



FEBRUARY 2022

# The Redeemer SPIRIT



## CONTENTS

Senior Warden—2  
“From the Hearth”—3  
“Metaphorically Speaking”—3,4  
Deacon’s Corner—5  
Marylin Raisch—6  
Seminarian Musings—7  
Resources—8,9

Parish Life—10  
Our Baptismal Vows—11, 12  
Christian Formation—13  
Music—14-16  
Vestry—17, 18  
Birthdays—19  
Contact Details—20

[www.RedeemerBethesda.org](http://www.RedeemerBethesda.org)



**The Upper Room**

The night before Jesus’ arrest, he and his disciples gathered in an upper room where they shared their last meal together, engaged in conversation, and listened to Jesus’ final teachings.

We at Redeemer have an upper room where we gather to worship. Our worship consists of scripture readings, commentary (aka sermons), a communion meal, music and the passing of God’s peace to our fellow parishioners and guests. We are able to worship in

a glorious, light-filled space that seems to emanate peace.

However, sometimes it seems that we find it much too easy to lose our concentration on the Holy and slip into conversations and business that would be better discussed in the lower room. While unintentional, business discussions can interfere with the ability to worship; to allow someone to simply be a parishioner. Therefore, our clergy, staff, wardens, and vestry request that any business be conducted after the service and when we are gathered for coffee. If, during coffee hour, you forget what you wanted to say or bring to a warden’s attention, we have added two new e-mail addresses to the website: [jrwarden@redeemerbethesda.org](mailto:jrwarden@redeemerbethesda.org) and [srwarden@redeemerbethesda.org](mailto:srwarden@redeemerbethesda.org)

As your new senior warden, I look forward to worshipping with you in our upper room and visiting with you in our lower room.

Peace,

**Jo Barclay-Beard**  
**Senior Warden**

**Silvia Maza begins** her year as Junior Warden picking up the projects begun in 2021. Her priorities are those concerned with safety in and around the church.

Quotes are being collected to level the sidewalks. At this time, there are many uneven places that may trip people up coming into and moving around the outside of the building. Please be careful walking here until we can get this fixed when the weather warms up.

Direct Current, our electrical service, has given us quotes for the kitchen’s under-the-counter lights installation.

The HVAC system near the women’s bathroom began leaking. Michael Hart is assisting with this project. We will likely need



to replace a humidifier canister to restore the humidity upstairs to its proper level.

It’s never a dull moment for Junior Wardens.

Thank you Silvia for your service to Redeemer.

**It's February** when thoughts turn to Valentines, chocolate, and roses. February is when a priest's thoughts turn to Lent. Ash Wednesday is March 2<sup>nd</sup> this year. Thank heaven it's a little later than usual or I'd be further behind than I already am!

I have a dream for Lent. I propose that as many of our community as possible commit to renewing their Baptismal Covenant with the Bishop in May at the Cathedral. Why do this? Well, here are a few reasons:

It's been a while since most of us have been baptized or confirmed. That means that the last time we actually took time to learn about our faith as we understand it in the Episcopal Church was probably decades ago. Some things have changed. Some things haven't. That last class probably made you memorize things and recite them back to a teacher. That's not what I have in mind.

If you all wish to do this, we'd have conversations together to talk about the history, the liturgy, and the ethos of being Anglican. We would help each other discern where God is calling us individually and collectively. Most of all, we would have a chance to get to know each other better.

There are additional ways to do Lent together. It doesn't have to be super serious – we could have a game night or two. The important thing is to

**Liberty, Strength, Love, Glory:** all these words are abstract nouns—general concepts that designate qualities, relationships, or experiences. Unless they are “fleshed out” in “concrete terms” they easily become clichés that “go in one ear and out the other.” Those four words, respectively, are the anchor points in the four successive Collects of the Day that we will pray over the month of February, the last four Sundays of the Season After the Epiphany.

(The Collect of the Day is a prayer that serves in liturgical Sunday worship as the transition between the Gathering Rite and the Lessons from Scripture. It's called a “collect” because it seeks to bring our individual concerns together—articulating them in a shared, “collected” focus.) Truth be



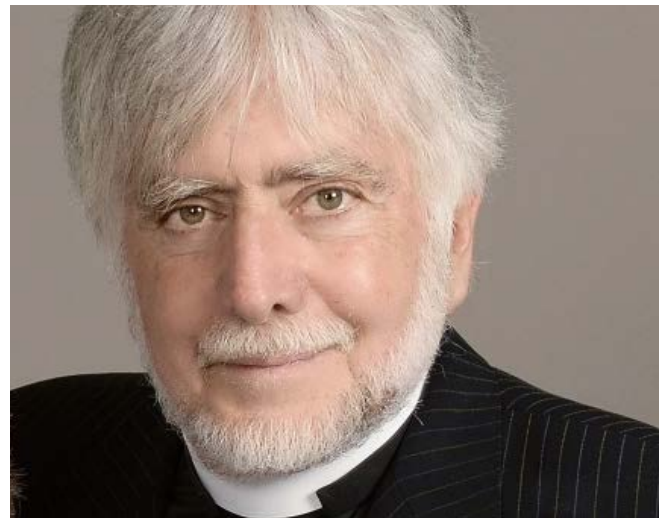
be with each other during this time when the Church historically educated those new to the faith and upheld the dignity of those who were returning from absences.

