

*Redeemer
Bethesda*

THE REDEEMER SPIRIT

JUNE 2021

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

FROM THE HEARTH

Dear Redeemer Friends,

Many of you have felt down or lost this past year. Many of you have shared this with me. Our prolonged and unrelenting period of upheaval and grief has had its impact on me too. It has left me depressed and anxious, and I need help.

In consultation with Bishop Budde, the wardens, and vestry, I am taking a month-long leave of absence in order to heal. Steve and I are going to Ohio to disconnect from the churn of construction at both church and rectory, and to connect with friends and family for some deep rest. I will be gone the month of June. I hope to return refreshed and better equipped to lead you all.

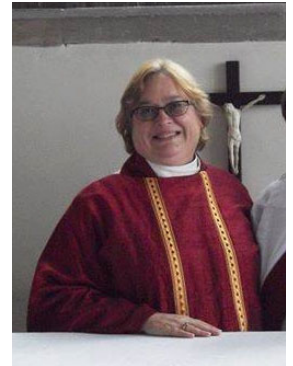
Pastoral emergencies will be handled by Revs. David Schlafer and Deacon Adrienne. Please contact the wardens for any questions about the church or vestry matters. I am not to be contacted for any reason. My email is being forwarded to Adrienne so that I won't be tempted to engage. The Diocese of Washington is supporting my unplugged time away by paying for the house we are renting, helping me find an appropriate

therapist when I return, and providing clergy assistance for Sundays. This is one of the many reasons congregations pay a diocesan assessment!

Part of this process involved my seeing a clinical psychologist at the Bishop's request. I was assured that I was having very normal reactions to what life had been throwing at me, and this period of rest is the appropriate preemptive course to take to avoid a full "whack-a-doodle" diagnosis. That was encouraging!

It isn't easy to ask for help. It isn't easy to accept it. However, that is where I am right now. I want to come back a stronger, healthier leader. Thank you to Bishop Budde and her staff, the vestry, and my staff who are all supporting me. Please support them during my time away.

Blessings,
Cricket+



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FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Dear Redeemer family:

What a difference a month makes! Suddenly the COVID pandemic seems to be waning and our world opening up. The benefits of vaccinations and the fact that millions are being inoculated – although some are still resisting—is paying off. I like to watch golf on TV. I admire those who have success in a game that has flummoxed me for decades. The Masters tournament in early April allowed only handfuls to watch in the galleries. The recently completed PGA championship had thousands attending, so many they almost overwhelmed play at the final hole. Masks mandates are declining, folks are getting out to restaurants, travel is increasing and on the streets and neighborhoods you can see many smiles. It has come at a terrible cost of course. But the hard work and patience of so many is bearing fruit.

So it is at Redeemer, with the long journey to reclaim the building from the damage of the April 2020 flood. Under the leadership of Junior Warden Jo Barclay – Beard with staff member Bob Yates and many volunteers, we are moving much closer to re-opening. It has been a tough road, with many sidetracks and an occasional roadblock. The positive results are emerging daily. We will be returning to a church, more beautiful than ever, with improved facilities. That is a fact.

We look forward to the visit of Bishop Mariann Budde on June 13. Although we wish the service could be in the sanctuary it will nevertheless be in the church. But the symbolism of having our diocesan leader among us will be another reason to lift our spirits, which like the pandemic diminishment, is worth the long and arduous wait.



I know you join me, Junior Warden Jo and the entire vestry in wishing Godspeed to Cricket on her leave of absence. May she have the rest and renewal she seeks and so richly deserves. We look forward to her return.

I hope to see you June 13.

In faith,
Geoffrey Platt
 Senior Warden

Welcome Back Marie!

The Vestry welcomes back Marie Caulfield for the duration of 2021. Marie will serve out the unexpired term previously held by Jianping Zhou. Marie was asked to return because of her knowledge of the flood repair and ability to support the new senior warden.

Marie's service is in full compliance with our newly revised bylaws. My thanks again to the team who brought those bylaws into the 21st century!

Thank you Marie!



FROM THE JUNIOR WARDEN

The Bishop is Still Coming!

Bishop Marianne is still planning on worshipping with us Sunday, June 13th. The question on everybody's mind is, "Will the parish hall be ready?". The short answer is probably not. The longer answer is probably not but that's okay. Even if we have to push the chaos to the sides of the parish hall leaving room in the center for chairs, we will be together for the first time in quite a while.

