

# Redeemer Review

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We have a challenge before us here at Church of the Redeemer. The Chinese character for “challenge” includes both the character for danger as well as opportunity. We have in our magnificent church building both challenge and opportunity, both blessing and curse. Blessing in its beauty, cherished by both parishioners and other members of our greater community. Its sacred presence is a blessing for so many who have been baptized, married or confirmed here, as it was for so many generations before. It is a blessing for all those in our community who are served in the many programs and events here. It is truly a blessing to us that it has been so well maintained by the generations before. Most of the churches I have served in the last decade were more than 100 yrs old. I am telling you the God’s honest truth: Redeemer is by far the best maintained church, with this size of congregation, that I have seen.

It is a challenge because of the mere fact that it is more than 100 years old. As those of you who have houses of similar vintage, You know there’s always something to repair or replace, even when you think you must have already repaired the whole place. This year we have before us the task of repairing/replacing gutters, downspouts and some portions of the roof. This is likely to cost around \$100,000. Beyond that, we have to look at refinishing the magnificent outside doors before they suffer more weather damage. From what I’ve been told, that’s probably \$20,000. or so To hear the carillon sing its song again is also around \$20,000. These are some of the issues near the top of the list, and there are many more.

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Another challenge is that we are a modest sized and aging congregation and costs for everything are rising. In 2009 pledge and plate income provided for only 44% of our budget. Our Diocesan Investment Trust accounts income have been down because of the economy. In 2009 they provided for only 25% of the budget. Last year we had an \$18,000. deficit. This year we are predicting a greater than \$60,000. deficit. Even if we were to withdraw from the principal of our endowment funds, that would decrease our ongoing income, and wouldn’t last very long.

I can assure you that we are not the only church in the country in this situation. There are thousands of churches, synagogues and meeting houses with splendid but aging buildings and congregations. There are two responses to this situation that immediately come to peoples’ minds. You can basically categorize them as going out with a bang or a whimper. Some congregations choose to hunker down, stopping all activities to avoid spending any more money for utilities other than for Sunday services. The number of parishioners dwindle until worship becomes more like a funeral than a celebration of God’s love. They forgo any repairs unless absolutely necessary for safety reasons. They live out the remainder of their funds for themselves while the building crumbles around their ears.

Other congregations choose to keep on doing everything they had been doing for years: loving and serving their neighbors in the community as Jesus had taught us to do. They

make whatever repairs are needed to maintain and/or enhance their ministries. They worship together joyfully, thanking God for the opportunity to serve until the well runs dry.

But we have another option. In 1989, a group of religious leaders, historical preservationists and philanthropists came together as “Partners for Sacred Places” to find a way to preserve and support religious institutions who are active in their communities. The founders of Partners for Sacred Places did research on the hypothesis that religious organizations could qualify for public/private grants not for the groups religious functions, but for the community services they provided. Their survey found that 93% of congregations did some kind of outreach ministry. Eighty-one percent of people receiving these services were non-members, with 73% of services provided in their own buildings. These programs were staffed by volunteers from the congregations and community. Having developed a tool to quantify the monetary value of such services, they found the average annual value to be \$140,000/congregation/year. In its now 20 years of existence, Partners for Sacred Places has developed and taught congregations who look outside themselves to find new ways to fund and support their older or historic buildings. Redeemer has received a very generous grant from the Diocese to attend one of the Sacred Places seminars. Members of the parish have attended two sessions so far, and we are now beginning the enormous task of gathering data that will become the core of our grant application materials. This foundational part of the process consists of 3 teams or study groups. The Heritage team looks at who we are; the building assessment team, what we have; and the public value team, what we do.

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The Heritage team doesn't look at the history of this church and congregation in isolation, but how our history has influenced/enhanced/reflected the life and history of our community, and vice versa. The Building Assessment team evaluates what we have by first assessing the physical status and needs of this building. Because we had commissioned a study of the church by an historical architect a year ago, this team will have a head start in their work. But the team also will reflect on the church as an important symbol in our community; how our physical presence has affected it in the past, and its continuing presence today. Two things that people told me when I first came to Sayre, I think, are good examples of these kinds of connections. Even people who aren't members of the parish told me how important the carillon and clock were to them.

Using the public value tool developed by Sacred Places, this team answers the question of what we do. It will look at each and every outreach program and event that and every non-profit organization using our building to quantify the monetary value of these services to our community. Another question is how would our community be affected if Redeemer weren't here?

