



Church of Our Redeemer
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Redeeming Features

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Greetings from Rev. Kate Ekrem

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Dear friends,

I still vividly remember when we had our adult forums last fall to offer input to the strategic planning committee, and people talked about what Redeemer meant to them. One of the most inspiring and touching moments for me was when several people said they felt Redeemer was a place where they could just be themselves, and didn't have to pretend to be smarter, thinner, or more on the ball as we often do in the world. Others talked about the friendships they've formed here and how the church has supported them in difficult times. One person summed it up with words something like "Redeemer is a place where I can be my authentic self." What a great way to express what church community (the third topic in this 5-part series on our strategic plan) is all about.

In our strategic planning task group meetings, we talked about wanting to have a specific strategic goal about community, but then realized that community is in everything we do. Much in the same way that God is love, church is community: a group of people who show God's love to one another.

The doctrine of the Trinity – that God is three in one – shows us that God is a community, God is relationships. We experience God in large part by seeing God reflected in others, seeing the face of Christ in each other. Our conversations are holy places. The Holy Spirit exists in the space in between us.



Greetings from Kate (continued)

Community grows in many places at Redeemer. It happens when we cook together for Bristol Lodge, or set up decorations for the Grow Clinic holiday party. It happens in small groups like Summer Home Worship. It happens whenever one of our pastoral care team visits a homebound member of the parish. Our youth group is all about community, as the youth cook dinner together each Sunday night. It happens when you call a church friend you haven't seen in a while, or ask how someone's family or job search is doing.

Community has its challenges, too. People are people and they aren't always easy to get along with. Church is hopefully a place where we can practice forgiveness, acceptance, and reconciliation, and experience the life-changing forgiveness and acceptance of others.

Another challenge of community is that it tends to make things take longer. Lillian Daniels* writes about her child's school play program including the explanation: "This play was written for a cast of 15. It has been adapted to fit our cast of 206." Often church feels like that. We take a task that might need one or two people and break it in to parts for twenty, so that everyone can participate. Decisions take longer because we want to make them as a community, not just a small group. Activities take more time because we decide to meet in person, so we can see each other's faces, rather than doing things only over email. It's certainly not very efficient, but efficiency is not our goal. Becoming better followers of Jesus is our goal, and Jesus told us to love one another. Sometimes the chatting we do in the 5 minutes before or after a committee meeting is the most important part of the meeting. Of course, sometimes we do try to be more efficient, because loving one another means not making too much work for others or making their lives overly busy, too.

I think I'm safe in saying you wouldn't be at Redeemer if it weren't for the community. If that's true, then it's worth thinking about how we can continue to grow our community bonds. One way is to sign up for this fall's Parish Weekend, where our theme is "Eat, Pray, Live: Growing in Community". Our retreat committee is working on a program that will include spiritual practices that help build community. (And eating s'mores and singing songs around the campfire is also a great way to enjoy our parish community!) Groups like EfM also provide a place to find a small group community at Redeemer. If you are newer at Redeemer and are looking for a way to connect and be part of a small group or ministry, come to the New Member Orientation adult forum on September 25th.

Community is one of Redeemer's core values because it's an essential element of what it means to be God's church. It's not always easy, but it is always worth it. Thank you for being part of this very special community.

Peace!


Kate

*in "This Odd and Wondrous Calling"



Memorial Service for Mary Bailey

The memorial service for Mary Bailey will be Saturday, September 17th at 11:00am. It's a time to remember and celebrate the life of this extraordinary woman, who was part of the Redeemer choir since approximately 1959, and support her husband Fred and each other in this time of loss.

Reflecting Mary's lifelong love of music, the service will be full of special music and special musical guests, including our former music director Cheryl Duerr and the Lexington Chorale of Brookhaven, Mary's "other" choir. Bernadette will conduct a joint choir of Redeemer and Brookhaven singers. All are welcome to join the choir (even if you are not a regular choir member). The two choral anthems will be Mozart's *Ave Verum Corpus* and J.S. Bach's *Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring*. Please email Bernadette at berncolley@gmail.com no later than September 5th if you are interested in singing. Copies of the music will be available in Room 208 in early September, and will be rehearsed at the choir's first rehearsal at 7:30 pm, on Wed. evening September 7th.

The service will be followed by a reception in the Parish Hall. Please speak to Kate if you are interested in helping with the reception.



Parish Life

Nursery News

Sunday Nursery Care begins on Sunday, September 11.

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.

Our nursery care givers are paid, trained and experienced with young children. They are CPR and First Aid certified, CORI-checked, and Safe Church trained.

We ask parents to provide all needed diapering supplies, food and beverages for their own child(ren) in containers clearly marked with your child(ren)'s name(s).

Did you know you can download your registration forms in advance?

Registration forms are required for every child participating in our Nursery. Keep an eye on the Nursery page on our website for this year's forms. You can bring them to church already filled out on 9/11 or submit them to the office in advance.



Questions?

Please contact the Rev. Sabeth Fitzgibbons (sabeth@our-redeemer.net)

Nursery



What I Learned at Coffee Hour One Sunday

I love coffee hour, because it is one of few opportunities I have to get to know those who sit next to me in the pews on Sunday, before we go off into the world of our busy weekday lives. It's a chance to catch up with friends and also share things that are going on in my own life in a place where I can be confident that others will listen and care.

One Sunday in early May, I was chatting with Endy and Evelyne Chiakpo when Evelyne mentioned in passing that she would be away the following week. I am so glad I took the time to ask Evelyne where she would be traveling, so that I can in turn share with you a wonderful story – about Evelyne, about the medical mission trip she helped lead to Mbaise, Nigeria, and one special story among the 5,000+ lives that were changed as a result of her work.

When Evelyne returned from her trip, she shared with me the report from Collins Olorundu, President of Mbaise-USA, the organization sponsoring the trip. Below are excerpts from the report. Thank You, Dr. Evelyne Chiakpo for doing this work in the world and for allowing me to share the story with the Redeemer Community:

“It is a pleasure for me to use this opportunity to congratulate members of Mbaise-USA for successfully carrying out the 2011 medical mission to our homeland. The honor and glory belong to Almighty God who, in His infinite wisdom, chose us as a channel through which His will is accomplished. May His name be praised for touching our people's hearts to donate their resources and support this effort which has benefited the poor and underserved in our Mbaise. I thank God especially for blessing us with people like Kingsley Anyanwu, Dr. Evelyne Chiakpo, Dr. Adanze Aguwa, Dozie Onwuliri, Lawrence Osondu, Longi Obasi, and all those who volunteered or donated toward this cause. Because they answered the clarion call to help the poor and needy in our midst, I pray that the Lord reward each of them abundantly, and fulfill them and their families, and always give them hope and happiness, too. May He also bless the members of Mbaise-USA and their families for having the courage to support this medical mission initiative. Finally, I pray also for God to grant me His wisdom and protect my family as we serve our community in truth. Amen! “

BACKGROUND: “Mbaise-USA Inc is a non-profit organization which strives to bring all Mbaise community associations under one umbrella in the United States. On July 16, 2010, during its 3rd annual convention in Atlanta, Georgia, attendees unanimously decided that plans should be made to send a team of US- and home-based medical professionals to the Mbaise by the end of May 2011 to provide free healthcare services and medicine to the poor and underserved... The 2011 medical mission organizing committee was formed, and Mr. Kingsley Anyanwu was appointed as the Chairman. Also, I appointed Dr. Evelyne Chiakpo, MD, FAAFP, as the Medical Director.”

NUMBER OF PATIENTS SERVED: 5,000 patients were targeted, but the number actually served exceeded our expectation.

SERVICES OFFERED: We focused on primary and preventive health services. This included screening for diabetes and high blood pressure, disease management and education, HIV testing, counseling and referrals, eye exams, issuing of reading and prescription glasses, dental services and minor oral surgeries, pharmacy, etc. A lot of over the counter (OTC) medicines were also distributed.



PERSONNEL: Forty eight (48) medical personnel, support and administrative staff participated in the medical mission, including twenty two (22) US-based, eighteen (18) home-based volunteers, and eight (8) student nurses from Aboh-Mbaise School of Midwifery who participated in the medical mission as partial fulfillment of their academic curriculum. In addition, the general hospital staff also participated as we pretty much took over the administration of the hospital system during the one-week medical mission.

SUCCESS STORY: To me, one of the success stories from this medical mission happened on the 2nd day of the mission on Tuesday, May 17 when our volunteer dentist, Dr. Daniel Gbujie, ushered me into his observation room. There, lying down on the observation table was a 17-year old girl. Her parents were also there. They were tense and looked gloomy. I could discern that they had recently cried. On Dr. Gbujie's instruction, the girl opened her mouth. Protruding from the roof of girl's mouth was a single tooth about 1 inch long. It looked like a Unicorn horn pointing downward into her tongue. The girl's parents explained that they first noticed it in 2007. Since then, the village people taunted the young girl, "some called her a witch. Others called her a vampire. If she's walking on one side of a street, passersby would move over to the other side to avoid her. In some parts of the world, she probably would've been killed because she'd be seen as an abomination. According to the parents, the girl dropped out of school two years ago because the taunting was unbearable at school. When she walked around, she would cover her mouth with her hand. She felt ashamed of herself. Her parents also felt devastated. The parents could not take their daughter to the dentist because they did not have the money -- until May 17, 2011. We, the medical mission team, were their hope, they said. After some consultations with the girl's parents and Dr. Madu, Chief Medical Officer of the hospital, Dr. Gbujie decided that the unicorn tooth should be extracted. Ten minutes after the girl was prepared for the minor procedure, the tooth was extracted. For me, it was amazing to observe the relief on the girl's face after the tooth was pulled. Her parents cried. I, too, was also in the moment. I felt joy and elation for we have helped to give smile back to the girl. Her parents were happy. I managed to tell the girl to make sure she goes back to school, and that she should strive to put a smile on someone else's face someday. She agreed. So, if somebody asks me, "Is this medical mission worth it if only one child is saved through it?" Remembering the joy on that girl's face, my answer will be, "YES, IT'S WORTH IT." Now, I ask you: Think about the 5,000 lives that were positively affected through this medical mission. "Do you think they're worth it?" – Collins Olorundu, President, Mbaise-USA

And from the Redeemer pews: "Thank You, Evelyne!"

-Janet Kern



An Update from Vestry

Living into the Core Values Identified by the Strategic Plan

Since the acceptance of the Strategic Plan in February, Vestry has been focusing on specific goals to live into the core values identified in the Plan through three working task groups – Strategic Planning, Leadership Assessment, and Property/Capital.

The **Strategic Planning** task group has developed two bulletin boards to identify Vestry members as well as worked with Lisa Thistle, office administrator, to create identifiable blue nametags for each member of Vestry. Keep on the lookout for an additional bulletin board that will include updates on the working task groups.

The **Leadership Assessment task group** undertook a data collection project. This spring many of you were contacted about your leadership roles on parish committees or teams. Along with the Vestry as a whole, this task group will be looking more closely at the data to identify processes Redeemer might adopt to better recruit, train and support lay leaders. The group will also evaluate the criticality of each ministry to Redeemer's core values and operation.

The **Property/Capital task group** is organizing and assigning expenditures to potential projects that are: mandatory to Redeemer's operation; discretionary projects; and "new" projects that would be considered relative to space use decisions related to the strategic plan. It was recently determined that it would take \$34K - 37K annually to fund the projects identified in the "blue book" and the task group will assess the financial prospects of the parish to discern what is affordable.

In addition, the group invited Music and Worship Committee members to start a conversation that would explore ideas for bringing our core values (identified in both Strategic Plan and 2009 Worship Committee report) more into our Sunday worship, specifically looking at our worship space. This will be an on-going discussion and development of ideas.

Affirmation of continuing relationship with Lexington Playcare Center

Vestry has also been focusing on affirming Redeemer's relationship with the Lexington Playcare Center (LPC). A long time tenant at Redeemer, LPC has been operating without a signed lease agreement since 2007. The request for Redeemer's "blessing" of a playground renovation created an opportunity to enter in discussion about the lease agreement. Through a deep analysis of the cost and promises associated with committing to LPC, Vestry resolved to affirm Church of Our Redeemer's commitment to LPC as a lessee in the Church's Education Wing and to reestablish a formal lease arrangement.



An Update from Vestry (continued)

Space-use Shortage for Christian Formation

As many of you know, Redeemer is a hive of activity on Sunday mornings, particularly for Christian Formation – youth and adult. With approximately 70 children and youth participating regularly in Christian Formation and a vibrant adult Christian Formation program, meeting space has been tight. With Vestry's affirmation to continue Redeemer's relationship with the Lexington Playcare Center, Sabeth and an ad hoc Space Usage Group are outlining general costs and possibilities related to Redeemer's current Sunday morning space shortage. Vestry will continue to look into space use issues and is committed to supporting short-term solutions while developing sustainable long-term solutions.

Priest-in-Charge Discernment Process

To follow the timeline for the Priest-in-Charge discernment process as outlined by the diocese, Vestry must appoint a discernment committee. It is recommended that the Committee be 6 – 8 members, including 2 -3 Vestry members. The committee will begin to meet in the fall, and the discernment process often takes 2 – 3 months.

While there will be a committee appointed specifically for the discernment process, each member of the Redeemer community will have an opportunity to give input. Please look for specific announcements for these opportunities this fall.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Vestry by Paula Antonevich, Clerk.

Instructed Eucharist on September 18 at 9:30am

On Sunday, September 18 we will celebrate our usual Eucharist at the 9:30am service... except that it will have a running commentary. About once a year at Redeemer, we have an Instructed Eucharist. The commentary throughout the service provides instruction and interesting information about the symbols, action, and meaning of the service in which we participate every week. Invariably, someone approaches one of the clergy after the service and says, "I grew up in the church and I never knew xyz." The Instructed Eucharist is a great chance to invite someone to church since we're doing all the explaining, or to bring your children, or just come and learn something new for yourself.

Adult Christian Formation following the service continues our focus on worship with a session on *Spirituality and Music: the Personal and Communal*, led by our Music Director, Dr. Bernadette Colley.

Questions?

Please contact the Rev. Sabeth Fitzgibbons (sabeth@our-redeemer.net)



Redeemer Music News... Before launching into September announcements and news for the upcoming months, a hearty THANK YOU to all the Redeemer musicians who volunteered their talents to enhance worship services this summer, beginning with our band of Charlie Harmon, Murray Daniels and Randy Bowlby for Ted's farewell outdoor service in late June. During July and August we also heard from Mary Ann Ziegler, Ian Fox, Tony Johnson, Kate Ekrem, Linda Kukulich, Stephanie Kukulich, and Mary Etta King. Your effort, talents, and contributions are much appreciated.

The choir season officially resumes in early September. Both adult and youth choirs welcome back former members and seek NEW MEMBERS for anyone who likes to sing.

ADULT choir rehearses WEDNESDAY evenings 7:30-9:00, beginning SEPTEMBER 7th, and SUNDAY mornings 8:30-9:15 (CHILD CARE PROVIDED), beginning SEPTEMBER 11th. Please contact Bernadette at berncolley@gmail.com if interested in joining us.

YOUTH choir resumes WEDNESDAY afternoon SEPTEMBER 14th 3:30-4:45. Youth choir sings about once a month at Sunday morning services. Parents should contact Bernadette with any questions.

On Saturday, September 17th we honor the life of Mary Bailey at an 11:00 am Memorial service. Mary was an active participant in the music program at Redeemer, and the service will be filled with special music. Any singers interested in singing with the combined Redeemer and Brookhaven (Lexington Chorale) choirs are welcome to do so, and should confirm with Bernadette no later than the choir's first rehearsal on Wed. evening, September 7th at 7:30. See the article on pg. 3 for additional details.

On Sunday, September 18th, Music Director Bernadette Colley will lead an adult forum on *Spirituality and Music - the Personal and Communal*. We will explore together how established musical traditions and personal music preferences work in sync (or not) with one another in engendering meaningful expressions of faith in the context of worship.

On October 16th, we launch the first of the Worship Committee's new initiative of "Special Service Sundays" with a celebration of Celtic spirituality in conjunction with the theme of Season of Creation. [See article on next page]. Our guest musicians for the service will be Boston's **Fellswater** Celtic music ensemble (www.fellswater.com), who perform traditional and modern music from Scotland, Ireland, Brittany and Canada on various combinations of whistles, Irish flute, bouzouki, guitar, mandolin, violin, small pipes and border pipes. This is a service not to be missed! More details to come in the October RF, but do mark your calendars.

Looking much further ahead - another Special Music date to note is our annual Advent Lessons and Carols procession on Sunday, December 4th at 4:00 pm. Our choir will join with guest Early Music ensemble "Renaissomics" of Cambridge to present traditional and renaissance music of the Advent Season. Guest singers are welcome, and encouraged to join us.



Bernadette D. Colley, Music Director, (bernadette@our-redeemer.net)



Season of Creation

Our bishops have declared October 2 to November 2 as the “Creation Care Season.” They recommend that churches use the new lectionary for the Season of Creation, which focuses on celebrating and respecting God’s natural creation. Our bishops also encourage us to consider our stewardship of creation and ethical responsibility to take care of God’s world.

Why a new season of the church year? In the seasons of Advent, Epiphany, Lent and Easter we celebrate the life of Christ. In the season of Pentecost we celebrate the Holy Spirit. Now, in the season of Creation, we have an opportunity to celebrate God, the Creator. Creation has always been the focus of the Season after Pentecost (or Ordinary Time, as it used to be called) so it is especially appropriate in this last part of the Season after Pentecost to focus on creation.

The Season of Creation lectionary assigns readings for each Sunday, on a three-year cycle, that relate to our theology of creation. Each Sunday focuses on a different theme. The themes for this year (Year A) are:

- October 9 1st Sunday in Creation – Forest
- October 16 2nd Sunday in Creation – Land
- October 23 3rd Sunday in Creation – Wilderness
- October 30 4th Sunday in Creation – River



The goal of the Season of Creation is to celebrate Earth as a sacred planet filled with God’s vibrant presence, unite with all creation in praising the God of creation, confess our sins against creation and empathize with a groaning creation, embrace our kin in creation as our extended family, proclaim the good news that the risen Jesus is the cosmic Christ who fills and renews all creation and go forth on a mission to be partners with Christ in the healing of creation (from “A Charter for the Season of Creation,” <http://seasonofcreation.com/>). You can learn more about the Season of Creation online at <http://seasonofcreation.com/>.

At Redeemer we will celebrate the Season of Creation this year with worship focused on themes of creation spirituality, including a special Celtic service on October 16. In addition, our Adult Christian Formation in October will focus on the Season of Creation. Come join us to celebrate God’s good creation and how we can be faithful stewards of it!

In faith,
 Kate (kate@our-redeemer.net)
 Sabeth (sabeth@our-redeemer.net)



Adult Christian Formation

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 10:50-11:50am, 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!

September 4

No Adult Christian Formation program

September 11: *Fellowship*

Please join us for fellowship and a Welcome Back Potluck

September 18: *Spirituality and Music: the Personal and Communal*

Dr. Bernadette Colley, our Music Director, will guide us as we explore together how established musical traditions and personal music preferences work in sync (or not) with one another in engendering meaningful expressions of faith in the context of worship.

September 25: *New Member Orientation*

Those new to Redeemer (and even those who have been here a while) may have many questions, from “where’s the bathroom?” to “can I see a copy of the church budget?” Find some answers at this orientation to the Episcopal Church and life at Church of Our Redeemer. Some might wonder how to get more connected and involved at Redeemer, and others might wonder if there is a place at Redeemer for those who don’t want to join a bunch of committees. Both questions will be addressed, along with any other questions you bring.

The Adult Christian Formation Committee is planning a 4-part series for October on the Season of Creation, and is also beginning to think about an Advent series. If you have input about Adult Christian Formation topics or themes, please contact a member of the Committee (James Surprenant, Melissa Morgan, Ian Fox, Susan Burkhardt, Sabeth Fitzgibbons).

Adult Christian Formation Contact Person: The Rev. Sabeth Fitzgibbons (sabeth@our-redeemer.net).



Christian Formation – Children and Youth

Christian Formation for Children and Youth begins on Sunday, September 18.

