
Good SHEPHERD News

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

November 2009

Thanksgiving Day Eucharist
Thursday, November 26th
10:00 a.m.

Inside . . .

From the Rector.....	p 1
Outreach.....	p 4
Organ Notes.....	p 7
Pew News.....	p 8



Seeking and Serving Christ in all persons

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“I Believe in the Communion of Saints”

The English word “communion” comes from the Latin word *communio*, which is often used to translate the Greek word *koinonia*. English translations of the New Testament also use the word “fellowship” to describe this important reality. In other contexts, the best translation might be “sharing” or “participation.”

Koinonia has to do with what is shared in common. It has roots in shared property, as in a marriage, intimate friendship, or religious community. It also refers to shared life and activity. It connotes the free sharing of gifts, as opposed to barter, the market, and other forms of *quid pro quo*. The New Testament speaks of the way in which the *koinonia* of the Church is grounded in the *koinonia* of the blessed Trinity (see 1John 1:1-4). Because the three persons share equally in the properties that make God divine, God is communion. Indeed, God just is the three persons and the loving relationships among them. Christians also speak of holy communion. In this sacrament, God’s good gifts are freely and abundantly shared in the body and the blood of Jesus. These gifts both reconstitute and strengthen the Church, which God brings to birth in holy baptism.

This is a fundamentally egalitarian vision. It contradicts the rugged individualism and isolation of American culture, even as it calls to mind values of interdependence and community that characterize our nation at its best. But *koinonia* involves a far more radical vision of community than any society has ever achieved. In the Acts of the Apostles, we read the following:

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common (*en autois hapanta koina*). With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. (Acts 4:32-35)

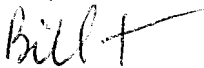
That’s not a direction many of us are willing to go (and the Church as a whole has seldom done so), but it accurately reflects New Testament

teaching. Religious communities often appeal to this “primitive communism” of the early Church as they seek to live out the implications of the Gospel. Alluding to the same passage from Acts, the great Church Father, John Chrysostom, once lamented in a sermon that “It is not for lack of miracles that the church is stagnant; it is because we have forsaken the angelic life of Pentecost, and fallen back on private property. If we lived as they did, with all things common, we should soon convert the whole world without any need of miracles at all.”

The communion of saints, *sanctorum communio*, is a phrase found in the Apostles’ Creed, an ancient baptismal confession of faith. The phrase is ambiguous. Grammatically speaking, the word *sanctorum* could be either masculine or neuter. It might refer to holy people; it might also refer to holy things. With regard to holy things, we are a people constituted by the gift of the Holy Spirit in baptism. We share in the gifts of common prayer around a common table. We share our material resources with one another and with those in need. We also share in a common mission and ministry. With regard to holy people, we are members of a worldwide community made up of “every family, language, people, and nation.” Christian community breaks down barriers of class, race, and gender. It transcends even the distinction between the living and the dead.

Whenever we gather in Jesus’ Name, especially when we break the bread and share the cup, all the Holy Ones are present. Prophets, apostles, and martyrs, as well as holy men and women of every generation, are here with us as we gather for the Supper of the Lamb. For Jesus is the “first fruits of those that sleep,” and in him we are all alive. We are bound to each other in the communion of saints. We share in God’s good gifts, in the graces God has given to our brothers and sisters, as the Holy Spirit moves among us and makes us holy, forming us into the image of Christ.

Peace,



The Rev. R. William Carroll, Rector

Vestry Highlights from the October 22nd . . .

Jack Flemming reported about next steps in hiring a part time sexton. Both he and Fr. Carroll are extremely grateful for the hard work of parishioners in keeping our building and grounds clean. Fr. Carroll suggested that, regardless of what is done next, we need to celebrate the hard work that so many have put in.

The vestry endorsed T.J. Azar for ordination to the sacred priesthood.

Fr. Carroll reported that Glenda Frost is working without a job description. The vestry agreed to ask her to detail her week to week activities. Fr. Carroll, Jack Flemming, Anne Braxton, and Will Lamb will meet with her to compile a formal job description.

Fr. Carroll reported that there have been cases of double ordering of supplies. In addition, multiple orders cost more money and waste energy, as there is a delivery fee. We are going to strive to order once a month through Glenda. Exception will be rare.

Fr. Carroll reported about efforts to bring outside groups in to use space at Good Shepherd. He met with Fr. Domeinik, Marsha Reilly, and members of the faculty of the School of Music who attend Good Shepherd. In general, we are hoping to allow outside groups to use the facilities free of charge, provided that they follow certain procedures and keep the building clean. Similar efforts are underway with regard to drama and other arts. This underscores the necessity of clearing all uses of the building with Glenda Frost. We are going to go forward on a trial basis and develop the provisional policies and procedures that were discussed.

The Vestry heard an initial report from those who had participated in the Common Ministry conference at Procter. This will be the subject of several meetings over the next few years. The basic idea is to eliminate barriers to participation in ministry and to share the authority and responsibility for ministry with all the baptized. Common ministry also implies both ecumenical and interfaith cooperation. One obvious step is an intentional discernment of gifts as part of a comprehensive stewardship program. We need to have more formal and informal ways to incubate new ministries at Good Shepherd. More on this in months to come.

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

Dear friends in Christ,

We would like to provide some background for the proposal to employ a newly released prisoner as our part time sexton. During the outreach budget meeting, Gifford Doxsee mentioned a meeting that Ariel Miller of the Episcopal Community Services Foundation had set up with him and others interested in prison ministry. Here is Gifford's first hand report:

About a month ago I, Gifford Doxsee, attended a brainstorming session at the Procter Conference Center on problems faced by former prison inmates when released. Most of the group in attendance were Episcopalians from parishes all across the Diocese. The guest of honor of David Singleton, Executive Director of the Ohio Justice and Policy Center in Cincinnati, an advocacy group that seeks to help released prisoners overcome the numerous barriers to employment and housing.

Following the meeting, David Singleton sent all those present information on Certificates of Rehabilitation offered by six states to prisoners at their time of release. The six states are New York and New Jersey, California, Arizona, and Nevada, and Illinois.

Prison administrators, such as chaplains, who have had opportunities to determine which prisoners have truly had a change of heart and wish to become productive citizens on release, can nominate selected parolees who then must undergo special training to receive a Certificate of Rehabilitation. This document does not wipe out the prison record, so that if a former prisoner gets into trouble after release, the criminal justice system will have access to previous crimes and punishment. But in terms of job applications and housing search, the Certificate of Rehabilitation wipes out the prison record and facilitates re-entry into mainstream society by the former prisoner.

*Further information on the New York model can be found at the web site below.
<http://www.lac.org/toolkits/certificates/certificates.htm>*

Gifford B. Doxsee

continued to page 5

In the weeks to come several of us will be meeting to discuss the viability of this program. We are setting up a meeting with Michelle Brown, a professor in the sociology department who specializes in reentry programs. Michelle comes highly recommended by Bob Shelly and others. She will help better inform us about best practices in the field. We are also working on lining up grant funds and partners who may be able to help employ the person we hire. Our goal is to give someone a chance to carve out a new life for him or herself on the outside.

If such a program does not prove to be viable, we will still need to consider how to meet our need for maintenance of the building and grounds. Our last sexton cost us nearly \$9000 per year. My sense is that, if we do not create such an outreach ministry, we will have to hire someone (perhaps a professional service) to do at least part of this work. Many have been extremely faithful in carrying out these duties for the past year. We cannot sustain this for very much longer.

Please pray for this effort, which is an attempt to build on existing ministries with prisoners. We are considering working with someone convicted of nonviolent property crimes. We need both volunteers and donors to make this ministry possible. The finance committee and ultimately the vestry will be considering whether this is a possible way forward. Please don't hesitate to contact them with ideas or concerns or to offer your help. Jesus came to bring liberty to the captives. This is an excellent opportunity for all of us to participate in the life-changing work of the Gospel.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

The Rev. R. William Carroll, Rector

Cardboard City Feedback

Cardboard City for 2009 was a great success! Student involvement was greatly expanded this year, thanks to the impressive organizational efforts of Ohio University Habitat for Humanity. About 340 people turned out for the event, more than twice the number from last year, and built an extended community of cardboard homes. First prize for creativity went to Larsen and Tom Lovdal and the young people from Christ Lutheran Church for their handsome lighthouse.

Total income from the event was about \$14,000, including in-kind donations. After expenses, about \$10,000 remains for Habitat house construction. Those funds will easily buy all the lumber for a new house this year.

We extend warm thanks to all those who contributed to Cardboard City, either with funds or with their time and effort. The next new house would be a long time in coming without your help. As it is, the first house in Jacksonville is under roof and a family has been selected for the second house in Jacksonville. When you see Cita Strauss, please say Thank You for managing the whole Cardboard city project.

Scrap Metal Drive

**Saturday, November 14th, 2009
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Athens County Fairgrounds
West Union Street, Athens**

**Sponsored by the Faith Build Coalition.
Proceeds go to the Coalition's next
house building project.**

*Notes from the
Organ Bench*

Mark it on your calendars and invite your friends to the annual Advent Festival of Lessons and Music – **Sunday, December 6th, at 4:00 p.m.** It will be followed by the Holiday House and refreshments.

Service music for Advent:

We will continue to sing parts of the “New Plainsong Mass” by David Hurd. In place of the Gloria we will sing the “Trisagion” (see Book of Common Prayer page 356 or Hymnal S-100). We will continue to sing the same Sanctus (Hymnal S-124) that we have been singing this fall. The Fraction Anthem will be the “Lamb of God” (Hymnal S-161).

For the season of Advent, one Psalm and three Canticles are appointed in the Lectionary. Music for these will be based on plainsong and led by a cantor with the people responding. This style of psalm singing – responsorial – is one of the oldest forms of psalm singing.

Advent and Christmas Choir:

Extra singers are welcome for the Advent and Christmas seasons – especially for Christmas Eve. Please contact Marsha Reilly (592-2596, mareilly1@columbus.rr.com) if you are willing to make this shorter commitment.

*Marsha Reilly,
Music Director*

News from the Pews . . .

Max Carney, son of **Laura Dukes**, was elected president of the Federal Hocking High School freshman class. Way to go, Max!

Former “Pews” columnist, **Reid Sinclair**, is with daughter **Liz** and her husband. His address is 804 Sasser Road, Raleigh, NC 27504.

Recovering from hip surgery and now back home is **Cynthia Kaldis**. Speedy recovery, Cynthia.

Visiting with their mother, **Doris Green**, were her three sons, **Dave**, **Mike** and **Steve**, all former OU football players who enjoyed the excitement offered by Homecoming Weekend.

Traveling to Florida recently to visit a number of friends was Lindley Inn resident **Gene Jennings**.

In Hickory Creek at this writing, is **Jim Mowery**, who is recovering from a variety of complications. Jim would enjoy receiving mail. His home address is 13 Lamar Drive, Athens.

We understand that **Al** and **Margaret Topping** are settled in nicely at their new residences in Columbus, but they do miss us.

From the Good Earth Farm Ministry, **Paul Clever** reports that a Procter Grant to hire interns has been approved, details of which will follow soon.

Fr. Steve is becoming well known at Lindley Inn with his easy manner and calm approach. His presence often brings smiles to many and prompts some residents to ask, “When is he coming back?”

Former parishioner **Cherrye Lucas**, (Mrs. John) now living in Annapolis, Maryland, send regards to friends at Good Shepherd via telephone calls to **Julie Nehls** and **Doris Green**.

On October 26th, **Allyn** and **Marsha Reilly** welcomed a granddaughter, **Claire Bethany Sheehan**, daughter of **Jacob** and **Carolyn Sheehan** of Knoxville, Tennessee.

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

November 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8 am – HE I 9 am – Adult Ed 10:30 am – HE II noon – 1:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal	2 5-11 pm - Laramie Project Rehearsal 6 pm - NAMI 7 pm – Boy Scouts	3 Parish Administrator out of office 5-11 pm - Laramie Project Rehearsal 5:30 pm – Farm Eucharist 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	4 Parish Administrator out of office 11 am – Staff Meeting noon – Free Lunch 6:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal	5 Parish Administrator out of office 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist 7 pm - Laramie Project Performance 7:30 pm – Alanon	6 Parish Administrator out of office Diocesan Convention in Sharonville 7 pm - Laramie Project Performance	7 Diocesan Convention in Sharonville 7 pm - Laramie Project Performance
8 8 am – HE I 9 am – Adult Ed 10:30 am – HE II 2 nd Sunday Brunch 2 pm – Lindley Inn	9 Parish Administrator out of office 6 pm - NAMI 7 pm – Boy Scouts	10 Parish Administrator out of office 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting @ Doris Green's home 5:30 pm – Farm Eucharist 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	11 Parish Administrator out of office noon – Free Lunch 6:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal	12 Parish Administrator out of office 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist 7:30 pm – Alanon	13 Parish Administrator out of office	14
15 8 am – HE I 9 am – Adult Ed 10:30 am – HE II noon – 1:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal	16 Parish Administrator out of office 6 pm - NAMI 7 pm – Boy Scouts	17 Parish Administrator out of office 5:30 pm – Farm Eucharist 7:15 pm – Worship Committee Meeting 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	18 Parish Administrator in office part time noon – Free Lunch 6:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal	19 Parish Administrator in office part time 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist 7 pm – Vestry 7:30 pm – Alanon	20 Parish Administrator in office part time	21
22 8 am – HE I 9 am – Adult Ed 10:30 am – HE II Outreach Committee Meeting 2 pm – Lindley Inn	23 Parish Administrator in office part time 6 pm - NAMI 7 pm – Boy Scouts	24 Parish Administrator in office part time 5:30 pm – Farm Eucharist 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	25 Parish Administrator in office part time noon – Free Lunch	26 Parish Office Closed for Thanksgiving 10 am – Thanksgiving Day Eucharist	27 Parish Office Closed	28
29 8 am – HE I 10:30 am – HE II	30 6 pm - NAMI 7 pm – Boy Scouts					