

Redeemer news

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | REDEEMER BY THE SEA LUTHERAN CHURCH
JUNE 2018 – VOLUME 6 ISSUE 6

MINISTRY REIMAGINED

It got here quickly – my ministry sabbatical. The elders approved a sabbatical for me, back in February of 2017. However, given a number of critical ministry concerns including a significant staff reduction as well as the strategic Mission Advancement and Implementation process that we began in late 2016, that sabbatical was postponed until July-August 2018. And now it's almost here! But what is a sabbatical and what does it mean for our ministry at Redeemer? This article will try to address that.

What is a Sabbatical?

"A ministry sabbatical as a period of time, usually three months, when ministry leaders and congregations set aside the leader's normal responsibilities for the purpose of rest and renewal toward sustained excellence in ministry. A ministry sabbatical is not an extended vacation nor is it an academic sabbatical that normally involves extensive study. A ministry sabbatical is a release from the routine of the call for the physical, emotional, spiritual, and intellectual well-being of the ministry leader. The word sabbatical is drawn from Sabbath. The Hebrew word for Sabbath means to "close or rest" and is connected with the last day of Creation when God rested. (Genesis 2:3) God both

models and commands Sabbath rest for his people.

"Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy." (Exodus 20:8-11) Jesus affirmed the importance of rest saying, *"The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."* (Mark 2:27-28) The

Biblical example of Jesus' own frequent withdrawal to a quiet place to meditate, pray and be renewed is a model. In His ministry, the constant demands of people led Jesus to step away on a regular basis. See also: Genesis 1 and 2; Exodus 20:8-11, 23:10-12; Leviticus 25:1-7 (Sabbatical Year), 24:8-25 (Year of Jubilee); Psalm 23; and Ecclesiastes 3:1-8." – From the website: <https://ministrysabbaticalresources.com/>

As I mentioned in a recent sermon, a number of people have told me that I have "earned it" or "deserve it." I know that the thought and sentiment is good, but my typical response is to say, "thank you very much. But the truth is, I *need* it." I am truly grateful that the congregation is affording me the blessing and gift of this time away, but the reason that our synod and districts recommend regular and intentional sabbaticals for their pastors is because



Continues on page 11

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMATION STUDENTS!

Left to right

SCOTT JAMES DYVIG

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." ~ John 14:27

BAIN WILLIAM ECARIUS

"That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe." ~ 1 Timothy 4:10

GAVIN CHRISTOPHER AMBROSE

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." ~ Jeremiah 29:11



Sunday, May 20, 2018 8:30am



Sunday, May 20, 2018 10:45am

Front Row - left to right

ARABELLA SHEA KRIEDEMAN

"She is clothed in strength and dignity and laughs without fear of the future." ~ Proverbs 31:25

JULIA ELIZABETH SANCHEZ DENTON

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." ~ Joshua 1:9

Back Row - left to right

ANDREW CARROLL BENNETT

"Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."
~ Psalm 23:6

MARGARET SYLVIA BUSCH

When they saw Him, they worshipped Him, but some doubted. (Then Jesus said)..."And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." ~ Matthew 28:17-20

DJ KRIEDEMAN

"and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood."
~ Revelation 1:5

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Hands On Bible Curriculum



During the month of June the children will learn about Moses,

who was one of Israel's greatest leaders, but accomplished nothing by his own power. His powers were hampered by a speech impediment, yet with God's help, he convinced Pharaoh to free the Israelites. Children often feel less than powerful. School is new to them and older children have more power and privileges. By looking at

PROMOTION DAY

On June 24th, the children will be promoted to the next grade level. The newly promoted 5th graders have 2 options—they can attend the Pre-confirmation Class at 9:45am or they are welcome to continue in Sunday School at 10:45am until the Fall. We have a fun summer planned that you won't want to miss!!



Moses, they will see that you don't have to be super strong or powerful if they have God on their side. They will also learn about the Ten Commandments and the 10 Plagues that God sent to Egypt. Until next time, keep serving the Lord...

- Miss Rhonda
Sunday School Director

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!

We are looking for individuals who have a passion for children & can volunteer some time to help them grow in Christ.

