

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER











Annual Report 2020

Presented to the Annual Meeting January 12, 2020

www.RedeemerBethesda.org

RECTOR'S REPORT

This year was one of discovery and discernment. In order to address specific problems regarding sound and music quality in the nave, we shuffled the pews around. This was met with varied responses. We listened to each other. We shuffled them again. We are still listening.

One of the discoveries was that movement of church furniture brought up the questions of our identity and mission. That discovery led to more conversation at the end of the year. It will be the primary focus of the vestry in 2020.

Liturgically, we held the following in 2019:

- 5 baptisms
- 152 services of Holy Eucharist, primarily Sundays and Wednesdays
- 11 Private Home Communions by clergy and lay eucharistic visitors
- 31 Daily Office services (Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Compline)
- 5 additional services (Holy Week services, private interment, Lessons & Carols, and a Renewal of Marriage Vows)
- 1 wedding (civil ceremony)
- 4 funerals (one member; three nonmembers)

Each of these services requires an investment of time from clergy and lay leadership. I'm thankful for Geoffrey Silver, who plans music for the liturgies and creates bulletins along with Bob Yates. Thank you to head usher Jefferson, who wrangles the players each Sunday and other liturgies. Thank you Helen Zitomer, who leads the Altar and Flower Guilds. Thank you to all who read, pray, guide, sing, and work behind the scenes to make worship the centerpiece of Redeemer. And, finally, my undying gratitude for the time and talent of Rev'd Dr. David Schlafer, who keeps me on my toes and pushes me to preach well.

Our average Sunday attendance (ASA) for the year was 106. In comparison, last year's ASA was 110. Given the trends throughout the Episcopal Church worldwide, and other mainline denominations nationwide, we are holding steady. We've

welcomed 3 families with children into the Redeemer family this year. It's wonderful!

Our youth group has grown and the young people are enjoying each other's company in their own space just off the parish hall. Youth meet once a month, the 2nd Wednesday of the month, for dinner and a program developed for them. Assistance with snacks and dinners would be most welcome.

Yaa Addison has been a wonderful addition to our staff this year. She is coordinating the Potomac River Anglican Youth cooperative between Redeemer, St. Dunstan's, and St. Patrick's. She also volunteered to manage our Christmas pageant this year. The PRAY group went canoeing on the Potomac, did a hayride at Butler Farm, visited the National Cathedral, and sang for the residents of Oasis, a memory unit at Sibley Hospital. Yaa has service and fun outings planned for 2020. I hope that our youth will take part in all these events.

Speaking of staff: Both Bob and Geoffrey's hours were increased, Bob to half-time and Geoffrey to full-time. Margaret Church continues her extraordinary work as our bookkeeper. Chuyoung Suter makes an appearance occasionally. It's always lovely to see her!

Thank you to the Vestry who walked through this year of discovery with open hearts, open minds, and open ears. I especially thank the out-going class of 2019: Susan Fitzgerald, Senior Warden; Brooke Anthony, Junior Warden; and David Brown, chair of the talented Bylaws Committee. Kudos to the Safety Committee, led by Bill MacBain; the Music Committee, led by Geoffrey Platt; the Finance Committee; and the Leap of Faith committee, led by Melinda Nelson, Silvia Maza, and Karen Stewart. Gratitude to Chrissy deFontenay who keeps us fed, along with others who provide the best Coffee Hour in the diocese. Gratitude to Michael Mershon, the 2019 Strawberry Festival Chair, and

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SENIOR WARDENS'S REPORT

I'd like to commend the vestry for their commitment to Redeemer and for their hard work this year to make our church safe, healthy, and welcoming. We got so much of foundational work done in 2019, which shows what can be accomplished when a group of dedicated people works seamlessly together, and where everyone's point of view and expertise is acknowledged and respected.

We updated the Redeemer bylaws — the first time in decades. This exercise required an analysis of each of our existing bylaws, and editing them to align with current diocesan and Episcopal Church canons. The report presented to the vestry showed the before and after so that we could see at a glance what had changed. As a parish we will vote on the new bylaws at the annual meeting.

We now have in place a Redeemer Emergency Action Plan. This was a tremendous undertaking: a committee determined the scope of the plan and addressed the many situations that comprise an emergency. We had visits and reports from the fire department and the police department on what

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Rector's Report continued

all the volunteers to make this FUN-draiser the success that it is. My personal thanks to Cathy Baker, who is the container steward, for providing a much-needed, but little-touted ministry.

Most of all, thanks be to God, from whom all blessings flow. Redeemer continues to grow and discern her mission in this part of God's vineyard. It is a privilege to be your rector in this time and place.

Cricket+

Redeemer needs to do to be ready in case of a disaster. This 28-page document includes safety equipment that needs to be in place, evacuation plans and who needs to execute them, training, communication strategies, and how to keep us, and especially our young people, safe and secure when at Redeemer.

We met with our insurance adjuster to walk us through the vague and opaque policy offered by the diocesan insurance company. After a walk-through of the property both inside and out (deemed well maintained), our adjuster answered our questions on how we can be properly insured for any disaster. (FYI, both the church and rectory roofs were replaced this year, largely covered by insurance.) A new Redeemer insurance policy will be issued this month or next.

We are getting our records in order! We are going through the many boxes, file cabinets, and closets in which Redeemer reports and financial documents have been stored, and we are sorting, labeling, and saving according to diocesan rules. In the process we've found Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, who had been misfiled at the back of a piled-high closet, and therefore absent from the Christmas 2018 creche.

More controversial, but an important exercise nonetheless, the vestry voted to move the pews and change the seating in the church this year (twice). This opened up discussions on who we want to be as a parish, and how the seating communicates that message. Your answers to the survey we sent, and our subsequent meetings, inform the vestry's next steps for 2020.

