



CHURCH
OF THE
REDEEMER
EPISCOPAL

ECHOES

March 2025

FROM THE RECTOR...DUST

"You are dust, and to dust you shall return."

These are the words we hear on Ash Wednesday as ashes are placed on our foreheads. The phrase comes from the book of Genesis (Gen 3.19) and is what God says to Adam after Adam disobeys God in the Garden of Eden. They are words of reprimand that can bring us to a place of deep humility. As we are invited to enter the season of Lent, we are reminded that it is not we who are the center of the universe; it is God. Lent is a time to think about the ways in which we are part of God's very good creation and the ways in which we stray from God's will for us.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. (BCP 265)

That's quite a list! Fortunately, we practice our faith in community, and Lent is a very good time to encourage one another. No one can do self-examination and repentance for us, so spending some time in a quiet place and/or in prayer can be a Lenten practice that continues well beyond the season. Lent is a good time to start. Fasting and self-denial do not have to be about food only. How about fasting from your cell phone for a day, or TV? You might give up judging others, or give up spending for a day. Try out a few things and see what is meaningful to you. The first thing that you try might not be what sticks.

Lent is not a time only for "self." The prayer book invitation to Lent says that "the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel..." (BCP 265) We repent not to feel bad, but to help us remember the depth and breadth of God's grace and mercy. We remind one another of our need to repent *and* to receive the Gospel. We repent because we are but dust.

We are not just any dust. God is not a far off deity looking down on creation from above. God our creator literally formed us out of the dust of the ground. God is active in our lives, literally on the ground with us, shaping us and forming us. And we are created in the image of God. "*God created man (humankind) in his image.*" (Gen 1.27)

What can Lent teach us about being created out of dust *and* being made in God's image? Debi Thomas writes that the ground underneath our feet is "a complex, powerful life force.... Science teaches us that soil is a mixture of air, water, minerals, and dead and live microorganisms. These ingredients interact in extraordinary ways." (*The Christian Century*, February 2025, p. 31)

So do we interact in extraordinary ways; dust and God are, in fact, amazing! This Lent, engage in some new disciplines, or begin again with something you've let go. Encourage each other - whatever you choose, you can do it! Allow Lent to transform your life and our life together in Christ. If God can make us out of dust, imagine what God can do with that very good creation. I invite you to a holy Lent. *Catherine*

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Dear Redeemer Family,

As we enter the season of Lent, let us use this time for Reflection, Repentance, and Renewal.

Come join us for our Lenten meals, as we **Reflect** on the meaning and history of Passover and other Jewish holidays. What do they teach us about Jesus? Our study will culminate as we celebrate an authentic Passover seder on Wednesday, April 16th. The seder is a fitting finish to our reflection, as Jesus' Last Supper (as recorded in the first three gospels) was a Passover seder.

Lent is also a time of **Repentance**. We are able to remember times when we have walked with Jesus and also, times when we have strayed from His path. Many of us choose to take on a new or additional prayer practice. Others of us choose to give up something that may constantly remind us of the days leading up to Jesus' death and glorious resurrection. These practices help us to feel closer to our Lord and Saviour. Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness praying and contemplating what was about to happen to him. May we also contemplate on His sacrifice, so that we may also obtain everlasting life in Him.

Renewal also comes in the season of Lent. As the dreary, dark, and cold of winter makes way to the warmth and sunny blue skies of spring. We see the buds on the trees, the blooming of the flowers, and the sweet sounds of the birds.

As we journey through this season of Lent, may we all take time to reflect, repent, and renew our personal commitment to walk the path that Jesus has laid out for us.

Faithfully,

Robin



FROM THE JUNIOR WARDEN

I am your newly elected Junior Warden at the Church of the Redeemer. I hope to carry on the legacy of our past wardens and continue the good work they have done. As Junior Warden, my responsibility is overseeing the church's buildings and properties. As with the previous Junior Warden, I have a few 'helpers': Bob Bouton, Ken Wood, and Rick Hankinson. In actuality, every member of the church is a 'helper'. This is OUR church, and I appreciate any assistance that anyone would like to provide to the church. You can do this by communicating to me any building needs, repairs, or issues that are either safety or aesthetics related. It could be a pew kneeler needing repair or a light fixture needing a new bulb. I look forward to serving the church in this role, so feel free to contact me at 864-907-5362 or jjbouton@yahoo.com.

