

REDEEMER

R E P O R T

APRIL 1998

NEW CHURCH IN HARLEM

We often talk at Redeemer about our desire to have the gospel be at the center of all that we do. It is crucial as we do so to make certain that we do not reduce the gospel to something smaller than it really is. Ultimately, the gospel is God's purpose to see all of creation restored to the glory and peace he originally intended for it. Jesus lived, died and rose again in order that the entire cosmos might be renewed. One of the corollaries of this belief is that we must embrace the brokenness and woundedness of our world with the goal of seeing it healed. Indeed, we see such activity to be at the heart of our calling to follow Christ.

Our nation's inner cities are surely to be counted among the wounded places of our world. We believe God cares deeply about our inner cities and that Christ's church must share his concern. It is for this reason that a group of Christians, some of whom live in Harlem already and some who will be relocating there, are in the initial stages of beginning a new church. In response to God's call, a multi-racial leadership team, which currently includes Patrick Burke and Jeff White, is establishing a Christian community which seeks to live out its faith in this historic neighborhood of New York City. Though Redeemer is not planting this as a daughter church, we believe it is an important work and are partnering with those who are starting it.

Harlem is a community with a profound and rich history and countless strengths. However, it is

not without its struggles. Unemployment and infant mortality rates remain high. Many families have incomes which are below the poverty level. A 1990 study in the New England Journal of Medicine found that

"Our nation's inner cities are surely to be counted among the wounded places of our world."

men in Harlem within a certain age group had a lower life expectancy than their counterparts in Bangladesh. Joining with the many churches already faithfully ministering in Harlem, this new church looks forward to sharing in the work of testifying to the good news of the kingdom.

Three biblical truths will shape this church's approach to ministry in Harlem: **Incarnation**, **Reconciliation**, and **Jubilee**.

Incarnation. The incarnation teaches us that Jesus entered our world in weakness and vulnerability. He identified with humanity in its brokenness and sin. He embraced those on the margins. He dwelt among us and drew close to us. In imitation of Christ's incarnation, those who are involved in this church plant will make Harlem their home. They will come aware of their own

woundedness and they will seek to be good neighbors there. They will rejoice along with their neighbors over all that is good and praiseworthy in the community. They will grieve along with their neighbors over the troubles that exist there.

Reconciliation. Christ came to the world that through his death he might reconcile us to God and to one another. This is a message which God's people should embody in their lives, as well as preach from their pulpits. Those who are part of this church plant will be striving to grow in their relationship with God and with one another. We will intentionally be striving to build strong and meaningful relationships across those racial and economic boundaries that separate us from one another his is to deny the reality and power of the gospel.

Jubilee. The Jubilee was the practice of canceling all debts that anyone had incurred every fifty years. It was God's intent that there might be justice in the land and that the gap between the "haves" and the "have-nots" not become a permanent chasm. Believing that a New Jubilee has arrived in Jesus and seeking to embody it, the members of this church will join with their neighbors in working for the well-being of the entire neighborhood. Believe-

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MORE...



WHY UNITY?

Racial Unity Ministry Luncheon (with Asian cuisine) April 26

Because it's fun! The Racial Unity Ministry (RUM) Retreat in February was a smashing success! And we have Jerome Walford to thank for organizing it. There was plenty of time for sledding, ice skating, singing, talking, eating (we ate one meal in silence!) and sleeping. Here's some of the buzz . . .

• Graduate student Holly Flora stated, "I have been attending Redeemer for one and a half years and had made four Christian friends. After the retreat I knew forty more! It was great to have concentrated fellowship time and to get to know people."

• Joy Hsueh, teacher from Flushing said, "I have always been concerned about these issues [of racial harmony]. I wondered how the retreat would approach them. The focus was not on lecturing but on building relationships and I really appreciated that."

• "Since the retreat, and also because of a new cell group I'm in, I have learned that I do not want the face of Redeemer to be colorless and faceless. Rather, I want it to be a distinctive church of African, Asian, European, Latin, Middle-Eastern, Native-American Christians. Christians being the point," said Beverly Sloan, a long time member of Redeemer.

RUM's next event will be on

Sunday, April 26, from 1:30 - 4 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Cafeteria of Hunter's West Building. A luncheon with Asian cuisines will be followed by a diverse, ethnic panel of folks who will share how their new identity in Christ has ignited deep cross-ethnic and cultural friendships. A question and answer time will follow.

Tickets for the luncheon will be sold following the worship services on April 5, 12 & 19th. For more details, contact Kevin and Echi Barhydt at (718)789-0376 or e-mail Kevin at kbarhydt@swspectrum.com.

Look for information in the bulletin in the coming weeks. See you there!

HOPE FOR NY NEWS

Juilliard Concert

Afternoon Tea, Followed by Classical Music April 19

A group of students from the Juilliard Christian Fellowship will be performing in a benefit concert for Hope for NY on Sunday, April 19, at Hunter College Auditorium at 2:30 p.m. To make your day even more pleasant, we will serve Afternoon Tea in the East Lounge at 1:30 p.m., featuring sandwiches, cookies and other finger foods (and tea).

Juilliard Christian Fellowship is the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship Chapter at the Juilliard School of Music. Tickets for the classical concert are available for \$10; tickets for Afternoon Tea are \$5. Join us for "Tea & Symphony" - a lovely afternoon event for a good cause.

Easter Sacrificial Offering

Once again the congregation of Redeemer will take a second offering on Easter Sunday. Easter Sacrificial Offerings actually date back to the early church. Not only does Scripture record how the earliest Christians cared for the mercy needs of others, but they soon connected sacrificial giving to meet the needs of others with Christ's sacrifice on our behalf, making Easter the appropriate time to collect those gifts.

This year Hope for New York will concentrate attention on programs and services for children and youth in their "Hope for Kids" campaign.

For those who work in large corporations, your contribution can be doubled through Corporate Matching Funds, if you take the ex-

tra step to obtain the forms from your Personnel Department. Likewise, Hope for New York is a United Way beneficiary organization; so please include the code number on the company United Way forms: 019933.

Those who contribute to the Easter Offering by bank check, please make the note payable directly to Hope for New York (and save the Redeemer bookkeeper some extra work).

Easter Services April 12

- 9:30 a.m.
- 11:15 a.m.
- 6:00 p.m.

REDEEMER REPORT

Kathy Keller
Yvonne Dodd
Dave Jacobs

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Redeemer meets Sunday at
HUNTER COLLEGE AUDITORIUM • EAST 69TH BETWEEN PARK AND LEXINGTON
services at 10:30 • 6:00

Hope for New York Web Page

If you want more information about volunteer opportunities with the Hope for New York affiliated programs, check out their new home page at www.hfnny.org.

Pre-Marital Seminar, Saturday, April 4

The justly famous Redeemer pre-marital seminar will be held at the church office, 271 Madison Ave., the 16th floor, on Saturday, April 4, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Couples wishing to be married by a Redeemer pastor must attend, though couples being married elsewhere are welcome, as are couples who aren't yet even sure they're getting married (but want to think about it.) The cost is \$25 per couple for materials. You must pre-register with the Redeemer receptionist at 808-4460, ext. 10.

Redeemer Children's Choir to Sing Palm Sunday

The Redeemer Children's Choir will be singing during the morning worship service on Palm Sunday, April 5. Make sure you don't miss their energetic rendition of *Stand and Praise the Coming King*.

Maundy Thursday Service April 9

As in year's past, the Maundy Thursday service will be held at All Soul's Church, 80th and Lexington, on the Thursday before Easter, April 9, at 7:00 p.m. There will be a concert of meditative music beginning at 6:00 p.m. prior to the service, but no supper following the service. A representative footwashing and a celebration of the Lord's Supper will be included in the service.

Easter Services April 12 at 9:30 and 11:15 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Special music, great worship and LOTS of people are guaranteed to be a part of Redeemer's Easter worship services. In place of one morning worship service there will be two, at 9:30 and 11:15 a.m. In the evening there will be special music and the Easter Sunday evening testimonies of changed lives at the usual time of 6:00 p.m.

WIC Breakfast for Women April 26

There will be a women's breakfast held in the Third Floor Cafe of Hunter's West Building from 9:00-10:15 a.m. on Sunday, April 26. This is one of the few occasions where the wide diversity of women at Redeemer can get together and enjoy one another's company, so plan to attend. Tickets will be \$8.00, and the women staff members at Redeemer will introduce themselves and tell a bit about what they do. Details in the bulletin.

CHURCH FAMILY UPDATE

New Members:

James Park	Ellen Stedfeld
Jordan Frederick Berman	James Elaine
Stephanie Ching	Roberta Evans
Trevor Malloy	Lisa Escobedo
Jillian L. Sheedy	Yoon-Hee Kang
John Grainger	Alayne Swasey
Albert DeJonge	Mary Ellen McDonald
Glennys DeJonge	Cindy Goudas
Eric Metaxas	Leigh Douglas
Eileen Malloy	Anne Pettit

Infant Baptism:

Daniel Lee Buchanan,
(son of Bruce and
Mary Buchanan)

Child Baptism:

Trevor James Malloy,
(son of Eileen Malloy)

Adult Baptism:

James Park
Jillian Lucy Sheedy
Stephanie Shu-Yen Ching

HARLEM CHURCH

ing the gospel to be wholisitic, they will proclaim it in both word and deed.

Where do things stand right now? Since late November, the group has been trying to negotiate for a building which would locate

"Harlem is a community with a profound and rich history, and countless strengths."

them centrally in the community and serve as a ministry center. They are still working to get this. Thank you to everyone who has been praying for this and supporting them generously. We continue to raise the funds which we anticipate will be the acquisition costs. Please continue to pray diligently for this building.

Jeff and Rebecca White have begun looking for housing for their family within the community. They hope to find something that will be adequate for their family of five and which will enable them to get to know many of our neighbors easily. They hope that by the end of April or early May a small group will regularly be gathering on Sunday afternoons for worship and fellowship as the initial house church. These are all things for which your prayers are asked.

Finally, the group is engaged in raising the core operating budget for the church plant. A work like this is not inexpensive. Individuals are being sought who can contribute \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100 on a monthly basis. Any amount will, of course, be appreciated. If you would like to become a regular contributor to this work you should make your checks payable to "Redeemer Presbyterian Church" and designate them for the "Harlem Church Project."

OPEN FORUM TO HIGHLIGHT AFRO-AMERICAN SPIRITUALS

Is the Gospel the only hope of racial reconciliation?

Our next Sunday evening Open Forum will take place on May 3 at 6:00 p.m., in place of our usual evening service. The theme will be racial reconciliation — a look at how the Gospel creates a new culture, giving us the power to both respect others as equals (because we understand that we are sinners saved only by grace), and to lose the idols of cultural superiority (because we belong to a new culture with Christ as the head.)

The musical portion of the evening will feature Redeemer's evening band with guest soloists and a large choir comprised of members from a number of New York area churches. All of the selections will be drawn from the tradition of American spirituals, but arranged in a variety of styles, from a *cappella* choral singing to modern jazz to funk.

Tim Keller will deliver a lecture and take questions from the audience. Bring a friend and arrive early!