

# 2022 ANNUAL PARISH REPORT

Episcopal Church of the Redeemer  
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Saturday Services:  
Lake Oconee Lutheran Church  
1089 Greensboro Road  
Eatonton, GA 31024

## Commissioning of Vestry and Wardens

*The Celebrant addresses the vestry members and congregation*

Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus, we are all baptized by the one Spirit into one Body, and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good. Our purpose is to commission these persons in the Name of God and of this congregation to the special ministry of vestry to which they are called.

*The Celebrant asks the congregation*

Are these persons you are presenting prepared by a commitment to Christ as Lord, by regular attendance at worship, and by the knowledge of their duties, to exercise their ministry to the honor of God, and the well-being of God's Church?

*Congregation*                    ***We believe they are.***

Will you encourage these persons in their ministry at the Church of the Redeemer, offering your support in body, mind, and spirit?

***We will.***

*The Celebrant then the vestry members*

You have been called to the ministry of this parish's vestry. Will you, as long as you are engaged in this work, perform it with diligence?

*Candidates* I will.

*Celebrant* Will you faithfully and reverently execute the duties of your ministry to the honor of God, and the benefit of the members of this congregation?

*Candidates* I will.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

O Eternal God, the foundation of all wisdom and the source of all courage: enlighten with your grace the Wardens and Vestry of this congregation; so rule their minds, and guide their counsels, that in all things they may seek your glory and promote the mission of your Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*The vestry members are then addressed one at a time by the celebrant*

In the Name of God and of this congregation. I commission you [N.] as a Member of the Vestry in this parish of The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer.

*The Celebrant then concludes*

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, from whom comes every good and perfect gift: Send down upon our vestry, and upon this congregation with whom they will minister, the healthful Spirit of your grace; and, that they may truly please you, pour upon them the continual dew of your blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honor of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. ***Amen.***

## **Rector's Report – Rev. Bill Combs**

Because our Annual Meeting is gathering in January rather than the previous October, our various reports may be a smidge bigger. So many good things have been happening at Redeemer that we are brimming with joy! Let's take a look at these last 14 months of our life together both inwardly and outwardly, and then look to our future with an upward gaze.

### **Inward**

Holding Together: Our daily life as a church orbits around our administrative center. For nearly eight years Elaine Hall was at that center, helping to keep us organized and informed with a warm and caring spirit that reflected the heart of this church. In late spring of 2022, Elaine announced her retirement. In a festive reception that spilled outdoors, we celebrated with her the time she spent at Redeemer with laughter, and more than a few tears. After a several rough months with yours truly attempting to hold down the fort, we received the application of one of our own – Brinkley Pound. Brinkley had been the director of the Greene County Habitat for Humanity, but she was looking to move to a part-time and less-demanding position. It took little time for our Search Committee to say, with great thanksgiving, “Yes!” Brinkley started as the new Administrative Assistant in October, and she has been such a blessing to us moving forward. Brinkley is expanding the duties of that position, helping Heather with some of the financial record-keeping, and consolidating membership information into a powerful database, all the while continuing to keep us coordinated and organized.

Praising Together: Our worship life has been marked by joys and challenges over the past year. We have seen the transmission levels of COVID drop to “Low” in Greene and Putnam Counties and remain at that level for nearly six months. Perhaps our greatest concern this year has been for one of our organists, Jenny Moore, who suffered a fall on Easter evening. Jenny's injuries that have had a complicated healing course. After months of limited mobility and chronic infection, Jenny was able to have the surgery she needed to begin to mend and regain her life again. Her recovery has been slow and steady, spurred on by Jenny's indefatigable spirit and a community of love praying for her. She hopes to be able to be back at the organ in the next few months! Into the void created by Jenny's injury stepped Hue Jang, the second of our “organist-duo.” Hue has graciously and generously filled in as many of the openings as possible, given her position at Georgia College. Words cannot adequately express our gratitude to Hue for all the ways she has taken up so much of the extra Saturdays and Sundays. I am also most grateful to John Cawthon and Savannah Curro for offering music on those weekends when Hue could not be present.

