

# Good News

Church of the Good Shepherd, Athens, Ohio

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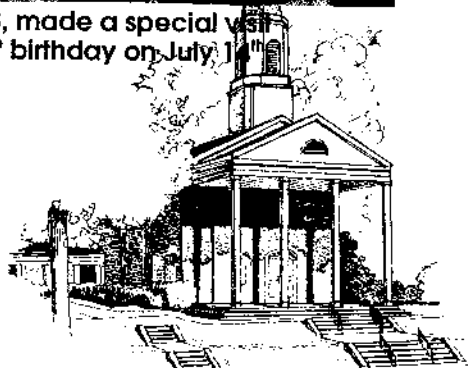
## August 2002



Sr. Faith Margaret, CHS, made a special visit to Elsa Stout for her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Inside . . .

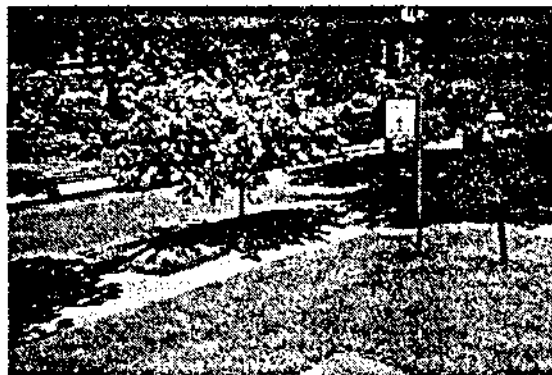
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The Episcopal Church on the Campus of Ohio University  
Since 1875 - Established 1907 - Parish 1958

George Cohen  
1980

## View from the Terrace (Vestry Highlights)



There are two items in particular that we all need to think about and will start with these.

First, Al Topping presented the plans for

the 2002 Every Member Canvass. He spoke of the notion of 'pacesetting' and challenged the Vestry and Officers to provide a 100% commitment in setting the pace for the canvass. Around the September 3<sup>rd</sup> a letter and envelope will be sent to parishioners and a second letter will follow. There will be four meetings in homes of parishioners to examine, in positive terms, the direction the Church and build a consensus. Final details and venue are forthcoming, but there will be meetings on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup>.

Second, the Vestry discussed a letter from Eugene Jennings outlining a generous offer of his Steinway Grand Piano and an accompanying letter from Marsha Reilly. Vestry members were intrigued by the Music Program and Outreach possibilities and by opportunities or changes needed in the Nave if the gift is accepted. They toured the Nave and discussed possibilities and will seek wide input on this matter.

### **Other Highlights:**

The Rector reported that Convention time is approaching (Dayton, November 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, 2002) and now is the time for input and designating delegates. Ed Payne has taken a music position at Wright State University. Russelle Thompson needs our prayers. The Rector also reported on the recent Appalachian Ministry meeting in Hillsboro and outlined the frequent good use of Good Shepherd facilities and resources this summer.

**Ted Foster,**  
**Newsletter Editor**

## Senior Warden's Comments

Some people think nothing goes on in the summer around church. It seems to me it is "business as usual" plus some very interesting as well as entertaining events.

The usual monthly meetings, Wednesday Lunch, Kids on Campus, St. Paul's (Dayton) Youth Group, and NAMI using the Undercroft, services at Lindley Inn and last but not least Elsa Stout's 94<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration - all happening this summer - much of it in July.

Elsa's birthday on July 14<sup>th</sup> was a day full of nice surprises and many cards. Probably Elsa's biggest surprise was Sr. Faith Margaret's unexpected arrival from New York City. The afternoon started with a Eucharist at Lindley Inn followed by a birthday party. In addition to Sr. Faith Margaret, Elsa's daughter Martha from West Virginia, a long time good friend Helen Gray, Good Shepherd parishioners and Lindley Inn residents all helped make the occasion festive.

On Wednesday I visited Elsa and found her still smiling and happy and saying what a wonderful party it was and how grateful she was to all those wonderful friends who came to help her celebrate. It was a fun time.

In addition to all of that the two flowering crab trees have been planted - one in memory of John Farley given by Good Shepherd friends and one in memory of Arthur Larson given by Joanne Larson. Plaques will be placed on these trees at a later date.

As you know, the back and front steps have been replaced and it is now "pay-back" time. \$5,600 was borrowed from our endowment to pay the bill. We need to repay this. To date we have received \$2,030. In the Undercroft you will find a chart which will keep you up-dated on the amount we have received and the amount still needed. Check it out! (Pun intended)

Thanks to all who have already donated to both the tree project and the STEP project.

Plans are being made now for the Annual Eucharist and Family Picnic at Strouds Run on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2002. Mark your calendars now; you don't want to miss it! More information will be coming soon.

And some people think nothing goes on in the summer?

Have a happy August! See you in church.

**Julia Nehls**  
**Senior Warden**

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## Annual Strouds Run Eucharist and Picnic

**Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**10:00 a.m.**



**meat, drinks, paper products provided**

**Families are asked to bring  
a covered dish to share!**

# MONEY TALK\$

I am taking this opportunity to provide a midyear overview of our parish financial situation as I see it. In the short run, we are doing okay. We are close to our budgeted amounts on both expenses and income. The response so far to covering the cost of replacing the front steps has been gratifying. We have raised \$2,030 of the \$5,600. Since the money to cover the repair was taken from the Endowment, this \$2,030 will be returned to the Endowment and should be there by July 30<sup>th</sup>.

It will not be long before we will begin the planning for the 2003 budget. I have said before and say again that as a congregation we are generous in our stewardship and faithful in paying the pledges we make. I am confident we will respond again with our annual pledges as generously as we have before.

However, in the long run, our financial situation and our future financial prospects have gone from troublesome to perilous. When I became Treasurer the first time, in January of 1998, our Endowment stood at \$723,591. One year later it was almost \$801,000. Our budgets at that time were in the \$170 - 180 K range. As of this writing, our Endowment balance is \$514,791. Our Endowment is down 10.6% from the start of this year alone. This means that our Endowment, and the income it provides, is about two thirds of what it was less than four years ago. Meanwhile, our 2002 budget is in excess of \$200,000.

I know what has been happening in the stock market, and I know a lot of the shrinkage comes from the general decline in the value of securities. Without a doubt, the market will eventually recover, and in time part of this shrinkage will be restored. But this is not the only reason for the alarming deterioration in one of our chief sources of income.

The fact is that we have been living beyond our means for several years. Also, during our time of relative plenty we did not take care to provide for future periods of economic slowdown. The slowdown is now here, and our financial reserves are almost to the point of no return. Under present conditions I do not believe we have the resources to support a \$200,000 annual budget in F.Y. 2003.

In my opinion we can address the coming budget crisis in one or all of four ways:

1. Increase our overall 2003 parish pledge income by a minimum of \$30,000 above our 2002 level - an increase of about \$450 per year per pledging unit.

2. Have an immediate, professionally conducted, feasibility study followed by a full-scale capital campaign to be started within the next six months.
3. Order Wall Street to raise the Dow-Jones average 4,000 points by the end of the year and to raise it to 13,000 by the end of 2003.
4. Reduce our 2003 parish services to the level our 2003 income will support.

It is my belief that if at least one of these steps is not taken, the future of Good Shepherd as a self-supporting parish will be a matter of serious doubt.

But there is reason for optimism. In my relatively short time in Good Shepherd I have seen many examples of astounding generosity. I also perceive the genuine love for the Church and for our parish even in the voices of those opposed to my ideas on how to proceed. Nobody should underestimate the gravity of the situation, but understanding the problem is the first step to finding a solution. I am convinced that if we unite and work together we will become a stronger parish than ever.

I greet you in the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Jack Flemming,  
Treasurer**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Gene Jennings has graciously offered his Steinway grand piano for use in the Nave of the Church. Acceptance of this offer would necessitate relocation of the baptismal font and removal of at least one pew. The Vestry recommends the church-at-large register its comments, questions, and suggestions with Allyn Reilly, Junior Warden. Gene Jennings was unanimously thanked for the generosity of his offer, and a letter of appreciation was sent to him.
- Marsha Reilly will be giving an organ demonstration on Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, following the service. Anyone of any age is welcome!
- The Parish Administrator will be on vacation the week of August 5<sup>th</sup>.

## A Season of Thanksgiving

On the first Sunday in July while visiting England I went to a Baptist church in a suburb of London to be part of a thanksgiving service for the birth and health of twin babies born last December to friends of mine. John and Lisa Dawson—for whom you may remember praying last fall—had been married for fourteen years when in the early spring of 2001 doctors told them that they could not have children. Then she found that she was pregnant. You can imagine their joy, and that of their friends and family.

Just a year ago now, in early August—two weeks after they discovered that the expected baby was actually twins—John had a terrible accident. Riding his motorbike to work in a London bank, he was hit by a truck. When I talked to Lisa a few days later she told me that he was on life support; clearly no one expected him to live. But he did. Then they told her that he would be in a permanently vegetative state. But pretty soon he began to squeeze her hand, first spontaneously and then in response to questions.

On December 26 and 27, miraculously, John was able to be present as Lisa gave birth first to Keir Aelred Carlyon Dawson and then to Rose Bryony Carlyon Dawson. Today all four of them are living together, John still struggling to see and walk and speak normally, but absolutely sound of mind; I got email from him the other day saying that Lisa had left him with the babies for the morning.

So July 7 was a day, as you can imagine, of great thanksgiving. As Lisa said during the service, "I could have been the only one of the four of us here today." The babies—not yet baptized, of course, because their parents are Baptists—have been welcomed into the family of God, and while they haven't yet been marked as Christ's own forever, I have no doubt but that Christ knows them as his, and loves him.

The night before the service John told me that he thought churches without believers' baptism were less involved with the congregants' children than, for example, Baptists are. I don't agree, or see the logic, but I didn't see any need to argue. The next day, though, I got some idea of what he was talking about. That church, the size of Good Shepherd or a little larger, was packed solid, front to back and side to side. A lot of the crowd was kids. Kids and kids and kids, from babies through teenagers. The sermon (pretty weak, I thought) explored what the Bible says about sports; and different people got up to speak, talked to the kids, explained why they themselves played cricket or soccer or tennis, asked what teams the children liked and why—and the children were there, active, involved. A children's choir sang, and then we sang the song they had just taught us. It was not my kind of church or my

kind of service or my kind of sermon—but I'll tell you, I knew myself to be in the presence of joy and community and love, of God and of God's people.

The children in that church were all unbaptized. They had been welcomed into the family, as Keir and Rose were that day, with prayers and hymns, but so far the parishioners had not vowed to support them as Christians. There was no question, though, but that the baptized members were loving and caring for the unbaptized among them: every person there was part of the church, known and loved by all the others. The adults had every intention of bringing those kids to the point of declaring their faith and walking forward to baptism.

### The Point of the Story

All of us, whether at Good Shepherd or elsewhere, have repeatedly answered the question addressed to the whole congregation during Holy Baptism: "Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life of Christ?" We probably have different views about what we are pledging when we say together "We will." I always understand my response as a commitment not only to the person or persons being baptized at the moment but to all of those at whose baptism I was not present. I don't always do anything about it—but I know what I'm promising, and what we all promise together as members of the family of God. It is no accident that the baptismal service leads into the Eucharist, the great service of our Thanksgiving to God, for Baptism admits the newly baptized into the family of God, those who together share in the Eucharistic feast, to give thanks to God for his great goodness in the Incarnation, Death, and Resurrection of his Son. Together all the baptized are called to share in the foretaste of the heavenly banquet, in a communal act of thanksgiving.

But having our children already baptized doesn't mean that we can turn away from their education in the faith. We have as great a responsibility to help them persevere as Baptists do to bring their children to baptism.

Our Christian Education program is an essential part of that responsibility. Right now we are formulating next year's program for the children, youth, college students, and adults of Church of the Good Shepherd. The question those plans raise for each of us is really not how but whether we will support the other members of our family, all those who have been, in our presence or not, marked as Christ's own forever.

Briefly—I'll spell it all out more fully next month—in addition to the kindergarten class under the talented leadership of Elisabeth Shepherd,



we are going to try having the junior church school class meet not on Sunday morning but on one Sunday evening a month for supper, a movie, and discussion. I would like to have two adults leading each of these sessions, probably lasting an hour and a half. One of my ideas is to invite college students to help out with these sessions, as one way of incorporating them into the life of the parish rather than separating them out as a distinct body. At the moment we have no specific plans for the youth group; I intend to meet with them in early September to ask what they would like; then I will invite some of you to support them in carrying out their goals. The fall's confirmation class already has two members, and we will also schedule an adult Inquirers' class, probably in the late fall. Finally, we need to talk about organizing another adult education class or two, perhaps to explore questions of Christian spirituality or liturgy.

As we try some different things this year for the children, young people, and college students, I invite you to sign up to help. I invite anyone who is interested in participating, helping, or leading any of these activities to contact me at 594-5121 or [dutton@ohiou.edu](mailto:dutton@ohiou.edu). Let us work together in the school of God's service, learning from and with one another, and leading our children into God's kingdom, that we may all join forever in saying "thanks be to God."

**Marsha Dutton**  
**Christian Formation Coordinator**

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

All those who have an interest in planning next year's Christian Education program are invited to a meeting in Hobson Lounge after church on Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. The main topic will be plans for the children and youth of Good Shepherd, but we will also discuss the ideas that are underway for interesting and interacting with university students and would be delighted for additional suggestions and will start planning for an expanded Adult Education Program.

However we approach Christian Education for the children, youth, and adults of the parish this year, we need leaders for groups of all ages. Those who taught, organized and led groups last year were committed, energetic, and full of ideas, but many of them will not be able to continue this year. If we are to do this vital work of the church we must all share in the responsibility. Please volunteer; call or write Marsha Dutton at 594-5121 or [dutton@ohiou.edu](mailto:dutton@ohiou.edu).

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup>: Ted & Katharin Foster,  
Anniversary
- Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>: Megan Reilly, birthday
- Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>: Andrew & Susan (Culp) Saunders,  
Anniversary
- Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>: Hank Dean, birthday  
NAMI Photo Workshop  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Undercroft
- Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>: Paul Hillard, birthday  
Caitlin Reilly-Schave, birthday  
Dutch Savage, birthday  
Gene & Virginia (Twig) Kaufman, anniversary  
Free Wednesday Lunch  
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m., Undercroft
- Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup>: Earl Funk, birthday  
Doug & Michele Parsons, anniversary  
NAMI Photo Workshop  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Undercroft
- Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup>: Jean Fieler, birthday  
Ginny Isele, birthday
- Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>: Ron & Ginny Isele, anniversary
- Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup>: Richard & Lyn Butrick,  
anniversary
- Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>: NAMI Photo Workshop  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Undercroft
- Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>: Free Wednesday Lunch  
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m., Undercroft
- Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup>: Larry Burke, birthday  
Brian Coleman, birthday  
Randy & Cita Purdy, anniversary  
NAMI Photo Workshop  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Undercroft

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup>:** Patrick Palmer, birthday  
Robert & June Wieman, anniversary
- Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup>:** Liz Sinclair, birthday  
James & Janice Gault, anniversary
- Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>:** NAMI Photo Workshop  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Undercroft
- Wednesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>:** Tom Daniels, birthday  
Irene Gevas, birthday  
Terry & Betsy (Larson) Wetmore, anniversary  
Free Wednesday Lunch  
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m., Undercroft
- Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>:** T. J. Luce, birthday  
NAMI Photo Workshop  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Undercroft  
Vestry Meeting  
7:30 p.m., Hobson Lounge
- Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>:** Reid Sinclair, birthday  
Allyn & Marsha Reilly, anniversary
- Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>:** Bruce & Jane Ergood, anniversary
- Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup>:** Cynthia Kaldis, birthday  
Mark & Susan Enlow, anniversary
- Tuesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>:** Alania Miller, birthday  
NAMI Photo Workshop  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Undercroft
- Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>:** Tom & Anne Walker, Anniversary  
Free Wednesday Lunch  
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m., Undercroft
- Thursday, August 29<sup>th</sup>:** Pat Grean, birthday  
Arvin & Jeanne Wells, anniversary  
NAMI Photo Workshop  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Undercroft