Jane Bouton



NEW FACES AT REDEEMER

ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER

Jon Moyer is serving as our Interim Organist/Choirmaster. He will be with us at least through Easter. This is Jon's third time as Organist/Choirmaster at the Church of the Redeemer... having served in the mid 1980s and late 1990s.

Jon is a graduate of The College of Charleston, where he studied organ with William Gudger. He then studied organ and composition at Lutheran Southern Seminary with Dutch organist and composer Jan O. Bender, who contributed two hymn harmonizations for The Hymnal 1982.

He retired from BB&T where he was a Financial Analyst in Regulatory Reporting and from Redeemer Lutheran Church where he was Organist/Choirmaster. Jon and his husband, Patrick, live "kinda north of Greer" with cats Sadie and Moose.

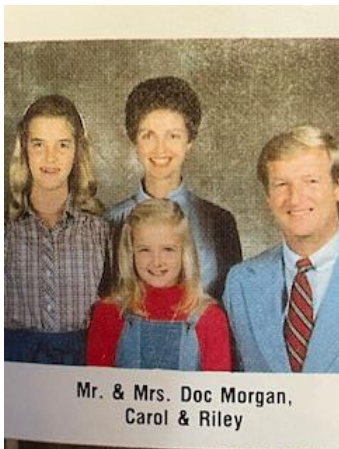
Welcome, Jon!



PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

I am beyond thrilled to be serving as the Parish Administrator for the Church of the Redeemer! COR is near and dear to my heart, as my father was a member here for many, many years. While COR was not my home church growing-up, I still spent a lot of time here....attending the preschool, playing church basketball, and eating pancakes.

The first chapter of my career was spent in the classroom. I graduated from USC with a degree in Early Childhood Education and spent 28 years teaching in both Columbia and Greenville. After retiring six years ago, I still keep my toes wet by tutoring children with special reading challenges in the afternoons.



I have so loved meeting those of you I've crossed paths with here at the church! Its been fun putting faces with names that I heard through the years from Dad. If I have not yet met you, I hope to soon!

(This picture is from one of the church directories from the late seventies! That's me in the middle!)

Riley Morgan

NEWS FROM CHILE

Hi Church of the Redeemer Family,

We hope you have had a wonderful start to this new year! It's hard to believe it's been over six months since we were with you all stateside. Thank you for your prayers for Alonso and I as we acclimated to being back in Chile! It's been a challenging time in some ways but also very encouraging to be back and connected to the ministry and team here as well as our friends and family. We definitely miss you all and think of you often.

A quick summary: we found a beautiful cottage type home about 45 minutes outside of Santiago in a neighborhood called Pirque. It's located on a walnut plantation and we've loved being so connected to nature and the many dogs and cats on this farm. Alonso has especially enjoyed having the space for Chilean style barbecues with friends and I've enjoyed the access to so many different fruit trees including: oranges, lemons, apricots, apples, plums, peaches, pears, avocado and grapes etc.

Unfortunately soon after we landed back in Chile Alonso's mom fell and broke her hip. We have been helping both parents (both in their upper 80s) as they transition into needing more hands-on assistance. Thankfully the Lord has provided a wonderful lady whom both parents really like and who helps with Alonso's mom's care as well as taking care of the cooking, cleaning and laundry. Both of his parents are dealing with forms of dementia in which your prayers are appreciated. Would you pray for them both as well as wisdom for Alonso as he navigates this next stage with them.

It has been such a joy to be back in person connecting with our different ministry partners and especially the at-risk youth we work with. We have made great headway since being back in growing our leadership team and diversifying roles so that we can grow and expand our ministry reach. We have been especially encouraged by the government and the way they continue to embrace the work we do and help facilitate all they can so our programs are successful. They truly see our mentorship program for the youth as a viable and necessary alternative avenue in which to become family for them and want to continue to grow this program as an example for other group homes and even as a way to help influence public policy in this area. Only the Lord can open such a door and give us grace year after year to continue to find favor with the government.

