

Fall Issue - August 2016

Vol. 5 Issue 1

Welcome to the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer!

Welcome! Whether you are looking for a Church home, just traveling through our town, or are merely curious about the Episcopal Church, we're glad you are here. We are a diverse group of people who share a common desire to know Christ more deeply and to make Christ known to the world.

We offer a variety of opportunities for Christian formation and fellowship. From Godly Play for our children, to adult Sunday school; from a Bible Study class to a Healing Service and Eucharist on Wednesdays -- we encourage each other to find spiritual renewal and growth.

We are people who enjoy being together. For fun, food and fellowship, come join us for our monthly Women's "Wine Down" or our monthly Men's "Grill and Chill". Please join us for coffee and snacks following our 10:30 am service in the Parish Hall.

Regardless of your beliefs, whether you are a "cradle" Episcopalian, or you are not sure what you believe, we invite you to come get to know us. I believe our liturgy, our music and our education will comfort, inform, challenge and inspire you.

Worship Activities at Redeemer

- 8:00am Sunday – Holy Eucharist (Eff. Sept 4)
- 9:30am Sunday – Sunday School (Eff. Sept 11)
- 9:30am Sunday – Choir Rehearsal
- 9:30am Sunday – Lectionary Discussion Group
- 10:30am Sunday – Choral Eucharist
- 11:30am Sunday – Parish Hall Fellowship
- 11:00am Wednesday – Healing Service
- 6:30pm Wednesday – Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00am Thursday – Ladies Bible Study

The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

An Episcopal Church in the Diocese of FL

7500 Southside Boulevard

Jacksonville, Florida 32256

904.642.4575

Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Samuel Howard

Assisting Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Charles Keyser

Assisting Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Dorsey Henderson

The Rev. B. Wiley Ammons, Rector

Judy Jackson, Parish Administration

Jeanine Bisanti, Parish Secretary

Jean Spyksma, Music Ministries

Dominique Devine, Children's Ministries

Sam Gironimi, Sexton



Stay Connected!

Receive our [weekly email](#):

To sign up - tinyurl.com/redeemeremail

Hear a replay of our [sermons](#):

To listen - redeemerjax.org/sermon-audio

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To link to page - fb.me/redeemerjax

Visit our [website](#):

To link to page - www.redeemerjax.org

Visit the [Diocese of FL website](#):

To link to page - www.diocesefl.org

office@redeemerjax.org

A Message From our Rector

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am delighted to see how our ministry is taking shape here at Redeemer. Laura, Phereby, and I feel very warmly welcomed. I am getting to know many of you and learning to love every single person I have met here. You are as you said: a diverse, faithful group of people who love our Lord Jesus and are trying to make that love manifest in the world. I'm not sure there has been a better time to be part of the Diocese of Florida and the Church of the Redeemer. I am excited by your optimism, your enthusiasm, and your hope.

At Bishop Howard's request, we have been including a prayer of his in our prayers every Sunday morning that we might "get a special measure of [God's] grace as we seek to be obedient to [His] great commission" given to us in Matthew 28:16-20. At our convention in 2016, Bishop Howard gave us a [five-year vision](#) of growth and evangelism. I hope and pray with him that we might turn back to the gospel and turn outward into the world with invitation and opportunity.

In support of these efforts, your vestry and I met for a retreat and subsequent regular monthly meeting in June and prayerfully considered a vision of our own. We set a plan for the next 18 months and dreamed about the next 3-5 years together. This newsletter outlines the programming and opportunities for evangelism coming this fall. I want to take this opportunity to give you a few details and outline some necessary changes which will make this new programming possible.

First, in thinking about how we might provide both temporal and physical space for programming to happen, we have added a *temporary* storage unit in our parking lot

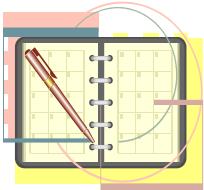
to help alleviate some of the pressure on our classrooms. We have cleaned out and cleaned up with the help of Sam, our sexton, to turn these rooms back into available meeting space. We have rearranged our children's area to make room for Godly Play and sent leaders to be trained for programs targeting newcomers for classes in the Spring. We will offer programming for ages 2 and up after Rally Day in the fall and need to make room for these new offerings.

Which brings me to the final piece of information for now. In order to enable programming to happen in between the services, we intend to start our early service at 8am beginning Sunday, September 4. Our Rally Day will be a single-service Sunday on August 28 at 10:30am and we will proceed with the new schedule the following week. We hope this will encourage fellowship following our early service and greater opportunity for depth for our programming in between. This also puts our schedule in line with most of the churches in our area with two-service Sundays and Christian Education.

We hope you will be as excited as we are for the new possibilities these changes bring for better learning for the Christian life, and find new ways to reach out in loving service to the world in Christ's name.

Faithfully yours,





Mark Your Calendars!

Aug 14 – Blessing of the Backpacks
Aug 15 - Women's Wine Down
Aug 16 – Vestry Meeting
Aug 21 – Ultreya at Redeemer
Aug 24 – Choir Restarts on Wed nights
Aug 28 – Rally Day – 1 Service at 10:30am
Sept 4 – Early Service at 8:00am
Sept 9-10 – Rummage Sale
Sept 11 – Christian Formation Begins
Sept 19 – Women's Wine Down
Sept 20 – Vestry Meeting

Upcoming Events

Blessing of the Animals – Oct 2
All Saints Day – Nov 6
Lessons & Carols – Dec 18
Blue Christmas – Dec 18

Rally Day – Sunday August 28

Please make plans to join us on Sunday Aug 28 for "Rally Day", our annual celebration to kick off our fall activities as we all return from a wonderful summer. We'll learn about ministry/education opportunities and Rody Borg will be preparing his traditional gourmet lunch!

We will have one service at 10:30am followed by a tour of the Sunday school classrooms, Food Pantry, Choir Room etc - - topped off with a delicious lunch prepared by Rody Borg. Information will be on hand regarding the various ministries and volunteer opportunities available to you. We'll even have a waterslide for the kids (bring your bathing suit and towel).

Stewardship is right around the corner --- and while our pledge is important, real stewardship also means getting involved in church activities, meeting new people and giving of our time and talents. So while you are enjoying the great food, check-out the ministry information and see if there are ways you can get involved.

We look forward to seeing you - so come out and enjoy a delicious lunch, look over the ways to get involved with the church and enjoy fun and fellowship with your Redeemer family!

Church Services & Support:

(Please contact the following chairpersons if you are interested in serving on any of the following ministries)

General Ministries:

- **Altar Guild** – Jackie Wilson
- **Choir** – Jean Spyksma
- **Lay Ministers** – Jeanine Bisanti
- **Acolytes** – Nicole Doctor
- **Ushers** – Ernie Cornehl
- **Lectors** – Jackie Wilson
- **Counters** – Tom McMorrow
- **Greeters** – Toni Younan
- **Fellowship** – Bryce Sovereign
- **Children** – Dominique Devine
- **Food Pantry** – Ellen Fitch
- **Daughters of the King** – Judy Jackson
- **Stephen Ministries** – Larry Lundgren
- **Men's Grill 'n Chill** – John Kattman
- **Women's Wine Down** – Susan Cornehl

Vestry Members:

- Rody Borg, Sr. Warden
- Clint Lancaster, Jr. Warden
- Susan Cornehl
- Mike DeVaux
- Camp Fitch
- Ed Greer
- Tom McMorrow
- Fran Miller
- Scott Trundle

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

I Peter 4:10

Making Disciples This Fall

The central focus of our June vestry retreat was discipleship. Discipleship is the fancy church word for what it means to become a devoted follower of Jesus Christ. Discipleship is what makes us different from every other non-profit, humanitarian organization out there because underlying all the good we do is the understanding that all we do is for a beloved child of God. From the people we feed at the food pantry to the people fed on Sunday at the altar, everyone is a beloved child of God who belongs to the kingdom and deserves our best. This is why we do what we do, to let the world know that there is a love that can overcome the enmity around us. That there is a unity in who we are and in the God who made us that is bigger than anything we might think separates us. Discipleship is learning how we are one another's keeper, that your hurt is my hurt, and your joy my joy.