Here is a link to a Google form where you can indicate your interests and times you are available. <https://bit.ly/3r43XaQ>

These activities would begin the first full week of Lent – the week of March 6<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to lead a group, please let me know.

Enjoy the chocolates, the wine, the roses, and all the Valentines. Lent is sneaking up on us all.

**Rev. Cricket Park+**  
**Rector**



told, many of these Collects tend, in contemporary ears, to sound somewhat “static”—more expressive of (well . . .) abstract ideals, rather

than the immediacy and intensity of practical daily struggles. (Be honest! How often does The Collect of the Day go in one of your ears, and quickly out the other! It often does in mine—unless, as worship leader, I am privileged to voice that prayer aloud on behalf of all of you.)

But the fact is, liberty, strength, love, and glory are, in one way or another, intimately involved in issues with which we continually wrestle. Each can take on so many different levels of meanings—from the relatively mundane, to meanings at the heart of what we strive for, achieve, fail to reach, celebrate, and despair over. (E.g. “strength” can be descriptive of the state of “muscles” ranging from physical to vocational, to relational; “love” can name any attachment from a passing craving for chocolate to an enduring investment in the good of another, or the pursuit of a vision under seemingly impossible conditions.) None of these four notions are “mere abstractions” for us. Liberty, strength, love, and glory function as metaphors of motivation.

In each of the four February Sundays, where these metaphors will show up in the sequence of Collects for the Day; the stories from Scripture that immediately follow “put flesh on their bones.”

- 2/6: Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins; and give us the liberty of that abundant life that you have made know to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ . . .
  - The Old Testament Lesson describes the calling of Isaiah (Isaiah 6:1-13), his wrestling with “the bondage of sin”—his own, but even more, the systemic evil that ensnares his culture. By means of a burning coal, applied by six-winged supernatural creatures, God gives Isaiah a painful, purifying liberation—and dispatches him to liberate his people analogously.
  - In Luke’s Gospel (5:1-11), Peter has a seemingly surprising “guilt” response to a catch of fish that Jesus has provided

- after his crew has come up empty after an all-night fishing trip. Jesus sets Peter free.
- 2/13: O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you . . .
  - Employing the metaphor well-rooted trees, the Readings from Jeremiah (17:5-10) and Psalm 1 describe a strength that survives, even thrives, under severe surface level stress by drawing on a Resource from “down deep.”
  - Jesus, in “The Sermon on the Plain” (Luke 6:17-26) unpacks applications and implications of this “strength” in a set of blessings and woes.
- 2/20: . . . pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love . . .
  - In the story of Joseph and his brother (Genesis 45: 3-11, 15) the cost and the benefit of love, embodied as radical forgiveness, is dramatically depicted.
  - In a continuation of The Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6:27-38) Jesus enjoins love as costly action specifically and practically offered to our enemies.
- 2/27 . . . Grant to us that we, by faith, beholding by faith the light of (Christ’s) countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory. . .
  - After encountering the glory of God, the face of Moses continues to shine; so, in order to connect with his people, he needs to veil that glory (Exodus 34:29-34).
  - At the Transfiguration (Luke 9:28-43) Jesus is shown (to those who can bear it) the full brilliance of His glory. Then, in effect, He promptly “veils” that glory to address the cries of a desperate father on behalf of his demon possessed son.

How might our understandings and experiences of liberty, strength, love, and glory be confirmed, challenged, strengthened, and enriched by listening in on how the imaginations of these Biblical metaphor-makers bring each of those four abstract nouns to VERB-al life?

**Rev. Dr David Schlafer +  
Assisting Priest**

## The Blessing of Brokenness

I have been thinking a lot lately about the interaction of the lawyer who ask Jesus: “And who is my neighbor?” in the parable of the Good Samaritan in the gospel of Luke. The conversation begins with the lawyer asking about what “must I do”? It has the tone of fulfilling requirements for admission to the exclusive club of the elect in the eyes of God. The question is so very wrong from its point of self-reference to its purpose (justification). I am amazed that Jesus found it in himself to answer the question in the first place.

