

FELLOWSHIP

NEWCOMER PROFILE

PEOPLE MAKING THE REDEEMER THEIR SPIRITUAL HOME

LAURA GRAHAM

LAURA SHARES HER STORY WITH KEN GARNER



that was about 20 years ago.

What inspired you to attend?

I knew I wanted to find a place to attend services when I moved back to the area. I had a lot of change and stress in my life at that point and I felt so blessed to have The Redeemer to come to. People were friendly and supportive and generous right away and I'm so, so grateful for that.

What would you want to tell others about The Redeemer to encourage them to come and explore our parish?

I usually tell people it's a friendly community and there are lots of good programs available to be involved in. My daughter and I enjoy helping at St. Gabes. Interfaith Hospitality Network is great too; and having the opportunity to give children Christmas gifts through Episcopal Community Services. I want my daughter to grow up with lots of opportunities to give. The Redeemer is an aesthetically beautiful place to spend time as well. I had some friends join me for a Christmas Eve service and they were impressed with how architecturally beautiful the church is. And the choir is wonderful. I'm always impressed at the end of the service when they come into the side aisles to sing. It's like surround sound. I love that.

Tell us a bit about yourself outside of The Redeemer—your job, your family, your hobbies.

My background is in the arts, mostly film and photography. I've done everything from art direction to producing in independent film, as well as fine art and event photography. I moved back to the area from New York about 2 years ago, a few weeks before my daughter, Macy, was born. Macy keeps me busy and makes sure I don't get lazy or get too much sleep. She keeps me up to speed on all kinds of things. Like the first thing she said the other morning when she woke up was, "Jesus wore a hat," which I had not been previously aware of. She's the best. We have a big, goofy lab mix named Bruno who's usually covered with Frozen stickers. I keep bees in the backyard so we always have honey. I try to steal some time to draw and paint or meditate when Macy and Bruno are napping.

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?

I've been coming to The Redeemer for about 2 years.

Are you a life-long Episcopalian?

No, I'm not a life-long Episcopalian. I dated someone for a couple of years whose roommate was the rector at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in White Plains, New York. I attended services there a few times, and that was a really good experience.

What is your previous church experience?

I grew up going to Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church. Later, in Brooklyn, I went to this sweet little non-denominational church called Church! of Park Slope. Services were held in the gym of another larger church. I found out about Church! of Park Slope because they ran a great café on the corner of my block. It had been quite a while since I had attended church regularly, but caffeine and New York bagels coaxed me back and I haven't regretted it.

How did you find The Redeemer?

I had friends that came to The Redeemer growing up so it's always been on my radar. I also babysat for the children of a rector at The Redeemer at one point, but



Easter Flower Memorials

Please send the names of the people you wish remembered in the Easter Memorials. There is a suggested \$25 per name. Please mark these as Easter Memorials and send them to the Parish Office, att. Tish Zaleta, by March 21. Be sure to write the name(s) clearly so that we don't make a mistake.

A MOMENT OF AWE THE MAUNDY THURSDAY LITURGY

BY PETER VANDERVEEN

Thomas Merton once beautifully described a moment that comes each day just before morning begins, when all that is seems tipping right at the edge of coming to light again. He said it is marked by "the first chirps of the waking day birds... under a sky as yet without real light." It is a moment, he said, "of awe and inexpressible innocence, when God the Father in perfect silence opens their eyes and... one by one they wake up and become birds."

Merton then noted that this moment can be found in each of us, when we see by God's light who we really and ineradicably are. He wrote: "At the center of our being is a point of nothingness which is untouched by sin and by illusion, a point of pure truth, a point or spark that belongs

entirely to God... which is inaccessible to the fantasies of our own mind or the brutalities of our own will. This little point of nothingness... is the pure glory of God in us... It is in everybody, and if we could see it we would see these billions of points of light coming together that would make all the darkness and cruelty of life vanish completely."

This moment is realized liturgically in the Eucharist of Maundy Thursday. Between the night of Jesus' crucifixion, read on Palm Sunday, and the light of Easter, this service places us in that moment of awe and innocence when, with unmatched intimacy, we are once again awakened to the light we can be by God's grace. It is one of the most dramatic moments of the liturgical year.

This year, come and experience it. Thursday, March 24, 7:30 pm.



Youth Group Festive Dinner

Friday, March 4 at 6:30 PM

Church of the Redeemer
230 Pennswood Road
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

Please join The Redeemer Youth for an evening of country fun! In honor of our work trip to West Virginia the group will be cooking barbecue with all the appropriate sides. The kids will be doing everything from grocery shopping, cooking, and decorating to serving as your wait staff and line leaders for some post dinner dancing fun!

Please support our youth as they pursue outreach for a population in need. This will be our only fundraiser for our April trip to West Virginia. We hope to see you all, March 4, at 6:30 pm, and if you cannot make it feel free to make a donation. Make your reservations online at www.TheRedeemer.org/RSVP or call the parish office, 610-525-2486, ext. 10.

We are so lucky to have such a vibrant and healthy parish and we thank you for your support!

LOVE IS COME AGAIN EASTER FLOWER DELIVERY OPPORTUNITY

BY DAVID ROMANIK

One of the quirkiest hymns in our hymnal is "Now the green blade riseth," which compares the resurrection of Jesus Christ to the germination of a wheat seed. Of course, the themes of growth and new life are very appropriate to the Easter season, but this hymn is about more than the fact that Easter takes place during the springtime. It is, rather, a reminder that as Christians, we are called to look at the new growth of springtime as an icon of God's resurrection love. The refrain asserts that in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, "Love is come again like wheat that springeth green."

The Pastoral Care Committee invites you to celebrate that "love is come again" by delivering Easter flowers to parishioners who have been on our prayer list, suffered a loss, or have been unable to attend church services. Plants will be available in the Parish House during Holy Week. If you would like to help with these deliveries, please call or e-mail Kathy Hutchinson (610-979-1207; kthutchinson64@gmail.com) or David Romanik. We pray that you will embrace this opportunity to share a reminder of Christ's resurrection love with those who need it most.

