



CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

A Christian Liberation Community
in the Episcopal Tradition

CROSSROADS



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From the Rector: Our Episcopal Heritage

by Phillip Wilson

A bishop is one of the three orders of ordained ministers that support the work of the laity to carry out the mission of the church which is nothing less than to make the Dream of God a reality. In the Anglican Communion bishops stand in the tradition of the apostles and oversee the ministry of a designated area called a Diocese. Sacramental functions of the bishops include ordination of deacons, priests and other bishops and confirmation and receptions of people into the Episcopal Church. The bishop holds a larger vision than any one parish and is a pastor to the pastors.

Bishops are elected by the clergy and lay delegates to a special convention. For a bishop-elect to be eventually consecrated BISHOP, she or he must receive the approval of both a majority of the sitting bishops in the Church and from the individual diocesan Standing Committees, which are equivalent to a Vestry for the Diocese.

Newark is in the process of preparing to elect a new bishop as our present bishop, John Croneberger, is retiring. A Profile Committee will create a statement of what the people of the Diocese are looking for and a Nominating Committee will present a list of candidates for the special "election" convention on September 16, 2006. If all goes as expected, the new bishop will be consecrated any time after January of 2007.

From the Pastoral Assistant: Advent

by Sr. Shane Margaret, CSJB

It seems to be a basic truth of the spiritual life that every time I think I've "arrived" I'm ready for a new beginning. God continually shakes me up, igniting my fears and raising my hopes - sometimes at the same time! The last time I thought I was settled, I was living in New Mexico. I had a nice house, a nice job, nice friends and pets, a nice life. Then - earthquake. I landed in New Jersey, in a convent. After several years, I found myself settled. I had a nice quiet life, wonderful ministry, and the seeds of new life. I thought I knew what I was doing. I was going to be a spiritual director. I went on a 7-day retreat as a prelude to training in direction. I thought I knew where I was headed. Then - earthquake.

I sat in silence in the chapel at Loyola House of Retreats in Morristown. My retreat director had assigned me a passage from the Book of Wisdom (7:22-30) to begin my retreat. As I sat, I pondered the universe. I thought about the fact that everything

that exists has always existed, though the forms change. Atoms, molecules, galaxies, have always been here somehow. The bread that we eat is made of elements that have always been here, and always will be.

Suddenly, breaking into this reflection, I felt something in me saying I need to be a priest. I did not welcome this thought. People had been telling me this on occasion, and I had been saying no. I did not want to go back to school! I don't need the aggravation! But underneath, I know now, I did not want to risk transforming a precious dream into a reality that might include failure. I did not want to risk. But as I sat there, crying in rage, I knew that the only way out was forward. I would only stop crying if I said yes. As the days went on, during the retreat and after, I talked to everyone I knew. I begged people to find reasons why I shouldn't do this, couldn't do this. But I came to see that the call to the priesthood, for me, is a call to be my fullest self. It is a call to use my gifts with others, to share the spiritual life that has been given to me. And it is a call to stop being so comfortable!

This fall I started taking courses at Drew Theological School. I didn't want to admit what I was doing, so I didn't apply to the Master of Divinity program. I just "took a couple of classes." But I'm ready to admit it. I will go through the long, hard process, beginning with a parish discernment committee here at Redeemer. I may get turned down. I may never be a priest. But if I'm not, it won't be because I didn't try.

In my first class, which is taught by a team that includes Phillip and Elizabeth Kaeton, we read Paulo Coelho's *The Alchemist*. This is a wonderful fable about finding your personal legend and your treasure. I recommend it to everyone. We all have voices telling us not to follow our personal legends - telling us to settle down, to behave, to settle for "comfortable" lives. But that is not God's will for us. God's will for us is to follow the voice of our souls, to stretch ourselves and our resources, to trust in the universe. That is what got me this far; I can't stop now!

As we approach Advent, that season of hope and expectancy, I pray that each of you will find quiet time to open your hearts and hear where God is calling you. Nothing is wasted. Everything that made you is still there, waiting to be turned into gold. Listen for the rumble; can you feel the earth move? God is calling . . .

Three Members of Redeemer Participate in Department of Peace Conference in DC

by a Member of the Congregation

Two members of the congregation and I joined over four hundred people from around the country in early September to take part in the National Department of Peace Campaign Conference in Washington DC. The Campaign educates and advocates for the Department of Peace and Nonviolence bill in the House of Representatives (HR 3760) and also works to build the foundation for peace in our country. (Breaking News: today the Department of Peace and Nonviolence was introduced into the Senate for the first time by Senator Mark Dayton of Minnesota!)

