



CHURCH
OF THE
REDEEMER
EPISCOPAL

ECHOES

February 2025
The Annual Meeting Edition

From the rector ... the ad 'ministry' of a church—administration

Of the many times that we gather throughout a year, we may think most often about gathering in worship. We offer worship at least twice a week year-round. We also get together for ministries in the church and in the world, to socialize, eat, pray, serve others, have fun—trivia, anyone? We also recognize that the community in which we gather is an organization, part of a wider and worldwide church. We have a responsibility to one another and to the larger body of which we are a part to manage ourselves well. Through the canons of the national church our diocese, and our parish bylaws, once a year we report administrative, business information, including our year's budget, to the whole congregation. The Vestry and Finance committees go over these items throughout the year. Financial information and vestry minutes are available to all members; it is kept in a notebook in the workroom of the church. Also know that vestry meetings are open meetings; all members are invited to attend and listen in. You are welcome to come to a meeting! In 2025, regular vestry meetings will take place on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm in the vestry meeting room.

In this issue of Redeemer's Echoes newsletter you will find some summary information from 2024, including information about worship and the ministries of our committees and commissions. You'll also see the 2025 vestry members and their contact information, the "usual" schedules for February, and other news items. Enjoy this snapshot of Redeemer as we thank God for our many blessings and our life together.

In Christ,
Catherine+

Summary of worship services 2024

- Sunday services of Holy Eucharist: 53
- Total Sunday Attendance: 3,362
- Total Attendance at other services: 772
- Weekday services of Holy Eucharist: 53
- Private services of Holy Eucharist: 52
- Daily Office Services held on a weekday: 3
- Weddings: 0
- Burial Services: 3
- Baptisms: 2
- All other services: 8

From the 2024 Senior warden Rick Hankinson

Senior warden report. 2024

The year had its challenges and rewards. I thank all who contributed to helping our church family provide a healthy and productive community of Christ.

As far as meeting the Senior Warden's mission several individuals and groups made it happen.

The Vestry gave the power to move us along. It was helped in identifying our individual and communal strengths and weaknesses by the Mutual Ministry Study, headed by Rev. Lynn Sanders. The vestry was also the benefactor of the Strategic Planning Committee's analysis and suggested paths forward.

The numerous commissions, committees, and their leaders did the majority of the work, even when undermanned.

Certainly, the staff, especially Catherine+ and Lori, were the rudder and keel that kept me, and us, going forward, if not straight forward. Individuals that kept me sane during some stressful moments were Jack, Father Upton, and Celia.

Father Upton did thank us for giving him the impetus to get back to the serious study of Scripture. We were the benefactors of having a priest that was able to devote all of his time to the results of that study in his homilies. He showed his appreciation by gifting us his time for his last visit.

I thank you all for doing your work for our church family showing me the face of God with your love and caring.
Rick

And from the 2024 Jr. Warden Celia Jernigan

Projects of 2024:

1. Butterfly garden installed
2. Greenville County Fire Department inspection completed. Fire extinguishers hung, FACP sign installed, address numbers installed, Knox box installed to hold key for firefighters building access, alarm inspection with battery replacement, smoke detectors tested.
3. Mulch and landscape cleanup in various areas
4. Camera system repaired
5. Roof repairs, leaks repaired, gutters cleaned
6. Basement and transept flood – pumped out, sump pump repaired, doors replaced, parquet floor repaired
7. Security alarm repaired after lightning strike
8. Pew halved to make a space for wheelchairs
9. Light replaced in flower room
10. Various sheetrock sealing and repair.
11. Stained ceiling tiles replaced
12. Nonfunctional changing table removed
13. Fascia board replaced
14. Shutter replaced

Our building will continue to require maintenance. Our grounds are quite large and require maintenance.

A huge thank you to Ken Wood, Bob Bouton, Rick Hankinson, Jack Blackburn, the entire Garden Club for your help this year. On the horizon: water for the butterfly garden and new plants, maintaining the pet garden, planting new trees, solving the flooding issue, maintaining and improving the building.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you this year.

Sincerely,

Celia Jernigan

From the Pastoral Care Commission vestry liaison Rich Simms

Pastoral Care at Redeemer is truly a Mission of Love. Our team is led by our dedicated Chairperson, Greg Brown. Meg Coffey is the leader of our Card Ministry that sends birthday, anniversary and special occasion cards to the congregation. Our Eucharistic Ministers are Rick Hankinson, Greg Brown, and Betty Herrin. They take communion to the residences of those who are unable to come to Redeemer. Phyllis Webb manages the prayer list in our Weekly Church Bulletin. Ken Wood is Redeemer's Mr. Handyman and is always ready and willing to help our parishioners with Fix-It projects in their homes. Greg Brown is the go-to person for those in need of food or meals and also arranges transportation for anyone in need of a ride to church or for medical needs. The Commission meets face to face on a quarterly basis to review recent activities and brainstorm for new and even better ways to share the Love of Christ and reports their progress to the Vestry. Rich Simms has been blessed to be their Vestry Liaison for 2024 and will continue in this role in 2025.

