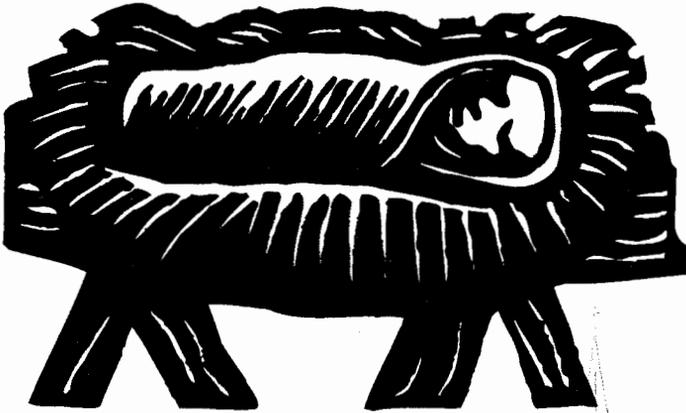


Good  
News

*The Episcopal Church of The Good Shepherd*

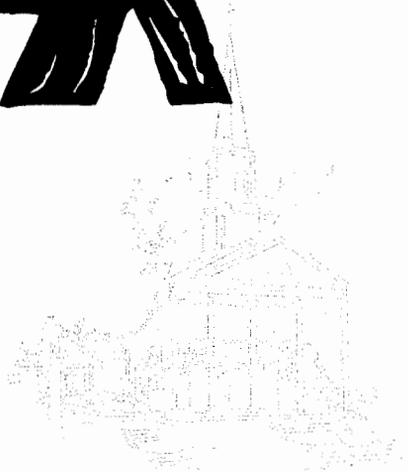
December

2008



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*Building and Member Lists to Follow*

## Christmas (I)

After all pleasures as I rid one day,  
My horse and I, both tired, body and mind,  
With full cry of affections, quite astray;  
I took up the next inn I could find.

There when I came, whom found I but my dear,  
My dearest Lord, expecting till the grief  
Of pleasures brought me to Him, ready there  
To be all passengers' most sweet relief?

Oh Thou, whose glorious, yet contracted light,  
Wrapt in night's mantle, stole into a manger;  
Since my dark soul and brutish is Thy right,  
To man of all beasts be not Thou a stranger:

Furnish and deck my soul, that Thou mayst have  
A better lodging, than a rack, or grave.

Besides the *Book of Common Prayer*, I know of no better reason to be an Anglican Christian than the priest and poet, George Herbert. His poem "Christmas (I)" begins in the midst of a metaphorical journey to Bethlehem. We do not know what pleasures led Herbert astray, so that he (and his horse) are weary. When he arrives at the inn, however, he finds Jesus the Lord waiting to refresh him.

Herbert is an Anglican and a worldly one at that. He is no world-denying Puritan. At the same time, perhaps because of his worldliness, Herbert is acutely aware that the seduction of sin is experienced as pleasure, until it brings us to grief. In our own context, we might think of the excesses of the Halloween block party—or the orgy of easy credit, lack of oversight, and speculative frenzy that has left our economy in ruins.

Our Advent journeys through dark, cold, and dry places may leave us stricken and exhausted. But, at the end of them, when we least expect it, we find the Christ Child, ready and willing to welcome us home.

In his third stanza, Herbert gives us one of the most beautiful descriptions of the mystery of Christmas ever written: "Oh Thou, whose glorious, yet contracted light, / Wrapt in night's mantle, stole into a manger." Then, he pleads with Christ to take possession of his "dark" and "brutish" soul. He implores God not to be a stranger to the human race.

Finally, in the fourth stanza, Herbert reverses the roles of guest and host and invites Christ to dwell within him. Still, he refuses to forget the deadly welcome Jesus received on Calvary: “Furnish and deck my soul, that Thou mayst have/A better lodging, than a rack, or grave.”

This Advent, may our journeys lead each one of us to that “glorious, yet contracted light,” the Word made flesh. May we find him frail and mortal, “poor and in a manger.” Let every heart prepare him room.

**Blessings of this holy season,**



**The Rev. R. William Carroll, Rector**

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

**SR. FAITH MARGARET VISIT:** Sr. Faith Margaret from the Community of the Holy Spirit will hold a Quiet Day on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. to noon at St. Peter's, Gallipolis. Anyone from Good Shepherd is welcome to attend. If you would like a private meeting for Spiritual Direction, contact Julie Nehls (593-7354).

