



THE REDEEMER SPIRIT

December 2015

A monthly publication of The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, Bethesda, Maryland

FROM THE HEARTH



Dear Friends in Christ,
Happy New Year! The Advent Season begins the church year. New Year's traditions call for reflection and look to the future. My reflections of the past are good. Redeemer is a fabulous parish, full of loving and caring people. We have lots of fun together, especially when food is involved! Looking to the future, I am committed to supporting opportunities for ministry.

Some of you are interested in taking on pastoral care and healing ministries. The excitement of those who are going to tutor young people in Silver Spring is palpable. Others are working on a systematic means to record our worship services in order to make them available on-line, not only for those in our family who are unable to get to church, but to introduce others to the Redeemer community.

We have wonderful opportunities for contemplative Christianity. I hope these continue and grow. I'm also pleased to have two Education for Ministry groups at Redeemer now. My desire is that there are more opportunities for parishioners to study scripture, church history, and theology so that you are more confident in your faith and can more easily invite people into this amazing community.

Are there parish activities we could try where people of all ages can participate? Perhaps Soup, Salad, & Scripture nights in Lent or Parish Family Game Night are in our future. Maybe a Parents' Morning or Evening Out? Could we sponsor an open-invitation dinner in order to get to know our neighbors better? Healing Prayers every week? It can happen. Let's send more food to the Manna Food Pantry! What are your ideas? The staff and I are here to support you.

Want to get started today?

- ✓ **Be a bulletin board buddy.** In cooperation with staff, keep the parish hall bulletin boards fresh with information, pictures, and ways to engage the congregation. Our bulletin boards currently are: Mission/Outreach, Music, Children/Youth, Membership, Community News, Sign-up, and Vestry. Bring your creative ideas!
- ✓ **Volunteer with buildings & grounds.** Thank you to all of the wonderful garden keepers. We hear lots of compliments about our gardens. And, thank you to those who helped Clark Downs with the fall clean-up day. We'll need help this winter with snow removal and other maintenance items. Please let me know if you would be willing to serve.
- ✓ **Help administrate social media.** Become a Redeemer Facebook page administrator in order to post events and track metrics. Assist the rector in planning social media strategy. I'm open to new possibilities.

- ✓ **Join an existing ministry.** Our existing ministries need new volunteers. Men can be on the Altar Guild! Really, they can. Coffee hour doesn't magically appear - can you help with that? Could you welcome newcomers by delivering a loaf of bread? Vestry nominations are coming open in January. The name tag board requires regular 'straightening'. Whether you have a few hours to volunteer or a lot of them, there is a ministry for you at/through Redeemer.
- ✓ **Help in the office during office hours.** Do you have some time to help stuff bulletins? Are you available to share hospitality by answering the telephone and greeting guests? Please contact me and let me know or sign up on the sheet on the office door.

May God's blessings be with you and yours for Advent, Christmas, and always,

Amma Cricket+

DECEMBER-AT-A-GLANCE

Saturday, December 5, 4:00–7:00 pm
Angela Beckman Appreciation Party
home of Meredith Griggs

Sunday, December 6, 8:00 & 10:30 am
2nd Sunday of Advent
Visit from St. Nicholas
A Service of Lessons & Carols for Advent at 5:00pm

Sunday, December 13, 8:00 & 10:30 am
3rd Sunday of Advent
10:30 am Service:
Choral Eucharist with Pageant

Sunday, December 20, 8:00 & 10:30 am
4th Sunday of Advent

Wednesday, December 23 at Noon
Holy Eucharist—"Blue Christmas"

Thursday, December 24
4:00 pm Family Eucharist
10:00pm Choral Prelude
10:30pm Choral Eucharist

Friday, December 25 at 10:00am
Holy Eucharist with Christmas Carols
and a special musical offering by Andrew Pardini

WORSHIP

THE LITURGICAL REVIEW – ADVENT THROUGH EPIPHANY

Here's what to expect on Sunday mornings in December and January:

Advent blue, a reminder of the expectancy of the season, is the seasonal color. We change to white for Christmas and the Sundays after until after the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord, on January 10. White is the color of celebration. It is used at Christmas, Easter, and for funerals and other celebratory occasions. From January 10 until Ash Wednesday, the ordinary green returns.

During Advent, we'll pray Form I of the Prayers of the People. We'll say it at 8:00 a.m. and speak and chant it at 10:30 a.m. Eucharistic Prayer B is most appropriate for this season cycle as it emphasizes the Incarnation.



Director of Music Chris Betts has planned lovely offerings of music for our liturgies on Sundays and for Lessons and Carols on December 6, Taize on December 7, and Christmas Eve.

