

## **A PROFILE OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF REDEEMER**

The Search Committee prayerful has sought to articulate a profile describing the qualities and experience hoped for in nominees for selection of Rector for the Episcopal Church of Redeemer, Greensboro, North Carolina. We have to identify areas that present special challenges and opportunities for work of God in this Parish. Finally, recognizing that there cannot be effective leadership without a supportive community of people to respond to a leader's call, we have expressed our vision for commitment of clergy and people of Redeemer to nurture and support the ministry of a Rector. The Rector will serve as the Ecclesiastical Authority, and Chief Pastor of the congregation. We envision the Rector as a wise, compassionate individual with a deep faith in the incarnate and risen Christ; a person with strong moral courage; an able listener, teacher and pastor with proven ability to nurture relationships with individuals having differing points of view and a willingness to be engaged energetically with the people of Redeemer. The Rector will be well served by a good sense of humor and humility, an appreciation of the vital work of dedicated volunteers, a consultative approach to making important decisions as well as an openness to the benefit of seeking periodic evaluative feedback that stands as a model of accountability in Christian ministry. We envision the Rector who through effective preaching, liturgy and other methods of leadership, to have the capacity to articulate the Good News to the world and the ability to articulate a vision that informs a prophetic ministry to the people of the Parish. The Rector should be comfortable exercising a very public ministry among persons in all walks of life, ranging from those who are without position and monetary resources to those in position of political power and influence. We envision the Rector as a person who celebrates diversity, who thrives as a member of a community that includes people from places very rural to those very urban and having different sexual orientations, cultural, racial and theological backgrounds, and who has a clear understanding of special challenges in developing ministries in a multicultural settings. We also envision a Rector that takes delight in gathering people, a person with a deep commitment and proven experience in building up the Body of Christ and will devote vision and energy toward strengthening our existing congregation. The Rector should

also have a proven dedication to sound principles of Christian stewardship with respect to financial resources, talents and legacy spaces and other treasures entrusted to churches by previous generations.

#### SOME AREAS OF SPECIAL CHALLENGE FOR A RECTOR

- \* Must have an understanding of the funding mechanism for support of the operating budget of the churches which depends on strong leadership.
- \* Must have a deep support for the element of the Parish Mission Statement: "We are committed to uplifting the kingdom of God, by spreading the gospel, increasing our spirituality, and assisting in the creation of a peaceful and harmonious world. We are faithful stewards through our thoughts, word and deeds."
- \* Most of our ambitions and aspirations depend of good leadership from lay as well as clergy.

The Episcopal Church of Redeemer is a Pastoral Church that is instilled in programs, doctrines, and policies in the Episcopal faith. These programs are designed to serve the diverse needs of our parish family. We are all in one, Christ Jesus. However, each of us comes to the church, the Body of Christ, seeking to fill different needs in our lives. The Episcopal Church of Redeemer looks to helping each in their spiritual journey. To do this, the Church has various groups and events that address their individual lives. Each of the members brings a variety of talents and gifts to share with others. This document is a reflection of those God-given gifts and talents that we have been given. The Church is about 100 members located in the city of Greensboro, North Carolina. The family of Redeemer finds its identity and unity in the worship of God, centering in the celebration of Holy Eucharist. In this sacrament, our Lord Jesus comes to the Church in a mysterious and real way to strengthen us for our work as Christians in the world. The following is a schedule of some programs in our parish:

- The 10:00 Service is a celebration of the Holy Eucharist with a sermon. It is either Rite I or Rite II. The children begin their service at this time and join the rest of the community at the offertory of the Eucharist. Thus, the full community comes together in worship.
- Weekday Services consist of the reading of Morning Prayer and Bible Study. Special services for Lent and Holy days are announced in the Trans-Script and in the weekly bulletin.

All who are baptized and admitted to communion in their own church are welcome to receive the Communion with the Redeemer Family.

**Holy Baptism** is full initiation into Christ's Body, the Church. Since it is the key sacrament, it is surrounded with preparation and ceremony in order to experience its great meaning.

### **Other Sacramental Rites of the Church**

- Confirmation
  - Holy Matrimony
  - Anointing of the Sick
  - Reconciliation of a Penitent
  - Burial of the Dead
  - Blessing at Communion
- Christian Education

The most important vehicle of our Christian education is worship through the progress of the church year, through the use of signs and symbols, through the celebration of words and ceremonies of the Book of Common Prayer, the Hymnal and the Book of Occasional Services, we are led into an experience of the, mystery of Jesus Christ.

