



THE REDEEMER SPIRIT

JULY 2020

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

An Independence Day, Appropriately Distant, Food Drive for Manna Food Pantry

It may be Independence Day, but we are still dependent on each other and God. Let's make the holiday count! Please make plans to be a part of this vestry-approved, kid-friendly, contact-less food drive!

Youth are invited to gather from 9-11am on July 4th at church and help. We all will wear masks and gloves (please supply your own) and collect the food from people in their cars. Adult volunteers will give us a hand and take the food up to Manna. Afterward, those who wish to stay can eat pizza on the lawn together. If you can donate a can or two of food, there will be people in Montgomery County incredibly grateful to you.

Please let Amma Cricket know if your young person would like to participate or you would like to be an **adult volunteer**.



Gathering Online in July:

TheFIVE
Sundays at 5pm

Knit-a-long
Tuesdays at 4:30pm

Lectionary Bible Study
Wednesdays at Noon

Collar & Coffee
Thursdays at 10:00am

For links, go to the Parish Calendar at www.redeemberbethesda.org. or see page 11

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FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Dear Redeemer Family,

While I feel very lucky that my family and I are healthy during this difficult time, However, for many of us, a lot of things are difficult right now. Maintaining social distance is draining and is getting old for all of us. The news on many fronts is difficult to hear. Being hopeful takes a lot of effort.

We need each other to live in these times. Staying connected can be difficult in this period of social distancing. But maintaining our community, staying connected, supporting each other – this is what we are called to do.

I am asking for you, for me, and for the community – turn your attention to staying connected.

Let's start with three things:

Come to The Five. This is our Redeemer Sunday service while we are having remote services. The service is now on Zoom, not on video, so there are live members of the Redeemer community there with you. If you are uncomfortable figuring out Zoom and need help, just ask. Email me at mbcaulfield@verizon.net.

Come to Coffee Hour before and after The Five. See the smiling faces that you have been missing. The link to get to Coffee Hour is the same as the link for The Five.

Call or email someone from Redeemer who you haven't seen or heard from and invite them to come to Coffee Hour and The Five. If there are folks in the congregation who do not know how to get online to access Redeemer activity, help them or send them to me.

I look forward to seeing all of you on Zoom!



Marie Caulfield
Senior Warden

Rev. Otis Moss III's sermon at
Washington National Cathedral on June 28th

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yo44NzWjp0A>

Poem "Fury and Faith" by Amanda Gorman

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UN34oO_nPSk

As the nation struggles with its racial inequities and injustices, American artists are doing the same ~ the U.S.'s inaugural Youth Poet Laureate is one of them. Amanda Gorman captured the historic moment in an original poem, performed at the Cross Colours exhibit at the California African American Museum in Los Angeles. Air Date: Jun 26, 2020

FROM THE HEARTH

My dad used to play this game with my sister and me. It was called Bad News/Good News (or vice versa, however you started it). The point was to tell a story with alternating sentences of “news”. For instance:

“A bear came into my backyard.” (Boo)

“And brought me honey.” (Yay)

“In a beehive.” (Boo)

“Without the bees.” (Yay)

You get the idea. I’ve been reflecting on the first six months of this year. I came to the realization that a summary of it could be a Bad News/Good News story.

2020 is a new decade (Yay)

COVID is a new virus (Boo)

The virus is in China (Yay)

The virus is now in DC (Boo)

But not in Maryland (Yay)

An Episcopal priest brought it in from Louisville, KY (Boo)

He’s okay now. (Yay)

We must close our churches anyway. (Boo)

We’ll start being an online church for now. (Yay)

And keep our clergy away from the congregation. (Boo)

**

Racial tensions come to a head all over the country because of a sordid history of the treatment of Black people in this country for 400 years. (Boo)

Hundreds of thousands of people rally in peaceful protests, and the tide feels like it’s beginning to turn. (Yay)

An Episcopal Church again becomes the focus of a national crisis. (Boo)

An Episcopal Bishop responds with appropriate outrage. (Yay)

**

Hey, this online church isn’t too bad! (Yay)

A pipe burst in the basement. (Boo)

No one was hurt or killed in the flood. (Yay)

The utilities were shut off. (Boo)

Worship went on safari! (Yay)

Members of the church are exposed to the COVID virus. (Boo)

No one got sick. (Yay)

**

The damage to the parish hall looks like it will be around \$300K. (Sob)

The insurance company will take care of a lot of that. (Yay)

But it won’t take care of all of it. (Boo)

Thankfully, we have reserve funds for the building (Yay)

That probably won’t be enough to cover all the

upgrades we should make now. (Boo)

We have a great vestry that will make good decisions about our space and finances. (Yay)

**

From the outside looking in, this looks like a disaster. (Boo)

From a faith perspective, we’ve been given The opportunity to fix large ticket items in our parish building, using some outside financial resources. (Yay)

A chance to make the building more welcoming to the community. (Yay)

No excuse to not look at how we have individually and collectively participated in the sin of racism. (Yay)

Extra time to consider what our ministry is going to look like in the future. (Yay)

New tools to spread the gospel and consider what shape community takes from now on. (Yay)

Reminders everyday that God is good, God loves us, and we are still church. (Yahoo!)

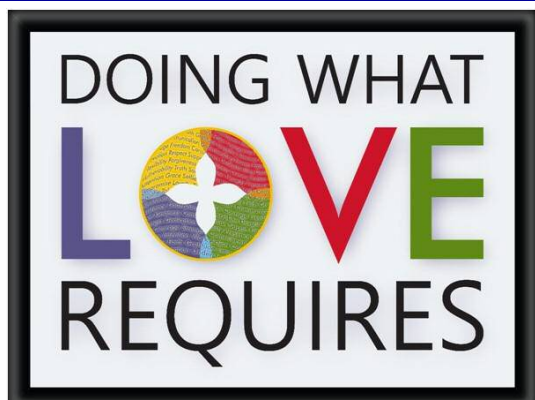
Hang in there everyone. 2020 will be hindsight someday.

Amma Cricket+



Singing is a vaccine against despair. ~ Rev. Otis Moss, III

MEDITATION



Reparations! Equality! What does that mean?

We are realizing that we have always, and I mean always since original sin, that we have a responsibility to maintain that someone is lesser than us. Cain killed Able to prove that he was superior. We have enslaved people over and over for thousands of years!

Jesus tried to change things, but with minimal success. Oops, that cross thing! Hello! He left it in our hands. God is talking to you!

Fast forward to today and we continue to treat Black people as inferior. Even Abraham Lincoln, whom we revere, felt that Africans were less than whites. This is crazy, even though we have lived it for a long time, and we see it today! We are all human and any attempt to segregate us is insane! Some of us have dark skin, some have light. We come from different customs and cultures. Some of us are less educated, some have several degrees. Some of us have disabilities, some are able-bodied. Some have been taught to hate, some have been taught to love. Most of us are just trying to work things out!

Who are we? What does God want from us?

How about if we level the playing field in a way that we can, right here, right now! Let's start with universal health care. Everyone, and I mean everyone, can benefit from the extraordinary health care system that we have created in this country. Without cost, if you are sick, we care! We don't care that you are not white, you are a person.

There is lots of money in health care, and not a lot of compassion. Maybe we need to change it from making money to saving people! Let us create!

Bob Yates

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 **Denny Shaw** (shawdf22@gmail.com) or **Bob Dresser** (Robert.dresser@gmail.com).

VESTRY VIBES

As you can imagine, the vestry has been busy with flood issues as well as other building and grounds items. One of the opportunities that the flood aftermath give us is a chance to really look at the space we call the parish hall and make changes while the demolition part of recovery continues.

One repair we didn't count on was the drainage system between the labyrinth and the building. We discovered mold after the drywall was removed. Reparations for this have been bid on and the vestry will make a choice of contractor very soon. This will involve a new downspout, insertion of waterproof materials next to the building, and mold remediation on the inside before replacing the drywall.

The elevator's status is still up in the air. Until the electricity is completely hooked up and approved, we won't know if its operational. The elevator is no longer up to code, so replacing it is a must. Replacing it will not only require the purchase of a new unit, but also some construction to widen the "box".

In addition to the flood repair, Junior Warden Jo Barclay-Beard has declared war on weeds and otherwise noxious growths in the gardens. She's always looking for soldiers in the fight!

Thanks to the generosity of parishioners and the largess of the federal government, we are holding our own financially. Thank you for keeping your pledges current.

Changes to this Year's "Backpack" Ministry

Yes! We will still be accepting contributions for the backpack drive later this summer but, as you can imagine, it will look a bit different this year. My contact at Housing Up (the charity we work with on this) let me know that their needs have, of course, shifted because of COVID-19. Since most kids will be learning virtually at least part-time this fall, this year the focus is more on buying tablets instead of backpacks, and a little bit of traditional school supplies. Fortunately, we can buy tablets on Amazon for \$50 each, which is about the same cost as one stuffed backpack!

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

I will be reminding parishioners to contribute to this project in late July and early August, so please keep an eye on your inbox! We will be sending the tablets and supplies we buy directly to Housing Up, to make it contactless. So, sadly no backpack-stuffing party this year but we can still make a huge difference in these families' lives!



PARISH LIFE

July Birthdays

Christoph Muenchow-Pohl

Marcia Sartwell

Tony Penn

Caroline Marie Tucker

Clare Paulsen

Kailah Lew-McAntony

Mark Pennybacker

Sam Penn

Cynthia Fischer

Carolyn Killea Rutledge

Tami McMinn

Neda Shirzad

Clark Downs

Michael Mershon



Happy Anniversary

Anna & David Roberts

Ellen Jimerson & Charles Oliver

Redeemer Book Group

The next book that we will be discussing is " People of the Book " by Geraldine Brooks. We have previously read two of her books: Nine Parts of Desire and March. In her new book, Brooks recounts the history of the Sarajevo Haggadah. The Haggadah is a ritual book that recounts the escape of the Jews from bondage in Egypt, and is often recited at Passover. The Sarajevo Haggadah is at least 650 years old, and has calfskin pages illuminated with gold, lapis lazuli and malachite. It was made in Spain around 1350 and has withstood war and persecution, bearing silent witness to tumultuous events . After Spain expelled its Jews in 1492, the Haggadah found its way to Italy and then Vienna before reaching multicultural Bosnia. In 1894, the National Museum in Sarajevo bought the Haggadah from a Sephardic family in Sarajevo. During WWII, German troops searched for the legendary book, but the Museum's Catholic Director and Muslim Curator bravely hid the book inside a mosque in a mountain village. And the story of the Sarajevo Haggadah goes on. This is a wonderful illustration of multi-religious cooperation to save a precious treasure. A planned film based on this book has been delayed because of the pandemic.

If interested, even if you have not read the book, please join the zoom meeting on July 5 at 2:00 hosted by our Rector Cricket at the following link:

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

Questions? Contact Huda at hqkraske@aol.com

MUSIC



KASSIA MUSIC--Redeemer's Ensemble-in-Residence

'LIVE on Lockdown' Concert Schedule:

Saturday, July 18

Saturday, August 15

Saturday, September 12

Tune in at 7pm on the Redeemer and MAR websites, for YouTube live. stream.

Music at Redeemer

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. Check the Redeemer web page and YouTube under Music at Redeemer and Kassia Music. This wonderful ensemble makes amazing use of the technology.

