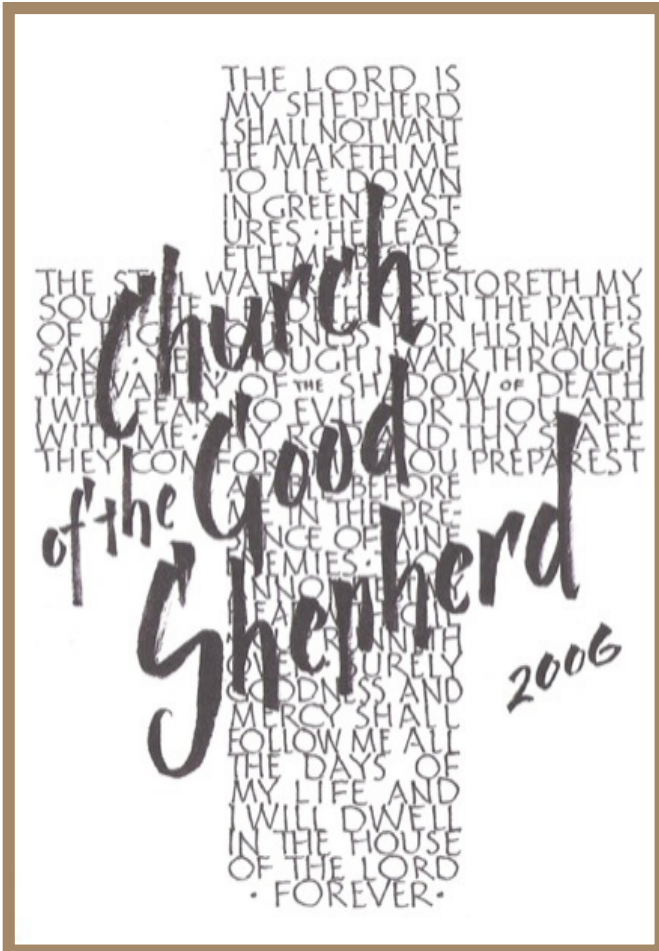


February 2012

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD



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

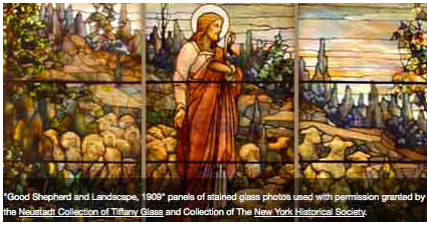


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- ### February Happenings
- 2/4 Lector/Chalice Bearer Training
 - 2/11 EpiscoPals Noon
 - 2/12 Food Bank Sunday
 - 2/21 Pancake Supper 6:30 PM
 - 2/22 Ash Wednesday Services
Noon and 7 PM
 - 2/23 Bible Study 7 AM
 - 2/26 Acolyte Training 11:30 AM
 - 2/26 Taize Worship - 7 PM
 - 2/28 DOK 7 PM
- Note: All Mondays - February
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 Pamela Dolan

At the heart of the Daily Office is the daily reading (or singing) of Psalms, arranged in a seven-week pattern. So, if you are in the habit of doing Morning and Evening Prayer, you will also have the chance to pray through the entire Psalter on a regular basis. Lots of people don't know that the Daily Office in the *Book of Common Prayer*, while rooted in the monastic tradition, is meant to be used by all people, lay as well as ordained. If you've ever got questions about how to use the Daily Office, or the simplified version known as the Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families—or anything else in our Prayer Book—please ask! I would be happy to explore these issues individually or in a small class with anyone who is interested.

A few years ago I attended an early-morning Bible Study with a group of women from various denominations, and one morning we got into an interesting conversation about using the Daily Office as the basis for a regular prayer routine. Several of the women objected that they just couldn't use prayers that someone else had written to get closer to God; they felt that the most sincere form of prayer is spontaneous.

I remember struggling to articulate the experience I had of drawing closer to God through the Daily Office, and especially in praying the Psalms. I finally blurted out something like, "You're right, there are times when it feels like I'm just reading words on a page, and the connection to God is not there, at least not emotionally. But there are other times when the Psalms feel like they're coming straight out of me, like they're saying what I needed to say but would never have been able to put into words myself."

Imagine my delight when, years later, I read this translation of the fifth-century monk John Cassian's thoughts about Psalms:

The monk penetrates so deeply into the thinking of the Psalms that he sings them not as though they had been composed by the prophet but as if he himself had written them, as if they were his own private prayer uttered amid the deepest compunction of his heart... Seized of the identical feelings in which the psalm was composed or sung we become, as it were, its author... We bring them to birth in the depths of our hearts as if they were feelings naturally there and part of our being.¹

I couldn't have said it better myself!

(Continued on Page 14)

Vestry Meeting Synopsys

The Vestry of The Church Of The Good Shepherd held its regular meeting on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. The Rev. Pamela Dolan called the meeting to order and began with a brief meditation and prayer.

The agenda as submitted by Pamela Dolan was approved.

The minutes of the December meeting were approved.

Ted Rodgers attended the meeting and spoke to the Vestry about his trips to Nicaragua. Ted asked that the Vestry renew the agreement that was established with COGS in December 2010. "To support the mission by accepting charitable contributions to the Church of The Good Shepherd designated for the Nicaraguan Mission and dispersing amounts donated upon presentation of proper documentation." The Vestry approved this action. An additional motion was made and passed that the Mission and Outreach Committee explore ways for greater involvement by COGS in this effort.

Rick Wall gave the Vestry an updated report on the Stewardship campaign. Rick outlined the steps that will be taken by March 1, 2012, to bring the outcome to a more favorable conclusion.

Pamela Dolan submitted a written report. Her report highlighted a very busy first month as our Rector. She highlighted many planning meetings with individuals and with groups. Worship, Pastoral Care Christian Formation, and Administrative concerns are a few of the things that fill her day. Pamela has started meeting with all of the committees in the church. Please note a new email address has been set up for the Rector: therevpamela@goodshepherd.org

Mary Mercurio submitted the December financial statement by email and it was accepted as submitted. Mary also commented on the budget for 2012 and will give a full report to the Parish at the Annual Meeting.

Linda Eveland is working on ideas for additional Parish or community events.

The Jr. Warden's report for December was filed by email and accepted. Mickey also submitted a preliminary budget request for 2012 outlining work projects for 2012.

(Continued on Page 13)

Bishop Wayne Smith

Penitence

The two penitential seasons of Advent and Lent may speak most directly to the hurts in our place and time. Advent, plumbing the heritage of God's people, reminds us of future and tells us that present circumstances are not as good as they get. Advent reminds us to yearn. Lent lets us savor all of salvation history, and that history's culmination in Jesus rising from the dead. The season looks to baptism for its meaning, as the means by which God joins the Church to the mystery of Jesus dying and rising. Lent reminds us to repent, for the sake of this mystery.

"Penitential," however, does not mean "dreary." It does suggest simplicity, directness, and honesty. Though Lent and Advent invite us to name our sins fearlessly, the focus is on the redemption and forgiveness which God has won in Jesus, and which God is working out in the world and in our lives. Lent, in particular, pushes us toward glory, not groveling.

Percy Dearmer's great (and somewhat eccentric) hymn-text, number 145 in Hymnal 1982, gets to the point of Lent. These are the words, in one verse of his hymn:

To bow the head
in sack-cloth and in ashes,
or rend the soul,
such grief is not Lent's goal

but to be led to
where God's glory flashes,
his beauty to come near: Make clear where truth
and light appear.

These words align with the gospel reading for Ash Wednesday, Matthew 6, the part of the Sermon on the Mount in which Jesus teaches about prayer and fasting. Prayer and penitence are not about the sack-cloth and ashes, the "show" of it all. They are about being drawn God-ward.

I pray for a robustly penitential Lent, a good and glorious one, for us all.

-Bishop Wayne Smith

Schnucks eScrip Program

Do you know that The Church of The Good Shepherd participates in the Schnucks community rewards program known as eScrip? This program gives back a percentage of every dollar that you spend at Schnuck's to an organization that you designate. It is very easy. All you need to do is pick up an Schnucks eScrip card, we have them at the church, make a phone call or go on line to enroll. Then, every time you shop at Schnucks, make sure that you hand your card to the cashier.

We currently have about 25 members enrolled in the program. In looking at the reports the program supplies, it looks like about 9 members are very active users of the eScrip card. So if you have a card, PLEASE remember to use it every time you shop at Schnucks. If you are not enrolled in the program, PLEASE pick up a card and enroll today. Also, make sure that all family members that shop at Schnucks have a card. This is a way to support COGS and it does not cost you anything.

