



# THE REDEEMER SPIRIT

DECEMBER 2019

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

## HAPPENING AT REDEEMER IN DECEMBER

### TOY SUNDAY/St. Nicholas Visit is December 8th.

Please bring an unwrapped toy to church on December 8th. Alternatively, you can give cash or checks to Jefferson Arrington. Make checks payable to Episcopal Church of the Redeemer. You can also donate online through our website. Toys go to Community Life Services in downtown DC.



### Advent Lessons & Carols - December 8th at 5:00pm

Hear the scripture stories that lead up to the coming of the Christ Child interspersed with congregational carols and anthems sung by our Adult Choir. Freewill offering will benefit the micro-lending program of Sustainable Villages in Honduras.

We need readers—how about you?

### A Charlie Brown Family Christmas

December 14, 3:30pm

Enjoy the classic Snoopy movie on the big screen with movie food - followed by the Eric Byrd Trio's own take on the music from the show in a live jazz set. Suitable for all ages. Kids go free. Get tickets [here](#).

### *Looking Ahead:*

Collar and Coffee with Amma Cricket,

Most Thursdays at Sumner Place at 10am

- First Sunday in Advent, "First Sunday" Forum and Choir, Dec. 1
- Clergy of Southern Montgomery County Visit, Dec. 4
- Toy Sunday, St. Nicholas Visit, Advent Lessons & Carols, Dec. 8
- Redeemer Youth Group, Dec. 11
- Charlie Brown Family Christmas & Jazz Trio, Dec. 14
- P.R.A.Y. Caroling at the Oasis (Sibley Hospital), Dec. 15
- Vestry Meeting, Dec. 18
- Cookie Sunday, Dec. 22
- Christmas Eve Services at Noon, 4pm, 10:30pm, Dec. 24

### *Inside this Issue:*

Sr. Warden Message-2

Rector Message-3

Holiday giving-4-5

Leadership-6

Youth-7

Music-8-9

Calendar-10-11

Pledge Update-12

Worship Assistants-13

Finances-14

Birthdays-15

## FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Dear Friends,

With Thanksgiving barely in the rearview mirror, somehow it has become December, and with Christmas and the end of the year looming, that fourth gear of planning for celebrations and gifts is hard to resist.

Advent, however, calls for a lower gear—one in which we wait and anticipate. The definition of advent (the word as well as the liturgical season) as “coming into view or place or being” implies that there will be a revelation or a change. But we could miss it if we don’t savor the yearning or lose our focus on the journey. Redeemer offers a respite from the harried season with its Sunday worship services, and with Lessons and Carols (Dec. 8th at 5 pm) and an Advent Retreat at Redeemer on Saturday Dec. 14th from 9 am to noon.



At our November vestry meeting we discussed refinancing our mortgage at a better rate. Cricket met with Josh Hildreth (former parishioner) and an architect to discuss the possibilities for seating upstairs. We discussed the fact that for coordination and economies of scale, we should have a grand plan for the building instead of doing things and fixing things a la carte. And a grand plan should start with who we want Church of the Redeemer to be for its members and for the neighborhood. As you proceed through Advent, think about this question.

May you and all you love have peace and joy this season.

Thoughtfully,

Susan Graham Fitzgerald  
Senior Warden

### Christmas Service Schedule

December 24 (Christmas Eve) – Services at Noon, 4:00pm, & 10:30pm. The Noon service will be our annual “Blue Christmas” service for those who find Christmas services difficult for any reason.

The 4:00pm service will be the Family Service and will include the Children’s Christmas Pageant. The 10:30pm service will be a Choral Festive Eucharist with music beginning at 10:00pm.

December 25 (Christmas) – No service at Redeemer. Please attend services at the National Cathedral.

December 29 (Christmas I) – ONE Service at 10:30am



## FROM THE HEARTH

Happy Advent!

In the last 10 years or so, my understanding of Advent has changed. Once a countdown to the wonderful Feast of the Incarnation we know as Christmas, it's become for me an opportunity to contemplate what the kingdom/reign/government of God might look like. Given the story of the end of the season, it looks like a baby born on the margins of society. But, what does it mean today? In my sermon on the last Sunday after Epiphany, I talked about the example of leadership that Jesus gave us. If Jesus trusted the reign of God to his disciples, then we – as inheritors of that reign – are also called to leadership. The church (that's us!) should be leading our neighborhood into the reign of God.



