

Good News

The Episcopal Church of The Good Shepherd

September 2009

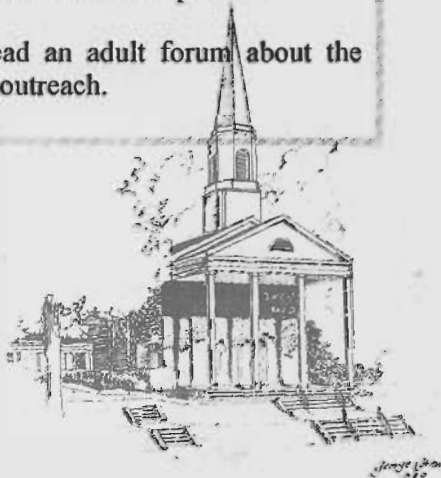
Save the Date: Bishop's Visitation

On September 13th, our bishop, the Rt. Rev. Thomas Breidenthal, will make his visitation. He will preside at the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist and preach. A reception is being planned by members of the parish life committee and the Marthas. On that day, we will cancel the 8:00 Eucharist, so that all may be present for the bishop. We resume our regular schedule of celebrating the Eucharist at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 6th. Please join us to welcome Bishop Tom!

At 9:00 a.m. the bishop will head an adult forum about the relationship between worship and outreach.

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Seeking and Serving Christ in all persons

The Rev. Steve Domienik Shares His Story

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you more of my story as I begin my time here in Athens. I believe that an important aspect of faith communities involves the sharing of our stories – our joys, our sorrows, our hopes and our dreams.

As many of you know, I just completed my seminary training at the Episcopal Divinity School (EDS) in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and was ordained a priest on June 20th, 2009. While at EDS, I served two years in a parish setting, first as a field education student, then as a deacon. I also worked in campus ministry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This experience ignited my desire to be a college chaplain. Our diocese firmly believes that formation continues after ordination so our bishop has instituted a two year residency program that involves all new clergy being placed in congregations. I am blessed and excited to be here at Good Shepherd.

My primary responsibilities will be centered on campus ministry, the developing ministry at the farm and participating in the life of this parish community. This includes the full spectrum of ministries that a parish priest performs. This arrangement allows me to gain experience and discern what direction my ordained life will take. All of you are assisting me with this part of my formation – Thank You!

Prior to seminary, I lived in Cincinnati for 21 years. For fifteen of those years I worked as a mental health therapist in various social service settings in poorer communities. My wife was a licensed social worker and did similar work. We even spent a year living in and managing a homeless shelter for families under the auspices of the Catholic Worker. Our daughter was a toddler at the time, so she grew up in a racially and economically diverse urban neighborhood.

In graduate school, I was employed by the Marianists, a Catholic religious order, as a coordinator with their lay volunteers in Cincinnati. This was a one year program for recent college graduates to do a year of service in an inner-city agency while living in an intentional faith community. This experience instilled a desire within me to help young adults explore their faith and call.

Overall, life for me and my family was very good until two weeks before my daughter's high school graduation. On a beautiful, sunny, warm day in May, my wife was killed in a car accident at the end of our street as she was leaving for work. It certainly was a struggle, but time, family,

friends, counselors, the church and the grace of God pulled us through that difficult period. I am comfortable talking about my wife, her death and how my daughter and I have dealt with this loss, so please don't be afraid to ask.

I was raised as a Roman Catholic in the Detroit area and from an early age felt a call to ordained ministry. My parents frequently talked about me becoming a priest, but I always wondered why they never discussed my five sisters pursuing vocations as nuns. I served as an "altar boy" for five years in a parochial elementary school and one or both of my parents always took me to the 6:30 a.m. daily weekday Mass. My desire to be ordained fizzled in high school, but came back after my junior year of college. I left the institution I was at and moved back in with my family in order to attend the University of Detroit and develop a relationship with the nearby Franciscans. After associating with them for a year, I was invited to move into their community and continue my discernment. After three years with them in Detroit, New Mexico, and Cincinnati, I opted out of this formation process shortly before simple vows.

I decided to stay in Cincinnati and look for work. I met the woman I would eventually marry. She was Southern Baptist and neither of us had any interest in identifying with the other's religious affiliation. We ended up in the Episcopal Church.

About six years later, I began to feel a call to ordained ministry again. I entered into the discernment process in the Episcopal Church, but my wife was very clear that she and my daughter were not in a position to move out of the city. This effectively eliminated the option of priesthood since we would have had to move for me to attend seminary. The discernment committee and I continued our work and I was approved to begin deacon's school. I participated in this program for one year but concluded that I was being called to be a priest. Due to my family situation this avenue was not open, so I left the process and put the idea out of my mind. Bishop Thompson told me that if my circumstances changed I should let him know.

