

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

VOLUME XII, EDITION 5

MAY 2008

Dear Friends,

On “Earth & All Stars Sunday” the choir tried something new. They didn’t sing a note. Instead, Ann Fletcher read a thanksgiving for water attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, a multi-generational group rubbed their fingers and hands, clapped their knees, and rattled instruments to simulate the sound of rain. It was challenging, as it was different, but it was intriguing and it was beautiful. It was one groups offering to the Glory of God.

On May 18th, another group will try something new. We will call it “Vision Sunday”. The Vestry will be presenting the Long Range Plan to the congregation. I do not know if it will include finger rubbing or the rattling of instruments, but it will reflect this congregations hopes and plans for the next 3-5 years. Some of it should be comforting, hearing that we wish to continue along many of the same paths we have been following. Other parts will be challenging as we recognize we do not fully know Christ nor are we able to make Christ fully known. I hope it will be received thankfully as it is the congregations offering to the Glory of God.

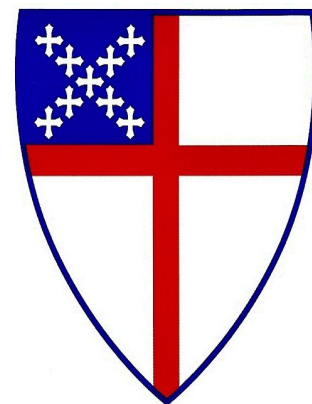
On “Earth and All Stars Sunday” the second reading from Revelation read “Behold, I make all things new”. That is God’s hope for us– that he might take in the challenge and risk of making things new, of building new structures on old foundations.

Please join us on “Vision Sunday”, May 18th to renew your spirit and our common spirit. Together we can offer something up to the Glory of God, and in the offering might just behold it!

On another note, I would like to thank all of you who contributed to my appeal for assistance on some special programs for the church. From your responses we are able to continue Bishop Vache’s ministry for this year, and the signing interpreters through the month of May. Other sources of funding for this program are being persued.

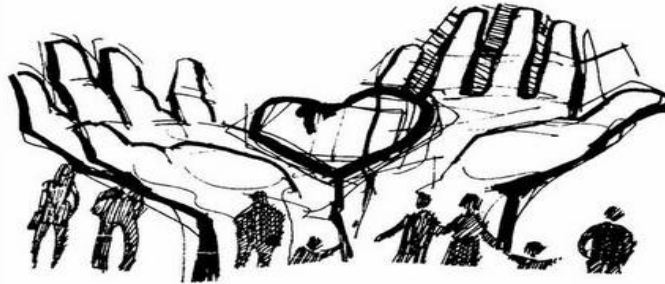
Faithfully,

The Rev. Robert A. Davenport



To know
Christ
and
make
him
known

We Are called...



Voices of Vision
The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
2008

You are invited to join us in special worship services to celebrate the Good Shepherd's long range planning process on Sunday, May 18. The Long Range Plan will be formally delivered to the congregation, and a brief summary of the plan will be presented during both the 8:00 and 10:00 services. Following both services members of the vestry and the long range planning committee will host a panel discussion, where your questions about the plan will be welcome.

Come help celebrate an important event in the life of our church as we take the first steps together toward Good Shepherd's future!

HORIZONS IN MISSION

An opportunity in adult education

The Church is a mission field. The opportunity "To know Christ and make Him known" is constantly before us in everything we do and say. This mission activity is most active and obvious in our families and closest relationships, and in the work of the local parish and diocese.

The world is a mission field. The same opportunities and challenges are in front of us when we try to live in relationship with those in other societies and cultures. Being conscious of our own cultural assumptions enables us to rejoice in the wonderful complexities of all God's creation. I for one have found it helpful when visiting other cultures for extended periods of time to remember that I am a guest, a seeker and a recipient of generous hospitality.

As the Outreach and Foreign Missions Committee explores ways to reach out into the world "To know Christ and make Him known", we will prepare anew by reading together this summer a book from the Church teachings series *HORIZONS IN MISSION* by the Rev. Titus Presler. We will meet at 9:15 Sunday mornings beginning June 15. Copies will be available in the Church office and at breakfast on Sunday mornings. Join us as we reflect on what horizons we might explore.

Robert Davenport



Bring Back The Doves!

The Dove Mobile will once again be part of worship this Pentecost. Directions for folding doves and paper for folding (recycled bulletins) are available in the narthex or in the school entrance. Please bring folded doves by May 7th. A crew is needed to hang the doves and the mobile Friday afternoon May 9th, from 4:00 – 8:00. If you are able to help at some point during those hours, please contact Ben in the church office or e-mail ben@goodshepherdnorfolk.org. The plans are to hang one thousand doves this year! For those new to Good Shepherd a photograph of the mobile from two years ago is located with the paper and directions!

