

OCTOBER 2014

THINKING FORWARD

BY TIM KELLER

I'm still thinking about the 25th anniversary of Redeemer's founding that we just celebrated a couple weeks ago. I want to share something I came across when sifting through old documents. It was in Redeemer's first Vision Campaign back in 1997, almost 10 years after Redeemer had started, that we realized the growth in our ministry was leading us down a road we wanted to avoid at all costs. Here's an excerpt from the 1997 Vision Campaign brochure:

Our Current path would make us just another "mega-church." This means:

- *We would become detached from any particular community. A church should reach new people and change lives through personal friendships and community service. With the mega-church model, most people would travel long distances to Redeemer services on the basis of our fame.*
- *We would become an increasingly passive body of people. People would attend Redeemer just to have their needs met instead of coming to be equipped as servant-leaders who are agents of healing, reconciliation and renewal in the city.*
- *We would be basing the church on the Senior Pastor. In the mega-church model, when the founding pastor re-*

tires another dynamic leader must be found for continuity. But the unity of the mega-church relies on disparate elements in the church granting the founder an influence that no one else is ever granted again. So eventually a mega-church diminishes, never becoming a lasting influence for good in the city.

We knew in 1997 that a mega-church was not what God intended for Redeemer to be, but rather a community of churches serving all across the city.

It's been a long and humbling road since then to 2012 when we congregationalized into three congregations dedicated
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DIACONATE OPEN HOUSE

Friday, November 14, 6:30 p.m.

Redeemer Church Office, 1359 Broadway, 4th floor

There will be a Diaconate Open House for you to meet a roomful of friendly deeks (our affectionate term for deacons and deaconesses). Come for an opportunity to hear more about what it is like to serve on the Diaconate from a panel of our deeks and to interact with them. Light refreshments served.

FOUR WAYS YOU CAN DO JUSTICE AND LOVE MERCY WITH HOPE FOR NEW YORK

Later this month, we'll celebrate Hope for New York Sunday, which is our annual event to show Redeemers how they can partner with Hope for New York to love and serve the poor and marginalized in our city.

On October 26 (and October 25 for those of you who attend the Downtown evening service), we'll highlight volunteer opportunities across HFNY's 40+ affiliates and show how you can invest in Hope for New York's work to continue our movement of mercy and justice.

In preparation, here are four ways you can "do justice and love mercy" (Micah 6:8) with Hope for New York this month.

1. Check out the Learn, Watch, Read and Listen sections on our resources page for inspiration. In Luke 24:19, we're told that Jesus was mighty in word *and* deed — preaching the Gospel of salvation and restoration and showing

himself powerful to heal the sick and feed the hungry. As Christians, we are called to live a life of service and to care about justice for our poor and marginalized neighbors.

2. Use HFNY's snazzy new volunteer search filter to find volunteer opportunities. We're really excited for this new feature on HFNY's website, because it's easier than ever to find volunteer opportunities and sign up on the spot. Need a Sunday night activity for 6 people? *No problem.* Want to serve specifically in your neighborhood? *We've got you covered.* Looking for a way to serve with your kids? *Yep, we have those too.*

3. Prayerfully consider giving financially to God's work of renewal. Last year, through the giving of individuals like you, **HFNY distributed over \$1M in grants to 40+ organizations** serving

New York's poor and marginalized. Begin thinking about **how you can join HFNY** in helping provide mentoring for children, training programs for the homeless, medical care for those in need, shelter for trafficking victims, and more, through your sacrificial giving.

4. Exercise your prayer muscles with HFNY. As Redeemer focuses on prayer in the '14-'15 ministry season, we'd love to share the many ways you can join us in prayer. Offer prayer to clients who are homeless at **The Relief Bus** or join **Avail's** prayer committee to pray for clients who are facing unexpected pregnancies. You can also sign up to receive our prayer newsletter by emailing prayer@hfny.org. We'll send you specific ways you can pray for HFNY affiliates and the work they're doing to serve the needs of our city.

REDEEMER REPORT

The Redeemer Report is a publication of the Redeemer Presbyterian Church.
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Kathy Keller
Heather Klein

Hunter College Auditorium
E. 69th St.
(between Park & Lexington)
Services: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.

W83rd Ministry Center
150 W. 83rd St.
(between Columbus & Amsterdam)
Services: 9:30/11:30 a.m., 5 & 7 p.m.

Salvation Army Auditorium
120 W. 14th St.
(between 6th & 7th Aves.)
Services: 9:30 a.m. & 5 p.m.

KIDS AND COMMUNITY

BY BETHANY GRIFFITH

When one attends Redeemer it does not take long to hear the two words “community group.” CG’s at Redeemer are the place for one to be known and cared for. We believe at Redeemer that community is key to the Christian faith. In the same way that it is vital for adults to experience this rich community, there is another generation that is entering the doors of Redeemer week after week who need the same thing.

Children are a growing part of our congregations. Each week we have over 600 children enter our Sunday school classes at the different sites. In the last couple years the Children’s Ministry staff have been thinking about this question: “how can we create community for our kids?”

Every congregation has thought through this a little differently and has created some different programming and events that would help provide community for kids and families:

Dive Deep on the ES, Club 56 DT and WS, class gatherings, co-ops, and home Bible studies throughout the city have all been opportunities for kids in different age groups to begin

to experience community with other kids.

Last fall Redeemer West Side launched a new program called “Kids Community Group.” KCG is a midweek program designed to take kindergarten through fifth grade students deeper into God’s Word and create a place of



small group community for them. Every child involved in KCG is in a small group with 4-6 other kids their age and a small group leader. After a time of worship and Bible study in a larger group setting, they meet in their small groups for discussion and prayer.

It is amazing to see how even at a young age kids need that place of community. As friendships formed we watched kids begin to open up about questions they had about God, things they were thinking or struggles they were having. We watched kids begin to pray for one another and really begin

to care deeply for their peers. In addition to Wednesdays, kids began to want to get together outside of KCG and invite their friends from school in to this community. We watched kids who did not attend Redeemer or have Christian faith be intrigued by this community that was being built at KCG and wanting to be a part of it. We have watched our Sunday school ministry grow, as kids are excited to come to Sunday school and excited to bring their friends.

Gospel Community changes us and God uses it to show us more of himself and our need for him.

It is our prayer in Children’s Ministry that God would use this program as well as other programs in CM to grow these little New Yorkers in their knowledge and understanding of him — that it wouldn’t be a place of just friendship but a place of being changed by the Gospel.

We are excited and hopeful for another ministry year of KCG as well as other community building programs and events at all three congregations. To find out more about Children’s Ministry at any of the three congregations please visit redeemer.com.

MAKING ALL THINGS NEW: ANNOUNCING THE 2014 FAITH & WORK CONFERENCE

BY THE CENTER FOR FITH & WORK

Redeemer's Center for Faith & Work is excited to announce its 4th annual conference, *Making All Things New: Imagination & Innovation Required!*

Regardless of the type of work each of us is doing on a daily basis, the always-moving, never-ceasing nature of our city can make it difficult for us to see what is unseen and envision renewal for the very broken parts of our world. The imagination becomes critical in our ability to push against the brokenness we experience in our work, and there is no better anchor for our imagination than the gospel. When our imagina-

tions take root in the beauty and hope of the gospel, we can take part in the new work that the Spirit is doing, bringing innovation that renews our city.

To this end, we are particularly excited by this year's presenters, including David Brooks, Op-Ed columnist for the *New York Times*. Mr. Brooks is the author of *On Paradise Drive: How We Live Now (And Always Have) in the Future Tense* and *The Social Animal: The Hidden Sources of Love, Character, and Achievement*. He is currently a commentator on "The PBS Newshour," NPR's "All Things Considered" and NBC's "Meet the Press." Tim

Keller will launch the program on Friday evening, and a host of other distinguished presenters will follow.

We also want to highlight a new feature in this year's conference, which we think participants will really enjoy--our first Imagination & Innovation Expo(sition)! One entire floor will be set aside to experience what makes the new possible through interactive workshops, tastings, conversations, screenings, demos, and more! Come explore imaginative innovation in action.

Pricing increases on October 24! Register online today at www.cfwconference.com.

THINKING FORWARD... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

to serving three distinct neighborhoods. This road propelled us to be more dependent on God for his direction and his provision. It also painfully revealed a level of consumerism that had grown up in all of us. And now, with our three congregations thriving with a dedicated and empowered pastoral staff team and an active community of servant lay leaders, we are at a transition point of prayerfully asking God for his guidance for the future of Redeemer.

We know we want to continue being a generative church. The harvest is plentiful

(Matthew 9:37). It truly is. By generating new congregations, daughter churches and sites the gospel movement is furthered through a community of churches prayerfully sending resources and giving of themselves to support each other. But what does that look like in detail, five years from now? 10 years from now? Kathy and I have been reflecting on what this means for us as well. What is the most significant way she and I can be generative for the gospel movement in NY? What is the best way to develop the needed leadership for this com-

munity of churches?

These are all hard but good questions for us as a church and for Kathy and I to wrestle with in prayer. As we are praying about these things, please pray with us. We aren't going anywhere (until God calls us home), so strategically finding ways to support and train the next generation of leaders at Redeemer seems the best investment of our time. But both we, the leaders, and all of Redeemer's congregations need the concentrated, focused prayers of all of you. Please join us.

YOUR KEEN EYE NEEDED

BY JENNY CHANG

Do you know someone who is a great listener? And compassionate? And loves to pray for others? Don't miss the chance to encourage a Redeemer member with those gifts to serve our congregation through the Diaconate.

As a member of Redeemer one of your privileges is to contribute to the care and oversight of our church by nominating suitable candidates for elder, deacon and deaconess during the month of November. Redeemer counts on your keen eye to identify potential candidates and it is never too early to begin to look around and

pray for those you may want to nominate for these roles.

Given the growth of our three congregations, and the challenges before our church, both the Session and the Diaconate see a greater need for elders, deacons/deaconesses than ever before.

Here are some things to consider as you look for a fellow member to nominate.

Elder candidates must have been Christians for at least three years and a Redeemer member for at least one year. A minimum of three nominations is required. They must be men of character, able to equip

and care for people spiritually, know their way around the Bible and be able to teach it. They should be comfortable praying with people in need as well as good managers.

Deacon and deaconess candidates must have been Christians for at least three years and either have been a Redeemer member for at least one year or a Redeemer member for at least six months with committed regular attendance at Redeemer for at least two years. They should demonstrate a practical and caring spirit as well as being spiritually discerning,

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KNOW A GREAT NON-PROFIT? RECOMEND IT TO HOPE FOR NEW YORK!

Do you know of a great nonprofit that is serving the poor and marginalized of New York City? Hope for New York is looking for recommendations for new affiliates ... and welcome your ideas!

What's an affiliate? HFNY partners with over 40 local non-profits that are holistically and sustainably serving poor or marginalized populations across the city. We call these amazing partners our "affiliates," and we seek to strengthen them with volunteers, direct grants, and training and consulting so that they can continue their amazing work in our city. (Learn more about how we

support our affiliates).

If the majority of the answers to the below questions is "yes," please email newaffiliates@hfnyc.org with the organization's name, website, leadership, and brief description of the organization.

- Is the organization a 501c3 nonprofit that serves the poor and marginalized in NYC?
- Does the organization and its programs serve the whole person (spiritual, personal, social and economic well-being). If the organization is not faith-based, does the

organization allow for faith expression from volunteers?

- Does the organizations have active (and potential growth of) volunteer engagement?
- Would the organization's leadership value a partnership with HFNY?
- Is the organization/ program located in a geographic location that is accessible via public transportation?

We look forward to hearing your recommendations!



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FROM PEDALS TO PURPOSE: HFNY'S CHARITY BIKE RIDE RAISES \$125,000 FOR NEW YORKERS IN NEED

Later last month, over 80 HFNY supporters helped make our 12th Annual Charity Bike Ride the most successful ride to date.

This year, the average amount raised per Team HFNY member was the largest ever — close to \$1,000! An additional \$50,000 from an anonymous

donor helped Team HFNY raise a total of \$125,000 for the city's poor and marginalized.

This will allow HFNY to provide soup kitchen meals and food pantry groceries for the hungry and homeless, ESL and job-skills training for new immigrants, art therapy classes for the chronically ill, mentor-

ing and college prep for at-risk teenagers, and so much more.

We're so thankful for those who responded to God's invitation to join him in the work of healing our city! You can see photos from training rides, our pre-Bike Ride pasta dinner, and the actual ride **on our Facebook page.**

YOUR KEEN EYE NEEDED... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 5)

above reproach, compassionate, emotionally and financially healthy and open to being used by the Lord in a challenging and rewarding ministry of mercy.

Calling: Calling is both inward and outward. A candidate should desire to serve and should be recognized by others as possessing the gifts and graces necessary for the task.

Character: Though no leader can expect to be perfect, he or she must be exemplary, modeling in a consistent way the character of Christ.

Competency: God calls elders, deacons and deaconesses to serve in distinct and varying ways. A candidate should evidence the inclination and ability to fulfill that particular biblical role.

Our church flourishes when there is a robust team of elders, deacons and deaconesses who are ready to joyfully serve our congregation.

We desire your partnership and are excited to see whom God brings to mind for you to nominate.

For more information, visit **redeemer.com/nominate**.