Choose peace,

Susan Graham Fitzgerald, Senior Warden

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT/ELECTION SLATE

This year has been a challenge for church maintenance issues both inside and outside the building. We were informed of wind damage to the roof, so the major repair was to replace the roof. Three contractors were contacted for estimates. Most of the repair was covered by insurance. The rectory also needed a new roof due to damage caused by a leak. The rectory also needed work done to remove mold and replace the ceiling and some wall area in the upstairs bedrooms. Most of this was also covered by insurance.

Ryan Electrical Service improved the outdoor and some of the indoor lighting. There is still more work to be done in order to change the dimmers to LED lighting. The current fixtures are not compatible with dimming LED bulbs and will not work safely.

Denchfield Landscaping continues to service our lawn cutting, fertilizing, and play area wood chips. Arbon services the underground sprinkler system. The backflow pipe needed replacement when a leak was discovered in the fall. The plumber replaced the pipe and WSSC inspection was completed satisfactorily.

The contracts for inspection and maintenance of the elevator, HVAC, backflow, and fire suppression and alarm systems were renewed and administered. The indoor sprinkler system inspection revealed the need for some items to be repaired or replaced. Several sprinkler heads were tested and needed repair along with the alarm/horns needing replacement. The smoke detectors were checked and all passed inspection.

The rectory fence was repaired and the play area swing set has been tightened and cleaned. The shed was cleaned out and the Strawberry Festival items and gardening tools were put back in and arranged neatly. This work was completed by CASA of Maryland workers. The basement floor flooded during the big rain storm in the fall. There is still a need for good, solid shelves to store items high off the floor.

Brooke Anthony, Junior Warden

Vestry Nominees (three-year terms)

Jo Barclay-Beard

Hi, my name is Jo Barclay-Beard. My husband Brian and Ihave been attending Redeemer and singing in the choir since 1999. Along with singing I



mentored the EfM program for 11 years. Additionally, I am a lay reader, something I enjoy immensely, and I have served on the vestry many years ago and been a lay eucharistic minister. Redeemer is more than "church" to me; it is my extended family. I try to live by St. Theresa of Avila's words about Christ having no hands on earth but ours. I hate writing bios, even short bios, as I much prefer to remain in the background and just go about my business quietly. I have agreed to become your junior warden because even though this is God's house it is also our home and we need to be able to welcome visitors to a beautiful space - a space that remains in the background to the warmth and welcome of our congregation.



Silvia Maza

I was born and raised in Miramar, a suburb of Havana, Cuba. My older sisters and I came alone to the US, to be joined 8 months later by our mother, 17 months later by our father, and 10 years later by our aunts and grandfather. I was raised RC, baptized, confirmed and received my

first communion before leaving. Later, Bill and I were married in 1976 in the Little Chapel at St Alban's School, the same year I swore my oath to become an American citizen.

We have a daughter, two sons, and they have

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ELECTION SLATE

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showered us with 5 grandchildren. I taught math and Spanish in an alternative high school in Alexandria. I enjoy singing, opera, music, theater, ballet, gardening, traveling, languages, playing games such as bridge, architecture, crosswords, and reading, among other pastimes. I consider it a privilege to be able to volunteer as a tutor, and with St Columba's water ministry, as well as other activities supported by our parish.

There are many more adventures and activities past and I hope in the future. This picture is taken on our 43rd anniversary in 2019.

Tim Yehl

I am honored to be considered for a position on the Vestry. Redeemer welcomed our family on our very first day of Sunday Mass. At its core, Redeemer is a place of community,

fellowship and service. It offers opportunities for centering and reflection for the adults and avenues of safe learning for our children as they begin to take on their faith journeys. Redeemer also has wonderful cultural offerings with its Music at Redeemer program, guest lecturers, book discussions, pancake supper and even karaoke night. Redeemer is a place with something for everyone.

However, these things don't happen on their own. I took note of Cricket's challenge during one of her sermons about our stake in the future of Redeemer and that message grew with me even more as we discussed serving on the Vestry. I see great potential for this parish in the next decade and if I am elected to serve will do all I can to help Cricket and Redeemer grow its message and its membership. Thank you for your consideration, support and prayers.

For Diocesan Convention (two-year terms)

Delegates: Cathy Arrington



Toyin Rose



Alternates: Bill MacBain





Judy James

BEYOND REDEEMER'S WALLS

Redeemer Responds to Needs Near and Far

This is a review of the work done by Redeemer members throughout our immediate neighborhoods and the DC metro area. Please see more detailed write-ups throughout this annual report.

Bethesda Cares: Every other month, Redeemer provides a hot meal for homeless persons at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Bethesda. Volunteers are needed for Lunchtime meals, office work, and advocacy. We provide a box in the parish hall for donations of toiletries; 'walking' food; warm hats, scarves, and gloves. A fundraiser is held annually at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper for Bethesda Cares. Activities for families and children are available. For more information, please contact Marie France at tweedfrance@gmail.com, Chrissy deFontenay at ccfontenay@yahoo.com, Barbara Thackray at thackraybm@aol.com, or Mary Helen Carlson at carlsonmh1@gmail.com.

From Housing Up: Thank you for your \$1,618 donation and 100+ backpacks that you made in support of Housing Up's 2019 Backpack Drive. With your help we were able to donated \$11,553 in backpacks to our young residents, along with gift cards for school supplies. Every child in our PSH and RRH programs received the supplies they needed to start the school year.

Kairos Prison Ministry: Kairos steps into the darkness of prison to share God's love with those inside. Redeemer provides prayer support to the teams and residents. For more information, please contact Lisa (lisa@macbain.us) or Bill MacBain (bill@macbain.us)

From Manna Food Center: Thank you for your generous contribution to Manna Food Center. Your donations of food deeply impacts our work and mission to eliminate hunger in our community through food distribution, education, and advocacy. For more information, please

contact Ben Ivins at bivins@gmail.com or Pat Fitzgerald at patrick.fitzgerald300@gmail.com.

From the National Center for Children and

Families: Thank you for your congregation's generous contribution. Your donation of \$350 (in gift cards) and food on November 18, 2019, will provide children and families in need with critical support during uncertain times. Blessings! Deacon Sue began this ministry during her tenure here. Could your family head this up in 2020?

