

Celebration to Honor Jim Boatwright January 11

While Jim Boatwright's last official Sunday as our Music Director is at the end of 2024, Redeemer will honor him with a gathering on Saturday, January 11 from 3:00 – 5:00pm. We will celebrate more than a decade of Jim leading us in worship and inspiring us through



music and the arts. We will celebrate how Jim has over



and over enriched our worship and brought us nearer to God. We will celebrate the gift Jim has been to us.

Light sweets will be provided so you don't need to bring anything. Well, that's not quite true: you need to bring your sense of humor because the Council has planned to honor Jim with a 'roast.' We will poke fun and laugh with Jim as we wish him farewell.

Be sure to join us on January 11!

New Council Officers Elected

In its December meeting, the Church Council elected new officers for 2025. The new president is Kai Jørgensen. Diane Hunt returns as vice-president, Donna Nunamaker returns as secretary, and Todd Anderson continues as our treasurer. These officers and all council members will be installed on Sunday, January 12, 2025.



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The body of Christ given...for you. The blood of Christ shed...for you.

Every now and then, I will see one of my Facebook friends post something about how

they are taking a break from Facebook for a while. They generally follow that up with comments about the amount of negativity and anger they encounter in so many posts they receive. It is so pervasive, it seems, that they need to get away from it for a while to renew a more positive outlook on life. Probably also a more positive outlook for others.

I guess it would be true that from time to time I see some of those angry and negative posts too, but for the most part, most of what I see can be uplifting and sometimes even inspiring. I have joked with people that someday I plan to write a book entitled "Bad Facebook Theology" because there's plenty of that. Sometimes these posts make me cringe.

However, earlier this year, I discovered that I can 'save' posts and rather than saving those bad theology posts I decided to save some that express good theology. Sometimes they call us to new and better faithfulness. Sometimes the ones I save remind us how Jesus came for the poor and outcast and call me to a

renewed understanding that that's who I should be for too. Sometimes they invite me to find God in unexpected places.

Recently, I was looking back through some of those saved posts, and I 're-found' this one. It said: How cool is it that the same God who created mountains and oceans and galaxies looked at you and thought the world needed one of you too."

How cool is it that the same God who created mountains and oceans and galaxies looked at you and thought the world needed one of you, too.



gifts that the world needs. You have something to offer this world that the world wouldn't be complete without. You were made to make a difference.

So maybe as we enter this new year, we can celebrate who we are. We can take note of the love we share with family and friends and

know that even in just that small way, we make a difference for them, and they were made to make that same kind of difference in us.

On the other hand, we need to hear our call to be intentional about making that difference in the world for those outcast, downtrodden, forgotten around us too. The world needs one of you for them too. The world needs the difference you can make. That person over there that might be easier to ignore needs the difference you can make. Each person needs the difference you can make.

This is the time of year we make resolutions: we will do this, or we will do that better. The thing is, most of our resolutions are things about ourselves. "I'll exercise more: I'll lose weight, etc." Have we thought about making resolutions that reach beyond ourselves and benefit others? "I'll be kinder, I'll volunteer..., I'll help...." You were made to make a difference. You were made special, with gifts only you can offer.

That Facebook post was a good reminder, and really good theology.

It's an amazing thought that God made each of us unique and that we are loved by God so much. How much?

The body of Christ is given...for you. The blood of Christ is shed...for you.

What a thought to begin a new year! That's how valuable you are to God, how unique and special. God loves you and thought that you have rare, uncommon

Saylor Russell	1/1
Veronica Imel	1/3
Eli Huffman Jr.	1/4
Margaret Larson	1/4
Gavin Small	1/5
Luc Vander Voort	1/5
Tia Vander Voort	1/5
Barbara Parker	1/8
Mary Lou Campbell	1/10
Elizabeth McKeown	1/10
Harrison Schultz	1/10
Holly May	1/11
Lewis Austin	1/12



Amy Gfell

Savannah Martin

Billy Ray Beasley Jr.