Areas of Need Include:

- Classroom Teachers
- Classroom Assistants
- Snack Preparation
- Check-In & Registration
- Special Events
- Christmas & Easter Programs
- Large Group Leader

REMODEL PROJECT

The project is inching forward towards the finish line. As with any big project nearing completion, the final details seem to take as much time as the big steps earlier on. Though we are frustrated with the time being taken, we are seeing the final product, both quality and appearance, as we had envisioned it. The goal of maximizing the usefulness of our facility is being met.

Here are the main tasks remaining.

Fellowship Hall: The AV equipment is being configured / tested. We are seeing some issues with the new projector, but we are able to use it and are confident the problems will be resolved. The trim, painting touchup and staining is underway.

Lobby: The counter top backsplash remains to be done, along with some painting and trim work. The last 'new' item will be overhead signage and we are still waiting to see the design concepts.

Sanctuary: The Choir Loft carpet seams are being repaired, but not yet complete. The speaker and choir mics are installed and just need to be patched into the sound system; also the drywall patching and painting needs to be completed. The last item will be track lighting for the back row.

Classrooms: As mentioned last month the remodel project for the rooms is complete. The air ducts and other ceiling object may be painted later, but that will be done after the larger remodel project is complete.

We appreciate your patience as we work to get everything completed. .

- Dan Bitner

NEW MEMBERS

BRIAN AND BELINDA (B) LITTLE EDDY AND MADDIE LANOIS

Brian is from Dartmouth, MA. He's been in Rancho Bernardo for 4 years, and in Carlsbad 1 year, and will be moving to Cardiff soon.

Brian retired from the Navy after serving for 20+ years.

He owned a business in Connecticut. He has worked for Novartis for 12 years in IT management. He loves Florida and boating .

B grew up in Cherry Hill, NJ. She's been in CA almost 24 years (in August).

Family is a priority along with my belief in the Lord. I am blessed and I don't take that for granted. I work at Rady Children's Hospital and I love doing aqua bike events as well as reading and having fun.

Eddy was also baptized on May 27th - congratulations!



MELISSA MCGANN, JIM AND THOMAS KOUTRAS

Melissa grew up in Spokane, WA. She has lived in CA for 15 years and in Carlsbad for 5 years. She is a wife and proud mom of a 4 year old boy, Thomas. Thomas will be in Kindergarten next year.



ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC



-,Suzan Colgan

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Redeemer Kindergarten Sings to LWM



On May 8th, the Redeemer Kindergarten performed 4 songs for the LWM Ladies followed by cookie decorating. Fun was had by all!!!



Preschool Board Members Needed

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Miss Dee at 760-431-8293



All School Picnic

June 7th

11:00—1:00

Aviara Community Park



UPCOMING EVENTS

- 6/6 Kinder Evening with the Stars
- 6/7 All School Picnic
- 6/20 Redeemer Graduations
- 7/9-8/17 Summer Camps



POOL PARTY

Start the summer with a cool dip in the pool! Current 7th & 8th grade students and their families are invited to the Denton home on June 10th at 1pm. There will be hamburgers and beverages provided – please bring an appetizer, side or dessert to share. Register on the Jr. High page at RedeemerbytheSea.org



STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Luke 16:19 – “There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day.”

Compared with most of human history, and even most of the world today, we have been abundantly blessed with riches in our time and place. The parable today indicates that God calls us to use this blessing according to His wisdom and priorities and not merely for our own comfort. We’ve been called to imitate God in His kindness and generosity, especially to those in need.

GRADUATES!

Parents of students graduating high school or college this year, we wish to celebrate their accomplishment in the July Newsletter.

Please provide a digital picture and information on the degree/certification, institution and future plans. Send the information to Rachelle at om@redeemerbythesea.org by Wednesday, June 20th.



VOTER'S MEETING

Our next quarterly Voters' meeting will be June 10th at noon. This is the opportunity for your elected Council Members to provide you the details of what is going on in the various Ministry areas.

EVANGELISM & MISSIONS

Evangelism and Missions is pleased to announce a Solutions for Change presentation to be held here, in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, July 15 between services. Plan to come see what this worthy charity is all about, and why we at Redeemer by the Sea are so excited about it!

We are planning a viewing of the important movie, Is Genesis History? It will be divided in 3 segments, starting on June 10 in the Fellowship Hall. This show is an evangelistic opportunity, so if you know anyone in education or any young adults, please invite them to share in God's truth through this film. Discussions will follow each segment.

