

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

www.goodshepherdwv.org

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

Ginger Smith, Parish Administrator
March 24, 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.

THE SENIOR WARDEN'S CORNER

by Wendy Tuck

In a devotional I read when things are rough, I found the words "When I cannot enjoy the faith of assurance, I live by the faith of adherence" Matthew Henry in Streams in the Desert. Assurance is blessed – I like it! "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine. Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine". Yes! When we feel that kind of certainty and confidence, we are in the very heart of heaven. But when we don't feel it, we think there is something wrong with us. That our faith is lacking, our will power is on sabbatical, we are too weak and incapable of seizing the blessings that God has promised, or plain old dumb and stubborn. Adherence means just sticking to something. There's not much fancy or glamorous about glue or sticky tape. But everything from molecules with their electron shells, to the Golden Gate Bridge has something that sticks and holds them together. The faith of adherence means to trust that you and God are stuck together, that Christ never has and never will abandon you. It's trusting in the fact of God's presence and not the emotion. "Believe God's word and power more than your own feelings and experiences. Your Rock is Christ, and it is not the Rock which ebbs and flows, but your sea." Samuel Rutherford.

BIRTHDAY BASH FOR CASH

The Pink Church Walkers invite YOU to join the fun Celebrating More Birthdays as we raise money for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life at 11:30 AM this Sunday, April 18th in the Great Hall. (No Sunday School) Come for Lunch, Games DDR, Entertainment by singer Emily Emrick, Silent Auction, Raffle, and Birthday Cake. Bring a gift for the silent Auction. Gifts can be items or a service/talent.

THANK YOU ISN'T ENOUGH

Thank you isn't enough for the response you made when asked to help on Sunday the 28th, the Bishop's annual visit. You set up the Great Hall, brought food and flowers, worked in the kitchen and did the clean-up. Wow! Good Shepherd is such a special place and is filled with special people and that is always evident when the cry goes out for help. Everyone answered the call by giving of themselves and their talents. What a glorious day and you made it that way! Thank you for all you did and all you continue to do. It was a great celebration! Thanks to all from the Reception Committee: Lisa Tanner, Sally Davis, Nancee Cahill Barney, and Linda Bennett.

KITCHEN TOWELS NEEDED

When the kitchen crew gathered up the dish towels after the last reception, it was said, "We need new dish towels!" Well, we thought of an easy solution. If each family brought one dish towel, we would have a nice supply and would not run short when trying to dry our beautiful china. So, how about it folks! Just bring one dish towel to church on Sunday and leave it in the kitchen. This is an easy solution and will help eliminate a problem for the kitchen workers. Thanks!

REMINDER: Peterkin Summer Camp early registration deadline is April 30, 2010. Half Scholarships available in the parish office.

HABITAT BLITZ BUILD

June 19 & 20

by Ginger Smith

In response to the 20th anniversary of Wood County Habitat for Humanity, Habitat is blitz building two homes in South Parkersburg on 14th Avenue. These two homes will be Wood County Habitat's 50th & 51st homes!

Coming from all over the United States, the "Habitat Road Trip Crazies" get together regularly to blitz-build homes in two days in any part of the U.S. Over the years, the "Crazies" have developed a style that combines hard work, sweat, and humor to build homes at an accelerated pace. The concept is to involve as many people as possible in experiencing what it feels like to change the world. The "Crazies" will be bringing up to 50 volunteers with them. We need approximately 150 area volunteers for this feat to be accomplished!

We will start on Saturday morning, June 19th, with two foundations and floor systems in place. By the end of the day on Sunday, June 20th, two homes will be under roof!

Good Shepherd Church is one of the original covenant church sponsors of Wood County Habitat for Humanity. Other than the occasional special offering, which, by the way, is very much appreciated, we as a church have not assisted since we built the Harper Home several years ago. This is a perfect time for us to be involved again as a church unit. There are several ways for us to help in this great endeavor.

