

Good SHEPHERD News

Church of the Good Shepherd, Athens, Ohio

September

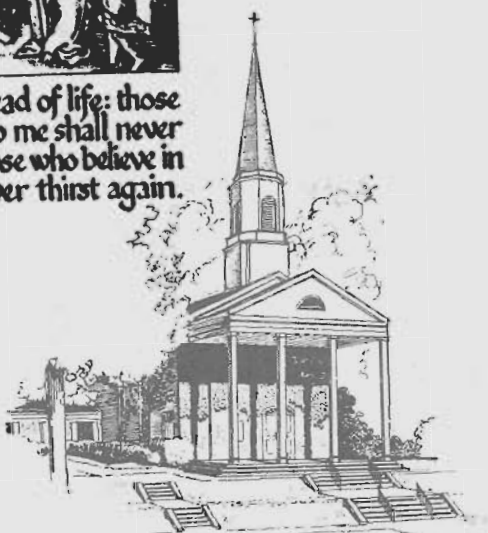
2006



I am the bread of life: those who come to me shall never hunger & those who believe in me shall never thirst again.

Inside . . .

- From the Rector p 1
- Vestry Highlights p 4
- Calendar of Events see insert



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

Turning Toward Each Other: Our New Altar

The three chief architectural symbols in any building used for Christian liturgy are the font, the pulpit, and the altar. Each speaks to us powerfully of the Gospel of Christ. Each has been set apart for sacred purposes, hallowed not only by the bishop's blessing but by the use and constant care of the People of God from generation to generation.

It is therefore with some sadness that I have called for a new altar, to replace the beautiful high altar in our nave. I say sadness but not regret, because I believe that this decision is absolutely necessary for the mission and ministry we share. At the same time, I am extremely excited about what this new altar will bring to our worship. It will enable the priest to be closer to the congregation during the Eucharistic prayer and to face the people as he or she presides. Rather than sending a message of priest as intercessor, standing between God and the people, we hope to convey a sense that the priest and people are gathered together around the Body and Blood of Christ. This is the theology of worship implicit in the language in our bulletin, present before I ever arrived, where the priest is described as the "presider" and the People of God as the "celebrants" of the liturgy. It is also the theology that became normative with the 1979 Prayer Book. Together, we celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and the Lord himself comes into our midst with life-giving power, as we consume the bread and wine made holy. By consuming the body and blood of Christ, we become more fully what we are, the Body of Christ, and we are sent into the world in his name. It is through the liturgical action of the whole Church—not just the priest's—that God makes Eucharist happen.

Our new altar will help us meet two of Good Shepherd's goals in the parish profile, namely "Continue to build upon a strong heritage of worship and music that is eucharistically and prayer book centered and which strongly involves the laity," and "Develop...worship designed to attract young families, their children, college students, and other underserved groups." A new altar is necessary to overcome a sense of physical and emotional distance between priest and people, right at the heart of our Sunday liturgy, which is the chief way that new members encounter the ministry of our parish. It also will allow the ministries of acolytes, chalice bearers, and other laypeople who serve at the altar to become more visible, as a tangible sign of the partnership in ministry shared by the entire People of God in this place. Lastly, it will eliminate some undesirable and untrue messages about our parish's attitudes toward the 1979 Prayer Book and the ordination of women.

I have discussed this decision with the Vestry, worship committee, and altar guild, and we are in the process of identifying a local artisan who can produce a wooden altar-table of suitable size and dignity for Christian worship. It will be placed at the center of the aisle, at the top of the chancel stairs, set a couple of feet back, so that it is even with the end of the choir pews closest to the congregation. We are already using a small table (though in a different location) for our Wednesday evening and Sunday evening liturgies. We may experiment with this table on Sunday morning a few times in the months to come, to give us a feel for what our liturgy might look like in the future. We will not begin using the new altar in Sunday morning worship until the fall of 2007, at which point it will be used for all of our Eucharists at Good Shepherd. This will give us time to commission and build a beautiful altar. It will also give us all some time to grieve the losses involved in the change. I would welcome the opportunity to meet privately with anyone who has concerns. We will also hold some public conversations about the new altar in the spring of 2007, to which the entire parish will be invited. This will be a time to talk about what we will gain and lose in our worship together, as well as a chance to explore the theology and spirituality of the Holy Eucharist.

In the meantime, we are beginning to solicit gifts, whether memorials or thanksgivings, to make the construction of the altar possible. The Vestry was aware when it approved the funds that a table of this kind would cost several thousand dollars. There will also be an eventual need for new linens, new hangings, new candle holders, and a matching credence table. (Our current altar hangings will continue to adorn the high altar.) Please speak to me if you would like to contribute. With the exception of anonymous gifts, which are also welcome, we will announce those in whose honor the altar has been given on All Saints' Sunday this year. Gifts in memory of or thanksgiving for a loved one or for a local, Good Shepherd saint would be especially appropriate. Tracey and I will be giving in memory of her parents and my grandparents. We are looking for a calligrapher who will be able to add these memorials, as well as others that have not yet been recorded, to the memorial book found in the narthex. Through these gifts, our new altar will become a powerful symbol of the communion of saints, living and dead, each and every time we gather to offer the Eucharist together.

In Christ,



The Rev. R. William Carroll, Ph.D., Rector

Sunday School

will begin

**Sunday, September 17th
10:00 a.m. in the Sunday School Room,
downstairs.**

Please note the change in time. Parents are invited to come see the new space, register their children, and meet the teachers.

We are very excited about Godly play, our new curriculum, which helps communicate the Gospel to children and appeals to their natural sense of wonder and creativity.

Adult Education Class

will begin

**Sunday, September 17th
9:00 a.m. in Hobson Lounge**

and will continue each Sunday throughout the year

**for the next eleven weeks we will be studying
the Gospel of John**

Please bring a Bible

Vestry Highlights from August 24th

- **Recycling:** Jane Forrest Redfern & Dana Carlson updated where we are and proposed a three phase introduction of the principle reduce, reuse, and recycle into our common life. We will focus on the last first, because it is easiest to implement, but all three are essential to the development of a greener Church. Phase one, recycle what we can right now (mainly office paper). Phase two, develop an inventory of materials and energy that are used and disposed of at the church and present a full report of costs and benefits to the Vestry in October. (The youth group could help with this environmental audit.) Phase three, fully implement program as outlined in the report. The Vestry unanimously authorized the Recycling Committee to proceed through phase two. Fr. Carroll will initiate a conversation about purchasing recycled paper products and other environmentally friendly products in the office, including an analysis of the costs and with a view to maximizing the post-consumer content within budgetary constraints. We will also begin to reduce consumption in anticipation of more comprehensive proposals to emerge out of the audit. The goal is to have ecologically sound practices embodied in our financial statement of mission (a.k.a., the budget) and day to day operating procedures, so that we can carry out God's work in ways consistent with a harmonious relationship with God's creation.
- **Stewardship:** Fr. Carroll sought counsel from the vestry on behalf of the stewardship committee with respect to two initiatives, each of which met with vestry approval. First, we are going to gradually increase the percentage of our budget that goes for ministries focused on outreach and social justice (Christian education too, but more on that during stewardship season). It was agreed that we would seek an additional \$3000, above and beyond what we have done in the past, to be used in existing and new ministries, balancing international, regional, and local mission. Depending on the success of our stewardship campaign, we may spend more. In subsequent years we will challenge the parish to devote additional resources of time, talent, and treasure in this area, a minimum goal being \$6000 for the 2008 fiscal year. A meeting of the outreach committee in September will result in a budget proposal to the vestry that will

be made available during the stewardship campaign. We hope to augment the greater commitment of money with greater commitment of time and talent, the goal being to identify ministries that we want to get behind as a parish community. One aim is to commit the parish to the millennium development goals, 0.7% for ministries focused on international development work and alleviating the death dealing affects of poverty in the Global South. The diocese is committed to these goals, and it is a major priority for our new Presiding Bishop. For us, this would amount to at least \$1400 for international development, leaving \$1600 (or more) for regional and local ministries.

Second, we are going to solicit bequests and planned giving. Fr. Carroll noted that the Prayer Book requires him to speak to people from time to time about our responsibility as Christians to give for the needs of the Church and of the poor and to make provisions in our wills for both. Realizing that this topic can be sensitive, Fr. Carroll indicated that he does wish to raise these issues during the stewardship campaign. Although we are trying to move away from designating our yearly pledge, with respect to bequests we do want to set up two designated funds, one a building fund to meet some of the more pressing needs of our building and physical plant in an anticipation of a capital campaign around 2011, and another, to be called a jubilee fund, to work to relieve the needs of the poor and for socially transformative ministries that will embody Gospel values. Unlike the endowment and building funds, the jubilee fund will not be invested but will be used as it is given, perhaps in partnership with other organizations, such as Episcopal Community Services Foundation and Episcopal Relief and Development. Undesignated bequests will also be welcomed, but these two funds will enable parishioners to give with a view to the ongoing mission of the Church and the needs of the poor.

- **New Member Ministry** Fr Carroll will be calling on vestry members and others to play a role in this crucial ministry.

Athens Friends of International Students

The Athens Friends of International Students (AFIS) will hold its annual fall picnic, Sunday, September 3rd, from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the picnic is to welcome new international students. The location is the Dairy Lane Shelter (from Richard Avenue, turn onto Dairy Lane beside the OU Inn, first road to the right, large shelter on your left). Please bring yourselves and a dish to share. Questions – contact Jane Palmer, 594-7710.

AFIS hosts two programs during the quarter that provides an opportunity to meet and talk with international students. Beginning Wednesday, September 13th, from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. the international social/coffee hour meets every Wednesday until the end of the quarter in the lobby of Voight Hall. Pizza and beverages are provided by AFIS. Beginning Thursday, September 7th, the Women's Group will meet from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. every other Thursday morning, at the Christ Lutheran Church. The women's group is made up of international and domestic women and provides a time for programs and social interaction. Baby sitting is provided. Any questions may be direct to Jane Palmer, 594-7710.

“...and now some men brought him a paralyzed man lying on a bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the man “Take heart my son; your sins are forgiven!’ At this, some of the lawyers said to themselves, ‘This is blasphemous talk.’ Jesus knew what they were thinking ‘Why do you harbour such evil thoughts?’ Is it easier to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say ‘Stand up and walk’? But to convince you that the Son of Man has the right on earth to forgive sins, he turned to the paralyzed man and said ‘stand up, take your bed and go home’. Thereupon the man got up and went off to home. The people were filled with awe at the sight, and praised God for granting such authority to men.” Luke 2, vs. 3-5; Luke 5, vs. 23-25; Matthew 9 vs. 2-8, Revised Standard Bible

Dear family and friends at Good Shepherd, thanks for your home Eucharistic and evening prayer services, visits, cards, calls, food, and 1-hour laundry service. The celebration the Marthas put on to celebrate my 70th birthday and return to health was wonderful.

The Rt. Rev. Edmond Lee Browning wrote “The more I trust in God’s goodness at work in my world, the more evidence of it I will see and the more opportunities for its exercise I will create.” (try harder, Helen Marsh) Shalom

Annual Fall Flea Market

Saturday, September 9th

8:00 a.m. to noon

Church of the Good Shepherd, Nehls Hall

This is a plea for help!

There has been an unusually larger number of items donated to the September 9th Flea Market. There are also five (5) of our “usual workers” who will be unavailable on that day. As a result, I am asking if anyone is willing to give a few hours of help. Help is needed at the following times for set up, pricing, sorting, selling, and clean up.

Wednesday, September 6th, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 7th, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Friday, September 8th, 9:00 a.m. – noon

Saturday, September 9th, 7:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

If you are available for any of these times, please call me at 593-7354.

Julie Nehls

Strouds Run Eucharist & Picnic

Sunday, September 10th, 10:30 a.m.

Strouds Run State Park - Shelter House #3

Please bring a dish to share for the picnic

Photograph Request

At the Strouds Run Picnic we are taking a photograph of all Good Shepherd volunteers that worked at the 75th General Convention. This includes absolutely everyone who helped with the convention in any way and not just those who volunteered on site. If you have a red apron please bring it. The photographs from all of the parishes in the Diocese will be displayed at our Diocesan Convention in November. We will also have electronic copies for everyone who participated. Thanks to everyone who helped extend Southern Ohio hospitality to visiting deputies, bishops, and others.

**“Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a new song;
Sing his praise in the congregation of the
faithful”**

Ps. 149:1

**The new choir season begins Wednesday,
September 6th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Nave.**

**Anyone high school age and up is invited to
participate in the choir.**

Rehearsals:

Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.

Sundays, 10:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.

**Come meet friends, old and new, as we sing
hymns and anthems that are old and new. The
last part of the rehearsal will be a hymn
sing followed by a time of fellowship.**

Marsha Reilly, Music Director