



Spirit Filled and Spirit Led

WORSHIP IN MAY

- 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-

Second Quarter Congregational Meeting 12:00 1 May

*Jazz Appreciation 6:30
Thursday 5 May, & 10:00
Saturday 7 May*

Second Sunday Covered-Dish Lunch 12:00 8 May

*Book Lovers Group 6:30
12 May*

*Council Meeting 12:00 15
May*

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

THE VOICE OF REDEEMER

May 2011

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

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

April 22, 2011

Dear Partners in Ministry;

Lord Thomas R. Dewar (1864-1930) wrote “Minds are like parachutes; they function only when open.” How true these words are, especially when dealing with topics of religion and politics.

It is difficult to try and explain ideas or concepts to someone who will not listen or refuses to discuss something that differs with their belief system. “That’s the way my grandfather did it, my father did it, and how I do it and that is all that is to be said on the subject.” How many of us are like this when topics arise that we do not want to have to deal with?

Homosexuality, racism, and immigration are at the top of the list and the reason solutions to these issues have not been found are due to our unwillingness to discuss rationally and intelligently why we think the way we do.

This article is written, not to change opinions one way or the other on these or any other subject, but instead give some thoughts to reflect on.

Martin Luther said the “scriptures are the norms for daily living,” or praying the scriptures daily, provides the strength and help needed to live the day. Yes I meant to write praying, because by prayerfully reading the scriptures, the Holy Spirit is able to show us the meaning in the words for our lives. The scriptures are not a set of dead words but are instead fluid, alive, and ever changing in meaning to provide understanding in our day to day living.

Paul writes in 2 Timothy 3:16 “All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for **teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.**” Too many people forget that the words are in the present tense for a reason. The scriptures are meant to be read, understood, and used in the present.

Instead of having an understanding of the scriptures as they speak today, many people remember something told to them (to many to count) years ago in Sunday School, or something a Pastor said in a sermon a long time ago, or something their parents told them as children, as the only way to think, rather than going to the scriptures and prayerful asking God for “**instruction, edification, and exhortation**” (to quote Paul).

Partners in Ministry *continued*

Jesus spoke against the religious leaders of his day for their closed mindedness. He was ridiculed because his disciples did not wash according to the law before eating, Jesus performed miracles on the Sabbath, he refused to accept the current interpretation of God's word as the only interpretation. In other words, Jesus had an open mind and reflected on God's word and its meaning for his time and put those words into action.

An example of Jesus reinterpreting God's word is changing poverty and illness as God's punishment for a sinful life to an opportunity to show the love of God. "A mind is like a parachute; it functions only when it is open." Let us prayerfully read the scriptures daily, seeking God's input on the issues of the day, and continue to dialogue with one another, **not so much to change the other's opinion, but to understand our own.**

Your Partner in Ministry,

Jim Braswell

Jim Braswell, Pastor

Council Meeting Minutes 20 March 2011

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

Pastor opened the meeting with a prayer

Minutes of the March meeting were approved by acclamation.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor has made numerous visits to members and prospective members.
- Pastor will be taking over Social Ministry and Christian Education for the time being.

Correspondence:

We received a letter from Lutheridge/Lutherock asking for a donation from the church. Council decided that we don't have the funds to send a donation at this time.

Treasurer's Report:

Our giving for the last two months is down. We took in less money than we spent. Remember we have a bare-bones budget.

Other Business:

- New Council members will be installed on May 15.
 - Vacation Bible School material has been chosen.
 - Council will look into the church using bio-degradable plates and cups for our dinners.
 - When this semester at Mercer ends, we will be paying Thomas mileage on Sundays.
 - The Stewardship team reported that we have more pledges for more money than last year.
 - Social Ministry requested that we host mission trips to middle Georgia. This means we allow people on mission trips to use our facilities while they are in Macon. Council approved this.
- The Property team is in the planning stages to replace some of the landscape plants in our yard. They are focusing on the sign at the corner and the front of the church building.

Respectfully submitted,
Vision Team Secretary

BOOKLOVERS' GROUP

The Book Lovers Group will meet on Thursday May 12th, at 6:30 PM. We will be discussing the book 'Every Last One', by Anna Quindlen. The following is taken from the book jacket: 'Mary Beth Latham has built her life a round her family, around caring for her three teenage children and preserving the rituals of their daily life. When one of her sons becomes depressed, Mary Beth focuses on him, only to be blindsided by a shocking act of violence. What happens afterward is a testament to the power of a woman's love and determination, and to the invisible lines of hope and healing that connect one human being to another. Ultimately, as rendered in Anna Quindlen's mesmerizing prose, 'Every Last One' is a novel about finding ways to navigate a road we never dreamed we'd have to live, but find ourselves brave enough to try.'

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

9 June 11
'The Memory of Running'
By Ron McLarty

The Book Lovers Group will not meet in July or August.

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

The children sounded wonderful on April 17. I am looking forward to hearing them sing again.

The choir will not meet on Wednesday evenings after Mercer lets out. Instead, the choir will rehearse after church on Sundays.

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.

CORRECTIONS TO 2011 DIRECTORY

If you see any 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.

Recycling News

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

The church council is looking into using plates and cups that are more ecologically friendly.

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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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.

Food Pantry

Our food pantry is in need of the following items:

Pasta and rice

Cereals

Canned Soup

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

Stop by anytime to see what else is needed.

Comments and Chuckles

We probably wouldn't worry about what people think of us if we could know how seldom they do.

The greatest fool is he who worries about what he cannot help.

God gives every bird its food, but does not throw it into the nest.

An ulcer is what you get mountain-climbing over molehills.

First girl: I lost my job because of illness and fatigue.

Second girl: That's too bad.

First girl: Yeah, my boss got sick and tired of me.

