

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
390 Pierce Avenue
Macon, Georgia 31204

WEBSITE: WWW.REDEEMERMACON.ORG



Spirit Filled and Spirit Led

THE VOICE OF REDEEMER

September 2010

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

August, 2010

WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

- Sunday September 5, 12, 19, 26

9:15 a.m. Educational Hour
Teens~Adults~Children
10:30 a.m. Worship / HC
11:30 Gathering Time

One Service Only / Nursery Provided

September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

9:30 a.m. Crafty Ladies

September 6, 13, 20, 27

Adult Bible Study in Parlor at 6:30

September 7, 14, 21, 28

Girl Scouts Meeting 6:00 P.M.

September 2

6:30 p.m. Jazz Appreciation

September 4

10:00 a.m. Jazz Appreciation

September 9

6:30 Book Lovers Group

September 12

2nd Sunday Covered Dish Dinner following the service

September 19

Council Vision Team

WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

- Sunday, October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

9:15 a.m. Educational Hour
Teens~Adults~Children
10:30 a.m. Worship / HC
11:30 Gathering Time
October 31 Reformation Rocks

One Service Only / Nursery Provided

Communion Schedule

Table Communion—1st & 3rd, Sunday
and Intinction—2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday

Dear Partners in Ministry:

It came as a pleasant surprise, to discover, that Jeryl and I are starting our sixth year at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. It seems as though we have been here our entire ministry and yet as if we just finished meeting with the call committee.

What will the future produce? What direction should we go in? The answer seems to me should be "I do not know" for only God knows what the future will bring. Some would say you make your future by your actions today. Others would say you can predict things about the future but you cannot know for sure because of unknown and uncontrollable variables. Having said this, it seems to me that if we follow the word of scripture and open ourselves to God through prayer we will see that God is in control of our futures and what God wills, will be. We will hear that quite still voice who guides us each step of the day. I know this sounds difficult because we want to be in control of our futures but the future is about trust and faith in God and not control. It is about living out God's will and plan day by day as testified to in the scriptures.

"In Hebrews 11: 8-12, Paul writes: "⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

Abraham did not try to control the future and did not refuse God's will but instead trusted and in faith followed God's will for the future. God said show hospitality to the stranger, feed those who have need, and comfort those who need comforting. His future was determined not by him but the God he believed in and trusted. Abraham knew the God as is recorded in Genesis 15:1 who said, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." The scriptures are full of people who placed their faith and trust in God and found God to keep His promises. Here again Psalm 33: 12-18, when the Psalmist sings:

"Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD! Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage! The LORD looks down from heaven, and sees all humankind. God sits firmly enthroned and watches all who dwell on the earth. God fashions all their hearts and observes all their deeds. A king is not saved by the size of the army, nor are warriors rescued by their great strength. The horse gives vain hope for victory; despite its great strength it cannot save. Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O LORD, upon those who wait for your steadfast love." It is when we, the people of God turn back to God,

Continued on page 2

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY continued

converse with God and follow God's word will we find as Abraham did our future's are secure.

God has always called us to "do justice, show mercy, and walk humbly with our God." That is, justice and mercy to all of creation, not just those we choose. The Scriptures show us God's hand; God's hand leads us to the future; prayer gives us the strength and courage to follow his direction; and thus, the future while scary and difficult is safe and secure.

Your partner in ministry

Pastor Jim Braswell

COUNCIL VISION TEAM

Council Vision Team Meeting Minutes 27 June 2010

Members Present: Pastor Braswell, Tammy Semmler, Doug Malloy, Vic Vankus, Amie Craig, Amy Harmon, Jonas Strecker, Bo Phillips. Donna Rocker and Paul Lyles were excused.

Pastor opened the meeting with a prayer.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor made visits to our shut-ins, and was with members undergoing operations.
- Pastor attended the funeral for Bill Lober's father.

Treasurer's Report:

- We are still spending more than people are giving as offerings.

