



# Redeemer Review

## The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

### July – August, 2008

#### From our Interim Vicar:

Dear Friends,

How often people today cry out in exasperation or despair, “I just don’t have enough time!” There is so much to do: earn a living, fulfill a vocation, nurture relationships, care for dependents, get some exercise, clean the house. Moreover, we hope to maintain sanity while doing all this, and to keep growing as faithful and loving people at the same time. We are finite, and the demands seem too great, the time too short.

The historic practice of setting aside one day a week for rest and worship promises peace to those who embrace it. Whether we know the term Sabbath or not, we the harried citizens of our age yearn for the reality. We need Sabbath, even though we doubt that we have time for it.

Unfortunately, we often have a false sense of busyness, a feeling that we have to do things all the time. Our standard of greeting one another is: “I am so busy!” We say this with pride as if our ability to withstand stress is the mark of real character. The busier we are – the more important we feel. And, to become busy has become the model of the successful life.

After six days of creating the world, God rested. After each act of creation, God stood back, rested and called it good. The Sabbath invites us to stand back, so that we can give thanks for the blessings of our life. The Sabbath invites us to see good and to see God. Also, the Sabbath invites us to rest.

God gives us a day of rest; God gives us a rhythm of rest. Rest is essential to our life, as necessary as air. Without rest, we cannot have the energy we need for life. When we rest, we show one another and the world that we rely on God’s promises and not just our own efforts, our own actions. When we rest, we open ourselves up to the unexpected grace of God. When we rest, we open ourselves up to experiencing joy, play and the presence of God.

After our Sunday service, what many of us need most is time with loved ones—not useful time, for planning next week’s schedule’s, but time “wasted” on the pleasure of being together, perhaps while sharing a meal or our enjoyment of art, nature, or sports. For others, and for all of us at certain points in our lives, hours of solitude beckon, hours for sleep, reading, reflection, walking, prayer and meditation.

This summer, take some time to rest and become aware of the beauty of God’s presence in our world.

Blessings!

Father Mark

## Senior Warden's Letter

This past month a Memorial Service was held at Redeemer for Father Jack Schanhaar. Father Jack was our Vicar from 1986 to August of 1996.

I have just completed reading the words written to Father Jack by parishioners for a memory book which was given to him on his retirement. At the end of his life he had few "possessions" and I am moved that he held on to this book - and grateful to his friends for returning it to our church.

I have just finished reading through the book - memories and emotions occasionally brought me to tears. The words of parishioners included...

*You found us dispirited and despondent but your Spiritualism lifted us up and put us back on the road to Christ and gave us the courage to move on. We have rediscovered not only our own love of the Church and of each other but also the strength and energy to share that love with an ever increasing circle of the community, in many ways, some old, some new.*

It was Father Jack who encouraged us to sell the McNear Mansion (then our Parish Hall) where we rented space to a private preschool and to take over the preschool and run it ourselves as a mission to the community. He helped us take concrete steps to serve our community in and out of the church. He was adored by children and adults alike, and was there for our congregation in all times - births, baptisms, deaths, sicknesses, hard times and good. He quietly guided us through it all.

Beyond Redeemer, Jack leaves a legacy of Benedictine Retreats at the Bishop's Ranch. It was Father Jack who introduced me to the Ranch where we held several annual Bishop's Committee retreats. It was he who taught me to slow down and work on my spiritual growth.

As we wrote in the forward of his memory book:

*It seems like yesterday.. but it has been a decade already! (two decades at the time of his death)  
You have touched and enriched our lives in so many ways . . . listening, teaching, your spirituality, the creche service, baptisms and burials performed with love and dignity, memorable bbq's and hors d'oeuvres, shared learning, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Bishop's Committee retreats, our own Redeemer Preschool . . . and much, much more.*

I would like to direct you to the podium at the back of the church where we have the Memory Book so that our members of the community may learn more about the life of Father Jack. Also, there are photographs there that

tell some of the important history of Redeemer.

In thankful memory,

Sue Clark, Sr. Warden

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### The Search Process – July 2008

This will be a monthly column that will appear in the Redeemer Review to keep you informed about the search process for a permanent vicar at Church of the Redeemer.

Our Interim Vicar, the Rev. Mark Ruyak, led a retreat for the Bishop's Committee based on the model of Appreciative Inquiry at the beginning of May to explore the blessings of Church of the Redeemer community. The Bishop's Committee discerned three Positive Core Values for the Redeemer community:

- 1.) Inclusive/Accepting – Whoever you are, and wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here.
- 2.) Committed to serving youth and children.
- 3.) Warm, welcoming and caring community.

The work that we did on that day will be useful when the time comes to prepare the parish profile.

The Bishop's Committee will be meeting with Michael Barlowe in the middle of July.

Our first step is the formation of the search committee for the permanent vicar.

We are seeking individuals who would like to serve as committee members for this ministry. Members will need to be able to dedicate a certain amount of time to meetings (in committee and with our congregation for a town forum), writing of parish profile, preparation of interview questions for candidates and interviews with candidates. The committee will also travel to other churches to attend services where candidates are celebrating/preaching. In addition, the committee will spend time in prayer and discernment.

I expect that the process will be a rewarding and fulfilling spiritual journey for those who serve on this important committee.

It is important that our search committee reflects all the various demographics of our community and includes members from both our Sunday services.

If you have a desire to serve on this committee or would like to know more about it, please contact me by July 10 at (415) 454-4115 or email at [SueClarkCA@aol.com](mailto:SueClarkCA@aol.com).



**JULY BIRTHDAYS**

- 3 Mollie Taylor
- 7 Sierra Kennison
- 16 Molly Skubecz
- 17 Alessandra Lituanio
- 23 Aaron Chiarolla
- 23 Christie Clark
- 24 Nicolas Cassettari
- 24 Joan Westmoreland
- 25 Cari Gerlach
- 30 Griffin English
- 30 Larry Smilie

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

- 4 Wayne Kirk
- 7 Robin Wythe Jereb
- 6 Dustin Joseph Ruiz
- 18 Julie Godbold
- 18 Iris Ross
- 20 Jeff English
- 24 Chuck Wood



**JULY ANNIVERSARIES**

- 7 Mario & Nellie Pamatmat 1961
- 16 John & Sue Oranje 1983

**AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

- 15 Steve & Ann Zolezzi 1964
- 17 Greg & Cindy Poulos 1986
- 20 Wayne & Cathy Kirk 1966



Belated congratulations to these two young people who also graduated this year!

From 5th Grade: Erica Johnson.

From college: Candace Ritter, from Sonoma State.

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**WEDNESDAY WOMEN’S BOOKCLUB**

The hostess provides drinks and dessert. Attendees should bring a sandwich and RSVP to the hostess each month.

July 9<sup>th</sup>: *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim*, by David Sedaris; at Sue Clark’s home (454-4115) at noon.

August 13<sup>th</sup>: *Water for Elephants*, by Sara Gruen; at Betty Baird’s home (457-8543) at noon.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

Save Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>!

Watch/Listen for announcements in church and by e-mail about the upcoming Church and Pre-School’s “Flea Market” Rummage Sale and Bake Sale.

Spaces will be available for rent, so be prepared to bring all your saleable “goodies” to benefit both the church and pre-school!

Offers of delicious baked goods will also be gratefully accepted!



## SAINTS AND ANGELS

Every now and then we pause to thank those people in our church who have gone that "extra mile" to make Redeemer a better place:

Elliott Blank for pressure washing and then staining the overhang that surrounds the church - an incredible gift of time and energy. It took many days to complete.

Cindy Smith for stepping up to take on the task of weekly watering of our plants during the summer.

Cody and Elliott Blank for re-assembling the "mower" shed after yet another windstorm blew it apart. This time additional engineering and additional screws may defeat future storms!

Ann Zolezzi for donating the extra time and skill needed to produce the service bulletin for the memorial for Father Jack Schanhaar.

ALL those parishioners and friends of Father Jack who brought such wonderful food for the reception that followed the service. (Truly appropriate when honoring a man who always brought the most amazing food to every event!)

Mary Sparks and Eileen Erler for kick-starting the plans for a Labor Day weekend camping/rafting outing.

Sue Clark for severely trimming back plants on the south side of the church - 3 garbage cans filled!

Father Mark for planning and leading the Bishop's Committee retreat held on May 3rd.

Redeemer's Bishop's Committee members, for investing a Saturday to work for the benefit of our church. Thanks also to their family members who made this possible.

(If there's someone in the community whom you think should be recognized for their contribution to the life of Redeemer, please let me know! Contact Cathy Kirk - 457-3841.)

*With the departure of Sallie (and Chuck) Wood from San Rafael (and therefore from the altar guild) to their new home in Sonoma County, we have asked our most recent new member, Eileen Erler, to share some of her thoughts in hopes of enticing new members to our small but oh-so-essential group -*

## A few thoughts on being on the Altar Guild from Eileen Erler

Serving on the Altar Guild has allowed me to learn more about the details of the seasons of the church and to work with a great group of women who are very committed to making sure the services move along smoothly. Much of our work is done behind the scenes and it has given me more appreciation for all that goes into planning for all services.

I actually enjoy the quiet of being in the church alone or with one other person as we prepare the church for upcoming Sunday services. It can actually be a spiritual experience in itself to be in this peaceful, religious setting without interruptions.

It is a job that can be easily fit into one's busy schedule as there are quite a few days and times you can choose from to get the job done and we do a bit of Sunday switching to accommodate vacations or other activities/plans. Please consider joining our Altar Guild and we will welcome you with open arms!

If you are interested, or need more information, please contact our current directress, Ann Zolezzi, at 454-4337.

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## **Be A Habitual Miracle Maker**

"This is the beginning of a new day. You have been given this day to use as you will. You can waste it or use it for good. What you do today is important because you are exchanging a day of your life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever, in its place is something that you have left behind...let it be something good." -- (Author Unknown)

If you would like each day to be a miracle, then begin each one with this little prayer: "Please, God, show me what I might do to make this day different. Please guide me to do what will make this day the best day possible."

Then listen for the answer and respond accordingly. Soon, miracles will be a daily habit.

May you always understand that each day is a gift, wrapped in a sunrise and filled with miracles.



**2008 Camping and Rafting Trip**  
**Labor Day Weekend**

**Come Raft the South Fork of the American River and Camp with Your Redeemer Family**

Dates: Saturday, August 30 to Monday, September 1

Place: Black Oak Stumpy Meadows Campground

Rafting: We have reserved 12 spaces with All Outdoors Rafting Company for rafting on the lower section of the American River. This section starts slow and builds up to class 3 rapids at the end of the day. The trip starts at 11:15, includes lunch and will end late afternoon. Kids must be 8 years old and everyone must be able to swim.

Cost: Rafting costs \$113.33 per person with the special group discount to be paid directly to All Outdoors. To reserve your places, call All Outdoors at 800-247-2387 and ask to be added to the Erler Trip. Call **ASAP** as these spaces do fill up quickly!. Be sure to ask about their cancellation policy and travel insurance if interested. Be sure to inform them if you have food allergies, any physical problems or a torso larger than 52". You must ask for the "Erler Trip" to get this good discount.

Camping costs: \$7 per person for the weekend, when you sign up—by mail or at church. We will plan a group dinner for Saturday and Sunday nights—more information will follow.

It is fine if you just want to camp with us or just river raft (stay at a nearby motel and meet us Sunday am, Aug. 31st. for the one day rafting trip South Fork American River (Lower "gorge" section)

Questions? Call Eileen Erler – 456-7255.



**Kids' Karnival**

We're gearing up for the tenth annual Kids' Karnival on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, from Noon to 7pm. There will be games, prizes, food, fun and of course a few new surprises! This year Kids' Karnival will again feature our talented neighbor-hood musicians and singers (young and not so old), with a repeat concert of their Beatles Service performance.

