

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF THE REDEEMER
2944 ERIE AVENUE
CINCINNATI, OH 45208
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www.redeemer-cincy.org



Redeemer News

VOLUME 2008 ISSUE 9

MAY 28, 2008

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
until June 1
(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: June 11
Deadline: June 5



FROM THE RECTOR

"No such thing as a
bad day"

I was recently talking with a fellow area Rector about parish ministry and the month of May. "Everyone is tired," he said. Commitments at church, work and in the community are at a crescendo during this time of year. For those who are oriented around the last nine months of school or church program activities, the general feeling in May is one of satiation. We cry, "Enough! I can't fit anything more into my schedule!" Our commitments become a burden—a heavy responsibility rather than a joy.

With this in mind, I found myself looking at my own calendar earlier this week. My response to the week's schedule sounded

something like "UGH!" I wasn't looking forward to much in the week to come. "Besides," I whined to myself, "the price of gas is going through the roof and I'm supposed to be in several places at once." On one of my first errands of the week, however, God woke me up. I was listening to National Public Radio and they announced that long time political worker Hamilton Jordan had just died. In the short story about his life, they mentioned that he had authored a book about his 20-year battle with cancer. The book was entitled *No Such Thing as a Bad Day*—a line that he had heard from a child, who, like Jordan, was struggling with the effects of chemotherapy. For Jordan, and for I'm sure every person who heard the quote from this child, the phrase is a stark reminder of the

(Continued on page 2)

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRIEST

A Taste of Heaven

Have you ever had a Krispy Kreme glazed doughnut fresh off the conveyer belt at six in the morning? No? Go ahead and set your alarm now so you can drive to the closest Krispy Kreme—in Columbus—and try it. I'll wait.

How was it? No, I don't expect you to have actually driven to Columbus, but I do expect you to try it next time you're in a city with a Krispy Kreme bakery. You won't regret it. Let me paint the picture for you. When you walk in, your nose fills with the scent of baking dough and hot glaze. You can see through several large glass windows the machinery which makes the doughnuts: mixers, shapers, some sort of tall, rise-inducing rack, the oven or vat or whatever it is that cooks them (it's been a while for me), and the conveyor they arrive on, doughnuts freshly drenched in sweet glaze. At this point, you may think, "So what? It's a commercial baking enterprise." If

(Continued on page 3)



*We are called by
our faith to
reclaim our
capacity to see
the world as we
saw it as
children:
to see life as the
gift it is,
to know the
world to be filled
with possibility,
to expect beauty
to take our
breath away at
any moment.
There is no such
thing as a bad
day!*

(From the Rector, continued from page 1)

preciousness of life and of our own mindlessness in really appreciating the life we have been given. Needless to say, I spent the rest of the day trying to attend to the wonder of the day God provided for me.

It is hard to live fully mindful of the gift of life God has given us. It is difficult to see, as we so often say here at Redeemer, where God is, in each and every moment. We live in a practical world with concrete demands. The world is filled with awful realities that scare us and force us to wonder how God might or might not be moving. This struggle is not new. Religious people down through the ages have struggled to find ways to live more fully in the presence of God. In the fourth century A.D., monks retired to the desert in Egypt, and though seemingly free from most practical distractions, struggled to find consistent communion with God. We live in an “almost but not yet” reality. We know that Jesus Christ died that we might inherit our true life in the kingdom of God. Yet beyond glimpses of the kingdom Jesus spoke of so often, we live much of our life falling short of complete life in God. Instead, our faith calls us to live in the hopeful expectation of full communion with God in Christ, knowing that only God will determine when God and creation will be finally one.

