

# Voice of The Redeemer

Episcopal Church of

Worship-Outreach-Fellowship of the people of the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, Bryn Mawr

January  
2022

More coverage online at  
[www.TheRedeemer.org](http://www.TheRedeemer.org)

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“NEWSLETTER SIGNUP”

## WHAT'S INSIDE

Organized around  
principal themes of:  
Parish News,  
Program Reports,  
Arc of Formation,  
Budget & Stewardship,  
Outreach,  
Choirs & Music,  
Legacy into Promise

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## CONTINUE WITH THE STORY

BY PETER VANDERVEEN

I'm often struck by how quickly Christmas trees are stripped bare and abandoned along curbsides after December 25. Within a day or two they appear—alone and forlorn. It's as if they too were a part of the great frenzy of unwrapping. Boxes, bows, and festive papers that were once signs of waiting are ripped through and discarded within hours (or minutes); these are the detritus of Christmas morning, to be collected up and thrown away. All that matters is what they effectively hid. And trees are swept up in this wave of disenchantment. They no longer have to serve as an anchoring spot for items that have been now distributed. So they are removed. And with a startling abruptness, the holiday itself is done. Christmas celebrations don't linger long. Nor do many show a desire to keep them once the festive culmination of opening gifts has concluded. This practice serves as an ending rather than a beginning—frequently met with a sense of relief. And the usual habits and patterns of life return, unchanged, having only been interrupted for a short season.

In Italy this year there was quite a public dust-up when a number of Roman Catholic bishops chose to loudly decry the appearances of Santa Claus as part of local Christmas celebrations. They abrasively informed children that Santa is no more than a propaganda tool devised by merchandisers to encourage sprees of greed and spending. He is fake news and, worse yet, he is all-too-effectively displacing the real news that Christmas is meant to convey. People no longer care about the story of Jesus, they averred, because the story of Santa is



*Some of the spectacular Christmas decorations provided with your memorial gifts and the talents of our Flower Guild. Many more photos available at: [www.TheRedeemer.org/photos](http://www.TheRedeemer.org/photos) and the back page.*

so much more captivating: for Santa delivers actual, material goods, and he does so in such a timely and devoted manner. All for a few cookies. And then he has the good sense to disappear for a year.

Like so much that makes for controversy these days, I was fascinated both by the vehemence with which the bishops made their attack and by the outrage voiced in return by non-Christians and Christians alike.

I've long considered Santa traditions to be fairly amenable complements to the originating Christmas story. Harmless; but in the same way, merely fictional. Santa is no more than a story, which is good for one day. But on both sides of the divide, Santa is taken to be more real than this and, thus, taken all too seriously. Religious authorities can invest Santa with too much authority and power to dominate the message and the moment of Christmas. Santa's fervent defenders voice too much fear and offense at the idea that children will be bereft if his reality is declared to be merely mythic. There comes a time for all of us, however, when this becomes clear—and without existential crisis. One can wonder what all the fuss is about.

And now, a very short time after Christmas Day, many might wonder why any discussion of Santa is even warranted. He is already relegated to the past, until next December—to be left curbside like the trees that no longer have a function.

Yet, within the church, the first week of January is still Christmastide. People used to observe this in holiday traditions that no longer are kept.

## Voice of The Redeemer GOES ALL DIGITAL

With this issue, our monthly newsletter will be distributed via email and our website. The severe delays in US postal delivery and elevating costs have helped to precipitate this decision. It will also allow us to move our deadlines later to enable more timely content of each issue. For now, The Voice will continue to look the same. If you do not have internet access or would like us to mail you a facsimile hardcopy, please contact Fran Merritt at 610-525-2486 ext. 14 or [fmerritt@theredeemer.org](mailto:fmerritt@theredeemer.org).

We are grateful for our 15-year association with Episcopal Life, Episcopal News Monthly and, most recently, Episcopal Journal. If you would like to continue to receive Episcopal Journal, subscriptions are available through [www.episcopaljournal.org](http://www.episcopaljournal.org).

But the real point is that Christmas begins a story that continues, not only through the next twelve days, but for months. And for Christians, this story is never really at risk of being declared fake. People may strongly disagree about what the Jesus story says and means and what its implications may be for us now; but it would be a stretch to claim that Jesus never was. And we don't simply move on as though we can stash away Jesus until late next year. What was delivered to us in text and liturgy on December 25th was the recounting of what was delivered to us in flesh and person two thousand years ago; and this Jesus has been the fascination and inspiration and challenge for countless generations ever since.

To recognize this and continue with the story is to be doubly gifted. For nothing of the Bethlehem story will then be abandoned to the curb.

### New Livestreams Page

The web address is: [www.TheRedeemer.org/livestreams](http://www.TheRedeemer.org/livestreams). Four screens appear: **Sunday Worship - Holidays & Special Music - Adult Forums - Funerals/Memorials**. When our services are LIVE they will appear there and on our Facebook/RedeemerBrynMawr and YouTube/RedeemerBrynMawr. Archive links are there, too. For now, Sunday services will also appear on the homepage.

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## PROGRAM

EPIPHANY PROMISES AND HOPE  
Ministries with Children

BY TORY DUNKLE

We started Advent in Children's Chapel daydreaming about what it would be like to be royalty: fancy houses, fancy clothes, lots of money, even more power, and lots of servants to do what they are told.