Olive Oil Ministry: Marie France (tweedfrance@gmail.com) is the liaison to this ministry, originating at Westminster Community Church, which benefits farmers in Palestine. Marie sells these products at Redeemer each December in Advent, but they are available year-round. Just send an e-mail to her to make a purchase.

Street Church: Members of Redeemer participate in this ministry of Epiphany, DC. A weekly Eucharist is celebrated in Franklin Park where many homeless people gather to pray and receive communion. They also receive sandwiches and snacks to help them through the day. Street Church occurs each Tuesday afternoon at 1:00pm, weather permitting. This is a ministry where families are welcome. For more information, please contact Chrissy deFontenay at ccfontenay@yahoo.com.

From Sustainable Villages Honduras (SVH): Thank you for your generous gift of \$1,045.00 to SVH on December 30, 2019. Your support is especially meaningful and timely as we focus our program on mitigating the devastating effects of climate change in the municipality of Chinda, Santa Barbara, where our farming families live and work. This area, which is in the Central American Dry Corridor, suffers from prolonged drought and extreme poverty due to climate change. The funds for our work with the families comes from our base of donors like you. For more information about SVH, please contact Ben Ivins at bivins@gmail.com.

Toy Sunday: This year we collected over \$1,000 in funds and toys to make a brighter Christmas for our neighbors. All were delivered by our own Jefferson "Santa Claus" Arrington to Community Family Life Services in downtown DC. This ministry has been a part of Redeemer for over two decades.

Twelve-step Ministries: Redeemer hosts six AA or Al-Anon groups each week. Providing space at minimal cost to these groups assists people working to end their addictions to alcohol.

Strawberry Festival

On June 8th, Redeemer once again opened its doors and hearts - to our community during the annual Strawberry Festival. This year we did things a little differently - we removed the silent auction and we focused on making the festival more about ministry and neighborliness, and less about fundraising. (Although we still raised several thousand dollars!) Thank you to all those who contributed their time, talent and treasure - from pickers and hullers to those who helped with the grill, the moonbounce, tickets and balloons, books, collectibles, the kitchen, the boutique, the bank, and this year's New Attraction: homemade lemonade!

The Festival is a wonderful Redeemer tradition - and it can only fulfill its potential when we all chip in to help. Many hands making light work and all of that. Please prayerfully consider how you can support Susan and Pat as they take the reins for 2020!

Michael Mershon



Backpack Drive

In July, 2019, Redeemer partnered with the charity Housing Up for its annual backpack drive. This year Cynthia Fischer headed the drive, collecting money on Sundays after church for several weeks. Several thousand dollars was raised, allowing Redeemer to donate over 100 backpacks stuffed with school



supplies and to provide a cash donation to Housing Up as well. Our drive concentrated on the supply lists for kindergarten through second grade which was recommended by Housing Up, and which felt especially meaningful, given the importance of kids being prepared for education in early childhood.

Housing Up was a great organization to work with, as their primary goal is not just providing housing to homeless families in the Washington area, but doing so always with an eye toward the ultimate success and independence of those families. The backpack drive is just one of the many ways this organization puts atrisk or homeless families on an equal footing with others in the community.

Because of the generosity of Redeemer's parishioners, kids from Housing Up families walked into the classroom on the first day of school with the same opportunities as the other kids in their class, no matter their background or circumstances. We capped the project off with a backpack stuffing party and dinner on a weeknight in August. We had so many helpers that the backpacks were filled very quickly, and we spent the rest of the evening enjoying some good food and fellowship with one another.

Cynthia Fischer, PhD Project Manager, Music at Redeemer

MUSIC

2019 was a strong year for Music at Redeemer. In support of worship the choirs continued to build their skills, hone their talent and improve their communication of text and meaning. Third Sunday, with its emphasis on instrumental music chosen and rehearsed by Lisa McBain has secured the reflective and embracing nature of the Taizé style, and increased lay participation. The Bell Choir led by Silvia Maza provided a specially written flourish for Easter Vigil and is now fully resurrected into 2020. We continue to develop repertoire that stretches and teaches both singer and congregation, and during Advent, everyone sang plainchant together each week.



The Concert Series has continued to strengthen, with a number of fine performances. The 2018-19 Season had an exciting and varied spring with performances given by the EYA vocal trio for Valentine's Day; a standing room-only performance by the Whiffenpoofs including their first female member; Erik and Chuyoung Suter performing piano concertos with organ accompaniment. Our ecumenical collaboration with Bradley Hills Presbyterian continued with the Bach St John Passion on Good Friday. After Easter we closed some chapters and bid farewell to Inscape, who are now in residence elsewhere, and to Carmina and Illuminare whose concert surprised many as to its extraordinary quality despite their having performed on the series many times previously.

The most significant changes occurred between Easter and Pentecost, first with the Vestry's starting a quest for finding a location upstairs for the choir and organ in church. The choir started in the center where pews were able to accommodate their numbers and permitted them to see and hear everything for the first time. Out of the townhall meetings that followed the changes came the expression of a desire to be one united community



more often: first Sunday is now an unrobed and unrehearsed choir that comes forward for the offertory, which permits choristers to attend adult education during normal rehearsal time, and to sit and experience church together with their families and other friends. The Choir is now the other side of Church, which creates space and quiet for prayer and healing in the Chapel of St Luke. Secondly, the new Music Committee was formed under the chairmanship of Geoffrey Platt (Geoffrey-the-Elder). The Committee provides advice, marketing support and production coordination for events generously underwritten by the Friends of Music at Redeemer. Thirdly, we bid adieu but not farewell to Chuyoung Suter, who remains our preferred guest organist.



The new season began in September with our new composer-led Ensemble in Residence, KASSIA MUSIC who are a powerhouse of talent. Their opening concert, "Art of the Baroque" included a Tango/Bach piano solo composed by Sam Post that you can find on the Church website and YouTube channel.

