

## 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  
December 2, 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.

### SENIOR WARDEN'S CORNER

By Wendy Tuck

Advent is here. Changes in the weather, liturgy, church activities, hymns, and adult forum – all these things signal a time of preparation for our Lord. What can we do to prepare our hearts for his coming? In the Great Awakening, a huge national revival in the US, the technique was to scare the heck out of everyone, convince them they were going to hell, then show the mercy of God, and everyone's lives were transformed by gratitude and grace. Many of us think that love, rather than fear, should be the motivation for following God's commandments. Whatever the motivation, Advent is a time of getting ready. How do you open your heart in the worship service? How do you recognize his presence when you serve in the church or in the community? What expands the beauty of God's love for you into amazement that he loves your neighbor and this planet just as much? Advent isn't so much about doing the same things, but of preparing for something awesome, Someone Awesome, to come into our lives and our world.

### EYF NEWS

The EYF leaders, Carolynne Cooper and Bob Crocker, would like to remind the EYFers that there is a meeting in the EYF room on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> from 7-8:30 p.m. Please come in through the basement door. Items to be discussed are (most importantly) who will bring the snack next month, shopping for Adopted Families on the 6<sup>th</sup>, ice skating on the 19<sup>th</sup> and Grand Prix in Charleston on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The "Gamer Lock-In" was great fun and went well. Twelve Good Shepherd kids and four guests participated. A midnight birthday party was held for four kids present of the seven in EYF who have birthdays in November; *Madalynn Huffman, Gavin Bennett, Andrew Cooper and Joel Davis*. Thanks to *Andrew Cooper* for being systems coordinator. Thanks to *Joel Davis* for leading us in a couple of exciting games. Thank you, thank you to *April Kessell* and *Gwen Justice* for their help that night and into the wee hours of the morning. Thanks to all the kids for wonderful, cooperative set up and clean up. We should do this again sometime!

### CHRISTMAS PAGEANT DRESS REHEARSAL

The Christmas pageant dress rehearsal and final practice for the December 20<sup>th</sup> pageant will be during Sunday school on December 13<sup>th</sup>. **Anyone** who is signed up, and presently in the pageant and **anyone** wanting to be in the pageant should come to the nave on December 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:30. After church, at 11:15, the kids may go to their Sunday school room, eat their snack and then come to the church for practice. This will be a dress rehearsal so it is very important that those participating in the pageant attend this rehearsal. At this time, we are still in need of three shepherds, more angels, one king, two innkeepers and a few people of Bethlehem. We need kids and adults alike. Please contact, Carolynne Cooper at 295-8734 if you have questions or are interested in participating. Thank you.

### FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD...

It's December and it's Advent. In this time of personal preparation and reflection, you can help the church to prepare for 2010 by returning your pledge card. Extra letters and cards are available from the church office.

### THE REV. ZACHARY DRENNEN TO VISIT ON JANUARY 3

The Rev. Zachary Drennen will be visiting Good Shepherd on Sunday, January 3. He will be preaching at both the 8 AM and 10 AM Eucharist followed by an *Elewana* presentation in the Great Hall at 11:30 AM.

Zach is our Diocesan Missionary in Kenya. While Zach was in East Africa, Zach began to explore ways of mutually benefiting high schools in Kenya and the U.S. What developed was *Elewana* (meaning 'understanding' in Swahili), a project whose goal is to foster the transformative power of relationships between young people otherwise separated by oceans and continents. The project works by pairing schools in Kenya with those in the United States and then facilitating the interaction between respective students and teachers through the exchange of e-mail, letters, visual media, and personnel. Through *Elewana*, U.S. students have the opportunity to step outside the bounds of the familiar into a broader understanding of the world and the problems facing it. African students benefit from an increased contact with those who both care for them and support them financially. Furthermore, students on both sides of the Atlantic can deepen their awareness of world-wide economic and health concerns while making significant changes in the life of the sister school.

Zach has developed *Elewana* into a viable education program and splits his time between Africa and the United States. Zach is coming to Good Shepherd to update us on the progress of this program since his last visit. Zach's last slides presentation was extraordinary! You won't want to miss hearing about *Elewana's* progress.

### ADOPTED FAMILIES

The excitement of Adopted Families will soon be taking place. On Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> we will set up the store to be ready to take families through on Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> and finishing up on Wednesday morning, December 16<sup>th</sup>. We especially need people to take the families through the store on Wednesday morning, December 16<sup>th</sup>. We are happy to report that the Second Opportunities Store (rummage area) downstairs is fully stocked and they don't need any more donations. It is not too late to help with shopping. Email Yvonne Corra at [ycorra@gmail.com](mailto:ycorra@gmail.com).

Once again there is a Christmas tree by the office with ornaments that have ages or gift ideas if you wish to purchase a specific gift. Please bring the unwrapped gift to the church no later than Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to everyone for their generous support.

### CAROLS FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Carpools will form at church on **Sunday December 20 at 6 p.m.** as we gather to take the joy of Christmas to members of the church family who cannot get to church. Come in warm clothes and bring your enthusiasm and an instrument if you have one. If you know someone who would enjoy a visit please contact the church office or the Crocker's (304-863-5647).

### **CHRISTINGLE SERVICE FOR EPIPHANY Wednesday January 6 at 7 p.m.**

What is a Christingle? Basically, a Christingle is an orange (representing the world), wrapped with a red ribbon (for Christ's blood shed for us), decorated with raisins/gumdrops on toothpicks (representing the fruits of the earth), and a candle inserted in the top (representing Christ, the light of the world). Christingle means Christ Light and is a way to communicate the Christian message in a fun and inspiring way to children and the local community. Christingles originated in Moravia in the mid-1700's as a way to celebrate Jesus' love and light and can be appropriately used from Christmas through Epiphany. We will distribute Christingles during our Epiphany service.

Plan now to bring some friends and conclude the holiday season with this special service.

### **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 or simply use your Christmas Flower envelope and place it in the collection plate or leave it in the office. The *deadline* to have your Christmas Flower gift listed in the insert is **December 13<sup>th</sup>**.

### **JUST A REMINDER**

When writing checks to the church, please remember to keep your pledge separate from all other giving. Your pledge payments are deposited into a separate bank account than all the others. Just remember...pledge payments on one check...roof pledges, flowers, special offerings, etc. on another check. Thanks.

### **CHRISTMAS GREETINGS**

The deadline for your Christmas greeting to be printed in the next edition of the "Shepherd's Staff" is **Sunday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>**. You may e-mail them to the parish office to [ginger\\_smith@goodshepherdwv.org](mailto:ginger_smith@goodshepherdwv.org), place them in the collection plate, or drop them off in the office.

### **THE COMING** By Frank Bono

The night was not unusual,  
Quiet  
Some would say peaceful,  
With the moon shining silently,  
Illuminating the still desert with a cold luster,  
Not at all you would think  
The setting for a miracle.  
For centuries the same rumor persisted  
That would not release its grip on a people  
Destitute  
Clinging to wisps of hope invisible to the rest of the  
world.  
Yes, it was a cold night,  
Easy to forget the unreal, the improbable,  
With the odor of animal dung surrounding us,  
Half-empty stomachs,  
Chilled bodies hardened by the elements.  
The only hope that night was of warm soup  
Followed by warm women in warm beds,  
Not at all for a Messiah.  
Yet it happened.  
But not as some had supposed.  
A child was born in a stable to simple folks.  
A few of us came to visit.  
Three strangers placed gifts and left.  
then it was over.  
Not the hunger, the cold  
Nor the dangers of the desert--  
They persisted.  
But the frustration of waiting,  
The doubt,  
The suspicion of delusion  
That had lingered so long like a terrible agony  
Were gone.  
What remained was a beginning--  
First death  
Then birth.

### **MID-OHIO VALLEY COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER**

There will be a free buffet dinner from noon to 2:30 p.m. on Christmas Day hosted by First Presbyterian Church, 1341 Juliana Street as a joint effort among churches and businesses in the Mid-Ohio Valley so that no one feels lonely on Christmas Day. They need help with donations of pies and cookies, volunteers for visitation and meal delivery to shut-ins, serving and cleanup. If you are interested in helping, please call 304-422-5426 or e-mail [office@fpcparkersburg.org](mailto:office@fpcparkersburg.org) before December 22<sup>nd</sup>.