



OCTOBER 2021

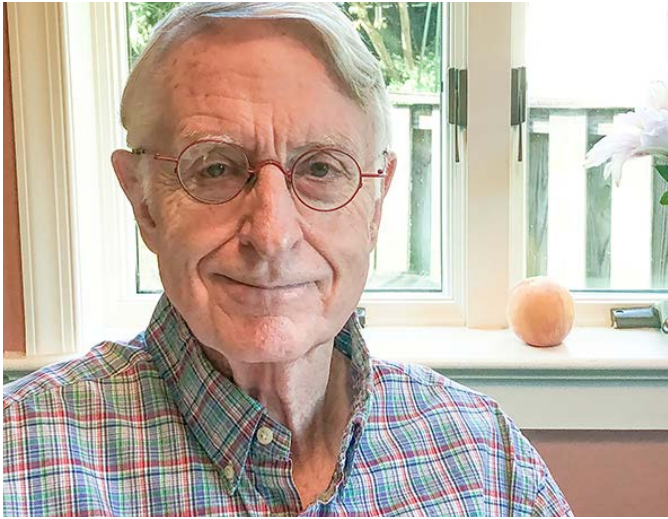
The Redeemer SPIRIT



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Dear Redeemer family:

The Homecoming service Sunday September 12 found us back in the refreshed sanctuary, with choir and organ, and many in the pews. Hallelujah! It was a grand service. The next week, Music at Redeemer resumed with our ensemble in residence Kassia presenting a sizable audience with a concert where it donated its services in gratitude for our continuing sponsorship during COVID. The energy and creativity of this group is infectious. These events, and ones to follow, might present some evidence of a return to “normal” but that is wishful. We all know COVID is still very much here as are the measures we have to take to stop its spread – vaccinations, masks, distancing, hygiene, etc.

But these events at Redeemer do lift the spirit, even if you are not present in person (and I do urge you to try our Zoom if you don't feel comfortable coming back to a group activity). And spirit, especially the Holy one, is what gets us through difficult times, where we have to recognize we remain. At Redeemer it's also the spirit of community, of being together even if we are apart. We need to stay in touch and support each other with affection.

Your Rector, Wardens and Vestry are beginning to undertake a strategic planning process. You will be asked to participate along the way. Please do and until then don't hesitate to communicate any concerns with the aforementioned, even informally. We all know how much information was shared in the old office days “around the water cooler.” At Redeemer's coffee hour is might be around the Keurig. E mail, text, phone, conversation - use whatever way, and whenever, works best for you. Your voice and participation in the life of our parish is very important.

In faith,
Geoffrey Platt,
Senior Warden



Thank you for the flowers that were presented to me on Homecoming Sunday. I was deeply touched. As I said then, I am the beneficiary of the accolades that rightly belong to so many more people than just myself. I would like to thank:

Bob Yates: Quite simply, the renovations could not have happened without Bob's help. When I was unable to meet contractors, he was there. When I was unable to make phone calls, he made them. When I needed help picking up shelving, it was his van that hauled them to Redeemer.

Susan Graham Fitzgerald: She is our “color consultant”. She selected the flooring and all of the colors used in the parish hall and classrooms. If you like her selections, please make sure to let her know.

Patricia Snowden: I can't even remember how many trips she and I took to Montgomery Kitchen & Bath to select cabinetry, adjust the layout, select hardware, etc., etc., etc. It was at her insistence that the lower cabinets are the lovely golden color rather than a boring all-white kitchen.

Christina Carr and Shannon Hoogerheide: These two women together are a force of nature! They took over the sorting of toys and setting up of the nursery. I took five car loads of toys to the thrift store that they culled.

Karen Stewart and Joelle Morris: Again, they took over setting up the Godly Play room.

Silvia Maza: Bless her. She made the mistake of asking, "Would you like me to handle setting up the contractors for the work upstairs?" Yes – and she did. So, once again, if you like the way the sanctuary looks, please let Silvia know.

Hope Platt and Cathy Arrington: They have been sorting closets and organizing. There is still sorting to do but it's getting closer to being finished.

Merry Bruns: She agreed to take over the coordination of the maintenance of the grounds while I was knee deep in parish hall renovations.

Geoffrey Silver: The only people who have more energy than Geoffrey are my grandkids. So many things too numerous to list were accomplished behind the scenes at the same time he was bringing the choir back into the sanctuary to sing and managing the Music at Redeemer series. Also, he has a great eye, "Did you see the _____?"

The Vestry and Clergy: They always had my back and always gave me the support I needed. Toyin Rose even came over to sit with The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, Bethesda, Maryland, USA



me one day while I was waiting for one of the contractors.

The Altos of the choir: Everybody needs someone they can vent to, or express concerns, or celebrate accomplishments. We had an e-mail group that allowed me to do just that.

Marie Caulfield: She quite literally kept me from jumping off the proverbial cliff on more than one occasion. The congregation may have seen my calmness but she saw my anger and frustration.

The Redeemer Community: I said on Homecoming Sunday that every single time I asked for help from someone, I received it. I was always told "yes". I heard a comment that it was remarkable how much ownership the congregation took of the building.

What's left? Well, we still have sorting to do, furniture to buy, and a coat closet to build.

There is always routine maintenance and there is always weeding to do.

Peace,
Jo Barclay-Beard
Junior Warden



October is a busy month. We bless animals. We celebrate All Hallows' Eve. We also turn to financial responsibilities. Margaret is preparing an extrapolated end-of-year report so that we have a good idea of how we are going to fare at the end of the month. That report will be used by the Treasurer and Parish Financial folks to craft a proposed budget to present to you in November.



