

# GROWING IN LOVE

2023 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER



# A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Welcome to The Church of the Redeemer's Annual Report! As we look back upon our shared life and ministry in 2023 I am filled with joy and affection. I find great joy in calling to mind the many ways we have grown in love in the last year. And the affection I feel is toward this community - all of you and the amazing work you have done. You continue to build a church that puts relationships first, that seeks to be a source of unconditional love in this world, and to follow Jesus wherever he may lead us.



The stories you will read in these pages are about the growth of our church. In one part of our Vision Statement we say that we seek to be a church that is growing with people of every age, race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic situation, and political persuasion. Though our church is in fact growing in number - more people are regularly engaging with Church of the Redeemer than ever before in its history - we are intentionally focusing on a growth that is expansive and transformative. We are seeking to grow in our perspective, in our spiritual life, in our love for God and for one another. We are devoted to, as St. Paul once wrote, growing into the full stature of Christ.

As always, this means love is our guiding light, love is our foundation. God is love and we serve God. Jesus is God's Word of love and we follow Jesus. The Holy Spirit is the power of God's love, equipping us for ministry and nourishing us with that love for which we are made.

I continue to be honored to work alongside you, and I look forward to whatever God has in store for us in 2024!

Your friend and brother in Christ Jesus,

The Rev. Philip Hart DeVaul  
Rector





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# Excitement is building *at Church of the Redeemer*

2023 was full of excitement, energy, and engagement for Church of the Redeemer's Family Ministry. After spending some time rebuilding from the pandemic shutdown and working to re-engage and restart our programming efforts, 2023 finally yielded the fruit we began planting two years ago!

With growth comes change, of course. Here are some changes you may (or may not) have noticed this past year:

Church of the Redeemer's after-school program for Clark Montessori students (CoR After School) saw record attendance in 2023. The program averaged 52 students per day throughout the start of the 2023-2024 school year. CoR After School welcomed 275 students (at least once), which is about 40% of the total enrollment at Clark Montessori. In the fall, an opportunity was created for these students to engage further in the life of the church beyond our after-school programming. If interested, students are invited to remain at the church later on Tuesday afternoons and join Church of the Redeemer's Youth Group gathering.

Our Sunday morning programming and formation opportunities also saw some shifts. CoR Youth, led by Tym House, Minister for Family Discipleship, now serves 7th-12th grade students.





This change falls in line with the desire to engage CoR After School students as it aligns with the ages of the students enrolled at Clark Montessori. Tuesday Night Youth Group has seen a consistent mix of students from both communities. Combining middle school and high school grades also allows students who choose to begin the Church of the Redeemer confirmation process at any of these grades to journey through that process together.

Moving 7th and 8th graders to CoR Youth means that Middle CoR, led by Hannah Teetor, Assistant Minister for Family Discipleship, now serves our 5th and 6th grade students, giving them an intentionally designed setting to continue learning about their faith, but also giving them space to be curious and question things within their faith. This weekly Sunday gathering is also being used to prepare students for confirmation.



While the liturgical aspects of our children gathering in the chapel during our 9:00 and 11:00 am worship services have remained the same, a few changes have been made. We have invited preschool-aged children to join along with the usual elementary grades. We have also changed the name to Kid's Chapel (aka Donuts and Jesus). This has proven to be quite popular, and we are seeing larger and larger numbers of children in attendance.

Aside from our work with the children and youth, we are so pleased that all family ministry programs have rebuilt their volunteer teams. These teams help us sustain and support the

