

Voice of The Redeemer

Episcopal Church of

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

July/August
2022

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principal themes of:
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BY PETER VANDERVEEN

I'm convinced of this singular truth: whatever one eats in Paris will taste utterly delightful—no matter what the item. This isn't traceable to just one factor. Someone might suggest that this is because the French think of cooking as a national art form. But this doesn't fully explain why even a lowly egg sandwich seems magnificent when it's served in a Parisian cafe. Cooking isn't just fixing a meal. And a meal isn't just a way of obtaining caloric energy. And eating isn't just consuming what's on the plate. It's not a kind of bodily pit stop, done best when efficiency and quickness are absolutized, so that one can get on with the other adventures of the day. This often characterizes the American way of approaching a meal; something processed and wrapped in foil or plastic seems ideal, that's perfect for the moment—readily available and

able to be eaten on the run.

This approach in Paris, however, would be considered woeful, somewhere between offensive and horrific. Because eating is part of dining, and dining includes, almost necessarily, many other components and skills. There, any meal, which may fall along the spectrum between a snack and a feast, involves

*Attending worship in the
summer sometimes feels to
me like finding myself in a
foreign country.*

thoughtfulness and, preferably, conversation. Food and drink afford us opportunities for reflection and thanks, when the demands of the day are forgotten

for a time and discussions can lift and brighten one's perspective. Eating is meant to be a social event, when we together recognize our mutual needs and blessings—our lovely co-dependencies. It's also a time when we can acknowledge what the world offers us in such variation and abundance, foods that thrill us by their simplicity or their tantalizing creativity. Ultimately, eating is a luxury, in and of itself. It is supposed to be a great enjoyment that can be maximized by drawing out the time we spend engaged in it, bracketing other concerns that can be dealt with later. Parisians seem to have an innate sense for this. Dining doesn't serve other ends. It's a delicious Sabbath whenever it's taken and observed.

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MEET WINNIE SMITH

INTERVIEWED BY KEN GARNER

Welcome to The Redeemer, we're glad you're joining our staff and community. We'd like to take the opportunity for our parishioners to get to know a little bit about you.

I believe you're a life-long Episcopalian and originally from Connecticut. Tell us about the parish you grew up in and what shaped your life there.

I actually grew up in Larchmont, New York, about thirty minutes outside of Manhattan. St. John's Church was always a part of my family's life. I sang in the youth choir, was confirmed there, participated in Sunday School and Youth Group, and went on my first international service trip with the parish. My earliest memories are in church, and the rhythm of my family's week always included Sunday mornings at church (except for the occasional travel soccer game, which was pretty much the only excuse my parents accepted for my sister and me to miss a service). As a young person, I didn't yet sense God calling me to ordained ministry, but I always felt at home at St. John's, and the relationships I built with clergy there proved formational to me as I grew up and began to recognize my call.

You're a recent graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary.

Could you describe an experience there that was particularly formative.

I loved seminary; I learned so much, expanded both my faith and my list of questions (a good thing, I think!) and made tremendous, lifelong friends. But seminary during a global pandemic is not ideal! In March of 2020, those of us living in dorms were required to vacate campus, and we did not return for six months. I was so grateful for supportive parents with a house that could accommodate all of us (and two dogs!), but it was difficult to transition from a residential learning experience to a virtual one. Discussing sin and salvation in person is hard enough, but over Zoom? Never again, please!

As difficult as “Zoominary” was, it also made our return to campus (albeit with masks and socially distanced meals) wonderful. I felt closer to my classmates and friends after months of separation. And I think doing school and worship in a virtual space prepared me for the increasingly varied, complex ways that we will worship in the future.



While I value in-person worship more than ever, I also now recognize the incredible benefit that a livestream service provides to someone who is homebound or away for work.

Tell us a little about your calling and discernment to ordained ministry.

My call to ministry never came as a voice directly from God or a moment of total clarity, when I just knew this was right. I wanted that kind of experience! I was jealous of friends who had had those! Instead, I think my call came slowly, quietly, over several years: International service trips that showed me the beauty and power of our Anglican liturgy as I worshiped with people in languages I didn't speak, but could somehow feel and understand; a clergy person who was so sure of his calling and who helped me find meaning in words of our Prayer Book I had never read before; the recognition that the place I felt most comfortable and most me was in the middle of a Rite II Eucharist, no matter the church or place. All of these things together became my call story, and led me to a conver-

sation with a priest at my church in Alexandria, VA in which I said, “I think maybe I am supposed to go to seminary.” From there, it's been an exciting ride and one that has confirmed those little moments of calling.

What areas of ordained ministry do you find most appealing and what are you looking forward to? And, what gifts do you feel you bring to them?

I really love getting to know people. The image that always comes to mind for me when I try to envision God is of a large spider web, connecting every person on earth. That's how deeply intertwined I think we all are, and I have such fun learning people's stories and finding what we have in common. So, I am most excited to get to know the folks at The Redeemer and move alongside them as they face the joys and difficulties of life.

In a more practical way, I am excited to experience the full church calendar as a clergy person in a parish. During seminary, I interned at a church for two years, but was away for several weeks at Christmas and was always gone for the summer several weeks before Pentecost. I really enjoy the whole spectrum of the church year, from the anticipation and excitement of Advent, to the long walk toward

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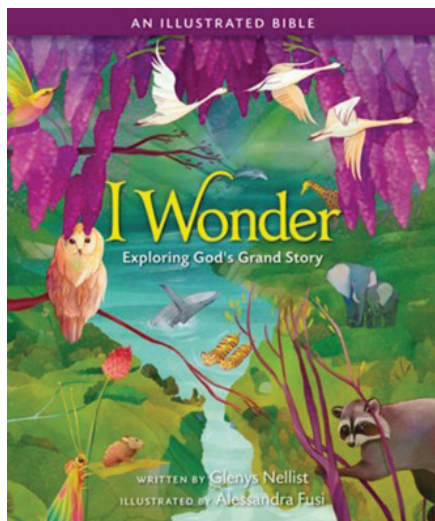
FORMATION

Ms. Tory's Book Club - Elementary Edition

Ministries with Children

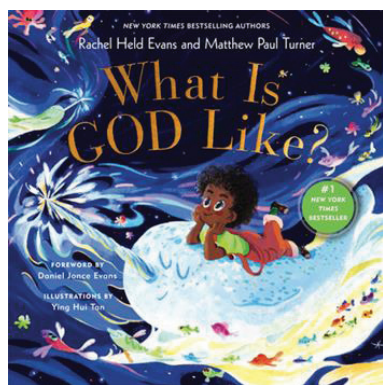
By TORY DUNKLE

Over the years, parents have often come to me asking for recommendations for good age-appropriate books about faith to share with their children. This summer I will use this space to share some recommendations. Last month I shared some of Anna's favorite books for preschoolers. This month I look ahead to some great options for elementary school aged kids.



I Wonder: Exploring God's Grand Story by Glenys Nellist

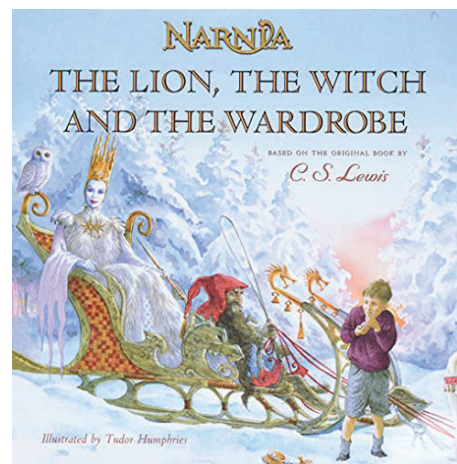
Children in our church school programs are well versed in pondering "I wonder" questions. I begin almost every chapel with one and we close each hands-on storytelling with the same series of wondering questions. Far too often, children's Bibles attempt to make morality statements after each story. Nellist strays from this tradition and instead asks several "I wonder" questions, encouraging families and children to consider each story on a deeper level.