In a recent article appearing in the Episcopal Café, (<http://episcopalcafe.com/>—an online site for all things Episcopal and spiritual) Jean Grasso Fitzpatrick wrote about the startling findings of a study on children’s spirituality. In a study of 315 children by researchers at the University of British Columbia, it was found that spirituality is an important component of happiness for third to sixth graders. This doesn’t surprise us in the Christian community. We understand our spirituality to be THE essential characteristic of our happiness as human beings. What was exciting was that two aspects of children’s spirituality were predominant. First, a sense of thankfulness pervaded most children’s spiritual expression. Secondly, the anticipation of beauty was found to consistently orient children’s spiritual lives. I find these “discoveries” to be revelatory. I can still remember how easy it was to give thanks when I was a child. More important, I believe that wonder, awe, and an appreciation of beauty held me more strongly as a child. Every day, even when I was cranky, seemed filled with possibility and wonder. Our scriptures underscore the importance of approaching God and our lives as children might: *A little child shall lead them* (Is 11:6b) and *Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the Kingdom of heaven* (Mt. 18:3). We are called by our faith to reclaim our capacity to see the world as we saw it as children: to see life as the gift it is, to know the world to be filled with possibility, to expect beauty to take our breath away at any moment. There is no such thing as a bad day. Our gift in Jesus Christ is to know that God has, does, and will reach out to us in love in the seemingly impossible world we live in. May we respond to God’s presence in our world with wonder and joy.

In Christ,
Bruce

(From the Assistant Priest, continued from page 1)

you were there, you would only have that thought until you took your first bite.

My friends, this is what heaven tastes like. It's hot but not uncomfortably so, sweet, but with a strong undertone of yeast, and it literally melts in your mouth. It is not, though I may try, a taste that can really be described. And it is, much to my disappointment, almost completely unlike the taste of the same doughnut several minutes later. Once it cools, the glaze hardens, the dough firms up, and the taste of heaven dissipates like smoke on the breeze. The doughnut we buy at the store bears no relation to this newly-minted, fresh, passionate doughnut.

That's right, passionate. Because I'm not just waxing lyrical about breakfast foods in my second-trimester state, I'm talking about the Gospel, too. How often have we heard the Gospel preached and it sounds nothing like what Jesus actually said? Or it has no taste, no yeast, no passion? Or it's gone stale? And how often do we ourselves feel that way about it, ignoring the scandalous implications of Jesus' words and the drastic measures he wants us to take to change the world? Jesus offers us

the Gospel—the fresh-off-the-conveyor, melt-in-your-mouth, taste of heaven doughnut—and we receive or offer the world the day-old, store-bought version.

To be fair, we've always been comfortable with the day-old, store-bought version—it's sweet and a little salty and satisfies what we think we want. But there's more out there—there's challenge to live better, there's powerful comfort in grief, there's unnamable joy when you search for it and get up early and wait for a glimpse of the kingdom. But the kingdom isn't really like a doughnut, friends. There is a cost to discipleship. We are charged to sacrifice our sleep and our wealth and our comfort for the sake of others and for the sake of God. It is not easy to follow in Jesus' footsteps and we all too often decide to sleep in and go to the convenience store instead. But the reward for following is passionate life and a taste of heaven.

What is your passion at Redeemer? How is your faith evident in what you do in the world? What are you sacrificing for the sake of heaven? And what have you tasted as a reward?

Alice

Rites of Passage

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

Graduations:

Jillian Bennett	Lebanon High School
	will attend Bowling Green State University
Susie Blocksom	St. Ursula Academy
	will attend University of Cincinnati
John Custer	Walnut Hills High School
	will attend University of Cincinnati
Faust Higgins	Cincinnati Country Day School
	will attend Southern Methodist University
Zachary Dean Evans	Cincinnati Country Day School
	will attend Miami University
Ben Galluzo	Wyoming High School
	will attend University of Cincinnati
Beau Jamison	Moeller High School
	will attend Ohio University
Hume Jamison	Moeller High School
	will attend University of Cincinnati
Maddie Lansberry	Walnut Hills High School
	will attend SUNY Binghamton
Dustin Smith	Norwood High School
	entering the military
Trevor Stengel	Summit Country Day
	will attend Penn State
Amie Wright	Walnut Hills High School
	will attend Butler University

Baptisms:

Michael James Moran	April 27
John Tucker Kattus	May 11
son of Lisa and Eric Kattus	

Marriages:

Andrea Blake and Andrew Torbeck	May 3
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Deaths:

Susan Samuel	May 18
mother of Cynthia Blocksum	
Richard Wilson	
father of Judy Davis	



Mission Funding Committee Report

By: Nancy Hopkins-Greene

Major Grant Calendar Set

At its April meeting, the Mission Funding Committee (MFC — formerly Mission Implementation Team) established a calendar for the receipt, review, and approval of applications for major housing and shelter grants. In accordance with the work of the Mission Discernment Committee in 2005, to qualify as a major grant, it must be \$10,000 to \$20,000 and should “enable the most vulnerable in our community to live in dignity in a time of need.” Over the past two years, grants have been awarded to Habitat for Humanity, People Working Cooperatively, and Interfaith Hospitality Network.

MFC member John Grover led a subcommittee which reviewed the grant cycles of other grant giving organizations. When combined with the church calendar and other scheduling considerations, it was agreed that two annual grant cycles would be established, as follows:

Letter of Introduction/Pre-application Deadlines:

February 1 and August 1

Full Application Deadlines:

March 1 and September 1

Application review and selection will be conducted at the April and October MFC meetings, then forwarded to the Vestry for review.

Emerging Opportunities and Emergency Needs grants will be reviewed periodically at meetings when there are no major grants being considered. The most likely months for these will be February, May, September, and November, although the timing could vary depending on the urgency of needs, availability of funds, and other

considerations.

If you are involved with an organization that might qualify for one of these grants, we encourage you to contact a member of the MFC: Jane Killen, chair; Nancy Hopkins-Greene and Gary Lubin, clergy; Brian Babb, Steve Carlton-Ford, John Grover, Pam Popp, Melanie Schottelkotte, and Tara Lee Stone, at-large members .

Emerging Opportunities and Emergency Needs

The Mission Funding Committee (MFC) approved three “Emerging Opportunities & Emergency Needs” (E & E) Grants in April and May. These are smaller, one-time grants of up to \$5,000 for organizations or projects that do not necessarily fall into our major housing and shelter focus. E & E grants were made as follows: First Step Home (\$2,500), Dress for Success (\$1,000) and Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless (\$2,500). For more information on these grants, contact a member of the MFC.

Matching Grants for Disaster Relief

The Redeemer Mission Funding Committee voted to allocate \$5,000 in matching funds for individual parishioners' donations to Episcopal Relief and Development for victims of the Myanmar cyclone, Chinese earthquake, and other recent disasters. If you would like to contribute to help provide life-saving food and other emergency supplies through ERD, please place a check in the offering plate, or return payment to church as soon as possible. Remember to put *Disaster Relief* on subject line.

Brasilia to benefit Jake Reed

On June 22, Redeemer will host the jazz band Brasilia for a special concert and benefit for Jake Reed. Jake will be leaving this summer for Los Angeles and graduate school at the Thornton School of music in Los Angeles. He has been a tremendous asset and friend in the Banquet and we want to send him out in style. He plays with recording artist Phil de Gregg in Brasilia, a Brazilian jazz band which frequently performs at the Blue Wisp Jazz Club downtown. Join us on June 22 at 2pm in the Great Hall for two hours of great jazz, food, and drink. Tickets are \$25 at the door, \$10 for students. Contact Alice Connor (321-6700) for more information.

Since 1991, Redeemer has hosted families from the Interfaith Hospitality Network. In fact, Redeemer was one of the founding churches when IHN came to Cincinnati. Every six weeks, we provide safe shelter and meals for IHN families with the goal of helping homeless families achieve independence. We host up to 16 people (3 – 5 families) during the hosting week and provide them with the basic human needs: shelter, safety, and sustenance. We do it with a spirit of hospitality and respect and the families are treated as our guests. Each hosting week requires volunteers to coordinate our efforts, prepare meals, serve as evening and overnight hosts, and coordinate activities. Although hosts are usually adults, younger parishioners are encouraged to help with activities for children. This ministry provides a wonderful opportunity for you to follow God's call to help those in need.

Kelli Jasper, Director of Children's ministry at Redeemer said it best, "The thing that strikes me the most about the hosting week is the children. They are so hungry for adult attention — or attention of any kind. This is a ministry that provides the opportunity to be the arms of God, and share His presence. Just being on the floor with the children, or letting them sit in your lap is a wonderful gift. And it gives both ways."

Even if you have never served during one of our hosting weeks, please consider the following volunteer opportunities for our upcoming week beginning June 8.

Coordinator: Opens the doors at 5 pm. Coordinates volunteer assignments for the week.

Dinner Host: The host prepares the meal at their home and brings it to church to be served around 5:30 pm.

Activity hosts: These volunteers arrive at 6 pm and may choose to eat with the guests. Dinner is informal and afterwards, hosts help with homework, children's activities with other needs. The Activity host is usually able to leave by 8:45 pm.

Overnight host: This volunteer (or volunteers) arrives by 8:45 pm and spends the night at the church. This person spends time with guests, helps older children with homework, sets up the lights out time and is available in case of emergency. They wake guests a little after 5:00 am and serve a simple breakfast. The overnight host does a quick clean up, and is able to leave by 6:30 am or 7:00 am.

Economic Stimulus Check? Give It for Good

By: Carolyn Martin

Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation (e4gr.org) suggest that we "choose compassion over consumption" and use our economic stimulus checks to help realize the Millennium Development Goals. Some of the Mission Outreach committee's favorite MDG oriented charities are listed below, and donations are always welcome.

But compassion and consumption are not mutually exclusive! How about using some of your rebate check to purchase items on the El Hogar or MEAC wish lists. Increase your environmental sustainability by replacing old doors, windows or appliances with more energy efficient ones, buying a bike to commute to work, or starting a garden and a compost bin! Be creative and let us know how you plan to Give It 4 Good!

MDG websites:

- El Hogar educational and agricultural mission in Honduras www.elhogar.org
- Dohn family public health mission in the Dominican Republic www.samsusa.org
- Millennium Promise www.millenniumpromise.org
- Episcopal Relief and Development www.er-d.org
- Bread for the World www.bread.org
- Heifer Project International www.heifer.org

Sustainable Food Choices You can Make

An excerpt from Jonlene Struebbe's presentation in Adult formation on May 18

If you are a meat eater, support organic growers when you can find them. Kroger's sells their "Private Selection" organic meats. Bigg's carries frozen "Organic Prairie," Trader Joe's also carries organic meat. Certified organic, as defined by the USDA, means that the animal was fed food that was organically grown without pesticides or animal by-products; the animals were allowed freedom of movement and access to the outdoors; no antibiotics, hormones or other drugs were used on them; and the USDA inspected these small farms to confirm compliance. If you want to buy meat at the grocery store and can't find organic, look at some of the "natural" lines. When buying a "natural" product, look for a definition of what the seller means by "natural." For example, Kroger's Private Selection Natural label means that no antibiotics were used, there are no added hormones, and the animals were always vegetarian fed. Additional good choices of non-organic meat are Laura's Lean Beef and Star Ranch Natural Angus, both available at Bigg's. Don't forget to ask for sustainable (organic) sources of foods in restaurants.

Additional options include:

- 1.) Support local farms that sell their meat directly to the consumer.
- 2.) Consider having a vegetarian night once in a while.
- 3.) Buy organic eggs and milk. If you do just one thing, make this your top priority.
- 4.) Buy local. Support your local farmer's markets.
- 5.) If you can't or don't want to buy local or seasonal produce, buy organic.
- 6.) Educate yourself about food and sustainable sources.
- 7.) Finally, let's support Redeemer and the environment by purchasing re-usable shopping bags and using them when we shop.

Jolene will be offering a regular column in Redeemer's electronic news this summer entitled *Your Sustainable Shopper*. Look for more tips in upcoming e-mails.

Hunger Walk Goal Surpassed

By: Bonnie Kretschmer

On Monday, May 26, at 9am, over 70 Redeemer parishioners were among the approximately two thousand runners and walkers who participated in the Freestore/Foodbank's annual Hunger Walk. The day was sunny, warm, and just plain beautiful; the atmosphere was joyous and festive. But the very best part was all the good we were able to do for Madisonville Education and Assistance Center.