1/16

1/17

1/19

Brian Crooks	1/19
Marie Baughman	1/20
DottiHarbaugh	1/20
Bob Brunson	1/21
Carolyn Splittgerbe	er 1/21
Emily Anderson	1/23
Barrett Burgess	1/23
Kai Jørgensen	1/23
Betty Olsen	1/24
McKenzie Dowd	1/25
Lauren Willingham	n 1/26
De De Beasley	1/27
Judy Stuck	1/2



Coat Drive Update

Share the Warmth Coat Challenge has just surpassed our goal of 100 coats! As of last Sunday, Dec 15, we have received 107 coats, almost 100 caps numerous scarves and warm gloves. For a better perspective of just how much a warm coat means, do what I did last week. I went outside without a coat. It was very cold,



windy and even a little rainy. I almost hurried back inside. Instead I waited until I got very cold and wet. I needed to experience what some of our neighbors endure every day. The big difference is that

many of them have no warm place to go or a warm coat to wear. Try it! You won't like it either! It is a "really cool" experiment! Thanks to you, we are making a difference and will continue to do so! Our "Share the Warmth" challenge will continue until the last Sunday in January! So you still have plenty of time to warm the hearts of others! Thanks again for your help!

In Appreciation

Each month the Church Council recognizes and thanks those among us who have offered themselves to the work of the church in special ways. This month the council appreciated:

Those completing their terms on Church Council: Bill Newmyer, Carol Valovcin (in memory), and Linda Wells,

> This past year's Council Officers: **Bill Newmy**er, Diane Hunt, Donna Nunamaker, and Todd Anderson,

Martha Summer, Connie Davis, the youth, and many helpers who coordinated our Congregational Meal of Thanks,

Our **musicians and choir and our decorators** who added to our praise of God during the Christmas season, and to

Our **Altar Guild** for all their hard work facilitating our worship during Advent and Christmas.



Mutual Ministry Re-established

Our Church Constitution mandates several congregational committees: The officers constitute the Executive Committee, and we are supposed to have an Audit Committee, a Nominating Committee, and in the absence of a pastor a Call Committee. There is one more committee that the constitution calls for which has languished unfulfilled in the past few years: a Mutual Ministry Committee. The Council has taken steps to re=establish our Mutual Ministry Committee beginning in January2025.

The Mutual Ministry Committee has several functions and it serves as a means of communication for both the pastors and the congregation. There may be issues or con-



cerns in the congregation that need a safe venue for honest expression, and likewise, the pastors may need space to express concerns or needs as well. This committee seeks to be

that safe place where this can happen. Open, honest, caring conversation and resolution is sought to the benefit of both the congregation and the pastors.

Council isn't aware of any significant issues or problems that call for this committee at this time. Redeemer tends to be a very happy congregation. However, this is an important committee for us to have, so Council is putting it back in place. The plan in normal times calls for this committee to meet in the Spring, Fall, and Winter, and whenever issues arise.

Terms are two years and half the committee will rotate off each year. Each of the pastors can select two

members, and the Council chooses two members, and only one from all six is allowed to also be on Church Council. As this committee is re-established, the members will be Brian Crooks, Fauni Lowe (Council member), Bill Newmyer, Preston Smith, Yvonne Smith, and Linda Wells.

Souper Bowl of Caring to Benefit Blessing Box and

Seven Oaks Elem. Food Boxes

Redeemer youth will once again be collecting donations in soup pots for the "**Soup-er Bowl of**

Caring." Each week (1/26 through 2/9) you can place change in the soup pot of your pick to win the playoffs and Superbowl. All mon-



ey collected at Redeemer will be used for the Redeemer Blessing Box and to provide meal boxes for families in need at Seven Oaks Elementary School. This effort to support those who are hungry was started right here in Columbia back in 1990. The money collected stays in local communities to fight hunger and the amounts are reported to the nationwide organization. Since it's beginning Souper Bowl of Caring has collected almost \$200 million dollars in a grass-roots effort to fight hunger. The Redeemer Family is happy to continue supporting this effort and

Christmas Food Boxes Delivered

Thank you to all who contributed, shopped, packed, and delivered the Christmas food boxes



to Seven Oaks Elem School, a total of 14 families will enjoy a complete Christmas meal due to your generosity.



By the time you're reading this, Christmas Eve has happened, the presents all opened, the turkey (or ham, or roast beef, or Christmas tofu) has been eaten and the leftovers languishing forlornly in the back of the refrigerator. Family has, for better or worse, come and gone, discussions of when to take down the decorations are raging, not to mention the theologically-ladened issue of the removal of the Christmas Tree—before January 6?

But as I write this, it is a week and a half from Christmas Eve. Spirits are high, excitement is building, and anticipation, palpable.

Typically, I write a big thank you article about all those who had that integral part in our Christmas Eve Service, even though technically as I write this Christmas Eve hasn't happened. But I know our musicians will bring us joyous and meaningful music for this special occasion.

So, I'm going to go ahead and give them a big THANK YOU!!

Our brass musicians—the incomparable Mark Rapp, trumpet, Bailey Walker, our multi-talented bass scholar on trumpet, John Overcash, trombone. Additionally, this year we were delighted to have Bryce Eubanks, trombone, and Jacob Brooks, tuba, with us.



And a huge THANK YOU to our dynamo accompanist, Lois McLeod, who always makes us sound the best we can. Often, you'll hear musicians use the term "collaborative accompanist" referring to an accompanist who

more than plays the notes and rhythms joins the ensemble in making music together. Lois McLeod is, truly, one of the finest collaborative planists I've ever worked with.

Our talented Handbell Choir has provided beautiful and meaningful music throughout the whole year. A big thank you to all our ringers for their dedication, hard work, and talent.

And, of course, our talented and faithful **Adult Choir.** They faithfully lead our worship weekly, enhancing hymn-singing and liturgy. I deeply appreciate the hard work the choir offers to provide powerful, thoughtful, and beautiful anthems each week.

You have been

I want to tell all of you how much the last ten years (and three months!) have meant to Janet and me. To be a part of the music ministry here at Redeemer has been the high point of my career. So many of you have stepped up and stepped a blessing! forward as our music program has grown and developed. Redeemer is a special place, and the people of Redeemer are truly wonderful.

Choral Scholars Gala!



Join the Choral Scholars for an evening of your favorite songs from the 1960s as we present

Up, Up, And Away The 2025 Choral Scholars Gala January 25, 2025 Tickets are on sale!

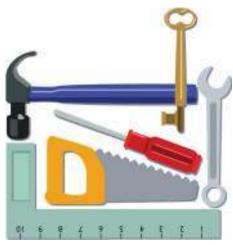


Leisure Timers Ready to Kick Off a New Year!

We have had another wonderful year of fun, good food, adventure and above all great fellowship! As we move into 2025, we are looking forward to another great year! If you are interested in visiting with us at any of our monthly meetings or adventures, watch the Crossroads, the "eNewsletter," and our "Go and Serves" for details! We meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month. We have lunch at 12:00 then a short program. We may be the "Older" folks of Redeemer (55 and over), but we still enjoy having a great time! If you have questions, give Connie Davis a call (803)356-0560 or email, Conniedavis@sc.rr.com Hope to see you there!



Property Action Team Continues Addressing Property Needs



A couple of years ago, the Council created the Property Assessment Team to look at the maintenance and improvement needs of our campus and make recommendations for how to address those needs. Steve Summer chaired this Team, and as things went along, pretty quickly it changed into the Property Action Team: tasked with implementing those needed repairs and upgrades.

Much has happened. Carpet in the sanctuary was repaired, floors in the old Preschool were updated, broken drywall corners were repaired, a person to help schedule and be here when repairs are made by outside vendors was hired, refrigerators and ice makers were repaired and serviced, the front of the building was relandscaped, new wood chips were placed in the playground, rooms were cleaned up and repurposed, painting was done, and on and on.

As we begin 2025, Steve is stepping aside and Mike Parker will now be chairing

that Team. If you are aware of something our property needs, please speak to Mike or any member of the Team. Team members are Mike Parker, Marie Newmyer, Kevin Burke, Herb McKinney, and Greg Cross.

Thank You!

Another wonderful year has passed, and I would like to again thank you so much for all your generosity at Christmas and throughout the year. I cannot believe another wonderful year has passed being at Redeemer. I am looking forward to another great year. Have a Blessed and Merry Christmas.

Dear Redeemer Church Family,

I can't express enough my gratitude and appreciation for



Yvonne

accepting and welcoming me into your church family. This job has been a blessing to me in so many ways.

I couldn't have found a more supportive team to work with. Just saying thank you for the Christmas Gift isn't enough. Please know I'm very thankful and grateful for everyone's generosity and it's most appreciative. I'm looking forward to a great new year with all of you. Wishing everyone a Blessed Christmas! Judy

Thank you all for your generous Christmas gift. It's been such a joy and journey the last ten years, and you all have been kind, generous, loving, accepting, and beautiful. As Janet and I begin this new journey, we appreciate that there will be unexpected twists and turns. But we are sure of one thing: we plan on traveling and visiting our children and grandchild, Penny. Your kind gift will give us some extra spending money for some nice meals and other little luxuries. And don't be a bit surprised if one little Miss Penny might just get an extra gift or two from Mama J and Daddy Jim. Thank you all so very much—for everything! Jim and Janet Boatwright

Thank you so much for all the many, kind and thoughtful expressions of love to Nan and me over the Christmas Season. Your generosity was overwhelming and your care for us means so much. Over and over visitors to the church comment on what a warm and caring congregation this is, and we so appreciate each of you and being a part of what God is doing here. Thank you, and may God bless you in the new year. Pastor Gary Redeemer Family,



I am so grateful to be a part of such a loving, caring, and generous congregation. Thank you for the Christmas gifts and the multitude of blessings during this year. Thank you for loving me and my family so well.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Amanda

The Shape of Church Council Meetings

You may never have known it, but when the Church Council meets, the meeting takes the form and meaning that lies behind our Sunday worship.

• The meeting begins by lighting a Christ Candle on the table to remind us throughout the



the table to remind us throughout the meeting that we are gathered around and because of Christ as we meet.

• Then the meeting opens with the Apostolic Greeting: "The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all." "And also with you."

• After that, it's time for reports/ celebrations of God's work among us.

• This is followed by what we call the Pastor's Point: a time of devotions. Typically, the pastor asks a question for them to discuss: something like: Where have

you seen God active in our church recently? or, If you met someone who asked you why you go to this church, how would you answer?

- This Pastor's point closes with some sort of affirmation of faith: the creed or part of a hymn or scripture that relates to the question I just asked them.
- Then it's time for Old and New business which we understand as envisioning God's work among us and how we can be part of it.
- After that, we close the meeting with prayer, bringing it all into focus and asking God to help and guide us in being part of God's plan.
- At the end of the meeting, we share the Peace with one another and go home.



Council Wraps Up Year; Elects Officers

It was nice to resume a long-standing tradition after the December meeting of the Church Council. Until the pandemic, the Council cele-

brated the year by going out to eat together following the last meeting of the year, and that was able to happen this year. Before the celebration, however, Council acted in several ways.

Firs they heard reports from the Pastors and our Treasurer. Then the Council expressed appreciation to several individuals and groups for their work on behalf of our congregation (see page 3).

Pastor Gary reported that Karl Thompson would be taking on the role of our building manager to help oversee repairs and maintenance. Karl has extensive experience doing this kind of thing, and already works at Seven Oaks Presbyterian in a similar role.

Pastor Gary also reported that the Search Team for a new Music Director was active and had already had one interview with a candidate and will have having two others in early January. Supply organists are being scheduled now.

The Council discussed details of the plans for Jim's retirement celebration/roast on January 11 from 3:00-5:00pm. Light desserts will be provided so the congregation doesn't have to bring anything and some other musicians from around the area Jim is associated with will be invited to join the festivities. Pastor Amanda will emcee the event.

In New business, the Council designated part of Pastor Gary's and Pastor Amanda's salaries as housing allowance, and set the date of January 12 for the Council Installation.

The new Council Officers are: Kai Jørgensen, president; Diane Hunt, vicepresident; Donna Nunamaker, secretary; and Todd Anderson, treasurer.

Finally, the Council designated how the congregation's Christmas gift to the staff would be allocated.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Kai Jørgensen.



- Karl Thompson hired as Building Manager
- Music Search Team at work interviewing
- Jim's retirement celebration plans: desserts and invited guests
- Housing Allowance designated
- New officers:

President: Kai Jørgensen,

Vice-president: Diane Hunt

Secretary: Donna Nunamaker

Treasurer: Todd Anderson.

 Staff Christmas gift designated

By the Numbers: November

	November YTD 2024	November YTD 2023	November YTD 2022
Total income	\$ 460,971	\$218,106	\$ 210,299
Total expenses	<u>\$ 487,297</u>	\$257,440	<u>\$ 310,404</u>
Income less expense	<u>\$ (26,326)</u>	<u>\$ (39,334)</u>	<u>\$ (100,105)</u>
	\$ 223,578	\$151,679	\$ 92,798
Attendance	100 on site, 87 online	100 on site, 77 online	94 on site, 117 online



When I went to seminary I felt like one of my primary textbooks should be a dictionary. There were so many long words that often had a much simpler meaning. There are also many concepts that I had to wrap my mind around as well. So, I figured we could look at these words and ideas together in a monthly newsletter article.



Let's look at Epiphany

Epiphany is one of the seasons in the church year and uses the color green. For Western Christians, Epiphany Day is on January 6th each year. We use this time to acknowledge

the Magi visiting Jesus as a child.

The word Epiphany itself can be used to describe a new idea or event that is particularly striking. It is also used to illustrate a new discovery or realization.

This pairing is incredibly meaningful. For the Magi, the Christ child was an Epiphany. The Magi were Gentiles from a faraway land. They didn't have the background or knowledge to be expectant of a Messiah. They recognized something meaningful was happening in the world. They were some of the very first people to worship the Christ Child. It wasn't the high priests in the temple. It wasn't the scribes and scholars. It was the Magi. It is significant that some of the first people to acknowledge the divinity of Jesus were from out in the world. Jesus came for all people. Not just those in that small community. Not just those who worshipped in a temple or synagogue. Jesus came for the reconciliation of all creation.

Blessings, Pastor Amanda



Women's Movie Night January 19

All Redeemer women, teens, and girls are invited to a movie night in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January 19, 2025 at 4:00 pm. The high school girls are hosting and will have refreshments. Ask Pastor Amanda or the youth about further details. We hope to see you there!

Home Communion Teams...

Home Communion Team! January is your month to take communion to the Redeemer Family's homebound members. Please refill your communion kits if needed. On the first or second Sunday this month place your kits on the altar to be blessed. Please check in with Pas-

tor Amanda to make sure that all our information is accurate. Thank you for your ministry!



If you are currently

part of the home communion team or are interested in being part of it we will have a Home Communion Team Meeting briefly after worship on Sunday, January 19, 2025 in the middle conference room. For more information contact Pastor Amanda, 803.465.3773.



Memorials Received September 11th 2024 thru December 22nd 2024 In Memory of:

Carol Valovcin

Kathleen Harrell **Diane Hunt** Allyn Bedenbaugh Charles & Jean Cook Marie & Michael Baughman Margaret Larson Andrew Peek David & Emily Abel Bob & Jane Long **Bonnie Berley** Wally & Alma Schultz Carol Champion Pawnee Shumpert Lynne Flood Phyllis Bray Fredrick & Barbara Parker Pat & Steve Blackwell **Connie & Hugh Davis** Trish Matthey **Charlotte Brooks**

David Abel

Connie & Hugh Davis Kathleen Harrell Bob & Jane Long Marie & Michael Baughman Pat Crosby Betty Olsen Mike & Barbara Parker Ethal Stillbower Carl & Edwyn Mahon Helen Morris Catherine & Barry Stutts Cindy Peek

Dave Rosdahl

Pat Crosby Eli Huffman Bob & Jane Long

Robert Gants Connie & Hugh Davis Bob & Jane Long Marie & Michael Baughman Trish Matthey

Honor Thomas McKinney Nancy McKinney Miriam Metze

Communication Cards

Each Sunday there is a communication card in your bulletin. It gives you the opportunity to let us know if anyone is visiting or if you were at worship. There is a space to list prayer concerns and update your contact information. At the bottom there is usually a question. Sometimes it asks about helping with worship. Other times it asks about an aspect

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of faith or community. We really do read all of those communication cards each week! We've found that our faith family has a lot of wisdom to share. Here is just a bit...

What wisdom would you share with someone in an earlier stage of life than you? Time goes so fast. Take time with those you love. Listen to

stories. Make happy memories. Make friends for a lifetime. Love others. Forgive. Care. Always try to be respectful, truthful, and friendly, but above all keep God in your life and heart. Make good choices. Follow your heart and your own dreams. Don't compare yourself to others. Be the best version of the person God made you to be. Allow yourself grace... and accept that grace.

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Middle School Retreat Grades 6-8 January 24-26 @Camp Kinard #EmbracetheShift <u>"Those Crazy Emotions!"</u>



We go through a lot of changes during our Middle School years. And our emotions are at the top of that list. We'll watch the movie "Inside Out 2," explore those emotions and learn how to process them in healthy ways.

Cost is \$105 (Family pays \$35, Redeemer pays \$70) Scholarships available! Talk with PAB. Registration is open!



Elementary School Retreat at Camp Kinard Grades 1-5 February 8-9 @Camp Kinard Join us for fun, fellowship and learning! LEGO AND LET GOD!

There will also be a track for parents, so come with your kids and learn from seasoned teachers.



Cost is \$105 (Family pays \$35, Redeemer pays \$70) Watch for registration soon! Calendar Always subject to change!

<u>Faith Launch</u> Littles-5th Grade Most Sundays, 8:45-9:30 am

Wednesday Night MS/HS Youth Group 6th-8th and 9th-12th grades Wednesday, Jan 8 and Feb 5, 2025 Redeemer Fellowship Hall, 6:00-8:00 pm

Trip to the Zoo (will be rescheduled!) Littles-5th grade and Parents Saturday, January 11, 2025 Meet at Redeemer 1:00-3:00 pm

<u>Confirmation Class</u> 7th-8th grades Sunday, Jan 12, Feb 2, Mar 2, 2025 1:00-4:00 pm

<u>Synod Family Ministry Workshop</u> Adults Sunday, January 12, 2025 6:00-8:00 pm @Christus Victor

<u>Wednesday Night HS Youth Group</u> 9th-12th grades Wednesday, January 15, 22, 29, 2025 Redeemer Fellowship Hall, 6:00-8:00 pm

Redeemer Women and Girl's Movie Night Adults and Youth MS+ Sunday, January 19, 2025 4:00-6:00 pm

South Carolina Middle School Retreat 6th-8th grades Friday, Jan 24-Sunday, Jan 26, 2025 Camp Kinard

South Carolina Elementary School Retreat 1st-5th grades Friday, Feb 8-Sunday, Feb 9, 2025 Camp Kinard

<u>Picnic in the Park</u> **Everyone! Sunday, March 23, 2025** Noon-2:00 pm @Irmo Community Park