

# Redeemer Presbyterian Church



Annual Report  
2025

## Contents

### *Foreword*

**01**

*A Season of Renewal*

By Eric Landry

---

### *Ministry*

**02**

*Christian Education*

By Jon Herr

**03**

*Children's Ministry*

By Carol Waller

**04**

*Music & Worship*

By Destin Wernicke

**05**

*The Session*

By Barry McBee

**06**

*Deacons*

By Chris Price

**07**

*Missions*

By Danny Morgan

**08**

*Small Groups*

By Susanna McBee

**09**

*Youth Group*

By Nate Esbenshade

---

### *Numbers*

**10**

*Fiscal Overview*

By Ken Kieley

**11**

*Membership*

By Redeemer Staff

**12**

*Highlights*

By Redeemer Staff





## *A Season of Renewal* | By Eric Landry

During a recent visit with one of our “seasoned saints,” we wept over the hardships she’s endured and rejoiced at the many blessings her family are to her. Then with tears in her eyes, she said with fierce determination, “I couldn’t have made it unless I knew God was sovereign.”

God’s sovereignty may not immediately convey warmth and encouragement but in seasons of distress, we need to be assured of the truth of one of the hymns we sing:

*Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,  
But trust him for his grace.  
Behind a frowning providence,  
He hides a smiling face.*

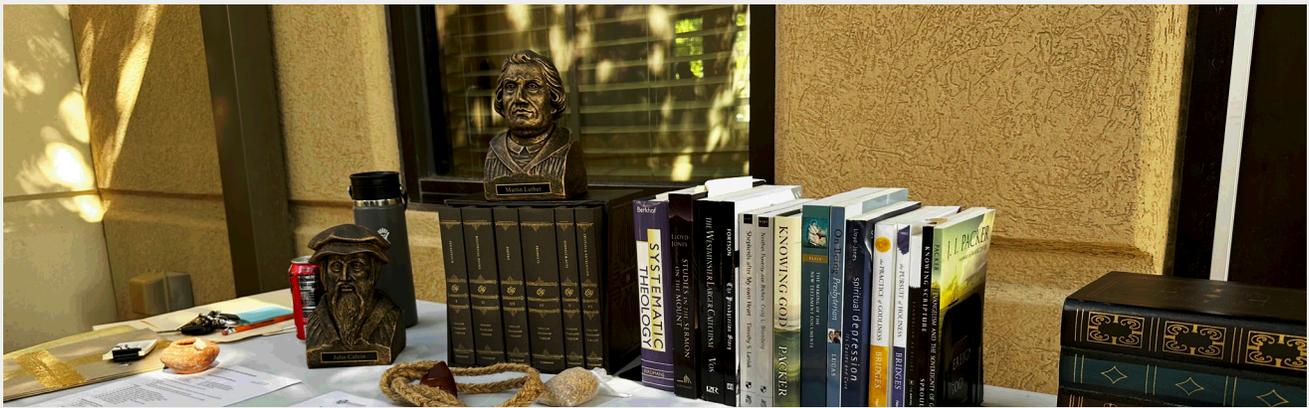
This verse from “God Moves in a Mysterious Way” reminds us that even when our focus is on the hardship, God is at work bringing about blessing. That has certainly been true at Redeemer.

Despite the challenges of the past year, we have seen significant growth and improvement in two key areas of ministry: women’s and youth ministry, strengthening our local body. Over the next year, we plan to see similar gains in men’s ministry. Like you, I was blessed by the Missions Fair, hosted by our Missions Committee. Not only was it beneficial to hear directly from our partners, but many of you took a step to bless the world by joining in their work. Thank you! As you’ll see in that section of this report, we will continue to emphasize our responsibility to love our neighbors.

At the heart of Redeemer’s life is the weekly, ordinary ministry of Word and Sacrament. Through it, God is at work changing us and the world. While we should be prepared to take big steps of faith when special opportunities arise, we should also take comfort in knowing God works in and through us in ordinary ways. My hope and prayer is for our next year of ministry to be ordinary. We have a full roster of ministry activities, a talented group of staff and volunteers, faithful elders and deacons, and resources to draw from as we enter into a season of renewal.

