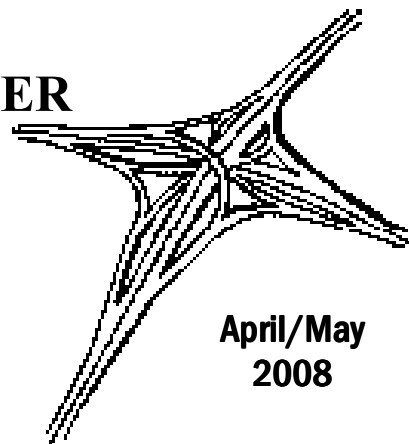




CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

A Christian Liberation Community
in the Episcopal Tradition

CROSSROADS



April/May
2008

36 South Street, Morristown, NJ 07960 (973) 539-0703
www.redeemermorristown.org

My Turn-The Challenge Before Redeemer in the Coming Years

Rev. Phillip Dana Wilson, from comments at the Annual Meeting

I want us to think of Redeemer's future, by first by looking at her past. When I came in 1987, as we all know, Redeemer was on life support, with death a real possibility. What this parish did have going for it at the time was a tradition of openness to change and justice seeking, led and embodied by my predecessor, The Rev. Sandy Cutler, who worked against great opposition. Sandy would love everything we are doing here. His picture is in the rogues' gallery of Redeemer rectors hanging in the parlor. What was essential in 1987 was for Redeemer to reinvent itself, building on the existing strengths. We successfully did that by living into the vision of radical hospitality, the vision of openness to theological diversity, the vision of being family to each other in the deepest sense and the vision of a community whose roots are Christian and whose structure is Episcopal, but whose core identity is deeply rooted in liberation. This vision sees liberation as the work of God in our midst.

Redeemer over the years has become comfortable with its sense of vision. Most people here have a good idea of what we are talking about when we refer to the "Redeemer Vision."

Building on the legacy of Sandy Cutler, Redeemer did reinvent itself and has grown significantly in people and pledged income to this very year, when our pledged amount is higher than it ever has been. But, if we are honest, we will notice that the growth pattern has leveled off in the past years. Though the pledged income is growing, the number of pledges has remained flat and at times has even decreased, with fewer people giving more and more each year. This is a pattern that can not continue.

I believe that the challenge before Redeemer is the same as it was in 1987. We need to build on our strengths and reinvent ourselves. We see hints of the direction ahead in the exciting work Melissa has done with the Sunday School and Youth Group in the short time she has been here. There is an excitement and energy around families with children.

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CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Mission Statement: *We experience God as Justice among all people and as wholeness within ourselves. Our mission is to seek justice and wholeness for this earth and all its inhabitants.*

Rector

The Rev. Phillip Dana Wilson

Assistant Rector

The Rev. Melissa C Hall

Music Director/Organist

Wayne Burcham-Gulotta

Parish Administrator

Laurie Burkhardt

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Wardens

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Sunday Worship

8:00 AM—Holy Eucharist Rite II

10:30 AM—Inclusive Language Rite

Summer Hours 8:00 AM and 9:30 AM

My Turn *(continued from page 1)*

I believe that Redeemer needs to intentionally reach out, program for and serve more families with children. We need to be that place where families of every size and definition will come knowing it is safe to be who they are and that they are participating in a vision of life as it is possible everywhere. We are poised to offer the alternative to what children learn on the school playground:

- that real boys are tough and macho,
- that real families only have a mom and dad,
- that real girls are pretty and let boys win,
- that winning is all that matters,
- that the more stuff you have the more alive you are.

We are poised to connect justice and radical hospitality, lived out today, as the same vision that Jesus held up 2000 years ago. We at Redeemer are poised to be the place where the rubber meets the road and where we model what all this “Christian stuff” is about.

The reason General Motors is in such a bad

and unhappy position, is that it failed to see the changes it had to face. General Motors, clinging to a past model of success, failed to reinvent itself, and today is on a steady decline

For Redeemer to live into the next generation and continue to project its message of hope and radical hospitality, as well as maintain these wonderful but hugely expensive buildings, it must double in size. It must increase its financial giving.

The Good News is that we did it once and can do it again. The Good News is that we know what we are about and the commitments that define us. My confidence in Redeemer and its future is based on my belief that what we are doing here is nothing less than the work of God, even though many of us have problems with the “G-” word. Our vision is nothing less than Jesus’ vision. Healing happens here in the safety we work together to create. I have found over and over again, when people feel safe, two things happen. One is that they immediately go to the place that needs healing and two, they begin to claim their strength and identity as children of God. What we do here is real and it is important. Healing and liberation are just flip sides of the same coin

Animal Ministry

The Animal Ministry has decided to focus this year's efforts on The Randolph Municipal Pound (www.petfinder.com/shelters/pound.html) and Tabby's Place in Ringoes (www.tabbysplace.org).

The following items can be placed in the basket in the church vestibule:

- Bleach/Laundry Detergent
Fabric Softener
- Dish Soap

- Towels (white only please)
- Paper Towels/Toilet Paper
- Cat Food/Dog Food/Coupons
- Cat Toys/Dog Toys
- Litter (non-clumping)
- Scratching Posts
- Cat Trees/Cat Condos/Cat Beds (unused is preferred)
- Gift Cards -- BJ's, Target, Food Stores
- Miniature Candies (to thank the volunteers)



If you have any questions, ideas, or would like to join this ministry, please contact Patty Paulman, wcs4ever@optonline.net

Did you know that...



Bob

Wayne M. has been working with the Honor Earth Org, Native Energy and the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, (where he lived and worked from 1998-2000) to build the first fully functional wind energy turbine to power the KILI Radio Tower located near the town of Wounded Knee. The foundation has been poured and the group is seeking donations to erect the windmill structure.

Stephanie B. has been appointed to the Oasis Commission for the diocese of Newark. She is the sole transgender member of the commission, whose mission is to raise the consciousness of the whole church with regard to the LGBT community and its spiritual needs. The Oasis is a ministry of cultural and racial diversity with all who experience prejudice and oppression because of their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. In addition, Stephanie was also elected to the Board of Directors of the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) at their annual conference in Tucson, Arizona. IFGE advocates for freedom of gender expression, and promotes the understanding and acceptance of gender-diverse individuals. She has also been named the chair of the organization's endowment fund, The Winslow Street Fund.

On April 13th and 20th the adult forum will deal with issues and stories of transgender lives and the challenges they face. It will be co-lead by **Terri** and **Stephanie**.

and Edie will be enjoying a vacation in France where they will see Monet's garden at Giverny, the town of Roen, where Joan of Arc was burned and the beaches of Normandy where the D-Day boats arrived in World War II. Edie will not let medical issues keep her from living life.



Milton T., who along with his wife, **Pam**, help to manage the Soup Kitchen Dining Room, will be awarded the "Caritas Award" for his service to the Soup Kitchen. Besides his daily labors, Milton raises thousands of dollars in the annual Soup Kitchen Hunger Walk. In 2001 Redeemer was honored when Phillip Wilson, representing the parish, was given the "Caritas Award."

Robin R. reports that **Hannah** recently tested for her red belt in taekwondo, (Korean Karate) an advanced level. "General" Hannah broke boards, flew through the air and did awesome pushups.

Bud K., new to Redeemer, yet quickly becoming involved in many activities, is an artisan who works with metals. A member of the Watersheds Group in Lent, after people admired a forged nail he wore around his neck, Bud made one for everyone.

Jacky A. recently had surgery at St. Barnabas Hospital and is doing well. Part of the issue is cancer and the doctors are confident that surgery should do the trick.

Karen R. is looking better all the time. After some truly "big time" surgery her final reconstruction should be finished soon. Just ask her how much she hates cat-scans. though they saved her life.



Did you know that...

Mariah and Bill H. visited Lily DeYoung's parish in Somerville, Mass., where she is rector. It was Palm Sunday and a donkey led the procession. Lily seems to be very happy. Dennie Bennett called after her first Easter service as a rector and says she could not be happier.

Eileen G. and Paulette B. will be in Florida for spring training right after Easter. Oh, not them, but their beloved Phillies.

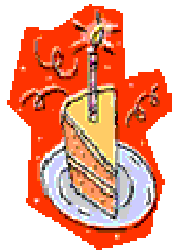
Debbie G. has agreed to take over the leadership of the Greeters' Ministry. Thank you Debbie.

Carol K. is now retired and is working on getting her home ready to rent or sell so that she can move to Heath Village, out with the western New Jersey contingent of Redeemer. Jim Madigan is also a resident of Heath Village.