So, what has been happening? I'll begin with the grounds. The weeds continue to grow. Honestly, I wish I had their tenacity. While we spread almost 100 bags of mulch over the past three months, there is still more mulch to spread. The loose, bulk mulch is what will be moved into the playground area. This will require some people with strong backs to shovel it into a wheelbarrow and dump it in the playground area. The bags of mulch can be spread in the various gardens that did not receive some – ask me where and I will be glad to point you in the right direction. There is always weeding to be done; again, ask me and I will let you know where weeding is needed the most.



The kitchen cabinets have been delivered and should be installed sometime in June. After the cabinets have been installed, the countertop company will come and take final measurements. Once the countertops have been installed, the kitchen sorting can begin. Susan Fitzgerald, Patricia Snowden, and I will be sorting, ruthlessly. If you would like to help, let one of us know.

Speaking of sorting... On our last work day, boxes were placed in the various classrooms/ offices. Each of these boxes needs to be opened and sorted. Someone from the appropriate classroom/office will lead the sorting and there will be ample opportunity to help out.

The elevator inspection is scheduled for June 7th. Please pray that it passes and we don't need to do any more work on it prior to using it.

The next time you are in the parish hall take note of the new lights in the ceiling. PEPCO did this for us – at no cost to Redeemer.

I am very grateful for all of the work that you, the Redeemer community, have been willing to help out with. There will always be those doggone weeds but I see a light at the end of the tunnel with the flood renovations. God is good – all the time.

Peace - Jo

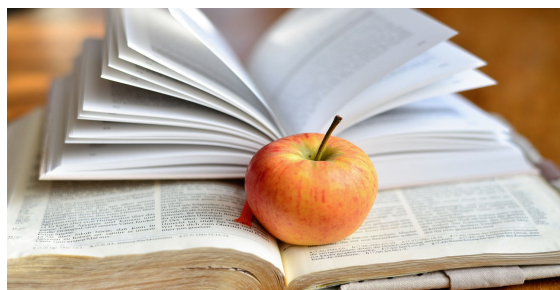
Jo Barclay-Beard
Junior Warden

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Lunch with Jesus

Exploration of Sunday Lectionary Readings

Each Wednesday at Noon, the clergy and curious lay folk gather on Zoom to read and discuss the scriptures coming up that Sunday. It's a free-flowing, question-raising, and sometimes-challenging conversation that many times leads the assigned preacher into new territory. Bring your study Bible and join us this week. The Zoom link is on the Redeemer home page: www.redeemerbethesda.org.



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



Becoming a Hybrid Worshipping Community

Coming to church in person is what we all wish to do. It will be a celebration to go back to church beginning June 6th. There are members of our congregation, though, for whom Zoom church was the only way for them to be with the community. Some are older, some have moved away, some are on assignment in another country!

So that our entire community can gather, Redeemer will use technology during in-person worship to Zoom in members of our congregation. They will be able to see the people who are present and those present will be able to see them.



Over the past year, we've discovered that meeting online is advantageous in some instances. Let's not throw away a vehicle to keep our members near and far together. As much as we are able, the staff will make Redeemer programming available in technological as well as face-to-face ways.

This opens up a new ministry for Redeemer members. Please contact Bob Yates (bob@redeemerbethesda.org) if you are interested in participating in this new opportunity.

OPPORTUNITIES



Blood Drive at Redeemer

June 15, 2021

1:30 to 6:30pm

Will you give one hour of your time to save someone's life? It can be a family member, someone from church or in the community, or even a stranger. Who is your neighbor?

To register just let Bob Yates know what time works best for you. bob@bobyates.net

Join the Redeemer/St Dunstan's community prayer each morning at 10:00.

Call into 508-924-1769. It lasts about 10 minutes!



Prayer exposes us to ourselves.
—Joan Chittister

PARISH LIFE

Redeemer Book Group

For our next meeting in June, we will be reading "The Nightingale" by Kristin Hannah. With courage and grace, Kristin Hannah captures the epic panorama of World War II and illuminates part of history seldom seen: the woman's war. The Nightingale tells the stories of two sisters, separated by years in German-occupied, war torn France ~ a heartbreaking beautiful novel that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the durability of women. It is a novel for everyone. The book will be discussed on zoom on June 6, 2021 at 3 pm. A zoom link will be sent out closer to the date of the meeting. The book to be read after *The Nightingale* is *For Whom the Bell Tolls* by Ernest Hemingway.

All are welcome. For more information, please contact Bob Dresser robert.dresser@gmail.com or Huda Kraske hqkraske@aol.com

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86053126023?pwd=dXdNUStjaTZuZkNmG13K2t3bXN5dz09>

Meeting ID: 860 5312 6023

Passcode: 523173 .

