



Redeemer News

February 7, 2007

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**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: February 21

Deadline: February 15

FROM THE RECTOR

*I knew nothing; I was nothing. For this reason God
picked me out.*

Catherine Laboure, Sister of Charity

In my line of work, I have ample opportunity to prepare people for baptism. Usually in pre-baptismal sessions I'm speaking to interested parents and godparents who are excited to be a part of this ritual. There's always one moment in this preparation session that I love. Right after I proclaim that in baptism we become a part of the Body of Christ, and therefore as his hands in the world, whatever we touch is in essence, touched by Jesus, a look of wonder and bemusement comes over the faces of my listeners. You can almost hear their minds and hearts trying to figure this out. "I'm the physical presence of Jesus? I can be the hand of God? Not really!! Really?! My child is the instrument of God's healing? To me maybe – but for the whole world? Wow! Can it be?" Knowing that my listeners are usually asking these questions, I often say, "Does this sound too amazing to be true? Well – it is the truth and it goes to the heart of our Christian faith." The improbable truth is that by faith each of us can be an instrument of God, a vessel of divine grace and love.

When we think about each of us being an instrument of God, there is a part of us, especially if we're healthy, that wants to say, "I'm not worthy!" We all suspect that our gifts are not sufficient, that we aren't pure enough to venture even a small act in God's Name. God seems too big, too powerful, too right, too perfect to move through us. "I'm just too small, too imperfect," we say, "to be the hand of God." And it is true – we are humble, imperfect, incomplete beings. But this is not about us. It's about God. God in Jesus Christ has entered our simple, broken, often dark and imperfect world to show that God is intimately involved with and cares about what happens to us. Jesus is, for those with faith in him, the singular proof that for those who give their lives out of love for God's Creation, God will be with them. At the heart of our Christian vocation is the truth that each of us is beloved by God and is endowed with every gift necessary to make God's love real in the world in which

we find ourselves. We don't need to be pros at anything. God strengthens us to be the people we are meant to be, to be the means for God to move in the world. The sooner we stop worrying about our inadequacies and accept that by our own power we can accomplish little, the sooner God's Spirit of power and grace can flow through us.

On Sunday, February 11, we will be holding our Annual Meeting. This meeting is an opportunity to hold up the many ministries of the parish, our plans for the future and the mission we share as the Body of Christ here at the corner of Erie and Paxton. It is a moment of celebration, discussion and prayer. I want to invite all of you to share in this important event. One of the topics of discussion and celebration will be our inclusion in Diana Butler Bass' book *Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith*. This book, which was released last fall to favorable national reviews, focuses on a common thread found in vibrant mainline congregations: a willingness to embrace ancient traditions with a postmodern twist. Redeemer is cited several times in the book, in particular in sections which revolve around the practices of prayer, hospitality, and discernment. Butler Bass lifts up our common practice of asking God-questions in our meetings and gatherings. Such questions as "Where do you see God in your ministry?" and "Where do you see God in your life?" are used as examples of how we help each other live into our faith life. It is in sharing these personal experiences of God in our individual lives that we as a community see God moving through us. In essence, we have built a language to affirm that God moves through us as individuals *and* as a community. This practice has helped us recognize that ultimately it is about God and that it is what God is doing through us and in us that is most valuable. God has chosen us as the means by which holy love and life are to be made real. This is fantastic and true. This is our vocation, our sacred calling.

In Christ,

Bruce A. Freeman

FROM OUR CURATE

This is a slow time of year. The sun is weaker and the days are grey. I sit in front of my computer at home, looking out the window at the falling snow. It's very pretty when I'm inside and warm. Thinking about going outside into the cold and wet makes me tired. And the snow won't stick, anyway — it falls for several hours, looking like a movie backdrop, and then melts, leaving a kind of dirty slush. It's not even worth putting on your snow boots. It's the time of year you just want to stay inside, drink something hot, and do very little.

In the Connor household and perhaps in yours, this slow time coincides with Seasonal Affective Disorder. We experience mild versions of it, but still, SAD we are. Outside, it is not dark, exactly, but that grey sky is so pervasive, it almost seems like we'll never see the sun again. It brings a peculiar sense of loss. Inside, even with all the blinds open, it seems to be constantly dusk. My parents, to combat this feeling, purchased a couple of full-spectrum lamps for their home and sit under them for an hour each morning. They say that little bit of light fills their minds and hearts and helps them get through the day. Leighton and I just sleep really late.

