

Voice of The Redeemer

Episcopal Church of

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Worship-Outreach-Fellowship of the people of the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, Bryn Mawr, PA

More coverage online at
www.TheRedeemer.org

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“NEWSLETTER SIGNUP”

WHAT'S INSIDE

Organized around our
principle themes of:

WORSHIP - OUTREACH - FELLOWSHIP
These themes are an outgrowth
of the goals in our most recent
strategic plan “Spiritual Center”
(Worship); “Outreach Within and
Beyond Our Campus” (Outreach)
and “Parish Vitality” (Fellowship).

WORSHIP

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LEGACY INTO PROMISE

A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD

BY PETER VANDERVEEN

At its September meeting, the vestry approved a resolution that set a clear target date for the completion of the proposed Parish House renovation: Fall of 2020. This was an important and exciting development in the campaign.

For the last six months, most of the project committees have been on hold, waiting on progress in the initial quiet phase of the capital campaign. In turn, the Campaign Gifts committee has been busy seeking preliminary pledges from Redeemer members who could provide critical financing for the project. The response of parishioners to the committee’s solicitations, to date, has been very positive.

The vestry’s decision reflects its confidence that, given the pledges and gifts received so far, along with reasonable projections of what we may still raise in the remaining quiet phase and in the public campaign, we should be able to meet our campaign goal and fully fund the construction costs of the renovation. We still have much fundraising work to do. We are still seeking critical major gifts. And we are also hoping for the participation of 100% of our members. The capital campaign will continue well into next year. But by setting a completion date for the whole project, the work of all the renovation committees begins again in earnest.

In addition to the capital campaign, in



An overhead view of the new courtyard to the Parish House. More drawings and the soon-to-come walk around video are available online at: www.TheRedeemer.org/capital_campaign.

the coming months we will be taking several steps to advance our work on the construction side. We will be asking our architect, Christopher Miller, to provide schematic drawings, updating the building plans already shared, that detail mechanical and architectural changes that stemmed from congregational feedback. We will also begin the township Zoning and Land Development Process. In addition, we will be contacting our neighbors once again, informing them of our progress and plans. These several steps will begin the fairly lengthy process that leads to actual construction, and our eventual target is to start building in the summer of 2019.

Much remains to be done, and much can change in the meantime, whether by choice or by necessity. And we will need broad and deep support from the whole parish. But we are now underway in a whole new way, moving definitively forward.

As has been often noted, this is a moment of rare opportunity in the life of The Redeemer, when we can accomplish something vital to its future and for the greater community for multiple, coming generations. We can change for the better many lives, by remaining a strong and constant witness to God’s grace, mercy and love—active in us.

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CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 2017

SPOTLIGHT ON THE CHRISTMAS SHOP

BY SUSAN VAN ALLEN



The Christmas Shop at the Bazaar provides an opportunity for shoppers to stock up on host gifts, stocking stuffers and holiday decorations. Unlike most of the other Bazaar shops, the items sold by the Christmas Shop are new, which the committee selects from various gift vendors each year. Located in the Assembly Room and usually paired with the Crafts table, the Christmas Shop is a fun and busy area at the Bazaar. This year the committee decided to shake things up and selected several new items to sell, including festive dog collars, shadow lamps, socks and jewelry. If you are interested in volunteering with the Christmas Shop, please contact Susan Van Allen or Carol Chew.

Much more information at:
www.TheRedeemer.org/bazaar

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, November 5

5:00pm

Annual service in observance
of All Souls

Sung by the Redeemer, Chancel
and Schola choirs, with music by
Morten Lauridsen, Gabriel Fauré,
Thomas LaVoy, and
Maurice Duruflé.

Accompanied by Michael Stairs and
Adrian Binkley, organists,
directed by Michael Diorio.

WORSHIP

SUNDAYS

7:45 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II
11:15am Choral Matins

OCTOBER 1

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

MUSIC: *Choristers & Redeemer Choir*
Christus factus est A. Bruckner
I am the vine and you are the branches
J. Bertalot

OCTOBER 8

THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

MUSIC: *Schola & Redeemer Choir*
O Sing Joyfully A. Batten
O God, thou art my God H. Purcell

OCTOBER 15

THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

MUSIC: *Choristers & Redeemer Choir*
Rejoice in the Lord Always H. Purcell
Tantum Ergo G. Fauré

OCTOBER 22

THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

MUSIC: *Schola & Redeemer Choir*
Cantate Dominum H. Schütz
Ego sum panis vivus W. Byrd

OCTOBER 29

THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

MUSIC: *Redeemer Choir*
Though I speak with the tongues of men
E. Bairstow
O Holy Spirit Lord of Grace Christopher Tye

Lectionary readings available on *The Lectionary Page* accessible from TheRedeemer.org/links

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FORMATION: THE ONGOING WORK OF FAITH

By TORY DUNKLE

Walk into our Level I classroom any given Sunday and you will find preschoolers scattered about the room engaged in their morning's work. That's right, work. They aren't playing. They aren't coloring. They aren't pretending. They aren't creating. They are working.

Why the insistence on referring to their activity in such seemingly grown-up terms? First, it legitimizes and formalizes the important way play functions in the life of children. While grown-ups may quickly look at a child at play and judge them as engaged in a fun but meaningless activity, child psychologists have long touted play as invaluable to the intellectual, mental and

social development of a healthy child. It is through play that children make sense of their world, synthesize all that they've learned, and process big emotions. Our children are not simply pasting the articles of the Eucharist on a paper altar or pretending as they "walk" figures through the Good Shepherd parable. Their play is purposeful. It is where they internalize parables, prayers and Bible stories.

Secondly, by acknowledging their activity as work, we are subtly signaling to our children the role they must play within their own faith. Faith is not inherited. Faith is not stationary. Faith is not effortless. Faith is fluid, ever

growing and changing according to our willingness to respond to God's grace and to seek a relationship with God.

Faith is work. If we hope to instill in our children a faith in God that grows as they do, we must help them to learn that true faith is not passive. God longs to be in relationship with us, and through God's grace we are able to daily receive that gift. Prayer, worship, reconciliation, community, love. It requires our attention, our passion, our inquiry, our time. Faith is a lifelong endeavor that calls us to daily seek God's face. It is work, but it is the most important work we can engage in.

YOUTH FORMATION A BUSY YEAR AHEAD

By JO ANN JONES

Youth ministry at The Redeemer encourages our young people to explore their talents and spiritual gifts within the Church community. This ministry prepares youth holistically by continuously challenging them to take an active part in the body of Christ through our practices and rituals. It is our belief that the Holy Spirit assists them in developing and sustaining the roots to continue in the life of the Church beyond high school and into adulthood. The Redeemer emphasizes Sunday Formation Programs. The foundation of the Christian life—and habit—is worship. We see Sunday morning programs as the means to nurture "habitual" worshipers at The Redeemer, and later, at whatever church our young people may choose to attend.

Introduced last year, the Arc of Formation will expand this year, and provide a comprehensive path for the formation of faithful Christians. It sets forth age-specific incremental progressive steps

of development and skills in Worship, Fellowship and Outreach. It is our hope and prayer that the implementation of the Arc will lead to formation that has a lifelong influence over youth in all that they encounter.

The Redeemer does have many fellowship programs for Middle and High School youth. We believe that both age groups should spend time together and learn what it means to live in Christian community. The Redeemer does offer a Confirmation Program. Youth in seventh grade and above typically prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Our Confirmation Program will begin October 1, culminating in the Sacrament of Confirmation on January 14, 2018. Do Redeemer youth take mission trips?



Yes. Plans are being made for a mission trip in the spring or summer of 2018.

Youth leaders are Carter Williams, Bailey Sperry, Zach McWilliams, Alexis Topjan-Stephan, and Rebecca Northington.

YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASSES BEGIN OCTOBER 1

By JO ANN JONES

Nearly twenty centuries ago, the apostles laid hands on those who chose to become followers of Jesus Christ and prayed that the Holy Spirit would empower them for Christ's service. The Church continues that tradition through the sacramental rite of Confirmation. In Confirmation, a bishop lays hands on believers and prays that they might receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Bishop Gutierrez will join us for worship and Confirmation on January 14, 2018. Confirmation classes will meet beginning on October 1. Any person in seventh grade or above is welcome to participate. More details about the schedule and registration available at: www.TheRedeemer.org/sacraments.



