



THE REDEEMER SPIRIT

AUGUST 2019

A monthly publication of The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, Bethesda, Maryland

WHAT'S AT REDEEMER TODAY

Summertime Schedule

- Come early or stay late after services on Sunday and spend some quality time knitting at the Purl-y Gates. Work on a scarf or prayer shawl for someone who needs a Redeemer hug. Don't know how? We'll teach you!
- The midweek, noon service of Holy Eucharist takes a sabbath in July and August. We gather at 9am for Morning Prayer on Wednesdays.
- During the first weeks of August, Cynthia Fischer takes the lead to raise funds and coordinate our annual backpack drive for Housing Up. Watch the Sunday bulletins and This Week at Redeemer for more information.
- Homecoming Sunday happens September 15th. Think about inviting someone who doesn't come to church that week. The choirs and Christian Formation begin on September 8th.

JOIN SUSAN FITZGERALD EVERY
MONDAY EVENING
FROM 6 TO 7 FOR
CONTEMPLATIVE WEEDING!
AND
PATRICIA SNOWDEN FOR THE
LABYRINTH WALKS
FROM 7 TO 8

Forward Day-by-Day devotionals for
August-September-October are
available in the parish hall.

Farewell Coffee Hour – Sunday, August 11th

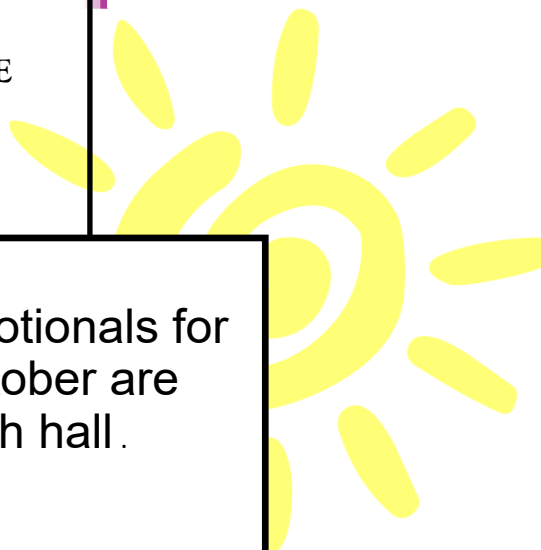
Claudia Serrin, a life-long member of Redeemer, is moving to Richmond, Virginia, to live with her daughters. August 11th will be her last Sunday with us. Please help us honor her faithfulness as well as that of her contemporaries Dee Beilstein and Kim Barrett with your presence at church that morning and at coffee hour afterward. Please contact Amma Cricket if you would like to help with the festivities.

Looking Ahead:

Purl-y Gates craft ministry Sundays at 9:15am
Morning Prayer Wednesdays at 9:00am
Collar and Coffee with Amma Cricket, Thursdays at
Sumner Place at 10am
Coffee Hour Honoring Claudia Serrin, August 11
Backpack Stuffing Party, August 14
Gathering for Parents, August 25
Labor Day, September 2
Adult Forum and Choirs return, September 8
Christian Formation Classes return, September 15

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FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Dear Friends,

On Sunday I had one of those Redeemer moments when I felt so grateful to be there. I felt re-aligned in that moment, the way one does after taking a long walk alone. And that was part of the beauty of it: I wasn't alone. I was with all of you, in community, searching for God. In its gentle way, Redeemer thwarts our modern scourges: technological noise, political chaos, and the barrage of stimuli—Redeemer as oasis and antidote.

We continue to ponder the seating in the church and how best to rearrange pews and chairs. One of the liturgical designers Cricket contacted recommended that we read *Re-Pitching the Tent: The Definitive Guide to Re-Ordering Church Buildings for Worship and Mission* by Richard Giles (published by The Liturgical Press). Cricket and I are both reading it. You may have noticed that the organ console moved last Sunday; it is now in front of the pipes in the right transept, which enables Geoffrey to hear the organ as he plays. We will keep you apprised of all developments.

I hope that you've seen the list of events planned for October, when we celebrate 20 years of the new building. There is music planned for the first weekend, dinner and karaoke (plus a silent auction) for the second weekend, and various youth activities for the third weekend. Mark your calendars!

Praying for peace,

Susan Graham Fitzgerald
Senior Warden



Fischer Family Leads This Year's Backpack Drive!

Cynthia Fischer and family needs your help to supply 25+ backpacks to the families served by Housing Up. Watch for envelopes in the pews and other opportunities to contribute financially to this annual project. (You can also donate online through our website.) Suggested amount is \$50 for elementary school packs. The estimated cost includes the backpacks and all the recommended supplies for that age group for DC Public Schools. We'll be concentrating only on elementary backpacks at the request of Housing Up.

Cynthia will be collecting funds August 4, and August 11.

The backpacking party will be on Wednesday, August 15th at 6:30pm. Supper will be provided.

Thank you for supporting Cynthia and the 2019 Backpack Project!

FROM THE HEARTH

“We have some vanilla wafers.”

