



ECHOES

November 2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: Ministry Spotlights, Parish Celebrations & Community Calendars!

From the Rector...

November looks to be a busy month both in the world and at Redeemer. We began with All Saints' Day on November 1; a few of us gathered and prayed for all who have died. We will recognize All Saints' Day on Sunday, November 5, as well, remembering

especially our friends and family members who have died this past year.

We will have Trivia Night, a special Thanksgiving altar, and the Thanksgiving holiday itself. There is a special parish meeting to elect new vestry members, finalizing pledges, and putting together a budget for 2024. We have ongoing worship services, nursery, Christian formation, outreach activities and funding, pastoral care, choir rehearsals, liturgical planning and ... many other activities this month and beyond. That's life at Redeemer, right? Our personal calendars are full, too. There is that "one more thing" needing our attention.

When we consider those many things, our lives can be very busy, indeed. "Busy," however, often does not mean good or healthy. In fact, when busy means that we look at our daily lives as a series of tasks, then our faith becomes "one more thing," on our checklists.

This month and into the new year, I encourage us to remember that what we are doing at Redeemer is building sacramental community. At their core, many of our church functions are, in fact, ministry. We could say, for example, that one task of the Altar Guild is to wash dishes and clean towels, but those dishes are chalices and patens that carry the body and blood of Christ. We remember that the towels wipe the vessels of those sacraments. The work of the Guild is to prepare and keep ready a place for the Lord. They assist our practice of sacramental community.

Everything we do has Jesus Christ at its center. And Jesus changes everything! Invite some friends to your church home and serve them a bit of food and drink. That's coffee hour, and it's a ministry. We gather and break bread. We learn about one another and about our life in Christ. What a joy to be with your friends, the ones with whom you've just shared bread and wine, the body and blood of Christ. Ask: where did you see God this week? Where will you look for God this week? Say hello to a person you don't know very well. We're practicing sacramental community. Ministry.

What is God calling you to do and to be in this body of Christ? That's your ministry, and it matters.



Prayer during the Holy Chow gathering Oct. 29th. See more on pg. 3

In Christ, Catherine +

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Life post Covid continues to be a challenge for families, corporations, and churches. Families are more distant with fewer in-person gatherings; many individuals continue to work from home and attendance at mainstream churches is significantly lower. Our church, The Church of the Redeemer Episcopal, is no exception. The covid period necessitated changes in our daily and church lives and many of those acquired changes remain. One big question is: What if anything should we do?

Your Vestry understood earlier in the year that we needed to develop a strategy for the long term. A strategy that remained with our Episcopal Theology while recognizing the constant and rapid changes throughout our society, both near and far. We explored hiring a consultant to guide us in developing a strategic plan. Mother Catherine, Rick Hankinson and I interviewed one highly qualified consultant, but soon realized it would be much better to be led by input from the congregation utilizing a **Focus Group Concept for Strategic Planning approach**.

The Purpose was: ***Develop priorities to address how we can experience growth in our mission at Redeemer.***

The process would be: ***SWOT (Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis. Brainstorm ideas and then Prioritize.***

Your Vestry participated in the Focus Group Concept process prior to rolling it out to the congregation. In all thirty-three members of Redeemer participated in one of the in-person focus groups with another 18-20 having the opportunity to participate using a home survey. We are grateful for your active participation. The Vestry also established a strategic planning committee which would review the data and return to the Vestry with recommendations. Members of the committee are Mother Catherine, Rick Hankinson, Jim Briggs, Cynthia Eason, Bill Heizer, Wallace Lightsey and Jack Blackburn. The committee reviewed the focus group input and identified three major goals.

The Three major goals are:

1. Attract and retain younger people/families.
2. Amplify and improve use of our website, social media, and other marketing tools.
3. Expand parish internal activities, including opportunities for fellowship.

The Vestry approved this approach and asked the committee to prepare an action plan and report back at the next vestry meeting. It is important to understand that this is not a one and done effort. The intent is to put in place thoughts, processes and actions that live on and enable us to grow in our faith and ***live as faithful followers of Christ***. The committee which will remain in place at least through the end of 2024, encourages your on-going input and suggestions. Cynthia Eason has agreed to be the contact person for suggestions and other comments.

