



Redeemer News

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**The Episcopal Church
of the Redeemer**
2944 Erie Ave.
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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
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 5
Deadline: January 31



FROM THE ASSOCIATE RECTOR

Dear Parish Family,

We were standing in the Chapel of the Holy Cross beholding the utter beauty of the space. The sage stones underfoot and the soaring ceiling above. The dark wood contrasting with the light stone, the simple wicker chairs with the intricately hand-crafted organ. The pleasing unity of altar and pulpit, cross and columbarium. I remarked, "And I really like the large, clear windows!" She said, "I prefer stained glass." I said, "But isn't it wonderful to see the *outside world* from within the church?" She responded, "I come to church to get *away* from the outside world!"

I've thought about this conversation often, and from many different angles. Right now I'm thinking about it in the light of our vestry's decision to make 2008 "The Year of Invitation" – a continuation of our parish's calling "to 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." How do our *windows* illumine the nature of this calling?!

Our transparent chapel windows help me feel connected to God's creation. My experience of the sacred liturgy is enriched with a backdrop of a glorious sunset or mesmerizing moon, bare branches coated in ice or a pounding rain. One day I was blessed to see a regal hawk glide by behind the cross! And through the thinner windows at ground level I can glimpse joggers and motorcyclists, and riders getting on and off the bus. I welcome all these "distractions" because they remind me that our worship is inseparably intertwined with the divine life that pulses throughout the world we see (and which, in turn, sees us!) through the clear glass.

As William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury from 1942-1944, famously said, “The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members.” This includes all people, of course, but also the entirety of “this fragile earth, our island home.”

By contrast, our translucent stained glass windows in Redeemer’s original and largest worship space (“the big house” as Carter Kemper likes to call it!) tend to focus me within. They remind me of lines from “The Windows” – a lovely poem written in 1633 by George Herbert, English parson and poet:

*Doctrine and life, colours and light, in one
When they combine and mingle, bring
A strong regard and aw . . .*

Each one of us, like the saints “annealed in glasse” above us, are a “brittle crazie glasse” through which God’s “light and glorie” can shine and draw others into the divine life. But the light will not shine through us nearly as brightly unless we are immersed in the Word and Sacrament, prayer and fellowship of our faith community. Even Isaiah, an urban prophet engaged in the politics of his day, declared: “O God, you will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are fixed on you; for in returning and rest we shall be saved; in quietness and trust shall be our strength.” (Isaiah 26:3, 30:15) Sometimes we need to withdraw from the world to better engage the world.

Ah, the genius of the Anglican *via media*, revealed yet again! There are seasons when an individual follower of Jesus is called to respond with vigor to the needs of our world clamoring beyond the church’s safe and cozy walls. And there are seasons when that same disciple is called to come apart, be still, and look within. But it’s *never* either/or. It’s *always* both/and. And this is equally true for communities of disciples like Redeemer.

How humbling and thrilling it is to be a part of Redeemer! I’m delighted that we’ve found (and continue to find) so many creative ways to reach out our hands in self-giving love to the world. And I’m blessed to witness the “tender mercies” that our members so kindly and generously bestow upon one another. As disciples, we try to embody the balanced rhythm of Jesus – who one day would fling himself into the maelstrom of conflict in the public square, and the next would withdraw into solitude or the quiet company of friends.

This coming year is a year of invitation. We are reaching out to invite in. But we are also inviting in to reach out. These are two sides of one coin – two foci of our one calling.

Faithfully,



FROM THE ASSISTING PRIEST

Like daylight during winter months, our season of Light – Epiphany – is short this year. It is hard to believe that Lent is almost upon us. Soon we will be stuffing ourselves with chips and dips on the Great American Feast Day, Super Bowl Sunday. Two days later, we’ll be gorging on Shrove Tuesday pancakes. And then we head into Lent, our season of fasting.