What is God Like? by Rachel Held Evans and Matthew Paul Turner

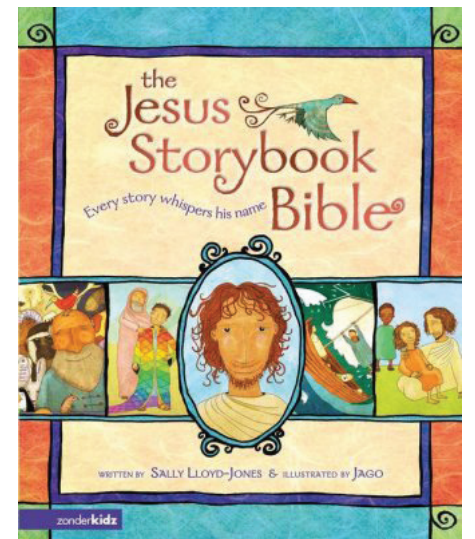
By the time most kids begin school, they are already starting to ask the

"hard questions." Held Evans and Turner take on the difficult task of describing the attributes of God in child-friendly but theologically sound language.



The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: Picture Book Edition by C.S. Lewis and Tudor Humphries (Illustrator)

Finding quality "Christian" literature for this age group is difficult. I love reading chapter books aloud to children, but the lack of illustrations can make it less appealing to younger kids. This book is a wonderful compromise and easy introduction to a classic series.



The Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd-Jones

Lastly, I cannot miss the opportunity to promote my all-time favorite children's Bible. Lloyd-Jones does a masterful job of illuminating of God's redemptive love for creation in each Bible story. All of Scripture proclaims God's love for creation, and this children's Bible underscores this more than any other on the market. Bonuses are the whimsical but artful illustrations.

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MEET WINNIE SMITH, *continued from the front*

the Cross in Lent and Holy Week, to the seemingly never-ending season after Pentecost. I look forward to experiencing that with you all through our worship and formation offerings.

Share with us what attracted your interest in coming here.

The Redeemer is such a vibrant, welcoming community. When Peter described to me the strength of the Acolytes and Vergers program, I almost couldn't believe that there existed a parish with so many young people excited about serving in liturgy! That kind of enthusiasm and desire to be part of the community most attracted me to coming here.

Additionally, the focus on the beauty of worship at The Redeemer is really exciting to me. When we come together to worship God, we should be bringing our best. The Church, the Parish House, and the Churchyard are all so beautiful, and the music program creates an

incredible worship experience. I feel lucky to be part of a church that makes worshiping God feel special, and not just another hour or two during our busy week.

What areas has the Rector talked to you about focusing your ministry with us?

I will be focused on formation programs for all ages, as well as shared responsibility with the other clergy in preaching, worship leadership, writing for the various Redeemer publications, and more. My first job after college was as a youth minister in a large Episcopal church, and I am thrilled to be able to work with young people again, as well as all other ages in the parish! Learning more about our faith and our beliefs does not have to feel like school; in fact, I think we can all become more informed citizens and more faithful parishioners by looking at our faith through the lens of our modern lives

and what's going on in our world. I look forward to learning alongside you and deepening our relationships with one another and with God through the work of formation.

Do you have personal goals for your ministry or are you waiting for where the Spirit will lead?

I think anyone that tries to plan too much will just be surprised by God, so I am definitely trying to wait for where the Spirit leads! But, I'm human, and I do have aspirations. I love working with young people—high school, in particular—and it might be that high school chaplaincy will be in my future at some point. I'm thrilled to be in a parish and to learn the ropes of ordained ministry in such an engaging and supportive community. I would love to find a position where I could blend the roles of pastor, priest, teacher, and counselor.

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Deadline for the September issue: July 25

FORMATION

Song That Is Felt and Heard



By MICHAEL DIORIO

In many studies over the past few years, we have seen an increasing number of scientific findings that identify group singing as an activity that delivers a host of physical and emotional benefits, including increased aerobic exercise, improved breathing, posture, mindset, confidence and self-esteem. Scientists found that choristers' heartbeats can even synchronize when they sing together, producing a calming effect that is as beneficial to our health as, say, yoga.