Over the past several years Bishop Wright has been encouraging the clergy of the diocese to “run some experiments” – try new things, innovate, explore. Here at Redeemer, we have run an “experiment” or two in our worship. Early last year, Christine Young voiced her desire that we try having a Folk Mass, and to advertise it to the community at large. The Parish Life team organized and coordinated two Folk Masses this year – one in the spring and one in the fall. Both were very well-received, tripling the average Saturday service attendance. We hope to continue offering these in the new year. We also offered a Blue Christmas service on December 21, for those both in our church and in our community who are experience grief, loss, and/or depression during the Christmas holiday season. This service was especially meaningful for those who came, including two people outside of Redeemer, both of whom had experienced the death of a daughter in the past year. And looking forward, we are planning to begin a monthly Celtic service in 2023-24 – after my sabbatical is complete and we have been able to explore other models (more about this later in this report).

Fun and Fellowshiping Together: Our Parish Life team has done a wonderful job this past year, with opportunities for us to gather for fun and fellowship peppered throughout the year. The 2022 Shrove Tuesday gathering received a bit of a makeover itself: Christine Young had the good idea to move it to a brunch, when it is more convenient for more of our congregation. We more than doubled the number of folks who were able to attend! The Parish Life team also organized a new-comer's gathering at Wrayswood Homestead, restarted Foyer's groups, offered a farewell reception for Elaine Hall, brought us together for a fall Harvest Gathering where we were able to say our farewells to Karen Klomp and Keith and Peggy Cooley, and put together a Second Annual Advent Wreath-Making!!! All of this, on top of Parish Life's usual busyness with the daily and weekly hospitalities that accompany church life.

Growing Together: But we do more than worship and eat at Redeemer! We also learn. In the past 14 months we have studied the Bible. We have explored the intersection of faith and art in Advent. We have examined living our faith in the world with Barbara Brown Taylor. We have moved through the spiritual paths of labyrinth walks. We have explored Celtic Christian Spirituality, and we have learned about the Underground Railroad through a magnificent quilt. And our weekly gatherings of Living Gracefully, Centering Prayer, and Yoga continue to enrich, deepen and inform our faith.

Building and Grounding Together: Our Junior Warden, Les Reed, has been very busy this past year! In early 2022 the vestry approved the replacement of the roof over the Ice House. For years we have gone back and forth about that portion of our Activity Center building. Many were in favor of demolishing it – however, the cost was prohibitive. We agreed to restoring the roof, making the building water-tight again. The hope is to lease the Ice House space for dry storage.

In the spring of this year a parishioner very generously gave the money needed to purchase the little strip of land between the Children's Center and the parking lot below, making us "whole" in our property lines. We have been able to clear away much of the brush and thin the trees over a few parish work days.

New door locks and improved lighting in the Activity Center have also been highlights for Les and his team.

Financing and Resourcing Together: 2022 was a good year for Redeemer financially. Although nationwide inflation concerns drove our stock investments downward, our pledge and non-pledge giving was very good, allowing us to end the year with a surplus of nearly \$20,000. Our stewardship efforts, led by Everett Price's guidance, included periodic presentations throughout the year from many of our vestry liaisons about what was happening in their particular areas of ministry. And our vestry amended and reapproved the Redeemer Endowment, which will be an ongoing aspect of our stewardship life together. Looking ahead, our giving is significantly down for 2023, in part due to the moving away of some of our long-time members. In the upcoming vestry retreat we will strive to achieve a balanced budget.

Resting and Restoring: A big part of our life this past year was spent exploring my upcoming sabbatical this summer. Early in the year we formed a Sabbatical Planning Committee, who undertook the work of applying for a Lilly Grant to fund the sabbatical. This will be my first sabbatical, and the first for the parish (we believe). My time away will begin with roughly 6 weeks in Scotland. I will begin with a weeklong retreat on the island of Iona, off the west coast of Scotland. I will then travel to Wales for a week or so. I then will travel to Edinburgh, to spend a week with my family – touring around the Scottish Highlands. My trip will then finish with a 65

mile walk along St. Cuthbert's Way, ending on the island of Lindisfarne. I will then have a month with my family before ending my time of rest and restoration at 10-Day Centering Prayer retreat in Snowmass, Colorado in late August.

During my time away the parish will be exploring, resting, and restoring. The plans are still being formulated, but options include learning about Celtic Spirituality and the locations I will be exploring; investigating labyrinths in the area; visiting parishes in neighboring states that have regular Celtic Eucharist services; and whatever else the Holy Spirit moves them to do.

Rev. Bob Kirkpatrick, a retired priest who served at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Covington for many years, will be our interim priest. Bob is a wonderful man with interests in common with me and many of you.

Unfortunately, the Lilly Foundation did not approve our application for the grant. But – quietly, behind the scenes – this parish raised the funds (and then some!) to cover the cost of my sabbatical as well as the expenses of hiring an interim priest and parish expenses for traveling to explore Celtic worship services!!! I have never experienced such a generous outpouring of support and love for my renewal and the renewal of a congregation!

Planning and Renovating Together: Our plans to renovate the Activity Center, create accessible restrooms, and launch a Capital Campaign have been like magma flowing beneath hot springs: they have not been visible to the general congregation, but their presence and impact are felt! In the larger Annual Report, I have included a special section from Len Scullion, outlining the progress we have made this year. The Capital Campaign and the development of plans for our renovations will be a major focus for Redeemer in the upcoming year.

Transitioning Together: It is the nature of church life that we experience changes and fluctuations in our membership. In the last 14 months two families have officially transferred their memberships out of Redeemer: Larry and Bev Myatt and Oscie and Carol Gordon (both of whom moved away well over a year ago). Recently we said farewell to three additional families: Ed and Kathy Coleman, Keith and Peggy Cooley, and Karen Klomp. The Colemans, the Cooleys, and Karen have been integral in the life of our Redeemer family, and they are missed.

While we are grieved by the departure of members of our family, we are at the same time overjoyed with the coming of new members. Also in the past 14 months, Steve and Jeri Borchers, Rich and Vicki Connelly, Jeff and Elizabeth Dick, Bree Kelly, Michael and Karen Kelly, Jane Moss, Jim and Brinkley Pound, and Mark and Beth Prosser have all joined Redeemer by Letter of Transfer! We are so blessed by the life and love they bring to Redeemer!!!

And new to our staff since November 2021 are Brinkley Pound (our new Administrative Assistant), Kathy Kurelic (our new Vestry Clerk), and Timothy Gresham (our new Audio-Visual Technician). We are SO grateful for the tremendous gifts they bring to their ministries!

Our Passings: With great sorrow we witnessed the passing of two of our parish members, Charlotte Keyser and John Waters. We deeply miss them both, and our prayers continue to be with John Keyser and the Waters friends and family.

## **Outward**

At the Vestry Retreat last year we adopted a nickname that actually originated in the community around us. Over the years Redeemer's members, when telling others where they attend church, often would hear the response: "Oh, isn't that the little red church that does so much?" The way our vestry framed it at the retreat was: "The Little Red Church With the Big Heart." Connie Karpinsky has spearheaded this effort, and as the liaison for Congregational Growth and

Development, ran with it! Over the past year we have tee shirts, car decals, brochures, and visitor's cards with a brand new logo depicting a red church whose over-sized open doors form a great big heart. Not only is this how we understand ourselves; The Little Red Church With the Big Heart is how we have lived outwards in 2022.

Feeding: In late 2021 and early 2022, our monthly meals program with the community, "Soup and Sandwich Saturdays" blossomed and grew. Redeemer joined First United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, Historic Springfield Baptist Church, and Second Harvest to form Our Father's Kitchen. Meals are now served every Saturday to those living with food insecurity in Greene County at the much-larger facilities of the downtown First United Methodist Church. The ministry is thriving (serving from 70-100+ meals a week), with plans to expand and include other area churches.

Once again, Connie Karpinsky and her team of 30 or so volunteers surpassed all expectations with this year's Upscale Resale. With only two full days of sales they garnered \$18,000!!! The funds were evenly divided between the Putnam County Food Pantry and the Greene County Food Pantry – an incredible windfall for these small ministries!

In addition, we have gathered food throughout the year for families in need in Greensboro. This food has mostly been distributed in food baskets at Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Adding to the fun at Christmas was the opportunity for our parishioners to shop for and purchase Christmas gifts for children in families that otherwise would not be able to afford them.