Feasting and Fasting: Can we ever get it right? Obviously Lent is about more than giving up particular foods, or fasting on certain days. Some choose a Lenten observance that has nothing to do with food at all. (After all, gluttony is only one of seven deadly sins!) But there is a reason that, throughout the centuries, food has traditionally been a central focus of this penitential season. After his baptism, Jesus went straight to the desert where he fasted. The tempter told him to turn stones into bread and he said “man does not live by bread alone.” As for us, the way we eat can point to all of the unhealthy appetites of our lives: our greed, our desire for power, our failure to consider the needs of others, our indiscriminate use of the earth’s resources. Yes, there are many connections between food and SIN.

I just finished the book *The Way We Eat: Why Our Food Choices Matter* by Peter Singer and Jim Mason. In this book, the authors trace the origins of the diets of three American families. In doing so, they explore the ethics of animal treatment, the use of hormones and antibiotics, the destruction of the environment for many types of food production, organic farming, genetic engineering, the use of fossil fuels to produce and transport food, fair trade and buying local foods. I’ll admit that there were times while reading this book that I asked myself: “Is there anything I *can* eat?” I decided that parsley – the only thing still alive and edible in my (organic and very local) backyard vegetable garden was my only sure bet. But (wo)man cannot live by parsley alone!

The truth is, there are no clear-cut answers to what we can most ethically eat. But the book ends with some helpful guidelines on making food choices. And, probably most importantly, it reminds us that we *do* have a choice. These choices can affect much more than our own lives. They affect the lives of other living beings, of people throughout the world and future generations. And they affect the future of *this fragile earth our island home*.

In the Incarnation, Jesus certainly affirmed the goodness of food and drink. He was even accused of being a glutton. And good food is one of the greatest pleasures of *our* incarnate lives. But there is a flip side to this: We can have too much of a good thing; or a good thing for *us*, when we look at it carefully, might not be good for *us all*.

I do not think that many of us intentionally make choices that we know are destructive or unethical. In this sense, most of our sins are of *omission* rather than sins of *commission*. But they are sins nonetheless. When it comes to issues such as the ethics of eating or lifestyle choices that affect the environment, we often feel overwhelmed and prefer to stay ignorant. Perhaps this Lent can be a time when this could *change*. Change, after all, is what repentance and penitence is all about. The following are some ideas:

Become informed. Do some reading or surf the Internet to become informed and find changes you can make to your own lifestyle that uses the earth and its resources more gently. Remember to be gentle with yourself too. Better to begin with small changes than to take on major ones that are likely to fail. Become informed on the Farm Bill and other legislation related to farming, poverty, and sustainability.

Remember the hungry. Give generously to the Souper Bowl collection at Redeemer on February 3 benefitting Freestore/Foodbank. If you give up or fast from a food during Lent, consider “replacing” it with a weekly food donation to a food pantry. We make this easy for you with the red wagon in the Narthex. These donations go to the food pantry at Madisonville Education and Assistance Center.

Take time for prayer. Any time that we take time for reflection or retreat is an opportunity not only to reflect on all facets of our lives, but to open ourselves to the Spirit's guidance. The three retreats offered at Redeemer

are opportunities for this. The Women's “Not-So-Silent” retreat on February 8 and 9, in particular is focused on Creation this year, using themes of dirt and compost to reflect on how God works through creation and works through us.

Make a personal, practical commitment to the Millennium Development Goals. Goal #1: “Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger” is self-explanatory. Goal #7: “Ensure environmental sustainability” is explicit about the need for all of us to work toward a sustainable future. And, it is one of the things that we can most easily act on, through personal lifestyle choices. Join Redeemer's MDG ministry. Working toward all of the MDG's is a Christian imperative. And, engaging in these will challenge our own lifestyles. This can be a little scary or threatening. Jesus must have felt threatened in the wilderness too.

