



Spirit Filled and Spirit Led

THE VOICE OF REDEEMER

FEBRUARY 2011

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
390 Pierce Avenue
Macon, Georgia 31204
Website: www.redeemermacon.org

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

January 25, 2011

WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

- Sunday 9:15 a.m. Educational Hour
Teens~Adults~Children
10:30 a.m. Worship / HC
11:30 Gathering Time
One Service Only / Nursery Provided

FEBRUARY

Jazz Appreciation on the first Saturday at 10:00

Coming-

Organ Recital by Dr. Karen Black 7:00 8 February
Book Lovers Group 6:30 10 February
Second Sunday Covered
Dish Lunch 13 February
Council Meeting 20 February

Communion Schedule

Table Communion—1st and 3rd, Sunday of the month
Intinction—2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday of the month.

Coming Events

Spaghetti Supper Friday 18 March

Dear Partners in Ministry;

It is recorded in Matthew 19:14 “Jesus said, ‘Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.’” I have always appreciated Jesus’ words about children for Jesus truly understands children and their realities. His words show that children know the meaning of our Lord’s words “belongs the kingdom of heaven.”

I am always amazed at the joy and wonder in children’s faces as they encounter people and the world. Natalie, our granddaughter, put everything into perspective as she looked out the door yesterday and said, “wow, sunshine.” For her everything she encounters, flowers, a stick on the ground, a neighbor working in his yard, to the dogs sleeping is a “wow” moment. She always appears amazed at God’s creation and her participation in it.

Young children are able to see the world and its people through the eyes of God. They see creation, the beauty, the joy, and the gift as just for them, “Wow” moments. Young children see, through their imagination and their limited knowledge, the creation as God intended. As adults we filter creation through our experiences and what we perceive to be the reality of life. We no longer experience the “Wow” of the moment. We live in a high tech, fast paced world, with the information highway bombarding us with current happenings from around the globe. It sometimes feels as if we should be singing “stop the world I want to get off,” but we cannot because it is moving too fast.

Scripture points out to us, yesterday is gone, tomorrow has not yet come, we only have the present. Jesus tells us we “should be more like children” and “to live in the moment” for the “kingdom of God is at hand.” Jesus is saying stop and smell the roses once in a while.

Let us start looking at the miracle of creation in which live. Let us use our imagination to see the possibilities of God’s creation. Let us become more like children and get the “Wow” moments back in our lives.

Your Partner in Ministry,
Jim Braswell
Jim Braswell, Pastor

Council Meeting Minutes

Council Vision Team Meeting Minutes 16 January 2011

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

Anne Roesel was not able to attend due to illness.

Pastor opened the meeting with a prayer.

There was no meeting in December.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor has made numerous visits to shut-ins, hospitals, and nursing homes. He has also attended several meetings and had counseling sessions with several individuals.

Nursery Attendant:

Church is in need of an individual to keep the nursery for approximately 3 hours a week, pay is \$25.00 per week, and individual must be willing to submit to a background check. Possible choice may be a Mercer student. If anyone is interested, contact the church office. It was also decided to limit the age for children in the nursery to 8 years old and younger.

Counting Procedures:

Council discussed the proper way to count the offering: place in three separate piles; member envelopes, non-member envelopes, and cash. Place on tally sheet. Need to run a tape for checks and cash; label each tape and place in Pastor's box. If there is a check of \$250.00 or more from a non-member, please note on tally sheet.

Food Pantry and Clothes Closet:

A sign has been placed on back door of Grace Place stating new hours of operations for the food pantry and clothes closet. Our food supply needs to be replenished. One suggestion was to place containers near the altar on each second Sunday to collect canned goods as part of the offerings and another idea was to have the children in Sunday school collect canned goods as part of their offering. Also, send out an email on Thursday to remind folks to bring their canned goods to the food pantry.

Advertising:

There is a need to invest more monies to advertise a free recital. More details to come, but there will be a guest organist at Mercer on Feb 7 and she has agreed to give a free recital on Feb 8 here at the church.

Treasurer's Report:

Paul Lyles gave his report with hand-outs. Year-end income exceeds expenses, but this is with no programs.

Other Business:

Spaghetti supper raised approximately \$3,000. There was discussion that at the next in-house dinner, wine will be offered for a donation. Bo Phillips made a motion to approve, Donna Rocker seconded. Motion carried.

The paving project has been a work in progress for 3 years and with the 4 estimates that are in place, it will cost roughly \$29,000 - \$32,000. As of date, we are at \$10,000. A suggestion was made to place a chart in the narthex so everyone will know where we are.

We also will be placing Bibles in the pews and those have been ordered. They will be NRSV Bibles.

Annual Reports are due January 31, 2011.

The schedule for the Lenten suppers will be sent out by Anne Roesel.

Donna Rocker will place Time & Talent sheet in pews for individuals to complete.

Vic Vankus is working on the pledge cards and *Simply Giving Program*.

No further business; meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
T Semmler

BOOKLOVERS' GROUP

The Book Lovers Group will meet on Thursday February 10th, at 6:30 PM. We will be discussing the book 'Still Alice', by Lisa Genova. The following is taken from the book jacket: 'Alice Howland is proud of the life she worked so hard to build. At fifty years old, she's a cognitive psychology professor at Harvard and a world-renowned expert in linguistics with a successful husband and three grown children. When she becomes increasingly disoriented and forgetful, a tragic diagnosis changes her life – and her relationship with her family and the world – forever. At once beautiful and terrifying, *Still Alice* is a moving and vivid depiction of life with early-onset Alzheimer's disease.'

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

10 March 11

'Comfort Food'

By Kate Jacobs

14 April 11

'The Lost Symbol'

By Dan Brown

12 May 11

'Every Last One'

By Anna Quindlen

9 June 11

'The Memory of Running'

By Ron McLarty

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.

Calling All Youth (7th—12th grades)

The All-Georgia Lutheran Youth Gathering will be March 11-13 at the New Ebenezer Retreat Center in Rincon, Ga. The cost is \$85 per person. Contact Lake & Kelly Lambert at 254-5977 or lambert_1@mercer.edu for registration and carpool information

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

It is time to schedule people to serve as acolyte, crucifer, lay reader, assisting minister, altar guild, flower deliverer. If you would like to serve in any position, please contact the church office, or fill out a time and talent sheet.

Remember, if you are scheduled to serve in any capacity on a Sunday, and you find you will not be able to be in church that day, please contact the church office as soon as possible. That allows time to find a replacement. It is very hard to find a replacement on Sunday morning.

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

Recycling News

If you are taking items to recycle, consider stopping by the church to pick up our recycling items.

Please remove all bottle tops before recycling.

If you have any recycling tips, please contact the church office. We will then pass the information on to everybody.

Food Pantry

Our food pantry is in need of the following items:

Canned Meat

Canned Peas

Canned Fruit

Canned Potatoes

Cereal

Canned Corn

Ramen Noodles

Canned Mixed Vegetables

Soap

Personal Care Products

Toilet Paper

Comments and Chuckles

A Miracle?

Father O'Malley was driving down to Boston when he got stopped for speeding in Medford. The highway patrol officer smelled alcohol on the priest's breath and then saw an empty wine bottle on the floor of the car.

He said, 'Father, have you been drinking?'

'Only water', replied Father O'Malley.

The policeman asked, 'Then how come I can smell wine?'

The priest looked at the bottle and said, 'Good Lord! He's done it again.'

Church Signs

'God so loved the world that He didn't send a committee'

'Come in and pray today. Beat the Easter rush'

"It is unlikely there'll be a reduction in the wages of sin."

"Do not wait for the hearse to take you to church."

Bibb County Schools needs judges for our 10th annual Technology Fair!!!!
Would you please consider judging?

Judges volunteer to score student projects from approximately 7:30 – 12:00 on Saturday, February 5 at Howard High School. We provide them with everything they need including nourishment and thank you gifts!

Please visit this website (judges must register online).

<http://schools.bibb.k12.ga.us> click on the "Important Links" to TechFair 2011 and go to Judges.

Thank you for your support of public education!

Rebecca Lober
Technology Specialist
Bibb County Schools

SUMMER CAMP

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Redeemer Family,

Why are we Lutherans? Is it by default (because our parents are Lutherans)? Is it because it's fun (sin all week, get redeemed on Sunday by drinking wine, and then do it all over again)? Or is it because we actually subscribe to Lutheran theology? No matter what our reasons are, Martin Luther translated the Bible for one reason: so people like you and I can read it. That's what we've been doing for the last few weeks in Sunday school. Our own Dr. Lake Lambert has been doing a superb job leading the course whose ambitious goal is to cover the whole Bible in sixteen weeks. Each Sunday morning at 9:30, between 20 and 25 members as well as visitors have shown up to learn more about the Scriptures. How much do you know? Pop quiz:

1. What does "Bible" mean?
 - The word of God
 - The books
 - The good news

2. How many commandments are there?
 - 2
 - 10
 - 12
 - 613

All of the above could be justifiably argued

If you want to know the answers to these and many more questions, come and join us next Sunday. It doesn't matter if you missed the first few sessions; you will fit right in. There is a short book that goes along with our sessions ([The Greatest Story](#)), but you can easily follow each lesson without the book. Upcoming lessons include: Trails of Tears and Joy (2 Kings—Esther, Lamentations, Daniel), When God Speaks (The Prophets), For Every Matter Under Heaven (Wisdom and Poetry Books), and more. I am looking forward to seeing you in the fellowship hall next Sunday!

Peace,
Jonas Strecker, President

STEWARDSHIP

Dear Lutheran Church of the Redeemer Members,

The 2011 Stewardship season is here. Throughout the month of February we'll be focusing on the practice of congregational stewardship and considering what stewardship means to each of us and LCR. During the coming month I want to ask LCR members to consider making a financial pledge to the church. Pledging is an expression of our faith and trust in God and this simple act demonstrates our personal commitment to LCR. Pledge cards will be mailed to every member of our LCR family. Please return pledge cards during the weekly offering or to the church office by February 28.

If you haven't made a financial pledge to LCR in the past, please consider making your first pledge to LCR in 2011. If you have made a pledge in the past years, thank you, and please consider pledging again.

Vic Vankus

Stewardship Committee

NEWS, REMINDERS & UPCOMING EVENTS CONTINUED



Those serving this month FEBRUARY

Acolyte

6 Margaret Peth
13 Jonathan Ward
20 Molly Craig
27 Zack Lambert

Crucifer

Corley Peth
Matthew Kraft
Tyler Ward
Jacob Kraft

Asst. Minister

Raymond Lawton
Tammy Semmler
Amy Harmon
Joe Kraft

Reader

Eileen Carlson
Molly Craig
Desiree Erthal
Amy Harmon

Usher

6 Terry & Donna Rohn
13 Vic & Phiffie Vankus
20 John & Frankie Butt
27 Lars Anderson & Bill Lober

Altar Guild

Jeryl Braswell & Eileen Carlson
Ronda Butler & Beppie Lyles
Frankie & John Butt
Gaye & Beau Wood

Flower Delivery

6 Jalaine Ward
13 Donna Rohn
20 Kathy Affolter
27 Jonas & Julie Strecker

Council Closing for month of February

Jonas Strecker & Donna Rocker



To the Redeemer Church Family:

Thank you so very much for your kindness and concern during our time of bereavement. You have touched our hearts and lessened our grief.

Virginia and George Saunders and the Woolfork Family

Reminder

The Girl Scouts meet in our fellowship hall on Tuesday at 6pm.

All girls are welcome to attend.



YOUNG AT HEARTS

Young at Hearts

WILL BE MEETING for the month on **February 8.**
Come join us for food and fun.

Master Calendar

We maintain a master calendar in the church office. If you need to schedule a meeting, rehearsal, party, etc., please call the church office. We would like to avoid having two events scheduled for the same space at the same time. This applies to all functions.

Second Sunday Dinner and Food for All

I love Second Sunday Dinner! There is always such an array of food from which to choose and fill our bellies to the aching point. We will be putting together a cookbook this year to with a lot of those recipes, but more on that later. The fellowship at Second Sunday Dinner is even better than the food (if that could be possible). It is fun to see everyone just relaxing, getting to know each other or sharing new stories, and laughing.

What about those who struggle to have food on the table for even the simplest of meals? We sometimes take our food pantry for granted and do not realize how much it is used by the community. As a result, those pantry shelves become empty very quickly. To help keep the shelves stocked more effectively, we are adding another component to Second Sunday Dinner.

On the Second Sunday of each month, we will have two large baskets in the altar area as part of the offering portion of the service. We will take a few moments for everyone to bring their non-perishable items to place in the baskets for the food pantry. All of the offerings will then be blessed to God's service. We want the baskets to overflow every month!

Be sure to check the bulletin each week to see if there are special items we need in the pantry. Some things go off the shelves more quickly than others. Thanks for the wonderful food you bring to Second Sunday Dinner and thanks for the food you bring for those less fortunate.

Donna Hellwig Rocker
Evangelism Committee

PICTORIAL MAKE-UP DATE

The final make-up date for our pictorial is Tuesday February 8, from 2:00—9:00 pm. If you have not had an opportunity to have your picture made for our Pictorial Directory, please call Olan Mills at 1-800-866-2263 to schedule your appointment.

