



Worship and Prayer for the Month of August

August

2008

O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the Spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Inside . . .

From the Rector	p 1
Senior Warden	p 3
Outreach.....	p 4



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Toward Christian Community: Lessons from Facebook

Lately, I've been playing with Facebook (an internet social networking site, where people can exchange news about themselves, share pictures, and even play games with one another). I've done so mostly because we were urged to have a presence on Facebook at a recent gathering Bishop Breidenthal convened with campus chaplains, students, and young adults. Being on Facebook is part of an effort to meet college students and youth where they are. A Facebook group for Good Shepherd is in the works and we should have a page linking folks there back to our main parish website soon. Any of you who are on Facebook (those I haven't already found) are invited to join my network of friends there, and I will invite you to join the Good Shepherd group once it is up and running. The purpose here is to let people who may be checking us out see some of the great people here at Good Shepherd and perhaps come meet us in person. Once I started on Facebook, within weeks I found (or was found by) 200 friends from every chapter of my life. The rapid growth has slowed but shows no signs of stopping. There are people from high school, college, and graduate school and from former and present parishes, dioceses, jobs, and ministries. They are drawn from around the country and around the world (so far, every continent but Antarctica and possibly Asia).

One of the things I have found most surprising and rewarding, though, is the number of "friendship requests" I have received from people I didn't think of as friends. In some cases, we have been adversaries in Church politics. In others, there has even been personal animosity. Without exception, I have accepted these requests, and I have a newfound appreciation for the "friends" I have made this way. I now see them in a different light, and I have a new interest in their lives and well-being. I intend, as I do with our parish directory, to pray for each one of these friends by name. I see this as a way to respond to my baptismal and ordination vows. I'm well aware that being friends on Facebook isn't quite the same thing as being friends when face to face. Facebook risks becoming a mere parody of community, like the false public space we find at Starbucks or Barnes and Noble, a space tailored to the privileged consumers (us?) who can afford to be there. Facebook friendship can come a bit too cheap and easy, but that doesn't necessarily mean it's not the real thing.

I believe that the longing for friendship and connection presupposed by Facebook points to a hopeful future for Good Shepherd. (We also long for friendship with God.) Could God be calling us to find ways to

become better connected, as we seek to live our friendships out in the more difficult space of face to face interaction? Jesus Christ calls us his friends (John 13). And he summons his Church to be a community that constantly makes new friends. The very fact of the Church's existence points to a realm of freedom and personal relationship, as society offers us less and less of either. In much of our lives, liberty has been reduced to the false "freedom" of consumerism. The Church offers us genuine public space, and the promise of freedom in Christ.

Archbishop Rowan Williams speaks of "solidarities not of our choosing." That's a good lesson for the fractured Anglican Communion, though I continue to resist some of the implications he draws from it. Friendship, at least as much as Word and Sacrament, is a means God uses to give us grace. This is a good lesson for Good Shepherd as we seek to live the Gospel with one another. Although we hope for affection and fellow feeling, we are more than friends: we are brothers and sisters in Christ. We don't choose our family. Christian community begins when we value the ties that bind, particularly those we haven't chosen or would never choose. My appeal to us this year is to strive to build our network of friends within the parish—and to make new friends with those people, each one a precious child of God, whom God sends our way.

I'd like to close with the collect we've been using at the Prayers of the People. I've selected it for a reason. I commend it to us, as we pray for each other and seek new and renewed friendships in Christ.

O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the Spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill".

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

Senior Warden Comments . . .

The Wednesday Lunch teams are truly grateful for the congregational support of the program.

When the double oven in the kitchen gave up half its power, the question was whether we replace the double oven or opt for a new range and hope that half of the double oven would last a bit longer. But quotes were gathered by visits and e-mail to Columbus, Parkersburg, and Cincinnati, and a quote for a range and double oven finally appeared. But could a bit over \$6,000 be raised by August, a deadline to be met if the crowds of September could be fed?

The parishioners said yes and then added more, which will help with the insulation project.

A simple “thank you” seems too mild.

**Carolyn Murphree,
Senior Warden**

From the Parish Life Committee

On Friday, August 1st, we will cheer for the Copper Heads at 7:30 p.m. Meet you on the First Base Line at Bob Wren Stadium!

Sunday, September 14th, will be the annual picnic to start the fall season. The men will grill hot dogs and hamburgers and the sides and desserts will be potluck. We will have publicity to encourage student participation. This will take place on the front lawn at Good Shepherd.

We will have the Good Shepherd Supper Club again this year. Sign up will be in September with meetings in October, January and April. Phyllis Dean will be the coordinator.

Starting in October we will begin “Second Sunday” potluck brunches. Instead of a small coffee hour supplied by one or two people, the Second Sunday of each month everyone is encouraged to share food and fellowship.

**Lois Wagner,
Co-chair**

OUTREACH- not only with our lips, but in our

Mt. Grace Conference comes to Athens –September 12 – 13th

Good Shepherd will be the host parish for the fifth Mt. Grace Conference! Six Dioceses have been invited to descend upon Athens, and together we will explore the life and witness of Episcopalians in Appalachia. “Being Church/Being Appalachian” is this year’s theme.

What do we need to do to be good hosts? We need several people to volunteer for support roles. Duties would include helping show people around or working at information tables. Needless to say, a sizable contingent at the conference would give us the best opportunity to extend our hospitality and show our support of Appalachian ministries. If you are interested in helping out, contact Fr. Carroll.

The conference includes workshops on sustainable community development, environmental advocacy, and Appalachian music. The event begins with dinner at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, September 12th; registration Saturday begins at 8:30 a.m., and the conference hours are 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. The fee for Saturday’s events, meal and workshop is \$35; total cost for Friday’s banquet plus Saturday’s sessions is \$70 (lodging not included). For additional information visit <http://www.visit-EAM.org>

Kairos Prison Ministry in Nelsonville

Kairos Prison Ministry will hold its Weekend Number One in the Hocking Correctional Facility (HCF) in Nelsonville the weekend of October 2nd to 5th, 2008. Gifford Doxsee has been a member of the HCF Advisory Council planning for this event for over a year and is now looking forward to serving also as a team member. Among the needs from The Church of the Good Shepherd are 250 dozen cookies (two dozen in each paper bag), funding (mainly for food and supplies), posters, and place mats. For further information, please speak to Gifford Doxsee.

Paul Clever, Outreach Communication Chair

A reminder that comments and/or suggestions for future Outreach Committee articles are VERY welcome! Send email to Paul Clever pclever2@yahoo.com. Also, the Outreach Committee meets every fourth Sunday of odd number months making Sept. 28th our next meeting. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

MONEY TALK\$

August, 2008

Stewardship is a complicated subject because the term has many meanings. An important aspect of Stewardship is the use of our resources to obey Christ's command to feed the hungry. Another aspect of Stewardship that is no less important is to use our resources to avoid needless economic or environmental waste. It is no secret that every dollar we can avoid wasting is a dollar available to our direct ministry in the community.

This summer Good Shepherd has had two major Stewardship challenges. Our Wednesday Free Lunch ministry, has put a strain on our stove that is beyond its design capacity. To maintain this ministry, we must install a restaurant grade stove at a cost of \$6,055. Also, to help arrest the financial erosion caused by the rapidly increasing cost of utilities, we have upgraded the insulation of the church building and rental property at a cost of \$3,936. The cost of these two projects comes to \$10,005.

We have met both challenges admirably. And because we are within \$513 of collecting enough cash to pay for both projects, the Executive Committee has authorized that they both be completed as soon as possible. And on top of this our friends in the Greek community have provided the new folding tables that are now being used in Nehls Hall.

The stove we are installing should last for decades. This, along with the improved tables, will assure that we have the physical facilities to continue our ministry of providing food to the community. As for the insulation, if it reduces our energy consumption by 5%, it will pay for itself in four years. If the reduction is 10%, it will pay for itself in two years. And these are just the economic advantages. Any reduction in our energy consumption also improves the environment.

We have serious financial challenges yet ahead of us, and we still have a \$513 shortfall on these two projects. But we have every right to be proud of what we have accomplished, both in the kitchen and in the attic.

Glenda mentioned to me that on three recent mornings she has turned off lights and fans that have been left to run all night. Part of Stewardship is not wasting the resources you have. It is enough of a

challenge to fund our mission and outreach without throwing money away by leaving fans running and light burning. When you leave a room after a meeting, please make sure the lights are out and the fans are turned off.

**Jack Flemming,
Treasurer**

Save the Date!

Sunday, October 5th, 2008

Youth 2 Mission Bike Ride

Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb Recycling

Many people have begun using Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs (CFLs). However, if you have made the switch, you may know that there isn't a CFL recycling location in Athens. CFLs replace incandescent light bulbs and produce the same amount of light but use less energy and have a longer life. However, CFLs contain mercury, which make disposing of them a challenge due to health and environmental hazards if they break. The Earth Justice Network, a group of citizens working on climate change issues in the Athens area, is now offering a CFL Recycling Program. Greg Kremer is serving as a collection point for anyone in Athens or the surrounding region who need to dispose of burned-out CFLs. Greg will periodically transport them to a recycling facility in the Cincinnati area, where he travels frequently. The mercury recycling greatly reduces the one major concern with CFLs--release of small levels of mercury when the bulb casing breaks. People can give their burned-out bulbs to anyone in the Earth Justice group (Dana Carlson represents Good Shepherd) to bring to Greg at one of our meetings, or they can email him to arrange a drop off: kremer@bobcat.ent.ohiou.edu.

August Events at Good Shepherd

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:30 pm – Parish Life, Copperheads Game	2
3 9:30 am – HE II 2:00 pm – LI	4 Glenda on vacation	5 Glenda on vacation 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	6 Glenda on vacation noon – Free Lunch 1 pm – Discernment Committee Meeting 4 pm – Finance Committee Meeting 5:30 pm – MW	7 Glenda on vacation 7:30 pm – Alanon	8 Glenda on vacation	9
10 9:30 am – HE II	11	12 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl Meeting, Doris Green's home 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	13 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW	14 10 am – Mt Grace Planning Meeting 7:30 pm – Alanon	15	16
17 9:30 am – HE II 2:00 pm – LI	18	19 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	20 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW	21 7 pm – Vestry Meeting 7:30 pm – Alanon	22	23
24 9:30 am – HE II	25	26 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl Meeting, TBA 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	27 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW	28 7:30 pm – Alanon	29	30
31 9:30 am – HE II 2:00 pm – LI						

Key Guide:

HE I – Holy Eucharist Rite I
CR – Choir Rehearsal

HE II – Holy Eucharist Rite II
Chr Ed – Christian Education

MW – Midweek Eucharist
YG – Youth Group

LI – Lindley Inn Eucharist