
Good SHEPHERD News

The Episcopal Church of The Good Shepherd

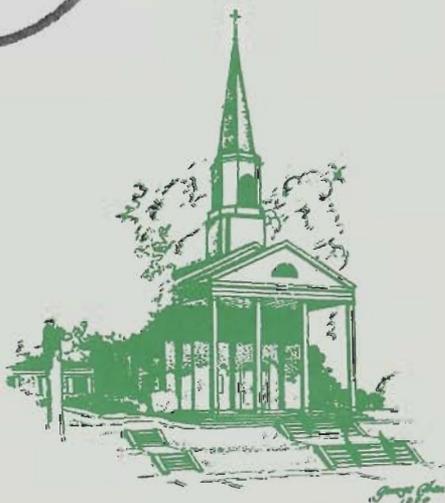
May

2008



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Seeking and Serving Christ in all persons

Community Forum: Worship and Outreach

On Sunday May 18th, after the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist, we will have a community forum to discuss the relationship between our ministries of worship and community outreach. The agenda is relatively open ended, and we will spend about an hour listening to one another. This emerges out of a meeting that members of the finance committee had with the Rev. Canon John Johanssen, former rector of St. Alban's, Bexley, who has just begun work as our diocesan Canon for Congregational Formation.

It has now been several years since the parish goals were formulated, and it is my sense that we need to revisit these goals from time to time to see what the next steps might be. Two of the goals are as follows:

- 1) Continue to build upon a strong heritage of worship and music that is eucharistically and prayer book centered and which strongly involves the laity.
- 4) Continue to encourage and support individual and small group ministry in the community, and establish and sponsor new programs.

Along with the members of the committee who were present, I am convinced that we need to look at how these two goals are related and how we might best work toward achieving both of them. I personally see them as inextricably connected, for it is in worship that we are sent out to do God's work in the world.

It is my intention to have a community forum about once a quarter, and I hope that this is the first of many. The annual parish meeting is simply too infrequent. We need to get together as a congregation more often to discuss our mission. I believe that this will be very helpful to the Vestry and to me, as we make certain decisions about our common life. The parish life committee has recently met (**see their report on page 3**), and they will be responsible for coordinating fellowship opportunities. Some of this discussion may happen informally as we gather around the table. The community forum is meant to be something different, a more structured opportunity to help shape our mission at Good Shepherd.

In Christ,



The Rev. R. William Carroll, Rector

Senior Warden Comments...

Sr. Faith Margaret gave me an excellent book, *Remember the Future: Financial Leadership and Asset Management for Congregations*. May I share this book with you?

Author Gerald Keucher is an Episcopal priest on the administrative staff of the Diocese of New York, which includes New York City. However, of the some 200 congregations in the diocese 80% have 150 or fewer in church on an average Sunday. With 175 of the diocesan churches founded before 1900, present congregations have fine old building and long-term investments, 25% having over a million.

In 2003 average pledges in the New York Diocese were just over \$1,600; the national average was \$1,791. I can't easily provide the 2003 average pledge because we adopted a new accounting system, but the 2005 average pledge was \$1,554. Similarities between Church of the Good Shepherd and the parishes Fr. Keucher describes are evident.

He points out that a great deal of his work has been with "smallish congregations that don't have a great deal of money, but have significant plants to maintain and have a record of stewardship less vital than one might hope, and have also suffered something of a crisis of confidence." This "crisis of confidence," the priest notes, occurred while Episcopal churches, "like those of many mainline churches," experienced a 40-year decline in membership, a decline which seems to have stopped. "Average Sunday attendance is about the same as it was fifteen years ago."

How does Church of the Good Shepherd tally with Fr. Keucher's analysis? Good Shepherd seniors remember the late 1950s and '60s when the two-day Christmas bazaar could raise several thousand dollars and there were so many children in the church that four different classrooms still put the teenagers' class in the kitchen.

The tangible change, Fr. Keucher notes, has "deeply affected the psyches" of some of the congregational leaders. Parishes with a "holding on" psychology "will be more likely to overdraw endowments... sell property... and rent out so much of their space that there's no place to hold a coffee hour."

Certainly Good Shepherd hasn't thrown out the baby with the bath water, but, it seems to me, we should heed Fr. Kreucher's belief that survival skills and parish growth skills are not the same.

In subsequent *Good News* I'd like to continue sharing Fr. Kreucher's suggestions for *remembering*, a significant work choice, the future.

Carolyn Murphree
Senior Warden

ATHENS AIDS TASK FORCE
Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser

Thursday, May 15th, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Church of the Good Shepherd
Nehls Hall

Bring a friend! Proceeds go to help those living with HIV/AIDS in our community. Fr. Carroll and A J Stack are both board members.

From the Parish Life Committee

We had a wonderful meeting on April 27th. Thanks to all who came and contributed such exciting ideas. The committee will be meeting again in June (time and place to be announced) to plan for the year from September 2008 to June 2009. Prior to the June meeting, the co-chairs, Joanne Worstall and Lois Wagner, will be meeting with the rector on May 14th to discuss the agenda. If you have any items for the agenda, ideas for events or programs, or would like to be involved in the June meeting but were unable to attend in April, please let me know. The meetings of the Parish Life Committee are open to all.

Our next fellowship event is the Stroud's Run Eucharist and Cookout on Sunday, June 8th, at 10:30 a.m., shelter house #3. Directions and carpooling information will be available as the event approaches.

