



Friday Bulletin

Good Shepherd E-News

30 September 2022

The Episcopal Church of the
Good Shepherd in Athens, Ohio

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This Upcoming Sunday

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

2 October 2022, 10:30 a.m.

Order of Worship (Bulletin)

Service: Holy Eucharist Rite II-C

Celebrant: The Rev. David McCoy

Musician: Marsha Reilly

Lector: Norm Fox

Eucharistic Minister/Acolyte: Sharon Huge

**Eucharistic Minister/Prayer
Leader:** Allyn Reilly

Altar Guild: Sharon Huge

Coffee Hour Host: David Burton

LESSONS for the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 22-Tract 2):

Old Testament – Habakkuk 1: 1-4; 2:1-4

Psalm 37: 1-10 (SUNG)

New Testament – 2 Timothy 1: 1-14

Gospel – Luke 17: 5-10

<https://www.lectionarypage.net>

Reflection - - St. Francis



In Honor of St. Francis Day -- Consider the Discarded --

But now ask the beasts to teach you, and the birds of the air to tell you; or the reptiles on the earth to instruct you, and the fish of the sea to inform you. Which of all these does not know the hand of God has done this? – Job 12:7-19

The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi is celebrated on October 4. There are several stories about the saint, who lived from 1182 to 1226, and animals. From preaching to the birds because he was frustrated human beings were not listening to him to taming a wolf that villagers were afraid of by showing the wolf kindness, there are lovely legends of how St. Francis found friends in animals.

These stories inspired parishes to celebrate St. Francis' feast day with liturgies to bless animals. Social media will be full of charming pictures of priests and bishops blessings dogs, cats, horses, snakes, iguanas, and all manner of beloved pets. These services are usually fun and make us all feel good by showing how much we love our pets. I have done many wonderful pet blessing services. The ones I did in my first parish in Wisconsin attracted people from all over the town – and of course, their pets.

This year, however, I am reflecting on what animals can teach us, how they can show us the best and worst in ourselves by reminding us of St. Francis' poverty and his sharp criticism of the suffering people caused by not respecting life. Perhaps this change in my reflection is because of a teacher who came into my life when he came into our backyard. We call him Patches. From what we observe, he is a young cat that was most likely dumped. He was starving when he showed up and gulped down a can and a half of cat food twice a day for weeks. After feeding him for over a month, he is no longer starving, and is growing, but he is still dependent on us and his wonderful caregivers who are taking care of feeding him while Michael and I are on vacation. Patches the teacher reminds us that while cats do have hunting instincts, unless they are taught to hunt, they cannot do it on their own.

Patches is just starting to trust us. He comes when we call, but he won't get close enough to let us pet him. He sometimes looks through a window at us but shows no desire to come inside. I don't know his story, but it is



very different from those of our playful, loving house cats. He wants to like us but isn't sure he can trust us. Patches the teacher reminds us, the harm someone else did can take a long time to heal, and trust does not always come easy. Even when the food is good.

Patches didn't ask to be dumped. He didn't do anything wrong. I understand people get into financial trouble. I know it gets hard to make the bills. But that does not make it okay to cause suffering by discarding a living thing, a being dependent on another for care. There is another way, a different choice.

A few weeks ago, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, the Most Rev. Michael Curry gave a homily for the memorial service for Queen Elizabeth II at Washington National Cathedral in Washington, DC. In his homily, Bishop Curry mentioned God intended all life to be in relationship with each other. People, plants, and animals were all created by God to be in relationship, to care for each other. Which means it is a sin when we exploit, neglect, and abuse not just people but plants and animals.

Patches is not alone. The Athens Country Humane Society is overloaded with cats and kittens and the pound is full of dogs and puppies. I've seen dozens of curtesy posts on social media through the local Humane Society on behalf of people like us who recently had a cat show up in their back yard. I know some of you have taken on cats like Patches, and we try and love and care them as best we can, as much as the cats will let us.

This year, in honor of St. Francis Day, I encourage us all, in addition to being grateful for our pets, to prayerfully consider doing what we can to help the pets who have been discarded by people they trusted. I am sure the Humane Society could use donations. I wonder if they might also need people who could foster cats until they find their forever home. When we get back from vacation, we are going to try and get Patches neutered and vaccinated, if we can catch him.

I know this is an unpleasant truth of our community, something we don't want to look at. But one of the lessons of St. Francis' life is to look the unpleasant in the eye, through the love of God, and do what we can to love all creatures great and small because the Lord God made them all.

- *O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant*

that we, remembering the account we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. - Book of Common Prayer

- Most high and most glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart and give me truer faith, more certain hope, and perfect charity, sense and knowledge of you, so that I may carry out your holy and true command for my life. - St. Francis of Assisi

- O God, enlarge within us the sense of fellowship with all living things, our brothers the animals to whom thou gavest the earth as their home in common with us. We remember with shame that in the past we have exercised the high dominion of man with ruthless cruelty so that the voice of the earth, which should have gone up to thee in song, has been a groan of travail. May we realize that they live not for us alone but for themselves and for thee, and that they love the sweetness of life. – St. Basil

Many Blessings,

Mother Deborah

(The above lead image is an icon by our friend Kelly Latimore.)

Coming up on the Calendar

Sunday, October 2, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, October 5, 7:00 p.m. -- Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 9, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, October 5, 7:00 p.m. -- Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 16, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist (Discretionary Sunday)

Wednesday, October 12, 7:00 p.m. -- Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, October 12, 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl at Julie's

Thursday, October 20, 7:00 p.m. - - Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, October 19, 7:00 p.m. -- Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 23, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, October 26, 7:00 p.m. -- Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, October 26, 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl at Julie's

Sunday, October 30, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

CrossRoads Café is closed until we find staff. If you know of someone looking for a job, please have them send an email to chogs@chogs.org or revedebwoolsey@gmail.com and Mother Deborah will return their email when she gets back from vacation.

Coffee Hour Schedule

Sept. 25 Lois Wagner
October 2 -- David Burton
October 9 -- Lynn Graham
October 16 -- Sharon Huges
October 23 -- Alex Buckley
October 30 -- Anne Walker

Events Looking Forward

Oct. 7-10 (Friday – Monday) College Student Retreat in the Hocking Hills

Nov. 6 (Sunday) Newly Refurbished Organ Celebration 3pm (first in a series)

Nov. 19 (Saturday) Diocese of Southern Ohio Convention Hybrid zoom and in person in Cincinnati

Nov. 24 (Thursday) Thanksgiving Day service 10:30 am

Nov. 24 (Thursday) Thanksgiving Meal for parishioners 1:30 pm

Dec. 24 (Saturday) Christmas Eve 7pm

Dec. 25 (Sunday) Christmas Day 10:30 am

Notes & Announcements

Steve Steward



Steve Steward suffered a heart attack Tuesday during the flight back from his overseas trip and passed away in a hospital in Virginia. After much anticipation and Covid delay Steve was able to take a bucket list opera trip to Germany and Austria, the highlight being the **42nd Oberammergau Passion Play**, a production that has been offered only every ten years since 1634.

Steve will certainly be sadly missed by his many dear friends, his library colleagues, and by choir members and parishioners.

Rest in Peace Steve Steward.

(Ted Foster)

Mother Deborah has been in contact with Steve's family to express her sympathy and will be officiating his celebration of life service. More information will be shared after Mother Deborah returns from vacation on Oct.11. Until then please keep Steve's family in your prayers.

Happy Homecoming OU Alumni!

We hope all OU Alumni and students have a safe and happy celebration of Homecoming starting tomorrow. We hope you get a chance to visit our Covid Memorial and join us Sunday at 10:30 am for worship. Please wear a face mask at the worship service as several of our parishioners are immunocompromised. Wearing masks is our way of including more people at Church of the Good Shepherd. Thank you for understanding and caring.

Mother Deborah is on Vacation

Mother Deborah and Michael are out of town on vacation. Please pray for their safe travel and time of rest and direct all pastoral emergencies to our Senior Warden, Alex Buckley.

Mother Deborah will be back Tuesday, October 11.

Volunteers Needed to Serve as Ushers

If you are interested in or feel called to serve as an usher, please contact Mother Deborah.

The ministry of ushers is:

- Warmly greeting people coming into church service by giving them bulletin and mask (if they don't have one already).
- Passing the collection plate at the offertory hymn.
- Be available to answer any questions visitors might have (ex. where restrooms are located).
- Help collect discarded bulletins after the service and put them in recycling.
- Assist Treasurer with counting and reporting on the money collected that day.

How often a person serves depends on how many people volunteer. Scheduling can be flexible. Please prayerfully consider if you are being called to this ministry of welcome and hospitality.



CROP WALK

Crop Walk will take place **this Sunday, Oct. 2 at 1:45 pm** at the Athens Community Center. Interested walkers should contact David Burton (740-593-5634 or email: drabeja02@yahoo.com).

If you are not a walker, that's

OK. Donations are joyfully welcomed. In the past Good Shepherd has been quite generous in helping feed the hungry through this program. Athens receives 25% of the total raised. This year that amount will be divided equally between the Athens County Food Bank and the Community Food Initiative. Stay tuned for more information as we get closer to October 2.

We Are Hiring

CrossRoads Café Staff

Please help us get the word out: we are hiring new staff for our coffee shop ministry. If you or someone you know is interested in working mornings, contact Mother Deborah at revdebwoolsey@gmail.com.

Pay starts at \$12 an hour. No experience necessary, we provide paid training.

The [Full job description](#) is available on our website. Please contact the Rev. Deborah Woolsey at revdebwoolsey@gmail.com for more information or to apply. (She will return your email when she gets back from vacation.)

We Are Hiring

Assistant for making and posting church videos.

[\(Full job description\)](#)

Please contact the Rev. Deborah Woolsey at revdebwoolsey@gmail.com for more information or to apply. (She will return your email when she gets back from vacation.)

ALTAR FLOWER PROCEDURE

Email Lynn Graham (grahammowery@aol.com) or phone her (740-593-5098) to give her your dedication. Lynn will order flowers through Hyacinth Bean Florist and give your name and address for billing. The cost is approximately \$90.00 for the arrangement and delivery. Lynn will print your dedication so that it appears in the e-news and bulletin.

If you wish special flowers or a more elaborate arrangement you can call Polly Creech (740-594-9302), our florist, and make those arrangements with her. Keep in mind that this MAY increase the cost.

OPEN DATES FOR FLOWERS FOR 2022

October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

November - 13

December 4, 11, 18

Retreat for College Age Adults

Take a weekend to rest and relax with other college age adults at a cabin in the Hocking Hills. Enjoy a variety of restorative activities like hiking, making art, and having conversations while preparing meals to share. Thanks to the generosity of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio this retreat is free. To learn more or register, contact Mother Deborah at revdebwoolsey@gmail.com



OCT 7-10
...
NOURISH
RETREAT

**Feeding our souls through
connecting, restoring, & relaxing**

**Location: Hocking Hills,
"Lazy Bear Cabin" in Logan, Ohio**

**FOR STUDENTS
AND YOUNG ADULTS**

**CONTACT YOUR CAMPUS
MINISTER TO REGISTER BY
SEPT. 30TH**

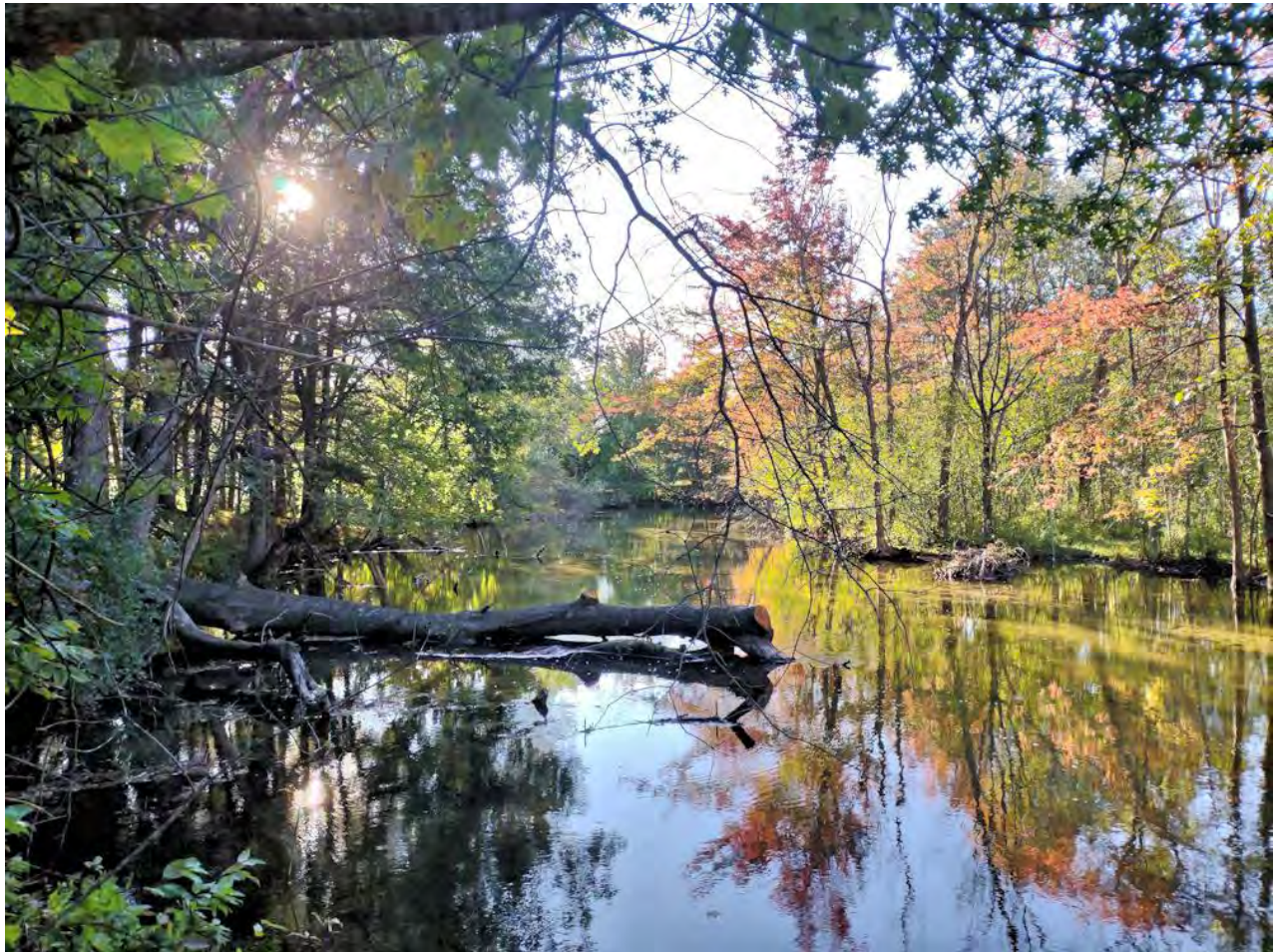
FREE!

For Bishop Transition News and Updates

Diocese of Southern Ohio 80th General Convention

Saturday, November 19. Delegates and clergy may attend in person or via zoom. For more see the [DSO E-Connections newsletter](#). Keep up with the latest [Convention information HERE](#).

As noted Mother Deborah and family are on vacation and Michael (besides fishing) is creating some great photos. Take a look at this stretch of Crystal River behind the back yard of Mother Deborah's parents home. As you can see, besides the beginnings of fall colors, this may be why the river is called the "Crystal" river.





Contacts & Information

Contact Information

[DONATE to Good Shepherd](#)

This takes you to the

For pastoral needs, please contact The Rev. Deborah Woolsey at 937-689-8895 (cell) or 740-593-6877 (church), or by e-mail at revdebwoolsey@gmail.com.

To find out more about Good Shepherd and other matters, please contact Alex Buckley, Senior Warden, at 740-593-5513 or by e-mail at macbuck@yahoo.com.

For maintenance matters, please leave a note at the office or contact Dana Carlson, Junior Warden, at 740-664-2022 or by e-mail at carlsondana@hotmail.com.

For emergencies, please call The Rev. Deborah Woolsey at 937-689-8895.

NON-emergency messages can be left on the church's answering machine (740-593-6877). The parish office administrator is Barbara Martin (740-593-6877) or barbara@chogs.org.

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
Seeking and Serving Christ in All Persons

64 University Terrace, Athens OH 45701
740-593-6877
chogs@chogs.org
www.chogs.org

Parish Home page where you can donate on line via PayPal. If you have a preference, please indicate on the the "Add special instructions to the seller" section the purpose of the donation—e.g. Covid Memorial, plate collection, etc.

Check out the Church's [YouTube Channel](#).

LIKE us on Facebook [Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd 45701](#)

Office Hours:
10:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

The Diocese COVID Guidelines request all persons wear masks inside the church building regardless of vaccination status.

Church of the Good Shepherd | 64 University Terrace, Athens, OH 45701

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