

*Redeemer  
Bethesda*

# THE REDEEMER SPIRIT

FEBRUARY 2021

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

LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 17TH

## Virtual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper & Ash Wednesday



We shall not let a pandemic ruin the beginning of Lent!

Make pancakes at home and join our Virtual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper online at 6:30pm. We'll use the same Zoom link as we use for Sunday activities. (You can find it at [www.redeemberbethesda.org](http://www.redeemberbethesda.org).) You don't have to limit yourself to pancakes and sausage. Any breakfast fare will do. The important point is to connect to your fellow Redeemerites as we usually do on this day. Everyone's welcome! Let's see those kids with syrupy fingers and the dogs beg-

ging for sausage under the table. There will be prizes for the funniest hat, the funniest mask, best decorated pancake, and most creative Alleluia poster.

Let's have some fun. Why? Because Lent begins the very next day. We have to hide the Alleluias and think penitential thoughts (except on Sundays) until Easter.

Unfortunately, the pandemic is not going to allow us to do the usual imposition of ashes. The risk is too great to do a drive-by 'ashing'. (Although one staff member suggested using a pool cue. Hmmm....no.)

We will do a live Zoom service at 7:00pm on Ash Wednesday. If you have your palms from a previous Palm Sunday, you are certainly welcome to burn those palms and use them in your family to impose ashes on each other.



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We will not be imposing ashes during the service. And, we'll take a year off of Lent Madness. (You can still track the brackets yourselves at [www.lentmadness.org](http://www.lentmadness.org).) Consider sending a donation to Bethesda Cares this Lent.

**We still have plenty of slots open for Lenten Meditations.** These are two to three paragraphs that reflect on a set of scripture readings that are sent out daily to the parish. You can write on one, two, or all three readings. Or, if you are otherwise inspired, you could write poetry or a different type of reflection. It's up to you. Please let Cricket know by February 10th if you are willing to take a date or two.

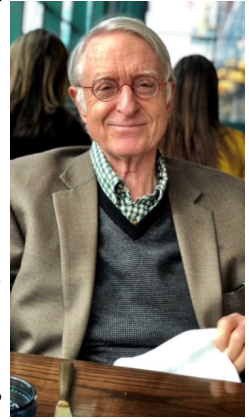
## FROM THE WARDENS

At the meeting of the “new” vestry on January 20, I was elected Senior Warden. I am honored, flattered and, I admit, a bit astonished to have been selected. In any case, I am eager to do what I can to help move forward the mission of this wonderful parish. Thanks to Marie Caufield, my predecessor for her years of good work and to Jo Barclay-Beard who, thankfully, continues as Junior Warden, attending principally to the huge task of bringing the building back after the flood. With our fine Rector at the helm, along with colleagues Geoffrey Silver and Bob Yates, and with our vestry eager to get to work, I am confident Redeemer is in good hands.

What is frustrating, of course, to all of us in the congregation, is the environment in which we live and work, especially COVID-19, which presently prevents us from worshipping together, socializing at Coffee Hour, or volunteering in person as a team. I find it particularly challenging, as one relatively new to Redeemer, that I cannot meet in person those of you whom I don't know. ZOOM, emails and the phone are some help. It is so important to stay in touch with each other in whatever ways work. You can, for instance, reach me at: [gplatt63@gmail.com](mailto:gplatt63@gmail.com) There is a road ahead but it will be a long one. We have seen the bright light of the recent Inauguration and the

possibility of vaccines but we know there will be bumps and twists along the roadway.

I knew a man when I lived in Richmond VA who was a very successful businessman. I asked him once what he had learned and could pass on to me from a long career. He replied: “Remember this: PPP, TTT” And what is that, I asked. His answer: “Patience Patience Patience; Things Take Time.”



As we move down the road together let me leave you with words by the poet John Greenleaf Whittier from verse written for the hymn titled “Dear Lord and Father of Mankind” (#s 652, 653): “Drop thy still dews of quietness...take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess the beauty of thy peace...O still, small voice of calm.”

Let it be so.

In God we trust,  
Geoffrey Platt



### Welcome to Our New Deacon!

Hi there, Church of the Redeemer. I am Rev. Dr. Adrienne J. Clamp. I am excited to get to know you! I would like to tell you a little about myself

in hopes we, as isolated as we currently are, can jumpstart our acquaintance with each other.

I grew up in the mountain west, mostly Montana and have never really become a “city girl” at heart. I cry upon returning to the wide-open spaces and mountains of my home. That being said, I have been in the Washington area for the past 30 years and as a military “young’un” was actually born at Walter Reed. I spent my formative years “around the world” and

ended up in Helena, Montana, when my father retired from the Air Force. I went to college, graduate school, medical school and did my residency all in Kansas and moved back east afterwards to seek my fortune! I came to Washington in 1990 to work for the Healthcare for the Homeless Project and after that married my husband and became a Bethesdite. I retired from medicine in 2017 to pursue ordination and was ordained by Bishop Budde in November 2020.

