

Redeemer Review

**The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer
December, 2008 – January, 2009**



SCHEDULE OF HOLIDAY SERVICES:

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14th – ADVENT III:
ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M.
FOLLOWED BY DECORATING OUR CHRISTMAS TREE**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21st – ADVENT IV:
ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M.
WITH CHORAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC ARRANGED BY CINDY CHUNG**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24th:
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE WITH SPECIAL
CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND EUCHARIST
5:00 P.M.**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28th
OUR REGULAR 2 SERVICES AT 9:15 AND 10:30**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 4th – CELEBRATION OF EPIPHANY
OUR REGULAR 2 SERVICES AT 9:15 AND 10:30**



VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

The season of Advent traditionally signals a return to the beginning. Communities of faith start all over, taking up their ancient texts. In the midst of a world where God is rarely felt, we yearn to experience God again, for the first time. So we read and listen to our ancestors in faith. We do this trusting that somehow memory and hope will come alive.

During this season of Advent, we will be joining the two other Episcopal parishes in San Rafael, Nativity and St. Paul's, to explore these ancient stories from the Bible and imagine the ministry we can do together in San Rafael. This will be our first cooperative venture in Area Ministry. Advent is a season when we must let go of our mistaken dreams and arrogant gestures that provide clutter in our spiritual lives. This Advent season is an ideal time to embrace fresh expressions of ministry and to create new relationships with other Episcopalians in Marin County.

Advent and the season of Christmas invite us to reach out to others in many different expressions of social outreach. I would like to share with you a story that appeared in the *New York Times* a few years ago.

The day after Thanksgiving the *New York Times* told of a 33-year old local cab driver whose shoulder length hair was tied in a ponytail. About five years ago, this cabby "prayed to God for guidance on how to help the forgotten people of the streets who exist in life's shadows." As he recalls it, God replied: "Make eight pounds of spaghetti, throw it in a pot, give it out on 103rd Street and Broadway with no conditions, and people will come."

He did, they came, and now he goes from door to door giving people food to eat. I am not asking you to stuff the Big Apple with spaghetti. But a New York cabby can bring light into your Advent night. He prayed to a God who was there; he listened; he gave the simple gift God asked of him; he gave "with no conditions"; and people responded. Here is your Advent: Make the Christ who has come a reality, a living night, in your life and in some other life. Give of yourself.....to one dark soul.....with no conditions.

Walter J. Burghardt

The Redeemer community has given generously this season to the Ritter Center and the Marin County Food Bank. During this season of Advent and Christmas, I encourage you to pray to God like the cabby in the story and ask God how to help the forgotten people of the streets and in our community. Please give of yourself with no conditions and receive the many blessings of this season.

Blessings,

Father Mark

SENIOR WARDEN'S LETTER

Here comes Christmas!
And with it, a lot of announcements:

Flowers and Greens

Help us "Deck the Halls" (i.e., the Church) for Christmas - make a donation to fund a colorful display. Donations in any amount will be gratefully accepted so that we might have beautiful altar flowers for our Christmas Eve celebration. This is a wonderful way to memorialize and honor our loved ones, and all donations will be acknowledged in the service program. You may put a check, marked "For Christmas flowers" into the plate and we will contact you for your gift acknowledgement. Thank you!

On December 14th, there will be one service at 10 am, after which we will decorate our church Christmas tree. We will also assemble the outside Nativity that day.

On December 19th, beginning at 5pm we will welcome our own congregation members, Glenwood Homeowners and friends - young and old - when Jay Wayne will lead us in singing Christmas carols - both traditional and modern. Join in the fun as we welcome the community at Redeemer. We will serve mulled cider, and ask that attendees please contribute a plate of cookies.

The Bishop's Committee began an Advent Bible Study program on November 30th. Members will be using this forum to discern who to invite onto the discernment committee and also continue our discussion on Area Ministry. Fr. Mark is working actively with the other San Rafael churches (St. Paul's and Nativity) to bring this same program to the members of all the San Rafael churches. (See Fr. Mark's notice of this a little later on in the newsletter.)

Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24th is always a special treat! Our 5 pm service this year will include children of all ages. Cindy Chung will be working with the children, both young and old, on a variety of Christmas Carols

and Bible readings.

If you are interested in seeing San Francisco ACT's production of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" this year, contact Eileen Erler or Betsy Nakamura, who is researching a date for purchase of a block of tickets. Our very own Meg Nakamura is in the show this year!

A NEW PARENTING PROGRAM

is coming in January. See Mary Sparks' information later on in the newsletter.

This is an exciting gift to us all - parents and grandparents alike. The series will be pre-sented on second Wednesdays, beginning in January and continuing through May from 7 to 8pm.. Childcare will be available for participants at the Preschool. Redeemer Church will be funding refreshments and Redeemer Preschool is partnering with us to provide childcare.

2009 FLOWER DONATIONS

Flower donation costs have risen, so the requested donation will be \$75 in 2009. There will be a new flower chart in the back of the church very soon!

If you have any questions or concerns, please call me.

Sue Clark, 454-4115, sueclarkca@aol.com



“What Do You Expect?” – An Advent Bible Study for the Diocese of California

This is a project designed by the Area Ministry Initiative for people to hear ancient Biblical stories in new ways and share great expectations for the renewal of ministry with Episcopalians from around the Diocese of California.

“The Three San Rafael Churches Bible Study” – Sponsored by the Church of the Redeemer, Nativity and St. Paul’s.

Location: St. Paul’s Episcopal Church – Parish Hall: 1123 Court Street, San Rafael

Dates: Wednesdays: December 3, 10, & 17

Time:

6:00 pm – Centering Prayer

6:30 pm – Holy Eucharist

6:30 – 7:30 pm – Potluck Supper

7:30 – 8:30 pm – Bible Study: “What Do You Expect?”

Please come and join other Episcopalians from St. Paul’s and Nativity to participate in our first cooperative venture in Area Ministry. You may come for the whole evening or stop by for the Bible study session after work. You do not need to prepare in advance for any of these sessions. Everyone is welcome!

For further information: please contact Father Mark at mruyak2000@comcast.net or (415) 456-0508.



SAINTS AND ANGELS



(From Sue Clark,)

IN THANKSGIVING, I THANK YOU!

Cathy Kirk for her dedication in writing and editing our Redeemer Newsletter for the past several years. Cathy and Wayne will be spending spring and summer months at their recently completed home on Orcas Island and so she will be ending this ministry to Redeemer.

Richard Losey, our Junior Warden for his vigilance in identifying potential liability areas on our property and his ongoing efforts to open Redeemer to our community and invite them in.

Linda Fox, our Treasurer who has been as precise as any organization could wish a treasurer to be.

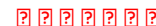
Father Mark Ruyak, our interim Vicar, who has been charged by the Diocese to lead and challenge Redeemer, AND the other churches in San Rafael to Area Ministry.

Billie Barbash, for accepting the Stewardship position in a year that is - to put it mildly - not a usual one.

Our Altar Guild, truly, they are our unsung heroes! Year long, they lovingly prepare our building and our altar for worship.

Our Acolytes, for their wonderful ministry at the 9.15 and 10.30 services - especially to those who read the Gospel at the 9.15 service.

ALL Our Members, who come to worship at Redeemer and make this place their spiritual home. I give thanks for the opportunity we have to grow in our faith, to share our joys and our fears and to support each other through both the struggles and joys of life.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Stephanie Ortega- Kennison
- 3 Aletha Rae Ruiz
- 5 Elizabeth Fox
- 6 Kit Culleton
- 7 Steve Zolezzi
- 8 Gregory Poulos
- 10 Rudy Erler
- 11 Gina Chiarolla
- 13 Easton English
- 13 Julie Cassettari
- 18 Jon Nakamura
- 25 Katie Fox
- 31 Nick Litanio

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Edy Loudon
- 2 George Tuttle
- 2 Susan Providenza
- 3 Jay Wayne
- 10 Nick Clark
- 10 Billie Barbash
- 11 Ella Gerlach
- 18 Alexandra Thomason
- 18 Meg Nakamura
- 24 Linda Fox

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY

28 Robert & Aletha Ruiz (1981)

JANUARY ANNIVERSARY

18 Jim Providenza and Terri Leinsteiner (1986)

WEDNESDAY WOMEN’S BOOKCLUB

The hostess provides drinks and dessert.
**Attendees should bring a sandwich and
RSVP to the hostess each month.**

December: No meeting this month.