We marked the twentieth birthday of the beautiful sanctuary addition with a weekend of musical celebration: first, the Vivaldi Gloria with Tatiana Chulochnikova returning with her early instrument ensemble to accompany Redeemer Choirs and Bradley Hills in a really enjoyable concert, complete with violin and oboe concertos. Interestingly, the choral risers in the sanctuary necessitated the moving of the altar

MUSIC



forward for worship that weekend, which was a useful experiment for the community to experience, and poignant as we discern and look ahead at the next twenty years.

For All Souls' Day, we brought together a small ensemble of instrumentalists, and two choirs, Redeemer and District Chorale, to commemorate those we have lost through the beautiful music of John Rutter.

Advent Lessons and Carols was possibly the liturgical highlight of 2019 for me. The fading light of evening is a magical time in our sanctuary, and centers singers in ways that the morning never can and never will. The adult choir surpassed itself, and our accompanist, Aaron Goen was a blessing. You can hear the results of some of their hard work in recordings on YouTube.

I ask everyone who has ever used YouTube or who has a Gmail account (or multiple accounts...) to please subscribe to the Music at Redeemer YouTube channel, so that we can secure a dedicated URL, and market something that represents our community to a wide audience more effectively, and in turn, seeks to build our community. We need a hundred subscribers to do this. We video every concert we do as part of our mission to share the experience of music and our church to as wide an audience as possible. With a dedicated URL we can share that music much more easily. It might be too far to state that YouTube is our most useful outward and visible musical sign, but it is certainly not to be underestimated how much the growing collection of high quality performances says about this parish and how it cares for and loves its music. In these uncertain times, it is a fairly safe bet that these concert videos—reflections of talent and community—are probably more permanent than each of us!

Lastly, the new flexibility of seating permitted a really joyous big screen evening of Charlie Brown jazz with the Eric Byrd Trio, which literally had us dancing in the aisles, with grade school kids mimicking the 60s-style dance moves of the movie and their parents and

grandparents. The facilities talent and know-how of Parish Administrator Bob Yates enabled everyone to see the movie with rear projection removing the risks of tripping on wires and equipment out front. Seeing the wonder at that time of year on children's faces, not only at the timeless Charlie Brown, but at seeing a drum kit and double bass played that close to them, was a great experience. As Eric Brown said to the crowd, 'this is their house, let them run around.'

Geoffrey Silver, Director of Music Ministries







ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES FROM 2019

Episcopal Church of the Redeemer 2019 Annual Meeting minutes January 20, 2019

The Rev. Cricket Park opened the meeting at 12:15 with a prayer.

It was moved and seconded to approve the 2018 Annual Meeting minutes. Motion carried.

An extensive 2019 Annual Meeting Report, accompanied by the Budget Narrative: 2018 Fall Pledge Drive, was distributed.

Steve Gibson presented the Treasurer's Report. During the questions on the report, it was discovered that the budgeted transfer of \$6000 from the operating account to the Building Reserve fund was inadvertently not included in the 2018 actual expenses in the Annual Report financial statements. Correction of this error decreases the 2018 actual Net Ordinary income from \$22,346 to \$16,346 and increases the Building Reserve balance from \$106,702 to \$112,702.

It was moved and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report with corrections. Motion carried.

Shannon Hoogerheide will move off of the Vestry but has expressed interest in continuing to work with youngfamilies. Karen Stewart, Junior Warden, will move off of the Vestry but has expressed interest in developing programs our older population. Thank you to both Shannon and Karen for their outstanding and dedicated contributions to the Vestry. Susan Fitzgerald

will remain as the Senior Warden for one year, taking the place of a vacated one-year term.

The slate of Vestry members for 3-year terms was presented: Katie Nickerson, Jianping Zhou, and Rick Tyler. There were no nominations from the floor.

It was moved and seconded that the slate be elected by acclamation. Motion carried.

Cathy Arrington and Toyin Rose will remain as Convention Delegates. Bill MacBain is the alternate.

In Cricket's annual address to the congregation she focused on the variety of gifts under the same Spirit that are presentat Redeemer. She reminded us that we need each other. No one person, no one family, no one parish has everything it needs on its own. And, even when working together, we can't accomplish our purpose for the common good without the Holy Spirit. We need God; we need each other.

This year we will concentrate on not only being healthy, butgetting healthier. We will build on what has and is being done to grow. "Redeemer is a miracle! We should overflow like good wine into our neighborhood. God's gifts to us are gifts for the common good. Let's setthetable and invite people to join us".

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Sands, Secretary



Silent Auction

This year the silent auction was moved from the Strawberry Festival to the Redeemer dinner. We started with a request to the congregation to tell us what they would pay \$100 or more for. Based on demand we asked donors for these specific goods and services . We got lots of offers for services that not only raised over \$5000 but also provided some fun activities that strengthened our ties to each other.

Karen Stewart

Manna Food Center

Manna is the main food bank in Montgomery County. Nearly all nonprofit organizations located here rely on Manna to provide essential food for their clients. Since its founding, Manna has distributed more than 53 million pounds of food to more than 2.7 million individuals. Manna also strives to end hunger through education and advocacy. Manny the Mobile Kitchen and Pop-Up Pantry serves as a classroom to teach general nutrition principles through cooking, and as a food distribution vehicle.

The Center partners with over 350 organizations including: government agencies, corporations, nonprofits, schools, faith-based institutions, community groups, and individuals. In 2019, Redeemer parishioners donated approximately 85 pounds of food each month to Manna. In 2019, Manna served 11,000 families, providing over 3.5 million pounds of food. The food provided by Manna helped families living on fixed incomes, as well as those requiring emergency food support as they overcame a loss in wages or dealt with an illness in the family. Households received boxes of food averaging 60-70 pounds and including nonperishable goods, produce, dairy, and protein items.

Among those who attend county public schools, 32% qualified for a free or reduced price meal in 2019. Through Manna's Smart Sacks program, food was distributed at 59 elementary schools to 2,850 hungry children. These students received a six-pound bag of healthy food every Friday afternoon to sustain them over the weekend when school-subsidized food programs do not operate. Manna provided 174,547 pounds of food to social service agencies throughout the county, including 48 soup kitchens, shelters, and pantries. Agencies received food, free of charge, so that they could focus their resources on their core population to address the root causes of poverty.

Ben Ivins



Treasurer's Report

A budget is part plan and part prediction. Expenses are largely in the plan part of the equation, since historical costs are generally known and are not expected to change significantly except in response to program changes. The income side of budgeting, however, involves a large dose of prediction, particularly for an organization such as Redeemer that relies on donations for most of its revenue.

In setting the 2019 budget the Vestry predicted that income would not be sufficient to fully cover expenses, and it adopted a budget with a \$28,047 deficit. While Redeemer was not able to eliminate the deficit at year end, the actual deficit ~ \$18,479 ~ was significantly less than budgeted, thanks to the generosity of the Redeemer congregation, which donated beyond the initially pledged amount. Details on 2019 operating results are contained in the Financial Statements at pages 12 and 13 of this annual report.

During 2019 Redeemer faced the need for major repairs to both the church and the rectory, namely a new roof for the church and a new roof, water damage repair, and mold remediation for the rectory. Fortunately, this work was largely covered by insurance and was completed without needing to draw on the building reserve.

With respect to the 2020 budget, changes from the 2019 budget include a projected 1.3% increase in total expense and 6.3% increase in total income, which will necessitate a 9.9% increase in pledge income. The 6.3% increase in total income is necessary to bring the budget closer to balance, compared with the 2019 budget, which was adopted with a bottom line deficit of \$28,047. The 9.9% increase in pledge income is needed to accomplish the 6.3% increase in total income and to cover projected reductions in other income items, compared with the 2019 budget. These consist primarily of reduction in projected facilities use income, due to reserving some former outside use time for parish needs, and reduction in projected special event income, reflecting in part removal of the silent auction from the Strawberry Festival. A detailed comparison of the 2019 and 2020 budgets is set forth in the Financial Statements.

The Church of the Redeemer is a wonderful, worshipful community. As Treasurer, I wish to thank all who make material provision for this place and this experience with your donations.

Stephen L. Gibson, Treasurer

	2019 Actual	2019 Budget	2019 Over (Under) Budget	Proposed 2020 Budget	Change from 2019 Budget
INCOME					
Donation Income	470,289	456,039		499,420	
Current Year Pledge	418,425	423,539		465,420	
Current Year Non-Pledge	36,207	25,000	•	25,000	
Current Year Over Pledge	8,945	3,500		5,000	1,500
Prior Year Pledge	3,010	(3,010	C	0
Loose Plate Offering	3,702	4,000	, ,	4,000	0
Special Offerings	3,073	2,900		2,400	(500)
Christmas Season	1,656	500	1,156	1,000	500
Lent/Easter Season	1,417	1,400	17	1,400	0
Other Special Offerings	0	500	(500)	C	(500)
Taize	0	500	(500)	C	(500)
Event & Activity Income	14,693	29,150	(14,457)	16,350	(12,800)
Hospitality	40	150	, ,	50	(100)
Music Series Contribution	0	10,000	(10,000)	8,300	(1,700)
Special Events	14,653	19,000	(4,347)	8,000	(11,000)
Facilities Use	22,815	18,000	4,815	15,000	(3,000)
Other Income	99,822	(99,822	5,000	5,000
Total Income	610,693	506,089	104,604	538,170	32,081
EXPENSE					
Administration Expense	45,731	42,550	3,181	45,600	3,050
Audit	6,050	6,000	50	6,500	500
Bank Charges	24	200	(176)	50	(150)
Insurance	13,064	10,000	3,064	12,000	2,000
Office Equipment New	1,327	1,500	(173)	1,000	(500)
Office Machines & Services	9,303	11,000	(1,697)	11,000	0
Office Supplies	7,364	5,000	2,364	6,500	1,500
Payroll Processing	694	800	(106)	750	(50)
Postage	765	1,300	(535)	1,200	(100)
Publicity & Communications	2,148	1,750	398	2,100	350
Telephone	3,530	3,500		3,000	(500)
Vanco Fees	1,462	1,500	(38)	1,500	0
Diocesan Giving	37,000	37,000	0	40,000	3,000
Discretionary Account Payments	1,000	1,000		1,000	
Maintenance Expense	170,008	76,250	93,758	76,750	500
Building Reserve	6,000	6,000	0	6,000	0
Church	82,702	10,000	72,702	12,000	2,000
Cleaning/Janitorial Services	15,528	15,000	528	15,000	0
Equipment	9,959	10,000		9,000	(1,000)
Grounds	5,972	6,000		8,000	2,000
Rectory	30,458	6,000	24,458	5,000	(1,000)
Supplies	341	750	(409)	750	0
Utilities Church	13,179	14,000		14,000	0
Utilities Rectory	4,943	5,500	(557)	5,500	0
Other Maintenance Expense	926	3,000	(2,074)	1,500	(1,500)
Outreach Giving	1,891	5,000	(3,109)	0	(5,000)

