



Redeemer News

August 29, 2007

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**The Episcopal Church
of the Redeemer**

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Cincinnati, OH 45208

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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

Assistant Priest

The Rev. Gary Lubin

Deacon

WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

SUNDAYS in SUMMER

8:00 am

Holy Eucharist

10:00 am

Holy Eucharist

5:00 pm

Holy Eucharist

WEDNESDAYS

7:00 pm

Holy Eucharist with Healing

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday

8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Editor: Elizabeth Grover

Next issue: September 12

Deadline: September 7

FROM OUR ASSISTING PRIEST

Ministry Beyond our Walls: Major Grant awarded to Interfaith Hospitality Network

Things often slow down during the summer, as parishioners head on vacation and many programs here are suspended, but the hungry still need food, the homeless still need shelter – and the people of Redeemer have been busy. Three mission trips, a Habitat for Humanity project, Interfaith Hospitality Network hostings and ongoing commitments at places such as Freestore/Foodbank have continued through the summer months. And the Mission Implementation Team has been busy too!

At their respective August meetings, the Mission Implementation Team (MIT) and the Redeemer Vestry approved a **grant of \$20,000 to Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)**. With the pilot application and grant made to Habitat for Humanity, this is our second major grant in the area of housing and shelter. However, it is much more than that; it means that the process for Redeemer's "ministry beyond our walls" is officially up and running! Although applications and procedures will continue to be refined and revised, this culminates the long process that began with the decision of the parish in 2003 to devote a portion of proceeds from a bequest to endow ongoing grants for ministry beyond our walls. The Mission Discernment Team helped the congregation discern housing and shelter as the primary focus for the first three years. They then turned the work over to the MIT, to design and draft application materials and establish procedures. The application was piloted and our first grant awarded to Habitat for Humanity in early 2007. The house in Madisonville for a family of five is currently under construction and on schedule.

We are delighted that this second grant will be awarded to Interfaith Hospitality Network, a shelter program which uses the facilities and volunteers of congregations throughout the city to house the homeless. Redeemer has a long-term relationship with IHN as a hosting congregation, and countless Redeemer

volunteers have served our guests over the years. The grant will help fund IHN's transportation program, an integral part of IHN's mission of aiding homeless families in their return to independent living. The transportation program collaborates with other homeless shelters to transport guests during the daytime to places such as childcare facilities, job interviews, apartment searches and social service agencies.

Also approved by MIT and Vestry earlier in the summer were four of our **Emerging Opportunities and Emergency Needs grants**. These smaller grants are given to organizations not falling under the local housing and shelter criteria, but with the support of Redeemer parishioners and the possibility of a longer, ongoing involvement. The following grants were made this summer:

El Hogar Ministries: \$3,000 to go towards construction of a new dormitory at the Home and School in Tegucigalpa (submitted by Carolyn Martin). El Hogar Projects is a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Honduras. Redeemer has become involved at El Hogar in the past few years through mission trips, sponsorship of boys and special collections.

Cincinnati Works: \$2,000 for "Next Step NetWORK," a pilot employment and independent housing project for young adults who have aged out of Hamilton County foster services (submitted by Gale Sheldon). Founded in 1996, Cincinnati Works is a multi-service agency assisting people living in poverty in obtaining and retaining employment.

Episcopal Community Services Foundation (ECSF): \$1,500 in support of the Good Faith Fund of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Chillicothe which provides emergency support to families in Ross County (submitted by Ariel Miller). ECSF is a ministry of the Diocese of Southern Ohio which provides grants and other resources for community service to congregations throughout the diocese. In recent years, Redeemer has received grants from ECSF on behalf of IHN.

Millennium Promise Organization: \$3,500 in support of the Millennium Village Project (submitted by Bonnie Kretschmer and Ed Ewbank). This project is part of a sustained effort to raise African villages out of extreme poverty, enabling them to be productive and self-supportive. Our support will go towards an interfaith effort coordinated through Good Shepherd Catholic

Church in support of the Mbola cluster of villages in Tanzania.

Both the Millennium Promise and El Hogar grants help Redeemer to meet General Convention's challenge to increase financial giving in support of the Millennium Development Goals.

Yes, we are "up and running!" There is much to celebrate. Many thanks to Mission Implementation Team members who have worked hard this summer to make all of us *good stewards of God's bounty*. We will be reviewing another major grant request in September. Although things are winding down for 2007, inquiries regarding future grants are always welcome.