I am a bit of a dilettante in that I have a million hobbies and my husband lives in fear that I will find yet another one. I sew, knit, craft, do stained and fused glass, play a mediocre flute and an elementary level cello. I have also never met a book I did not want to

*(Continued on page 3)*

## FROM THE HEARTH

We've all seen so much over the last two weeks. Horrified by the events at the Capitol on Epiphany, we gingerly stepped into each day until the inauguration. On January 20th we rejoiced that the republic stands and marveled at a young woman whose poem was the perfect end to a historic ceremony.

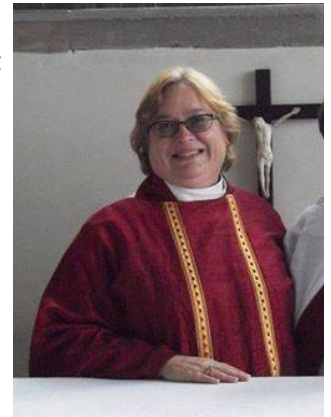
Do we have the bravery to be the light of which Amanda Gorman spoke? Can we repent of our long-held systems meant to discriminate and destroy and then change them? I hope so. While we may not be able to change the world as individuals, we certainly can as communities.

That is where we all come in.

Church communities are known for their outreach and hospitality. Some have reputations for great music or great coffee hours. Some are known for launching the careers of the clergy. All that is great and good and commendable. Those are the steps needed to be welcoming.

Welcoming takes a little more effort where you least expect it.

A church is welcoming when  
 A new parent sees a bright  
 clean nursery and  
 safety standards for  
 that nursery,  
 A person of color sees  
 themselves in its  
 leadership,  
 Parents of toddlers notice  
 safety plugs in the  
 electrical outlets and  
 door fasteners on the cabinets.  
 LGBT+ members and visitors know that the  
 sanctuary could be a place for their wedding.  
 Environmentally conscious people know that we  
 recycle.  
 Persons with disabilities can get to every level of  
 the building AND use the bathroom.



I invite you to help Redeemer become an even more Welcoming Community this year. Let me or the wardens know if you see something that needs attending to, be it in the physical plant or our communications. Then, invite people to church!

**Amma Cricket+**

read (or something I did not want to know about) and there are far too many bookshelves in our house.

My husband, Peter, on the other hand is a fine violinist since his youth, though he earns his keep as an IT guy. We have a beloved cat, Mimi, and I am always politicking for a dog which Peter nixes every time! All of my family other than Peter and Mimi live in the west of England and I wonder when I will again be able to see them in the flesh.

I worked with the chaplain of the Montgomery County Correctional Facility as a volunteer chaplain for the women housed there and find a great deal of joy in helping them, and others as well, to discover their belovedness by God and grow in self-efficacy in order to create a better future than the past has



been. I am constantly reminded that we are more alike than different and have the same need of love, belonging, grace and often redemption from our mistakes. They have taught me a great deal about myself and I hope to continue to minister to them after we achieve a degree of communal immunity to COVID19.

Here are a couple of pictures for you to recognize me when you see me (lurking on Zoom) or sometime soon in person. The first is my actual picture and the second is a card that someone sent me for my birthday that I always thought looked like my soul!

Deacon Adrienne

## FROM PRESIDING BISHOP CURRY

In the name of our loving, liberating, and life-giving God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

In another time of national crisis, another time of danger for our nation, in 1865 on March the fourth, Abraham Lincoln concluded his second inaugural address with these words:

*With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and a lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.*

Lincoln knew in that moment, in the moment of a national crisis, a moment of great danger, that such a moment was a moment of decision, when a nation, when a people must decide who shall we be? What kind of nation, what kind of people shall we be? A hundred years later, Martin Luther King faced the same reality. Who shall we be? The civil rights movement was waning. The great victories that had been won had been won. And yet now questions of poverty and economic despair and disparities raised an awesome specter on the nation. We were at war.

We were at war in another country, but there was war on our streets. The nation was deeply divided. Cities burned. There were riots. Riots at national conventions of political parties. The future of the nation was in question, and it was at that time that Dr. King realized that in moments of danger, a decision must be made. And he titled his last book, *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community*. I believe as he believed, as Abraham Lincoln believed, as I believe you believe, that we must choose community. Chaos is not an option. Community is our only hope.

The truth is Dr. King spoke often of all that he did and labored for was for the purpose of realizing as much of the Beloved Community of God as it is possible on this earth. He spoke of Beloved Community, the Bible, the New Testament, Jesus spoke of the kingdom or the reign of God. Jesus taught us to pray, and to work, and to labor for that Beloved Community, that reign of God's love in our time and in our world, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth just as it is in heaven. Those are our marching orders from Jesus himself.

I am a follower of Jesus of Nazareth because I believe that his way of love and his way of life is the way of life for us all. I believe that unselfish, sacrificial love, love that seeks the good and the welfare and the well-being of others, as well as the self, that this is the way that can lead us and guide us to do what is just, to do what is right, to do what is merciful. It is the way that can lead us beyond the chaos to community.

Now, I know full well that this may to some sound naive, to others, idealistic, and I understand that. And yet, I want to submit that the way of love that leads to beloved community is the only way of hope for humanity. Consider the alternative. The alternative is chaos, not community. The alternative is the abyss of anarchy, of chaos, of hatred, of bigotry, of violence, and that alternative is unthinkable. We have seen nightmarish visions of that alternative. We saw it in Charlottesville just a few years ago when neo-Nazis marched through the streets of an American city, chanting, "Jews will not replace us." That alternative is unthinkable. We saw it in Minneapolis-St. Paul, where a public safety officer knelt with his knee on the neck of another human being. A child of God, just like he was, and snuffed out the breath of life that God gave him. The alternative is unthinkable.

