

Redeemer News

October 10, 2007

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**The Episcopal Church
of the Redeemer**

2944 Erie Ave.

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

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: October 24

Deadline: October 19

FROM THE RECTOR



Formed into Christ

As many of you know, I'm a Weather Channel junkie. I love to watch radar images of storms and predict the next day's temperature and rainfall

amounts. One weather question just fascinates me. How do hurricanes really form? I've read all about the various elements of this phenomenon – from pressure variants to African micro climates. I've studied the movements of these storms and have certainly witnessed their impact on our environment. But a part of the formation process remains mysterious and unknowable – a movement of creation that is at once dangerous and indescribably beautiful.

In his vision for our Diocese, our new bishop, Thomas Breidenthal, has emphasized that Christian formation must be a central focus. This makes sense. Our bishop was a dean at Princeton and a seminary professor before he came to us. His vision is on the cutting edge of where many believe the Christian church needs to be – both now and in the foreseeable future. This belief acknowledges that we find ourselves in an increasingly secular culture, and as such need to spend a large portion of our energy helping our members live into what it means to be a Christian. The surrounding culture no longer reinforces our Christian values or assumptions. This means that we must be very intentional about how we form ourselves as Christians. This is not merely an issue of raising children in the faith. It speaks to the struggle of every person of any age who seeks to follow Jesus in a culture that often values soccer games over worship, money over community good, individual rights over economic justice, twelve-second sound bites over prayer, or material comfort over the needs of the world. God is calling us, as the church of Christ, to focus concretely on how we might form ourselves more nearly into the people who God intends for us to be in our modern world – followers of Christ and his ministers of love.

It is important to note that a focus on formation is not a new thing for the people of Redeemer. This parish has fancied itself as a “university of ministry” for quite some time. There has been a long-term acknowledgment of our need to deepen our identity in Christ, and we, as a community, are dedicated to learning how to live this out in the concrete reality of our lives. We study the scriptures and speak to each other in theological language (even if this simply means answering the question, “Where have you seen God?”). We engage each other in conversations about our faith and actively practice spiritual discernment in our daily lives. We serve the community in Christ’s name and share our fellowship with others. In doing so, we invite them to learn how to minister together in God’s name. We’ve worked at the process of Christian formation both individually and corporately, and the abundance of life in our midst is a compelling testament to our benefit from it.

Let me suggest that one of the practices of formation which is unique to Redeemer and to the Christian community is that of stewardship. In a world that seems to promote acquisition over any other activity, we proclaim that giving back to God the good gifts we’ve been given by God is of the highest value. We believe that in giving to God’s purposes in our church, our community and our world we align ourselves with God’s will, and in the process find our true selves. This fall, as we undertake our **Stewardship of Treasure Campaign**, we will once again become very concrete about our practices of stewardship and about how these form us in the Christian faith. Our belief is that each of us is meant to practice percentage giving of our treasure. In essence, we are called each fall to measure our yearly income, determine what percentage we are giving back to God in the current year, and seek to increase by a percentage point or two our pledge for the next year towards the goal of a 10 percent tithe. This is a discipline that has been honored by the Christian community for generations as a way to form ourselves into the generous givers God desires us to be. This is not easy. Like all spiritual practices, we sacrifice much in the hope of gaining the true joy of communion with God in Christ.

How is a Christian truly formed? Look around our parish – there are so many ways we are shaped. Our ministries abound with life and energy. Our leadership continually seeks to do the will of God. We can see the vibrancy of our worship and feel the Holy Spirit in our midst. But Christian formation is still a mysterious

process. It can only happen through the grace of God, the prayers of the Christian community, and the leap of faith by the individual believer. Formation embraces the truth that God seeks us in every moment, hoping to share divine love with us, the beloved. Living into this mysterious truth is the heart of who we are as the Christian community and the source of all beauty, truth, and meaning.

In Christ,

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRIEST



Leighton and I have increased our pledge! You heard it here first — we are now pledging a whopping 3%.