We had a wonderful Christmas celebration at the six different group homes as a way to end the year. We have taken a brief break during our summer (January and February here) and will be restarting again in March. We would love it if you would pray alongside us that by the end of 2025 we would have 10 new mentors connecting with youth in the homes. Please pray for the Lord to move in the hearts of the volunteers to courageously take this next step. We are excited to see the many ways in which God is going to work this year! We also praise the Lord and are excited for Natalie and Jesmaille who are the first of the youth we work with who have aged out of the system and will be pursuing a college degree starting in March. God is so good!

Although we have enjoyed being back we truly do miss not being present each week to worship together! We have been truly blessed and changed by having the privilege of knowing you and spending a significant part of 2024 together. We learned so much through the sermons, the Bible studies and in conversations with so many Jesus followers who have years of experience in this life. We remember you all fondly and pray for you often.

We send you a big hug from Chile,

With love,
Rachel and Alonso



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

TRIVIA NIGHT

Join us THIS FRIDAY for Trivia Night! Bring your family and friends...along with an appetizer to share. Also BYOB (no hard liquor). Arrive anytime after 6:30, and trivia begins at 7:00 with Royce Herbert as our MC. RSVP to Lori at Lhredeemer@gmail.com if you have not already signed-up in the Narthex so that we can set-up enough tables. Let the games begin!

SHROVE TUESDAY

Join us Tuesday, March 4th from 5:30-7:00pm in Purser Hall. Bring your family and friends. Please be sure you have signed-up in the Narthex or emailed Lori to RSVP. Janet's Jambalaya will be served...as will pancakes and sausage. And who will find the baby in the King Cake?!

LAST DAY FOR SAMARITAN HOUSE

From Margie Hankinson: With much sadness, I must report that the Samaritan House Board voted to close down after food distribution on March 6th. Although it had been distributing food for over twenty years, there was no real way to continue. Many locations in our part of town, a designated "food desert", have been reviewed, including our church campus. The money remaining in the treasury will be split amongst the donating churches. Thank you for your past support. Maybe we at Redeemer can think of other ways to help feed the poor.

LENTEN QUIET DAY

On March 29th from 10 a.m. until noon, the Daughters of the King will host a "Quiet Day" for the whole parish. This is a day set apart for special devotions, meditations, and instructions. We will have several small prayer services during that time and will celebrate the silence we all need in our lives...time to be calm and reflective, away from the noise and distractions of daily life. Please come and share some quiet time.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

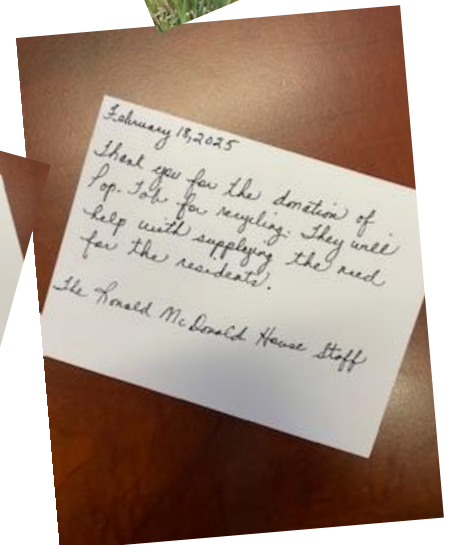
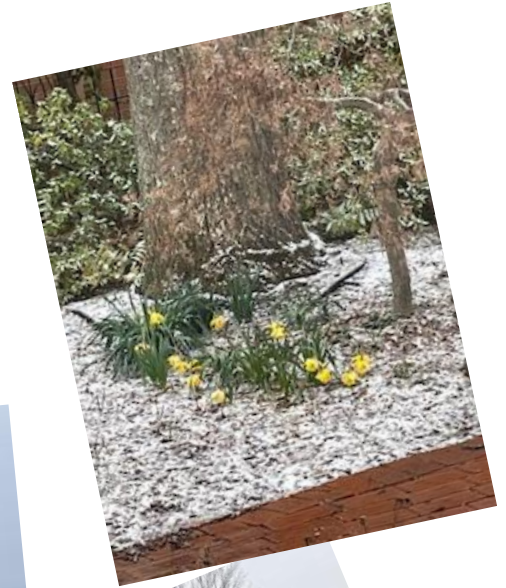
6 Wayne Roberts	24 Will Jennings	29 Liam Harwood
8 Greg Brown	24 Judy Moline	29 Suzanne Webster
15 Josh Hawkins	25 Mark Moline	30 Patti Lee
22 Jackie Smith	26 Cameron Jernigan	30 Charlie Poe
23 Sharon Parrott	26 Katherine Jernigan	31 Skylar Papadopoulos
24 Don Howard	26 Lizzie Zeager	

ETC.!!

** For those of you who did not see any snow at your house last week, here are a few pics of Redeemer in the white stuff.

** The daffodils survived the snow! Thank you, Rick Hankinson and other volunteers, for keeping the Garth beautiful.

** Please continue collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald house. They appreciate it!



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH

	March 2	March 9	March 16	March 23	March 30
Verger	Rich Simms	Jane Bouton	Greg Brown	Meg Coffey	Rick Hankinson
Usher	Steve Webb	Joe McCullough	Steve Webb	Ken Wood	Josh Hawkins
Crucifer	Robin Mill	Sarah Meade	Debbie Price	Riley Hawkins	William Meade
Lector 1	Bill Heizer	Joanie Mullin	Rich Simms	Bob Bouton	Betty Boesch
Lector 2	Celia Jernigan	Wallace Lightsey	Marsha Lightsey	David Poleski & Rick Hankinson	Robin Mill
Altar Guild	Ann & Sarah Meade	Susan Butler & Margie Hankinson	Bobbie Morelock & Debbie Price	Janet Poleski, Joanie Mullin, Judy Derrick	Margie Hankinson & Joanie Mullin
Flower Guild	Robin Mill	Lauren McCullough	Robin Mill	Terry Landreth	TBD
Counters	Steve Webb & Carol Hallman	Jane Bouton & Meg Coffey	Bill Lee & Betsy Walt	Carol Hallman & Steve Webb	Jane Bouton & Betsy Walt
Video	Rick Hankinson	David Poleski	Bob & Jane Bouton	Rick Hankinson	David Poleski



SUNDAY LECTIONARY READINGS

	March 2	March 9	March 16	March 23	March 30
First Reading (OT)	Exodus 34:29-35	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18	Exodus 3:1-15	Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm	99	91:1-2, 9-16	27	63:1-8	32
Second Reading (NT)	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	Romans 10:8b-13	Philippians 3:17-4:1	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Gospel	Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)	Luke 4:1-13	Luke 13:31-35	Luke 13:1-9	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

March 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) 2:00 PM -Hispanic Service (PH)	3 No Ballet-Shrove Tuesday set-up 6:00 PM - ACOA (PH) 7:00 PM - Al Anon (T)	4 5:30-7PM Pancakes & Jambalaya (PH)	5 ASH WEDNESDAY 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	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 6 PM-Lent Soup & Study (PH)	12 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 11:00 AM - Al Anon (V) AA (PH)
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 PM-Lent Soup & Study (PH) 6:45 PM Vestry Mtg (V) (Tentative)	19 9:00 AM Men's Study Breakfast 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 6 PM-Lent Soup & Study (PH)	26 9:30 AM Morning Prayer (N) 4-5:15PM Ballet 6:30 PM - Choir Rehearsal (CR)	27 5:00 PM Coffee Talk w/ Cathe- rine (P)	28 Office Closed	29 11:00 AM - Al Anon (V) AA (PH)
30 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist (N) 10:45 AM Adult Christian Ed (V) 2:00 PM -Hispanic Service (PH)	31 4-5:15PM Ballet 6:00 PM - ACOA (PH) 7:00 PM - Al Anon (T)					

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.