



Redeemer Reporter

A different look for a different time in our life together

I suppose it is with some kind of irony that I found myself in the second chapter of Acts today. The second chapter begins, “When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.” Not the case for us.

We are in a time of social distance. Working to flatten the curve. It is not an easy time to be the church or be in community. We are having to find creative ways to gather together in a way that is safe for all involved and all whom we may come into contact with.

It is a perplexing time in more ways than one. Each day or even moment seems to bring more trials. At times I can find myself despondent at the outlook at what is ahead. But in those I am trying to turn the corner and instead of seeing the world before me as a challenge, I am looking at it as an opportunity. An opportunity to be together in new ways.

Just yesterday I was speaking with a colleague who used this turn of phrase: “I am reimagining the old in a new way.” Which brings me back to the second chapter of Acts. The second chapter is filled with change. It is

filled with newness. In verse 12 it states, “All were amazed and perplexed saying to one another, ‘what does this mean?’”

It is a great question and one I hope to hang onto through all of what lies ahead. What does this mean? I don’t know what answer I will come up with tomorrow, but today, at this moment I think it means we have an opportunity to be church together in new ways.

The context we are living in is not the same it was a month ago, or for that matter even two weeks ago and likely it will change even more as we continue on. But that doesn’t mean we can’t be church together. *Reimagining the old in a new way* has led to our experimenting with gathering on-line through our worship on Sundays at 11:30am and Wednesdays at 7pm.

In the coming weeks we will experiment with other gatherings. The church has a month-to-month account through the on-line conferencing tool: Zoom that will allow us to gather together while we maintain social distance.

What I find particularly interesting is that in the midst of these altering changes I had a conversation with a member of Redeemer who has been in the midst of reimagining her own new ways of being together. Nowella gave me permission to share her story.

Nowella grew up in a Pentecostal background. As she has continued on her journey of faith she is feeling drawn back into that community. She recently found a Pentecostal church that speaks her native language, Kinyarwanda. However, as she said, "Redeemer is my family. Redeemer is my home." And therefore while she will be attending a new church, she plans to come back to Redeemer from time to time. She told me, "I just can't leave." I applaud her for reimagining church in a new way.

I wish I had a crystal ball that would share what the future looks like. I wish I knew when we would gather for in-person worship again. But I don't... What I do know is that God is in the midst of this time, walking beside us, blowing around us, drawing us together as we feel – amazed and perplexed – challenged and despondent – hopeful and uplifted – God is in the midst of our opportunities to be together in new ways.

Peace, *Ken*

Outreach

Ministry of the Month

In April and May we will collect monetary donations for South Junior High. These monies go for low income student school fees for electives, activity cards, and supplies.

WWW Distribution:

The WWW distributed to 49 families in March. (1055 diapers. 147 rolls of toilet paper, 49 bottles of laundry detergent, and 49 bottles of body wash). Due COVID-19 the following precautions were taken. Tables were set up outside to hand out supplies, no sign in or identification was required, and people were served as they arrived to avoid any gathering.

We are so thankful for all who helped in this difficult time whether in purchasing, sorting, delivery or distribution. We will determine at a later date whether we are able to make an April distribution.

February Financials

	Feb. 2019 YTD	Feb. 2020 YTD	2020 YTD	Annual
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget
Income	\$24,027	\$30,131	\$30,932	\$185,600
Expenses	\$31,608	\$34,919	\$33,420	\$200,543
Net Gain (Loss)	(\$7,581)	(\$4,789)	(\$2,488)	(\$14,943)

Total Income for the month of February was under budget by over \$(1,400). The negative variance was mainly attributed to regular offering being under budget by about \$(1,400). Total Expenses were slightly under budget by about \$200. Total Net Loss for February of \$(2,477) was about double the monthly budget of \$(1,244). During these unprecedented times please keep a few things in mind when it comes to church finances. Since most of Redeemer's expenses are of the fixed variety (not variable but ongoing) there is still a compelling need to support the church financially at least at the same level of commitment or greater as during normal times. This is an obligation and commitment we should all make for the indefinite future. Please keep in mind the new monthly "Inviting Surprise" initiative which began in February to help out in this endeavor. Thank you for all you do for the Redeemer family.

Submitted by Larry Kidd, Redeemer Treasurer