



*Dear Redeemer Family,*

Last month, while Bishop Lindsay Urwin was in residence with us from London, I took him to one of my favorite local places for lunch. When we stepped inside, the owner couldn't initially see us, because she had her back turned toward us as she finished packing up some phone-in orders. When she turned around, she saw me in my clerical collar with a bishop in tow wearing a purple shirt and a big, gold pectoral cross. Without really thinking before speaking, she blurted out, "Seeing both of you in here at once makes me feel guilty about my whole life!" She turned red and attempted to walk back her comment, but it was too late. Bishop Lindsay tried to make things better, saying pastorally, "We're here to bless you." But she had said what she said.

How many of you reading these words instantly feel a sense of guilt, shame, or burden when you think about the Church, God, or the clergy? Study after study tells us this is actually a very common sentiment, but I think this is one of the saddest facts I've ever heard. My heart literally breaks when I think about it. The gospel and the Church are supposed to make us feel unburdened, not more burdened!

You've surely heard the phrase: "The Church is a hospital for sinners, not a country club for saints." But do you really believe this? My friend's reflex revealed that she didn't. She had come somehow to think that church is only for people who've got it all sorted out — not for folks who are dealing with "debt, diapers, and divorce."

Literally everyone I know, including yours truly, desperately needs the kind of unburdening — the kind of relief — that only Jesus can provide. And God gave us the Church as a gift — the pearl of great price — so we can be assured of His pardon, sustained by His grace, and assured of His love. But don't take my word for it. Jesus Himself said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

In the end, it doesn't matter if you come to church kicking and screaming or even for all the wrong reasons (like pretending you have it all together). At Redeemer, you will meet Jesus, the friend of sinners, and once you know Him, those wonderful old words of Lady Julian will indeed come true: "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well."

*Your servant,*

Fr. Charleston Wilson, Rector, Church of the Redeemer

**Pictured above:**  
*A pair of young acolytes, Kate Skipper (left) and Claire Bragg (right), squeeze in a quick game of Rock, Paper, Scissors in the narthex ahead of a service.*

## — Milestones —

### Deaths

Barbara Bates

Michael Darling

Charles “Ched” Gladding

Susan Skelton

Carol Trudeau

J. Bryan Williams

### Marriages

Barbara Spangler & Eckhard Kuesters

### Joining

Mollie Ann Brook

Carole Goldstein

Laura, Sean, and J.D. Riley

### Transfers In

Donna & Robert Henkel  
from All Angels, Longboat Key

Judy Marsh & Larry Dixon Patton  
from St. Boniface, Siesta Key

Sharon L. Scott & John Mathai from  
St. John the Baptist, York, Penn.

Victoria Meyer, from St. Boniface,  
Siesta Key

### Transfers Out

Gretchen Yates Lum  
to St. Paul's, Salem, Oregon

## — Special Gifts —

An antique mosaic of the Holy Family by the Murano Studio in Venice, Italy, given to the parish to the glory of God by **Mary Armington** (The mosaic hangs above the door on the south wall of the sanctuary.)

A gift in memory of **Peggy Robbins** designated to the Memorial Fund from Kay Chandler

A gift in memory of **Thomas Hensey** designated to the Rector's Discretionary Fund from Melanie & Tim Hensey



*Sunday School and youth group students make seasonal crafts to add to the flower arrangements.*

## A Glorious Ministry

By Lana Mullen



*Gloria Koach assembles and delivers flower arrangements to seniors.*

Every Sunday, beautiful flower arrangements grace Redeemer's high altar. But did you know these same blooms go on to bless the lives of many seniors and homebound residents the next day? Thanks to the heartfelt efforts of parishioner Gloria Koach, Redeemer's altar flowers have brought unexpected joy to many residents in Sarasota's senior living centers.

For years, Redeemer volunteers delivered day-old altar flowers to hospitalized parishioners, but that practice ended during the pandemic due to protective measures. Reading stories about isolated seniors in hospitals and assisted living centers, Gloria's heart was touched by reports of families not having access to their loved ones. At the urging of the Holy Spirit, she created a plan to repurpose Redeemer's altar flowers in a different way.

Gloria's flower ministry began in June 2020 with just a few personal contacts at local senior living centers. It has since grown into a weekly effort that touches many lives. Every Monday, Gloria gathers the flowers from the altar and creates a collection of arrangements in little vases that will fit on small bedside tables. Starting with some greenery, she designs an arrangement from the colorful stems. By 11 a.m., 10 to 12 seniors have received a cheerful bouquet.

The arrangements are distributed on a rotating basis to homebound parishioners and residents of The Pines, Bay Village, Sunnyside, Brookdale, Alderman Oaks, Plymouth Harbor, Harbor Chase, and more, whose staff provides a list of residents needing some encouragement that week. The blooms are accompanied by a card that reads, "These flowers adorned the altar of Church of the Redeemer and are brought to you as a sign of God's peace and blessing, tokens of our love, and a reminder of prayers offered for you."

