

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

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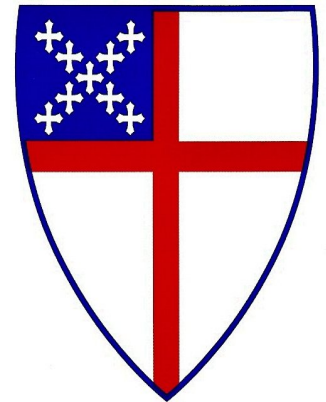
Dear Friends and Members of the Church of the Good Shepherd,

I have just returned home from two weeks on the rock. Annually, my children and I head north to escape the heat and camp on the pre-Cambrian shelf on the Georgian Bay in Ontario. (Sometimes my wife joins us.) The glaciers and wind and water have left large, smooth stones emerging from cold, clear water that are perfect for sleeping, lounging, fishing- -restoring. The north wind can blow, the rains fall, and temperature drops, but when we tie our tents down on the firm foundation of those islands, life can be comfortable and enriching. It is a wonderful place to be.

Now approaches the time for all of us to return to another, truer rock. In the Gospel reading for the end of August, the great apostle of the Church, Simon Peter, proclaims Jesus as the "Messiah, the Son of the Living God." The name "Peter" comes from the same earlier word from which we get the word "petroleum." It actually means "rock." Jesus responds to him, "You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it." Through our lives the winds of change will blow. Storms will emerge, temperatures will rise and fall. In the midst of the chaos, you, like Peter, are invited to secure your tent to the firm foundation of the Church. Please read in this bulletin or check our website for ways that you too can find refuge and be restored and enriched. It is a wonderful place to be.

Faithfully,

Robert A. Davenport



To
Know
Christ
and To
Make
Him
Known

Christian Education: Submitted By Tricia McKee

The Beginning of Something Good

Together At The Church of the Good Shepherd!



The group sand castle effort looked like a bust, everyone separating to do their own thing, unable to get their heads around doing one thing together. The littlest of the group at three years old, bounding in and overcoming what some had been working on. Slowly, without whining or yelling, in four different areas they worked the sand, feeling the roughness of big things ground down to fine sand, still holding the variety of colors and textures that originally were there. Some began to focus on just their pile of sand, not seeing what the others were doing. Slowly, the older girls and boys found seaweed to embellish the building with the sand, forming the head of a monstrous sea creature with rocks and color for eyes and a tongue. One boy thinking of a name for the great creature that helped him not feel afraid of this monstrous creature that seemed so powerful to him- 'Lowezy...yes, that's a good name.' Younger children, just piling up sand, working hard on their own place, only to finish their own pile, then step back and see that theirs was, 'Yes!' a part of something bigger than themselves. It had a head and it all worked together, but they had to stand back and observe the whole to get the sense of it all. Somehow, summer seems that way for all of us. We head off on our own trek to explore our world, close at home, and far away. What a great coming together we had at VBS! Children, youth, and adults enjoying the gifts all brought to the week. What wonderful adult fellowship and studies are building for our congregation! Now, as we head into fall, we have the chance to see our bigger picture. First, in our worship, the great abundance and diversity that our life together in Christ provides. Second, in educational events, having been away for awhile, the gifts we bring for ministry in community together.

Please take time (whether as a child, an adult, a parent, a teenager, a young adult) to take part in the fall offerings in Christian education at the Church of the Good Shepherd. Know that our educational offerings are planned to work together with our community life in worship and outreach- no one without the other, all working toward a whole faith development. Welcome everyone! Please contact Tricia McKee in the church office with any questions. patricia@goodshepherdnorfolk.org.

Christian Education Cont'd:

Sunday Morning Christian Formation Groups:

+ 9:15 Godly Play (Age 3-Kindergarteners) Experiencing the Biblical Story in an environment that very calmly also introduces children to our worship patterns. Room 208

+ 9:15 Elementary 'Living the Good News!'
Rotating teams of Teachers.

(1st-3rd Grades-Room 203)

(4th- 5th Grades-Room 204)

+ Youth-See Youth Sections of Newsletter!!!

+ Adult Fall Class Offerings – 9:15 to 9:50



Adult Forum

Parish Hall

+ Sept. 7, 14, 21 – Opening the Bible, The new Church Teaching Series. Tricia McKee to begin this Bible 101 series.

+ Sept. 28 – Mission Visitor, Irma Hinkle, from ACCESS Hampton Roads.

+ October 5- Blessing of the Animals, no adult classes, children and youth together upstairs.

+ Oct. 12,19, - Opening the Bible, the Rev. Robert Davenport.

+ October 26, Stewardship Focus, all adult groups together.

November 2, 9, 16, and 23- Living With History, 2nd in Church Teaching Series

+ Nov. 30 – Advent I, St. Columba Ministries Special Visitor.

We'll meet in Memorial Hall each week, periodically welcoming all adult classes together.

Christian Education Cont'd:
Faith Matters:

A class for progressive people of faith of all ages that looks into a balance of Scripture, Tradition, and Reason as we approach our life of faith in a church community.

Last spring they began the series, 'Living the Questions' and the plan is to continue and use this great resource as they begin this fall. Contact person is Charlotte Chandler. This class will be held at the upstairs elevator area each week, unless all together for special program in Memorial Hall.

Lectionary/Synthesis: This year the class will be led by Peter Stewart, Walker Shivar, Bob Starck, Ann Brogan, and Will McKee on the 5th Sundays of the month. They will use the Synthesis, along with a simple formula to bring the Bible open to our lives: What does the text say? Why was it kept for us? What might it speak to our lives today? In the library.

Nursery care: is available for all children up to age 3 during Sunday classes and worship. We welcome our regular caregivers, Linda Garciga, Addison Parsons, and Nadine West to the nursery throughout the year.

Fall Studies: Tuesday: Intercessory Prayer Group-11:00am, in the Well.

Knitting Group-2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month.

Wednesday: Lectionary Synthesis Study at 9:00 am in the Library. Led by Bishop Vache.

Thursday evenings and Friday mornings: EFM-Education for Ministry Groups gathered Contact: Tricia McKee or Robert Davenport to sign up for EFM for next year.



RUACH:

Hebrew for 'Breath of God' A pause in the week

Every Wednesday Night: 5:15 pm-6:15pm

Beginning September 10th through April

From the Diocese:

The 2008-2009 Prayer Calendar: is located on the bulletin board near the main entrance. The office also has a few copies if you would like your own.

Nominations for Annual Council 2009: The deadline for nominations for positions for February 2009 Annual Council is Friday, October 17, 2008. Candidates being sought are: one lay and one cleric for Standing Committee (Article XV), two lay and two clerics for Ecclesiastical Court (Canon XXII), and one lay as Deputy to Provincial Synod (Diocesan Canon X). Position descriptions, nominee information forms, and nomination forms are located in the narthex.

The 'Knotted to God' Advent Retreat:

is an offering of the Commission on Prayer and Healing in the Diocese of Southern Virginia and takes place at the beautiful conference center, Chanco on the James, in Surry County, Virginia. This event will take place from Dec. 4th-6th. To get the registration form or if you have questions please call Gary Barker at Christ Church, Smithfield at (757) 357-2826 or email:

garyjmbarker@verizon.net

YOUTH MINISTRY: Submitted by Ben Blanchard

This past spring the middle school aged youth and parents met at the Lafayette Shores Pool to swim, share a meal and dream together the possibilities for the upcoming year. The group decided several things were important to them. They are as follows: 1) meet each week at 9:15 AM during the education hour, 2) the group will be welcoming and include all youth reaching out to newcomers and inviting them into the group, 3) the group will spend some time learning and building relationships with other faiths, 4) the group will participate in outreach projects in some capacity set forth by the outreach committee, 5) and the group will commit to have fun together.



As the first meeting day quickly approaches several things have been happening. The group has been assigned a committed room upstairs in the youth section of the building. The curriculum is here! We will be using "Living the Good News" which is a lectionary based Episcopal Curriculum, as well as several creative and age level appropriate activities that will keep the youth engaged and excited.

The youth committee is hard at work putting together a team of leaders for the group ready to begin on September 7th. If you feel called to be part of this exciting ministry please contact Ben in the church office to see how your gifts can be utilized in this ministry. (757-423-3230)

PARENTS: Important dates dealing with Youth:

- + September 7th – First Day of Group (teambuilding) The theme is Peace
- + September 14th- Group Meeting
- + September 21st- Group Meeting
- + September 28th- The group will be working in the kitchen helping to prepare a fundraiser brunch for the parish as well as serve. Proceeds from the brunch will be donated to Access (A local AIDS organization in Hampton Roads).



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

The High school youth will meet in the Well downstairs at 9:15 beginning September 7th. Together the group will choose the direction of study and activities for the fall.

OUTREACH

The outreach committee is hard at work planning ways for you to share your gifts locally as well as Globally. The outreach committee will meet the third Wednesday of each month at 4:30 PM. This fall there are several projects the group will be inviting you to participate in.

Dinner Is Served (well in our case BRUNCH IS SERVED)

A fundraiser for Access

ACCESS, a local organization, provides comprehensive services to individuals and families impacted by HIV/AIDS. This includes serving those living with HIV/AIDS as well as educating the greater community about HIV as well as other STDs. ACCESS is a joining of the two organizations: Full Circle and Candi House. ACCESS has served almost 450 individuals living with HIV/AIDS and many more affected family members including over 150 children in Hampton Roads.



In the spring Good Shepherd participated in raising funds by going out to dinner at Luna Maya. We had 60 people from Good Shepherd go to dinner. It was a huge success! It is known as "Dining out for Life" Each fall ACCESS has a fundraiser entitled "Dinner is Served". This is where people/groups serve dinner and invite their friends over to help raise funds.

Good Shepherd will participate in this endeavor by having a HUGE brunch immediately following the 10:00 service on Sunday, September 28th. To add to the fun the Good Shepherd choir will be singing your favorite standards and showtunes during the brunch. Tickets can be purchased after church on September 14th or 21st after each service or by calling the church office. Ticket prices are \$7 for adults and \$3 for children under 12. This is a wonderful opportunity to eat great food, hear great music and support a great cause!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Habitat for Humanity will be starting a build in September. Good Shepherd has been a wonderful support financially as well as hands on building for many years. We would like to see this year top all previous years! There are two Saturdays that we have committed to provide labor for the build, one is September 20th and the other is October 4th. The house being built is in the Park Place section of Norfolk directly beside a house that you, the people of Good Shepherd, built in a previous year. So get those sleeves rolled up and sign up to help. Everyone 16 and over is encouraged to participate. Please sign up on the bulletin board outside memorial hall!

Hospitality

The Hospitality committee has been hard at work to find exciting ways to continue the amazing community we already have going at Good Shepherd. There are two dates that you need to mark on your calendars! You do not want to miss either of these events.

Fall Mannamakers will be held at the home of Charlotte and John Chandler. Hold on to your hairspray! The theme will be an 80's Prom Theme. We will have a live DJ spinning records from the 80's (1980's not 1880's) The party is for any adult and will begin at 6:30 PM on Friday October, 17th. Stay tuned for more details.

The annual Good Shepherd Christmas party will take place at the home of Laurie and Jamie Marshall on December 14th at 6:00 PM. Again, these are two AWESOME and FUN events you don't want to miss. They are both ways to meet new people in the church as well as connect with friends!



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THE GOOD SHEPHERD

7400 Hampton Boulevard
Norfolk, VA 23505

Phone: 757-423-3230

Fax: 757-423-6147

E-mail: office@goodshepherdnorfolk.org

www.goodshepherdnorfolk.org

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Clergy & Staff

Rector: The Rev. Robert A. Davenport

Bishop in Residence: The Rt. Rev. C. Charles Vaché

Associate for Parish Life: Ben Blanchard (ben@goodshepherdnorfolk.org)

Director of Educational Ministries: Tricia McKee (patricia@goodshepherdnorfolk.org)

Parish Administrator: Kristine Mangus (kristine@goodshepherdnorfolk.org)

Parish Secretary: (athena@goodshepherdnorfolk.org)

Bookkeeper: Sharon Lucas (sharon@goodshepherdnorfolk.org)

Sexton: Jeff Graham Housekeeper: Sascha Grunwald

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

The Vestry

Senior Warden: James Izard

Junior Warden: Randy Noe

Treasurer: Steve Cyrus

Jean Bryan, Molly Parsons, John Chandler, Lelia Graham Webb, Rich Crawford,
Jennifer Sanford, Keith Hope, Rexanne Metzger, Elliott Webb, Beth Williams, Eddie Wolcott