

*Redeemer  
Bethesda*

# THE REDEEMER SPIRIT

DECEMBER 2020

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

## Advent Disciplines

There are many ways to take this time before Christmas to wait and watch and think of others. Here are just a few of them.

### Read Advent Devotionals

There's always the tried-and-true Forward Day by Day from Forward Movement in Cincinnati, Ohio. There are copies of them on the bench near the church entrance by the labyrinth. You can also read them online at <https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/>.

The staff and members of Redeemer have put together a devotional for you as well. It will be sent to your inbox every day in Advent.

### Join a Book Study

The Adult Forum is reading *Flunking Sainthood* by Jana Riess during the four Sundays in Advent. You can purchase the book at most retail book sites in paperback or e-version.

*(Continued on page 8)*

### ***Inside this Issue:***

*Wardens' Message-2, 4*

*Rector Message-3*

*Music- 5-7*

*Advent Disciplines-1 & 8*

*Blood Drive- 9*

*Birthdays-9*

*Mission-10-11, 13*

*Pledge Campaign -12, 17*

*Financial-14*

*Zoom-15*

*Walk to Bethlehem- 16*

## *Toy Sunday—December 6*

### **St. Nicholas is Coming to Town!**

December 6th would be just another day but for the visitation of our beloved bishop of Myra, Nicholas. Each year, Bishop Nicholas comes by to tell his story to the young people of Redeemer.

This year, he'll be greeting families from 3:00-4:30pm on the Dunrobbin side of the church building. Either he, or one of his assistants, will provide special Christmas coins to those who come by.

St. Nicholas would be most appreciative if those who visit would bring a new, unwrapped toy for a child or two at the Center for Family Life Services. Or, perhaps provide some Christmas gold of your own so that he can purchase gifts for the kids.

To make sure everyone knows about St. Nicholas, he'll tell his story at the beginning of the service that evening at 5:00pm. Go to the Redeemer website for the Zoom link.



## FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

“Advent: the time to listen for footsteps – you can’t hear footsteps when you’re running yourself.” Bill McKibben

“You can’t spell Adventure without Advent.” MBC

Here we are, back at the beginning of Advent.

It won’t be the same this year, but there may be some changes that end up giving us new perspective. Resisting the American way of hectic shopping and partying from Thanksgiving to New Years is often difficult. Stepping back from the commercialism can be hard.

This year, many of us will be staying away from the stores and the restaurants. There are no company holiday parties, at least not in person. Those of us who always fly to family for Christmas will likely be making smaller meals at home and Zooming with loved ones.

I have been thinking about this unique Advent and wanted to share some ideas. I hope something in this touches you.

Here is my 2020 Advent acronym.

**ADVENT:** Ask, Do, Value, Enjoy, Nourish, Trust

**Ask** for what you need.

- Ask God for grace and peace and discernment for the year to come.
- Ask others for what you need; we are physically distant but not alone.
- Get medical care; telehealth works great! Also, tele-mental health works great.

**Do** what you can for others.

- December 1 is Giving Tuesday, but you can think about others this whole season.
- Remember to get your end-of-year charitable donations in for your favorite charities.
- Remember cash or unwrapped toys for **Toy Sunday – December 6** afternoon at the labyrinth; don’t forget your mask!
- Help feed Montgomery County <https://www.here2helpmc.com/>

- Do something little for someone who is Home Alone.

**Value** each other and the world.

- Wear the mask.
- Keep your distance.
- Go outside and revel in nature.

**Enjoy** what you can, pandemic-style.

- Find a way to adapt your family traditions to Zoom, Skype, etc.. Ask the younger family members, they will have ideas. (I have a friend who just had a cousins’ pie eating contest on Zoom.)
- St Nicholas will be dropping into Redeemer for a Zoom telling of his story at The Five on December 6. Tune in!
- There are so many holiday performances online. Look for your favorites. I am looking forward to [Gay Men’s Chorus of Washington Holiday Show](#) and [Handel’s Messiah Free Sing-a-long](#) **December 19 at 2 pm**

**Nourish** yourself.

- Eat good food, read good books, listen to good music
- Challenge yourself with difficult topics
- Join the Adult Forum at [9:00 am Zoom](#) on Sundays to discuss the book Flunking Sainthood.
- Think about how you want to grow in 2021

**Trust** that God is there.

- Don’t forget about praying
- Morning prayer 10:00 am Monday-Friday – just call 508-924-1769
- [Compline at 8 pm Monday - Friday on Zoom](#)
- The Five every Sunday at 5:00. Also, prior worship always available to see at [Redeemer YouTube](#)

Wishing you all a safe and healthy and peaceful and blessed Advent!

**Marie Caulfield**  
**Senior Warden**



## FROM THE HEARTH

[The following is the text from my sermon on November 22nd.]

Everything I needed to know about Christ the King, I discovered in a ballet class. Let me explain.

For the last six weeks, I've been a part of a project called *Faith OnPointe*. It was hosted by a priest in the New York area who was once, like me, a ballet dancer. For me, the class was a way to remember and recapture the wonder I felt when I was dancing. I ended up learning much more.

