

GROWING

2022 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER



A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Connection. Connection is the word that keeps coming to my mind as I reflect on what 2022 was for our church, and on what we are becoming in 2023.

Connection was the thing we missed so much as we struggled throughout the pandemic. Reestablishing and in many cases redefining our connection with the Church and with each other was such a large part of our shared story last year.

I want to remind you that in Jesus we are all connected. We are all siblings.

We all belong to God, and, through God, we all belong to each other. We don't always feel it. We don't always see it. We're not always sure of it. But our faith is in the God who sees and knows it even when we can't. This God has held fast to us and kept us connected through impossible times, and in 2022 as we began a new chapter in the life of this community, it was that divine connection that powered the work we did.

As you read through the stories of our community that are contained within these pages you will notice creativity and resilience. You will observe constancy and love. I hope you will also see how these diverse and powerful ministries connect with one another, how they demonstrate belonging, and how they are unified by a commitment to living out our church's vision in real time.

Our word for 2023 is Growing. And we are seeing growth and vitality in this beautiful community. It is essential that we understand that any growth we experience emerges from the connectedness that is incarnate in our ministries and on full display in this Report.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and thank you for the part you are playing in embodying Christ's love in and outside of the Church of the Redeemer.



Philip Hart DeVaul

The Rev. Philip Hart DeVaul
Rector



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Bringing Christians to *the* *Proverbial* *Table*

Take one look at an 11:00 am Banquet service and you'll see right away something totally different than any other service at Church of the Redeemer. Attend an 11:00 am Banquet service and you'll feel it. Recent changes that have come about after the visit from the Rev. Paul Fromberg, Rector of St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church in San Francisco, CA, and our Worship Renewal workshop have quite literally brought everyone to the Altar for Eucharist and the results have been a chaotic flow of energy and love.

The mission at hand has been to evolve the liturgy by affecting language and movement to represent more where we are going versus the status quo. Gathering like a feast around the table has been the pinnacle to that change and parishioners are loving it.

Anny Steven-Gleason, Minister for Liturgy, recounts one parishioner weeping when she first experienced it claiming, "this feels like church to me." Parishioner Pete Rasche was interviewed for Church of the Redeemer's StorySharers Series and he mentioned how much he enjoyed watching the children participate as they were included and made part of the service.



The Banquet is also attracting new parishioners to Church of the Redeemer that have found their ministry in contemporary music playing with the Banquet Band led by the very talented Jerika Hayes. Parishioners formerly of other denominations find the service an easy transition into The Episcopal Church, so the Banquet has also become an education in and of itself. Small changes are only making it better as this service continues to be an agent of change in our community.

This meaningful bridge has been imperative to our success in growing our congregation. It is not uncommon to frequently hear tales of parishioners who were former Roman Catholic and felt displaced or were looking for a church that felt more in line with their social beliefs. They have now found their home at Church of the Redeemer. Many have since been formally received into The Episcopal Church and become full members.



And this service has touched countless others like the Rev. Jason Oden, a visiting preacher and former CoR parishioner, who recalled during his sermon on the first day of this year how he was raised in the Pentecostal tradition and came to the Banquet as his first service, "from that service, from that experience because I could go through that and heal and then be restored and then be renewed. I reheard my calling to my vocation, to God's service."

One of the changes made before the Worship Renewal workshop and complimented by the Rev. Paul Fromberg was the sermon discussions.

Those lively conversations during the service have opened parishioners to debate scripture feeling more invested in the service. Parishioners have even said that hearing what others are saying or going through has made it easier to approach them after church making connections that were not there before.

If you haven't attended a Banquet service, you really should. You just might find that it's your kind of church too.





Youth Ministry

5 Days a week

by Tym House

The doors have been unlocked as of 2:45pm. Our sandwich board sign letting the students know our doors are open for them is set up at the same time the first round of students are making their way down the hill... There's no hesitation knowing that every single one of them will enter the doors of Church of the Redeemer, so I hustle back in as quickly as I can to make sure everything is set and ready.

Among the first teens to arrive is a delightful 8th grade student who, without fail, every day, gives every adult volunteer a hug upon entering. Behind them are about 15 other students walking in, grabbing a snack, saying a quick hello and thank you, and then heading out to the bus stop to hopefully catch the first bus after school.

The flow of students continues as the next waves make their way down. The freshmen come in droves, always ready to have a conversation about the day, tell the latest drama, or chat about random things. One of them likely complains that the snacks are all gone by the time they got there. I pull out the extra boxes I have stashed in the cart just for them. At the same time, another one of our regular students walks in with snacks to contribute attached with a note from his mom reading, "Dear Church of the Redeemer - Thank you so much for your continuous support of allowing my son to have a safe space after school." The time is hitting around 3:15pm and we have easily seen 55 students at this point, with about 25 of them hanging around, sitting outside along the front steps or inside the Great Hall talking, posting TikToks, working on homework independently or with a tutor, and continuing their ongoing conversations of the day.

"Dear Church of the Redeemer - Thank you so much for your continuous support of allowing my son to have a safe space after school."

Come 3:45pm and there are still about 15 Clark Montessori students hanging out with us just as our friends from Saint Mary's begin making their way over. Most of them we see live somewhere in the neighborhood, so they stop in for a quick drink of water and grab a snack for the remainder of their walk home. By 4:00pm most of the students have caught their bus or had their rides show up to get them at the church.

One parent runs in to find her students and offers a hearty, "Thank you for being here for our kids!" as they rush back out the door to head to the next part of their evening. A couple students are still hanging out, waiting for their parents, or waiting to head back to the school for baseball conditioning, a basketball game, cheerleading practice, or any other number of extra curriculums happening at the school that night. The clock hits 5:00pm before we know it, and the last students have just left a few minutes before that. This is a typical day in the life of the CoR After School program.

Since the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, Church of the Redeemer has been afforded the privilege to serve at least 155 students, and that number is expected to keep growing. As new students continuously walk through our door from Monday to Thursday, we are given more opportunities to be present with these students in beautiful and exciting ways. The school resource coordinator at Clark Montessori, Joyia Johnson, confirms this sentiment in a statement she provided:



"As a partner of The Episcopal Church of Redeemer, we are excited for the space and programming the Youth Ministry has been afforded to offer Clark Montessori. CoR's after school programming has aided in a safe, warm/cool place depending on the season for our students to wait for bus pick-up, parents, or other extracurricular activities, all while allowing diverse and engaging positively with their peers and the church staff. We are grateful for the support the church has not only provided for after-school time, but to our athletic department during fall sports with healthy snacks and drinks. Not only has space and nutritional snacks been offered, but also becoming a sponsor of our annual fundraising campaign, through donation. The students, families, faculty and staff are appreciative of all backing we have received thus far. As we look to continue this partnership, our hope is to strengthen the opportunities and community connection between both parties. CoR has been a fundamental resource and partner of Clark Montessori, and there are no amount of words of how grateful we are to be in partnership. We look forward to continued support and working with each other."



As we move forward in our endeavors to serve the students of Clark Montessori, it is our hope to continue offering a safe space for students where they can belong in this community. Coming from all over the city, many students do not feel like they belong here in Hyde Park.

They feel out of place and unwelcome. Because Church of the Redeemer has made a commitment to "grow with people of every age, race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic situation, and political persuasion," it is our duty to live into that mission and we are doing so through our After School ministry.

Our CoR Community is making it happen every day. Hannah's welcoming face and cheerful hello as she gives them some lemonade and Takis, Melanie's warm presence and deep care as she intently listens to some teens talk her about their day, John and Elizabeth Grover who sit with students helping them with all their homework, Miss D (the Security Assistant from Clark Montessori) coming down in her few free minutes after school to let those kids know she loves them inside and outside of the school, Lindsey Bonadonna who comes once a month to support the health and well-being of the students, or the variety of Church of the Redeemer folks like Patty Nagelkirk and Lissa Grubs, who have provided so many goodies to fill a portion of the students' bellies.

What's happening at CoR After School embodies the Vision we have here at Redeemer to know Jesus and grow in love. I see it every single day as the students walk through the door. I feel it in the core of my being. I just know God is doing something marvelous through this ministry. Building relationships. Creating community. Being love. And the best is yet to come!

A photograph of two women sitting in a golf cart outdoors. The woman on the left is wearing a red baseball cap with a white 'C' logo, sunglasses, and a black and white patterned top. The woman on the right has curly blonde hair and is wearing a green and white floral patterned top. They are both smiling at the camera. In the background, there is a stone wall and lush green trees. A golf club is visible in the foreground. Overlaid on the image is the title 'Even Better the Second Time Around' in a white, cursive font.

Even Better the Second Time Around

by Mireya Medina

It takes leadership skills to run the active calendar of the Second Half of Life Ministry, and no one is more up to the task than Dawn Neely. Longtime parishioner (30 years now) Neely keeps a roster of over 50 members in the group organized, communicating to them monthly with news of upcoming social gatherings and speakers.

In its fourth year, Second Half of Life celebrated its anniversary on August 25. Born from empty nests, the Second Half group came to be with the intention of providing a way for people to get together outside of Sunday services, once the children had left the home. Parishioners looking for a place of fellowship with others in the same stage of life came together initially but the circle has widened as others have joined who are not necessarily in the same age range but still feel welcomed by the group.

Neely says, "If you think you're a Second Half candidate, then you're welcome to join." She recalls the original idea to create Second Half came from Nancy Hopkins Green who stated, "invite everyone, you never know who will show up," That remains a goal for Second Half and they want everyone to know that they are inclusive regardless of age. The group started 2018 with a roar but hit a snag like everything else,

when the pandemic hit and lockdowns began. That wouldn't keep this group from gathering. They quickly became ZOOM-savvy and had Happy Hour Socials online sipping cocktails as they shared stories and anecdotes. They successfully continued their Speaker Series through ZOOM only taking a break from March – August of 2020 when some events had to be canceled. They still had 6 successful events in that year and have had 43 events and offerings in the past 4 ½ years. They were finally able to safely resume in-person gathering in August of 2021 and it's been non-stop since.

Neely runs a tight ship as she coordinates monthly meetings with a planning team made up of other parishioners, Carol and Ed Ewbank, Alan Henning, Tom Hill, Joyce Keeshin, Mark Kroeger, Gary Lubin, Bill and Jackie Weathers, and Sue Wilkening. Their combined efforts have yielded a vibrant schedule with monthly engagements of potlucks, speakers, and outings.



An organized and wholistic approach is also being noticed in Second Half as ministries are working cooperatively. For instance, The CoR Theology team is helping coordinate speakers for the Second Half Speaker Series. Also, none of this is happening in a vacuum as the group planning team is always asking members for suggestions and recommendations.

October was probably the most requested of the Second Half outings with a field trip to BLINK Cincinnati with 38 members in attendance. Mark Kroeger and Barb Stevens hosted a lovely cocktail and Alan and Jo Henning served as tour guides for the evening leading the group for an hour tour of BLINK exhibits along the Riverfront. Church of the Redeemer was certainly represented at BLINK.

