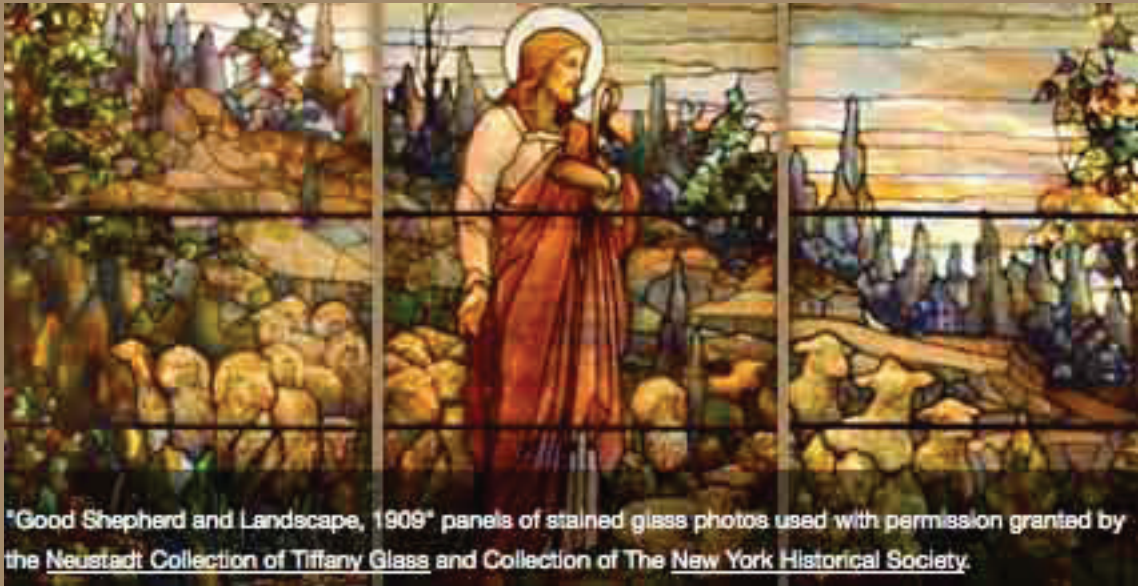


THE LORD IS
MY SHEPHERD
I SHALL NOT WANT
HE MAKETH ME
TO LIE DOWN
IN GREEN PAST-
URES • HE LEAD-
ETH ME BESIDE
THE STILL WATERS • HE RESTORETH MY
SOUL • HE LEADETH ME IN THE PATHS
OF RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR HIS NAME'S
SAKE • YEA THOUGH I WALK THROUGH
THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH
I WILL FEAR NO EVIL FOR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

This Issue:

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Stewardship
Daniel & Lisa Lacroix-Welcome!
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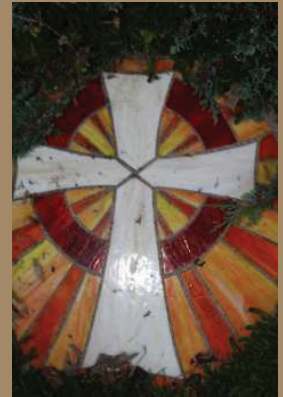
October 2011

From the Desk of Rev. Susie Skinner

ALL SAINTS DAY (observed November 06, 2011)

“For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
who thee before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus be forever blest.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia, Alleluia! (The Hymnal # 287)



On All Saints Day we will pray, “Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of you Son Christ our Lord...” This major feast day gives us an opportunity to celebrate and thank God for all the saints who have gone before us – all those with whom we are “knit together” in the mystical body of Christ. We will observe this special day on Sunday, November 6th by remembering in our prayers the faithful departed of our congregation who have died during the last year and those who are buried in our columbarium. If there is someone you would like remembered in the liturgies on that Sunday please e-mail or call their name into the parish office by Tuesday, October 4.

“All things come of thee, O Lord and of thine own have we given thee.”

Sixty years ago my mother joined my grandfather on a mule ride into the hills of Eastern Kentucky. They were on a mission. The mission was to convince the hill-folk to take their hard earned cash out of the fruit jars buried in cellars and yards and put it in a building they’d never seen – a bank.

It was no easy feat convincing those fiercely independent and self-sufficient people to let go of what was “mine” and send it off to a place they’d never seen, with a man and woman they’d never met. It was risky, and it was scary.

Those hill-folk, all those years ago, were not so very different than those of living with the complex challenges of today. We, too, have a tough time letting go of what we perceive as “mine.”

Nothing demonstrates that more powerfully than money. Money keeps us safe and provides what we need. And it's very tempting to think it's all "mine."