Yet Jesus, showing mercy (which is what the parable is about) to the thickheaded lawyer, illustrates the answer in a compelling and ego shattering story. The “good folk” (read that as justified and about the business of God) pass by the filthy scum on the side of the road while one, who is an outcast (a dog in the eyes of the Jews) himself, is moved by compassion for another who has been ignored and rejected as roadside trash. Perhaps it is that common experience of “unworthiness” that opens the heart and results in action on the part of the passing Samaritan. A song by one of my all-time favorite folk singers, John McCutcheon, comes to mind, Room Here For Another. I commend it to you as a soul opening listen that can be found here:

<https://bit.ly/3r5vbOo>

The story is of one homeless man offering to another a place to be warm for the night and the recognition of personhood that is so denied those who have fallen on hard times. It moved me to tears each time I hear it because it reminds me of my own unworthiness in God’s eyes and the mercy with which He has bent to me and compels me to offer my life in service. Our own “goodness” is a self-delusion and in our heart we know it. We enter into the goodness of God when we hold a hand out to another and invite them to come and be with us and share our inherited and undeserved belovedness. It is the mark of God’s own that they love others, not that they have attained the heights of sanctity through their own merit. It is from our broken places that



the compassion and love spring. That broken place, used well for others, is our badge of belonging to the God who has saved us.

In the words of Osvaldo Vena: “I often wonder what the church would look like if its distinctive sign would have been the towel and basin (for the cleansing of feet) rather than the cross and the empty tomb.” Let us allow the mercy of God to use our own broken places for the healing of His beloved, broken world.

**Rev Adrienne Clamp**  
**Deacon**



**Vulnerability**

Over the past six months I’ve learned some lessons in vulnerability. One is a truism that I now know to be really and seriously true, for me, and I think for many trying to live under Jesus’ principles of true empathy, or similar guidelines in other religious traditions. It’s the “walking in another’s moccasins” slogan (of unknown origin but popularized in the poetry of temperance reformer Mary Lathrap), attempting to persuade Christians not to judge another person’s situation without really inhabiting it, walking it. I’ve done my own walking, literally and locally, as I reflected the last time that I shared thoughts with Redeemer brothers and sisters in this newsletter. I now feel more aware of my own lack of empathy up to this point, as, after so many decades of not looking up and around, I discover I’ve walked into another social reality: the aging female in a society driven more by survival and consumerism than curiosity.

A slow learner, yes.

Another lesson, a more important one because it moves away from my anecdotal situation, is the realization of radical interconnection, in lives and not just philosophy. How I treat other vulnerable people, plants, animals, and ecologies reaches back to affect me and each of us. However, this is a frustrating realization in that it’s both obvious to see once you see it, and also very hard to act upon. We can’t be in a social club anymore. In my new life I now have to live, love, and

ride the elevator every day with the recent immigrant, the newly single parent, the lonely elderly. To me, life-long and cradled, it doesn’t feel very Episcopalian. But it is very human.

Thanks to several of the inspiring and practical people in our parish, at Redeemer we have a new elevator, blessed by the bishop! Where will it take us? Just up to services? Or down to what Jesus and Mattie, lead character in Clyde Edgerton’s *Walking Across Egypt*, called “the least of these”? To street church- or just the streets, where mistakes are made by some of us and Jesus may not even be the immediate, literal, or only answer to all needs or the spiritual needs of the young.

Elevators don’t go sideways, but the vulnerable are beside us, not below us, and they are us. Next stop: the ground floor. Mother Earth and the vulnerable of all social classes hope we’ll step out there.

**Marilyn Raisch  
Parishioner**

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**Be still and know that I am God.  
Psalm 46:10**

As part of my Master of Divinity, I’m taking a concentration in Spirituality. Part of that course work includes a monastic immersion. During the Christmas break, in partial fulfillment of this requirement, I spent a week at a monastery in California called The New Camoldoli Hermitage. It is an active hermitage but has a silent retreat center as part of its ministry. For a solid week, the only voices I heard and the only time I used my own voice was in participation with the Trappist monks in singing the daily office.

The idea of spending a week in complete silence was initially intimidating. However, it’s been a busy year juggling school and work. I haven’t taken any time to be still and think in as long as I can remember. I was nervous. I knew there would be no internet or cell service at the facility. This type of solitude is unimaginably rare in the Western world!



