

Good SHEPHERD News

Church of the Good Shepherd, Athens, Ohio

July
2006



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

An Invitation to Sabbath Rest

O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(BCP, p. 832)

I must confess that in my more militant and agitated moments I resent the call of this much beloved prayer, based on Psalm 46, “for quiet confidence.” I’ve even been known to pun on the name and refer to it as the prayer “for *quietist* confidence,” quietism being the heresy that moral effort is unnecessary because God has already taken care of everything on our behalf. I come from a family and a culture where being “hard driven” is highly valued.

But this beautiful prayer teaches us something that we all need to know. The world does not depend upon us, but upon the God who loves it into being. God’s love and presence are not contingent on our success. God keeps on loving each of us, whether we do our part or not.

We can relax, because God loves us no matter what. Labor and rest can return to their proper rhythm, and our lives can achieve much needed balance. At its best, our labor is our collaboration with God. We are God’s joyful servants and covenant partners. At its worst, our labor becomes death-dealing drudgery. Sabbath observance was originally meant to provide rest from manual labor. Those who remembered hard lives of slavery in Egypt kept it gratefully. When others are doing the driving, being “hard driven” is not nearly so attractive.

Beloved, in the months of summer, many of us enjoy much needed recreation. For some of us, it is harder to find than it is for others. Even if our bodies are not weary, our spirits are. We need to find time to rest in God’s loving presence and to readjust our lives to a more human pace. According to Jesus, God commands us to keep the Sabbath, because it is good for us. The Sabbath was made for human beings and not the other way around.

Those of us who have time for recreation this summer would do well to remember what a rare blessing it is. May we use this time to renew our relationship with God, with each other, and with the earth. And to remember those who have no rest—or not nearly enough. In this world, too many still make bricks with far too little straw.

Even on the Sabbath, Jesus teaches us, God is still at work (See John, chapter 5). So too are many of us. Whether we are at work or resting, may we pray and work for that day of peace and justice when none will hunger and all will rest in the near presence of God.

Bill

The Rev. Dr. R. William Carroll

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOR PASTORAL NEEDS, including baptism, please contact our rector, the Rev. Bill Carroll. Fr. Carroll can be reached at the parish office at 593-6877 or by e-mail at gsrector@gmail.com. For emergencies he can be reached at Wid Elsbree's home at 593-6884 or his cell phone 590-7106.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP organizational meetings will occur in late July. If your family has a child or young person who would like to participate, please call the parish office at 593-6877.

THE PARISH OFFICE will be closed Monday & Tuesday, July 3rd & 4th.

POTLUCK PICNIC: There will be a Potluck Picnic Sunday, July 9th, following the 9:30 a.m. worship service. Bring your favorite picnic dish and welcome Tracey, Rachel, and Danny Carroll.

ULTREYA: There will be an Ultreya Potluck that will be followed by a meeting on Friday, July 14th, at 5:30 p.m. in Nehls Hall.

THE PARISH ADMINISTRATOR will be on vacation beginning Monday, July 17th, and will return to work Monday, July 24th.

OPEN DATES FOR ALTAR FLOWERS are August 6th, September 3rd, & 17th and October 1st, 15th, 22nd. To reserve one of the above dates call the parish office at 593-6877.

Vestry Highlights for June 21st

- **Endowment:** The Vestry approved a measure to instruct our bank to reallocate endowment assets as needed to maintain a 50-50 balance between the growth and income funds.
- **Recycling:** Phyllis Dean described how the dishwasher malfunctioned during a recent large event and people were left with many dishes to wash the next day. Jane Forrest Redfern noted that deliberations and research regarding recycling has not really started and that no one wants to create a nightmare for anyone. Fr. Carroll suggested that we may need to make sure that we have additional volunteers, beyond those who already work at Wednesday lunch, if we decide to eliminate the use of paper and plastic.
- **Property:** Curt Sherman reported the dishwasher has been fixed. A handicapped restroom was discussed, including longer term goals on accessibility, elevator, etc. In the short term, to meet an immediate need, the Vestry voted to purchase a special seat fixture, to be placed in the office restroom. Curt also noted that all rooms in the Episcopal House are now rented.
- **Signs:** Fr. Carroll outlined needs in this area. Most important is a large outside sign, with some flexibility to advertise special services and events. This will help to clearly identify Good Shepherd as an active worshipping congregation in the Episcopal Church and to take better advantage of our location to welcome new members into our community. Better inside signs and additional exterior signs are also needed to make our space more hospitable to newcomers. After discussion, the Vestry authorized Fr. Carroll and Ann Braxton to investigate zoning requirements, have a design created, and secure bids for construction of an exterior sign. The goal is accept a bid at the July Vestry meeting and install it by the fall.
- **Space for Sunday School:** As an interim measure, Fr. Carroll would like two classrooms (in addition to the nursery) in place by this fall. The nursery should be spotless, clean, attractive, and safe. We need two paid nursery workers and six to eight volunteer teachers. We also need curriculum and training for the teachers. Phyllis Dean, Liz Sinclair, and Kathleen Sullivan, and likely others, will assist Fr. Carroll on this project.

- **Committees:** Additional committees are appropriate for Good Shepherd: an Outreach Committee to be chaired by Jane Forrest Redfern; a New Member Committee, chaired by Ann Rathbun; and an Education Committee, to help develop a comprehensive program of Christian formation for children, youth, and adults.
- **Replacement for Karen Evans-Romaine:** Karen has received a Fulbright Fellowship and will remain in Russia for a year. The Vestry appointed Geoff Buckley to finish her term.

Ted Foster **Secretary for the Vestry**

A Letter from our Seminarian

Dear Friends,

Sundays just aren't going to be the same for me. I know: It's about worshipping God, not about the environment. But I've grown accustomed to cinching that ill-fitting white robe and to watching the kids I've served with smack their foreheads in amusement when I get nervous and do something wrong. I keep thinking that with enough experience I will one day serve as they do, with enviable self-confidence and without the need to get it right every time or die trying.

I've learned a lot from those terrific kids, just as I've learned so much from so many of you. No names; you know who you are: the woman who brought me into service in the church and guided my every move with her calm wisdom; the woman who has checked in every so often with a verse, a note, a clipping, a film – and words of kindness; the academic mentor who fed my growing appetite for more and better understanding of our church; the older man who shared his generosity; the woman who reached out from her own pain to help me bear my own; the woman who shared her journey with me and helped to pave my own road; my companion in the sacristy; those with whom I began to discover the wonder and frustration of contemplative prayer; the Marthas; the Community of the Holy Spirit associates . . .

I could go on, of course. I'm sure each one of us could compose a similar inventory of Good Shepherd parishioners who have helped to share not only our spiritual lives, but our lives in the world.

I thank you for your support and fellowship. More than that, I thank you for setting the example for me of how one lives out the Baptismal Covenant every day, in the most mundane of situations as well as those that are extraordinary, without fanfare and without recognition, in simple acknowledgement of our charge to love one another as children of God. I could not have asked for better teachers.

T. J. Axar (Luce)

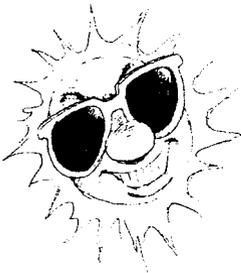
July Birthdays

- 1st – Brooks Purdy
- 2nd – Jeroch Carlson, Jamie Tevis
- 3rd – Samuel Reese
- 4th – Gifford Doxsee, Bill Kaldis, Megan Reilly
- 5th – Ann Shelly
- 6th – Ruth Cox
- 7th – Max Carney, Mark Shelly
- 9th – Matthew Adeyanju, Tatenda Chirume
- 10th – Jessica Smith Fox, Alex Karageorge
- 11th – Owen Buckley
- 15th – Rev. Dr. James T. Grooms
- 19th – Nora Sullivan
- 21st – Michael Adeyanju
- 28th – Amy Hume
- 30th – Libby Shelly



July Anniversaries

- 8th – Richard & Jane Paynter
- 11th – Richard & Dana Carlson
- 17th – Preston & Suellen Denton
- 21st – Dutch & Bonnie Savage
- 24th – Brian & Pam Rollins
- 29th – Stephen Fetsch & Kathleen Sullivan
- 31st – BJ & Kate Cottrill



Calendar of Events

- 2nd - Holy Eucharist Rite II, 9:30 a.m., Nave
3rd - Parish Office Closed
Bible Study, 11:30 a.m., Helen Marsh's home
4th - Parish Office Closed
5th - Free Lunch, Noon, Nehls Hall
Midweek Eucharist, 5:30 p.m., Nave
6th - Alanon Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Hobson Lounge
9th - Holy Eucharist Rite II, 9:30 a.m., Nave
Picnic Potluck, following service, Nehls Hall
Lindley Inn Eucharist, 2:00 p.m., Lindley Inn
11th - Athens Health Ministry Meeting, 1:00 p.m., Hobson Lounge
Alanon Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Hobson Lounge
AA Meeting, 8:00 p.m., Nehls Hall
12th - Free Lunch, Noon, Nehls Hall
Midweek Eucharist, 5:30 p.m., Nave
13th - Alanon Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Hobson Lounge
14th - Ultreya Potluck, 5:30 p.m., Nehls Hall
Ultreya Meeting, following potluck, Nehls Hall
16th - Holy Eucharist Rite II, 9:30 a.m., Nave
17th - Parish Administrator on Vacation
Bible Study, 11:30 a.m., Helen Marsh's home
18th - Parish Administrator on Vacation
Alanon Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Hobson Lounge
AA Meeting, 8:00 p.m., Nehls Hall
19th - Parish Administrator on Vacation
Free Lunch, Noon, Nehls Hall
Midweek Eucharist, 5:30 p.m., Nave
20th - Parish Administrator on Vacation
Vestry Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Hobson Lounge
Alanon Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Nehls Hall
21st - Parish Administrator on Vacation
23rd - Holy Eucharist Rite II, 9:30 a.m., Nave
Lindley Inn Eucharist, 2:00 p.m., Lindley Inn
25th - Alanon Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Hobson Lounge
AA Meeting, 8:00 p.m., Nehls Hall
26th - Free Lunch, Noon, Nehls Hall
Midweek Eucharist, 5:30 p.m., Nave
27th - Alanon Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Hobson Lounge
30th - Holy Eucharist Rite II, 9:30 a.m., Nave
31st - Bible Study, 11:30 a.m., Helen Marsh's home