Lastly, on behalf of the Vestry and all at Redeemer, we want to thank you for your support and all you do for each other and your church.

Love and peace to all,
Jack Blackburn

FINANCIALS CORNER		Month of September 2023	
Tithes & Offerings			
MTD Budget \$17,782.38		MTD Actual \$18,353.00	
Monthly Expenses			
MTD Budget \$19,457.46		MTD Actual \$21,346.85	
Net Total			
MTD Budget -\$1,675.08		MTD Actual -\$2,993.85	
Questions? Contact the treasurer or wardens.			

HOLY CHOW PICNIC AT SALUDA LAKE



The Holy Chow picnic at the Bouton's home on Saluda Lake was a delightful success! After rain moved our annual church picnic indoors this September, we were so glad to have wonderful food, prayer and fellowship on a glorious fall day! Thanks to all who participated and especially to Meg Coffey, Jane and Bob Bouton!

MEMBERS CORNER



Debbie with her daughter,
Campbell Todd.

Getting to know Debbie Price

School & Occupation: Wake Forest and University of Texas-Austin; psychological consult for Social Security Disability.

Favorite thing about Thanksgiving: Spending time with family and, of course, the food!

Fun Fact: I used to work at a monkey farm.

Hobbies: Brunch! On a healthier note, either going to the gym or Pilates.

Favorite Memory at Church of the Redeemer: I have a few! Youth group beach trips, girls' basketball tournaments; Silent Night, in a darkened sanctuary lit by candles, at the end of the late Christmas Eve service.



Getting to know Bill Lee

College: BA Degree in Psychology with a minor in Business Administration at Emory University in Atlanta

Career: First job out of college was working in the Emory University Hospital Psychiatric Ward. After that I accepted a job at the Atlanta Journal/Constitution training stay-at-home moms to use a newspaper route to teach teenagers business principles. Next, I became a salesperson for GAF Corp., an asphalt roofing manufacturer. My next stop was in Greenville where I became a part-owner at Builder Marts of America, Inc. (BMA). After spending 20 years at BMA, I started my own Consulting, Training and Publishing Firm, Lee Resources, Inc.

Fun Fact: Since the year 2000, my passion has been Embrace the Dream Foundation, Inc., a fundraising non-profit corporation to operate Casa Hogar La Familia, an orphanage located in the State of Puebla about three hours south of Mexico City. Several dozen parishioners from Redeemer have traveled with me

to La Familia to visit the children and work as a mission team there. Currently, we have 30 children we take care of, educate and teach the love of Jesus Christ. Juan Francisco and his wife, Silvia, are our house parents and directors.

Favorite Holiday: Christmas because it is the time of year when our whole family is able to get together. And the best part is Holy Eucharist at Redeemer on Christmas Eve.

Favorite Hobby: I really enjoy reading historical fiction, spy thrillers, and deep religious books. One of my favorite authors is Ken Follett. I am also very active in Cursillo and recently served as president of the Cursillo Council in the Diocese of Upper South Carolina.

If you would like to submit someone to be in the members corner-please contact Kathryn Swilley at kethri0382@gmail.com.



Bill Lee with the Redeemer Youth Group and the children of Casa Hogar La Familia in 2005.

Memories of Redeemer by Bill Lee

When I moved to Greenville in 1969 the first thing I did was begin a search for a church. My son, Billy, was only four years of age, but he and I visited every Episcopal church in Greenville. My family had recently become Episcopalians while living in Savannah, GA. Our church in Savannah had only metal folding chairs in the sanctuary, so when we visited Redeemer, they had recently had a fire in the sanctuary and they were using folding metal chairs in what is now called Purser Hall for church services.

