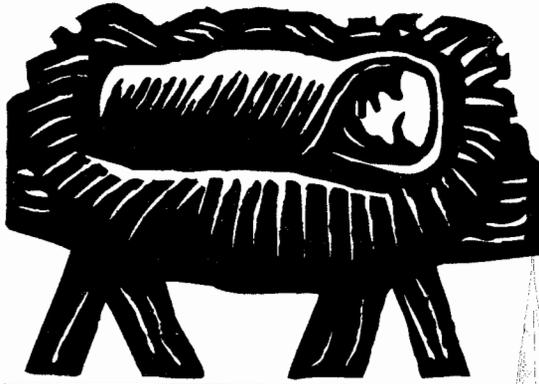


Good News
News

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

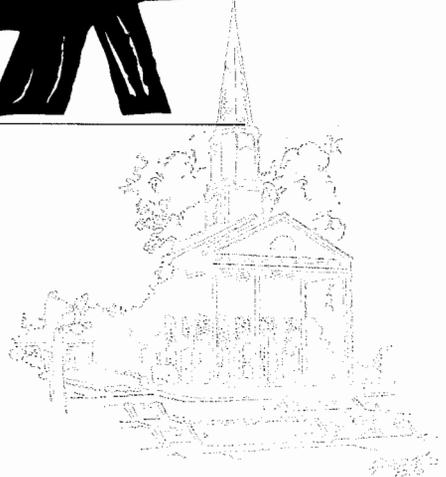
December

2007



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Seeing and Serving Christ in all persons

Advent and Patience: A Call to Wait

A few years ago, we were at a mall in late October. Christmas carols were already playing, and decorations were everywhere. Our daughter took one look at the place and exclaimed, “Daddy, it’s not even ADVENT yet.” Rachel knew that our family doesn’t decorate until Christmas comes. I’ll confess that we do put up our tree on December 23rd, a concession to the fact that one or both of us has always been working on Christmas Eve. But we don’t decorate until the next day, usually between the early and late services.

One of the beauties of being an Episcopalian is the observance of the ancient liturgical year. The season of Christmas begins with the Feast of the Nativity and lasts until the Epiphany of Our Lord, which falls twelve days later, on January 6th. Until then, we actively await the coming of God’s holy child. The discipline of the liturgical year can teach us virtues, such as patience, that our society lacks. It also stands as a bulwark against the commercialization of Christmas.

I am not saying this to make you feel guilty, if your customs differ. The place I used to work sees annual Advent wars. The cause of the conflict: just when to put up the tree. This is not a guilt trip but an invitation. I am inviting you to think about some ways to mark the difference between the time before and the time after the festival of Christ’s birth.

Attending our Advent Lessons and Music service is one way (Sunday, December 2nd at 4:00 p.m.). Spending more time in prayer is another. Our Wednesday mid-week Eucharists continue throughout the season at 5:30 p.m., followed by a contemplative prayer group at 6:00 p.m. We are also celebrating a simple service of Evening Prayer on the second, third, and fourth Sundays of Advent (December 9th, 26th, and 23rd at 6:00 p.m.).

Properly celebrated, Advent gives us space to stop and pay attention to what God is about to do. Even now, a great and holy tension fills the cosmos, as God stirs up God’s power and prepares to act. Soon, Jesus will be born, and human and angelic choirs will fill the earth with his praise. Until then, we wait, and we try to cultivate a militant patience. May this deepen our Christmas joy.

Grace and peace,



The Rev. R. William Carroll, Rector

Thanksgiving Day, 2007

Greetings,

I am writing to you today in my capacity as your Senior Warden, to challenge us all to be faithful in our calling as stewards of God's many gifts.

During convention each year, the diocese publishes the list of all parishes and their membership, Sunday attendance, income, and assessment. This information leads to comparisons between parishes and results in each of us looking at the situations of others. We know, for instance, that some parishes have large memberships and huge endowments. Others struggle, and it is a mystery to me how they keep their doors open.

As we began to prepare the budget for next year, the vestry executive committee engaged in some of this comparison. Jack Flemming, our parish treasurer, was kind enough to analyze the data in two different ways. In one analysis, he compared parishes of like size based on the number on membership rolls. Good Shepherd has slightly over 300 people on its rolls. There are nine other parishes close to this number. In the other analysis he used the nine other parishes similar to us in average Sunday attendance. We averaged a bit over ninety people at our services in 2006. This includes our early service, the main service at 10:30, and our Lindley Inn outreach ministry. For each of these comparisons, our average pledge income is last or next to last. In other words, similar parishes support themselves more from pledge and plate income than Good Shepherd.

As I issue this challenge to you, brothers and sisters, there are three considerations that I'd like all of us to keep in the front of our minds. First, we have been a parish committed to outreach and social justice ministries, and we want to be a leader in the diocese in showing commitment to this. This legacy is important to many of us, and we still have many more gifts to offer in this area. Second, campus ministry is a top priority of this parish, of our rector and vestry, and of our new bishop. We want to build a strong and vital congregation that will better be able to reach out to faculty, students, and others in our community in the decades to come. Good Shepherd is not and should not be exclusively a University parish, but our location demands missionary outreach to the Ohio University campus. We have the opportunity to be (continued to page 6 -- see Senior Warden)

Notes from the Organ Bench

Advent Festival of Lessons and Music is framed on ancient precedent and has been used in similar form at King's College, Cambridge, England. The order of service includes old liturgical forms that vividly express the Church' preparation for the coming of the Lord Jesus. It moves from darkness to light, from the Fall of Adam and Eve to the Annunciation to Mary. Between the Lessons are sung carols and anthems to praise the goodness of our God, and voice the joy and worship of us all at the coming of God's holy Child.

The festival this year will take place on Sunday, December 2nd, at 4:00 p.m. The choir and will be joined by singers from other churches, Jan Robison, organ, Carissa Patton (one of our alto Vocal Music Assistants), flute, Harolyn Brient, handbells and piano, Lois Wagner and Phyllis Dean handbells.

This tradition of presenting a musical program at the beginning of Advent began many years ago as a program based on music and readings from different countries. We sang music from Russia, Germany, Italy, Latin America and also from regions of the USA - particularly the Appalachian region. After this plan ran its course, we began using the service of Advent Lessons and Carols from the Book of Occasional Services. This book, in addition to the Lessons and Carols, also contains liturgies for such things as house blessings, various types of Vigils, etc.

Music for this service includes a Taize chant during the candle lighting, a setting of "O come, O come Emmanuel" for choir and flute for the processional, and a verse anthem "This is the record of John" by Orlando Gibbons,(1583-1625) . The choir will also sing traditional English carols, contemporary settings of two ancient texts - "Adam lay ybounden" (relating to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden) and "Drop down O heavens from above". The spiritual "My Lord, what a morning", and a few hymns for choir and congregation, including the favorite "Lo, he comes with clouds descending" (Hymnal 57) complete the program. (continued to page 6 - see Organ Notes)

Outreach: “not only with our lips, but in our lives”

The Outreach Committee held a meeting on November 18th to discuss programming for 2008, better define the procedures of the committee, and develop guidelines for new and upcoming outreach ministries. The processes evolving from our meeting provide a framework for allowing Good Shepherd to more effectively promote the work of Christ we carry into the world. Two of the most important points are:

- reaffirmation of vestry oversight for all ministries at Good Shepherd;
- guidelines for designating an “outreach ministry” of the parish

For a more detailed explanation on the guidelines for starting a new outreach ministry at Good Shepherd, please see our chair Jane Forrest Redfern, Fr. Carroll, or another member of the committee.

Existing projects and/or ministries at Good Shepherd were discussed and divided into two categories: “ministries” and “projects supported through donations.” The following is a breakdown of the committee’s determination:

MINISTRY: Wednesday Lunch, Food Pantry, Prison Ministry, Mental Health Clinic, Global (including Honduras), Creation Justice, Heifer Project, Housing (including Good Works & Habitat for Humanity), Lindley Inn

SUPPORT THROUGH DONATIONS: Seminary Support, Episcopal Community Services Foundation, Episcopal Relief & Development, Rector’s Discretionary Fund, Rural Action

The committee’s chair, Jane Forrest Redfern will be contacting each of the above ministries and requesting that they choose a representative to the Outreach Committee. Please be thinking about who you feel will best represent your ministry on the committee!

If the we have left off something that you feel should be considered an outreach ministry, it was probably an oversight. Please bring it to our attention, and we can discuss it at the next meeting.

The Outreach Committee is beginning a regular monthly feature in the newsletter, so please look for our next article in January! AJ Stack has been designated the coordinator for Outreach Committee news, so please see, call, or email him with any suggestions or questions.

Vestry Highlights from November 15th, 2007

The entire November Vestry meeting centered on a discussion of parish finances with a view to the 2008 budget.

Fr. Carroll reported about the results of the stewardship campaign so far. We have \$106,179 in pledges from 48 households. Of this amount, 4 new and 23 increased pledges account for a total of \$10,305. There are 23 households which pledged last year but have not yet returned a pledge card. Stewardship co-chairs Julie Nehls and Geoff Buckley, along with Senior Warden Bob Shelly, will follow up with these households. The hope is to have firm pledge numbers before the vestry adopts a budget at its December 20 meeting. We are ahead of where we were at this point last year.

Treasurer Jack Flemming reported about a summary of pledge data from congregations of similar size to Good Shepherd. His central conclusion was that, compared with other congregations its size, Good Shepherd relies disproportionately heavily on endowment and other forms of non-pledge income. This trend needs to be reversed, so that Good Shepherd can move forward in mission. (See the Senior Warden's letter for more details).

The Vestry had a preliminary discussion of three sets of budget numbers, which Fr. Carroll prepared with the executive committee. If we meet the goal of \$160,000 in pledges, we will be able to do what we hope to do, increasing the music director's salary and purchasing music resources for children, adding \$3000 to our outreach budget, increasing the maintenance budget, and cutting the deficit. If we receive \$150,000 in pledges, we will be able to maintain the new programming from last year, without cutting the deficit or raising the maintenance budget. If we receive \$140,000 in pledges, we will face significant cuts in program and will have to evaluate where our priorities lie. One of the things the parish is facing is a substantial reduction in rental income, due to competition for parking with Baker Center.

Senior Warden – continued from page 2

on the front lines in sharing the Good News with a new generation, and we owe it to God to respond faithfully to this calling. Third, the costs associated with sustaining our ministries have increased dramatically over the past thirty years, and yet for many of us our financial commitment has not increased. It was a revelation to me that even with today's average price for a dozen eggs, (\$1.77) as compared to the price in 1980 (\$0.88) some of us have not raised our pledges in several years.

Thus, my plea to you. Ann and I have committed to raising our pledge for 2008. If you have not pledged, please return your pledge card for next year. If you have pledged, please consider revising your pledge upward. I realize that some may not be able to do this, but please think prayerfully about how we are going to live into our mission to serve others.

Yours in Christ,
Bob Shelly,
Senior Warden

Organ Notes – continued from page 3

An offering will be taken to defray expenses for this program and to support the June Black Music Fund.

Please invite your friends. This service is unique to our Anglican tradition and is a beautiful way to begin the season of Advent.

Sunday, December 9th, the choir will present a short program at Trinity Church in McArthur. The people there have invited us to join them for a potluck following the program. If anyone would like to sing with the choir for this service or for the rest of Advent and Christmas Eve please come to rehearsal on December 5th at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, December 14th, at 7:30 p.m. the Southeast Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will present a concert of music for Advent and Christmas. The concert will include music for organ and other instruments as well as carol singing. This concert is free and open to the public.

Marsha Reilly
Music Director

December Events at Good Shepherd

						1 10 am – Advent CR 1 pm – Advent Reader Rehearsal
2 8 am – HE I 9 am – Chr Ed 10:30 am – HE II 4 pm – Advent Festival	3 7 pm – Boy Scouts	4 7:30 pm – Alanon 8:00 pm – AA	5 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW 6 pm – Contemplative Prayer 7 pm - CR	6 7:30 pm – Alanon	7	8
9 8 am – HE I 9 am – Chr Ed 10:30 am – HE II 2 pm – LI 6 pm – Taize Service	10 7 pm – Boy Scouts	11 7:30 pm – Alanon 8:00 pm – AA	12 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW 6 pm – Contemplative Prayer 7 pm - CR	13 7:30 pm – Alanon	14 5:30 pm – Ultreya 7 pm – AGO Advent Concert	15 noon - ARC Holiday Party
16 8 am – HE I 9 am – Chr Ed 10:30 am – HE II 4 pm – Youth Group 6 pm – Taize Service	17 7 pm – Boy Scouts	18 7:30 pm – Alanon 8:00 pm – AA	19 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW 6 pm – Contemplative Prayer 7 pm - CR	20 7 pm – Vestry 7:30 pm – Alanon	21	22
23 8 am – HE I 9 am – Chr Ed 10:30 am – HE II 2 pm – LI 6 pm – Taize Service	24 Parish Office Closed 4 pm – Christmas Eve Service 10 pm – Prelude Music 10:30 pm – Christmas Eve Service	25 Parish Office Closed	26 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW 6 pm – Contemplative Prayer 7 pm - CR	27 7:30 pm - Alanon	28	29
30 8 am – HE I 9 am – Chr Ed 10:30 am – HE II 4 pm – Youth Group	31					

Key Guide:

HE I – Holy Eucharist Rite I
 EP – Evening Prayer

HE II – Holy Eucharist Rite II
 CR – Choir Rehearsal

MW – Midweek Eucharist
 Chr Ed – Christian Education

LI – Lindley Inn Eucharist