

Good News

The Episcopal Church of The Good Shepherd

June

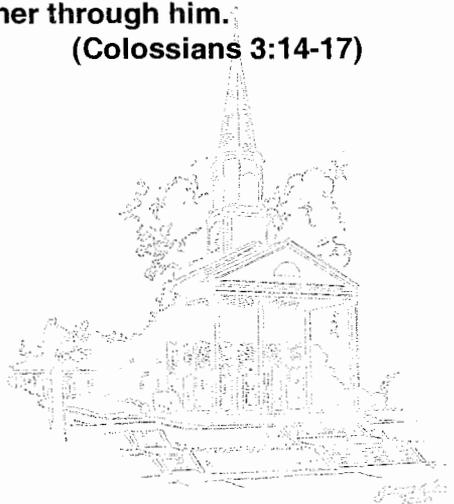
2008

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

(Colossians 3:14-17)

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He dwells, and moves, Christ in all persons

The Community Forum: Worship, Music, and Outreach

Perhaps the single most important conclusion from our recent community forum on worship, music, and outreach is that these conversations need to continue. In this article, I want to give you some sense of what I heard emerging from the forum and to indicate the beginnings of a response. It is important to note that this is just the beginning. These conversations must continue, both through subsequent forums and in less formal ways throughout the year. As I indicated in last month's newsletter, I intend to hold these forums about once a quarter, perhaps in conjunction with the monthly Sunday brunch that the parish life committee is planning to organize. It is my hope that these forums will open up new lines of communication and shape the mission and ministry we share. Sometimes, we will discuss a practical question, such as a proposed budget or plans for our worship space. At other times, we will turn to questions of a more philosophical nature, or address contentious issues within the community. At the inaugural forum, between two plenary sessions, parishioners met in four small groups, which were asked to reflect about our parish goals in worship and outreach. They were also asked how we might better connect worship to outreach. I will tackle these topics in reverse order.

I heard at least three proposals for **connecting outreach and worship**. First, some had the idea of praying for the outreach ministries of the parish by name in the Prayers of the People. I suggested that we might develop a parish prayer cycle for this purpose, and we are in the process of putting one together. Second, others stressed that commissioning services for the various lay ministries were incredibly meaningful for them. We will therefore do this on a regular basis for anyone who is participating in one of our parish's ministries. Most lay ministers could be commissioned in the fall of each year at a single commissioning service. Vestry members and officers (returning and new) could be commissioned on a convenient Sunday following the annual meeting. Those traveling for mission could be commissioned on the Sunday prior to their departure. Third, there was some desire for a brochure listing available opportunities for outreach. My sense is that this should be developed as part of a larger welcome packet, to be offered to each visitor. The outreach committee has already been charged with developing such a brochure.

With regard to **outreach itself**, I heard a consensus that we have played an especially strong role in local ministries dealing with hunger, through the free Wednesday lunch and the Athens Food Pantry. Given the

increase in food prices, we need to be vigilant and creative in making sure that these ministries meet rising need. Paul Clever offered some exciting ideas about gleaning along the Ohio River and developing community gardens to strengthen our local food supply. This coheres well with our many relationships with Rural Action. Creating sustainable, local food supplies also ties in with the concerns of our Creation Justice ministry. Some wanted us to acknowledge the individual efforts through different community organizations and to try to involve the parish in these efforts. Others stressed the need to fund those ministries that have active involvement. In other words, we need to put our money where we have bodies. In terms of international mission, the Ergoods' work training community health workers in Honduras was lifted up as a way to respond to our commitment to the Millennium Development Goals. It is my hope that these conversations will continue, in the Vestry, on the outreach committee, and when the parish assembles as a whole. I do think, as I told the forum, that a strengthened focus on hunger and food supply, especially in terms of domestic mission, makes sense in a time of growing economic troubles in our country, state, and region.

It would be fair to say that issues about **worship and music** took up the majority of the time in the plenary session, though some small groups did spend much of their time talking about outreach. I think this reflects some unfinished business in our common life. What I'm hearing is a concern about creating a liturgy in which we can all participate with our hearts, bodies, and minds. This is what underlies the debate about "performance vs. participation," though I do believe that most parishioners, no matter what their role in worship or opinion of our current practices, strongly desire participatory liturgy. It's just that different people experience participation in different ways. I am also well acquainted with the tendency, especially in Episcopal churches, for debates about worship to also be about something else, namely the quality of our relationships with one another.

As I respond to concerns about making our liturgy more participatory, I am aware that one can't please everybody. I am also aware that, as your rector, I have been entrusted with the final authority and responsibility for our worship and that I am further charged by the canons with seeking out persons skilled in music to help me fulfill that responsibility. I am very grateful for Marsha's ministry as our director of music and for the choir's ministry in helping to lead worship. We will continue strive for excellence and creativity that reflects the living and developing traditions of Anglican worship, and I will continue to

trust Marsha's wise counsel. We have a real asset in our music ministry, a ministry that continues to strengthen Good Shepherd and draw people to this parish. As your priest, it is my responsibility to encourage and strengthen this ministry.

At the same time, however, I am also aware that some feel alienated, especially but not only when it comes to choices in service music and the singing of psalms. I am responsible for encouraging and strengthening the whole People of God who gather in this place, and for removing perceived barriers, wherever possible, to their full participation. Part of that task involves responding appropriately to the community's concerns. I want to take the concerns of the whole parish into account (which is complicated because there is little consensus on these matters), without abdicating my own role as your rector and without ignoring or diminishing the proper role and ministry of Marsha and the choir. I am convinced, moreover, that responding to these concerns in a thoughtful way will only augment their ministry as members of this parish, as we are all carried out of ourselves in worship.

It is for this reason that I met with Marsha to discuss how I might best respond to what I was hearing. Here is what we plan to do next year. First, the service music will emphasize familiar settings of the Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus, Pascha Nostrum, and Agnus Dei. We will repeat some of the settings from the end of the season after Pentecost during Epiphanytide, which is also ordinary time. Second, we will say rather than sing the psalm for three full months (July, August, and the season of Advent). During Advent this year, we will celebrate said Morning Prayer, with sung canticles, followed by Holy Communion. For the rest of the year, we will sing the psalms, emphasizing the three most familiar settings of simplified Anglican chant. Settings in which the choir sings the psalm and the congregation sings an antiphon will be deemphasized but not abandoned altogether. They are part of the Church's tradition of psalmody, and we will continue to sing them at certain times. Third, hymns will continue to strike a balance between old and new. We will solicit input about parishioners' favorite hymns in an attempt to establish a baseline for what is familiar and loved and to encourage more enthusiastic congregational singing. Fourth, anthems and introits will continue to draw on the full breadth of the Church's rich choral tradition. Texts will be translated and in the bulletin, whenever possible. Fifth, in terms of liturgical action, the choir will begin to receive communion in the same place as everyone else in the fall. (At which point, there will be a provision to kneel. The present pattern was never intended to be permanent.)

The purpose of all this is to solidify a congregational musical repertoire in which we can all participate in a wholehearted manner. There is a related responsibility on the part of each and every one of us to participate fully. Worship is part of our duty to God, and it is a joyful response to God's Being. In a community, none of us gets our way all of the time. My own sense is that creating a more vibrant and joyful community will lead to more vibrant and joyful worship, no matter what decisions we make about the details of worship. Moreover, we will not leave our music ministry static. New elements will be added from time to time, widening the possibilities for our worship. But we are going to consolidate our musical foundation and slow the pace of change for a season, so that people can learn the music of the liturgy by heart and internalize its powerful message of grace. There may be some intentional teaching of this music, but, by and large, it is music that we have been singing for decades. Other initiatives in terms of instructed Eucharists, children's sermons, music for children, and Christian education opportunities around the liturgy will have to wait for another newsletter. For now, suffice it to say that we will review these changes in subsequent forums, where there will be many opportunities for further conversation. Again, this is only the beginning of a response.

In the end, the most important thing to remember is this: we believe the living Christ is present among us whenever we gather, not because we do so in the "right" way, but because he promised to be here. Our task as a worshiping community is to order our liturgical life in response to Christ's presence, so that we become transparent to his glory and all may come to know, love, and serve him.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill".

The Rev. R. William Carroll, Rector

Senior Warden Comments...

To try to capture the essence of the 175-page book in two or three monthly installments is a bit foolhardy. Nevertheless, this is the continuation of the Rev. Gerald Keucher's observations on congregational management of assets.

His chapter on "Straight Talk about your Assets" is prefaced with words from the Book of Common Prayer, page 259, which conclude with "May we be faithful stewards of your good gifts..."

Of the four assets – buildings, land, long-term investments, and current assets – Keuchter devotes almost a quarter of his book to what we call endowments. He uses "long-term investment," for he points out, "strictly speaking an endowment is a gift restricted by the donor in such a way that the principal can never be spent," only income and appreciation.

Here we find emphatic warning: "Long-term investments do not include reserve funds that you're planning to spend or need to have available to spend." The next strong advise is to let professionals, not a member of the congregation or vestry, manage the endowment. Here Good Shepherd has met the author's standard, for our endowment has been managed by professionals since it was created by Constance Leete's gift of the next-door property, first rented then sold to Ohio University.

Keucher says that endowed funds should grow enough to keep up with inflation and that annual earnings should contribute as expected to the annual budget. He illustrates how inflation deflates endowment by citing the purchase power of \$100,000 in 1913. "Inflation has averaged about 3.1% a year since 1913." By 2004 almost \$1,900,000 was necessary to purchase what \$100,000 had in 1913.

Of the reserve fund, the author describes the ideal. He advocates a reserve fund of 2.5% of the insured value of buildings. This statement is followed by "When you've regained the power of speech, don't say, 'This is impossible.'" He offers some suggestions for achieving the impossible. First major repairs should not be a budget line item. Budgeting for maintenance should cover the everyday demands, and a savings account should be opened for the infrequent but necessary replacements – the dying refrigerators, the ailing boiler – with the hope that the account could be built up.

In the context of the prayer that we may be faithful stewards and of the book's title Remember the Future, the design and approval of a budget speaks to our ability to pass on to future generations cared-for buildings and an endowment that has kept pace with the economy. It's a daunting challenge.

Carolyn Murphree, Senior Warden

Vestry Highlights from the May 15th Meeting

Fr. Carroll reported on the Spaghetti Supper for the Athens AIDS Task Force. He and A.J. Stack are members of the board. We raised over \$350 for the organization and provided free, confidential testing for 12 people. He noted that hosting this kind of event not only is good community outreach but is good evangelism, raising our profile with groups we want to reach, especially students.

The parish life committee met and plans to meet again on June 22nd. The co-chairs are Joanne Worstall and Lois Wagner. Participation is open to all.

Fr. Carroll reported that he had met with Paul and Sarah Clever, Mary Cuff, and Steve Steward to discuss plans for a new campus ministry format. They came up with an idea for a student worship service and coffee house on Friday nights. The idea is to provide an alternative to Court Street. Paul, Sarah, and Mary have agreed to be part of a core ministry team for this program. With Fr. Carroll, Mary will be attending a meeting with the bishop, campus chaplains, and student leaders to discuss campus ministry. She is also interested in a peer minister position, for which the diocese has provided grant funding. Fr. Carroll also reported that there is a progressive Christian student group meeting at United Campus Ministry. He and Evan Young of UCM are in conversation about how we might strengthen our ties.

Fr. Carroll reported about a generous gift from the Greek Community in support of tables in Nehls Hall. The Vestry authorized Julie Nehls and him to buy some light weight rectangular tables.

Fr. Carroll reported about new possibilities for ministry through the Hocking Valley Deanery. St. John's, Lancaster is coming into the deanery, and our own Leslie Flemming will be serving in Pomeroy and Gallipolis. There are also proposals to cooperate with ministries in McArthur, Nelsonville, and Logan. There is some hope for developing deanery-wide outreach programs.

Notes from the Organ Bench

The last three Sundays in May were Children's Music time during the Church School hour. Varying numbers of students including Peter and Ingrid Buckley, Rachel Carroll, Courtney and Caroline Clifford met from 9:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. to sing and learn about some hymns. We also touched on good singing habits including posture, breathing and finding our head voice. Rather than preparing to sing during the church service we focused on two hymns - #390 – Praise to the Lord and #711 – Seek ye first. We learned how to find out who wrote the words and music (information found at the bottom of each hymn) and what those numbers mean that are also found at the bottom of each hymn such as – for hymn 390 – 14.14.478. These numbers refer to the metrical organization of the hymn.

The children also learned a song “Everywhere I go the Lord is near me” by Natalie Sleeth. On the last Sunday the children played a handbell accompaniment to “Seek ye first” and learned about an instrument called a psaltery (thanks, Katharin Foster for the loan of your instrument)!

Thank you parents for making sure your children were there for our special music time. We will do more in the fall. Perhaps at some point we will be able to have a full-fledged children's choir.

Marsha Reilly, Music Director

From the Parish Life Committee

The Parish Life Committee Co-Chair met with Fr. Carroll on Wednesday, May 14th, to come up with some proposed activities for the summer and fall. We decided on two fun activities for the summer and tasty ones for the fall. There will be more detailed information in forthcoming *Good News* issues.

The Parish Life Committee consists of Joanne Worstall and Lois Wagner, Co-Chairs, and is open to all members of the parish. Please contact anyone of us if you have ideas for activities or would like to volunteer help for an activity. Our next meeting is Sunday, June 22nd, after the 9:30 a.m. Eucharist and coffee hour. All are welcome.

Lois Wagner, Co-chair

OUTREACH- not only with our lips, but in our lives

I begin this month's Outreach Committee article with the announcement of a change in the Chair. Jane Forrest Redfern has been serving faithfully in that capacity and is now passing the torch to me. Jane's vast experience in community organizing, especially her skill in identifying and building upon existing assets present in a community, have been tremendously valuable in Good Shepherd's move toward a more outreach-focused ministry. Her leadership and wisdom have been vital to the Committee's progress in the last few years and we extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to her.

Second is the announcement of the next Outreach Committee meeting, to which all are invited. The meeting will be held following the 9:30a.m. service on June 15th in Hobson Lounge. (Or in the Nave if attendance is high enough!) Though there will undoubtedly be much to discuss, the main agenda item will be continued conversation on the relationship between outreach and worship, as begun at the parish-wide meeting held on May 18th. Taking my cues from the wonderful comments and suggestions discussed during our final plenary session on that day, I see a very strong desire to charge forward and continue increasing our ministry to Ohio University and the community of Athens and surrounding areas. I look forward to more energetic and spirited discussion about ways to integrate our worship with outreach in order to better connect with and reach the communities in which we live and work.

Please plan to attend the meeting!

**Pax et bonum,
AJ Stack, Outreach Committee**

A reminder that comments and/or suggestions for future Outreach Committee articles are VERY welcome! See, email (gastack@gmail.com), or call (590-8080) me!

MONEY TALK\$

I would like to reflect on two things this month.

Thing #1 – As of this writing, I have not seen our latest payment for the use of our Kroger Gift Cards, but if present trends continue we will realize about \$5,200 for the year. This program alone accounts for about 2% of our annual income, and if it were a pledge it would be one of our larger ones. If we do realize \$5,200 this year, it will exceed our budgeted expectation by over \$1,000. Let's give ourselves a well deserved pat on the back.

For those who have and use the Kroger Gift Card to support Good Shepherd, I thank you once again. If you shop at Kroger's and do not have a Gift Card, I urge you to obtain one. If you would like a Gift Card or need a refresher on how to use it, please see me anytime. Even if you do not do your personal food shopping at Kroger's, I urge you to use a Kroger Gift Card whenever you purchase food supplies for Good Shepherd,

Thing #2 -- We have now collected \$1,136 for the insulation of the attics in our facilities. I am delighted and gratified at the generous response made by many of you to support this project.

The amount of insulation I had originally planned to install in our church attic costs in the neighborhood of \$500, but it would not have been a complete job. With \$1,136 in hand, Bill, Ted, and I will decide in the next few days whether to "complete" the insulation in the church attic or to apply any "excess" money collected to insulation of other parts of our facility. In any case, all the money collected will be spent for its intended purpose.

Meanwhile, we are still in a position to receive funds. I remind you that with your tax rebate of \$600 or \$1,200 in hand, the donation of three percent to this project would amount to only eighteen or thirty six dollars. And when we spend less money on gas and electricity, we can spend more money on mission and ministry.

Jack Flemming, Treasurer

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!

**On Saturday, June 14th, Deniray Mueller
will be ordained to the sacred order of deacons
at Christ Church Cathedral in Cincinnati at 11:00 a.m.
All are invited. Deniray will serve as deacon and preach
at our 9:30 a.m. Eucharist on Sunday, June 15th, and a
reception for her will follow.**

THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

will meet on Sunday, June 15th,
after the reception for Deniray.

THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

will meet on Sunday, June 22nd,
after the 9:30 a.m. Eucharist.
All are welcome to help plan fellowship events and
programs for next year.

**On Saturday, June 28th, Leslie Flemming
will be ordained to the sacred order of priests
at St. Matthew's, Westerville at 11:00 a.m.
All are invited. Leslie will preside and preach at our
9:30 a.m. Eucharist on Sunday, June 29th, and a
reception for her will follow.**

June Events at Good Shepherd

1 8 am – HE I 9 am – Chr Ed 10:30 am – HE II 1 pm – YG	2 7 pm – Boy Scout Meeting	3 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	4 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW 6:30 pm – Choir Party	5 7:30 pm – Alanon	6 Parish Administrator on Vacation	7
8 10:30 am – Strouds Run Eucharist 2 pm - LI	9	10 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	11 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW	12 4:30 pm – Executive Committee 7:30 pm – Alanon	13 Parish Administrator on Vacation	14
15 9:30 am – HE II	16 Parish Administrator on Vacation	17 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	18 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW	19 4 pm – Mary Doxsee Memorial 7 pm – Vestry 7:30 pm – Alanon	20 Parish Administrator on Vacation	21
22 9:30 am – HE II Parish Committee Meeting 2 pm – LI	23	24 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	25 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW St. Paul's Work Group to use kitchen	26 St. Paul's Work Group to use kitchen 7:30 pm – Alanon	27 Parish Administrator on Vacation St. Paul's Work Group to use kitchen	28 St. Paul's Work Group to use kitchen Liz Sinclair's wedding
29 St. Paul's Work Group to use kitchen 9:30 am – HE II	30 Parish Administrator on Vacation					

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