**A Scrap Metal Drive**, to benefit The Faith Build Coalition of the Athens County Habitat for Humanity will be held Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:gbain45701@yahoo.com).

## **Senior Warden Comments . . .**

The 134<sup>th</sup> convention of our diocese I found different from the other conventions I had experienced. When Church of the Good Shepherd hosted the convention in the '90s, like the rest of the congregation I played the host role and had no part in decision making. The convention I attended some three decades ago provided the contrast.

Changes were evident, one of the least of which was technology. As reports were made, the speakers' major points and significant numbers and figures were flashed on two magna-sized screens at each end of the hotel ballroom.

But it wasn't how we could understand faster; it was how we received the paramount message: Mission. Bishop Breidenthal's clear message was that mission entailed change, the word of the year.

Reflecting on the duality, I began to count mentally our mission efforts – Wednesday lunch, Good Earth Hunger Mission, Honduras, where the Ergoods have trained 50 health workers, the shawl ministry, the prison ministry, and the numerous individuals who reach out with dollars and deeds. A good score, I judged.

What kind of change we witnessed after a morning service at Trinity, across from the State House. Delegates dispersed to participate in Convention Acts, groups in which we were to learn about those in need more fully, in other words to move from our comfort zones and learn new ways and means of helping. The workshops included, among others, earth stewardship, domestic violence, homelessness, disaster relief, community organizing, and political advocacy, the one I attended.

At the designated meeting place, I found the Rev. David McCoy, now retired, there to chair the meeting. As many of us remember, he was a loved interim minister at Church of the Good Shepherd back when. Tom Smith, the Ohio Council of Church's representative (lobbyist with no money to offer) at the Ohio legislature spoke. (Those of you who would like to receive Smith's e-mail newsletter can ask me for details.)

Diocesan political advocacy has been, I'm safe in saying, responsible for a major change from the convention I attended thirty plus years ago. As I recall, a great part of that convention was spent debating resolutions defining positions. At the convention 2008 resolutions supporting health care bills in the Ohio legislature, urging diocesan-wide support of sustainable agriculture and strengthening local food systems, and

supporting an economic justice resolution for submission to General Convention next year were among resolutions passed so quickly that the final business adjourned two hours ahead of schedule.

**Carolyn Murphree,  
Senior Warden**

*Notes from the  
Organ Bench*

The annual Advent Festival of Lessons and Music will take place on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. The choir will present music from the 16th century - the 21st century. Several congregational hymns will be a part of the program as well. Jan Robison, organ and Matt Hansen, trumpet will assist. Be sure to visit the Holiday House for gift and holiday food needs in Nehls Hall after the service as well. Refreshments prepared by the Marthas will also be served.

**November 30<sup>th</sup>, Advent 1 - Morning Prayer with Eucharist** - The Venite will be sung to Simplified Anglican chant. Canticle 11 - The third song of Isaiah (Surge Illuminare)- will be sung to the setting at S-223 and Canticle 16 - the Song of Zechariah (Benedictus Dominus Deus) - will be sung using the setting at S-248. The Sanctus and Agnus Dei will be sung to the David Hurd settings at S-124 and S-161 respectively.

The choir is preparing a CD (with Ted Foster's help) of the service music for Advent. If you would like one please let Marsha or Ted know. Also, on Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, after church there will be an opportunity to sing through the service music for Advent.

The choir will begin rehearsing music for the rest of Advent and Christmas Eve on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Extra singers are needed for Christmas Eve. Altos are especially needed. If you are interested please contact Marsha Reilly.

For the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service children (3rd grade and up) and adults are invited to participate in "Ring and Sing" carols. A brief rehearsal will be scheduled as soon as I know who is interested. Lois Wagner is helping with us, so see either Marsha or Lois if you can help out.

*Marsha Reilly,  
Music Director*

# MONEY TALKS

There is both Good News and Bad News in our current financial situation – first the Good News.

1. This month's check to Good Shepherd for using our Kroger Gift Cards is \$519.75. For 2008 we have so far earned \$5,216.32 from this source. This is well above the \$4,160 we had budgeted, and if we maintain our 2008 pace we will earn \$5,700 for the year. Jolly good show.

2. A total of \$2,790 has been repaid in the pledges for the remodeling of Nehls Hall. This leaves an outstanding balance of \$3,465 on what we owe back to the Endowment. We are essentially on schedule for retiring this promissory note in another two years. Also, the money received to pay off this note has all been put into our HVB Endowment Passbook account. So it has not been affected by the recent turmoil on Wall Street.

3. A new health insurance plan is being offered for 2009 that is suitable for Fr. Carroll and his family, and the annual premium is about \$2,200 less than we had been expecting.

4. My first draft of the 2009 budget had assumed natural gas would be \$1.30 per CCF, but we have been able to get a rate of \$0.99 per CCF through the first ten months of 2009. Along with the effect of our increased insulation, we are able to lower our estimated 2009 utility expenses substantially.

The Bad News is that we had assumed we could sustain a withdrawal of \$30,000 from the Endowment, based on a principal of \$600,000. But thanks to current economic conditions, we will be lucky to have a principal of \$500,000 at the end of the year. So we have lowered our sustainable withdrawal figure to \$25,000. Anything we must take beyond this amount will be shown in the budget as a deficit withdrawal, which is what it is.

Luckily, the savings we are able to realize on one side essentially balance our losses on the other side, leaving our budget just about where it was before.

But all of this is predicated on our being able to secure \$142,000 in pledge income for 2009.

I would also like to ask each of you to consider doing a favor for Good Shepherd that will benefit us for years to come. Once you have decided on your pledge for 2009, I ask you to give serious consideration to “front loading” it. I would ask you to consider paying as much of it as you can as early in the year as you can. Here is the reason why.

In the last 3-4 months, our Endowment has lost \$100,000 because of what has happened on Wall Street. This is not our “fault,” but it has still happened, and it affects our ability to support our program and mission.

But in the financial world, “What comes down must go up.” Even in the best of circumstances, we make planned withdrawals from the Endowment during the year, but if we pay as much of our 2009 pledge early in the year, we will have a reserve of cash that will put off the need for this transaction as long as possible. This will (hopefully) give our principal some time to recover. And the larger our dollar base in the Endowment remains, the more of our recent losses we can recoup and the larger the base will be that we make our future planned withdrawals against.

Perhaps you are thinking, “Fine, but where is the money you are asking for going to come from?” It can come from the refund checks most of us get in the early part of the year when the IRS graciously gives back the money we have overpaid in withholding taxes. If every family “front loaded” their offering by a single month, Good Shepherd would have well over \$10,000 of “extra” cash in hand to buy some time to allow the market to rebound. And even if the market doesn’t rebound over the next six months, we would be no worse off then than we are right now.

What I am asking would not increase your pledge, but it would increase our financial flexibility and help us to better control our Endowment funds.

**Jack Flemming,  
Treasurer**

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

**Seven Thousand Dollars for Outreach by Pentecost:** Amidst economic downturn the outreach committee set an ambitious goal of raising \$7,000 for hunger related ministries by Pentecost. Many of us know that federal funding and corporate donations are down while the cost of living and demands on the emergency food supply are up. As the Body of Christ, we are redoubling our efforts to respond to this rising need in our community. Good Shepherd has a long history of feeding the hungry. It is for that very reason that we feel we can build on that experience to do even more. The money will be divided between the Wednesday Lunch program, the Athens Food Pantry, and the Good Earth Hunger Mission. Each of these programs target hunger in a unique way and exemplify our capacity to respond to hunger.

How will we get there? The outreach committee has come up with two strategies of raising the money. First, we will have several targeted fundraising events. We had one such event for the Good Earth Hunger Mission in October, but more are in the works. Second, the sale of Good Shepherd note cards will go directly for this purpose. The Marthas are selling these cards after the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist and they will also be sold at the Holiday House after the Advent Festival of Lessons and Music. Proceeds will benefit a hunger related project that they will designate. Since we had a generous donation for the upfront costs of their production, one-hundred percent of the sales will go to support our hunger ministries. These cards are for sale each Sunday in the parish hall and through the week in the parish office.

So far we are making good progress. We have sold over four-hundred dollars worth of note cards. Combined with other fundraising efforts, we have raised a total of thirteen-hundred dollars for hunger related ministries! However, we will need to continue to think of creative ways to fund our outreach. The next Outreach meeting is November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please come and bring your creative ideas.

Despite the hardship we all may be feeling right now and despite the challenges of the churches budget, we will, with God's help, get there. Bishop Breidenthal conveyed this confidence at Convention by saying, "when times are bad, the Church is at its best." May Good Shepherd be the proof.

**Paul Clever,  
Outreach Communication Chair**

## Christmas (II)

The shepherds sing; and shall I silent be?  
My God, no hymn for Thee?  
My soul's a shepherd too; a flock it feeds  
Of thoughts, and words, and deeds.  
The pasture is Thy word: the streams, Thy grace  
Enriching all the place.  
Shepherd and flock shall sing, and all my powers  
Outsing the daylight hours.  
Then will we chide the sun for letting night  
Take up his place and right:  
We sing one common Lord; wherefore he should  
Himself the candle hold.  
I will go searching, till I find a sun  
Shall stay, till we have done;  
A willing shiner, that shall shine as gladly,  
As frost-nipped suns look sadly.  
Then will we sing, and shine all our own day,  
And one another pay:  
His beams shall cheer my breast, and both so twine,  
Till ev'n His beams sing, and my music shine.

--George Herbert

**ADVENT FESTIVAL  
of  
LESSONS AND MUSIC**

**Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
4:00 p.m.**

**Church of the Good Shepherd  
64 University Terrace  
Athens, OH**

**Reception & Holiday House will follow  
Handmade crafts & holiday foods  
for sale**

**A free will offering will be taken to  
support the music program of the  
church**

**Information: 593-6877  
Child care available**

## News from the Pews . . .

Congrats: to senior **Ilona Carlson** for making the honor roll at Athens High. Are there others at AHS or elsewhere?

Elected to the Athens High Honor Society were **Ilona Carson** and **Bethany Miller**. Eighth grader **Eli Redfern** earned a Presidential Award at the Middle School.

**Roland Swardson's** book, *Understanding Christianity*, is available at Follett's Book Store

**Shannon Parsons** was a member of the Federal Hocking volleyball team, which won the sectional title

**Bethany Miller** was a member of the Athens soccer team. Bethany will be a leader for the diocesan youth ministry event in February.

**McKenzie Lackey** is now teaching in Parkersburg and is a graduate student at Ohio U. Sister **Kelsey**, a senior at Lake Erie College, is interning with the Cleveland Cavaliers.

**Louise Fish**, freelance and occasional Athens Messenger photographer, took the photographs and created the cards for sale to support Good Shepherd food ministries.

**Anne Alice Chagnot** is an editor with Random House Royale books in New York.

**Tiffany Sherman** now lives in Denver CO, where she is an insurance associate working with with hospital patients. Parents, **Terrie** and **Curt** will drive to Denver for a Thanksgiving visit.

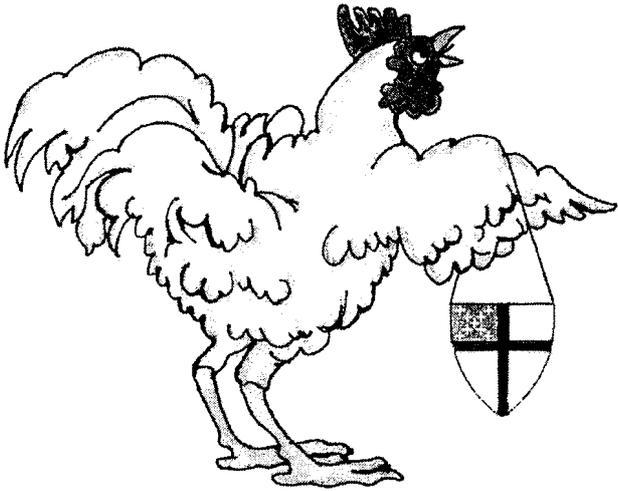
**Nina Sudnick**, who along with her parents was a former Greek community parishioner at Good Shepherd, won the Outstanding Teacher of Mathematics Award for secondary teachers in the Ohio southeast region. She teaches at the Athens middle School.

