



Spirit Filled and Spirit Led

THE VOICE OF REDEEMER

April 2011

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

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

March 29, 2011

Dear Partners in Ministry;

As Lent marches toward a wooden cross on a hill at a place called Golgotha and the empty grave of Easter, what is happening in our lives? Are we developing a relationship with the Risen Christ? Are we finding more courage to step out in faith in answer to God's call to us? Are we attempting to see God's face in our fellow humanity and the Christ in our lives?

Frederick Buechner, Presbyterian Minister, writer, and sometimes a theologian "theologized" in his book "Whistling in the Dark" about Easter. "The symbol of Easter is the empty tomb. You can't depict or domesticate emptiness. You can't make it into pageants and string it with lights. It doesn't move people to give presents to each other or sing old songs. It ebbs and flows all around us, the Eastertide. Even the great choruses of Handel's Messiah sound a little like a handful of crickets chirping under the moon.

He rose. A few saw him briefly and talked to him. If it is true, there is nothing left to say. If it is not true, there is nothing left to say. For believers and unbelievers both, life has never been the same again. For some, neither has death. What is left now is the emptiness. There are those who, like Magdalen, will never stop searching it till they find his face."

Is that not the theme of Easter? An empty tomb, a raised Lord, a new future. Easter is about a new life, the shedding of an old self and the acquiring of a new outlook and a hope for the future.

During Lent we are learning what it means to follow Jesus, to be on that road to Jerusalem and a cross. Developing a conviction that God planned all this for us and all humanity. Becoming confident that God is calling us to be about his business here in this place. An understanding of what it means to have the courage to accept another human being for who they are, rather than who we want them to be. To have the courage to allow another human being their own dignity and place in God's creation. We saw the faith of Abraham, Jacob, and Moses as they fulfilled God's plan. A faith based on "things unseen" (conviction) and not knowledge. A conviction that caused a change in the way their lives were lived.

WORSHIP IN APRIL

- **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

Coming-

Jazz Appreciation 6:30 6

April 10:00 9 April

Second Sunday Covered-Dish Lunch 10 April

Book Lovers Group 6:30 14 April

Palm Sunday 17 April

Council Meeting 12:00 17 April

Maunday Thursday Meal and Service 6:30 21 April

Good Friday Service 7:00 22 April

Decorating for Easter 10:00 23 April

Easter Breakfast 8:30 24 April

Easter Egg Hunt 9:15 24 April

Easter Festival Service 10:30 24 April

Communion Schedule

Table Communion—1st and 3rd, Sunday of the month

Continued on page 2

Partners in Ministry *continued*

The message of Jesus' resurrection, for those who believe, requires a change in habits, thoughts, and deeds. Jesus' actions and words force those who follow, to move out of complacent, comfortable lives and to look with new born eyes at a world in need of love, touch, and acceptance.

Some were not willing to make the changes proclaimed by Jesus, to accept others as God's creation, love those they considered unlovable and thus they did what they needed, to maintain their status quo, they killed the one sent by God. But God did not let them off the hook so easily, he changed death to life by raising Jesus from the grave.

As we look forward to the Easter season, let us look with courage at the creation of God and see where we might change ourselves and our church in order to bring about change in the world.

Your Partner in Ministry,

Jim Braswell

Jim Braswell, Pastor

Council Meeting Minutes

Council Vision Team Meeting Minutes 20 March 2011

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

Pastor opened the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes of the February meeting were approved by acclamation.

Bo Phillips stated that he is disappointed with council involvement in congregation activities. Our council members should be leaders of the church and need to lead by example. He feels that Council members are not supporting the church through their time and talent as they could and should.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor has made numerous visits to members and prospective members.
- There will be a conference meeting at Luther Ranch on May 14.
- Synod Assembly will be June 3-5 in Atlanta.

Pastor will be on vacation from 15 – 30 June and will be on sabbatical for the month of July. Pastor will do the service on July 3 and will have ordained clergy to preach and do communion on July 17 and July 31.

