

# REDEEMER

R E P O R T

AUGUST 1998

## THE SHAPE OF FALL AT REDEEMER

BY TIM KELLER

*...Redeemer will become a series of tightly networked congregations*

I know ministers are always saying, "these are exciting times at our church"—but these really are exciting times at Redeemer. Last year we endorsed a radical new "Multi-site" model through which Redeemer will become a series of tightly networked congregations which are a) smaller and b) more tightly linked to its neighborhood through outreach and service. The first phase of this new approach is to take our West Side attenders and "put them back" into their neighborhood by forming a worshipping community somewhere in the West 60's, 70's, or 80's. Then, after embracing this vision, we conducted a Capital Fund Campaign in order to have the financial means to carry out our plan. The Campaign was highly successful—currently,

nearly \$4.3 million dollars has been pledged over a three year period, with more pledges likely to come. It was an astonishing response of joyous generosity.

**Where then are we now in our plans for a West Side site?** The staff has been vigorously scouring the West Side for a location for an Sunday AM worship service. After much time and effort, we still do not have a place to meet as of late July. Since we expect that it will take us 2 months to prepare for a move, this means we will not be able to go to two sites by Labor Day. However, we learned during our previous site-searches that this process takes lots of patience, and also takes repeated visits and calls and effort. We still have some good prospects, and we are following up on them.

### **Where does that leave us?**

As each week passes after Labor Day, there are two issues that will grow in importance. First, there is the issue of space for receiving new people. Each year our morning service grows by about 200 people. One of Redeemer's core values is our "outward face," which means that members of Redeemer are committed to making room for new people to participate in the ministry. But for the first time, there will be no space for new people. Normally, we have lower attendance in the summer months, masking the fact that we have hit capacity. But attendance is much higher than normal this particular summer, which will be a fairly serious problem as we move toward the fall. By Christ-

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## RETREATS

BY TIM PETTIT

Why spend a Fourth of July weekend in Vermont with 87 strangers from Redeemer?

That's the question Dana Miller kept asking herself as she headed up to the annual Redeemer Fourth of July Getaway. The answer astounded her.

"I was overwhelmed by how many people (from the trip) have kept in touch with me with e-mails and phone calls," said Dana, who works for CBS News in Washington D.C. and

hopes to move to Manhattan this fall. "One woman even left a message on my voice-mail, asking if I wanted her to look for an apartment for me on her gym bulletin board. How sweet!"

In the past year, about 500 people at Redeemer have had the same opportunity to make many new friends and relationships at the retreats and

getaways scheduled through Redeemer's Church Life ministry. That number should increase through the summer of 1999, as Church Life offers at least 9 different weekend retreats, getaways and one-day retreats (see box).

From virtually all who go on the trips, the verdict is the same: Redeemer can be a big, impersonal place on Sunday,

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# THE SHAPE OF FALL AT REDEEMER

mas, without adequate space for new people who are brought to Redeemer, our Hunter location will be overcrowded.

Second, there is the issue of time for developing new community. It will take time for West-siders to “gel” into a worshipping and serving fellowship. There is a lot of desire on the part of many people for this body to begin to take shape so that the new friendships, new leaders, and new ministries can arise naturally as they meet together weekly. As the fall stretches on toward Christmas without any West Side meeting place, there will be increasing frustration.

**What can we do?** The staff and elders have discussed three options. First, we could simply “stand pat” and keep things just as they are. But, as we noted, both of the issues will become increasing problems. Second, we could go to two AM services at Hunter on the East Side. That would solve the first issue (lack of space), but not the second (a fellowship community). Also, it would lead to great disorientation to go through the enormous work of starting two services at one location only to return to one in a little while. But there is a third option. We can begin another evening service on the West Side, opposite our regular PM service at Hunter. I would preach the same sermon at all three sites. This would address both issues. First, it would create a lot of new space for new people, and it would begin to let West Side people begin the formation of a worshipping community.

**Why the same sermon, morning and evening?** I would not

make such a major change without a great deal of thought, consideration and prayer. Here are some of the reasons for this move. First, this approach would create lots of space for new people. Currently, some 30% of the people who attend the Hunter PM service also attend the AM service (because I preach two different sermons). When I begin preaching a single Sunday sermon at three sites, then a) some people who go to both services at Hunter will choose either AM or PM, thus creating more space at both services, b) some people will go to the West Side church, removing themselves from Hunter altogether, creating more space.

Second, this will be the way that I will be able to eventually speak multiple times at multiple sites on Sunday. It is far harder to write and master two different sermons than one. Many of you have expressed concern about my stamina, if (as the multi-site model envisions) I may be preaching up to four or five times on a Sunday. This is the way to do it, as it is not the number of preachings, but the number of different sermons that is draining to my energy level.

Third, this means that the Hunter PM service will begin to “gel” itself as a coherent, distinct congregation with its own identity. This will mean that there will be many, many more people who think of Hunter PM as “my church”.

Fourth, this means that I will have a significant portion of my time which I currently put into my PM sermon freed up to do much more leadership training. I intend to put much more time into more

“advanced” expositions and training in the Bible and theology through our MCM meetings (for ministry leaders), through our School of Servant Leadership (for small group leaders and participants), and through other weekday and weeknight venues yet to be developed. Though I am “removing” a second teaching-input from the lives of those who come to church twice on Sunday, I will be “putting it back” in better ways through other venues. But you will need to be involved in ministry leadership and in small groups in order to benefit from it. I am very excited about what I will be able to do for ministry leaders because of this change.

In summary, if we find that we have no West Side AM site available to us before January 1, we will go to a West Side PM site and begin an evening service there sometime this fall. We will keep you posted, mainly through this newsletter and through verbal announcements during the services. What should you do? Pray—pray a lot for our site-search. I believe that God only delays answers to prayer so that we can get more joy in Him out of the whole process.

## OCTOBER RACIAL UNITY MINISTRY RETREAT

**R**UM is planning a second Storytelling retreat October 9-12, Columbus Day weekend. Plan to join us again or for the first time for a relaxing, fun, worshipful and friendship building weekend. For more information, call Jo Kadlecak at (212)831-7234 or Jerome Walford at (718)783-4390.

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### REDEEMER REPORT

Kathy Keller  
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HUNTER COLLEGE AUDITORIUM • EAST 69TH BETWEEN PARK AND LEXINGTON  
services at 10:30 • 6:00

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## RETREATS

but a retreat or getaway suddenly gives you dozens of new faces that you can recognize in the Hunter College lobby or the East Lounge Coffee Hour.

“Outside of our Fellowship Groups, these trips are one of the best vehicles to know Redeemer people,” said Seth Faler, a veteran of this year’s Ski Retreat, Church-wide Retreat and Fourth of July Getaway. “I’ve gotten to know a couple of dozen of people each time. It’s so awkward walking up to people you don’t know during Coffee Hour (after worship services). Now it’s great having people to talk to.”

Whether people are meeting at a tobogganing party, bike trips, a coffee house, an afternoon canoe trip or small group discussions, the Redeemer retreats and getaways are designed specifically to make it easy for people to become ac-

quainted.

During the Racial Unity Ministry’s “Storytelling” retreat last February, “I was able to talk about my life with people I normally wouldn’t be in contact with,” said Ben Chung. “Hanging and talking with those people was a memorable experience.”

The Fourth of July Getaway was “memorable,” said Elaine Luong, because “the group-oriented events helped us to build friendships at a faster pace.”

A significant number of people on the trips have been worshipping at Redeemer for just six months to a year, and they find themselves torn between wanting to make new friends and being wary of a trip with complete strangers. “I went to Vermont in anticipation of my move to New York City,” said Dana Miller. “Actually going was so hard, because I didn’t

know anyone on the trip. But I couldn’t believe how the people responded.”

Matt Caughey, a New Zealander, was at Redeemer for just six weeks when he made a last minute decision to go on the Fourth of July Getaway. “It was a good combination of organized events and free time when we could just kick back,” Matt recalled. Matt proved that the network of new friends continues to grow even after the trip has ended. “I really hit it off with my roommate, Rich Ledee,” he said. “Just last week I was able to introduce him to some of my Fellowship Group members over dinner.”

Oh, and Matt discovered another benefit of a Redeemer getaway. “It’s great being at a place where you go to a meal and you didn’t have to make it yourself.”

*...they find themselves torn between wanting to make new friends and being wary of a trip with complete strangers.*

## F.Y.I.

### Redeemer Music Products Available

If you have enjoyed the praise music at Redeemer, you should be aware that it is now possible to purchase both tapes and printed sheet music, all original compositions by Redeemer musicians. With twelve songs included, both the tape and sheet music book are available for \$10 each. Redeemer Music also just completed a tape and book of eight hymn arrangements for piano and voice. Not only would these items be enjoyable for Redeemer attenders, they would make a great gift for the music director of your hometown church or anyone interested in sacred music. For information, call (212) 808-4460 x 25, to look downstairs after the services starting in mid-August.

### Staff Positions Available

**Sunday Operations Coordinator** - for the westside facility. Full-time position. Candidate must be highly organized and possess skills in team leadership, management and problem-solving. Fax resume to Elaine Rollogas at (212) 808-4465.

**Bookkeeper, Hope for New York** . Part-time position, flexible hours (5-8 per week average). We prefer someone with QuickBooks experience. Fax resume to Yvonne Dodd at (212) 808-4465.

**Administrative Assistant - Redeemer Counseling Services** . Full time, duties include telephone, reception, intake, scheduling, light accounting, filing, referrals and correspondence. Applicant should have computer and organizational skills, a college degree and a desire to help people. Send cover letter and resume to 252-0649.

## HABITAT TEAM RETURNS

For the fifth year in a row, a Habitat team from Redeemer spent their summer vacation building homes (and helping to re-build a community). Twenty-three people formed this summer’s team which did renovation work on three homes in the Sandtown neighborhood of Baltimore. In addition to volunteering their vacation time and labor, each team member helped raise the cost of construction materials; our team total was over \$18,000. (Thanks to all of you who supported team members financially.)

Tasks for the team included masonry, drywall, painting, framing and finish carpentry. At the end of the week (with the efforts of many other volunteers who participated in the project) three homes were dedicated at a worship ceremony

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## HABITAT TEAM

when the families were given the keys to their own home.

This year's team included many who had been to Sandtown Habitat before, including team leaders David Biggs, Douglas Turner and Tom Russack (plus Mark and Amy Bennett, Scott Smith and Jill McKay.) Bobbie Evans handled team finances and Karen Chang coordinated all the meals. Alan Hill and Bruce Collins were the team photographers. Other team members were Karen Chung, Corinna Lamb, Narcisco Tovar, Jr., Edward Geng, Elizabeth Ahn, Jennifer Graham, Jee Su Kwon, Marnie Nair, Rhonda Pearson, Caroline Yu and Carol Kappenhagen.

### NEW JERSEY CHURCH UPDATE

**5**0 enthusiastic adults (plus their ten children) attended another fellowship dinner this summer! There should be nine home groups available in NJ this fall—the backbone of the Jersey church planting movement. Core group meetings will continue again in September. If you are interested in supporting this work or being a part of the core group, contact Rev. Jim Om at (212) 808-4460 x 43.

## CHURCH FAMILY UPDATE

### New members

Yvonne Anderson  
Helen Chen Baez  
Jeannette Baik  
Jordan Berman\*  
Yanick Cherizol  
Leslie Day  
Jeff Eberwein  
Rhonda Fleming  
Matt Frank  
Chris Gilbert  
Joy Hsueh  
Abraham Kim  
Joanna Kim  
Stella Lau  
Rich Ledee  
Michelle S. Lee  
Nancy N. Lee

*\*Adult Baptisms:*

Peiyee Lee\*  
Jan L. Linsky  
Huy Iu Lim  
Jeff Louis  
Joanne Wong Lu  
Virginia Marion  
Rebecca Medwetz  
Virginia Monette  
Debbie Pyles  
Randy Pyles  
Steve Rafalsky  
Stephen T. Smith  
Nancy Stevenson  
Sharon Sunoo  
Ed Sunoo  
Ruth Titus  
Raul Valldejuli

### Infant Baptism

Alexandre Norman Ackerman  
(Daughter of Susan & Russ Ackerman)

Aileen Donovan Hickey  
(Daughter of John & Rebecca Hickey)

Sydney Katherine Pyles  
(Daughter of Randy & Debbie Pyles)