

**From: Father Mike
Priest in Charge**

Chaplain's Corner
Beware of Giving Thanks

As the pledge campaign part of being a stewardship comes to a close this month so also comes an opportunity to reflect on all that we have been blessed with. Thanksgiving is getting to be a tricky holiday for me to get through. It can be a splendid occasion, a wonderful celebration. But it's also a challenging time.

Allow me to set the scene. I am sitting down for the traditional Thanksgiving meal. I am asked to offer grace, and so I begin to mutter words of thanks for various blessings, thinking myself pretty pious, without the least thought of the self-condemnation I may be performing.

I may never examine what it truly means to give thanks. If I am a typical American, I may give thanks for riches, abundance, all the advantages of the well-to-do. And at the end of my prayer, I may say (and haven't we heard this many times?), "Let us also remember those less fortunate than ourselves."

What could be happening here? Well, for one thing, I might be suffering under the same delusion as did the people of Jesus' day. They thought things like wealth and good health were evidence of God's approval. They considered them blessings, in, in the sense that they wouldn't have them unless God wanted it so. And they thought that those people without these possessions (health, riches, the finer things of life) were being punished by God.

The truth we find difficult to understand is the fact that God does not personally bring about all these situations. He does not "cause" a person to be poor, to be blind, nor does He decree the opposite, that the person be healthy, wealthy, loaded with talents.

This should help us see that there is a big difference between being unblessed and being unlucky. Tragedy and misfortune are no sign at all of God's judgment or a revelation of His unblessing," His curse upon us for some sin or failure.

We are all equally blessed, that is, equally loved by God. We are not, however, equally lucky, that is, the free circumstances of life have worked out differently for each of us. What does it mean, then when I consider those "less fortunate" than myself? What, in other words, does it mean for me to consider the refugees fleeing from Syria seeking safety or people on Irving's street corners as "less fortunate?" Are these persons less fortunate because God planned it, because they have sinned, because they are less worthy?

Feeling sorry for the "less fortunate," I may piously include them in my prayers and say to God: "Lord, help the less fortunate." If I truly listened at this point, God would answer me by saying, "You help the unfortunate. For, you see, many of the so-called less fortunate didn't just get that way by accident of fate or because I decreed it. Much of the 'less fortune,' the suffering in the world, is caused by those who are rich and who fail to share freely with those who have need."

Correctly understood, to give thanks for abundance is to give thanks for resources to be shared. To give thanks for talents is to give thanks (if we could but see the truth) for challenge and responsibility. It's true; we are the Elect, the Chosen People. But chosen for service, elected to get busy sharing God's creation equally with all God's creation.

God doesn't want us to sit down to turkey dinner at Thanksgiving, or any meal, and choke on it. But He does want us to see that it can't be "dinner as usual." There are brothers and sisters of ours who are equally blessed (loved) by God, who do not show signs of being "blessed" with health, food, justice, housing, clothing, jobs. They are God's message to us that the goods of His creation need to be equitably shared. They are God's invitation to us, to understand that we are called to give thanks for the opportunity of changing the world.

"...Empower us to make a difference in the world,
with open hearts, open minds and open doors..."

May God bless you in your gatherings and service.

2015 Stewardship Campaign Timeline

- NOW - If we haven't already, we begin contemplating the things God is calling us to be as members of this church.
- 10/4 - Stewardship talks begin for both services.
- 10/12 - The stewardship committee will assemble to pick up your folders for distribution.
- 10/25 - Your stewardship captain should have delivered your folder to you by this date. Please contact Stewardship Co-Chair Joan Lamere @ 972-986-5059 or jlamere1225@yahoo.com if you haven't received your folder by this date.
- **11/8 - Pledge Sunday Worship and Celebration (Breakfast Sunday). In keeping with Redeemer tradition, we will bring our pledge cards to church on this day and offer them up on the altar.**