I learned that at sixty-one years old, my body wants to do what it did when I was 17. It can't. Well, it can't in the same way. So, I adjusted – like you do. I learned muscle memory is a thing. At the first 5-6-7-8, my arms and legs knew just what position to be in and were ready to go with the plie or the passe or the arabesque.

We journaled each time we met, based on questions that Julie posed to us. That first class, I was so near tears. The topic was grace and I felt that I'd been given grace to know that I can still dance. This overweight old woman can still dance! I'm no Pavlova – never was. But the feeling of grace in that movement, that the gift of the dance was something I still possessed, it was overwhelming.

The theme for our final class was Reverence. It refers to the movement at the end of each class when the students acknowledge their teacher and the teacher their students. Think of the final curtsies when you go to the ballet and the dancers come to the stage at the end of the performance. The dancers reverence the audience; the audience returns the acknowledgement, usually with flowers for the lead ballerina.

Julie asked us to remember the first time we ever bowed (or curtsied). To a member, it was in our beginning ballet classes. One class member, who also practices yoga, said that she considers the “namaste” at the end of the class a *reverance*. One of the other women remarked that curtsying, or bowing, made her think of being a princess and bowing to the king and

queen. It was an acknowledgement of something larger than herself.

Ping! Acknowledging something larger than ourselves. That's what Christ the King is all about.

Jesus' parable about sheep and goats, salvation, and everlasting gnashing of teeth, is trying to tell the disciples that within each human being rests the image of God. If that human being is in dire need of food, water, clothing, visitation, our response should be as if we are acknowledging the divine. We are serving royalty when we serve the poor.

Jesus' ministry is our model and ideal. He welcomed the children. He spoke and argued with women. He healed Gentiles. He broke bread with tax collectors and prostitutes. His mother must have been beside herself! Each act of love, even toward those with whom he disagreed, was a *reverance* to the image of God that he saw in everyone. Jesus calls us to become our higher selves.

Therefore, we need to ask ourselves two questions:

How do I stand with integrity before those who are in need?

How do I *reverance* the divine presence in those with whom I disagree?

My first inclination is to pray. Pray, not just in general terms, but specifically. Choose someone who is your ideological opposite. Ask God to help you seek the divine image there. Remember that the spark of God's light may be under a bushel of trauma, abuse, illness, or despair.

Christ is a King who is merciful. Christ taught us that to be of humble service is our calling. How we care for each other informs what we think and feel about God.



(Continued on page 4)

## FROM THE HEARTH, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 3)

Therefore, bow to those whom you love. Genuflect to the memory of those who have been lost in the pandemic. Send your 'namaste' to honor the holy in those at your table. Curtsey to essential workers out there helping us to have the tiny amount of 'normal' that we can. Acknowledge the power that is love by loving one another.

Take this *reverance* into the Advent Season. For at the end, we will find ourselves profoundly bowing to a child in a manger.

**Amma Cricket+**

## FROM THE JUNIOR WARDEN

"The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

As Christians we proclaim ourselves to be a Resurrection people. As survivors of 2020, I believe the Redeemer community can also claim to be an Advent people. I like to think that Dietrich Bonhoeffer might have added, "...who look forward to something greater to come having faith that God will make His presence known to us." We have experienced a plague and a flood. Our worship space is in chaos. Much needed hugs and laughter are in short supply. Some people I speak with say they feel anxious, separated, and disconnected (okay altos - I'm outing us).

This year has forced us to rethink our lifestyles and to focus on what is essential and good. Most of us are blessed with jobs that are not being eliminated and we're able to work from home. We've been given time to think deeply about what we can do to help those less fortunate. Participate in Manna by bringing food to Redeemer; get out in nature and talk with God; get out in nature and just exist - you don't need to talk with God; come to Redeemer and walk the labyrinth; write

letters supporting social justice; contact someone you

haven't seen in a while; cook for a friend; volunteer with organizations other than Redeemer; but whatever you do, do it from a place of gratitude and not because it is expected of you.

The Redeemer building is definitely poor and imperfect at the moment and we are looking forward to something greater to come. You have been generous in answering our call to help financially with the flood renovations. There is still much to be done but we are moving forward. I had unrealistically hoped that everything would be complete and ready for us to return in 2020 but that is not to be. We will need to live into the Advent anticipation, waiting, and hopefulness for a while longer.

A Blessed Advent to You and Yours



**Jo Barclay-Beard**  
Junior Warden

# MUSIC

## 2020 in Review, from *Redeemer Spirit*

### JANUARY

"It might be too far to state that YouTube is our most useful outward and visible musical sign, but it is certainly not to be underestimated how much the growing collection of high quality performances says about this parish and how it cares for and loves its music. In these uncertain times, it is a fairly safe bet that these concert videos—reflections of talent and community—are probably more permanent than each of us!"

**MAR Concert:** Isabelle Demers masterclass and CD Launch Party (*Gramophone, Organists' Review* and *Choir & Organ* have since given the album rave reviews)

### FEBRUARY

The last week of January, Cricket and Geoffrey took continuing education time to attend a two-part conference designed to help parishes create inviting and dynamic worship that "stirs the senses and opens the heart." Vestry met on retreat to consider what Church is and what we would do for any reason(s) we could not be in our building.

