



transforming generosity

Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

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OUR RECTOR'S VISION

transforming  generosity

DEAREST REDEEMER FAMILY MEMBERS,

Let me begin by saying how truly grateful I am for each and every one of you. The true feeling of our being a family is palpable in this place, and I give thanks for that daily.

Being grateful is where I believe God dreams we might all begin. When we have as our foundational core a sense of being grateful for the life we've been given; the abilities of seeing, thinking, moving, and simply breathing, then we begin to better see how important it is for us to give back to the very source of that life. While we cannot give our money directly to God, nor does God need it, we can give toward our family home here at Redeemer where we and so many others experience God's presence.

I am incredibly grateful for the generous gifts you've already given to Redeemer. Because of your generosity we are able to share the love of Christ in so many ways to folks within our walls and far beyond. God transforms lives with the gifts we give back, including our own.

One of the dreams I believe God has for Redeemer is for us to call an assistant to the Rector. Despite the title, we all need to understand that such a person would not be called simply "to get Robert some help", but in order that every aspect of Redeemer might benefit and grow.

A second clergy person would increase Christian formation offerings for all of us. A second clergy person would increase the number of new ministries here. A second clergy person would double the amount of pastoral care offered to all of us. And the list goes on and on. We all need to see the benefits of an assistant as being ours as the Redeemer family...and thus encourage us all to be part of making it possible.

Perhaps in the days and weeks to come we can all pray about and then discuss with our families how the place where we experience and feel God deeply and where we know that God is truly at work, should perhaps be the place where we attempt to generously give back. May God bless you and your family, and may God continue to bless our lives and ministry together at Redeemer.

Peace & Blessings,

Robert+



Transforming Generosity Narrative Budget 2019

Message from Stewardship Co-Chairs	3
Facts and Figures, Leigh Deignan	4
Worship, Kenneth Waller	5
Christian Spiritual Formation, Tricia Raybould	6
Hospitality & Evangelism, Kristi Wright	7
Parish Life, Beth McGurl	8
Pastoral Care, Pete Hock	9
Outreach, Bob Marland	10
Buildings & Grounds, Rick Maurer	11



DEAR FRIENDS,

PRESIDING BISHOP MICHAEL CURRY often describes us as “The Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement.”

As we begin to talk about stewardship of our parish and wider community, we want to pose these questions: What does that mean for us? What is God calling us to do as followers of Jesus?

As Episcopalians, we love our worship. Our liturgies inspire us. The Eucharist is at the center of our lives. We believe the Bible is the word of God and we are people of the Word.

As part of the Jesus movement, we follow the One who loves us so much that he gave his life so that we might understand God’s never-ending love for all of creation.

And here’s the hard part: As followers of Jesus, we are called to give all of ourselves to God’s work in the world. In the sixth chapter of Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus, after teaching us how to pray, talks to us about money, our needs and our hope. He reminds us that we cannot have two masters. We cannot love God and money.

Jesus then says, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?”

He finishes by calling each of us with these words, “But seek first God’s kingdom and God’s righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

How would our church —how would we — be transformed if each of us remembered these words of Jesus? We are indeed called to set new priorities.

Establishing new priorities for ourselves and for our church means transforming how we think about

generosity. That transformation will call upon us to look for generosity in every aspect of our work and in every aspect of our lives. Remember the tenth chapter of Mark’s Gospel: “Jesus, looking at the man, loved him and said, ‘You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.’”

Jesus calls us to take the long view. Again he challenges us to give all of ourselves to God’s righteousness and trust in God’s care.

What a challenge! What transformation!

We hope you’ll join us as we work together to transform generosity in our church, our community and our lives. In the following pages, you will read about God’s accomplishments here at Redeemer through His various ministries.

Faithfully,

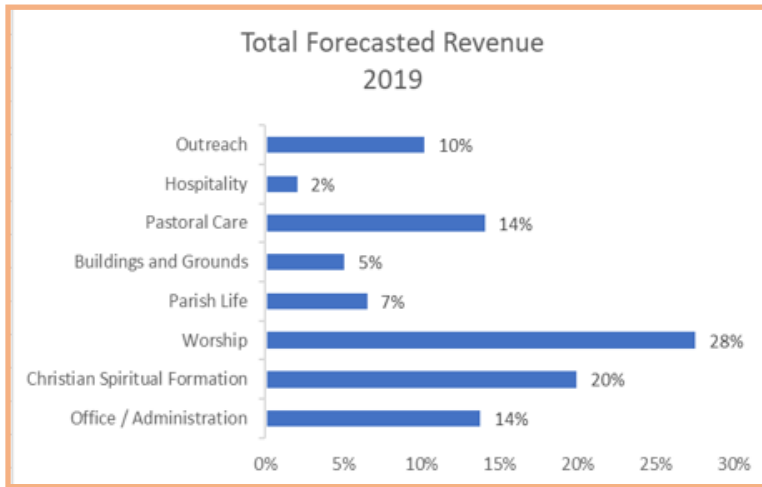


Fred Bernhardt and Nancy Hodder,
Stewardship Co-Chairs

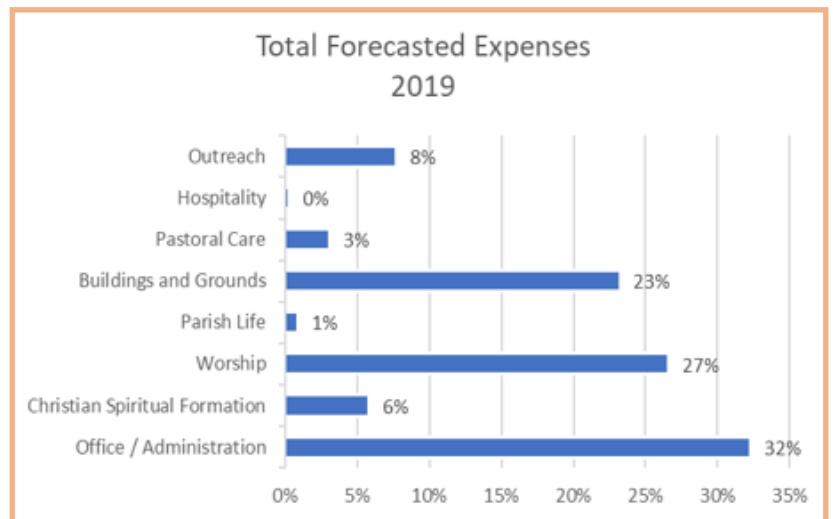
For where your treasure is,
there will your heart be also.