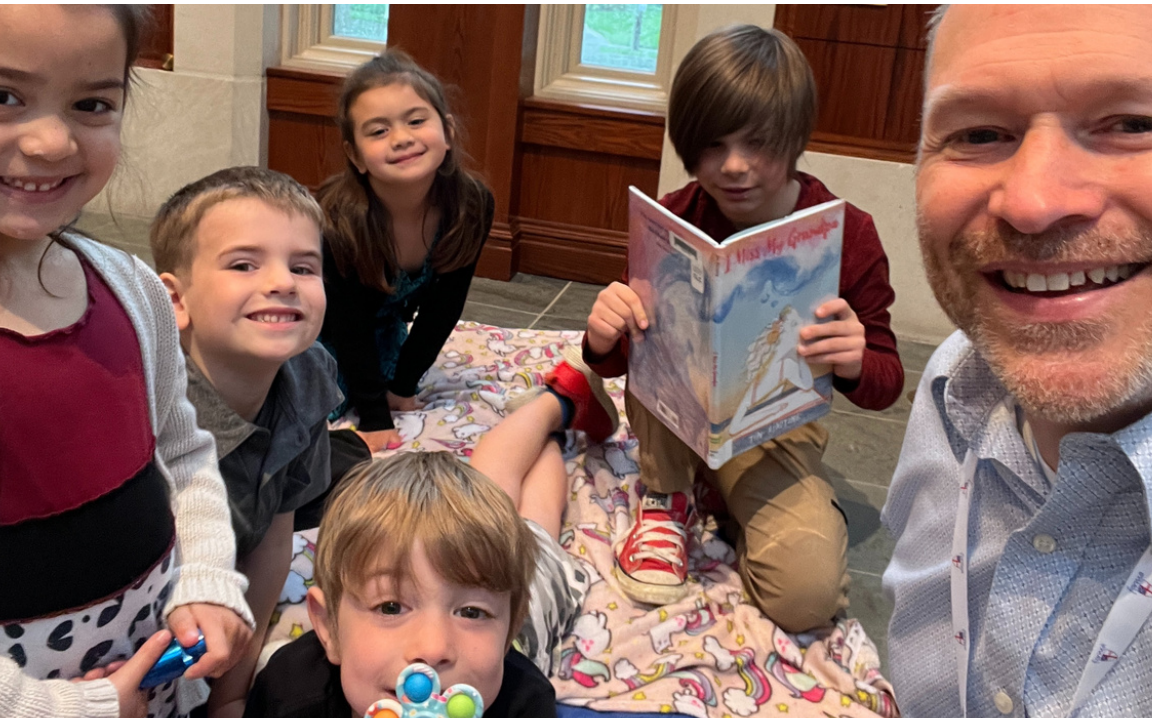
ministries our children and youth participate in. The Family Ministry team is so grateful for these amazing volunteers who assist with our Playroom, Godly Play, Kids Chapel, Club CoR, Middle CoR, and CoR Youth. And the large number of parents who helped us with the 2023 Christmas Pageant contributed to a large gathering (~440 people) at 4:00 pm on Christmas Eve. (The last pageant that saw over 400 in attendance was in 2018, with 475 in attendance.)



The hiring this past year of both an Interim Associate for Discipleship, the Rev. Joanna Leiserson, and an Associate Priest for Discipleship, the Rev. Dr. Herschel Wade, has aided our Family Ministry team with connecting our programming to adult formation – especially regarding Confirmation. Moving forward, these leaders will guide us as we work towards a clear and intentional path of discipleship for all Church of the Redeemer parishioners, young and old. Along with all these exciting shifts, we also have hopes for more new things moving into 2024 as we continue to build a more dynamic discipleship program. Some of these include:

- Continued development and implementation of our new confirmation process for 7th-12th grade students.
- Opportunities for parents to gather together and learn from one another.
- Renovations to the undercroft to fit the needs of our Family Ministry – opening up space to allow for bigger family gatherings, housing our after-school program, and safer, transparent sectioning of classroom space to fit Safe Church standards.
- A more intentional focus on college aged students.
- Getting more engaged with family offerings at the diocesan level, specifically participation in Family Camp at Procter.
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We are grateful for the continued support of Family Ministry here at Church of the Redeemer. It is clear the support is allowing us to build something meaningful and impactful. The work of the Spirit has been a joy to watch unfold, and we continue to watch with hopeful expectation to see the impact God continues to have here for our young ones and their families!





We have a vision of a worshipping community that knows Jesus and grows in love with people of every age, race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic situation, and political persuasion.

# **BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH GROWTH AND CHANGE**

by Nancy Schwartz

**The Great Vigil of Easter, held on the eve of Easter, begins as we kindle new fire in the nave. A new paschal candle - blessed and lit from the new fire and representing the Light of Christ—is carried down the aisle in the darkened church. Vigil candles are lit from the paschal candle and fill the otherwise dark church with warm candlelight. A cantor chants the Exultet (from the Latin word for “rejoice”), a beautifully haunting hymn dating from the fourth century that gives thanks to God for this night on which we are led from darkness into light, from death into life. In the darkness, a series of readings recall the history of salvation: Creation, the Flood, Israel’s Deliverance at the Red Sea, and others.**

The climax of the liturgy is the first "Alleluia" of the Easter season, when the celebrant declares: "Alleluia! Christ is risen." The darkened church is suddenly flooded with light, the organ roars, and a Gloria is sung to give thanks to God for the resurrection of our Lord. The service joyfully continues with readings recalling Christ's victory over death. Finally, bread and wine are blessed and the congregation shares Holy Eucharist with God and one another.