EUCHARIST ON THE BANKS OF THE LAFAYETTE RIVER

10:00 AM

And

GOOD SHEPHERD SPRING PICNIC

Sunday, June 1st 2008

Gunn Conference Center
600 Talbot Hall
Norfolk, VA 23505

Tickets for the picnic \$8.00 for Adults

\$4.00 for Children under 11

\$24 maximum per family of 4 or more

For tickets call the church office or sign up
on the board across from the kitchen at the
Church!



Dine Out, Fight AIDS

2008 DINING OUT FOR LIFE...

A HUGE SUCCESS!

What is Dining Out for Life?

Dining Out For Life® is an annual fundraising event involving the generous participation of volunteers, corporate sponsors and restaurants. In 1991 Dining Out For Life® was created by an AccessAIDS volunteer in Philadelphia. In 1993, AccessAIDS made it an international event offering licenses to AIDS Service Organizations around the country.

More than 2,500 restaurants this year donated a portion of their proceeds from this one special night of dining to the licensed agency in their city. Over \$2 million dollars was raised to support the missions of agencies throughout North America. All of the money will stay within the city in which it's raised.

Thanks to all Good Shepherd family and friends who participated this year at Luna Maya and other Restaurants!

A Special Thanks to Kelly Tunno, Patty Ruska, Dana Lloyd, Bishop Vache, Katie Kitchen, and Ben Blanchard for serving as Restaurant Ambassadors!



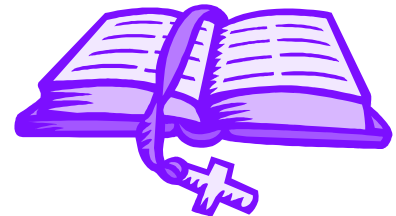
YOUTH WORKCAMP

4TH ANNUAL EASTERN SHORE WORK CAMP OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH

For the fourth year in a row a group of youth of Good Shepherd is invited to join the Rev. Churchill G. Pinder and the good folks of St. Stephan's Cathedral, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, for a work camp on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. We will leave Sunday afternoon, June 15th and return Thursday evening, June 19th. The primary focus is living together in Christian community while we work in relationship with one another and some home owners to help them repair their homes. This camp is open to middle and high school youth (6th-12th grade) and is a wonderful way to have experience in outreach ministry.

Also for the trip to be successful we need some adults who are willing to work with youth or who can work with a circular saw, or both! We will sleep on the floor of a local parish hall, work during the day, and enjoy fun times on the water. Some flexibility, a spirit of generosity and a taste for adventure will be assets for those participating. If you have questions about the overall trip, please call Rev. Robert Davenport@ 423-3230.

Education for Ministry



An Opportunity for Prayer, Study and Growth

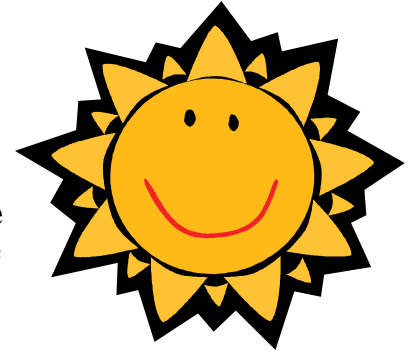
All of us, as we seek to follow the Lord of life, need to purposely find ways to be on that journey of going deeper. Helpful to such quests are study of the Scriptures and other teachings of the Church, prayer, reflection on life's experiences and community.

The University of the South Sewanee has a program of theological education-at-a-distance known as Education for Ministry (EFM). Students sign up one year at a time for this four year program. It covers the basics of the Old and New Testaments, church history, liturgy and theology. Students meet regularly, usually once a week, in seminars under the guidance of trained mentors. The Rector has mentored this program in the past and now has a group that meets on Friday mornings. This group could be enlarged next year or a new group started for a weekday afternoon. Patricia McKee, Director of Christian Education, is eager to form an evening group. You are invited to consider committing to a few hours a week of study, prayer, fellowship and fun. It is guaranteed to provide intensive labor and fun that will reap unimaginable rewards. If this interests you, please call Robert or Patricia at 423-3230.

Christian Education News...

Submitted by Tricia McKee

It's coming straight at us, we see it as the break in our busy world of to dos and stress. Summer is for many of us a promise; a promise of some time to relax, rejuvenate. For many of our young parents, it is also a time of lots of child care at home as well as hopefully, easy summer days. We, as a worshipping community, also see and enjoy each Sunday the new young life coming in our doors, the laughter, the joy in the simplest things, the enthusiasm (spirit) that comes with young children and families.



Also coming is the opportunity to enjoy these children coming in our doors in July, in particular the 7-11 of July. I encourage all adults and youth to sign up to lead/assist in one area of Bible School for at least two days during the week; it is important that our children see role models of men and women, young and old, to see the whole picture of what the church community is. Of particular importance is the ministry to children of our neighborhood who come through our doors on Monday morning July 7 from 9-noon and throughout that week.

Here is what is required:

1. Your presence for two or three days in one activity area: art, recreation, music, story. Each day will involve four half hour segments /one with each age group.
2. Preparation by reading the activity guide ahead of time. We will provide all supplies needed, and any training you wish on lesson or age group helps, activity help, safe church guidelines.
3. A caring nurturing presence to enjoy the children coming to your care, a watchful eye while you are with the children, and evaluation when you finish serving.

Youth volunteers (and adults if they wish) are essential to mentor each group from activity to activity. You are one of the main reasons children enjoy this VBS! The ministry here is Presence. Please free your calendar to come in and help. This is community service in the highest order and your work and participation is essential to our success in a tangible way!



All adults and youth
are invited to a
Beach Party, July 6
from 1-3 pm...

to dance to some beach music, while we set up our special beach scene for gathering each day during Bible school. A great opportunity to serve if you can't join us during the week! Plan now to attend and contact Tricia McKee at patricia@goodshepherdnorfolk.org – with any questions. The children are fabulous----let's show them how great we are in return!



...brings a last month of church school classes; note the new time, 9:15. Our last school year Sunday will be May 25th!

Christian Ed News Cont'd...

Adults and Youth- take a look at the booklet available in the pews describing the call of a Bishop and the work involved in being the overseer and guide to the many parishes in our Diocese. The booklets are there for the taking and learning of all our worshipping community. When we have questions and issues, it certainly helps to be informed about the subject.

Adult Forum is finishing their look into the call of a new Bishop for our Diocese of Southern Virginia the first week of May. After that the Lectionary Study Bible study will continue in the Library. Note weekly Scriptures in the Server Schedule of this newsletter.

Faith Matters is starting the new DVD study, 'Living the Questions'. All adults are welcome to these gatherings which give us a chance in community to reflect on the meaning of faith in our everyday lives. Upstairs at the elevator. Leadership includes: Lizzy Davenport, The Noes, and The Kitchins.

The superb **Middle School class** is convening in the rug room at 9:15am each week in May, led by Mollie Parsons, Mary Ruth Nottingham and others. Many thanks to Paige and Vince Thomas for great beginnings-more good things to come.

Elementary Classes and Godly Play meet regularly at 9:15, then to children's chapel during worship at 10. If you and your child come for worship at 10-join their class upstairs when you come! Godly Play room 214, 1st-3rd-203, and 4th-5th in room 204.

EFM

A new Education for Ministry (EFM) Group that will meet in the evening is being formed now for the fall of 2008. If you are interested in this year long process of study, prayer, and reflection found enriching by members of our church already this past year, please contact Tricia McKee.

patricia@goodshepherdnorfolk.org. If you are interested in joining the Friday morning group, please contact the Rector. Robert@goodshepherdnorfolk.org.

Coming in June...

For all adults who wish to engage in study through the summer, Sunday mornings at 9-'Horizons of Mission' by Titus Presler in the Parish Hall will begin June 15th.

An elementary age children's program on Mission will be held at the same time in the rug room for those who wish to attend downstairs. Nursery will be provided at 9 for all infant through preschoolers.



You're Invited to a Beach Party
This Summer!

Vacation Bible School is calling
children, adults, and youth,
between the ages of

Three (must be potty trained) and
4th Grade

We'll be surfin' through the Scriptures

July 7-11 from 9-12:00

Cost per child will be \$25

Drop this form by the church office or contact Tricia McKee with all your information
patricia@goodshepherdnorfolk.org.

Children's Registration:

Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade _____

Parents: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Special Needs:

Special contact in emergency:

Now, we also have much room in our Beach Shack for Adults and Youth

Please listen to the call to come and play, enjoy, teach, and nurture our children at the Beach Party.

Let us know if you wish to help with:

Music, Art, Recreation, Storytelling, Snacks, Nursery, Registration

Job Descriptions for the areas available from the Church Office.

You might want to come and surf the waves with a group of your own to each activity: Youth and Adults Welcome!

Or keep the sun out of the eyes of our sweet three year olds.

Beach it with us one day or every day! (circle days available)

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

Name (youth or adult) _____

Phone/Email _____

Group or area you wish to help with : _____

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THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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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