



The Visitor



From Your Church ... To Your Home

NOVEMBER 2007

From the Pastor

Richly Blessed, We Freely Give

The communion prayer for Thanksgiving Day includes words appropriate to the season and to goings on at Redeemer this month:

"It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. By your appointment the seasons come and go. You bring forth bread from the earth and create the fruit of the vine. You formed us in your image and made us stewards of your world. Earth has yielded its treasure, and from your hand we have all received blessing on blessing." (UM Book of Worship, p. 76)



Pastor Karen Graham

We have all received blessing on blessing. Later this month we will pause around our Thanksgiving Day tables, laden with food, and offer prayers of gratitude to God. For the Lord our God has indeed blessed us. We know that. And in our own ways we find opportunities to express our gratitude. We pray. We help the less fortunate. We sing. We worship. We share. We witness to God's goodness. We proclaim Christ's love.

And we give. Giving is part of who we are. As those created in God's image, giving is in our nature, so to speak. To give is to live. To give is to fulfill God's will for us. As those who have received blessing on blessing from God's hand, I ask you to consider your own response of giving to God through the church. How has Church of the Redeemer blessed your life? What needs of yours has the church met? How is this church carrying out the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ? These questions are meant to stimulate our thinking. I don't want us to give to the church just to cover the church budget. I want us to give because we realize in the deepest part of our hearts that we need to give to be alive in Christ. I want us to respond out of genuine faith in Christ and genuine commitment to Christ's church.

Of course our church needs dollars and cents to function. We have financial obligations. But the life and work of our church cannot be confined to a budget. What we do — who we are, the lives we touch — go way beyond a dollar amount. When we give our money to the church we aren't simply giving money to meet a church budget. We are helping God's people to be the hands and feet and mouth and heart of God in God's world. We give to God through the church, and the church does its very best to carry out God's will, to speak God's word, and to share God's love.

There are many ways for us to give to God through the church. Some are to:

a) **pray** for the church — pray for members and friends in their times of need; pray that the church will be faithful in its ministry; pray for the church to hear and do God's will; b) **attend** worship and **participate** in Sunday School and Bible Study and the church's events and fellowship activities; c) **help** out with the church's work — teach, visit the sick, prepare meals, fix up or clean up the building, prepare mailings, volunteer with the youth, be a liturgist, etc; and d) **donate money** so that all the above can be done on the local level, and so we can take part in the work of God being done in other places, too.

Prayers

Presence

Service

Gifts

Continued on Page 4

About Our Folks

November Birthdays

Steve Klaber	1
Bridget Burke	1
Naomi Stewart	2
Natalie Wright	5
Ruth Helen Strieble	5
Ken Hicks	6
Jacques Bair	7
Arleen Twist	7
Lyndon Steele	8
Robert Fussner	9
Howard Gillespie	10
Chris Holland	10
Varina Riley	13
Cindy Gayle	15
Robb Hicks III	15
Bruce Steinfurth	16
Jennifer Coleman	17
David Hicks	17
Mary Ann Carlson	19
Ginny Goodwin	21
Wylene Green	21
Dorothy Lewis	23
Carol Goodwin	24
Andrew Sheridan	24
Melinda Carter	26
Phil Holland, Jr.	27
Cheryl Lewis	28
Rose Williams	29
Hallie Majewski	30
Carol Stickle	30

November Lectionary

November 4, 2007

23rd Sunday After Pentecost

All Saints Sunday

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

Psalm 119:137-144

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

Luke 19:1-10

November 11, 2007

24th Sunday After Pentecost

Haggai 1:15b-2:9

Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

November 18, 2007

25th Sunday After Pentecost

Isaiah 65:17-25

Isaiah 12 (or Psalm 118)

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Luke 21:5-19

November 25, 2007

Christ the King/Reign of Christ

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Luke 1:68-79

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

November Anniversaries

Name	Day
Patrick & Heather Mullen	13
Alan & Janet Harris	16
Tom & Suzanne Kimball	18
Celebrating 35 Years!	
Steve & Nancy Gibson	28
Roy & Carla Wainwright Sr.	29
Frank & Brenda Grover	30



Prayer Concerns ...

- Ginny Goodwin — at home recovering from illness
- Emory and Mary Lynch
- Dick Cramer
- Doris Liambeis
- Ernie Schmidt
- Eric Schmidt --- in Iraq

Congratulations to ...

- Alex Graham and Abi Gundlach on the announcement of their engagement!

Youth News

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER EVENTS:

Sunday November 10 – **Corky and Bob Isely Spaghetti Dinner:** The youth will help set up, serve and clean up at this event. Please be at the church at 4 p.m. and plan to stay until 8 p.m.

Sunday November 18 – Our neighbor churches will join us after worship for a light lunch and **Walking the Labyrinth,** including a discussion of various forms of prayer.

Sunday November 25 – **Potluck Supper and Hanging of the Greens** – meet at the church at 6 p.m. All church members and friends invited (not just youth!)



Friday November 30 - Sunday December 2

YOUTH JAM! I have extended our deadline to November 18 to give everyone time to sign up. Please complete the permission slip and attach payment – leave forms in my mailbox or give to me. This is a fun time and a great way to get together with other Ohio youth! Check the youth board OR your email for a permission slip.



Sunday December 9 – **Movie Time!** As we get closer to the date, we will decide if we want to rent or go to a non-R rated movie together. If you have a preference, let me know!

Sunday December 16 – **Movie Discussion and Christmas Cards** – we will talk about the movie we have seen AND also take some time to write Christmas cards to our college students, many of whom will be in the middle of finals week.

Sunday December 23 – **Caroling – a church wide event** – with some desserts to follow (watch your email for details!)

EMAIL LIST: Have you been getting the youth group emails? If not, please let me know by phone or email so I can make sure you are on the list!

ADULT VOLUNTEERS! I could use some help getting a lunch together for November 18, and for the potluck on November 25. Drivers will be needed for the movie time. Of course, any help any weekend is very welcome – just let me know how you want to help!

SPECIAL THANKS to Melanie Tyler who has been a great help for all of the events so far, and to Mary Ann Carlson, Cathy Lipton, Kate Klaber, Patrick and Heather Mullen, Alan Harris, and the anticipated help of Christina Wright! I hope I haven't forgotten anyone. The youth are appreciative of the prayers and support of the Redeemer community.

Remember – ALL YOUTH grades 7-12 are welcome at all events. If you want to bring a friend for an event outside the church, I will need a signed permission slip and medical form for that person. Invite your friends!

Call with any questions, comments or if you just want to chat...

Peace, Dianne

dianne_covault@ameritech.net, cell 216-650-2358, home 216-707-1618!

News and Events

2007 Church Conference Update

Twenty-five Redeemer members attended the cluster church conference held at Redeemer on October 24. Joined by the pastors and members of Mount Pleasant UMC and Epworth-Euclid UMC, and led by North Coast District Superintendent, Rev. Dan Drew, we conducted church business and shared in good fellowship.

The evening began with devotions led by the three clergy (Karen Graham, Chris Martin, Edgar Brady), with Alma Sealine as our pianist. David Miller and Kari Sharpe then shared how Redeemer is fulfilling its mission. They presented a positive, uplifting report of all that Redeemer has done and is doing as a church.

Highlights included:

Adoption of our 2008 ministry goals:

2008!

I. Continue to embrace stewardship as a year-round process, strengthen our financial base and maximize accuracy and ease of use of financial reports.

2. Further implement Ministry Summit church growth strategies, focusing on hospitality, newcomer assimilation, pastoral leadership style and committee structure/development.

3. Hold a series of "Where Do We Go From Here?" sessions, using compression planning as a tool, to discern long range goals and to identify priorities for ministry.

Renewal recommendation of Dianne Tobey Covault's candidacy certification; Renewal recommendations for our local and certified Lay Speakers; Election of 2008 lay leadership; Membership Report: 270 members as of 10/24/2007; Adoption of 2008 clergy compensation package.

Copies of David Miller's Lay Leader's report, and Karen Graham's Pastor's report are available outside the church office. Copies of all the church conference forms/information are also available. The evening concluded with a time of refreshments and fellowship, and a surprise 50th birthday celebration for David Miller.

Pastor's Message - Continued from page 1

During our **Blessed to be a Blessing** stewardship campaign I am asking you to consider your current level of support in each of these four channels of giving: **Prayers, Presence, Service, and Gifts**. Ask yourself, how faithful is my response now? Do I want to be more faithful next year? If so, how?

Through your support, God has wonderfully blessed Church of the Redeemer. As a church our basket of blessings is filled to overflowing. Your faithful presence, your heartfelt prayers, your varieties of service, and your generous gifts have enriched the life and spirit and ministry of this church so much. I thank you for all that you have done and given to bring Church of the Redeemer to where it is today. I thank you for all Redeemer has received from you in the past. And I look forward to all the blessings that lie in store for us — those that you will share, and those that come from God.

- A series of "Compression Planning" events will be held from December 2007 through the spring of 2008. Led by trained facilitators Alma Sealine and Gretchen Reynolds, these events will enable us to do some specific and in-depth planning/visioning as a church. All persons interested in taking part are invited to take part!

That's enough for now. I am excited about these new directions. Getting there will take some time, so in addition to your participation I urge your patience! And remember, we don't have to change everything to change everything!

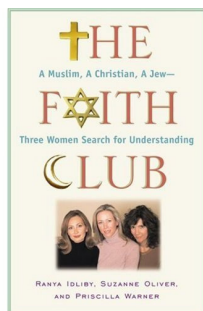
I invite your comments, questions, and insights about these matters. I trust that we will work through all this thoughtfully and respectfully. My thanks to David Miller, Kari Sharpe and Mary Ann Carlson for joining me at the Ministry Summit sessions, and for their leadership as we move forward in this process.

With a grateful heart,
Pastor Karen Graham

News and Events

Join "The Faith Club" Conversation

Sisters in Spirit invites women of Redeemer to join a discussion of *The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew – Three Women Search for Understanding*. The book documents the experiences of three mothers



whose attempt to write a children's book about the commonalities among their religions becomes complicated by their differences. We will participate in a community program on the book on Wednesday, Nov. 14 at Shaker Heights Library on Lee Road, starting at 7:00

pm. Carpoolers will leave the church parking lot at 6:15 pm. The mission of Sisters in Spirit is to foster the spiritual growth of women by exploring faith, values, traditions and interests. Contact Mary Barkey at 216-371-9664 or Nancy Newman at 216-691-1791 if you have questions or want to carpool.

New Church Directory Coming

Redeemer's church directory will be updated and mailed this month to all Redeemer members and regular attenders. If your address, phone, or email address has changed in the last twelve months, please send us an update by Sunday, November 18. If you are not on our email prayer chain or email newsletter list and would like to be included, send an email request to ClcRedeemer@sbcglobal.net

Fall Stewardship Program

Thank you to everyone who has agreed to host a house meeting! At these meetings, there will be a time for sharing of blessings, as well as for discussing financial information. 2008 pledge cards will be distributed, to be dedicated in worship on November 18. Here is a schedule to date of the house meetings, with the host's name listed:

- Jim Simler, Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m.
- Nadine Young, Nov. 3, 7:00 p.m.
- Phil and Bev Holland, Nov. 4, 12:30 p.m. (at church)
- Dianne and Corbin Covault, Nov. 6, 7:30 p.m.

- Carolyn and Kenny Bowman, Nov. 7, 7:00 p.m.
- Mary Ann Carlson, Nov. 11, 4:00 p.m.
- Kari Sharpe, Nov. 12, 7:30 p.m.
- Cathy Lipton, Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m.
- Carolyn Shepherd and Marj Craft, Nov. 17, 4:00 p.m.

To those of you who live in the vicinity, you have already been assigned a house meeting to attend. If you are unable to attend that meeting, you are welcome to join another group. Just let your host know. Good news: \$20,200 has been pledged so far for 2008! We're off to a good start!

Be a Holiday Angel This Year

During November, Redeemer will be asked to by a holiday angel and provide gifts for children of families who are registered eligible to receive services from the Heights Emergency Food Center. Sign up and bring a gift to church no later than Sunday, Dec. 9. The center, which is supported by many faith-based organizations in the Heights area, operates out of Euclid Avenue Christian Church and serves the emergency needs of local residents. If you have questions ask Mary Ann Carlson 216-371-8989.



Transgender Pastor Still Able to Serve

The United Methodist Church's supreme court upheld a bishop's decision that the Rev. Drew Phoenix, pastor at St. John's United Methodist Church in Baltimore, who changed gender from female to male, remains eligible to serve the church.

The Judicial Council did not rule on whether changing gender is a chargeable offense or violates minimum standards set by the church's legislative body, the General Conference. Rather, the court said "a clergy person's standing cannot be terminated without administrative or juridical action having occurred and all fair process being accorded."

"What matters is that clergypersons, once ordained and admitted to membership in full connection, cannot have that standing changed without being accorded fair process."

Redeemer at a Glance

Church of the Redeemer (United Methodist) is a diverse community that strives to grow in the service of Christ and to honor the sacredness of every person.

Our **mission** is to:



- **ACCEPT** all people as God's children and to serve our neighbor as witnesses to God's love;
- **URGE** all children, youth and adults to individually and communally deepen relationships with God through prayer, spiritual discipline and worship;
- **NURTURE** each other in joy, respecting our varied gifts, abilities, education, ethnicity, income and sexual orientation; and to
- **LIVE** as Christ's disciples.

Our 2008 **Ministry Goals** are to:

1. Continue to embrace stewardship as a year-round process, strengthen our financial base and maximize accuracy and ease of use of financial reports.
2. Further implement Ministry Summit church growth strategies, focusing on hospitality, newcomer assimilation, pastoral leadership style and committee structure/development.
3. Hold a series of "Where Do We Go From Here?" sessions, using compression planning as a tool, to discern long range goals and to identify priorities for ministry.

Church Staff

Pastor	Rev. Karen B. Graham <i>klbgraham@sbcglobal.net</i> <i>Pastor Karen is generally available mornings Mon. — Thurs. and by phone to schedule afternoon appointments.</i>
Church Secretary	Kate Klaber <i>cleredeemer@sbcglobal.net</i>
Coordinator of Youth Ministry	Dianne Tobey Covault <i>dianne_covault@ameritech.net</i>
Choir Director	Anne Waltner
Custodian	Eddie Bornds
Nursery Coordinator	Vicki Ratliff
Assistant Treasurer	Arleen Twist



The Visitor

is published ten times a year (January/February and July/August are combined) for friends and members of Church of the Redeemer (United Methodist) in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, to provide church news and promote our ministries. Submit items to the editor, Patrick Mullen, at pgmullen@adelphia.net, or at the church office, by the second Sunday of the month preceding issue date. Items may be edited for clarity or length.

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November 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Choir 7:30 PM	2	3
4 ARM 8:00 Adult Sun Sch 9:30 Comm Skrs 9:30 Worship 11 Communion Soup 12:30	5 Lay Leadership 7:30	6 Disciple I 7 PM Stewardship 7PM Bell Choir 7:30	7 Bible Study 10:30 AM Disciple III 7PM	8 Choir 7:30 PM	9	10 Bob & Corkey Isley Spaghetti Dinner 5-8
11 ARM 8:00 Adult Sun School 9:30 Comm Skrs 9:30 Worship 11 Choir @ St. Paul's UMC 3:30	12 Finance 7:00	13 Disciple I 7 PM Bell Choir 7:30	14 Bible Study 10:30 AM Disciple III 7PM	15 Choir 7:30 PM	16	17
18 ARM 8:00 Adult Sun School 9:30 Comm Skrs 9:30 Worship 11	19 Trustees 7:30	20 Disciple I 7 PM Bell Choir 7:30	21	22 Thanksgiving Office Closed	23	24
25 ARM 8:00 Adult Sun School 9:30 Comm Skrs 9:30 Worship 11 Hanging of the Greens/Potluck 6:00	26 Witness & Com- munication 7:30	27 Disciple I 7 PM Bell Choir 7:30	28 Bible Study 10:30 AM Community Meal 5:30 PM Disciple III 7PM	29 Bible Study 10:30 AM	30 Bible Study 10:30 AM	

Church of the Redeemer (United Methodist)

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