2019 was the first year Church of the Redeemer offered the Great Vigil of Easter. Since then, it has grown in numbers as more people experience the beauty and joy of this ancient service. In 2023 our newly formed Hospitality Team took the opportunity to extend that joy after the worship service with the offering of Church of the Redeemer's first Champagne and Chocolate reception. The congregation gathered in the Great Hall which was filled with all those sweets and beverages that many had "given up" for Lent. Chocolate and champagne fountains, a festive punch, and cookies and candy were available to add to the celebration.

This new event highlighted a year in which Church of the Redeemer saw many new or newer hospitality offerings. From the Chili Cook-Off on the Feast of the Epiphany in January, through Mardi Gras, the Champagne and Chocolate reception, Newcomer receptions, Coffee Hours, and more, the newly formed Hospitality Team showed their devotion to this important ministry. In addition to the fun and fellowship we share at these gatherings, they help us connect with God and others. They help us build community.

Not surprisingly, this past year saw continued post-pandemic growth at Church of the Redeemer. We had over 50 adults join our Newcomer group! And we experienced the wonderful surge of children and youth filling the church on Sunday mornings. In response, we rearranged the Great Hall and developed a new Coffee Hour Team. The team's focus on welcome created a casual setting for gathering. During these regular Sunday Coffee Hours connections were made through shared stories. Opportunities to learn about and join our ministries were provided (on Get Involved Sundays). Thus, newcomers and long-time members alike were helped to understand how God has shaped them for ministry.

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry once said, "God is changing things so that they finally reflect the dream of God. It will be new to us, but it is merely the fulfillment of what God intended all along." In 2023, a year we emphasized the Growing portion of our Vision Statement, we embraced that very transformation of God's creation.





# REVIVE US AGAIN

A collaborative contribution by  
The Revs. Melanie and Christopher Slane

Back in November of 2021 Church of the Redeemer received a letter from our Bishop Provisional, Wayne Smith, imploring us, and all congregations of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio, to begin the difficult task of examining our parish history. His assignment of unearthing the truth about our institutional participation in the systemic sin of racism was daunting. How had our church participated in building it up? How had we worked to break it down? When had we spoken out? And when had we kept quiet?

Grateful doesn't begin to describe the effectual feelings we had for our beloved archivists the late Mike Krug and Elizabeth Grover who had, for years, been discovering and documenting all of the lovely and difficult realities of our life in community here at Church of the Redeemer. They had been telling stories of our perseverance and creativity, and our evangelical beginnings as a small start-up church, when the Rev. Max Long literally went door-to-door inviting neighbors to gather in the carriage house off Hyde Park Square for Episcopal worship way back in 1908. The congregation grew rapidly with the expansion of Cincinnati during its Golden Age.

The Rev. Long's 44-year tenure as Rector at Church of the Redeemer also converged with The Great Migration of African Americans from southern cities in our nation to the North. Those early years revealed the insidious nature of systemic racism with the establishment of segregation practices like redlining. In 1920, this meant that the Cincinnati Real Estate Board could publicly state that "No agent shall rent or sell property to colored people in an established white section or neighborhood."

The devastating reality is that, by 1959 while our congregation was growing, so was racial segregation: in our housing, in our schools, and in our churches. For instance, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church - established in 1894 as the first black Episcopal Church in Cincinnati - was experiencing the demolition of their beloved church building. Constructed in brick and adorned with beautiful stained-glass windows and ornate wooden Rood screen, the original St. Andrew's in the West End was demolished to make room for Interstate 75. With the expansion of the highway, St. Andrew's was relocated into a deteriorating cinder-block building in Evanston, a neighborhood that was experiencing economic decline based on those segregation practices referenced above. In that same year, Church of the Redeemer constructed the beautiful Nave where we still worship today.

The next 20 years were marked by the War in Vietnam, the rise of civil unrest calling for change in our society's collaboration with racism, and the adoption of a new prayer book that would make the Holy Eucharist the central focus of our common worship in The Episcopal Church. Church of the Redeemer would serve among a select group of congregations, nationwide, that would adopt the new prayer book...

for trial use and report back on what should and should not be established as the new norm for Episcopal worship. If you look carefully around the Church, you may find some of the “trial use” prayer books in the backs of our pews today.