January 14th: *Away*, by Amy Bloom, at Cathy Kirk’s home (457-3841) at noon.

February 11th: *Infidel*, by Hirsi Ali, at Ann Zolezzi’s home (454-4337) at noon.



Please correct your parish address list the phone number for Richard Losey: it should be 455-8619.

Redeemer Youth Group

Upcoming activities, led by Father Mark, include:

Sunday January 4, 2009:

5:00-7:00 PM – Youth Group meets at the Church for Pizza and Bible Study.

Sunday January 18 – Monday January 19:

Nightwatch at Grace Cathedral. We will join youth from across the Bay Area to celebrate the life, faith and work of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King and other leaders of the Civil Rights Movement. King preached at Grace Cathedral in 1965, we will listen to his words, learn about his life and consider how we might be part of building a more just and peaceful world today.

Sunday February 1:

5:00-7:00 PM - Youth Group Meets at the Church for Pizza and Bible Study.

Everyone is welcome to join the Redeemer youth group that is mainly focused for grades 6-9. For information, please contact Father Mark at (415) 456-0508 or email at mranyak2000@comcast.net.

Additionally, this info just received from the Diocese:

St. Dorothy's Rest Teen Snow Weekend

The teen snow weekend is a time for teenagers to come together, reconnect with the camping community, have fun and play in the snow. Activities will include tubing, sledding, snow fort and snow man building, snowball fights, a campfire program and a chance to explore the Lake Tahoe area. The program will only run if 10 or more

participants register. The weekend is open to teens aged 13 to 18, and participation is highly encouraged for anyone planning to apply to work at camp. Transportation will be provided from Sonoma County and the Bay Area. The cost includes meals, lodging, transportation, programming, and support staff. To download the flier, use the following link

www.diocal.org/images/files/docs/events/09_stdorothys_snow.pdf

When: February 6 through 9, 2009

Where: Galilee Episcopal Camp and Conference Center on Lake Tahoe

Cost: \$250

Contact: 707.874.3319, sdr@monitor.net, www.stdorothysrest.org

A Message from our Treasurer

Thanks to all of you who worked so hard to stay current with your pledges throughout the year. 2008 is quickly coming to an end and we still have a little over \$10,000 outstanding in pledges – so please help hold our net loss this year by paying your pledge in full in December. Thank you!

Linda Fox

STEWARDSHIP 2009

Several weeks ago I wrote to all of you about this year's Stewardship campaign and told you about how difficult I found it to come to you at such a time of financial uncertainty and once again ask you for your financial support for Redeemer. I told you that I knew how worried we all are about our financial future and that I was painfully aware that many of us have seen our retirement accounts slashed dramatically, are afraid that our mortgages will suddenly be

called in and are fearful of losing our jobs or who have friends who already have, due to downsizing in these dire economic times. I also told you that I knew that many of us are facing sending kids off to college next year, uncertain of where we will stand financially come August when those tuitions are due. None of those things have really changed in the weeks since that letter went out, but strangely I find myself more confident to plead my case for Redeemer.

The Presidential election brought me great hope and tremendous pride, not because of the political platforms being touted, but because we as a nation had come together for something we believed in. On a much smaller scale, *I believe in Redeemer*. I believe that we are so much better off, spiritually, emotionally and even financially, because of our involvement at Redeemer. I believe that we come together, each week or so to share our love of God and each other; and that thread binds us as a community to not only help each other, but to reach out to those in need around us as well. I know that no matter how scared I am, how filled with grief I might be, how lonely I might feel, or how joyful and how very thankful I am, I can share that here with all of you at Redeemer.

