



Redeemer News

February 5, 2008

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The Episcopal Church
of the Redeemer
2944 Erie Ave.

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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

8:00 am

Holy Eucharist (Sanctuary)

10:00 am

Holy Eucharist (Sanctuary)

The Banquet (Great Hall)

5:00 pm

Holy Eucharist (Chapel)

WEDNESDAYS

7:00 pm

Holy Eucharist with Healing
(Chapel)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday

8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Editor: Sharon Jenkins

Next issue: February 20

Deadline: February 14



FROM THE RECTOR

Who are we and what is our vocation?

Recently I had a humorous discussion with my lovely wife Dana. On the night in question, I had been moaning to her that I couldn't seem to finish the sermon that I was to preach the next day. No surprise there, procrastination is a part of my DNA. Her advice was rather startling and illuminating. She told me to preach on the theme that I always do: *God loves you*. "Scratch that," she said, "that was your theme in your first parish. Your theme now is that God is present and thus you must live your life differently." Dana was dead on. In each parish I've served as Rector it could be said that my message has always been a variation on a central theme which reflects my purpose as the Rector at a particular time in that particular place. In other words, my sermons reflected both what I thought God needed my parishioners to hear and what my mission was in that place. That my personal mission has changed in every parish I've served makes sense – God continually calls us to unique vocations, bound tightly with the time and place in which they are to be lived out.

I've been thinking about what our call is here at Redeemer at this time and in this place. The upcoming annual meeting on February 10, the Vestry/Board Chair retreat on February 22-24 and the visit by Michael Battle on March 8-9, have caused many of us to think about what direction God is calling Redeemer. The annual meeting and the Vestry/Board Chair retreat are intended to be times when we try to be reflective about why God has put us here at the corner of Paxton and Erie.

Two years ago our Vestry/Board Chair retreat attendees developed a Statement of Purpose for our parish: **The Church of the Redeemer will invite all to know and serve Jesus as a part of our faith community and to reach out with love and support to those in need.**

This statement has guided our actions and plans for the last couple of years and I believe that we have seen huge results – particularly in the growth of our Mission (Outreach) ministries and worship service diversity. Last year at this time the Vestry decided to focus on two specific portions of the purpose statement: **Invite In and Reach Out** with particular attention to calling for this program year to be one of invitation. Again, we have seen some very positive movement in our welcoming and invitation ministry with several new ideas about to be put into place. Clearly, God is calling this community to new vocations and your parish leadership is trying its best to hear the sound of God’s voice and to be faithful in following its direction.

The visit from Michael Battle is certainly causing many of us to consider what God is doing in our community at this time. Michael, as you may have heard, is a wonderful preacher, teacher and theologian, who casts a lovely vision for the role of the church in the world and in the specific issue of racism. As an Episcopal priest, his words are anchored in the sacraments, worship and tradition of the church and thus are comfortable for us to hear. However, when this young black man starts talking about how the Episcopal church is uniquely suited to wade into the complex reality of racism in our modern American context, it certainly comes as a bit of a challenge. When we are invited to hear him preach on March 9, we might be pleasantly curious. However, when invited to join St. Simon of Cyrene of Lincoln Heights and St. Andrew’s of Evanston for a workshop in Lincoln Heights on Saturday, March 8 and for combined worship on the evening of Sunday the March 9, we know (in kind of a queasy way) that God is calling us to something new. This is certainly just as true for St. Simon’s and St. Andrews as it is for us. This can be difficult stuff for people of any color or ethnicity. Let me just say that this engagement with Michael Battle and with our two sister African-American churches is exactly what God is calling us to do in this time and in this place. During the interim period before I was called as your

fifth Rector, our leadership discerned that God is calling Redeemer to corporately reach out to and engage in the greater Cincinnati community. Thus, it is not surprising that a central part of our purpose statement calls us to “reach out with love and support to those in need” and that our outreach ministries have grown almost exponentially in the last couple of years. God is calling us to actively engage in the life of Cincinnati, particularly in those areas of darkness and pain that need the love and reconciliation Jesus has to offer. In our city, the stain of racism is real and the pain is obvious. As the hands of Christ, we are called to witness to the possibility that racism shouldn’t and won’t define our city. We are doing this not out of some sort of guilt complex, but because God has called us to non-anxiously and patiently care for the community in which we live. I invite your participation in all of the events of March 8 and 9 and ask for your prayers as we seek to grow into our Christian vocation as a parish.

In Christ,
Bruce



FROM THE ASSISTING PRIEST

When I worked as a hospital chaplain a few years ago, it was to fulfill my Clinical Pastoral Education requirement at UT Medical Center in Knoxville. It consisted of equal parts visiting patients and talking about visiting patients. The idea is simple: go do the work of ministry, talk over how it went with the others in your group and learn something, then go back out and do more ministry. Action – reflection – action. Makes sense, right?

The thing is, the conversations about our visits weren't that straightforward. It began with what we called "verbatim" which were short reports on a particular visit including a verbatim transcription of the visit, our thoughts and theology on what had happened, and what we might have done differently. The group then commented on our experience, noting when we were kidding ourselves about how spiritual we were, pointing out when we had actually been flirting with/arguing with/condescending to the patient, or bringing up our unwillingness to tell an obvious junkie "no."

Eventually, we talked about our sense of being called, what it meant to be a minister, how our own stuff got in the way of listening, and the importance of having both a thick skin and a willingness to hear criticism. It was exhausting.

And the most important lesson I learned from my CPE years was to engage. An outside observer might disagree because we made fun of the process. Mercilessly. It was so deep and overwhelming to be doing what we were doing that we had to laugh. We'd go around the halls cracking jokes about family systems and saying, "How do you *feeeeel* about that?" ...*ad nauseam*. It was the only way we could get through seeing the pain of the patients we grew to love and minimize the vulnerability of the process. And that is precisely the point. It's painful to engage.

Engaging in the conversation, opening yourself up to honesty and being willing to listen to another person is necessary to our life together. If we lived closed-off lives, if we refuse to let the jokes go, if we don't engage the relationship, we will fail. This is the basis of reconciliation – truly listening to one another and expecting the same. There are times at work or school or here at church when we coast along, assuming we understand and are understood and we've completely missed it. We think we don't need to approach another person and let them know our innermost thoughts and feelings – to say thank you, I miss you, you hurt me, or I hurt you. And we think we don't need to really hear their response – you're welcome, I miss you too, I'm sorry, I'm really angry. It hurts to engage truly in a relationship and yet is the only thing keeping us together.

Lent is a time of contemplation, of honesty about our own selfishness and blindness. Lent is also historically a time for new believers to commit themselves to the community. With joy, they would open themselves up to the new experience of needing and being needed. It wasn't an ideal community where no one disagreed but it was a loving and welcoming community where everyone tried to follow in the footsteps of Christ. Think over your relationships this Lent. Where have you been closed-off? What happens when you're honest with someone? How do you react to criticism? How are you following the footsteps of Christ?

Alice

Annual Meeting on February 10

Please attend our annual meeting on February 10, following the 10:00 am services. The purpose of our annual meeting is to keep the congregation informed about the state of the parish and to elect parish officers.

Unofficial List of Potential Baby Sitters

A seemingly logical resource for locating baby sitters is the church. Occasionally, someone asks us for a referral. However, we cannot publish or make recommendations on child care providers since we, meaning The Church, are not in the business of training or evaluating the child care abilities of our young people.

What we can do is facilitate a procedure for getting contact information to all interested parties. We will post a sign-up sheet on the community bulletin board in the reception area so that parishioners who are interested in providing sitting services for compensation can make themselves known. Parish parents can then check the list to get contact information. It is the responsibility of the parent to fully investigate the qualifications of the person whom they choose to contact from our list. The Church of the Redeemer makes no claims as to the abilities or qualifications of the people on the list. We *will* verify that all who sign-up are members of the parish. Please check with Kelli Jasper(kelli@redeemer-cincy.org) if you have questions about the list or sign-up procedures.

Parish Health Ministry Conference

The 2008 Refresh Your Soul Conference, hosted by the Episcopal Retirement Home's Parish Health Ministry and the Parish Nurse/Health Ministries Task Force will be held in Blue Ash on February 29 and March 1, 2008. A silent auction to benefit Parish Health Ministries will be held as a fund raiser during the conference. If you are willing to make a donation to the ERH silent auction, or would like more information on attending the conference, contact Betsy Babb at the church office, or Rose Lindeman at ERH (272-5555 ext. 4289).

Lenten Devotional Guides Available

Episcopal Relief and Development's Lenten Devotional Guide *Seeking to Serve* is now available in the Narthex. This year's booklet invites us to explore our personal response to the Millennium Development Goals and serving the most vulnerable in our world. The booklet includes a Bible verse and short reflection for each day of Lent. Pick yours up today.