When I first heard about the legislation in Congress to establish a U.S. Department of Peace, I thought it was a great idea, but I have to admit that I thought it would be seen as too idealistic to pass. After learning more about the provisions of the bill, however, and after hearing about the many talented people working on the campaign, I have been persuaded it is attainable. Three years later, I am an active member of the campaign, serving as the Congressional District Team Leader for NJ's 11th district (Rodney Frelinghuysen's district) and now also State Coordinator for Northern New Jersey.

The time is ripe. Our country needs to change from reacting to problems and violence after they occur to preventing problems and violence before they occur. That is the mission of the Department of Peace. Preventing violence is very practical, it costs less, and most importantly, it averts many deaths and suffering.

The bill (HR 3760) calls for a Department of Peace and Nonviolence whose Secretary of Peace would be part of the President's cabinet, bringing creative, nonviolent options to the table in cases of conflict. The Secretary of Peace would also oversee a department charged with addressing the root causes of violence both internationally and domestically. The domestic areas include family violence, school, gang and prison violence, hate crimes and violent crime in general. The bill also calls for Peace Education at all levels.

The conference we attended powerfully brought home the message that peace is possible. It included speakers from many organizations that now successfully address issues of violence. With the establishment of a Department of Peace, these best-practices models could expand and receive much-needed resources. They could share and coordinate their efforts with other organizations across the country for the most effective means of reducing violence in our country.

After the weekend of "training" and inspirational speakers, another member of the congregation and I, along with three other NJ delegates, met with Mr. Steve Wilson, Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen's Senior Policy Adviser. We asked Congressman Frelinghuysen to be one of the co-sponsors of the Dept. of Peace bill and are awaiting his answer.

This bill combines thinking 'outside the box,' with cost effectiveness. It is a bill that can unite Democrats and Republicans and people of all political persuasions. Similar proposals to the U.S. proposal exist in England, Australia, Japan, Canada and

several other countries.

See www.dopcampaign.org for more on the National Department of Peace campaign.

Redeemer as a Peace Site?

by a Member of the Congregation

Over twenty years ago a man from Cranford, New Jersey, Lou Cousins, took a hard look at all the military bases in the world. His first grandchild had just been born and he had been thinking about the kind of world we want to leave to the generations to come. He thought, what if there were Peace Sites all over the world too, places where people committed themselves to working out problems peacefully in that space and doing something to bring peace to the larger world?

He took action on his vision and started the Peace Site movement. The Ethical Culture Society in Maplewood was the first Peace Site and today there are hundreds of Peace Sites all over the world.

Recently I heard Madelyn Hoffman of NJ Peace Action say they are reinvigorating the Peace Site movement and looking for religious congregations, schools, community centers and offices, etc. to become Peace Sites. My very first thought was that, "Redeemer would be a natural for this."

I think of all the hymns and prayers in our church that are about peace. I think of Jesus' words, "Love your neighbor as yourself," "Love your enemies," and "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God." I think of all the times Phillip has touched on the theme of peace in one way or another. I think of our Reconciliation Season. I think of the Labyrinth. I think of how we have connected with other churches, temples and mosques to build understanding. I think of how readily Redeemer allowed the Department of Peace Campaign that I am involved in to hold meetings in the building and all the people at Redeemer who have responded positively to the idea of a Department of Peace and other peace issues. As far as I'm concerned we are already a Peace Site and just have to make it public!

I spoke to the leaders and Phillip about the idea, who suggested that we reach out to the congregation for input.

What would it mean to be a Peace Site? What would we have to do? We would make a public commitment to be a place of peace and we would put our name on the Peace Site registry. Most Peace Sites have a special dedication ceremony when they become a Peace Site. Secondly, we would dedicate ourselves to doing something of our own choosing to bring more peace in our community or the larger world. There is no blueprint or set agenda-- it's all up to us to determine what we might do.

Examples of things that other Peace Sites have done are hold Days of Prayer for Peace, celebrate the International Day of Peace (Sept. 21), have book discussions on the theme of peace, or offer workshops on conflict resolution. Some Peace Sites provide space to organizations working for peace, create a Peace garden, hold children's peace programs, or work for the reduction of nuclear arsenals or other issues related to peace. I know we are already doing some of these things.

For more information on Peace Sites, go to www.njpeacesites.org.

The Beautiful and the Ugly

Ugandan-born Dr John Sentamu was appointed by Queen Elizabeth the Archbishop of York. The 56-year-old was educated in Uganda, where he practiced as a barrister and was an outspoken critic of Idi Amin's regime, before coming to the UK in 1974. He was ordained in 1979 and after serving in a succession of London parishes, he was appointed Bishop of Stepney in 1996 and Bishop of Birmingham in 2002.

The first black Archbishop of York has revealed that he has received racist letters, including some covered in human excrement. Ugandan-born Dr John Sentamu, who will be enthroned in York next month, prayed for those who sent the hate mail. He said: "I don't know where they are from. They don't tell you.

