



Redeemer News

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**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: March 30

Deadline: March 28

FROM THE ASSOCIATE RECTOR

Dear Friends,

*To make an apt answer is a joy to anyone,
and a word in season, how good it is! (Proverbs 15:23)*

Several parishioners have remarked recently that it's been a while since I've written or preached about two disparate yet critical issues facing the United States and the Church – the ongoing war in Iraq, and the conflicts that threaten unity within the Episcopal Church/Anglican Communion.

They're right. I often discuss these topics one-on-one and in small groups. But the last time I preached on the war in a focused way was March, 2003. And I haven't spoken in pulpit or newsletter about the rising tension in the Episcopal Church since our year-long preparation for General Convention ("The Road to Columbus") ended last May.

My silence does not mean that I'm dispassionate about these matters. On the contrary, I'm personally invested in both. Christ has nourished me through the Episcopal Church all my life, and it's been my joy to serve within it as a priest for two decades. Its health and vitality are essential to me on multiple levels. But what pain I feel for my sister whose congregation withdrew from the Episcopal Church last Easter! And what sorrow I feel for the godfather of my younger son Jacob who's been inhibited from his priestly duties by his bishop because his congregation is preparing to do the same! And my older son, Jesse, whom I love and respect deeply, serves in the National Guard. In August (with three semesters of college remaining) he will go to boot camp with the United States Army Infantry at Fort Benning, Georgia in order to prepare for active duty. I'm so proud of him, yet terribly frightened too!

I think it's precisely the intensity of my passion that has made me reticent to speak. Couple this intensity with the delight I take in speaking and writing... well, let's

just say that it's exceedingly easy for me to throw my two cents worth into the cacophony!

This Lent I've become aware that God has been calling me, and for some time now, to make more room for silence. Not an absolute silence. Nor a silence of avoidance or apathy or despair. Rather, the disciplined silence that the Buddhist monk and peace activist Thich Nhat Hanh calls "deep listening." This is the practice of listening intently without reacting, judging, or blaming. Such listening in turn leads to understanding and mutual trust that opens the way to healing and reconciliation. In a speech given shortly after 9-11-01, Thay (as he is called) said that this is the first thing he would do if given the opportunity to sit face-to-face with Osama bin Laden! As hard as this is to imagine, I hear the ring of truth in it. In any case, Thay's writings are teaching and encouraging me to become a better Christian, priest, and human being by practicing deep listening.

I suspect that Jesus practiced deep listening. When he withdrew from his public ministry, as he often did, his prayerful silence enabled him to connect with the heart of God. And paying close attention to the suffering of others along the way enabled him to respond to them with compassionate love. I'm convinced that only one who has rested in God and listened deeply to the suffering of others can so fully and freely give himself for them as Jesus did.

I'm finding that deep listening is hard work. But it's good work. Perhaps we can support each other in this disciplined practice!

Peace,

Charlie

FROM OUR ASSISTING PRIEST

Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.

God speaking to Moses
Exodus 3:5

I can think of no better words for describing our experience at El Hogar than to say that we found ourselves standing on *holy ground*. We encountered God, not in a burning bush, but in the dusty soil of Latin America. There were many occasions to take off our sandals.

Of course, we would never go barefoot at El Hogar de Amor y Esperanza! Shoes are needed. It is like a compound with high walls and barbed wire in the middle of a dirty city. There are honking horns, car alarms sounding and dogs barking. It is hardly a quiet, peaceful place. Yet, the dirt there is holy ground, stirred constantly by the footsteps and happy voices of children. These children come from families who cannot care for them. Being at El Hogar gives them a whole new life: food, shelter, education and a loving community. For those like us who go there, it does not take long to know that we are standing on holy ground. In this loud, dusty place, the presence of God flames forth in the smiles of these children who have so little (two changes of clothes, the same beans and eggs and tortillas for most meals), yet have *so* much joy.

Unlike most current work teams that are helping with new construction at the El Hogar Technical Institute in the Amarteca Valley, our group stayed and worked in Tegucigalpa. (I suspect this is because we were mostly women!) We spent two days cleaning out and painting an apartment in the classroom building. (Formerly for long-term volunteers, this space is going to be renovated and equipped to serve as a permanent dental clinic.) After that, we were asked to paint murals on the retaining walls of the school playground. Given license to do whatever we wanted (undoubtedly because they trusted Carolyn Martin's skill), we decided to paint over some of the eclectic and worn assortment of Disney and Sesame Street characters. Carolyn designed a large mural of the seven days of creation and a smaller one of Jesus with children. We also repainted a few that we liked: a nativity and one of Jesus walking on water. Lower walls we decorated with painted flowers so that it looks like a garden. The playground – already holy ground – was transformed in a few short days.