Our new Missions Fund Team has been busy. In addition to working on our first Fund distribution plan, we have supplied Wilson Vai with \$200 for his continued mission work in Liberia as he enters seminary.

Linda was able to act as the Lord's ambassador and get the name of our Church "out there" by attending a coffee held by the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce. It was a lot of fun.

If you are interested in Evangelism and Missions planning, please contact me at evangelism@redeemerbythesea.org

- Linda Staehr
Your Evangelism and Missions Chair

GROWTH GROUP UPDATES

Our Growth Groups provide people an opportunity to connect with other believers and do life together in a supportive and faith-nurturing cluster of friends. Visit: RedeemerbytheSea.org/growth-groups/ for a complete listing and information concerning our Growth Groups.

CHOIR

Greetings from the Choir Loft and your Choir Director. It has been an outstanding year for the Chancel Choir, and we have added at least four new members.

The Choir will take some much deserved time off on Sunday mornings during the month of July. We will have a variety of soloists, instrumentalists, and a quartet provide the music for the Offertory during July.

It has occurred to me that since working and directing our choir, that music is very Christian in its overall concept. The melody of a song is always horizontal, one note following after another, and the harmony of a song is always vertical, one note stacked above another, being sung at the same time. It has taken me a long time to recognize the obvious. Isn't it wonderful that we represent a living and breathing cross every time we sing or play music!

Our new choir loft is now completed and we are enjoying our new location. The raised seats allow us to hear each other much clearer, with the tone improving immensely. We want to thank the building committee, especially Dan Bitner for their efforts towards this project.

Our Chancel Choir will resume rehearsals in August with our first rehearsal scheduled for Wednesday, August 1, at 6:30pm in the sanctuary. You are welcome to join us for our new choir year. Did you know that singing with a choir with no auditions or high pressure performances, increases your ability to give back to the Lord through music? According to a recent U.K. study, singing in a choir adds increased happiness, helps us heal from medical problems, and gives you the opportunity to help others further enjoy worship. "When researchers interviewed participants in weekly singing workshops, the amateur vocalists reported feelings of belonging, well-being, and their confidence rose after each rehearsal, and that confidence stayed higher for more than a day.

As the choir takes the month of July to rejuvenate, please continue to thank all the music volunteers who bring special music to our congregation during worship.

Why not plan to join us on Wednesdays beginning in August from 6:30-8:00pm? We would love to have you sing with us for the 8:30am church service. The choir sings three Sundays a month, with the fourth Sunday off. Come and "sing to the Lord a new song."

In His Service,
- Gary Wilson, Choir Director (858 864-3491)
GWilson872 @ aol.com

THE THEATER GROUP

If you love the Arts (Musical Theater, Plays, Music & Dance performances & interesting get-togethers (tours, dinners & outreach projects), please join us! Church members and Guests are welcome to activities.

With a common interest in the Arts as a small growth group, we share fellowship in a fun, social, and spiritual way. We schedule and attend theatrical performances, and other artsy events. It provides a way to celebrate Christian Fellowship, love and unity by means of strengthening friendships from within our church family. But most importantly, it gives us an opportunity as a group to invite new people from outside the congregation to expose and experience what it means to have fun with those who know Christ. Such introduction may be influential enough to bring them to Christ and his church.

MOONLIGHT AMPHITHEATER, VISTA: Broadway Musical Production, 'Newsies'!

July 22, 2018 @ 8 pm

Church Group Price \$36 each

Registration: Sunday, June 17, 2018

Ticket Purchase Deadline: June 24, 2018

Story-line: Based on the real-life Newsboy Strike of 1899, this adaptation of the Disney musical tells the story of Jack Kelly, a rebellious newsboy who dreams of a life as an artist away from the big city. After publishing giant Joseph Pulitzer raises newspaper prices at the newsboys' expense, Kelly and his fellow newsies take action. With help from the beautiful female reporter Katherine Plumber, all of New York City soon recognizes the power of "the little man." The musical has many of the beloved songs from the Disney movie while introducing eight new songs.

Twenty (20) tickets needed to secure the lower church group ticket price, have already been reserved.

