

# THE REDEEMER SPIRIT JANUARY 2012

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

## NOTES FROM THE RECTOR

“The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face to shine upon you,  
and be gracious to you;  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,  
and give you peace.” (Num. 6:24-26)

This blessing is part of the Old Testament reading for the feast of The Holy Name of Jesus that falls eight days after Christmas, on New Year’s Day. Because January 1 was a Sunday this year, and we began the new calendar year with a blessing.

Blessing is more than well-wishing, or the sentiment of a greeting card. Not a sprinkling of powdered sugar on the cake, or gilt on the lily. Blessing is *everything*. To speak God’s blessing conveys a deep commitment to the welfare and well-being of the other. It is speech that *performs*, as when God spoke creation into being, in the beginning.

The blessing from Numbers is given to Moses by God, for Aaron and the priests to say over the people. The context is as Moses and the people are preparing to set out again on the wilderness journey to the land of Canaan, after a year encamped at Mt. Sinai. It is a blessing for the journey.

The “you” addressed here is in the singular. Hear it, ponder, receive it as spoken by God, through the text, to *you*.

“The Lord bless you and keep you . . . .” To keep is to keep safe, as the people set out again through the wilderness. There is also a note of tenderness and favor in the words: the Lord hold you in the palm of his hand, keep you as the apple of his eye.

“The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you . . . .” God’s shining face is beaming we might say, as a parent beams with delight on a beloved child, conveying total acceptance and love. This blessing is all grace. It is not based in anything done, it is not earned, but simply given, to you. About grace, Paul Tillich has said, “You are accepted . . . by that which is greater than you. . . . simply accept the fact that you are accepted!” (Quoted in *The Christian Century*, 12.17.11, p. 20)

“The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.” “Countenance” translates the same Hebrew word as “face.” If the king, or other authority, looks down or away when you are in his presence, does not show his face, you are in trouble. There is no connection, there is breach of relationship and affection. Think about it in the context of ordinary conversation; does the other person look you in the eye, attend, interact? The Lord’s face lifted up, turned toward you, looking on you, is a sign of his favor and goodness, toward you.

The final blessing, “the Lord give you peace,” is the broadest and deepest. *Shalom* is peace, absence of conflict, a great good. It is also happiness, prosperity, well-being, health of body, mind and spirit.

The blessing is given through a human being, a priest; but “I will bless them,” says the Lord. The blessing is God’s, on you, on all people. And “I *will* bless them,” God says. Not, as we sometimes hear the words said, “*May* the Lord bless you, etc.,” just a little subjunctive, *the Lord bless you if he wants to, if you deserve it*. This is definite, real. This is God’s wholehearted commitment to your welfare and the world’s.

In speaking God’s blessing on the people, Aaron and his sons “shall put my name” on them, God tells Moses. This is the name of God, YHWH, I AM WHO I AM, or I WILL BE WHO I WILL BE. The people, the whole community, are God’s. They go out from Sinai bearing God’s name, under God’s protection, every step of the way, every day. It is their identity and responsibility. It is our identity and responsibility.

Frederick Buechner writes that when you give someone your blessing, you “convey into [the person’s] life not just something of the beneficent power and vitality of who you are but something also of the life-giving power of God in whose name the blessing is given.” (*Wishful Thinking*, 13) This is a place from which to mentally and spiritually begin any conversation or encounter—in church, family, work, school, wherever you are.

*Notes from the Rector continued on p. 3 ...*

## 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.

### Sunday, January 8

- A Candlelight Concert: "Bach for the New Year", 5:00 p.m., p. 6
- Reception (*following concert*)

### Saturday, January 14

- Lyric Poetry Workshop, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., p. 5

### Wednesday, January 18

- Vestry Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

### Sunday, January 22

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

### Friday, January 27–Saturday, January 28

- Diocesan Convention, p. 4

### Saturday, January 29

- Outreach Town Meeting, 12:15 p.m., p. 9

## PERSONAL NOTES

We welcome Zoe Elizabeth Razzino, daughter of Brian and The Rev. Robin Razzino, born December 19, 2011; and Joshua William Mais, great-nephew of Angela Beckman, also born on December 19.

We offer our condolences to Marie France on the death of her mother, Marie Pierce. May her soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

## FEBRUARY CALENDAR

### Saturday, February 4

- Vestry Day, 8:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
- Recital Rehearsal (rental), 3:30-5:30 p.m.

### Sunday, February 5

- Lay Readers' Training, 12:30 p.m., p. 7

### Monday, February 6

- Taizé Service & Healing Rite, 7:30 p.m., p. 6

### Friday, February 10–Sunday, February 12

- Men's Retreat in Coolfont, West Virginia, p. 7

### Sunday, February 12

- Greeters' Training, 12:30 p.m., p. 7
- Inscape Chamber Orchestra: "Schubertiade," 5:00 p.m., p. 6
- Reception (*following concert*)

### Wednesday, February 15

- Vestry Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, February 21/Shrove Tuesday

- Pancake Supper & Talent Show, 5:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, February 22/Ash Wednesday

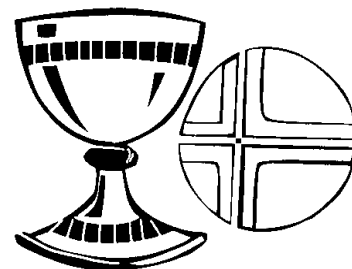
- Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes, 7:30 a.m.
- Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes, 12 noon
- Choral Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes, 7:30 p.m.

### Sunday, February 26

- Choral Evensong for the First Sunday in Lent, 5:00 p.m., p. 6
- Reception (*following Evensong*)

### Monday, February 27

- Lenten Taizé Service & Healing Rite, 7:30 p.m., p. 6



*Notes from the Rector continued ...*

Blessing comes from the center of our being, where we are most deeply connected with ourselves and the Spirit of God. To give a blessing is, at one and the same time, an act of detachment – from self-interest, irritation, or whatever we are feeling – and an act of deep connection with the other, in the sustaining current of God’s favor and goodness.

As we begin the new year, what if we include the practice of blessing among our resolves? How might we and those among whom we live be changed by this, for the welfare and well-being of all?

Standing in the self-check-out line at a busy time, when the customer in front of me really has no idea what he or she is doing and makes one mistake after another, holding up everyone else – including moi – what if I step back, within myself, and silently say, from the heart, *The Lord bless you and keep you*. On the road, when another driver cuts you off or won’t let you in; faced with an angry spouse or child; or a tiresome co-worker: *The Lord bless you and keep you*. Exercising the “muscle” of blessing in settings like these, the minor inconveniences, will prepare us for encounters much more consequential and emotionally charged. *The Lord bless you and keep you*.

I’ve been practicing this discipline of blessing. It has had the powerfully transformative effect of calling me back to my better self, and of reminding me who the other person is: God’s blessed one. It may not change external circumstances, but it does change me; and it opens a space for God to speak and act. To bless and to ask one another’s blessing—I recommend that we practice this discipline this year—at Redeemer, at home, work, and school, on the road, in the check-out line . . . wherever we are.

*Lord, as we begin this new year, make it a year of blessing. Make this a day of blessing. Make this an hour of blessing*

The Rev. Susan Thon  
Rector



## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS THANK YOU



Redeemer was blessed in so many ways during Advent and Christmas, beginning with a visit from St. Nicholas on December 4 (thank you, Jefferson) and the official visitation of Bishop Mariann, Bishop of Washington, on Sunday, December 18.

After services on Sundays, December 4 and 11, parishioners gave generously to the alternative giving opportunities to Burundi and Honduras (raising about \$4,000 in all), as well as providing many toys on Toy Sunday and cash to buy more that were delivered to Community Family Life Services needy children.

Thanks again to Michelle Huey for directing the Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 11, and to all the young people who participated and the parents who helped with organizing.

Our thanks to Tom Smith, Alice Despard, Cathy Baker, Joanne Bowman, Marie France, Kukula Glastris, Mary Potter, Veronica Sherrard and Ann Taylor for the wonderful greenery throughout Advent and the glorious decorations at Christmas, as well as the setting up of the Altar for all the services. To Tom Smith and the choir for singing magnificently to the glory of God and raising all our hearts and spirits.

Thanks to our clergy for encouraging us to reflect during the season of Advent and for their joyous leadership at Christmas. And a special note of joy was the birth of Zoe Elizabeth Razzino on December 19, daughter to Redeemer’s Associate Rector, Robin and her husband, Brian.

## 2012 STEWARDSHIP

This first week of January 2012 has brought our coldest weather in a year. The trees are bare, but they are loaded with buds in anticipation of spring. Thank goodness for their deep and sustaining roots.

When we launched the 2012 Stewardship Campaign in early October, I wrote and spoke about how the daily headlines of economic anxiety and leadership turmoil contrasted markedly with the steady good news at Redeemer. Rich in spirit and growing vibrantly, our community offers love, peace, and friendly warmth in a sometimes chill world. The headlines in this New Year remain eerily the same as in October. In the meantime, the good news continues to pour forth at Redeemer, symbolized recently in the Advent Season with the energizing first visit of Bishop Mariann and the exciting birth of our Associate Rector's first child, Zoe.

In this time of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany – of new life and renewal – I see our Stewardship Campaign in a new light. In November and December, I wrote and spoke in detail about the state of the campaign and the unusual factors that were affecting our progress toward the \$515,000 pledge goal. With deep gratitude and appreciation, the Vestry and Stewardship Committee asked for each household to consider increasing their pledge.

Many members of our parish responded quickly and generously to this request. I have been moved emotionally by this substantial outpouring of commitment to the community and to Redeemer's compassionate work in the world. These actions have reduced the projected pledge gap by half. However, we still have a way to go (the statistics are below), and we will need further support in order to make our goal. If those who have not yet pledged do so, and if those who have already pledged were to increase their pledge by \$260 (just \$5 per week), we could reach our goal. Please consider whether you might be able to help. Every commitment counts.

Like *The Little Engine that Could*, I continue to look ahead with optimism. The cold and the headlines are no match for Epiphany, Lent, and Easter. Spring is eternal: the buds will emerge and spirits will lift. Those joyous blessings depend upon deep roots.

### Stewardship Numbers to Date

As of January 5, we have received 117 pledges for a total of \$456,375 toward our goal of \$515,000. Seventeen of

these pledges are new (a wonderful sign of parish growth), 39 are increased over last year, 39 are the same as last year, and 22 decreased. The average pledge is \$3,899. Ultimately for 2011, we received 127 pledges for a total of \$496,875, so we have reason to be optimistic about reaching this year's \$515,000 pledge goal.

Nathan Price

*Vestry Person for Stewardship*

## ADULT FORUMS IN JANUARY

### Epiphany Series

"All of us feel some sense of call," Bishop Marianne Budde told the radio audience on the Diane Rehm Show just before Christmas. We can discover how "to live with joy and purpose," she said, and determine what is our "good to do." The means to these discoveries are the traditional tools of discernment, "in the light of reason, tradition, and scripture," the Bishop said.

In January the Adult Education Forum will refer to these tools to explore the interplay of Vocation (calling, purpose) and Faith (belief in action). Parish members—from scientists to artists—will report on their personal experiences regarding how their faith impacts their work and how work influences their faith. Discussion will follow the presentations.

## DIOCESAN CONVENTION

The Convention of the Diocese of Washington – "We will, With God's Help" – will take place at the Washington National Cathedral on Friday, January 27 and Saturday, January 28.

Volunteers are needed to help with events at the Convention. If you would be interested in volunteering, please visit: <http://www.edow.org/convention/info/volunteer>, or you may contact Ann Talty 202-537-6548 or [atalty@edow.org](mailto:atalty@edow.org). Volunteers will work with seasoned staff who will show them the ropes. Volunteer opportunities include: cashier, election teller, and voting, registration or hospitality assistant.

## 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 one one-year term, 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.

**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.

## LYRIC POETRY WORKSHOP

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 sign up in the Parish Hall so we will know how many to provide lunch for or RSVP to Alice Despard: 301-263-9644 or [alicedespard@gmail.com](mailto:alicedespard@gmail.com).

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome as newly registered members of Redeemer:

Lowry Adams  
Virginia Pearson  
Bob Yates



## MUSICAL NOTES

### Upcoming Musical Events

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

**A CANDLELIGHT CONCERT:** “*Bach for the New Year*”

Join acclaimed vocalists Hilary Ryon Park (soprano section leader in Redeemer’s Adult Choir), Chris Dudley, Taylor Armstrong, 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.

Sunday, 19 February, at 4:00 p.m.

**CHORAL EVENSONG AT ST. PAUL’S ROCK CREEK PARISH**

The combined adult choirs of The Church of the Redeemer and Christ Church Alexandria (Jason Abel, *Director of Music*) sing Choral Evensong at historic St. Paul’s Rock Creek Parish as part of the church’s 300th anniversary celebration. Music includes works by Herbert Brewer and Craig Phillips.

Sunday, 26 February, at 5:00 p.m.

**CHORAL EVENSONG FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

An evening service to mark the start of Lent, sung by the combined choirs of The Church of the Redeemer and Christ Church Alexandria. Music includes works by Orlando Gibbons and Herbert Howells. All proceeds from the free-will offering benefit Episcopal Relief and Development. 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. 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.

The next Taizé Service will be held on Monday, February 6. Weekly Lenten Taizé Services begin on Monday, February 27. We encourage you to make Taizé a part of your Lenten practice. Join us!

### 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*



## CHURCH SCHOOL



Katie Glover and Dongbo Wang will be teaching a series on the Rite of Holy Baptism to the combined Middle School and Intermediate class on January 8, 15, and 22. On January 29 the Intermediate class will meet separately, while the Middle Schoolers will remain in church (as usual during the last Sunday of the month). Godly Play I and II will be meeting and the nursery will be open each Sunday.

Cathy Baker and Pat Fitzgerald will lead discussion with the High School class on January 8, 15, and 22. All young people grades 9-12 are invited to attend. High Schoolers will remain in church on January 29.



## REDEEMER BOOK GROUP



The Book Group will meet on *Sunday, January 15*, at Peter & Mary Helen Carlson's, to discuss *Iran Awakening: One Woman's Journey to Reclaim Her Life and Country* by Shirin Ebadi and Azadeh Moaveni. 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.

## LAY READER & GREETER TRAINING

In February, there will be two training sessions:

### Lay Readers' Training: Sunday, February 5, 12:30 p.m.

Katie Glover and Susan Thon will lead the Lay Readers' training following the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist on Sunday, February 5. All Lay Readers are asked to attend. If you are unable to attend on that date, please let the Parish Office know and a make-up date will be scheduled.

### Greeters' Training, Sunday, February 12, 12:30 p.m.

Mary K Young and Susan Thon will lead the Greeters' training following the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist on Sunday, February 12. All Greeters are asked to attend and also anyone who is interested in becoming a Greeter.

## 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 the personal and theological level. It shapes and molds our understanding of who we are and who God is. 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 and last through Sunday morning when 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. There is a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. Spaces are limited, so please sign up early! 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

## OUTREACH

In 2011, Redeemer gave over \$50,000 to Outreach ministries on behalf of our parish and some additional friends!

Redeemer allocated \$32,500 for Outreach in the 2011 budget. These funds were to complete some unpaid items from 2010 (\$3,500) and fulfill the planned outreach giving for 2011 of \$29,000. At year's end the balance in the outreach contingency fund was distributed to four local groups. The budgeted funds were distributed as follows:

Hope for Burundi	\$5,180
TASSC	\$5,400
Sustainable Harvest International	\$2,000
Our Little Roses, Honduras	\$1,000
Community Family Life Services	\$3,200
Manna Food Center	\$1,207
Church of the Epiphany/Street Church	\$1,807
Samaritan Ministry	\$2,707
NRCAT	\$100
Transitional Housing Corporation	\$1,593
Bethesda Cares	\$100
St. Stephen & the Incarnation/Misa Alegria	\$4,306
Summer Music Camp	\$2,000
General Theological Seminary	\$1,150
Virginia Theological Seminary	<u>\$750</u>
Total	\$32,500

What is extraordinary is that above and beyond this amount, in response to requests for support, Redeemer parishioners gave an additional \$17,821 off-budget as follows:

Hope for Burundi	\$11,474
Episcopal Relief & Development	\$946
Domestic & Foreign Missionary Society	\$720
Transitional Housing Authority	
(backpacks/apartment)	\$2,278
Help the Homeless	\$240
Toy Sunday	\$705
Diocese	\$304
Hermanas Honduras project	\$820
Youth Pilgrimage	<u>\$334</u>
Total	\$17,821

These numbers do not tell the whole story. In addition to actual money, Redeemer parishioners have given countless hours to different organizations during 2011:

- Street Church services conducted by clergy and attended by parishioners in downtown DC

- Food for Manna Food Center in Montgomery County, which parishioners take time to deliver
- Preparing and serving dinner every other month to the homeless through the Bethesda Cares Dinner program (parishioner not only donate time but the food as well)
- Furnishing of an apartment for a family of five coming out of homelessness at Transitional Housing (including donations of items, collecting the items, delivery downtown and setting up of the apartment).
- Participation in the 9/11 Unity Walk
- A mini-walk for the Homeless and contributions of funds given directly to Samaritan and matched by Fannie Mae
- Summer Music Camp that this year included children from St. Stephen & the Incarnation and the Bishop Walker School
- Work projects done by the youth while on their Pilgrimage in Colorado
- Clergy conducting services at Springhouse Retirement Home
- Making of the items that were then sold to raise funds for Honduras and Burundi
- ... and more.

