



The Shepherd's Staff

Volume 13 Issue 6

JUNE 2009

Special points of

Interest:

- **Capital Campaign Update**
- **2009 General Convention July 7-18, 2009 Anaheim, CA**

Mission Statement

Our mission is to be a beacon of faith known for engaging all persons in the love and truth of Jesus Christ

Inside this issue:

Deacon's Corner	2
Ministry Notices	3-5
Liturgical Notes	5
Church Directory Updates	5
June Birthdays and Anniversaries	6
June Schedules	6
June Calendar	7

TRIPODS OF FAITH . . .

In our Judeo/Christian tradition there are a number of tripods of faith. The Summary of the Law states: You shall love the Lord your God with all our heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. The marriage service makes explicit: The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy. The Cursillo movement speaks of the importance of Piety, Study, and Action. There is the Trinity that theologically refers to God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And there are the three major festivals of the liturgical year: Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost. Each of these tripods is about faith relationships. Our faith is not one dimension but rather multi dimensional; just as our makeup as humans is also multi dimensional.

May 31, we shall celebrate the Day of Pentecost, one of the three major festivals of the Church year. Christmas celebrates God's Word coming to us as Emmanuel, God-With-Us, in Jesus. Easter celebrates God's Word being raised from death to life in the resurrection of Jesus. Pentecost celebrates God's Word penetrating our hearts, souls, and minds to empower us to be witnesses for the ministry and mission of Jesus.

Scripture describes Pentecost as the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Word taking on a lively action. In the Acts of the Apostles the Holy Spirit comes as the sound like the rush of a violent wind; as divided tongues, as of fire, resting on the disciples and others; as giving the disciples and others the ability to speak in other languages. The Day of Pentecost gives birth to the Church, the Body of Christ, to become evangelists of the Good News of God in Christ.

The Rev. John G. Harnett, St. Elizabeth's, Ridgewood, New Jersey says: "Pentecost is the celebration of everything, finally making sense to the people who are closest to Jesus. Making sense of our relationship with God so that it is liberating and deeply transforming. The people of Pentecost are the first harvest of the new life. They are living a life of obedience that comes not from dutiful compliance to an external code of do's and don'ts but embrace an obedience that radiates out from grateful hearts. Pentecost is about our transformation and that of our world. On Pentecost we leave one life behind and begin to enter a new one."

Christmas and Easter in the secular world are known as holidays. There are school vacations, some places of work are closed, and merchandise is plenty for purchase. Not so with Pentecost. The beauty of Pentecost is that the secular world has no claim on it. It is a major festival known and owned by the Church. Yes, Pentecost comes during the spring and churches aren't packed like on Christmas and Easter. But most important, Pentecost completes the faith tripod and gives authenticity and power to Christmas and Easter. Each of these three major festivals does not stand alone but in relation to each other.

So let us catch the Holy Spirit moving in our lives. Better yet, it just may catch us! Let this Spirit nurture and empower our hearts, souls, and minds. Let the breath of God transform us into the living body of Christ to set us on a journey of joining God in making the creation new.

Faithfully in Christ,

Ladd

Deacons' Corner

You have often heard Mike and me talk about our good friend, Father Jamie Parsley. Jamie is an Assistant Poet Laureate of North Dakota. In 2005, Jamie was diagnosed with testicular cancer. During the ordeal, he did what any poet would do, he wrote poems to express himself. A collection of his poetry from this time was published in a book, **Just Once**. When Jamie visited Shepherd of the Hills he shared some of his poems from the book. I'd like to share one of my favorites. This one was written after he had found the growth, but had not been formally diagnosed with cancer.

