

**The Good News
The Church of the Good Shepherd
May 2010**



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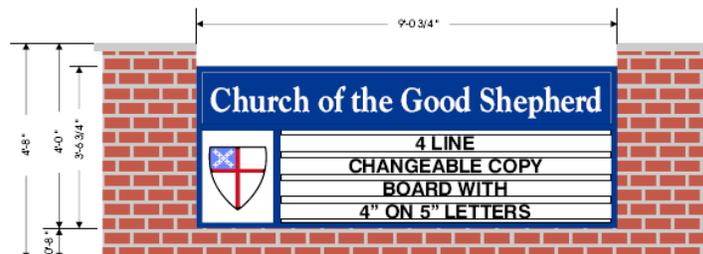
ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

In the absence of a full time parish administrator, we are moving to an electronic newsletter. This will save us on the order of \$2000 to \$2500 per year between the mass mailing permit, postage, printing, and paper. It will also reduce the environmental impact of our operations. We will continue to print hard copies for those who do not use e-mail or receive attachments. They will be available for pick up at the church on the first Sunday of each month and can be mailed for those who may be homebound.

The format is evolving. Now that we are free from the limitations of the eight half-pages that we were using to comply with postal regulations, we will have a great deal more freedom with respect to content and layout. For example, if we want to, we can now include some full color digital photographs. Your ideas for columns, announcements, pictures, and content are most welcome. Over time, as part of our commitment to common ministry, we may transition toward a parish communication team. Our new deadline is the 23rd day of each month. Help tell the wonderful stories about what God is doing at Good Shepherd, including your ministries and upcoming parish events.

FROM THE RECTOR: ON ANXIETY IN TIMES OF CHANGE

You may have noticed the beginnings of construction on our new parish sign, which should be completed soon. This was approved by the vestry in 2007, and it has taken this long for us to secure all the needed approvals from the City of Athens. This marks a continuation of our effort to turn the face of Good Shepherd toward the community. I can't tell you how many people I still meet who don't know where Good Shepherd is, or, if they do know our building, think it is either closed or part of the University. A picture of what the sign will look like appears below. The brick columns will be somewhat narrower than this sketch, and the brick used will be as close a match as available to the bricks in our building (the new University blend).



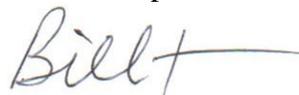
The new sign could be taken as a symbol of more profound changes on the horizon as our exploration of common ministry continues. The next event is Sunday May 2, after the 10:30 Eucharist. It will be followed by additional parish-wide events in May and June. At these events, major decisions will be made about our common life. It is imperative that every member of the parish show up so that the wisdom and perspective of each person may enter into the deliberations of the community as a whole. I've circulated Elizabeth Sayers notes from our recent vestry retreat that show areas of challenge and opportunity identified by vestry members in five areas: service, worship, education, evangelism, and pastoral care. (SWEEP for short. A copy of the analysis appears as an appendix to this newsletter.) Hard copies are also available near the main entrance to the church. Please feel free to add your own ideas by replying to this e-mail or sending them to any member of the executive committee (Matthew Adeyanju, Jack Flemming, Anne Braxton, Sharon Huges, and me).

In the short run, I hope that we will make substantial improvements to our worship space, establish a Christian formation team to oversee specific new efforts in this area for all ages, and find more creative ways to embrace opportunities that exist through our collaboration with the different ministries going on at Good Earth Farm. Those are my priorities. What are yours? Ultimately, these are decisions to be reached by the vestry in consultation with the whole parish. We want to create a space for all the people who gather at Good Shepherd to deliberate about our common future. Don't miss out on this opportunity to participate. Whatever the results of the forums, we will continue to move in the overall direction of lay-driven, decentralized decision making, with accountability to one another and clearly identified lay and clergy leadership.

I am sensing anxiety from a few different quarters about these and other possible changes. During our vestry retreat, Fr. Stephen Applegate reminded us that anxiety is normal in times of change, and cautioned us against rushing in to relieve it prematurely. In some ways, the community organizing model we are using increases that anxiety because the proposals can seem abstract until the community has a chance to meet and make decisions together. The SWEEP analysis is one way to make the prospect of changes more concrete, without prejudging where the parish-wide conversation will take us. Fr. Stephen specifically charged those present at the retreat with telling our fellow parishioners to expect anxiety. He also urged us, as parish leaders, to be the less anxious presence in the community. This certainly goes for clergy, wardens, and vestry members. In a common ministry model, however, every parishioner is charged with showing leadership, because every member of the Body shares fully in the authority and responsibility for ministry.. This means staying focused on God and the common good, and sharing our wisdom and perspective with the group without necessarily getting our own way. To the degree to which we can moderate our anxiety, we help the whole parish to reach better decisions for itself. We don't need to frame our choices as simple dichotomies between this or that. We need to hear one another's questions, share relevant information, test assumptions, and engage one another in conversation before we reach any conclusions. Together, we can think creatively about how we will respond to the many challenges and opportunities facing Good Shepherd at this time.

Things are changing all the time, but at some periods of the Church's life these changes are more profound and disconcerting than at others. What stays the same is the abundant love of God, who calls each one of us by name into a particular ministry within the one Body. In this season of resurrection, we need to spend some time in prayer. May we find ourselves drawn ever more deeply into the risen Christ, who is the inexhaustible source for our own risen life and who provides the reason for all we do.

Grace and peace,



The Rev. R. William Carroll, Rector

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS (FROM THE APRIL 15, 2010 MEETING)

The vestry meeting focused on the transition caused by Glenda Frost's acceptance of a job offer at the City Law Director's office. We were sorry to see her go but glad that she was able to find a good, full-time job that met her needs. Plans were made to thank her for her service to Good Shepherd.

The vestry decided to engage Career Connections to find us a part time bookkeeper and receptionist. They will test all applicants on general bookkeeping knowledge and QuickBooks. A committee, to include A.J. Stack, Anne Braxton, Jack Flemming, and Fr. Carroll will handle the hiring. Fr. Carroll emphasized that the new person would not be here in the same capacity as Glenda. We need to respect his or her time and confine the job responsibilities narrowly to parish financial reporting and limited reception duties. The vestry received a series of recommendations from the committee that is handling the transition. They reviewed the parish administrator's job description line by line. Many of Glenda's former responsibilities will be divided among the new bookkeeper/receptionist, the rector, various groups within the parish, and individual lay volunteers. In some cases, work that she was doing will no longer be done. There will be changes to office procedures, especially regarding the bulletin and newsletter.

Now that we are free from the limitations imposed by the old format, we are also including a contact list for clergy, staff, officers, vestry, and committee chairs at the end of each newsletter. The same list appears near the front of the new parish photo directory, which continues to be available on Sunday mornings or in the parish office.

T.J. AZAR TO BE ORDAINED TO SACRED ORDER OF PRIESTS ON JUNE 19

The following is a note from T.J. Azar about her upcoming ordination, pending final diocesan approval. This is included so that you can put it in your calendar now. Please keep T.J. and the other ordinands in your prayers.

Hello, Friends! I've been gone too long. I miss you, especially now, as my life is about to take a turn—a wonderful turn!—and I recall, as I have so often, my Good Shepherd family. Should the Commission on Ministry not find reason to rule otherwise at its April meeting, I will be ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests on June 19.

Much of the ordination process in Episcopal dioceses, for good reasons I won't discuss here, is conducted in such a way that the very congregation which has helped to form a layperson to prepare for Holy Orders misses it! It was only months after being named a postulant that I effectively disappeared from Good Shepherd. It would be easy, I think, for many to forget the great privilege and responsibilities of *the people* in choosing, forming, assessing, and supporting their leadership.

Fundamentally, an Episcopal ordination is *a work of the Church*. God provides the potential—the gifts that enable a person to be formed to be a suitable pastor, priest, and teacher—and makes the invitation to Holy Orders. The ordinand accepts the invitation and prepares in accordance with canonical and diocesan requirements. However, *at literally every step*, the ordinand must be reaffirmed by his or her sponsoring congregation. The process cannot even *begin* without that affirmation. I write you today, seven weeks from ordination day, remembering how foundational the examples, the encouragement, the support, and the teaching of *the people of Good Shepherd* were in preparing me to accept God's call to become a priest.

It's come as a little added blessing that this year's priest ordinations will be held at St. Anne Episcopal Church in West Chester, where I'm completing the first of two years as a diocesan resident (think "priestly finishing

school”). I hope some of you are able to attend. How wonderful to be blessed once again at the end of this process as you blessed me so often along the way!

With most profound thanks,

TJ Azar

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Serving on the Kairos Ministry Program in recent months were Fr. Bill Carroll, Gregory Proctor and Gifford Doxsee. Gregory and Gifford have agreed to be team members for the Kairos Weekend at the Nelsonville Hocking Correctional Facility from April 29 through May 2. Your contribution of cookies for this event has added greatly to its success. If anyone reading this is interested in becoming a Kairos team member please speak with Fr. Bill, Gregory or Gifford.

Making the Dean's list at Ohio Northern University for both fall and winter quarters was Bethany Miller, daughter of Twig Kaufman. Also in other news, Bethany's sister Alaina Miller will graduate from Case Western Reserve University in May with a Masters Degree in Social Services Administration where she has accepted a counseling position with Achievement Centers for Children in the Cleveland area.

Making the sixth grade honor roll at West Elementary was Sam Redfern, and in the same period, his brother Eli, tenth grade student council president, achieved the same recognition. Both boys are sons of Tom and Jane Forrest Redfern.

Traveling to Miami, Florida is Julie Nehls, for Peter McNairy's graduation from Florida International University on April 26th. Also attending will be Peter's father Phillip, former rector of Good Shepherd, and his wife Linda. Peter's mother, Marion, will also be present at the ceremony.

In April, Marsha Dutton participated in a monastic colloquium on Aelred of Rievaulx in Toulouse, France where she was one of three persons interviewed on Toulouse radio.

On April 15th in the Chapel at Proctor Center, Julia Nehls was inducted into the Society of St. Simon and St. Anna of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio. A few years earlier Gifford Doxsee received the same honor.

GOOD EARTH FARM PICKINS' Dan and Heidi Kaufman have returned from their honeymoon in Nicaragua. They had a great time and thank everyone from Good Shepherd for their support. Through the efforts of Jody and Pat Smith, the farmland now extends into University Estates adding four additional acres to the already thriving gardens.

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd—*Seeking and serving Christ in all persons*
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The specialty fleece herd is beginning to take shape with the addition of a Nigora kid and a Chevoit lamb.

The farm ministry has received an Americorps VISTA through Episcopal Community Service Foundation which will help with volunteer recruitment.

Future planning at the farm includes a bicycle rental business with Doug Lutz and Havre, within the next two months.

Ted Foster has been building a "tiny house", ten by twelve feet, for the use of summer interns and visiting retreat ants. The goal is to build three more units.

Jane Forrest Redfern was appointed to the Rural Policy Research Institute's Human Services panel which advises the US Dept. of Health and Human Services on rural human services issues. She attended her first meeting of the panel last week in Washington D.C.

Don Frazier edits the News from the Pews. If you have a news item for Don, please speak to him, send it to Donjo@columbus.rr.com, or call him at 797-4857. Please make sure to get the permission of the person involved.

PARISH MINISTRIES CONTACTS

(This is based on the list as it appears in the new directory. To make corrections or to be added to this list, please contact the rector.)

Clergy

Bill Carroll (rector)	590-7106	gsrector@gmail.com
Steve Domienik (assistant)	513-582-6834	sdomienik@gmail.com
Katharin Foster (assisting priest)	541-2291	kkfoster@columbus.rr.com
Tracey Carroll (assisting priest)	590-3865	mothertracey@gmail.com
Connie Jo McCarroll (deacon)	592-1230	conniejodo@cs.com

Executive Committee (also includes rector)

Matthew Adeyanju (Sr. Warden)	592-3187	adeyanju@ohio.edu
Jack Flemming (Jr. Warden)	592-4460	lflemmin@columbus.rr.com
Anne Braxton (Treasurer)	593-5647	braxton@ohio.edu
Sharon Huge (Secretary)	592-5178	huge@ohio.edu

Vestry (also includes executive committee)

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Paul Clever	594-2425	pclever2@yahoo.com
Will Lamb	594-8548	lambw@ohio.edu
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Lois Wagner	698-0140	loiswgn@aol.com
Dick Dean	593-8487	deanr@ohio.edu
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Curt Sherman	591-5139	curt_sherman@yahoo.com
Mary Cuff	606-7801	mc276106@ohio.edu

Staff

Marsha Reilly (music director)	592-2596	mareilly1@columbus.rr.com
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Committee Chairs, Program Area Contacts

<i>Campus</i>	Steve Domienik	513-582-6834	sdomienik@gmail.com
	Gifford Doxsee	592-3472	doxsee@ohio.edu
	Twig Kaufman	592-3694	twigkaufman@hotmail.com
<i>Finance</i>	Matthew Adeyanju	592-3187	adeyanju@ohio.edu
<i>Outreach</i>	A.J. Stack	590-8080	gastack@gmail.com
<i>Parish Life</i>	Lois Wagner	698-0140	loiswgn@aol.com
	Joanne Worstall	797-4857	Donjo@columbus.rr.com
<i>Property</i>	Jack Flemming	592-4460	lflemmin@columbus.rr.com
<i>Worship</i>	Bill Carroll	590-7106	gsrector@gmail.com

APPENDIX: SWEEP ANALYSIS FROM THE 4/17/10 VESTRY RETREAT PREPARED BY ELIZABETH SAYRS

SWEEP exercise: In each category (service, worship, education, evangelism, and pastoral care), list a crisis, a pending crisis, or an opportunity.

SERVICE: Two main themes emerged in the category of service/outreach:

1) Recognition of the good work being done at the Good Earth farm, through our hunger ministries in general, and the opportunity to expand in this area

- Major opportunity: The farm is a major opportunity for service that is being utilized, but we could perhaps increase involvement of the parish.
- Food pantry and farm
- Expansion of Good Earth farm
- Poverty, food, hospitality

2) A desire to structure ministries so it is easy for all to participate

- Opportunity to connect with people who feel the need to serve others, but don't have the framework through which to do it.
- Structure most all ministries as participatory; promote these opportunities outside the church.
- Structure outreach opportunities so they're "plug and play" – a place for everyone

3) Additional ideas brought forward:

- To increase our financial support for outreach as a percentage of the budget
- Christian education and space for special needs children
- Establish a regular calendar of outreach fundraising events.

WORSHIP: Ideas clustered in several areas:

1) A desire that our space reflect our liturgy, and that our liturgy reflect our life in Christ:

- Worship space arrangement: updating and configuring
- Lots: Flow of communion and the role/type of music are the highest concerns
- Complete redesign of space, kid zone included
- Make our space reflect our liturgy
- Urgent need to reconnect liturgy with purpose of community in Christ

2) Concerns about how worship should/should not be changed:

- A balance between the traditional with some innovation thrown in
- No consensus how to update [worship]
- Teaching the elements and expanding the worship committee

3) Making worship accessible for all:

- Ramps for handicapped; better hospitality
- Horrible acoustics in nave and very difficult for those wearing amplification to often participate
- Also see concerns about accessibility under "pastoral care."

In addition, worship was considered an "opportunity for growth and development."

EDUCATION: This area had the most consensus.

1) Christian education, especially for children/Sunday School:

- Lack of Christian education [also #2 below]
- No critical mass for education/create space for education
- Connecting with children to help them understand liturgy, social justice issues, etc.
- We need to have Sunday school for the children.
- Need Sunday school – more space?
- No Sunday school/structured program for children
- Making it possible for parents to take part
- Adult and children's Christian education [also #2 below]
- Parishioners willing to teach children

2) Christian education for adults as well, including those outside the church:

- Christian education for both young and old [also #1 above]
- Provide more formation opportunities and promote outside the church; think about formation programs that people sign up for.
- Under-served students

EVANGELISM: This area had the least consensus, although several broad themes emerged:

1) Promote the work of the church:

- Take all the good ministries we do and formation programs and promote them outside the church.
- Opportunity: Make the community more aware of the work we do by linking our work with the name of Good Shepherd.
- Prominent signage for the church

2) Evangelism through hospitality:

- Time to talk to each other as well as newcomers; be a good example yourself by taking part in various jobs, etc. at church.
- This can be done through hospitality as well as providing food through the farm.
- Greeters up and running (opportunity/crisis)
- Also see #2 under "pastoral care"

3) Engaging students

- Wednesday lunch/ opportunity for college students
- Reaching students

4) Concerns about membership:

- Crisis: More members.
- Pending crisis: Again population with no one to take their place! Irrelevancy of Good Shepherd to surrounding community → tied to service.

In addition, the common ministry opportunity was seen as an opportunity for evangelism.

PASTORAL CARE: Again no consensus, but some broad themes:

1) Expand opportunities for lay ministry related to pastoral care

- Expand lay opportunities for visitations/lay Eucharist/home and crisis care, etc.
- Lay Eucharistic visitors need to be put to use.
- Establish pastoral care teams
- Care for home-bound individuals.
- Lindley Inn

2) Encourage a welcoming and connected community

- Parishioners need to be more outgoing; need to know what's going on. Who needs help?
- Welcoming new members of the community
- Need to become more welcoming and allow people to connect more quickly.

3) Accessibility

- Complete handicap accessibility.
- Ramps for those in wheel chairs or who have difficulty walking.

4) Additional ideas:

- Continuation of student ministry post-grant.
- Several clergy (opportunity)