Annual Pledge Drive co-chairs Barbara Alterowitz and David Hoogerheide have already begun their work at developing a theme and structure for our 2022 campaign. I'm excited about their plans and how the entire congregation will be involved. They are currently looking for persons to facilitate small group discussions and speak to the congregation in the month of November.

November? Yes, we are delaying the campaign this year. We usually ask you to bring your

pledge to the altar on All Saints Day. **This year, Pledge Sunday will be on December 5th.** This will give David and Barbara the time they need to coordinate their activities. This also means that we need your pledge commitment on that date in order for the Vestry to pass the budget during their December meeting.

In the next few weeks, you will receive a statement from Margaret as to your family's current pledge status. If you are a little behind (it happens) I hope you will do your best to catch up over the next few months. Fulfilling all of our pledges is vital to ending the fiscal year no further in a deficit than we assumed in January.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the folks at KASSIA MUSIC (pictured on page 23), not only for being an example of perseverance during their lockdown concerts for us, but also for throwing us a "Welcome Home!" concert. The excitement surrounding this event has generated donations in excess of \$4400.00 for the "Flood Gap"—that's the money gap between what the insurance paid, and what we spent on improving our communal space. If you are fortunate to know Adina, Bernard, Lauren, Sam, and Susanna, then please join me in thanking them. If you somehow missed the concert and would like to watch it and hear the compositions they wrote for the occasion—and add your donation—please do!

I'm grateful to God for all of you. Generous and committed people of God makes up Redeemer's congregation. Let's give thanks for all we are, all we've made it through, and all we hope to be.

Faithfully,
Cricket+

Hi! I've been invited to write a monthly "column" that—in the setting of the Church Year Season—offers a broad, suggestive frame of reference for the lectionary readings and liturgical rites we will meet in the month ahead. (Today, the Sundays of October—but more on this anon). What's the GOOD of THAT?

Even if we're church regulars, the words we read and hear on Sunday often seem like a mixture of familiar phrases from the liturgy and "drop in's" from the Scriptures—these not obviously connected with each other. What "frame of reference" might foster a fruitful sense of such possible connections, month after months? In conversation with my colleagues, a possibility suggested itself—METAPHORS. In this inaugural entry, allow me, please a little extra space to explore how this might be of value.

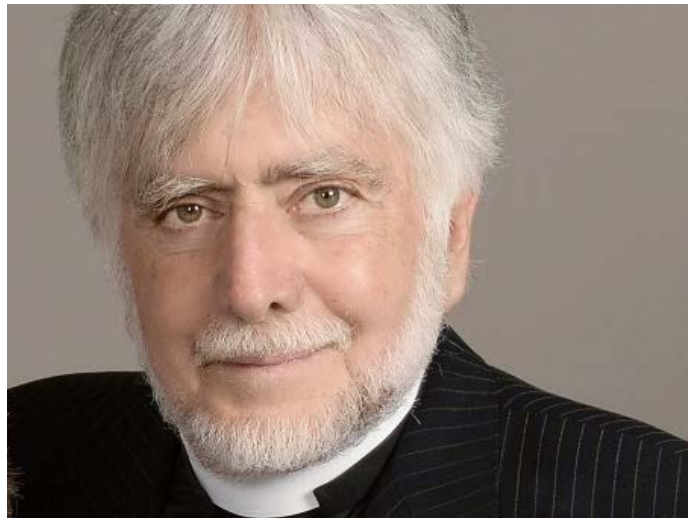


They were merely speaking metaphorically.

Underlying that dismissive assessment lies the assumption that to speak in metaphors is to take language on something of a holiday—a fantasy flight—an escape from the REAL world, the world accurately described only by speaking of it "literally."

The classic reply to such a limited understanding of language (and the world), was aptly named by philosopher of language, Jerry Gill: *Literal speech*, he snorted, *is DEAD METAPHOR*. What Gill asserts is "not the whole truth, and nothing but the truth;" but there's truth aplenty in it—metaphor-infused as his own assessment is.

- The intent of so-called "literal" language is to TIE things DOWN—to name them as they are, to distinguish them from what in the world they're NOT. The "point" of literal language, is to MAKE a "point"—usually a SINGLE point.



- Metaphorical language, conversely, seeks to OPEN things UP—to make unusual, unexpected, even seemingly unlikely connections between many different dimensions of "what's REAL."
- Literal speech tries its best to put things in their proper place. Metaphorical language tries to set things loose—to open the doors of the categories in which literal speech can lock them. To let all those "locked down" things "come out and play". (Taking a cue from Gill, I'm USING metaphor here to DESCRIBE the function of metaphor.)

This has WHAT to do with Scripture, Liturgy, and Christian Living?? All these brim and bubble, dance and sing with language infused by metaphor.

- Rather than primarily propounding "points" of doctrine and "principles" of conduct, Scripture speaks in a profusion of images, allusions, stories, illuminating gestures.
- Taking its cue from Scripture, the Liturgy of Christian Worship does the same.
- And Christian Living—it's not a matter of pronouncing propositions anywhere near as much as it is a mode of being wherein we share with one another—well—images, allusions, stories, and actions that function as illuminating gestures.

