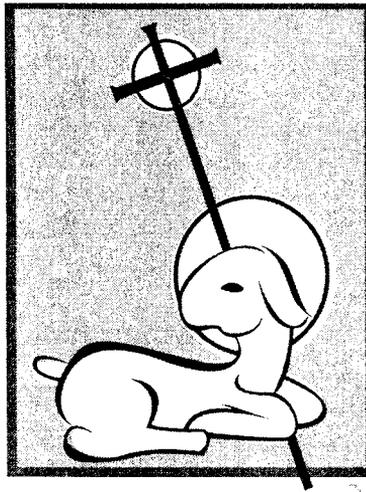


*Good*  
SHEPHERD  
*News*

*The Episcopal Church of The Good Shepherd*

*May*

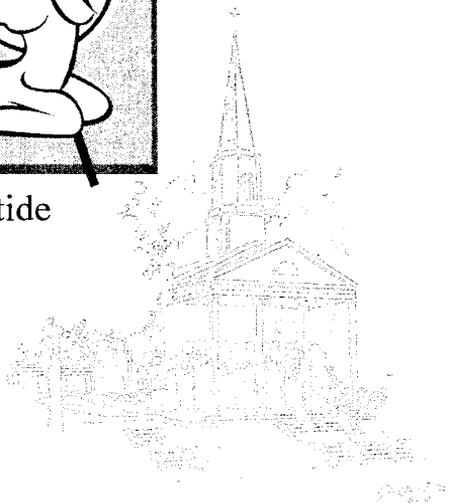
**2007**



**Eastertide**

**Inside . . .**

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- Vestry Highlights ..... p 5
- Calendar of Events ..... see insert



*Worship at 10:00am • Sacrament at 11:00am*

## **Save the Date(s):**

### **An Opportunity to Shape our Ministry Together**

Following the lead of Thomas Breidenthal, who will be our bishop by the time this newsletter arrives, we are holding two listening sessions, to which all members of Good Shepherd are invited. These general sessions are intended to identify next steps for the next couple of years toward meeting the goals in our parish profile. They will be followed up with more specific sessions about particular programs in the fall. The areas of focus for these will be chosen after the sessions in May and June.

The first session will be **Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, after the 10:30 Eucharist** (we'll take about 15 minutes to stretch and get a cup of coffee and a small bite to eat--this first session will last exactly one hour and the process will be nearly identical to the one that Bishop-elect Breidenthal used with us).

The second session will be **Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, again after the 10:30 Eucharist** and will employ an identical format. This may go slightly longer, but no longer than an hour and a half.

I look forward to seeing as many people as possible at one or the other (or both) of these events. They will be extremely important opportunities to help shape the future mission and ministry of Good Shepherd. Please come prepared to discuss what excites you about our ministry together now as well as your hopes and dreams for the future.

To help frame our discussion, let me remind you that the three most consistent and repeated comments from members of Good Shepherd at the listening session with the bishop-elect concerned (1) the importance of our excellent music program; (2) desire for renewed campus ministry; and (3) the importance of being a Church which is open to all people.

Bishop-elect Breidenthal has said that a consistent theme of the discussions at the 10 listening sessions throughout the diocese has been a hunger for community. We might give this some attention as well.

As further food for thought, allow me to remind you of the five goals in the parish profile:

- 1) Continue to build upon a strong heritage of worship and music that is eucharistically and prayer book centered and which strongly involves the laity.

2) Raise up and strengthen vestry and other lay ministers who can provide consistent and visionary leadership and assist the parish in understanding and responding to conflict.

3) Learn about and foster financial stewardship especially as it pertains to the monetary requirements of a full time priest and other personnel, and to addressing the needs and use of our physical plant.

4) Continue to encourage and support individual and small group ministry in the community, and establish and sponsor new programs.

5) Develop programs and worship for the congregation designed to attract young families, their children, college students, and other underserved groups; where possible we will work cooperatively with other churches.

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Peace,

*Bill*

### CASA/GAL Fundraiser

Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. CASA/GAL (Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem) are the waiters (the juvenile judge often waits, too) at the Red Brick Tavern on Court Street. The house take for the evening goes to the program.

## **Human Rights Advocate and Changing Attitude Nigeria Founder Davis Mac-Iyalla to Visit Good Shepherd**

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007, Good Shepherd will be joined at our 9:00 a.m. adult education hour and 10:30 a.m. Eucharist by Davis Mac-Iyalla. Davis will also be with us at a public forum to be held at Good Shepherd at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, to which the entire Athens community is warmly invited. Please plan to attend any or all of the events and bring a friend. Please also bring your checkbook! A freewill offering will be taken up to support Davis during his three-month trip to the United States, where he is giving personal testimony about his experience to many congregations and groups, including the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church (the body that is responsible for governing the Church between General Conventions). There was a real struggle to obtain a visa for him to enter the United States, and a letter inviting him to speak at Good Shepherd was one of several documents that were submitted to the State Department in support of his application.

Davis is the founder of Changing Attitude Nigeria, an organization working for human rights and full inclusion in the (Anglican) Church of Nigeria for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered (LGBT) people. Davis is a very engaging, thirty-four year old man, with a vibrant Christian faith, who has been plunged right into the middle of a major social conflict that affects both society and church in Nigeria. As a result, he has faced anonymous death threats. He has also been fired from his job as a school principal, suffered ostracism from family and friends, and been denied communion by the church he loves. One of the highlights of the recent meeting of Anglican Primates in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania was when Davis was introduced to the primate of the Church of Nigeria, Archbishop Peter Akinola (whom he had met before). Akinola shook his hand, thereby acknowledging the existence of at least one gay Nigerian, which he had previously publicly denied.

Archbishop Akinola has been a supporter of a proposed Nigerian law (whose passage was recently delayed) that would impose criminal sanctions on free speech, freedom of the press, and freedom of assembly for those advocating civil equality for LGBT persons in Nigeria, a country which already criminalizes same sex relationships. Whatever one's opinion about the ordination of partnered LGBT clergy and the blessing of same sex relationships, this law clearly violates internationally recognized human rights standards, which are also recognized by all member churches of the Anglican Communion.

Here is a partial account of Davis' work in the Church of Nigeria from the Rev. Tracy Longacre:

Davis was quite public in Nigeria and well known, particularly within the Anglican Church, even prior to the founding of Changing Attitude Nigeria. He had been the personal assistant to one of the more liberal Bishops before that Bishop's death and was "out" to him. He was also out to his family and friends. None of this seemed to pose any big problems. His family accepted him and the Bishop accepted him, even making him a Knight, which is an honorary tradition within the Nigerian Anglican Church used much the same way as making someone a canon in other Anglican churches. This was all fine. Then he convened the first general meeting of Changing Attitude-Nigeria which was attended by over 1,000 lesbian and gay Nigerian Anglicans. A meeting of this size, while the Archbishop was declaring to the world that "there are no homosexuals in Africa" was extremely embarrassing and made some people (apparently) very angry. Many of his friends, and most of his family, stopped being supportive when he became very public, particularly when he directly challenged Archbishop Akinola.

Additional information about Davis can be found in his blog "A Gay Nigerian Christian Diary," which is located at <http://davis35.wordpress.com/>

Press releases from Changing Attitude Nigeria are found at:

[http://www.archive.changingattitude.org/news\\_i\\_c\\_nigeriaca\\_press\\_release\\_171005.html](http://www.archive.changingattitude.org/news_i_c_nigeriaca_press_release_171005.html)

[http://www.archive.changingattitude.org/news\\_i\\_c\\_nigeria\\_network\\_ests.html](http://www.archive.changingattitude.org/news_i_c_nigeria_network_ests.html)

<http://www.changingattitude.org.uk/news/newsitem.asp?id=272>

Please come and welcome Davis to Good Shepherd. And please come prepared to support him in his mission to the people and congregations of the Episcopal Church. For more information, please call the parish office (593-6877) or e-mail Fr. Carroll at [gsrector@gmail.com](mailto:gsrector@gmail.com).

## **Vestry Highlights from April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

Ted Foster reported that Robin Zirker has begun working on the pews systematically, putting in set screws and filling in cracks. The stopped-up drain in the piscina is still being studied. Parish clean-up has been rescheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup>. Bob Shelly spoke to Robin Zirker about retrofitting the front pews for handicap access. The Greek Orthodox community has made a generous contribution to fund efforts to increase accessibility.

The need for a listening process was raised at the vestry retreat. The vestry will need input from the entire parish about program priorities in order to help meet the parish's stated five goals. The listening session with Bishop-Elect Breidenthal indicated that strengthening of the music program and campus ministry are priorities. An all-parish listening session, led by a layperson, will be held on May 6<sup>th</sup>, with another to follow on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. These sessions will produce next steps in the development of these two programs and solicit any additional programs that the parish should prioritize.

Fr. Carroll noted that he has been using "Seeking and serving Christ in all persons" as an unofficial mission statement and that this is consistent with our stated mission: "We are striving, with God's help, to be an open and welcoming faith community for all by providing opportunities for worship, study, outreach, and care for one another." He suggests formally adopting this or a similar concise statement, to be supplemented by the current one, after appropriate consultation. The purpose is to have something that we can use in official publications that everyone can know by heart.

In response to a letter from David Burton, an ad hoc committee will be appointed to the vestry to assess improvements to Nehls Hall. After submission of a proposal in June, funds will be raised and allocated accordingly. The committee will include broad representation from the vestry as well as groups that use the parish hall extensively.



# ONE HEART WORLD

*we are one*



## Kenyon Summer Conference

July 22-27, 2007 - Gambier, Ohio

The Kenyon Conference draws people from all walks of life and offers something for everyone, whether married or single, newborn or octogenarian. Worship, storytelling, music, keynote speakers, outdoor games, leisurely chats, country expeditions, blissful hours in the bookstore, tasty ice cream, and great people are all part of the Kenyon Summer Conference experience. Sponsored by the Episcopal Dioceses of Ohio and Southern Ohio, Kenyon 2007 is open to people of all faiths. The theme for this year's conference is **One Heart, One World, We Are One**. Together the people of God will listen, learn, pray, play, laugh, and sing as we seek ways to make the Millennium Development Goals our own.

The Rt. Rev. **Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.**, Bishop of Ohio, and the Rt. Rev. **Tom Breidenthal**, newly elected diocesan bishop of the Diocese of Southern Ohio, will be the keynote speakers this year; along with Nashville storyteller and musician **Kate Campbell**. The Rev. **Mike Kinman**, executive director of Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation will jump start the conference on July 22 and 23.

Registration and more information:

[www.kenyonconference.org](http://www.kenyonconference.org)

or contact

**Robert Bennett, Registrar**

740-427-3620 or [bennetr@kenyon.edu](mailto:bennetr@kenyon.edu)



The Rt. Rev. Mark  
Hollingsworth, Jr.  
Bishop of Ohio



The Rt. Rev. Tom  
Breidenthal  
Bishop of Southern Ohio



The Rev. Mike Kinman  
Executive Director,  
Episcopalians for Global  
Reconciliation



Kate Campbell  
Storyteller and  
Musician

## May Events at Good Shepherd

		<b>1</b> 7:30 pm – Alanon 8:00 pm – AA	<b>2</b> noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW 7:00 pm – CR	<b>3</b> 7:30 pm – Alanon	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 8:00 am – HE I 9:00 am – Ad Ed 10:15 am – SS 10:30 am – HE II Listening Session 5:00 pm – HE II	<b>7</b> 7:00 pm – Boy Scout Meeting	<b>8</b> 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl 7:30 pm – Alanon 8:00 pm – AA	<b>9</b> Fr. Carroll out of office noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW 6:30 pm – Choir Party	<b>10</b> Fr. Carroll out of office 7:30 pm – Alanon	<b>11</b> Fr. Carroll out of office 5:30 pm – Ultreya Potluck 6:30 pm – Ultreya Meeting	<b>12</b> Fr. Carroll out of office
<b>13</b> 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	<b>14</b> 11:30 am – Bible Study 7:00 pm – Boy Scout Meeting	<b>15</b> 7:30 pm – Alanon 8:00 pm – AA	<b>16</b> noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW 7:00 pm – CR	<b>17</b> 7:30 pm – Alanon	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Hines/Yanity Wedding
<b>20</b> 8:00 am – HE I 9:00 am – Ad Ed 10:15 am – SS 10:30 am – HE II 3:00 pm – Public Forum 5:00 pm – HE II	<b>21</b> 7:00 pm – Boy Scout Meeting	<b>22</b> 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl 7:30 pm – Alanon 8:00 pm – AA	<b>23</b> noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW 7:00 pm – CR	<b>24</b> 7:30 pm – Alanon	<b>25</b> Parish Administrator is out of the office	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 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	<b>28</b> Parish Office closed	<b>29</b> 7:30 pm – Alanon 8:00 pm – AA	<b>30</b> noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW 7:00 pm – CR	<b>31</b> 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  
CR – Choir Rehearsal

YG – Youth Group Meeting  
Ad Ed – Adult Education