

THE REDEEMER SPIRIT FEBRUARY 2009

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

NOTES FROM THE RECTOR

The end of this month will bring us into Lent. On Ash Wednesday, February 25, we will be invited by the Church “to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word.” (BCP, 265) We often decide to “give up something for Lent” or to take up a spiritual practice, as a way of making ourselves more available to the presence of God and preparing for Holy Week and Easter. But have you ever thought of Lent as a time for exploring changes you would carry forward in your life *after* Easter, by creating a Rule of Life for yourself, or yourselves as a family?

A Rule of Life—that may sound awfully rigid and restrictive, something for monastics but not the rest of us. Why would someone living “in the world” need or want a Rule of Life? A Rule of Life is not *that* sort of rule, one that aims to limit your life, make you “Behave!” It’s like the Latin from which it comes (*regula*), a tool like a ruler, for drawing lines, measuring, and (stretching the meaning a little) shaping your life (and the life of a community) in Christ. It has been described as “a trellis upon which you plant, water and cultivate your relationship with God, with your deepest self and with one another. . . . [It] is for your support and growth.”¹

Most of us already have patterns and practices that fall into rhythms and add up to a kind of rule we just haven’t made explicit for ourselves and they may be more haphazard than regular. This year, during the mid-week Lenten class, we will have the opportunity to look at the supports and “trellises” we have developed for our lives. What are our patterns and practices? Which are helpful? What choices do we repeatedly make that are not helpful? What might be missing? What would we like to explore, or experiment with changing?

The goal of all this is not “pious reverie,” to borrow a phrase from Martin Smith,² but to explore and adopt ways that allow us to live centered and grounded in the Holy, in the world. Tilden Edwards writes of living simply, noting that “in our externally complex, wavering, careening, fragmented culture [in which] we easily lose sight of the simple thread of grace uniting all.” “Grace,” he writes, “at its simplest expresses the way life happens in faith: an open, free gift, through and beyond despite all we do.”³

We will work individually and in community on creating and, or, making explicit and intentional our own Rule of Life. You will be paired with a Spiritual Friend, as part of the class, for reflecting on what you are hearing and experiencing in and between classes. Each person’s Rule will encompass and explore similar areas of life, that are, really, all of life: working, worship, individual prayer and study, relationships, time alone and time together, body (eating/fasting, sleeping), playing, service, hospitality—you could add to the list or rephrase and re-categorize. But each person’s Rule of Life will *fit* him or her, neither too tightly (too restrictive) nor too loosely (too easy, unchallenging, no invitation to growth), but conformed to the shape and commitments of his or her own daily life. And all of us will go on making changes in our own Rules as time goes on, as our circumstances change, and as we become clearer about what it means for us to live faithful lives.

As in 2008, the mid-week Lenten class will be offered both on Tuesday *evenings*, 7:30-9:30 p.m., March 3-31, and Wednesday *mornings*, 10:00-11:30 a.m., March 4-April 1, with the same basic content at evening and morning sessions. Please indicate your interest (in Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning) on one of the sheets on the tables in the narthex and the parish hall.

Susan Burns and Robin Gulick will lead the class. We will have a reading list soon for those who want to do some reading. [Living Simply Through the Day](#) (available through Amazon.com and see note 3 below) will be the primary text.

The Rev. Susan Burns,
Rector

¹The Community of Reconciliation at Washington National Cathedral, [Creating a Rule of Life](#) (2009), p. 5. Available at www.nationalcathedral.org or ask me for a paper copy.

²The phrase was recalled by a friend in a conversation about creating a Rule of Life. She says, “His point, about retreats particularly, but about contemplative life in general, was that the goal is not ‘pious reverie’, but thorough-going groundedness in what is Real, in what God puts on our plates at a given time. This is what our Incarnational faith asks of us. Finding God in what William Blake, I think, described as the ‘minute particularities.’”

³Tilden Edwards, [Living Simply Through the Day: Spiritual Survival in a Complex Age](#) (Paulist Press, New York, NY, 1977), p. 39. Edwards is an Episcopal priest, author of many books, and founder of the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



BISHOP CHANE'S VISITATION
Sunday, February 22, 10:30 a.m.

PANCAKE SUPPER & TALENT SHOW!
Tuesday, February 24, 6:00 p.m.