Treasurer's Report:

Our giving dropped in February. We took in less money than we spent. We are still not funding programs.

Other Business:

- We need people to volunteer to keep the Nursery during church. If you are interested, please see the sign-up sheet out side the nursery door.
- Our council decides how money will be spent. At the present time, our priority is the parking lot. If money is needed in another ministry area, that request should be brought to council.
- Stewardship has received more pledges than last year.
- The Second Quarter congregational meeting will be held on Sunday May 1st. New council members will be elected at this time.

Respectfully submitted,
Vision Team Secretary

BOOKLOVERS' GROUP

The Book Lovers Group will meet on Thursday April 14th, at 6:30 PM. We will be discussing the book 'The Lost Symbol', by Dan Brown. The following is taken from the book jacket: 'As the story opens, Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon is summoned unexpectedly to deliver an evening lecture in the U.S. Capitol Building. Within minutes of his arrival, however, the night takes a bizarre turn. A disturbing object – artfully encoded with five symbols- is discovered in the Capitol Building. Langdon recognizes the object as an ancient invitation . . . one meant to usher its recipient into a long-lost world of esoteric wisdom. When Langdon's beloved mentor, Peter Solomon – a prominent Mason and philanthropist – is brutally kidnapped, Langdon realizes his only hope of saving Peter is to accept this mystical invitation and follow wherever it leads him. Langdon is instantly plunged into a clandestine world of Masonic secrets, hidden history, and never-before-seen locations – all of which seem to be dragging him toward a single, inconceivable truth.'

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

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.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Our mid-week Lenten services continue on Wednesdays at 7 pm. These are preceded by a soup and sandwich meal at 6:15. The service will be in the sanctuary. We are using the service of Evening Prayer.

The schedule for meals is:

6 April – Worship and Music

13 April – Stewardship

It would have been nice to have bells playing Easter Sunday. However, only three people expressed an interest in playing.

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

Please rinse all bottles and cans and plastic items before placing them in the recycle bins.

We appreciate all those who participate in our recycling efforts.

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 Vegetables—green beans, peas, corn, etc.

Personal care products—shampoo, tooth paste, toilet paper, etc.

Stop by anytime to see what else is needed.

Comments and Chuckles

“If absence makes the heart grow fonder,” said a minister, “a lot of folks must love our church.”

Did you hear about the young pastor who fouled up the established routine? He didn't stand at the door and shake hands with the worshipers after the service. He went out to the curb and shook hands with the red-faced parents waiting for their children to come out of Sunday school.

The Pastor asked his congregation to participate in the morning offering and said, “Let us give generously—according to what you reported on your income tax.”

When the assistant pastor made the announcements he said, “The pastor will be gone tonight, and we will be having a service of singing and praise.”

Greg: We call our pastor Reverend. What do you call yours?

Fred: We call ours Neverend.

An ocean liner was sinking and the captain yelled, “Does anybody know how to pray?” A minister on board said, “I do.” “Good,” said the captain. “You start praying. The rest of us will put on the life belts. We are one belt short.”

Daughter: Why is everyone getting down on their knees in church?

Mother: Shhh, they are going to say their prayers.

Daughter: With all their clothes on?

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Spring is in the air and we are learning that God gives us the hope of new life. The children have also learned that God has everything planned but He promises to always love us. April will be devoted to lessons about the holidays of Lent, Palm Sunday and Easter and continue with the Growing In Christ lessons of Isaac & Rebekah. **Sunday school begins at 9:15;** please make every effort to have your children at church on time to be sure they participate fully.

Adam is leading the children in a performance. They will sing a medley of songs during the worship service on Palm Sunday. From Sunday March 13 through Sunday April 17, the children will spend 30 minutes of the Sunday school hour learning the songs and scriptures. Please be sure that your child is included by bringing them each Sunday for practice. On Palm Sunday, all the children will be dressed in shades of green to match the palms decorating the sanctuary. Easter Sunday we will provide an egg hunt for the children during the Sunday school hour.

The education committee will be deciding on plans for Vacation Bible School and Summer Sunday school, so be watching for news.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rebecca S. Lober

A VIEW FROM THE PEW

Times are hard now! Prices are going up on a daily basis and families are struggling more. I can't give more financially to our church as I would like to. However, I was captivated Sunday by some of the words in the hymn "Let Streams of Living Justice" - "Our faith we find in service, our hope in other's dreams, our love in hand of neighbor."

Ok, so you can't give any extra money on Sundays - you are really giving as much to God as you can. But are you really? How many of you support the church "in service"? From the results I've seen, not too many. Ask yourself, is this all the faith I have? Do you care about the dreams others have for your church? Is this YOUR hope? And what about your neighbors? Are you showing your love by way of the clothing bank or food pantry?

Wake up Brothers and Sisters. If 2012 is the End, will you have a lot of explaining to do when you meet your Maker?

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Redeemer Family,

Last month, our nursery attendant of many years, Bridget Ward, decided to step down to spend more time with her family. I would like to thank Bridget for all she has done for our children. I know my kids will miss her very much. At least we will not lose her altogether since Bridget will continue her work as sexton.

Church council came to the conclusion that no one person can fill Bridget's shoes as nursery attendant, so we are looking for volunteers who are willing to supervise our children from 10:30 to 11:45 during church service. (The fact that we don't have any money might have played a role, too.) The more volunteers we have, the less often each volunteer has to serve. In the long run, the education committee is working on a plan to implement a children's service (details will follow soon), for which we will also need volunteers, but in the meantime, all you would have to do is watch the children for about an hour and make sure they don't kill each other (or you). However, feel free to do more than babysitting by playing games with the children or reading stories (preferably biblical ones) to them. You don't need to have kids to qualify, nor do you have to have any experience in that area. Patience and a love for children are the only prerequisites for the job. If you're interested, please sign up for a Sunday or two. The list is posted at the door of the nursery. Please call the church office or me if you have any further questions. Thank you in advance for your help!

Peace,

Jonas Strecker, President

ZUMBA CLASS

Are you having trouble finding time to exercise? Do you avoid gym memberships? Do you like to dance? Are you shy about taking group fitness classes? Do you wish you spent more time with your Redeemer family? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then you should plan to come to Zumba class! Every Monday night at 5:30, beginning April 4th, Julie Strecker will be offering Zumba classes in the Fellowship hall. All are welcome: women, men, girls, boys, members, non-members, dancers and the uncoordinated. :) Email or call Julie if you have any questions. Hope to see you there!

Julie's phone number is 3209341. Her e-mail address is jvanoojen@hotmail.com.

NEWS, REMINDERS & UPCOMING EVENTS CONTINUED



Those serving this month APRIL

Acolyte

3 Zack Lambert
10 Matthew Kraft
17

24 Zack Lambert

Crucifer

Nicholas Tibbetts
Jacob Kraft
Melissa Smith
Niko Anderson BB
Corley Peth
Jacob Kraft BB
Matthew Kraft TB
Margaret Peth TB

Asst. Minister

Jay Kramer
Raymond Lawton
Amy Harmon

Joe Kraft

Reader

Raymond Lawton
Betty Phillips
LeeAnne Purvis

Jennifer Peth

Usher

3 Terry & Donna Rohn
10 Vic & Phiffie Vankus
17 Stan Purvis & Lars Anderson
24 Raymond Lawton & Gene Lorenz

Altar Guild

Debbie Phillips & Jeryl Braswell
Ronda Butler & Beppie Lyles
Frankie & John Butt
Beau & Gaye Wood

Flower Delivery

3 Jalaine Ward
10 Donna Rohn
17 Palms, no delivery
24 Lily pick-up

Council Closing for the month of April

Bo Phillips & Tammy Semmler



Breakfast Easter Morning

Join us for breakfast
Easter morning.

The meal starts at 8:30.

Reminder

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

All girls are welcome to
attend.

Maunday Thursday Meatless Meal

Join us on April 21 at 6:30 p.m. for our meatless meal followed by Communion and Stripping of the Altar. Remember, the food you bring for the meal may contain eggs and cheese.

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.

REDEEMER COOKBOOK

Yes! Despite what some of you heard me say while producing a cookbook for Georgia Farm Bureau, I am ready to tackle another one. In the end it turned out to be a great experience. That's a couple of steps above "good," or to be more precise, "gooder," as defined by Jay in his sermon. (Note: You have no idea how hard that was for me to type!)

In the course of producing "A Legacy of Georgia Cooking," I realized that our recipes truly are a legacy that we pass down from one generation to the next and from one friend to another. There is a lot of love in preparing each dish whether it is for Second Sunday Dinner, something to comfort the sick and grieving, or celebrating an event at church.

Our cookbook for Lutheran Church of the Redeemer will be more than simply a collection of recipes from our members. We are including a history of our congregation, information about Lutherans and details about who we are at Redeemer.

Very soon we will be asking everyone to submit their favorite recipes, so you need to get them ready! Many of us cook "off the cuff" without really measuring ingredients, but it is important to have this information when publishing a cookbook. As you decide on which recipes you will submit, be sure you have the following details.

- Size of can or package (in ounces or however it is listed on the can/package)
- Oven temperature
- Cooking time

If you wish, you can also include a memory with each recipe. Does this recipe have a special memory for you? Maybe it is something your grandmother cooked or something a good friend passed along to you.

To eliminate the need for copyright permission, we will not use any brand names of products, i.e. "Ritz Crackers" are "round buttery crackers. But you don't need to worry about that. I have a cheat sheet from Wimmer Publications for that issue, so we'll make those changes on recipes we receive.

We also need a name for our cookbook. Here are a few suggestions I found so far.

- Blessings from the Table
- Praise the Lord and Kiss the Cooks
- When God's People Cook
- A Little Bite of Heaven
- Faith, Food and Fellowship

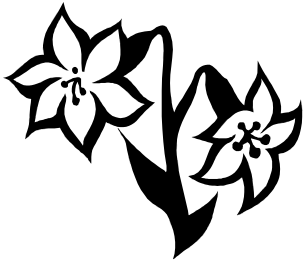
Got an idea for a title or do you like one of these? Email me at hellwig.rocker@gmail.com.

Donna Hellwig Rocker

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.

EASTER LILIES



Easter Lilies 2011

Cost: \$10.00 per plant

Deadline:

Sunday, April 17, 2011

The Decorating Team is asking for your assistance in helping to adorn the chancel and nave with lilies on Easter Sunday. If you would like to place a plant at the altar in honor or in memory of a loved one or friend, please complete the information below and attach your check made payable to Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. Please place both items on the offering plate or send to the church office.

Number of Plants ___ \$10.00 each /Total \$ _____

Provided By: _____

NAME OR NAMES AS YOU WANT LISTED IN THE BULLETIN

Plant 1 _____ In honor of _____ In memory of

Name: _____

Relationship to you: _____

Plant 2 _____ In honor of _____ In memory of

Name: _____

Relationship to you: _____

Plant 3 _____ In honor of _____ In memory of

Name: _____

Relationship to you: _____

I _____ will / _____ will not be taking my plant(s) following the 10:30 a.m. service on Easter Sunday.

LUNCH and EASTER EGG HUNT on the farm

On Saturday April 16, Bo and Sherry Phillips will be hosting Lunch with an Easter Egg Hunt to follow. Everyone is invited. The time is 11 a.m. until. Call Bo at 932-5966 to let him know how many adults and children you are bringing and to get directions.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Our annual Easter egg hunt will follow the Easter breakfast and will start between 9 and 9:15. All ages are invited! Plastic Easter eggs will be in the narthex in bundles of 22-24 eggs. Please grab a bag and fill eggs with candy and return to the church before Easter Sunday.