Other Business:

- Council elected the following as officers for this year:

President: Jonas Strecker

Vice-President: Donna Rocker

Secretary: Anne Roesel

Treasurer: Paul Lyles

- Committee Assignments are as follows:

Finance: Paul Lyles and Bill Moses

Stewardship: Vic Vankus and Donna Rocker

Evangelism: Donna Rocker

Social Ministry: Tammy Semmler

Education: Amie Craig

Worship and Music: Anne Roesel, Chair; Amy Harmon Council Liaison

Property: Bo Phillips, Chair; and Doug Malloy

- There has been a request for Usher training. Pastor will set this up.
- We are looking to have a weekly meal at church. Details will come later.
- The Finance team needs to have the proposed budget for 2011 for the September meeting.
- There are no meetings scheduled for the month of July.

Respectfully submitted,
Vision Team Secretary

BOOKLOVERS' GROUP

Book Lovers Group article for September 2010

The Book Lovers Group will meet on Thursday September 9th, at 6:30 PM. We will be discussing the book 'Pontoon', by Garrison Keillor. The following is a brief description of the book: 'Evelyn Peterson comes home after a night on the town with her friends. She is in bed reading when the angel comes to take her to heaven. Evelyn has left instructions for her daughter. Her daughter should dress her in her green sequined dress; have her body cremated; have her ashes placed in her green bowling ball; and finally, the bowling ball should be dropped in Lake Wobegon. The Detmer girl has planned her wedding for the same day that the ashes will be dropped in the lake. There are about twenty Lutheran ministers from Denmark coming to town that same day. All of this is will take place on Lake Wobegon.'

If you cannot join us on this day, please check the following dates we will meet.

14 October 10
 'Same Kind of Different as Me'
 By Ron Hall & Denver Moore

11 November 10
 'Shoot the Moon'
 By Billie Letts

9 December 10
 'A Christmas Guest'
 By Anne Perry

13 January 11
 'Friendship Cake'
 By Lynne Hinton



The Book Lovers Group is open to anyone who enjoys reading books. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Anne Roesel, 474-3555 or 390-3072.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

From Worship and Music:



We are very happy to welcome our new organist, Thomas Williford. He is a freshman at Mercer University, living on campus this year. His home is Lawrenceville, GA.

If you have any questions or concerns about our services or music, please contact a member of the Worship and Music team: Adam Lockamy, Anne Roesel, Beau Wood, Gaye Wood, and Amy Harmon.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Grace Place

August/September Newsletter.

Summer is over and the new school year has begun. Grace Place is beginning a new year as well. This year we will use a new teaching curriculum called "Growing in Christ". I am so excited to have resources that include everything the children need to learn meaningful lessons from the bible. We will kick-off the new teaching year with Rally Day on September 12th. The new curriculum will be introduced and we will also reflect on all the fun we had at VBS. Rally day will begin at the 9:15, with the children gathering in the education building for lessons, music and fellowship. After the worship service, we will have our monthly covered dish luncheon, where I will entertain you with a presentation of "Baobab Blast".

Hopefully, you have noticed that the number of children joining us each Sunday has increased. Now, we will be dividing the children in two groups during Sunday school. Jeryl Braswell will teach the younger children and I will teach the elementary school age children. Once again Adam Lockamy will provide music directions with songs that correlate to the lessons we teach. The children are encouraged to share an offering and are rewarded with a sticker on a chart. Their offerings come from doing good deeds for their family. Each Sunday the children also receive a small snack, which allows us to teach them to be grateful and thank God for all their blessings. As you can tell, a lot happens in just an hour every Sunday and we really have a wonderful time together. Our children are learning to love God and each other.

Have you ever wondered how you could get involved? Consider bringing snack packs of crackers or cookies or even homemade goodies (yum), Maybe a donation of a TV and DVD player to show bible stories. We need puppets, puzzles and games that reinforce the lessons. Or even serve as a helper; there are always times when extra hands are needed. Even little things like glue sticks, markers and Kleenex are greatly appreciated. Please join in growing our precious young ones that are blooming all around you at Redeemer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rebecca S. Lober



NEWS, REMINDERS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Those serving In September and October

	ACOLYTE	CRUCIFER	ASSISTING MINISTER	LAY READER
5 September	Craig, Molly	Kraft Jacob	Harmon, Amy	Tibbetts, Carmeron
12 September	Kraft, Matthew	Smith, Melissa	Kraft, Joe	Vankus, Vic
19 September	Payne, Caitlyn	Kraft, Matthew	Kramer, Jay	Anderson, Annette
26 September	Peth, Margaret	Peth, Corley	Raymond Lawton	Anderson, Lars
3 October	Strong, Garrett	Tibbetts, Nicholas	Semmler, Tammy	Rocker, Donna
10 October	Ward, Jonathan	Ward, Tyler	Harmon, Amy	Carlson, Eileen
17 October	Anderson, Jordan	Anderson, Niko	Kraft, Joe	Erthal, Desiree
24 October	Craig, Molly	Kraft, Jacob	Kramer, Jay	Harmon, Amy
31 October	Kraft, Matthew	Smith, Melissa	Lawton, Raymond	Hawkins, Catherine
		BB Kraft, Jacob		

Serving in September

Ushers

5 Frankie and John Butts
12 Tammy and Stan Semmler
19 Desiree and Dan Erthal
26 Gene Lorenz and Paul Lyles

Altar Guild

5 Jeryl Braswell and Tammy Semmler
12 Donna and Terry Rohn
19 Joanne Hutchinson and Beth Perry
26 Ronda Butler and Beppie Lyles

Flower Delivery

Beppie Lyles
George Saunders
Desiree Erthal
Jalaine Ward

Council Closing September

Donna Rocker and Doug Malloy



YOUNG AT HEARTS *Meets Second Tues of each month* **September 14 at 11:30**

COME AND JOIN US! FOR LUNCH

FYI

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

Parking Lot fund is up to \$3930.00

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

Christian Education

August Newsletter

The summer is quickly coming to an end and school days are here again. We had a small group of children this summer in grace place, however, each and every week we had a volunteer teacher present and ready to teach. It was a loose and fun curriculum that related to Christ and living a Christian life. We still have about 4 more Sundays left in the summer schedule. We have the largest number of children participating in grace place than we have had in the past 5 years.

Our summer VBS program was a huge success thanks to the wonderful planning and execution under the direction of Rebecca Lober and Jeryl Braswell. I want to personally thank all the parents of the grace place children for bringing their children to VBS, Sunday school, and church as well as the volunteer teachers and helpers who have given their time and talents to the children. We look forward with excitement to the upcoming year. We have brand new, exciting materials that we will be using for the first time. So, get ready for an exciting year filled with stories from the bible as we teach our children how to grow with Christ!

Amie Craig

NEWS, REMINDERS & UPCOMING EVENTS CONTINUED

Chuckle Moments- An Atheist decided to take a vacation, and go fishing. He picked as his destination the Loch Ness in Scotland. While out in a boat fishing, the Loch Ness Monster approached and hissed at him. The Atheist cried out, "Lord, save me, help me Lord!" A voice from Heaven came down and said, "I thought you did not believe in Me!" Replied the Atheist, "A minute ago, I didn't believe in the Loch Ness Monster, either."

A little boy opened the big and old family Bible with fascination, and looked at the old pages as he turned them. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible, and he picked it up and looked at it closely. It was an old leaf from a tree that had been pressed in between the pages. "Momma, look what I found," the boy called out. "What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked. With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered: "I think it's Adam's suit!"

The Sunday School teacher asked, "Now, Johnny, tell me, do you say your prayers before eating?" "No sir," he replied, "We don't have to. My mom is a good cook!"

Why is it...A man or woman blames most accidents on fate or God, but feels a more personal responsibility when he or she makes a hole-in-one on the golf course.

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but the fly comes close. [Mark Twain]

Sorry looks back. Worry looks around. Faith looks up.

GEORGE SAUNDERS'

Jazz Appreciation Class First Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm
First Saturday of each month at 10:00 am



Recycling Update

From Redeemer's Recycling Center:

Thanks to everyone who participates in recycling. Just a couple of words:
Please rinse all bottles, jars, and cans.
Please shake out excess liquid.
Please remove caps from bottles and jars.

I encourage everyone to buy and reuse the reusable bags that most stores sell. You can also purchase them on-line and support your favorite sports team, NPR program, etc.

If curb-side recycling is available in your area, please use it.

For more information, see our brochure available in the Narthex.

Pastor's Spirituality Class

Is over for the summer but will begin again in September on

Tuesday's at 6:30 pm
In the Church Parlor
AND



Thursday's at 10:00 am

If you would like to learn more about God's word in the Vision Room



please come and join us.

