
Good SHEPHERD News

The Episcopal Church of The Good Shepherd

November

2008

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Seeking and Serving Christ in all persons

All Saints: May Trust and Love Sustain Us

On All Saints' Sunday, we hear the Beatitudes, because Jesus blesses the "pure in heart" who will "see God" and "those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." We commemorate the faithful departed in our prayers. As we gather round God's table, they join us. Whenever we assemble, we are surrounded by this great cloud of witnesses. We also renew our baptismal vows. All Saints' Day is one of the four baptismal feasts of the Church year, along with Easter, Pentecost, and the Baptism of our Lord. Each of these points us to a dimension of Baptism, such as union with Christ's death and resurrection, the Spirit's sanctifying work, or solidarity with Jesus who humbled himself to be baptized by John. On All Saints' Day, we remember the whole communion of saints, living and dead. Baptism makes us brothers and sisters in Christ, members of a single, worldwide community.

The purpose of this community is to love God and our neighbor. The two are inseparable. According to Jesus, God is blessing the poor, the meek, the merciful, those who hunger for justice, the peacemakers, and the persecuted. God's Kingdom is not yet fully here. We live our lives by different values. Whatever holiness we have comes from our union with Jesus. At the same time, his Spirit is transforming us. Even now, we are beginning to resemble him. We are beginning to love our neighbor as ourselves. We are beginning to forgive. Because Jesus has made us his own, we are already holy, and yet we need to grow in grace.

As we renew our Baptismal Covenant on Sunday, may we learn more deeply what it means to follow Jesus. May we be renewed in the disciplines of regular worship and fellowship with his community, an ongoing life of repentance from sin, sharing the Good News by word and example, seeking, serving, and loving Christ in our neighbor, and striving for justice, peace, and human dignity. (Compare the vows on pp. 304-305 of *The Book of Common Prayer*.)

It is no secret that these are anxious times. In such times, it is important to renew our trust in our Savior's love and to reengage those practices of discipleship that help us follow where he has led the way. In the presence of Jesus, we discover trust and love that sustain us no matter what life may bring. We are also given brothers and sisters with whom we may share our burdens (Galatians 6:2).

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of

love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.* (Prayer Book, p. 395)

In Christ,



The Rev. R. William Carroll, Rector

**November 9: Stewardship Ingathering Sunday and
Second Community Budget Forum**

On Sunday November 9, we will place pledge cards on the altar as a sign of our commitment to God's work at Good Shepherd. Cards may be mailed to the parish office or placed in the offering plate on November 9. It is extremely helpful to the vestry to have an accurate estimate of 2009 pledges going into the budget meetings in November and December. A second session of parish input into the budget process is planned for after the 10:30 Eucharist on November 9. Please come prepared to share your hopes and dreams. The budget is a reflection of our mission priorities as a parish.

Save the Date: 4:00 Christmas Eve Handbell Ringing

For the 4:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve we will sing some carols accompanied by handbells. No music reading is necessary to participate. If you can read and play a bell on the word that is circled then this opportunity is for you. Please let Marsha Reilly or Lois Wagner know if you will be here for that service and are interested. One or two rehearsals will be held at a later date.

The handbell workshop, originally scheduled for November 9th., will be rescheduled in January.

ADVENT FESTIVAL

The Annual Advent Festival of Lessons and Music will take place on Sunday, December 7th, at 4:00 p.m. Currently, the choir is rehearsing music for that program on Wednesdays beginning around 8:00 p.m. After All Saints rehearsal for Advent will begin by 7:30 p.m. and continue until 8:45 p.m. There will also be a special rehearsal on Sunday, November 16th, after church until 1:30 p.m. Other rehearsals or extra help sessions will be scheduled as necessary. A rehearsal CD will also be made available. The dress rehearsal will be Saturday, December 6th, from 10:00 a.m. – noon. If you are interested in singing for this special event and don't regularly sing with the choir please contact Marsha Reilly.

ADVENT 1 – November 30th

For the season of Advent we will celebrate Morning Prayer as the Liturgy of the Word, followed by the Eucharist. Service music during the Advent season will include the singing of the Venite using Simplified Anglican Chant, canticle 11 using Hymnal S-223 and canticle 16 using Hymnal S-248. The psalm will be said.

The Sanctus and Agnus Dei will be the setting by David Hurd, musician at General Seminary in New York City. These settings, which we have sung a number of times before, are found at Hymnal S-124 and Hymnal S-154 respectively.

Many thanks to all of you who came to the Organ Spectacular. It was indeed a spectacular occasion especially the singing of "When in our music God is glorified." Good Shepherd was packed!

