hound named Florence that is coming with him. Andrew will be ordained to the transitional diaconate at St. Paul's Cathedral in Boston on June 22.



Andrew with his fiancé, Jacqueline "Jack" Clark



Florence

Andrew has worked with young people throughout his career, as a coordinator and director of programs for inner-city youth in New York and Chicago. He spent a year living in intentional Christian community at St. Mary's Church in the Episcopal Service Corps, an intensive internship for ministry, after graduating from college. He has served on the staff of All Saints Episcopal Church in Chicago and St. Luke in the Fields in New York City. Andrew says, "I am deeply excited to be joining the Redeemer family. My visit in April gave me a glimpse of the spirit of the church, and I'm eager to bring my talents and passion to the parish."

Many thanks to our search committee: Steve Burns, Nancy Greyson, Evelyn Hausslein, Beth Murnaghan, Sarah Neumann, Peter Koso, and Mary Ucci, and for all their dedicated work over many months to find the right person for Redeemer. Their patience, wisdom, discerning questions, and enthusiasm for the Redeemer community were instrumental in the process.

The sad part of all of this is that our time with the Rev. Danielle Tumminio as our Interim Assistant Rector is drawing to a close. We will all miss having Danielle's warm presence, infectious enthusiasm, and quiet wisdom in our midst. However, Danielle has promised to return as a supply priest for a few Sundays in the summer. Her last Sunday as our Interim Assistant Rector will be June 30, and we will celebrate and thank her on that day.



Outdoor Worship on June 30 and Farewell to Danielle

Our 9:30am worship on Sunday, June 30 will be outdoors in our beautiful church yard (weather permitting). The worship committee decided to try something slightly different this year and place the altar on the prayer labyrinth, so we can really pray with and through the labyrinth for the whole service.

We will gather informally on the grass around the labyrinth. A few folding chairs will be available for those who need them, but please bring your own lawn chair or picnic blanket. Special music will be provided by the Redeemer band!

Please also plan to stay afterwards for a pot luck picnic to celebrate and thank our interim Assistant Rector, The Rev. Danielle Tumminio, on her last Sunday with us in that capacity. (Blessedly, Danielle will be back in August for a few Sundays when Kate is on vacation, and we hope in the future as well!)



Easter 2013



2012 Parish Retreat

Adult Christian Formation

On Sunday, June 9th, the Adult Forum will have a discussion about sermons at our church. This will be an opportunity for folks to talk about what they enjoy in sermons, and where they would like to see sermons go in the future. It's also an opportunity to let your sermon imagination explode with energy and innovation!

On Sunday, June 16th, the Great Hall Renovation Team will present some of their findings to our community in the final Adult Forum of the program year. This will be the second of two important occasions for members of the parish to learn about the upcoming renovation plans.



BEAUTIFUL BELLS and SWEETS THIS SATURDAY!!

DON'T FORGET!! **BACK BAY RINGERS** present a full concert program in our sanctuary on **Saturday evening June 8th at 7:30** featuring a variety of musical selections and styles. The music committee is hosting a **DESSERT SOCIAL** in conjunction with the concert as well. Delectable home made desserts will be offered for a small donation before (beginning at 6:30) and immediately following the concert. This is an amazingly talented group, so **DO COME**, do bring your friends, indulge in dessert, and help grow the Special Music Fund.

In worship...A special singing men's group will present the anthem for Father's Day, **Sunday, June 16**. The final special music Sunday for the year will be our **Outdoor service on Sunday, June 30**, when Murray Daniels and Erica Brotschi will join Bernadette in accompanying the service music, as we bid farewell to Danielle.

Our choir goes on its well deserved summer break after Sunday, June 9, so it's not too early to start thinking about contributing your talents during summer services. **Vocalists and instrumentalists of all types and styles are welcomed to share a musical selection some summer Sunday.** Email Bernadette at: bernadette@our-redeemer.net to set up a date.