Boss: You should have been here at eight o'clock this morning.

Secretary: Why? What happened?

First person: Has anyone ever told you how wonderful you are?

Second person: Nope.

First person: Well, then, where did you get the idea?

First lady: Do you think she is a natural blond or a bleached blond?

Second lady: I think she's a suicide blond.

First lady: What kind is that?

Second lady: Dyed by her own hand.

SOMETHING BORROWED

If you have borrowed anything from the church, please return it as soon as possible.

PRAISE FOR ZUMBA CLASS

I want to encourage all of you to come to Zumba class on Monday evenings at 6:00 pm. No, not everyone is thin and trim. No, not everyone is graceful and coordinated. No, not everyone can do all the routines. Some of us modify the steps because of bad ankles or knees. But, we all have a lot of fun and get a good workout.

Wear loose clothing; if you sweat, wear a head-band. Most of us wear walking shoes, some go barefoot.

Come join us and have a good time while you work-out.

Anne Roesel

A VIEW FROM THE PEW

What does Lutheran Church of the Redeemer mean to you?

I see a large group of people who come to church when they have nothing better to do. I see a large group of people who come to church on Sunday, but not at any other time. I see a large group of people who look at their checkbook at the end of the month and say, I guess I can give the church \$10.00 this month. I see a large group of people who say they support this congregation, yet they are not doing anything to show that support.

I see a small group of people who come for every service offered. I see a small group of people who participate in the activities of the church. I see a small group of people who look at their checkbook at the first of the month and say, I need to give to the church first. I see a small group of people who see what needs to be done and gets it done.

To which group do you belong?

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.

GRACE PLACE

It's hard to believe that this school year is fast coming to an end. We will complete the Growing In Christ series with Jacob & Esau and Jacob's Dream lessons. Sunday school begins at 9:15; please bring your children so they participate fully.

Vacation Bible School is planned for June 5 – 10 beginning on Sunday at 6:00 with an ice cream kick-off and introduction to the lessons and leaders. Summer Sunday school will continue with three age groups for the children each Sunday. Please let Amie Craig or Pastor Braswell know if you are interested in teaching during the summer months.

This will be the last newsletter I write as Superintendent of Sunday School. It has been both an honor and a privilege to serve the children of this wonderful congregation. I have been overwhelmed with the blessings of love from our little ones and found great joy in watching them grow in Christ. I am grateful to their parents for allowing me to share in their Christian education. Thank you all for your constant support. My prayer is that the children will continue to find the love of our Lord when they walk through the doors of Grace Place.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rebecca S. Lober

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 6:00, 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 MAY

Acolyte

1 Jonathan Ward
8 Molly Craig
15 Zack Lambert
22 Matthew Kraft
29

Crucifer

Tyler Ward
Melissa Smith
Matthew Kraft
Nicholas Tibbetts
Jacob Kraft

Asst. Minister

Raymond Lawton
Jay Kramer
Raymond Lawton
Amy Harmon
Teri Kramer

Reader

Donna Rocker
Cameron Tibbetts
Vic Vankus
Annette Anderson
Lars Anderson

Usher

1 Randy & Sue Blank
8 Dan & Desiree Erthal
15 Stan Purvis & Stan Semmler
22 Terry & Donna Rohn
29 Vic & Phiffie Vankus

Altar Guild

Jeryl Braswell & Eileen Carlson
Donna & Terry Rohn
Joanne Hutchinson & Beth Perry
Teri Kramer & Beverly Mercado
Debbie Phillips & Eileen Carlson

Flower Delivery

1 Cameron Tibbetts
8 Jonas & Julie Strecker
15 Randy & Sue Blank
22 Beppie Lyles
29 George Saunders

Council Closing for the month of May

Jonas Strecker & Vic Vankus

Sponsoring Altar Flowers

1 Paul and Beppie Lyles
8 Beau and Gaye Wood
15 Dan and Desiree Erthal
22 Stan and Tammy Semmler
29 Betty Phillips



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING FOLLOWING
CHURCH ON MAY 1ST.

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 meet on Tuesday May10. Fellowship
time is 11:30-12:00. Lunch will be served at 12:00. Let
us know if you plan to attend.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- May
 2 Johannah Bohling
 Caitlyn Payne
 6 Caroline Payne
 7 Beth Perry
 8 Sherri Moeller
 9 Mildred Fitzgibbons
 Beau Wood
 12 Tiffany Erthal
 15 Arlene Garrett
 20 Lars Anderson
 Terry Rohn
 Pat Ussery
 21 Ronda Butler
 Caitlyn Payne
 24 Tom Pope
 Stan Semmler
 25 Melissa Payne
 26 Marj Chana
 MattSkilling

PRAYER REQUESTS



Redeemer Worshipers

Anna Allen, Culas Hutchinson, Bill Loyd

Friends of Redeemer-

Jay Lorenz, grandson of Gene and Johnnie Lorenz, Janet Hamlin, Dr. Bob Parris, Jack Eubanks, Johanna Jernigan and family, Connie Menendez, Charles Karcher

Military: Chandler Kramer, Ben Morris

ANNIVERSARIES



- May
 4 Tom & Barbara Mercer
 14 Eileen Carlson & Jim Fleissner
 19 Bert & Melissa Hardwick
 20 Tim & Penny Smith

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/Pastor Braswell; 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
 OFFICE HOURS 9:00 AM—12:00 MON.-THURS.
 * * *
 TELEPHONE / 478-742-4281
 FAX / 478-742-4408
 PASTOR'S HOME / 478-757-9975
 PASTOR'S CELL / 478-342-0277
 WWW.REDEEMERMACON.ORG
 EMAIL / REDEEMER@REDEEMERMACON.ORG
 * * *

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