Right. Not so impressive, I know. On the other hand, it's only been in the last few years that we've made a regular pledge at all. In my intern positions before Redeemer, my supervisor told me that as a student, it was okay for us not to pledge (not really). Before that I was a poor college student, barely attending church, much less offering money. Prior to college, I was in high school – my parents insisted that I pledge from my allowance. I did it about half the time.

Two years ago, I heard the term *percentage giving*. Suddenly a light bulb went off over my head – *You mean I don't have to jump in immediately and tithe ten percent? I can increase gradually?* (Seriously, this is what my internal monologue sounded like.) It was huge for us. I figured out that the total of what we'd been giving sporadically amounted to about 1%. I was crushed by that realization. What I thought had been generous – even sacrificial – was barely 1% of our gross income. I moped for about five minutes, then signed the 2007 pledge card for a big 2%. It felt good.

What does all of this mean to you? For one thing, it's time for the annual **Stewardship of Treasure Campaign**. For another – and this is key – 3% isn't much but it is an increase. Inflation doesn't have to be a bad word. In a world where inflation leaves millions destitute with every passing year, we can offer an inflated gift *to God*. In a world where money symbolizes

worth, we give to our religious community – the most worthy place there is. In a world that constantly demands our attention and our money, we turn to the church to experience truth, community, and meaning.

Brothers and sisters, you have heard every argument for giving to the Church. It's been done. But our giving is not done. It doesn't stop because we think we have *arrived*. We are all on a journey toward God, toward understanding, and toward the peace that passes all understanding. As individuals and as a community, we are not static or stagnant but vibrant and healthy. Everything about us changes over time. With practice our relationships deepen. With intention our missions outside our walls grow. With discipline our free will giving can increase to fill the world with hope. We have been blessed beyond all measure, and we stand straighter for it.

Whether your pledge is 1% or 10%, consider how much you have grown in the last year and let your offering reflect that growth.

COMMUNICATIONS AT REDEEMER

At the beginning of my tenure as Communications Director, it seems to be an appropriate time to remind everyone of the different channels of communication currently available to the parish. My hope is that it is easy to find any information you need to participate fully in the life of the parish. We have four main sources for information: *Redeemer News*, the e-news, the bulletin insert, and the website.

Redeemer News is published twice a month – usually every other Wednesday – and is either mailed or linked by e-mail to every household on our mailing list. It is also pasted on the website and a link to the current issue is put in each copy of the e-news. The deadline for submission is generally 9:00 am the Friday before each issue, but is subject to change to accommodate holidays and vacations. Please honor the deadlines, as late submissions often require extra staff hours. Please keep articles to about 400 words or less. Shorter articles are typically more appealing to read and easier to remember.

The weekly *e-news* is an electronic collection of

announcements sent every Wednesday through an e-mail management company. The intent of e-news is to remind you of parish events coming up in the next two weeks. The deadline for a submission to e-news is 9:00 am on Wednesdays. The best length for e-news is short. A few sentences with the main points is optimal. If more information is needed, a link can be provided to the full story on the website.

The *bulletin insert* is basically a mini-newsletter containing announcement-quality items, but not the more in-depth articles that you can find in *Redeemer News*. The deadline for the bulletin has been changed to Thursdays at 9:00 am. Like e-news, these submissions should be as short as possible to be effective. Please keep announcements to 75 words or less. Announcements often must be edited due to limited space.

Our *website* is maintained regularly and contains current announcements, a copy of *Redeemer News*, ministry and contact information, registration and other forms, and links to other sites. If you have a submission or suggestion for the website, please let me know.

One goal for the near future is to increase the use of photographs in Redeemer publications. To that end, we need volunteers who are willing to capture church functions on digital camera. The best pictures are high-resolution and are of small groups of people. Should you have any questions about the types of photographs that will be used, please feel free to contact me at the church office.

Anyone is welcome to submit relevant information to be communicated to the parish. While an electronic format is preferred, articles can also be handwritten or typed. All submissions are subject to editing, and not every item can be published due to space constraints. Please email any photographs or news items to me at sharon@redeemer-cincy.org. If you have story ideas or would like to provide feedback regarding our publications, please contact me at the church office (321-6700).

Sharon Jenkins, Director of Communications

Did you know that our Associate Organist, Don Hurd, is the strolling violinist for Vinoklet Winery? He plays there every Friday and Saturday evening.

PARISH DIRECTORY

As we do every fall, we will be issuing a new parish directory next month. If you have any changes in phone numbers, address, or other family information, please be sure you have notified the office so that the directory will contain the most current information. In addition, if you have never filled out a green membership sheet, it is likely that the office does not have your family's complete information. Please contact Membership Coordinator Elizabeth Grover (elizabeth@redeemer-cincy.org) to request a green sheet or to report any changes in information. You can also send us information via the website. The change form is on the right side of the home page; the membership form is available by clicking "Membership" from the list on the left of the home page.

The directory is a list of active (pledging) members – not a full list of everyone in our parish register. Please note that we do not publish cell phone numbers or email addresses in the directory; cell phone numbers are considered too private, and email addresses change too often. If you need more detailed contact information for any parishioner, you may call the office.

Elizabeth Grover, Membership Coordinator

rites of passage

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

Baptisms _____ October 7

Taj Henry Barthelmas
son of Robert Barthelmas and Susannah Sheldon
grandson of Gale Sheldon

Anna Hailey Kirk
daughter of Tommy and Michelle Kirk

Jackson Craig Baur son of Jeff and Julie Anne Baur

John Christopher Vatter
son of Brandon and Millie Vatter

AN EVENING WITH BISHOP BREIDENTHAL

Our new bishop, Tom Breidenthal, and his wife, Margaret, will visit Redeemer on Tuesday, October 23, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. We will gather in the Great Hall to hear the bishop talk about whatever is on his heart and in his mind, including his hopes for the Diocese of Southern Ohio and his experiences at the recent House of Bishops meeting in New Orleans. There will also be ample opportunity for us to engage him in a free-ranging conversation.

Prior to his election in April, 2007, Bishop Breidenthal served as the Dean of Religious Life and of the Chapel at Princeton University. Ordained to the priesthood in 1982, he brings a strong intellectual and academic background to our diocese. Before moving to Princeton, he served for nearly a decade as the John Henry Hobart Professor of Christian Ethics and Moral Theology at the General Theological Seminary in New York City. He was a senior chaplain at Harvard School in California and an Episcopal Church Foundation Fellow in Oxford, England. He also has served in two parishes, both in Oregon.

Bishop Breidenthal brings a passion for civic involvement, strong lay leadership and ministry, and Biblical preaching. A noted author, he has written about the issues of same-sex unions, what constitutes a Christian household, and how to raise ethical children. His books include *Sacred Unions: A New Guide to Life-Long Commitment*, published in 2006, and *Christian Households: The Sanctification of Nearness*, published in 1997.

Bishop Breidenthal is married to Margaret Ann Garner Breidenthal, and they have two daughters, Magdalene, 20, and Lucy, 17.

Childcare may be reserved for this event by contacting the church office(321-6700), sending an email to Kelli Jasper (kelli@redeemer-cincy.org) or using the online form on our website (www.redeemer-cincy.org). Please request childcare before October 20.

THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS MEETING IN NEW ORLEANS: OUR BISHOP'S REFLECTIONS



September 27, 2007

Now that the House of Bishops meeting has ended, and I am back home among you, I want to share a few thoughts on the work we did, and particularly on the statement we produced.

As you may know, I was one of the eight bishops who wrote this statement, which

developed over several days as each draft was discussed by the whole House and further refined by the writing group. Apart from preaching and celebrating at a local parish on Sunday, this process of drafting and revising took up all my waking hours from Friday evening until Tuesday afternoon. So it is fair to say that my experience of New Orleans is essentially my experience of that process.

I went to New Orleans afraid that the House would not maintain the high level of civility and mutual respect that marked our meeting last March. On the one hand, I worried that the presence of the Archbishop of Canterbury might provoke angry words directed against him and the other primates. On the other, I feared that bishops on different sides of the same-sex unions debate might become rancorous toward one another. None of this happened. Rowan Williams was welcomed with respect and warmth, as were the members of the Joint Standing Committee of the Anglican Consultative Council and the Primates, whom we had invited to sit with us in our deliberations. As for how we related to one another, I was struck by the kindness, care, and mutual understanding that informed the House's discourse from beginning to end. We are a community of bishops that is passionately devoted to the worldwide Anglican Communion and committed to our unity and fellowship with one another as members of the Episcopal Church.

The meeting was largely shaped, in my view, by our conversations, both formal and informal, with our Anglican Communion guests. What emerged for all of us was a firmer grasp of how the Primates and the ACC viewed the Episcopal Church and what they were asking of us as its bishops. I was surprised to discover that, for

the most part, we are held in high regard by our brothers and sisters in the Communion, and our participation in the Communion is very highly valued. Moreover, while there is frustration and anger that we have, in their view, acted precipitously and disrespectfully in consecrating a partnered gay bishop without consulting with the larger Communion, there is also an appreciation that the Episcopal Church is forcing a Communion-wide conversation about homosexuality that is long overdue. What our guests were asking of us was clarity about two things: (1) the bishops' interpretation of B033, the 2006 General Convention resolution regarding the election of partnered gay bishops, and (2) the bishops' current approach to the blessing of same-sex unions.

The statement that we produced is our attempt to answer those two questions succinctly and transparently. We have said nothing new. Those who were dissatisfied with B033 for going too far or not going far enough will be equally dissatisfied with the present statement. However, what we have said as a House arises in the context of renewed hope for a conversation with our Anglican partners that honors all members of our Church. I am heartened by this hope, and I pray that our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters will also find encouragement in this.

My ardent desire for this Diocese is that we will continue diligently to embrace our fellowship with one another across the differences that both challenge and enrich us. We all have a witness to share, and we all are in need of having our perspective broadened by the witness of others. By God's grace, and through your prayers, a step was taken in New Orleans toward recovering the possibility of an Anglican Communion capable of facing tough issues with mutual forbearance and readiness to learn from one another. That possibility will become a reality as it is lived into on the ground. God bless us in Southern Ohio, as we play our part in that adventure.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Thomas E. Breidenthal

CONCERT SERIES CONTINUES

Please plan to join us on Sunday, October 14 at 3:00 pm as Sarah-Theresa Murakami presents a piano recital in the Chapel of the Holy Cross. Miss Murakami, who lives in Cincinnati and attends Redeemer, will offer selections from Schumann, Mendelssohn, and Schubert. This concert is free and open to the public.

PASTORAL BOARD

Vial of Life Program

The Vial of Life program was initiated by paramedics nationally to help them obtain important medical information about a person while responding to an emergency in their home. A person's medical information, including prescription details, medical history, and emergency contact information is written on a health information form, folded and placed in a small container marked "VIAL OF LIFE." The vial is then placed in the refrigerator with a magnet on the door indicating the person's participation in this program. In the event of an emergency, all important medical information is readily available to the first responders. Local paramedics have confirmed their appreciation of this product and look for the Vial of Life on emergency calls. If you are interested in using a Vial of Life for yourself or a loved one, please contact Betsy Babb at the church office (321-6700). Vials are made available through a generous donation from the Episcopal Retirement Homes.

One parishioner's reflection on using the Vial of Life:

My husband, Jerry Cowan, was diagnosed with lung cancer in June of 1998. It was my privilege to be his care giver for nine years until his death on August 6, 2007. During the last two years of Jerry's illness, Betsy Babb, Parish Health Minister at Redeemer, was a positive force in our lives. Betsy called regularly, fielded my questions, eased my fears, and prayed with us and for us.

One Sunday last January, Betsy set up a display in the narthex about the Vial of Life. As I was leaving the 8:00 am service, I passed the display, and my interest indicator registered zero. Nevertheless, I remembered how supportive Betsy had been to our family so I asked for a vial – strictly a token gesture. When I returned home, I filled out the enclosed sheet listing Jerry's medication and followed the instructions to place the vial in a conspicuous spot in the refrigerator.

For the next five months, I was tempted to toss the vial. I am thankful I did not. At 3:00 am on May 18, Jerry needed medical help. I called 911, and when the paramedics arrived, they asked for a list of Jerry's medications. The Vial of Life was exactly what they

needed. That information went to Christ Hospital and later to the Hyde Park Health Center with Jerry. It was simple and easy in a time of great stress. I now have my own medications listed in a Vial of Life.

– Lee Cowan

Flu Shots at Redeemer

The Health and Wellness Ministry will offer flu shots on Sunday, November 18, in the library following the 10:00 am services. The shots will be provided by Comprehensive Home Health Care Services and are free to Medicare recipients who bring their card at the time of vaccination. Otherwise, the cost is \$25.00 per shot. A receipt is available for insurance carriers if you are eligible for reimbursement.

The Center for Disease Control and Protection recommends that individuals at high risk receive the vaccine. This includes anyone over 65, or anyone with a chronic medical condition. If you are allergic to eggs or thimerosal, ill with a fever, or have had a severe reaction to the vaccine in the past, you should not receive the flu shot. Healthy individuals who would like to reduce their chances of getting the flu might consider the nasal spray flu vaccine as an alternative. The nasal spray is available through your health care professional. Call your doctor to see which form of the vaccine is best for you. If you have any questions, please call Betsy Babb, RN, at the church office (321-6700). A sign-up sheet is located in the narthex.

SOUP AND SALAD SUPPER FOR THE PARISH

The Fellowship Ministry will host a soup and salad supper following the Celtic service on November 4. Salad, bread and beverages will be provided, but we need help with the soup. If you can bring a crockpot of your favorite soup to share, please contact Kathe Kissel at 751-1779. We hope you'll come for an evening meal and fellowship.

Silent Retreat offered

Mark your calendars for *Falling into Stillness* – a SoulSpring silent directed weekend retreat scheduled for November 2 through 4 at the Episcopal Convent of the Transfiguration. For more information, contact Linda Busken Jergens (321-6743). More information will be available in the next edition of *Redeemer News*.

EDUCATION BOARD

From the Director of Children's Ministries

Making the Most of Sunday Mornings

One of the challenges of having two worship services at the same time is coordinating the endings so that we can all go to formation class and begin together and on time. In an effort to support this endeavor, the children's formation classes will now officially start at 11:10 am.

If you typically attend the 10:00 am sanctuary service and attend or teach a formation class during the second hour, please come forward to receive communion at the head of the line so that you are able to get to your class on time. If your family typically attends the Banquet service in the Great Hall, please do not send your children to class until 11:10 am; you may accompany them to their classroom to make sure there is an adult ready to greet them.

There are awesome things happening here on Sunday mornings! Please join us for one of the many options for spiritual formation.

Operation Christmas Child

A mission opportunity for children is returning to Redeemer. Operation Christmas Child gives our children an opportunity to make a difference in another child's life. Children fill shoe boxes with gift items that will be sent to a child in need somewhere in the world. During the formation hour in the coming weeks, classes will watch a video showing them how much joy their gift can bring to another child's life. Each child can take a box to fill and a brochure outlining how to fill their box and what type of items to include.

This is where we need your help. Please recycle your sturdy shoe boxes by bringing them to church for use in this special project. We would also welcome donations of Christmas wrapping paper so the boxes can be wrapped. The boxes and paper can be left in the reception area or given to Kelli Jasper. While it may seem early to be thinking about Christmas, the boxes be shipped by November 12 – just one month away.

Child Care Available upon Request

As a ministry to families with young children, Redeemer provides child care during parish events. While this is an important ministry, the current system is rather lax, creating an inefficient use of time and treasure. In order to be better stewards of these resources, the Director of Children's Ministries is implementing the following policy and procedure for child care during parish events outside of Sunday worship.

If you would like child care during parish events (which list child care as an option), you must make a reservation for this service. Contact Kelli Jasper at the church office (321-6700), via email (kelli@redeemer-cincy.org) or by using the website registration page. Make sure you note which event you will attend. A sitter will not be contacted until this request is made. **If there are no requests for child care, it will not be arranged for the event.**

Please note the following rules:

* A reservation must be made at least 7 days in advance of the event. You may still request care with less than 7 days notice and we will attempt to book a sitter; however, it is not guaranteed.

* After the reservation is made and the sitter is booked, it is our expectation that you will utilize the service. To honor the time and energy our child care providers set aside for us, Redeemer is obligated to pay them once they have been booked. We understand that last minute emergencies and illnesses happen. Should this occur, please notify the person in charge of your event that you will not be able to attend but had requested child care.

* We expect that you will arrive within 30 minutes of the event's scheduled start time. If there are no children present for child care within the first 30 minutes of an event, the sitter will be released from duty and paid for the full time scheduled.

The intent of this policy is to create a system that allows Redeemer to support the full participation of parishioners with young children, while exercising sound stewardship of our resources.

Kelli Jasper, Director of Children's Ministries

Benedictine Way

Although St. Benedict wrote his ‘little rule for beginners’ for monks in the sixth century, it is applicable today for ordinary people who are striving for a deeper relationship with God. Come join us on Sunday, October 21, at 3:00 pm to learn how to incorporate the way of St. Benedict into your daily life. We are following *Preferring Christ*, by Norvene Vest, as a guide to our discussion. This group is open to everyone and meets on the third Sunday of the month at 3:00 pm in the Max Long Parlor. Questions? Contact Nancy Powell (321-1841). To obtain a copy of the book, contact Suzanne Olmstead (771-1498).

Fun Website Addition for Youth

And now, introducing the Photo Site! Want to see what the youth are doing? Photos are posted of each youth function as soon after the event as possible. The link to the photo site is:
<http://s188.photobucket.com/albums/z115/pastoralice/>
If you lose this article, a link to the photo site is available on the youth site.

If you haven’t already done so, we invite you to check out the youth website. The website includes a current calendar, silly links, photos, a rambling article by Alice, contact info, downloadable forms of all kinds, and more! Although the format may change, the website is now in glorious black, red, and yellow. Meet it again for the first time at www.youthatredeemer.com. Happy surfing!

Theology Group

Even if you missed the Theology Group’s first discussion of Marianne H. Mick’s *Loving the Questions: An Exploration of the Nicene Creed*, there is plenty of time to catch up before our next gathering on November 11 at 7:00 pm. Please read chapters 1 through 5 of the book which is on sale from Church Publishing for only \$5. The direct link is:
<http://www.churchpublishing.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=product&ProductID=363>.
You can also order by phone at 1-800-242-1918.

The famous motto of St. Anselm (11th century theologian and philosopher) was “faith seeking understanding.”
If this resonates with you, then please join us for a

welcoming, open-ended discussion of the sticky theological questions raised by this historic statement of the Church. Questions? Please contact Charlie Brumbaugh (321-6700, or CFBCOR@aol.com) or Anne Galluzzo (AnnyPoetry@aol.com).

An Evening of Poetry

The next meeting of Redeemer’s Poetry Lovers will be Monday, October 22, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, at the home of Joan Burrow. The broad theme will be childhood. As always, you may bring poems by published poets to read, you may share original work, or you may simply sit back, listen and enjoy. Bring a friend, too! For more information, contact Charlie Brumbaugh (321-6700 ext. 205 or CFBCOR@aol.com).

MISSION BOARD

El Hogar Dormitory Update

When El Hogar director Padre Rich Kunz visited in April, he shared plans to replace four aging dormitories at the school in Honduras with a new, larger and safer building. The hope was to raise the \$285,000 needed without the time and expense of a formal capital campaign. With God’s help, the project is almost completely funded. Redeemer parishioners contributed \$5502 which includes a matching grant by two Redeemer families. An additional \$3000 grant came from Redeemer’s Emerging Ministries fund, \$5000 from a private family foundation, and \$25,000 from the William Cooper Procter fund totaling \$58,502. Muchas gracias to Chet Cavaliere who guided the Procter proposal with the support of Redeemer, St. Timothy’s, and Calvary and to all who generously contributed.

The Latest from El Hogar

I recently made my sixth trip to El Hogar in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The campus that was just a hole in the ground when I started now comprises four large buildings and two bathhouses. I am beginning to feel like family – not only with the children, but with the staff, the surroundings, and the smells, sights and smiles of the Honduran people.

For me, seven years of sobriety and of living the Baptismal Covenant have afforded me the opportunity for a lifetime of outreach. Plans for more new dormitories at El Hogar move me to respond – and to see God in our midst as always.

This was my second trip south of the border this year and was sponsored by Calvary Church (Jason Leo) and Grace Church in New York (Steve Muncie) with prayer supplied by the Diocese of Southern Ohio. It had all the usual flair, served with eggs, ham, rice and beans to go with the overwhelming love of the little boys and girls. You can tell that these children know now that they have a chance to become leaders in their world and that they are grateful for their opportunity to get off of the streets.

I truly love you all and thank you for allowing me this opportunity to serve and to share the blood, sweat and tears that will create their future. God is good!

Much love, Bob McGonagle

Items Needed for Holiday Sale

If you are an artist or crafter but don't produce enough items to have your own table at the Holiday Sale, please consider donating an item or two to Redeemer's Handmade Crafts table.

Did you buy something for a friend and then find a gift that was even better? Were you given a gift that was a duplicate, or just not your style or color? Now you can re-gift without guilt. The Guilt-Free Re-Gift table will feature new, unused gift items contributed by the Redeemer community (no clothing, please). Any unsold items will be donated to the Madisonville Education and Assistance Center for their holiday gift shop. It's a guilt-free win-win.

Redeemer's Mission Board is sponsoring these two tables at the November 17 Holiday Sale. All proceeds from the Mission Board's tables will go towards our sponsorship of Marvin, a student we sponsor at El Hogar. If you have items to contribute, please contact Carolyn Martin (kdmartin@pol.net or 232-6399).

Sharing Our Blessings – Three Ways You Can Be Involved at MEAC

Thanks to everyone who has donated coats for the Madisonville Education and Assistance Center (MEAC) coat drive. To date we have collected 54 coats. Can we make that number 100? We will be collecting coats for another week, so you still have a chance to drop off your gently used items at the church.

We will be collecting food donations for MEAC's Thanksgiving baskets. Last year's response was amazing, so we will once again provide empty boxes to fill. We even provide the shopping list. The boxes will be available in mid-October with shopping list included. The list will also be posted on the website. Questions? Contact Kristen Arends (271-9532 or kristenarends@fuse.net).

On December 19 we have an opportunity to bring a little holiday spirit to MEAC's clients during their weekly Feed-n-Seed. If we can offer them a warm meal in a festive, inviting atmosphere, it will mean the world to them. For some of these folks, this will be their only Christmas celebration. Wouldn't you like to be part of this? There are lots of opportunities to be involved. Please contact Minda Matthews (minlmatt@hotmail.com or 351-9199) if you are interested.

Habitat Update

Our Habitat for Humanity house is entering the final stretch. The tentative plan for completing the house includes painting and trim work on October 13, installing doors and cabinets on October 20 and 27, and installing shelving, trim, electrical, and kitchen sub-floor on November 3. November 10 and 17 will be spent resolving the punch list. We expect to complete the house before Thanksgiving.

We will continue to work each Saturday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. You can work all or part of each day. Contact Jack Barter at jbarter@cinci.rr.com if you can help. The house is located at 6305 Sierra St. in Madisonville.

Words of Appreciation from IHN Guests

The week of September 23, Redeemer hosted families through the Interfaith Hospitality Network. All week, families were fed, sheltered and entertained by Redeemer volunteers. Based on the response from our guests, they felt welcome, comfortable, and safe. Here are some of the comments we received from IHN families.

The accommodations were awesome. The church and volunteers were also awesome.

The people that I met, particularly Christine Carter, were friendly. There was interaction with the children.

The volunteers made us feel comfortable.

They help with different problems and different people no matter what it is.

I loved the variety of the food. I also loved the healthy choices that were offered and the chance to try some new foods.

There was a lot of variety for children.

Millennium Development Goals Ministry

An introductory brainstorming session has been set for Sunday, November 4, at 12:15 pm in the Max Long Parlor to discuss the Millennium Development Goals. Please bring your questions and ideas about these goals and how we can address them in this parish. The session will include a potluck lunch of sandwiches and salads. Contact Bonnie Kretschmer (bkretsch@spamcop.net) for more information and to find out what to bring for the potluck lunch.

Major Grant Approved for People Working Cooperatively (PWC)

The Mission Implementation Team, Vestry, and Mission Board recently approved a \$20,000 grant to People Working Cooperatively (PWC). This is an incredible pledge of support from the Church of the Redeemer (COR) to an excellent organization that is committed to helping elderly and low income neighbors maintain their own homes.

A portion of the grant will make COR a principal sponsor of Prepare Affair on November 11. This family-friendly event combines COR volunteers with hundreds of other volunteers from across the city. We will focus on preparing for winter as we clean gutters, clear lawns, and perform other miscellaneous tasks. The only requirement for participation is a willingness to work. All ages are welcome. Prepare Affair is a great opportunity for families to do a community service project together. The entire Beauchamp family has participated and has always enjoyed this event.

The majority of COR's grant will fund construction materials for accessibility projects. Redeemer volunteers will provide the labor to install wheelchair ramps and make other necessary modifications so homeowners can continue living in their own houses. These projects will occur on Saturdays throughout the winter and spring. More information will follow.

For now, mark Prepare Affair on November 11, 2007 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm on your calendar. More information will be available on the Prepare Affair display in the narthex! All participants are also invited to a post-Prepare-Affair cookout at PWC's headquarters located at Tennessee and Paddock. Please call Keenan Beauchamp (533-9356) with any questions.

Ingathering Sunday is October 14 at all services. Please prayerfully consider your financial commitment to the Church of the Redeemer and return your pledge card to the church by bringing it to any service this week. You may also mail or bring it to the church office.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 11	1:00 pm	Knitting Group
October 13	9:00 am 9:00 am 9:00 am	Freestore/Foodbank Flower Guild meeting with Holy Eucharist Lay Readers meeting
October 14		<i>STEWARDSHIP INGATHERING AT ALL SERVICES</i> 3:00 pm Chapel Concert Series 6:00 pm Inquirers' Class 6:00 pm Junior High Chillaxin'
October 16	7:00 pm	Integrity C-Circle
October 19	9:00 am	<i>Redeemer News</i> deadline
October 20	5:30 pm	The Celebration and Blessing of the Marriage of Alizha Rice and Ian Smith
October 21	8:45 am and 11:15 am 12 noon 3:00pm 6:00 pm 6:00 pm 6:00 pm	Blood pressure checks Confirmation Class Benedictine Way 5th/6th Grade Youth Group Sr. High Youth Group Inquirers' Class
October 22	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Poetry Lovers Mission Board
October 23	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Bishop Breidenthal visit CORE Bible Study
October 24	9:00 am 12 noon	Redeemer News collate Downtown Bible Study cancelled
October 26	6:30 pm	CORE to Riverside Korean restaurant

PARISH CALENDAR

EVERY WEEK THIS FALL

Sunday

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 (Sanctuary)

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

10:00 am . . . Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 (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)

Monday

9:30 am Tai Chi class

1:00 pm Staff meeting

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

Saturday

8:00 am Habitat for Humanity Workday