From the Outreach coordinator Lori Hawkins

Parish members that have participated in outreach are too numerous to mention, and that is a wonderful thing! We continue to be thankful for having the opportunity to serve Christ. Our major efforts centered around Samaritan House, Pleasant Valley Connection, and Laundry Love. We reach out in prayer for missionaries Gary Powell, Rachel and Alonzo Silva. Parishioner Bill Lee is heavily involved with Casa Hogar orphanage in Mexico and facilitates groups to visit and help the children and adults there.

We held Vacation Bible School for the children of Redeemer and Pleasant Valley. This event happens only with our many volunteers and anonymous monetary support. Thank you! The children and musician, Jimmy Jukebox, performed during our Sunday church service, and a reception followed. The entire event was well-received. We had a record attendance of fifty-three children!

Outreach happens through the use of our facilities by many groups: Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Al-Anon, Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA), the Hispanic Church, and the International Ballet through a program with Pleasant Valley Connection. Through these groups alone, over 100 people/week are served at Redeemer. Other groups and families meet in our building throughout the year.

Following Hurricane Helene and the devastation to communities in Western North Carolina, Redeemer worked with our Diocesan office and served as a drop site for much needed supplies. Over the course of a week, much of Redeemer was transformed and filled to the brim with donations. Parishioners from local churches and good Samaritans wanting to help dropped off truckloads of water, diapers, nonperishable food, batteries, and countless other items. (Although we did try to count!) Early on a Friday morning, a group of volunteers met and loaded a U-Haul truck, a bus from Christ Church and an SUV with all of the donations. The three full vehicles were driven to North Carolina and everything was delivered to an area outside of Asheville.

Pleasant Valley Connection and the Salvation Army, with assistance from Redeemer, connected for the second consecutive year to provide Christmas gifts for area children. The Salvation Army's Toys for Tots program provided a large donation of clothing and toys for the children of Pleasant Valley Connection programs. Pleasant Valley is pleased and very appreciative of the collaboratives that work together to help serve the needs of their community. Redeemer hosted a toy drive for Toys for Tots. Donations were delivered to a drop off site for local distribution. Thanks to all!

At Samaritan House, church members volunteer weekly for donation pick up, packing, and distribution. We have a monthly food drive to benefit Samaritan House. We collect various canned goods, boxed food items and financial contributions year round. Again, thank you! Remember Redeemer's mission statement. We are disciples of Christ and follow his way of love. Serving others can be our greatest joy.

Lori

More outreach: Laundry Love

2024 saw the demolition of the laundromat we were serving. Undeterred, Rick and Margie Hankinson found another laundromat in the area, and we've been helping there most of the year. A small team meets at the laundromat from 10am—12pm on the first Saturday of each month. Laundry is expensive! We now spend about \$200 a month providing funds (through cards that go directly into the washers and dryers) for people to have clean clothes. Our hope is that the money that they *don't* have to spend can be used toward other ongoing needs in their households.

With the start of 2025, the national Laundry Love program is in its 21st year. Here are some stats from the national program director:

There are 304 active locations. Many places closed during the pandemic and are just not recovering operations and churches that serve them. Thirty six locations were added in 2024.

Through this program about 45,000 people have been “served, seen, and dignified.”

Laundromat owners across the country are reaching out to find sponsors. Assistance helps their businesses and the communities in which they operate.

Earth Breeze serves in partnership with the program and has provided 2,276,360 laundry detergent sheets. That's a lot of loads of laundry.

Redeemer is still using funds donated from parishioners and friends and the remainder of the 2024 Matthew 25 grant from the Diocese. Thank you!

Margie Hankinson

Heartwarming gifts

At one time, needle arts people met in the parlor with their knitting and crocheting projects, and some worked from home, making and then donating scarves, hats, and blankets. The group has not been active in a few years, and many beautiful, warm items sat in the closet unused. Shipping to Ukraine as had been done came at great expense and shipping logistics, and with the war, no assurance that items will now reach those in need. Pre-war and when Gary Powell was serving under the umbrella of One Collective allowed shipping to take place in earlier years. The world changes. With the cold weather this month, the Greenville area has seen a need for warm items for many people. Through Outreach and the DOK, all of these hand crafted items were delivered and given out through Samaritan House, Shepherd's Gate, and a Miracle Hill men's shelter. Our count included “a zillion” hats, assorted cowl scarves, five blankets, and about a dozen other scarves and lap blankets. Mother Catherine has given out some of the scarves and blankets to homeless people as needs arise.

What a gift to many people! We are now ready to restock, and in that light, the needle arts group is planning on meeting again in 2025. Knitters and crocheters, get your needles and hooks out—let's meet and stitch. For those who neither knit nor crochet, you can still help. Bring some fleece fabric and we'll show you how to make scarves and blankets without sewing or stitching. All are welcome and invited! **Margie Hankinson** is coordinating a meeting day and time.

Children and Youth Christian Education

In 2024 we celebrated Shrove Tuesday (2/13/24) with older youth and adults cooking a traditional pancake supper. We also enjoyed Janet Poleski's delicious jambalaya.

Redeemer's annual Easter Egg hunt took place after the Easter service on March 31st. The egg hunt took place on the playground.

Vacation Bible School was held the week of June 17th for the children of Redeemer and Pleasant Valley Connection. The number of children was the most yet—fifty three children attended in 2024, compared to thirty-five in 2023. On Sunday June 22nd the children performed a song during the worship service and we had a reception after the service to celebrate the week.

The nursery continues to be staffed most Sundays for children ages three and under. We need a few volunteers for 2025 so that we can continue to offer nursery every Sunday. Our teenagers continue to serve on the altar and as lectors during worship. They are a vital and talented resource. Thank you!

Godly Play returned for its second year after a few year hiatus. Three to five children attend this educational offering. Godly play is a Montessori-style class that gives a hands-on way for children to learn about Jesus and to hear and experience the stories of the bible. Redeemer has a complete set of resources for this valuable program. We would love to expand this offering somehow—maybe an after school program? We'd love your help in making use of this great resource.

The season of Advent began with decorating the Chrismon tree during the service on the first Sunday of Advent. During coffee hour we had an intergenerational Advent wreath activity. Redeemer supplied greenery and wreaths for a traditional wreath, and we offered a new way to make a "wreath" using only candles and found objects at home.

Thank you for your support of our children and youth programs throughout the year.

Lori

A prayer for guidance

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with *thy* most gracious favor, and further us with *thy* continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in *thee*, we may glorify *thy* holy Name, and finally, by *thy* mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Church of the Redeemer

120 Mauldin Road Greenville, SC 29605
864.277.4562 www.corgsc.org
Parish Office: corgsc29605@gmail.com

Moving into 2025: some “mark your calendar” items

Coffee talk—let’s get together

Mother Catherine has set up dates throughout the year for us to gather with her in small groups for casual conversation. No agenda—just some time, fellowship, and conversation. You are invited! We’ve set up groups by your birth date, and that’s to keep the size of the groups small. You may come in a month other than scheduled if that works better for you. If you think that we don’t know when your birthday is, you’re invited, too—let us know the date and we’ll also make sure to pray for you in your birth month. The first Coffee Talk date is **February 6 at 5pm in the Parlor**. We’ll offer coffee, water, and a few light refreshments.

If your birthday is in **JANUARY** or **FEBRUARY**, or you consider yourself a **NEWCOMER** to Redeemer, this coffee talk’s the one for you! **February 6, 5pm**.

Trivia night!

The first Trivia Night of 2025 is on February 28 in Purser Hall. Arrive any time after 6:30pm; trivia begins at 7:00pm. Please bring an appetizer or snack to share. BYOB (no hard liquor). We welcome Master of Ceremonies Royce Herbert who will once again challenge all of us. Bring your friends and introduce them to fun fellowship and gamesmanship at Redeemer. You may put together a team, or we will invite you to one when you arrive. There will soon be a sign up sheet (so we know how many tables to set up), or email Lori Hawkins: lhredeemer@gmail.com **Do you know stuff? Come and see!**

Bon Secours Mobile Medical Unit

The Bon Secours Mobile Medical Unit will be at Redeemer in February. This community resource provides no-charge health screenings throughout Greenville county. Their van sets up in our parking lot, sees people or makes appointments for further care.

Ongoing ways to engage at Redeemer

You never have to be bored here! As a Christian community: the Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement, followers of The Way, Episcopalians; these terms are broadly descriptive of who we are. As a parish in the Episcopal church, Redeemer summarizes our mission this way: **Drawing near to God to make and equip disciples to live as faithful followers of Christ.**

Whether you gather here for worship, to volunteer on a guild or committee, sing in the choir, assist with worship, take a leadership role—we’re glad you’re here. Here is a brief list of some ways to engage (in no particular order):

Worship; be baptized or confirmed; become a member, pledge, bring your friends, pray every day

Serve: altar guild, flower guild, verger, vestry, choir, Eucharistic minister or visitor, lector, garden club, men’s breakfast and bible study; Christian formation classes; Trivia!, FEAST groups (Friends Eating and Socializing Together), Donut Division, Coffee Hour, teach Godly play, attend Godly play, Vacation Bible School, other Outreach, office angel, fix it person, nursery volunteer, join the card writing ministry
Come see your rector! Happy, sad, needing spiritual support and counsel, bring her a worship bulletin from vacation, update her on your family news, come to a coffee talk, plan your funeral, share the great book you’re reading ...

Believe in Christ; ask questions, share your doubts and faith and joy ... spend some quiet time with God.

Go forth into the world, strengthened, loved, encouraged, to love and serve the Lord.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH

	February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23
Verger	David Poleski	Betty Boesch	Rebekah Webb	Jack Blackburn
Usher	Josh Hawkins	Steve Webb	Joe McCullough	Ken Wood
Crucifer	Robin Mill	Sarah Meade	Debbie Price	Riley Hawkins
Lector 1	Joanie Mullin	Rich Simms	Bob Bouton	Betty Boesch
Lector 2	Wallace Lightsey	Robin Mill	Rick Hankinson, David Poleski	Marsha Lightsey
Altar Guild	Ann and Sarah Meade	Susan Butler, Margie Hankinson	Bobbie Morelock, Debbie Price	Janet Poleski, Joanie Mullin, Judy Derrick
Flower Guild	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Counters	Jane Bouton, Betsy Walt	Steve Webb, Meg Coffey	Bill Lee, Carol Hallman	Jane Bouton, Meg Coffey
Video	Jane and Bob Bouton	Rick Hankinson	TBD	TBD

SUNDAY LECTIONARY READINGS

	February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23
First Reading (OT)	Malachi 3:1-4	Isaiah 6:1-8	Jeremiah 17:5-10	Genesis 45:3-11,15
Psalm	84	138	1	Psalm 37:1-12,41-42
Second Reading (NT)	Hebrews 2:14-18	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	1 Cor 15:12-20	1 Cor 15:35-38,42-50
Gospel	Luke 2:22-40	Luke 5:1-11	Luke 6:17-26	Luke 6:27-38

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

5 John Helm
5 Trip Ethridge
6 Scott Derrick
14 Ivy Entwistle

18 Jacob Lightsey
24 Louise Heizer
27 Ted Sanders



February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Administrative Office Hours are Monday— Thursday, 9 AM to 2 PM. Mother Catherine is readily available outside of office hours — let her know when you'd like to meet.						1 11:00 AM - Al Anon (V) AA (PH)
2 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist (N) 10:45AM Adult Christian Ed (V) 10:45 AM Garden Club meeting (P) 2:00 PM -Hispanic Service (PH)	3 4-5:15PM Ballet 6:00 PM - ACOA (PH) 7:00 PM - Al Anon (T)	4	5 9:00 AM Men's Study Breakfast (F) 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist (N) 4-5:15PM Ballet 6:30 PM - Choir Rehearsal (CR)	6 5:00 PM Coffee Talk (P)	7 Office closed	8 11:00 AM - Al Anon (V) AA (PH)
9 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist (N) 10:45AM Adult Christian Ed (V) 2:00 PM -Hispanic Service (PH)	10 4-5:15PM-Ballet 6:00 PM - ACOA (PH) 7:00 PM - Al Anon (T)	11	12 9:00 AM Men's breakfast and study 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist (N) 10:30AM DOK 4-5:15PM Ballet 6:00 PM Finance Meeting (WR) 6:30 PM - Choir Rehearsal (CR)	13	14 Office closed	15 8 11:00 AM - Al Anon (V) AA (PH) Afternoon: Parish Hall reserved
16 9:30 AM -Holy Eucharist (N) 10:45AM Adult Christian Ed (V) 2:00 PM -Hispanic Service (PH)	17 4-5:15PM Ballet 6:00 PM - ACOA (PH) 7:00 PM - Al Anon (T)	18 6:45 PM Vestry Mtg (V)	19 9:30 AM Morning Prayer (N) 4-5:15PM Ballet 6:30 PM - Choir Rehearsal (CR)	20	21 Office closed	22 11:00 AM - Al Anon (V) AA (PH)
23 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist (N) 10:45 AM Adult Christian Ed 2:00 PM -Hispanic Service (PH)	24 4-5:15PM Ballet 6:00 PM - ACOA (PH) 7:00 PM - Al Anon (T)	25	26 9:30 AM Morning Prayer (N) 4-5:15PM Ballet 6:30 PM - Choir Rehearsal (CR)	27	28 6:30 PM TRIVIA!	

Key for facilities and spaces:

(T): Transept; (PH): Purser Hall; (P): Parlor; (N): Nave; (V): Vestry Meeting Room; (WR): Work Room; (F): Fireplace Room; (CR): Choir Room

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