Blessings and Peace,

Jane Killen
Chair of Mission Board & MIT

Nancy Hopkins-Greene
Clergy for Mission

Mission Implementation Team Members: Mark Blocher, Steve Carlton-Ford, John Grover, Gary Lubin, Pam Popp, Tara Lee Stone. Sitting on the committee: Christine Carter (Administrative Team Liaison), Mike Krug (Mission Board Liaison) and Melanie Schottelkotte (Vestry Liaison).

FROM THE ASSOCIATE RECTOR

Dear Parish Family,

*Fling but a stone, the giant dies.
Laugh and be well.
– Matthew Green in The Spleen, 1737*

A regular feature in *Reader's Digest* is "Laughter, the Best Medicine."TM Yes, it's a cliché. It's even trademarked! But it's one that I've experienced to be true. Something wonderful – even mystical – happens to me when I find myself laughing heartily. It's like a thorough cleansing of body, mind, and spirit that leaves me euphoric. It's like a sudden release of physical and emotional tension that restores my resilience.

Last night Anne and I watched a rerun of "The Office" on TV. I had never seen it before, and was reluctant to tear myself away from my computer and magazines. But Anne pressed me – "Everybody at work is talking about it!" – so I relented. The episode was hilarious. Its

sly, pointed portrayal of human frailty through the foibles of the characters was instantly recognizable. This recognition (and *self*-recognition!) tickled my funny bone, and my spontaneous laughter made me feel a lot better.

Anne and I needed the laughs. This has been a difficult season in our household as we worry over the declining health of loved ones in our extended family. This worry, permeating the entire fabric of our lives, has often left us depleted and depressed. We've found relief in many ways: prayer and meditation, exercise and work, the company of family and friends. But, at least for us, laughter has been a truly miraculous medicine. (Indeed, it was her suggestion that I write on this topic.)

It certainly runs in the family. I never knew my mother's father, but it was said that whenever Bud Finch laughed (which was often), his head tilted back and his eyes closed and you could steal him blind!

I remember planning my father's funeral around 25 years ago. His early, untimely death had devastated us. In the midst of our grief, my mother, my siblings, and I gathered with the priest to plan the burial liturgy. As we were picking the music, someone would suggest a hymn. Another would ask, "How does it go?" Someone would quietly start humming the tune. One by one we joined in, and soon we were all singing lustily and laughing raucously... as the priest watched us somewhat nonplused! The laughter not only felt good, but it was healing. Even sacred.

I find it interesting (and disappointing) that laughter is rarely mentioned in Holy Scripture, and most biblical references to it are not positive (e.g. Mark 5:40). Still I wonder: did Jesus laugh? The Gospels don't report it. But it seems likely to me that the one bearing Good News to all humankind must have had a well-developed sense of humor! Some say that Jesus' acerbic encounter with the Syrophonecian woman (Mark 7:24-30) is actually a playful exchange. The same as been suggested about his use of rabbinic hyperbole: "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." (Mark 10:23-27)

In any case, I like to think of Jesus laughing. (In fact, my favorite artistic rendering of Jesus is "Jesus Laughing" painted several decades ago by Ralph Kozak. This Jesus looks a lot like Bud Finch – only with long hair and a

beard)! Perhaps, as the weary disciples solemnly huddled around the campfire or floated on the Sea of Galilee, Jesus would suddenly break the silence with something like "Hey, did you hear the one about the Pharisee, the centurion, and the prostitute?" Heaven knows that, in the midst of their many joys, Jesus and the twelve also endured heavy burdens that laughter made a little easier to bear. Can't you imagine all thirteen of them rolling on the ground laughing, tears running down their cheeks? Then afterwards, mysteriously renewed, able once again to go forward...

When Sarah overheard the promise that she and Abraham, well advanced in years, would have a son, she laughed. (Genesis 18:1-15) Heartily? Sardonicly? Nervously? Who knows? But after Isaac had been miraculously born to the couple, she exulted, "God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me." (Genesis 21:6) Warm, generous, shared laughter is a gift we can both give and receive, a contagious blessing that can fan out in ever-widening circles.