The Messiah foretold by the prophets was to be a mighty, powerful and decisive King. He would be the King Israel had always wanted. He would conquer Israel's enemies and unite God's people. Generation after generation of Israelites had heard the prophecies, and waited with bated breath for this Messiah King's triumphant arrival. They had an expectation and watched and waited for their expectations to be met.

In Christmas we celebrate God's fulfillment of the words of the prophets. The Messiah came. The "hopes and fears of all those years" would be met. Israel could finally exhale, right? If only.

The King would be born right in their midst. The "voice in the wilderness"



would proclaim his coming. He would perform miracles of all kinds. The voice of God would declare him God's own son. He would denounce the powers of this world. And yet, God's people would still wait, holding their breath,

waiting for the conquering King of their expectations and imaginations. So why am I talking about Advent in January?

If Advent is to remind us of Israel's

anticipation and longing, the season of Epiphany reminds us of the reality of those fulfilled promises. The fulfillment of all those Old Testament hopes and promises did not arrive as expected. He would be born in a lowly stable. An eccentric religious fanatic would shout his coming. His first miracle would be at a wedding. He would befriend the most unsavory of characters. And he would die a humiliating death. Yes, redemption would come, but not in the way God's people hoped or wanted.

So often we march through Advent and Christmas straight through to Lent without giving the Season of Epiphany a second thought. But in doing so, we often fail to recognize the ways in which our own expectations and imaginations have prevented us from recognizing Christ in our midst. The hope of Epiphany is found in the realization that redemption in Christ is always far more than we could ever expect, ask or imagine.

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## CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT



There are many more photos right on the homepage of [TheRedeemer.org](http://TheRedeemer.org)

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Deadline for the February issue: January 17



# PROGRAM

## EASIER SAID THAN DONE The Difficulty of Simplicity

By MICHAEL DIORIO

At our November Vespers service, parishioner Paul Adkins introduced me to a piece of music that has stuck with me since that time. In his composition *MASS*, Leonard Bernstein wrote and paired music to a wonderful set of lines written by Stephen Schwartz. Schwartz's text in "Simple Song" is a confluence of his own authorship along with selected Psalm verses:

"Sing God a simple song, *lauda laude*  
Make it up as you go along, *lauda laude*  
Sing like you like to sing, God loves all simple things  
For God is the simplest of all."

The innocence of these lyrics combined with the unadorned musical setting is a tremendous lesson in, dare I say it, *simplicity*. More than that, however, is the brilliance found in the controlled restraint exercised in the overall expression of a song meant to *sound* improvised. It is that very thing that fascinates me. A professor's words ring in my mind: knowing how little to say is often better than saying too much. This maxim certainly can be (and perhaps *should* be) applied to music making, particularly when expected to "make it up as you go along."

If one applies this maxim not only to improvised music, but to words and actions, there is a dichotomy presented: one needs the craft to *conceal* one's craft just as much as the ability to *reveal* it. Standing in front of a crowd to give an impromptu speech, or making announcements off-the-cuff is a great exercise in revealing the inner self; it lays bare one's vulnerability to a particular moment. As we might imagine, this often goes in one of two ways.

What, then, might be perceived when such spontaneity occurs within the context of music? Sure, one can hear the missteps of a speaker stumbling over a word or clumsily stringing together mixed tenses in their sentences, but can such hiccups be heard in spontaneously created music? Conversely, can the mellifluous legato of clear thought and seamless execution be discerned in such improvisation?

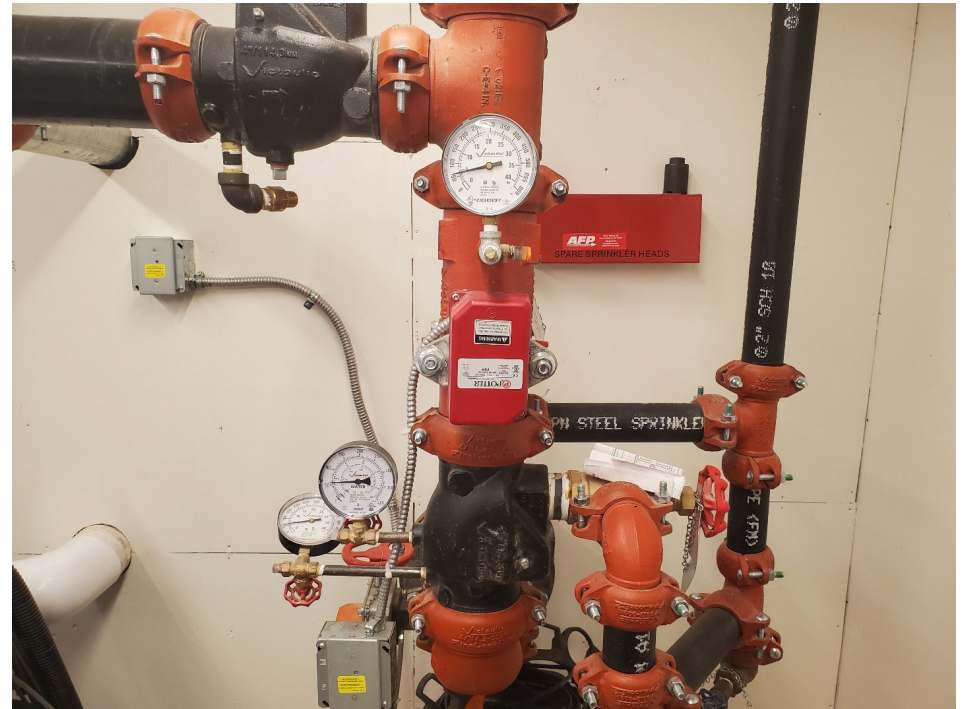
As these past two years have shown us, making it up as we go along can be tricky, at best. As it pertains to music, there must be a fundamental understanding of technique (knowing what we want to say and determining how we say it). And, certainly, we have to know what the music is serving, its purpose: covering an action, accompanying specific movement, or simply filling in for extra time. However, instinct and talent can take one only so far in whatsoever we do.

In my experience as a musician (and through my adulthood), I have learned that things tend to go better when we truly bring ourselves to the moment. Even when we "build the plane as we fly it," if the simple act of just being who we are (without pretense, without filter, without façade) is paired with action or words, therein lies the beauty. That is when we can find our stride, when we achieve our "true tone," and we lend authenticity to expression.

As I prepare to take my sabbatical leave in a few weeks, focusing on improvisation skills, it is my hope to keep the words of this simple song in my mind and to apply them to all I seek to learn and absorb during this invaluable time. I pass them on to those reading this, to see if they hold any significance in those improvised moments of life. Keeping it simple and authentic might just become my best New Year's resolution.



## BEST ARTICLE OF 2021 PARISH BUSINESS



By JAY EINSPIANIER

First I would caution not to get your hopes up. Needless to say, 2021 was a somewhat challenging year. As a result, selecting the "best" Article is either pretty easy because of the general malaise and anything looks good or difficult because of the wide range of topics. Let's go with the latter.

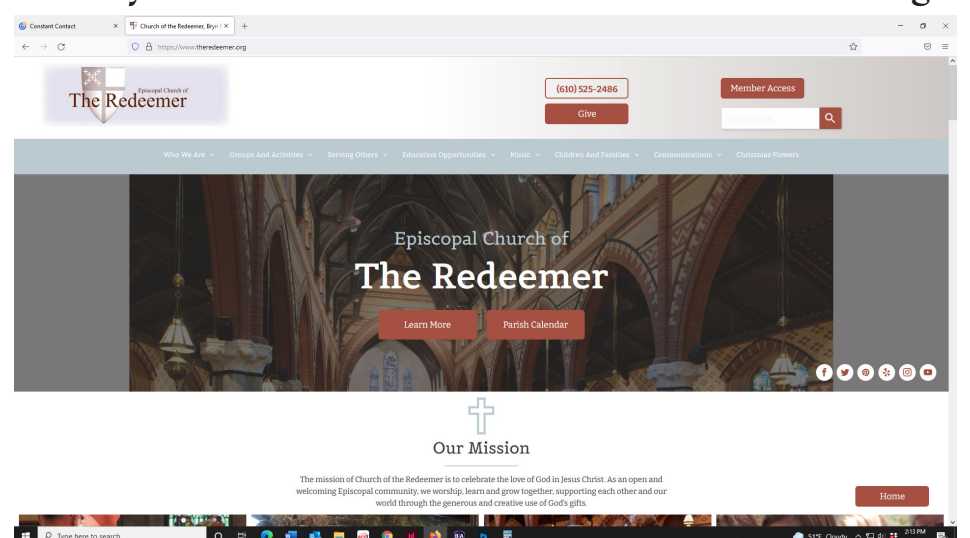
The topics focused primarily of course on the new Parish House and what challenges we will have in absorbing such a wonderful but technologically challenging facility into our day-to-day operations.

You may of course remember the excellent two-part series on "What is that Thing." If for some reason you did not cut it both out for future reference, it addressed some building nuances which could be determined to be somewhat quirky i.e.; holes in our new roof. Or the May article titled "So Now What?" Obviously a catchy headline which was meant to draw you into reading the article. An in depth read would reveal that the article presented what we intended to do now that we were completely resident in the new Parish House. Spoiler alert, we have been very busy. Finally, there was the article from September entitled "What Does This Button Do?" Clearly the subject matter presented the complexity of the building and the challenge of numerous new operating systems.

Well, an in-depth survey of readers chose the last article mentioned above as The Best of 2021. In my humble opinion, it reflects the humorous and inquisitive nature of our parishioners. Without question, we have many buttons in the new building which have yet to be pushed. Rest assured that we have not shied away from pushing a few along the way. In those instances our approach includes: push, step back and hope for the best.

Gradually, we are becoming more conversant with the systems in the building. Major events such as the Christmas Village forced us to learn quickly. Others such as numerous Garden Clubs have pushed us in gentle ways to stress test the building. Overall, things are functioning well and our comfort level is increasing. However, I do have a few more unknown buttons to be pushed so stop by and we'll do a few together!

Have you seen our new website? [www.TheRedeemer.org](http://www.TheRedeemer.org)





## PROGRAM

## WINTER ADULT FORUMS

January 9 thru February 27

By MICHAEL PALMISANO In the new year The Redeemer will be joined by another terrific slate of presenters during our Adult Forum Hour (Sundays 10:45-11:30am, Masterman Hall). Our winter series will begin on January 9.

*Note: All forums will be livestreamed to our website: <https://www.theredeemer.org/livestreams>*



**Sunday, January 9 – The Rev. Dr. Christy Lang Hearlson, Assistant Professor of Religious and Theological Education, Villanova University**

“Our common home, planet earth, faces a crisis. Ecological theologians are calling Christians to an ‘ecological conversion.’ What would an ‘ecological conversion’ look like for us? How do ecology and theology intersect with one another? How might our beliefs and behaviors change as we become better caretakers of our common home?”

The Rev. Dr. Christy Lang Hearlson is an ordained Presbyterian minister and Assistant Professor of Religious and Theological Education at Villanova University. In her work at Villanova, she teaches courses related to pedagogy, spirituality, children’s spiritual lives, consumer culture, and ecology.



**Sunday, January 16 – Steve Chawaga, Executive Director, Episcopal Legal Aid**

Founded in November of 2019, Episcopal Legal Aid’s (ELA) model is to break barriers around legal aid by being present at various Episcopal Churches around the diocese when free meals are served. People come for the food and can also receive free legal advice. ELA has continued to diligently serve the community throughout the pandemic around issues related to housing and preventing evictions, medical directives, and unemployment and compensation. ELA has already helped over 300 people with legal advice since its founding. Join us this morning as Executive Director Steve Chawaga invites us into the work and mission of ELA who strives “To promote access to justice by bringing pro bono civil legal services to low-income residents of Philadelphia and surrounding counties.”



**Sunday, January 23 – Maria Stroup, Founder, The Impact Center**

*“What is Outreach?”*

The Impact Center was founded to “...inspire young people to discover and act upon their desire to contribute to the common good through active learning, meaningful and ongoing volunteer opportunities, dialogue, and reflection.” Maria Stroup has devoted her personal and professional life to service-learning and leadership development in teens. After decades of service in schools, religious institutions, and various nonprofits Maria founded the Impact Center to continue in the work of ethically engaging youth with others, educating them about issues of justice, and inviting them to see how their service might fit into their sense of vocation. Maria joins us this morning to lead us in a discussion of the simple (or not so simple) question “What is Outreach?”



**Sunday, January 30 – Dr. Glen Skoler, Clinical and Forensic Psychologist**

*Black and White Perspectives on Huckleberry Finn: “That Amazing, Troubling Book”*

It should be no spiritual or psychological surprise that the Great American Novel, inevitably had to be about the Great American Conflict and the Great American Shame: race. As soon as Mark Twain finished the *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* in the 1880s, he realized that his intended bestseller was not only humorous, but a scathing portrayal of systemic American racism and hypocrisy. Efforts to censor and ban the novel began with its publication and haven’t stopped since.

Ever the sardonic social satirist, even about our racial anxiety and conflict over his own novel, Mark Twain posted a dire “Warning” at the front of the book: that he would “prosecute,” “banish” or “shoot” anyone attempting to find a “motive,” “moral” or “plot” in the novel. Despite Twain’s threat, America’s black and white literary laureates (e.g. Ernest Hemingway, Ralph Ellison, T.S. Eliot and Toni Morrison) have been trying to discern the novel’s “motive,” “moral” and “plot.” And the “only” thing they agree upon is that the *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is a masterpiece of world literature. Join us this morning as Dr. Glen Skoler leads us in discussion of the Great American Novel.

Dr. Glen Skoler is a clinical and forensic psychologist whose cases have often involved racial injustice. He wrote the Washington Post commentary: “*Rethinking Huck: Our Kids and a Flawed Masterpiece.*” He is currently writing the book, *A Guide to Huckleberry Finn for Offended Blacks and Guilty Whites—the Masterpiece on the Precipice of the American Racial Divide.*



**Sunday, February 6 – Confirmation and Bishop Visitation**

Please join us for worship this morning at 9:30am as our 2021-2022 cohort of confirmands make their Confirmation. Bishop Daniel Gutiérrez will join us as preacher and celebrant during the service and will spend time with The Redeemer community afterwards. Please stick around after worship as we celebrate our newly confirmed members of the community in the Parish House. *Note: There will be no adult forum this morning.*

**Sunday, February 13 – Annual Meeting**

Please join us after our 9:30am worship for The Redeemer’s Annual Meeting. *Note: There will be no adult forum this morning.*



**Sunday, February 20 – Dr. Jerry Miller, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Haverford College**

Dr. Miller specializes in metaethics and the philosophy of race, with a focus on structural histories of language, subjectivity, and embodiment. His areas of interdisciplinary research and teaching include black studies, structuralism/poststructuralism, visual and literary theory, postcolonial philosophy and ethics, and queer theory. He joins us this morning to explore some of the concepts from his book, *Stain Removal: Ethics and Race.*

*“Stain Removal argues that our perception of a person’s actions always entails judgments of the body. It therefore challenges modern moral theory’s premise that a subject’s deeds and not its bodily traits count as primary objects of evaluation. Drawing on modern and pre-modern accounts of how ethical knowledge originates, from the Biblical story of Ham, to Socrates, Immanuel Kant, Alain Locke, Frantz Fanon, Langston Hughes, Onora O’Neill, and Louis Althusser, the book suggests that our recognition of both a person and that person’s deeds demands an evaluative context. From this it proposes that all perception is “evaluative perception.”*



**Sunday, February 27 – Mike Weilbacher, Executive Director, Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education**

*The Healing Power of Nature*

Mike Weilbacher returns to The Redeemer this morning to offer a presentation on *The Healing Power of Nature*. “Evidence – data – shows us what time in nature does for our mood, heart rate, breathing, eyesight, IQ, etc. It turns out that spending time in nature can do many things including help you live longer.”

Mike Weilbacher is the Executive Director of the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education and past director of the Lower Merion Conservancy. He has been teaching about climate issues for 30 years.



# PROGRAM

## CHRISTMAS VILLAGE EXCEEDS ITS GOALS

*Our first Christmas Village highlighted the beautiful design of the new Parish House and its functionality for generations to come.*

By CAROLINE MANOGUE

Our goals while planning the inaugural Redeemer Christmas Village were twofold—to raise funds to benefit Redeemer Outreach and to bring the community together after too long apart because of the construction of the new Parish House as well as the pandemic. We called it a fundraiser and a friendraiser, and we believe it was a success on both counts.

The weather on the evening of November 19, while chilly, cooperated as we gathered for a festive evening of shopping, tasty treats and libations, and a fun silent auction in the festively lit inaugural Redeemer Christmas Village. Parishioners, friends and neighbors reconnected and made new friends

while enjoying the music of the Baldwin B-Flats and The Redeemer Ramblers and exploring the Village, which highlighted and utilized the beautiful design and functionality of the new Parish House. The silent auction offered the opportunity to bid on a wide variety of 60 wonderful items. The new electronic bidding system was not without its hiccups, but all in all the new system made the silent auction accessible to people who bid remotely as well as tremendously easier for our volunteers. We thank the parishioners who generously donated items to make the auction a success.

On Saturday, the Village was hopping

with the addition of a vibrant children's area and the music of Charlie Silio, Orpheus Club, the Haverford Notables and David Copas's band Double Fault. A fun time was had by all.

Planning for the 2022 Redeemer Christmas Village has already begun! We'd love your help to make next year an even bigger success! Additionally, we recognize that there is room for improvement and welcome any and all feedback.

In the meantime, we would like to thank the following vendors for coming to and supporting the Village: Le Camion, Bonjour Creperie, 13<sup>th</sup> Street Cocktails, Children's Book World, Cooke & Berlinger, Fairhope Graphics,

Henisee Pottery, Itzy Ritzy Events, Lisi Lerch, Painted Sky Alpaca Farm, and Serene & Greene.

A hearty thank-you to everyone who attended the Village and made it such a splendid time!

Additionally, we are grateful to the parishioners of all ages who assisted in making The Redeemer's inaugural Christmas Village a success—from brainstorming, crafting, decorating, and baking to greeting, everyone's efforts were much appreciated. It truly took a village to make the Redeemer Christmas Village a success. Specifically, we are grateful to the Vestry, staff and clergy for their support as well as the following parishioners:

Paul Adkins  
Susan Ayres  
Barbara Billings  
Trish Bennett  
Tracey Berman  
John Black  
Lisa Black  
Susan Bloom  
Prill Bradshaw  
Bobbie Cameron  
Chris Chojnacki  
Kate Chojnacki  
Jan Clarke  
Elisabeth Cooke  
Peter Cooke  
Victoria Cooke

Jennifer Vollmer Copas  
Savina Copas  
Bob Davis  
Lisa Davis  
Mason Davis  
Rita Davis  
Judy Dawson  
Jay Einspanier  
Lynn Fahr  
Sev Fahr  
Sev Fahr, Jr.  
Patricia Fowler  
Ken Garner  
Al Greenough  
Sallie Greenough  
Bill Gross

Jane Hastings  
Barbara Hobbs  
Sandra Hudson  
Catherine Huffman  
Meghan Jodz  
Maddie Jodz  
Jennie Kirkpatrick  
Ananda Leahy  
Victoria Leidner  
John Lisle  
Caroline Manogue  
Christopher Manogue  
Phineas Manogue  
Samantha Manogue  
Andrew Masterman  
Cheryl Masterman

Ryan Masterman  
Kristin McGinley  
Pam McMullin  
Carolyn Morris  
Laura Morris  
Sam Morris  
Sally Moser  
Karen Nagle  
Liz Nichlas  
Fran Northup  
Paolo Reyes  
Rebeca Ross  
Amanda Schwenke  
Ken Schwenke  
MaryBeth Sedwick  
Diane Senior

Cannie Shafer  
Win Shafer  
Nancy Sharp  
Emily Snell  
Cynthia Spadaro  
Emily Spadaro  
Kate Stephan  
Anne Strong  
Kitten Susanin  
Bill Susskind  
Leslie Susskind  
Maria Thompson  
Patricia Wesley  
Ginger Woods  
*(All affectionately known to the staff as the Village People.)*

Many more photos to be seen online at [www.TheRedeemer.org/photos](http://www.TheRedeemer.org/photos)



**The Village by the Numbers:**  
Cost of the Village (including tents, lights, sound system, food trucks, signage, security): Approximately \$35,000  
Net profit, taking into account benefactor donations:  
Approximately \$60,000  
Attendees consumed:  
120 lb. of beef bourguignon  
140 lb. of cassoulet  
50 lb. of Philly steak frites  
75 lb. sausages  
300 snails  
367 crepes



# AROUND THE PARISH

## 2022 STEWARDSHIP

Did you know, there are 20 new pledges to the 2022 Stewardship Campaign? To date, these new pledges account for 7% of the total pledges, and 4% of the total dollars. The Stewardship Committee is thrilled to see such strong support from new, or returning members, of the church. There is a lot to be excited about this coming year at The Redeemer and these 20 new pledges reflect the strength, and commitment of our Church Community. Thank you!!