Stewardship is something that used to be hard for me. I always thought that it was all about what money I would be able to give. I decided to really read my pledge card and look closely at everything that was printed on the card. There was something on there about time and talent. I thought to myself how could that be a pledge? It was not till I had it explained to me that you did not always have to give money . Your time you shared and giving at church was also a commitment . the things you are in rather it be the choir or altar guild, or vestry , Sunday school teacher or just doing for the church is also a commitment of you. Gods has us doing his work in so many ways. Being stewardship co-captain and being part of that has taught me so many things of the spirit of giving for the needs of our church. Now that I understand steward and how all our giving helps the church I ask all you to pray and let God guide you for the committed this stewardship season.

Thank you,

Norma DeLeon

Redeemer Montessori School

This year Redeemer Montessori School is once again seeking accreditation by American Montessori Society (AMS). This is a lengthy project which requires the hard work of both the director and the teachers. Despite the extra work they are taking on this year everyone has enthusiastically participated in the fund-raising and the fun along with the students.

Redeemer's Running Club participated in the Race for the Cure and raised \$639. The grandmother of one of our students was part of the "Survivors Breakfast" and was featured on television when she rode in a wheelchair during the run.

While our Fall Festival on October 30 had an unwelcome guest, rain, we were able to have the petting zoo, pumpkin decorating, games and class picnics. Everyone had a good time especially those people who got to watch the smaller students' bottle feeding piglets.

Rather than trick or treating for candy and other treats the students of RMS trick or treated for UNICEF and while the count is not yet in what is already in is heavy and the children are very enthusiastic when they hand in their money.

On Thursday, November 5, the Annual Potluck Dinner will feature an auction to raise money to improve the playground. Parents have already begun the process of bidding on having their table be the Head Table. The entertainment during dinner will be provided by the newly-formed Redeemer Choir.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is meeting in two groups on Wednesday mornings under the direction of the head of the school, Shannon Flowers, assisted by Tara Flores, one of our new teachers this year. Father Mike and his guitar are also part of the program which has been enthusiastically received by both parents and students.

The November service project will be the annual food drive for Irving Cares. In the past these drives have yielded 500 – 700 pounds of food.



**Volunteers
Needed!**

Spread the word
Sort donations
Set up/Take down
Help customers

**Nov. 7th
8 am - 3 pm
Rain
or shine**

Donations Drop-off!

7:30 am - 6 pm
Nov. 1 - 6

Leave in Sanctuary

Volunteer! Questions?
Call Heather
at 214.293.9372

Donation Ideas:

- Furniture
- Appliances
- Toys
- Clothing
- Home décor
- Holiday decorations
- Sports equipment
- Kitchen items
- Yard tools

If you need help getting the items to the church sanctuary, please call Heather to arrange assistance

THANK YOU!

Proceeds will benefit the building fund

Let's Get Digital

The Redeemer Technology Committee is proud to announce the newly-revamped Redeemer web site; Redeemer-Irving.org. The “go live” date is November 9th.

We have been working with a consultant to design a web site that meets the needs not only of our members, but is also useful to anyone looking for a new church home or a church to visit. We have added many new sections and features, and would love for you to “take a spin”. The idea is to keep this as a dynamic way to communicate with our community; informing folks of upcoming events, posting musings from members of our congregation, listing the Sunday readings and the servers for each week. We have also put in a permanent copy of the history of the church from the Parish Profile and a page on the art and architecture of the church. Let us know if we've left anything out.

For newcomers and visitors there is information on everything from what to expect when you visit us (how to dress, what books we use, where the nursery is) to what Episcopalians believe. There is just so much information there, we're all likely to learn something.

But that's not all... if you are on Facebook, and haven't found the Redeemer page, well, go LIKE us! We try to keep you informed about what's coming up, plus throw in a thought or news from the Episcopal Church every now and then. This is an easy way for you to share our events with your Facebook friends, too.