With a full schedule already planned for the first quarter of 2023 this year is sure to be even better than last. Don't miss any of it. Join Second Half.





21ST CENTURY CHURCH

Upgrades to Technology

Changes to communications at Church of the Redeemer began in 2016 with a new website and continued in 2017 with a full-time communications position. With the new position, the monthly printed newsletter was retired in lieu of a more detailed weekly eNews, increased information on the website and social media, and more robust printed announcements in the Sunday bulletins.

In the meantime, the staff was also struggling with an antiquated membership database which was not user friendly, was expensive, and was even being discontinued by the company that created it. It had an app, which some people used for the directory, but not much else. And although it held names and contact information for our members, keeping it accurate with updates was a struggle given an archaic system portal.

Data-driven marketing has become a critical strategy for institutions and churches are reaping the benefits too. Accurate data is paramount to reaching the relevant people. For instance, if you want to invite newcomers to an event, remind the Second Half of Life ministry of a potluck, or determine the size of the space needed for the number of Godly Play children, you want to be sure you reach all the people who fall into those categories.

So, in 2018 we began researching church management systems. We looked at the ways people were dissatisfied with what we currently had and made a list of what was needed to address those issues. It was determined that the priority would be a system that was user-friendly for both staff and parishioners alike. One that could maintain an up-to-date directory that allowed for direct communication to specific groups and used all the different ways people get their information (i.e., email, push messaging, apps, text messaging, phone calls, etc.).

The new system would have safe, secure, and easy access to online giving and pledging; it would help us easily incorporate newcomers into our parish life; and it would allow for confidential prayer requests and the sharing of pastoral concerns in a private manner.

In January of 2020, we mailed the first of our revised Annual Report magazine to the entire parish. The intention was to include stories (like the monthly newsletter previously did) about our ministries throughout the past year. Our new Annual Report magazine is sharable and invites one to sit down and review the life of our parish, giving us a tangible evangelization tool.

In 2020 our new church management system (TouchPoint) was identified when COVID-19 changed our lives.

Not being in-person widened the information gap as we all had to learn to use electronic communications to worship, reach out to our neighbors, register to gather outside, study the Bible, and just stay in touch. And we did. We figured it out. And in doing so, we opened the door to so many people outside our walls. We started to see more and more new people learn about us and check us out. We were able to communicate the Good News broadly, reaching people who were near and far. This was a blessing.

The implementation of the system needed to be carefully planned to avoid disruption for staff members during extra busy times of the year, thus, the implementation was slower than we wanted. The staff did weekly training throughout that fall and in early spring, we worked on the data transfer and then recruited a team of parishioners to BETA test the system. By the summer of 2022 we were ready to launch.

At this time, we were also growing quickly. COVID was at a low transmission rate, and we were giddily gathering in person regularly. Management of our newcomers had become especially difficult and our ability to report our growth to the Church was diminished by a lack of accurate statistics from our database.

So, being careful not to remove the communications tools in place at that time (eNews, social media, website, etc.) but rather enhance them, we introduced the new system to the congregation. First the web version (for those more comfortable on their computers) and then the phone app.

For those who have tried the new system, many have found that they can not only access the church directory but also get current information on events and happenings without having to wait for the Thursday morning eNews. Many used it to pledge this year, to set up their giving, to RSVP for events (which is such a blessing for the organizers!), to sign up to participate in groups and ministries and even the Christmas Pageant. Some use it to listen to our podcasts or watch our worship livestream. Others check out Sunday's bulletins and announcements.

It has proven to be an excellent tool, but there is still a lot to learn about its functionality. In the coming months, we hope to also offer:

- Event and Class Check-Ins (these help us collect attendance information and improve communications)
- Text Messaging (for those of you who prefer this method of communication)
- Pop Up Notifications
- Reminders and requests for volunteers from various ministries
- Group Chats

We thank you for your patience as we move forward and encourage you to keep asking questions. Also, if you haven't yet, why not give it a try and update your profile today. Search Redeemer Cincy wherever you get your apps.





Stability is Rewarded

at Redeemer Preschool

Two Staff members at Redeemer Preschool are celebrating their 20th year in the coming year, Director Denise Hoefling and Preschool teacher Linda Geers. Four more of the teachers have been here for over 10 years and only three teachers have been hired in the last 2 years. A big part of the success of our Preschool has been the stability of our staff and we're so proud of that.

During the past two years since the wrath of the COVID pandemic many private institutions have had to permanently shut down for a multitude of reasons, but not our Preschool. Hoefling attests that to the stability in operations and staffing and she's not wrong. All the while Redeemer Preschool remained open. Once the dust settled, so to speak, Redeemer Preschool stood like a guiding beacon of hope for the weary parents of Hyde Park.

Staying open has yielded supplementary fruits that were unimaginable in 2019. For instance, recently the Redeemer Preschool was awarded a Stabilization Grant by the State of Ohio for keeping its doors open during the height of the pandemic. This grant apportioned for specific classroom needs has allowed Hoefling to fit each classroom with flat screens TV's, which are common these days as tools for interactive teaching.

Each classroom now has a laptop for tiny fingers to be able to get their first tech experiences. New light tables have been installed in each classroom for creative exploration. New kitchen playsets have spruced up each classroom as well as new couches and chairs and there is still more to come. Planned for 2023 is a complete resurfacing of the playground and upgrade to the existing equipment. As with many institutions, changes caused by the pandemic have not all been bad.

A good example of these changes is our student Drop-off/Pickup. Prior to the pandemic, parents walked in with their children causing morning drop offs to cut into valuable teaching/learning time. Since then, a streamlined drop-off point in the back of the church has made drop off and pickup run more efficiently giving back an extra hour to the classroom. Adaptability has truly been at the core of this stability as with all our ministries and the proof is in the almost capacity-filled enrollment of 64 students.

Redeemer Preschool enrollment continues to flourish because it is so obviously appreciated and loved by the community.



This is evidenced in the fact that 60 of the current student population are not Episcopalian but rather predominately Roman Catholic yet they repeatedly state that one of the reasons they attend Redeemer Preschool is the Chapel on Tuesdays where the children receive religious education. Ministering to this community segment has been critical to our growth throughout our church, school, and greater community.

As we look toward the new year, we will continue to minister to our Preschool community affecting through them the entire community at large.



THE PHILOSOPHY & THEOLOGY OF THE HOUSING CRISIS

by Melanie Slane

This morning I woke up in a safe and loving place. I took a nice long hot shower, brewed myself a cup of delicious dark coffee and guided the ever-flowing stream of laundry from washer-to-dryer-to-dresser, a reality of life that persists in a home where children live. I gazed into a refrigerator filled with fresh food and turned on my laptop to write to you. A world of information right at my fingertips and a song in my heart. This is home. And a lot of people don't have one.

Thousands in our city don't have a safe place, or a water bill they can afford, or their very own coffee maker, washing machine, and dryer. Thousands lack access to fresh foods, the internet, and reliable routines that guide their daily life. A lot of people don't have a home. This is our current reality. The question is, "What are we going to do about it?"

Can we envision a future where everyone has a home? How about a future where we, as Church of the Redeemer, facilitate this dream for our neighbors?

The Mission of the Church, the way we live our faith in the world, is ever dependent on assessing the needs of the wider community and the gifts and resources the Church offers to meet these needs.

With eyes wide open you all have seen the growing need for permanent supportive housing in our city – and indeed across our country – escalating rapidly over the past twenty-five years. It is now estimated that over half a million Americans are currently experiencing homelessness, and thousands of them live right here in Cincinnati.

There are many contributing factors to this reality, including the increasingly transient nature of economic opportunity, and the constant shifting of established industry in a technologically advancing society. One doesn't have to look far to see that human labor is rapidly being replaced by automated systems, and familial systems are increasingly separated by the need to settle where work can be found. The problem is that these changes do not always include an affordable housing market; especially for low-wage workers. The result is children sleeping in cars on cold winter nights and mothers daily forced to choose between paying rent and buying groceries.

The new system would have safe, secure, and easy access to online giving and pledging; it would help us easily incorporate newcomers into our parish life; and it would allow for confidential prayer requests and the sharing of pastoral concerns in a private manner.

In January of 2020, we mailed the first of our revised Annual Report magazine to the entire parish. The intention was to include stories (like the monthly newsletter previously did) about our ministries throughout the past year. Our new Annual Report magazine is sharable and invites one to sit down and review the life of our parish, giving us a tangible evangelization tool.

Over 30 years ago, a small group of individuals from Church of the Redeemer banded together to help reduce the impact of the growing housing crisis by establishing a new chapter of a national organization called the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) here in Cincinnati. Their goal was to get families experiencing homelessness into a safe and hospitable environment as quickly as possible. This ministry of emergency assistance continued steadily until 2020, when our nation was rocked by a global pandemic. In the devastation of this pandemic, we were awakened to the reality of just how bad the housing crisis had gotten. Many of us sheltered at home, but some of our neighbors had no place to go.

We came to realize that over the past 30 years, the persistent problem of homelessness had grown as we scattered to pick up the pieces of a broken system. We recognized that we had fallen into a pattern of treating the symptoms while the infectious reality of a lack of affordable housing had continued to fester in our city.

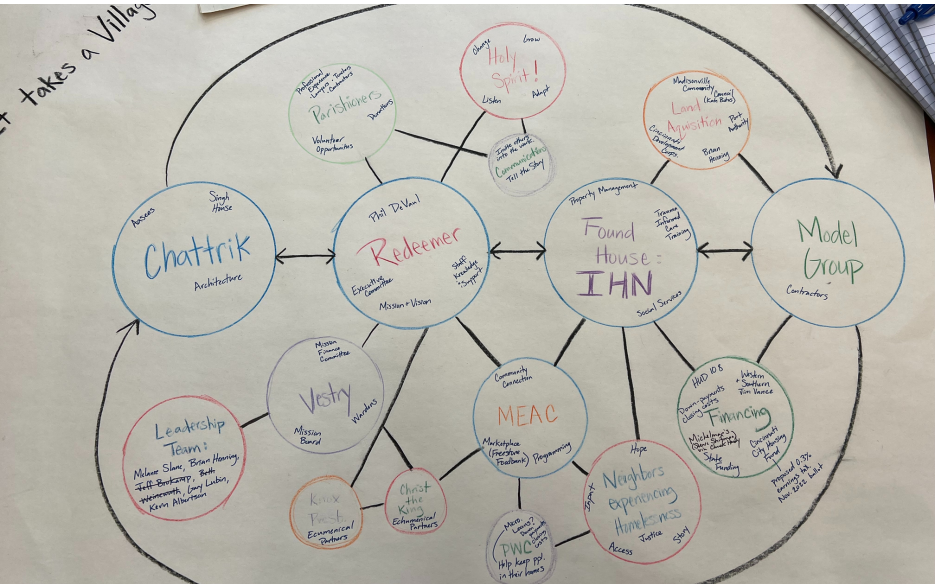
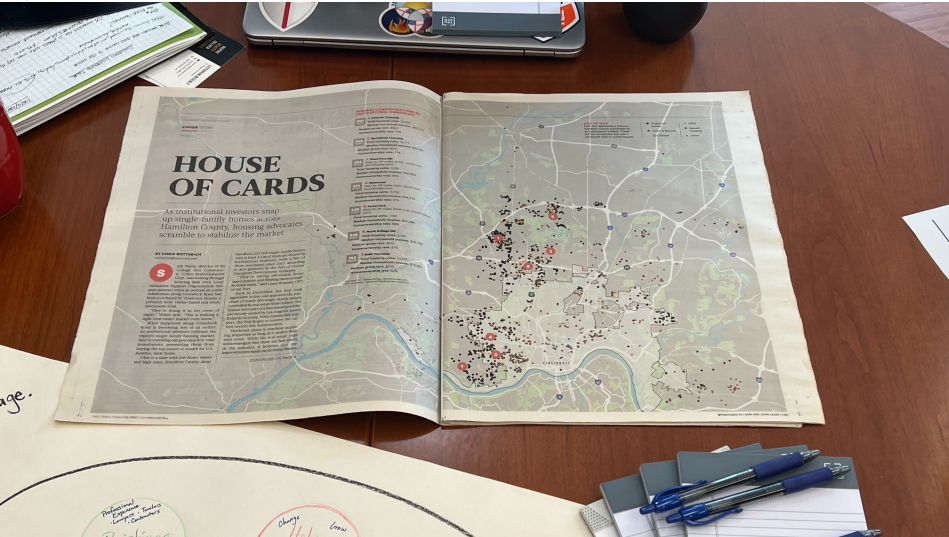
Our relationship with IHN was reestablished and renewed as they took on a new name in 2022. A name that reflects the reality of our shared mission for housing those without a home: Found House.

Found House: IHN is a partner we have known and trusted in this work for many years, and we are honored to move into the future with them with the common mission of ending homelessness in Cincinnati by ensuring that all people have access to safe and affordable permanent supportive housing. Our goal is to change our reality, so that our future is one where everyone has a home.

Back in the fall I wrote to you all about the emergence of a project in partnership with Found House, Model Group, and Chaatrik Architecture + Urban Design to develop and build transitional and permanent supportive housing. I am pleased to report that we have made some concrete steps toward realizing this vision. We have consulted with city officials and The Port Landbank to assess available properties; we have listened to the wisdom of our neighbors who face homelessness as a daily reality; we have researched feasibility studies that tell us what is needed for a successful build site; and we have begun preparing a project proposal that will be submitted in 2023 for City and State funding for development in Madisonville.

Our greatest hurdle right now is land, and with a goal of building within a three-mile radius of Church of the Redeemer, the availability of property is sparse, as many large for-profit developers are purchasing property that we would like to make available for truly affordable housing.

We envision a future where everyone has a home, and we are taking tangible steps to get there, but we need your help. We are asking you to show up and pay attention to conversations on affordable housing; support local initiatives to fund projects like ours; lend your professional experience in real-estate and investment to move this project forward; and pray that this change brings new life to our community so that we may be the resurrection-people God has called us to be.







A Common Thread

Recycle, recycle, recycle, that is the word conjured up by thoughts of Earth Day celebrations and earth-saving groups like our group formerly known as the Ecopalians, but that's not all there is to our newly formed Creation Care. Thankfully the evolution of Creation Care through The Episcopal Church has birthed a new form of stewardship beginning with the historic Paris Agreement summit in 2015 when the Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church sent a delegation to the Conference of Parties, the annual United Nations Climate Change Summit.

Since then, Creation Care has also been rightfully brought under the Justice quadrant of Becoming Beloved Community and CoR's Creation Care team has been finding ways to weave its tenants through our ministries. John Calhoun, the group's new leader, says "We are working to affect change at the community and policy level. We want to recognize our connectivity." Former longtime Ecopalians like Betsy Schram, Nancy Hodges, Polly Culp, and Joan Burrows have continued to be a part of our team and are glad to be part of the evolution. Our commitment to our Vision Statement's Growing pillar this year is timely as we work to *Repair the Breach* and live into the statement; *Growing with people of every age, race, gender, sexual orientations, socioeconomic situation, and political persuasion.*

It may not always be obvious or apparent, Environmental Racism, but by definition we clearly see people in adjacent communities disproportionately affected by industries and neighborhoods that emit dangerous pollutants and struggling with food insecurity, something that must be addressed by Church of the Redeemer as it is our "Biblical call to feed the hungry, food security and sustainability cross many issues in an interconnected, and interdependent, world" **Episcopal Church Eco-Justice Resolutions 2017*

Our Creation Care team has been meeting monthly on the 3rd Sunday of the month in the Parlor and has defined some objectives and initiatives for the new year that will include engagements with the Civic Garden Center of Greater Cincinnati, who are working with neighborhood residents to



create community gardens, providing training and technical support, and giving those struggling areas access to the fresh nutrition we all need. Our upcoming Mission work will also be affected by Creation Care as we move forward in our housing project in Madisonville by offering advice on ways to develop affordable housing with low energy costs burdens.

