ECHOES

The Church of the Redeemer

Nov ~ Dec 2026 ~ Jan 2027

A New Year Approaches!

A Message from Catherine+

As we approach the last Sundays after Pentecost, we seem to fly into the new year. The new church year begins with Advent, which encompasses the four Sundays prior to Christmas day. This year the first Sunday of Advent is November 29th, right after Thanksgiving. We feast and give thanks for the abundance that God pours upon us, and then we wait.



Continued on page 2

Advent is a time of hopeful waiting for Christ to break into our world.

A New Year Approaches!

Continued from page 1



Advent is a time of hopeful waiting for Christ to break into our world. We are waiting for the birth of Jesus even as we anticipate that Christ Jesus will come to us again. Advent is one of the church's gifts to the world: when the world around us in a Christmas/Santa/shopping-focused frenzy, we are given a time in which to take some pauses. Advent wreaths to help us mark time with four candles, mark eternity with a circle of greens, and welcome the light of Christ with one more flicker of light each week. I invite you to bring the hopeful season of Advent into your home. Pause to light a candle each day. Breathe. Ahh …. We are quietly counter–cultural in observing this time of hopeful waiting. What gift might Advent bring to you?

The season of Christmas breaks into our world soon after the darkest night of the year. We welcome and celebrate the light of Christ, joining this world as a baby, until January 6th. The Christmas season is a time of great joy. God-with-us, Immanuel, is here! The white Christ candle in the middle of our Advent wreath shines brightly. At worship in church, our vestments and liturgical hangings are white and often trimmed in gold. Jesus is here! Joy to the world!

There are several feast days between Christmas and the Epiphany. These quiet days represent events that took place over many years and not at or right after the first Christmas. They are important days in our faith life. How might you honor them in your home?

- **On December 26th, we honor St. Stephen, the first martyr of the church.**
- **On December 27th, we honor St. John the apostle.**
- **On December 28th, we honor "the holy innocents"…those children killed by order of King Herod in his quest to kill the infant Jesus. Not everyone was happy with a baby that others called "king."**
- **January 1st is "Holy Name" day and commemorates the naming of Jesus at the Temple.**

January 6th we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, when Jesus is revealed to the three wise men (Maji) as the Messiah. They follow a dream and a star that guides them to Bethlehem. Epiphany means "appearance" or "revealing." We sing about kings and gifts and presenting ourselves to Jesus. The One for whom we have been waiting is revealed to the whole world and to all people.

Happy, holy Advent to you. Celebrate and share the joy of Christmas. Follow that star and find Jesus for the first time and once again. It is likely that we will find in our journey that it is we who are found by our Lord. Thanks be to God!

In Christ,
Catherine+

The Beauty and Meaning of the Chrismon Tree

From the Echoes Archives: 2014

~ Submitted by Dot Sanders ~

Pictured here is an actual page from our 2014 Echoes newsletter featuring an article about the beauty and symbolism of the Chrismon Tree. More than a decade later, its message remains just as meaningful, as we prepare for the 2026 Advent and Christmas seasons.



Symbolism of the Chrismon Tree



The Chrismon Tree is an Advent tradition that collects two thousand years of symbols and history of the Christian faith onto one ornamental tree. It is well worth quiet observation and thought.

The word chrismon is made from the two words Christ and monogram as chrismons are Christ's monograms through history. They were mostly symbols used by early Christians as a symbol of faith. Also, in days when it was dangerous to be a Christian, followers of Jesus used secret signs and symbols to communicate with other Christians. In those times, Christians had to worship in secret, or be put to death. Traveling Christians would find their way to centers o worship in distant towns by looking for the fish or anchor cross painted or carved in places such a underground passageways—the catacombs. Today, the sign of the fish and the anchor cross are jus 2 of the Chrismons still visible, etched in the stone of the catacombs in Rome. Over time, mor symbols have been added to symbolize Christ with meaning derived from the Bible.

The entire chrismon tree is symbolic, beginning with the tree itself. A live, preferably cedar tree, is reminder that Christ was a carpenter. The white lights illuminate the darkness, symbolizing Christ "The light of the world". The first item that is hung on the tree is the gold infinity circles symbolizing the eternal nature of Christianity. On the upper circle hangs the chrismons of th Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The lower circle contains symbols of each Christian liturgical season i their calendar order. All of the chrismons are always gold and white. White is of course th liturgical color for Christmas, referring to Christ's purity and perfection. Gold refers to His majest and glory. The tree is always topped with a crown to honor Christ as King.