*Items for News from the Pews may be sent to Reid Sinclair (593-8174 or [rbaytop@frognet.net](mailto:rbaytop@frognet.net)) or Don Frazier (797-4857, [donjo@frognet.net](mailto:donjo@frognet.net)). Please check that you have permission to submit from the person involved.*

# SOMETHING TO CLUCK ABOUT:

## CHOGS CHIX!!

## EPISCOPAL CHICKENS



## GALLINAS EPISCOPALES

This chicken not only looks good - he can help keep a whole village in Honduras healthy. After Haiti, Honduras is the poorest country in the hemisphere.

How? Our local, trained, rural Health Workers "Guardianas" there teach about nutrition, sanitation and child care, help manage conditions like hypertension and diabetes, and give emergency care and advice. These volunteers (who serve in 15 villages with 10 to 200 families per village) assist at clinics given by the visiting Texas medical team (who help provide their continuing education) and also coordinate with the few, but dedicated, health facilities available.

Locally grown chickens will provide the economic basis for volunteer education, their travel and supplies and help make this a sustainable service for the people.

Thanks and Muchas Gracias!

Bruce & Jane Ergood

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**Donation**  
**Honduras Health Project**

C/o Church of the Good Shepherd  
64 University Terrace  
Athens, Ohio 45701

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Donation Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: Church of the Good Shepherd. Thanks and Muchas Gracias!

Indicate "Honduras " on the Check

(740) 593-6877

[chogs@frognet.net](mailto:chogs@frognet.net)

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

## Recipe – A Chogs Chicks Coop Chart:

• building materials for the coop		\$ 100.00
• add a 100' roll of chicken wire fence		34.00
• add the chicks	approx.	25.00
• and feed for the first month	+/-	100.00
• Oh yes, transporting these materials from Danli, 40 Km away (+/-)		50.00
• For a total estimate for each coop		\$ 309.00
• Now add 25% for 'possibly low estimates'		75.00

You now have an approximate cost estimate of providing a sustainable income source that can help keep a whole village in Honduras healthy.

If this will help, the villages are in the Deanery of Yuscarán, about 35 miles east of Tegucigalpa. They are Zarzal, Corral Quemada, Chaguite, and Potrero Grande. But don't look for them on the map. They're far too small.

Please note the donation form overleaf.  
Gracias!

Thanks and Muchas

**December 2008**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
	<b>1</b> 7 pm – Boy Scouts	<b>2</b> 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	<b>3</b> noon – Free Lunch w/ Phyllis Dean 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> 7:30 pm – Alanon	<b>5</b> 1:30 pm – Bible Study 8 pm – Shepherd’s Alternative	<b>6</b> 10 am – Advent Lessons & Music rehearsal
<b>7</b> 8 am – HE I 9 am – Adult Ed 10:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – HE II 2 pm – Lindley Inn 4 pm – Advent Festival of Lessons & Music	<b>8</b> 7 pm – Boy Scouts	<b>9</b> 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting @ Zelma’s 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	<b>10</b> noon – Free Lunch w/ Jan Gault 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b> 7 pm – Architecture Meeting 7:30 pm – Alanon	<b>12</b> 1:30 pm – Bible Study 5:30 pm – Ultreya Potluck 6:30 p.m. – Ultreya Meeting 8 pm – Shepherd’s Alternative	<b>13</b> 11 am – 3pm – ARC Christmas Party
<b>14</b> 8 am – HE I 9 am – Adult Ed 10:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – HE II Second Sunday Brunch with Honduras presentation 6 pm – Youth Group	<b>15</b> 7 pm – Boy Scouts	<b>16</b> 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	<b>17</b> noon – Free Lunch w/ Joanne Larson 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b> 7 pm – Vestry Meeting 7:30 pm – Alanon	<b>19</b> 1:30 pm – Bible Study 8 pm – Shepherd’s Alternative	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 8 am – HE I 9 am – Adult Ed 10:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – HE II noon – Choir Rehearsal 2 pm – Lindley Inn	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	<b>24</b> noon – Free Lunch w/ Pat Grean 4 pm – Inter- generational Eucharist 10 pm – Prelude Music 10:30 pm – Festival Nativity Eucharist	<b>25</b> Christmas Day Parish Office Closed	<b>26</b> Parish Office Closed	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8 am – HE I 10:30 am – HE II	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	<b>31</b> noon – Free Lunch w/ TBA 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist			