

# Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

390 Pierce Avenue  
Macon, Georgia 31204

WEBSITE: WWW.REDEEMERMACON.ORG



*Spirit Filled and Spirit Led*

## THE VOICE OF REDEEMER May 2010

### PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

April 22, 2010

Dear Partners in Ministry;

This is a repeat of a previous article but in light of current giving to the church, Synod, and the National Church, I feel it needs to be reread.

In Proverbs 16:3 it is written; "Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established". Too many people today, find little time to read and reflect on scripture and yet as Martin Luther wrote "Scripture is the norm for daily living". How many times have we attempted to do something only to have it fall apart or fail to produce the outcomes we wanted or expected? Was it because our plans were faulty or was it that we failed to commit our work to the Lord and then honor that commitment?

The most important single factor in individual success is **COMMITMENT**. Commitment ignites action. To commit is to pledge oneself to a certain purpose or line of conduct. It also means practicing our beliefs consistently. There are, therefore, two fundamental conditions for commitment. The first is having a sound set of beliefs. There is an old saying that goes, "Stand for something or you'll fall for anything." The second is *faithful* adherence to those beliefs with your behavior. Possibly the best description of commitment is "persistence with a purpose" and our purpose is God's plan for creation.

One of my most read and used book is *The Ten Ancient Scrolls for Success* written in 1998 by Og Mandino, from his 1968 book *The Greatest Salesman in the World*. In his words on commitment Mandino writes, "I will persist until I succeed". Commitment takes persistence; we fail to accomplish God's purpose not because our plans are faulty, but because we are not persistent in keeping "at it". Mandino writes; " So long as there is breath in me, that long will I persist. For now I know one of the greatest principles of success; if I persist long enough I will win".

You and I, though baptism and confirmation made a commitment to fulfill God's plan, His will in the place where we are. His plan is found clearly in Matthew 28:19 "Go out into **ALL** (emphasis added) the world baptizing and teaching". The Gospel, the church, God's plan is inclusive for all people. We must be persistent in our daily living in order to fulfill our commitment made to God.

Commitment is most difficult and most readily proven during tough times. How someone weathers the storms most clearly demonstrates their basic beliefs. We weather these storms as scripture points out through prayer, through active involvement in the lives of neighbors (the world), through our giving, and through active involvement in the life of the church.

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#### WORSHIP IN MAY

- Sunday May 2,9,16,23, 30

9:15 a.m. Educational Hour

Teens~Adults~Children

10:30 a.m. Worship / HC

11:30 Gathering Time

One Service Only / Nursery Provided

May 1

10:00 a.m. Jazz Appreciation

May 5, 12, 19, 26

9:30 a.m. Crafty Ladies

May 6

6:30 p.m. Jazz Appreciation

May 9

Mothers Day and 2nd Sunday Covered Dish Dinner.

May 13

6:30 Book Lovers Group

May 16

12:00 Congregational Meeting

May 23

10:30 Pentecost Sunday with Confirmation

12:15 Reception for Confirmands

May 30

10:30 Holy Trinity Sunday

6:30 P.M. Pastor's Spirituality Class  
each Tuesday

*Bible Study each Thursday at 10:00 a.m.*

#### WORSHIP IN JUNE

- Sunday, June 6, 13, 20, 27

9:15 a.m. Educational Hour

Teens~Adults~Children

10:30 a.m. Worship / HC

11:30 Gathering Time

One Service Only / Nursery Provided

## PARTNERS IN MINISTRY continued

Fortunately, paying the price that commitment commands has payoffs worth the cost - a reputation for integrity and, even more important, knowing that we have honored the life has given us. Commitment is a two-way street. You only get it if you are willing to give it.

Your partner in ministry

*Pastor Jim Braswell*

## COUNCIL VISION TEAM

### Council Vision Team Meeting Minutes 18 April 2010

**Members Present:** Pastor Braswell, Beau Wood, Bo Phillips, Jonas Strecker, Amy Harmon, Amie Craig, and Anne Roesel.

Pastor opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Pastor's Report:**

Pastor has made numerous visits to our shut-ins.  
He was with the Beitz family during John's death.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Through March, we are behind by \$5,700. We are not taking in enough money to cover the fixed expenses. We cannot fund any programs until our giving increases beyond our fixed expenses.

**Other Business:**

- We need to get our name out in the community. We need someone who will be responsible to contact the TV and radio stations and the paper with free public announcements.

The council is recommending the following people to serve three-year terms on council:

Vic Vankus, Doug Malloy, and Tammy Semmler

The council is recommending the following people to serve on the nominating team for 2011:

Pfiffie Vankus, Donna Rohn, and Elizabeth Malloy

Lars Anderson has suggested that trees be planted in front of the church in memory of our loved ones who have died. The council agreed with this suggestion.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vision Team Secretary

## BOOKLOVERS' GROUP

Book Lovers Group Newsletter article May 2010

The Book Lovers Group will meet on Thursday, 13 May, at 6:30PM. We will be discussing the book 'Looking for Salvation at the Dairy Queen', by Susan Gregg Gilmore. The following is taken from the back cover of the book: "It's the early 1970s. The town of Ringgold, Georgia, has a population of 1,923, one traffic light, one Dairy Queen, and one Catherine Grace Cline. The daughter of Ringgold's third-generation Baptist preacher, Catherine Grace is quick-witted, more than a little stubborn, and dying to escape her small-town life. Every Saturday afternoon, she sits at the Dairy Queen, eating Dilly Bars and plotting her getaway to the big city of Atlanta. And when, with the help of a family friend, the dream becomes a reality, Catherine Grace immediately packs her bags, leaving her family and the boy she loves to claim the life she's always imagined. But before things have even begun to get off the ground in Atlanta, tragedy brings her back home. As a series of extraordinary events alters her perspective – and sweeping changes come to Ringgold itself - Catherine Grace begins to wonder if her place in the world may actually be, against all odds, right where she began."

Our reading schedule for the remainder of the spring is as follows:

10 June 'My Sister's Keeper' by Jodi Picoult

We take the months of July and August off to read other books.

If you have any book suggestions or any questions, contact Anne Roesel, 474-3555 or 390-3072.



## WORSHIP AND MUSIC



Worship and Music Newsletter article for May 2010

Your Worship and Music team are looking ahead to the summer months.

The children will be learning several songs during Vacation Bible School that will be appropriate to be sung during church.

Our organist, Parks, will be heading off to Atlanta for graduate studies at Emory University in August. We are looking around to see if there are any local people who would be interested in taking the position of church organist.

We really appreciated our children who sang for us on Palm Sunday. They did a fantastic job.

It was wonderful to have the bells play at Easter. We will see about having bell music at other times during the year.

Thanks to everyone who helped decorate our sanctuary for Easter. It was beautiful. Thanks, also, to those who helped put things away after Easter.

If you have any questions or concerns about our worship or music, please talk to a member of the team: Adam Lockamy, Anne Roesel, Beau Wood or Gaye Wood.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



## Grace Place

May Newsletter for Grace Place

It is hard for me to believe that our educational year is coming to a close. It has been a pleasure to teach the children of Redeemer about God's love for creatures.

Many thanks to all of you for providing candy for our Easter egg hunt. Everyone, young & old had a wonderful time searching for treasures on our beautiful grounds. A special thanks to Adam Lockamy for leading us for the Fish Tales musical on Palm Sunday. If you missed it, check it out on Redeemer's facebook page, thanks to Jonas Strecker.

During May, we will complete the last lessons from Heifer. We will use the book "The Chicken and the Worm" to teach the children to respect all life and value the contribution that all life provides to all of us.

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 6-11 from 6:00-8:30pm. The curriculum has been purchased from Augsburg, titled "Baobab Blast", with an African theme. FYI: A baobab tree is also known as the tree of life. It takes a lot of support from the congregation to make VBS a success. If you would like to lend a hand, please check out the VBS poster in the narthex. We need LOTS of paper towel rolls for a VBS giraffe project...everyone please save them for us!!! Also, if you have any African items that we could borrow for the week, please let me know. Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup> will be our Safari Sundaes kick-off, followed by an introduction to the VBS staff and activity areas. Tuesday through Thursday, dinner will be provided for all families. On Friday, a pool party is planned for fun and fellowship. Parents be sure to fill out a registration form in advance.

Our summer schedule will begin June 13 and will end after Labor Day. Jeryl and I will take a break from teaching for the summer. Amie Craig will be organizing members to volunteer to teach one Sunday during the summer. Please contact her if you would like to sign up for a Sunday.

### Teaching Schedule for May and June

May 2 HEIFER LESSON 3-The Chicken and the Worm

May 9 HEIFER LESSON 4-The Chicken and the Worm / Mother's Day

May 16 HEIFER LESSON 5-The Chicken and the Worm

May 23 HEIFER LESSON 6-The Chicken and the Worm

May 30 Pentecost-PENTECOST Lesson

June 6 (VBS introduction)

### Vacation Bible School

June 6 - 11, 2010 6:00 - 8:00 (Sunday - Friday)

"BAOBAB BLAST" - African Theme



# NEWS, REMINDERS & UPCOMING EVENTS

## Those serving In May & June

	ACOLYTE	CRUCIFER	ASSISTING MINISTER	LAY READER
2 May	Peth, Margaret	Peth, Corley	Kramer, Jay	Vankus, Vic
9 May	Strong, Garrett	Tibbetts, Nicholas	Lawton, Raymond	Anderson, Annette
16 May	Ward, Jonathan	Ward, Tyler	Semmler, Tammy	Anderson, Lars
23 May	Jordan Anderson	Anderson, Niko	Harmon, Amy	Blank, Randy
Pentecost		BB Kraft, Matthew		
		TB Peth, Corley		
		TB Peth, Margaret		
30 May	Craig, Molly	Kraft, Jacob	Kraft, Joe	Carlson, Eileen
6 June	Kraft Matthew	Smith, Melissa	Kramer, Jay	Erthal, Desiree
13 June	Payne Caitlyn	Kraft, Matthew	Lawton, Raymond	Harmon, Amy
20 June	Peth, Margaret	Peth, Corley	Semmler, Tammy	Hawkins, Catherine
27 June	Strong, Garrett	Tibbetts, Nicholas	Harmon, Amy	Hazard, Merle

### Serving in May

#### Altar Guild

- 2 Tammy Semmler & Jeryl Braswell
- 9 Donna & Terry Rohn
- 16 Joanne Hutchinson & Beth Perry
- 23 Ronda Butler & Beppie Lyles
- 30 Debbie Phillips & Eileen Carlson

#### Ushers

- 2 John & Frankie Butt
- 9 Stan Purvis and Raymond Lawton  
Dan & Desiree Erthal
- 16 Jennifer & Dave Peth
- 23 Terry & Donna Rohn  
Gene Lorenz & Paul Lyle
- 30 Stan & Tammy Semmler

#### Flower Delivery

- Jonas & Julie Strecker
- Randy & Suzanne Blank
- George Saunders
- Beppie Lyles
- Desiree Erthal

#### Council Closing May

- Bo Phillips & Amy Harmon



## YOUNG AT HEARTS Meets Second Tues of each month

**May 11 at 12:00 noon**  
**COME AND JOIN US!**

### THANK YOU

**The Dove Center of the Macon Rescue Mission sent a Thank You letter for the Concert on the Lawn that benefited the Dove Center. The Middle Georgia Concert Band provided a Pop Concert**

### FYI

*Please take note that the church has new office hours 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.*

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#### **Parking Lot fund is up to \$3500.00**

If you would like to make an offering to this fund after your regular offering, it would be greatly appreciated

The Love Offering taken up for one of our members received \$1500.00. Thanks to all who contributed.

**Congregational Meeting May 16 to affirm the Council's recommendation of Vic Vankus, Tammy Semmler, and Doug Malloy to three year terms on the Council Vision Team and to affirm the appointment of Pfiffie Vankus, Elizabeth Malloy, and Donna Rohn to the nominating committee.**

# NEWS, REMINDERS & UPCOMING EVENTS CONTINUED

## Drivers Still Needed

Recently, some of our elderly fellow parishioners could not attend evening services or activities simply because we have not been able to meet their transportation needs. Church council discussed the pros and cons of buying a van, but our current financial situation does not allow a purchase of that magnitude. Therefore, unless somebody wants to donate a van in excellent condition, we are in need of drivers who would be willing to pick up and take home whoever needs a ride to and from church. If we get enough volunteers, nobody would have to go out of their way to assist others who would certainly appreciate the help. If you would like to volunteer as a driver, please contact the church office (742-4281 or [redeemer@redeemermacon.org](mailto:redeemer@redeemermacon.org)) or Jonas Strecker (254-2734 or [jonas\\_strecker@hotmail.com](mailto:jonas_strecker@hotmail.com)). Thank you very much in advance for your help!



**Pastor's  
Spirituality Class  
May 4, 11, 18, & 25  
Tuesday's at 6:30 pm**

**Pastor's  
Bible Study Class  
May 6, 13, 20 & 27  
Thursday's at 10:00 am**

**If you would like to learn more  
about God's word  
please come and join us.**



### GEORGE SAUNDERS' Jazz Appreciation Class

First Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm

First Saturday of each month at 10:00 am



### **May 30 is Memorial Day, a day we are thankful for all those who gave their lives so that we can live in a Democratic Republic known as the United States of America.**

What that means is that among the rights granted us by the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights, is the right to have and voice your opinion. The right to vote your conscience and support the political party of your choice. While we have these rights it also means that we may disagree with the position of another person or political party they have the right to their opinion and position as well.

