

# THE REDEEMER SPIRIT DECEMBER 2011

The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer ▪ 6201 Dunrobbin Drive ▪ Bethesda, Maryland 20816

## NOTES FROM THE RECTOR

By the world's calendar, we are speeding toward the end of the year. The "Christmas season" is already upon us and will come to a screeching halt, with "post-Christmas" sales, on December 26. But with us, in the Church, the year ended in late November with the Last Sunday of Pentecost. We are at the beginning of a new year. How we begin a thing – a conversation, a meal, a relationship, a project, a new job or any new venture – influences how the thing will develop and unfold.

The way I begin my day will stay with me. Do I wake up in the dark to a loud alarm, the urgent news or rousing "morning" music on the radio? Or have I slept long and peacefully enough that I can wake quietly, with time to linger between sleep and consciousness and come gradually to awareness of the new day? When I get up, do I rush into the day, or do I find time for meditation or prayer, in silence or stillness, reading the Daily Office, walking, running, or some other way of reflection and openness? How I begin will shape how the day goes; if I am out of balance, I will teeter or thrash my way through it, unless I can find a way to regain my balance.

The same is true for how we enter into the season of Advent and come into the new year. Every year Advent begins with a Gospel reading that anticipates the return of Christ, that looks far beyond the past and present to a new beginning, a new heaven and a new earth. It is only on the Fourth, and last, Sunday of Advent that we hear stories that anticipate his birth (Joseph's dream, the Annunciation, and Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth when both are with child). On the middle Sundays, we hear from John the Baptist who comes proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. He comes to prepare the way for a new beginning.

In this Church year, our principal Sunday Gospel is the Gospel according to Mark. Unlike the Gospels according to Matthew and Luke, Mark begins with no story of the birth of Jesus. Mark begins with "the beginning," but not the cosmic beginning of John. Mark simply announces "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God," (1:1), and moves straightway into the proclamation of John the Baptist.

What kind of beginning is this? How is repentance "good news"? While the world around us makes merry, are we to be sorrowful, lamenting our sins? What is repentance, anyway? Is it something more than being remorseful? William Temple gives a helpful word:

Repentance does not merely mean giving up a bad habit. What it is concerned with is the mind; get a new mind. . . . To repent is to adopt God's viewpoint in place of your own. There need not be any sorrow about it. In itself, far from being sorrowful, it is the most joyful thing in the world, because when you have done it you have adopted the viewpoint of truth itself, and you are in fellowship with God.<sup>1</sup>

To get a new mind, to change our viewpoint so that we see ourselves and the world differently, with the mind of God. I have talked for years about repentance as "turning around, changing direction." Sometimes the new direction we need to take seems clear, but not always. The image of getting a new mind as the new year begins feels hopeful. Not that any of us can actually "get" the mind or

*Notes from the Rector continued on p. 12 ...*

## VISITATION OF THE RT. REV. MARIANN BUDDE, IX BISHOP OF WASHINGTON

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 6:30 P.M.

The Bishop will attend the Vestry's monthly meeting. As always, all are welcome.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

The Bishop will preside and preach at the 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. liturgies; speak and answer questions at the 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum; and join us for conversation and more Q&A at Coffee Hour.

Food contributions – both savory and sweet – for the "potluck" Coffee Hour are welcome.

## DECEMBER CALENDAR

### Sunday, December 4

*The Second Sunday of Advent*

- A Visit from St. Nicholas, 10:30 a.m.
- A Service of Lessons & Carols, 5:00 p.m. (*childcare will be provided*), p. 4
- Reception (*following Lessons & Carols*)

### Monday, December 5

- Taizé Service & Healing Rite, 7:30 p.m., p. 4

### Sunday, December 11

*The Third Sunday of Advent: Gaudete*

- Choral Eucharist & Pageant, 10:30 a.m., p. 3

### Wednesday, December 14

- Vestry Meeting with The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde, Bishop of Washington, 6:30 p.m.

### Sunday, December 18

*The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

- Visitation by The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde, p. 1

### Saturday, December 24

*The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ: Christmas Eve*

- Family Eucharist, 4:00 p.m.
- Choral Prelude, 10:00 p.m.
- Festal Eucharist, 10:30 p.m.

### Sunday, December 25

*The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ: Christmas Day*

- Holy Eucharist, 8:00 a.m.. (NOTE: There will be no 10:30 Eucharist today.)

### Monday, December 26 — Thursday, December 29

- Parish Office closed

## CLERGY & STAFF CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

The Parish Office will be closed Monday, December 27—through Sunday, January 1. In case of a pastoral emergency, please contact The Rev. Susan Thon: 301-320-3624. The Rev. Robin Razzino will be on maternity leave until March 2012.

## JANUARY CALENDAR

### Sunday, January 1

- Rector's Open House, 5:00—7:00 p.m.

### Monday, January 2

- Taizé Service & Healing Rite, 7:30 p.m., p. 4

### Sunday, January 8

- A Candlelight Concert: "Bach for the New Year", 5:00 p.m., p. 4
- Reception (*following concert*)

### Saturday, January 14

- Lyric Poetry Workshop, 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m., p. 14

### Wednesday, January 18

- Vestry Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

### Sunday, January 22

- Annual Parish Meeting & Pot Luck Lunch, 12:15 p.m.
- Eya Ensemble: "Stella Serena: Celestial Hymns to the Virgin", 5:00 p.m., p.
- Reception (*following concert*)

### Friday, January 27 — Saturday, January 28

- Diocesan Convention

You are invited to the  
**Rector's Open House**  
 Sunday, January 1  
 5:00 — 7:00 p.m., at the Rectory:  
 5998 Benalder Drive  
 (behind the church, across  
 from the 7-11 parking lot)  
 Children are welcome!

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome as newly registered members of Redeemer:

Randolph Court	Ayesha Court
Lucy Court	Charles Court
Cynthia Fischer	William Grote

## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

In December, we offer the following opportunities to support several of Redeemer's outreach partners:

### Burundi Alternative Giving

On Sundays, December 4 and 11, in the Parish Hall, there will be a display of items from Burundi, including notecards, fruit preserves, baskets (with goodies in them!), and a whimsical "virtual" gift opportunity to name a baby goat. Clarice Leslie and Joelle Morris invite you to purchase gift items for friends and family and, at the same time, contribute to Redeemer's support of various projects in Burundi. Funds will be used to expand the tree nursery, provide project start-up funds and support of volunteers.

### Honduras Sustainable Harvest

Also in the Parish Hall on December 4 and 11 will be a table displaying potholders, and mug and wine glass coasters from Honduras. Redeemer heard from Ray Lara just two weeks ago about the important of the work being done to train farmers in reforestation and other agricultural programs. Funds are needed to keep these programs going. Our thanks to Jeff and Patsy Stann for supplying these goodies.

### Toy Sunday

On Sunday, December 4, we will collect new, unwrapped toys for the Community Family Life Services (CFLS) Christmas program. If you don't have time to shop, we encourage you to make a cash or check donation that morning so that parishioners Jefferson and Cathy Arrington can go shopping on your behalf.

### Christmas Party for CFLS Children & Families

*Saturday, December 17, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.*

For over 30 years, Redeemer parishioners have helped to organize a Christmas party for children in the Community Family Life Services (CFLS) transitional housing program. In recent years, the party has been expanded to include family and friends, as well as lunch, present-making, cookie box filling, picture taking, a band, and a visit from Santa in a fire truck (from Glen Echo). If you would like to help, we especially need young people to hang out with the children, and others to set up, serve, clean up, and manage the present-making and wrapping tables. You may also donate books, art supplies & educational games to give to the families along with the cookie boxes. To help or if you have questions: contact Chrissy de Fontenay: [cfontenay@yahoo.com](mailto:cfontenay@yahoo.com) or 301-229-6835.

## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS



We invite you to make a contribution toward the decoration of the sanctuary for Advent/Christmas. Contribution envelopes are available in the pews, the Narthex, and the Parish Hall. Gifts can be made in memory of, in honor of, or in thanksgiving for loved ones. In order for your dedication to be printed in the Christmas service leaflets, it must reach the Parish Office no later than Thursday, December 15.

## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

### Calling All Children and Youth!

*Sunday, December 11, 10:30 a.m.*

We hope all children and youth will participate in this year's Christmas pageant on the Third Sunday of Advent during the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist. For the third year in a row, parishioner Michelle Huey will serve as pageant director. In order for your child to participate (with a role), they will need to be present at a rehearsal on Sunday, December 4 during Church School and on Saturday, December 10, in the afternoon. Of course, walk-in angels and animals on the day of the pageant are always welcome!

If your children are interested in participating, or if you are able to assist with the production of the pageant, please contact Michelle: [mrh1470@gmail.com](mailto:mrh1470@gmail.com).

## PERSONAL NOTES

**We extend our condolences** to Susan Ingraham on the death of Edward, her husband of 64 years; to Kukula Glastris on the death of her mother, Raj; and to Sverrir Tomasson whose mother died on November 20. May their souls, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

**We congratulate** Cathy Baker, our Senior Warden, on completing the Marine Corps Marathon in October; and Phil Burns on receiving his Masters degree in African & International Development from the University of Edinburgh.

**We welcome into the household of God** Alexander Robert Lester-McMinn, son of Don McMinn & Harold Lester, sister of Lillian, and granddaughter of Tami McMinn; and Veronica Hope, daughter of Amy Bowers & Philip D'Ambrosio, and sister of Sophia.

## MUSICAL NOTES

### Upcoming Musical Events

*Sunday, December 4, at 5:00 p.m.*

#### **A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS FOR ADVENT**

Modeled after the famed service held each year at King's College, Cambridge, this festive, candlelit liturgy, sung by the Adult and Youth Choirs (Dr. Benjamin Hutchens, *guest conductor*), has become a highlight of Redeemer's liturgical cycle. Music includes works by Franz Biebl, Andrew Carter, Richard Lloyd, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, Elizabeth Poston, Charles Villiers Stanford, and Charles Wood. Childcare will be provided. Free-will offering. Reception to follow.

*Saturday, December 24, at 10:30 p.m.*

#### **FESTAL EUCHARIST OF THE NATIVITY**

An extended candlelit prelude of organ voluntaries, choral anthems, and congregational carols begins at 10:00 p.m. Music includes works by J.S. Bach, Harold Darke, William Bradley Roberts, Tomás Luis de Victoria, and David Willcocks. Arrive early to ensure seating.

*Sunday, January 8, at 5:00 p.m.*

#### **A CANDLELIGHT CONCERT: "Bach for the New Year"**

Join acclaimed vocalists Hilary Ryon Park, Chris Dudley, Matthew Smith, and Benjamin Park for an evening of seasonal music by J.S. Bach. The program will feature portions of *The Christmas Oratorio*, as well as instrumental works performed by members of the Inscape Chamber Orchestra. Free-will offering. Reception to follow.

*Sunday, January 22, at 5:00 p.m.*

#### **EYA ENSEMBLE: "Stella Serena: Celestial Hymns to the Virgin"**

Eya, a new Washington-based ensemble dedicated to the interpretation of medieval music for women's voices, performs songs and hymns to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The program will feature works from 12th through 14th century England, France, and Spain. *Free-will offering. Reception to follow.*

**Sunday, 12 February, at 5:00 p.m.**

#### **INSCAPE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA: "Schubertiade"**

Franz Schubert's Octet for Strings and Winds stands as one of the great masterpieces of the chamber music repertory. Inscape has commissioned four composers to create musical responses to the Octet. These will be heard as interludes between movements. *Free-will offering. Reception to follow.*

### Taizé Service & Healing Rite

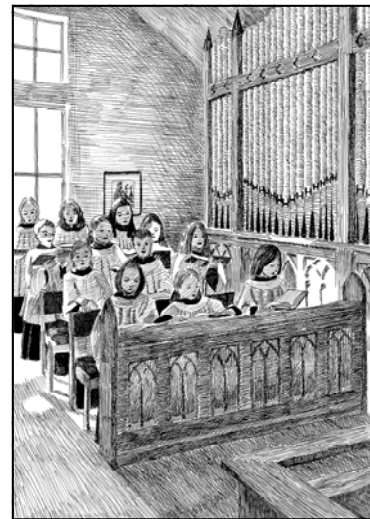
A service in the style of Taizé is held on the first Monday of the month (every Monday during Lent) at 7:30 p.m. in the nave. Taizé is an informal, contemplative liturgy with scripture, icons, incense, silence, and chant accompanied by piano, guitar, and other instruments. For the time being, the Service of Healing & Holy Eucharist usually held on the third Monday of each month, has been discontinued. Instead, the Healing Rite - prayers for healing with laying on of hands - will be offered at the conclusion of Taizé. For more information, please speak with a member of the clergy.

Upcoming Taizé Services will be held on Monday, December 5, January 2, and February 6.

### Friends of Music at Redeemer

The annual music brochure, along with a *Friends of Music* contribution card, was mailed to over 1000 households (including all parishioners) in late September. Musical programming at The Church of the Redeemer is underwritten, in large part, by the generosity of the *Friends of Music at Redeemer*. Please consider making a contribution to this musical ministry, benefiting both the parish and the wider community. Gifts can be made in memory of... or in thanksgiving for... All gifts are tax-deductible.

