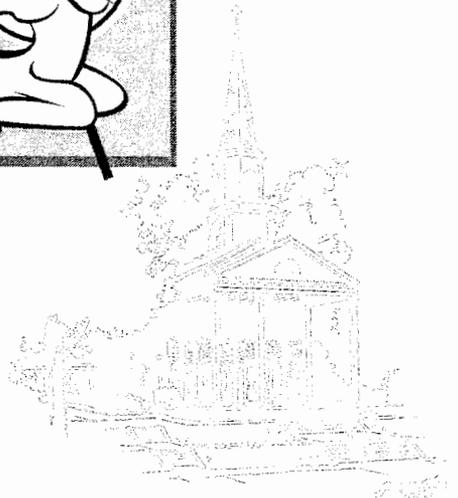


*Good
News*

The Episcopal Church of The Good Shepherd

April

2008



Inside . . .

From the Rector p 1
Outreach News..... p 3
Money Talks p 5

Feeding and Nourishing Christ in all persons

Focus on Fellowship

Brothers and sisters, dearly beloved,

Here we are in the season of Easter, still rejoicing in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. Our celebration does not stop with Easter Sunday but continues for a full fifty days. During the fifty days, the Paschal candle remains lit, as a sign of the light the darkness could not extinguish. There is no confession of sin, as we rejoice in the gift of salvation. Easter is always a time for renewal in the Church. In the resurrection, God brings life out of death and opens up possibilities beyond our ability to anticipate or imagine. The last day of the season, the Day of Pentecost, marks the descent of the Holy Spirit, God at work in the world even now, who sends us out and guides us as we continue the mission of Jesus in the world.

In light of this mission, I am writing to tell you about the creation of our parish life committee, which will be co-chaired by Joanne Worstall and Lois Wagner. The first meeting of the group will be on Sunday, April 27, after the 10:30 Eucharist. Every member of Good Shepherd is invited and encouraged to attend.

After some conversations with the vestry and others, I am convinced that a season of deliberate attention to our fellowship is crucial to the next chapter of our life together. We need to cultivate a spirit of playfulness at Good Shepherd, as we create more opportunities for parishioners to enjoy time with one another. We also need to revive old traditions and establish new ones, so that our year is marked with many occasions for celebration.

The parish life committee will meet twice a year (once in the summer and once in the winter), to plan and coordinate fellowship events and programs. It is important to realize that the committee is not the only way to participate. This really needs to be a whole parish effort. The committee's role is to plan what we do from month to month and year to year in a way that helps us meet our parish goals. The committee will be responsible for finding people to oversee each event and program. These event and program chairs will take responsibility for everything from publicity to clean up. But the most important role is one we all share as members of this parish, to show up and, when asked to do so, to take our turn cooking, setting up, cleaning up, etc. In my experience, this is enjoyable work that builds up the Body of Christ.

Parish life will coordinate with the outreach committee, because some fellowship events will have a connection to missionary outreach, through fundraising and education. It will also coordinate with evangelism, because our fellowship is partly meant to help incorporate new members into the life of the parish.

The most important reason to pay attention to fellowship is theological. Christians believe that God is a living fellowship among three persons, and that our fellowship with one another mirrors, however imperfectly, the very life of the Trinity. We believe that Jesus came, in part, to bring about renewed relationships of brotherhood and sisterhood. Jesus spent at least as much time at table with his friends as he did teaching and healing. His table fellowship with outcasts and sinners was a sign of the Kingdom he came to bring. A redeemed sociality through Christian fellowship is no luxury but is instead essential to the Gospel. It strengthens us for other aspects of our mission but is at the same time integral to that mission. We are sent out as a community of resurrection, which, in and through our common life, can experience something of the Kingdom of God.

In Christ,

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

The Rev. R. William Carroll, Rector

OUTREACH- not only with our lips, but in our lives

This news is accompanied by immense gratitude for the donations of money, paper, crayons, bandages and bandaids and dental supplies (Thanks, Dr. Spero) which we took with us.

Honduras, March 2008 (Ephesians, 3:20, 21)

This trip marked the beginning of a new and wonderful phase in our work in Honduras! We arranged to meet and work with several members of the Texas Medical Brigade whom we have come to know over the last four years (although they have been working in Honduras longer than that and know many villages well). We planned our schedule in Yuscaran and together presented to our rural “Health Guardian” reunion (Guardianas de Salud) at the retreat center in Coral Quemada.

Diabetes is one of the major health problems in Honduras, and the team (Cindy Smith, RN and Bobbie RN, DNS and Tom Hopkins, MD, both lectured and brought Glucometers to measure glucose levels; they also taught the workers how to measure and interpret the results. In addition, each group of two workers received a Glucometer and strips to take back to their village. We have wanted to do this for two years and it was great!

Even more exciting (as we refilled medical kits with bandaids, ace bandages, and ointment, and handed out tooth paste and floss) was the knowledge that we had gained committed and responsible partners moving our vision of creating a sustainable health project ahead. Their whole team returns in July and a Spanish-speaker will give another class (mixing and administering drugs and antibiotics) at the next reunion. The September/October reunion, with teaching and subsequent provision of free vitamins for the villagers supplied by Vitamin Angels, is already scheduled; local non-church workers will be invited to attend also. (Cleared with the local Health Director/MD) This may even be simultaneous with our next training session.

Sustainability!! We talked again with Rev. Dagoberto Chacon about this. The deanery has had a large poultry project in the past, but it was wiped out by “Mitch.” He suggested chickens (purchased through ERD?), which could be nurtured by each Guardian and used to purchase supplies and provide transportation, which we currently support.

We also visited many Guardianas and assisted at the Eucharist in local churches. It was a “crowded” time, with visiting groups from Central Florida and an education team also there. At least 3 churches have been partly completed or enlarged; and about 100 children’s secondary education is being subsidized by a Texas group, started by Cindy Smith. Church sponsors come and talk with the parents each year.

There are 3 new rural elementary schools, started by the government in inaccessible places, after public pressure. And a new bakery has been completed in one of the very rural villages! One of our Guardianas is working with the rural sanitation projects (latrines and stoves using non-wood fuels) and we met with their personnel also.

This kind of “networking” has been time consuming and difficult but it is the only way to proceed. We support each other and the synergy is terrific. Give praise and thanks to God/ Deamos alabanza y gracias a Dio!

Bruce & Jane Ergood

Getting Real with Mission: Up and Out

Mission Convocation May 3, 2008--Procter Camp & Conference Center

Look at the roots of mission: Reaching out in service to others flows from relationship with Jesus and is essential to living faith. Celebrate God's mission among us. Be challenged to take new steps in mission beyond the congregations.

- * Eucharist with Bishop Thomas E. Breidenthal as celebrant
- * Keynote speaker Jesse Milan Jr., experienced in HIV/AIDS ministries in the U.S. and internationally
- * Talk by the Rev. David Copley, Director of Mission Personnel for The Episcopal Church
- * Panel discussion on how mission focus transforms lives and congregations
- * How-to sessions on topics such as: Millennium Development Goals; Mission trips; Developing partnerships with companion dioceses; Young people in mission; HIV/AIDS and mission; Interfaith Power and Light; and Advocacy.

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., program runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Carpooling is encouraged!

MONEY TALK\$

The Good News – Early in March we received \$442.25 from our use of Kroger Gift Cards. Extrapolated through the year, we will realize \$4,927.36 from this source. This is about 2.5 times our average pledge, and is a virtually painless way to provide income for Good Shepherd.

The Cloud No Bigger Than A Man's Hand Has Been Spotted - Right now, we are paying \$1.069 per CCF for natural gas. This is because I was able to lock us in for a year at that rate. But I recently saw an article in the *Columbus Dispatch* noting the current rate to be \$1.219 per CCF. We are set at our present rate for now, but our contract expires at the end of the summer and our rate will be reset at that time. You have probably noticed an increase in gasoline prices. Natural gas prices have been doing the same thing, and I will be happy if our rate is as low as \$1.219 when we renew. If only this happens, we will be paying 14% more for natural gas next winter and getting absolutely nothing more for our money.

I am aware that our mission at Good Shepherd is to make the Gospel come alive in the world and that “God Will Provide” the wherewithal to do this. But I am also aware that money is a sacrament, “An Outward and Visible Sign of an Inward and Spiritual Grace.” It is also true that “God has no Hands but my Hands,” and He also has no money but my money. My job is to provide the financial wherewithal for Good Shepherd to exercise and expand its mission to the community. But unless we can find a way to further increase our income, we will be choosing very soon whether to spend what money we have on mission or on gas. Unless someone can figure out how to get our utilities provided for free, things are only going to get tighter. This is where the Kroger Gift Card comes in.

The Kroger Gift Card is not a substitute for increasing your pledge, and it is not a substitute for increasing the size of our parish membership. But it can still be a help on the income side. And in light of what is in the offering. “Oh, I just keep forgetting to use it” is not a good excuse. Perhaps I am being “alarmist.” But I am also trying to prepare us for what is surely to come. So don't forget to use the Kroger Gift Card every time you buy groceries or gas there. We need every penny of income we can get.

Jack Flemming, Treasurer

James Alison on Resurrection, Grace, and Forgiveness

No, what the disciples were able to experience was that the wholly, gratuitously other, was made present to them as a giving back of someone familiar. Not someone from this side gone there, but someone from there given in a wholly new way, that was yet a continuation of the way they had sensed him as being given while he was with them before his death. This meant that the wholly, gratuitously, utterly other was no longer simply strange, but, without ceasing to be other, was a presence of recognizable, familiar, love for them. This was the beginning of the recasting of the disciples' perception of God, the wholly "other," in terms of Jesus, the risen Lord.

Everything else said about the resurrection must be a way of qualifying this irruption of the utterly gratuitous other. In the first place, this utterly gratuitous other is the giving back of a freely loving person, it is not a ghost. A ghost haunts, it plays on memories, it is a sign of condemnation, it must be got rid of if we are to live in peace. Do you remember Herod's feeling of guilt when he thought that Jesus was John the Baptist risen from the dead (Mark 6:14-16)? For him, the presence was not gratuitous, it was an accusation from within the world of his own actions, a vengeance from beyond the tomb. No, the risen Jesus was not haunting, which would not be gratuitous, he was communicating, purely gratuitously, as a person.

Furthermore, the irruption of the gratuitous "other" happened within the disciples' frame of reference. They were frightened, ashamed, muddled, disappointed; the irruption didn't depend on them being in the "right" mood. And it happened as *forgiveness*. This is the second great category of the experience of the resurrection. Part of the utterly gratuitous other is that it is entirely outside any system of retribution and desert, and is thereby experienced by us as loosing us from being tied in to the "customary" other. The gratuitous other quite undermines all things that do not depend on gratuity, both our wounded relationships, and our virtues, which involve elements of protection and security. It is both as forgiveness of our sins and complete restructuring of our virtues that the gratuitous other reaches us.

Knowing Jesus (London: SPCK, 1998), pp. 15-16

April Events at Good Shepherd

		1 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm - AA	2 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW 7 pm – CR	3 7:30 pm - Alanon	4 noon – AGO Luncheon	5
6 8 am – HE I 9 am – Chr Ed 10:30 am – HE II	7 7 pm – Boy Scout Meeting	8 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	9 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW 7 pm – CR	10 4:30 pm – Executive Committee Meeting 7:30 pm – Alanon	11 5:30 pm – Ultreya	12
13 8 am – HE I 9 am – Chr Ed 10:30 am – HE II 2 pm – LI	14 7 pm – Boy Scout Meeting	15 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	16 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW 7 pm – CR	17 7 pm – Vestry 7:30 pm – Alanon	18	19 Flea Market
20 8 am – HE I 9 am – Chr Ed 10:30 am – HE II 3:30 pm - YG	21 7 pm – Boy Scout Meeting	22 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	23 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW 7 pm – CR	24 7:30 pm - Alanon	25	26
27 8 am – HE I 9 am – Chr Ed 10:30 am – HE II Parish Life Meeting 2 pm – LI	28 7 pm – Boy Scout Meeting	29 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm - AA	30 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW 7 pm - CR			

Key Guide:

HE I – Holy Eucharist Rite I
CR – Choir Rehearsal

HE II – Holy Eucharist Rite II
Chr Ed – Christian Education

MW – Midweek Eucharist
YG – Youth Group

LI – Lindley Inn Eucharist

April Birthday & Anniversaries

		1 Lisa Gustavson	2 Jody Smith	3	4 Bob Spero	5 Kate Ortman Cottrill
6	7	8 Susan Karageorge John Ortman Matthew Reese Joanne Worstall	9 Pamela Reese Pat Smith	10 Elizabeth Kralik Grant Smith	11 Tom & Marsha Dutton Lenaghan	12 Michelle O'Malley Matthew & Rachel Adeyanju
13 Mackenzie Lackey	14	15 Ted Riffe	16	17 Betty Hollow Betsy Larson Wetmore	18 Twig Kaufman Samuel Redfern	19 Jack Flemming Dee Dee Riffe
20 Bethany Miller	21	22 Maria Lamb Carlos Walker	23 Keith & Therese Lackey	24 Nic Proctor	25 Sirlei Martin	26
27 Jenny Spero	28	29	30 Pam Rollins			