

# Good SHEPHERD News

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

**March 2010**

## Holy Week and Easter Liturgies

**Palm Sunday (3/28)** 8 and 10:30 a.m.

**Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday** 5:30 p.m.  
(Tuesday's liturgy at the Good Earth Farm)

**Maundy Thursday (4/1)** 7:30 p.m.

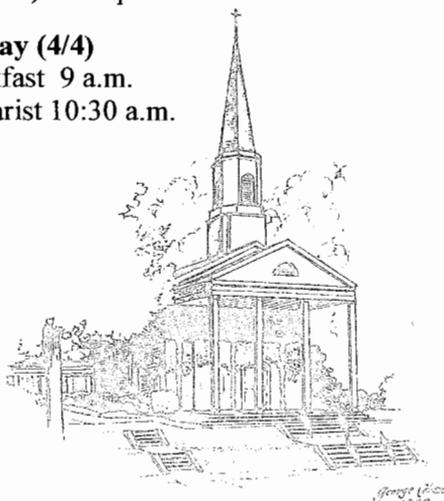
**Good Friday (4/2)** 7:30 p.m.

**Easter Vigil (Sat. 4/3)** 9:00 p.m.

**Easter Sunday (4/4)**  
All Parish Breakfast 9 a.m.  
Festival Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m.

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*Seeking and Serving Christ in all persons*

Parish Office: (740) 593-6877 • E-Mail: [chogs@frognet.net](mailto:chogs@frognet.net) • [www.chogs.org](http://www.chogs.org)

## Continuing our Desert Pilgrimage

Every Lent, I find myself returning to the writings of Thomas Merton about the desert life of solitude. Merton writes as a monk and about monastic subject matter, but he often writes in a way that speaks to those of us who live outside the cloister. A few of us may be called to monastic life, but most are not. Nevertheless, especially in Lent, we can profit from the wisdom of the desert, as we respond to our own call from God.

The desert is a place of temptation and emptiness, but it is also holy ground, where we rediscover God's abundant mercy. In his short book, *Contemplative Prayer*, Merton observes the following:

The climate in which monastic prayer flowers is that of the desert, where the comfort of man is absent, where the secure routines of man's city offer no support, and where prayer must be sustained by God in the purity of faith. Even though he may live in a community, the monk is bound to explore the inner waste of his own being as a solitary. The Word of God which is his comfort is also his distress. The liturgy, which is his joy and which reveals to him the glory of God, cannot fill a heart that has not previously been humbled and emptied by dread. *Alleluia* is the song of the desert.

The Christian (even though he is a monk or a hermit) is never merely an isolated individual. He is a member of the praising community, the People of God. *Alleluia* is the victorious acclamation of the Risen Savior. Yet the People of God itself, while celebrating the praise of the Lord in a tabernacle of beauty overshadowed by the Bright Cloud of his presence, is still on pilgrimage.

In the season of Lent, the word "Alleluia" is suppressed and we do not say it. We also limit other outward expressions of joy, such as the *Gloria* and *Te Deum*, so that we may cultivate sorrow for our sins and a deep hunger for God. We engage in fasting and other disciplines to remove some of the crutches that prop us up the rest of the year. This leaves us vulnerable to God, so that our "prayer must be sustained by God in the purity of faith."

The word "Alleluia" may be suppressed, but the reality abides. The victorious acclamation of the Risen Savior lies at the very heart of our life in Christ.

Members of our parish have recently suffered some painful losses. In this hard desert season, may we continue to pray for those who are bereaved. And may we renew our trust in Christ's victory over death.

**Grace and peace,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill" followed by a long horizontal stroke.

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

## **Vestry Highlights from the February 18<sup>th</sup> meeting . . .**

Anne Braxton was elected to serve as parish treasurer. Sharon Huges was elected as secretary of the vestry. Thanks to Elizabeth Sayrs who served as secretary last year.

Fr. Bill noted that Greg Bishop has been hired as sexton for 10 hours per week. He has already started and is doing good work. Jack Flemming and Fr. Bill will be Greg's supervisors. If you have tasks that need to be done or done differently, please speak to either of them, or pass the message through the Parish Administrator.

With the consent of the vestry, Fr. Bill appointed A.J. Stack to serve as vestry chaplain. He will be responsible for suitable devotions and/or Bible studies at the beginning of each vestry meeting and for involving his fellow vestry members in leading these. A.J. is charged specifically with helping to maintain a prayerful atmosphere of discernment in our meetings, which is actually the joint responsibility of the clergy and all vestry members.

Fr. Bill noted that Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, seems to be the best date for the majority for the vestry retreat. The Rev. Stephen Applegate, Rector of St. Luke's, Granville, who is our consultant for the common ministry program, will facilitate the retreat. Will Lamb will help with some of the leadership content.

