



# THE REDEEMER SPIRIT

AUGUST 2020

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

## Meeting a Legend

By Jefferson Arrington

I have had the chance to meet many amazing and interesting people in all these years. Far too many to count. On the morning of December 5, 2014, I had the opportunity to drive one of my greatest heroes. Congressman John Lewis. A man of such great courage. So humble, so steadfast.

On the way to the airport, we stopped at his office so that a staffer could bring down some paperwork he needed. We parked and waited in the small space of my car. Two men who had grown up in the South of long ago. Two men with stunningly different experiences. He was so warm, so generous of spirit. We talked about our southern upbringing, his in Alabama, mine in South Carolina. We talked about family.

When we got to the airport, I stopped at the curb, went around the back to get his luggage, and came around to where he stood. He was unhurried. He thanked me. I thanked him.

And still we stood there. I, it turned out, was overwhelmed with emotion. He clearly had experienced this often in his life. He allowed a moment for me to collect myself. He put his hand on my arm. There were so many things that I wanted to say, and yet nothing would come. He understood, and just allowed the moment to play out. I thanked him again. He understood. We shook hands and parted company.

*Continued on page 3*

### *Gathering Online in August:*

#### TheFIVE

Sundays at 5pm

#### Knit-a-long

Tuesdays at 4:30pm

#### Lectionary Bible Study

Wednesdays at Noon

#### Collar & Coffee

Thursdays at 10:00am

For links, go to the Parish Calendar at [www.redeemerbethesda.org](http://www.redeemerbethesda.org). or see page 11

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## FROM THE WARDENS

*All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well. – Julian of Norwich*

There is a lot going on at Redeemer, even though we aren't there. We want to keep you up to date on how things are moving forward.

Two grounds projects will be happening in August. After the flood, when the drywall was removed from below the windows looking onto the rose garden and labyrinth, we discovered quite a bit of longstanding mold. It turns out that there has been a drainage problem outside that directed water toward the building. So, after getting several bids, with the vestry's approval, we have hired BDry to dig a trench, install new pipes and connect them to the drainage pipe at the street, at a cost of about \$13,000. We expect that this will fix this problem, but this was an unexpected expense.

The other grounds project is the removal of the huge silver maple tree in the back yard of the rectory. There was a fear that a strong storm might topple it into the house, so the vestry decided it had to go. If you're interested in watching then come over to the church on Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. to see Adirondack Tree Company work. I have no idea how long the whole process will take but I'm pretty sure they'll be working most of the morning. Hopefully Cricket and Steve will be in Ohio celebrating their new grandbaby at the time. Inside the building, the most exciting thing that has happened was that the new electric panel is up and functional, allowing for the repair work to begin in the parish hall and for the worship services to be streamed live from the sanctuary. It was a great treat last week to see Cricket and David at the altar!

Last week, there was a less pleasant bit of excitement. There are six HVAC cooling units at Redeemer, and one of them died last week. This unit was one of the two units that cool the sanctuary, and it needed to be replaced



immediately for the sake of the organ and for Cricket, Geoffrey, and Bob to be able to work in the sanctuary. This was not cheap, at \$11,250, and this cost is not covered by insurance. The good news is that technology improves, so the new cooling will be better and use less power. This expense wasn't unexpected in the long run because this unit (and two others) are the same ones that were installed 20 years ago; this reminds us that the two remaining ones will likely need to be replaced in the next couple of years. (There also are some outstanding HVAC issues related to the flood, but hopefully those will be covered by insurance.)

But back to the flood repairs. Getting the work done has been contingent on two things. First, we needed the electric, which is now functional. Second, it was important to determine what funds are being supplied by the insurance company and what improvements could be incorporated into the repairs. Updating the bathrooms, installing an automatic handicapped door opener, and building a new closet were some of the possible improvements. The vestry had discussed the possibility of using funds from the Building Reserve in combination with the insurance money.