Sheltering: When two of our members, through a series of health-related set-backs, found themselves in the position of losing their housing, another Redeemer member stepped in. Through the generosity of this third member, Redeemer purchased the condo unit that was at risk of being sold out from under the two that were experiencing this health crises. We now own this condo unit, and it will continue to house this Redeemer household for as long as it is needed. In the years after that it may be used to provide shelter for others in our community who run into hardship.

Since early last year Redeemer has been a member of the Housing and Homelessness Strategy Team, a coalition of churches, school administrators, and other interested entities. Cathy Crosby has represented us in this effort to try to address the growing challenge of homelessness in our community, and the growing shortage of affordable housing.

Growing: For several years Mimi Vickers has been toying with the idea of a community garden. At last year's retreat she decided that she would like to move forward, with the vestry's full support. Mimi explored areas where such a garden might go. And then she hit on the good idea of asking the Pete Nance Boys & Girls Club if they would be interested in having a community garden on their property – and to have it tended to by the children. They readily agreed! Later, in the fall, when Home Depot was approached about donating materials to build the garden, the Home Depot folks really came through. Not only did they donate materials, but they sent a work team to help guide the construction of the garden!!! The Boys and Girls Club Community Garden is up and ready for the spring!

Warming: Our Quilters Guild has been very busy these past 14 months. In early 2022 Carolyn White presented to the Greene County library a very large quilt, depicting in smaller panels quilts used by the Underground Railroad to assist fleeing slaves to freedom in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The library will use this gorgeous quilt to teach children and adults about this very important aspect of American history.



And the Quilters Guild – consisting of Carolyn, Carol Sinke, Alice Stollenmeyer, and Katie Price – have made scores of quilts for Head Start Children, and dozens more for the elderly clients in the Meals on Wheels program. Each quilt is made with love and care (quilts for visually impaired individuals included tactile elements and patterns) and reflects the love of God that wraps every one of the recipients.

Holding: In many other ways our parishioners have provided for those in crisis and need in our larger community. The Car Ministry continues to provide low-cost cars for those needing affordable transportation – so important in this time of sky-rocketing used car prices.

And of paramount importance has been this parish's financial support, primarily through Outreach budgeting (disbursed by our amazing vestry liaison, Sharon Bryan and the Outreach Committee) and the monthly giving to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. A week does not go by without a call for assistance for food, shelter, utilities, or transportation.

So many opportunities to be (and become more and more) that Little Red Church With the Big Heart!

### **Upward**

The life of Redeemer is ever and always upward. All the ways that we show and share love, learn and grow in understanding, pray and praise together reflect the very heart of God. Everything we do points to the Kingdom of God and Christ's love for each and every one of his children. It continues to be an incredible gift and blessing for me to serve as the rector at the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, and I look forward to all that 2023 brings: renovations and a capital campaign, sabbatical rest and renewal, a cornucopia of ministry opportunities, and whatever else God has in mind!!!

### **Senior Warden's/Administration Report – Linda Chesbro**

The 2022 Redeemer vestry met on a frosty January morning to plan the year ahead. Business matters were attended to and approved, and then liaison positions were decided. Father Bill distributed two articles for contemplation and discussion. "The Small Church as Icon" (Jen Fulton) and "Benedictine Stewardship" (Steven A. Peay) were both found to be very relevant to our position and ministry. Seeds were sown that came to fruition as the year progressed: the adoption of a logo for our "little red church with a big heart" and the community garden at the Pete Nance Boys and Girls Club. The meeting closed with our hearts full.

Father Bill's extensive efforts to keep us together and inspired through the COVID pandemic paid off as restrictions were eased and we began gathering in person in increasing numbers. A video operator was hired for our Facebook broadcasts of the Sunday services and the Saturday evening service branched out to offer two folk masses.

The sabbatical committee presented exciting plans for Father Bill's sabbatical and for the congregation's parallel plans. The beautifully written grant proposal to the Lilly Foundation failed to produce the funding, but the parishioners' whole-hearted support was demonstrated by a fast-moving GoFundMe campaign.

The generosity of a parishioner made possible the purchase of the strip of land between the Children's Center and the lower parking lot.

A new architectural firm was engaged to resume discussion of ideas for the renovation of the Activities Center and plans are being discussed. Previous efforts by the capital campaign committee and the endowment fund committee were dusted off and discussions resumed on both fronts.

Parish social life continues to bring us together: the Fat Tuesday pancake brunch, a new member gathering, the harvest gathering, and an Advent wreath workshop all provided fun and fellowship.

Christian education grew in scope and is attended both in-person and by ZOOM.

Elaine Hall, our parish administrator, retired and after several months of volunteer efforts we were blessed with the application of Brinkley Pound. She continues to keep her eye on all our moving parts.

The Redeemer quilting group kept busy making beautiful lap quilts for all Meals on Wheels recipients who are served by Redeemer drivers. A stunning quilt commemorating the Underground Railroad was dedicated and donated to the Greensboro Public Library for educational purposes.

The Upscale Resale event has grown by leaps and bounds every year and this year resulted in \$9,000 donations to both the Greensboro County and Putnam County food pantries. Our Father's Kitchen, which grew out of our own Soup and Sandwich Saturdays, continues to grow in numbers being fed and local churches joining in the effort.

*Reaching out and reaching in* is our motto at Redeemer. Participation and support on many fronts are signs of a happy and healthy parish. We have bid farewell to several cherished members and welcomed new friends who bring their experiences to us. Father Bill often speaks of relationships, and it is inspiring to see them grow in numbers and in depth in our little church. Many big hearts working together for the greater good.

### **Junior Warden's/Building and Grounds Report – Les Reed**

There were two significant projects in 2022. The largest of these was the replacement of the roof on the old foundry (Ice House) area of the Activities Center. This project was discussed for many years as the roof was over 50 years old and leaking. Many attempts to patch the roof failed. A study was done to determine if it was better to replace the roof or completely tear off that part of the Activity Center. The study found it cheaper and better to replace the roof. The roof was replaced in the summer for a cost of \$35,000 and took about a week to complete. The roof has not leaked since being replaced.

In the fall a parishioner purchased for the Church the 0.16 acre piece of property on North Main Street that sits between the Children's Center building and the lower parking lot, located between



two parcels owned by the Church. The parcel included the old scale house and pit. Since the parcel was heavily overgrown, a contractor was hired to clear the land at a cost of \$2,300. The work improved the property and made it more accessible. As there were several large trees on the property that needed to be removed, a parishioner agreed to pay the cost for removal. A contractor was hired to remove seven trees at a cost of \$2,000. The propane tank on the property was gifted to the Church by Wilhoit Gas.

Other projects completed on the grounds and buildings include:

- Installation of a ramp to improve access to the doors of the Foundry. The ramp was donated by a family from Harbor Club (not a member of the parish) and relocated by Church members.
- Installation of LED bulbs in the storage room in the Activity Center – much to the delight of members who use the space!
- Replacement of key locks with digital locks on the Activity Center and Children’s Center entry doors.
- Installation of LED lights in the main area of the Activity Center after a successful trial full installation was completed in early 2023.
- Installation of fill material for the flagstones in the Remembrance Garden as a trial which was successful. The remainder of the area will be filled in 2023 for a cost of less than \$400.

There were two Parish workdays – one in the spring and one in the fall. Both were well attended and much was accomplished: missing sheetrock was installed, the ramp was installed, the windows were washed, trash and unneeded materials removed. In addition, the garden was improved with added mulch along with trimmings, plantings and removals. The large pathway stones were moved and the resulting holes filled with gravel. These workdays were successful due to the wonderful help of many members of Redeemer and is greatly appreciated.

### **Planning and Building Committee – Len Scullion**

This committee has met a number of times since last October, and have made steady progress towards developing renovation plans for the Activity Center and an accessible bathroom for our sanctuary. We have retained David Matheny of Armentrout, Matheny, and Thurmond, (ATM) an architectural firm out of Athens to create architectural plans and do an in-depth structural analysis for the renovation of the whole first floor of the Activity Center, and develop accessible bathroom options for the sanctuary that do not impose on the historic footprint of the church’s building and gardens. We anticipate that ATM will create a design and set of visual representations in the next several months. After we arrive at a plan that will best address our parish needs, we will make recommendations to the vestry for their approval. From there, we plan to launch a Capital Campaign, hopefully later in 2023.

