

# THE REDEEMER SPIRIT OCTOBER 2011

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

## 2012 STEWARDSHIP

As I write, today's newspaper headlines spell economic anxiety and leadership turmoil. By comparison, as I review past issues of *The Spirit*, I am overwhelmed by the honest oasis of good news that flourishes in this community amidst difficult times. To me this signals both healthy communal stewardship of the "Redeemer garden" and the mysterious work of God's grace.



Consider the flowering trees that grow in Redeemer's garden. The fertile ground invites each tree to deepen its roots so as to anchor and nourish its body. For us, Redeemer offers a loving ground for *deepening our roots*—the theme chosen for the 2012 Stewardship campaign (building on the 2011 theme of *Tending God's Garden*), which launches on Sunday, October 9. In the *Letter to the Ephesians* (3:17), St. Paul prays "that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being *rooted* and *grounded* in love." At Redeemer, we are invited to dig deeply and root our lives; to grow in the body of Christ.

When the words *growth* or *deepening* appear in news headlines, typically they relate to the sluggish economy or to a deepening crisis. At Redeemer, we have been talking a good deal recently about the vibrant *growth* of our parish body, and we are more likely to associate *deepening* with the usage by St. Paul, who related it to comprehending "the height and depth" of Christ's love (Eph. 3:18) and extolling the "depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God" (Rom. 11:33). *Growing* fundamentally involves *deepening*, and at Redeemer both are enriching.

How deep are our riches? From *The Spirit* and my own observations, I see abundant examples, albeit only a partial list (see p. 3). Rooted in God's love, truly we are nourished, deepened, and uplifted.

Such "richness" surely reflects the strength of this community's thoughtful, shared leadership and mindful stewardship. In fact, our fiscal health and stewardship approach have been affirmed through a recent professional analysis of the parish's finances, prepared by a diocesan consultant who facilitated Redeemer's recent Fiscal Maturity workshop. It's valuable in this Stewardship context to share some of those findings (see p. 3). The analyst offered this conclusion in her report: "All this data leads me to conclude

that you are enormously healthy relative to other parishes, both in terms of finances and participation. That doesn't mean you're rich...but it does bode well."

I can't help but compare these findings and Redeemer's "good news" from this past year to current economic reports and predictions. On the one hand, the comparison makes me anxious (especially as the Stewardship chair): I worry whether our growth is a bubble that might burst and whether community support might contract. But with the support of Scripture, I consider the comparison from an investor's perspective (perhaps a merchant in search of fine pearls): What an incredible return on investment—like a mustard seed "when it has grown...becomes a tree" (Mt. 13:32, a recent lectionary reading)!

As Redeemer has grown, so has our budget (85% of which depends on pledges) and so has the deep generosity of this community. It costs more than \$1,500 a day to support the life and ministry of this parish. In 2012, those costs will inevitably increase even while we strive to reduce expenses. Specifically, the Vestry anticipates that our 2012 budget will increase approximately 12% over 2011, which is a similar rate of increase as has occurred for each of the past several years. This is due largely to the establishment of a full-time associate rector position and to the increased maintenance needs of our aging facilities. Both of these factors are the result of our growth and, in turn, directly support our growth.

We depend upon the financial pledges—whatever the size—of every member of the parish body. In the past two years, we have been blessed to receive near 100% participation in pledging; for 2012, we are counting on 100% support. To meet our community commitments and priorities, we also will depend upon an overall increase in pledge amounts. We approach this need with great thanksgiving for the generous spirit and heart of this remarkable community.

As I look toward the year(s) ahead in the light of our Stewardship theme, I hear this echo of a blessing from Jeremiah (17:8): "They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream." This image especially resonates here at Redeemer, situated as we are along the Potomac River. Prayerfully and with gratitude, I imagine our "Redeemer tree" grounded by God's love and our roots—knit like a web—deepening together, strengthened by the living water.

Nathan Price

Vestry Member for Stewardship

## OCTOBER EVENTS

### Sunday, October 2

- Blessing of the Animals, 12:45 p.m.

### Monday, October 3

- Taizé Service, 7:30 p.m., p. 5

### Wednesday, October 5

- Episcopal Identity 101, 7:00-8:30 p.m., p. 4

### Friday, October 7

- Photography for Directory, 3:00 p.m.—8:50 p.m., p. 4

### Saturday, October 8

- Photography for Directory, 10:00 a.m.—2:50 p.m.

### Sunday, October 9/*Stewardship Sunday*

- 2012 Stewardship Campaign Lunch, 12:30 p.m.
- Inscape Chamber Orchestra in Concert, 5:00 p.m.

### Monday, October 10/*Columbus Day/Parish Office Closed*

- Photography for Directory, 1:00 p.m.-6:50 p.m.
- Financial Maturity Workshop #2, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
- Contemplative Christian Group, 7:30 p.m., p. 10

### Tuesday, October 11

- Photography for Directory, 3:00 p.m.-8:50 p.m.

### Wednesday, October 12

- Episcopal Identity 101, 7:00-8:30 p.m., p. 4

### Friday, October 14—Sunday, October 16

- Parish Retreat, p. 5

### Monday, October 17

- Service of Holy Eucharist & Healing, 7:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, October 19

- Vestry Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

### Sunday, October 23

- Help the Homeless Walkathon, 12:15 p.m., p. 6

### Monday, October 24

- Christian Contemplative Group, 7:30 p.m.

### Saturday, October 29

- Church School Bonfire/Cookout, 5-7 p.m., p. 6

### Sunday, October 30

- Time & Talent Event, 12:30 p.m., p. 3

## NOVEMBER UPCOMING

### Wednesday, November 2

- Episcopal Identity 202, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

### Sunday, November 6/*Pledge Sunday*

- Daylight Savings Time Ends
- Redeemer Book Group, p. 9
- Choral Evensong for All Saints Sunday, 5:00 p.m., p. 5

### Wednesday, November 9

- Episcopal Identity 202, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

### Sunday, November 13

- “Casual Sunday” - Fall Garden Clean-up, 12:15 p.m.

### Wednesday, November 16

- Vestry Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

### Saturday, November 19

- Celebrate Redeemer Dinner, 6:00 p.m.

### Sunday, November 20

- Peabody Conservatory Organists in Concert, 5:00 p.m.

### Monday, November 21

- Service of Healing & Holy Eucharist, 7:30 p.m.

### Thursday, November 24/*Thanksgiving Day/Parish Office Closed*

### Sunday, November 27/*The First Sunday in Advent*

- Advent Wreath-making
- Bethesda Cares Dinner—Youth Event, p. 6

### Wednesday, November 30

- Episcopal Identity 202, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

### THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

*Sunday, October 2, 12:45 p.m.*

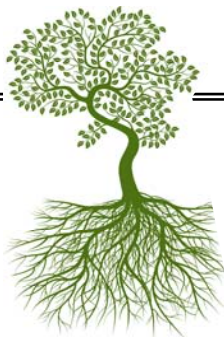
Invite your family, friends, and neighbors  
and their furred, feathered, and scaled  
companions. All are welcome!

In celebration of the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi (October 4), we will gather on the church lawn to bless animals of all kinds. Treats for all of God's creatures, two and four legged, will be provided. Dogs on leashes, please; other creatures safely contained.

## 2012 STEWARDSHIP

### 2011 Highlights

- ▶ Responding to our vibrant growth, Redeemer hired its first full-time Associate Rector who led the parish's first youth pilgrimage in eight years—a memorable journey to Colorado.
- ▶ The Church School comprises 20% of the parish's membership (one of the highest percentages in the diocese), and the number of teachers has also increased.
- ▶ Our outreach ministries have expanded their care for the broader community, including, for example, greater involvement in Bethesda Cares and Manna. We have held two vigorous parish town hall meetings (with a third planned) to review our outreach programs now and for the future.
- ▶ Our upcoming Parish Retreat in October follows the successful Men's Retreat in February.
- ▶ Average Sunday attendance at worship services continues to rise; a testimony to the enriching preaching, music, liturgy, and the invigorating "Redeemer Peace."
- ▶ The Strawberry Festival & Silent Auction involved more volunteers and visitors than previous years, and raised more money than budgeted.
- ▶ The *Music at Redeemer* series continues to attract acclaimed performers, such as the American Boy Choir, and a wider audience.
- ▶ The parish has increased its participation in interfaith dialogue/activities, especially involving the youth.
- ▶ The corrective repair to our bell and bell tower illustrate the tremendous attention given to our facilities and landscape by the vigilant Buildings & Grounds Committee.
- ▶ The Labyrinth will soon mark its first-year anniversary.
- ▶ Reinforcing the transparency of and community involvement in parish finances, we held a Financial Maturity workshop to enhance our decision-making process.
- ▶ If all 2011 pledges are fulfilled, we should end the year on budget.



### Findings

- ▶ Redeemer's 5-year increase in membership and Church school attendance bucks the trend for the national church and mainline Protestant churches.
- ▶ In that same timeframe, the number of pledgers and the pledge revenue (including average pledges) have steadily increased. In the national context, this is highly unusual.
- ▶ Our pledge bands (levels of giving) are relatively even, and the percentage of our budget reliant on the top 10% of pledging units has been steady or decreasing in the last few years—all signs of good financial health.
- ▶ And in almost all cases newcomers make a stewardship pledge the year of or the year immediately after their arrival, which is an exceptional rate.

### 2012 Stewardship Schedule

Sunday, October 9: Stewardship packets will be distributed. To kick off the campaign in the spirit of *Deepening Our Roots* (the 2012 theme), we will hold a **special potluck lunch with a ROOTS theme**. Please bring a dish that evokes rootedness, whether an autumn harvest (vegetables and fruits) or a favorite family recipe reflecting your own roots! We will enjoy lunch together and conversation around our theme. Please begin to consider your pledge now as we hope many of you will make your pledge on October 9.

Sunday, October 23: Members of the Vestry and Stewardship Committee will be at coffee hour to answer any and all questions you may have about Redeemer's budget and operations, and your role in both. We hope to have 60% of pledges by this date.

Sunday, October 30: Time & Talent Fair: Enjoy a fun opportunity to learn more about the various Redeemer ministries to which you might lend your time and talent. At coffee hour, Time & Talent "speed-dating" will commence. You will be able to hear brief descriptions of the ministries you are interested in from the leaders of those ministries. These include: Worship & Music, Christian Formation, Spiritual Life, Membership/Newcomers, Outreach, Pastoral Care, Parish Life, Buildings & Grounds, Stewardship, Vestry, and Administration.

Sunday, November 6: Pledge Sunday: Our goal on this date is to receive pledges from parishioners who have not already pledged and reach 100% participation by this date. We will celebrate our many riches and express our gratitude for God's bounty.

## ADULT EDUCATION

Over the summer, Bible study was offered during the Sunday 9:15 a.m. Adult Education hour. With the coming of fall, Adult Forums have resumed. Given the continuing interest in both the Forums and Bible study, the Adult Education Committee is experimenting with offering both opportunities on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. This is an experiment, to see if we will continue to have a critical mass for both pursuits. You are invited and encouraged to participate in the Forums and Bible study, as you decide, week by week.

### Adult Forums

**Resource-ful Imaginings: Responsibly Envisioning Our Roles in God's World:** During October the Adult Forum gatherings, at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the Parish Hall, will focus – both sharply and widely – on how we can serve effectively as co-creators with God in the conservation and nurture of our resources: *technological, financial, human, natural* – and (in all of these) *spiritual*.

- October 2: *How Will the Church Face A Technological Future?* Led by Graeme Browning
- October 9: *How (and How Much) should I Give Through the Parish?* Led by Joe Clark
- October 16: *How do Global Practices Affect Parish Choices?* Led by Jianping Zhou
- October 23: *How Is the Next Generation Exploring Its Faith Tradition?* Led by participants in Redeemer's recent youth pilgrimage
- October 30: *How Can We Better Serve as Keepers of Creation?* Led by Linda Lear & Nathan Price

### Bible Study

This study of the Old Testament Book of Ecclesiastes is led by parishioner Steve Gibson, who led the summer sessions. Ecclesiastes means "teacher". The teacher's reflections on the meaning of life and how to live in troubled times are in the Wisdom tradition. They give us much food for thought in our own day.

### Episcopal Identity 101

In our first two sessions, we learned about the history of this parish, and then of the whole Church from Adam and Eve to Katharine Jefferts Schori. It's been quite a whirlwind history tour! A theme emerged from our discussion that we expect to carry through the remaining two classes: the relationship between our tradition and our response as a church to changes in culture and society (especially issues of social justice). How do we move forward without losing our roots? We will have this theme in mind as we study

the worship and theology of The Episcopal Church in the last two classes (October 5 and 12, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.)

Note that both the October Adult Forums and the Bible Study, described above, also touch on this theme. Find out how this is so very Anglican and Episcopal—come to Episcopal Identity 101! You are welcome to join the group, even if you were not able to make the first classes. Susan Thon, Robin Razzino and Jo Barclay Beard are happy to talk about the class if you are curious, and are happy to share the notes from the history session.

## NEW PARISH DIRECTORY

### Photography Dates and Times

If you have not signed up already to have your picture taken, we urge you to do so as soon as possible by calling the Parish Office, 301-229-3770. If you are unable to make any of these days, please call the Parish Office to find out about alternatives.

Friday, October 7: 2:00 – 8:50 p.m.

Saturday, October 8: 9:30 a.m. – 4:40 p.m.

Monday, October 10: 12:30 p.m.–7:20 p.m.

Tuesday, October 11: 2:00 – 8:50 p.m.

We will still need volunteers to help with registration on the days of the photography. Each shift is about 3 hours in the Narthex. There will be two people needed each shift to register parishioners as they come to get their picture taken. If you can help with this, please contact David Strother at [tondav6515@verizon.net](mailto:tondav6515@verizon.net).

You will have the opportunity to purchase a portrait; the publisher's representative will explain cost and details when you have your picture taken. You are under no obligation to purchase any photographs.

We are hoping for a 100% turnout for this new directory. Our last pictorial directory was done in 2008 so there will be many new faces. We hope to have the new directory by Christmas.

If you have questions, please contact Ben Ivins: [bivins@nab.org](mailto:bivins@nab.org) or 301-263-0608.

Ben Ivins

*Membership & Newcomers*

## MUSICAL NOTES

### Adult Choir: New Singers Welcome

The 2011-12 choral season continues with rehearsal each Thursday, 7:30-9:30 p.m., in the nave. We welcome new members Betsy Ballard, Marie Caulfield, Andrew Pardini and Kajsa Svahn, and returning member Cynthia Fischer. Others are welcome! All singers must be able to match pitch and blend. Highlights of the season will include two services of Choral Evensong and the annual Service of Lessons & Carols for Advent. For more information, visit the music page of the parish website or contact Tom Smith: music.redeemer@verizon.net or 301-229-3770.

### Youth Choir: Calling All Children and Youth

The Youth Choir rehearses each Wednesday, 4:30-5:45 p.m. in the nave. We welcome new members Lucy Court, Claudia Hull and Anna Nachbar-Sekel. Although there is no minimum age requirement, all choristers must be able to read. Highlights of the 2011-2012 season will include two services of Choral Evensong, the annual Service of Lessons & Carols for Advent, and a trip to sing two liturgies in Philadelphia. The Youth Choir is a wonderful – and FREE – opportunity for high quality music education right here at Redeemer. For more information, visit the music page of the parish website or contact Tom Smith.

### Taizé Ensemble

Redeemer's monthly service of prayer and meditation in the style of Taizé will resume on Monday, October 3, at 7:30 p.m. New singers and instrumentalists are welcome! Participation in the Taizé Ensemble requires a minimal time commitment. For more information, please contact Tom Smith.

### 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) last week. 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.

### Upcoming Musical Events

Sunday, October 9, at 5:00 p.m.

#### INSCAPE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA: "Vienna Redux II"

Redeemer's Ensemble-in-residence opens the 2011-12 season with an exploration of musical currents in Vienna circa 1920. The program features Arnold Schoenberg's rarely performed and fiendishly difficult Serenade, *Opus 24*, with James Rogers, baritone, and Alexander Zemlinsky's sublimely

romantic *Maiblumen blühen überall* with Diba Alvi, soprano, as well as Gustav Mahler's *Songs of a Wayfarer*. *Free-will offering. Reception to follow.*

Sunday, November 6, at 5:00 p.m.

#### CHORAL EVENSONG FOR ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

The Adult and Youth Choirs of The Church of the Redeemer sing music by Edgar Bainton, Craig Phillips, Charles Villiers Stanford, and Tomás Luis de Victoria. This liturgy is offered in loving memory of deceased members and friends of the parish. *Free-will offering. Reception to follow.*

Sunday, November 20, at 5:00 p.m.

#### PEABODY CONSERVATORY ORGANISTS IN CONCERT

Richard Fitzgerald, Christopher Keenan, Grace Kim, Jung Yeon Kim, and William Wisnom – all students at Baltimore's famed Peabody Conservatory of Music – perform on the two manual, 28 rank Di Gennaro-Hart organ at The Church of the Redeemer. *Free-will offering. Reception to follow.*

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

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

Modeled after the service held each year at King's College, Cambridge, this festive 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 Andrew Carter, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, and Charles Wood. *Free-will offering. Reception to follow.*

Tom Smith

Director of Music

## PARISH RETREAT

Friday, October 14–Sunday, October 16

On October 14, a group of about 30 parishioners will travel to Romney, WV, for a spiritual retreat focused on theological themes that emerge from C. S. Lewis' children's classic tale, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Spaces are still available if you would like to join the group.

The retreat begins with supper on Friday evening. We will then view the 2005 film version of Lewis' book, followed by conviviality and board games. The study sessions will be interwoven with Morning Prayer, Compline and a Saturday night cookout. Saturday afternoon will be open for a trip on the Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad, for walking, tennis, canoeing, or simply quiet and rest. The retreat concludes on Sunday with Holy Eucharist following the morning session and lunch before we head for home.

Frances Sharon

*Spiritual Life*

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

### Youth Activities: Mark Your Calendars!

- Sunday, October 9: Game and Pizza Night, 5:00-7:00 p.m. (at Wolf-Rodda's home; for youth 6-12 grades)
- Sunday, October 23: Help the Homeless Walkathon (parish-wide event)
- Saturday, October 29: Bonfire and Cookout (all Church School families are invited!)

### Church School in October

#### Godly Play I:

2nd	Story of Creation	Joelle Morris
9th	Story of Noah	Joelle Morris
16th	Great Family	Joelle Morris
23rd	Exodus	Joelle Morris
30th	Ten Best Ways	Joelle Morris

#### Godly Play II

2nd	Story of Noah	Janice Huey
9th	Great Family	Karen Stewart
16th	Exodus	Melinda Nelson
23rd	Ten Best Ways	Karen Stewart
30th	Ark and the Tent	Janice Huey

#### Intermediate Class:

2nd	Types of Psalms	Steve Gibson
9th	The Suffering of Job	Steve Gibson
16th	Proverbs	Steve Gibson
23rd	Ecclesiastes	Steve Gibson
30th	Righteous Tobit	Steve Gibson

#### Middle School: Amy Young/Jenny Nachbar

2nd	Hunger
9th	Hunger
16th	Hunger
23rd	Help the Homeless Walkathon
27th	Bethesda Cares Dinner Preparation
30th	No Church School (youth remain in Sanctuary for the entire service)

## OUTREACH

**News from Burundi:** *An email received from the Hope for Burundi leaders in Burundi:*

"Hello Ones,

We hope that you are doing well, for us, we are fine today, but people are being killed, goods destroyed by fire or other things every day in Burundi. Yesterday more than 41 innocents have been killed at Gatumba in the bar (in the western part of the city of Bujumbura near airport). We need more prayers in our upcountry traveling. The volunteers continue farming together so that they could get a big land and get big harvest. If it is possible, they would like to get seeds in early October (Good season for farmers). Please, pray for Burundi because we are full of fear for what is happening in our country. Greet everyone there. Blessings."

Our friends of *Hope for Burundi* have sent the names of the five goats in Ruyigi: Mahoro (Peace), Rukundo (Love, seen below with caretaker Harerimana Liberate), Vyizigiro (Hope), Munezero (Joyful), Subizahamwe, the male goat, (Reconciliation).



### Help the Homeless Walkathon

In support of Samaritan Ministries, Redeemer will again participate in the Help the Homeless Walkathon on Sunday, October 23, walking from the church to the one-lane bridge and back. Details to follow.

### Bethesda Cares Dinner Program

On Sunday, September 25, Redeemer parishioners provided dinner for the homeless (about 50 people) at Our Lady of Lourdes as part of the Bethesda Cares dinner program. Our thanks to those who prepared/delivered the meal: Debbie Davenport, Kukula Gastris, Stefanie Greene, Susan Grigsby, Ben Ivins, Clarice Leslie, Bernd Muenchow-Pohl & Stacy Stratton, Tom & Julia Rogers, and Denny Shaw. A special thank you to Julia Rogers who organizes this outreach activity every other month throughout the year. Redeemer youth will prepare the dinner on Sunday, November 27.

## BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

**Fall Grounds Clean-up Date:**  
**Sunday, November 13**  
*(following Coffee Hour)*

It's that time of year again and we need your help cleaning up the grounds and gardens to make them ready for winter. This year we want to do something a little different: since attendance was down for the last two clean-ups on Saturdays, we hope to improve participation this year by moving the clean-up to a Sunday. It's been done before and turnout was good. Please join us for an afternoon of fresh air, sun (we hope), fellowship, refreshments and some good exercise as we rake, weed, and do whatever it takes to maintain the high standard of Redeemer's grounds. So, dress casually on Sunday, November 13, ready to spend some time in the gardens after the service, and bring work gloves and gardening tools. We'll let the good times roll beginning at approximately 12:15 p.m. No special gardening skills are necessary. Hope to see you there!

B&G projects: Sexton Alice Despard has a list of projects which we will be working on for the remainder of the year and as long as funds are available:

Electrical: New under counter lighting has been installed in the kitchen. Our electrician is also working on repairing lighting for the exterior sign, and the repair or replacement of an attic ceiling exhaust fan, required to circulate air and prevent mildew and other nasty things.

Drop ceiling tiles replacement: On September 27, damaged tiles in the kitchen, restrooms and Parish Hall, were replaced.

Rectory rear dormer gutter replacement: To include wood fascia beneath the guttering and painting of the dormer and dressing cables and wires on it.

Painting: Alice Despard will paint the rear metal fire escape and Shipman steps handrails to match those of the Columbarium/Labyrinth.

2012 B&G budget: The Committee has reviewed the proposed 2012 budget and is in agreement with the amounts proposed for the various categories of Grounds, Church and Equipment Maintenance, Rectory, Supplies and Utilities for the Church and Rectory.

Gardening: The Committee is working on suggestions to reduce weed growth in our enlarged gardens, including soil

conditioning and a ground cover to reduce weed growth. Mulch is also required for the children's playground area.

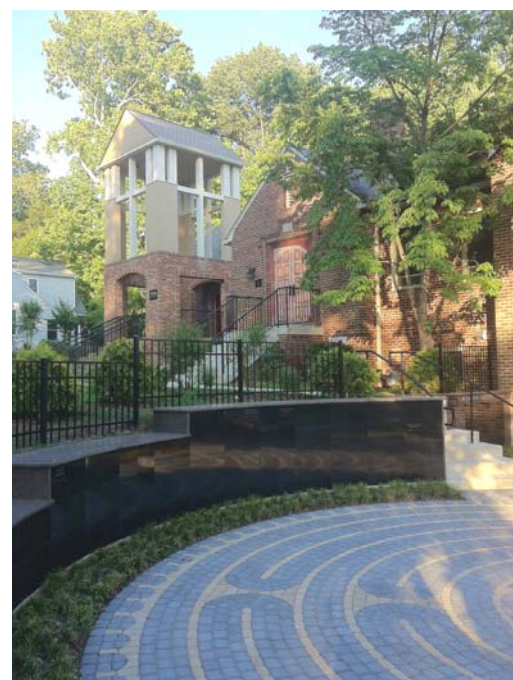
Redeemer sign alteration: The main exterior sign at the corner of Dunrobbin and Benalder Drives is scheduled to be altered soon to change Susan's name and add Robin's.

Labyrinth stain policy: In view of the staining of the Labyrinth on two occasions this year with fire fuels, accelerants and candles, the Chairman recommended that the Committee establish a policy concerning the use of fire on the Labyrinth. He noted that even though the removal of the blemishes was a personally challenging and character building experience, he would prefer not to have to do it again. Therefore, it is recommended that fire not be allowed near the Labyrinth unless adequate precautions are taken to prevent a recurrence of such episodes. For example, a raised "catcher" tray of some sort could be placed beneath the portable fire pit, but not on the Labyrinth surface, to prevent hot ash and liquid accelerants from marring the Labyrinth.

Main entry steps: The Committee notes the pock marked condition of the main entry steps and is discussing possible remedies. It was suggested that covering them and the Bell Tower cement floor surface with slate tiles would be attractive but expensive. A cheaper alternative would be to resurface the affected risers. Advice and bids will be sought for both proposals.

Peter Kendall

*Chairman, Buildings & Grounds/Junior Warden*



## 9/11 UNITY WALK REPORT

On behalf of Dominique and myself, I'd like to thank Susan, Robin, Angela and everyone here at Redeemer who supported the Unity Walk this year. We have been shown every support and encouragement in our efforts to promote this event. I'd also like to thank the many parishioners and families that attended the Walk, as well as those who volunteered and those who were there in spirit. This year's Walk was a huge success with a large turnout (well over 1000 attendees), inspiring speeches, great weather, fabulous food and a moving spirit of community.

I'm sure those of us who witnessed the Muslim call to prayer against the backdrop of the ten commandments at Washington Hebrew Congregation will not soon forget that image! I fought back tears as I looked around at families with young children, people of all ages and backgrounds, together, sharing this experience. I also have an image etched in my mind of Christian and Muslim families from our interfaith youth service group sitting in the pews of St. Sophia Greek Orthodox church, heads turned upwards, being taught about the symbolism of the beautiful mosaic ceiling and the significance of the architecture in that sacred space. Visiting the Mosque is always a highlight. The interior is breathtakingly beautiful. Julia, my 6-year-old, recognized and said hello to the woman she remembered from last year, despite her being completely covered except her eyes. The walk closed with Arun Gandhi, Mahatma Gandhi's grandson giving a moving speech beneath his grandfather's statue about the need for us to be peacemakers, not just some of the time, but all of the time. All our children were able to shake Gandhi's hand.

Karen Armstrong, religious scholar, author, TED Prize winner, and founder of the Charter for Compassion, spoke at the Islamic Center during the Walk. Armstrong defines compassion in its etymological sense as "to experience or endure something together". I like this way of looking at compassion and it seems like a perfect way of describing what takes place at the Unity Walk—a compassionate coming together out of shared experience, both the common experience of commemorating the tragic events of 9/11 as well as the shared experience of the Walk itself. This view of compassion also brings to mind our interfaith youth service group where we are creating an opportunity to share an experience across faith boundaries while attempting to address the suffering of others. Compassion is at the very heart of our Christian tradition and indeed is where we find commonality with all faith traditions. It is what connects us to our common humanity.

The evening after the Walk, a father posted this on the Walk's facebook page: "On the way home, my 8 year old son turned to me and said 'God has many houses.'" I think that pretty much sums it up".

On a personal note, I want to say that my experiences with promoting the Unity Walk and becoming involved in other interfaith dialogue events have not only enriched and deepened my own faith, but have gone a long way toward overcoming the despair and cynicism that these times can lead one to. It has taught me that one CAN make a difference and have an impact on issues that we feel drawn to.

If you are interested in finding out more about Interfaith Activities, feel free to talk to Dominique or me. A great resource is the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington, [www.ifcmw.org](http://www.ifcmw.org). To find out more about the Charter for Compassion, or to consider signing the charter, please visit [www.CharterforCompassion.org](http://www.CharterforCompassion.org). For Unity Walk photos and news, [www.911UnityWalk.org](http://www.911UnityWalk.org).

Mike Rychlik



Above: Redeemer parishioners at the Unity Walk;  
Below: Interfaith youth service group prior to the Walk.



## A PARISHIONER'S VIEW

Parishioners are welcome to contribute articles/items to *The Redeemer Spirit*. 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 the Parish Office: 301-229-3770 or [office.redeemer@verizon.net](mailto:office.redeemer@verizon.net).

### From Amy Knapp

On August 20, 2011 Rebecca, my 42-year-old step-daughter and a beautiful soul, passed away after a 10-year "dance with cancer" as she put it. Rebecca defied the odds with the most joyful approach to life that I have ever seen in anyone, healthy or ill. She was diagnosed when her children were 1-½ and 3-½ and she determined that she would spend the most time with them that she could and that they would learn from her what it meant to live in a purposeful, full and loving way in the world.

For me, this story typifies Rebecca: Early this year, Rebecca was increasingly ill and she felt like a useless drain on her family—not contributing to cleaning, cooking or child care. Her husband earnestly told her that she was here for love—the great and abundant love she gave to the family. Characteristically, Rebecca ran with that. Despite not being able to even leave the bed many days, Rebecca secretly cut out hundreds and hundreds of red, construction paper hearts. Then, she pasted them all over the house and hid them in her family's belongings. Her son found them in his drawers. They fell out of kitchen cupboards. From between stacked dishes. From inside closet doors. Stuck to newel posts. On the windows. When her daughter opened her wallet, there were red hearts. Creatively, everywhere she could think of, Rebecca stashed hundreds of hearts, which were still falling out of drawers and cupboards when we were feeding the mourners who came to her funeral.

The day before her funeral, Rebecca's Dad (my husband Larry) replaced the battery in her wildly painted 24-year-old car. It followed the hearse on her last journey to a beautiful field in Marin County where she looks over the hills and sleeps the sleep of angels.

NOTE: Rebecca Dale is the daughter of Larry Sauer, stepdaughter of Amy Knapp and sister of Abe Sauer

## REDEEMER BOOK GROUP



This month we are reading *The Tenth Parallel: Dispatches from the Fault Line of Christianity and Islam* by Eliza Griswold. The New York Times describes this book as "... a beautifully written book, full of arresting stories woven around

a provocative issue — whether fundamentalism leads to violence — which Griswold investigates through individual lives rather than caricatures or abstractions." Eliza Griswold, [daughter of the former Presiding Bishop, Frank Griswold] presents the history of Christian-Muslim relations and the current reality of lives of Christians and Muslims in several countries located on the tenth parallel beginning with Nigeria and ending with the Philippines. We will discuss the book on November 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at the home of Huda and Jochen Kraske.

Next we will read *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 it on January 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. In addition to discussing this book, we will have a presentation by the Kraske's and Carlson's about their trip to Iran this Fall.

Finally, 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.

We hope you will join us on November 6<sup>th</sup> and help us choose our next book. If you have any questions about the book club or need additional information please contact Bob Dresser at [robert.dresser@gmail.com](mailto:robert.dresser@gmail.com).

## PHOTOGRAPHY NOTE

Thank you to Julia Rogers for the photographs on pages 7 and 11 and Robin Razzino for the top picture on p. 8. Thanks also to those who sent photographs for possible use in the activity pages of the new parish directory. We always welcome receiving photos of Redeemer events and activities for use in the newsletter and on our website.

## COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS



Thank you Marcia Sartwell, Toby Kinnahan, Karen Stewart, Graeme Browning, Jianping Zhou and Joelle Morris for hosting Coffee Hour during September. We are still in need of volunteers for a number of dates in October, November and December.

You do not have to be a cook! Fruits, cheese & crackers, dips, store-bought cookies and cakes – all of these are 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](mailto:postscript2@verizon.net) or 301-229-2170.

## CHRISTIAN CONTEMPLATIVE GROUP

The Christian Contemplative Group meets in Redeemer's sanctuary on the second and fourth Mondays each month, September through 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 [cycleslie@verizon.net](mailto:cycleslie@verizon.net).

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY to:

Philip D'Ambrosio	Sasha Daley
Patricia Snowden	Alejo Guzman-Vogele
Annelise Kotz	Sarah Burns
Peter Kendall	Kiki Garo
Christopher Imbrie	J Beightol
Jane Winer	Nicholas Hotes
Deborah De-Mille-Wagman	
Betsy Heavey	Melinda Nelson
Jeannette Rockwell	Beth Warner
Peggy Tucker	David Schlafer
Huda Kraske	David Manning
Emerie Gaines	John Nelson
Debbie Babcock-Daley	Katie Wolf-Rodda

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to:

Juliet & Ian Grant-Suttie  
Cathy Baker & Greg Sherrard  
Robin & Brian Razzino



## 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." Health, awareness and serenity are some of the fruits of a yoga practice. For more information, please visit the Beginner's Mind Yoga website: [www.alicedespard.blogspot.com](http://www.alicedespard.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 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

## Monday

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

## 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.



## 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 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)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Nathan Price**, Stewardship (2014)

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

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

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

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

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

**Cynthia Winder**, Outreach (2014)

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

**Julia Rogers**, Recording Secretary

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

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

home: 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

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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.*

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www.redeemerbethesda.org