In 2010 the program gave back to the church \$ 337.41. For the year 2011 we received \$484.94.

Just think, if 10 people enrolled in the program and each spent an average of \$ 115 per week we could receive an additional \$2,400. If we grew to 20 members supporting the program at the same level it could possibly add an additional \$4,800 to our income.



Look for monthly updates about the number of new members and the income generated. Let's make this work!

New Parish Directory

A new parish directory will be published soon. A rough draft is located in the parish hall. Please check your information for accuracy and make any changes/updates necessary. Add new email addresses and cell phone numbers.

Get to Know...Dr. Caroline Gilje

Dr. Caroline Gilje is the founder of Barrett Station Veterinary Clinic (the closest Veterinary practice to Good Shepherd).

Dr. Gilje was born and raised in West St. Louis County and is a graduate of Parkway West High School. She studied chemistry at University of Missouri-Columbia graduating in three years. She then entered the Veterinary program at Mizzou and graduated in 1984.

Caroline knew in the 5th grade that she would grow up to be a Veterinarian because she had the love for three things in life: animals, people and science. Her earliest memory was that she wanted to be a horse trainer but she realized early on that she had a scientific mind (her dad was a civil engineer) and she wanted a larger professional challenge as well as to be around people – the perfect combination to becoming a Veterinarian. In high school, she had been a candy striper; worked in a nursing home as a housekeeper; then worked for a veterinarian on summer breaks from college and eventually joined that practice upon graduation.

Caroline has always had an interest in owning and managing her own Veterinary practice so in 1990 she founded Barrett Station Veterinary Clinic. Her goal was to offer a small, client-focused clinic providing the best care possible for pets and their owners. As her practice grew by word of mouth, she could no longer stay a solo practitioner and today the practice comprises five Veterinarians.

Dr. Gilje has guided Barrett Station Veterinary Clinic with a mission dedicated to serving her patients and clients with the best possible veterinary medicine, care and services. The key to achieving this goal is excellent communication between the client, the veterinarian and the staff. Caroline stated that “Communication is the key to good veterinary care – it will be on my tombstone . . . “

(Continued on page 18)



Lenten Bible Study Begins February 23

A seven-week bible study, focusing on Lent and based on the weekly scriptures, will begin on Thursday, February 23. Led by our Rector, Pamela Dolan, and Mark Gilje, we will spend 45 EARLY minutes a week, beginning at 7:00 AM, looking at the themes of the scriptures leading up to the glorious resurrection of our Christ. We will spend time in fellowship with coffee and goodies, learn from the text and from each other, and pray for each other as needs arise.

Depending on interest, this may become a permanent part of our ministry at Church of the Good Shepherd.

In order to best prepare, we ask that you let Mark know of your interest and/or attendance at the first session. Please email him at mgilje@earthlink.net

As this is a "before work" session for many of our congregation, we will respect that time limitation and begin promptly at 7:00 AM and dismiss by 7:45 AM.

You are encouraged and welcome to invite a friend. We hope to see you there!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Please plan to join your friends at Good Shepherd for our Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. This event will take place on Tuesday, February 21 and will begin at 6:30 PM. For anyone who has ever been to one of our Pancake Suppers before - you know the pancakes are delicious! For those who will be attending for the first time - you are in for a real treat! Sausage and bacon and juice and coffee will also be part of the meal. The cost is what you feel the meal and fellowship is worth. How can you beat that?

Please plan to make this night a part of your lent experience. A sign up sheet will be put up shortly before the event to give us a rough idea of how many will be attending. I hope you will be one the list!!! Any questions, call Linda at 636-227-4956

Stewardship Report

The 2012 Every Member Canvass produced 43 pledges for a total of \$ 120,649 as opposed to the 2011 campaign which resulted in 50 pledges for \$ 164,467. It should also be noted that we received \$ 9,000 less in support from the Diocese as well.

Due to the apparent financial necessity of raising further funds, we will be again sending out request letters and making calls in February. Our hope is to close the gap between our income and our budget.

