

Church of the Good Shepherd



*Annual Meeting
January 30, 2005*

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

January 30, 2005

- Opening Prayer:
- Acceptance of Minutes of the 2004 Annual Meeting
- Elections: Report of Nominating Committee*
- Stewardship Report & Presentation of the Budget for 2005
- Profile Committee Update & Other Business
- Closing Prayer

* Note: Per our by-laws "additional nominations for any position on the Nominating Slate, with consent of the nominee, shall be allowed from the floor of the annual meeting."

Good Shepherd's Mission State and Goals

The Mission of the Church of the Good Shepherd is

to know and follow Christ in loving service to the campus, the community, and the world.

Goals

- Continue to build upon a strong heritage of worship and music that is eucharistically and prayer book centered and which strongly involves the laity.
- Raise up and strengthen vestry and other lay ministers who can provide consistent and visionary leadership and assist the parish in understanding and responding to conflict.
- Learn about and foster financial stewardship especially as it pertains to the monetary requirements of a full time priest and other personnel, and to addressing the needs and use of our physical plant.
- Continue to encourage and support individual and small group ministry in the community, and establish and sponsor new programs.
- Develop programs and worship for the congregation designed to attract young families, their children, college students and other underserved groups; where possible we will work cooperatively with other churches.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

In July, 1875, it is recorded an Episcopal Sunday School met at the Ohio University Chapel. Shortly thereafter the Episcopal Mite Society was organized, and the Rev. Mr. Haskins of Brooklyn, New York, preached at a 10:30 a.m. service at the same college chapel, presumably the first Episcopal service held in Athens. That year, 1875, also marked the beginning of the Diocese of Southern Ohio under the Episcopate of the Rt. Rev. Thomas Augustus Jaggar, first elected bishop. Regular services were held at different intervals until 1881, and then suspended until after the turn of the century.

On April 16, 1907, the Hocking Valley Mission was formed. Athens at that time was the smallest of three small metropolitan centers in the Hocking Valley; the others being Logan and Nelsonville. The Episcopal mission, along with Good Shepherd, included St. Paul's Logan; Epiphany, Nelsonville; Trinity, McArthur; and St. David's, Jackson (now defunct). The worshipping Episcopal community in Wellston elected to join with the mission in Jackson since it seemed to have more of a future than the Athens Church.

For the following fifty years Good Shepherd mission was served by priests-in-charge, some staying for brief periods of a year or two, others for longer spans of time. Eleven different clergy (men) were responsible for the spiritual leadership of the mission until it assumed parish status in 1958.

After meeting in various locales such as the Presbyterian Church; the basement of Carnegie Hall, now the School of Journalism; and the Ohio University Fine Arts Building, later known as "Music Hall," the first church building was constructed at East State and Carpenter Streets where the Prokos Rentals now sits. Purchase of the land, at a cost of \$2000, was made on June 5, 1913, but the cornerstone was not placed until four years later on May 27, 1917. The church was officially dedicated in October, 1920, by Bishops Vincent and Reese. The *Athens Messenger* reported "the church was beautifully decorated with colorful fall flowers for the occasion, and a quartet closed the service with an appropriate vocal selection." Good Shepherd was said to be "one of the finest small structures in the city."

In the early 1950s with the support of Bishop Henry Hobson, and the assistance of a diocesan-wide college building fund, money was raised to relocate and construct the present building on University Terrace in order to develop a parish-based ministry. Bishop Hobson laid the corner stone of the "new church" on November 2, 1952, and six years later Good Shepherd was admitted as a parish into union with the Diocese of Southern Ohio. The Rev. Phil Porter thus became the first rector that year.

Four other rectors have served the church since then. The Rev. William Black, VII Bishop of Southern Ohio, had tenure from 1962 to 1973. The Rev. E. F. Michael Morgan, who resigned December 31, 2002, came from a parish in greater Boston, Massachusetts, in 1979.

In recent years the church has developed a special ministry to international students. Two visiting Nigerian priests have fully participated in the parish's life while pursuing graduate studies at Ohio University. Good Shepherd has also been a seminal church for persons entering the ordained ministry. Two deacons, and five seminarians have been sponsored by the parish within the past decade. Two others are currently endorsed for the vocational diaconate. In addition, several curates, assistants, and associated clergy have been thoroughly integrated into the on-going life of the parish. It can be said that Bishop Hobson's early "vision" has been realized as Good Shepherd now views and describes itself as the "Episcopal Church on the campus of Ohio University."