EDUCATION BOARD



Spiritual Parenting – Phase II

This past fall the Children's Ministry Team offered a third option during the formation hour for parents. We called it Spiritual Parenting. We met for a six-week period to introduce the concept of a parenting group, gauging whether this is an area that would be of interest to our parish. At the end of the program, participants said that they enjoyed sharing stories, participating in good discussions, and getting different perspectives from other parents.

We are going to meet again for a four-week session beginning April 13. This time we are going to use *The Blessing of a Skinned Knee: Using Jewish Teachings to Raise Self-Reliant Children*, written by Wendy Mogel, Ph.D as the focus for our discussion.

How can a "skinned knee" be a *blessing*? As loving, supportive, responsible parents aren't we supposed to protect our children from the pain of suffering? Here is a quote from the first chapter that begins to look at the parenting culture of our time in addressing this paradox: "*In their eagerness to do right by their children, parents not only overindulge them materially, they also spoil them emotionally....[parents] overvalue their children's need for self-expression and turn their households into little democracies.*"

What!? What is wrong with democracy in the home? Isn't that the fair and American way? I knew I was "guilty" of this parenting practice – always feeling the need to explain why things had to be done a certain way, making concessions when I felt it would make the situation more tolerable for both of us (parent and

child). The author goes on to say "*the equality [we] maintain at home does not give [our] children a sense of self-esteem. Instead, it frightens them by sending the message that their parents are not firmly in charge.*" I wondered if this theory had some merit in my household. Of course it did. I have since actually experienced the blessings of not only my son's metaphorical skinned knees but mine as well.

I was first introduced to this book by a friend who emailed me a copy of the *New York Times Magazine* article that featured this book in October 2006. As soon as I read the article, I went to buy the book. HA! I couldn't find it. Everyone else had seen the *NY Times* before I had. Everywhere I went, it was on backorder. I wanted it now! (I think the book addresses this phenomenon!) So I looked farther afield and called the Border's Bookstore in Eastgate. They had one copy left and put it on hold for me.

Your search for the book will be infinitely easier. You can get your own copy of the book at Redeemer. In the next week or two I will have five copies available for purchase and can take orders for additional copies.

Before you exempt yourself from this group because you "don't have time to read," or you "will be on vacation for two weeks," understand that you don't have to read the book. All parents are invited and encouraged to attend! We will use the book as a discussion starter. Just by the very nature of being a parent, you will be able to engage in the conversation whether you come once or every time. The ability to relate to others and talk about our struggles and joys as we honor the blessing of children in our lives is a gift that we can give each other. Please consider joining us.

– Kelli Jasper, Director of Children's Ministries

Women's Silent Retreat

Consider joining our women's silent Lenten retreat at the Convent of the Transfiguration on February 22 and 23. The retreat leader is Judy A. Johnson, author of *A Week to Pray About It*. Meditation topics for the weekend will include: Come and Rest, Come Unto Me and I Will Give You Rest, and Speaking After Silence. To reserve your spot, please sign up in the narthex, use our online form, or sign up by phoning the parish office. If you have questions, please call Deanna Thompson at 871-2441 or e-mail: dgthompson@cinci.rr.com.

2008 Lenten Series

People Get Ready!

Sundays: February 10, 17, 24, and March 2

Mornings: 11:15 a.m. – noon

Evenings: 6:00 (supper)

6:30 – 8:00 p.m. (program)

*People get ready, there's a train a-comin'.
You don't need no baggage, you just get on board.
All you need is faith to hear the diesels hummin'.
Don't need no ticket, you just thank the Lord.
– Curtis Mayfield from "People Get Ready"*

Reconciliation continues as the central theme of our Sunday morning adult formation program, and Curtis Mayfield's gospel song "People Get Ready" (inspired by the 1963 March on Washington and the Civil Rights movement) provides the focus for this year's Lenten Series. Lent is a time when we're invited to reflect on our faith journey, taking note of the baggage we carry that holds us back from the full life that God intends for all. Culminating in the visit by the Rev. Dr. Michael Battle (the weekend of March 8-9), we will explore how we can be reconciled with God and one another. Each morning session will focus on one of the sacraments and its significance for reconciliation. Each evening session will help us go deeper through a rich and lively combination of Scripture, prayer, music, readings, meditations, and small group conversation. A description of the series is below:

February 10

Morning: There will be no morning session as we gather for the Annual Parish Meeting.

