



Redeemer News

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**The Episcopal Church
of the Redeemer**

2944 Erie Ave.

Cincinnati, OH 45208

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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: May 2

Deadline: April 27

FROM THE ASSOCIATE RECTOR

Dear Parish Family,

It was noon on Tuesday in Holy Week. Bruce and I were standing at the Altar. He broke the bread, paused in reverent silence, then intoned, "Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us." The congregation responded, "Therefore let us keep the feast." Except one voice – *mine* – reflexively blurted out, "**ALLE**luia..." Doh!

I was immediately reminded of the Palm Sunday story. As Jesus entered Jerusalem, some killjoys urged him to quiet the cheering crowds, to which Jesus replied, "I tell you, if these were silent, the *stones* would shout out." Well, I certainly felt dumb as a *rock* in that moment!

But now I have the green light, as do we all, to shout "Alleluia!" ("Praise God!") from the rooftops whenever we please. For this precious word, solemnly "buried" on Ash Wednesday and hidden away during all of Lent, returned to us in glory on Easter Day.

"Alleluia! The Lord is risen!"

"The Lord is risen, indeed! Alleluia!"

"Alleluia!": the festal shout of those who celebrate the Resurrection – the Good News that Jesus of Nazareth, who suffered death and was buried, is alive.

But what makes this news so intensely good is that death, as Paul proclaimed in his meditation on baptism, is not the last word for humankind either. "For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his." (Romans 6:5)

The new life of the Resurrection, as Bruce so beautifully described in his Easter Day sermon, opens up a new Reality that – while far beyond the grasp of our finite minds – still communicates an infinite variety of marvelous meanings. And one of the most significant, as his sermon reminded us, is that we need no longer live in fear – fear of life; fear of death; fear of *anything*.

This is a compelling promise. For which one of us isn't paralyzed by fear? Which one of us is not living a smaller life because of our fear of taking the proverbial "leap of faith?" Yes, fear serves useful purposes – it keeps us from driving 120 mph on I-71 or allowing our children to play in the street. But imagine the awesome shape of your life if you could be even a little more fearless!

Scripture describes the life-changing power of the Resurrection in the fearless behavior of Jesus' disciples. Those who had gone into hiding after Jesus' arrest, scared to death, suddenly – after experiencing the risen Jesus – emerged into the light of day, speaking and acting both freely and joyfully.

We also see a startling transformation in Paul's life. After he had encountered the risen Jesus on the Road to Damascus, fear lost its power over him. Whether he was hungry or cold, beaten or imprisoned, laughed at or scorned... *nothing*, Paul came to know in his very bones, could separate him from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Not even death itself. (Romans 8:38-39) We see this same fearlessness in the bold witness of saints from Perpetua and her Companions in 202 to Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968 and beyond...

But there comes a point in each of our lives when we need to tear our eyes away from the "lives of the saints" and live like one ourselves.

During the Season of Lent the faithful often give up something (like chocolate or alcohol) or take something on (like prayer or service). Perhaps we should start a new tradition by taking on the discipline of fearlessness for the Season of Easter – the Great Fifty Days from Easter Day to Pentecost. Think about it. What would happen if you chose just one fear that is weighing you down right now? One fear that is holding you hostage in its tight, cold clutches? How would your life be different if you could release that fear into God's hands for just fifty days?

One of my favorite poems is "The Avowal" by Denise Levertov. It describes our yearning to live without fear. It's also, simultaneously, a proclamation, an invitation, and a challenge. Perhaps we should memorize it as an Easter mantra!

*As swimmers dare
to lie face to the sky
and water bears them,
as hawks rest upon air
and air sustains them,
so would I learn to attain
freefall, and float
into Creator Spirit's deep embrace,
knowing no effort earns that all-surrounding grace.*

Faithfully,

Charlie Brumbaugh

FROM OUR ASSISTING PRIEST

It is Monday in the first week of Easter as I write this, and I am thinking of *hospital rooms*, of *tombs* and of *wombs*.

As many of you know, I began my observance of Holy Week this year with three days at Children's Hospital. My daughter Sarah had an emergency appendectomy. It was hardly the contemplative and prayerful holy week that I had planned. But it was a Holy Week experience nonetheless: the agony of seeing my child in pain, the sleepless nights, two days (Monday and Tuesday, when it was in the 70's) without seeing the sun.

As we were discharged from the hospital and we went out into the cold, dreary weather, I figured nature was cooperating. Spring had retreated as if to honor Jesus' passion. And so it continued through Good Friday. There were snow flurries as I walked out of the church on Friday afternoon. I thought, "How fitting!" And then that weather persisted through Holy Saturday, the day when Jesus laid in the cold tomb. "How fitting!" I thought once again.