At The Redeemer we have youth in the choir who have been engaged as singers for 13 years or more, and some adults who have done the same for over 40 years. While the latter track

record is truly impressive, I've always marveled at the tenure of the younger participants, knowing that their time in The Redeemer choir program will probably exceed that spent at their first positions in the work force.

At present, it seems parents can't "force" their children into activities as they did in the "good old days" when youth simply had no choice. Lately, when sports and arts have battled for harmony, parents are aware that, for a deep level of commitment to occur, a balance must be struck. The work put in should closely equal the gains achieved.

A quote from one of our choristers underscores the power of communication through choral singing: "When I was six,

I joined the choir, which is my absolute favorite part of the church community. I feel that with music, I can connect with everyone in the congregation." This from a 13-year-old, who feels that music offers a bridge; whether to fellowship, understanding or prayerfulness. Music serves as a conduit. This is a beautiful sentiment. It illustrates how the act of making music is a constructive one; it builds, sustains, and encourages (to say nothing of the health benefits). I suspect that this is what is felt in even the youngest singers, and why they feel that this engagement is worth so much of their time.

As you think about your children's fall activities, and your own, why not consider being a part of our music program? The Redeemer Choir (our parish

choir) and our youth choirs welcome all voices and experiences. Our choral programs are designed so that all may enjoy the riches of fellowship and engagement without exclusivity. Children can be involved in the acolyte program, the youth program, and the choir all at the same time.

For the month of September all of our choirs' rehearsals, for both youth and adults, will be open to anyone who would like to try them. If you feel that you or your child could benefit from the music program at The Redeemer why not try it out? Choir is a fun, formative and rewarding program for child and adult alike. Our schedule will be published in the September issue of *The Voice* and is online at TheRedeemer.org/choirs.



SUMMER WORSHIP, *continued from the front*

One of the joys of summer travel and vacationing is that it affords us experiences that refresh and retrain our senses. Things we've slowly come to take for granted can, in other contexts, be exciting or inspiring: e.g. walking amid the hills of Ireland; seeing the passage of time as it's conveyed in the great cathedrals and monasteries of Europe; being invited into community as it's practiced in neighborhood pubs in Amsterdam; realizing the depth of the human spirit as it was evidenced and preserved in Theresienstadt, a Jewish concentration camp in the Czech Republic. Things that had grown old for us in our own context become new again. Activities that had become merely habitually, dulled by routine, glitter with the promise of undetected promise. I often return from time away wondering why and how other people can find such beauty in the common things they do. I want to emulate this—capture it and bring it home with me. I imagine trying to be more like the French in eating. Travel can function as a parable. It discloses how lazy and blind we may have become through the very repetitiveness of our scheduled lives.

Attending worship in the summer sometimes feels to me like finding myself in a foreign country. The absence of congregation members is keenly

felt. The choir is on break, which makes singing more challenging—and more intimate. Many regular attendees are away, so anonymity within the crowd is lost. The building seems a bit too large. The usual vibrancy of the liturgy shifts to something more introspective.

These differences are often perceived to be a lack. What happens on Sundays can seem somehow less during the summer than it is during the program year. By sheer count, this is true. Many are away. But this can open for us aspects of faith and worship that, otherwise unnoticed, are important and edifying in their own right. This sparseness makes the words of the service more exposed and more apparent. The music is less a performance and a more personal engagement; others can identify your voice. The grandness of the building turns our attentions to God rather than to our more immediate interests in one another. Those who come, come because they want to be involved; worship is more than just routine. Sometimes, when the Sabbath is observed only by a remnant, its enduring nature is made most apparent. And it's a refreshing and encouraging experience because we're invited in again to things at the very heart of belief and practice. Come and see. You might be surprised by what a luxury this worship can be.

The Best Laid Plans PARISH BUSINESS

By JAY EINSPIANIER

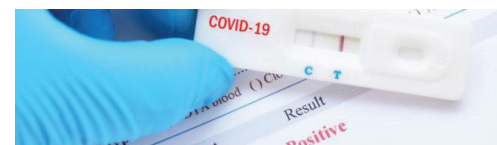
There is an old saying that if you wish to make God laugh, tell Him

your plans. Well, I was planning on a number of things over this past week or so. They included spending time with my brother-in-law and his wife, traveling to D.C. with my in-laws to visit our daughter, and playing tourist and guide in both cities. It did not happen.

