



FROM THE CURATE

Redeemer News

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The Episcopal Church
of the Redeemer

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CLERGY

The Rev. Bruce A. Freeman

Rector

The Rev. Charlie Brumbaugh

Associate Rector

The Rev. Nancy Hopkins-Greene

Assisting Priest

The Rev. Alice Connor

Curate

The Rev. Gary Lubin

Deacon

WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

SUNDAYS in SUMMER

8:00 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10:00 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

5:00 pm

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

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: June 22

Deadline: June 19

Our Youth Council, the teenagers who lead our youth program at Redeemer, spent a day at Kings' Island recently followed by a lovely barbecue at the home of Karen and Mike Staffiera. The day was meant as a "thank you" for all their hard work this past year and an opportunity for bonding among the group. It was fanTastic. Our first ride was the new Firehawk and, if you like roller coasters at all, you've got to try it; once you're strapped into your chair, *it reclines*. And I don't just mean a little for a better television-watching-angle—I mean your feet are above your head. You ascend the first hill lying down, backwards, and head-first; it is fairly freaky. Then, just as you go over the top of the hill, the track rotates laterally so you are *hanging prone*, flying-Superman-style. And off you go! The Firehawk is amazingly smooth and worth the current wait.

Now before you think this is just an advertisement for Kings' Island, let me share something with you. I have a love/hate relationship with roller coasters. Specifically, I get motion-sick. Really motion-sick. I spent large portions of the day lying down on the grass, holding everyone's hats and phones as they rode ride after ride. We've got several photos of me looking queasy. The first ride doesn't bother me—it's exhilarating to feel the wind in your hair, the palpable excitement in the crowd around you, the freedom of raising your arms and letting go. But several in a row and my stomach catches up with me.

It's terrifying. To be strapped into a small, mechanical car and thrown at terrific speeds over hills and through the air is scary. And, if I'm honest, that's a huge part of the love. As you climb that first hill, there is a feeling of abject fear: this will never work, we're really high up, get me out of this thing, O God we're going to die. But you can't get out—it would be more dangerous for everyone if you tried to get out at the top of the hill rather than ride it out. And there is a moment at the crest of that hill when you see the face of God. At that split second, when the cars tip the balance and start down the hill, you let go. You let go of the fear, you let

go of your expectations, you let go of your breath. You let go of everything and scream. It's one of the purest moments of emptiness you can experience. And one of the purest moments of joy. To be in that single moment of fear and joy is to see God. Susie Blocksom and I joked about that as we were coming into the station after riding the Firehawk—we were both shaking and giddy, not sure how we felt about the ride yet, but certain that it had been a holy experience.

This is what it comes down to: fear and joy in one package. Kevin Bleyle did some thinking about that this past weekend at the Young Adult retreat that CORE sponsored at the Cathedral. The decisions we have to make in our lives, the experiences we have, and the relationships we form are all filled to the brim with fear and joy. We never know what will happen, and our anxiety can sometimes overwhelm us, but most of us have had the experience of taking a risk and reaping a powerful reward. We sometimes go into a thing, confident in the joy it will bring, only to be laid low. Everything is like this—choices, relationships with other people, relationship with God, Creation itself. That moment at the top of a roller coaster is our entire lives. I did get sick riding those coasters, but I also *loved* it. I *loved* spending time with some of the youth of our parish who are living a risky and fearful time in their lives. They are becoming who they will be. They don't know yet who that is, but they are excited. There is joy in the unknown just as much as there is fear.

I have asked many of our youth this question, and now I want to ask you: What would you do if you knew you had only six months to live? A year? What fear would you tackle? What joy would you not postpone? How would you serve God? What's keeping you from it?

Alice Connor

Ministry together

Community, communication, coordination, cooperation, collaboration, communion. The prefix *co-* in all of these words is about being or doing things *together*. And this is striking about the mission ministry of Church of the Redeemer over the past few months: There are so many ways in which different groups and individuals have been *working together*. We noticed this first of all on

Mission Board when we heard that two of the leaders of our Habitat for Humanity ministry, Jack Barter and Ed Polaski, had joined Keenan Beauchamp fixing faucets at a Home Improvement Saturday with People Working Cooperatively (PWC). We had a discussion at a Mission Board meeting back in the fall when we wondered whether two construction/home improvement ministries could be sustained, or might compete for our volunteer resources. Instead, the two groups have been working together, coordinating their efforts.