The Redeemer Chrismons were all made by St. Cecelia's Guild.

Tau Cross (Anticipatory, Old Testament, Advent) Salvation promised but not yet accomplished. Numbers 21:9 ; Isaiah 53

Passion Cross (Cross of Suffering). Pointed ends remind us of the points of the nails, the thorns, and the spear. John 19

Anchor Cross (Cross of Hope) This child, the hope of the world; or, a cross rises from a crescent moon, a symbol for our Lord's mother. Hebrews 6:19 ; Luke 2:7

Cross in Glory (Rayed, Easter). The rising sun behind the cross suggests the new day when our Lord conquered death by His Resurrection. 1 Corinthians 15:2

The Jerusalem Cross. Five crosses to represent the five wounds of Christ. The large cross represents the crucifixion near Jerusalem, the corner crosses symbolize carrying the Gospel to all four corners of the world. Matthew 28:19; Mark 8:34; Acts 1:8

Cross of Constantine The Chi Rho with the X turned to form a cross; Christ the conquering King. 1 Timothy 6:15

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Symbolism of the Chrismon Tree Continued

Advent begins November 29th.

Chrismon Tree Symbols (cont.)



Cross Triumphant A world united in Christ; triumph of the Lord over early sin.



Ansate Looped Cross— Ankh Cross is a looped Tau Cross and an old Egyptian hieroglyph meaning *life*. It sometimes goes by the exotic name Key of the Nile.



The crown acknowledging Jesus as King.



Symbol of Jesus as Son of God. Christ, the Lamb of God.



The descending dove symbolizes the Holy Spirit.



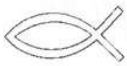
The shell is a symbol used to represent baptism. It hangs on the tree to remind us of our baptismal significance as Christians.



Chalice – The cup symbolizing the sacrament of Eucharist or Communion; it also represents forgiveness and reconciliation with God.



The candle symbolizes Christ as the light of the world, eliminating the darkness of sin.



The Fish representing the Savior was used as a sign by early Christians. This is one of the earliest symbols of Christ, used secretly in Rome and Greece.



The Triquerta is made of three loops making a triangle representing the three parts of the trinity.



The butterfly symbolizes transformation and the resurrection.



Alpha and Omega, The Greek letters alpha (First) and omega (Last) from Rev. 1:8 and 22:13, symbolizing Jesus as the Christ who has come and will come again;

Decorate the Chrismon Tree

Join us during worship on Sunday, Nov. 29th, as we decorate the Chrismon Tree.

Intergenerational Advent Workshop

Join us in the transept at 10:45 to decorate Christmas cards and make Advent wreaths.

THE JOURNEY WITH GOD

Eight spiritual sojourners have completed our inaugural year of the Education for Ministry program at the Church of the Redeemer! This year's theme was The Journey with God.



Our studies have helped us grow in our spiritual journeys, gain insights into our faith, and build relationships with our fellow travelers. The program is learner driven with no tests, no papers due, and no grades. Praise the Lord! Each week one reads the assigned texts, essays, or Bible chapters, accesses the EfM program materials online, and watches any videos that might be available for the weeks work. You can spend as much or as little time as you desire or have time for each week. We then come together weekly at a mutually agreeable time and date for discussion and sharing of what we have discovered.

We have learned to think theologically and to write our own collects and prayers. Cursillo changed my life, deepened, my faith and was a huge steppingstone in my spiritual journey. EfM has done so as well. I am so grateful to Catherine for bringing this program to Redeemer and to my fellow participants for taking this journey with me. I am so excited to begin our next year with the theme of Following Jesus.

Please speak with any of us for more insights about the journey and consider joining us in January when we begin another year of the program.

Celia Jernigan

Redeemer Reach

~ Sharing God's Love Through Giving ~

This fall and winter, *The Church of the Redeemer* will support several local and global outreach projects to bring hope and help to those in need. We invite you to participate in whichever project speaks to your heart and in whatever way you are able. Please refer to the timeline to ensure gifts and donations arrive in time for each Christmas celebration.

Christmas Campaign for Chile ~ One Collective

OCT 15-NOV 15, 2026 GOAL: $2,600



About the Mission: Missionaries Rachel and Alonso serve as Catalysts with One Collective in Santiago, Chile. One Collective is a global nonprofit that brings people together around the ways of Jesus to create lasting change in the world.

How your Gift Helps: Redeemer is raising funds to provide Christmas gifts and seasonal celebrations for youth and for young adults living in four government-run homes.

How to Donate: Make your check payable to *Church of the Redeemer* and write "Outreach Budget" on the memo line.