First my brother-in-law tested positive and then his wife. Once I knew, I put on a mask. Then I took a COVID test and was happy to report a negative result. I left work and knew that we would need to adjust our schedules for a few days but planned on everything being fine. Well ...

Thursday morning arrived along with another test by me and I found an additional thin red line in the results box. At this point all plans were put on hold. We three COVID-confirmed types tried our best to stay away from my wife who was the last healthy hold out. Until ...

Saturday produced the dreaded red line for her and we were all in the same boat. Absolutely the misery loves company thing was upon us, and we were definitely poster children for feel-



ing sorry for each other and our world in general. However...

A bit of depressing conversation can go a long way but sooner or later you just need a reality check. None of us were really, really sick; disappointed yes, but not bed ridden or on the way to, or in, the hospital. Also, until recently, my in-laws had lived in Hawaii which made in-person get-togethers a little tough. So, we realized that we had a great opportunity to just hang out and speak of marriages, grandchildren, old (and getting older) friends and relatives, and laugh. It was a family Thanksgiving full of catching up, great food and simply being present without the crazy uncle to ruin everything; that is unless you want to brand COVID as every one's crazy uncle.

God laughed and gave us a much better plan.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Improvements to the Parish House acoustics in Room 125 (Rood Screen Room) and Room 215 will begin in August.

OUTREACH

IHN NEWS

By JO ANN JONES

For many years Church of the Redeemer has been a faithful and generous supporter of Interfaith Hospitality Network of the Mainline (IHN), hosting families transitioning from homeless to housing. We have welcomed guests in the Parish House and, since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, “virtually” by providing the families with gift cards, notes of encouragement, and other forms of financial support. Marian Lockett-Egan has organized our weeks of virtual hosting in an efficient and creative manner. This year’s Confirmation class visited the families in Norristown and had conversation with them while enjoying a picnic. It was both enlightening and enjoyable. For the past two years, Andrea Cayley has served as a valuable IHN Board member. She has recently accepted a new position that necessitates her leaving the board, and we are looking for a replacement. If you are interested or wish to know more, please contact Barbara Billings or me.

There are two new and exciting developments on the horizon. The first is that IHN just announced that it has a new name! As of July 1, 2022, the organization will be known as Family Promise of the Main Line. Family Promise is the leading national organization addressing family homelessness, and IHN-ML has been a Family Promise affiliate for 30 years. With this name change, the organization is strengthening that relationship to benefit children and families experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity. To anticipate some questions you might have: Adopting the Family Promise name will allow the organization to take advantage of Family Promise’s national profile to better serve the families in their programs and open doors in fundraising and advocating on behalf of families. The new association will also allow the agency to draw on the expertise of hundreds of other Family Promise affiliates to make programs as effective as possible. What’s not changing? The organization remains committed to working with people of all faiths, ages, races, ethnicities, and origins. While “interfaith” may no longer be part of the organizational name, the emergency shelter program will be known as Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) Emergency Shelter Program.

Family Promise of the Main Line has begun planning for the return of in-person hosting. The staff and the Community Services Committee will be discussing new protocols for our hosting together with Family Promise of the Main Line.

IHN HOSTING

Interfaith Hospitality Network Redeemer Host Week is July 17-24

Baskets will be available from July 10-24 in both the Parish House and Church for your donations. A list of those who are being provided emergency housing, and food along with accomplishments being made in progressing to the Graduation Self Sufficiency Program will be with the baskets. You are encouraged to take a copy of the list. It is helpful to add cards of encouragement to the guests along with your donation. While we are not physically hosting currently, we do need to provide supplies and financial support for the host week expenses. These donations are important in providing housing, food and on-going expenses for IHN. Please be generous in your giving!

A THANK YOU

Hello Redeemerites!