When this work is completed, these three strands will be crafted, along with other information, into a case statement that will be the source material for presentations and proposals seeking funds to do the work necessary to continue , or even expand, our ministry in our community. We will keep you updated with our progress.

We not only need your help in the various aspects of this project, we very much want to incorporate what you know, what you feel about this church. Please pray and think

about this process because it absolutely vital to the future of this parish and its ministry. If you are even the least bit interested in participating in any of these three teams, please contact any of the vestry members listed below for more information. Even if you don't feel you can commit to being part of a team, we strongly appeal for your input to help us paint a more complete picture of the parish. We will also be contacting members for brief interviews relevant to specific questions as we go along. There will be more information about this once the teams get going.

I have one final plea. Since Lent I've been talking about our mission statement, "To live, to follow, to share God" and asking you to think and pray about how we are to live this out, here and now, in this parish, in this community. If you haven't started please, please do so. If you already have, pray some more. It is by prayer, our commitment to this Sacred Places process, and God's grace that we will find the way to where God is calling us for the future.

## TEAM CONTACTS FOR SACRED PLACES

### **Heritage Team**

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT  
"PARTNERS FOR SACRED PLACES"

VISIT: [Sacredplaces.org](http://Sacredplaces.org)

Lots of great information, articles and stories!



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Susquehanna Health  
Gibson Rehabilitation Center  
777Rural Ave. Room #308  
Williamsport, PA 17701



### Rummage Sale

A big thank you to everyone who helped during the rummage sale. This included our boy scout troop who helps us bring all the sale items from the undercroft to the parish hall for set up. Deb Wells and her son, who makes sure that all the tables are set up plus other items needed for the sale. Special thanks to all parishioners who took the time to set up, work during the sale Friday and Saturday and everyone who helped clean up when the sale was over. Also a special thanks to, parishioners, and the community for attending and making the sale a success.

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<p><b>Bishop of Bethlehem</b>  <b>The Rt. Rev. Paul V. Marshall</b>  <i>Assistant Bishop</i>  <b>The Rt. Rev. John Croneberger</b></p>
<p><b>Preist-in-Charge</b>  <b>The Rev. Dr. Andrea P. Baldyga</b></p>
<p><b>Senior Warden</b>  <b>Bruce Carpenter</b></p>
<p><b>Junior Warden</b>  <b>Ted Burrows</b></p>
<p><b>Clerk of the Vestry</b>  <b>Terri House</b></p>
<p><b>Treasurer</b>  <b>Chuck Preston</b></p>
<p><b>Vestry Members</b>  <b>Joyce Anderson</b>  <b>Margaret Cole</b>  <b>Glenda Hinsman</b>  <b>JoAnn Lumley</b>  <b>Gretchen Rentschler</b>  <b>Tracie Shambo</b>  <b>Victoria Stewart</b></p>
<p><b>Deacon</b>  <b>The Rev. Hazel Hunt</b></p>
<p><b>Organist</b>  <b>Marcella Ch</b></p>
<p><b>Secretary</b>  <b>Jerry Evans</b></p>
<p><b>Office Hours</b>  <b>Weekdays, 8:30 – 11:30am</b></p>
<p><b>Office: (570) 888-2270</b>  <b>Email: credeemer2@stny.rr.com</b></p>

“One thing is certain, in every step that we take, in every breath that we breathe, God is with us.”  
*From The Rev. Andrew Hvozdovcic’s sermon at the closing of St. Joseph’s in Athens.*



A warm smile, a secure hug, concerned inquiries , heart felt condolences, considerate phone calls, understanding eyes, cups of ice tea, or just minuets spent sitting and conversing.....An accurate description of good friends. How do I know this,...all of the above was showered on me during the last four weeks. It feels like a warm heated blanket making “everything feel OK”. That is what you folks have done for me and to say that I am grateful would be an understatement. My appreciation and gratitude go beyond anyone’s imagination. I have said it from April 15<sup>th</sup> and I will continue to say it...without all of your support and love I never could have handled this whole trauma. Lastly but certainly not the

“The best things in life aren’t things!”



Ann Jones	1
Denise Macafee	3
Courtney Wayman	3
Alecia Green	4
Cindy McKusick	4
Glacys Politi	5
Marylou Ranck	6
Raymond Nobles	6
Nicole Eddy	6
Lisa Gaieski	8
Norma Stevens	9
Bruce Carpenter, Jr.	11
Sherrie Smith	11
Betsy Schumacher	12
Terri Hunt	13
Andrea Green Haus	13
Ellen Croft	14
Jeanne Baird	14
Linda DeKay	17
Cynthia Bostwick	17
Linda Murrelle	17
Kathy Coffman	19
Shirley Quigg	19
Mark Nobles	20
Spencer DeKay	20
Kenneth Foss	21
Polly Steele	21
Erin Wayman	21
Jeffrey Stratton	21
Chelsea McCutcheon	22
Susan Segar	24
Richard Brennan	25
Katherine Allen	26
Barbara Satterly	27
Louise Morningstar	27
John Horn	27
Joanne Duffey	27

Jeffrey and Melanie Stratton	4
Charles and Candace Preston	12
Anthony and Denise Quattrini	13
John and Glenda Hinsman	18
Jason and Nichole Nichols	18
Ted and Joan Burrows	20
Steve and Jill Kormanik	20
David and Lisa Cole	22
Raymond and Diane Nobles	28
John and Beverly Clare	29

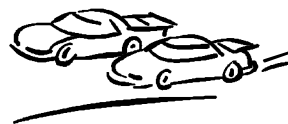
### Miles of Pennies

AND THE WINNER IS **POWERFUL**

Well, our first race was very exciting. The first week saw the Powerful team ahead by twenty laps, but then the second week the Mighty team came back with a very close race winning by ten laps. This must have gotten the mechanics and the pit crew of the Powerful really in an uproar because it was a run away for the next four races with the Powerful out manauvering the Mighty. I will say that the Mighty felt sorry for the Powerful after the first race and agreed to help the Mighty out by giving them 1/3 of their money for that race. The following week the Powerful came back so strong that the Mighty saw that the Powerful needed no help what so ever and the Powerful was then left to fend for themselves which that did indeed. So all in all it was a good six weeks, with racing at it's best!

POWERFUL	LAPS 601	MONEY \$61.19
MIGHTY	LAPS 430	MONEY \$44.30

GOOD JOB DONE!! THANKS EVERYONE FOR ATTENDING THE RACE



## **We Live, to Follow, to Share God**

Bonnie Anderson, President of the House of Deputies, has written [an essay on theological education for the laity](#) for Seabury Western Seminary:

Often, lay people and clergy tend to think of lay ministry, or even baptismal ministry, as the ministry done by the laity inside the Church. But the ministry of the laity mostly occurs outside of the church.

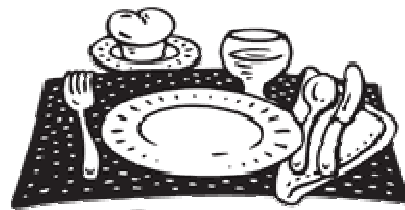
While the roles lay people have assumed over the years as readers, Eucharistic ministers, lay preachers, pastoral visitors, vestry members and others, are very important roles in the life and worship of a congregation, most of our ministry is done in the context of our “secular” communities, our homes and our workplaces.

This is good, for we are doing God’s work in the world. The problem is that these important ministries go largely unsupported and unrecognized by the church. Often only we are aware that the ministry we do in our daily lives is done in response to our baptism and our call as a lay minister. Often only we know what our unique charism is, instead of bringing those gifts into the context of our Christian community where they can be affirmed and joined with other gifts in the Body of Christ for the purpose of intentional ministry. Just as lay members of search committees and commissions on ministry and standing committees affirm the charism of clergy and bishops, the clergy and bishops also have a responsibility to help the laity identify and use our charism. The larger

responsibility of the laity is to claim our baptism as our life’s primary vocation and then to use our charism in our secondary vocations in God’s world. and

As baptized lay persons, we are responsible to understand not only what our ministry is, what particular charism we bring to it, but also to know how we will “carry on Christ’s work of reconciliation in the world.” This takes some understanding, commitment and education.

The landscape of theological education in the Episcopal Church is changing. In the midst of that transition, we have the opportunity to emphasize the importance of educating lay people for ministry. With high-quality, flexible enrichment programs and continuing education, we can help the two million lay members of God’s Episcopal Church understand the promises we make at our baptism and why they are the most important promises we will make in our life.



### **Our Community Supper**

On the last Thursday of each month our church is the host for one of four suppers held in the valley each month. At the April 29<sup>th</sup> supper Candy Preston and her fabulous team prepared and helped serve 88 meals, way to go Candy! We invite you to join us and our various sponsors for an evening of really good food and fine fellowship.

*To Live – To Follow – To Share God*