

Good SHEPHERD News

The Episcopal Church of The Good Shepherd

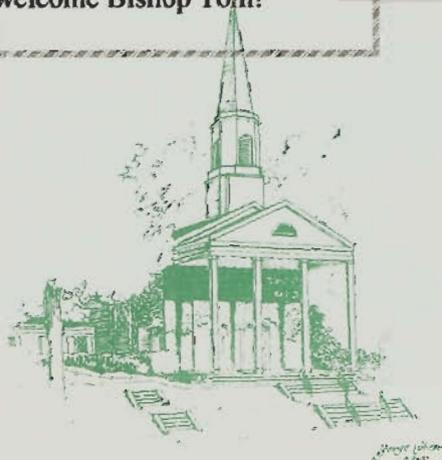
August 2009

Save the Date: Bishop's Visitation

On September 13th, our bishop, the Rt. Rev. Thomas Breidenthal, will make his visitation. He will preside at the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist and preach. A reception is being planned by members of the parish life committee and the Marthas. On that day, we will cancel the 8:00 Eucharist, so that all may be present for the bishop. We resume our regular schedule of celebrating the Eucharist at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. on Sunday September 6th. Please join us to welcome Bishop Tom!

Inside . . .

From the Rector.....	p	1
Announcements.....	p	4
Pew News.....	p	6



Seeking and Serving Christ in all persons

Participation in Worship

Our summer vacation is often a time for me to rediscover something I have shared with some of you before: I love sitting in the pews! Don't get me wrong. Presiding at the Eucharist is one of the most profound joys of my life. It is absolutely central to priestly spirituality and identity. All the ministries of priesthood (the Prayer Book speaks of "pastor, priest, and teacher") flow from and contribute toward the act of offering the gifts of God in the midst of God's people. The gift of the Holy Spirit in Baptism is the fundamental basis for all Christian ministry. Ordination is only one way (for most of us, not the best way) to live out our baptismal commitment.

In the pews, I get to participate in liturgy in ways I seldom do when presiding. This is not passive. Each one of us is actively celebrating the liturgy. We are inviting the Lord Jesus into our midst and renewing a deep, vital, and personal union with him. We do so by praying, praising, confessing, listening, singing, and saying various parts of the liturgy that are ours to say. We also do so by the posture of our bodies (standing, kneeling, or sitting) and by bowing to show reverence to the altar or the cross passing in procession. Some of us make the sign of the cross at certain points in the liturgy or bow our heads at the naming of the Trinity or the Holy Name of Jesus. We do the same during certain portions of the Creed, such as the words describing the humility of the Son of God in the Incarnation. Some of us also participate as altar guild members, Eucharistic ministers, readers, prayer leaders, ushers, greeters, acolytes, and choir members. Participation in these ministries is open to all. We participate in the Eucharistic liturgy, above all, when we walk up, stretch out our hands, and receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

As the worship committee begins to help plan worship, our chief goal is to increase a sense of vibrant and joyful participation in the liturgy of the Church. There is no magic formula to do this. The most important questions concern attitude, and they are addressed to each one of us. Is our worship focused on God, on Jesus Christ, and on the living presence of the Holy Spirit? Is it leading us to commit ourselves to Christian service? Is it helping us to be more charitable with our neighbor, to welcome the stranger, and to strive to fulfill our Baptismal Covenant? Do we take each portion of the liturgy, of which we are all celebrants, and make it our personal offering to God, in union with our brothers and sisters, both in the congregation and throughout the world? Each

activity, each posture, each gesture, each movement is a way to participate, and the responsibility to do so belongs to each of us. As your priest, it is my role to challenge us to make more complete use of the opportunities we already have to participate and to remove any barriers to participation.

The worship committee is charged with helping me bring this about. I want to make you aware of two opportunities, and to ask for your best effort. The first has to do with the Prayers of the People. We are inviting the congregation to add their own petitions, silently or aloud. Please know that you are welcome to pray out loud for people and other concerns. I have started to do this more regularly. The worship committee has been asked to do so as well, and, at the August vestry meeting, I am going to ask the vestry to join in. I hope these “ringers” will help those who might not feel comfortable going first. We are trying to make our prayers more fully what we say they are: the Prayers of the People. I would remind you that we are encouraging people to stand during the Prayers of the People and throughout the Eucharistic Prayer. No one has to stand, but I do strongly urge you to do so. As Bishop Breidenthal taught us a couple of years ago, this was the ordinary posture for prayer in the ancient Church, and it attests to our membership, through Holy Baptism, in a royal priesthood that prays as a united community.

The second opportunity has to do with music. I want to insist that we make every effort to sing all the hymns and all the service music, including the Psalm when it is sung. (For the time being, it will continue to be said for about three months of the year.) I sense that the level of participation varies some depending on what is being sung. Not everyone has the same musical gifts or feels comfortable singing, but I do believe we can all sing if we try. Those who are especially wary of singing in public may at least wish to sing quietly to themselves. It's not about getting the music right. It's about opening ourselves to God. Singing is a vulnerable act, and it creates a sense of connection with God and others. The words of our hymns and service music are a powerful testimony to the Gospel. The action of communal singing can also unite us in heart, mind, and voice. Sometimes we are singing something that is not our particular favorite, but it is our community's offering to God on that particular Sunday. Not participating here, for whatever reason, deprives us some important benefits of Christian worship.

Not every piece of music is intended for the whole congregation, and listening is itself a form of participation. Listening (as distinguished from hearing) is active and requires conscious attention. A strong choral tradition is part of Anglican worship, and we at Good Shepherd provide an excellent contemporary example. I remain convinced that this congregation has been blessed with a strong music ministry (thanks to Marsha Reilly's leadership and many other gifted members of the congregation), which continues to draw people into our fellowship, and that we should build on this strength. I myself never feel that I am a passive "audience member" when listening to a choir anthem. I view it as an opportunity for meditation. I am always glad to receive the gift of beauty in worship from my brothers and sisters, as they sing to God. I am aware of some historic tensions around this at Good Shepherd (it's very common in Episcopal churches, because we care so deeply about worship), but I also heard a clear affirmation of our music ministry at the last worship forum. That said, there are always things that we can do differently or better. What we do will continue to evolve, and there will be regular opportunities for input from the parish. We will, I suspect, always have a mix of music that is sung by the entire congregation and music that that is sung by the choir. In each case, please participate as appropriate. As fall approaches, we will be doing some intentional music education with the Psalm and service music to encourage more complete congregational participation in these parts of the service.

Please remember what it's all about. In the words of one of our Eucharistic Prayers, in worship we offer "ourselves, our souls and bodies" to God. The Prayers of the People and congregational singing offer two opportunities to do this so that we may strengthen our worship and our community.

Grace and peace,

The Rev. R. William Carroll, Rector

Two words about the Episcopal House: Thank you!

On Sunday, members of the parish were able to go see the beautiful work that has been done to restore the Episcopal House. Among other things, the first two floors have been completely repainted and recarpeted; the kitchen, bathrooms, and basement have been cleaned, and some sinks have been replaced. Thanks to everyone who spent countless hours painting, cleaning, and repairing the house. Thanks also to everyone who contributed financially. Julie Nehls raised \$3000, a thousand of which came from the Marthas and the rest from individual parishioners. Thanks to all of you, we are now in a good position to realize more income from the house and to maintain this asset better for future generations at Good Shepherd.

Changes to Midweek Worship Calendar: Weekly Eucharist at 5:30 p.m. on Thursdays, and at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays at the Good Earth Farm

Beginning with the week of August 2nd, we will no longer celebrate a regular Eucharist on Wednesdays. This celebration will move to Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. (first time on Thursday, August 6th). This is a contemplative service with a reading from ancient and contemporary spiritual classics as well as the Gospel and a time for shared reflection as the homily. We are currently working our way through Thomas Merton's *Thoughts in Solitude*. We are also exploring ways to incorporate simple a capella music and chant into the service. We will also begin on Tuesday, August 4th, to celebrate a weekly Eucharist at 5:30 p.m. at the Good Earth Farm on Armitage Road. All are welcome to attend either or both celebrations. For directions to the farm, please contact Fr. Carroll (593-6877; gsrector@gmail.com). There are also a variety of volunteer opportunities at the farm during the week. For more information or to be placed on a weekly e-mail list, please contact Paul Clever (594-2425, pclever2@yahoo.com).

Habitat for Humanity Scrap Metal Drive Update

The scrap metal drive on Saturday, May 30 was a big success, earning over \$500. People were generous with their discarded appliances (at least two refrigerators, a dryer, four lawn mowers) and lots of other stuff. Many thanks to those who were able to bring aluminum, brass and copper, because those sell at a higher value. We had a lot of volunteers turn out to help unload cars and trucks, which was a big help. Special thanks to the Athens Township Trustees for loaning us a front-end loader and operator. Loading that truck by hand would have been a real challenge!

The next scrap metal drive will probably be in November. Keep an eye out for an announcement, and start accumulating that scrap stuff today.

Episcopal Church Women Diocese of Southern Ohio *Certainty in Uncertain Times*

The 2009 Annual Conference will be Saturday, September 12th, 2009 at the Procter Camp & Conference Center, SR 38 SE, London, Ohio from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The registration fee is \$25.

For more information or for a copy of the registration please contact the parish office (593-6877, chogs@frognet.net).

News from the Pews . . .

The Rev Mark Shelly, until recently rector of Trinity Church in Solebury, near Philadelphia, is now interim in New Jersey.

Two of these Jennings brothers have made recent tv appearances. **Eric Jennings**, who lives in Athens, has an evening sports show on local Channel 23. Brother **Chris**, a lobbyist and consultant on low cost health care, appeared recently on the PBS News Hour to discuss health care reform issues.

Some Summer Travelers: With the assistance of a former student as driver, **Gifford Doxsee** visited friends, former students and family in Omaha, Nebraska, Boulder and Grand Junction Colorado recently. Our senior warden **Matthew Adeyanju**, and wife **Rachel** are heading to Las Vegas shortly, to visit with their senior son, **Alex**.

Again this summer **Doris Green** has welcomed her athletic sons into town to participate in the O'Bleness Charity golf tournament.

Visiting Athens in late July for their high school reunion were **Greg Black** and his wife, **Ginny**. Greg had the opportunity after church services to tour his former home, our newly renovated former rectory.

Bishop Black and his wife **Francie** are moving into a Springfield Illinois retirement century.

Items for News from the Pews may be sent to Reid Sinclair (593-8174 or rbaytop@frognet.net) or Don Frazier (797-4857, donjo@frognet.net). Please check that you have permission to submit from the person involved.

August 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 7:30 am – HE I 9 :30 am – HE II 2 pm – Lindley Inn	3	4 3 pm – English for Families 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting 8 pm – AA Meeting	5 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist	6 3 pm – English for Families 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting	7 5:30 pm – Ultreya Potluck & Meeting @ the Gault's home	8
9 7:30 am – HE I 9 :30 am – HE II Second Sunday Brunch following Eucharist	10	11 3 pm – English for Families 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting 8 pm – AA Meeting	12 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist	13 3 pm – English for Families 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting	14	15
16 7:30 am – HE I 9 :30 am – HE II 2 pm – Lindley Inn	17	18 3 pm – English for Families 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting 8 pm – AA Meeting	19 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist	20 3 pm – English for Families 7 pm – Vestry Meeting 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting	21	22
23 7:30 am – HE I 9 :30 am – HE II	24	25 3 pm – English for Families 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting 8 pm – AA Meeting	26 noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist	27 3 pm – English for Families 7:30 pm – Alanon Meeting	28	29
30 7:30 am – HE I 9 :30 am – HE II 2 pm – Lindley Inn	31					