Preston Root Sr. will be 102 on April 19th of this year. WOW!

Edie and Cindy have moved from Rockaway and live farther out in northwest New Jersey and report that they will no longer be coming to Redeemer. We will miss them. God speed.

Jean T. is putting on weight and that is a very good thing. No chance on her being a sumo wrestler anytime soon, but she is battling back after many weeks in the hospital. Jean and Art were in church Palm Sunday and Easter and in the Passion Reading she took the part of Jesus.



Eric J. is starting his own organizing business. It is a company called Serenity Organizing Services. Eric has been doing organizing here and there for a while but now is going to do it full time. Let him know if he can help you out.

Celebrating Women's Journeys

While the rest of the world is celebrating Mother's Day, at Redeemer we will be Celebrating Women's Journeys on May 11th. This is one of Redeemer's liberation holy days when we name the movement of God, calling us to liberation and recovery.

For some in this parish Celebrating Women's Journeys involves motherhood and for many it does not. What we celebrate on this day is the journey of all women, everywhere, in claiming the fullness of their humanity in a world that says that women are 'less than'.

2008 Men's Dinner and Cabaret

Plans are well underway for this year's Men's Dinner and Cabaret which is scheduled for Saturday, April 19. As in the past, we hope that this year's event will be one of the highlights of the Redeemer calendar. The chefs and kitchen staff are planning for a feast and the performers, under the direction of Jon De Angelis, are rehearsing the show whose theme is "Bosom Buddies". Tickets went on sale on Easter Sunday for \$35 each. Don't miss this fun filled evening. For ticket information, see or contact Peter or George.

Youth on the Move

The Youth Education Program is as active as ever with all sorts of wonderful events and initiatives underway. Here is a quick overview of some of the highlights.

Confirmation

On May 3rd and May 18th five of our youth members will be stepping forward in the Cathedral in Newark to be confirmed into the Episcopal Church by Bishop

Mark Beckwith. Accompanied by their chosen adult mentors and the clergy of Redeemer, Matt, Colin, Sophie, Andrew and Earl will accept their places as adult members of the church, by reaffirming those vows and commitments made on their behalf at their baptisms.



All five have undergone education classes about the Episcopal Church and its history. They have also participated in social outreach projects and visited a religious institution different from their own.

Lenten Lock-In

An overnight Lenten Lock-In Retreat was held in the Parish House for the Youth Group on March 7th. The theme of the Lock-In was "Hunger In Our Own Backyard." A presentation about hunger in Morristown was made by Lois Nichols, the Assistant Director of the Soup Kitchen, during the retreat. The youth members then conducted a can drive outside of Kings Grocery store on that very rainy and cold Friday night. They also solicited food donations from parishioners by telephone. As a result of their efforts 53 bags of groceries were collected and donated to the Eric Johnson House.

Children's Good Friday Service

The first Children's Good Friday service was held at Redeemer with a terrific turn out of 30 children and 18 adults. This interactive service was led by Reverend Melissa with the assistance of the Youth Group members.

Afterwards there was a baking of Hot Cross Buns (Melissa's version) in the One Room School House that was supervised by Fran L. with the assistance of Maura B., Dan G. and Dan L.

Welcome Home Alleluia Banner

During the Easter Service the younger children of Redeemer and other children visiting for the day helped to open the sealed box containing the Alleluia banner. The banner had been "buried" in the box at the beginning of the Lenten Season. The children, who had kept the key to the locked box at their home during Lent, helped to unleash the banner in a flurry of sparkles and a Welcome Home balloon.

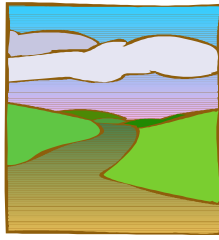
Stayed tuned for future youth education events. In the works is an interactive interpretation of the Prodigal Son Gospel on Sunday April 27th. There will also be a special youth run Youth Service in the month of June!

