



The hand of the Lord was upon me, and He brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley; it was full of bones. And He led me round among them; and behold, there were very many upon the valley; and lo, they were very dry. And He said to me, "Can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord God, thou knowest." Again He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord. — Ezekiel 37:1-6

Dear Redeemer Family,

A few scenes in the Bible made into a movie would cause Hitchcock or Tarantino to blush. Ezekiel's Valley of the Dry Bones is one such scene. Ezekiel, the great prophet and priest of Israel, suddenly finds himself in a mass grave. And not just any mass grave — it's a vast space, and the bones have been there a long, long time. The flesh has rotted. The buzzards have enjoyed a buffet, if you will. The entire scene is filled with dead, dry, disgraced, discarded, hopeless, helpless bones — complete annihilation, destruction, and ruin. And you thought you were having a bad week!

In the midst of hopelessness, God instructed His prophet Ezekiel to boldly speak words of hope — words that prophesied Israel's return from the death of exile and the restoration of Jerusalem. The nation was dead, yet it lived. Against all logic — against all odds and human reasoning — the bones lived. God had acted.

It should come as no surprise, then, how Christians down through the ages have noticed the glaring parallel between Ezekiel's prophecy and God's action for us through the cross and resurrection. This is because the Bible unambiguously and unreservedly teaches that, apart from God's action in Jesus, we remain dry bones — dead in our trespasses.

The through line of the Bible is this: God acted. Until you feel this in your bones, you aren't really living at all, dear reader! If you don't feel like this, or at least are willing to consider it, it probably means you're still trying to save yourself. (I am speaking to myself, too.)

The Rector's Letter is continued on the next page.

Pictured above:
The church was at capacity for the 9 a.m. mass on Easter Day. Over 200 additional people attended the service via livestream in Gillespie Hall.

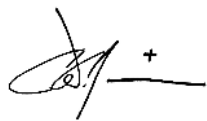
The Rector's Letter, *continued*

It was Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, who perhaps said it best to our postmodern world: Although we are capable of great acts of kindness, history teaches us that we sometimes need saving from ourselves — from our recklessness or our greed. God sent into the world a unique person — neither a philosopher nor a general (important though they are) — but a Savior, with the power to forgive.

Have you accepted the undeniable reality that God loves to save sinners — that dead bones really can live?

Wishing you a most happy Eastertide, I remain:

Your servant,



Fr. Charleston Wilson, Rector,
Church of the Redeemer

*Thank you to everyone who helped prepare our parish for Easter.
The church, the grounds, and Gillespie Hall were beautiful,
thanks to all our wonderful volunteers and staff members!*

— Special Gifts —

A gift in memory of
Peggy Robbins
designated to the
Memorial Fund
from Georgia & Terry Anderson

A gift in memory of
**Elizabeth “Buff” Megaw and
Margaret “Peg” & Graham Megaw**
designated to the
Foster Youth Initiative
from Megan Plunkett

A gift in memory of
Becky Thornhill
designated to the
Great Music Series
from Betty Arnold Smith

A special gift
in memory of
The Rev. Paul Reeves
Redeemer's Rector from 1959-1965
for the sanctuary
stained-glass window
preservation project
from St. Wilfred Episcopal Church,
Sarasota, Florida

— Milestones —

Baptisms

Barbara Slavin Marsicano

Brock Ryvers Thompson

Births

Henry Marshall Hernandez to
Bonnie & Marshall Hernandez

Adaline Marlys Koach to
Lindsey & Kevin Koach

Deaths

Dr. Larry Bunnell

John “Jack” Reeder

Transfers In

Christine Green from
St. Francis Episcopal Church,
Great Falls, Virginia

Helene Marie Conway from
All Saints' Episcopal Church,
Lakeland, Florida

Transfer Out

Harrison Jones to
St. John's Episcopal Church,
Tampa, Florida

Joining

Kelly Colbert & Andy Nibley

Isabelle Day & Ed Cholakian

Stephanie, Bill, Stephen, and
Henry Donaldson

Monica Friedrich

Maya Klimowska

Michele Stephan





May 2025 Highlights



History Hunters with Organist-Choirmaster Sam Nelson: Thursday, May 1, light refreshments from 6-6:20 p.m. in Gillespie Hall; presentation from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Church

Grace Gang Women's Bible Study with the Rector: Thursdays, May 1 and 15, noon-1:30 p.m., Goewey Hall

Visiting Bishop Lindsay Urwin Celebrates Daily Mass: Friday, May 2, 10 a.m., Chapel

Visiting Bishop Lindsay Urwin Offers Office Hours for Spiritual Direction and Confession: Friday, May 2, 1:30-4:30 p.m. (Email Susan at SGomez@RedeemerSarasota.org to schedule an appointment.)

Heart & Sole Walking Group: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Van Wezel parking lot (Please note: Starting Monday, May 12, Heart & Sole will meet at CinéBistro in the shopping mall at Tamiami Trail and Siesta Drive at 6 p.m. for the summer.)

Visiting Bishop Lindsay Urwin Preaches: Saturday, May 3, 5:30 p.m.; Sunday, May 4, 7:30, 9, and 11 a.m., Church

Youth Sunday: Sunday, May 4, during the 9 a.m. mass, Church

Men of Redeemer — Christ Led Communities (CLC) Next Steps Graduation: Sunday, May 4, during the 9 a.m. mass, Church

Coffee Talk Women's Book Group: Monday, May 5, 10 a.m., Meeting & Luncheon at Caroline Ryan's house, RSVP at HerLetters@aol.com (*Great Uncle Harry* by Michael Palin)

Adult Christian Formation — Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church: Wednesdays, May 7, 14, 21, and 28, 6-7 p.m., Goewey Hall

Heart & Sole Walking Group Tours The Bay: Wednesday, May 7, at 6:30 p.m. The roughly 45-minute walk will be along a beautiful ADA-accessible pathway. Meet at The Nest at The Bay (1055 Boulevard of the Arts, Sarasota, 34236). RSVP to parishioner Rafik Accad at RafikAccad@Gmail.com or 407-590-4070.

Men of Redeemer BBQ Night: Thursday, May 8, 6-8 p.m., Goewey Hall (Sign up for \$15 by Monday, May 5, at RedeemerSarasota.org/Register.)

Redeemer Young Professionals Second Saturday Gathering: Saturday, May 10, 4-6 p.m., Origin Pizza Café, 1371 Boulevard of the Arts, Rosemary District

Faith in Full Bloom — A Spring Celebration: Sunday, May 11, between the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services, Courtyard

GATORS (Gathering Adults to Redeemer Singles) Spring Event: Tuesday, May 13, 7-8 p.m., Goewey Hall

Books and Beyond Men's Book Club: Wednesday, May 14, 6-8 p.m., Room 220 (*Blood and Thunder* by Hampton Sides)

Hispanic Ministry Mother's Day: Sunday, May 18, 2:30-4:30 p.m., Gillespie Hall

Evensong: Sunday, May 18, 5:15 p.m., Church

Vestry Meeting: Monday, May 19, 6-7:30 p.m., Goewey Hall

Night Shift Women's Book Club: Monday, May 19, 6:30-8 p.m., Room 220 (*Bloomsbury Girls* by Natalie Jenner and *The Magnolia Palace* by Fiona Davis)

Parish Office Closed: Monday, May 26 (Memorial Day)

Feast of the Ascension: Thursday, May 29, 6 p.m., Church (reception following the service)

Visit RedeemerSarasota.org/Calendar for more information about upcoming events.

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

RedeemerSarasota.org | 941-955-4263

Making new Christians and making all Christians new

Daily Mass: Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.

Morning Prayer: Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m. | **Evening Prayer:** Monday-Friday, 5:15 p.m.

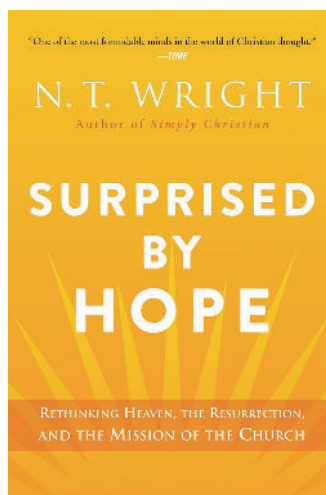
New adult class on Wednesday nights in May

Join us for a clergy-led class that will explore Bishop N. T. Wright's book *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church*. The class will challenge traditional views of the afterlife and offer a vision of Christian hope rooted in the resurrection and renewal of creation.

During the class, we will examine key biblical themes, such as bodily resurrection, the second coming, and the new heavens and new earth. Through discussion and reflection, we will consider how these beliefs shape the church's mission. The class is ideal for those seeking a deeper, more holistic understanding of Christian faith and purpose during the season of Easter.

It will meet every Wednesday in May at 6-7 p.m. in Goewey Hall. This class is free and open to all.

**Newsweek calls
Bishop N. T. Wright
"the world's leading
New Testament
scholar."**



**Saturday at 5:30 p.m.
Contemporary Mass***

A service with contemporary music

**Sunday at 7:30 a.m.
Rite One Mass**

A service without music for early risers

**Sunday at 9 a.m.
Rite Two Choral Mass***

A service for all ages with traditional music
(Children's Chapel during mass)

**Sunday at 11 a.m.
Rite One Choral Mass***

A service with traditional music

**Sunday at 1 p.m.
Rite Two Mass***

A service in Spanish with contemporary music

*in person and livestreamed

Nursery care at the 9 and 11 a.m. masses.