

MISSION

NEWCOMER PROFILE

PEOPLE MAKING THE REDEEMER THEIR SPIRITUAL HOME

LYNN, SEVREN & SEV FAHR

LYNN SHARES THEIR STORY WITH KEN GARNER



Thank you very much for sharing your story with us about your entry into The Redeemer community.

How long have you been attending services here? We have been attending The Redeemer since December 2014.

Are you life-long Episcopalians? If so, what other Episcopal churches have you attended? My husband and child are both life long Episcopalians. My husband was raised at The Cathedral of St. Mark in Minneapolis. As a family we have been to Holy Comforter in Drexel Hill and St. Stephen's in Clifton Heights.

If not a life-long Episcopalian, what is your previous church experience, if any? I was raised a Catholic in northern Connecticut, and attended St. Bernard's church through confirmation in 10th grade.

How did you find The Redeemer? We found The Redeemer through our son's classmate, Savina Copus. Her parents extended us an invitation and we accepted. Very glad we did.

What inspired you to attend? Our son is deeply spiritual. We were looking for a church to serve all of our needs: my husband loves the choir and organ, my son loves and needed religious education, and I love the beauty of the church itself.

What would you want to tell others about The Redeemer to encourage them to come and explore our parish? Come see for yourself what The Redeemer brings into your life. Get

involved and volunteer. The adult forum runs the same time as children's religious education, give it a try. Everyone is so kind and welcoming.

Tell us a bit about yourselves outside of The Redeemer.

We were married in Holyoke MA on October 26, 2002. At that time, my husband had recently begun teaching in Philadelphia. Teaching social studies at Frankford High was tough but somehow he found his way through. He left there and taught online at Aspira Charter and after a year, took a leap to the college ranks. He is now an Adjunct Professor of History at Delaware County Community College. His schooling includes a BA from the University of Minnesota and an MA from LaSalle University in History. His interests include golf, politics, and writing/blogging on the ordinary daily life but with a twist.

Our son, Sev Jr., recently turned 9 the day after Mother's Day: my gift year after year. Sev attends Friends' Central School and is currently completing third grade. He enjoys studying Native Americans and will attend math, reading, and basketball camp at Friend Central School over the summer. His activities include karate, baseball, and basketball. We have a white and orange cat named Darwin who will be 4 in August. Hmmm...my bio is fairly vanilla. I graduated from Eastern Connecticut State University with a BA in English and a minor in secondary education. I then went onto Springfield

College to earn a MA in Health Promotion/Wellness management. I taught high school freshman health education in Chicopee, Massachusetts before marriage. We moved to the Philly area in Fall of 2002, and in March of 2003, I began teaching English in the public schools of Philadelphia. And here, I am...currently teaching health education this year at Overbrook High school. I recently com-

pleted the coursework to become an administrator at Cabrini College. We like to attend minor league baseball games and enjoy trips to the shore. My husband and son will boogie board for hours in Ocean City, NJ. This summer our plans include a trip out to Minnesota/Wisconsin to see family and get to the "Great Minnesota Get Together"...the state fair. My husband is a state fair fanatic!!

PARISH BUSINESS

STATE MANDATED BACKGROUND CHECKS

BY JAY EINSPANIER

In 2014, Pennsylvania passed Act 153, in an attempt to further protect children. This Act requires comprehensive criminal and child abuse background checks for all employees and volunteers who have regular, supervisory contact with children. These checks mandate regular updates applicable to paid employees and volunteers. Our ongoing intent is to be compliant with the law, but at the same time follow a pragmatic approach to achieving that compliance.

As to which employees and volunteers will need to go through the process:

- **employees** with over 20 hours/week of scheduled work as well as
- **employees** who assist in caring for children on weekends or nights as part of our Church School, or those who simply provide childcare during services,
- **volunteers** including all teachers in our Church School and others with regular, supervisory contact with children (such as providing voice lessons or accompanying children on choir or church trips).

There are 3 background checks designated in the Act. The three checks are:

1. **Criminal History Record Information obtained from the PA State Police**
2. **Child Abuse Clearance obtained through the PA Department of Public Welfare** (now known as the Department of Human Services) certifying if the applicant is named in the statewide database "as the alleged perpetrator

in a pending child abuse investigation or as the perpetrator of a founded report or indicated report" of child abuse.

3. **Federal Criminal History Record Information obtained by submitting a full set of fingerprints to the PA State Police or its authorized agent for submission to the Federal Bureau of Investigation** "for the purpose of verifying the identity of the applicant and obtaining a current record of any criminal arrests and convictions."

Employees will need to undergo all three background checks, as will the **volunteers** with one exception. If a **volunteer** has been a resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, consistently, for the past 10 years, they will be able to opt out of the third check, which involves fingerprints.

We have begun to assist current **employees** through the background check process. By assist we mean that:

1) The Redeemer will absorb the cost associated with performing the checks in all cases.

2) The Redeemer will run the background checks where possible.

In some instances, where the information required by the individual background check is too personal or too broad for us to gather, we will ask the **employee** to conduct the process. The approach will be the same for **volunteers**.

Our objective is to have all appropriate background checks completed by July 1 of this year.