From the Hearth

When you read this, I’ll be motoring through the Midwest. It’s time to visit friends and family. If all goes well, I’ll have seen people I love in Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan. I’m also attending my 40th high school reunion. I’m looking forward to reconnecting with these people, especially meeting my goddaughter’s new baby boy.

At the recent Social Media class, I talked about keeping track of friends and family through Facebook and other social media sites. But, none of those compare to a real hug and a face-to-face conversation. Now, believe me, I work hard at keeping relationships alive. I phone my family regularly and check in with other friends too. It’s the hand holding and neck hugging that means the most.

That’s why coming to church is so valuable. I know that we put our services online – and for good reason. Lots of people are listening to us. Some of them have no other way to get to church. But, they receive only a snippet of what’s really going on here. They don’t see your faces. They can’t look in your eyes. They can’t feel your caring hugs or hear your warm greetings. That’s the difference between digital worship and corporate worship.

As a part of a clergy leadership project, I began working years ago at building a virtual Episcopal community. I was successful doing it. The digital piece kept people in touch and in communication. But it was the outreach – the hours in the coffee shops, dinners together, and creative ways of meeting and praying face-to-face, that made it community.

All this is to say that I’ve enjoyed sharing pictures of your vacations and summer fun. It’s been great to IM with you on Facebook, and exchange e-mails. Now, I’m looking forward to seeing you “in the flesh”. I hope you feel the same about your Redeemer family. Welcome home and welcome back. See you in church!

Blessings,

Amma Cricket+

Looking Ahead:

July—September —Labyrinth Walks
August 13—Backpack Party
August 16—Vestry Meeting 6:30pm
August 20—Dinner & a Movie
September 10—Homecoming Sunday
   “Holy Crepes”
   Washington Cornetts & Sackbutts
September 24—Book Group meets
October 8—Organ Anniversary Evensong

Strawberry Festival Wrap-up!

All the pennies have been counted for the 2017 Strawberry Festival. After all expenses have been paid, we had a grand total of over $17,000. Wonderful!

Thanks for everyone’s hard work and contributions. You are the best.

Jefferson
from the Senior Warden

I know that we are in the second half of summer because the (dreaded by my kids, welcomed by me) "back to school" commercials have started on TV. I know because the August Exodus from Washington has gotten into full swing. And I know because the first announcements for Homecoming Sunday at Redeemer are being published.

This year, our Homecoming Sunday will feature the culinary stylings of the Holy Crepes food truck (both savory and sweet available!) The truck will be outside Redeemer, and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the church. So invite your friends!

But before we skip ahead to our fall programming, with the returns of Sunday School and the adult forum and our beloved choirs, I think we should take a moment to give thanks for the wonderful summer we're having at the church. The Redeemer Spirit is alive and well, and you can tell by the number of people who are making their way to our sanctuary on Sundays. Attendance is up – substantially – from previous summers, which I think speaks to the sustenance Redeemer is providing us in these often troubled and troubling times.

It's been especially wonderful to see so many parishioners – including our young people – taking part in the service through ushering, reading and greeting. Thank you for these ministries.

Cricket, Chris and David are putting together wonderful services that combine the best of the liturgical tradition with a more relaxed style, with paper-reducing, reusable bulletins, home-written prayers of the people inspired by Redeemer youth, and varied musical offerings. I hope you'll join us.

Blessings,

Michael Mershon, Senior Warden

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Church of the Redeemer Social Media

Please connect with Redeemer and the rector through these social media platforms:
- Facebook: Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, Bethesda, Maryland
- Facebook: Cricket Park
- Twitter: @VicarVirtual
- Linked In: Cricket Park
- Instagram: parkcricket

Events are posted on Facebook only. Please respond to these invitations so that we have accurate information about who will be attending. Thanks!

The Book Group

We have been reading Monsoon by Robert Kaplan. This book is a history of countries surrounding the Indian ocean mainly in the Middle East, South Asia, Southeast Asia and Africa. It is a scholarly book, and requires hard work and concentration to fully absorb what the author says. Therefore, one can just concentrate on a couple of chapters on a country of one's choice. Discussion of this book will take place towards the end of September.

The book selected after that, "The Forty Rules of Love" by Elif Shafak is a wise and joyous page turner that I hope many will read. It is a lyrical, imaginative novel by the most widely read female writer in Turkey and unfolds in two parallel narratives. In the 13th century, the Sufi poet Rumi encounters his spiritual mentor, a wandering dervish known as Shams of Tabriz and is transformed from a successful but unhappy cleric into a committed mystic and advocate of love. In present day Massachusetts, an unhappy American housewife, inspired by Rumi's message of love, finds the courage to undertake her own transformation. Blending East and West, past and present, the author provides a compelling dramatic and exuberant account of how love works in this world. And don't we all need love, tolerance and peace.

For more information, contact Huda Kraske at hqkraske@aol.com or by calling 301 656 2087.

All are welcome.
The Redeemer Parish Directory is available for download. To get a copy send a request to Cricket at: rector@redeemerbethesda.org

The directory is not available to vendors or the public.

Confirmation Class begins in September
Amma Cricket will hold 16 Confirmation classes for our young people on Wednesday evenings beginning in September. The classes will cover the baptismal covenant, bible study, service, our own tradition, and other faith traditions. These will take place beginning with dinner at 6:00 p.m. and the classes at 7:00 p.m. Parents of confirmation participants will have an introductory meeting on September 6 at 6:00 p.m. A full schedule will be sent in late August.

Sunday, August 20th at 5:00pm
One movie for adults and one for kids!
And a Pot-Luck Supper!

Sign-up at church or send an email to office@redeemerbethesda.org
**PARISH LIFE**

Prepare for the Backpack Drive

Really! Didn't we just finish the school year? Yes, but our friends at Housing Up hope to have their drive completed by the middle of August, so it is just the right time to begin getting funds for supplies.

If you would like to contribute to the cost of supplies and backpacks, please make a check payable to Redeemer and put "Backpack" on the memo line. These checks may be placed in the offering plate on Sundays or mailed to the church. According to a survey from two years ago the average cost of a filled backpack ranged from $40.00-$100.00, depending on the age of the child. Any contribution is helpful, as we will purchase backpacks and supplies in bulk.

Then join us to get them ready!

**Backpack Packing Party**
Sunday, August 13
Following the 10:30 a.m. Service
If you have questions, please contact Deacon Sue at rev.suevon@gmail.com or 803-413-3596.

**Senior Connection**

If you’re looking for a flexible volunteer opportunity and have 4-5 hours to offer each month, consider the Senior Connection. Our volunteers serve Montgomery County seniors who can no longer drive and need help to get to the doctor and to shop for food, or to manage their budgets. Senior Connection provides training and liability coverage, and volunteers use an online ride-scheduling system to create their own volunteer schedules. It’s convenient and easy, and makes volunteering completely flexible. Contact volunteer@seniorconnectionmc.org or 301-962-0820 for more information. Offering a few rides each month to a senior neighbor is a great way to “pay it forward”!

**Congratulations Callum!**

Callum Riggs received a Bishop John Bryson Chane Scholarship for Social Justice. The award ($1000) is given to one qualified high school senior in each region of the diocese. The scholarship was established by the Diocesan Board of the Episcopal Church Women to honor the eighth bishop of Washington, who “worked tirelessly” for social justice issues. Callum is attending Penn State this fall.

**Homecoming Sunday – September 10th**

Labor Day is past, school is in session, and it’s time to begin the program year at Redeemer. To celebrate the return of the choirs, Sunday School, Adult Forums, and half of the congregation (!), there will be a food truck at Redeemer for coffee hour. Holy Crepes food truck will be serving sweet and savory crepes from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. A portion of the food sales will be donated back to Redeemer. Weather permitting, we’ll do coffee hour outside as well. Invite a friend to church too!

**Can You Help?**

Frances Sharon needs a ride to Redeemer on Sunday mornings.

She lives right near American University—about 10 minutes from Redeemer.

If you can join this effort, tell Sharon or Bob Yates and set up a time that will work for you!

**Order with Amazon? Support Redeemer!**

If you are ordering from Amazon, please consider registering with Amazon Smile. (smile.amazon.com)

When you order through ‘Smile,’ a percentage of your order automatically comes to Redeemer. You can also click through the link on the “Other Donations” page of our website. Thank you!

(http://www.redeemerbethesda.org/stewardship-giving/other-donations/)
The Strategic Financial Resources Commission will sponsor two workshops on annual giving. The first will take place on August 12 at Christ Church Kensington and will be repeated a second time on September 9 at St. Paul's Piney in Waldorf.

These workshops are an opportunity to analyze your past annual giving and set a goal for this year's campaign. Presenters will share ideas for themes, scriptures, letters and other materials to help you develop your church's message. You will leave this event with a suggested timeline and next steps to take back to your parish and make this year's campaign a success.

The Diocese suggests that each parish send two people to the workshop so you may work together. There is no cost for these events, but please register so we know you are attending. Register for the September 9 workshop.

Does this call to you? Will you represent Redeemer?

August 6th is Transfiguration Sunday!
Contemplative Mondays

Labyrinth Walks

Until Labor Day

Come when you can and stay as long as you like! Anytime between 7:00 and 8:00pm.

Redeemer Volunteers at Silver Spring School

For the second year, thirteen Redeemer volunteers donated their time to thirty-eight third, fourth and fifth graders at Oak View School in Silver Spring. Children come from homes where Spanish is the primary language. Although most of the children read with efficiency, reading with comprehension is where tutors are helpful in advancing student to read at grade level. Instilling the joy of reading, building confidence and self esteem is the tutor's job. The reward is immeasurable. Tutors are building a better world, child by child. Success of the Program is evident. We have been invited to return for our third year.

Jane Dealy  jdthree@mac.com
Our church is blessed to have the talents, passion and spiritual leadership of Chris Betts as our director of music, and Chris is glad to serve in such an intelligent, appreciative church—a good symbiotic relationship for ministry.

I talked to Chris about his July 21st Organ Fireworks concert. He planned the program himself, trying to thread together pieces that connect as a whole while keeping the mood fresh throughout the program. He wanted the audience to “find it relaxing” and “have fun with one another.” It’s about community, he says.

I’d add that it’s about outreach. The Music at Redeemer series is a wonderful ministry our church offers thanks to the hard work of Chris. There are seventeen concerts and special liturgies scheduled at Redeemer this coming season.

Chris began playing the organ at age 11. He chose an instrument that has limited opportunities for players. Either you play in a church, or you don’t play. There are a relatively few number of people who make their living as concert organists. Out of about 7,000 theater organs that were installed in the early twentieth century, only about 40 of them remain playable in their original venues. I can’t help but wonder what organists who don’t subscribe to a faith do with their talents. Chris says that most organists come to their love of the instrument in the church.

There was excellent playing and interesting teaching at the Fireworks concert this year. In two pieces, Sinfonia from Solomon by Handel and Pièce Héroïque by Franck, I could particularly hear the organ as a symphony. This orchestral use of the organ was cultivated in the United States.

Chris told us to listen for the tuba mirabilis in the Prelude from Te Deum by Charpentier. Supposedly (true or an old organist’s tale!) the sound of the tuba mirabilis was crafted as a sort of alarm to warn of oncoming trains. A very present, attention-getting sound was needed so they went to the organ makers!

The Bells of St. Anne de Beaupré by Russell, one of my favorite pieces of the concert, was a special request from Michael Hart, our resident organ builder. Chris listened to it, agreed that it would be a fine piece to play, but our organ wasn’t fitted with the chimes needed. Michael said that wouldn’t be a problem. This was two weeks out from the concert. Michael installed the pipes needed for the chimes and Chris set to work learning a new piece and the result was wonderful.

I have a hard time sitting for long periods of time. In concerts, I often find myself counting down how many pieces are left before I get to stand and go eat the goodies. Not during this Organ Fireworks. Instead, I sat there thinking, why don’t I listen to organ music at home? Why, indeed. I don’t even listen to choral music at home and I’m a choral singer! I asked Chris for a list of suggested listening. I figured he’d say it depends on what you like, so I told him some of my favorite pieces from his concert: Carillon-Sortie by Mulet, Scherzo in G minor by Bossi and Little Fugue in G minor by Bach. Rather than a list of pieces, Chris advised me to find an organist I like. Some of his favorites include Ian Tracey and Peter Conte.