### **Young Persons' Programs**

- Children's Chapel: This program is offered for all children and young persons from age three through Senior High.
- Confirmation Program: This program is offered for students in the ninth grade and above. It begins with a ceremony which enrolls the students as candidates for apostolic rite of Confirmation.

**Adult Programs:** The Sunday Sermon is the chief form of adult education in the parish. The purpose of the sermon is to relate God's word to daily life and world events.

- Adult Courses are offered on the Scriptures and other topic of interest throughout the year.
- Lenten Study occurs on Wednesday evenings in Holy Lent.

**Serving Together:** This parish can only live by the generous services of its members. The following groups depend upon the support of each other so that the mission of the parish might go on.

- Altar Guild: prepare for the services of the Church and cares for articles used in worship.
- Lay Readers: They officiate at worship according to the rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer and minister the chalice at Holy Eucharist.
- Lectors: are a group of men and women in the parish who read the Scripture lessons at Morning Prayers and the Holy Eucharist. Not vested, they symbolize the participation of each of the parish member.

- Acolytes: young men and women who are responsible for leading processions and assisting the priest at the celebration of Holy Eucharist.
- Ushers: men and women who are responsible for greeting all those who attend our service, for seating them and for assisting in progress to the Lord's Table for reception of the holy Communion.
- Church Choir: provides music for the 10:00 service and special holy services throughout the year. They are under the direction of the Organist/Choir Director. They rehearse at the Director's direction.
- Episcopal Church Women: are a vital force in the parish. Meeting periodically throughout the year, they come together for fellowship, learning and service.
- Men of Redeemer: no formal organization, but come together at various times to run a variety of social and service events in the parish family.
- Dancers of Redeemer: a group that performs at special events.
- Kitchen Committee: provide refreshments after service and other parish events.

**Giving Together:** It should not be a surprise that Redeemer needs money to provide for its ministry and programs and to maintain its physical properties. In order to be good stewards of all this, each year in the fall, the vestry prepares a proposed budget. This is followed by the Annual Stewardship Drive during which every household is asked to make a financial commitment (pledge) to the parish for the coming year. At the annual meeting of the parish, the final budget is presented to the parish. The budget of Redeemer was over \$143,000.00 in 2020. Redeemer has an endowment funds but attempts to live in a Christian manner using what we have and receive in the service of God's kingdom and God's world. We depend on the generous pledges of our members.

**Planning Together:** The Episcopal Church of Redeemer is a religious corporation which holds and maintains the building, properties and monies through "Rector, Wardens and Vestry." The entire parish meets in December. At that meeting, a Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Vestry members and the Treasurer are elected. In addition, other reports and business that comes before the church are heard.

The Vestry is the official governing body of the parish. It fulfills its duties according to the National Canon of the Episcopal Church in the United States of America, the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of North Carolina and the Bylaws of Redeemer. It is the chief form of representation in the on-going business of the church so its meetings are open to all. The

Rector is the chief presiding officer at the meetings.

**Communicating Together:** Communication is one of the most essential part of church parish, since the parish is also a family and a cell in the Body of Christ, Church, communication becomes ever more important. The service bulletin contains announcements of Church events and happenings. These are summarized in the verbal announcements after the “peace” in the service. In addition, other information is discussed at the Annual Meeting of the parish which is held in December. At this time, the budget is presented, officers and members of the Vestry are elected and other business comes before the parish. Special meetings of the parish are called as needed. Communication is also necessary between members and the parish at large. These matters are handled through the open invitation to any member to attend vestry meetings and express their views, through letters to the Rector, wardens and vestry and through informal talks with the above. Each person is encouraged to express their views on our common life together. The leadership and the response from the congregation to this matter seems to be a weak link. Backup persons to many key positions may also be a weak point. This point is overcome in the parish by many dedicated individuals.

**Together with Christ, The Lord and Savior:** The purpose of this Church is to be the hands and feet, the body of the risen Lord, in this world. The people of Redeemer recognize that the kind of effective leadership we envision cannot occur in a vacuum, but must be nurtured by and spring from the kind of love and support we seek in Christian community. Stated another way, a call for strong leadership implies an obligation to follow and support the vision of the leader. The members of Redeemer dedicate themselves to love, nurture and support of the individual who is selected as Rector.

Lucille Wooten

Karen Maye

Benny King

Inman Burford

Wesley Baldwin

