



Growing in Christ, sharing God's love.

Community Connection

A Newsletter from **Church of the Redeemer Moravian Church**

November 2011

Rev. Jeff Van Orden, Pastor
www.redeemermoravian.org

Pastor's Corner:

In Yann Martel's novel, *Life of Pi*, Pi Patel, an amiable Indian teenager/zookeeper/philosopher finds himself marooned on a lifeboat with another survivor of a shipwreck, a 450-pound Bengal tiger named Richard Parker. They manage to last 227 days at sea, and the book is the fascinating account of that adventure.

It's also about Pi's religious journey. He insists that there is nothing inconsistent about being a Christian, a Hindu and a Muslim at the same time – a difficult notion to get your arms around to be sure – but on the other hand his words are often thought provoking and sometimes downright profound. His criticism of agnostics, for example, is classic.

"Doubt is useful for a while," he writes. "We must all pass through the garden of Gethsemane. If Christ played with doubt, so must we. If Christ spent an anguished night in prayer, if He burst out from the cross, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' then surely we are also permitted doubt. But we must move on. To choose doubt as a philosophy of life is akin to choosing immobility as a means of transportation."

If you are reading this newsletter, chances are you are not someone who has chosen doubt as a philosophy of life. We Christians are generally a pretty confident bunch. "Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away," we sing in one of the great hymns of our faith. And for most of us, it is the complete confidence we have in the powerful, transforming love of God that gives us the strength to deal with whatever life hands us.

Could we survive for 227 days in a 26-foot lifeboat with a Bengal tiger? Perhaps not. What Pi discovers is that he can't survive without the tiger. "It was not a question of him or me," he says, "but of him and me. We were, literally and figuratively, in the same boat ... because if he died I would be left alone with despair, a foe even more formidable than a tiger. Thank you, Richard Parker, for saving my life."

We stand at the end of another church year. By next month this time we will be decorating for Advent and knee-deep in preparation for Christmas. My prayer for our congregation, this month, is twofold: May we acknowledge our doubts and then move on; and may we remember that we are together in this lifeboat of ours – confident in God's love to be sure, but profoundly in need of one another.

Blessings,
Jeff Van Orden

Welcome to our newest member

Congratulations are in order to Paige Mariam Lute, the eldest daughter of Chris and Beth Lute, who confirmed her faith during worship on Sunday, October 2nd. If you have not already done so, extend her a warm welcome. And thank her for stretching her comfort zone two weeks later as a reader during worship.

Women's Sunday – Thanks!

On October 16th The Church of the Redeemer celebrated Women's Sunday, coinciding with the Mid-States Fall Women's Retreat. The service featured many examples of the contributions of women. Thanks to Joyce Garrett for her leadership and to the many others who participated in the service:

- Sermon: Claire Yoder
- Children's Message Beth Lute
- Presiding: Terrie Williams
- Reading: Jill McLoughlin
Paige Lute

Holy Conversations

In response to the 2010 Provincial Synod directive to discuss the ordination of gay and lesbian pastors in committed relationships, on Sunday, October 23rd we met, along with members of The Promise, for a 2-hour conversation focused on this important issue. We considered a number of questions, framed by the Human Sexuality Task Force of the Northern Province.

Each person came to the conversation prayerfully and there was an overwhelmingly positive reaction from those who participated. Many were also pleased to see leaders from the two Columbus-area Moravian congregations meeting together.

Friends of the Homeless – upcoming meeting.

Friends of the Homeless was founded in January 1983 to provide a wide range of services, including housing, to help homeless adults and families move from dependency to self-sufficiency.

The organization maintains six transitional housing units for families, apartments for 25 men, an emergency shelter with 130 beds for men and Rebecca's Place, an emergency shelter for women with 47 beds.

Friends also provides liaison programs for mental illness, legal consultation, chemical dependency, medical treatment, and a wide variety of employment services.

For more than 20 years, Church of the Redeemer Moravian Church members have been preparing and serving a hot meal to men at the East Main Street shelter on the fourth Saturday evening of each month throughout the year. It is the longest-standing local mission project of our congregation.

So, on **Sunday, November 6**, immediately following worship (roughly noon), there will be a meeting of Friends of the Homeless volunteers and potential volunteers. We will be discussing ways to enhance our involvement with this worthwhile organization, and ways to expand the number of folks who participate. Anyone with an interest in contributing in any way is invited.

Submissions for next month's newsletter
are due by the 25th of each month.
Please send to: redeemerdublin@yahoo.com

Church Council

Our annual Church Council will be held at the church on Sunday, November 13 at noon. **Please note the time change.** At that time, we will be receiving reports from various ministries in the church, voting on new members of the Joint Board, and considering the 2012 budget. Everyone who considers Church of the Redeemer their church home is encouraged to attend. All Communicate Members are eligible to vote on elections, the budget, and other motions.

On the agenda for this upcoming Church Council will be a modification of our By-Laws. The Joint Board is proposing to reduce the size of the Board of Elders and the Board of Trustees to six elected members on each Board – twelve in all – from the current size of eight members on each Board. If enacted, this change will be phased-in over two years. Please be advised that a vote on this proposed ammendment will be taken. If you would like an advance copy of the full wording of the resolution, copies are available in the church office.

Advent Decorating

In the past we have called it “decking the halls.” But whatever you call it, it’s a time when we once again join together as a church family to turn our sanctuary into a place of Advent Celebration. Whatever your favorite part of Advent is, find it on **Sunday, November 20**—after worship—when we once again deck the halls and hang the star, in preparation for the Advent Season!

COMMUNITY NEWS:

Alternative Gift Fair

Highlands Presbyterian Church, 6909 Smoky Row Road, will hold an Alternative Gift Fair on Sunday, November 6th from 11:30 to 3:00. There will be gifts for sale made by artisans from around the world. Your purchase helps artisans earn a living wage. The Global Gallery will have a large selection of gifts, as will Equal Exchange, an alternative trade source for coffee, tea, hot chocolate, dried fruit and nuts, and Partners for Just Trade, which sells goods from Peru. Alternative Gifts International has dozens of life-saving gifts available for you to purchase to help end suffering around the world. Other options include Heifer Project International, a source to give animals to families in dire poverty around the world. You will receive a card which can be sent to a relative or friend describing the gift as a donation in their honor.

Habitat For Humanity ReStore Coming Soon to West Columbus

In early 2012 Habitat for Humanity will be opening a second ReStore (a place to buy – and donate – home improvement materials) on the west side of Columbus.

Lots of donations of new and reusable materials are needed to help fill the new store with good items to sell to the public. Now's a great time to get your home or business cleared of excess goods, no longer wanted items, or things you may replace while changing the look of your own home.

Donations can be delivered to the existing ReStore at 3140 Westerville Road, Columbus, OH 43224. Habitat accepts donations of most home improvement items and home goods, as well as office, facilities, and garden materials.

Please help increase the donation of goods by spreading the word to your family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues.

Core Values

Following a series of discussions that have involved many members of our congregation, and in order to express what we believe to be the essence of our congregation and give visitors and seekers the opportunity to know who we are, the Church of the Redeemer Moravian Church is pleased to articulate the following Core Values:

The Church of the Redeemer Moravian Church is:

Committed to Growing in Christ

We believe in the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, the Word of God and prayer to make each of us more and more like Jesus Christ as we grow in Him.

Welcoming

A family-friendly congregation, we emphasize hospitality and fellowship in all that we do. We welcome people who are at all points along their faith journeys.

Devoted to Lifelong Learning

We believe that learning is a lifelong process and strive to provide opportunities for growth and development for young and old alike.

Joyful

Our worship is both upbeat and traditional, drawing on the Moravian Church's rich music and liturgical traditions, as well as the talents of our members, to praise God with instruments and voices.

Hands-On

We affirm the priesthood of all believers and recognize that involvement in the church means being good stewards of our time, talents and treasures.

Missional

Building upon the Moravian Church's rich missionary heritage, we support the church's ongoing work around the world and seek to find new ways to foster discipleship.

Outward Focused

We engage in our community and foster partnerships with other Christians to cooperatively reach out to spread the good news of God's love.

Compassionate

We appreciate the needs of our community and serve God by serving friends, neighbors and strangers alike in Jesus' name.

Call to the 2012 Synod of the Eastern District, Moravian Church

The Eastern District Synod will convene at Moravian College in Bethlehem from June 20 to 23, 2012. The vision of this synod is taken from the 84th Psalm, Blessed Are Those Who Dwell in Your House, Ever Singing Your Praise.

Acknowledging the commission of the 2010 Provincial Synod for each district to "establish time within the synod process for non-legislative, collaborative dialogue and prayerful discernment regarding the Christian service of homosexual persons," the District Board realizes that this 2012 Synod will be extraordinary in nature. Given this, the District Board has decided to invest in this synod's delegate representation by subsidizing two lay delegates for each congregation.

Accordingly, Redeemer will be eligible to send three lay delegates to this synod, in addition to the pastor. If you would like to be considered as a delegate, please let Church Council Secretary, Marci Hoffman, know of your interest. Delegates will be elected at our 2011 Church Council in November.

Also, a pre-synod "Discerning Circle" will be held on Saturday, November 19 in order to set the direction of our Eastern District ministry and mission. The Circle for this region will be at the Dover First Church in Dover, OH. All interested persons are encouraged to attend this session.

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Redeemer
Moravian Church
Community Connection

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Worship 10:30 am

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.REDEEMERMORAVIAN.ORG

Thanksgiving Food Boxes

The churches in our community are participating, together, in offering Thanksgiving food to needy families. The boxes will be delivered to Old First Presbyterian Church (south Columbus) for distribution to families in the church neighborhood.

Due: Sunday, November 23rd

Please, NO GLASS, NO PERISHABLES

Suggestions:

- Rice, Pasta, Noodles
- Stuffing
- All-Purpose Flour, Cornmeal
- Sugar (white, brown)
- Cooking oil (plastic bottle)
- Bisquick, Cornbread Mix
- Canned vegetables (yams, green beans, peas, corn, etc.)
- Pie Filling, Pie Crusts, Cake Mixes
- Canned Soups
- Jell-O and Pudding Mixes
- Canned meats

Highlands Presbyterian is coordinating the effort and will purchase turkeys. Potatoes and fresh vegetables can also be donated at the last minute to accompany each box/bag.

If you would like to help with this ministry, please sign up following worship or see Pastor Van Orden.

Thank you for reaching out to show GOD'S LOVE to local families in need!