

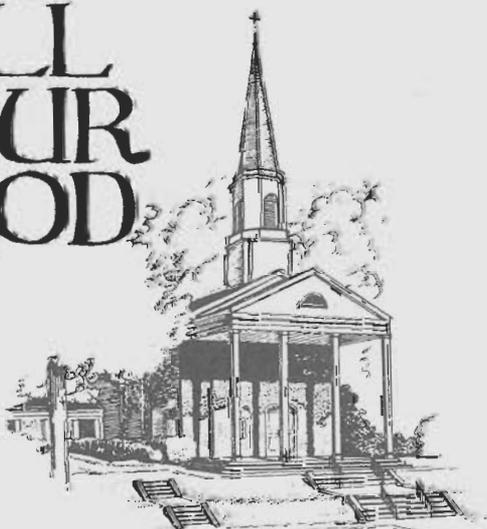
Good
SHEPHERD
News

Church of the Good Shepherd, Athens, Ohio

November

2006

NOW
HANK
WE
ALL
OUR
GOD



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The Episcopal Church on the Campus of Ohio University
Since 1875 - Established 1907 - Parish 1958

George Chen
1980

Holy Eucharist: The Great Thanksgiving

On the fourth Thursday of November, Americans celebrate a day of thanksgiving for God's many blessings. The ritual around this day contains many elements of civil religion that may seem antiquated in an increasingly pluralistic society. Still, many of us seize the opportunity to connect this day with our faith, as indeed our Prayer Book does when it sets Thanksgiving Day apart as a "red letter day," or major feast. This year, our parish will celebrate Thanksgiving Day with the Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m. This day is also an extraordinary opportunity for a chorus of people with distinct voices, including secular voices, to enjoy some rest and count their blessings.

Those of us who are Episcopalians, together with many other Christians who observe the liturgical year, have the opportunity to give thanks week by week and even day by day. The Greek word *eucharistia* means "thanksgiving." In every Eucharistic prayer, we give thanks to God for the gift of creation, for God's faithful love to the People of Israel, and "for the salvation of the world through Jesus Christ our Lord." (See an Order for Eucharist, Prayer Book, pp. 402-403) We recall the words Jesus said the night before he suffered. We break the bread and share the cup.

Fall Stewardship Update

As of Tuesday, October 31st, Good Shepherd has received 50 pledge cards for \$107,534 to support our mission and ministry for 2007. There has been a very positive trend, with an increased average pledge and several new pledges. Thank you to all for helping to make our mission possible. Our goal remains 85 pledges for a total of \$160,000, which will enable us to pursue our mission priorities faithfully within a balanced budget. (See the senior warden's appeal on p. 4.) The executive committee will be meeting soon to make necessary adjustments to our budget prior to the November Vestry meeting. If you would like to pledge your support, pledge cards may be mailed to the parish office or placed in the offering plate on Sunday, November 5th. Extra pledge cards are available in the parish office and in the narthex. Thank you for your generous and prayerful support of Good Shepherd!

The Eucharist points us back to many meals that Jesus ate with all kinds of people throughout his ministry. Jesus often got in trouble for the company he kept. His “manner of life” continues to pose a challenge for both Church and society. John Chrysostom, the fourth and fifth century bishop of Constantinople, observed that the Eucharist breaks down social distinctions, as all receive the same gifts from God. A beggar and an emperor are equal at God’s table. Among the apostles, Paul and James make similar points. (See 1Corinthians 11:17-22, James 2:1-4) The custom of taking up an offering for the poor is as old as the Eucharist itself, and we continue to take up money for the Athens Food Pantry week by week. Our commitment to the Millennium Development Goals is another way to meet these needs and to begin to address some of the causes, both here and abroad. I encourage you to read the enclosed insert.

The Eucharistic prayer also points us back to the meals that Jesus ate with his disciples after he rose from the dead. Recall how, on the road to Emmaus, Jesus was “made known to them in the breaking of the bread.” (Luke 24:35) But, at the same time, Eucharist points us back to something sacred about each and every meal we eat. It would not be a stretch to say that, for Christians, all meals are eucharistic, even if they are not, strictly speaking, the Eucharist. It is no accident that one of the most popular places to pray is at a common meal. As we do with holy communion, we receive our daily bread with thanksgiving, as if from the hands of Jesus himself.

I am grateful to God for many things: for family and friends, for my daily bread, for the gift of salvation in Jesus Christ, for the sacraments, and, lately, for all of you. As I approach six months of ministry with you, I continue to be grateful for Good Shepherd and each one of its people. I pray for you daily. Although intercessions for those who are sick and who carry heavy burdens are always a huge part of my prayers, I try never to forget to tell God thank you. The appropriate response to grace is gratitude, and we all need to be reminded of that from time to time. Thanksgiving Day, like the Holy Eucharist, reminds us to be grateful, and our gratitude, in turn, opens us to further gifts from God. We have indeed received “grace upon grace.” Good Shepherd has been a grace, a gift, and blessing to me, as well as to Tracey, Rachel, and Danny. As we approach All Saints’ Sunday, I give thanks for all the saints, past and present, living and dead, who make our parish what it is. I give thanks for the mission and ministry we share. I also give thanks for the communion of saints throughout the world:

Continued to Page 3

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Bill

The Election of a Bishop for Southern Ohio

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

God has blessed Southern Ohio with a faithful and gifted group of seven men and women who have offered themselves for this ministry. Please pray for the nominees: Thomas Breidenthal, Robert Certain, Susan Goff, George Hill, Jack Koepke, James Lemler, and Kenneth Price. Please pray also for the lay and clergy delegates to the Diocesan Convention, who, God willing, will elect the next bishop of our diocese in Portsmouth on Saturday, November 11. Lay delegates from Good Shepherd include Bob Shelly, Curt Sherman, Richard Carlson, and T. J. Azar. Gifford Doxsee is serving as an alternate. Please keep all these people and the diocese in your prayers. In our tradition, bishops are successors of the apostles, sacramental symbols of the Church's ongoing witness, by word and deed, to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Without the Holy Spirit, no one is strong enough for this work.

A Newcomers' Dinner will be hosted at Bill and Tracey Carroll's home, 206 E. State Street, on Thursday evening, November 16, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Anyone who has arrived at Good Shepherd in the last year is invited to attend. This will be an opportunity to get to know the rector and his family and some parishioners who have been here longer. (Now that the Carroll's are mostly out of boxes, they hope to be able to have more and more people over!) R.S.V.P. to the parish office (593-6877) by Sunday, November 12.

From the Senior Warden: An appeal for stewardship *(from the 10:30 Eucharist on October 29)*

I am here this morning to ask you to pledge generously for the mission of Good Shepherd. Ann and I came here in the fall of 1971, when I came to the university. We raised our children in the parish and are excited about the influence the church has had on their lives. Mark became a priest and is now in Pennsylvania with his own parish. Libby got involved in college student personnel and is now Director of Student Life at Bethany College. Both of them learned how to serve in this parish. Even though stewardship and ministry have been a constant challenge for the parish, every older family here has a similar story to tell: Good Shepherd provided an important experience for their children as they grew into adulthood in this community.

Good Shepherd has also been a spiritual home for Ann and I as we have moved about in our careers.

The Vestry has committed to a significant increase in the annual budget because of two important reasons. We now have a full time priest who is doing wonderful things with ministry in this parish. We have also committed to the concept that money must follow mission.

In the sermon, you heard Bill discuss the importance of living into our ministry goals. When we were preparing our search documents, we highlighted programs we hoped our new priest could help us put in place. We are now implementing these aspects of our Baptismal Covenant. We have a new member ministry to help us grow the parish family, we are revitalizing our Christian education program, and we are expanding our outreach to serve the needs of the naked, the hungry, and the homeless. All of these cost money. If we are to be a vibrant parish, and we all want that, we must face the fact that we need to expand our programs to grow and ensure that Good Shepherd is here for the families of the future as it has been for us who are here now.

The programs the Vestry has implemented are carefully selected and have specific objectives linked to them. If we are to grow, we must include new members. If we are to prepare our children for life as Christians, we must teach them. If we are to follow Christ's injunction to care for those in need, we must provide support for our food and shelter ministries.

A full time priest is necessary to ensure the implementation of the programs of the parish. We have been very fortunate to find Bill and

have him commit to us. We are paying him the Diocesan minimum salary, which is roughly equivalent to what the university is paying an advanced assistant or early associate professor.

The way we can get to the goal of \$160,000 set by the Vestry is to increase the number of pledges from this year's 68 and have modest increases of a few hundred dollars from those who pledged this year. If you pledged this year, I ask you to consider prayerfully increasing your pledge for next year. If you did not pledge this year, I ask you to pledge for next year.

Good Shepherd is entering an exciting time in its ministry. We have just concluded a joyful celebration of new ministry with the Bishop installing Bill as our priest. We are embarking on a new era in our life together.

If we receive your generous support, we will be able to accomplish all of the goals set out by the Vestry. I ask for your prayerful support for the mission of Good Shepherd.

Bob Shelly
Senior Warden

October Vestry Highlights

Property Issues—Curt Sherman reported that we have received an estimate for \$26,795 to replace copper gutters and downspouts for the building. There are numerous leaks and the labor cost makes them cheaper to replace than to repair. The Vestry agreed to seek an additional estimate, which Curt will do. The merits of copper (aesthetics, durability) vs. other materials were discussed. The consensus was that we could not afford not to take action and that perhaps the cost could be spread over several years.

Outreach committee report—Jane Forrest Redfern reported about the October meeting of the outreach committee. Unless the meeting becomes unwieldy in size, it will be open to all interested members of the parish. Fr. Carroll noted that nine people were in attendance, which represents ten percent of our average Sunday attendance. All major ministries of Good Shepherd had someone present. If everyone who did some form of Church related outreach were present, the figure would be even higher, at least thirty or forty percent of average Sunday attendance. This underscores the importance of outreach ministry to the

parish.

Jane reported that the first part of the meeting consisted of a discussion of the Millennium Development Goals (see the enclosed insert, which was handed out at the meeting). The committee connected the present ministries of Good Shepherd to the MDG's, and members were impressed at how much was already being done. In the second part of the meeting, the committee developed a proposal for allocating \$3000 in additional outreach funds in light of the MDG's.

Development of a Trial Statement of Mission—The Vestry accepted the outreach committee's proposal for a trial budget for world and domestic outreach. All funding from 2006 was continued for 2007. For world mission, \$1000 was designated for the Ergoods' ministry in rural Honduras. In addition, \$650 was designated for Episcopal Relief and Development and \$350 for Heifer Project, making a total of \$2000 for international mission work, which met the MDG target of 0.7% giving for international development. For domestic mission, \$500 additional funding was designated for Rural Action, bringing the total to \$1000. \$500 was also designated for Habitat for Humanity, which historically has been funded by individuals but did not have a line item in the parish budget for 2006. The Vestry also accepted the recommendation of the outreach committee that the committee make a proposal to the Vestry in January regarding the line item for "undesignated outreach," identifying a specific ministry that would help address MDG's locally in a creative way. In the future, undesignated outreach will be handled through the rector's discretionary fund.

The Vestry also approved \$2000 for new member ministry (up from \$0), \$2600 for Christian education (doubled), and an increase in the maintenance budget to \$12,500 (up more than 50%).

On the income side, the Vestry adopted a goal of 85 pledges for \$160,000, which is up from 68 pledges for \$125,000 for 2006. This is in line with the goals set in the five year plan. Fr Carroll noted that all of these figures were provisional and that the Vestry might have to adjust expenses up or down in light of the pledges that were actually received. He also noted that \$160,000 was well within reach, if Good Shepherd saw new pledges and a modest increase in the average pledge. He also reiterated that the theme of the campaign was "money follows mission," and that we were seeking additional funds in order to be faithful to the mission and ministry God has set before us as a parish.

The Millennium Development Goals: A Framework for Global, Regional, and Local Mission

- 1) eradicate extreme poverty and hunger;
- 2) achieve universal primary education;
- 3) promote gender equality and empower women;
- 4) reduce child mortality;
- 5) improve maternal health;
- 6) combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases;
- 7) ensure environmental sustainability; and
- 8) develop a global partnership for development

Some facts

Every three seconds, a child dies from the consequences of extreme poverty. Every minute, a woman dies in childbirth. During a one hour celebration of the Eucharist, this means 1200 children and 60 women.

These goals are as relevant to Appalachian Ohio as they are to Africa or Latin America.

These goals have been adopted by the United Nations, the Anglican Communion, the Episcopal Church, and many dioceses, including Southern Ohio. They were central to the vision Katharine Jefferts Schori presented to the House of Bishops before she was elected our next presiding bishop.

What we can do

We can promote these goals through prayer, study, action, advocacy, and giving, including 0.7% giving for world mission that addresses these goals.

We can work for structural change as well as meeting immediate needs.

Because these goals are interdependent, we can work toward any of them and help fulfill them all.

Why we should

The goals can be tied directly to the Gospel and to our Baptismal Covenant, in which we promise to “seek and serve Christ in all persons” and to “strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.”

Where to find out more

Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation
www.e4gr.org

November Events at Good Shepherd

			1 Glenda out of office Noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW 7:0 pm - CR	2 7:30 pm – Alanon	3	4 9:00 am – Fall Clean up Day
5 8:00 am – HE I 9:00 am – Adult Ed 10:15 am – SS 10:30 am – HE II 3:00 pm - YG 5:00 pm – HE II	6 Glenda out of office 11:30 am – Bible Study 7:00 pm – Boy Scout Meeting	7 Glenda out of office 7:30 pm – Alanon 8:00 pm – AA	8 Glenda out of office Noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW 7:0 pm - CR	9 Glenda out of office 7:30 pm – Alanon	10 Glenda out of office 5:30 pm – Ultreya Diocesan Convention	11 Diocesan Convention
12 8:00 am – HE I 9:00 am – Adult Ed 10:15 am – SS 10:30 am – HE II Noon - CR 2:00 pm - LI 5:00 pm – HE II	13 7:00 pm – Boy Scout Meeting	14 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl Meeting 7:30 pm – Alanon 8:00 pm – AA	15 Noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW 7:0 pm – CR	16 6:00 pm – Newcomer’s Dinner 7:30 pm – Alanon	17	18
19 8:00 am – HE I 9:00 am – Adult Ed 10:15 am – SS 10:30 am – HE II 3:00 pm - YG 5:00 pm – HE II	20 7:00 pm – Boy Scout Meeting	21 7:30 pm – Alanon 8:00 pm – AA	22 Noon – Free Lunch Noon – Parish Office Closed 5:30 pm – MW	23 Parish Office Closed	24 Parish Office Closed	25
26 8:00 am – HE I 9:00 am – Adult Ed 10:30 am – HE II 2:00 pm - LI 5:00 pm – HE II	27 7:00 pm – Boy Scout Meeting	28 7:30 pm – Alanon 8:00 pm – AA	29 Noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW 7:0 pm - CR	30 7:00 pm - Vestry 7:30 pm – Alanon		

Key Guide:

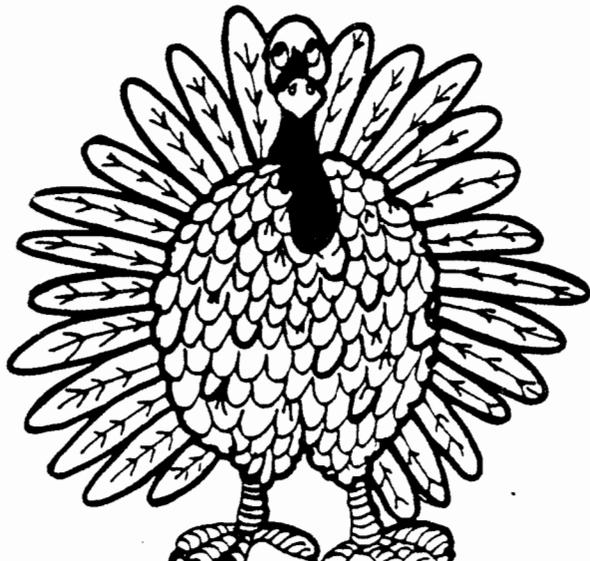
HE I – Holy Eucharist Rite I
LI – Lindley Inn Eucharist

HE II – Holy Eucharist Rite II
SS – Sunday School

MW – Midweek Eucharist YG – Youth Group Meeting
CR – Choir Rehearsal

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

			1	2	3	4
5 Betty Larson	6 Adam Hillard Carolyn Murphree	7	8	9	10	11
12 Thomas Walker	13	14 Ingrid Buckley	15	16 David Burton	17 Tiffany Sherman	18
19 Jon Sinclair	20	21 Preston Denton Keith Lackey	22	23 Jason Hillard Penny Karageorge	24 Molly Dickelman	25
26 Allyn Reilly Terrie Sherman	27	28	29 Benjamin Ziff Curt & Terrie Sherman	30		



Thanksgiving