The outreach effort has expanded to include crafts made by students in Redeemer's Sunday School classes and youth groups. The students have decorated seasonal items to add to the flower arrangements — Valentine's Day cards, pumpkins, Christmas ornaments, and more. Throughout the years, other parishioners have pitched in to make or deliver bouquets, too.

Gloria believes her family laid the foundation for this ministry. Many years ago, her grandmother arranged the flowers in her parish church in Medellin, Colombia, and took flowers to the homebound.

In May, Gloria delivered the 3,000th bouquet. She says, "I know a sweet senior is having a nice day because Redeemer gave them something to smile about. And that brings joy to my heart."

# June & July Highlights

**Coffee Talk Women's Book Group:** Monday, June 2, 9:30 a.m., Gillespie Hall (*The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict) (Note: The location may change to Goewey Hall.)

**Heart & Sole Walking Group:** Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays in June and July, 6 p.m., meet at CinéBistro in the mall

**Parish Office Closed:** Monday, June 9; Monday, June 16; and Friday, July 4

**High School Mission Trip:** Saturday, June 14-Saturday, June 21

**Redeemer Young Professionals Second Saturday Gathering:** Saturday, June 14 and July 12, 5-7 p.m., Lido Beach Pavilion

**Vestry Meeting:** Monday, June 16 and July 21, 6 p.m., Goewey Hall

**Night Shift Women's Book Club:** Monday June 30, 6:30 p.m. Room 220 (*How to Read a Book* by Monica Wood and *The Underground Library* by Jennifer Ryan) and Monday, July 28, 6:30 p.m. Room 220 (*The Women* by Kristen Hannah and *Half Broke Horses* by Jeannette Walls)

**Pentecost:** Saturday, June 7, and Sunday, June 8, at all services (**Learn more about Pentecost below!**)

**Fourth of July at Redeemer:** Friday, July 4, 6 p.m., Church and Goewey Hall (Register soon at [RedeemerSarasota.org/Register](https://redeemersarasota.org/register).)

**Middle School Mission Trip:** Sunday, July 13-Saturday, July 19

*Visit [RedeemerSarasota.org/Calendar](https://redeemersarasota.org/calendar) for more information about upcoming events.*



**Stay tuned for more information about Redeemer's 4th of July event! Registration will be available soon at [RedeemerSarasota.org/Register](https://redeemersarasota.org/register).**

## Special Summer Sundays!

During the summer, we have fun activities and programs planned for parishioners of all ages on Sunday mornings between the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services (about 10:10-10:40 a.m.).

Here's what's on the docket:

June 1 - Trivia and Bagels  
June 8 - Trivia and Bagels  
June 15 - Trivia and Bagels  
June 22 - Alta Vista Back-to-School Bash  
Information Session  
June 29 - Meet Deacon Andrew Yow

July 6 - Feed My Sheep  
July 13 - Feed My Sheep  
July 20 - Lemonade Stand Challenge  
July 27 - Christmas in July

August 10 - Vacation Bible School Sunday  
August 17 - Rally Sunday  
August 24 - Youth Mission Trip Presentation  
August 31 - Sunday School Open House

## What is Pentecost? What is the Season After Pentecost?

**The term Pentecost** is used in the New Testament to refer to the coming of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1), shortly after Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension. The event was the fulfillment of a promise that Jesus gave concerning the return of the Holy Spirit. The speaking in tongues, which was a major effect of having received the Spirit, is interpreted by some to symbolize the church's worldwide preaching. Pentecost emphasizes that the church is understood as the body of Christ, which is drawn together and given life by the Holy Spirit. Some understand Pentecost to be the origin and sending out of the church into the world. Pentecost is one of the seven principal feasts of the church year in the Episcopal Church. It is identified as one of the feasts "especially appropriate" for baptism. The liturgical color is red.

**The season after Pentecost** begins on the Monday following Pentecost and continues through most of the summer and autumn. It may include as many as 28 Sundays, depending on the date of Easter. This period is called "ordinary time" by some, a period of the church year not dedicated to a particular season or observance. It also may be referred to as the "green season," because green is the liturgical color for this period of the church year.

(Source: *An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church*)



*Trivia and Bagels*

*Lemonade Stand Challenge*

*Feed My Sheep*

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.

## **Welcome, Deacon Andrew Yow!**

Church of the Redeemer Rector Fr. Charleston Wilson appointed the Rev. Andrew Yow as Parish Curate, and his first day will be June 2. Deacon Andrew will oversee all things liturgical and join the Redeemer clergy team in all aspects of parish ministry. He and his wife, Kate, moved to Sarasota shortly after Andrew's graduation from Nashotah House on May 22. Andrew joins us as a deacon, and his ordination to the Sacred Order of Priests will take place at Redeemer on Tuesday, June 24, at 7 p.m. Please pray for Deacon Andrew and his family, and we hope you'll join us for the ordination mass!



**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.