St. Martin of Tours Coat Drive

NOVEMBER 1-15, 2026



About the Drive: Donate clean, gently used coats for children and adults. Coats will be distributed to neighbors in need throughout our community.

Why We Remember St. Martin: We commemorate St. Martin of Tours on November 11th. While serving as Roman soldier, Martin gave half of his cloak to a man who was cold. The man was revealed to be Jesus, and the encounter led Martin to convert to Christianity.

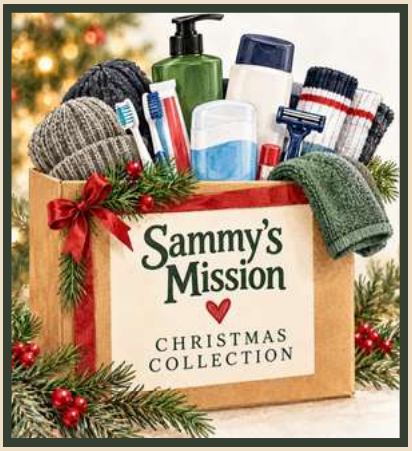
Redeemer Reach

~ Reaching Out this Season ~

Sammy's Mission Christmas Collection

NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 13, 2026

About the Mission: Founded in March 2021 by David and Mandi Carson, Sammy's Mission is a nonprofit organization that operates seven transitional homes in Greenville, South Carolina. It provides a safe, sober, Christ-centered environment for men actively recovering from substance abuse.



- Washcloths
- Shaving Cream/Razors
- Knit Hats
- Toothbrushes/Toothpaste
- Lip Balm
- Candy and Gum
- Antipersparant/Deodorant
- Body Wash
- Lotion
- Crew Socks

**** We are collecting items for 45 men. ****

**** No Mouthwash Please ****

Soup-er Bowl

JANUARY 10-FEBRUARY 7, 2027



We will collect cans of soup for *Harvest Hope* and the *Pleasant Valley Connections Blessing Box*. Please drop-off your cans in the narthex.

Because of your continued support, *The Church of the Redeemer* can help make a difference in the lives of others. Find out more information by searching each organization's website. Contact anyone on the Outreach Committee, or send an email to Lhredeemer@gmail.com with questions.

~ Thank you in advance for your generosity! ~

REDEEMER IN ACTION



Back-to-School Blessings

Your generosity helped provide students with a new backpack, water bottles, and essential school supplies to help start the new school year off feeling more confident and prepared. Outreach volunteers and staff delivered 23 filled backpacks to children and teens living in local motels around our area. Thank you! *Lori Hawkins*





"If I had clean clothes..."

The story of Laundry Love began with Eric, a houseless gentleman living in Ventura, California. A question was asked of him: "Eric, how can we come alongside your life in a meaningful way?" His response was honest and practical. "If I had clean clothes, people would treat me like a human being." Eric's desire for worth and welcome is found in all of us. We all yearn to be treated as human beings. This simple conversation in 2003 sparked an idea that continues to influence and care for thousands of people every month. The creative and collective energy used to sustain, expand, and share Laundry Love reminds us that every human being has tremendous value and possibility.

Time is a gift. Time builds relationships and trust. When we spend several hours each month inside a Laundry Love laundromat, we build relational equity and community with the guests we serve. This is the core of Laundry Love.

Margie Hankinson

~ OUR THREE INGREDIENTS ~

(From the Laundry Love website)

LOVE:
is the reason.

DIGNITY:
Every person seen, valued, honored.

DETERGENT:
Fresh and clean feels good on everyone.

Redeemer's Laundry Love meets the first Saturday of every month from 10:00 AM-Noon. Please join us at 2600 Anderson Road (near the corner of White Horse Road).

Episcopal Relief and Development

Created and Submitted by Rick Hankinson



Frustrated finding gifts that people don't need or want?

Simplify
Gratify
Spread Love

Go to this web address:
www.episcopalrelief.org/

Give a gift in someone's name that helps others.

I got my son's goat last Christmas.
I gave a goat in his name.





My dermatologist's team that did my moh's surgery were delighted with their shares in a flock of chickens.

.

You get to pick a card
that is sent to announce your gift.



A SEASON OF SERVICE

~ *Reflections from Jane Bouton* ~

As my two-year term as Junior Warden draws to a close, I find myself reflecting with gratitude on the opportunity to serve our parish in this capacity.

One of the primary responsibilities of a Junior Warden is the care and maintenance of our church buildings and grounds. Over the past two years, I have had the privilege of helping lead several projects aimed at refreshing, improving, and preserving our church home. These efforts have included new interior paint, updated flooring, fresh paint on our outdoor signage, landscaping improvements, and the ongoing maintenance that comes with caring for a building and grounds that are used and loved by so many.

While these projects may seem practical in nature, I have come to appreciate that caring for our physical surroundings is also a ministry. Our church is more than a building. It is a sacred place where we gather to worship, celebrate life's milestones, find comfort in difficult times, and grow together in faith. Maintaining and improving this space is one way we honor our traditions while ensuring that our church remains welcoming for generations to come.

Of course, none of this work happens alone. I am grateful to everyone who offered ideas, shared their expertise, lent a helping hand, or simply encouraged our efforts along the way. Every contribution, large or small, helps strengthen our parish community. I have been reminded time and again that stewardship is not the work of one person, but a shared commitment to the life and future of our church.

Serving as Junior Warden has given me a deeper appreciation for the many details involved in maintaining our facilities and for the dedication required to keep everything moving forward. It has also been rewarding to see projects come to completion and to know that these improvements will benefit our congregation and all those who enter our doors.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. May we continue to care for our church, our grounds, and one another with the same spirit of generosity, faith, and love that makes our parish such a special place.

Peace ~ Jane Bouton

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

~ *A Message from Robin Mill* ~

As we enter November, we arrive at the time for Vestry elections. Your Vestry implements ideas and programs suggested by our parishioners. Now is the time to get involved! You are needed to bring your perspective to the important decisions made by the Vestry. If you have not yet been approached by a vestry member, please come speak to one of us about becoming a part of this crucial part of our church. We, your church, need you!



Photo Credit: Robin Mill

SERVING IN HARMONY

~ Music ~ Worship ~ Service ~

The Hymn of Praise

At the beginning of the Eucharist (page 355 in the Book of Common Prayer), we say the Collect for Purity, which begins, "Almighty God, to you all hearts are open..." This is followed by the rubric (or instruction):

"When appointed, the following hymn or some other song of praise is sung or said, all standing."

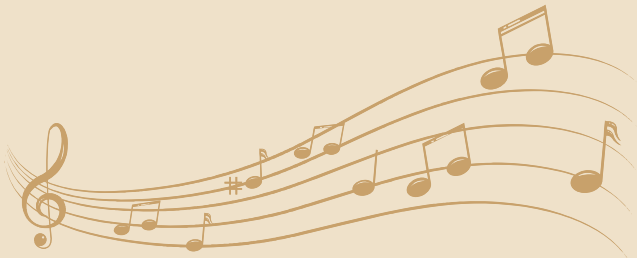
We have traditionally sung "Glory to God in the Highest..." and, more recently, "Father, I Adore You." The rubric, however, gives us the opportunity to use a much broader range of music at this point in the service.

We will explore this variety by singing a diverse selection of hymns and songs that express praise to God.

Jon Moyer

Celebrating the Gift of Music





On August 23rd, our Organist/Choirmaster, Jon Moyer, was a guest recitalist for the dedication of the new organ at *The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd.*

Altar Guild

Technically, the Altar Guild is a group whose ministry is to care for the altar, vestments, vessels, and altar linens of the congregation. Prior to the nineteenth century, these duties were performed by the clergy and later by the sacristan or parish clerk. By the late nineteenth century, the Altar Guild had come into being. It is a great honor and privilege to be allowed to care for the holy things in God's house.



Our Altar Guild at Redeemer is a group of seven women (and one husband) who make sure the elements are set out and the proper color of the season or event is displayed. Although it may seem a little technical at times, we have instructions in the Sacristy...as well as a priest and a deacon who are most helpful and forgiving!

If you would like to join our altar group, we would love to show you what we do. We try to have two people in charge each Sunday and at least one on Wednesday morning. Contact Margie Hankinson for more details. (margiehank@gmail.com)

FACES, PLACES & *CELEBRATIONS*



Jack's 97th!



Feast & Fellowship

A Redeemer Family Update



Mac Mertens, son of Deacon Kevin and Allison Mertens, graduated from Harvard University this spring with a degree in Classics and History. Following graduation, Mac joined his parents for a trip through Italy, Greece, and Turkey, visiting many of the places and historic sites he had studied. Mac is now teaching Latin at St. Andrew's-Sewanee School, an Episcopal boarding and day school in Sewanee, Tennessee. He is enjoying the opportunity to share his love of the classics with a new generation of students.

