

Church of the Redeemer
222 S. Palm Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34236
redeemersarasota.org
941 955 4263

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Manasota,

“In the heart of the city with a heart for the city”

(from front page)

within this crucible to make sure we go from strength to strength, making new Christians and making all Christians new indeed. We've got to pour jet fuel on the flame of our mission! We've got to have the zeal of those we read about two weeks ago in the Book of Acts: "That very day about three thousand persons were baptized." We need to start planning right now how we can grow faster than ever while we grow deeper and deeper in the love and knowledge of the Lord. I'm not kidding!

Of course, I'm keenly aware that Redeemer thrived well before I showed up in 2013, so I give unceasing thanks for the incredible clergy, vestry, staff, and lay leadership that have brought us to this point. But, there is much, much more to do. We should all consider our recent growth and expansion as a starting line, not the finish line! To that end, there are four areas to highlight in what remains of this letter: worship, parish economics, Christian formation, and pastoral care.

Worship:

I am delighted to announce that Fr. Chris will take on additional duties. He is a trusted partner in the gospel, and I am really looking forward to continuing my partnership with him. To reflect his additional responsibilities, his title is changing, too. Fr Chris is now our Sr. Priest Associate for Liturgy & Christian Formation. He has already done amazing things with adult Christian Formation, after being a great Youth Minister, and I have every confidence that he will ensure that the "Redeemer liturgy" we all love continues, balancing what St. Paul said - that worship be done "decently and in order." We are fortunate to have his wife, Kate, and his children, Maggie Jane, Michael, and Martha, too. Until we can meet again in-person on Sundays, don't forget that worship continues digitally every single day. To access all the many ways we can worship each day at Redeemer, visit the website.

Parish Economics:

In March your Finance Committee and Vestry quickly and rightly acted, making decisions to reduce all non-essential expenditures. We will continue to be vigilant about reducing expenses while we wait for revenues to recover. I appreciate all the extra work and sacrifices everyone on staff has made to save our resources. We had a two-week period in March when weekly operating income fell from over \$50,000 budgeted to under \$5,000 received! Obviously, that trend would devastate our parish finances - and do so quickly! Giving has picked up somewhat, but we are forecasting a significant deficit at this point. Please be generous right now, if you can. In a vast mission field with so many needs, don't forget that our most important mission happens at 222 S. Palm Avenue - behind those red doors. Even when we can't all be together, your clergy, staff, and dozens of volunteers are working harder than ever to make the gospel available and accessible.

Christian Formation:

Christian formation continues every single day at Redeemer - now online! In fact, more persons are engaging with some kind of formation than ever before. Look for even more opportunities in the coming weeks. Much of it what is coming is decidedly "back to basics," because we need to focus on the core components of our faith.

Pastoral Care:

Your clergy, vestry, and staff care about each member of the parish, and we continue to seek the best ways to serve any in need, and one another, in the coming days. Redeemer's "Economic Crisis Fund" can provide immediate financial assistance to those facing economic hardship caused by COVID-19. Your clergy continue to be available and may be reached twenty-four hours a day by calling (941) 955-4263. If you need to talk with our Christian counseling partners, Samaritan Counseling Services, please call (941) 926-2959. If you are sick, lonely, or despondent, call us! Sometimes just a short prayer or reading from Holy Scripture can lift our spirits.

Finally, consider this prayer as we labor in the Lord's vineyard together: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore" (II Corinthians 13:14). Amen.

Your servant,

Fr. Charleston



Dear Redeemer Family,

This is my first parish-wide letter as Priest-in-Charge (if you reach the end, you deserve a prize!).

The first thing to express is my most profound gratitude to Almighty God, the Vestry, and to the Bishop, for entrusting me with this new role at this particular time in our life together. I vow to you that I will strive to be a faithful, approachable, transparent, and imaginative priest. I thank God for Church of the Redeemer. Malacy, Gus, Camille, and I have cherished every minute of our time at Redeemer, since we began ministry here almost seven years ago, and we are looking forward to this new season together with you. Our confidence in the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ knows no bounds!