"They simply tell you, I am Mr White X and nigger go back and this is what you are like, this is what you are worth."

Asked if he was angered by the letters, Dr Sentamu said: "Particularly when they put human excrement on them. I don't want to have that kind of thing.

"And I say to myself, why are people doing this?"

"I want to suggest it is therefore my job to search a person, if I at all encounter them, to show them the sheer love of God.

"Because, you see, the gospel offers forgiveness for the past, new life for the present, and hope for the future.

"I think when you get those letters you say, well they don't know me, they've never met me. We've never had a conversation, and they think really that I'm awful and I'm entitled to read these terrible things.

"In the end, when I get those letters, I actually pray for the person who's written them.

"Unfortunately some of those people never ever tell you who they are so I say, Letter X, God, which is so ghastly and so awful, by your mercy, love and care for them." Dr Sentamu has already spoken of his desire to banish homophobia from the church and said his new role in the second-highest post of the Church of England was "an exciting prospect".

Story from BBC NEWS

Why Do We Carry the Book in Procession on Sunday Mornings?

by Phillip Wilson

Our worship, as is all liturgical and Eucharist-centered worship, is made up of two distinct sections. One is a service of the WORD and the other is a service of the TABLE.

The service of the Word came from the Jewish synagogue tradition that Christianity appropriated. Prayers were offered and readings were appointed for each day and a sermon was given to help explain them. This is the part of Redeemer worship that comes before the Peace.

The service of the Table consists of remembering Jesus' life and death and eating a meal of bread and wine, (and grape juice) seeking the same vision and energy that was found within him.

Before the Reformation, the balance of the two parts of our worship was lost, favoring the Table service of the bread and wine. The Church of England insisted that the balance be returned as it is in today's worship.

As a symbol of that balance, it has become a tradition in many Episcopal Churches to carry a Book of Gospels, representing the Word, in procession. Traditionally a deacon, who usually reads the Gospel in worship, carries this book in a visible and dramatic way. With Jon Schnaars coming to Redeemer to do his deacon-in-training internship, the Worship Committee along with the Rector felt this a good time to institute this tradition.

A vestry member donated a memorial gift of Book of Gospels, which is what we carry.

Youth Education: Autumn and Winter

By Robin Dexter-Meyer, Director of Youth Education

Classroom Update

We are glad to be back in our classrooms again for Godly Play, and we appreciate the care being given to our sacred space. Cesar Torres and Bill Davis cleaned the mold on the ductwork caused by condensation in warm weather, and the Work Day volunteers cleaned our rooms on October 22. I was assured at the October Vestry meeting that the problem that caused the condensation will be dealt with soon.

Special Events

We had a good turnout for Family Night on October 21. We decorated Tzedakah socks; Tzedakah is a Hebrew word meaning "righteousness" that refers to charity. It is part of Jewish tradition to give some money to charity as the Friday night Sabbath begins.

In our Tzedakah socks, we can "sock away" money to give to charities such as UNICEF. A vestry member lit candles and said the Sabbath blessing in Hebrew and English, as well as the blessing of bread. We all got a piece of challah before digging into pizza, salads, Halloween cookies and other treats! After dinner, a couple from the congregation led games, some just for kids,

and some for everyone. Later, a vestry member played the guitar and led us in songs, including "Shabbat Shalom." Our Rector, the Rev. Phillip Wilson, read a story to the children: "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day" by Judith Viorst.

Our Sunday School Open House was held after church on October 23, and we were glad that parents and children took time to come down to the gym to hear about our program. Our chair of the Youth Education Committee, welcomed everyone. A teacher from our younger classroom talked about how stories are an important part of Godly Play for K-1. I got some help from one of the Preschool students, in showing how we lay out our mats and get our trays in order to do art work in response to stories of God. Our teacher for Grades 2-4 was away that Sunday, but two of his students helped me explain the electric candles that help them remember they all have "a little piece of God." The teacher for the older children spoke and gave out a written summary of some themes explored in Grades 5-8, including God, Jesus, Christian worship, and being a Christian. We all shared a "feast" of Ritz crackers with cheese, apples, and juice, and then there was free time to look around our classrooms.

Teaching Ministry

Vocation is a calling from God. Sometimes it is a calling to something you already love, and other times it is unexpected and even uncomfortable. Right now, the Redeemer Sunday School is in need of assistant teachers willing to give up an hour on Sunday morning once a month to support children in Christian formation. Please search your heart and see if God might be calling you to this ministry. If you would like to know more before you commit, please see me during coffee hour on November 13. I will be happy to talk with you, and provide you with materials to take home and read, if you like.

