

Voice of The Redeemer

Episcopal Church of

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

October
2022

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www.TheRedeemer.org

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“NEWSLETTER SIGNUP”

LOVE NEVER ENDS

BY PETER VANDERVEEN

The most famous passage in all of Paul’s Epistles is generally read at weddings. Most of us would know it immediately just by this reference. It’s so well known, in fact, that when it’s read we hardly hear it at all. It’s that text about love. The one that almost every couple uses. And whatever it really says doesn’t much matter because the focus of a wedding isn’t on love per se; it’s a celebration of a relationship between two specific persons—and that’s the love that takes precedence.

What Paul actually says, however, is stupendous. It’s not just that love is a good thing. Love is everything; or, as he states it, without love, everything else is as nothing. That message bears repeating, across the whole span of one’s life. For all that we do and all that we may accomplish, and all that we acquire and all that we relish, and all that we hold to and insist upon, comes to nothing if love—as God has revealed it—does not shape our words and actions and goals. For apart from this love, all our human efforts can quickly descend into a fierce competition that sets us against one another. If you doubt this, listen to the voices that are driving our culture and our world. It’s a lot of shouting: “noisy gongs and clanging cymbals.” Let me know if you think otherwise.

*If I speak in the tongues of
mortals and of angels,
but do not have love,
I am a noisy gong
or a clanging cymbal.*

Each fall we start up again the effort to collect pledges for the yearly operations of The Redeemer. It’s an exercise that may be even more familiar to you than the reading of First Corinthians 13 at weddings. You may know too well our ask. It’s about contributions; the acquiring of the necessary funding for the church to function well. Yes, it is. And to this end, we make the attempt to show how we put to use what we are given and what our work does, effectively and efficiently.

But this presentation of Stewardship doesn’t tell the real story if it doesn’t include and acknowledge the true mission of the Church, which is to be a community that gives active witness to the centrality of love—in the scope of Paul’s exclamation. No other group, no other organization, no other institution does this as its principal work and goal. It’s this love that distinguishes us and, most

of all, gives meaning to all the other engagements of our lives.

In the pages of this edition of The Voice, we have set out some of the ways that your support enables us to be a dynamic and vital church community. Our work spans all ages and employs the impressive diversity of skills, interests, and capabilities of those in this congregation—for the good of the church and the greater community. And we are now poised, as the pandemic recedes and the use of the new Parish House increases, to expand what we do and who is involved and what is accomplished. This is exciting.

But even more, all that we do is directed toward making love primary in everything. And not just the love we perceive as general kindness, serving one another. This is important, but Paul gives us a greater vision. Consider the beautiful weight of his testimony: “Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.” This is the conviction that the Church celebrates and embodies. It is the gift we are uniquely able to provide, which makes music out of noise. Consider this as you read through this issue. Consider this as we ask you to support our witness and work. We, in love, will be most grateful for your response.

SUNDAYS AT 4PM RETURN

First Sunday Evensong

Sung by Chancel Choir
and featuring:

The Bryn Mawr Responses of Robert
Lehman, *Evening Service in Eb* of
Horatio Parker *Thy word is a lantern* of
Henry Purcell

Second Sunday Informal Eucharist

in Burns Hall.

Geared especially towards younger
congregants and families, we invite
you to join in this slightly less formal
worship experience!

Third Sunday Vespers

This month a Jazz Vespers and
featuring renowned jazz vocalist
Michelle Lordi and her quartet.

WHAT’S INSIDE

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

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Episcopal Church of
The Redeemer

Open House

Sunday 2 - 4pm

Sunday, October 16

Please come and invite your friends to take a tour of the Parish House and the Church campus anytime between 2 and 4pm. This state-of-the-art facility is available to church and community groups for retreats, parties and receptions, classes, meetings, musical recitals and many more functions. Immediately following the Open House, join us at 4pm for a Jazz Vespers featuring acclaimed jazz singer Michelle Lordi and her quartet. For more information about the Parish House visit www.TheRedeemer.org/ParishHouse and for the jazz Vespers visit www.TheRedeemer.org/MusicSeries.



IHN GUESTS RETURN

Our Interfaith Hospitality Network host week is **October 23-30 in person in the Parish House!** We are thrilled to be hosting in person once again. This is a marvelous opportunity to spend time with our families and share in meals, conversation and getting to know one another. Please use the Sign Up Genius (link at www.TheRedeemer.org/RSVP) specially designed to indicate what is needed when and in what quantities.

FORMATION

COLLECTING TREASURES
Ministries with Children

By TORY DUNKLE

Preschoolers are curious creatures. Long before becoming a parent myself, “kid watching” was one of my favorite pastimes. Thankfully, my career path has afforded me countless opportunities to observe small people at work. They are natural collectors. It’s part of their particular developmental stage. Rocks, sticks, trains, Legos, beads, leaves, drawings, etc. They work hard on building these collections. And don’t do so indiscriminately.

If you want to know what’s important to a preschooler ask to see their “treasures.” Each one of those rocks was carefully chosen for its unique shape, color, sparkle. Those train cars are valued for the distinct role and use they have in the train yard. Each of these tiny collections articulates where preschoolers daily choose to focus their attention, curiosity and values. A love for nature, appreciation for beauty, or attention to detail are hidden in those

piles of sticks, leaves and Legos.

Our children naturally direct their attention and resources toward the things that matter the most to them. They beautifully articulate all they value without even speaking a word. They will eventually outgrow the unquenchable desire to bring home every rock along their path. Though with guidance and direction, that impulse to generously and thoughtfully give of their attention, resources and respect, will hopefully be intentionally directed toward something of lasting value. Our call as parents and teachers is to help our children discern what has lasting meaning and value.

Stewardship is an active articulation of this discernment. Stewardship is not simply an indiscriminate giving of money to an institution. Rather, it is an intentional decision to direct one’s attention, resources and energy toward supporting an institution or community that has lasting meaning and value. In

this case that institution is the Church.

When as parents and teachers, we choose to actively give of our time, talent and treasure, we are signaling what we value the most. But unlike those preschool collections, those actions don’t speak for themselves. We need to actively communicate with our children the ways in which we chose to tangibly give to the on-going work of the Church. It is only then that they begin to learn what it means to “treasure” something of great value.

Stewardship Fun Fact: Our Nursery is staffed by professional paid childcare providers. Miss Joan and Miss Becca provide Redeemer’s youngest members with safe and consistent care each week. Often a forgotten program, the Nursery is a first point of contact for many of our new families.

THE FOUNDATION

Young adults of the Redeemer are invited to join The Foundation, meeting at 6pm in the Parish House on the first Sunday of each month, beginning October 2. We will spend time sharing a meal, getting to know one another a bit better, and engage in thoughtful discussion about our faith and world. Friends are always welcome! Please contact Winnie Smith for more information.

ALIGNMENT SUNDAY

Beginning in October, the first Sundays of each month will be called “Alignment Sundays.” Across all levels of formation, from our youngest church school students to adults, parishioners will discuss the same topic. Our hope is that conversations will not stop when you leave The Redeemer that day, but that families and friends can continue to engage with one another and these topics. Our first Alignment Sunday theme is prayer.

ADULT FORUMS: OUTREACH SERIES

By WINNIE SMITH

Join us in October and November as we explore where our outreach dollars go, how our service hours are spent, and why this work is so meaningful. We will learn more about the local organizations that have received Redeemer outreach grants, their volunteers, how they operate within diverse communities, and the way our outreach dollars are spent. We will also discuss what outreach means, and why it is central to Christian life. Please join us to hear about the amazing work being done throughout our community which would not be possible without your financial support!



October 9 - Meals on Wheels: Erika Bhatia, Executive Director



October 23 - Eldernet: Beth Drapkin, Interim Executive Director, and Michelle Buller, Volunteer Coordinator



October 30 - Outreach Check-in/Understanding Outreach

This Sunday’s forum will be led by members of the Adult Formation and Outreach Committees. We will check in on what we have learned about our partners and ourselves and how our understanding of outreach and engagement is evolving.



October 16 - Family Promise of the Main Line: Allegra Cressman, Executive Director, and Elizabeth Bertolet, Program Manager



Wednesday Evening
Formation Opportunities

Wednesdays at 7:00pm

Episcopal Distinctiveness

Public issues as they can be seen through an Episcopal lens.
Parish House lower level - Masterman Hall
Led by Peter Vanderveen

How Well Do You Know What You Are Reading?

Conveying a sense of the text
Parish House - Room 125
Led by Jo Ann Jones & Winnie Smith

*Come for a light supper before the classes.
RSVP for dinner at www.TheRedeemer.org/rsvp*

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Deadline for the November issue: October 19

OUTREACH

OUTREACH MATTERS

Episcopal Legal Aid Celebrates Three Years

Thursday, October 6, 5:00-7:00PM

The Garden at the Church of St. Asaph

Promoting access to justice by bringing pro bono civil legal services to low-income residents of Philadelphia and surrounding communities

By JAN CLARKE



Since its founding in November of 2019, Episcopal Legal Aid (ELA) has been providing free legal advice related to housing/eviction, medical directives, unemployment, and compensation, at Episcopal churches, missions, and events throughout the Diocese — particularly those where food is served! Executive Director Steve Chawaga and his cadre of law students are now familiar faces at venues like the Darby Mission, St. James School, and St. Gabriel's Lunch Program where they have helped hundreds of individuals.

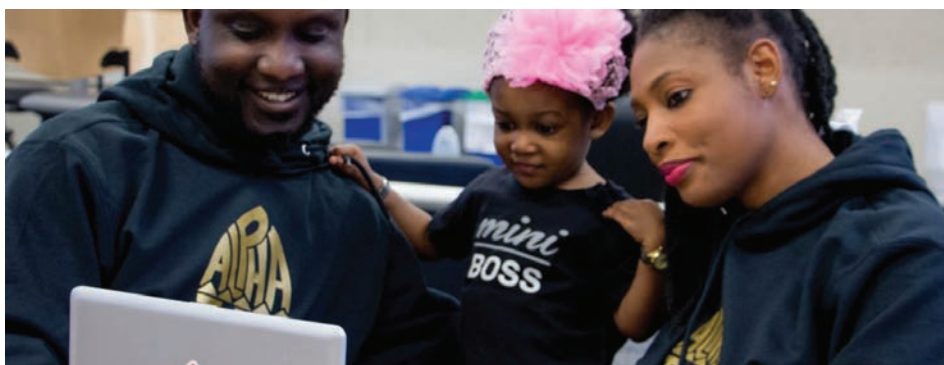
With the easing of pandemic restrictions in 2022, there has been a flood of evictions with more than 1,500 cases filed per month in Philadelphia. Recent studies confirm that tenants fare far better in these cases when they are represented by competent counsel. ELA has handled dozens of eviction cases this year, helping people to maintain homes for themselves and their families.

Watch Steve Chawaga's Adult Forum presentation available from www.TheRedeemer.org/livestreams in the Adult Forum Archives from 1-16-22,

For more information and to purchase tickets visit: <http://episcopallegalaid.org/annualcelebration> Or contact Steve Chawaga Executive Director, Episcopal Legal Aid 610-709-6665 schawaga@episcopallegalaid.org

ELA is one of our Outreach Grant recipients funded through the proceeds of the Christmas Village and your Stewardship gifts.

Tour St. Barnabas Community Resource Center



By ANNA GERRITY

Tour St. Barnabas Community Resource Center with us!

Tuesday, November 8 at 1:00pm

ECS transformed St. Barnabas Mission from a 107-bed emergency shelter to a Community Resource Center. (ECS simultaneously expanded its Rapid Rehousing capacity, now offering more housing to individuals and families in need than existed with St Barnabas.) After a thorough community needs assessment, the following resources are (or will soon be) available at the Center:

Industrial Kitchen and Dining Room—volunteers participate in a Cook-Off to make freezable healthy meals for those in need (currently elderly in W. Philadelphia). We could do this as a group! Much more is planned for this kitchen including community meals and education.

Food Pantry—partnering with Philabundance and now serving over 435 families.

Behavioral Health Clinic—onsite services in partnership with Malvern Behavioral Health.

ECS Program Space—for wellness, afterschool, young adult enrichment and other programs offered by the organization.

Episcopal Legal Aid—monthly clinics and direct referrals.

Be inspired by this video of the grand opening! www.ecsphilly.org

ECS is one of our Outreach Grant recipients funded through the proceeds of the Christmas Village and your Stewardship gifts.

MUSIC AT THE REDEEMER
ENGAGING COMMUNITY THROUGH MUSIC, SONG AND EDUCATION.
Church of the Redeemer - 230 Pennswood Road, Bryn Mawr, PA

Artcinia

Opening Benefit Concert & Reception
Friday, October 7 at 7:30PM
\$40 per ticket goes to support an identical concert in an underserved area of Philadelphia.
\$20 for children 12-16, free admission for children under 12.

An evening of chamber music featuring the Piano Quintet of Antonin Dvorák, the Adagio and Allegro for String Quartet of W. A. Mozart, and the Violin Duo in G of Chevalier St. George.

For tickets and more information visit www.TheRedeemer.org/musicseries or call The Redeemer Music Office at 610.525.2486, x. 22

171 YEARS OF TRADITION

By MICHAEL DIORIO

Last May, I was approached by the Organ Historical Society (based in Villanova) with an invitation to write an article for their quarterly publication, The Tracker. The proposed subject was the earliest instruments and musicians of The Redeemer. Over the past three months I have been pouring over our parish's historic documents. To date, I have researched each set of Vestry Minutes from August of 1851 through 1936. It has been a remarkable journey for me to witness, via these outstanding primary resources, the meticulous planning and dedication in furtherance of parish development and programs from the very beginning.

