



Redeemer News

January 10, 2007
Volume 2007, Number 1
Published twice monthly

The Episcopal Church
of the Redeemer
2944 Erie Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45208
(513) 321-6700
www.redeemer-cincy.org

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 24
Deadline: January 19

FROM THE RECTOR

Just relax

Over the Christmas break, the Freeman family had the good fortune to spend a week away. We traveled to Minnesota, where Dana grew up and where I both finished high school and began my priesthood. Our first several days were spent blissfully in a house on the beach in Duluth, a special town for me, as it is where I met Dana and first heard the call to ministry. Yes, we stayed on the beach in one of the coldest places in the U.S. We knew what we were getting into. And it was delightful. As a family we ate together, laughed, played and rediscovered a city we once knew well. For a family which is often separated by college commitments and general busyness, the time together was truly grounding. We were keenly aware of how rare the opportunity to be together really was. It was a Christmas experience, a moment in which heaven and earth become one, when all was right with the world.

The last couple of days of our vacation were spent in Southern Minnesota with Dana's family. Unfortunately, on the day that we were to travel south, the first real snow we had seen started to come down. And come down. Each mile of travel on the freeway became an ever more difficult exercise in visibility and control. It had been a long time since I had driven in these kind of conditions. As I strained to see the car in front of me, also going 50 miles an hour on snow, I found myself trying to remember how it was that I used to drive in this kind of stuff. "Please help me remember how to drive like a Minnesotan!" became my quiet prayer to God. Certain habits came back: like not moving the steering wheel much (if at all), never touching the brakes, and keeping a constant speed. Finally I started to get the hang of it. It was not just the technical aspects which started to come back to me. It was the mental attitude necessary to thrive in the snow. The approach I eased into was one of calm relaxation. I began to simply trust the car, my ability to respond to any emergency, and the realistic possibility that everything was going to be fine. And it was. We arrived at Dana's sister's home, no

worse for the wear, appreciative of the sturdiness of our vehicle and of the remembrance of skills I had almost forgotten.

It seems to me that the experience of relearning my ability to simply relax might have implications for all of us as we seek to live out our faith lives. We are often presented with situations in which the storms of life place us in unfamiliar and uncomfortable territory. Just as often, this new territory is one in which God is leading us to new understandings.

The Magi who followed the star to find the Messiah were venturing into new, foreign, and somewhat threatening lands. They knew that God was doing something new in their world – something terribly important. They also knew that they had to find out what it was. Having experienced the revelation of God's light in the child Jesus, they were then given a large and complex task, one that each of us is given in our baptisms, that is to share the light of God's love in Jesus Christ with the world. This is the central image of this new season of Epiphany, and it certainly speaks directly to our vocation as Christians. It is a wonderful job we are each given – to follow the Magi, to seek the light of Christ where it is found, and then to undertake the awesome task of sharing this light in the world in which we find ourselves. This will bring us to unfamiliar and scary places, but just as surely it will also bring us new insight and meaning.

Each of us faces a myriad of situations in our lives in which we seek the light of Christ. There isn't one of us who doesn't struggle in the midst of the storms that are a normal part of every life to find security, meaning and vision. What I learned this Epiphany is that finding the light of Christ and sharing it with others is made much easier when we simply relax into the task at hand; trusting that God will guide us, strengthen us, and bring us clarity when the time is right. We cannot even partially control this process; we can only trust that God is there and that new vision will come eventually. May your Epiphany season be filled with Christ's light of love and new visions for your life as a follower of God.

In Christ,

Bruce A. Freeman
Rector

FROM THE CURATE

I always take the same path from my office to the Youth Living Room in the undercroft. Out of the office wing, take a right to the elevator, press the "L" button, left, then right and there I am. There are lots of ways to get here, partly because this building has many hallways and stairwells and partly because my office is about as far from the Youth Room as it's possible to be. But I always take the same path.

Leighton and I always take the same path to our comic book store. Wednesdays are when the new comics come out so we hop in the car and drive down Interstate 71, take the Taft exit, turn right on Jefferson, cross MLK, kind of veer leftish and there we are. Recently, however, our routine has fallen apart. The intersection between Jefferson and King has changed. It's hard to tell what exactly they're doing, but the flow of traffic has changed drastically. Where there was once a normal 4-way stoplight, there is now mud, concrete piping, earthmovers, and two lanes splitting off in opposite directions, neither leading down Jefferson towards the comics shop. Moreover, the options seem to change week to week. Someone has moved our cheese. Our path has changed.

On Sunday mornings, you probably take the same path from the choir room or the parlor or the Great Hall kitchen to the narthex. Right through the Great Hall. And why wouldn't you? It's set up as a hallway and is very convenient. That's all about to change.

A small group of Redeemerites has met to discuss the look of the Banquet service: furniture, fabric hangings, processional crosses, even the set-up of the space itself. We noticed two things: (1) that the seating areas in the back feel very far away from the "action," as it were, and (2) that before the service and during adult education, lots of people walk directly through the middle of the seating on their way somewhere else. We said to ourselves, "In the Sanctuary service, folks have the opportunity to pray in relative peace and quiet before the service. When they enter that space, it *feels* like church, they feel ready for worship." And we asked, "Why shouldn't the Banquet attendees have the same feeling?" We've got some wonderful plans for new furniture and hangings to make the space more sacred, more beautiful; why not change the traffic pattern so people aren't distracted, too?

So here's the heart of it: your path is changing. Tables will be set up to direct you towards the cloister side of the room. Instead of walking directly through the Great Hall on Sunday mornings, we are asking that you walk around behind the seating area. Yeah, it'll be weird the first few times. Yeah, you'll probably forget, and that's okay. The thing is, our time of worship is important. As Episcopalians, our "common prayer" is what holds us together across political parties, across family divisions, across the country. Coming together into the presence of God is sacred and powerful. How we get there is not as important as just getting there.

Alice Connor

MISSION BOARD

Mission spotlights in the Season of Epiphany

At Christmas, we celebrated the feast of the Incarnation, the mystery of the Word made flesh in Jesus Christ. In words from our Eucharistic Prayer, "...in the mystery of the Word made flesh, [God has] caused a new light to shine in our hearts." After Christmas, we move into the season of Epiphany, when we celebrate the manifestation of this Light of Christ to the world. This light was made manifest first through the wise men. We as Christians are called to spread that light in the world around us.

This year during the season of Epiphany, we will be spotlighting **ways that the Light of Christ shines through Redeemer's mission ministries**. This "spotlight," sponsored by the Mission Board, will highlight one or two different mission ministries each Sunday with special prayers, displays and parish representatives in the narthex before and after services. Members of the congregation will have the opportunity to learn more, to ask questions and to consider volunteer opportunities in these many programs.

The schedule for Mission Spotlights is as follows:

January 7:

Hyde Park Center for Older Adults
Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)

January 14:

El Hogar de Amor y Esperanza in Honduras

January 21:

Madisonville Education & Assistance Center (MEAC)

January 28:

Episcopal Retirement Homes:
Meals on Wheels and Parish Health Ministry

February 4:

Habitat for Humanity

February 11:

Freestore/Foodbank
People Working Cooperatively

February 18:

Navajoland
Episcopal Relief & Development
Millennium Development Goals

The season of Epiphany will culminate on Sunday, February 18, with **World Mission Sunday**. As part of our observance of World Mission Sunday and our commitment to the Millennium Development Goals, there will be an offering for **Episcopal Relief and Development** that day. The **adult spiritual formation** program in the Great Hall will also focus on mission that Sunday; a group of Redeemer youth will be presenting on the topic "Finding God in Navajoland."

Let your light shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

– Matthew 5:16

Nancy Hopkins-Greene

The Millennium Development Goals

Why should we care? This e-mail from the Millennium Campaign (www.millenniumcampaign.org) makes it plain:

Dear Campaigners,

Congratulations! We are so proud of everything you've accomplished this year. Your hard work taught schoolchildren in Kenya to footballers in Germany about the Millennium Goals and world leaders' promises to end poverty by 2015. Your passion

mobilized over 23 million people around the world to break a Guinness World Record for the most number of people to Stand Up Against Poverty and for the Millennium Goals. And your dedication to help the world's poorest convinced your friends, neighbors and relatives to join the Global Call to Action Against Poverty.

. . . you are making a difference. Your meetings and concerts, your lectures and web sites, your articles and radio programmes on the Millennium Goals are making it clear to governments that the world is tired of broken promises. You have let your governments know that you won't remain seated while extreme poverty continues to destroy billions of lives.

Because you demanded that every boy and girl deserves a basic education, Noelina Nabakooza an 11-year-old girl from Uganda is able to go to school and live out her dream to become a nurse. Because you demanded your government drop the debt of the poorest countries, Burkina Faso was able to use their debt relief savings to fight HIV/AIDS, eventually stabilizing the HIV-positive share of the population. And because you demanded additional aid to Africa, the US Congress increased their anti-poverty funds by one billion dollars for 2007. All of these great success stories couldn't have happened without you.

You have accomplished great things this year, but there is still much work to be done. As we enter into 2007, we will reach the halfway point for the achievement of the Millennium Goals. While great strides have been made, we have a long road to travel until the world sees the equity it was promised by world leaders seven years ago. We will all need to work together, hand in hand, to make our voices heard and our demands met.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being? *I will, with God's help.*

Hyde Park Center fundraiser

Enjoy a meal at TGIFriday's in Hyde Park Plaza and help out the Hyde Park Center for Older Adults at the same time. From January 15 to 18, a portion of your check will be donated to the Center. Pick up a coupon at the mission table in the narthex.

Millenium Development Goals to be highlighted for ten weeks

Those of you who were here on January 7 received a yellow bulletin supplement about the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs.) Provided by Episcopal News Service, this is the first in a series of ten flyers which give information on each of the MDGs and suggestions for what you can do. Parishioners are encouraged to take these home to read. As each week's flyer is different, back copies will be available in the narthex.

El Hogar Christmas thanks

Many thanks to those of you who together contributed \$569 for the El Hogar Christmas Clothing Fund. Here is an excerpt from Dr. Barbra McCune's New Year letter about how the funds were used this year.

What is absent from the Honduran celebration of Christmas is lavish gift giving. Obviously, most families do not have enough money to meet the most basic needs so there is never the expectation that one gives or receives gifts. The emphasis is on attending Mass on the 24th, spending time with family and friends, and enjoying a few special foods. For those families who can afford it, folks carry out the tradition of wearing some kind of new clothing on Christmas Eve. This rarely, if ever, means a new outfit, rather a new shirt, new hair ribbon or socks.

The El Hogar boys arrived at Christmas Eve services looking very "guapo" (handsome) in new polo style shirts in bright primary colors. For many of the boys, this was the first time that they ever had new clothing to wear on Christmas Eve. Thank you to those El Hogar sponsors and intercessors who made it possible for the boys to share in this Honduran tradition.

Carolyn Martin

New FreeStore/FoodBank volunteer work hours in 2007

Happy New Year to all and thanks for your support of the FreeStore/FoodBank ministry in 2006. Our group of volunteers has quickly become known as the group that knows what they're doing and is able to process a lot of food quickly and accurately with few support needs. We do good work, and y'all are the reason why! I'm humbled and immensely grateful for the way you have embraced this mission that I love. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

But our work isn't finished. In 2007 I'm looking for returning and new volunteers (both CORE members and other Redeemerites) to help out. This year, to accommodate afternoon activities, we're working from 9 am (promptly) to 12 noon on:

January 13	July 14
February 10	August 11
March 10	September 8
April 14	October 13
May 5	November 10
June 9	December 8

Sign-up sheets will be in the narthex before each workday, and if you'd like to be signed up automatically for every workday in 2007 or if you have any questions, email me at bkretsch@spamcop.net.

Here's to returning volunteers and lots of new ones – because I couldn't do this without you. Thanks again for all your help!

Bonnie Kretschmer

More from PWC

PEOPLE WORKING COOPERATIVELY offers more help to low-income homeowners than the two seasonal events (Prepare Affair and Repair Affair) in which we have participated for some years. One Saturday a month volunteers participate in Home Improvement Days. The next opportunity is **JANUARY 20**. If you are interested, call Keenan Beauchamp at 533-9356 or see him in the narthex at 12 noon next week (January 14).

EDUCATION BOARD

Kelli's Keys to the Kingdom

Church School is back in full swing beginning January 7. There will be Church School every Sunday until Palm Sunday with one exception. On February 11 is the Parish Annual Meeting; there will be a couple of adjustments to the class schedule, but there will be class and/or activities for your child during the entire length of the meeting. I will **need volunteers** to assist in providing these activities and food for our children – please contact me to assist!

Feast/Snack Prep and Clean-up: We are looking for additional people to assist with the Feast Ministry. This ministry sets up and cleans up the snack/feast for our Church School classes. Snack items are all on hand; your job is to mix pitchers of lemonade and distribute drinks and snacks to classrooms. After Church School, items are cleaned and stored for the next week. If you can only do set-up or clean-up, that would help out, too. It takes about 20 minutes to set-up and 15 minutes for clean-up. Hollis Bass is the coordinator for this ministry; she keeps our supplies stocked and creates a schedule. Please contact either Hollis (hollis@fuse.net) or me (kelli@redeemer-cincy.org) if you can support this effort.

5/6th Grade Youth Group: January 21 is the next gathering of the 5/6th Grade Youth Group. (Does anyone have a catchy name we can call this group?) We will meet at Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church (HPCUMC) at 6:00 pm for dinner and end at 8:00 pm. If your 5th or 6th grader has not been able to participate yet, we encourage them to give it a try. The events have been really fun. Last month we went caroling with the parish, and everyone, especially the people we visited, enjoyed the evening. We got to bond as a group traveling to each destination and even talked a little about how much fun we were having while spreading God's love to those who cannot get to church. Send your child with \$2 for dinner and encourage them to bring a friend along.

Peace Tree: Thank you to all who supported the church school's Peace Tree project. We collected \$50, and the children will now decide how they would like to use the money to support one of the ministries in which Redeemer is involved.

Godly Play story schedule: The Godly Play stories your children in preschool through 2nd grade hear each Sunday follow a pattern, beginning with the Old Testament and moving through the New, while also incorporating themes of the liturgical year. Upcoming stories are about Epiphany, Baptism, the Parable of the Good Shepherd, and the Parable of the Good Samaritan. We will continue with the parables until Lent when each week we explore a different event in the life of Jesus. Parents, please look for the Parent Pages in the undercroft. These one-page handouts give a synopsis of the story and encourage further discussion with your child. If you can't find them, just ask!

Kelli Jasper

Small group explores the Benedictine Rule

The Way of St. Benedict group will resume meeting on Sunday, January 14. We will meet every other Sunday at 3:00 p.m. 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 via the website. For more information, contact Linda Thomson at 271-3051.

Next Bookgroup meeting

The Redeemer Bookgroup will meet Wednesday, February 7, at 7:30 pm in the Redeemer library to discuss the book *Gap Creek* by Robert Morgan. All are welcome to join our group.

Announcing a special guest to begin Lent!

J. Philip Newell

- ❖ poet, scholar, spiritual leader, and teacher
- ❖ writer-theologian for the Cathedral of the Isles in Cumbrae, Scotland
- ❖ 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 group of presentations about how we can apply the wondrous principles of Celtic spirituality to our lives today!

Each part of these two days 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.)

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

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

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

Donations are encouraged, but all are welcome!

Mark your calendar now!

(Can't figure out these topics? Don't worry! Philip is a fabulous teacher and incredibly spiritual person. Just come and hear him! You won't regret it!)

PASTORAL BOARD

Knitters keep busy

The Night Knitters/Crocheters will meet on Tuesday evening, January 16, at 7 pm in the parlor. If you'd like to become involved in this ministry, please join us. Our special guest will be Sally Dixon who will answer questions and help with knitting and crocheting challenges. For more information, contact Linda Thomson at 271-3051 or Heather Krombholz at 272-3837.

Dancing in the Snow... Part 2

It's January and that means just one thing – the Second Annual Redeemer Contra Dance! All adults (and school-age children) are invited to join in the fun and frivolity on Friday, January 26, from 7:30 pm until 10:30 pm. Just ask anyone who was there last year; it's easy to learn and is a fun social event for everyone. Contra is a type of called dance (like square dancing) that is generally done in two long lines (unlike square dancing). This allows the entire group to interact throughout the dance.

There is no RSVP required and it is free! How simple is that? Anyone interested in helping with set-up before the dance, please contact Bonnie Kretschmer at bkretsch@spamcop.net to offer your assistance. See y'all there!

Bonnie Kretschmer

CORE Bible Study schedule

Here is the Bible Study schedule for January for CORE (the young adult group). We meet on Tuesdays at 7:30 pm in the Redeemer Library. Join us!

January 9 Bible Study 101, Book of Job
January 16 Lectio Divina
January 23 Bible Study 101, Psalms
January 30 Lectio Divina

Questions? Call Chris Tzimenatos at 321-4134 or Alice Connor at 321-6700.

MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteer needed for data entry

The Stewardship of Time & Talent team needs help with data management and reporting. Throughout the year, people change ministries and this necessitates an update in our database. We also need help producing existing reports from the database for Board Chairs and ministry leaders on a quarterly basis. In the spring when the blue Time & Talent Covenant Forms are updated, the whole team helps with data entry – which went surprisingly well and fast last year. If you have basic computer skills and would like to help match parishioners to ministries, please contact Dawn Neely at 321-5267.

Celtic art on approval

Redeemer's Art Committee has decided to purchase a piece of art by Cindy Matyi, a local artist who creates works full of Celtic symbols and images. Several of her works are now on loan and are hanging in the parish library. The committee will either choose one of the two large pieces currently on approval or they will commission a new piece. If you are interested in learning more about the Art Committee's plans for this project, please call Judy Manzler at 561-4425.

Speaking of Celtic art . . .

Philip Newell's visit with us will kick off a series of Lenten programs on Celtic themes. During Lent there will be a Celtic Eucharist every Sunday at 5 pm, followed by a simple dinner at 6 pm. At 7 pm we will learn more about how to find God in the Celtic realm.

March 4 Art in the Celtic Realm

March 11 Music in the Celtic Realm

March 18 Story and Verse in the Celtic Realm

March 25 Places in the Celtic Realm

Watch for sign-up opportunities and for more details as this series draws closer, but mark your calendar now.