To do this, we require a shared mission. The catechism states that the mission of the church is to bring all people into unity with God and with each other. That's a lovely statement, but what does it mean? Well, that's what we must discern.

Redeemer is not the church it was 5 years ago. The Episcopal Church was not the church it was 5 years ago either. Once upon a time, strategic plans were made for 5-10 years out. Today, things change so fast that this strategizing needs to happen more often. We're overdue.

As we contemplate this work, we need to remember a few realities:

Church no longer plays the part in society it once played. Today we are more like the early church than we ever have been. This isn't a bad thing. The faithful people of the first centuries of Christianity provide a powerful witness to their time.

People no longer come to church on a weekly basis. Schools, sports, and other activities have taken over Sunday morning. We can either whine about this or face the reality of it and change in response.

Because of number 2, to present a critical mass of people at a service, more folks need to be on our rolls.

Five years ago, we had an average Sunday attendance of 150. Today, it's closer to 120. But, if you look at the number of new people here, you'll realize that we've grown on the rolls but not in the pews. If a full church is a goal, we must double the number of people who are members.

Research from the Pew Institute, Mission Insite, and the Episcopal Church shows that churches are most relevant when they address the needs of their immediate neighborhood. The data for the Bannockburn/Cabin John area indicates that we are already supplying some of what is needed, but it may not be as well publicized as it should be.

Bottom line: We must articulate a mission that we all can feel a part of in order to enter the next phase of our lives together. If there was anything learned over the last year of experimenting it's that moving things around may have gotten us to this point, but it's not going to get us to the next place we need to be. It was important to shake things up. Now, it's important to shape things up.

Redeemer has been given everything we need to move into the next decade. Our responsibility is to discern what those gifts are and how God wants us to use them to God's glory and the welfare of God's people.

Amma Cricket+

## HOLIDAY VOLUNTEERING

### Holiday Volunteer Opportunity – Be a NCCF Elf!

The National Center for Children and Families invites you to volunteer for their Santa's Workshop!

The goal of Santa's Workshop is to give our clients the opportunity to give holiday gifts to their children without the financial burden. Our mission of preserving childhood is foremost in our minds and hearts for this venture as we want to empower our parents and guardians to choose gifts that they can give on their own.



#### Elf Tasks:

**SANTA'S WORKSHOP ELF:** Greet the client's as they arrive for their scheduled times. Please keep in mind that we are not monitoring the gifts that clients choose, we are there to help. There are no rules to enforce. The program staff will be the ones that monitor and help with quantity.

**GIFT WRAPPING ELF:** Just as the title says, Gift wrapping the presents the clients choose! They may or may not choose to have gifts wrapped. We will also have gift bags as needed.

**TOY STOCKER ELF:** All the thousands of toys received by NCCF that are destined for our children must be organized and sorted into age appropriate locations on tables. We also have toys that will have to be moved from various locations around the building and potentially helping donors bring in toys from their cars. Please make sure all gifts are logged (in and out) and donation receipts are given as needed.

**GIFT CHECKER ELF:** Checkers help pack and prep the gifts for clients and staff. This is an important step in making sure each child in the family has something to open for Christmas. This is the final check before the gifts go out to the children so attention to detail is important. This position can be physical and requires a lot of standing and some lifting (of the Santa bags) so you will want to dress appropriately and wear comfortable shoes.

If you have questions about any events please contact Dahlia Levin at [dlevin@nccf-cares.org](mailto:dlevin@nccf-cares.org).

# GIVING FOR GOOD

## Olive Oil Ministry Holiday Sales, Dec. 1 and Dec. 8.

Oil, tapenade, soap, and zaatar spice from the Holy Land will be on sale in the Parish Hall before and after worship on both Sundays. Redeemer sells the products in partnership with 22 other congregations in the Washington DC metro area as a member of the ecumenical Olive Oil Ministry. Proceeds benefit local farmers and education and interfaith peacebuilding efforts near Bethlehem.



Information about these ministries, and others, are available in the parish hall in the literature rack near the television.

**Coats, Hats and Gloves!**

**bethesda cares**

Bethesda Cares needs new or lightly used, clean warm clothing for the homeless men and women of the area all through the cold months.

Thank you for the donations already received and delivered.

We shall be delivering donations of warm, adult clothing and blankets regularly in the next few months. Hats, gloves, scarves and socks for men and women are always needed.