Chris told me that, “You have to play the organ as though it were breathing . . . as though you were having to take breaths.” He does this in his playing as well as his directing the choir. Chris will gently nudge us for a time. We’ll sing and sing to get a song just right. Then, he’ll take the time to walk us through the poetry of a song to make sure we don’t miss out on the worship aspect. In this manner he breathed with us through Blest Pair of Sirens by Parry, which we sang at the Evensong. What began as an intimidating song for many of us wound up being an offering. All because Chris taught us to breathe.
MUSIC AT REDEEMER

MUSIC AT REDEEMER 2017-2018 SERIES DETAILS ARE NOW ONLINE
Go to redeemerbethesda.org/music for more information

CONGRATULATIONS TO REDEEMER ORGAN SCHOLAR, LUKE BRENNAN,
who recently scored 142 out of 150 in his ABRSM Grade 8 Organ exam. The ABRSM (Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music) is a British organization that runs a highly comprehensive and demanding graded music education program. Grade 8 is its highest level, and 142 is an exceptionally high mark. Luke’s Organ Scholarship at Redeemer has been funded by the very generous support of Linda Lear and John Nickum. Additional donations by others are welcomed.

A SPECIAL CELEBRATION OF REDEEMER PIPE ORGAN, OCTOBER 8
October of this year marks the 10th anniversary of the installation of our DiGennaro-Hart pipe organ here at Redeemer. To commemorate the anniversary, we are holding a special Evensong, with internationally renowned organist and choral director, Bruce Neswick here to lead Redeemer choirs and present a brief mini-recital after the liturgy. The Evensong and Recital are at 5.00pm on Sunday, October 8. Mark your calendars and be here to enjoy this wonderful musical celebration.

SPECIAL THANKS to Lisa MacBain, Laura Rose and Kenta Usui for bringing us special music on Sunday mornings during the summer, and to Lisa, Laura and Ellen Jimerson for bringing beautiful music to our Monday evening labyrinth walks.
WASHINGTON CORNETTS AND SACKBUTTS KICK OFF 2017-2018 MUSIC AT REDEEMER SERIES

On Sunday, September 10, at 5.00pm, Music at Redeemer is hosting a performance by the highly acclaimed Washington Cornett and Sackbutt Ensemble. Cornetts are a late Renaissance and early Baroque precursor of the modern trumpet, and sackbuts are a precursor of the modern trombone. This ensemble, comprising some of the finest musicians in the Washington, DC area, is considered one of the premiere ensembles of its kind in North America, and it is a real treat to have them performing here at Redeemer.

The 60-minute program, entitled a ‘Grand Tour’ of European Courts, will feature music by prominent composers of the last 16th and 17th centuries, including the great Giovanni Gabrieli, who wrote music for the exemplary basilica of S. Marco in Venice, and was one of the pioneers of the ‘polyphonic’ style.

Because of the generosity of our Friends of Music at Redeemer, we are able to offer free admission to this concert, although a freewill offering will be collected in support of the church budget, and there will be a reception following, when you can meet the members of this elite early brass ensemble. Invite your friends and family to come and enjoy an hour of the very best music in our beautiful Redeemer sanctuary.

More information is available at earlybrassdc.org and redeemerbesthesda.org
ANNUncing the 2017-2018 MUsIC At REDEEMER SERIES

Sunday, 10 September, at 5:00 p.m.
Washington Cornett and Sackbutt Ensemble

One of the premiere early music ensembles in North America takes us on a grand tour of the European courts, with music by Giovanni Gabrieli and other masters of the 16th and 17th centuries. Free-will offering. Reception to follow.

Sunday, 8 October, at 5:00 p.m.
Pipe Organ 10th Anniversary Celebration

Special guest organist and choral director, Bruce Neswick, leads Redeemer choirs in a festal evensong in celebration of our Di-Gennaro Hart pipe organ, and presents a brief organ recital following the service. Reception to follow.

Sunday, 22 October, at 5:00 p.m.
The InscapE Chamber Orchestra

Redeemer’s Ensemble-in-Residence, directed by Richard Scerbo, presents the first of three concerts in the 2017-2018 season, with music by Paul Hindemith and his contemporaries. Free-will offering. Reception to follow.

Sunday, 5 November, at 5:00 p.m.
Gabriel Faure’s Requiem

Redeemer’s choir sings Faure’s timeless setting of the Requiem Mass as part of the Commemoration of All Faithful Departed, when we give thanks for loved ones who have gone before us. Reception to follow.

Sunday, 3 December, at 5:00 p.m.
An Advent Service of Lessons & Carols

Modeled after the famed services held each year at King’s College, Cambridge, this beautiful liturgy leads us through the stories of God’s promise of redemption with scripture and music sung by Redeemer’s choir. Reception to follow.

Sunday, 24 December, at 10:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Carols and Festal Eucharist

Celebrate the birth of Christ at this festal liturgy with special music by Redeemer choirs and an extended, thirty-minute candle-lit prelude of seasonal organ music, choral anthems, and congregational carols.

Saturday, 6 January, at 5:00 p.m.
Choral Evensong for the Feast of the Epiphany

Using the traditional liturgy of Evensong, Redeemer’s choir leads us with the Magi to the stable in Bethlehem, as we travel to worship the Christ child. With music by Benjamin Britten, David Hogan and David Willcocks. Reception to follow.

Sunday, 28 January, at 5:00 p.m.
The InscapE Chamber Orchestra

In its second of three concerts in the 2017-2018 Redeemer’s Ensemble-in-Residence presents music by Max Reger written for organ and for chamber orchestra. Free-will offering. Reception to follow.

Sunday, 18 February at 5:00 p.m.
Choral Evensong for the First Sunday of Lent

Redeemer’s Adult and Youth Choirs sing music by Herbert Howells, Herbert Murrill and Henry Purcell. This service for Lent also include the Great Litany. All proceeds from the offering benefit Episcopal Relief & Development. Reception to follow.

Sunday, 11 March, at 5:00 p.m.
Carmina: Glories of the English Renaissance

Carmina chamber choir and accompanying viol consort present a program of music from the first golden age of English choral music, with works by William Byrd, John Dowland, John Sheppard, and Robert White. Free-will offering. Reception to follow.

Thursday, 29 March, at 7:30 p.m.
Choral Eucharist for Maundy Thursday

This traditional for Maundy Thursday, the first of the Triaun Sacram (the Three Sacred Days), includes the Washing of Feet, the Stripping of the Altar and music by Maurice Durufle and Peter Aston, sung by Redeemer’s choirs.

Friday, 30 March, at 12 noon and 7:30 p.m.
The Solemn Liturgies of Good Friday

At 12 noon we gather around the Stations of Cross to meditate on the Passion of Christ, interspersed with beautiful sacred music. At 7.30 p.m. the traditional liturgy of Good Friday leads us towards redemption through the Cross.

Saturday, 31 March, at 8:30 p.m.
The Great Vigil of Easter

Beginning at the columbarium, the liturgy includes the Lighting of the Paschal Candle, the Exsultet, the Prophecies, the First Eucharist of Easter, and special music sung by Redeemer’s choirs.

Sunday, 1 April, at 10:30 a.m.
Festal Eucharist of the Resurrection

Celebrate the Resurrection of Christ at this festal liturgy, including music sung by Redeemer’s choir with brass ensemble. Following the liturgy, join us for traditional hot cross buns and an Easter egg hunt on the lawn.

Sunday, 15 April, at 5:00 p.m.
Pianist Sam Post in Concert

Washington pianist Sam Post plays selections from Bach’s Well-Tempered Clavier and traces their influence through to his own compositions, from fugues to ragtime. Free-will offering. Reception to follow.

Sunday, 6 May, at 5:00 p.m.
The InscapE Chamber Orchestra

In its final concert of the 2017-2018 season, Redeemer’s Ensemble-in-Residence takes advantage of the perfect acoustics of our sanctuary, presenting Mahler’s strikingly beautiful Das Lied von der Erde in its chamber version. Free-will offering. Reception to follow.

Sunday, 3 June, at 5:00 p.m.
Festal Choral Evensong

Redeemer’s Adult and Youth choirs lead us in this beautiful liturgy, using the form that has been practiced in the England and around the world for more than five hundred years. With favorite Anglican music by Brewer and Sumson. Reception to follow.

Special thanks for the Friends of Music at Redeemer for making all of these wonderful events possible.
Dear friends in Christ,

I am writing this week’s Forward Today from Oklahoma City, where I’ve come to attend the Episcopal Youth Event. Once every three years, youth from the entire Episcopal Church gather for several days of worship, learning, service, and fellowship. As you can imagine, it’s an inspiring and energizing place to be.

Forward Movement has a table in the exhibit hall, and we are enjoying our conversation with youth and also with the adults who are here. Fans of Lent Madness will be interested to know that Tim Schenck and I will be hosting a contest tomorrow, as the youth vote on whether St. Longinus or St. Quiteria earns a place in the 2018 bracket. If you’d like to learn more about that, head over to the Lent Madness website.

Mostly though, I’m here to listen to younger leaders in the church. The youth who have gathered here are not the future of the church. They are the church. If you want to know how to make our church more hospitable to younger people, ask them! If you want more involvement of young leaders in your vestry or diocesan committees, ask them! If you want to know what it looks like to be a follower of Jesus as a high schooler, ask them! They are ready to testify, if we are ready to listen.

Watch coverage of this event at the Episcopal News Service. Find out who was at EYE from your diocese, and listen to the stories of their experience. Today the kids are visiting the Oklahoma City bombing memorial, and they’ll have that and many other rich experiences to share with you. I promise you, the conversation you have will be a blessing to you and to the young person who is offered a chance to testify to the power of God’s love in their lives and the world around them.

Yours faithfully,

Scott Gunn
Executive Director
Worship Assistants Wanted

John Harbeson is starting to schedule the worship assistants for the fall services. If you are called to be one of the ministers at a service, send your wishes and availability to John now so that he can include you in the schedule. If you need training, just ask!

Send your request to Jwharbeson@aol.com

Join THE GUILD!

Officially, they are known as the Altar Guild. The rector prefers "Angel Guild". These faithful servants make it possible for us to worship in the beauty of holiness. Helen Zitomer and her crew set up for each service, clean the sacred vessels afterward, make sure the frontal and other paraments are the correct color for the season or occasion, and put up hymn numbers every week. This faithful band of sisters would love to welcome a few more angels into the fold. Gray or blue hair is not required! Psst. Men can do this too. Please contact Helen to volunteer. She can answer your questions about how frequently you would serve and when you could be trained. Her email is hzitomer@yahoo.com.
July 2017 Vestry meeting minutes

Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, Bethesda, MD
July 19, 2017

Present: Rev. Cricket Park; Michael Hart; Karen Fitzgerald; Erik Devereaux; Brooke Anthony; David Brown; Steve Gibson; Shannon Hoogerheide; Michael Mershon; Catherine Sands and Clark Downs (by phone)

Absent: Karen Stewart

Erik Devereaux read a prayer by St. Ignatius Loyola to open the meeting.

- The June Vestry meeting minutes were approved

Treasurer’s Report

Steve Gibson reported that pledge payments continue to be below the allocated monthly budget but are still substantially ahead of budget year-to-date. Total expenses continue to be below budget, due in part to timing (audit cost, building reserve, outreach are zero YTD, but will be expended during 2017) and in part to expenses running below budget (e.g. bookkeeper expense and a contingent health insurance item). As of the end of June, net income is $49,513.

Michael Febrey will be hired for the 2016 audit.

- The Treasurer’s report was approved.

Rector’s Report

During the future budget discussions, Cricket will present a request to hire a part-time communication assistant. This will cut out some of the minutiae she handles so she can spend more time on pastoral issues.

“Conversations with Cricket” have been taking place between services.

Two local studios have rented sanctuary space for recitals.

Summer attendance is looking great! We’re up about 10 people each Sunday from the last year.

The summer nonscheduled ministry experiment and new creative liturgy are getting great reviews.

The first “Spirituality Uncorked” event was a success. The Rector and nine others discussed the Beatitudes. Request for July is discussion on the different protestant denominations. We plan to meet at the Irish Inn again, but this time in the bar. Please remember to tell the Irish Inn that you are from Redeemer whenever you visit them.

A movie (“Gran Torino”) will be shown on Sunday afternoon, August 20th at 4:00 p.m. A potluck dinner is also a possibility.

It has been suggested that having food trucks on Homecoming Sunday (September 10) might be fun. Cricket will take this on.

Senior Warden’s Report

Michael and Cricket have regular meetings and report that the parish is functioning well.

Junior Warden’s Report

Clark Downs filled in for Karen who is on vacation. He spoke with the Vestry via phone from Western Massachusetts. The kitchen has a new stove and a new refrigerator, both of which are up and working.

Clark has been requesting bids for rectory repair: painting; replacing siding; repairing roof. The porch has already been refurbished and painted. The response from Wilson & Son Construction Co., who comes highly recommended, has come in with a $8500 bid.

Karen is looking into repairing the stained glass windows in the sanctuary. She will include this in her report.

Old Business

A report from Kim Fletcher, who facilitated the Vestry Retreat in April, was distributed. The theme of the retreat was to review core values, ministries, and determine areas of focus for the development of a 3-year strategic plan. Erik opened a discussion of how we can make “church and spiritual development” more accommodating to parents and children, considering their time, commitments and range of ages.

The August Vestry meeting will be on Aug. 16, 2017.

Cricket adjourned the meeting at 7:50pm with a prayer from Compline.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine D. Sands, Recording Secretary
Beginning a while ago, a group of mostly retired men began gathering for a fellowship lunch on the third Friday of the month. The group discusses whatever is on their collective minds and catches up on how they are all doing. Being older and retired, sometimes the discussion centers on health, other times on household management, sometimes investment philosophies, national politics, the economy, and, of course, life in the parish. Monthly attendance has varied from as few as 4 to as many as 11. We usually gather in the bar at the Irish Inn at Glen Echo at 11:30. But we have ventured to other locations, including the home of Ben Ivins. A reminder email with the location and time is sent to all interested persons early in the week we are meeting. If you would like to know more about the group, or be put on the email list, contact Denny Shaw (shawdf22@gmail.com) or Bob Dresser (Robert.dresser@gmail.com).

The Women’s lunch takes a vacation in August. We’ll be back together again in September. Watch This Week at Redeemer and the Sunday bulletins for more information. The date will be September 21st at 12:30 p.m. Place to be determined.

We’ve had a couple of lovely evenings talking about the Beatitudes and the different traditions of western Christianity. In September we’ll meet again on Friday the 15th at 7:00 pm. This time we’ll gather at Melhwa in Friendship Heights. Plan to join us then and RSVP on the sign up board closer to the time of the event.

### Treasurer’s Report

Redeemer’s 2017 operating results through the end of June are set forth in the adjoining table. June pledge income was below the allocated monthly budget, but year-to-date pledge income is still ahead of budget. Total expense continues to be substantially below budget, due in part to timing (e.g. audit cost, building reserve, and outreach are zero YTD, but will be expended during 2017) and in part to expenses running below budget (e.g. bookkeeper expense and health insurance contingency). Net income is $49,513 above budget as of the end of June.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about Redeemer’s finances.

Stephen L. Gibson
Treasurer

### Church of the Redeemer Profit and Loss Statement Jan-June 2017

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<td><strong>Loose Plate Offering</strong></td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td><strong>Outreach Giving</strong></td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Special Offerings</strong></td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td><strong>Personnel Expense</strong></td>
<td>$134,449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Event &amp; Activity Income</strong></td>
<td>$24,000</td>
<td><strong>Program Expense</strong></td>
<td>$22,538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Facilities Use</strong></td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td><strong>Property Expense</strong></td>
<td>$23,376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Income</strong></td>
<td>$13</td>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>$316,231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>$316,231</td>
<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
<td>$256,013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NET OPERATING GAIN (LOSS)**

| **2017 Pledge** | $18,491 |
| **2017 Over Pledge** | $826 |
| **2017 Non Pledge** | $315 |
| **Prior Year Pledge** | $0 |
| **Loose Plate Offering** | $(393) |
| **Special Offerings** | $3,168 |
| **Event & Activity Income** | $(4,787) |
| **Facilities Use** | $(197) |
| **Other Income** | $1,705 |
| **Total Income** | $24,560 |

**Annual Budget**

| **2017 Pledge** | $432,000 |
| **2017 Over Pledge** | $7,000 |
| **2017 Non Pledge** | $12,000 |
| **Prior Year Pledge** | $5,715 |
| **Loose Plate Offering** | $5,000 |
| **Special Offerings** | $5,000 |
| **Event & Activity Income** | $28,000 |
| **Facilities Use** | $20,000 |
| **Other Income** | $25 |
| **Total Income** | $509,025 |

**Net Operating Gain**

| **2017 Pledge** | $49,513 |
| **2017 Over Pledge** | $(826) |
| **2017 Non Pledge** | $(315) |
| **Prior Year Pledge** | $(0) |
| **Loose Plate Offering** | $(393) |
| **Special Offerings** | $3,168 |
| **Event & Activity Income** | $(4,787) |
| **Facilities Use** | $(197) |
| **Other Income** | $(1,705) |
| **Total Income** | $(24,954) |

**Annual Budget**

| **2017 Pledge** | $432,000 |
| **2017 Over Pledge** | $7,000 |
| **2017 Non Pledge** | $12,000 |
| **Prior Year Pledge** | $5,715 |
| **Loose Plate Offering** | $5,000 |
| **Special Offerings** | $5,000 |
| **Event & Activity Income** | $28,000 |
| **Facilities Use** | $20,000 |
| **Other Income** | $25 |
| **Total Income** | $509,025 |

**Net Operating Gain (Loss)**

| **2017 Pledge** | $(49,513) |
| **2017 Over Pledge** | $0 |
| **2017 Non Pledge** | $(315) |
| **Prior Year Pledge** | $0 |
| **Loose Plate Offering** | $(393) |
| **Special Offerings** | $3,168 |
| **Event & Activity Income** | $(4,787) |
| **Facilities Use** | $(197) |
| **Other Income** | $(1,705) |
| **Total Income** | $(24,954) |

**Annual Budget**

| **2017 Pledge** | $432,000 |
| **2017 Over Pledge** | $7,000 |
| **2017 Non Pledge** | $12,000 |
| **Prior Year Pledge** | $5,715 |
| **Loose Plate Offering** | $5,000 |
| **Special Offerings** | $5,000 |
| **Event & Activity Income** | $28,000 |
| **Facilities Use** | $20,000 |
| **Other Income** | $25 |
| **Total Income** | $509,025 |

**Treasurer’s Report**

Redeemer’s 2017 operating results through the end of June are set forth in the adjoining table. June pledge income was below the allocated monthly budget, but year-to-date pledge income is still ahead of budget. Total expense continues to be substantially below budget, due in part to timing (e.g. audit cost, building reserve, and outreach are zero YTD, but will be expended during 2017) and in part to expenses running below budget (e.g. bookkeeper expense and health insurance contingency). Net income is $49,513 above budget as of the end of June.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about Redeemer’s finances.

Stephen L. Gibson
Treasurer
ON-LINE PLEDGING AND DONATIONS

Pledge payments: Payments can be made on a pledge (one-time/monthly/weekly) using a checking/savings account or with a credit/debit card. Participants can create a profile, set up recurring payments and make one-time donations. Donors may also choose to cover the service fee if they wish to do so. A receipt for each and every payment will go to the donor and to the Parish Office. For donations of stock, please contact the Parish Office.

For the 2017 Fall Pledge Campaign, you may complete an electronic pledge card, send it to the office, and then continue on to set up payment. Printed pledge cards are available in the Narthex and in the Parish Hall.

Donations: Donations can be made using the on-line service for parish programs, such as Altar Flowers, Friends of Music at Redeemer, Memorials, and other ad hoc donations. These will all be one-time payments.

Payment Information: Payment information is secure. Access is only possible by the donor, Vanco and the Parish Office through specially set up passwords and access codes.

We wish a happy birthday to those born in August:

Ben Ivins, Adam Tucker, Genie Jones, Nicholas Rychlik, Claudia Hull, Tom Rogers, Colette Yehl, Michael Yehl, Lois Brown, Brian Beard, Callie Wang, Joanne Bowman, Marissa McInturff, Leifur Tomasson, Peter Carlson, Rebecca Tucker, Justin Hess, Claudia Serrin, Charles Croston, Erik Devereux, Anya Sokolowski, Caitlin Moriarty, Stephen Park, Ioulia Vvedenskaya, Catherine deFontenay, Rachel King, Charles Penn

And Happy Anniversary to:

Cricket and Steve Park, Sally and Ron Pugsley, Tom and Leslie McNaugher, Tilla and Brenda McAnthony, Mary K and Brammam Young, Kiki and Lou Garo, Ann and John Harbeson

OUR FAITH COMMUNITY WELCOMES REFUGEES

The Redeemer Spirit
August 2017
Welcome

Welcome to The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Bethesda, Maryland, a vibrant, growing parish community of “inquiring and discerning hearts”, where all – the doubter, the seeker, and the believer – are welcome to join us in living and wrestling with the often difficult questions of faith. Here we value an Anglican spirituality – one that is open to the mystery of the Holy and which celebrates the dignity of human nature and the beauty of all creation.

New emails at Redeemer.
Cricket: rector@redeemerbethesda.org
Chris Betts: music@redeemerbethesda.org
The office: office@redeemerbethesda.org
Bookkeeper: accounting@redeemerbethesda.org
Please start using these and adjust your contact lists!
The old Verizon accounts no longer work.