And the final leg of this three-legged stool (‘cause the Episcopal church is all about three-legged stools) is the Weekly Emails. Let us know what you think. Do you read them on your computer or on your mobile device? Is the information engaging or redundant? Are you receiving them? Do you have any suggestions for improvements?

Want to help with all of this communication? LET US KNOW! We welcome your participation.

ECR Tech Committee:

Dan Donalson, Meg Mueller, Adam Hurst, Patrick Donalson, Johnny Wise, Henry Ohuemeokpu, Jackie Acres, Dick Comstock, Fr. Stephen Waller, Fr. Mike Wallens

Photos and graphics by: Bill Thompson, Annie Savage



for November

The Holiday Giving Season

The King will reply, Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

As the holiday season approaches, please remember those in our community who need a little extra help. During the Holidays Redeemer will continue its long-time association with two organizations that work to assist needy families in Irving.

Irving Cares

Irving Cares works year-round to assist Irving residents in need by providing financial assistance for rent, mortgage, utilities, or prescriptions; a food pantry; an employment services program; and information and referral. During the months of November and December Redeemer will be accepting donations on its behalf.

Please contact the coordinator Kyle Taylor at ktaylor@irvingcares.org, or call 972-721-9181 Ext 209, for additional inquiries or questions.

The most needed items are:



Hygiene Products

Canned Fruit

Canned Meats - Tuna, Chicken

Canned Meals - Chili, Stew, Soups

Hot And Cold Cereal

Toilet paper

Deodorant

Shampoo (travel size or full size)

Powdered laundry soap

Office Supplies

Financial Support

Copier paper

Paper towels

\$70 buys a week of groceries

\$75 buys a prescription

\$150 pays a water bill

\$250 pays for a GED

\$500 pays a month's rent

\$600 pays an electricity bill

Blue Christmas

The Irving Police and Fire Departments will soon begin their annual Blue Christmas charity drive. Blue Christmas benefits children residing in Irving that otherwise would have little or no Christmas at all.

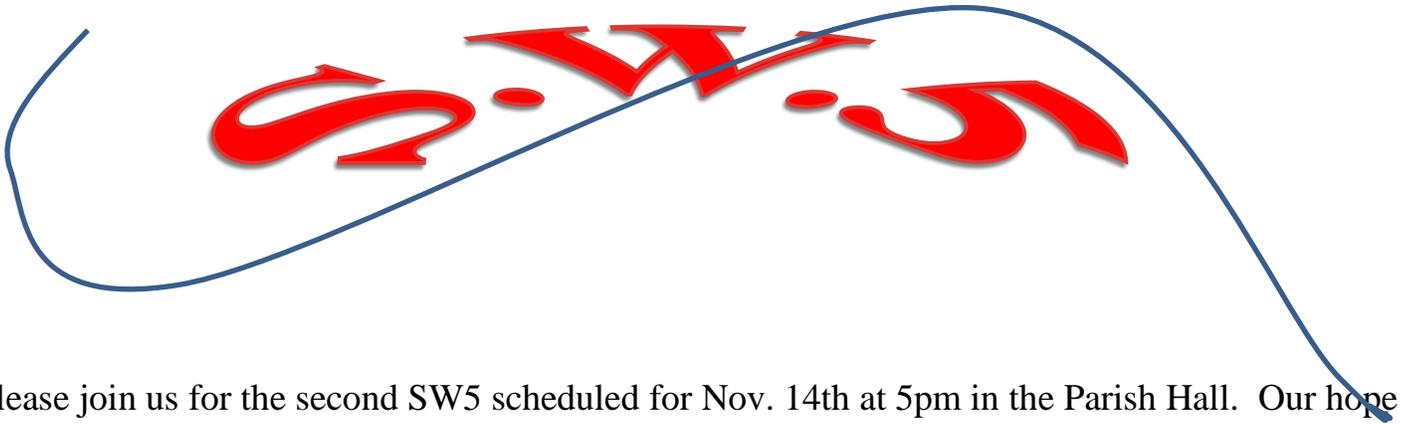
The fund raising, food and toy drives begin after the Thanksgiving holiday. Blue Christmas accepts monetary donations as well as non-perishable food items in unopened containers and new unwrapped toys from birth to 16 years of age.

Your donation of these much-needed items will help make someone's holiday season a little brighter.

Election of New Vestry Members



November 15 will be the deadline for nominating someone to fill the four vacancies that will need to be filled in the election scheduled for Sunday, November 22 between services. Nomination forms and information on what is involved in being a member of the Vestry.



Please join us for the second SW5 scheduled for Nov. 14th at 5pm in the Parish Hall. Our hope is that we will have a pianist to join with our guitar to help us celebrate and praise. Lend your voice to the Joyful Noise we'll make singing some new songs and offering our praises and thanksgivings.

explore**God**.com™

Changing Name

Location: The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm on Tuesday evenings

Big Questions. Authentic Conversation.

Now what? After meeting for 7 weeks to **EXPLORE GOD**, our discussion group has decided to continue on in our discussions with refreshments, fun and good conversation. Starting next Tuesday, November 3, we will be taking time to use short videos from *Spiritual Cinema Circle* as a basis for our discussions. The inspirational films from *Spiritual Cinema Circle* are compelling, uplifting stories about courage, love, family, and truth seeking. Come join the discussion at Redeemer....

Tuesdays,

6:30 – 7:30 PM

Crèche Display

The dates of this year's Crèche Display will be Friday, December 11 through Sunday, December 13. We're moving it a week closer to Christmas, hoping that folks will be more "in the spirit" and will stop in for a moment of reflection as they rush about with all of their holiday preparations.

We still need you to start looking for your crèche(s) to share with us as you go through your Christmas decorations, we just won't need them as early this year. Here's the schedule:

Set-up:

Sunday, December 6, after the 10:30 service – set up tables in the church

Tuesday, December 8, 6:30 – set up crèches

Thursday, December 10, 6:30 – put on the final touches (if necessary)

Display Open:

Friday, December 11, 10:00 – 2:00 (and by appointment)

Friday, December 11, 6:00 – 9:00

Saturday, December 12, 10:00 – 4:00

Sunday, December 13, between services

Sunday, December 13, noon – 2:00

Take Down

Sunday, December 13, 2:00

We will need help with all aspects of this, and there will be a sign-up sheet at the back of the church.

We hope that you'll share your treasured nativities with us, whether you've shared them in the past or whether this will be your first year. It's always so special to see how this blessed event is depicted in our friends' home.

Please bring your nativities to the church and leave them in the back pews by December 6th.

Please put your name on the nativity AND on your container. Thank you for sharing them with us all!

Altar Guild Ironing Party & Lunch

Sunday, Nov 8th, 12 Noon

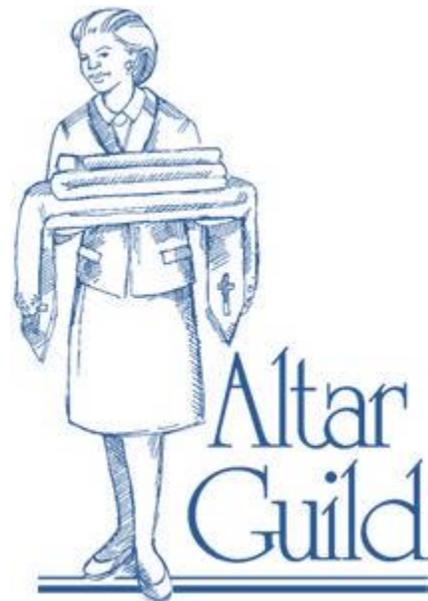
Terry Hogle is our Hostess

1904 Sunnybrook

Please bring any and all linens, Fair Linens included, that need to be ironed.

Bring something to share for lunch and your favorite beverage.

Join us for a great afternoon!!



The Small Group Bible Discussion started a new book, "Characters in the New Testament" in October. The next meeting is Nov. 16th from 6:30-8:30 pm. Join us for a potluck dinner and an hour of good conversation. Location is 425 Mañana Dr. Grand Prairie (although it is at the corner of Rock Island and Beltline in Irving!). Contact Nola Schrum for questions or interest 972 839-3773 or e mail her at ns0239@yahoo.com.

November 2015 The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer and Redeemer Montessori School

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 All Saints Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
8:00 Holy Eucharist 9:15 Sunday School Children & Youth 9:15 Adult Discussion 10:30 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Holy Eucharist with Baptism 12:15 Daughters of the King	7:00 Toastmasters	10:00 Bible Study 6:30 – 7:30 Explore God	6:30 Holy Eucharist & Healing Service 7:15 Budget Meeting 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	6:00 RMS Potluck Dinner & Auction 7:30 Irving Chorale Rehearsal		8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Yard Sale 11:00 Austin Street Sandwich Crew
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8:00 Holy Eucharist 9:00 Breakfast 9:30 SS Children & Youth 9:30 Adult Discussion 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Holy Eucharist 12:00 Altar Guild Ironing Party 12:15 Brotherhood of St. Andrew 3:45 Austin Street Shelter	7:00 Toastmasters	10:00 Bible Study 6:30 – 7:30 Explore God	6:30 Holy Eucharist & Healing Service 7:30 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Finance Committee	7:30 Irving Chorale Rehearsal		S.W.5 5:00
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8:00 Holy Eucharist 9:15 Sunday School Children & Youth 9:15 Adult Discussion 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Holy Eucharist 12:15 Vestry	6:30 Small Group Bible Discussion 7:00 Toastmasters	10:00 Bible Study 6:30 – 7:30 Explore God	6:30 Holy Eucharist & Healing Service 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	8:20 RMS Coffee, Cookies & Conversation 7:30 Irving Chorale Rehearsal	7:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal	10:00 Few-Roman Wedding & Reception

22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8:00 Holy Eucharist 9:15 Sunday School Children & Youth 9:15 Adult Discussion 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Holy Eucharist 12:15 Brotherhood of St Andrewy	7:00 Toastmasters		6:30 .Thanksgiving Eucharist with Healing Service		Thanksgiving Day	
Redeemer Montessori closed all week and Office Manager for ECR on vacation						

29 First Sunday in Advent	30	31				
8:00 Holy Eucharist 9:15 Sunday School Children & Youth 9:15 Adult Discussion 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Holy Eucharist	7:00 Toastmasters					

<i>November Birthdays and Anniversaries</i>						
Sharon Blackman	2	Jacqueline (Jackie) Maki	22			
Cheryl Hewitt	9	Susan McCarley	22		<i>James & Amy Roman,</i>	<i>November 2</i>
Katie Walsh	9	Brennen Downs	23			
Terry Hogle	10	Ray Smithey	25		<i>Dan & Patrick Donalson,</i>	<i>November 11</i>
James Hull	15	Father Stephen Waller	25			
Devonte Duru	16	Skip Ingram	26		<i>Kevin & Kerry Santa Lucia,</i>	<i>November 23</i>
Christina Howard	16	Brandon Rivera	27			
Denise Stevens	17					

Prayer over Pledge Cards

Gracious and loving God,
giver of all that is good and true and beautiful and life-giving.

*These cards represent our sweat, they represent our lives,
they represent our dreams.*

The pledges which we make on them are but tokens
of the awesome gifts that have been given to us
and they are pledged in thanksgiving for all we have received,
for all we have been inspired to be,
for all we are challenged to become, in this place.

*May they be the first fruits of all we have
and not what we have left over,
so that we may live out as closely as possible how you give to us.*

May we see them as our offering to you, sacred, holy, yet earthy, filled with possibilities.