At the same time, this next season will also be marked by additional work on the church’s Vision, Mission, and Values. We will align our ministry activities around the path of discipleship we introduced: “Believe, Belong, Become, and Bless.” A special committee has also identified specific practices for our pastors, Session, and staff to ensure organizational health and spiritual vitality. We believe these important activities will help us grow more deeply in dependence on God.

Because God is sovereign, we can have confidence passing through challenging seasons that he will use even hardships for our good. Ancient Israel erected memorial stones to remember the mighty acts of God. May we also anticipate the joy of singing together at this time next year: “Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I’m come.” God is faithful. His promises are sure. That’s our confidence in every season of life.



## Christian Education | By Jon Herr

From a Christian Education standpoint, our 2024-2025 year was both productive and enriching. In August 2024, we hosted a ministry fair between services to showcase our ministries and to provide interaction between our congregation and leaders. We hosted a ministry fair again this August 2025 and plan to host them in coming years. Both were well received by our leaders and attenders alike.

On November 1 and 2, 2024, we oversaw our *30th Anniversary Redeemer Conference and Festival*, celebrating our three decades of ministry as a church. For the conference, Dr. Robert Godfrey spoke on the *Past, Present, and Future of Reformed Churches*. Redeemer member Grace Einkauf oversaw the festival planning, which featured activities for families, live music, a community dinner and panel featuring former Redeemer pastors and founding members. Attendance in both exceeded our expectations and provided fellowship for our congregation.

Between services, we continue to offer classes in our School of Discipleship (SoD) ministries for all ages. Our total attendance continues to serve 50% of our worshipping attenders. Our SoD class offerings are listed below by semester with teacher names in parenthesis.

- Fall 2024: *Jesus & the Apostles: A New Testament Survey* (Jon Herr), *Jesus and the Law of Israel* (Andrew Waller), *The Christian Life* (Marcus Serven), *Christian Counseling in the Local Church* (SR Mealer and Danny Morgan),
- Spring 2025: *Christian Apologetics* (Danny Morgan), *David's Scriptural Legacy* (Andrew Waller), *Knowing Christ and His Church* (Jon Herr)

- Summer 2025: *The Ministry of Elders* (co-taught by Redeemer Ruling Elders)
- Fall 2025: *The Holy Spirit & Spiritual Gifts* (Jon Herr), *Reflections on the Psalms* (Redeemer Elders), *The 'I Am' Sayings of Jesus* (Marcus Serven), *Intro to Redeemer* (Eric Landry)

During Sunday evenings at Redeemer, we continued providing a class for adults, in addition to our Youth and Children's Choir ministries. Our adult attendance ranges between 20-30 adults. In the Fall 2024, we discussed *The Fruit of the Spirit*. In Spring 2025, we discussed the *Book of Ephesians*, and in Fall 2025 we studied the nature of love from 1 Corinthians 13. Each class was led by Pastor Jon Herr, with Redeemer officers substituting as needed.

In September 2025, our longtime Children's Coordinator, Carol Waller, transitioned into retirement. We are grateful for her ministry in our church and for the Lord's provision of Caroline Stanley, our current Children's Coordinator. We are looking forward to seeing how the Lord uses her to bless Redeemer in the coming years.

Overall, I am pleased and humbled at the Lord's provision in our congregation. I am grateful to see an increased fervor for discipleship in our church and hope the Lord uses our Christian Education ministries to bless each of our households so that "the church can build itself up in love (Eph. 4:11-16)."



