

## THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

[www.goodshepherdwv.org](http://www.goodshepherdwv.org)

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

Ginger Smith, Parish Administrator  
November 18, 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,

During Advent you are invited to prepare yourselves for Christmas by reflecting upon that for which you wait—Jesus' coming into human time by his birth in Bethlehem and at the end of time. The Sunday morning Adult Forum (December 6, 13, and 20) will be a series of reflections on the various titles given Jesus, especially those metaphors drawn mostly from Isaiah, that have been associated with the antiphons sung during the last week of Advent and today are incorporated into the self-known hymn *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*.

The Advent season prepares us for Christmas by focusing our minds, wills and hearts on the beginning of life as God would have it lived—the kingdom in all its fullness, “abundant life.” That life is possible when we respond to the future that is already becoming present. We are granted a foretaste of that future life of love and joy as we deliberately and consciously live a life of mercy and love in our relationships with others. Only when we hear and incorporate the message of Advent season are we truly ready to celebrate Christmas.

Faithfully yours,  
Fr. Seville

### STEWARDSHIP

**Stew and Talent:** Thank you to Suzanne Anderson, Jone Johnson and Darlene Slusher for their help preparing the stew and the hall, to everyone who contributed ingredients or dessert and to our talented performers: Nathan Pritchard and Andrew Cooper on their electric guitars, Peggy Roberts for her comic vignette, Wendy Tuck for her poetry reading, Rebecca Cooper and Abby Justice for their comic skit and for Darlene Slusher (just call her Julia) and Carolynne Cooper at the Roadside Kill Café who brought down the house. Watch for the video!

**Pledge Cards:** Grateful thanks to all who promptly returned a pledge/intention card for 2010. We would like the rest returned before November 30. This will give us time to order envelopes and it will also make it easier for the Budget Committee to begin work on next year's budget. Extra cards are available from the office or on the table behind the ushers at the church entrance.

### UPDATE ON ADOPTED FAMILIES

The interviews are almost finished, shoe count taken, food needs sent to the church helping them, sleeper count almost complete, cookie plans are being made, shoppers will be getting busy and before we know it, the Christmas Store will be open. Remember to bring in school supplies, games, balls, big coloring books and crayons.

Please check the sign up sheet by the office to see if you could help with shopping, set up, taking adults from the adopted families through the store, clean up or anything else you might want to do. A sign up sheet is also available for cookie makers. Set up will be on Friday, December 11 at 9 AM. Store hours for helpers are 8:45-11:30, and 12:15-2:45 (Dec. 14 & 15), and from 8:45-12:30 on Wednesday, December 16. Clean up time will be Wednesday, December 16 (probably 1:30 PM). Male helpers are welcome to help also. Thanks to everyone who has donated so far. If you want to help shop, please talk to Yvonne Corra directly to make arrangements (304-615-0406).

### SENIOR WARDEN'S CORNER

**I have been thinking of the quote by Herman Melville, “We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers connect us with our fellow men and women; and among those fibers, as sympathetic threads, our actions run as causes, and they come back to us as effects.”**

I cannot but help by reflecting on the threads that connect each of us to this church, to God, to each other, and to our neighbors whether we have been here 3 weeks or 30 years. We have been entrusted to do God's work and will here in this place, here with each other. My hope is that we will strengthen the connections with thoughtful and caring words and deeds during this journey between rectors. My hope is that each one of you realize you have a vital part to play, and the church is not complete without you. My hope is that we will reach out to each other, to listen and to understand what we love and find meaningful in our service, education, and worship. I am honored to have been elected your senior warden. I ask for your prayers and support for me, for Fr. John Seville, for the Vestry, and for each member of Good Shepherd.

Please feel free to call me at 304-488-3810 or contact me by email at [wendytuck@juno.com](mailto:wendytuck@juno.com). I look forward to serving you and working with you during the coming year.

## ALTAR FLOWER ASSISTANT NEEDED!

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.

## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

A vital part of our Christmas bulletin is an insert listing all those who give money for the flowers and all the decorations around our worship center. It is time to consider giving a gift in remembrance of loved ones or in thanksgiving for blessings in your life. To give a gift of flowers for Christmas, simply e-mail Dennis Armstrong at [dralva@suddenlink.net](mailto:dralva@suddenlink.net) with your name, amount of gift, and how you would like it worded in the insert. (Please keep wording simple as we have limited space in which to get everyone's wishes in.) You may also call or e-mail Ginger at [ginger\\_smith@goodshepherdwv.org](mailto:ginger_smith@goodshepherdwv.org) with your information. The *deadline* to have your Christmas Flower gift listed in the insert is **December 13<sup>th</sup>**.

## THANKSGIVING OFFERING

This years Thanksgiving Offering has been designated for Wood County Habitat for Humanity. Please be generous in your giving to help build homes for those in substandard housing. Thank you.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SUNDAY SCHOOL Primary Class

On Sunday Nov. 15 we had one student – here is the psalm she wrote:

Kenzie Flinn's Psalm

God, you made a beautiful world,

\*You made beautiful flowers and beautiful trees.

God, you keep me safe,

\*You gave me a home that keeps me safe.

God, you are great!

\*You love us and give us hugs.

God, I love you.

\*I will tell people that you are great.

## Nov. 29 INTERGENERATIONAL COOKIE DECORATING

**Bakers** - plan now to bake cookies to be decorated on Sunday Nov 29 after the 10 a.m. service. We need lots of sugar cookies, gingerbread cookies, etc. in shapes or rounds. Make them from scratch or buy slice and bake. We will supply the frosting and sprinkles. Bring your cookies to church the 29<sup>th</sup> or leave in the office Mon-Weds. Nov 23-25.

**Everyone** - bring all the family to frost and decorate the cookies the 29<sup>th</sup> (no Sunday School). What an appropriate way to end Thanksgiving weekend by supporting the Adopted Families Project as a church family.