



CHURCH  
OF THE  
REDEEMER  
EPISCOPAL

# ECHOES

January 2025

## *From the rector ...*

This past Sunday, January 12th, we celebrated and honored the baptism of Jesus. Since Jesus regularly turns our notions of life upside down, I asked us to consider the following:

Instead of focusing on why Jesus was baptized, which is not a bad thing in itself, but what if we turned that inquiry upside down and spent some time in wonder and awe that we are baptized in the same way God's son was baptized. God loves us so much, we are so beloved, that we are baptized in the same way that Jesus was. The same Holy Spirit descends upon us. We are part of God's *very good* creation. My friend and colleague Stuart Higginbotham writes: *"The reality of God's love and being is not just an idea; rather, it is an embodied experience. The Incarnation continues in and through us, and the truth of God's love flows through our veins."*<sup>1</sup>

"The truth of God's love flows through our veins." No wonder that, in our baptismal vows, we promise to "seek and serve Christ in all persons" (BCP, 305). and to love our neighbor as ourself. That person, every person, is also part of God's very good creation and one of God's beloved children. With God's love within us, then our spiritual life, growth and transformation happens by the very way in which we live. The ways in which we spend our moments is the way in which we spend and form our lives. That truth makes my many "to do" lists seem not quite as essential in and of themselves; rather, those lists matter in the way that those items help me carry—and give away—God's love. A doctor on a medical mission trip said it better than I: "what a joy it is to spend our lives giving God's love away." Children call this doctor "Chippy loco," and he literally dances with joy in their presence.

In this truth of being bearers of God's love, "church" is not something we do; it is part of who we are. Back to Father Stuart:

*"Church," then, becomes not some separate thing that offers a service that we can consume, but rather is a space where we actually bump into ourselves, become aware of our growing edges, and participate with the Spirit in the transformation of our very lives. For those who think that the church is just some organization which you can join, like a club to which you pay dues in order to receive a service, I want to disabuse you of that illusion. There is always an element of Christian community that is a mirror for us, to notice how the Spirit is calling us to grow. (The Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham, "Your Life is Your Practice: a sermon," 2025, posted on Facebook January 11, 2025.)*

What is the mirror telling us, telling me, today, as we enter 2025? In what ways will we, might we, embody God's love this year, right here in Greenville, SC? I am called to grow in Christ, and thinking about faith as something that is part of my being helps that call feel ever more real. I hope you seek that spiritual growth, too. We are on this path, in this life, together, and that, too, is a wonderful gift from God. With awe and wonder, we welcome this year.

In Christ,  
Catherine+

## From the senior warden – Rick’s musings

Did you ever do something out of duty and fall into a great experience? Going to the Diocesan convention was just that for me.

I was a delegate, due to my position as Senior Warden, and made arrangements to go. The first gift was getting nudged to spend the money on a closer hotel so I could walk to the cathedral in Columbia. I usually tend towards the cheaper, less convenient, accommodations. But the walks to and from the convention and having breakfast with the other delegates were a real gift. Getting to know parishioners better and discussing what we had experienced at the convention enriched the experience.

There were a few “come to Jesus” moments for me. The homily by the Rev. Robert L. Brown at the beautiful Sunday service really started me thinking about what has been troubling me the most lately. Samaritan House is losing its home for the third time. I was, and still am, conflicted about what is possible and how I should react. Rev. Brown was expounding on the apostle’s reaction to Jesus sleeping through the storm on the Sea of Galilee. He said he had an experience in a boat in a storm once. His reaction was to picture himself as Leonardo DiCaprio. He tried to get his wife to stand with him in the bow of the boat and challenge the storm. She naturally refused, he did it anyway and got knocked on his...back.

He then went on to describe other people’s reactions to adversity and arrived at the one that showed the “Way”. Trusting and having faith in God to provide the path through troubling times is the way. Jesus can calm the sea for us. The message to me was not that Jesus will fix all our troubles, but that faith in Him is the way to calm us in adversity. So, I continue to work towards solutions for how to feed the poor and trust that whatever happens, Jesus has my back.

The other moment of clarity came from Right Rev. Daniel P. Richards. The bishop addressed us at the convention with his own take on how to move forward during adversity in our troubling times. He is an eloquent speaker, and when he does, it shows why God has led him to be in the position of talking with authority to us.

He said that in times of disagreements with others we should not take Satan’s path of promoting division. We should work towards unity. Not trying to get people to do and think like you, but to promote acceptance that all are God’s children and worthy of respect and love. As my professor in counseling school said, “difference is not deficient”.

The bishop gave us some “how to’s”. First, he challenged us to read the Word, especially the Gospels, to discern the Way of Jesus. Read to listen to the master teacher. Jesus will show us His will. One directive Jesus repeats many times in words and action is to feed the poor, heal the sick, accept the alien. Not to fill only their Spiritual needs, but their physical needs too, like food, as he did.

Then Bishop Daniel said to do God’s will with Joy. Specifically, he identified Episcopalians as the middle way. Not Puritans and not hedonists, but somewhere in the middle. Doing God’s will with sober fun. I don’t think this was an admonishment about alcohol but a directive to find joy in life. Certainly, serving others can bring Joy even at a party.

So, I muddle on, trying to do God’s will with Joy. Maybe Samaritan House can continue to do God’s work even here at Redeemer.

*Rick*

## FROM THE JUNIOR WARDEN

Greetings from your Junior Warden!

My term serving you ends at the Annual Meeting in just a few weeks. It has been my pleasure to serve on the Vestry the past two years and as your Jr. Warden this past year. Thanks to all who have made suggestions and brought building and grounds issues to my attention. A special thanks to Bob Bouton, Ken Wood, Robbie Hamilton and Ken’s other helpers for their expertise and willingness to perform so many chores for our building. Thanks to Jack Blackburn and Mother Catherine for teaching me so much about the day-to-day running of the church and its finances.

I also thank Rick Hankinson for the myriad of services he has performed for the church this year as Senior Warden. Thanks also to Margie for all her help supporting Rick and serving us.

A list of accomplishments this year include roof repairs, handicap pew creation, door replacement, butterfly garden installation, rotten wood repairs, wall holes sealed, light fixture replacements, and the broken changing table removed from a restroom.

Our annual fire inspection required installing a lock box outside the office for the firemen to access the building, hanging all fire extinguishers, changing batteries on the fire alarm box, and testing the smoke detectors.

There remains much to be done to maintain and improve our building. I have learned so much this year and am willing to assist with future and ongoing projects.

Thanks to all of you who worship in this sacred space and call it your church home.

With gratitude and love,

*Celia*

## Eucharistic Visitors

### Friends of the Eucharistic Visitor (EV)

Fellow parishioners have voiced wanting to see some of our homebound. They cannot believe how long it has been since they have seen a particular church friend. They just cannot seem to find the time. We are again generating a list of individuals who would be willing to accompany a Eucharistic Visitor (EV) on a visit. Eucharistic Visitors who take communion on Sundays are literally extending the worship service into the world. They are sent forth from the congregation at the end of the service. Notice that the dismissal from the service takes place after the Eucharistic Visitors have been sent out; this is intentional. For those being visited, the worship of the congregation concludes after they have received communion. Each Sunday visit is set up by the EV at least the Friday or Saturday, or earlier in the week, before that Sunday's visit. This friend of the EV would (1) provide a second person during the visit, which would be in the interest of Safe Church, (2) see what all is involved in being a Eucharistic Visitor (EV) without any pressure, and (3) after the Eucharistic Visit, sometimes share in some social time with the parishioner being visited. Each visit is truly an uplifting experience for all participants.

We could still use one or two more trained Eucharistic Visitors (EV). Presently, we have three active EV's. We could use at least one more person.

If you feel God calling you to be a Friend of the Eucharistic Visitor or to become a trained Eucharistic Visitor, please contact Rick Hankinson, Greg Brown, or Mother Catherine.

*Greg Brown*

## Altar Guild

The bread box is what holds the small wafers for communion. During the service, the usher brings it from the back of the church, with the wine flagon, and gives it to the acolyte to place on the altar for blessing and our use.



Our bread box has markings inside that remind us of a time, not too many years ago, when we were afraid to spread the Corona virus, and did not want the priest or altar guild to touch the wafers. In preparation before the service, altar guild members count out the wafers with gloved hands, careful not to taint them with our germs. The priest, though, could not really wear gloves and handle the individual wafers, taking them one by one from the host box. With much thought and ingenuity, Mother Catherine divined that she could use some large brass tweezers to distribute the individual wafers during communion. She did this for many weeks, and no one complained of getting sick from communion, so her plan worked.

Today, we are reminded of that time of fear from contamination by looking into our bread box. The bottom is marked with little scratches from the tweezers that were used each Sunday to “feed” us at the altar. As years pass, and our remembrance of those dark times fade, we will always have the scratches to remind us of the healing grace of communion during the dark times of contagion.

*Margie Hankinson*

## Garden Club

The Garden Club meets monthly on the 2nd Sunday of the month in the Parlor. The goal of the Garden Club is to add beauty to church grounds projects.

Thanks to Susan Butler, Jane and Bob Bouton, Celia Jernigan, and Meg Coffey who recently added fresh mulch to a good portion of the Pet Cemetery. The mulch was a gift from Janet and David Poleski.



## Vestry Election

Two new vestry members were elected during a special parish meeting during the worship service on December 15, 2024. Welcome to the vestry

Melody Daniels and Robin Mill

We offer congratulations to Melody and Robin who have each been elected to a three year term of vestry service. In addition, Cynthia Eason will join the vestry in 2025 to fill a one-year unexpired term. The ministry of vestry is an important spiritual and administrative role in parish life. We thank outgoing members Rick Hankinson, Celia Jernigan, and Meg Coffey, whose terms conclude at Redeemer's Annual Meeting in January, 2025.

The new vestry will be on retreat this Friday and Saturday, 1/17 and 1/18. Please keep them in your prayers as we gather to plan for the coming year, growing in Christ as we focus on the "ad - ministry" of the church.

## Upcoming events and happenings

The Bon Secours Mobile Medical Unit will be at Redeemer in February. This community resource provides no-charge health screenings throughout Greenville county.

### TRIVIA NIGHT!

Watch for the announcement of our next Trivia night. These are always fun evenings as we break bread together and find out who knows stuff. Invite your friends and put together a team! We'll add you to a team if you prefer. There's always room for you. See you there ~

## Annual Meeting

The Church of the Redeemer’s Annual Meeting takes place after the worship service on Sunday, January 26. We will meet in Purser Hall, share a potluck meal, and take a look at 2024 and the year ahead. We must have a quorum present, so please plan your schedule to join in the meal and meeting.

Redeemer will provide a meat for the meal. Bring a dish to share; watch for more information in this week’s bulletin and eblast.

## Coffee talk

Let’s get together! Mother Catherine is setting 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, this coffee talk’s the one for you! **February 6, 5pm.**

**2025 Coffee Talk dates: February 6, March 27, May 29, August 7, November 6**

## FINANCIAL CORNER

FINANCIAL CORNER		MONTH of December, 2024	
<b>Tithes, Offerings and other Revenues</b>			
MTD Budget 25,365		MTD Actual \$23,829	
<b>Expenses</b>			
MTD Budget \$26,122		MTD Actual \$25,596	
<b>Net Total</b>			
MTD Budget --\$757		MTD Actual --\$1767	
<i>Questions? Contact the treasurer or wardens.</i>			

**2024 Income/Expense analysis Year to Date through December, 2024:** The 2024 budget forecast that Redeemer would have a deficit (expenses greater than income) of \$16,856. This amount is shown in the budget in “Faith Offering,” reflecting our belief that, having reviewed our income and expenses, we go forward in faith that the funds will come to us during the year to cover our modest budget. Redeemer received generous faith offerings in the amount of over \$21,000 during the year. Our year-end deficit was still \$12,901. The higher expenses reflect increased costs for utilities and operating expenses. We pay all of our bills; the deficit comes out of our savings, and, just like our home finances, we’d like not to deplete that completely. As you prayerfully consider your pledge and other giving to the church, please be mindful that expenses everywhere are increasing. Our budget comes almost completely from your contributions, and the “almost” is the small amount of income that Redeemer receives from interest on our bank accounts. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

## WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH

	January 19	January 26	February 2	February 9
<b>Verger</b>	TBD	TBD	David Poleski	TBD
<b>Usher</b>	Steve Webb	Joe McCullough	Josh Hawkins	Steve Webb
<b>Crucifer</b>	Debbie Price	William Meade	Robin Mill	Sarah Meade
<b>Lector 1</b>	Bill Heizer	Bob Bouton	Joanie Mullin	Rich Simms
<b>Lector 2</b>	Robin Mill	Celia Jernigan	Wallace Lightsey	Robin Mill
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Debbie Price	Janet Poleski, Judy Derrick, Joanie Mullin	Ann and Sarah Meade	Susan Butler, Margie Hankinson
<b>Flower Guild</b>	Lauren McCullough	Robin Mill	TBD	TBD
<b>Counters</b>	Jane Bouton, Betsy Walt	Carol Hallman & Bill Lee	Jane Bouton, Betsy Walt	Steve Webb, Meg Coffey
<b>Video</b>	Jane and Bob Bouton	David Poleski	Jane and Bob Bouton	Rick Hankinson

## SUNDAY LECTIONARY READINGS

	January 19	January 26	February 2	February 9
<b>First Reading (OT)</b>	Isaiah 62:1-5	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6,8-10	Malachi 3:1-4	Isaiah 6:1-8
<b>Psalm</b>	36:5-11	19	84	138
<b>Second Reading (NT)</b>	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Hebrews 2:14-18	1 Corinthians 15:1-11
<b>Gospel</b>	John 2:1-11	Luke 4:14-21	Luke 2:22-40	Luke 5:1-11

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

5 John Helm	18 Jacob Lightsey
5 Trip Ethridge	24 Louise Heizer
6 Scott Derrick	27 Ted Sanders
14 Ivy Entwistle	



# January/February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thurs-	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Administrative Office Hours are Monday— Thursday, 9 AM to 2 PM.</b></p> <p><b>Mother Catherine is readily available outside of office hours — let her know when you'd like to meet.</b></p>			<p>1</p> <p>9:30 AM Holy Eucharist (N) 4-5:15PM PVC/IB</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>4</p> <p>11:00 AM - ALANON (V) AA (PH)</p>
<p>5</p> <p>9:30 AM Holy Eucharist (N) 10:45AM Adult Christian Ed (V) 2:00 PM -Hispanic Service (PH)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>4-5:15PM Ballet 6:00 PM - ACOA (PH) 7:00 PM - ALANON (T)</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:00 AM Men's Study Breakfast (F) 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist (N) 4-5:15PM Ballet 6:30 PM - Choir Rehearsal (CR)</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>11</p> <p>11:00 AM - ALANON (V) AA (PH)</p>
<p>12</p> <p>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)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>4-5:15PM-Ballet 6:00 PM - ACOA (PH) 7:00 PM - ALANON (T)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:30AM - DOK</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:30 AM Holy Eucharist (N) 4-5:15PM Ballet 6:00PM- Finance Meeting (WR) 6:30 PM - Choir Rehearsal (CR)</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Vestry Retreat 5-8 PM (offsite)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:30 AM to noon Vestry Retreat (P, WR) 11:00 AM - ALANON (V) AA (PH)</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9:30 AM -Holy Eucharist (N) 10:45AM Adult Christian Ed (V) 2:00 PM -Hispanic Service (PH)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>4-5:15PM Ballet 6:00 PM - ACOA (PH) 7:00 PM - ALANON (T)</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:30 AM Morning Prayer (N) 4-5:15PM Ballet 6:30 PM - Choir Rehearsal (CR)</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>25</p> <p>11:00 AM - ALANON (V) AA (PH)</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9:30 AM Holy Eucharist (N) 10:45 AM Annual Meeting and potluck 2:00 PM -Hispanic Service (PH)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>4-5:15PM Ballet 6:00 PM - ACOA (PH) 7:00 PM - ALANON (T)</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:30 AM Holy Eucharist (N) 4-5:15PM Ballet 6:30 PM - Choir Rehearsal (CR)</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	

**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.



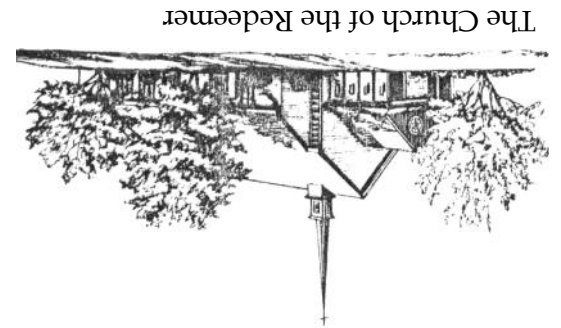
# The Church of the Redeemer

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The Church of the Redeemer

**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!**