And then I remember words of the Offertory Sentence; "All things come of thee, O Lord and of thine own have we given thee." All is a gift from God. Nothing is really "mine." I am to be a steward of what I have been given. I am to care for it and use it for God's purposes. My giving back to God what is already God's is an "outward and visible sign" of the truth that everything belongs to God.

Yes, letting go is risky and it is scary – particularly when it's money! But when we do that, when we trust ourselves completely to God our life is changed in ways beyond our imagining. "Give us grace, O Lord, to trust and to give ourselves, all that we have and all that we are, to You, the Giver of all."

Yours in Christ

(The) Rev. Susan C. Skinner, Interim Rector

Church of the Good Shepherd: Stewardship **ALL THINGS COME FROM THEE O LORD...** **AND OF THINE OWN HAVE WE GIVEN THEE**

The theme of the Every Member Canvass this year asks us to examine God's bounty and blessings in our daily lives and the importance of the Church of The Good Shepherd in helping us achieve a closer relationship to God.

Stewardship Prayer

O God, I resolve to put you first in my life.

I recognize that you have blessed me with all that I have and all that I am.

As your steward, I resolve to sacrifice when necessary but always to do so out of a spirit of sincere love, just as your son Jesus did for me.

I humbly accept the challenge to share from my means rather than my excess.

I recognize that being a good steward is nothing more than being truly Christian.

Dear God, I resolve to be generous with my time, talent, and treasure, giving in proportion to the gifts that I have been given.

I know there will be times when I will fail to be a good steward, but I pledge to keep on trying.

I will confidently live each day with a spirit of true peace and joy in knowing that I am doing your will.

Amen.

Commitment Sunday is November 20, 2011

Welcome: Daniel and Lisa Lacroix

Daniel and Lisa Lacroix began attending Church of the Good Shepherd soon after their marriage in January 2011.



Daniel was born and raised in Bellac, France, in a Catholic family with eight siblings. He attended culinary school and worked as a chef in France, Tunisia and Haiti before coming to the United States in 1986. He was a chef in Washington, D.C. and San Diego and then taught at the New England Culinary Institute in Vermont and also owned his own restaurant. He moved to St. Louis in 1986 where he was the executive sous chef for the St. Louis Club. Soon after this move, Daniel was introduced to a massage therapist who specialized in myofascial release techniques and was able to cure Daniel of the debilitating back pain he suffered from working as a chef. After this experience, Daniel made the decision to change careers in order to help others in similar situations. He attended and graduated from the Healing Arts Center Massage School and opened his own practice, where he specializes in myofascial release and medical massage therapy. In addition to his own practice in Richmond Heights, he teaches a myofascial release class at the Healing Arts Center. Daniel feels blessed to have found a career where he can truly help others and share his faith as he works with clients to overcome both physical and emotional pain in their lives.

Lisa grew up in Kansas City, Missouri, graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia and moved to St. Louis in 1985. Lisa has spent her career working in instructional design, creating training programs in corporations and schools. She currently works for Ladue Schools in the Technology Department, training staff members and working with the district's student information system. She was baptized and confirmed in the Episcopal church and her mother is a retired Episcopal Deacon. Her parents now live in Tucson where her mother continues to work as a hospice chaplain and her father volunteers at a hospital and serves as a priest in the Old Catholic Church of America. She has one sister, a retired attorney who lives in the mountains of Idaho with her husband, who is a poet and novelist. So even though

family is far away for both Lisa and Daniel, there are lots of good places to go visit!

Daniel and Lisa each have a set of twins from a previous marriage. Daniel has twin boys, age 21. Elliot is in college in Colorado and Julian lives in Vermont. Lisa has 18-year-old twin girls, Leslie and Danielle, who are seniors at Parkway South, as well as a 22-year-old son, Patrick, who graduated in May from Columbia College in Chicago with a degree in Sports Marketing.

Lisa and Daniel live in Ballwin near Castlewood State Park and enjoy bicycle riding, hiking, and photography.

In trying to find a church to call home, Lisa and Daniel visited a number of Episcopal churches and found some that were closer to home, some that had services at more convenient times, some that had more activities, but there was no place that touched their hearts like the Church of the Good Shepherd.

What's in a name? Help us name our Newsletter!

We are asking each of you to give some thought to a name for the Church of the Good Shepherd newsletter. The men's group did a fabulous job of coming up with the creative and distinctive name, "Episcopals." So, everyone put on your best COGS thinking caps and let's come up with a new name that expresses the unique Parish we love to call our spiritual home . . . The Church of the Good Shepherd!

Please submit your ideas by email to Joan Rath, the office secretary at cogssect@sbcglobal.net or add your ideas to a list we will circulate during coffee at Fellowship Hour in the community room after church on Sunday's for the next month. What do you win if your suggestion is chosen? Our respect, admiration and our debt of gratitude (& of course some bragging rights!).

“COME TO THE ISLAND”



Trivia Night & Silent Auction

Saturday, October 15

6 PM

\$20 per person - Tables of 8

Book your reservations now...

Vestry Meeting Synopsis Sept. 14,2011

The Vestry of The Church Of The Good Shepherd held its regular meeting on Wednesday, August 10, 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 August meeting were approved.

Susie Skinner discussed the very busy and exciting fall.

- Sept. 18th Stewardship
- Sept. 25th Taize Service
- Oct. 2nd Healing Service
- Oct. 4th-6th Clergy Conference - Susie out of office
- Oct. 8th Wedding
- Oct. 15th Trivia Night
- Oct. 30th Susie will be leading a retreat.

Susie also discussed the Taize Service schedule for the fall. Services are planned for the fourth Sunday of each month except December. Susie talked about going forward with Taize services next year. Confluence would like to continue cosponsoring these services at Good Shepherd. The Vestry agreed that we would like to continue this service to the community. The details concerning the continuation of the Taize Services in 2012 will be subject to the approval of the new Rector.

Lesley McIntire reported on the plans for the fall Christian Formation classes. The fall season will begin on September 18th. She also talked about the youth group activities for the fall including an event with Good Shepherd School in December.

Mary Mercurio submitted the August financial statement by e-mail and it was accepted as submitted .

Linda Eveland updated The Vestry on the progress for Trivia Night on October 15th.

This is a fun event and a big fund-raiser for our church. Make sure you reserve your table early.

Jerret Reagh reported that The Search Committee has completed the first phase of the interview process and has started the second round of interviews. Please keep this group in your prayers.

Mickey again discussed issues associated with the Easter Seals Camp. They are now part of United Cerebral Palsy Heartland, Canterbury Enterprises. The Vestry decided that we should defer any action regarding next year's activities with this group until the new Rector is in place.

Mickey also discussed the over hang to the front door of the Church and recommended that any action on this be deferred until the current projects are completed. Mickey informed the Vestry that he has purchased new carpet for the classrooms, the secretary's office and the copy room.

The Vestry elected Brooke Forsyth to fill the vacant spot for a convention delegate.

Pam Evans discussed the newsletter and the possibilities of having this distributed as part of the web site. We will also have a contest to name the newsletter. Watch for the details in the next issue.

We also renewed the Letter Of Agreement with The Rev. Susan C. Skinner.

There being no other business, Susie concluded our meeting with prayer. We adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Brooke H. Forsyth
Secretary

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

Bishop Wayne Smith

These recent days of cooler weather provide a welcome respite from the heat and humidity of the summer just past, even for a lover of hot weather like me. The truth is that while I like to bask in the heat, I do not like to work in it.

Exercise outdoors becomes arduous, and the simple labor of mowing the lawn at the Smiths' house on a hot July day can be my undoing. Physical labor is no small thing for folks who, like me, are mostly not accustomed to such things. I think of my own circumstances in contrast to those of my father, who labored all his life long, mostly as a farmer and a worker in road construction.

His work was not so much a choice for him as a way of life. He did relish being outdoors, and he never much like air conditioning, inured as he was to the summer heat of West Texas. But be very clear: he labored hard in ways I have never had to.

Twenty-five years ago, or longer, I read in a biography of Charles Simeon, the great evangelical thinker in nineteenth-century England, some of the usual counsel he had for his students at Cambridge. He told them that every day he would walk to the two-mile stone (a mile marker from the University) to make certain that the stone was still there, and he would commend such practice to anyone engaged in the "reading life." A four-mile daily walk is not a bad discipline for anyone engaged in what is otherwise a sedentary livelihood and manner of life, and I have managed to approximate that discipline for the past several decades (not, I will admit, a daily practice). But I am also clear that I can choose not to engage in that discretionary exercise, on any given day or for stretches of time, whether for reasons of ill health, travel, a bum knee, or good old-fashioned laziness.

My freedom to choose is not available to billions of people in this world, whose very life will depend on hard physical labor. Such labor does not deserve any condescending glance or foolish romanticism. But we do well to remember that Benedict, in his Rule for Monks, described a spiritual life existing in a three-fold balance: (physical) work, study, and prayer--all of which is to be undertaken for the sake of the community, which is the matrix of the monk's spiritual life, and for which there is no substitute.

That is hardly an unreasonable balance--work, study, and prayer. Physicality is all

the more necessary for anyone desiring a deeper spiritual life, especially since spirituality, misguided, can seduce a person into forgetting the body. Anyone who has ever engaged in a demanding course of study, or a mentally or emotionally challenging vocation, to cite but two examples, will have faced that challenge.

Sometimes the option of Charles Simeon is the likely one available, and if so, then let us choose it. But let us never forget those for whom such a choice is not an option, whose lives depend upon their labor.

(Adapted from a blog entry written August 2008)

Bishop Wayne Smith

October 2011

You can go GREEN with the COGS newsletter!

If you would like to sign up for a digital version of the COGS newsletter to begin with the November issue, please email Joan Rath, the office secretary at cogssect@sbcglobal.net. You can also put your name on a list that will circulate during coffee at Fellowship Hour in the community room after church on Sunday's for the next month. Thank you for considering taking this step to save a few trees!

Church of the Good Shepherd Youth Group



During the week of June 6-10, the Church of the Good Shepherd Youth Group volunteered at the Good Shepherd School. The school serves both typically-developing children and those with special needs such as Down's syndrome, autism, and cerebral palsy in the same classroom. Supervised by Jerret Reagh, Lynn Hedrick, and Lesley McIntire, youth group members Lindsay and Maddie Eveland, Sophie and Audrey Kennedy, and Molly Mercurio each gave up a week of summer vacation to assist teachers in the classrooms at Good Shepherd School. During the week, each youth group member worked with a different age group, helping the staff to create a fun and nurturing summer camp experience for the students. We played with children on the playground and in the multi-purpose room, helped with art projects, cleaned classrooms, and sorted supplies.

The week of service allowed the Church of the Good Shepherd and Good Shepherd School to renew old ties. The school was founded over 40 years ago by a group of parents, including Jerry and Barbara Braznell, who realized that St. Louis did not have an educational facility to meet the needs of children with developmental challenges. The school was originally housed at the Church of the Good Shepherd before building their own facility on Timber Run Drive in Creve Coeur. Today the school provides services for children from 6 weeks to 6 years. Children with special needs receive physical, occupational, and speech therapies so that they can participate with normally developing children in a traditional pre-school curriculum.

For the youth group, the week allowed us each to learn about children and the special way Good Shepherd School nurtures everyone regardless of need or ability. Here are some of the things learned during the week:

“I learned how well the children interact with each other and don’t judge the kids who are different.”

“The kids are very creative and just like to have fun. I like how the kids are so sweet to each other and forgive each other quickly.”

“One and two year olds are completely out of it by 11:30 am, if not sooner!”

“I learned how the special therapies for the kids with developmental delays helped them. One student was walking on her own using a special walker after her physical therapy.”

“As three and four year olds, children have reached a point in their lives where they have endless amounts of things to say and limited capabilities forming their words.”

The Youth Group enjoyed the summer experience so much that they will return to the Good Shepherd School in December for a “Character Breakfast” in December. This is an annual event for students and their parents to gather as a community to meet “characters” from children’s literature. Our youth will dress as literary characters and mingle with the students and their parents.

Good Shepherd School is anxious to continue its association with the church and would love to have adults as well as children involved in activities. This is an opportunity for all of us to reach out and make a difference in our local community so please consider volunteering. If you have a special talent or have time to help clean and organize a classroom or would like read to a class once a month or once a week, please let Lesley McIntire know of your interest. The experience will enrich the lives of both the Good Shepherd School and the Church of the Good Shepherd.

An Opportunity to Give

*World Food Day
Friday, October 14, 2011 @ 6 - 7 PM*

*To volunteer, call Lisa Lacroix at 314-753-8776 or
email lisalacroix@gmail.com*

WORLD FOOD DAY

Friday, October 14, 2011 • 6-7 PM



Can you donate \$20 and 1 hour?

Join other COGS members at the Danforth Plant Science Center at Olive & Warson to package nutritious rice/soy meals for people facing critical food shortages in sub-Saharan Africa.

At the conclusion of the one hour session, volunteers will see a short film about the Danforth Center's work, take a brief tour (to include time in our greenhouses), meet the members of their international team, and begin to understand the long-term health and hunger solutions on which they work.

We need 10 volunteers for our own assembly line. For more information about the event, go to: <http://www.danforthcenter.org/wfd>
To volunteer, call Lisa Lacroix at 314-753-8776 or email lisalacroix11@gmail.com