

Church of the Good Shepherd



George Cohen
1980

Annual Meeting
January 11, 2009

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

In July, 1875, it is recorded that 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 Jagger, 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 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.

Five 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 served from 1979 to 2002. After a two and a half year interim, the Vestry extended a call on behalf of Good Shepherd to the Rev. R. William Carroll, who was serving as a visiting assistant professor of systematic theology at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. Fr Carroll arrived in Athens in May 2006 and continues to serve the ministry of the Church of the Good Shepherd to this day.

In recent years the church has developed a special ministry to international students. Good Shepherd has also fostered many vocations to the ordained ministry. Two deacons, and several seminarians have been sponsored by the parish within the past decade, including our current seminarians T. J. Azar and Leslie Flemming. In addition, several curates, assistants, and associated clergy have been thoroughly integrated into the on-going life of the parish. In 2007, as Good Shepherd celebrates the first hundred years of the Hocking Valley Mission, much has changed. The Good News has not. Building on the faithful ministry of generations who have gone before, let us pray for the grace to move forward in another century of mission. May we put our trust in God and be filled with hope and love.

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	2003-2006

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
The Rev. R William Carroll	2006 - present

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

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

January 11th, 2009

- I. Opening Prayer:
 - II. Acceptance of Minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting
 - III. Thank you to departing Officers and Vestry members
 - IV. Elections: Report of Nominating Committee
 - V. Stewardship Report & Presentation of the Budget for 2009
 - VI. Closing Prayer
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Nominating Committee Report 2008: Vestry Election Slate for the year 2009

Senior Warden:	Matthew Adeyanju	(one year term)
Junior Warden:	Jack Flemming	(one year term)
College/University Representative:	Mary Cuff	(one year term)
Vestry:	Paul Clever	Term Expires 2012
	Will Lamb	Term Expires 2012
	Julie Nehls	Term Expires 2012
	Lois Wagner	Term Expires 2012
Diocesan Convention Delegates:	Paul Clever	
	Ann Shelly	
Diocesan Convention Alternates:	Ted Foster	
	Bob Shelly	

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

2008 Annual Meeting Minutes January 20, 2008

Attendance: Matthew & Rachel Adeyanju, Michael Adeyanju, Geoff Buckley, Dana Carlson, Zelma Coleman, Dick & Phyllis Dean, Anthony & Connie DeBerardinis, Gifford Doxsee, Bruce & Jane Ergood, Jack Flemming, Ted Foster, Don Frazier, Jim & Jan Gault, Doris Green, Twig Kaufman, Will Lamb, Joanne Larson, Carolyn Murphree, Julie Nehls, Sandy Oney, Gregory Proctor, Jane Forrest Redfern, Sam Redfern, Allyn & Marsha Reilly, Elizabeth Sayrs, Bob & Ann Shelly, Reid Sinclair, Sister Faith Margaret, Jody Smith, A J Stack, Steve Steward, Roland & Mary Anne Swardson, Al & Margaret Topping, Lois Wagner, Arvin & Jeanne Wells, June Wieman, Joanne Worstall and the Rev. R. William Carroll

The Annual Meeting Reports brochures a summary from the feedback forms about worship space, the Budget, the Outreach Committee Annual Report were distributed. Fr. Carroll opened the meeting with a prayer at 12:15 p.m. Forty-eight members of the parish were present.

Acceptance of the 2007 Annual Meeting minutes was moved and seconded. With no one opposed, the minutes were accepted as presented.

The Report of the Nominating Committee was presented by Allyn Reilly. The Election Slate for 2008 was as follows:

Senior Warden:	Carolyn Murphree	(one year term)
Junior Warden:	Ted Foster	(one year term)
Coll/Univ Representative:	(Michael Adeyanju)	(one year term)
Vestry:	Anne Braxton	(Term expires 2011)
Vestry:	Elizabeth Sayers	(Term expires 2011)
Vestry:	A J Stack	(Term expires 2011)
Vestry:	June Wieman	(Term expires 2011)
Diocesan Convention Delegates:	Matthew Adeyanju, Don Frazier	
Diocesan Convention Alternates:	Ann Shelly, Bob Shelly	

Since a vestry vacancy (Carolyn Murphree) has been created with this slate Mathew Adeyanju asked how this would be handled. Fr. Carroll noted the by-laws indicate vestry appoints when midterm, but could be elected at annual meeting if open at that time. Allyn said the nominating committee decided to let the new vestry fill this position. Fr. Carroll said we could accept a nomination from floor to be elected, but everyone was satisfied with letting Vestry fill the position later. There being no nominations from the floor it was moved and seconded that the slate be accepted as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion about feedback on worship space: Fr. Carroll summarized the report (printed in the Annual Meeting Reports brochure) Short range plans are in the works to permit a way to kneel, deal with crowding, frontal for altar, preserving architectural *symmetry*, etc. There is no real consensus on particulars, but the free Standing Alter and having no gate are not negotiable; will consult before go with any final plans. Good discussion on the nature of tradition, trends, changes, space.

Budget: Note the deficit spending, e.g. 26,000 taken from endowment to balance over and above endowment income. Given the economy, 20,000 raised this summer, and 63 pledges totaling 132,149 we did well, but the original five year plan figures not realistic. Vestry has appointed task force create a more realistic plan with a view to eliminate deficit spending. Jack and Bill explain budget questions, Kroger cards, etc. Jane Forest Redfern moved that the Annual Meeting approve a resolution accepting the budget the Vestry has adopted as presented, Allyn Reilly seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1.40 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Ted Foster

Rector's Report 2008

At the end of 2008, I find myself incredibly grateful for the people of Good Shepherd and the life and ministry we share. God is blessing us in many ways, not the least of which is a renewed ministry with young adults and students. Our Shepherd's Alternative community combines innovative worship designed and led by young adults with Christian fellowship that serves as an intentional alternative to Court Street bar culture. This initiative came out of a process of consultation with students and other young adults in the parish, and they have continued to set the agenda. We have consistently had between 5 and 8 young adults worshipping with us on Friday nights (in addition to a growing number on Sunday mornings), and the addition of Mary Cuff as peer minister to students, a position paid for with a diocesan grant, holds out the promise of expanding our ministry on campus. We now have a critical mass and the possibility of a community that will grow organically. The ministry of the Good Earth

Hunger Mission (Paul and Sarah Clever are intimately involved with Shepherd's Alternative and other core members of the community are helping to work at their farm) has provided a natural means to involve young adults in meaningful outreach that builds upon our parish commitments to feeding the hungry and working toward a more environmentally sustainable future. The outreach committee is meeting regularly and is working to raise a significant sum (\$7,000), above and beyond the budget, to supplement our different ministries with the hungry (also including the free Wednesday lunch and the Athens County Food Pantry) in these challenging economic times.

In general, while preserving the proper leadership roles of the vestry, executive committee, and rector, we are seeing the beginnings of an emerging committee structure, the intent of which is to provide opportunities for lay ministry and leadership. I am aware of a hunger for participation in decisions affecting our common life, and this (along with several parish forums on the budget and other matters) represents an effort in that direction. Shepherd's Alternative provides an invaluable model of what is possible in this regard. I am also aware that the committee structure cannot emerge too quickly in a parish our size, without creating overwork and burnout or meeting for the sake of meeting. Those who would like to become involved with the work of a committee or to propose a new initiative need only speak to me or another member of the executive committee. Most committees (like our vestry) have meetings that are open to all, and some have open membership. At present, we have an outreach committee and a renewed worship committee, as well as committees for parish life, finance, property, and new member ministry.

The last of these will be charged with several important initiatives in 2009, including a review of the physical plant to identify ways in which our space can be made more welcoming, a review of the website, development of a new member packet, and identifying and training greeters. At Good Shepherd, we continue to be committed to inviting others into our worship, fellowship, and service. The new member committee will help us to expand and warm up our hospitality to others. Recall that our three chief strategies to growth are (1) doing the basics well; (2) building on our strengths; and (3) the ministry of active hospitality. Remember also that we are seeking growth not for its own sake but as the consequence of faithfulness to the mission God sets before us.

I am certain that much of our discussion at the 2009 annual meeting will focus on the budget that the vestry adopted at its most recent meeting. It is no secret that we live in difficult times. I believe that the budget, which incorporates several recommendations from the finance committee and parish forums, provides a good roadmap for us as we seek to weather the storm. No one is 100% happy with the decision to do without a sexton. I myself wish that we could have found a way to pay for all four vocal music assistants, who enhance our music ministry so much and are a vital component of our outreach to students. But we are responding to each of these challenges faithfully. First, we have a property committee and cleaning teams, which, in addition to picking up the slack created by the sexton's absence and making the junior warden's job more doable, will create opportunities for fellowship and non-monetary contributions to Good Shepherd. Second, we are continuing to fund all four VMA positions through the June Black Fund this year, as we seek alternative models for funding them in the future.

It is my suspicion that, in a better overall economy, these cuts would have gone further toward reducing our deficit. I am also encouraged that, even though we did not meet our goal for pledges, we are seeing \$15,000 in new and increased pledges. Other, comparably-sized parishes are facing as much as \$25,000 in decreased pledges compared to 2008. Even though we are \$12,000 short of our goal, we are only down \$2000 compared to 2008. I believe that these numbers reflect a changing and growing parish, which is in some ways painful but is also something to celebrate. The spiritual challenge in all this is to continue to be vigilant without succumbing to anxiety. Panic solves nothing, and it inhibits our ability to plan and act effectively. Jesus is ever marching before us, leading us into freedom, and his Body the Church, like his physical body, changes, grows, dies, and rises again. I believe that we have set a good course, making reasonable sacrifices, without compromising core mission and ministry. That is the best that any congregation could hope for under the present circumstances. As a parish, we are rising to the challenges of these times in a way that is both faithful and inspiring. I am convinced that God will bless us in the year to come.

I would like to say thank you to departing vestry members and officers. Carolyn Murphree has been a diligent and vigilant Senior Warden. She took on the job as a transitional figure, on a year to year basis, and has served faithfully and well. Her love for Good Shepherd is known to all, and I have been

grateful, as I know we all have, for her service. Among Carolyn's most important roles was chairing the ad hoc committee to buy our new oven, a task that involved a protracted negotiation and a result of which we should all be proud. She was also a leading voice on the finance committee and helped us to find a way forward that preserved Glenda Frost's position as our parish administrator. For his part, Ted Foster has been an exemplary Junior Warden. He has spent countless hours at Good Shepherd and in the Episcopal House. His resourcefulness has saved us a lot of money over his two year tenure, and he has brought a sense of humor and dedication to some very difficult ministry. I'm also grateful for Ted's willingness to serve on the property committee and as a team leader for the cleanup teams. Michael Adeyanju, Phyllis Dean, and Jane Forrest Redfern all have served on the vestry my entire tenure as your rector. All will no doubt continue to play strong leadership roles in the Church. I will miss their wisdom in our vestry deliberations, and I am grateful on Good Shepherd's behalf for their faithful service. Jack Flemming and Anne Braxton are also ending terms of service as our treasurer and vestry secretary. I am grateful for their hard work and leadership as well, though they will continue in other roles.

Allow me to end on a personal note. I can't say enough about the many prayers and other kindnesses that have come my way during my recent hospitalization. Members of Good Shepherd have been models of Christian love in this difficult time for me and my family. I was overjoyed to be back in Athens with you for the celebration of Christmas. My follow up care both for the infected leg and for the early stages of type two diabetes is progressing wonderfully. Visits to the eye doctor and foot doctor have given me a clean bill of health. We have caught this early and are treating it aggressively. The hope is that I will be able to control my blood sugar without any medications, certainly without insulin. I have already begun some of the lifestyle changes, which are actually (for the most part) enjoyable and good for my health in general. This is the first major health problem of my life, and I am responding to it with hope and a positive attitude.

May God continue to bless us all with abundant grace throughout the New Year.

In Christ,
The Rev. R. William Carroll, Rector

Senior Warden Report 2008

As I review 2008 at Good Shepherd and welcome Matthew Adeyanju as the next Senior Warden, I discover that I remember people rather than events. A new Parish Life Committee, an Architecture Committee, a reassembled Worship Committee needed new leaders and workers. People came forward as committees already in place and mission efforts continued.

Two Parish Forums gathered many of us, one in May to discuss worship and outreach, e.g. how can we best adapt our Georgian building to worship at our new altar. The forum in October addressed the budget, e.g. can we accept some stringent choices to protect our endowment? As we ask questions and with patience find some answers, we're gratified. As we work, discuss, challenge ourselves and each other, we move toward consensus and acceptance. Working with others is the reward as we seek together, all of us God's children.

Respectively submitted by,
Carolyn Murphree, Senior Warden

Junior Warden Report 2008

A leak around the Episcopal House chimney was addressed last year, but had apparently been unreported for a long time resulting in considerable damage. This summer the junior warden spent many hours restoring walls on the third floor as well as the ceilings in two rooms below.

Our 50+ year-old physical plant limits on how energy efficient we can become, but we have done considerable work. This year, as was the main building last year, the Episcopal House was re-lamped

with fluorescent bulbs. We put down an additional layer of insulation above offices in the main building and upgraded the Episcopal House attic insulation. We are also now able to shut down the main building's boilers completely in the summer. Along with new Nehls Hall tables from the Greek Community, the generosity of parishioners has enabled the installation of the above insulation as well as the purchase of a commercial grade stove to feed the hungry. Short term we are due for smaller more efficient window air conditioners. Longer term we might wish to consider solar panels on our large ideally pitched roof, either via a grant or perhaps when capital improvement time comes around.

Given the stressed budget scenario the Vestry has decided, starting 2009, to eliminate the sexton's position until the situation improves. A 'property committee' consisting of junior warden 'emeriti' Ted Foster, Curt Sherman, Allen Reilly, and Don Frazier, will be chaired by Jack Flemming who is the junior warden nominee for this coming year. Modeled after the free lunch program, each emeritus will have a crew, which will rotate each week to do sexton duties. As of this report 32 have volunteered to help.

Again this year we have been lucky. Donated effort and fortuitously few expensive repairs allowed the maintenance budget to suffice again this year. Let's hope our luck to continue, especially in regards to the building's cast-iron plumbing infrastructure which is nearing the end of its lifespan. To help with unplanned surprises the Vestry approved a maintenance reserve fund (saving account) derived from any year-end remainder of the every-day maintenance budget to cover the infrequent but necessary replacement of ailing boilers, plumbing, etc.

The Episcopal House continues to be used only as a student rental and as such it gets a lot of abuse with only minimal attention and we are in real danger of ruining a potential asset under our stewardship. We manage to meet code, but the house is in tatters. It needs considerable inside painting, outside trim/windows, more plaster repair, termite damage and other rotting wood repaired, all the widows pointed, and additional roof repairs, screens, gutters need work – the list goes on. Personally, I long for the day when we could once again use the Episcopal House more for mission activities and for ourselves, or renting to a single family perhaps. An ad hoc committee will explore these issues and report to the Vestry. Regardless, we are going to need to invest in considerable upkeep effort.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ted Foster, Junior Warden

Music Report 2008

Current choir members are: Don Frazier, Allyn Reilly, Dick Dean, Ted Foster, Richard Carlson, Gregory Proctor, Gifford Doxsee, Steve Steward, Michael Glass, David Burton, Chuck Brient, Steven Huang, Sandi White, Marsha Dutton, Elizabeth Sayrs, Harolyn Brient, Mary Cuff, Pat Beamish, Jeanne Wells, Elizabeth Kralik, Joanne Worstall, Phyllis Dean, and Lois Wagner. There are other singers from the parish and from other churches who frequently sing with us for special events.

In addition to the main work of providing musical leadership on Sunday mornings, the choir also presents choral music from across the whole spectrum of the Anglican tradition. The Advent Festival this year had the largest attendance ever. This Festival has become an important part of our musical outreach.

The choir also presented an Advent program at Trinity Church in McArthur. In addition to choral pieces, the choir led the congregation in a carol sing. The church then provided a delicious potluck supper.

Our Vocal Music Assistants, beginning in September, were Dedrick Bonner, Mike Ward, Meghan Bartley, and Ashlee Dietrich. Unfortunately Ashlee could not return to OU this quarter so new altos VMA candidates are currently being interviewed.

History of this program – This program was started over 20 years ago with the help of Phyllis Dean. The decision was made at the beginning to limit it to students. Many Episcopal churches have professional section leaders but we thought it was an opportunity to reach out to the students.

Student response to the program – They like having the feeling of family away from home. Many times choir people have come through when a student has had a crisis. Students now come to me to ask about the program. This fall we had 4 students auditioning for 2 positions.

Post-graduation –

Steve Steward – a loyal member of the parish

Liddy Hoster - has become a priest

Misty Hummel – joined and married in the Episcopal church

Alex Bodenham – tenor soloist at St. Margaret's, Washington D. C. He attributes some of his job success to being required to be at church on time on Sunday mornings. His story at the time of his crisis.

Sarah Spurlock – joined and married in the Episcopal church, sings with St. Margaret's choir, Washington D. C.

Value of this program - This has been the most stable of our college ministry programs and creates a solid basis for the choir. The VMA's also attract other students – we frequently have other college students sing in the choir. The other choir members like having someone to depend on.

One of the stated goals last year was the development of a children's music ministry program. To that end I worked with the church school children for two extended periods during the year. The first time they assisted in the music leadership for the service on Appalachian Sunday – teaching a hymn and participating with the adult choir.

In 2009 I will work with the children again beginning at the end of January leading towards Appalachian Sunday and another, as yet undecided time later in the year.

We also are planning another outreach project with Rev. Leslie Flemming which would include Good Shepherd and her two parishes in Pomeroy and Gallipolis.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marsha Reilly, Music Director

Altar Guild Report 2008

The Altar Guild is committed to carrying out the preparation of the Church for all services held at the Church of the 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 special services were held:

- 1 – Committal
- 2 – Memorial Service/Funeral
- 1- Weddings
- 1 – Baptisms
- 0 – Confirmations

Two members of the Altar Guild are present at each service held at the church.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Julia Nehls, Directress

**Cursillo Community Report
2008**

Cursillo has met this past year (except summer) and have had sharing of supper, singing and how we perceive God at work in our lives. As always everyone is welcome.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jan Gault

**Environmental Stewardship Report
2008**

In the past year the Creation Justice ministry has:

- Collaborated, with the Ecumenical Earth Justice Network to host a faith community “Global Warming Café” – modeled on the Empowerment Institute’s Low Carbon Diet.
- Held a series of Low Carbon Diet meetings with Good Shepherd parishioners.
- Facilitated networking with the Ohio Interfaith Power and Light to participate in the natural gas rate savings program.
- Volunteered with the Cool Cities energy audit team doing audits on residential and city buildings.
- Other energy/carbon saving activities at Good Shepherd included having additional insulation put in the attic and having Third Sun Solar evaluate the church roof for solar panels.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dana Carlson

**Prayer Shawl Ministry Report
2008**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry was started in February 2003 and since that time 288 shawls have been given; 55 of those were given in 2008. A small tag is attached to each shawl indicating it came from the Church of the Good Shepherd Prayer Shawl Ministry. Each shawl is accompanied by a prayer for the recipient.

Shawls are given for a variety of reasons, such as as: illness, death of a loved one, celebration of the birth of a child, marriage etc.

The knitting group consists of 8 knitters and meets at 9:30 a.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Anyone who would like to join the group is most welcome. Shawls are knitted with love and prayers.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julia Nehls

**Stewardship/ Finance Committee Report
2008**

<u>Year</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Number of pledges	68	71	63	60
Total \$ pledged	126,102	135,014	132,149	130,131
Average \$ pledged	1,854	1,901	2,097	2,169

The story these figures do not tell is that of the thirty-two households who increased their pledge for 2009. This represents \$15,117 and includes 4 brand new pledges for a total of \$3020.

The finance committee met with the Rev. Canon John Johannsen, Bishop Breidenthal’s Canon for Congregational Development, who suggested an all parish forum to discuss the budget in advance of its

adoption by the vestry. Two such forums were held and a trial budget was presented at each for input in small groups. Both forums were well received, and it is our intention to continue the practice. The budget adopted by the vestry reflects the input of those who participated in the forums, as well as the finance committee's proposal to eliminate the sexton's position, move two vocal music assistants' positions out of the parish budget, and to reduce the number of hours covered by the nursery workers. Additional cuts were made by the vestry, after it had time to process the input received at the parish forums.

Sunday School Report 2008

This past year in our Sunday School saw some additions and changes to our program. In Epiphany season last year, our children were able to work with our Music Director, Marsha Reilly. They learned a little more about the musical traditions of the Episcopal Church, as well as getting to sing some music and get an introduction to using bells in worship.

The past fall, we moved Sunday School time back to 10:15 a.m. to meet the expressed needs of families. We also introduced a new program, which functions more as children's chapel, which is based on the Liturgy of the Word in the Book of Common Prayer. It's a very participatory program which helps the children understand more about worship and prayer in our tradition.

Thank you for the privilege of working with the wonderful children of our parish!

Respectfully submitted,
Tracey Carroll

Wednesday Lunch Report 2008

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation and vestry of Good Shepherd, a new commercial-sized stove and ovens were purchased for the church's kitchen in 2008, greatly improving the ability of the Wednesday Free Lunch crews to provide nourishing meals to their guests.

The total number of guests in 2008 was 4,984. The number of servings was 5,627. This represented more than a 15% increase over 2007.

Thank you for your continued support of this program.

Respectively submitted by,
Joanne Larson

Treasurer's Report 2008

In preparing past Treasurer's Reports, I have always found much that is encouraging and I have always seen many signs of our continued dedication to the financial wellbeing of Good Shepherd. I have also found much to be concerned about, and I have not been shy about relating my worries to the congregation at large. The past year has been no exception in either regard.

Without question, there have been many positive financial developments. Here are a few.

1. Our Kroger Gift Card program has never done better. In 2008, we earned over \$5,700, which is almost \$1,600, or 38% more than budgeted.
2. Our actual 2008 pledge income has performed to the expected percentage level, and our 2008 plate income has actually exceeded what we had budgeted.

3. We are still on schedule to retire the promissory note we executed when we borrowed \$6,255 from the Endowment in 2007 to help pay for the remodeling of Nehls Hall. The amount we now owe back to the Endowment is slightly less than \$2,800.

4. During the summer we raised approximately \$10,000 to purchase a restaurant grade stove for the kitchen AND to provide added insulation in the church building and improved insulation in the rental property. The enhanced insulation will substantially reduce the energy consumption in both buildings and the improved stove will help us continue our Wednesday lunch ministry for many years to come. All of these developments are signs of our continued generosity and commitment.

But not all the news has been good, and it is no secret that we are facing a very difficult time in 2009. Here is what I mean.

1. To balance our budget in 2008, we had to withdraw substantially more than 5% of the principal balance of our Endowment. We had to do this while the overall value of equity markets declined by over 35% during the year. And we will have to do the same thing again in 2009. No endowment can long sustain this level of withdrawal, and ours is no exception.

2. We have had to cover the cost of two of our Vocal Music Assistants out of the June Black Fund. Maintaining this important ministry in this way is painful to everyone involved in our music program, and it is painful to me. But the alternatives are more painful still.

3. We have also been forced to dispense with our sexton and to take on the cleaning of the building ourselves. This is my last term as Parish Treasurer, and I am about to become the Junior Warden. It now will be my job to see that everyone else works to keep the facilities clean. I will have help in this – not least from all four of our past Junior Wardens. But the pain of financing two of our VMA's from the June Black Fund will be far surpassed by our suffering as we undertake The Keeping Clean Of Churches on our own and without a sexton.

And, for all that, we are still withdrawing from our Endowment at an unsustainable rate.

I am sure nobody likes this situation. I don't like it either, and for better reason. As Treasurer, I had to preside over making this very painful 2009 budget. And, as Junior Warden, I must now answer if the building is not cleaned to everyone's liking. But I do have a three-step plan that will solve our cleaning problems and will also assure proper financing of our VMA program. Here it is. Step 1 – Increase your pledge. Step 2 – Increase your pledge. Step 3 – Increase your pledge. You can trust me to stay on top of the Kroger Gift Card program and to work with Glenda to see that we get maximum income from our apartment and parking rentals. But in terms of dollars involved, increased pledge income is the only substantial way we have to improve our finances. If pledges are increased enough, we will be able to pay all of our VMA's through our regular budget. We will also be able to bring our sexton back. If not, then not.

But I would like to end on an optimistic note. Good Shepherd has never suffered from lack of devotion or lack of generosity. Our financial situation is as serious as I am saying it is. But I am confident we will rise to the challenge and do what it takes to make sure Good Shepherd continues to bring the Gospel of Christ to our community. I am also grateful to have served as your Treasurer, and I promise to serve now as your Junior Warden to the best of my ability.

Respectively submitted,
Jack Flemming, Treasurer