



CHURCH *of the*
REDEEMER
Chestnut Hill

Strategic Ministries Update

March 2021

Spring. The word deserves its own sentence this year. This season of emergence and new growth seems fitting for where we find ourselves. Communities are buzzing with the excitement of children returning to school in a full-time setting. Parents collectively sighing from the prospect of a little less juggling. Rising vaccination has most everyone looking forward to a more enjoyable summer.

The Redeemer finds itself in a very similar position of emergence and growth. In-person services have restarted, Easter is just around the corner, a new Director of Music will be joining us shortly, and we also have a new Director of Children 's, Teens and Family Ministries who is working on some exciting new opportunities for outreach and fellowship with our Strategic Ministries Committee. You will hear more from Barrie Rose Bliss about this in next month's SMC newsletter.

Church leadership and the Strategic Ministries Committee are busy planning for what a more "normal" environment looks like for our community. Our strategic ministry partners around Boston and the world are likewise planning ahead, while also ensuring immediate community needs for food, shelter, and education are being met in a timely manner. Your Christmas offering gifts to RUMI (Rent, Utilities, and Mortgage Initiative) and continued support of FUEL have proved crucial in this effort. This fight to support our partners in these unprecedented times is not over, but a light seems to be appearing at the end of this long, dark tunnel. Countless thanks to all of you for blessing the Redeemer, Strategic Ministries Committee, and our partners with your gifts of emotional and financial support over the past year!

We simply could not have made it without each other in this wonderful community of Christian faith.

Gratefully yours,

Debby & Aaron

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back. — Luke 6:38



Aaron Dunn
Strategic Ministries
Co-Chair



Debby Mills
Strategic Ministries
Co-Chair

Contributing Your Time, Talents & Treasure



Common Cathedral serves as an important community for people experiencing homelessness, and for faith communities who want to be in supportive relationship with un-housed individuals and their friends.

Common Cathedral is an outdoor church and street ministry with chronically homeless Bostonians at its center. Outdoor worship is the heart of common cathedral.

COVID- 19 Update

When so many places chronically unhoused people rely on have closed -- libraries, cafes/coffee shops, and other service providers -- we aim to keep BostonWarm and common art open as long as possible. The parish hall at Emmanuel Church in the City of Boston is now a space for no more than 25 people to quietly rest, six feet

apart from each other. We are sharing simple food and drink options in the hallway. We are offering use of the restrooms for taking care of our bodies.

There are three specific ways that people can help right now, right from where you are:

- 1) Purchase supplies from our COVID-19 Amazon [wish list](#)
- 2) Make sandwiches at home and/or purchase soft fruits and granola bars and drop them off. We need these Wednesdays and Thursdays for the foreseeable future. [Sign up here](#)
- 3) Pray for us!

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On-site volunteers needed!

SSYP is seeking in-person volunteers for the Resource Center

With Covid rates declining and Boston Public Schools (and our city) opening up for more in-person activities, SSYP is also *cautiously* expanding our work. We are running Resource Centers--spaces for students to do their virtual learning--at our two sites. Our young people need lots of support rebuilding their confidence and staying focused on their academic work.

Safety is our top priority and we are following strict protocols. The Resource Center runs Monday to Friday during the school day. Elementary schoolers (grades 1-4) meet at 419 Shawmut Avenue and middle schoolers (grades 5-8) meet at 31 Lenox Street. SSYP is seeking weekly volunteers who can come for one (or two!) shifts, either 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. or 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Volunteers will work with a pair of students, helping them stay focused on the virtual class instruction, supporting their learning,

and increasing their confidence and spirits. Volunteers will receive a short orientation and training and get ongoing coaching and help from our staff team. Can you join us?!

To find out more, please contact Ashlie, SSYP's Volunteer Coordinator: [Ashlie](#) or call 774 264 0002.

Drop-in Zoom Joint Prayer Tuesdays and Thursdays

Please join us as we pray for St. Stephen's Youth Programs! Drop in any Tuesday or Thursday for ten minutes at noon to pray together with parishioners from St. Stephen's and Redeemer. Contact Leslie Williams with questions, or for the zoom link! Leswill@gmail.com or 617-312-6299.

Mission Partner Updates

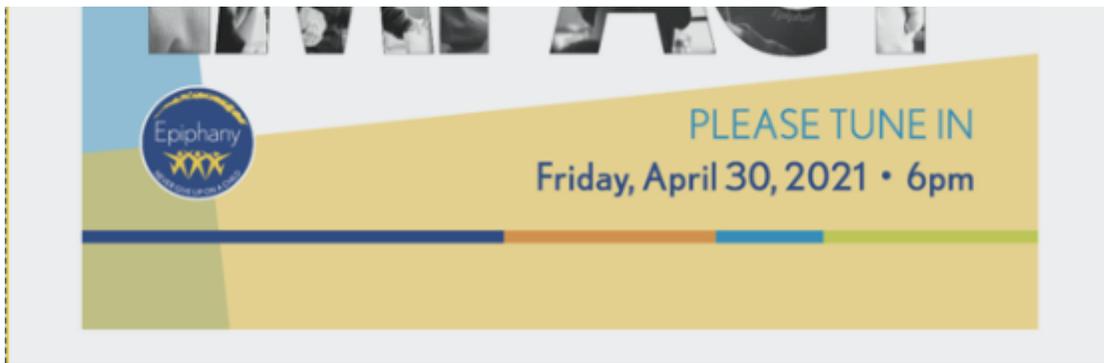


Epiphany

Epiphany Virtual Gala April 30, 2021

Please join Epiphany on April 30, 2021 for Epiphany's Annual Virtual Gala. Plan on attending an uplifting evening of inspiring stories from our community, musical performances, and fun! [Click here](#) to get your tickets by April 19!





PILGRIM AFRICA

Recently a group of Redeemer parishioners met Aaron Okalebo, Headmaster of Beacon of Hope, as part of monthly check-in Zoom meetings. Currently 201 level S. 4 (10 grade) and S. 6 (12 grade) students have been on campus preparing for exams which they will be taking on April 7th. Pray for them, it has been challenging preparing. After they finish exams, students in S-3 and S-5 will return to campus after almost a year away.

For a recent update from Dorothy [click here](#)

Redeemer parishioners are meeting monthly with Pilgrim African via Zoom for regular updates. Please contact [Steve Mead](#) if you would like to be included.



Pilgrim Africa @pilgrimafrica · 1h



This is Aaron Okalebo, the Headmaster at Beacon of Hope School. He has been working tirelessly to ensure a smooth transition for students who are returning to campus after almost a year away. Please join us in praying for Aaron during this busy time.



Our FUEL program continues to meet the needs of Newton Public School students and families, as well as contribute to weekly food donations to Epiphany School and St. Stephen's Youth Programs' (SSYP) families. In fact, Velura Perry and her dedicated volunteers supply 185 bags with 10 lb. of food every week — double what was done in the fall. In addition, Rev. Mike makes weekly deliveries of fresh chicken and dairy products — including 800 lbs. of chicken and 48 half-gallons of milk this week -- to our friends at SSYP and Epiphany to augment the shelf-stable goods





On Friday, April 9th at 7pm, renowned classical guitarist, John Muratore, will perform a livestream concert to benefit the Redeemer's FUEL Program. You can watch the concert on Facebook Live as well as the Redeemer's YouTube station. Make a donation [here](#).



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