Tom Smith  
*Director of Music*



## CHILDREN & YOUTH

### Help Plant a Garden

Every year the Diocese of Washington offers a program that allows your family to support those in need in Southern Africa. This year the Children to Children Appeal (helping families in Mozambique plant gardens) dovetails nicely with Redeemer's stewardship theme, our focus on international environmental efforts (in Honduras and Burundi specifically), our commitment to maintaining beautiful gardens right here in Bethesda, and our efforts to help those in need - especially the hungry.

Though there will not be any official activity surrounding the appeal at Redeemer this Advent, please read further if your family is interested in learning more and contributing to the appeal. The very informative pamphlet provided by the diocese is pinned to the Children & Youth Bulletin Board in the parish hall. You can also learn more by going to the diocesan website directly.

A Message from the Diocese:

*Our partnership with the Anglican Church of Southern Africa has led us into relationships with many people throughout the province. Among them is Bishop Mark van Koevering of the Diocese of Niassa in the country of Mozambique. It is in his diocese that the 2011-2012 Children to Children Appeal is focused. We are asking the children of your church (and the adults also) to offer their prayers, love and support to the children of the Diocese of Niassa. The Southern Africa Partnership Committee invites your children to help plant a garden to feed the children in Mozambique. Your gifts of \$1, \$3, \$5 or \$10 will help children in Mozambique to plant a garden and grow their own healthy food.*

*The Partnership Committee prayerfully encourages you to participate in this year's appeal. The program will enrich your children and your members to recognize the needs of other children in the world and find out how they live. The gift of food through seeds, watering cans and hoes helps Mozambican children and their families eat and live healthy. In addition, your children can send pictures and drawings to the children in Mozambique.*

For more information - including an activity guide that accompanies this appeal see the diocesan website: <http://www.edow.org/ministries/overseas/south-africa/children-to-children>

### Many Thanks

I want to thank the children and youth of the parish who gave of their time so generously in November. Not only did they come to help serve and prepare dinner for over 50 Redeemer parishioners at the annual Celebrate Redeemer

Dinner, but they also came together a week later to prepare a huge Thanksgiving meal for over 60 homeless men and women for Bethesda Cares. Thank you: Caroline Gibson, Marisa Guzman-Vogele, Michelle Huey, Evan Judge, Nico Judge, Eli Livezey, Maya Livezey, Geoffrey Mikol, Claire Paulsen, Ellen Paulsen, Cara Price, Wesley Price, Rebecca Riggs, Luke Rychlik, Nicholas Rychlik, and Katie Wolf-Rodda. Special thanks also go to Julia and Tom Rogers who, for the fourth year in a row, opened their home for the Bethesda Cares dinner preparation, did all the preparatory cooking, and supervised the youth as they helped complete preparing the Thanksgiving meal. We are blessed by their generosity.

Robin Razzino

## A NOTE FROM ROBIN & BRIAN



Brian and I would like to thank the entire Redeemer Community for such a sweet baby shower on Sunday, November 20. The cake was beautiful, the food was delicious, the generosity of the parish was overwhelming—all in all it was a lovely lovely afternoon. We are going to have one well-read(to), warm, cute, and entertained baby come mid-December! We cannot wait to meet our little girl, introduce her to you, have her baptized into this community, and have her surrounded by so many caring people. This is a great place to raise a family—Brian and I felt that on Sunday. It gladdens our heart to know our child will join so many others who are taught, held, played with, prayed for, babysat, and loved by this church!

## CHURCH SCHOOL

### Intermediate through High School

On December 4 the older Church School children will be rehearsing for the annual Christmas Pageant which will take place during the service on December 11. On December 18, the children and youth will remain in the service as it is the day of the new bishop's visitation. There will be no Church School on December 25 (Christmas Day) and January 1 (New Year's Day). Church School will resume for everyone on January 8, 2012.

### Godly Play

Godly Play classes will meet on December 18 and January 1. In December the topic is *Advent* and in January the topic is *Epiphany* or *Jesus in the Temple* (depending on whether the child is in the older or younger Godly Play class).

## ADULT EDUCATION

### Adult Forums in December

The Adult Forum takes place at 9:15 a.m. in the Parish Hall. All are welcome! In December, there will be three Forums (there is no Forum on Christmas Day):

*Sunday, December 4*, parishioner Alice Despard will present the second of a two-part series on *Some Options for Personal Prayer* (you do not have to have attended the first part in order to come to the second).

*Sunday, December 11*, Courtney Ivins, Fulbright scholar and daughter of parishioner Ben Ivins, will discuss the new institutional roles of women in community organization in the favelas (slums) of Rio de Janeiro, the impact of the recent police raids in the favela of Rocinha, and her impending UNESCO sponsored fellowship to Tanzania.

*Sunday, December 18*, the new Bishop of Washington, the Rt. Rev. Mariann Budde, will be visiting Redeemer and will be at the Forum to talk with the parish and to answer questions. Redeemer is honored by this visitation from the Bishop and everyone is encouraged to not miss this wonderful opportunity to meet our bishop.

### Bible Study

Sunday morning Bible Study takes place at 9:15 a.m. in the Intermediate Classroom. On December 4, the group will look at symbolism in the Book of Revelation, and on December 11 will discuss Old Testament prophets. There is no Bible Study on December 18 (the day of the Bishop's Visitation) or December 25 (Christmas Day).

## 2011 PLEDGES

We ask all parishioners to complete payment of their 2011 pledge before the end of the year. For 2011 income tax purposes, the church must receive checks so that they are "within the possession of the church" prior to December 31. The last Sunday of the year is December 25 (Christmas Day) and the final bank deposit for the year will be made on Monday, December 26.

## 2012 STEWARDSHIP

Like *The Little Engine That Could*, the 2012 Stewardship Campaign strives determinedly and faithfully toward its \$515,000 pledge goal. I am optimistic that we will reach our goal and enormously grateful for the tremendous generosity of this community. As of November 30, we have received 103 pledges totaling \$432,920, so we still need \$82,080 to reach our goal. I wanted to share with you (below) the remarks I made at the conclusion of the 10:30 Eucharist on Sunday, November 20.

In October's *The Redeemer Spirit*, I wrote of the tremendous good news that abounds at Redeemer and the considerable growth we are experiencing. I also noted the strong fiscal health of our parish (verified by a diocesan consultant); the need to increase our budget in response to our growth; the challenge of increasing our budget in this economic climate; and the goal of 100% participation in pledging by all Redeemer households. Our fiscal house is very sound. We are on track to meet our 2011 pledge goal, if all 2011 pledges are fulfilled. The 2012 draft budget represents the lowest percent increase in years (6% for 2012 vs. an average 12% since 2004), eased in part by the refinancing of the mortgage. The 2012 pledge goal of \$515,000 is only \$29,000 above the 2011 goal, and our current pledges are actually a bit ahead of where we were at this time last year. This is all good news.

