

REDEEMER

R E P O R T

SEPTEMBER 2000

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO WEST SIDE EVENING SERVICE

BY TIM KELLER

As many of the readers of this newsletter know, Redeemer wants to become a multi-site church, with four worshipping congregations around Central Park. We are planning for both East Side and West Side morning worship services, and for both East Side and West Side evening worship services. We want, whenever possible, attenders to choose to worship and minister in their own neighborhoods. When you worship near your residence, it strengthens community and creates more opportunities for outreach and service.

Beginning on Sunday, September 10, the first Sunday after La-

bor Day, our West Side pm service will undergo three significant

CHANGE!

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cant changes. First, it is moving from the Christian Science

church on Central Park West to St. Paul and St. Andrew Methodist Church at W. 86th and West End Avenue. Second, it is changing in time from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Third, it is changing from a classical liturgical service to a jazz music and worship format.

Why these changes? First and foremost, this is a significant step toward our vision. When we began our West Side pm service in the spring of 1999, it offered the same sermon as the East Side pm service, but a different music/worship format. We now realize that we were encouraging many people to leave their neigh-

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COMING TO RPC THIS FALL: DANCE, R&B AND OPERA FORUMS

This fall we will be continuing our two series of cultural events—Sunday Open Forums and the new weekday, off-site Redeemer Forums—with three programs on relationships. On Sunday evening, October 1, 2000, at 7:00 pm, an Open Forum entitled *New York Family Values* will be held at our new West Side location, St. Paul and St. Andrew Methodist Church, 86th and West End Avenue. After a 30-minute concert of R&B and pop tunes featuring the Redeemer band and a stellar line-up of soloists, Tim Keller will deliver a lecture on dealing with family issues. As always there will be an open-mike

Q&A following the lecture.

On October 15, 2000, at 6:00 pm, Tim Keller will repeat the talk at a Sunday Open Forum in the Hunter College Auditorium. However, the artistic portion of the evening will be different, as Redeemer hosts the At Marah dance company from Philadelphia. At Marah will present a 35-minute dance piece entitled *My Song*, depicting the rejection and alienation of a child from her parents.

The off-site, weekday Re-

deemer Forums represent a twist on the Sunday Open Forums. Redeemer Forums feature world-class artists from the Redeemer network of churches in concert venues around the city. They offer significantly more music and more adventurous programming than the Sunday Open Forums, which are necessarily more limited in scope. Redeemer Forums are not church services (as neither are the Sunday Open Forums, of

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THIS FALL

course), nor even explicitly evangelistic events. Instead, they seek to introduce beautiful and provocative artistic expressions with a Christian worldview into the cultural life of New York City. To cover the expenses of renting the hall and publicity, we must charge admission, although ticket prices are significantly lower than

On Sunday evening,

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an Open Forum entitled

“New York Family Values”

will be held at our new

West Side location...

you would pay to hear the same artists in other venues.

Our opera Redeemer Forum, entitled “*Love Among the Ruins*,” will be held on Friday, December 1, 2000, at 7:30 pm in the Florence Gould Hall, located at 55 East 59th Street. Through a concert of opera arias and ensembles, we will examine the many ways that people search for love. Tim Keller will serve as emcee for the evening, providing short introductions to the performances, but there will be no lecture. The cast of singers for “*Love Among the Ruins*” includes artists from the rosters of the world’s greatest opera houses: Gregory Turay, Mark Oswald, Angela Horn, Thomas Barrett and Belinda Oswald. Tickets are \$15 and may be pre-ordered as of September 15, 2000, by calling the Redeemer Music Office at (212) 808-4460, ext. 147. This event is likely to sell out quickly.

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IMPORTANT CHANGES TO WEST SIDE EVENING SERVICE

neighborhoods to seek the worship style of their preference. The new plan is to have the two pm services (and, eventually, the two am services) to be mirror images of one another. This will move us toward our goal of having four neighborhood-based congregations.

There are several other reasons for the change. First, the new location is a more accessible location. St. Paul and St. Andrew’s is just a few steps from the subway station at W.86th and Broadway. Second, the auditorium “in the round” is more conducive to an informal jazz format. Third, we believe that many people coming back to the city from weekend travel will be able to get to a 7:00

pm service more easily than a 5:00 pm one.

We want to express our deepest appreciation to the congregation of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, for its hospitality to us over the last 18 months. We also thank the hundreds of people who have begun to help us establish the West Side p.m. congregation. We apologize for the disruption that the change of time and place will cause some, but we expect these changes to only strengthen and grow the church on the West Side in exciting new ways.

We continue to search for a suitable size site for a morning worship service on the West Side. Pray for it!

F.Y.I.

Elementary Children to Perform Play September 10

The Elementary Division of Redeemer’s Children’s Ministry will perform a play, *Lessons of Faith & Courage From Our Journey With Joshua*, at 12:15 p.m. on September 10 in room C002. Parents and friends are invited.

Children’s Choir resumes September 17

After the summer break, Children’s Choir will resume its rehearsals on the 4th floor at 12:00 p.m. The choir is open to all children ages 5 to 10 years old.

Home Fellowship Group Sign-Ups September 24

Interested in applying the gospel to your life? Looking for a way to develop personal relationships? A Fellowship Group gives you both...and more. Sign-up time is coming—Sunday, September 24th, at all worship locations. Plan to get involved!

REDEEMER REPORT

Kathy Keller

Buddy Mungo

Dave Jacobs

The Redeemer Report is a publication of the Redeemer Presbyterian Church.
OFFICE • 271 MADISON AVENUE • SUITE 1600 • NEW YORK, NEW YORK • 10016
212-808-4460 (phone) 212-808-4465 (fax)

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

CHURCH OF ST. PAUL AND ST. ANDREW
86TH AND WEST END AVENUE
services at 7:00

CLOSEUP

CHANGE!

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CHANGE!

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE CHANGES IN THE EVENING SERVICE

Where?

We are moving from the facility in which we have been meeting, First Church of Christ, Scientist, to The Church of St. Paul and St Andrew United Methodist located at 263 West 86th Street (86th & West End Avenue).

When?

The change takes place on Sunday, September 10. The service time will change from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

How?

The 1/9 train at 86th and Broadway is only half a block away from the church entrance.

Why?

Well, a couple of reasons. First, we goofed. In executing our multi-site model, the idea was to provide identical services on both sides of the park. However, we violated that principle by offering a 5:00 p.m. classical service at First Church, Scientist, and a jazz service at 6:00 p.m. at Hunter. After a while we noticed that people were not choosing their worship site based on their neighborhood, but based on the style of worship they preferred. By changing the west side evening service to be a jazz service as well, people will be able to choose their service based on location and not style.

But why move to new location? Why not just change the worship style?

Good question. Most critically, the First Church of Christ, Scientist, building was not conducive to a jazz service — the stage is too small to accommodate a band, the acoustics are too bouncy, and the formal beauty of the building is a deterrent to an informal style of worship.

What services will be available?

- Because of its later time, Tim Keller will be able to do Q and A following the service.
- Childcare will be provided from birth to 2 years old.
- Hospitality, books, tapes, and ministry tables will be provided downstairs in the fellowship hall.

The building will be open for us from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. On-site storage is limited. Call Brad Winslow, Sunday Operations Coordinator, if your ministry team requires storage. (212-808-4460 x150). For other questions call Elaine Rollogas, Director, at 212-808-4460 x121.

Note: Because of a prior commitment on the part of St. Paul and St. Andrew United Methodist Church, the Sunday, October 8, 7:00 p.m. service will be cancelled FOR THAT EVENING ONLY and will resume the following week. All other service times and locations will remain the same.

SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP BECOMES SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Redeemer's School of Discipleship (SOD) is now the School of Christian Community (SoCC) and we invite you to participate and grow with us. Our goal is to provide individuals and Fellowship Groups with a sound foundation so they can feed themselves and each other on the truth of the Gospel. This will naturally result in a strong Christian Community. We encourage you to build yourself up through attendance in SoCC classes and in turn to minister to each other to build community.

Cycle I (September 10 - October 22) classes are offered after the East Side morning service only except for Q&A.

Credibility of Christianity: Ex-

plore the Christian faith in light of opposing worldviews.

Introduction to Redeemer:

Prerequisite for church membership and a valuable way to get an in-depth understanding of Redeemer's distinctives and your opportunities for service.

Peacemaking: Examine how a Christian responds to conflict in a way that is remarkably different from the way the world does.

Sanctification of the Heart: Examine how real heart change takes place in the life of the church in the context of our relationship to God and to his people.

Spiritual Balance in a Spinning World: Nurture practical Christian truths to bring balance, fulfillment, and effectiveness.

Redeeming the World — God's Work and Our Lives:

Broaden your understanding of the holistic nature of God's redemptive activity in the world.

Marriage: Couples in leadership address various challenges to marriage, and explore Biblical alternatives — open to couples and singles.

Skills for Loving One Another: A course designed for participants in Fellowship Groups and essential for Leadership as a follow up to "Turbo Group" training.

Question & Answer: (am East side and pm West Side) — your opportunity to ask Tim Keller or Kathy Keller (and sometimes others) questions about the sermon or anything else.

CHURCH FAMILY UPDATE

Vows & Baptisms

Membership Vows:

Joshua Li-Man Chang
Michelle Chia-lin Ruth Lee
Leonie Jacqueline Sena
Jeffrey Michael Williams
Blair Alexander West
Ann Michele West
Gregory Conrad Fendler
Clifford Baxter Lane
Warren Lok Ho
Anna Law Ho
Barney Yoo
Yunchi Nam Yoo
Mary Harding Cist
Eugene Joseph Cassidy
Henny Suryawati Muktiwijaya
David Joseph Douglas

Infant Baptisms:

Erin Britt Oakes, daughter of Teresa & Timothy
Caroline Hyejin O, daughter of Seona & David
Cooper Han Kim, son of Rollan & Marie
Celeste Jacqueline Sena, daughter of Leonie & Juan
Breana Jacqueline Sena, Leonie & Juan
Hunter Alexander West, son of Ann & Blair West
Connor Ethan Yen, son of Gema & George

WEST SIDE SITE PRAYER WALK

At 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 30, the entire congregation of Redeemer Presbyterian Church is invited to participate in a Prayer Walk on the West Side. We will be walking every street on the West Side and asking God, in prayer, to show us a location for a morning worship site. The lack of such a site has been identified by Redeemer's Leadership as the primary obstacle preventing us from moving forward with Redeemer's vision for ministry in New York City.

God's Favor

In the past eleven years, Redeemer has grown from a small church plant of a less than a hundred worshipping Christians, into a large church with a Sunday attendance of around 3,000. In those eleven years we have repeatedly experienced God's favor in providing key people, resources and worship sites as Redeemer has grown and developed its ministry. With a clear sense of God's guidance we have crafted and expanded our vision for ministering to the City.

Redeemer's Two Pronged Strategy

This process culminated, two years ago, in a two-pronged strategy to reshape Redeemer's orientation to the city. The first element of this strategy was to raise funds in order to create an urban church-planting center in

New York. The second element was to transform Redeemer itself from a single congregation worshipping in one place, into a multiple site congregation worshipping in many places.

The progress of our Urban Church Planting center has exceeded every expectation and under the capable leadership of the Rev. Osni Ferreira is forging ahead. The multi-site strategy, however, after a very promising beginning has hit a brick wall.

The Brick Wall

The "brick wall" is the fact that despite numerous efforts over two years we have been unable to locate a morning worship location. The multiple site strategy developed into a plan to transform Redeemer's single, Hunter College-based congregation, into four congregations around Central Park: morning and evening services on both the East and West sides of the park. In order to ensure equality and prevent competition, each site would have the same preaching and equivalent ministry programs. The first step, an evening West Side service, went beautifully. We located the site and began the new service almost immediately. While we continue to tweak the services times and locations, Redeemer's evening West Side service is firmly established and will continue to thrive. The second step, locating a morning site, has run into the proverbial "brick wall" mentioned above.

Where is God?

In reflecting upon this apparent setback, we remain convinced that in pursuing Redeemer's multi-site vision we are honoring God's call. However, as Redeemer has thrived and grown it is possible that we have become overly complacent and reliant upon our own abilities. When Redeemer first began, the many crises associated with starting a new church drove the congregation and staff to constantly rely on God in prayer. The church existed precariously week to week only through the grace of God and every new project was an act of faith. Scot Sherman, who planted the Village Church, said that in terms of his prayer life, one year as a church planter was equivalent to 5 years working at an established church. It is possible that in the heady, 11 year rush of success that has characterized Redeemer we have lost sight of the One who brought this church into being and sustains it daily. It is possible that this brick wall is not really a setback at all but rather an opportunity to rediscover the power of prayer; an opportunity to reacquaint ourselves, as a church, with the thrill of depending in faith on God's provision and watching as he works his sovereign power in and through us. That at least is our hope as turn to our Father in prayer on September 30. Please join us.



OCTOBER GETAWAYS

VERMONT FALL GETAWAY

We're taking 80 people to the Vermont mountains on October 6-9 to hike, bike, climb a waterfall, carve pumpkins, make apple cider or simply relax and enjoy the beautiful fall foliage.

The 3-day Columbus Day Weekend will feature "orienteeing," in which small teams will use a map and a compass to wend their way through a wooded, mountain course. There will also be two worship meetings with spiritual teaching from the Rev. Tim Pettit, director of church life at Redeemer.

The group activities and the intimate size of the quaint Hotel Coolidge will enable you to make many new friends, even if you're new to Redeemer.

You can register, plus find more info and photos, at www.RedeemerChurchLife.com. Registration deadline is September 25, but don't delay: these Vermont Getaways always sell out quickly!

POCONO MOUNTAIN GETAWAY

Our October 27-29 weekend in the Pocono Mountains offers you a variety of outdoor activities, a chance to relax by a 90-acre lake, and a powerful way to make new friends at Redeemer.

The weekend in Pennsylvania offers three worship meetings and spiritual teaching, but is organized so that you have many free hours to connect with new-found friends with activities such as volleyball, tennis, swimming, horseback riding, Ultimate Frisbee and miniature golf. In the evening we'll have a coffee house, plus late-night volleyball, tennis and swimming in Tamiment Resort's wonderful indoor facilities.

You can register, plus find info and photos, at www.RedeemerChurchLife.com. Registration deadline is Sept. 25.

MARRIED

COUPLES' GETAWAY

When was the last time you actually had TIME to talk to your spouse about something besides the mundane details of life? Say, while walking around a mountain lake? Here's your chance.

On the weekend of November 10-12, we're taking just 20 married couples to the Lodge at Star Lake in Bloomfield, NJ, just an hour outside of Manhattan, for our third annual Married Couples Getaway. The weekend will run from 9:00 p.m. Friday through lunch on Sunday.

The Rev. Tim Pettit, director of church life at Redeemer, and his wife, Sue, will use their 25 years of marriage experience to lead informative talks, small group interactions and exercises that can build communication and intimacy in your marriage.

There will be lots of time for leisurely walks and fun in the Game Room, plus uplifting worship and great meals. This weekend also is a wonderful way to get to know other married couples at Redeemer.

The cost is \$220 per couple, plus \$50 per couple if you need our coach bus transportation. To register, call Tim Pettit at 808-4460 x141 or e-mail him at timpettit@aol.com