Small but Mighty

Affinity Groups are Essential to Resurrection Life

When Jesus appeared to the apostles after his resurrection, he didn't go to them in a setting that held thousands of people. On the contrary, Jesus spent his time with his beloved friends in small groups. His interactions were usually with one or two of them. At best there were probably fewer than 20 at his feet listening to his teachings.

Small groups are essential for new growth. They help us get to know each other at a deeper level. They help us grow trust in one another. Our faith shared with our friends prepares us to share it with people who are seeking a faith community.

We've done affinity/small groups in the past with great success. Foyer groups - dinner companions - introduce us to each other over food. These groups enable newcomers to get to know veteran members of the community. Our Knitters have enjoyed their weekly time together across state lines, thanks to Zoom. The various sections of the choir have kept themselves together throughout the pandemic, helping each other in challenges and rejoicing together in good times. Indeed, the entire choir could be considered an affinity group as their love of music roots them in community.

Affinity groups don't need to be "religious" as much as they need to help connect people who seek Christian fellowship. In other words, the book group can discuss their chosen selections from a secular standpoint. They're coming together over the love of books builds trust so that a sacred point-of-view might be possible. The rector loves to play Scrabble and other board and card games. Anyone else up for a game night foyer group? Do you play golf? How about a church member four-some or weekly meet-up? How about a regular hiking group that visits the canal towpath? Or, maybe an art lovers group. A Mom's Morning Out? The possibilities are infinite.

What group would you organize to help us renew our relationships with each other? Please let Deacon Adrienne know: deacon@redeemberbethesda.org.

PARISH LIFE

Renovation Report

Redeemer begins in-person worship on June 6th. We'll gather in the parish hall for the service that day and the following Sundays until we have an inspected, safe elevator and we've done a deep cleaning of the sanctuary. The Bishop's visit occurs on June 13th. She's looking forward to being with us and talking with the vestry after the service.

We will be a hybrid congregation. Bob is crafting how this will work in the parish hall as well as when we return to the sanctuary. Bob looks forward to welcoming members into this new Technology Evangelism Ministry.

Ministers for upcoming services

As we return to in-person worship this month, we need volunteers to sign up for worship on Sunday mornings at 10:30!

We will revive the scheduling of worship assistants for these services. We need ushers, altar assistants, acolytes, readers, coffee hour workers, counters.

If you are willing to take this on, send an email to bob@redeemerbethesda.org and I will respond with the schedule..

MARISTELA ROMERO romero.maristela@gmail.com

Maristela has been interning with us to produce *TheFIVE*. She is looking for a summer job.

University of Maryland, College Park, MD

Master of Arts in International Relations May 2022

Double Degree in Bachelor of Arts: Multi-platform Journalism; Government & Politics May 2021

Cumulative 3.7 GPA

Related coursework: social media audience engagement and analytics

Jimenez-Porter Writers' House August 2019 – May 2021

Two-year selective program culminating in a published creative writing portfolio

Global Fellows Program– Critical Regions and International Relations August 2019 – May 2020

Selective one-year program combining a fall seminar taught by foreign affairs experts and an internship

CELEBRATE!

June Birthdays

Christine Tomasson
 Janice Huey
 Jack Mershon
 Heather Tomlinson
 Jane Winer
 Toby Kinnahan
 Annika Peyer
 Eva May Peyer
 Katherine Yehl
 Mary Lynne McElroy
 Veronica Sherrard
 Dean Cinkala
 Olivier Jeanne
 Silvia Maza
 Zane Rathwick
 Wondimu Deyasso
 Jane Raisch
 Claire Incorvati
 Luke Rychlik
 Zac Seckel
 Dee Beilstein
 Kelly O'Brien
 Hope Platt



Happy Anniversary to:
 Cathy & Jefferson Arrington,
 Katie & Josh Nickerson,
 Janet Davis & Tim O'Brien,
 Peggy Tucker & David Schlafer,
 Claire & Anthony Incorvati

REDEEMER MEN'S THIRD FRIDAY LUNCHEON GROUP

The Redeemer Men's Third Friday Luncheon Group has returned to in-person gathering at the Irish Inn at Glen Echo. 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. A reminder email 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) or Bill McBain (bill@macbain.us).

NATURE TEACHES US TO EMERGE

By Rev. Cricket Park

The last time the Brood X hatch happened, I was living in Ohio. My favorite memory of the hatch was being with my mom at the Memorial Golf Tournament in Dublin. We were sitting at the 17th hole when all of a sudden, there were these bugs landing on me. Usually, I'm not a fan of being an airstrip for flying critters, but these bugs were so ugly they were cute. I'd say hello and talk with them a little before I launched them with a flick of my finger so they could amuse or terrorize someone else.