The box for donations is next to the piano downstairs.



## LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### Are You Our Next Strawberry Festival Chair?

Family circumstances do not allow Michael Mershon to continue as Strawberry Festival Chair. His leadership over the last two years in this regard (following 3 years on vestry, 2 as Senior Warden) is much appreciated. Thank you so much!

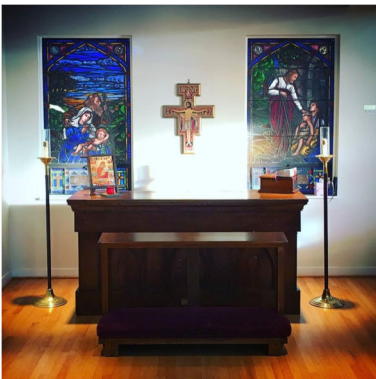
This means Redeemer requires a new chair, or co-chairs, for this annual event. It is a major commitment of time and talent. You will have plenty of folks who volunteer and help. Michael has the "Strawberry Bible" in his possession. If you have questions, please speak with him directly. A new chair (or co-chairs) must be in place no later than January 15<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Amma Cricket (rector@redeemberbethesda.org) and/or Michael ([jenningsmershon@gmail.com](mailto:jenningsmershon@gmail.com)) if you are interested.



### Nominations are due for Vestry and Convention Delegates

If you are interested in serving on the Vestry, or participating in the Diocesan Convention as a delegate or alternate delegate, please speak to Susan Fitzgerald or Amma Cricket no later than December 8th. We have three openings on the Vestry and four for delegates. Thank you to Susan Fitzgerald, Brooke Anthony, and David Brown for their service. Cathy Arrington and Toyin Rose will serve their second year at this year's convention at the end of January.

### Altar Guild and Flower Guild:



Over the past several years, the Altar Guild and Flower Guild have been challenged by the loss of members due to relocation, health issues, and (sadly) death. They need you.

Guild members make it possible to have services on Sunday mornings! They make sure the hangings are up in the right colors. They set up the elements of bread and wine and make sure everything's available and ready for the services. They wash up and put things away after services, including getting the linens clean and ironed. Flower arrangers use their individual creativity to provide lovely tributes to God's glory.

**Anyone 18 or older (13 or older with an adult companion) can serve. You can do Altar and Flowers or just one. Neither is gender-specific! Contact Amma Cricket if you are interested. We have a very busy Advent and Christmas season ahead. Please consider these important ministries, which are necessary for our life together.**

### Redeemer Book Club

After such a serious book, we will be reading a light book: *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles. If you are in the mood to laugh and cry and cheer, read this book, events of which take place in the aftermath of the Civil War. This is a stunning story of an old man, Captain Kidd, and a lost young girl who had been kidnapped by an Indian tribe. Captain Kidd is returning her to her relatives who lived outside San Antonio, Texas. The book will be discussed at 3:00 pm on January 5, 2020 at the home of Huda and Jochen

Kraske, 4550 North Park Avenue, Apt. 410, Chevy Chase, Md. 20815. All are welcome.

After that, we will be reading *The Hours* by Michael Cunningham.



## YOUTH NEWS

### Potomac River Anglican Youth

On December 15th P.R.A.Y. youth are going caroling!

We'll meet at Sibley Hospital's Oasis Memory Unit at 2:45pm. Snacks and a white elephant exchange will follow. Parents are invited to sing with us. To register, please contact me at [pray@redeemerbethesda.org](mailto:pray@redeemerbethesda.org). Yaa Addison



### November's Youth Group

Last month's meeting featured Thanksgiving Dinner! The kids helped by bringing food, setting the table, and making everything look special. After we said grace and 'dug in', we went around the table saying what we were thankful for. Thanksgivings were declared for food, our time together, family, friends, and the opportunities that we have just by living in Bethesda. Then, we looked up the word 'thanksgiving' in different languages. The last one was Greek, which was *eucharistica*. Amma Cricket then talked about how Holy Eucharist, which is what we do together on Sunday morning, is very much like Thanksgiving dinner. We use our best linens, the best silver, and we offer up our thanksgivings around the altar table. It was a marvelous time and it's hoped that they shared it all with you.

Our December meeting will be on the 11th, beginning at 6:00 pm with neighborhood caroling. Please bring a potluck dish to share.