Protest March Against Violence

On March 2nd, 150 marched from Redeemer around Morristown Green to protest bigotry and violence in response the shooting of Lawrence King, because he dressed in a feminine manner. "How do we make sense of one eighth-grader killing another eighth-grader because he's different?" Phillip said before the march. "We must find ways to tell the world, enough is enough." (continued on page 11)

Redeemer Journeys

Ann Marie and Doug



Our journey to Redeemer really begins with leaving behind our life in Alberta, Canada, and our emigration to the U.S. through Sweetgrass, Montana in June 2001. That year was a rollercoaster of change for us: the selling of our condo in Canada, the death of Anne Marie's father and the closing of the family home in Ontario, a move to Cleveland as our first U.S. home, the loss of Doug's job in Cleveland and yet another move to Morristown less than two months after 9/11. When all the dust settled in November 2001, we found ourselves foreigners, setting up house in a foreign land, searching for some sense of community. Doug found Redeemer's website, and was intrigued by the life and abundance this worship community seemed to offer. The community echoed a church community that we belonged to more than 15 years ago while at graduate school in Nova Scotia Canada. Anne Marie attended Advent Evensong at Redeemer that December, and recalls being blown away by Phillip speaking of recovery from 9/11 from the pulpit that night. Here was a church that didn't shy away from the tough subjects! We began attending Sunday morning services together, worshipping anonymously, and then attended an Inquirer's Class and introduced ourselves for the first time to clergy and wardens (as Larry looked across the room and said "I don't know you.") We joined the Redeemer family in March 2002, and no sooner had that service ended than Phillip signed Anne Marie up for volunteering in the Redeemer office. It started out innocently enough, collating the annual report ... who knew what a gift it would turn out to be!

Doug's work as Employee Assistance Program Manager with Continental Airlines (Newark Airport) kept him traveling on a non-stop basis. Anne Marie however was not able to obtain a

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work visa, and so became a dedicated volunteer in the Redeemer office. Together we joined the Redeemer Partners' Group, and began to make solid friends there. Doug served on the acolyte ministry and joined the Men's Group, and we both sang in the choir on special Sundays.

As time passed, we seemed to settle in and become part of things here in Morristown and at Redeemer. Because we speak the same language and we grew up a mere 100 miles north of Cleveland, most casual observers would never guess how we struggled those first few years to adapt to a new culture, different tax laws, a new currency, and the biggest hurdle of all - our applications to become permanent residents. We were truly immigrants, starting out with a blank credit record, difficulty obtaining a checking account, credit card, and driver's license. We were (and continue to be) frequently baffled by subtle differences in tax laws, banking procedures, and foreign sounding things like 1040's, 401k's and IRA's.

Since 2001, we've come a long way, baby! In 2006, discouraged by next to no movement on our permanent resident applications, we changed immigration attorneys, and things started happening quickly when the oversight of our files moved from Houston to Manhattan! We remain grateful to Redeemer member and fellow immigrant Ian M. for the referral to the new attorney. Green cards arrived at the end of 2006 for each of us, and rejoicing was heard everywhere we went! For Anne Marie, this meant she could seek employment. Blessings came almost immediately, with referrals from several Redeemerites, Kathy, Jacky,

(continued on page 11)

Capital Campaign Update by Peter Arney



Back in the summer of 2005, the Stewardship Committee organized a series of regional meetings for the purpose of dreaming about and planning for what Redeemer would look like and need in five to ten years:

- We held 20 meetings, hosted by 20 families in their homes using the Appreciative Inquiry process
- With 22 members serving as facilitators and 160 members attending
- 1100 comments and suggestions were collected

These results were compiled, tabulated and analyzed. One of the key findings was the need to make significant investments in our infrastructure:

- In order to maintain the integrity of these beautiful and historic buildings
- And to reconfigure the space in the Parish House to better serve the needs of the Parish family, including our Youth Education Program
- Which are beyond the scope of our operating budget and endowment Pointing toward the need to conduct a Capital Campaign.

Last year, the Stewardship Committee began to explore what it would take to conduct a Capital Campaign. We interviewed three consulting firms and chose Dan Zanella Associates who conducted a feasibility study in the Fall to determine:

- The level of support for a campaign
- The key priorities of a campaign
- A realistic financial goal we could achieve

Which included 24 interviews with Redeemer members and six questionnaires completed by members of the Stewardship Committee

- Dan Zanella reported his findings to the Vestry in February. The major findings are that there is enthusiastic support for conducting a Capital Campaign with a goal of raising \$1.5 to \$1.7 million dollars. Funds might be used:
 - To convert the second floor of the Parish House into an Educational/ Multipurpose Center.
 - to fund critical maintenance projects to preserve the legacy of our precious buildings
 - to convert the lower level of the Parish House into office space for LVA
 - to install a handicap accessible bath room on the main level of the Church

At their meeting in February, the Vestry approved \$10,000 to retain an architect to develop specific plans for the work and appointed a committee representing key interests including Youth Education and Property Administration to work with the architect and create detailed plans and cost estimates

Stay tuned for more updates.

Shalom Ministry Awards:

Dan and Debbie G.

The Shalom Ministry Award is given every year at the Annual Meeting to highlight different areas of ministry that are essential to living out the Vision of the Church of the Redeemer, as a Christian Liberation Community in the Episcopal tradition. This award is not about the best ministry of the year, but about spotlighting significant contributions, made by committed and hardworking people in a specific areas of our life.

This year we name a couple who came to Redeemer in the wake of September 11th in the year 2001, seeking a community of value and purpose for themselves and a place where their children could find spiritual grounding. Much searching and internet exploration occurred before they could find a place that could speak to the rich diversity this family held within it. The sensitivities of both the adult-members of the family had to be met. One sought the Anglican style of worship, a cradle Episcopalian with Episcopal priests in the family and the other sought a church that honored the fullness of Jesus' Jewish heritage. Redeemer was the place.

This couple with their children immediately became part of the Christian Education ministry, filling every possible position in Sunday School: teaching, bringing snack, last minute fill-in, creating a summer program that, at times, only their children attended, working on and chairing the Youth Education Committee, leading games at the Parish Picnic and Family Night, teaching the oldest class every Sunday, leading children on Hunger and AIDS walks, making youth education announcements on a regular basis, shepherding the shepherds, rounding up

the angels in the Christmas pageant, serving as Education Vestry person and both helping out whenever, and I mean when-ever called up to help with programs.

I am talking about non-other that Dan and Debbie, 2008 recipients of the Shalom Ministry Award.

Dan and Debbie stuck to the task of leading Youth Education when many others dropped away and the staff leadership left something to be desired. They were not afraid to call for the necessary changes that led to the strong program that is being built today.

The activities of these two extend beyond education. We can find Debbie on a regular basis enriching our worship by playing the flute and Dan in the kitchen, cooking pancakes for the Pancake Breakfast and gourmet dishes for the Men's Group Dinner. Each year Dan adds great depth to the Holocaust Service as he chants the Kaddish in Hebrew.

The entire family lives out and supports the vision of Redeemer. Children, Matthew and Rachael live out this family's commitment to service. It is indeed my honor and privilege to announce the Vestry's choice of 2008 Shalom Ministry recipients: Dan and Debbie G.

(Continued see page 10-)

Dan N. - Second Shalom Ministry Award Recipient

There is a second recipient of the Shalom Ministry Award. The Vestry has nominated Dan because of his extraordinary commitment to children's programming at Redeemer teaching Sunday School and his dedication of time, money and energy to everything he has done in this area.

I first heard about Dan from his partner, Paul, who is committed to weekly worship. Church is an important part of Paul's life. Often I heard Paul talk lovingly about Dan, but wishing that they came to church together. Dan loves people but not in great quantities. Dan prefers to do his worship more individually.

Then one day I heard that Dan answered an invitation from Mary Jane, Sunday School Director at the time, to work in the Sunday School. Soon, I heard of Dan meeting with Mary Jane on a regular basis, sometimes at his home, to learn more about what it means to be a teacher.

Then I saw Dan going down, at that time, to the Sunday School dungeon in the basement of the Parish House. (The Sunday School is now in a clean airy new home on the second floor.) I visited Dan's classroom to see how he had personalized it, taking a real interest in every detail. He started to attend Godly Play teacher's workshops on his own time. Whatever it took to be a better teacher, Dan agreed.

Teaching involves more than knowing the curriculum. It is also about classroom management and knowing how to excite kids. Dan faced into each challenge, recommitting every year to teach for another year.

Our Sunday School teachers at Redeemer are paid a very small stipend. Remember, it is a year's commitment without a Sunday off other than Christmas and Easter. What I soon began to learn was that Dan took his stipend and added to it to buy Godly Play materials for the Sunday School, wooden bookcases to hold them and whatever it took to make a lesson work. Dan's investment in the program and the children is for the long run.