MATHEW 6:21, KJV

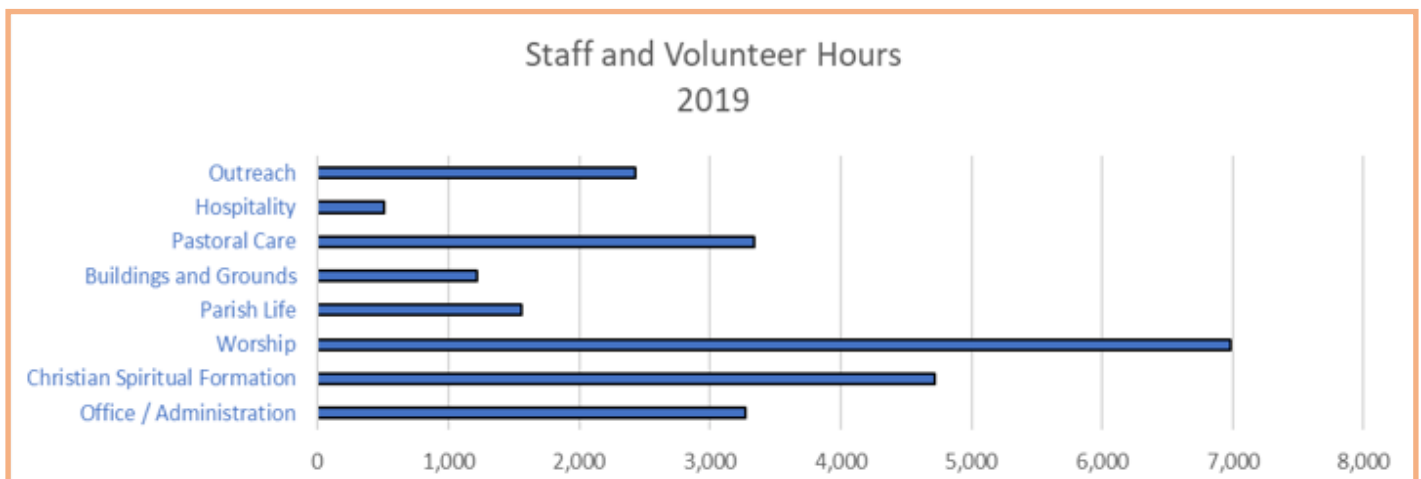




Left: This chart represents January through August **actual** data and September through December **forecasted** data. The total operating revenue for 2019 is forecasted to be \$614,000.



Right: This chart represents January through August **actual** data and September through December **forecasted** data. The total operating expenses for 2019 are forecasted to be \$573,000.



WORSHIP

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AT REDEEMER WE proclaim and hear the Word of God through prayers, Eucharist, and music as we recall that it was the prayer of Jesus “that they may be one.” Our collective time together in worship encourages and equips us for ministry and encourages our ties to God and to each other.

The members of the altar and flower guilds express their love and spiritual commitment in their thoughtful service preparation with attention to detail. Lectors, acolytes, ushers, and presenters thoughtfully facilitate our worship.

Our ties with each other are reflected in our services of new life in baptism, confirmation, marriage, funeral, and memorial services, in which we share and support one another. So we work through our worship life together to know and love one another and pass to each other the knowledge and love of God, and of his son, Jesus Christ, which is the foundation of the church from generation to generation.

On Sunday mornings Redeemer provides a variety of services that honor several preferences: quiet, contemplative services, family-friendly contemporary worship, and traditional liturgy and music. Special services are held throughout the church year to observe Holy Days. Baptism is held five times per year. In 2018, Redeemer’s average Sunday attendance was 223, up from 174 the previous year.

Specific goals include:

Expanding youth ministry service roles during worship;

Providing lay-led small group worship offerings;

Exploring alternative Episcopal liturgies;

Supporting and expanding children’s choirs;

Educating parishioners in the roles of the various worship sub-committees listed at right;

We will continue to welcome families and individuals of all generations, as we seek the truth of God’s love for us, and better our understanding of God’s plan for our lives together.



Commission on Worship

Ken Waller, Vestry

Acolytes, Dan Walker

Altar Guild, Norma Harris

Flower Guild, Stephanie Churchman

Funerals, Beth Matthews

Lectors, Pete Hock

Music & Choirs, Donald Anderson

Prayers of the People, Helga Gallahan

Presenters, Gail Stuhlmiller

Ushers, Tommy Gurganous

Weddings, Gaye Schrader



THE MISSION OF CHRISTIAN Spiritual Formation at Redeemer is to provide opportunities for all ages to explore their faith, feel the love of Christ, and come into a closer relationship with God. Led by Tricia Raybould since 2017, this commission supports the following sub-committees: Nursery, Children's (Pre-K—Grade 5) Sunday School; Youth (Grades 6-12) Sunday School; Adult Spiritual Formation, and ReACh.

Many exciting changes have occurred in the past year. Helen Pelkey was hired as Director of Children and Youth. Since beginning in April, she has started Youth Group, redecorated the youth Sunday School classrooms, and developed a new Sunday School curriculum.

The J2A rummage sale in February brought in more than \$18,000 to help fund their pilgrimage to Romania in June. They completed mission work to benefit the local Romany people and help a local church. They also visited several worship spaces, some of which have been in use for hundreds of years.