I would welcome any comments or suggestions on ways that we might explore and support one another on these issues as a community – during Lent and afterwards. Our Diocese, with its recent convention resolution to join the efforts of Ohio Interfaith Power & Light, is making one step in this direction.

There are many other ways that we can reflect on and engage in our relationship to food and the environment. If you feel a little resistance here, know that you are not the only one! But I encourage all of us to consider this as part of your Lenten observance this year. I believe that these are matters central to our faith.

Blessings and Peace,

Ash Wednesday at Redeemer

Begin your observance of Lent on February 6 by attending one of our Ash Wednesday services. Each service offers Holy Eucharist and the imposition of ashes. The Ash Wednesday schedule is:

7:00 am (Sanctuary)

12:00 Noon (Chapel)

7:00 pm (Sanctuary)

EDUCATION BOARD



Lenten Series: "People Get Ready!"

February 10, 17, 24, and March 2

6:00 pm – Simple supper in the Great Hall

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm – program

This year's lenten series is designed to serve as an exciting wake-up call: for our observance of the holy season of Lent, for our immersion in the sacred liturgies of Holy Week and Easter, and for our ongoing commitment to the ministry of reconciliation. The themes for each evening program will dovetail with the day's Gospel reading and the morning adult education program. The series will be capped off by the weekend reconciliation program on March 8 and 9 with the Rev. Dr. Michael Battle.

For the Sunday evening series, we will share a meal after the 5:00 pm service, then begin the program. If you are willing to bring a soup or casserole to share, or can help with serving or clean up, contact Chris Orr (871-7955) or Susan Hollister (321-6577). Sign up sheets for food are 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.

Women's Not-So-Silent Retreat

On Ash Wednesday, we are marked with ashes and the words: Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return. "Dust, Dirt, and Compost" will be the theme of this year's Women's Not-So-Silent Retreat on February 8 and 9. Why? Although winter is the time when vegetation is scarce, there is much going on below the surface. And this is true for us too. Lent is a time when we are encouraged to dig deeply into our lives, our desires, and our faith. Nature is a wonderful teacher and compost is a perfect image for God's work within us. Nancy Hopkins-Greene will lead our reflections on these themes as we enjoy one another's company on this annual retreat. All women are welcome. The cost of the retreat is \$65 which includes all meals and snacks. If you have questions, contact Joan Burrow (871-0805 or burrow@fuse.net). Sign up using our online form, phoning the church office, or by sending your check to Church of Redeemer, marked "Not So Silent Retreat."

Women's Silent Retreat

The 2008 Women's Silent Lenten Retreat will be February 22 and 23, at the Convent of the Transfiguration. The retreat leader is Judy A. Johnson, author of *A Week to Pray About It*. The cost for the retreat will be \$65.00. Your check will reserve your place, or you may sign up using our online form. In early February, participants will be mailed more information about the retreat. If you have questions, please call me at 871-2441 or e-mail: dgthompson@cinci.rr.com.

--Deanna Thompson

Formation Fun with Friends of the Groom

Please join the Education Board for a different kind of formation experience on February 3. Hear stories from the Bible presented in a challenging, engaging style. Experience God and the stories of the Bible in a new way. This program is guaranteed to entertain and engage people of ALL ages. *Friends of the Groom* is a professional Christian theater company that travels the nation performing their unique brand of entertainment. Redeemer is hosting a team on Sunday, February 3. FOG will offer the homily during the Banquet and perform for the entire parish at 11:15 am in the Great Hall.

If your child participates in the 10:00 am Godly Play or St. Francis kid's class, these classes will begin as usual at 10:00 am, but you will surely want them to see the *Friends of the Groom*! Plan to pick your child up after the worship service and join us in the Great Hall for this wonderful performance planned for the whole family.

Parish Health Ministry Conference

The Episcopal Retirement Home's Parish Health Ministry and the Parish Nurse/Health Ministries Task Force will host the 2008 Refresh Your Soul Conference in Cincinnati 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).