Ten years later, everything in my life changed in an instant when one traffic light turned green. Many months after the funeral that old familiar tug returned. With fear and trepidation, I called Bishop Thompson – you know how that phone call ended.

My daughter Lynnea graduated from college three days after my seminary commencement. She now lives in Chicago with a friend she

has known since first grade. Lynnea is working part-time in a delicatessen as she continues to search for a full time job. Last month, I began a long distance relationship with a woman back in Boston. We have been good friends the past three years. She is also an Episcopal priest. I hope she will come visit so you can meet her.

These are some of the experiences that shape who I am today. I am glad to share part of my story with you. I look forward to hearing more from all of you as we continue our journey of faith together. I feel truly blessed, and I continually thank God for every day of life.

Peace and joy,

The Rev. Steve Domienik

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

On the agenda for the September Outreach meeting is a discussion of budget priorities for 2010. Our goal is to have specific Outreach spending a part of the draft budget forum. Join us for a discussion on how we prioritize mission both locally and internationally. In 2009 we had to cut spending for Rural Action and Habitat for Humanity. With the overall money for Outreach to allocate in 2009 the same as 2008 (\$3,200), we decided to put more money into hunger related ministries at the expense of the aforementioned non-profits. Also, we need to discuss where to spend money supporting the Millennium Development Goals.

In past years we have prioritized Outreach ministries according to the level of parish involvement. The 2009 Outreach Budget is as follows: Episcopal Community Services Foundation: \$100, Episcopal Relief and Development: \$600, Good Earth Hunger Mission: \$300, Honduras: \$1,000, Wednesday Lunch: \$1,000, Seminarian Support: \$200.

Join us after Church on September 27th in Hobson Lounge to discuss these important matters!!!

Paul Clever

Music Ministry at Good Shepherd: An Invitation

The ministry of music at Good Shepherd is carried out by the entire congregation. The chief ways we participate are by singing and listening to the music we offer together to the glory of God. In addition to this, there are several more specific ways for parishioners to serve.

One way is by singing in our adult choir, which is responsible for musical leadership at the principal Sunday service. To that end the choir leads hymn and psalm singing and offers anthems at the offertory and sometimes during communion. Texts are always related to the scriptures for the day.

Participation in the choir is open to any parishioner of high school age and up. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evening from 7:00 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. and Sunday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 10:20 a.m. In addition to Sunday morning responsibilities the choir also presents the annual Advent Lessons and Carols service on the first Sunday in December and occasionally will go to other churches in the deanery – such as the trip to Trinity Church in McArthur in December 2007. Over the years, the choir has provided fellowship and camaraderie for many, as well as a home away from home for students and others who come through our doors. We have a lot of fun together.

Other opportunities for participation in the music ministry include handbell ringing, seasonal participation, and, to be developed this year, a Cantor Corps (more about that in the next newsletter). Those who are instrumentalists are often invited to share their talents as well.

Focus on developing the congregational repertoire

As a result of the worship forums and worship committee discussions we have decided to put an emphasis on expanding the congregational repertoire of service music (those parts of the service which do not change from week to week) and psalm singing.

During the month of September, as we move back into the rhythms of the fall season, we will continue to sing the “Gloria” by Robert Powell (Hymnal S-280) that we have been singing for a long time (note – currently we know only two of the settings of the Gloria), the “Sanctus” by Schubert (Hymnal S-130) and the fraction anthem “Jesus, Lamb of

God” (Hymnal S-164). The psalm will be sung using one of the Simplified Anglican Chants we know well. Meanwhile the choir will sing some canticles as introits using the Anglican chant setting we will use for congregational psalm singing beginning in October.

Also, in October, we will switch to a Sanctus (Hymnal S-124) and Agnus Dei (Hymnal S-154) by David Hurd. Both of these are currently in the congregational repertoire. We will begin learning the Gloria by David Hurd (Hymnal S-277). By learning this canticle we will then have a complete Mass setting in our repertoire.

*Marsha Reilly,
Music Director*

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY: PARISH SUPPER CLUB

The Good Shepherd Supper Club is again being organized, to help parishioners get to know each other better and to introduce newcomers to the church family.

The Supper Club will meet once each quarter, with October (fall), January (winter) and April (spring) being recommended. The procedure is as follows. Participants may signup (or check names off last year’s list) at coffee hour, or contact Phyllis Dean at 593-8487 or deanp@ohio.edu. Dinner groups will consist of 6 to 8 parishioners, with one person (or couple) designated as host for that quarter. The mix of people will be organized differently each quarter and dinner group listings will be posted in the newsletter prior to the beginning of the quarter.

This is a great chance to get to know each other better, and to make newcomers feel welcome. The goal is to have as many people participating as possible. If you would like to participate but feel you can’t host because of space limitations, don’t let that stop you, we will have some people who may be able to host more than once.

****** Please don’t delay in signing up.** Additional names will be added as the season progresses, but group listings for the fall quarter must go to press on September 29th – to be in the October newsletter.

Phyllis Dean

Vestry Highlights from the August 20th meeting . . .

At its August 20th meeting, the Vestry welcomed the Rev. Steve Domienik, who is serving his diocesan residency at Good Shepherd. Fr. Domienik will be concentrating his time in the areas of campus ministry and helping to develop connections between the parish and the Good Earth Hunger Mission. He is also exploring every aspect of parish ministry. (See his article introducing himself on p. 1.)

Fr. Domienik reported about his activities since his arrival. He is spending one day a week at the farm. He is serving as presider and preacher on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. He has attended and led the Lindley Inn service and is getting to know some of the residents. He helped with student orientation, passing out literature on behalf of the University Interfaith Associates. He is beginning to meet other clergy and lay people involved in campus ministry, as well as representatives of different organizations on campus. With Fr. Carroll and Paul Clever, he met with Pastor Lynn Miller of Christ Lutheran Church to discuss ways in which we can cooperate in campus ministry. After our organizing meeting with students and other interested persons on Sept. 20, we will know more about what shape this partnership will take.

Anne Braxton reported that we have a tenant in the Episcopal House, effective September 1st. We should begin to see some real income from the property, thanks to the investment of time, labor, and money from faithful parishioners.

Jack Flemming reported that the Athens Board of Zoning Appeals had approved our request for a variance to build our new church sign. This sign was approved by the vestry a couple of years ago.

Fr. Carroll reported that the finance committee has been organized. In addition to returning members Matthew Adeyanju, Jack Flemming, Anne Braxton, and Will Lamb, Gifford Doxsee and Lois Wagner have agreed to serve. The committee will meet in mid-September to craft the first draft of a budget and approve a letter to be sent to the whole parish. This budget will be distributed prior to a parish wide forum on Sunday, October 18th. Among other issues which may arise during the forum, we hope to discuss restoring funding for a part time sexton, an expanded commitment to outreach, and Good Shepherd's commitment to Fr. Domienik's new ministry among us.

PROPERTY MATTERS

There are three matters I would like to reflect on this month.

1. As you know, the repainting and carpet replacement in our rental property has been completed, and I would like to add my own thanks to the workers who contributed the hundreds of hours needed to complete the job. I would also like to thank the parishioners who donated money to help pay for the project, with special thanks to the \$1,000 donation from the Marthas and the work of Julie Nehls to raise an additional \$2,460.
2. We also have a tenant for the year. We are renting to a gentleman who has recently joined the staff of Ohio University and is new to Athens. To my knowledge, this is the first time we have had a tenant who was not an OU student, and there are many advantages to this type of arrangement.
3. As many of you recall, back in 2007 we remodeled Nehls Hall and at the same time installed new copper roof gutters. At the time we raised a considerable amount of money among ourselves and we also got help from a diocesan grant. Though we had to take about \$6,200 from our Endowment to cover the full cost, we received enough three-year pledges to pay this amount back.

After two year, we are substantially on schedule. We only have about \$2,415 to go to pay this amount back in full. If you are current on your pledge, thank you for your generosity. If your final installment is due, I urge you to help us retire this obligation and replenish our Endowment.

Our Endowment is one of our most important assets, and the income it provides is a vital key to helping us fund our programs. The more we have in our Endowment, the more we will be able to dedicate to our ministry and mission.

**Jack Flemming,
Junior Warden**

News from the Pews . . .

Never know what you will read in the magazines. The latest issue of History, the History Channel Magazine, reports that **Allyn and Marsha Reilly** had been sleeping in the bed that Abraham Lincoln slept in in Gettysburg the night before his celebrated Gettysburg Address. But they donated it for the David Wills house restoration, in return for a replacement, of course.

Shannon Parsons, daughter of **Doug and Michelle Parsons**, and granddaughter of **Joanne Worstall**, was chosen queen of the 2009 Athens County Fair.

Lucy Lombard, daughter of **Anne Lombard**, was pictured on the first page of the Messenger examining a petunia at a "garden party" on The Ridges. Lucy's grandma, **Marylea Lombard**, is a volunteer for our Wednesday Free Lunch.

Lois Wagner is the Sole Proprietor of the Fiber Fun Studio that offers knitting, crochet, and weaving materials and classes near Albany. Lois is featured in the recent Athens News special section on new businesses in the area.

Among recent visitors was **Tim McNairy**, whose father was rector here from 1973 to 1977. Tim lives in the Wooster area.

Seems to be a major exodus from this area to the Outer Banks most every summer. Traveling there recently for the sun and waves was the **Buckley family**. Frequent end of season reunioners in Duck are **Richard and Lyn Butrick** and extended family.

Earl Funk, longtime Boy Scout liason here at Good Shepherd, was among the reunioners of the class of 1949 at Athens High School recently. Do the math, as they say, and note that that was 60 years ago.

Don Frazier is receiving news items about parishioners and friends of Good Shepherd for this monthly newsletter column. He can be reached at (797-4857, donjo@frognet.net). Please make sure that you have the person's permission before submitting a news item to Don. **Reid Sinclair** will continue to contribute items on an occasional basis but has decided to hand over the month to month responsibilities to Don, who has been serving as co-editor with him. Thanks to Reid and Don for keeping us up to date.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LAY INVOLVEMENT IN PASTORAL CARE

On Sunday, September 27th, at 9:00 a.m., the Revs. Bill Carroll, Steve Domienik, and Katharin Foster will host a conversation about lay involvement in pastoral care. Topics will include (1) lay eucharistic visitors/home communion; (2) rides to church and appointments; (3) meal ministry; (4) the Lindley Inn ministry; (5) services at the mental health center; and (6) other topics to be determined by the group. We are trying to involve parishioners in caring for one another and want to see who is willing to participate in which ministries. If you can't make it on September 27th and would like to participate or have an idea, please call one of us, so that your offering can be part of our discussion.

SR. FAITH MARGARET'S VISIT

Sr. Faith Margaret will be in town September 10th – 14th. anyone who would like to schedule an individual conference with her should contact Julie Nehls.

SECOND SUNDAY BRUNCH

The Second Sunday Brunch for September (September 13th) will also be a reception for Bishop Breidenthal. The Marthas will be providing the entrée, however, everyone else should bring a side dish or a dessert to share.

KAIROS

The next Kairos Weekend at Hocking Correctional Facility will be October 1st – 4th, 2009. Gregory Proctor & Gifford Doxsee are serving on the team. Kairos provides an opportunity for all Christians to obey Christ's command to visit those in prison by contributing various forms of "agape" as a substitute for actually going into a prison. Needed forms of "agape" are cookies, prayers, place mats, and gifts of money as it costs several thousand dollars for each prison weekend, mainly for food and needed equipment. Please speak to Gregory or Gifford if you can contribute in any way. 100 dozen cookies are needed from Good Shepherd by Thursday, September 24th.

September 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 5:30 pm – Farm Eucharist 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting 8 pm – AA Meeting	2 noon – Free Lunch	3 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting	4	5
6 8 am – HE I 10:30 am – HE II	7 Parish Office Closed for Labor Day	8 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting @ TBA 5:30 pm – Farm Eucharist 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting 8 pm – AA Meeting	9 noon – Free Lunch 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal 8 pm – Choir Fellowship Time	10 Sr. Faith Margaret's visit 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting	11 Sr. Faith Margaret's visit	12 Sr. Faith Margaret's visit
13 Bishop's Visit 9 am – Public Teaching 10:30 am – HE II reception 1 pm – Vestry Meet 2 pm – Lindley Inn	14 Sr. Faith Margaret's visit Glenda out of office 6 pm – NAMI 7 pm – Boy Scout Meeting	15 5:30 pm – Farm Eucharist 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting 8 pm – AA Meeting	16 noon – Free Lunch 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal	17 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist 7 pm – Vestry Meeting 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting	18	19 9 am – noon – organ lesson
20 8 am – HE I 9 am – Adult Ed 10:30 am – HE II Finance Committee Meeting 5 pm – Shepherd's Alternative	21 6 pm – NAMI 7 pm – Boy Scout Meeting	22 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting @ TBA 5:30 pm – Farm Eucharist 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting 8 pm – AA Meeting	23 noon – Free Lunch 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal	24 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting	25	26 9 am – 1 pm – Choir Retreat
27 8 am – HE I 9 am – Pastoral Care 10:30 am – HE II following HE II - Outreach Committee Meeting 2 pm – Lindley Inn	28 6 pm – NAMI 7 pm – Boy Scout Meeting	29 5:30 pm – Farm Eucharist 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting 8 pm – AA Meeting	30 noon – Free Lunch 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal			