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# Redeeming Features

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Jim Bradley      Sarah Neumann  
Lance Conrad      James Surprenant  
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Dear friends,

Greetings from Rev. Kate Ekrem

Morning Prayer has always been part of worship life at Redeemer. It was a blessing to have our Theologian-in-Residence, Bill Fortier, lead Morning Prayer several times this summer. But in the past, Morning Prayer was a weekday, daily, service. My summer project has been seeing if I can keep the discipline of saying Morning Prayer in the church each weekday, and beginning in September I'd like to ask you to join me if you are able. Morning Prayer will be celebrated in the church Monday through Thursday at 9:00am.

The practice of fixed-hour prayers is pre-Christian, was part of Jewish tradition and is mentioned in scripture. From earliest church, fixed-hour prayers and reading of scripture went hand-in-hand with weekly Eucharist. In Roman times, this developed into the hours of matins, lauds (morning prayer), prime, terce (mid-morning), sext (noonday), none (mid-afternoon), vespers, and compline. The Episcopal Book of Common Prayer has distilled the eight medieval offices into four: Morning Prayer, Noonday Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Compline.

In the Middle Ages, the ancient tradition of praying with scripture evolved into two forms of the Daily Office: the cathedral tradition and the monastic tradition. The cathedral tradition always includes great choral music for the canticles and chants and is performed with dignity and reverence, glorifying God through beautiful vestments, many candles, and music. The monastic tradition is more about meditation: slowly reciting psalms, canticles, and scripture readings together to have quiet time with God. Here at Redeemer, Morning Prayer on a Sunday might be more like the cathedral



## Greetings from Kate (cont'd)

tradition, and weekday Morning Prayer will be more like the monastic tradition: quiet time to pray and meditate with scripture.

For us modern people, the daily office adds important dimension to our prayer life. We don't have a full spiritual life if the only time we worship is Sunday morning. That's big, noisy, group family worship and it's great. We also need to have the flip side of that coin: quiet, contemplative, daily prayer.

Morning and Evening Prayer always contains several psalms, one or more readings from scripture, each reading followed by a canticle (a song or poem from scripture), and closing prayers. In practice it can be a lot like the prayer practice of lectio divina. Slowly reciting the psalm quiets the mind and gets you into prayer mode. Then you read and reflect on the scripture passage, and that reflection leads you into things you want to pray about.

Saying the Daily Office is part of my prayer life, and I invite you to join me. Even if there are two or three of us, praying on behalf of our whole congregation, that's a meaningful thing we can do to support our many ministries. (I know 9am is not the most convenient time for everyone, but it's when my children are loaded onto the school bus for the day!) If there is a group interested in helping to lead the service, we can certainly extend Morning Prayer to Fridays or Saturdays or wherever the interest may be.

If you can't be at church at that time of day, you can join with us in prayer by praying on your own, using the Book of Common Prayer, or online resources like <http://dailyoffice.org/> or <http://www.missionstclare.com/english/>. Mission St. Clare also makes a "Daily Office" app for Android or iPhones. There is also a podcast available from The Episcopal Church in Garret County.

Prayer sustains and underlies all we do; as Phyllis Tickle says it is the "golden chain" connecting us to God and to each other. I hope that, in whatever way works best for you, you will join me in continuing to pray for each other and our ministries at Redeemer

Peace and blessings,

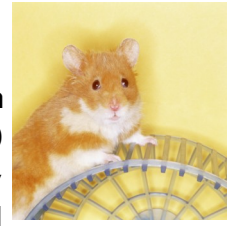


Kate



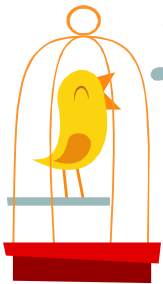
## St. Francis Celebration - Sunday, October 7, 9:30 a.m.

All animals – furred, finned, and feathered – are invited to take part in a Blessing of the Animals service on Sunday, October 7 at our 9:30 service. We celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (actual feast day is Oct. 4) by giving thanks to God for all of God's creation and especially for our animal friends.



The tradition of bringing animals to church for a blessing goes back centuries, to the time when people depended on them for their livelihood. Today fewer of us are involved in farming activities, but we still thank God for the reminder animals give us that we are not alone on this planet, and that we are in fact caretakers responsible for the stewardship of all of God's creation.

We invite you to bring your pet to the 9:30 a.m. service on October 7. No animal will be turned away. Cats, dogs, fish, hamsters, gerbils, horses, camels, elephants, bring them all! Children are also welcome to bring their stuffed animals for a blessing.



If the weather cooperates, we will have our celebration outdoors so that we may enjoy the beauty of nature in our worship (and animals can stretch their legs). Special music for this day will include James Surprenant on the accordion!

The St. Francis Celebration will be a family-friendly worship with children's sermon. (If this is not your cup of tea, our 8am worship will be a traditional Rite I service with adult sermon.)

After the service, our Formation Hour will be an intergenerational activity to learn more about St. Francis and how this saint inspires us to be good stewards of creation. We will not have regular Atrium or Youth classes.

Come and bring a friend – both the furry kind and the human kind!



## Summer Home Worship - Thank you!

Thanks to our gracious hosts, summer home worship was a success! We are grateful to the Murnaghans, the Ekrems, Bob and Mary Etta King, Karen Schragle, the Wright Family, James Surprenant and Ellen Cosgrove, and the Antonevich family for opening their homes to the Redeemer community and providing a warm, welcoming place for fellowship.



## Celebrating Lay Ministry on September 16

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 16<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate the ministries of all the baptized. At the 9:30 worship service, we will commission for ministry many members of our community who are taking on new roles, and thank many who are moving on to new things after many years of service in one area.

We will commission our Nominating Committee, who work during the fall to discern who might be well suited to serve on our vestry and in other elected positions, and who talk with candidates to determine if they have a call to that ministry. This year our Nominating Committee is: Ellen Cosgrove, Jed Geyerhahn, Sam Stevens, Bill Vogelee, Nancy Williams, and Evelyn Hausslein (alternate).

We will also commission our Christian Formation leaders for children and youth. These volunteers, who make our thriving children and youth ministries possible, will be commissioned by the children themselves before they process out to begin their first day of formation classes. They are: Nancy Grayson, Evelyn Hausslein, Linda Kucholich, Randy and Cassie Bowlby, Ginny Neumann, Peter Koso, Kathleen Mirani and Beth Murnaghan.

Several of our ministries are transitioning to new leadership. We will express our gratitude for the ministry of Karen Schragle, who is stepping down as Property chair, Bob King, who is stepping down as coordinator of the Liturgy Teams, Sandy Kesheshian and Jean Ricci, who are finishing up their time as acolyte directors, and Kathy Mockett, who is ending her time as lead shepherd of the Giving Garden.

Last but not least, we will thank, bless, and commission our new leaders: Property Chair Lance Conrad, Liturgy Team Coordinator Charlie Coons, Acolyte Director John Wright, and Giving Garden Lead Shepherd James Surprenant.

In addition, Chris Needham is passing on the baton of chair of the Mission Committee to Bob King. We will thank and recognize both of them during Sunday morning worship at the Parish Retreat Weekend, which is focused on mission this year.

Redeemer is blessed to be a community where so many, many people live into God's call to them every day, in ways big and small. Please help us to thank and recognize these people as they begin (and end) new ministries.



## Lay Leadership Workshop at Redeemer – Are you interested?

Are you a new leader of an existing ministry or committee? Thinking of taking on a leadership role at church? Have you been chairing a committee or leading a ministry at Redeemer for a while? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions... have we got a program for you!

Members of the Vestry and Kate would like to hold a Lay Leadership Workshop this fall to support our fearless (and future fearless!) leaders. We envision the morning program - approximately two hours - as an opportunity to share and learn about best practices and resources that are available to you to help your leadership experience at Redeemer be a satisfying and supportive one.

We are still working out the details and before we go too far in the planning stages, we want to know if this idea appeals to you. Please contact Kate ([kate@our-redeemer.net](mailto:kate@our-redeemer.net) or 781-862-6408) or Paula Antonevich ([paulaandruss@verizon.net](mailto:paulaandruss@verizon.net) or 781-674-2795) and let us know if you would like to see this workshop happen and if you want to commit to attending. Also, if you have some thoughts on what the workshop should/could include, please get in touch. We hope to hear from you!

## Welcome Danielle!

Putting our Assistant Rector search on hold in order to get in sync with the typical hiring season for assisting clergy has given us a wonderful opportunity: to have as our interim Assistant Rector for one year the Rev. Danielle Tumminio.

Danielle is a lecturer at Yale and Tufts universities and author of *God and Harry Potter at Yale*. She writes regularly on the intersection of religion and popular culture for CNN, *Huffington Post*, *The Guardian*, and *Episcopal News Service*. She is a three-time graduate of Yale University and is completing her PhD at Boston University in practical theology. She grew up on Long Island, where she sang with the girls' choir at The Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City. Danielle spent last year as the interim Assistant Priest at St. Anne's-in-the-Fields in Lincoln. She worked closely with their youth group and formation programs there. She and her husband, Eric, live in Watertown.

Danielle will be half-time at Redeemer, working with our youth, children and adult formation programs, offering pastoral care, preaching, and leading worship. Her first Sunday will be September 9, and she'll continue through June of next year. She can be reached at [danielle@our-redeemer.net](mailto:danielle@our-redeemer.net) or 781-862-6408. Please give Danielle a warm Redeemer welcome.



## What Is Your Vestry Working On?

There has been significant progress by the Vestry to meet this year's over-arching goal, "building the church." In three working groups, we've focused on lay leadership development, enhancing our church community, and evaluating our building use and physical plant needs. Discussions and decisions regarding our physical plant have dominated both the lay leadership development and building use/physical plant working groups as well as general Vestry meeting agendas. Even though "building the church" is a figurative goal, we cannot escape the realities of our building(s)!

We have given significant thought about the leadership transition of the Property Committee, particularly the role of the Chair, consideration of an expanded role of the Parish Administrator, as well as the management of day-to-day and long-term projects. Vestry is pleased to report that Lance Conrad has stepped into the Chair of the Property Committee. Since Lance also serves on Vestry there is the expectation that there will be greater communication and support for the committee, especially as it works toward a multi-year plan for capital projects and scheduled operations. Additionally, a more formal arrangement has been made with our parish administrator, Lisa Bozkurtian, as she continues to be on the "front line" for calls, contacts, and decisions related to minor property issues.

The discussion around the property committee leadership transition has also led to discussion about greater support for our ministry leaders and the need to establish a more supportive succession planning mechanism. One idea is to hold a lay leadership workshop to discuss "best practices" (nut & bolts of leading a group) and ways to recruit and prepare a committee chair successor. If you are currently in a leadership role, are considering one, or just want to know how things get done as a volunteer at Redeemer, please consider attending the workshop. More details on page 5.

The building use/physical plant working group continues to evaluate the future needs and potential renovation of our church building. The group is working with the formation teachers to help ease this fall's classroom space crunch. To accommodate the space shortage, the Handley Library will be prepared for shared use with the Atrium classes and the Great Hall will be used for Adult Formation. We will have an even greater need for classroom space next year (a great problem – or rather, *opportunity* - to have!) and we'd like to begin to discern as a community how we might want our current space to meet our future program, mission and formation needs. We hope you'll attend the adult formation programs this fall to discuss and shape the potential renovation to the Great Hall, on September 23 and October 21.

Also related to property, we were pleased to report that after several years without a formal lease, Redeemer and the Lexington PlayCare Center (LPC) have signed an eight-year lease with agreeable terms." After much discussion and solid negotiation over the





## What Is Your Vestry Working On? (cont'd)

past year and a half, the LPC Board and Vestry are supportive and happy to have this part of our long-standing relationship solidified.

The Hospitality Team is here! To enhance the community experience at Redeemer, Vestry has proposed and organized a team approach to coffee hour. Similar to the Liturgy Team structure, a group of parishioners will participate in hosting coffee hour each month. We are looking to have 100% participation in this fellowship to deepen the connections we have with each other. No prior kitchen experience is necessary and there will be a variety of ways to participate. Please join us!

As we head into the final quarter of our fiscal year, our treasurer Frank Kern, our assistant treasurer Jim Neumann, and the Finance Committee will start to look at the financial picture for the year-end and begin the conversation about next year's budget. In addition to our standard operations, there will be significant conversations about the financial needs of maintaining and enhancing our physical plant.

So, as we head into the fall, there are several opportunities for parishioner engagement - the lay leadership workshop, participation on a Hospitality Team, and participation in the discussion regarding the future look and functionality of the Great Hall. We hope that you will join us. We look forward to "building the church" with you!

## Nursery News

### ***Sunday Nursery Care begins on Sunday, September 9.***

Nursery care is available for infants and toddlers (through age 4) from **9:00am-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?***

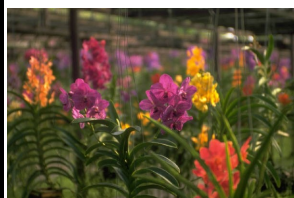
Registration forms are required for every child participating in our Nursery. Keep an eye on the Nursery page on our website for this year's forms. You can bring them to church already filled out on September 9 or submit them to the office in advance.





# Welcome Back!

## Special Thanks...



....to Ashley Rooney and Peter Lund for their hard work and dedication to maintaining the flower garden on the side entrance to the Church. It is a beautiful and welcoming site to both parishioners and visitors of the Church.

## Hospitality Team

The Hospitality Team is here! Please join a team and help host coffee hour. No prior kitchen experience is necessary and there will be a variety of ways to participate. Please contact Paula Antonevich at 781-674-2795 or [paulaandruss@verizon.net](mailto:paulaandruss@verizon.net) to sign up for if you have any questions.



## Redeeming Knitters

Redeeming Knitters will meet in the Library, Thursday, September 27 at 7:30 pm. We will be making hats, scarves and mittens for the Christmas giving tree.

A world famous knitter has expressed an interest in joining us at one of our meetings this year. Are you wondering who it is?

**Hint #1: she prefers to fly Air France.**

**Hint #2: she usually knits in public.**

Be sure to mark your calendars for upcoming Knitting dates on Thursdays, October 18 and November 15.

If you have any questions, please call Susan Burkhardt at 781-899-8644 or Eveleyn Hausslein, 781-861-0378.





## 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. We invite ages 13-113 to join us. Bring your coffee and a friend!

### September 9: *Fellowship*

Please join us for fellowship and a Welcome Back Potluck Breakfast.

### September 16: *"The Heart of Christianity: Being Passionate Believers Today"*

The Stewardship committee is sponsoring this book study to help us reconnect or deepen our understand of what church and our faith are all about. Rev. Kate will lead this introductory session to orient you to the book, by Marcus Borg, which is a primer for modern Christians. Who is Jesus? What's with the Bible? How do I be a Christian in today's multi-faith world? How should Christians be engaging in issues of social justice? Copies of the book will be available and we hope you'll read it between now and December, when we will have a 4-week Advent discussion about it.

### September 23: *Building up the Church: Vestry Forum on our church building*

One of our key vestry goals for this year is doing needed renovations to our church building, to increase Christian Formation space, update the Great Hall, improve storage space, and examine if our worship space is working well for us. We need your input and feedback to guide us. Please come to talk with your vestry about your hopes, dreams, and fears for the physical home we share as a faith community.

### September 30: *No Adult Forum due to Parish Retreat Weekend*

Looking ahead, our Adult Forum will include a 5-part series on Science and Faith with Theologian in Residence Bill Fortier beginning October 28 (mark your calendars!), an Advent series on "The Heart of Christianity," and interactive presentations from our mission committee, vestry, and others. If you have input about Adult Christian Formation topics or themes, please contact a member of the Committee (James Surprenant, Ian Fox, Susan Burkhardt, Jed Geyerhahn, Don Kendall).

Adult Christian Formation Contact Person: The Rev. Danielle Tumminio ([danielle@our-redeemer.net](mailto:danielle@our-redeemer.net))



## Christian Formation – Children and Youth

***Christian Formation for Children and Youth begins on Sunday, September 16.***

We have Christian Formation for ages 3 through 12<sup>th</sup> grade Sundays from 10:50-11:50am. Nursery care is available for infants and toddlers (through age 4) from 9:00am-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 9-12 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 9**      ***Christian Formation Registration at Parish Potluck***  
***Sunday Evening Youth Group: Campfire at the Burns'***  
***No Sunday Morning Christian Formation***

**September 16**      ***Commission Christian Formation leaders/mentors at 9:30am service***  
***Christian Formation classes BEGIN at 10:50 am***

**September 23**      All Christian Formation classes meet on regular schedule

**September 30**      No Formation Classes due to Parish Retreat Weekend

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

Registration forms are required for every child participating in our programs. Forms are now available on our website [www.our-redeemer.net](http://www.our-redeemer.net). You can bring them to church already filled out on September 9 or submit them to the office in advance.

### **Questions?**

Age 3-6<sup>th</sup> grade – Evelyn Hausslein ([ehausslein@rcn.com](mailto:ehausslein@rcn.com) / 781-861-0378)

7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade – the Rev. Danielle Tumminio ([danielle@our-redeemer.net](mailto:danielle@our-redeemer.net) )

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

## WHY COMMUNION AND WHY EVERY WEEK?

Bill Fortier, Theologian-in-Residence

Hi Redeemer-Guys and Gals. Welcome back. I hope the summer was good for you. I wanted to give you something to theologically chew on as we come back together for the Fall. A neighbor asked me, just the other day, what the big deal about Communion was for Episcopalians and whether I really care about Communion. Really, "Bill, do you really go for it? Does it matter to you?"

I love these personal, direct and pointed theological questions. Someone wants to cut through all of the scripted conversation and wants to know what really, really matters



**WHY COMMUNION AND WHY EVERY WEEK? (cont'd)**

and maybe why it matters. Now there's no way to know all of our own reasons, why stuff is so important to us, when it is. Almost all of our widgets and pulleys are unconscious so I can only offer my best guesses and reflections. That leaves a whole bunch unexplained about me, what moves me and why. So I don't know all or most of the reasons why but I know that Communion is really, really important to me, Bill.

Now let's be crystal clear here. For me, Bill-as-Bill, I'm very hooked into remembering Jesus' Last Supper, His catastrophic demise and the Mysterious Triumph of His Person and Meaning, which we scratch at with the term: Resurrection. I'm equally hooked into kneeling and eating the piece of bread and sipping the cup of wine. I'm not that much of a liturgy guy which doesn't mean you shouldn't be into liturgy. It means only that I'm partial to the basic parts: Telling Jesus' Story and following Jesus' Instructions.

This combination of incinerating realism and meaning grabs my heart strings, week after week. Incinerating Realism: Jesus and his traveling school are unraveling and, right smack in the middle of the fiasco, he hosts a dinner with his intimate students. Nothing gets a free-fall off to a great start like a strange dinner. True to form, it's a doozie.

Have you ever been to a meal where things and guests get kooky and ugly, especially when there's a few drinks for accelerant purposes? I have and let me tell you, not pretty. F-Bombs, drinks in the face, storming-out-and-back-and-out-again. Good times. Good times. The walls are closing in, Judas has ratted-Jesus-out and now joins him for screws-and-chews. Peter's got beer muscles, declaring his fierce and invincible devotion; Jesus sees right through him and knows he'll fold before daybreak. Before that though, he'll get into it with Malcus and cut his ear off. An after-dinner-knife-fight keeps the glow going in a way that tickles the pallet. The other students scatter like roaches when the lights turn on. The Last Supper is the First Act in the spectacular unraveling of the Original Jesus School.

So let's stop here and think about this First Act. The whole shebang is falling to pieces and Jesus punctuates the devolution with generosity and meaning. Think back to those grim seasons when everything fell apart or at least felt that way. The desperation maybe panic, and the brutal comparison between the 'good-then' and the 'terrible-now'.

It's simply awful. Jesus gives himself, all of himself, to his deeply loved students. Very soon enough, he won't even have himself to give; and he knows it, dreads it and gives himself, with gusto, anyway. He goes even further still: He connects the disaster of his free-fall with meaning. He offers indissoluble-connection and permanent-dignity to his beloved: New Relationship and Forgiveness. Right to the spectacular end, Jesus combines Dignity, Purpose and Meaning with the darkest shadows which fall upon our hearts and lives, even our complete unraveling.

It gets even worse and more powerful still. Thanks to his dear friend, Judas, and frenzied coreligionists, in cahoots with the Roman bullies, Jesus is rounded up, beaten up



**WHY COMMUNION AND WHY EVERY WEEK? (cont'd)**

and gruesomely killed, in that Ole Roman Way. I want to take you on Bill's Way Back Machine (Remember Fractured Fairy Tales in Bullwinkle? - a classic). I remember seeing a vir-post-mortem. Now for you Latin Snobs: Vidi qui laqueo suspendit dira VERPA (Think Vertical here) exhibit. I got a Gentleman's-C in Ecclesiastical Latin. I still remember Father Metzger handing back my drafts, shaking his head. When he was done correcting my papers, they looked like coloring books. Back to the story: When men die horizontal, blood and fluids follow the direction of gravity - that would be downward - a certain reproductive protrusion fills up and salutes the flag, skull-and-bones-of course. This nasty little fact is called Livor Mortis. The poor soul had the Ole Phallum Erectus, along with a protruding tongue and that winsome decomp-complexion, dowsed in that dead-skunk cologne.

At no point during this very creepy and very, very uncomfortable scenario did I think, "What a beautiful message of God's special love for me...(Insert Romantic Sigh here)." Neither did this easily come to mind for Jesus' Students and for our earliest theologian of the Cross, the Apostle Paul. They knew exactly what crucifixion was, looked like, and stirred up in the hearts of ancient bottom feeders. Suspension Posts and the posed corpses literally dotted the footpaths. This awful form of execution and the impromptu savage theaters that swarmed the posts did not spell out G-O-D or L-O-V-E to our religious ancestors.

This was and still is the astonishing and priceless gift of Christian Religion, from a Bill's-Eye-View: We combine Dignity, Meaning and Beauty with each and everything which real-life throws at us, even and especially unbearably awful real-life. And we gather ourselves together to become a welcoming place for everyone, regardless where they find themselves and how they're piecing together the broken shreds of their life with selected pieces of Our Great Tradition. No two collages look alike and all hold One Great Thing in common: Broken.

So let's back to Communion. I deeply love this combo meal, it's searing realism, it's universal shape and it's Open Heartedness. I listen to the story, over-and-over-again. I look at the bread and the wine. When I'm eating and drinking, I know that, in some unfathomable way, I'm drilling into the Deepest Vein of All Reality, down to the agony-of-agonies and that Agony, Dignity, Truth, Beauty and Love converge in an Ultimate Perfect Storm we dimly glance and reach for with the ancient phrase: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I know that I'm meeting Jesus. I have no idea how the engineering works but I believe it and Him. And there's truly no place I'd rather go to Communion than Our Redeemer. I love you folks and this groovy version of Jesus School. I'm so glad we're back together as a team.

It is such an honor and privilege to serve as high fallootin Sunday School teacher and I can't wait to roll up our theological sleeves to learn this year, Bill. See you in class.



## A Volunteer's Reflection on Returning to El Hogar by Katherine Mirani

*15 Redeemer Parishioners returned July 20 from Redeemer's 7th Mission Trip to El Hogar Ministries in Honduras. Volunteers lived and worked at the School of Agriculture, a residential farm school for 50 young Honduran men ages 12-20. El Hogar is a joint project of the Episcopal Churches of Honduras and the United States. For more insights on the meaning of the trip, visit Redeemer's Sermon Blog and click on "July 29."*

The words "comfort zone" get thrown around a lot with regards to Honduras. I think pretty much everyone who goes there has something to say about how out of that zone they felt when they went down. I spent most of the last couple of months before this year's trip panicking about what I was going to feel like when I returned to the school for my second year. The first year, I had felt totally and completely out of my element for the first few days, and it was terrifying. I wasn't eager to repeat experiencing that kind of fear, even though it brought me closer to God.

But when I went down this year, something pretty cool happened. Instead of feeling like I was out of my element, I felt at home. And I was at home. I was with volunteers and boys who cared about me, who forgave me for my mistakes and who wanted to make me laugh. I was with people who were excited to share their experiences with me, no matter how different those experiences might be from my own. I was in the middle of a whole web of relationships based on true love and respect, and even when we lost power, even when we lost running water, even when it seemed like the most basic of necessities had failed us, it became obvious that that wasn't true -- we had only lost convenience. We had never lost the love that fuels us (and we still had water, it just didn't run).

When I talk to people about Honduras, I always talk about how discovering the similarities between myself and the boys. Despite our differences, we have so much in common. We love music, we love jokes, we love dancing, and we love God.

As Madeline says at grace in a favorite book from childhood, "We love our bread, we love our butter. But most of all, we love each other." The things that separate me from the boys -- the language we usually speak, the food we usually eat, the conveniences we usually enjoy -- are just "usuallys." The love we have for one another is what brings us together, and that's not "usually." It's always and forever.

When it's dark and the water doesn't run, that's what really matters.



Katherine Mirani joins in at after-dinner study hall at El Hogar.



Redeemer volunteers and third-year students pose in the quad at El Hogar, July 2012





## Mission News

It is time again for the Classroom in a Bag in-gathering for Esperanza Academy!

Esperanza Academy has once again asked us to provide a variety of classroom materials to support their teachers. Our ingathering this year is scheduled for September 10, 2012. Esperanza Academy is a tuition-free, independent middle school in the Episcopal tradition welcoming girls of diverse faiths, races, and cultures from Lawrence, Massachusetts. The school inspires students to become active learners and responsible global citizens. Esperanza encourages and prepares girls to meet challenges with courage, integrity, and respect.

Your generosity makes a real difference in the lives of the girls and their teachers. Any items can you provide are greatly appreciated and give our parish the opportunity to show our love for the world. The items Esperanza has requested include:

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy paper (as much as we can provide!!)</li> <li>• Dry erase markers</li> <li>• Sticky notes (all sizes &amp; colors)</li> <li>• Zip drives/flash drives</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• #2 Pencils</li> <li>• Colored Pencils</li> <li>• Rulers</li> <li>• Kleenex</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graph Paper</li> <li>• Yellow highlighters</li> <li>• College ruled paper</li> <li>• Index cards</li> </ul> |
|---|--|--|

The list will also be provided in the front and back of the church. If you have any questions you can contact Kathleen Mirani at 781-771-9316 or kmirani01@yahoo.com.

Thank you again for your support.

## The Shepherds Among Us by Katharine Mockett, Donna Moultrup and Elaine Quinlan

The Giving Garden has had a bountiful harvest! Planted initially by students from Lexington Christian Academy under the direction of their biology teacher, Alan Kalf, a member of our parish, the Giving Garden has had a productive season. The initial plantings provided an early harvest of snow peas, radishes and some onions. In May, the children of Redeemer planted potatoes, tomatoes, cucumbers and herbs. All summer long our shepherds have been diligently tending the garden and harvesting the fruits of the plants. In mid August potatoes were harvested by students at the Lexington Playcare Center, supervised by their teacher, Chris Giguere, assisted by Donna Moultrup, "farmer/advisor", and one of our shepherds, Elaine Quinlan. The children had a very good time and were amazed to see the potatoes appear from under the earth. After helping to collect them, they were going to wash them and donate them to the Lexington food pantry. Hopefully a plentiful supply of green beans and tomatoes will continue into September when the white potatoes will be harvested and perhaps a crop of late lettuce.



Elaine Quinlan in  
The Garden in July



The Potato Harvest with LPC  
in mid-August





## Music News

**Many thanks** to all Redeemer musicians who contributed their talents to summer services while our choir was on its well deserved break, specifically Murray Daniels, Tony Johnson, Linda and Stephanie Kukolik, Kate Ekrem, Leah Mirani, Duncan Vinson, Ian Fox. We also began the practice of singing medieval early Christian chants as Eucharist or Fraction responses, and heard a number of keyboard fugues on the "Magnificat" written by Johan Pachelbel.

We already anticipate and welcome some new faces in our choir pews this fall. **All singers** in our congregation are encouraged to think about joining the choir on a regular basis, if not at least for special services such as All Saints Sunday in November and the Advent Procession in early December. The choir rehearses regularly on Wednesdays from 7:30-9:00 p.m. and Sunday mornings from 8:30-9:10 a.m.. **First choir rehearsal is Wed., September 5th at 7:30.** Special music offerings for the fall/winter are planned for *All Saints Sunday November 4th*, when will sing **Puccini's "Requiem" with guest organist and violist**, and for Redeemer's annual **Advent Procession on December 2nd at 4:00.** when we will be accompanied by the **Tradewinds Woodwind Quintet** in a diverse collection of seasonal music. *If you are interested in singing with us, see Bernadette, or any choir member, or just show up to rehearsal some time!*

Coming up in October, special music is planned for **October 7th** (hopefully outdoors...) which will include a Blessing of the Animals, and music accompanied by James Suprenant on accordion. That afternoon at 3:00 p.m., our choir will participate in the **"Choir of 100 Voices" celebrating the centennial of St. Paul's Cathedral** in Boston, singing works by Ralph Vaughan Williams and Charles Parry. Anyone who would like to join the choir for that service should see Bernadette.

Further ahead - on **Sunday March 3rd** we will welcome the Back Bay Ringers ([www.backbayringers.org](http://www.backbayringers.org)), - Boston's premiere auditioned touring handbell ensemble, for a special Lenten service. In addition, the music committee and Redeemer will host a full scale concert in our sanctuary, presented to the Lexington community by the Back Bay Ringers, on **Saturday evening, June 8th. So mark your calendars for these dates!**

As always, the music and worship committees welcome informal feedback on any issues concerning music or worship at Redeemer.

Bernadette Colley  
Music Director



# Calendar

September	Date	Event Details
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2</b>	8:00am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Monday-Thursday	4-6; 10-13; 17-20; 24-27	9:00am - Morning Prayer
Monday	3	Office Closed - Labor Day
Wednesday	5, 12, 19	7:30pm - Adult Choir Rehearsal No Rehearsal September 26
Saturday	8	9:00am - Liturgy Team meeting
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9</b>	8:00am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II - Welcome Back! Welcome Back Parish Breakfast & Christian Formation Registration Nursery Care Resumes 12:00 noon - Executive Committee meeting with Nominating Committee
Monday	10	7:30pm - Property Committee meeting
Tuesday's	11	7:30pm - Stewardship Committee meeting
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>16</b>	8:00am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Commissioning of Lay Leaders 10:50am - Christian Formation for children and youth 10:50am - Adult Christian Formation: <i>The Heart of Christianity</i> 12:00 noon - Pastoral Care Team meeting
Monday	17	7:30pm - Finance Committee meeting 7:30pm - Property Committee meeting
Wednesday	19	6:30pm - Vestry Dinner & Meeting
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>23</b>	8:00am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:50am - Christian Formation for children and youth 10:50am - Adult Christian Formation: <i>Vestry Forum on our church building</i> 12:00 noon - Worship Committee meeting
Monday	24	1:30pm - Cook for Bristol Lodge
Tuesday	25	7:00pm - Alewife Deanery meeting
Thursday	27	4:00pm - Warden's meeting 7:30pm - Redeeming Knitters
Friday - Sunday	28 - 30	Parish Retreat
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>30</b>	8:00am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Guest Preacher: Rev. Christopher Duraisingh No Children, Youth or Adult Christian Formation

Please send all announcements by email to [office@our-redeemer.net](mailto: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 October Redeeming Features submissions is September **15th**.