

# REDEEMER

R E P O R T

DECEMBER 1998

## WEST SIDE SITE ANNOUNCED

BY ANDREW FIELD

After nearly a year-long search, Redeemer has found a new worship site on the West Side. Our team contacted over fifty worship facilities and God provided a place that fulfills all of our congregation's needs. The new facility is the First Church of Christ, Scientist at the corner of Central Park West and 96th Street. Worship services are expected to begin (barring any unforeseen difficulties) on January 17, 1999. Worship will begin at 5:00 p.m., with School of Discipleship classes running afterwards from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.

This location is convenient to hundreds of Redeemerites who live within walking distance. For those who will be taking transportation, the church is directly above the 96th Street B/C subway

station and across from a bus stop. A cross-park transverse at 96th Street will also enable Tim to quickly zip from the West Side service to the 6:00 p.m. evening service which will remain at Hunter College.

Built in 1903, the church building is one of the largest in the city, according to Peter Salwen, writing in *Upper West Side Story*. The church is mentioned in the Encyclopedia of New York because it was designed by Carrere & Hastings and "remains one of the city's finest examples of beaux-arts architecture." The main sanctuary seats 2,000 and includes an ornate arched ceiling with seven large stained glass windows.

In addition to the beautiful sanctuary, the facility contains all of the rooms that we need for classes and

fellowship. Just a short ride up the classic elevator, the fourth floor holds about ten smaller classrooms surrounding a large 500-seat assembly room. This room is used occasionally for motion picture and television productions. The lower level has both a fellowship hall and nursery facilities.

With the opening of the West Side site, dozens of new ministry positions will be created, especially Sunday service ministries, children's classes and School of Discipleship classes. A separate ministry recruiting brochure will be mailed out to Redeemer attendees living on the West Side. Whether you live on the West Side or not, please consider whether this new worship service creates an opportunity for you to become involved.

## 'TIS THE SEASON

BY KATHY KELLER

Each year I face the approaching holiday season with dread. This is not because of my inadequacy as chief present-buyer (both financially and creatively) or the demanding schedule of special events (any of which I would enjoy singly but which insist on attacking in packs.) Rather, my onset of anxiety is linked to a lifelong disability—I don't have appropriate feelings.

Apparently the little emotion chip in my makeup wasn't time-synchronized before being implanted. When others are weeping at the conclusion of a mountain-

top retreat, I am dry. While other mothers mourn the departure of their children from the nest, I heave a not-very-well-concealed sigh of relief and buy new lingerie. In the midst of crisis, I'm your best friend, not because I have first aid training, but because I can be counted on not to panic, or indeed, even to wince. So when important days in the church calendar roll around, I usually find

myself unable to participate in the festivities with the wonder, joy, and happiness which are deemed appropriate to the event.

If this were just a problem for the holidays or an affliction confined to a few unlucky androids like myself, it would be worth a sigh of regret at most. But I suspect that very few of us are able "to be as happy as we know we

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ought to be.” We have been plucked out of danger, saved from eternal death, adopted into the family of God, given access to the Father, and endowed with all the treasure of heaven. Why then, are so few of us able to consistently experience the joy which is rightfully ours?

The answers which have been suggested to me are numerous. Perhaps you don’t spend enough time alone, in prayer and reflection. Or perhaps you don’t spend enough time together with other Christians, being encouraged and stimulated by their faith. Are you spending your time selfishly, when you should be serving others? Are you so busy in ministry you are neglecting the spiritual disciplines? While any, and in-

## ’TIS THE SEASON

deed, all of these diagnoses could be partially correct, I have settled on what I think may be at the bottom the real reason. We don’t—I don’t—think.

By thinking I mean the hard work of meditation on God’s word and then addressing myself and my unruly (or lethargic) emotions with the product of that thought. It is very easy to go through the day accepting the world as it presents itself—pedestrian, frustrating, repetitive, and above all ordinary. But I know (if I think about it) that this “veil of ordinariness” really conceals spiritual realities of wonder, terror, and beauty. Paul tells us to “fix our eyes on what is unseen, rather than what is seen.” (2 Cor 4:18)

This takes hard, concentrated thought. I have to remind myself before entering into any conversation that what I say to Mary or how I treat Paul will become an eternal part of their consciousness, rather than something we’ll all have forgotten by tomorrow. I have to confront my raging anxieties about money, or my children, or health with sustained meditation on God’s sovereignty and love, not just a passing acknowledgment of those doctrines.

So when it comes to the holidays, or any days, I have to remember to make more time for thinking, confident that my feelings will follow where my thoughts have first paved the way.

## THE WEIGH DOWN WORKSHOP

BY JAN MACDOUGALL

**T**he Weigh Down Workshop, created by Gwen Shamblin, author of *The Weigh Down Diet*, is a Christ-centered program for men and women that specifically addresses issues of over-eating, as well as bulimia and anorexia. The program includes watching a series of video tapes as a group, along with sharing and praying with other members. Throughout the week members listen individually to audio tapes and work on their own issues through spiritual journals. In the course of each 12 week session the false idols involved in food issues are sensitively exposed, and participants are called to turn their eyes to Jesus.

Biblical lessons teach how the

weight control programs and schemes of the world continue to hold us in bondage to food and

*“Biblical lessons teach how the weight control programs and schemes of the world continue to hold us in bondage to food and preoccupations with our bodies. . .”*

preoccupations with our bodies, rather than allowing us to examine our hearts and focus on God who can set us free. The Weigh Down Workshop encourages wholeness.

As participants become re-oriented to the God-given sensations of hunger and fullness, freedom from the obsessions of food are released, and other areas in need of Christ’s healing are also directed to the True Answer.

We are currently holding two groups: Sunday afternoons at 1:30 PM in room C111 of Hunter College, and Tuesday evenings at 6:00 PM at the Redeemer Counseling Center, 271 Madison Avenue, 8th floor. The sessions run for twelve weeks and can be repeated as often as desired. The fee for first-time participants is \$103 (which includes a workbook/journal and 12 weeks of audio tapes). Please call 212.946.1673 for more details.

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### REDEEMER REPORT

Kathy Keller

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The Redeemer Report is a publication of the Redeemer Presbyterian Church.  
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Redeemer meets Sunday at  
HUNTER COLLEGE AUDITORIUM • EAST 69TH BETWEEN PARK AND LEXINGTON  
services at 10:30 • 6:00

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# SECOND ANNUAL RUM RETREAT PLANNED: BUILDING COMMUNITY!

**B**uilding a Christian community of friendships in a city of 8 million people from almost every culture is no easy task. That's why Redeemer's Racial Unity Ministry is sponsoring its second annual Get Along Get Away retreat!

Last year almost 75 people from a variety of ethnic backgrounds enjoyed a fun and refreshing weekend together in Vermont. This year, over Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, birthday weekend (January 15-19), we'll travel to the CitiVision Conference Center, a 175-acre camping and conference facility in the beautiful Catskill Mountain region just 1.5 hours from NYC, to continue building new relationships in a worshipful and

"no-pressure" atmosphere. There will be plenty of free time for sledding, cross country skiing, hiking, games, talking, or sleep! We've al-

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so planned four speaker-less worship gatherings and small group activities that will help us build authentic community in the midst of diversity.

So consider yourself personally invited to join us for this unique

opportunity to "get away and get along" with new Christian friends. Registration begins Sunday December 13, and will continue through Sunday, January 3, after all church services. Costs (\$125-135) include lodging, food, and activities, and child care and transportation will be provided (for extra fees). Call Jerome Walford 718/783-4390, Lily Zheng 212/986-1969, or Jo Kadlecsek 212/831-7234 for more information.

RUM exists to witness to the church and NYC the power of the gospel to change lives by fostering authentic racially and culturally interdependent relationships in a reconciling Christian community in which we celebrate and embrace the diversity of God's people.

## SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC AT REDEEMER

Rejoicing musically at the incarnation of Christ has been done since the angels first sang "Glory to God." Redeemer has scheduled special music for the fourth Sunday in Advent.

### **November 29**

AM: Mark Delavan, tenor

PM: Mindy Sax, soloist

### **December 6**

AM: Redeemer Brass Quintet

PM: Stickman Jones

### **December 13**

AM: Courtney Budd, soprano; Redeemer String Quartet

PM: Sara and Rachel Biscaye, soloists

### **December 20**

AM: A service of lessons and carols with the Orchestra of the Redeemer (Miriam Burns, music director), the Redeemer Choir and Motet Singers (Kyle Pfortmiller and John Bigham, directors); George Merritt, Kyle Pformiller, Laura Pfortmiller, soloists; music by Vivaldi and Saint-Saens; readings of Christian advent poems.

PM: A communion service of lessons and carols with the evening band, the Redeemer String Quartet; Ken Prymus, Michelle Jennings and Damaris Carbaugh, soloists; readings of Christmas advent poems.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE IN VERMONT

**W**hether you're sharing a four-person toboggan or the warmth of a crackling fireplace, our New Year's in Vermont trip is a powerful way to meet new friends at Redeemer.

The three-night trip runs from December 30 through January 2 and you can arrange to extend your stay for the entire weekend. Registration must be done in person in the East Lounge of Hunter College after the worship services on December 6 and 13. Space is limited, so don't delay.

Your stay will include a tobogganing party, a New Year's Eve vespers service and a dance party, a Coffee House, plus a variety of outdoor winter activities. The cost ranges from \$160 to \$210, depending on the kind of room you choose, and mini-van transportation is available at \$50 per person.

For more information, call Tim Pettit, director of church life, at 808-4460, x141.

## CHURCH FAMILY UPDATE

### October

*Vows:*

Archie, Keith  
 Bai, Elli  
 Bai, John  
 Black, Loretta G.  
 Christensen, Collin  
 Christensen, Debra  
 Christensen, Larry  
 Christensen, Preston  
 Chung, Melissa  
 Davis, Patricia Alison  
 McClendon, Dawn F.  
 Rowell, Rhoda Helen  
 Turner, Douglas  
 Yum Rno, Helen

*Adult Baptisms:*

Christensen, Collin  
 Christensen, Preston

*Infant Baptisms:*

Keith Edward Archie Jr.,  
 son of Keith & Sally Archie  
 William Lloyd Archie,  
 son of Keith & Sally Archie  
 Roxanne Renee Archie,  
 daughter of Keith &  
 Sally Archie  
 Mary Alexander Feldman,  
 daughter of Steve &  
 Leah Feldman  
 Carolyn Grace Kalal,  
 daughter of Lorraine & Rick Kalal

### November

*Vows:*

Chiu, Shu H.  
 Depta, Scott  
 Depta, Sylvia Louise  
 Gault, Melinda  
 Goldstein, Jim  
 Goldstein, Sally M.  
 Islam, Shujaat  
 Liu, Harvey  
 McElroy, Laura  
 Obiora, Nkechi V.  
 Tan, L.K.  
 Thellman, Cheryl

*Adult Baptism:*

Liu, Harvey

*Infant Baptisms:*

Erin Reed Borst,  
 daughter of Butch &  
 Elvon Borst  
 Jordan Reed Borst,  
 son of Butch & Elvon Borst  
 Natalie Grace Hartokolis,  
 daughter of Steve & Priscilla  
 Hartokolis  
 Tabea Martina Klepper,  
 daughter of Joerg &  
 Stephanie Klepper

## MUSICAL CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Consider giving music from Redeemer this Christmas. Books and tapes of Redeemer Praise songs and Vocal Solos, and CD's by the 6:30 band and Stickman Jones are among the gifts available for purchase in the East Lounge after the morning and evening services. Orders can also be made by calling Chris Hughes at 808-4460, x.133. Proceeds benefit the ministries of Redeemer.