

REDEEMER

R E P O R T

DECEMBER 2002

THE SPIRITUAL FUTURE OF NEW YORK

“When it comes to how Americans practice religion, [September 11] didn’t change much of anything.” (The Wall Street Journal, September 11, 2002.)

As 2002 comes to a close, we at Redeemer look back on the last 15 months and ask: ‘what hit us?!’

The first answer to that question, of course, was the terrorist-controlled planes of 9/11. In their wake came hundreds of new people into our Redeemer community and ministries who needed spiritual guidance, psychological support and counsel, material aid and help. Then, in early and mid-2002, came rounds of lay-offs and great economic stress in NYC. Scores of people in our community lost jobs and some had to leave the city. Eventually

Redeemer itself had to institute painful budget cuts at a time when our opportunities for ministry are growing. Finally, the widespread belief last fall—that a spiritual ‘awakening’ in America was at hand has faded.

Nevertheless, I believe the future for the church, for Christian ministry, and for New York City itself is bright.

A slow but certain awakening

In the first weeks after 9/11 all reports indicated an explosive surge of spiritual interest and religious fervor. National attendance at religious services grew 25%.

BY TIM KELLER
Polls showed that 78% of Americans believed “religion’s influence is increasing in our society.” This view of things has changed drastically as the months have passed. Now it is more characteristic to say: “When it comes to how Americans practice religion, [September 11] didn’t change much of anything.” (*The Wall Street Journal*, September 11, 2002.) Weekly church attendance has returned to its previous levels. Polls now show only 37% of Americans believe the influence of religion was increasing, while 52% thought it was decreasing.

In early 2002, however, George
(continued on page 2)

GOD IS IN CONTROL

“I figured I’d share my knowledge and decided to volunteer with Hope for New York...”

From Monday through Friday, 9 to 5, my goal is to get from point A to point B in the most efficient manner possible. And suit or no suit, everybody better watch out. I make sure I’m on the first train, first car, right foot always closest to the door facing my stop. I’m always taking the fastest elevator up, always in tune with the revolving doors afterwards and always avoiding the talkers, slow walkers and women carrying big bags. My photo ID, always at hand, ready to show without missing a beat was my finish line to tell me I’ve done it again.

With all this efficiency, I figured

I’d share my knowledge and decided to volunteer with Hope for New York and help out as a translator and welcome person for their Angel Tree Christmas project. The setting up part was easy, but then chaos entered in the shape of mothers and their clinging tots as they entered the doorway in front of me. Where to put the strollers, why didn’t they all have the registration postcard, I don’t know why your name is not on the list, and I’m

BY EMMA ARBIZU, HFNY VOLUNTEER
sorry, but how do you spell your name again? I was being slowed down...and then Spanish and English were being thrown at me. My impersonal, formal Spanish was of no use here, I just needed to know how to say, “Enjoy your self and have a great time!”

How wonderful to know that through the chaos, God was in control. There was always a seat for the parents and their kids. Laughing, screaming, talking, and yet the kids always answered back

(continued on page 5)

INSIDE:

- DECEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE
- MERCY FUND OFFERING
- WHERE’S THE BULLETIN BOARD?
- STEWARDSHIP UPDATE



Gallup, Jr., gave an address here in NYC. He stated that U.S. society as a whole is on a long-term spiritual quest. For a decade even secular scholars have noticed a movement in U.S. society away from the strong secularism of the mid-20th century. (cf. Robert Fogel, *The Fourth Great Awakening*, U. of Chicago Press, 2000). He stressed that non-white people groups and Americans born after 1980 show significantly more interest in spirituality in general and Christianity in particular than their older, Anglo-American counterparts. As the country becomes more multi-ethnic, and as the younger generation rises up into influence, faith will become much more influential in our society, he predicted. Gallup also said that the leaders of the coming spiritual resurgence will be especially African-Americans, the most profoundly Christian of all people-groups in the country, and members of the 'millennial' generation.

All the signs of a spiritual resurgence are still out there, says George Gallup, and the 9/11 experience can only strengthen them in the long run, but this spiritual renewal is not going to be an immediate 'explosion.' "Americans are stuck in between disbelief and the security of knowing God," he said. Complete personal freedom is almost an ultimate value for Americans, and Christian faith puts boundaries on our behavior.

But, if anything, 9/11 seems to have weakened our perception that it is all-important to live in untrammelled personal freedom. Community and caring seem more important now.

