

# Good SHEPHERD News

*The Episcopal Church of The Good Shepherd*

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October

2008

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## Searching for the Common Good: Comments in a Political Season

“Politics” is something of a dirty word in our culture. It has become divorced, or so it seems, from the struggle to promote the common good, which the framers of this republic, in the Preamble of our Constitution, termed the “general welfare.”

This needn't be so. As election day approaches this November, I am reminded of a phrase from one of my seminary professors, who liked to speak of the “political vocation of the Christian.” The professor in question is named Chris Gamwell, and he is an amazing man. He is a Presbyterian minister who marched with Dr. King in Chicago and is one of the founders of an organization called Protestants for the Common Good. Chris has written extensively on the interpretation of the first amendment and on the relationship between the idea of God and the foundations of a common moral vision to guide a pluralistic democracy like ours.

For Christians, political discourse, like much of what we say and do, serves a higher (but still this-worldly) purpose. Remember the Lord's Prayer, “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, *on earth as it is in heaven.*” Christians live in and for their neighbor. Our words are meant to build up our neighbor in love. Our deeds are intended to contribute to his or her well being, to the body politic, and ultimately to the universe. At least this is so, insofar as we are truly Christians. We understand the neighbor, human society, and the cosmos itself to be gifts from God. These are sacred, vulnerable gifts, and they have been entrusted to our care.

If “politics” has become a dirty word in our culture, this is because it has been put in the service of narrow, private interests, leading to the desire to win at any cost, including the cost of truth. Christian ethics demands of us a dedication to the truth, wherever it may be found. As Christians, we believe that truth will serve the public interest and the common good.

It is against the law for churches (if they have 501c3 status) to advocate for a candidate or a party. This does not mean we are politically neutral. Christians care about the issues, and the Church as such takes a moral stand about some of them. As followers of Jesus, we are especially concerned about questions of war and peace and human rights. We are also concerned about health care, the environment, and the economy. For the last, see an article that I recently published online, “Jesus Economics,” which is responding in part to the fine keynote address that Tupper Morehead preached at this year's Mt. Grace

Appalachian ministry conference. It is found at [http://www.episcopalcafe.com/daily/economics/jesus\\_economics.php](http://www.episcopalcafe.com/daily/economics/jesus_economics.php)

As I said in that article, I think it is important to obey the law and refrain from partisan politics from the pulpit. It's important, because that is one of the ways that we respect the wisdom and conscience of the People of God. At the same time, however, I would like to remind each one of us that apathy or cynicism is sinful. We get the politicians we deserve. All politicians, regardless of party, at least pay lip service to the common good, arguing that their politics will benefit the American people (and presumably others) more than those of the other side.

It is up to each one of us to carefully assess the truth of these claims and to look to the common good, beyond the interest of self, class, or party. One of the main differences between God and us, is that God always acts to promote the common good of the universe and the particular good of every creature within it. We when follow Jesus, we begin to do the same. In the Bible, God acts for the poor with a preferential love, because they bear the brunt of our society's sins. When private interests come to the fore and the common good is forgotten, it is they who are left behind.

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace. *Amen.*

(For Social Justice, Prayer Book, p. 823)

**In Christ,**

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

**The Rev. R. William Carroll, Rector**

**International Year of the Organ – 2008-2009**

**Did you know** that the organ dates back to ancient Egypt?

**Did you know** that many new organs have recently been built – including the newest here in Athens at Christ Lutheran Church as well as at large concert halls throughout the country and all over the world?

**Did you know** that the organ here at Good Shepherd is historic? It is an example of a smaller (2 keyboards or manuals) instrument built by the Aeolian-Skinner Company in 1952. The Skinner (later merged with Aeolian) Company, no longer in business, was responsible for very large instruments in many churches throughout the country.

To promote organ music and encourage more people to get to know the instrument – especially young people, the American Guild of Organists (AGO), a national organization that promotes the organ, its music and those who play it has designated 2008-2009 as the International Year of the Organ (IYO). This celebration, beginning July 2008 and continuing through June 2009, will feature activities around the world from organ concerts, workshops, and special events designed to acquaint as many people as possible with the “King of Instruments.”

The highlight of the IYO will be the “Organ Spectacular” on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Many concerts will be held globally to showcase the organ and its colorful history.

Here in Athens, our local AGO chapter is presenting an “**Organ Walk.**” This progressive concert will begin at 2:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, continuing at First Presbyterian, Galbreath Chapel and ending here at Good Shepherd. Programs at each location will feature a variety of music, some with other instruments, and hymn singing. A reception will follow at Good Shepherd.

Please come!!

*Marsha Reilly,  
Music Director*

# MONEY TALKS

I am going to divide my comments into two parts.

Part 1 – We have not fallen through the ice into the water.

I am happy to report that we have received \$4,263.77 to date by our support of the Kroger Gift Card program. If present trends continue, we will realize about \$5,700 from this source in 2008. This would exceed our expected income by about \$1,500. If you already have a Kroger Gift Card, PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO USE IT. If you eat food and buy it at Kroger, you can help support Good Shepherd by using your Kroger Gift Card. If you are a newcomer to Good Shepherd, I will explain this program to you over the next few weeks.

I am also happy to report that the improved insulation has now been installed in the Episcopal House. Along with the added insulation in the main building, I expect a significant reduction in our energy usage. This will result in much smaller utility bills that we would otherwise have to pay. It will also be an important contribution to our stewardship of the environment.

Part 2 – The ice beneath our blades has not thickened.

It is not secret that inflation is now at a higher rate than we have seen for a generation. And the recent turmoil on Wall Street is probably the most serious financial crisis seen in the United States for 80 years. And this is at the very time when we could see serious budget shortfalls over the next few years. Our Endowment cannot long stand the strain we are putting on it, and if this continues it could cease to be a significant source of dependable income for us.

This shortfall can be covered by some combination of three methods.

1. We can improve the efficiency of our operation. The added insulation is a good example of this.
2. We can reduce the scope and quality of our programs beyond anything yet seen.
3. We can significantly increase our income from other sources (read “increase pledging”).

I have been tirelessly vigilant for opportunities to reduce our costs, but improve efficiency can only go so far. The only viable way to prevent option #2 from occurring is for each of us to give thoughtful consideration to how can contribute to option #3. This is why I urge all members of Good Shepherd to attend our Community Forum after the service on Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. At that time our current situation will be further explained and each member will be invited to provide ideas to help us continue our ministry to the community as members of the Body of Christ.

**Jack Flemming,  
Treasurer**

## **FALL CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY**

Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>

9:30 a.m. – noon (and beyond if on a roll) - Rain or Shine

**FOLLOW YOUR PASSION** – opportunities abound inside and out.

Outside – raking leaves, sweeping, pulling weeds and eradication of pesky vines, pruning this and that, cleaning/adding gravel around columbarium and environs, spading flowerbeds, edging along sidewalks and flowerbeds, replace screens in porch doors and some trim painting at the Episcopal House.



Inside – dusting forgotten places, cleaning windows (inside and lower outside), cleaning behind appliances (and said filters) in both the church and Episcopal House, ridding closets/storage areas of outdated supplies and junk. More church building projects could include painting upper reaches of storage/janitor closets (white for better lighting), gathering fans and air conditioners for storage if not already done, and carrying stuff to/from attic above offices. Some Episcopal House storm windows need to be re-installed, screens cleaned, and more.

For outside work in particular bring your own tools or contact Ted Foster at 593-8615 or [fosterth@ohio.edu](mailto:fosterth@ohio.edu).

## **Vestry Highlights (from the September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting)**

Fr. Carroll reported that two storm windows fell during the wind storm. No one was hurt, but there was some property damage. An insurance claim is being filed. The vestry authorized Fr. Carroll and Ted Foster to determine how to proceed once it's processed.

In a discussion about the parish nursery workers, it was decided to reduce their hours, so that nursery would be provided during the 10:30 service, beginning at 10:15. This agreed with the recommendations of the finance committee. It was also decided to continue to provide at least one paid nursery worker during the summer.

Marsha Reilly reported about the state of the music ministry and the vocal music assistants program. One of the finance committee recommendations concerns moving two of these positions out of the budget. Fr. Carroll reiterated his commitment to see this important ministry continued, funded in alternative ways.

Fr. Carroll reported that five people attended the first Shepherd's Alternative Eucharist on Friday at 8 p.m. This is a candlelight service in the chapel, using chants from the Taize community. Young adults planned the format and will continue to revise it. Coffee, dessert, and fellowship followed.

The vestry authorized Ted Foster to seek estimates for panic hardware for doors and the executive committee to decide how to proceed.

Fr. Carroll reported about the work of the nominating committee. Matthew Adeyanju has agreed to serve as senior warden, Jack Flemming as junior warden. Anne Braxton is willing to serve as treasurer (a position elected by the vestry, which will also choose a new secretary). The vestry nominees are Paul Clever, Will Lamb, Julie Nehls, and Lois Wagner. Mary Cuff will be nominated as our student representative. More information will appear in subsequent newsletters. We are grateful for the faithful ministry of Carolyn Murphree, Ted Foster, Phyllis Dean, Jane Forrest Redfern, who will be recognized publicly at the annual meeting.

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

### **Honduras Update from Jane and Bruce Ergood:**

Honduras Hot News! On September 29<sup>th</sup>, in Yuscaran, a staff member from "Vitamin Angels" presented a 2 day seminar teaching 14 Guardians de Salud the purpose and action of vitamins. The staff members were joined by Cindy and Bobbie, 2 nurses from the Texas medical team and 2 local nurses from the Ministerio de Salud. These representatives will then teach other Guardians. The whole group will then be able to look for children with birth defects in the villages, teach about the importance of vitamins, and distribute free vitamins in rural areas. The free vitamins will continue to be available (An ounce of prevention...) Thanks be to God/ Demos gracias a Dios!

### **Our Busy October**

This is a busy month for outreach activities at Good Shepherd. Here is a brief review of everything that is going on.

\* Kairos Prison Ministry will hold its Weekend Number One in the Hocking Correctional Facility (HCF) in Nelsonville the weekend of October 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Gifford asks for your prayers during that weekend.

\*Cardboard City begins at 7:00 p.m. on October 4<sup>th</sup> in the Morton Parking Lot and end at 7:00 a.m. the next morning. We will have a contingent there from Good Shepherd. Contact Ilona Carlson or Twig Kaufman to learn how to be a sponsor.

\*Youth- 2-Mission Bike Ride and Picnic: The Bike ride starts at 1:00 p.m. and the picnic starts at 3:00 p.m. with an Animal Blessing, Field Blessing, and farm activities in between. Come out to the Good Earth Hunger Mission (Paul and Sarah's House) to enjoy the fun.

### **Paul Clever, Outreach Communication Chair**

*A reminder that comments and/or suggestions for future Outreach Committee articles are VERY welcome! Send e-mail to Paul Clever [pclever2@yahoo.com](mailto:pclever2@yahoo.com) or call at 594-2425. Also, the Outreach Committee meets every fourth Sunday of odd number months making September 28<sup>th</sup> our next meeting. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.*

## News from the Pews . . .

**Michael Adeyanju**, busy crucifer at Good Shepherd, is also active this fall as the president of the Ohio University Student senate.

**Katherine Ziff**, is the new elementary school counselor for the Athens City Schools.

**Quentin Derryberry** has joined the alumni staff at Florida State University.

After a stay as au pair in Spain, **Alania Miller** has entered the social work master's program at Case Western University in Cleveland.

**Charles Seymour** has retired from the FBI and is now associated with the Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh.

**Abby Morgan** has entered graduate school at the University of Mary – College Park.

**Gifford Doxsee** will be a co-leader for the Kairos Prison Ministry at the Hocking Correctional Facility in Nelsonville in early October.

Our rector, **Bill Carroll**, has joined the board of Rural Action.

**David Green**, son of **Doris Green**, was recently elected to the Athens High School Hall of Fame. He joined his brother **Mike** in the Hall. Youngest brother **Steve** also played football at AHS and OU.

Two members of Good Shepherd received recognition at the recent Arts & Sciences general faculty meeting. **Kathleen Sullivan** was recognized for her promotion to Associate Professor of Political Science. **David Burton** received the Outstanding Undergraduate Adviser Award.

**Bob** and **Ann Shelly** attended a Sociology conference in Barcelona, Spain in the late summer.

*Items for News from the Pews may be sent to Reid Sinclair (593-8174 or [rbaytop@frogn.net](mailto:rbaytop@frogn.net)). Please check that you have permission to submit from the person involved.*

Note from Fr. Carroll: **Reid Sinclair** received the Jean Carson award at the Mt. Grace conference, for his years of faithful service to Episcopal Appalachian Ministries and its predecessor organizations.

## FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY: Parish Supper Club

It is the purpose of Good Shepherd Supper Club to help parishioners get to know each other better and to introduce newcomers to our church family. Everyone is encouraged to participate. If you have questions, or would like to be added to the supper club pool during the course of the year, please contact Phyllis Dean at 593-8487 or [deanp@ohio.edu](mailto:deanp@ohio.edu).

Good Shepherd Supper Club groups for the fall quarter are listed as follows – with the name of the designated host in bold print and underlined.

### **Laura Dukes**

Therese Lackey  
Bill & Tracey Carroll  
A J Stack  
Roland & Mary Anne Swardson

### **Paul & Sarah Clever**

Marsha Dutton  
Allyn & Marsha Reilly  
Steven Huang



### **Betty Larson**

Carolyn Murphree  
Twig Kaufman  
Curt & Terrie Sherman  
Gifford Doxsee

### **Lois Wagner**

June Wieman  
Dick & Phyllis Dean  
Bruce & Jane Ergood  
Anne Braxton

Hosts will be in touch with the other members of their group early in the quarter, and will choose a time that works for all [It is recommended that dates be chosen early in the quarter, as scheduling becomes quite complicated as the holiday season approaches.]

Groups will meet at the designated host's home, unless other arrangements are preferred. In the case of host couples, the couple will be responsible for the main dish and group members will be asked to bring side dishes, desert, bread, etc. In the case of single hosts, the designated host may ask a group member to work in partnership on the main dish – and have remaining group members bring side dishes, desert, bread, etc.

Phyllis Dean,  
Parish Supper Club Chair

***Organ Walk Schedule***  
*Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008*  
*Athens, Ohio*



**2:00 p.m.**

First United Methodist Church  
2 South College Street

**2:30 p.m.**

First Presbyterian Church  
Court and Washington Streets

**3:00 p.m.**

Galbreath Chapel  
Ohio University Campus

**3:30 p.m.**

Church of the Good Shepherd  
64 University Terrace

Reception following at Church of the Good Shepherd

Organists performing include:

Holly Oberle, George Weckman, Jan Robison,  
Roderick Gorby, Paul Barte, Mary Thomas,  
Marsha Reilly and David Nuss

Concert is free and open to the public

## October 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> noon – Free Lunch w/ Phyllis Dean 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal	<b>2</b> 4:30 pm – Finance Committee Meeting 7:30 pm – Alanon	<b>3</b> Kairos Prison Ministry Weekend 8 pm – Shepherd’s Alternative, Chapel	<b>4</b> 8 am – Flea Market Kairos Prison Ministry Cardboard City
<b>5</b> Kairos Prison Ministry 8 am – HE I 9:00 am – Adult Ed 10:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – HE II following service - Discernment Committee Meeting 1 pm – Bike Ride followed by Animal Blessing, Field Blessing & Picnic	<b>6</b> 7 pm – Boy Scouts	<b>7</b> 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	<b>8</b> noon – Free Lunch w/ Jan Gault 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b> 7:30 pm – Alanon	<b>10</b> Glenda out of office 5:30 pm – Ultreya Potluck & Meeting 8 pm – Shepherd’s Alternative	<b>11</b> 3 pm - Ruth Lawson Memorial Service
<b>12</b> 8 am – HE I 9:00 am – Adult Ed 10:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – HE II following service - Second Sunday Brunch with Community Forum 2 pm – Lindley Inn	<b>13</b> Bill out of office 7 pm – Boy Scouts	<b>14</b> Bill out of office 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting @ Betty Larson’s home 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	<b>15</b> Bill out of office noon – Free Lunch w/ Joanne Larson 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b> Bill out of office 7:30 pm – Alanon	<b>17</b> Bill out of office 8 pm – Shepherd’s Alternative	<b>18</b> Bill out of office
<b>19</b> 8 am – HE I 9:00 am – Adult Ed 10:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – HE II 2 pm – AGO Organ Walk	<b>20</b> 7 pm – Boy Scouts	<b>21</b> 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – AA	<b>22</b> noon – Free Lunch w/ Pat Grean 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b> 7:30 pm – Alanon 8 pm – Worship Committee Meeting	<b>24</b> 8 pm – Shepherd’s Alternative	<b>25</b> Fall Clean up Day
<b>26</b> Bishop’s Visit 10:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – HE II 2 pm – Pre-Convention Meeting 2 pm – Lindley Inn	<b>27</b> 7 pm – Boy Scouts	<b>28</b> 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting @ June Wieman’s home 7:30 pm – Alanon, 8 pm – AA	<b>29</b> noon – Free Lunch w/ TBA 5:30 pm – Midweek Eucharist 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal	<b>30</b> 7:30 pm – Alanon	<b>31</b> 8 pm – Shepherd’s Alternative	