

Redeemer News

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A monthly
publication of the
**Church of the
Redeemer**—
Chestnut Hill,
Massachusetts

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From the Rector's Desk:

The Rev. Michael B. Dangelo

One of the great blessings of pastoral ministry is the opportunity to sit with people in the most difficult and joyful life moments. I love visiting the nursery of the hospital after a baby is born, and then baptizing that same baby in the months that follow. I love sitting with a newly engaged couple as they begin to navigate the complexities of their coming nuptials (particularly the coming blessing and challenge of their respective in-laws.) More than anything, I treasure the chance to be with someone in the days leading up to their death. In those moments, as most palliative care therapists and counselors will tell you, people become who they truly are. The kind in life become kinder. The angry in life become angrier. The content become thankful, and the perpetual victims of life become jealous and angry at the living. In the midst of these, I sit, listen and offer the consolation of Christ.

Many years ago, I had the chance to sit with a very successful attorney close to the time of his dying. He had been quite something during his professional career. He had attended the finest prep school, the most prestigious university, and finally a famous law school. He built an extraordinary career, represented the great and powerful, lived among the great and powerful, and was himself great and powerful. I met him in his mid-80's. He was a month beyond his diagnosis and a month from his death. His time was short, the path was clear, but his mood was unexpected.

In my drive to his home, I prepared myself for all sorts of conversations and questions. I galvanized myself for his fear and anxiety. I prepared myself for his questions about God and his sadness at leaving his family. His wife had made it so clear on the phone that we had arrived not at a moment of "if" but at the inevitable "when." I had my communion kit, my Book of Common Prayer, my listening ear, and all of my doubts, fears, hopes and questions about what happens beyond the Veil. I was ready to listen. I was ready to pray. I was ready for a man resigned to death. But that was far from what I found.

We shared the obligatory small talk. We moved into the medical conversation about his condition. We talked about the tears his wife shed and the phone calls to his children. I prepared the elements of Holy Communion. I poured the wine, laid out the corporal, and placed two wafers from the pix on the paten. We said the prayers, ate the bread, drank the wine, and thanked the Lord. It all had a finality in my head. He acted like a man that knew he was dying until he didn't.

The conversation that followed communion wasn't the normal stuff of the inevitable. There was silence; interminable silence. Then he looked at me and said, "I don't know what's next."

"What do you mean you don't know what's next," I queried.

"I don't know what's next," he said again.

"I don't understand," I stammered.

Continued on p.2

“I’ve never been sick before, Mike. I’ve been healthy my whole life. I’ve exercised, gone to the doctor, twisted an ankle here and there, but I’ve never really been sick before. What’s next? My wife is scared, my children are sad, but I just don’t know what I’m going to do next. I went to the office three days ago, and today I can barely get out of bed. I don’t know what’s next.”

Out of my confusion, I realized that this man, this powerful, successful, self-made, and dying man had no capacity for his own weakness and mortality. He had never been weak before his diagnosis. He had never been mortal before this moment. At 84 he had managed to live a life of pain-free seeming immortality. Here in this moment sitting at his bedside on that warm summer day he faced weakness, mortality and death all for the first time. What I desperately wanted to say in that moment, what haunts me all these years later are the words I wanted to say, the words I should have said, the words I couldn’t say: What’s next? You’re going to die.

But, Mike! (I hear you saying.) That would have been cruel! Maybe that’s what I thought too at the time, but today I would have said what I should have said. This moment we find ourselves in as 21st Century North Americans is an extraordinary one. With advances in healthcare, wellness, and diet, some can indeed live an entire life without the pangs of either biological or existential mortality. Death is a clinically distant thing that happens to other people in the sanitized hospital beds and far off hospice houses. Infrequent is the funeral I officiate that includes the body of the deceased. Instead this modern moment keeps death far from our eyes and mind. We will keep on forever. Death is something that happens to other people says our world. Death is a cruelty that need not be inflicted on the living.

Thank God for the Church! Thank God for Ash Wednesday! Thank God for Lent! There is no more powerful reminder of mortality for the living Christian than the ashes of Ash Wednesday. The simple sentence, “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return” is offered to the infant and the geriatric alike. Old and young, male and female, successful and destitute are all reminded of the inevitability of death. Mortality is literally smeared across the foreheads of the faithful in an annual ritual bent on preparing us for a Holy Lent. And after the ashes, the forty day fast of Lent is meant to prepare our hearts for the story of God taking God’s place in our mortality. Lent and Ash Wednesday do not permit us to live in the illusion of immortality that 21st Century American life would have us live. The ashes are the blessed response of the Church to our collective, “I don’t know what’s next.” And in that moment of knowing that we are mortal, only then can reliance on God truly begin. Our lives began in conditions not of our making, and they will end in conditions not of our choosing. Let us not be deceived into the lie of immortality built on our success, our power, our education or our greatness. Let us embrace our mortality and our dependence on the God who made us and will raise us from death on the Last Day.



Summer Youth Mission Trip July 9-14th Episcopal Mission Center, Philadelphia



We will be working and staying at St Luke's Church in Germantown where the Episcopal Mission Center is located. This group has hosted many churches in the past and provides structured faith based engagement. The projects we will be involved in a daily meals program and the building of a community garden sponsored by the Germantown Historical Society. Fun and learning will be integrated into our mission adventure. We will partner with the Rev. Marc Eames, (former Curate at Church of the Redeemer). **Marc will join us on Sunday March 5th right after Church to talk about the trip!**



The Assistant Rector's Corner

The Rev. Margery Kennelly

A Place for Image and Contemplation During Eucharist

This year during Lent you will find a carefully chosen work of art on the cover of each Sunday leaflet. In a desire to honor the solemnity of the season, we will take the Eucharist in silence. During that time, before you go up to the altar or when you have come back to your pew, some of you may want to look at the artwork as a way of reflecting on the scriptures with a different part of your brain.

For many centuries the Church had an uneasy relationship with the visual arts. Because Christianity is rooted in Judaism, the second commandment, "Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven image, nor the likeness of anything that is in heaven above or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down to them, nor worship them," cast a shadow over the possibility of art in worship settings. The Hebrew Bible is clear that God is spirit and therefore invisible. Any attempt to depict the invisible God would be misleading, encouraging worship of a false god.

But as the church expanded beyond its Jewish background, images began to creep in. This led to the split between the East and the West in the eighth century. The argument that undergirded the Western decision to make room for art was presented by St John of Damascus. He claimed that representations of Jesus are not attempts to depict the invisible nature of God. They are representing a historical person and are necessary in proof of the Incarnation. Since God actually became a man with a face, we can paint that face!

Once again the debate raged during the Reformation. Reformers like Zwingli and Calvin again cited the second commandment and objected to what they described as a superstitious veneration of images. They also criticized the elaborate and expensive decoration as excessive and contrary to Christ's priority to care for the needy. This controversy was keenly felt in England. Anglican Churches had their paintings burned, their windows smashed, their walls defaced. But finally the doctrine of the Incarnation once again prevailed as the theological underpinning for art in worship.

God became human and that gives great dignity to the created visible world that artists represent. In fact, it could be argued that God became visible and interacted with the world so we could know and love Him better.



The Women's Retreat April 7th and 8th



I am thrilled that my long time wonderful spiritual director Dr. Susan Currie, will be leading our retreat. Space is limited, so please let me know soon if you would like to come. We will once again be staying with the Sisters of St. Margaret at their guest houses in Duxbury, Ma. The accommodations are really lovely- two cottages looking out over the bay- and a beautiful sunny porch. We would arrive in the early afternoon on Friday and stay through mid- afternoon on Saturday. The rhythm of our retreat will include some times of silence, rest, and time for joint reflection, meals together and worship with the sisters. You will each have your own room. The recommended cost is \$120 per person. If you are sure you will be coming, you can reserve your space by writing a check to Church of the Redeemer with "Women's Retreat" in the description. You can put your check in my box in the office.

From the Wardens

Carolyn Thayer Ross and Nina Moriarty



Fellow Parishioners,

February was a time of change for the Redeemer. Following our Annual Meeting, Jim Huston, Dan McCarthy and Preston McSwain retired from the Vestry and Alex Ewing, Anne Grandin and Dick Tucker were elected to serve. Steve Mead, Senior Warden for eight years, completed his final term. All of us in this parish owe Steve a large debt of gratitude for his selfless service on behalf of the Redeemer, working with three Rectors and two Interims, steering the Investment Committee, representing stability and competence during what were not always easy times. Steve will continue to report to the Vestry on the Schoenstein Organ project and will remain on the Investment Committee. He leaves the new Senior Warden with a strong, growing parish with a deep commitment to our mission. We are all grateful.

We said goodbye to Elton Matos, our facilities manager, who for seventeen years, has been a beloved fixture and the “go-to man” of the Redeemer. Elton is now working as Facilities Manager at the Meadowbrook School in Weston, but he and his family will remain living in the Old Parish House for up to four months, until June 30th, when they expect to move into their house in Newton. With Elton’s departure, traditional Sexton duties and facilities management are undergoing reorganization with a ninety-day trial of new options.

At February’s Vestry meeting, the Vestry reviewed the status of the Schoenstein organ being designed and built for the Redeemer and voted to approve the Installation Sub-Committee’s recommendations for the addition of a 32 flue foot stop. The stop was originally dropped from the design because of space constraints but it was subsequently determined that the pipes could be placed on the rear wall of the church. Jack Bethards, President and Tonal Director of Schoenstein Organs called into the meeting to answer questions from the Vestry. The additional stop would enhance the tonal palette of the new organ and serve as a remedy to the ongoing acoustical challenge of our worship space. Problems hearing or understanding the spoken word within our nave have been challenging. Previous attempts in our 100 year history have had limited success. Sophisticated acoustical studies were performed in connection with this. By using the back wall for the stop, the pipes could be positioned to defuse sound waves, resulting in enhanced comprehension of the spoken word and a more satisfying musical experience. Design work around the stop has not been finalized and will depend upon future fund raising for any expenses in excess of what has been already raised. This organ project has been made possible by the wonderful generosity of some parish members who have donated nearly \$1.4 million, as a legacy to the Redeemer community. It is the plan that any remaining funds necessary to complete this project will be sought from individual parishioners and will not come from our endowment.

Finally, there is great news for the Redeemer’s Children, Youth and Family Ministries. Our Rector is working on the final details to hire a new curate, to start on June 1st and to be introduced to the parish at the appropriate time. Those of us who have met and spent time with her are very enthusiastic about her becoming a part of our ministry and look forward to the new addition to the Redeemer family.

In closing, as your new Senior Warden, I am humbled by your faith and by the responsibility that you have given me. I remain ever mindful of the good work of those who have come before me and am grateful for our clergy, staff, vestry and Junior Warden.

We look forward to working together with you.

Your Servants in Christ,

Carolyn

Nina



A Lenten Poetry Series facilitated by Barbara Kennard

March 8, 15, 22, 29

6:30pm Supper—7-8pm Discussion

- * How can we as Christians cope with catastrophic events in the world?
- * Where might we find God in horrific situations?
- * Can any good come from them?

We will explore these questions through the poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins, one of the most original poets to write in English in any time period. Although he published only three poems in his short life (1844-1889), Hopkins' most famous work, "The Wreck of The Deutschland," won him posthumous acclaim. We will listen to, read, and discuss this iconic poem in four Wednesday evening sessions during Lent: March 8, 15, 22, 29. Each evening will begin with our usual simple Lenten meal at 6:30 in the Parish Hall (Remember to sign-up!) and the class will meet from 7:00pm-8:00pm in the Porter Room. No experience with Hopkins or with poetry in general is required. Everyone is welcome. Please come and bring a friend.

RSVP: office@redeemercHESTnuthill.org or call 617-566-7679

Silent Prayer and Meditation

Silent Prayer will start meeting again mid-April.



Lent · Holy Week · Easter Special Services at Church of the Redeemer

April 9th Palm Sunday

8:00am & 10:00am Holy Eucharist

April 13th Maundy Thursday

7:30pm Holy Eucharist

April 14 Good Friday

12:00 noon & 7:30pm, 5:00pm children's service (Children should meet in the hall outside the parish office.)

April 16th Easter

9:00 am Festal Holy Eucharist Service and the Flowering of the Cross

11:00 am Festal Holy Eucharist Service



Sunday School News

From Leslie Williams, Interim Sunday School Coordinator

Last month brought us together in fellowship and worship. It was cold and snowy outside, but our classrooms were warm and filled with busy children and faithful volunteers! We celebrated the joy of baptisms, both in the Godly Play lesson and in church. We returned to the Desert Box for the stories of the Exile and Return and the Prophet Ezekiel, and finished out the month with the Parable of the Sower.

Ash Wednesday services on March 1st mark the beginning of the Lenten season. The children are by now very familiar with the large felt calendars on our classroom walls. Each Sunday we move the arrow one space forward on the circle, advancing March 5th to the first of the six purple rectangles that correspond to the five Sundays of Lent. Lent is longer than the season of Advent, because Easter is an even greater mystery than Christmas. It takes longer to prepare ourselves to enter the mystery of Easter. This month we are getting ready with two parables, the story of Jesus and Zacchaeus, The Circle of the Holy Eucharist, and the story of Jesus' Last Passover.

As always, our purpose in Sunday School is to nurture and share an abiding relationship with God. Please let me know if you are interested in learning more!

Faithfully,

Leslie

Sunday School Schedule

March 1st: Ash Wednesday

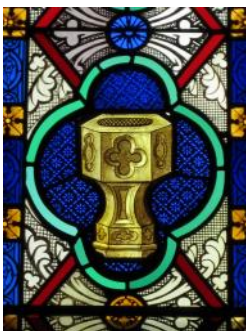
March 5th: Sunday School and Eucharist Sunday

March 12th: Sunday School and Eucharist Sunday

March 19th: Sunday School and Eucharist Sunday

March 26th: Sunday School and Eucharist Sunday

Middle School Youth Group – evening



Seeking Baptism?

Our next date for Baptisms is June 4th, Pentecost Sunday. If you are interested in a baptism, please contact Barbara MacDonald.

office@redeemernestnuthill.org or 617-566-7679

Church Service League Meeting Monday, March 6th at 9:00am

Please join us for the upcoming meeting of the CSL on Monday, March 6th in the Tripp Room. All are welcome to attend. The CSL is an easy way to join your fellow parishioners for service, fellowship, and fun. The CSL meets the first Monday of each month... please drop in! If you would like to get involved, but cannot attend meetings at this time, please contact Mary Crown, mecrown@lotsoc.com

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER, 379 HAMMOND STREET, CHESTNUT HILL

FOR TICKETS IN ADVANCE, QUESTIONS,
CALL 617-566-7679 OR EMAIL CONCERTS@REDEEMERCHESTNUTHILL.ORG

REDEEMER CONCERT SERIES III



Nicholas Kitchen
Violin



Yeesun Kim
Cello



Meng-Chieh Liu
Piano

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2017

7:30 PM

VIOLIN SONATA #1 IN G MAJOR *Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)*
DUO FOR VIOLIN AND CELLO #1 *Bohuslav Martinů (1890-1959)*
TRIO #2 IN D MINOR, OP. 9 *Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)*

Tickets in Advance \$20; Tickets at the Door \$25; Students \$10

**We wish to thank the Sponsors of this Concert Series,
without whose generous support this concert would not be possible.**

For Those in Need of Prayer



Michael Brogan, Dominick Cannavo, Juliette Cobian (John de Jong's mother), Alex Davis, C.L. Finley, Brenda Irvine (Lucinda Doran's sister-in-law) Jim Irvine (Lucinda Doran's brother), Tim Kenney, Kit Lee, Adam, Alice, Antwan, Brooke, Chris, Jane, Janice, Karin, Nathaniel, Rick, Tom



Service Assistants for March

<u>Date</u>	<u>Server</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>LEM</u>	<u>Lectors</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>
3/1/2017 Ash Wed. HE II 7am	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
3/1/2017 Ash Wed. HE II 12pm	Suzy Westcott	N/A	TBD Suzy Westcott	TBD TBD	Sally Hurlbut TBD	
3/1/2017 Ash Wed. HE II 7:30pm	Suzy Westcott	N/A	Barbara Kennard Suzy Westcott	R. Schmalensee TBD	R. Schmalensee D. Schmalensee	
3/5/2017 HE I	Bannon Jones	Si Jones Toby Pyle	TBD Suzy Westcott	Liza Jones Velura Perry	Taki Tsomides John Grandin Walker Jones Aaron Dunn	Lynda Forse & Candy Haydock Judy Bland Judy Reece Eve Roberts
3/12/2017 HE I	David Farber	Vivienne Woodard TBD	Graeme Mills Debby Mills	Betty Swinton Lloyd Dahmen	Dick Tucker M. Aylward Sally Hurlbut Velura Perry	Carolyn Ross Gene Dahmen Greer Candler Phyllis Vineyard
3/19/2017 HE I	Caroline Woodard	Ellie DeLorey Hana Taylor	Kathy Murphy Barbara Kennard	Graeme Mills Liza Jones	Peggy Reiser Lloyd Dahmen Charlie Cooney Graeme Mills	Gina Cummings Carol Pfaelzer Peggy Reiser Mieko Van Haeren
3/26/2017 HE I	Bannon Jones	Si Jones Suzy Westcott	Lucinda Doran Suzy Westcott	Betty Swinton John de Jong	Walker Jones Dick Tucker John Grandin John de Jong	Suzy Westcott Susan Anderson Debbie Aylward Gloria Brewster
3/26/2017 Evensong 5pm	Suzy Westcott	N/A	N/A	Barbara Kennard Lucinda Doran	Velura Perry Louis Bailey	



February Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and...

February 19th: in loving memory of William and Helen Cummings by the Cummings family.



**CELEBRATE THIS EASTER
WITH A GIFT OF
EASTER LILIES**

Our beautiful lilies which adorn the Church of the Redeemer at Easter are made possible by many financial donations from our parishioners. These Easter flower donations are a lovely way to remember those who are special to us. Gifts may be made “in celebration of” an event or important milestone as well as “in honor of”, “in loving memory of” or “in thanksgiving of” loved ones.

The memorial notations for the Easter donations are recorded in calligraphy in The Book of Remembrance, on display in the Narthex throughout the year- a beautiful reminder for all.

Names which are received by April 5th will be printed in the Easter worship service leaflets.

We suggest \$50 for the first listing, \$10 for each additional one, but of course ANY AMOUNT is welcome.

We hope that you will contribute to the glorious celebration of Easter at the Redeemer with a memorial gift. The results of your generosity will be enjoyed by all who visit us at Easter time.

Please make your check payable to *Church of the Redeemer* and send it with the form below to Church of the Redeemer 379 Hammond St. Chestnut Hill, 02467 c/o Greer Candler, Treasurer Altar Guild. Thank you.

Please circle one:

in celebration of in honor of in loving memory of in thanksgiving for

Designation: _____

Donor Name(s): _____

Daytime Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____



**KEEP
CALM
AND
GO TO
EVENSONG**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 26
5:00 P.M.**

FESTIVE RECEPTION FOLLOWS.

**CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
379 HAMMOND STREET
CHESTNUT HILL, MA 02467
WWW.REDEEMERCHESTNUTHILL.ORG**

From the Archives

Remember the days of old; consider the many generations...(Deuteronomy 32:7)

"IT MUST HAVE BEEN KEPT FOR SOME SPECIAL REASON"



The Redeemer received a letter from England from Christine Sadler, written on January 4th, 2017. She was clearing out the effects of a family friend and found a service sheet from the Church of the Redeemer. It is an Order of Service for Unfurling of the National and State Flags, April 29th, 1917. Reverend Lucien Rogers was the rector at this time (1911- 1924).

Christine Sadler wrote "I am sorry that I do not know anything about its history but it must have been kept for some special reason. I hope it is of some interest to you and your church."

The service sheet is creased and folded in a yellowed envelope which was postmarked 'Back Bay Station', June 30, 19-- (unclear), with an embossed red two cent postage stamp.

It is addressed to Miss Louie Fowler, Grove Farm, Longton, North Preston, Lancashire, England. Louie was 21 when she received this letter. Did she ask a friend from the Redeemer to send it to her or was someone she knew involved in the war effort from Chestnut Hill, and so wanted her to see that the service was held on her birthday?

According to Christine Sadler, Harriet Louise Fowler was born April 29th, 1896 in Walton-le-Dale Lancashire to Hugh Fowler and Mary Annie, and was christened June 14th, 1896 in St Saviours Church, Bamber Bridge Lancashire. In the 1911 census she was living at the address on the envelope. In 1922 she married farmer James Rimmer. She spent the rest of her life at Modell Farm, Halsall, Lancashire. Her only child, James Hugh Rimmer, was born January 15, 1924. Harriet 'Louie' Rimmer, died in 1970 in Ormskirk, England. The farm went bankrupt in the 1980's.

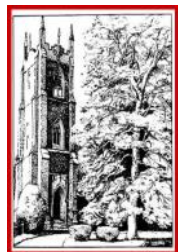
Christine Sadler's mother had joined the Women's Land Army in 1943 when she was 17, and was sent to work on Modell Farm where she became lifelong friends with Louie Fowler Rimmer. Christine was a young child when she met Louie, who was then in her 60's, and she obtained this letter as part of the family's effects after the death of Louie's son Hugh when he was in his 80's.

This is an amazing treasure for our archives and extremely thoughtful of Christine Sadler to send it. Louie Fowler Rimmer cared about that day at our church and kept the service leaflet all these years. It is the only copy we have from that day's service and one of very few service leaflets during the war years. A treasure for our archives.

Megan Sampson
Megan Sampson
Parish Archivist

Redeemer News

Send address changes to:



Redeemer News
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Chestnut Hill, MA 02467
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Mailed monthly September to June

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Interim Sunday School Coordinator, Leslie Williams
familyministries@redeemerchestnuthill.org
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Parish Historian, Megan Sampson
megancsampson@gmail.com

MISSION STATEMENT

“A parish of the Episcopal Church, the Church of the Redeemer exists to bring people to Christ, and to bring Christ to all people, through worship, fellowship, education and service.”

VESTRY

Carolyn Thayer Ross, Senior Warden
Nina Moriarty, Junior Warden
George Raine, Clerk
Aaron Dunn, Treasurer
Chip Pollard, Assistant Treasurer

Logan Chandler	Elliot Davis
Hallie DeLorey	Carol Post Pfaelzer
Alex Ewing	Laura Hindermann
Anne Grandin	Graeme Mills
Josh Peteet	Jesse Tumblin
Liza Jones	Dick Tucker
Alexandra McPeek <i>ex officio</i>	Mary Crown, <i>ex officio</i>

AFFILIATED CLERGY

The Rev. John H. Finley IV, *Head of Epiphany School*
The Rev. Judith L. Stuart