*May we hold this image in our hearts and minds
so as we watch our offerings each week come to your table,
we can see our very selves being part of this offering,
it is us on the table, living sacrifices to you.*

Amen+

VESTRY

<p><u>GINNY BERTRAND</u> 2015 10106 Green Ct. Irving, TX 75063-5944 (972) 830-2004 vbbtx@ATT.net</p>	<p><u>ROGER HOGLE</u> 2015 1904 Sunnybrook Dr. Irving, TX 750612163 (972) 259-1079 rrhogle@verizon.net</p>
<p><u>BROCKETT, CHARLES (CHARLIE)</u> 2015 105 Pinion Dr. Euless, TX 76039-4508 (871) 267-1716 Handyru2@msn.com</p>	<p><u>JOAN LAMERE</u> 2017 2502 Himes St Irving, TX 75060-2319 (972) 986-5059 jlamere1225@yahoo.com</p>
<p><u>STEVE BUNT</u> 2017 502 Crest Ridge Ct. Irving, TX 75061-9337 (972) 986-9337 s.bunt1@verizon.net</p>	<p><u>HEATHER NEWELL</u> 2017 701 Lexington Ave. Irving, TX 75061-6609 (214) 293-9372 newell701@gmail.com</p>
<p><u>DE LEON, NORMA</u> 2016 1202 Mcham St. Irving, TX 75062-4375 (972) 514-1595 normad@screenfabs.com</p>	<p><u>HENRY OHUEMEOKPU</u> 2017 7364 Parkridge Blvd., Apt. 346 Irving, TX 75063 (972) 409-0550 h_eryajr@hotmail.com</p>
<p><u>DANIEL (DAN DONALSON)</u> 2015 3911-F Mahanna Springs Dr Dallas, TX 75235 (972) 746-9916 dan70583@gmail.com .</p>	<p><u>CAROL SWANSON</u> 2016 2805 Wingren Rd. Irving, TX 7562 (972) 255-3873 ca.swanson@verizon.net</p>
<p><u>DENNIS GOODING</u> 2016 3228 Newhaven Dr, Highland Village, TS 7577-3170 (972) 317-1606 bigdaddy712@juno.com</p>	<p><u>JOHN (JOHNNY) WISE</u> 2016 112 Santa Clara St. Irving, TX 7562-4515 (972) 252-7818 johnny.l.wise@gmail.com</p>



Redeemer.
LOOKING FOR CHRIST. LOOKING FOR YOU.

The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer
2700 Warren Circle
Irving, TX 75062-9242

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER AND REDEEMER MONTESSORI SCHOOL

2700 Warren Circle • Irving, TX 75062-9242

Church Phone: (972) 255-4171

FAX: (972) 258-9882

School Phone: (972) 257-3517

Email: church@redeemer-irving.org

Email: school@redeemermontessori.org

Website: www.redeemer-irving.org

Website: www.redeemermontessori.org

Church Office Hours: 8.00 am – 4:00 pm

School Office Hours: 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

CHURCH SERVICE SCHEDULE

SCHOOL STAFF

Holy Eucharist Sunday: 8:00 & 10:30 am

Director- Shanon Flowers Tillery,
sflowers@redeemermontessori.org

Holy Eucharist and Healing Service Wednesday, 6:30 pm

CLERGY

Business Manager
Bob Ware,
bobwr@redeemermontessori.org

Priest-In-Charge The Reverend Mike Wallens
mike.wallens@redeemer-irving.org

Administrative Assistant
Diana Gustafson
dgustafson@redeemer.org

CHURCH STAFF

Interim Treasurer, Bob Ware
bobwr@redeemermontessori.org

Interim Youth Minister, Steve Bunt
s.bunt1@verizon.net

Organist/Choirmaster, Mark Arcemont (Guest Organist)

Office Manager, Jo Ann Howes,
redemerooffice@redeemer-irving.org