

REDEEMER

R E P O R T

JANUARY 1999

WEST SIDE LAUNCH APPROACHES

All parts of the church... will be seamlessly woven into the West Side community.

All of the details are moving ahead to launch Redeemer Church's worship services on the West Side. We are busily planning worship, children's ministry, Sunday service ministries, and School of Discipleship classes so that both worship sites are as equal in quality and service and learning opportunities as possible. The following information will be helpful for those considering the West Side worship service as your new community at Redeemer.

Start Date.

The target date for beginning worship services is imminent, but still undetermined while some necessary repair work is done in the classroom area. As anyone who has worked with contractors knows, completion dates tend to be a moving target! We are dependent upon painters and heating

contractors to complete work on one part of the building, therefore we will keep you well informed of the progress each Sunday in January and allow two weeks advance notice of the actual start date.

Location.

The facility is still the First Church of Christ, Scientist building located at 96th Street and Central Park West. A beautiful structure built at the turn of the century, it includes seating for nearly 2,000, plus classrooms and a fellowship hall. Several subway, bus and cross-park roads allow easy access to the site.

Worship.

The worship service will begin at 5:00 p.m. The service will be similar to the current morning worship service, except that the sermon will be moved earlier in the service so that the preacher can

travel back to Hunter in time for the evening service. Also, piano and other acoustic instrumentation are planned to adapt the classical worship music to fit the time of day and the neighborhood. In most cases, the same musicians will play at both the East Side morning and the West Side service. As always, the worship will be designed as a place where our friends, co-workers and neighbors will be openly received. Drew Field will lead worship most weeks.

School of Discipleship.

The same adult core classes will be offered at the West Side, including: Q&A, The Credibility of Christianity, Introduction to Redeemer, How to Relate to One Another, Mercy Ministry, Theology, and others. These classes will be held in the main sanctuary, the mezzanine and the fourth floor.

WOMEN PLAN PARTIES, RETREATS AND CLASSES

BY DEBBY CHRISTENSEN

Women in the Church (better known to some as WIC) is just as it is stated, an organization for all women in the church. Every woman attending Redeemer is invited and encouraged to attend the events we sponsor. They range from retreats to School of Discipleship classes, to social type things, where women can meet each other and form new friendships.

We wanted to inform you of some things coming up in the near future: Zip code parties are going to take place in February, the week of February 22-26. People are signing up in January to host a party for their neighborhood women, and those wishing

to attend a party in the neighborhood will do likewise. LOOK FOR THE WIC TABLE TO SIGN UP.

Also, the big Spring date to remember is April 24. Elisabeth Elliot, the author and international

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WEST SIDE LAUNCH APPROACHES

Because the start date is somewhat fluid we will begin adult classes with the February 28th cycle. For the first few weeks at the new site the fellowship time will be emphasized to allow people to meet one another. Helen Chen Baez directs the School of Discipleship.

Children's Ministries.

Nursery facilities are located one flight below the main sanctuary. Toddlers and older children will meet on the fourth floor classrooms which will be fully equipped for an active children's program. A giant main room on the fourth floor allows children to have large gatherings with smaller classrooms to divide into the various ages. Children's programs during the worship services will meet beginning the first week, with children's School of Discipleship hour classes beginning at the same time the adult classes begin,

on February 28th. Amy Buckner is the new children's ministry coordinator. Several teachers and assistants are needed for the children's classes.

Sunday Service Ministries and Operations.

Yes, tapes and books will be available at the West Side! Everything that we've grown to love on a Sunday will be there: coffee hour, ushers, communion, welcome teams, information tables, "New to New York." These need a small army of volunteers who would love to put forth a warm welcome to our new neighborhood. And the big question — mini-muffins (like AM) or cookies (like PM)? Come be surprised; rumors have been swirling about mini-bagels and Starbucks coffee. (Starbucks would cost over \$25,000 per year — so we think the only Starbucks coffee cups we'll

see are the ones that people bring themselves!) Brad Winslow, the new West Side facilities coordinator, has been busily working with our host to provide a functional and comfortable space.

Other Ministries.

The West Side worship services are completely connected to Redeemer Church; we are simply one church meeting in two locations. All parts of the church, from Fellowship Groups and Church Life, to Hope for New York, International Missions and Prayer, will be seamlessly woven into the West Side community. Every trip, retreat, ministry team, project and group will be equally accessible. The new worship site creates even more opportunities to be connected in ministry or in leadership. So consider this opportunity as a chance to become more involved.

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WOMEN PLAN PARTIES, RETREATS AND CLASSES

ally known speaker, will be coming to NYC for a one day In-town

They range from retreats to School of Discipleship classes, to social type things, where women can meet each other and form new friendships.

Retreat to be held at Calvary Baptist Church. More information will be coming to you soon. Also, **LOOK FOR THE WIC TABLE TO**

SIGN UP.

January 3 is the beginning of new SOD classes. We always try to have at least one class of special interest to some group of women in the church. This cycle Calla Biondi and Mary Cerciello will be teaching a class for new believers and group discipleship for women (after the AM service only.)

Make sure you check the East Lounge, and watch for bulletins and posters for information about our upcoming events.

If you are a woman and in Redeemer you are part of WIC, so welcome.

GET CONNECTED

...to other Redeemer women in your neighborhood!

There are probably dozens of Redeemer women who live in your neighborhood besides you, but how can you find them? Wouldn't it be a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, support and just fun if you knew who they were?

The Women in the Church (WIC) will be sponsoring neighborhood gatherings of Redeemer women during the week of February 22, 1999. Call Joy Martinez at (201) 568-4356 for more information.