Gospel story: After his baptism in the Jordan, Jesus endures 40 days and nights of demonic temptation in the wilderness; he is then cared for by angels.

Evening: *How might our personal Lenten practices help us "get on board" with God? What holds us back? What are the wilderness places that we endure, and how might we experience the sustaining presence of God there?*

February 17

Morning: The Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession & absolution)

Gospel story: Jesus and Nicodemus engage in a nocturnal dialogue about how one can be born anew by the free-flowing Spirit of God.

Evening: *What baggage (from both past and*

present) are we dragging around? What part of us feels old and worn and in need of rebirth? How can we relinquish our burdens and receive God's blessing so that we can get "unstuck" and move forward with our lives, both individually and as a community?

February 24

Morning: The Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist

Gospel story: Jesus and a Samaritan woman happen to meet by a well and engage in a verbal joust that draws both deeper into the mystery of God's life-giving love.

Evening: *What does it mean to be connected one to another, our "fellow passengers" on the journey? How do we engage and share with others (including those who are quite different or even estranged from us) in an atmosphere of trust and transparency? What's the "living water" that Jesus promises?*

March 2

Morning: The Sacrament of Baptism & the Baptismal Covenant

Gospel story: On the Sabbath Jesus heals a man born blind, which deeply troubles the authorities.

Evening: *Where's this "train" going, and how can we "get on board?" How are we blind, and how can we begin to see with fresh eyes? How can we reach out and touch others – within and beyond our faith community – who are in desperate need of healing and reconciliation?*

March 9

On the Fifth Sunday in Lent, Dr. Battle will preach at the 5:00 pm service, a festive Eucharist (featuring special music by the musicians of St. Simon's, St. Andrew's, and Redeemer) to which the entire community is invited. Afterwards, there will be a celebratory reception for all.

--Charlie Brumbaugh

Help with Meals Needed

For the Sunday evening Lenten series, we will share a meal after the 5:00 pm service, then begin the program. If you are willing to bring a crockpot dish or salad to share, or can help with serving or clean up, contact Chris Orr (871-7955) or Susan Hollister (321-6577). A sign up sheet for food is also posted in the narthex. Childcare can be requested by using our online form or phoning the parish office. Please request childcare at least one week in advance.

MISSION BOARD



El Hogar updates

Muchas Gracias to everyone who helped to welcome Padre Rich Kunz, director of El Hogar, to Redeemer January. If you missed his program, some of Rich's reflections on life in Honduras can be found on the El Hogar website www.elhogar.org. Special thanks to Les McNeill, who stepped up to organize the potluck dinner.

Carolyn & Kevin Martin will represent Redeemer at the dedication celebration of the new Technical School campus on February 26. If you have cards or letters to be delivered to friends in Honduras, please leave them at the Reception desk and the Martins will deliver them along with the 110 pounds of multivitamins! If you are interested in seeing the El Hogar schools and facilities without the physical demands of mission work, the school dedication is a good opportunity to do so. The dates are February 23-27 and lodging is at the Marriott in Tegucigalpa.

There is a slide show of the new Technical Institute on the El Hogar website. Keep in mind that Bob McGonagle and Bruce Freeman helped to dig the footers for these beautiful buildings with a pick axe and a lot of sweat! Concrete block was laid and paint applied by work teams from Redeemer and other churches throughout the US and Canada.

St. Timothy's in Anderson Township has some space available on their April 5-12 mission trip to the orphanage in Tegucigalpa. Redeemer's June 14-21 mission trip to Tegucigalpa is almost full. The updated volunteer handbook posted on El Hogar's website, has information about what a mission trip entails. Contact Carolyn Martin (kdmartin@pol.net) or Nancy Hopkins-Greene (nancy@redeemer-cincy.org) for more information.

ERD Offering on February 17

On Sunday, February 17, Redeemer will collect the annual offering for Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD). Formerly called the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief, this organization funds emergency disaster relief and rebuilding as well as long-term

development solutions to fight poverty throughout the world. Although parishioners are welcome and encouraged to contribute to ERD directly throughout the year, this is an opportunity for us at Redeemer to offer our support as a congregation. Redeemer has had a firsthand experience of the valuable work of ERD through its ministry with El Hogar Projects in Honduras. The Agricultural School (also known as "the farm," to which a group from Redeemer went last summer) was the recipient of an ERD grant funding educational outreach by students. Students go to impoverished rural communities to teach them farming techniques, crop diversification and fertilizing methods. This program, initiated in 2007, has received a renewal grant for 2008. More information about ERD is at www.er-d.org.