VBS will be held June 5th-10th from 6-8 pm. The theme this year will be: Grounded in Jesus' Parable of the Sower, ReNew: The Green VBS . It's sure to be lots of "green" fun. So, invite your friends to come share in the fun. Registration forms will be available soon or on-site registration is always available. We will conclude VBS with a pool party at the home of Liz & Doug Malloy on Friday, June 10th. We will have another education committee meeting on May 1st following the congregational meeting to finalize all VBS plans.

Plans are underway for summer Sunday school and we will need at least 3 teachers to share their time & talent for children ages 3 and up. We offer 3 different classes based on the child's age: Pre-K & Kindergarten, younger elementary (1st-3rd), and 4th grade and older. If you would be willing to teach in any capacity this summer, please let Amie Craig or Pastor know.

Amie Craig

SUMMER CAMP AT LUTHERIDGE/LUTHEROCK

If you or your children are attending summer camp at Lutheridge or Lutherock, please let the church office know. We may be able to coordinate car-pooling.

CORRECTIONS TO 2011 DIRECTORY

Please make the following corrections to your copy of the 2011 Directory:

At Lambert, Lake and Kelly, change the first e-mail address to kdlambert1@msn.com.

At Semmler, Stan and Tammy change the first e-mail address to ssemmler4@windstream.net.

If you see any other corrections to be made, contact the church office.

If you do not have a copy of the 2011 Directory, they are available in the Narthex.

STEWARDSHIP

Each year Lutheran Church of the Redeemer (LCR) asks members to make a financial pledge to the church as a demonstration of our commitment to living our lives according to Christ. This year, more members returned pledge than in 2010 and we should all be excited about this. More than half of our members though have not yet made pledges and I want to ask those of you that haven't to please consider doing so.

At some point in the past, I made the decision to try to live a life according to Christ's teachings. Logically, it seemed that for me to do this, I would need to go to church. Phiffie and I joined LCR and have loved the time we've spent here with all of you. As our faith has grown and we've become more involved with all of you in the church, it became obvious to us that making a commitment to give our time and resources was something that we wanted to do. We're happy to share that commitment with all of you and pledging is one way we can do this.

Through our giving we're demonstrating the commitment we've made as members of LCR to support each other in our mission as a church to help those in need and spread the word of Christ. There's a tough road ahead of us though. LCR, like many churches, has the challenge of addressing our fixed costs, maintenance and repairs, and the programs in the church we want to fund for worship and to support our mission, with less money than we wish we had.

One of the repair projects that is a priority for us is paving the parking lot. We've asked for contributions to the special fund designated for the paving project and Bo Phillips has done a great job raising additional dollars for that fund through the spaghetti suppers the past two months. It's important to remember though that we need to continue to increase the total amount in our general fund so that we can cover any of our expenses and begin to fund the Evangelism, Education, Worship, and Social Ministry programs again. These are the programs that help us accomplish what will always be our primary goal, helping those in need and spreading the word of Christ.

Vic Vankus

Stewardship Committee



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

APRIL

1 Brannon Butler
 4 Jane McNaughton
 6 Jordan Anderson
 13 Corley Peth
 15 Merle Hazard
 17 Frankie Butt
 19 Lee Allen
 20 Desiree Erthal
 24 Lori Saunders-Rogers
 25 Amy Harmon
 26 Bill Lober
 Dale Moeller
 Jennifer Peth
 28 Natalie Smith-Braswell
 30 Bill Menger

PRAYER REQUESTS



Redeemer Worshipers

Anna Allen, Culas Hutchinson, Bill Loyd

Friends of Redeemer-

Janet Hamlin, Dr. Bob Parris, Jack Eubanks, Johanna Jernigan and family

Military: Chandler Kramer, Ben Morris

ANNIVERSARIES



APRIL

7 Tom & Margaret Pope
 21 Kyle & Ronda Butler
 26 Stan & Tammy Semmler
 30 Paul & Bepie Lyles

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

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

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CHURCH STAFF

THE REV. JIM BRASWELL, PHD / PASTOR
 THOMAS WILLIFORD / ORGANIST
 ADAM LOCKAMY / DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
 BRIDGET WARD / SEXTON
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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