

The Redeemer Annual Report

Margaret Louise McIntyre
Sep 17, 1929 May 3, 2010

Judith Helene Roberts
Nov 4, 1943 Nov 20, 2012

Elizabeth Rouzer Heavey
Oct 15, 1927 Feb 13, 2018

Dennis Francis Shaw
May 22, 1943 Jul 14, 2020

Gregory Burdette Noble
May 29, 1963 Feb 22, 2011

Kukula Kapoor Glastris
Jun 7, 1910 Aug 26, 2017

Moses Benjamin Middleton
Jul 24, 1926 Apr 18, 2011

Christopher Hudson Brewer
May 28, 1948

Baby Susan Wang
Nov 19, 1991

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RECTOR'S REPORT

Based on conversations with colleagues around the diocese, 2021 hit churches harder than it did in 2020. Clergy and church staffs are feeling as frustrated, angry, depressed, and overworked as anyone in this economy. The pandemic shows no sign of stopping and we're all tired of it.

We're tired, yet we must still go on. We can't quit.

Redeemer faces significant challenges this year. Our pledge drive was successful, thanks to Co-Chairs Barbara Alterowitz and David Hoogerheide, as well as all of you, in that pledges came in quickly, with most increased at significant levels. As of now, the average pledge is over \$7,000 per year, which is amazing. The pledge goal set for a balanced budget was short \$27,000. This means we still have work to do to cover this gap. If you have not as yet pledged, please do. If you have, please ask friends to come to church and introduce them to a friendly, welcoming Episcopal parish.

It is time to restore time and talent to the treasure given to the church. The paid and volunteer staff have worked more than their contracted hours and rolled with changes in their job descriptions, sometime weekly. Your time and talent, as well as your treasure will help us stay healthy and able to focus on the ministries we are being paid to do.

Committees need to be reborn. Please say yes if you are asked to join one or more. Better yet, volunteer before being asked. You can spend as little as 15-30 minutes a month helping weed the gardens or an hour or two helping get the church ready for worship. Volunteering in the office is another place we can use your help, especially if you're experienced with the computer. There are staff and vestry members here to support you.

Thank you to the Vestry especially Geoffrey Platt & Jo Barclay-Beard. Geoffrey will continue to be a vestry member and Jo is taking on the Senior Warden position for her last year. Thank you Silvia Maza for picking up the mantle of Junior Warden leadership. These changes will take place, God willing, after the annual meeting when the new Vestry gathers. Blessings to Patrick Fitzgerald and Marie Caulfield who volunteered to take over two unexpired terms.

To my staff – David+, Margaret, Adrienne+, Geoffrey, and Becki – there isn't enough chocolate or flowers to send to you to thank you for hanging in with me this year. I love you.

To all who helped Redeemer in any way in 2021: you and the work you do are appreciated and we are all grateful.

Liturgical Highlights for 2021

- 73 services of Holy Eucharist on Sundays and private/pastoral communions
- 165 Daily Office services (Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Compline)
- 7 additional services (Holy Week services, Lessons & Carols, etc.)
- 4 burials/deaths
- Pre-COVID average Sunday attendance was 128. Average Sunday attendance on Zoom before reopening was 20. Attendance after re-opening (hybrid) was 40.

Rev. Ciritta B Park+, Rector

You have run a church in the second year of a global pandemic. People have become angry with you about all kinds of things: outdoor church, mask wearing, not mask wearing, too much social issues preaching, not enough social issues preaching, indoor church, outdoor church again. But you know people so well. You know they are not mad at you; they are mad at circumstances. And sometimes misdirected anger is just rude prayers. And just look at you, hoping God hears the prayers of those who feel desperate and are no good at just saying so.

~Sarah Condon,

Episcopal Chaplain to Rice University



SENIOR WARDEN'S ANNUAL REPORT

*"Sweet are the uses of adversity,
Which, like the toad, ugly and venomous,
Wears yet a precious jewel in his head;
And this our life, exempt from public haunt,
Finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,
Sermons in stones, and good in every thing."*

William Shakespeare

"As You Like it" Act 2. The banished Duke finds solace and the positive in nature.

In 2021 our Church of the Redeemer certainly faced adversity: the pervasive COVID pandemic, the difficult repair of the extensive flood damage to our building, the Rector's unexpected leave of absence, along with fiscal challenges and declining membership. I will stop the analogies at toads except for the jewel part, and sermons within stones. which were always there and not from stone, thanks to our clergy. The point is that this church family faced adversity head on and

found the positive. With the grace of God and ourselves, the parish used the challenges to find the "good in every thing." We worshipped virtually, we worked hard and the flood damage was repaired, we celebrated returning to the sanctuary in September where the choir, though masked, lifted our spirits with song. The altar and lectern were back where they belonged for sermons, readings and the celebrations of the Eucharist. And in December the congregation responded to the pledge drive with an outpouring of generosity.

During my year as your Senior Warden I witnessed first-hand the core reason for meeting these challenges: people. Venturing beyond my seat in the choir's bass section I could see up close the devoted work of volunteers, staff, clergy and the Vestry. It was an inspiring sight. I was honored to join all of them – you -in service to Redeemer and thank everyone for giving me this leadership opportunity. I look forward to continuing to help in my remaining two years of Vestry term.

With gratitude and in faith,

Geoffrey Platt, Senior Warden



THE WORK CONTINUES

Fortunately, this year was not as impactful as 2020 as regards maintenance of the buildings and grounds. Repair and renovations continued and are still not finished. However, the majority of the “big” projects have been completed and we are once again looking at routine maintenance and addressing safety issues.

BUILDINGS:

- **Closets:** The closets in the parish hall were reconfigured to allow for additional storage.
- **Kitchen:** It is finally complete, well... almost.
- **“Little things”:** We are left with many “little projects” that need to be addressed such as painting touch-ups, bolting bookshelves to the walls, re-hanging the changing tables, and trying to get things to the dump or Community Forklift/Habitat Restore.
- **Rectory bathrooms:** Two of the three rectory bathrooms sprang major leaks and had to be renovated. In addition to the bathrooms being renovated, it was necessary to repair the kitchen ceiling that was falling in due to the water leakage.
- **Sanctuary:** Thank you Silvia Maza for overseeing the projects in the sanctuary to include new LED lighting and the refinishing of the sanctuary floors.