			2019 Over (Under)	Proposed 2020	Change from 2019
	2019 Actual	2019 Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
Personnel Expense	288,370	288,336	34	295,046	6,710
NonSalaried - Contractors	40,509	46,240	(5,731)	22,624	(23,616)
Health/Life/Disability Ins.	24,685	24,500	185	26,838	2,338
Payroll Taxes	7,259	6,685	574	8,298	1,613
Pension Premiums	28,009	27,576	433	29,806	2,230
Professional Education	1,962	4,100	(2,138)	3,000	(1,100)
Sabbatical Allowance	600	600	0	600	0
Salaries	174,250	166,739	7,511	189,419	22,680
Seca Allowance	8,596	8,596	(0)	8,661	L 65
Supply Personnel	700	1,500	(800)	4,000	2,500
Travel/Auto/Phone Allowances	1,800	1,800	0	1,800	0
Program Expense	38,421	37,000	1,421	35,700	(1,300)
Adult Formation	795	1,200	(405)	750	(450)
Altar	610	750	(140)	750	0
Church School	0	500	(500)	250) (250)
Hospitality	1,111	2,000	(889)	1,000	(1,000)
Music - Choral Section Leader	25,790	20,000	5,790	20,000	0
Music - General	5,757	6,000	(243)	6,600	600
Newcomers/Membership	0	400	(400)	400	0
Other/Governance	1,119	1,500	(381)	1,300	(200)
Stewardship	0	500	(500)	500	0
Special Events	1,907	3,000	(1,093)	3,000	0
Worship	948	500		500	0
Youth	384	650	, ,	650	0
Property Expense	46,752	47,000	(248)	47,000	0
Mortgage Interest Expense	17,617	23,500	(5,883)	23,500	0
Mortgage Principal Payments	29,135	23,500		23,500	
Total Expense	629,172	534,136		541,096	
Net Ordinary Income	(18,479)	(28,047)	9,568	(2,926)	25,121

Cash Position as of 12/31/19 Cash on Hand					
Operating Account	128,197				
Uncleared Transactions	11,035				
Brokerage Account	182,749				
Building Reserve Account	118,794				
Total Cash	440,774				
Less Designated Funds:					
Sabbatical Reserve	6,600				
Emergency Fund	22,821				
Less Restricted Funds:					
Building Reserve	118,794				
Building and Grounds	0				
Flowers	5,241				
FOMAR	20,576				
Organ Scholarship Fund	0				
Columbarium	7,863				
Other Restricted	2,069				
Outreach	0				
PRAY Youth Program	23,625				
Prepaid Pledge and Non-Pledge	163,676				
Operating Cash Available	69,509				

Annual Meeting Agenda

Call to Order
Rector's Address
Approval of Bylaws Revision
Recess
Approval of 2019 minutes (page 10)
Treasurer's Report
Election of Vestry
and Convention Delegates

Adjournment

Update about the Program in Honduras

Sustainable Villages Honduras (SVH), supported by Redeemer and four other parishes in the Washington diocese, works to address issues of subsistence farming, reforestation, and community health by teaching sustainable agriculture and forestry practices to families in eight villages suffering from extreme weather patterns caused by climate change. Long dry spells, punctuated with periodic excessive rainfall, have resulted in such profound and long-lasting adverse conditions that Honduras is now part of what is called the "Dry Corridor of Central America." The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimated that the subsistence farmers in this corridor have lost more than half of their crops of corn and beans, and predicts a 60-80% likelihood that these patterns will hit in the next harvest season.

The SVH program is making a crucial difference by teaching local farmers new farming techniques and obtaining drought-resistant seeds. It has also established new health initiatives that have brought relief to families from pests and diseases spread by the changed climate.

Access to water is now the number one priority in the SVH communities. SVH provides critical assistance in building the capacity of community leaders on town councils and water boards to function effectively and to form alliances with each other. The hope is to establish a protected area watershed in which they are all located. In short, with SVH's programs and assistance, farmers learn sustainable farming techniques, communities get access to water for agriculture and household use, and functioning local organizations allow men, women, and youth to become active members of their water management boards, parent associations, health committees, and youth organizations.

A related benefit of SVH's efforts is its positive influence on providing disincentives for attempts to illegally migrate to the US. Articles in *The Washington Post* report that hunger, not violence, is now causing people from Honduras and Guatemala to flee to the U.S. There are documented examples of local residents having decided to stay in Honduras because of the hope that SVH's programs have provided.

The proceeds of over \$1000 from the 2019 Advent Lessons and Carols service will be donated to SVH to jump start a new initiative to support youth and women in building revenue producing cottage industries such as producing chips and salsa, hammocks, and raising pigs and chickens.

Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc.

"Listen, Listen, Love, Love"

Kairos is a Christian faith-based ministry focused on the spiritual needs of incarcerated men, women, youth, and their families. By sharing the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ, Kairos hopes to change hearts, transform lives and impact the world. Kairos sprang from the Cursillo movement and is supported by volunteers from the 4th Day movements such as Cursillo, National Episcopal Cursillo, Presbyterian Cursillo, Lutheran Via de Cristo, The Upper Room's Walk To Emmaus, and independently ecumenical Tres Dias as well as volunteers from independent and non-denominational churches. Inspired by Christ's call to action in Matthew 25:36, a diverse group of volunteers learn to work together to interact with incarcerated men, women, youth and their families.

"Kairos" is a Greek word interpreted to mean God's Special Time for participants to reconsider life choices, embrace healing and allow hearts to be changed. Inspired by Christ's call to action in Matthew 25:36, Kairos Prison Ministry depends on its volunteers to create an environment where lives can be transformed as hearts are changed within institutional walls. At Redeemer, members of this congregation have served as Team Members and Support Team Members. Our young people have created posters and colorful placemats to encourage participants inside. Some have signed up to be a part of weekend Prayer Vigils, and others have attended men's and women's Closing Ceremonies as well as donated to the costs of Kairos weekends. Now more than ever, Kairos of Maryland needs your help. Several of the above institutions have experienced drastic cuts in their funding and staff and are unsure if they can continue to sponsor a robust Kairos program on the inside. Therefore, we need to step up and supply new volunteers to serve in this ministry. All one needs is a willing heart and a spirit of obedience to play a crucial role in God's ministry of Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives and Impacting the World.

Bill and Lisa MacBain (240) 912-6738, can answer your questions about serving in this critical ministry. There are currently teams forming to serve each of the above institutions for the spring weekend retreats.

Lisa MacBain

Ben Ivins

Bethesda Cares Sunday Dinner Program

In 2019, Redeemer continued to participate in the Bethesda Cares Sunday Dinner Program on the fourth Sunday of every other month. Parishioners signed up to contribute a dish or a beverage to complete six Sunday meals for delivery to about 40 hungry and homeless at Our Lady of Lourdes in downtown Bethesda. Redeemer's participation in this outreach program remained possible because of the faithfulness of a core group of individuals who ensured that these meals were delicious, ample, and delivered on time. In 2020, you are invited to share in the satisfaction gained from this form of hospitality. Redeemer next provides a meal on Sunday, January 26.

(301.320.1534; tweedfrance@gmail.com).

Marie France

Olive Oil Ministry

Redeemer held holiday sales in December as a member of the Olive Oil Ministry, an all-volunteer, ecumenical project sponsored by Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ, Bethesda. This outreach program partners Redeemer with 22 other congregations in the Washington, DC, region to raise awareness about the realities on the ground in the Holy Land and to promote peace. Net earnings from the olive oil sales go to Tent of Nations, a farm near Bethlehem whose Palestinian Christian owners cultivate good relations with neighboring Jewish and Muslim communities. Sales proceeds are used to plant trees, care for orchards and olive groves, and support the nearby Women's Education Center and summer youth camps. The sales also have funded partial scholarships to enable young adults from our partner congregations to travel

(301.320.1534; tweedfrance@gmail.com).

Marie France

to the Holy Land.

Tutoring Ministry

For the past five years, Redeemer's Tutoring Program has helped elementary school students develop language, build vocabulary and expand knowledge. Spending one on one with a child, self-confidence grows, as does the friendship between student and tutor. Never tutored? Our outreach is now under the aegis of Oasis Intergenerational Tutoring Program. Free of charge, they provide a 6-hour tutoring workshop, materials, a lending library and workshops throughout the year. This has been a tremendous resource. This year we have eight tutors in three schools. For information on the program, please contact Jane Dealy – jdthree@mac.com

Jane Dealy



Cooperative Ministries

Redeemer participates in several ministries with other Episcopal Churches in the area. In addition to the P.R.A.Y. cooperative, we work with St. Dunstan in their Justice League ministry, which addresses issues that impact our immediate neighborhoods. Many people volunteer at St. Columba's Water Ministry. This important work helps people who are living in or near poverty by giving them a place to shower, wash their clothes and get food for their bodies.

In 2020, the churches of Southern Montgomery County will be working toward new cooperative ministries that can serve our many and diverse neighborhoods. Within its new deanery structure, clergy and lay leadership will be asked to discern how our parishes might do more together to give witness to the love of Jesus.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION



Sunday School

Redeemer Sunday school consists of three classes ~ Godly Play for three-year-old's through 3rd graders (taught by Ayesha Court, Karen Stewart, and Joelle Morris), Intermediate class for 4th and 5th graders (taught by Melinda Nelson and Steve Gibson), and Middle/High School class for 6th through 12th graders (taught by Mary K Young, Justin Hess, and Pat Fitzgerald). Redeemer also has a nursery for infants during the 10:30 service.

The Godly Play curriculum this fall started with Creation and continued through the Advent story. The class is a bit younger than in the past (ages 3 – 4) so our lessons are somewhat briefer than for older kids and usually involve the sandbox, drawing, blocks and a "feast" of animal crackers. The children are engaged and happy to come to class and learn Bible stories.

Students in the Intermediate class build on the Bible stories they learn in Godly Play by reading the stories directly from the Bible. They are becoming proficient in finding BIble passages by book, chapter, and verse, and they love taking turns reading out loud from the Bible. The class began the school year with a series on the Beatitudes, discussing what the verses mean and with which Beatitude the students identify most. In anticipation of the Christmas season, the students talked about where the coming of a Messiah is foretold in the Old Testament, what kind of Messiah people in Jesus' time were looking for, and how Jesus might have been different from what some were expecting. During Advent, the Intermediate class took a simple but profound Godly Playbased journey to Bethlehem along with the Prophets, Mary and Joseph, the Shepherds and the Wise Men on the way to understanding the mystery of Christmas.

Middle School and High School youth meet as one class. The students begin each new school year by considering what topics they would like to cover. This year, they decided to use the class time to discuss items in the news that are on their minds. These include very local news,

national news, and global news. They discuss the topics respectfully and candidly, exploring them in the context of our Christian faith and our Redeemer community, often incorporating a reading from the day's service in the discussion. The class members display inspiring levels of insight, judgment and kindness through these conversations.

In addition, the Middle School/High School students undertook a special project in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the church expansion. To start them off, Melinda Nelson taught the class about the 120-year history of Church of the Redeemer. The students then prepared and presented a sermon on this theme, which described how over and over the Redeemer community made big decisions - Leaps of Faith - to get where we are today.

The kids of Redeemer are great, and we teachers look forward to our time with them each Sunday.

Stephen L. Gibson

Adult Formation/Adult Forum

After a very slow start to the year, Adult Forum rebounded with a new format and new energy. On the first Sunday of each month, we have a speaker for Adult Forum. On the other Sundays, we are doing a Bible or book study that extends over a number of weeks. Thanks to Heather Tomlinson for her leadership in the study of the gospel of Luke this fall. Your ideas and input for 2020 are invited.

Youth Group & Potomac River Anglican Youth

Led by Yaa Addison and the Rector, Redeemer's Youth saw an increase in participation in 2019. Once a month, Redeemer Youth gathers in the Parish Hall for dinner and a program that lasts approximately 90 minutes. We've talked about the Eucharist, had an amazing Lock-In, journeyed to the Holocaust Museum, and generally had a great time getting to know each other.

The Potomac River Anglican Youth from Redeemer, St.

Dunstan, and St. Patrick Episcopal Churches

- Played together on the Potomac,
- Shared a hayride and hot dog roast
- Visited the National Cathedral, and
- Sang carols for residents of the Oasis Memory Unit at Sibley Hospital.

More activities and service projects are planned for 2020.

Emergency Action Plan Adopted

The Vestry adopted an Emergency Action Plan in 2019. The plan was developed by a safety committee of Redeemer members over several months. The plan addresses responses to various types of emergencies, from fire and earthquake to threatening individuals. The plan uses materials published by several other church organizations and by the Department of Homeland Security, as well as recommendations made by the Glen Echo Fire Department and Montgomery County Police. In addition, the safety committee made a number of recommendations for ways that the church property can be made safer in the event of an emergency. These will be prioritized and implemented based on cost and practicability in the coming year.

The following is a quick summary of the plan's emergency actions.

In an emergency, Call 911. If in doubt, call. Describe who, what, when, where, type of help needed

Medical emergency

Call 911 unless injury is minor. Notify head usher or rector

Provide first aid as trained and able

Fire: get out. Know the evacuation plan for where you usually sit. Pull an alarm. Know where alarms are. Use fire extinguisher if safe to do so. Know where they are located. Call 911. Fire alarms are not connected to the local fire department. Go to the Glen Echo shopping center parking lot. Stay out until all clear

Don't block emergency traffic or vehicles Stay off the stairs. Kids and parents meet in the Glen Echo shopping center parking lot, not downstairs.

Lightening: get inside.

Threatening person, active shooter

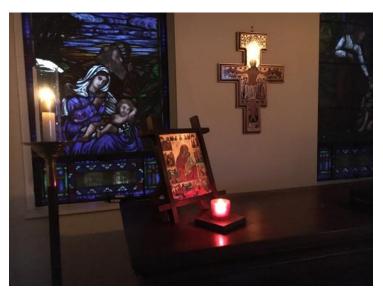
If safe to do so, call 911. Describe who, what, when, where, type of help needed. Do not pull fire alarm. Leave. **Run**. Don't scream: be quiet. Assemble in Glen Echo shopping center parking lot.

Hide if running is not an option. Barricade doors. Be quiet. *Fight* only as a last resort. Distract: throw things, use hornet spray, be aggressive. Think strength in numbers. This can be an extremely dangerous option – it is a last resort.

Hostage/kidnapping

Notify senior staff person on site.

Call 911. Describe who, what, when, where, type of help needed



Healing Ministry

The Healing Ministry served the Redeemer congregation on every third Sunday of each month. We offered healing prayers during a service with a Taize format. We communed with and prayed in support of parishioners who sought God's healing.

At each service, we typically had two ministers behind the rail offering prayers and one or two ministers in front of the rail standing in communion. Each minister typically served once per quarter, but we have had members who have stepped in twice per quarter as needs arose. We are actively looking for new members to join our group.

In the spring, we had a workshop meeting in which we spoke about our experiences in the Healing Ministry and discussed how we listened, touched and prayed – either silently or verbally.

We invite anyone with an interest in this vital ministry to get in touch with the Rector or contact Thad Arrington. For anyone interested in joining this ministry, we will arrange a similar workshop to review our experiences and approaches.

Thad Arrington,

Healing Ministry coordinator

PARISH LIFE



BOOK GROUP READINGS IN 2019

The Book Group continued to meet every 8-10 weeks to discuss a book that was read by the group. The books selected were recommended by members of the group who come to the discussions. Meetings are held in different homes and are open to everyone in the congregation, whether or not they have read the book being discussed. The group has read over a hundred books so far.

During 2019, we read the books listed below. They were all books by American authors.

- Land Breakers by John Ehle, which described a settlement by pioneers in the Wild Wild West
- The Devil in the White City by Erik Larsen, which focused on murder, magic and madness at the World Fair in Chicago in the late 1800's
- March by Geraldine Brooks which drew the story of the father of Little Women during the Civil War
- The Last Days of Night by Graham Moore, which described a thrilling account of electric light involving Edison, Westinghouse and Tesla
- Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson, which echoes Jim Crow on Alabama's Death Row
- News of the World by Paulette Jiles, which describes the relationship between a grizzled old man and a lost young girl. This book will be discussed on Jan. 26, 2020

In 2020, we will continue reading books that aim at entertaining, educating, stimulating and building community and just having fun. We will focus on reading books by international authors. Come and join us even if you have not read the book. For more information, contact Huda Kraske at hgkraske@aol.com.

Peace, Salam, Shalom

Huda Kraske

Blood Drives

Redeemer hosted two blood drives in 2019 and intends to continue this life-saving mission well into the future, possibly teaming up with other congregations. The 2020 dates are March 17th and September 22nd.



CAIF

Capital Area Interfaith Friends focused on refugee resettlement this year, helping to set up several



apartments for refugees being resettled here as well as cooking a "welcome meal", all through KindWorks. One apartment was set up alongside a Girl Scout Troup from ADAMS (All Dulles Area Muslim Society). CAIF also participated in the Washington Hebrew Congregation MLK Day of service in 2019 and are making plans to participate again in 2020. This is a large day of service with several hundred volunteers of many faiths, focusing on the homeless and hungry, packing meals, making blankets and more. Visit

www.capitalareainterfaithfriends.org for more information! Or contact Dominique Rychlik 301-580-0934 rychliks@gmail.com

Dominique Rychlik



Amma Cricket tending a lost sheep on the fourth Sunday of Lent.



PARISH LIFE



Redeemer Youth prepare their presentation of the parish history for Youth Takeover Sunday.





Redeemer and St. Patrick represent at the 2019 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service at the Washington Hebrew Congregation.





Redeemer Men's Retreat

Each April, Jefferson Arrington leads a group of Redeemer men to the woods for good food, fellowship, and spiritual journeying. This year's topic: Men and Their Mentoring: Who Has Mentored US and Whom Have WE Mentored? Participants talked about who has had profound, positive influence in our lives—those who, without their attentive care, we could not have become who are, or accomplished what we have?



Lunches

Also known as the Redeemer "ROMEO" group (Retired Old Men Eating Out), these monthly gatherings have kept up the life and laughter of our elder statemen. For more information about these luncheons, please contact Justin Hess.