But then we woke up to Easter and it was still cold and gray. I hear that there were no sunrises to be seen at Easter sunrise services throughout Cincinnati this year. We're still waiting for spring to return now. Like my compost pile and the spinach seeds I planted two weeks ago, I have to trust that something is going on below the surface, that there is new life forming, whether I see it –

or feel it – or not. In some ways, new birth is still in the womb. Writer Joyce Rupp calls this “gestating grace.” Nature – and our own lives – don’t always cooperate with liturgical seasons.

I find some consolation in a recent article by Theodore Wardlaw (president of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary) in *Christian Century* magazine. In it, he points out the fact that, unlike those of the other Gospel writers, Luke’s account of the resurrection uses the word *but* over and over. In fact, if you check your Bible, you’ll see that our Gospel on Easter morning omitted the word *but* that appears at the beginning of Luke Chapter 24! I guess the compilers of the lectionary thought the word *but* was an unseemly beginning to the Easter Gospel.

Buds blooming, butterflies, new births – and the word *but*? It is hardly poetic, but the word *but* might be most descriptive of what Easter is about:

Jesus died, *but* He is risen.

And so the Easter message is that God is always saying *but* to our moments of despair. My holy week spent in a hospital room was hard, *but* walking the halls of the hospital and seeing other families that spend months there made me immensely grateful for my healthy family. Sarah could barely walk on Tuesday, *but* she was bouncing off the walls by Easter morning. It was cold and gray on Easter morning, *but* the church was bright with flowers and the spirit was warm. It feels like winter again now, *but* spring will return.

When we feel hopelessness or despair or even just weariness, God is saying *but*; the world’s problems seem overwhelming, *but* God can use us to transform them. You might feel exhausted with life, *but* God will give you the strength to go on. You might feel lonely, *but* God is with you. God keeps saying *but* to our darkest moments. Ends can be beginnings. Deaths can be new births. Tombs can be wombs. Alleluia!

Blessings to you this Easter season,

Nancy

MISSION BOARD

The Millennium Development Goals

Think outside the gift box!

As we enter into the season of confirmations, graduations, weddings, and Mother’s and Father’s Days, we have a unique opportunity to give gifts that show our love not only for those celebrating, but for others in our world. Consider giving a donation to an organization that offers hope and sustenance.

Here are some new ideas for gift-giving:

- Donate to any one of Redeemer’s many ministries, such as Freestore/Foodbank, El Hogar, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Hyde Park Center for Older Adults, or Habitat for Humanity. Check out the Mission Board page of our parish website at www.redeemer-cincy.org for more information.
- In the Diocese of Southern Ohio, the Episcopal Community Services Foundation (ECSF) can be found on the diocesan website www.episcopal-dso.org under “Ministries ECSF”.
- Episcopal Relief and Development at www.er-d.org has a Gifts of Life section. One of several options is to purchase Basics of Life: “People everywhere need access to life essentials – healthy food, safe drinking water, basic health care services and protection from deadly preventable diseases such as malaria.
- A great option for gifts for children is Heifer International at www.heifer.org. Their gift catalog includes a Basket of Hope: “Provide a gift of hope with this basket of rabbits and chickens. The eggs from the chickens will provide protein for the hungry children and the rabbits a new source of economic independence.”; a New Beginning Basket: “Give a deserving family a new beginning with a lamb. Sheep provide valuable wool and are a vital source of income in impoverished communities.”; Trees Are a Treasure: “There is an alternative to eroded hillsides, vanishing farmland and forests, polluted water and urban sprawl. Maybe not one big solution, but lots of little ones.” Godparents, start a tradition of celebrating your godchild’s baptism anniversary by giving a gift of chicks or rabbits or a llama.

These are just a few ways to honor our loved ones and to support the Millennium Development Goals. If you’d like more ideas, Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation at www.e4gr.org has some great suggestions.

People Working Cooperatively can make a difference

When folks in our area lose their ability to accomplish all the chores required to maintain their homes (whether through aging or disability), People Working Cooperatively (PWC) can help. This Saturday is PWC's April Home Improvement Day. Each month one Saturday is devoted to volunteers doing what they can to help low-income and/or disabled people with these chores so that they can stay in their own homes for as long as possible. Without PWC's help, many of these homeowners would be in care facilities. Come do your part; projects are assigned according to group size and skills. Call me (Keenan Beauchamp) at 533-9356 if you can participate or if you have questions.

A testimony to the good work of PWC comes from the experience of Redeemer volunteers last month. On Saturday, March 17, Larry Kissel, Peter Merten, David Merten, Ron Staggs, Claire Beauchamp and I teamed up with Brad Staggs, Ron's son who is a PWC employee. Under Brad's guidance we built a wheelchair ramp for an elderly woman in Price Hill. By the end of the day the neighbor kids had joined us and were eagerly helping. When the ramp was completed, we watched as the homeowner hobbled out, barely able to move on crutches. The huge smile and the thanks she gave us were blessed rewards. Like St. Peter lifted Tabitha up and restored her to life, we had given this woman a new lease on life!