- **Sorting:** We are still sorting. Many things have been donated to Goodwill or simply tossed. Margaret Church sorted through the church documents and figure out what we needed to keep and what could be shredded.
- **Thank you** to all who sent in extra monies above and beyond their pledges to help offset the additional flood repair costs not covered by insurance.

GROUNDS:

- **Lighting:** This is still a work in progress. Merry Bruns is working with Outdoor Illuminations to upgrade the lighting on the Shipman steps. The poor lighting has been deemed a safety hazard by the Vestry and needs to be addressed.
- **Polyjacking:** For those of you who don't know the term “polyjacking”, it is a process where small holes are drilled in the concrete sidewalk and a foam-like substance is inserted underneath the concrete raising the slab in order to level it with the adjacent slab. We had several areas of settling where two concrete slabs were not level causing a tripping and falling hazard. This project should be addressed in 2022.
- **Workday:** In April we had an outdoor work day where 26 people showed up! 26! Weeds were pulled and mulch was laid. What an amazing show of support from the community especially considering we were in the second year of a pandemic – thank you.
- **Trees:** Another safety issue that should be addressed in 2022 if the budget allows is the removal of the large branches that are overhanging the rectory roof.

Once again, the B&G budget was exceeded due to finishing the flood renovations and addressing safety issues.

Thank you to the Buildings and Grounds committee for helping me develop what turned out to be a pre-COVID priority list of renovations.

Thank you to the Vestry, clergy and Bob Yates for supporting me during the times when it almost became “too much”. Thank you to the volunteers who stepped up to help in so many ways - weeding, transplanting, painting, and sorting. While our renovations are not complete, we have a much safer and more welcoming environment.

Peace -

Jo Barclay-Beard, Junior Warden

ELECTION SLATE

Susan Grigsby



Although I am a lifelong Episcopalian, I was brought up among Southern Baptists and Methodists in North Carolina. I am grateful that my parents did not insist on dogma. After college in Virginia, I followed my major of medieval history by joining an archeo-

logical dig in Winchester, England for 3 months, and have been “traveling” ever since. I joined the Peace Corps, Thailand in its early days. This background in history led me into museum work where I worked at Los Angeles Museum of Art for 10 years. When the family (husband, two children, a dog, and a cat) moved back East into the Washington area, museum work continued first at the National Gallery, and now for 30 years with the National Museum of Asian Art, (formerly the Freer/Sackler Gallery). I was part of the Horticulture Program at GW University, interned in the Bishop’s Garden at the National Cathedral, and took courses through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. I worked at American Plant for 8 years. Hence my zeal for Redeemer’s gardens.

In a Chinese belief system, a person begins a new phase of life every 12 years. To celebrate my 6th cycle, I was able to travel part of the Silk Road, to China, to Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan to Japan. The Church of the Redeemer has been an integral part of this journey. It has returned me to a foundational beginning in trying to understand where I will “fit” in this new world we are embarking upon. and knowing that Redeemer will support that journey.

Gian-Philip Toro



As a part of Redeemer’s community for over 10 years, I have experienced all the wonderful facets of this glorious little church. The rewarding spiritual fulfillment, the very special congregational mem-

bers, and the extraordinarily robust music program. Each of these components have proved to me that Redeemer is a dynamic, unique house of worship. It is a church that must remain standing tall, during any and all difficult times we face. These last, nearly 2 years, have been arduous; and there are still uncertain times ahead. As a creative thinker, and with a deep understanding of what makes this church beloved to all, I feel that I can positively contribute to Redeemer’s future. A future that will compliment our past, and a future that will overcome any hurdles that we may now face. God bless.

Melinda Nelson



Redeemer has been a beloved member of my family for many years. My grandmother started attending Redeemer in the early 1900s, my Mom when she was 10 in 1937 and I when I was 8 years old in 1960. In April I am retiring after 45 years of federal service at NIH, working there as my Mom did before me and as my daughter does now. In thinking about activities to keep me busy and engaged after retirement, helping at the church was at the top of my list.

The last time I was on the Redeemer Vestry I was 27 years old! I hope that a lifetime of experience and the time to devote to it will enable me to be a valuable Vestry member. What better time to help out a beloved family member.

We still need a Secretary!!
Contact Cricket to volunteer!!



MUSIC MINISTRY

The year began as the previous one ended, with the impact of COVID and a changing situation. Sunday services were the The FIVE at 5pm on Zoom with hymns and an offertory. Singing was limited to only a handful of people, and the building's capacity for worship was held by the county at authentically disciple-like numbers. Worship was bolstered by telephone Morning Prayer and Zoom Compline with St Dunstan's, both of which had a steady and modest turnout. The Music at Redeemer concert series started up again with the reopened sanctuary in September, with a gracious fundraising concert for the Church by our Ensemble-in-Residence KASSIA MUSIC, and rescheduled events from Juliana Soltis and Vivi Candanto.

Holy Week and Easter 2021 were light years on from 2020, but we were very much out of practice of being with each other, communicating in masks and from a distance, and, frankly, remembering how to interact in person as a community. Communal singing was still a high risk unknown. Easter Vigil at St Dunstan's was a highlight, with Redeemer staff able to worship, and Cricket preaching a memorable sermon. Easter Day was a mixed blessing with the usual issues of bright sunshine, wind tunnel effects, and outdoor amplification. Hopefully, the Smithsonian historians of the future will watch our video footage with empathy as well as sympathy! We were all extremely out of practice.

Later in the spring, the season of resurrection through double vaccination, a sense of new invincibility and the burning desire to be in community presented the opportunity for a return to the choir community on the Labyrinth. With the luxury of a room and public services removed from us, and necessity being the mother of invention, we took on the challenge of learning over the course of several weeks a demanding polyphonic repertoire, which we would not normally approach on a weekly basis. Without the pressure of performing on Sundays, we prepared anthems such as "Sing Joyfully" by William Byrd (the first piece we sang together as a choir



since March 2020) and “Ascendit Deus” by Peter Philips. At that point we were able to relax mask wearing outside when not singing, as Delta was still on the horizon, and we got used to seeing faces “IRL” again.

When Church reopened to public worship in the Parish Hall in June, and with the organ still encased in plastic and the elevator still unready, we took the calculated risk of the choir singing an introit (masked and distanced) away from the people in the Parish Hall. After the introit we joined everyone downstairs for what was essentially a said service “sandwich”, with musical bookends. We sang a single final hymn together at the end, and then exited to a pleasant coffee hour outside. I shall never forget the spine-tingling sensation of playing an instrumental version of a spiritual during communion and hearing a hushed “illegal” sing-along from some parts of the congregation. The human spirit is a difficult one to suppress. The joy of being back together made the compromises to liturgy easy to ignore as we navigated the safety considerations of the space and effectiveness of vaccination.

The Bishop’s visit included a blessing of the elevator and a rededication of our restored and beautified Parish Hall. The Choir was able to sing “Ascendit Deus” – the starting note serendipitously given by the arrival “ping” of the elevator – and the more tonally and emotionally complex “Hosanna to the Son of David” by Weelkes. It seemed appropriate to be singing music from a time of actual religious persecution when be-

lievers could be burned at the stake for their personal beliefs!

With the news that even vaccinated individuals could infect others, yet another sense of “one step forward, two steps back” followed us into the fall but did not deter us from Homecoming Sunday and a return to upstairs worship. We took the Parish Hall liturgical model of “end loading” music, gradually adding musical elements during the fall, and encouraged a rapid dispersal of the People at the end of service. Undoubtedly we were being more cautious than other churches, but, it is difficult to prove a negative on being a super-spreader event.

A new “PTZ” camera and a hook up of the legacy sound system to the Zoom feed improved our on-line offering. The removal of 9 pews, a few frontals, 120 or so fabric covered kneelers, and 80 fabric covered chairs to safe storage enabled greater flexibility for distancing and singing into the space. The sound system needs further work to improve the spoken word, and a successful grant application to the diocese will do just that.

The choir surpassed itself with the Advent Meditation of Lessons and Carols, and also with two services on Christmas Eve. The changes in the acoustic from removing so many absorbent materials means that a quartet can, unaided by microphones, really fill the church with sound. Another note-worthy contribution by the Choir was the music for Julia Clark Downs’ memorial service in early December. Our ensemble-in-residence KASSIA Music provided string quartet accompaniment to Mozart’s Ave Verum, and the singing of the crucifixion story in Psalm 22 was particularly powerful for the standing-room only Church with additional reflective plastic chairs. One choir member confessed to me that they had “never really enjoyed



psalms, even before learning to sing them,” but how they had been utterly converted to them by this service.

Cricket’s idea of neighborhood Christmas Carols got in under the wire of Omicron was blessed by a mild and dry day; it was a huge success. A particularly poignant moment was when the choir (of about 12) was gathered in the street, and a householder signed (ASL) from her doorstep as we sang to her. A member of the pre-COVID time Glen Echo Singers joined us ad hoc on our rounds.

After another year of dodging the virus, the year ended with my luck running out on Christmas Day with yours truly being one of the first in the parish to get Omicron. Having tested negative the morning of Christmas Eve, “on the Second Day of Christmas...” two turtle doves arrived at my parents in the UK, each with COVID in tow. Thankfully, and I am sure because of all the prayers from Redeemer, the shortest colds we have ever had (24 hours) were followed by regular negative tests for my parents and quarantine for each of us, every one. I am thankful that when I was potentially at my most infectious, no-one at Redeemer seems to have been impacted. As we look to 2022, I believe we each have our master’s degree in rolling with the COVID punches now.

Geoffrey Silver, Director of Music Ministries

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

We began Adult Forums in 2021 with Walter Brueggeman’s book *Virus as a Summons to Faith*. Rev. Dr. David Schlafer led the discussions. In Lent we explored different ways to pray. Leading these discussions were David Brown, Geoffrey Silver, Cathy Arrington, Rev. Cricket Park, and Lisa Palchick. On Wednesdays in Lent, Karen Stewart presented an encore presentation of the first 200 years of slavery. Members of the congregation and staff provided written meditations that were emailed each weekday during the Lenten season.

Weekly Bible Study continued via Zoom in 2021. The link is on the Redeemer website. You’re welcome to join us. Zoom and other online options have enabled Redeemer to continue our formation ministries beyond our building.

Steve Gibson, Melinda Nelson, Mary K Young, and Pat Fitzgerald kept Sunday School in motion for our school-aged kids. They began on Zoom and continued in the fall as a hybrid class. Shannon Hoogerheide and Anne Peyer brought Godly Play back to life for the youngest Christians.

Youth group began meeting again in the fall. Becki Casey was instrumental in planning activities and being a part of their implementation. For fun, we had a mini-golf outing and a canoe adventure.



Amma Cricket and staff made an attempt to restart the Adult Forum series. We offered presentations on mental health, the needs of formerly incarcerated persons, and the history of racism as it impacted Redeemer's history. There was a modicum of interest in the last presentation, however, the staff decided to cease offering adult forums until such a time as we have someone willing to serve as a chair and curator of the Education Committee.

BOOK CLUB READINGS IN 2021

In spite of the pandemic, or maybe because of it, we did a lot of reading during 2021 and we met mainly on Zoom. The books we read are listed below:

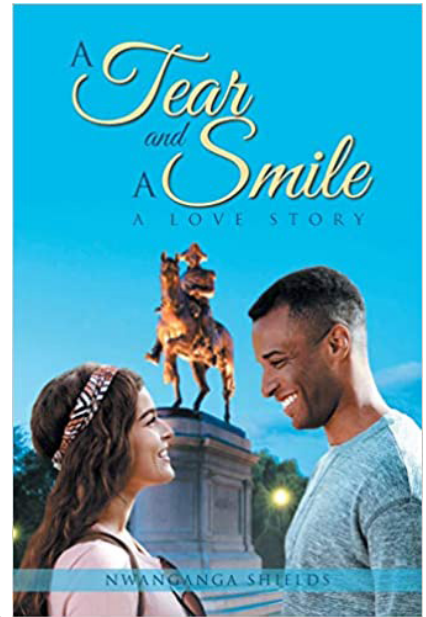
- 1) *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett
- 2) *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson
- 3) *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michel Richardson
- 4) *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah
- 5) *For Whom the Bell Tolls* by Ernest Hemingway
- 6) *The Black Jacobins* by C.L.R. James
- 7) *A Tear and a Smile* by Nwanganga Shields

Each of these books was discussed in detail and it was wonderful for the group to be tied together by our love of books. Bob Dresser provided us with the zoom link until he couldn't, after which we met on the church zoom link. The last book we read, which was authored by our parishioner Nwanganga- Shields was the high point of our reading. In her presentation Nwanganga educated us on the Nigerian community in the US and on her own journey in life, having been married to a Scotsman.

At the end of our last meeting on December 5, I told those present that, after twenty years of involvement with the Book Club during which we read over 100 books, I will no longer lead the group and coordinate its activities. I suggested

that someone else take over, preferably a younger member of our congregation. I offered my help to anyone ready to take on this wonderful task. I feel honored and privileged to have been a member of a highly stimulated and stimulating group and I look forward to participate in future book club activities.

Huda Kraske, Convenor



REDEEMER ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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

Facebook:

Episcopal Church of the Redeemer,
Bethesda, Maryland.

Cricket Park and RedeemerBethesda

Twitter: @VicarVirtual

Instagram:

parkcricket and redeemberbethesda
musicatredeemer

Youtube: Music at Redeemer

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



DEACON'S REPORT 2021

This has been a year unlike any other but the Church of the Redeemer has risen to the call to be doers of the word and not hearers only. Weekly collections of shelf stable foods have been collected to support the work of Manna, Inc, Montgomery County's largest food bank. These donations have been transported weekly by parishioner, Ben Ivins. Monthly dinners for the homeless have been provided for 30-40 individuals through participation in Bethesda Cares. At Thanksgiving this year 16 complete dinner baskets were shopped for and provided by Redeemer parishioners as well, including gift cards to be used to purchase turkeys (or other protein options for dinner). The deacon continues to support Nourishing Bethesda, in partnership with St. John's Norwood, providing transportation for food donations. She also provides administrative support for Bethesda Help, taking phone calls for assistance and scheduling food deliveries and financial assistance for prescriptions and other life emergencies to those who contact Bethesda Help seeking assistance.

The community of Church of the Redeemer has supported the resettlement of a group of 4 displaced families in the metro area resulting from the sudden evacuation of tens of

thousands Afghan refugees. Money collected has totalled \$10,850 and has been used to provide initial rent and household set up needs for 44 families. Ministry to these families has been in cooperation with the congregations of Church of the Ascension, Sligo Parish, Silver Spring and Christ Church Kensington. These refugees continue to need support as they are resettled and Church of the Redeemer will continue to be involved in support of these refugees as they are able in cooperation with the above parishes.

Adrienne Clamp, Deacon

BACKPACK MINISTRY

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who helped with the backpack drive this year—both those who donated and those who helped stuff the backpacks! It was wonderful to work together with so many Redeemer-ites for this worthy cause. We raised enough money to prep nearly 200 backpacks for the kids affiliated with Housing Up, plus we gave them an additional check with the leftover funds of over \$400!). Thanks for making this positive impact in these children's lives. Being ready to go on the first day of school sets everyone on a level footing!

Cynthia Fischer

TOY SUNDAY

Even in the midst of the pandemic, the Redeemer community came through again this year in a big way for Community Faith Life Services. We were able to purchase \$1360 worth of toys. Along with those donated, we provided over \$1600 worth of new toys for the client families of CFLS. More than one hundred toys in total.

Thanks to all.

Jefferson Arrington

AFGHAN REFUGEE EFFORTS

In August 2021, the deacons of the Diocese of Washington were tasked with coordinating efforts to assist the flood of Afghan refugees arriving with virtually nothing resulting from the

US withdrawal from their country. Redeemer's first assignment was to assist a family of seven who had just arrived and was living with another family in a small apartment in Alexandria. Within a week, Redeemer raised over \$7000 and Redeemer representatives assisted in delivering food and other supplies to the family. By November, Redeemer had raised over \$10,000. The proceeds from these contributions went to purchase mattresses, coats, kitchen, other supplies, and gift cards for the family to subsidize their housing. The following was a response from one of the family's interpreters:

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

In September, the need arose for winter clothing for Afghans in the DMV. Again, Redeemer responded generously with scores of winter coats, hats, scarves and gloves and assisted in separating them for men, women and children. These were delivered in October to a distribution center in Sterling, Virginia.

The needs for area refugees continues to be great. Three hundred medically vulnerable individuals, including children are currently being housed at the Bethesda Hyatt.

Ben Ivins

MANNA FOOD CENTER

Manna Food Center is the main food bank in Montgomery County. Nearly all nonprofit organizations located here rely on Manna to provide essential food for their clients. Since its founding, Manna has distributed more than 56 million pounds of food to more than 2.7 million individuals. Manna also strives to end hunger through education and advocacy. Manny the Mobile Kitchen and Pop-Up Pantry serve as a classroom to teach general nutrition principles through cooking, and as a food distribution vehicle. The

Center partners with over 350 organizations including: government agencies, corporations, nonprofits, schools, faith-based institutions, community groups, and individuals. In 2020, Manna served 50,510 individuals providing over 3.5 million pounds of food. The food provided by Manna helped families living on fixed incomes, as well as those requiring emergency food support as they overcame a loss in wages or dealt with illness in the family. The demand for these services has skyrocketed with the COVID-19 pandemic. Households received boxes of food averaging 60-70 pounds and including nonperishable goods, produce, dairy, and protein items. Manna provided 174,547 pounds of food to social service agencies throughout the county, including 48 soup kitchens, shelters, and pantries. Agencies received food, free of charge, so that they could focus their resources on their core population to address the root causes of poverty. Redeemer contributes to Manna through nonperishable food provided by parishioners placed in baskets in the nave each week. Some parishioners also send checks to Manna directly. For more information about Manna, go to: www.mannafood.org