Fall is an opportunity to learn discipleship here at Redeemer. Over the last few weeks you have heard my growing excitement about our Fall programming, and I wanted to take a moment to talk about all of the opportunities to come and learn in the coming weeks. *Rally Sunday* is our “come and see” day. On Sunday, August 28 after our single 10:30am service, we will process from the church all around campus to meet our teachers and see our classrooms. Followed by a delicious lunch and fellowship time for everyone and playtime for our younger members. We are celebrating all that we have to be thankful for here at Redeemer and looking forward to finding out the new work God will do among us, with opportunities for all ages.

Fall Sunday Schedule

The “Opening” Series	Classroom 1	9:30am - 10:15am	Youth and Adult
Lectionary Gospel Study	Office Conference Room	9:30am – 10:15am	Youth and Adult
Choir	Choir Room	9:30am – 10:15am	Youth and Adult
Sunday School	Classroom 6	9:30am - 10:15am	Grade 3 and up
Godly Play	Nursery	9:30am - 10:15am	Ages 2 and up
Early Child Care	Nursery	10:15am-11:15am	Ages 0-2
Children's Chapel	Nursery	During 10:30 service	Ages 3 and up
Youth Confirmation Class	Classroom 1	11:45am-1pm	Ages 13 and up

The “Opening” Series is led by Fr. Wiley and is 3 different 4-week series on the building blocks of our tradition. The first and primary building block, which we will study first, is Scripture. “Opening the Bible” will begin Sept. 11 and run four weeks followed by “Opening the Prayer Book” and “Opening the Tradition.” While not primarily focused on confirmation/reception in The Episcopal Church, this class will satisfy the instruction requirement for confirmation/reception when the bishop visits next.

Lectionary Gospel Study is led by Kin Cannon and looks in depth at the Gospel reading for each Sunday morning. Come and hear historical context, analysis of the language and meaning of the text, and different perspectives on the meaning of the gospel. Who knows, that may even be the preaching text for the week.

Choir is led by Jean Spyksma and welcomes singers of all skill levels to help lead our Sunday morning worship and learn scripture and our tradition through lyric and made more beautiful through tune. Choir rehearses on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings.

Sunday School is led by a group organized by Dominique Devine and will use many different activities and games to teach bible stories and lessons for a wide range of ages. See her article in our newsletter for more information.

Godly Play is a Montessori method of biblical storytelling which helps our youngest children learn the building blocks of our faith, the stories of the People of God. This method encourages our children to learn the stories by heart, and then to interact with them in ways that makes them memorable and opens up the stories' meaning and application in their lives.

Early Child Care is for you, dear parent. Children squirm, squeal, and squeak in church and all of this is welcome at Redeemer! If you want a break from them *yourself* though, at least for a little while on Sunday, we provide child care during our main worship service in our nursery.

Children's Chapel is an age-appropriate version of the first half of our service, The Liturgy of the Word, where we read from scripture, hear a sermon, say prayers, and recite the creeds. Children are invited into our chapel in the nursery building for an age-targeted set of readings, prayers, and message each Sunday.

Youth Confirmation Class is led by Fr. Wiley and is a class for those seeking teenagers among us whose interests and conversation might need a different space than our “Opening” series. Young people are invited to attend both, or simply this afternoon class as a preparation for confirmation, or an introduction to the faith. Meeting after church, young people are invited to spend more time exploring the faith in a question and answer format that lets them help lead the direction for the conversation.

I hope by now you're seeing some of the many ways there are to become a closer follower of Jesus at Redeemer this fall, and I invite you to attend and help us all become better Christians with your perspective and example as a fellow follower. Come to learn. Learn to lead.

Youth Sunday School **A Message From Dominique Devine**

What an amazing time we had at our vacation bible school this year! It would not have been possible without the support of our church and our OUTSTANDING volunteers. The adult volunteers were amazing with their time, dedication and desire to help.

Also, I couldn't be more proud of our youth children! They did a great job. Now, as they know, it's time to take it to the next level. The youth and I have discussed different ideas on ways to make Sunday school even more enjoyable and more fun. We will incorporate their ideas while learning through the lessons of the leaders. This will lead to expanding their knowledge of their religion and of Jesus. So whether it's a scavenger hunt or charades or even a skit, we will be having a great time getting to know each other and getting close to the Lord!

This year, we will be having youth from grade 3 through high school students attending our Sunday school program. We are aware that there is a broad age range and we will work hard to make sure it is as enjoyable for everyone!

We will be taking on a service project this year and we will need all of our church youth to help out!

I can't wait to get started on Sunday September 11th 2016 at 9:30 am, and I look forward to seeing everyone there!

Blessings,
Ms. Dominique



Music Ministries – Choir **A Message From Jean Spyksma**

Fall choir rehearsals resume on Wednesday, August 24 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Current and new members are invited! Here are five reasons you should consider joining the choir this year:

1. You might have a God-given gift for singing that you're not using!
2. It's a great way to serve God and the church!
3. It's a really fun evening out!
4. It makes you feel energized to sing!
5. We're going to do great music!

Maybe you feel you can't make an every week commitment. There are other commitments in life that will, at times, keep someone from attending rehearsal. That doesn't mean you can't participate. We don't encourage poor attendance but understand that there will be occasions when you can't make it. Join anyway!

There are many jobs at church that can be done by most anyone, but singing is a special skill and can't be done by everyone. If you have been given the gift of song, consider using it in the choir. We'd love to have you join us!

OUR PHILOSOPHY: Come when you can and miss when you must!

Hope to see you on September 4!



Food Pantry **A Message From Ellen Fitch**

Greetings from the Food Pantry!

The Redeemer Food Pantry launched in 2011, is open to residents of Duval County every Wednesday 10am-2pm and assists approximately 120 patrons each week. The Food Pantry is supported through parishioner donations (both monetary as well as food) and we receive surplus breads from Publix and Flowers Bakery each week. We are also certified to obtain surplus food from local community agencies: we receive and distribute USDA food at no cost from Farm Share twice a month (every other Tuesday) and we are able to purchase donated food at a substantial discount from Feeding Northeast Florida (NEFL) every Tuesday. At Feeding NEFL, produce and dairy are free and we buy available frozen meats (hotdogs, hamburger meat and chicken) as well as dry goods (breakfast cereals) for \$.18 a pound. On a weekly basis we spend \$88.00-\$100.00 for 1,000 pounds of food, which feeds around 120 people at the cost of \$.83 per person each week.

We have 20 volunteers who assist on Tuesday and/or Wednesday – they lift, load, unload, sort, package and distribute the food. Several of our volunteers are residents of the Sweetwater community. During the summer, we have enjoyed the assistance of a few high school students needing community service hours as well as some neighbors/friends who wanted to become involved in a community activity.

The food pantry always needs your time, your talent and your treasure:

- your monetary contributions enable us to obtain the food

- your canned meats/tuna and canned vegetable donations enable us to provide shelf steady foods
- your help on Tuesday and/or Wednesday enable us to obtain, pack and distribute the food to those who are hungry

Please contact Ellen Fitch, Food Pantry Director, at t7fits@aol.com or 904 838-7016 if you would like to help support this wonderful ministry.

Rummage Sale – Sept 9-10

Please donate your gently used items for our Rummage Sale, scheduled for Sept 9-10. If you would like to donate items, please pick up a flyer of acceptable items (no clothing please) on the table as you enter the church. Items for the sale may be left in Classroom 1. We also welcome your assistance volunteering for the Rummage Sale – setting up, pricing, cashier, etc. Please contact the office if you would like to help. All proceeds will go to support the Food Pantry!



Ministries & Outreach

Prayer List – If you have a prayer request, please contact our church office so we may add them to our prayer list.

Food Pantry – Our food pantry is extremely busy serving our neighbors! Please consider donating in support the work that is so clearly an example of Christ's hands at work in our community.

Daughters of the King – The St. Clare Chapter at Redeemer is a spiritual sisterhood of lay women who in the midst of our daily lives, find community and spiritual support in this organization dedicated to prayer and service.

Stephen Ministries - Stephen Ministry is a lay caring ministry. Stephen Ministers are trained lay caregivers who provide confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. Please inquire in the office if you are interested.