As Steve and I made our way up to Yosemite National Park last month, we passed the sign for “St. Raphael’s Episcopal Church.” AHA! It was going to be easy to find a place to go on Sunday morning. I looked them up online and arrived early. I wanted to check the place out a little before the service.

I walked in and signed their guest book. Six people greeted me warmly and asked about where I was and what brought me there. I told them I was the rector here and their eyes widened. “A RECTOR! You all must have money!”



I found out that St. Raphael’s had been affected by the split over Bishop Gene Robinson’s election and they had only 2 years ago been able to be back in their building. The congregation had dwindled to 6 people, but there were 15 there that Sunday.

“We’re doing morning prayer today,” said the lay worship leader. We only get a priest here once a month if we’re lucky.”

“Today’s your lucky day!” I said. I figured if someone else was planning to preach, I could wave my magic hands around for them. They were ecstatic! Except they didn’t have any bread. Wine was not a problem. But, bread...hmmmm.

“We have some vanilla wafers.”

There were probably one hundred theological reasons for me to say ‘that won’t work’. For the life of me, I couldn’t think of any. It’s probably because the pastoral reason to say ‘that’ll work’ overrode the rules. (I think Jesus would have approved.) They did find some flat bread in the kitchen, but I was ready, able, and willing to say prayers to ask the Holy Spirit to consecrate vanilla wafers.

Afterward, they invited me to brunch, and we had a wonderful conversation. They told me I was a blessing that day. I think we were blessings to each other. And, I think I’m going to buy them some supplies from Almy! Vanilla wafers: I’ll never think of you the same again.



CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

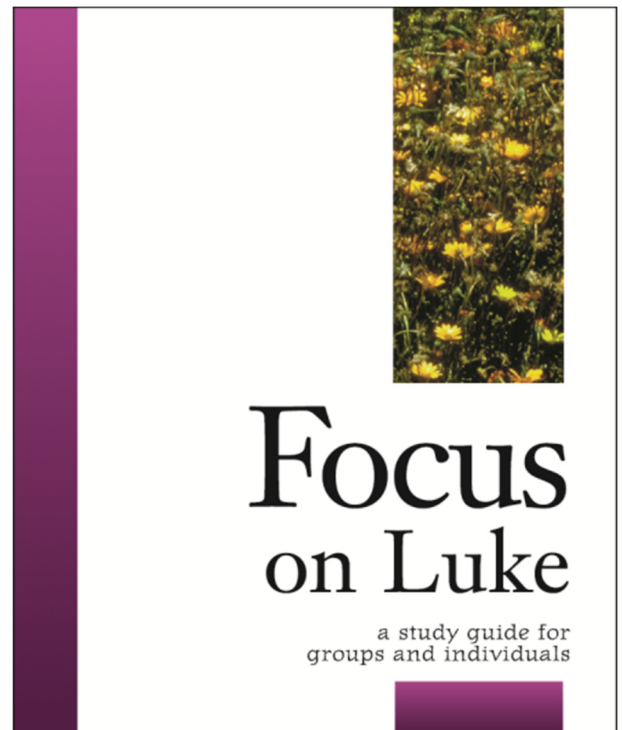
Christian Formation for Adults

For anyone interested in deepening their walk into scripture or their thinking about topical issues related to our faith, please consider joining Redeemer's Adult Forum this fall. Over 12 weeks, we will meet on Sunday mornings to learn more about the book of Luke, interspersed with three forums for conversation about topics of interest in our world today. Adult Forum runs from September 8th to November 24, from 9:15-10:15 Sunday mornings.

The first Sunday of each month will feature an individual topic of interest. September 8th will be a discussion led by Heather Tomlinson related to the experiences of refugees in a transit country. October 6th will be all about the history of Redeemer led by Melinda Nelson. November 3rd we will turn to a discussion relating to the LGBTQIA community in a Christian environment.

The bible study sessions will focus on the Gospel of Luke, aligning with the season's Sunday Gospels. The Focus Bible Study Series is the perfect guide for in-depth scripture study. Each book in the series includes informative commentary, thought-provoking study questions and experiential group activities that encourage a deeper understanding of scripture. The journal format has lots of space for writing and encourages personal reflection and spiritual growth. The book offers a wealth of ideas to promote prayer and journal meditations that build faith and understanding of the scriptures.

The books cost \$15.00 each and we have 10 copies in the office. We can get more if needed and we recommend that each participant have their own copy and add their own notes. This will entail reading about 15 pages each week.



Samaritan Ministry Requests

Please bring "walking food," and toiletry items to church and leave them in the marked box in the Parish Hall. Karen Stewart will deliver them to the Samaritan Ministry office where she volunteers. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.





