

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

www.goodshepherdwv.org

The Rev. John C. Seville, Interim Rector

Ginger Smith, Parish Administrator
June 9, 2010

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

Actor Morgan Freeman is hosting a series of 8 episodes which deal with questions of Science, such as "Is there a Creator?" He suggests that scientists turn to the idea of an "extra, corporal, intelligence that controls everything" when they find not everything they see is explained by complex mathematical equations that prove theories. According to our faith, we worship and believe in a God who is the maker of all things, visible and invisible. He made our brains, our minds, with an incredible hunger for knowledge and understanding. It was very humbling for me to hear Dave Johnson share that after all his years of study of the various sciences that the more he knew, the more he realized he didn't know. Ever since Eve and Adam ate that apple, we have wanted to be like God, intelligent, powerful, love itself, mistake and failure free! With intelligence, common sense, prayer, we dance with our free will, our hunger for knowledge, the drive to be who we are created to be, as well as a willingness (eagerness) to admit we are not God. "It is you who have made us and not we ourselves." Psalm 100:3

I am currently reading the book, **Mountains Beyond Mountains**, by Tracy Kidder, about a doctor/anthropologist, Dr. Paul Farmer, and his work in Haiti. It roars that there is a Creator, who hurts, and feels, and heals, and challenges us to care for His people and his creation. It sings that we are called to speak the truth, to be the prophets that Fr. John spoke about at the 8 AM Sunday service. He said God does call each individual, uniquely, to be who they are and do what they can, because we are the messengers of God. Others are to look at us and say, because of what we do in God's name and for the love of God, that God has looked favorably on his people". What are we to do and be in Appalachian West Virginia, at the corner of Charles and Latrobe Streets?

"Is there a God" is a great question – it's pretty basic. Whether it's the "mathematical equations that don't explain everything", or the devastation of TB, AIDS, earthquakes, and poverty in Haiti, or the cry of a newborn baby, God is in all of that. All of it. And because He is, we are, too. Our part, our piece is what we can add to God's story here on earth.

SUMMER SCHEDULES

"The Shepherd's Staff" will be prepared once a month instead of the usual twice a month during the months of June, July, and August. The remaining "Staff" article deadlines will be: Monday, July 19th @ Noon, and Monday, August 23rd @ Noon.

The Parish office will begin **summer hours** June 1 thru August 31. The office will be open Monday thru Thursday 9AM – 3PM. *However*, Ginger will be on vacation June 18 thru July 5. In Ginger's absence, Sarah Medley will be answering the phones **9 AM til Noon**, Mon-Thurs, June 21-24 and June 28-July 1. Father Seville will be in the office June 21-24 and June 28.

HABITAT BLITZ BUILD LAST MINUTE INSTRUCTIONS 4304 & 4308 14th Ave., South Parkersburg By Ginger Smith

The Habitat Blitz Build June 19th & 20th is almost upon us. I would like to thank all of you who have volunteered to help in any way with this enormous project. A special thank you to the Sunday School Classes for doing such a good job decorating the lunch bags.

If you have signed up to bring hammers and have not brought them yet, please bring them to the church office before June 17.

If you have signed up to bring lunches: please bring them to the church on Saturday, June 19 between 8 AM and 10:30 AM. Darlene Slusher has graciously volunteered to be at the church to receive the lunches and will be delivering them to the worksite by 11 AM. **Remember, no condiments** on the sandwiches, and **nothing made with mayonnaise**. Also, fruit needs to be something other than bananas. We have 400 bananas donated by Surface Banana. You may either put in cookies or some other snack item of your choice. Please put a label on the top front side of the bag indicating what kind of sandwich is inside. Thanks.

If you have signed up to bring snacks: please have them individually wrapped (for sanitary reasons) and drop them off at the church on Saturday, June 19 between 8 AM and 10:30 AM. Darlene will also bring these to the worksite.

If you have signed up to work at the site: You should be receiving a letter or an e-mail giving you instructions as to when the work day begins and ends, where to park, etc.

Thank you again for all of your support.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AUGUST 2-6, 2010 9AM – 12:45 PM

This year's theme is Baobab Blast – God's Great Get-Together. We will gather under our version of an African baobab tree to form a Vacation Bible School community filled with stories, songs, games, crafts, and science projects as we learn about living together surrounded by God's love.

Adults and teens – please sign up now! This is one of our most important ministries to children, especially those from the neighborhood. We need Activity Site leaders, Guides to accompany each age group as they travel from site to site, registration assistants and adult and teen assistants for all areas. We also need decorating help on Saturday, July 31. The sign-up sheet is posted by the office.

Decorations – anything African, especially animals, drums, textiles (sheets, curtains, shower curtains, pillows, fabric) with tribal or animal prints, grasses, lilies, daisies. Put your donations in the striped box by the office.

Call Linda Crocker (304-863-5647) if you have any questions about donating/lending items or how you might be able to help.

EfM = Education for Ministry

We have all been baptized and we regularly renew our baptismal covenant at baptisms, confirmations and other times in the church year. We begin by affirming our faith in God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and we go on to answer these questions:

1. *Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?*
2. *Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?*
3. *Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?*
4. *Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?*
5. *Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?*

We answer, "We will, with God's help".

EfM is a program through which the church (the people of God) offers an environment to help its members fulfill these promises. Participating in EfM you will study God's word (the Bible) and the apostles' teaching (theology). It's hard to continue the apostles' teaching or proclaim the Good News if you don't have a firm foundation of knowledge. In EfM you become part of a small group of fellow Christians who worship, learn and grow together in a mutually supportive environment. You have many opportunities to explore ideas life faith, grace, repentance, redemption, love of neighbor, justice, peace and dignity, as they are revealed in scripture and applied in real life situations. You will treasure this time, the laughter you share, the stretching of your mind and spirit and the friendships you make. Leaflets about the EfM program are on the bulletin board in the hall leading to the Christian Education wing or log onto the EfM website <http://www.sewanee.edu/EFM> to learn more. Contact Linda Crocker (304-863-5647) with questions or to enroll. Our next session begins in September – enrollments are due by Aug. 8 (sooner is better).

YOUTH SUNDAY

Hurray for our youth and the adults who encourage them! Thanks to Abbey Justice for her senior sermon, to the EYF for leading the worship, to the adults who stepped in as acolytes and to Bob, Carolynne and David for their supporting roles.

Despite the storms we also had an enjoyable picnic in the Great Hall after the service with games on the playground and special thanks to Emily and Sandy Tharp for leading a sing-along.

TRUCKS NEEDED

Once a month we receive a food order from the Mountaineer Food Bank in Gassaway, WV. The truck comes in to Erickson Field on the Southside the 3rd Thursday of every month at Noon. Sometimes we have more cases to pick up than Jim Miller's truck and trailer can handle. We would like to put together a list of potential pickup truck owners (with strong backs) who may be able to help Jim pick up our order when an extra truck is needed. It wouldn't necessarily be every month, only when needed. If we could put together a list of enough people with trucks perhaps it would only be once a year that we might call on you. Please let Ginger know in the office if you can possibly help. Thank you.

REMAINING ROOF REPAIR LOAN

There is still \$11,200 remaining on our roof loan. The repairs are all done but we still need to pay for the repairs. If you have not fulfilled your pledge, could you please pay \$100 or \$50 per month toward that pledge? For anybody else that is willing to contribute towards the loan payment it would make a big difference. Twenty-five or Fifty Dollars per month adds up quickly when several people are contributing. Thank you all you're your help on this project.

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Bob Flinn proposed contacting an architect recommended by the bishop to see what a consultation would cost to make the altar more handicapped accessible. The treasurer reported that expenses are not above budget but that he is concerned about the amount of money we are borrowing from savings so early in the year. The roof fund is in need of more contributions. Linda Crocker and Wendy Tuck are in charge of the Big Book this year. It will contain more information about the structure of the groups in the parish. The senior warden is taking bids on the construction of a new sidewalk and curb. The city will provide the labor for the curb if we provide the materials. More people are needed for ushering and for reading at the 8:00 service. The choir will meet once a month during the summer. There have been many positive comments on the panel discussions that were held during adult forum. The Discretionary Fund helped 17 people and Manna helped 88 individuals from 25 families. The Gabriel Project assisted 7 families. The Outreach Committee has been renamed The Special Offerings Committee.

POSITION OPENINGS OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

Good Shepherd currently has opening for Food Pantry Coordinator and Gabriel Coordinator that need to be filled soon in order for these programs to continue to meet the needs of our community. Nancee Barney has resigned as coordinator of both of these projects effective July 6. She will be here the month of June to help train someone in these very important ministries.

Duties of the Food Pantry Coordinator include:

Scheduling pantry workers, monthly ordering of food from Mountaineer Food Bank and arranging pick-up of this order, shopping locally for other food items for the pantry when needed, stocking the shelves, maintaining all inventory and other records for inspections and attending the Wood County Food Co-op meeting once a month. This may sound overwhelming but really it is not. It is possible that if one person doesn't wish to take on all the responsibility, perhaps a committee of two or three people could split the duties and make it less burdensome for one.

The Gabriel project assists men and women with infants and small children who are experiencing financial issues. We help with diapers, transportation to medical appointments, offer prayer support and provide counseling about where to obtain further assistance such as DHHR, 0-3, WIC. We sometimes offer respite to stressed parents. We also help new parents and grandparents prepare for their new arrival by helping locate items like baby/toddler beds, clothing, blankets, mattresses, dressers, car seats, etc.

Duties of the Gabriel Project Coordinator include:

Purchasing of Diapers, recruiting Gabriel Angels and scheduling transportation and respite care when needed, distribution of car seats, beds, clothing, etc., and coordinating with the Gabriel Office in the Dil's Center other needs.

The Gabriel Angels can help with many of these needs. You would not be responsible to do them all yourself.

Please pray about these ministries, and let the parish office know if this is your calling.

WEDNESDAY HOT DOG OUTREACH MINISTRY

WHEN: EVERY WEDNESDAY June 23 and runs through August 11th.
WHERE: Good Shepherd parking lot.
TIME: Set up time 5:30 PM
 Food serving begins at 6.

This Outreach Ministry is a joint effort with Liberty Street Church of God.

If you want to contribute food, it is always welcome. We serve what we have. Cash contributions are always appropriate. Make check to Good Shepherd. Note Wed. Hot Dog Ministry in left hand bottom corner.

We usually begin clean up around 7:30 or when the food is gone. There is always a job you can help with. Don't be shy about asking what you can do. Sometimes it is as simple as keeping an eye on kids playing. Every job is important. In the four years we have been doing this we have never been rained out. We have gotten damp once and once we had to wait about 20 minutes but we have been blessed with good weather and people who appreciate our efforts. Remember, it may be raining at your house but not at the church so don't stay away. You can always reach me on my cell phone for a weather check or where we are in the plan if you are coming to help with the clean up.
Darlene Slusher Cell: 724-678-8871

If you see a new face and someone wants to help; please, step back and offer your job.
You won't get left jobless.