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or by contacting Ken Garner.

All submissions are subject to editing for grammar, content clarity, and space limitations.

Trish Bennett, Copy Editor pro bono

Back issues available at:

www.TheRedeemer.org/voice

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No August issue. Deadline for the November issue: October 2, 2017

OUTREACH

ADULT FORMATION

FALL SERIES TO EXAMINE THE REFORMATION

BY DAVID ROMANIK

“God’s Truth Abideth Still”: The Reformation 500 Years Later

In October of 1517, an Augustinian monk named Martin Luther walked up to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg and posted a list of grievances against the excesses of the Roman Catholic Church. The posting of Luther’s “95 Theses” is widely considered the beginning of the Protestant Reformation, a seismic shift in the theological, political, and philosophical geography of Europe and, ultimately, the entire world. The Reformation represented a fundamental shift in the way Christians understood their relationship with God. It also touched off some of the most savage conflicts in European history, as Catholics and Protestants vied for doctrinal supremacy. Despite the conflict his protest engendered, however, Luther never intended to leave the Roman Catholic Church. Moreover, though initially opposed to Luther’s novel theology, the Roman Catholic Church eventually came to embrace principal theological innovations: justification by grace through faith; the belief that we are reconciled to God through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and not through the mediation of an ecclesiastical authority. All of this raises an important question: What significance does the Reformation have 500 years later? If Luther’s fundamental disagreement with the Roman Catholic Church has been resolved, is there anything preventing Catholics and Protestants from being reconciled to one another? Furthermore, how relevant are the doctrinal disputes of the Reformation in our increasingly secular age? In other words, does the Reformation still matter? In honor of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, our 2017 Fall Forum Series at The Redeemer will explore these and other questions. We hope you will join us on Sunday mornings at 10:30 in Room 1-2-3.

10/8/2017

By Schisms Rent Asunder, By Rummage Sales Distressed



In 2012, Phyllis Tickle published a book entitled *The Great Emergence: How Christianity Is Changing and Why*. Tickle’s primary observation is that the Church experiences the equivalent of a “rummage sale” about every 500 years: a destabilizing and dislocating moment when it is forced to reevaluate what it means to be the Church. Noting that the Reformation was the last such moment in church history, she argues that we are in the midst of a “rummage sale” moment today. If this is indeed the case, we are left to wonder what the Reformation reveals about who we are as Christians. Perhaps more urgently, the similarity between our era and that the Reformation invites us

to consider what guidance the Reformation (or any of the Church’s other “rummage sale” moments, for that matter) can provide as the Church finds its way forward in a rapidly changing world. Join **David Romanik** as he begins our series on the Reformation by discussing Tickle’s book and exploring these questions.

10/15/2017

Reconsidering Justification?



Of all the issues that led to the Reformation, the most theologically significant was the doctrine of justification: the assertion that we are reconciled to God through grace and not through the mediation of an ecclesiastical authority. Viewed with suspicion by the Roman Catholic hierarchy, this doctrine became a major flashpoint in the conflict between Protestants and Catholics. In 1999, however, the Catholic Church’s Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the Lutheran World Federation issued the “Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification.” It

was an astonishing historical moment in which the two primary antagonists of the Reformation came to an agreement about the era’s most controversial issue. As more churches have embraced the Joint Declaration in the intervening years, some have wondered whether Catholics and Protestants are moving toward reconciliation.

Join **Steven Boyer**, professor of theology at Eastern University, as he examines this landmark agreement and explores its implications for Christian unity.

10/22/2017

Mission is the Mother of Ecumenism



While the Roman Catholic Church has sponsored missions around the world for more than five hundred years, Protestants were not actively engaged in cross cultural mission until the 18th century. Interestingly, the very first Protestant mission was a collaborative effort among several denominations. Though latecomers to cross-cultural mission, in other words, Protestants were on the vanguard of the ecumenical movement. Indeed, long before ecumenism was fashionable, Christians of many denominations were cooperating out of a shared sense of their responsibility to bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Join **Paul Rajashekar**, the Luther T. Reed Professor of Systematic Theology at the Lutheran Theological Seminary of

Philadelphia, as he explores how the Reformation influenced both the ecumenical movement and the mission all Christians share.