A new urban church rising

If Gallup is right, then the first place this 'spiritual resurgence' will make itself felt will be in the major cities like New York. Here, of course, the multi-ethnic American future is already becoming a reality, and major cities are also an attraction for the younger generations. In addition, however, there is another 'trend' that is affecting New York City's spiritual future.

From 1880 to 1920 a major wave of immigration from eastern and southern Europe transformed the face of New York City. Now, however, another immense wave of immigration (from 1980 to 2020?) is transforming New York again. It is bringing huge numbers of people from the southern and eastern hemispheres from Asia, Latin America, and Africa. Unlike the last great wave, however, these immigrants are coming from parts of the world where Bible-believing, Protestant Christianity is growing explosively. (See Phillip Jenkins, *The Next Christendom*.) This has already brought a (largely unnoticed) transformation to the city-boroughs, where the Christian church is growing rapidly. What does this mean

immediately for the spiritual state of New York? It means that traditional churches, especially those of the "mainline" will diminish. What will rise are culturally diverse urban churches that share a basic commitment to supernatural Christianity, the new birth, and the truth of the Bible.

But what will this mean long-term for the city? That is not as easy to discern. I believe much depends on whether the new churches can become mature and balanced in theology and ministry. They must become 'wholistic' and seek the good of their neighborhoods, not just their members. They must learn to appreciate and cooperate with churches with somewhat different beliefs and practices. They must learn how to help their young people live and work in the broader culture in positive but distinctively Christian ways. And mono-ethnic congregations must learn how to become multi-ethnic congregations.

If all this can happen (and it is a big if!) then we might eventually see the grass-roots movement of Christianity in the city 'ascend' over two or three generations into the media and cultural institutions, into the corporate boardrooms, and into the faculties of New York. What an influence that could have on our whole society! If we look both at the signs of a spiritual resurgence in our society and the signs of a new, vital urban church rising—we have

(continued on page 3)

REDEEMER REPORT

Kathy Keller
Buddy Mungo
Rebecca Lock

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HUNTER COLLEGE AUDITORIUM
EAST 69TH BETWEEN PARK AND LEXINGTON
services at 9:30AM • 11:15AM • 6:00PM

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

great cause to be optimistic about the spiritual future of New York City (and the other cities of the country.) We who live and minister in these cities should be quite excited to be at the very edge of what God may be doing in our country right now.

Nevertheless, as we said, there

are many big 'ifs' about the future. There are many ways the church today could fail to capitalize on the enormous opportunities before it. But Christmas is a season that reminds us of the inexorable direction of history toward the kingdom of God. Christmas means "God Has Landed." He

"comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found." The final destination of the world is Joy. So we know the spiritual future of New York—and indeed of the whole world—is bright. Let's serve Him with that in mind.

Diaconate Mercy Fund Offering

Sunday, December 8, 2002

The Diaconate has experienced tremendous growth in 2002.

We have been able to help over 215 individuals and families in the first 10 months of 2002. We are helping 79% more people than last year and our spending has increased by 106%. We are humbled by the growth and even more aware of our need to rely on God as we walk with those in crisis and challenging circumstances.

Your gifts in the past have enabled us to extend mercy to those around us and in our midst. Now the challenge is greater than ever before. Please join with us to meet our congregation's basic needs by giving to the special offering for the Diaconate on Sunday December 8 at all services, or by mailing your check into the church office.

Sincerely yours, RPC Deacons and Deaconesses

SPECIAL DECEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

December 15

9:30 and 11:30AM

Service of Lesson and Carols (orchestra/chorus/soloists)

Regular evening services

December 22

Regular morning services

7:00PM: Combined Evening Service—WEST SIDE ONLY

Service of Lessons and Carols:

Liturgical dance by Kate Franco/solos by George Merritt and Michelle Jennings

(NO 6:00PM East Side service at Hunter College)

December 29

Regular morning services

6:00PM: Combined Evening Service at Hunter College

(NO 7:00PM West Side service)

Ministry Directory

EXECUTIVE & PASTORAL STAFF (212) 808-4460

Rev. Dr. Timothy Keller, Sr. Pastor x144
 Susan Keil, Admin Asst. for Dr. Keller x144
 Rev. Terry Gyger, Executive Pastor x135
 Mrs. Helen Chen Baez, Exec. Admin Coordinator x135
 Rev. Dr. Tuck Bartholomew, Asst. Pastor x171
 Rev. Tony Hinchliff, Asst. Pastor x143
 Rev. John Lin, Asst. Pastor x149
 Dr. Hannibal Silver, Counseling Center Director x130