**Please RSVP to Amma Cricket no later than December 8th!**



### Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve

Our children's interpretation of the Nativity story takes place on Christmas Eve at the 4pm Family Service. After the opening hymns and prayers, the pageant will serve as the Liturgy of the Word. Children of all ages are invited to be a part of the pageant. Even the last minute arrival can be an angel or a shepherd!

After the pageant, we continue with the Peace and the celebration of Holy Eucharist. There will be many carols!

Yaa Addison, our P.R.A.Y. coordinator, has volunteered to coordinate the pageant along with assistance from Callie Wang and Susan Fitzgerald. Rehearsals will be scheduled during regular Sunday School time. Please e-mail her at [pray@redeemerbethesda.org](mailto:pray@redeemerbethesda.org).

## Adult Formation & Music

### Making Advent



We have a “perfect” Advent this year – December 1-24! During this season of hope and expectation, we are invited to prepare not only for the birth of the Christ Child, but also live into the reign of God. Consider reading a devotional each day or writing in a journal. Attend the Quiet Morning on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Volunteer to wrap gifts at the National Center for Children and Families. Bring toiletries in for Bethesda Cares. Or, perhaps you would prefer a ‘reverse’ Advent Calendar that collects food items for Manna Food Pantry in Montgomery County. Whichever you choose, may you have a blessed Advent Season.

### Advent Quiet Morning God within the Body: Paradox & Incarnation

December 14, 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.,  
St. Luke’s Chapel space

This gathering will be a quiet morning of silence and reflection centered on Benedictine spirituality as explored by spiritual teacher Esther de Waal in *Living with Contradiction* (Morehouse, Harrisburg PA 1987; reissued with new preface 1997/1998). Contact Marylin Raisch for further information.



December is always a special month for music and this year is no exception. On the 8<sup>th</sup> we have our **Advent Lessons & Carols by Candlelight** service, with a series of favorites and newer works by composers such as John Rutter and the late Richard Rodney Bennett. We also remember with sadness that Stephen Cleobury left us on St Cecilia’s Day in November, and we shall be singing his arrangement of *Let all mortal flesh keep silence* from his and Malcolm Archer’s essential *Advent for Choirs* book. So many of the Church’s servants write for organ and voices for this time of year—it’s always a challenge to represent as wide a selection of composers as possible. This Advent we will be providing the congregation with as much ear cleansing and spirit-centering music to counter the jingle bombardment from the world outside! And at the same time, for ourselves, we will be looking beyond the three traditional *Carols for Choirs* books from Oxford University Press (trailblazing as they were!). Although Kings College and its organists are pillars of the Anglican Choral Tradition, they are not the only places from whence we may draw inspiration. There is much to discover even closer to home!



From the sublime calm of Advent Lessons, the following week we welcome the young and the young at heart or with a jazz persuasion to *A Charlie Brown Family Christmas* on December



## MUSIC AT REDEEMER



14, when we will first fortify ourselves with movie food before experiencing the movie upstairs on a huge screen, followed by the incredible playing of the **Eric Byrd Trio** who have sets based on the music from the film. Last year, we had a Redeemer staff Christmas outing to Eric's group's show at The Hamilton in DC, and it was from that wonderful experience that I decided to bring them to perform on the **Music at Redeemer** concert series. They are a first class outfit, and I daresay were you to Google tickets for performances in DC (other search engines are available), you may find a far favorable difference in ticket prices and parking charges at our very own [musicatredeemer.org](http://musicatredeemer.org)! The Trio also has video available on their website: [www.ericbyrdtrio.com](http://www.ericbyrdtrio.com)  
**Christmas Eve at 10pm:** the Choir will sing a prelude before the 10:30pm service interspersed with community carols.

Early in the new year we will have **Isabelle Demers** with us. She performs from memory and even if organ is not your favorite instrument, she is an incredible tour de force and I cannot recommend her highly enough. She is one of the best artists in her field, and one of the most formidable women I know. For me, she is the RBG of the pipes.



My thanks to the **Music Committee** under Chairman Geoffrey-the-Elder (Platt) for locking down mission and theme for next year's season even at this early juncture.

**Geoffrey Silver**  
 Director of Music Ministries

**Masterclass, Concert, CD Release**  
 Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, Bethesda, MD

# ISABELLE DEMERS

**The Chicago Recital**  
 Isabelle Demers

E.M. Stamer-Davis 634  
 Rockefeller Memorial Chapel  
 University of Chicago

Mendelssohn  
 Tchaikovsky  
 MacMillan  
 Laurin  
 Reger

**Saturday, Jan. 18, 2020, 7pm**

**Tickets: [www.musicatredeemer.org](http://www.musicatredeemer.org)**

Potential participants in noon masterclass: [music@redeemerbethesda.org](mailto:music@redeemerbethesda.org)

**Liturgical Offerings:**

**Sunday, December 8, 2019; 5pm**  
 Advent Lessons & Carols, *Free-will Offering benefitting Sustainable Villages Honduras*

**Concert Series:**

**Saturday, December 14, 2019; 3:30pm**  
 A Charlie Brown Family Christmas: Movie and Jazz  
 Eric Byrd Jazz Trio

**Saturday, January 18, 2019; 7pm**  
 Organ Showcase  
 Pre-concert reception at 6pm

Visit [www.musicatredeemer.org](http://www.musicatredeemer.org) for the full season schedule and booking on-line tickets.

## Parish Calendar

### Sunday, December 1

The First Sunday of Advent  
8 - 9am  
Holy Eucharist  
9:15 - 10:15am  
Adult Forum & Child Care  
10:30 - 11:45am  
Holy Eucharist

### Monday, December 2

Office Closed  
12 - 1pm  
AA Meeting

### Tuesday, December 3

1:30 - 2:30pm  
Staff Meeting and Proofing  
7:30 - 9:30pm  
Singing Group  
7:30 - 8:30pm  
AA Meeting

### Wednesday, December 4

12 - 1pm  
AA Meeting  
12 - 1pm  
Holy Eucharist  
2 - 4pm  
SoMoCo Clergy Meeting  
4:30 - 5:30pm  
Youth Choir rehearsal

### Thursday, December 5

10 - 11:30am  
Collar & Coffee  
Outside Safeway, 4701  
Sangamore Rd, Bethesda  
6:30 - 9:30pm  
Balkan Dancers  
7:30 - 9:30pm  
Adult Choir rehearsal

### Friday, December 6

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

### Saturday, December 7

9:30 - 11:30am  
Yoga  
Parish Hall

### Sunday, December 8

The Second Sunday of Advent  
8 - 9am  
Holy Eucharist  
9:15 - 10:15am  
Bible Study & Child Care  
10:30 - 11:45am  
Holy Eucharist  
5:00pm  
Advent Lesson & Carols

### Monday, December 9

Church Office Closed  
12 - 1pm  
AA Meeting

### Tuesday, December 10

1:30 - 2:30pm  
Staff Meeting and Proofing  
7:30 - 9:30pm  
Singing Group  
7:30 - 8:30pm  
AA Meeting  
12 - 1pm  
AA Meeting

### Wednesday, December 11

12 - 1pm  
Holy Eucharist  
4:30 - 5:30pm  
Youth Choir rehearsal  
6 - 7:30pm  
Youth Group @ Redeemer

### Thursday, December 12

10 - 11:30am  
Collar & Coffee  
Outside Safeway, 4701  
Sangamore Rd, Bethesda  
6:30 - 9:30pm  
Balkan Dancers  
7:30 - 9:30pm  
Adult Choir rehearsal  
12 - 1pm

### Friday, December 13

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

### Saturday, December 14

9am - 1pm  
Advent Retreat  
9:30 - 11:30am  
Yoga  
3:30 - 5:30pm  
Charlie Brown Christmas

### Sunday, December 15

The Third Sunday of Advent  
8 - 9am  
Holy Eucharist  
9:15am  
Child Care  
10:30 - 11:45am  
Holy Eucharist  
2:30 - 3:30pm  
PRAY Event/Caroling at  
Sibley

### Monday, December 16

Church Office Closed  
12 - 1pm  
AA Meeting

### Tuesday, December 17

1:30 - 2:30pm  
Staff Meeting and Proofing  
7:30 - 9:30pm  
Singing Group  
7:30 - 8:30pm  
AA Meeting

### Wednesday, December 18

12 - 1pm  
AA Meeting  
12 - 1pm  
Holy Eucharist  
4:30 - 5:30pm  
Youth Choir rehearsal  
6:30 - 7:30pm  
Vestry Meeting

### Thursday, December 19

10 - 11:30am  
Collar & Coffee  
Outside Safeway, 4701  
Sangamore Rd, Bethesda  
6:30 - 9:30pm  
Balkan Dancers  
7:30 - 9:30pm  
Adult Choir rehearsal

### Friday, December 20

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

### Saturday, December 21

9:30am - 12:30pm  
Yoga  
Parish Hall

### Sunday, December 22

The Fourth Sunday of Advent  
8 - 9am  
Holy Eucharist  
9:15am  
Child Care  
10:30 - 11:45am  
Holy Eucharist

### Monday, December 23

Church Office Closed  
12 - 1pm  
AA Meeting  
Parish Hall

### Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve  
12 - 1pm  
"Blue Christmas" service  
1:30 - 2:30pm  
Staff Meeting  
4 - 5:30pm  
Family Christmas Service  
10pm - 12am  
Choral Christmas Service

# DIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

Click [here](https://bit.ly/336NbsW) for information on **More Jesus, More Love**: <https://bit.ly/336NbsW>

## Seeking Volunteers - More Jesus, More Love Revival

### Weekend, January 24-26, 2020

Planning continues for the *More Jesus, More Love* revival weekend with Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry, January 24-26, 2020. We'll have a full offering of events from Friday night's gathering for young adults through the public revival on Sunday afternoon, all designed to draw us closer to Jesus and grow our capacity to love as Jesus loves.

To ensure the success of the weekend, we seek volunteers to help us both in the weeks leading up to and on the day of the revival.

Learn more at [edow.org](http://edow.org).

## Parish Calendar

<p><b>Wednesday, December 25</b> Christmas Day Church offices closed Please attend services at the National Cathedral. AA Meeting 12 - 1pm</p>	<p><b>Sunday, December 29</b> The First Sunday After Christmas Day 10:30 - 11:45am Holy Eucharist</p>
<p><b>Thursday, December 26,</b> Church offices closed 6:30 - 9:30pm Balkan Dancers</p>	<p><b>Monday, December 30</b> Church Office Closed 12 - 1pm AA Meeting</p>
<p><b>Friday, December 27</b> Church offices closed 12 - 1pm AA Meeting 6:30 - 7:30pm Al-Anon Meeting 8:30 - 9:30pm AA Meeting</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, December 31</b> 1:30 - 2:30pm Staff Meeting and Proofing 7:30 - 9:30pm Singing Group 7:30 - 8:30pm AA Meeting</p>
<p><b>Saturday, December 28</b> 9:30 - 11:30am Yoga</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, January 1</b> The Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ Church Office Closed 12 - 1pm AA Meeting</p>

## More Jesus More Love Tickets

Redeemer will receive 40 tickets to this event with Presiding Bishop Curry. We have until December 6th to request additional tickets. If you would like to attend this event, please let Amma Cricket know immediately so she can request additional tickets if necessary. This is not limited to Episcopalians!

P.S. The best means of transport for this event is the Metro. Parking will be limited.

## PLEDGE UPDATE



### 2020 Pledge Update and 2019 Reminder

THANK YOU to all who have pledged your financial support to Redeemer for next year. Your gifts are much appreciated. As of November 24<sup>th</sup>, we have received 65 pledges for \$346,779. This is 75% of our budget goal. We still need to hear from many of you who have pledged in the past. You can send in a pledge card, bring it on Sunday and place it in the offering plate, or complete it online. (Go to <https://www.redeemberbethesda.org/stewardship-giving/pledge-card/>.)

There are still approximately 25 families yet to pledge. However, if these pledges come in the same as last year, we will be short of our goal. This means if you have not ever submitted a pledge, this is the year to begin! New pledges are truly a necessity. The vestry needs all of your responses for the December 18th meeting.

REMINDER to those of you who pledged for 2019. Please be sure your pledge is current. We need your completed pledges to ensure that we do not end the year with a larger deficit than was budgeted for. Thanks to unplanned for repairs to the church and rectory, we've had more expenses that we'd hoped, even with insurance coverage. Your full pledge payment is important.