LITURGY BOARD

Three Generations of Choristers



At Redeemer we are blessed with an excellent music program and many dedicated choristers. I enjoy the variety and appreciate the quality of the music that is a vital part of our worship. This Christmas season I noticed a particularly touching dynamic in the choir – three generations of one family singing together. John Crouch sings tenor, his daughter Karen Staffiera sings soprano, and his granddaughter Katie Staffiera is a new member of the St. Cecilia choir.

The Crouch/Staffieras have been singing all their lives, but this is the first church choir for John who joined Redeemer in 1995 and has since been involved with the choir as well as Vestry, Search Committee, Celtic music, IHN, MEAC, Discernment Committee, and more. Karen has been singing in choirs since fifth grade, but this is only her second church choir. In college her music theory professor, who was the organist for the local Episcopal church, helped her get a paid job singing with the choir. Karen was later confirmed there. Karen joined Redeemer in 1995 and was married here in 1996. In addition to choir, she has been involved in Altar Guild, funeral receptions, Church School, IHN, Mission Discernment Team, and Sunday Intercessor. She also teaches in the Preschool. Both of her children were baptized here, including Katie who is almost eight.

What is special for John about singing with Karen and Katie? *I have been singing with Karen for nearly all of her life. When all of our kids were growing up, I sang to them at bedtime most nights when I was home. As soon as Karen was old enough to sing herself, she would often sing with me until she fell asleep. She and I have also sung together at various family gatherings and other places through the years. The ability to make music is truly one of God's greatest gifts to anyone, and the willingness to share this ability is our gift to the community. I have watched Karen grow from a young girl who was rather timid singing in public to a confident woman who is not only glad to share her musical gift with a large audience but also has developed into a leader in the choir both musically and personally. It has been one of my most treasured experiences to be able to stand next to her on Sunday and sing all of the beautiful music we have done as a choir. Katie had been counting the days until she was*

old enough to sing in the St. Cecilia choir. It is really great to see the enthusiasm and talent she brings to the group. It was especially rewarding at the Celtic Epiphany service to watch Karen conducting the children in their anthem and to hear Katie's voice as she sang.

What is special for Karen about singing with her father and her daughter? *Having so much of my childhood revolve around music has created such a special bond between me and my dad. It is truly a gift to be able to stand and share that bond as we glorify God with the music we sing or play. In a way it is a chance for us to share the special father/daughter relationship we enjoy with the rest of the congregation. I have had people comment about how nice it is to see the two of us up there so obviously enjoying each other and the music we share with them. And now it means more to me than anything to carry on our family's musical legacy with Katie and eventually Elizabeth (I hope!). Katie carries so much joy into everything she does and that is true of her singing as well. I'm still trying not to cry when I hear her angelic voice among the others of the children's choir.*

Where do John and Karen see God in this opportunity? *John: God is everywhere in the music we make together . . . in our relationship to the other choristers, in the great music we get to do, in the beautiful voices in harmony, and the sheer joy of doing it with and for my family and friends. For me, it doesn't get any better than this.*

Karen: Everything about this opportunity provides images of God. Hearing Katie's little voice among those of the other children during our caroling this year was hearing God's voice. Seeing the reaction of the congregation when we do something really well (and even when we don't) is seeing the face of God. Standing next to my father when we sing is feeling the love of God. Our music is a wonderful gift and I feel incredibly blessed to be able to share it not only with my family but with the greater family that is Redeemer.

What does Katie feel about all this? She says she loves to do it because she realizes that singing is a special gift for her. She and her mom have often talked about what it means to have special gifts – things we do really well – and how they come from God.

–Elizabeth Grover

Especially for Newcomers

On Sunday, January 27, all newcomers are invited to a reception in their honor at the home of Les and Red McNeill, 3045 Erie Avenue. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to get to know fellow parishioners and Redeemer clergy in a relaxed atmosphere. If you can attend, please contact the church office (321-6700). While this reception is intended for newcomers, anyone who feels like a newcomer or would like to meet newcomers may attend.

MISSION BOARD

Mission Trip to El Hogar



Many Redeemer families are familiar with our support of the mission in El Hogar, but not everyone has been able to experience this great work first hand. An opportunity to join fellow parishioners on this worthwhile mission is available this summer. A group of parishioners will be going on a mission trip to El Hogar de Amor y Esperanza in Tegucigalpa, Honduras June 14-21. Adults and youth 15 and older accompanied by their parents are welcome to join this trip. Participants will be responsible for airfare as well as room and board expenses. For more information or registration, contact Carolyn Martin (kdmartin@pol.net) or Nancy Hopkins-Greene (nancy@redeemer-cincy.org).

Thank you from PWC family

***Editors' note: This thank you note was sent to the Redeemer crew of six volunteers who braved the elements on a very cold and blustery morning in December to provide a wheelchair ramp for the Cunningham family. For more information about PWC, contact Keenan Beauchamp at keenan@cinci.rr.com*

Thank you so much for the tremendous effort you all put in to building a ramp for my wheelchair. It was great to hear the laughter and good spirits from the crew in spite of the harsh weather. May God bless you all for your good works.

Love in Christ, Alice and Andrew Cunningham



Souper Bowl on Super Bowl Sunday

Yes, we said *Souper* Bowl! For the second year in a row, Redeemer will be joining with religious congregations throughout the country in the annual Souper Bowl of Caring. On this day, when many of us join friends to stuff ourselves with junk food while watching the Super Bowl, we have an opportunity to serve those who are hungry!

The Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990. It was initiated by youth who saw the Super Bowl as an opportunity for mobilizing to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities. Since then, the event has raised more than \$41 million. In 2007 a total of \$8,167,872 was raised. Although participating groups report total collections to the Souper Bowl of Caring, 100% of the proceeds go to a local organization. Redeemer's Mission Board Outreach Committee chose the Freestore/Foodbank as the recipient of this year's collection. Our 2007 collection of \$527 was given to Interfaith Hospitality Network.

Many of you have read or heard in the news recently about the extreme demand and shortages in food pantries throughout the country. Freestore/Foodbank in Cincinnati is no exception. As a major supplier to food pantries in the Cincinnati area, Freestore/Foodbank is challenged to keep up with the current demand. They need our help!

Redeemer Youth will be collecting money (loose change, piggy bank contents, small and large bills, all accepted!) in soup pots following all Sunday services on February 3. Please join us in this souper opportunity to serve the hungry.

Come to the Auction

Every year, the youth of the Redeemer host a traditional pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday combined with an auction to benefit youth mission work in the coming year. Please plan to join fellow parishioners on Tuesday, February 5, from 6:00 until 8:00 pm for this fabulous evening of fun and fellowship. All profits go to youth missions in Navajoland, el Hogar, and Cincinnati. Come prepared to bid early and often on items like a gourmet dinner in your home, bread of the month, Celtic ensemble to play at your event, cooking lessons, Navajo jewelry, and much, much more! Tickets for the Auction may be purchased at the church office, or after all Sunday services. Your ticket includes a bidding number and all the pancakes you can eat!

Donations for the auction are being accepted in Alice's office through January 31. Think creatively about your donation, and include a donation slip with each item. Questions? Contact Alice (321-6700). Donation slips are available at the reception desk in the church office and in the Narthex.