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS (212) 808-4460

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 Scott Crosby, Director x119
 Rev. Tony Hinchliff, Director x143
 Rev. John Lin, Director x149
 Frances Bragdon Nelson, Director x159
 Kari Jo Cates, Coordinator x113

CHURCH LIFE MINISTRY (212) 808-4460

www.RedeemerGetaways.com

Rev. Tim Pettit, Director x141
 Campus Crusade for Christ, Kirk Irwin (212) 659-3602
 Children's Ministry, Katherine Johnson x139
 citilights citilights@redeemer.com
 40 & Over Fellowship, Jan MacDougall 744-1472
 InterVarsity C. Fellowship, Tiffany Loomis (917) 532-2547
 Junior High Ministry, Peggy Lo peggyklo@hotmail.com
 Moms' Groups, Carole Kleinknecht 751-9822
 Pre-Marital Seminar Register, Church Receptionist x110
 Racial Unity Ministry, Peter Melamed 683-9373
 Reformed Univ. Fellowship, Vito Aiuto (917) 520-7554
 Sr. High Ministry, Cregan & Mindi Cooke (201) 792-6313
 Women in the Church chiling@sohopublishingco.com

SUNDAY SERVICE: MINISTRIES & OPERATIONS (212) 808-4460

Elaine Rollogas, Director x121
 East Side Directory
 East Side Coordinator, Cybele Silver x134
 Book Ministry, David Cook (917) 579-0141
 Communion AM, Danita Geltner Parker 227-0183
 Communion PM, Joe Yan (718) 763-2188
 Information Center, Elaine Rollogas 808-4460
 Ushers AM, Kevin McDonald 288-9611
 Ushers PM, Paul Buongiorno 845-6875
 Welcome Center AM, Eddie & Yoon Barker 838-5994
 Welcome Center PM, Greg Angeli (718) 238-3076
 West Side Directory
 West Side Coordinator, Brad Winslow x150
 Book Ministry, Stephanie Huang (917) 441-7551
 Communion Ministry, Ryan Hullinger (917) 493-5175
 Information Center
 Usher Ministry, Scott Hinzman 749-4055
 Welcome Center, Michelle Jennings michmcjen@aol.com

MARKETPLACE MINISTRIES (212) 808-4460

Katherine Leary, Director x132
 Academy of Christian Thought, Ron Choong 678-7971
 Business/Prof. Outreach (BPO), Cate Capozzi 477-5992
 Christian Legal Society, Andy Harfingler 345-0610
 Christian Medical Fellowship kjchou@pol.net
 Drama Min. Prayer Request Line: (718) 361-0330
 Int'l Arts Movement (IAM), Beth Mahaffey (718) 391-4529
 Redeemer Dance, Kate Ashby Franco 942-5348
 Wall Street Ministry, Rev. John Mason x155

DIACONATE (212) 808-4460

**If you are in need of practical help call the
 Diaconate Message Helpline: (212) 726-1334**

Andrea Clark, Director x146
 Honya Metroka, Associate Director x187
 Diane Morgan, Meals Ministry 580-0852
 Joanna Pickett, Hospital Visitation 223-8694

COUNSELING CENTER (212) 370-0475

Dr. Hannibal Silver, Director x130
 Counseling Center, Andrea Roche x131
 For information: counsel@redeemer.com
 Intake Referral Phone Line: 1-866-370-0475
 Career Direct Assessment, William Jin x198
 Men's Recovery Group, Dave Wanner (201) 653-3181

HOPE FOR NEW YORK (Mercy Ministries) (212) 808-4460

www.hfny.org
 Mike O'Neill, Executive Director x122
 For volunteer opportunities contact: joe@hfny.org
 Deborah Choi, Relief Coordinator x168
 Lisa Greaves Taylor, Admin Asst. x160
 Joe Ricci, Manager of Volunteer Opportunities x114
 Jeffrey Swanson, Bookkeeper x161

HOPE FOR NEW YORK (Sponsored Ministries)

All Angels, Mark Swanson 362-9300
 Angel Tree, Christina Ray Stanton 808-4460 x124
 Arukah Ministries arukahministries@hotmail.com
 Bethany Christian Services 714-3550
 Bowery Men, Ryan Myers 777-3424
 Chinese Christian Herald, Peter Ong 334-2033
 DeWitt Nursing Home, Elizabeth efschatz@hotmail.com
 Glory Zone Ministries, Dawn Hynes dhynes@metlife.com
 Graffiti, Jane Whang janewhang@hotmail.com
 Gifted Hands, Roy Chan goldenbears@hotmail.com
 His Toy Store, Joe Ricci joe@hfny.org
 Isaiah 58 AIDS Project, Ron Koustas (973) 693-5205
 Kids with a Promise, Jen jennifer.graham@tvguide.com
 Midtown Pregnancy Support Center 986-9767
 Major's Minors (Youth B'ball), A. Edward Major 683-3154
 Mothers Cooperative, Loretta Murin 864-6100 x124
 New Life of NYC, Nancy Martinez 780-5940
 New Life of Queens, Bill Tetreault (646) 824-7091
 New Song, Jeff White 749-6122
 NYC Rescue Mission, Anita Varn Hagen 226-6214 x32
 Operation Exodus-Inner City, Monica Bitar 251-0203
 Rachel's Joy, Susan Mirti-Fusco (718) 692-3801
 Reading Heroes, Stanley Park (718) 601-6801
 Renovation, Gina Kim ginajoykim@yahoo.com
 Russian Community Life Center (718) 714-6609
 St. Paul's GED fcinqueg@nightingale.org
 St. Paul's House, Albin Sadar 265-5433
 Teen Challenge, Andrew Hongo (917) 856-0316

THE PRAYER MINISTRIES (212) 808-4460

Rev. Tony Hinchliff, Director x143
 Corporate Prayer Renewal, Tony Hinchliff x143
 Sunday Prayer, Kari Reeves (917) 279-1245
 Women's Prayer & Fellowship (917) 453-5868
 Men's Prayer & Fellowship, David Lee 410-4557

SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY (212) 808-4460

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MEMBERSHIP (212) 808-4460

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 Helena Choo, Contributions x181

WORSHIP ARTS (212) 808-4460

Dr. Tom Jennings, Director x125
 Miriam Burns, East Side AM Service Director x126
 Luann Purcell, Arts Assistant x147

CLASSIFIED (212) 808-4460

To view or submit Classified ad go to: www.redeemer.com
 Instructions: x115

REDEEMER CHURCH PLANTING CENTER

Dr. Osni Ferreira, Director x124

City Missions Projects (212) 808-4460

Virginia Marion, Coordinator x120
 Community Activities, Sue Lee (646) 505-0382
 Education/Training, Angela Ren (917) 678-1043
 Perspectives on World Missions 316-0552
 Prayer, Ruth Titus 222-2446
 Public Relations, Alice Katherine Choi 984-4218
 Relationships, Elizabeth Hwang (917) 676-1314
 Short Term Missions, Anita Mann (718) 237-0510

Affiliated Local Congregations

Astoria Community Church (718) 721-3440
 Calvary @ Six x155
 Emmanuel Presbyterian Church 870-3185
 New Song Community Church, Harlem 749-6122
 Northshore Community Church, Long Isl. (516) 922-7322
 Redeemer Montclair, NJ (973) 233-0388
 Redeemer Presbyterian Church of NJ (201) 530-1591
 The Village Church 808-4460 x151
 Trinity Presbyterian Church, Rye, NY (914) 967-6247

Affiliated Congregations

Christ The King, Boston (617) 864-5464
 City Church of San Francisco (415) 346-6994
 Grace Church, Seattle (206) 709-4432
 Grace Church, Toronto (416) 214-1995
 Grace Church, Vancouver (604) 738-3537
 Grace Presbyterian Church, CA (650) 210-8413
 Harbor Pres., San Diego (619) 699-5950

Many of you who attend Redeemer may be wondering where the Bulletin Board at the back of the Sunday worship program has gone. In an effort to be good stewards of the funds budgeted for the annual costs of the Sunday worship programs, it was decided that printing the Bulletin Board "in-house" would be far more cost effective than paying our printer to produce them each week. By eliminating the costs of the Bulletin Board from the worship program print costs (around \$570 per week), Redeemer will be able to save approximately \$28,000 annually. Everyone who uses the Bulletin Board knows how important it is, so it certainly could not be eliminated. However, instead of being part of the Worship Program it is now avail-

able as a separate sheet. You can pick one up every Sunday from the information center or at one of the posters placed around each worship site.

Why this? Why now? Many of you desire the convenience of having the Bulletin Board as part of the Worship Program and would wonder how much of a benefit there could be by doing this. As some of you already know, this year has been uniquely challenging from a financial perspective for Redeemer. When you consider that Redeemer prints approximately 4,000 worship programs a week, and that the majority of them are thrown away after each service, it only seems proper that we provide a more cost conscious way of delivering this information to the congregation each week. By cop-

ing with this change, you are helping us be good stewards of our financial resources.

