

Redeemer Review

The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer
A caring community offering opportunities for spiritual growth
by knowing, loving and serving God through each other
December 2004 - January 2005

FROM THE VICAR

I bow the knee of the heart to all of you who made our service of Institution such a splendid success. Thanks to Sue Clark's excellent organization, our Altar Guild's superb decoration, Liz Chiarolla's exceptional flowers, Bob Burton's magnificent movie, and all who gifted us with their presence, it was a service we can long remember. I have heard nothing but praises. What stood out for me was the welcome extended to our guests. Many said that they wanted to come back and worship with us on a regular Sunday. If the service of Institution does indeed define us institutionally, then I would say we've lived up to our Mission of being a community that "knows, loves and serves God through each other." Hospitality is perhaps the most basic truth of our faith. Thank you for being such spreaders of God's love!

We're new in other ways as well. Ordinary time has come to an end. Year C passes back to Year A and once again, it is Advent. Christmas is coming. As the days grow shorter and colder, we're lighting another candle each Sunday. Light and darkness are basic to human experience and the holidays by their very intensity raise more than the usual number of questions: about families, about gratitude, about what we're really celebrating. The good news is that these are the very questions God wants us to ask. God sent his only son into the midst of our own troubled human family to give us what we really want. So bring all your questions with you as we worship together. Here's our schedule of services.

- Dec 5th Guest preacher and very good friend Rev. Richard Schaper will help us consider gifts
Dec 12th Bring a friend Sunday! Both services will feature an Instructed Eucharist and show your friends the best a faith community has to offer. This Sunday is also called the *Gaudete*, a time of joy, when we light not a purple, but a pink candle; also "Stirrup" Sunday, when the collect "Stir up your power, O Lord" was used as an excuse to go horseback riding after Church.
- Dec 19th The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Dec 24th FRIDAY: CHRISTMAS PAGEANT!!!!
Dec 25th Christmas Morning Service @ 10:00. You can come in pajamas, bring your presents and celebrate at God's house.
Dec 26th Regular Service Schedule.

Come to as much or as little of this as you wish. And remember to take care of yourselves, for you, no less than the Holy Family are the beloved children of God. Some suggestions for Advent can be found on the Youth and Family page.

Blessings,

Rev. Carol

Rev. Carol Luther

WORSHIP NOTES (from the Vicar)

Advent is the first season of the Church Year. A season of reflection, Advent is more penitential than Ordinary Time, but less penitential than Lent. A friend described it as like what you do when you are waiting for a baby. When a woman is pregnant, she lives at once joyfully and carefully. Advent calls us to do the same. Who is this baby we await? Are we ready to welcome God in the world? What really brings us joy? At a time when there is more darkness than light and too much excitement leads all too easily to hurt, we are wise to pay attention to our feelings. Some people keep a simple fast during Advent, or practice a daily discipline of prayer and Bible study, or save part of their allowance to give to the poor.

Musically, the season of Advent calls for simplicity; the Gloria is not sung during Advent, the Alleluias are muted. **At Kids' Church**, we'll be putting the tambourines away and singing a quiet song of farewell so that when Christmas comes we'll be good and ready to make an even greater joyful noise. Although the Episcopal Church urges us not to sing Christmas songs until Christmas, they will begin to creep into Kids' Church in December, so watch out for them! Our stories will ask, "What do we really want?"

At 10:30, instead of the Gloria, we'll be singing a Trisagion (S102), literally, a "three part action" asking God for mercy. This setting is by the Russian composer Archangelsky and has a wintry mystery in keeping with the season. The rest of the service will be the "Missa Emmanuel" by Richard Proulx, which sets the familiar words of the Eucharist to the familiar song "O Come O Come Emmanuel" to create something new. This is music that can be picked up easily and will hopefully highlight the season.

Christmas will erupt in all our favorite and familiar carols. I'll be putting out request cards in the narthex again so we won't miss your favorites!

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

"Through the Wardrobe Door" and "Wizards and Wonder Wonders" will be taking a break for Christmas!

LAST WARDROBE SESSION FOR 2004 will be Tuesday, Dec. 7th

WIZARDS AND WONDERS ends on Tuesday, Dec. 14th.