Register your interest, early, by calling Mary Ann Meinardus (760) 216-4922 or ma.meinardus@hotmail.com.

- Mary Ann Meinardus

GROWTH GROUPS, *CONT.*

BIRTHDAY GROUP

We gathered at Hacienda De Vega to celebrate the It was a quiet, intimate meeting THURSDAY, May 17 at Macaroni Grill as we celebrated the birthdays of Stella Berrier and Russ Hanthorn. We were settled at the round end of a large U-shaped table where we could visit and fellowship quietly without disturbing anyone. We contributed seventy (\$70) dollars to the Camp Pendleton Rotary Club.

We'll assemble on THURSDAY June 7 at 11:30 a.m. at Dini's Bistro, 3290 Carlsbad Boulevard where we'll celebrate the birthdays of Elizabeth Taylor and Audrey Wickstrand. Lunches range from eight to eighteen (\$8-16) dollars. Parking in the rear of the building.

In addition to your lunch, we request a one dollar per celebrant contribution which will go to Solutions for Change, helping homeless families to get back on their feet financially.

Everyone is welcome to join us but you do need a reservation with the Birthday Coordinator, Jo Voertman, jvbythesea@cox.net, 760-721-6674.

- Jo Voertman

TWO TABLES BRIDGE GROUP

.....and so it was, another beautiful day, in the Merry Month of May, that the RBTS Bridge Group met at the Voertman home for dessert and play at 12:30, the fourth Friday of the month.

If you enjoy playing bridge and would like to join either as a regular player or as a substitute call: Faye Bacon at 760.707.6677; or email: baconfaye3@gmail.com. Newcomers are always welcome so let us know your interest and join the group.

High Scorer for the day was our guest, Alice Sprung, followed closely by Carolyn Schmaltz; Jo Voertman made up for the low score by serving her 'Flourless Chocolate Cake' dessert! It was a winner!

June is recognized in Southern California as "June Gloom" but it will be anything but gloomy when we meet again to play on the 22nd, at the home of Audrey Wickstrand.

God is Good! It is with thankful hearts we share His Goodness of friendships!

- Faye Bacon,
Your Bridge Coordinator

SALT & LIGHT

The Salt & Light group recognizes that the safety and prosperity of the U.S. depends on the protection and blessing of Our Lord and Savior. We also recognize, from our own observations and what many studies show, that our nation is moving away from God's Truth. We believe that individual Christians play an indispensable role in reversing our nations course by participating in the election process. You should know the issues; know what the candidates views are on the issues; vote biblically! With Memorial Day Weekend behind us and Election day ahead of us we offer this prayer:

*Heavenly Father,
You have given us a great country, founded on principles and truths from Your Word. We need men and women who honor You, trust You, and lead us once again back to You. We ask that you give us leaders with bold faith, discerning hearts, and wisdom. We ask that You raise up leaders with the greatest potential for godly leadership. You alone hold the power to turn the hearts of leaders and move them to take the right action. We ask this in Your precious name,
Amen.*

Your Salt & Light Co-Leader,
- Jerry Meyer

SUNDAY MORNING STUDY

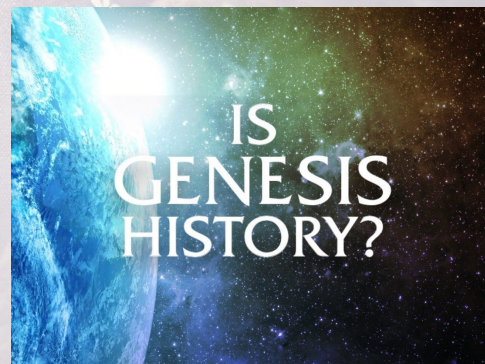
Starting Sunday,
June 10th 9:45am
in the Fellowship
Hall

Dr. Del Tackett of *The Truth Project* hikes through canyons, climbs up mountains, and dives

below the sea to explore the truth behind the history recorded in Genesis. This film features over a dozen scientists and scholars explaining how the world intersects with the history recorded in Genesis. From rock layers to fossils, from lions to stars, from the Bible to artifacts, this fascinating film will change the way you see the world. We will be watching this movie in 3 segments, with discussions to follow.