Remember that all the information you have come to expect from the Bulletin Board is still available each Sunday at all services at the Information Table and at poster locations around the worship sites. In addition to being available in print each Sunday, a Bulletin Board with identical info to the printed version is available 24/7 at: www.redeemer.com.

If you would like to keep the Ministry Directory information from the Bulletin Board permanently handy around the house/loft/apartment/condo/pup tent, remove and save the opposite page.

GOD IS IN CONTROL CONT. FROM PAGE 1

when the puppets in the puppet show asked them questions. The line for food seemed incredibly long, and yet there was always more than enough soda and pizza for second helpings. The break-dancer was amazing and practically the only thing that quieted the kids. The gift giving afterwards was a flurry of excitement and yet everyone that was in the program was taken care of.

And just when I thought that God had done all the necessary things, another speaker stepped up to the mike. This man had been in jail the year before. He had grown up in the neighborhood and had been a thief. While in jail he had asked the prison chaplain to make sure his daughter was called to be involved in Angel Tree. He wanted her to

receive a gift from the churches that sponsored the program, like Redeemer, and also wanted the church to deliver his message to her: that he loved her, missed her and wished her a Merry Christmas despite being unable to be with her that year.

He was out of jail now and had wanted to see what the Angel Tree project was all about. He came with his daughter and they were both not only volunteering as I was, but also encouraging parents to enlist their kids to go to camp and follow up with their neighborhood church if they were interested in more information. His daughter was a beautiful girl of 12, giving out pamphlets to all, helping with the soda distribution and also translating for parents on the camp program.

She wasn't fast, she stopped to talk to people, she wasn't able to do many things at once. And yet there was a joy in her face as she listened to her dad's testimony, and then later holding his hand to make sure people knew it was her dad and that she was his daughter.

God had not only taken care of the small things but He had taken care of the real needs of the people there, and he had taken care of my needs. He had taken care of this man's need, to see his daughter once again, to get a new start in life, to tell his neighborhood that he was sorry for what he had done, to let them know that there is another way to live life. In chaos, God had succeeded and he never went through the fastest line to get there.



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

BY DAVID BISGROVE

As many of you know, Redeemer is facing a unique challenge at this year-end. Despite the fact that the combined services are averaging 400-600 more in attendance per Sunday than last year, our giving has remained flat. The elders, trustees, and staff have taken prudent measures to protect Redeemer's finances going forward by approving a budget in 2003 that is 5% lower than that of 2002. After much agonizing, we were forced to make staff cuts, change some positions to half-time and cut other programs.

As always, Redeemer relies heavily on generous giving in November & December. To that end, we have made several resources available to our members and friends to help you consider how you might partner with us in 2002 & 2003 (available at: www.redeemer.com):

- * 4 Sermons from Tim Keller on "Your Money & Your Heart"
- * A 20 Day Devotional
- * Fellowship Group Study: "Kingdom, Mission & Money"
- * An Interactive Giving Chart
- * Online Pledge Card

We hope that you will take advantage of these resources as you prayerfully consider how you might contribute to Redeemer's mission.

If you are interested in giving part of your tithe and offering to Redeemer Presbyterian Church, there are many ways you can do that:

Place your checks/cash into the offering plates on Sundays.

Mail your checks (please don't send cash) to the church office. The address can be found on the inside cover of this newsletter.

You can donate stocks and mutual funds and other 'property' that often provide you with a double tax benefit (assuming the investment has appreciated and that you have held the stock for more than one year). By donating appreciated securities you avoid the capital gains tax faced when selling the stock, and the church pays NO capital gains tax when it sells the donated security. (For more information on this method see the section entitled "Donation of Stocks and Other Assets" on the website under the Stewardship section. You should

also check with a tax professional before initiating any transfer of securities. If you would like to donate stock you can initiate the transfer through your broker and request that the shares be transferred to:

Charles Schwab

Account Name:
Redeemer Presbyterian Church
Account Number: 7354-3138
DTC #: 0164
Please call or email if donating this type of gift, to receive a receipt. (david@redeemer.com or (212) 808-4460 x111)

If your bank has automated bill paying, you can set up Redeemer Presbyterian Church to receive electronically generated checks, allowing you an easier way to be systematic in your giving.

Remember, in order to receive the appropriate documentation you need for tax purposes from us your name and address must be clearly identifiable on your check.

Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration and have a great Christmas!!