In the season of Lent 1968, Church of the Redeemer parishioners gathered together for education and conversation during the church’s Wednesday Night Lenten Series. The Topic: Racial Crisis in the City. Our church archives revealed a bulletin from one of these gatherings, dated March 24, 1968, in which the organizers wrote “We find ourselves immersed in the many attitudes, philosophies and problems that make up the racial crisis in Cincinnati and the nation.” Also in the copy, a quote attributed to *Mr. Turner*, says, “We live in the atmosphere of fear and hatred. The relationship between black and white is still man/boy; master/slave.” There were nearly 200 people in attendance at these gatherings, the speakers both White and Black, but the audience was 100% White.

Just one week later, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee (April 4, 1968) bringing the very present state of racial segregation to an undeniable forefront in the hearts and minds of many parishioners.

Beginning June 18, 1968, weekly ecumenical gatherings of six different denominations in the Hyde Park/Mt. Lookout communities commenced in what was called “The Community Commitment Project.” The gatherings, organized by two lay women, Terry Plapp and Phyllis Reid, were a public lament of the segregation of our places of worship, and we were forced to acknowledge our enmity toward our Black, Brown, and Indigenous neighbors who we had claimed as siblings in Christ, but with whom we had never shared the sacrament. Among the weekly topics were the psychology of prejudice, housing discrimination, education, employment, and the legal system. The community knew that if our churches were going to change, then our society would need to change, and if our society was going to change, then our churches needed to change.

On the cusp of the 1980s our Church welcomed a new rector, and the first female priest was hired onto our staff. Our Diocese elected its first and only Black Bishop, in 1988. This amid the unsolved murders of Dante Evans and Darrell Lane, two Black teenage boys shot and killed as they walked down Reading Road one summer night, after leaving the local candy shop. A White man who later confessed, admitted that the color of their skin had been his sole motivation in killing them.

The complicated convergence of systemic racism and some people’s desire to abolish it, forged new relationships, and a friendship between two priests made possible a collaborative endeavor to renew the spirit of the Church.

Many of you at Church of the Redeemer will remember and have spoken fondly of the Revival that was hosted by our church and St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church back in 1999. It is an event that continues to hold resonance for both congregations and is remembered well for its collective choral offerings and shared experience of worship.



But many of you, who are new to Church of the Redeemer, do not remember this historic event because, while it offered a much-needed reminder of our mutual belonging in Christ, it was not, indeed could not be, successful at reviving a relationship that had not yet been established.

In 2023, while collaborating with Ignite Peace (formerly the Intercommunity Justice & Peace Center of Cincinnati) to tell the truth about our congregations' relationship to race and racism by examining our past and imagining our future, the reminder of revival caused us to ask what would be required of us if we were to ask God to Revive Us Again?

What would it look like to renew our relationship with St. Andrew's for a new generation?

A group of us got to work on making a physical and digital timeline of where we had been, collaborating to create a multi-layered representation of the History of Race and Racism in Cincinnati and what was happening in each of our congregations over the past 130 years.

We interviewed parishioners from both congregations, collected stories from long ago and not so far away, and decided to begin again; acknowledging that the hard work of relationship begins with hearing and speaking hard truths and making reparations for pains of the past that have created the chasm between us.

We acknowledged our differences, celebrated our similarities, and began sharing meals together the way Jesus and his friends did, in our homes. We committed our Lenten series once again to the work of Becoming Beloved Community, which culminated in The Palm Sunday Bus Tour a pilgrimage to eight holy sites around our city: The Black Brigade Memorial at Smale Park, the devastating view of the demolished St. Andrew's Church at 8th & Mound, The Harriet Beecher Stowe School for Black Children established by Jennie Davis Porter, The Ezzard Charles Monument: the only statue of a Black man on a pedestal in our city today, the spot in OTR where unarmed Black teenager Timothy Thomas was shot and killed by the police in 2001, The Urban League of Cincinnati, King Records, and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Evanston.

As we stopped along the way, participants were given a chance to walk and talk with one another and share the pain and joy of traveling this road together. Many of the White participants were surprised at what they heard and saw, while Black participants shared the age-old story of being moved around by policy and "progress" creating a life where the ground under their feet was always shifting and changing, swallowing up their wealth and exploiting their vast contributions to society.

Time, like an ever-flowing stream, is still working on us. Acknowledging our past and looking to what lies ahead are both held in the tension of the present moment. And so, turning our face toward the future and how we can employ our privilege for good and reconciling works, we can finally ask the question:

How will we respond to our siblings' call for equity in education, in housing, and in a safe place to worship God?

At table, with our friends, we have already been looking for ways to make God's dream our reality. We have celebrated beloved sports teams, held rallies and marches to end gun violence in our city, supported one another's ministries in caring for the poor, and come together for worship and praise.