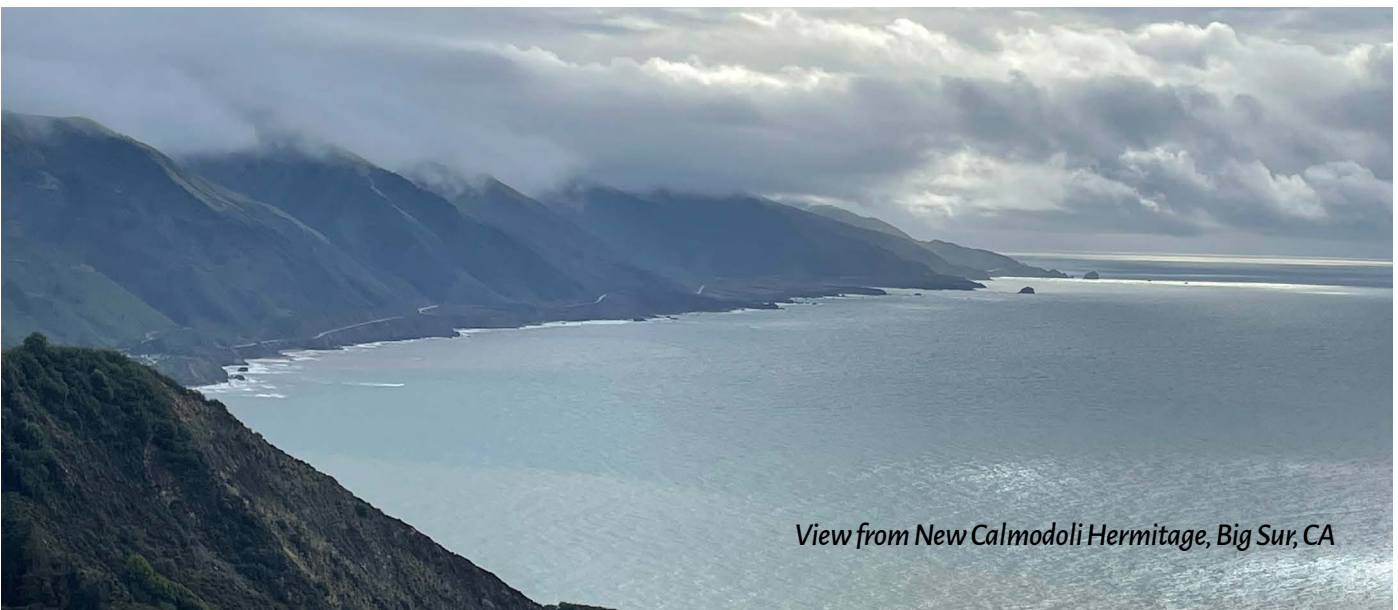
**At first, complete silence felt shocking.** But it became healing. Complete silence meant nothing interrupted my thoughts and I was not needed by anyone. It was humorous to realize how many things I do in normal life to entertain and distract myself. Those things were unavailable to me at the hermitage, so I was able to reclaim a relaxed ability to focus singularly on things like reading and writing. As a chronic multi-tasker, this is not something I practice at home! I found it delightful.

The thing I appreciated most was something I learned through Thomas Merton. I read a biography about him along with some of his own work while I was there. Merton valued people because God lives inside them. He taught the importance of knowing oneself and hearing one's own voice. As a monk this was clearly well mixed with his love for community. However, he recognized the need for us all to learn our own peculiarity in order to

live into it. He believed God spoke to individuals in myriad ways because God's infinitude endlessly manifests. Ultimately, he taught that our integrity depends on the attention we give to what God has entrusted to us. God's image is that trust, not wealth, possessions or status.

While we live on this treadmill of life and run ourselves ragged to keep all the appointments and check off everything on our lists, we so often miss the more important work. It's hard to be still, to be quiet, and merely listen. I'm reminded of God's revelation to Elijah that did not come in the crashing of an earthquake, but came in a soft whisper. All the doing in the world cannot make up for the simple act of being. Stopping production, ceasing the accomplishment of the things that make us feel valuable and needed, can be hugely humbling. Stepping away to simply be with ourselves, with God, is an act of defiance to the world's system. Jesus was a revolutionary and he called us to be as well. Sometimes, like our electronics, we too need to be restarted in order to perform as intended.

**Becki Casey**  
Seminararian



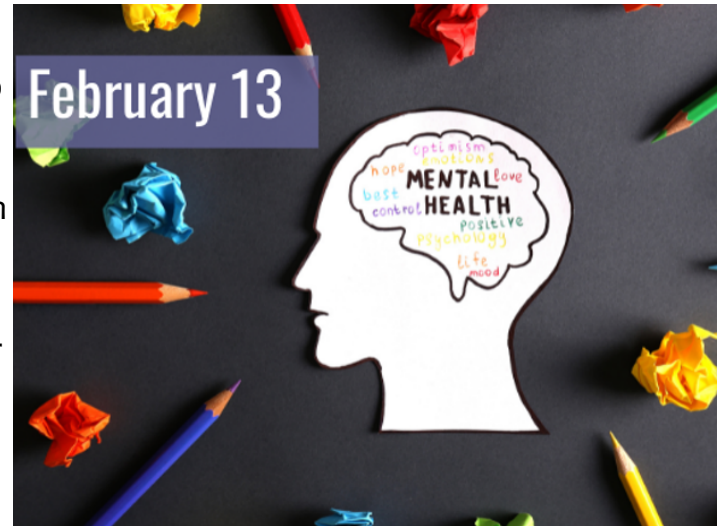
*View from New Calmodoli Hermitage, Big Sur, CA*

## Mental Health Support

The School for Christian Faith and Leadership is offering two workshops by Zoom in February to equip parents, caregivers and ministry leaders to help children and teens deal with the stress and mental health issues exacerbated by the ongoing pandemic.

Please direct questions to the Reverend Jenifer Gamber, Director of the School for Christian Faith and Leadership and Tending Our Soil Thriving Congregations for the Episcopal Diocese of Washington.

[www.edow.org](http://www.edow.org) or 202.537.6546



ing similar challenges and sharing successes, we can validate and normalize all we are experiencing. Our hope is that you will walk away feeling supported, validated, and armed with practical strategies that will allow you to feel more empowered and hopeful.



February 6

## Supporting Children (and Ourselves) through a Time of Uncertainty

**Julianne Reilly, LCSW, LICSW**  
Counselor at St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School  
Sunday, February 6th, 4-5:30 pm

This time of uncertainty and isolation has only heightened some of the normal, everyday challenges of raising and caring for children. Connection and a sense of community are so needed right now and yet it is harder than ever to get the support we need.

During this talk, Julianne Reilly, LCSW, LICSW, will address identified challenges and share tools for supporting our children's well-being during this period of time and in turn, help caregivers feel more calm, confident, and hopeful as they navigate caring for children during a pandemic. In recognizing and discuss-

## Supporting Teens through Pandemic Stress

**Audra Mriani, LPC, NCC**  
Abundant Life Counseling VA  
Sunday, February 13th, 4-5:30 pm

COVID has disrupted our lives, includes the lives of teens, adding stress and uncertainty. Come learn about the role of stress in our lives and how to recognize normal versus disruptive and potentially harmful effects of stress in the lives of teens.

Our presenter, Audra Mrini, LPC, NCC, will focus particularly on the unprecedented impacts of the COVID pandemic on teens. Learn to recognize the role of stress in your own life how you can best to manage stress so that you can improve your effectiveness in supporting the teens in your life.

Participants will leave with more understanding of the ways in which you and your teens cope best with stress and resources and supports to improve your teen's coping skills.

Register at learn.[edow.org](http://edow.org)



## BETHESDA CARES

The third Sunday of January, March, May, July, September and November, Redeemer families deliver dinner and snacks for 30 homeless people at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Bethesda. We divide all of the items, so that you are bringing dishes, sides, drinks or snacks for 15 people. Look for the sign-up sheet in This Week At Redeemer emails at the beginning of each those months. We are very grateful for everyone's contributions!

**Nico Hotes and Sam Penn**



*The Redeemer Spirit*



### The Episcopal Public Policy Network

The Office of Government Relations works to educate, equip, and engage Episcopalians through the Episcopal Public Policy Network. As a Church, we raise our voices to ensure that U.S. government policies are in line with our values as Episcopalians and Christians.

We engage in advocacy because federal government legislation and policies affect Episcopalians, our brother and sister Anglicans around the world, and the most vulnerable among us. Together, we can help our nation's legislation and policies to become more just.

### EDUCATE

Explore EPPN resources to better understand current public policy issues. Learn more about official church policies that support our advocacy positions.

### EQUIP

Build relationships with elected and government officials with guidance from the EPPN. Learn how to have the greatest impact on issues that matter to you.

### ENGAGE

Sign-up for strategically timed action alerts on critical legislation and policy initiatives at the federal level. Alerts provide instructions for contacting government officials, as well as sample letters or call scripts. <https://bit.ly/3fWrrbz>

The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, Bethesda, Maryland, USA



**SOUP-ER BOWL**  
**DONATION DRIVE**

**HELP TACKLE HUNGER BY  
DONATING CANS OF SOUP**

**WHEN?**

**SUPER BOWL SUNDAY [2/13/22]**

**WHERE?**

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER  
[6201 DUNROBBIN DR, BETHESDA, MD]**

**DONATION BIN WILL BE PROVIDED OUT FRONT**

**DONATIONS ARE FOR MANNA FOOD DRIVE**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT Rev'd Cricket Park  
AT [rector@redeemberbethesda.org](mailto:rector@redeemberbethesda.org)**

**MANNA**

Ben Ivins take items to [Manna Food Center](#) every week. Please remember to bring food for the basket at the altar. This is a spiritual practice that keeps our baptismal promise active. **Protein items are especially needed.**

All items must be non-perishable.



*Manna Gifts and Offerings*



**Afghan Refugee Family Support**

We still need some items. Please help.

There are 43 families housed at a local hotel. They have some items but are missing a few essentials. We can use your help again to give them the small things we take for granted like shampoo, shoes, coats, sweaters, etc. A Walmart registry has been created. Please select the items and have them shipped to St. Johns Norwood Episcopal Church (address below). All items will be gathered here and delivered to the specific family in need. At this time, only new items are accepted per the registry list.

Here is the link: <https://bit.ly/3g3lvGV>

**\*\*Please be sure that items are “shipping”, not marked as “pick-up at store”\*\***

Thank you again and again. Your generosity is overwhelming.

St. John’s Norwood Episcopal Church  
 Refugee Needs  
 6701 Wisconsin Avenue  
 Chevy Chase, MD 20814

Thank you,

**Rev. Ann Derse  
 Deacon, St. John’s**



*Collecting the Gifts and Offerings*

**As-Salam-u-Alaikum  
(Peace be unto you)**

Four-year-old Halsa and 5 month old Yursa are the daughters of Hassan and Nijba Wardak who departed in August from Afghanistan with 700 others in a seatless plane and seven dollars in their pockets. Yursa, was born on that plane.

After intermediate stops and stays in Qatar, Germany, and Philadelphia, they arrived here in October. Nijab had been an elementary school teacher. Hassan had worked for the Counter Narcotics Police, then Afghanistan's FBI, and then as a drug enforcement administration investigator for the Drug Enforcement Administration at the US embassy in Kabul. He was involved in criminal investigations for kidnapping, drug trafficking, the destruction of opium-producing facilities, money laundering and terrorism. Left behind in Afghanistan were parents, siblings, and other relatives.

Thus far, Redeemer has provided modest assistance of rent, clothing, diapers, and furniture. More is and will be needed. Hassan and his family have sacrificed so much.

They are not looking back; but forward. Hassan is actively seeking employment and dreams of attending college to pursue a degree in finance.



*Halsa and Yursa*



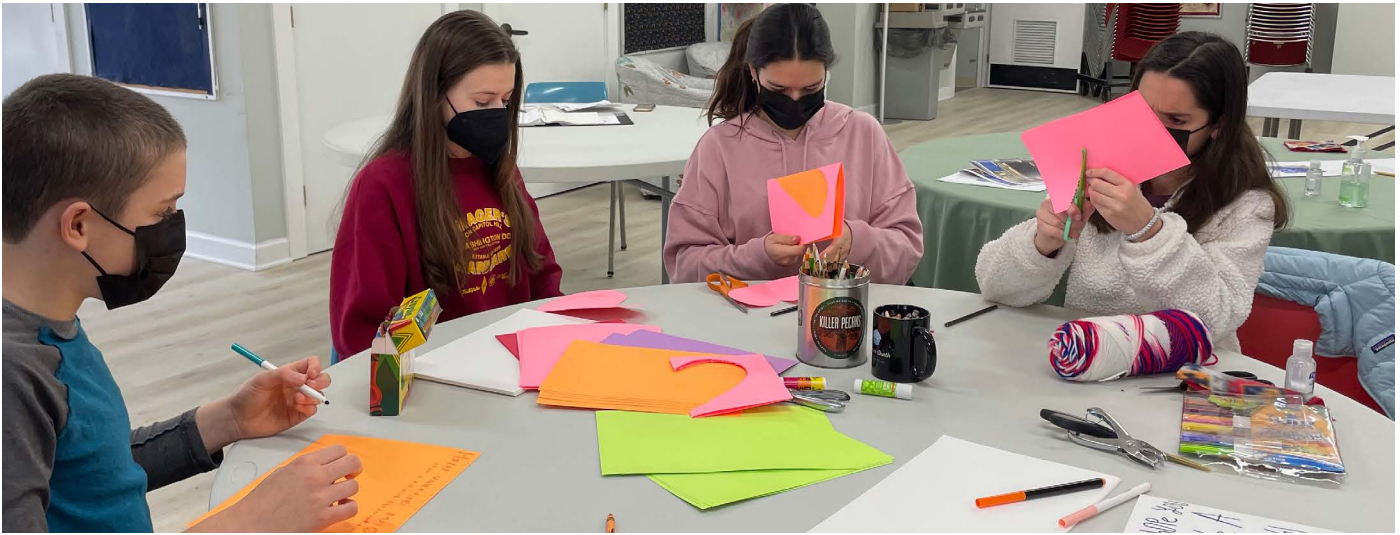
*Brave Princess Halsa*

Please contact Deacon Adrienne if you would like to take part in Redeemer's ministry to this precious family.

**Ben Ivins**



*Halsa and Yursa*



**Martin Luther King Jr. Service Day**

*Creating Valentine's Day Greetings*

*Blanket Making Service Project*

On Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, the youth group gathered at the Parish Hall to celebrate the holiday by participating in a handful of service projects. Ten students and a handful of adults joined in the work and festivities. Cricket provided bundles of fleece. Together we cut and tied them into eight finished blankets of various sizes that will go to the Afghan relief efforts. Afterwards, we got out the craft supplies to cut, glue, and assemble Valentine cards for distribution at Walter Reed Medical Center. Cricket concluded with instruction for the students regarding advocacy work. She led a discussion for the students to determine their specific areas of interest and then provided handouts to help guide their efforts. After the blustery winter storm, it was a warm blessing to share fun and fellowship together while seeking to help others.





Finally it almost feels like a new normal is setting in, rather than a hastily-pitched musical tent that could be blown away any moment... and we can start to dream and plan again. There will be bumps in the road, like the canceled January concert, but it feels like we can now somewhat relax that breath we've all been holding. I know there will be another turning point for families, with vaccinations for 0-5 on the horizon, and it is my hope that we can start-up new music ministries for children and youth in this time of hope.

If Beethoven's year was last year (or was it the year before?) this year is going to be a Mozart year. We'll be learning the Requiem this spring in our regular (rescheduled) collaboration with Bradley Hills Presbyterian. And on Easter Day, we'll add some musical flowers and decorations by singing a Mozart mass during worship, with string accompaniment.

One of the exciting aspects of music as an art form is how we all so quickly learn from one another. Now, I've always wanted to be able to draw people's faces well. But it doesn't matter how long I sit with someone who can draw, it doesn't get noticeably better...I really don't think I'll ever pick up that skill! However, with music-making, and singing in particular, practice



## Music at Redeemer

### SEASON 2021–2022

September 18	“Welcome home, Redeemer” KASSIA MUSIC
October 16	Juliana Soltis, Bach cello suites
November 13	KASSIA MUSIC
December 4	Vivi Cantando
January 8	KASSIA sonata concert
February 19	KASSIA MUSIC
March 12	Chamber music education day
April 2	KASSIA MUSIC
April 29 (Friday)	ALKEMIE
June 11	Mozart Requiem at Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church

really does make better, especially when you are next to (or near) someone who really knows what they're doing. This goes for professionals as well as volunteers, which is why the section leaders are so important. It's also why professional musicians in the church so value collaborative and external work, and another reason that at Redeemer we have the concert series, and professional development, to keep our skills current and honed. Inspiration and learning are so closely interlinked.

One big heads-up: Alkemie, our April concert guests artists are performing on a Friday, and I will be sending out pleas for hosts that night. Please check out their website, they are incredible people: [www.alkemie.org](http://www.alkemie.org)

**Geoffrey Silver,  
Director of Music Ministries**



# Next Concert by KASSIA MUSIC

## Redeemer's Ensemble-in-Residence

Saturday, February 19, 7pm

*Menotti* - Trio for violin, clarinet & piano

*Post* - Three pieces for clarinet & piano (premiere)

*Vallandingham* - Rhapsody for violin & piano

*Ratner* - String Quartet no. 2 (**winner of our first composition competition**)

*Wolff* - Italian Serenade for string quartet

TICKETS: [www.MusicAtRedeemer.org](http://www.MusicAtRedeemer.org) or at the door  
\$25 General Admission, \$100 Patron, kids and students go free  
Masks required. Open seating with distancing options.







**Minutes of Vestry Meeting** (Unapproved)  
**Episcopal Church of the Redeemer**

**January 19, 2022 On Zoom**

**Present:** Jo Barclay-Beard, Susan Grigsby, Silvia Maza, Melinda Nelson, Geoffrey Platt, Toyin Rose, Gian-Philip Toro, Scott Williams, Tim Yehl, Rev. Cricket Park, Steve Gibson, and Doris Ninde  
 Guest: Rebecca Casey

**Call to Order**

6:30 Meeting called to order in prayer by Rev. Cricket Park.

**Consent Agenda**

Motion to elect Jo Barclay-Beard as Senior Warden, Silvia Maza as Junior Warden, Steve Gibson as Treasurer, and Doris Ninde as Secretary was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Motion to accept the minutes of the December 2021 meeting was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Thank you to Christina Carr, who served the vestry well as secretary in 2021.

**Treasurers Report**

The Treasurer feels better about the budget due to an increase in end of year gifts.

Motion to accept the auditor’s report was made and seconded. Motion carried.

The auditor’s report will be sent to the diocese by Steve.

The cost of the audit was \$8500 and \$7000 was budgeted for it. Part of the \$8500 included some costs from the prior year. The bill is not always paid in the year in which the audit was performed. The date by which the diocese requires the audit be submitted to them is often before the bill is paid. We need to increase membership to ensure the

viability of the church. There are 50 core members to cover the costs of operation. We remain on a faith-based budgeting plan.

**Report by the Junior Warden**

From the renovation: There are still miscellaneous electrical and utility issues to resolve, the public bathrooms are not welcoming and could use some updating, otherwise the building is in good shape. In the spring the grounds will need to be tended to.

**Rector’s Report**

Her philosophy was reviewed, this is the same philosophy she shared when she began at Redeemer seven years ago and still holds true. It is crucial church business be as transparent as possible. Triangulation is not tolerated. If someone has a concern or a problem it should be addressed with the person involved. Having a third party deliver a message or passing on what they have heard is destructive to all.

There has been a request to document pastoral visitation. It will be called the community connection report. A spreadsheet will be developed to document contact. This will be done by clergy and staff and could include the following: Calling people to check-in and seeing someone in the grocery store and stopping to chat. This will be reported on next month.

Staff will provide a list of job duties so job descriptions can be developed.

The diocese offers a course on vestry leadership. It is free to members of the diocese. You can get the discount code when you register. The link is <https://bit.ly/34f3Z6t>

The refrigerator in the Rectory has been repaired. The stove now needs to be repaired. There is a home warranty in place which should cover the costs, minus the \$75 deductible, which was paid by the Rector.

Hybrid church was discussed , along with the risk vs benefit:

The hybrid model does allow more people to attend. Cricket and the staff have to be particularly careful because if they are sick they can't visit people. There is a concern about missing the person-to-person connection in the hybrid model. To facilitate in-person attendance a suggestion was made to create a list of volunteers who would give rides to church for those who need it. As a way to foster the person-to person connection we can get creative with activities outside of the church, for example having a Shrove Tuesday celebration outside, serving pancakes, bringing pancake mix and syrup for the food bank, having a pancake race. At this time we think we will be able to resume the Strawberry Festival.

The Vestry retreat is February 4-5, 2022:

This will be a hybrid event. Friday will be on-line starting at 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Saturday will be in person at the church from 9:00 to 4:00. in person. The leaders, Rev. Greg Syler and Rev. Peter Antoci, are in Southern Maryland so if the weather is bad then Saturday might be on-line as well.

Southern Maryland has been hit hard financially. Churches have had to merge. They have gone from 17 full-time rectors to one church with a full-time rector. Creativity is the key in this part of the diocese. Revs. Syler and Antoci serve as deans for this region and have created the outline we'll use for the retreat.

The Redeemer cookbook was discussed as a fundraising idea. Angels are being sought to provide seed money.

The Community Engagement committee needs a chair. Suggestions are welcome.

The idea of getting volunteers to help with clerical tasks was discussed. This would help relieve pressure on the staff.

The rector concluded the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

**Doris Ninde, Vestry Secretary**



**Each Wednesday at Noon**, the clergy and curious lay folk gather on Zoom to read and discuss the scriptures coming up that Sunday. It's a free-flowing, question-raising, and sometimes challenging conversation that many times leads the assigned preacher into new territory. Think of it as one of the 'prequels' to your experience of worship—you'll hear the readings again, in a different voice, and sometimes you will hear elements of our discussion bubble to the surface of the actual sermon. Bring your study Bible and join us this week. The Zoom link is on the Redeemer home page.



**Birthdays**

Ann Harbeson  
Catherine Sands  
Cathy Arrington  
Cara Price  
Jenny Nachbar

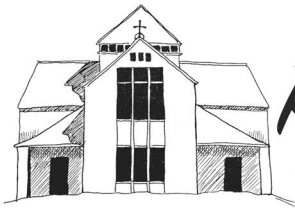
Janet Davis  
Gabriela Noya  
Toría Rose  
Tim Yehl  
Dominique Rychlik

**Anniversary**

Justin & Gwen Hess

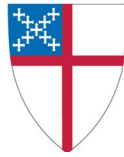
**WELCOME**  
We invite you to enter  
patterned after the 13th  
at Chartres Cathedral  
Walk the path in your  
at your own pace. The  
let the Holy Spirit be

*Advent Spiral, organized by Melinda Nelson and Dominique Rychlik*



The Episcopal Church Welcomes You

# Redeemer Bethesda



**For COVID-safety reasons, the Parish Office is open by appointment. Please contact individual staff members for appointments.**

**As Sunday is a work day for staff, please avoid contacting staff members by phone on Mondays unless it's an emergency.**

## PARISH CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev'd Cricket Park, Rector  
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The Rev'd Dr. David Schlafer, Assisting Priest  
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Becki Casey, Seminarian  
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Geoffrey Silver, Director of Music Ministries  
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Margaret Church, Bookkeeper  
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Parish Office Mailbox  
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**Welcome to The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Bethesda, Maryland,** a parish community of “inquiring and discerning hearts”, where you are welcome to join us in living and wrestling with difficult questions. We value an Anglican spirituality - one that is open to the mystery of the Holy and that celebrates the beauty of creation and upholds the dignity of every human being.

Redeemer is known for beautiful, reverent worship, excellence in preaching and music, and active outreach ministries to its neighbors.

Redeemer's local outreach ministries include support of a Manna Food Pantry, literacy through tutoring at a Silver Spring elementary school, sponsoring blood donation drives, and singing for persons who are ill or shut in.

**No matter who you are or where you find yourself on the journey of faith, you are welcome here at Redeemer. We look forward to greeting you!**

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**The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer**  
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**301-229-3770**  
**www.redeemberbethesda.org**