

# Redeemer Review

## The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

### May, 2008

#### From our Interim Vicar:

Dear Friends,

Children are a gift from God and, therefore, should be our most precious treasure. Yet when we read about the many atrocities that are happening to children in our world today, of thousands of children dying from hunger and malnutrition each day, thousands more living in squalid poverty and filth, and still thousands more suffering as victims of neglect and abuse, we question whether our society and our world value children at all.

In addition to the neglect and abuse of children that confront us daily from our television screens, movies and newspapers, it is apparent that there is another form of poverty impacting children in our society and around the world. Although this form is harder to detect and identify, its force is seen in the lives of both affluent and impoverished children. This poverty is spiritual poverty – that void in the child’s life of not knowing that she or he is divinely created and infinitely loved by God; that lack of spiritual grounding that gives life meaning and hope.

One factor that contributes to this spiritual poverty is that in recent years we have spent a great deal of time, energy and money dealing with adult issues. We have been concerned with our inner self and our inner child, we have spent years trying to “find ourselves”, and how to meet our unmet needs. We have paid a great deal attention to maximizing our own development, to exploring our own potential and spent countless hours with therapists, counselors and life coaches seeking our strengths. As important as these are, unfortunately, our self-pre-occupation has resulted in the neglect of the child in our midst.

Leonard Sweet in his book Faithquakes says that we as a nation have been obsessed in recent years with the “inner child” and “personal growth”. He says that it is time for the “outer child,” the actual child in our home, our society and the world to be lauded as well. He continues by saying that it is time now for the child “to be treated as a responsible and highly valued member of our society and the church.”

For centuries the home was seen as the primary source for nurturing the child in the spiritual life. Learning the scripture, training in the life of prayer, and instruction in moral and spiritual values were a vital part of the home life of almost every child. In the last several decades, however, the emphasis changed and the church has come to be seen as the major source for Christian training, with the home taking a secondary role.

This past Sunday, April 27, we gathered as a community to discuss building a youth program at Redeemer. It was an exciting and lively discussion! We grappled with the issues of providing Christian training and moral instruction for our youth through youth groups, confirmation classes, Bible stories, music and the Sunday liturgy. We also discussed how to live our Christian faith in the world outside the church: in our homes, in our schools and at work.

By the end of the afternoon I realized, Church of the Redeemer really knows that NOW is the time for the child “to be treated as a responsible and highly valued member of our society and the church.”

Let’s tell it to the world!

Blessings!

Father Mark

## Senior Warden's Letter

May is count down time for so many families. Some of us who are retired try to do some traveling before that summer peak season... high school students are cramming for finals... families and students are planning for graduation ceremonies.... It's an exciting time of year - a time of change and challenge.

Change and challenge - words that can inspire, excite and sometimes scare us - often more than one emotion at the same time! Speaking personally - I recognize how difficult the challenge of having three different priests serving Redeemer in less than twelve months has been. It takes effort to know a new human being.

We have tried new ideas in many of our liturgies. Who imagined a more inter-active sermon than we experienced with Rev. Donald Schell? Who imagined participating in the dream work and storytelling of Rev. Carol Luther? Who will easily forget the flow of knowledge and humor expressed by Rev. Steven Hassett as he preached to and talked with us. Personally, I will not soon forget the amazing poise of Carolyn Devers as she read one of the Bible readings at the Good Friday evening service in Easter Week or the leadership and service modeled by our Lay Ministers Cathy Kirk, Paula Zand and Joan Westmoreland as they led three services on Ash Wednesday.

And now, with Rev. Mark Ruyak, I've most recently been challenged by the images he described of several new worship styles that are popular - a Skateboard mass was one of those mentioned! Most recently (yesterday) I was excited to see the interaction between Mark and the youth and parents who attended the planning session for future youth programs. It was an effective open meeting that gave opportunity to all to express their experiences and desires in a respectful manner. A very positive expression of good group process. The future shows promise! I feel energized! Hope you will also.

Any questions? Call me!

Sue Clark -454-4115 / [sueclarkca@aol.com](mailto:sueclarkca@aol.com)

## GROUNDS HELP NEEDED

We have freshened up the two planted areas either side of the pillars at the church entry. We need someone to take on the watering of these two areas - probably twice a week during the summer months. Time necessary - approximately 15-20 minutes twice a week.

A couple of volunteers are needed to trim plants in the north border of the driveway. Random "privet" needs removal, and trimming of rosemary, pulling of weeds would make this area look much more attractive at the entrance to our grounds. Time necessary to complete this task - approximately two hours by two people.

Please contact Sue Clark to volunteer.

## MAY CALENDAR

- 1 Holocaust Remembrance Day
- 3 Bishop's Committee Retreat @ St. Stephen's, Belvedere  
Preschool CPR/First Aid training
- 4 Acolyte training @ noon
- 7 Bible Study @ 10.30 am
- 10 Special Convention @ Grace Cathedral
- 11 Pentecost  
Mother's Day
- 12 Bishop's Committee @ 7 pm
- 14 Bible Study @ 10.30 am  
Women's Book Club @ noon
- 17 Armed Forces Day  
Preschool Auction & Dinner 6-11 pm  
@ San Rafael Rec. Center
- 18 Trinity Sunday
- 21 Bible Study @ 10.30 am
- 26 Memorial Day - office closed
- 28 Bible Study @ 10.30 am

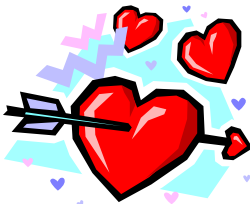
## Land Use Committee To Be Formed

The Bishop's Committee is forming a sub-committee to look at possible uses for the grounds adjacent to the Church. If you are interested in investigating and brainstorming ideas and serving on this committee, please contact Father Mark for consideration by Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.



**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

- 5 Eric Johnson
- 6 Laura Skubecz
- 8 Ann Zolezzi
- 13 Kathryn Kennedy
- 13 Andrew Burton
- 16 Joe Curtis
- 19 John Chung
- 20 Steven Burton
- 21 Ryan Erler
- 28 Glenn Godbold
- 29 Rich Atkinson
- 29 Dominic Minton



**MAY ANNIVERSARIES**

- 17 Tom & Robin Jereb 1992
- 25 Rick & Laura Skubecz 1993

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**LOOKING AHEAD**

**ACOLYTE TRAINING**

On Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at noon, Paula Zand, our new Acolyte Coordinator, will lead a workshop for children, ages 9 and up, who are interested in serving at the Sunday morning services at Redeemer. This can be a very rewarding experience for the spiritual lives of our young people! If that date doesn't work, she will hold another training session May 18<sup>th</sup> at noon. Call Paula at 454-9383 to sign up!

**YOUTH PROGRAMS**

SPECIAL THANKS to the families (both parents and youth) who came to meet with Father Mark, on Sunday, April 27th, to tell Mark about past programs and to discuss ideas for future programs to serve our children and youth. There was a great exchange of energy and experience... and the scene is set for Redeemer's future service to our youth. Looks like a multi-faceted program with confirmation preparation, community service and a good dose of FUN!

**SUMMER IS COMING - GRADUATION MUST BE NEAR!**

We want to honor all those who are graduating from elementary, middle or high school, and college. Please send update information to the Senior Warden [sueclarkca@aol.com](mailto:sueclarkca@aol.com) or to Cathy Kirk, newsletter editor [kindel.odie@comcast.net](mailto:kindel.odie@comcast.net) by May 25th so that we can honor our children and youth in the June newsletter.

**SPECIAL CONVENTION**

A special (additional) convention is being held by our Diocese on May 10<sup>th</sup> at Grace Cathedral. Redeemer will be represented by Jon Nakamura, Liesje Blank and Paula Zand.

**HONORING SPECIAL OCCASIONS**

Have you considered providing the funding for flowers to commemorate a special occasion in your family? If you wish to take advantage of this opportunity, please sign up on the flower chart in the back of the church... and send a check for \$50 to the Treasurer. All gifts are acknowledged in the Sunday order of service..





### WEDNESDAY WOMEN'S BOOKCLUB

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

May 14th: *Can't Wait to Get to Heaven*, by Fannie Flagg; at Sydney Kennedy's home (454-0526) at noon.

June 11<sup>th</sup>: *The Reluctant Tuscan*, by Phil Duran; at Ann Zolezzi's home (454-4337) at noon

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### SAINTS AND ANGELS

Every now and then we pause to thank those people in our church who have gone that "extra mile" to make Redeemer a better place:

We all owe a **huge** debt of gratitude to our Senior Warden, Sue Clark, for ALL the work she does for our Redeemer Church. She has served as Sr. Warden under three priests this time around, having served as well, several years ago when we were in yet another transitional period. Please remember to thank her when you see her – (most days at the church, in fact!) She's a true "Saint!"

(If there's someone in the community whom you think should be recognized for their contribution to the life of Redeemer, please let us know! Contact Cathy Kirk – 457-3841.)



### News from the Pews

Meg Nakamura is in the cast of this year's Mountain Play, *The Wizard of Oz*. (She's a Munchkin!) Show dates are May 18th and 25th, and June 1st, 7th, 8th, and 15th.

Wrote Cindy and Bud Smith: "On April 6, our twin grandchildren, Alexa and Victor Gonzalez, were baptized by Fr. Mark at the 10:30 service. It was truly a joyous occasion. Fr. Mark did a wonderful job, ably assisted by LEMs, Cathy Kirk and Sallie Wood. All our friends and family who attended were very impressed." Here is a photo of the happy grandparents with the babies:



Many of us have been enjoying reconnecting with Pat Eyster-Ewell who is spending a couple of weeks visiting in Glenwood, where she has been staying with Jack and Betty Baird.

On a sad-for-us note, Sallie and Chuck Wood and Elliott and Liesje (and Cody) Blank have placed their homes on the market. The Woods are moving to new digs in Kenwood, while the Blanks are heading for Redding. We wish them joy in their new homes, and hope they will visit often!

## The Calendar of the Church Year (From Father Mark)

This is the first of occasional columns that will describe the seasons of the Church Year.

Calendars are based on recurring events in nature: spring, summer, fall and winter (solar calendars of 365 days) or on the phases of the moon (lunar calendars, 12 months of 28 days). The calendar of the Christian Church years makes use of both kinds. It developed over many centuries, sometimes appropriating rituals common to many cultures, to tell the story of Christ's birth, death, and resurrection as an expression of Christian theology.

The central event of Christianity is the Resurrection. An annual remembrance of Christ's passion is therefore the central event of the Christian year, so it was the first to be placed on the calendar. Easter Day was made what is called a movable feast, falling on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox (March 21). The full story of the Passion is commemorated in the days of Holy Week, leading up to Easter Day. The Easter season was established as lasting seven weeks, ending on the day of Pentecost (a word that means 50 days).

At Pentecost after the Resurrection, the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles and the people, so the Christian Pentecost also marks the end of one church season and the beginning of the next. For seven weeks, then, we mark our church services as special festival days: the liturgical color is white or gold; we keep the Paschal candle lit and we close services with a special "Alleluia."

Collects are mostly those written in very early times (in the current Book of Common Prayer the more important the day, the more likely that ancient elements will be used). Scripture readings are from the New Testament only, saying what happened after Resurrection. The Thursday in the sixth week of Easter marks Ascension Day (May 1), when Jesus was lifted to heaven.

The Day of Pentecost is a day of Christian

celebration observed on the seventh Sunday after Easter, which is May 11<sup>th</sup> this year. On Pentecost, we remember an event that occurred to the disciples 50 days after the Passover during which Jesus was crucified and 10 days after they watched Jesus literally ascend into the clouds. In the New Testament, the term is used to refer to the coming of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1), shortly after Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension. Christians came to understand the meaning of Pentecost in terms of gifts of the Spirit.

The Pentecost event was the fulfillment of a promise which Jesus gave concerning the return of the Holy Spirit. The speaking in tongues, which was a major effect of having received the Spirit, is interpreted by some to symbolize the church's worldwide preaching. Christians consider the Day of Pentecost to be the birthday of the church because, from that moment on, the disciples carried the message of Christ everywhere they went all over the world. The liturgical color for the feast is red. The Day of Pentecost is identified by the Book of Common Prayer as one of the feasts that is "especially appropriate" for baptism. (p. 312).



(Window from the Konigsfelden Abbey, Switzerland)

## **FROM THE DIOCESE**

### **When a Gift Annuity For Your Church Makes Sense**

You already realize that a gift annuity pays you income for your lifetime before becoming a gift to your parish, but when does it make sense for you to buy one?

#### **A gift annuity may make sense when:**

- ✓ Interest rates on CD's slip below five percent, and you still need dependable income.
- ✓ Dividend yields fall while living expenses rise.
- ✓ Stock market craziness makes you anxious about your nest egg.
- ✓ You need a tax deduction now and increased retirement income in the future.
- ✓ You wish to qualify for a Legacy Society, but don't want to see a lawyer.
- ✓ You are approaching retirement and want to re-allocate your investment portfolio toward more fixed income.
- ✓ You've celebrated another birthday and so now rate a higher annuity payout.
- ✓ You want to make a gift of income but not principal to loved one, now or in the future.

If any of these fact-sets apply to you, you may want to consider the purchase of charitable gift annuity. A gift annuity pays you a fixed lifetime income and provides you with an income tax deduction while eventually benefiting your church.

For a free brochure or to find out your payout rate, contact Richard Schaper, Diocesan Gift Planning Officer, at (415) 969-7812, or [RichardS@diocal.org](mailto:RichardS@diocal.org), or by clicking on "Create Your Plan" at [www.EpiscopalGift.org](http://www.EpiscopalGift.org).

A gift annuity is both a gift and an annuity-- the gift is for the church, the annuity is for you.



## **Please note:**

The deadline for submissions for the June *Redeemer Review* is Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. Please send your news to Cathy Kirk at: [kindel.odie@comcast.net](mailto:kindel.odie@comcast.net).

Want your Review by e-mail instead of snail-mail?  
Drop me a note at the above e-address!

### **REDEEMER SERVICE CALENDAR**

#### **SUNDAY SERVICES**

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

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

**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 10:30-11:30**

**The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer  
123 Knight Drive, San Rafael, CA 94901**

**Phone and Fax: 415-456-0508**

[www.redeemermarin.org](http://www.redeemermarin.org)

Interim Vicar:	The Rev. Mark Ruyak	686-0599
Sr. Warden:	Sue Clark	454-4115
Jr. Warden:	Elliott Blank	456-0564
Clerk:	Betsy Nakamura	459-4525
Treasurer:	Linda Fox	453-9412
Altar Guild:	Sallie Wood	454-0162
Musician:	Jay Wayne	897-0221
Newsletter:	Cathy Kirk	457-3841