Together, St. Andrew's and Church of the Redeemer have formed a collaborative partnership with Found House, Model Group, and Chaatrik Architecture to explore building permanent supportive housing on the campus of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church as well as a new church building for St. Andrew's. A building which will honor their unnumbered contributions to The Episcopal Church and to the glory of God. Though still in the planning phase, this shared project has the potential to bring our congregations even closer together.

In the coming year there will be even more opportunities for you to participate in this, our revival of relationship, as we restore what has been broken and repair the breach that has kept us apart. We give thanks for your prayers and look forward to your participation as we continue to move forward in the mission and reconciling work of Jesus with these our neighbors.







# LEGACY TAKES WORK

by Mireya Medina

Keenan Beauchamp is a man who believes that you've got to put your heart, as well as your hands, in it if you're going to do God's work. A member of Church of the Redeemer 30 years now, Keenan credits the late Polk Laffoon with helping nudge him to where he was needed and ultimately where he knew he needed to be. At the time Keenan and his wife were members of Church of the Redeemer's Young Adult group. The group had a community service component, which was where Beauchamp was introduced to People Working Cooperatively (PWC.) It was from those interactions with the PWC that Beauchamp joined the annual Fall Prepare Affair as well as the Spring Repair Affair. Beauchamp likes to joke, "Unbeknownst to me, Polk Laffoon was grooming me to be his successor."

Eventually the relationship with PWC evolved with the help of parishioner and then Mission Board Chair, the late Jane Killen and husband Bill Killen, parishioner Ron Staggs, PWC's Brad Staggs, and others to the building and maintenance of ramps for disabled people living in our community. This mission endeavor started by PWC broadened the scope and work of our volunteers and allowed those affected access back to their own homes. Years later Church of the Redeemer crews lead ramp-builds that include volunteers from all over Cincinnati.

The Prepare Affair continues to help people in need in the community with annual chores like cleaning gutters and raking leaves. Families are encouraged to participate in The Prepare Affair since easier chores like leaf raking can be done by all ages. And the Repair Affair happens in the Spring with a mission to help people in need with small repair jobs in their homes. According to Beauchamp all it takes to volunteer are some basic tools and initiative. The volunteers are very willing to show newcomers the ropes and even teach them some handy skills.

The 2023 Prepare Affair was November 18 and according to Beauchamp attendance was less than he had hoped. Beauchamp has a few theories on why attendance has declined. One being an oversaturation of messaging from every organization leaving it up to the person to pick through and in turn minimizing its effectiveness, the other being a change in culture where church ends up competing with other commitments like children's sports, scouting, clubs, and the like.

Beauchamp would like to see more emphasis on hands-on ministries. As a greeter at Church of the Redeemer, he says that he uses every opportunity to discuss his involvements. He would like to see more people having these kinds of discussions as he feels that hands-on work is indelibly part of a spiritual based community. He says, "The thing that I like about it that I think people miss is the sense of fellowship and community amongst members of Church of the Redeemer that we build. You really get to know someone in a whole different light when you work with them for a day."



An advocate of family mission work, Beauchamp believes that kids learn by example and mission starts in youth but especially when driven by a parent or caretaker. He also admits that ministries change. As new needs arise, some ministries may fall away but it is his hope that new ones will take their place. At Church of the Redeemer, we have seen this shift with younger membership wanting to address and work more on social root causes of inequity that inevitably lead to home disrepair and even ultimately homelessness.







# *When We Gather*

by Anny Stevens-Gleason

Whenever we gather as a community, we are transformed. This transformation happens when we listen to God and act on what we hear. When we follow this, we as a community of faith grow. We grow in all ways.

One of the most evident places of recent growth in our church is Music Nights. Every Thursday evening during the program year, the music groups of Church of the Redeemer gather to rehearse and for a shared meal.

In addition to the later rehearsals of our Adult Choir, Banquet band and Celtic ensemble, the first hour is filled with music made by children. For our youngest children, Musical Play offers a free-flowing exploration of musical concepts in a playful setting. The children and their parents sing and move together, experience the soundscape of the peaceful cloister garden (as the weather allows), and learn to enjoy simple instruments. Krista Cornish Scott flexibly adapts to each child, building on where they are in their musical and spiritual journey.

At the same time, we offer a choral ensemble for elementary aged singers. Led by parishioner and elementary school music teacher Anna Calhoun, members of Jubilate Deo explore a variety of service music and practice ensemble skills through games and activities.

New in 2023 is Cantate, for grade 5 through age 14, and led by current UC Music Education student Nathan Smith. This choral group provides a nurturing and educational environment for young musicians to develop their vocal talents, musical knowledge, and a deep appreciation for the power of choral music.

These three groups are an example of the transformation fostered by our Music Academy. Begun in 2022 with a generous donation to our music ministry, they are committed to fostering a sense of belonging, self-expression, and artistic growth among the children of our community. This transformation and growth were evident in December when Jubilate Deo and Cantate participated in 2023's Advent Lessons and Carols. Not only was their offering beautiful, but their growth was evident when a dozen children filled the chancel compared to the handful of pre-pandemic.





# Swap-It

## the new Church Rummage Sale

by Mireya Medina

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle has been the newest mantra in the world of climate change activism and a movement that promotes sustainability. Gone are the days of mindlessly dropping your plastic bottles and paper milk cartons into a recycle bin and moving on. Today's new generation has gotten wise to the recycle game and they're looking to turn that around. Our Creation Care team has joined that bandwagon. This year the Creation Care Team hosted their first ever Swap-It event at Church of the Redeemer.

On April 23 to coincide with the weekend celebrations for Earth Day, our Creation Care Team hauled tables out to our parking lot and created a marketplace of gently used and new items to swap with or give to people who attended the event. Donations came from parishioners and community members. The tables were overflowing with coats and shoes, baby items and even some furniture. People trickled in throughout the day picking up items and leaving some behind. For a cloudy day with a menace of rain, the turn-out was great.

The Creation Care Team partnered up with vendors who also are promoting sustainability. Fill More Waste Less, a store that sells refills of natural soaps, shampoos, and cleaning products was on-hand to promote their store in Madisonville. Queen City Commons Composting and the Cincinnati Recycling and Reuse Hub were present to educate attendees on their services and take things off their hands for recycling and New Life Furniture and Thrift Store came to our event and event helped haul away any items that were not taken, making clean-up a snap.

"It was great having outside organizations come to participate like Queen City Commons for composting or Fill More Waste Less who is a small business that we could spread the news about that are doing great things for sustainability." said Creation Care Team leader John Calhoun. "Like with Queen City Commons Composting, we're now helping support community composting in the wider Hyde Park/Oakley area, and now our church is utilizing this system too." This movement for greater access and wider participation is helping our Creation Care Team fulfill its true mission of Liberating Advocacy and Life-Giving Conservation.





Want to be a part of our next Swap-It event? This year's Swap It should coincide will be the week after Earth Day, on Sunday, April 28. Want to help plan? Our Creation Care Team meets every third Sunday of the month at 12:30pm in the Parlor. There are so many ways to participate in Creation Care. You may have more to offer than you even know. Recently parishioners and Master Gardeners Lee and Mike Hardy became part of our Creation Care Team after lending their expertise for the building of our new Pollinator Garden next to the parking lot.

The Pollinator Garden gave us a chance to get our hands dirty while helping to beautify the grounds. Minister for Preschool and Elementary Discipleship and Creation Care Team member Tommy Kirk led the charge helped by donations from parishioners. John Calhoun got busy digging up the sod with Andrew Cole and later Calhoun and Sextant Kris Woolfe worked with a rototiller to complete the task.

Church of the Redeemer is committed through The Creation Care Team to the Covenant for the Care of Creation set forth by The Episcopal Church in America: a commitment to practice loving formation, liberating advocacy and life-giving conservation as individuals, congregations, ministries and dioceses. Come be a part of it.





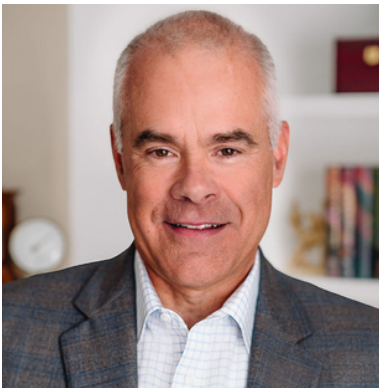
# 2024 NOMINEES

## Beth Weinewuth

*Nominee for Senior Warden*

Beth and her husband, Brian, have been parishioners at Church of the Redeemer since shortly before they were married in the under-construction sanctuary in 2004. Over the years Beth has been active in many ministries, including singing with the Banquet praise band, serving as a Godly Play storyteller, ushering, lecturing, and greeting.

She served on the Vestry from 2015 to 2019. Over the pandemic year she stayed active in the life of the parish by sewing masks and leading online gatherings. She and Brian have two great kids, Noah (12) and Grace (11). Beth is a partner at the Vorys law firm, where she assists clients with issues surrounding estates and trusts and where there is never a dull moment. Beth is honored to be called to serve as Jr. Warden in this time. She feels that God has much to do in our midst and is excited to be a part of it.



## Mark Sesler

*Nominee for Junior Warden*

Mark is a lifelong Episcopalian in this Diocese, baptized at Trinity Columbus and confirmed at St. John's Worthington. He met his wife Audrey in Cincinnati, and was married at Redeemer in 1991. Their sons Matt (28) and Drew (25) were baptized and confirmed at Redeemer. "It recently became apparent that we have been around awhile

when I see the 'youth' Audrey and I were Youth Group advisors for in our first Redeemer ministry bringing their children to church!," says Mark. The Redeemer community has been an important part of his adult life. He's been involved in several ministries and leadership positions over the years. Mark's been chair of the annual giving campaign and chair of the Mission Board and Education Board. He served on the search committee for our former rector Bruce Freeman. He's a member of the Wednesday Lunchtime Bible Study and Lay Reader.

"I am a Lay Eucharistic Visitor which is a ministry I have a lot of passion for. Given my love for this church, I look forward to working with the Admin Committee and Vestry as Jr. Warden."



## Kathy Selker

*Nominee for a Trustee of the Redeemer  
Permanent Property Fund*

Kathy started attending the Church of the Redeemer in the summer of 2022. She is very proud of her three sons, Matthew, Christopher and Robert, her daughter-in-law Natalie, her daughter-in-law Abbey and her grandsons, Liam, and Noah.

She is the managing director of a business-oriented marketing consultancy, Stratos, built upon her many years as the President and CEO of Northlich, a marketing and advertising agency. Kathy is a CPA who began her career in public accounting. She is very involved in the community with a passion for social services organizations. She is the Treasurer, Secretary and Trustee for LifeCenter Organ Donor Network, and a trustee for Mary Magdalene House.



## Kate Burroughs

*Nominee for a Member at-large of the Redeemer  
Mission Funding Committee (second term)*

Kate and family joined CoR in January of 2019. I am a mom-of-four: Grayson (20), Henry (18), Finley (15), and Tiernan (15), Katie and her husband, David Mentzel, are Cincinnati natives and currently reside in East Walnut Hills. Kate is an attorney with a blend of public service and private practice experience, including serving as the CEO of Adopt A Class, a local

nonprofit. She currently works for the City of Cincinnati in the Law Department as a litigator, with a focus on property blight abatement and quality rental housing.

Outside of work and family obligations, Kate is also a member of Impact 100, and serves at St. Francis Seraph Soup Kitchen, and volunteers at her children's school.

Kate loves to read, cook, travel (esp. off the "beaten path"), kayak, refinish reclaimed furniture, or work on restoring their home built in 1885.

"I feel blessed that God is calling me to serve on this Committee. This Mission plays an important role in providing housing stability, especially at a time when the threat of homelessness is very real for many. I am honored to contribute to this group to further the work of Christ and minister to our neighbors in need."



## Jeff Cline

*Nominee for a Member at-large of the Redeemer Mission Funding Committee*

Jeff has been a member at Church of the Redeemer since 1997. Retired in 2017 from a 20 year career as a sales executive and 19 years as a small business owner. Previously Jeff has served at Redeemer as usher, banker, nominating committee, Cornerstone Campaign, and lay reader/chalice bearer.



"I see this as another opportunity to continue to fulfill my commitment to give more time, talent, and treasure to God's work."



## Sue Williams

*Alternate Delegate to the 2024 Diocesan Convention and Delegate to the Conventions in 2025 and 2026*

Sue and husband Alex spent 20 years at Church of the Ascension in FL. They loved the church and their work there. Sue served on the Flower Guild 2006 - 2011, Gardens and Sacred Spaces 2011-2022, Chaired Legacy & Endowment Committee 2009-2022, and Future Planning 2022.

Sue and her husband both worked on community issues of poverty and homelessness and food banks with the church.

Before they went to Florida, they were Parishioners at St. Paul's, Oakwood (Dayton), OH. Alex is a lifetime member there, and Sue became a member when she moved to Dayton from Cincinnati age 16. That is where they were married, baptized three children, buried 4 parents and a brother. Sue served on the Vestry and Altar Guild.

"I am honored to be nominated as a Delegate to Diocesan Convention from Church of the Redeemer. I think it will be a good introduction of me to our community and vice-versa. Alex and I moved to Cincinnati from Clearwater Beach, Florida the summer of 2022. We went searching for a church and are very happy we landed at Church of Redeemer. We wanted an active group of families that offered a welcoming community. We wanted good music, a church that supported the needy and those who are alone, and one that helped us reach out and be there for others as well."

# Phil Smith

*Alternate Delegate to the 2024 Diocesan Convention and Delegate to the Conventions in 2025 and 2026*

Phil was born in a small town on the Texas-Arkansas border, growing up in Kentucky and spending his undergraduate time in Boston, where he met his wife Jana. They have been married over 32 years, and have a daughter Jerusha and a grandson Ayden. Phil analyzes jet engines for GE Aerospace.



Phil has felt called to Church of the Redeemer ever since he turned up at the annual picnic in 2006. He has been a volunteer musician at the Banquet off and on since the early days of that service; served a term on the vestry, on various committees, and on a mission trip. He is excited about the opportunity to represent Redeemer in the wider Episcopal community.





# 2023 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES TAKEN ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2023  
BY PATRICIA KOVACH, CLERK OF THE VESTRY

The Rev. Philip DeVaul, Rector, offered an opening prayer to call the meeting to order at 10:08 AM. He asked for a motion to appoint Patricia Kovach, Clerk of Vestry, as Secretary for the meeting. Peg Wyant made the motion and Jan Hill seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Copies of the minutes from the 2022 Annual Meeting were included in the Annual Meeting report sent to the congregation the week prior to the meeting. Ted Schwartz made the motion to accept the minutes from the 2022 Annual Meeting as written, John Morehous seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

## SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

Jeff Brokamp thanked the clergy and staff and also offered thanks to Emily Von Allmen who kept the Vestry going as the "Covid Warden". He appreciatively acknowledged the time and effort given by the out-going Vestry members: Andrea Rogers, Anna Grisi, Betsy Schram, Chuck Hardy and Ryan Andrews.

Redeemer has been growing, due in part to the online presence begun during Covid. Intention is growing with increased participation in ministries. The Vestry has also assumed a greater role in the leadership of the five Boards, allowing for more capacity.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Andrea Rogers of the nominating committee presented the slate of nominees.

### Vestry (four year term):

- Elizabeth Coley
- David Haffner
- Nancy Mackenzie Powell
- Cynthia Walker
- Steve Zimmerman

### Office Nominees:

- Bill Culp, Nominee for Trustee of the Redeemer Permanent Property
- Laurie Maguire, Nominee for Member-at-Large of the Redeemer Mission Funding Committee (second term)
- Elizabeth Clapp, Nominee for Member-at-Large of the Redeemer Mission Funding Committee (second term)
- Christine Andrew, Alternate Delegate to 2023 Diocesan Convention; Delegate 2024 and 2025
- John Schenk, Jr., Alternate Delegate to 2023 Diocesan Convention; Delegate 2024 and 2025

Andrea asked for a motion to close the nominations and cast a ballot for the entire slate. Bill Killen made the motion and Ellen Zemke seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. Andrea congratulated the new candidates, thanked the Nominating Committee

(Kathe Kissel, Kyle Roberts, Mark Sesler, Phil Smith, Emily Von Allmen, Cynthia Williams) for their discernment, and asked the parish for support and prayers for their new leaders.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Rob Kranz presented the Treasurer's Report for 2022. He reported that the number of pledges were up and the investment performance for 2022 was also up. The focus has been on outreach, buildings and grounds and pastoral work. There appears to be a structural deficit for 2023 and Redeemer may have to rely on the surplus from last year. He reminded us that as a tax-exempt organization, the goal is not to make money.

Phil thanked Rob for his exceptional service to the Redeemer community, having served as Treasurer for over 25 years, "The legacy of his ministry will shape this church for years to come. He presented Rob with gifts from the parish - a Bible and the donation of a bench in his name at Ault Park. He was a founding trustee of the park's Advisory Council and has dedicated much of his time and effort over the years.

### **RECTOR'S REPORT**

Phil thanked the Vestry, Wardens and Staff for their hard work during the past year. The Rev. Philip DeVaul moved to adjourn the meeting and Betsy Schram seconded. Phil offered a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 10:39 AM.















EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER  
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## 2023 Vestry of the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

Jeff Brokamp, *Senior Warden*, Beth Weinewuth, *Junior Warden*  
Carter Kemper, *Treasurer*, Kelly Schleker, *Assistant Treasurer*  
Patricia Kovach, *Clerk of the Vestry*

Kathryn Albertson	David Hafner	Matt Solomon
Andrew Cole	Larry Kissel	Cynthia Walker
Elizabeth Coley	Amanda Rasche	Steve Zimmerman

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