There

The winter sparrows all at once
are quiet. I heard them and now
I don't. Something thuds instead in
my head like a disjointed dream---
a queasy realization that whirs and turns

within me like well-oiled hinges.
My head pulses, but not *it*---- *it!*----
huddled there. No, it doesn't pulse
or thud. I think it's dead---
dead like a stone is dead. Only it's

there. *There!* Snow hisses at
the window and I feel like I'm
going to fall against a wall.
But I can't. I can't
cup it even. It's that big,

that far swollen beyond
my flat pink palm, beyond the
Last reaching fingertip. The
winter sparrows are hushed
into a silence deeper than

this unending winter. They have fled
into a sky grayer than their gray
shadows. They have left a hushed
silence in the place they just fled,
just beneath my bedroom window

where pale light falls. It falls
there and makes the gray snow yellow,
where all the twig-like tracks of the birds
are laid out like the words of this poem.
There. Just there.

Deacon Linda

\$255,000 PLEDGED TO CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

"WHERE YOU LEAD LORD, WE WILL FOLLOW," has reached **73%** of the three-year \$350,000 goal in less than four weeks since the campaign was launched the weekend of April 25/26. A total of seventy-six gifts and pledges have been received to date. The Vestry and Capital Campaign Committee are deeply grateful for the enthusiastic and wonderfully generous response from members, past members, and friends of Shepherd of the Hills, who have already committed their financial support of our \$1,200,000 building program!

Sonna Keene and Paul James, co-chairs

To Believe or Not to Believe

by The Rt. Rev. H. W. Shipp
St. Paul's, Savannah, Georgia

The United States has been cast as the most 'religious' of the so-called Western countries. Indeed, Europe is fast becoming a post-Christian continent, and a fast growing Muslim one. The most sophisticated and culturally mature countries often are the least religious ("I would rather walk naked through the city than talk about God," a Dane, *New York Times*). In other parts of the world, some of the most Christian of countries are the most dangerous in which to live.

While about 80 % of Americans say they "believe in God," that tells little. Perhaps half our population are members of congregations, but only about half of those regularly attend worship services. Most Americans are baptized and likely will be buried by a clergyperson, indicating a "cultural Christianity," but the percentage here too is decreasing. Books on atheism are best sellers, and even are advertised on London buses.

(Continued on page 5)

Ministry Notices

Ministry of the Month

Flower Ministry

The Flower Ministry was started by Jo Hagen in 1994 when our church became a mission church in the Diocese of Central Florida. Jo is a retired "Master" florist with years of experience in the St Petersburg-Clearwater area. She has also been choir director since the beginning. In addition, she was the #1 care giver for her husband, Burt, who was confined to a wheelchair. Talk about having a full plate!

Then in 2005, Jo needed to have surgery on her back. So I thought to myself, "This woman needs help." Then I volunteered to assist her with the flower arranging. With her encouragement, I became a student of the art. I've always had a strong interest in butterflies, and of course, flowers and butterflies do go together. Jo brought out a talent in me I didn't know existed. It has been a joy for me! We shared arranging duty several years and in 2006, she turned the ministry over to me.

The process starts with determining the necessary color and season of the church calendar which begins with Advent then Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and so on. Then the shape of the arrangement is considered. The next step is determining the amount of flowers to purchase and placing the order with the florist. We use "Flower Time" here in Lecanto, as they always have the freshest flowers available. Then the flowers must be picked up from the florist and conditioned before arranging.

Ingrid Sewell has been assisting with the arrangement over a year, but is away at the present time. If anyone is interested in learning the art of flower arranging, I would be glad to pass on what I've learned through the years.

We try to keep costs as low as possible. A Sign-up sheet to give flowers is in the Narthex. Flower arrangements still remain \$15.00 each.

Peggy Seward

New Ministry

Care Givers Ministry

Shepherd of the Hills will be helping Good Shepherd Lutheran Church with their Care Givers Ministry. Below is an explanation of the their Ministry. Please consider volunteering in this important ministry.

The purpose of the Caregivers Ministry is to give a "care giver" some time free from fulltime care of their loved one. A caregiver is a person who takes care of another person (the attendee) who needs constant attention. The volunteers of this ministry will provide companionship and some entertainment for the attendees such as bingo, singing, reading, putting puzzles together etc. The volunteers may pray together for this ministry, the caregivers and the attendees.

