

Good Shepherd

To Know Christ and Make Him Known with Joy, Faith and Service

July/August 2009

Dear Friends and Members of the Church of the Good Shepherd,

The Vestry of your parish met this month with the Reverend Richard Ullman for an annual mutual ministry review. We watched a presentation on congregational life cycles and discussed where we as the Church were in areas of growth and renewal, as well as in areas of decline and death. We pondered what ministries of the parish were in need of redefinition and redevelopment, and what ministries needed more drastic action -- from radical improvement to outright termination. Worship, parish life, Church school, and hospitality continue to be areas of growth and new life. Other areas including pastoral care from the clergy, youth programs, adult education, stewardship and administration are in need of more attention.

In order to enable the congregation to live into our mission "to know Christ and make Him known with joy, faith, and service," and to address issues raised in our review, I am making some changes in some staff assignments and appointments.

Ben Blanchard will assume a new role as "Associate in Music and Youth Ministries." He is being asked to focus more fully on our growing music ministries, to be more available for our work with our adult choir, and to rebuild a children's choir and youth music programs. He is also being asked to have a more hands on approach to youth programs. He is in the process of reestablishing a youth committee with the expectation that adult volunteers will assist. He will no longer be the staff support for the Outreach and Hospitality but will work with them only as they are involved in music programs and youth. His employment with the Mission of the Holy Spirit will continue, as our outreach programs continue to develop and define our work with that wonderful diocesan work.

Patricia McKee will assume a new role as "Associate for Christian Education and Newcomers Ministries." She is being asked to continue to use her gifts and knowledge in Christian education to develop long range comprehensive education program for all ages. In addition to that work, she will work with the Hospitality and Newcomers Committee to develop and implement a theology of mission and evangelism that is authentic to this congregation and helps all who enter our doors to find it to be a place of joy, faith and service. Again, it is expected that our committee system is designed so that these programs can only flourish as the lay people of this congregation are enabled for ministry.

Kristine Mangus will assume a new role as "Assistant to the Rector and Parish Administrator." She will refocus her workload to assist me in my administrative tasks, including organizing, tracking and preparation for the work of the vestry and vestry committees, record keeping, communication, correspondence, and scheduling. To give her more time to do this work, Sharon Lucas, who continues as the Parish Bookkeeper, will spend part of her time assisting in the other administration of the parish. This shift is being made as our bookkeeping records have been put in better order thanks in large part to the work of our Treasurer, Steve Cyrus, and as I remain convinced that all parishes need to receive excellent clergy pastoral care and guidance. As we continue in these economic times with one priest serving this parish, time needs to be allowed to make this vital role possible.

In addition other appointments are imminent. Steve Cyrus, who has worked long and hard and faithfully as our Parish Treasurer, has announced that he is ready to step down. He deserves our heartfelt thanks and praise for the work he has done. A person has volunteered to replace him, and will be named after he has been elected by the Vestry at their July meeting. As it is my role to appoint all committee heads, I have asked Rolf Williams and Sam Hill to be the co-heads of our Annual Stewardship Campaign. We have received some excellent help and have learned a great deal this past year. I trust Rolf and Sam to help all of us to implement these gains in the year ahead. Stewardship must be embedded in everything we do, and everything we are, including every person associated with the Parish. The good Lord has given to us abundantly. There is more than enough of what we really need to fulfill our mission: "To know Christ and make Him Known with joy, faith and service."

I will be on vacation the last three weeks of August, and may have to take some additional time in July to help disperse the belongings in my mother's house. I hope that as these days of summer progress we all will find time of rest and relaxation so that we might rise with joy to meet the days ahead.

Faithfully,

Robert A. Davenport
Rector

Bound for Belize

On the resort island of Ambergris Caye, just off the coast of Belize, is a community sometimes referred to as the forgotten place. Officially known as San Mateo, this is a community of 1,500 or more living in shacks made from found materials. They live in swampland, sewage, garbage and many without running water or electricity. In 2004 two American missionaries were vacationing on the island when they noticed an appalling number of school age children wandering the beaches alone. Because the public school was far past capacity and the private schools were beyond most people's means, these children were left to fend for themselves. Francis and Vernon Wilson decided to work with the Belize government to build a school that would benefit the community of San Mateo. In 2006 its doors opened and enrollment has soared. The school has provided education, food and healthcare to the community.