FEBRUARY EVENTS

Wednesday, February 4

- Chorister Evensong, 5:00 p.m. (p. 8)

Saturday, February 7

- Vestry Retreat Day, 8:45 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 8

- Special Choral Eucharist (p. 8)
- Lay Reader Training, after 10:30 service, (p. 3)

Thursday, February 12

- ESM Discovery & Travel Group, Noon

Sunday, February 15

- Worship Committee Meeting, after 10:30 service
- Youth Bowling Trip, (p. 9)
- Inscape Chamber Orchestra Concert, 5:00 p.m. (p. 8)

Monday, February 15/Presidents' Day

- Office closed

Tuesday, February 17

- Thanksgiving in February, (p. 10)

Wednesday, February 18

- Vestry Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 21

- LEM Training, 9 a.m.-noon, (p. 8)

Sunday, February 22

- Bishop's Visitation
- Women's Prayer Group Meeting, 7:30 p.m., (p. 10)

Tuesday, February 24/Shrove Tuesday

- Pancake Supper, 6:00 p.m. and Talent Show, 7:00 p.m., (p. 3)

Wednesday, February 25/Ash Wednesday

- Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes, 7:30 a.m., Noon, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 26

- Potomac Bottlers Club, 7:30 p.m.

MARCH UPCOMING

Sunday, March 1

- Choral Evensong & Organ Recital: Thomas Smith, 5:00 p.m., p. 8. *Free-will offering. Reception to follow.*

Tuesday, March 3 & Wednesday, March 4

- Lenten class begins, p. 1

Saturday, March 7

- Daylight Savings Time begins tomorrow! Put your clocks forward when you got to bed!

Sunday, March 8

- Redeemer Book Club, 3:00 p.m., p. 8

Thursday, March 12

- ESM Discovery & Travel Group, Noon

Sunday, March 15

- Youth Visit to Holocaust Museum

Wednesday, March 18

- Vestry Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 26

- Potomac Bottlers Club, 7:30 p.m.

STEWARDSHIP 2009

As of Thursday, January 29, the 2009 Stewardship Campaign had received 99 pledges totaling \$370,020. The 2009 budget requires \$410,000 in pledges to meet the operating expenses of the church. Many of you have already pledged and some have also increased their original pledge amount for which we are most grateful. The Vestry has approved a provisional budget that will be reviewed at its April meeting. If at that time we are still falling short of our goal, it will be necessary to cut Redeemer's goals and activities. We would hope not to have to do this. If you have not pledged yet, we urge you to do so, and if you have already pledged we would ask that you prayerfully consider whether you can increase your pledge. If each pledging household were to give \$240 more for the year, we would meet our budget goal. Thank you.

Stewardship Committee

ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Forum, Sundays, 9:15 a.m.

Sunday, February 8

Lois Burleigh and Sally Pugsley will lead the Adult Forum on February 8 discussing Biblical stories of relationship, change and illumination, centered around stories that reveal Jesus' attitude toward sacrifice in the temple. What of his own sacrifice on the cross? Did Jesus die because of the sins of the world or for the sins of the world? How do we look at his sacrifice today? We will end our discussion with an exquisite story of forgiveness by the nun who wrote Dead Man Walking.

Sunday, February 15 and one other Sunday (to be decided), we will discuss "Prophetic Jesus"

Sunday, February 22, there is no forum as that is the Sunday of the Bishop John Chane's Visitation.

More details on these offerings will appear in This Week at Redeemer and the Sunday Announcements.

If you have any questions about Adult Forum, please contact Lois Burleigh at loisburlei@aol.com or 301-469-0274 or speak with the Rector.

Lois Burleigh
Adult Education Committee

PANCAKES & TALENT SHOW

Tuesday, February 24, 6:00 p.m. (pancakes); 7:00 p.m. (show)
Ash Wednesday is on February 25—so Shrove Tuesday's Pancake Supper and Talent Show will be on February 24. Pancakes will be served between 6 and 7 p.m. (requested contribution \$10 adults and \$5 children). Then on with the show! Talent in all forms is welcomed, as long as it lasts three minutes or less. This will be the most appreciative audience you will ever encounter, so don't miss the chance! Sign up in the parish hall or contact Chrissy de Fontenay at 301-229-6835 or ccfontenay@yahoo.com. Come and join the fun!

LAY READER TRAINING

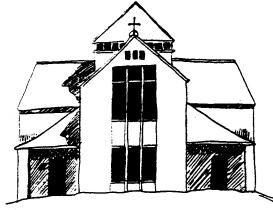
There will be a training session on *Sunday, February 8, after the 10:30 a.m. service*, for any new lay readers, for those who are already readers and would like a refresher course, and for any of our Middle and High School youth who would like to consider becoming readers if they are not already. We will have a simple handout of guidelines for you and the training will serve as an opportunity to practice at the lectern in the church and to ask any questions you may have.



This drawing was found by parishioner Ben Ivins in the basket of art materials in the narthex.
Artist unknown as yet.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Eighty-two of Redeemer's parishioners gathered in the Parish Hall after the 10:30 service on Sunday, January 25, for our Annual Meeting. Following the traditional potluck lunch, the meeting was opened with prayer by The Rev. Susan Burns. Susan noted that in addition to the important business on the agenda, we should also proudly celebrate Robin Gulick's ordination the previous day at the National Cathedral.



The attendees voted to accept the minutes from the 2008 annual meeting be passed.

Susan thanked outgoing Vestry members for their service: Jo Campa who headed up Communications for three years; Jo Barclay-Beard who spent a year in charge of Newcomers and two years in charge of Parish Life; and John Nickum who had stepped into service heading up Stewardship. Meredith Griggs, who has served a one-year term as Junior Warden, is eligible for another full three-year term. Jo Barclay-Beard introduced the candidates for Vestry—Ben Ivins, Gary Hacker, Jack Hutchings, and Meredith Griggs; and our delegate and alternate to the 2010 diocesan convention—Peggy Tucker and Patricia Snowden. Jo moved that the slate be elected by acclamation. The motion was seconded and passed.

Lois Burleigh gave the Treasurer's Report on behalf of Mary K Young, Kristen Vorhes and herself. Lois mentioned that some parishioners still needed to complete their 2008 pledges. Lois reminded us that we need pledge funds to cover operating expenses, utilities, and salaries. Operating budget items cannot be paid from designated offerings. Designated offerings in 2008 were for the columbarium, the wish list, the youth minister, and to music.

We are heading into 2009 with a deficit budget. Lois thanked parishioners who have recently increased their 2009 pledges. She noted that if each family that is able to do so, were to increase their pledge by \$240 a year, this would put us on budget and might even give us a slight surplus. Lois reported that expense increases in the 2009 budget include the need to cover salaries (including a full year of the Robin's part-time salary), utilities, maintenance, and Redeemer's Outreach and diocesan commitments. The budget has undergone some cuts to get to this point. We will be looking at additional cuts in April if the funds do not come through.

Susan read her Rector's Report, capturing all the wondrous growth that Redeemer is experiencing and stressing her gratefulness for God's grace, for the gift of serving as our Rector, and for each one of us. Her full report is available

on the website. Tom McNaugher, senior warden, thanked Susan for all the incredible work she has done at Redeemer.

Cynthia Winder
Recording Secretary

On the next page of this newsletter is the Treasurer's Report letter and on the following page a comparison of activities 2008 versus 2007.

VESTRY 2009

Congratulations to **Meredith Griggs, Gary Hacker, Jack Hutchings** and **Ben Ivins** on their election to the Vestry; and to **Peggy Tucker** and **Patricia Snowden** on being elected as Lay Delegate and Alternate to the 2010 diocesan convention.

The 2009 Vestry members are:

Cathy Ayers,
Lois Burleigh
Meredith Griggs, Junior Warden
Gary Hacker
Jack Hutchings
Ben Ivins
Clarice Leslie
Tom McNaugher, Senior Warden
Bruce McWilliams

Mary K Young, Treasurer
Lois Burleigh, Assistant Treasurer
Kristen Vorhes, Assistant Treasurer
Cindy Winder, Recording Secretary



PLEDGING & OTHER GIVING

A Note About Pledging and Your Year-end 2008 Stewardship Statements

As we prepare your stewardship statements for 2008, we thought it would be helpful to explain how we account for pledges and for other types of gifts. Most of our members make a financial commitment, a pledge, to the Church operating budget. Many also donate money for specific activities. We keep track of both types of donations and provide statements for your records. It is important to understand the difference between the two types of contributions:

- The monies you pledge (when you fill out your Stewardship pledge form) go to help us run the Church—salaries, utilities, maintenance, outreach, etc.—and are considered unrestricted funds to be used for the benefit of the entire church. This is the basis on which we plan the budget.
- Anything else you choose to give, whether it is a donation to music, wish list items, additional outreach, flowers, or a purchase of goods and services, is over and above your pledge, and does not count toward your pledge.