The articles I've read say that our bug friends come out of the ground as grubs, shed their carapace, and then fly feverishly to do what they need to do before their short lives are over. This year, the cicadas remind me that I too am re-emerging from what feels like a 17-year burial.



As restrictions are lifted and we begin slowly to find our way in the world again, we could take a lesson from our co-hatchlings. We've been in hiding. Coming out means we're going to be a little grubby. Some of us are a bit softer in the middle than we've been before. Some of us are more vulnerable than we've been before. It's one of those moments when we say to ourselves "Why am I here and why is it so bright?"

Coming out of the dark takes some getting used to. We won't be able to see all the changes right away. It might be frightening. We might want to crawl back to the darkness. The universe has another agenda. Driven by primal urges – for the bugs, reproduction; for us, companionship (I'll just leave this right here.) – we take the steps we need to take to move past our grubby state. We've put a protective layer around ourselves. So have the cicadas. Getting to the next level means shedding that layer. It's an amazing stage, leaving one's old self in order to become someone new. Unlike cicadas, humans do it many times during their lives. In each transition we take what we've learned into the next. Again, there's a vulnerability to these life stages, but it's worth the growth.

Once we get to full maturity, we realize that time is short. What appeared to be decades on the horizon becomes years, or even months. The fever of life slows and then finally ends. Like the cicada, we leave our legacy dependent upon the generations that come after us.

This lesson, of course, is seen all throughout the natural world, from the smallest amoeba to the largest whale. The circle of life is everywhere. This summer, our teacher is a 'so ugly it's cute' buzzing, flying creature whose desire to survive and thrive challenges us to do the same.

MUSIC AT REDEEMER

Well, a week is a long time in politics, and a month is an eternity in the arts during a pandemic. Last month I was writing about the new choir safety policy and hoping for a chance to sing indoors again. Since then, the CDC and diocesan authorities have removed masking requirements and are leaving us to our own devices regarding singing. To that end, the Choir and I have loved rehearsing each weekend, wearing masks outdoors while singing. Only the unseasonably wet and cold Memorial Day weekend interrupted us, and even the cicadas have been cooperative.

You will know by now that my fervent belief is that choir, that church, is for everyone. Just because *most* of us are vaccinated, there may be some of us who are not. In fact, there may be people looking for a



safer place to worship. For transplant recipients, those under the age of 12, and other immunocompromised individuals who cannot take a vaccine, and any combination of those folks or people close to them—the world is still as scary today as it was to most of us before Easter. For us to be church, or choir, we need to always temper our joy and desperation for community with the reminder that we cannot truly be either of those

things without welcoming everyone. This side of Pentecost, we certainly want to come back to in-person church, and we are! But with respect to the risks that are still out there, musically it won't yet be the same as before, and we will be constantly reassessing, particularly when we are



MUSIC AT REDEEMER



gathered downstairs in the parish hall.

For parish hall worship in June, we will be minimizing the risks of singing and inhaling in an enclosed environment with low ceilings, and maximising the safer outdoor coffee hour time together, always retaining our masks on in doors. Music for June will first consist of the choir opening the service in a different location from the congregation—either on the labyrinth, or in the stairwell/staircase/narthex depending on everyone’s ability to climb stairs. Secondly, the congregation and choir will sing one hymn at the end of the service. This will make for a compact liturgy suitable for summertime

when many are away, and lots of coffee time to catch up with everyone after an eon apart! The crux of this plan is that after we sing, we quickly leave those spaces—not quite “Exit, pursued by bear”, but I would be more comfortable if we don’t hang around after singing.

I cannot stress enough how important singing is to me, to my soul, and to what I consider to be the basis of our common experience for millenia. We



will get there soon, but let’s not jump straight into the deep end, let’s make consideration for those most vulnerable among us *also* part of our shared experience. Consider it a period of intentional abstinence and fasting, rather than one imposed upon us. Once we return upstairs after Bob has supervised the professional deep clean and the soon-to-be certified elevator allows us to welcome *everyone* back, we will revisit additional congregational singing.

MUSIC AT REDEEMER



Following a summer of musical fasting, we hope to be able to welcome everyone back in September for a service of “resurrection”, complete with all the Easter hymns we have not been able to sing for two Easters now. Our concert season is in the works, and we will finally be able to welcome the marvellous cellist, Juliana Soltis; Janna Critz’s ensemble Vivi Cantando; and an in-person return of our ensemble-in-residence KASSIA MUSIC following their ministry to us during the terrifying months of spring 2020. Our season will culminate in June with the postponed choral performance with Bradley Hills Presbyterian Chancel Choir of the Mozart Requiem. Hopefully we will have fully buried COVID by then!