When anyone officially begins a new role, an introductory letter, or pep-talk, almost always follows. More often than not, however, these initial letters tell us how our future is brighter than we can imagine, how we need to work together to overcome current and future obstacles, that we have boundless confidence in our sense of purpose, and that we possess endless potential to reach our goals.

Of course, working together, being confident, and recognizing potential aren't bad things; we need to do those things indeed. But, they can often become mere talking points wrapped in shallow rhetoric. They certainly over-emphasize the power and prowess of mere mortals like you and me. The great collect by Archbishop Cranmer in the Book of Common Prayer for the Second Sunday in Lent paints a different, more biblical anthropology, reminding us that "we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves."

So, let me say something about this title, "Priest-in-Charge." At first blush, of course, I love it; doesn't it sound grand? Since I'm rarely "in charge," even in my own home (lots of a-types), it surely sounds enticing to be "in charge," doesn't it? Who comes up with church titles? Aren't they funny: The Very Reverend, The Most Reverend, and so on? I don't actually know the history of the term priest-in-charge, but a gentle corrective is surely in order, both for my own well-being and yours. Let me say it clearly: God is in charge - "as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever." And this should give us all a great, big sigh of relief right at the outset. Beyond the humorous semantics surrounding the title, the technical definition of a priest-in-charge is this: "A priest retained to lead the parish for a term. A Priest-in-Charge has full authority of the Rector, except tenure..."

My term is for a year or until the next rector is elected. Because nobody knows how long that may take (and because a prayerful process should not be rushed), a better way to read "to lead the parish for a term" might be "to lead the parish for a season." A season, in my mind, is less concerned with a precise timeline and more focused on the work at hand - namely, expanding the mission of the parish. In other words, this is not a time to sit idly by waiting for the next season to begin. We should bloom where we are planted, as the saying goes.

Where are we, then, as a parish family, and what does this mean for each of us? Well, the elephant in the room right now is, of course, coronavirus. The presence of a pandemic cannot be ignored. But, as Christians, it is important to remember a few things.

First of all, until our Lord returns in glory, we will always feel like we are somewhere in between the pie-in-the-sky lyrics of Timbuk 3 - "The future's so bright I gotta wear shades" - and Credence Clearwater Revival's rather gloomy expression: "I see a bad moon a-rising; I see trouble on the way." And this is because "the whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now," as St. Paul wrote to the Romans, "and not only the creation, but we ourselves." I'm trying to say (and maybe not well) that being in a global pandemic - as worrisome and sad as it is - is part and parcel of what it means to live in an incomplete world "groaning" for the fullness of redemption.

Theologians often speak about the "now, but not yet," which is a way to describe what it's like for those of us who live in this time in between the passion, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and end of time, as we reckon it, when He will "will wipe every tear...and when there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things will have passed away" (Revelation 21:4).

The faithful response to any pandemic - or earthquake, or hurricane, etc. - is to remain just that: faithful. But, remaining faithful does not mean becoming complacent or listing towards inaction. Really, it's quite the opposite. In these times, let our daily prayer be that of the apostles: "Lord, increase our faith" (St. Luke 17:5).

Bill Mudgett, our excellent 2019 Senior Warden, texted me last week and asked, "What is the plan for the parish while you are Priest-in-Charge?" I texted back these words: "Our mission is to make new Christians and make all Christians new." Our job as a parish family is to grow (!) spiritually, numerically, and even financially. In the coming days and weeks, every single system and "thing" we do as parish will be reviewed

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OF NOTE IN JUNE

Worshipping

- **Weekdays:** Morning Prayer is live-streamed on Facebook Live at 10 AM (8 AM in Spanish), and Evening Prayer is live-streamed at 5:15 PM (8 PM in Spanish). You do not need to join Facebook to watch Facebook Live. Simply go to Redeemer's Facebook Page.
- **Sunday:** A parish-wide Mass is live-streamed from the church at 9 AM on Sunday (1 PM in Spanish). All Sunday Masses are posted to redeemersarasota.org/sermons-and-video/. The Mass is also available via Redeemer's YouTube channel, Redeemer Sarasota, and Facebook Live. Children's Chapel is broadcast Sundays at 5:45 PM.

Growing

- Weekdays – Classes are offered by the clergy, with occasional guest facilitators, M-F during Redeemer's "Formation Hour," via Facebook Live at 6:30 PM. Friday nights are manned by clergy on a variety of topics.
- Youth Minister Christoph Stephenson-Moe is holding Zoom gatherings for middle and high school youth.
- Heart to Heart Women's Bible Study meets Wednesdays at 10:30 AM—noon, currently via Zoom. All women are welcome, and for log-on credentials, contact Jane Thompson at jane@sarasotapeace.com.
- Men of Redeemer's Businessmen's Bible Study meets Wednesdays, 7-8 AM, currently via Zoom. All men are welcome, and for log-on credentials, contact Russ Ryan, russryan@gmail.com.
- Men of Redeemer's Saturday Morning Bible Study meets weekly via Zoom, 8:30—9:30 AM. All men are welcome, and for log-on credentials, contact Russ Ryan, russryan@gmail.com.
- Children and Families: *Moms-Talk Tuesdays* launched in April, which is an opportunities for moms to connect on Tuesday evenings via Zoom, at 8 PM. Text Jacki Boedecker for log-on credentials at 941.320.7550. *Mission Mondays*, *Worship Wednesdays*, *Growing Thursdays*, and *Family-Time Fridays* are all offered weekly for families and children, Nursery—grade 5. Check the Friday parish eblast and website for links.

Serving and Sharing

- \$200,000 has been generously donated by parishioners Eliza and Hugh Culverhouse to establish Redeemer's "Economic Crisis Fund," which can provide immediate financial assistance to those facing hardship caused by COVID-19. To request assistance, please contact Fr. Wilson (941-955-4263 or cwilson@redeemersarasota.org). Everyone is invited to contribute to this fund and many already have, so that we can help more in need. Your clergy continue to be available and may be reached twenty-four hours a day by calling (941) 955-4263.
- Our Christian counseling partners, Samaritan Counseling Services, are standing by. Please call (941) 926-2959. In addition to their on-campus location, Samaritan has other locations where you can receive counseling.

MILESTONES

Births:

Bradley Watts Dicklin

Deaths:

"May Light perpetual shine upon them"

James Goebel

Adele Pardee

Kay Porter

Kenneth Rimmer

Joining the parish:

Eckhard Kuesters

Barbara & Charles Harness

Ruth Farmer

June Birthdays

- 1 Derek Brashier, Kelsey Burroughs, Joe Kles, Joe McSpadden, Tyler Rasmussen, Haley Reid
- 2 Price Hartenstine, Alex Nimz, Stuart Prall, Eliza Radford, Morgan Rivers
- 3 Megan Clancy, Blanca Diego, Ellie Fitzgerald, Cinzia Forbes, Segolene Gamble, Richard Goddard, Karen Mann, Amy McGowan, Fred Powell, Pam Reynolds, Jay Skipper, Monica Van Buskirk
- 4 Kasandra Cruz, Kendall Hicks, Samantha Hunihan, George Hutter, Suzanne Jones, Brett Lawler, Bill Marshall, Austin McClung, Sabrina Rivero, Tom Tengen
- 5 Pam Bandyk, Edwin Giron, June Moore, Benjamin Tindal, Sam Williamson
- 6 Davis Dunlap, Rhodes Riner, Phil Segerstrom
- 7 Alex Dorr, Marilyn Glandorf, Sodra Leal-Olmedo, Frank Robinson, Irene Zellweger
- 8 Jake Altier, Bonny Connell, Violet Holds, Erin Kaplan, Jo Ann McKinney, Ella Menke
- 9 Torin Culp, Elinor Garlington, Chuck Miller, Vince Riva, Rita Roehr, Caroline Shoemaker
- 10 Vicky Chapman, Laurel De Luca, Carter Echols, Barbara Haskins, Bob Hulvat, Gretchen Lum, Nicolla Newall, Deanne Spoor, Hallie Zagrocki
- 11 James Lombard, Avery Marx, Tyler Pedrero, Larry Shedden
- 12 Daniel Aresery, David Calahan, Sara King, Morgan Marchiony, Eddy Phillips, Bryson Stevens
- 13 Christopher Anderson, Garrett Berkowitz, Keira Booth, Chris Elser, Jane Garcia, Karen Mathis, Valeria Pankey, Jim Powers, Yesica Sanchez, Amy Sullivan, Andrew White
- 14 Oliver Agren, David Couch, Alexis Fuste, Kelly Gilliland, Sebastian Ramirez
- 15 Paul LeClair, Lauren Otto
- 16 Maria Benavides, Amy Davis, Gloria Dionne, Jackie Koettters
- 17 Judy Altier, Cathy Brush, Donna Dennis, Maureik Robison
- 18 Stephanie Cabrera, Carole Caldwell, Elizabeth Devitt, Lydia McIntire, Brady Sharrer, Jennie Whidden
- 19 Philip Ames, Aubrey Swilling
- 20 David Ford-Coates, Ben James, Janet Kerschner, Tim Ryan, Mike Smith
- 21 Carl Curtiss, Penny Engels, Ken McBride, Barney Salmon, Henry Shoemaker
- 22 Anne Ayres, Cynthia Pond, Charleen Sessions
- 23 Stacey Dailey, Bill Engel, Lorraine Murphy, Doug Spangler
- 24 Duncan Cooper, David Ezell, Jan Gillett, Brian Guidroz, Grace Hamlin, John Haupt, John Powers
- 25 Phil Conover, Matt Latta, Jim Mitchell, Charles Riegler, Joe Suriol, Ona Thomas
- 26 Matthew Agren, Timothy Gilliland, Marina Robinson, Charles Sanders, Tammy Schieb, Matthew Shaffer, David Svenson
- 27 Curtis Hamlin, Evan Platt, Mike Quillen, Richard Scantlebury
- 28 Deedie Meetze
- 29 James Belzer, Ann Fletcher, Tony McQueen
- 30 Darlene Abney, Susan Battisto, Patrick Brown,

Eleanor Eastwood, Jenny Holt, Vivienne Lambrecht, Tim Rogers, Gay Swain

June Wedding Anniversaries

- 2 Jeri & Timothy Moravits
- 3 Jennifer & Peter Weber
- 5 Carolyn & Russell Daniel, Cheryl & Frank Herbold, Kimberly & PJ Strom
- 6 Sue & Adam Armbruster, Robin & Bill Fetsch, Marilyn & Frank Glandorf
- 7 Leteria & Willie Clemons, Susan & Jim Rooney
- 11 Beth & Eric Bobb, Liz & Joe Reuth, Sara & Henry Rhodes
- 12 Beth & Steve Agren
- 14 Bonny & Bill Connell, Karen Hamad & Jon Yenari, Christine & Dale Mattern, Gay & David Swain
- 15 Patricia & Christopher Caswell, Kathy & Rene Fonte
- 16 Laura & Craig Burness, Sarah & Bryan Wietzke
- 17 Susan & Pat Di Bernardo, Gussie & Bob Haeffner, Ricki & Bob Lindsay, Nancy & Eric Unsworth
- 18 Christina & Patrick Cunningham, Lauren & David Hunihan, Judy & John Kendall, Carol & George Tilley
- 19 Flo & Scott Ames
- 20 Nan & Forest Bogart, Amy & Richard Buck, Karen & Terry Fugate, Suzi & Mark Terres
- 21 Amanda & Colin Lyden, Marsha & Wells Purmont
- 22 Alma & Stan Abshier, Marion & Dick Almy, Anne & Mason Ayres, Samantha & Von Cook, Anita & Robert MacDonald, Linda & Fr. Fred Robinson
- 24 Lorene & David Bauck, Sara & Nick Ferguson
- 26 Patty & Chip Bettle, Janet & Jim Gallagher, Karen & Aaron Strand, Bev & Bob Wisniewski
- 27 Joyce & Jimmy Jewell, Leslie & Alan Jones, Mary & Ron Skweres
- 28 Martha & Jim Goebel, Arysol & John Niffenegger
- 29 Martha & Gil Heitman, Sue & Dave Matuszak, Valerie & Chris Montgomery, Terryann & Ty Reed
- 30 Beverley & Neil Georgi, Carol & Mark Lilly