Mr. Dan, as the kids call him, though a computer wiz, finds himself searching lessons to come up with creative ways to teach children their Biblical heritage. Ask Dan about the bowl of different edibles that he uses to tell the story of creation. We all experience one of Dan's best lesson plans, as bread, freshly baked by his children, full of aroma, comes into church for Communion. From start to finish, it has to be ready at Communion time, and it is every year.

Seldom have I run into anyone who, though not so crazy about being in a church full of people, is so enthusiastic and committed about one of that church's essential ministries.

Well, Paul got his wish; Dan is now comes to church every Sunday and is a vital part of Redeemer. And, typical of Dan, he does it on his own terms.

The second 2008 Shalom Ministry Award:
Dan N!

Journeys (continued from page 7)

and Mary Jane, and before she knew it, Anne Marie had not one but two part-time jobs, thanks to the Redeemer family! Today she works from home in a virtual office, engaged in recruitment services for Girl Scout councils nationwide.

Our journey to Redeemer really began with a number of needs on our part, not just the need to belong to a worship community where we could deepen our spiritual walk, but also a need for connection to people who would stand by us when the going was filled with challenges and difficulties. We have found this within all facets of the Redeemer family! Support came for us while we waited for our green cards, love and prayers when we lost first Doug's father, then his mother, then his grandmother, all within a short few years. We don't have many family relations left in this world, so the Redeemer parish truly has become our family. For us, being part of the Redeemer family is like coming home – this part of our journey seems to have ended up here in this remarkable place of worship, fellowship, and community. And to that we say, "Amen!"

Protest March Against Violence (continued)

Marchers carried stakes bearing the names of children who have been killed because of their sexual orientation, and planted them in the ground on the front lawn of Redeemer when the march was completed.

Students from several schools participated in the march. Christian Fuscarino, the president of the Gay-Straight Alliance at Columbia High School in Maplewood, spoke of the need to educate students about their rights. Allison Carr, president of the Gay-Straight Peers at Fairleigh Dickinson University spoke of the ignorance that she feels is the foundation of the violence. And Adrea Parr and Hannah Tillinger,

Protest March Against Violence (continued)
both members of the executive committee of the Gay-Straight Alliance at Morristown High School, say they hope the march helped to educate people and bring awareness to the community.

Allison Carr summed up the march saying: "It was definitely uplifting. It's also given me a lot of hope."

It's Not Easy Bein' Green...But We Can Help!

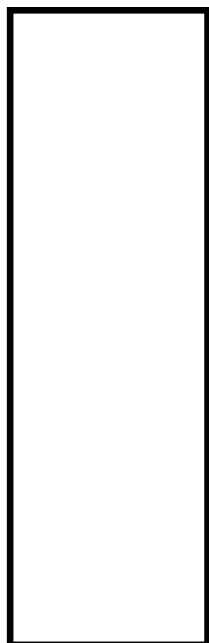
Do you care about the future of our planet? About "living simply, so that others may simply live"? About growing a greener Redeemer? Then join Redeemer's Environmental Concerns Group! We meet after the 10:30 service once each month, to share ideas and plan events that will help shape our church, community and world in a more sustainable direction. Environmental Concerns sponsors Movie Nights, speakers, youth events, and we are the folks who bring you that delicious, fair-trade coffee at the Coffee Hour each Sunday. Look for more information on our meetings and events in upcoming issues of Crossroads, in your Service Guide, and in Phillip's "Redeemer News" emails!

Here are some eco-tips you can try TODAY... from the book, "Serve God, save the Planet," by Matthew Sleeth:

- Wash clothes in the coolest water possible
- Turn thermostats up three degrees in summer and down three degrees in winter
- Combine trips and errands and bike, walk, carpool or use public transportation whenever possible Air-dry your laundry – clotheslines rock!
- Buy only fair-trade and shade-grown coffee and other sustainably-grown foods



Church of the Redeemer
36 South Street
Morristown, NJ 07960



Things to Remember ...

- ✓ Saturday, April 19th—Men's Cabaret
- ✓ Saturday, April 19th—Preston Root's 102 birthday!
- ✓ Sunday, May 4th—New Jersey AIDS Walk
- ✓ Sunday, May 11th—Celebrating Women's Journeys