And then there was the co-mingling of two of our mission ministries with the Hunger Walk on Memorial Day. Both Freestore/Foodbank and Madisonville Education and Assistance Center benefited from our participation in this annual event. With 69 runners and walkers and over \$4,000 raised, this was a great collaborative effort! Furthermore, it was jointly sponsored by Sole Mates, Redeemer's walking/running group. The Sole Mates are a part of the Pastoral Board. It was yet another example of the ways that we join together to build God's Kingdom.

Then, just the other day, Nancy was asked by the Liturgy Board to explore the possibility of having new cross pendants for our lay readers made by the young men at El Hogar Technical Institute in Honduras. This would be a tangible way that we might carry our mission spirit into our weekly worship. The list goes on and on: Church School students sending cards to the boys at El Hogar, youth groups collecting items for our IHN guests, our CORE group leading the Freestore/Foodbank ministry, etc.

This has been a great program year for the Mission Board and Mission Implementation Team. We have been struck by the energy and commitment of all involved in ministry beyond our walls. And there is much to look forward to in the coming months: work on the Habitat for Humanity house, a mission trip to the El Hogar Agricultural School and the first junior high urban mission trip. These are in addition to ongoing Interfaith Hospitality Network hostings, Freestore/Foodbank Saturdays and new "done in a day" opportunities at MEAC.

In her sermon on Pentecost Nancy said that the word *conspire* means *to breathe together*. Certainly all of this co-operation and co-ministry is a sign of the Holy Spirit breathing in and through us together.

Jane Killen and Nancy Hopkins-Greene

More working together – Where do you see ministry overlap?

The Bread Guild – baking for newcomers (Pastoral) and for communion (Liturgy)
Parents of Young Children Group – serves educational, pastoral and social functions
The Knitters – making prayer shawls (Pastoral) and donating baby items (Mission)
Navajoland – a mission trip with an educational component

MISSION BOARD

Bringing Hope to the World: Hope Chests

On Pentecost Sunday, we collected “Hope Chests” filled with coins and dollar bills to support Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD). These cardboard boxes were distributed to children in the Banquet and others in the narthex at the beginning of the Season of Lent. As of June 3, the collection was up to \$184.63.

Where will this money go? According to the ERD’s “Gifts for Life” catalog, \$184.63 can do a lot of concrete things to help people throughout the world. This amount could buy a flock of chickens (\$135) plus two seedling trays of drought-resistant seeds (\$20 each) or it could buy a goat (\$80) and a pig (\$100). It could also be used as a micro-credit loan to a woman (\$150); along with tools and training, this would allow her to start a small business. This amount of money could also supply twelve much-needed mosquito bed nets (\$15 per net) or six supply care kits for people with HIV/AIDS (\$30 each). There are so many concrete ways – large and small – that our support can bring hope to a hungry world.

If you still have your Hope Chests, you can bring them in during June, putting them in the offering plate or leaving them at the church office. We plan to send a check to ERD by July 1. Checks payable to Redeemer are also accepted (subject line: ERD Hope Chests). Thank you to all who contributed!

Nancy Hopkins-Greene

How you can help the El Hogar boys

On July 13, twelve members of Redeemer will be taking a mission trip to the El Hogar Agricultural School (“the Farm”) outside of Tegucigalpa in Honduras. As on past trips, we would like to take various medical supplies, new or gently used clothing and other items needed by El Hogar Projects. We will be collecting the following items in the narthex and the church office from June 17 until July 8:

Jeans – especially sizes 28, 30 and 32
Dark socks
Shoes – especially sizes 8, 9, 10 and 11 (teens)
Blankets
Shampoo, soap and toothpaste
Benzoyl peroxide cream (for acne)
Antifungal cream (for athlete’s foot)
Antibiotic cream such as Bacitracin or Neosporin
Thick white socks (for control of athlete’s foot)

As always, financial donations are also welcome. (Please make check payable to Church of the Redeemer, subject line: “Farm trip supplies.”) Thank you for your generosity!

Nancy Hopkins-Greene

What else you can do for El Hogar

El Hogar is undertaking a dormitory project at the Tegucigalpa home for younger boys; four unsafe wooden dorms will be replaced with one large concrete structure that will accommodate ten more boys. The new dormitory will also provide a more home-like environment for these children. Right now, the dorms are used solely for sleeping at night; the new dorms will have a place where boys could spend evening time together and also come inside during inclement weather. The total cost of the project is \$285,000, which includes the cost of the dormitory and an additional \$35,000 for various other projects and repairs. El Hogar has \$72,000 in hand and a \$50,000 challenge grant. Two Redeemer families have put together another \$5,000 challenge grant. This means that Redeemer contributions (up to \$5,000) will be matched 2 to 1! If you feel called to contribute, checks can be written to Redeemer and sent to the Redeemer office (memo line: “El Hogar Dormitory”) so that we can total them and send them all in together.

Our own Habitat house!

Habitat for Humanity is building a house sponsored by Redeemer at 6305 Sierra St. in Madisonville. Volunteers are now needed every Saturday to help with construction. No construction skills are required. Sign up at the Habitat display in the narthex or by emailing Jack Barter (jbarter@cinci.rr.com).

Perhaps you have heard about Habitat, but have some questions about the organization. From the website www.habitat.org comes the following information.

What is Habitat for Humanity International?

Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry. HFHI seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world, and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. Habitat invites people of all backgrounds, races and religions to build houses together in partnership with families in need. Habitat has built more than 225,000 houses around the world, providing more than 1 million people in more than 3,000 communities with safe, decent, affordable shelter. HFHI was founded in 1976 by Millard Fuller along with his wife, Linda.

How does it work?

Through volunteer labor and donations of money and materials, Habitat builds and rehabilitates simple, decent houses with the help of the homeowner (partner) families. Habitat houses are sold to partner families at no profit and financed with affordable loans. The homeowners' monthly mortgage payments are used to build still more Habitat houses. Habitat is not a giveaway program. In addition to a down payment and the monthly mortgage payments, homeowners invest hundreds of hours of their own labor — sweat equity — into building their Habitat house and the houses of others.

What does a Habitat house cost?

Throughout the world, the cost of houses varies from as little as \$800 in some developing countries to an average of nearly \$60,000 in the United States. Habitat houses are affordable for low-income families because there is no profit included in the sale price. Mortgage length varies from seven to 30 years.

IHN offers family mentoring program

The Interfaith Hospitality Network is offering a new program to help strengthen families. IHN is seeking volunteers to be family mentors to help former IHN guest families achieve increased self-reliance, independence, and economic stability. Potential mentors need good listening skills and need to be nonjudgmental, reliable, and accepting. They should be familiar with or open to learning about issues of poverty and mental health, be willing to visit a family in their home neighborhood (which may be out of the mentor's comfort zone), and be willing to participate in a screening process. The time commitment is two three-hour training sessions and a one-year minimum commitment of 4 meetings per month for three months followed by twice-monthly contact. If you are interested, come to a mentoring information session on Saturday, June 23, at 10:30 am at Redeemer (or on June 21 at 7:30 pm at Sharonville United Methodist Church). For more information or to RSVP, contact Betsy Wones at 513-471-1100 or betsy@ihncincinnati.org by June 18.

Random strange thoughts

Isn't it strange how a twenty-dollar bill seems like such a large amount when you donate it to church, but such a small amount when you go shopping?

Isn't it strange that you can't find a word to say when you are praying, but you have no trouble thinking up something to talk about with a friend?

Isn't it strange how everyone wants front-row tickets to concerts or games, but they prefer to sit in the back at church?

Isn't it strange how we believe everything that magazines and newspapers and even websites say, but we question the words in the Bible?

Staff position open

You may have heard that our longtime Finance Officer, Diane Bair, is moving to Charlotte, NC, this summer. At this time we are seeking to interview appropriate candidates to fill her position. Though we would prefer to hire a non-parishioner for this position, we would like to ask for the help of our entire parish in identifying potential persons for this staff position. Below is the job description.

Job title: Finance Officer / Controller

Hours: Part-time (~30 hours per week)

Responsibilities:

- Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable, Payroll and General Ledger
- Preparation of bank deposits, reconciliation of checking, credit card and various investment accounts
- Production of monthly and annual financial statements, including variance analysis, as well as the national church parochial report
- Preparation for, and participation in, annual audit; preparation of annual budget, including gathering pledge information and creating income forecast, and gathering and consolidating expense data from clergy, staff and lay leadership
- Administration of employee benefit enrollment
- Supervision of several volunteers assisting with clerical duties

Qualifications:

- Strong accounting skills are required, with a CPA preferred
- Proficiency in Microsoft Excel and Word are essential, with knowledge of Automated Church Systems (ACS), Shelby or other church or small business accounting software important

The successful candidate will receive a competitive salary, including health insurance, retirement plan and other benefits, vacation, and some flexibility in work hours. Please send resume in confidence to RKranz@prodigy.net.

EDUCATION BOARD

Confirmation News

On May 20 eleven youth were confirmed by our new bishop, the Rt. Rev. Tom Breidenthal. These young people had attended confirmation classes– mostly on Sunday afternoons – since the fall. This year’s youth confirmation class made bread for the Eucharist, made Prayer Art, acted out Bible stories, watched film clips, ate a lot of food, and generally just rocked! On March 25, we tried something completely different. The confirmands and their mentors were given an Old Testament Bible story and a format to present to the group. These formats included writing and drawing a comic, doing a puppet show, and making a sculpture out of trash. Eric Greene and Mike Staffiera were given the task of rewriting Samuel’s call as a limerick, and here is what they came up with:

Eli, the nearly blind pastor,
Was Samuel’s teacher and master,
Sam went to bed,
Heard a voice in his head,
And he ran to see Eli much faster.

Eli said, “I don’t need you.
Go back to bed, it’s two.
If the voice comes again,
You should say with a grin,
‘What do you want me to do?’”

Samuel went back to sleep,
And the voice in his head sounded deep,
“I’m listening,” Sam said,
And the Lord in his head,
Said, “Eli the priest is a creep.”

“His sons have been terribly bad,
And have not been controlled by their dad,
Though this may seem shocking,
He knew trouble was knocking,
So do not feel afraid or sad.”

Library notes

The library continues to receive gifts from parishioners. The following titles were donated from the collection of Spencer Porter by his widow Robbie. We are delighted to have Spencer's significant contribution to the intellectual life of this parish memorialized in these books. Many thanks, Robbie!

222 BRU	<i>Theology of the Old Testament</i> by Walter Brueggemann
270 WAL	<i>A History of the Christian Church</i> by Walker
220.5 NEW	<i>NRSV Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible</i> (Reference only)
232.9 CRO	<i>The Historical Jesus</i> by Crossan
291.8 YOU	<i>Anthology of Sacred Texts by and about Women</i> , edited by Young
221.48 BRE	<i>The Septuagint</i> , edited by Brenton
221.48 BRE	<i>The Septuagint with Apocrypha</i>

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Poetry Group to meet

The next meeting of Redeemer's **Poetry Lovers' Group** will be **Monday, June 18**, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The theme will be fathers. As always, you may bring poems to share, you may share original work, or you may simply listen. We will be hosted by Ann & Ed Kuehn, 7 Filson Place, in Mt. Adams, so carpooling is encouraged.

An update on stock gifts

The Permanent Property Fund trustees and the Investment Advisory Committee have assessed some options and made the decision to change where some of Redeemer's funds are invested. As a result, some of the account numbers that you have used in the past when donating stock are out of date. If you are planning to make a stock donation, please contact our Finance Officer, Diane Bair, and she will be happy to explain the new procedures and account numbers.

Bread workshop coming soon

The Bread Guild has scheduled their next bread workshop for Saturday, June 16, at 1 pm. As always, we will teach the basics of baking communion bread, as well as other recipes of interest. All are welcome – especially if you would like to begin participating in this ministry. For more information, call David Richards at 631-4413.

MEAC needs some "people" help

On Saturday, June 16, from 1 pm to 4 pm, MEAC will hold its annual cookout. Not only is this a great gift to the community, but it's a lot of fun. There are a number of opportunities to participate – from grilling and serving to face painting and hosting games. Please contact Minda Matthews at 351-9199 or minlmatt@hotmail.com.

CORe to Reds game

The CORe group (young adults ages 20 to 35 roughly) is headed for a Reds game on Friday, June 15. The game begins at 7:10 pm. For information on this event or any other CORe event, contact Jill at jburketragase@gmail.com.

Ordinations coming in June

Our diocesan bishop will ordain a number of ordinands in the coming weeks – three to the priesthood on June 16 and ten to the diaconate on June 23. The June 16 service will be at St. Phillip's in Columbus, and the June 23 service will be at Christ Church Cathedral in Cincinnati. Both services are at 11:00 am. Of those being ordained deacons, four will be vocational deacons and six (including former member of Redeemer Joe Stewart-Sicking) will be transitional deacons. Everyone is invited to these services.