### OUR SINCERE THANKS TO THESE PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE ALREADY MADE A PLEDGE FOR 2022

as of December 30, 2021

Maisie Adamson  
Paul & Mary Adkins  
Richard & Kris Aldridge  
Charlie Alexander  
James & Julia Alexandre  
Warren & Susan Ayres  
Judith Bardes  
Anne Barnett  
Jeffrey Bell  
Eric Benke & Frances Merritt Thompson  
Tom & Carolyn Bennett  
Sandra Berwind  
Barbara Billings  
Diana Bittel  
John & Lisa Black  
Charlie & Susan Bloom  
Al & Leslie Boris  
Priscilla Bradshaw  
Joseph & Mary Beth Bright  
Jamie & Joan Bromley  
Marcia Brose  
Rick & Phyllis Brown  
Jay Brown  
Jim & Lin Buck  
Andrew & Karen Bucklee  
Don & Linda Caldwell  
Bobbie Cameron  
Drew & Babs Camerota  
Dick & Lisa Carr  
Lynne Chapman  
Sam Chew  
Chris & Kate Chojnacki  
Blake & Julie Christoph  
W. Morgan and Sonia Churchman  
Peter & Kimberly Clement  
Ellen Conlan  
Bill & Joanne Conrad  
Dick & Otilie Conway  
Peter & Elisabeth Cooke, Jr.  
David Copas & Jennifer Vollmer Copas  
Betsey Corkran  
Ted & Polly Cox  
Jim & Betsy Crowell  
Stephen & Margaret Dana  
Chris & Betsy D'Angelo  
Rick & Rita Davis  
Bob & Lisa Davis  
Gary Davis  
Jack & Judy Dawson  
Rod Day  
Darrell & Julia DeMoss  
Gloria DePasquale  
John & Melissa Donnelly  
Rod & Carol Donnelly  
Bill & Sally Dordelman  
Joe & Elizabeth Dougherty  
Tory Dunkle  
Rad & Susannah Edmonds  
Hank & Martha Mel Edmunds  
Joe Elefritz  
Hentzi Elek & Sara Barton  
Michael Erdman  
Bill & Katharine Eyre, Jr.  
Norma Fabian  
Sevren & Lynn Fahr  
Kitty Farnham  
Greg Farwell  
John & Evelyn Fell  
Gordon & Patricia Fowler  
Ken Garner & Bob Mikrut

C. Meade Geisel  
Tom & Anna Gerrity  
Gay Gervin  
Tony & Erin Geyelin  
Emily Gibb & Stephen Ciottoni  
Bruce & Gale Gillespie  
Laura Graham  
Frank Grebe  
Al & Sallie Greenough  
Grant Griffiths & Raffaella Lo Castro  
Bill Gross & Jan Clarke  
Peter Grove & Nancy Greene  
Jim & Barbara Haley  
Debbie Hamilton  
Greg & Lorrie Harper  
Carol Harris  
Nancy Harris  
Joan Harvey  
Jane Hastings  
Leo & Stacey Helmers  
Margaret Helminska  
Christine Henisee  
John Herzog  
Bob & Barbara Hobbs  
James & Mia Holman  
Bessy Hopkins  
Mary Hopkins  
Sandra Hudson  
Alex & Tucker Hurtado  
Kathy Hutchinson  
Tony & Sally Jannetta  
Steve & Nadia Jannetta  
Wilson Jeffreys  
Phil & Meghan Jodz  
Mimi Johnson  
David & Joanna Johnson  
Karl & Sheryl Johnson  
Jo Ann Jones  
Bobby & Katharine Joyce  
Allison Joyce  
Betty Justi  
David & Kathy Justi  
Eldridge & Brooke Katzenbach  
Gordie & Janice Keen  
Susan Keith  
Jim Kelleher & Rik Morris  
Cecy Keller  
Morris & Anne Kellett  
William D. Kelley, Jr.  
Eric Keuffel & Meena Thayu  
Jenny Kirkpatrick  
Robert & Tracy Klippel  
Hope Knight  
Elizabeth Kuensell  
Brian Kunz & Corinne Wilkinson  
Barbara Ladd  
Anthony & Judy Lame  
Christian & Peggy Lane  
Susan Lastowski  
Kevin Leahy & Devika Singh  
John & Melanie LeBoeuf  
Margery P. Lee  
Mary Lee  
Victoria Leidner  
Timothy & Lauren Leithead  
Gregory & Anita Lewicki  
Nelly Lincoln  
Roger & Monica Lind  
Barb Linder  
John & Elaine Lisle  
Kyle & Marlies Lissack

Stephen LoCastro & Laurie MacKenzie  
Marian Lockett-Egan  
Charlie & Betsy MacIntosh  
Joanie Mackie  
Mackie & Charlotte MacLean  
Christopher & Caroline Manogue  
Charlie & Ann Marshall  
Sandy & Louise Marx  
Andrew & Cheryl Masterman  
John Mather  
Josselyn McAdam  
Minkie McAdoo  
Jim & Louise McCabe  
Tony & Binney McCague  
Brook & Connie McCann  
Barbara McClenahan  
James & Kristin McGinley  
Ann McIlvain  
Rodger & Lauren McKinney  
Lisa McLean  
Sandra McLean  
Elizabeth McLean  
Sandy McMullin  
Hunter & Pamela McMullin  
Charles & Mary Ellen Merwin  
Gregg & Mary Miller  
Wistie Miller  
Harry & Rachel Miller  
Sam & Carolyn Morris  
Rob & Janie Morris  
Perc & Sally Moser  
Abraham Munabi & Susan Adeniyi-Jones  
Jean Murdock  
Lois Muscheck  
Karen Nagel  
Robert & Priscilla Nalls  
Ted & Carol Neilson  
Lathrop & Lorna Nelson  
Nancy Nimick  
Phil & Nancy Nord  
Ryan & Rebecca Northington  
Francesca Northrup  
Chris Nyheim  
Michael & Theresa Palmisano  
Frank & Mary Ellen Partel  
Lanny & Ann Patten  
Mark Patten  
Roz Pendergast  
Thomas & Melissa Peter  
John Pickering  
Hobie & Pamela Porter  
Margot Powell  
Laura Powell  
Patricia Pruettt  
Dee Pugh  
Alfy & Kathleen Putnam  
Luisa and Eric Rabe  
David & Jessie Rae  
Ernest Ramirez  
Doug & Lisa Raymond  
Tom & Josephine Rees  
Michael & Elizabeth Reese  
Karl Richter & Susan Rushing  
Jay & Gretchen Riley  
Philip & Sandy Ringo  
Herb Rorer  
Daniel & Jessica Safford  
Arden Saligman  
Patricia Sandiford  
Suzanna Saunders  
Mort Saunders

Joan Schiller  
Karl Schoettle  
Nancy Schriber  
David & Julie Schroeder  
Marda Schropp  
Sue Schultz  
Jackie Schumacher  
Ken & Amanda Schwenke  
Presley Schwinn  
Joe & T. C. Scornavacchi  
Mary Beth Sedwick & Helen Wortham  
David & Diane Senior  
Win & Cannie Shafer  
Nancy Sharp  
Charlie Silio & Emily Snell  
Kent & Anne Silvers  
Lorraine Simonis  
Dan & Patty Slack  
Jim & Prill Smartt  
Mimi Snyder  
Carol Soltis  
Thorne & Marby Sparkman  
David & Michele Spence  
Rick Sperry & Nancy Collins  
Tad Sperry & Ellen Harvey  
Bailey Sperry  
Blair Stambaugh  
George Steele & Kathy High  
Tracy & Kevin Steele  
Scott & Alexis Stephan  
Cindy Stephan  
Ann Stewart  
Steve & Bebe Strawbridge  
Ann Strong  
Connie Stuckert  
Kitten Susanin  
John & Amy Susanin  
Bill & Leslie Susskind  
David Tachna & Catherine Carruthers  
Radclyffe & Maria Thompson  
James & Susan Treadway  
Christopher & Danielle Trucksess  
Mike Tyler  
Susan Van Allen  
Elizabeth Van Dusen  
Peter Vanderveen & Trish Bennett  
Jacques & Stephanie Vauclain  
Graham & Jane Wagner  
John & Karen Wallingford  
James & Ellen Wang  
Skip Ward  
Joan Warren  
Joel & Phyllis Wasley  
Frank & Margaret Welsh  
Richard & Pat Wesley  
Daniel Wesley  
Brad & Elaine Whitman  
Margie Widmann  
Pam Wilford  
Lauren Wilkinson  
Julie Williams  
Claude & Martha Wintner  
Bill & Molly Wood, Jr.  
Alan Wood & Hilarie Johnston  
Guy Woodruff  
David & Ginger Woods  
Sook Hee Yoo  
Chris Zafirou & Jessica Harper  
2 Anonymous

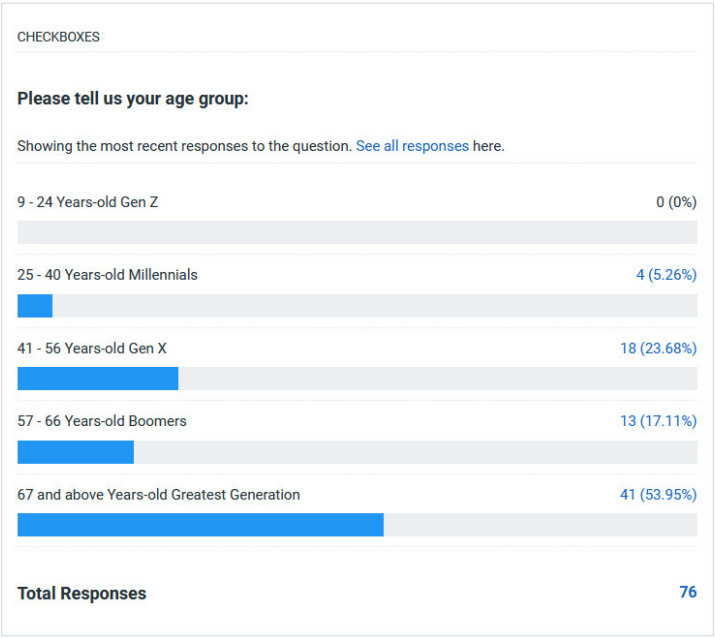
# FORMATION

## ENVISIONING THE REDEEMER'S FUTURE (CONTINUED)

By Jo Ann Jones

In January of 2019 the Vestry embarked upon its most recent strategic planning process, focused on growth, particularly in terms of membership. One of the noteworthy comments that the Planning Consultant made was that we present ourselves as disciples so attractive to others that they would want to join Church of the Redeemer in order to pursue their discipleship with us.

Our work led us to examine how we might develop our strategy in light of The Redeemer's mission statement. Vestry members then worked with specific portions of the statement. "The mission of Church of the Redeemer is to celebrate the love of God in Jesus Christ... supporting each other and our world through the generous and creative use of God's gifts." The Vestry's intent is truly to discern and explore the interest and thoughts of parishioners, as we emerge from a quiet and disconnected time.



Age distribution of survey respondents so far.

We circulated a questionnaire on October 19, 2021 to 670 Redeemer members. To date, we have received 76 responses which represents a response

rate of 11%. This is a heartening and strong response to such a questionnaire. As we approached Thanksgiving and the Christmas season, the Vestry

thought it wise to extend the deadline for responses to January. To those who have responded we thank you for your expression of your interest and dedication to The Redeemer community and for the quality of your responses. We are very pleased and gratified by the thoughtfulness and sincerity with which you have answered the questions. And we are heartened and encouraged by how these responses reflect a strong commitment to The Redeemer.

The staff will soon begin to process the responses and add them to our database. Then we will undertake the effort to organize and aggregate the responses to individual questions to support decisions and actions and to forward them to specific parish committees if warranted. We are grateful for your interest and support, as reflected by your response, and hope that you will reach out to any member of this Committee if you have questions about the project.

## I Do

By Michael Palmisano

About a month ago, I participated in the wedding of one of my best friends. He and I have been friends for over a decade and had spent most of our waking hours in college together as roommates and teammates. In a fortuitous turn of events, the same month that I moved down to D.C. to begin my seminary education, he moved down to D.C. to begin his first job after business school. This has meant that he's had a front row seat to my odd journey to the priesthood. It was a great joy for me therefore, to serve as one of his groomsmen and then to step into my vocational identity as priest midway through the service as I put on a stole and offered him and his wife their nuptial blessing. I share this because it was a significant moment in my life, but also because of the significance of my offering their nuptial blessing... in a Roman Catholic church.

I won't disclose which church this wedding was held at, but the Catholic priest's acknowledgment of my ordination vows as a priest in the Episcopal Church was a humbling sign of ecumenism. It's quiet moments like these which continue to give me the greatest hope for the unity and Oneness of the Church Universal. To me, the "Oneness" of the Church is perhaps the greatest witness she can give to the world of Christ's enduring presence

with her. The Church Universal's commitment to create the time and space for a beloved community to take shape; for reconciliation to be possible; and for communal worship to be central, are the outward signs that something within her is of divine origin.

I want to share some of my observations and feelings I had during this recent wedding service and feelings I have at wedding services in general.

Marriage is on the front of my mind right now as some COVID restrictions are being lifted and I'm beginning to

prepare several couples for their own weddings this year. During my friend's service, as he and his wife exchanged their vows, I was struck once again by what I simply call "the mystery of love." Saint Paul has likened marriage to the "mystery of Christ and His Church" (Ephesians 5:32). The word mystery (*mysterion*) here is—appropriately or not—translated in the Latin Vulgate as "*sacramentum*," from which we derive the cognate, "sacrament." I can't think of a better word than "sacrament" to communicate what Love is.



Love—like all sacraments—is an invisible reality which takes on outward materiality. It is every couple's shared, lifelong project to give materiality to Love through all its grand and minuscule gestures. A couple's shared commitment to one another—their commitment to providing the time and space for their own relationship to blossom—becomes the context in which Love can take outward sign and

visibility. And thus, a couple's shared commitment to give materiality to Love might even be likened to the same commitment that God makes to us in the giving and communicating of Himself as an outward sign of His Love in Jesus Christ.

When I stood next to my friend as he and his wife exchanged their vows, I couldn't help but envision them as the priests of their own lives—celebrating a sacrament and making Christ present to the community. Their vows were like the words of institution at the eucharistic table, their love like the bread and wine, and their union like Christ made real to us all once more. Over

the course of their lives and the duration of their relationship, their grand and minuscule gestures of love for one another will be the occasion for Christ to be made real to the world over and over again.

A married couple will spend their lives committed to the task of giving materiality to Love but they will never exhaust Love's full expression. Their love will always be a shadow of the Love that comes to us through God's ultimate, outward expression of Love in Jesus Christ. As a couple's love blossoms, they will fall more deeply into the mystery of love and more clearly communicate to the world God's Love for all His people. One month ago, my friends set themselves at *this* great and mysterious task of making Love visible to the world. I leave you now with quote from the early Church Father, John Chrysostom who speaks of this great love of spouses: "...nuptial love is the strongest love; like faith it is able to see what is hidden to others. Love breaks through hidden depths, its arrival fulfills and perfects, but it does not exhaust the mystery."



# AROUND THE PARISH

## A SOMEWHAT MORE NORMAL CHRISTMAS

*Many more photos available on [TheRedeemer.org/photos](https://www.TheRedeemer.org/photos)*



### 12-24-21 Festival Holy Eucharist

Friday, December 24, 2021  
Christmas Eve  
1000pm service with a half hour music prelude

[Click here for the liturgy used in this service.](#)

[Go to Holiday & Special Music Archives](#)



### 12-24-21 Christmas Pageant

Friday, December 24, 2021  
Christmas Eve  
4:00pm Christmas Pageant

[Click here for the liturgy used in this service.](#)

[Go to Holiday & Special Music Archives](#)

*Revisit the Christmas Eve Eucharist and Pageant on our new webpage  
[TheRedeemer.org/livestreams](https://www.TheRedeemer.org/livestreams)*



Our sincere thanks to our Flower Guild members for their gifts of time and talent creating these beautiful arrangements and to all who made them possible through your generous memorial gifts in memory of loved ones.