Pledges: We calculate the annual budget based on the anticipated pledges—unrestricted income that can be used to run the church's operations. We need to be able to depend on these amounts' being paid in order for us to do our planning. Pledge checks or cash should be clearly marked as being a pledge payment—by using pledge envelopes, noting that it is pledge on the memo line, or if paying cash, please put it in an envelope with your name and a note that it is for your pledge.

Other giving: We also welcome parishioners' generosity toward the many specific activities that occur during the year, but these funds are restricted to those activities and not included in our budget planning. In addition, if you purchase goods or services for the good of the Church, please let us know so that we can provide you with a receipt for tax purposes. We also need to know so that we have a record of all the expenses that are incurred on behalf of the Church so we can create realistic budgets.

Redeemer is blessed with a congregation of givers of time, talent, and treasure. As we grow, accounting for these contributions becomes more complicated. We need your help so that we can be good financial stewards, creating sustainable budgets and providing you with accurate records. We will have your statements to you in a few weeks, but if you need them sooner or if you have any questions about this or other financial matters, please contact Kristen Vorhes, Lois Burleigh or Mary K Young (email and phone information for all three is on p. 11).

JANUARY VESTRY REPORT

Budget: Mary K Young presented the 2009 revised draft budget and reminded us that stewardship is never over. Tom McNaugher thanked Mary K and Susan, whom he credited for our having a working budget but not a final budget. He proposed that the Vestry revisit the budget at the April Vestry meeting. Tom moved and it was seconded that the Second Draft 09 be voted on as a provisional draft budget. The motion passed. Tom mentioned that Redeemer was at last using Diocesan guidelines for salaries for Susan, Robin, and Tom Smith. Lois stated that she does not like being minus \$24,000 at the start of the year. It was noted that this budget is a provisional budget with an acknowledged deficit and that it will be revisited. The budget situation will be discussed with the congregation. It is recognized by church leadership that there is currently much financial uncertainty for parishioners.

As part of the salary discussion, Susan noted that Alice Despard's sexton hours are being increased from 15 to 20 a week. This increase more fairly compensates her for the hours she works, and also will allow her to enroll in the pension plan.

Robin Gulick's Housing Resolution: Of Robin's 2009 income, \$14,000 is a housing allowance and not subject to income tax. The motion was seconded and passed.

Report of the Nominating Committee: Jo Barclay-Beard circulated the names for election to the Vestry from the Nominating Committee (Jo, Justin Hess and Jefferson Arrington). The candidates for Vestry are Meredith Griggs, Jack Hutchings, Gary Hacker, and Ben Ivins. Of the four open vestry positions, one is a one-year term and three are three-year terms. The election will take place on Sunday, January 25 at the Annual Parish Meeting. Susan thanked the Nominating Committee for providing the slate of eligible candidates.

Other Business:

Hymn-a-thon: Discussion that the Hymn-a-thon be moved earlier to the end of September or early October to allow time for publicity and avoid the holiday crunch.

Rental Rates: There was discussion regarding the varying rates paid by groups to use Redeemer space and the recognized need to raise some of the rates of the groups that could afford to pay more. The motion to raise the rates in accordance with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) where appropriate was seconded and passed.

Cynthia Winder
Recording Secretary

MUSICAL NOTES

UPCOMING MUSICAL EVENTS

Taizé Service of Prayer and Meditation

Monday, February 2, at 7:30 p.m.

An informal, contemplative service with scripture, icons, incense, silence, and chant accompanied by piano, guitar, and other instruments, held on the first Monday of every month.

Chorister Evensong

Wednesday, February 4, at 5:30 p.m.

Sung prayer at the close of the day, led by Redeemer's treble choristers. Liturgy includes traditional settings of the responses, psalm, and canticles, as well as an anthem and a hymn. Held on the first Wednesday of every month.

Choral Eucharist: *Messe modale en septuor* by Jehan Alain

Sunday, February 8, at 10:30 a.m.

A liturgical performance of 20th century French composer Jehan Alain's Mass setting for treble voices, flute, strings and organ, sung by the choristers of The Church of the Redeemer and St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Arlington, Virginia.

Inscape Chamber Orchestra in Concert

Sunday, February 15, at 5:00 p.m.

Under the direction of Mr. Richard Scerbo, Inscape has quickly become one of the area's most sought-after performing ensembles. Program features works by Swedish romantic composer Franz Berwald and a premiere by local composer Justin Boyer. *Free-will offering. Reception to follow.*

Choral Evensong & Organ Recital: Thomas Smith

Sunday, March 1, at 5:00 p.m.

A quintessentially Anglican service to mark the beginning of the season of Lent, sung by Redeemer's Adult and Youth choirs. Choral music includes works by John Ireland, Philip Radcliffe and Charles Villiers Stanford. An organ recital follows. *Free-will offering. Reception to follow.*

FRIENDS OF MUSIC AT REDEEMER

Many thanks to those who have contributed to Friends of Music at Redeemer 2008-09! To date, over \$6,300 has been raised. Most of this money will be spent during the 2008-09 season. Any remaining funds will be carried over for use during the 2009-10 season. Musical programming at The Church of the Redeemer is dependent upon contributions made by the Friends of Music at Redeemer. Please consider a gift to this musical ministry, benefiting both the parish and wider community. All contributions are tax-deductible. For more information, please contact Tom Smith in the Music Office: 301-229-3770, ext. 16.

Tom Smith
Director of Music

PASTORAL CARE

Lay Eucharistic Minister Training

A Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM) is a lay person who visits the sick and infirm taking Communion to those who are otherwise unable to be at Sunday Worship. In doing so, the LEM embodies the community of the church and exercises an important pastoral and sacramental ministry. Any baptized person may participate in training to be licensed as a LEM.

On *Saturday, February 21, 9:00 a.m. to noon*, training will be offered for LEMs at Redeemer. The training will include a brief history and overview of this ministry in the Episcopal Church, how to use the communion kit, and how to administer Holy Communion. This ministry is rewarding beyond measure and is an example of how we are all one Body because we share one bread and one cup.

If you have been a LEM in the past, you are encouraged to join us at the training to hear how this ministry is enfolded into Pastoral Care at Redeemer. There will be a sign up sheet in the parish hall. Please do sign up so that we can order enough materials. If you are interested in becoming a Lay Eucharistic Minister or have other questions, please contact Valerie Hayes at vhayes@vts.edu or 703-399-9062.

Valerie Hayes
Seminarian Intern



BOOK CLUB

The Book Club is now reading Aravind Adiga's novel *The White Tiger*, which has recently received the Man Booker Prize. This is a fast-moving novel set in India, about a complicated man named Balram Halwai (servant, philosopher, entrepreneur and murderer). Over the course of seven nights, Balram tells us the story of how he came to be a success in life in spite of the social and economic injustice that surrounded him. It is a shocking, gripping and funny story. The Club will meet to discuss the book on *Sunday, March 8, 3:00 p.m.*, at Joan Kennedy's home (5620 Wood Way, Bethesda, 301-229-1638). For more information, please contact Huda Kraske at hqkraske@aol.com.

NOTES FROM ROBIN

A Reflection on Silence

Before my ordination I had the opportunity to attend a five-day silent retreat at the Society of Saint John the Evangelist in Cambridge, MA (www.ssje.org). The days at the monastery are marked by worship, prayer and shared meals. Except for an hour when a person on retreat meets with one of the brothers, you are in total silence. No cell phones. No internet. No Facebook (gasp!). While I was there I took long walks, I took long naps, and I spent a lot of time praying. At first it was really difficult to enter into a prayerful silence, free of all the “noise” which intrudes into our lives daily (if not hourly). I had so many thoughts demanding my mind’s attention. After about 24 hours, however, it became easier. The rhythm of worship, the chanting of the psalms, the sacred space set apart for prayer and rest helped.