Redeemer wins ECSF grant for IHN:

The board of the Episcopal Community Services Foundation voted to approve a \$5,000 grant to the Church of the Redeemer for the Greater Cincinnati Interfaith Hospitality Network. This grant will be used to help IHN continue the vital services of the Day Center which helps families overcome the problems that drove them into homelessness. The number of Episcopal congregations and volunteers involved in this ministry is truly phenomenal. The dramatic increase in support by Redeemer for this ministry is helping to bridge the yawning gap in resources to tackle this terrible problem. ECSF's board is very glad to be able to send this grant to supplement the tremendous support provided by Redeemer and nine other greater Cincinnati Episcopal churches. I would also like to convey the deep gratitude of the ECSF board for leadership and exceptional contributions from Redeemer members. The Mission Board approved a generous grant of \$1,500 for St. Paul's Chillicothe to be used for outreach. Every member of the clergy contributed generously to ECSF between November and January, as did many individual lay members. Chet Cavaliere and Hobey Hinchman helped establish ECSF, and Francie Morrison and Bonnie Kretschmer now serve on the ECSF board, bringing energy and vision to grant making and

strengthening the connections between congregations and individuals committed to overcoming poverty. Thank you to Gary, Charlie, and Nancy for joining 30 other clergy and both bishops to issue a challenge to the laity, pledging to match up to \$20,000 in lay gifts during Advent. Lay people, including several Redeemer members, responded with great generosity, and gave \$37,000 in response! These gifts are being used to send \$120,160 in grants to 45 different ministries around the diocese this year. Thanks to the wonderful response, we are starting the year with almost 80% of this grants budget in hand – compared to just over half last year – and we will be able to get essential funds to front line ministries much faster than in previous years. This would not have been possible without you. Our grant budget comes from the freewill donations of churches and people all over the diocese who are committed to supporting each other's response to human need through prayer, mutual consultation, and material aid. It is an honor and a joy to partner with you.

Ariel Miller, Executive Director
Episcopal Community Services Foundation

Habitat Dedication



On Saturday, January 12, 2008, our Habitat for Humanity House was formally dedicated. After the dedication, Jack Barter, Pamela Smith (new homeowner), Tom Salzman (Executive Director of Cincinnati Habitat), and Paul Callard take a moment to pose for a picture. The Mission Funding Committee has just decided to begin planning for our next Habitat project. Stay tuned to *Redeemer News* for more details.

Annual Meeting on February 10

Please plan to 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. Candidates are listed below.

2008 nominees for parish-wide offices

The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

Senior Warden (two-year term):

Christine Carter

Redeemer involvement: Active member of Redeemer since 2000. Currently serving as Junior Warden, Lector, Godly Play teacher, IHN overnight host, Lay Eucharistic Visitor, singer with ACE, Newcomer Welcome Tour guide, Admin Liaison to Mission Funding Committee, occasional jogger with Sole Mates.

Personal background: My family is in England, mostly near Manchester. I am “Anglican by default; Episcopalian by choice.” I have lived in Hyde Park for thirteen years and work in IT, supporting control systems software for the power industry. I sing in a choir performing sacred music and belong to a play-reading group. I also am a reader for Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Reason God is calling you to this ministry: It is an honor to serve as a lay leader in a thriving community like Redeemer. God has given us both amazing resources and the challenge of using them to proclaim God’s love for all people. I am excited by the prospect of working with other lay leaders and clergy to help discover God’s direction for us as we enter our second century.

Junior Warden (two-year term Junior Warden; two-year term Senior Warden):

Matthew Stone

Redeemer involvement: Vestry Stewardship Committee, Families With Young Children, Eat and Greet, Nominating Committee, Freestore/Foodbank, CORE. Led Newcomer Ministry for four years, served on the Dream Team, IHN.

Personal background: I am married to Tara Lee with children Winnie (3) and Walker (15 months). I work for a Swiss flavor maker as Strategy Director, helping to set strategic direction and leading change.

Reason God is calling me: Redeemer is a very special place, and I would like to play a role in helping sustain

it. I feel God is calling me to use some of my skills and gifts in strategy and visioning as Junior Warden. I have a special interest in helping others outside Redeemer realize that this is a wonderful community and might be the place for them, too.

Vestry Clerk (one-year term):

Carol Cline

Redeemer involvement: Baptized, confirmed and married at Redeemer. Church School teacher, Stewardship Committee, Usher, Main Dish cook, Redeemer Cookbook Committee, Lay Reader, Chalice Bearer, Vestry Clerk (4 years).

Personal background: I am married to Jeff with sons Jonathan (22) and Matthew (18). I work with Jeff at our FastSigns business. I enjoy daily running, Bible study, cooking, and reading.

Reason God is calling me: I prayed for discernment on where God wanted to use me after I stepped down from teaching Sunday School. When Bruce called, I knew this was His answer and that I would somehow be anointed to do the job.

Permanent Property Fund Trustee (four-year term): Scott Swan

Redeemer involvement: Member of Redeemer since 1988. Permanent Property Fund Trustee (2005-2008), served on Vestry (1994-1997), Chair of Education Board (2000-2003), Church School Teacher, Lay Reader, Chalicist, Hyde Park Center for Older Adults liaison, Newcomer Welcome Tours, IHN and PWC volunteer.

Personal background: I am married to Heather with children Stephenson (14), Anderson (12), and Saunders (8). I am a Vice President & Personal Trust Officer, U.S. Bank, N.A.

Reason God is calling you: I feel that God continues to call me to this ministry as a way to utilize the knowledge and skill set developed in my professional life in service to the Redeemer community. During the last three years, the Trustees and Investment Advisory Committee have worked diligently to establish and implement an Investment Policy Statement for the assets of the church. Now that we are in a position to monitor and assess the results, I would welcome the opportunity for continued service to ensure that an effective model is in place for future generations.

Delegate to Diocesan Convention (for 2008 only):

Amy Harris

Redeemer involvement: Redeemer member since 1998. Currently serving on Vestry, Interfaith Hospitality Network, St. Francis room volunteer. Former involvement includes: 20/30 group, Navajoland mission trip, Church School teacher, lay reader, delegate to Diocesan convention, Rector Search Committee. Served on two discernment committees for parishioners exploring their call to the priesthood.

Personal background: I am married to Mike with children Sam (3) and Anna (18 months). I have lived in Cincinnati for the past 13 years but bleed UK blue. I am a school psychologist by training and am currently working as an educational consultant and trainer. I also teach on-line courses for educators.

Reason God is calling me: I have served two other stints as delegate to convention and I love it. I love being a Redeemerite and getting the opportunity to represent Redeemer to the diocese. It makes me proud. It has been wonderful to see how our church fits into the larger picture and to have a part in affecting the direction of the diocese. I also enjoy fellowship with the rest of the delegation!

Alternate Delegate to Diocesan Convention (one year term as Alternate; two-year term as Delegate):

Diane Hopper

Redeemer involvement: Joined Redeemer in 2002 after relocating from Birmingham, AL. Banquet volunteer, snack ministry, and St. Cecilia choir volunteer.

Personal background: I am married to John with children Jack, Ben, and Clair. I switched my career from attorney to the non-profit field, where I now work as Development Director at St. Ursula Villa School where Ben and Clair attend.

Reason God is calling me: After six years as a parishioner at Redeemer, I am eager to gain a deeper understanding of the major issues facing our Church. I am grateful for the opportunity to become more involved and hope that I can provide insights as the Episcopal Church addresses many issues relating to larger society and personal choices.

Alternate Delegate to Diocesan Convention (one-year term as Alternate; two-year term as Delegate):

Clay Bond

Redeemer involvement: Redeemer member since 1994. Former Vestry member, IHN, Spirituality in a Busy World Presenter, Mission Board Chair, Usher, Godly Play, People Working Cooperatively and Habitat.

Personal background: I am married to Emily with son Evan (7). I enjoy spending quality time with Evan and love to run – especially marathons.

Reason God is calling me: I was very active with the Church for a span of about ten years and took a little bit of break from being on Vestry or running Mission Board. I see this as an opportunity to reconnect without jumping into the deep end right away.