And we have seen it this past Wednesday, when a monument to democracy, the Capitol of the United States of America was desecrated and violated with violence by vandals. Lives were lost. A nation was wounded. Democracy itself was threatened. My brothers and sisters, this way of love that Jesus taught us when he said, "Love the Lord your God, and your neigh-

## BP. CURRY—CONTINUED

bor as yourself.” This way of love that Moses taught even before Jesus. This way of unselfish, sacrificial love, it is the way to redeem a nation, to save a world. It is the way of hope for us all. But do not make the mistake of thinking that I speak of a sentimental and emotional love.

Jesus spoke of love most consistently the closer he got to the cross. This way of love is the way of sacrifice, the way of unselfishness, the way of selflessness, that seeks the good of the other as well as the self. And that is the way of the cross, which is the way of life. And if you don’t believe me, ask another apostle of love. Not Dr. King, not Abraham Lincoln, ask Archbishop Tutu. Ask one who has given his life for the cause of God’s love in the way of Jesus. Ask him; ask Nelson Mandela in your mind. Ask them what love looks like. They knew that the way of love was the only way that could guide South Africa from what could have become a bloody nightmare and civil war to the way that could build a nation.

And it was not sentimental. Remember truth and reconciliation. They had to face painful truths. They had to do what was just and what was merciful. They had to do what the prophet Micah said, that the motivation and the guide was love. Archbishop Tutu said this:

*Love, forgiving, and being reconciled to our enemies or our loved ones is not about pretending that things are other than they are. It is not about patting one another on the back or turning a blind eye to the wrong. True reconciliation exposes the awfulness of the abuse, the hurt, the truth. It could even sometimes make things worse for a while. It is a risky undertaking but in the end it is worthwhile, because in the end only an honest confrontation with reality can bring forth real healing. Superficial reconciliation only brings superficial healing.*

This is the way of love that can heal our hurts, that can heal our land, that can help us to become one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all. So, I would ask you to do two things. I’m asking you to make a commitment, a renewed commitment, to live the way of love as Jesus has taught us and to do it by making a commitment to go out and bless somebody. Bless somebody you disagree with. Bless somebody you agree with. But to go out and bless somebody by helping somebody along the way. Go out and bless somebody by listening to their story and their life. To go out and be an instrument of God’s peace, an agent of God’s love.

And then I would ask you to pray. Pray for this nation but pray with some specificity. Pray that we may have the wisdom and the courage to love.

*God of grace and God of glory,  
on thy people pour thy pow’r.  
Crown thine ancient church’s story,  
bring her bud to glorious flow’r.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the facing of this hour*

– Harry Emerson Fosdick, *God of Grace and God of Glory*

With malice toward none, with charity toward all. With firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right. Let us strive to finish the work, the work that we are in. To bind up the nation’s wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan. To do all which may achieve and cherish, a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

God love you. God bless you. And may God hold us all in those almighty hands of love.  
(Written in response to the events at the US Capitol building on January 6, 2021)

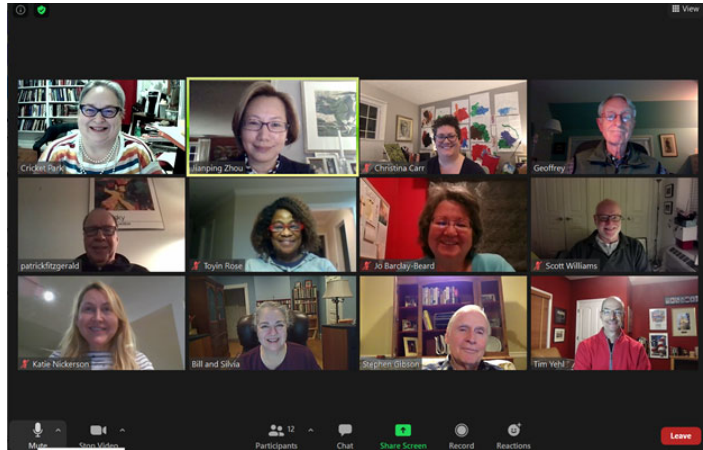


# PARISH LIFE

## February Birthdays

- Ann Harbeson
- Judy Austin
- Mary Packard-Winkler
- Catherine Sands
- Cathy Arrington
- Cara Price
- Jenny Nachbar
- Janet Davis
- Gabriela Noya
- Toria Rose
- Tim Yehl
- Dominique Rychlik

## Happy Anniversary Gwen & Justin Hess



### Congratulations to our 2021 Redeemer Vestry.

Row 1: Amma Cricket, Jianping Zhou, Christina Carr (Secretary), Geoffrey Platt (Senior Warden)

Row 2: Patrick Fitzgerald, Toyin Rose, Jo Barclay-Beard (Junior Warden), Scott Williams

Row 3: Katie Nickerson, Silvia Maza, Steve Gibson (Treasurer) and Tim Yehl

## Now I lay me down to sleep . .

The order of Compline has been around for millennia. It is the final prayer office before the monastic folk went to bed for their short night of sleep. This lovely service was restored to the Book of Common Prayer in 1979.



