
Good SHEPHERD News

The Episcopal Church of The Good Shepherd

March

2009

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Seeking and Serving Christ in all persons

“I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word.”

From the Ash Wednesday Liturgy—Prayer Book, page 265

This year, we hear these words once more on Ash Wednesday. They are followed by a time of silence and the imposition of ashes as “a sign of our mortality and penitence.” Lent provides time to reflect on our own weakness and renew our trust in the Savior’s love. It is a season to clean house in preparation for Easter. Saint Benedict, the father of Western monasticism, writes in his *Rule* that “The entire life of a monk is a Lenten observance.” We are not monks, but for us too the disciplines of Lent may extend beyond this holy season. This year, I’d like to challenge us to move beyond the practice of giving something up for forty days. What disciplines might we adopt this Lent that we can carry over into Eastertide and beyond?

Fasting, self-denial, and almsgiving are certainly part of it, especially if we remember that the Lord commands us to fast from injustice and care for our neighbor’s body:

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
(Isaiah 58:6-7, appointed for Ash Wednesday)

In our rush to action, however, we should not neglect repentance, prayer, and study. Some of us have a regular pattern for these already. I would like to urge all of us to find more time this Lent for disciplines of this kind. Our relationship with God is the foundation for everything else we do. As with physical exercise, it is best to begin with modest, achievable goals. We must walk before we can run. Even fifteen minutes of daily prayer and study can be life changing, and it is possible to build self-examination and penitence into this time.

Where might we begin? With regard to prayer, I would recommend using the daily devotions for individuals and families (Prayer Book,

pages 137-140), taking time for silence before God. It is important to remember, though, that there is no right or wrong way to pray. Time for silence, followed by the “Our Father” might work better for some. The full Daily Office might work better for others. The most important thing is to spend some time intentionally seeking a deeper relationship with God. With regard to study, I recommend starting with the Psalms and Gospels, reading no more than a chapter or two a day. As you read, it may be helpful to have a Bible with study notes, such as the Oxford Annotated Bible. But it is equally important to leave academic detachment aside and listen for God’s voice in the words of Scripture. The kind of study to which Lent invites us is in fact another form of prayer.

Please don’t hesitate to ask if I may be of assistance in helping you to find a suitable discipline. May this Lent—and every day that follows—be a time for us to grow into Christ’s likeness. Through our prayer, study, and work, may we learn to see his face and be transformed by what we see.

Grace and peace,



The Rev. R. William Carroll, Rector

ECSF DEANERY OUTREACH GATHERING: ECSF (Episcopal Community Services Foundation) Deanery Outreach Gathering will be Saturday, March 7th, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Good Shepherd in Nehls Hall. All are welcome and encouraged to attend this important deanery meeting. We will come together and discuss how to improve our own parish ministries and look at ways to build “common ministries” within our deanery. Lunch is provided. Contact Paul Clever at pclever2@yahoo.com with any questions.

LENTEN PROGRAM: Throughout the season of Lent, we will gather for the Holy Eucharist at 5:30 p.m. Afterwards, we will enjoy a simple soup supper. An offering will be taken to support outreach ministries of the parish.

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

Prison ministries represent one example of Good Shepherd's Outreach efforts. Jan Gault, who contributed to this article, has been deeply involved with parishioners from the Episcopal churches in Athens, Logan, and Nelsonville who play Euchre monthly with the residents (prisoners) of the Hocking Correctional Facility (HCF) for about fifteen years. Between eight and fifteen visitors participate each month, and those from Good Shepherd have included both Jan and Jim Gault, Jim Mowery, Lynn Graham, and Joanne Larson. Over time bonds have developed between the visitors and the residents who increasingly come to be seen simply as fellow human beings who have made mistakes in their lives. One former prisoner, now released, has successfully adjusted to life outside the walls, much to the joy of the euchre playing visitors.