In order to do that though, we need to pay the bills to keep the candles burning. So I am asking you to once again pledge your time, your talent and your treasure to your Redeemer Family. I made a modest proposal in my letter, even though I know that next year we will fall far short of our budgeted expenses. I asked you, if you had pledged before to try to sustain your 2008 pledge. I purposely didn't ask for more, but was so appreciative when a few of you actually increased your pledge! I then asked those of you who only give to the plate to step up and pledge for the first time – *any amount*, just to show your commitment to

this place that gives back so much. As I've said before, pledging is a tricky business. What are all those people secretly writing their checks for? I like to break things down a bit. What is the value of what you get here for yourself and your family worth? What would you be willing to give up once a week or once a month in order to come here - the equivalent of a nice dinner out, a family movie night, a round of golf or weekend get-away? Make one of those your weekly or monthly pledge to Redeemer. My goal is to increase the number of pledges this year by 20%. We would achieve that if only six of you would pledge for the first time or renew a pledge that you stopped making – for any amount. With everyone's help, we can guard our Redeemer Family's future, because now more than ever, I truly believe in the love of God, the power of prayer and the strength of our Redeemer Community to stand together for each other through difficult times.

Please join Bob, our boys and me in our renewed commitment to you, our Redeemer Family.

Thank you,
Billie Barbash, Stewardship Chair

Stewardship Update

Thank you so much for the 23 Pledges, which we have received so far amounting to \$50,820!

Three of them are new pledges or were ones not renewed in 2008!

If you haven't already gotten your pledge in *please* put it in Sunday's collection, snail mail it to the Church or email it to our Treasurer, Linda Fox (Linda.mcgill@comcast.net).

**San Francisco Psychotherapy Research Group (SFPRG*) and
Redeemer Preschool in San Rafael
Present a (free) Public Series Benefiting Children of all ages on**

Parenting Today

This series is intended to provide useful advice and helpful information about the challenges of being a parent, stepparent, or grandparent. The principles of good parenting are helpful to children of all ages and enhance all intimate relationships.

This series will benefit parents, relatives, teachers, health professionals, and all intellectually curious people who love children.

EVERYONE IS INVITED!

Location: Church of the Redeemer, 123 Knight Drive, San Rafael

Dates/Times: Second Wednesday of each month; January 2009 - May 2009; 7:00-8:00PM
Child Care, Easy Access, Parking, Refreshments Served at 6:45

January 14, 2009: Mary Sparks Ph.D.

A Sometimes Surprising Notion: Your Child Worries About You

We know as parents we worry about our children but our kids also worry about us. This discussion will focus on the developmental aspects of childhood worries, how they originate, and ways we can assist children to reduce their worry.

Mary Sparks Ph.D. is a clinical psychologist, specializing in children, adolescents, and adults. She has had a Marin practice for 25 years and is a member of the San Francisco Psychotherapy Research Group.

February 11, 2009: Barbara Sapienza, Ph.D.

Limit Setting: Difficult but Important

Dr. Sapienza will explore the often misunderstood concept of limit setting and its importance in giving children both a sense of freedom and a feeling of security. In her presentation, Dr. Sapienza will discuss how to use clear, non-punitive limit setting that benefit children and parents.

Barbara Sapienza Ph.D. is a psychologist and supervisor in private practice in Corte Madera and San Francisco. She is affiliated with the SFPRG Clinic and Training Center in San Francisco.

March 11, 2009: Karen Weinberger, L.C.S.W.

Good Enough Parenting: Why Guilt Free Parenting is Good for Our Children

This discussion will explore the deep connection we have with our children and what obstacles might hinder our being the parents we want to be. The presenter will focus on deep listening and the guilt relieving concept of being a “good-enough” parent.

Karen Weinberger L.C. S. W., Assistant Clinical Director at the Community Institute for Psychotherapy, maintains a private practice working with adolescents, adults, and families. As a therapist and mother her interest is helping families to communicate openly and enjoy the (often too short) parental journey.

April 8, 2009: Bill Dickman, M.D.
Help Kids Cope with Frustration and Learn Patience

Children of all ages struggle with frustration and impatience when learning new skills and tasks. Dr. Dickman will discuss new research on effectively teaching kids to manage their frustration and delay gratification to become more cooperative and goal directed.

Bill Dickman M.D. is a highly esteemed child and adolescent psychiatrist and supervisor in private practice in the Bay Area for 25 years.

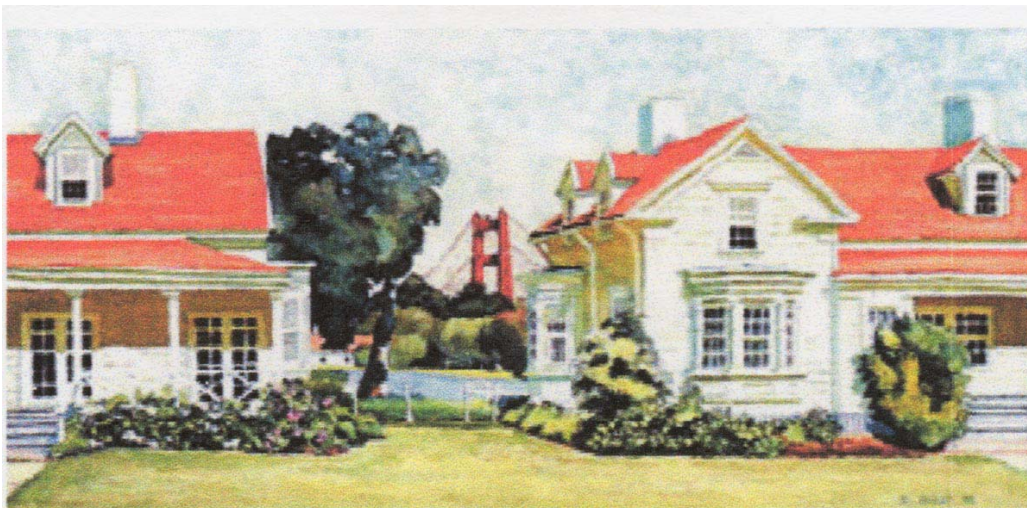
May 13, 2009: Steve Foreman, M.D.
Breaking the Spell: Why Kids Do the Very Thing that Drives Their Parents Crazy

This discussion topic is based on Dr. Foreman's recently released book (by the same name), which argues that kids are scientists who learn by action, first about the world, and then about their parents. This view of children offers parents a strategy to break the spell of provocation to restore harmony in the home.

Steven Foreman M.D. is a child and adult psychiatrist who has worked for many years helping parents with kids who drive them crazy. He is an author, researcher, and lecturer on Control Mastery Theory and also serves as president of the San Francisco Psychotherapy Research Group.

Moderators: Mary Sparks Ph.D., Wendy Kirk Ph.D., Rachel Rivers D. Min.

**SFPRG is a Bay Area based, nonprofit psychotherapeutic research and public service organization dedicated to understanding the factors that impact, influence, and ultimately motivate people to achieve their complete human potential.
SFPRG at the Presidio 415-561-6771 www.sfprg.org*



(From the Diocesan Office of Gift Planning)

WHY IT MAKES SENSE TO PRE-PAY YOUR PLEDGE

Contributions to the church—a qualified 501(c)3 charity—are tax deductible. Donations made before December 31 will qualify for a tax deduction on income tax for this year. For many of us, our combined marginal income tax rate is in the neighborhood of 33%. So it is as if the government gives a 33% rebate on every dollar we give to the church. This rebate is paid just once a year—on April 15, for contributions made before the end of the previous year.

Having, in effect, one-third of your contribution returned to you at tax-time in April is more valuable than bank-interest paid on the delayed contribution spread out over the remainder of the next year. This is why it may be of greater financial benefit to you to pay as much as possible of your 2009 pledge before the end of 2008. It is also more advantageous to your church, which then has the money to work with from the outset of the year.

There is a way to further increase this advantage: give appreciated securities (stocks, bonds or mutual fund shares). This may save you 20% capital gains tax as well as rebate you 33% on your income tax. For more information, please contact your Gift Planning Officer. On the other hand, if your securities are now worth less than you paid for them, sell them to capture the capital loss for tax purposes and then donate the cash.

The bottom line is this: it will likely benefit you as well as your church for you to pre-pay the pledge you made for next year. Even if you did not make a pledge, the advantage of making your 2009 gift before December 31, 2008 still applies.

Give generously, as God gives. Give smarter to be able to give more.

Richard L. Schaper, CFP
Gift Planning Officer, Diocese of California
RichardS@diocal.org (415) 869-7812.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Audition for Grace Cathedral's Camerata

Camerata is the Cathedral's volunteer adult choir that rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and sings Sunday afternoon Evensong three times a month. In addition, the choir sings certain holy day services like the Great Vigil of Easter and Maunday Thursday liturgies, as well as the 11 a.m. Choral Eucharist on Sunday mornings several times a year. Camerata is currently looking for sopranos, altos, tenors and basses who are interested in singing sacred choral literature from the Renaissance to the present day. The audition is brief and comparatively painless; there is some sight singing involved as well as singing a prepared piece of the prospective member's choice.

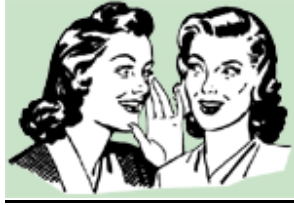
Camerata members have come from all over the community. Some have come from other parts of the country looking for an Episcopal church choir like the one back home, and some have never been inside a church for decades if ever, but all enjoy the community of fellow spirits looking to make good music.

Contact: Ben Bachmann,
benb@gracecathedral.org, 415.749.6334 to
arrange an audition

Eucharistic Minister and Visitor Training coming to Berkeley in January

Eucharistic Minister and Visitor training is now part of the "Equipping the Beloved Community" regional training. Visit www.diocal.org/-equipping for information, training schedule, online registration, and a hard copy registration form you can mail with payment if you prefer. And don't forget to download and get started on the new training workbooks for these ministries, which must be completed before attending the January training.

When: Saturday, January 15
Where: [St. Clements'](#), 2837 Claremont
Boulevard, Berkeley
Contact: Julia McCray-Goldsmith,
juliam@diocal.org, 415.869.7826, for more
information about the Eucharistic Minister and
Visitor training program.



NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Well, folks, no one has sent in any gossip this month, only this little “joke” – enjoy!

One Sunday morning, the Bishop noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names and small American flags mounted on either side of it. The six-year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the Bishop walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, “Good morning, Alex.” “Good morning, Bishop”, Alex replied, still focused on the plaque. Then he asked, “Bishop, what is this?” The Bishop answered, “Well, son, it’s a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service.” Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Finally, little Alex’s voice, barely audible and trembling with fear asked, “Which service, the 9:15 or the 10:30?”

On a truly serious note, and as I have mentioned before, Wayne and I will be moving to Washington State – specifically to our new home on beautiful Orcas Island in the San Juan Islands in Puget Sound north of Seattle – where we will spend at least half of every year from mid-February through August. This DOES mean that I will not be doing the newsletter after this next February’s, which will be published in late January. So-o-o-o, this means we need a new editor, and we’re hoping someone “out there” will step up to fill this post.

I have lots of information for our next editor, including some great graphics, as well as all the *Reviews* we’ve published in the past 2 ½ years. Microsoft Word is the program I use – and there

are a number of e-mail recipients whose computers are compatible with this format.

Please call me if you are interested in taking on this really not very tough job.

With love, and many thanks,
Cathy Kirk – 457-3841
kindel.odie@comcast.net

The deadline for submissions for the February, 2009 *Redeemer Review* is Monday, January 26th.

Please send your news to me at:
kindel.odie@comcast.net.

Want your *Review* by e-mail instead of snail-mail?

Drop me a note at the above e-address!

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