We will have all the usual stuff: a 22 foot Giant Slide, Jumps and a Bounce just for our littlest ones. It will be a great day of fun, fundraising and just hanging out with friends and neighbors. We will again be grilling juicy burgers, hot dogs, BBQ Korean Spare Ribs and Teriyaki Chicken, both at the Karnival and by pre-paid meals. Also, don't forget to enjoy a nice glass of wine or an icy cold beer from the tap, while you're at it!

The Steering Committee has lots of great ideas and plenty of enthusiasm, but we still need your help. We are again asking for sponsorships of the food, and rental items. We also need plenty of volunteers for set-up, the food court, clean-up at the end of the day and to Adopt-A-Booth and staff it for the day. There are plenty of volunteer opportunities available and we are very generous with School or College Application-required volunteer hours. (Remember, we give double hours for clean-up!)

As in past years, the Adopt-A-Booth Chair will oversee the set-up, arrange for staffing and clean-up of their booth on the day of the Karnival. As always, kids are welcome to help. Middle School and High School students can work alone. Those younger must work with a parent.

If you'd like to donate or volunteer you can call Billie Barbash at 459-2303 or email [billie.barbash@comcast.net](mailto:billie.barbash@comcast.net). There will be sign-up sheets at the Church later this summer.

So mark your calendars and tell your neighbors and friends to come and be a part of the Tenth Annual Kids' Karnival!

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**OUTREACH**

Please watch for announcements about our forthcoming project for Ritter Center's back-to-school program of providing new backpacks for disadvantaged youth as they head back to school in late August!



## The Bishop's Ranch County Fair and Diocesan Picnic

Come for an exciting day in the county with Bishop Marc Andrus and retired Bishop William Swing to dedicate the William and Mary Swing Hospitality Pavilion, an environmentally friendly, straw-bale building. **Bring a picnic lunch** to enjoy on the grounds, along with

- organic pie contest with samples for the crowd
- organic Straus Family Creamery ice cream
- Cajun/Zydeco dance band
- carriage and pony rides
- petting zoo
- animal exhibits
- fun games
- paper hat making and face painting
- land conservation and animal rescue booths
- organic local garden produce for sale
- Bishop's Ranch cookbooks for sale

If you would like to enter and donate a home baked organic pie, contact Bridget Gleason, [bridget.gleason@comcast.net](mailto:bridget.gleason@comcast.net). Bridget will provide you with contest details and an entry form. [Click to download bulletin inserts for congregations.](#)

**When: July 5, 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Where: [The Bishop's Ranch](#), Healdsburg**

**Contact: Sarah McGowan, 707.433.2440x105**

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### FROM THE DIOCESE

Phone calls have been coming in from members of an East Bay parish who are in the midst of capital campaign and have heard from fellow members about the advantages of making their gift with shares of stock instead of cash. By donating stock, their fellow parishioners point out, they bypass capital gains taxes on the eventual sale of the stock, and they still get the same income tax deduction on the full value of the shares at the time they are transferred.

It is only mysterious if you haven't yet done it. Donating stock or mutual fund shares is simple to do and

can save you on taxes. If your parish does not yet have a brokerage account set up to receive such gifts, you can do it through the diocesan account and the proceeds will be transferred to your parish.

Things to keep in mind in donating mutual fund or stock shares:

- ✓ Request your investment representative to transfer the shares IN KIND into the church's account. This transfer out of your account may require your faxed signature.
- ✓ In the church's account, the shares will be sold TAX-FREE.
- ✓ ALWAYS let the church know IN ADVANCE how many of what shares you are donating, so that your gift will be properly credited. (Unlike your luggage, your shares do not have your name on them. Unless you tell your church, your shares may not be identified as belonging to you.)
- ✓ If you have questions, call Richard at the Gift Planning Office (415) 869-7812.

Once you discover the financial advantages of giving stock in place of cash, you may wish to open a Donor Advised Fund (DAF). A DAF (Episcopal Charities has one) lets you liquidate stock tax-free to use for all your charitable giving. For a brochure, contact the Gift Planning Officer.

So before you write a check, consider whether you can make this gift with stock. Your after-tax gift may be larger than you could have made with cash—and more satisfying. Smarter giving empowers generosity, and generosity is divine.

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