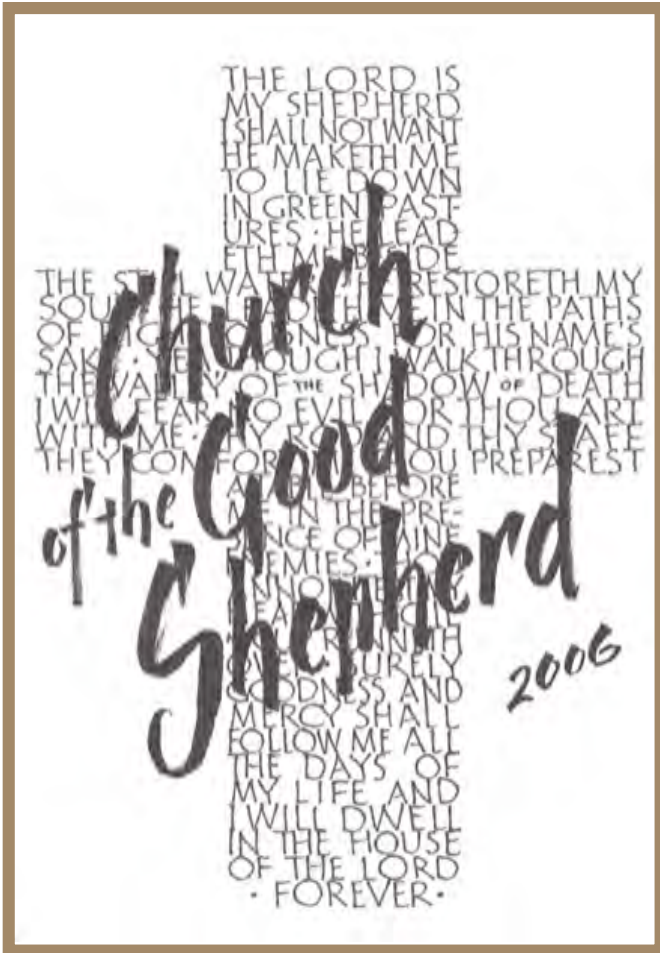


November 2011

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD



...and the sheep follow him because
they know His voice - John 10:4



CHURCH OF THE
Good Shepherd



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November Happenings

- 11/12 D.O.K. - 9:30 AM
- 11/13 Food Bank Sunday
- 11/16 Episcopal @ Jefferson
Baracks Bingo Night - 7PM
- 11/19 EpiscoPals - Noon
- 11/27 Taize' Service - 7 PM

Note: All Mondays - November
 AA Meeting 7 PM

OUR MISSION

TO SHARE A PLACE OF
 WORSHIP AND FELLOW-
 SHIP WHERE OUR HEARTS
 MEET GOD'S LIGHT ...

OUR VISION

TO BE A VIBRANT
 COMMUNITY THAT
 KNOWS CHRIST AND
 MAKES HIM KNOWN.

From the Desk of Susan Skinner

GET READY TO GET READY

Recently I walked in a store and came face to face with a whole display of Christmas items. It was still two weeks until Halloween! What, I thought, ever happened to Advent?

Advent - it will come quickly this year. We will have just put away the left over Thanksgiving turkey and it will be time to light the first candle on the Advent Wreath. So, my friends, get ready to get ready.



Advent – that time, more than any other, when the church stands out as different. Frederick Buechner describes it this way:

“From the day after Thanksgiving [or two weeks before Halloween] to the 26th of December, the world is in a mad rush and the air is filled with carols and the smell of candy, pine cones and cocktails. And somewhere in the midst of all this gay, bright, loud and frenzied activity stands the Church, clad in purple and strangely penitent.”

Advent. A time of expectancy. A time of preparation. A time of waiting.

In this time of expectancy and preparation, we wait not only for the singing of Christmas carols. We wait for the time when the Baby in a manger is proclaimed as the Lord of Life. We wait for a new way of life marked by grace and love.

The first prayer of the new liturgical year sums up our deep yearning for this new way. On November 27th, the First Sunday of Advent, we will pray, “Give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and to put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life...”

Prepare to wait for the coming of the Manager Babe as we make ready for the Christ who has come, who comes and who will come again.

“O, come, O come Emmanuel
and ransom Captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!”

Vestry Meeting Synopsis – Oct. 12, 2011

The Rev. Susie Skinner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., opening the meeting with prayer.

Attending: Susie Skinner, Linda Eveland, Mickey Harrison, Mary Mercurio Brooke Forsyth, Pam Evans, Lesley McIntire, Jerret Reagh, Barry Schenck, Kathy Wall.

Guest Rick Wall talked to the Vestry about the Stewardship Campaign. Pledge cards were given to Vestry members and they were asked to turn them in by October 30th.

Minutes of September Meeting were amended and approved.

Susie Skinner suggested that the Organist Fee for Weddings for Church members be changed from \$150.00 to \$200.00. The motion was approved.

Pam Evans discussed the request from John Sant that a tab be added to the web site with information about The Good Shepherd Foundation. The motion was approved to add a tab to the web site with very minimal information during Advent and additional information being added at a later date.

Pam also informed The Vestry that Lisa Lacroix would be taking over the responsibilities for the newsletter.

Mary Mercurio submitted the Cash Flow Statement and comments by e-mail and it was accepted as submitted.

The Junior Warden's report was filed by title.

Linda Eveland gave an extensive report on the work of The Search Committee. The Committee will make a presentation to The Vestry at a special meeting on Sunday October 16th at 7:30 PM.

There was no new business.

Susie concluded the meeting with prayer and we adjourned at 8:20p.m.

Next Vestry Meeting November 9, 2011, at 7:00 PM

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.

"The real measure of our wealth is how much we'd be worth if we lost all our money."

The world asks: What does a person own?

God asks: How does he use what he has been given?

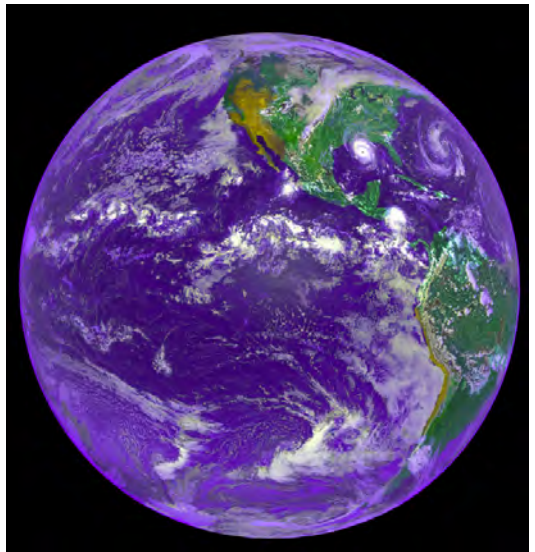
Bishop Wayne Smith

Peace to those far off and peace to those near (Ephesians 2:17)

When I talk about our Diocese's involvement in God's mission with our friends in Lui Diocese in South Sudan, occasionally someone will say, "But shouldn't we be doing something here in Missouri?" The answer is: Of course we should. Let's recognize that most of our parishes and missions are already engaged in just that, here in Missouri. I realize that those questioners are asking something more—they want to know why, as a Diocesan community, we cannot engage God's mission nearby, with the same care, focus, and desire for relationship which we have for the Moru people of Lui Diocese.

I have yearned for such a nearby venue myself, and I think that question is rightly put: "Why not Missouri also?" There is good news on this front. I believe that such a place for focused mission is being revealed, and it lies in one of the historic neighborhoods of St. Louis City. Much work waits to be done before this mission becomes a reality, but I am beginning to see enough of its outlines to think that it can actually happen. My address at diocesan convention on Nov. 18 will spell out some details—the text will be available immediately after I deliver it at DioceseMo.org, and in the print edition of *Seek* in December.

