

THE REDEEMER SPIRIT

NOVEMBER 2020

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

FOR ALL THE SAINTS

Dear Redeemer Friends,

Long time no see – or touch, or share the joy of music in the sanctuary, or a cup of coffee in the fellowship hall. The coronavirus has left us isolated, high and dry, and may continue to do so for several months to come. But we will come back to bask in the warmth of our sanctuary, our friends, and the reading of God's word. The purpose of this letter is to make sure Redeemer is in good shape when we are finally able to walk back into it.

That last sentence probably tipped you off: it's stewardship season! This year, it's a virtual one, obviously, but God's peace – the peace that passes all understanding. We all Cricket, the Vestry and I will do our best to make it a memorable one, since it may be among the most important stewardship campaigns we've run in some time. Why?

For one thing, the church, as rebuilt in 1999, has reached an age where things need to be replaced or refurbished. But that's not the half of it. As many of you know, in April a broken pipe in the church basement flooded the fellowship hall and classrooms to a depth of nearly six inches, forcing major reconstruction of Redeemer's lower level and supporting infrastructure.

Happily, insurance has covered the cost of most of those repairs, but there are always loose ends in a catastrophe like that, and those will call on church resources. Redeemer needs all the support you've given in past years – and then some!

It's time to think hard about Redeemer's place in your life. I understand that's difficult in these strange and troubling times. No matter how creative and elaborate the array of virtual programs Redeemer's staff has created during this time

in the wilderness, the world of zoom simply can't match the magic of the "living" Redeemer.

I miss the warmth of a Sunday service, standing among dear friends in our radiant sanctuary, the beauty of our music, the spiritual experience of kneeling at the altar to accept the Eucharist. I ask you to take some time to look back, and then look forward to what we'll re-create in the (hopefully near) future.

For me, Redeemer has long been the community in which I have come as close as I possibly could to experiencing want that peace to surround us again, and it will -- if we support our church generously in this season when we can't even be in it.

Please complete your pledge form (page 15) and mail it back to the church as soon as you can. You can drop the form off at the church. Just use the box next to the door on the lower level next to the labyrinth. If you use a Donor Advised Fund, please contact Margaret directly (accounting@redeemerbethesda.org).

On behalf of the Vestry and Staff of Redeemer, please give for the future of Redeemer as you have so generously given in the past!

Faithfully,

Thomas L. M. Maugher

Tom McNaugher

FROM THE WARDENS

It's a difficult time to be writing a column to capture November 2020. All Saints Day, All Souls Day, Election Day, whatever the day after Election Day is called...all the way up to a socially-distanced Thanksgiving. If the earlier part of 2020 is any indication, I expect November to be longer than the usual 30 days.

Well, regardless of this week and next week and the election and the pandemic, I still know some things in and people I hope to know later. my heart. The Church is open, and we are the Church deployed. I also know that the Redeemer community has helped me through this year. And, like Paul said to the Ephesians, I do not cease to give thanks for you.

And so, we move ahead, planning for 2021, and I look forward with hope.

You have all received the stewardship letter, and I hope you read the lovely important words that Tom McNaugher shared with us in his letter. I won't pretend to speak as movingly or as eloquently as he did, but I do have something to say about stewardship. Stewardship means taking care of something, and I feel that my family has a role in taking care of

Redeemer. In part, that is because what Redeemer has done for me and my family, but it is also because I want Redeemer to be there for others. I want Redeemer to continue to thrive and to be a refuge, a source of comfort, a spiritual home for people I know now



When I think about why we

support Redeemer financially, I think it is because that is what you do when you are part of a household. You chip in on chores, you pay the bills, and you take care of the others in your family. Being part of the Redeemer community for me is like that, like being part of a household. Not everyone can give the same amount or in the same way, but everyone who is part of the community has a stake in keeping Redeemer in good shape.

Be safe and well! See you in the Zoom!

