

REDEEMER

R E P O R T

APRIL 2004

ON THE MOVE

BY DAVID BISGROVE

We are on the verge of moving our operations to new office space

In 1989 a few people gathered together with Tim Keller every Friday morning before work in cramped offices on East 56th Street to pray for a new church called Redeemer. It wasn't long before we outgrew those offices and new offices were leased at our current location of 271 Madison Avenue. As Redeemer approaches its 15th Anniversary in September we are once again on the verge of moving our operations to new office space. What follows below is an attempt to provide some basic

information about this move, and some suggestions on how you can assist the staff.

Why are we moving?

Redeemer currently rents approximately 15,000 square feet on five different floors at 271 Madison Avenue. As many of you know, the space is 'home' to Redeemer's approximately 60 employees. It also includes offices for Hope for New York, our Counseling Center, and our Church Planting Center. In other words,

almost everything that doesn't happen on Sundays happens in those 15,000 square feet the rest of the week. With our current lease expiring in September we are faced with the option of either expanding into additional floors in our current location, or looking for another location. After studying our projected staffing requirements we realized that if we were to stay at our current location we would have to further 'fragment' our staff across additional floors. This less than ideal working

(continued on page 3)

NEW OPTOMETRISTS GROUP FOUNDED

Development of new ministries ... integrating profession and mission

Redeemer's Center for Faith and Work is excited to be able to support the development of new ministries that have a common vision for integrating profession and mission. In the case of Fellowship of Christian Optometrists (FCO) the mission is very specific. They seek to combine optometric skills with mission both in the workplace and around the world. While FCO is an established national organization with student chapters in optometry schools across the nation, there has never before been a local chapter

of graduated professionals.

Alice Chen and Kelly Ludden were active in the student chapter of FCO while at SUNY, College of Optometry. They even did a short term missions trip to Oaxaca, Mexico, and established an excellent relationship with the missionaries and people there. When they graduated and went out on their own, they wanted to continue with mission as optometrists. Without community and accountability, it would be hard to do so as individuals.

The idea of forming a local chapter of FCO in Metro New York (MNY) was the solution. In light of the church's commitment to support a movement of the gospel in the city beyond the "walls" of our church, Alice approached Redeemer to ask for support in launching this group. The FCO-MNY will meet for monthly fellowship, be involved in local and overseas mission, and mentor students at SUNY-FCO. For more information, please email achen125@yahoo.com.



INSIDE:

- **JAZZ OPEN FORUM:** "OUR LOVE IS HERE TO STAY" • **EASTER SACRIFICIAL OFFERING**
- **Q&A ONLINE:** LISTEN TO TIM KELLER ANSWER TOUGH QUESTIONS ON-LINE

BOTH SIDES NOW

BY: MARK HORTON

Some of you, at least those who are as old as I am, can recall Joni Mitchell's song "Both Sides Now" in which she sang of her disillusionment upon seeing the other side of things she once considered delightful. Poor Joni. My experience has been quite different. Seeing "Both Sides Now" as it relates to volunteering has greatly increased my appreciation for the people who work to serve our congregation.

A few years ago Sara Edwards (now Hinzman) asked me if I would be willing to help out on her usher team at the West side evening service. I thought at least it would be worth seeing what it was like to serve as an usher, so I joined.

I was delighted by the experience I had. Once a month our team gathered at the church one-half hour before the service began in order to pray and then set up for the evening. Through the months that I served as an usher I developed a deep appreciation for the other members of the team. I was also impressed by the realization that our team was, in effect, a small model of the community of believers. We were quite diverse in age, economic status, careers, ethnic backgrounds and other areas, but we were united in our common status as citizens of God's kingdom and in our effort to serve Christ by serving others.

Participating on the team gave me an opportunity to get to know

people whom I otherwise might not have met. Because of the size of Redeemer's congregations, in many cases I did not see my "co-ushers" until the next time we served together. Not surprisingly, that seemed to increase my desire to get to church early in order to see them on the Sundays when we did serve.

During the Christmas season the Sunday Service Ministries staff profusely expressed their thanks for the help we had given, and gave each of us a "thank you for serving" gift. I was pleasantly surprised. For me, getting to know the other team members was enjoyable enough. This extra gift was almost like gilding the lily. I admit that I was a little bit perplexed. I could not quite figure out why the staff would be expressing so much appreciation for what seemed to be such a small time commitment. Our team served only a couple of hours each month, so what was the big deal? I figured the staff was just being nice.

In the fall of 2003, I joined Redeemer as a part-time staff member in order to work with Elaine Rollogas to coordinate volunteers at the East side services. Thus began my experience of seeing both sides of volunteering.

In my new position I am experiencing the joy of getting to know even more people in our congregation, as I expected. An unexpected benefit dawned on me, though, as we changed

our service schedules – I slowly realized that the staff wasn't "just being nice" when they expressed their gratitude for the help our volunteers give. Elaine's comment to me, "You cannot overestimate the value of our volunteers" really is true.