REDEEMER REPORT

Kathy Keller
Buddy Mungo
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

DANCE CLASSES

BY ALINA OH

“A fabulous experience — A challenge — Something new.”

Those are some of the reviews that dance students have given Redeemer Sports Network’s Ballroom Dance classes.

The classes have drawn dozens of people each Sunday afternoon at Hunter College over the past three months. One group of swing and salsa dancers already have moved on to learning intermediate steps, while teach-

ers Katrina Baangsgard and Ryan Bailey are also teaching classes for beginners.

“It’s a fabulous experience, actually,” said Colene Lau. “The in-

WINTER RETREATS

SKIING

Non-SKIING

On our annual Ski Retreat, you’ll celebrate President’s Day and Valentine’s Day with other Redeemer people on the slopes of Ascutney Mountain in Vermont.

During the three-night retreat, which stretches over both the Valentine’s and President’s holidays (February 12-15), the Rev. Jeff White, pastor of New Song Church in Harlem, will teach on the Old Testament book of Ruth, looking at “God’s Hidden Ways in Our Relationships.” The Stickman Jones band will provide both the worship music and a concert.

Besides offering a variety of ski and snowboard packages, the retreat at the Radisson Inn will give you time to use the heated pool and the Jacuzzi, play ping pong, work out in the fitness center or simply to read in front of the Inn’s fireplace.

On Valentine’s Day, we’ll have a disco dance party.

You can register or get more information through January in the East Lounge of Hunter College after the worship services. A non-refundable \$75 deposit is required. The package rates (which vary with your choice of options) will include meals, ski rentals, tickets and a ski lesson.

For more information, contact Ellie Ellsworth at 864-3349 or e-mail her at cabsymp@aol.com.

You can both learn and practice the spiritual disciplines at our NON-Skiers Retreat in Vermont on February 12-15, and enjoy some snow activities as well.

The retreat will be at the Hotel Coolidge, an antique railroad hotel in White River Junction, (a different location that what the skiers retreat will be using), and will feature the Rev. Tim Pettit, director of church life, teaching on solitude, meditation, worship and fasting.

The weekend will combine study and prayer times with outdoor snow events. For example, after teachings on how to meet God through solitude and meditation, we’ll snowshoe through the woods, giving us time to practice both disciplines. At the end of the trail, we’ll gather in a cabin for hot chocolate and worship. On another day, you’ll have an opportunity to fast and pray through one mealtime. We’ll also have a tobogganing party and possibly a chance to build a real igloo (depending largely on the amount of available snow!)

Package rates for the three nights, including meals, will range from \$150 to \$200, depending on your room selection. Brochures will be available in the East Lounge of Hunter College beginning January 10 and registration will open on January 24. Space is limited.

For more information, contact Tim Pettit at 808-4460, x141 or e-mail him at tpett@aol.com.

*For some,
simply meeting
with other
people
from Redeemer
motivates them
to
attend.*

structors really take the time to make sure their students really know the steps. And now I know people’s faces there.”

Jeff Swartzlander said the classes have “broken up my boring routine! It’s a challenge for me, it’s new, and it’s developing my listening skills.”

Beginner and intermediate swing and salsa classes are held every Sunday in rooms 514 A/B from 2 to 5 p.m. Tickets for classes are sold at each class and after services for \$8. At the door, tickets cost \$12. “It’s a reasonable price, a convenient time for me, a pleasant space, and a nice group of people,” said Caroline Sickinger.

For some, simply meeting with other people from Redeemer motivates them to attend. “It’s great to see people in your fellowship group here. It’s a wholesome environment - not like a club,” said Rich Rodriguez.

Some come to the dance classes to learn dance moves and then

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DANCE CLASSES

Join other Redeemerites for dancing at places such as Windows on the World, Supper Club and Swing 46. "I usually pick up something new, or it's a good review," said master dancer Brennan Smith.

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Future plans include offering workshops on waltz, tango and fox trot, and a fundraising ball in the spring. When the new West Side worship site begins, classes may be moved to another location to accommodate both congregations. Look for announcements in this newsletter, the worship bulletin and in the East Lounge at Hunter College.

WITH SINCERE THANKS FROM THE DIACONATE

BY ANDREA CLARK

The Diaconate would like to thank all who gave generously to the Mercy Fund on December 6, 1998. To date we have received \$41,521. Because of this offering, we will be able to meet the financial needs of those in our midst who are suffering from a variety of personal and life circumstances difficulties and needs.

Please know that we are very grateful and consider you to be partners with us as we care for those God brings our way. If anyone was unable to give at the time of the offering, we will continue to accept donations throughout the year. Please earmark your check for the Diaconate by writing "Diaconate" on the memo line. Cash for the Diaconate can be given by using a special envelope provided at the information table in the East Lounge. Thank you again.

"PERSPECTIVES" STUDY PROGRAM HELD FOR COLLEGE OR GRADUATE CREDIT

The "Perspectives" study program will be held at the Redeemer church of-
fice from February 5 to May 21, 1999, on Friday evenings from 7:00 - 9:45 p.m. College and graduate students can arrange to receive three hours of academic credit for the course.

The class is designed to consider the World Christian Movement, with particular focus on the Biblical mandate to make disciples of all nations. Rather than wrestling with the question "What is God's will for my life?" the Perspective class will challenge students to ask "What is God's will for the world and how can I fit into it?"

Registration is limited to 30 people only. For further information and registration, contact Grace Choi at 212-808-4460 x 140, or onlybygrace@netscape.net by January 16, 1999.