### 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.

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR JANUARY

position	5-Jan	12-Jan	19-Jan	26-Jan
8am Lector	Dean Cinkala	Marie France	Susan Grigsby	David Brown
8am Chalice	Susan Grigsby	Marie France	Marie France	Tami McMinn
Usher	Jefferson Arrington	Richard Tyler	Jefferson Arrington	Jefferson Arrington
Usher	Tim Yehl	Madeleine Tyler	Mary Helen Carlson	Heather Tomlinson
Acolyte	Helen Zitomer	Thad Arrington	Olivia Tyler	Helen Zitomer
Lector	Bill MacBain	Meredith Griggs	Judy James	Peggy Tucker
Lector	Chris Austin	Carolyn Kimberlin	Judy Austin	Jenny Nachbar
Intercessor	Clark Downs	Patricia Snowden	Meredith Griggs	Bob Yates
Chalice	Judy James	Peggy Tucker	Bill MacBain	Patricia Snowden
Chalice	Chrissy DeFontenay	Michael Hart	Helen Zitomer	Justin Hess
Chalice	Ben Ivins	Jenny Nachbar	Patricia Snowden	Jenny Nachbar
Healing			Thad Arrington	
Healing			Peggy Tucker	
Healing			Elizabeth Askey	
Healing			Ann Taylor	
Counter	Ben Ivins	Clark Downs	Mary K Young	Brooke Anthony
Counter	Cathy Arrington	Brooke Anthony	Clark Downs	Deborah Babcock-Daley

### Christmas is coming! What Service will you be attending?

December 23 and 29 were in last months Spirit. No 8:00 Service on the 29th!  
 We need December 24 at 4:00pm—Acolyte—Thad, Readers— TBD, TBD,  
 Chalicist—TBD, TBD, TBD, TDB  
 and 10:30pm—Acolyte Helen Zitomer, Readers—TBD, TBD, Chalicist—TBD, TBD  
 If you have a preference, when you will or will not be here, just let the office know.  
 Send a note to [bob@redeemerbethesda.org](mailto:bob@redeemerbethesda.org).

## FINANCES

<u>Church of the Redeemer</u> <u>Profit and Loss Statement</u> <u>October 30, 2019</u>	Jan. - Oct. Actual	Jan.-Oct. Budget	Jan.-Oct. Over (Under) Budget	Annual Budget
<b>INCOME</b>				
2019 Pledge Payments	354,124	374,223	(20,099)	423,539
2019 Over Pledge	7,803	2,917	4,886	3,500
2019 Non-Pledge	30,839	20,833	10,006	25,000
2018 Pledges	3,010		3,010	
Loose Plate Offering	3,180	3,333	(153)	4,000
Special Offerings	1,417	2,417	(1,000)	2,900
Event & Activity Income	14,675	24,292	(9,616)	29,150
Facilities Use	19,517	15,000	4,517	18,000
Other Income	55,648	0	55,648	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>490,214</b>	<b>443,015</b>	<b>47,199</b>	<b>506,089</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>				
Administration Expense	32,939	35,458	(2,519)	42,550
Diocesan Giving	30,833	30,833	(0)	37,000
Discretionary Account	1,000	833	167	1,000
Maintenance Expense	141,507	63,542	77,965	76,250
Outreach Giving	0	4,167	(4,167)	5,000
Personnel Expense	238,727	240,280	(1,553)	288,336
Program Expense	31,158	30,833	325	37,000
Property Expense	38,960	39,167	(207)	47,000
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>515,125</b>	<b>445,113</b>	<b>70,012</b>	<b>534,136</b>
Net Operating Income	<b>(24,911)</b>	<b>(2,099)</b>	<b>(22,813)</b>	<b>(28,047)</b>

### Treasurer's Report

Set forth in the adjoining table are Church of the Redeemer's financial operating results through the end of October. Net operating income for October was \$25,256 below budget for the month, due largely to below budget pledge income, a \$10,000 down payment on rectory repairs, and accumulated choral section leader expense. While it presently appears that the year-end result will be better than the budgeted deficit amount, **the actual final result will depend significantly on pledge fulfillment and remaining rectory repair costs during the final two months of the year.**

If you have any questions about Redeemer's finances, please feel free to contact me.

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](mailto:shawdf22@gmail.com)) or Bob Dresser ([Robert.dresser@gmail.com](mailto: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 and RedeemerBethesda  
Twitter: @VicarVirtual  
Linked In: Cricket Park  
Instagram: parkcricket and redeemberbethesda

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

Remember: The church will never send e-mails or social media messages asking for donations. If you receive something like this, do not respond to it. Just delete it.