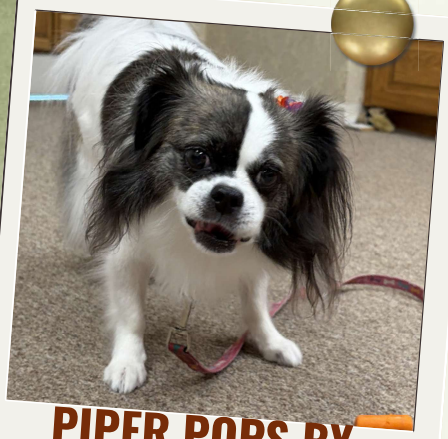


A Visit from Pedro



Behind the Scenes Planning

Office Outtakes....



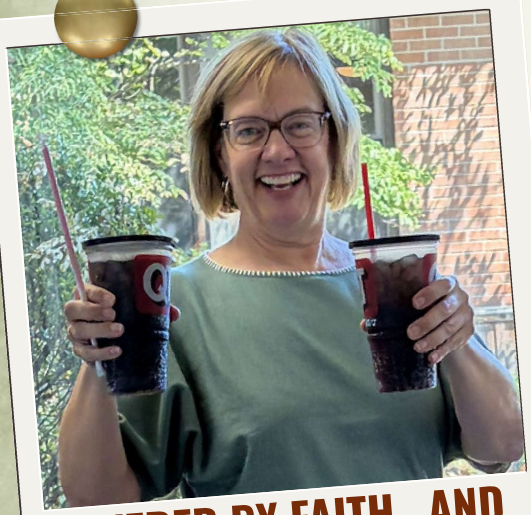
PIPER POPS BY FOR A VISIT



OFFICE MINDS DRESS ALIKE



CATHERINE HANGING CURTAINS IN KEVIN'S OFFICE

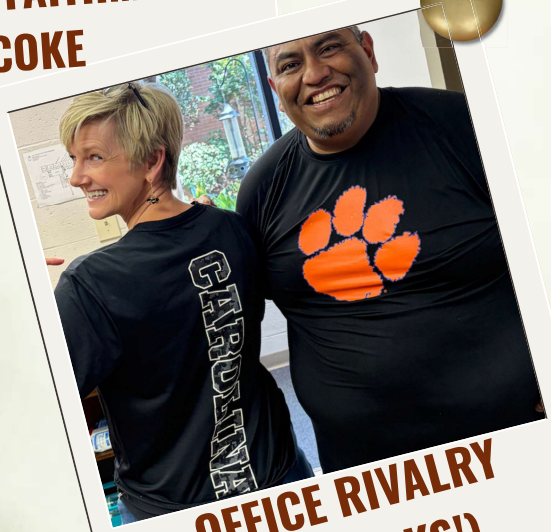


POWERED BY FAITH...AND DIET COKE

"A Day in the Life of Redeemer"



FROM THE COSTUME CLOSET



OFFICE RIVALRY (GO COCKS!)



TEACHING RILEY TO USE A DRILL

Pecan-Date (or Cranberry) Cheese Wafers

~ Judy Derrick ~

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 ½ cups butter, softened
- 1 (1 pound) block sharp cheddar cheese, finely grated
- 1 cup finely chopped pecans
- 1 cup finely chopped dates (or substitute dried cranberries)
- ½ teaspoon ground red pepper
- 4 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
- Sugar



PECAN-DATE
CHEESE WAFERS

lakes about 7½ dozen wafers

cups butter, softened
(1-pound) block sharp
Cheddar cheese, finely grated
cup finely chopped pecans
cup finely chopped dates
teaspoon ground red pepper
cups all-purpose flour
ar

a large bowl, combine butter,
ese, pecans, dates, and red pep-
Beat at medium speed with
electric mixer until well com-
ed. Gradually add flour, beating
il just combined. Wrap dough
lastic wrap, and refrigerate for
ours.
reheat oven to 350°. Line bak-
sheets with parchment paper.
l dough into 1-inch balls. Place

balls 3 inches apart on prepared baking sheets. Using a flat-bottomed glass dipped in sugar, flatten balls to ¼-inch thickness. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes, or until lightly browned. Let cool on pans for 2 minutes. Remove from pans, and cool completely on wire racks.

Dried Cranberries

INSTRUCTIONS:

- In a large bowl, combine butter, cheese, pecans, dates (or dried cranberries), and red pepper
- Beat at medium speed with an electric mixer until well combined. Gradually add flour, beating until just combined
- Wrap dough in plastic wrap and refrigerate for 2 hours