We experienced a different kind of holy ground when we took two morning trips, to the Technical Institute and the Agricultural Institute (“the farm”). The boys are older at these places and therefore more reserved. Yet both are in beautiful settings in the Honduran hills. The farm in particular is very picturesque with its chapel set beside a pond with egrets wading and turtles sunning and mountains in the background.

We went from one holy place to another – to the home of two of the boys, where five family members had lived in a space smaller than my office. We were moved by the pride in these people’s eyes as they showed us the newly cemented floor and photos of their family. The director Claudia’s lap itself was holy ground, as we watched the girls – new to El Hogar – climbing into it for a hug. Even with its lumpy mattresses and less-than-luxurious accommodations, the volunteer house was holy ground, as we prayed and laughed together at the end of each day.

I could go on and on about this experience, but perhaps I should just encourage you to come to Redeemer on Sunday, April 15, when the executive director of El Hogar Projects, Richard Kunz, will be preaching at morning services and presenting during the education hour.

A week like the one I spent in El Hogar certainly gets one’s attention. I am sure it has happened for you, too – a trip to Navajoland, a pilgrimage to Iona, a walk on the beach. Often being taken out of our normal lives and transplanted into a new place opens our eyes to the holy. It burns brightly like that bush – God says *here I am*, loud and clear. Unfortunately, we don’t seem to have many burning bushes or mission trips to capture our attention. The dusty soil of Tegucigalpa was holy ground for twelve of us last week, but there are many occasions to take off our shoes in all of our lives.

Let us open our eyes, our hearts, and our minds, praying that we might be grounded in an awareness of the HOLY in all places.

Que Dios los bendigas!
(God bless you)
Nancy

Bob McGonagle would like to thank the parish for sponsoring his fourth trip to El Hogar and also his co-workers for their hard work and great spirit.

MISSION BOARD: More reflections on El Hogar

I have been hoping to go to El Hogar for several years, but the dates just never seemed to work out. I decided this year would be different. I scheduled it on my calendar first, before all of the other clutter could take over. When my son Kevin expressed an interest, I knew that the time was right. I felt so blessed to be able to go (especially with the first Redeemer-led group and with Kevin), but didn’t know what to expect. While the trip there was an adventure (up at 3 am to catch our plane, Les opening the emergency exit on a stalled tram in the Houston airport, a bouncy landing on a little runway tucked among the mountains), it is what I found behind the security gate in the middle of the city in this poor, overcrowded country that I will hold in my heart forever. What we found was a little haven filled with deep love and compassion, a place called El Hogar de Amor y Esperanza (in English, home of love and hope).

As the gate opened into El Hogar, I was struck by an overwhelming feeling of love. I felt like I had walked into a haven of joy and peace. Bright sunshine filled the place as we were greeted by so many little smiling faces. It was as if a ray of light had penetrated the darkness.

Spending a week at El Hogar allowed the flame of love to glow in my own heart. I went to El Hogar in hopes that I could be of some help to these children, to offer love and support. Instead I found that I was the one being transformed by them, by their unconditional love. I experienced the richness of spirit in each and every little face. And it didn’t take long for our three teenagers – Emily, Brian, and Kevin – to become connected to the entire El Hogar family.

This place really makes a difference by touching one little life at a time. I remember when the director, Claudia, told our group the stories of the twenty or so new kids. She called them by name and each one came to her, hugged her and smiled. Tears of joy were in my eyes. This moment was a rare gift. I was amazed at her ability to know each and every kid by name and everything about them. Later that night I asked Claudia how she remembered all of their names and stories. She patted her chest and said it was because they were all in her heart. I then told her what a special person she was and that the kids were so lucky to have her, but she replied, “No, I am so lucky to have them.”

Throughout the week, I was reminded of these words of the boy Nkosi in Jim Wooten's book, *We are All the Same*:

We are all the same. We are not different from one another. We all belong to one family. We love and we laugh, we hurt and we cry, we live and we die. Care for us and accept us. We are all human beings. We are normal. We have hands. We have feet. We can walk, we can talk – and we have needs just like everyone else. Don't be afraid of us. We are all the same.

