

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

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OCTOBER 2008

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

Decisions face us every day. Some seem huge. Who will be elected the next President of the United States? Some seem small. What shall I have for lunch? Many decisions that seem clear often can be a struggle.

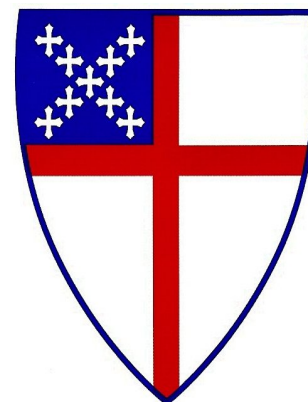
Soon the Diocese will elect a new chief pastor, an Episcopal Bishop for all of Southern Virginia. As a member of the Nominating Committee, I read dozens of resumes and interviewed scads of people, I thought I knew just whom to vote for. I had the answer- or did I? Last weekend the final six candidates traveled around the Diocese and talked to numerous small groups about who they were and what was their vision for the ministry of this diocese. We called this process a "Walkabout."

As I listened to the candidates this time and listened to what other people said about them, I learned few things. I learned that it is easier to make decisions if I don't listen to anyone, but also I learned that if I really listen to others, decisions aren't always so easy or clear-cut. I have learned that making the right decision in the face of obvious and clear evidence is not a matter of fact. It is just good logic. But moving ahead when necessary in the face of uncertainty is akin to faith.

I have learned and decided one more thing. I learned that almost every one of the six candidates for Bishop of the Diocese spoke of the importance of youth in the Church. They were very persuasive. Therefore, I have decided to invite the Vestry, staff, and members of the congregation to join with me to examine our own thoughts and efforts in making our youth ministries more effective and celebratory. I pray that you will faithfully and logically decide to accept this invitation.

Faithfully,

Robert Davenport



To
Know
Christ
and To
Make
Him
Known



Submitted By Ben Blanchard:

Fall Mannamakers at the home of
Charlotte and John Chandler

5232 Edgewater Drive, Norfolk VA
23508

October 17, 2008 6:30 PM,
RSVP: 423-4380

Come dressed to impress with your best taffeta dress or ruffled shirt, as this promises to be the best 80's prom party you've ever attended. We'll be blasting Bon Jovi, Prince, Madonna and Journey with the help of a live 80's Disc Jockey. Bring a dish to share and something totally awesome to drink. We will take awesome prom pictures and dance the night away. (80'S PROM DRESS IS OPTIONAL- TOTALLY COME AND DRESS HOWEVER YOU WANT FOR AN AWESOMELY GOOD TIME!)

Mannamakers is sponsored by the Hospitality Committee and is a time for Adults of the parish to get to know each other in a fun social atmosphere.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARTY
on December 14th at 6pm!

**The Blessing of the Animals, Sunday, October 5th,
10:00 AM We invite you and your animal companion
to join us as we Celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of
Assisi and give thanks for the animals in our lives!**
Bring your cats and dogs and cows that go moo, your sheep and llama
and your bull named Blue, your fish, your pig or your Siamese cat, and
yes you are welcome to bring your pet bat. Have you a turtle?



One, maybe two or three, or ferrets and snakes that sit on your knee. If you've got a fish who likes to dive, bring him on out on October 5. An animal blessing is what we will hold for animal lovers both young and old. So, clean out those cages and wash up your pets. Bring them on out and a blessing they will get. **WANT MORE INFO? GOODSHEPHERD-**

NORFOLK.ORG

Christian Education: Submitted By Patricia Mckee

Stepping on sacred ground....

For all of us, at many junctures of our lives, sacred ground at church means many different things. For the youngest that come through our doors it means coming into a place that is safe and secure which relates to their conception of who God might be in their lives. A place where we feel good and can express ourselves, where our shoes aren't too tight and our clothes aren't pinching. A place where we can learn and sing and shout and dance and speak without condemnation -yet a place where we are gently taught to love and care for everyone and share with each other. Our very young folks learn by watching the reactions and interactions of the older children, youth and adults coming through our doors and in the pew next to us.

For the youth among us (and they are here and wonderful) it means finding a place to touch base with friends, making choices in how to welcome or share compassion with those we think we don't like (or don't think we like), a place not to stand out but to feel accepted and welcome, a place where also our voice can be heard at times and we can call this place our own. A place, where I hope as a Director of Christian Education, youth can doubt and question, and find some comfort in the world in which they live, some sense of Christ in their midst, as they deal with disappointment with the world periodically.

For those of us who are older, and even older, The Church of the Good Shepherd is a very sacred place to worship God, and walk in faith week in and week out. Where our gifts of all kinds have been shared with great sacrifice. Where the old familiar words meet the need we find in a world that seems sometimes full of conflict and change. A place where we can pray and worship without interruption and in privacy. I encourage all of us to take advantage of worship and the educational offerings planned to enrich our lives this year. But I also challenge each of us, to spend a moment with someone for whom 'sacred ground' might mean something different than our experience in life. And perhaps this 'sacred ground at Good Shepherd' can continue to grow into an ever wider circle. Peace,
Tricia McKee



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Christian Education: Submitted By Tricia McKee

Parents and Young Children, remember to take a break and stop in at Ruach on Wednesday evenings. Music, art, story, movement, and moments to pause and listen for God in our lives in the midst of our busy week. 5:15 to 6:15 PM Contact Tricia McKee in the Church Office for more information.

Sunday Evening Bible Study For adults of all ages, 5:00-6:00 PM

For those in leadership on Sunday mornings, for those who can't be with other long term studies such as EFM. This group is studying together the Book of Acts this fall. Acts is an amazing and enduring narrative of the church that follows Jesus Christ. Still relevant for our meditation as the church community today. Adult education at its best at Good Shepherd-learners together!

Sunday Evening: 5-6 PM Bible Study: 5-6pm Chance to enrich our lectionary study for our lives.

Tuesday: Intercessory Prayer Group: 11-Noon-gathers in The Well.

Wednesday: Lectionary/Synthesis Scripture Study: 9am, for next week's worship.

Friday Morning & Thursday Evening: EFM Groups: Sept.-May These groups are already established for the 2008 year. Ongoing recruitment and information is available through Rev. Robert Davenport and Tricia McKee in the church office.