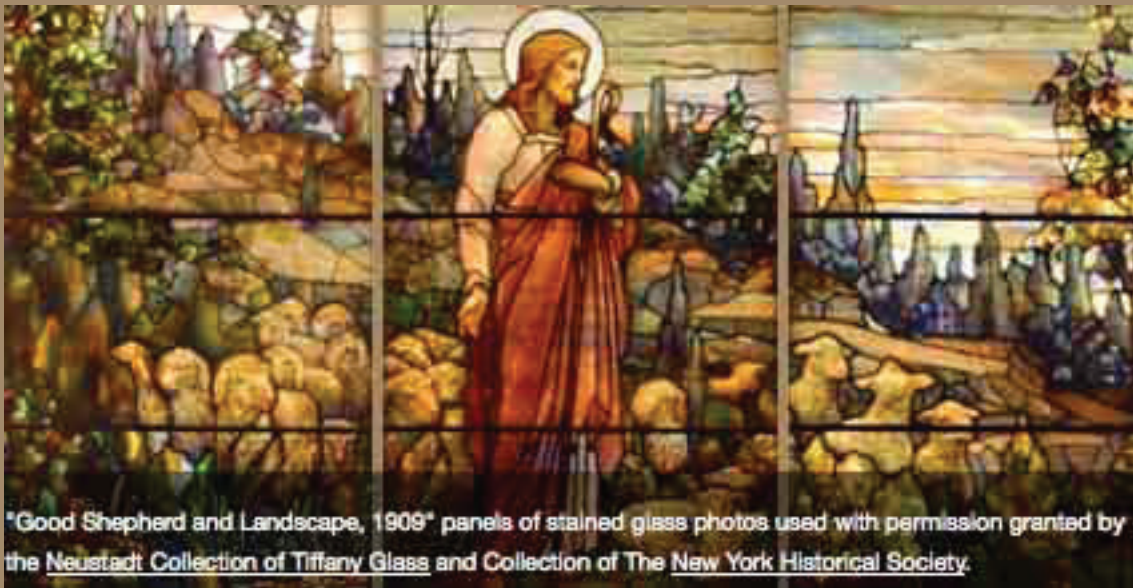


THE LORD IS
MY SHEPHERD
I SHALL NOT WANT
HE MAKETH ME
TO LIE DOWN
IN GREEN PAST-
URES • HE LEAD-
ETH ME BESIDE
THE STILL WATERS • HE RESTORETH MY
SOUL • HE LEADETH ME IN THE PATHS
OF RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR HIS NAME'S
SAKE • YEA THOUGH I WALK THROUGH
THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH
I WILL FEAR NO EVIL FOR 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 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

Calligraphics:
Joann Truss 2006®



"Good Shepherd and Landscape, 1909" panels of stained glass photos used with permission granted by the Neustadt Collection of Tiffany Glass and Collection of The New York Historical Society.

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:

Reverend Susie Skinner
"Celebrating Creation"

Vestry Meeting Synopsis

Adult Christian Formation

Taize Celebration: Sept. 25 -7 PM

Search Committee

Bishop Wayne Smith

Senior Warden Report

August 2011

From the Desk of Rev. Susie Skinner

“Come Home, Come Home!”

Growing up in the hills of Eastern Kentucky and attending tent-meetings and revivals, I sang and re-sang many old gospel hymns. When I left Kentucky a friend gave me a tiny paperback booklet entitled, “Revival Gems Number Two.”

Whenever I was homesick for the mountains, I’d opened the little booklet and wistfully read the words of some of the old hymns that were so embedded in my memory. To this day, they continue to touch something deep within me.

As I look out toward our “Homecoming Celebration” on September 11th, I find my self humming the chorus of one of that old hymn.

“Come home, come home,
Ye, who are weary, come home!
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
Calling, O sinner comes!”

The words that really stick with me are, “Come home, Come, home, ye who are weary come home”. Certainly knows we are all weary from a host of cares and responsibilities and we all want a place to call home. Many of us have found that home at Good Shepherd. It is a place where we are known and cared for the minute we walk through the door. It is a place where we experience the gracious hospitality Jesus extends to all who make their home in Him.

On Sunday September 11th, we will gather to worship and give thanks for this home. We will share the Bread and Wine of Eucharist and we will celebrate the return of the choir, offer prayers for our nation on the 10th anniversary of 9/11, and enjoy a potluck lunch together. Bring a friend to this Homecoming that they, too, might experience the abundance of hospitality extended in this place.

Mark the date on your calendars and make plans to “Come Home, Come home!”



“Celebrating Creation” A Fall Weekend Retreat for Women

**Offered by “Confluence: A Center for Spirituality”
The Barn Abbey, New Harmony, Indiana
October 28-30, 2011**

Using the traditions of Celtic and Benedictine spirituality this retreat weekend will focus on celebrating creation and the interrelatedness of every living thing to one another and to God. Participants will have the opportunity to experience what it is to pray while walking an outdoor labyrinth, watching a swan glide by on a glassy lake, listening to the sounds of nature at eventide, baking bread or taking a prayer walk among sculptures in the historic, picturesque town of New Harmony, Indiana. (New Harmony is located approximately 150 miles east of St. Louis on Hwy. 64 – an easy 2.5 hour drive from downtown St. Louis. Go to <http://www.newharmony.biz/> for information about New Harmony.)

The retreat will be led by the Rev. Susan Skinner, a member of Spiritual Director’s International and an experienced retreat leader and will be held in The Barn Abbey, a simplistic, monastic-like structure with small single rooms and communal bathrooms. The time will include input from the retreat leader, suggested meditative experiences from the Benedictine and Celtic traditions, as well as times for silence and group reflections. Using the Benedictine model of “ora et labora,” participants will help in the preparation of meals and enjoy the use of New Harmony Inn grounds and facilities for prayer. (Go to <http://www.newharmony.biz/images/barn> for the Abbey Barn brochure.)

The retreat begins with registration and a simple supper at 5:00 p. m. on Friday, October 28, and concludes with a noon time Eucharist on Sunday, October 30. The \$200 (by September 1 or \$225 by October 1) fee covers the cost of lodging for two nights, five meals and all materials. A \$100 non-refundable deposit is necessary by September 1 (or \$125 by October 1). The remaining \$100 is due at the commencement of the retreat. In order to allow for individual rooms space is limited. Checks should be made payable to “St. Stephen’s Church – Women’s Retreat” and sent to St. Stephen’s Church; 33 North Clay; Ferguson,

MO 63135. For more information and/or to receive a registration form, contact the Rev. Susan Skinner at scskinner@charter.net or (314) 965-9155.

Come away and celebrate creation. Experience the Presence of God in solitude and community. Enjoy the charm of New Harmony – a place that awakens the senses and touches the spirit.

VESTRY MEETING SYNOPSIS

August 10 , 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 July 2011 meeting were approved.

Music Director Tim Jansen was present at the meeting and discussed his plans for the fall season. Tim would like to have a special "Music Sunday" several times during the year. These services would feature an instrumentalist, soloist or perhaps a quartet. Tim proposed having sponsors for these special services. This might be a way for someone to dedicate the music that Sunday for an anniversary, birthday or in memory of someone. Anyone who would be interested in sponsoring a "Music Sunday" please see Tim. The choir will begin rehearsals on Thursday September 8th. New voices are always welcome.

Susie Skinner discussed the possibility of having Sunday September 11th being "Home Coming Sunday" for the start up of the fall season. That will

also be Bring A Friend to Church Sunday with a potluck lunch after the service. Susie also passed out a proposed set of guidelines for weddings at the church. After some discussion the Vestry adopted these.

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

Linda Eveland reported that plans are being made for Trivia Night on October 15th.

Linda also reported that the Search Committee has received names of candidates for the position of Rector. The committee will begin the process of interviewing.

Mickey Harrison informed The Vestry that the roof over the sacristy has been replaced. Contracts have been signed for the work on the outside of the church building. This work is scheduled to begin in September. Mickey again discussed some of the problems associated with the Easter Seals Camp this year. Mickey and Susie will follow up with the Executive Director at the conclusion of the camp.

There being no other business, Susie concluded our meeting with prayer. We adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Brooke H. Forsyth
Secretary

Dates to remember:

Homecoming Sunday: September 11, 2011

Next Vestry Meeting September 14, 2011 at
7:00 PM

Christian Formation Classes September: 18, 2011

Trivia Night and Youth Group: October 15, 2011



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

Adult Christian Formation

At each Baptism, we pray “Give her (him) an inquiring and discerning heart”. For people of faith the journey to know God and discern God’s will for our lives and the life of the world is never finished. We are continually being “formed” into the unique persons God has created us to be. The goal of Christian Formation is to support people in their journey as they seek to become that unique person.

The Adult Christian Formation hour on Sunday morning is an important part of that “forming” process. Beginning September 18th we will offer a five week series entitled “Ethical Decision Making.” Several guest speakers will help us explore decision making in business, medicine, politics and daily living.

The “Christian Formation Programs” brochure included with this Newsletter describes the additional classes for adults this fall as well as those for children and youth.

Post it on your refrigerator or bulletin board as a reminder of the opportunities available at COGS to assist as you continue to be “formed” into the person God created you to be.

Taize Worship Experience

Sunday evening, September 25th at 7:00 p. m. “Confluence: A Center for Spirituality” and the Church of the Good Shepherd will offer a time for prayer and reflection based on the worship service of the Taize Community in France. This quiet, contemplative service of prayer, scripture, silence and chant invites us to enter the depths of our inner self where we may be still and know that God is God. Join us on September 25th and enrich your Lenten journey through this quiet and reflective worship experience

Search Committee

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”.

The Search Committee has been provided with names from the Diocese and interviews have been scheduled! Please pray for this dedicated thoughtful group as they find that special rector to lead us.

Church of the Good Shepherd Search Committee

From the Diocese: Bishop Wayne Smith

The Episcopal Church in Haiti

A little known fact about the Episcopal Church is that the diocese with the largest membership is Haiti, with about 84,000 total baptized in the records. The best guess is that the actual number of baptized is closer to 150,000. Compare this to 14,000 in the Diocese of Missouri!

Haiti is also the most impoverished nation in the Americas, and the 2010 earthquake merely accentuated this datum. A glance at the table of statistics tells the story. Undernourished people: 49 percent. Life expectancy at birth: 49 years. Annual per capita income: 660 dollars. Adult literacy: 48 percent.

In this picture the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti, though a tiny minority within a total population of 9 million, provides a clear witness to faith in Jesus—and the Diocese provides vital and singular social services, especially in health care and education. Notably in this season of earthquake recovery, the Diocese has provided food and shelter on twenty-three of its properties, including on the Cathedral grounds in Port-au-Prince (Cathédrale Sainte Trinité). The earthquake left the Cathedral unusable and destroyed many other buildings in the Cathedral compound. A poignant loss, and the pride of the entire nation, was the set of fourteen iconic murals of Bible stories inside the Cathedral church. A team of artists completed the murals in the 1950s, depicting all the characters as people of African Creole descent. The people look like Haitians, as is fitting. Only three badly damaged murals survived the earthquake. This Cathedral was a spiritual center for the whole Haitian people, not just Episcopalians.

The past tense in that last sentence is not quite correct, for as Bishop Jean Zaché Duracin makes clear, the life of the Cathedral and its people continues. But now it is a Cathedral without walls.

The Episcopal Church as a whole has undertaken a grass-roots effort to rebuild Holy Trinity Cathedral and all its walls, from the ground up, brick-by-brick. The Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Missouri are coordinating the efforts here, with bricks at ten dollars each, so everyone can participate. I support this effort, and I am participating, for the sake of our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

Cathédrale Sainte Trinité and its people play a crucial role in sustaining the material life of Haiti, through its ministries of education and health care. More than that, the Cathedral represents the nation's soul.

Bishop Wayne Smith
September 2011

Senior Warden Report

Linda Eveland

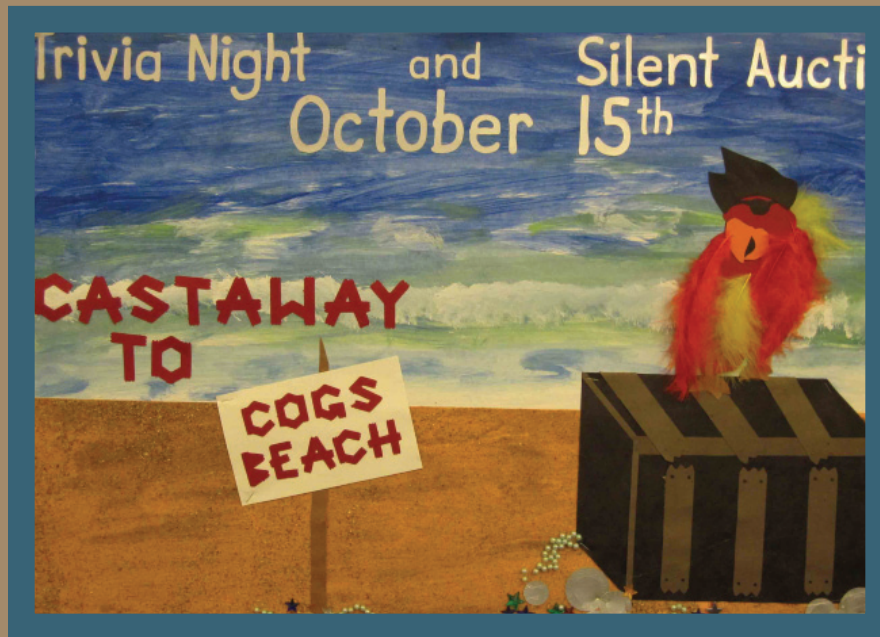
A HOMECOMING! September 11th!

Hoping that everyone has returned relaxed and “raring to go” from summer vacations, we kick off our coming year with a “HOMECOMING - BRING A FRIEND” Sunday on September 11, 2011. What a day this will be!!! We will have the return of our wonderful choir directed by Tim our extraordinarily talented music director (this will include special music). The first day of Sunday School will take place led by our dedicated and loving teaching staff. Our usual inspiring church service will take place - attended by members and their “friends”. And, finally, we will have a pot luck lunch following the service featuring honey ham. This will be a wonderful opportunity to show off to Good Shepherd well as give us to enjoy the we have with Hope to see friends all that has to offer as all a chance fellowship that each other. everyone at our



Image of Bulletin Board which was created and executed by our Pam Finch

TRIVIA NIGHT AND SILENT AUCTION



“COME TO THE ISLAND”

The sign up sheet will be up the first week in September, so please begin filling it up!!!

\$20 each - Tables of 8 - or individual seating available with fellow parishioners.

Cost includes beverages of beer and soda - You bring your own favorite foods

And, the following are SUGGESTIONS of things I need to fill the auction baskets:

Wines - Gardening stuff - Picnic items - Office and Kitchen things - Holiday - Spa lotions, candles, etc. - Entertainment (movies) - Coffees and Teas (cups, napkins teapot) - Theme baskets (Chef, Italian, car care, etc) - Gift certificates- Empty Baskets that I will use to fill AND almost anything you can think of!!!!!!

***Remember this, please, THIS IS OUR MONEY MAKER.
Help fill the baskets and please plan to attend.***

A Lenten Taize Worship Experience

Sunday evening, September 25th at 7:00 p. m. “Confluence: A Center for Spirituality” and the Church of the Good Shepherd will offer a time for prayer and reflection based on the worship service of the Taize Community in France. This quiet, contemplative service of prayer, scripture, silence and chant invites us to enter the depths of our inner self where we may be still and know that God is God. Join us on September 25th and enrich your Lenten journey through this quiet and reflective worship experience.

Episcopal City Mission will honor Rev. Susan Skinner for her tireless work as past Executive Director. The event, A Moment in Time, will be held on Thursday, September 29, at 6:00 PM at Crowne Plaza Hotel in Clayton, and will feature a cocktail reception, dinner, and dancing. The cost per person is \$125.00--proceeds will benefit Episcopal City Mission. If you would like to attend, or need more information, contact Joan at COGS office on Tuesday or Wednesday or leave a message and she will return your call. The number is 314-576-5502.

**Thank you and God Bless
Linda Eveland, Senior Warden**