



CHURCH
OF THE
REDEEMER
EPISCOPAL

ECHOES

AUG~SEPT~OCT 2026

DREAM BIG. AND THEN DREAM BIGGER!

August. September. October. That's a lot of time to cover in a newsletter! As we try out a less-frequent publication, please provide input to the vestry about what you'd like to see and how you might help continue to put together a newsletter that is meaningful. One of Riley's gifts is transforming whatever we send her into a creative, interesting communication! Please reach out and thank her when the newsletter is a welcome addition to your week!

The "whatever we send her" is an ongoing challenge for all of us ... and that's where you come in! Please continue to send in what's going on in your life at Redeemer. Photos, articles, thoughts, prayers, recipes, hymns that warmed your heart, the event you planned, and the reminders that we need: Pray daily. Reach out to those who are at home. Game night! Let your rector know if someone has a pastoral need she may not be aware of. Let her know when you have an upcoming surgery or are in the hospital. In all things, give thanks.

August brings us the completion of some big projects: new vinyl plank flooring in the education wing (that's a long hallway!), paint on all the doors and next – new flooring in Purser Hall! Soon you will notice some updated upholstery on our pews in the Narthex and Transept, and major landscape work – trimming, pruning, and mulch. None of the importance of this lies in the "stuff" itself. Modifications and updates are part of maintaining and improving a 75-year old building. When people see how much care goes into the appearance of our church, they can envision that we put just as much care into them, into their faith and families. We don't present ourselves as dusty and dated, but fresh and responsive, as we are!

In September we celebrate the first 75 years of The Church of the Redeemer. From a beginning that began with the prayers of eight women, then a town hall meeting, lots of planning, help, generosity and grace, here we are. Our celebrations throughout the year and especially on our celebration weekend of September 12 and 13, depict a theme of "past, present, and future." Who do you think we are now, and what comes next? Dream big. And then dream bigger! God has plans and is at work!

We sometimes lament that "we don't have children. We need more children." This summer God has hit us over the head with the realization that we do have children; the vast majority of them happen not to be in this building. Redeemer is a long-time founder and supporter of Pleasant Valley Connection, at which we have provided for hundreds of children over the years. Through Vacation Bible School alone, we watch them grow. Those relationships are invaluable. You are doing God's work in the world. The past two summers have brought us children – they live in hotels, and Redeemer is providing summertime lunches, crafts, and relationships. You are serving Jesus with a side of lunch. The next 75 years are full of promise. All we have to do is respond to what God is doing, and partner in faith with one another and our neighbors.

From 1 Thessalonians 5.11: "Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, just as you are in fact doing".

I give thanks every day to serve with this body of Christ. May God continue to guide us.

In Christ,
Catherine+

Encourage
one another
and build
each other up,
just as in fact
you are doing.



THE REV. DEACON KEVIN S. MERTENS.... EMBARKING ON A NEW CHAPTER



Late May and June were an unforgettable four-week season for our family. It began in Cambridge MA, where we celebrated our son Mac's college graduation. Two days later, family and friends gathered in Columbia, South Carolina, for my ordination to the diaconate, the joyful culmination of years of discernment and preparation. Then, just one week later, we began a two-week journey through Venice, Florence, Rome, Athens, Corinth, and Mycenae. Visiting places connected to the early Church so soon after my ordination gave the trip special meaning. It was a remarkable season of celebration, family, history, and faith, and we returned home deeply grateful for it all.



THE REDEEMER REACH



This summer has been so filled with Jesus-like service to our community. In May, we were made aware that the federal funding cuts to vital services had trickled down to the state level. As a result, 18 young people would not be able to attend the 10 week summer camp at Pleasant Valley Connection. The vestry approved a \$5000 contribution to partially fund the shortfall. When I spoke with Leda Young, Exec. Dir. of PVC, she stated, "Our faith community always comes through for us whenever a need arises." I was also able to inform her that from June until December, we would be able to contribute \$375 each. She was so thankful.

In June, we brought Vacation Bible School to PVC. At the end of our 3 day program, we all received hugs and thanks from the children. One little boy after

giving me a hug asked, "What are we going to do now for fun?" It is so incredibly heartwarming to hear young people say that learning about Jesus Christ is "fun".

