

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF
www.goodshepherdwv.org

The Rev. John C. Seville, Interim Rector
Paula Hoffman, Ministries Coordinator

Ginger Smith, Parish Administrator
October 28, 2009

MISSION STATEMENT: Good Shepherd is growing in: Faith and knowledge of God, ministry in our neighborhood, love for one another and support for those seeking Christ.

Dear Parishioners,

On the wall of my office in previous Interims, (I didn't pack it with me to West Virginia), hung a reproduction of T. Noyes Lewis' painting "The Gate of Heaven" which, years ago, I rescued from the back of the sacristy closet from beneath a pile of cleaning rags. It spoke to me and I put it on my office wall. When I completed my time with that parish, they gave it to me as one of my farewell gifts, no doubt wondering why anyone would want such an odd representation of an idea that doesn't receive much attention in our contemporary era. If you were to look at the painting, you would see the back of a priest at the altar, who evidently just completed celebrating Mass, returning the ciborium to the tabernacle. What makes the painting unusual, and, therefore, thought provoking, is that instead of seeing a wall beyond the altar, superimposed on what would be the background is an uncountable host of saints and angels adoring the Eucharistic elements: the artist's interpretation of the faithful enjoying the nearer presence of our Lord. I think what the artist is attempting to convey visually is the Communion of Saints.

On November first, this coming Sunday, the Church observes one of the great festivals of the liturgical year—All Saints Day. The ideas behind this day are sometimes confusing due to the fact that words sometimes change connotation over the course of many years. In the first century, one term used to describe those who claimed Jesus as their Lord was "saint"; they were people dedicated to God.

As dedicated people, they strove to lead a holy life, and today we have many examples of holiness in particular lives. Remember, holiness is not a matter of achievement, as in passing a test, but a description of character. Indeed, if you were to ask particular saints what specifically made them holy, they would probably be embossed. Growth in holiness always increases personal humility. It is that character of holiness, which we celebrate in the lives of the Communion of Saints on All Saints Day.

Perhaps an illustration will make clear the central point. Every now and then we are privileged to meet an especially fine individual whose very presence is a blessing. Wherever that individual goes, something good emanates from her or him. When he or she enters a group, discords cease, and a spirit of harmony, confidence and goodwill prevails. We say that we would always like to be in his or her company. Multiply that indefinitely and you get a slight foretaste of what it means to "be with Christ." That is what the saints enjoy. On the Mount of the Transfiguration, Peter said, "Master, it is good for us to be here." That is a fleeting glimpse into the life-to-come.

The saints enjoy that nearer presence of our Lord which is why I think the artist painted them viewing the reserved sacrament. But the Communion of Saints includes more than those in paradise: we too, the living as baptized members of the Body of Christ, are in the picture also. One of the Burial office prayers summarizes our aspirations perfectly: "... let thy Holy Spirit lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days; that when we shall have served thee in our generation, we may be gathered unto our fathers, having the testimony of a good conscience; in the communion of the Catholic Church; in the confidence of a certain faith; in the comfort of a reasonable, religious and holy hope; in favor with thee our God; and in perfect charity with the world ..." (BCP 489). To that I can only add, Amen.

Faithfully yours,
Fr. Seville

SEARCH COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Search Committee met for the second time on October 19. The main topic of discussion was the Holy Cow! Survey that we will be using to help prepare a Parish Profile. This is a necessary step in the search process. Details on how everyone (over age 16) can participate will be available soon. Our next meeting is Nov. 9.

**FOCUS GROUPS
FOR GOOD SHEPHERD SEARCH PROCESS**

In order to complete our church profile, the search committee is hosting several focus groups at church and in homes. Each group is to have at least 5 people and no more than 12. There are four simple questions that will be asked and responses charted for use by the search committee. Please sign up to attend one of the forums. When you come to the meetings be prepared to respond to these prompts.

1. What brought you to Good Shepherd?
2. What keeps you coming back?
3. What don't you want to lose at Good Shepherd?
4. What would you like to see change?

Please make every effort to attend one of the following sessions.

11/01/09 Senior High Sunday School @ Good Shepherd

11/10/09 @ 7PM on Tuesday @ David Cooper's

11/11/09 @ 7PM on Wednesday @ Dianna Quick's

11/15/09 @ 3PM on Sunday @ Dennis Armstrong's
(hosted by Trish Pritchard & Dennis)

11/16/09 @ 7 PM on Monday @ Vickie Bono's

11/18/09 @ 10AM on Wednesday @ Good Shepherd

11/22/09 @ 9:15AM on Sunday @ Good Shepherd

11/22/09 @ Adult Forum on Sunday @ Good Shepherd

Additional groups will be organized if needed.

ALTAR FLOWERS

As you all know, Lois Armstrong for years has coordinated the Altar Flowers here at Good Shepherd with the help of Dennis, her husband. In lieu of Lois' death, we are now faced with finding a new Altar Flower Coordinator. Lois kept terrific files on who normally gave the altar flowers at special times throughout the year. Her organization will make it easy for someone to take over this task. Dennis is more than willing to assist whomever may decide to take this project on. Please pray about this opportunity to serve God and let Ginger in the parish office know if this is something you would like to do.

A PLEA FOR PAINT

There are plans for a rainbow and descending dove to be painted on the large, empty wall in the new Children's Chapel/Drama Room. If you have any paint leftover that could be used for a stripe in the rainbow, or the dove, that is *red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple* or *white*, please contact Carolynne Cooper at 295-8734.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will take place in the Great Hall immediately following the 10 o'clock service on Sunday, November 8th. A light lunch will be provided for a donation by the Acolytes to help fund their trip to the National Cathedral in Washington DC.

At this meeting we will elect our new vestry members and convention delegates for the up coming year. Biographies of those who have been nominated will be available in the narthex of the church on Sunday, November 1st so that you may make an informed decision at the congregational meeting.

STEW AND TALENT

By now you should have received your invitation for Good Shepherd's 2nd annual **Stew Supper on Sunday Nov. 15 at 5:00 pm** in the Great Hall, along with your stewardship letter. Please plan to help in (at least) one of several ways:

- Bring a stew ingredient to church the morning of the 15th
- Offer to help prepare the stew Sunday afternoon
- Get a group together to do a song, skit, dance, etc
- Go solo – sing for us, do a dramatic reading, etc.
- Bring your art or craft work to exhibit
- Join the clean-up crew

Once you have decided how to participate in Stew and Talent you need to **sign-up** on the sheet by the office. Help celebrate all God's gifts as we share a meal and entertainment together, highlighting our stewardship of time and talent. Whether you are 5 or 95 or somewhere between, your contribution will be welcome and appreciated. Your intention card (formerly called a pledge card) may be returned at the supper or anytime before Nov. 30.

Contact Linda Crocker (304-863-5647) if you have any questions or if you didn't receive a letter.

COPE HALLOWEEN PARTY AND HAUNTED HOUSE SUCCESS

Many thanks to the EYF, its leaders and Trish Pritchard, Kim VanMeter and Wendy Tuck for their hard work and very successful lock-in and haunted house! The COPE coordinator for the Halloween Party told us that the main attraction to the party was the haunted house. What a wonderful event for our youth to provide for the community. One hundred ten kids attended the party given by COPE in the Great Hall and approximately 100 brave kids five years old and older and adults toured the haunted house located in the rummage sale room. Many thanks go to the rummage sale folks for clearing out the room and providing space for this event. It is greatly appreciated by all.

EYF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

On the Saturday morning of the Lock-in, the EYF held a meeting during breakfast. Several decisions were made and they were: to have a meeting on the first Saturday of the month in the EYF room from 7:00-8:30 PM and have an event or activity on the third Saturday of the month. The meetings would be an hour for making plans and then having a half hour to do a brief Bible study or discussion or some group singing or just hand loose. The monthly events or activities might be a movie night, game night, or going to the Grand Prix in Charleston. The first EYF meeting is Saturday, November 7th at 7:00 PM in the EYF room. If you have any questions, contact Bob Crocker at 863-5647 or Carolynne Cooper at 295-8734.

ADOPTED FAMILIES

The Rummage Sales were fantastic this year. Thank you to the many hard workers and donors who make it possible for Good Shepherd to have an Adopted Families Project again this year.

Please take time to mark your calendars for cookie baking, shopping, store set-up, take-down or helping families shop either in the store or in the second opportunities area in the basement. As you are shopping, keep the Adopted Families Project in mind as we are in need of school supplies, games and balls. We need lots of people and resources to make this project a success. Male help is greatly appreciated, especially for set-up and clean-up. Thank you for giving your time and money to help needy children and adults in our community.

Shopping	Contact Yvonne Corra
Cookies needed by	Dec.13 th
Christmas Store setup	December 11 th , 9 AM
Christmas Store	Dec. 14 th , 15 th , 16 th
Christmas Store cleanup	Dec. 16 th

There are sign-up sheets by the office for you to let us know how you can help. Please sign-up and we will call you.

PRAYER CHAIN

The Prayer Chain is a group of individuals who pray for those who have emergencies and request prayer support. Prayer requests are treated confidentially.

Lois Armstrong had been a contact person for the Prayer Chain and with her death it is necessary to update the list. There are currently over 30 people who have agreed to support others by prayer. They are divided into 4 groups, each headed by a caller. When a prayer request comes in to one of the contact persons, the 4 callers are notified and they pass the prayer request on to their group members. We believe that we are called upon to pray for others and that God answers prayers. There is no better way we can support each other.

Dianna Quick has very graciously volunteered to be the contact person for the Prayer Chain. **Carole Doughty** will be the alternate contact person. Anyone who is willing to take the time to pray for someone who has an emergency can call either Dianna (304-295-5933), Carole (304-485 -2291) or the church office (304-428-1525). **If you wish to serve in this Prayer Chain ministry please let us know so we can update the list.** There is no training, only the desire to prayer for others and maintain confidentiality.

JUST A COUPLE OF REMINDERS:

**Don't forget
to set your clocks back
1 hour**

Before going to bed on Saturday, Oct. 31st

There will only be one "Staff" mailing in November. Deadline for articles for the next "Shepherd's Staff" is November 16th at Noon.