CLASSES WILL START AGAIN with Wardrobe on Jan 11th and Wizards on Jan 18th.

Second Semester will run until Spring Break.

We will Re-register and Collect \$25 Materials Fee.

REGISTRATION/REPLY.

Child's Name & Grade _____

Parent's Name _____

Address _____

Daytime Telephone _____

Payment enclosed?

Pay later?

REFLECTIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS

When you read this, you will have had your fill of Thanksgiving food and are in pre-Christmas mode. In the Episcopal Church we are in the Season of Advent, and that is time for reflection. Here are some of mine.

I am writing the day after Rev. Carol's Installation (we put her in her place!)

I'm tired and thankful for all the hard work of the youth and Eucharistic Ministers who served. Much of what each of them did they had never done before, and you wouldn't have known it to watch them.

A big part of my ministry at Redeemer has been to be coordinator of acolytes and Eucharistic Ministers. Thus, I KNOW their quality work would be evident though they were "learning on the job".

Our lay leaders are a terrific group -

REMEMBER TO THANK THEM WHEN THEY SERVE!

Another piece of my ministry is to formulate the Congregation Cycle of Prayer and the Prayers of the People. Today, I will put together the beginning of the third year of our Congregational Cycle. Can it be that long?

It's amazing how time flies when you're having fun!

I came to Redeemer at the end of August 2001 as a Deacon-in-Training. Reflections: So much has changed in that time. I'm thankful for all those who have been a part of my training; some of you even unaware that our interactions have been a part of my growth as a Deacon. It was good to have Barbara, Jeremy, and Mary at Carol's installation to show the unbroken growth of the congregation.

Thanksgivings: So much of what is done inside the church walls now has terrific clergy and lay leadership. With this solid foundation, we can do no more and no less than to share our worship inside the building with new people - and no more and no less than to share our bounty with our neighbors, whoever they may be.

In Christ,
Deacon Julie

DAY OF DISCOVERY - JANUARY 22ND

This is a day in which to discover your ministry in the Episcopal Church. It will help you begin a simple process of discernment that will affirm what you do every day is ministry, as well as open new avenues of service.

It will be held at St. Bede's Episcopal Church, 2650 San Hill Road, Menlo Park, between 9 AM and 4 PM. Cost is \$30. Brochures are available in church or you can contact the Rev. Sylvia Sweeney (510) 366-8645 or the Ven. Dorothy Jones, (415) 869-7810 for more information.

YOUTH AND FAMILY NEWS: Advent Special

The season leading toward Christmas is a time of both excitement and total meltdown. Here are some tips to make it memorable and turn stress into blessings.

1. **For Kids and Youth:** Try and remember what you were dying for last Christmas. Did it live up to your wildest dreams? Are you even sure you remember what it was?
2. **For Everyone:** One night at dinner, share with your family or friends what was the most memorable Christmas in your life. What made it so wonderful?
3. **For Children:** Make hay for the manger. Take a box and decorate it like a manger. For every kind deed you do, you're entitled to put a strand of straw in the box. Try and make a really comfortable bed for the Christ Child when he comes.
4. **For Adults:** Commit an outrageous act of kindness. Give \$20 to the first person who asks. Take your children on a walk in the woods and teach them the names of the trees.
5. **Speaking of Trees**, a Jesse Tree is a wonderful homemade Advent Calendar. In Advent we read the prophet Isaiah. One of his most famous sayings is:

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

To learn God's wisdom, we take a bare branch and turn it into the Tree of Life with God's stories. To find out what stories decorate the Jesse Tree, go to http://www.domestic-church.com/index.dir/index_fridge.htm or <http://www.cresourcei.org/jesse.html>

6. **For Everyone:** Make cards with messages of God's love and hope and take them to a Convalescent Hospital. Chances are, they'll let you sing carols to the Residents.
7. **For Parents:** Don't worry! The magic of Christmas lies not in perfection, neither in Nutcrackers nor Cracked Nuts, but in letting go and letting God's mystery touch your heart. Come to Church. We specialize in seasons like this.

FLOATING FRIDAY, 12/10 @ Heritage Clubhouse, 7-9 PM

Bring a small wrapped gift (\$5-10), and something for the poor.

Other floating Fridays are 1/7 & 21.

FROM THE TREASURER

2004 EXPENSES

Expenses, for which you desire reimbursement, need to be turned in by December 15th.

They can be placed in the offering plate.

Thank you,
Linda Fox

STEWARDSHIP

"The employment or use of one's time, talents and possessions"

Have you made your 2005 pledge?

Will you make a pledge today?

Pledge cards available at the church.

SERVICE & EVENT CALENDAR

SUNDAY SERVICES

9.15 Kids' Church for children and their families

10.30 Holy Communion with music

(Healing prayers are offered at end of each service)

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY
11 - NOON

End of November

24 SERVICES OF THANKSGIVING
@ NOON AND SIX PM

28 Advent begins!

"No Turkey" party for youth

30 Homeless Chaplaincy Dinner

December 2004

- 1 Women's Spirituality
- 2 Lunch Bunch @ noon
- 5 Rev. Schaper at Redeemer
- 8 MOM'S in motion @ 9
Book Club @ noon
- 10 Floating Friday @ Heritage Club House.
- 12 Decorate Christmas Tree
Invite a Friend Sunday

Eat at Chevy's - they will donate
20% to Redeemer!

- 15 Women's Spirituality
- 17 Parents Night Out, 6-9.30 pm
PLUS High School Overnight
- 20 Preschool Board @ 6.30 pm
- 21 Bishop's Committee @ 7 pm
- 24 Christmas Eve Pageant
- 25 Christmas Day
ONE SERVICE @ 10 am
(PJ'S are OK)

January 2005

- 5 Women's Spirituality
- 6 Lunch Bunch @ noon
- 7 Floating Friday
- 9 High School Meeting
- 12 MOM'S in motion @ 9
Book Club @ noon
- 17 MARTIN LUTHER KING
holiday, office closed
- 21 Floating Friday
- 22 Outdoor Work Day at the church
- 22 A DAY OF DISCOVERY
For all who seek to grow in their
ministry and spirituality, a full
vocations conference for all the
faithful!
- 30 CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING
ONE SERVICE + BRUNCH

February 2005

- 5 Bishop's Committee Retreat

March 2005

- 5 THE MUSER'S BALL!!!!

OUTREACH

Family to Family Program:

Please consider making this Christmas extra special for some children and adults in our community who are in need of a little help. Choose a gift from the wish list our families have given us.

Look for the list at church.

Any questions, call Linda Fox 453-9412

Homeless Chaplaincy: THANK YOU to everyone who cooked, set up or cleaned up for the dinner on November 30th.

Starcross:

Support Starcross this Season by buying wreaths or dried fruit gifts. You can order online at www.starcross.com.

Do you save aluminum cans, plastic bottles and wine bottles for Redeemer?

Anything that has a recycle surcharge on it + wine bottles will be sold and the money sent to support the children suffering from Aids in both Sonoma County and in Kenya.

Place your donations in the marked containers behind the church. THANKS!

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Calling All Stars...Angels,
Shepherds, etc.

In our annual holiday tradition, we will once again perform the Christmas Pageant at 6:00 pm on Christmas Eve. We are actively recruiting all interested children who would like to participate in this memorable and enjoyable production.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Liz Chiarolla at 415-256-9396, or send an email at chiarolla@comcast.net

Cast assignments and the rehearsal schedule will be provided in the next couple of weeks.

AN INVITATION TO CHANGE THINGS

"Vocation happens when our greatest gifts touch the world's greatest need."

-Parker Palmer

In the New Year, I would like to join with you in thinking about a transformative part of our faith journey: how we can best reach out to others. This may sound obvious, but finding a ministry of outreach that is a good, right and joyful thing involves a great deal of thought and prayer. Too often, it becomes simply one more activity on our calendars or one more financial obligation or confusing our own agendas with the mission of the Church rather than a chance to live out God's promise.

Therefore, I would like to spend a year of discernment with a small group in prayer, searching the scriptures and deep listening to see if we can hear where God is calling us.

We will meet informally, about once a month at a time and place we like. If you are interested, it will be worth your time. Let me know.

In a similar vein, I'd like to meet about four times a year with people who care about worship. Worship, too, is an important social ministry. Worship is where others meet us. Good worship feeds the hunger of the soul.

Carol Luther

ANNUAL MEETING

Will be held on January 30th

One Single service at 10 AM,
followed by
Annual Meeting and Brunch
Hear the state of our church,
Vote for new Bishop's Committee
members

To have communion brought to you please call
Julie Jensen, 924-2073

REDEEMER LUNCH BUNCH

December 2nd and January 6th
12 to 1 in the church

- Everyone is welcome.
- Bring your own sandwich (bag lunch)
- Coffee and tea provided

Questions? Call Betty Baird - 457-8543

WEDNESDAY'S WOMEN

Hostess provides drinks and dessert. **Attendees should bring a sandwich and RSVP to hostess each month.**

December 1st - Hostesses: Carol Luther and Julie Jensen @ church. Book is Pompeii by Robert Harris.
January 12th - Book and location: to be announced.

CONGREGATIONAL CYCLE OF PRAYER

December 5 - We pray for all of our families who are reaching out to share Christmas joy with families in need.

December 12 - We pray for a blessed Christmas for all the families who have received our gifts this year.

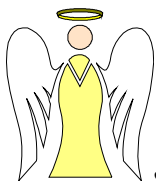
December 19 - We give thanks for the adult leaders who are devoting time to our children and directing the Christmas Pageant.

December 26 - We pray for good health for all our members in the New Year.

DEADLINE for February is January 15th.

Articles received after that date may not be included until following issue.

Please email articles to sueclarkca@aol.com



SAINTS AND ANGELS

From time to time we remember those who ascend slightly above to hover for a while and buff their halos.

Nick Clark and Rick Skubecz for replacing shingles on the shed roof (in between showers) recently.

Everyone who worked at the clean up day in November - and also those who provided a wonderful soup and sandwich lunch.

ANNIVERSARIES

12/28 Robert & Aletha Ruiz (1981)
1/18 Jim & Terri Leinsteiner (1986)

BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER

2 Stephanie Ortega- Kennison
3 Aletha Rae Ruiz
5 Elizabeth Fox '88
7 Steve Zolezzi
8 Gregory Poulos
6 Kit Culleton
10 Rudy Erler
11 Gina Chiarolla '97
13 Easton English
13 Julie Cassettari
14 Tina Meyers
18 Jon Nakamura
23 Holly Kaufman
25 Catherine Fox '89
30 Ruthann Muller
31 Nick Lituano

JANUARY

2 George Tuttle
2 Susan Providenza '95
3 Megan Botel
10 Nick Clark
10 Billie Barbash
11 Janis Mahoney
12 Andrew Luiz
12 Ella Gerlach '99
16 Jay Luther
18 Alexandra Thomason '94
18 Meg Nakamura '97
20 Amanda Jane Ruiz '86
24 Linda Fox
27 Lisa Meyers

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123 Knight Drive, San Rafael, CA 94901
Fax & Phone 415-456-0508

www.redeemermarin.org

Vicar	Rev. Carol Luther	456-2524
Deacon	Rev. Julie Jensen	924-2073
Senior Warden	Kelly Mason	459-1733
Junior Warden	Rick Skubecz	482-0731
Clerk	Cindy Poulos	248-0960
Treasurer	Linda Fox	453-9412
Altar Guild	Ann Zolezzi	454-4337
Musician	Jay Wayne	897-0221



Parents' Night Out

Friday, December 17th

6:00 - 9:30 PM

Bring your children to Redeemer and enjoy a quiet evening or go to the movies or shop for surprises. We'll have pizza and ice cream and movies and fun, all provided by our high school group. Cost is only \$20/child. Proceeds benefit Alaska Trip.

Registration is required.

Child(ren)'s Name(s) _____

Your Name _____

Church of the Redeemer
123 Knight Drive
San Rafael, CA 94901

Address Correction Requested