- 1) **volunteer to help build** – we can use your help one or both days or if you only have an hour or two, that's okay too.
- 2) **provide lunches** – we have been asked to prepare 40 sack lunches for the workers and extra sandwiches for those with hearty appetites. Lunch consists of a sandwich with lots of protein, fruit and perhaps a cookie.
- 3) **decorate the lunch sacks** – we are in hopes that the Sunday School classes might decorate the lunch sacks and include a Bible verse, mealtime prayer, or spiritual writing inside the sacks. Lunch sacks are being donated by Craft 2000.
- 3) **provide snacks** – donuts, cookies, fruit (especially bananas to help ward off cramping workers may experience)
- 4) **provide 20 or more Hammers** – Due to liabilities, there will be no power tools at this build (with the exception of a power saw ran by an authorized professional) therefore, we need lots of framing hammers. These will need to be donated so don't give us your grandfathers hammer in hopes of getting it back.
- 5) **provide prayer support** – This item is needed most of all!
- 6) **money donations** – If you wish to make a donation, you may do so by putting a check in the collection plate made out to Good Shepherd and stating in the memo "Habitat Blitz Build". This money will be used for building materials.

Father Seville has appointed me to be Good Shepherd's Habitat for Humanity Chairperson. In the near future I will be putting a sign-up sheet outside my office door so that you can indicate in which way or ways you would like to help. This is an exciting time for Habitat and an even more exciting time for the families who will occupy these homes. If you need more information, please call me either at the parish office or 304-863-5258. You may also visit Habitat's website at www.woodcountyhabitat.org.

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS April 12, 2010

Good Shepherd is invited to be part of the Habitat for Humanity "Blitz Build" on June 19 and 20. Habitat expects to build two houses in two days, and they will need 200 volunteers! Good Shepherd has accepted the joy of participating by 1) packing 40 sack 2) donating 20 hammers and 3) encouraging volunteers and donations. Ginger Smith is the coordinator for this project and will be happy to take your gift of food, hammers, time, and money. Good Shepherdites are also invited to attend the FaithLink Annual Dinner at Wayside United Methodist Church, April 29, from 5-8. For more information, see Wendy Tuck (304-488-3810). Budget wise, we are saving about \$6000 due to lower utility (gas) prices. Easter offerings for Elewana and Children's Home Society are still being received. The Rector's Search is going well – with a poster by the church office to show what is happening. The parish profile has been sent out, and a brochure with more information about the church is in the printing process. This past month, we lost two beloved members of the church - Bob Lanyon and Clint Dotson. We wish their families comfort and peace. We also had two people confirmed in the Episcopal Church – Hunter Kessell and Madalynn Huffman. A special thanks was given by the Vestry to Linda Bennett for organizing the reception and also to the choir for their Good Friday and Easter selections. The Junior Warden brought up the concern about the lower sidewalk and curb, with a plan to get that fixed. Sunday School attendance of youth and adults averages 35-40. One of the Altar Guilds has two members, and recommendations for membership in the Altar Guild are being received by the rector. The youth are presenting a special gift to the church on Mother's Day. Paula Hoffman has retired as Ministries Coordinator after many years of faithful and dedicated service, and the Vestry recognized and thanked her for her service. Trish Pritchard and Wendy Tuck are drawing up ideas for alternative forms of evening worship during the summer, as an "incubator" time. We discussed summer Sunday School, and had an evaluation of the Vestry Retreat. The Vestry agreed to meet during the summer months. Hal Foss recommended reading *The Great Emergence* by Phyllis Tickle as a way to understand changes in the church. Fr. John noted that the personnel committee is working on job descriptions for staff and other personnel in the church.

Finding Hope in Hard Times

Seven Spiritual Practices: A Faithful Steward's Guid

3rd in the series

(1 - Count Your Blessings, 2 - Count Your Cash)

3. Learn to Be Content

We brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. (1 Timothy 6:7-10)

Learning contentment is one of the most significant disciplines we can achieve. Many people have amassed large debts chasing their dreams, only to find that their latest purchase provides only fleeting fulfillment. Contentment reduces our desire to spend, creating a cushion between our spending and our income. This brings about the opportunity to save, to give away, or to buy something special. If, on the other hand, our spending is regularly ahead of our income, then the inevitable consequence is debt. Debt can be difficult to manage and arises for all sorts of reasons. If you have significant debt, you are encouraged to take action as soon as possible.

Action: Look back at your budget and review your debts and savings. The National Foundation for Credit Counseling is a nationally recognized resource for debt management counseling.

Contact them at www.nfcc.org or (800) 338-2227.

Pause for Reflection: In which areas of your life do you find it easiest to be content? Where are the temptations?

You may find the following prayer helpful :

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught about building treasure in heaven rather than on earth; teach us to be content when our needs are satisfied rather than our wants, and grant us wisdom to be faithful stewards. Amen.

From the Office of Stewardship of the Episcopal Church