The work of this committee is very important to the life of Redeemer and is of the highest priorities in the upcoming year. We are grateful for the hard work of Nancy Beckemeyer, John Braly, John Fox, Connie Karpinsky, Les Reed, Carl Stollenmeyer, Mimi Vickers, Christine Young, and especially the tireless committee chair, Len Scullion.  
(submitted by Bill Combs, from notes from Committee meetings)

## **Christian Education – Cathy Crosby**

Thanks to the efforts of a creative and collaborative team, Adult Christian Education has enjoyed exploring our faith through scripture, books, guest speakers, music, art and movement. Deep gratitude to Nancy Barton, Mimi Vickers, Carolyn White, Karen Klomp, Linda Chesbro and of course, to Fr. Bill for their vision!

In **September** and part of **October**, we dove deeply into faith experiences using our senses and environment with Rev, Barbara Brown Taylor's wise and witty book, *An Altar in the World*. Leading up to All Saints Day, we explored some lesser-known saints and a highlight of **November** was a visit from Rabbi Pamela Gottfried; scripture scholar, author, potter and Weber School faculty. Rabbi Pamela invited us into a familiar story of family tensions, Genesis 25:19-28:9, with Rebekah and Isaac, Esau and Jacob. November also saw an indoor and outdoor labyrinth walk. The four Sundays of **Advent** offered exploration of *Hope, Peace, Challenge* and *Joy* through visual arts, poetry, music, family traditions and sharing of stories.

Looking forward, **January**, 2023, has begun with former Archbishop Rowan Williams' book *Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist and Prayer*. Nancy Barton's skilled facilitating is deepening so much of what we thought we understood pretty well!

**February** highlights will include a tour of Redeemer property, all of it, and then we'll step into **Lent** with former Warden of Iona Abbey John Philip Newell, alternating weeks of video presentations and study of his book, *Sacred Earth Sacred Soul*.

During **Easter Season**, we'll visit familiar themes of ascension, life transfigured, the Way of Light (Via Lumina), similar to the Way of the Cross, all leading to a festive and joyful send-off for Fr. Bill as he embarks upon his sabbatical. During summer months, the parish will enjoy complimentary creative activities.

## **Communication Report – Mimi Vickers**

In 2022 Redeemer faithfully continued its outreach ministries and offerings of various events and fundraisers. Communicating these activities throughout the area has become an important function in raising awareness of our little red church and all we do within the greater community.

Thanks to assistance from Connie Karpinsky, all aspects of the media were utilized in this endeavor.

During this year, we joined the area Worship Directory with a special ad; promoted such events as Soup and Sandwich Saturday, which later morphed into Our Father's Kitchen; announced our Ash Wednesday parking-lot blessing with "ashes to go" in March; a prayer vigil for victims of gun violence in June, co-sponsored with First Presbyterian Church; publicized in September the much anticipated Upscale Resale to raise funds for the Greene and Putnam Food Pantries; the Celebration of St Francis and Blessing of the Animals in October; announced the newly created garden at the Pete Nance Boys and Girls Club; and finally the Blue Christmas service held in December.

Thanks to all who made these happenings and missions possible.

### **Congregational Growth and Development – Connie Karpinsky**

Committee members: Jeri Borchers, JoAnne Scullion, Carol Sinke and Rebecca McRobbie

Our mission: To reach within to ensure our current family is informed and included. We believe a happy and thriving family will, in turn, send a positive message to others in the community and result in an opportunity for church growth.

A new logo was designed and implemented with special emphasis on The Little Red Church with the Big Heart.



Along with planning a New Member Welcome Reception, we put together new brochures and updated welcome packets. For new families in attendance on Saturday and Sunday, we had pew cards printed, making sure they included contact information and our web address. In addition, we printed business cards asking everyone to take a few and pass them out within their special interest groups, if the opportunity presented itself. T-shirts with our new logo were purchased and given to all parishioners in hopes that they would be worn while participating in our community outreach programs.