When I first began working as Volunteers Manager for the east side services, it was tempting to look only at the need for more and more people to help with our ever-increasing attendance. But as I worked with the different teams each week, I began to share more deeply the staff's thankfulness for the people who are so faithful in helping each Sunday.

Perhaps it's because I now have the advantage of seeing how our volunteer teams serve each week, rather than just seeing it on a once-a-month basis, that I have gained a much deeper appreciation for the commitment our teams make to serving the church – welcoming visitors and newcomers at the Welcome Center, answering questions and giving directions at the Information Center, assisting people who are looking for solid Christian literature at the Book Table ministry, serving Communion and, of course, helping people find seating at each service.

Our need for volunteers continues to grow. But, looking at "both sides now," I see how the value of our volunteers continues to grow as well.

REDEEMER REPORT

Kathy Keller

Rebecca Lock

Fred Liedtke

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) www.redeemer.com

HUNTER COLLEGE AUDITORIUM
East 69TH (Between Park & Lexington)
services at 10:30AM • 5:45PM

ETHICAL CULTURE
West 64TH and CPW
service at 9:15AM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Corner of West 79TH and Broadway
service at 7:00PM

environment, combined with a relatively soft (by New York City standards) commercial real estate market provided the impetus to take a serious look at new space.

What kind of space are we looking for?

Entering the NYC commercial real estate market is like traveling to a foreign country - it has a language and culture all its own. And given that there is no one on staff who is indigenous to that culture, we are fortunate to have an individual in our congregation who has helped us navigate the landscape. Kevin Kirn, a Redeemer member with 15 years of experience in the commercial real estate market, has assembled a team of highly professional brokers and architects that have been meeting together for months. From the beginning we have been praying and looking for space that meets four essential elements:

1. Midtown Manhattan – Given that Redeemer doesn't currently own worship facilities, we believe it is important to stay in midtown to provide the best access to as many people as possible.

2. Consolidation – As mentioned above, our current office space is highly fragmented and provides limited interaction among staff. Moving to space that can accommodate all of Redeemer's office activity on one floor would provide better opportunities for staff interaction – increasing our sense of shared ownership of the vision, as well as increased efficiency and synergy in our daily tasks.

3. Conferences/Training – As Redeemer has grown, so has our

need for non-Sunday space for training, conferences, and seminars. Our current office location has one relatively small conference room, meaning that if we want to hold more than one meeting on a given day or evening, or if we have groups larger than 35, we must rent outside space.

Therefore, we decided that it would be ideal to find space that not only accommodates current and projected staffing needs, but mid-sized meetings as well. This would expand the sense of ownership of the space beyond our staff to those who attend seminars, classes, and smaller social gatherings.

4. Cost – And of course, we wanted to find space that would fit within our financial parameters and represented a good deal over a long period (10 years) of time.

In other words, this decision was one of stewardship. The biblical understanding of stewardship means constantly holding together two seemingly paradoxical ideas. On the one hand everything we have is on loan - it all belongs to God (1 Timothy 6:7). And yet, God has given us the responsibility to care for and "bear fruit" with his world as if it were our own (Genesis 1:26-30).

That means that for all of us who care about Redeemer, this move is more than a change of address. It is an opportunity to be good stewards of our staff (consolidation), congregation (conference facility), and funds (cost).

So where are we in the process?

At the time of this printing, we were in the final stages of negotiating a lease that will meet all

four of the above criteria. We have identified approximately 23,000 square feet in midtown Manhattan.

- On one floor that we will be able to design from scratch.
- With room enough for conferences /seminars for up to 100 people.
- At a cost that is likely to be below market rate.

How can you help?

1. Please pray that we are able to move forward with the lease, and that we stay on schedule for our move in September.

2. Please pray that we will be able to meet the substantial financial obligations of this move without hampering our ongoing operating budget. Remember, Redeemer's 2004 budgeted income is \$125,000/week. Through February, we were approximately \$60,000 behind in that projection.

3. Please contact me (david@redeemer.com) if you have any suggestions or contacts that might facilitate the logistics or cost of the move (especially if you have contacts in the field of office furnishings, interior contracting, carpet, paint, etc.)

I was fortunate enough to be part of that group in 1989 that met on Friday mornings in that small suite of offices. Like many of you, I am both humbled and in awe of what God has done over the last fifteen years through His church.

Thank you for your ongoing participation in that mission.

NOMINATE DEACONS AND DEACONESSES

The Diaconate will be receiving nominations for deacon and deaconess during the month of May. We are currently projecting that our numbers will drop too low if we don't receive a large number of nominations this year. We need your help. Please consider friends and leaders you know who are discerning listeners, care for the suffering, relate well with people, and are spiritually and emotionally mature. All nominees must be official members of Redeemer* and must have been Christians for at least 3 years.