Still, we are facing some challenges. Based on projections as of November 20, even if all households that have not yet pledged were to pledge the same as in 2011, we would still be about \$60,000 below our goal. How can we be slightly ahead of last year, but with more ground to make up? One set of reasons, not surprisingly, is the economic climate and individual circumstances. Another reason has to do with a coincidence of transitions: this year we have had more households move away and the deaths of several beloved, longtime parishioners.

How can we address this potential gap? The math tells us that if each household could increase their pledge by 10% then we should reach our goal. However, because of varying circumstances, we know that not all households can do this, while others may be able to do more. We ask that we all do whatever we can. To do so, you may simply notify the Parish Office: [office.redeemer@verizon.net](mailto:office.redeemer@verizon.net).

At Redeemer, we are incredibly blessed to have truly exceptional professionals leading our community. Likewise, our community offers for God's work vigorous hearts, searching minds, and helping hands and a fruitful place to grow in the body of Christ. With great confidence

## REDEEMER DRAFT 2012 BUDGET SUMMARY, NOVEMBER 16, 2010

	2011 Budget	2012 Draft Budget	Increase/ Decrease	
<b>Income</b>				
Pledge Payments	\$486,058	\$515,000	\$28,942	5.9% increase over 2011
Other Pledge Payments	\$10,980	\$11,600	\$620	
Non Pledge Donations	\$12,000	\$11,000	(\$1,000)	
Plate Offerings	\$7,100	\$6,000	(\$1,100)	
Designated Offerings	\$22,328	\$13,750	(\$8,578)	Primarily music & flower income; reduced music income reflected in reduced music expense
Special Offerings	\$10,600	\$11,400	\$800	Easter, Christmas, special services offerings
Event & Activity Income	\$36,000	\$37,900	\$1,900	Primarily Strawberry Festival/Auction
Rental Income	\$15,000	\$18,500	\$3,500	
Miscellaneous	\$500	\$900	\$400	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$600,566</b>	<b>\$626,050</b>	<b>\$25,484</b>	
<b>Expense</b>				
Administration	\$40,500	\$39,075	(\$1,425)	
Diocesan Giving	\$43,270	\$50,544	\$7,274	2011=8% of 2009 NOI (\$540,881); 2012=8.5% of 2010 NOI (\$594,640)
Clergy Discretionary	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$0	
Maintenance	\$45,500	\$55,000	\$9,500	Increase reflects aging building/necessary repairs
Outreach	\$32,500	\$29,000	(\$3,500)	2011 includes \$3,500 for payments not made in 2010, but committed
Personnel	\$323,742	\$352,717	\$28,975	Increase reflects phase-out of Virginia Seminary support to enable hiring of Associate Rector
Programs	\$59,178	\$51,060	(\$8,118)	Decrease parallels decrease in Designated Offerings
Mortgage Payment	\$54,576	\$46,752	(\$7,824)	Lower payment due to reduction in interest rate and principal curtailment due to gifts received
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$600,566</b>	<b>\$625,448</b>	<b>\$24,882</b>	
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$602</b>	<b>\$602</b>	

### *2012 stewardship continued ...*

in the steadfast generosity of our community, and with ongoing amazement at the manna that comes forth at Redeemer, I believe that we can achieve our Stewardship goal. Thank you for your investment in this community and for the seeds of love that you sow.

Nathan Price  
Stewardship

### **The 2012 Draft Budget**

The Finance Committee, Treasurer and Vestry have produced a 2012 draft budget shown above. Work on the budget will continue at the January 2012 Vestry meeting and be presented to the parish at the Annual Meeting on January 22. If you have any questions about the budget or any financial matters, please contact Treasurer Gary Hacker: 202-265-6467 or gary.hacker@verizon.net; or Finance Committee Chair Mary K Young: 301-346-9878 or young@consultzg.com.

## STEWARDSHIP 2012 TESTIMONIALS

*On Sunday, October 30, during the 10:30 Eucharist, parishioner Dominique Rychlik share how and why she and her family – Mike, Luke, Nicholas, Julia – find themselves spiritually rooted at Redeemer. Dominique’s testimonial is printed below.*

*“I pray that you may be strengthened in your inner being through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.”*  
- Ephesians 3:17

Nathan asked us to speak about our family’s experience here at Redeemer. This quote from the Stewardship brochure speaks to our experience.

I grew up Catholic. Being the daughter of a good feminist, I always thought it was silly that women could not be priests but this was what I grew up with and I didn’t dwell on it. We decided to visit the Episcopal Church when Julia was a few years old and I attended an Episcopal funeral service at the Cathedral. When I saw that half the officiants were women, I suddenly, urgently, felt we needed to be part of a church where, if Julia felt a call, she would see a place for herself up there on the altar. So I went home and told my story to Mike and on our second church visit, we found ourselves on the lower church grounds (early, amazingly) looking for the entrance. Susan and Chrissy came out and guided us inside and their smiles and welcomes (and directions) were so warm and caring, we felt comfortable even though this was a big step. We loved the church space, light and open, the music was gorgeous (Mike, being a musician, had always had trouble with the out of key folk singers) and Susan’s sermon helped us open ourselves and gently reflect on the readings and how we could bring that into the world with us. Mike and I looked at each other, knowing our decision was made... we had found our church home.

We were never coffee hour people. We thought we were just coming for spiritual sustenance, we were busy, we were not looking for anything but a meaningful liturgy. Quietly, slowly, we started staying for a bit, for longer, and now, it is not unusual to find us here to the end! We have friends of all generations who we cherish and while there are many things on our weekends that vary, coming here on Sunday is never one of them. Steve once told us (in all kindness) that when he is doing the count for Sunday school Luke said–“You can always count on us to be here... and you can count on us to be late”.... We wouldn’t be any place else. We found ourselves here on other days of the week, from classes to Mike playing during the Taizé service. Then we found our interest in interfaith work and when we

approached Susan and Robin, we were encouraged to run with it. We are so nourished here. We are so lucky.

Not so slowly we allowed ourselves to be embraced by Redeemer, to shelter under this canopy of community. It sustained us through dark times, through losses and embraced us and shared our joys. And we gratefully shared the joys and sorrows and celebrations of all of you whom we have grown to love.