The Second of the Ten Commandments clearly enjoins:

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them. (In other words, “do not attach any fixed words to solid objects—don’t even THINK of ascribing ultimate value “literally” to any created thing)

BUT as long as they are not fused to physical objects (or political ideologies); words, images, stories, metaphors are not only allowed in Scripture, they are avidly encouraged and lavishly expressed. Metaphors run riot all across the pages of Scripture—all gesturing toward the God (and the divine-human drama) that transcends explanation, but is accessible in the multidimensional reality-gesturing that metaphors undertake.

SO, each month, as I listen to the lectionary and the liturgy, I shall be on a metaphorical treasure hunt—lifting some of what I stumble over in the Scriptures and the Liturgy—or bringing to those rich resources a metaphor or two that might help illuminate what we find there. What I shall seek to offer is *A Set of Metaphors for a Month of Sundays*.

The hope, of course, is that this will stir YOUR metaphorical imaginations—and that, as you have occasion and inclination, you’ll share your insights with each other and with me. Enough, already—on to October—if only briefly (so as not to try your patience unduly).



Our Gospel Readings from Mark over the next five Sundays all have Jesus “on the spot”—confronted by a different individuals or groups who WANT something from Him for their own benefit (and often at His expense):

- October 3—Pharisees who to want challenge His authority by asking about divorce (10:2-16)
- October 10—A rich man who wants yet more—an Eternal Life inheritance (10:17-31)
- October 17—James and John, His own disciples, who seek future special status (10:35-40)
- October 24—A blind man named Bartimaeus, who only wants to see (10:46-52)
- October 31—A lawyer who wants to know, of many commandments, which is greatest (12:28-34)

All “want a piece” of Jesus. All (but Bartimaeus) get answers different from what they expect—and more than they can cope with in their own frames of reference. Only Bartimaeus has a straightforward request—and he alone responds to the answer he receives, not just SEEING Jesus, but FOLLOWING him. All the others are left standing dead in their tracks. SO:

- When does an “answer” to what we ask for turn out to contain a different question?
- When do we discover that what we think we want from someone is not what we most need from them?
- When does what seems “a simple question” turn out to be one with many layers?
- How have our questions and answers unfolded over the course of the pandemic?
- How has the asking and the answering of questions—with ourselves, with others—become, for us, a metaphor for the movement of our life?
- How might God be not so much an “answer” to life’s issues, but an ongoing adventure of “questioning”?

David+

EMERGENCY HOSPITALITY FOR OUR AFGHAN FRIENDS

Dear Redeemer Community,

I am so proud to be one of you! Below is an excerpt of an email sent to the three deacons working with and for the extending Afghan refugee family that we are assisting. It speaks well of your kindness and generosity to those in need. It was sent by an affiliated person helping with Afghan resettlement in our region. The Rahimis are the first wave of this extended family and the Sherzai family, Jan in particular, are a part of this family who have been in America for awhile and are attempting to help their refugee family members. Jan was our interpreter to the Rahimi family who spoke no English. Here is the email we received:



I have such a huge well of gratitude for all of your work -- you three (the deacons involved)! There is no accounting for the impact your work has made to this very beautiful extended family.

Great blessings!"

"You are amazing! The Rahimis are so grateful for your beyond belief work with them to get them up and running as a new family in a new apartment in a new country. Can we ever begin to imagine what their life would have been like without the generosity of your church and your inspired coordination of this effort? Wow."

Yes, we are on hold until there is movement from the various sites the three families are currently housed in. I heard on the news that there have been measles outbreaks in Germany and Qatar and they are holding the refugees on site, vaccinating them for MMR, then sitting out the waiting period for further evidence of measles. Again, the medical care we take for granted here, including vaccinations, just isn't common there. How different their lives will be here.

I am still getting donations and am forwarding them to Jan Sherzai to pass along to the Rahimis. The Sherzais were insecure for a good long time, so having these funds come in little by little for the Rahimis will continue to help.

Way to go wonderful Redeemer family!

If you would like to have a further impact on families being resettled in our area, please speak with me. Two opportunities that have come to me this week are things that individuals or families can do. **One opportunity is to cook a welcoming dinner for an Afghan refugee family.** This is a hands-on opportunity to share kindness to these new guests in country and there are specifics of what to prepare and how available. **There is also the opportunity to stock the pantry for a resettled family with 2 weeks of staples** that they may use to nourish their family as they adjust to their new home. Both of these are through the local organization **KIND WORKS** and I have all the contact information and details.

With gratitude for your lovingkindness and faithful witness,

Deacon Adrienne+



A year ago, I packed the car with all my belongings and drove across the country from Colorado, leaving behind my home and family of 25 years. I came to the campus of Virginia Theological Seminary with all sorts of dreams for the approaching new season of life. But the year that transpired was not one I had imagined, planned, or hoped. I'd longed to develop relationships, spend hours discussing theological topics over coffee, and find a church home. Instead, I found myself studying alone, watching classes online, and largely being barred from the inside of a church building or relationships therein.

It was lonely. It was hard. It was not what I'd expected. But it was a start, and God was in it.

On Sunday I joined in fellowship with the Redeemer family for the first time. I entered a beautiful building, was blown away by the kindness of the people and the extravagant refrains of the choir. If I didn't know better, I would have thought the church was functioning out of an easy and well-worn pattern. However, ironically, the Redeemer family's year has also not followed a planned or desired path. It's been unimaginably challenging and painful, and I don't have to

recount for you the myriad tears shed or sweat spilled on the path to Homecoming Sunday.

