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CHURCH OF THE



GOOD SHEPHERD

## Good Shepherd E-News (15 December 2016)

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Athens, Ohio--Seeking to know and serve Christ in loving service to the campus, the community, and the world.

## This Sunday: 18 December 2016 Fourth Sunday of Advent



**8:00 a.m. Service:** Holy Eucharist Rite I  
**Celebrant:** The Rev. Deborah Woolsey

(Adult Education resumes Jan 8th)

**Sunday School:** 9:30 a.m., Nehls Hall

**10:30 a.m. Service:** Holy Eucharist Rite II-A  
**Celebrant:** The Rev. Deborah Woolsey

## Upcoming Church Events

Vestry Meeting: Thursday, Dec. 15, 7:00 p.m., Hobson Lounge

Wednesday Free Lunch: Wednesday, Dec. 21, 12:00 noon

Choir Practice: Wednesday, Dec. 21, **4:15 p.m.**

Greening of the Church: Friday, Dec. 23, 9:00 a.m.

Family Christmas Eve Service: Saturday, Dec. 24, 4:00 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal, Saturday, December 24 at 9:15 p.m., Chapel.

Traditional Christmas Eve Service: Saturday, Dec. 24, 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Service: Sunday, Dec. 25, 11:00 a.m.

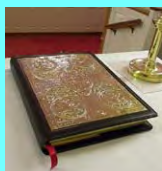
New Year's Day Service: Sunday, January 1, 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Free Lunch: Wednesday, Dec. 28, 12:00 noon

Choir Practice: Wednesday, Dec 28, 7:00 p.m.

Donate

## Gospel



### Fourth Sunday of Advent

Matthew 1: 18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what

## Participants scheduled for

This Sunday - Fourth Sunday of Advent (Dec. 18)

**Altar Guild:** Zelma Coleman and Lynn Graham

**Coffee Hour:** The Martin Family

**8:00 a.m. Service:** Holy Eucharist Rite I

**Celebrant:** The Rev. Deborah Woolsey

**Lector/Prayers:** Doris Green/Joanne Larson

**10:30 a.m. Service:** Holy Eucharist Rite II-A

**Celebrant:** The Rev. Deborah Woolsey

**Lector:** Zella Nisley

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Allyn Reilly (Prayer leader) and Gregory Proctor

**Ushers:** Norm Fox and Lynn Graham

**First Cross:** Bella Martin

**Second Cross:** Pely Brient

**Gospel Book:** Ana Martin

**Lessons:** Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 (sung), Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25.

<http://www.lectionarypage.net/>

## PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS

### In our world,

we pray for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, and for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; we pray for peace with justice throughout the Middle East. We pray for all people affected by natural and environmental disasters. We pray also for the people who are suffering from war, especially all refugees. We pray for Barack, our President, and John, our Governor, the members of the Supreme Court, and the members of the U.S. Congress.

### In our diocese,

we pray for Thomas, our Diocesan Bishop, and Nedi, our Assisting Bishop. We pray also for St. Andrew's, Evanston; St. James', Westwood, St. Luke's, Salyer Park; and healthcare chaplaincies.

**In our parish,** we pray for Good Shepherd's continued growth, for our Priest-in-charge, the Rev. Deborah Woolsey, for the Rev. Katharin Foster, for the Rev. David McCoy, and for our ministry to students, the university, and the community.

### Those for whom our prayers are requested: \*

Ed and Mary, Kris, Pam, Bill, the D'Andrea family, Elizabeth, Gifford, Sally, Patricia, Ann, Jan, Pat, Sharon, Bill, William, Roxie, Patricia, Richard, David, Mitchell, Don, Robert, Don, Nancy, Arvin, Suzan, Bill, Sister Edith, and Sister Emmanuel, and we pray for all who care for them.

had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

**Birthdays:** Alex Buckley (12/18), Norm Fox (12/18), Anthony DeBerardinis (12/18) Marsha Dutton (12/19), Don Randolph (12/21), Joanne Larson (12/23)

\* Full names for this section are not published online but are in the Sunday bulletin and will be read at the 10:30 service.

If you have a name to be added to the prayer list, Lynn Graham maintains this information. Lynn may be reached at 740-593-5098 or [grahammowery@aol.com](mailto:grahammowery@aol.com).

## Reminder, Vestry Meets Tonight



Vestry will meet on Thursday, December 15, in Hobson Lounge at 7:00 PM.

## 4 Advent

This Sunday we light all 4 candles in the Advent Wreath, marking the beginning of the final week in the Advent Season. As with the other candles in the Advent Wreath, there are different meanings placed on each candle, depending on which interpretation you prefer. Sometimes the different interpretations agree, which is the case with the last candle in the Advent Wreath, which many traditions agree symbolizes love. While it can be and often has been said that the word *love* is one of the most over-used words in the English language and can be used to express a wide range of feelings and ideas from extreme liking to romantic infatuation to parental nurture, this candle in our Advent Wreath represents the love of God. One of the things that has surprised me in ministry is the large number of people I have encountered who do not feel loved or feel worthy of God's love, despite all the times the word *love* appears in books, articles, commercials, and conversations. This reminds me of the need for the season of Advent. Today we light the candle of God's love in confrontation of the darkness of self doubt and pray again for the Light of Christ to free us from such darkness.

## Jesse Tree

Thank you to everyone who participated in last week's Jesse Tree activity during the Second Sunday Brunch. If you missed it, the Jesse Tree will be in the church narthex this Sunday. Please take a moment to check it out. There are two sets of ornaments on the tree: one that tells the story of salvation beginning at creation and one that explores the meaning of the O

Antiphons that have been a part of Advent for many years. The two come together beautifully to represent a people who are waiting in faith and hope for Christ to return. (Also see photo below.)



## Sunday School and Adult Education:

The last day for Sunday School this year will be Dec. 18, at 9:30 in Nehls Hall. The Adult Forum will NOT meet on the 18th but will resume on Jan. 8 in Hobson Lounge, as will Sunday School at 9:30.

## Special Choir Rehearsal Times



Choir rehearsal next week (Dec 21) will be at 4:15 p.m. There will also be a Christmas Eve (Dec 24) rehearsal at 9:15 p.m. in the chapel. Choir in the pews Christmas Day.

## Christmas Services at Church of the Good Shepherd -- Celebrating the Birth of Jesus

### Christmas Eve, December 24, 2016

**4:00 p.m.** A favorite service that welcomes families of all sizes and walks of life to celebrate Jesus' birth. Features Holy Communion, an interactive Christmas Gospel that children of all ages are invited to help proclaim (no experience necessary), a special sermon, and favorite Christmas hymns.

# Church of the Good Shepherd Comfort and Joy



## Christmas Eve Services

December 24, 2015

| Traditional Family Service<br>4:00pm   | Christmas Music Recital<br>10:00pm-10:30pm                       | Traditional 'Midnight' Service<br>10:30pm |
|--|--|---|
| Favorite Christmas hymns everyone can sing.  | Relax and enjoy the music of Christmas.                          | Traditional Christmas hymns and music.    |
| All children will be invited to participate in an interactive telling of the Story of Jesus's birth. | Where tradition and beauty meet to bring comfort and joy to all. | Holy Communion                            |
| A special Christmas sermon for all ages.   |  | Candlelight singing of 'Silent Night'     |
| Holy Communion   |  |   |

Church of the Good Shepherd

64 University Terrace

Athens, Ohio 45701

740-593-6877 ([www.chogs.org](http://www.chogs.org))

### 10:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

Christmas Music Recital; relax and enjoy the music of Christmas. Where tradition and beauty meet to bring comfort and joy to all.

**10:30 p.m.** A traditional midnight mass with all the glory of Holy Communion, sermon, candlelight singing of Silent Night, and traditional Christmas hymns.

## Christmas Day Service, December 25, 2016;

**11:00 a.m.** Having Christmas Day fall on a Sunday gives us the special opportunity to hear the Christmas Day readings and experience a traditional liturgy complete with Holy Communion, special Christmas hymns, and a unique sermon that brings us closer to the Mystery of the Incarnation in a comforting way.

Each Christmas service strives to bring an aspect of Christmas a little closer. Whichever service or combination of services you choose to come to, we are looking forward to celebrating Christ's birth with you.

# New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1, 2017

8:00 a.m. There is no change to the 8:00 a.m. service.

11:00 a.m. The 10:30 a.m. service will be at 11:00 a.m. on January 1, 2017.

Having New Year's Day on a Sunday gives us the opportunity to honor what the Church calls Holy Name Day. It is the day on which we not only commemorate Jesus' circumcision but also reflect on his name, not just its meaning but what his name means to you and me.

## Dog Day in Advent

Last Friday I had a great day doing Campus Ministry as I welcomed the OU Police Department into our building. When I started serving here at Church of the Good Shepherd almost two years ago, I thought the term "campus ministry" only applied to college or university students. Two years later I am still learning how inclusive and diverse that term really is, as diverse and inclusive as the many components and people who all together comprise the community that is Ohio University. Perhaps my



misconceptions come from being a graduate of a small college and even smaller seminary. One of the aspects of campus ministry I enjoy is learning more about who and what makes a university. One aspect of Ohio University I had the opportunity to get to know better (and vice versa) is the OU Police Dept.

Here is how it happened:

On Wednesday, one of the volunteers helping with Wednesday Lunch brought OU Police Officer Timothy Woodward to my office. He had seen the open door in front of the chapel, and that open door inspired him to ask if he could use our building to help train a few police dogs who are bomb-sniffing dogs. After he assured me that this exercise would cause no harm to the building or people, I wholeheartedly agreed.

On Friday morning, Officer Tim showed up on time. He was cheerful and easy to talk to. He taught me how they hid substances that are often found in bombs so the dogs can practice finding them. I learned many things that day about the dogs and the importance of the dogs familiarizing themselves with buildings before there is a problem. I also got to meet two dogs: Opie, who works with Homeland Security

as a bomb dog, and Alex, who is OU Police Department's bomb dog. Alex is a black lab mix who is also a rescue dog. I enjoyed watching the dogs work (they loved it!) and seeing their relationship with their officers. Mostly, I enjoyed getting to know the officers better; one even freely talked about his religious life and the shared struggles both our denominations (he is a Baptist) have. It was obvious at the end of the training that we have a lot in common and that the officers have a respect for Church of the Good Shepherd, not as a building but as the Body of Christ in this place. The Officer even asked if he could send students he finds in need of help our way, which I of course agreed to. I invited him and the other officers to join us for lunch on Wednesdays, as Wednesday Lunch is a great coming together of the whole community.

One of the things I am taking away from this encounter is how it started: with an open door. Through the open door the officer not only saw our activity; he felt invited. When I started here as your priest-in-charge, I remember that the leadership told me one of the main ways Church of the Good Shepherd lives into its calling to campus ministry is by being present to the community. Seeing a member of the community come into our building through the open doors shows that that simple action has served as not only an invitation but as a strengthening of community when that invitation is accepted.

The open doors led to a day with the dogs, which led to a strengthening of our presence here on 64 University Terrace and a strengthening of our connection with members of the OU community. Such growth is the stuff of ministry, campus and otherwise, and is the work of those of us living and sharing the Love of God in Christ. Thank you for allowing me to share in being present and in your campus ministry, and keep up the good work!

Many Blessings, Mother Deborah



(Editor's Note: given the harsh light I tweaked this a bit so we could see details of both the two-legged critters and the four-legged critters.)

## Wednesday Free-Lunch Report



On December 14th, 2016, Wednesday Lunch group II provided 35 people 50 servings. The meat dish was tuna casserole, and the vegetarian dish was a veggie casserole. Veggie salad, fresh fruit, cookies, and beverages rounded out the menu. The helpers were

Zelma Coleman, Harold Smith, Ester Hernandez, Betty Hollow, and Helen Chila.

Please remember the hungry in our community in your prayers. To become involved in one or more of the four lunch teams, please speak to Phyllis Dean, Zelma Coleman, Joanne Larson, or David Burton.



## Greening of the Church



Everyone is invited to join the Altar Guild for the cleaning and decorating the church for Christmas, from 9 a.m. to noon on Friday, December 23. There is plenty of work for all ability levels. Come join the fun and make our building shine for the celebration of Christmas. If you have questions please speak to Sharon Huge ([huge@ohio.edu](mailto:huge@ohio.edu)) or Sally Spero ([s\\_spero@hotmail.com](mailto:s_spero@hotmail.com)).

## Mother Deborah on Vacation (Dec 27-29)

Mother Deborah will be on vacation December 27-29. For pastoral emergencies please contact the Rev. Katharin Foster.



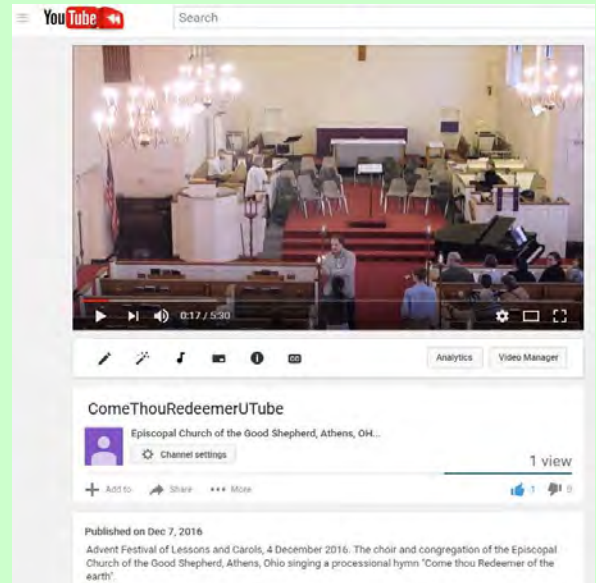
**Above:** Good Shepherd is not the only parish that is "big on cakes" -- this cake made by a St. Peter's, Gallipolis, parishioner (using rock candy) for their 175th celebration this past Saturday was something to behold! **Right:** Our Jesse tree to date in Nehls.

## Advent Processional on YouTube. Check this out if you have not!

Below is a YouTube link to part of last week's Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols, with the processional hymn, "Come thou Redeemer of the Earth"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jllzAjlpIRQ>

The Church of the Good Shepherd now has a YouTube "channel"; this is our first item. We will probably upload some audio files shortly, but this is it regarding videos for the time being.



## Repeated Information Below

### [Your Kroger Card can Help the Church](#)

## Advent



### **Welcome to a new season and a new Church year.**

The church begins every year with a season called Advent. For the Church Advent is not just a time to get ready for the celebration of Christmas; it is a time the Church has set aside to remind us that Christians are waiting for the return of Christ and that when Christ returns he will usher in the reign of God over all creation. Advent is a season of hopeful waiting, of expectation; it can teach us a lot about how to live a life of faith in all the seasons of our lives.

**First Sunday in Advent: a Day of Hope in a Season of Waiting:** Every Sunday in Advent, part of how we begin our church service is by lighting a candle on the Advent Wreath. The Advent Wreath is our clock, our timepiece, a way to help us discern where we are in this season of waiting. Waiting can feel never ending, and one way to help make waiting easier is to pay attention to the time. This Sunday we light the first candle. There are several interpretations of what each candle symbolizes. The first candle can symbolize prophecy or hope. It reminds us

of the prophecies from the Old Testament about a savior, a savior who we believe was born, died, and is coming again. This is a hopeful prophecy for us, because we are waiting for Christ to return to earth and restore all creation to God's initial intention. It means judgment and reminds us that God's judgment is God's mercy. As we light the first candle in our Advent Wreath today, we pray for hope as we wait.

**Symbols of Advent:** The Church has put on the symbols of the season. Look around you, and you will be able to tell the time and theme of Advent.

**Color:** Gone is the green of ordinary time and white of celebration time. Now the Church is wearing purple. Purple is the color of royalty, the color of kings. Purple reminds us that Jesus is our king, that he will return to reign--and yet we are reminded by Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and ascension that he is a different kind of king. While monarchies rise and fall, the reign of Christ is marked by God's ultimate claim on creation.

**Advent Wreath:** added to the worship space is a ring or wreath of candles. The Advent Wreath is a sort of timepiece, like a clock, that helps us mark the days and tells us where we are in the season. Each Sunday we will light a candle or candles and say prayers. Pay attention to the direction in which we light the candles: we will light the candles in a counter-clockwise direction to symbolize that the church is counter-cultural. The Church is headed in a different direction from the world.

**Jesse Tree:** In Nehls Hall, the Worship Committee has brought out another symbol of Advent. The Jesse Tree is a way to tell the story beginning in the Old Testament, that God's promise of sending a Messiah was fulfilled in Jesus and will still be fulfilled in Jesus' return. It is called a "Jesse Tree" because of the prophecy in Isaiah 11:1 and Jeremiah 23:1-6 that speaks of a branch rising up from the stump of Jesse. The Jesse Tree, therefore, is usually a branch; throughout the days of Advent symbols are hung on the tree. These symbols can be of Old Testament stories that point to the Messiah or of the O antiphons, which represent the aspects of the season of Advent. Either way, the Jesse Tree is an invitation to explore the season and faith a little deeper.

These symbols do not have to be just for church; you can have your own Advent Wreath or Jesse Tree at home to add to your observance of this season.

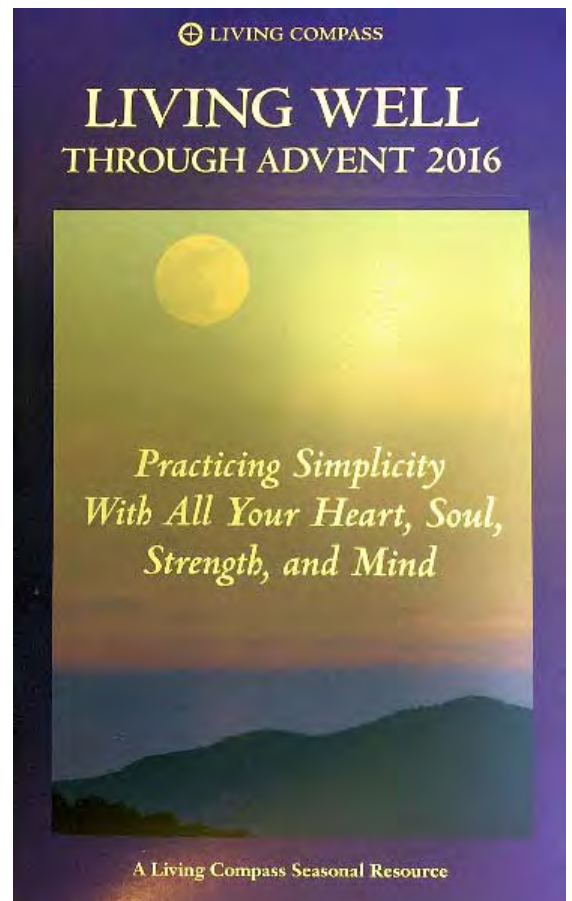
## FREE Advent Resource Practicing Simplicity with all your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind

Please accept a gift to help bring you a deeper experience of Advent this year from Mother Deborah and Living Compass, an Episcopal ministry Mother

Deborah used to work with.

While working with Living Compass, Mother Deborah had the joyful experience of putting together their first Advent book of daily readings; it became their most popular publication. Today it has grown to include guest authors from the Episcopal Church. It is Mother Deborah's hope that this year's theme of simplicity and its suggested practices will help you slow down and discover the beauty of simplicity.

(Copies in the Narthex)



## "Intersections"

Check out - -

["Intersections: Where the Holy Meets Us,"](#)

a blog through the Church of the Good Shepherd started by Mother Deborah.

It is still a work in progress in terms of functionality, but take a look: click the link above.



## Young Adult Gathering 2016 (December 16-17)

**God's Glory Shines Through Us** "We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone." - Marianne Williamson

**Location:** Procter Center

Join us for our annual young adult gathering--a space for reconnecting with God, friends, and your own story. This year, we will explore creativity as an expression of God's glory in our midst. We will have opportunities to engage in the art of improv, visual art, music making, poetry, and whatever creative gifts you have to share. We invite you to join us

and bring your playful and creative spirit with you. We will be joined by artists, musicians, and improv actors who will lead us in a variety of workshops and help us explore our own creative gifts. We will also spend time in prayer and reflection on how God is made manifest in us. Come ready to play!

We begin on Friday night, December 16th, at 5 pm, and will conclude on Saturday, December 17th, around 3 pm. This retreat is free for young adults ages 18-35. For more information and to register please click [HERE](#) .

## Sermons on the Website:

Miss a sermon? Out of town? Or maybe you just want to read it yourself? Thanks to our technological team, the sermons from Sunday are posted on the Church of the Good Shepherd website a few days after they are preached. Check out the ones you missed, go over a favorite, or share. <http://www.chogs.org/sermons.htm>

## Pastoral Care

Because of health care privacy laws, hospitals are no longer able to call your priest or parish when you are in the hospital. That means that if you want a visit from Mother Deborah or a Lay Eucharistic Visitor (a parish member who has some training) you need to call and ask for a visit. For emergencies please call Mother Deborah's cell phone 937-689-8895. If you would prefer prayers instead of a visit, just call and ask for prayers.

## Altar Flowers



To reserve flowers in memory of someone or in thanksgiving, please speak to or contact Sharon Huge (740-592-5178 or [huge@ohio.edu](mailto:huge@ohio.edu)).

Hyacinth Bean Florist provides our arrangements for the back altar on Sunday. A single arrangement in a triangular design is \$60 plus \$9 for delivery. Sharon Huge coordinates, providing our florist with the name and address of donors for billing purposes. If you wish to have special colors or specific flowers, you may call Polly at Hyacinth Bean (740-594-9302) to discuss your wishes. If you want to go to the shop to discuss special arrangements, Hyacinth Bean Florist is located at 540 W. Union St. in Athens. There is ample free parking in the lot outside the shop.



Mother Deborah's home phone is 740-249-4497, and her cell number is 937-689-8895, for emergencies.

Her personal email is the Rev. Deborah Woolsey <[revdebwoolsey@gmail.com](mailto:revdebwoolsey@gmail.com)>, and the email through the church is the Rev. Deborah Woolsey <[revdeborah@chogs.org](mailto:revdeborah@chogs.org)>.

Mother Deborah has found that people like to communicate in many ways, so she is reachable on Facebook (<http://facebook.com/deborah.woolsey.12>) and on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/DeborahWoolsey>), and you can check out her blog at (<http://www.revvedupwoolsey.com/>).

Also, here is the link to the Church of Good Shepherd's **Facebook** page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Episcopal-Church-of-the-Good-Shepherd-45701/554345594588086?fref=ts>. Once you get on the page, just LIKE it if you are already a Facebook person. Otherwise you will need to create a Facebook account first.

And the Church of Good Shepherd's Twitter account: <https://twitter.com/CHOGSofAthens>.

## Contact Information

**For pastoral needs**, please contact The Rev. Deborah Woolsey at 740-249-4497 (H) or 937-689-8895 (C) or 740-593-6877 (church), or by e-mail at [revdebwoolsey@gmail.com](mailto:revdebwoolsey@gmail.com).

**To find out more about Good Shepherd and other matters**, please contact Allyn Reilly, Senior Warden, at 740-592-2596 or by e-mail at [reillya@ohio.edu](mailto:reillya@ohio.edu).

**For building and maintenance matters**, please leave a note at the office or call Ted Foster (Junior Warden) at 740-593-8615.

**NOTE: NON-emergency messages** can be left on the church answering machine (740-593-6877).

### Office Hours:

10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday (closed Friday and Saturday).

The parish office administrator is Barbara Martin (740-593-6877 or [barbara@chogs.org](mailto:barbara@chogs.org)).

## The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

*Seeking and Serving Christ in All Persons*

64 University Terrace, Athens OH 45701  
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