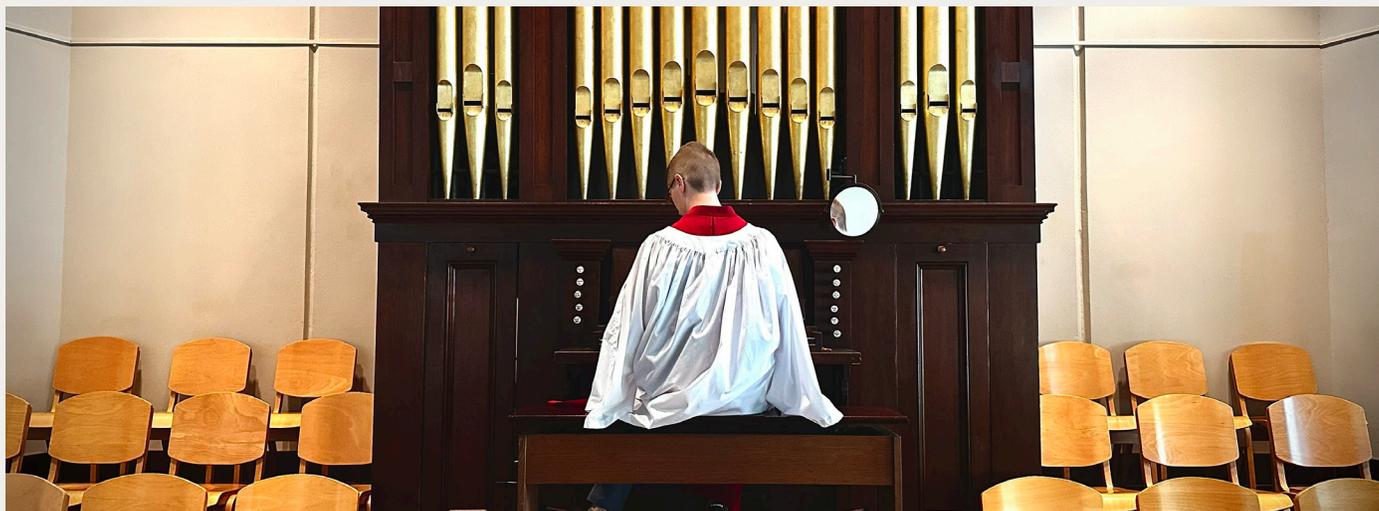
---

## *Children's Ministry* | By Carol Waller

On Sunday mornings, children age two through fifth grade are shepherded by our faithful volunteer teachers, who are forming relationships that model the love of Christ for their students. We currently use Bible-based, reformed curriculum with most of the children's School of Discipleship classes. Last spring, the third through sixth graders completed a two-year course on the Westminster Shorter Catechism. Starting this fall, the first and second graders are studying the children's First Catechism in class, taking time to develop their understanding of basic doctrine, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments. Parents are encouraged to engage with their younger children in catechism instruction, and we support them by providing opportunities for the kids to recite what they have learned to volunteer listeners twice each semester.

We are grateful for the ministry of Nursey Coordinator Lisal McDonald to our infants and toddlers. She faithfully provides all that is needed for a safe and nurturing environment for them, coordinating our agency workers and Redeemer volunteers.

As I make the transition to full retirement this fall, I am grateful to the Lord for the opportunity to serve at Redeemer in several roles over the years: publications, communications, music and worship, administration, and Christian education, with a focus in the past year on Children's Ministry. I'm glad to now be passing the reins on to capable people who will be a blessing to our church. As Caroline Stanley takes on the part-time role of Children's Ministry Coordinator, I'm excited to see her engagement with our volunteers and families take hold. I know our kids are in good hands!



## *Music & Worship* | By Destin Wernicke

As a new appointee to the role of Interim Director of Music, it has been an honor to serve as the organist and choir director at a church with a music program as rich and engaging as Redeemer's. I have worked diligently to learn the traditions and customs of Redeemer's worship. Specifically, I had a lot to learn about our hymn singing and liturgical flow, and I am thankful for the guidance I received from many of the church's leaders.

In addition to playing organ for Divine Services, I have been planning choral anthems, psalms, organ repertoire, and congregational hymns for every Sunday. I strive to choose musical elements for each service that reflect the message of the sermon and lectionary readings. Music should help us worship, not distract us from worship! When necessary, I have composed or arranged descants and introits for the choir to better support the worship service.

Working with the Redeemer Choir has been a joy; this group of musicians is attentive and adaptable, two traits that are rarely found in volunteer church choirs. I have rehearsed music from a wide range of genres with the choir, and

they take on challenges in stride. They have had to adapt to the choir director also being the accompanist by turning toward the organ bench and taking cues from my head nods rather than a conductor. Again, the level of flexibility and professionalism from the choir has been astounding.

In this past year, the Redeemer Choir has:

- Led worship music in nearly 100 Divine Services, including feast-day services on Ash Wednesday and Ascension
- Provided music for one wedding and one funeral
- Performed several choral anthems for Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols and Good Friday Service of Darkness
- Sung three Bach cantatas during the Advent Festival concert in collaboration with Philharmonie Austin and Arts on Alexander
- Hosted four choir potlucks, where members joined in fellowship to enjoy each other's cooking

In addition to their regular duties, the choir committed extra time to help call a new music director this year, a process which involved many hours of phone calls, organizing interviews, and discussing the future of the group's ministry. The group handled this difficult time of transition with grace and wisdom.

Anna Blauw Lipscomb has led the children's choir this year, teaching the kids excellent singing technique and musicality. After she goes on maternity leave in late November, Anna plans to return in spring to continue leading the choir. Anna also serves as the choir librarian, filling choir folders and reshelving music on a weekly basis. I am so thankful for all that she does to support the music ministry at Redeemer.

While this year has marked significant change in Redeemer's music ministry, the choir and I have done our best to keep bringing beautiful music to our worship services. We will continue our ministry of leading the congregation in making a joyful noise to the Lord.

## The Session | By Barry McBee

The word that describes the work of the Session this year is “sanctifying.” Wrestling with challenging situations and hard decisions, the Session trusted God to refine its faith and direct its path, as a body and for Redeemer.

On the heels of the decision to suspend the long-planned sanctuary, our Chief Musician, Dr. George Dupere, resigned. Discussions of the terms of his resignation and how best to honor his years of service ensued, as did the far more important goal of reconciliation with a third-party mediator.

The Session convened two congregational gatherings to provide updates, hear concerns from members, field their questions, and acknowledge places where it had erred.

In hopes for the successful conclusion of the mediation, the Session spent a season in concentrated study and prayer. While disappointed when the mediation did not yield the results earnestly hoped for, the Session continues to trust in God’s promise to work all things for our good.

Given the centrality of worship at Redeemer, the decision of how to proceed after Dr. Dupere’s departure loomed large. The Session crafted the job description and process that would guide the search for his immediate successor. The Governance Commission, to which is delegated the authority to hire non-pastoral staff, was tasked with the search, aided by advisors drawn from the choir. We were delighted when Destin Wernicke arrived in June to serve as our Interim Director of Music.

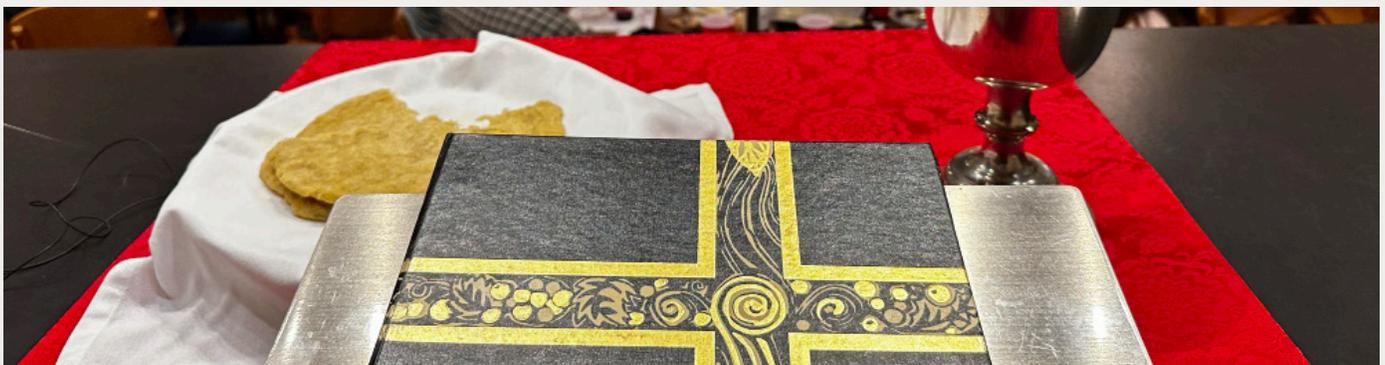
With the decision not to proceed with a sanctuary at this time, which had long been the principal focus of the church, the Session began to explore where God in his good pleasure will next lead Redeemer. The Session started with a review of past iterations of the mission and vision of the church.

Churches need statements that summarize their work and capture their direction. The core mission of all churches is to make disciples. How Redeemer will do this is embodied in what we call the “Four B’s: Believe, Belong, Become, and Bless” the pathway for discipleship described in a sermon series in September.

There is more to come. The values that underlie who we are as a church and that we hope to see displayed in our lives have been identified, supported by the scriptural and confessional statements from which these values emanate. These will form the foundation of Redeemer’s mission and vision. The Session is still working out these ideas and intends to bring all this forward in early 2026.

Amidst these tumultuous events, the ordinary work of the Session continued.

- The adoption of a policy governing the presence of any registered sex offender at Redeemer, to protect the congregation.
- The addition of new staff:
  - Tisha Welch aiding in administration and operations
  - Caroline Stanley succeeding Carol Waller as Children’s Ministry Coordinator
  - Nate Esbenshade taking on a larger role with our youth, as he becomes a formal candidate for ministry under the Presbytery.
- The creation of two committees, one to conduct evaluations of our pastors and the other to examine the practices, policies, and processes of the church.
- The approval of a new budget, developed with a careful eye toward the giving to the church and prudent use of our reserves.
- The departure from the Session of Gerson Brisola through resignation and of Dan Allen and Bret Mercer taking emeritus status.



## Deacons | By Chris Price

The deacons had a very busy start to the year. During the first half of the year, we received 25 different requests for financial assistance, while in 2023 and 2024 we received roughly 20 for each full year. This caused us to re-engage our deacon assistants, who stepped up in helping out, as well as request that four more be added, which was approved by the Session. This role is very valuable to the deacons, as we have a thorough process that we go through when considering needs, and a baseline requirement is that at least one deacon and one deacon assistant meet with each applicant. This year, we distributed \$24,983.93 to those in need. \$1,447.78 was distributed to members, \$7,691.65 to regular attenders, and \$7,244.26 went to those outside of Redeemer. The majority of these distributions were for rent and mortgage assistance, car maintenance, or utility bills. The balance was used to help a nearby Korean church in our denomination with building repairs, as it was unusable due to flooding and an insurance denial, sent to a PCA church in Southern California to help with the wildfires, and to help a pastor in our Presbytery who suddenly had to leave the country due to current immigration policies.

We also hosted four more “deacon workdays” this year, where we, along with volunteers from the congregation, helped other members of the church with projects at their homes. Some of the projects included: spackling and painting, tree trimming and yardwork, tearing down and removing an old playscape, moving heavy items, and even some IT work. We have two more workdays scheduled for this fall and have already received both several requests for help as well as offers to help. This is exactly what we want from these days, members helping members. We believe this work not only benefits those within Redeemer, but is also evangelical, as Jesus states that our oneness shows the world that he was sent by God (John 17:20-23).

We have also recently made further attempts to build longer term relationships with those who have come to us for financial assistance from outside the church, and are considering hosting some sort of regular gathering or meal to offer an opportunity for them to connect with the wider church. We will be in touch as our thoughts and plans progress here.

Please pray for our work, and thank you for your generosity and longstanding partnership with our efforts.





## *Missions* | By Danny Morgan

In 2025, Redeemer continued to support 27 global and local mission partners. These include eleven distinct campus ministries: nine *RUF*, *RUFI*, and *RUF Global* ministries; six unique ministries across the city of Austin; and four global ministries partners in Peru, Honduras, Italy, and Burundi. Redeemer's total impact across these mission partners was \$94,298 across six countries. Your generous support to Redeemer has a global impact, and we thank you for your committed financial partnership in God's Kingdom.

In May, we focused on mobilizing our congregation by hosting *Missions Month*. Our goal was to catalyze Redeemer members and regular attenders to engage in missional service throughout the city of Austin. We hosted nine local mission partners and mobilized 22 volunteers to complete two service projects for *Foundation Communities* and *More than Welcome*. Your generous support raised nearly \$2,000 for Bibles for the *Heart of Texas Crisis Pregnancy Resource Center*, and over 15 gift cards for families in crisis at *Safe Families*. We've seen nearly a dozen Redeemer members who were not previously serving begin volunteering with the various ministries across Austin, including one of our newest partners, *God of Hope*, focused on prison ministry. This fall, we also collected back-to-school supplies for *Foundation Communities* at M Station's learning center for 35 of their students enrolled in after-school programs. Thank you to everyone who made completing these projects possible.

This coming year, we plan to continue mobilizing Redeemer members for missional service while supporting our partners financially. To those who gave above and beyond to support these various projects, and to those who have begun serving across the city with our partners, thank you. As we engage in missional service, we demonstrate to the world the credibility of the hope we profess in Jesus Christ. If you are not yet engaged in service, would you pray about which of our ministry partners you and your family can serve as part of your regular rhythm of discipleship? If you do not know where to start, check out our mission page at [redeemerpres.org](http://redeemerpres.org) and consider where you can begin to serve. Or, email Danny at [dmorgan@redeemerpres.org](mailto:dmorgan@redeemerpres.org). Thank you for joining God's mission to the world through the local church with your time, resources, and talents.

## Small Groups | By Susanna McBee

More than 50% of Redeemer’s members participate in 11 small groups across the region from Kyle to Georgetown and east to Smithville. While this is a drop from 60% last year (two groups have closed), one new group has formed, and another group hopes to form in early 2026. All our small groups meet in members’ homes. They are “open” and welcome those new to Redeemer. A few groups provide a potluck dinner every meeting, but all groups offer at least cookies or chips & salsa!

About half of our groups are using sermon discussion questions developed by the preaching pastor. Others use Bible studies or videos from trusted sources. All small groups incorporate a time for prayer, either all together or in smaller groups. It’s beautiful to hear reports of answered prayers! One member quoted from a hymn the group had sung—“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”—in reporting back that “the Lord has helped us and poured out his grace!!”

Besides meeting and praying together regularly, some groups enjoy special events or traveling together. With quite a few graduate students in our groups, members attend dissertation defenses and graduations. One group hosts a dumpling party in the summer. Another group likes floating the San Marcos River. And there are lots of weddings and even more baby showers to attend!

Epiphany feasts are good times to bring in those who cannot come routinely to a group. The feasts are coming up in just a few months so be sure to stay in contact a small group leader for details!

Contact Susanna McBee at [smcbee@redeemerpres.org](mailto:smcbee@redeemerpres.org) or (512) 771-6095 if you would like to host or participate in any of these groups!



## *Youth Ministry* | By Nate Esbenschade



God has continued to bless the Redeemer Youth Group as we seek to disciple students and provide Christian fellowship. Students continuously ask deep theological questions, remind each other of truth, and share heartfelt prayer requests. We have been encouraged by an increase in attendance for both Sunday morning School of Discipleship and on Sunday evening Youth Group. During Sunday evening and School of Discipleship, the students have studied Paul's epistle to the Ephesians, the Fruit of the Spirit, the Person and Work of Jesus Christ, Christian Worldview (High School Fall 2025), and Genesis (Middle School Fall 2025). I have been heartened by our students' depth of insight and their delight in studying the Word of God.

Our students have also enjoyed great times of fellowship with one another. We hosted a Trivia Night in January, where some students had so much fun they went home with sugar-induced stomach aches. In February, eight high school students went on a retreat to New Braunfels with other churches from the Presbytery. We did a service project in March by deep cleaning the Calvin Hall classrooms. The summer was kicked off with a trip to Wimberley to swim in the Cypress Creek, where we were joined by the youth group from Christ Presbyterian Church New Braunfels (Kaitlyn's original church home). We held our first Redeemer Youth Group Summer Retreat in July. Twelve students attended and Noel Coppedge (UT RUF) spoke on "Serving our Neighbors."

We are filled with gratitude for the support of this ministry. In addition to Ricky Hoobler and Meredith Johnson, Reuben Meyer has joined our Sunday evening Youth Group as a volunteer. Jay Franklin, Nick Kantas, and Adam Mondl have all been faithful volunteers for School of Discipleship. In late November, Kaitlyn and I welcomed Henry into our family. We have been so encouraged by the love that the students and families have shown to us, and especially toward Henry.

As we look toward the future, we want to thank God for his faithfulness toward this ministry and what he is doing in the lives of our students. We are continuing to plan ways in which the students can grow as brothers and sisters in Christ and deepen their knowledge and love of their Savior.

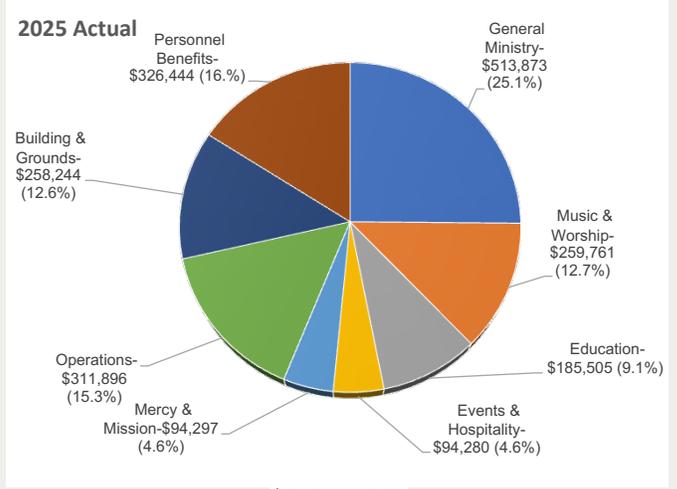
# Financials | By Ken Kieley

## Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Report

Our 2024-2025 fiscal year reflected the strong tradition of faithfulness that marks the congregation of Redeemer Presbyterian Church. Even in the midst of economic uncertainty, political unrest, and global conflicts, you made generous and sacrificial gifts for the work of the ministry. However, we did experience a decline in total giving because of membership losses.

Our unrestricted tithes and offerings, which exclude gifts given for specific uses which are considered “restricted”, were \$1,751,995, with restricted giving of \$94,374 combining for total giving of over \$1.8 million. Total unrestricted giving declined by 9.5% largely due to departing members, though giving by continuing members increased slightly. Restricted giving was about half of the previous year, driven by contributions to the building fund in the prior year.

Our total expenses (not including “restricted” expenses) were just 1.4% above our budget at \$2,044,301. The decline in giving coupled with spending that exceeded our budget resulted in an operating deficit for the year of just over \$292,000. However, interest and other income reduced that deficit to just over \$224,000.

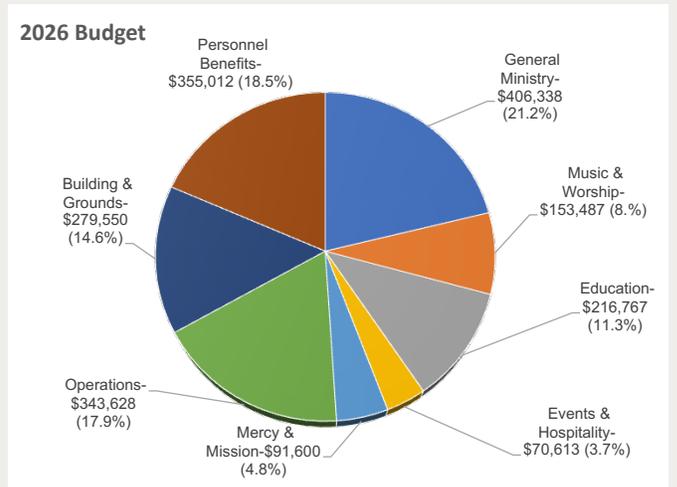


**\$2,044,301**

## Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget

The Session, with inputs from the Finance Committee, has budgeted unrestricted giving at \$1,636,000 for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, a decrease of \$116,000 from actual 2024-2025 fiscal year giving and a decrease of \$313,000 from the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget. Unrestricted expenses have been budgeted at \$1,916,995 or \$127,000 (6.2%) below actual 2024-2025 fiscal year spending. Not included in our budgeted spending for fiscal year 2025-2026 is an upcoming major repair to our air conditioning and elevator systems estimated to cost \$120,000 that will be paid from amounts reserved by the Session for major repairs.

We do not establish budgets for restricted spending as our practice is to spend against the amounts provided by donors. In some cases, however, the Session will designate amounts to be set aside for specific purposes, as was done with the sanctuary project feasibility study. Our spending for this project was \$58,700 in the 2024-2025 fiscal year out of a total of about \$500,000 over the last two-and-a-half years.



**\$2,015,555**

We plan to make the most productive use of the time, talent, and treasure that you invest in Redeemer. In return, we ask for your faithful support. We need to receive approximately \$31,500 each week in order to meet our budgeted goals.

Would you please commit your financial support of Redeemer to prayer? With everyone regularly contributing — some giving greater amounts, others giving smaller amounts, each according to their ability — the church will together exercise that stewardship to which the Lord calls all of us and which reflects the work God intends to do in and through us.

# Membership | By Redeemer Staff



## **Additions:**

- 5 Infant baptisms
- 2 Transfers in from other churches
- 4 Reaffirmations of Faith
- 4 Non-communing covenant children

## **Subtractions:**

- 18 Transfers to other churches
- 56 Removals from roll
- 1 Death

## **Totals:**

- 370 Communing Members
- 69 Non-Communing Members
- 2 Associate Members
- 5 Members of South Texas Presbytery

*What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.*

1 Corinthians 3:5-10

# Highlights

Christmas Eve Service  
December



Youth Group Galentines Day  
February

Epiphany Feasts in homes  
January



Lenten Service  
March

Maundy Thursday + Service of Darkness  
April



Missions Fair + Ascension Service  
May



# Highlights

Pentecost Feast + Redeemer Arts Camp  
June



Youth Retreat + Mens Smoke N Choke  
July



South Texas Presbytery + Ministry Fair  
August

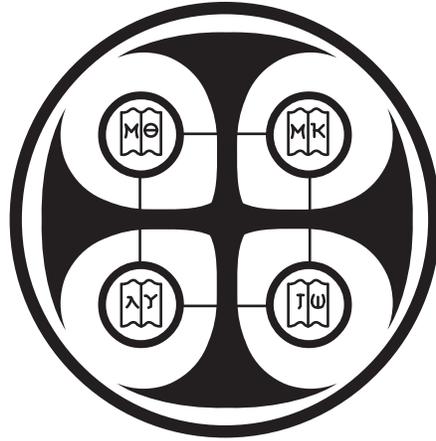


Young Adults Lunch + Choir Party  
September



Ladies Night + Reformation Sunday  
October

All Saints' Feast  
November



## Redeemer Presbyterian Church

2111 Alexander Ave.  
Austin, TX 78722

512.708.1232

[redeemerpres.org](http://redeemerpres.org)

Office Hours  
Mon-Thurs: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Service Times  
8:45 & 11:15 a.m.