These activities are priceless. Yes, one could put a dollar value on them, I suppose, but a person's time is precious beyond dollars and cents, especially in the fast moving and ever changing world of today. But Redeemer members have found the time and given it without question to help those in need over and over again.

Details on Outreach activities will be available in the Annual Report to be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting on January 22. However, I felt it was important for everyone to know how amazingly generous Redeemer has been with its Outreach in 2011.

Cindy Winder  
*Vestry Person for Outreach*



## OUTREACH PRINCIPLES

### Upcoming Meetings on Outreach Principles

Several Redeemer parishioners will meet on two Sundays, January 8 and 15, to discuss and draft Outreach Principles for future funding of our recipient groups. A portion of the discussion will involve off-budget fundraising. A draft of the Principles will be presented to the Vestry at their January 18 meeting with an opportunity for discussion.

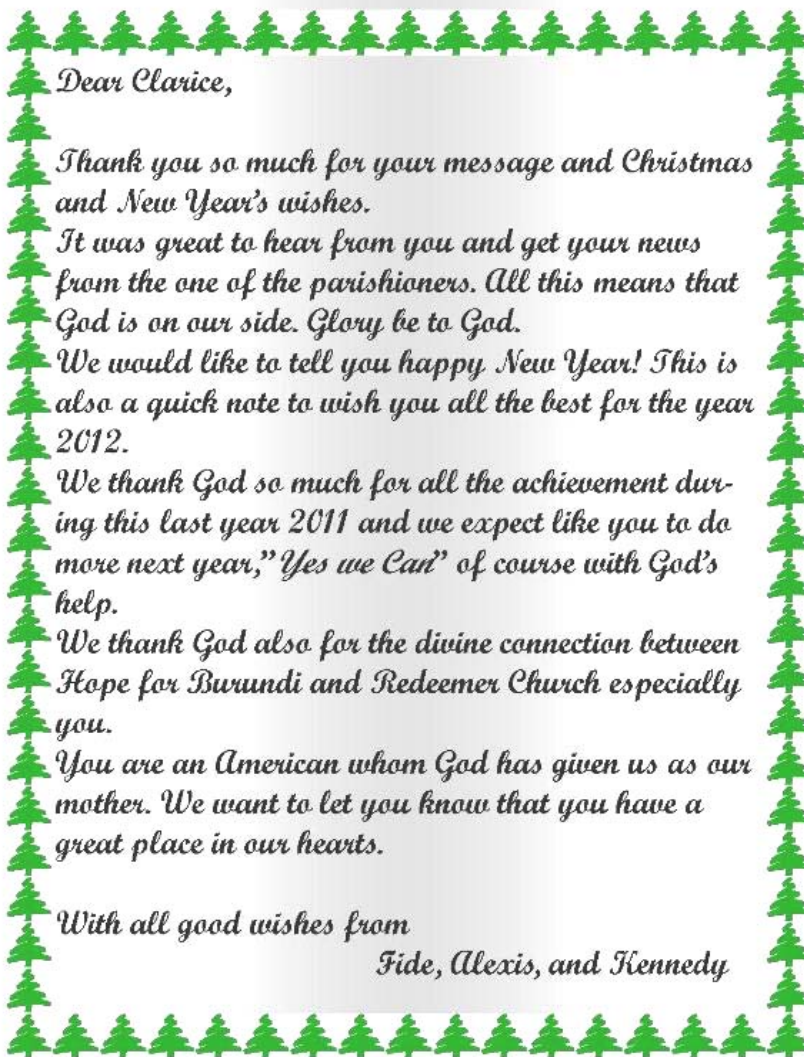
The draft principles will next be presented to the attendees of the third town hall meeting, scheduled for January 29 following the 10:30 service's coffee hour. Comments will be recorded and finalized Principles will be presented to the Vestry at their February meeting. If approved, these Principles will be adopted for determining allocations from the Redeemer budget for 2012 outreach beneficiaries. This process has grown out of the May and June, 2011, Outreach Town Meetings, two Financial Maturity workshops, and Vestry conversations, during which participants suggested that the Vestry adopt criteria for funding outreach projects.

Cindy Winder

Vestry Person for Outreach

### Gratitude for Outreach Funding

The value of the Outreach funding that Redeemer provides is evidenced in the wonderful card sent to parishioner Clarice Leslie, who heads up Redeemer's efforts on behalf of Hope for Burundi.



## BISHOP'S ADULT FORUM

Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde made a Visitation to Redeemer on Sunday, December 18. She preached at both services and in between, as well as after the 10:30 a.m. service, she challenged parishioners at the Adult Forum to recognize their role in the process of change. Bishop Mariann shared how she observed “unhealthy” change when she was a student in Guatemala, as an orphanage worker in Honduras, and as a young Associate Rector in Ohio. She applied what she learned to healthily grow the parish of St. John’s, Minneapolis, over the past 15 years.

The Bishop stated that as parishes like Redeemer grow in size, leaders can seek to “increase the capacity for God’s work” and to help parishioners “be bigger inside” and thus “give God more to work with.” Concurrently, parishioners can become familiar with the arc of healthy change and their roles in it. Bishop Mariann’s experience suggests that each change/vision takes a period of about six years from initiation to fulfillment.

The Bishop shared her experience that a congregation has several different groups within when it when it comes to implementing change:

- “Visionaries” are those who see a change that they believe needs to or should happen; they imagine what could be. At times more prophets than promoters, these members often do not lead well.
- “Connectors” are those who have the respect and trust of the congregation, and can bring the vision to the congregation. Connectors help create the necessary space for discussion and reflection about the vision.
- “Early adapters” may constitute only ten percent of the membership, but they are willing to go first in adopting the change.
- The “Early majority” are those who join with the adapters in supporting the change and begin to establish the change as the “new normal.”
- The “Late majority” eventually support the change. Indeed, this group often comes to believe the change was originally their idea!
- The last group, the “laggards,” will likely never support the “new normal” and some may possibly leave.

The Rector’s role is to move the congregation forward to the next stage. Tools include allocating resources, shaping goals, and guiding the congregation’s efforts “to be the strongest incarnation of the Gospel.” In recent Episcopal Church history, this pattern was evidenced by the ordination of women and gay marriage.

Bishop Mariann has pledged to become familiar with the diocese and accept no outside engagements for the first year. She will continue to visit various parishes in the diocese; her trip to Redeemer was the first in our region of the Diocese.

Denny Shaw



## DECEMBER VESTRY REPORT

**Gospel Reflection:** The Rt. Rev. Mariann Budde led us in a discussion of the Gospel reading, asking us to listen with an ear of leadership and the hearing and discerning of God’s will.

**Rector’s Report:** Susan noted that the Annual Meeting is planned for January 22, and Vestry Day on Saturday, February 4, for team building and planning for the coming year. We welcome Matthew Wright, a senior at VTS and intern at the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation, who will serve as deacon starting in January. Susan has been busy serving on the “Shaping the Parish in the Diocese of Washington” training team and as chair of the Resolutions Committee in preparation of the Diocesan Convention. Average Sunday attendance is 173 over the past 50 weeks.

**Pastoral Care:** Jack Hutchings’ report summarized Pastoral Care activities over the past three years.

**Building and Grounds Report:** Peter Kendall had dictated his report to Angela by telephone. He thanked everyone who participated (34 in all) in the Fall Garden Clean-up, especially organizers Susan and Pat Fitzgerald. Peter looks forward to returning as soon as he recovers from mysterious debilitating back pain. The Vestry passed a resolution commending Peter for his commitment in making a report from his sick-bed. We pray he will rejoin us soon.

**Outreach:** Cindy Winder reported on the alternative-giving fundraisers for Honduras and Burundi that raised a combined total of \$4,845.

**Conversation with Bishop Budde:** The Bishop talked with the Vestry and others who attended the meeting. The focus was on parish growth, what we might encounter as we grow, and how to prepare ahead of time.

**Treasurer's Report:** A motion was made and passed approving Robin Razzino's housing allowance. In Robin's absence we are fortunate to have The Reverends David Schlafer, Amy Yount, Joe Clark and Matthew Wright to assist the Rector as needed. Robin's contract allows for eight weeks of maternity leave. The Church Pension Group's disability policy will reimburse 70% of Robin's salary for up to 12 weeks. A motion was made and approved for 12 weeks of maternity leave for Robin.