Redeemer's Geoffrey Silver and St. Dunstan's Joey Arkfeld combine talents to offer Compline for both communities each weekday evening at 8:00pm. Yes, there will be music.

Zoom link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75456865769?>

## Remember Telephones?

Believe it or not, telephones of all ages continue to be a great way to communicate with family and friends. If you're tired of Zooming, or don't have the desire to use new-fangled technology, it's okay. We can pray by phone!

The rectors of St. Dunstan and Redeemer host a prayer conference call Monday through Friday at 10am.

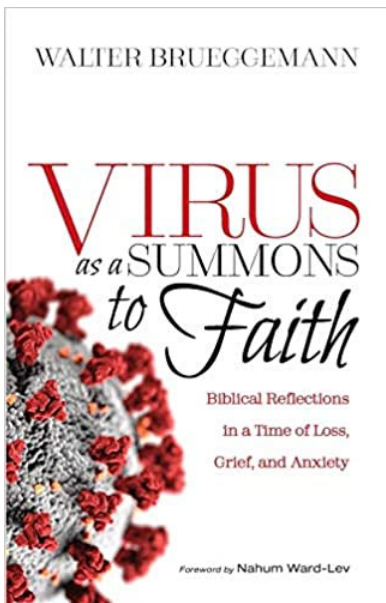
To participate, please follow these instructions:

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

Access code for callers outside of United States only: 62015450



## ADULT FORUM—FEBRUARY AND BEYOND



### Ancient Texts – Current Crises:

#### Hebrew Scriptures Sounded NEW for NOW

*What insights for addressing racism, nationalism, and pandemic can be gleaned from a close reading of Biblical texts written long ago for circumstances that seem far removed?*

With the help of two brief essays and one short book by Walter Brueggemann, *Virus as a Summons to Faith*, we will take up that question during the Sunday morning Adult Forum over the four weeks.

A schedule of topics, readings, and discussion prompt questions are available on our website. Please join us at 9:00am these Sunday mornings. The discussion will be convened by David Schlafer.

January 31: *Pandemic—The Place of Plagues in Hebrew Scripture*

Reading: *Virus as a Summons to Faith*, Chapters 1 & 2 (pp. ix-27)

February 7: *Pandemic—Faith as HOPING, PRAYING, TURNING and IMAGINING*

Reading: *Virus as a Summons to Faith*, Chapters 3-6 (pp. 28-60)

February 14: *Pandemic and Nationalism—GROANING, GLORYING, and GRAPPLING*

Reading: *Virus as a Summons to Faith*, Chapter 7 (pp. 61-70) & “An Unwelcomed Read to History”

### Usual and Unusual Ways we Can Pray During Lent

As a people with a prayer book, we rely on the prayers written by our ancestors in the faith for our corporate and individual conversations with God. That’s great! Yet, there are many other ways to pray with words and actions. During Lent, we’ll use the Adult Forum time to explore some of these alternative ways to pray. For example:

- Praying with New Words—examining prayers from new theologians and looking at old ones with new perspectives. (February 21)
- Praying with Music—how we connect with the divine using instruments and song. (February 28)
- Praying Bodily—how to use movement as prayerful discipline. (March 7)
- Praying with Textiles—how to keep your hands from being idle and prayerful at the same time. (March 14)
- Praying with Art—how the observation of art and the creation of art connects us with divine energy. (March 21)

TWAR and From the Hearth weekly mailings will provide more definitive information on this series, which will include presenter information. The series begins on February 21st at 9:00am.

## ADULT EDUCATION

### The History of Slavery: The First 200 Years— an encore presentation by Karen Stewart.

Join Karen on Wednesdays in Lent for her fascinating course on Slavery in America. Karen takes you on a journey that will open your eyes to the horrors of this practice in American history. Horrors that continue to haunt us to this day. This encore presentation is a deeper look at this history. If you've attended her presentations at Adult Forums before, there will be more information for you this time around.



Classes will be on WEDNESDAY EVENINGS on Zoom. This will be a six-week course from February 24th to March 31st. Each class runs an hour and fifteen minutes, from 7:30pm to 8:45pm. You are strongly encouraged to commit to attending all sessions.

Please register for the class by e-mailing the rector: [rector@redeemerbethesda.org](mailto:rector@redeemerbethesda.org). The link will be available on Redeemer's website.



### 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)).



## MISSION

### Bethesda Cares Dinner

The Penn Family and the Hotes Family volunteered to administer the Bethesda Cares ministry when we learned that Marie France wanted to step down after running it for quite some time. For the past six years, our two families have joined together once a year to prepare the entire dinner and snacks for the 30 to 60 food-insecure men who show up to Our Lady of Lourdes every Sunday night looking for one meal they can count on to be provided to them every week. It has helped teach our boys about dedicating time and money to those less fortunate. Sam, Charlie and Nico came with us to purchase the food, they helped prep the food, cook the food, and then deliver the food to Our Lady of Lourdes.



Now that Sam and Nico have started high school, we felt that they were old enough to administer the program by creating the sign-up sheet (that they cleverly turned into a Google Doc that is populated by the volunteers and allows everyone to see which items have been claimed and which items remain unclaimed), sending the reminder emails, and emailing the “core” volunteers when we need more help. We love that that they have taken ownership of this wonderful ministry, though they do still need reminding occasionally!

We hope you will sign up to bring food, snacks, drinks or desserts. It’s a rewarding experience, and when you deliver the food to Our Lady of Lourdes on Sunday afternoons, there is almost always one or more of the homeless folks waiting for the dinner that will open the door for you and express their gratitude for your contributions.

Many thanks to those who put together dinner on Sunday, January 24 for the hungry and homeless through our partnership with Bethesda Cares: Maria and Steve France, Brian and Jo Beard, Ann Taylor, Christine de Fontenay, Jefferson and Cathy Arrington, Huda Kraske, Marilyn Raisch, Mary K Young, Silvia Maza, Melinda Nelson, Helen Zitomer, Mary Helen Carlson, Judy James and the Penns. Redeemer will provide dinner again on Sunday, March 28. Please consider participating in this Redeemer Outreach Program.

**Anne de Fontenay**



### Prayers For These Times

#### For Those Who are Unemployed

Heavenly Father, we remember before you those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of this land so to use our public and private wealth that all may find suitable and fulfilling employment, and receive just payment for their labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### For Those Who Live Alone

Almighty God, whose Son had nowhere to lay his head: Grant that those who live alone may not be lonely in their solitude, but that, following in his steps, they may find fulfillment in loving you and their neighbors; through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.

(From the Book of Common Prayer 1979.)

## What does Groundhog Day have to do with Christianity?

We can thank our Celtic ancestors for the answer to this question! The Celtic calendar is divided into four seasons and four midseasons. One of those midseason points is February 2<sup>nd</sup>, which is half way between the Winter Solstice and Spring Equinox. While we begin getting more daylight hours beginning on the Winter Solstice, the light becomes more noticeable by the second of February.



The Celts called this day Imbolc, which means lamb's milk, as this was when the lambing season began. It was also known as Brigantia, for the female goddess of life-giving light. February 1<sup>st</sup> is St. Brigid's day in the Christian church. No, there's no similarity there at all. (wink wink) Many Irish folk still hang a St. Brigid's Cross, usually woven from straw, to keep evil, fire, and hunger away from the home. St. Brigid's Day is considered a part of the Imbolc celebration today.

In an agricultural society, one needed to plan for the planting of crops. Farmers took heed of the weather on this day. To them, it was a bad sign if the day was bright and sunny. Such a day would signal more snow and frost. Indeed, clear skies bring colder weather. However, if it was cloudy, there would be rain and warmth, which would help the ground thaw and make it easier for planting.

Today, instead of looking at the sky, we pull a furry little critter out of the ground and if he sees his shadow (clear and cold) there are six more weeks of winter and if he doesn't (cloudy and warm) spring is just around the corner! Americans now await weather news each year from Punxsutawney Phil in Pennsylvania. (Or, Buckeye Chuck, if you're in Ohio.)



Christianity adopted this date as the Feast of the Presentation. It is 40 days from Christmas, which is when Jewish women would have come to the Temple for purification after bearing a child. As Mary did as tradition demanded, her child Jesus caught the attention of an older gentleman named Simeon. Simeon declared Jesus to be "a light to the nations". Taking "light" as a cue, the Church calls the day "Candlemas". It is the day that the candles used for the last weeks of winter are blessed for use in homes and the church.

It's fun to see the connections between our Christian and Celtic roots.

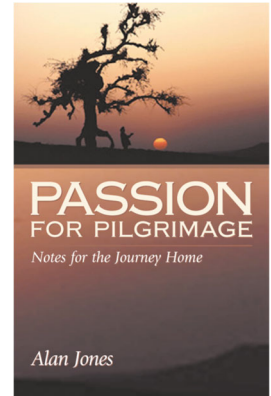
Sources: The Old Farmers' Almanac, 1993; Time Magazine (Abigail Abrams, January 31, 2017); Irish-aroundtheworld.com

## SUGGESTED BOOKS FOR LENT



*Contemplative Knitting* by Julie Cicora shows how knitting creates connections and communities, and ties the repetition of knitting to the consistent recitation of prayer. It also compares the act of knitting to the spiritual journey, from starting something new to how we handle mistakes. Many people would like to incorporate a spiritual practice into their frenetic lives only to become discouraged and give up when they try. Those who knit are able to experience its calming effects and dedicate time to their craft each day.

The Christian spiritual journey is a pilgrimage to wholeness, a search for home that is in God. In this classic work on contemporary spiritual living, Alan Jones explores the various parts of the pilgrimage home. Using literature, art, and biblical texts as illustrations, he explores our search for light and love, repentance, and forgiveness in the context of the Passion and Easter stories.



Lent is often a season given to denial of physical pleasure and sensation, but are we already denied these by a cultural atmosphere saturated with visual images, noise and air pollution, violence, and processed foods that has already dulled the senses? The physical senses play an integral role in the human capacity for emotion and feeling. Empathy—emotional identification and connection with others—is crucial to liturgical engagement.