MOST NEEDED FOODS LIST

Utilize this list to provide the most healthful food donations for our neighbors. Help Manna by planning a Food & Funds Drive. Details available at our website: <http://www.mannafood.org/give-food/host-a-food-drive/>



<p>Grains</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instant oatmeal packets, original flavor • Brown rice (16 oz) • Whole grain pasta (16 oz) <p>Protein</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuna, Salmon or Chicken, in water • Dry or canned beans (low sodium) • Natural nut butters 	<p>Fruits & Vegetables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canned vegetables (low-sodium) • Canned fruit (in juice) • Fruit cups <p>Other Healthy Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelf-stable, individual milk boxes • Cooking oils & spices • Infant formula & baby foods
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July 2016

PARISH NEWS

Participation in Voter Registration Activity

Voter registration distributors offer people the opportunity to register to vote, distribute voter registration applications, assist people with completing voter registration applications, and return completed applications to the county election office.

To be a voter registration distributor, you must be 18 years of age or older. You will receive training on how to complete Maryland's voter registration application and ensure that the application is completed and accurate and information about the State's identification requirements. At the conclusion of the training, you must sign an affidavit that you will act according to the training and regulations and will receive a certificate identifying you as a voter registration volunteer.

As a voter registration distributor, you must advise each individual that he or she has the option to return the application personally to the county election office or permit you to return the application on the individual's behalf and must return completed voter registration applications promptly to the county election office. You may not receive compensation on a per registrant basis for voter registration activity.

If you are interested in serving as a voter registration distributor, call your [county election office](#) or the [State Board of Elections](#).

Redeemer Book Club

We are reading *March*, a novel by Geraldine Brooks, inspired by the 19th century classic "Little Women". The story draws a close-up and graphic description of the horrors of the civil war and the disruption it brings to a particular family. It is beautifully written and provides a rich agenda for discussion which will take place on August 11 at the home of Huda and Jochen Kraske, 4550 North Park Avenue, Apt. 410, Chevy Chase, Md. 20815 (Phone: 301 656 2087).

After *March*, we will be reading *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson.

Come to the Purl-y Gates!!

Ladies and Gentlemen who wish to knit, crochet, or otherwise occupy some time with a craft are invited to do so at 9 am each Sunday morning in the Parish Hall. Work on prayer shawls and visit with each other. This is a great time to start working on cold weather projects like hats and scarves for Bethesda Cares and Street Church. Those projects are great for beginning stitchers – so come and learn.

(Don't forget that there are projects in the narthex if you want to work on something during services. The preachers don't mind – research says that you retain more information if you keep your hands busy while you listen!)



YOUTH

MUSIC

Youth Matters

Yaa Addison begins August 1st working with the P.R.A.Y.

(Potomac River Anglican Youth) portion of our youth ministries.

She works as a receptionist at St. Andrew's School and participated in P.R.A.Y. during our first year in the cooperative.

Yaa will be spending time with the youth at Redeemer, St. Dunstan's, and St. Patrick's in order to plan and execute the monthly activity for the group. Please be sure to let her know what activities youth are interested in so we can put them on the schedule.



Redeemer youth and their families made a pilgrimage to the U.S. Holocaust Museum and Memorial at the end of June. For most, it was their first visit. The pictures and the stories were troubling, as they should have been. It's hard to come to grips with just how badly human beings can treat each other. For many of the adults, comparing today's global political climate with that of World War II was difficult as well. All proclaimed the trip worth their Saturday afternoon.

Music at Redeemer 2019-2020 Season

September 21 Baroque & Neo-Baroque **KASSIA MUSIC**

October 5 An Evening at the Opera **Alize Rozsnyai & Friends**

October 6 Vivaldi Gloria **Combined Choirs**

November 2 Rutter Requiem with harp **Redeemer Choirs**

November 16 Classical & Neo-Classical **KASSIA MUSIC**

December 8 Advent Lessons & Carols **Redeemer Choirs**

December 14 A Charlie Brown Family Christmas-movie and jazz **Eric Byrd Trio**

January 18 Organ Showcase **Isabelle Demers**

February 1 Beethoven 250 **Heimat Quartet**

February 15 Romantic & Neo-Romantic **KASSIA MUSIC**

March 21 Chamber Music Day **KASSIA MUSIC**

March 21 Bach Cello Suites **Juliana Soltis**

April 4 Mozart Requiem at BHPC **Combined Choirs**

April 25 20th Century/Contemporary **KASSIA MUSIC**

May 16 17th C. Women in Transformation **Vivi Cantando**

www.MusicAtRedeemer.org

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AT REDEEMER

Leap of Faith – Celebrate Redeemer!

There is something here for everyone to celebrate Redeemer!

October 5 (Saturday) – An Evening at the Opera

Devised by Alize Rozsnyai, a coloratura soprano and actor (“displaying profound imagination and control,” *Philadelphia Enquirer*), this fun event features a quartet of recent graduates from Curtis Institute of Music and some of their favorite moments in opera. This is a ticketed Friends of Music at Redeemer event.

October 6 (Sunday)

What were they thinking?

Adult Forum at 9:15am features Melinda Nelson, Susan Fitzgerald and others reminisce about the decision to expand the church building to its current configuration. We’ve invited Susan Thon to come back and talk about the process.

Vivaldi Gloria

Evening Service of Celebration with the combined chorus of Redeemer and Bradley Hills Presbyterian choirs, featuring early instrument ensemble BaRock. Freewill offering to a Redeemer-approved mission project, to be determined.

October 12 (Saturday) – Dinner, Karaoke, & Auction

An event for all ages! Share a meal with your church family. Fabulous Dinner on Saturday, October 12 will include a silent auction, catering by the Arringtons (by popular demand), and Karaoke. The auction will feature no more than 25-30 items.

What can you donate? Please consider volunteering by contacting Silvia or Melinda. Let us know how we can count on you!

October 13 (Sunday) – Pet Blessing

We’re making St. Francis’ Day a movable feast. Bring your furry, feathered, or scaly friends for a blessing. Don’t have a pet? Can’t transport the clown fish? Bring a stuffed animal or a photo—those count too!

October 18-19 (Friday-Saturday) – Youth Lock-in

We’ll have games and movies. Bake bread for Sunday’s Eucharists. Paint the youth room. Take part in a midnight church service. For youth 5th grade and up, friends welcome. Bring your sleeping bag! (We need chaperones, please.)

October 20 (Sunday) – Youth Take-over Sunday

Our youth members will be our leaders this day by reading, ushering, singing, and presenting a sermon. Don’t miss it!

October 20 (Sunday) – Compline

Complete your weekend with the serenity of nighttime prayer.

October 27 (Sunday) – Taking a Leap into the Future

How do we ensure that Redeemer will be an asset to our neighbors for the next 20 years? A conversation on the stewardship of time, talent, and treasure at Adult Forum at 9:15am.

We need your talents to make this month a success. Watch for more information in the coming weeks.

To find out more, or to volunteer, contact Melinda Nelson at 301-391-6117 or Melinda.nelson@nih.gov or Silvia Maza at 301-949-2016 silviamaza357@gmail.com

Parish Calendar

Thursday, August 1

Joseph of Arimathea

10am – 12pm
Collar & Coffee
Safeway, 4701 Sangamore Rd,
6:30 – 9:30pm
Balkan Dancers

Friday, August 2

10am – 12pm
Music Together
12 – 1pm
AA Meeting
6:30 – 7:30pm
Al-Anon Meeting
8:30 – 9:30pm
AA Meeting

Saturday, August 3

10:30am Funeral

Sunday, August 4

Ordinary Time, Proper 13
8 – 9am
Holy Eucharist
10:30 – 11:45am
Holy Eucharist

Monday, August 5

Church Office Closed
12 – 1pm
AA Meeting

Tuesday, August 6

The Transfiguration of Our Lord
1:30 – 2:30pm
Staff Meeting and Proofing
7:30 – 8:30pm
AA Meeting

Wednesday, August 7

9 – 9:30am
Morning Prayer
12 – 1pm
AA Meeting

Thursday, August 8

10am – 12pm
Collar & Coffee
Safeway, 4701 Sangamore Rd,
6:30 – 9:30pm
Balkan Dancers

Friday, August 9

10am – 12pm
Music Together
12 – 1pm
AA Meeting
6:30 – 7:30pm
Al-Anon Meeting
8:30 – 9:30pm
AA Meeting

Saturday, August 10

9:30 – 11:30am
Yoga

Sunday, August 11

Ordinary Time, Proper 14
8 – 9am
Holy Eucharist
10:30 – 11:45am
Holy Eucharist
Sanctuary
12 – 1pm
Coffee Hour honoring our
Matriarchs

Monday, August 12

Church Office Closed
12 – 1pm
AA Meeting

Tuesday, August 13

1:30 – 2:30pm
Staff Meeting and Proofing
7:30 – 8:30pm
AA Meeting

Wednesday, August 14

9 – 9:30am
Morning Prayer
12 – 1pm
AA Meeting

Thursday, August 15

*Saint Mary the Virgin, Mother of
Our Lord Jesus Christ*
10am – 12pm
Collar & Coffee
Safeway, 4701 Sangamore Rd
6:30 – 9:30pm
Balkan Dancers

Friday, August 16

10am – 12pm
Music Together
12 – 1pm
AA Meeting

6:30 – 7:30pm
Al-Anon Meeting
8:30 – 9:30pm
AA Meeting

Saturday, August 17

9:30 – 11:30am
Yoga

Sunday, August 18

Ordinary Time, Proper 15
8 – 9am
Holy Eucharist
10:30 – 11:45am
Holy Eucharist

Monday, August 19

Church Office Closed
12 – 1pm
AA Meeting

Tuesday, August 20

1:30 – 2:30pm
Staff Meeting and Proofing
7:30 – 8:30pm
AA Meeting

Wednesday, August 21

9 – 9:30am
Morning Prayer
12 – 1pm
AA Meeting

Thursday, August 22

10am – 12pm
Collar & Coffee
Safeway, 4701 Sangamore Rd,
6:30 – 9:30pm
Balkan Dancers

Friday, August 23

10am – 12pm
Music Together
12 – 1pm
AA Meeting
6:30 – 7:30pm
Al-Anon Meeting
8:30 – 9:30pm
AA Meeting

Saturday, August 24

Saint Bartholomew the Apostle
9:30 – 11:30am
Yoga

Sunday, August 25

Ordinary Time, Proper 16
8 – 9am
Holy Eucharist
10:30 – 11:45am
Holy Eucharist
12 – 12:45pm
Gathering for Parents of
Children and Youth

Monday, August 26

Church Office Closed
12 – 1pm
AA Meeting

Tuesday, August 27

1:30 – 2:30pm
Staff Meeting and Proofing
7:30 – 8:30pm
AA Meeting

Wednesday, August 28

9 – 9:30am
Morning Prayer
12 – 1pm
AA Meeting

Thursday, August 29

10am – 12pm
Collar & Coffee
Safeway, 4701 Sangamore Rd,
6:30 – 9:30pm
Balkan Dancers

Friday, August 30

12 – 1pm
AA Meeting
6:30 – 7:30pm
Al-Anon Meeting
8:30 – 9:30pm
AA Meeting

Saturday, August 31

Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne, 651
9:30 – 11:30am
Yoga

Sunday, September 1

*David Pendleton Oakerhater,
Deacon and Missionary, 1931*
Ordinary Time, Proper 17
8 – 9am
Holy Eucharist
10:30 – 11:45am
Holy Eucharist

YOUTH/FORMATION

A Gathering for Parents of Children and Youth

Sunday, August 25

Parents of Children of all ages, please come and get to know each other better! Amma Cricket would like to talk with all of you about ministries with and for your kiddos. Sunday School teachers have been invited so that you may ask them questions about this year. We have some extra fun planned for the month of October!

If you aren't able to attend, please e-mail Amma Cricket (rector@redeemerbethesda.org) and she will fill you in.

Confirmation/Reception Dates at the Cathedral

November 2, 2019, and May 9, 2020, are the dates for confirmation, reception, and reaffirmation at the National Cathedral. Bishop Budde encourages all the churches in the area to take part in this festive service.

Confirmation is the sacrament wherein a person who is baptized makes a public affirmation of their baptismal promises. This sacrament is especially appropriate for those who were baptized as babies, although it is open to anyone. The rector recommends that young persons wait until they are at least 14 to present themselves for confirmation. She also prefers that the young person make the decision on their own and is not pressured to do so by relatives.

Reception is how a person who has been baptized and confirmed in another faith (i.e., Roman Catholic or Lutheran) officially becomes an Episcopalian.

Reaffirmation is available for all persons who wish to reaffirm their baptismal covenant publically.

Participation in these rites requires preparation. Confirmation classes will be held if there are interested parties. To participate in the November service, please contact Amma Cricket no later than September 1st. We need to agree on dates for classes soon. If you would like to participate in the May service, please let Amma Cricket know no later than December 1st.

Youth Formation

Young people at Redeemer are invited and encouraged to participate in the two programs available to them for their continued Christian formation.

Two Wednesday evenings a month (2nd and 4th) youth and families gather at 6 pm for dinner and fellowship. From 6:30 - 7:30 pm, the kids meet with Amma Cricket for the evening program. The new rector at St. Dunstan's has indicated that she is very interested in continuing to work together on this youth offering. Stay tuned for more information and our start date and place.

One Sunday afternoon per month, Redeemer youth get together with youth from St. Dunstan's and St. Patrick's to do something of service to the community or to just have fun together. This group is the Potomac River Anglican Youth, or P.R.A.Y. Yaa Addison is the coordinator for P.R.A.Y. and will be working in August to plan out just what those activities will be.

Both Youth Group and P.R.A.Y. need adult assistance from parents and others. Please be sure to mark your calendars for all of these events and encourage your kids to participate.

CATECHISM CORNER

I'm only a lay person. What can I do?

You are called to baptismal ministry! It's easy to think that ministry is centered around those persons who wear funny white collars around their necks or pointy hats on their heads. Centering one's idea of ministry on the ordained alone leaves out all the possibilities of baptismal ministry.

Did you know that lay people can. . .

- . . . officiate at Morning, Noon, and Evening Prayer?
- . . . lead the Great Litany as a service on its own?
- . . . serve as sponsor and godparents to confirmands and baptismal candidates?
- . . . read the "assurance of absolution," substituting "us" for "you" and "our" for "your"?
- . . . read the Lessons before the Gospel during Sunday Holy Eucharists, and may lead the Prayers of the People, and even preach (when invited and/or licensed)?
- . . . officiate a Sunday service, in the absence of a priest or deacon, from the opening sentences through the Peace, concluding with the Lord's Prayer and the Grace ("The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all ever more. Amen.")?
- . . . officiate at a funeral that does not involve Holy Eucharist?
- . . . lead Sunday School, confirmation classes, Bible studies, Education for Ministry?
- . . . serve as leaders on Vestry, as Wardens, as Committee chairs and members, as secretary or treasurer?
- . . . be lay Eucharist ministers and visitors, lectors, healing ministers, ushers, or counters?
- . . . create beauty as musicians, artists, gardeners, and poets?

And that's just at church!

In the world, lay people are the most credible witnesses to the Gospel. It is the invitation of a lay member of a church that brings new people into it, not an ordained person. It is the commitment of a baptized person to seek justice and dignity for all that changes the world.

Most clergy are perceived to be paid for leading godly lives! Lay persons lead godly lives because they love God. That makes you, out there in the world/school/home, the light of God in darkness. You are the better evangelist because no one is paying you to do it!

Ordained people can't begin to do their ministries without continuing training, prayer, and support. You can't do your baptismal ministries without training, prayer, and support, either. Thankfully, Redeemer's community provides all of these supports. So, take advantage of education and formation programs. Commit yourself to raise your children in the church. Be determined to come to Sunday Eucharist. Decide to be confirmed or received or reaffirmed if that is where you are in your faith journey. Get to know your Christian friends better and prepare to help each other.

Together, we can bring God's reign to earth.



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR SEPTEMBER

position	8-Sep	15-Sep	22-Sep	29-Sep
8am Lector	Dean Cinkala	Susan Grigsby	Marie France	Rachel King
8am Chalice	Susan Grigsby	Marie France	Marie France	Susan Grigsby
Usher	Jefferson Arrington	Jefferson Arrington	Richard Tyler	Jefferson Arrington
Usher	Tim Yehl	Mary Helen Carlson	Madeleine Tyler	Bill MacBain
Usher	Mary K Young	Michael Mershon	Mary Helen Carlson	Heather Tomlinson
Acolyte	Helen Zitomer	Olivia Tyler	Thad Arrington	Helen Zitomer
Lector	Bill MacBain	Judy James	Meredith Griggs	Peggy Tucker
Lector	Chris Austin	Judy Austin	Carolyn Kimberlin	Huda Kraske
Intercessor	Clark Downs	Meredith Griggs	Patricia Snowden	Judy James
Chalice	Judy James	Bill MacBain	Peggy Tucker	Patricia Snowden
Chalice	Chrissy DeFontenay	Helen Zitomer	Michael Hart	Justin Hess
Chalice	Ben Ivins	Patricia Snowden	Jenny Nachbar	Steve France
Healing				
Healing				
Healing				
Healing				
Counter	Ben Ivins	Mary K Young	Clark Downs	Brooke Anthony
Counter	Cathy Arrington	Clark Downs	Brooke Anthony	Deborah Babcock-Daley

Scribes tried to blot her out. Now a scholar is trying to recover the real Mary Magdalene.

“A woman has to know her worth to dig and find this.”

By Yonat Shimron



[Religion News Service] On July 22, the feast day of Mary Magdalene, Elizabeth Schrader will hike up a mountain in the south of France to the cave where, legend has it, the saint lived out her remaining days after the crucifixion of Jesus.

It will be Schrader's fourth trek to the cave in the town of Saint-Maximin-la-Sainte-Baume, an hour's drive from Marseille, but her first on the actual [feast day](#) decreed by Pope Francis in 2016. Even before the decree, the day had long drawn pilgrims who process through the streets of Saint-Maximin with the purported skull of Mary Magdalene in a golden reliquary.

Schrader, a doctoral student at Duke University, has her own way of honoring the woman who witnessed Jesus' death and resurrection. Schrader's academic work, like that of others, attempts to liberate Magdalene from the patriarchal overlays of ancient Christian scribes who recorded the New Testament's four Gospels.

For Schrader, the impulse to recover the scope and stature of Mary Magdalene came nine years ago, when she was Libbie Schrader, a singer-songwriter in the New York pop scene. A cradle Episcopalian, she had wandered into a church garden in Brooklyn to pray to the Virgin Mary and heard a voice telling her to seek out Mary Magdalene.

Three days later, Schrader wrote a song, "[Magdalene](#)," that later became the title of her 2011 album. That, in turn, sent her to the Brooklyn Public Library in search of scholarly articles about the Jesus follower, who is sometimes portrayed as a prostitute, though the Gospels never say so.

"It's not my choice to be working on this," said Schrader, 39, who left her music career to pursue scholarship. "It happened to me."

Schrader's central discovery, which she wrote about in a [paper](#) published by the Harvard Theological Review two years ago, is that Mary Magdalene's role was deliberately downplayed by biblical

scribes to minimize her importance. Specifically, Schrader looks at the story of the raising of Lazarus told in the Gospel of John. In today's Bibles, Lazarus has two sisters, Mary and Martha. But poring over hundreds of hand-copied early Greek and Latin manuscripts of the Gospel, Schrader found the name Martha had been altered. The scribes scratched out one Greek letter and replaced it with another, thereby changing the original name "Mary" to read "Martha." They then split one woman into two.

Schrader argues that the Mary of the original text is Mary Magdalene, not Martha or Martha's sister, Mary. The two sisters belong to another story, in the Gospel of Luke, that is not repeated in John's Gospel. The reason for the change, Schrader said, was that later scribes did not want to give Mary Magdalene too big a role in the events of Jesus' life. Already Mary Magdalene is at the crucifixion and the empty tomb, and in the Gospel of Luke she is exorcized of seven

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

demons and then travels with Jesus and supplies him the funds needed for his ministry.

In particular, the scribes may have wanted to avoid giving Mary Magdalene the confession of faith that follows the story of Lazarus. That confession — “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world” — in today’s Bibles is uttered by Martha. Schrader argues it was meant to be said by Mary Magdalene.

“Martha is added as a way of diminishing Mary Magdalene and confusing her presentation,” said Schrader in a Skype interview from Germany. “It’s a later editor’s interference with the intention of (John) the evangelist.”

Schrader posited that Mary Magdalene caused tension with Jesus’ male disciples, especially his handpicked deputy, Peter, that is evident in several noncanonical gospels — accounts of Jesus’ works not included in the New Testament. Later scribes, Schrader said, may have been acutely aware of that.

[Stephen C. Carlson](#), a scholar at Australian Catholic University who studies early Christianity, said Schrader does a very good job demonstrating what he called “textual instability” surrounding Martha that many scholars may not be aware of.

“The tendency would be to think that the variants she’s discovered

and is calling attention to can be dismissed as some kind of scribal incompetence,” Carlson said. But he added that he would be interested in seeing a fuller treatment of her study in a doctoral dissertation.

Other scholars have suggested that Mary Magdalene could not have been Lazarus’ sister because the Gospel indicates that Lazarus and his sister lived in Bethany, near Jerusalem, whereas Mary Magdalene was from the Galilee region — possibly Migdal or Magdala — where most of Jesus’ ministry took place. Schrader, however, argues that Magdala comes from the Hebrew word for “tower,” an honorific title, and doesn’t refer to the town where Mary was from.

Last week, Schrader traveled to Münster, Germany, to meet with the editors of the Nestle-Aland New Testament, the edition of the Greek text used by most scholars, students and translators today. She discussed her findings about the changes made in the text of John’s Gospel and said the editors may consider adding a footnote to that effect in upcoming editions.

Schrader’s paper comes at a time when many scholars are trying to recover women’s roles in early Christianity — roles the early church fathers tried to suppress. Just this month, another scholar posited that three of the earliest surviving images of Christians worshipping at church altars

show [women in official liturgical roles](#). Speaking at the International Society of Biblical Literature in Rome, Ally Kateusz said the images are significant because they show women and men in parallel roles, suggesting they may have served as deacons, priests, or maybe even bishops.

Mark Goodacre, a New Testament scholar at Duke, said he was encouraged by all the new scholarship around women in early Christianity.

“There have been many men who have imagined the Christian movement as a thoroughly male-dominated, exclusively male setup,” Goodacre said. “We’re in the process of trying to reimagine Christian origins and put women back into where they originally were, having been written out by male interpreters over the years.” For Schrader, who grew up in The Episcopal Church, where women serve as priests, bishops, even presiding bishops, it makes sense that a younger generation of women would see things others have not.

“A woman has to know her worth,” she said, “to dig and find this.”

FINANCES

Church of the Redeemer Profit and Loss Statement - June 30, 2019	Jan-June Actual	Jan-June Budget	YTD Over (Under) Budget	Annual Budget
INCOME				
2019 Pledge payments	292,940	275,591	17,349	423,539
2019 Over Pledge	5,522	1,750	3,772	3,500
2019 Non-Pledge	18,168	12,500	5,668	25,000
2018 Pledges	3,010	0	3,010	0
Loose Plate Offering	2,236	2,000	236	4,000
Special Offerings	1,417	1,450	(33)	2,900
Event & Activity Income	7,666	14,575	(6,909)	29,150
Facilities Use	10,513	9,000	1,513	18,000
Other Income	37,676	0	37,676	0
Total Income	379,149	316,866	62,283	506,089
EXPENSE				
Administration Expense	16,568	21,275	(4,707)	42,550
Diocesan Giving	18,500	18,500	(0)	37,000
Discretionary Account	1,000	500	500	1,000
Maintenance Expense	37,470	38,125	(655)	76,250
Outreach Giving	0	2,500	(2,500)	5,000
Personnel Expense	137,344	144,168	(6,824)	288,336
Program Expense	18,131	18,500	(369)	37,000
Property Expense	23,376	23,500	(124)	47,000
Total Expense	252,388	267,068	(14,680)	534,136
Net Operating Income	126,761	49,798	76,963	(28,047)

Treasurer's Report

.Set forth in the adjoining table are Church of the Redeemer's year-to-date financial operating results through the end of June. "Other Income" includes \$33,375 in insurance proceeds for replacement of the church roof. The cost of replacement will be reflected in future months and will adversely affect net income. Upcoming rectory repairs also will significantly affect the bottom line during the remainder of the year. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about Redeemer's finances.

