
Good SHEPHERD News

The Episcopal Church of The Good Shepherd

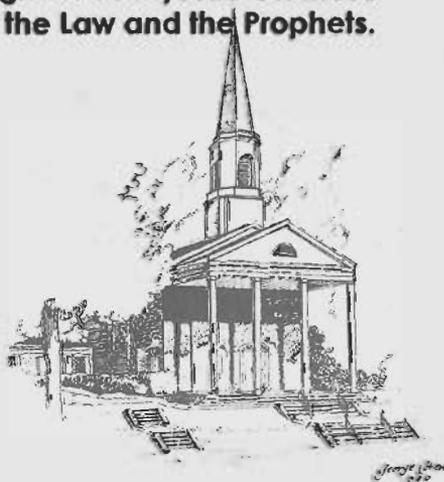
February

2007

**Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:
Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart,
and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the
first and great commandment. And the second is like
unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these
two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.**

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Seeking and Serving Christ in all persons

Lessons from the Snow

Snow brings out the best in people. We experienced our first real snowfall in Athens last Sunday (January 21) and out came the shovels. I spent the better part of Sunday afternoon and an hour or two Monday morning clearing our driveway, sidewalks, and walkways and putting down salt. A neighbor with whom we share a driveway said she had two bags of rock salt and offered to share. Fortunately, we already had some, left behind by the previous occupants of our house. All around the neighborhood you could hear the familiar scraping sound of metal snow shovels on concrete.

The first year Tracey and I were married, we lived in Hyde Park, on Chicago's South side. Like most people there, we parked our car on the city streets, observing arcane rules about which side of the street we could park on when the city needed to plow. We had to slow down and be very careful, because snow removal came late to Hyde Park (reportedly, because our alderman didn't always vote with the mayor). Sometimes, large sheets of ice would form and cars would skate through a red light or four way stop, even if we were only going 5-10 miles per hour. We kept old cardboard boxes in our trunk, in case an ice pit had formed in the gutter when we needed to go somewhere. We'd layer the cardboard under the tires to improve traction, but sometimes that wasn't enough. If you were still stuck, you could ask anyone walking by and they'd likely give you a push to help you out.

Hyde Park was by no means perfect. There were racial tensions and a history of difficult economic relationship between the University and the surrounding neighborhoods. The superintendent of our building was a violent and abusive man, and we had to call the police and Child Protective Services more than once. Other neighbors, and we ourselves, had more ordinary vices and flaws.

For most of us, snow brings out our latent tendency to live as neighbors in community. It calls us to be responsible. We look after snow removal, because we don't want people to fall. We help one another, because one person needs help and another can provide it. We don't count the cost. We don't ask what's in it for me. Snow brings with it the possibility of moving from self-centeredness, for which we have powerful cultural inducements, to other-centeredness. Natural disasters bring out similar good things in people. They awaken generosity of spirit, even self-sacrifice. Who would not risk his or her life to save a child, even when that child is not his or her own? But snowfall, at least

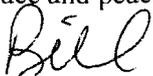
if it's not a severe storm, poses less serious risks to life and limb. It gives rise to an ordinary level of caution, concern, and neighborliness. Most of the time, no sacrifice is needed, just doing whatever is called for and lending a helping hand.

Snow also brings out an opportunity to play. We throw snowballs, make snowmen, and make snow angels. How difficult it is to contain the excitement of small children, especially when they have the day off from school. Rachel and I made more than one trip into the yard on Sunday and Monday. At the seminary where I used to teach, seminarians would bring their kids, and they'd run down the halls.

When Jesus tells us to love our neighbor as ourselves, he isn't saying anything new. He is reminding the People of Israel of something God has already commanded them (See Leviticus 19:18). The ancient pagan world knew nothing of our rugged individualism. People were bound by a set of social obligations to everyone around them. Sometimes, these obligations were oppressive. There is a reason for the Enlightenment emphasis on individual rights, but community obligations were real and they gave people a sense of belonging and meaning. What is new with Jesus is the command to love the enemy, and if necessary to die for those who hate us. This is what it means "to love one another as I have loved you" (John 13:34). Also new with Jesus is his insistence that the command to love neighbor, together with the commandment to love God with all our heart, mind, and strength, summarizes the entire law and gives us the key to understanding God's other commandments. Paul puts the same point this way: "Love does no wrong to the neighbor. Therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law" (Romans 13:10).

Just because a teaching isn't new, doesn't mean that we don't need to hear it. We also need Jesus' radical redefinition of who counts our neighbor, i.e. anyone who helps and anyone in need. (This is the point of the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:29-37). Otherwise, we retreat into gated communities, and help those who are enough like us to afford to live where we live. The lesson of the snow is something that we easily forget. Promoting our neighbor's interest, even when it conflicts with our own, is not something we have to wait to do. Every snowfall gives witness to the possibility of community and love that shows itself in action. The Church, despite the teaching of Jesus, is not always good at being a community of neighbor love and forgiveness. At the end of the day, snow teaches us that we're all in it together.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill".

Annual Parish Meeting

**Sunday, January 28th, 2007
following the 10:30 Eucharist**

There will not be an 8:00 a.m. Eucharist that day.

**Of your charity, please pray for Good Shepherd and
our annual parish meeting:**

For the parish (BCP, p. 817)

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For the annual meeting (BCP, p. 818)

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in Athens for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Dearly Beloved,

On Saturday, April 28, God willing, we will consecrate Thomas Breidenthal to serve as Bishop of Southern Ohio. As bishop, he will serve as chief pastor and apostle for all the people, clergy, and congregations of Southern Ohio, including Good Shepherd. The consecration will be held at Mershon Auditorium in Columbus on the campus of Ohio State University. I hope that many of us will be able to attend and participate. I know for a fact that Marsha Reilly has been asked to be part of the committee putting together the music.

As at the celebration of our new ministry together, the bishop will be presented with symbols of his office from the people and clergy of the diocese. The people will present him with his shepherd's staff. The clergy will present him with his Episcopal ring. Both are signs of shared ministry and collegial relationship, as well as of the trust and authority that we are placing in him as our next bishop. I have received a letter from Bishop Price asking that I contribute financially to pay for the ring and solicit contributions from the people of the parish who wish to help finance the purchase of the staff.

The staff is an important symbol of our relationship to the new bishop. God has called Dean Breidenthal to work as a servant, teacher, pastor, apostle, and missionary among us, as well as to guard the faith and unity of the Church. The fundamental ministry of bishops, in which we all share, is continuing the eyewitness testimony to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. No one is strong enough to do this work alone. As a diocese, we have participated in calling him, and it is as true to say that his ministry is an extension of our ministry as it is to say that our ministry is an extension of his. It is my hope that all members of Good Shepherd will participate in the giving of this gift. Many gifts, large and small, from throughout the diocese are needed.

Please pray for the bishop elect daily, as we do at the Sunday Eucharist, and please consider making a gift to the fund to provide him with the symbols of his office. Donations should be sent to the parish office at 64 University Terrace by February 15. They should be made out to Good Shepherd with "bishop's staff" written in the memo. We will then send a single check to the diocese.

As the day approaches, please also be fervent in prayer for the mission and ministry of God's Church in Southern Ohio.

Everliving God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

“For the Mission of the Church”--BCP, p. 816

In Christ,



“The Ministry” (from the Catechism - BCP, p. 855)

- Q. Who are the ministers of the Church?
A. The ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons.
- Q. What is the ministry of the laity?
A. The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church.
- Q. What is the ministry of a bishop?
A. The ministry of a bishop is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as apostle, chief priest, and pastor of a diocese; to guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the whole Church; to proclaim the Word of God; to act in Christ's name for the reconciliation of the world and the building up of the Church; and to ordain others to continue Christ's ministry.

Vestry Highlights from the January 18, 2007 Meeting

With great enthusiasm, the Vestry approved Leslie Flemming's ordination to the transitional diaconate. The vote was unanimous among the more than two-thirds of the Vestry present. God willing, Leslie will be ordained deacon in June and will serve as a deacon throughout her final year of seminary at Bexley Hall in Columbus. She and T.J. Azar, who is a year behind Leslie, continue in our prayers.

The Vestry received a report from the nominating committee. Bob Shelly will be nominated for another one-year term as Senior Warden. Ted Foster will be nominated to serve as Junior Warden. Geoff Buckley, Richard Carlson, Zelma Coleman, and Carolyn Murphree will be nominated to serve three year Vestry Terms. Matthew Adeyanju and Ann Shelly are the nominees for delegates to diocesan convention. Fr. Carroll and the Vestry expressed their profound gratitude to off-going Vestry members Dana Carlson, Roland Swardson, and Al Topping, as well as to Curt Sherman, whose extraordinary service as Junior Warden for the past eighteen months, which involved countless hours of work, was acknowledged and celebrated by all in attendance. There was a brief discussion of the need to lighten the Junior Warden's load, through a property committee and eventually through making increases in the maintenance budget so that deferred maintenance becomes less of a problem. Ultimately, there are major issues with the building that cannot be addressed in any other way than through a capital campaign.

Fr. Carroll updated the Vestry on progress with the search for a new sexton. Earlier in January, our present sexton offered his resignation effective January 31. In consultation with the executive committee, Fr. Carroll formulated an ad which was placed in the Athens Messenger and Athens News. He forwarded it to the parish e-mail list asking parishioners to circulate it to people they knew who might be interested in the job. He also sent it to Good Works, which has a job training program in some of the skills we are seeking. Fr. Carroll and a member of the executive committee will interview applicants the week of January 21. We are requesting two references from each applicant. After consultation with the executive committee, which is also the personnel committee, Fr. Carroll hopes to hire someone by January 31. The initial response to the ads has been strong. Twenty applicants will be interviewed the week of January 21 and there is a waiting list of more than twenty-eight if we do not hire one of the first twenty.

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

				1 Jane Lou Smith	2 Eli Redfern	3 Gordy Ruchti Henry & Caroline Dean
4	5 Katie Irwin	6 Eliza Riffe	7	8 Michelle Parsons	9	10
11	12	13	14 Katyana Sayrs	15 Quentin Derryberry III	16 Amy Hillard	17 Lee Palmer
18	19 Patricia Beamish	20 Brad Dukes	21 Brooks Purdy Harold Smith	22 Madeleine Sinclair- Maupin	23	24
25 Jane Forrest Redfern	26 Lindsay Beetem	27 Ronald Isele	28 Chris Coleman Sandy Oney			

February Events at Good Shepherd

				1 7:30 pm - Alanon	2	3
4 8:00 am – HE I 9:00 am – Ad Ed 10:15 am – SS 10:30 am – HE II 2:00 pm – LI 5:00 pm – HE II	5 11:30 am – Bible Study 7:00 pm – Boy Scout	6 7:30 pm – Alanon 8:00 pm – AA	7 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW 7:00 pm – CR	8 7:30 pm – Alanon	9 5:30 pm – Ultreya Potluck 6:30 pm – Ultreya 7:30 pm - YG	10
11 8:00 am – HE I 9:00 am – Ad Ed 10:15 am – SS 10:30 am – HE II 5:00 pm – HE II	12 7:00 pm – Boy Scout	13 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:30 pm – Alanon 8:00 pm – AA	14 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW 7:00 pm – CR	15 7:00 pm – Vestry 7:30 pm – Alanon	16	17
18 8:00 am – HE I 9:00 am – Ad Ed 10:15 am – SS 10:30 am – HE II 2:00 pm – LI 5:00 pm – HE II	19 7:00 pm – Boy Scout	20 7:30 pm – Alanon 8:00 pm – AA	21 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW 7:00 pm – CR	22 7:30 pm - Alanon	23	24
25 8:00 am – HE I 9:00 am – Ad Ed 10:15 am – SS 10:30 am – HE II 3:00 pm - YG 5:00 pm – HE II	26 7:00 pm – Boy Scout	27 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:30 pm – Alanon 8:00 pm – AA	28 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW 7:00 pm – CR			

Key Guide:

HE I – Holy Eucharist Rite I

LI – Lindley Inn Eucharist

HE II – Holy Eucharist Rite II

SS – Sunday School

MW – Midweek Eucharist

CR – Choir Rehearsal

YG – Youth Group Meeting

Ad Ed – Adult Education