PWC's annual spring event, Repair Affair, on Saturday, May 12, is a great opportunity to participate as an individual or as a family. All three of my children (ages 13, 11 and 6) have helped in the past and have enjoyed it. Please join us for this event, and if you like this sort of work, for our Habitat for Humanity workdays on Saturdays this summer. I believe we have seen God in our gifts to our community and in the smiles of those who receive these gifts graciously.

Keenan Beauchamp

Habitat for Humanity update

The start of this year's house has been delayed. The late winter freeze set Cincinnati Habitat for Humanity back a few weeks, but they have started laying foundations for this year's houses. There are two foundations scheduled ahead of ours, but it is estimated that the foundation for our Habitat house will be started in late April or early May. The foundation will have to sit for thirty days before we can start building, so we can expect to start construction in late May or early June. If you are interesting in helping on our Habitat house this summer, please contact Jack Barter at 871-2005 or jbarter@cinci.rr.com.

Hyde Park Center offers many services

A glance through a recent issue of the Hyde Park Center for Older Adults' newsletter *Centerfold* shows just what a busy place the Center is and what a wide variety of services and activities they offer.

- ! On Tuesday, May 22, at 5:30 pm, their annual Gaslight Gala fundraiser will take place at Arthur's on Edwards Rd.
- ! An ongoing walking group meets on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm for a walk around Hyde Park.
- ! April activities include computer classes, a visit from the mammogram van, a cooking demonstration, exercise classes, a book discussion, lunch with a wine tasting, and more.
- ! Lunch, rides to medical appointments, and grocery runs are all regular services.

These programs are open to anyone 55 or older; the Center promotes the independence and positive image of older people through a variety of programs, activities and support services. The Center receives support from the Council on Aging, United Way, churches, foundations and individuals.

For more information or to make a reservation for a program, call 321-6816.

Redeemer's liaison to the Hyde Park Center for Older Adults and the Center's champion on the Mission Board is Scott Swan.

Education Board

Youth News

Our youth meet (practically) every Sunday evening – sometimes junior high, sometimes senior high, sometimes both. Get used to gathering with us each week – you’ll make new friends and learn new games and see new movies! Or better yet – old movies! On April 29 at 6 pm, Junior High Dinner and a Movie presents *The Princess Bride* – an absolutely all-time classic. If you have not seen this movie, you must. And if you know it, prepare to join in all the great lines: “Anybody want a peanut?” “Inconceivable!” “Hello. My name is Inigo Montoya. You killed my father. Prepare to die!”

Other events on the youth schedule –

Sunday, April 29 at 12 noon
Junior High Cincinnati Missioners meeting
Covenant forms due

Wednesday, May 2 at 7:30 pm
Jesus and IHOP – make time this week for this informal gathering

Sunday, May 6 at 6 pm
Procter Games for Junior and Senior High
Open to current 6th graders – as a way of offering a preview of next year
We’ll play fun games from camp and eat massive amounts of grilled food.

Sunday, May 13 at 6 pm
The eleven ninth graders being confirmed (on May 20) will be feted and served by the rest of the youth. Come hang with us whether you are an honorer or an honoree.

Saturday, May 19 at 11 am
Join us as we make lunch for Redeemer’s Habitat volunteers and then head to the work site.

Inquiring minds

Are you new to the Episcopal Church? Or have you been attending for a while, but still have questions? Or have you been an Episcopalian all your life, but feel the need for a renewal, a reminder of why you belong to this branch of Christ’s church? If you answered yes to any of these questions, we urge you to consider attending the Inquirers’ Class, a series of four sessions that will introduce you to the Episcopal Church, explore your place in this Church and this parish, and prepare you to be confirmed or received (by our new bishop) in May.

The Inquirers’ Class will meet on four Wednesday nights – April 18 and 25 and May 9 and 16 – from 7 pm to 9 pm. Each meeting will begin with the Holy Eucharist in the chapel. Bruce Freeman leads this class and always enjoys getting to know the participants. If you are interested in this opportunity, please register on the website (www.redeemer-cincy.org/register) or call the parish office at 321-6700.

Diocesan educational opportunity

Our diocesan Anglican Academy is now accepting applications for the 2007-2008 class in a program called the Southern Ohio Lay Leadership Initiative (SOLLI). The goal of SOLLI is to identify lay people who are emerging as or have the potential to become leaders and to provide them with the opportunity to learn more about the Episcopal Church and the diocese and to engage in discussions about scripture, mission, conflict management, community involvement and much more. SOLLI is a two-year program; participants spend three weekends a year at Procter. This year’s dates are September 28-30; January 25-27; and April 18-20. Applications are due May 15, 2007.

If you live in Hyde Park or Oakley (45208 or 45209), the Hyde Park Neighborhood Council is interested in your opinion about schools in our area. Please pick up a HPNC survey in the narthex, take a moment to fill it out and then return it to the collection box. Please return your survey by May 14, so that they can be collected in time for the HPNC meeting on May 24. For more information, visit www.hydeparkcincinnati.org.

A primer on consecrations

On Saturday, April 28, our Bishop-elect, the Rev. Tom Breidenthal, will become our new bishop. There are many traditions surrounding this process. Here are some FAQ's about consecrations, courtesy of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio.

What is apostolic succession?

Apostolic succession is the belief that bishops are the successors to the apostles – Jesus' 12 disciples – and that the authority of a bishop is derived from the apostles by an unbroken succession in the ministry. This authority is specifically derived through the laying on of hands for the ordination of bishops. Essentially, the tradition is that the apostles laid hands upon and consecrated bishops, who then consecrated new bishops, and so forth to today.

Why does it take three bishops to consecrate a new bishop?

This long-standing tradition requires three bishops from different dioceses – or jurisdictions – to perform the consecration. The bishops ask questions of the bishop-elect and then lay hands upon him or her for the consecration. All of the bishops who participate in a consecration sign the consecration certificate and their wax seal is made from each episcopal ring.

What is meant by "laying on of hands?"

The literal laying on of hands – placing one's hand on the head or shoulder of another – has significant meaning in several sacramental rites, including ordination and confirmation. The physical action is an external sign of the bestowal of God's grace. When a bishop is ordained, other bishops join in the laying on of hands, as priests do when a priest is ordained, thus demonstrating the collegial nature of the ministry. Laying on of hands may also accompany prayers for healing, the solemn blessing of a marriage, and other blessings.

Why are gifts presented to the bishop during the service?

Different gifts are traditionally presented to the bishop as a sign of the new relationship between the people and the bishop. In the service for Bishop-elect Breidenthal, people will present several gifts. Bonnie Anderson, the president of the House of Deputies, will present a Bible as a symbol of the importance of God's word. Clergy and laity from throughout the diocese contributed to

several gifts: the Episcopal ring, crozier, cope and other vestments. Dr. Katherine Rohrer, the vice president for academic affairs at Princeton University, will present the chasuble and stole on behalf of the Bishop-elect's colleagues and friends. The Rev. Thomas Mullelly, the Roman Catholic chaplain at Princeton, will give the Bishop-elect a pectoral cross. Bishop George Councill will present the mitre on behalf of the people of the Diocese of New Jersey, and Bishop Mark Sisk will present the cassock on behalf of the people of the Diocese of New York, both dioceses where Bishop-elect Breidenthal lived and served.

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Bishop-elect Breidenthal invites you to share with him your hopes and dreams for our diocese. He will hold listening sessions in each deanery this spring – your chance to help the bishop-elect as he crafts a vision for our future. Our deanery will meet on Wednesday, May 2, at 7 pm, at Christ Church Cathedral. All are invited.

Rites of Passage

Since the last publication of this column, we have marked the following milestones in the lives of our parishioners:

Births

Natalie Isabella Goodman	born April 4
daughter of Perin & Mike Goodman	
gr granddaughter of Missy & Bob Holzman	
Kaitlin Isabella Brown	born April 11
daughter of Renee & Chris Brown	
gr granddaughter of Ann Brown	
Isabella Marie Howard	born April 12
daughter of Patty & Dave Howard	
gr granddaughter of Chris Orr	

Baptisms

April 15

Hadley Jane Dickinson
daughter of Margot & Jon Dickinson
gr granddaughter of Winkie & Mark Upson
great-gr granddaughter of Ruth Upson
Cameron Tyler Joyce
son of Allison & Patrick Joyce

New members

Craig & Blake Gustafson
Meg, Bess, Reid, and Nat
1334 Hayward Court 45208

BONUS ARTICLE:

On **Saturday, May 12, at 7 pm**, baroque lute player Christopher Wilke will present a concert of masterworks from the 17th and 18th centuries. This will be a rare chance to hear J.S. Bach's *Suite in G Minor* performed on the original instrument as well as the "*L'infidèle*" *Sonata* by Sylvius Leopold Weiss, the greatest and most prolific lute composer of all time. Also included will be a sonata by the last giant of the lute, Joachim Bernhard Hagen, written during the days of Haydn and Mozart.

Christopher Wilke plays electric and acoustic guitars, renaissance and baroque lutes, and theorbo. He has participated in contemporary music festivals, baroque operas, rock bands, and solo performances in North America and Europe. Mr. Wilke is also a composer and teaches music at Xavier University and the College of Mount Saint Joseph in Ohio and at Northern Kentucky University.

All concerts are open to everyone. As the artists are donating their time and talent, donations are accepted.