In the education domain, our Sunday School classes completed a year-long study of the Bible. During Lent, many adults attended presentations and discussions on grief. Adult Formation welcomed guest speakers from other faiths and looked at the lives of extraordinary Christians. Weekday Bible studies for men and women continue to grow.

With more than 70 persons registered, the second annual Parish Family Retreat, Pause, was held September 6-7 at Chanco on the James. Several youth worked with Impact Richmond and others volunteered at Shalom Farms this summer. Our first celebration of St. Nicholas Day was a success in December of 2018. Children heard the story of St. Nicholas, made crafts, and ate traditional treats.

Goals: To incorporate more mission work into the youth and adult programs. Currently, we participate in Impact Richmond and with Shalom Farms.

To have a stable base of volunteers available for the children and youth programs.



I have spent the last five-and-a-half years working closely with Redeemer's programs for children and youth. I started as a J2A mentor in 2015. My time with those youth was extraordinary. When asked, I was unsure if I could be a strong mentor because I still had questions about my own faith and was still looking for my call.

I learned that being a good mentor doesn't mean I have all the answers. It means that I am willing to walk beside these youth as they try to figure out what questions they have and how to ask them. Watching "my kids" as they were confirmed at the conclusion of our time together was very emotional. I am so proud of the adults they have become.

Realizing that our children and youth needed an advocate, I became a Vestry member while still a J2A mentor. Being on Vestry representing Christian Spiritual Formation has been challenging, eye-opening, and extremely rewarding.

As I leave the Vestry this year, I am grateful for the time I have had in these positions working with our children and youth. While working with other parents in the church, I have had an opportunity to continue my faith journey with others who are at different places than mine, some just beginning and some much farther along. Seeing the excitement and energy of our children and youth has been rejuvenating, and I am so thankful that I accepted the call to be a J2A mentor.

—Trisha Raybould, retiring Vestry member

EVANGELISM

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The mission of the Hospitality and Evangelism Commission is to extend hospitality to all who visit and worship at Redeemer so that all, members and visitors, feel welcome and know the love of Christ is present.

MEMBERS OF THE HOSPITALITY and Evangelism Commission include Carl Booberg and Rachel Williams, Co-Chairs; Mary Alligood, Ginna Glover, Marianne Lane, Barbara Metz, Mickie Poore, Margaret Ryan, Michael Ryan, Jeff Saunders, Nancy Hodder, and Kristi Wright, Vestry.

In 2019, the Hospitality and Evangelism Commission was separated from Parish Life, and formed as a distinct Commission. The goals of the Commission are to continue to develop its greeting and fellowship ministries, and programs for visitors and new members, through further implementation of the Invite Welcome Connect model developed at The School of Theology at Sewanee, The University of the South. In order to continue to expand its capacity, the Commission has focused on increasing the number of volunteers and providing training for them.

The Commission accomplishes its work through its two Sub-Commissions.

Greeters and Sunday Fellowship Commission

Members: Carl Booberg, Chair; Mary Alligood, Ginna Glover, Marianne Lane, and Mickie Poore

Key Activities:

Updated member name tags and storage boards.

Updated the parish map and informational pamphlet for visitor bags.

Recruited additional volunteers.

Redeemer 101 and Parish Partners Commission

Members: Rachel Williams, Chair; Barbara Metz, Margaret Ryan, Michael Ryan, and Jeff Saunders.

Key Activities:

Hosted two Redeemer 101 events for newcomers where they learned more about Redeemer - Who We Are, What We Believe, and What we Do.



Hosted two luncheons honoring newcomers.

Recruited participants for Parish Partners, which pairs newcomers with existing members who will serve as a parish resource for them.

Improved the process of communication of visitor information between the parish office and Commission volunteers to follow-up.

When Marianne and I first visited Redeemer in 2005, we were welcomed warmly and made to feel at home right away. That is what we hope all strangers and visitors will experience when they walk through Redeemer's doors on any Sunday morning!
—Carl Booberg

THROUGH THE DEDICATION of many parishioners, the Parish Life commission has proudly hosted a number of adult and family-friendly events helping the parish family forge new friendships and renew old acquaintances to strengthen the ties of good will and harmony that is the center of the Redeemer church family. Led by Beth McGurl, the committee has been entrusted with the development of the church's social calendar. With that in mind, we've hosted a few different events that were inspired by new hosts (Twelfth Night, Field & Stream Men's dinner) and provided new opportunities to experience gatherings with a twist!

Those events which were successful in the past were repeated, and as a result, the combination of the new and the old has nurtured a steady increase in participation from the youngest to the oldest, singles to families, old and new parishioners. The parish guide includes a full list of prospects for the fall of 2019 through the spring of 2020.

To date, we have hosted several events: Twelfth Night/ Three Kings party on January 5 was attended by 170 diners. Later in the same month, the men stepped up to the plate with a new idea – Field & Stream Men's dinner at which the attendees prepared and served fish and game of many varieties. The men's Pancake Supper held on March 5 served pancakes and fixings for 138 adults and children. The second annual Celtic Feast on March 17 included a wonderful supper and Irish dancing presented by the Baffa Academy. The parish hall was bustling with 157 in attendance. Parish Life also coordinated the Lenten suppers at which the attendance averaged 55. We hosted our Rally Day Picnic and carnival on Friday, September 13 to celebrate the beginning of our new church school year.

Receptions are another facet of Parish Life. Holy week concluded with a celebration brunch of various sweets for approximately 170. In addition, the committee has assisted with a number of receptions after funerals and memorial services. Critical to the success of all parish life events are the folks who wholeheartedly assist with set-up, breakdown, food preparation, etc. We also enjoy the assistance of many other ministries such as Flower Guild, Hospitality & Evangelism, ECW, and worship.

Our goals include the following:

Involving a larger number of young parishioners in the planning and execution of fellowship activities;

Developing a stronger social media presence;

Revisit the Parish Life survey in January;

Developing ideas for new events, recruit volunteers, and expand the social calendar.

A parting thought: As we are all cut from different cloth, Parish Life hopes to weave a rich tapestry of the talents and treasures of our church family, thereby strengthening our bonds and developing activities that encourage everyone to join in. Watch for updates in the ePost and other communications. If you're looking for something to spice up your life, welcome to Parish Life! Try it, you'll love us...



Commission on Parish Life

Beth McGurl, Vestry

Beth Daniel & Sandy Mitchell, Italian Feast, Nov. 2

Fred Alligood, Thanksgiving Feast, Nov. 24

Peggy Stevens, Lessons & Carols Reception, Dec. 8

Laurie & Gregg Kalata, 12th Night Family Party, Jan. 4

Gary Lerch & Larry Scott, Men's Wild Game Dinner, Jan. 24

Sarah & Jeff Saunders, Father-Daughter Valentine Gala, Feb. 8

Phil Zoffuto, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Feb. 25

Beth McGurl & Phil Zoffuto, St. Patrick's Day Feast, Mar. 16

Beth McGurl, Easter Brunch, Apr. 12

PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care is what our faith is built upon, helping those in times of need. At times, parishioners experience medical and family situations that deem them unable to cope in the short term. Pastoral Care offers resources to help facilitate those needs.

THIS MINISTRY PROVIDES direct organizational support through Eucharistic and personal visits, transportation and healing prayers to those in times of need. Talented committee members, in addition, create Prayers Shawls to provide comfort to grieving and ailing members and/or their families. Spiritual support is provided through private, quiet prayer, as well as vigilance in listening for personal needs.

The sharing of the Holy Eucharist with those unable to attend Sunday services doubled the number of participants in 2019, as on any given weekend there can be as many as seven or eight Lay Eucharist Ministers sharing the Eucharist with many of the Redeemer family, whether in home or other residential facilities.