Last September I looked out over the beautiful lawn in the center of campus, socially distanced from people I did not know, observing Morning Prayer as an outsider, with hopes that were to be deferred. This morning I sang in the choir at a Eucharist service, inside the chapel, beside new friends. An observer might not recognize the great chasm crossed over the last 12 months.

Jeremiah 10:23 says "I know, O Lord, that a man's path is not within himself. Nor is it in a man who walks to direct his own steps." I do not believe any of us would have chosen the heartbreak and struggle of this past year's path. But the mystery and beauty of faith lies in recognizing God's ability to see a bigger picture than our eyes provide.

Psalm 37:23 says "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, And He delights in his way."

I find great comfort in God's delight at the steps ordered for me. But that comfort comes through the hard work of reminding myself of God's greater sight and the incarnate love of Christ who truly walks beside us through the pain.

When I look over the campus lawn this year and as Redeemer experiences worship within restored walls, we recognize two truths. The mercy of God is great! And the challenges are far from over.

My prayer for all of us is to grow in trust and supported in love as we continue to take the steps ahead which are truly by faith and not by sight.

Together in faith, hope, and love,

Becki



CONTRIBUTIONS TO REDEEMER can be made by check, cash, bank check, or online through Vanco. Today I'd like to talk about the mystery that is Vanco. During the pandemic and flood Church closure, contributions to Redeemer made thru Vanco have increased dramatically. Thanks to all of you for continuing to support Redeemer during the shutdown!

Vanco is a payment service system for faith-based, non profit, professional services, and education businesses. Per Vanco, 25,000 Churches use Vanco for payment processing. Vanco payments can be made online, with a mobile app, or through the Redeemer website's giving page. See the [donation link](#) on Redeemer's website, redeemberbethesda.org.

Just like any other payment system, Vanco contributions can be made by credit card or ACH (transferred directly from your checking account). Redeemer pays a fee to Vanco for any payments made. You can help Redeemer cover part of the fee by increasing your contribution by the amount suggested by Vanco when you contribute.



Your Vanco contributions are controlled by you through your online Vanco account. I get emails with summaries of that day's, week's, and month's transactions. I post your Vanco contributions to your account at the end of each month. I don't initiate any transactions, but, if necessary, I can log in to your account to review transactions or cancel your account.

Feel free to contact me at accounting@redeemberbethesda.org if you have questions.

Margaret



An informal gathering in the late Summer sun, following our first Sunday upstairs together since March 2020.

Attention Flower Lovers!

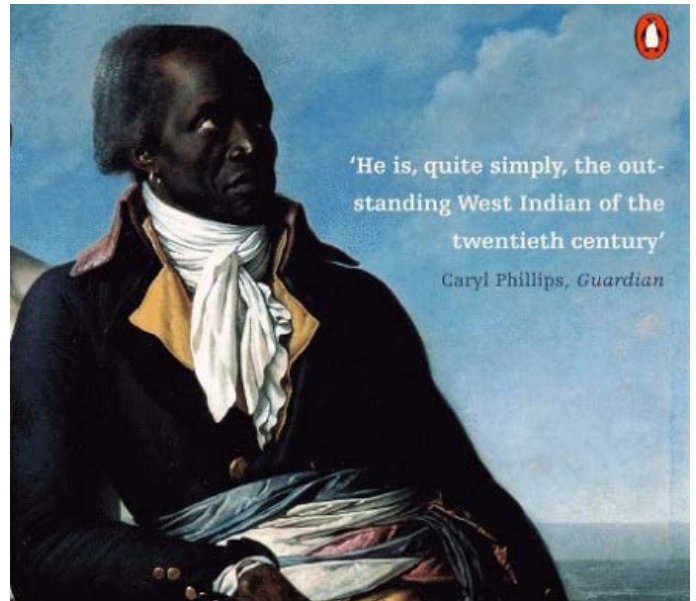
Please consider joining the Redeemer Flower Arrangers. No flower arranging experience is necessary. I'm happy to walk you through the steps of buying the flowers, conditioning them in the flower room, and arranging them for Sunday's service. With enough people on the roster, you would only be arranging flowers every other month. Contact me if you're interested:

Susan Fitzgerald

sgrahamfitzgerald@gmail.com

REDEEMER BOOK GROUP

We met in August on Zoom to discuss *For Whom the Bell Tolls* by Ernest Hemingway and had a very lively discussion.



Because of the happenings over the past 18 months on slavery, Black Lives Matter and the recent assassination of the president in Haiti, the Group decided to read *The Black Jacobins* by C.L.R. James. The book was published in 1938 by James, a Trinidadian historian on the history of the Haitian Revolution of 1791-1804. James places the Haitian Revolution in the context of the French Revolution. He focusses on the leadership of Toussaint L'Ouverture, who was born a slave but rose to prominence espousing the French Revolution ideals of liberty and equality, which were embraced by the persecuted blacks of Haiti.

What went wrong?

The book will be discussed on **October 10**, IN PERSON or via ZOOM depending on the situation with the pandemic.

For more information, please contact **Bob Dresser** at robert.dresser@gmail.com or **Huda Kraske** at hqkraske@aol.com.

LUNCH WITH JESUS



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. Think of it as one of the 'prequels' to your experience of worship—you'll hear the readings again, in a different voice, and sometimes you will hear elements of our discussion bubble to the surface of the actual sermon. Bring your study Bible and join us this week. The Zoom link is on the Redeemer home page.