I write to you at the tail end of my one-month “vacation” as I prepare for my first day at Episcopal Academy (EA) on July 1. This past month has provided Theresa, Rogan, Aline, and me the opportunity to enjoy some much-needed family time, spend a week with Theresa’s family in Albany, a chance to catch up on plenty of doctor visits, and make ready some last-minute preparations for my new call at EA.

I want to thank you all for the generous purse that you sent along with me and my family as I transitioned out of my role as one of your clergy. We were overwhelmed by your generosity, and I was humbled by the many stories you shared with me concerning the ways in which my ministry touched a part of your life. Thank you for everything you have provided to me and my family over the past three years, not least of which being an incredible community through a first call and move from seminary, an ordination, a pregnancy, and the birth of two daughters. We cannot thank you enough for who you have been for us during this time of change and growth for us. Your continued prayers are treasured as we embark on this new journey. We hope to see you again soon!

With great thanks,
Michael+



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

By KATE CHOJNACKI

While we all pack up to head off to the beach, mountains or whatever summer 2022 has in store, many of us are looking forward to another wonderful weekend of festivities to kick off the 2022 holiday season! **Please mark your calendars. Christmas Village 2022 will be held on November 18th and 19th! The Countdown has begun!**

The Christmas Village Committee will begin its regular meetings after Labor Day but in the meantime, some things to expect and look forward to in 2022:

- Festive music and decorations to help usher in the holiday season
- New and improved artisanal food and beverage options (spoiler alert: 13th Street Cocktails will be returning!)
- New exciting vendors and more variety
- The children’s tent will have activities and opportunities for children to shop for gifts for family
- New exciting vendors and more variety
- All proceeds will continue to support Church of the Redeemer Outreach!

If you’d like to get involved, here are some early ideas:

- **Christmas Crafts** is busy brainstorming and welcomes any ideas for what to craft in 2022! Please send ideas, photos, and/or Pinterest links to Caroline Manogue (cbmanogue@gmail.com). The crafting schedule will come out later this summer and we will start to meet right after Labor Day in Room 123. Stay tuned for details!
- **Trinkets & Treasures** is excited and gearing up to offer a boutique shopping experience. Thank you to our loyal Redeemer fanbase that continues to amaze us with fine donations of estate and costume jewelry and designer fashion accessories for all. Popular items include silver & gold jewelry, silk scarves, cashmere wraps, evening bags, luxury leather bags, belts & wallets, bow ties, pocket & wrist watches, and hats. During the summer months, we are offering convenient pick-up service and welcome calls to Lisa Davis at 610-733-0095 and/or Pam McMullin at 610-331-2262 to arrange for early bird handoff of items.
- **Tasty Treats** will be meeting throughout the fall to cook, bake and laugh! If you’d like to be involved, please contact Kate Chojnacki (kate.chojnacki@gmail.com). No culinary skills required—there’s a role for everyone. Please also consider items for donation—especially the beautifully pickled fruits and veggies and/or jams and salsas from your summer gardens.
- Please consider any items or experiences you may be able to donate to the **Silent Auction**. We welcome special experiences, tickets and unique items of all sorts. Please contact Meghan Jodz (meghanjodz@yahoo.com) if you have an item to donate.
- The **Children’s Tent** is looking for donations of new or gently used puzzles. Please contact Cannie Shafer at canniecshafer@gmail.com if you have some to donate.
- If you know of a small business that would be interested in joining us as a **Vendor** in 2022, please reach out to Caroline Manogue (cbmanogue@gmail.com).

It truly takes a village to have a successful Village, and we hope to build on our success of 2021 to offer an even greater event with festive camaraderie, delicious food offerings and fun shopping experiences—all for a great cause. Remember it is a friend-raiser as much as a fund-raiser.

NORTH AMERICAN FESTIVAL OF WALES COMING TO PHILLY AND THE REDEEMER

September 1-4 and featuring the 90th National Gymanfa Ganu

The final day of the Festival is the traditional celebration of congregational singing of Welsh hymns called Gymanfa Ganu. Two sessions (2-3:30pm and 4:30-6pm) will be held here at The Redeemer with afternoon tea between the sessions.

Visit www.festivalofwales.org for all Festival events and registration.