The bottom line at this point is that it seems unlikely that any major improvements are prudent right now, given available resources. Given the costs related to the drainage and the HVAC,

*(Continued on page 11)*

## FROM THE HEARTH

### “COVIDCoaster”

One of my colleagues used that word to describe how he was feeling these days. How appropriate. There are days when I’m enjoying everything – the blue sky, planning liturgy, petting my dogs, cooking a yummy supper. Then there was Tuesday when all I wanted to do was cry. Most days are just like usual, get up, go to work, maybe a dance class and then eat and go to bed. Thank heaven baseball is back, at least for now. Comparing the days to a rollercoaster is helpful. It reminds us that there are ups and downs, and a sickening twist or two, but it all comes to an end. The only difference now is that there seems to be no end in sight and I don’t ever want to ride this ride again!

One way that I pray is to work wizardry with yarn, knitting needles, crochet hooks, or needle and thread. I rarely make things for myself. So, as I work through a project, I pray for whomever the socks, or pillow, or stuffed animal might belong when I’m done. As you can imagine, I’m praying a lot for my soon-to-be-born grandchild.

Prayer is what helps even out the coaster ride. It can look like reading the daily office or working through a book of the Bible. Former Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori once said that her praying often looked like running! So, do yourself a spiritual favor. Get away from the screens for at least an hour regularly. Sit with your eyes shut and remember the people you love and those who love you. Don’t just go for a walk – saunter along and use all your senses. Listen to some music that reminds you of less stressful times. Do yoga or dance like no one’s watching. God sees, hears, and is present with you in the music or the flowers or the darkness. Prayers help us connect to God’s presence. God hasn’t gone away. We just have to take some time to search for the Divine around us.



**Amma Cricket+**

*Legend, from page 1.*

Several months later I was in my car early one morning, sitting on Pennsylvania Avenue on Capitol Hill. I happened to be just around the corner from Cong. Lewis’ home, where I had picked him up those months before.

And just then, there came John Lewis around the corner, dark suit, walking for a paper or coffee or to his office. And as he walked he glanced up and made eye contact with me and smiled in recognition. He raised his hand and waved, as did I. And then he was gone. Such a small gesture. It was, for me, a very special moment.

It has been reported that when he asked President Obama to sign a photo for him at that first inaugural, he got more than just a signature.

On the photo was written, “Because of you, John. Because of you! President Barack Obama.”

Indeed.

## MISSION

### Sacred Ground: Coming to Redeemer in September

*Sacred Ground* is a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. This 10-part series is built around a powerful online curriculum that focuses on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories. We'll meet from 7:00pm to 8:30pm, every Thursday beginning September 10th.

There is homework, and each person to attend our gatherings and participate in a small group. If you don't already have them, please purchase the books *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman and *Waking Up White, And Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving. In addition to these core books, there are videos and articles to read for each session.

Please plan to join this life-changing class facilitated by the Rev. David Wacaster, rector of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Silver Spring. Email [rector@redeemerbethesda.org](mailto:rector@redeemerbethesda.org) to enroll. There is a limit of 25 people for this class. A waiting list will be compiled and another facilitator engaged or another series scheduled.

### "Backpack Project" Off to a Great Start!

The annual backpack drive is underway! Our focus is on buying tablets instead of backpacks, and a little bit of traditional school supplies. Fortunately, we can buy tablets on Amazon for \$50 each, which is about the same cost as one stuffed backpack! Please mail checks to Redeemer (of any amount) with "Backpacks" in the memo line, or donate at [www.redeemerbethesda.org](http://www.redeemerbethesda.org) under "Support," or "Donate" noting "Backpacks" in the memo line. Deadline to receive donations is August 9th.

As you probably know, online learning highlights income inequality and the lack of internet access. For example, many students have resorted to doing their school work on a parent's cell phone which does not have all the functionality needed to keep up with everything. The families who benefit from Housing Up's services are in transition from homelessness to permanent homes, with the ultimate goal of independence. These tablets will help them get there. As a teacher and parent myself, I can say how fortunate we are to have the option to learn and just see our classmates' faces online. No, it is never the same as the in-person school experience, but there are special advantages online. For example, many of our more introverted students are more comfortable participating asynchronously when they're not on the spot. And consider that these tablets also keep our teachers working, earning income for their families at a time when not every worker is able to do so.

We will be sending the tablets and supplies we buy directly to Housing Up, to make it contactless. We all can make a huge difference in these families' lives!

Contact Cynthia Fischer at [fischer.cynthia@gmail.com](mailto:fischer.cynthia@gmail.com).



## MISSION

### Manna Food Center Wish List

Bring your offerings to Redeemer. There is a collection box outside the door near the columbarium.

Grains: Instant oatmeal packets, original flavor, Brown rice (16 oz), Whole grain pasta (16 oz)

Fruits & Vegetables: Canned vegetables (low-sodium), Canned fruit (in juice), Fruit cups

Protein: Tuna, Salmon, or Chicken (in water); Dry or canned beans (low sodium), natural nut butters

Other Healthy Items: Shelf stable, individual milk boxes; cooking oils & spices; Infant formula and baby foods

### Bethesda Cares Dinner

A big thank you to all who contributed to the delicious dinner served on Sunday, July 26, to 29 hungry and homeless men and women through our partnership with Bethesda Cares. Redeemer couldn't have done it without you: Cathy and Jeff Arrington; Mary Helen Carlson; Marie Caulfield; Marie and Steve France; Meredith Griggs; Susan Grigsby; Judy James; the Jennings / Mershon Family; Mary K Young and Bramman Avery; and Helen Zitomer. Redeemer will next provide dinner on Sunday, September 27.

PS Redeemer seeks a new coordinator. If you would like to coordinate our Bethesda Cares Sunday Dinner Outreach, please contact Marie France ([tweedfrance@gmail.com](mailto:tweedfrance@gmail.com)).

### Redeemer Book Group

The next book we will be reading over the next few weeks is *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison. The novel takes place in Lorain, Ohio, Morrison's hometown. Published 50 years ago, Morrison's debut novel follows the story of a young girl - growing up in the years following the Great Depression - who is convinced that her blackness makes her ugly and worthless. If only she had blue eyes, she thinks, her life would be different. Morrison, who died last August, was the first African-American woman to win a Nobel Prize for literature. The book will be discussed in a Zoom meeting on August 23.

If interested, even if you have not read the book, please join the zoom meeting on August 23 at 2:00 hosted by our Rector Cricket at the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88265752899>

**Questions? Contact Huda at [hqkraske@aol.com](mailto:hqkraske@aol.com)**

### REDEEMER MEN'S THIRD FRIDAY LUNCHEON GROUP

**While currently suspended, the Men's in-person lunch group has moved online.** 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.

A reminder email with the online link 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 Bob Dresser ([Robert.dresser@gmail.com](mailto:Robert.dresser@gmail.com)).

## PARISH LIFE

### August Birthdays

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  
 Susan Shin  
 Ioulia Vvedenskaya  
 Catherine DeFontenay  
 Rachel King  
 Charles Penn



### Happy Anniversary

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

Dear Redeemer family,

From 2006 until summer 2015, I was a member of Cathedral Voices. When Cathedral Voices was disbanded due to a tightened budget, our director Chris Betts fortuitously landed at Redeemer as Director of Music. I was one of thirteen Voices members who followed him and joined the choir at Redeemer. From the beginning we all were warmly welcomed by Cricket, David, the choir and the congregation, and I loved singing at services

and at special concerts and evensongs. Clearly, the choir was a family within a family, and we made new friends. A few years later Chris left to direct the choirs of St. Paul's in Houston. Sad for us, but who popped up but the multi-talented Geoffrey Silver, to continue and expand the excellent music program. Geoffrey expertly prepared us for our unforgettable week of singing at Bristol Cathedral in England. I loved singing under Geoffrey and learned a great deal from him.

Now my husband Rich and I are needed to help with the care of our daughter's two small boys, so we have moved to Baltimore. At the moment no one is singing anywhere, but when it is possible, I hope to join a choir close to our condominium. I will miss Redeemer. Thank you for letting me be a part of your welcoming and interesting community.

*Mary Ruth Reis*



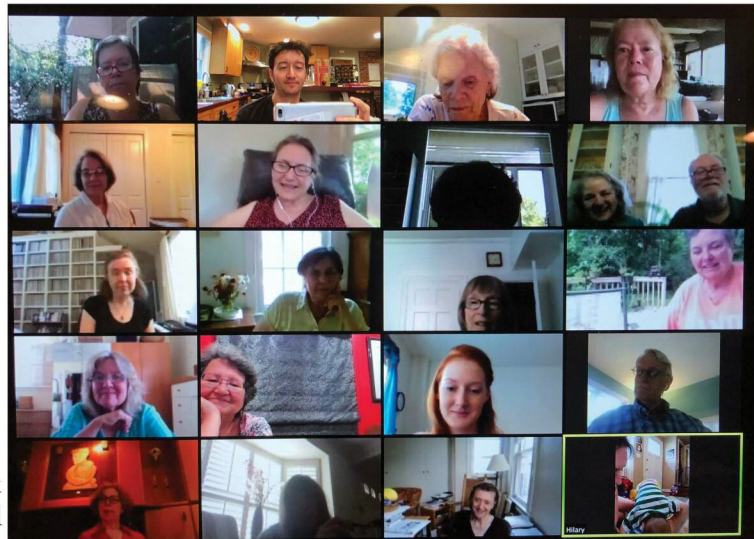
### Prayer Line: 301-664-4237

Share your thanksgivings and petitions, in your own thoughts and in your own voice. Each week, we invite you to express your petitions of thanks, praise, and requests. First, write them as prayers consisting of a few succinct sentences (between 1 and 3) and then read them aloud in a phone message sent to [301-664-4237](tel:3016644237). They will be recorded there. The number is, in effect, an answering machine.

# MUSIC

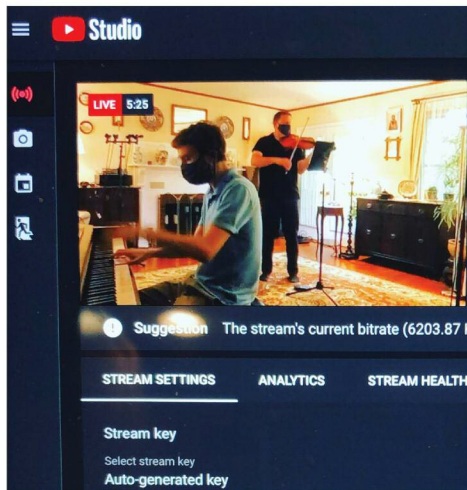
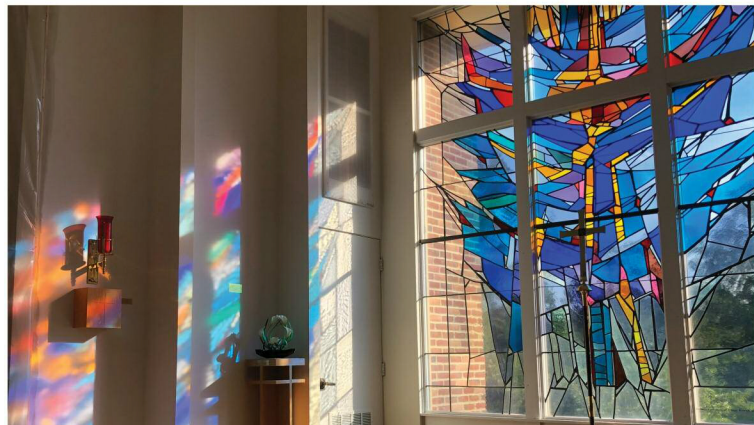
## MUSIC AT REDEEMER

The Choir is fast approaching its third happy hour, which comes close to replacing all the talking during rehearsals! We meet on Zoom every two weeks, and one of the highlights for me, besides a full toddler faceplant was the full demonstration of the new ‘singers mask’ by Merry Bruns. Sadly there are no screen grabs, but see below for an action replay. There are two innovative bamboo curves that keep the mask away from the face as you take a breath, so that you don’t end up expressing cotton, rather than melody and text, on the exhale! We are going to see if liturgical colors are available, as despite the elegance and ingenuity of the design, the protruding black masks are a little George Lucas for me—but red and green would be fun!



In the last Sunday in July, I played our first Sunday back in the Church since April. It felt good, despite current disruption. The organ is shrouded for its own protection from construction, dust (and perhaps players), and if the pianos are anything to go by, I am sure

it’s doing ok. It was good to be back. One of the wonderful things about an evening service is the streaming light setting through our liturgically ‘east’ but actual ‘west’ window. The light can be a challenge for backlit videography, and conducting a large chorus, but not an insurmountable one. It reminds me of many Evensongs cast in simply beautiful light through stained glass in England, and last Sunday we were rewarded by the glass crowning the reclaimed tabernacle with its praise.



KASSIA MUSIC’s *Live on Lockdown Summer Series* is now half-way through, and I commend the group’s domestic performances to you (next: August 15). It is our hope that they may return to the Sanctuary as soon as possible.

As we work on how to reopen, it is my hope that you will find some comfort in the images we are able to bring you again now that we have the power back on (thank you Jo and Bob).

Geoffrey Silver  
Director of Music Ministries

## MEDITATION

### The Jellyfish Problem and How to Solve It

By Heather Tomlinson

Late May was always the best part of the year. School was almost over, my birthday was coming, the weather was indescribably inviting, you could feel the freedom just around the corner that waited for you. You knew backyard barbecues, clay courts, mourning doves, lightning bugs, Arnold Palmers and long, lazy days of chill time were almost yours. Good summers often included a beach trip with friends or cousins. There were tumbling waves, great books and hours upon hours to read them, ambling aimlessly along and gawking at all the weird sites of the boardwalk, taking respite from the heat during the late afternoon with rounds of Clue or Blockhead and sometimes a sunset swim.

And then there were the jellyfish. They bobbed along, dumb as dirt, directionless but ready to sting if you brushed near. That's me right now. I am the jellyfish. In my low moments, I am aimless and snappy and my mind might be approaching mud.

When the quarantine started in mid-March, we were still focused, somewhat purposeful, buzzing along like a vibrant ecosystem. We had exercise regimes, called friends to talk about how odd quarantine was, reveled in not commuting or getting up early to catch the school bus. Over the last few months, the ecosystem has pattered to a faint hum at best.

I invited Clara to walk with a best friend, and she shied away from it. The last time they had tried, they conversation went like this:



Girl 1: "What's up?"

Girl 2: "Nothing."

Girl 1: "Yeah."

Girl 2: "Are you going on vacation this summer?"

Girl 1: "No...[pause]. Have you seen so-and-so?"

Girl 2: "No..."

Finn tried doing some zoom calls with best buddies. After making up goofy name labels for his friends and enjoying host superpowers like "Mute All," they too got sick of sitting there looking at each other when they wanted to play water gun games or basketball. Sitting still is for the birds--or something like that.

Tatum, the new teen, is desperate to flee the coop. Where to? It doesn't matter. Anywhere that does not involve seeing any other family members for at least a week.

I learned a new word last week: *hypostress*. Hypostress is "the stress which is caused by boredom or lack of motivation," according to Collins English Dictionary. I can see how this is a real thing. I have found that all the joy has been sucked out of activities that used to keep me grounded. Following a prerecorded pilates class online, daily quiet time for scripture, watching a movie...none of it is nearly as inspirational solo as in community.

However, to fight the jellyfish problem, I must take action. This is important so that I don't sting my poor family members inadvertently with irritability, lose my ability to think and blob around directionless forever. Three points of guidance to mind.

Emma, one of my dearest friends, had sage advice for me when she moved from Indonesia back to Wales. She saw me remaining as waves of friends left again, and she saw me wilting. She said, "Stay engaged. You won't feel like it, and I know you're tired of trying and trying again, but you have to keep putting yourself out there. You have to stay engaged. You will rise again and

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## MEDITATION

*(Continued from page 8)*

you will make new friends." She gave me this advice along with a wooden tea tray and a sardonic but gentle laugh, these being my future goodbye-Jakarta presents—in case I didn't actually have any friends left when I departed.

My mentor and I co-wrote a book in 2014. Our motto—Marilou's advice to me—provided the motivation that helped us meet the manuscript deadline: "The perfect is the enemy of the good." Zoom and my trusty mask will be my new good.

James tells us very clearly that staying away is the antithesis of relationship. "Draw near to God," James tells us, "and he will draw near to you." Without small

group meetings, bible study or worshipping as a body, I have let my jellyfish self bob dumbly away even from God. This is the worst kind of loneliness of all, and yet it is entirely fixable without even so much as a mask.

And so, I renew my commitment to staying engaged, having things be good enough and drawing near-to God in spirit and to family and friends in socially distant ways. And I know this biblical guidance is very specific to COVID-19 times because James follows the "draw near" mandate immediately with instructions to "Cleanse your hands."

### 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 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.

## Church of the Redeemer on 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 and RedeemerBethesda  
**Twitter:** @VicarVirtual  
**Linked In:** Cricket Park  
**Instagram:** parkcricket and redeemberbethesda  
**YouTube:** *see the earlier note ...*

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

# FINANCIAL REPORT

Church of the Redeemer Profit and Loss Statement - June 30, 2020	Jan. - June Actual	Jan. - June Budget	Jan. - June Over (Under) Budget	Annual Budget
<b>INCOME</b>				
2020 Pledge Payments	308,770	306,221	2,549	465,420
2020 Over Pledge	16,274	2,500	13,774	5,000
2020 Non-Pledge	22,678	12,500	10,177	25,000
2019 Pledges	1,660	0	1,660	0
Loose Plate Offering	1,125	2,000	(875)	4,000
Special Offerings	0	1,200	(1,200)	2,400
Event & Activity Income	310	8,175	(7,865)	16,350
Facilities Use	2,562	7,500	(4,938)	15,000
Other Income	200,427	2,500	197,927	5,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>553,805</b>	<b>342,595</b>	<b>211,209</b>	<b>538,170</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>				
Administration Expense	17,014	22,800	(5,786)	45,600
Diocesan Giving	20,000	20,000	0	40,000
Discretionary Account	1,000	500	500	1,000
Maintenance Expense	66,392	38,375	28,017	76,750
Outreach Giving	0	0	0	0
Personnel Expense	143,460	147,523	(4,063)	295,046
Program Expense	15,850	17,850	(2,000)	35,700
Property Expense	23,376	23,500	(124)	47,000
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>287,092</b>	<b>270,548</b>	<b>16,544</b>	<b>541,096</b>
Net Operating Income	266,712	72,047	194,665	(2,926)
Net flood-related adjustment	(165,019)		(165,019)	
"Normal" net operating income	101,694	72,047	29,646	

Set forth in the adjoining table are Church of the Redeemer's financial operating results through the end of June. Net operating income includes year to date insurance proceeds in the amount of \$194,871 and flood repair expense of \$29,852. After backing out flood-related insurance and expense to date, "normal" net operating income is \$29,646 above budget through June. Due to timing issues, the above-budget amount is expected to decline as the year proceeds, indicating that we presently are on course to end the year close to annual budget. However, estimating year-end results is complicated by the fact that the final cost of recovery from the flooding isn't yet known.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about Redeemer's finances.

**Stephen L. Gibson**  
Treasurer



**KASSIA:**  
**"LIVE on**  
**Lockdown"**

Saturday  
August 15, 7pm

## REDEEMER ZOOMS

### Schedule of Zoom Meetings in August

Zoom links are available on our website's home page:

August 5, 12, 19, 26

Bible Study at noon

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85912028288?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85912028288?pwd=OWhGSHdsVEEd1SVBYdIFPQWV2R2JlVQTO9)

[pwd=OWhGSHdsVEEd1SVBYdIFPQWV2R2JlVQTO9](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85912028288?pwd=OWhGSHdsVEEd1SVBYdIFPQWV2R2JlVQTO9)

August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30\*

TheFIVE at 5:00pm (with coffee hour beginning at 4:30pm)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81643035778>

August 23

Redeemer Book Club at 2:00pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88265752899>

August 4, 11, 18

Knit-along with the Rector

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87083173624?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87083173624?pwd=QnNmRUhiVlIRa2FaSXA3U2RNSVNaQT09)

[pwd=QnNmRUhiVlIRa2FaSXA3U2RNSVNaQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87083173624?pwd=QnNmRUhiVlIRa2FaSXA3U2RNSVNaQT09)

August 6, 13, 20

Collar & Coffee with the Rector

[meet.google.com/kkg-unet-zjr](https://meet.google.com/kkg-unet-zjr)

(This is a Google Meet address. To join by phone call 423-529-2973 PIN: 903 783 268#)

- The rector will be away from August 24th until early September. We will worship with St. Dunstan's on one or two Sundays.

## WARDENS CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 2)*

Redeemer already took a small hit to the savings this summer. The initial estimate we received for reconfiguring the bathrooms (with the goal of creating 5 single-occupancy bathrooms with touchless technology) was over \$189,000, which is clearly outside of what Redeemer can afford at this time.

Also, we have a potential substantial cost that we need to plan for. It has been determined that the elevator is fixable, and the repair costs would be covered by insurance. However, it is yet to be determined whether current building codes will allow us to have it fixed, as the elevator does not meet current code for a commercial building. Churches used to have waivers allowing residential-level elevators (which ours currently is), but that is no longer allowed. We have received bids on a new replacement elevator, the lowest of which was a little over \$68,000, not including the additional construction and electrical costs associated with the installation. At this point, we have to consider that Redeemer may have to pay the majority of that cost if it is determined that the current elevator is not allowed.

All of that said, the restoration of the building is moving forward. We will work with vestry to prioritize the next tasks and ensure that we are being good stewards of the building and the available funds. We are planning to have a Sunday morning parish town hall in a few weeks to provide more updates and answer questions. In the meantime, if anyone wants to talk about the work in the building, see any of the bids we have received for work, provide any input, or ask any questions, please contact Cricket or one of us (Marie Caulfield at [mbcaulfield@verizon.net](mailto:mbcaulfield@verizon.net) or Jo Barclay-Beard at [jobbeard@yahoo.com](mailto:jobbeard@yahoo.com)).  
"Just keep swimming." ~ Dory

Marie Caulfield  
Senior Warden

Jo Barclay-Beard  
Junior Warden



I have been spending quite a lot of time with the Lord's Prayer lately. It has become a regular feature in my own private prayer, and I have relished it more than I typically do when the brothers come together to pray in the chapel. I have seen much of what's going on in the world for months, and sometimes, I just cannot put together my own words. "What more can I say? What more can any of us

say?" is the common refrain of my heart. I can't imagine I'm alone. Sometimes, in those moments, through some prompting of the same Spirit whose sighs are enough, I am given the gentle reminder, "Remember the words he has taught you."

Of particular note for me recently is the plea, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven." It's difficult for me not to pay attention to the political situation of the country, from the very big stories to the particular zigs and zags of individual newsworthy figures. Again, I can't imagine I'm alone. And, paying that attention in the midst of all that has gone on, the picture seems very bleak. The failures, incompetencies, and abuses of those in power right now leave me feeling sad and angry. But the words of the Lord's Prayer, the hope for the coming of God's kingdom, is a touchstone of hope for me, for three reasons



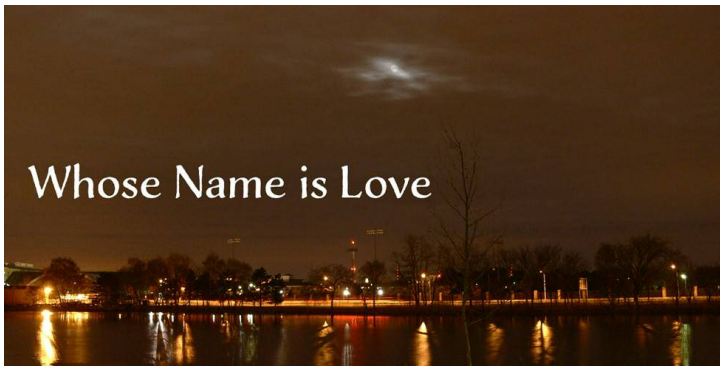
First, that this is the prayer of Jesus, the one who intercedes for us, and who abides close to the Father's heart, comforts me. Christ assures us that we, even in our imperfection, know how to give to the needy. "How much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!" The promises of Jesus, and the hope of Jesus, are not idle, for he knows the heart of the One from whom all good comes. The kingdom of God will come. When we show forth the love of God, we participate in that kingdom, and anticipate its full revelation.

Second, it assures me that God's kingdom is something fundamentally different from what we see before us. It's not the domain of earthly rulers to enact for themselves, even in the best of times. It is certainly at odds with rank and blatant injustice; as the psalmist writes, "Can a corrupt tribunal have any part with you, one which frames evil into law?"

Third, it reminds me that this sadness and anger, this dissonance between what is and what should be, is a normal part of what it means to be a Christian. "Here we have no lasting city," reads the letter to the Hebrews, "but we are looking for the city that is to come." We have been called to the greater kingdom, and it has not yet been revealed in its fullness and glory, its mercy and justice. We should feel somewhat alienated from the halls of power; we should be able to see what's wrong. And the fact that we do is itself a sign of the hope to come.

Many of us are wearied by the changes and the uncertainty of our civil lives, our political communities. I certainly am. But we can take heart, and pray together for the coming of God's kingdom; it is a hope, big and sturdy enough for us all.

**Br. Lucas Hall, SSJE**



## Whose Name is Love

My dear friends:

I was recently involved in a conversation about solitude. Over the course of the conversation it dawned on me that we should not speak so much of solitude (singular) as solitudes (plural), because there are different kinds of solitude, and different people experience them in different ways.

Since the lockdown began in March many of us have been experiencing more solitude than in the past. That has brought with it, its own struggles as well as graces.

One way in which people speak of solitude is as *me time*. This is a time to recharge our batteries and renew our energies. We all need to do this, and we all find different ways to do it. This experience of solitude as an opportunity to recharge and renew has been once of the graces of this season.

For others, and especially for those who live alone, this period of extended solitude has been a time, not of recharging and renewing, but of isolation and loneliness, when work and social routines have become virtual or remote, and physical connections limited to what can happen sitting six feet away from another.

For some this time of solitude has been a time of grace and for others a time of challenge.

In the Christian spiritual tradition, there is another facet to solitude that is neither about solitude as *me time*, or as isolation. In the monastic tradition solitude is not about recharging our batteries or experiencing isolation but enabling an encounter with the Divine.

We remind ourselves in our **Rule of Life** that the cell, which is the primary place of our personal prayer, is a *place of divine presence and companionship*. Like Jacob we say *surely the Lord is in this place* as we open ourselves up to an encounter with the living God, each time we enter our cells and shut the door. In the monastic tradition solitude enables us to encounter God whose name is Love.

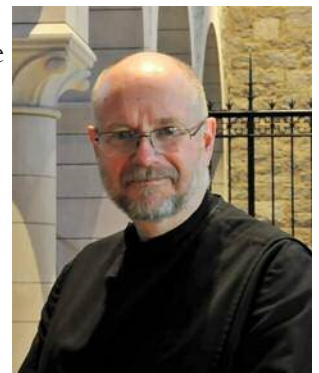
While I have experienced this time of solitude as both incredibly renewing and enormously lonely, I have also experienced this solitude as an invitation to encounter the God who *so loves the world*. In an unexpected way, that is the solitude I have found most challenging, for as I have encountered the God who is Love, I have come to see the world the way God sees it, through the tears of God's loving eyes.

Some days, I find the burden of this heartbreaking love almost too much to bear. Yet as Jesus wept at the tomb of his friend Lazarus, I know that tears of loving sadness, though they are the story for today, are not the end of the story. He who wept, is also resurrection and life.

The Psalmist reminds us that *weeping may spend the night, but joy comes in the morning*. In this time of solitude, as I encounter the God whose name is Love, I am coming to see the world the way God does, and I weep. But as surely as I know that dawn will come, I know this time of weeping will one day end, and with the Risen Son we will again know life in all its abundance. However you experience this time of solitude: as a time of personal renewal, unbearable loneliness, or disturbing encounter, this comes with the assurance of our prayers. We are, as always, grateful for your prayers for us.

Faithfully in God whose name is Love,

James SSJE



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The Parish Office is open Tuesday – Friday,

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Please call prior to stopping by to ensure someone is here to greet you.



**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. **Come. Be loved. Belong. Believe.**



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