July gave us the opportunity to deliver lunches to the homeless children living in the motels surrounding our church. Their smiling faces and enjoyment of the food we provide are so precious to those of us volunteering. Several of the eating establishments have either provided the food free of charge or at a reduced price.

The best part of all of these outreach opportunities is that the volunteers feel so much more than those who are receiving our generosity. It truly is more blessed to give than to receive. ***Faithfully, Robin Mill-Senior Warden***

THE GOSPEL JOURNEY CONTINUES...CELEBRATING 75 YEARS...AND GENERATIONS AHEAD

It's hard to think of Fall when it's 90 plus degrees outside....and has been for what seems like forever! But Fall is just around the corner! This time of year always brings back memories of back-to-school, football games, and beautiful fall days. It's also a time when the life of the church gathers momentum once again. It can be seen as a season of renewal.

We will be celebrating our 75th anniversary in September. This will be somewhat of a Homecoming for many that attend. I think of all the members that came before us and the devotion they had to form and to begin a church. Our church! It's hard to imagine how our 'founders' felt back in 1952. Obviously, they felt a calling to spread the Gospel in Greenville! Each member then and today has a gift that when combined builds the whole of the church. Some are called to teach children or to sing in the choir. Others quietly prepare the altar or pray for others each day. There are many ministries that happen behind the scenes.... yet are still vital to the operation and growth of the church.

The coming season will bring new opportunities for worship, learning, fellowship, and service. Whatever lies ahead, we don't walk alone. The Holy Spirit continues to guide the Church, calling each generation to live the Gospel with joy and with courage. Let us welcome those who are new among us and thank those that came before us for building and forming *The Church of the Redeemer*. Continue to pray for and to serve our church community as those before us did. Seek God's will and walk in the way of Christ in this coming season of renewal.

Jane Bouton-Junior Warden



IF I KEPT A JOURNAL ABOUT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL.....



.....IT MIGHT READ SOMETHING LIKE THIS!



Day 1- God Creates the World. One Monday morning in early June, a crew of Redeemer volunteers arrived at Pleasant Valley Connection. It was that time of year again: Vacation Bible School! I must admit.... I was not really excited about the next few days. I did not feel prepared.... as it was hot, and the first day is always chaos. Rooms needed to be set up, supplies carried in, and...did I mention there was fabric paint? I know there were a couple of us that might have even asked the question- *are we getting too old for this?*



Day 2- Jonah tries to Escape from God. Tuesday morning arrives with lots of low, looming gray clouds. Drops of rain sprinkle my windshield about a mile from the center. Today is parachute day on the playground. If you know anything about kids and games with parachutes, it is a tried-and-true favorite! During VBS, the children rotate through different stations such as crafts, snacks, games, and story time. The day usually begins with a run down of what lies ahead and hints at the Bible lesson they will hear at story time. The rainy day made Day 2 hit a little closer to home. At times, we can all be a little like Jonah. God shows us what we need to do, but we have other plans and think we know better. It rained most of the morning, but the parachute games still happened. Some of the kids were more excited that it was raining, and it gave them an excuse to splash in the puddles and get dirty. Just imagine, 3 volunteers and 50 kids squeezed together under a small portico. Everyone is holding onto a wet parachute, bouncy balls are flying all over the place, and there is a steady rain. Just when I have a plan, sure enough.... Jesus shows up! HIS reminder was heard that day through the sounds of laughter and were felt as the rain wet our hair and clothes. Jesus always knows where we are and what is best for us.