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
First Prayerbook Service - July 1875
Established April 16, 1907, as the Hocking Valley Mission
Parish: Diocese of Southern Ohio - 1958
Member: Hocking Valley Deanery - January, 1992

CLERGY REGISTER

PRAYERBOOK SERVICES IN ATHENS

The Rev. Mr. Haskins	July, 1875
The Rev. J. N. Lee	1876-1878
The Rev. Charles D. Barbour	1878-1880
The Rev. Mr. Rambo	1880-1881

PRIESTS IN CHARGE
(Hocking Valley Mission)

The Rev. Alfred W. Buckland	1907-1911
The Rev. Alfred J. Wilder	1911-1916
The Rev. Willard D. Stires	1916-1919
The Rev. C. B. Plummer	1919-1920
The Rev. Arthur H. Marshall	1921-1924
The Rev. Brinley Abbott	1924-1925
The Rev. E. B. Pielow	1925-1930
The Rev. Lloyd Willis Clarke	1931-1937
The Rev. Robert G. Purrington	1938-1944
The Rev. Sydney G. Browne	1945-1949
The Rev. Phil Porter, Jr.	1949-1958
The Rev. Michael Jupin	2003-present

RECTORS

The Rev. Phil Porter, Jr.	1958
The Rev. Pitt Sawyer Willand	1958-1961
The Rev. William Grant Black	1962-1973
The Rev. Phillip Edward McNairy	1973-1978
The Rev. E. F. Michael Morgan	1979-2002

ASSISTING CLERGY

The Rev. Rollin Polk	1947
The Rev. Fredrick Wells	1960-1962
The Rev. Roma Alvah King, Jr.	1963-1974
The Rev. Edward Archer Daugherty	1965-1968
The Rev. Robert Hughes	1969-1972
The Rev. Arthur L. Savage, Jr.	1978-1998
The Rev. Felix Obayan	1980-1983
The Rev. Canon John Ogundimite	1989-1992
The Rev. Katharin L. Foster	1991-1995
The Rev. David A. duPlantier	1993-1994

2004 Annual Meeting Minutes January 18, 2004

ATTENDANCE: Matthew Adeyanju, Rachel Adeyanju, Jack Flemming, Leslie Flemming, Reid Sinclair, Karen Evans-Romaine, Ann Charles Watts, Jason Hillard, Debbie Hillard, Steve Steward, Ann Shelly, Margaret Topping, Al Topping, Richard Carlson, Dana Carlson, Iona Carlson, Jody Smith, Ted Foster, Jeanne Wells, Arvin Wells, Geoff Buckley, Gifford Doxsee, Terrie Sherman, Curt Sherman, Preston Denton, Suellen Denton, Marsha Reilly, Allyn Reilly, Rose Anne Ruchti, Larry Larson, Jim Mowery, Marsha Dutton, Lynn Graham, Clarrisa Campbell, Mary Anne Swardson, Roland Swardson, Phyllis Dean, Dick Dean, Christy Ortman, Alex Buckley, June Wieman, Doris Green, Betty Larson, Julie Nehls, Bob Shelly, Michael Jupin

The meeting began at 12:15 p.m. with a prayer by the Rev. Michael Jupin. Robert Shelly is the recording secretary. Forty-seven members of the parish are present at the meeting.

The minutes of the 2003 meeting were presented. Ann Charles-Watts moved their approval. Allyn Reilly seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Reid Sinclair presented the Nominating Committee Report:

Christy Ortman was nominated for Senior Warden
Allyn Reilly was nominated for Junior Warden
Alex Buckley was nominated for Secretary of the Vestry
Jack Flemming was nominated for Treasurer

Ann Shelly moved to close nominations for officers. Ted Foster seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

Laura Reams was nominated for the one year term as Student Representative position, Dana Carlson, Randy Purdy, Roland Swardson, and Al Topping were nominated for the four year terms as members of Vestry. Ann Shelly moved that nominations be closed. Jeanne Wells seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

Christy Ortman and Allyn Reilly were nominated as Convention Delegates in their roles as Wardens, Lynn Graham and Terri Sherman were nominated as regular delegates and Gifford Doxsee and Curt Sherman were nominated as Alternates. Allyn Reilly moved that nominations be closed. Karen Evans-Romaine seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Outgoing Vestry members - Zelma Coleman, Larry Larson, Ann Rathbun, and Reid Sinclair - were recognized for their service with the memorable comments made at their last Vestry meeting and a small token of appreciation from the parish.

Jack Flemming presented the 2004 Budget. Questions were raised about increasing utility costs and the amount of the expected draw on the Endowment. Jack noted that we need to think about how we will increase the Budget to \$240,000 in 2005 when we call a new Rector.

Rev. Jupin announced the one-hour workshops on stewardship to be held during Lent in the Education Hour on Sundays.

Ann Charles-Watts announced that she is willing to conduct an EFM workshop during Easter season.

Christy Ortman noted that no report from the Marthas is in the Annual Meeting report packets this year. She called for a round of applause to recognize their contributions to the parish. Julie Nehls acknowledged both the lack of a report and the applause. She also reported that \$119 from today's hot dog/sloppy joe lunch would be put toward the cost of the new copier.

Rev. Jupin publicly thanked Dutch Savage for his work as a Deacon in the parish, although Dutch was unable to attend due to illness.

Rev. Jupin also recognized Glenda Frost for her work as Parish Administrator. She works above and beyond the call according to Rev. Jupin.

Marsha Dutton reminded those present of the upcoming Shrove Tuesday pancake supper and indicated the proceeds will also go to the copier fund.

The meeting adjourned with a prayer at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Robert Shelly,
Secretary of the Vestry

Report of the Interim Priest in Charge 2004

Last year I wrote this report in terms of eight "Appropriate Goals for the Interim Period" set forth in the Letter of Agreement between the parish and me. This year I am writing it using the five "Developmental Tasks" of an Interim Ministry as they have been discerned over the last thirty years and are now taught to prospective interim clergy by the Interim Ministry Network.

Task 1. To Come to Terms with History

This task involves "letting go" of the former rector, of grieving the loss of that relationship in terms of all of the positives and negatives that that relationship included. But it means a lot more. It means working to be more deeply aware of all the history of the parish and how that history influences the present. Out of the relationships, structures, and events of the past congregational patterns of behavior emerge and persist beyond the presence of any particular rector or lay leaders. Some of those patterns of congregational behavior are good; some are not.

In this last year the parish has looked at its history and its behavioral norms in two sessions that were part of the process of "Discerning the Future of the Congregation." The vestry has reflected on several patterns of parish life and sought to make changes. The major pattern we have worked to change is that of individuals or groups (seeking to do otherwise valid ministry) going "around" the priest and/or vestry (the leadership core) to accomplish their goals. As one, more obvious, way of attending to this issue, the vestry has clarified the process for making Sunday announcements. Vestry empowerment of some new ministries and better communication with more established ministries is another. A less obvious but important way of vestry being the "chief stewards" of the congregation and giving "oversight" is in knowing the financial situation of every group working in the name of Good Shepherd. New software has just been purchased and installed to give vestry ready access to such information.

Task 2. To Discover a New Identity

This is probably the major task in which we have been engaged at Good Shepherd in the interim period. The mission statement and five goals established in 2004 reflect this redefining of parish identity (see agenda page). Personally I see this search for new identity made concrete in the desire of many for *personal spiritual growth within community* shown first in our worship but also in the participation in Saturday morning & Thursday contemplative prayer, in Bible study, in Sunday morning adult education, and in the vestry's positive response in beginning each of its meetings with a half hour spiritual exercise. I see this search in the emphasis on *stewardship* and the increased giving of individuals and families for 2005. I see our desire to do a better job in *welcoming newcomers* with the emphasis on this ministry that 2005 will bring. I see the search in vestry and other leaders who work to truly be the "stewards" of this parish community. And I see this search as we struggle to define and engage in the long desired and mostly unfulfilled goal of *being a presence on the OU campus* for the sake of students as well as faculty and administrators. I sense energy to move into a positive future. This energy is, I think, the best hope of Good Shepherd.

Task 3: To Allow Changes in Leadership

It is not the job of leadership – lay or clergy – to *make* changes in leadership. It is their responsibility to be aware of the shifts that take place in members' lives and respond appropriately to *what God is doing* in the lives of individuals and in the life of the community. There have been shifts, changes over the last couple of years to which the vestry and I have attended. New people have joined the congregation and shown interest in or been recognized as potential leaders. This year three fairly new members of the parish are nominated for positions on the vestry. The Vision Discernment and Profile Committees have included newer members. In the area of lay ministry in worship to which Lynn Graham has given such devoted attention for a number of years, the oversight of those ministries – lectors and chalice bearers, acolytes, and ushers – has been divided among and assigned to several church members. The reality that God is always raising up new people to lead and inspire the congregation makes even more important the presence of a ministry that pays attention to *new members*.

Task 4. To Renew the Relationship with the Diocese

A strong relationship of a parish and the diocese is made possible by both formal and informal means. Good Shepherd has been involved with the diocese through the Search Process, meeting with Archdeacon Hanisian, with Dcn Sallie Schisler in the formation and operation of the Profile Committee, through attendance at the Bishops, Wardens, and Vestries meeting in February, and by participation in Diocesan Convention. Bishop Price made the annual visitation in May and both Archdeacon Hanisian and Canon Vicki Zust have visited Good Shepherd to celebrate and preach on a Sunday. I have served on the Nominating Committee for the 9th Bishop of Southern Ohio and in this last year completed my second and concluding term as a member of the Professional Development Committee. I also continue to lead Healthy Congregations workshops and do Bridgebuilder consultations in the diocese bringing me into contact with a number of parishes and diocesan lay leaders and clergy. Another means of relationship with the diocese occurs when Good Shepherd members express interest in exploring the possibility of ordination. This "Exploration" brings a number of parish members in contact with the diocese and its leadership. In this past year two members have initiated or completed such an "Exploration."

Task 5: To Develop a Commitment to New Rector and New Future

All the above gives witness that Good Shepherd is well on its way in fulfilling this task. Not yet mentioned is the vestry's effort, begun at the end of 2004, to upgrade our offices, in terms of its operations with the appropriate technology and means for record keeping, and also in "the look" of the space which a new rector will occupy.

It has been my pleasure to serve Good Shepherd as your interim priest since May of 2003. I have learned a good deal, not only about Good Shepherd, but more about how congregations “work,” such learning and leadership being the “love” of my vocation. I have grown to appreciate the character of this congregation, of the leadership that is here, and of the potential for greatness found in those who make up this parish and in its location. I look forward in 2005 to a fruitful conclusion to our work and relationship as you prepare for the most positive of futures under the loving guidance of our God.

Respectfully submitted,
(The Rev.) Michael Jupin
Interim priest in charge

Senior Warden Report 2004

Last year at this time my dog Maggie and I fled the frozen north to Texas, land of cowboy music, tacos, and relatives. This year I’m at home, my lap warmed by a sleeping puppy, challenged by having to adjust to my life with one leg not two.

As senior warden, I feel it is important to write to the entire parish, to those I know well and to those who I’ve yet to become acquainted. This report is not about me but I acknowledge that it is colored by my own perceptions. With that disclaimer out of the way, I would like to say that the vibrant life that I witness in Good Shepherd is good news indeed. The success of the ministries already in place is a source of pride for us all. The Wednesday Lunch Program, powered by many hands, feeding many folks, and strongly supported by the vestry, is an ongoing ministry that serves as an example of what other parishes can do.

Responding to the spiritual needs of the parish, our interim priest-in-charge has implemented Bible study classes, regular sessions of contemplative prayer, Sunday morning adult education sessions, and Holy Eucharist celebrated every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. Most recently, a time of meditation is offered from 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. every Thursday in the Bishop Black chapel. Sunday school for the children, headed by Liz Sinclair, has been up and going since September. Begun in 2001 our association with the Community of the Holy Spirit continues to supplement our spiritual lives boosted by visits from Sister Faith Margaret.

Our music program continues to be a source of outreach to the university students who sing with the choir as well as an intense approach to worship through music for all of us. By the way, I sent a copy of the Advent Festival music, in the form of a CD, to our own former bishop, Bill Black. His response was so enthusiastic. He was touched by the fact that the June Black Fund continues to be an important part of our focus at Good Shepherd and loved the music.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry begun in February of 2004 has produced 75 shawls at this writing. Julie Nehls keeps a journal of the ministry, a list of recipients, and thank you letters. Not all of the shawl ministry knitters are here at Good Shepherd. Sister Faith Margaret and others at the Community of the Holy Spirit send their shawls to us to distribute. The shawls are knitted with intentional prayers and are a strong enfolding sign of love for those who receive one.

I, personally, can attest to this.

This year has been a busy one for the vestry as well as for the congregation. Led by our interim priest-in-charge, Michael, we have worked through a visioning process that has addressed the questions of where we have come from, who we are now, and what we want for our future. This has been a time when leaders have emerged and volunteered to take on the committees for goal setting, and creating a parish profile. As of this writing we have a rough draft of our parish profile. We have identified five goals that were refined from our cottage gathering and meetings in Nehls Hall. Now we have something of substance to work on in which we have all had a chance to offer our input. We are nearly to the point in the process where a search committee for a new rector can be formed.

We have welcomed new members through baptism, confirmation, and marriage. We have met folks who have begun to attend Good Shepherd and we welcome them into our parish family.

We have expanded the prayers of the people in our liturgy to include prayers written by our members, words beyond those of our prayer book. Because we have so many overwhelming situations that concern us, the worship committee has responded. As a nation, we are at war. As a community of faith we join others in praying for those in harm's way, for those in authority in this nation and all other nations in the world.

In my final year as senior warden, I find that looking ahead to the coming year is amazing. I am proud that our interim priest has taken a very active role as a member of the diocesan search committee for a new bishop. We have much to accomplish this year with God's help.

Humbly submitted by,
Christy Ortman
Senior Warden

Junior Warden Report 2004

Maintenance continues to be the main issue with the church property in 2004. Plumbing, painting, furnace and gutter maintenance have all been priorities this past year. Last April we held a Spring Work Day once again, and once again many parishioners helped out; thanks to all!

As was reported last year, the exterior trim paint needed attention. We had the rear portion of the church building repainted, but the front and sides will need to be painted this next year. Similarly, the pews, organ console lid, and other interior areas will need future attention as well. The furnace needed replacement of three small pumps and motors this winter; this has been accomplished with new, small internally sealed units. Eventually, the large furnace pumps will also need to be replaced with more modern units.

Episcopal House continues to be a maintenance concern. This season the city Code Enforcement Officer called our attention to some problems, especially on the third floor. The repair of the chimney we made three years ago had failed, allowing water once again to destroy the plaster surrounding the chimney on that floor. That has been repaired, and we are now working to replace cracked window glass in that same apartment unit. We have replaced the smoke detectors throughout that structure and are working to ensure that it is safe and comfortable in spite of its age.

Episcopal House maintenance is an uphill battle and I am concerned about its long-term use as a student rental facility. I believe it is necessary for us to create long range plans for that structure that do not involve taxing its systems as much as we are now. The alternative to that, of course, is to invest large sums in its heating/ventilation, plumbing, and electrical systems that will support its use as a property for student rental. If we wish Episcopal House to continue to supply us with income major investment will be a necessity.

Respectfully submitted,
Allyn Reilly
Junior Warden

Altar Guild Report 2004

The Altar Guild is committed to carrying out the preparation of the Church for all services that are held at Good Shepherd.

In addition to preparing for regular Sunday Services and Wednesday Evening Services, the Altar Guild members assist in preparing for baptisms, confirmations, weddings, funerals, ordinations, and memorial services. This year the following services were held:

- 1 - Memorial Service
- 2 - Weddings
- 3 - Baptisms
- 6 - Confirmations

Two members are present at each service held at Good Shepherd.

As Directress, I appreciate the dedication and faithful work of each member and all the extra time they give.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julia Nehls,
Directress

Christian Education and Formation 2004

The aim of Christian Education and Formation at the Church of the Good Shepherd is consistent with the parish Mission Statement: to assist its members "in knowing and following Christ in loving service."

Sunday Morning: For Children

Following on a number of years with Elizabeth Shepherd as teacher, the year began with Suellen Denton as the leader/teacher of children pre-school to twelve using the *Living the Good News* curriculum. Our thanks go to Sue Ellen for undertaking this ministry through mid-June.

Beginning in September Liz Sinclair became leader of this group of children with attendance numbering between two and six, and using the lectionary based *Celebrate the Good News* which makes the liturgy come alive for children ages 4-12 and helps them connect with the meaning of the liturgy and traditions of the Episcopal Church. The group gathers from 10:15 a.m. to approximately 11:15 a.m. when the children join with family members in church for Holy Communion.

Nursery care under the direction of Jessica Fox is also offered from 10:15 a.m. -11:45 a.m.

Sunday Morning: For Adults

It has been the aim this year to offer Adult Education every Sunday, September to June, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., usually in Nehls Hall.

February Sundays were given over to a **Ministry Assessment** as part of "Discerning our Congregation's Future" leading to the development of a new mission statement and five goals to guide the parish's ministry. Almost sixty people participated in the four Sunday and one weeknight sessions.

In **March and early April**, as well as **September and two Sundays in October**, the focus was on what would become one of the parish goals: "To improve stewardship." I led these sessions using the five session "Healthy Congregations Develop Generous People" workshop in the first part of the year and the video *A Life of Stewardship* featuring the Rt. Rev. William Burrill in the fall. Anywhere from ten to twenty-three members participated in these sessions.

A special treat came the weekend after Easter, April 17th - 18th when **Carol Doran** was in residence at Good Shepherd. Carol is Professor of Music & Liturgy and Seminary Organist at the Virginia Theological Seminary. She led us through an exploration of American Hymnody in a workshop on Saturday and prepared us (from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.) and led us through the singing of American music in the Eucharist on Sunday morning.

Beginning in October a pattern was established for the content of the Sunday morning adult sessions. The first and second Sundays would focus on **Our Episcopal Heritage in Liturgy and Music**, the second Sunday would see a "**Focus on Hunger**" with members of that committee

overseeing that Sunday, and the fourth Sunday of the month on **Stewardship** (these latter sessions are mentioned above).

October 7th Marsha Dutton led a session on the "History of the Book of Common Prayer;" **November 7th and 21st** I led explorations of the "Shape of the Eucharist" and "The Eucharistic Prayers," respectively; and on **December 5th** Leslie Flemming led a study of "The Liturgical Year" with an emphasis on Advent.

The **Focus on Hunger Sundays** saw a discussion of the three recipients of the offering on World Hunger Sunday, **November 14th** and Heifer Project on **December 12th** (see their report for more details). **November 28th** Gifford Doxsee and I gave a report on the most recent Diocesan Convention with an emphasis on the Windsor Report.

Other 2004 Adult Education Offerings

I offered Saturday morning times for *Contemplative Prayer* on eight occasions with Sr. Faith Margaret joining me for the October quiet morning as we celebrated the Feast of Thomas Cranmer with "Prayer Grounded in the Prayer Book."

Beginning in late September I led a seven session Bible study using a resource from *Kerygma Publishing* and titled **The Bible & Theology, Book 1: Who is God? Who is Christ?** The study spent three sessions on each question with the first session looking at the Hebrew scripture, the second at Christian scripture, and the third tracing the theological development of God or Christ in the early church. There were nineteen registrants for this Bible study with twelve persons attending at last four sessions.

At least as much, if not more, attention as given to Christian Education and Formation in 2004 will be shown in 2005.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Jupin
Interim priest in charge

Cursillo Community Report 2004

Each month a Saturday Evening is set aside for an Ultreya. Taking place in Nehls Hall, these include pot lucks, singing, prayers, and often a short talk or program. The focus is fellowship and sharing of God's work in our lives. Everyone is always welcome to attend.

Some members also meet in small groups weekly to lunch, read and study Scripture, pray, and help each other recognize God's presence in their lives.

Respectfully Submitted
Jan Gault
Jeanne Wells

Focus on Hunger & Outreach Report 2004

In our "Focus on Hunger," Good Shepherd is building on an already established foundation. Our ongoing plan as we spotlight events is to emphasize need and encourage all to respond. The Hunger Committee selected four programs to emphasize in our first year: The Wednesday Free Lunch, the Athens County Food Pantry (with special contributions on "Peanut Butter Sunday"), Heifer International (as gift giving for others as well as "our own") and Episcopal Relief and Development-ERD (where the proceeds of the sale of Bishops Blend Coffee go). Our mission in the support of all of these programs is to respond to the needs of the poor, hungry, homeless, and sick." All require our wealth to be shared; all invite our active participation.