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) or Jonas Strecker (254-2734 or jonas_strecker@hotmail.com). Thank you very much in advance for your help!

STEWARDSHIP

I hope that we can take a few quiet moments to reflect on this letter. It sums up the true understanding of stewardship of possessions and giving. I hope this becomes for us a part of our spiritual journey in understanding our selves as we come to understand our God.

Copied--

Our lives are not our own. Such a conviction is counter-intuitive in the face of the American ideal that my life, and by extension my stuff, belongs to me. The American dream promises that if we work hard and play by the rules, we'll have a chance to have our little piece of heaven on earth. The pursuit of happiness is not, in fact, a Christian virtue. As the singer Bob Dylan once put it, "happy is a yuppie word." Our tradition is full of warnings for those who merely pursue 'happiness' (Luke 12:13-21). Jesus promises the life that really is life, life abundant, but not happiness (John 10:10).

We are, in the archaic language of the Bible, enslaved either to sin or to Jesus Christ. Such language is not our typical everyday framing of the issue. But the 16th century reformers used the image of humans as horses, either ridden by the devil or by Christ. They did not, in other words, believe as many do today in freedom of the will. Rather they were concerned with the question of the bondage of the will. As with Jesus and Paul, they asked not if we were free or slaves, but which master we serve. (Luke 16:13; Romans 7:15)

In baptism, we are claimed as God's beloved. We die to sin and rise to life 'in Christ.' Such baptismal claiming has two senses. God has claimed us for good. Yet while we live, we struggle to die to sin and open ourselves to the life Christ desires to live through us. "It is not I who live," says Paul, "but Christ who lives in me." (Galatians 2:20)

Our lives, then, are Christ's. Because God has graciously judged our sin, forgiven us in mercy, and offered us new life 'in Christ' our lives belong to him. Our lives take on the shape of his life, becoming if you will 'little Christs' in the world. We are, all of us, his body. The shape of Christ's life could be described in many ways, but I am most drawn to a poetic summary in Philippians (2:5-8) that likely served as an early church hymn:

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus
Who, being in the form of God
did not consider equality with God as something to be grasped
but made himself nothing
taking on the form of the servant
being made in human likeness
and being found in the appearance as a man
he humbled himself
and became obedient to death—
even death on a cross.

I take this to mean that those things that are "mine" are not mine but rather belong to those who don't have them and need them. Everything I am and have is a gift from God and nothing is for me alone, as an individual, but for those in need of that very thing I have been given. I love the interpretation Martin Luther gives of this passage. He doesn't pull any punches. "If there is anything in us, it is not our own; it is a gift of God. But if it is a gift of God, then it is entirely a debt one owes to love, that is, to the law of Christ. And if it is a debt owed to love, then I must serve others with it, not myself. Thus my learning is not my own; it belongs to the unlearned and it is a debt I owe to them. My wisdom belongs to the foolish, my power to the oppressed. Thus my wealth belongs to the poor, my righteousness to the sinners. For these are the forms of God which we must empty ourselves, in order that forms of a servant may be in us (Phil. 2:6)."

Stewardship, then, is the gift and task of living 'in Christ'. It is a life of joy and of suffering. It is a communal life, full of being blessed in order to be a blessing. It encompasses everything. Living thus is not simple; we need each other, in other words, and we know that in our bones.

Here is the bottom line. Whatever we have that our congregation needs already belongs to it. We give our presence, our attention and prayer and singing, as we gather for worship. That is primary. Along with our presence in worship we give our money. As much as we can give will be put to good use in support of program and staff and mission. We give our distinctive skills in service of our common life, teaching, singing, sorting, counting, stuffing, serving, welcoming, ushering, justice-making, listening, sorrow-bearing, and so many others. When we know we have it, we seek a way, a place, where it is needed. And sometimes, the community knows we have it and calls us to give it up for the sake of a common need. There is a divine economy in this, and it is driven not by selfish desire but holy giving, out of an abundance we ourselves did not earn but received out of the open hand of God.

May stewardship be the flourishing of this divine economy of holy giving and receiving, and may it be a sign to all the world of the God who, for our sake, took the form of a servant.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Social Ministry Headline

Life is beautiful but it can also be very unpredictable, challenging and difficult. In today's unsettling times, financial challenges are frequent – both for individuals and for congregations struggling to support its ministries in their communities. In recent years, unemployment continues to rise, creating even more challenges. In turn this increases the domino effect of providing the basic essentials of life; food, clothing, medical and housing.