We have Christian Formation for ages 3 through 12th grade 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! ***

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| September 4 | <u>No Sunday Morning Christian Formation / No Sunday Evening Youth Group</u> |
| September 11 | <i>Christian Formation Registration at Parish Potluck</i>
<u>Sunday Evening Youth Group begins at 5:30 pm.</u>
<u>No Sunday Morning Christian Formation</u> |
| September 18 | <i>Commission Christian Formation leaders/mentors at 9:30am service</i>
<i>Christian Formation classes BEGIN at 10:50 am</i> |
| September 25 | All Christian Formation classes meet on regular schedule |

Information about class locations will be announced closer to the beginning of classes.

Did you know you can download your registration forms in advance?

Registration forms are required for every child participating in our programs. Keep an eye on the appropriate page (Children, Youth) on our website for this year's forms. You can bring them to church already filled out on 9/11 or submit them to the office in advance of 9/18.

Questions?

Age 3-5th grade – Evelyn Hausslein (ehausslein@rcn.com / 781-861-0378)

6th – 12th grade – the Rev. Sabeth Fitzgibbons (sabeth@our-redeemer.net)

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



Special Service Sunday

We are blessed to have many creative, musical, talented people at Redeemer who bring a wealth of talent to our weekly worship. The Worship Committee has been pondering how we can include all these gifts and great ideas, and still keep to the grounding structure of our weekly worship. **Our idea:** A Special Service Sunday once a month (generally the third Sunday), a Sunday to do things just a little differently, while maintaining a consistent and familiar pattern of worship the rest of the month.

What might Special Service Sunday look like? An example illustrates it best. Our second Special Service Sunday will be a Celtic Spirituality Sunday on October 16. Bernadette alerted us to an opportunity to invite a wonderful Celtic music group, Fellswater, and it seemed to be a great fit for the Episcopal Church's new "Season of Creation" (see page 9). Celtic spirituality emphasizes creation and the natural world. The service will follow the same pattern as our regular Sunday Eucharist, with Celtic greetings and prayers (some from the Irish monasteries of the 600's, some from the modern Celtic pilgrimage site of Iona), and musical offerings from Fellswater as well as our own adult and children's choirs. Adult Christian Formation that day will be part of our "Seasons of Creation" series.

Two other Special Service Sundays this fall will bring us an Instructed Eucharist on September 18, and Mission Sunday on November 20. In the Instructed Eucharist on September 18, a running commentary on the service explains to why we do what we do – interesting for experienced Episcopalians as well as newcomers. Adult Christian Formation on September 18 will continue our focus on worship as Bernadette leads a discussion on personal and communal music. For Mission Sunday we will welcome guest preacher Liz Kinchen, Executive Director of El Hogar, and our worship will reflect our partnership with El Hogar and God's call to serve those in need. Liz will lead Adult Christian Formation after the service to share more about El Hogar's mission in Honduras.

A Special Service Sunday may be a time to try something new, but it may also be a time for us to engage more deeply through worship in something we care about, like mission. It's also a great opportunity to invite a friend to church to experience a special musical group or other offering.

The Worship Committee is betting that there are many talented folks in our parish who might want to help organize just one Special Service Sunday on a theme of their choice. Maybe you'd like to help with a traditional Prayer Book liturgy like Morning Prayer, or perhaps a "BCH Camp" Sunday would fun for you and your kids to help with, or you would like to write some more gender-inclusive prayers, or to organize a healing service. These are just some topics we've heard people ask about in the past. Maybe your committee or group in the church would like to organize a worship service to pray for, celebrate, and teach about your ministry. If you think "I've always wanted to have a service that celebrates X" or "I've always wished we did Y", then now is your chance. Share your idea and help make it happen. Contact any member of the Worship Committee if you are interested.

Worship Committee Members: Rev. Kate Ekrem, Mary Ann Burnside,, Julia Francis, Marion Hayes, Cara Kalf, Sandy Keshishian, Bob King, Mary Ucci, and Sam Williams.



Celebrating All Our Ministries ~ Sunday, September 25

A church is not a building; it's a group of people.

In the Episcopal Church, we affirm the priesthood of all believers: all people are called by God to a special ministry, based on their own gifts and talents. YOU are the Church of Our Redeemer! Everything that this congregation does happens because of dedicated volunteers who see their work as a ministry offered to God.

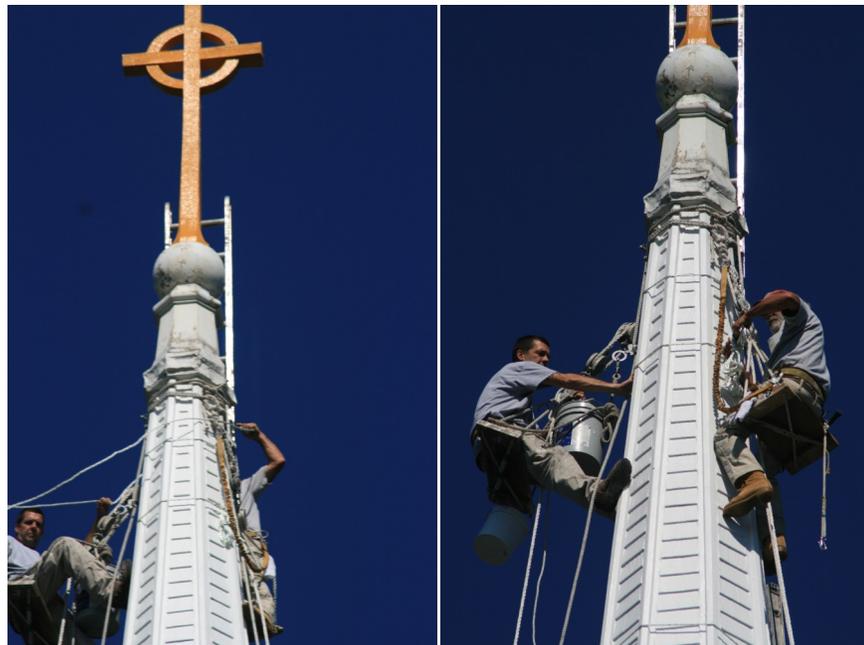
On Sunday, September 25th we will celebrate the ministries of all the baptized. At our baptisms we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit – gifts that we live into throughout our lives. At both the 8am and 9:30am services, we will commission everyone involved in parish ministries (except Christian Formation, which we will commission on September 18th when Christian Formation begins) this fall, including our Nominating Committee. We will also take this opportunity to recognize and say a special thank you to some members of our church who are moving on to new things after many, many years of ministry in one area.

And our preacher for the day will be Jessie Maeck, an active lay minister of Redeemer who is currently an El Hogar team leader, member of the mission committee, and elected to the nominating committee. Jessie will speak about how she sees her own lay ministry sustained and informed by Church of Our Redeemer.

Following the 9:30am service, Adult Christian Formation will be a New Member Orientation led by the Rev. Kate Ekrem. The Orientation session offers a chance for newer members of the congregation (and even more experienced members) to find out more about Redeemer's many ministries and how to get involved with ministries that interest them.

Steeple Update

The steeplejacks painted and repaired the church steeple, including replacing rotting wood and repainting the cross that tops our church. Thanks to the property volunteers, especially Peter Koso, for a beautiful job!



El Hogar 2011 – One Redeemer Volunteer’s Meditation on a Great Trip

By Karla Faber

This was my second time going to El Hogar, the Episcopal agricultural school in Honduras. From the last time I had been there, not much had changed. I found myself again struck by the beauty, the peacefulness and the energy and spirit that El Hogar has to offer.



I think that the unconditional support from within our mission group was one of the many key factors that made and continue to make our trips so successful. If someone struggled with the food one day or with the heat another day someone was always there to give a comforting word and stretch out a helping hand.

El Hogar students off to a morning of haying

This was also true in the relationship between our group and the boys. One experience that was new for me this year was going into the classroom and teaching the first year boys English. It was great to see how eager some of the boys were to learn the simple lesson of “I, you and we” that we taught them. It was amazing how easily they accepted and acknowledged my help without questioning my naiveté in regards to teaching or English grammar. They simply accepted us as their teachers and the lesson that we gave them.



