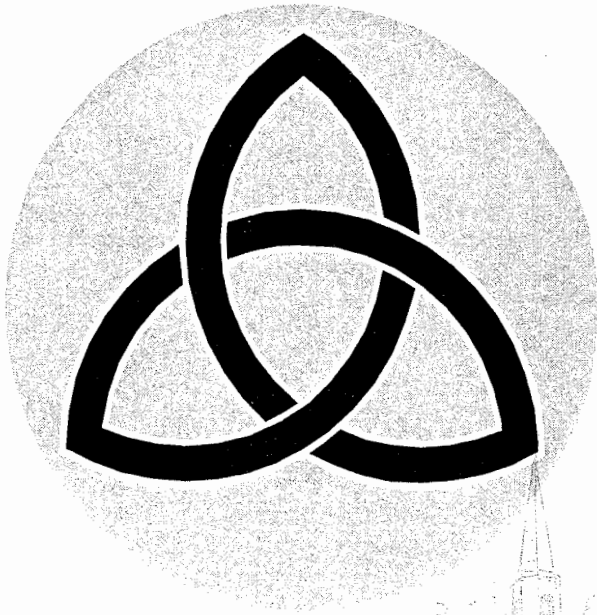


*Good
News*

The Episcopal Church of The Good Shepherd

June/July 2009



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Seeking and Serving Christ in all persons

Joseph Wilson

Summer Heat: Irons in the Fire

As summer approaches, I am aware that there are many irons in the fire. There is a lot to be excited about here at Good Shepherd.

Paul Clever was recently awarded a \$15,000 transformational ministry grant by the Episcopal Church Foundation (he had only asked for \$10,000). This money is a major vote of confidence in the ministry of the Good Earth Hunger Mission in sustainable agriculture to feed the hungry here in Athens County. The foundation was impressed by the ways in which Good Earth is involving others in feeding the poor and by the potential of this ministry as an outreach to young adults looking for ways to serve.

The Rev. Steve Domienik has accepted a call to serve Good Shepherd as a Diocesan intern for the next two years. Steve begins his time with us on August 1st. His duties will include lay ministry development, campus chaplaincy, and building bridges between the parish and the Good Earth Hunger Mission.

In the meantime, we are coming out of our parish worship forum, and the worship committee will begin a major role in planning for our worship. We are beginning to plan for new opportunities for participation in worship by the whole People of God.

The new member committee is producing a new and updated website and a complete visitors' packet of printed materials. They are also leading the way in major improvements in the narthex and in Nehls Hall designed to welcome visitors, and in the establishment of a greeters program. In related news, Jack Flemming and Bob Shelly are shepherding our sign permit's journey through the Board of Zoning Appeals.

All of these initiatives need your support. The vast majority of them will be in place prior to September. In the meantime, the parish life committee continues to sponsor programs and events that build up our fellowship with each other. And the property committee, with the four teams led by Curt, Allyn, Ted, and Don, continues to do the routine maintenance that our sexton once did. Thanks to all the people who are working so hard to make these good things happen. We have a lot to be proud of.

Summers at Good Shepherd are a time of rest. Tracey, the children, and I will be gone for three weeks (they'll be gone a little longer), but we also need to be preparing for the year to come. As we enjoy the chance to catch our breath, I hope we'll also roll up our sleeves and pitch in. The mission God sets before us has not gone away. A balance between Sabbath and mission is at the heart of the Christian faith in any season. May we all take the time to let God be God, and may that time renew us for God's service.

I am convinced that the best is yet to come.

In Christ,



The Rev. R. William Carroll, TSSF, Rector

The following resolution on full and active inclusion was adopted by the vestry on May 21st, 2009

We, the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, reaffirm with gratitude all provisions of the nondiscrimination canons of Episcopal Church. In conformity with our longstanding commitment, we promise to surpass what is required of us as we actively welcome all people, without exception.

In particular, we rejoice in a long history of full and active inclusion of our LGBT sisters and brothers in our worship and fellowship, including all ministries, sacramental rites, and leadership positions for which they are qualified. We give thanks to God for their presence and ministry among us, and we encourage them to participate in every aspect of parish life on the same terms as every one else. We deeply regret that we continue to live in a society where this needs to be said.

Noting our Anglican heritage of respect for individual conscience, we observe that our membership is not uniform in its opinions, and we welcome the contributions of members who disagree with this policy. Nevertheless, we celebrate this commitment to full and active inclusion and insist on continuing and strengthening it. We are convinced that this is not only permitted but also required by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Vestry Highlights from the May 21st, 2009 meeting . . .

