

# Good SHEPHERD News

*Church of the Good Shepherd, Athens, Ohio*

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## December 2002



**The dessert table at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.**

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

*George G. 2002*

# View from the Terrace

The illness and death of a loved one draw out those requisite emotions and processes we all are destined to experience at some point in our lives. Here is the story of a gift that Mom was able to provide my brother and myself in a somewhat uncanny way she would certainly have found amusing. Our mother wished to be cremated and her ashes spread on the Ohio River as were our dad's over 50 years ago. "No funeral," Mom instructed, but a memorial service for family and friends would be o.k. My brother and I wanted to check out the Willis Funeral Home in Gallipolis for the service. This jaunt would also be a good time to spread Mom's ashes, so we picked them up from Jagers Funeral Home.

We had in mind, perhaps a cup or so of ashes, but actually there is quite a bit. There was certainly enough to place around those spots special to Mom and Dad, and ourselves, still leaving most for the river. The first task was finding a proper utensil to spread the ashes, a large measuring spoon with a nice handle worked out fine. I scattered some on the pond and creek on our place, my brother scattered some in the woods at his place and we headed for Gallipolis. Willis Funeral Home met our needs, so we started our mission to scatter the ashes. We were not sure in regards to the legality of this activity and felt need for some discreteness in any case. We commenced to visit some of the spots where as children over fifty years ago we had spent happy, innocent times.

Our first stop was the boat marina where our parents' friend, Catfish, had lived on a houseboat. As soon as we emerged from the car to distribute some ashes, it seems every cabin cruiser keeper in southeast Ohio suddenly materialized to watch, and we realized we needed to do something about that canister! Placing the canister in a grocery bag we spotted a secluded spot and scattered several scoops, and then toured some cabin cruisers for sale (wow!) - adding a cruiser to our growing wish list.

Next stop, our mother's niece wanted to scatter ashes amongst some peonies mom had planted and she divided the roots so we each could take and plant some ourselves. Then, up to Mound Hill Cemetery overlooking the river (where our parents have a stone) - what a view!

Now we were ready for the primary objective, back to town and the beautiful Ohio River itself. However, lost to progress were those special places where my brother and I scampered along the shore picking up old bottles, insulators, driftwood, and we settled for the public dock at the city park. We spotted the farthest extending dock; no one was there.

(Let it be said my brother and I do stand out a bit - I am an aging man with a beard and pony tail, straw hat, and my brother has long white flyaway hair, a beard to match, suspenders, leather hat.)

We parked, garnered the canister and started to the dock whereupon a family, their car burgeoning with children, pulled up to watch the river barges and the kids immediately pointed shouting - "Mommy! Daddy! What are those funny men doing?" Every head in southeastern Ohio turns toward us. Being in possession of a disguised canister of white powder, we did not want to draw attention, so we drove on to another dock.

At last, some solitude, quiet ceremony - we relaxed on the dock, talked of memories, and taking turns to discretely toss ashes into the water, watching the powder swirl about, dissolve, and disappear in the current.

We saved the last bit of ashes for two more stops. First, near the old wing of the original Holzer Hospital in the formal garden, then, on to the home place we had spent our first decade of life. The house has been torn down, the land now occupied by a farm implement dealer and a Sears store. However, the now quite large live evergreens we had planted every Christmas were spared. We parked, started for the trees. Alas, there was that same family, that car stuffed full of kids, each and every one of them pointing at us! So we moved on to the outer reaches of the implements area and examined old tractors - adding these more affordable tractors to our growing wish list. By then the noisy family was gone, and we quietly spread the last ashes beneath the leaves under those wonderful trees.

Mom's gift - even in this world of change where so much is lost never to return - it is about family, home, and a deep-down knowing where you belong. My wife and I have lived in Athens much of our lives, but my brother and his wife have just recently returned from California to this area upon their retirements. Other than the occasional visit, our entire adult lives have been away from each other, and away from Gallipolis. So beyond raising us, and bestowing those many, many gifts along the way, the now precious memories, our mother's last gift is providing the setting for my brother and me to bond, to become brothers again, to really settle into our roots, to fully understand what home really means and that both we, and our mother, have returned home.

**Ted Foster,  
Newsletter Editor**

## Senior Warden's Comments



"Away in a manger, no crib for a bed ..."

That was the very first Christmas carol I learned when I was about 3 years old. I think I still remember all the words. I think nostalgia has set in because I remember a story my mother told about me at age 2 and it goes like this:

It was the Church Christmas Program and I was the youngest participant. When my turn came to speak I walked to the front, climbed the three steps to the platform, and stood looking at the sea of faces. I refused to speak. Both my Sunday School teacher and my mother tried to help but to no avail. Finally my mother got close enough to prompt me, assuming I had forgotten my lines. At that point I said to her, "I'll say it after everyone goes home." Thus ended my debut. (I think all I had to say was Merry Christmas.)

Even now, I sometimes feel that way when trying to come up with the right words. Writing is often easier so let me remind you of the Advent Festival of Lessons and Music on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 p.m. And following the service there will be our annual Reception and Mini Holiday House in the Undercroft.

On Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, Bishop Thompson will be here for Confirmations. There will be a reception following the service honoring those being confirmed as well as for the Bishop.

Everything leads to our Christmas Eve Services - music beginning at 10:00 p.m. followed by the celebration of the Eucharist at 10:30 p.m.

The spirit of Christmas is upon us! I am sure everyone is busy making lists, baking, humming carols, listening to children's wishes - all making it feel like Christmas. Let us not forget the true meaning of Christmas - come celebrate and rejoice together at church on Christmas Eve. "May the true spirit of this Christmas season...its joys, its beauty, its hopes, and above all, its abiding faith, live among us."

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

## Wednesday Lunch

Those of you who helped in any way with the Wednesday Free Lunch Program's Thanksgiving Dinner on November 20<sup>th</sup> can rejoice in the fact that there were 84 servings offered! We received many heartfelt thanks from our guests, including one from a person who never ordinarily speaks to anyone and from a newly-pensioned veteran who has just moved to Athens and has visited us several times since his arrival. He sees our program as "a true Christian service to the community" and he is most grateful.

We thank all of you who continue to donate time, food and money. We also appreciated the three turkeys given to us by Kroger's and Bob's IGA West store.

**Joanne Larson  
Helen Marsh  
Pat Grean  
Joan Waldron  
Nancy Smith  
Jim Mowery,  
The Wednesday Lunch Crew**

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### *Youth Group Happenings*

The Youth Group this year has reassembled after the summer with vigor. With direction from leaders Genevieve Gilson and Marsha Dutton the group members have produced some fresh ideas for future projects.

**As** Christmas nears the group plans to fund-raise money to buy gifts for the less fortunate. Other proposals include various service projects and a possible basketball game with the youth group of another church.

It is already apparent that it will be an exciting year for the youth group of Good Shepherd.

*Ce Ci Ruchti  
Youth Group Member*

## December Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>: Morning Prayer Rite II  
10:30 a.m., Nave  
\*There will be no 8:00 a.m. worship service

Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>: Evening Prayer Rite I  
5:30 p.m., Nave

Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>: Holy Eucharist Rite I  
8:00 a.m., Bishop Black Chapel  
Holy Eucharist Rite II-B  
10:30 a.m., Nave  
Advent Festival of Lessons and Music  
4:00 p.m., Nave

Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>: Evening Prayer Rite I  
5:30 p.m., Nave

Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>: Holy Eucharist Rite I  
8:00 a.m., Bishop Black Chapel  
Holy Eucharist Rite II-B  
10:30 a.m., Nave

Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>: Evening Prayer Rite I  
5:30 p.m., Nave

Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>: Holy Eucharist Rite II-B  
Confirmations  
10:30 a.m., Nave  
\*There will be no 8:00 a.m. worship service

Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Music  
10:00 p.m., Nave  
Festal Nativity Eucharist Rite I  
10:30 p.m., Nave

Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>: Nine Lessons and Carols  
10:30 a.m., Nave  
\*There will be no 8:00 a.m. worship service

# MONEYTALKS

In August, a parishioner paid Good Shepherd \$750 to reserve a niche in our Columbarium. The receipt of this payment moved me to review the financial history of the Columbarium and to update the Vestry on where we stand on covering the original cost of its construction. Since many persons have joined Good Shepherd since the Columbarium was built, it is probably a good idea to review the financial history of the Columbarium for the entire congregation.

The Columbarium was built in the mid-nineties, before I came to Good Shepherd. I was informed of the salient facts during my first term as Treasurer, and I have verified my recollections with Anne Braxton, Julie Nehls, and Carolyn Murphree.

The cost of construction, exclusive of landscaping, was \$18,025. According to Carolyn Murphree, the architect graciously waived (his) fee for this project. The present capacity is 28 niches, of which **19** have been sold. Below is an outline of the income and expenses of the project to date.

\$18,025	Cost of construction
(1,000)	Anonymous gift
( 150)	Acknowledged gift
(6,000)	Sale of 12 niches @ \$500 each
<u>(5,250)</u>	Sale of 7 niches @ \$750 each
\$ 5,625	Columbarium deficit to date

According to my recollection of what I was told, along with the recollections of the above mentioned persons, the difference between the cost of construction and the amount that was raised at the time of construction was covered by "borrowing" from the **Endowment**. It is also their understanding that money raised from the subsequent sale of niches was to be paid back to the Endowment, at the very least until the amount "borrowed" was recovered.

I have not checked past Vestry minutes for further verification, nor have I seen a promissory note to this effect. Still, I am sufficiently

confident of my own recollections of what was told, along with the recollections of these three persons who were present at the time the decisions were made, to conclude that the above recitation of facts is accurate.

With this in mind, I asked Glenda to deposit the \$750 received for a niche in August to our account at the Appalachian Credit Union (which is part of our Endowment) said deposit to be construed as partial payment back to the Endowment of money "borrowed" to build the Columbarium in the first place.

It is my understanding that 9 niches remain unsold. With this in mind, the Vestry passed a motion that the Treasurer shall deposit any future payment for Columbarium niches directly back to the Endowment. At the present cost level, sale of future niches would realize \$6,750. Given the amount "borrowed" from the Endowment to build the Columbarium, neither I nor the Vestry feel this to be an unreasonable decision.

**Jack Flemming,  
Treasurer**

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Parishioners enjoy good food and fellowship at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

## **Holiday Stockings**

Salvation Army Christmas Stockings can be picked up in the parish office. Please return to church by Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. For more information, contact Sally Spero.

## **Mini Holiday House**

If anyone would like to contribute crafts or baked goods to our Mini Holiday House on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, it would be appreciated.

If you have any questions please call Betty Larson at 592-4847 or Julie Nehls at 593-7354.

## **Congratulations Kate**

Kate Orman has completed her course work at the Institute of Culinary Education in New York City.

John, Christy, and Phillip attended her graduation reception on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Kate began her externship at Blue Hill located just off Washington Square on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

**We are proud of you, Kate!**

## **All Parish Annual Meeting**

The All Parish Annual Meeting will be held, Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2003, following the 10:30 a.m. worship service in the Undercroft. Committee Reports are due in the Parish Office by Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

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

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>:** **Lucile Jennings, birthday**

**Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>:** Free Wednesday Lunch  
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m., Undercroft  
Choir Rehearsal  
7:15 p.m., Nave

**Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>:** Greek Orthodox Services  
8:30 a.m., Undercroft  
Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 am. - noon, Nave  
Ultreya Potluck  
5:30 p.m., Undercroft  
Ultreya Meeting  
6:30 p.m., Undercroft

**Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>:** **Lynn Graham, birthday**  
Advent Festival of Lessons and Music  
4:00 p.m., Nave  
Mini Holiday House and Reception  
following Advent Festival, Undercroft

**Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>:** Free Wednesday Lunch  
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m., Undercroft  
Choir Rehearsal  
7:15 p.m., Nave

**Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>:** **Betsy Irwin, birthday**  
**Jim Karageorge, birthday**

**Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>:** **Jane Ergood, birthday**  
Buckalew/Sommer Wedding Rehearsal  
6:30 p.m., Nave

**Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>:** **Abi Morgan, birthday**  
**Andy Morgan, birthday**  
Maria Buckalew/Neil Sommers Wedding  
2:30 p.m., Nave

**Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>:** **Peter Williams, birthday**

**Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>:** **Levi Lackey, birthday**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>: Free Wednesday Lunch  
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m., Undercroft  
Choir Rehearsal  
7:15 p.m., Nave
- Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>: Marsha Dutton, birthday
- Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>: Don Randolph, birthday
- Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>: Joanne Larson, birthday
- Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>: Karen Evans-Romaine, birthday  
Jim Mowery, birthday  
Al Topping, birthday  
Jim & Lynn Graham-Mowery, anniversary
- Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>: Shawn Parsons, birthday  
Parish Office Closed  
No Wednesday Lunch
- Friday, December 27<sup>th</sup>: Karen Bump, birthday  
Sheppard & Peggy Black, anniversary
- Monday, December 30<sup>th</sup>: Andrew Culp, birthday  
George Karageorge, birthday  
Al & Margaret Topping, anniversary

