



Friday Bulletin

Good Shepherd E-News
22 April 2022

**The Episcopal Church of the
Good Shepherd in Athens, Ohio**

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This Upcoming Sunday

Second Sunday of Easter

April 24, 2022, 10:30 a.m.

Order of Worship

Please follow Order of Worship guidelines.

Service: Holy Eucharist Rite II-B-

Celebrant: Rev. Deborah Woolsey

Lector: Michael Wootton

Eucharistic Minister/Prayer Leader: Allyn
Reilly

Eucharistic Minister/Acolyte: Dana
Carlson/Sharon Huge

Altar Guild: David Burton

LESSONS for the Second Sunday of Easter: Acts 5: 27-32; Psalm 150 (SAID),
Revelation 1: 4-8; John 20: 19-31.

<https://www.lectionarypage.net>

Friday Reflection



Do Episcopalians Celebrate Earth Day?

It may have been the poster of the earth in space taken by Apollo 8 astronauts from the moon's orbit that hung on the walls of my classrooms and bedroom. Or it might have been growing up with a river and woods in my backyard where I could play and explore without fear. Or it might have been attending the first environmental/liberal arts college in the country.

Most likely, it is a combination of all these factors that gave me a deep love for the earth. This love is not a type of consumerism. I do not see the earth as untapped resources for me to do whatever I want. This love is the love of connection to all living things.



I cannot say the Church taught me this love. I do not recall any Sunday school lessons or sermons that preached this love. Despite this, the Church has encouraged, nurtured, and supported this love as holy, good, right, and joyful.

We can see from the start of it all, in the beginning, that God created everything and in that alone we can see our connection to the earth. Humanity was not created separate from the earth, but part of it. On Ash Wednesday and at funerals we are reminded of this connection when our liturgy references humanity being formed from the earth, that we are dust and will return. In addition to being words of comfort at the end of lives, these words can inform how we live remembering our connection to the earth as something holy.

Throughout the Book of Common Prayer are prayers and petitions in litanies that reference this very point: we are of the earth and caretakers of the earth. One of the sins we repent of is not caring for the earth and the life on it.

So, the answer to the question is yes. Episcopalians may not have a liturgy for Earth Day, however, our connection to the earth runs like a thread through all our liturgies and prayers, as it can run through our daily lives. How we celebrate today might be pausing

to notice the beauty of the earth in our backyards. It might be deciding to reduce the amount of single use plastic. It might be planting a tree or some other plant. It might be removing grass in a yard and replace it with something native that doesn't require mowing, like our current project at Church of the Good Shepherd. Whatever actions we choose to do, we can also pray by giving thanks to God for this beautiful, strong, vulnerable, wild, good earth that God has made. We can choose to love the earth every day by remembering God created it and us and God loves all that God has made.

Happy Earth Day Blessings,

Mother Deborah



We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts and pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your Name, now and forever.

Amen.

Book of Common Prayer page 840

Coming up on the Calendar

Sunday, April 24, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist (Bishop's Visitation)

Wednesday, April 27, 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl Meeting, Julie's

Sunday, May 1, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, May 8, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, May 15, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist (discretionary Sunday)

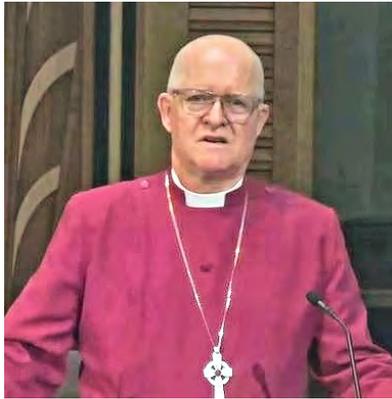
Thursday, May 19, 7:00 p.m. - - Vestry Meeting, ZOOM

Sunday, May 22, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, May 29, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

CrossRoads Café is open on Sundays after church.

Notes & Announcements



Bishop Smith Visit This Sunday April 24

Bishop Smith is serving our diocese for two years while the Standing Committee works on the process for finding a new full time bishop. Bishop Smith primarily handles things like confirming and receiving people into the Episcopal Church, pastoral care for clergy, and helping the Standing Committee with their responsibilities.

After the service will have a reception of cookies and punch on the porch to celebrate the newest person received into the Episcopal Church and give everyone a chance to meet Bishop Smith.