This emerging success story is being threatened by the very resort development that employs many of those living in San Mateo. Encroaching beyond the mangroves are condos and the threat of displacement. The most immediate threat is to the school which rests as a buffer between development and the community. Ten High School Students at Good Shepherd along with four adults will visit and work in community with the staff and students at Holy Cross Anglican School, Belize.

Francis Wilson, Director of the Holy Cross Anglican School (originally from Newport News, Virginia) commonly writes an online blog about the school. Below is an excerpt from the Holy Cross School online blog. This will give you an insight into the life at Holy Cross.

Dear Friends of Holy Cross,

We are all safe - thanks be to God! The early morning earthquake on May 28th did not affect the Island of Ambergris Caye or San Pedro. There was some damage far south in Belize but at this point it doesn't seem too serious. Thanks to everyone who wrote to check on the school.

This past Sunday, we celebrated the Baptism of seventeen young people at our monthly Family Worship Service. Fr. Wayne Kirten was with us from Belize City and of at the service. We were also blessed with the presence of the General Manager of Anglican Schools, Mrs. Marlene Leslie. In addition to everything else we need here at Holy Cross, we desperately need a full time priest and school chaplain. Is anyone out there ready for a sabbatical?!?

The countdown has already begun for the end of school on June 26th. It's just unbelievable how quickly our third (!!!) year has by. Graduation for our 25 Standard VI students will be held on June 21st and 17 have applied for scholarships in order to attend high school. At \$500US per child for the year of high school, we NEED your support to help these children continue their education.



We were honored to have the Minister of Education, Patrick Faber along with several members of his staff visit Holy Cross on May 14th. He was very impressed with the school and our students (yay). In fact, he wants a school just like Holy Cross in every district of Belize. He also wants Holy Cross to expand to accommodate 1,000 students AND open a pre-school as soon as possible. We pray for land fill and lots of volunteer teams to get this plan underway. Please see attachment for photos of the Hon. Faber's visit to Holy Cross.

Right now registration is underway for the 2009-10 school year. We are excited that most of our current students will be returning and that so many parents want their children to attend Holy Cross Anglican School. Miss Linda, our Office Manager, is overwhelmed every day with registrations. Many classes are already filled and waiting lists have been started. Please pray for our students (old and new) and for our teachers as we begin preparing for next year.

We bid a sad farewell to two incredible volunteers last week: Dr. Kim Shackelford a professor in the Social Work Department of the University of Mississippi and Ms. Amrei Joerchel, a Ph.D. candidate in Psychology from Vienna, Austria. These two ladies have been at Holy Cross for the last several months providing counseling for our students and offering training for our teachers. We miss them so much.

We are also awaiting the arrival of quite a few volunteer teams who will be with us this summer. Needless to say there is much to be done! In addition to construction and much needed maintenance, volunteers will host after school activities and offer VBS starting in July. As soon as we get some land fill (pray!) we will start on the playground which we desperately need. We are in daily fear that the developer to the north will begin construction on the land we currently are using as a play ground leaving us with no place for recreation - ugh. Please continue to support the children of Holy Cross with your prayers and contributions. As always every donation is greatly appreciated - smile. As my favorite poem says....

*Little drops of water, tiny grains of sand
Make the mighty ocean and the pleasant land.*

You are the drops of water and grains of sand!! Please help us keep everything up and running and moving forward. Hundreds of children are depending on YOU!

**Many thanks and blessings,
Francis**

Belize Cont'd...

The group will be at the 10:00 AM service on July 5th for commissioning and a grand sendoff!

The Group is made of the following people:

Molly Parsons	Ann Bryan
Ben Bilisoly	George Bryan
Thomas Bilisoly	Nick George
Doc Temple	Stratton George
C.C. Pitts	Dana Lloyd
Rachael Lawson	Ben Blanchard
Kendall Winn	Alex Cady

Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they travel July 10-17.

O God, who created all peoples in your image, we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of fellowship, and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

-Book of Common Prayer



2009 EASTERN SHORE



YOUTH WORKCAMP

For the last three summers members of the Church of the Good Shepherd submit themselves to the gift and leadership of the Very Rev. Churchill Pinder and his brother Joe Pinder. Their mother Gay Pinder seems to be the real power behind the throne. This year we had the privilege of working on the home of Thelma Dodson (aka Aunt Thelma), putting on a new roof, installing nine new windows and a door, building a handicap ramp, replace the roof on a shed, and repairing some indoor water damage.

Volunteering for this venture was:

Lawson Driskill
 Fitz Cherry
 Sophie Davenport (from San Francisco!)
 Mary Peyton Sanford
 Andrew Stracener
 Meagan Stracener
 Will Lewandowski
 Dalton Nisbett
 Donald Nisbett
 Bob Starck
 Patricia McKee
 Robert Davenport

Highlights of the trip included excellent food of which Tricia had a tasteful part, sleeping on the floor of St. George's Church, Pungoteague, travel via boats to the ocean side, where Dalton caught the big fish, and Aunt Thelma's inspired singing and Spirit.

If we learned anything on this adventure, it may well have been that living in faithful community is not always easy, but it can really be fun.

Thanks to everyone who made this trip possible, especially the parents and the donors of the new windows for Aunt Thelma.



A Note from the Associate for Christian Education...

The persistence of youth to do a job they believe in is absolutely amazing! They will persevere in the heat of the summer sun, through not much sleep, through lack of the usual supplies (no cups, use a Ziploc with a hole and help each other take a drink, no spoons on an island with large sea birds vouching for your food? use an carefully washed oyster shell for a spoon), and above all -find laughter and life in the midst of everything.

Summertime offers us a chance to vision. What is truly essential for our congregation to live in this world with Joy, Faith, and Service as we follow Christ? Summertime holds a chance for some of us to dream, instead of the hectic business of the school year's demands.

Most important to our dreaming this summer, is preparation for the educational events coming up in the next few years so we can reach our goals. That means Adult Education and Children's ministry committees have their work set before them, to chart a path, and to recruit and train the leadership to do the work we are called to do through our Baptismal covenant. The children, youth, and adults of this congregation are able to fulfill this mission; it is exciting to step into the waters of summer to begin.

Adult Summer Growth Nights

Wednesday Evenings

Beginning June 24

6:30-9

For those who want to create: (Art Room)

A workshop with open mediums of mosaics, stained glass, collage- to work at your own pace, assistance and guidance available.

For those who wish to study/discuss: (Courtyard area)

A small group for prayer and exploration of how our images of God develop and have changed throughout our life.

(All adult ed. groups gather within the Diocesan Norms)

SPIRITUAL GROWTH STUDY

Spiritual Growth Study will consist of Images of God in our lives, and how those change throughout our lives, through literature, art, and Scripture focus. Tuesday evenings in the Well (across from the kitchen) beginning June 9th through August 25th. (No mtg. 7/7 or 7/28) Facilitated by Tricia McKee



EFM Update

One of the Thursday evening Education for Ministry group members, Sallie Avery, shared at the picnic in June how much the group meant for disciplined study (Scripture, tradition/history, and theological issues in life), support spiritually in our busy lives, and understanding of ministry as her calling in life. The process of this program, Education for Ministry learning via The University of the South at Sewanee, has proven to be of great benefit for those participating in our congregation. We plan to continue our Friday and Thursday evening groups beginning in September. New members are welcome, and there is also a desire to begin a third group in our church home. Everyone who is interested and inquiring as to this study series please contact the church office right away!

The EFM series provides the opportunity to bring together faith and life in an authentic way to any adult willing to make this commitment.



Shepherd's Corner

Early Childhood and Family Learning Center

~Join us Sunday, July 12 for an Open Discussion~

The early childhood project is still in the creation phase and exploring the feasibility of having an Early Childhood Episcopal School at the Church of the Good Shepherd. We have had guidance from Laura Walker, a consultant from the National Association of Episcopal Schools; she spent a weekend with us in February conducting a seminar that helped our committee realize our need to grow and create sub-committees for specific tasks. We have now created five committees, or Task Forces, that are working on the following:

General Task Force: This committee is writing the mission statement and core values, creating a marketing piece for fund raising, setting admissions policies and developing parenting curriculum.

Community Partnership Task Force: This group is working on building relationships with our neighboring communities. Because infants cannot be transported due to liability, our population would come from within walking distance. This group has approached local churches and invited them to hear Dr. Katherine Kersey speak at our church about positive parenting techniques. Plans are in the works for fall activities that bring us together with our neighbors, "Trunk or Treat" being one in the works for Halloween.

Fund Raising and Development Task Force: This group has only met twice. Their charge is to identify foundations and organizations to approach. We are not ready to knock on doors yet. We need someone with fabulous computer, advertising and business plan skills to help us develop a professional looking brochure to take with us.

Facility Task Force: This group will look at church space to be used and help prepare it to pass code.

Finance/Budget Task Force: A financial budget for the first three years will be outlined by this committee. It will address - in appropriate detail - all costs pertaining to the project.

Exploratory Committee: This is the original committee that began meeting last year.

Our mission is to provide an early childhood program for at-risk children from birth through three years. Our goal is to help children develop their talents to their greatest potential. To achieve this, we work in partnership with their families. Educating families is a large component of this project. Caregivers will be required to participate regularly in parent education classes. One of our precepts is that children will be successful when caregivers are actively involved in their child's education. There will be a parenting curriculum supported by a library with parenting resources. The school will be open for the full day and year-round. We hope to use the nursery and the old Shepherd's Corner room; hence the potential name for the school.

The time line we have created is for the Task Forces to meet regularly over the summer. This group will write a plan due back to the Exploratory Committee by September. The Exploratory Committee will review it before taking the plan to the vestry in October. By having a committee look at the feasibility of an early childhood center, we are in sync with one of the goals stated in the Long Range Plan.

We are eager for input from the congregation. **Please join us on Sunday, July 12th between services for an open forum to discuss this initiative further and to ask questions.**

Group and Committee News

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

- **Acolyte training for all NEW and CURRENT Acolytes:** Sunday Sept. 13th, immediately following the 10AM service (@ 11 AM - noon). Meet at the Altar.
- **Lector instructional session for all NEW and CURRENT Lectors:** Come to one session only, Sunday, Sept. 20th or Sunday, Sept. 27th. Each session will take place during the Christian Education hour starting at 9:00AM - 9:45AM. Meet at the Lectern.
- **Altar Guild instructional session for all NEW and CURRENT Altar Guild participants:** Come to one session only, Wednesday, October 7th, 10AM, or Saturday, October 10th at 9:30AM. Meet in the front pews near the Altar.

The Worship Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 4:30 - 5:30 PM, in the Church Library. All that are interested, are welcome to attend.



SUNDAYS IN THE SUMMER

After pondering the result of an informal survey given at both services on June 14, the Worship Committee has informally determined that it is still a good idea to have one service during the summer season, but that it is an idea whose time has not yet fully come. Therefore our regular worship schedule will continue through this summer with services at both 8:00 and 10:00 AM. See you then!



The process of knitting allows us to sit and settle our lives, and ponder our Creator with an outlook to something inward yet outward. It is comforting to think that we may be of help in ways that we do not even realize. Come experience this inward outward journey with the Knitting Group on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings each month at 6:30PM. We can even teach if you would like to learn. Contact Lesa Nelson at embarkguru@cox.net or 648-8291.



The deadline for the September Edition of Good Shepherd News is Friday, August 21st. Please submit you articles via e-mail to kristine@goodshepherdnorfolk.org.



The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd 2009 Vacation Bible School

July 20 - 24, 2009

Jumpin' Jeremiah Hunts for a Heart!



Challenges for body, mind, and spirit as we look at friends in the life of Jesus, and in our lives each day. All children ages 4-5th grade welcome. Nursery and Three year old group for Parents who are helping out. Older elementary (rising third-5th) will have a class of their own, with leadership in drama, music, recreation and art.

July 20-24 -- 9am to Noon-Register Now!

\$35 per child Cost limit per family: \$65

Contact Tricia McKee Questions/registration:

patricia@goodshepherdnorfolk.org.

Youth and adult leadership is the strong basis of our great VBS tradition. Sign up for ministry now! Training provided.

Name (underline: child, youth, adult)/age/grade of child/youth:

Address and email:

Home/Cell Phone:

Parent information for all children:

Emergency contact/Allergies:



Clergy and Staff

Rector: The Rev. Robert A. Davenport

Associate in Music & Youth Ministries: Ben Blanchard ben@goodshepherdnorfolk.org

Associate for Christian Ed. & Newcomers Ministries: Patricia McKee patricia@goodshepherdnorfolk.org

Assistant to the Rector & Parish Administrator: Kristine Mangus kristine@goodshepherdnorfolk.org

Bookkeeper: Sharon Lucas sharon@goodshepherdnorfolk.org

Sexton: Robert Taylor

Housekeeper: Sascha Grunwald

Pastoral Counselor: Fann Greer, M. Div., Ph.D. Licensed Professional Counselor 757-818-5189

The Vestry

Senior Warden: Randy Noe

Junior Warden: Beth Williams

Treasurer: Steve Cyrus

John Chandler, Rich Crawford, Woody Duffy, Keith Hope, Molly Parsons,
Jennifer Sanford, Diana Smelt, Bob Starck, Frank Thomas, Lelia Graham Webb

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