Taking a break after unwrapping the new round tables

Music at Redeemer
www.musicatredeemer.org

musicatredeemer.org

Tickets on Eventbrite

**\$25 General Admission
Children & Students go free
\$100 Patron**

JULIANA SOLTIS

Bach Cello Suites

**Sat, Oct 16
7 PM**



GETTING AFGHAN FAMILIES READY FOR WINTER

Adrienne and the diocesan deacons continue to be hard at work addressing the needs of our Afghan refugee families. The initial Redeemer response was awesome. As fall and winter approach another critical need has arisen with which we need your help: winter clothing. Coats in all sizes, infant to adult, both male and female. All coats must be in good shape, all zippers working; all buttons, no stains or rips. Also needed are hats, scarves and gloves. Redeemer will be collecting this clothing the next two Sundays of October 3rd and 10th.

They may also be dropped off at the parish offices during the week. Just give the office a call (301-229-3770) to be sure someone is there. A little effort searching through the nooks and crannies of your closets, will greatly assist the impending needs of these families.



MANNA

Chrissy de Fontenay and Ben Ivins take items to [Manna Food Center](#) every week. Please remember to bring food for the basket at the altar. This is a spiritual practice that keeps our baptismal promise active. **Protein items are especially needed.** All items must be non-perishable.

BETHESDA CARES

Many thanks to those who put together dinner on September 26 for the hungry and homeless through our partnership with Bethesda Cares: Chrissy de Fontenay, Bill Heron and Silvia Maza, Bobby and Jeanine Greene, Debbie Ventimiglia, Jane Dealy, Jo and Brian Beard, Judy James, Marie France, Mark Pennybacker, Mary Helen Carlson, Marylin Raisch, Melinda and John Nelson, Patrick and Susan Fitzgerald, and the Penn and Hotes families. **Redeemer will provide dinner again on Sunday, November 28 (Thanksgiving weekend).**

Please consider participating in this Redeemer Outreach Program.

Thank you, Nico Hotes and Sam Penn

YOUTH GROUP LEADS IN SERVICE

Bethesda Cares feeds approximately 30 homeless and hungry people each weekend. Redeemer takes part in that ministry thanks to the efforts of Nico Hotes and Sam Penn, both attending Whitman High School. They are coordinating the sign-ups and menus for Redeemer's assigned nights. We take our turn on the last Sunday of every other month. Our next dinner is scheduled for November 28th, right after Thanksgiving.

At our deacon's request, those who met on September 22nd took home with them baskets and lists of items to collect for Afghan refugees being held for processing at Dulles International Airport. Of course, they had to have a little fun with them at first. The youth



Basket cases! Youth group models its new service wear!

are taking the baskets to their respective schools (there were 6 schools represented that night) to solicit donations of toiletries and activity kits for the adults and children. There are a few baskets left for those who were unable to attend in September. Please contact Amma Cricket for more information.



AND ALSO WUFF YOU!

Annual St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals.

All creatures great and small are welcome along with their human friends on **October 3rd at 4:00 p.m.** on the Labyrinth.

Cricket will bless our furry, feathered, scaly, multipedal, or non-pedal friends as we pray for

The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, Bethesda, Maryland, USA

all of God's creation. It's a barking, meowing, neighing, clucking service of praise. Is your pet water bound? Bring a picture! Stuffed animals are acceptable too!

Blessing of the Animals is a wonderful opportunity to bring a friend to Redeemer. We have fun sharing our animal stories with each other. Introduce someone to the 'wilder' side of Redeemer.



One of the amazing things about music

is how it can reach across so many divides: culture, upbringing, age, and circumstance. It is both physics and art. It impacts our bodies as resonators, our minds as lovers of organization, and hearts as, well, hearts.

Redeemer is a curious Church in a curious location. It sits somewhat divided from its surroundings: many of our neighbors are not “churched” (or even synagogued!). Music is one way to bring the community together, and to bring the friends we don’t yet know into our tent.

I’m taking the liberty as the current editor of this esteemed publication, to re-print something I wrote recently for *The Bannockburn Back* 9.

Basically: if you have never been to one of our concerts, or, if you want to really share something very special with a friend and aren’t quite ready to pop the “Sunday morning” question, you need to hear a solo string instrument in our sanctuary.

Whatever our religious beliefs, there is no doubting the power of music, whether it is a song, a dance, a symphony, or a jazz standard. But the next level is context. A bugler going up the harmonic series has more meaning in Arlington National Cemetery—and your favorite song as the first dance at your daughter’s

wedding feels very different to when you sing along to it in the privacy of your own car...or shower. And so it is also with music in a space that thrives with the sound of it, and is lifted in turn naturally, without amplification of any kind, within it. This obviously has benefits for choirs and organs which are often really made or broken by the room in which they sound—and yes, the first famous example that springs to mind probably fits this rule, but don’t tell anyone as they’ll cry heresy... But there is plenty of other music besides the sacred that benefits from either beautiful, or warm and clear acoustics. In Bannockburn we are fortunate enough to have a classical music venue that not only looks good, but sounds good too.

This month we present the cello suites written by master of organ, choral and vocal music, J.S. Bach, and it is perhaps the culmination of his experiences in those genres that brought forth the genius of cello melody that sounds like harmony. Think about it...Bach’s genius is in *counterpoint*, the very apex of the high Baroque, giving many different people (or one organist) the ability to create dense fugal textures of mathematical clarity and beauty... But the cello suites are a *solo melodic line*...what makes them work? The answer? The skill of the performer, in this case the incredible Juliana Soltis, the resonance of her instrument, the immediate short-term memory of our human brains—and the natural acoustics of the room: the wood of the building’s frame, the floor, all at one with that of the instrument, together realizing Bach’s *harmony* out of his *melody*. Without the space...