Along with the special offering on February 17th, Redeemer parishioners are invited to support ERD again this year through Hope Chests. These cardboard boxes (like the "mite boxes" many of us used as children) are an opportunity to offer support through our loose change on a daily basis. We are encouraging children and interested adults to make this a part of their Lenten observance. Hope Chests are currently available in the Narthex. The filled boxes will be collected during the Easter season.

This year's offering will go specifically to the MDG (Millennium Development Goals) Inspiration Fund, a partnership of ERD, Jubilee Ministries and the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church. This annual ERD collection is one of four special Sunday offerings that we join in each year at Church of the Redeemer. The other collections are the United Thank Offering (UTO) Ingathering, our annual collection for Episcopal Community Service Foundation (ECSF) and the Souper Bowl of Caring. During Holy Week, we also take a special collection for the Church in Jerusalem.

IHN Volunteer Workshop at Redeemer

A citywide workshop for all Interfaith Hospitality Network volunteers will be offered at Redeemer in March. We'll be covering topics like guest/volunteer interaction, managing uncomfortable situations, and enhancing the hospitality experience for everyone. Seating is limited. Choose one of the two available sessions: Tuesday, March 4 (7-9 pm) or Saturday, March 8 (10am-noon). RSVP by Feb. 26 to Betsy Wones at betsy@ihncincinnati.org or 471-1100.

RITES OF PASSAGE

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

New Members

Jean Plunkett 8425 Monticello Dr. 45069

Parish Calendar

Every Week this month

Sunday

8:00 am..... Holy Eucharist, Rite I (Sanctuary)

8:45 am to 9:45 am. Coffee Hour (Narthex)

10:00 am..... Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Sanctuary)

The Banquet (Great Hall)

Godly Play for 3's and 4's; St. Francis for 2's

Child care for the youngest ones (under age 2)

11:10 am... Spiritual formation opportunities for all

5:00 pm. Holy Eucharist:

Celtic or New Zealand (Chapel)

6:00 pm. Youth Group

Monday

9:30 am..... Tai Chi

1:00 pm. Staff meeting

Tuesday

6:30 pm. Spanish Class

Wednesday

12 noon..... Downtown Bible Study

7:00 pm. Holy Eucharist with Healing (Chapel)

Thursday

10:00 am..... Bible Study

4:00 pm. St. Cecilia Choir

7:00 pm. Adult Choir

8:00 pm. Al-Anon meeting

Friday

8:30 pm. AA meeting

Upcoming events

February 8	5:00 pm	Women's Not-so-Silent Retreat
February 9	9:00 am	CORe to Freestore/Foodbank
	12:30 pm	Youth Over-the-Rhine Tour
February 10	11:00 am	Annual Meeting
	5:00 pm	Interfaith Hospitality Hosting all week
	6:00 pm	Lenten Series
February 11	5:30 pm	Stewardship Committee
February 12	7:00 pm	Parenting Class
	7:30 pm	CORe to Molly Mallone's
February 13	7:30 pm	Book Group
	7:30 pm	Newcomer Committee
February 14	9:00 am	<i>Redeemer News</i> Deadline
	1:00 pm	Knitting Group
February 16	9:00 am	Community Land Co-op work day
	10:00 am	Redeemer Solemates
February 17		<i>Episcopal Relief and Development In-gathering at all services</i>
	12:00 noon	Confirmation Class
		Centennial Committee
	3:00 pm	Benedictine Way
	6:00 pm	'Tweens Fellowship
		Lenten Series
February 18		<i>No Redeemer Preschool Parish Office Closed</i>
February 19	7:00 pm	CORe Bible Study
February 20	9:00 am	<i>Redeemer News</i> Collating
	5:30 pm	Growing through Grief
	7:30pm	Inquirer's Class
		Mission Funding Committee
February 21	6:00 pm	Adult Formation Ministry Team
February 22	5:00 pm	Women's Silent Retreat
	6:00 pm	Vestry/Board Chair Retreat
February 24	12:00 noon	Confirmation Class
	6:00 pm	Lenten series
February 25	7:30 pm	Mission Board
February 26	7:30 pm	CORe game night
February 27	7:30 pm	Inquirer's Class
February 28	9:00 am	<i>Redeemer News</i> deadline