

REDEEMER

R E P O R T

FEBRUARY 2007

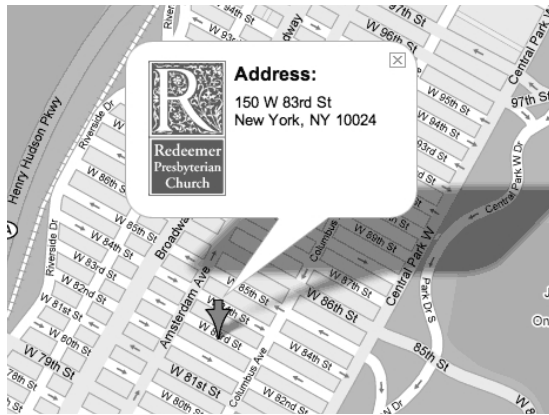
TOWN HALL REPORT

More than 2000 people gathered after services on Sunday, January 14th, at two Town Hall meetings to learn about Redeemer's newly purchased building. Town Halls, on both the east and west side, are one of the few ways we have to gather our congregation together to share progress on our vision, answer questions, and solicit volunteers for the next stage of our activity.

Thanks to the hard work of our Real Estate Committee our trustees, elders and staff (led by volunteer Chris Korsh), we have identified, evaluated, and negotiated a contract for a parking garage property at 150 West 83rd Street, between Columbus & Amsterdam. Over the next three years this four story parking garage will be transformed into a six-story community center/worship facility/ classroom space. Our existing west side morning and evening services will be moved to this new space which is centrally located in the heart of the Upper West Side (see map).

In addition, this new space will enable us to:

- dramatically expand mid-week classes, family and singles programs, arts and other CFW programs,
- develop programs that



serve the neighborhood, especially the economically disadvantaged,

- train and gather our church planters (and other leaders), both NYC-based and worldwide, and
- build community within the Redeemer congregation

The plan is to buy and build out this first facility through the generosity of both our east and west side congregations, and then look for similar space on the east side. Our vision is to have at least three community center/worship facilities by 2017. We will continue to rent the floor at 1359 Broadway for staff offices and meeting space at least through lease end in 2014.

As you can imagine, purchasing approximately 40,000 square feet in the Upper West Side is expensive. We have purchased the property for \$21.5M, and we estimate

construction costs, closing costs and design fees to be \$17.5M, for a total of \$39M. Based on the \$19M pledged during the 2005 Vision Campaign, we have allocated 50%, or up to \$9.5M to help pay for the building. In 2007 we hope to raise an additional \$9M - \$12M for the building from those who have joined the Redeemer community since the initial campaign as well as friends

of Redeemer outside NYC. Redeemer's plan is to take on a 30-year mortgage for the balance of \$17M - \$21M. Each dollar we raise now will lower our mortgage payment - allowing more money to be spent on ministry and reducing the debt load of the church, so that we are better positioned to purchase a second building.

One of the very positive aspects of this contract is that we do not close until the current tenant's lease expires in October 2007. This allows Redeemer to do much of the architectural design work in 2007 - without having to carry monthly mortgage payments for the building during our design phase.

During the next year we will be developing a shared vision for

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LIVING AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT AND A LEMONADE STAND

BY FAITH HUCKEL

While sitting across from Ezra one afternoon in early October at a cramped table at a Starbucks on the Upper West side, I realized I was not talking to your average 5 year-old boy. Ezra Crosby is the son of Redeemer pastor Scott and Ann-Marie Crosby, as well as big brother to sister Honor. At our meeting, Ezra talked casually about his summer, which was appropriately titled "Summer of NY" and included all of the fun and "touristy activities" that one never seems to get around to while living in the city.

I first heard about Ezra's Summer of NY when I received a phone call at the Hope for New York office from Anne-Marie asking when would be a good time to drop off the money he collected from his lemonade stand. Ezra requested that all of the proceeds from his lemonade stand go towards the Bowery Mission. A HFNY affiliate, the Bowery Mission is a Christian ministry operating since 1879. They provide compassionate care to homeless men, women and children. In addition to visiting the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State building, and walking across the Brooklyn Bridge, serving the poor seemed a logical inclusion for Ezra to the types of things that New Yorkers should want to do

for fun in their free time.

When I asked Ezra what prompted him to donate the money he replied, "I wanted people who don't have things to be able to buy things (pausing for a few seconds to think)...like TVs."

The lemonade stand displayed a sign with a description about the Bowery Mission. Each cup of



lemonade cost .50 cents and each purchase included a fresh-cut wedge of lemon on the edge of the cup and a cookie. Some people paid the suggested price. Others paid more (anywhere from \$3-\$15).

Two weeks after my interview, I received an email from Scott Crosby, Ezra's dad, asking for

concentrated prayer. Ezra was due to have double surgery on October 30th at Duke Medical Center in North Carolina—a partial splenectomy and the removal of his gall bladder. Ezra has a severe type of blood disorder called Congenital Hereditary Spherocytosis that has required frequent and regular blood transfusions since he was one month old. Scott and Anne-Marie have lost count, but they estimate that Ezra has received anywhere from 50-60 blood transfusions since his birth. Hopefully, the surgery would completely eliminate Ezra's need for transfusions.

For a child who enjoys the ordinary delights of most boys his age (TV, chocolate and Star Wars), it is undeniable to those who know Ezra that we all have witnessed something extraordinary in his courage and in his love for those in need. Ephesians 5:8 says, "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light..."

Today Ezra has recovered from his surgery and is doing miraculously well. He continues to spread his own unique light to everyone he meets, encouraging us all to live as children of light by thinking less of ourselves and more of our neighbors despite the difficulties of life.

REDEEMER REPORT

Kathy Keller
Carl de Prado
Heather Klein

The Redeemer Report is a publication of the Redeemer Presbyterian Church.

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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

THANK YOU AND FAREWELL

After more than nine years of faithful service, Andrea Mungo is resigning as Diaconate Director of our church. Anyone who has been touched by Andrea knows she is a great person with a compassionate spirit, and will be truly missed.

Since joining the Diaconate in June 1997, Andrea has been the guiding force of our Diaconate not only by her knowledge and leadership but also exemplifying gospel grace to our clients. She was the first person many of us encountered at RPC who illustrated for us what it looks like to combine word and deed in the passionate pursuit of mercy and justice to the glory of God. To meet a growing congregation's needs, Andrea expanded and augmented an already amazing ministry of service to those experiencing hardships and difficulties. Even after years of co-laboring with Andrea many of us continue to be in awe of the

Diaconate ministry at Redeemer. She leaves a legacy of mercy and wisdom to not only those seeking help from the Diaconate, but to the many officers she has served with over the years.

Starting in February Andrea will shift her focus to her growing family's needs. Her second child, Malcolm, will be born soon and will require extra care to overcome a heart condition. He is to join his parents, Buddy and Andrea, and his big sister, Simona. As we say good-bye to Andrea we invite you to join us in honoring her contribution and praying for her and her family.

Baby update and prayer requests from Andrea:

Malcolm is due to arrive around Feb. 1. His heart condition is called Tricuspid Atresia. This means that his tricuspid valve and right ventricle never developed. While in utero, he is fine and we expect a normal delivery. Unless

BY THE REDEEMER DIACONATE

he is miraculously healed before delivery, he will need his first surgery within the first week of his life. This will begin a series of three surgeries to create a permanent bypass for the blood to flow from the body directly to the lungs without going through the right ventricle. The second surgery will be sometime around six to nine months old and the last around two years of age.

Prayer requests:

For Malcolm: Normal, natural delivery, a peaceful first few days of his life with as much bonding with mom, dad and sister as possible, successful first surgery and a quick recovery and discharge to home as soon as possible.

For Buddy, Andrea and Simona: steadfast confidence and faith in our Lord as we walk through this time, patience, love and care towards each other, practical needs to be met as needed and joy throughout it all.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

People are sometimes not very motivated to read articles about such dull housekeeping subjects as money. There is another side to it, however, if you look at giving as a "symptom" of how the Holy Spirit has worked in our midst to bring glory to God. I am writing this brief article because I want you to know how the gospel has motivated those in the Redeemer community to give generously in 2006.

As most of you know, Redeemer receives well over 30% of its annual giving in the last month of the year. This year that meant we needed over \$1.7M in December to meet our stated goal of \$8.32M for the general fund. We are grateful that so many responded and that we were able to exceed our goal by

approximately \$121,000, making the annual giving for 2006 \$8.44M! Also, giving to the Vision Campaign through the end of 2006 was approximately \$9.16M, which is 48% of the total pledge of \$19.2M. Both of these figures are astounding, and we are so grateful to those who have invested in God's vision for our church.

In the Apostle Paul's second letter to the church in Corinth, he begins Chapter 8 with the statement— "*And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches.*" His reason for publicly celebrating the generosity of the Macedonian churches wasn't to embarrass the Corinthian church into giving more or to make the Macedonians

feel superior. His reason was to celebrate how the gospel had resulted in generosity among the churches in furthering the work of God's Kingdom. In fact in verse 9 he reminds them of their motivation for giving when he writes— "*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.*"

Please join me in celebrating God's work through his people's generous response, and pray that the staff and leaders will be good stewards of all that God has entrusted to us.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership with Redeemer Presbyterian Church.

BY DAVID BISGROVE



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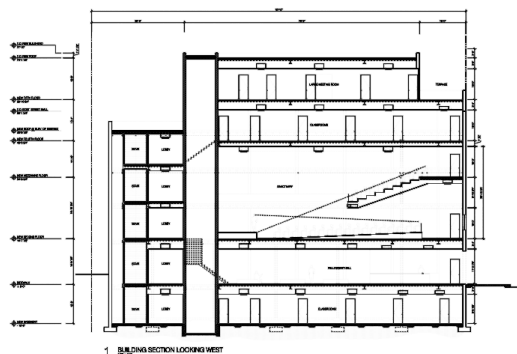
TOWN HALL REPORT

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this new space, within the constraints of budget and timeline. The dream list includes: great acoustics, aesthetically beautiful, multi-purpose, “green,” child friendly, neighborhood friendly, meeting and event spaces, classroom space, arts exhibition space, arts performance space, hang out space, kitchen space, dining space, recreation space, and meditation space. Our architects have done a “test fit” drawing during the property evaluation that would enable us to have a worship facility seating 900, plus some overflow seating (see diagram). Please pray that the Holy Spirit unify us to one mind (Colossians 3:12-14) when it comes to making the difficult decisions about what we can and cannot include on one finite parcel of property.

The other big news at the Town Hall was the announcement of a 5th worship service! Redeemer has been turning away 50-100 people each week at the 7:00PM service at the First Baptist Church for close to two years. Thanks to the generosity of the leaders at First Baptist, we have

been able to rent additional hours to add a 5:00 PM service there, beginning on March 18th. The congregation was asked to help support this growth by volunteering to meet the ushering, communion, welcome center, and children’s ministry needs of a 5th service. We will need an additional 113 volunteers to conduct the



5th service and to backfill positions at the other west side services. In addition, we asked that a core group of 200-300 people commit to attending the new 5:00 PM service for one year to help get it launched. If we can extrapolate from past history, we anticipate 500 people worshipping at that service regularly by March 2008. By the time we move into

the new building on the west side in 2010, we could be including 750 people from the west side morning service and 900 people from each of the west side evening services, for a total of 2550 people.

The 5th Service would not even be possible, but for the excellent preaching of Redeemer’s assistant pastors, the Rev. John Lin and the Rev. David Bisgrove.

They will continue to share the preaching load with Dr. Tim Keller, enabling Dr. Keller to preach four of the five services each week. John Lin and/or David Bisgrove will preach one of the five, rotating services so that they are at a different service each week. This pastoral leadership development is, in itself, supportive of Redeemer’s long-term vision.

For more information about the vision for permanent facilities at Redeemer, the vision for serving our city, and ways you can get involved, please look at our website www.redeemer.com. A video of the town hall is also downloadable from the web site. Redeemer will provide regular updates in this newsletter.