



Church of Our Redeemer
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Redeeming Features

Volume 29

Issue 9

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 Nancy Grayson James Surprenant

Greetings from Rev. Kate Ekrem

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Dear friends,

Summer is a quiet and peaceful season at Redeemer, and that gives me a chance to spend a little extra time with the homebound and elder members of our parish. This summer I got to have tea and cookies, go for short walks, play bingo, and just sit and visit with many of these lovely folks. I also got to introduce them to our new Assistant Rector, Andrew, and he and I visited together so they could get to know their new minister, just like the rest of the parish is getting to do at church.

I always get more out of these visits than I expect. I go to minister to someone, and they end up ministering to me. These wise elders always ask after my kids (and give some excellent and hard-won parenting advice), tell me to take care of myself, often give me cookies, and always, always tell me they are praying for me.

Right now at Redeemer we have about 15 members who can't get to church on Sundays. We only have about 3 members of our pastoral care team who are able to make regular visits. If you would like someone to serve you cookies, give you good advice from a long life well lived, and pray for you – and you would like to visit with and pray for someone else – might you be called to be a visitor to a homebound member of our parish? Our elders have a lot to offer us, but also very much appreciate some companionship and care, a listening ear and a helping hand from time to time.

Not everyone feels comfortable or called to share the Eucharist, as our Lay Eucharistic Ministers do, but you don't need to be an LEM to be a pastoral visitor. You just need to enjoy visiting with and caring about one

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Greetings from Kate (cont'd)

Of these wonderful wise elders of our community. Usually, pastoral visitors visit once a month or so and perhaps connect on the phone a couple of times during the month. Driving someone to church from time to time can also be a great help. If this is of interest to you, let me know or speak to Cassie Bowlby, chair of the Pastoral Care Team. In any case, please know there is a group of Redeemer members who you may never see, but who are thinking about and praying for all of you in your lives and ministries.

Peace,


Worship in September

September is a busy, fun and exciting time at Redeemer. Please join us for these special services this month.

September 8: Fall Kick-Off Sunday

Our choir is back and we will enjoy beautiful music and re-connecting with friends we've missed over the summer. Registration for Atrium and Youth programs will take place after the service. After worship, all are invited to a cookout on the lawn sponsored by the Men's Group. Please bring a side dish to share if you can – burgers and hot dogs will be provided.

September 15: Welcome Andrew!

We will formally welcome our new Assistant Rector, Rev. Andrew Goldhor, who joined us this summer. We'll have some special gifts and prayers for him during the worship service, and a coffee hour reception afterwards. Adult Forum will be a time to talk with Andrew and learn more about him and his ministry.

September 22: Mission Sunday: El Hogar

This summer, five young people and three adults spend two weeks at the El Hogar Agricultural School in Honduras. They will be our preachers today, sharing what touched them about their mission trip. Our worship will include songs and hymns from Latin America. After worship at the Adult Forum, you can learn more about their adventures and learnings and see a slide show of their trip. There will be an opportunity to ask questions about El Hogar's ministry and find out how you can get involved.

September 29: Guest Preacher Rev. Dr. Christopher Duraisingh

Although much of the Redeemer community will be away at the Parish Weekend, those who are in Lexington will also have a wonderful Sunday. Our guest celebrant and preacher will be the Rev. Dr. Christopher Duraisingh, Otis Charles Visiting Professor in Applied Theology and faculty emeritus at Episcopal Divinity School. A leading expert on mission in the Anglican Communion, and former Executive Secretary for Gospel and Cultures of the World Council of Churches, Christopher is a member of our Redeemer community and a wonderful and inspiring preacher.

....and stay tuned for special events in October including **Celtic Sunday on October 6!**



Seminarian field education student

Michael Bousquet is very excited to be at the Church of Our Redeemer. He is currently a postulant for the priesthood in the Diocese of Massachusetts and works as a chaplain at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. In prior years, he has served as Pastoral Associate at St. Paul's Episcopal Parish in Malden, Pastoral Associate at the Paulist Center Boston, and as the Marketing and Development Coordinator for the Society of St. John the Evangelist in Cambridge. He is sponsored for the priesthood by St. John's Episcopal Church in Charlestown, where he has served as Stewardship Chair and on the vestry as Treasurer. Michael also has nearly a decade of experience in non-profit fundraising and development, having served as diverse organizations as Historic New England, the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, and the Dartmouth College Fund. Michael Bousquet holds a Bachelor of Arts from Dartmouth and a Master of Divinity from Harvard; he also holds certificates from Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge and St. George's College, Jerusalem. Michael lives with his partner, David Lee, in Charlestown. In his free time he enjoys singing, hiking, and competitive fencing. He is very much looking forward to meeting everybody at Redeemer and to serving this community over the coming year.

The Quietest Ministry

If we are doing our job well, you won't notice us. And if the color is wrong, or a candle does not stay lit, probably the only Redeemer eyebrow that will be raised would be from a member or former member of our quiet, faithful group – Redeemer's Altar Guild. The Altar Guild is a ministry of laypersons who care for the altar and its furnishings for all worship services. We raise and lower banners in advance of and after feast days, wash and dry the silver, set up the tray for communion and the traveling kits for home visits, make sure all the linen is clean and pressed, and fill the liquid candles (oh, you didn't know they're not wax?). We also help with altar flowers, and assist the vestry each week by ensuring the offering is secured in the safe. We work in teams of two each month, and as one big team to prepare for Christmas, Holy Week and Easter services. It's a wonderful ministry for those who enjoy serving quietly in service to all those who worship at Redeemer.

We are meeting at 9:00 am on Saturday, September 14 to review the year ahead, and welcome all those interested in learning about this very special ministry. Whether you'd like to be part of a monthly team or just learn the ins and outs of purificators and corporals, we'd love to have you join us! For more information call Janet Kern 781 861-7102 or Joyce Dufault 781 862-3920, co-chairs of the Altar Guild!

Wanted: Pitchers and Wash Bowls in good condition. We have been borrowing pitchers and large "wash bowls" for our annual foot washing service on Maundy Thursday at Redeemer. The Altar Guild would like to have our own pitchers and bowls for this purpose that we keep at the church. We could probably find some at yard sales or online, but thought we'd ask first if parishioners might have some that are in good condition (no large chips or cracks) that would be willing to donate. Simple is best...no family heirlooms please!



New "Creation Care" Team

What does it mean to be part of the Redeemer faith community as you think about the environment and climate change? What are the ways we all can make a difference as individuals and with our many activities and ministries at Redeemer?

A new team has formed to help facilitate conversation and action at Redeemer around these critical issues, and we'd love to have your ideas and help. Unlike a committee focused on a particular aspect of life at Redeemer, the Creation Care Team will be asking all Redeemer groups and individuals to consider current practices at home and at church that affect our environment, and what changes we can make together as a community to care for God's creation.

On Sunday, October 6, the Creation Care Team will be hosting the Adult Forum, and beginning this work together with the parish community. Please join us as we continue the work together as stewards of "this fragile earth, our island home".

Members of the Creation Care Team are currently: Lance Conrad, Ian Fox (vestry liaison), Cara Kalf, Janet Kern, chair; Connie Parrish, and James Surprenant. Please let us know if you'd like to join us!

Welcome Back!

Redeeming Knitters

Redeeming Knitters are back after a summer hiatus. We will have our first meeting on Thursday, September 12th at 7:30 pm. Bring your yarn and needles and meet in the Handley Library.

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



What is your Vestry Working on?

During our two summer meetings, Vestry spent much of the time discussing the Great Hall renovation project. Thanks to the energetic work of the Great Hall Renovation Team, and our architect Gerry Frank, we received a compelling outline of what kind of renovations could be achieved, both within the Great Hall itself, and also potentially in the surrounding spaces, to create a connection directly outside to the Memorial Garden, and to upgrade the entrances and bathrooms to be fully accessible. Many of you will have seen this at the June 16th Adult Forum where Gerry presented the renovation possibilities.

To help us discern how to move forward and choose from the potential options presented to us, Vestry has commissioned a new group of dedicated parishioners to form the “Realizing Our Vision” Team. This team has been charged with defining the vision for the Great Hall and surrounding space, ensuring that the vision remains grounded in our Strategic Plan and helps fully support Formation and Mission activities in the renovated space; conducting a detailed study to determine the complete costs and options to fund the renovation work required to achieve the vision; solicit those funds through grants and a possible fundraising campaign; and oversee the ensuing renovation project. We are grateful to this new team for taking on this important work, and helping us fully achieve our hopes for the Great Hall space.

The related oil to gas conversion project will get underway in early September, helping us achieve significant annual fuel cost savings, lower our carbon footprint, and allow for new heating options for the Great Hall.

At our August meeting we also had our first report from Andrew Goldhor, our new Assistant Rector. Andrew has jumped right in, getting involved quickly in shaping our Formation program: ensuring youth formation leaders are in place, and planning out our Adult Formation series for the Fall. In addition, we supported Kate’s proposal to take on a seminarian for next year, as we have done in some past years. Michael Bousquet will be with us September through June for an internship to complete his preparation for ordination to the priesthood. He hopes to work with the J2A class and the Stewardship and Worship committees.

The start of our program year in September also sees new leadership for the Stewardship Committee, as Randy Bowlby takes over as chair; and the formation of a new Creation Care Team, led by Janet Kern. These new leaders will be recognized at our September 8th service, and we are grateful for the continuing strong lay leadership that we are blessed with at Redeemer!

As always, George and I and the entire Vestry are eager to hear your thoughts, concerns, and ideas, so please do reach out to any of us any time.

In faith,

Ian



Mission News

You are invited...

If you are part of any parish outreach ministry, or aspire to join one, please attend a meeting of mission team leaders and supporters. On the 4th Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. a fluid, though dedicated, group gather to discuss upcoming mission events and mission priorities. The **September meeting is Monday, September 23 at 7:30 p.m.** in the meeting room next to Kate's office. If you'd like to receive a reminder and copy of the agenda, please send an email to Bob King (rwk@chandler.mit.edu). We look forward to seeing you!

Mark your calendar!

Our annual fall Habitat for Humanity workday will be on **Saturday, October 19**. Each fall and spring a group of volunteers from the Redeemer community work on a project with the Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity. If you're interested in joining the crew, please contact Steve Burns, a65corvair@verizon.net.



Habitat
for Humanity®

Building Houses Building Hope

The Merrimack Valley Habitat is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, a nonprofit, ecumenical housing ministry. "Using donated supplies and volunteer labor, Habitat seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. "

Since the local organization's founding in 1985, they have, "built 69 homes and rehabbed 10 homes in Lawrence and surrounding communities for people in need of safe, decent, affordable housing...[and] sell these homes at cost and with no-interest mortgages to low-income families who spend hundreds of hours helping to build their own or another Habitat house. "

Music News

There are numerous plans in involving music for 2013-1014 - both at Redeemer, and beyond.

First though, a heartfelt word of thanks and appreciation for Redeemer members who contributed their talents in summer worship offerings these past two months: Erica Brotschi, Mary Etta King, Murray Daniels (on keyboards *and* voice), and especially to Grant Geyerhahn for his Herbie Hancock saxophone solo "Watermelon Man" in late July. Such "cool" watermelon - how appropriate for summer! For those of you who meant to volunteer but didn't, or couldn't, get to it this summer, please know that Bernadette is always looking to expand the Redeemer Roster of musical talents, so you can add your name to it at any time-and she'll find an opportunity that suits you!



Music News (cont'd)



This summer Bernadette met with choral director Dot DiDomenico of the Brookhaven Chorus, and together they planned a new musical collaboration for the two choirs which will take place in a Sunday service and Monday concert during the first week in April in observance of Lent, on the theme of "Life's Journeys". More details to come on that in later months.

Another musical initiative underway involves the launch of Diocesan global ministry efforts in South Africa, discussions of which Bernadette has been a part this summer. As a result, a launch event entitled "*Simunye: Music and Mission in South Africa*" (Simunye is Sotho for "we are one") is planned for **Friday evening October 25th at Church of the Good Shepherd in Dedham**. Bernadette has arranged one of three presentation by humanitarian organizations for that evening, -- Tremendous Hearts, of Arlington and Cape Town (www.tremendoushearts.org). She has also volunteered to assist with music for that evening along with Jane Money, director of the high-school vocal group Boston City Singers, and Noble Scheepers, priest-in-charge at Good Shepherd, and from Cape Town himself. Details on that event and initiative to come in October's RF.

At Redeemer, in September, we welcome our **Adult choir back on September 8th. Regular rehearsals resume Wed. evening Sept. 4th at 7:30, and Sunday mornings at 8:30**. New members interested in joining us may just show up. (...like maybe a few of you *men who sang so beautifully* on Father's Day???. Singers who can not make a weekly commitment are welcome to join us for high Feast Days (All Saints, Lessons & Carols, Christmas Eve, etc...), at any time. Service repertoire for September and early October includes works by Carissimi, Humperdinck, Kendrick, Scheutz, and traditional spirituals and hymns from varied traditions.

Atrium Singers (i.e., all youth in Atrium II & III classes) are scheduled to sing at the 9:30 services on: **October 27th, Nov. 24th, and Dec. 22nd**. (Parents please mark your calendars, with thanks). Rehearsals take place as part of the children's Sunday school classes from 11:30-11:50 on Sunday mornings.

October 6th will be our first "Special Service Sunday" of the fall season, as we celebrate **Creation care with Celtic** prayers and readings and returning (2011) **guest musicians "Fellswater"** playing traditional instruments and repertoire. On **October 20**, we welcome organist **Geoffrey Wieting** who will be substituting for Bernadette while she attends a continuing education retreat.

Coming up later this fall we welcome guest **Soprano Lisa Correnti** who joins the choir and guest violinist in selections from Faure's Requiem for the **Feast of All Saints on November 3rd**.

And finally, dates beyond November to note:

Sunday December 8, at 4:00 Candlelight Lessons & Carols with String Quartet
Sunday, February 9, at 3:00 Lexington Choral Festival at St. Brigid's Church



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 8: Fellowship

Please join us for a Welcome Back Potluck Cookout hosted by the Redeemer Men's group. Bring a side to share.

September 15: "Meet Andrew"

Come to the Adult Forum to learn more about our new Assistant Rector Andrew Goldhor. Bring your questions!

September 22: Mission Sunday

Our team that traveled to Honduras will preach and lead Adult Formation, telling us about their journey to El Hogar.

September 29: No Adult Forum due to Parish Retreat Weekend

In the coming months Adult Formation will feature forums with Julia MacMahon, lead organizer for B-PEACE, our diocesan antiviolence campaign, Redeemer's own Creation Care Team, and an interactive presentation from our vestry. There will be forums dedicated to discussions about our relationships with money, our faith and one another. And Theologian in Residence Bill Fortier will facilitate conversations about Christology, culminating in an Advent series on "Folk Christologies".

If you have input about Adult Christian Formation topics or themes, please contact a member of the Committee (Ian Fox, Susan Burkhardt, Jed Geyerhahn, Bill Fortier).

Christian Formation – Children and Youth

Christian Formation for Children and Youth begins on Sunday, September 15. 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 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 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! **



Christian Formation – Children and Youth (*cont'd*)

- September 8** Christian Formation Registration at Parish Potluck Cookout. Sunday Evening Youth Group: Campfire at the Burns' No Sunday Morning Christian Formation
- September 15** Commission Christian Formation leaders/mentors at 9:30am service Christian Formation classes BEGIN at 10:50 am
- September 22** All Christian Formation classes meet on regular schedule
- September 29** 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. You can bring them to church already filled out on September 8 or submit them to the office in advance.

Questions?

Age 3 yrs -5th grade – Evelyn Hausslein (ehausslein@rcn.com / 781-861-0378)
 6th – 12th grade – the Rev. Andrew Goldhor (Andrew@our-redeemer.net)
 Youth Group – Cathy Burns (hcburns@verizon.net / 978-663-5022)

Nursery News

Sunday Nursery Care begins on Sunday, September 8.

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.

Kathy Carcione will once again be our primary nursery care taker. 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 8 or submit them to the office in advance.



**Zealot:
You Can't Get "They-ah From He-yah"
An Exemplar of Mistaken
History-ish Thinking**

Bill Fortier

So I've been reading theology like a crazed librarian this summer, Redeemer peeps, and - among the books I've digested - is Reza Aslan's **Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth**. He's a very smart religious scholar and has unique perspective too: he's an Iranian American who was an evangelical Christian in his teens and twenties, before converting back to Islam in his thirties. It's good to read a different view, from someone who 'drank the Christian cool-aid' and who then gave it up.

As a Muslim person, he fully acknowledges Jesus' crucifixion and his thorough Judaism, a truly important contribution to Christian-Muslim dialogue: many, many Muslims -- across cultures and centuries -- have rejected Jesus' Judaism and his crucifixion.

These recognitions are very important for religious encounter and sharing between our faith traditions. This alone makes me 'do the wave' and recommend his alternative take on Jesus. Plus, we need as many views of Jesus as we can: this is a singular strength of contemporary Christian culture, the nonviolent and supportive invitation to everyone who reflects on Jesus. A round of applause is in order for Reza. So here's Aslan's take on the **Jesus of history**: Jesus was a trouble-maker who stirred his countrymen further in the direction of resistance to Rome and the Romans squished him like a bug for it.

So I used the idiom of a Maine farmer, "You can't get theyah from heyah," to deliver that frustrating truth that we can't accurately make the kind of historical judgments that Aslan makes. He's not alone: this is a big industry, these popular New Testament histories, and they share common mistakes: making 'historical' judgments about Jesus (1) outside of the New Testament and (2) without proven historical tools and (3) without proven historical measurements. Since these tools and measurements aren't available, because they're lost, along with almost everything from the ancient world, **scholars (1) make up arguments and (2) use them as tools and measurements, and then (3) insist that their alternatives are adequate**. Even though my biblical scholar friends are none-too-happy with me and my view, I think their tools don't work and the results are unreliable, fancy guess-work.

Think of **Lincoln studies** for example: (1) we can compare Lincoln's body of official and private letters and (2) we can compare these to writings 'about him', penned by his peers. Lastly, we can compare these to (3) the public records of the time. (4) We even have contemporary photography and drawings. (5) We also have his clothes, his possessions, his homes and even life masks. We can exhume his remains. We can say the same about Washington too.

We don't have any basis to do anything but guess about Jesus' views: we don't have enough (1) texts about other contemporaries to Jesus and (2) we don't have **any contemporary writings by Jesus, or by his contemporaries about him. We don't have any possessions of Jesus either.**



Zealot (cont'd)

We don't have necessary the historical materials to make sound historical judgments. We're all playing, "here's two sticks, now build me a house!"

So let's breath deeply and lean into a theological lesson here: **we get what we get and only what we get and have at our disposal. Faith guides us to trust and follow the materials -- the biblical gifts -- at our disposal.** We have the biblical Jesus and the credal Jesus, along with commentaries-on-commentaries-about-Jesus, and these treasuries have taken us, all the way, to right here, right now. We don't need **infallibility** and we don't need **scientific-evidence-based-history** either, which is a darned-good-thing too because we don't have either.

Aslan makes a further mistake too: **he thinks he can separate the spin which covers the historical bedrock.** Frankly, we don't have layers of sources -- like geological layers of rocks or like rings in a tree trunk -- to excavate our way down to reliable pictures of Jesus. Jesus doesn't have a **strata of sources** like Lincoln or Washington. We don't have enough sources or enough angles: most of the ancient world has vanished. **And we don't have any written testimonies that are contemporary to Jesus, none. And we don't have a single material artifact from Jesus, none.**

We don't have (1) layers-upon-layers of sayings, (2) a string of draft-versions of the Christian Bible or clear-cut-and-pastes, like we do with the Books of Moses for example, where the words, spelling and grammar -- and even the names for God (!) change right in the middle of the stories. We've drawn all the lines over the New Testament puzzle and jigsawed the pieces, and then we forgotten that we did it. In short: we (1) **invented** the so-called-layers, (2) **developed** amnesia and (3) **pretend textual archeology.** We've conjured up an **illusion of history.**

This **illusion of history** is very, very appealing and it doesn't hold up to litmus tests of evidence-based-histories, a line of detailed evidence that can be measured, compared and combined to offer testable and measurable stories about past human lives. Expect the **biographies of Jesus** to keep on coming though folks and -- I recommend -- turn instead to **the Bible, our commonwealth and constitution.** And since I'm no longer invited to the Christmas parties and cocktail parties of biblical scholars, I'll have plenty of time to hang out with you guys and study the Bible.



Calendar

September	Date	Event Details
Sunday	1	8:00am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Monday	2	Office Closed for Labor Day 5:30pm - Men's group dinner meeting
Saturday	7	9:00am - Liturgy Team meeting 10:00am - Altar Guild meeting
Sunday	8	8:00am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30am - Parish cookout 12:00 noon - Executive Committee meeting
Monday	9	7:30pm - Church Community meeting 7:30pm - Stewardship Committee meeting
Tuesday	10	9:00am - EfM class 7:00pm - EfM class
Thursday	12	7:30pm - Creation Care Team meeting 7:30pm - Redeeming Knitter's
Saturday	14	8:30am - Christian Formation Training
Sunday	15	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>Welcome Andrew</i> 12:00noon - Pastoral Care Team meeting 2:00pm - Betsy Whitman memorial service at Brookhaven
Monday	16	7:30pm - Finance Committee meeting
Tuesday	17	9:00am - EfM class 7:00pm - EfM class
Wednesday	18	6:30pm - Vestry dinner and Meeting
Thursday	19	4:00pm - Warden meeting
Sunday	22	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>El Hogar forum</i> 12:00noon - Worship Committee meeting
Monday	23	1:30pm - Cook for Bristol Lodge 7:30pm - Mission meeting
Tuesday	24	9:00am - EfM class 7:00pm - EfM class
Friday-Sun	27-29	Parish Retreat Weekend
Sunday	29	8:00am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II No formation classes due to Parish Retreat

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 October Redeeming Features submissions is September 15.