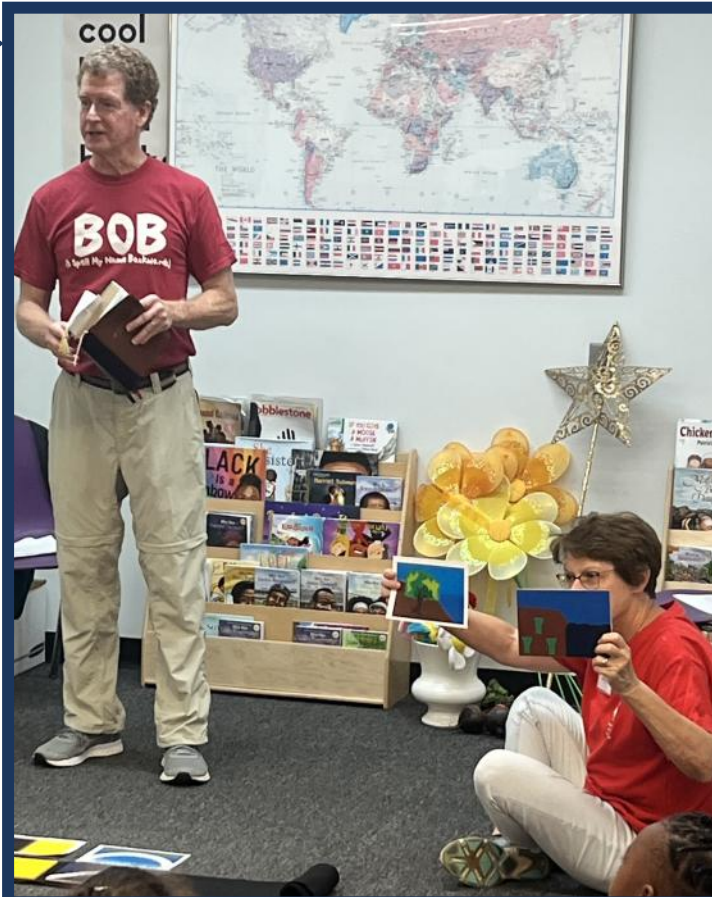
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JOURNAL



Day 3- *Jesus Feeds the 5,000.* Yay! We made it to the last day of VBS. Funny how most of us feel like we are just hitting our groove and are sad to be at the end. On the final day, there are the usual worrisome thoughts like do we have enough snacks, will we have enough bubbles for everyone, are there enough crafts to get us through the day? Classes begin, and a question is asked during the Bible story preview on the playground. What do you think Jesus' friends (apostles) thought when Jesus said do not send the people home; we have enough food and will feed them. A precious boy from the older class looked down at his hands, shook his head and replied- *Jesus, what you are asking us to do is just not possible. We have 2 fish and 3 loaves of bread; this is not enough to feed all these people!* The apostles were still learning who this *Jesus* person was. They did not know the rest of the story like we do. Once VBS was over, most of us made our way back to church. We unloaded our cars and sat around the table in the workroom to catch our breath and chat. For me, it was during that conversation and in the days that followed where I saw what VBS means. Yes, it is a lot of work, you are tired, and you may wonder, why am I still doing this? When you have the opportunity, ask someone that volunteered to tell you about VBS. To say *thank you* is not enough to properly convey how much effort and love the volunteers pour into making VBS meaningful for all that are blessed to experience it. Much love and many thanks to everyone for sharing their time and talent: Bob and Jane Bouton, Celia Jernigan, Joseph Ethan Hawkins, William Meade, Jack Forbes, Robin Mill, Corbin Papadopoulos, and Suzanne Verga. **Lori Hawkins**



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



"Cool" Bob telling "cool" stories from the Bible.....alongside his helper, Celia!



UNSUNG HEROES

The apple doesn't fall far from the tree! Watching this grandfather-grandson duo....Rick & Liam.... work side by side to care for the church grounds is a sweet reminder that servant hearts grow generation to generation.



When a truck pulling out of the library parking lot hits a huge tree branch and blocks the Redeemer driveway.....Clark Jernigan to the rescue! He suited up, grabbed his chainsaw, and chopped it up for us! Thank you, Clark!



Rick Hankinson, Robbie Hamilton, Ken Wood



Passing along the 'know-how' because caring for our church is a ministry worth sharing. From squeaks and leaks to repairs and maintenance, these faithful volunteers are always ready to lend a hand. Behind every well-cared for church are unsung heroes who quietly notice what needs attention....and willingly step in to do it.



