

FELLOWSHIP

NEWCOMER PROFILE

PEOPLE MAKING THE REDEEMER THEIR FAITH COMMUNITY

INTERVIEWED BY KEN GARNER



This Month:
Ruchira and David Glaser
William, 13; Katherine, 10;
Drew, 7

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 for 2 years, joining in Fall 2010.

Are you life-long Episcopalians? If so, what other Episcopal churches have you attended?

Yes. Before this, David and I both attended St. Peter's Church in Society Hill Philadelphia, as we lived just around the corner. Our oldest son, William, attended preschool there from age 2, as well.

How did you find The Redeemer?

We were so fortunate to find The Redeemer. Neither of us grew up in Pennsylvania, as David was raised outside of Washington DC, in Potomac, Maryland, and I, outside Manhattan, in Long Island, New York. We came to Philadelphia for our post-medical school residency and fellowship training at the University of Pennsylvania.

The long hours with a very new family were the reasons we chose to live in the city. As soon as we completed the most rigorous part of our training, we moved here to raise our family in an environment similar to the ones in which we were raised. Once settled, we asked our friends about the Episcopal community, and luckily our dear friends, Ginny and Carter Williams, introduced us to The Redeemer that spring. They were so enthusiastic and supportive, and they showed us so many things about The Redeemer, that we were instantly comfortable. The following fall, we joined.

What inspired you to attend?

We loved the warmth that we felt from everyone we met. Importantly for me,

I found each sermon, and each service, moving and deeply connecting to my upbringing and the fundamentals that my own parents had instilled. It was also very important to us that our three children be in a nurturing environment with other children of similar values, and with a loving set of teachers and mentors. On every level, we found a wonderful program and group of people. Our children all truly love coming to service, and William joined the children's choir. It is very important to us that our children see our faith as a cherished part of life, and we believe The Redeemer is a big part of our children's positive attitude toward faith in their lives. We are away quite a bit for sports with all three children, and, in fact, our two older children complain that we miss too much service when we cannot attend!

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

It is an incredibly welcoming place, filled with wonderful people in every aspect. For us, we would say that there is no better place to raise a family in the Episcopal faith. It is also a place in which I found a very deep connection, and sense of security in my faith. Finally, it is a strong community, offering all types of interaction with other members in different stages of their own lives. In that sense, it is both a very unifying, and yet personal, experience.

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

David and I met in medical school, at Cornell, and we came to Pennsylvania for training. David is an orthopaedic surgeon, and heads the Shoulder and Elbow Service at the University of Pennsylvania. I am an interventional cardiologist, formerly also on faculty at the University of Pennsylvania. I now do research full-time in cardiovascular drug development, running large trials of drugs that hopefully will one day save lives. Our 3 children, Drew, Katherine and William, are now age 7, 10 and 13. Our boys attend the Haverford School, and Katherine attends the Agnes Irwin School. We live in Villanova, in Lower Merion, only 5 minutes from The Redeemer. Between all of the children's interests, school, and work, life sometimes is a bit overwhelming, but in a very positive way. We could not be more fortunate than to have found a great place to live and raise our family, with wonderful friends, schools, and of course, The Redeemer.

MISSIONS EXPOSITION

OPPORTUNITIES ON DISPLAY



A number of The Redeemer's ministries took the opportunity to display their work and recruit parishioners at the Missions Exposition on September 30. Pictured here Kathy Hutchinson, Maggie Baker and Beth Hixon and Verger Bob's acolyte recruitment display.



VILLANOVA DAY OF SERVICE

STUDENTS HELP SPRUCE THINGS UP



Villanova students were here on the same day the Dads were working on the playground, September 22. They spent their Villanova Day of Service doing a number of needed paint jobs around the exterior of the Parish House.