Be sure to thank an Altar Guild member, or any liturgical assistant, when you see one working before or after a worship service. This is a very busy season for all of the loyal volunteers who make it possible for worship to happen with grace and love.



TAIZE SERVICE & HEALING RITE

Monday, December 7, 7:30 p.m.

The next Taizé Service with Healing Rite will take place on Monday, December 7, at 7:30 p.m., in the Nave. The Taizé Service is offered on the first Monday of each month, October – June, and every Monday during the season of Lent. Taizé is an informal, contemplative liturgy with scripture, icons, incense, silence, and chant-like music, accompanied by piano, guitar, and other instruments. The Healing Rite – prayers for healing of body, mind, or spirit for yourself or someone you love – is offered at the conclusion of the service. We extend a special invitation to those who have never experienced the quiet beauty of Taizé. Aaron Goen will be the guest music leader.

"BLUE CHRISTMAS" SERVICE

The holidays often trigger sadness in addition to excitement and expectation. This year, Redeemer will offer a special liturgy on Wednesday, December 23, at 12 noon, for those who are grieving a loss or other transition to help them through this difficult time. In addition to the service, if it would be helpful for you to talk with others in the same position, please let the Rev'd Cricket Park, know: 301-229-3770 or revcbpark@verizon.net.



PERSONAL NOTE

We offer our condolences to: Carolyn Rutledge on the death of her husband, Neal. Neal's funeral will be at Redeemer on December 12th at 11:00am. May his soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

All are welcome to join us for worship on Wednesdays. The service of Morning Prayer, taken from *The Book of Common Prayer*, is held in the side chapel (St Luke Chapel) at 9:00 a.m. The liturgy lasts for about 30 minutes and includes time for intercessory prayer.



Holy Eucharist is celebrated at 12:00 noon. The liturgy includes materials from *The Book of Common Prayer* and *Enriching our Worship*. The homily typically includes dialogue about the lectionary readings for the coming Sunday. Worshippers gather round the altar for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. We hope you will join us when you are able!

MUSIC

ADVENT – THE VERY BEST TIME OF THE YEAR

(FOR CHURCH MUSIC!)

By Chris Betts



For those of us who have grown up with music in church, it's always been clear that Advent has been a time that has inspired the very best in composers of sacred music. The

penitence and quiet hope create an atmosphere that is loved by musicians the world over.

On Sundays during Advent, the Redeemer Adult and Youth Choirs will be leading us in our wonderful Advent hymns, and sharing some of the most beautiful carols and anthems, particularly at our Advent Service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 6 at 5.00pm. This service is based on a model that emerged in the United Kingdom in the early years of the 20th century. Using scripture and music, it takes us on a journey through the themes of Advent. Beginning in Genesis we hear how God created humankind and the story of our subsequent separation from the idyll of Eden. We then hear from Isaiah as he shares his vision of a blooming in the wilderness and a coming time of universal peace, and from St. Luke as he tells of the delivery of great news to the Virgin Mary: you will bear a child whose kingdom will reign forever.

This year's service includes some old favorites sung by the choirs, and also some carols that are new at Redeemer. Otto Goldschmidt's 'A tender shoot' is based on Isaiah 11:1, and John Stainer's 'How beautiful upon the mountains' is a beautiful setting of Isaiah 52:7. (Before becoming organist at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, John Stainer was organist at Magdalen College, Oxford, where he was very influential in the 19th century revival of the Christmas carol.) We will be upholding the Redeemer tradition by ending the service with Sergei Rachmaninoff's serene and powerful 'Bogoroditse Devo', a hymn to the Virgin Mary.

There is also plenty of active participation for the congregation, as together we sing all the great hymns of the season, beginning with the traditional plainchant 'O come, O come, Emmanuel', and ending with John Wesley's 'Lo, he comes with clouds descending'.

We hope you will be able to make this service part of your devotional journey through Advent. It is also a great time to invite friends into our church as we share this beautiful liturgy. The service is followed by a reception in the Parish Hall.

I am particularly grateful to the Friends of Music at Redeemer, whose generous contributions make the music at this special service possible.

Friends of Music at Redeemer

The Music Department continues to encourage donations to the Friends of Music, a Redeemer fund for the 2015-2016 season. This fund supports special music at all of our major worship events of the year: All Saints, Advent, Christmas and Easter, and allows us to invite members of our community into our church to hear outstanding concerts. This year's concerts include the U.S. Navy Sea Chanters, Eya and Divisio, and organists Janet Yieh (of Trinity Church, Wall Street and Yale University) and our own Director of Music, Chris Betts. The names of all of our donors are listed in our concert programs.



Redeemer Pipe Organ featured in special Music at Redeemer concert, January 17, 2016

Our church is very fortunate to have a wonderful pipe organ built by Michael Hart and the DiGennaro Hart Organ Company, and our new Director of Music, Christopher Betts, is going to present a special concert on it on Sunday, January 17 at 5.00pm.

With music by the great Johann Sebastian Bach, the virtuosic Franz Liszt, Samuel Sebastian Wesley (grandson of hymn writer Charles Wesley and renowned composer of his day), theater and church organist Percy Whitlock, and Washington composer Leo Sowerby, come and hear how the organ is packed full of color and passion! The concert is followed by a reception in the Parish Hall. A free-will offering will be taken at the door. With special thanks to the Friends of Music at Redeemer for making this event possible.

UPCOMING MUSICAL EVENTS

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

A Service of Lessons & Carols for Advent

Modeled after the famed service held each year at King's College, Cambridge, this festive liturgy, sung by Redeemer's Adult and Youth Choirs, includes works by Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, Michael Praetorius, Edward Elgar, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Boris Ord, Richard Shephard and Craig Phillips. Reception to follow.

Wednesday, December 24, at 10:30 p.m.

Festal Eucharist of the Nativity

An extended, candlelit prelude of organ voluntaries, choral anthems, and congregational carols will begin at 10:00 p.m. Music will include works Johann Sebastian Bach, Louis Vierne, Harold Darke, H.C. Stewart, David Willcocks, John Rutter and William Bradley Roberts. Arrive early to ensure seating.

FRIENDS OF MUSIC AT REDEEMER

The 2015-2016 Music at Redeemer series brochure is available on the parish website or at the church. We encourage you to take copies to share with friends and family. 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/honor/celebration of... or in thanksgiving for... All gifts are tax-deductible. Questions? Contact Christopher Betts, Director of Music: [mu: sic.redeemer@verizon.net](mailto:mu:sic.redeemer@verizon.net).

ADULT CHOIR AND YOUTH CHOIRS: NEW SINGERS WELCOME!

The Adult and Youth volunteer choirs provide music for the 10:30 Eucharist each Sunday and for special liturgies throughout the year. With a focus on the music of the English Cathedral tradition, the repertoire of the Choirs spans many centuries. The Adult Choir on Thursday evenings, 7:30-9:00 p.m. The Youth Choir rehearses on Wednesdays, 4:45-5:30 p.m.. This is a wonderful – and FREE – opportunity for high quality music education for young people right here at Redeemer. If you and/or your children are interested in joining either choir, please contact Director of Music Chris Betts: mu: sic.redeemer@verizon.net.

PARISH LIFE

REDEEMER BOOK GROUP

The group is currently reading *The Owl Who Liked Sitting on Caesar* by Martin Windrow, a heartfelt and heartbreaking testament to people's love of their animals and the way in which they enrich lives. Place and date to discuss the book TBD. Questions? Contact Huda: hqkraske@aol.com.



YOU CAN KNIT AND PURL TOO

The New Needlers, a group of Redeemer members who enjoy crafts with sticks, yarn, needles, and thread, have been meeting together for a few months now. Many of their wares will be available at the Alternative Gift tables in the Parish Hall on December 6 and 13. They meet at 4:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is December 16. Don't know how to knit or crochet? We can teach you. Can't make that time slot? That's okay. You can work on projects in the comfort of your own home at your pace.

Amma Cricket has some yarn in her office if you are interested in making a prayer shawl. Prayer shawls can be given to someone you know to let them know they're being remembered and loved through a difficult time or you can donate them to the church for others to do that very thing. Prayer shawl ministries are happening all over the country. Other handmade goods are great for our sales table. There's nothing like a handmade gift for the holidays, especially when you know it's supporting a ministry of love.

PARISH LIFE

We wish a happy birthday to those born in December:

Tyler Packard-Winkler	Mary K Young
Theo Akpinar	Amy Yount
Michael Wang	Jochen Kraske
Lucy Court	Evan Judge
Susan Cinkala	Nico Judge
Jorge Guzman	Joan Kennedy
Lillian Lester-McMinn	Justin Arrington
Ayesha Court	Charlie Hundley
Charlie Gibson	Lou Garo
John Nickum	Sam Nickerson
Mary Iin Raisch	Julia Rychlik
Zoe Razzino	

FALL CLEAN UP—THANK YOU!

On November 15, led by our three resident and devoted horticulturalists, Susan Grigsby, Susan Graham Fitzgerald and Frank Anderson, a small band of parishioners blew, raked and swept away the detritus of summer preparing our ground for the coming of Easter. Hundreds of bulbs were planted and many a weed uprooted under the careful attention of Lois Burleigh, Denny Shaw, Jane Winer, Nwanganga Shields, Emilie Downs, Marie Caulfield and the Court family. Marie Caulfield discovered a pomegranate at our border and chorister Lucy Court ended the afternoon with a new pruning skill.

We need new members for the cleanup team. This activity continues throughout the year. Our leaders are sometimes feeling the pains of age and the husbandry of the grounds is about renewal. If you have any interest in maintaining the beauty of our gardens, please reach out to Frank Anderson, Susan Fitzgerald or Susan Grigsby. Your company would be most welcome.

Clark Evans Downs

A Visit from St. Nicholas

Sunday, December 6, 10:30 a.m.

St. Nicholas, fourth century Bishop of Myra, will make his annual visitation to The Church of the Redeemer at the very start of the [10:30](#) Eucharist on Sunday, December 6. Children, be sure your parents get you to church on time!

MISSION

CHILDREN'S TUTORING GROUP: PLEASE JOIN!

Parishioner Olivia Devereux is helping to put together a group interested in tutoring children in grades 3 through 5 at Oakview Elementary School in East Silver Spring. Ninety percent of children at the school are living below the poverty level, yet they are anxious to learn and often aware they are lagging behind. This is a wonderful opportunity to help them to a better future. It will make your heart sing to sit with these children and help them learn. Once a group is formed, a regular day and time will be set to go to the school (we can car pool) and after teaching, get together for coffee. If you are interested, please contact Olivia: ohdevereux@gmail.com.

The Mission/Outreach Committee

SAMARITAN MINISTRY WISH LIST

Samaritan Ministry is a long-time mission/outreach partner of Redeemer and funds have been provided to Samaritan from the 2015 mission/outreach budget. In addition to monetary funding, Samaritan is seeking the following items for the people they are helping move from homelessness back to productive lives.

- ✓ Room deodorizers
- ✓ Food gift cards
- ✓ Full size toiletries/hygiene products—male and female
- ✓ Men's new khaki pants
- ✓ 2 computer workstations with chairs
- ✓ Replacement chairs
- ✓ Bottled juice and water for "walking" food bags
- ✓ New computer
- ✓ Men's briefs and t-shirts

In addition, Samaritan is seeking basic housecleaning services for all their offices. If you are able to help and/or donate any items, please contact Stephanie: 202-722-2280, ext. 304 or sbarros@samaritanministry.org.

Samaritan Ministry seeks a full-time Director of Development (DD) to engage and inspire others in our mission. The DD oversees all fundraising activities including strategic fundraising, individual giving campaigns, sponsorship and major gift solicitation, grant-writing, and event-related planning. With the Executive Director (ED), the DD cultivates, engages, and recognizes individual and institutional donors and partner organizations. The DD oversees the design of Samaritan publications and key fundraising events with support from an associate. For more information including the job description, go to <http://samaritanministry.org/content/job-opportunities>. To apply, please send resume and cover letter to: The Rev. David B. Wolf, ED at dwolf@samaritanministry.org

WHAT CAN I DO FOR REFUGEES?

Mary Lasits, Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services, visited with the Vestry at their September meeting. Mary provided some background regarding this organization, headquartered in Baltimore, and ideas for how to be involved beyond writing a check. The ways to help are:

- Be a mentor for the first six months of a family's arrival.
- Volunteer time to drive clients to cultural orientation and pre-employment trainings and appointments
- Help set up apartments for newly arriving families and/or pick up furniture for those apartments. Needed items are:
 - ✓ Mattresses (without rips or stains), box springs, and frames
 - ✓ Cribs built after 2011
 - ✓ Strollers, highchairs, changing tables, car seats
 - ✓ Infant and toddler clothing;
 - ✓ Sets of dishes, silverware, can openers, pots and pans
 - ✓ Cleaning products
 - ✓ Linens and toiletries.

If you believe you may be called to ministry in this capacity, please contact the Rev'd Cricket Park:

revcbpark@verizon.net or Mission/Outreach Chair Jim Packard Winkler: jim_winkler@dai.com. You

may also obtain further information by contacting Mary Lasits: 410-230-2755 or mlasits@lirs.org.



ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR JANUARY 24, 2016

Be sure to join the Redeemer Parish family at the Annual Meeting in the parish hall after the 10:30 a.m. service on January 24. We'll review the last year, take the opportunity to share the financial status of the parish, and elect officers and diocesan convention delegates. The Nominations Committee will be formed in early December and will begin discernment for candidates for these important positions. We need three new vestry members to fill the positions of off-going vestry members Cathy Arrington, Janice Huey, and Mary Packard Winkler. Please prayerfully consider saying 'yes' to the nominating committee representative if you are called and asked to step forward for a leadership role.

MISSION

CAPITAL AREA INTERFAITH FRIENDS UPDATE AND COLLECTION DRIVE FOR LOCAL REFUGEES!

At CAIF's October meeting, Jason Hamacher from Lost Origins productions gave a great talk and slide show about his visits to Syria in the last 10 years and his work recording Syrian Orthodox Christian chants and Sufi Chants that have not been recorded before and could be lost because of the war. He talked about the changes that have occurred there since the war and we saw pictures of many sites that have since been destroyed and many faith leaders who have been tragically killed or kidnapped.

CAIF voted to make a collection for Syrian and other local refugees. Items collected will be donated to the International Cultural Center who provide social services to these families in Montgomery County. 9513 Anchorage Pl, Bethesda (The Rychliks) is a collection point. At right are needed items including winter clothing for all ages. In addition to donating, spread information about this drive to your friends, families, and faith communities. Try to make people as aware as possible, because we want to provide as much as we can to people in need.

The group also elected new leadership in October and plan the following events:

December: meal at Calvary Women's Shelter

January: Meeting with Operation Understanding DC, a youth group comprised of African-American and Jewish youth, to discuss race and justice issues.

February: Pack meals for Montgomery County's hungry at Washington Hebrew Congregation's Hunger Helpers program:

March: TBD

April: Attend the Hindu Festival of Holi

May: TBD

Dominique Rychlik

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS DRIVE FOR LOCAL REFUGEES!

Winter clothing for all ages

Metro Cards (bus/subway): The majority of our clients do not have access to a car and rely on public transportation to commute. Metro cards are essential in helping our clients get to work, attend medical appointments, and visit their children's schools. We kindly request prepaid metro cards to help our clients attend to their daily lives.

Funds for Laptops: Phoenix is a local organization that will provide our clients with one secondhand laptop for \$100. With each \$100 donation, one of our clients will receive a laptop to complete homework, search for jobs, and connect with family in their country of origin.

Gift Cards: Our clients are primarily low to moderate-income earners. Because of the financial strains many of the clients face, gift cards to supermarkets, businesses, and restaurants are a supportive gesture. Gift cards to supermarkets such will allow a family to purchase its needed home-goods. A gift card to Staples, for example, can help a child purchase essential school supplies for the academic year, and a gift card to a local ice cream parlor can be a special family treat!

Target: It is difficult for many of our low to moderate-income clients to purchase essential household items. Gift cards to Target will help our clients purchase toiletries, cleaning products, and other household items for a decent price.

Toys: Many of our clients have come to the United States without any personal possessions. For children in particular, this is an unfortunate reality. Currently, we are in need of toys for boys ages 8-10yrs, girls ages 4-7yrs, and infants. In the future, toys for kids of all ages may be welcome.

Food: Clients face difficulties accessing affordable, healthy foods while living on a tight budget. Nonperishable food donations such as bags of Basmati rice, lentils, oil, canned goods, and dry snacks are much appreciated.



Toy Sunday - St. Nicholas Sunday - December 6

Every year, Redeemer collects new, unwrapped toys and/or funds for the purchase of toys for needy children served by Community Family Life Services (CFLS), a long-time Redeemer outreach partner. To contribute, please bring the toys on Sunday, December 6 or, if you wish to contribute funds, please speak with Jefferson or Cathy Arrington following the [10:30](#) Eucharist on December 6. Jefferson and Cathy will do the shopping and deliver the toys. Questions? Contact Jefferson: jefferson7019@aol.com.

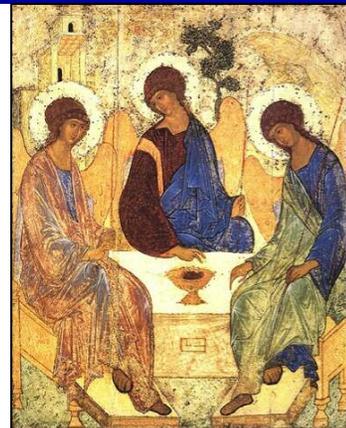
CHRISTIAN FORMATION

CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR ADULTS

Sunday Adult Forums

The Adult Forum takes place on Sunday mornings, September through June, at 9:15 a.m. in the Parish Hall. All are welcome. Forum topics for December are:

One look at the calendar on pages 10 and 11 gives you an idea of just how many Holy Women and Holy Men we remember during Advent and Christmastide. The Rev'd Cricket Park will lead the Adult Forums on December 6 and 13 and introduce you to many of the people whose lives are remembered during December. Favorite saints, such as St. Stephen and St. Thomas, take their place beside Karl Barth and Lillian Trasher. Come hear their stories and learn about their ministries. Who knows - they may inspire you!



On January 17, Kathryn Tolbert, the first-born daughter of a Japanese war bride, will talk with us about the film she has produced and her oral history project. The film is entitled *Fall Seven Times, Get Up Eight: The Japanese War Brides*. It is about her mother and two other women, and is told by these women and their daughters. Kathryn will show us the film's trailer, talk about how it came together, and how the crowd funding site Kickstarter created a community of people that led to the project she is doing now - traveling around the country interviewing Japanese war brides and their families. These are stories about immigrants, but also about identity and sometimes about religion.

For more information on the Adult Forum, contact parishioner Virginia Pearson: virginia@vapearson.com.

Virginia Pearson, *Adult Forum Coordinator*

CONTEMPLATIVE MONDAYS AT REDEEMER

TAIZE SERVICE & HEALING RITE

Taize is an informal, contemplative liturgy with scripture, icons, incense, silence, and chant accompanied by piano, guitar, and other instruments. It is held on the first Monday of the month (October - June) at 7:30 p.m. The Healing Rite - prayers for healing of body, mind, or spirit for you or someone you love - is offered at the conclusion of the liturgy.

CHRISTIAN CONTEMPLATIVE GROUP

The Christian Contemplative Group is a small, intimate gathering. Each session begins with a short liturgy of chant, readings, and centering prayer. The discussion that follows centers around a selected text. The group meets in the Nave on the second Monday of each month, September - June at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome to drop in at any time. Questions? Contact parishioner Marie France: tweedfrance@gmail.com or 301-320-1534.

BENEDICTINE GROUP

For Saint Benedict, the spiritual life lay in simply living this life - the daily life - well. He turned the ordinary into an experience of the extraordinary; a union with the sacred in the here and now. Redeemer's Benedictine Group is currently using *Monastery of the Heart: An invitation to a meaningful life*, by Joan Chittister, as its text. Each session included prayer, a reading from the book, and discussion. The group meets on the third Monday of the month, at 7:30 p.m., in the Nave. Questions? Contact parishioner Bob Yates: bob@bobyates.net or 240-205-5783.

LECTIO DIVINA — FINDING YOUR SACRED CENTER

Lectio Divina, reflective sacred reading, has deep roots in Benedictine spirituality. Traditionally the scriptures were the primary text for lectio, but in this monthly gathering you will be invited to use other of God's texts—nature, photography and the daily news—as ways to engage in a lifelong conversation with God. The group meets on the fourth Monday of the month, at 7:30 p.m., in the Nave. Questions? Contact parishioner Bob Yates: bob@bobyates.net or 240-205-5783.

Wednesdays in Lent! Soup, Salad and Scripture!

Adult Formation the easy way. Mark your calendar; we will do this every Wednesday in lent except Ash Wednesday and Holy Week.

Format will be determined at the first meeting—maybe the upcoming readings, maybe a whole book, or maybe something created.

7:15pm soup & salad, 7:45–9:00pm discussion.

VESTRY REPORT – NOVEMBER 18, 2016

By Catherine Sands, Vestry Secretary

At its November meeting, the Vestry reviewed the results of the fall pledge campaign as of that day. Initial response to the one-day ingathering was good. We have received more pledges for more income pledged than in previous years. We are still looking at a challenging deficit, especially if we do not receive all of the pledge income promised in 2015. Treasurer Steve Gibson noted that there was a significant loss in giving in the month of October. This may be due in part to deposits not being recorded during the administrative assistant's vacation; however, that doesn't explain the entire gap. Rector Cricket Park shared a draft budget, co-prepared by Finance Chair Rick Robinson, taking into account the staff restructuring. There is still approximately \$140,000 left unfunded. The Vestry will be contacting those who have pledged in the past, but who have not made a commitment for 2016 over the next few weeks. At that time, a budget based on pledged and other income will be prepared for 2016 for the Vestry to consider at their December meeting.



Junior Warden Clark Downs presented a list of improvements for the rectory requested by the rector and her husband. The Vestry approved the work with appropriate funding and timeline for completion.

The next Vestry meeting will be on December 14, 2015, which is a Monday and two days before the usual meeting time.

Print Communications at Redeemer

Information about upcoming events are communicated through three printed materials. This Week at Redeemer is updated every Friday and sent Tuesday afternoons. If you would like something in "TWAR" please be sure the office receives it no later than noon on Fridays. The Sunday Announcements are finalized on Wednesday afternoons and run on Thursdays. Send Sunday announcement information to the office no later than close-of-business on Tuesday. The Redeemer Spirit is a monthly publication. The deadline for the Spirit is the 15th of the month prior. The next Spirit deadline is December 15 for the January 2016 issue. Send TWAR and Announcement information to office.redeemer@verizon.net. Send Spirit stories and ideas to Bob Yates at bob@bobyates.net.