## PARISH LIFE

# Happy Birthday!

Diana Daley

Tyler Packard-Winkler

Theo Akpinar

Lucy Court

Vicky Bocock

Susan Cinkala

Jorge Guzman

Ayesha Court

Lily McGurrin

Charley Gibson

Marylin Raisch

Mary K Young

Lisa MacBain

Amy Yount

Jochen Kraske

Clara Tomlinson

Finley Tomlinson

Nico Judge

Evan Judge

Lucien Garo

Sam Nickerson

Julia Rychlik

## National Cathedral

### CHRISTMAS DAY HOLY EUCHARIST

*Wednesday, December 25, 2019 | 11:15am*

Christians, awake! Join the Cathedral Community for the festive morning service. Readings from Holy Scripture, favorite hymns, and seasonal choral and instrumental music all ring out to proclaim the Divine Presence among us. This service includes Holy Communion.

Incense will be used at this service.

This service is webcast.

American Sign Language interpretation offered at this service.

Passes are NOT required for this service.

Remain for an organ recital after the service.

ONE SERVICE AT 10:30am

On

December 29th (Christmas I)

Christmas Carols.

Holy Communion.

People who go to the other service,  
whom you haven't met!



Happy  
Aniversary to  
Sarah Nelson  
and Evan  
McGurrin!

## PARISH CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev'd Cricket Park, Rector

[rector@redeemberbethesda.org](mailto:rector@redeemberbethesda.org)

The Rev'd Dr. David Schlafer, Assisting Priest

[drdavidjschlafer@gmail.com](mailto:drdavidjschlafer@gmail.com)

Geoffrey Silver, Director of Music Ministries

[music@redeemberbethesda.org](mailto:music@redeemberbethesda.org)

Margaret Church, Bookkeeper

[accounting@redeemberbethesda.org](mailto:accounting@redeemberbethesda.org)

Bob Yates, Parish Assistant

[bob@redeemberbethesda.org](mailto:bob@redeemberbethesda.org)

Yaa Addison, P.R.A.Y. Coordinator

[PRAY@redeemberbethesda.org](mailto:PRAY@redeemberbethesda.org)

Parish Office

[office@redeemberbethesda.org](mailto:office@redeemberbethesda.org)

## VESTRY & OFFICERS

Susan Fitzgerald, Senior Warden

301-229-3430 ▪ [grahampubs@comcast.net](mailto:grahampubs@comcast.net)

Brooke Anthony, Junior Warden

301-493-9368 ▪ [brooke\\_anthony@msn.com](mailto:brooke_anthony@msn.com)

Randolph Court

202-441-9896 ▪ [rcourt@gmail.com](mailto:rcourt@gmail.com)

Bill MacBain

240-464-5330 ▪ [bill@macbain.us](mailto:bill@macbain.us)

Katie Nickerson

301-229-2887 ▪ [kat29kn@gmail.com](mailto:kat29kn@gmail.com)

Marie Caulfield

301-365-3675 \* [mbcaulfield@verizon.net](mailto:mbcaulfield@verizon.net)

Rick Tyler

301-530-5460 ▪ [rjtyler1@gmail.com](mailto:rjtyler1@gmail.com)

Jianping Zhou

301-983-1405 ▪ [jzhou519@yahoo.com](mailto:jzhou519@yahoo.com)

David Brown

202-262-6868 ▪ [brown77dn@comcast.net](mailto:brown77dn@comcast.net)

Steve Gibson, Treasurer

301-229-1168 ▪ [gibliu@verizon.net](mailto:gibliu@verizon.net)

Catherine Sands, Secretary

301-742-8342 ▪ [cgsands1@aol.com](mailto:cdsands1@aol.com)

## The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

6201 Dunrobbin Drive at MacArthur Boulevard

Bethesda, Maryland 20816

Phone: 301-229-3770

Website: [www.redeemberbethesda.org](http://www.redeemberbethesda.org)

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

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 that celebrates the dignity of human  
nature and the beauty of all creation.



## EMAIL

### Emails at Redeemer.

Cricket: [rector@redeemberbethesda.org](mailto:rector@redeemberbethesda.org)

Geoffrey: [music@redeemberbethesda.org](mailto:music@redeemberbethesda.org)

Yaa: [PRAY@redeemberbethesda.org](mailto:PRAY@redeemberbethesda.org)

Margaret: [accounting@redeemberbethesda.org](mailto:accounting@redeemberbethesda.org)

Bob: [bob@redeemberbethesda.org](mailto:bob@redeemberbethesda.org)

The office: [office@redeemberbethesda.org](mailto:office@redeemberbethesda.org)