For me, the benefits from this research continue beyond the Organ Historical Society's invitation. This task has given me new insights into our program history from its earliest instantiations to the present. Three nouns continually echo in my mind: tradition, standard, and dedication. Tradition comes to mind while reflecting on The Redeemer's program development over the life of the parish. Standard represents the degrees of program quality throughout the past 171 years. Dedication describes those who have devoted countless hours, months, and years in service to worship music at The Redeemer. These nouns all stem from the root stewardship: both on part of those who pledge to support the parish, and those who do the work of preserving and leading its programs.

To my mind, the concept of stewardship is much larger and more consequential than we may realize. Stewardship, in its many forms, benefits both things seen and unseen.

For our music program, stewardship helps to preserve our music library, a collection of over 14,000 pieces of choral and instrumental music. Stewardship enables our pipe organ, a com-

plicated series of mechanisms, miles of wiring, and over 2,000 pipes, to be properly maintained. It enables tuning for the three grand pianos on our campus three times per season. Stewardship bolsters our volunteer choir with support from staff singers, helping our choirs to learn repertoire more easily and perform music of interest and quality.



Because of the gift of stewardship, all of these program benefits combine to invite people into a fuller experience of our parish. Because of stewardship, our music program has the ability to attract people to our church:

sometimes for a moment and sometimes for a lifetime. It draws people in: those who may not typically attend, and those who may have fallen out of the habit, inviting them into a deeper understanding of both of what church is and what it can hold for them.

One final "unseen" benefit of the program is that of formation. This is perhaps the most important component of our program - one felt by its participants and reflected in their participation and their understanding of what we do and why. Formation is possible due to the informed, generous stewardship extended to the parish by its members. Thank you for this support and for allowing song to continue through these 171 years of tradition, standard and dedication.

Did you know... One of our very first sextons, William Hughes, was paid \$0.50 at rehearsals and \$0.25 at services when required to pump the organ? In 1911, at age 84, Hughes retired from 30 years of service at The Redeemer. The archivist's note identifies the man in the background simply as "the old man who pumped the organ." Photograph taken outside of The Redeemer, circa 1894. The three women (left to right) are identified as Fannie Hobart, Mattie Stivers and Helen S. Osbourne.

OUTREACH



By KATE CHOJNACKI

Please mark your calendars. Christmas Village 2022 will be held on November 18 and 19!

The Christmas Village Committee is off to a strong start! Thank you to everyone who has answered the call and has joined us or offered contributions. If you haven't been able to join a meeting or find the right way to get involved, but want to, please contact Caroline Manogue (cbmanogue@gmail.com), Kate Chojnacki (kate.chojnacki@gmail.com) or Elisabeth Cooke (elisabeth.c.cooke@icloud.com). In the meantime, here are a few ways you can consider getting involved:

- Christmas Crafts is busy brainstorming and crafting! Please join us in the crafting room (Room 007) on Tuesdays (10/4, 10/11, 10/18, 10/25, 11/8 and 11/15) at 7 pm. If you have crafting ideas, photos and/or Pinterest links, please send to Caroline Manogue (cbmanogue@gmail.com).

- 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. Please reach out to Lisa Gardiner Davis at lgd564@verizon.net if you have any donations or questions.

- Tasty Treats will be offering a wide array of soups, quiches and other items for pre-order. Be on the lookout for order forms in the coming weeks. Also, please note that a group will be meeting on October 28 and 29 in the Parish House kitchen to cook. If you'd rather bake or cook at home, we will gladly accept donations of your favorite items or provide you with recipes of some parish favorites. Please contact Kate Chojnacki (kate.chojnacki@gmail.com) or Ann Strong (ann.strong@siemens-healthineers.com) with any questions. No culinary skills required and time commitment can be as much (or as little) as you can give.

- 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 canniecschafer@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

FLOWERS TO THE GLORY OF GOD

By JO ANN JONES

For many years, parishioners of The Redeemer, together with those celebrating weddings or planning funerals, make contributions to the Flower Fund to decorate the altar for those occasions. That fund is also the source for the flowers for Sunday's Eucharist and Matins.

What you may not know is that the Flower Fund also supports the Pastoral Care Committee efforts, and its attention to the needs of Redeemer members and their families.

During the Christmas and Easter seasons, members of the Pastoral Care Committee deliver seasonal plans, usually poinsettias at Christmas and daffodils at Easter, to members who have experienced loss, and to those who are home-bound. Committee members attach a handwritten note to each plant, acknowledging their remembrance and care for those whom they visit. These seemingly small gestures and gifts bring joy to those who receive them. They are made possible both by committee members' thoughtfulness and our collective stewardship.