Fr. Bill suggested that the executive committee meetings should become open meetings on the first Sunday of each month after the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist. This will allow parishioners easier access to leadership and the agenda setting process for the vestry. It also anticipates something that we might want to do with the lay-clergy leadership team's monthly meeting once they are chosen by the parish as part of the common ministry program.

The format of the Wednesday Lenten program is Evening Prayer from 5:30 p.m. - 5:50 p.m., supper from 5:50 p.m. - 6:10 p.m., and program from 6:10 p.m. to 7:10 p.m. Choir rehearsal will begin promptly at 7:15 p.m. The program concerns discerning our spiritual gifts as part of the common ministry program. In that spirit, the worship and program will be conducted entirely by a team of laypersons: Paul Clever, Sharon Huges, Twig Kaufman, Julie Nehls, and A.J. Stack.

There will also be a Lenten Quiet Day with a complementary theme, facilitated by Sr. Faith Margaret, Julie Nehls, and Sharon Huges on March 20<sup>th</sup> at Julie's home.

The vestry voted to accept the 2009 parochial report as prepared by Glenda Frost. Our average Sunday attendance grew from 87 to 90. Pledges were down by about \$7,000.

Jack Flemming reported that missing shingles were replaced on the Episcopal House. A company is also giving us an estimate for some relatively minor problems with a portion of the church roof.

Fr. Steve reported about Good Shepherd's expanded collaboration with Christ Lutheran Church in the area of campus ministry. They have asked for two representatives from Good Shepherd on the advisory committee for campus ministry. The vestry appointed Gifford Doxsee and Twig Kaufman to serve in this capacity. A letter will be drafted to the Church Council for the senior warden's signature.

## News from the Pews . . .

As part of the year long residency program, **John Watson** of Cincinnati has become involved with the Good Earth Farm where he will be discerning his call for ministry. Welcome to Good Shepherd, John. We're pleased you're with us.

Also from the Good Earth Farm, **Paul Clever** reports there will be pork for sale soon as they have three fat pigs to process. Here is an opportunity to restock your freezer with quality meat.

**Don Frazier** and wife **Joanne Worstall** will be enjoying the sunny beaches of Hutchinson Island, Florida, the month of March returning April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Nic Proctor**, son of **Gregory Proctor** and **Beth Sayrs**, emerged as the 160 lb conference champion in the Tri-Valley wrestling tournament helping Athens High School gain a first place finish. Placing fifth at the sectional tournament, he will enter district competition as an alternate. Nic's record this year is a very respectable 32-14.

Slowly becoming a tradition at Good Shepherd is the popular Second Sunday Brunch. The program continues to thrive under the guidance of the new director, **Sharon Huge**. Sharon sees it as a time to share in food and fellowship. "Good Shepherd parishioners have established a fine tradition of sharing a potluck meal the second Sunday of nearly every month. Sometimes cooks and experienced gourmet chefs share favorite recipes from the past as well as new culinary adventures. More importantly, it's a time to share our hospitality and fellowship." The success of the program, in Sharon's opinion, is to ask some of the established groups in the church to sponsor a Second Sunday month by setting-up prior to the meal and cleaning-up after. There are so many groups at Good Shepherd, that no group would be asked to sponsor a month more than once a year, thereby spreading out the responsibilities.

The next Kairos week-end at the Hocking Correctional Facility in Nelsonville, will be April 29<sup>th</sup> – May 2<sup>nd</sup> with training sessions beginning on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. **Gifford Doxsee** has agreed to serve again as a team member. Any male parishioners interested in serving on future Kairos teams at HCF should contact Gifford.

Items for News from the Pews may be sent to Don Frazier (797-4857 or [donjo@columbus.rr.com](mailto:donjo@columbus.rr.com)). Please check that you have permission to submit from the person involved.

## PROPERTY MATTERS

As Junior Warden, I desire to keep everyone advised on important property matters. Probably the most important recent event is that we have hired a new sexton, Mr. Greg Bishop. He appears to be doing a very good job with the hours he has available to work. We all want to make sure Greg's available time is used as effectively as possible. If you have suggestions to improve his productivity, please let Bill or myself know at any time.

Also during the windstorm we had awhile back, some shingles blew off the "Rectory" roof. They have been replaced. The roofers also cleaned the leaves that had fallen into the gutters. This cleaning was required by the Athens Code Inspector. I am glad the roofers could do it, since the gutters were thirty feet above the ground. I wouldn't be a roofer if you paid me.

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As a member of the Diocesan Stewardship and Development Commission, I would also like to share some thoughts regarding stewardship.

There has been a lot of talk, much of it by me, about Good Shepherd's level of stewardship. But heretofore I had not supported my talk with facts. So I decided to go onto Google, and bring up *Episcopal Church Statistics*. I then scrolled down to *Average Pledge by Province and Diocese: 2003-2008*. (2008 is the last year for which data is available).

