



Friday Bulletin

Good Shepherd E-News

20 January 2023

The Episcopal Church of the
Good Shepherd in Athens, Ohio

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This Upcoming Sunday

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Holy Eucharist D

22 January 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Order of Worship (Bulletin)

Service: Holy Eucharist D

Celebrant: The Rev. Deborah Woolsey

Lector: David McCoy

Eucharistic Minister/Acolyte: Lynn
Graham

Eucharistic Minister/Prayer Leader:
David Burton

Altar Guild: David Burton

Coffee Hour Host: Alex Buckley



LESSONS for Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Old Testament – Isaiah 9: 1-4

Psalm - 27: 1, 5-13 (Sung)

New Testament – I Corinthians 1: 10-18

Gospel – Matthew 4: 12-23

<https://www.lectionarypage.net>

Reflection on the January 2023 Vester Meeting

The first vestry meeting of the new year is the last for the vestry that was voted in by the parish at last year's annual meeting and this provides an opportunity to express appreciation for the vestry members whose term expires.

There were considerable conversations to engage in. In addition to approving the budget that the Treasurer and Finance Committee have been working hard on for over two months, the vestry had a guest from Diocesan staff.

The Rev. Michael Ralf, Missioner to the Southeastern Region of the Diocese, joined the first hour of the vestry meeting to speak to some of the rector and vestry's concerns about how to respond to decline. Fr. Michael comforted us to say we are not alone in what we are experiencing. Parishes all over the diocese and nation are struggling with the same concerns we are. To help us he made two suggestions:

1) He invited us (the parish) to participate in a discernment/visioning process with a professional consultant who has worked in both the corporate and religious sectors. This process will last several months and will be FREE, as the diocese received a grant for this ministry. The purpose of this process would be to help us adapt to the changes in our community.

2) He invited us to consider an additional means of getting income to supplement our deficit budget by creating a partnership with a neighboring Episcopal parish seeking a more consistent priestly presence. This partnership would entail the sharing of Good Shepherd's priest, for which the partnering parish would pay Good Shepherd. To get the funds to pay Good Shepherd, the partnering parish would write grant requests from the diocese.

The vestry was eager to accept the first invitation, as they could see how it will be helpful to have someone with a different perspective help us evaluate our parish, the current situation, and identify potential opportunities we might be missing.

The second invitation will require more prayerful thought and consideration, as it is much more complex and involves another group of people. For the sake of respectful privacy, we are not publishing the name of the potential partner until that parish has been formerly approached. For now, the vestry is willing to meet with the vestry of the potential partner to have an exploratory conversation.

While neither suggestion is an obvious long-term solution, the exploration of both is the type of work many parishes will have to engage in as society continues to evolve to be more secular and the way we have always “done church” will need to adapt. This is not the first time this type of change has happened. Remember several years ago our Lenten study focused on the Great Emergence, the historical observation that every five hundred years a shift happens where society goes through a process of deconstructing its values and emerges changed from what it learned from the process of deconstruction. Episcopal scholar Phyllis Tickle wrote several books this process and went on extensive speaking tours to try to educate and encourage us through this process which is painful but there is hope. We are living into what she predicted. The bad news is this period of deconstruction will most likely last longer than any of our lifetimes (over a hundred years). The good news is the world, the church, and civilization has gone through this process before and survived. Some institutions changed, think of the Great Reformation and how it impacted the Roman Catholic Church five hundred years ago, but they survived. New things will emerge from this time, much like the Anglican Church, from which the Episcopal Church emerged, came to be five hundred years ago.

It is important to remember as we prayerfully consider exploring the invitation from Fr. Michael Ralf and the diocese, we do so with curiosity and resist the temptation to think we know how it will work out. When there is uncertainty, there is temptation to replace it with what we think we know. This is how misinformation can spread. Instead, let’s be prayerful. Let’s be curious. Let’s be on the lookout for the Holy Spirit and what God is calling us to in this time. While it is a difficult time, it is the time we are living in, and no matter the time we live in, as followers of Jesus Christ, we can look to him for our stability, and remember our call to live God’s Kingdom of Heaven as best we can in whatever time we are in, however that might look.

If you have questions about both or either invitation, or want to learn more, please reach out to a vestry member or warden or Mother Deborah.

Coming up on the Calendar

Sunday, January 22, 9:15 a.m. - - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 22, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, January 24, 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl Meeting (Nehls Hall)

Sunday, January 29, 9:15 a.m. - - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 29, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, February 5, 9:15 a.m. - - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, February 5, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist (Burning palm branches)

Sunday, February 5, 2:00 p.m. - - Good Shepherd Annual Meeting (via Zoom)

Sunday, February 12, 9:15 a.m. - - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, February 12, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, February 14, 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl Meeting (Nehls Hall)

Sunday, February 19, 9:15 a.m. - - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, February 19, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, February 19, 3:00 p.m. - - Celebration Concert II featuring our Choral Scholars and other guests.

Wednesday, February 22, 11:30 p.m. - - Ashes to Go

Wednesday, February 22, 5:30 p.m. - - Service from Book of Common Prayer

Sunday, February 26, 9:15 a.m. - - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, February 26, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, February 28, 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl Meeting (Nehls Hall)

Schedules

Coffee Hour Schedule

Jan. 22 Alex Buckley

Jan. 29 Lynn Graham

Open Dates for Altar Flowers

January 22

January 29

[To Altar Flowers Procedure](#)

Notes & Announcements

Nominating Committee Report

The purpose of the Nominating Committee is to invite individuals to participate in the various positions overseeing the life and stages of the parish. This year's committee consisted of outgoing vestry members Anne Braxton, Doug Dygas, and Sharon Huge. Mother Deborah was chairperson and Senior Warden Alex Buckley served in support.

Senior Warden: Alex Buckley (may serve three consecutive one-year terms, this will be her third year)

Junior Warden: Deb Hillard (may serve three consecutive one-year terms, this will be her first year)

Treasurer: Allyn Reilly (may serve unlimited consecutive one-year terms)

Vestry: Elect two individuals to serve three-year term: Norm Fox and Malin Irwin

Delegates to Diocesan Convention: Anne Walker and Allyn Reilly

(We may send up to 4 delegates, the wardens automatically serve as other two delegates)

Alternate Delegates to Diocesan Convention (serve in case delegates cannot attend): Lois Wagner and Curt Sherman

Reports for Annual Meeting Due Jan. 27

Anyone who oversees a ministry at Church of the Good Shepherd, please write a brief report on the ministry and submit it to Barb in the church office no later than Friday, January 27 so she can put them in the annual report.

Thank you for writing a report and thank you for your ministry.

Annual Meeting Sunday, February 5 at 2:00 p.m.

Please join us for the annual meeting of the parish Sunday, February 5 at 2:00 pm. The meeting will be held on **zoom** to make it accessible for those concerned with weather and mobility challenges.

The purpose of the Annual Meeting is primarily to vote on new vestry, wardens, treasurer, etc. and be presented with the parish's budget for the year. We also express gratitude for the ministry that has been done over the

previous year and learn about upcoming events and programs.

Looking forward to another year of ministry at Church of the Good Shepherd.



Burning of the Palm Branches Sunday February 19

On the last Sunday in the season of Epiphany, it is tradition to burn the palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday service to make the ashes that will be used on Ash Wednesday. Although we purchase ashes for the service, we can still practice the enjoyable tradition of burning palm branches. It's fun for all ages and an ancient practice in the church.

The Sunday service will conclude with the burning of the palm branches from last year's Palm Sunday service. If you still have your palm branches, remember to bring them that morning. If you can't be with us in person that day, feel free to drop last year's branches off at the church and we'll throw them in the fire for you.

Ash Wednesday February 22, 2023

Ashes to Go 11:30 – 12:30

Mother Deborah will be distributing ashes on the front porch of the church.



Service from the *Book of Common Prayer* 5:30 pm

Please join us as you are able for this lovely liturgy to begin the season of Lent.



Holy Week Schedule

We will continue to observe the ancient church tradition of holding special liturgies during Holy Week. Please consider joining us in person or online.

April 2 - Palm Sunday 10:30 am

Service will begin on the porch for the blessing of the palms.

April 6 - Maundy Thursday 7:30 pm

A simplified service from the Book of Common Prayer commemorating Jesus' last night before his death.

April 7 - Good Friday 12:00

We are holding this Book of Common Prayer service at the traditional time of noon.

April 8 - Great Vigil of Easter 7:30 pm

This year's vigil will be an intimate worship service reflecting on the resurrection.

**Masks now optional
at Church of the Good Shepherd**

Dear Parishioners, I have heard your continued fatigue over wearing masks to care for each other. Even though there are a lot of reasons to keep the masks, they are now optional.

Thank you to everyone who supported the decision to wear masks and who did so without complaint.

I apologize for any harm my concern and desire to care for the health of everyone has caused. That was not my intent. My intent was to keep everyone as healthy as possible, for your benefit and the smooth running of worship and ministry. Back in seminary – long before the pandemic – I was taught to take precautions lest I unintentionally spread viruses, disease, or germs to others. My professors cautioned there are places and people that are at higher risk than others that clergy need to be aware of. This training helped me adapt to the changes suggested by health officials when the pandemic started, but I see this is not the case with others. I have been keeping track of the weekly covid updates for Athens County, always hopeful the situation would stabilize with a positivity rate below 5%. Although that has not yet happened, I understand you are all frustrated with continued practices and for that reason I am no longer requiring masks.

For those with health concerns and the immunocompromised and others for whom this change is distressing, you are free to wear masks, and I hope it will not negatively impact your participation. I also hope we will continue our practice to be respectful to those who continue to practice caution and wear masks.

I hope you all can be understanding about my decisions past and present and

forgive me.

Many Blessings,

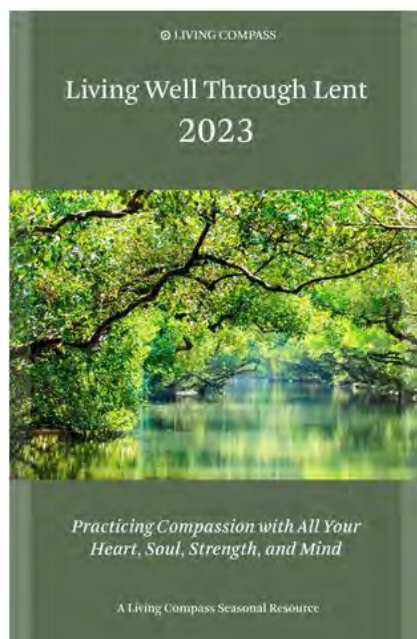
Mother Deborah

Something to Look Forward To: Lenten Program Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m.

Practicing Compassion

"In order to prepare for the new life of Easter, we need to be intentional about discerning what it truly means to practice compassion with our whole being." – the Rev. Scott Stoner

Compassion might be one of the expressions of love we could really use and could make an important impact right now. Even if it is something we value and appreciate, the practice of compassion can get lost in the stuff of our lives. This year's Lenten devotional from Living Compass reminds us anything we value needs to be expressed in our lives and sometimes we need to practice these values like a master musician practices music not to master them, but to make them an integral part of our lives. To help us with this practice, we are offering weekly discussions based on the Practicing Compassion with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind devotionals.



If you do not already have a copy, we have a few books at the church to give away or you can download a free PDF version, or order an e-book from Amazon (\$.99) -- see **LIVING WELL THROUGH LENT** 2023: Practicing Compassion

We'll be meeting Wednesdays during Lent in Nehls Hall.

March 1 *Compassion and Faith*
March 8 *Compassion and Listening*
March 15 *Compassion and Prayer*
March 22 *Compassion and Mercy*
March 29 *Compassion and Well-Being*

Please consider joining us. Bring your lunch and together we'll pray the Noonday prayer in the Book of Common Prayer and discuss the readings and reflections from the Lenten devotional.

We are looking forward to returning to the Lenten Program tradition at Church of the Good Shepherd!



The Diocese
of Southern Ohio

From the Standing Committee: Profile Released; Nominations for Bishop Open until February 28

"The Standing Committee is pleased to share with you the profile of our diocese prepared by the Bishop Nominating Committee as we search for our 10th Bishop... The Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for bishop until midnight on February 28...."

[Read the profile here.](#)

Repeats & More

Bishop Transition News/Updates -- [Follow this link](#) --



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.

We are still selling Deeper Roots Coffee Beans. \$15 for a 1 pound bag and \$12 for half pound. Please contact Michael Luelloff at michael.luelloff@hotmail.com if you want to purchase a bag.

If you want to help the folks who have been negatively impacted by climate disaster and war anywhere in the world please consider contributing to **Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD)** which is the official ministry of the Episcopal Church. You can select which fund, such as Ukraine Crisis Response.



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Contacts & Information

Contact Information

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
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chogs@chogs.org
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[DONATE to Good Shepherd](#)

This takes you to the 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.

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