I believe that God's wants us to know the healing rinse of laughter. Why else would Jesus have said, "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh." (Luke 6:21)

Faithfully,
Charlie

END OF SUMMER: Update on Stewardship of Time and Talents Campaign

It's been over a month since we provided an update on the Stewardship of Time and Talents (T&T) Campaign in May, so here goes...

We had over 300 people make a covenant of T&T this year! Most impressive was the number of youth who made their commitment, which is especially timely given the youth participation desired in the Banquet service. We haven't quite reached last year's parish participation level, so there is still time to turn in a T&T form if you haven't made your covenant yet.

Ministry Leaders and Board Chairs received their updated T&T data in new reports via email in mid-August. You should be hearing from somebody soon if you requested information about a ministry, or volunteered to start serving in a ministry. If not, just call the ministry leader to talk about your interests.

Why did it take this long since you made your T&T covenant in May? In June, we followed up with people who hadn't made their T&T covenant yet, and we tweaked our database structure to make it more effective after using it for one year. In July, Jo Henning and Tina Glass entered lots of data (Thank you!). In August, Jim Bennett refined our new T&T reports (Thank you!) and Elizabeth Grover continued her great communications support (Thank you!). We've learned a lot, and we've already identified ways to make this T&T process better and faster next year.

If you didn't make a T&T covenant this year, or identify ministries that you want to discontinue, we assumed you would continue in those ministries you committed to previously. If a ministry leader contacts you about a ministry that you are no longer participating in, just give the ministry leader or the church office that information, and we'll update the T&T database.

The Stewardship Ministry team and church leaders are excited about the Stewardship of Time and Talents because it connects parishioners with our ministries so we can continue to grow our ministries and live into our stewardship motto "God in our Midst – Our Response."

Dawn Neely

Memories of summer

Did you have a good summer? Do the memories make you long for the summer of 2008? Save these dates now!

Procter Camp

Junior Camp (rising 6th and 7th) June 16-21
Intermediate Camp (rising 8th and 9th) June 23-28
Senior Camp (rising 10th to class of '08) July 6-12
Outdoor Adventure Camp July 16-20
1,2,3 Camp (rising 1st to 3rd with adult) July 17-20
Boys and Girls Camp (rising 4th and 5th) July 22-26
Creative Arts Camp July 28-31
Family Camp July 31-August 3

Kenyon Conference August 3-8

END OF SUMMER REFLECTIONS

A mountaintop experience: Honoring a very special request

During the fourteen years that Spencer Porter and I were married we traveled numerous times to Mt. Desert Island in Maine. We delighted in planning climbs and hiking trips that included all-day backpacking on some wonderful granite mountains, which afforded spectacular views of the ocean and the rocky coast of Maine.

While on one of these climbs, in June of 2005, Spence turned to me as we stood on the summit of his favorite of the mountains and said "When I die you can scatter my ashes off this mountain."

When Spence died suddenly at our home on September 2, 2006, his words came to mind almost at once. I knew in my heart that he had been serious about what he said and that I would indeed honor his request.

After several months I was finally able to make the decision to scatter Spencer's ashes on the day that would have been his 70th birthday, Tuesday August 7, 2007. With that decision made, I arrived in Maine on August 4th with intension of following *my plan*.

When I awoke at 4:45 am on Sunday, August 5, I *knew* that somehow *my plan* had changed and that this was the day I was to scatter Spencer's ashes. I set about getting the backpack ready, and I was on my way up the mountain by 8:20 am. The trail to the summit is 3.7 miles with a climb of 1,248 feet. I accomplished that by 10:20 am. *I was a woman on a mission!*

The day was cool with a wonderful breeze and a cloudless blue sky. Somehow I just *knew* the most sacred place was a ledge facing a lovely pond and a view further south of the ocean. As I stood on the ledge, I scattered Spence's ashes to the wind, and they drifted like a beautiful cloud down the west side of the mountain. It was the most amazing sight.

On September 2 we will recognize the first year anniversary of Spencer's passing. The Redeemer community was a very important part of Spencer's life, and it has been a source of strength for me as I have walked through this first year of grieving his loss. It

occurred to me just moments after I had finished my mission on that mountain that I had scattered Spencer's ashes at 10:30 am on a Sunday morning, right in the middle of the Church of the Redeemer's 10 am service. I'm sure the community must have been singing something glorious.

On the following Saturday morning, as I prepared to leave the island, I sat on a rock by the pond at the foot of what has come to be known in our family as *Spencer's Mountain*. I read aloud Psalm 128, a reading used in our wedding, at Spencer's memorial service and often as a grace at our table. It is the plan of our family to repeat the ritual of this reading whenever any of us are in Maine.

Robbie Porter

“You are not alone.”

The words of Alice's recent sermon have stayed with me as Chris and I ventured west from Cincinnati to Sacramento; – they have offered comfort as we explore this new city but also underline my experiences at Redeemer. Our first Sunday at Redeemer was the day of Alice's first sermon there. She mentioned being new to Cincinnati and starting to feel settled because at least she had found Kroger. Chris and I had located Kroger just days before and were amazed at the coincidence! We were not alone in our newness and exploring.

With the active Newcomer ministry and welcoming congregation, we soon found out that we were not alone in many other ways. Finding connections in our pasts (Gary Lubin and Chris exchanged Georgia Tech stories, while I found out that Tara Lee Stone grew up with one of my closest friends) was just the beginning. There were more connections everywhere we looked. In CORE, we found other 20s/30s looking to find more time for God and community in their lives and formed some (hopefully) lifelong friendships in the process. In Main Dish, we found we weren't the only ones who thought you could share God's love through food. Among the Greeters, Chris found fellowship in the goal of welcoming others as we had been. I could go on (and on and on) with examples, but the underlying idea would be the same: We were not alone.

And so it was as we joyfully, but tearfully drove to California. The warm words, kind wishes, and promises of prayers from the Redeemer community surrounded us and cushioned us as we embarked on this new chapter.

Not to mention the snacks, CDs, monkey cups and flat characters of our going-away package that kept us relatively sane on the drive... We were not alone.

If I caught the gist of Alice's sermon (and through my tears I may not have), we are not alone because God is always with us. Sometimes it is hard for me to look around and “see” an abstract God, but seeing God in the people and activities of the Redeemer community was easy.

She was right. You are not alone.

Leah (and Chris) Tzimenatos

Chris and Leah Tzimenatos moved to Sacramento in July after three years at Redeemer.

More reflections on the Junior High Mission Trip

Earlier this month I had an experience that both opened my eyes and changed my life. I went on the first Junior High mission trip to Cincinnati. And I know what you're thinking because at first I thought it, too. I thought that why would I go on a mission trip to a place where I live? But really it isn't where I live. It is like a whole different country. But the wonderful thing about going on a mission in the city where you live is that I can come back to some of the magnificent organizations that are in our own backyards. And I would just like to thank everyone who helped to make this trip great.

David Merten

When we finally had finished weeding the yards, clearing out the garbage, and other jobs, everyone would be hot, sweaty, tired, and ready for showers. But as I looked back at whichever co-op house we were working on and saw the difference we made, no matter how small, I felt as if I had made the biggest difference in the world. My group and I had brought that house and a few others one step closer to housing a family who, without co-op, would be homeless. I was sure that even with everywhere else he had to be in the world, God was right there, admiring our handiwork.

Ella Henning

EDUCATION BOARD

Seeing God in a TV show this summer

This summer, my kids and I did something different – we borrowed the award-winning TV show “Joan of Arcadia” from the library and watched its two seasons, which aired from 2003 to 2005 – before my kids were ready for these teenage topics. It’s a drama about a family with two working parents and three teenagers. The hook is that the middle child, Joan, sees and talks to God, who asks Joan to do various things to grow as a person and help other people. And, yes, there is an early episode that parallels Joan of Arc, hence the title of the show, which is set in Arcadia, Maryland.

We enjoyed watching this show because it’s funny, sad, introspective and insightful. It’s been a great opportunity for my kids (ages 14 and 12) and me to have “God talk” about God, religion and real-life high school situations. As a result of watching this story, we’ve talked as a family about subjects that hadn’t come up in day-to-day life yet, and we’ve seen family dynamics modeled in healthy and not-so-healthy ways. In addition, there were lots of questions and discussions about God and faith that I think we will reflect on for quite some time.

If you are taking a long road trip, or want good quality entertainment when your kids have time off next summer, I highly recommend watching “Joan of Arcadia” with your teens and tweens.

Dawn Neely

“A rare, beautiful, and thought-provoking fantasy.”

Emily Neely

Still getting ready!