Ben Ivins





BETHESDA CARES

Redeemer families have provided wonderful dinners of meats, veggies, side dishes, salads, fruits, drinks, desserts and snacks to the homeless every other month this year. We have met some great people while delivering the food to Our Lady of Lourdes church in Bethesda where the meals are served. We are very grateful for the generous contributions of Marie & Steve France, Christine de Fontenay, the Jennings/Mershon family, Toni Strother, Mary K Young, Silvia Maza, Bill Heron, Ben Ivins, Brian & Jo Beard, Helen Zitomer, Judy James, Marie Caulfield, Susan Grigsby, the Penn family, the Hotes family, Karen Stewart, Huda Kraske, Mary Helen Carlson, Jefferson & Cathy Arrington, Jane Dealy, Ann Taylor, Melinda & John Nelson, Marilyn Raisch, the Reverend Adrienne Clamp, Bobby & Jeanine Greene, Debbie Ventimiglia, Mark Pennybacker, Patrick & Susan Fitzgerald, Amma Cricket Park, and Deborah Babcock-Daley. We hope that you others will participate in 2022!

Thank you,

Sam Penn and Nico Hotes

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

January 17, 2021

Call to Order

The Rev. Cricket Park called the meeting to order at 9:06 via Zoom

Approval of 2020 minutes

The motion to accept the 2020 Annual Meeting minutes was seconded and approved unanimously via zoom poll.

Treasurer's report:

Steve Gibson presented the Treasurer's report. With the pandemic and flood, there have been a lot of changes and departures from what was anticipated regarding the budget and reality.

Pledge income was off substantially, but it was offset by over-pledge and non-pledge income. The reduced revenue was due to the lack of special events, facilities use, etc.

Redeemer has a net positive income of \$14884, which includes PPP Loan; excluding it, there would be a deficit of approx. \$32,000.00. Redeemer is solvent with \$84,118 working capital.

Cricket, Geoffrey, Bob, and Margaret have put together a hybrid budget for 2021 attempting to anticipate ongoing impacts of flood & pandemic recovery. The Vestry approved the budget at the previous Wednesday meeting.

Steve's closing remarks were that when one can't participate in the usual way and times are tough is when financial support is most important; Redeemer has risen to that challenge.

Cricket opened the meeting to questions. A question was asked as to whether our insurance rates will increase due to the claims. Steve responded that we don't know at this time.

Question raised if there was any anticipation that there will be another PPP round. Steve responded that a 2nd wave of PPP has been approved already. New qualifying criteria is stricter than

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

before, including a 25% drop in revenue and a tightened needs test. He is not sure whether or not we'll qualify, and we are not counting on it.

Question raised as to paying babysitters during this time. Answered that the babysitters were back-paid for previous periods and are currently being paid at a reduced rate.

Election of Vestry and Convention Delegates:

A new slate of candidates for vestry was presented.

Geoffrey Platt, -- Senior Warden for a three-year term.

Toyin Rose – Three-Year term

Scott Williams – Three-Year term

A slate for convention delegates was presented: Clark Downs and John Harbeson.

An error on the slate zoom poll was discovered as Bill McBain was listed on the zoom poll; It was announced that Clark Downs would replace Bill McBain on the delegate poll. The poll was unanimously decided for entire slate except Clark Downs 93% due to error on poll. Poll will satisfy as motion, seconding, and approval for Vestry and Delegates.

Rector's address:

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

Cricket walked through the events of 2020, and the coming shift with the transition of power, vaccines, and what it may mean for Redeemer.

She pointed out she has the best wardens, vestry, staff, spouses in the universe. She pointed out that we had to learn how to worship in different ways. Groups have kept in touch, Zoom and phone services, continued to care for those in need. Our programs were very successful. Grateful to parents of youth, Jefferson, Cynthia, and all those that helped keep them going, and offered thanks for generosity to the entire congregation.

She expressed apologies for the lack of a morning service, but said that doing The Five made it

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

possible to explore unique opportunities with our families to experience worship in many ways. We are making progress with our recovery and renovations, making the building more inviting and accessible. Parish hall is brighter, easier to clean, and more accessible. Classrooms are painted. Don't be surprised if they are reassigned to meet new needs.

Cricket stressed that it will be a long time before we can meet in person. We need to keep our anti-COVID practices up until it is truly safe to gather. She is exploring outdoor services as weather permits but we will not be able to hug, sing, or share food except communion wafers. Partaking of the Blood of Christ is a year away. Be patient.

Cricket reminded us that there are ministries that need to be reestablished: Altar guild, flower guild, Ushers, counters, Godly Play staff and Youth Group.

Had the pandemic and flood not happened we would not be able to reimagine church in a new way. We coordinated with St. Dunstons to offer morning prayer and daily compline. Deanery Lessons and Carols was the only one of its kind, and as of today had 490 views.

A special thanks to Jo Barclay-Beard who didn't just take care of flood repairs, but repairing stairs to bell tower, finding eco-friendly lawn service, tree removal and garden-friendly services that are more accessible and safer. One requested delay was repairing the kitchen and bathroom at rectory, but it can't be delayed for too long.

Racial justice is a priority with Bishop Budde and the diocese.

Call out to technical wizards to help with on-line service.

Thanks:

--To Bob Yates, who taught himself how to run the videos for services, and organizing the blood drives.



--To Geoffrey Silver and choir for doing everything they could, when they could.

--To Margaret Church for keeping up with insane regulations.

--To David Schlafer for support and way of looking at things differently

--To Marie Caulfield and Jo Barclay-Beard for taking care of a flood when we had no idea we were in for

--To Marie Caulfield, Randolph Court, & Bill McBain for their great service on the vestry

--a Special thanks to Catherine Sands for many years of service as Vestry Secretary

May God bless us in our endeavors. Thank you

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45am by Rev. Cricket Park.

Christina Carr

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Carr, Secretary

STEWARDSHIP

Thank you, thank you, thank you for your stewardship!

We asked you to step up in the face of a big challenge, and you did. The average pledge increased by 36% - that is extraordinary! 14 pledges are still outstanding and should get us to where we need to be. Here is where we stand as of January 11:

- 59 families or individuals pledged
- 43 pledged more than in 2021
- 11 pledged the same or less
- 5 new pledgers
- This brings us to 94% of the minimum goal as of January 11.

14 individuals or families who pledged in 2021 have not pledged yet for 2022. (This does not include people who moved away, died, transferred or told us they are not in a position to pledge this year.) It happens every year that people forget to pledge in the old year, and they will receive phone calls. If most of them come through at a similar level to last year, we will reach our minimum budget, and if many of them increase their pledges, we will come closer to the desired budget level. If you are in that group, please join in and show what a motivated congregation this is.

Thank you all for showing your love of this precious community!

Barbara Alterowitz and David Hoogerheide,
Co-chairs of the pledge campaign

TREASURER'S REPORT

Church of the Redeemer maintains its accounts on a cash basis, recording income when received and expenses when payments are made. Normal operating income and expenses are budgeted on an annual basis and are reported in Redeemer's profit and loss statement. Income and expenses for special purposes, such as FOMAR, are set aside in designated and restricted

funds, which carry over balances from year to year. Normally, these two categories encompass all of Redeemer's financial transactions. However, in order to track income and expenses related to the flood and its aftermath, Redeemer added a third category of financial reporting, namely a Recovery & Renewal account, which summarizes receipts (including insurance reimbursement) and expenditures related to flood recovery and building improvements. Work not funded by insurance arose primarily as a result of decisions to upgrade rather than simply replace damaged property or discovery of deteriorating conditions in the process of flood-related repairs.

The attached financial statements address these three categories. The profit and loss statement reports normal operating income and expenses. The cash position report shows the total amount of cash held by Redeemer at year-end and the balances that are set aside for special purposes. The Recovery & Renewal chart lists income and expenditures for restoration and upgrade projects since the flood.

As shown in the profit and loss statement, Redeemer incurred an operating loss of \$33,803 in 2021. Expenses were within budget, but income fell short, in large part because pledges received in 2021 were substantially below the pledge target in the budget. Recovery & Renewal expenditures plus the operating deficit resulted in a drawdown of most of the accumulated cash cushion with which Redeemer began the year.

The number of families pledging to Redeemer over the past couple of years has declined due to various circumstances, not the least of which has been the shut-down of in person worship due to Covid and the flood. As we once again gather in person, numbers are slowly moving back up, but we remain cognizant of the effect of a reduced contribution base on Redeemer's finances, and the Vestry has adopted a very lean budget intended to enable Redeemer to live within its means as it rebuilds.

Donation income is virtually the sole source of financial support for Redeemer, particularly

during the pandemic, when facilities use income is essentially non-existent. In planning the budget, the Vestry relies substantially on pledges as an indication of the amount of donation income to be expected during the year. In order to achieve a balanced budget, the Vestry has set a goal of \$450,000 in pledge income. Pledge commitments to date have not yet reached that goal. In past years, we have had a single budget line for pledges, which included both pledges in hand at the time the budget was passed and pledges we hoped might be made in the future. At the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the new budget sets forth Current Year Pledges already committed and Additional Pledges Needed in separate line items to highlight the gap that remains to be filled. As indicated by the additional pledges line, the budget is not yet balanced, but will be reliant on additional commitments that we hope will be forthcoming during the year.

We are deeply appreciative of the strong support for Redeemer shown by its parishioners, as reflected in pledge, over pledge, and non-pledge donations throughout the year, as well as year-end gifts, which have helped replenish the operating account. We also note with great appreciation the generosity shown in this year's round of pledging, through which the congregation has again demonstrated how much Redeemer means to all of us.

As we move forward into the new year, we have a wonderfully renewed building in which to convene and to worship. What better way to begin anew as the Redeemer community begins to once again gather together in person.

Stephen L. Gibson, Treasurer

Church of the Redeemer Profit and Loss Statement			2021 Over (Under) Budget	Proposed 2022 Budget	Change from 2021 Budget
	2021 Actual	2021 Budget			
INCOME					
Donation Income					
Current Year Pledges	392,616	476,500	(83,885)	422,830	(53,670)
Additional Pledges Needed	0	0	0	27,170	27,170
Current Year Over Pledge	9,465	15,000	(5,535)	5,000	(10,000)
Current Year Non-Pledge	81,069	25,000	56,069	27,000	2,000
Prior Year Pledge	7,360	1,000	6,360	0	(1,000)
Loose Plate Offering	2,395	0	2,395	0	0
Total Donation Income	492,904	517,500	(24,596)	482,000	(35,500)
Special Offerings					
Christmas Season	804	0	804	1,000	1,000
Lent/Easter Season	10	0	10	1,400	1,400
Other Special Offerings	0	1,000	(1,000)	0	(1,000)
Taize/Extra Liturgies		0	0	0	0
Total Special Offerings	814	1,000	(186)	2,400	1,400
Event & Activity Income					
Hospitality Income	0	0	0	50	50
Music Series Contribution	0	0	0	0	0
Special Events	0	0	0	2,000	2,000
Total Event & Activity Income	0	0	0	2,050	2,050
Facilities Use	1,770	5,000	(3,230)	4,600	(400)
Other Income					
Gain (Loss) on Stock	(182)	1,000	(1,182)	1,000	0
Amazon Smile Contributions	26	0	26	0	0
Other	7,823	5,000	2,823	4,000	(1,000)
Total Other Income	7,667	6,000	1,667	5,000	(1,000)
TOTAL INCOME	503,156	529,500	(26,344)	496,050	(33,450)
EXPENSE					
Administration Expense					
Audit	8,500	7,000	1,500	7,000	0
Bank Charges	33	50	(17)	50	0
Insurance	10,035	15,000	(4,966)	12,000	(3,000)
Office Equipment New	6,161	1,500	4,661	1,000	(500)
Office Machines & Services	8,800	11,000	(2,200)	9,000	(2,000)
Office Supplies	6,263	7,000	(737)	5,000	(2,000)
Payroll Processing	736	750	(14)	750	0
Postage	592	1,300	(708)	800	(500)
Publicity & Communications	3,283	3,000	283	4,000	1,000
Telephone	4,486	3,700	786	3,700	0
Vanco Fees	2,232	2,500	(268)	2,000	(500)
Total Administration Expense	51,120	52,800	(1,680)	45,300	(7,500)
Diocesan Giving	40,000	40,000	0	35,000	(5,000)
Discretionary Account Payments	400	500	(100)	0	(500)
Maintenance Expense					
Building Reserve	0	6,000	(6,000)	6,000	0
Church	40,686	12,000	28,686	12,000	0
Cleaning/Janitorial Services	13,545	15,000	(1,455)	16,560	1,560
Equipment	125	9,000	(8,875)	0	(9,000)
Grounds	7,327	10,000	(2,673)	7,000	(3,000)
Rectory	1,496	5,000	(3,504)	5,000	0
Supplies	2,349	2,000	349	2,000	0
Utilities Church	11,966	14,500	(2,534)	14,500	0
Utilities Rectory	5,450	6,000	(550)	6,000	0
Other Maintenance Expense	1,130	1,000	130	1,000	0
Total Maintenance Expense	84,074	80,500	3,574	70,060	(10,440)

Church of the Redeemer Profit and Loss Statement		2021 Over (Under) Budget	Proposed 2022 Budget	Change from 2021 Budget
	2021 Actual	2021 Budget		
Personnel Expense				
NonSalaried - Contractors	25,964	24,500	1,464	(6,300)
Health/Life/Disability Ins.	23,942	24,975	(1,034)	1,213
Payroll Taxes	8,313	8,622	(309)	(1,712)
Pension Premiums	34,376	30,030	4,346	(50)
Professional Education	923	3,500	(2,577)	(500)
Sabbatical Allowance	600	600	0	0
Salaries	189,920	193,940	(4,020)	(19,931)
Seca Allowance	8,740	8,740	0	(113)
Supply Personnel	0	4,000	(4,000)	(2,000)
Travel/Auto/Phone Allowances	2,200	1,800	400	0
Total Personnel Expense	294,978	300,707	(5,729)	(29,393)
Program Expense				
Adult Formation	25	200	(175)	0
Altar	0	500	(500)	0
Church School	0	300	(300)	0
Hospitality Expense	596	500	96	0
Music - Choral Section Leader	10,840	10,000	840	7,000
Music - General	3,438	5,000	(1,562)	(1,000)
Newcomers/Membership	0	100	(100)	400
Other/Governance	965	1,000	(35)	0
Stewardship	0	300	(300)	0
Special Events	0	1,500	(1,500)	(750)
Worship	3,771	3,000	771	(2,000)
Youth	0	250	(250)	0
Total Program Expense	19,635	22,650	(3,015)	3,650
Property Expense				
Mortgage Interest Expense	13,983	23,500	(9,517)	0
Mortgage Principal Payments	32,769	23,500	9,269	0
Total Property Expense	46,752	47,000	(248)	0
TOTAL EXPENSE	536,959	544,157	(7,198)	(49,183)
NET ORDINARY INCOME	(33,803)	(14,657)	(19,146)	15,733

Cash Position 12/31/21**Cash on Hand**

Checking Account	97,960
Uncleared Transactions	44,860
Brokerage Account	99,010
Savings Account	1,881
Total Cash	243,710

Less Designated Funds

Music Series	5,401
Sabbatical Reserve	7,800
Emergency Fund	0
Rector's Discretionary Fund	1,139

Less Restricted Funds

Building Reserve	0
Building and Grounds	0
Flowers	5,526
FOMAR Donations	19,691
Columbarium Maintenance	7,313
Other Restricted	9,581
Outreach	0
PRAY Youth Program	19,279
Prepaid Pledges	119,545
Regional Dean Fund	1,800
2021 Diocese Grant	7,946
Operating Cash Available	38,690

Recovery & Renewal			
FUNDING	2020	2021	Total
Building Reserve	71,627	38,000	109,627
Kassia Concert Donations	0	4,409	4,409
Special Donations	51,133	3,000	54,133
Insurance Proceeds	259,109	40,676	299,785
Total	381,869	86,085	467,954
EXPENSE			
Elevator	59,431	60,392	119,823
HVAC and Alarm System	11,250	34,637	45,887
Interior	9,736	11,630	21,366
Kitchen	10,500	40,229	50,729
Outside Drainage	14,400	0	14,400
Rectory Bathroom	0	47,338	47,338
Flood Recover	203,285	45,341	248,626
Total Expense	308,602	239,567	548,169
Net cash effect	73,267	(153,482)	(80,215)

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER AND THE LEGACY OF SLAVERY

The land where our church sits was part of a land grant from the English Crown to early Marylanders Beall and Magruder. By the 18th century enslaved Africans were brought to clear the heavily wooded tracts and to plant the lucrative but labor intensive tobacco crop. By the early 19th century tobacco had exhausted much of the soil. Planters turned from tobacco to mixed crops. This economic change altered the demand for enslaved labor as grain was not as labor intensive as tobacco. The surplus labor became another revenue stream for the planters as they entered heavily into the domestic slave trade providing laborers to the cotton plantations of the deep south. This was the economy of Montgomery County Maryland at the start of the Civil War.

Although Maryland was a slave state, it was never part of the Confederacy. Nevertheless, there was a great deal of sympathy for the southern cause among the planter class. Reconstruction brought some racial progress to the state. A public school system including black schools was initiated in 1864. Newly freed blacks settled in enclaves in Cabin John, Brookmont, Scotland, Tobytown and Gibson Grove.

At the end of the 19th century Jim Crow laws applied across the state. Schools, transportation, accommodations, restaurants, businesses, and increasingly neighborhoods were segregated. It is in this period of Jim Crow that the story of Church of the Redeemer begins. In 1893 a group of families began to meet together in private homes for prayer and worship. Soon they arranged for seminarians from Virginia Theological to come out on the trolley and lead services. This arrangement with home services, lay leadership and visiting seminarians continued for 10 years. In 1903 the group, with financial assistance from St. John's Norwood, built a church across from the Glen Echo Post Office. St. John's Norwood stepped back from its patron position and Redeemer was an independent chapel. Leadership continued to be provided by lay people, deacons, and visiting priests. In 1915 St. John's Norwood re established its parent role with the Redeemer church community. The church grew as the community grew. There were periods of robust growth including a time in the mid 1930's when Redeemer initiated bus service to collect children from adjoining neighborhoods for Sunday School. We have no evidence of any contact between the black churches in the area and Redeemer in these early years.

Redeemer had its first permanent pastor in 1942 when Rev. Robert Evans Browning was assigned as its first pastor. Early in his tenure, the brick chapel and rectory on the current Dunrobbin site were built. Three years later in 1945, the church became established as an independent parish within the Episcopal Diocese of Washington.

The church continued to grow and suburban migration grew. The development of Bannockburn as a progressive cooperative housing development influenced the community and Redeemer. Bannockburn was one of the communities in Montgomery County that did not allow real estate covenants banning the sale of homes to black and Jewish people.

In 1960 when students from Howard University protested the segregation at the Glen Echo Amusement Park they were supported by residents of Glen Echo. Although Glen Echo was welcoming to black families, it never became a popular place for black families to live.

The Church of the Redeemer seems to have been influenced by the values of the community. Our committee's next steps are to investigate the attitudes and actions of our church in the civil rights movement of the 1960's. We will also be looking at the outreach activities of our congregation in modern times. We hope to make our congregation aware of its past so that we are ready to walk in justice toward our future.

Melinda Nelson
Toyin Rose
Karen Stewart

REDEEMER'S HISTORY

Timeline

The Church of the Redeemer established in 1903 in Glen Echo, MD

We wanted to look at what was happening in Glen Echo in 1903 to see the demographics and landscape

(Racial Composition – 1860/20 slave owning farmers in Bethesda/ In Maryland 38% black and about half were free)

1742 – Land grants to Beall/Magruder “Honesty”

Farming along the Potomac River - 1700s and 1800s tobacco

1852 500 acres purchased by Mr. Reading farmed in grapes, apples and pears

House at 44 Wellesley Circle, Glen Echo

Slave quarters at 42 Wellesley Circle

1861 - Ft. Sumner built/ in until 1865 to protect the Washington Aqueduct – near Little Falls Mall

1866 Barracks were rented out to small enclave of black families who were cooks, waiters for the road houses and worked on farms.

1870 – Glen Echo is a summer resort, Bobinger’s Hotel (over the bridge) with slot machines

1872 – first school for black children/levy on black property owners (not white) /one room schoolhouse between River Road and Conduit Road

1890 – purchased by Baltzley Brothers to develop land and create Glen Echo on the Potomac/reminded them of the Rhine River of their homeland

Trolley Line built

Chautauqua buildings built as a “permanent seat of culture”

1891 Chautauqua held – thousands attended adult education

Clara Barton buys land from Baltzley Brothers/publicity for their development

1900 – “Glen Echo is a quiet almost lifelike place” from Washington Post

1903 – summer visitors start “cottage services” in home of Salley Bogue so they don’t have to travel to DC for church/land donated/\$500 from St. Johns Norwood/ raised money by bake sales and minstrel shows.

1904 Town of Glen Echo incorporated/very strict rules/ Sabbath rules enforced “no pigs, wandering cows, no gambling”

1906 Amusement Park opened

1910 Bannockburn Golf Course opens

1915-late 1930s Brookmont/ the Conduit Road corridor is a “hot spot” with taverns, inns, beer joints, dance halls, gambling, fighting, occasional shootings. “A loud and busy area”

Jimmy LaFontaine, a renowned “extra-legal” gambler ran the Mohican Lodge in one of the Baltzley’s castles on Mohican Road /my Mom played with his daughter in 1937

Annie B. Lewis’s (later Sycamore Store) was the first inn to serve blacks.

1935 Redeemer sends bus to pick up children all around the area /150 Sunday school children /This is where my mother, Kim Barrett, met Dee Shoemaker (Dee Beilstein) on Shoemaker Hill near Brookmont.

1945 New Redeemer built on Dunrobbin

1946 Bannockburn – progressive community build by a cooperative in 1946 after buying the golf course. Involved in civil rights /one option for black families (4 in 1960); first black principal in Montgomery County / helped desegregate Glen Echo in 1960

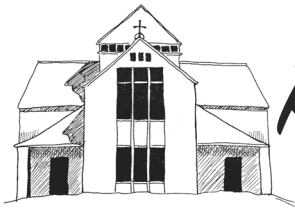
1960 – Montgomery County integrates schools. Black children finally entered Mont. County schools rather than be bused to DC.

1960 Glen Echo Park integrated/ On June 30, 1960, to draw attention to the park’s racial segregation, a “D.C. Non-Violent Action Group”, which students from the historically black Howard University led, organized an eleven-week civil rights campaign against the park’s policies. This involved a sit-in on the carousel.

1963 – Local residents started the Cabin John Home Study Preschool for black children /they met in the Cabin John Public Health Clinic. Susan Ingraham was the Monday teacher. They drove to pick up the children and “begged them to come”. “Berneice Dove was a great help. She had grown up in the area and gone through Clara Barton grammar school but had to bus to DC for high school.” “Redeemer Church on Dunrobbin Road had offered its all-purpose room for the winter session and had even painted the walls and produced some volunteers. Only 5 black children showed up, so the volunteers went around to white families and offered places for their children. One reason there were so few black children was that they were offered scholarships to the private daycare centers and nursery schools in Bethesda.

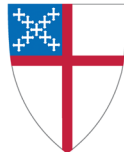
1966 On Easter Monday, 1966, the park’s roller coaster closed early after a cigarette thrown from a coaster car damaged its tracks.^[18] When park officials did not explain the reason for the closure, African Americans visiting from Washington became disruptive. As tensions flared, the park closed for the day, resulting in a mass exodus of approximately 6,000 customers.

Reports of slashed seats on the first bus returning to the city then prompted D.C. Transit to stop bus service to Glen Echo, stranding hundreds of people at the park. Vandalism occurred during long nighttime walks back to the city, adding to tensions in the communities surrounding the park.



The Episcopal Church Welcomes You

*Redeemer
Bethesda*



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

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

PARISH CLERGY & STAFF

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

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

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

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

The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer
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