Caregiver Ministry meets each Friday from 12:30 until 4:00pm. This is an opportunity for the caregiver of a loved one to have some free time for themselves. We are in the need of "Helpers" to assist the leaders during the Summer when a lot of the caregivers have gone up North and won't return until late Fall. We would like to schedule you during the month of June to come and observe and get a feel if this is something you would care to Help with. July, August and September will be the months we will need the most help.

We pray for God to grow the ministry in His will; that He would bless the volunteers, caregivers, and the attendees; and that He would always be there to protect them.

If you are interested in this Ministry, please sign up on the volunteer sheet in the narthex.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is located n Hwy. 486 opposite Citrus Hills Boulevard in Hernando.

John Bourdeaux, Coordinator

TLC from your Parish Nurse



HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS...

This is a subject that most of us would rather not think about. But here is a list of must have supplies:

Cash (ATMs may not work after the storm)
Charcoal and lighter Fluid
Waterproof Matches
Drinking water: at least a 3-day supply;
1 gal.per person per day)
Prescription Medicine (2 week supply)
Flashlights/Lanterns
Two Ice Chest w/ice (one for ice, one for food)
Manual Can Opener
Battery operated Radio and Clock
Spare Batteries (2 spare sets for each device)
Toilet Paper and Hygiene items
First aid kit
Bleach for sterilization (unscented with Hypochlorite the only active ingredient)
Iodine or water purification tablets
Disposable Plates, Glasses and Utensils
Baby supplies
Plastic Garbage Bags
Disinfectant
Soap, Hand Sanitizer and Dish Detergent
Insect Repellent and Sunscreen
Cellular Phone
Camera and film
Books, Magazines and toys
Plastic Sheeting / tarp
Duct or Masking Tape
Nails, Rope, Lumber, tools
Rain Gear
Fire extinguisher
Fuel for Generators and Cars
Propane Gas for Grills

NONPERISHABLE FOOD

Canned Meat
Canned fruits and Vegetables
Canned Soups and Chili
Dried Foods
Dried fruits and Nuts
Cereal
Crackers and cookies
Coffee, tea or Drink Boxes
Peanut Butter and Jelly
Pudding
Powered Milk
Evaporated Milk or Parmalat Milk

**Remember Hurricane Season starts June 1.
Every one keep safe!**

If you have any questions please feel free to call me. Or let me know on Sunday after the service.

Sylvia G. R.N. Parish Nurse.

SOS Ministry

In April SOS served 11,366 lbs of food to 654 people: 184 children, 383 adults and 87 seniors.

We are preparing for our move to Key Center in Lecanto. This will take place at the end of the May. We will start food service on June 4th at the Key Center.

Key Center will help with the wiring and installation of two small air conditioners. Volunteers from SOTH, House of Power Church and Good Shepherd Lutheran will clean, paint and help move our food and equipment to the Key Center.

We have started integrating our churches into working teams for our new location. It is very exciting and the energy level, already high, is soaring.

Thank you for your continued support.

God bless!

(Continued from page 2)

Believe

Views on religion range from it being "helpful" and "commendable" to "personal" and "nice." Surveys demonstrate many persons have benign indifference and sometimes utter obliviousness to religion considering it a non-issue. Nevertheless, death is a subject that can evoke anxiety amongst the non-religious (sometimes amongst the religious, too). Issues surrounding evolution (Darwin and company) move many Christians into defensiveness, while others find evolution fits very well into their God/nature scenario.

Jesus was a "nice man" who helped people and gave us fine guidelines for moral living." And that's about as far as it goes for many folks, especially in Europe (for contrast, recall the horrible 17th century religious wars). Here at home, many people, believers as well as non-believers, cannot articulate a basic understanding of the church as the Body of Christ and ark of salvation for all people. There seems to be a call here for everyone of us to a ministry of teaching and example.

THE 2009 GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

will convene in Anaheim, California July 8 – 17. More on convention in the July/August issue.

Hospitality Ministry

The Hospitality Ministry and congregation welcome our recent visitors:

Cheryl and Matthew Cantrall

Lon Frye and Susie Johnson

Liturgical Notes...

The Day of Pentecost is May 31. The liturgical color is RED. You are encouraged to wear something Red to celebrate the day. Trinity Sunday is June 7. On this day we celebrate God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The liturgical is WHITE. The Sundays following remain in the season of Pentecost. The liturgical is GREEN.

The parish was saddened by the death of Joyce Marguerite Warner, wife of Ray Warner, on Sunday, May 3, 2009. Rest eternal grant to her O Lord, and may light perpetual shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of the faithful rest in peace.

The Baptism of Olivia Anne Mei-Zhen Cass, daughter of Ted and Kelly Cass, and granddaughter of Peter and Marilyn Cass, will take place on Sunday, June 14 during the 8 am service.



Church Directory Updates

Add: Marion Redlon
Summer address until 11/02/09
516 Birch Pt Rd
Bath, ME 04530
207-442-8000

Change: Heather & Charles O'Bday
3811 N Tamarisk Ave
Beverly Hills, FL 34465
352-249-7589

Carolyn Pappas
Phone: 352-527-9146

Suzanne Carvajal
Email: sgcavajal@alumni.unc.edu

June 2009 *Happy* Father's Day

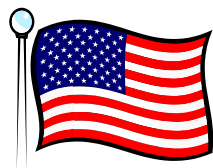


Birthdays

- June 1:** May Braun
June 2: Leah Forshay
June 3: June Hombergen
June 12: Bill Kinley
June 13: Marlene Harrison
June 14: Gene Caldwell
June 22: Alice Clingan
June 23: Margie Johnson
 Karen Wasey
 Carla Bickford
June 30: George Krueger
 Chris Joines

Anniversaries

- June 6:** Bob and Frances Cater
June 14: John and Karen Wasey
 Ernie and Judy Paskey
June 18: Larry and Judy Muntz
June 21: Ladd and Judy Harris
June 26: Jim and Sara Payne
 James and Mariana Blain



Flag Day
June 14, 2009

NOTE: If you cannot come as scheduled, please call for a replacement and notify the office at 527-0052 to be sure the master list is corrected.

Greeters

Saturday 5pm

- June 6: J & E Paskey
 June 13: N & J DeMerchant
 June 20: Rafferty Family
 June 27: L & R Cable

Sunday 8am

- June 7: M & P Cass
 June 14: L & H Papke
 June 21: K & J Wasey
 June 28: W Simpers & C Segers

Sunday 10am

- R & A Harlow
 S & J Payne
 P & D Howard
 G & A Medvigy

Chancel Servers

Saturday 5pm

- June 6: D Maasch
 June 13: D Maasch
 June 20: D Maasch
 June 27: D Maasch

Sunday 8am

- June 7: B Sewall
 June 14: P Cass
 June 21: B Sewall
 June 28: P Cass

Sunday 10am

- N Warrick /S Giffune
 A & C Holland/M Reed
 N Warrick/A Medvigy
 S Giffune/C Wilson

Lectors

Saturday 5pm

- June 6: J DeMerchant
 June 13: Sister A Rose
 June 20: J & S Carvajal
 June 27: L Grabiell

Sunday 8am

- June 7: M Wright
 June 14: L Papke
 June 21: B Sewall
 June 28: P Cass

Sunday 10am

- J Hagen/M Johnson
 A & R Harlow
 J Kalix/ L Hopper
 N Warrick/A Clingan

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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Lecanto, Florida

We are a Mission Church of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida

***It is the mission of Shepherd of the Hills Church to be a beacon of faith
known for engaging all persons in the love and truth of Jesus Christ.***

The Rt. Rev. John W. Howe, Bishop
The Rev, Ladd K Harris, Priest in Charge
(Phone 746-2812)
The Revs. Joan Clark, Mike Hall and Linda Liebert-Hall, Deacons

We're on the Web!!
www.sothec.org

Vestry Committee

Peter Cass - Sr. Warden, George Krueger - Jr Warden
Allen Harlow, Marlene Harrison,
Margie Johnson, Sonna Keene,
Haward Papke, Bette Patz, Natalie Warrick

Mary Reed, Clerk of the Vestry