Come and immerse yourself in Bach in a space perfectly suited to experiencing it.

Geoffrey Silver,
Director of Music Ministries



I propose to start a small youth ensemble at Redeemer.

The group would meet once or twice a week with a member of KASSIA for coachings of classical music. Additionally, this ensemble, comprising members of the Church, could potentially play service music, perform during the KASSIA KIDS SPOT (our pre-concert program), and/or represent Redeemer at outreach events. The ensemble—or ensembles, if interest is great enough—will be appealing for those of you inviting friends to join the congregation, as many families regularly seek music-based extra-curriculars for their children. Furthermore, this idea has the potential to expand into a larger program with a greater reach. Not only would the chamber ensemble provide youth with the opportunity to study with professional musicians, but it has the potentially to add more beautiful music to worship.

Parents who are interested in exploring this should write to either myself or Geoffrey. My email is susanna@kassiamusic.org.

**Susanna Mendlow
Cellist & Vocalist
KASSIA MUSIC**



Music at Redeemer
SEASON 2021–2022

September 18	“Welcome home, Redeemer” KASSIA MUSIC
October 16	Juliana Soltis, Bach cello suites
November 13	KASSIA MUSIC
December 4	Vivi Cantando
January 8	KASSIA sonata concert
February 19	KASSIA MUSIC
March 12	Chamber music education day
April 2	KASSIA MUSIC
April 29 (Friday)	ALKEMIE
June 11	Mozart Requiem at Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church



St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church Presents

Art to Lift Spirits: Modern Icons of the Good News



September 12-October 29

5450 Massachusetts Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20816 ~ www.stdunstansbethesda.org

Redeemer Celebrates Hallowe'en

The Eve of All Hallows, October 31st, is on a Sunday this year. It's a chance for our friends and neighbors to discover that Episcopalians can worship and have fun at the same time. Children of all ages are welcome to wear their costumes to church that morning. The Rector will stick to her liturgical clothing during the service, but she makes no promises for coffee hour!

That afternoon at 5pm, bring a picture of a beloved family member or friend to the labyrinth. If you wish, you can share a story about your loved one and light a candle in remembrance of them. We'll read together the

service for All Hallows' Eve, which is complete with stories from scripture about ghosts and witches and spooky stuff. Yes – those things ARE in the Bible.

Begin the autumnal holy days with your church family. Costumes aren't required but are strongly encouraged! Invite a friend along.

Redeemer will celebrate All Saints Sunday on November 7th and remember those who've passed into God's nearer presence over the last year. We'll make available a sign-up list for your personal remembrances in mid-October. Watch for a notice in *This Week at Redeemer* in your email.



BERT SPENCER

BERTHA POULOS, BORN MAY 5, 1925
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

DIED SEPTEMBER 21, 2021
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI



Bert singing on Tour with Redeemer Choir at Bristol Cathedral, England, Summer 2018

Return from Exile with Gratitude and Hope

Redeemer's annual pledge drive

Between a pandemic and a flood, our 18-month absence from Redeemer, and from much of life as we knew it, has felt like an exile. It's been hard. We have felt less connected and longed for a return to normal. As we are cautiously returning from exile, our "new normal" is different from what we knew, and we have to muster all our resources to adapt.

How do we heal our wounds of exile and move forward? How do we rebuild our community? It is a spiritual question and a financial question. So our pledge drive needs to be about more than money. Of course we'll ask for money. We'll need more than we usually do, due to some unique circumstances this year that will be described in more detail in future communications from the pledge drive team. But our return from exile also presents a unique opportunity to gratefully celebrate what makes this community special: all of you, comprising the distinctive collection of persons and experiences that is our community. Come November, we will ask not only for your pledge, but also for your participation in small group listening sessions to share the thoughts, experiences, and passions that will inform our communal life and the decision-making of church leadership. While your material contributions are absolutely essential for the continued operation of the church and its staff, your contributions to the listening session are equally important, and will form the vision for the post-exile renewal of Redeemer.

A pledge drive makes me think about why I come to church and what the role of religion is in my life. It's about my relationship with the Divine, and about what kind of human being I want to be. It keeps me focused on all the things I am grateful for, even when things are hard. It helps me stay hopeful, even when things are difficult. It reminds me to live with awe, looking for miracles and beauty everywhere. It's also about community. We lift each other up and support each other. I cannot describe how much it meant to have the support of my Redeemer friends as I was losing my husband to cancer; how grateful I was to Cricket for giving me the blessing "May God give you joy" when I most needed it; to go to Stonehenge with Katie and to Shenandoah with Chrissy and to book discussions hosted by Huda and Jochen; how much it means to lift our choir voices to praise God, from whom all blessings flow; to be part of a community who supports refugees and the homeless and hungry and reaches out to communities of other faiths, so we become vessels for the blessings that flow to others; to be part of a community that helps little human beings grow into good people.

None of these things would be possible without all of us contributing our time, talents and Dollars. So please, give generously this year. Open your hearts wide and your wallets wider than usual if you can. We need it to rebuild our Beloved Community. Remember Cricket's words: "You are the new founding members of Redeemer in the 21st century." Indeed!