Gifford Doxsee has more recently become involved at the HCF through his volunteering with the Kairos Prison Ministry, which operates in prisons throughout the United States and in several other countries. In Ohio the organization is active in about ten prisons, Hocking Correctional Facility being one of the newest. Weekend Number One at HCF took place in early October when 24 residents and 32 team members participated. Following the weekend, there are Prayer and Share sessions weekly, attended mainly by the residents. Also there are monthly reunions when most of the team members return to stimulate memories of the Weekend and to renew ties with the participating residents. Gifford has been designated team leader for Weekend Number Two, scheduled for May 14-17. Supporters of Kairos can be found baking cookies throughout Ohio, as ten thousand cookies are needed each weekend in the larger prisons. Please speak to Jan or Gifford if you would like further information on HCF or the Kairos Prison Ministries.

Paul Clever, Outreach Communication Chair

PIPE ORGAN INFORMANCE: The Southeast Ohio Chapter of the American Guild of Organists presents Pipe Organ Information on Saturday, March 7th, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, 69 Mill St Athens. Enjoy performances, presentations, and panel discussions suitable for ages 6 – 106! For more information contact Marsha Reilly (592-2596, mareilly1@columbus.rr.com).

News from the Pews . . .

Adam and Helen Marsh were interviewed in a piece for the St. Petersburg Times entitled "Largo Retirees Get Caught Up in Tuesday's Inauguration Excitement." The interview can be viewed at <http://www.tampabay.com/news/politics/article969164.ece>.

Among those back for Christmas – **Caitlin Reilly** and husband **Ben Schave** from Austin, Texas; **Megan Reilly** from Iowa; **Carolyn Reilly** with husband **Jacob Sheehan** and baby **Adam** from Knoxville, Tennessee; **Abby Morgan** and **Andy Morgan** from College Park, Maryland, and Nelsonville respectively. Outward bound, again among others were **Carolyn Murphree** to balmy Pensicola, Florida and **Elizabeth Thompson** and **Faith**, to Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Randy Purdy sent the following message – "**Emma Bea**, daughter of **Meghan Purdy Pelot**, is giggling, blowing bubbles, keeping her parents up at night, rolling over, smiling, chatting, catching up to all normal growth markers; her brother loves her. Primarily our "miracle baby" is alive and well at 4 months old, after her open heart surgery at 5 weeks old, and will be visiting us in Athens the week of February 11th – 18th. On behalf of Meghan and all of our family, I want to thank CHOGS for all the prayers sent and apparently received."

Robin Sinclair, granddaughter of **Reid Sinclair** and niece of **Liz Sinclair**, continues her recover from leukemia in Cincinnati. She remains in good spirits and has returned to pre-school.

Singing the Introit on Sunday after Christmas was **Katyana Sayers**, daughter of **Elizabeth Sayers** and **Gregory Proctor** of our choir. **Elizabeth Linn**, Athens High School student and granddaughter of the late **Jane Lou Smith** of our parish, played with the Columbus Cadet Symphony on February 7th.

Carol Patterson had a role in "Painting Churches" at the Athens Actor's Movable Theater earlier in January.

The family of **Clark Dewitt**, who died recently, were active here in the late 1970's and early 1980's. Our initial 1979 Hymnals were donated by **Catherine Dewitt** in memory of the children's father and her late husband, and Ohio University professor.

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

Vestry Highlights from the February 19th, 2008 meeting . . .

At its February 19th meeting, the vestry heard a report from Anne Braxton about the Episcopal House. Although there remains an interest in reclaiming the house for mission, it seems best to maximize income for the time being. Anne's research showed how we could earn more net income by renting the whole house with utilities not included. This would minimize wear and tear and encourage the tenants to conserve energy. Executive committee was charged with setting a fair rent and listing the property to prospective tenants.

The vestry approved the 2008 parochial report. The report shows average Sunday attendance holding steady and a net increase in overall membership.

Fr. Carroll reported about the first meeting of the new member committee, which consists of Matthew Adeyanju, Mary Cuff, Gifford Doxsee, Will Lamb, and Bob Shelly. Initiatives of the committee, most of which we hope to have in place by the end of the summer, will include identifying and training greeters for Sunday morning, a thorough review of the physical plant with the needs of new members in mind, a redesign of the parish website, development of new member packets, and completion of the new sign approved by the vestry in early 2007. Jack Flemming and Bob Shelly agreed to steer this last project through the board of zoning appeals. Matthew Adeyanju raised the ideas of name tags for existing members and a photo directory. It was decided to begin by asking vestry members, ushers, and greeters to wear name tags and invite the rest of the parish to consider whether they wanted to do likewise. The photo directory idea met with approval, and Fr. Carroll will look into options and report back to the March vestry meeting. In the meantime, Glenda will prepare a standard directory to meet the immediate need.

Fr. Carroll noted that the Shepherd's Alternative liturgy has been averaging 5-8 people and that Mary Cuff's new role as peer minister has already been bearing fruit. She has been inviting friends to church and we have had up to 12 students and young adults gather for worship and fellowship. The service is now at 4:30 on Saturdays, followed by fellowship over a meal.

TTHHEROBUAGRHS

We appear to be off to a promising start on the task of doing our own routine cleaning of the building. The fact that so many parishioners have stepped forward to take on a task that nobody really wants to do is yet another indication of our devotion and dedication to our common life and ministry. It is my sincere hope that we will very soon have the financial wherewithal to resume employing a sexton. In the meantime your labors are much appreciated.

Even though the Kroger Gift Card is a money raising project rather than a direct property concern, it is the type of program that requires continuous reminders in order to succeed. Therefore, with your forbearance, I will continue giving attention to this enterprise. And as many of you know, our February check from Kroger's was \$567. This is the highest amount we have ever earned in a single month in this program. All I can say to this is "Great job" and "Let's do it again next month". Every dollar we can save by more efficient management and every dollar we can raise from any source are vital to our being able to continue our ministry and mission.

So if you have a Kroger Gift Card, don't forget to use it every time you shop at Kroger's. If you do not have a Kroger Gift Card and want to know more about the program, see me after the service on Sunday.

Jack Flemming
Junior Warden

A Note Regarding the Habitat for Humanity Lenten Calendar:

At the January 25th meeting of the Outreach Committee, it was decided to eliminate the \$250 donation to the Athens County Habitat for Humanity from the Outreach Budget. Please consider using the Lenten Calendar as a way to be thankful for the warm home where you live and as a way to support the work of Habitat for Humanity.

Thank you,
Twig Kaufman



FAITH BUILD LENTEN JOURNEY

During the Lenten Season, the Faith Build Coalition of Athens County Habitat for Humanity invites you on a spiritual journey of thanksgiving for the many blessings in your home. For each day of the week we have selected an item that might be in your home. We encourage you to give thanks for them and make a donation to the Faith Build Coalition. We have included some places for you to rejoice especially and offer your own special gifts of thanksgiving.

At the end of Lent, you may be surprised by the wonderful feeling you receive, knowing that you have made a difference in the lives of your neighbors in need.

May God bless you during your journey!

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday	Ash Wednesday Thank God you have a home. Deposit \$1.	For each person who lives in your house, make a special gift	Do you own pets? Deposit 25¢ for each	Thank God for the doors in your house. Add 10¢ for each door.
Monday	For each TV in your home, add 25¢ ; for each HDTV, 50¢ .	Give thanks for floors! Give 35¢ .	If you have a TV game system, give 50¢ .	Thank God for a dry place to live; give 50¢ for your roof.
Tuesday	For each TV in your home, add 25¢ ; for each HDTV, 50¢ .	For a source of heat be thankful and add 75¢ .	If you have an air conditioner or central air, rejoice & deposit \$1 .	Find an item you treasure, give thanks for it, & make a special deposit .
It's SUNDAY! You are blessed! Give a special gift of your choice.	Rejoice! You have food in your cupboards. Deposit 50¢ .	For each tub or shower, give 25¢ .	For each cooking grill, praise God & add 50¢ .	Do you own a dishwasher? Deposit 75¢ .
It's SUNDAY! You are blessed! Give a special gift of your choice.	If you have a sidewalk, deposit 40¢ .	For each I-Pod or MP3 or Wii player in your home, deposit 40¢ .	For each lamp give 5¢ .	Add 35¢ if you have a washer.
It's SUNDAY! You are blessed! Give a special gift of your choice.	If you have a deck, deposit \$1 .	For each fan in your home contribute 10¢ .	If you have a VCR, DVDR, or record player in your home, give 25¢ .	Add 35¢ for each microwave oven.
It's SUNDAY! You are blessed! Give a special gift of your choice.	If you have book shelves, deposit 50¢ .	For each computer in your home, give 25¢ .	For each fan in your home contribute 10¢ .	Contribute 40¢ if you have a power lawn mower.
It's SUNDAY! You are blessed! Give a special gift of your choice.	For each non-hybrid car, give thanks & deposit 25¢ .	For each cruise you have taken this year, give 75¢ .	Give thanks & make a special deposit for each Bible in your home.	Good Friday Please give a special gift for each bed in your household.
It's SUNDAY! You are blessed! Give a special gift of your choice.	Do you recycle? Yes – add 25¢ No – add 50¢ .	For each computer in your home, give 25¢ .	For each fan in your home contribute 10¢ .	Give thanks and \$1 for the freedom to attend the church of your choice.
It's SUNDAY! You are blessed! Give a special gift of your choice.	If you own a camera of any type, give 50¢ .	For each computer in your home, give 25¢ .	For each fan in your home contribute 10¢ .	

Thank you very much for participating in Faith Build's Lenten Journey of Thanksgiving.
Good bless you for helping us build another new home in Athens County!

For further information on how you can help the Faith Build Coalition, please contact
Danny Moates at 592-4064 or moates@ohio.edu.
Please make checks payable to **ACHFH Faith Build, 525 W. Union St., Athens, OH 45701**

Resurrection Sunday!
Share Christ's LOVE with a **special gift** for a family in need.

March 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8 am – HE I 9 am – Adult Ed 10:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – HE II 2 pm – Lindley Inn	2 Fr Carroll out of office 7 pm – Boy Scout Meeting	3 Fr Carroll out of office 11 – noon – English for Families 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting 8 pm – AA Meeting	4 Fr Carroll out of office noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal	5 Fr Carroll out of office 11 – noon – English for Families 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting	6 Fr Carroll out of office	7 9 am – 3 pm -ECSF Meeting 4:30pm - Shepherd's Alternative
8 8 am – HE I 9 am – Adult Ed 10:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – HE II following HE II – 2 nd Sunday Brunch	9 7 pm – Boy Scout Meeting 7:30 pm – Worship Committee Meeting	10 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting @ June Wieman's home 11 – noon – English for Families 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA Meeting	11 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal	12 11 – noon – English for Families 5:15 pm – New Member Committee Meeting 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting	13	14 1 pm – 3:30 pm – Susan Mitchell Cord of Honor 4:30pm - Shepherd's Alternative
15 8 am – HE I 9 am – Adult Ed 10:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – HE II 2 pm – Lindley Inn	16 7 pm – Boy Scout Meeting	17 11 – noon – English for Families 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting 8 pm – AA Meeting	18 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal	19 11 – noon – English for Families 7 pm – Vestry Meeting 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting	20	21 4:30pm - Shepherd's Alternative
22 8 am – HE I 9 am – Adult Ed 10:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – HE II following HE II - Outreach Committee Meeting	23 7 pm – Boy Scout Meeting	24 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting @ TBA 11 – noon – English for Families 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting 8 pm – AA Meeting	25 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist	26 Sr Faith Margaret's visit 11 – noon – English for Families 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting	27 Sr Faith Margaret's visit	28 Sr Faith Margaret's visit 4:30pm - Shepherd's Alternative
29 8 am – HE I 9 am – Adult Ed 10:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – HE II 2 pm – Lindley Inn	30 7 pm – Boy Scout Meeting	31 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting 8 pm – AA Meeting				