We set a goal of raising \$5000 in registrations and donations, to be matched (at 50%) by up to \$2300 by the Mission Funding Committee - for a total goal of \$7300. As of Saturday night, we had 45 participants and had raised just over \$4500. On Sunday and Monday, Redeemer kicked it into high gear, and an additional 26 participants registered for the walk. When we add the matching funds to our registration and pledge commitments, we will have exceeded our goal by more than \$1000. This more than doubles our gift to MEAC as compared to last year, and it is sorely needed. MEAC has seen an increase in clients and they are appreciative of every penny.

There are some people who have pledges that they've not yet been able to collect and others who wanted to



donate, but were unable to do so on Sunday. For this reason, the Freestore/Foodbank will keep the Hunger Walk website up and running for at least another week. Donations can be made or entered at:

http://donate.freestorefoodbank.org/site/TR/Events/General?team_id=1121&pg=team&fr_id=1050

You can see some great photos of Redeemer participants courtesy of Jill Burket Ragase at: <http://share.shutterstock.com/action/welcome?sid=8AaNHLLNs4cs2I1>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist The Banquet 11:15 am Navajoland; Adult Formation Ministry Team 5:00 pm Celtic Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>2 1:00 pm Staff meeting 6:30 pm Junior High Mission formation</p>	<p>3 7:00 pm Education Board meeting</p>	<p>4 12:00 noon Downtown Bible Study 5:30 pm Growing Through Grief 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist with Healing 7:30 pm Book Group</p>	<p>5 9:00 am <i>Redeemer News</i> Deadline 10:00 am Bible Study 8:00 pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>6 <i>CORe to Ohiopyle State Park</i> 8:30 pm AA meeting</p>	<p>7 9:00 am Sole Mates</p>
<p>Sunday worship schedule beginning June 8: 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:00 am The Blend (Holy Eucharist) 5:00 pm Holy Eucharist Celtic or New Zealand</p>						
<p>8 9:15 am Nominating Committee 6:00 pm IHN Hosting all week; Youth; Poetry Lovers</p>	<p>9 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Stewardship Committee; IHN Hosting 7:00 pm Vestry</p>	<p>10 7:00 pm Theology Group 7:30 pm CORe to Molly Mallone's</p>	<p>11 9:00 am <i>Redeemer News Collating</i> 12 noon Downtown Bible Study 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist with Healing</p>	<p>12 10:00 am Bible Study 1:00 pm Knitting Group 8:00 pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>13 8:30 pm AA meeting</p>	<p>14 9:00 am Freestore/Foodbank</p>
<p>15 <i>Father's Day</i> 11:30 am Integrity Circle to Pride parade 3:00 pm Benedictine Way 6:00 pm Youth</p>	<p>16 1:00 pm Staff Meeting</p>	<p>17 7:30 pm CORe Bible Study</p>	<p>18 12 noon Downtown Bible Study 5:30 pm Growing through Grief 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist with Healing 7:30 pm Mission Funding Committee</p>	<p>19 10:00 am Bible Study 8:00 pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>20 8:30 pm AA meeting</p>	<p>21 9:00 am Sole Mates</p>
<p>22 2:00 pm Jazz for Jake featuring <i>Brasilia</i></p>	<p>23 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 7:30 pm Mission Outreach Committee</p>	<p>24 7:30 pm CORe Bible Study</p>	<p>25 12 noon Downtown Bible Study 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist with Healing</p>	<p>26 10:00 am Bible Study 8:00 pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>27 8:30 pm AA meeting</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p>	<p>30 1:00 pm Staff Meeting</p>					

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El Hogar Wish List

On June 14, Redeemer parishioners will be traveling to our mission in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. In addition to their work at the school and children's home, they will be delivering needed supplies to the children. The following items are requested by the mission team:

Jeans: (especially size 28, 30, 32, 34)
Dark Socks
Flip flops
Shoes (especially size 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10)

A collection area is available in the narthex and the reception area. Contact Carolyn Martin (232-6399) or Nancy Hopkins Greene(321-6700) for additional information.