There are several other organ programs coming up. On Friday, November 7th, at 7:30 p.m. Peter Dubois, formerly from Charleston, West Virginia and now at the Eastman School of Music, will present a recital at First Presbyterian Church. Then on Friday, December 12th, at 7:30 p.m. at First Christian Church, the Southeast Ohio Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will present their annual program of Advent and Christmas music.

*Marsha Reilly,
Music Director*

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

October was a busy month for Outreach at Good Shepherd. I'd like to take a moment to reflect on our service and say thanks for all those who contributed.

*From Gifford Doxsee: The Kairos Prison Ministry Weekend Number One at the Hocking Correctional Facility in Nelsonville, October 2nd – 5th, turned out exceedingly well. When we met the following Saturday for Prayer and Share training, 22 of the 24 participating residents returned and re-confirmed the positive impact of the Weekend on their thinking and subsequent behavior. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at Good Shepherd who contributed to this splendid outcome, through prayers, cookies, place mats, financial donations, or in any other way. Your support was magnificent and helped greatly in making this an outstanding success.

*Card Board City: Ilona Carlson reports that Card Board City was a success and Good Shepherd raised over \$700 for the Habitat for Humanity event. We had several Good Shepherd folks in attendance, and they helped raise awareness about homelessness in Athens County.

*Youth -2-Mission Bike Ride: We had 10 bike riders on October 5th and raised over \$400 for youth mission trip scholarships. Also, we had a great turnout for the picnic and animal blessing. Everyone was able to see the Good Earth Hunger Mission's garden and participate in blessing the fields. Thanks for all the donations and support!

Looking ahead, Bruce Ergood has a report on an upcoming fundraiser.....

“CHOGS CHICKS”. That's the theme for our monthly Second Sunday Brunch, December 14th, in Nehls Hall after the morning worship service. Bruce and Jane Ergood, who will have recently returned from several weeks in Honduras training rural health workers in October, will present their project to provide chickens to these health workers. Through the sale of eggs and/or fryers these volunteer Guardianas de Salud will earn money to purchase supplies for their health kits and to pay for transportation to their bi-monthly continuing education workshops. Come to buy lunch and buy a bunch (of chicks).

**Paul Clever,
Outreach Communication Chair**

MONEY TALK\$

There are two matters I would like to write about this month.

1. When we remodeled Nehls Hall in 2007, we had to pay for about \$6,200 of the costs by borrowing from the Endowment and securing the amount with a promissory note. Many parishioners made written pledges over a three-year period to the repayment of this note back to the Endowment. As of this writing, at the end of the first year of this three-year period, we have an outstanding balance of \$4,140. This means that most parishioners who made this pledge have honored their first yearly portion. If you have done so, thank you very much. Luckily, every cent of these repayments has gone directly into our Hocking Valley Bank passbook account, which is also part of our Endowment. So this money, at least, has not been affected by the turmoil on Wall Street.

2. I would also like to consider the history of the word “stewardship.” A “steward” is an authorized keeper of property belonging to someone else. “Ste” comes from the Saxon word “styg” which is a house or residential property. “Ward” is the root of our word “guardian” or “warden.” So, in Saxon times, a steward (styg-ward) was someone who looked after the house or property of his lord. After the Norman Conquest, the status of Saxon words went down, and a “styg” became a house for animals (a sty). So a “sty-ward” became someone who took care of his lord’s pigpen.

But the important part of the word did not change. Whether it was a house for people or for pigs, a “sty-ward” looked after the property of another. Implicit in this was the authority given to the “steward” and also the expectation of accountability for that authority. So in the world of parish finances, our “stewardship” is really the measure of how appropriately we spend (and how well we avoid wasting) the resources we already have. This “stewardship” is an essential part of our financial duty. And we must work constantly to perform it, for we will all answer to God for how we have done.

After several centuries the etymology of the word “steward” was forgotten and “stewardship” became a euphemism for “filling out a pledge card.” This misrepresentation of meaning has confused the duty of giving with the duty of appropriate handling of what we already have.

No wonder people are often confused about what “stewardship” is all about.

“Stewardship” is essential and must be performed all year. “Giving” is also essential, but the decision about how much to “give” to the building of the Kingdom of Christ is usually made only once a year. Calling two duties by the same name only confuses matters and can lead us to believe we have performed both duties when, in fact, we might not have done so.

But this is the time of year when we concentrate on our commitment to giving. The ability of Good Shepherd to function as a part of the Holy Church will depend directly on how much we are able and willing to give toward this goal. As long as I am in a position to do so, I will be a vigilant steward of our current resources, and I am always willing to answer for my performance. We all have the same duty of stewardship commensurate with our authority to act. But each of us also has the duty to examine and adjust our giving to Good Shepherd to a realistic level so we can continue exercising our mission of worship, outreach, and hospitality in the community.

Jack Flemming,
Treasurer

A Thanksgiving Day Eucharist will be celebrated on Thursday, November 27th, at 10:00 a.m.

Save the Date: The Annual Advent Festival of Lessons and Music will be held Sunday, December 7th, at 4:00 p.m. in the Nave.

Advent Liturgy Change: During Advent we will celebrate Morning Prayer as the Liturgy of the Word followed by the Eucharist. For more information, please read Notes from the Organ Bench on page 3 of this newsletter.

A Scrap Metal Drive, to benefit The Faith Build Coalition of the Athens County Habitat for Humanity will be held Saturday, November 8th, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Athens Country Fairgrounds. For more information contact George Bain at 592-3828 or gbain45701@yahoo.com.

News from the Pews . . .

The Athens Messenger reported recently on **Carlos Walker's** work with windfarms in Honduras. He and his family live in Costa Rica. **Jane and Bruce Ergood** hope to meet up with Carlos during their return to Honduras to continue their medical assistance work there.

Ashley and Matthew Canter, who worshiped at Good Shepherd during the summer, have moved on, with new daughter Margaret to Nashotah House Seminary in Wisconsin, where Matthew will study for the ministry. Ashley is the daughter of the **Rev William Pursley**, rector of St John's, Lancaster and a retired military reserve chaplain. An ROTC graduate of Ohio University, Matthew will be a military chaplain on graduation from Nashotah House.

Megan Reilly, here recently to accompany her father, **Allyn**, in a saxophone concert, has completed her graduate work in Phoenix and is now teaching at Truman State University, in Kirklind, Missouri.

Along with her academic duties, **Marsha Dutton** is now vice-president of the Ohio University AAUP. Marsha lectured at Nashotah House last summer and recently has been named to the Faith and Order Commission of the Ohio Council of Churches.

Cita Strauss, active as volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, Factory Street Studio, Planned Parenthood, and Rotary, is hosting a Rotary exchange student this fall, **Marianna Silvieira**, from Brazil. **Bethany Miller** and **Iona Carlson** were top fundraisers for the project.

Helen Marsh sent a note to the parish office asking that a note of THANKS for all the prayers, cards and e-mail that has been sent from their friends in Athens.

Items for News from the Pews may be sent to Reid Sinclair (593-8174 or rbaytop@frogn.net). Please check that you have permission to submit from the person involved.

Vestry Highlights (from the October 19th meeting)

The vestry did some initial processing of the parish budget forum on October 12th. Vestry members reported unanimous agreement that Good Shepherd needed to do whatever was necessary to preserve Glenda Frost's position as our parish administrator. There seemed also to be wide agreement that the parish needed more time to process the proposed budget cuts, especially the proposed elimination of the sexton's position. Following up on a suggestion made by A.J. Stack during the first forum, it was agreed that we should hold a second forum on November 9th, after the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist and Second Sunday brunch. Ted Foster, Jack Flemming, and Fr. Carroll were tasked with coming up with a list of jobs that would need to be done in the absence of a sexton and to begin finding volunteers for those jobs in anticipation of the November 9th meeting. As the junior warden nominee, Jack will most likely chair the building and grounds committee, which will oversee the care of our physical plant. With regard to a matter of particular concern, Fr. Carroll reassured members of the vestry that set up and take down of tables would be taken care of by members of the parish who are able to lift them.

The vestry nominated A.J. Stack for ordination to the priesthood. The vestry received a written report from his parish discernment committee, which consists of Elizabeth Sayrs (chair), Michael Adeyanju, Richard Carlson, Betty Larson, and Terrie Sherman. Three of the members of the committee are also members of the vestry, and they were able to answer any questions. It was the recommendation of the committee that A.J. be nominated, and the vestry unanimously did so.

Fr. Carroll, who is a member of the Commission on Ministry, reported about changes to the ordination process that have occurred since the arrival of Bishop Breidenthal. Unlike in the past, A.J. had to meet with the Commission before being invited to form a parish discernment committee. He will now meet with Bishop Breidenthal, undergo psychological testing and background check, and meet with the Commission on Ministry again, before the bishop makes a determination about whether to make him a postulant and send him to seminary. A.J.'s discernment has been in the context of Christian community from the beginning, and he will continue to discern his vocation with help from others.

Notes from the Worship Committee meeting on September 25, 2008

The meeting opened with "An Order of Worship for the Evening," found in BCP, p. 109, led by Jan Gault in the lounge - the first, according to Fr. Carroll's plan, of such openings, each to be led by a member of the Committee. This one featured votive candles lit and placed on the coffee table by members of the Committee.

The main question for continuing discussion through the year was touched on at the beginning: What changes in the liturgy do our changing times call for? The need for change, and suggestions for its direction, are set forth in the book Fr. Carroll is asking us to read, *A Theology of Worship*, by Louis Weil. The assignment for tonight was Chapter 1. In it Weil explains "baptismal ecclesiology," which emphasizes the centrality of baptism (the sacrament that most strongly proclaims the unity and equality of all souls) and "affirms that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to all members so *ministry can be understood as shared by all of the people*, whether lay or ordained."

One of Weil's central theses, reflecting the intent of the liturgical scholars who worked on the 1979 Prayer Book, is that the community of faith should participate fully in the liturgy rather than watching and listening - an important point in light of the proposed architectural changes. We don't know what these changes will be but guess that they will emphasize parishioner inclusion rather than the audience watching "the stage."

Much of the following discussion picked up on or returned to points in Weil's chapter. How is liturgy connected with outreach? What kind of liturgy will appeal to those who seem hardest to reach, today's college generation? What allowances should be made for their indifference to ritual and their preference for informality? Weil kept popping up, at least in our minds, as we argued. Think we'd be more attractive if we show more exclusiveness in our rites, as fraternities do? No, says Weil, think of "the open hospitality of Jesus to strangers and outsiders." Think of the Pharisees, adds Fr. Carroll. That is, think Jesus, not fraternities.

And don't get hung up on unity, everybody doing things the same. (You'll see that when you see the variety in the vesper services we each come up with. Or maybe not, if our response to the 79 BCP's invitation to variety in Prayers of the People is any sign. We, says Weil, stuck with the book!) As for things like standing or kneeling, "Those who stand, stand for the Lord, those who kneel, kneel for the Lord." Yes

but, says Weil, "worship offers the promise of unity to which Christ summons us." But he also warns not to sweat the small stuff. Do that and you will find your home in the clerical model, dealing with its handicaps.

Well, that's one of the places where Weil recognizes an unavoidable tension. We felt it when we got into a discussion of the church as a countercultural force. The church is against a lot of things in our culture, and that's a great attraction, but which represent The Culture? Do we mean traditional culture? Opposition then would be in tension with the view of the church as the speaker for eternal, or persisting, values. If we mean the culture of "the establishment," and think of Wall Street, then we have something else, in a different tension. If culture means current pop culture, with which traditional culture (represented by half the courses in the humanities) is at war, we have an entirely different tension. With Wall Street, promoter of consumerism, on the side of pop culture. Where do we take the church to be in all this? Where its liturgy?

To the best of my memory and prejudice that's the way it went, raising questions and getting things started. We also were alerted to a future discussion of Easter Week. And to the fact that our plan to meet on non-vestry Thursdays is derailed in November by Thanksgiving.

**Respectfully submitted,
Roland Swardson**

November 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9 am – Adult Ed 10:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – HE II	3 7 pm – Boy Scouts	4 7:30 pm – Alanon, 8 pm – AA	5 11 am – Staff Meeting noon – Free Lunch w/ Phyllis Dean 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal	6 Glenda on vacation 6:30 pm – 8 pm – OCHC 7:30 pm – Alanon	7 Glenda on vacation Diocesan Convention in Columbus 8 am – 1 pm – OPIE 8 pm – Shepherd’s Alternative	8 Diocesan Convention in Columbus
9 8 am – HE I 9 am – Adult Ed 10:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – HE II Second Sunday Brunch with parish budget forum 2 pm – Lindley Inn	10 7 pm – Boy Scouts	11 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting @ Julie’s 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	12 noon – Free Lunch w/ Jan Gault 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal	13 7:30 pm – Alanon	14 1:30 pm – Bible Study 3 pm – Honduras Committee Meeting 5:30 pm – Ultreya 8 pm – Shepherd’s Alternative	15
16 8 am – HE I 9 am – Adult Ed 10:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – HE II noon – Advent Rehearsal	17 7 pm – Boy Scouts	18 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	19 noon – Free Lunch w/ Joanne Larson 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal	20 7 pm – Vestry Meeting 7:30 pm – Alanon	21 1:30 pm – Bible Study 8 pm – Shepherd’s Alternative	22
23 8 am – HE I 9 am – Adult Ed 10:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – HE II 2 pm – Lindley Inn	24 7 pm – Boy Scouts, Nehls Hall	25 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	26 noon – Free Lunch w/ Pat Grean 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist	27 Thanksgiving Day Parish Office Closed 10 am – HE II	28 Parish Office Closed	29
30 8 am – HE I 10:30 am – HE II following Eucharist – Outreach Committee Meeting						