# Redeemer News . September 2017

VOLUME 2017 • ISSUE 8





### FROM THE RECTOR



Sisters and brothers.

As the summer ends and we begin to settle into our normal routine, things at Redeemer kick into high gear. After a little break, our Bible Studies, Adult Forums, Music Programs, and Children's Education begin anew. This year we join with congregations and ministries all around the Diocese of Southern Ohio in studying the Book of Exodus.

For some time now, Bishop Breidenthal has encouraged the Church to follow Jesus into the world. Sometimes Christians are told that there's no Jesus out there. Some think we can only find Jesus in the confines of a church building. And to be sure, Jesus is here, present and active within the walls of Redeemer. We have all experienced great love and connection within our community – it is one

of the great strengths of our congregation. The sense of holiness in our worship, the beautiful music, the powerful prayers, the rhythm and truth of Communion every week, all contribute to the reality that when you "show up" or "get involved" in the life of Redeemer, you will see Jesus, you will know relationship, and you will experience love.

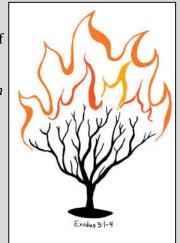
But the Bishop's words remind us that our time together on the Redeemer campus is not the end of our Christian life, but the beginning. Jesus gathered His disciples together, He loved and taught and transformed them, but then He sent them out into the world. When Jesus said, "Follow me," He wasn't telling them to follow Him to the synagogue, He was commanding that together with Jesus they be drawn out of their normal lives and into the world around them, to participate in the redemption of the world.

The Book of Exodus is the story of the beginning of the people of God. Genesis invites us to marvel at God's creation, and to meditate on the first moments of humanity's relationship with the Divine, in Exodus the Israelites really become God's people. This becoming happens when they leave Egypt and begin to move – when they face outward and begin the hard work of figuring out how to belong to God *out in the world*.

To follow Jesus into the world is to take what we learn about our God and ourselves as we gather together on Sunday, and to try to live that love and mercy out in the world. This is how we really become the Body of Christ.

Now, I haven't been at Redeemer long, but I have been here long enough to know that this is not news to most of you. We are a very active, very socially engaged congregation, comprising people who are deeply invested in the life and welfare of Cincinnati and our various neighborhoods. Perhaps we don't feel we need to be reminded to head out into the world. This is precisely the moment when I believe "follow Jesus into the world" reminds us of something essential: Jesus is *already in the world*.

As easy as it is to mistakenly think you can only find Jesus at church, it can be just as easy for those of us who are socially minded to fall into the presumption that if we don't bring Jesus into the world, nobody will. We can get so frustrated with the injustices we see, the cruelty and divisiveness in plain view, that we think this world is ours to save. But following Jesus into the world insists that wherever we go in the world to bring love Jesus is already there loving.

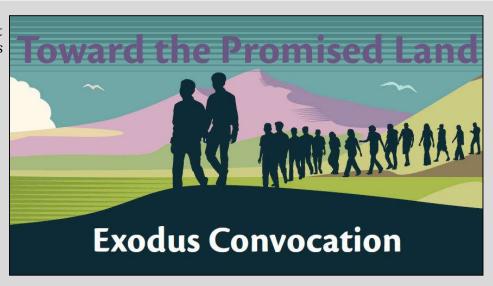


The images of God we see in Exodus – the burning bush, the column of smoke, the pillar of fire, the theophany on Mt. Sinai, even the so-called "plagues" that help set the Israelites free – every one of these events, and every way that God works in Exodus, are reminding us that God is perfectly at home in the world. God created this world, and there's not a place we can go where God *isn't*.

### FROM THE RECTOR (CONT.)

The Israelites aren't freed so that they can bring God into a Godless world. God's presence in the world is revealed to them radically, forcefully, bringing great love and justice. Their recognition of this truth, and their willingness to follow it into the world is what frees them to be God's people.

We stand in the great lineage of the Israelites. Exodus is our heritage. Many of the first Christian writers connected Iesus to Moses explicitly and



repeatedly. They knew that the Christian life is not about bringing Jesus to others: It's about recognizing where Jesus is in our lives, in the lives of others, in the life of this world. And when we see Jesus there, we follow. We go towards Him, and work with Him. God does not say, "bring justice and love to the world and then I'll free you." In Jesus Christ, God says, "I'm here in the world, bringing justice and love. Come. Join me. You are finally free to participate in real love."

This year, as we take a deep dive into the waters of Exodus, we will really be looking at what makes us *us*: How we recognize Jesus in the world, where we see God's love and mercy redeeming creation, and what following Jesus into this world looks like for each of us and for the Church. It is in this work that we are free to become the people of God. I am grateful to be on this journey with you.

Your friend and brother in Christ Jesus,

Philip Hart DeVaul †

### **RITES OF PASSAGE**

Since the last publication of this column, we have recognized the following milestones in our parish life:

### **BIRTHS**

Aya Claire Weathers, daughter of
Catee and Kellen Weathers
Victor Manuel Cotto IV, son of Vic and Jen Cotto
James "Jay" Elliott Mallon, son of Daniel & Katy Mallon

### **DEATHS**

Abby Delcarlo, daughter of Jane Mashburn Sara (Anna) Schildknecht, niece of Bill and Liz Schildknecht

### **DEATHS (Cont.)**

Jacqueline Buckley, cousin of Kate Haralson
Maggie Malloy, companion of John Van Kirk
Paul Friedman, father of Elizabeth Coley
Melinda Jenkins, wife of Joyce Keeshin's nephew
Kirk Mihelik, brother of Kelley Flodder
Nancy Paschen, mother of Jennifer Bergeron
Barry Smith, husband of Minda Matthews-Smith
Jean Linne, grandmother of Cody Linne
Robert McGrath, long-time Redeemer member



Shalom Redeemer family! After 3 crazy months, I am finally beginning to get my feet on the ground with my new role as Health and Wellness Minister. I am thoroughly enjoying getting to know more and more of you. What meaning and purpose God is unveiling to me in this new chapter! As some of you may know, I had a rocky start. Two weeks after beginning this job I was diagnosed with early stage breast cancer. For those of you who have had a similar diagnosis or shocking event in your lives, you know about the journey that ensued. My family and I worked through the shock, fear, sadness, bargaining, and eventually found ourselves working towards acceptance, with God's help. We are learning to surrender, trust, receive grace, and practice gratitude in entirely new ways. It definitely isn't a linear journey but we are finding our way one day at a time. Currently I am 7 weeks post-op and in my second of five weeks of radiation. As of early October, I will have completed all of my treatments.

When I look back, I feel grateful for the timing of it all. This job has brought blessing upon blessing to me throughout my cancer journey. Yet if I had known three months ago that cancer was coming next, I wonder if I would have dreamed of returning to work now? Today, I feel safe to say that the convergence of my cancer journey and my new career path illuminates the movement and guidance of the Holy Spirit. The Hebrew word *Shalom* means "harmony and wholeness regardless of circumstances." My personal harmony and wholeness of my mind, body, and spirit are being strengthened through this ministry. My sincere hope is that my work at Redeemer will help each parishioner to better understand and live into their personal shalom as well as shalom with others.

As we build the Health & Wellness ministry, we are looking for parishioners within the medical field at large who would be interested in lending time and expertise. Your commitment can be anything from a few emails to brainstorming our program formation and beyond. We would love to hear from *all* aspects of healthcare - body, mind and spirit care. Feel free to drop a note in my church mailbox, reach me by email: becca@redeemer-cincy.org, or by phone 513-800-1464.

-Becca Morehous



### SAM BASS WITNESS, AUGUST 13

As a kid, most Sundays I would hope that my parents would forget to wake me up to go to church. That, or I would pretend to be fast asleep, wishing my mom and dad would just let me sleep in. It never worked. But every once in a while, my dad actually didn't wake me up in the morning. I thought my plan had worked. So I would sleep for a couple extra hours then go downstairs to see what was going on.

"Did you go to church without me?" I would ask my parents.

"No, we decided we are going to the five o'clock service."



When I grew older, I figured out that church is more than just getting up early and coming here on Sunday mornings. I began to understand that my mom and dad made me come to church not to make sure I was bored all morning, but to help me learn about our faith and to become a thoughtful person. Redeemer accomplishes these goals through many programs. In particular, the outreach projects give the Redeemer community the opportunity to grow by serving those in need.

