



Redeemer News

December 13, 2006

Volume 2006, Number 23

Published twice monthly

**The Episcopal Church
of the Redeemer**

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CLERGY

The Rev. Bruce A. Freeman

Rector

The Rev. Charlie Brumbaugh

Associate Rector

The Rev. Nancy Hopkins-Greene

Assisting Priest

The Rev. Alice Connor

Curate

The Rev. Gary Lubin

Deacon

WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

SUNDAYS

8:00 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10:00 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Sanctuary)

The Banquet (Great Hall)

5:00 pm

Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Chapel)

WEDNESDAYS

7:00 pm

Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Chapel)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday

8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Editor: Elizabeth Grover

Next issue: January 10

Deadline: January 5

FROM THE ASSOCIATE RECTOR

This morning two-and-a-half-year-old Annie Graner was “dressed to the nines.” She had a festive ribbon in her hair. Under her beautiful winter coat she wore a stunning dress and sported shiny black shoes. She even carried the perfect accessory – a miniature handbag. What was the occasion? “I’m going to see Santa!” she beamed. And not just any run-of-the-mill Santa. Loretta, her mother, was driving her all the way to Florence, Kentucky to visit a Santa Claus who speaks *Chinese!*

Annie’s excitement stirred magical memories from my childhood. I remembered my parents driving my brother, sister, and me all the way to the big city (Dayton) to sit on Santa’s lap in Rike’s Department Store. I remembered tumbling downstairs on Christmas morning and spying my first guitar sitting grandly in a chair with a big red bow on it. (It was a black Sears archtop, practically unplayable under my lilliputian fingers, but it was beautiful.) I remembered dozing in the pew at the midnight service on Christmas Eve, mesmerized by the greens, the candles, the carols, the brass accompaniment, the lateness of the hour, and the promise of the morning.

I could go on and on. And so, perhaps, could you.

But things are different for me now. I’m older, seasoned by the vicissitudes of five decades of living. Even my children and step-children are growing up (and out) at the speed of light. With no grandchildren yet to spoil (I can wait, thank you!), I no longer experience the holiday season with the intense wonder of my childhood. This was particularly clear to me when I went to Lowe’s Hardware in early November and accidentally turned down an aisle packed with shiny Christmas stuff. My heart didn’t leap; it *recoiled!*

But I don’t pine for the good old days. On the contrary, I’ve come to love this time of year in new and much richer ways – thanks to the blessing of Advent. During the Season of Advent, the Church, in its wisdom, appoints scripture and hymnody that encourage us to see the world as it truly is: the darkness is deepening, and it’s not just because the days are getting shorter. Indeed, I look around and see that it is so. The ongoing war in Iraq, the suffering of so many near and far, and my own trials and tribulations press down on me with a heaviness that neither magical memories nor store-bought spirit can even begin to dispel.

But then I hear the Baptist's cry: "Prepare ye the way of the Lord!" I may hear it in scripture read or a hymn sung. I may hear it in a screaming headline or the lilt of a child's voice. I may hear it in a poem or the utter stillness of a prayer. This cry pierces the darkness, the hostility, the anxiety, and the lethargy to awaken me. And it beckons me to wade through the holiday cacophony to behold the essence – the Good News that the Light has come into the world, and that the darkness has not, and will not, overcome it.

Perhaps this is why I'm drawn to Advent wreaths more than Christmas trees – they signify a dynamic, mystical unfolding. Week by week another candle is lighted. Week by week the growing luminescence pushes back the shadows, lifts us up, and draws us in. Week by week we prepare for the coming of Jesus into the world – not only on Christmas Day or at the end of time, but right now. And week by week we take another step, following our Lord and Savior in the Way.

Faithfully,

Charlie Brumbaugh

FROM OUR ASSISTING PRIEST

By the time you receive this issue of *Redeemer News*, we will already be halfway through the season of Advent. With Christmas on a Monday this year, it feels like we got cheated out of a few days of Advent. This frustrates me. I need more time to *get ready*.

That is what Advent and the words of John the Baptist that we hear during this season are all about: *Getting ready*. But we hear this and all too quickly sink into the wrong forms of readiness: getting our shopping done, our houses decorated, our Christmas cards sent, our cookies baked. What do we really need to do to get ready?

On the first Sunday of Advent about five years ago, my family returned from church to find a plate of cookies on our doorstep. We savored them, wondering who the mysterious messenger might have been, assuming it was a kind gesture from a neighbor or parishioner who lived nearby. We had no way of knowing that this was

just the beginning. Over the next three and a half weeks, we received gifts on our doorstep almost every day. Sometimes it was candy. One day there were four pair of Christmas socks, another time a mini-bottle of Jack Daniels for my husband and a box of tea for me. (*Whoever this is, we thought, they know us well!*) Delivered at various times during the day, gifts sometimes came when we were at home. Like a mischievous child, whoever it was would ring the doorbell and disappear by the time we answered it. We found ourselves listening for cars on our driveway, watching in the darkness for people running across our yard. We were living expectantly, wondering what surprise each day would bring.

That Advent season taught us a lot about getting ready. John the Baptist tells us that to get ready, we need to *repent*, to turn around and to turn our lives toward God. Often part of what we need to turn from is our frantic lives. We need to turn away from the noise, the busyness, and our compulsion to always do – and have – *more*. Getting ready for Christ's coming is about something altogether different. It is about listening, waiting and watching. It is about living expectantly and leaving room for surprise. It is not even about giving gifts, but about *receiving* the ultimate gift. Like my family that magical Advent when the Advent fairy visited us, we need to be vigilant. We need to watch, to listen and to wait for Christ who – not only at Advent and Christmas but *always* – is coming into our lives. In the words of Phillips Brooks:

*How silently, how silently
the wondrous Gift is given.*

My wish for all of this Advent is that we might be open and ready to receive this gift.

Blessings and Peace,

Nancy Hopkins-Greene



EDUCATION BOARD

Finding God in children

By popular demand, we here reprint a prayer shared by Jennifer Hardy during the adult education forum on Sunday, December 3. Jen presented some very important and meaningful material on seeing God in children, then she read the following poem.

A Prayer for Children

We pray for children

who give us sticky kisses,
who hop rocks and chase butterflies,
who stomp in puddles
and ruin their new pants,
who sneak Popsicles before supper,
who erase holes in math workbooks,
who can never find their shoes.

And we pray for those

who stare at photographers
from behind barbed wire
who've never squeaked across the floor
in new sneakers,
who've never "counted potatoes,"
who are born in places we wouldn't be
caught dead,
who never go to the circus,
who live in an X-rated world.

We pray for children

who bring us fistfuls of dandelions
and sing off-key,
who have goldfish funerals,
build card-table forts,
who slurp their cereal on purpose,
who get gum in their hair,
put sugar in their milk,
who spit toothpaste all over the sink,
who hug us for no reason,
who bless us each night,

And we pray for those

who never get dessert,
who watch their parents watch them die,
who have no safe blanket to drag behind,
who can't find any bread to steal,
who don't have any rooms to clean up,
whose pictures aren't on anybody's dresser,
whose monsters are real.

We pray for children

who spend all their allowance
before Tuesday,
who throw tantrums in the grocery store,
and pick at their food,
who like ghost stories,
who shove dirty clothes under the bed
and never rinse out the tub,
who get quarters from the tooth fairy,
who don't like to be kissed
in front of the car pool
who squirm in church
and scream in the phone
whose tears we sometimes laugh at
and whose smiles can make us cry.

And we pray for those

whose nightmares come in the daytime,
who will eat anything
who have never seen a dentist,
who aren't spoiled by anybody,
who go to bed hungry
and cry themselves to sleep
who live and move but have no being.

We pray for children

who want to be carried,
and for those who must.
For those we never give up on,
and for those who don't have a chance.
For those we smother, and
for those who will grab the hand of anybody
kind enough to offer.

– Ina J. Hughes

A Prayer for Children
(Fireside/Morrow, 1997)

Preschool to sponsor Dr. Ray Guarendi

As part of their ministry to children, the Preschool hosts events aimed at improving parenting skills. On Tuesday, January 30, at 7:00 pm, we welcome Dr. Ray Guarendi, a nationally renowned clinical psychologist, author, radio host, and father of ten home-schooled children. Dr. Guarendi's humorous and energetic program, entitled *Consistent Discipline: Standing Strong as a Parent*, is co-sponsored by the Mt. Lookout Child Study Group. You must register by December 15 by sending \$10 to Emily Daley, 3526 Linwood Ave. 45226. Questions? Contact Susan Amalong at 281-0064 or Evie Estes at 731-8266.

Library has new books

Here are just a few of the new books in our library; some are donations from Jana Riess (a book review editor), some from others, and some were purchased from the library budget. Most new acquisitions can be found on the library cart (which is often in the Great Hall). Also on the library cart is a selection of children's books relevant to the Christmas season. (Additionally the library has now subscribed to a few periodicals. These will be kept on the blue rack above the fiction section.)

How to Really Love Your Child by Ross Campbell

How to Really Love Your Teen by Ross Campbell

The Blessing of a Skinned Knee by Wendy Mogel

These three books were recommended by Kelli Jasper when she spoke on parenting for the *Finding God in All Things* series.

Small group explores Benedictine rule

The Way of St. Benedict group will continue meeting beginning Sunday, January 14. We will meet every other Sunday at 3:00 pm in the Parlor. We will be reading a new book by Esther de Waal, *Living with Contradiction: An Introduction to Benedictine Spirituality*. St. Benedict "shows us how to live with contradictions: he does not tell us they will necessarily be resolved." Please join us to explore how the Rule might be a gift to support and challenge you on your journey. If you would like to join us, please RSVP to the church office or on the website (click *Register for an event*). For more information, contact Linda Thomson at 271-3051.

Retreats brighten up the winter

Every winter Redeemer offers several opportunities for parishioners to get away from it all and spend twenty-four hours in the presence of God. Please mark your new 2007 calendars with the dates for the retreat appropriate for you. All retreats are 5 pm Friday to 5 pm Saturday and take place at the Convent of the Transfiguration in Glendale; other details will follow.

February 9 - 10: Women's Not-Silent Retreat

February 23 - 24: Women's Silent Retreat

March 9 - 10: Men's Retreat

Announcing

a very special guest to begin the season of Lent

J. Philip Newell

❖ poet, scholar, spiritual leader, and teacher

❖ writer-theologian for the Cathedral of the Isles
in Cumbrae, Scotland

❖ companion theologian of American Spirituality Center
in New Mexico

❖ former warden of the Iona Abbey

❖ author of ten books
on Celtic spirituality and prayer

Listening for the Heartbeat of God: A Celtic Spirituality for Today

A fascinating two-day presentation
about how we can apply the wondrous principles
of Celtic spirituality to our lives today

Each part of the presentation can stand alone,
but you are invited to any and all of the following –

Sunday, February 25, 2007

Sermon at 8:00 am and 10:00 am

Made in the Image of God

Presentation at Adult Forum at 11:15 am

Listening for the Heartbeat of God: An Introduction to Celtic Spirituality

Sermon at 5:00 pm Celtic Eucharist

Christ of the Celts: An Ancient Harmony for Peace
(The liturgy will be Newell's Celtic Mass for Peace.)

Monday, February 26, 2007

Presentation at 10:00 am

Creation and Christ:

The Twin-loves of Celtic Spirituality

Concluding presentation at 7:00 pm

Christ and Creation:

The Twin-loves of Celtic Spirituality

Donations are encouraged, but all are welcome!

Mark your calendar now!

See website for information on Newell's books.

One more education article on page 8

MISSION BOARD



Christmas shopping to help the world

Many of us are up to our ears in Christmas shopping. If you would like to seek a way to give a gift that can help others, consider fair trade shopping. Local stores that carry items that benefit third-world artisans and growers include Ten Thousand Villages (on Madison Rd. in O'Bryonville) and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center Gift Shop.

Another purchasing choice that can make a difference is the purchase of (RED) products or services, including Gap, Motorola, Armani, Converse, and Apple. As the (RED) manifesto explains:

As first-world consumers, we have tremendous power. What we collectively choose to buy or not to buy can change the course of history and life on this planet... If you buy a (RED) product ... a (RED) company will give some of its profits to buy and distribute anti-retroviral medicine to our brothers and sisters who are dying of AIDS in Africa... All you have to do is upgrade your choice.

Finally, EDUN is a clothing company with the mission of helping increase trade and create sustainable employment for developing areas of the world with an emphasis on Africa. Their products are available at Anthropologie and Nordstrom.

Redeemer has adopted Marvin!

The proceeds from the Holiday Sale in October have been tallied and collected and sent off to El Hogar. Fortunately for us, the amount was large enough that we were able to sponsor a child. Our new son is Marvin Alexander Mendoza Argueta (born October 23, 1995). Marvin has just finished his second grade year. His stepmother, whose six children are already grown, brought him to El Hogar on January 24, 2006. His father works splitting stone, but earns very little. His mother lives in a wooden shack with a dirt floor and is not part of Marvin's life. Marvin loves school and his teachers at El Hogar, which is a place of blessing for him. We at Redeemer are blessed by Marvin as well.