Karla Faber (center) and the Redeemer volunteers try the meringue after dinner in the dining hall

At the end of the trip I once again felt like I had learned the lesson of what it means to be a community. I learned that people that come from vastly different backgrounds and cultures can find a common ground through play and a goal to be open to each other. A community can be brought together by laughter and faith. At the end of my time at El Hogar I truly felt that a close-knit community had been built between the boys and our group and I felt that something beautiful and irreversible had taken place and would last past the one week that we stayed at El

Everything But The Teacher Ingathering for Esperanza Academy – 9/11

Materials requested for the ingathering:

Erase markers for white boards
Copier paper - White and colors
Index cards
Scotch tape
Masking tape
File Folders
Large envelopes

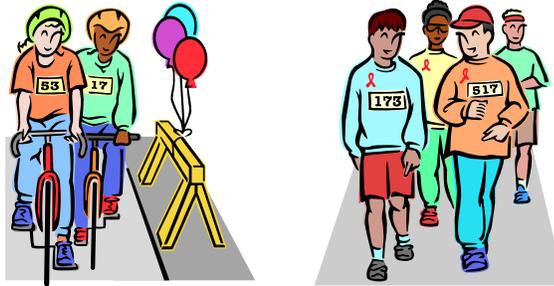
Staples for regular and heavy duty staplers
Staplers
Adult sized scissors
Kid sized scissors
3 3/4” x 4 3/4” self stick labels
Blank CD’s
Flash Drives

We will be blessing the collected materials on Sunday, September 11. You can pick up a bag with the shopping list at the entrances to the church. Thank you so much for your support!



Support El Hogar!
Our annual Fundraiser of the year is coming up!
Walk/bike-a-thon Oct. 25!
Sponsor a rider/walker or join the team!

For more information: Jessie Maeck 781-863-8053 or jmaeck@aol.com
 Or go to: www.elhogar.com



Atrium Assistant Training

Saturday, September 17, 2011, 9:00 am -- 3:30 pm., Church of Our Redeemer

A day- long overview and in-depth introduction to the materials and methods
Of The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Led by early childhood educators & catechists: Carol Godfrey & Evelyn Hausslein

This day will prepare you to better assist in the atrium by:

- Knowing the names of the materials and how they are used
- Exploring the unique spiritual needs and capacities of children 3-12
- Experiencing the Atrium as Sacred Space
- Understanding how the Atrium is different from Sunday School
- Becoming confident enough to offer a lesson, or substitute for a trained catechist

Cost is \$20 per person. Lunch is provided. For planning purposes, please register by contacting:

Redeemer Officer, office@our-redeemer.net
 Lisa Thistle, Parish Administrator
 781-862-6408

Child care is available: \$5.00/child. Must register by Sept. 10 to insure child care space.

This event is a ministry of the Guild of the Good Shepherd, an ecumenical group devoted to supporting CGS throughout New England. For more information, see the Guild website at www.cgsm.org



Calendar



September	Date	Event Details
Sunday	4	8:00 am - Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:30 am - Holy Eucharist Rite II
Monday	5	Office Closed for Labor Day
Tuesday	6	7:30 pm - Stewardship Committee meeting
Saturday	10	9:00 am - Liturgy Team meeting
Sunday	11	Everything but the Teacher ingathering 8:00 am - Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:30 am - Holy Eucharist Rite II 6:00 pm - Town-wide September 11th Remembrance Service on the Green
Monday	12	7:30 pm - Executive Committee meeting
Saturday	17	9:00 am - Catechesis of Good Shepherd training 10:00 am - Mary Bailey memorial service
Sunday	18	8:00 am - Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:30 am - Holy Eucharist Rite II - Instructed Eucharist 10:50 am - Adult Christian Formation: <i>Spirituality and Music - the Personal and Communal.</i> 10:45 am - Christian Formation begins for children and youth
Monday	19	7:30 pm - Finance Committee meeting
Wednesday	21	7:30 pm - Vestry meeting
Saturday	24	9:00 am - Liturgy Team meeting (October meeting)
Sunday	25	Celebrating all our Ministries 8:00 am - Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:30 am - Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:50 am - Adult Formation : <i>New Member Orientation</i> 12:00 noon - Worship Committee meeting
Monday	26	1:30 pm - Cook for Bristol Lodge 7:30 pm - Mission Committee meeting
Wednesday	28	4:00 pm -Wardens meeting
Friday	30	Parish Weekend begins at Barbara Harris Camp

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.**