Enacting change will not be withheld for the outer world but will also infuse our CoR culture through Stewardship as we make changes like upgrades to LED lighting that will essentially lower our carbon footprint. Hospitality will be affected as we shift away from single-use plastics, which will reduce waste and encourage us to reuse and recycle. The threads are being woven throughout Church of the Redeemer as we recognize how wholistic and interconnected all creation is and how important it is that we are good stewards of it.

Jeff Brokamp and Beth Weinewuth, our Wardens provided an opportunity for Calhoun to present to Vestry this Fall on the re-formed Creation Care Team and Calhoun says he was trying to express the connection between Creation Care and loving our neighbors, and the Rector exclaimed, as only he could, "Oh! So, what you're asking us to do is to commit to living out our shared values. Great!"

Upcoming events include Earth Day, April 22, where we will participate in local events and clean-ups and tree plantings.





Rob Kranz

Serving with Time, Talent, and Treasure in a changing landscape

by Mireya Medina

Rob Kranz has been a literal fixture at Church of the Redeemer since he was six years old. Converted Unitarians, the Kranz family joined Church of the Redeemer in 1965 and quickly made it their second home. The virtues of service so pertinent to the Church of the Redeemer community were instilled in Rob early on, so it's no surprise that as an adult he would find a place to use his talents to help the church grow while remaining stable during two Rector transitions.

It was during the rectorship of Jim Hanisian, when Kranz was elected Treasurer of the Vestry and served his first three-year term. A stable and financially astute investor, Kranz had a successful term making fruitful recommendations and earning the respect of everyone on Vestry. After his term ended another Treasurer served a term and the nominating committee came back to Rob to ask him to serve a second term.

It was during this time that a Rector transition was imminent and Kranz remaining in the position would provide stability in operations. Also, during this time, the Vestry decided to disassociate the treasurer position from a vestry role and Kranz continued to serve, being asked to repeat his term for 28 years this November. Kranz himself expressed to our current Rector, the Rev. Philip DeVaul, a few years ago his desire to see someone new in the position since he believes it's a Best Practice for any institution.

Besides serving as Treasurer of Church of the Redeemer, Kranz's talents were also recruited by the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio to be treasurer, serving 6 years in that role. And that's not where his commitment to service ends. Kranz has also been instrumental in the renovation and restoration of a park very near and dear to the Church of the Redeemer community, Ault Park.

Kranz was a Founding Trustee of the Ault Park Advisory Council that was responsible for the much-needed renovations that restored Ault Park to its former glory after a major feature of the park was scheduled to be torn down due to lack of maintenance. Kranz assisted the Advisory Council in raising \$1.5 million in private donations that the City of Cincinnati would later match. His love for Ault Park remains a large part of his hands-on service these days as he toils the earth doing gardening work and trail maintenance.

Kranz admits that all his service time has kept him busy these past years and he's ready to taper down some of his service activities as his

professional life as the CFO of a growing technology company has become increasingly demanding. Though he also acknowledges that he'll certainly miss it.

Kranz's professional experience has also given him some interesting insight during the pandemic and its effect on business and institutions, some of which we are experiencing right here at Church of the Redeemer, and in The Episcopal Church at-large. He says, "The world has changed and we're never going back. I think the impact of that on the Church is still unclear." His business, for instance, has had to make concessions for their employees and shift to hybrid work schedules to accommodate the new-normal.

His ability to be flexible and make changes when needed has been paramount to the current financial stability at Church of the Redeemer. He jokes, "I think I left things better off than I found them, but after 25 years, boy, if I didn't, I'd be in pretty bad shape." The truth is Church of the Redeemer is in really good shape, and Kranz is part of why.



"There are few individuals in the history of Redeemer that have had as significant an impact on its life, stability, and direction as Rob Kranz. His faithfulness, lived out in principled thinking, attention to detail, and love of numbers, has been an absolute game changer for us, and the legacy of his ministry will shape this church for years to come." Rev. Philip DeVaul



Though many may not see an immediate connection, Kranz is clear that his gifts, though more analytical, operational and structural, are intertwined with his spirituality. He says, "Everybody has gifts. Mine happens to apply to this weird thing called finance and accounting. It's something I enjoy and I'm good at and my deployment on behalf of the Church is a skill that I can offer."

During his tenure, Church of the Redeemer purchased the properties where IHN (now Found House), MEAC (Madisonville Education and Arts Center) and Eastminster Presbyterian Church is housed giving them all some much needed stability with rent-controlled spaces.

It's the community that continues to drive Kranz. His family has been a part of Cincinnati since his great-grandfather moved into the same neighborhood that Kranz resides in today in 1892. "I am the fourth generation of our family to live in about a two-mile radius. I live in the house I grew up in." Not uncommon in the community, Kranz says even this has begun to change.

2023 NOMINEES

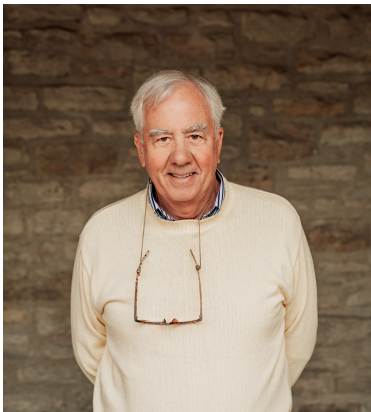


Elizabeth Coley

Nominee for Vestry

Elizabeth is a “cradle” Episcopalian and daughter to a mother who has exemplified service to the church over her own lifetime association. Elizabeth sings soprano in the choir and has served on the Sanctuary Worship Team, the pre-pandemic Liturgy Board, coordinated the MEAC Thanksgiving meal ministry, and worked with MEAC literacy projects. She helped out a bit with the Christmas giving tree. She co-coordinated the Redeemer cloth mask project at the start of the pandemic and has been a baker for the bread ministry for about a year.

"The spiritual growth I've experienced at Redeemer is hard to put into words. There have been ineffable and shining moments of connection in music and in prayer, in laughter and in food. The church plays a complex role in my life."



David Haffner

Nominee for Vestry

As a family which included three young children, David and his ex-wife began attending Church of the Redeemer in 1984. They quickly became involved in the life of the church. When he and wife, Randol, were married in 1998, she became a member of Church of the Redeemer and served with him as an usher. David has also served on nominating committees, as a lay weeder and for three plus years as head of Stewardship (including the Cornerstone Campaign). David is currently a Stephen Minister and has volunteered with Church of the Redeemer's People Working Cooperatively team.

Feeling the call to serve on vestry, David feels this is yet another way he can keep best fulfilling his life as a Christian at Church of the Redeemer.



Nancy Powell

Nominee for Vestry

A cradle Episcopalian, Nancy joined the Church of the Redeemer in 1985. She has been Chair of the Education Committee, a member of the Mission Funding Board and Liturgy Board, and a member of the Search Committee for the Reverend Bruce Freeman.

Over the years Nancy has served as a Lay Reader, a Lay Eucharistic Visitor, a Greeter and a Stephen Minister. Nancy has been a member of the Flower Guild, the Benedictine Group and the Redeemer Book Group.

Nancy is honored and spiritually moved by the invitation to serve on the Vestry. After prayerful consideration, she said "Yes" to wherever God leads her in this experience."



Cynthia Ray Walker

Nominee for Vestry

Cynthia has been a member of Redeemer since 1995 when she and her husband, Garret, moved to Cincinnati for job opportunities. She held a research and management position with Federated Department Stores (now Macy's) until her retirement in 2010. Over the years, Cynthia has been involved in a number of Redeemer's ministries, including IHN, Celtic Guild and the Card Ministry.

She has been an intercessor and served on the most recent Rector Search Committee. For many years, she also was involved with the Washington National Cathedral as a regional chair and served on the national NCA Board. Caregiving and the pandemic limited in-person participation in recent years, but with Garret's death in 2022, God's call to become more involved at Church of the Redeemer was clear. The invitation to join the vestry has been an answer to a prayer and would provide a meaningful opportunity to serve Church of the Redeemer.



Steve Zimmerman

Nominee for Vestry

Having been born and raised in the Detroit area, Steve's family were members at Central Woodward Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). His introduction to the Episcopal Church came when he married his wife Edie, at her parish, St. Pauls' in Chillicothe, OH. He was confirmed by Church of the Redeemer's former Rector in the mid-1990's.

Steve began attending Church of the Redeemer in the fall of 1988 after the birth of his daughter, Courtney. They continued as members, including his other children, Hannah and Matthew.

With the end of the current school year this coming May, Steve will be retiring from public education after nearly 38 years.

"I believe God is calling me off the bench and to enter the game to serve on the Redeemer Vestry! I look forward to further contributing to the growth and community reach of our parish."



Bill Culp

Nominee for a Trustee of the Redeemer Permanent Property Fund (second term).

Bill's family came to Cincinnati in 1962, when he was a teenager. And that was when he first attended Church of the Redeemer. The Episcopal Church has been a part of most of his life, and he even attended an Episcopal high school. He met his wife Polly in Southern California; she also an Episcopalian; and they attended Episcopal churches in Irvine and Laguna Beach, CA before they returned to Cincinnati in 1982 and joined Church of the Redeemer as a couple.

I have always been interested in buildings, e.g. when they were built, construction, etc. and that definitely benefitted my career in the property/casualty insurance industry. "Physically Church of the Redeemer has grown and changed substantially since I first joined; it was a "new" church then and had already had one addition, and that has really continued until today. We need to take care of the facility so it is available for the next generation."

Christine Andrew

Alternate Delegate to the 2023 Diocesan Convention and Delegate to the Conventions in 2024 and 2025

Christine has been a member of CoR since 2000. She's joyfully involved as a Stephen Minister, Lay Eucharistic Visitor and Lector while her most recent and fun challenge is returning to choral singing as a member of the Redeemer choir. Christine served as warden of CoR from 2006 to 2010 and is married to another former warden, Tom Kirkwood. You could say we are hard core Episcopalians; as

such it's important to understand what goes on in the wider church, and specifically in the Diocese of Southern Ohio. Our diocese is in a time of transition and I would appreciate the opportunity to serve Redeemer as a delegate to its annual Convention.



John Schenk, Jr.

Alternate Delegate to the 2023 Diocesan Convention and Delegate to the Conventions in 2024 and 2025

John has been attending Church of Redeemer since the 90's as his parents, John and Kim Schenk began attending at that time. John served as one of Redeemer's acolytes during his time at St. Xavier High School. In his collegiate years at Hobart College (Geneva, NY), he studied economics and English, rowed crew, and was an avid goer to Trinity Episcopal Church.

In the fall of 2018, John moved his studies overseas to Edinburgh, Scotland for a semester and attended St. John's Scottish Episcopal Church.

After graduating in 2020, he returned back to Cincinnati and has since served as one of Redeemer's morning greeters. His rescheduled graduation ceremony was special as Presiding Bishop Michael Curry spoke to the graduated classes of '20. Professionally, he is a commercial real estate broker at CBRE, specializing in office tenant representation for some of Cincinnati's largest and fastest growing firms. His newest venture in the Cincinnati community is spearheading the forthcoming Cincinnati Chili Bowl, a NCAA collegiate bowl game to be played at TQL Stadium.

"I've been blessed with opportunity in this community, spiritually, professionally, and personally. Serving as a delegate is a call to serve for which I will gladly answer."

Laurie Maguire

Nominee for a Member at-large of the Redeemer Mission Funding Committee (second term)

The Maguires joined Church of the Redeemer in 2011 when they moved back to Cincinnati. They chose this church because they felt it was a church of inclusion which is very important to them. Since that time Laurie has served on the Flower Guild, she and her husband, CH, have served as ushers at the Rite II services and Laurie was a part of the Home Comforts Ministry.



Laurie and CH have four children spread across Cincinnati, Hailey, Idaho, and Sonoma, California and eight amazing grandchildren.

For Laurie the call of God is to serve others and she is forever open to new ways to be part of God's plan.



Elizabeth Clapp

Nominee for a Member at-large of the Redeemer Mission Funding Committee (second term)

Elizabeth started coming to Church of the Redeemer in the fall of 2013. She has three daughters, Sophia (11), Eleanor (8), and Lilah, (4).

An immigration attorney with her own law firm since late 2018, Elizabeth has participated in various ministries, including MEAC, First Step Home, and most recently IHN. Throughout her life Elizabeth has felt the deepest connection with God through service to others. From high school trips to

Appalachia to repair homes to working with detained migrant families on the U.S./Mexico border, she has felt the power of God's presence in mission work.

2022 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES TAKEN ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2022
BY PATRICIA KOVACH, CLERK OF THE VESTRY

After determining that a quorum was reached, the Rev. Philip DeVaul, Rector, offered an opening prayer to call the meeting to order via Zoom at 1:00 PM. He asked for a motion to appoint Patricia Kovach, Clerk of Vestry, as Secretary for the meeting. Jeanne Plunkett made the motion and Carol Hesser seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Copies of the minutes from the 2021 Annual Meeting were included in the Annual Meeting report sent to the congregation the week prior to the meeting. Janet Simpkinson made the motion to accept the minutes from the 2021 Annual Meeting as written, Kathe Kissel seconded. The motion was unanimously approved

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

Emily VonAllmen made her final remarks as Senior Warden. She discussed how the pandemic brought about ways to adapt and to bring the church into the homes of parishioners and how the new service schedule and the reconfiguration of the space effects how we worship. She explained how the decrease in the number of Vestry members and the incorporation of the Board chairs onto the Vestry will increase efficiency of the work. Phil thanked her for her exceptional leadership during the pandemic and presented her with gifts from the church.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Christine Andrew, chair of the Nominating Committee, announced the following Nominees to the Vestry and Parish Office.

Vestry (two year term):

- Jeff Brokamp, Nominee for Senior Warden
- Beth Weinewuth, Nominee for Junior Warden

Office Nominees:

- Charles Fellows, Nominee for Trustee of the Redeemer Permanent Property
- Bill Taylor, Nominee for Member-at-Large of the Redeemer Mission Funding Committee (second term)
- Bill Killen, Nominee for Member-at-Large of the Redeemer Mission Funding Committee (second term)
- Nancye Van Brunt, Alternate Delegate to 2022 Diocesan Convention; Delegate 2023 and 2024
- Mark Bass, Alternate Delegate to 2022 Diocesan Convention; Delegate 2023 and 2024

Christine asked for a motion to close the nominations and cast a ballot for the entire slate. Tom Kirkwood made the motion and Betsy Schram seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. Christine congratulated the new candidates, thanked Nominating Committee

(Megan Hughes Johnson, Kyle Roberts, Mark Sesler, Mike Staffiera, Emily Von Allmen, Cynthia Williams) for their discernment, and asked the parish for support and prayers for their new leaders.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Rob Kranz presented the cash statements from the years ending December 2019 and December 2020 and then presented the Budget for 2021. The income for 2020 was up due to the many pre-payments of the 2021 pledged in December 2020. Expenditures were down due to lower building and maintenance costs as a result of the pandemic. He reported that the number of pledges were up and the investment performance for 2021 was also up. Phil thanked Rob for his work and thanked Carter Kemper and Debi Alselder for their support.

RECTOR'S REPORT

Phil thanked Mireya Medina, Communications Minister, for work on the Annual Report and on the website. He reminded the parishioners about the offerings for Lent. There will be a Mardi Gras block party on Shrove Tuesday. There will be a Great Vigil on Holy Saturday and on Easter there will be a sunrise service a 7:00 AM, at 9:00 AM the Rite II service and the Banquet service at 11:00 AM.

Lee Hardy thanked Phil for the great work with Family Ministries and the Preschool. Andrea Rogers thanked him for his leadership during these extraordinary times.

Phil thanked the Vestry, Wardens and Staff for their hard work during the past year. The Rev. Philip DeVaul offered a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 1:43 PM.



2022 Vestry of the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

Jeff Brokamp, *Senior Warden*, Beth Weinewuth, *Junior Warden*
Rob Kranz, *Treasurer*, Carter Kemper, *Assistant Treasurer*
Patricia Kovach, *Clerk of the Vestry*

Kathryn Albertson	Chuck Hardy	Andrea Rogers
Ryan Andrews	Larry Kissel	Betsy Schram
Andrew Cole	Amanda Rasche	Matt Solomon
Anna Grisi		

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