Joanne Worstall,
Co-chair
797-4857 or donjo@frogned.net

*Notes from the
Organ Bench*

On May 18th we will, with sadness and joy honor and say goodbye to three of our Vocal Music Assistants. Carissa Patton, Kylie Roman and Jacob Conklin will graduate and move on to other endeavors such as graduate school and jobs. Their presence among us has been a true blessing to everyone who has worked with them. We have benefited from their other talents as well such as Carissa's flute playing and Kylie's poster design for the Advent Lessons and Carols. Jacob holds the record for longevity – 6 or 7 years, I think.

Students who have come through this long-standing (over 20 years) program often tell me how much it has meant to them to have a home away from home. They gain so much more than a regular paycheck.

One, Liddy Hoster, has become a priest and several are now active in other Episcopal churches. Last fall, I visited one of our tenors – Alex Bodenham- who is now the tenor soloist at St. Margaret's parish in Washington, D.C. All the people I met there know about our program thanks to Alex. He also commented that it was his job at Good Shepherd that taught him the value of professional responsibility – particularly getting to a job on time.

So, Carissa, Kylie, and Jacob we wish you godspeed as you continue on your life's path. Thank you for the time you gave to us. You have enriched our worship and music program in many ways.

*Marsha Reilly
Music Director*

**COMMUNITY FORUM:
Worship and Outreach**

**Sunday, May 18th
following the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist**

This forum will discuss the relationship between our ministries of worship and community outreach.

Vestry Highlights from the April 17th Meeting . . .

Fr. Carroll sought the Vestry's counsel about an opportunity to represent Rural Action as part of the Kellogg Foundations Rural People, Rural Policy Network. This work coheres well with his role as chair of the diocesan working group charged with formulating a response to the resolution passed at the 2007 diocesan convention about sustainable economic development. The Vestry agreed that he would commit his continuing education time (up to two weeks yearly) to this project.

Jack Flemming reported about a plan to insulate the space in the attic above the parish offices as well as in the Episcopal house. This will save energy and money. It was agreed that we would raise the \$2000 necessary to complete the project.

Fr. Carroll reported on the proposal from Third Sun Energy to provide solar panels sufficient to meet the needs of the church building and the Episcopal house. He noted that the project more than pays for itself over the 25 year life of the system, but the estimate does not include the lost interest from the initial capital outlay, which would amount to at least \$112,500. The consensus was to continue the conversation but to refrain from precipitous action. This may be the kind of project to be rolled into a capital campaign. Or we could begin with a smaller project. With grants, the initial outlay would still be \$90,000.

The Vestry discussed a proposal concerning new tables for Nehls Hall, which the Greek Orthodox Community is willing to help pay for. After a discussion of the merits of round versus rectangular tables, the Vestry decided to go with something rectangular and light weight. Fr. Carroll and Julie Nehls are in the process of pricing these tables.

STROUDS RUN EUCHARIST & COOKOUT

**Sunday, June 8th
10:30 a.m.**

**Strouds Run State Park
Shelter House #3**

Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided and prepared.
Please bring a dish to share!

MONEY TALK\$

Recently the Finance Committee met with Canon John Johanssen from the diocesan office. Canon Johanssen is the former Rector of St. Alban's in Bexley and is now the diocesan staff person in charge of congregational development. He met with us to help us assess our financial position and to help us with the setting and reaching of our financial goals for the next 3-4 years. Among the many things discussed, he made the observation that a healthy parish is one that takes good care of its building. By doing this, the parish is saying that it cares about its space and its mission. And this sense of care sends a strong positive message to newcomers and to visitors.

So I began to count up the projects of maintenance and remodeling that we have undertaken in the past 5 years or so. When I reflected on it, I was surprised at the number and the scope. Here is the list I came up with, and this might not even be complete.

- Repairing the front steps
- Painting the exterior of the church building
- Installing a new altar
- Remodeling and redecorating Nehls Hall
- Redecorating Fr. Carroll's office
- Installing new copper roof gutters
- Replacing the incandescent light bulbs with fluorescent bulbs
- Install vinyl siding on the rental property
- Refurbishing and repainting the interior of the rental property

This is an impressive list of accomplishments over a fairly short period of time. I think the evidence is clear that we are taking care of our facilities and our space and that the community is beginning to notice.

Jack Flemming
Treasurer

May Events at Good Shepherd

				1 7:30 pm – Alanon	2 5:30 pm – Ascension Day Eucharist	3
4 8 am – HE I 9 am – Chr Ed 10:30 am - HE II noon - Creation Justice 3:30 pm - YG	5 Fr. Carroll out of the office 7:00 pm – Boy Scouts	6 Fr Carroll out of the office 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm - AA	7 Fr Carroll out of the office noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW 7 pm - CR	8 Fr Carroll out of the office 7:30 pm – Alanon	9 Fr Carroll out of the office 5:30 pm – Ultreya	10
11 8 am – HE I 9 am – Chr Ed 10:30 am - HE II 2 pm – LI	12 7:00 pm – Boy Scouts	13 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm - AA	14 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW 7 pm – CR	15 5 pm – AIDS Task Force Dinner 7 pm – Vestry	16 4:30 pm – Youth Group leave for rafting trip	17 Youth Group return from rafting trip
18 8 am – HE I 9 am – Chr Ed 10:30 am - HE II noon – Community Forum	19 7:00 pm – Boy Scouts	20 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	21 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW 7 pm – CR	22 7:30 pm – Alanon	23	24
25 8 am – HE I 9 am – Chr Ed 10:30 am - HE II 2 pm – LI	26 Parish Office closed	27 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm - AA	28 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW 7 pm - CR	29 7:30 pm – Alanon	30	31

Key Guide:

HE I – Holy Eucharist Rite I

CR – Choir Rehearsal

HE II – Holy Eucharist Rite II

Chr Ed – Christian Education

MW – Midweek Eucharist

YG – Youth Group

LI – Lindley Inn Eucharist