Mission Funding Committee At-Large Member:

Brian Babb

Redeemer involvement: Lifelong Episcopalian and Redeemer member for twelve years. Bread Guild, Intercessor, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Nominating Committee and Habitat for Humanity.

Personal background: I am married to Betsy with children Molly and William. I work as an environmental attorney for Keating, Meuthing, and Klekamp. In my free time, I enjoy fishing and spending time outdoors.

Reason God is calling me: This is another great opportunity to serve Redeemer and its missions.

Mission Funding Committee At-Large Member: Melanie Schottelkotte

Redeemer involvement: Church School teacher, Family Ministry, Cornerstone Interior Design Committee, Vestry.

Personal background: I am married to Matthew with children Grace, (10th grader at Walnut Hills), and Karl and Clair (6th graders at Kilgour). I am an Adjunct Professor at UC's School of Architecture and Interior Design. I love knitting both as hobby and therapy, and also enjoy pottery, art projects, and golf.

Reason God is calling me: The future holds opportunities for us to focus our energy outward. I feel called to participate in this exciting journey.

Treasurer (one year term): Rob Kranz

Redeemer involvement: Current Treasurer, Vestry, Diocesan Budget Committee, Executive Committee of the Cornerstone Campaign, served two terms on Vestry, Adult Contemporary Ensemble (ACE), Usher, Flower Guild, Lay Weeders, original Redeemer “webmaster.”

Personal background: Married to Therese with daughters Tori and Caroline. I am a Principal in Cincinnati Growth Partners LLC, a Cincinnati-based investment banking firm. Other volunteer activities include: Founding trustee of the Ault Park Advisory Council; founding trustee and treasurer of Volunteers-In-Parks, Inc. (a 600-member charitable volunteer organization supporting the Hamilton County Park District); former board member, president, and chairman of the Mt. Lookout Civic Association. Interesting hobby is playing bass in the River City String Band and in The Camrys.

Reason God is calling me: In my years of volunteering, both at Redeemer and in other organizations, I feel that I have demonstrated the ability to link the goals and strategies of the organization with its financial and accounting realities. I believe that my gifts will allow me to help to fulfill God’s will for the Redeemer and its members.

Asst. Treasurer (one-year term):

Anne Kelly

Redeemer involvement: Current Asst. Treasurer, Church School teacher and Godly Play Storyteller, Redeemer Preschool board chair and treasurer.

Personal background: Married to Chris with three children: Will (13) Brooke (10) and Colin (8).

Community service includes: vice-chair of Board of Trustees and chair of finance and strategic planning committee for Mercy Health Partners; investment committee member for Catholic Healthcare Partners. Hobbies include volunteering, golf, skiing, reading, and sewing.

Reason God is calling me: It has been my honor to be called to assist in the financial administration of Redeemer. I believe my efforts will enable Redeemer to maintain and extend its missions in a fiscally responsible manner. God’s love includes bean counters and tax collectors!

Appointed to the Vestry (completing an unfinished term, 2007 - 2011):

Brian Weinewuth

Redeemer involvement: Began attending Redeemer in 2003. Habitat for Humanity, People Working Cooperatively, Lector, Ushers.

Personal background: Married to Beth. Native of Cincinnati and graduate of Miami University. Fairfield Middle School teacher for eight years in eighth grade. I am active and love baseball.

Reason God is calling me: I have been interested in becoming closer to God and serving the church and community. This should begin to fulfill my desire to achieve this. I want to become a whole Christian, not just "attending" church, but becoming an involved member.

rites of passage

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

New Members

Tom and Kathleen Shepard 2658 Grandin Road 45208
Joan Peck 12 Spring Hill Drive 45227

Births

Eleanor Margaret Knuth *December 28*
daughter of Emily and Dennis Knuth
Ivy Jade LaFerriere *January 7*
great-granddaughter of Ruth Upson

6:00 pm

Lenten Series