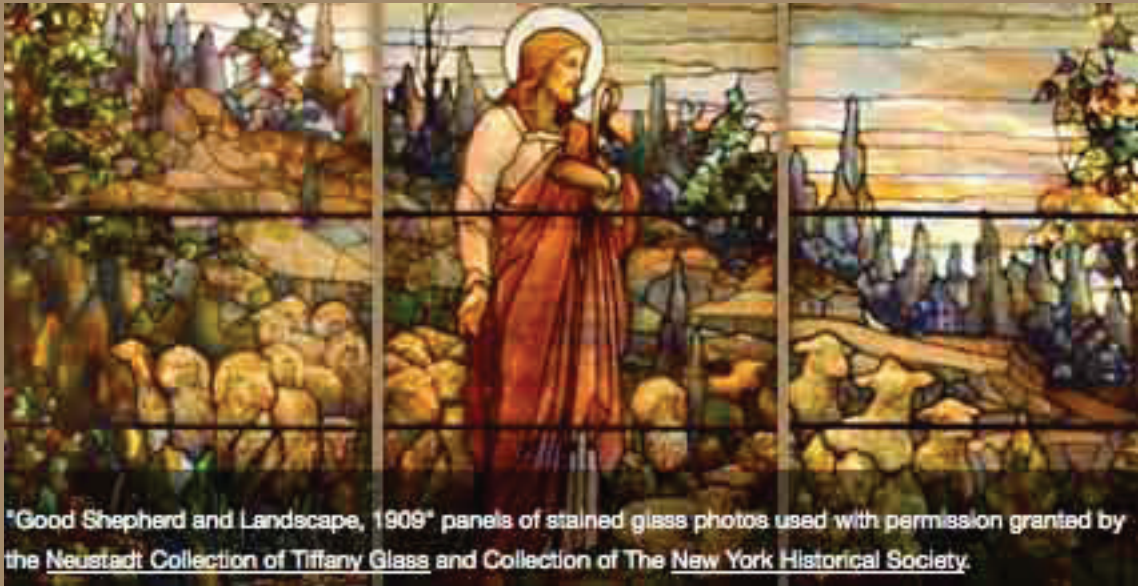


THE LORD IS
MY SHEPHERD
I SHALL NOT WANT
HE MAKETH ME
TO LIE DOWN
IN GREEN PAST-
URES • HE LEAD-
ETH ME BESIDE
THE STILL WATERS • HE RESTORETH MY
SOUL • HE LEADETH ME IN THE PATHS
OF RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR HIS NAME'S
SAKE • YEA THOUGH I WALK THROUGH
THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH
I WILL FEAR NO EVIL FOR THOU ART
WITH ME • THY ROD AND THY STAFF
THEY COMFORT ME • THOU PREPAREST
A TABLE BEFORE
ME IN THE PRE-
SENCE OF THINE
ENEMIES • THOU
KNOWEST MY
HEART • THOU
WILT RUN WITH
ME • THY MERCY
AND THY
GOODNESS AND
MERCY SHALL
FOLLOW ME ALL
THE DAYS OF
MY LIFE AND
I WILL DWELL
IN THE HOUSE
OF THE LORD
• FOREVER •

Church
of the Good
Shepherd
2006

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Our Mission:

To share a place of
worship and fellowship
where our hearts meet
God's Light ...

Our Vision

To be a vibrant
community that knows
Christ and makes Him
known.

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July 2011

From the Desk of Rev. Susie Skinner

“ Do It! “

Recently someone said to me, “I don’t know how to pray.” It reminded me of the time a spiritual director asked me, “Tell me how you pray?” I gave all the usual answers and then I said to him, “But sometimes it feels like nothing happens...that I’m just mouthing words.” His response was, “Keep doing it!”



How to pray, how to foster an intimate relationship with God is a question that gnaws at most of us one time or another. Maggie Ross, an Anglican author and mystic, says we all long for God and it is tending to this longing that keeps the life-blood of the Spirit moving within us. In The Fire of Your Life, she writes that we are all hermits for it is in our aloneness that we know we are a unique creation of God. A part of our uniqueness – our “hermit-ness” – is the yearning for a place to be still and know that God is God. So how do we do that? How do we find that place?

I am reminded of a story Luke tells about the disciples and Jesus. Jesus had gone off to pray and when He finished one of the disciples said, “Lord, teach us to pray...” Jesus’ response was to pray the Lord’s Prayer. In other words, He didn’t give the disciples a “how-to” manual! He simply said, to borrow a phrase from Nike, “Just do it!”

Yes, there will be times of dryness; times when we feel as if we’re just going through the motions. But there will also be times of great closeness and intimacy with God. Like an oasis in the desert these moments often come upon us by surprise in the most unlikely of times. What’s most important is to begin the process - to do it!

Some Suggestions for Deepening Prayer Life

- 1.) Be present at the weekly Sunday Eucharist. The life blood of our individual prayer life begins with the community gathered around the Holy Table.
- 2.) Make use of the resources in the Book of Common Prayer. “Daily Devotions” (p. 137) provides short forms for prayer in the morning, at noon, in the early evening, and at the close of day. The “Order for Evening Worship” (p. 109) provides for a brief offering of prayer at suppertime and “Compline” (p.127) is a wonderful way to complete or end the day. All of these services come from the monastic

tradition and remind us that that our entire life is meant to begin, continue and end in and with God.

3.) Make use of daily readings for the Bible. The Prayer Book provides a Daily Lectionary that gives biblical readings for each day. For those who prefer to use the web there are any number of sites that provide both daily readings and meditations. A good site to begin with is: www.missionstclaire.com.

3.) Join us for Lectio Divina, an experience in “praying the scriptures.” The summer group meets on Wednesday mornings from 11:00am until noon. You can come for one session or as many as you’d like.

4.) Find a Spiritual Director. For many of us it is helpful to have a spiritual director or soul-mate who can walk with us in our journey. If you would be interested in pursuing this possibility I would be happy to try and help you find a spiritual companion.

VESTRY MEETING SYNOPSIS MAY 18, 2011

The Vestry of The Church Of The Good Shepherd held its regular meeting on Wednesday, June 8, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. The Rev. Susie Skinner called the meeting to order and began with prayer.

The agenda as submitted by Susie Skinner was approved.

The minutes of the May 2011 meeting were approved.

Cannon Dan Smith was with us and spent time discussing the search process. He has a group of names that he will be contacting for telephone interviews. This process will allow him to narrow down the names he has to the few he feels are a good fit for COGS. Cannon Smith also spent time talking with us about where the Vestry feels the Parish is at this point in time. He should have a list of candidates to present to the Search Committee by August.

Susie remains pleased with both the attendance and financial position of the church during this time of transition. The recent Taize service was well attended and we will plan another for sometime in September.

Mary Mercurio submitted the May financial statement and her written comments by e mail.

Mickey Harrison reported that the lock combination will be changed June 12th. Any one needing the new combination should see Joan Rath. Mickey also brought to our attention that repairs are needed to the overhang /roof at the front door of the church.

Linda Eveland motioned that we renew the Letter of Agreement with The Rev. Susan C. Skinner for another three months effective July 1,2011.
The motion passed.

We concluded with prayer and adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Brooke H. Forsyth
Secretary

Dates to remember:

Next Vestry Meeting: July 13, at 7:00 p.m.

Please remember your Vestry is here for you. Do not hesitate to contact us

Senior Warden and Parish Life

Summer is zooming by at an alarming pace for me which means Fall will be here before we catch our breaths. With our TRIVIA NIGHT AND SILENT AUCTION as the church's only money maker for the year we MUST get on with its planning right now! What we know is that it will be held on Saturday Night, October 15th. The cost will remain the same \$20.00 per person. Tables will consist of 8 players. You can fill your own table of 8 or you can sign up as an individual or a couple and we will put you at a table with fellow

Good Shepherd players. The \$20 cost includes beverages of beer, soft drinks and



water. You bring your own food for the table you sit at. It's a CASTAWAY theme on GOOD SHEPHERD ISLAND so start looking for a costume - there will be a prize for the best! I will send out letters for donations next week and I hope that you all begin NOW to find items for the auction baskets. ANYTHING will be appreciated - gift certificates, things that you have been given as gifts that you will never use, wine, liquor, lotions, office items, kitchen things, bath lotions, etc., etc. (Or, you can donate an electronic or any individual item). You all know how your generous contributions in the past have produced fabulous baskets! Let's do it again!!!

Our Bring a Friend to Church Sunday for the Summer will be held on July 10th with a Bar-B-Q Pulled Pork Lunch to follow. Just bring a side dish to go with bar-b-q and FRIENDS.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Search Committee has done EVERYTHING that was asked of us to prepare for finding a new rector. THEN, all information was passed to Canon Smith. He then began crossing our information and wishes with those of ministers looking for positions. In August, we will be given those names that best suit us and we will begin interviewing those people. Things from this point on should go at a quicker pace. Thanks so much to all of you for your continued prayers on this task that is so important to all of us, and God Bless You.

God's Peace

Linda



Those Who Makes Church of the Good Shepherd Special ... Dr. Diane Radford

Diane hails from the west coast of Scotland; she grew up in Troon, a town of 13,000 people renowned for its challenging golf courses. Her parents, both English, settled in Scotland in the mid 1950s. The family worshipped at St. Ninian's Episcopal Church in Troon.

She started medical school at Glasgow University at the age of 16, graduating in 1981. She plans to attend the Alpha '81 thirty-year reunion in Glasgow in November 2011. Surgery is her vocation: she knew that surgery was her destiny at age 13. She has dedicated her career to breast diseases since she was a resident in the early 80s. Diane came to the US in 1985 to complete her fellowship in surgical oncology.



Discovering that the USA is still the “Land of Opportunity”, she decided to stay, but had to complete more residency training to fulfill accreditation requirements.

Diane has lived in St. Louis since 1987. She was assistant professor at Washington University in St. Louis for 5 years; she had a funded genetics research program in the evolution of breast cancer from in situ to invasive disease. In 1999 Diane and four other specialists in breast cancer founded the St. Louis Cancer & Breast Institute, the first freestanding cancer center in St. Louis. The Institute has grown over the years to nine physicians in four locations.

Diane has been married to Pam Evans since 2005. They live in West County with their pets, Snickers the cockapoo, Buttercup the tabby cat and Bonnie and Clyde, the highly refined Abyssinians. Her interests include photography, travel, working out, golf (of course), and cycling. She completed the MS 150 on two occasions. Writing is another passion; she is working on a memoir of life in Troon. All of this leaves little time for sleep.

Pam and Diane enjoy COGS for the fellowship, friendship and excellent teaching; they have been members since 2009.

From the Bishop

Having returned from Sudan just a few days ago, I am still processing a range of emotions during my visit there. Bishop Bullen's funeral left me with a feeling of loss, mixed with the knowledge of how glad I am to have known this man as a colleague. The longish hours I was able to spend with Bishop-elect Stephen Dokolo, leisurely discussing all manner of things diocesan and episcopal, gave me pleasure. The time we spent together made me grateful for an old friend and new colleague. The time I spent alone and with Debbie scanning the physical and political landscapes stunned me with how rapidly things are changing in Sudan. Development is moving apace, of which there are many signs. There are so many children in school uniforms. Water supply is not a problem, at least in Lui town, and I saw none of the obvious signs of malnutrition which I had grown to expect. And in just two weeks, all of us will have to practice saying the name of the new nation where our partners live: The Republic of South Sudan. The anticipation of independence on July 9 is ever-present.

Even so, there are many contingencies facing South Sudan and Lui Diocese. The infrastructure is undeveloped, degraded, or non-existent. The possibility of renewed warfare remains a threat, especially in the border areas with the North. The viability of the economy post-independence remains an open question, even though the economy is nowhere near healthy in present circumstances. Democratic institutions are brand new and not well practiced in the new nation. The list could go on. In short, the Republic of South Sudan faces more than its share of challenges.

The Christians with whom I spoke in Lui, however, almost to a person, talk about the present time as full of hope. No one denies the hard realities all around, and people recall all too clearly the twenty-one years of civil war ending in 2005. They are quite the opposite of unrealistic in their outlook, but they remain hopeful. Their hope does not even depend on the good things evident around them already, or treads of matters "going well."

Hope is not the expectation that every little thing will turn out all right. Hope, for Christians, is a radical openness to whatever the future might bring, hard times, good times, come what may. If we believe that God awaits us in that future, whatever it may be, then we can be open to it and lean toward it. Despair either denies that there is such a thing as the future or else believes that nothing worthwhile lies in it. Hope is quite the opposite. Hope anticipates the future and rushes to embrace it. This is the quality of hope I heard about in Lui. There is a remarkable eagerness for what lies ahead.

Romans 14:8, a passage I read during my remarks at Bishop Bullen's funeral, describes well an out-look available to believers: "If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's possession."

Bishop Wayne Smith
July/August 2011

Prayer for Our Church

Dear Parish Family,

As our search for a new rector continues the Search Committee bids you join them in praying for God's blessing and guidance in this process. Below is the prayer that the Committee prays at each meeting. We hope you will join us in this prayer and use it in your homes.

"Empower us, we pray, to continue in your steadfast love. Summon our dreams and courage, and open us to the movement and guidance of your Spirit during this time of transition and change. Ground us in affection for you and one another through our worship and witness, our mission and ministry. Ignite us with a passion for that which you are calling us to do, and set our hearts on fire. Be with us as we discern what you would have for us and from us, that we may listen to your voice and the voices of others in our midst. Guide and guard the hearts and minds of those who shall seek and choose a rector for this parish. May we find commitment to one another in this task, always remembering to delight in each other, even as we move through this most serious of responsibilities. Steady us through our discernment that we may ask nothing more of our next rector than we ourselves are willing to do, and ready us to receive the one you have been forming for service in this place. All this we ask through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen".

Yes, The Hand of God Does Touch Us

(This story began with a few men who knew that they wanted to form a group that would be in integral part of Church of the Good Shepherd. We know them now as the "EPISCOPALS" They built and stocked the shelves of the "Book Corner", located in the community room. Books have been donated and are available for purchase towards the good of our church. Molly Mercurio was drawn to the "Book Corner" and found the book that had been waiting for her ... Stop by and see what you might find that could change your life too! ...)

OUT OF INDIA

by Vel Edington

*In a small village across the sea,
A young woman waits for her baby to be.
In America, a young couple mourns
A little girl who has just been born.*

*As God looks down and sees the tears
He gives them strength and quiet fears.
Her baby needs two parents, to guide her through life's quest,
and the mother knows within her heart, her decision is the best.*

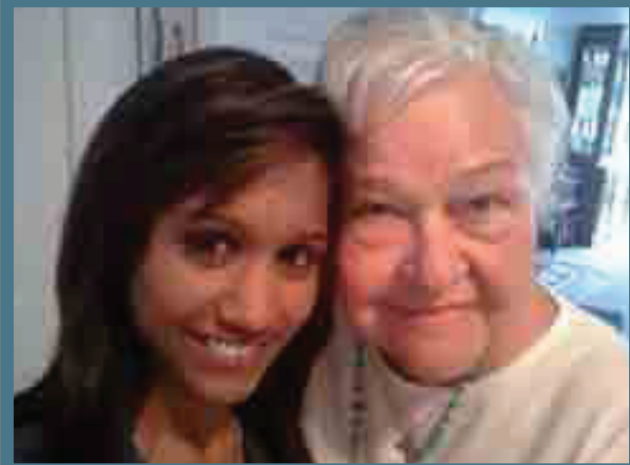
*So the wheels are set in motion
and a lot of time goes by,
and her new family asks some questions...
such as why, why, why!*

*Her mom just wants to hold her
and her dad just wants her near,
her brother wants to care for her
and Memaw wants her here.*

*Make us ever grateful Lord, to the mother and her nation,
for this very special child who is part of God's creation.*

*Thank you God and thank you India-
she will always be loved.*

The following account of this wonderful event by Vel Edington and Molly Mercurio



“Meemaw”...

Some years ago, when my daughter and her husband were in the process of adopting a little girl from India, I wrote a poem in her honor.

Just last week, while working with the Good Shepherd Youth Group, Molly picked up a book that happened to be [A Celebration of Poets](#). As she held the book in her hands, it opened to the very page of my poem! We did not even realize it had been published. SURPRISE, hardly explained her reaction!

In my heart, I know that our heavenly Father had placed the book in her hands just as he had chosen Mary and Paul to be her parents. We have been truly blessed!

Molly’s story...

After finding the book, I thought to myself, “oh wow”, this is from my Grandma! After reading further, I saw that it was about me. I decided to purchase the book and bring it home for my Grandma. She had no idea that the poem had even been published. I found the book hidden behind a bunch of other books, making it difficult for others to find. I felt like God was there with me. He had guided me to it. Before discovering the book, I was searching for older books. I had picked several random hard covered books hoping to find one that was very old. Something was telling me to look behind the books, and that is where I found [A Celebration of Poets](#). Looking for the publishing date of this book, I turned directly to the page of my Grandma’s poem, which happened to be about me! It was the only page in the entire book that was green and was also the first poem in the book. “Now that is definitely a sign from God”! I will never forget this experience and will always hold it close to my heart. This experience has taught me no matter who, what, when or where, God is always near!