Families move away and new families move in. We must continue to have a presence in our community. We have promoted Redeemer consistently in the Neighborhood App and on Facebook. Our Live Service each week continues to have hundreds of viewers, with an occasional donation sent through our PayPal link on the webpage.

Each member has his own unique gifts to offer. Not one of us is more important than the other. We must continue to share our gifts and work together synergistically to maintain a strong, healthy, functioning parish family. And our belief is that our vision can and will spread throughout the community. Growth will come. We are The Little Red Church with the Big Heart.

### **Outreach Report – Sharon Bryan**

It has been another busy year for Redeemer's Outreach Ministry.

We have assisted ten individuals, some who have children, with rent, utilities, shelter and household supplies.

In March, we made a contribution to the Pete Nance Boys & Girls Club to help pay for the dinners they provide students.

In April, our Soup & Sandwich Saturday ministry combined forces with three other churches and the Second Harvest food distribution program to form OUR FATHER'S KITCHEN. Free lunches are now being served every Saturday of each month, with the participating churches serving one Saturday per month. We are now serving over 100 lunches each week to those in our community who may be experiencing food insecurity. We operate out of the kitchen at Greensboro UMC North Campus. Redeemer was the "spark that lit the fire" for this wonderful collaborative effort, and it has been very rewarding to see how this ministry continues to grow.

At Easter, we provided hams and other food items from our food pantry to five families, as well as providing treat-filled Easter baskets for the 23 children in those families.

For Mother's Day, we provided over 20 goody bags for the ladies who reside at Legacy Nursing Home in Greensboro.

In July, we collected school supplies for the students in the Greene County Schools.

In August, we made a donation to Greene County Christian Outreach.

In October, Connie Karpinsky once again organized the highly successful UPSCALE RESALE event that our church is becoming known for. We partnered with Lake Oconee Community Church who donated their space, and raised over \$17,000 that was equally divided between the food pantries in Greene and Putnam counties.

Also in October, we provided treat bags for the Meals on Wheels recipients in Greene County.

In November, thanks to the efforts of Mimi Vickers and Jim Borland, a Community Garden was started at the Pete Nance Boys & Girls Club. Home Depot donated the supplies and labor but Mimi and Jim were instrumental in getting this project going. Some vegetables were planted in November and it will be exciting to see how this project progresses in the Spring.

At Thanksgiving, we provided turkeys and all the trimmings for Thanksgiving dinner, as well as food for a week, to five families.

At Christmas, we provided hams and food for Christmas dinner, as well as food for the week. We also provided gifts for the 18 children in those families.

We continue to be a part of the Greene County Poverty/Homeless Strategy Team with their efforts in exploring ways to help the homeless population in Greene County.

In December, we made a contribution to Redeemer's Quilters Guild to help defray some of the costs of the beautiful quilts they provided this year to children at Head Start as well as the recipients of Meals on Wheels in Greene County. What a labor of love!

With the funds left in the Outreach budget at the end of 2022, we purchased twenty Ingles gift cards for Father Bill to give to people in the community who need help with food costs.

Because of the gifts of your time, talent and treasures, the Outreach Ministry at Redeemer is making a difference in our community. Thank you so much for your support.

### **Parish Life Report – Christine Young**

Parish Life Committee: Christine Young, Pat Chapman, Ken Crosby, Ann Goff, and Amy Schneider

February 2022: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Brunch (Mardi Gras Theme) - 24 Participants (triple prior event attendance!)

March 2022: Foyers Kick Off Event - 24 Participants (4 groups)

April 2022: Keyser Memorial Service and Farewell and Appreciation Reception for Elaine Hall

May 2022: Inaugural Folk Mass - 31 Participants (choral accompaniment from Redeemer parishioners and instrumental accompaniment from Hue Jang, Steven Taylor & Ken Crosby)

September 2022: 2<sup>nd</sup> Folk Mass -36 Participants (choral accompaniment from GSCU Choral Students and instrumental accompaniment from Hue Jang, Steve Taylor, Ken Crosby & Michael Kerr (GSCU student))

October 2022: Harvest Gathering (Parish Picnic) - 40 Participants (double attendance of 2021 and included farewell for Karen Klomp and Peggy and Keith Cooley)