Jack Flemming reported about an estimate that had been received from Davidson Bush plumbers for needed work on the heating system. The work is too expensive for the immediate future and will not affect the church in the summer months, when the system can be turned off. In the fall, it may be necessary to do at least part of the work.

Jack also reported about the status of our appeal with the Board of Zoning Appeals for our new exterior sign. The initial request has been denied. Jack has prepared the appeal, and it is ready to be sent in. Ideally, this work would be done in the summer, but it depends on the speed with which the appeal is approved and when the work can be scheduled. The church is sitting on a diocesan grant and a bequest that have been earmarked for the purpose.

Jack also reported about the ongoing conversation about the use of the Episcopal House. The executive committee has decided to rent the entire house to a single tenant with utilities not included. There are risks entailed in this decision, but our realtor assures us that, with some needed work, the house can be rented at the rent we require. Doing this will help to preserve our property over time and encourage energy conservation. Anne Braxton has looked at the numbers and we are not earning very much income on the house at present, due to utilities and high maintenance costs, as well as low occupancy.

Fr. Carroll reported that the parish life committee met and discussed ways to continue current fellowship programs, as well as some new ideas. This summer we will be attending concerts on the green (on Wednesdays in late June and July, following the 5:30 p.m. Eucharist) and two Copperheads baseball games (Wednesday June 17th at 7:30 p.m. and a double header beginning at 5:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Sunday June 28th).

Fr. Carroll reported that Elizabeth Sayrs, A.J. Stack, and he had met to discuss Christian formation options for the upcoming year. They have arranged a meeting with parents, youth, and children to follow the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist on Sunday, June 7th. After this meeting, they will have a better idea about what we are going to do.

The vestry unanimously adopted a resolution on the full and active inclusion of persons who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered (see p. 2 of this newsletter for the full text). Fr. Carroll noted that it will be included in a resource guide for the LGBT community being produced by UCM. We will also feature it on the revised parish website. It is important that we speak for ourselves, rather than let ourselves be defined by others. The statement is important in the lead up and aftermath of General Convention, when the Episcopal Church may be getting some free positive and negative publicity. It notes our respect for those who conscientiously disagree with Good Shepherd's overall ethos of full and active inclusion, as well as our intention to continue and strengthen this stance.

The vestry discussed a variety of possible designs for crosses to be put on the walls in Nehls Hall. It was decided to put two crosses up. One is a smaller crucifix. Another is a larger empty cross. Richard Carlson has a colleague who does beautiful work in many different colors of wood. It was decided to approach him about designing the larger cross. Both pieces are to be ordered by a subcommittee consisting of Fr. Carroll, Julie Nehls, and Anne Braxton. This is follow up on the recommendations of the new member committee, which believes that Nehls Hall must be clearly identified as space in a Christian Church to outside groups who it. Other, related changes are forthcoming this summer.

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

Weekend Number Two of the Kairos Prison Ministry at the Hocking Correctional Facility (HCF) in Nelsonville took place during the weekend of May 14th – 17th. Our team of 24 members worked with 18 participating residents (inmates) from Thursday afternoon until late Sunday afternoon. At the closing ceremony Sunday afternoon, the residents were invited to go to the microphone, if they wished, and tell the audience what the weekend had meant to them, a very moving moment.

Warden Edward Banks attended the closing and toward the end of the ceremony gave a short talk in which he told us how moved he had been by the testimonies of the residents. He went on to explain that Kairos would continue to enjoy his full support as long as he remained Warden at HCF, a very heartening statement.

Kairos normally enters a prison twice each year, and that is the agreement with the administration at HCF. Our first weekend there took place last October, and the third weekend will occur next October 1st – 4th, 2009.

Good Shepherd parishioners have been exceedingly supportive of Kairos for each of the first two weekends, and the Kairos team is deeply thankful for this support in the form of cookies, prayers, and "green agape" which means financial gifts. As the third weekend approaches, renewed appeals for similar help will be made, probably in early August.

Fr. Carroll and Gifford Doxsee each served on team number two. It is hoped that other male parishioners at Good Shepherd will be moved by the Holy Spirit to serve on future teams. The Outreach Committee is currently trying to ascertain the level of commitment of the behalf of Good Shepherd and potentially take on a larger role in organizing Kairos Weekends. Please express interest in further involvement with Gifford or A.J. Stack. Also, Richard Gehman, who lives in Hilliard, Ohio, will lead team number three, and Greg Bachman of Springfield will be the fourth team leader.

Again, the Kairos team thanks Good Shepherd for ongoing assistance and cooperation.

Faithfully Submitted by Gifford Doxsee

A reminder that the Outreach Committee is open to everyone and will meet again on July 26th.

News from the Pews . . .

Achievers: **Joanne Worstall** and grandchildren, **Shannon & Shawn Parsons**, took part in the May 16th Yabba Dabba Doo Stewart Lions Club 5k and finished at or near the top in their categories.

Reported by *The Athens Messenger*, among those received academic awards was **Bethany Miller**, who was awarded the Bratton Scholarship. She will attend Ohio Northern University.

Participants in the May evening programs at the Athens Public Library were **Zach Parkman**, musician; **Dr. Marsha Dutton** of the Ohio University English Department; and **Todd Bastin**, Athens Public Librarian.

Retiring Student Senate President, **Michael Adeyanju**, has been awarded the 2009 Ohio Leadership Award at Ohio University. Michael will graduate from Ohio University.

Former parishioners here and elsewhere: Local attorney **Bob Gall**, who Sunday after Sunday counted the collection himself here at Good Shepherd, is now the pastor of Abundant Life Church on Hooper Road.

The Very Rev. David duPlantier, former intern and curate at Good Shepherd, is now the Dean of Christ Cathedral in new Orleans. He moved his family and office to Baton Rouge after Hurricane Katrina.

Director of Christian Education here, while her husband was in graduate school, now the **Rev. Emily Richards**, will move from being an assistant rector to rector in Philadelphia.

Betsy Irwin, former parishioner here with her parents and siblings, will continue her education and play volleyball at Trine University in northeast Indiana next year. She is a 2009 graduate of Alexander High School.

Catherine Chagnot, a former parishioner and choir member at Good Shepherd and president of Stirling Technology here in Athens, has formed a joint venture to sell heat exchanger products in China and other area of Asia.

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

June 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7 pm – Boy Scout Meeting	2 11 am – English for Families 3 pm – Cross Meeting 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting 8 pm – AA Meeting	3 Glenda out of office noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist	4 11 am – English for Families 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting	5	6
7 8 am – HE I 9:45 am – Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am – HE II after HE II – Christian Ed Meeting 2 pm – Lindley Inn	8 7 pm – Boy Scout Meeting	9 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting @ Doris Green's home 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting 8 pm – AA Meeting	10 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist	11 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting	12 5:30 pm – Ultreya Potluck & Meeting	13 7:30 pm – St. Michael's in the Hills, Toledo overnight
14 10:30 am - Stroud's Run Eucharist, shelter house #1	15	16 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting 8 pm – AA Meeting	17 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist	18 7 pm – Vestry Meeting 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting	19	20
21 9:30 am – HE II 2 pm – Lindley Inn	22	23 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting 8 pm – AA Meeting	24 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist	25 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting	26	27
28 9 :30 am – HE II	29	30 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting 8 pm – AA Meeting				

July 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Fr. Carroll vacation noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist	2 Fr. Carroll vacation Parish Office Closes at noon 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting	3 Fr. Carroll vacation Parish Office Closed for Independence Day	4 Fr. Carroll vacation
5 Fr. Carroll vacation 9 :30 am – HE II 2 pm – Lindley Inn	6 Fr. Carroll vacation	7 Fr. Carroll vacation 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting 8 pm – AA Meeting	8 Fr. Carroll vacation noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist	9 Fr. Carroll vacation 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting	10 Fr. Carroll vacation 5:30 pm – Ultreya Potluck & Meeting	11 Fr. Carroll vacation
12 Fr. Carroll vacation 9 :30 am – HE II	13 Fr. Carroll vacation	14 Fr. Carroll vacation 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting 8 pm – AA Meeting	15 Fr. Carroll vacation noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist	16 Fr. Carroll vacation 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting	17 Fr. Carroll vacation	18 Fr. Carroll vacation
19 Fr. Carroll vacation 9 :30 am – HE II 2 pm – Lindley Inn	20 Fr. Carroll vacation	21 Fr. Carroll vacation 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting 8 pm – AA Meeting	22 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist	23 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting	24	25 Krista Voorhees' wedding
26 9 :30 am – HE II following HE - Outreach Committee Meeting	27	28 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting 8 pm – AA Meeting	29 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist	30 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting	31	