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Good Shepherd E-News (21 June 2018)

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: 24 June 2018



Fifth Sunday after Pentecost:

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II-
C

The Transition Process #3

With question #3 we near the end of the process to transition Mother Deborah from Priest-in-charge to Rector of Good Shepherd. The last question:

What do we need from ourselves and from Mother Deborah to move us towards the best future into which we believe God is calling us?

We will have three weeks to consider prayerfully our answers. You may place your comments either in the baskets in the Narthex, on the piano in Nehls Hall, or in my mail box in the lobby outside the office. Other options are that you may give them to Barbara, or you may email them to me at drabeja02@yahoo.com.

If you have not responded to the previous two questions, you may still do so until July 9. Indicate question 1, 2 or 3 on those responses.

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From our friends in St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Mérida, Mexico.

"José's Weekly Reflection"

[ENGLISH](#)

[SPANISH](#)

Thank you again for prayerfully considering these questions and your responses. These comments, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit will help the Vestry as it makes its decision in early August.

David Burton
Sr. Warden

CrossRoads Café June Hours: Please Stop In



Tuesday - Friday
9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

(Closed Friday June 15)

Orientation Special:
All Drinks \$1



Vestry Meeting Tonight 7:00 p.m.

**Participants scheduled for
This Sunday, 24 June, Pentecost 5**

Altar Guild: Lynn Graham

Altar Flowers:

Coffee Hour: Phyllis and Richard Dean

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

Celebrant: The Rev. Deborah Woolsey

Lector: Joanne Larson

Prayer Leader: Earl Stump

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

Celebrant: The Rev. Deborah Woolsey

Lector: Alex Buckley

Eucharistic Ministers: David Burton (Prayer Leader) and Allyn Reilly

Ushers: Daniel Dygas and Bruce Martin

First Crucifer: Hailey Luellhoff

Gospel Book: Owen Buckley

Lessons: for Pentecost 5 - I Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49; Psalm 9:9-20; (sung); 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41.

<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 Donald, our president, and John, our governor, the Supreme Court, and the members of Congress.

In our diocese, we pray for Thomas, our Diocesan Bishop, and Nedi, our Assisting Bishop. We pray also for St. Mary's, Waynesville.

In our parish, we pray for Good Shepherd's continued growth, for our Priest-in-Charge, the Rev. Deborah Woolsey, for our Associate Priests, the Rev. Leslie Flemming, the Rev. Katharin Foster, and the Rev. David McCoy, and for our ministry to students, the university, and the community. We pray for our friends at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Mérida, Mexico. We pray also for the Altar Guild.

Those for whom our Prayers are Requested: Chic, Don, Kris, Kristi, Mary Lou, Weston, Pam, Andrew, Jane, Louise, Stephen, Stephen, Mary, Addison, Julie, Chris, Sally, Norm, Jan, Pat, Doris, Molly and Mateo, Ivan, and Alejandro, Candace, Emma, Bill, Clif, William, Mia, Sharon, Monya, Patricia, Paul, Dan, David, Mark, Robert, Don, Bob, Steve, John, Nancy, Laura,

Consuelo and family, Beth and George and their daughters and families, and Arvin, and we pray for all who care for them.

Birthdays: Don Frazier (6/24), Shannon Parsons (6/28)

Anniversaries: Bob and Sally Spero (6/28), Mac and Bethany Callison (6/30)

Upcoming Events

Vestry Meeting - Thursday, June 21, 7:00 p.m.

Prayer Shawl Group - Tuesday, June 26, at the CrossRoads Café (Julie Nehls hosts)

Free Lunch - Wednesday, June 27, noon

Summer Band Concert - Wednesday, June 27, 7:00 p.m., College green

Summer Band Concert - Wednesday, July 4, 7:00 p.m., College green

Gospel

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 4: 35-41



When evening had come, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

Reading into Interpretations of the Bible

It's been happening for ever: throughout history people have gone to the collection of books and letters and psalms that we call the Bible not looking for the Word of God, but instead looking for words that justify their own prejudices and agendas. Pope Gregory the Great went to the New Testament looking for examples of redemption, and Mary Magdalene has been paying the price for his misinterpretation ever since, even after the Roman Catholic Church issued an apology and correction in 1969. Once, in a deep state of melancholy and feeling sorry for myself, I tried to do the same thing when a phrase Jesus said came to mind that seemed to justify my feelings. After I looked up the parable the phrase was in, however, I realized to my shame that phrase had nothing to do with my feelings. This realization helped me face my feelings honestly and actually helped me through a time of loss, sadness, and loneliness.

My experience taught me how easy it can be to misread the Bible and the need to constantly check for ourselves if an interpretation is good or not. For that reason, half of my classes in seminary dealt with reading, understanding, and interpreting the books of the Bible. I learned Biblical Greek and Hebrew, had to translate books of the Bible, read countless commentaries to learn how to judge what lens they are seeing the words and stories of the Bible through. I discovered that lenses like feminist or liberation theologies when considered with other viewpoints help create a more holistic interpretation and understanding of the richness and complexities of holy scriptures. I learned to take into account important things like the context of a book or letter. Take for example the letters attributed to Paul in the New Testament. Scholars believe some of the letters attributed to Paul were not actually written by him, but most were. What many people may not realize is that when Paul wrote his letters, he was not writing them to the whole Church for all time; he was writing to a very specific group of followers of Jesus in a specific place during a specific time. Therefore, to understand Paul's letters, one must understand who he was writing to and what specific issues he was attempting to help them through. Paul started lots of churches, but he didn't stay with them very long once they got going. In his absence, the churches would write to him about their concerns or questions as they came up. Remember, the church was so new that everyone was learning how to create the unique worshipping community of followers of Jesus Christ. This does not mean Paul's letters are now irrelevant. It does mean that those of us reading his letters today need to engage in further study to better understand who he was writing to and what he was trying to convey, and we may consider that he himself may very well have been working through those issues at the same time.

So we all need to take care when we hear someone who has not studied holy scriptures use or quote a verse of scripture out of context and claim it supports their idea or cause, especially if their interpretation says something like "God put them in a position of authority, and that means we need to give up our intellectual abilities and do what they say without question." Or if they justify abuse or harm in the name of the Bible. Early Church Fathers advised Christians to understand that if the interpretation promoted harm, it was a wrong or inappropriate use of scripture. Most of scripture can be summed up in Jesus' command, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commands hang all the law and the prophets." If this was an issue the early Church Fathers were having to address, you know this has been a problem since the earliest days of the church. It seems there is something about Christianity that can be threatening to those in power, and they are looking for ways to control followers of Jesus. Attempting to appropriate the meanings of certain Bible passages is one way.

Recently there has been a lot of talk in the news about Romans 13 being used to justify actions that do not fit with Jesus' command, namely separating children from their parents who are trying to enter the country. By now I'm sure you've heard from church leaders far more prominent than I that that interpretation of Romans is not only incorrect, but it has also caused harm in the past when it was used to justify slavery. These leaders spoke up because they knew this interpretation was incorrect. But you don't have to be a prominent religious leader to read the entire chapter of Romans 13 and find commentaries that explain the context of Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome in order to see for yourself that Romans 13 is far from being a command blindly to follow those in authority, or justification for those in authority to do as they please. When you read the entire chapter, you can see that Paul's words can be understood to mean that those in authority were put in those positions by God in order to make and uphold laws that help reflect God's love for all people. The chapter ends with Paul describing behaviors that exemplify loving our neighbors and doing no harm. When we take the time to study and read any scripture with this kind of understanding, it can help inform us how best to respond when someone misuses the scriptures, especially when they try to use them to confuse or control.

While it might seem small, the practice of checking Biblical interpretations is one thing we can do to inform our decisions and choices and how we chose to stand up to those who abuse the scriptures. In the dramatic situation with border control separating families, this practice has helped to empower people of all walks of life to stand for the belief that all people, even immigrants, can and should be treated with care. The collective efforts have made a

difference and helped cause a change in policy that promises to keep families together. You can follow the links here to see how Bishop Breidenthal and Presiding Bishop Michael Curry responded, empowered by their belief in the loving God they clearly see in the scriptures.

Presiding Michael B. Curry's message for World Refugee Day - June 20
<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/library/video/world-refugee-day-2018>

**Presiding Bishop's message for
World Refugee Day – June 20**



"Our work with and for refugees began when we began to follow Jesus, to follow His way and His teachings. It is because we are followers of Jesus, because we follow the way of love, because we follow the way of compassion, because we follow the way of human decency and kindness that we must be passionately committed to helping the refugees and displaced persons of this day."

A message from the Rt. Rev. Thomas E. Breidenthal on forced separation of families at the border
<http://www.dsoconnections.org/2018/06/19/a-message-from-the-bishop-on-forced-separation-of-families-at-the-border/>



Of course there is much more to this issue, and if you are looking for more ways to respond or get involved with helping refugees and immigrants, check out the following websites:

The Episcopal Public Policy Network --
<https://advocacy.episcopalchurch.org/home?2>

Reclaiming Jesus -- <http://reclaimingjesus.org/>

Both have suggestions for more ways we can make a difference. And we can approach the holy scriptures with open minds and hearts, listen for holy wisdom, and pray for the courage and strength to live into what God shows us.

Many Blessings, Mother Deborah

"Under the Elms" concert series:

The "Under the Elms" Summer Band Concert Series is with us again this summer as part of the Ohio University Summer Band Clinic-Workshop. The concerts are Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. on the College Green beside the Templeton-Blackburn Alumni Memorial Auditorium; the rain location is inside the Auditorium. Below is a quick summary of dates. Bring your lawn chairs.



Dates left:

Wednesday, June 27: Concert - "Music of the Night": Music from stage and screen with John Schlabach and Josh Nightingale, trumpet.

Wednesday, July 4: Concert - "Celebrate America!"

Wednesday Free-Lunch Report



On June 20 Group 3 served 37 people 51 servings. The meat item was hotdogs with buns. The vegetarian dish was beans, tomatoes, and corn over rice. Veggie salad, fresh fruit, cake, and beverages were also served. (See photo below.)

The volunteers this week were Don Frazier, Lynn Graham, Joanne Larson, Zella Nisley, Thad Semsel, Lois Wagner, and Joanne Worstall.

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.

The 'food artists' were evident at this week's Wednesday lunch. Word has it that group 3 is a 'colorful' group. Joanne Larson

sent in some photos to prove it -- the fruit plate, veggie salad, stuffed celery, and lemon cake.



Repeat Material Below

New Ministries and Growth

This month we are continuing to move forward with the new coffee shop ministry named CrossRoads. This is an exciting time, as we have CrossRoads open and operating for limited hours to coincide with new-student orientation at Ohio

University. It is also a good time to reflect on how this ministry started, its intention, and how creating and starting a ministry like this will require prayer, reflection, and the need to adapt as we learn.

History

CrossRoads began about one year ago when the Rev. Jason Leo invited us to partner with Bishop Breidenthal on a new kind of ministry that seeks to make a positive impact on the economy of local communities. Fr. Leo recommended starting a café/coffee shop because of our campus location, our facilities, and our good reputation. The bishop would give us funding, and we would provide some vision, work, and location. The hope is that what we create together can become a model for other parishes in the diocese. We were chosen by the Bishop and Fr. Leo because of our location, our ministry to our community, and our relationship as priest and parish.

Time to Grow

When Mother Deborah visited other coffee shops, including one attached to a church, she saw a ministry that looked a lot like Wednesday Free Lunch in that many if not most people who come for Wednesday Lunch aren't just there for the food; they are also there for community and conversation. The need for such safe, good places is more than one hour a week. Mother Deborah added to the Bishop and Fr. Leo's idea the vision of growing the Church of the Good Shepherd's ministry of hospitality. Such a change seemed the natural next step for a parish that generously opens its doors to invite its neighbors in.

Intention

CrossRoads is a multi-layered ministry. On one level it is a collaborative ministry with the bishop and his staff. On another level it is a way to create what sociologists call a "third good place" where people can come in and rest from the stresses of life. On another level it is also a ministry that provides the opportunity for people unfamiliar with church to engage church people-if they want to. We know that fewer people come to church than to coffee shops. On yet another level, by hiring staff we are providing employment opportunities in a community where finding a job is hard. While we are not at a stage of providing full-time employment with full benefits, we can be a stepping stone for employees to get a start in that direction. On another level, we are partnering with Deeper Roots Coffee not only to provide delicious coffee, but also by purchasing coffee

purchased directly from farmers to help contribute to a better way of life for their families and communities.

Learning

CrossRoads is a different kind of ministry. As a parish it gives us the opportunity to participate in our community in a way that can reflect the love of God while we learn more about the world and how our lives as individuals and parish can have a positive impact. This is also an opportunity to do what many families do when a new family member becomes part of a family by birth, adoption, or marriage: everyone in the family steps back to make room for the new person. Undoubtedly as we move forward we will have moments where we will have to step back to make room for CrossRoads in the building, in scheduling, in our prayers. This is how CrossRoads will become part of the Church of the Good Shepherd and we all become part of it.

Participate

There are lots of ways we can all be part of this ministry, whether by donating items like mugs, cold drinks, volunteering to serve, learning to use the espresso machine, coming in and buying a cup of coffee or tea, or telling your friends and neighbors to stop by for a cup of coffee.

Prayer

Mother Deborah believes there is another collaborator involved in this new ministry. It isn't just a bishop, a parish, and coffee roasters. God is in the midst of this, calling the Church in new ways that are not separate from the present or the past, but deeply rooted in them. One of Mother Deborah's favorite prayers talks about things that were cast down being raised up and things that have grown old being made new. This prayer is found in both the Good Friday service and the Ordination services. It's a powerful reminder that new is not separate from what came before, and that in God's kingdom nothing that came before is forgotten, discarded, or thrown away. God does not see things as disposable. This is good news, because sometimes when something new happens, some people might feel they are not included because of age or involvement with other ministries. We don't want that to be the case with CrossRoads. CrossRoads would not be possible without all the people and all the ministry that has come before. One important way to be part of CrossRoads is to pray for the ministry. Mother Deborah has invited the bishop and his staff to pray for CrossRoads and invites you to pray too. Prayer is an essential part of this ministry as it invites God into it, even

though God started it and reminds us we aren't alone. God is with us, and the work we are doing may be multi-layered, but it is still holy work.

Please pray:

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: look favorably on your whole church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your Providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; bless the new café ministry at Church of the Good Shepherd. By our working together and through your grace, let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things are made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever. *Amen*

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.



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>, and the email through the church is the Rev. Deborah Woolsey <revdeborah@chogs.org>.

Mother Deborah has found that people like to communicate in many ways, so she is reachable on Facebook (<https://facebook.com/deborah.woolsey.12>) and on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/DeborahWoolsey>).

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.

To find out more about Good Shepherd and other matters, please contact David Burton, Senior Warden, at 740-593-5634 or by e-mail at drabeja@yahoo.com

For maintenance matters, please leave a note at the office or contact Dana Carlson, Junior Warden, at 740-664-2022 or by e-mail at carlsondana@hotmail.com. **For emergencies**, please call The Rev. Deborah Woolsey at 937-689-8895.

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).

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd *Seeking and Serving Christ in All Persons*

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