



Redeemer Review

The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

June, 2007

From the Vicar

Sacred Imagination, Daily Information

One of my favorite one-liners comes from a comic novel about Jesus. It's called *Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal* and it was written by Christopher Moore. Here's the line: "Faith isn't an act of intelligence, it's an act of imagination."

I love that line, not only because Maggie Magdalene says it, but because I also think it true. Nothing in the world pointed me to the truth of a loving God more vividly than imagination and nothing is better equipped to deal with the dangers of rigid doctrine. Or as one of the writers in our fall adult formation series muses, "The adventure with God is not a destination but a journey. The never-ending journey begins when you open the door and invite the Presence in." How imaginative is that?

How do you imagine the life of faith? Is it belief, community, healing, family, joy, prayer, nature, truth? Who is Jesus? These things cannot be seen in the way I see a traffic sign. They are *revealed* in surprising ways and in the people I least expect. In the beginning, God imagined a world into life and mind and heart: as it says in Genesis 1:28, "And God made humankind in the image of God, male and female God made us." To be in the image of God is to reside in the imagination of the Divine.

Prayer is a form of imagination. When I open myself to God in prayer, I can imagine the power of God's love, healing, advice and help. The more I pray, I may find myself growing very silent and very still and in the silence of the breath of the spirit, I imagine God imagining me into more abundant life. For, as St. Irenaeus of Lyons said, "The Glory of God is the human person, fully alive."

If imagination is by its very nature sacred, not all life nurtures this precious gift. As an imaginative person in a linear culture, I became very concerned when, in the context of Redeemer Preschool, I recently read the California State Educational Standards for Kindergarten. The standards were rigorous. We all know that. I'm not afraid of rigorous, but I am afraid when school stresses information over imagination during the most imaginative and formative time in a young child's life. Young children learn by imagining. The concepts and concreteness comes later. When wonder is taken from them in favor of a "correct" answer on a "standardized" test, we take a risk with life and health.

I don't mean to put down information. But without imagination, information is dead. There's a very famous story about inventor Elias Howe. He wanted to design a mechanical device for sewing, but couldn't see how to do it. One night he woke up from a terrible nightmare. Savages were attacking him with strange spiky spears that had holes in their tips. Shocked to awareness by the sheer fright of the dream experience, he suddenly realized that these spears were the answer he had been seeking! He had been trying to thread his mechanical needle from the wrong end. For machine sewing, the thread needed to be at the tip of the needle, not its base. This dream affirms the power and truth of imagination in the so-called "real" world.

Jesus lived in the real world. Our faith does not call us to abandon that world or put it down. Our faith calls us to imagine how that real world can be more abundant, more just, more wonderful and more loving. And that is just what we will be doing at Redeemer for the rest of the year. Answer the invitation!

Your friend in Christ,

Rev. Carol +

SENIOR WARDEN'S LETTER

On my computer this morning REI reminded me that "Summer is Here." Well, yes, in the retail world summer is indeed already here – in fact it is fast ending as products go on sale and the stores begin to bring in their fall merchandise.

In our world we are still preparing for the wonders of summer. First we begin with celebrating the wonderful rites of passage as our children graduate from one class to another, from school and from college.

Here at Redeemer we will celebrate summer with some changes in our services - beginning June 17th, we'll have two choices for worship on Sundays for the summer. Rev. Carol will offer an 8 am contemplative service for early birds. Then at 10 am we will have a service with music for all ages.

So check them out. I think this is a wonderful way to explore some different ways of "doing church." Just as our children grow with new experiences every year, I am thrilled that at Redeemer we are all going to have the opportunity to try some new formats that will give us each the chance to grow in our own worship lives.

As you see your neighbors more during the summer tell them about Redeemer – share the good news about our church and invite them, friends, and newcomers to your neighborhood to join us!

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

CONGREGATIONAL CYCLE OF PRAYER

- June 3: We give thanks for our Altar Guild.
- June 10: From college to preschool, we congratulate our graduates of 2007!
- June 17: We give thanks for all dads and especially those who fed us so well yesterday with yummy pancakes.
- June 24: We give thanks for our parish musicians: Jay, Jim, Mark and Joel.