With deep gratitude and hope for the future of this warm and irrepressible congregation,

Barbara Alterowitz
Co-chair, with David Hoogerheide
2021 Pledge Campaign

Years ago, when my mother was just beginning to lose her mobility, we (both my parents and my husband) took a train from our home in St. Paul to Redwing, MN. She was in such good spirits. I'd not seen her so energetic for years. But she was slow. There was snow on the ground, so we had to walk gingerly. One evening, we were all walking to dinner. I carried my stiletto shoes as I trudged in front wearing my snow boots. After waiting at a red light, I led the way across the intersection. A car ignored us and turned in front of me. That really miffed me. Then another car did the same thing, but much closer to me — and my sweet mommy. So close that, without a thought I protectively swung my stilettos and hit the side of the car as it went past me. I remember hoping I'd left a good dent. The car slowed unsure as to what just happened, but ultimately drove away.

Twice in the last week I've heard people express how they wish the communal spirit of kindness that was so pervasive in the immediate aftermath of 9/11 was still active in us. We seem to have gone back to our same old selfish selves.

I'm not so sure.

The word aftermath has a negative connotation. It actually means aftergrowth, as in what grows in a field after it's been mowed: Life following the cutting back of growth.

My mom is no longer mobile. She has fallen several times and, in her own words, every time she falls, she bounces back less. I think that, though we've **returned** to or lost that initial supportive one-for-all and all-for-one spirit, we didn't bounce back as low as we had been.

Recently I was walking to the store, pushing my wheeled cart in front of me, when a driver nearly ran me over after gliding through a stop sign. I was entering a crosswalk. I stopped, backed up and he slammed on his brakes. I stood there looking at him. He held his hands up in apology. I nodded and walked behind him. He sat there, rolled down his window and apologized. I turned and said, "I've done the same thing." And I threw



him a peace sign. That felt much better than dinging his car with my cart.

I've written this before, but it's been a long time: Practice makes permanent. (It doesn't make perfection.) We can practice the care and compassion we had after 9/11 (or any other troubling time, whether as large and impacting as 9/11 or on a smaller, more private scale) and forever change ourselves.

I can't say I'd never hit another car again the way I did the one that threatened me and my family. I'm not that good. (I've also been known to throw my Pepsi on a car cutting me off in a crosswalk. You know I'm perturbed when I'm willing to sacrifice my Pepsi like that.) As satisfying as I admit those incidents were, I felt much better after identifying with and throwing the driver a peace sign.

When Jo was thanked for all her hard work, she mentioned many people who'd helped her. She also mentioned how many showed up for work days in the aftermath of the flood and renovation. Redeemer is still in that aftermath. We are also in the queer place of the aftermath of a pandemic, while still in the pandemic. Let's hold on to that spirit of service. We might not have the same energy we had when the building was at its worst and that's okay. As long as we bounce back a bit more helpful than we were before.

Laura Rose

AGENDA- VESTRY MEETING, WEDNESDAY 9/15/21

HYBRID: IN PERSON & ON ZOOM

6:30PM

(unapproved minutes)

Present: Rev Cricket Park, Toyin Rose, Steven Gibson, Geoffrey Platt, Katie Nickerson, Marie Caulfield, Jo Barclay-Beard, Silvia Maza, Tim Yehl, Scott Williams, Patrick Fitzgerald, Christian Carr

Guest: Karen Stewart

Jo Barclay Beard: Opening prayer

Karen Stewart presented Godly Play lesson

- 2.5-7 years old, Montessori based program, child led
- Bible and liturgical stories, New Testament parables, stories
- Presented example story and described process

Introduction of Vestry members to Becki Casey, the seminarian

CONSENT AGENDA:

Minutes of July Meeting

Motion to approve, seconded, carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- We have signed the letter with the auditor for 2021 audit which should begin soon.
- On-budget for operating budget, however we are behind on pledge revenue.
- Because we made the decisions to upgrade kitchen items, repair the rectory bathrooms, and other building and grounds projects not reimbursed by insurance there has been just under \$57,000 spent from our capital fund for Recovery and Renewal. We will receive a final settlement check from the Insurance company when all the receipts are compiled and submitted.
- We do have money in savings accounts, however our current operating cash total is \$27,821.00. We do need to carefully consider future spending as we do not have the buffer we had at the beginning of the year.
- Bank of America not only forgave us our PPP loan, but sent an additional \$580 to us. Thank you BOA.
- Motion to accept treasurer's report, seconded, carried.

WARDEN'S REPORTS:

Senior Warden: need to work on job descriptions from the Vestry. Working on those and will request feedback in the next month.

Junior Warden:

- Recap of upstairs refresh:
 - Repaired ceiling and sanctuary
 - Replaced all bulbs with LED bulbs

- Replaced old exhaust fan with newer/quieter one
- One hanging lantern needed to be rehung.
- Refinished as much as was feasible of the floor.
- Total cost was \$12K (under initial estimate)
- Organ is unwrapped and sounds great.
- Vasquez came and did large fall cleanup. Most of cost was donated by parishioners.
- Polyjacking estimates are coming in this week. This will make even the sidewalks around the building.
- Lighting on Shipman steps is a safety issue. Supply issues are delaying new light installation. In the interim, solar lights will be installed.
- Rectory:
 - A plan should be made regarding seasonal maintenance (fall and spring cleaning at the least) with the Rector's family present.
 - Steve replaced the front door on bottom level of the basement.
 - Brick stairs to front entrance need to be assessed.

