
Good SHEPHERD News

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

January 2010

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING will occur on Sunday, January 24, after the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist. In addition to election of vestry members, officers, and delegates to diocesan convention, we will consider Bishop Breidenthal's invitation to the parish to participate in the common ministry development program. Matthew Adeyanju and Jack Flemming are each running for another term as warden. Vestry nominees include Dick Dean, Sharon Huges, Twig Kaufman, and Curt Sherman. Delegate nominees are Paul Clever and Geoff Buckley.

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Seeking and Serving Christ in all persons

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Common Ministry: An Invitation

On December 12, our wardens, several vestry members, and two clergy traveled to Procter to take part in a workshop about common ministry. “Common ministry” is the term Bishop Breidenthal is using to speak about the ministry we share as baptized Christians. Like many of us, our bishop believes that the authority and responsibility for ministry must be broadly shared and that the barriers between our congregations and the surrounding world must become more porous and permeable, to promote cooperation and invite others into the risen life of Christ.

Good Shepherd is one of seven congregations who’ve been invited to participate in an exploratory program over the next two years. Our invitation reflects our bishop’s belief that we are already taking steps in the right direction. In the program, we would receive assistance from experienced consultants in developing a vision and a mission strategy tailored to our context, as well as lay and clergy leadership teams to implement that strategy. At the December vestry meeting, those of us who went to Procter shared our perceptions of the program, which were very positive. Our vestry has decided that it is time for the whole parish to enter into an intentional period of spiritual discernment about whether or not we want to participate. This would involve a lot of time and energy over the next two years. My sense is that we would get out of it at least as much as we put in. There is no monetary cost to Good Shepherd, since the program is fully funded by a grant.

The vestry realizes that we all have many questions that need to be answered before we can make an informed choice about Good Shepherd’s participation. Ultimately, the whole congregation must make the choice about whether or not to participate at the annual parish meeting on Sunday, January 24. The bishop expects to hear back from us by the end of January. We have therefore arranged for several opportunities to learn more, which are detailed below. It does seem that we need to address two questions at the outset. First, what exactly is common ministry? Second, how, if at all, does it differ from total ministry and other programs that may have been tried before?

In answering these two questions, we need to avoid a one-size-fits-all approach. Common ministry will look different in a large urban parish than a small rural one. Good Shepherd is a diverse, county-seat parish, with responsibility for ministry on campus and strong traditions of community outreach. We can still afford clergy and, arguably, some staff, but we have struggled in recent decades to live within our means. Each congregation has its own context, its own distinctive assets and

gifts, and its own mission priorities. We are being asked to adopt a community organizing model that doesn't force the lived reality of Good Shepherd into a preconceived plan, so much as it begins with the people and facts on the ground, in order to help us transform our practice of ministry in certain broadly defined directions. In no particular order, these directions are (1) greater lay participation in decision making and ministry at every level; (2) decentralized models of ministry to promote greater spontaneity in the context of shared responsibility and accountability to one another within the Body of Christ; (3) emphasis on regional ministry, sharing of clergy, and cooperation within the Episcopal Church; (4) greater emphasis on ecumenical and interfaith cooperation; and (5) elimination of barriers between Church and world.

In many ways, this is similar to what is often called "total ministry." One difference is that common ministry in Southern Ohio will not emphasize locally trained clergy. Our bishop believes that each congregation, even those without resident clergy, must have access to seminary trained priests, who help the bishop connect the congregations to the wider Church and ensure accountability to the particular Christian tradition that we have received as Episcopalians. These priests are to exercise their ministry as "theologians, entrepreneurs, and community organizers." Deacons will function chiefly not within the congregation, but out in the world. Another difference, which may better reflect the reputation of total ministry than its reality, is that common ministry is not something we are forced into because we can't afford a full time priest. Rather, it is a way for congregations of all sizes to be more faithful to the vision of ministry found in the New Testament and the Book of Common Prayer. We are not parceling out the functions of the priest to various laypeople. Rather, we are calling people and priests together into the shared work of the Gospel. No one has ever done Christian ministry alone. The call of Jesus to ministry is always a call to play a specific role within his Body, the Church. The New Testament does not speak of the "priesthood of *each* believer (individually)," but of the "priesthood of *all* believers (together in community)."

It will take us two years and some very deliberate work to discover exactly what this tendency will mean at Good Shepherd. None of us—not the rector, not the vestry, not any individual parishioner—knows in advance what will emerge from the process. Like any change effort, our success will be in direct proportion to our shared sense of urgency, the resolve of our leadership, and the degree of buy in this process generates. Our hope, between now and the annual meeting, is to learn enough for us all to be able to embrace the overall direction and the

opportunity we are being offered. In the meantime, here are several ways that you can help Good Shepherd seek the wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

1) Pray. Pray for guidance and wisdom. Pray for openness to the Holy Spirit. Pray for the mission and ministry we share and for those outside our walls whom God would have us serve. Pray for each other. Pray for our vestry and clergy. Then pray some more.

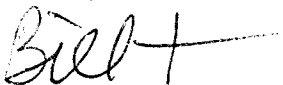
2) Read and study for yourselves the printed materials about common ministry that the bishop sent to the senior wardens and rectors of invited congregations. We will put several copies in the narthex, by the glass doors, for those who would like a copy. We will also distribute electronic copies.

3) Ask members of the vestry and the clergy about common ministry. We don't necessarily agree with each other about what it means, but we are excited by the opportunity to explore further. People who were present at the Procter meeting include Matthew Adeyanju, Anne Braxton, Paul Clever, Jack Flemming, Sharon Huge, Elizabeth Sayrs, Fr. Steve, and me.

4) Attend one of two meetings to discuss common ministry with your fellow parishioners. We will do some bible study, have some time in small groups, and have people who have read up on the program available to answer questions to the best of our ability. **One such meeting will be on Sunday, January 10, after the 10:30 Eucharist.** That day is the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. We will reaffirm our Baptismal Covenant, and the homily will explore the ministry we all share in Christ. **Another will be at the home of Julie Nehls (16 Cable Lane, 593-6877), with coffee and dessert, on Thursday, January 14 at 7 p.m.**

Again, please don't hesitate to contact me or any vestry member with questions you may have about common ministry. I could not be more excited about it. God bless Good Shepherd and the ministry we share.

In Christ,

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

The Rev. R. William Carroll, Rector

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

Blood Drive

The Arc of Southeast Ohio and the Autism Society of Southeastern Ohio, along with the American Red Cross, will be holding a blood drive in support of our friend Gabe Lazuka. Gabe is a 13 year old student at Athens Middle School, who was recently diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Gabe also has Down syndrome. Children with Down syndrome are at greater risk for developing leukemia. Some studies indicate that 1 in 95 children with Down syndrome will develop leukemia. Gabe's treatment includes numerous transfusions of blood and platelets. While the blood donated will not go directly to Gabe, it will be there for others fighting leukemia and other diseases and injuries. Blood supplies are critically low in the winter, so your donation is urgently needed!

If you are available, will you donate? The Red Cross would like us to collect the names and email addresses of as many people as possible who are willing to give blood. Having this information in advance will enable them to have adequate staffing and supplies on hand at the event. You must be at least 17 years old, or 16 years old with parental consent, and weigh at least 110 pounds to donate. We are also having a bake sale at the blood drive to raise money for a gas card to help Gabe's family with the cost of traveling to Columbus.

If you are willing to give blood and/or donate baked goods or time to the drive, please send an email to mothertracey@gmail.com. We are scheduling appointments now, and will send you a reminder before the event.

Paul Clever, Outreach Committee

A reminder that comments and/or suggestions for future Outreach Committee articles are VERY welcome! See, email (pclever2@yahoo.com), or call (594-2425) me!

News from the Pews . . .

At a Morrison Elementary School full assembly on November 20th, **Dana Carlson** received the Service Award of the Athens City Commission on Disabilities. The award recognized Dana's 20 years of working with students with special needs by providing them with functional life learnings beyond standard curriculum.

Gene Jennings and son, **Eric**, were Thanksgiving guests of son, **Chris**, and family in Washington D C and later joined by another son, **Tom**, and family of Arlington, Virginia, which completed the reunion.

On December 4th, Debbie Hillard welcomed a new grandson, **John Thomas Hillard**, born to parents **Jason and Anne Charles Watts Hillard** of Dayton.

After a mini reunion in Cumberland Falls, Kentucky, **Carolyn Murphree** then traveled to North Carolina for Thanksgiving with daughter **Kit, John** and children. Joining them from Pensacola was Carolyn's son **Beau**. After Ashville to Atlanta and a flight back to Ohio the busy trip ended with rain all the way home from Oxford the next day.

Doris Green joined her brother and wife in Cincinnati for a drive to Burlington, Iowa, to spend Thanksgiving with three sisters and families living in that area.

An exciting November excursion to the west was enjoyed by **Curt and Terrie Sherman** highlighted by visits with their daughter, **Tiffany**, in Denver and son, **Ted**, in Los Angeles. Their journey included the splendor of the Grand Canyon and many famous sights in the LA area. The Shermans find that rail travel is much less stressful than flying and a lot more fun in that it has other appeals including interaction with crew members and other travelers.

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

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY: Parish Supper Club

It is the purpose of Good Shepherd Supper Club to help parishioners get to know each other better and to introduce newcomers to our church family. Everyone is encouraged to participate. If you have questions, or would like to be added to the supper club pool during the course of the year, please contact Phyllis Dean at 593-8487 or deanp@ohio.edu.

Hosts will be in touch with the other members of their group early in the quarter, and will choose a time that works for most, if not all. It is recommended that dates be chosen early in the quarter, as scheduling becomes quite complicated as the quarter progresses.

Groups will meet at the designated host's home, unless other arrangements are preferred. In the case of host couples, the couple will be responsible for the main dish and group members will be asked to bring side dishes, desert, bread, etc. In the case of single hosts, the designated host may ask a group member to work in partnership on the main dish – and have remaining group members bring side dishes, desert, bread, etc.

Good Shepherd Supper Club groups for the winter quarter are listed as follows – with the name of the designated host in bold print and underlined.

Steve Domienik

Gregory Proctor & Elizabeth Sayers
Dick & Phyllis Dean
Dan Kauffman & Heidi
Sharon Huge

Don Frazier & Joanne Worstall

Elizabeth Thompson
Marsha Dutton
Paul & Sarah Clever
Lois Wagner

June Wieman & Betty Larson

Lynn Graham Mowery
Roland & Mary Anne Swardson
Anne Braxton
Carolyn Murphree

Allyn & Marsha Reilly

Matthew & Rachel Adeyanju
Gifford Doxsee
Twig Kaufman
Bill & Tracey Carroll

Ted & Katharin Foster

A J Stack
Steven Huang
Laura Dukes
Therese Lackey
Arvin & Jeanne Wells

Phyllis Dean, Parish Supper Club Chair

January 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Parish Office Closed for New Year's Day	2
3 8 am – HE I 10:30 am – HE II Parish Budget Forum 2 pm – Lindley Inn	4 6 pm - NAMI 7 pm – Boy Scouts	5 5:30 pm – Farm Eucharist 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	6 10:30 am – Staff Meeting noon – Free Lunch 6 pm – Epiphany Evensong 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal	7 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist 7:30 pm – Alanon	8	9
10 8 am – HE I 9 am – Adult Ed 10:30 am – HE II Common Ministry Forum	11 6 pm - NAMI 7 pm – Boy Scouts	12 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting @ TBA 5:30 pm – Farm Eucharist 7:15 pm – Worship Committee Meeting@ Betty Larson's home 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	13 noon – Free Lunch 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal	14 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist 7 pm – Common Ministry meeting @ Julie Nehls' home 7:30 pm – Alanon	15	16
17 8 am – HE I 9 am – Adult Ed 10:30 am – HE II 2 pm – Lindley Inn	18 Parish Office Closed for Martin Luther King Jr Day	19 5:30 pm – Farm Eucharist 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	20 noon – Free Lunch 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal	21 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist 7 pm – Vestry Meeting 7:30 pm – Alanon	22	23
24 8 am – HE I 9 am – Adult Ed 10:30 am – HE II Annual Meeting	25 6 pm - NAMI 7 pm – Boy Scouts	26 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting @ TBA 5:30 pm – Farm Eucharist 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	27 noon – Free Lunch 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal	28 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist 7:30 pm – Alanon	29	30 4
31 8 am – HE I 9 am – Adult Ed 10:30 am – HE II 2 pm – Lindley Inn						