For now I want to whet your appetite for the opportunity to join God's mission nearby, and to do so in a hands-on, participatory way. I also want to muse a bit about Titus Presler's take on the nature of mission, as he writes in *Going Global with God: Reconciling Mission in a World of Difference*. (There is a fine review of this book in the October 23, 2011 of *Living Church*.)



Bishop Wayne Smith, Continued

Presler writes that mission is not an activity which first-world Christians direct to the rest of the world, nor is it the obligation which rich Christians show toward the poor. Mission, he argues (rightly, I think), is the responsibility and joy of every Christian, undertaken for the sake of Jesus. “The only requirement is that the action be directed outward.” Rich Christians and poor, first-world and two-thirds world: participation in God’s mission is available to all of us. And no one gets an excuse note.

So important for Christians in the West, Presler describes authentic mission as more like a pilgrimage than anything else. Pilgrims are those who go to a holy place, to be among holy people. They yearn to know the place and the people, and to befriend both. Their purpose is not to “fix” anyone or anything, without the consent or, even better, the initiative of the people who live there. Apart from this understanding, the danger of condescension lurks.

Our venue for mission in Lui Diocese is among people who know extreme poverty. The venue which I have seen in St. Louis City lies in an impoverished neighborhood. In such venues, the metaphor of pilgrimage becomes crucial, lest we condescend. A pilgrim sets foot on a holy place, among a holy people, which people and place have something to teach the pilgrim, who might thereby be transformed. Through God’s gracious economy, and with much listening on everyone’s part—much, much listening—both people and pilgrims can find blessing through the encounter.

Pray God that we pilgrims may find such a place nearby.



The Church of the Good Shepherd

Date	11/6	11/13	11/20	11/27
1st Reader	Rick Braznell	Kathy Wall	Carie Kennedy	Pat Wieneman
2nd Reader	Stevia Schenck	Nannette Musgrave	John Sant	Caroline Gilje
Crucifer	Linsey Eveland	Audrey Kennedy	Sophie Kennedy	Madison Eveland
Usher	Eveland	Kennedy	Schenck	Eveland
Greeter	Sant	Moran	Kennedy	Wilson
Collection	Mary Mercurio & Jack Ross	Don Kennedy & Caroline James	John Sant & Mary Mercurio	Pam Evans & Jack Ross

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Save These Dates

November 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 City Voices & COGS Choir Practice 7 PM	4	5
6 10 AM Holy Eucharist	7 AA Meeting 7 PM	8	9 Vestry 7 PM	10 City Voices & COGS Choir Practice 7 PM	11	12 D.O.K. 9:30 AM
13 10 AM Holy Eucharist	14 AA Meeting 7 PM	15	16 Episcopals @ Jefferson Barracks Bingo Night 7 PM	17 City Voices & COGS Choir Practice 7 PM	18	19 Episcopals 12 PM
20 10 AM Holy Eucharist	21 AA Meeting 7 PM	22	23	24 9 AM Thanksgivin g	25	26
27 10 AM Advent I Holy Eucharist 7 PM Taize Service	28 AA Meeting 7 PM	29	30			

November 12	Daughters of the King	9:30 AM
November 16	Jefferson Barracks Bingo	7:00 PM
November 19	Episcopals	Noon
November 27	Taize' Service	7 PM

Trivia Night and Silent Auction Success

Thank you all so much!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

What a wonderful night. I think that our 6th Annual Trivia Night and Silent Auction was a huge success. And I mean that on every level. The community responded with great donations to our action as did so many of you in our parish. Never think that any item is too small to give as many of you saw that night. A handful of small donations always add up to a great basket!!!!!! I am so grateful to the people of our church for coming to this event - playing and buying and enjoying each other (oh, and eating). Pirates overtook the building and the castaways from Gilligan's Island were in attendance as well. Great job on the costumes!!!!!!

Money has not yet been completely totaled as I am still waiting on several more contributions. We will however be somewhere near \$6,000. Thank you as always for your generosity and support. What a sharing and caring family we are.

Blessings,
Linda Eveland



A Special Thanks!

October was the last newsletter that I published for our parish and now we are moving on to having this important task taken over by Lisa Lacroix. She is so talented in this area that I look back at my time as a transition stage preparing all of us for the exceptional job she will do.

I couldn't have done the project without the help of those who contributed the monthly reports and schedules as well as special articles and images submitted by parishioners. We also would not have the wonderful print edition that was doable with the support of Brooke Forsyth (and not to forget the brilliant editing of Barbara!)

We made the transition to having a digital edition several months ago. It is so important in that it allows us to share our church with not only the parish members, but also importantly, those that are looking for a new place of worship. The web has become a primary focus for that very reason. This digital edition was powered by the efforts of Pamela Evans. It is true that most good things have a silent person in the background whose imagination, technical and managerial skills make a project the success. This is Pamela and we all need to give her special thanks for her vision and leadership.

I thank all of you for the wonderful opportunity I had and wish Lisa the very best ... and as a special thanks to her – keep bringing on the special articles that she may publish and share with all!

Annie Vogt

Loaves and Fishes

By Maddie Eveland and Sophie Kennedy

On October 15, 2011, the Church of the Good Shepherd Youth Group attended World Food Day at the Danforth Plant Science Center. Sophie and Audrey Kennedy, Maddie Eveland, and Molly Mercurio were accompanied by Lesley McIntire, Jerret Reagh, and Don Kennedy. We put on hairnets and sanitized our hands to package meals for Africa. A total of 468 bags were filled with a cup of rice, a cup of soy, a tablespoon of vegetables and a packet of vitamins; each bag feeds 6 kids or 4 adults. Our table fed a total of 2,808 kids or 1,822 adults in one hour. Hope you can accompany us next year when we return for our third World Food Day!

PS--The Church of the Good Shepherd also staffed a volunteer table of adults on Friday night, Oct. 14. Thanks to all who showed up to help with this wonderful event.



Advent Retreat Opportunity

Confluence: A Center for Spirituality
Offers an Advent Quiet Day

Give yourself the gift of some quiet reflection time as you prepare for the coming of the Infant God. Join us at Mercy Center, away from the crowded malls and the hustle and bustle of cooking, shopping and wrapping, for a traditional Advent Quiet Day.

Confluence: A Center for Spirituality offers this Advent Quiet Day at Mercy Center Conference and Retreat Center, 2039 Geyer Road, St. Louis, MO 63131 on Saturday, December 10, 2011 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The Rev. Steve Lawler will present a series of meditations followed by periods of silent reflection and prayer.

The cost for the day is \$40.00 which includes lunch. Register for the Advent Quiet Day by sending a check to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 33 North Clay, Ferguson, MO 63135. Registrations must be received by November 21. For further information contact Confluence at exdir@confluencespirituality.org

Taizé' Service 7:00 PM
Sunday, Nov. 27

“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 Taizé'

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 Sunday, Nov. 27 and enrich your spiritual journey



From the Senior Warden

Our last bring a friend for the year will be held on November 13th. Falling right before Thanksgiving we will have turkey as our main dish. Since everyone usually prepares the basic roasted turkey for Thanksgiving day, we will provide smoked turkey for Our Thanksgiving celebration. Please bring fall dishes that are yummy with turkey. And, most important - bring a friend or friends or a family!!! This is the perfect opportunity to show others how generous we are, how wonderful our service is and how great our food is. Please plan to attend this special day.

Linda



You can go GREEN with the COGS newsletter!

If you would like to sign up for a digital version of the COGS newsletter, please email Joan Rath, the office secretary, at cogssect@sbcglobal.net. You can also put your name on a list that will circulate during 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!

Our Church:

Welcoming In ...

Birthdays ...

Anniversaries...

Anniversaries:

11/30 Rick & Kathy Wall



O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and His church; send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Birthdays:

11/6 Lisa Burd

11/8 Vel Edington

11/9 Wayne Eveland

11/11 Tobias Weiss

11/14 Diane Radford

11/15 Barbara Forsythe

11/21 Linda Eveland

11/22 Mickey Harrison

11/28 Nancy Knowles

Watch over thy child, O lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their heart may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of their live; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen