



The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

December 2009

PLEDGE INGATHERING SUNDAY

At the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist on Sunday, December 6th, we will place all the pledge cards we have received on the altar and bless them at the offertory. The offertory is where we offer our lives, labor, and material resources to further mission and ministry of Christ's Church. Pledges are especially important to the vestry as they seek to estimate income and formulate a budget for 2010.

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Seeking and Serving Christ in all persons

Looking Toward Christmas: New Possibilities in Christ

Babies change us. The birth of a child brings with it the possibility of new life and new directions. In families, birth is one of the chief occasions, the others being marriage or death, when relationships can change. When a child is born, the ties that bind us to other people become more fluid. We glimpse and sometimes choose new possibilities for life together.

Of course, we do not always seize the opportunity. We all know families that seem hell-bent on living out the biblical saying that the sins of the fathers are visited upon their children. By nurture or nature, we seem scripted to play certain roles in our significant relationships. Not all of these roles are destructive or sinful, though some clearly are. In either case, it can be disconcerting to be caught doing something in the same way that a parent or some other relative did. Pagan writers, the Greeks in particular, displayed similar insight in their appeals to necessity and fate. Along with Paul, Augustine, and Luther, the tradition of tragedy from Aeschylus to Shakespeare and beyond forms an important counterpoint to the humanistic confidence of the West. As Reinhold Niebuhr noted in his critique of "American exceptionalism," the doctrine of original sin is not only "empirically verifiable" but especially important for a young nation that tends to ignore the lessons of history through naïve faith in its own goodness that remains blind to the ambiguities and pitfalls of power.

As Christians, we tend also to believe in the reality of human freedom, though not all of us have stressed this equally. Historically, Anglicans have placed a premium on human potential and achievement. Indeed, our tradition has been described as a form of Christian humanism, a phrase that might seem self-contradictory to some of our brothers and sisters, for whom "humanism" is the great enemy of the Gospel. We believe in human dignity and freedom, since we are made in the image and likeness of God. This is damaged (not destroyed) by the fall. We still choose freely and sometimes rightly, even though we confront forces more powerful than we. The script may already be written; by the grace of the Holy Spirit, however, we are free to improvise (perhaps even rewrite) our lines.

It is for this reason that the Christian year begins with Advent promises of new beginnings. We ask Almighty God to "give us grace to cast away the works of darkness," because we know how we resist God's grace in our lives, as individuals and as a community of faith. We still bear a family resemblance to Adam that we find disturbing. The love of

God does not come first for us, and we tend to see our brothers, sisters, and neighbors as hindrances to what we want rather than living, breathing sacraments of Christ. We need a season of prayer, preparation, and repentance to get ready for the coming Son of God.

At the end of the season, we meet the Christ Child. Tiny, vulnerable, and poor, he reaches out to us. In the baby Jesus, we come face to face with God. We do not feel worthy, nor are we. We seem to know from the moment we meet Jesus that we will let him down. And yet, in him, the rod of our oppressor has been broken. In him, our humanity is restored. In him, the mighty are brought low, and the humble raised up. And the Word of God becomes silent, as he gazes upon us in love.

Christmas is a time for new beginnings. Come, Lord Jesus, and make it so.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Peace,



The Rev. R. William Carroll

**INTER-GENERATIONAL FESTIVAL NATIVITY
EUCHARIST**

Thursday, December 24th, at 4:00 p.m. in the Nave

FESTIVAL NATIVITY EUCHARIST

Thursday, December 24th, in the Nave

Christmas Prelude music begins at 10:00 p.m. with the service
beginning at 10:30 p.m.

PROPERTY MATTERS

There are three matters I would like to share with you this month.

1. Son of a Bulb – Please remember to bring around your burned out fluorescent light bulbs. We have an outlet for recycling and we want to make sure the bulbs are properly recycled so the mercury in them can be removed at the factory and reused.

2. Kroger Karma – For nearly two years we have been participating in the Kroger Card program. Most of you are familiar with how it works, but if you are not, let me review it for you.

If you shop at Kroger and sign up for the program, Kroger will pay Good Shepherd five percent of whatever you spend in the store (except for alcohol and gasoline).

If you are already participating, thank you very much. If you would like to sign up or want more information, please see me. We expect to earn \$5,000 next year through this program, but to do so requires all of us to participate.

3. Boffo Coff(o) – By popular demand, I am resuming the sale of Bishop's Blend coffee during the coffee hour after the Sunday service. I will have a schedule of our wholesale price, our retail price, and our profit per bag. It has been said that, "Money follows mission". The mission in this case is our ambitious outreach program, and the commitment of the Outreach Committee to raise \$5,000 on its own to support it. All profits, approximately \$3.00 per bag, will go to support this program. (Also, the wholesaler we are dealing with sends Episcopal Relief and Development about \$1.20 for each bag we order from them).

**Jack Flemming
Junior Warden**

News from the Pews . . .

Paul Clever reports The Good Earth Ministries was awarded a Procter Grant of \$25,000 which will be used wholly for internships.

Recently engaged to marry is **Dan Kauffman** and **Heidi Bender**. A spring wedding is planned at Good Shepherd.

Appointed to the Episcopal Appalachian Ministries Board is **A J Stack**.

Added to **Sarah Clever's** teaching curriculum at Hocking College is World Literature, an interesting challenge for Sarah and her students.

Al and **Margaret Topping's** new address is: Dublin Retirement Village, 6470 Post Road, #305, Dublin, Ohio 43016. Telephone number is 614-389-2940. they would enjoy correspondence.

Enjoying a week in El Paso, Texas was **Reid Sinclair** visiting with daughter **Heather** and granddaughter **Maddie**.

Names to the All TVC volleyball team was **Shannon Parsons**, granddaughter of **Joanne Worstall** and **Don Frazier**. She was also selected a member of Division IV Southeast District 13 volleyball team, as well as TVC All-Academic Honor Roll.

Our thoughts and prayers are with **Glenda Frost**, our Parish Administrator as she recovers from recent surgery.

The children of **Harolyn** and **Chuck Brient** made sure their parents' 50th wedding anniversary would long be remembered. Over Halloween week-end in New York City, the Brient's enjoyed Broadway shows, *Billy Elliott* and *Mary Poppins*, saw the Metropolitan Opera production of *Turando* and traveled about in taxis of frenzied drivers. And when not caught up in the rush, they enjoyed the exquisite offerings of the Waldorf Astoria which corresponds with the price their kids paid to help them celebrate 50 yeas of Mother-Father Hood.

On October 8th, **Matthew** and **Rachel Adeyanju** welcomed a granddaughter, **Naomi Elizabeth Sokari**, born to daughter **Toyin** and husband **Tele Sokari** of Cleveland, joining her brother **Ian** who turned 2 in August.

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.

Vestry Highlights from November 19th . . .

Fr. Carroll reported on the meeting of the finance committee following the parish wide forum about the proposed budget. The finance committee is proposing no changes to the budget based on input from the forum. There may be changes that need to occur to contain costs. Consideration of the proposed 2010 budget was postponed until the December meeting, so that more pledges could come in and give the vestry a better sense of the income side of the budget.

The vestry considered an invitation from Bishop Breidenthal to explore participation in a pilot project to develop common ministry at Good Shepherd. Good Shepherd would have access to a consultant to help us develop a vision and strategy and would develop a lay-clergy leadership team to help implement that strategy. The vestry considered materials that the bishop had sent to the rector and senior warden. By unanimous vote of those present, the vestry agreed to attend the December 12 meeting at Procter, without necessarily implying a commitment on our part to the whole project. It was a vote to learn more. If we decide to participate, there will be several opportunities for the whole parish to participate in developing what common ministry will mean at Good Shepherd.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS: Anyone wanting to contribute toward the Christmas Poinsettias, either in memory of or thanksgiving for someone should contact the parish office (593-6877, chogs@frognet.net) by Friday, December 18th.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: The Parish Administrator will not be in the office Thursday & Friday, December 24th & 25th. She will be leaving at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday December 31st and will not be in the office on Friday, January 1st.

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

Good Earth Farm Update:

As the year and growing season draw to a close, I thought it might be a good time for a farm update. Our big news is a twenty-five thousand dollar grant from the Procter Fund. This money will go to support two, yearlong, 'residents' at the farm. These residents will share in the work of the farm as well as the prayer life of the house. The money will also support, although sparingly, Dan Kauffman's full time work on the farm. Dan is now directing many of the farm operations. This is great news and will only add to the vitality of our work.

We have two new things on the horizon. First is the Good Works "Walk for the Homeless". This year the Good Earth Hunger Mission will be leading a walk around the issue of food insecurity. One stop will be at Good Shepherd and we will have presentations by Lisa Roberts of the Lottridge Food Pantry and Christine Hughes of the Village Bakery. The event will be on Saturday January 16th starting at 8:30 at the First United Methodist Church. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help us carry out the food insecurity walk, please let Dan Kauffman know. We need a lot of volunteers!

Second, we now have another plot of land to grow next year's potatoes. We contacted Joyce Miller, who owns a farm down the bike path, about using some of her land. She accepted and is excited about working with us. If you know Joyce Miller, thank her for allowing us to use her land!

We will still have volunteer days before spring, but not in December. If you would like to be added to the volunteer email list, let Dan Kauffman or Paul Clever know.

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!

December 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 5:30 pm – Farm Eucharist 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	2 noon – Free Lunch 6:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal	3 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist 7 pm – Worship Committee Meeting 7:30 pm – Alanon	4	5 10- noon – Advent L&C rehearsal
6 8 am – HE I 9 am – Adult Ed 10:30 am – HE II 2 pm – Lindley Inn 4 pm – Advent L&C	7 6 pm - NAMI 7 pm – Boy Scouts	8 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry @ Julie Nehls' home 5:30 pm – Farm Eucharist 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	9 noon – Free Lunch 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal	10 10 am – Staff Meeting 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist 7:30 pm – Alanon	11	12 9am – 1pm – Advent Quiet Day w/ Sr. Faith Margaret
13 8 am – HE I 9 am – Adult Ed 10:30 am – HE II 2 nd Sunday Brunch	14 6 pm - NAMI 7 pm – Boy Scouts	15 5:30 pm – Farm Eucharist 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	16 noon – Free Lunch 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal	17 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist 7 pm – Vestry 7:30 pm – Alanon	18	19
20 8 am – HE I 9 am – Adult Ed 10:30 am – HE II 2 pm – Lindley Inn	21 6 pm - NAMI 7 pm – Boy Scouts	22 5:30 pm – Farm Eucharist 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	23 noon – Free Lunch 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal	24 Parish Office Closed 4 pm – Inter-generational Eucharist 10 pm – Prelude Music 10:30 pm – Festival Nativity Eucharist	25 Parish Office Closed	26
27 8 am – HE I 10:30 am – HE II	28 6 pm - NAMI	29 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	30 noon – Free Lunch	31 Parish Office closes @ noon 7:30 pm – Alanon		