Gifts to the Flower Fund bring an abiding sense of community to our members and their families. Stewardship makes possible these unique expressions of comfort, joy and care. We who serve on the Pastoral Care Committee are deeply grateful for this support and for the generosity of those who make it possible.



REDEEMER YOUTH GROUP

By REBECCA NORTINGTON

The Redeemer Youth group, otherwise known as RYG, is the high school group at The Redeemer. We meet every Sunday afternoon from 4-6 pm, and represent up to 12 schools from the Main Line and surrounding areas. We have close to 45 kids on our list this year, with 20 or so coming weekly. Close to 40 percent of our kids did not grow up in The Redeemer community, but have found us through friends and word of mouth. Many of these kids have had, or have, siblings who will also be a part of our group, and you will see them represented each year in our Christmas Pageant, at our fundraisers, and generally around the campus. Hopefully they have come to find that Redeemer is their home.

In any given year RYG goes on outings that help us develop as a community and also get us involved in our communities. Every month throughout the school year, we journey to St. Francis Inn, in Kensington, and help to serve a lunch that is offered to that community up to six days a week. Our first trip to St. Francis Inn was last Sunday, and this Sunday we will be heading to the Brandywine River for a canoe trip. For the remaining Sundays this fall we will be preparing for our Fall Fundraiser on October 22.

Please join the Redeemer Youth Group on October 22 for our first fall festival! This event is open to Redeemer folks and our greater main line community and hopes to celebrate the season with traditional fall games, bouncy houses, Halloween movies, fall beers, food and much more! Please stop in and share in the fun of the season! Costumes welcome! 4-6 pm 10/22/2022. There will be no rain date so please check our website for cancellations. www.redeemer.org

Any funds raised at this event will help offset the cost of our trip to Utah to live amongst the Navajo in June. This trip will be unlike any trip we have taken before for many reasons. With the exception of our trip to Florida in 2017 to do hurricane cleanup, we have chosen sites within driving distance. We have been to many states along the Appalachian Mountains and have served the rural poor through Appalachia service projects. Additionally we have traveled to DC and have worked with those experiencing homelessness in our nation's capital. We have learned that to see the Divine in every person, regardless of their outer appearance, is the hard work. To break bread, play checkers and have conversation with people who many would prefer not to see at all, can be more meaningful than picking up a hammer and nails.

Our hope is that this trip to Navajo Nation will offer our youth the opportunity to learn a different side of the American experience, as well as to obtain a new perspective on tradition, culture, spirituality and faith. This trip will require a unique kind of preparation and sensitivity, and we as leaders are excited to explore a variety of mediums to enhance our understanding of Indigenous people in this country.

Fourteen- to 18-year-olds are so exciting because they end up teaching us as much as we could ever teach them about the world. They are the future, and their perspective helps us to understand where we need to meet them as Christians and as stewards of their potential faith development. They come to us, we hope, because they appreciate the kind of community that we offer. They leave us, we hope, with a better sense of who God is in their lives and how they can share their offerings with the world.

MORNING MUSICALES MOVE TO REDEEMER

By REBECCA CLEMENT

The West Philadelphia Volunteer Committee for the Philadelphia Orchestra is excited to announce that their longstanding music series, "Morning Musicales", is moving to Church of the Redeemer. The Volunteer Committee has presented this three-concert series for many years in center city, but is now moving to the suburbs to reach an even broader audience.



Named "Morning Musicales" because the concerts take place at 11:00 in the morning, this year's program will kick off on Tuesday, October 25. Exciting young pianist Evren Ozel, contracted with the Concert Artists' Guild in NYC, will be our opener. He will be performing piano works by Beethoven, Kirschner, and Robert Schumann.

On November 29, the series features bravura cellist Alex Hersh and pianist Victor Santiago Ascuncion. Alex has recently won

the prestigious 2022 Pro Musica International Award. The prize is a debut recital in Carnegie Hall's Weill Hall on November 30th. We are privileged to hear this program in advance!

And finally, on April 20, the virtuostic mixed trio Empire Wild (the name is a give-away; this is not your usual trio!) will be our artists.

Tickets will be available at the door of the Church on the day of the concerts. Single tickets are \$60.00; the three-concert series is \$150.00, and Benefactor tickets are available for \$200.00. All tickets are tax deductible, and the proceeds from these concerts underwrite student tickets for Philadelphia Orchestra concerts. We hope to see you at this exciting series in our new, beautiful venue! Questions? Please contact Rebecca Clement at rebeccajclement@gmail.com.