**MAR Concert:** Heimat Quartet celebrated Beethoven, and KASSIA MUSIC presented a Valentine's weekend concert, "Romantic & Neo-Romantic" with a new piece by Sam Post, "Two Pieces for the Left Hand Alone" F Minor clarinet sonata by Brahms.

### MARCH

"As is our custom, [for Lent] we will be chanting the words to Gregorian modes—and seeking to find God in the stillness at the midpoint of each verse. I commend those moments of detoxing calm to each of you, particularly if you drive in this area... And those of you who enjoy finding those glimpses of contemplative space within morning worship will love the new 5 o'clock service, handily named, **TheFIVE** which has 15 minutes of contemplation built-in to a 45-minute service. I hope to see many of you there as we explore new ways of being open to old words."

**MAR Concert:** Juliana Soltis, Bach Cello Suites [*Cancelled*]

### APRIL

"A community of people wanting to sing cannot be replaced by anything virtual, no matter how well intended or how well executed. In virtualism we can find a panacea, but it remains virtual, and only something to carry us to the next rehearsal or performance... the sudden withdrawal of contracts without notice is devastating. For our artist friends and neighbors, the summer is a time when many make a third of their annual income at festivals and performances. This is an existential shock for them. We are not like Germany which created a flotilla of lifeboats for its arts community. And although the loss will be immediately devastating for artists, the fallout will impact us too, it will just take longer to experience."

**MAR Concert:** Mozart Requiem with Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church [*Cancelled*]

### MAY

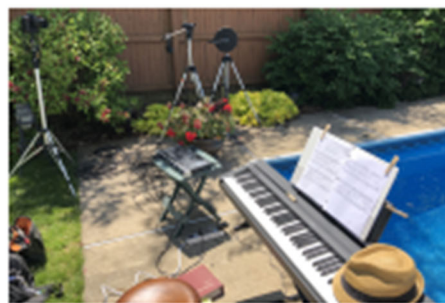
"So, having successfully built a[n audio/video] team and method through the crucible of Holy Week, we were then flooded out on Friday after Good Friday. Putting together a little documentary service for Low Sunday, riffing on the prayers for Baptism, felt a bit like



## MUSIC

putting together a wake. However, the week that followed, being locked out of a dark and damp building, I definitely encountered a double blow of grief, for that which came before, for our little band of Holy Week brothers and sisters, and for my pre-lockdown community of worship, meetings, rehearsals and concerts. I guess I am finally catching up with you all feelings wise. So now we will reinvent the wheel again. Thankfully it was not fire, and thankfully it wasn't on Good Friday, otherwise we would have been stuck in a perpetual Lent! I am excited for what may emerge from the damage.

You will know that for me, Choir is all about the community of rehearsal and the vibrancy of the instant gardening of musical growth."



### JUNE

"Well, this month has been a month of firsts: first poolside singing, first mothballing of our pipe organ, first zoom Music Committee meeting, first whole month of not worshipping in a building, first virtual "95th Happy Birthday", first time to distinguish between quarantine and shelter-in-place... Throughout all this it's been wonderful working in such a creative and flexible team, and receiving reminders from many of you that you're still out there and tuning in!"



### JULY

"The Music Committee "zoomed" in late May with Director of Music Ministries Geoffrey (the "Younger") Silver to discuss the way forward with Music at Redeemer (MAR) during the COVID pandemic. It was agreed that MAR should have as much presence as possible using streaming technology. KASSIA Music, our ensemble in residence for the MAR 2019-2020 season, has agreed to present four "Live on Lockdown" events during the summer. The first presentation was June 13 and enjoyed by many online. The next is July 18 at 7 p.m., with one each month to follow in August and September." Geoffrey Platt, Music Committee Chair

### AUGUST

"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."

### SEPTEMBER

"Although it hurts me to see our space so silent of voices, the transitional and unkempt feel does give me hope. The organ is looking actively cared for and protected for whatever Jo throws at it...There is stuff everywhere. And yet, there is peace, and there is a quiet sense of joy in the building. She's empty, but she's alive, and in hibernation, protecting her flock from each other in their absence. In many ways, this period of rebuilding and forced shuttering from construction will enable Redeemer, particularly the music program, to see what works safely elsewhere and what best practice emerges. There are no prizes for enthusiastically leading the way here and getting it wrong. In this period we will fashion a plan that is flexible enough to respond to the interwoven, stop/start timelines of contractors, diocese, county, state...and vaccine manufacturers.

"It's going to be a year of music unlike any other any of us have likely witnessed--even in wartime people could sing in the public air raid shelters. But with the federal executive ping-pong about to each click on the TV remote, and a deliberate undermining of confidence in our national health institutions, it will require all our faith and patience to put our feet forward and step into uncertain waters in the absence of hard data (is humming safe?) and search for resources that we trust have the best interests of our most vulnerable at heart."

# MUSIC

## OCTOBER

“Although you are at home, I would recommend standing up during the Gloria and Hymns, and having a good sing on your muted Zoom. We all know how fun it is to sing in the shower or along to the radio in the car. What you may not have considered is how one of the reasons for this is the healing effect on the body, the release of tensions with the natural vibrations and frequencies of your voice interacting with your ribs, neck and head. Consider how singing your favorite rock song at 50 mph or the sensation of your favorite opera chorus in the shower with watery ‘orchestra’ makes you feel. With the best hymns you get to sing great tunes along with some of the most beautiful texts that we have in Church besides holy scripture. When we recognize the tremendous inheritance of these works of art, and heartily sing melodies that put us back on track, through words that change us ‘from glory into glory, amidst thencircling gloom, we recognize and connect with our body, mind and spirit--our souls--in ways that opera and rock can only hint at. Singing is praying twice, but it’s a physical and spiritual work -out too: Judge Eternal, throned in splendor, Lord of lords and King of kings, with your living fire of judgment purge this land of bitter things...cleave our darkness with your sword; feed the faithless and the hungry with the richness of your word; cleanse the body of this nation through the glory of the Lord.”

## NOVEMBER

“Singing Christmas carols in the fall sunshine, and then attempting to record them together with chainsaws, leaf blowers, marine helicopters, planes (including an F16), is just one of those memories that will forever define 2020. I have to commend the Choir for being able to pull together consort singing at greatly reduced numbers, of different people each time - which is like asking a sports team to suddenly play 5-aside for the very first time, at the wrong time of year, and while wearing masks. Everyone has been so graceful and grateful in equal amounts. We will be incorporating pre-recorded items over the coming weeks and months in *TheFIVE*.

“Compline is such a rich resource...It is a fun experience improvising melodies and using skills that choral musicians do not get to use as much as some other musicians. The first week of Compline were mainly from Redeemer, and the second mainly from home. It is a service which somehow lends itself most effectively to either situation. Apparently all you need are company, candles, and beautiful words--some beautiful for their familiarity, and others beautiful in the way they reintroduce us to roads well travelled.”

**Geoffrey Silver, Director of Music Ministries**



## ADVENT DISCIPLINS CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

Jana Riess is the author or editor of many books, including *What Would Buffy Do?*. Although she is a spiritual failure and was never able to climb the rope in gym class, she has a doctorate from Columbia University and works as an editor in the publishing industry.

In *Flunking*, she shares her quest to become saintlier by tackling twelve spiritual practices. What emerges is a vulnerable story of the quest for perfection and the reality of failure, which turns out to be a valuable spiritual practice in and of itself.

### Make an Advent Wreath!

You don't need to be fancy, although you could if that's your style. You need four candles. The traditional colors are blue or purple (x3) and one pink one. Pillar candles work best, but you can use tapers. Don't get concerned if you can't find the right colors. Use a crafting material to make a ring. Insert the candles in the ring. Add greens—faux or real. Voila!

Or, be daring and instead of a round wreath, place them side-by-side in a line. The point is to light one candle each night and pray the Collect from Sunday or use a devotional of your choice.

### Create a Reverse Advent Food Calendar

Fill an empty box one food item at a time:

- box of cereal
- Progresso or chunky soup
- can of tuna
- beef stew or corned beef hash
- canned pasta
- can of corn
- can of spinach, sauerkraut, or red beets

- can of mandarin oranges
- can of peaches
- can of applesauce
- box of mac and cheese
- ketchup, mustard, or BBQ sauce
- olives or pickles
- jelly or jam
- flour or sugar
- cooking oil
- baking mix (cake, brownies)
- snack item
- shampoo or conditioner
- deodorant
- toothpaste
- box of tissues
- tea or hot chocolate
- juice

At the end of Advent, bring the box to Redeemer and we'll give it to the Manna Food pantry and Bethesda Cares. Or, take it to a pantry near you. Together, let's spend Advent caring for others, for our families, and for our own spiritual well-being's.





# PARISH LIFE

## December Birthdays

- Diana Daley
- Tyler Packard-Winkler
- Theo Akpinar
- Lucy Court
- Vicky Boccock
- 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
- Justin Arrington
- Lou Garo
- Ellen Jimerson
- Sam Nickerson
- Charles Oliver
- Julia Rychlik

**Happy Anniversary**  
Sarah Nelson & Evan McGurrin



**Blood Drive**  
**St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church**

Parish Hall  
5450 Massachusetts Ave  
Bethesda, MD 20816

**Tuesday, December 29, 2020**  
**12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Please contact Bob Yates at bob@bobyates.net or Rev Patty Alexander at rector@stdunstansbethesda.org to schedule your life-saving appointment.

Eligibility concerns, please call the Red Cross at 1-866-236-3276.

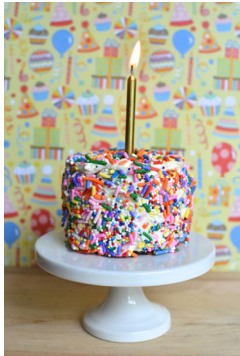
Please remember to wear a mask, bring a photo ID, eat a healthy breakfast/lunch and hydrate well with plenty of water. Hydration is very important in donating blood.

Contact David.Hull@redcross.org if you have any other questions.

This event is sponsored by The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer and St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church.



Come to give Dec. 18-Jan. 4 for a long-sleeved Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last!



Give Something that Means Something® | RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS

[6] Order ID: 112865 - Item ID: 425675 - Qty: 1 of 1 - 050025 DC - 2020-11-01 01:25 - JRES - 2021-11

## MISSION

### Nourish Bethesda— A New, Cooperative Ministry Feeding Hungry Families



The line of cars begins well before opening time at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad. If they are within the first 200 people in line, they will receive a week's worth of shelf-stable items, a bag of produce, and a prepared meal. Too often the food runs out before the line runs out. Such is life in 2020. Volunteers come from St. John's Episcopal Church in Bethesda as well as from surrounding apartment and office buildings. Food is from Nourish Now, the Hyatt Regency Bethesda, and other sources. As of now, St. John's has secured funding to continue this ministry through February, but would like other churches and organizations to join their cooperative to make it sustainable for the future. Representatives will be at Adult Forum on November 8th at Redeemer and November 15th at St. Dunstan's. How can our parish be a part of this vital ministry in our city?

### Redeemer Book Group

We met in November on zoom to discuss *Passage to India*. We had a lively discussion and agreed on our next book, *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchet. At the end of World War II, Cyril Conroy combines luck and a single investment to begin an enormous real estate empire, propelling his family from poverty to wealth. He buys the Dutch House, a lavish estate in the suburbs of Philadelphia, which sets in motion the undoing of everyone he loves. The story is told by Cyril's son, Danny, as he and his sister Maeve are exiled from the house where they grew up by their stepmother. The book will be discussed on Zoom on Sunday January 10 at 3:00 pm. Bob Dresser will send an invitation to the meeting via a zoom link. For more information, please contact Bob Dresser or Huda Kraske.

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)).

### Worship Notes

During Advent, our Eucharistic setting is from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*. We've been using this particular book of common prayer for our daily morning prayers and compline. The Anglican Church in New Zealand came up with a classic!

If you have your own copy of ANZPB, please follow

along with us. If not, just listen to the prayers and discover a new way of living into the consecration of bread and wine. We'll return to the Book of Common Prayer 1979 in Christmastide and Epiphany. Geoffrey Silver, and his colleagues at the churches in the South Montgomery County Deanery, are planning a Christmas Lessons & Carols service for broadcast on December 27th. Stay tuned for more information late in the month.

## MISSION

### Gifts that Create a Better World

Holiday gift giving can double as works of justice. Here are just a few of the ways you can provide help this season.

#### Episcopal Relief and Development's Gifts for Life.

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

Purchase mosquito nets, pigs, goats, chickens, immunizations, and more. Each gift helps someone in the world take a new step toward self-sufficiency. (Wrap up a representation for the giftee—hair nets, spam, goat cheese, you get the picture).

#### Equal Exchange.

[www.equalexchange.coop](http://www.equalexchange.coop)

Equal Exchange started with an idea: what if food could be traded in a way that is honest and fair, a way that empowers both farmers and consumers? In 1986, they started with fairly traded coffee from Nicaragua and didn't look back. (from their website) Equal Exchange also offers fairly traded teas and chocolates. When we get back to church, we'll be able to enjoy Equal Exchange coffee together again! (You can purchase this at the Bethesda Co-op.)

#### The Women's Bean Project

[www.women'sbeanproject.com](http://www.women'sbeanproject.com)

Women's Bean Project is a nonprofit social enterprise based in Colorado. We have a food manufacturing business tied directly to our transitional employment program. One cannot exist without the other. We believe all women have the power to transform their lives through employment. So we hire women who are chronically unemployed and we teach them to work making nourishing products that we sell across the U.S. Through their work at Women's Bean Project, women learn to stand tall, find their purpose and break the cycle of poverty. Because when you change a woman's life, you change her family's life. (from their website)

#### Food for the Poor.

[www.foodforthe poor.org](http://www.foodforthe poor.org)

Relief organization providing food and relief efforts in the Caribbean and South America, specifically Honduras and Nicaragua. They have a gift catalog and other avenues for giving.

#### Five Talents.

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

This Virginia-based nonprofit provides micro-loans to women and men in South America, Africa, and Asia. Five Talents equips those living in extreme poverty with skills and tools to start their own small businesses.

### Bethesda Cares Dinner THANK YOU!

Many thanks to those who put together dinner on Sunday, November 22nd, for the hungry and homeless through our partnership with Bethesda Cares: the Jennings Mershon family, Jo Beard, Marie & Steve France, Silvia Maza & Bill Heron, Helen Zitomer, Marie Caulfield, Karen Stewart, Huda Kraske, Mary Helen Carlson, Jefferson & Cathy Arrington, Judy James, Ben Ivins, and Jane Dealy. Redeemer will provide dinner again on Sunday, January 24. Please consider participating in this rewarding Redeemer Outreach Program!

Sam Penn and Nico Hotes     Anne deFontenay



## PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

### Pledge Campaign Report

As of Thanksgiving, Redeemer has received 34 pledges totaling \$314,227. This represents 66% of our goal. The balance remaining is \$162,273. To those who have pledged, THANK YOU! Additional thank you to those from Redeemer and the community for contributing to the flood renovation expenses. We've received \$35,278 in cash and pledges toward this extraordinary expense. The total expense for the flood repairs will be over \$200,000.

Friends, I believe you know that Redeemer's budget is 'bare bones'. The majority of our expenses are the salaries and benefits of our staff, including contract staff, and building maintenance. We have been diligent in our spending this year, keeping within budget as best we can. However, in addition to the flood expenses, there were several building expenses we did not foresee. The work to protect the building from outside water damage, discovered when we tore the drywall away from the windows near the labyrinth, was \$13,000. One of the air conditioning units decided to gasp it's last—\$10,000. Those were the unexpected maintenance costs.

The regular stuff: landscape assistance, mowing, mulch, they all cost a little more this year. Plus, projects to make the church less hazardous—new hand rails on the entrance to the church at the bell tower and lighting outside—were completed. Kudos to Jo Barclay-Beard and her husband Brian for all their hard work.

The flood opened up opportunities to think and act on upgrades while we were in 'deconstruction'. A funeral last year revealed how inadequate the 20-year-old elevator was and what a liability it could be. Elevator companies who came to inspect determined that the damage from the flood could be repaired, but warned that there was only about 5 years left on its usability. The vestry made the decision to replace the elevator now in order to save further costs in the future.

Church Insurance has been terrific. They are covering nearly 80% of the costs for the renovation. They responded immediately on April 17th so that we could get the mitigation team in to dry things out and remove the damaged parts. Our representative agreed that if we could do it, now is the time to make the upgrades we could as it would be more expensive once the repairs were done. The vestry chose to do just that with an upgraded floor in the parish hall. Also, they insisted that the organ be protected whether or not the insurance paid for it. (They did.) I do not, in all honesty, know how I could have survived all this without this incredible group of people.

We also incurred expenses so that we could live-stream our services from the sanctuary. These were one-time hits to the budget, but they were significant. Thankfully, staff have volunteered to use some of their own equipment to help hold costs down.

All this is to say that if you haven't sent your pledge in for 2021, please do so today. Just e-mail Margaret Church ([accounting@redeemberbethesda.org](mailto:accounting@redeemberbethesda.org)). We still have 60 families who pledged last year and have not this year. We really need you. I hope we hear from you soon.

Faithfully,  
Rev. Cricket Park  
Rector

## MISSION



*The Ulua River, which Chinda sits beside, has overflowed and the bridge to the communities has been swept away (left); Roy Lara, SVH coordinator, crosses a log to visit the communities following Hurricane Eta (center); Community members in El Tule survey damage done to a fence following Hurricane Iota (right).*

Dear Sustainable Villages Friends and Supporters,

**We didn't expect to be reaching out to you again so soon, but last week Hurricane Iota made landfall in Honduras—the second major storm to hit the country this month. Read on for an in-country update from Roy Lara, SVH coordinator, and learn about [how you can support](#) our communities to rebuild.**

"It's a disaster! Electricity is out in Trinidad and the communities, roads and bridges are torn up where the communities are," Roy, who is safe at his sister's house in San Pedro Sula, told us recently. So far, we know that in our communities:

- **Some families' homes have been completely swept away or greatly damaged.** Torrential rainfall, rivers rising, winds, and trees falling on buildings and fences have caused massive damage.
- **Getting to and from the communities and delivering supplies is a huge challenge.** The bridge to the communities is gone, and mudslides and water have blocked the roads up the mountain. The only way to get to the communities is via boat, mototaxi and horseback.
- **Fragile water systems have been destroyed.** Clean drinking water is still scarce and may continue to be a long-term issue.

Though we are still waiting to get full reports and photos of the damage in our communities, it's clear that the Hurricane Iota has caused unbelievable destruction for our friends and partners in Chinda. As [The Washington Post](#) reports, damage across the country is also grave. The international airport in San Pedro Sula is underwater. Many highways are impassable. And some cities, like Copán Ruinas, are struggling to receive any aid from the federal government.

**If you are able to [make a donation](#) to support SVH today, it would be so greatly appreciated. The need in our communities has never been more urgent. Increased global need due to the pandemic make the likelihood of significant international support, like that following Hurricane Mitch in 1998, low.**

**And if you give now, your dollars will go further—a group of long-time donors have pledged \$15,000 to match donations up to \$15,000 made by December 15.**

As we head into a week of gratitude here in the U.S., we at SVH give thanks for your continued support that helps empower local leaders to build sustainable agricultural practices, communities and economic opportunities, and overcome other challenges they face.

Thank you,  
Ben Ivins & Betsy Agle

***Make Checks Out to Sustainable Villages Honduras and Send to:***

***Sustainable Villages Honduras  
P.O. Box 15736  
Washington DC 20003***

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Redeemer Profit and Loss Statement October 31, 2020	Jan. - Oct. Actual	Jan. - Oct. Budget	Jan. - Oct. Over (Under) Budget	Annual Budget
<b>INCOME</b>				
2020 Pledge Payments	397,381	412,354	(14,972)	465,420
2020 Over Pledge	28,005	4,167	23,839	5,000
2020 Non-Pledge	26,365	20,833	5,532	25,000
2019 Pledges	1,660	0	1,660	0
Loose Plate Offering	1,125	3,333	(2,208)	4,000
Special Offerings	0	2,000	(2,000)	2,400
Event & Activity Income	310	13,625	(13,315)	16,350
Facilities Use	2,562	12,500	(9,938)	15,000
Other Income	253,927	4,167	249,760	5,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>711,336</b>	<b>472,978</b>	<b>238,357</b>	<b>538,170</b>
Minus Insurance Proceeds (Flood)	243,534	0	243,534	0
<b>Adjusted Total Income</b>	<b>467,801</b>	<b>472,978</b>	<b>(5,177)</b>	<b>538,170</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>				
Administration Expense	30,353	38,000	(7,647)	45,600
Diocesan Giving	33,333	33,333	0	40,000
Discretionary Account	1,000	833	167	1,000
Maintenance Expense	259,000	63,958	195,042	76,750
Outreach Giving	0	0	0	0
Personnel Expense	234,706	245,872	(11,166)	295,046
Program Expense	22,459	29,750	(7,291)	35,700
Property Expense	38,960	39,167	(206)	47,000
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>619,811</b>	<b>450,913</b>	<b>168,898</b>	<b>541,096</b>
Minus Flood Recovery Expense	201,515	0	201,515	0
<b>Adjusted Total Expense</b>	<b>418,296</b>	<b>450,913</b>	<b>(32,617)</b>	<b>541,096</b>
<b>Adjusted Net Operating Income</b>	<b>49,505</b>	<b>22,065</b>	<b>27,440</b>	<b>(2,926)</b>

Set forth in the adjoining table are Church of the Redeemer's financial operating results through the end of October. Year-to-date "normalized" net operating income, after adjustment to remove flood recovery cost and insurance proceeds, continues above budget.

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

**Stephen L. Gibson**  
Treasurer

Come to church this  
Sunday.  
Avoid the Christmas rush.

Fall means more here.  The Episcopal Church

## REDEEMER ZOOMS

### Schedule of Zoom Meetings in December

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

December 6, 13, 20

*Adult Forum at 9:00am*

*Family-friendly service at 10:am*

*Sunday School at 10:30am*

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

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

This zoom link is for all the above.

December 1, 8, 15, 22

*Knit-along with the Rector*

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

[pwd=QnNmRUhiVllRa2FaSXA3U2RNSVNaQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87083173624?pwd=QnNmRUhiVllRa2FaSXA3U2RNSVNaQT09)

December 2, 9, 16, 23

*Bible Study at noon*

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85912028288?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85912028288?pwd=OWhGSHdsVEd1SVBYdlFPQWV2R2R2JVQTO9)

[pwd=OWhGSHdsVEd1SVBYdlFPQWV2R2R2JVQTO9](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85912028288?pwd=OWhGSHdsVEd1SVBYdlFPQWV2R2R2JVQTO9)

Continuing in December Monday through Friday:

*Morning Prayers via phone at 10:00am*

1. Dial this number: (508) 924-1769
2. That's it!

*Compline via Zoom at 8:00pm*

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75456865769?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75456865769?pwd=ZitGbGUrczFUWXRbB2lKc1RlTE8yQT09)

[pwd=ZitGbGUrczFUWXRbB2lKc1RlTE8yQT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75456865769?pwd=ZitGbGUrczFUWXRbB2lKc1RlTE8yQT09)

### Sunday Morning Online Worship at Redeemer

Adult Forum at 9:00am

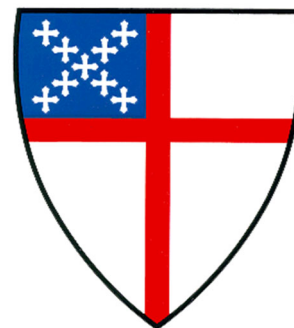
November 1st we'll hear from Deacon Anne Derse of St. John's, Norwood Parish, about a new ministry feeding the hungry in downtown Bethesda.

At 10:00am - a short family service of Word and Prayer. Amma Cricket provides a story for the children as well as a little music and prayer.

Sunday School classes for Intermediates and Middle/High School begin in their separate Zoom rooms at 10:30am.

"Coffee Hour" begins at 4:30pm. You can log in a little early if you want help connecting your computer or smartphone to the Zoom room.

*TheFIVE*, our evening worship experience, begins at 5:00pm. This service is usually the celebration of Holy Eucharist. If you would like to take reserved sacrament home to consume during this service, please contact Amma Cricket ([rector@redeemerbethesda.org](mailto:rector@redeemerbethesda.org)).



### 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

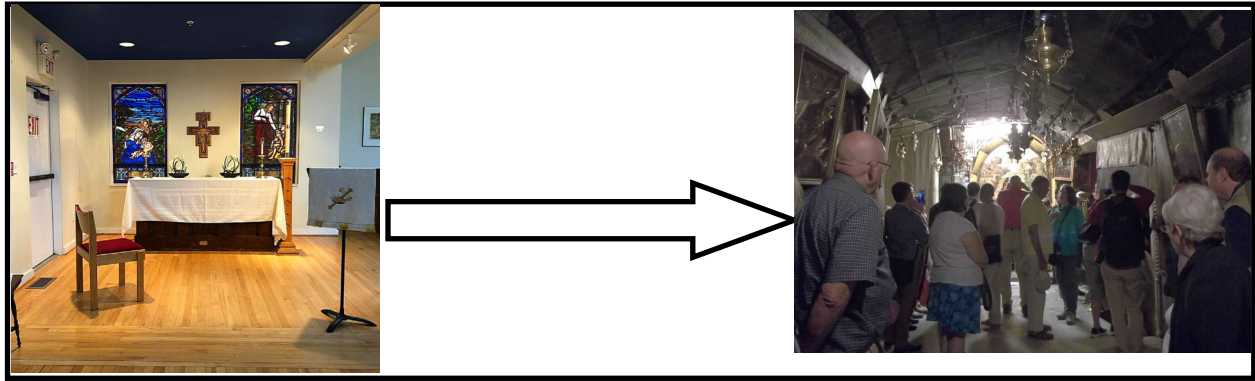
**Twitter:** @VicarVirtual

**Linked In:** Cricket Park

**Instagram:** parkcricket and redeemerbethesda

**YouTube:** Search for "music at Redeemer"

## Walk to Bethlehem: November 29–December 24



### Walk Off the COVID-19#

Feeling pudgy? Feeling stressed? Need some motivation to move? Let's walk to Bethlehem together!

There are 5,854.5 miles from Bethesda, Maryland, to Bethlehem, Palestine. Plus, there's the Atlantic Ocean between us. How do we walk there? One step at a time, of course.

Let's assume that an average walker can go 3 miles per hour. That's three 20-minute segments. So, for every 20-minutes you exercise, you've walked a mile toward the Holy Land.

Any exercise will do. One hour of yoga counts the same as one hour jogging, or doing housework, or walking the dog(s). Fifteen minutes on the treadmill counts the same as 15 minutes raking leaves. The point is for you to get up and away from your screens a little bit each day.

Our walk to Bethlehem is a pilgrimage of sorts. It's time we take from the everyday to focus on our faith journey. Walking allows us to get into a different mindset. That helps open up our minds and hearts to what God may be saying to us. Moving our bodies helps our minds and hearts!

Participants should keep a record of what they do each day, beginning on Advent I—November 29th. Each Saturday evening, send an e-mail with your "mileage" to [rector@redeemerbethesda.org](mailto:rector@redeemerbethesda.org). Families can report their miles together. Each week, we'll tabulate the miles and give you an update in *This Week at Redeemer*.

Want more motivation? Make it a friendly competition! Kids against adults or family against family. Youth group against the choir. Whatever you choose, just make it fun.

Here's to a great Advent journey!



## Community, Continuity, and Renewal

In thanksgiving to God for the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, my pledge for fiscal year 2021 is \$\_\_\_\_\_.

I plan to pay this  Weekly  Monthly  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me with regard to giving through a Donor Advised Fund.

I/We want to help close the gap between the insurance payments and costs for the parish hall repair and renovation. We've enclosed an additional gift for this purpose of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Pledge statements will be sent to all pledging families in early October. It is being provided so that you know where you are with regard to your 2020 pledge and for you to consider as you make your pledge for 2021.

An official mailing with this pledge form will be sent to Redeemer families and friends at the end of October. If you choose to send this in now, you will save us the postage for that mailing.

Please contact Rev. Cricket Park ([rector@redeemberbethesda.org](mailto:rector@redeemberbethesda.org)) or Margaret Church ([accounting@redeemberbethesda.org](mailto:accounting@redeemberbethesda.org)) if you have questions regarding your pledges. Thank you for your faith in God and in Redeemer.

Print and send this form to:  
Episcopal Church of the Redeemer  
6201 Dunrobbin Drive  
Bethesda, MD 20816

## PARISH CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev'd Cricket Park, Rector

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

The Rev'd Dr. David Schlafer, Assisting Priest

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

Geoffrey Silver, Director of Music Ministries

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

Margaret Church, Bookkeeper

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

Bob Yates, Parish Assistant

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

Parish Office

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## VESTRY & OFFICERS

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

Jo Barclay-Beard, Junior Warden

301-789-4493 ▪ [jobbeard@yahoo.com](mailto:jobbeard@yahoo.com)

Randolph Court

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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.redeemerbethesda.org](http://www.redeemerbethesda.org)

*The Parish Office is closed during the pandemic and renovation.*

*Please contact individual staff members for appointments.*



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.**



## EMAIL

### Emails at Redeemer.

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

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

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

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

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