

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

www.goodshepherdwv.org

The Rev. John C. Seville, Interim Rector

Ginger Smith, Parish Administrator

May 26, 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 MAGICAL SOUND OF GUNFIRE IN LA

By Tom Gerdy, Habitat Blitz Builder

Gunfire on the streets of LA is not a new sound. It usually changes lives. It often brings tears. It sometimes ends lives. It always changes the world. Not too long ago the sound of gunfire rang out almost continuously in Los Angeles for a week long. The gunfire changed lives. The gunfire brought many tears. The gunfire changed the world. The guns were not Saturday night specials or sawed off shotguns. They were not used to end lives. They were not used to settle arguments. They were not used in anger. They were not used by gang bangers or criminals.

This particular week was special and the guns were special. Instead of being used to take someone down, the guns were used to build up. Instead of tears of sadness, these guns created tears of joy. Instead of ending lives, these guns were used to help people begin new lives. Instead of gang members pulling the trigger, the guns were in the hands of people from all walks of life. The people firing the guns were doctors, teachers, janitors, athletes, politicians, actors, accountants, iron workers, factory workers, singers, truck drivers, construction workers and even President Jimmy Carter.

The Habitat For Humanity Jimmy Carter Work Project spent a week in Los Angeles helping build 30 new homes and renovating 35 existing homes. The guns that rang out were not firing bullets. The guns fired nails and were being used by thousands of volunteers from all over the world to build and renovate homes.

I was fortunate enough to be able to work on several of the new Habitat Homes being built in San Pedro overlooking the Port of Los Angeles. I worked side by side with families who were buying these homes. These beautiful families had worked hundreds of hours with Habitat just to be able to buy these homes. These good people used their "sweat equity" hours as a down payment and Habitat helped finance the balance of the home.

As I stood overlooking this building site in San Pedro, I got chills thinking about how the world was changing right before my eyes. I thought about how anger comes from the head and not the heart. I was witnessing how miracles can occur when people listen to their hearts instead of their heads. I watched as people who never thought they could make much of a difference, came to the realization that we had changed the world. It is an exciting and powerful feeling. I look for a day when everyone can feel that feeling. I look for the day when everyone will let their hearts tell their

hands what to do. When that day comes, the guns of war, the guns of violence and the guns of hatred will be silenced.

HABITAT BLITZ BUILD

4304 & 4308 14th Ave., South Parkersburg

By Ginger Smith

In recent publications of "The Shepherd's Staff" I have chosen to share some stories from Tom Gerdy, Habitat for Humanity's chief Blitz Builder in hopes that it might excite our congregation about the good works Habitat for Humanity is doing with God's help for God's people. It's makes no difference what denomination we are, what profession we belong to, what color our skin is, whether we are wimpy or strong, there is a need and an opportunity for all of us to help those less fortunate have affordable, safe, housing.

I serve on the Family Selection Committee and help to do home inspections of the families that apply for Habitat Housing. Please believe me when I say that all of the families that have been approved for Habitat Homes are currently living in substandard housing. They are either living in extremely unsafe housing or are ridiculously overcrowded. It's very sad to see the conditions that these people live in.

I am proud to be a part of God's plan for making life better for these families. You too, can be a part of this unique experience. Anyone 16 and older may help at the Habitat work site on June 19, & June 20. You may either help build, work at the food tables, run water to the workers. There are many tasks and we are all capable of more than we think. Even my daughter, Brittany, learned how to put siding on a previous Habitat house while she was in high school.

Thank you to all who have signed up to do sack lunches, snacks, and hammers. Thank you to the Sunday School classes who have decorated the lunch sacks and placed prayers or scriptures inside them. We seem to have that aspect pretty well covered.

We do need site volunteers. **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. Also, please sign up on the sheet outside the parish office so we know how many are Good Shepherd folks. Thanks to you all.

RECTOR SEARCH UPDATE

Have you seen the chart by the office? More blocks are filled in. We are making progress. The Search Committee sent out information packets last week to approximately 20 possible candidates. The cut-off date for any additional names is May 31. If you have someone in mind, have them contact us now.

RELAY FOR LIFE

Our final total raised for the American Cancer Society by the Pink Church Walkers is **\$2605**. Thanks to everyone who supported our effort: walkers, cake bakers, luminaria sponsors, donors of items for the silent auction, those who lent us items for the birthday celebration or our Relay site, party helpers, and all those who gave us cash for lunch, cookies, auction items or just to go towards our total. We think you are great!

Linda and Suzanne

PARISH PICNIC

The end-of-year Sunday School Picnic (for all Good Shepherd folks) will be June 6 right after the 10 AM service at Shelter 4 at the City Park. This year it is **potluck** so bring your favorite picnic dish to serve a crowd. Cold drinks, cups, napkins, plates and utensils will be provided as well as games, songs, and fellowship.

YOUTH SUNDAY JUNE 6TH

The youth of the church will be leading the 10 AM service on June 6. Abbey Justice will give the 'graduating senior' sermon. Please show your support for our ministry to children by your presence.

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

This year's theme is *Baobab Blast – God's Great Get-Together*. Baobab trees are gathering places for people and animals in the African savannah. We will gather under our own 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. We need Activity Site leaders, Guides to accompany each age group as they travel from site to site, Kitchen workers to serve lunch 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 needed: 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.

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. **"Staff" article deadlines** will be: Monday, June 7 @ Noon, 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.

GOOD SHEPHERD FOOD PANTRY

After several years of managing our church food pantry, Nancee Barney has decided to resign as our Food Pantry Coordinator. Nancee has done a remarkable job in servicing this community and our church, but feels it's time for someone else to experience the joys of filling the needs of so many people. We thank Nancee for all her many hours and hard work that she has put into this ministry.

Now, that brings us to the task of recruiting a new volunteer Food Pantry Coordinator. Please pray about this marvelous opportunity, and if it is something you feel you may want to try, please call the parish office so that we may discuss the position in more detail.

Kids will soon be home for the summer and their parents will suddenly realize that they don't have enough to feed them. That is when we will start to get real busy. We need you and we need you now so that Nancee can help train you during the month of June. Follow your heart and let God lead you.

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 in 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.