



CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
IMPACT REPORT
2021





THE REV. CHARLESTON D. WILSON RECTOR

Almost 100 years ago, the great English mystic Evelyn Underhill wrote a stunning letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Cosmo Lang, at a time when the Church of England had begun openly exploring ways to find relevance in the years after World War I. The prevailing wisdom claimed, as it often does now, that the Church needed to find a new mission—discover a new direction, taking its place in the world alongside other worthwhile charities and good social causes. Evelyn believed this would only lead to decline, division, and spiritual decay. Her brave letter was found among her many papers after she died in 1941. She wrote these words to Archbishop Lang:

The Church wants not more consecrated philanthropists. We look to the Church to give us an experience of God, mystery, holiness, and prayer, which though it may not solve the antinomies of the natural world, shall lift us to contact with the supernatural world and minister eternal life.

Her words are as fresh today as they were a century ago and are worth appreciation and application now. Above all else, Redeemer seeks to be a parish that ministers nothing less than eternal life. The way we say that colloquially around here is: “making new Christians and making all Christians new.” Therefore, whether we are singing a hymn, hosting Christmas camp for our youth, or standing at your hospital bedside praying, it is all for the sake of ministering eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ. Nothing shall ever eclipse this primary mission at Redeemer.

What is the point of the gospel? Why go to church? C.S. Lewis had that wonderful chapter in *Mere Christianity* titled “Nice People or New Men?” What he means is that the gospel—the news of God’s underserved, unearned, yet constant, mercy and love—isn’t awarded to people who have demonstrated their deservedness or occasional virtue. Lewis put it like this:

If you are a poor creature—poisoned by a wretched upbringing in some house full of vulgar jealousies and senseless quarrels—saddled...with some loathsome sexual perversion—nagged day in and day out by an inferiority complex that makes you snap at your best friends—do not despair. He knows all about it. You are one of the poor whom He blessed.

Far from being reserved for “nice” folks, the good news—the news of being saved and blessed by Jesus—is for great sinners like you and me. And the fruit of this gospel (not its prerequisite) is not nicer folks but lives that are completely transformed by the grace of God. This parish church is God’s living lab where this takes place.

Our work in 2022 is to rely more and more on the miraculous power of God’s redeeming grace. What could be more important for our parish and our community?

Your servant,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CDW' with a small cross or plus sign at the end.

The Rev. Charleston D. Wilson
Rector, Church of the Redeemer

HIGHLIGHTS

156

**NEW MEMBERS
(RECORD NEW MEMBERSHIP)**

2,550

TOTAL MEMBERS

28

BAPTISMS

435

**STUDENTS SERVED
THROUGH DAY 4 HOPE**

CHOIR ROOM RENOVATED

**YOUTH CENTER CONSTRUCTION
COMMENCED IN DECEMBER**

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW*

RECORD 2021 GIVING

\$3,500,000

**OPERATING REVENUE
(COMPARED TO \$3,100,000 IN 2020)**

\$2,000,000

**CAPITAL ENDOWMENT
MATCHING CHALLENGE FUNDS RAISED**

\$500,000+

**GIVEN TO NONPROFITS IN SARASOTA
AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD**

**Figures are approximate.*

*Detailed 2021 financial results will be made available
after the parish audit. The 2020 audit is available online.*

Church of the Redeemer is a parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida and a member of the worldwide Anglican Communion. Redeemer is a growing parish in the heart of downtown Sarasota with more than 2,500 members. The parish is known for its focus on worship, preaching, music, faith formation, youth and families, and community outreach.

MINISTRY REPORTS

The Rev. David Svihel — Curate

What did your ministry focus on in 2021?

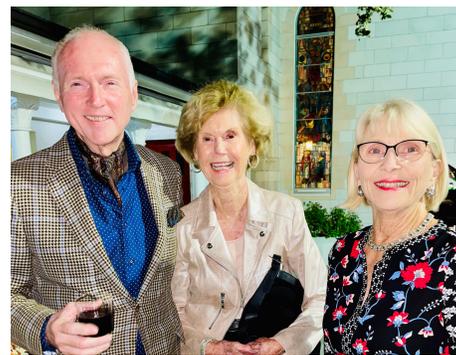
I was blessed to be ordained to the priesthood on August 12, 2021 at Redeemer by the Rt. Rev. Gregory O. Brewer. The ministry to which I was called as a priest is to “Proclaim by word and deed the Gospel of Jesus Christ.” By God’s grace, I was able to fulfill that calling at Redeemer through worship, preaching, teaching, outreach, visiting the sick, caring for the less fortunate, comforting the grieving, and most importantly, prayer.