Rooted: Diocesan High School Retreat (9th-12th grade) - JAN. 16-17, 2016

Registration for ROOTED is now open. Go to edow.org to register. *The registration deadline for this event is Tuesday, January 5, 2016.*

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

2016 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN: IN THE HOMESTRETCH

We are entering the final days of this year's Redeemer Pledge Campaign. This is a one-time, all-parish appeal, forming the sole financial basis for the operations of the church throughout the coming year. We extend our thanks to those who have pledged thus far; if you have not completed your 2016 pledge, we ask that you do so as soon as possible.

If you have any questions regarding this year's campaign, please contact Debbie Davenport (cityandbeach@yahoo.com) or Philip D'Ambrosio (philip_dambrosio@hotmail.com).



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 2016 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 will also be available in the Parish Hall and mailed to all parish households.

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.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

A summary of year-to-date budget performance through the end of October is attached. While expenses are essentially on track, pledge income fell off in October and is substantially behind budget year-to-date. Since current pledge income is budgeted at the full pledged amount, faithful pledge fulfillment is essential to achieving a balanced budget. Accordingly, I hope that everyone will plan on fulfilling their pledge by the end of the year.

Finance Committee Chair Rick Robinson presented a preliminary budget proposal to the Vestry at its October 21 meeting that called for \$571,683 in 2016 pledge income to balance, and he has provided a list of adjustments that might need to be made if actual pledges fall short of that goal. Those who plan to pledge but have not yet done so are encouraged to submit their pledges soon so that the Vestry can take them into account in setting the 2016 budget.

If you have any questions about the budget process or about the financial statements, please feel free to contact me by email or phone (gibliu@verizon.net, 301-229-1168).

Steve Gibson, Treasurer

	Jan-Oct Budget	Jan-Oct Actual	Jan-Oct Over/Under Budget	Annual Budget
INCOME				
Pledge Payments	\$469,648	\$442,425	(\$27,223)	\$552,680
Non-Pledge Donations	\$11,250	\$9,838	(\$1,412)	\$13,500
Loose Plate Offering	\$5,000	\$3,831	(\$1,170)	\$6,000
Special Offerings	\$4,200	\$7,493	\$3,293	\$8,100
Event & Activity Income	\$34,611	\$32,219	(\$2,392)	\$36,500
Facilities Use	\$20,833	\$23,913	\$3,079	\$25,000
Interest Income	\$0	\$26	\$26	\$0
Gain (Loss) on Stock	\$0	\$340	\$340	\$0
Total January-October	\$545,542	\$520,084	(\$25,458)	\$641,780
EXPENSE				
Administration Expense	\$34,698	\$29,329	(\$5,370)	\$40,050
Diocesan Giving	\$38,208	\$38,208	\$0	\$45,850
Outreach Giving	\$28,800	\$19,275	(\$9,525)	\$32,000
Discretionary Account	\$1,083	\$1,083	(\$0)	\$1,300
Maintenance Expense	\$55,624	\$54,600	(\$1,024)	\$67,250
Personnel Expense	\$308,353	\$312,662	\$4,310	\$368,508
Program Expense	\$30,617	\$25,845	(\$4,772)	\$36,390
Property Expense	\$38,960	\$38,960	\$0	\$46,752
Total January-October	\$536,343	\$519,962	(\$16,381)	\$638,100
Net Income Jan-Oct	\$9,199	\$122	(\$9,078)	\$3,680

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Tuesday, December 1

Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon, 1637

6:30 p.m. Education for Ministry (EfM)

7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

Wednesday, December 2

Channing Moore Williams, Missionary Bishop in China and Japan, 1910

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

9:30 a.m. Education for Ministry (EfM)

12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

12:00 p.m. AA Meeting

4:30 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 3

Francis Xavier, Missionary to the Far East, 1552

7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 4

John of Damascus, Priest, c. 760

12:00 p.m. AA Meditation Meeting

8:30 p.m. AA Meeting

Saturday, December 5

Clement of Alexandria, Priest, c. 210

4:00–7:00 p.m. Angela Appreciation Party

Sunday, December 6

The 2nd Sunday of Advent—Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c. 342

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

9:15 a.m. Nursery Care

9:15 a.m. Adult Forum

9:15 a.m. Adult Choir Warm-up

9:45 a.m. Youth Choir Warm-up

10:30 a.m. Festival Eucharist and Holy Baptism

12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour

3:00 p.m. Adult Choir warm-up

5:00 p.m. A Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent

6:30 p.m. Reception (*following Service*)

Monday, December 7 (*Parish Office closed*)

Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, 397

12:00 p.m. AA Meeting

7:30 p.m. Taizé Service & Healing Rite

Tuesday, December 8

Richard Baxter, Pastor and Writer, 1691

6:30 p.m. Education for Ministry (EfM)

7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

Wednesday, December 9

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

9:30 a.m. Education for Ministry (EfM)

12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

12:00 p.m. AA Meeting

4:30 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 10

Karl Barth, Pastor and Theologian, 1968

7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 11

Saturday, December 12

11:00 a.m. Funeral for Neal Rutledge

Sunday, December 13

The 3rd Sunday of Advent - Lucy (Lucia), Martyr at Syracuse, 304

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

9:15 a.m. Nursery Care

9:15 a.m. Adult Forum

9:15 a.m. Adult Choir Warm-up

9:45 a.m. Youth Choir Warm-up

10:30 a.m. Choral Eucharist

12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour

Monday, December 14 (*Parish Office closed*)

Juan de la Cruz (John of the Cross), Mystic, 1591

12:00 p.m. AA Meeting

7:30 p.m. Christian Contemplative Group

6:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, December 15

John Horden, Bishop and Missionary in Canada, 1893

6:30 p.m. Education for Ministry (EfM)

7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

Wednesday, December 16

Ralph Adams Cram, 1942, and Richard Upjohn, 1878, Architects, And John LaFarge, Artist, 1910

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

9:30 a.m. Education for Ministry (EfM)

12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

12:00 p.m. AA Meeting

4:30 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal

4:30 p.m. Knitting Group

Thursday, December 17

William Lloyd Garrison, 1879, and Maria Stewart, 1879, Prophetic Witnesses

7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 18

12:00 p.m. AA Meditation Meeting

8:30 p.m. AA Meeting

Saturday, December 19

Lillian Trasher, Missionary in Egypt, 1961

Sunday, December 20

The 4th Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

9:15 a.m. Nursery Care

9:15 a.m. Adult Forum

9:15 a.m. Adult Choir Warm-up

9:45 a.m. Youth Choir Warm-up

10:30 a.m. Choral Eucharist

12:00 p.m. Coffee Hour

Monday, December 21 (*Parish Office closed*)*Saint Thomas the Apostle*

12:00 p.m. AA Meeting

7:30 p.m. Benedictine Group

Tuesday, December 22*Henry Budd, Priest, 1875*

6:30 p.m. Education for Ministry (EfM)

7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

Wednesday, December 23

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist—"Blue Christmas"

12:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Thursday, December 24*Eve of the Nativity*

4:00 p.m. Family Eucharist

10:00 p.m. Choral Prelude

10:30 p.m. Choral Eucharist

Friday, December 25*The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ*

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

12:00 p.m. AA Meditation Meeting

8:30 p.m. AA Meeting

Saturday, December 26*Saint Stephen, Deacon and Martyr***Sunday, December 27***The First Sunday after Christmas - Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist*

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

9:15 a.m. Nursery Care

9:15 a.m. Adult Forum

9:15 a.m. Adult Choir Warm-up

9:45 a.m. Youth Choir Warm-up

10:30 a.m. Choral Eucharist

12:00 p.m. Coffee Hour

Monday, December 28 (*Parish Office closed*)*The Holy Innocents*

12:00 p.m. AA Meeting

7:30 p.m. Lectio Divina

Tuesday, December 29 (*Parish Office by appointment*)*Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1170*

6:30 p.m. Education for Ministry (EfM)

7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

Wednesday, December 30 (*Parish Office by appointment*)*Frances Joseph Gaudet, Educator and Prison Reformer, 1934*

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

9:30 p.m. Education for Ministry (EfM)

12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

12:00 p.m. AA Meeting

4:30 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 31 (*Parish Office by appointment*)*Samuel Ajayi Crowther, Bishop in the Niger Territories, 1891***PARISH CLERGY & STAFF**

The Rev'd Cricket Park, Rector

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The Rev'd Robin Razzino, Associate Rector

revrobinrazzino@verizon.net

The Rev'd Dr. David Schlafer, Assisting Priest

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Christopher M. Betts, Director of Music

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Parish Office

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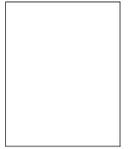
Website: www.redeemerbethesda.org

*The Parish Office is open Tuesday – Friday,**9:00 am – 4:00 pm*



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

6201 Dunrobbin Drive at MacArthur Boulevard



THE REDEEMER SPIRIT

A monthly publication of
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The deadline for the January issue is December 15



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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DECEMBER

- Sunday, 6th: *A visit from St Nicholas, 10:30 am*
Toy Sunday, 10:30 am
Lessons & Carols for Advent, 5:00 pm
- Sunday, 13th: *Christmas Story Pageant, 10:30am*
- Thursday, 24th: *Family Holy Eucharist, 4:00 pm*
Musical Prelude, 10:00 p.m.
Festal Eucharist of the Nativity, 10:30 pm
- Friday, 25th: *Christmas Day Holy Eucharist, 10:00 am*

JANUARY

- Sunday, 24th: *Annual Parish Meeting, 12:30pm*