How can I nominate someone?
If you are a member, you will be

receiving a nomination packet at the end of April. Only members can nominate other members to these offices. Members may not nominate themselves. Please prayerfully consider and submit your nominations to Andrea Mungo at the church office - by fax (212-808-4465) or mail (the form must be signed.) Nomination forms can be obtained over the web at www.redeemer.com or by emailing Andrea@redeemer.com. Questions? Call Andrea at 212-808-4460 ext. 146. The deadline is May 31, 2004.

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly

love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. (Romans 12:9-13)

* A nominee must be a member of Redeemer for at least one year OR a regular Redeemer attendee who has been committed to Redeemer as their primary place of worship for at least two years and a member for at least six months.

JAZZ OPEN FORUM:

"OUR LOVE IS HERE TO STAY: MARRIAGE IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM"

Concert and Lecture – 7:00 PM, Sunday, April 28th, 2004

Theatre 315 (315 West 47th Street - just west of 8th Avenue)

Lecture – by Dr. Timothy Keller

Reserve tickets online at Redeemer.com (limited seating)

Q&A ONLINE

LISTEN TO TIM KELLER ANSWER TOUGH QUESTIONS ON-LINE

Did you know that you can now listen to Tim Keller's Q&A online? In the early days of Redeemer, Tim Keller held Q&A sessions after most worship services, fielding questions on a wide variety of topics. Go to the home page of www.redeemer.com and click on the link "Q&A with Tim Keller." Additional Q&A will be added regularly.

On-line sermons:

On May 1st, Redeemer sermons will be available through a new easier to use on-line store.

Download and stream a greater variety of complimentary sermons relating to Redeemer's core values, use improved search features, and browse sermons by topic. In addition to MP3s and cassettes, we will now offer sermon subscriptions on CD starting May 1st.

THE EASTER SACRIFICIAL OFFERING

Sunday, April 11th, 2004

Once a year Redeemer receives a special offering for our Mercy Ministry, Hope for New York (HFNY).

This offering is used by HFNY to support faith-based organizations throughout New York City who are serving the poor. Last year, the offering was used to:

- **Provide employment and life skills materials for the homeless**
- **Support a mentoring program for Chinese youth**
- **Expand a Christ-centered art program**
- **Support the building of affordable housing**
- **Support after school and day camp programs in Harlem**
- **Support a career and learning center program for the homeless**
- **Mentor youth and at-risk youth**
- **Support a maternity home**
- **Provide Bible and ESL classes for Russian immigrants**

This is just a sampling of the projects supported by this special offering.

What makes HFNY unique, however, is that each of these programs is not only supported financially, but also by volunteers who sacrificially contribute thousands of hours of service each year.

These volunteers put their faith to work making the Gospel a powerful, living presence that touches thousands of lives in our city.

**Please pray about your sacrificial gift this Easter.
A special offering will be taken during all Easter Services.**

You may also mail a donation, making checks payable to Hope for New York, 271 Madison Avenue, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10016. You may also make a donation online by going to www.hfny.org/support

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

BUT DON'T KNOW HOW?

Hope for New York (Redeemer's Mercy Ministry) conducts volunteer orientations twice a month: every first Friday and third Sunday.

The Friday orientation takes place at 271 Madison Avenue located between 39th and 40th Streets, Suite 902. It is from 12:00 PM to 12:45 PM. Please feel free to bring your lunch.

The Sunday orientation takes place at Hunter College after the East Side AM service. It is located on the SW corner of Lexington and 68th Street in the West Building, Room 116. It is from 12:10 PM to 1:00 PM. To register for an orientation, please email volunteer@hfny.org or call (212) 808-4460 x168. To receive a monthly email that lists our current volunteer opportunities, please subscribe to monthlyupdate@hfny.org. For more information about HFNY or to make a tax-deductible donation, please go to www.hfny.org.



SEMINAR: "WHOSE MONEY IS IT?"

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN YOUR HEART AND YOUR MONEY"

This one-day seminar is part of a new ministry sponsored by Redeemer's Deaconate, Stewardship, and Counseling ministries. It is designed to help you apply the gospel to your finances - exploring how being financially faithful can help you become financially free!

Seminar - 6:00 PM, Sunday, April 4, 2004

Williams Club - 2nd Floor (39th Street between Park and Madison)

Cost: \$20 for early registration (includes a comprehensive, practical workbook) (Deadline is April 1st) \$25 after April 1st. Register now at www.redeemer.com. If you cannot attend the seminar but would like to learn more about how you can participate in this ministry, please email William Jin at william@redeemer.com

Registration is limited!

EASTER WEEKEND SERVICE SCHEDULE

Good Friday, April 9, 2004

5:00PM and **7:00PM** All Souls Unitarian Church, Lexington and 80th Street

Easter Sunday, April 11, 2004

9:00AM Ethical Culture Society, 64th Street & Central Park West

9:45AM and **11:30AM** Hunter College Auditorium, 69th Street between Park & Lexington Avenues

5:45PM (*usual time*) Hunter College Auditorium, 69th Street between Park & Lexington Avenues

7:00PM (*usual time*) First Baptist Church, West 79th & Broadway