



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

May, 2004



Greetings to all of you in this Easter Season! I feel both honored and excited to have been called as your vicar and I am looking forward to beginning our new life together in June. In the meantime, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you a little about me.

A native of Berkeley, California, I left the Bay Area only briefly to attend college at Scripps in Claremont, where I received a degree in Classical literature and mythology. I did two years of graduate work at Cal Berkeley in Comparative Literature during which time I met and married husband Jay. We moved to Marin County in 1975. In the early 1980's, I did two years' work in Russian studies, and it was on a trip to the Soviet Union in 1981 that I experienced my call to the religious life. Still, much time would pass before that call was to be fulfilled, as the years were taken up with raising our daughter Jenny, being shaped by a faith community as a regular churchgoer, and working at Guide Dogs for the Blind as a fundraiser, volunteer coordinator, school field trip program developer and puppy lover. During the 1980's and early 1990's, I became active in the Marin Cursillo Community, was a member of the first Lay Eucharistic Minister training class, served as a Sunday School director and lay catechist and studied patient care with Hospice of Marin. Finally, in 1994, I began seminary studies at Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley. In my three years there, while enjoying excellent academic courses, I attended the Excellence in Preaching Conference sponsored by the Episcopal Evangelism Foundation, worked with children at Cathedral School for Boys, cancer patients at Mt. Zion and prisoners at San Francisco County Jail. I received my M.Div. degree in 1997. My first callings were at the Cathedral School for Boys as Assistant Chaplain where I developed a community service program and at St. Stephen's, Belvedere where I served as Director of Christian Education and started "Middle Earth," a youth group for Middle School Students. After my ordination in 1999, I joined St. Paul's Oakland as school chaplain and Associate to the Rector. At St. Paul's School, I developed a spirituality curriculum for students of all faiths, built an outreach to Muslim students after 9/11 and published research on spiritual education. At the Church, I developed a children's worship service and helped to start a facilities master plan. My greatest gift, however, was when the Church and School, after a long season of strained relations, discovered their common mission.

As one whose ministry is grounded in the deep personal experience of Christ's work of reconciliation, resurrection and prayer, there is probably no aspect of ministry that I do not treasure. Worship, music, preaching, teaching, prayer, baptisms, weddings, funerals, overnights with the youth group, hospital visits, Holy Week, community events, community service, balancing the budget -- all of these can be, in the words of the Catechism, "outward and visible signs of an inward and spiritual grace." A parish is a scared neighborhood where people of diverse generations, cultures, abilities, orientations, interests and ideas can meet and enrich one another with their wisdom.

Recently, I completed two years of Tibetan Buddhist studies with Tse Chen Ling Tibetan Buddhist Center. I love dogs, hiking, music, writing, computers, Alaska, music, sea stories and history. I'm still reading a little Russian.

Most importantly, I look forward to meeting all of you, hearing of your lives, hopes, dreams and stories, and discovering how our unique community expresses and celebrates its shared life of faith.

In Christ,
Rev. Carol Luther

LETTER FROM THE BISHOP'S COMMITTEE

April 15, 2004

Dear Mother Mary,

On behalf of our entire congregation, the Bishop's Committee thanks you for your extraordinary service as our interim Vicar.

We know that you have chosen to serve the Episcopal community as an interim Vicar and that, having filled that role many times, you are well aware that each congregation has different spiritual and leadership needs during the often difficult period of transition. What you may not fully know, however, is just how blessed our Church, Church of the Redeemer, was to have you as our interim Vicar. We want you to know.

You came to Church of the Redeemer following the retirement of Father Jeremy. His were difficult shoes to fill. Our congregational life centers around the Kid's Church service that Father Jeremy brought to life together with the leadership of Billie Barbash and others. That service has done more to energize the Church than any other single act. It has also raised tremendous expectations.

Many of our children had their first exposure to Church and Christian beliefs during a Kid's Church service. As a result they had the full hearted and exuberant love and admiration for Father Jeremy that comes so easily to children. That love found expression in the way they flocked to him when he invited them forward and in how many children took up the call to join the Alter Guild. Our adult members also loved Father Jeremy. Through Kid's Church he brought not only children, but whole families into the congregation. He led classes in Christian education and he helped many of us to learn the value of giving and the worth of the less fortunate through his mission to reach out to the homeless. This background, we hope, gives you some idea of the mantle that you were quietly asked to bear as our Congregation began its search for a new Permanent Vicar.

You have worn the mantle with magnificence. Our children have come to love you; we love you. Why? You have about you an air of grace, beauty, love and understanding. It isn't a single thing you have said, a single act or sermon, a single gesture or quiet word; it is all of these and much more. You truly exemplify to us the very best that a Vicar can be.

We have watched with admiration the way you have spoken with our children and encouraged them. We have listened during our services as you have gently listened and received our prayers and taken them as your own. We have felt the gentleness of your touch in greeting us, blessing us and delivering to us the blood and body of Christ. We have learned from you as you brought to us the words and wisdom of the Bible and your own experiences. In your own way, and through your own gifts, you have touched us in all our senses and, in so doing, you have entered our hearts forever.

Our congregation has selected its new Permanent Vicar, and in so doing we must say good-bye to you as our interim Vicar. As much as we look forward to our new Vicar's arrival, we also regret that we will no longer have the joy of your presence among us.

In our parting we hope only this: that you know that the life of our congregation has forever been enriched by the time you have spent with us. As you move forward in your next mission and take some well deserved personal time, please take with you the knowledge that you are special, unique, gifted and greatly loved by all of us. Please know that you will be missed.

God Bless you.

LETTER FROM THE DEACON

As I write this, we have heard the good news of our new vicar, the Rev. Carol Luther; yet it is not yet Easter. That Good News, of the resurrection of our Saviour, will still be celebrated when you read this, as our Easter Season continues through May, culminating in the glorious Day of Pentecost, May 30.

During this month, we at Redeemer are in a position of transition. We have said a fond farewell to our wonderful interim vicar, the Rev. Mary Atwood. She was a terrific guide as we went through the search process during these past nine months. Her gentle strength and spirituality enveloped us all, and we grew as a congregation under her leadership. We are truly a community of love in Christ, and our new vicar will be blessed with the joy we share.

This month I will be meeting each Sunday evening with seven youth who have chosen to be confirmed in June. It is very exciting to have seven who are ready to re-affirm their Baptismal Covenant. As infants, many were baptized, and their parents agreed on the covenant for them. Now they will be standing up and saying their covenants among many who will be confirmed with them in June.

Our Episcopal Church is headed by a bishop, *episkopos* being Greek for "the bishop". So our seven young confirmands and four adults who are either being received from other faith traditions or being confirmed themselves, will go to Grace Cathedral on June 12 at 11 am. There Bishop Swing will confirm them along with members of some other congregations in our Diocese. Carol will be with the confirmands, and Mary plans to attend also. All of our confirmands' families and mentors will be in attendance.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

This is an event you will want to attend.

Kelly has asked that I serve as Clergy-in-charge during the month of May. This will include the confirmation classes and mid-week Bible study. I have been in contact with supply priests who will be with us on Sundays. In addition, I AM HERE FOR YOU! Please do not hesitate to call me or to speak with me on Sundays if you have any need or if you would like to have communion brought to your homes. It is my pleasure to serve in this capacity.

Yours in Christ,
Deacon Julie

CELEBRANTS

FOR MAY

May 2	Rev. Father Skip Fotch
May 9	Rev. Lynn Oldham Robinett *
May 16	TBA
May 23	Rev. Skip Fotch
May 30	Rev. Skip Fotch

* Lynn is the Clergy in Charge at St. Paul's, San Rafael. Her visit to Redeemer is as part of our quarterly pulpit exchange with the three churches of San Rafael.

NEW MEMBERS

On Palm Sunday we were fortunate to have the following commit themselves as formal members of the Redeemer Congregation:

Virginia GEDDES

Julie, Glenn and Haley GODBOLD

Jennifer and Meredith SHERRILL

CONGREGATIONAL CYCLE OF PRAYER

May 2 - we pray for our seven youths who have begun confirmation instruction.

May 9 - we give loving thanks for all our mothers and grandmothers.

May 16 - we give thanks for our members who attended workshops at the annual Diocesan Ministries Conference.

May 23 - we pray for our Eucharistic Ministers and Eucharistic Visitors.

May 30 - we pray for all our members who served in the armed forces or who have family members who served.

NOTE:

10.AM SERVICE ON JUNE 6
Welcome to Carol Luther,
Brunch + Annual Meeting

CANDIDATES FOR BISHOP'S COMMITTEE

Billie Barbash

My family (husband Bob, sons Andrew 15, Chris 13 and Stevie 10), and I have been members of the Church since Christmas Eve 1995. Andrew and I walked into a 10am Christmas Pageant and immediately fell in love with Redeemer's wonderful family and community spirit. I am currently finishing a 3 1/2 year term on the Bishop's Committee, where I have served as Chair of the Music & Liturgy Committee. I am also the Director of Youth Activities, both social and spiritual, the Chair of Kid's Karnival and have served as Senior Warden, under Father Jeremy Blodgett, in 2001. When not at Church, I am active raising my boys, while mostly working at home doing the bookkeeping for my husband's law firm (Kurlander & Burton), based in San Francisco. I have been proud to serve on the Bishop's Committee and to have been a part of our recent search process. I now look forward to helping to guide Redeemer on it's next great adventure with our new Vicar, the Rev. Carol Luther.

Liz Chiarolla

My family (husband Victor, son Aaron and daughter Gina) and I moved to Glenwood six years ago from the Santa Venetia area of San Rafael. I have my own business "Elizabeth Chiarolla Designs", a marketing and graphic design firm servicing small business clients in Marin County and the Bay Area. As the daughter of an Episcopalian minister, or "PK" (Preacher's Kid as I was often referred to as a young girl), the Episcopal Church was my home away from home while growing up. It was the Kids' Karnival (three or four years ago?) that got me thinking about rejoining an Episcopalian community and the importance of providing my own children with a Christian upbringing. We joined Church of the Redeemer soon after Kids' Karnival and have enjoyed and valued the extended family we have come to know at Redeemer.

Mark Moody

I grew-up in Orange County, Calif. We lived in Huntington Beach and Irvine. Graduated from University High School in Irvine, Ca (1977) where I was a football player and Captain of the wrestling

team. Recruited to play Football at Saddleback College, Mission Viejo, Ca where we won the conference title and Mission Bowl Game.

Transferred to San Diego State University, Grad (1982)BA. Served 6 years in United States Coast Guard (1983- 1989)in Eureka, CA and Alameda, CA. Decided to stay in Bay-Area. I have been a youth pastor with Young Life, My Grandfather was a Episcopal priest and I was baptized, confirmed, and raised in the church. I have been a teacher (K-6th). I have a wonderful daughter, Sophia(8) and stepdaughter Isabelle(12), Currently engaged to marry my sweetheart and partner Wendy Botel with the exact date TBD. Gaining stepson Alex(16) and stepdaughter, Megan(12). I began attending Redeemer Easter Sunday 1998 so 6 years! Wow, does time fly... I enjoy surfing, skiing, motorcycling, reading, playing guitar, and bonsai gardening.

Cindy Crandall Poulos

I have two children Claire and Grayson. They are one of the the reasons my husband Greg and I started going to Redeemer, to give them a chance to experience a community that is truly loving and giving, and to get to know the Holy spirit through worship and fellowship. That is one of the reasons that I have committed to the Church through Baptism recently, and in the near future through Confirmation. Now I feel I can give Redeemer back a small part of what I have received by serving on the Bishops Committee. I like horses, skiing and art, and I am an artist that paints murals and designs theatre sets.

Rick Skubecz

Our family has been a member of Redeemer for 3 years. My wife, Laura, and I moved from San Francisco to the Peacock Gap neighborhood 5 1/2 years ago. We had both of our daughters, Haley -7 years old and Molly -3 years old baptized by Rev. Father Jeremy in November 2002. Haley attended Redeemer pre-school for 2 years.

Laura is currently serving on the board of trustees for Redeemer pre-school and is the liaison between Redeemer church and the school. I have been employed in the corporate financing/leasing industry for over 26 years and I have a very good understanding of business finance. I am committed to serving the community and look forward to participating in the future direction of the church with the new Vicar, Rev Carol Luther.

OUTREACH

Feeding Homeless People through the Homeless Chaplaincy - June 15th Dinner is served to approximately 30 folks at the First Presbyterian Church in San Rafael. Look for sign up sheet at church.

Starcross - 12,500 Cans & Bottles!

Katy Chilton and her helpers collected and sorted at least 12,500 cans and bottles to raise the \$625 sent to Starcross in 2003. Quite an achievement!

HOW IT WORKS:

Aluminum cans are crushed and bagged, plastic soft drink bottles are counted and bagged, and glass soft drink bottles are counted and boxed. Marin Recycling accepts Katy's counts without question. Wine bottles are boxed to make them easier to carry.

Katy takes it all to Marin Recycling. Soft drink and beer bottles are redeemed for 5 cents each, currently aluminum cans are redeemed for \$1.32 a pound, wine bottles for 64 cents a pound. Katy collects the money, keeps it in a separate bank account, and sends it to Starcross near the end of the year.

This year's collections exceed last year's at this time.

Recycle your aluminum cans, wine bottles & money-back plastic bottles. (No tin cans please) These should be placed in the special garbage cans, which are outside behind the church.

PS: STARCROSS IS A SMALL ORGANIZATION IN SONOMA WHICH CARES FOR CHILDREN WITH AIDS.....WON'T YOU HELP?

Probably about 25% of Redeemer members participate in this program - we could raise several hundred dollars more if a larger percentage of us participated in this drive.

CONFIRMATION

Classes will be held on Sundays @ 4.30 PM - 4/25, 5/2, 16, 23 & 6/6 + Evensong at Grace Cathedral on May 20 and 27.

Confirmation will be at Grace Cathedral on June 12th. Please consider attending this special event and supporting our candidates for confirmation from Redeemer.

FROM THE JUNIOR WARDEN

3 parishioners have contributed towards the purchase of stackable chairs for the church. (Our existing chairs are falling apart) Won't you do the same? Just write "for chairs" in memo box of your check made to The Church of the Redeemer.

Thanks to Elliott Blank who has agreed to mow the grounds.

We need someone to trim yellow daisies (by the driveway) soon so that the next buds will have space to bloom.

Please call me if you can help.

Sallie Wood. 454-0162

ANNUAL MINISTRIES CONFERENCE at Grace Cathedral on May 15

Workshops for all aspects of congregational life. By our Baptisms we become ministers in the Church of God. Everyone has gifts to share. The cover of the booklet for the Annual Ministries Conference states that "Our gifts are for the world's needs". The workshops are "To equip the saints for the work of the ministry". That's all of us. Each in our own way has a ministry. Come see how you can learn more and enrich what you have been called to do. There are 3 workshop times, two in the morning and one in the afternoon. Find what speaks to you and join us.

See Julie or Kelly for a booklet explaining more about the day. We've both attended and found each session very worthwhile. Everyone can find a place!

REDEEMER LUNCH BUNCH

May 6th, June 3rd
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

REDEEMER PRESCHOOL

"Bids for Kids" Silent Auction

Saturday, May 8

6:00-10:00pm

at San Rafael Yacht Club

Tickets: \$30.00 per person

(see below for "Friends Fly Free" promotion)

Please come and join our Redeemer Preschool families for a fun evening of food, music and great items to bid on. All proceeds go to enhance school programs, reward teaching staff and maintain preschool facility.

This year the school could really use your help, so with every two tickets purchased to the event, you can invite two friends to join you for free!

(Redeemer members excluded from free tickets)

Tickets to the event will be available for sale at Kid's Church 9:15 service or you can call Laura Skubecz 482-0731.

Don't forget to purchase your raffle tickets!

Winner will be announced at the auction May 8.

Need not be present to win. Grand Prize is a one night stay at the fabulous Sonoma Mission Inn with \$175.00 spa package (\$500.00 value)

Raffle Tickets: \$10.00 each

Laura Skubecz, Event Chair



WEDNESDAY'S WOMEN

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

May 12, hosted by Sallie Wood. Book is *Three Junes*, by Julia Glass.

June book is *Ahab's Wife* by Sona Jeter Naslund

The Human Race - May 8th

Sign up forms and flyers are available at the church. Pledge, walk, run or just take your kids to check out the events.

We hope to participate with members of our sister churches in San Rafael in raising \$ for *Homeward Bound - Marin's wonderful Center for lodging and job training at Hamilton Base.*

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Peacock Gap Country Club

Saturday, May 22nd, 2004

John Westmoreland, 457-6295



SAINTS AND ANGELS

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

All the members who brought such great food for our Palm Sunday Brunch!

Sydney Kennedy and Kim Johnson for joining our corps of hospitality folks.

EVERYONE who made Easter Day so wonderful!

ANNIVERSARY

17 Tom and Robin Jereb 1992

BIRTHDAYS

5 Eric Johnson
6 Laura Skubecz
8 Ann Zolezzi
13 Kathy Kennedy
13 Andrew Burton
16 Joe Curtis '86
18 Danielle Scullen-Baer '95
20 Steven Burton '94
21 Ryan Erler '93
24 Loretha Sharkey
27 Bill Formon
28 Glenn Godbold
29 Rich Atkinson

To have communion brought to you please call Julie Jensen, 924-2073 or Gil Taylor, 454-1457.

DEADLINE for June Newsletter is May 14th
EARLIER THAN USUAL - NOTE!

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

Please email articles to sueclarkca@aol.com

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday Services: (followed by healing prayers)

9.15 Kids' Church for children and their families
10.30 Holy Communion with music

Wednesday Bible Study

11.00 Bible Study and Noonday service

May

- 2 Confirmation class @ 4.30
- 5 Women's Spirit
- 6 Lunch Bunch @ noon
- 8 Human Race
- 8 Redeemer Preschool Silent Auction
- 9 Mother's Day - 3 church pulpit exchange,
Rev. Lynn Oldham Robinette celebrating
- 12 Book Club @ Noon
- 15 Ministry Conference @ Grace Cathedral
- 16 3 Church meeting at Nativity 1-3 PM
- 16 Confirmation class @ 4.30
- 17 Preschool Board 7.30 PM
- 19 Women's Spirit
- 20 & 27 Confirmands attend Evensong @ Grace
- 22 Golf Tournament @ Peacock Gap
- 23 Confirmation class @ 4.30
- 30 Pentecost - WEAR RED TO CHURCH!

June

- 3 Lunch Bunch @ noon
- 5 Episcopal Charities Appreciation Tea
honoring outreach participants
- 6 Combined Service 10 AM
Welcome our new Vicar, Rev. Carol Luther
- 6 Confirmation Class @ 4.30
- 10 Deanery Mtg. @ Holy Innocents
- 21 Preschool Board 7.30 PM

The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer
123 Knight Drive, San Rafael, CA 94901
Fax & Phone 415-456-0508

Vicar, effective 6/04	Rev. Carol Luther	456-2524
Clergy in Charge/ Deacon	Rev. Julie Jensen	924-2073
Senior Warden	Kelly Mason	459-1733
Junior Warden	Sallie Wood	454-0162
Clerk	Greg Poulos	258-0960
Treasurer	Cathy Kirk	457-3841
Altar Guild	Ann Zolezzi	454-4337
Musician	Jay Wayne	897-0221
Scheduler	Julie Jensen	924-2073
Newsletter Editor	Sue Clark	454-4115
Congreg. Care & Concern	Sue Clark	454-4115
Music, Worship & Liturgy	Billie Barbash	459-2303
Community Outreach	Linda Fox	453-9412
Fundraising	Greg Poulos	258-0960
Social/Worship Groups	Jeff English	456-1346

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

Address Correction Requested