10/29/2017

A Brief History of Truth



In John’s gospel, Jesus proclaims, “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.” Despite the clarity of this statement, human beings have long struggled to discern what is true. This, in fact, was one of the central issues of the Reformation. The Reformation not only challenged historical truths that were once taken for granted; it also raised fundamental doubts about the source of those truths. Indeed, much of the Reformation was about asking one question: Who (or what) is the ultimate arbiter of truth? Join **William Madges**, professor of theology at Saint Joseph’s University, as he examines the development of this question

and considers how it might resonate in our world today.

ACM INCREASING THE NUMBER OF NURSES IN MALAWI

BY PRILL BRADSHAW



African Children’s Mission has successfully supported many villages over the years while changing the lives of thousands of Malawi people. Our most recent village was Kukada. With our partner GAIA (Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance), the African Children’s Mission will concentrate our efforts for the next year on increasing the number of qualified nurses in the country. With more nurses it will be easier to try to achieve the global target of the **UNAIDS 90-90-90**. I will explain the goal of **90-90-90**. The first is that 90 percent of people living with HIV know their status. The second is that 90 percent who know their status are on treatment. The third is that 90 percent on treatment are virally suppressed by 2020.

Malawi has seen great progress nationwide. Seventy three percent of HIV patients know their status, 89 percent are on treatment and 91 percent of those

on treatment are virally suppressed. By helping to increase the number of nurses in Malawi, we are helping to solve the AIDS epidemic.

Here is a poem by one of the student nurses, Atilenga Kasambara, who is being helped by The Redeemer and our partner GAIA.

It is everyone’s wish to embark on the journey to success
But money is the vehicle for the journey
Whose speed depends on amount and availability

It is a pity seeing those with potential
Unable to get the vehicle
For their pockets are too shallow
To get one

Only standing on road sides watching the privileged
Reach their destinations

There GAIA comes
With concern, carries those on road sides
Giving them hope of reaching their destination
Supplying them with all necessities
On this academic journey

GAIA is our vehicle
Carrying us to a great future
As it eliminates all excuses to failure on the whole journey
And making excellence in performance, our only option

FELLOWSHIP

2018 MUSIC & MISSION TRIP CROATIA - SLOVINA - ITALY

BY MICHAEL DIORIO



Venice, Italy with the dome of St. Mark's Cathedral where the choirs will sing Sunday morning mass.

Next summer, from June 28 through July 9, our choir members will travel to cities in Croatia and Slovenia with a concluding stop at St Mark's Basilica in Venice. We will have some amazing performance and service opportunities as we travel the region of the Dalmatian coast northward toward Venice. We are excited to travel with much beloved Barbara, our travel guide from our two previous choir trips. Barbara knows us well, and works incredibly hard to ensure everyone's safety and enjoyment. Through this choir season, we will be updating the parish on developments with our itinerary, and will offer several special events to help us get to our fundraising goal for this next Music & Mission Trip. For now, we are excited to share with you our initial itinerary:

SPLIT and TROGIR, CROATIA Our flight travels overnight to Copenhagen, connecting into Split on Friday morning. Our time is divided between Split and the village of Trogir, both located on the Dalmatian coast. The Palace of Roman Emperor Diocletian was the inspiration for the Neo-Classical Architecture movement of the 18th century. The entire village of Trogir is a UNESCO World Heritage site, in recognition of its remarkable collection of Greek, Roman and Venetian castles, palaces and towers. On Saturday we will explore Split before presenting an **Evening Concert**. On Sunday morning we will **sing Service and offer a Concert at St. Domnius Cathedral** in Split.

ZADAR and PLITVICE NATIONAL PARK On Monday we depart for Zadar, also on the Dalmatian Coast. Here we visit the "Zadar Sea Organ" a remarkable 230-foot long instrument that uses the tidal current and wind to make music. This afternoon we visit the Benedictine community of St. Mary's, and offer a **community concert** there.

PORTOROZ, SLOVENIA Tuesday morning we visit Plitvice National Park another incredibly scenic locale

in Croatia. We will have we have a picnic after our walk and hike through the walkways and paths around the lakes and gorges. We continue on to Portoroz located on the sea in the region of Istria. The Venetians, and later the Italians, also ruled this area, so it is common to hear Italian spoken in the shops, and the cuisine has a strong Italian influence. Wednesday we delve deeper into the modern problems of the former Yugoslavia. We meet with a field specialist of land mine removal. **Service Learning Project** this afternoon. On Thursday we have a **Joint Concert with a local choir** in the courtyard of a Benedictine convent in nearby Piran.

VENICE, ITALY Friday morning we depart Portoroz for Venice, and transfer to the Don Orione Artiginelli Institute. Once the dormitory/trade school for orphans, today is it a hotel only 7 minutes walk from St. Mark's Square. Saturday morning we have a Guided Walking Tour, including St. Mark's Basilica, Rialto Bridge and a glass-blowing demonstration. We present a **Joint Concert on Saturday evening**, with dinner together after the performance. Sunday morning we **sing for Mass at San Marco Basilica** and enjoy a farewell banquet that evening.

These choir tours hold deeply formational experiences for both adults and students alike. These shared moments help to form stronger bonds within our ensemble and move us to a deeper place of understanding for how music can communicate care and create connections between people, no mater the language barrier. We look forward to these moments, and to sharing them with The Redeemer community upon our return. We are truly grateful for the support of this parish in their encouragement of the music program's course, and in assisting us to achieve our goals. More to come, so "stay tuned!"

CLASSIC WHIFFENPOOFS COMING SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28 AT 4PM CONCERT TO BENEFIT ELDERNET, ECS AND IHN

BY BILL GROSS

In 2011, a group of Yale Whiffenpoofs from the classes of 1962 through 1966 decided their great arrangements from the 50's, 60's and 70's should live on and be enjoyed by audiences today. Thus was born the Classic Whiffenpoofs, who, each year, spend the better part of a week, giving concerts in a New England/Mid Atlantic location. This year it is the Main Line. (You might remember they were a great hit when they were here in 2014.)

The October 28 concert should be another success: great entertainment, an opportunity to raise money for three deserving organizations and, as Peter Vanderveen often says, a chance to introduce people to The Redeemer in a non-threatening way. What could be less threatening than 13 "little black sheep who have lost their way?" So, get the word out by word of mouth, Facebook and Twitter, come to the concert and bring friends.

Patron tickets with acknowledgments in the program are \$75 while regular advance tickets are priced at \$30. Both are available at www.ihncares.org/classic-whiffenpoofs-concert/. Tickets at the door are \$35 but, with an expected near-sell out, advanced purchases are recommended.



PARISH BUSINESS

THINGS I REFUSE TO DO AND SO SHOULD YOU

BY JAY EINSPANIER



In my job, at times I unintentionally stir up a hornet's nest; however, over the past week I discovered that occasionally there are jobs where stirring is required.

During the latest visit by our IHN guests, we discovered a few unwelcome visitors of the flying sort in Room 212, which is above the Conference Room. We dispatched those intruders, shut the window, and welcomed our real guests. Problem solved, or so we assumed.

The next morning, Mary Hopkins texted a photo of the nest shown in the picture above, which, given the position and color of the nest, I had not noticed prior to Mary's text. I informed Mary that I had the issue well in hand, although it was apparent that my challenge was how to remove the nest safely.

A call to our pest control contractor sparked a number of questions, scheduling appointments, and two different folks saying, "I don't do that."

Finally, the gentleman shown above arrived, geared up and climbed the ladder to "poke the nest." I asked how the wasps would react and he replied, "How would you react if someone was trying to fill your house with poison gas?" Good point. I watched the process from inside, behind a nice thick piece of glass.

All's well that ends well and since no one was stung, I consider our efforts a success. That said, I am not climbing any ladders to poke a wasp nest.