Prayer shawls continued to be knitted, blessed and distributed to provide the warmth and assurance to those individuals who were in need of a particular comfort during times of personal hardship or duress.

The Transportation Angels commission has been created to assist parish members with rides to and from medical appointments or other personal needs that individuals are not able to attend with this assistance.

Altar flowers have been delivered after most weekly services to those individuals that needed a bit of brightness added to their day.

A further development of the Caring and Concern initiative, which was instituted to communicate through phone conversations with Redeemer members to let them know that their church family is interested in what is going on with them personally, spiritually and emotionally.

Our goals include the following:

Hosting discussions to reinstitute the healing prayers and laying on of hands at weekly worship services, either by clergy or certified lay members of the congregation;

Facilitating bereavement bags and prayer cards for parishioners' requests.

Investigating and ascertaining the interest in possible Divorce/Separation/Widow(er) Support Group(s) to assist those in need during trying periods in one's life

Establishing a Bereavement Committee to handle receptions after funerals and memorial services.



Commission on Pastoral Care

Pete Hock, Vestry

Altar Flower Delivery- Stephanie Churchman & Kathy Allan

Bereavement Committee—needs chairpersons (2)

Lay Eucharist Visitors—Lou Markwith

Transportation— Lou Markwith & Tommy Gurganous

Prayer Shawl Group—Helga Gallahan

Prayer Group—Mary Anne Garnett





DEAR REDEEMER PARISHIONERS,

First, I want to say “thank you” for your continued support. We have made a number of strides this year. One of those strides is the addition of Harry Armstrong as our Building and Grounds Manager. With this addition we are becoming more pro-active in maintaining the building and in identifying problems earlier.

We executed the major project of filling the potholes in the parking lot with a mix of cement and gravel. This was a stop-gap measure delaying a full replacement of the lot surface – a very large expense!

We completed our interior LED lighting and sensor switch project. We will make a pivot to the second phase which will include the outside lighting and additional indoor areas which are not used very often but should be upgraded.

We continue to focus on the building exterior with repair to siding, doors and windows. These surfaces of the church have continued to deteriorate over the years. We have repaired the sanctuary doors instead of the costly option of replacing them – the final result was very satisfying. Windows are on an ongoing schedule of repair or replacement. The rotted exterior office door is next on the list with a full replacement. That will be followed with the main entrance doors and any disintegrating siding.

We have scheduled the exterior to be painted on an ongoing basis. We want to continue to focus on the building and work all of the scheduled and unexpected repairs into our budget. We have also incurred large expenses replacing outdated fire extinguishers and faulty automatic fire suppression heads throughout the building.

Our major achievement this year was the replacement of the church roofing. We are very pleased to have been able to do this with our yearly budget and a very generous designated fund gift.

Our plan this year is to slowly repair or replace all the windows in the building. We have also done many small repair jobs this year, and hopefully everyone realizes that the building is on track to where we want it to be.

Now for our wish list to keep the church liveable and operational. Our list of major needs starts with:

1. Air-conditioning/heating units: we had hoped to replace one per year, but the costs associated with keeping these very old units operating has impacted the budget. If we get closer to the end of the year, without any more major costs, we may be able to designate approx.. \$7,000 to replace one of the oldest units.
2. Painting on an ongoing basis – the entire building needs it but our budget necessitates this being done in increments.
3. Parking lot: as noted previously.
4. New locking system for the church: We are looking at a keyless system as we need to make Redeemer more secure.
5. New sprinkler system: Needs to be installed.
6. Defibrillators in at least two well-traveled areas of the church. This is an often overlooked critical item.
7. Replacing the main entrance cupola flag and cupola roof.

We have a budget for some of these items but the church is heavily used week in and week out - so in order to avoid a number of surprises, including our ancient A/C system. We will need to identify additional sources.

—Rick Maurer, Buildings and Grounds



OUTREACH

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THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH of the Redeemer's **Outreach** mission is to serve as the hands and feet of Christ by devoting our time, talent, and treasure to support those in need in our community and around the world. Outreach funding is supported in different ways, with the primary source being Christmas tree sales.

Outreach supports the following with volunteer hours and financial resources:

Angel Tree for Peter Paul Development Center
Backpacks for Bensley
Capital Diaper Bank Drive
CARITAS
Christmas Mother Coat Drive
Meals On Wheels, FeedMore
Food Pantry in conjunction with St. Matthias
Habitat for Humanity
Huguenot Road Baptist Clinic
Impact Richmond
Military and Veterans Support
Red Cross Blood Drives - Mutual Ministry project with Salisbury Presbyterian Church
Rise Against Hunger
Southwest Virginia Charities
Thanksgiving meal bags
Under Cover Project (formerly Rocks for Socks)

Redeemer's Outreach Commission makes donations to the charities listed below:

CHHASM
Chanco on the James
Chesterfield Food Bank
Crossover Ministries
FeedMore
Habitat for Humanity
The Health Brigade
Jackson-Feild Home
Richmond Friends of the Homeless
St. Francis Health Care Foundation
USO –United Service Organization
Virginia Home for Boys
Virginia Institute for Pastoral Care
Virginia Interfaith Council

—Bob Marland, Vestry for Outreach
—Lou Markwith, Outreach Chairman



As part of the Outreach Commission, Redeemer's **Episcopal Church Women (ECW)** supports a wide variety of outreach initiatives throughout the community and beyond. The annual Christmas Bazaar on the second Saturday of November is its major fundraiser.

With the bazaar profits, the ECW is able to raise money for many worthwhile organizations. The 2018 Bazaar supported FeedMore, the YMCA's Bright Beginnings program, Camp Chanco's Capital Campaign, Impact Richmond, the Peter Paul Development Center, Love of Learning, Chesterfield County Public Schools, and the ROC Solid Foundation.

The ECW focuses on children and families with hands-on activities, such as reading to school children, helping our military veterans, making gingerbread houses in December, and packing school supplies into backpacks. Throughout the year, ECW members also enjoy social activities, including recent trips to the National Cathedral, Feed More, and the Louisa Bird Sanctuary. Every woman at Redeemer is a member of ECW and suggestions for outreach initiatives and fellowship are always welcome.

—Jackie Cunningham, ECW President



WHAT YOU CAN DO

THIS NARRATIVE BUDGET has attempted to provide a snapshot of some of the ministries active at Redeemer during the 2019 calendar year. In reading this publication, we realize that our impact on those around us reflects our commitment to God and our understanding of how His generosity is transforming the Redeemer community.

However, the goals identified in this publication and with our yearly Annual Giving Campaign are practical, necessary, and immediate: We must appropriately fund the ministry needs of the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer through our individual annual commitments.



TOGETHER, WE CAN meet our funding needs! Please consider these requests:

- **Glance back through this document and focus on what's happening in key areas of interest to you.** Are we supporting our Youth Ministry as fully as our young people need? Are we focusing both our time and financial resources on Outreach to the level you would like to see? Are we committed to the routine maintenance and repair of our facilities to ensure that they will serve God's purpose in the future? We fund only the activities that current giving allows, so additional gifts immediately create additional opportunities.
- **Be in prayer throughout the Annual Giving Campaign, October 13 – November 24.** Ask for God to lead you in making a pledge commitment that reflects your blessings and can help our parish to develop our 2020 ministries to their greatest potential.
- **Pick up your stewardship packet after church on Sunday, October 13, and return your commitment card to the church or make an online commitment [here](#) no later than Sunday, November 24.** Returning your commitment card is the culmination of your prayers and consideration, but in total, the level of our combined commitment dictates our ministry plans for the coming year. In that sense, everyone's participation is critical, at whatever level you are called to make. We hope that 100 percent of our commitment cards are returned and that all who can increase their annual commitments feel called to do so. Please direct your questions to Stewardship@Redeemermidlothian.org.