The Millennium Development Goals

Goal #3: Promote gender equality and empower women

The prayer: *O God, in whom there is neither male nor female, Jew nor Gentile, slave nor free: Unite the wills of all people, that the walls which divide us and limit equality among your children may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; so that all may live together in justice, harmony, and peace.*

The facts:

- ✓ Of the 1.3 billion people living in poverty around the world, 70 percent are women.
- ✓ Women do about 66 percent of the world's work in return for less than 5 percent of its income.
- ✓ In the least developed countries nearly twice as many women as men over age 15 cannot read.
- ✓ Two-thirds of children denied primary education are girls, and 75 percent of the world's 876 million illiterate adults are women.
- ✓ Women work two-thirds of the world's working hours, produce half of the world's food, and yet earn only 10 percent of the world's income and own less than 1 percent of the world's property.

– From the Millennium Campaign

What you, ONE person or family, can do:

- ✓ Pray.
- ✓ Check the following organizations for opportunities to donate your time and/or talent locally:
 - Cincinnati Works: www.cincinnatiworks.org
 - The YWCA: www.ywcacin.org
 - Cincinnati Hamilton County Community Action Agency: <http://cincy-caa.com>
 - Give money to the Episcopal Community Services Foundation which supports various self-sufficiency programs throughout the Diocese of Southern Ohio.
- ✓ Give money to Episcopal Relief and Development: www.er-d.org to support vocational training schools for girls.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

Linda Thomson



PASTORAL

PASTORAL BOARD

CORE Epiphany Eve Party

If you are a young adult between the ages of 18 and 35, you are a part of the CORE of this community. Join others in this age group as Alice and Leighton Connor once again host our annual Epiphany Eve Party on Friday, January 5, 2007, at 6:30 pm. They live at 5735 Lester Road in Pleasant Ridge. Bring an appetizer or beverage and prepare to have fun! Our Bible study will resume after Epiphany; we meet on Tuesday nights at 7:30 pm and we'll start off 2007 with the book of Job. Feel free to email us at cmtzimenatos@hotmail.com or call at 513-321-4134 if you have any questions.

Chris & Leah Tzimenatos



LITURGY

LITURGY BOARD

Special event to celebrate new chapel organ

Last May we watched with awe as the builders from Juget-Sinclair in Montreal worked among us and installed the organ they had created for our new chapel. The official dedication of the new organ will take place on Saturday, January 6 – the Feast of the Epiphany – and the dedicatory concert will be played by Dr. Roberta Gary, Professor of Organ and Head of the Keyboard Division at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music. The organ dedication and concert will be at 5:00 pm, followed by a dinner at 6:00 pm. The Epiphany service of light will follow at 7:00 pm. All are welcome. Join us for this special evening!

Miscellaneous announcements:

Donating stock to Redeemer

A number of parishioners make their contribution to Redeemer by donating stock. The easiest way to do this is to have the transfer handled by your broker or the company that holds the stock for you. Since many brokerage firms are very busy with such transfers at the end of the year, you should not wait until the last week of the year to initiate this kind of move. Start the process as soon as possible to ensure that it is completed by December 31.

It is our policy to sell any stock gifts as soon as possible and apply the actual cash proceeds (rather than the value of the stock when donated) to your pledge balance. For gifts to fulfill your annual pledge, you should instruct your broker to transfer the stock to:

PNC Bank
DTC#2616
The Church of the Redeemer
Cash Flow Management Account
#21-70-001-0315342

For stock gifts to fulfill a pledge to Cornerstone:

PNC Bank
DTC #2616
The Church of the Redeemer
Cornerstone Campaign
Account #21-70-001-3935173

In addition, it is very important that your broker notify Patty Grelle, our account representative at PNC, by calling her at 513-651-8414.

If you hold the certificates yourself, you will need to have them reissued in the name of "The Church of the Redeemer" and deliver the new stock certificates to the church office. It may take up to three weeks to sell such stock, during which time significant changes in the value may occur.

Finally, please be advised that *the parish office is closed the week after Christmas. Any contributions not postmarked before December 31 cannot be recorded until 2007.* If you have any questions, please contact our Finance Officer Diane Bair at the office at 321-6700.