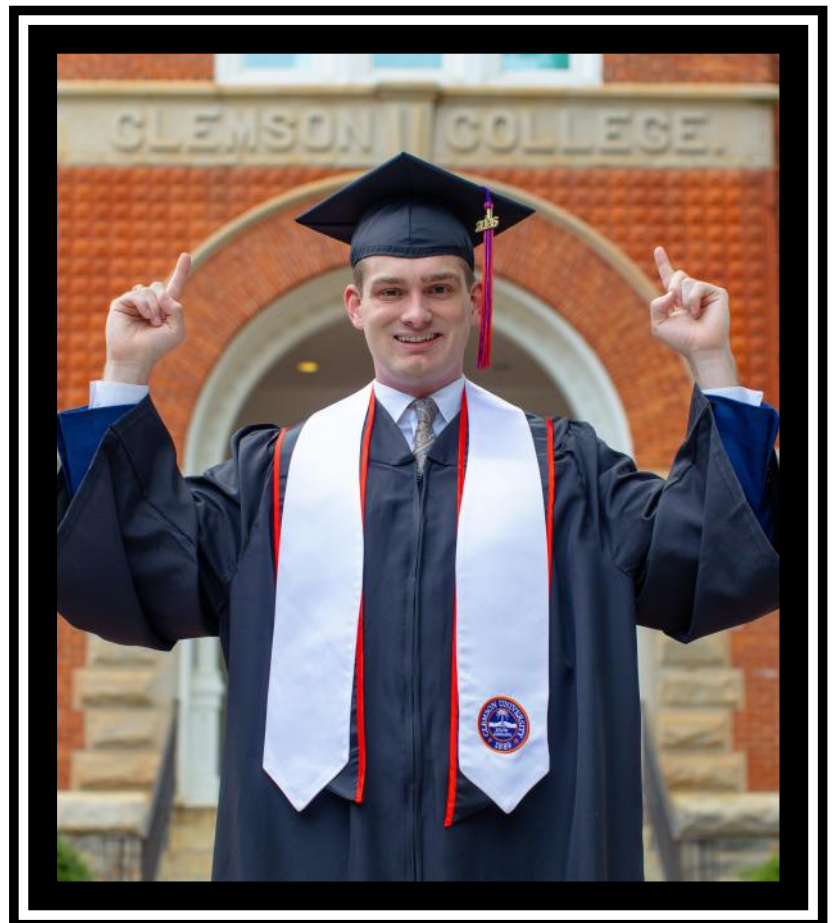
THE TASSEL HAS TURNED!

John Phillips V, son of Jennifer and John Phillips IV and grandson of Diane Campbell, recently graduated from Clemson University earlier this month with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. John is a 2021 graduate of Riverside High School and has spent the past several years growing academically, professionally, and personally while at Clemson.

During his time in college, John was involved in several organizations and activities, including Tiger Band, Jazz Band, the Clemson Sales Innovation Program, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia music fraternity, where he served as Treasurer. Along with his campus involvement, John gained hands-on engineering experience through internships and co-op work with Siemens Energy and Eaton Corporation, where he worked on substation design, product development, and power-related engineering projects.

John is especially interested in the power and energy field and is thankful for the support, encouragement, and prayers he received throughout his time in school. Outside of engineering, he enjoys bird photography and spending time outdoors with friends. He is now preparing to move to Washington, D.C., where he will begin his career in electronic security systems and take the next step in this new chapter of life.

John is grateful to have been included on the church prayer list during his college years and appreciates the prayers and support that helped encourage him along the way.





“SOMEONE’S IN THE KITCHEN WITH..... RILEY!”



CROCK POT APRICOT CHICKEN

With the hazy, lazy days of Summer dwindling down....and the onset of busy Fall days ahead.....it’s nice to have a quick and easy recipe in our box that doesn’t sacrifice taste!

- ♦ 4 Chicken Breasts
- ♦ 1 Jar Apricot Preserves
- ♦ 1 Packet Onion Soup Mix

Cook on low in the crockpot for 6-7 hours and serve over rice or pasta.



OR ON THOSE BUSY FALL NIGHTS.....

.....you can venture out with a FEAST group for a delicious meal and fellowship! This recent gathering was at City Range.



SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE



“The Golden Girls” had a garden party to celebrate Terry Landreth’s birthday! We enjoyed an outdoor lunch and fellowship on Terry’s patio overlooking her beautiful backyard. You may recognize some of the members of this friend group....they are part of a winning trivia team at Redeemer!



The Wednesday morning Men’s Bible Study gathered not only for fellowship and Scripture, but also to celebrate two special birthdays. Jack marked his 83rd and Rick celebrated a milestone 80th. We are grateful for their faithful friendship!



HAPPY HAPPENINGS



**FEAST Gathering at
The Oxbow in
Easley, SC**



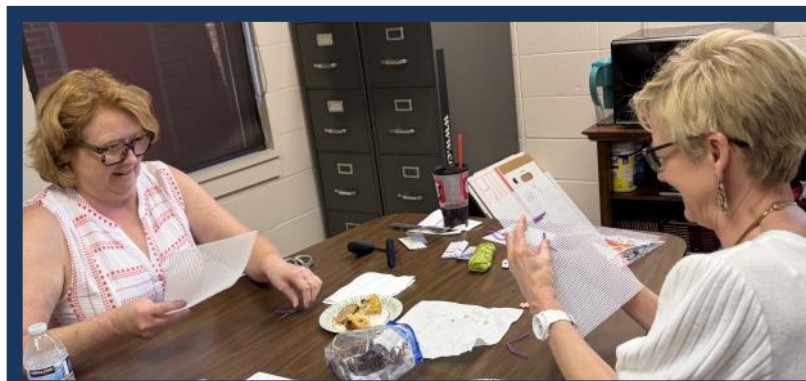
**Mark your calendars for some
future “Happy Happenings” at
Redeemer!**

- August--Nursery space available but not staffed
- Aug. 9--Backpack Blessings
 - Sept. 20--Godly Play Resumes
 - Oct. 16--Game Night (Emailing our Trivia regulars for feedback)

Lori Hawkins



**Sermons by Sunday....Stitching lessons by
Monday. Our rector has us all in stitches
....both figuratively and literally!**



SPONTANEOUS “STAFF MEETING”



Productivity in the church office took a brief pause when Lori's three-year-old niece, Campbell, stopped by for a visit. Her laughter, curiosity, and joyful spirit reminded us that some of life's sweet moments are in the unexpected ones. She's welcome to schedule another "staff meeting" anytime!

75TH ANNIVERSARY THROWBACK



#1



#2



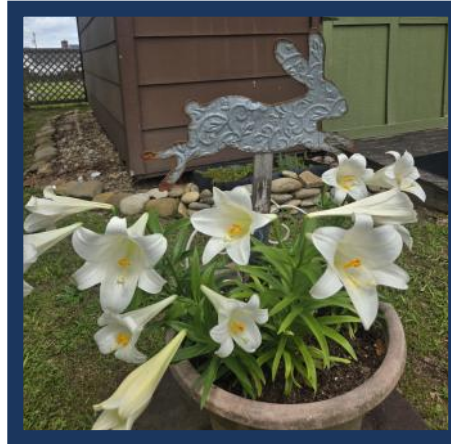
#3



SHARED SMILES AND SACRED MOMENTS



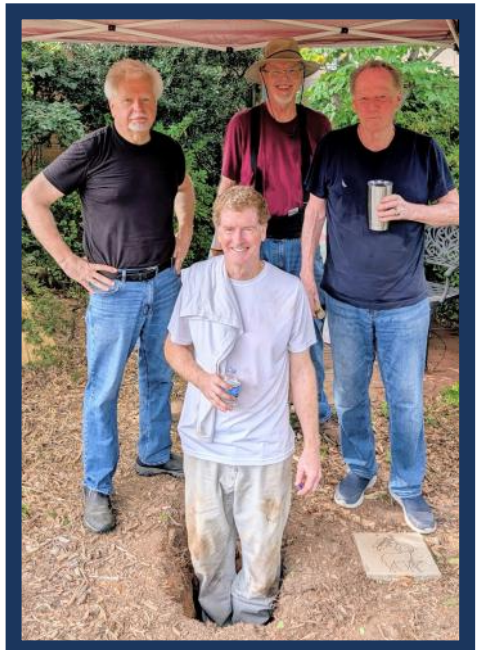
**Holy Chow Featuring
Recipes from the 2002
Redeemer Cookbook**



