



Friday Bulletin

Good Shepherd E-News
7 January 2022

The Episcopal Church of the
Good Shepherd in Athens, Ohio

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This Upcoming Sunday

Second Sunday after Christmas Day
January 9, 2022

Inside service, please wear a mask and
follow Order of Worship guidelines.

10:30 a.m. Service ([Order of Worship](#))

Holy Eucharist Rite II-A

Celebrant: Rev. Deborah Woolsey

Lector: Alex Buckley

Prayer Leader: Dana Carlson

Eucharistic Minister: Sharon Huge

Altar Guild: Sharon Huge

LESSONS for the First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of our Lord: Isaiah 43: 1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8: 14-17; Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22.

<https://www.lectionarypage.net>

Celebrating the Epiphany
January 6 – More than Gifts



On January 6 the Church again transitions from one season to another. Christmas has ended with the Feast of the Epiphany, “the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles represented by the magi”. It’s all there in Matthew’s Gospel chapter 2, verses 1-12. The magi were mysterious people from another place who traveled a long way to find Jesus and when they found him beneath the star they followed, they gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. We like to give a lot of attention to those gifts and speculate on what they mean. We like presents, and often wonder what gifts given to us by loved ones mean or spend a lot of our time thinking about what to give loved ones.

The visit of the magi is about more than gifts. It is also about rulers of nations. Much of the story features Herod, who was legally the King of the Jews, and despised by the people he was

supposed to rule. He did not care about them. So, when the magi showed up looking for a new king, “Herod was frightened and all Jerusalem with him,” according to Matthew’s Gospel. This fear might be practical – Herod did not want to be usurped. But there could be more to the fear, as it indicates a new way of being, of living, and leading that continues to cause fear to even the most benevolent political leaders.

As theologian Jürgen Moltmann puts it: “Emperors have always liked to be called emperors of peace, from Augustus down to the present day. Their opponents and the heroes of the people have always liked to be called ‘liberators’, from Arminius of the Cherusci to Simon Bolivar. They have come and gone. Neither their rule nor their liberation endured.....They did not disarm this divided world. They could not forgive the guilt because they themselves were not innocent. Their hope did not bring new life. So let them go their way. Let us deny them our complete obedience. ‘To us this child is born.’ The divine liberty rests upon his shoulders.” From *The Disarming Child*.

I doubt very much Moltmann is saying we should live in a state of anarchy and totally disobey leaders. I believe he is stating that when Jesus was born, he started something brand new, something more in line with God’s idea of peace rather than those who rule by violence and intimidation. What I believe is at the heart of Epiphany is a call to live our lives first following Jesus, conforming our lives to his. This means we deal with political leadership, but don’t give it blind obedience nor our worship. Perhaps instead we remember Who we worship while we work to help change systems to reflect the love of God for all people, to make room for the different, as Jesus was born for all. Such changes will undoubtedly inspire fear in those who benefit from the systems, but that doesn’t have to stop of us from helping everyone dream of a new and better day for all people.

As it says in a prayer from St. Augustine’s Prayer Book:

Almighty God, who made known the Incarnation of thy Word by a star of stunning brilliance, which the wise men followed until they came to worship and offer their treasures before the infant Lord resting in his mother’s arms; grant that the star of thy righteousness may always appear in our hearts to lead us and to inspire us to offer the treasure of our praise and the worship of our lives that reflect thy goodness; through him whose birth among us is our hope. Amen

May we all look to such a star that inspires such hope.

Many Blessings,

Mother Deborah

Coming up on the Calendar

Sunday, January 9, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, January 12, 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl Meeting at Julie Nehls

Sunday, January 16, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Thursday, January 20, 7:00 p.m. - - Vestry Meeting

Sunday, January 23, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, January 26, 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl Meeting at Julie Nehls

Sunday, January 30, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, January 30, After Service - - All Parish Annual Meeting

**CrossRoads Cafe' is only open on Sundays
after church until next school year.**

News and Announcements

Mother Deborah's January Office Hours Canceled

In light of the updated Covid guidelines and Bishop Smith's well founded concerns with the increase in new Covid cases in Ohio and Athens County, Mother Deborah will not be doing office hours in January. The Bishop expressed a healthy practice of having as few people in the building as possible, which makes sense during this spike in cases. Mother Deborah is readily available via phone call, text message, and email. Matters that require in-person meeting can be made via appointment.

Thank you for your continued understanding and patience.

Reports for Annual Meeting Due January 16, 2022

Attention all wardens, ministry chairpersons, treasurer, etc. your reports for the Annual Meeting are due **by January 16, 2022**. Please email your report to Barb Martin at barbara@chogs.org

These reports will be included in the printed/digital report packet. Reports will not be read aloud at the meeting. Thank you.



Annual Meeting of Church of the Good Shepherd Sunday, January 30, 2022

Every year every parish in the Episcopal Church meets to elect leadership for the year, approve the budget for the year, and receive reports of the active ministries in the parish. Our Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 30, 2022, following the Sunday service. Due to Covid, there will only be the meeting. There will not be a potluck. CrossRoads Café will be open for those who want coffee or tea. Thank you for continuing to follow the safety protocols which allow us to gather in person.

The Prayer Shawl group has changed it's meeting days to the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. Please join us. Don't worry that you may not knit or crochet. Come and enjoy the yummy goodies and fellowship.



The next meetings will be Jan 12 and 26, 9:30 at Julie Nehls.

Nominating Committee Report

The following Nominating Committee Report was approved the December at the 16th vestry meeting. This proposed slate will be voted on at this year's Parish Annual Meeting, January 30th.

Senior Warden - Alexandra Buckley (1 year term, able to serve for 3 consecutive years)

Junior Warden - Theodore Foster (1 year term, able to serve for 3 consecutive years)

Treasurer - Allyn Reilly

Secretary - David Burton

Vestry - David Burton, Gregory Proctor (2 people, 3 year term)

Student Rep to Vestry-(1 year term) - none for 2022 due to pandemic.

Delegates to Convention: Jack Fleming, Allyn Reilly
(Alex Buckley and Theodore Foster are also delegates because they are wardens).

The next two items are copied from the Diocese {e}Connections.



A message from Bishop Smith

January 4, 2022

Dear Colleagues:

Just before Christmas, I sent you an updated set of [pastoral guidelines](#) (please see below) for facing the Omicron variant of the coronavirus. This is a nasty bug, trying to infect everyone in sight and succeeding far too often. I recognize that many locales in our diocese have seen how contagious this disease can be. I have heard such accounts directly from some of you, and via my staff, indirectly from others.

During this continuation of a hard season, I have a few words of pastoral counsel-intended to fill in some of the blank spaces within the December guidelines. These words of counsel address some of the questions for clarification that I have heard from some of you.

- **It is permissible to return to virtual worship.** In some places, and for some parishes, the risk of contagion may be so great that this becomes the responsible option. Rectors and priests-in-charge have this decision to make, sensibly in consultation with other leaders. My job is not to second-guess your decision; mine is to have your back.
- **It is sensible to limit social gatherings.** In our meeting last month, our experts on the diocesan Medical Task Force expressed their greatest apprehension about people eating and drinking together. Unmasking during social time to eat and drink by its very nature leaves people vulnerable—and makes anyone with the disease, symptomatic or not, a potential vector for infecting others. Limiting or cancelling coffee hour may be a good choice during this season.
- **It is reasonable to curtail contact in the workplace.** In many places, the only person in the parish workplace during the week is the priest. Others will have a few others around, either occasionally or all the time. In my office there are a dozen-plus people, some full-time, some part-time, some who always work from a remote location. Ministry is by its very nature a collaborative work, and some of that work is difficult to accomplish in the virtual world alone. For the time being, I have asked my staff to work from a remote location and only do what must be done by in-

- person meetings.
- **There is no one-size-fits-all.** A genius of Christian ministry, maybe especially in its Anglican expression, is that it is always contextual. You know that already, but I want to emphasize that I understand the principle as it works out in our seventy-three parishes.
 - **Self-care.** I can't stress enough the importance of self-care during this ongoing pandemic. CPG offers a wonderful employee assistance program. The [attached brochure](#) will help navigate those options.
 - **I am available to you.** Please know that I and my entire staff are here, for questions, clarifications, venting, whatever. [Email](#) is the best means for a first contact, although I am glad to receive phone calls in urgent circumstances. I try to be diligent in my replies. A follow-up ping does not bother me, especially since I can lose track of any given email in my inbox or spam-box. And sometimes email just does not go through.

Most of all, know that I pray for all of you. Every day.

Yours,

(signature)

George Wayne Smith
Bishop Provisional
Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio



A message from Bishop Smith

December 23, 2021

Dear Friends,

Our world is entering a second Christmas season in the time of COVID, and although Church is closer to “normal” than a year ago, the sobering reality of a new variant is upon us. Yesterday Ohio recorded the highest number of COVID cases since the pandemic began, almost two years ago. It was timely, then, that our Diocesan Medical Task Force also met yesterday to review the data.

At the celebration of our Savior's birth this year, let us remember God's gift of love—and Jesus' own commandment to love God and to love our neighbor. Protecting one another from COVID is a crucial expression of God's love in our lives. To this end, I remind everyone of the guidelines from our Diocesan COVID Task Force. These are not new guidelines but an emphasis on the ones already in place.

Distancing works, six feet at least. To the extent that they can, congregations should

also stream Christmas services online, for the sake of those who cannot be physically present.

Vaccination works, and the booster helps. Our people and clergy do well to encourage one another to get their shots.

Because it is the safest practice, **communion remains in one kind**, the consecrated bread only.

I wish all of you all the blessings of the season, a very merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Faithfully,

Bishop Smith signature

George Wayne Smith
Bishop Provisional
Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio



Presiding Bishop Curry highlights ‘moment of peril and promise’ on the one-year anniversary of Jan. 6 attack. [View video or download text HERE.](#)

Looks like this old sycamore tree near the Richland traffic circle has had a rough row to hoe.



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

DONATE to Good Shepherd

This takes you to the Parish Home page where you can donate on line via PayPal. If you have a

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 Ted Foster, Junior Warden, at 740-593-8615 or by e-mail at foster.theodore@gmail.com.

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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www.chogs.org

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](#).

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.