Once there, I found that the 2008 average pledge in the Diocese of Southern Ohio was \$2,283. Effective with the 2010 Budget, Good Shepherd has 58 pledging units with a total of \$124,505 pledged. This gives us a 2010 average pledge of \$2,147, meaning that our current average pledge is 94% of the average Diocesan pledge of two years ago.

If our 2010 average pledge equaled the 2008 Diocesan average, our pledge income would be \$132,414, an increase of \$7,909 above what we can presently expect. With \$7,909 of added pledge income, we could reduce our planned budget deficit from \$18,728 down to \$10,819. (Our planned deficit is the amount we are must take from our Endowment principal over and above the sustainable level of 5% of the principal balance). We would still have a deficit, but much less of one than we are now facing.

I know we are in a recession and that we live in the "poor" end of Ohio. So I decided to compare Good Shepherd's average pledge with the

average pledge of a diocese located in another state having a recession, but the state which is dead last of all the states in per capita income. That state is Mississippi. Compared to the 2010 average Good Shepherd pledge of \$2,147, the average 2008 pledge in the Diocese of Mississippi was \$2,914. On average, the Diocese of Mississippi exceeded our average pledge by \$767 or 35.7%. And that was two years ago. If our average 2010 pledge equaled the average 2008 pledge in Mississippi, our pledge income would be \$169,186. This would exceed our anticipated 2010 pledge income by \$44,681.

What could we do with an additional \$44,681? First, we could eliminate our planned deficit of \$18,728. With the remaining \$25,953, we could give a 3% raise to everyone on the staff. With the \$22,977 left after that, we could fund the “second” \$5,000 of our Outreach budget that the Outreach Committee must somehow raise to help pay for our sexton. This would leave us \$17,977. From this, we could dedicate an additional \$10,000 to Outreach. And after all that, we would still have \$12,977 left to put back into the Endowment to assure a higher level of income in future years.

And this is what we could do if our average pledge equaled that of the Diocese of Mississippi two years ago. Imagine if we had the average 2008 pledge of the Diocese of West Tennessee, which exceeds the Mississippi average by \$943. If Good Shepherd today matched the average of West Tennessee in 2008, our pledge income alone would be \$223,706. Along with the \$68,000 we could still expect from other sources, we would be making the painful choices involved with trying to live on \$291,706 this year.

I wonder what they’re doing down there to get such impressive results? Maybe it’s the “culture”. If so, perhaps we could find out how this “culture” works and think about importing some of it into Good Shepherd.

**Jack Flemming,  
Junior Warden**

**March 2010 Calendar of Events**

<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 - NAMI 7 pm – Boy Scouts	<b>2</b> 5:30 pm – Farm Eucharist 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA Meeting	<b>3</b> 11 am – Staff Meeting noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – Evening Prayer w/ soup supper & Bible study 7:15 pm – Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist 7:30 pm – Alanon	<b>5</b> 6 pm – Reading Club	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 8 am – HE I 9 am – Adult Ed 10:30 am – HE II following Eucharist– Executive Committee Meeting	<b>8</b> 7 pm - NAMI 7 pm – Boy Scouts	<b>9</b> 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting @ Lois Wagner’s home 5:30 pm – Farm Eucharist 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA Meeting	<b>10</b> noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – Evening Prayer w/ soup supper & Bible study 7:15 pm – Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b> 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist 7:30 pm – Alanon	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 8 am – HE I 9 am – Adult Ed 10:30 am – HE II 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Brunch Palm Sunday participants rehearsal 2 pm – Lindley Inn	<b>15</b> 7 pm - NAMI 7 pm – Boy Scouts	<b>16</b> 5:30 pm – Farm Eucharist 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA Meeting	<b>17</b> noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – Evening Prayer w/ soup supper & Bible study 7:15 pm – Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b> 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist 7 pm - Vestry 7:30 pm – Alanon	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Dan Kauffman wedding Lenten Quiet Day @ Julie Nehls’ home
<b>21</b> 8 am – HE I 9 am – Adult Ed 10:30 am – HE II Outreach Committee Meeting	<b>22</b> 7 pm - NAMI 7 pm – Boy Scouts	<b>23</b> 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting @ Zelma Coleman’s home 5:30 pm – Farm Eucharist 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA Meeting	<b>24</b> noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – Evening Prayer w/ soup supper & Bible study 7:15 pm – Choir Rehearsal	<b>25</b> 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist 7:30 pm – Alanon	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8 am – HE I 9 am – Adult Ed 10 am – walk thru 10:30 am – HE II Holy Week participants rehearsal 2 pm – Lindley Inn	<b>29</b> 5:30 pm – Holy Monday Eucharist 7 pm - NAMI 7 pm – Boy Scouts	<b>30</b> 5:30 pm – Farm Eucharist 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA Meeting	<b>31</b> noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – Holy Wednesday Eucharist 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal			