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Good Shepherd E-News (28 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: 1 July 2018



Sixth 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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Your Kroger Plus card can help the Church

Altar Flowers
How to Order

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

"José's Weekly
Reflection"

[ENGLISH](#)

[SPANISH](#)

Thank You

To everyone who helped with CrossRoads Café during our "soft open" this June:

I am grateful to everyone who donated iced tea, lemonade, milk, biscotti, granola bars, and cookies.

Thank you to the volunteers who helped open and set up, sell and make drinks, visit with customers, and close/take down.

Thank you to all of you who came and bought a cup or more of coffee, and invited friends to stop by for coffee. And to all who left generous donations in the tip jar, I am even more grateful.

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



Hailey's Latest Wall rendition.

I appreciate the generosity and hospitality of the Wednesday Lunch groups, who welcomed the café volunteers and supported the café by buying a cup of coffee. I'm glad we had this time to work together. To everyone who donated mugs and jars: your donations helped immensely, and we could not have done this without you.

This was an important step in CrossRoads Café. The "soft open" provided the opportunity to practice making the coffee drinks, figure out the most efficient opening and closing routines, sample different coffees from Deeper Roots, and start to get the word out in the community. Thanks to this time, the volunteers and Mother Deborah will be able to put together a comprehensive job description for CrossRoads staff, be better able to train staff, and have a sense of what works in terms of types of coffee and timing for ordering coffee, milk, etc. We sold a good number of drinks and received as much or more in donations as we sold. Overall, the "soft open" has been a good experience, thanks to so many of you and your support.

Many Blessings, Mother Deborah

Participants scheduled for This Sunday, 1 July 2018, Pentecost 6

Altar Guild: Sally Spero and Lynn Graham

Altar Flowers:

Coffee Hour: Sharon Huge and Sally Spero

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: Richard Carlson

Eucharistic Ministers: Dana Carlson (Prayer Leader) and Lynn Graham

Ushers: Daniel Dygas and Bruce Martin

First Crucifer: Peter Buckley

Lessons: for Pentecost 6 - 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Psalm 130 (sung); 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43.

<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. Anne's, Westchester; St. Matthew's, Westerville; and St. John's, Worthington.

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.

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, Sharon, Monya, Patricia, Paul, Dan, David, Mark, Robert, Don, Bob, Steve, John, Laura, Consuelo and family, Beth and George and their daughters and families, and Arvin, and we pray for all who care for them.

Birthdays: Jeroch Carlson (7/2), Bill Kaldis (7/4), Megan Reilly Shannon (7/4), Ann Shelly (7/5)

Upcoming Events

Free lunch -- Wednesday, July 4, 12:00 noon

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

Prayer Shawl group -- Tuesday, July 10, June Wieman

Free lunch -- Wednesday, July 11, 12:00 noon

Free lunch -- Wednesday, July 18, 12:00 noon

Prayer Shawl group -- Tuesday, July 24, Betty Larson

Free lunch -- Wednesday, July 25, 12:00 noon

Gospel

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 5:21-43



When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live." So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?" But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of

the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha cum," which means, "Little girl, get up!" And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

General Convention of the Episcopal Church July 5-13, 2018, in Austin, TX



July 5th - 13th, 2018
Austin, Texas

Every three years, the bishops along with delegates representing clergy and laity in the Episcopal Church from around the world gather together for what we call General Convention to discuss the current issues facing the church, vote on legislation that will impact dioceses and parishes like ours, and make connections with Episcopalians from all over the world. This huge gathering is presided over by the Most Rev. Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church; that's why that person is called the

Presiding Bishop.

This July, the 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church will convene in Austin, TX July 5-13. Our Bishop and the clergy and lay delegates from our diocese will be joining him in the important and responsible work of making the rules and establishing the direction of the Episcopal Church. Unlike the Roman Catholic Church, where such decisions are made by the Pope and influenced by Cardinals, or Congregational churches, where such decisions are made by the people in the pews, The Episcopal Church has a system of governance that is shared among bishops and representatives of clergy and laity from each diocese. The delegates are voted on in their dioceses during local diocesan conventions.

Please pray for our bishop and delegates during General Convention.

Almighty and ever living God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP page 818)

To get to know your deputies from the Diocese of Southern Ohio to the 79th General Convention, please visit:

<http://www.dsoconnections.org/2018/06/26/get-to-know-your-deputies/>

To learn more about General Convention, visit:

<https://eventmobi.com/79gc/>

<http://www.generalconvention.org/>

<http://www.dsoconnections.org/general-convention-2018/>

"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.



Date left:

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

Wednesday Free-Lunch Report



On June 27 Group 4 served 41 people 45 servings. The meat item was Chicken Pasta Salad. The vegetarian dish was Greek Vegetarian Salad. Fruit, desserts, and beverages were also served.

The volunteers this week were Alex Buckley, Mary Ann Gunderson, Tom Meyers, Thad Semsel, Hailey Leulloff, Jean Thomas, and David Burton.

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.

Photo -- It may not be Easter, but the Easter Lilies Ted replanted last year at home have bloomed. Bees and butterflies seem scarce this year, but here is one bee enjoying a 'lily' meal as well as a bee on one of the flowers in front of the Chapel entrance.



Repeat Material Below

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

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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