What were your ministry’s biggest successes in 2021?

The most significant success is the care I was able to provide for families that lost a loved one. Their gratitude is incalculable. Another wonderful success was participating in the Mission & Outreach Committee, which keeps us constantly engaged with our broader community and the world.

What are your goals for 2022?

To continue to preach the Gospel in word, sacrament, and witness to those who haven’t heard the name of Jesus and those who need to be reminded (which is everybody!). In 2022, we’d like to share Redeemer’s commitment to outreach efforts on a greater scale.



The Rev. Ralph Strohm — Priest Associate for Pastoral Care

What did your ministry focus on in 2021?

I took over the on-going Pastoral Care ministry from Fr. Richard Lampert on March 1, 2021. The focus for the remainder of 2021 was two-fold: getting to know our homebound parishioners and their needs as well as recruiting and scheduling Lay Eucharistic Visitors.

What were your ministry’s biggest successes in 2021?

The recruitment effort has increased the number of Lay Eucharistic Visitors by two, and a discussion has begun over the need to broaden the understanding of pastoral care. For example, some of our homebound parishioners need training on how to use Redeemer’s digital resources.

What are your goals for 2022?

First, to increase the number of parishioners identified as needing pastoral care. Second, to develop a process that incorporates the broader definition of pastoral care.

The Rev. Mario Castro — Priest Associate for Hispanic Ministry

What did your ministry focus on in 2021?

The Hispanic Ministry focused on trying to carry out all scheduled activities safely amid Covid-19. We also focused on helping people better understand the teachings of Jesus and supporting people in their spiritual needs. Plus, we kept social networks active with events and news from the ministry.

What were your ministry’s biggest successes in 2021?

We kept our parishioners safe, got more young people involved in the church, and increased the number of parishioners involved in the Hispanic Ministry. We saw an increase in followers and views on social media.

What are your goals for 2022?

We want to host more activities focused on spiritual and personal growth. We will put a greater emphasis on the practice of prayer with our parishioners. We also want to share more news and information about the Hispanic Ministry through our social media, newsletter, and website.

Jackie Overton — Youth Minister

What did your ministry focus on in 2021?

We continued rebuilding as we welcomed youth back to some normalcy in youth ministry programming amid the pandemic. Our middle and high school youth groups developed into what we call a Hands-On Laboratory for Faith Exploration. We're creating spaces for young people to ask questions, explore their faith, and support one another in loving communities. Our young people participated in peer ministry development programs to identify and support young leaders in our congregation.

What were your ministry's biggest successes in 2021?

- We developed a Youth Ministry Advisory Board for middle and high school youth groups. These boards planned the calendars for the 2021-2022 school year, and we will expand their roles in the future.
- Our young people took active roles in servant ministries through summer mission trips and monthly outreach projects.
- We hosted our first Christmas Break Camp and provided opportunities for elementary, middle, high school, and college students to minister together.
- We welcomed new students into active ministry roles in EYC, Sunday School, and the acolyte program.

What are your goals for 2022?

We will continue to work on leadership development with a focus on evangelism. Our young people will share their faith stories with one another. We will look at ways to go out into the community and invite others to church. We will expand our summer programming as we move to a three-year cycle for high school students: foreign mission, domestic mission, and pilgrimage.

Jacki Boedecker — Director of Children's Christian Formation

What did your ministry focus on in 2021?

Children are the future of the church, and our goal (as always) is to provide many ways for children and parents to take their place in parish life to the fullest—building deeper faith, solid community, and stronger families along the way.

What were your ministry's biggest successes in 2021?

We pivoted, relocated in some cases, and discovered creative ways to provide safe settings for children and our adult volunteers. We resumed in-person Sunday School for all grades. Our nurseries reopened. Our First Communion Class was presented at Easter. Feed My Sheep, our month-long multigenerational outreach project to prepare food for the hungry, resumed. Vacation Bible School was back in person with record numbers. The All Saints' Wax Museum, Holy Week Tableaus, Palm Sunday Petting Zoo, and Easter Egg Hunt were back. LOGOS and Just Do It, our Wednesday programming for K-5th graders, resumed in person with greater participation than previous years. We welcomed many new families, and the excitement is palpable!

What are your goals for 2022?

We want to increase the number of children who walk with God.



Sam Nelson — Organist-Choirmaster

What did your ministry focus on in 2021?

Because of the pandemic, 2021 was a year of rebuilding. In addition to building up the adult choir after a 2020 that was tough on singing, we worked hard to build up our Royal School of Church Music children's choirs, which went from zero to over ten singers.

What were your ministry's biggest successes in 2021?

We brought back the full Messiah Sing-Along with over 100 people in attendance, some traveling over an hour to sing in our church. Also, the diversity of the music we sing has increased dramatically by including more music composed by women and people of color and by including a wider array of music from our Anglican tradition.

What are your goals for 2022?

We plan to focus more on our own musicians and music in 2022. We'll pour most of our efforts into Sunday mornings, feast days, and other choral events so we can best use music as a tool for evangelism.

PROGRAMS

A sampling of programs for parishioners at Redeemer

Adults

- Sunday morning faith formation classes
- Wednesday evening faith formation classes
- Ladies' Night Out
- Daughters of the King
- Golf Tournament
- Steak Night
- Behold the Man
- Wine'd Down Wednesdays
- Gathering Adults to Redeemer Singles
- Widows'/Widowers' Might
- Singles' Adult Sunday School

Children and Youth

- Sunday School (grades VPK-12)
- Confirmation (grades 7 and up)
- LOGOs (grades K-5)
- Just Do It! (grades K-5)
- Junior EYC (grades 6-8)
- Senior EYC (grades 9-12)
- Friday Morning Youth Bible Studies (grades 6-12)
- Mission trips (grades 6-12)
- Choirs (grades K-12)

HOW YOU CAN SERVE

A sampling of ways you can give back at Redeemer

- Sing in the choir
- Join the Altar Guild
- Serve as a reader
- Become a RAMBO (Redeemer Audiovisual Ministry Board Operator)
- Serve as an acolyte
- Volunteer at the Redeemer Gift & Book Shoppe
- Join the Needlepoint Guild
- Serve as an usher
- Volunteer at the Episcopal Thrift House
- Serve at the altar
- Help with the Foster Youth Initiative
- Donate items for a Redeemer-sponsored drive
- Participate in a parish-wide service project
- Help students and families at Day 4 Hope



10 WAYS TO DIG IN DEEPER AT REDEEMER

1. Attend Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer one day a week.
2. Attend one of our adult faith formation classes.
3. Volunteer to serve in a ministry you haven't participated in before, from Altar Guild to ushering.
4. Join us for a Great Music Series concert at Redeemer.
5. Go to a service you haven't been to before or a service you don't usually attend.
6. Read the Redeemer News eblasts and stay up to date on the latest events and updates about Redeemer.
7. Follow Redeemer on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.
8. Invite a friend to come to a service at Redeemer with you. Tell them you'll take them to brunch!
9. Increase your financial support of Redeemer.
10. Commit to telling one friend, family member, or neighbor about Redeemer each week. It can be as simple as talking about an event at Redeemer you're excited to attend.

We offer something for everyone, from young families to retired couples. Redeemer is the place to go if you want to grow in your faith while having fun and meeting new people.

— Suzi Terres, Director of Event Services



20 QUESTIONS FOR THE RECTOR

What's your favorite popular song? I love “Cold Heart” by Elton John and Dua Lipa. Camille, my sixth-grade daughter, introduced it to me. It’s about two ex-lovers blaming one another for destroying the other’s belief in relationships. It’s a little dark, but it perfectly illustrates original sin and how we all want to blame others for our problems.

What's your favorite hymn? “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

What's your favorite movie? *National Lampoon’s European Vacation*

What's your favorite TV show? *Ozark*

What's your favorite book? Right now I’m obsessed with *Death on a Friday Afternoon* by the late Richard John Neuhaus.

What fictional character do you most identify with? Barney Fife on *The Andy Griffith Show*! I’m always getting myself into some pickle of my own creating.

What are your favorite sports teams? Auburn and Alabama (all others are enemies)

What are your favorite places in Sarasota to go for fun? We like strolling the streets downtown, and we like The Ringling, Selby Gardens, and a good dose of consumerism at UTC Mall every now and then.

What's your favorite church service during the year? Christmas Eve all the way!

If you had a time machine, what time period would you travel to? I’d want to visit nineteenth century Victorian London.

What do you eat for lunch? Most days I eat a sandwich or salad from Main Bar or Southside Deli.

What's your go-to snack? Laughing Cow cheese, a handful of nuts, and a cold Perrier

What three items would you take with you to a deserted island, other than food and water? Bourbon, *The Book of Common Prayer*, and *The Bible* (in that order, since my fate is a lonely, deserted island)

How would you describe Redeemer in three words? God, grace, and gospel!

What's one thing parishioners might not know about you? I’m hopelessly unable to read fine print — I’m a big-picture person. I don’t think I’ve ever followed a recipe the same way twice. I’m so future-oriented I honestly have a hard time remembering much about the past. That’s why I have a puzzled look when people ask me about a detail from last week.

If you could get another degree in any subject, what would it be? I’d love to get a law degree to better argue with my children and my wife, Malacy.

What's one lesson you've learned so far as rector? I’m trying to listen more and speak less. I’m not making much progress, but at least I see the need!

If you could change one thing about Redeemer, what would it be? I wish we would all take the Great Commission more seriously—evangelism, in other words. I love our past, but it’s the future we must face. Those of us in the Anglican tradition, especially in a so-called “established” parish like Redeemer, sort of institutionally and instinctively look down our noses at other Christian traditions with more urgency about such things. We need to realize that evangelism—one beggar telling another where to find the Bread of Life—is the name of the game. All else is second fiddle.

What's your biggest challenge as rector? I’ve heard it said that when two Episcopalians are in a room there are three opinions. More challenging even than a multiplicity of opinions is keeping the main thing the main thing: making new Christians and making all Christians new. It’s all too easy to get bogged down and divided over something of little consequence.

What's your favorite aspect of being rector? Infant baptisms, and that’s because grace — God’s one-way, unearned, saving love — is so clearly manifest. For example, what on earth does an infant bring to the table? Yes, I know they’re cute and precious. But a baby brings absolutely nothing of accomplishment or performance or merit. That’s the life-giving news of the gospel. As the old hymn puts it, “Nothing in my hand I bring. Simply to the cross I cling.”

Making new Christians and making all Christians new

Mission

To build up the Body of Christ by Word and Sacrament,
equipping the people of God for the work of ministry,
that Jesus Christ may be known, loved, worshiped, and obeyed
in our homes and parish, community and diocese, and throughout the world.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Dabney T. Smith, Bishop of the Diocese of Southwest Florida

The Rev. Charleston D. Wilson, Rector

The Rev. Christian M. Wood, Assistant Rector

The Rev. Mario Castro, Priest Associate for Hispanic Ministry

The Rev. Ralph W. Strohm, Priest Associate for Pastoral Care

The Rev. David M. Svihel, Curate

Anne Ayres, Welcome Coordinator

Jacki Boedecker, Director of Children's Christian Formation

Daniel Cartlidge, Associate Choirmaster and Contemporary Music Director

Caroline Devitt, Communications Assistant

Hanane El Qamari, Sexton

Grier Ferguson, Director of Communications

Gussie Haeffner, Printing Manager

Diane Knox, Receptionist Team

Sam Nelson, Organist-Choirmaster

Jackie Overton, Youth Minister

Bill Pettey, Sexton

Alan Rohn, Bookkeeper

Suzi Terres, Director of Event Services

John Walsworth, Business Manager

Angela Ward, Registrar and Assistant to the Clergy

Chrissy Weimar, Nursery Coordinator

Steve Wernet, Facilities Manager

The following retired persons serve the parish in residence:

The Rev. Dr. Fredrick A. Robinson, Rector Emeritus

Dr. Ann Stephenson-Moe, Organist-Choirmaster Emeritus

The Rev. A. Milton Cheney, The Rev. Canon Michael P. Durning,

The Rev. C. Read Heydt, The Rev. Clayton Knapp,

The Rev. Dr. Richard B. Lampert, The Rev. Canon Everett P. Walk



Church of the Redeemer
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