People are so kind and thank us and say “you are doing so much for interfaith” and we so appreciate your kind words. Truly we are getting so much more than we give and the amazing thing about Redeemer is everyone is giving. And that energy vibrates in this community. From the young parents coming with their young kids, that takes superhuman energy and, having you here, that brings energy to our community. To the founding members who bring their energy to hulling strawberries and tying us to the roots of Redeemer’s community. To our Sunday school teachers who give joyfully—our kids have never wanted to skip Sunday school. To all those who tirelessly organize the amazing events, fundraisers, education, to those on the Vestry and our amazing choir and musicians. To those who welcome us each Sunday and warmly draw our kids into the liturgy. To all the parishioners and families and young people who have jumped into interfaith work from classes to the Unity Walk to the Youth Service. To our amazing clergy and staff, all of whom bring their whole selves and thoughtfulness and reflection to help us deepen our faith, week by week. We thank you. We are so grateful. All of this creates the rich soil that nourishes our roots at Redeemer. Nathan beautifully wrote in our brochure: “Quietly, roots ground and sustain the body; steadily, their communal network fosters further growth”.

I think everyone here experiences what our family experiences here at Redeemer. That quiet grounding, sustaining and growth, through the joys and losses, through the uneventful stretches in between. We come back to this circle, to the shade and shelter, standing under the canopy Redeemer provides and that we all feed through our presence, our time, our talents and our stewardship, and that feeds us when we stretch out our branches and take this spirit out into the world as our closing prayer urges us. Every single person is giving here, sitting here right now. Let us also all support Redeemer to the extent of our abilities through Stewardship this season. Thank you each and every one for all you give to our family.

On Sunday, November 6, during the 10:30 Eucharist, parishioners Mary Helen and Peter Carlson shared what it means to them to be rooted at Redeemer.

Mary Helen ...

Peter and I joined Redeemer two years ago. He was raised a Lutheran, and I a Catholic. We have not had a strong connection with any church for decades. Two years ago, we decided it was time for us to become part of a faith community. It only took one visit to Redeemer to know that this was the place where we wanted to put down roots. What was it about this place that made us decide that here was the fertile soil where we could plant ourselves and find nourishment to help us grow. The first thing we loved about Redeemer was the sense of community. This church is big enough so that you can find someone who shares your interests or who has new interests that you might like to explore. But it's small enough so that people can know and care about one another. We felt welcomed the first time we came.

Another reason why we have put down roots here is what the Buddhists call the importance of "right association." If you surround yourself with people who are trying to do the right thing, this will support you in your own efforts to do the right thing. Be it social justice issues, or simple day-to-day decisions as to how you treat your fellow human beings, your example helps us make better choices.

The liturgy and music also provide us with much-needed spiritual nourishment. For us, church is a place where I gather with all of you not so much to acknowledge convictions or beliefs about God, but more to acknowledge my deepest longing to be in harmony with God, with the Creator, the Sacred. To paraphrase a statement from the book that the Redeemer book club is discussing: Through our worship ceremonies, we are attempting to create a space where the sacred and the secular worlds meet and something transcendent happens. Every Sunday we sing the verse "God is love, and where true love is, God himself is with us." That Love is surely present in this community when we worship together.

Most importantly, this is the place where we have put down roots because it is a church that accepts us, indeed, cherishes us, wherever we may be on our spiritual journey. While firmly rooted in Episcopal beliefs and traditions, Redeemer is also a hospitable place for those who might describe themselves as semi-believers or sometime-skeptics. This is surely due to our extraordinary priests. Their sermons don't demand that we accept simple answers to complex questions. Every week, they help us think our way through issues, rather than offering slogans.

A recent experience captures how rooted we feel in this community. We have just returned from a trip to Iran, along with our fellow parishioners, Huda and Jochen Kraske. One Sunday morning we were in the middle of a desert, climbing an ancient Zoroastrian Tower of Silence. The Zoroastrians have burial rituals which involve taking the bodies to the top of very tall walled towers. As the four of us climbed down the steep path from one of these Towers, we thought of all of you. We decided to hold hands and sing the Doxology as a way of feeling close to God and to you.

Peter ...

As we held hands and sang the Doxology at that Zoroastrian Tower of Silence we were consciously declaring ourselves to be in communion with you, our fellow congregants of The Church of the Redeemer. We know and we affirmed where we are planted. We in this church are the fortunate recipients of an extraordinary gift... a gift which is rooted in a tradition of love and acceptance, of common purpose and personal growth. This is a gift that must grow and must be shared.

This is our Redeemer and it has become so special for Mary Helen and for me. It is a nurturing space where transcendence is attainable, providing music and liturgy to uplift, and tools for the tough, never-ending, individual work toward selflessness. Most importantly, this parish is populated by fellow-congregants providing unending spiritual support. Mary Helen and I have come to realize that our individual redemptions are a lifelong process which requires a supportive community.

Redeemer is our place, our community, for our lifelong processes to unfold, and you, our fellow congregants, are the community that we need to help us along our journeys. So we thank you for your continued love and support as we work on our individual redemptions... and we offer to you our best efforts to support you in your own individual growth. Because, we are here at Redeemer to participate in the redemption of one another.

When we first joined this church, we had thought a better name would have been the church of the redeemers. As we realize that we are plural, we are more effective. Together we collectively participate in the redemption of one another.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow....

## HELPING VETERANS

At the Adult Forum on Sunday, November 6, parishioner Dr. David Riggs, a psychologist working with veterans, led a discussion of how Redeemer might help returning veterans and their families. David said to imagine the family unit like a jigsaw puzzle where all the pieces fit. When one member must leave to serve a military mission, the picture must change. When the veteran comes home, reshaped by his experience, he or she cannot fit into the former space they occupied. David noted that his extensive work with returning veterans and their health care providers has led him to several conclusions about readjusting to civilian life. He said that potential helpers should realize four major tasks that veterans must accomplish:

- Adjust from simplicity to complexity. The military makes all decisions; returning vets must resolve complicated choices
- Replace the “rush.” Veterans often try to replicate the “high” of combat.
- Assimilate the combat experience, asking such questions as “Who am I now? A former warrior in peacetime?”
- Find new meaning: “How do I move forward in my life?”

Volunteers can help by understanding these common needs and by offering to listen attentively to veterans who want to tell their stories. There are many ways to be of service to veterans and while working through the bureaucracy is sometimes tedious, the rewards are more than worth it. Some possible opportunities are:

- Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Volunteers have to go through the Red Cross. Information is available by calling 301-295-1538 or visiting the Red Cross Office, Building 8, Room 2189, at Walter Reed or contact the Parish Office for a copy of the application packet.
- Veterans Administration Medical Center/Hospital (VAMC): Volunteers are needed as van drivers, patient escorts, information desk helpers, telephone callers, book cart handlers. For more information, go to the VAMC, Washington DC website: <http://www.washingtondc.va.gov/> and click on “Volunteer/donate” for an application.

Denny Shaw, veteran and Adult Education chairperson, is gathering information on other places that need volunteers. If you would like to contact Denny, he can be reached at: [shawdf22@gmail.com](mailto:shawdf22@gmail.com) or 301-585-3969.

## OUTREACH: TASSC

### Parishioner Steve France to Work with TASSC

Parishioner Steve France has been granted a six-month paid “sabbatical” (mid-January – mid-July) by his employer, Bloomberg-BNA, to work with the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition International (TASSC) at their headquarters on the campus of the Capuchin Monastery adjacent to Catholic University.

Redeemer has supported TASSC since 2005, which is when Steve first became involved. It is the only U.S. organization formed by survivors of torture for survivors to support and help heal each other, to educate the larger community, and work to end torture wherever it is practiced. The late John-Bosco Hakizimana came to Redeemer from TASSC. John-Bosco ultimately returned to his home in Burundi where he founded Hope for Burundi, which Redeemer has supported continuously.

TASSC does a lot to help survivors obtain political asylum. Those efforts will draw Steve's primary attention, helping with cases and helping recruit more *pro bono* professionals. He will also help with education and outreach activities. Along the way, Steve plans to keep the parish informed of interesting and worthwhile and opportunities for involvement with the extraordinary TASSC community.

## BETHELEHEM SERVICE



On Saturday, December 17, 10:00 a.m. the 5th annual Christmas simulcast service between Bethlehem's Christmas Lutheran Church and the Washington National Cathedral will be held in the Cathedral's nave.

Come and help us fill it! The priests, choirs and congregations of both churches alternate in leading parts of the service, which will be in English and Arabic. For more information visit: <http://www.nationalcathedral.org/events/ChristmasBethlehem2011.shtml>.

## 2012 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING



Sunday January 22, 2012  
(snow date: January 29)

The 2012 Annual Parish Meeting will take place on January 22, following the 10:30 Eucharist. We will share lunch in the Parish Hall; hear reports from the clergy and Vestry, including a financial report for 2011 and an overview of the 2012 budget; and elect new Vestry members, and delegates to the 2013 diocesan convention. Please put this important event on your calendar.

**What is the Annual Meeting?** The Annual Meeting is the opportunity for the parish community to receive a summary of our life and ministry in the past year, to take stock of where we are, and where we think we are going in ministry and finances. This is done through written reports from the Rector, the Senior and Junior Wardens, the Treasurer, and the committee chairpersons or leaders in parish ministries, and through questions, concerns, and comments from parishioners. The 2012 budget will be presented. New Vestry members and lay delegates and alternates to the following year's Diocesan Convention will be elected and thanks given to those rotating off the Vestry and this year's lay delegates for their service.

**Who should attend the Annual Meeting?** Anyone who wishes to find out more about the life of the parish, would like to contribute to the life of the parish, has an interest in the lay leadership and governance of the parish, who has questions, concerns, comments, or is just curious should attend the Annual Meeting.

**Elections:** Elections will be held for three 3-year Vestry terms, and for two lay delegates and alternates to the 2013 Diocesan Convention. Those eligible to nominate, serve and vote ("Qualified Voters") are defined in the parish by-laws as those whose names are in the Church Parish Register, are in good standing at least 30 days prior to the date of the meeting (that is December 22, 2011), are 18 or older, and have contributed through money offerings and other services to the support of the Parish during a period of at least 30 days preceding the Annual Meeting. To become a registered member, please request a Letter of Transfer (available in the Parish Office) from your previous parish, or let the Rector know you want to be entered in the Parish Register.

**Nominations:** Nominations may be made in writing by any Qualified Voter, with at least two seconds from Qualified Voters. Forms are in the narthex and parish hall. Please submit nominations to a member of the

Nominating Committee—Ben Ivins, Lois Burleigh and David Strother—or to the Parish office. Please encourage those you would like to see stand for election, and consider whether this is the time for *you* to take part in the ministry of elected leadership in your parish. You may nominate yourself. The list of Qualified Voters is posted in the Parish Hall and will be updated through December 22. If you have questions, please ask any member of the Vestry, Nominating Committee, or clergy. Nominations are due before January 11, 2012.

## MEN'S RETREAT

### Men and Their Fathers

Friday, February 10 – Sunday, February 12, 2012

The 2012 Men's Retreat will be held at Coolfont near Berkeley Springs, WV (about 1.5 miles from Washington). The theme will be *Men and Their Fathers*. This is a complicated and difficult issue at both the personal and theological levels. It shapes and molds our understanding of who we are and who God is.

When I was in seminary, one of the assignments for first year students was to write an essay on his/her father. It is no coincidence that when Jesus was searching for an image of God, he picked "father," as in "Our Father who art in heaven..." These images are connected to our lives in deep and powerful ways. The retreat will be an opportunity to understand the connections and perhaps re-image both our own lives and our relationship to God in new and refreshing ways.

The retreat will begin on Friday evening with a home-cooked meal. Between then and lunch on Sunday we will enjoy a series of discussions, biblical reflections and a film. We will use scripture to see where some of Jesus' teachings intersect with our lives through Bible study, discussion and quiet time. Saturday afternoon will be a time to hike, ski, read, reflect, etc., with dinner out in Berkeley Springs that evening. Sunday morning we will share the Eucharist and lunch before heading home.

We hope to hold the cost to \$125 for everything (meals and lodgings). Scholarship assistance is available; please speak to the Rector. The number of spaces is limited so please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. It should be a wonderful weekend. If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-869-7944 or woodherb@gmail.com.

Peace  
Joe Clark

Notes from the Rector continued from p. 1 ...

viewpoint of God for ourselves. That conversion or transformation is the work of the Spirit in us. But it is a thing to which we can open ourselves and about which we can be intentional.

John the Baptist appears in the wilderness. The people of Judea and all the people of Jerusalem are going out to him to be baptized, confessing their sins. The wilderness is open, quiet, spacious, far from the "Christmas rush." Out there, in the quiet of prayer, I begin to see how much my deep seated resistance to all things commercial about Christmas has shrunk my openness to the good news—the joy—of the Incarnation. I need a new mind. I need the gift of repentance to prepare the way for a new beginning.

What new mind do you need as we begin the new year?

The Rev. Susan Thon  
Rector

<sup>1</sup>William Temple, *Christian Faith and Life* (S.C.M. Press, London, 1963), 67. William Temple was the Archbishop of Canterbury during World War II.



## CHRISTMAS DECORATION WORKSHOP

### Boxwood Tree & Wreath Decorating

On Saturday, December 10, 1:00-4:00 p.m. in Redeemer's Parish Hall, Betsy Heavey and Susan Graham Fitzgerald will conduct a Christmas decorating workshop. If you would like to participate in one of the activities below, please RSVP by December 5 to: [grahampubs@comcast.net](mailto:grahampubs@comcast.net).

Boxwood Tree: We will provide all materials and you will go home with a centerpiece tree about 12" tall that will last weeks. Cost: \$20.

Wreath Decorating: Bring your own plain wreath for which we will supply other materials to attach to it and show you how to do it. The materials will include kumquats, berries, lady apples, seed pods, greens, wire, ribbon and more. Cost: \$15.

## BUILDINGS & GROUNDS



Many thanks to all those who helped on "casual Sunday," November 13, with the Fall Garden clean-up and to Peter Kendall, B&G Chair and Junior Warden, for organizing the clean-up and refreshments. A lot of leaves were raked and flower beds cleared, planted and mulched in preparation for winter and renewal next spring. Among the helpers were those pictured below: Susan Fitzgerald, Joelle Morris, Jane Winer, Tom Rogers, Ben Ivins, Frank Anderson and Susan Grigsby.



## NOVEMBER VESTRY REPORT

**Reflections:** We recited portions of Matthew 25:31-46 as a play, with a storyteller, king, goats and sheep, followed by meaningful discussions.

**October Minutes:** The Minutes were approved with two corrections.

**Rector's Report:** The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde was consecrated as the Ninth Bishop of Washington on November 12. Thirty-five Redeemer parishioners were present for this joyful service. We are looking forward to her visit on Sunday, December 18, when she will celebrate and preach at both services. Average Sunday attendance in the past 42-weeks is 171. Attendance has steadily increased each year and is now 50% higher than the same period just four years ago!

**Bishop's Visit:** The Bishop attend the Vestry's December 14 meeting. We see this time as an opportunity to share our perspective on Redeemer's growth and learn from Bishop Mariann's experience in growing her parish in Minnesota. We are on the cusp of even more growth—what do we need to know?

**Treasurer's Report:** To further our accounting education, Gary Hacker described a real-life scenario about budgeting, cash flow, and prior year losses. He presented the 2012 draft budget for discussion. In the future, budget numbers will be requested from chairs via an email reminder prior to establishing the draft budget for the coming year. A motion made to present the draft budget to the parish was approved. It will be printed in the December issue of *The Redeemer Spirit*.

**Stewardship:** As of November 16, we had received 90 pledges totaling \$402,000, which is 78% of our \$515,000 pledge goal. The staff and vestry will contact 30 parishioners who have yet to pledge for 2012. An early analysis of the stewardship numbers indicates we may realize a deficit of almost \$50,000 for 2012.

**Parish Retreat:** Frances Sharon presented a final written report of the October retreat showing that it produced friendship, contemplation, camaraderie, and even a small profit!

**Outreach:** Cindy Winder met with Robin and Clarice to begin discussions on the principles and guidelines for Redeemer's Outreach program. The need for published outreach guidelines has become apparent, due to many fundraising requests. A proposal for a four-week Sunday

fundraiser for Hope for Burundi was presented, along with a request for fundraising for Toy Sunday. Toy Sunday fundraising was approved. The HfB request was approved for two Sundays, December 4 and 11 only. Robin Razzino reminded us that there will be two opportunities to have the youth wrap your Christmas presents on Sundays, December 4 and 11 to raise funds for the next youth pilgrimage.

**Nominating Committee:** Once the Committee members are confirmed, they will meet to discuss Vestry nominees for the expiring Vestry terms of Gary Hacker, Jack Hutchings and Ben Ivins.

**New Parish Directory:** Ben Ivins reported that the directory, due to arrive next month; will have 119 photos (101 taken by LifeTouch and 18 submitted by parishioners). A motion to approve the additional \$45 required to purchase more directories was approved.

**Other Business:** Congratulations to Cathy Baker! After training long and hard she participated in the Marine Corps Marathon on October 30, and not only completed the 26.2 mile run, but finished with an impressive time of 4:21:56 minutes, and raised more than \$2,000 for her charity, Iqraa. Go Cathy!

The next Vestry Meeting will be held Wednesday December 14, 2011.

Julia Rogers  
*Recording Secretary*

## ALTAR FLOWERS



Each week, members of Redeemer's Altar Guild create beautiful floral arrangements for the altar. The flowers, an offering to the glory of God, are typically given in honor or memory of, or thanksgiving for loved ones of parishioners who cover the cost of the flowers. The requested donation is \$60. A new calendar for the Sundays in 2012 has been posted on the Sign-up bulletin board in the Parish Hall. We ask that you sign-up at least a week in advance and notify the Parish Office of the wording of the dedication that will be printed in the service leaflet. Many thanks to all who donated flowers in 2011, and to the members of the Altar Guild for their dedication and creativity.

## REDEEMER BOOK GROUP

The Book Group will meet on *Sunday, December 11*, at the home of Peter & Mary Helen Carlson, to discuss *Do Not Go Gentle* by parishioner Marcia Sartwell, who will be at the meeting. This is a very personal story of love, illness, loss and healing. The book is available on Amazon.com.

The next book is *Iran Awakening: One Woman's Journey to Reclaim Her Life and Country* by Shirin Ebadi and Azadeh Moaveni. The book is the memoir of one of the great women of our times, Shirin Ebadi, winner of the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize for her work for the oppressed in the face of political persecution. The book chronicles her life and faith, as well as her battles against the Iranian government. We tentatively plan to discuss the book on January 15, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. Also, at this meeting the Kraske's and Carlson's will make a presentation on their trip to Iran in October.

In late February or early March 2012 we plan to discuss a fictional work. Possibilities we are considering include *Birds Without Wings* or *Island Beneath the Sea*; but, as always, we may go in a different direction. Question? Please contact Bob Dresser: robert.dresser@gmail.com.

## COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS



Thanks to all those who coffee hour in November: Julia & Tom Rogers, Anne Southard, Bob & Marcy Dresser, and all who brought delicious eats for Robin & Brian's Baby Shower on November 20.

The 2012 Coffee Hour Sign-up sheet is posted on the board in the Parish Hall. We are always looking for additional hosts. You do not have to be a cook! Fruits, cheese & crackers, dips, store-bought cookies and cakes are all just fine. And, it is even easier if you do it with someone. So, we encourage you to pair up. We would also encourage groups to sign-up (e.g. the B&G, Outreach or Adult Education committees, the Redeemer book group, the youth, the choirs, etc.)

Guidelines are on the Sign-up board in the Parish Hall, right by the sign-up sheet. (You don't have to fix the coffee urns or set out the cups, etc.—Alice Despard, our Sexton, does all that for you beforehand.) If you have questions, please contact Patricia Snowden, *Parish Life Chair*: postscript2@verizon.net or 301-229-2170.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### We wish a happy birthday to:

Diana Daley	Jacob Stoner
Susan Cinkala	Jorge Guzman
Lillian Lester-McMinn	Charlie Gibson
Ayesha Court	Mary K Young
John Nickum	Nancy Trick
Lee Shipman	Jochen Kraske
Alice Despard	Justin Arrington
Joan Kennedy	Nico Judge
Evan Judge	Jessica Jones
Lou Garo	Julia Rychlik
Sam Nickerson	

### We wish a happy anniversary to:

The Reverend Susan Thon on the 22nd anniversary of her ordination to the priesthood



## LYRIC POETRY WORKSHOP

### Mark your calendars: Saturday, January 14, 2012

Parishioners and their guests are invited to attend a Lyric Poetry Workshop at Redeemer that will focus on the works of lyric poets Mary Oliver and Wendell Berry. The Rev. David Stringer will guide participants in exploring how these two poets risk much and waste few words in differentiating life as art and life as science, and how they seek to rebalance a continuum whose arc has been weighted towards science, striking at the heart of mystery and the unknown and positing a life lived in harmonious balance between them. Recommended texts are: *New and Selected Poems, Vol. 2* by Mary Oliver and *The Selected Poems of Wendell Berry*.

All are invited to participate on *Saturday, January 14*, 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided for a small fee. Please RSVP to Alice Despard: 301-263-9644 or alicedespard@gmail.com.

## WEEKLY AT REDEEMER

### Sunday

- Holy Eucharist, 8:00 a.m.
- Adult Education Forum, 9:15 a.m.
- Bible Study, 9:15 a.m.
- Adult Choir Warm-Up, 9:15 a.m.
- Youth Choir Warm-Up, 9:45 a.m.
- Nursery Care, 10:15 a.m.
- Choral Eucharist, 10:30 a.m.
- Church School, 10:30 a.m.
- Coffee Hour (*following 10:30 Eucharist*)

### Monday

- AA Meeting, 12 noon
- Taizé Service & Healing Rite, 7:30 p.m. (*first Monday*)
- Christian Contemplative Group, 7:30 p.m.  
(*second & fourth Mondays*)

### Tuesday

- Education for Ministry (EfM), 6:30 p.m.
- AA Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

### Wednesday

- Morning Prayer & Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
- AA Meeting, 12 noon
- Holy Eucharist, 12 noon
- Youth Choir Rehearsal, 4:30 p.m.
- Vestry Meeting, 6:30 p.m. (*third Wednesday*)

### Thursday

- Adult Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

### Friday (*Parish Office closed*)

- AA Meditation Group, 12 noon
- AA Meeting, 8:30 p.m.

### Saturday

- AA Meeting, 7:45 a.m.



## PARISH INFORMATION

### The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

6201 Dunrobbin Drive at MacArthur Boulevard  
Bethesda, Maryland 20816

Phone: 301-229-3770 • Fax: 301-320-8037

Website: [www.redeemerbethesda.org](http://www.redeemerbethesda.org)

*The Parish Office is open Monday–Thursday,  
7:30 a.m.–3:45 p.m.*

#### ■ CLERGY & STAFF

**The Rev. Susan C. Thon**, Rector

email: [revsusanburns@verizon.net](mailto:revsusanburns@verizon.net)

**The Rev. Robin G. Razzino**, Associate Rector

email: [revrobingulick@verizon.net](mailto:revrobingulick@verizon.net)

**The Rev. Dr. David J. Schlafer**, Assisting Priest

email: [dschlafer@juno.com](mailto:dschlafer@juno.com)

**Thomas P. Smith**, Director of Music

email: [music.redeemer@verizon.net](mailto:music.redeemer@verizon.net)

**Angela Beckman**, Administrative Assistant

email: [office.redeemer@verizon.net](mailto:office.redeemer@verizon.net)

**Alice Despard**, Sexton

email: [alicedespard@gmail.com](mailto:alicedespard@gmail.com)

#### ■ THE VESTRY

**Cathy Baker**, Senior Warden (2012)

301-229-6963 • email: [catherinebaker@mac.com](mailto:catherinebaker@mac.com)

**Gary Hacker**, Treasurer/Communications (2012)

202-265-6467 • email: [gary.hacker@verizon.net](mailto:gary.hacker@verizon.net)

**Jack Hutchings**, Pastoral Care (2012)

301-216-4650 • email: [drijh@comcast.net](mailto:drijh@comcast.net)

**Ben Ivins**, Newcomers/Membership (2012)

301-263-0608 • email: [bivins@nab.org](mailto:bivins@nab.org)

**Peter Kendall**, Junior Warden/Buildings & Grounds (2013)

202-362-3044 • email: [pandbkendall@verizon.net](mailto:pandbkendall@verizon.net)

**Nathan Price**, Stewardship (2014)

301-229-5999 • email: [npay@me.com](mailto:npay@me.com)

**Julia Rogers**, Recording Secretary

301-320-4195 • email: [julia.rogers@me.com](mailto:julia.rogers@me.com)

**Frances Sharon**, Spiritual Life (2013)

202-364-4937 • email: [fwadsworth@verizon.net](mailto:fwadsworth@verizon.net)

**Denny Shaw**, Adult Education (2013)

301-585-3969 • email: [shawdf22@gmail.com](mailto:shawdf22@gmail.com)

**Cynthia Winder**, Outreach (2014)

301-229-9093 • email: [cwwinder@yahoo.com](mailto:cwwinder@yahoo.com)

**Mary K Young**, Chair, Finance Committee

301-320-5696 • email: [young@consultzg.com](mailto:young@consultzg.com)

## THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

6201 Dunrobbin Drive at MacArthur Boulevard

Bethesda, Maryland 20816



## THE REDEEMER SPIRIT

A monthly publication of  
The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

*Deadline for the December issue is December 19*



## PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We are called as a loving community of faith to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in word and action, and to welcome all people who seek a deeper knowledge of God. We will achieve our mission by: striving to create a vibrant, focused, and growing Church which embodies Christian values and beliefs; implementing programs and services that are meaningful in our daily lives (faith in action); building a safe environment that encourages us to reach out to our community, to people of other faiths and beliefs, and to people who differ from us in important ways.

*The Holy Eucharist is celebrated each Sunday at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.*

*Please visit the parish website to learn more about opportunities for worship, Christian formation, and outreach.*

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www.redeemerbethesda.org