Marie Caulfield Senior Warden



"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer" Romans 12:12 Thank you to all those who turned out for our Fall Clean-Up. The grounds are looking quite nice thanks to numerous volunteers. There is always work to be done if you would like to get some exercise in the fresh air. Just contact either Susan Grigsby, susangrigsby24@gmail.com, or

Susan Fitzgerald, grahampubs@comcast.net, and they will guide you.

We've turned the corner! No, we haven't miraculously prayed-away COVID. However, we have made significant strides with renovations and restoration,

and we can actually see the light at the end of the tunnel - at least I can. Our old elevator was removed and we are only 6-8 weeks away from receiving a new one. A couple of us will be meeting with a kitchen designer to finalize the kitchen design after which the new cabinetry can be ordered. Volunteers have been painting the classrooms and offices. There is still more painting to be done if you are so inclined. If you would like to paint, contact Marie at mbcaulfield@verizon.net and she will help you. The flooring has arrived and is being stored in Cricket's office until it can be installed (cabinets, painting and baseboard installation first). Once the kitchen is complete and the flooring is installed, we can bring back the items we have in storage and the sorting can begin. We will be able to see what we can salvage and what needs to be replaced.

FROM THE HEARTH

Why concentrate all our thanksgiving in one day, over a big meal, parades, and football? Don't we have enough to be thankful for to cover the entire month?

I challenge you to a Thanksgiving Marathon! Think of and write down one thing you are thankful for every day.

I'm thankful for family members – the ones I'm related to and the ones I've chosen. I feel their love every day.

I know I am thankful for the generosity of the Redeemer community. This means more than money! Yes, of course I'm thankful for your pledges. It's the other kindnesses over the past 5½ years: your support when my dad, and my husband's mother, died; time to go to the Holy Land; chocolate on more than one occasion. You constantly amaze me.

I'm thankful for children. They give us hope and incentive to make the world a better place. Miss Olivia Renee, my granddaughter, reminds me to stay active and well so that we can have our adventures when this pandemic is over.

I'm thankful for technology, especially when it works! Becoming an online pastor challenges me every week, but seeing your faces makes it all worthwhile. Zoom and Facebook have kept me in



touch with the people I love and allowed this extrovert to survive quarantine.

I'm thankful for a staff that works together, loves each other, and gives their best efforts for this community.

See – five days already done and it didn't take long! I hope you spend time with your blessings this month. It's an exercise in experiencing grace.

Amma Cricket+

Congratulations to our Confirmands!

On October 31st, six of our youth stood before Bishop Budde and took on their baptismal cove-

nant for themselves. This followed a 'boot camp' Catechism – cramming months of study into 4 weeks! Will we support these people in their life in Christ? We will, with God's help!

Pictured with Bishop Budde: Davis O'Brien, Anthony Noya, Cecelia Noya, Tim Nickerson, Michael Yehl, Collette Yehl, Amma Cricket.



MUSIC

It's been an interesting few weeks. Choir has met sever- were able to dial in for fellowship. To be able to share al warm (and largely glorious) weekends in a row on the ministry with those least able to attend church at the labyrinth, to sing and record Advent and Christmas items; Lisa McBain's string ensembles have recorded with upstairs in Church with Bob; and we have commenced a daily routine of morning prayers of the people, and compline, together with the staff of St. Dunstan's.

Singing Christmas carols in the fall sunshine, and then attempting to record them together with chainsaws, leaf blowers, marine helicopters, planes (including an F16), is just one of those memories that will forever define 2020. I have to commend the Choir for being able to pull together consort singing at greatly reduced numbers, of different people each time - which is like asking

a sports team to suddenly play 5-aside for the very first time, at the wrong time of year, and while wearing masks. Everyone has been so graceful and grateful in equal amounts. We will be incorporating pre-recorded items over the coming weeks and months in TheFIVE.

Compline is such a rich resource, with the rite in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer acting as a fine gateway to a monastic inheritance. I sang the traditional '1662' service in school and college chapels in the UK, and after coming to the US, discovered night prayer from A New Zealand Prayer Book with the Choir of Trinity Wall Street at St. Paul's by Ground Zero. So for me it has been a welcome return to somewhat familiar territory, albeit without quite so many other singers around me... I hope to broaden my horizons further, once the dull headache of our national situation has abated (as surely it must?), and look forward to welcoming one or two singers to join each night. It is a fun experience improvising melodies and using skills that choral musicians do not get to use as much as some other musicians. The first week of Compline were mainly from Redeemer, and the second mainly from home. It is a service which somehow lends itself most effectively to either situation. Apparently all you need are company, candles, and beautiful words-some beautiful for their familiarity, and others beautiful in the way they reintroduce us to roads well travelled.

In terms of our new morning service on the 'telephone' it was very rewarding to hear that today, two people who do not have access to much of the

best of times, let alone at the worst of times, is what each of us is called to do and it warms the heart.

Celebrations are always fun, and Chris Betts, my beloved predecessor and friend, turned 50 this month-we think of him and his family often down in Houston! I am indebted to Phil Toro for writing and conducting a perfect arrangement of happy birthday for Chris-he was, as we'd say back home, 'well chuffed'! You can enjoy the rendition on the Church's Facebook page.

Here are some familiar words from the New Zealand book that speak particularly to me as I hope they will to you:

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all creat- ed beings! Your commonwealth of peace and free- dom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one anoth- er, forgive us. In times of temptation and test,
strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever. Amen.

outside world currently, or indeed to computers either, Geoffrey Silver, Director of Music Ministries

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MUSIC

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PARISH LIFE

(Continued from page 2)

Have you opened your pledge request envelope yet? Please do. In it you will find a fun guide for how additional monies would be used. Take a hard look at the Financial Flood Update on the reverse side of the draft budget. You will see that as of October 20th, we only had \$36,454 remaining for repairs and renovations. Take a moment to notice that nowhere in the expenses incurred to date has there been any kitchen renovation expenditures. Renovating a kitchen is not cheap and we are trying very hard to be good stewards of Redeemer's finances. If you are able to send in a one-time extra donation to help cover some of the remaining renovation costs, the clergy, the Vestry, the staff and I would greatly appreciate it. Meanwhile, we will continue moving forward.

Peace, health and sanity

Jo Barclay-Beard Junior Warden

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



Remembering past pumpkin carving at Youth Group. We set them out on the columbarium to honor our Redeemer saints.

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Parish Life

November Birthdays

Gwen Hess

Dwight Packard-Winkler

Meredith Griggs

Leslie McNaugher

Ann Taylor

Olivia Tyler

Sander Avery

Brammam Avery

Randolph Court

Mike Rychlik

Cathy Baker

Brammam Avery

Thad Arrington

Christina Carr

Katie Nickerson

Ellen Paulsen

Davis O'Brien

Alicia Jennings

Anna McInturff

Caroline Gibson



Happy Anniversary

Liz Askey and Rick Tyler Jianping Zhou and Olivier Jeanne



Blood Drive St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church

Parish Hall 5450 Massachusetts Ave Bethesda, MD 20816

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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MISSION

Bethesda Cares Dinner

Redeemer Book Group

We met in September to discuss Trevor Noah's memoir *Born a Crime* and had a great conversation about the book and the comedian. We agreed that the next book we will discuss is *A Passage to India* by EM Forster, which was originally published almost a hundred years ago. It is a novel by an English author set against the backdrop of the British Raj and the Indian independence movement in the 1920's. The novel tells of the clash of cultures in India which Britain totally controlled. The idea of true friendship between the races was a radical one in Forster's time. The book will be discussed virtually on Nov. 8 at 3:00 pm. Bob Dresser will send out the zoom link for the meeting to Bob for inclusion in the weekly bulletin. He will also send a reminder to those listed above on the day of the meeting.

The book that we will be reading next will be Vanishing Half by Brit Bennet .