**Terry Landreth's
beautiful Easter
Lillies**



**Our faithful
volunteers
literally dig
deep to serve
their church
family!**



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

ANSWERS TO PAGE 12:

**#1-Doc Morgan
#2-Jon Moyer
#3-Phyllis Webb and
Jon Moyer at VBS**



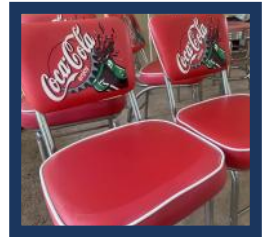
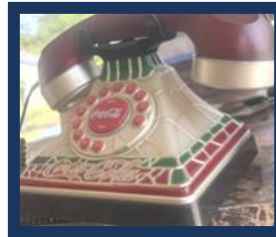
**8/7--Steve & Phyllis Webb
10/11--Kyle & Ann Meade**



THE REAL THING



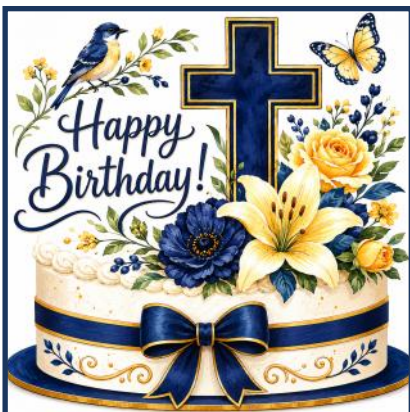
It was the *'Real Thing'* as our wonderful sexton celebrated his birthday with a Coca-Cola themed cake! His love of collecting Coke memorabilia made the occasion extra special. Your dedication and hard work here at Redeemer are always *refreshing!*



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

AUG

3-Leslie Entwistle
15-Margaret Lee
18-Fay Chadwick



SEPT

3-Caroline Ethridge
9-Riley Hawkins
9-Laura Morrow
10-Sandra Brown
11-Bob Bouton
12-Jack Jackson
16-Sue Skardon
17-Hooper Skardon
21-Jane Bouton
21-Robin Mill
22-Adam Moore
23-Bill Johnson
25-Raina Harwood
25-Bill Lee
27-Kathryn Swilley

OCT

1-Susan Butler
4-Nathan Reardon
8-Joan Mullin
10-Riley Morgan
12-Ann Meade
17-Cynthia Eason
18-Sarah Meade
20-Betty Boesch
21-Wallace Lightsey
23-Bennett Helm
28-Joseph Ethan Hawkins



SAGRADA FAMÍLIA

BARCELONA, SPAIN



A Surprise Reunion in Spain



From Easter joy to architectural wonder, the Sagrada Família provided the perfect backdrop for Diane Campbell's family during their Easter trip to Spain. Even more memorable, the Campbells unexpectedly crossed paths with the Meades while each family was traveling on separate tours—a joyful reminder that faith, friendship, and God's family can make the world feel wonderfully small.



SUMMER ADVENTURES



To My Church Family,

Thank you so much for all the love and support y'all have shown me throughout the years. I am so grateful and blessed to have people like you in my life. Thank you so much for the sweet cards and for the gift card. It will be put to good use dorm room shopping! I hope that y'all have an amazing rest of the summer, and I will see everyone soon! Sending love from camp,
Sarah



Riley wears her Parish Administrator Hat from 9:00-2:00then changes to her Teacher Hat from 2:30-5:30. One of her Summer students, Sloane, started talking about going to Camp St. Christopher, so Riley told her to look for the counselor named Sarah. Well Sloane didn't have to look far.....Sarah ended up being her counselor!

The Hankinsons hit the highway this Summer!

- Rick visited his cousin, Jon Walker, in Virginia Beach.
- Rick and Margie hit the trails in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park where they saw the tail end of the Mountain Laurel bloom, along with many elkincluding these two outside their window.
- Rick visited his sister in Ohio and shared this peaceful serenity with us through these beautiful pictures!