However, I learned a great lesson during this time—sometimes stopping all normal activity, simply getting away from your routine, and being quiet is the most rewarding work we can do – and the hardest! Pretty much everything around us is geared towards us meeting the demands of school, family, friends and work. What does God have to do for us to hear God? What does God have to do to get our attention? Where do we find God?

In 1 Kings, chapter 19, God comes to Elijah in a surprising way. Here it is written, “[The Word of the Lord] said, ‘Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.’ Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire *a sound of sheer silence*”

It wasn’t in the powerful wind that Elijah recognized God, it was not in the earthquake toppling everything in sight, and it was not in the intense and consuming fire. (These are certainly attention grabbers on a normal day!) It was in *silence* that Elijah found God. How do you imagine the sound of *sheer silence*? How might you find a way to experience more silence in this noisy life we live? How might you stop to hear God calling you into a deeper relationship with God?

The season of Lent begins later this month (February 25). This time in the church year is a great time to find a place apart from the noisiness of our lives and enter into the sound of sheer silence. I invite you to find such a place in your life and listen for the Word God wants YOU to hear during this season.

The Rev. Robin Gulick
Assistant to the Rector

REDEEMER YOUTH

Middle and High School Students: Consider New Ways to Lead Worship

On *Sunday, January 25*, three middle school students read the Old Testament lesson and one high school student read the New Testament lesson. As always, it was wonderful to hear the voice of young people proclaiming the Word of God. Our worship together is greatly enriched by everyone’s participation. If any of the middle or high school students want to get on the regular schedule of lay readers, please let me know and I will make sure you are included in this way. The same thing goes for being a crucifer, acolyte or chalice bearer. I would love to follow any of you into the worship service and serve alongside any of you at the altar. Please note, there will be a lay reader training on *Sunday, February 8*, after the 10:30 a.m. service.

Upcoming Youth Event: Bowling, February 15

During the afternoon of Sunday February 15, all middle and high school youth are invited to go bowling at Strike Bethesda (5353 Westbard Ave). We will meet at the bowling alley at 1:30 p.m. and bowl for two hours. Each person will need to bring \$10 to help cover costs (shoes and bowling). I need two adult volunteers to bowl with us. Who’s game?

Dinner Round Two?

When I first came on board at Redeemer in July, I was able to meet some of you for dinner and/or coffee/ice cream. However, the end of the summer and the beginning of the school year seemed to be a busy time for many and there are several families (some new to the church) that I have not yet had the chance to hang out with. Just to let you (and your parents!) know, I would STILL love to come and join you guys for dinner (I eat anything) or meet up for coffee, etc. I especially am interested in meeting with those families of middle and high school youth (or younger children) I haven’t yet met with, so if you see some windows of light in your schedule, please give me a call or shoot me an email and we can find a time to meet up. Of course, if we have already had a chance to spend some time together, the invitation is always open for you to invite me to dinner again!!!

Thank You

A big thank you to all the children and youth who came out to the Cathedral for the ordination service—whether you were singing, vesting, presenting and/or praying for me, I felt so supported by you all and I am so thrilled to be working with you for the next couple of years. You guys are awesome.

The Rev. Robin Gulick
Assistant to the Rector

OUTREACH

President Obama Embraces MDGs

Redeemer is one of many ONE Episcopal parishes that work with diverse partners to advance the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that aim to reduce extreme poverty. Over the last two months, more than 101,000 people (including quite a number of Redeemer parishioners) signed ONE's petition calling on President Obama to emphasize the importance of fighting poverty and preventable diseases worldwide. In his inspiring inaugural address, President Obama reaffirmed his campaign pledge to the world's poorest citizens, when he said, *"To the people of poor nations, we pledge to work alongside you to make your farms flourish and let clean waters flow; to nourish starved bodies and feed hungry minds. And to those nations like ours that enjoy relative plenty, we say we can no longer afford indifference to suffering outside our borders; nor can we consume the world's resources without regard to effect. For the world has changed, and we must change with it."*

More good news: The new White House website now states that, *"President Obama and Vice-President Biden will embrace the MDG of cutting extreme poverty and hunger around the world in half by 2015, and will double our foreign assistance to achieve that goal. This will help the world's weakest states build healthy and educated communities, reduce poverty, develop markets, and generate wealth."*