View the trailer here: <https://youtu.be/hw7VclRV5dA>

- Linda Staehr



SUMMER MISSION TRIP

This summer's mission trip (ages 12 thru Adult) will be June 17-22 in San Diego. The location is different than last year and will give us an opportunity to experience

other agencies such as: a summer kids' camp, a horse therapy center, lunch for families of hospitalized children, a food pantry, and/or working in the canyon areas. The \$300 cost of the trip is being subsidized by Redeemer's Mission

Fund so that the cost to participants is only \$75 (non-refundable). That includes transportation, food and lodging! Find out more at Redeemer's

Mission Trip page at RedeemerbytheSea.org.



Last year's Mission Trip!
Put your picture here this year.

This year's theme is GRIT and the lessons for the week will center on the following scriptures:

Sunday: RISK--Call to be a disciple.

Luke 5:1-11:

Monday: TRUST--You have the words that give eternal life. John 6:60-69

Tuesday: COURAGE--Peter walks on water...then sinks. Matthew 14:22-33

Wednesday: SURRENDER--Jesus shapes and guides our mission. John 18:1-11

Thursday: LOVE--Grit is expressed through love. John 21:1-17

- Rachele Iadicicco



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 25-29

Registration is now open at RedeemerbytheSea.org for Shipwrecked Vacation Bible School.

Venture to an uncharted island where kids will discover the truth that Jesus carries them through life's storms.

Children age 4 entering Preschool through 5th grade in the Fall 2018 are eligible for VBS.

Cost \$75 for first child / \$55 for each additional sibling.

New this year!! Lunch & Extended care available Monday - Thursday until 2:00 pm. \$60 for first child / \$50 for each additional sibling.



VBS NEEDS YOU!

Join the VBS team for a fantastic voyage to Shipwrecked island. We will learn how Jesus carries us through all life's storms.

We need enthusiastic people who can be:

- Castaway Sing & Play leaders
- Bible Discovery leaders
- Tropical treats creators
- Imagination Station leaders
- Kid video leaders
- Crew Leaders
- Set Decoration team

Contact Kris Urdahl
VBSdirector@redeemerbythesea.org or
Rhonda Sutherlin at
rhonda@redeemerbythesea.org

LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

All women of our church who want to "serve God" and make a difference while enjoying Fellowship, should take a second look at LWM! We are a part of a National organization and in addition, there are five North county churches and we all work together in supporting larger district-based community service projects, rallies and conventions. The degree of your involvement to serve is entirely up to you. If you cannot make the monthly meetings, you are welcome to support our mission donations, or assist in our community outreach projects. You may join us in the Fellowship Hall, every second Tuesday of each month. (Jan. thru June and Sept. thru Dec. 9:30am-11am for a brief business meeting, followed by inspiring programs/speakers, service projects and fun! Projects or programs generally begin @ 10:30 am if you are not interested in the business part of the meeting. Join us!

In 2018, we have been busy! We have increased our 'Mite Box' Donation from the congregation. Currently, Redeemer leads the dollar amount donated monthly. Loose change collected goes a long way which supports this year's grants to "Orphan Grain Train, 'Avenue Pregnancy Clinic Outreach' and 'Dignity Revolution Training for Teens on the Streets. A portion is also given towards Lutheran missions, abroad. RBTS's generous church members also contributed the largest donated items to 'Undie Sunday' Mission Drive, giving clothing to the needy. Thank you! We have been successful, working with 'Inter-Faith' on several occasions; providing lunch bags for the 'working' homeless, and small projects with 'Solutions for Change', by building up their Children's library, and to instill in the little children, the desire to 'love' reading books. To the children of newly residents on SFC campus, we gifted, 'Read to Bear' bags,



filled with a Christian-based children's book, a stuffed teddy bear, a booklet about "Who is Jesus?", and a note from Jesus to come visit him at his house on Sunday. Recently, our church established a partnership with "Solutions for Change". We stepped up our continuing support by organizing a 'Solutions for Change Tour' of their main facility, resident campus and Farm. We wanted to

encourage support for the upcoming 'Adopt an Apartment' project that we are sponsoring to collect items needed to fill an empty



apartment and make it ready to move in on the resident campus. We received a

great response from the congregation! And, we look forward to collecting these donated items on 'Trunk Drop-Off Day', Sunday, June 3rd in the church parking lot before and in between church services.