We would like to thank Linda Eveland, Brooke Forsyth, Barbara & George Gray, Carie Kennedy, Lesley McIntire, Mary Mercurio, Paul Mercurio, Joanne Owen, Gloria Wilson, and Gordon Wilson. Special thanks also to Barbara & Brooke Forsyth for their help with and donation of all the printing.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rick and Kathy Wall

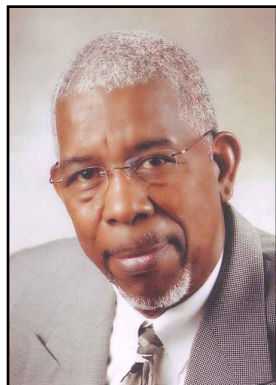
“Seeking Our Past, Creating Our Future” A morning with Freedom Rider Ernest “Rip” Patton

Saturday, February 11
8:30 am – 12:30 pm
Christ Church Cathedral
13th St. between Olive & Locust

- Hear stories of the Freedom Rides and the Civil Rights Movement from Rip Patton, of the pioneers of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
- Learn about efforts in the Diocese and the Episcopal Church to trace our history with race and understand the legacy we have inherited.
- Work as a congregational team to plan next action steps for continuing this conversation in your church.

If you would like more information or want to be part of the Good Shepherd team, contact Lesley McIntire.

Sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri
Commission on Dismantling Racism.



The Church of the Good Shepherd

Date	2/5	2/12	2/19	2//26
1st Reader	John Sant	Kathy Wall	Diane Radford	Bobbee Ross
2nd Reader	Pam Evans	Caroline Gilje	Nannette Musgrave	Stevia Schenck
Crucifer	Lindsey Eveland	Audrey Kennedy	Maddie Eveland	Mollie Mercurio
Usher	Schenck	Sant	Wilson	Eveland
Greeter	Eveland	Kennedy	Sant	Wilson
Collection	Pam Evans & Linda Eveland	Brooke Forsythe & Mickey Harrison	Carie Kennedy & Paul Mercurio	Barry Schenck & Kathy Wall

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Save These Dates

February 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2 City Voices & COGS Choir Practice 7 PM	3	4 Peace Meal
5 10 Holy Eucharist Lector/ Chalice Bearer Training	6 AA Meeting 7 PM	7	8 Vestry 7 PM	9 City Voices & COGS Choir Practice 7 PM	10	11 EpiscoPals Noon
12 10 AM Holy Eucharist Food Bank Sunday	13 AA Meeting 7 PM	14	15	16 City Voices & COGS Choir Practice 7 PM	17	18
19 10 AM Holy Eucharist	20 AA Meeting 7 PM	21 6:30 PM Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	22 Ash Wednesday Services Noon and 7 PM	23 Bible Study 7 AM City Voices & COGS Choir Practice 7 PM	24	25
26 10 AM Holy Eucharist Taize Service 7PM	27 AA Meeting 7 PM	28 7PM DOK	29			

February 5	Lector/Chalice Bearer Training/Refresher 11:30 AM
February 12	Food Bank Sunday 10 AM
February 21	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 6:30 PM
February 22	Ash Wednesday Services Noon and 7 PM
February 26	Acolyte Training/Refresher (11:30 AM) and Taize Service (7 PM)

Tape Ministry

The Tape Ministry is a part of the Communication Committee. Its task is to record the sermons and prepare them to be posted on the web site and to provide recorded discs to shut-ins and other interested individuals. Since Pamela's arrival, I have been recording her sermons on the Sundays I attend church. Unfortunately, I am not able to attend every Sunday, so to provide more consistent coverage I invite anyone who is computer savvy to join the Tape Ministry. It doesn't require much effort, and I would do the post-editing and compiling. The more the merrier. Just like the Ushers, Readers, and Crucifers; if one person can't attend there are others who can jump in and keep the system running smoothly.

If you are interested please approach me or Pam Evans, or contact me at 636-394-2835 or barrys1234@att.net. Also, if you would like a copy of any one or series of sermons, I would be happy to oblige.

Barry Schenck

Christian Formation Classes

In February, Good Shepherd will welcome Dr. Jamieson Spencer for 3 weeks (Feb. 5, Feb. 12, & Feb 19) Dr. Spencer is a recently retired professor of English at St. Louis Community College where he continues as an adjunct professor, teaching courses in film and English Literature and Composition. He also offers classes at Washington University's Lifelong Learning Institute. He is the author of a book on Christian ideas in literature, titled *Fictional Religion*. His three-week class at Good Shepherd will take a look at three 17th-century poets, John Donne, George Herbert, and Andrew Marvell, exploring their always original takes on both religious and humanistic principles.

