



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

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Redeeming Features

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Staff

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

2012 Vestry

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Jr. Warden: Ian Fox
Treasurer: Frank Kern
Clerk: Paula Antonevich

Vestry Members

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Jim Bradley Sarah Neumann
Lance Conrad James Surprenant
Susan Emanuel

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Greetings from Rev. Kate Ekrem

Dear friends,

Fall is my favorite season, and it always makes me a little sad. This season has a bittersweet quality. Life is often very busy, especially if you have school aged children involved in many extracurricular, each one of which seems to need to have a “fall kick-off” event (and church is no exception)! On these beautiful, clear, crisp fall days one can find oneself admiring fall only through the window while filling out back-to-school paperwork, helping with a community event, or doing the chores around the house that didn’t happen during summer vacation. Meanwhile the leaves turn their most glorious colors and fall to the ground, not to return again until the spring.

Recently I read an article relating the answers of several scientists and thinkers to the question: what is the meaning of life? Many of them responded that we are here simply to give witness to creation. Annie Dillard put it this way, “We are here to witness the creation and abet it. We are here to notice each thing so each thing gets noticed. Together we notice not only each mountain shadow and each stone on the beach but, especially, we notice the beautiful faces and complex natures of each other. We are here to bring to consciousness the beauty and power that are around us and to praise the people who are here with us. We witness our generation and our times. We watch the weather. Otherwise, creation would be playing to an empty house.”

I found this idea inspiring and particularly apt in this beautiful and fleeting season. Fall is like God saying to us, “slow down, this only



Greetings from Kate (cont'd)

everything." Noticing might seem like a simple thing, but it's also potentially life-changing, as we put aside our own agenda and become more grateful for all that God has put in our world and our lives. We can slow down and notice not just the colors of the leaves and the clarity of the sky, but also the look on a beloved face, the touch of a friend's hand, or the smile of a stranger. It might just be exactly what we are here to do.

Peace and blessings,



Kate

Dear Friends,

Many thanks again for welcoming me so warmly into the Redeemer community. It is such a joy to be with you during this year, to hear your stories and to become part of your church family.

The month of September saw an energetic start to our Christian formation programs. The Atrium and J2A/YAC programs are all off to an exciting start. The J2A/YAC group is using a new curriculum that integrates film and the Christian story. Participants are watching film clips and then engaging in discussions about the themes and questions they bring up. This group also switched spaces with the Atrium 3 group, so if you step into the library, you'll find fabulously fluffy couches in there now that the Youth Group moved from their previous home.

Which reminds me about the Youth Group: They held their first meeting over a campfire where they roasted hotdogs, made s'mores and planned for the coming year. The group continues to cook dinner on Sunday evenings and are planning a variety of mission and formation activities for this fall, including shopping for the Grow Clinic and visiting the local cemetery for a service around All Saints' Day.

The Adult Forum is also up and running. A couple of notes on upcoming October programs: Bob King will be leading the forum on October 14th to continue the conversation about mission and spirituality that emerged during the Parish Retreat. The following week, October 21st, the Vestry will be hosting a Q&A and Sarah Neumann will be discussing her experience as a youth delegate to General Convention. Finally, theologian-in-residence Bill Fortier will begin his five-part Science and Faith series on October 28th.

As a new member to your community, I've been amazed by the vibrancy and spiritual depth of these programs. If you already participate in them, I look forward to seeing you at some of these upcoming formation events. If you don't, I hope you'll consider coming.

In Christ,
Danielle+



Remembering All the Saints

On Sunday, November 4 we will celebrate All Saints Sunday. This feast day commemorates all the “other” saints, the ones who weren’t well-known enough to have their own feast day, but are important all the same. These saints include our own personal saints: those who were an example of faith and service to us, and who influenced our lives. Perhaps you might especially remember a parent or grandparent, teacher or mentor. Perhaps you are especially remembering a loved one who has died in this past year.

We’d like to remember them with you. Please send their names to the parish office (office@our-redeemer.net) and we will remember them in our service and in our prayers on All Saints Sunday. Feel free to include anyone who has died who has been important in your life, and particularly those who have passed away in the last 12 months.

Our worship on All Saints Sunday will be a traditional service with a requiem mass sung by our choir and guest musicians. See the music article for more details on the beautiful music planned!

Redeeming knitters thing globally!

Redeeming Knitters will meet in the Library, Thursday, October 18 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.

Hint #3: she personalizes her knitting

Be sure to mark your calendar for the next Knitting date on Thursday, November 15.

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



Habitat for Humanity Work Day

The Church of Our Redeemer has secured Saturday October 15th as a work day in Lawrence, MA. If you have interest in volunteering, please contact Steve Burns at 978-663-5022 or email at A65CORVAIR@VERIZON.NET. You must be 18 to participate in the Habitat work day.



Church Community Team begins



In recent months, the vestry and stewardship committee have been independently thinking about how we can do a better job helping members, new and old, stay connected to Redeemer. These ideas merged together this summer in the new “Church Community” team. The group includes Paula Antonevich, Bob Bettacchi, Cassie Bowlby (representing the pastoral care team), Cathy Burns, Mary Ann Burnside, Charlie Coons (representing Liturgy Team) Sarah Conrad, Ellen Cosgrove (representing newcomers’ ministry), Kate Ekrem, Jed Geyerhahn (representing stewardship), George Murnaghan, and Bob King (representing the mission committee).

Our hope is, as our parish grows and changes, to both make sure all pastoral needs are being covered and to make sure everyone has an opportunity (as they wish) to get involved. We want to move from a tendency to “fill slots” on committees to focusing more on an individual’s gifts, needs, and interests. This group includes representatives from ministries around Redeemer so that the right hand knows what the left hand is doing and the same person doesn’t get asked to do ten things at one, or conversely not get invited to participate at all (unless that’s their preference). At the same time, we want to make sure those who are sick, homebound, or have other pastoral needs are also getting care from the Redeemer community. Our goal is a more integrated approach.

The “how” is still somewhat in the planning stages, but will undoubtedly change over time as we gain experience. To begin, we will simply review the church membership list and establish a “baseline” of information. As we move forward, we may move into a gifts discernment model.

Bad Weather

With Labor Day behind us, it is time to remind you of our bad weather procedures.



You can call the church office at 781-862-6408, check for an email update, or check our Facebook page to see if services are cancelled. Usually those are updated by 7am. It’s our general policy not to cancel worship if the clergy can get here. However, that does not mean you have to be here! On stormy days, all those with official duties are excused. Often we hold worship but cancel choir, Christian Formation, coffee hour, and other non-worship events, and operate without acolytes or Liturgy Team. Please use your own judgment and only come to church if it’s safe for you to travel.

Also, WCVB-TV/Channel 5 and their website, WCVB.com, are again ready to handle our closings and delays.

You may also sign up for text message or email alerts at this page: <http://www.wcvb.com/weather/closingssignup>



Music News

Welcome to new choir members Erica Brotschi, Lois Howry, and Janet Kern! **All singers** in our congregation are welcome to join, either on a regular basis, or in special services. The choir rehearses regularly on Wednesdays from 7:30-9:00 p.m. and Sunday mornings from 8:30-9:10 a.m.. Special music Sundays this fall and winter are *All Saints Sunday November 4th*, when will sing **Puccini's "Requiem," and festival hymns. Guest musicians will be organist Geoffrey Weiting and violist Theresa Cleary.** For Redeemer's annual **Advent Procession on December 2nd at 4:00.** we will be accompanied by the **Tradewinds Woodwind Quintet** in a diverse collection of seasonal music. This month special music Sunday is **October 7th, featuring outdoor family-friendly music** accompanied by James Suprenant on accordion and Bernadette Colley on banjo and guitar. That afternoon 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.

Welcome Home to our chamber organ!! Dick Pelland at Pelland Organ Company has done a *marvelous* job refurbishing our lovely historic chamber organ, which we heard initially in a brief postlude on Welcome Back Sunday September 9th. Pelland also confirmed, through documentation at the UK National Trust Collection, organ historian Barbara Owen's 2005 hunch that the instrument's builder was, indeed, John Avery (1755-1807), and not Henry Bevington as had been previously believed (<http://www.nationaltrustcollections.org.uk/object/635376>). Avery was a well respected craftsman who built the organs in Winchester Cathedral and St. Margaret's Westminster, so Redeemer is especially fortunate and privileged to have this musical gem in our sanctuary. A **Sincere Thank you to ALL** who supported, contributed to, and facilitated the process to see its repair and restoration realized. For a recorded sampling of both Redeemer organs, visit Pelland's company website: Avery Chamber Organ (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-bzeYl_M9Kk&feature=youtube), and Gress-Miles Organ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZ1MQQbpqd8>.

Looking further ahead, to mark your calendars - on **Sunday February 10th**, the choir sings once again in the Lexington Choral Festival. **On March 3rd** we will welcome the Back Bay Ringers (www.backbayringers.org), - Boston's premiere auditioned touring handbell ensemble, for a special Lenten service. 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**.

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

Bernadette D. Colley



What Your Vestry's Been Up To

While summer has been a time of vacation, family time and relaxation for many of us, your Vestry has been hard at work, following through on 2012-13 goals to focus on building our **Church Community**, supporting our **Lay Leadership** and ensuring that our **Buildings** are well-cared for *and* serve our needs and desires as well as possible. So here's what we've been doing, and where you might help.

Our **Church Community** task group has developed a new approach to Coffee Hour, following the very successful Liturgy Team model. Starting in September, we are asking families to sign up for a month at a time as part of a group to set up, serve and clean up for this vital weekly fellowship. In addition to helping to make sure we are well nourished, it's a great way to get to know others in the parish better. Please contact Paula Antonevich to sign up-she is looking for families to help with November and December at present, or any time during the year that works for you!

In **Lay Leadership**, the big news has been the transition in the **Property Team**, where after seven years at the helm, Karen Schragle has stood down, and Lance Conrad has agreed to serve as the chair of this important ministry. I am grateful to both of them and to the full Property Team for their work through the years ensuring that our facilities are well-maintained and for their enthusiasm for taking on new challenges.

Speaking of those new challenges, the **Building** task group has been busy reconfiguring classroom space to allow us to add a third Atrium level for our fourth- through sixth-graders, transitioning our Adult Forum space to the Great Hall to allow for greater participation, and setting out to explore how the Great Hall might be renovated and reconfigured to meet the range of needs we as a community have for the space. Those of you at the September 23rd Adult Forum participated in the beginning of the conversation we want to have, and there will be more opportunity for input – and to take part in a Great Hall team – as this important effort moves forward. Please contact Ian Fox if you would be interested in being part of this task force.

The energy efficiency of our buildings is important for cost and environmental responsibility reasons. **Property** has been seeking to improve the efficiency of heating at the Rectory, which has electric baseboard heat, and we had an architect develop a plan and contractors bid upon it. In the end, while the proposed conversion to a propane-fueled system would reduce annual heating costs, the savings are not enough to overcome the cost to convert. If natural gas were available at the house, the higher cost savings would make conversion very attractive. So we are joining with neighbors to get National Grid to run a gas line on the street. If you have experience with conversion to natural gas or any connection to National Grid, please let me know.

Despite this, one silver lining, or put another way, working of the Holy Spirit, has been an acceleration of **Property's** idea to investigate switching the fuel source for the Church's heat from oil to natural gas, which is available at the Church. This could be a very meaningful cost-saver, making more money available to support other Church initiatives.

George Murnaghan, Senior Warden



Adult Christian Formation

Please note that there will be no forum this weekend because of the Parish Retreat. However, looking ahead, the Adult Forum in October will include a series on Faith and Science by resident theologian Bill Fortier beginning on October 28th. There will also be an Advent series on "The Heart of Christianity" and a variety of other interactive presentations.

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!

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

Christian Formation – Children and Youth

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 9-12 are invited to join us for fellowship as we prepare and eat dinner together.

**** We have Sunday School/Atrium every Sunday unless otherwise noted! ****

Questions?

Age 3-6th grade – Evelyn Hausslein (ehausslein@rcn.com / 781-861-0378)

7th – 12th grade – the Rev. Danielle Tumminio (danielle@our-redeemer.net)

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



A PRIMER ON PLEDGING

Where does the church's money come from?

It comes from you. Unlike other denominations, we receive no financial support from outside the parish (for example, from the diocese). We receive some rental income from the onsite daycare and for the use of the church steeple for cell phone antennas, but about 70% of our budget is funded by donations from parishioners.

What is the church's income used for?

About half of our general operating budget goes to salaries for Kate, Danielle, Bernadette, and Lisa, and another quarter or so goes to upkeep of the church building. The church's budget is presented each year at the Annual Meeting of all members in January. If you'd like a copy of the church budget, just ask any member of the stewardship or finance committee, or call the church office.

What is a pledge?

A pledge is a commitment to donate a certain amount of money to Church of Our Redeemer during a calendar year. You can make a pledge by filling out a pledge card with the amount of money you intend to donate on a weekly, monthly or annual basis, or by emailing Lisa, the church administrator, at office@our-redeemer.net, or our treasurer Frank Kern at frank@mackhillfarm.org with your name and the amount you would like to pledge.

A pledge is not a legally binding commitment. You may change your pledge at any time. It is your decision. However, almost everyone honors the pledge that they've made for the year. If you need to change your pledge, just let our treasurer, Frank Kern, know.

So what are those envelopes?

Traditionally, many churches have provided envelopes to enclose contributions. The envelopes allow parishioners to submit cash and have the cash tracked to count towards your annual pledge and for tax purposes. Since many people simply make their pledge with checks, envelopes are not strictly, because the checks typically provide the information needed to track pledges. If a parishioner intends to pay a pledge with cash, using an envelope is necessary to track who the pledge came from (please be sure to write your pledge number on each envelope). Others simply prefer to use the envelope to enclose the payment, whether check or cash. Our treasurer send out quarterly reports on your pledge received to date, as well as a final year-end summary for your tax return. All pledge donations are tax deductible.

Does everybody pledge?

About 65% of Redeemer households currently pledge, and others give without pledging. The Stewardship Committee's goal is always to increase the number of pledging commitments. A contribution is required by national church bylaws to be a voting member of the Annual Meeting. However, even a contribution of a dollar per year fulfills this requirement.

How much do they pledge?

The amount of your pledge is very much a personal decision. While our average pledge is about \$3,100, our median pledge is \$2,000. Based on average income statistics of Lexington



A PRIMER ON PLEDGING (cont'd)

and surrounding communities, it would appear that many individuals and families pledge about 1-2% of annual income. The stewardship committee asks parishioners to try proportional giving, and that parishioners consider pledging a minimum of 3% of their annual income towards Redeemer's operating budget, (i.e. exclusive of any other donations toward worthy causes taken at Redeemer). *Based on the statistics we have seen, if Church of Our Redeemer received a typical number of pledges and the gifts were 3% of Lexington's median household income, member offerings would fully fund Redeemers current annual operating budget, leaving other sources of income to be used for mission and outreach.* The actual cost per pledging family (i.e. our annual operating budget -- utilities, salaries, youth and children's programs, music, and so on -- divided by the number of pledging households) is about \$4,500.

Why pledge? Why not just put something in the plate?

Pledging changes your relationship to Redeemer by making you a committed contributor to its operational budget. Many parishioners describe pledging as a joyful and fulfilling experience of commitment. On a practical level, a pledge helps you plan your budget (and helps us plan ours). Also, by pledging, you know how much you can give, and a pledge is a helpful reminder of what you've offered to give back to your church community and God.

From an administrative perspective, pledging is critical for planning the church budget. At the end of the pledge drive in November, our finance committee makes up the budget for the next year based on how much money we expect members to donate. If you don't pledge, we are not able to include your donation in the budget and don't know how much money the church will have for salaries and other expenses. This makes it very difficult to plan and be responsible stewards of our church's finances.

So how do I decide how much to give? How much does the church need?

The church's annual operating budget is about \$480,000. However, for many people, the church's needs are not really the issue when deciding how much to give. Of course the church can use every dollar, and the more that is donated, the more we can grow our ministry, and the more we are able to give to our mission partners.

The point of pledging is not that the church needs to get the money, but that we need to give it. A pledge is a spiritual reminder that all we have comes from God and that spiritual health comes from sharing what we have with others. How much you need to give is a very individual issue. The Bible suggests giving 10% of your income to charity, and many people find that stretching to that level gives them a whole new perspective on money, trust, and God, and great sense of freedom and joy.

We strongly urge that you give proportionally -- a percentage of your income, whether it is 1% or 10%. Sit down with your household budget and your income statement and see what would work for your household. Perhaps start with 3% with the goal of raising the percentage slightly each year. You may even choose to give 3% to the church and 2% to other charities you wish to support. Try it and notice the difference it makes in your life!



Mission News

"The Mission of the Church is the Mission of Christ...[one of which is]...To respond to human need by loving service." www.episcopalchurch.org

The year in Mission starts off strong!

Thanks to everyone who was able to contribute to Esperanza Academy in gathering in September. It was wonderful to be able to contribute to a smooth start to a new school year.

To learn more about Esperanza, please consider joining Redeemer's table at the school's Harvest of Hope Dinner & Auction on Friday, October 12. If you are interested in attending, please contact Bob King, rwk@chandler.mit.edu.

All Parish Supper to Support Bristol Lodge

Do you think that 20 (or more!) of us can cook for all of us and for 100 guests at Bristol Lodge? Come see and find out!

On Sunday, October 21 from 5 – 7 p.m. all are invited to see what it takes (and how easy it can be!) to prepare a meal for the many guests at Bristol Lodge. There is, of course, a system, from 5 – 5:45 we will assemble the casserole and make a salad; from 5:45 – 6:15 we will heat the casserole and enjoy some entertainment; from 6:15 – 7:00 we will eat and be merry knowing that we have not only nourished ourselves, but also contributed to the nourishment of others.

Every family should bring gingerbread in an 8x8 pan (do not cut up). Individuals please bring cookies and brownies that can be frozen for a future month's dessert.

In order that we can anticipate the number of ingredients needed, please sign up in advance by emailing or contacting Evelyn Hausslein, ehausslein@rcn.com.

Children, youth, and/or adults interested in delivering and serving the meal may do so on Monday, October 22 from 4 – 6 p.m. You may sign up at the dinner on Sunday evening.

Bristol Lodge, a program of Middlesex Human Service Agency, Inc. and located in Waltham, is the only dinner program for homeless people in the western suburbs inside 128. It serves dinner every day to about 100 men and women. For 25 years Redeemer has been cooking and serving on the 4th Monday of every month. More information will be available at the supper!

A Day of Action

As Habitat for Humanity says on their website, "...put your faith into action." Join others to build community and build a house! Redeemer will sponsor a Habitat workday on Saturday, October 20. We will be looking for volunteers and will be seeking donations on Sunday, October 14 and Sunday, October 21. If interested, please contact Steve Burns, a65corvair@verizon.net.



Mission News (cont'd)

Always an Opportunity to Help Others

Please read Redeemers e-newsletter each week for a reminder of the Food Pantry's "Item of the Month" and contribute when you can. Donation bins can be found throughout the church.

Nominating Committee

We need your time and talent

Over the next several weeks, the Nominating Committee will be developing a slate of candidates for Vestry and Deanery Positions to be approved at the Annual Meeting in January. If you would like to be considered for nomination, or wish to nominate someone, please let us know.

The time requirement is easy to describe but hard to quantify.

- Vestry meets once a month and includes membership on another committee. There is a once a year day long vestry retreat, and safe church training.
- Deanery Reps attend four meetings a year and work to update the parish on the work of the Deanery. Two of the representatives will represent our parish as voting members at the Annual Convention in the fall.

Everyone has talents to offer. Are you a quiet observer who has a feeling for the needs of the parish, an energetic person who wants to get things moving, a person who sees the big picture and keep things moving, a consensus builder, a dreamer, a practical person...you get the idea. We need people with a variety of gifts.

We hope you will consider becoming a Vestry member or Deanery representative and let your spiritual journey be invigorated by serving others at Redeemer. Please talk with us in person, email, or call. We need you!

Sincerely,
The Nominating Committee

Sam Stevens yosemite-sam@verizon.net (chair), 781-271-9029

Ellen Cosgrove cosgrove@law.harvard.edu, 781-372-3232

Jed Geyerhahn jgeyerhahn@gmail.com, 781-750-8793

Evelyn Hausslein ehausslein@rcn.com, 781-861-0378

Bill Voegel voegelwi@gmail.com, 781-863-5825

Nancy Williams dougandnancy1@verizon.net, 781-862-9922



Calendar

October	Date	Event Details
Monday-Thursday	All month	9:00am - Morning Prayer
Monday	1	7:30pm - Mission Committee meeting
Tuesday	2	7:30pm - Stewardship Committee meeting
Wednesday	3, 10, 17, 24, 31	7:30pm - Adult Choir Rehearsal
Saturday	6	9:00am - Liturgy Team meeting
Sunday	7	8:00am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II - Blessing of the Animals 10:50am - Intergenerational Christian Formation & Fellowship
Monday	8	Office Closed in Observance of Columbus Day
Thursday	11	7:30pm - Church Community Team meeting
Sunday	14	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>Journey Inward/Journey Outward</i> 12:00 noon - Executive Committee meeting
Monday	15	7:30pm - Finance Committee meeting
Wednesday	17	7:30pm - Vestry Meeting
Thursday	18	7:30pm—Redeeming Knitters
Sunday	21	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 Q&A</i> 5:00pm - All Parish cooking for Bristol Lodge
Monday	22	1:30pm - Cook for Bristol Lodge
Thursday	25	4:00pm - Wardens meeting
Sunday	28	8:00am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:50am - Christian Formation for children and youth 10:50am - Adult Christian Formation: <i>Science & Faith</i> 12:00noon—Worship Committee meeting
Monday	29	7:30 pm—Mission Committee meeting

Please send all announcements by email to office@our-redeemer.net or for those without email, call or send to the church office, with "RF" clearly marked.

The **monthly deadline** for the October Redeeming Features submissions is October **15th**.