YOGA CONTINUES AT REDEEMER

Yawnin' Yoga with Catherine Keyes-Guichard:

For just two more Fridays, June 1st and June 8th, at 1 p.m., Marin native and yoga instructor Catherine Keyes-Guichard leads us in a gentle practice of Yoga postures, meditation and teaching. Please bring your own mat and meditation cushion or thick towel or blue camping mat. Catherine, who now lives in France, has practiced Yoga for fourteen years, according to two lineages which she describes as "a combination of will and mindfulness." (Donations gratefully accepted.)



Healing Mondays with Rev. Carol

I'm still praying for our many friends and family members who are facing life threatening illnesses, and invite you to join me every Monday at 10:00am when I open the church for a formal hour of healing prayer. If you or someone you love wants to be prayed for, please put the names into our prayer basket. You may come and pray with me or have laying on of hands for yourself or another. If no one shows up, you still know that for that one hour I will be doing nothing but praying for healing. This is a totally spontaneous and spirit filled ministry for those who feel called to the ministry of healing prayer, whether for an hour, a week, a month or forever.

SAINTS AND ANGELS



We give thanks for these parishioners who have given of their time, treasure and talents:

John Chung for helping with Marcia Miget's piano recital on May 6.

Sue Clark for her help in the garden.

Catherine Keyes-Guichard for Yawnin' Yoga!

The Growth and Facilities Committees, especially Nancy Ware for her time spent as chair of the Facilities Committee, chairing growth.



PANCAKE BREAKFAST!

When: Saturday, June 16th, 8am 'til 12 noon
Adults: \$10.00, kids 5 and under – free!

WEDNESDAY'S WOMEN'S BOOKCLUB

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

June 13th: *The Year of Magical Thinking*, by acclaimed writer, Joan Didion; at Cindy Smith's home (456-1733) at noon.

July 11th: *March*: by Geraldine Brooks; at Sallie Wood's home (454-0162) at noon.

WELCOME THE COUNTRY OF SUMMER!

Invite your friends to join us at our
**BRAND NEW SUMMER VACATION
SERVICE SCHEDULE**

June 17 through September 2, 2007

8 a.m. Wake up with God

10 a.m. Seekers' Service for Spiritual Travelers
of All Ages

No Experience Necessary!

Summer is a time for going places, a season for exploring mountains, lakes, rivers, cathedrals, narrow paths and broad boulevards. Why not take your soul on vacation too?

This summer, beginning on Fathers' Day, June 17th, Church of the Redeemer is opening its doors to all who have wondered about spiritual practice but may have hesitated to try it. Bring your questions, your doubts, your hopes, your children, your pain and your dreams. You will learn some simple skills of the spirit: prayer, sacred story, healing, song, and a few mysteries (which are what all good spiritual practice explores.)

You have two roads to choose from: If you seek quiet amid the noise and the haste, "Wake up with God" at 8 a.m. with meditation, breathing, *lectio divina* (or sacred reading) and Eucharist.

For the festive, Summer Seekers' Service begins at 10 a.m. The Seekers provide a lively road trip through the spiritual life featuring song, prayer, storytelling, art, a weekly take home practice, healing, Holy Eucharist, and a chance to eat and socialize afterward.

All are welcome.

Redeemer is an open community of faith.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Victor Chiarolla
- 1 Bob Burton
- 2 Haley Skubecz '97
- 2 Ligia Atkinson
- 4 Brad Kennison
- 5 Daniella Lituanio '98
- 6 John Oranje
- 10 Jonathan Oranje '96
- 12 Mira Samson
- 12 Elliott Blank
- 14 Cody Blank '90
- 15 Bill Kaufman
- 20 Reggie Luiz '96
- 21 Sydney Kennedy
- 23 Mary Macmeekin
- 24 Scott Smilie '88
- 28 Lesley Anderson
- 29 Betty Lituanio
- 30 Samantha Tuttle



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- ♥ Francis & Virginia Geddes 1951
- 10 Eric & Kim Johnson 1995
- 16 Bob Burton/Billie Barbash 1985
- 20 Bud & Cindy Smith 1964
- 25 Bill & Holly Kaufman 1966
- 25 Brad & Stephanie Kennison 1988
- 27 Larry & JoAnn Reisinger 1965
- 28 Ken & Norma Powers 1998

to Redeemer's 2007 Graduates!

From College:

Jenny Luther
George Tuttle, Jr.

From High School:

Andrew Burton

From Middle School:

Ryan Erler
Jessica Luiz
Claire Poulos
Samantha Kirk

From Elementary School:

Grayson Poulos
James Pelfini
Jonathan Oranje
Reggie Luiz
Eric Bryan
Cat Thomason
Haley Godbold
Billy Devers

REDEEMER FILM FESTIVAL:

Friday, June 8th, 7 p.m.

A Classic: *Inherit the Wind*, starring Spencer Tracy, Frederic March, Gene Kelly, and Dick York (for trivia buffs: remember what made him famous?)

A movie about the Scopes "Monkey Trial" of 1925 that started the whole Evolution debate. Great fare for the family. Wonderful acting. Be there!

OUTREACH

As we all enjoy our summer activities let's not forget those who do not have the good fortune of vacations, new clothes or special foods that most of us do. Check for baskets at the back of the church where items may be dropped off.

JUNE:

Cleansers, toothbrushes, soaps, shampoos or other hotel amenities that you may accumulate on your travels. (Full sized items are also great.)

JULY:

Backpacks and school supplies for our annual donation campaign for the children served by Ritter House.

ALL SUMMER (and YEAR also):

Save your "money back" cans and bottles and leave them in the can marked "RECYCLING" outside the back of the church. The money earned goes to help children in both Sonoma (orphans with life-threatening illnesses) and Africa, served by the brothers and sisters at Starcross Monastery in Sonoma County.



NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Richard Losey (father of Edward and Brian) and **Cindy Chung** (mother of Ryan and Kendra) are both currently serving on the Board of Redeemer Preschool.

Vera Hamady recently moved to a wonderful vintage home. On Sunday May 20th, Rev. Carol blessed each of the rooms in Vera's new home. It was a very special way to celebrate a new beginning.

Jack and Betty Baird have been the hosts-with-the-most these past several weeks. They have been

visited by both their grown children, plus their grand niece and most recently Pat Eyster-Ewell's god-daughter.

Jay and Maureen Wayne will return soon from a visit to Wales and Ireland.

The Westmoreland Family have recently had a joyous beginning – their son **Alex** (once an acolyte at Redeemer) married his love, Tasha, in a ceremony in the East Bay in April.

Pat Eyster-Ewell sent by e-mail, "I think of you all frequently and miss my many CA friends. I am renewing old friendships and having lots of lunches and dinners. It is starting to hit 85 degrees here and will be in the 90's soon. I am adjusting to air conditioning and enjoying my little splash pool. We had a ten year celebration for our priest and his wife today. He came as I left for CA but I knew him from Cur-sillo. When I talked to him prior to my coming to CA in order to be with David whom I had not seen in 25 years, he asked me if I wanted a GREAT ADVENTURE - and I certainly had that experience thanks to David and my supportive friends. How about my Gators! Hope to get to some games next season."

Our Interim Priest before Rev. Carol joined us, **Rev. Mary Atwood**, tells us that she is "still in southern CA in Claremont. Now living at a retirement community for ministers and other church workers-- Pilgrim Place. I'm not retired, but had the opportunity for 'early admission' at 62. I finished my interim pastorate at St. Ambrose in Claremont and am now chaplain at Claremont Manor, yet another retirement community! Love to you all."

Our former **Deacon Julie and Chuck Jensen** sent a note May 1st from Narita Airport in Japan – they were flying that evening to China for a 24 day trip. (ed: Can't wait to hear how they enjoyed it!)

From **Norma Powers**, this note – "I love to hear about Redeemer - how is everyone? - not much news on people - hope all are well. Thanks and love," -- which has been the incentive to start "News from the Pews" again – thanks, Norma!

Joel Riggs, our substitute keyboardist, is also an Aikido instructor! If you are interested in Conflict Resolution, Self-Defense, Centering, Energy Awareness, Mind-Body Harmony, Fitness, Strength, Flexibility and Fun, check out his school "Aikido of Marin," 765 Center Blvd., Suite C, Fairfax. 497-1757 www.aikidoofmarin.com He offers

classes for both children and adults.

LOOKING AHEAD

COMING IN SEPTEMBER:

Opportunities for Children and Adults

STARTING FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14: The Way of the Child: An afternoon experience of silence, creativity, self reflection and movement. For grades 4-6. Meets Friday afternoons, 3:15 – 4:30. Semester donation of \$50 covers materials.

(From the author's preface) "Children are spiritual beings who come to us as gifts from God. They have an innate connection with God through their vulnerability and openness, their acceptance of mystery, and their natural propensity for awe. They readily recognize God's presence all around them. In our zeal to teach children about the Bible and the doctrines of the church, we have sometimes neglected nurturing their innate spiritual capacities. Our children are born into and grow up in a world of noise, activity, and competition. They are rushed from school to soccer to piano and dance lessons to drama rehearsals to gymnastics. All the while, TVs and radios blare, telephones ring, computers bong and hum, electronic games and toys squeal and talk. This is neither good nor bad. It is the reality with which our children must deal. The Way of the Child offers children a center from which to engage with the outer world."

We will focus on three things: Quiet, Imagination and Respect. Children will learn to meditate, to create stories and works of art, to reverence all creation and one another. We will create a community in which our own unique gifts can be nurtured and fully given. Space is limited and calendars even more so. Please register now.

FOR ADULTS: Companions in Christ: A Small Group Experience in Spiritual Formation

Prayer, journaling, Bible, conversation all come together in the best spiritual formation series I have yet to find! The course lasts a whole year, but happens in six week modules so that participants may commit for part or all of the journey. They are "Embracing the Journey," "Feeding on the Word: The Mind of Christ," "Deepening our Prayer: The Heart of Christ," "Responding to our Call: The Work of Christ," "Exploring Spiritual Guidance: The Spirit of Christ." Program closes with a retreat by the sea. Time and Place TBA.



Redeemer Camping Weekend

September 29, 30 and October 1
Saturday, Sunday and Monday
(Monday is a school holiday)

Mt. Tam State Park

Alice B. Eastwood Campground

We have reserved a group campsite at Alice Eastwood Campground on Mt. Tam. It is located between the Mt. Home Inn and Muir Woods and is a tree-shaded hillside with lots of room to spread out.

So put this weekend on your calendar and sign up at church. Bring your kids after Saturday soccer practice or other activities, because it is only 30 minutes away.

Nearby activities include hiking, watching the sun go down from the Mt. Home Inn, campfires, shared meals, excursions to nearby Mt. Tam, Stinson Beach and awe-inspiring trails.

Cost: \$15 per person, payable as soon as you sign up.

****A Late Breaking News Item****

An Architectural firm has scheduled June 7th as an almost firm date for a community meeting at Redeemer at 7 p.m. to review a proposed development near Glenwood Elementary School. If you are interested in community, this is a chance to enter into conversation with others at a most convenient location. Check with Rev. Carol for more info.



Interfaith Retreat Day at Green Gulch

Marin Interfaith is holding their summer retreat day on Monday, June 11th from 10-4 at Green Gulch Farm. Cost is sliding scale \$35-65. Leaders are Fr. Paul Rossi and The Rev. Fu Schroeder. I love these days and would love to go with as many of you as would like to come. If you are interested, see Rev. Carol for a flier.

A Very Special Event

The International Maritime Center invites you to a sunset dinner cruise on the San Francisco Bay with special guests: The Rt. Rev. Bishop Marc Andrus and his lovely wife Sheila.

When: Thursday, September 13, 2007,
6 – 10 p.m.

Tickets are \$100 per person with proceeds going to support the Ministry of The International Maritime Center in Oakland.

For more information visit: www.sfbayfarer.org or to order tickets call 800-769-8715, tickets are expected to sell out so please reserve early.

The International Maritime Center is an Episcopal Charities Partner Agency and provides services to seafarers, waterfront workers, longshoremen, and truckers at various Bay Area ports regardless of religion, race or nationality.

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Altar Guild	Cindy Smith	456-1733
Musician	Jay Wayne	897-0221
Newsletter	Cathy Kirk	457-3841

REDEEMER SERVICE CALENDAR SUNDAY SERVICES

Until June 17:

9:15 Kids' Church for children and their families
10:30 Holy Eucharist with music

June 17- September 2:

8:00 Contemplative Service with Eucharist
10:00 Summer Seekers' Service with music and Eucharist

Healing prayers are offered at the left hand of the altar rail at the end of each service

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 10:30-NOON

Please note:

The deadline for submissions to the combined July-August *Redeemer Review* is Wednesday, June 20th. Please e-mail your news to Cathy Kirk at kindel.odie@comcast.net

Anything received after the deadline *might not be included!*

Want your *Review* by e-mail instead of snail-mail? Send me a note at the above site.