RECTOR'S REPORT:

- Refer to report
- Job descriptions:
 - Digital minister needed. Job description. Internship for credit or payment of \$75-100/Sunday. Looking for two people so there is a tradeoff.
 - Maristela will train person(s)
- Presented Rector job description to start process.
 - Example of template that would be used for all job descriptions
 - LAG group review and input is next step

DISCUSSION OF MISSION AND PURPOSE OF REDEEMER

- Articulating a goal for 2022 by the end of the year will help prioritize and organize time.
- Shared vision and mission that we can share with the congregation. Start the conversation so that as we are working with Stewardship Chairs, we can share what is important to parishioners and why shared purpose is necessary. A diocesan education course starts Tuesday on these topics. Staff is participating. Signup available to all vestry.
- Wardens, Vestry, and Rector should have a bond of mutual affection and common purpose.
- Attendance is much lower. Some people have moved away. Some have died. Some decided that church is no longer a priority. How do we do church post-COVID?
- The Vestry brainstormed regarding the above. The topics that arose were welcoming, accessibility, the role of music and the music programming, small groups, outreach that focuses on food insecurity, the role of the building as refuge as well as a worship center, social justice ministries, neighborhood ministries, leadership development, and spiritual maturity.

Cricket closed the meeting at 9:30pm with prayer.

The next meeting is October 6th on Zoom at 6:30pm.

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER'S

OPERATING RESULTS through August 31, 2021 are set forth in the adjoining profit and loss statement. Current year pledge income is \$49,578 below budget year to date. Net operating income year-to-date is \$53,586 below budget. Since the below-budget net result is driven by shortfalls in pledge income rather than by overruns of expense, the budgeted bottom line could be recovered if parishioners fulfill their pledges by year end.

Income and expenses related to flood recovery and building improvements are accounted for

separately from the profit and loss statement. Flood recovery costs are largely covered by insurance, while building upgrade projects have been funded from the building reserve, special donations, and the operating account.

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

Stephen L. Gibson,
Treasurer

Redeemer Profit and Loss Statement - August 31, 2021	Jan. - Aug. Actual	Jan. - Aug. Budget	Jan.- Aug. Over (Under) Budget	Annual Budget
INCOME				
2021 Pledge Payments	302,382	351,960	(49,578)	476,500
2021 Over Pledge	3,185	10,000	(6,815)	15,000
2021 Non-Pledge	14,828	16,667	(1,839)	25,000
2020 Pledges	5,982	667	5,315	1,000
Loose Plate Offering	1,009		1,009	
Special Offerings	10	667	(657)	1,000
Event & Activity Income	0	0	0	0
Facilities Use	0	3,333	(3,333)	5,000
Other Income	7,412	4,000	3,412	6,000
Total Income	334,807	387,293	(52,486)	529,500
EXPENSE				
Administration Expense	36,107	35,200	907	52,800
Diocesan Giving	26,667	26,667	(0)	40,000
Discretionary Account	400	333	67	500
Maintenance Expense	62,258	53,667	8,591	80,500
Personnel Expense	199,227	200,471	(1,245)	300,707
Program Expense	8,045	15,100	(7,055)	22,650
Property Expense	31,168	31,333	(165)	47,000
Total Expense	363,872	362,771	1,100	544,157
Net Operating Income	(29,064)	24,522	(53,586)	(14,657)



Birthdays

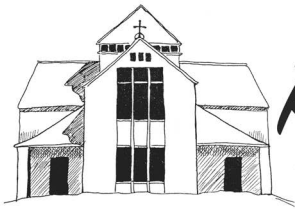
- Anthony Noya
- Barbara Alterowitz
- Patricia Snowden
- Peter Kendall
- Kiki Garo
- Nicolas Hotes
- Melinda Nelson
- Chuyoung Suter
- Peggy Tucker

- Richard Tyler
- David Schlafer
- Michael Wang
- Huda Kraske
- Deborah Babcock-Daley
- Carolyn Kimberlin
- John Nelson
- Elizabeth Askey
- William Kessner

Anniversaries

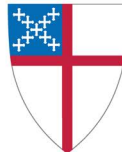
- Tom & Margaret Greene
- Dominique & Mike Rychlik
- Jo Barclay-Beard and Brian Beard
- Greg & Cathy Baker

KASSIA MUSIC's benefit concert, "Welcome Home, Redeemer"



The Episcopal Church Welcomes You

Redeemer Bethesda



For COVID-safety reasons, the Parish Office is open by appointment. Please contact individual staff members for appointments.

As Sunday is a work day for staff, please avoid contacting staff members by phone on Mondays unless it's an emergency.

PARISH CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev'd Cricket Park, Rector
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The Rev'd Dr. David Schlafer, Assisting Priest
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The Rev'd Adrienne Clamp, MD, Deacon
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Becki Casey, Seminarian
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Geoffrey Silver, Director of Music Ministries
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Margaret Church, Bookkeeper
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Parish Office Mailbox
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VESTRY & OFFICERS

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Welcome to The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Bethesda, Maryland, a parish community of “inquiring and discerning hearts”, where you are welcome to join us in living and wrestling with difficult questions. We value an Anglican spirituality - one that is open to the mystery of the Holy and that celebrates the beauty of creation and upholds the dignity of every human being.

Redeemer is known for beautiful, reverent worship, excellence in preaching and music, and active outreach ministries to its neighbors.

Redeemer's local outreach ministries include support of a Manna Food Pantry, literacy through tutoring at a Silver Spring elementary school, sponsoring blood donation drives, and singing for persons who are ill or shut in.

No matter who you are or where you find yourself on the journey of faith, you are welcome here at Redeemer. We look forward to greeting you!

**The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer
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301-229-3770
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