Fundraising Ideas

A group of more than 15 parishioners met on the past two Wednesday evenings to brainstorm ideas for raising money to close our budget gap and to provide outreach to our community and attract new parishioners. Some of the ideas this committee agreed to pursue include a City Voices concert in the Spring, selling a COGS brand coffee, renting space to outside groups, hosting a Luau/Pig Roast in the summer, and bringing a Mercy Mammogram van before Mother's Day. If you're interested in helping with any of these projects, contact: Linda Eveland at 636-227-4956 or come to our next meeting on Feb. 29 at 7 p.m.

Leadership Conference

The 2012 Diocesan Leadership conference is coming up in March. All Vestry and delegates/alternates are strongly encouraged to attend, but everyone is welcome. Those who can't afford the \$20 registration fee should contact The Rev. Pamela Dolan directly so she can pay it. We'd love to see a big Good Shepherd table there!



Diocese of Missouri
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2012 Leadership Conference

Saturday, March 3, 2012 9:30am to 3:00pm

St. Martin's Church - Ellisville

Morning Sessions (9:30 – 11:30)

- ❖ **YOU'RE THE WARDEN NOW!** – Workshop for all Wardens
- ❖ **SHOW ME THE MONEY!** – Treasurers and Financial Reporting
- ❖ **RED CARD, GREEN CARD!** – Convention Delegates 101
- ❖ **Lunch** (11:30 – 12:30)

Afternoon Sessions

- ❖ **CALL TO ORDER!** – How to run a good meeting (12:45 – 1:30)
- ❖ **FOLLOW THE TRAIL!** – Vestries interaction with Standing Committee, Diocesan Council, Insurance, Misconduct, Audits and a whole lot more! (1:30 – 3:00)

Registration fee is \$20 per person.

Send registration to Robin Weisenborn <rweisenborn@DioceseMo.org>

Leadership Conference sponsored by Standing Committee

Vestry Synopsis, Continued

The nominating committee submitted the following report: The nominees for election to the Vestry are Carie Kennedy, Paul Mercurio and Linda Eveland. The nominee for Convention delegate is Lisa Lacroix. The alternate is Tawnya Kresse. Gordon Wilson will be nominated at the next Vestry meeting to fill the spot on the Foundation Board. Nominations can be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

The Vestry expressed thanks to Lesley McIntire and Mary Mercurio for their dedication and hard work the past three years. The meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Brooke Forsyth, Secretary

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

From the Desk of Pamela Dolan, Continued

I'm not making an argument against spontaneous prayer—in fact sometimes the most meaningful prayers aren't even formed by words at all, but are about listening with depth and intensity, and knowing that you are in touch with the great "I am" in a way that goes entirely beyond words. However, praying with the Psalms is such an ancient and enduring practice of the Church, and can add immeasurably to our spiritual growth.

All of this is a long way of explaining why we will be focusing on the Psalms during our Adult Formation hour this Lent. I have been doing some reading about them, digging around in books by C.S. Lewis, Ellen Davis, and Jason Byassee. But our time together will mostly be organized by the book *Journey through the Psalms* by Denise Dombkowski Hopkins, and especially the chapter "Complaining in Faith to God," which is about the Psalms of Lament. You don't have to buy or read the book in order to take part in the class (but if you want a sneak peek it is available through various booksellers)! And feel free to drop in for one or more weeks, as your schedule permits. We'll focus on a different Psalm each week, so you don't have to come to every class for it to make sense.

Last year I wrote a blog about praying the Psalms on September 11 that helped explain why they are so appealing to me. I wrote about how hard it is for many of us to feel that we can bring our hurts and frustrations into prayer, as well as our hopes and thanksgivings. I concluded,

The poets who wrote the Psalms had no such inhibitions about raging against God, which, paradoxically, is what makes them so consoling. They are quite happy to let God have it. They accuse, they rage, they protest, they cry out to God. They speak boldly of his absence, of his silence, of his neglect, even of his mistreatment of them. [...]

This is the beauty of the unabashed, full-throated, whole-hearted way the Psalmist prays: it shows complete trust in God. The Psalms embody the cry of the oppressed and hurt and forgotten. The Psalms give us a vocabulary for our spiritual journeys. They give us the words we need when we no longer wish to stand silent before God.

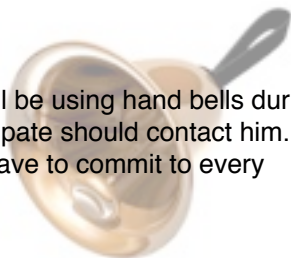
In other words, no human feeling or experience is off limits in the Psalms. I hope this piques your curiosity, and that I will see you at our Lent Adult Formation program, from 9 to 9:40 every Sunday. I believe that our time studying the Psalms together will enhance our experience of worship, and will draw us closer to one another and to God.

Faithfully, Pamela+

¹ From *John Cassian: Conferences*, transl. Colm Luibheid, CWS (NY: Paulist Press, 1985), 137-38, quoted in Ellen F. Davis, *Wondrous Depth: Preaching the Old Testament* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005), 19-20.

Handbell Music

Our Music Director, Tim Jansen, announced that we will be using hand bells during some services in Lent. Anyone who would like to participate should contact him. You do NOT have to be in the Choir and you do NOT have to commit to every Sunday in Lent.



Building and Grounds Status

It is said that all good things come to those who wait. We tested that saying last year and sure enough good things happened. Last Spring we requested and received a grant from the Diocese of Missouri to make improvements to our building and grounds. The grant was approved in late June and matching funds were approved by the Vestry. The project included a new rock retaining wall, extended sidewalks and ADA approved ramps to the front door plus a handicap access door. After getting multiple bids, we finally settled on three contractors to complete the work and the final project (the entry door) was completed in January of this year. Response to the finished project has been good. I hope you agree.

2011 was a very good year from the standpoint of completing many projects: landscaping was improved, new roof and fencing for the rectory installed, new commercial grade windows for the choir loft, the grant project previously mentioned, new roof for the sacristy, and carpeting for five rooms were the main projects. Many thanks to Ted Rodgers our Sexton for his involvement in all of these projects.

Certain steps have been taken to enhance security for the Church such as new locks, a new combination for the center doors, and a bell system to allow visitors to ring a door bell if the Church doors are locked when someone is in the office. You can help our security by always making sure to lock doors if you are the last one to leave. We have many parishioners that have the combination as well as several groups that use the facilities during the evenings. Don't forget to lock the door when you leave.

Last but not least, thanks to all that served on the building and grounds team, the adopt a garden spot and the arts, architecture, and landscaping committee, and our Sexton Ted and his wife Kelly. It truly was a very good year!

Annual Meeting Address • January 29, 2012

Annual Meeting is a time to take stock, to look back at where we have been in the past year and what we have accomplished, but it is also a time to look forward. The reports and the presentations we will share later this morning cover a lot of ground, and will remind all of us of the very powerful and faithful journey that this parish has undertaken. Times of transition and change are never easy, but clearly this is a place where people know how to pitch in and get the work done, even when much of that work involves praying and waiting. You have had wonderful lay leaders here, as well as great guidance from the Rev. Susie Skinner and of course our Rector Emeritus, John Musgrave. I have to say, however, that the experts say that a church is in a period of transition for the first 18-24 months that they have a new priest, so we're not done with the process yet. But I do think we're off to a good start and making great progress. Many of you have heard me say this already, but I want to thank you again, all of you, for the warm and gracious way you have welcomed my family and me here.

My own reading of the Annual Meeting reports leaves me with a tremendous feeling of gratitude and excitement: gratitude to God for placing me in the midst of such a faithful and generous congregation, and also excitement at all the many good things that are happening here. That is why I chose as my text today the simple verse from the Psalm: "I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation." These words remind us that giving thanks and praise is the primary purpose of our worship, the main reason we come together every week. We do not wait until we are having a really good day to give thanks. We do it regularly, day after day, week after week, regardless of our circumstances. This practice helps us to recognize that there is always something for which we can give thanks, however small it might seem.

The Psalmist also reminds us that we give thanks with our "whole heart." During the moments when we are thanking God we do not hold back, we do not keep a part of our hearts focused on what we are lacking, or what we wish were different. We simply give thanks, with all that we have and all that we are. This practice is life-giving, putting us in touch with the gifts we have been given, as well as the gifts we have to offer.

Looking ahead, I believe that a focus on giving thanks will help us grow into the parish and the people we all hope to become. Sometimes we look at growth as an external thing, and we focus on issues like promotion, publicity, and marketing. Now honestly I love all those things—I am a blogger, after all, and what is blogging about if not promotion!—and I see no reason why we shouldn't be wise as serpents in the ways we use them. But as a church we need to always remember what it is that we are promoting, publicizing, and perhaps even marketing. It is not us—it is the Gospel, the good news, the reason we are all gathered here and giving thanks to begin with. How do we promote the Gospel? I'll try to begin to answer that with a story.

(Continued on Page 17)

Annual Meeting Address, Continued

Eugene Peterson traces his vocation as a pastor and writer back to his childhood in rural Montana. From the time he was five or six years old, his mother used to take him with her on a kind of informal preaching circuit. She was a small woman, barely five feet tall, with no formal training in theology or the Bible, but she used to spend her Sunday evenings in assemblies of lumberjacks and miners, telling stories, singing songs, and preaching the Gospel. Nobody taught her how to do this, nobody gave her permission; as the Gospel of Mark might have put it, she preached as one with authority, although it was not an earthly authority, but one that must have been sent from Heaven.

Looking back on this childhood experience, Peterson writes: "Was she fearless or only naïve, this genteel, beautiful woman out in the country those Sunday nights among those rough, all-male, female-starved congregations? I don't think it was naiveté. It was passion, and the love that casts out fear. I loved it. It was high adventure for me. Especially in winter, when there was an edge of danger in the driving and an aura of huddled coziness in the bare halls heated by barrel stoves. I loved the stories. I loved the songs. I loved being with my passionate mother who was having such a good time telling lumberjacks and miners about God. What I assimilated into my bones was that God and passion were the essentials for living."¹

God and passion. Stories and songs. If that is all it takes to turn a young boy and a bunch of lumberjacks into followers of Jesus, then surely that is what it takes to set the world on fire. And guess what? God and passion and stories and songs are things we have in abundance. With these essential tools in hand, we can continue on the path to becoming the people we believe God created us to be. We can tell our stories with the authority born of experience and humility, rather than an authority based on knowledge and power. We can remember that the church is not a place to dump information on people, but a place to shape souls through inspiration and exploration. We can sing songs of support, encouragement, and peace. We can use the love we have for God and one another to create safe places, safe relationships, places where we speak the truth in love and challenge and stretch each other. We can do this because God has given us the Eucharist as a pattern for a life based on thanksgiving, praise, and Communion. This altar is the place where all our stories and songs join together with the stories of the scribes and the songs of the angels, and it is from here that we go out into the world to continue the story, to sing the song, and to live lives of gratitude and service. If we do that, our lives will tell people everything they need to know about our faith, our church, and our Gospel. Amen.

¹ Eugene H. Peterson, *Under the Unpredictable Plant: An Exploration in Vocational Holiness* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992), 43-45.

Taizé Service



Sunday evening, February 26, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. the Church of the Good Shepherd and Confluence: A Center for Spirituality 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 February 26 and enrich your spiritual journey through this quiet and reflective worship experience.

Dr. Gilje, Continued

Dr. Gilje has a long history as an Episcopalian and was even baptized and confirmed at Good Shepherd. Caroline's mother, Joann Truss, created the artwork which graces our Sunday bulletins!

On April 29, 2000, Caroline and Mark Gilje were married at a Methodist Church and both an Episcopal priest and Methodist minister performed the ceremony. When their daughters went to college, the couple came back to Caroline's roots in the Episcopal Church and joined Good Shepherd about three years ago. Mark is an actuary working in Clayton who was raised a Lutheran and graduated from St. Olaf College. Mark has a love of music and sang in one of the St. Olaf choirs in college. He is a wonderful dad and has two daughters - Brittany aged 24 (studying for her Masters in family counseling at SLU) and Madeline aged 20 (a psychology major in her sophomore year at NYU).

Caroline and Mark are duplicate bridge players and love EVERYTHING outdoors including: golf, horseback riding, hunting for quail and ducks, snow and water skiing and fishing.

FULL DISCLOSURE: Pamela Evans interviewed Dr. Gilje who is the Vet for her animal family, one dog (Snickers) and three cats (Bonnie, Clyde and Buttercup) all of which gave her a "four paws out of four paws" endorsement — they highly recommend Dr. Gilje as their Vet!

Our Church:

Welcoming In ...

Birthdays ...

Anniversaries...



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:

2/4 Chuck Link

2/14 Dixie Ritzén

2/10 Paul Mercurio

2/17 Steve Eveland

2/12 Robert Coots

2/24 Lisa Lacroix

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

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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