Bob Dresser will be inviting readers to the zoom meeting. Please check your church Bulletin for the link. Otherwise, contact Bob or Huda for help. **Questions?** Contact **Huda** at **hqkraske@aol.com**

REDEEMER MEN'S THIRD FRIDAY LUNCHEON GROUP

While currently suspended, the Men's in-person lunch group has moved online. The group discusses whatever is on their collective minds and catches up on how they are all doing. Being older and retired, sometimes the discussion centers on health, other times on household management, sometimes investment philosophies, national politics, the economy, and, of course, life in the parish. Monthly attendance has varied from as few as 4 to as many as 11. A reminder email with the online link and time is sent to all interested persons early in the week we are meeting.

If you would like to know more about the group, or be put on the email list, contact Bob Dresser (Robert.dresser@gmail.com).

November 2020

MISSION



Nourish Bethesda–

A New, Cooperative Ministry Feeding Hungry Families

The line of cars begins well before opening time at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad. If they are within the first 200 people in line, they will receive a week's worth of shelf-stable items, a bag of produce, and a prepared meal. Too often the

food runs out before the line runs out. Such is life in 2020. Volunteers come from St. John's Episcopal Church in Bethesda as well as from surrounding apartment and office buildings. Food is from Nourish Now, the Hyatt Regency Bethesda, and other sources. As of now, St. John's has secured funding to continue this ministry through February, but would like other churches and organizations to join their cooperative to make it sustainable for the future. Representatives will be at Adult Forum on November 8th at Redeemer and November 15th at St. Dunstan's. How can our parish be a part of this vital ministry in our city?

Olive Oil Ministry Holiday Sale

Redeemer continues to sell Palestinian olive oil as a member of the Olive Oil Ministry, the local ecumenical group of churches that supports Palestinian farmers and their way of life. Two kinds of organic olive oil are available in half-liter bottles (\$20): Nabali (lighter, fruitier) and Rumi (robust, spicier). Jenin, a blend is available in 1-liter cans (tins) (\$30). Palestinian farmers and their families depend considerably on our continued support through our enjoyment of their truly delicious oil.



Order Deadline – November 29. To receive before Christmas, please place your order on or before Sunday, Nov 29. Products include olive oil: 500-ml bottles (\$20) of Nabali (lighter, fruitier) and Rumi (robust, spicier); and 1-L cans (\$30) of Jenin (oil blend). Also tapenade (\$7), soap (\$6), and za'atar spice (\$6). Contact Marie France (<u>tweedfrance@gmail.com</u> or 301.320.1534).

Prayers For These Times

For an Election

Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Social Justice

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For the Right Use of God's Gifts

Almighty God, whose loving hand hath given us all that we possess: Grant us grace that we may honor thee with our substance, and, remembering the account which we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of thy bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

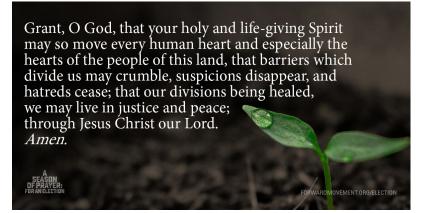
MEDITATION



Dear friends in Christ,

As the US election draws nearer, each day's news seems to bring more stress. Regardless of our political views, we can agree that our leaders could do better. Poverty is on the rise. Disease runs rampant. Violence seems endemic. I could go on.

So what are we Christians to do? I've written about this quite a bit, and with good reason. This topic comes up again and again in conversations, online and in person.



First, <u>we can pray</u>. Prayer is not the only thing we should do, but it is an essential practice for every Christian. We can pray for our own strength and courage. We can pray for the needs of the world. And we can pray for our political leaders and candidates, especially the ones more repugnant to us.

Second, we can speak out. If the church and its members stay silent, we leave the moral voice of the public square to others. It is crucial for people to hear a word of hope, mercy, compassion, justice, love, and grace. Where else will people hear this, if not from the church. Deafening silence changes nothing. A voice crying out in the wilderness might make all the difference in the world.

Third, we can get involved. Vote! If you are worried about free and fair elections, volunteer as a poll worker. If you are concerned about the plight of the poor, contact local non-profits and ask what they need. And so on.

But it all begins with prayer. I invite you to join me and Episcopalians all over the world in praying.

Scott Gunn Executive Director

ADVENT IS NEAR

Advent begins on November 29—the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Advent brings us the gospel of Mark as we enter Year B of the Sunday lectionary. We hear stories from Jesus about staying awake and alert. We're reminded of John the Baptist coming onto the scene in the spirit of the prophet Isaiah. John testifies that someone is coming from God and that we need to make a straight path to welcome him. Finally, we hear of an incredible encounter between a young woman and an angel. The stage is set for salvation to enter into the world.

During this time, engage in an activity to help you get ready for the coming of Christ. Families in the parish will receive Nativity Sheets from Illustrated Ministries. They can be used to prepare a creche (nativity scene) in your home. Put up your creche(s) and situate the Holy Family, shepherds, angels, and Wise Men in different places in your home and let them "travel" to Bethlehem.

Speaking of traveling. The shortest distance (air-time) between Bethesda and Bethlehem is 5,854.5 miles. (9,421.93km). Could we all get there this Advent? See page 14 for directions.

Of course, there is always the wonderful Advent Wreath! You can make yours from foam circles, greens from your yard, and candles. The colors aren't as critical as the number: 4. Light one each week, beginning on Sunday, November 29, at your dinner table or some other time that your family can gather. Pray for peace, love, joy, and hope.

Amma Cricket would like to publish a daily meditation during Advent. She would love your help! Please send an email to rector@redeemerbethesda.org and she'll send you the date and the scripture readings assigned for that date. Let her know no later than November 15th if you're willing to take a day or two.

Redeemer on Social Media

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

Facebook:

Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, Bethesda, Maryland Facebook: Cricket Park Twitter: @VicarVirtual Linked In: Cricket Park Instagram: parkcricket and redeemerbethesda YouTube: musicatredeemer

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



Last but not least, join the Redeemer family at worship online on Sundays, during morning and compline prayers, at Bible study on Wednesdays, or knitting group on Tuesdays. Want to lead a small group of your own? Do it! The staff can help you get set up and publicize your get-together.

We are community and we need each other, especially during the holidays. Be there for one another—it's a ministry of love we can share.

FINANCIAL REPORT

			JanSept.	
Church of the Redeemer Profit			Over	
and Loss Statement - September	JanSept.	JanSept.	(Under)	Annual
30, 2020	Actual	Budget	Budget	Budget
INCOME				
2020 Pledge Payments	377,626	385,821	(8,195)	465,420
2020 Over Pledge	25,731	3,750	21,981	5,000
2020 Non-Pledge	26,188	18,750	7,437	25,000
2019 Pledges	1,660	0	1,660	0
Loose Plate Offering	1,125	3,000	(1,875)	4,000
Special Offerings	0	1,800	(1,800)	2,400
Event & Activity Income	310	12,262	(11,952)	16,350
Facilities Use	2,562	11,250	(8,688)	15,000
Other Income	253,976	3,750	250,226	5,000
Total Income	689,178	440,383	248,794	538,170
Minus Insurance Proceeds (Flood)	(243,534)	0	(243,534)	0
Adjusted Total Income	445,644	440,383	5,260	538,170
EXPENSE				
Administration Expense	27,658	34,200	(6,543)	45,600
Diocesan Giving	30,000	30,000	0	40,000
Discretionary Account	1,000	750	250	1,000
Maintenance Expense	210,796	57,563	153,234	76,750
Outreach Giving	0	0	0	0
Personnel Expense	211,370	221,286	(9,915)	295,046
Program Expense	18,214	26,776	(8,563)	35,700
Property Expense	35,064	35,250	(186)	47,000
Total Expense	534,102	405,825	128,277	541,096
Minus Flood Recovery Expense	(154,616)	0	(154,616)	0
Adjusted Total Expense	379,486	405,825	(26,339)	541,096
Adjusted Net Operating Income	66,158	34,558	31,599	(2,926)

Set forth in the adjoining table are Church of the Redeemer's financial operating results through the end of September. Year-to-date "normalized" net operating income, after adjustment to remove flood recovery cost and insurance proceeds, is \$31,599 over budget.

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

Stephen L. Gibson Treasurer

Necrology 2020

David Mason Baker, Vivyan (Kim) Barrett, Kerry Brady, P'nina Campbell, Aileen Craig, Catherine (Kitty) Donnelly, John Fogwell, Gary Lorenz, Constance Mullican, Jeanne Schmidt, Denny Shaw, The Rev'd Gerald Reddington, Thomas Smetanick, Thomas Szumski, John Tydeman, Daniel Lawrence Wade, Jerome Yates.

May their souls, and the souls of all the departed, rest in peace.

Redeemer Zooms

Schedule of Zoom Meetings in November

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

November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Adult Forum at 9:00am Family-friendly service at 10:am Sunday School at 10:30am TheFIVE at 5:00pm (with coffee hour beginning at 4:30pm) https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81643035778 This zoom link is for all the above.

November <u>3, 10, 17, 24</u> Knit-along with the Rector https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87083173624? pwd=QnNmRUhiVllRa2FaSXA3U2RNSVNaQT0 9

<u>November 4, 11, 18, 25</u> Bible Study at noon https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85912028288? pwd=OWhGSHdsVEd1SVBYdIFPQWV2R2JVQT 09

<u>Continuing in November Monday through Friday:</u> Morning Prayers via phone at 10:00am 1. Dial this number: (508) 924-1769

2. That's it!

Compline via Zoom at 8:00pm https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75456865769? pwd=ZitGbGUrczFUWXRBb2lKc1RITE8yQT09

Sunday Morning Online Worship at Redeemer

Adult Forum at 9:00am

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

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

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

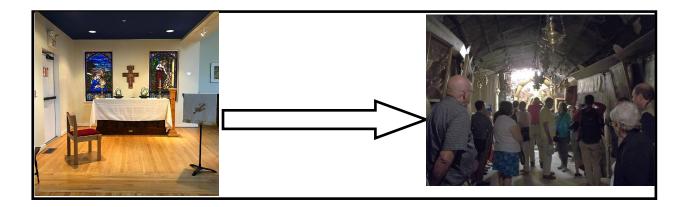
"Coffee Hour" begins at 4:30pm. You can log in a little early if you want help connecting your computer or smartphone to the Zoom room.

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



Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.* –*The Book of Common Prayer*

Walk to Bethlehem: November 29–December 24



Walk Off the COVID-19#

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

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

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

Any exercise will do. One hour of yoga counts the same as one hour jogging, or doing housework, or walking the dog(s). Fifteen minutes on the treadmill counts the same as 15 minutes raking leaves. The point is for you to get up and away from your screens a little bit each day. Our walk to Bethlehem is a pilgrimage of sorts. It's time we take from the everyday to focus on our faith journey. Walking allows us to get into a different mindset. That helps open up our minds and hearts to what God may be saying to us. Moving our bodies helps our minds and hearts!

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

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

Here's to a great Advent journey!

Community, Continuity, and Renewal
In thanksgiving to God for the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, my pledge for fiscal year 2021 is \$
I plan to pay this D Weekly DMonthly DOther:
Name:
E-mail:
Phone:
Please contact me with regard to giving through a Donor Advised Fund. \square
□ I/We want to help close the gap between the insurance payments and costs for the parish hall repair and renovation. We've enclosed an additional gift for this purpose of \$
Pledge statements will be sent to all pledging families in early October. It is being provided so that you know where you are with regard to your 2020 pledge and for you to consider as you make your pledge for 2021.
An official mailing with this pledge form will be sent to Redeemer families and friends at the end of October. If you choose to send this in now, you will save us the postage for that mailing.
Please contact Rev. Cricket Park (rector@redeemerbethesda.org) or Margaret Church (accounting@redeemerbethesda.org) if you have questions regarding your pledges. Thank you for your faith in God and in Redeemer.
Print and send this form to: Episcopal Church of the Redeemer 6201 Dunrobbin Drive Bethesda, MD 20816

PARISH CLERGY & STAFF

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The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

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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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