I decided against Redeemer because of the hard metal folding chairs. We built a house on Henderson Road and one day I saw our next-door neighbor out in her yard and we introduced ourselves. She asked me if we had found a church and I told her my “hard-metal-chair” story and she quickly told me that the sanctuary at Redeemer had been completely refurbished and they now had comfortable pews. My neighbor’s name was Lee Quinn, and she was impossible to say no to. We have been at Redeemer ever since. Lee Quinn and her husband moved to South Florida and while she was there, she became a Deacon, so when they moved back to Greenville 25 years later, she served Redeemer as a Deacon.

In the 1960s and 1970s Ed Keith was our Rector and we had church attendance of over 200 on a good Sunday. My favorite worship service was Christmas Eve Midnight Eucharist. We only had one Christmas Eve Service. We had so many people, we had to bring in extra chairs every year. It was a very moving service with excellent singing, worship and Holy Eucharist.

My wife and I were recruited to coach basketball. Basketball was a big deal among the churches in Greenville. We coached a senior girls’ team. Debbie Price and Laurie Ethridge played on the Redeemer team. We practiced in what is now Purser Hall and the Redeemer team did quite well against the churches we competed against.

When Phil Purser became Redeemer’s Rector in 1981, he was only 32 years of age; Father Phil had a very nice family and we were able to keep him for 19 years before he was called to a church in Tennessee. It was during that time that we had our first Assistant Rector, Rev. Kathryn Mathewson. Mother Kathryn was a nice addition to our clergy staff until she was called to serve a church in Signal Mountain, TN. Perhaps the most unique Assistant Rector we ever had was Fr. Michael Szymanowski. Fr. Mike was a Roman Catholic convert who became an Episcopalian after moving to South Carolina from Pennsylvania. He was a fantastic preacher and complemented Fr. Purser very nicely.

Ken Wood has worked with the youth at Redeemer since 1999. Ken is still active in youth ministry today. He had a ski boat and taught the great majority of the Redeemer youth how to water ski. He also enjoys snow skiing and has taken the Redeemer youth on numerous ski trips to Sugar Mountain, and several other ski slopes in the North Carolina mountains.

Some of my fondest memories have been Vestry Retreats at Camp Kanuga in the Western North Carolina Mountains. We stayed in cabins with big wood-burning fireplaces and screened-in porches. For our annual church picnics, we have frequently rented an open-air shelter on the Reedy River near downtown Greenville or at Paris Mountain State Park.

Rev. Kellie Wilson and her husband, Steve, visited Redeemer when they first moved to Greenville in 1997. At that time, Kellie was pregnant with their son Andrew. The Wilson Family joined Redeemer and by 1999, Kellie became Redeemer’s volunteer youth director. Kellie left Redeemer when she was called to be youth director at Holy Cross Episcopal in Greer, then she went to seminary and became a priest. Kellie is now a Rector at Christ Church in Greenville, but still calls Redeemer her church home.

The Reverend Catherine Tatem was called to serve as Rector at Redeemer in 2019. Mother Catherine recently celebrated her 4th anniversary as Redeemer’s Rector.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Adult Christian Education

The Adult Christian Education class continues in November with a study of the book of Ephesians. We meet at 10:45 am on Sundays in the vestry meeting room. Have some coffee and conversation, then come join our study. It's fun!

Happenings in Godly Play

Godly Play has gotten off to a great start. Room 209 is the classroom where the art happens, and Rm. 212 is The Holy Space. In the Holy Space, we have church, the Bible story is explored, and there's lots of Wondering. Here are some things we are learning about:

- ◆ We've learned about, The Creation and what a busy week God must have had!
- ◆ We heard how God always keeps his promises through, The Flood and the Ark.
- ◆ We've gotten to know, The Great Family- Abraham, Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca.
- ◆ Did you know that Isaac means laughter in Hebrew?

During coffee hour be sure to check out the bulletin board in the transept, it's all about Godly Play! If you would like to volunteer or find out more information email Lori at Lhredeemer@gmail.com



It's Trivia Night!

Friday, Nov. 17 in Purser Hall with our awesome MC: Royce Herbert. Arrival begins at 6:30pm, Trivia starts at 7:00pm sharp. Join us for a night of fun filled fellowship and laughter. It will be a great night as we test each other's knowledge of useful and use/less information!

The Details:

Bring an appetizer to share and BYOB if you desire. Invite your friends and family! There will be prizes! Seven people per team, but adjustments can be made. **Don't worry if you're not on a team, we will get you one.**

Sign up in the narthex or email Lori to let us know you're coming:
Lhredeemer@gmail.com



ADVENT APPROACHES



Intergenerational Advent Wreaths

December 3, after the service.

Join us in the transept as we continue Redeemer's tradition of making Advent Wreaths to enjoy at home.

Wreath making materials will be provided by the church.

The beautiful live greens are generously provided by the McCullough family.

There is no fee for this activity, donations are welcome.

To ensure there are enough supplies, please fill out the sign up sheet in the transept.

Help Decorate the Chrismon Tree

On Sunday, December 3rd, as you come to the altar for communion, take an ornament and place it on the tree. Chrismon means Christ's Monogram, which are meaningful symbols that represent Jesus. They are beautiful, delicate handmade works of art made of white and gold. Made many years ago by a very dedicated and loving group of ladies at Redeemer.

What a wonderful way for us to begin the journey of Advent!



Bring your Bible to Church

We received the suggestion that we use our bibles to look up the Sunday readings during worship services. Let's give it a try! There are bibles in each pew that you may use, or you may choose to bring a bible from home. If you'd like to look up the readings ahead of time, the readings for the following Sunday are printed in each bulletin. You may also find the readings at lectionarypage.net. We use the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) in worship. We will not print the lessons during Advent; let's see how this goes.

Your feedback is welcome!

Christmas Outreach at Redeemer

The Outreach Committee met on Nov. 1 and is considering the options for how we can best serve those in need during the holidays. Details to follow beginning Nov. 9 in the e-blast and weekly bulletins.

Thank you in advance for your continued generosity and support!

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHTS

Pleasant Valley Connection

The Pleasant Valley Connection received the **Community Spirit Award** from the Greenville Community Foundation at a special annual event, the Charitable Giving Awards held in the main ballroom of the Poinsett Club. As you know, Redeemer has supported the Pleasant Valley Connection since before it even opened its doors on Old Augusta Rd. 20 years ago in 2003.



The Pleasant Valley Connection and its Executive Director, Leda Young, were honored in an extensive video presentation for the Connection's many service programs provided to young and old in the Pleasant Valley community, and especially for their success in connecting residents to other organizations that can provide the services they need. This is expanded upon in a two page article in the Nov. 2023 issue of TOWN magazine (see pages 104-105: <https://towncarolina.com/november-2023/>)

The Sponsor of this award was First Horizon Bank. The bank's President, Sam Erwin, stated during the presentation that "Pleasant Valley Connection has shown that with commitment and vision, a more empowered and more connected community is possible." Everyone at Redeemer can be proud of Redeemer's long and continuing support of the Pleasant Valley Connection for its achievements in the community.

Update from Ukraine

Dear Mother Catherine,

I wanted to pen a few lines to first check and see how your health is and second to let you know how much the scripture passages you send go right to my heart. COVID is rarely mentioned here in Ukraine as everyone is involved in the ongoing war going on two years the end of February.

As I see pictures from the Israel and Gaza, I see a lot of the same destruction in bombed out flattened towns and villages along the frontlines. We are expecting Russia again to target our electricity grid like it did last winter, plunging the whole country into darkness with hours without electricity, heat and sometimes water. Last year, as the winter progressed, the energy grid gave a schedule so you could at least know when it would be on. One learns how to adapt. People would laugh if they came to where I live and see jugs of water, candles and yes, Baby Wipes! I got smart when I would leave a light on in the middle of the night so when power came on I would jump up, make coffee and shower.

I, as you, draw strength from God's word which brings comfort and sees us through these times of war and unrest throughout the world. I believe God sees the pain and suffering and gives us the Will and strength to continue to serve those who are in desperate need. We are in the hands of Jesus!

His,
Gary

Samaritan House

Samaritan House has had a huge influx of visitors during the last six weeks. Normally, 140 visitors would be a big day, but suddenly we experienced 230 visits on one Thursday, and 200 has become our new norm. What does this mean? The Board voted to cut back on the number of times one household can visit. As of November, only two visits will be allowed per month. We are wondering why this sudden growth and hoping that our clients are finding the help they need.

Please consider participating in our Samaritan House "day of giving" on December 9th. We will be asking people to drop off food and personal care items from 9am-12pm that day. This will help us to meet the need during the holiday season. Questions? Contact Rick or Margie at hankinsonsc@gmail.com

Laundry Love

Our laundry project continues, spreading "love, dignity, and detergent" to those who frequent the Launderette down the street. We are going there once or twice a month for two hours at a time, reaching about a dozen people each time. One young mother confided to me that their rental has hook-ups for washer and dryer, but she doubts they will ever have the money to purchase their own. Another older woman called her kids, and we got to meet the grandkids as they brought in their bags of laundry.

We have been passing out snacks and bottled water and are getting to know some of the neighbors who live near our church. We invite them to come join us on a Sunday ...and maybe they will! To get involved in Laundry Love, join us on Dec. 2nd 10am-12pm at the Launderette at the corner of Mauldin and Augusta Roads.

Questions Contact Margie at hankinsonsc@gmail.com

SUNDAY LECTIONARY READINGS

	November 5	November 12	November 19	November 26
First Reading	Revelation 7:9-17	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25	Judges 4:1-7	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Response	Psalms 34:1-10, 22	Psalms 78:1-7	Psalms 123	Psalms 100
Second Reading	1 John 3:1-3	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Ephesians 1:15-23
Gospel	Matthew 23:1-12	Matthew 25:1-13	Matthew 25:14-30	Matthew 25:31-46

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

	November 5	November 12	November 19	November 26
Verger	Rebekah Webb	Jack Blackburn	Betty Boesch	Greg Brown
Usher	Bill Lee	Steve Webb	Ken Wood	Bill Lee
Crucifer	Robin Mill	Riley Hawkins	Debbie Price	William Meade
Lector 1	Rick Hankinson	Betty Boesch	David Poleski	Bill Heizer
Lector 2	Bill Lee	Robin Mill	John Helm	Bill Lee
Altar Guild	Ann & Sarah Meade	Susan Butler & Margie Hankinson	Debbie Price & Edie Parrott	Janet Poleski, Judy Derrick, Joanie Mullin
Flower Guild	Lauren McCullough	Robin Mill	All Arrangers-Thanksgiving Altar	Louise Heizer
Counters	Carol Hallman & Bill Lee	Jane Bouton & Betsy Chiles	John Helm & Steve Webb	Meg Coffey & Jane Bouton
Video	Rick Hankinson	John Helm	David Poleski	Jane & Bob Bouton

REDEEMER THANKSGIVING ALTAR



The season of gratitude is upon us and, as in years past, the Church of the Redeemer will have a show of thanks to God on our Thanksgiving altar. We will present this Thanksgiving altar on November 19th, the Sunday BEFORE Thanksgiving, so that the food and your contributions can be distributed to the needy the week of Thanksgiving.

If you would like to thank God for your blessings in this way, please fill out a form included in the bulletin with your contribution.

Deadline: Monday, Nov. 13th

FELLOWSHIP & FLOWERS

Please sign up to bring simple snacks for coffee hour after Sunday services.
There is a sign up sheet in the transept. Thank you!

+ + +

If you would like to dedicate altar flowers in honor of someone special in your life, the 2023 altar dedication book is on the communication table. We ask for a donation of \$40 to offset the cost of the flowers. We appreciate your generosity.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Charlene Moyer	11 David Poleski	21 Matt Swilley
4 Joshua Brock	14 Steve Webb	22 Ellory Johnson
6 Daniel Poe	15 Laurie Ethridge	24 Matthew Howard
7 Margie Hankinson	17 Jayce Herbert	24 Corbin Papadopoulos
10 Richard Simms	17 Royce Herbert	

NOVEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
The International Ballet continues to provide ballet lessons to children at Pleasant Valley Connection. They meet in Purser Hall on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:15-5:30 PM			1 8:30 AM - Men's Study Breakfast (F) 9:30 AM - All Saints' Holy Eucharist (N) 12:00 PM - AA (PH) 6:30 PM - Choir Rehearsal (CR)	2	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4 10:00 AM - Laundry Love 11:00 AM - ALANON (V) AA (PH)
5 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist (N) 10:45 AM Adult Ed (V) 2:00 PM - Hispanic Service (PH)	6 6:00 PM - ACOA (PH) 8:00 PM - ALANON (T)	7	8 9:30 AM - Holy Eucharist (N) 12:00 PM - AA (PH) 6:00 PM - Finance Meeting (WR) 6:30 PM - Choir Rehearsal (CR)	9	10 OFFICE CLOSED Diocesan Convention at Christ Church, Greenville	11 11:00 AM - ALANON (V) AA (PH)
12 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist (N) 10:45 AM Adult Ed (V) 2:00 PM - Hispanic Service (PH)	13 6:00 PM - ACOA (PH) 8:00 PM - ALANON (T)	14 11:00 AM - DOK (P) 12:00 PM - Clergy Lunch (T) 6:30 PM - Vestry Meeting	15 8:30 AM - Men's Study Breakfast (F) 9:30 AM - Holy Eucharist (N) 12:00 PM - AA (PH) 6:30 PM - Choir Rehearsal (CR)	16 12:00 PM - Clericus (T)	17 OFFICE CLOSED	18 11:00 AM - ALANON (V) AA (PH)
19 9:30 AM - Holy Eucharist (N) Thanksgiving Altar 2:00 PM - Hispanic Service (PH)	20 6:00 PM - ACOA (PH) 8:00 PM - ALANON (T)	21 Submissions for Dec/Jan issue of ECHOES due!	22 9:30 AM - Holy Eucharist (N) 12:00 PM - AA (PH) 6:30 PM - Choir Rehearsal (CR)	23 THANKS-GIVING DAY	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25 11:00 AM - ALANON (V) AA (PH)
26 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist (N) 10:45 AM Adult Ed (V) 2:00 PM - Hispanic Service (PH)	27 6:00 PM - ACOA (PH) 8:00 PM - ALANON (T)	28	29 9:30 AM - Holy Eucharist (N) 12:00 PM - AA (PH) 6:30 PM - Choir Rehearsal (CR)	30	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2

Key for facilities and spaces:

(T): Transept; (PH): Purser Hall; (P): Parlor; (N): Nave; (V): Vestry Meeting Room/Media Room; (WR): Work Room; (F): Floating Location; (EH): Education Hall; (CR): Choir Room:

Note:

Sunday Services of Holy Eucharist are offered in-person and on-line;
 Wednesday Holy Eucharist is offered in-person.



The Church of the Redeemer

120 Mauldin Road
Greenville, SC 29605

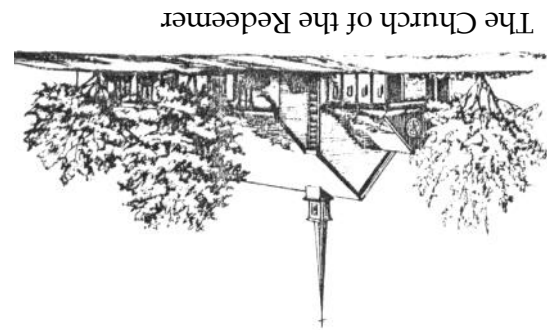
864.277.4562

www.corgsc.org

Parish Office: corgsc29605@gmail.com

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 337
Greenville, SC

Address Service Requested



**Everyone is welcome to join us
for Worship on Sundays at 9:30 am
and Wednesdays at 9:30 am.
Watch services online at:
[Facebook.com/corgsc](https://facebook.com/corgsc)**

Come Join Us!