Our adult choir celebrated it's year's end work with a lovely picnic hosted by Adele and Jim Purvis. Sadly, we said farewell to Elizabeth Gable, who will no longer be commuting to Lexington from Rockport on Sundays come the fall. Elizabeth has sung in Redeemer's choir for over 20 years, and for many of them dedicated countless hours to organizing and maintaining our choral library. **THANK YOU, Elizabeth** - and we welcome your visits back to see us.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars - **Sunday, October 6th - Celtic Sunday**, when the musical group "Fellswater" once again returns to our sanctuary!!

The Giving Garden Grows!

Thanks to all the volunteers, young and old, who helped to plant the Giving Garden on Sunday, May 12. 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. Special thanks to James Surprenant, Alan Kalf, and Donna Moultroup for leading the planting!

There are still a few weekly volunteer slots available to tend the garden this summer. You're invited to join the team for fun, easy and meaningful work caring for our plants and harvesting the produce. The time commitment is small, but the rewards are great!

Visit <http://www.volunteersignup.org/XFTBT> or contact James Surprenant at jmsurprenant@gmail.com or 617-595-6207 to pick your week or to sign up as a gardener "on call."

Our neighbors' need continues in the summer...

Redeemer will be cooking for Bristol Lodge this summer on **June 24, July 22 and August 26**. The cooking team would appreciate your help!

If you can:

- make a salad, bake cookies or squares, bring fruit,
- cook from approximately 1:00 to 3:30 on the Monday afternoon, and/or
- deliver and serve the meals (children are welcome!) on Monday evening,

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



Hospitality Team – See you in September

I was thinking of using the title, “For the People, By the People” for this piece. Not to diminish the profound words of Abraham Lincoln, but it does fit the purpose of the Hospitality Team and Coffee Hour.

As you may know, in response to an effort of the Vestry to build the church, the Hospitality Team was formed in fall of 2012 to encourage more participation in fellowship. Since September, volunteers have assisted in the weekly coffee hour by providing food, drink, and their time to set-up and clean-up. I am grateful for all who have participated in this ministry. Hospitality Team will take a brief hiatus planning coffee hour, as Vestry will be coordinating “Lemonade on the Lawn” throughout the summer months.

The Hospitality Team model will continue in September with a few tweaks, including: a stronger recruitment of volunteers (There is a need for MORE involvement. We need YOU to participate.); a co-coordinator to share the organizational responsibilities; an effort to provide more nutritional food with the introduction of “Healthy Sundays”; and a look into the efficiencies of the kitchen.

I cannot overstate the need for volunteers. I’ve received a lot of information about how coffee hour is provided at other faith communities (Fee based! Mandatory! Responsibility of the Sexton! No Food, just coffee!) but, that is not what we’re about. We are about sharing the responsibility of nourishing each other. Participation is easy and signing up is easier (online, at church, or a call or email me). I look forward to volunteering with you!

Have a wonderful summer and I will see you in September
Paula Antonevich, *Coordinator, Hospitality Team*

IMPORTANT MEETING ON THE GREAT HALL and ACCESS!

At 11AM on Sunday, June 16th, our architects will present a summary of their findings from their interviews with us and their ideas of how to meet our needs. The architect, Gerry Frank, will give us various options to beautify the Great Hall and improve access throughout the church. Please make the time to see the presentation. We need your feedback on the various options Gerry presents so he, and the committee can work on pricing and planning over the summer months.

Greeners Schedule Signup

As we begin to enjoy the start of Spring this year, it’s once again, time to think about Redeemer’s lawn. We are looking to save the church precious resources by cutting the lawn ourselves, and need volunteers to help out. We’ve had a faithful group of volunteers for several years, and could use a few more hands. We organize into small teams to cut and trim the lawn and generally cut on Saturday mornings starting in late April. Any time close to the suggested dates is fine. **We use a very user-friendly on-line system to sign up.** The link is http://bit.ly/COOR_Greeners_Signup. The form will save your additions-you don’t need to do anything else. Training on the riding mower is provided! Please sign up on-line or contact Lisa Bozkurtian at office@our-redeemer.net or 781-862-6408.



News from the Redeemer Giving Garden

Green fingers are the extension of a verdant heart.

- Russell Page



THE GARDEN HAS BEEN PLANTED!

Sunday, May 12th, was planting day for the Giving Garden. It looked like it was going to pour rain all day but stopped at the end of the service and was perfectly overcast for putting in our fragile new plants.

The first box, nearest the church, now sports eight tomato plants grown in the greenhouse at Lexington Christian Academy. We will add some marigolds in a couple of weeks that will add color, beauty and will deter insects. We think it is due to their distinctive odor.

The next box is full of green beans that were particularly fruitful last year, so we can only hope for the same success. Also grown in the greenhouse, we are hoping that they are too mature to appeal to the rabbits that liked them last year. There is some scrap wire fencing in place to help discourage their snacking.

The next box also has greenhouse grown cucumber plants on the left and a row of salad lettuce seed. The lettuce will mature quickly and be followed by some late broccoli planted approximately early August.

Last but not least, is the potato box with one row of red thumb fingerlings and one row of German butterballs. We thought we would try a couple of more unusual varieties this year.

You will also notice that we have expanded the garden to include a special garden in front of two sections of the fence. This will be devoted to the herbs that were feeling a little crowded in the boxes last year. Oregano, grown in our Giving Garden last year, and some chives are in the garden now. Soon basil, thyme, parsley and cilantro will join them.

Watering and weeding will be the primary tasks over the next month and the garden helpers will begin July 1 with continued watering and, hopefully, some harvesting.

Thanks so much to all of the Atrium children who helped plant the garden this morning and to the parents who had to clean them up afterwards!

GIVING GARDEN VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED!

THANKS to everyone who has signed up for a week's turn tending the garden. However, we still have a couple of vacancies, won't you consider helping? From July to September, we need able volunteers to take on one-week slots to water, weed and harvest our tasty vegetables and herbs. It's easy, it's fun, and it's a great way to put your faith into action.

Never gardened before? No problem! Each volunteer will be given all the information they need when their turn comes, including a detailed preview from Donna explaining what is happening that week in the garden. You can sign up for a one week slot by choosing the week that works best for your schedule or you can sign up for a Gardener On Call slot to fill the gaps.

To sign up, go to <http://www.volunteersignup.org/XFTBT> or email James directly at jmsurprenant@gmail.com



Calendar



June	Date	Event Details
Mon-Thurs.	All month	9:00am - Morning Prayer
Saturday	1	9:00am - Liturgy Team meeting
Sunday	2	8:00am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:50am - Adult Christian Formation: <i>Great Hall Forum</i> 12noon - Pastoral Care Team meeting 7:30pm - El Hogar volunteer meeting
Monday	3	5:30pm - Men's Group dinner meeting 7:30pm - Church Community Team meeting
Tuesday	4	7:30pm - Stewardship Committee meeting
Wednesday	5	7:00pm - Parish website meeting
Saturday	8	6:30pm - Back Bay Ringers - dessert social
Sunday	9	8:00am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:50am - Adult Christian Formation: <i>Sermons</i> 12noon - Executive Committee meeting
Thursday	13	7:30pm - Mission Committee meeting
Sunday	16	8:00am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II w/ Holy Baptism 10:50am - Adult Christian Formation: <i>Great Hall renovation plans presentation</i> 7:30pm - El Hogar volunteer meeting
Monday	17	7:30pm - Finance Committee meeting
Wednesday	19	7:30pm - Vestry meeting
Thursday	20	4:00pm - Warden meeting
Sunday	23	8:00am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Monday	24	1:30pm - Cook for Bristol Lodge
Sunday	30	8:00am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II - Outdoor service and picnic for Danielle No Children, Youth or Adult Christian Formation

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 the Summer Redeeming Features submissions is June 21.