These programs have been the subjects of the second Sunday morning 9 a.m. Adult Education gathering with a special World Hunger Sunday Offering on November 14 that realized almost nine hundred dollars split among the Wednesday Free Lunch, Athens County Food and ERD. Heifer Project was the topic of the December Sunday School and the second Sunday Adult Education hour. Thanks to Liz Sinclair for her work with the children and the support of church members who gave one hundred and twenty eight dollars for the purchase of chickens.

The Wednesday Lunch has expanded greatly over the its first years resulting in this year's reorganization into four teams of four or five main people rotating on a weekly basis. The teams are always looking for more people to cook, clean up, and converse with our guests. One of those teams would be the place where you find the joy that comes in doing for others. There has been an interest in learning more about "Food for the Poor" and joining them in helping the people in the poorest of our neighbor nations.

The beginning of this year has been encouraging as we work to help our parish become aware of hunger all around us - physical and spiritual - has produced results. As we grow in awareness and giving, we hope to find more ways to respond to Jesus' words and to feel a new spirit within us.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jan Gault
Pat Grean
Jeanne Wells

Other Outreach: The parish's commitment to social outreach is also reflected in the parish budget of which the vestry is the steward. In 2004 the vestry allocated one thousand dollars for the Wednesday lunch program, five hundred dollars for Rural Action, two hundred and fifty dollars for Episcopal Community Services Foundation, two hundred dollars for UCM, and one hundred dollars each for Habitat for Humanity, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, and Good Works, Inc. In addition, Good Shepherd members and others earmark contributions to specific programs that "pass through" the parish books. In 2004 the total for that giving was \$ 12,709.41

and included the Athens County Food Pantry, Habitat, Honduras support, the United Thank Offering, and the Wednesday Free Lunch. MJ

Music Report 2004

Current choir members are: Don Frazier, Larry Larson, Nick Capell, Allyn Reilly, Dick Dean, Gifford Doxsee, Steve Steward, David Burton, Betty Larson, Jamie Tevis, Debbie Hillard, Sandi White, Marsha Dutton, Jeanne Wells, Christy Ortman, Elizabeth Kralik, Joanne Worstall, Phyllis Dean, Karen Evans-Romaine, and Alina Buccella. There are other singers from the parish and from other churches who frequently sing with us for special events.

Our Vocal Music Assistants in 2004 were: Krista Voorhees, Laura Fry, alto, Rob Fry, bass and Jacob Conklin, tenor. In the spring of 2004 Renee Geyer replaced Laura Fry and Jason Hartz replaced Rob Fry. The students appreciate the opportunity to share their talents in a worship setting and the parish benefits from their musical skills. Our VMA program is a unique aspect of the outreach program of this parish. The students tell me that they appreciate having the church family. Several of our past VMA's have become active in other Episcopal parishes after graduation. One, Elizabeth Hoster, has become a priest and is currently serving as assistant at St. John's Church in Charleston, WV.

Maintaining musical links with our glorious Anglican musical tradition is helped by our membership in the Royal School of Church Music. This organization, based in England, is an umbrella organization for Episcopal choirs around the world. RSCM-America is now becoming very active. A choir training program "Voice for Life" is being launched this year. I hope to bring this program and other RSCM-America events to Athens. I also hope that we will be able to participate in the various events in Ohio.

In addition to the main work of providing musical leadership on Sunday mornings, the choir also provided music leadership for the All Hallows' Eve service and presented an outstanding Advent Festival in December.

A glimpse behind the scenes - or - what does the Music Director do other than play the organ on Sunday mornings and direct the choir rehearsal on Wednesday evenings? Here is the short list:

- Choose hymns and service music that are appropriate to the day and the season
- Choose choir and organ music
- Practice organ and choir music
- Prepare rehearsal plan for choir rehearsals
- Hire VMA's and guest instrumentalists
- Meet with rector and worship committee on a regular basis
- Write newsletter articles
- Attend workshops as time and money permit

A big thank you to Betty Larson and now Phyllis Dean for keeping the robes in order and to Sandi White for helping us keep the music in order. Thank you also to the entire parish for supporting the music program.

Respectfully Submitted
Marsha Reilly,
Music Director

Nominating Committee Report 2004:
Vestry Election Slate for the year 2005

Senior Warden:	Christy Ortman (one year term)
Junior Warden:	Preston Denton (one year term)
Secretary:	Alex Buckley (one year term)
Treasurer:	Jack Flemming (one year term)
College/University Representative:	Laura Sojka (one year term)

Vestry:	Patricia Beamish	Term Expires 2008
Vestry:	Ted Foster	Term Expires 2008
Vestry:	Judith Grant	Term Expires 2008
Vestry:	Allyn Reilly	Term Expires 2008

Diocesan Convention Delegates

1. Gifford Doxsee
2. Ann Shelly

Alternates

1. Richard Carlson
2. T. J. Luce

*****Please Note:** (per our by-laws) "additional nominations, with consent of the nominee, shall be allowed from the floor of the annual meeting."

Respectfully Submitted,
Leslie Flemming, Co-Chair
Robert Shelly, Co-Chair
Karen Evans-Romaine
Katharine Ziff

Parish Health Ministry Report
2004

Although the ongoing work of visitation and services at Lindley Inn had continued, the committee had not officially met for 2 years. Subsequent to our review of over 100 mission statements used by other parishes (provided by the Episcopal Retirement Home representative

or ERH), a new mission statement was adopted in April 2004. After review and discussion with the interim priest and vestry, the committee was officially reinstated in October 2004. The mission statement reads, "The Health Ministry Team of the Church of the Good Shepherd seeks to follow the healing ministry of Jesus Christ by promoting wholeness of body, mind and spirit through programs of prayer, service and support, to individuals, the parish, and the larger community."

This indicates that while there are specific committee programs, members also seek to support or participate in the work of the parish ministries and the Healing Ministry of Sr. Faith Margaret to achieve the goal of wholeness of mind, body and spirit.

The committee met 7 times in 2004. Activities included sponsoring a Health Fair by students of Ann Rathbun (approximately 55 attendees), 2 blood pressure screenings (16 parishioners), colon cancer screenings (11 parishioners) and visits to assisted living, nursing home or hospital residents in Athens and Albany (approximately 2-5 times per week; 300 visits). Members continue to participate in the Lindley Inn religious services although leadership was assumed by the Lay Eucharistic Ministers in July.

In late 2004, home visits to one terminally ill parish member were begun with larger parish cooperation and coordinated with other ministries, visiting nurse and hospice services, as well as family members. At that time, the need for more record keeping, as well as training for a variety of visitors and patients, became increasingly evident (and required by ERH), and hopefully will be implemented in 2005.

One goal, to present programs related to the impact of the environment on health and our stewardship of creation, and personnel. In addition, the ERH committee is in the midst of revising the monthly health bulletin inserts, and these continue to be unavailable. The volunteer time required to coordinate and communicate with various members, ministries and the diocesan representatives has been approximately 10 - 20 hours per week.

Respectfully Submitted
Jane Ergood

Stewardship Committee Report 2004

The results and schedule for the gathering of pledges for the first six months of 2005 is as listed below:

September 20th, 2004: A letter from the Wardens and Michael Jupin was mailed to the congregation outlining plans for the pledge ingathering. The letter included a pledge card for the first six months and a request that all cards be turned in on Sunday, October 3rd, 2004, the "Ingathering Sunday."

October 1st, 2004: An e-mail was sent to all parishioners reminding them to turn in their pledge cards on Sunday, October 3rd, 2004.

October 3rd, 2004: 42 Pledge Cards were turned in for a six month total of \$39,788.00.

October 10th, 2004: A follow-up letter was sent to those parishioners who had not as yet turned in their pledge cards.

October 23rd – 30th, 2004: The Stewardship Committee made phone calls to those parishioners who have not as yet turned in their cards.

December 31st, 2004: Results as of this date as well as 2004 (six month) are:

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
number of pledges	79	71
six month dollar total	\$59,944.00	\$63,937.00

In summary, the six month pledge total increased by \$3993.00 with 8 fewer pledging units and the average pledges were up a healthy 17% over 2004. There are several pledges still not turned in. Members of the Stewardship Committee are: Geoff Buckley, Anne Braxton, Preston Denton, Robert Shelly, and Al Topping, Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,
Al Topping,
Chair of the Stewardship Committee

Worship Committee/Lay Ministry Report 2004

The charge of the Worship Committee is to share with the Rector responsibility for planning the worship services of the parish. This year, the Worship Committee exercised its ministry in three areas: planning for ongoing services, especially the Sunday Eucharists; assisting in the development of special or new worship services; and providing opportunities for members of the congregation to deepen their understanding of liturgy. The committee meets monthly.

In planning for Sunday Eucharists, the committee encouraged the Rector to incorporate birthday and anniversary prayers into the services; enable prayer leaders to use alternative forms of the Prayers of the People; use alternative liturgies for Advent, Christmastide, and Epiphany; and create distinctive services for Holy Week and Easter.

The Worship Committee also assisted in the creation and enhancement of special services. These services included Advent and Christmas Lessons and Carols, Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, the Easter Vigil, the Labor Day Eucharist at Stroud's Run State Parks, and the All Hallows' Eve Evensong.

To enhance the congregation's understanding of liturgy, the Worship Committee created a series of classes held between the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services. In Winter 2004, the talks centered on liturgical history, with opportunity for the congregation to "try out" different forms of older liturgies. Spring 2004 was focused on music in the visit of Carol Doran from Virginia Seminary, she spoke on American Hymnody. Fall 2004 focused on the Book of Common Prayer itself. In

fall 2004, the series focused on the history of the Prayer Book. Between 12 and 15 people attended each Sunday.

This year the Worship Committee reorganized the lay worship ministries to relieve Lynn Graham who had been overseeing **all** these ministries for several years. Our thanks to Lynn for her long and attentive service. Matthew Adeyanju now oversees acolytes, Curt Sherman the ushers, and I oversee the recruitment, training and scheduling (with Glenda Frost) of lectors and chalice bearers. On Saturday, November 6th, Michael, our interim priest, and I conducted a training session for chalice bearers.

During the past year, Good Shepherd inaugurated a Eucharistic Visitors ministry. This ministry is designed to bring Holy Communion to parish members who are unable to attend the Sunday service for physical or health reasons. Eucharistic Visitors are licensed by the diocese, and are trained in the practical aspects of administering the Sacrament in a home setting. Prior to licensing, they must also attend a diocesan sponsored seminar on sexual abuse awareness. Good Shepherd presently has nine parishioners who are licensed Eucharistic Visitors.

At this time, the Eucharistic Visitors are participating in the services at Lindley Inn and bring Communion to two shut-in parishioners. This ministry is also available at any time to any parishioner who is temporarily unable to attend services because of illness or hospitalization.

If you wish to be seen by an Eucharistic Visitor please contact the parish office.

Respectfully Submitted,
Leslie Flemming,
Chair of the Worship Committee

Treasurer's Report 2004

I would like to divide my report into two parts.

Part One: Pointing with Pride

- During 2004, we were able to meet our day-to-day operational expenses out of current income while withdrawing about \$9,200 less from the endowment than we had intended to take. Of course, some budget items performed better than expected and some performed less well than expected. But overall our total income and our total expenses both turned out to be 100.2% of expectations.
- We also put an additional \$1,500 into our search fund, giving us a current balance of slightly above \$11,000. This 2005 budget calls for another \$5,000 going into this fund, bringing the projected balance in this fund to \$16,000 + by the end of the year.
- We started the year with an endowment balance of \$543,709, and finished the year with a balance of \$565,857. This represents a gain of 4.07% for 2004. Over the past two years our endowment principal has increased by nearly \$75,000.

- Our diocesan assessment for 2005 will be \$20,361, down from \$27,004 in 2004.
- The program of stewardship education, which Interim Priest Michael Jupin has begun with us, is beginning to bear fruit. We have received enough pledges for the first half of 2005 to support an annualized pledge income for the year of \$121,250. This is an increase of 5.7% over our 2004 pledge income figure of \$114,720 – this in itself being an all-time high. This response occurred while our number of pledging units decline from 79 to 71. This means the AVERAGE 2005 pledge exceeded the average 2004 pledge by more than 15%.
- The vestry has approved a balanced 2005 budget that provides for an average increase of 3% in expenses (including 3% raises for all the staff) while requiring only a 3% withdrawal from the endowment principal this year. This low withdrawal level is a direct result of our lowered diocesan assessment and our strong increase in pledge stewardship.
- We have purchased an upgraded software system and the improved computer equipment to run it. This will substantially improve Glenda's efficiency and should help make us more attractive to a potential Rector candidate. Many thanks to Preston Denton, Curt Sherman, and Allyn Reilly, who all worked very hard to procure this upgrade and to get it for us at a very good price.

Part Two: Viewing with Alarm

- Our physical plant continues to deteriorate. The results of years of neglect should now be obvious to all. Nobody has been more careful with our resources than has our retiring Junior Warden. Though he has attended to building maintenance as well as anyone could ask, he still has had to let several needs go unmet that he is well aware of. Here is an example. There are holes in the gutters designed to carry rain away from the roof. But rainwater now comes directly off the roof and soaks into the ground by the wall. If enough water accumulates and a hard freeze occurs, the foundation could crack. Cracking of the foundation is not a covered loss on building insurance. There is no money available in the budget to address this maintenance need.
- When I became Treasurer for the first time in 1998, our endowment had a balance of \$723,540 and could have supported a withdrawal level of about \$36,000. For about five years after that time, we took over \$50,000 annually from the endowment. This practice, along with the general downturn of the stock market, caused our principal to shrink to under \$500,000. Our current balance is now about \$565,000. This is an improvement, but the endowment can now only support a withdrawal level of about \$28,000 – roughly three-fourths of what was available to us from this source seven years ago.
- If we meet our plan, the search fund will have a balance of slightly more than \$16,000 by the end of the year. We have done well so far. But we need a minimum of \$20,000 and a full search could cost as much as \$30,000. I don't like these figures either, but my job requires me to deal with facts.
- Our financial health is improving for many reasons, but the most important is that our Interim Priest is with us only on a half-time basis. Even at that, his annual compensation package exceeds \$50,000. To attract a permanent rector will require a salary package of \$100,000 per year.

- If we had to, we could float a budget of \$195,000 to \$200,000 per year right now. Factoring in general inflation, we will need an additional \$40,000 - \$50,000 increase in our income per year to be able to afford to pay the salary of a new rector.
- We must consider where this additional money can come from. We are collecting as much rent as we can; it is unlikely the endowment principal will increase enough anytime soon to let us withdraw more than \$30,000 per year; gifts and loose offerings are increasing but will not be enough. To afford to call a new rector, we must increase our pledge income from \$125,000 to at least \$165,000 - 175,000 yearly. Developing a plan to fill the financial “gap” in order to engage a full time rector is one of, if not the most important, challenges the vestry and parish face this year.

Still, we must not make light of our progress. We are stronger financially than we have been in years. Thanks to Michael’s work with us, we better understand the realities of stewardship. And we have begun to respond. Though the road is long and difficult and we not yet reached our goal, we have come a long way and have done very well so far. We all understand the situation better and we are heading in the right direction. Let’s keep up the good work.

Respectively submitted,
Jack Flemming
Treasurer