**Chuckle of the month**— One balmy day in the South Pacific, a navy ship espied smoke coming from one of three huts on an uncharted island. Upon arriving at the shore they were met by a shipwreck survivor. He said, "I'm so glad you're here! I've been alone on this island for more than five years!" The captain replied, "If you're all alone on the island why do I see THREE huts." The survivor said, "Oh. We'll, I live in one, and go to church in another. What about the THIRD hut?" asked the captain? That's where I USED to go to church.

After the service a young couple talked to a church member about joining the church. He hadn't met the husband before, and he asked what church he was transferring from. After a short hesitation, he replied, "I am transferring from the Municipal Golf Course."

## STEWARDSHIP



### **Batter up!** **From the Stewardship Committee**

CRCT's are over, proms are in full swing, students (and parents!) are preparing for graduation.

Teachers are counting the days until school is out. So are parents.

It is only a quick sigh of relief because now we have summer ballgames, swimming, (maybe a little golf), family vacations, and some of the teachers are planning on taking summer courses. I am teaching three of these, so my schedule includes some travel!

Our lives seem so busy that it seems we are caught in a whirlwind that never slows down. Take a deep breath. Stand still for a moment. Hold the hand of someone close to you. Praise God for the many blessings you have and will receive. Thank God for the trials that come your way for it is in these that we build our faith. Take time to be a part of Redeemer's summer activities.

Several of our church family members are Stepping up to the Faith of Giving as they devote their time and talent to organizing and teaching our Vacation Bible School. Please be sure and offer a hand and a prayer (or two).

Sharing the fellowship of food and drink gives us time to get to know each other. Remember, Second Sunday Dinners are immediately following the service on the second Sunday of every month. Bring your favorite dish and share in the nourishment of our bodies after we have nourished our souls at church!

Thank you for all of you who pledged during our 2010 Stepping up to the Faith Campaign. Our pledges totaled more than \$95,000 which gives us a good start on our budget of \$302,000. A few more people are participating in Simply Giving to electronically give to Redeemer. I started this in April and it works great!



Donna Rocker  
Stewardship Committee



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 2     Johannah Bohlings  
      Caitlyn Payne
- 6     Caroline Payne
- 7     Karen Perry
- 8     Sherri Moeller
- 9     Mildred Fitzgibbons  
      Beau Wood
- 12    Tiffany Erthal
- 15    Arlene Garrett  
      Ashe Nelson
- 20    Lars Anderson,  
      Terry Rohn,  
      Pat Ussery
- 21    Ronda Butler
- 24    Tom Pope  
      Stan Semmler
- 25    Melissa Payne
- 26    Marjorie Chana
- 30    Matthew Skilling

If we missed your birthday please let the office know and accept our apologies.

## PRAYER REQUESTS



### Redeemer Worshippers

Anna Allen, Culas Hutchinson , Marty Beliveau, Flo Hallman, and Faye Wilhelm

### Friends of Redeemer-

Albert Saunders/sick/George Saunders's brother

Military: Ariel Sauvey, Chandler Kramer, Ben Morris, Greg Maher, Audra & Evan Harmon, Eric Harmon Lamar Johnson, 1/178th SCNG

## ANNIVERSARIES



- May
- 19    Bert & Melissa Hardwick
- 20    Tim & Penny Smith

### OFFICERS:

President/Beau Wood; Vice President/Jonas Strecker, Secretary/ Anne Roesel; Treasurer/Paul Lyles

### MEMBERS & TEAM APPOINTMENTS:

Evangelism/Jonas Strecker, Treasurer-Finance/Paul Lyles; Worship and Music/Anne Roesel; Property/Bo Phillips; Christian Education/Amie Craig, Social Ministry/Amy Harmon; Stewardship/Donna Rocker

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## CHURCH STAFF

**THE REV. JIM BRASWELL, PHD\PASTOR**

**PARKS GREENE ORGANIST**

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC / ADAM LOCKAMY**

**BRIDGET WARD / SEXTON; NURSERY ATTENDANT**

**OFFICE HOURS 9:00 AM—12:00 PM MON.-THURS.**

\* \* \*

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### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

**9:30 A.M.—GRACE PLACE SUNDAY SCHOOL & EDUCATION HOUR**

**FOR ALL AGES**

**10:00 A.M. CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL**

**10:30 A.M.—WORSHIP / HOLY COMMUNION**

**ONE SERVICE ONLY—NURSERY PROVIDED**

**11:30 A.M.—GATHERING TIME**

**11:45 A.M.—REDEEMER RINGERS**

**(HAND BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL)**