When these situations arise, many people begin to withdraw from the community where they once thrived. We are called by God through his Son, Jesus Christ to love our neighbors as ourselves.

In these times, it becomes the church's privilege to reassure the people in our community that there is hope. One of my goals for this committee is to revitalize the weekly food gathering. A large basket will be placed in the Narthex where food or other items may be collected. This will be placed in the Sunday bulletin what item we will be collecting.

We will also continue to provide Thanksgiving Dinner for those families that receive meals from "Meals on Wheels" and we will provide gifts and a Christmas party for children that receive assistance from "Angel Tree Ministries". Pop tabs for the *Ronald McDonald House* will also continue. This has dwindled in the past months. Pop tabs may be from any can that has a pull top, such as soup, tuna, canned pet food and of course pop.

Starting September 1, 2010, please gather any item that are no longer used and bring them to the church to be sold in the yard sale. We will have another Yard Sale slated for the first Saturday in November.

Please join me in the Fellowship Hall on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM beginning with September as we finalize these plans for the coming year and share the gospel and fellowship. If you have any questions or concerns, I may be reached at 478-387-8500 or email me at tamram59@yahoo.com

Peace,
Tammy Semmler

Food Pantry Food Item List:

Ramen noodles
Peanut Butter & Jelly
Breakfast Items - pancake mix, cereal
Juice boxes and bottled juice
Canned soup
spagetti & spagetti sauce
tuna fish
macaroni & cheese
Ravioli
Beef stew
Toilet paper
baby diapers

USHER SCHEDULE

Ushers August 22 – December 2010

Date	Ushers
22 August	Vic and Phiffie Vankus
29 August	Randy and Sue Blank
5 September	John and Frankie Butt
12 September	Tammie and Stan Semmler
19 September	Dan and Desiree Erthal
26 September	Gene Lorenz and Paul Lyles
3 October	Terry and Donna Rohn
10 October	Raymond Lawton and Stan Purvis
17 October	John and Frankie Butt
24 October	Lars Anderson and Bill Lober
31 October	Vic and Phiffie Vankus
7 November	Randy and Sue Blank
14 November	Jennifer and Dave Peth
21 November	Tammie and Stan Semmler
28 November	Dan and Desiree Erthal
5 December	Gene Lorenz and Paul Lyles
12 December	Terry and Donna Rohn
19 December	Raymond Lawton and Stan Purvis
24 December 4PM	Lars Anderson and Bill Lober
24 December 11PM	Jennifer and Dave Peth
26 December	Vic and Phiffie Vankus



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

September

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|----|----------------|
| 5 | Trey Purvis
Penny Smith | 25 | Marty Beliveau |
| 6 | Lorri Hampton | 26 | Eileen Carlson |
| 8 | Jake Ferro | | |
| 9 | Tony Bohling | | |
| 10 | Pastor Braswell | | |
| 13 | Cordelia Nelson | | |
| 15 | Joanne Hutchinson
Hiram Mecado | | |
| 17 | Jonathan Ward | | |
| 22 | Virginia Beckmann | | |

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, Kim Bohan, and Stacy Kraft

Friends of Redeemer-

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

ANNIVERSARIES



- | | |
|----|----------------------|
| 1 | Bill & Lib Menger |
| 17 | Dale & Jennifer Peth |
| 18 | Gene & Jonnie Lorenz |
| 20 | Kevin & Amie Craig |

OFFICERS:

President/Jonas Strecker; Vice President/Donna Rocker, Secretary/Anne Roesel; Treasurer/Paul Lyles

MEMBERS & TEAM APPOINTMENTS:

Evangelism/Donna Rocker, Treasurer-Finance/Paul Lyles; Worship and Music/Anne Roesel and Amy Harmon; Property/Bo Phillips and Doug Malloy; Christian Education/Amie Craig, Social Ministry/Tammy Semmler; Stewardship/Vic Vankus

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
390 Pierce Avenue
Macon, Georgia 31204

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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CHURCH STAFF

THE REV. JIM BRASWELL, PHD\PASTOR

THOMAS WILLIFORD/ 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)