



CHURCH *of the*
REDEEMER
Chestnut Hill

Strategic Ministries Update

February 2021

Are you as tired of the pandemic as we are? It's clear that COVID-19 has been a source of trauma and exhaustion for many people for many different reasons — whether financial, social, medical, etc. If we've learned anything this past year it is that our health and well being is inextricably linked, and we need one another. According to the science, the antidote to the immobilization many of us are feeling is social engagement. Our connections strengthen us.

Volunteering, or serving as Christ's disciples, is important for the ways in which we help others. Research suggests, however, volunteers aren't just helping the communities they serve — they are boosting their own mental health too. Additionally, researchers report that people who volunteer more frequently experience greater benefits.

A priority of SMC is creating opportunities for Redeemer parishioners to engage and build relationships with our mission partners. While the pandemic created challenges to being together, we have reimagined opportunities and continue to seek new ways of serving together.

We invite you to join us for packing or delivering for FUEL, joining in prayers with SSYP, or getting involved with others working with specific mission partners. There are opportunities to build fellowship within our church, serve with and for our neighbors, and get a mental boost to boot!

Gratefully yours,

Debby & Aaron



Aaron Dunn
Strategic Ministries
Co-Chair



Debby Mills
Strategic Ministries
Co-Chair

Contributing Your Time, Talents & Treasure



FUEL is dependent on the goodwill and support of so many in the Redeemer parish. Please consider volunteering in some capacity!

Sorting, Packing, & Driving for FUEL -- Sign Up [HERE](#) to help out. *(Please note this is Sign Up, not Sign Up Genius.)* All work is done wearing masks and maintaining social distancing.

Shopping and donating food and/or gift cards to FUEL -- [Click HERE](#) for the listing of items FUEL packs for families in Newton, Epiphany & SSYP.

FUEL is a mission initiative founded, funded, and executed solely by Church of the Redeemer. If you are interested in helping out or want to learn more, please contact our fearless leader [Velura Perry](#).

ALL HELP IS WELCOME!!



Common Cathedral serves as an important community for people

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.

Thank you to those who regularly send cotton socks and underwear for Common Cathedral. Your donations are very much appreciated, and we hope you will continue.

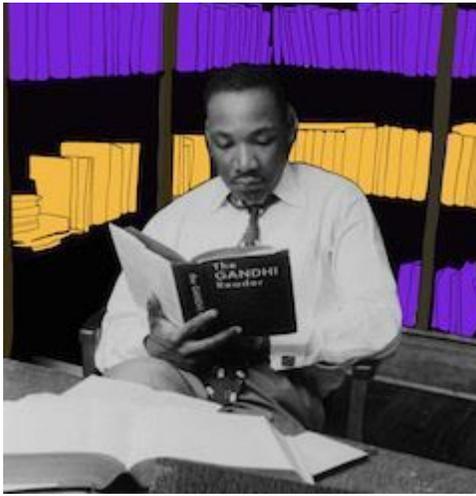
Common Cathedral is still in need of multi-packs of cotton socks and cotton underwear briefs for both Men and Women S, M, L & XL.

These items can be ordered online and **shipped to the Redeemer, 379 Hammond St. Chestnut Hill, MA 02467.**

We have also put a donation bin at the exterior office door for those that wish to pick them up at a store and drop them off at the church.

Please keep these requests, all our mission partners and the communities they serve in your prayers. Thank you for your generosity!





As part of a robust, 12-year partnership with the Blackstone Elementary School in the South End, St. Stephen's Youth Programs has coordinated the library at this Boston Public School.

During this MLK Season of Action, the Blackstone Library team is working with teachers to enhance the mini-libraries in 14 older grade classrooms. St. Stephen's Youth Programs will be adding 15-20 new books about civil rights movements and heroes who worked to achieve racial justice in each classroom.

If you would like to support this book drive, you can make a donation through the [SSYP website](#): Choose the *Get Involved* tab, then click on *2021 MLK Season of Action* **or** follow the link below to order books directly!

[Order books on wishlist through Porter Square Books >](#)

Thursday Night Live!



We miss you! And we're really sick of staying home alone. So, let's all reconnect at SSYP's Thursday Night Live!

Thursday, March 4, 7-8:30 p.m. - Virtually

Inspiring (and brief!) video stories from SSYP staff and young people;

Fun and engaging live trivia from the folks at Don't Tell Comedy;

A pre-event raffle (\$5/ticket) with prizes including gift certificates to support three Black-owned Boston businesses as well as a \$150 gift card to the Museum of Fine Arts!

[Click here for tickets](#)

On-site volunteers needed!

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. If you feel comfortable doing in-person volunteer work, we could use your help! We have opportunities available, Monday to Friday, with morning (8:00am-12noon) and afternoon (12noon-3pm) shifts. To learn more about what we are doing and how to become an in-person volunteer, please contact volunteer@ssypboston.org.

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! Please support the students, families, and graduates of Epiphany School by becoming a sponsor of our 2021 Spring Gala: IMPACT! [Click here](#) to learn more.



PILGRIM
AFRICA

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Due to the pandemic, school was closed last March by the Ministry of Education. Only 90 students that had access to the internet were able to learn remotely. In October in-person learning resumed for the 200 older students preparing for national placement exams. Those exams, which will enable students to progress in their education, begin on February 26 (Senior 4) and April 9th (Senior 6). Please keep them in your prayers! The remaining 400 students have effectively missed a full year of school.

[Read more 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.





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