**Diocesan Giving:** Several years ago the Vestry adopted a resolution to give 10% of our normal operating budget to Outreach and 10% to the Diocese. Nathan Price noted that Redeemer ranks well above average in outreach and diocesan giving, as we learned at the Fiscal Responsibility Workshops. Ben Ivins pointed out what a blessing this is considering we have no endowment, no emergency back-up funds, and a large mortgage. Bishop Budde comes from a diocese that required 18–20% diocesan giving and she is pleased that diocesan giving here is voluntary. "My prayer is to continue that pattern and that we will create clarity to grow to the fullness of our capacity." She noted that young families are really struggling financially and that the wealth distribution ratio is 27 to 1 comparing older to younger families.

**Children & Youth:** Steve Gibson and Karen Stewart reported on the church school that instructs 35 children from preschool through high school. Classes are Godly Play I (ages 3–5), Godly Play II (grades 1-3), Intermediate, Middle School, and High School. Karen noted that the children in Godly Play are happy and focused, as the lessons are in story form; this motivates regular church attendance by families. The Middle School and Intermediate Class are using the Episcopal Children's Curriculum. Cathy Baker leads the High School class on a variety of appropriate topics. There is good synergy between the Church School Program and the Youth Choir. Recognition was given to the outstanding role that the youth choir plays in attracting youth and their families to Redeemer.

**Pilgrimage to Jerusalem 2013:** Margaret Green reported that the Rector and a guide from St. Georges in Jerusalem will lead a pilgrimage in May 2013. The goal is to experience both the biblical sites and present conditions with Israelis and Palestinians. Sunday suppers in 2012 will provide an opportunity for all to learn more about the history of the Holy Land and the pilgrimage. *See p. 12.*

**Adult Education:** Denny Shaw summarized 2011 Adult Forum programs, which involved over 30 parishioners making presentations on varying subjects on Sunday

mornings in a variety of formats. As so much effort goes into the Forum presentations, it would be beneficial to record them for the benefit of the parish as a whole.

Julia Rogers  
Recording Secretary

**Note:** Denny Shaw has resigned from the Vestry as of December 31. Denny did outstanding work over the past year and several months as the chairperson of the Adult Education committee. He arranged stimulating Sunday morning adult forums, and recruited about 35 parish members to present some of them. He also arranged three summer evening seminars that dealt with grief, Anglican chant, and the 9-11 anniversary. We are grateful for his service and wish him well as he explores other ways to serve the wider community

## CHRISTIAN CONTEMPLATIVE GROUP

The Christian Contemplative Group meets in Redeemer's sanctuary on the second and fourth Monday each month, September –June, 7:30–9:00 p.m. All are welcome to join or drop in at any time. Typically, we begin with a short liturgy of simple chants, readings and centering prayer. We then transition into discussion centering around a selected text, currently *The Gospel of Thomas*. Through the study of relevant texts combined with contemplative practices such as centering prayer and lectio divina, we learn to act in new ways, changing old patterns that no longer serve us, developing more satisfying relationships with ourselves, others and God, and aligning with our inner compass, or true essence. For more information, contact Alice Despard: 301-263-9644 or [alicedespard@gmail.com](mailto:alicedespard@gmail.com); or Clarice Leslie: 301-229-2609 or [cyleslie@verizon.net](mailto:cyleslie@verizon.net).



## JERUSALEM PILGRIMAGE 2013

### Origins and Purpose of Redeemer's Pilgrimage

A recent newsletter from the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem featured a "Missioner Profile" of our Rector Susan Thon. In describing her motivations for going on pilgrimage in 2003, Susan quoted author Cynthia Ozick on the difference between a visitor and a pilgrim: "A visitor passes through a place. The place passes through the pilgrim." These two short sentences express our hope for what Redeemer's pilgrimage will mean for the members of our church. We hope that our pilgrimage to the Holy Land will produce an enduring and spiritually enlivening encounter with the places where Jesus lived and taught. We will also experience the present day living conditions for Palestinians and Israelis and seek ways in which we, as Christians and Americans, can deepen our commitment to Christ's message of peace and justice for all God's people.

Last winter about 20 parishioners met to discuss our concerns about the situation in the Holy Land and how we might become better informed and more actively involved. Interest was expressed in going to the Holy Land. The idea of a Redeemer pilgrimage became a reality when Susan agreed to lead it. Since then Susan has reserved the services of an experienced guide, Iyad Qumrie, who is affiliated with St. George's Cathedral in Jerusalem and has arranged accommodations at the cathedral guesthouse for April 2013.

To learn more about the region, the Adult Forum offered a series of lectures during Lent 2011 entitled, *Going to Jerusalem: The Search for Peace and Justice*. We heard from Ambassador Wilcox, President of the Foundation for Middle East Peace; Bill Prather, Chair of the Companion Diocese Committee; Dr. Philip Farah, a Palestinian-American and Udi Placott, an Israeli-Jewish immigrant to the U.S., each presenting their own family narratives; Dr. Ghassan J. Tarzi, a Palestinian-American very active in his Annandale church; and several local leaders whose churches are making connections with Palestine-Israel, including leaders of St. John's Lafayette Square and St. Marks Capitol Hill.

Realistically, many of us will not be able to make the physical pilgrimage to the Holy Land, but we hope that most members of the parish will make the spiritual journey. The success of our "virtual" pilgrimage depends on the full participation of the Redeemer community. We propose to continue our series of speakers in 2012 with 6 to 8 Sunday evening suppers. We will all be engaged in the learning process together and we hope that the youth of

the congregation will also participate in some way. Redeemer members who actually go on the pilgrimage in the spring of 2013 will report back to the entire parish about their experiences.

We are fortunate in Washington to have many well-informed, willing speakers. Depending on their availability, we hope to have Sari Ateek (Rector at St. John's Norwood and son of Sabeel founder Naim Ateek) and John Peterson (former canon at Washington Cathedral and frequent pilgrimage leader) as our first two speakers.

We would like to close with Susan's explanation of why she went on pilgrimage in 2003: "My purpose was to experience and learn about the physical, political, social and religious setting of the biblical narrative; to meet the people of Israel and Palestine; to get a sense of the life and ministry of the Church, particularly the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem; and to gain a deeper understanding of the present day political reality." *American Friends of the Diocese of Jerusalem Newsletter*, December 2011.

Cathy Baker, Steve France,  
Margaret Greene, Huda Kraske

## 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.

The Altar Guild

# DECEMBER BLESSINGS



Visit from St. Nicholas, Sunday, December 4



The Christmas Pageant, Sunday, December 11



Parishioner Meredith Griggs in Ecuador where she is spending two years with the Peace Corps.



Zoe Elizabeth Razzino on the day she was born, Monday, December 19, and happily asleep at home.

## COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS



Thank you to all those who provided refreshments for coffee hour in December, especially all those who brought such wonderful treats for reception for the Bishop on December 18. I would also like to thank Joelle Morris and Karen Steward who are stalwart regulars in helping with set up and clean, both for coffee hour and concert receptions.

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 me: [postscript2@verizon.net](mailto:postscript2@verizon.net) or 301-229-2170.

Patricia Snowden  
*Parish Life Chair*



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### We wish a happy birthday to:

Kate Raber	Guillermo Yepes
Kim Barrett	Stuart Chandler
Bill Grote	Doris Ninde
Josh Nickerson	Willard Rockwell
Frank Anderson	Susan Guzman-Vogele
Colin Mealey	Marlene Palmer
Anne de Fontenay	Michelle Huey
Clarice Leslie	Esther Nachbar-Seckel
Jo Barclay-Beard	Rebecca Riggs
Ron Pugsley	Joe Daley
Ellen Shillinglaw	

### We wish a happy anniversary to:

Toni & David Strother



## BEGINNER'S MIND YOGA

Beginner's Mind Yoga classes, taught by parishioner Alice Despard, are held on Saturday morning, 9:30–11:00 a.m., in the Parish Hall. Beginners are always welcome and classes are a combined Beginner/Advanced Beginner level. We provide mats and props. Drop-ins are always welcome (\$15 per class) and the introductory class is free.

Alice Despard has been a practitioner of hatha yoga for over thirteen years and began teaching five years ago. Her teaching style emphasizes the fundamental aspects of developing equally strength, flexibility, and proper alignment; and cultivating always a "beginner's mind." For more information, please visit the Beginner's Mind Yoga website: [www.alice-despard.blogspot.com](http://www.alice-despard.blogspot.com), or contact Alice directly. (301) 263-9644; [alicedespard@gmail.com](mailto:alicedespard@gmail.com).

## WEEKLY AT REDEEMER

## Sunday

- Holy Eucharist, 8:00 a.m.
- Adult 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 &amp; 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: [drjhh@comcast.net](mailto:drjhh@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)

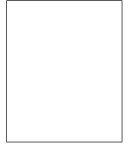
**Cynthia Winder**, Outreach (2014)

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

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

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

**THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER**  
6201 Dunrobbin Drive at MacArthur Boulevard  
Bethesda, Maryland 20816



## THE REDEEMER SPIRIT

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*Deadline for the February issue is January 24*



## 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.*