The program year begins on Sunday, September 9 – are you ready? The information on all of our formation offerings was sent to all Redeemer households nearly two weeks ago. Please take a few moments to read through all of the information, especially the sections that pertain to your household. Let me highlight some of the changes and the most important information you’ll want to be aware of.

On-Time Arrival

If your child will be participating in the 10:00 Godly Play (ages 3-5) you **must** have them to the classroom **prior to 10:00 am**. The door closes at 10:00 am and the class begins. If you miss the 10:00 am Godly Play class, your child will be welcomed into the 11:10 am class that takes place after the worship service.

Coffee Hour

To support on-time arrival we are offering a coffee hour in the narthex from 8:45 am to 9:45 am. No need to stop at Starbucks or brew your own cup-of-joe!

Open House

The entire Redeemer family is invited to visit one or all of our formation classrooms on Sunday, September 9 at 11:50 am. Classrooms are located on the 3rd (parking lot) level of the church building and in the undercroft.

Spiritual Parenting Forum

The Children’s Ministry Team will be offering an introductory Spiritual Parenting discussion group beginning October 7 in the Chapel after the 10:00 worship services. Our program is geared for families with children birth through about age 12. Some of the topics we plan to discuss are *What is a Family*, *Images of God*, *Spiritual Development*, and *Family Rituals and Routines*. The forum will run for six weeks through November 11. We will run another six-week session with new topics beginning in January.

Godly Play Orientation

Children and parents who are new to the Godly Play program are invited to attend an orientation session on Saturday, September 8 from 10:00 am – 11:00 am in the St. Clare classroom, located just inside the parking lot entrance.

Registration

Please fill-out a registration form for each person in your household ages 1-18 years of age who will be attending a formation class this fall. You may obtain a registration form from the church office or from our website. There will also be a registration table set-up in the narthex on all Sundays in September.

Please contact me, Kelli Jasper, if you have any questions about the information in the booklet or this article. You may call me at 321-6700 or email me at kelli@redeemer-cincy.org.

Small groups offer variety

Spiritual Journeys

Spiritual Journeys is a small group of folks who meet to share the challenges and joys of trying to live life more intentionally in relationship with God and with each other. Short reading from theological sources both ancient and contemporary are used as springboards for discussion. The current text is *Devotional Classics* edited by Richard Foster. Participants reflect on each piece based on its original context and on its relevance for their own time and place. Through these discussions they have found that the support and encouragement of spiritual friends makes their life journeys easier and more meaningful. Spiritual Journeys meets the second Tuesday of each month from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the Max Long Parlor. The facilitator is Lizann Hardy.

Benedictine Way

Growing out of a group that began informally exploring the Rule of St. Benedict is our new chapter of the Benedictine Way. The basis of the conversation at the monthly gatherings is *Preferring Christ: A Devotional Commentary on the Rule of St. Benedict* by Norvene Best. The Benedictine Way seeks to help us see God's presence in all things at all times; to integrate head and heart, spirit and body; and to help us find balance and moderation in our lives. For more information, contact Suzanne Olmstead at 771-1498. The Benedictine Way Chapter meets the third Sunday of each month from 3:00 pm, to 4:45 pm in the Max Long Parlor.

Theology Group

This group enjoys a variety of readings; authors of past works include John Shelby Spong, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Rollo May, and Flannery O'Connor. On September 30, they will begin discussion on the book *Loving the Questions: An Exploration of the Nicene Creed* by Marianne H. Micks. Charlie Brumbaugh will introduce the first session with some information about the author (whom he knew at seminary) and will offer a few discussion-starter questions. The Theology Group meets irregularly – but generally on Sundays from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the Max Long Parlor.

Poetry Group

The next meeting of Redeemer's Poetry Lovers will be Monday, September 17 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 p.m. The theme will be "surprise." As always, you may bring poems to read, you may share original work, or you may simply listen and enjoy. Bring a friend too! We will be hosted by Nancy Powell. For more information, contact Charlie Brumbaugh at 321-6700 (ex. 205) or CFBCOR@aol.com.

Book Group

The Book Group meets every month to discuss a work of current interest – often fiction, but sometimes non-fiction. Although the works chosen are not necessarily of a religious nature, the discussion among fellow people of faith draws the group together in a special fellowship. The next book will be *Lost Mother* by Mary McGarry Morris. The group will meet on September 5, at 7:30 pm, in the parish library. If you would like to join us or have a book suggestion for the coming year, contact Nancy Schulhoff (891-2786).