November 2022: Advent Wreath Making - 5 Participants, and 2 take home kits

December 2022: Farewell and appreciation reception for Ed and Kathy Coleman

On-Going: Saturday evening and Sunday morning Social Hours following services

**A BIG THANKS** to all who assisted in the planning, setting up/take down, and attending these events.

### **Stewardship Report – Everett Price**

First, my thanks to Len Scullion and Stan Mileski, for being such good counsel to me on this committee and their many efforts in our parish, in various service duties. Although our relationship was different this year from last year (they were advisors rather than committee members) they helped me tremendously with that counsel and continued to be members that help the parish Reaching In and Reaching Out.

The year 2022 saw some changes/additional communications delivered to the parish from the stewardship committee; some adding to the annual fall campaign and others in an effort to add some visibility of what our wonderful ministries provide in service to our parish and community. We called that effort Year-Round Stewardship. Many of your vestry members and committee leaders made presentations to the congregation about their ministry work and future plans. We also added to our campaign this year by having volunteers from our membership write and send personal notes to other members about their joy in being members at Redeemer.

The committee produced letters that accompanied the mid-year pledge statements and produced the 2023 campaign package that includes a letter on our campaign, Time and Talent Opportunity Sheet and the 2023 pledge card.

Our plans in January are to do required follow-up on the campaign mailing to assist anyone needing any kind of help in this part of their spiritual journey and their response.

### **Worship (and Housing Ministry) Report – Carl Stollenmeyer**

My primary Liaison is Worship. My duties include scheduling Readers & Greeters for all Saturday & Sunday services which I coordinate on a quarterly basis with those who volunteer to serve in this ministry. As a Reader myself for many years here as well other churches where we lived, I had the pleasure to officiate an Evening Prayer at one Saturday service at Lake Oconee Lutheran Church in 2022 when Rev. Bill was away. I have Multiple Sclerosis which makes me immunocompromised plus my walking gait and balance issues make it difficult from a personal safety standpoint for me to attend services at Redeemer in Greensboro. My wife Alice has chronic sleep issues which means she cannot attend morning services, so we choose to attend Saturday services where she serves on the Altar Guild and launders all linens for all services.

I am also responsible for our Housing ministry which was created in Jan. 2022 when I donated funds for Redeemer to purchase a condominium in the Crossroads at Lake Oconee condo complex behind Ace Hardware in Putnam County. John & Charlotte Keyser, Redeemer parishioners had been renting this unit since 2018. They were facing potential eviction if it was purchased by a new owner who was unwilling to retain them as renters at an affordable rent. Our intention was that this condo unit might be able to house someone else in need of affordable housing in the future.

I am also a member of the Redeemer Planning & Building Committee for site renovations. Before my MS diagnosis in 2019, I was an active member of the Building & Grounds committee. I was on Rev. Bill's Sabbatical Grant application committee. My sister Karen Klomp and I regularly attended Redeemer services in Greensboro in 2013-14. Karen moved to Findlay, OH on November 12, 2022 to be close to her daughter's family.



**THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER**

The Right Rev. Robert C. Wright, Bishop  
The Right Rev. Don Wimberly, Assisting Bishop  
The Right Rev. Paul Lambert, Assisting Bishop  
The Rev. Bill Combs, Rector  
Brinkley Pound, Parish Administrator  
Jenny Moore, Organist  
Hue Jang, Organist

**VESTRY**

Linda Chesbro, Senior Warden, Administration  
Les Reed, Junior Warden, Building and Grounds  
Sharon Bryan, Outreach  
Cathy Crosby, Christian Education  
Connie Karpinsky, Congregational Growth & Development  
Everett Price, Stewardship  
Carl Stollenmeyer, Worship  
Mimi Vickers, Communications  
Christine Young, Parish Life  
Heather Kennerson, Treasurer  
Kathy Kurelic, Vestry Clerk

Website: [www.greensborogaepiscopal.org](http://www.greensborogaepiscopal.org)

Parish office: [redeemer1868@gmail.com](mailto:redemer1868@gmail.com)

**REACHING OUT • REACHING IN  
REDEEMER**