Of course the children are the heart and inspiration of El Hogar, but so are their families, the graduates, the teachers, the workers, and the supporters. It was through all of them that I realized the power of God's transformation. El Hogar is truly a home of love and hope. And what a gift these children were to us. We can't wait to go back.

Marianne McGraw

I brought back many gifts from Honduras and El Hogar – some small and unimportant, others impactful enough to last a lifetime, and one I'm still struggling to know what to do with. A small and relatively unimportant gift is the bag of coffee – which has now been opened and will last maybe a week. Also small is the fact that my limited Spanish has been refreshed; the name of the Honduran capital, Tegucigalpa, now rolls off my tongue easily. My lifetime gifts include the memories of working side by side with kind, caring, talented, and fun folks from Redeemer and St. Timothy's. I anticipated doing work, but not necessarily enjoying it so much. Another gift I will cherish a lifetime was watching my "too cool" teenage son have his heart stretched and expanded by his time spent playing with the boys of El Hogar and learning about their backgrounds. He will no doubt continue to act too cool, but he has a secret knowledge that will impact him for years to come.

My final gift is the one I'm struggling with now. I returned to Cincinnati and went right back to soccer tournaments, lacrosse carpools and track practice. Like many parents of school-age kids, I spend an inordinate amount of time and money managing sporting events. There is important work to be done in the world, but I can't get to it right now because my children have a game/meet/practice/tournament they must attend. The gift of El Hogar for me is the awareness of my struggle and renewed intention to regain a balance between my convictions and my time.

Jo Henning

Summer mission opportunities

A group of youth and adults from Redeemer will be going on a mission trip to the El Hogar Projects' Agricultural Institute ("The Farm") July 13 to July 20, 2007. Bruce Freeman will be leading the trip. Youth in this year's confirmation program are particularly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. Older youth and adults are also welcome. We are especially in need of an individual who is fluent in Spanish. There will be an **informational meeting on Sunday, April 1 at 11:30 am** for anyone interested or considering this or a future trip to El Hogar.

One more opportunity for mission this summer is Navajoland. A few spaces for youth are still available on this year's Navajoland Pilgrimage. Check your calendar for June 16 to 23, and call the office immediately if you are interested.

Share a meal with MEAC

Last fall MEAC (Madisonville Education & Assistance Center) started a weekly event called Feed & Seed. Each Wednesday evening, MEAC opens its door to its community and invites folks in to share dinner and conversation. For some, this may be their only opportunity for a solid meal that day or that week.

These simple yet nourishing meals are provided by volunteers from a number of churches. Surplus donations from our Thanksgiving food drive have to this point been Redeemer's only form of participation in Feed & Seed. Not only did we meet the needs for MEAC's Thanksgiving dinners, but also we raised money that helped provide food for Feed & Seed during the holidays and beyond.

Now there is an opportunity for more personal involvement with the Feed & Seed effort – folks are needed to prepare and serve food and to read stories. If there is enough interest, Redeemer could even take responsibility for one Wednesday evening each month to prepare dinner and host the Feed & Seed event. The time commitment is minimal (Feed & Seed is from 5:15 – 7:00) and the rewards are great! Please contact Minda Matthews at minlmatt@hotmail.com or 351-9199 to learn more.

Minda Matthews

LITURGY BOARD: HOLY WEEK

If you are new to Redeemer – new since last spring – you have yet to experience Holy Week. You may have been to some services during Holy Week at other churches, but until you have worshiped daily from Palm Sunday through Good Friday, until you have walked with Jesus through the streets of Jerusalem all the way to the cross, you haven't fully experienced Holy Week. Redeemer has a tradition of living deeply into this crucial week, and we hope that you will join us. The week begins with worship three times daily. On Thursday the evening service begins with a meal in the Great Hall at 6:30 pm. This is to mark Jesus' participation in the Last Supper. (Please bring bread, cheese or fruit – keep it simple!)

The culmination of the week is Good Friday. Yes, it was good – even though it was a day of great pain and suffering for Jesus. As we ponder his suffering, the power of God's gift begins to dawn on us. The fact that the afternoon service is a full three hours is significant because it coincides with the hours that Jesus hung on the cross. For those who cannot attend this service, the evening service offers the Proper Liturgy for Good Friday, as well as a special opportunity to personalize Jesus' sacrifice – by writing down your sins or burdens and nailing them to a wooden cross.

There is child care for all evening services during Holy Week; programs for children are also offered Monday through Wednesday. Please plan to participate as much as you can in these services.

Sunday, April 1 **Palm Sunday**

Holy Eucharist with the Liturgy of the Palms
8 am, 10 am sanctuary, 10 am Banquet, 5 pm

Monday, April 2 **Monday in Holy Week**

Tuesday, April 3 **Tuesday in Holy Week**

Wednesday, April 4 **Wednesday in Holy Week**
Holy Eucharist at 7 am, 12 noon, and 7 pm

Thursday, April 5 **Maundy Thursday**

Holy Eucharist at 7 am and 12 noon
Agape meal and Eucharist at 6:30 pm

Friday, April 6 **Good Friday**

Liturgy of the Hours from 12 noon to 3 pm
Proper Liturgy for Good Friday at 7 pm

Maundy Thursday vigil

In the Garden of Gethsemane on the night of his arrest, Jesus asked his disciples to watch and pray with him. When they fell asleep, he was exasperated and burst out: "Could you not watch with me one hour?" Between the end of the Maundy Thursday evening service and the beginning of the Good Friday service at noon, we accept the challenge to watch with Christ one hour. You can sign up for your chosen hour on the website (www.redeemer-cincy.org and click Holy Week to get to the vigil information), at the information center in the narthex or by calling the church office.

Vigil watchers are asked to enter through one of the two doors with keypads – the parking lot door and the chapel door on the Paxton side. (If you do not know the parish access code, please call the office before Maundy Thursday.) You may watch and pray in the sanctuary, the chapel or the oratory, but please be sure that the vigil watchers whom you are relieving know that you have arrived. Reading material will be available on the library cart outside the chapel. Come meet God in the middle of the night! He's here.

After Holy Week

Although the focus is on Holy Week here at Redeemer, we also look to Easter and its special celebrations. Easter services at Redeemer this year will be at 8 am, 9:15 am, and 11 am. There is no 5 pm service on Easter. The music at the 9:15 am service will be the contemporary style that we hear in the Banquet. The 11 am service will offer music by organ, brass and choir.

This year we will encourage all children to bring a flower from home for the creation of a flower cross. This cross will be coordinated jointly by Children's Ministries and the Flower Guild.

Many churches offer an Easter Vigil service on Saturday night. While this is not part of the Redeemer tradition, Vineyard Central, a network of house churches in Norwood centered around worship using *The Book of Common Prayer* and loosely connected with Redeemer, offers an Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 7, from 9 pm until 12 midnight, at VC's parish church, formerly St. Elizabeth's, at 1757 Mills Avenue in Norwood. If you are interested in helping with music or writing a prayer, contact Alice at 321-6700 x209.

EDUCATION BOARD

Kelli's eys to the ingdom

Project Picture

On Sunday, March 11, each child in third grade and older received a disposable camera during Church School. (More are available for those who were not in class that day.) The children have been asked to take pictures of people, places and things where they find God – outside of the church. Christian formation can't be limited to Sunday mornings once a week. While the church can give inspiration and nourishment for the Christian journey and provide a place of unconditional love and support as they explore their lives of faith, we hope with this project to give the young people (and parents) a chance to make the connection with God in their *larger* worlds. At the very least it's a gentle way of introducing a conversation about the mystery of God in all things. We want to encourage families to have the conversation of where *does* one see God in daily life. Even if your child doesn't take a single picture, the camera is a visual reminder to be looking for God.

Your child will have approximately one month to take pictures and have them developed. The target date to have the pictures back at church is **April 15**. Then each class will create a collage of where they saw God. The finished products will be displayed in the narthex and then in the Great Hall where they will become a part of our Banquet worship space for a period of time.

Here are some suggestions on how you can support your young person in this project:

! Assist your child in **planning** a photo op of God. Talk about where *you* see God and offer suggestions of places your child or teen might do the same. You could start with the idea that you often see God when doing something at which you are really good or which you really enjoy. When you are involved in this type of activity, you are in touch with the person God created you to be.

! **Wonder** with your young person about the pictures they take.

! **Avoid criticizing** their choices. There really can't be any "wrong" choices in discerning where one sees the Holy. God is the creator of all and with this project children get to create a snapshot of all that God is for them at this moment in time.

! **Keep** the camera in a visible place as a reminder and so you can be spontaneous.

! **Older children** may present challenges to your involvement in the project. Perhaps you could simply wonder aloud if your child has taken any pictures.

! If it is **difficult** for you to develop the film (for whatever reason), please just drop your camera off at church with a note that it needs developing.

! **Have fun!** If your child isn't having fun – don't force it. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kelli Jasper at church (321-6700 or kelli@redeemer-cincy.org).

Palm Sunday Banquet

On Palm Sunday in the Banquet we are presenting a dramatic reading of "The Way of the Cross" and we need your assistance. We invite anyone who is a competent reader to recite one of the 22 parts required for the reading. The only request is that you be here on April 1 by 9:00 am to rehearse. No memorization or acting is required.

Holy Week

Holy Week at Redeemer isn't just for adults! Edie Zimmerman and I have created a number of Holy Week programs for children kindergarten through 6th grade. Each year we choose an aspect of the events of the last week in Christ's human life and design activities through which children can explore this theme. This year our theme is "The Story of the Cross." We will use a variety of media to explore each station of the cross and make connections to our modern day lives.

We will meet Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week from 7:00 pm to 7:45 pm in the Great Hall. We would LOVE to have your children join us! Not only do Edie and I look forward to preparing and presenting a Holy Week program, but the kids look forward to it as well! Many parents tell us their kids "can't wait for Holy Week." On Thursday the children are invited to participate in the agape meal and the worship service. Friday evening is also a service to

Diocesan opportunities

Bishop's consecration in April

The Bishop-Elect of the Diocese of Southern Ohio, the Rev. Thomas Breidenthal, is scheduled to be consecrated as the ninth Bishop of Southern Ohio on Saturday, April 28, at 11:00 am, in the Mershon Auditorium in Columbus. Because there are 25,000 people in the diocese but only 2,500 seats in the auditorium, a procedure has been established to allot tickets. If you are interested in attending, please contact Juliette at the parish office (321-6700 or juliette@redeemer-cincy.org). Only a few of Redeemer's allotted tickers have been claimed so far. More information about the consecration is available on the diocesan website (www.episcopal-dso.org).

Listen. Dream. Imagine.

Bishop-elect Tom Breidenthal invites you to share with him your hopes and dreams for the Diocese of Southern Ohio. He will hold listening sessions in each deanery this spring. This is your chance to help the bishop-elect as he crafts a vision for the future of our diocese. To prepare for these meetings, consider what you have found to be the most interesting and/or exciting things that you have experienced in this diocese and what your heart's desire is for our diocese. Our deanery's meeting will be on Wednesday, May 2, at 7 pm, at Christ Church Cathedral. All are invited.

Kenyon Conference 2007

The Kenyon Conference is undergoing a transformation, but will still be happening this year. The dates are July 22 to 27 and the place (of course) is Kenyon! (That is Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio.) Instead of workshops, full-conference sessions will meet with the two bishops – the Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth of the Diocese of Ohio and the Rt. Rev. Tom Breidenthal – and with the Rev. Mike Kinman (executive director of Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation) and musician Kate Campbell. Go to the conference website at www.kenyonconference.org for more information.

More summer opportunities

Many Redeemer families can tell you that summer means Procter for their children. Procter Camp and Conference Center is only slightly more than an hour from Redeemer, but you, your family or your child can be transformed by the power of the community there during one of the many summer camping opportunities.

June 18 to 23 Rising 6th and 7th graders

June 25 to 30 Rising 8th and 9th graders

July 2 to 7 . . . Rising 10th graders through freshmen

July 15 to 19 Adventure Camp

July 19 to 22 Family Camp

July 24 to 28 Creative Arts Camp

July 24 to 28 Rising 4th and 5th graders

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<p>Calling all parents of young children (up to age 5)! On Saturday, April 14, please join us for an introductory meeting specifically for you. We will explore the possibilities of a parent group. During our meeting, there will be child care; following the program we will all enjoy a potluck dinner with our children included.</p>
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Connecting God's people

You may remember reading in a previous issue about a plea for help for a young girl named Charity. She is from Kenya and was trying to get help to come to Cincinnati for treatment at the Shriners' Burn Institute. I was the first person in Cincinnati to receive this plea, and although I was not able to convince anyone at Redeemer to be a host family, the emails I sent out to other churches and friends ultimately produced results. Charity is now in Cincinnati; her first surgery was March 9 and she is back "home" recovering. The overall coordinator of Charity's team of helpers is Kristin Wooten. Kristin works at Crossroads as the childcare coordinator and first heard of Charity in my email to the communications director there. If you would like to be a member of Charity's care team, please contact Kristin at 731-7400 extension 342 or kwooten@crossroadscommunity.net.