New Women's Prayer Group to Focus on MDG Project

Redeemer's personal MDG is to help John-Bosco Hakizimana's Hope for Burundi project (see update in the January issue of *The Redeemer Spirit*). In response to an Adult Education Forum last November, that addressed the critical need to empower women and girls in order for the MDGs to become a dynamic and sustainable reality, a women's prayer group will start at the end of February. The group will focus on blessing the Hope for Burundi project and empowering Burundian women. The group will meet on the last Sunday of each month, 7.30-8:30 p.m. The first meeting will be on *Sunday, February 22*, Gabrielle Herderschee-Hunter's house. Our Burundian friend, Aline Niyonkuru, has graciously agreed to attend. If you would like to come, please contact Gabrielle at 301-229-5341 or steelorchid@verizon.net.

Thanksgiving in February

Tuesday, February 17

Help the hungry by dining out on *Tuesday, February 17*. A large number of area restaurants from Bethesda to Rockville to Burtonsville will donate a percentage of receipts to Thanksgiving in February. The non-profit groups that will benefit include two of Redeemer's outreach partners—Bethesda Cares and the Manna Food Center. Brochures are available in the narthex or you can go to the website www.iworksmc.org for more information on the participating restaurants.

Burundi and Beyond

In light of Redeemer's outreach to Burundi, please come hear the American Friends Service Committee present a first-hand field staff report on AFSC work in Central Africa—Burundi, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo—to assist the most vulnerable in an area that has seen continuing war and much violence over the last few years. The presentation will be on *Friday, February 13, 7-9 p.m.*, at the Bethesda Friends Meeting House (on the Sidwell Friends Lower School campus at Edgemoor Lane and Beverly road, one block west of the Bethesda Library on Arlington Road). For more information, please contact Liz Hofmeister at 301-229-6341 or hofmeister@eaftrhlink.net.

Outreach Committee

A PARISHIONER'S VIEW

In 2008, we enjoyed contributions from several parishioners and welcome anyone to contribute to the newsletter. We invite contributions about people, every-day life experiences, events, retreats, courses taken, books read, photographs, prose, prayers, etc. that have enhanced your spiritual and daily life, whether here at Redeemer or elsewhere.

If you are not a writer but have something you'd like to share, we can help with the actual writing part of it. If you have questions, suggestions or would like to contribute, please contact me in the church office at 301-229-3770 or office.redeemer@verizon.net.

Angela Beckman
Administrative Assistant

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to:

Jef Huey	Ed Ingraham
Christine Wade	Mary Packard-Winkler
Susan Burns	Marcy Dresser
Allaire Kotz	Cathy Ayers
Cara Price	Linda Lear
Barbara Alterowitz	Aidan Herderschee
Greg Sherrard	Bill Babcock
Blair Raber	Dominique Rychlik

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to:

Justin & Gwen Hess

WEEKLY AT REDEEMER

Sunday

- The Holy Eucharist, 8:00 a.m.
- Adult Education Forum, 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
- Women's Prayer Group, 7:30-8:30 p.m.
(fourth Sunday)

Monday

- AA Meeting, Noon
- Taizé Service, 7:30 p.m. *(first Monday)*
- Christian Contemplative Group, 7:30 p.m.
(second & fourth Mondays)
- Holy Eucharist with Healing, 7:30 p.m.
(third Monday)

Tuesday

- Education for Ministry (EFM) 6:30 p.m.
- AA Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- Potomac Bottlers Club, 7:30 p.m.
(fourth Thursday)

Wednesday

- Morning Prayer & Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
- AA Meeting, Noon
- The Holy Eucharist, Noon
- Staff Meeting, 1:15 p.m.
- Youth Choir Rehearsal, 4:00 p.m.
- Youth Choir Evensong, 5:30 p.m.
(first Wednesday)
- Vestry Meeting, 6:30 p.m. *(third Wednesday)*

Thursday

- Adult Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- Balkan Folk Dancing, 7:30 p.m.

Friday

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

Saturday

- ACA Meeting, 8:00 a.m.
- Beginner's Mind Yoga, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 301-229-3770 ▪ Fax: 301-320-8037
Website: www.redeemerbethesda.org

*The Church Office is open Monday through Thursday,
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.*

CLERGY, STAFF & SEMINARIANS

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THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

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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 that 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 our website to learn more about us.*