REMINDER

If you move something because you need it elsewhere or it is in your way where it is, please move it back when you are through. For instance, the cradle, used during the children's program on December 12th, was left in the Sanctuary. It was finally moved back to the educational building earlier this year. The banners were removed from the fellowship hall prior to VBS in 2010. They have yet to be returned to the fellowship hall.

Standing at the Gate of the Year

Donna Hellwig Rocker
Evangelism Committee

“And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown. And he replied: Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way.”

These words were written by Minnie Louise Haskins in 1908 and made famous by King George VI at the beginning of World War II who read it as part of his first Christmas message broadcast in 1939. They are still words that ring true in this new year!

I find the words “safer than a known way” worth pondering. How is walking a safe, familiar path not safer than walking in the dark? Walking with God and following His will for us is not always an easy task. In fact, sometimes it is downright scary and we fight it with everything we have. It is as if we are saying to God, “You can’t be serious!” At times, the path we travel is not a choice. I have a card on my bulletin board at work that has a drawing of a child with a stick over his/her shoulder which holds a tied kerchief full of something (maybe food) and carrying a beat-up suitcase. There is a fork in the road. One sign says “No longer an option.” The other road sign says “your life.” On the top of the card it is written “Don’t Look Back.” The child is walking down “Your Life Road.” I’ve taken this road a number of times and fully expect to take it a few more.

But what about those times we do have a choice? We have a choice to help others and we can even choose how we help them. We have a choice to smile or frown at a stranger. There are many choices available right here at Redeemer which may at first seem like taking a dark path because it is unfamiliar. I encourage you to prayerfully take God’s hand and fill out the Time and Talent form, volunteer to help on a committee, and reach beyond the seat in the pew to actively participate in God’s work. Prayerfully take God’s hand and make a new commitment to our Pledge drive when it begins. When you become engaged in the activities of the people here at Redeemer (the people are the church, not the building itself) your life will be fuller and you will feel God’s love surround you in ways you never imagined! The stained glass windows become more beautiful, the music sweeter, and the lights brighter!

King George VI quoted only the first few lines of Haskins’ poem. Here it is in its entirety.

The Gate of the Year

Mary Louise Haskins, 1908

I said to the man, who stood at the gate of the year ‘Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown’
And he replied ‘Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known Way’
So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

So heart be still
What need our little life
Our human life to know,
If God hath comprehension?
In all the dizzy strife
Of things both high and low,
God hideth his intention.
God Knows. His will
Is best. The stretch of years
Which wind ahead, so dim
To our imperfect vision,
Are clear to God, Our fears
Are premature; In Him
All time hath full provision.
Then rest; until
God moves to lift the veil
From our impatient eyes,
When, as the sweeter features
Of life's stern face we hail,
Fair beyond all surmise
God's thought around His creatures
Our minds shall fill.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

February

- 3 Chandler Kramer
- 5 Sherrie Moses
- 6 Stephen Lober
- 12 Max Roesel III
- 15 Chris Harmon
- 17 Doug Ruffin
- 20 Daniella Hampton
Carl Wilhelm
- 26 Jo-Ann Beitz
Tammy Semmler

PRAYER REQUESTS



Redeemer Worshipers

Anna Allen, Kim Bohan, Culas Hutchinson, Bill Loyd

Friends of Redeemer-

Janet Hamlin, Dr. Bob Parris, Johanna Jernigan and family,
Lisa Becker

Military: Chandler Kramer, Ben Morris

ANNIVERSARIES



February

- 10 Terry & Donna Rohn
- 23 Phil & Debbie Phillips
- 24 Vincent & Nancy Skilling
- 25 Doug & Evelyn Ruffin

NOTE: If we have missed your birthday and / or anniversary, or if you are not sure that we have the correct dates, please call the church office. Thank you

COUNCIL VISION TEAM

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

Non-Profit Organization
US POSTAGE PAID
Macon, Georgia
PERMIT 54

CHURCH STAFF

THE REV. JIM BRASWELL, PHD / PASTOR

THOMAS WILLIFORD ORGANIST

ADAM LOCKAMY / DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

BRIDGET WARD / SEXTON; NURSERY ATTENDANT

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

* * *

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SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:15 A.M.—EDUCATION HOUR

FOR CHILDREN~TEENS~ADULTS

9:30 A.M.—GRACE PLACE SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:00 A.M. CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL

10:30 A.M.—WORSHIP / HOLY COMMUNION

ONE SERVICE ONLY—NURSERY PROVIDED