Stephen L. Gibson
Treasurer

Redeemer Men's Third Friday Luncheon Group

Beginning a while ago, a group of mostly retired men began gathering for a fellowship lunch on the third Friday of the month.

The group discusses whatever is on their collective minds and catches up on how they are all doing. Being older and retired, sometimes the discussion centers on health, other times on household management, sometimes investment philosophies, national politics, the economy, and, of course, life in the parish. Monthly attendance has varied from as few as 4 to as many as 11.

We usually gather in the bar at the Irish Inn at Glen Echo at 11:30. But we have ventured to other locations, including the home of Ben Ivins. A reminder email with the location and time is sent to all interested persons early in the week we are meeting.

If you would like to know more about the group, or be put on the email list, contact

Denny Shaw (shawdf22@gmail.com)

or Bob Dresser (Robert.dresser@gmail.com).

Church of the Redeemer Social Media

Please connect with Redeemer and the rector through these social media platforms:

Facebook: Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, Bethesda, Maryland

Facebook: Cricket Park

Twitter: @VicarVirtual

Linked In: Cricket Park

Instagram: parkcricket

Events are posted on Facebook only. Please respond to these invitations so that we have accurate information about who will be attending. Thanks!

PARISH LIFE

e-mail issues

Many parishes have experienced parish leaders and parishioners receiving emails from a personal email account created by a scammer who is impersonating the rector or a leader at the parish. (Both Amma Cricket and Margaret Church have been targeted.)

Criminals pose as persons in positions of authority. After an initial greeting email, which may sound informal or in some cases urgent, they proceed to ask victims for money, transfers, gift cards, or in some cases, will send a link or attachment designed to get the recipient to click and enter their email and password on what appears to be a legitimate website. IT IS A FAKE WEBSITE designed to steal your identity. Other emails ask to pay invoices or send the attacker sensitive data. All organizations have become targets for this activity, even the FBI !

The scammers manipulate the "from" email address and name so that it appears to be coming from someone you know .This often incorporates the name of the church (eg stpaulsrector@gmail.com). Recipients often reply as the email appears at first glance to be from a familiar and trusted source (i.e., the parish office or the rector).

Remember: NO REDEEMER STAFF PERSON will EVER send a request like this.

August Anniversary	Brenda Lew & Tilla McAnthony
Cricket & Steve Park	Mary K & Brammam Young
Sally & Ron Pugsley	Kiki & Lou Garo
Leslie & Tom McNaugher	Ann & John Harbeson

Happy Birthday!

- Ben Ivins
- Adam Tucker
- Nicholas Rychlik
- Michael Yehl
- Colette Yehl
- Lois Brown
- Brian Beard
- Callie Wang
- Joanne Bowman
- Leifur Tomasson
- Rebecca Tucker
- Justin Hess
- Claudia Serrin
- Stephen Park
- Ioulia Vvedenskaya
- Catherine DeFontenay
- Rachel King
- Charles Penn



ON-LINE PLEDGING AND DONATIONS

Pledge payments: Payments can be made on a pledge (one-time/monthly/weekly) using a checking/savings account or with a credit/debit card. Participants can create a profile, set up recurring payments and make one-time donations. Donors may also choose to cover the service fee if they wish to do so. A receipt for each and every payment will go to the donor and to the Parish Office. For donations of stock, please contact the Parish Office.

For the 2019 Pledge Campaign, you may complete an electronic pledge card, send it to the office, and then continue on to set up payment. Printed pledge cards are available in the Narthex and in the Parish Hall.

Donations: Donations can be made using the on-line service for parish programs, such as Altar Flowers, Friends of Music at Redeemer, Memorials, and other ad hoc donations. These will all be one-time payments.

Payment Information: Payment information is secure. Access is only possible by the donor, Vanco and the Parish Office through specially set up passwords and access codes.

PARISH CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev'd Cricket Park, Rector

rector@redeemerbethesda.org

The Rev'd Dr. David Schlafer, Assisting Priest

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Geoffrey Silver, Director of Music Ministries

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Margaret Church, Bookkeeper

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Bob Yates, Communications

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Parish Office

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VESTRY & OFFICERS

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The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

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Bethesda, Maryland 20816

Phone: 301-229-3770

Website: www.redeemerbethesda.org

*The Parish Office is open Tuesday – Friday,
9:00 am – 4:00 pm*

Welcome

Welcome to The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Bethesda, Maryland, a vibrant, growing parish community of “inquiring and discerning hearts”, where all – the doubter, the seeker, and the believer – are welcome to join us in living and wrestling with the often difficult questions of faith. Here we value an Anglican spirituality – one that is open to the mystery of the Holy and which celebrates the dignity of human nature and the beauty of all creation.



EMAIL

Emails at Redeemer.

Cricket: rector@redeemerbethesda.org

Geoffrey: music@redeemerbethesda.org

Margaret: accounting@redeemerbethesda.org

Bob: bob@redeemerbethesda.org

The office: office@redeemerbethesda.org