Summary of Bishop Smith's Meeting with the Vestry

On Thursday, April 21 Bishop Smith, who is with us for two years while the diocese searches for a new bishop, joined the Vestry of Church of Good Shepherd for our monthly meeting. Thanks to the technology of video conferencing like Zoom, we could invite the Bishop to join our regular meeting instead of having an additional meeting when he makes his visitation on Sunday.



We introduced ourselves to the bishop and found out we have some things in common and some connections to people we know. After listening to the Vestry talk about our unique campus-based ministry and life here at Church of the Good Shepherd, the bishop responded with these comments:

1. He is observing all institutions of higher learning (colleges, universities, and even seminaries) are experiencing difficulties right now that include lower

enrollment and budget deficits.

2. He noted that in the Episcopal Church this year only 118 people took the General Ordination Exams, which means 118 people will (most likely) be ordained to the priesthood this year. While that sounds like a lot, it is nowhere near the estimated 400+ priests that retire or leave parishes every year.
3. There is lower engagement with institutions of higher education and religion overall nationwide.
4. While this might sound depressing, it means we are not doing anything wrong, the challenges we are experiencing is indicative of the current cultural climate we are living in and we will need to make adaptations to our expectations and ministries.

The bishop summarized the process for finding a bishop for this diocese. He thinks the Standing Committee (the ecclesial body with oversight of this process) is perhaps ready to put together the diocesan profile. After the profile is made public, then the process of putting forth names of priests to be considered can begin. After names are received, there is a rigorous vetting process after which the diocese will be presented with 3-6 candidates who will go through a rigorous interview process, after which an election will take place in 2023. After elected there is a transition process after which the bishop-elect will be consecrated by the Presiding Bishop.

Bishop Smith outlined 4 areas of concern he has identified that are eroding the trust between parishes and people of the diocese and the bishop's office that will need to be addressed by our next bishop:

1. The disparity of wealth between the diocese and individual parishes. The diocese has, in his words, "an embarrassment of riches" while many parishes in the diocese are struggling financially. He envisions sharing the wealth with the parishes because that is where most of the effective ministry is happening to help heal that eroded trust.
2. The alcoholism of Bishop Breidenthal has shocked some members of the diocese. This is currently being addressed with informational sessions on alcoholism and addiction for clergy, Standing Committee and Diocesan Council members, and Diocesan Staff.
3. Racism – this diocese has a long history of racism that has left people of color rightfully distrustful of the bishop's office. This racism is connected to discrimination in the state of Ohio and the practice of starting Black parishes and then neglecting them. It will take years of intentional work of reconciliation for trust to be established.
4. Geography. This will perhaps be the most difficult to address. There is a disparity between urban organized parishes (Cincinnati, Columbus, and Dayton) and "the rest", of which Church of the Good Shepherd is associated. The bishop was clear that location does not mean the quality of worship, ministry, or relationship is less than parishes in urban areas.

You will have a chance to meet Bishop Smith this Sunday, April 24. He will celebrate, preach, and receive Malin Heather Irwin into the Episcopal Church. After the 10:30 am service there will be a simple reception of cookies, punch, and coffee on the front porch of the church where you can meet him. It looks like Sunday is going to be a beautiful day, we hope you can join us in welcoming Bishop Smith.

Great news!!! The long awaited start of Phase III of the organ project begins on Tuesday, April 26. The workers from Muller Organ Company will spend two days removing nearly everything from the chamber. Those parts will be taken to their shop in Croton, Ohio. The pipes will remain in the chamber and the work on releathering them will be done at the church.

So on Sunday, April 24, in addition to the visit from Bishop Smith, we will have some grand, festive music and say a temporary goodbye to the organ.

We expect the organ to be reinstalled in 2-1/2 to 3 months. Then in the fall we will celebrate the completion of this amazing project with a grand concert and possible Choral Scholar reunion.

Thank you to everyone who has had a part in making this project possible.

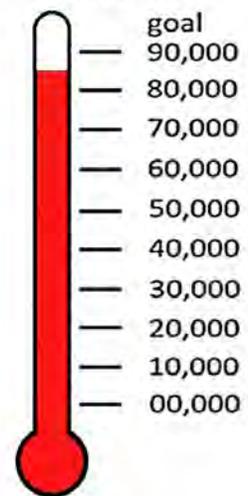
Marsha Reilly

More Great News -- Challenge for the Organ Fund

An anonymous donor has issued a challenge to the parish in the final push to raise funds for the Organ Restoration. The donor will match up to a total of \$500 received by Sunday, May 15. You may mail your donation to the church office or drop it off Monday - Thursday, 10:30-2. You should indicate on the memo line that it is for the Organ Restoration Fund. If you choose to **DONATE ON-LINE** indicate for the organ fund in the "Add special instructions to the seller" section.

Thanks. The Organ Restoration Committee

ORGAN RESTORATION PROJECT



Mother Deborah will offer the prayer for this year's Workers Memorial Day Remembrance,

Thursday April 28, 2022 12 noon at the Workers Memorial Mural, 11 N. Court St.

Please Join us. A box lunch will be provided.

Naming our Losses in the Midst of Easter Hope

We are inviting you to a special event on April 30th from 9:30-12:30 to name our losses

with listening companions. We will gather in circles of presence and lament, listen to beautiful music, write, talk, and pray.

The things the soldiers carried with them in Vietnam were pictures of their girlfriends, chewing gum, a two-pound poncho, their M16s. They also carried the figurative weight of memory and the literal weight of one another. We carry things too, the weight of the pandemic, watching an ambulance taking away our neighbor, grieving for time lost, memories set aside. saying goodbye to what was. These are truly losses we have been carrying. We need time to come together!

This free event will be held at All Saints Episcopal Church; New Albany, OH; 5101 Johnstown Rd.

RSVP to lisa.palchick@kzoo.edu by April 27th.

REGISTRATION: 9 AM.-9:15 AM. Coffee and refreshments available.



Standing Committee invites all to take bishop search survey
The Standing Committee wrote this letter to the people of the diocese ...

"... We had thought we would launch the survey in Eastertide, but at the diocesan clergy gathering last week, we heard clergy loud and clear when they said they would like to see us move quickly to gather data on the diocese. We are launching the survey just before Holy Week, and we are very mindful that lay leaders and clergy will be focused on the Paschal Mystery over the next few days. For that reason, we will leave the survey open until Tuesday, April 26.

Here is the [SURVEY LINK](#).

Our hope is that rectors and priests-in-charge will share the survey link with their congregations. We want wide participation from our whole diocese. As you will see, the survey itself is quite brief. It should only take a few minutes. The survey will remain open until Tuesday, April 26...."

Read the entire letter and find the link to the survey [HERE](#).

Supporting Humanitarian Response to the Crisis in Ukraine

Episcopal Relief & Development
(Please click above for link to see more)



This redbud recently planted on the south side of the church is showing its stuff this Spring. And it will be nice not to have to duck and mow under it this year.



Contacts & Information

Contact Information

For pastoral needs, please contact The Rev. Deborah Woolsey at 937-689-8895 (cell) or 740-593-6877 (church), or by e-mail at revdebwoolsey@gmail.com.

To find out more about Good Shepherd and other matters, please contact Alex Buckley, Senior Warden, at 740-593-5513 or by e-mail at macbuck@yahoo.com.

For maintenance matters, please leave a note at the office or contact Dana Carlson, Junior Warden, at 740-664-2022 or by e-mail at carlsondana@hotmail.com.

DONATE to Good Shepherd

This takes you to the Parish Home page where you can donate on line via PayPal. If you have a preference, please indicate on the the "Add special instructions to the seller" section the purpose of the donation —e.g. organ fund, plate collection, etc.

Check out the Church's [YouTube Channel](#).

For emergencies, please call The Rev. Deborah Woolsey at 937-689-8895.

NON-emergency messages can be left on the church's answering machine (740-593-6877). The parish office administrator is Barbara Martin (740-593-6877) or barbara@chogs.org.

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
Seeking and Serving Christ in All Persons

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LIKE us on Facebook
**Episcopal Church of
the Good Shepherd
45701**

Pandemic Note:

**Office Hours: 10:00
a.m.– 2:00 p.m.,
Monday through
Thursday.**

**The Diocese COVID
Guidelines request
all persons wear masks
inside the church
building regardless of
vaccination status.**
