

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

www.goodshepherdwv.org

The Rev. John C. Seville, Interim Rector

Ginger Smith, Parish Administrator
May 12, 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

This morning, as I was on the porch for my quiet time, I saw a robin with a big fat worm in its mouth. And it was singing. I thought birds sang with their beaks open, but this song was coming from the robin's throat. As my friend Charlie Rose, an 84 year old Spencer man, would say, "I had to study on that".

Who of us sings with a worm in our mouth? Granted, for a bird, that's akin to a filet mignon, rainbow trout, and my fresh tomatoes warm from the August sun, all in one! And since this bird was probably taking food to her/his babies, this would also be akin to the most instinctive love a parent has for a child, or that a relief worker might have in preparing food for refugees. It is one of the most heartbreaking moments in a breadwinner's life when they can't provide for their families. Our world is experiencing that a lot right now. This bird was able to find food, good food, and take it to the ones most dependent on him/her for their very lives. That is worth celebrating – no wonder this robin was singing! Every cell in that Robin's body was vibrating with joy!

On another level, worms. GAACK. Disgusting. Worms represent not what I want, but what I need. As Father John mentioned in his sermon, if Jesus gave the world what it wanted, we would not have crucified him. He gives us what we need. We are to see with the eyes of Christ, speak with the voice of Christ, and love with the heart of Christ.

And we do this with our fellow Christians in the church as well as for those we work and live with, and those we serve. When Sally Davis spoke in Adult Forum, she mentioned how supportive the church had been to her and her children after the death of her husband. Her son, John, mentioned how vital a Christian business mentor had been, urging him to maintain integrity and to do business with other ethical companies.

Sometimes that love comes in the form of casseroles and ham; sometimes it comes as a message of concern 'Are you sure you know what you are doing?' Sometimes it comes as prayer for one another. It comes when we see the needs of others and respond to them. We don't neglect or dishonor our own needs, but we also see the needs of others. Is there someone standing in the pew, not being greeted during the passing of the Peace? Christ dwells in that person. Is there someone struggling with their children, or grandchildren? Christ dwells in them. And Christ dwells in you.

Just as God created both the worm and the robin, He also created us and our neighbor, (now don't go deciding who is the worm and who is the robin!) He loves us deeply and provides for us, through Eucharist, scripture, prayer, email, many times through each other, sometimes through complete strangers. He loves us, gives us what we need, and asks us to feed his sheep, to respond to the needs of others. It is our song – even with a worm in our mouth! Pass it on!

WEDNESDAY HOT DOG MINISTRY 2010

By Darlene Slusher

This is the 4th year Good Shepherd and Liberty Street Church of God, will partner the Wednesday Hot Dog Ministry. We will begin on Wednesday, June 23 thru August 11 in our parking lot on the corner of Latrobe and Charles St. Set up begins at 5:30 PM and we will serve at 6PM.

Good Shepherd will be furnishing the following: hotdog and hamburger buns, gloves, tables, table covers, chairs, plates, bowls, napkins, cups, 2 large coolers with ice water and orange drink, wash station, hand wash station, emergency ice pack. Good Shepherd also provides restroom facilities.

We need help with the following:

- 1) someone to count out the 500 of each item we use each week and load it in the wheelbarrow.
- 2) Someone to commit to washing & drying the tablecloths each week and getting them back by the next Wednesday.
- 3) Someone to sit in the Church basement as security so people may use the restrooms. We need at least two (prefer 3 to include at least one man) One female has already committed.
- 4) Someone to commit to mixing the packaged drinks and help move them to the parking lot and back.
- 5) Help clean up during and after the dinner.
- 6) Donations of sturdy Styrofoam plates (we use 500 each week)
- 7) Cash donations always appreciated. Make check to Good Shepherd putting in the memo section "Wed. Hot Dog"

You will find a sign-up sheet by the office. Please indicate how you wish to serve. Please keep this Outreach Ministry in your prayers.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Congratulations to the following graduates:

David James Blissett, son of Tom Blissett, nephew of Jone and Dave Johnson, is graduating from Moody Bible Institute in Chicago with a Masters Degree of Spiritual Formation and Discipleship. He has been called to Oakland, California.

Emily Grace Busch, daughter of Gregg and Marybeth Busch, is graduating from Washington State Community College with an Associates Degree specializing in Liberal Arts. Emily plans to continue her education for a Masters Degree in the fall.

Nicholas Busch, son of Gregg and Marybeth Busch, is graduating from Ohio University with a Masters of Arts and Political Science specializing in International Relations and Foreign Policies. Nick is currently teaching Political Science at Washington State Community College.

Jason Louis Forrester, son of Kim and Mitch Forrester, is graduating from Wheeling Jesuit College with a Bachelors Degree in Athletic Training and plans to continue his education for a Masters in Athletic Training and graduate school in Physical Therapy.

Samantha Henrie, daughter of Missy and Greg Henrie, will graduate from Williamstown High School and will be attending West Liberty University for Dental Hygiene.

Abbey Justice, daughter of Gwen Justice, is graduating from South Parkersburg High School and plan to attend Marshall University majoring in Biology/Pre-Medicine.

ROOFTOP REVELATION

By Tom Gerdy, Habitat Blitz Builder

I am a building contractor in Lynchburg, Virginia. Almost twenty years ago, I was asked to donate some time using my carpentry abilities to help frame a home for a good family that needed a hand. I quickly learned about an organization called Habitat For Humanity. This home was the first home to be built in our town by Habitat For Humanity.

I showed up one Saturday morning with around fifteen other people and didn't know what to expect. By the time the day was done there was a small home framed on what was just a concrete slab some eight hours earlier. I build homes for a living, but there was something very special about this project. Everyone worked very hard and no one was getting paid yet we smiled all day long.

We worked side by side with the family who was buying the home. The family was a good hard working family but their income just covered their living expenses and rent in a substandard home. They were not able to save enough for a down payment to buy a decent home. Habitat was allowing them to work on the house and their "sweat equity" hours became their down payment. Habitat would then sell them the home without charging them any interest or any profit. The entire concept hooked me immediately. I knew that I would be back to volunteer again.

I experienced an eye opening and life changing moment several years later on a habitat rooftop in Lynchburg. A Jewish friend of mine called me because he knew I was a believer in Habitat. His synagogue had decided to sponsor a Habitat home but there was a problem. Habitat does much of their building on Saturdays, and that didn't work for the synagogue. They needed to find a builder willing to lead a group of volunteers on what happened to be Palm Sunday framing the home. I don't do that well sitting in the pew on Sunday anyway so I welcomed the chance to do my praying with a hammer in my hand.

We had a great day working and finishing covering up the roof as the sun was going down. As I stood on the ridge of the roof, high on a hill overlooking Lynchburg, it hit me like the proverbial bolt of lightning. **Now follow me on this.** Here I stood, a retired Catholic boy who now attends a United Methodist church, working with a Christian based organization, on a home sponsored by a Jewish synagogue for a black Baptist family. At that moment, I realized that no matter what your vision of the Supreme Being is, this is what he or she had in mind. It was with that Rooftop Revelation that I realized this is truly what life is all about.

If you have yet to find the feeling you receive when you give of yourself, I want to encourage you to reach for it. If you listen to your heart instead of your head you will find your place. When you do you will never be the same.

HABITAT BLITZ BUILD

June 19 & 20

14th Avenue, South Parkersburg

Two homes in two days!! Sounds crazy but it has been done over and over again. Please come help us build our 50th and 51st home for two well deserving families. It is such a rewarding experience. Whether you have the whole day, both days or just have 1 or 2 hours to help, every effort is appreciated. So far only two people have signed up outside the parish office door as **site volunteers**. It would really be nice to have a Good Shepherd head count as to who will be at the site. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old. **If you are volunteering to work at the site**, you must visit the Habitat website: www.woodcountyhabitat.org, click on the volunteer registration link and register. After registering, return to the home page and find the link to "Legal Waiver for Minors/Adults". Print this and fill out and mail to the address on the home page. If you do not have access to a computer, you may call the Habitat Office at 304-422-7907 and register.

We are still in need of **14 framing hammers**. You can bring your own hammer to the site, just don't lose track of it.

We still need **5 sack lunches**. A sack lunch consists of a sandwich, fruit, and snack such as a cookie, brownie, etc. *Please no condiments on sandwiches.* We will have packets of condiments available at the lunch table. Please avoid egg salads, chicken and tuna salads because of lack of refrigeration. Lunches need to be delivered to Good Shepherd on Saturday morning between 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM. Darlene Slusher has volunteered to be at the church to receive your lunches and to deliver them to the work site at 11AM. Thank you Darlene.

Three people have volunteered to drop off **snacks** such as extra brownies, cookies, protein bars, fruit, etc. We could really use more. However, **no more bananas are needed.** Please do not put bananas in the sack lunches either. Foodland and Surface banana are graciously donating all the bananas we need. You may drop off your snacks on Saturday morning also between 8:30 and 10:30 AM.

Thank you to all who have signed up to help. My Habitat Lunch Committee is made up of only three people, Gwen Miles, Sandy Carpenter and Ginger Smith. This is truly a great undertaking for us and your willingness to help is so very much appreciated.

If you need more information, please call me, Ginger Smith, either at the parish office or 304-863-5258. I will be at the work site from 7:30 AM til dark each day of the Blitz. Why don't you come out and see what a remarkable thing God has us doing in the community. It will change your life!