
Good SHEPHERD News

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

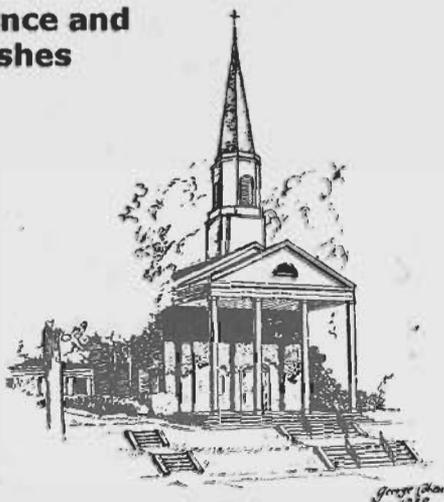
February 2010

Ash Wednesday, February 17th

- 8:00 a.m. – Simple Eucharist with
Imposition of Ashes
(Bishop Black Chapel)**
- 7:30 p.m. – Holy Eucharist with
Litany of Penitence and
Imposition of Ashes
(Nave)**

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Seeking and Serving Christ in all persons

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Spoiler Alert: Lent straight ahead

A parishioner recently observed to me that the liturgical year does not provide enough room for joy. I don't know whether this is right or wrong, but it certainly feels that way sometimes. This year, the season after the Epiphany is particularly short. As of this writing, we have just three more Sundays left, and we are plunging headlong into Lent. And so, gentle reader, conscious that you may be tempted to peak at what's around the corner (go right ahead if you are), I'm giving you fair warning.

Lent is, of course, a penitential season. It is a time for self-examination, reflection, and discipline--even for sorrow. Lent is a time to clean house, as we open ourselves up and let God turn our lives around. It provides the occasion to be converted all over again, both to God and to our neighbor. Lent highlights the work of repentance that is always central to the Christian life. This need not be maudlin: it involves turning from sin by the grace of the Spirit, abiding in the mercy of Christ, and living toward God with joy.

This past weekend, I read a book by Archbishop Rowan Williams that I've been meaning to read for some time. It's based on a series of meditations that he offered in Canterbury Cathedral during Holy Week of 2005. Williams gave the book the title *Tokens of Trust*, because he wished to highlight that the triune God described in the Creeds is the utterly trustworthy Creator and Savior of the world. The most interesting part to me concerns the death and resurrection of Jesus. It will certainly influence my Easter sermon this year. As we enter the season of Lent, however, I thought it would be useful to share some of the things he says about repentance in his final chapter on death and judgment:

...[A] Christian community doing its job is a community where people expect to be repenting quite a lot, and where the confident calling of others to repentance, which Christians enjoy so much, needs to be silenced by self-scrutiny and self-questioning before God.

But the miracle is that a repentant community, a community of people who are daily aware of their own untruthfulness and lack of love and are not afraid to face their failures, is a community that speaks profoundly of hope. The Church does not communicate good news by consistent success and virtue--as we have noticed--but in its willingness to point to God; and

repentance, which says that you don't have to be paralysed by failure, is thus one of the most effective signs of the Church's appeal to something more than human competence and resource...

One of the oddest things in our culture is that we seem tolerant of all sorts of behavior, yet are deeply unforgiving...We shouldn't be misled by an easy-going atmosphere in manners and morals; under the surface there is a hardness that ought to worry us. And this means that when the Church in the Creed and (we hope) in its practice points us to the possibility of forgiveness, it is being pretty counter-cultural.

Rowan Williams, *Tokens of Trust* (Westminster/John Knox, 2007), pp. 151-152

Ash Wednesday is February 17. As we pray the long litany and receive the ashes as a sign of our mortality and penitence, may we rediscover the inexhaustible abundance of Christ's mercy and truth. May we rediscover that "something more" than our own competence or strength, which empowers us to be God's Church. We call it grace. It is the source, framework, and goal of our life in Christ.

Our Lenten journey is a gateway to Easter joy. True, Lent is a long fallow season that begins in ashes and tears and leads us, inexorably, through the narrow door of the Cross. Even during this season, however, the liturgy reminds us that we are to "prepare with joy for the paschal feast." The Good News is too irrepressibly good to remain hidden away. Even in Lent, the Easter fire remains burning, pervading creation and conveying Christ's risen life to us all.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Carroll". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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

PROPERTY MATTERS

As some of you may know, I was recently appointed to the Diocesan Stewardship Commission. In this capacity, I have been directing more of my attention to what is involved in a fuller understanding of the concept of Stewardship.

In Saxon England a “styg” was a parcel of property, usually containing a house. And a “styg-gard” (steward) was appointed by his lord to live in the house and look after the property. The steward managed the property but did not own it. And he answered to his lord for how good a job he did. After the Norman Conquest, a “styg” became a dwelling for pigs (sty), and the “sty-ward” took care of the pigpen. Even though the social status of the steward went down in the new dynasty, nonetheless the relationship of management and accountability did not change.

Today we define Stewardship (mistakenly, I believe) as little more than “filling out a pledge card.” I would like to address some things happening at Good Shepherd in terms of the more traditional and fuller understanding of the word.

1. As I write this, we are digging out of a week of snow totaling 6-8 inches. I just took a look at the roofs of both the church and the “rectory.” The snow was piled up on both buildings.¹ What this means is that heat is NOT seeping through the roofs and melting the snow. It further means that the insulation we bought and installed in 2007 is working and that neither we nor our tenant is wasting money on heat that is simply radiating into the air. This shows that we are doing a good job of managing what money we have and of the physical environment we live in.
2. Since we resumed the program, we have sold approximately fifty bags of “outreach” coffee. By the time you read this, we will have raised approximately \$150 for our 2010 Outreach programs. Also, approximately forty families are enrolled in the Kroger Community Card program and through the groceries we buy we are contributing substantially to the financial ability of Good Shepherd to fulfill our mission of being a steward to the community.

Property Matters continues on page 6

*Notes from the
Organ Bench*

February marks the seasonal change from Epiphany to the contemplative season of Lent as we prepare for the Feast of the Resurrection on April 4th.

Sunday, February 14th:

The last Sunday of the season of Epiphany will be observed musically by singing several hymns with “Alleluia.” We will not sing “Alleluias” again until the Great Vigil of Easter on April 3rd.

Tuesday, February 16th: 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

In addition to great pancakes and sausage, this annual event will feature entertainment at specified times. The palms will also be burned in preparation for the Imposition of Ashes. If you still have your palm from last year, bring it along.

This event is also a fund raiser for the June Black Music Fund. This fund was set up to honor June black, wife of Bishop William Black, former Rector of Good Shepherd and Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Ohio. Monies from this fund support guest musicians – such as brass groups on Easter the extra musicians for Advent Festival and other occasions on an as needed basis. Some monetary support for the Vocal Music Assistants program is currently coming from this fund also.

Wednesday, February 17th: 6:15 p.m.

Due to the Ash Wednesday service at 7:30 p.m., choir rehearsal will be at 6:15 p.m.

Saturday, February 20th: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Workshop on Singing Spirituals

The Rev. Edward Payne will be the presenter. This program is sponsored by the Southeast Ohio Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and will be held at Good Shepherd. Anyone who enjoys singing spirituals is welcome. Please invite your friends.

Notes from the Organ Bench continues on page 6

News from the Pews . . .

Canes Nicolas, a Haitian graduate student, studying music at Ohio University with **Steven Huang**, is relieved to report that he has spoken to his family in Port-au-Prince and that they all survived the earthquake. While water, food, security, communication, and shelter continue to be major issues in Haiti, he thanks his new friends in Athens for their prayers and support.

Christine Olver, daughter of **Roland & Mary Anne Swardson**, and her family have settled into their rented house in Lunel-Viel, Languedoc-Roussillon, France, where they will be for the next 6 months. **Christine**, on sabbatical leave from her position at Colorado State University, has a Fulbright grant to do research at the University of Montpellier. Her husband, **Brian**, on leave from his position of an elementary school principal, will be “monsieur maman” to **Maddy 10** and **Cameron 8**, who will attend the nearby village school. Enroute, the Olvers stopped for a visit with sister **Anne** and her family who live in Paris. **Anne** is with Bloomberg News, and her husband **Charles Trueheart**, is the director of the American Library in Paris. The Olvers can be emailed at - olverfrance.blogspot.com.

On New Years Eve at the Seattle Space Needle, **Bethany Miller**, daughter of **Twig Kaufman** of Athens, and **Michael Andrew Callison** of Bellevue, Washington, became engaged having met on a People to People Sports Ambassadors trip to the Netherlands in 2007. As of now, the wedding is planned for 2013 after **Bethany** graduates.

Representing the Good Earth Farm, **Dan Kauffman** led one of the Good Works Walks for the Homeless on Food Insecurity. After the walk, about 100 people came to Nehls Hall to learn about food insecurity in Athens County. **Paul Clever** reports that their new bull, “Puppy,” is getting along quite well with “Kitty” their cow. Stay tuned, love may blossom!

Jim Mowery is now in Chillicothe at the Veterans Hospital Nursing Home and would appreciate correspondence from his Good Shepherd friends.

Now serving as chair of the Diocese Faith in Life Commission is Good Shepherd’s **Bill Carroll**

PROPERTY MATTERS *(continued from page 3)*

You can trust your parish leadership to be vigilant in its duty to make the money we have go as far as possible. But if you shop at Kroger's or drink coffee, there now exist two nearly painless ways to help us as a parish to fulfill our other duty of Stewardship to the world outside our walls. I urge you to buy "outreach" coffee whenever you can and to register with Kroger's so that a percentage of what you spend there can come back to Good Shepherd to help us improve our Stewardship even further.

**Jack Flemming,
Junior Warden**

Notes from the Organ Bench *(continued from page 4)*

Sunday, February 21st: Lent 1

The singing of the Great Litany in procession and in responsorial style marks this Sunday.

The Great Litany is the first English language rite prepared by Thomas Cranmer and was first published in 1544. It is an intercessory prayer with various petitions sung by cantors with responses by the congregation. It concludes with the Kyrie.

There are a number of videos on YouTube including a Greek version. The text is found in the Book of Common Prayers, page 148 and in the hymnal at S-67.

Singers:

New singers – high school age and up – are always welcome in the choir. If you are interested in participating in the choir for the Lenten season or just for Easter, contact the Music Director (592-2596, mareilly1@columbus.rr.com).

*Marsha Reilly,
Music Director*

February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7 pm - NAMI 7 pm - Boy Scouts	2 5:30 pm - Farm Eucharist 7:30 pm - Alanon 8 pm - AA	3 noon - Free Lunch 7 pm - Choir Rehearsal	4 5:30 pm - Midweek Eucharist 7:30 pm - Alanon	5 6 pm - Athens Reading Club	6
7 8 am - HE I 9 am - Adult Ed 10:30 am - HE II	8 7 pm - NAMI 7 pm - Boy Scouts	9 9:30 am - Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting @ Doris Green 5:30 pm - Farm Eucharist 7:30 pm - Alanon 8 pm - AA	10 noon - Free Lunch 7 pm - Choir Rehearsal	11 5:30 pm - Midweek Eucharist 7:30 pm - Alanon	12	13
14 8 am - HE I 9 am - Adult Ed 10:30 am - HE II 2 nd Sunday Brunch 2 pm - Lindley Inn 3 pm - Hocking Valley Deanery Meeting @ Epiphany Nelsonville	15 7 pm - NAMI 7 pm - Boy Scouts	16 5 - 6:30 pm - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 7:30 pm - Alanon 8 pm - AA	17 8 am - Ash Wednesday Service noon - Free Lunch 6:15 pm - Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm - Ash Wednesday Service Parish Administrator on vacation	18 5:30 pm - Midweek Eucharist 7 pm - Vestry 7:30 pm - Alanon Parish Administrator on vacation	19 Parish Administrator on vacation	20 1 - 3 pm - Singing Spirituals Workshop
21 8 am - HE I 9 am - Adult Ed 10:30 am - HE II	22 7 pm - NAMI 7 pm - Boy Scouts Parish Administrator on vacation	23 9:30 am - Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting @ Julie Nehls 5:30 pm - Farm Eucharist 7:30 pm - Alanon 8 pm - AA	24 noon - Free Lunch 7 pm - Choir Rehearsal	25 5:30 pm - Midweek Eucharist 7:30 pm - Alanon	26	27 9 am - Sexual Abuse Awareness Training
28 8 am - HE I 9 am - Adult Ed 10:30 am - HE II 2 pm - Lindley Inn						