Geoffrey Silver
Director of Music Ministries



From Our Deacon

The Healthy Body

In 1 Cor 12 St. Paul teaches us about the functioning of the Body of Christ into which we have all been baptized. Paul stresses that not all functions are the expertise of every member but that the diversity of gifts is given specifically so that the whole body might be built up into a vibrant and strong one. This season of Resurrection is just the right time for the body to get its Spring checkup and assessment of what needs there are for full health. We each have a function we are great at, and if you are like me, one or two that we really need help with. It keeps us looking realistically at ourselves and keeps us humble, and probably relieved to know that we do not have it all on our plates.



As we come back from a horrible year of disease, damage to our church home and isolation from one another, it is a good time to consider what part of the Body you are called to function as. God has called us, in our baptismal covenant, to continue in our life as a congregation (“Will you continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread and the prayers?”) to work together to assure the function and health of our part of the greater Church here on Dunrobbin Dr. We are jointly responsible for our life together. There are many parts to that life and all are crucial. Someone has to open the door, someone has to make the coffee, someone has to worry about the bills, someone has to pray the healing prayers for those who are ill, someone has to sing the songs of praise and someone has to tell the stories of our life together.

What work has God called you to? Where are your gifts and talents most beneficial to everyone? On what are you willing to tithe of your time and talent? Your Redeemer family loves and needs you, now more than ever as we live into to reality of our resurrection! Please talk to me, to the wardens, to members of the vestry about your call and response to the life and mission of the Church of the Redeemer! God is counting on you and has equipped you with gifts to meet the need. Let’s work together!

Adrienne Clamp+

Proclaim

Evangelism is a natural response to an action that has been set in motion by God. Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth to share the good news that she had received from the angel. The leper who was once an outcast went among the townspeople freely proclaiming the good news of his being made whole by Jesus. When receiving good news you can’t help but share it because it bursts forth from your inner most core and radiates outwards. What is God doing in your life? How can you then participate in this action?

-Br. Jim Woodrum Society of Saint John the Evangelist

FINANCIAL REPORT

Redeemer Profit and Loss Statement - April 30, 2021	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Over (Under) Budget	Annual Budget
INCOME				
2021 Pledge Payments	228,656	227,420	1,236	476,500
2021 Over Pledge	2,852	5,000	(2,148)	15,000
2021 Non-Pledge	13,873	8,333	5,539	25,000
2020 Pledges	5,302	333	4,968	1,000
Loose Plate Offering				
Special Offerings	10	333	(323)	1,000
Event & Activity Income	0	0	0	0
Facilities Use	0	1,667	(1,667)	5,000
Other Income	3,494	2,000	1,494	6,000
Total Income	254,186	245,087	9,099	529,500
EXPENSE				
Administration Expense	20,129	17,600	2,529	52,800
Diocesan Giving	13,333	13,333	0	40,000
Discretionary Account	0	167	(167)	500
Maintenance Expense	23,283	26,833	(3,550)	80,500
Personnel Expense	96,524	100,236	(3,711)	300,707
Program Expense	4,981	7,550	(2,569)	22,650
Property Expense	15,584	15,667	(83)	47,000
Total Expense	173,835	181,386	(7,551)	544,157
Net Operating Income	80,351	63,701	16,650	(14,657)

Treasurer's report for June Redeemer Spirit

05-26-2021

Church of the Redeemer's 2021 financial operating results through April are set forth in the adjoining profit and loss statement. Pledge payments were substantially above budget in April, which puts total (gross) income year-to-date ahead of budget. Net operating income also is ahead of budget, reflecting above-budget gross income and below-budget expense.

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

Stephen L. Gibson
Treasurer

PARISH CLERGY & STAFF

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The Rev'd Adrienne Clamp, MD, Deacon
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The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

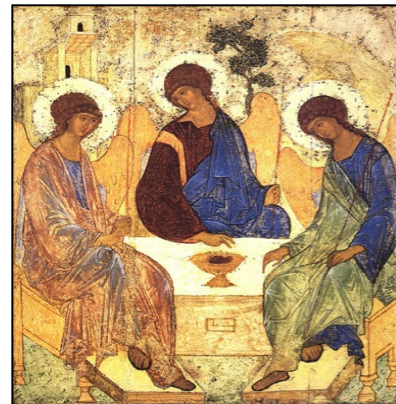
6201 Dunrobbin Drive at MacArthur Boulevard
Bethesda, Maryland 20816
Phone: 301-229-3770
Website: www.redeemberbethesda.org

The Parish Office is closed during the pandemic and renovation.



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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