Finding God in All Things 2007

The Adult Formation Ministry Team has worked hard to plan the series *Finding God in All Things* which has met for almost a dozen sessions so far. We are pleased at how well this series is being received and trust you will continue to enjoy the topics to be covered in 2007. This adult education series meets every Sunday at 11:15 am in the Great Hall. After you worship with us at 10 am, come get some coffee and then have a seat – what you hear is guaranteed to be thought-provoking. Here is the tentative schedule for 2007:

Finding God in All Things: The Spirituality of . . .

Jan. 7	New resolutions
Jan. 14	Caregiving
Jan. 21	Art
Jan. 28	Needlework
February 4	Cooking
[February 11	Annual Meeting]
February 18	Youth in Mission
February 25	Celtic spirituality (P. Newell)
March 4	Meditation
March 11	Nature
March 18	Poetry
March 25	Praying
[April 1 & 8	Palm Sunday & Easter]
April 15	El Hogar with Richard Kunz
April 22	Gardening
April 29	Hospitality
May 6	Time
May 13	Family

Survey regarding Sunday morning adult education programs

While there is good attendance at both *Finding God in All Things* and the Sermon Discussion Group, there is room for growth in our Sunday morning programs. To help us improve these programs, a little feedback from you would be helpful. You need not have attended a program for your opinion to be valuable. Please answer the following questions and return this form to the office (by mail, in person, or by offering plate) by January 5.

Your attendance at adult education programs:

- attend *Finding God in All Things* regularly
- attend *Finding God in All Things* occasionally
- attended *Finding God in All Things* once or twice
- attend the sermon discussion regularly
- attend the sermon discussion occasionally
- have attended the sermon discussion once or twice
- have attended both programs
- have not attended any Sunday morning education

Reason you chose to attend (or not attend):

- Topic sounded interesting
- Sermon sparked my interest
- Wanted to see my friends
- I was a presenter
- Adult education programs are usually good
- Previous programs in this series were good
- Never attended before
- Don't have time
- Not interested in the topics

Suggestions to improve the Sunday morning adult education programs: _____

Are you interested in serving on the Adult Formation Ministry Team to share these ideas?

If so, please give us your name:

Upcoming events

PARISH CALENDAR
EVERY WEEK AT REDEEMER

Sunday

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I
 10:00 am Holy Eucharist in the Sanctuary
 The Banquet in the Great Hall
 Godly Play for ages 3-5
 St. Francis for 2's
 Child care for under age 2
 11:15 am Education for all ages
 5:00 pm Holy Eucharist in the Chapel

Monday

12:45 pm Noonday Prayer
 1:00 pm Staff meeting

Tuesday

7:30 pm CORE Bible Study

Wednesday

12 noon Downtown Bible Study
 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist in the Chapel

Thursday

10:00 am Bible Study
 4:00 pm St. Cecilia Choir
 7:00 pm Adult Choir
 8:00 pm Al-Anon meeting

Friday

8:30 pm AA meeting

December 16 to January 2 Preschool winter break
 December 16 10:00 am Pageant rehearsal
 for grades 3 to 6
 December 17 9:00 am Lay Eucharistic Visitors
 meeting
 11:15 am Pageant rehearsal
 6:00 pm Youth Christmas party
 6:00 pm Christmas caroling
 December 19 *DEADLINE FOR CHRISTMAS
 FLOWER DONATION*
 December 22 5:30 pm Youth to Phil's Place
 December 24 8:00 am Holy Eucharist
 10:00 am Holy Eucharist
 No Banquet
 11:15 am No Church School
 4:00 pm Holy Eucharist with Pageant
 10:30 pm Festival Holy Eucharist
 December 25 11:00 am Christmas Day Eucharist
 December 26 to January 1 *Parish office closed*
 December 31 10:00 am No Banquet
 11:15 am No Church School
 January 3 7:30 pm Book Group meeting
 7:30 pm Jesus and IHOP
 January 5 9:00 am *Redeemer News* deadline
 6:30 pm CORE Epiphany Eve Party
 January 6 10:00 am Prebaptism meeting
 5:00 pm Organ concert
 6:00 pm Epiphany Dinner
 7:00 pm Epiphany Service of Light
 January 7 10:00 am Holy Baptism
 5:00 pm Celtic Eucharist
 6:00 pm Youth Video Game Night
 January 8 3:30 pm Facilities Management
 Committee
 5:30 pm Stewardship
 7:00 pm Health & Wellness
 7:00 pm Parenting class
 7:00 pm Vestry
 January 9 7:00 pm Spiritual Journeys
 7:00 pm Preschool PTO
 January 10 9:15 am *Redeemer News* collating
 7:30 pm Mission Implementation
 Team