On one of my first Time and Talent forms, I signed up for IHN, or rather my mom signed me up for IHN. A few Saturdays out of the year, my family would go to the undercroft and host homeless families. My brother and I played with the kids, and my mom and dad got dinner ready. I played "Candyland" and built "Tinker Toys" structures with kids I didn't know before that night. I interacted with many different types of people. I understood how fortunate I was to have a permanent house, and a great supporting community, at church and at home.



As I got older, I heard more and more about the youth mission trips and service opportunities outside of Cincinnati. Most of the stories were about Bob McGonagle flirting with the women of New Orleans. I was excited to finally be old enough to go down to Mountain TOP in the Appalachian Mountains of Tennessee. I think most of the 11 or 12 Redeemer youth that went down there were glad to get away from busy Cincinnati and live quite intentionally for a week.

I went all over the Cumberland Valley in Tennessee, with other youths and adults from all over the country, repairing homes of the poor and elderly. We built porches and stairs, painted houses, weather-proofed roofs, and much more. When you are spending the day with good people and serving those in need, you really don't notice the blazing sun or the wasps buzzing around. Although there are all kinds of people from all over the country who come to the

Mountain TOP, they all have the same goal in mind of ministry through serving others.

I'm glad Redeemer gives so many opportunities to practice ministry. I've been able to do many things to reach out to others. I am glad I got to have these experiences as a youth and not have to wait until I grew up. These have been good experiences for me and I hope that our church continues to give our youth these opportunities.

### CONNECTING, EDUCATING, AND EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION IN JESUS' NAME.

As we continue to work and pray towards the reinvigoration of the Youth & Young Adult Ministries at Redeemer, we're excited to share our progress with you. Look for continued progress reports here, and in our weekly e-blasts.

- -We met with focus groups of Redeemer teens and of parents of teens. We are currently scheduling a focus group for young adults. These meetings are helping us develop clear criteria for who we will hire, and what kind of programming they will create.
- -We have assembled a committee to aid Philip in the interviewing and hiring process. The committee consists of Perry Drosos, Kyle Roberts, Mike Staffiera, and Elisa Timmerman, with Mike Krug consulting.
- -We have already begun to receive candidate names, are constructing our interview process & calendar, and will begin interviews in late September.
- -We expect to hire a full time associate by the end of October!



Charles Burchfield's September Wind

## ~ September Light ~

We have seen this light before -Standing with a child, waiting For that bus to come, first day Of school, the changes, closing doors, Hopes that dreams turn tears Into laughter and joy.

We have seen it Sitting by one who gave us life, waiting
For that sound of breath,
Shadows spreading across the floor, ending
At the door, changing tears to simple gifts,
Hymns of praise.

We have seen this light In September, as it breaks open the morning,
Reflecting off a fence of milkweed,
Running across fields of timothy and clover,
Catching each of us in a moment,
A memory of the year we knew life fully.

*Jim Votaw, Redeemer Poet-in-Residence* 

### FINDING GOD IN THINGS READ AND SAID

Are you bored by your own thoughts? Try reading some modern theology. Tired of small talk and chit-chat? Come discuss what you've read with a group of Christian friends. It's a sure fire way to get your thoughts about faith flowing again.

I'm talking about Redeemer's Theology Circle. About a dozen of us meet once a month on a Sunday evening at 6:00 pm in the Library. We come with thoughts and questions to share, sprung from reading a section of our latest book selection.

It's O.K. just to listen. There are no gold stars for "participation in class," because it isn't a class, and there isn't a teacher. You don't have to answer questions. You don't have to bare your soul or unload your heart.

Bonding happens... not necessarily through agreement with the ideas, but through considering them together. As we "dig in the same ditch," unearthing the meaning of both Christian and Jewish theologians of our day, a camaraderie happens. I, for one, find it an exciting way to have my convictions enlarged and my faith enriched in a way that wouldn't happen just by reading alone.

In case it sounds too "intellectual," know that we laugh. There's energy. It's invigorating. Sometimes we watch a movie! With popcorn and sweets, even! Come check us out. You'll see. For more information contact Carol Ewbank (carolvanabbema@hotmail.com) or Ed Ewbank (edewbank@yahoo.com).

### —Lauren Hanisian

P.S. Our last two theologians have been Bishop John Shelby Spong (*The Fourth Gospel: Tales of a Jewish Mystic*) and Rabbi Jonathan Sacks (*Not In God's Name: Confronting Religious Violence*). Currently, we're working with *The Grace In Living* by Kathleen Dowling Singh.



# Thank you for renewing your commitment to ministry during out Time & Talent Campaign! We had around 200 plus parishioners participate this year!

### **MINISTRIES POSSIBILITIES**

Ministry is a way to be fulfilled spiritually and feel connected to the church community. There are a few ways to find the ministry possibilities at Redeemer:

1. The Time & Talent form is still on the website as a helpful tool to browse the ministry possibilities at Redeemer. Please visit www.redeemer-cincy.org "Get Involved > Time & Talents Form", which has a detailed online form that describes the ministries.





- 2. The ministry websites have detailed descriptions as well.
- 3. Contact Anny (anny@redeemer-cincy.org) to get in touch with your ministry of interest.

### PARISH DATABASE: A USEFUL TOOL

Our parish database, found under the "CONNECT" tab on the homepage of the website, is a useful tool for communication at Redeemer. It is an easy way for parishioners to find contact information. You can go to the church website and hover over "Connect" and click "Parish Database". A login screen will pop up. Login here or if you need a login, find the question "Need a



login?" and click where it says "Click here." You will be guided through the process and you will be emailed an initial password. Within the database, you can search by name to find contact information for parishioners, including printing a directory and seeing all the ministries you are involved with. You can also see the people involved in a ministry, which allows you to export to Excel, send an email, or create mailing labels.

If you want information about a ministry, to correct information in the database, or you need access to the database, contact the church office or email Anny Stevens-Gleason. The Stewardship of Time & Talent campaign helps update our database. So we need your help in keeping these records up to date.

Thank you again for your continued ministries and your new ministries! We are excited to start a new year in ministry! Be on the lookout for the monthly Stewardship witnesses in Sunday services, as we hear about how ministry has influenced the lives of parishioners.

### REDEEMER PRESCHOOL IS BACK!

## **Denise Hoefling**

The preschool teachers are back in action this week, setting up their rooms and planning for another great year. Our staff is a special group of ladies. We pride ourselves on longevity and dedication. Our experience sets us up for success, year after year.

**Florence Phinney** is beginning her 39<sup>th</sup> year at Redeemer Preschool! She has taught the 3 and 4-year-old class, and most recently, the PK 2 class. Her hobbies are knitting and reading.

**Chris Ahrens** is entering her 20<sup>th</sup> year! Chris has only taught the 2.5-year-old class all 19 years! Chris's son Pat (25), is a graduate of Redeemer Preschool. Chris loves to read and travel with her husband.

**Linda Geers** is entering her 16<sup>th</sup> year! Linda has been teaching music to all Redeemer students for the past 16 years. For the past 14 years Linda has also taught the 3-year old's. Both Linda's Children, Nathan (21), and Natalie (18) are graduates of Redeemer Preschool. Linda has a degree in music therapy.



(l-r) Hannah Pennington, Linda Geers, Denise Hoefling, Chris Ahrens, Florence Phinney, Rene Wall, Patty Heywood, Patty Fanning, (top of slide) Annie Miskimens

**Denise Hoefling** is the Preschool Director (14 years) and the PK1 teacher (8). Denise has a degree in Elementary Education. Both of Denise's children, Sam (19), and Julia (16) are Redeemer graduates. In Denise's spare time she is the team mom for her daughter's Mount Notre Dame Basketball team. Denise is a huge Xavier basketball fan!

**Patty Fanning** is entering her 13<sup>th</sup> year as a 3-year-old teacher. Patty has a degree in Business and has 3 children, Joe (27), Sally (25), and Ben (16), a graduate of Redeemer Preschool. Patty loves to cook, read, and is a Xavier Basketball fan.

**Patty Heywood** is entering her 11<sup>th</sup> year and has taught the 3 and 4-year-old afternoon classes for the past 10 years. Patty is also our substitute and fills in for all of us. Patty has 2 sons Carl (22), and Robby (20). Patty loves to bake!

**Rene Wall** is starting her 7<sup>th</sup> year in the 2.5-year-old class. Rene has 3 children Nolan (13), Nathan (12), and Natalie (10). All three of her kids are Redeemer Preschool graduates. Rene loves shoes and Snoopy!

**Annie Miskimens** is starting her 5<sup>th</sup> year as a Pre-K teacher. Annie has a degree in Education from Xavier University. Annie taught her first 3 years with Denise in the PK1 class. Annie is in her second year with veteran Florence Phinney in the PK2 class. Annie loves to read, and watch Ohio State football and Xavier Basketball.

**Hannah Pennington** is brand new to Redeemer Preschool. She will be working with Denise in the PK1 class. Hannah has her associates from University of Cincinnati, and is now studying Elementary Education at Northern Kentucky University. She enjoys watching and cheering on all our local sports teams.

The Home Comforts Mission, which works in conjunction with the New Life Furniture bank in assisting those families who have recently moved into housing after experiencing homelessness and to set their apartments up with gently used housewares, is in need of items.

Home Comforts currently needs the following gently used items: freshly laundered comforters, blankets, sheet sets in twin, full, and queen sizes (no mismatched sets or king-size), dishes that include matched sets of plates and bowls (sets of four, six, or eight would be appreciated). In addition, we can use table lamps of any size or color, light bulbs, and clean, gently used vacuum cleaners with canisters. (No vacuums that need bags.)

Items should be placed in the church office reception area in the cart marked "Home Comforts". If you are unsure if an item that you have is something we need, please contact Jolene before bringing it to church!

If you have furniture, (kitchen table & chairs, couch and end tables, mattresses, box springs and frames, and dressers) please contact the New Life Furniture bank to schedule a pick up at 513-313-0530.

Thank you for helping us to reach our goal of serving 35 to 50 families this year! To get involved with this ministry, contact Jolene Struebbe (513-884-4018) or jmstruebbe@gmail.com.

September/October 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Schedule (except where noted)  8:00 am Holy Eucharist: Rite I (Sanctuary) 8:45 am Coffee (Lobby), Rise and Shine (Parlor), CLUB CoR and BEATS (Except 4th Sunday of the month) 10:00 am Holy Eucharist: Rite II (Sanctuary) Banquet Holy Eucharist (Great Hall) Child care (infant-3 years), Godly Play (ages 3-6) 11:15 am Adult Forum, Youth Formation, Children's Activities, ConnectFour (4th Sunday of the month) 5:00 pm Celtic Holy Eucharist (Chapel)				14 6:15 am Al-Anon 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Yoga 7:00 pm Search Committee Meeting Adult Choir Rehearsal 8:00 pm Al-Anon	15 <b>8:30 pm</b> AA	16 9:00 am Exodus Convocation Lydia's House Demo Project 6:00 pm Women for Women event
17 8:30 pm Nominating Committee Meeting 9:20 am Jubilate Deo Rehearsal 12:00 pm 16 Bit Arcade Outing 1:00 pm Book Clubs Unite 2:00 pm Retreat w/St. Thomas Choir 5:00 pm Celtic (Joint Choir) Service	18 7:00 pm Musica Sacra 7:30 pm AA	19 9:00 am RPS Picture Day 12:00 pm Staff Meeting 6:30 pm BS Venture Crew 7:30 pm Camerata Rehearsal 8:00 pm AA	20 9:00 am RPS Picture Day 9:30 am Al-Anon 12:00 pm Downtown Bible Study 6:30 pm Holy Eucharist 7:00 pm Poetry Lovers	21 6:15 am Al-Anon 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Yoga 7:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 8:00 pm Al-Anon	22 5:00 pm Oden Rehearsal 6:00 pm MEAC Gala (offsite) MEAC Gala (offsite 8:30 pm AA	23 1:00 pm Junior Spikenard Rehearsal 4:30 pm Oden Wedding
24 8:30 pm Nominating Committee Meeting 9:20 am Jubilate Deo Rehearsal 11:15 am ConnectFour 12:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 12:15 pm Liturgy Board Meeting 6:00 pm Theology Circle Cathedral Book Group	25 9:30 am Spiritual Directors 7:00 pm Musica Sacra 7:30 pm AA	26 12:00 pm Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Boy Scout VC 7:00 pm Redeemer Writing Circle 7:30 pm Camerata Rehearsal 8:00 pm AA	27 9:30 am Al-Anon 12:00 pm Downtown Bible Study 6:30 pm Holy Eucharist	28 6:15 am Al-Anon 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Yoga 7:00 pm Adult Choir 8:00 pm Al-Anon	29 10:00 am Mihilek Memorial Service 4:00 pm Fair Trade Sale 6:00 pm Creation & Climate Retreat Begins 8:30 pm AA	30 Creation & Climate Retreat 10:00 am Fair Trade Sale
October 1 Creation & Climate Retreat 8:30 pm Nominating Committee Meeting 9:00 am Pastoral Board Meets 9:20 am Jubilate Deo Rehearsal 12:00 pm Bell Choir 5:00 pm Blessing of the Animals 5:15 pm IHN/Knox Hosting	2 5:15 pm IHN/Knox Hosting 5:30 pm Admin Meeting 7:00 pm Musica Sacra Search Committee 7:30 pm AA	3 12:00 pm Staff Meeting 5:15 pm IHN/Knox Hosting 6:30 pm Boy Scout VC 7:00 pm Redeemer Writing Circle 7:30 pm Camerata Rehearsal 8:00 pm AA	4 9:30 am Al-Anon 12:00 pm Downtown Bible Study 5:15 pm IHN/Knox Hosting 6:30 pm Holy Eucharist 7:00 pm Book Group	5 6:15 am Al-Anon 10:00 am Bible Study 5:15 pm IHN/Knox Hosting 6:00 pm Yoga 7:00 pm Evensong Rehearsal 8:00 pm Al-Anon	6 5:15 pm IHN/Knox Hosting 8:30 pm AA	7 <b>1:00 pm</b> Spikenard Rehearsal <b>5:15 pm</b> IHN/Knox Hosting
8 8:30 am Nominating Committee Meeting 9:20 am Jubilate Deo Rehearsal 11:30 am Ecopalian Meeting 12:00 pm Bell Choir 6:00 pm Evensong at Christ Church Cathedral	9 Columbus Day 1:00 pm Steady Strides 5:45 pm Stewardship Meeting 7:00 pm Musica Sacra Vestry Meeting 7:30 pm AA	10 10:00 am Knitting Group 12:00 pm Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Boy Scout VC 7:00 pm Redeemer Writing Circle 7:30 pm Camerata Rehearsal 8:00 pm AA	11 9:30 am Al-Anon 12:00 pm Downtown Bible Study 6:30 pm Holy Eucharist	12 6:15 am Al-Anon 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Yoga 7:00 pm Adult Choir 8:00 pm Al-Anon	13 8:30 pm AA	14 9:00 am ACE Rehearsal 11:00 pm Junior Spikenard Rehearsal

THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER 2944 ERIE AVENUE CINCINNATI, OH 45208

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED** 

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CINCINNATI, OH
PERMIT NUMBER 8468

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

# BOOK CLUBS UNITE AND COME MEET THE AUTHORS

### Sunday, September 17, 1:00 pm in the Great Hall

Charlie Lovett, writer of both fiction and non-fiction, Jessica Strawser, local author of , *Almost Missed You*, and Redeemerite, Fred McGavern, author of *Recycled Glass*, will do a reading of their work, discuss a topic of their choice, and invite questions from attendees.

Refreshments. Books available for purchase and signing. 20% of the proceeds will go to Redeemer for ministry.



# MUSIC AT REDEEMER PRESENTS "RUSSEL UP SOME GRUB."

### Sunday, October 29, 1:00 pm in the Great Hall

Bound to please families and young professionals alike, Russell Up Some Grub is a four-piece string band offering old-time mountain tunes.

Featuring Russ Childers, Mark Alexander, Barb Childers, and Redeemerite, Rob Kranz.

Be sure to invite your neighbors and friends!