Inquirers' Class in October

Are you new to the Episcopal Church? Do you wonder what Eucharist really means? If you are interested in exploring your faith and the Episcopal Church, then mark your calendar for this fall's Inquirers' Class. This series of four sessions will be held on the four **Sunday evenings in October at 6 pm**, beginning October 7. All are welcome to attend, but especially encouraged are those who might be interested in being confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church at the next Bishop's Visitation, as this series prepares one to take that step. So pencil in those dates in your calendar – October 7, 14, 21 and 28 – and sign up on the registration page of the website(www.redeemer-cincy.org).

Music program includes concert series

Our chapel is a glorious space for worship, but it is also so acoustically alive that it is a great place for music. This year, Music Director Loretta Graner has arranged for a fascinating variety of musical offerings to be offered in the chapel – generally on Sunday afternoons.

On September 16 at 2:00 pm, the series opens with a concert by an ensemble called Conundrum, a dynamic collaboration of musicians specializing in new works by living composers. This group includes Marianne Breneman (clarinet), Danielle Hudley (flute), Philip Amalong (piano), and Redeemer's own Mary Elizabeth Southworth Shaffer (soprano). For more information about these musicians, visit the group's website at www.conundrummusic.com. This event is free and open to the public – as are all the concerts.

Other concerts in this year's series are:

October 14	Sarah-Theresa Murakami, piano
November 4	Bryan Mock, organ
January*	Miao Liao and Lixia Li, violin and piano
February*	Benefit concert for orphan relief
April*	Greater Cincinnati Guitar Society
May 18	Jazz chamber music with Glenn Gollobin, flute

Fall, 2007 Worship Schedule

Sundays at 8 am Holy Eucharist, Rite 1

Sundays at 10 am . Holy Eucharist in Sanctuary
(Traditional Rite 2 worship with choir)

Sundays at 10 am The Banquet in the Great Hall
(Alternative service with contemporary music)

1st and 3rd Sundays at 5 pm Holy Eucharist
in the Celtic tradition

2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays at 5 pm Holy Eucharist
from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*

Wednesdays at 7 pm Holy Eucharist
with Healing Intercessions

rites of passage

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

Marriages

Jennifer Hardy and Oscar Crawford August 18

Deaths

Virginia Berg, mother of Chuck Berg August 14

MISSION BOARD

A great event and a great cause

On Friday, September 21 at 6:30 p.m., the Madisonville Education and Assistance Center will be hosting its second annual Celebrity Banquet and Auction at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza. Guests will enjoy a delicious three-course dinner served by local celebrities, live music, entertainment, a raffle and a silent auction. The cost is \$60 per person or \$500 for a table of ten. Please call Jessica Wabler by September 14th at 233-2498 if you would like to register to attend.

Next IHN hosting

Our next hosting period for the *Interfaith Hospitality Network* begins on Sunday, September 23. As always we need volunteers to help prepare dinner, to play with the children or help with homework, and to stay overnight. Please check the sign-up board in the narthex to see where you can help.

Next Freestore workday

Our next Saturday to sort food at the *Freestore/Foodbank* is Saturday, September 8. More information is available at the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Contact Bonnie at bkretsch@spamcop.net if you have questions.

Habitat update

Our *Habitat for Humanity* house continues to progress. We will need volunteers again on September 8 and beyond. Contact Jack Barter at jbarter@cinci.rr.com for details. The house is at 6305 Sierra Street in Madisonville.

Washing ducks?

On Monday, September 3, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, come help with the *Duck Wash!* The Rubber Duck Regatta is FreeStore/ FoodBank's annual fundraiser during which small rubber ducks "race" down the Ohio River. We've been asked to assist with the post-race duck wash. Ducks will be shoveled out of trucks, given a rinse, and packed for shipping. To sign up, contact Bonnie Kretschmer at bkretsch@spamcop.net (or 513-871-1299). The FreeStore is on Tennessee Avenue, off Reading Road just south of the Norwood Lateral.

Holiday sale date set

The third annual Holiday Sale at Redeemer has been scheduled for Saturday, November 17, from 10 am to 2 pm. If you are interested in obtaining a spot as a vendor, please contact Leslie Baggish at 272-2273 or l.baggish@att.net.

PASTORAL BOARD

Tai Chi at Redeemer

The Health and Wellness Ministry is introducing a new program, Tai Chi, beginning on September 10 from 9:30 am to 10:30 am, for a six-week period. Tai Chi is an ancient Chinese approach to meditation and movement that offers the potential for many benefits including improved strength, stability, flexibility and circulation as well as greater feelings of balance, serenity and spiritual centering.

The class will be taught by Mary Ann Humbert, Sister of Charity, who has been a student and instructor of Tai Chi for 25 years. Mary Ann also brings her gifts as a spiritual director, instructor in contemplative prayer, retreat leader, liturgical movement teacher, and energy healing practitioner to her Tai Chi classes.

The classes are self-supporting, so there is a fee of \$50 for the full six-week session or \$10 for an individual class. If there is strong interest, the program will be extended and might also be offered at other times. More information is available in the narthex or by contacting Betsy Babb at 321-6700, Joyce Keeshin at 321-7292 or Leslie Baggish at 272-2273.

Miscellaneous announcements

Integrity

The first meeting of Redeemer's Integrity Congregational Circle (COR C-Circle) will take place in the Max Long Parlor from 7 pm to 9 pm on Tuesday, September 4. This will be an organizational meeting to gauge the level of interest, review the proposed Mission Statement and begin to plan upcoming events. Please RSVP to Kevin Bleyle (krbleyle@yahoo.com or 513-659-8857) no later than Friday, August 31 if you can attend this meeting and/or if you'd like to be included in the planning for future events. For more information on Integrity and/or Congregational Circles, please go to www.integrityusa.org.

Pilgrimage to Scotland

Tom and Nancye Van Brunt (Alice Connor's parents) are organizing a pilgrimage to Scotland for May, 2008. The tentative schedule involves six nights on the island of Iona, where pilgrims would participate in a program of the Iona Community. Following that would be six or seven nights in Edinburgh, during which time each pilgrim would be free to explore the city and environs at his or her own pace.

There is also an optional week following the stay in Edinburgh – taking a train down the east coast of Scotland to Berwick on Tweed, just below the English border, and hiking for six or seven days along the coast of England, visiting castles and ruined monasteries including Lindisfarne. The group would walk eight to ten miles per day on relatively easy hikes, but this is not for anyone with walking difficulties. For more information on this option, see www.contours.co.uk.

If this sounds intriguing to you, please contact Tom or Nancye for more information. Tom is at 513-284-0282 and Nancye is at 513-238-0723; or e-mail them at philippiansfoursix@hotmail.com or yourownephod@hotmail.com.

Bread workshop

The next Bread Guild workshop will take place on Saturday, September 8, at 11:00 am in the undercroft. Techniques for baking communion bread will be demonstrated. If you are interested in participating in the Bread Guild (and many of you indicated your interest on the Time and Talent covenant forms), this is your chance to join us. All current members are also invited, as we will also be signing up for the fall baking schedule. For complete information, contact David Richards at 631-4413 or dbrichards@fuse.net.

Meditation and creativity retreat

A retreat focused on meditation and creativity is being offered at the Retreat House at the Cincinnati Nature Center from September 21 to 23. The retreat will be led by Mayumi Oda, an internationally acclaimed artist and meditation instructor, and is being sponsored by Joyce Keeshin from Redeemer. Much of the content of this retreat relates to topics touched on in last year's adult formation program, *Finding God in All Things* – including meditation, the arts and creative processes, nature and compassion. The retreat's focus on living in greater harmony also relates to the theme of this year's adult formation program on reconciliation. The retreat is open to men and women. An exhibit of some of Mayumi's beautiful nature prints will be on display at CNC's Rowe Visitor Center during the weekend. For more information or to register, contact Joyce Keeshin at 321-7292 or jkeeshin@fuse.net.

COFFEE TIME

If you attend the 8:00 am service, you can hang around afterwards. If you are coming for a 10:00 am service, you can come a little early. Join us for **COFFEE HOUR!** On Sundays beginning September 9, coffee will be available in the narthex between 8:45 am and 9:45 am. Many have expressed a desire for more social time with your Redeemer friends. Here is your chance! You can chat or you can browse the book cart. Or stop by the library – there will be storytime for the little ones! Storytime will conclude in time to get your child to Godly Play on time.

