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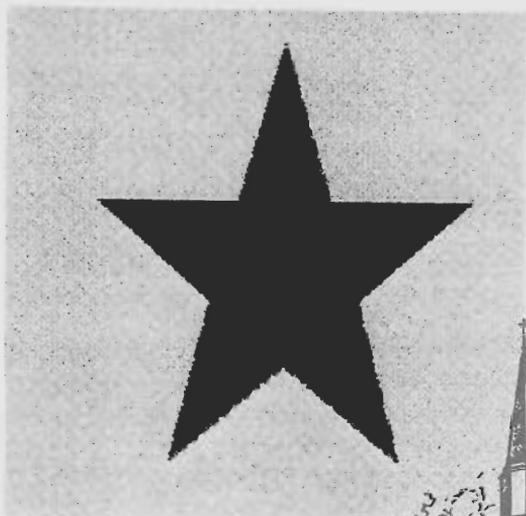
# Good News

*The Episcopal Church of The Good Shepherd*

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January

2008



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*Seeking and Serving Christ in all persons*

## **From the Rector**

*Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in the Church of the Good Shepherd 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.*

(For a Church Convention or Meeting—Prayer Book, p. 818)

As we approach our annual parish meeting on Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, we are still rejoicing in our celebration of the birth of Jesus. Christmas reminds us why we are here. Jesus is the reason not just for the holiday season, but for every season of the Church's life. The Feast of the Nativity renews us in his love, which has been poured out on all flesh through the Incarnation. At the Epiphany (January 6), our attention shifts to the missionary task of the Church, as the light of the incarnate Word is made known to all nations. Like Easter, which leads to Pentecost, Christmas too is followed by a season of mission.

At each of our Christmas Eve services, God gave us many gifts. At 4:00 p.m., the greatest of these was the children. They processed in with the altar party and helped place the baby in the manger. At the service, we heard and sang many beloved carols, including two piano duets, which Peter Buckley played with Marsha Reilly. At communion time, the children joined me around the altar for the Eucharistic prayer. Before that, for the sermon, I retold the Christmas story to the children at the base of the chancel stairs. It is my intention to preach more children's sermons, involving Sunday School teachers as they are willing.

The 10:30 p.m. service was glorious in different ways. The church was filled with old and new friends. The nave was resplendently beautiful in the candlelight. I am convinced that Good Shepherd looks its best on Christmas Eve. Thanks to the members of the altar guild who helped polish and decorate. As always, the music was incredibly moving. Midnight mass is solemn Anglican worship at its very finest. It can awaken in us a profound sense of the glory and mercy of God.

At the parish meeting, we will hear about the state of the parish. Good Shepherd is growing and changing, and there are many exciting things going on. We are also facing some decisions about how best to live out The Gospel in our context. These are really incarnational questions: how is the Word becoming flesh among us? A summary of the feedback

about our worship space will be distributed and discussed. We will also discuss the budget for 2008, which the Vestry will adopt at its January meeting. Budgets reflect our priorities for mission.

At the meeting, we will also elect Vestry and wardens. The nominating committee has met and a full slate of nominees have agreed to serve. Carolyn Murphree and Ted Foster are nominated for the positions of senior and junior warden respectively. Nominees for Vestry include Anne Braxton, Elizabeth Sayers, A. J. Stack, and June Wieman. I give thanks to God, both personally and on behalf of the parish, for their willingness to offer themselves for this ministry. Our parish bylaws also provide for nominations from the floor, which are always welcome.

I am incredibly grateful for three leaders who are moving on to new ministries. Bob Shelly has been a faithful senior warden. Departing Vestry members Allyn Reilly and Kathleen Sullivan have made many valuable contributions as well. Thanks to them all for serving.

As I told the committee and the nominees, my hope is to create a Vestry that accurately represents the whole parish, so that lines of communication to and from the Vestry are wide open, and the concerns of all the parish's members and ministries are fairly represented in the Vestry's conversation. The Vestry can't please everyone and often does need to make difficult decisions to promote the common good. I am convinced that a diverse group of elected parish leaders can best hear and respond to the concerns of the whole parish. They can also most effectively communicate the rationale for decisions. At the same time, Vestry members don't have constituents. They are supposed to be chosen for their spiritual maturity, for their dedication to the parish, and for their gifts for leadership. They are expected to vote their conscience. All this is crucial to our efforts to help the parish grow, as well as our plans to meet the second of the goals from the parish profile: "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." Choosing Vestry members and wardens is a missionary task. It is a decision about what kind of parish we want to become.

**Peace,**

Bill

## **Vestry Highlights for December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

At its December meeting, the Vestry heard a report from the nominating committee (see rector's article and the announcement of the annual meeting for names of the nominees).

The rest of the meeting focused on questions of stewardship and budget. Fr. Carroll observed that Good Shepherd had equalled last year's record financial stewardship, and that this was cause for celebration. At the same time, lost rental income for parking, due to competition from Baker Center, and rising expenses mean that we may not be able to do everything we had hoped to do. A plan was presented which preserved spending on core ministries. Agreement was reached in principle about what to do with the 2008 budget, but a formal motion adopting a budget was postponed till the January meeting, because too many members of the Vestry from whom we needed to hear were absent due to the holidays and illness.

Fr. Carroll will appoint a committee, to consist of Carolyn Murphree, Jack Flemming, Matthew Adeyanju, Anne Braxton, Geoff Buckley, and Julie Nehls. The committee will look at all sources of income, including pledges, rentals, and endowment interest, as well as expenses, to make recommendations to the Vestry for the 2009 stewardship campaign and budget.

**Evensong  
with a potluck to follow**

**Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup>  
5:30 p.m.**

# MONEY TALK\$

January, 2008

During the past few months, we have been involved with matters of stewardship. Recent issues of our newsletter have seen thoughtful articles both by Fr. Carroll and by Sr. Warden, Bob Shelly. I concur with what they say, and like them I realize that the largest and most important part of our income comes in pledges. But one of my jobs, as the steward of my own office, is to constantly look for ways to save money and to increase our income. Some of these items are fairly small in themselves. But small things add up. I would like to address one of our sources of income in particular.

About 2 years ago, Al Topping encouraged Good Shepherd to sign up for the Kroger Gift Card program, and to date this program has been reasonably successful. I know that not everyone shops at Kroger's, and I am not asking people to alter their buying habits. But if you do shop there, the Kroger Gift Card is a very easy way to provide income for Good Shepherd while doing something as easy as buying groceries and gasoline. Here's how it works.

1. You get a Kroger Gift Card from Glenda. The cost is \$5. This reimburses what Good Shepherd paid Kroger for the card, and your \$5 is reimbursed by Kroger's the first time you use the card.
2. When you arrive at the store to buy groceries, you go to the Customer Service desk and load the amount into your card that you think you will be spending that day. You pay for this by cash, check, or credit card.
3. You then pay for your groceries with the Gift Card.
4. At the end of the month, Kroger's sends Good Shepherd a check for 5% of what you have loaded onto your card, NOT of the portion you have spent.
5. If you avail yourselves of Kroger's gasoline discount, as I sometimes do, you can also use your Gift Card for gas purchases. Before I buy gas, I go inside and load my card with what I think I am going to spend. I then use it to pay

the attendant at the pump. Kroger's also sends 5% of this money to Good Shepherd.

Right now, Good Shepherd is realizing more than \$3,500 per year from this program – the equivalent of 2 average annual pledges. But we could be earning 3 times this amount. The secret to making this program really pay is for every parishioner, who shops at Kroger's, to have a Kroger Gift Card and to USE IT REGULARLY. If you already have a Kroger Gift Card, I urge you to remember to use it regularly. If you don't have one, I urge you to get one from Glenda and use it. If you would like more information, please see me.

**Jack Flemming,  
Treasurer**

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**The Church of the Good Shepherd  
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH**

**Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**Nehls Hall**

**following the  
10:30 a.m. Eucharist**

**Sr. Warden nominee – Carolyn Murphree**

**Jr. Warden nominee – Ted Foster**

**Vestry nominees – Anne Braxton, Elizabeth  
Sayrs, A J Stack, and June Wieman**

## **OUTREACH – *not only with our lips, but in our lives***

Lent, which starts on February 6<sup>th</sup> this year, is a season in which self-denial and moderation play a large role for many of us. We might fast from eating chocolate, swear off caffeine, or even skip a meal or two. A perfect time, then, to be reminded that we have the luxury of fasting. We have the ability to give up meat on Fridays or to drink water instead of soft drinks. We choose to skip a meal and feel hunger pains. What about those who cannot make that choice? Who struggle to find any food on Fridays? Who worry less about the quality of their drinking water than actually having it? We might consider tying our Lenten disciplines to efforts to level the playing field: to relieve others' hunger while we fast; to help someone go to bed with a full stomach even though ours remains empty; to give someone safe water to drink while we struggle with not having our morning coffee. Let me provide three possibilities:

***Heifer International*** Last year the children in Godly Play collected money for Heifer International, an organization dedicated to helping the hungry feed themselves by supplying them with livestock and clean drinking water, and teaching them sustainable and efficient ways to live. The children will again gather this money during Lent, but we are also turning to the adults of Good Shepherd. Beginning in Lent, we will have available in the narthex a mite box for the collection of money to go toward the donation to Heifer. If you have any questions about Heifer please see/call/email Tracey Carroll or me.

***Wednesday Lunch*** Good Shepherd has a longstanding ministry of feeding the hungry every Wednesday during lunchtime. The program averages 400 to 500 hot meals every month, meaning 100 to 125 people have at least one nutritious meal in their week. The program consists of teams who prepare the meal on a rotating schedule. Wednesday Lunch is always in need of donations of time, food, and money. Contact Joanne Larson for more information on becoming a part of this vital and active ministry.

***Athens Country Food Pantry*** Statistics for Athens County show that more than 20% of all households bring in less than \$10,000 per year. With an average annual food cost of over \$3,400 for our county, it's easy to imagine that many household budgets fall short and families have to choose between groceries and other necessities. For many years the Athens County Food Pantry has worked to help those families who cannot afford the basic nutritional necessities. Through and with the Athens County Foodline (1-800-338-4484), they are able to provide hundred of food boxes to hungry families in Athens County every month. For more information about donating to the Athens County Food Pantry contact Anne Braxton or call the Pantry at 594-6680.

**Peace and a blessed new year,  
A J Stack, Outreach Committee**

## January Events at Good Shepherd

|  |                                   |   |  |  |   |  |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|---|--|
|  |                                   | <b>1</b><br>Parish Office Closed<br>10 am - Holy Name<br>Eucharist                          | <b>2</b><br>noon – Free Lunch<br>5:30 pm – MW<br>6 pm – CP               | <b>3</b><br>7:30 pm – Alanon                   | <b>4</b><br>7 pm – Athens<br>Reading club   | <b>5</b>   |
| <b>6</b><br>8 am – HE I<br>9 am – Chr Ed<br>9:15 am – CR<br>10:30 am – HE II<br>2 pm – LI  | <b>7</b><br>7 pm – Boy Scouts     | <b>8</b><br>9:30 am – Prayer<br>Shawl @ Ruth<br>Cox’s home<br>7:30 pm – Alanon<br>8 pm – AA | <b>9</b><br>noon – Free Lunch<br>5:30 pm – MW<br>6 pm – CP<br>7 pm - CR  | <b>10</b><br>7:30 pm – Alanon                  | <b>11</b><br>Sr Faith Margaret visit<br>5:30 pm – Evensong<br>followed by potluck                 | <b>12</b><br>Sr Faith Margaret<br>visit              |
| <b>13</b><br>Sr Faith Margaret visit<br>8 am – HE I<br>9 am – Chr Ed<br>10:30 am – HE II<br>12:30 pm – Youth Group<br>6 pm – Campus Ministry | <b>14</b><br>7 pm – Boy Scouts    | <b>15</b><br>7:30 pm – Alanon<br>8 pm – AA  | <b>16</b><br>noon – Free Lunch<br>5:30 pm – MW<br>6 pm – CP<br>7 pm – CR | <b>17</b><br>7 pm - Vestry<br>7:30 pm – Alanon | <b>18</b><br>5:30 pm - Confession<br>of St Peter Eucharist<br>6 pm – Ultreya<br>Meeting & Potluck | <b>19</b><br>Youth Group<br>Walk for the<br>Homeless |
| <b>20</b><br>8 am – HE I<br>9 am – Chr Ed<br>10:30 am – HE II<br>Annual Meeting<br>2 pm – LI<br>6 pm – Campus Ministry                       | <b>21</b><br>Parish Office Closed | <b>22</b><br>7:30 pm – Alanon<br>8 pm – AA  | <b>23</b><br>noon – Free Lunch<br>5:30 pm – MW<br>6 pm – CP<br>7 pm - CR | <b>24</b><br>7:30 pm – Alanon                  | <b>25</b><br>5:30 pm – Conversion<br>of St Paul Eucharist   | <b>26</b><br>11 am - Youth<br>Group Soup<br>Cooking  |
| <b>27</b><br>8 am – HE I<br>9 am – Chr Ed<br>10:30 am – HE II<br>YG Souperbowl<br>6 pm – Campus Ministry                                     | <b>28</b><br>7 pm – Boy Scouts    | <b>29</b><br>7:30 pm – Alanon<br>8 pm – AA  | <b>30</b><br>noon – Free Lunch<br>5:30 pm – MW<br>6 pm – CP<br>7 pm - CR | <b>31</b><br>7:30 pm – Alanon                  |   |  |

### 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

CP – Contemplative Prayer