It is during this slow time that my body tells *me* to slow down. "Take it easy," it says, "relax." And I resist — there is so much that needs doing. Just because I am tired, doesn't mean the world stops turning. With a new year come new challenges and new hopes. Most of us deal with budget cutbacks at work or the beginning of tax season. We are also given the gift of a new start: we'll be healthier and nicer and more prayerful in the new year, our summer vacation will be better and more relaxing than last year, school will let out in only four months. And yet, it's winter. It's grey. Planning spring's garden only has so much appeal; at some point, it can just feel like work.

"Relax," says the body. I wonder if our bodies don't have the right idea. Bears and other mammals hibernate during winter. They gorge on heavy root vegetables, filling up with starches and fats to tide them over, and then curl up in a warm place to sleep for long periods of time. What if human beings have just scheduled ourselves out of our natural rhythm? What if we're supposed to eat a lot of baked potatoes and fried foods and laze about, watching the snow fall and letting our bodies and minds regenerate? What if this is our seventh day, our Sabbath in which we can breathe deeply, consider what we have wrought in the last year,

and just sit with God, not expecting anything from each other?

Sabbath is hard to come by. Sundays become just another day of the week for most of us. Our days off are filled with ferrying children or laundry or home repairs. Downtime can mean list-making or planning. And yet, Sabbath is a requirement — God rested on the seventh day of creation and required a day of rest in the Ten Commandments. Sabbath is a time of reflection and connection with God. The dead of winter, when we feel slower or SAdder, is a perfect time to sit with God. This new year offers the chance of rest and renewal. Perhaps grey is the color God chose to say to us, “Relax. Reflect. Breathe. Hibernate, even. You need it.”

LITURGY BOARD

New steps for the acolyte program

Being an acolyte is an honor and a responsibility. There are currently thirty-one youth at Redeemer serving as acolytes, but that number will change soon. Consider if *you* might be called to be an acolyte. You could be a part of this change. (What is an acolyte? If you don't know, look it up on our website glossary at <http://www.redeemer-cincy.org/newcomer.>)

At Redeemer acolytes have historically been youth only. We are now opening up the program to adults. This is your chance to relive your youth if you were an acolyte many years ago (or to become the acolyte you never got to be). Adult acolytes will serve only at the 8 am and 5 pm services. Yes, we will be adding acolytes at the 5 pm service. These can be adults or youth. This service has grown in attendance and deserves an acolyte like the other services. We also need more adults to be acolyte advisors. One or two cannot do it all; tasks include scheduling, training, caring for robes and crosses, planning outings and trips, and, of course, supervising the Sunday morning shuffle. If you could do even one of these tasks, it would really help.

Training for anyone (youth fourth grade and older and adults) interested in becoming an acolyte (or acolyte advisor) will take place in March. There will be three sessions offered – Sundays, March 4, 11, and 18, at 12 noon. Current acolytes who are already trained for oblations need attend only one session; other current acolytes and all new ones need to attend two. Please call Ted Terry at 232-3235 if you have any questions.

EDUCATION BOARD

Kelli's Keys to the Kingdom

eMinistry Network: A new resource...for adults

I belong to a list serve for the National Association of Episcopal Christian Education Directors (NAECED), and it is a wonderful resource and support forum for the ministry of Christian formation. One topic that intrigues me is the eMinistry Network, a non-profit organization developed by an Episcopal priest to support the Christian community with ministry training, information and connection. eMinistry Network offers short courses over the telephone in the privacy and comfort of your own home. A wide variety of topics are covered in their offerings – including Celtic prayer, labyrinths, discernment, designing a confirmation program, faith-based reconciliation, the Millennium Development Goals and more.

Most courses are just one hour long; some “meet” just once, others two or three times. The cost for each course is usually less than \$25. I encourage you to visit www.eministrynetwork.org for more information. It seems like a great way to enhance your personal formation journey.

Lent for families: Advent is easy – or, should I say, easier. We gather together for Advent wreath making; last year we shared a meal together and made Chrismons. And the event we were preparing for was a birth, a baby, a king. A happy time. A time of joyful anticipation. It's fun to get ready for Christmas, and the music, presents, decorations and parties make it culturally comfortable. How many *Easter* parties will you be invited to this year? Yet before we ever celebrated the birth, we had to experience the death. As Christians our faith began at the end of a life, but that was only the beginning. So even though the Easter story has been with us from the very beginning, it is the birth story that gets all the attention – culturally.

In the church, however, Lent and Easter get the lion's share of the attention. Each week in the Eucharist we celebrate the Easter event; there is eternal life in Christ and death is no longer the end. But we have to go there to get to the Good News. How do we prepare for this roller coaster ride of death into new life?

In Godly Play the distinction between Advent and Lent is made clear in the stories. The purple Sundays of Advent are four, of Lent – six. The Holy Family now sits upon a purple underlay on the focal shelf. The story for Lent happens on a roll of purple felt stretched out on the floor. Each week the felt gets longer and longer as we talk about an event in the life of Christ that leads us to the Great Mystery. We talk about the Mystery of Easter being much greater than the Mystery of Christmas, and so it takes longer to prepare. (And Easter is such a great mystery that it takes six weeks to celebrate it!)

How can you observe Lent at home? Some ideas . . .

- » Use a purple table cloth or placemats during Lent.
- » Put a small freestanding cross in the middle of your dining table or on your coffee table. (I made one with a wood cross from Michael's and mounted it on a small wooden base. Jake painted it.) Light a candle next to it as you say grace before dinner.
- » Make up a new prayer to say before each meal or at bed time during Lent.
- » Plant a flowering bulb at the beginning of Lent and put it on your dining table to watch it come through the darkness of the earth into beauty and light. Wonder aloud about how this is like the Easter event. Or plant some grass in a pot indoors. Use it for an Easter hunt or basket.
- » In the Banquet we are going to pass out ERD collection boxes for children and families to use during Lent. Have everyone at the end of the day or week put their loose change in the box. Or if you give up something for Lent (i.e. candy, Starbucks, eating out), put the money you would have spent in the box.
- » Make a purple prayer chain with 40 links for each day of Lent (the 40 days of Lent don't include Sundays).
- » Bake pretzels. Pretzels are a Lenten tradition from Austria, Germany and Poland. They were made to take the place of bread since milk, eggs and fats were not used during Lent.
- » Plan to come to the Pancake Supper and the Ash Wednesday service. Make a commitment to attend church and Church School each Sunday in Lent. Plan now to attend Holy Week services. Put them on your calendars.

Let us tell you about Philip Newell

If you have read any issues of this newsletter in the past two months, you should be aware that later this month Redeemer will be blessed with the presence of J. Philip Newell, former Warden of the Abbey on Iona and Celtic scholar. Those of us who have met Philip and spent time with him are not merely aware of his visit; we are anxiously anticipating his arrival. What do we know that you do not? Here are some comments from the group that spent three days on Iona in September of 2005 with Philip as our leader and guide.

*Every morning before I leave my bed, I read the lesson [for the day] in [Philip Newell's book] **Sounds of the Eternal**. It unfailingly serves as a guide for the day, even with new thoughts. That is difficult to believe considering the readings are the same week to week!*

Lib Stone

We have not heard a more gifted, more gentle, more provocative or more interesting presenter than Philip. We found his topic – Celtic spirituality – right up our alley. Very earthy. Very real. Dare we say, very Redeemer!

Kathy & Mike Krug

*[When we got to Scotland,] I was looking forward to meeting Philip Newell, author, poet, theologian. I expected a person late in years, with a hoary beard and halting gait. But the man who came bounding into my line of vision looked instead as if he were all set to lead a hike, a long one! He subsequently did just that, one I will never forget. In the meantime, he introduced me to a part of our Christian tradition that holds a freshness, vigor and depth that is potentially life-changing. His vision is inclusive and affirming. More days than not, I start out with a reading from his slim volume, **Sounds of the Eternal**, which he subtitles "A Celtic Psalter, Morning and Night Prayer." I've been using it for 18 months now, and I haven't gotten bored yet!*

Naomi Tucker Stoehr

J. Philip Newell was the leader of our pilgrimage on the Isle of Iona where we experienced his teaching ministry first hand. In addition to being a gifted theologian and prayerful man, he has a sense of humor and is a warm, down-to-earth human being, grounded in the Celtic tradition of Christianity. He taught us by word and example a better meaning of Celtic Christianity which has roots going back to ancient Ireland, Scotland, England, and Wales. One important

message we carried away was this – that what is first in us, at the very core of us and at deepest level of our being, is the image of God, which is one of LOVE; and it is GO(O)D. The implications of this are far reaching, affecting how we view ourselves and each other sweeping us toward providential, inextricable community.

Gary Lubin

I have traveled in Scotland at least three times with Philip Newell, at least two of which have been on the holy island of Iona, Inner Hebrides, Scotland. He readily shares his knowledge and love of things having to do with Iona, St. Columba, and Celtic spirituality. He is a great teacher and is willing to spend as much time as a student may need. He is a gentle, engaging, learned individual.

Andrew MacAoidh Jergens

We are grateful to these Scottish pilgrims – for learning from Philip, for sharing what they have learned, and for helping us in many ways with Philip’s visit.

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

Two days, six 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

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Sermon at 8:00 am and 10:00 am

Made in the Image of God

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Presentation at Adult Forum at 11:15 am

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

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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

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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!

Also several of Newell’s books and CD’s
will be available for purchase.

A Celtic Lenten Series: Finding God in Celtic Realms

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 Finding God in Celtic Art
with local Celtic artist Cindy Matyi

March 11 Finding God in Celtic Music
with Celtic harpist Nancy Bick Clark

March 18 . . . Finding God in Celtic Story and Verse
with Charlie Brumbaugh and Jim Votaw

March 25 Finding God in Celtic Realms
with the Rev. Jack Bowers

The Lenten series will be on **Sunday nights** so that it can include the Celtic Eucharist. Each Sunday the schedule will be as follows:

5 pm Celtic Eucharist

6 pm Parish Dinner

7 pm Program

Sign up on the website (www.redeemer-cincy.org and click “Register” on the list on the left). Or sign up at the information center in the narthex. If you would be able to bring a main dish for one of the dinners, please contact Chris Orr at 871-7955. But whatever you do, *join us!*

Men's retreat: Wild beasts & angels

Before the baptismal waters had even dried from the Beloved's skin, he was driven by the Spirit into the wilderness. Wild beasts were there. Angels, too.

This rich story (Mark 1:9-13) will nourish us as we (the men of Redeemer) gather at the Community of the Transfiguration in Glendale early in the Season of Lent. The retreat will begin with supper at 6:00 pm on Friday March 9 and end with a mid-afternoon celebration of the Holy Eucharist on Saturday, March 10. In between we will enjoy opportunities for meditation, reflection, fellowship, and relaxation. The facilitator will be the Rev. Charlie Brumbaugh. The registration fee of \$65 will cover the cost of overnight accommodations and three meals.

Please mark your calendars now, and sign up by the usual methods – the parish information center in the narthex, the website (<http://www.redeemer-cincy.org/registration.html>), e-mail (elizabeth@redeemer-cincy.org), or phone (321-6700). Questions? Contact Jim Votaw (272-0380; jkvotaw@fuse.net) or Charlie Brumbaugh (321-6700, ext. 205; CFBCOR@aol.com).

Theology Group discusses *Brothers K.*

Здравствуйте! Zdravstvujtye! (Hello!) It was great to see so many devoted theology and Russian lit lovers at our last gathering. We look forward to future gatherings and new revelations from the group as our understanding of *The Brothers Karamazov* unfolds. Below is a proposed schedule – join us!

Sunday, February 18, 2007 at 6:00-7:30 pm

Books 4-5: This includes "The Grand Inquisitor" -- because it is a pivotal chapter, we will probably discuss it the following meeting also.

Monday, March 12, 2007 at 7:00-8:30 pm

Books 6-7

Monday, April 9, 2007 at 7:00-8:30 pm

Books 8-9

Sunday, April 29, 2007 at 6:00-7:30 pm

Books 10-11

Monday, May 21, 2007 at 7:00-8:30 pm

Book 12 to the end

Youth mentors for confirmation needed

As we head into the heart of our Confirmation process for our ninth graders, we need four additional women to be adult mentors. Your commitment would be to attend four confirmation sessions (usually Sundays at noon), to befriend a young person, and to attend the confirmation service on May 20. If you are interested, please speak with Bruce Freeman in person or call him at 321-6700.

Youth News

February 11—Dinner and a Movie! 6-9pm

Junior and Senior High will dine together on fabulous, exotic foods, then split up. Junior High watches *Bend it like Beckham* (PG13) in the parlor and Senior High will watch *Da Vinci Code* in the living room. Check out these films at www.imdb.com.

February 16-18—Exodus weekend!

Join Hume Jamison, Emily Martin, and John Custer for an incredible weekend at Grace Church, College Hill. Transform your ideas into action — sign up now at www.dsoyouth.org/Exodus. The focus is the power of healing and the cost is \$30. Senior High only.

February 18—Auction Prep 6 pm to 8 pm

That's right, it's almost here—help us get set up for Tuesday's Extravaganza! We'll order lots of pizza... (Jr&Sr)

February 20—AUCTION!

The party itself is from 6 pm to 8 pm, but get here as soon as you can after school—we'll be cooking up a storm and decorating as early as 2 pm.

February 24—Over-the-Rhine Tour with Bob McG from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm. Come hang with Bob as we experience a little of Cincinnati's true poverty. If you're thinking of going to Navajoland this year, you must attend one of these tours. Space is extremely limited, so please RSVP to the church office. Lunch provided. (Jr&Sr)

IMPORTANT PANCAKE SUPPER INSTRUCTIONS

February 20 from 6 pm to 8 pm

1. Donate an item or service to be auctioned off. Donation forms are available in the narthex or in the office.
2. Purchase tickets for the supper (available Sundays).
3. Come to the supper and stay for the auction – and bid HIGH!

QUESTIONS: CALL ALICE AT 321-6700.

MISSION BOARD

Becoming a Neighbor in the Desert

I've been traveling west to Navajoland for four years, and every year I ask myself if I should go next year. Last year I pondered that question in all seriousness considering the number of times I have been before (Am I taking a spot from someone else who might want to go?), my effectiveness on the Reservation (What do I really accomplish?), my age (Do I connect with teenagers at all?), and my physical condition (My hips and knees do not allow me to climb mesas any more). I decided to go anyway last summer and see what God had to say to me. My expectations of actually having God say anything to me were pretty low, but I tried to keep an open mind.

It's a good thing I listened because there were things to hear. Our group was very cohesive. We connected with one another despite a broad age difference. Even though I couldn't go on any of the climbing hikes, there were others there who could cover for me in these activities, and the time by myself gave me a rare opportunity to reflect on the activities of the day. But God had more surprises. Most surprising of all was that the people of the Reservation came to talk to us on a daily basis. Young people, old people, people who we had not met before came to talk and socialize with us. I felt that we were finally starting to connect into what is a very close-knit society. I felt trust develop where I had not felt it before. God spoke.

Chuck Darling

The dates for the 2007 Navajoland Pilgrimage are June 16-23. Applications will be available Sunday, February 18 and ***the application deadline is March 11.*** The ***cost of the trip is \$500 per person.*** In addition to three adult and two college-age leaders, we can take up to 10 youth and 5 adult participants on this year's pilgrimage. We have a protocol in place for determining youth participants. Adults will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. When you read the application, you will find details regarding ***the following pre-trip activities which will be required of all this year's participants:***

- 1) Participate in two Redeemer-sponsored mission activities between September, 2006 and May, 2007 which can include IHN, Freestore, Habitat.
- 2) Participate in a "Bob Tour" of the Over-the-Rhine neighborhood.
- (3) Write a one-page meditation.

These requirements are meant to connect your life here in Cincinnati with your Navajoland experience. Your journey begins well before you arrive at the airport. About one month before we actually leave, we will hold two evening events for participants to begin bonding, to chat about expectations for the trip, and to learn more about the Navajo. Questions? Call Alice at 321-6700.

World Mission Sunday is February 18

On Sunday, February 18, the final Sunday of the Epiphany season, we join Episcopalians throughout the country to focus on world mission. This year's theme "Proclaim God's Wondrous Deeds" particularly celebrates the ministry of young people in global mission. To mark World Mission Sunday, we will focus this final week of our **Mission Spotlights** on mission opportunities beyond Cincinnati, including **Navajoland, the ONE Campaign and the Millennium Development Goals.**

Also spotlighted will be **Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD)**, a ministry of the Episcopal Church serving people in need throughout the world and especially known for disaster relief. (You will recall the generous offerings made by the people of Redeemer through ERD in the aftermath of disasters such as the tsunamis and hurricane Katrina.) ERD also supports development throughout the world, funding projects that work towards the fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals. Just announced is an ERD grant to the Agricultural Institute of El Hogar, the mission we support in Honduras, for its educational programs for farmers. Another part of our observance of World Mission Sunday will be Redeemer's **annual ingathering for ERD.** Envelopes will be provided for this special offering at all services. If you will not be here that Sunday, you are welcome to join in the ingathering by sending a check to the church (payable to Church of the Redeemer, note "ERD".) Children – and adults who would like them – will also receive "mite boxes" for the season of Lent. These will be collected after Easter with proceeds going to ERD.

Finally, in keeping with the youth focus of this year's World Mission Sunday, our Adult Spiritual Formation program *Finding God in All Things* will focus on Redeemer youth in mission. ***Finding God in Navajoland*** will be the theme of the presentation which will include youth speaking on their experience. Be sure to join us for World Mission Sunday!

Nancy Hopkins-Greene

Speaking of youth in mission – an opportunity for Junior High

Announcing the first ever Junior High Mission Trip! A trip to Cincinnati! Cincinnati is an amazing city with astounding poverty and violence rates. We want to introduce our junior highers to the power of mission and to connect them with opportunities in their hometown. We will meet youth from across the country, across denominations, and across cultures.

The trip will take place July 29 to August 3, 2007; the cost is \$250 with a \$100 deposit due by February 18. We will eat, sleep and base our operations from a downtown church. There will be two adult chaperones. This trip is for rising 8th through 10th graders. For more information, call Alice at 321-6700 x 209 or 307-2930.

Items needed for El Hogar

A group of nine adults and youth from Redeemer will be going on a mission trip to El Hogar de Esperanza y Amor (The Home of Hope and Love) in Tegucigalpa, Honduras March 3-10. Although only nine of us will be going, the whole parish can join in the trip through your prayers and support. Redeemer children will be making cards and letters for the children of El Hogar during the Annual Meeting on February 11. And all are invited to share in the experience by donating items for the boys and girls at El Hogar. Their current wish list includes:

- Boy's jeans (Slim, sizes 10-14, or 28-32)
- Boy's pajamas (sizes 6-12)
- Twin size blankets
- Shoes (especially sneakers for bigger boys, sizes 8-11)
- Dark socks
- Soap
- Shampoo (large bottles, taped shut and in plastic bags)
- Deodorant
- Masking tape
- Classroom chalk

Large suitcases are also needed to transport these items. Please mark suitcases with your name and we will return them to you after the trip. All items should be new or gently used. Please bring items to the church by February 25. Contact Carolyn Martin at 232-6399 or Nancy Hopkins-Greene at 321-6700 if you have any questions.

Gracias!

What is ECSF?

In our last issue, we announced a \$6,000 grant from ECSF to Redeemer for the Interfaith Hospitality Network ministry. Many of you may not be familiar with ECSF. The Episcopal Community Services Foundation was established by Bishop Herbert Thompson in 1989 to help the people of this diocese do more to respond to human needs in the cities, towns, and villages of Southern Ohio. ECSF is an independent charity with its own board, representing congregations all across the diocese. (Redeemer parishioner Francie Morrison is a board member.) The Executive Director of ECSF is Ariel Miller, one of the most dedicated and energetic Episcopalians in our diocese and a former Redeemerite. More information about ECSF is at www.episcopal-dso.org (under Programs/Ministries).

How to get involved with Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian organization dedicated to eliminating substandard housing and homelessness and to making adequate, affordable shelter a matter of conscience and action. HFH fulfills this mission by building simple, affordable housing largely with volunteer labor and with "sweat equity" from the homeowner as well.

All are welcome to become involved as many skills are needed, including construction, greeting, providing food, donating materials, transporting materials, telephoning other volunteers, office work, and coordinator and advocate positions.

Redeemer will work this year on a single-story home in Madisonville. The address will be 6305 Sierra Street. Construction will begin in the spring. If you would like more information about becoming involved with HFH, please contact Jack Barter at jbarter@cinci.rr.com or 871-2005.

ERH auction donation

Thanks to the generosity of the Wine Merchant, Redeemer will be donating a gourmet wine basket to the ERH's Parish Health Ministry auction on March 3. We would appreciate any contributions for our basket – wine, accessories, food items, etc. Please bring your donation to the office or call Betsy Babb if you have questions.

February 23 5:00 pm Women's Silent Retreat begins
6:00 pm CORE dinner

February 24 12:30 pm OTR Tour for youth

February 25 - 26 **PHILIP NEWELL AT
REDEEMER – see details on page 5**