Changing Seasons

If you look on the doors of our classrooms, you will see orange signs designating the different grade levels, decorated with the symbols of Creation season, like the banners in church. Be sure to take a look at our beautiful bulletin board as well, decorated by a member of the congregation, featuring the colors of autumn along with Sunday School news.

In a few weeks, we will be moving into new seasons: winter and Advent, when the new church year begins.

Our Godly Play lessons for Advent begin with a question: "This is the season of Advent, the time we get ready to celebrate the mystery of Christmas, the time we are all on the way to Bethlehem. But who will show us the way?" ("Young Children and Worship" by Sonja Stewart and Jerome Berryman, page 130.) Sunday by Sunday we discover the answer: the prophets, Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and the Magi all show us the way.

While we are observing Advent in class, we will be preparing for the annual Christmas pageant before and after Sunday School. A pageant is a wonderful way for children to learn the Nativity story as well as to share it with others. A youth education volunteer will direct the pageant again this year, using the script "Good News of Great Joy" by Gretchen Wolff Pritchard.

Rehearsals will be held at 9:30 a.m. on November 27, and December 4 and 11; there will also be a music rehearsal in church after the 10:30 Eucharist on December 11. Children are to arrive at 9:30 on December 18, and the pageant will be presented at the 10:30 service that day.

Please give the director your full support and help, to make this Christmas pageant another inspiring occasion for children and adults alike.

Curmedgeon's Corner

by a Member of the Congregation

It started when I was on Route 24 at 5 o'clock. What with all the speeding, ticketing and road-rage going on.

How about a coating you could apply to your car to make it invisible to police radar? Yes, Stealth Technology Coating, STC! "A small bottle lasts months. Simply apply with a clean soft cloth after car wash." And if you do get stopped, it's probably because you skipped a spot. With the caveat, "Always observe posted speed limits."

Then came CHAFF DEFENSE. You know, like the fighter planes use; Finely chopped aluminum foil, discharged outside the car when your radar detector begins to beep. "For protection against harmful microwave energy in your automobile."

Now we're talking about a whole line of automobile products. Bumper stickers targeting diseases; "Screw Cancer". Do you know how many sick people want to stick it to their illnesses, a thousand times a day?

We set up a website to see if anybody wants to buy that stuff: WWW. AUTODEFENSE.COM; drivers striking back at an over-policed, over- raged, over-hostile world.

Hits! I get lots of hits. They want prices, quantity information, franchise info. They actually want the stuff!

Here I am with a web catalog, a bunch of crazy ideas, and a ton of orders. I buy three gross of two ounce glass bottles. We have five-hundred labels printed. Black and white, "STC, Observe posted speed limits. Application instructions: etc"

We go down the basement and mix up a ten gallon batch of STC. Most of the ingredients are 'inert', like most stuff is. But then we add a Dixie-cup full of the STC base ingredient, naturally, a secret. I mean, I'm telling you this story, but I'm not crazy.

We offer the stuff for \$19.95 a bottle PLUS \$4.95 for shipping and handling! A week later we get eighty-nine letters with checks for \$24.90 in them. That's \$2216.10! We clear \$2059.10, not bad for a first outing!

Then we design a bunch of bumper stickers. "CANCER, DROP DEAD! " "M.S: TAKE A WALK!" "HEART FAILURE, BE MY VALENTINE", (with a drawing of a little heart.) Three bucks each sticker. Four for ten dollars. In come the orders. We clear two hundred fifty bucks on the first offer! Some woman buys fifty bucks worth.

And my wife and I are down in the basement filling orders. The biggest selling item is the STC. We don't get a single complaint letter about the STC! People must really be applying it properly.

The orders keep coming in. We even take a billboard near the motor vehicle inspection station. It shows a cop scratching his head as a car goes whizzing by.

Now we have this business going for a year. We're swimming in money and then old June comes up with this idea. Why don't we sell STC to the Air Force? It's got to be cheaper than building a new airplane. Just spray the stuff on anything and Bang, It's invisible to radar. I write to the Pentagon and send them one of our catalogs. In about a month, we get orders for twenty bottles of STC. Also, some major asks for pricing on fifty gallon drums of the 'juice'. We guess at \$5479. per drum. Next thing you know, we get a P.O. for nineteen drums. We ship them to someplace in Delaware. That's \$104,101.00.

My wife and I figure we're going to Leavenworth soon. Instead, in about four months, comes a repeat order, this time for thirty eight drums. Why such an odd number, I can't say. Maybe it takes a drum per plane and there are nineteen planes in a squadron. I have no idea.

What did we learn on our way to wealth? That there is a big irate public out there. People will spend big money to get back at the people who tick them off. So will the Air Force.

La Paz de Dios sia siempre con ustedes.

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