Sam Portaro proposes to restore our ability to participate emotionally in the Lenten journey by revisiting the five physical senses—one per week—in Lent. *Sense and Sensibility* encourages the reader to renew a relationship with the physical senses that is a prerequisite to a deeply attuned engagement with the biblical stories read, taught, and liturgically re-enacted in the rites of Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter.

These are available from Church Publishing or your favorite online bookstore.

### Redeemer Book Group

Our next meeting will be on March 7 at 3 pm. We will be discussing “Caste: The Origins of our Discontent” by Isabel Wilkerson. Described by the NY Times as an “instant classic,” this timely non-fiction book examines the unspoken caste system that influences people’s lives and behavior and the nation’s fate. Through an immersive, deeply researched narrative and stories about real people, she explores how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system that includes but extends beyond race and enforces a rigid hierarchy of human rankings. All are welcome. Bob Dresser will send a message with a zoom link. For more information, please contact Bob Dresser [robert.dresser@gmail.com](mailto:robert.dresser@gmail.com) or Huda Kraske [hqkraske@aol.com](mailto:hqkraske@aol.com).

## FINANCIAL REPORT

| Church of the Redeemer Profit<br>and Loss Statement - December<br>31, 2020 | 2020 Actual    | 2020 Budget    | 2020 Over<br>(Under)<br>Budget | 2021 Budget     | Change<br>from 2020<br>Budget |
|--|----------------|----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>  |                |                |                                |                 |                               |
| 2020 Pledge Payments   | 425,487        | 465,420        | (39,934)                       | 476,500         | 11,080                        |
| 2020 Over Pledge   | 36,802         | 5,000          | 31,802                         | 15,000          | 10,000                        |
| 2020 Non-Pledge  | 27,856         | 25,000         | 2,856                          | 25,000          | 0                             |
| 2019 Pledges   | 1,660          | 0              | 1,660                          | 1,000           | 1,000                         |
| Loose Plate Offering   | 1,125          | 4,000          | (2,875)                        | 0               | (4,000)                       |
| Special Offerings  | 0              | 2,400          | (2,400)                        | 1,000           | (1,400)                       |
| Event & Activity Income  | 310            | 16,350         | (16,040)                       | 0               | (16,350)                      |
| Facilities Use   | 2,562          | 15,000         | (12,438)                       | 5,000           | (10,000)                      |
| Insurance Proceeds   | 263,439        | 0              | 263,439                        | 0               | 0                             |
| PPP Loan   | 47,857         | 0              | 47,857                         | 0               | 0                             |
| Other Income   | 6,477          | 5,000          | 1,477                          | 6,000           | 1,000                         |
| <b>Total Income</b>  | <b>813,574</b> | <b>538,170</b> | <b>275,404</b>                 | <b>529,500</b>  | <b>(8,670)</b>                |
| Minus Insurance Proceeds (Flood)   | 259,120        |                | 259,120                        |                 |                               |
| <b>Adjusted Total Income</b>   | <b>554,454</b> | <b>538,170</b> | <b>16,284</b>                  | <b>529,500</b>  | <b>(8,670)</b>                |
| <b>EXPENSE</b>   |                |                |                                |                 |                               |
| Administration Expense   | 37,987         | 45,600         | (7,613)                        | 52,800          | 7,200                         |
| Diocesan Giving  | 40,000         | 40,000         | 0                              | 40,000          | 0                             |
| Discretionary Account  | 1,000          | 1,000          | 0                              | 500             | (500)                         |
| Maintenance Expense  | 304,807        | 76,750         | 228,057                        | 80,500          | 3,750                         |
| Personnel Expense  | 285,083        | 295,046        | (9,963)                        | 300,707         | 5,661                         |
| Program Expense  | 30,417         | 35,700         | (5,283)                        | 22,650          | (13,050)                      |
| Property Expense   | 46,752         | 47,000         | (248)                          | 47,000          | 0                             |
| <b>Total Expense</b>   | <b>746,047</b> | <b>541,096</b> | <b>204,951</b>                 | <b>544,157</b>  | <b>3,061</b>                  |
| Minus Flood Recovery Expense   | 206,478        | 0              | 206,478                        | 0               | 0                             |
| <b>Adjusted Total Expense</b>  | <b>539,569</b> | <b>541,096</b> | <b>(1,527)</b>                 | <b>544,157</b>  | <b>3,061</b>                  |
| <b>Adjusted Net Operating Income</b>                                       | <b>14,884</b>  | <b>(2,926)</b> | <b>17,810</b>                  | <b>(14,657)</b> | <b>(11,731)</b>               |

Set forth in the adjoining table are Church of the Redeemer's 2020 financial operating results and 2021 budget.

The pandemic and the flood resulted in substantial variances from budget in 2020.

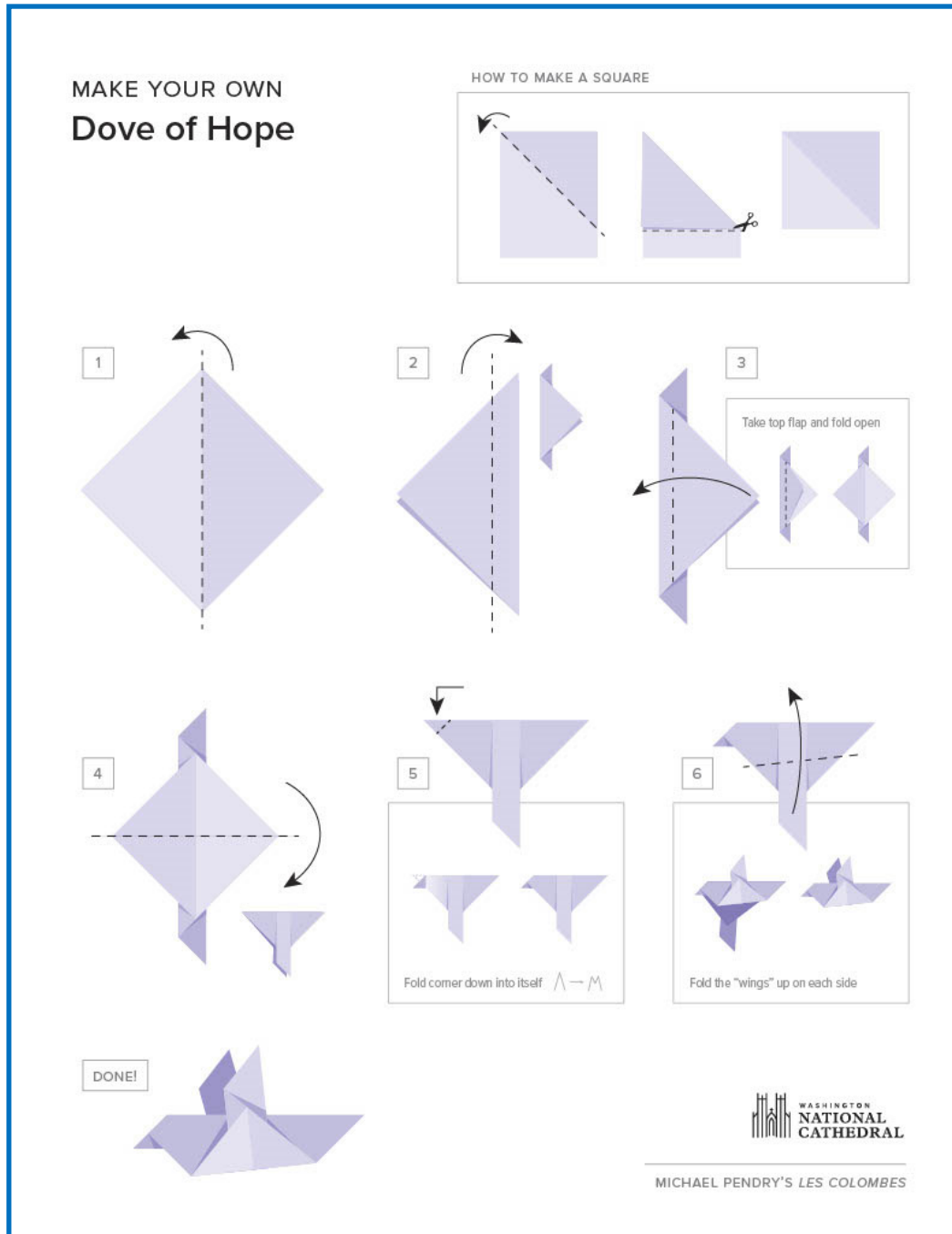
While below-budget pledge income in 2020 was largely offset by greater than budgeted non-pledge contributions, total donation and offering income nonetheless was \$8,891 below budget. Event and facility use income was \$28,478 below budget due to closure of the building. On the expense side, building closure resulted in substantial reduction in some costs, but flood recovery added a whole new category of expense.

While most of the basic flood recovery expense was covered by insurance, the repair process disclosed other conditions in the physical plant that needed replacement or upgrading that was not covered by insurance. Since flood-related insurance proceeds and expense contained in the profit and loss statement distort analysis of operating income, they are backed out in the table to show adjusted net operating income without their effect.

*(Continued on page 14.)*



# YOUTH GROUP



## Youth Group—Doves of Hope at Redeemer

The National Cathedral's current art installation, *Les Colombes*, is fashioned from hundreds of origami doves and hung aloft. Youth group members—you are invited to help us make a similar piece of art for Redeemer!

Use the instructions above. You can use actual origami paper or whatever you might have at home. Make as many as you wish. The adults in your house can do some too, if they want. Then, bring them to church on Saturday, February 13th. If weather permits, we'll string them together outside. If not, just drop them off and Anna Cricket will get it done somehow. (Volunteers anyone?) Hopefully, you'll be able to see them online during our services as well as from the windows on the Dunrobbin side of the church.

## VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Episcopal Church of the Redeemer  
January 20, 2021 - 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Present: Geoffrey Platt, Jo Barclay-Beard, Pat Fitzgerald, Katie Nickerson, Toyin Rose, Scott Williams, Tim Yehl, Silvia Maza, Jianping Zhou, Christina Carr, Steve Gibson, and Rev. Cricket Park

### Elections/Appointments:

Geoffrey Platt was elected Senior Warden; Patrick Fitzgerald, appointed to a one-year unexpired term; Christina Carr, Secretary and Steve Gibson, Treasurer.

### Consent Agenda

Presented minutes of December 2020 meeting & January 13, 2021 meeting. Both were passed with minor corrections.

### Treasurer's Report:

Steve Gibson updated the Vestry regarding the title search for Redeemer. This is being done for purposes of exploring future refinancing. More about the finances on pages 12 and 14. Steve is trying to do a financial plan to put all wish list items on a spreadsheet and keep track of our ambitions and prioritize where the money goes. Something we really need to do as we have a number of costly items on the horizon and we can't do them all at once. Tim Yehl proposed that the bathroom repair go to the top of the list.

### Wardens' Reports

Junior Warden Jo Barclay-Beard referred the vestry to the annual report, which explained where we are in the recovery and renovation.

Senior Warden Geoffrey Platt recalled a conversation with an extremely successful business leader. What do you say to people when they ask how to run their lives? The answer is "Listen, and be kind." This is at the core of how we should relate to each other.

### Rector's Report:

Deacon Adrienne Cramp will begin her ministry at Redeemer on Ash Wednesday. She retired her medical practice to become a Deacon. Cricket's been

approached by a Seminary student who wants to be our intern.

Celebrating the most diverse vestry we've ever had. Thank you all for willingness to serve.

Formation: David Schlafer is going to do a class on faith in a pandemic. Next four weeks on Sunday at 4PM. Sign up via email. Cricket will coordinate the publishing of Lenten meditations as we did in Advent.

Ash Wednesday: We will not do the imposition of ashes. It is optional, and after much thought there isn't a way to do it safely.

Vestry retreat will be Friday, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> 7-9PM and Saturday, Feb 27<sup>th</sup> from 9AM-3PM.

### Sunday School:

During adolescence, kids forget everything they learned in Godly Play and need to be retaught. Cricket wants to make sure our older kids get the information and background they need to be a Christian.

Pledge drive: still getting a few pledges thanks to Pat Fitzgerald and Tom McNaugher.

### Old Business

Cookbook -Marie Caulfield reported that she'll start working on it soon.

### Rectory:

Bathroom needs to be fixed.

Cricket was asked about when we could allow in-person church. Cricket replied that at this point, because of high infection rates in Montgomery County, she has opted for staff only for now.

### Music:

Geoffrey is ready for outdoor singing as soon as weather breaks. When the weather breaks, we might be able to schedule some outdoor services. Until then, we are watching numbers from the county and taking lead from Bishop Budde. There is a safety plan, and we want to follow that plan in order to be as safe as possible.

(Continued on page 15.)

## BUILDING & GROUNDS UPDATE

### Flood Repair/Renovation Update

There is a light at the end of the tunnel! It's still away off, but we can see it! As of January 27, the preparation work for the new elevator has been completed and installation begins on February 1st.

Once the elevator is installed, the floor can be installed. When the floor is installed, the furniture can be brought back from storage and the kitchen can be installed. We've purchased shelving for the new closets and cabinetry and a new dishwasher for the kitchen.

Our new security system is nearly installed. We're looking at weeks now, instead of months for the parish hall to be ready to inhabit. Alleluia.

### This Year's Projects

Junior Warden Jo Barclay-Beard has suggested the following projects be done in 2021. She'll work with the vestry to prioritize these projects.

- Rectory Upstairs Bathroom—renovation needed to correct leakage through to the kitchen.
- Lighting on the Shipman steps to enhance safety.
- Poly-jacking the sidewalks to raise the concrete slabs so they are even. Another safety issue.
- Replace the outdoor ceiling before the birds come back to roost.
- Removal of another large silver maple near the playground.
- Repaint the railings on the main/tower entrance.
- Landscaping the rose garden near the Memorial Wall.
- Hiring a landscape architect to help redesign the gardens. (It is the opinion of the gardeners that there are too many gardens, not enough people to weed, and not enough \$\$\$ in the budget to pay someone else to weed for us.)

Please contact Jo if you can help with any of these building and grounds projects. Thank you.

*Financials, from page 12.*

Redeemer received a forgivable Paycheck Protection Program loan in 2020 in the amount of \$47,857. The church has met the criteria for forgiveness of the loan, but it has not yet started the forgiveness process and the loan is still outstanding. Without counting PPP proceeds as income, Redeemer had a net operating loss of \$32,973 in 2020. With the PPP proceeds, Redeemer shows a positive net operating result of \$14,884 for the year.

Based on present estimates, the 2021 budget projects a \$14,657 operating loss. While the staff and Vestry strive to achieve a balanced budget, the reality is that there is not much room to cut costs from the baseline budget, and revenues are conservatively forecast based primarily on pledges on hand when the budget is adopted. In these unprecedented times it is particularly difficult to project expense and revenue with any certainty.

At the end of the day, it is stewardship - with respect to both expenses and revenue - that makes the finances work.

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

Stephen L. Gibson  
Treasurer

*Vestry, from page 14.*

Cricket agreed that there is a sense of disconnection. However, there was positive reception for Advent meditations as a means of connecting, so we will repeat for Lent.

## PARISH CLERGY & STAFF

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## VESTRY & OFFICERS

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*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.

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