Starting in the fall, and ongoing as needed, we will be delving into the expertly -produced MAR audio-visual archives to present reprises of previous MAR concerts. This series will offer happy memories for those who were able to hear the performances in person and a chance for those who were not able to attend to enjoy for the first time. Watch for announcements of availability.

Thanks to the Friends of Music at Redeemer, the music committee, Cricket, and especially to Geoffrey Silver for his energetic creativity. MAR goes on- but just, like everything else, differently for now. We all look forward to a return to live performances, including those of our superb choir. Thanks for your support.

Geoffrey Platt, Chair



MEDITATION

Living Messy in a Two-Dimensional World

By Heather Tomlinson

When things have been the crummiest for me in life, I like to retreat, into the woods if possible. I like the leafy green of the trails that feels like an umbrella and a hug at the same time. The solitude and space give me room to quiet my monkey mind and think, to pray, to listen and to let the jumbled flotsam settle into a carpet in my head. I love my nature walks.

Yet. There are only so many nature walks a person can take. My children are openly rebelling at the mention of another walk. I cannot require one more walk from them, I'm pretty sure, without a midget revolution on my hands. There is only so much solitude (or family time) that should be required in life.

Coronavirus doesn't seem to care about our solitude-to-socializing ratio. The last four months have given me even more reason than usual to think about what it means to be part of a community because so many aspects of community life have been taken away from us. We can't go to birthday parties, graduation celebrations, the Strawberry Festival, or even a simple dinner party. We can't have sleepovers, go to church, class, the office, we can't stay with our parents. Coronavirus has been completely unreasonable.

We are left with the floppy, two-dimensional life of online living. So how can we make the best of it?

When I led a preK-grade 12 learning center for refugees, it pained me when the 17-year-olds turned 18, and the center could no longer give them classes. Outsiders would say, "Yes, but there are so many courses online now, they can just take classes online." What a tidy solution. I couldn't explain how unrealistic and sad it is for isolated people to be expected to learn and achieve at high levels...alone. It's like rubbing salt on the wound to place them into settings of massive invisibility and lack of support, accountability or celebrated achievements. Now the whole world knows how hard this is. No meaningful learning takes place outside of meaningful relationships.

There are an infinite number of interesting, useful, entertaining or self-improving pieces of content on the web, everything from Khan Academy videos on quadratic equations to self-guided tours of fabulous museums to beautiful sermons and transcending concerts. My children watch videos of their



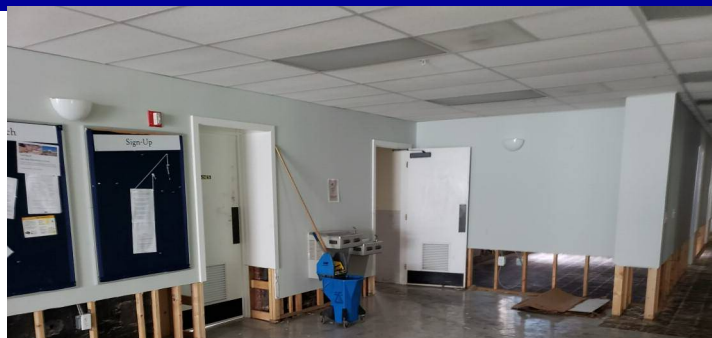
teachers teaching, I participate in webinars for work, I could in theory do four hours of online pilates a day, we listen to pastors who don't know us give wise and important messages. No one on the other end of those productions, however, knows or cares if I'm there or my children are there.

I have been able to articulate in the last few months one thing that defines community for me: The people on the other end of the camera know if you're there and follow up if you're not.

In community, maybe the teaching isn't world-class, maybe the sermon or music video isn't star quality, maybe the local pilates teacher is little stiffer or less balanced than the nationally renowned instructor-but someone knows if I'm on the other end of the camera or not. Someone cares if my child shows up or not. Someone is interested not just in speaking at us but in hearing from us. Someone wants accountability from us and dialogue with us. They want our imperfect contributions and they don't mind our mess: They don't care about our bed-heads and cluttered backgrounds and fumbling for the unmute button. They don't care about the numbers of participants on the call or webinar or meeting or the number of likes or shares of a posting; they care about us-me or my child or my family-showing up.

Community, whether in the two-dimensional or three-dimensional world, means showing up and being in messy relationships and knowing whether the other person is there and alright. It's a good thing I had time for a nature walk to figure this out.

PARISH LIFE



ON-LINE PLEDGING AND DONATIONS

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

For the Pledge Campaign, you may complete an

electronic pledge card, send it to the office, and then continue on to set up payment. Printed pledge cards are available in the Narthex and in the Parish Hall.

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

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

Church of the Redeemer on Social Media

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

Facebook: Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, Bethesda, Maryland
Facebook: Cricket Park and RedeemerBethesda
Twitter: @VicarVirtual
Linked In: Cricket Park
Instagram: parkcricket and redeemberbethesda
YouTube: see the earlier note ...

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

Church of the Redeemer Profit and Loss State- ment May 31, 2020	Jan. - May Actual	Jan. - May Budget	Jan. - May Over (Under) Budget	Annual Budget
INCOME				
2020 Pledge Payments	294,813	279,687	15,126	465,420
2020 Over Pledge	7,874	2,083	5,790	5,000
2020 Non-Pledge	21,183	10,417	10,766	25,000
2019 Pledges	1,660	0	1,660	0
Loose Plate Offering	1,125	1,667	(542)	4,000
Special Offerings	0	1,000	(1,000)	2,400
Event & Activity Income	310	6,812	(6,502)	16,350
Facilities Use	2,282	6,250	(3,968)	15,000
Other Income	19,360	2,083	17,277	5,000
Total Income	348,606	309,999	38,606	538,170
EXPENSE				
Administration Expense	14,873	19,000	(4,127)	45,600
Diocesan Giving	16,667	16,667	0	40,000
Discretionary Account	1,000	417	583	1,000
Maintenance Expense	52,530	31,979	20,551	76,750
Outreach Giving	0	0	0	0
Personnel Expense	119,056	122,936	(3,880)	295,046
Program Expense	14,911	14,875	36	35,700
Property Expense	19,480	19,583	(103)	47,000
Total Expense	238,517	225,457	13,061	541,096
Net Operating Income	110,088	84,543	25,545	(2,926)

Set forth in the adjoining table are Church of the Redeemer's financial operating results through the end of May. Net income for May was substantially below budget for the month, but net income continues to be above budget year-to-date. Factors affecting net income in May included below-budget pledge payments, loss of special event and building use income due to church closure, and payment for repair work done on the rectory last fall; on the plus side, Redeemer received four generous over-pledge donations in May. Flood-related expenses in May totaled \$19,518 (included in Maintenance Expense), which were largely offset by insurance reimbursement of \$15,311 (included in Other Income).

Redeemer received a \$47,857 Paycheck Protection Program loan in May. This revenue is not reflected in the P&L. It will be recorded as income when and if the loan is forgiven.

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

Stephen L. Gibson
Treasurer



Prayer Line: 301-664-4237

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

Zoom 101

Here are ways to connect to our online activities.

For Sunday worship, Knit-along, Bible Study, and other meetings: Log onto Zoom. Do this by clicking on the link from the Friday “From the Hearth” mailing or by going to www.zoom.us.

The Friday e-mail link are set-up so that you don’t need a password. The meeting ID number and password are also printed there, just in case.

If you log on through your browser, click on “Join a Meeting” and then enter the meeting ID number in the box.

At this time, you will be muted when you enter the Zoom “room”. During coffee hour, unmute when you wish to talk. During worship, please stay muted unless you are a reader or have another part to play in the service. The amount of feedback created is directly proportional to how many microphones are open.

You are welcome to use the chat function. Click on the Chat icon at the bottom of your screen. If you don’t see the icon, hover your mouse-arrow over the page and it will appear.

The Sunday service is recorded so that it can be uploaded to Facebook and YouTube. If you don’t wish to be seen, please click on the video icon on the bottom left corner of your screen. That will blank your “square”.

Once you get used to it, Zoom’s really easy to use. If you’d like some tutoring (and you don’t have a school-aged child in your house) please give Cricket, Bob, or Geoffrey a call. We can help walk you through the process.

Schedule of Zoom Meetings in July

July 1, July 8, July 15, July 22, July 29

Bible Study at noon

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85912028288?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85912028288?pwd=OWhGSHdsVEEd1SVBYdlFPQWV2R2JVQT09)

[pwd=OWhGSHdsVEEd1SVBYdlFPQWV2R2JVQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85912028288?pwd=OWhGSHdsVEEd1SVBYdlFPQWV2R2JVQT09)

July 5, 12, 19, 26

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

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

July 1

Reopening Task Force at 2:00pm

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89813191150?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89813191150?pwd=Q0p0Z2VFTmpSZXZCekNpSWtMSnduZz09)

[pwd=Q0p0Z2VFTmpSZXZCekNpSWtMSnduZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89813191150?pwd=Q0p0Z2VFTmpSZXZCekNpSWtMSnduZz09)

(other meeting times to be determined)

July 5

Redeemer Book Club at 2:00pm

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

July 7, 14, 21, 28 at 4:30pm

Knit-along with the Rector

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

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

July 9, 16, 23, 30 at 10:00am

Collar & Coffee with the Rector

meet.google.com/kkg-unet-zjr

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

PARISH CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev'd Cricket Park, Rector

rector@redeemberbethesda.org

The Rev'd Dr. David Schlafer, Assisting Priest

drdavidjschlafer@gmail.com

Geoffrey Silver, Director of Music Ministries

music@redeemberbethesda.org

Margaret Church, Bookkeeper

accounting@redeemberbethesda.org

Bob Yates, Parish Assistant

bob@redeemberbethesda.org

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

PRAY@redeemberbethesda.org

Parish Office

office@redeemberbethesda.org

VESTRY & OFFICERS

Marie Caulfield Senior Warden

301-365-3675 ▪ mbcaulfield@verizon.net

Jo Barclay-Beard, Junior Warden

301-789-4493 ▪ jobbeard@yahoo.com

Randolph Court

202-441-9896 ▪ rcourt@gmail.com

Bill MacBain

240-464-5330 ▪ bill@macbain.us

Silvia Maza

301-949-2016 ▪ silviamaza357@gmail.com

Katie Nickerson

301-229-2887 ▪ kat29kn@gmail.com

Rick Tyler

301-530-5460 ▪ rjtyler1@gmail.com

Tim Yehl

301-229-4341 ▪ tim@timyehl.com

Jianping Zhou

301-983-1405 ▪ jzhou519@yahoo.com

Steve Gibson, Treasurer

301-229-1168 ▪ 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

The Parish Office is open Tuesday – Friday,

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

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



The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Bethesda, Maryland:
a vibrant, growing parish community of “inquiring and

discerning hearts”, where all – the doubter, the seeker, and the believer – are welcome to join us in living and wrestling with the often difficult questions of faith. Here we value an Anglican spirituality – one that is open to the mystery of the Holy and which celebrates the dignity of human nature and the beauty of all creation.
Come. Be loved. Belong. Believe.



EMAIL

Emails at Redeemer.

Cricket: rector@redeemberbethesda.org

Geoffrey: music@redeemberbethesda.org

Yaa: PRAY@redeemberbethesda.org

Margaret: accounting@redeemberbethesda.org

Bob: bob@redeemberbethesda.org

The office: office@redeemberbethesda.org