Our meetings are not entirely business and finance. Our programs and projects, following A VERY BRIEF business meeting are always interesting, informative, and entertaining. Recently, we were treated by our school's children, a **Kindergartners Serenade** in song, followed by a cookie decorating party. And on occasion, Luann Goedert, our resident church Homemaking Teach (retired) gives wonderful informative cooking demos. The Speakers we invite, are not always from community service organizations or charities, but we enlist authors, craft artists, and various interesting people with unusual topics that appeal to both men as guests, and women. We do extend our fellowship by also sponsoring special social events that are awesome and unique, like the 'Downton Abbey Tea Party'.

The next social event coming up is on June 12 @ 5:30 pm, held at the El Camino real Country Club in Oceanside. It's "Women's Nite Out" with a fabulous buffet diner and a program for all women interested. Cost is \$25 per ticket. There will be a demo/sales display for jewelry hosted by Rhonda Sutherlin and a demo/sales display for Rodin & Fields Skincare products by Sara Oliver; both fellow church members. Room is still available. Contact BJ Lahr 760-945-3750 or bjclahr@cox.net. Deadline to sign up and pay is June 10th. Checks made payable to BJ Lahr. Come join us for the evening. Enjoy the Fellowship, and fun! Check us Out!

- Mary Ann Meinardus



LWM Spring Rally at Faith Lutheran, Fallbrook. All attendees celebrated Noreen Wenstone's birthday!



DISCOVERY CLASS

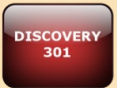
Redeemer by the Sea wants to help you walk closer with Jesus Christ. The four sessions of our Discovery Track offer the tools necessary to make this happen in your life. All the way from membership to life-changing ministry, we will lead you step-by-step from discovery to growth into a fulfilling ministry role. Enjoy a light lunch before each session. Held Sundays from Noon—1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.



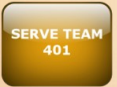
Church 101- This session is an introduction to the ministry of Redeemer and will help you understand our core beliefs and what church membership is about. Offered the first Sunday of the month from Noon-1:30pm. *Next dates is 9/2.*



Essentials 201- This session discusses prayer, small groups and Bible study, and provides the necessary tools every Christian needs to grow in their walk with Christ. Offered the second Sunday of the month from Noon-1:30pm. *Next date is 9/9*



Discovery 301- We want to help you realize what makes you so unique. This session will help you discover your personality, gifts, and purpose in life and see how God combines them for the best fit in ministry. Offered the third Sunday of the month from Noon-1:30pm. *Next date is 10/21*



Serve Team 401- This final step of the discovery process gives you the opportunity to be informed about ministry projects and to get connected in specific ministry areas that interest you. It's easy, and fun!

SAVE AND RECYCLE

Ink/Toner Cartridges – at the office to purchase supplies

Amazon Smile: When you make purchases on amazon.com, go to amazonsmile.com. Login normally and choose Redeemer by the Sea Lutheran Church as your charity!



They then send us a check!

Box Tops for Education – in the box in the lobby for the K & Preschool



Cans & Bottles (CRV) – by the trash containers in the parking lot to support the art program at the Kindergarten & Preschool

Grocery Coupons—drop off your clipped coupons at the Ladies' Table — they are sent to military bases overseas

WHO CAN I CONTACT?

Pastor, Rev. Augie Iadicicco
pastor@redeemerbythesea.org, (760) 431-8990

Office Manager, Rachele Iadicicco
om@redeemerbythesea.org, (760) 431-8990

Preschool, Dr. Darjené Graham-Perez
missdee@redeemerbythesea.org, (760) 431-8293

Church Council President, Kris Urdahl
president@redeemerbythesea.org, (562) 673-7346

Trustees, Shawn Burkholder
trustees@redeemerbythesea.org, (307) 690-7814

Prayer, Jo Brandt
prayer@redeemerbythesea.org, (760) 729-0112

WHO ARE YOUR ELDERS?

Head Elder, Jerry Meyer
elders@redeemerbythesea.org
(760) 729-0360

Your elders are a resource to you for your spiritual and ministry needs. Feel free to contact them with any needs or concerns – or just to say hello!

They are: Dave Berrier, Jim Brunner, Tom Burke, Matt Busch, Dan Bitner, Ed Meinardus, Jerry Meyer, Lyle Meyer, Joel Rabe, Ralph Wenstone, Charles Um

MINISTRY REIMAGINED

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what has been observed is that the regular and sustained demands and pace of ongoing ministry have a cumulative effect.¹ After periods of four to seven years, there is a very real need for a season of rest, recovery, and renewal in order to maintain the energy, focus and emotional and spiritual health that are necessary to lead a congregation – especially in these challenging times.

Sharpening the Saw

In the well-known, and often referenced, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, the last of the seven habits is often overlooked, but can become the most impactful if neglected – “Sharpen the Saw.” Just like a carpenter or lumberjack must work harder and harder when their tools get dull, so must ministry leaders. At those times, it takes determination and intentional effort to stop work, halt the production line, and tend to the care of the tools. However, it is far better to stop working with dull tools for a moment and return refreshed and retooled, than to continue forging ahead with ineffective tools. Otherwise what ends up happening is that eventually the work will grind to a halt as the tool becomes completely dull or broken altogether. The analogy is clear.

What Happens During the Sabbatical?

People have asked me, “where are you going on your sabbatical?” The short answer is that I don’t completely know the physical or geographical locations that I will be going during this time away. But the location is not as important as what will occur during the sabbatical. Sabbaticals can be taken in different ways for different purposes. Some professionals take sabbaticals to complete a writing project or some creative work that just can’t get the attention it needs in the midst of the day-to-day. Others take sabbaticals to gain new experiences through travel or exploration. Others take sabbaticals to dive deeper into learning a particular topic or subject matter. And some take sabbaticals for rest and renewal. The latter is the purpose of my sabbatical. I intend to use the time to simply draw near to God and rest in Him – enjoying His Word, His creation and His blessings of family and good health. I also intend to use the time to discover old and new spiritual disciplines as well as establish new and fresh patterns of balance between work and life; you could say, “Ministry Reimagined.”

What Does this Mean for Redeemer?

“Ministry Reimagined” is my theme for this Sabbatical. And I am applying that to our congregation as well. It’s not uncommon for pastor and congregation to follow

similar trajectories. I believe that Redeemer also finds itself in a season of needing refreshing and renewal. And I believe that our congregation can benefit from using this Summer as a chance to receive from, be nurtured by and be refreshed by God. But even moreso, I believe that both pastor and congregation will benefit from using this as an opportunity to “reimagine” the ministry that God has called us to in this place.

Just as I find myself in a season of being stretched too thin and regularly engaged in a flurry of activity, that while good, doesn’t seem to be accomplishing those things that God ultimately desires for His people ... so too does Redeemer find itself in a similar season, wouldn’t you agree? It is likely that we find ourselves in this place because of how we’ve “imagined” God desires us to accomplish His will in this place. It’s possible that we’ve placed our effort, our attention and our resources on doing the urgent rather than the important. It’s possible that we’ve actually been working out of our own strength, will-power, knowledge and abilities (the flesh), rather than relying on God, seeking Him and walking with Him in the Spirit. What both pastor and congregation need to do is to reimagine how God wants us to do ministry together, with Him.

Ministry Reimagined

This is in fact what the Mission Advancement and Mission Implementation Teams been working on – setting up a construct for us doing ministry together in productive Spirit-filled ways that align with the ministry calling that God has given us. In other words, not just “doing ministry” but intentionally focusing our efforts on being the people that God has called us to be and doing what He has called us to do. To do this we need clarity on who we are at Redeemer, what we are doing in our ministry together, how we are doing it, and most importantly why we are doing it. That’s ministry reimagined.

I am excited to begin sharing with you what God has been laying on my heart, and how He is directing the leadership of our church when I return in September. Also at that time, we will begin a bi-weekly time of gathering, growth and shared “imagining” of what our ministry is all about. These meetings are open to anyone, but ultimately are for those who want to be used by God in ministry at Redeemer. Together we will allow God to melt us, mold us, and reshape us to better reflect His image in this place. That’s ministry reimagined.

Amen! May it be so, for Jesus’ sake,
Pastor Augie

¹ See [Sabbatical Planning For Clergy and Congregations](#), Richard Bullock, Washington, DC: The Alban Institute, 1975

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