



THE VOICE

“My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me.”
~ *Jesus, speaking to those gathered around him in the temple (John 10:27)*

In a recent sermon Pastor Bob began by asking the entire gathered congregation to “Baa” together. While this is an odd request, as he explained, it is in fact what sheep do. They “Baa.” As a seminary professor loved to point out to his students, sheep are not very smart animals. They’ll follow just about wherever the shepherd leads them. Sheep quickly learn to recognize the voice of their shepherd, and all the shepherd must do is speak a word to the sheep, and they will follow, even if it leads them off a cliff.

So then, what does it mean for us to be The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd? It means we are sheep. We are the sheep of the Good Shepherd, gathered here in this community by God, to follow. Our task together is plain: listen for the voice of The Shepherd and follow.

God’s voice is speaking in our midst. I believe it is the voice of The Good Shepherd that invited us to consider joining the Family Promise Network of congregations who will host homeless families four times per year. I believe it is the voice of The Good Shepherd who speaks to our youth, stirring up passion and excitement for serving others in so many ways. It is the voice of The Shepherd who asks us to give beyond ourselves, responding to the tremendous needs of those beyond our walls. The Shepherd speaks, and we follow.

This month we will celebrate The Baptism of Our Lord, one of the lesser festivals of the church year. At the beginning of our worship on January 10th we will, as a congregation, affirm our faith in Jesus, The Good Shepherd. Then we will participate in the asperges. That’s when Pastor Bob and I get to use a branch to fling water on you. It is an ancient rite, celebrated since the 10th century. This act of sprinkling the congregation with water is not just fun (it really is!!) but also a powerful reminder of the redeeming waters of baptism. It is a reminder of who we are and *whose* we are. The asperges reminds us all that we are not just sheep of The Shepherd, but *wet* sheep of The Shepherd.

We are sheep, who may not always be the smartest creatures, but as *wet* sheep we are loved and claimed by God, just as we are. As *wet* sheep we hear The Shepherd say to us, “I love you.” God finds us in our sheep-ness, even when we are lost. However, we are not left where we are. The shepherd asks us to follow. God calls us to always be on the move. Our work together is never complete. We can never rely on past achievements and simply be. The Shepherd will *always* be calling us to move to a new place, to follow a new lead.

So, sheep of The Good Shepherd, what new direction is God calling us to follow in this new year? How do *you* hear the voice of The Shepherd? Walking *wet*, may we all follow in faith and joy.

Blessings and peace,
Pastor Kathy

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Note to Contributors:

For the next issue, please turn in your articles by January 12. If you would like to send a contribution by e-mail, please send attachment in Word or Word Perfect to

nancyhuber@comcast.net

**Sunday, January 3, 2010
at 8 and 11 AM**



+ The Epiphany of Our Lord

All are invited to bring a wise man or magi figure from your home nativity set to worship. We will celebrate Jesus revealed as light to all nations as we mark the visit of the magi.

—Pastor Kathy

Good Shepherd joins Family Promise (TM) of Northern New Castle County

With the unanimous support of both the Social Ministry Committee and the Congregation Council, Good Shepherd has entered into a formal partnership with Family Promise®. The vote was based on the overall interest shown by members of the congregation attending the dinner and forum and signing up for the volunteer positions. This network is a **unique**, interfaith organization assisting homeless children and families by providing hospitality directly in our houses of worship. We are delighted to welcome Ralph and Lee Klesuis as our congregation coordinators for this ministry. They are now gathering information and meeting with coordinators at other churches in the network. We will all hear much more about this new project in the weeks and months to come.

—Phyllis Bierstedt

Display Case

“Good Shepherd has a little lamb, a little lamb, a little lamb” – now in the display case. Gathered from the collections of Dottie Chidester, Susan Hooper, Fran Dixon, Phyllis Bierstedt and Abby Wolfe’s craft room. The lambs and sheep were made in Australia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, and the USA. See if you can tell where they are from. Hint, the wooley ones are from Asian island countries. Most are hand made.

Isaiah 40:11 *He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.*

—Phyllis Bierstedt

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 24, 2010
*** One Worship Service at 9:30 AM ***
Annual Meeting to Follow

From the VOICE Editor

New Voice Editor

Due to other obligations, I have decided to resign my position as VOICE editor. I took over from Barbara Melosh in July, 2004. It has been my privilege to serve Good Shepherd in this position.

Nancy Huber has agreed to become the new editor of the VOICE. Her duties will begin with the next issue. If you usually submit your articles by email, please send them directly to Nancy Huber at **nancyhuber@comcast.net**. Handwritten information can still be dropped off at the church office.

—Nancy Koch

Welcome to our newest members...

Louis & Mary Kay Camaratta
310 Plymouth Rd.
Wilmington, DE 19803

Pat Acocella
3221 Landsdowne Dr. So.
Wilmington, DE 19810

Robert Bateman
20 Ruby Drive
Claymont, DE 19703

Maie & Endel Toomsoo
1202 Poplar St.
Foxfield
Garnet Valley, PA 19061

Gail & Kirk Erwin
3760 Brookcroft Pl.
Garnet Valley, PA 19061

Update on Heating/Air Conditioning Situation at Good Shepherd

At a special congregational meeting on December 13, the congregation authorized the Council to execute contracts to replace the existing heating and air conditioning systems in the sanctuary area of the property.

To support this effort, a capital campaign has been created with a goal of raising up to \$150,000.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. *How much will the project cost?*

Based on the budget estimates we have received, we anticipate that the final installed costs for the project will be between \$105,000 and \$125,000. There are a number of variables that are outside of our control (such as other system components that may fail during the replacement work) and we are conservatively budgeting for them, increasing the overall target for the campaign to \$150,000. The systems being replaced are old, and anyone who has ever turned a 20- or 50-year-old valve is aware of the risks involved.

2. *When will the project begin?*

The boiler portion of the project should begin as soon as possible. Once we have the commitments and funding in hand, we can sign the contracts for that portion of the work; the parts will be available two to twelve weeks after that signing depending on the manufacturing cycle and our timing. The air conditioner work will follow.

3. *What about the other AC systems in the building?*

There is no plan to make changes to the other air conditioning and heating systems in the building at this time. The units in the wings at the southern end of the building may be updated or replaced via the building and grounds reserve fund.

4. *In terms of financing, are we planning to issue bonds?* **No.**

5. *In terms of financing, are we planning on taking out loans?*

No. Given the size of this project, we believe congregational gifts will be sufficient. If that is not the case then the Council will need to pursue additional financing. However, we would very much prefer to not incur interest and loan costs.

6. *Can we use the building and grounds reserve?*

The building and grounds reserve fund has not been replenished for some time, and it does not contain enough funds to support this effort. If we raise more than the cost of the HVAC work, money will be dedicated from the overage to the building and grounds reserve and benevolence.

7. *What's the benevolence plan?*

If we raise more than the cost of the system, the plan is to dedicate a portion of the income to benevolences that provide heating and shelter to those less fortunate. While this is a new addition to our traditional capital campaign approach, we feel it is an important one, and from the initial giving commitments we believe it has led to increased giving. We will not be taking out loans for the purpose of paying a benevolence.

Continued of page 4

8. *What are our anticipated utility savings?*

We do not have a firm estimate on that. Due to the current system leaks we are presently pumping heated water into the parking lot, so at a minimum we expect reductions in both our water usage and our heating bill. We anticipate some savings in the operating efficiency of the systems.

9. *Who is the HVAC team?*

The HVAC team is Kay Gallogly, Craig Hooper, John Schneeweis, George Huemrich, Rick Bogda, and Tom Belk.

10. *What about other property issues?*

Following the completion of this project, the Council may initiate a study of other areas in the property to make sure we are adequately maintaining them. We are grateful for all the work the members of the Property Committee have performed to enable the systems to function for as long and as well as they have.

11. *Where do I turn in a commitment pledge card?*

Please put your commitment cards in the offering plate. If you are unable to do so, please send them to the church office or get them to Kevin Loney, Council president, or Kay Gallogly, Council vice-president.

Thank you for your continued support.
Kevin Loney, on behalf of Council

Hilltop Fundraiser Dinner and Christmas Gift Collection

First of all the fundraiser dinner was a huge success. We raised over \$2000 in that one evening! The board of directors was extremely thankful for the generosity of Good Shepherd in letting us use the Fellowship Hall and kitchen. Everyone raved over how beautiful the Hall is and wished that their churches were able to have a facility as large, beautiful, and well equipped as we have. The board unanimously voted to have the dinner on an annual basis at Good Shepherd if we are able.

Also, we owe a great deal of success for the dinner to the youth group of Good Shepherd. I have personally thanked each of the young people that participated in the dinner, and have sent them an e-mail communication. Mr. Jae Street thanked them profusely at the end of the dinner in the Fellowship Hall which led to a standing ovation from the dinner guests. Unfortunately, most of the youth were too far down the hall to retrieve to see and hear the response in person.

We must also thank Chris More, Sharon Oslin, Katie Mulrey, Abby Wolfe, Heidi Preisendanz, and Barbara and John Strobel. Each of these members went out of their way to assist with the dinner.

As for the Christmas Gift collection; we have at my request been given more children to sponsor this year. It turned out to be twice as many as previous years. So far, Good Shepherd is once again shining through in their support of the children at Hilltop. On the first Sunday that the posters were on the bulletin board, I would estimate that 2/3 of the gift requests were sponsored. Also, I have received \$90 in cash to purchase gifts! What a wonderful show of support. I truly believe that if we all work together, we can accomplish amazing things!!

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Marinelli

Notes to the Congregation

Please accept my heartfelt thankfulness to you, the people of Good Shepherd for the cards, flowers and most especially for the prayers that my niece, my extended family and I have received and continue to receive on the loss of my sister, her husband and her son. It is comforting to know others are praying for us during a time of great pain when sometimes prayer can be difficult to come by on one's own. Thank you again.

*Sincerely,
Janet James*

I have recently returned from four months in hospitals recovering from two falls and several broken bones to live with my son at 153 Cornwell Drive, Bear, DE 19701. My stay was made easier by the cards, phone calls, flowers and visits from my Good Shepherd family.
You never fail when I need you.

Thank you.
Pelham Bookout

*Dear Friends at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd,
I want to express my sincere thanks for all the kindness shown to George and me in recent months. While George was a patient, he was cheered by a visit from Pastor Bob, flowers from the altar and knowing that he was remembered on your weekly prayer list.*

Since he has passed away, I have been comforted by a visit by Pastor Kathy, altar flowers, continuing prayers and warm and cordial greetings on Sunday mornings.

Please know that all of your actions have helped make a very sad time a little more bearable.

*Most sincerely,
Shirley Hoeflich*

Prayer Line Requests

PRAY FOR:

JERRY ANTALIK
SETH BLOOM
PELHAM BOOKOUT
JOSEPH EVERLY
TARA HIGGINS
PATRICK JONES
LINDA LARKIN
DAN MERLO
JAY OTTO
MEGAN PIERCE
HARRIET SHEALY
OTIS SHEALY
NANCY WILLIAMS

CONCERN:

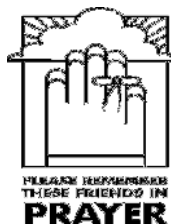
Poor Health

Continued Health Problems
Cancer
Brain Surgery
Cysts on the Brain

Severe Stroke
Brain Aneurysm
General Well Being
Complications from a Fall
Small Stroke

REQUESTED BY:

Carol Lee Waslick
Janet James
Self
Carolee Lee Waslick
Chris Otto
Nancy Wolfe
Self
Denise McCracken
Chris Otto
Janet James
Pastor Kathy
Self
Janet James



Friends & families of those persons removed from the prayer line thank everyone for their prayers and concerns.

Prayer requests may be made by calling Pastor Bob or Pastor Kathy at the church office, (302)-478-3030.

—Faith Moyer

Taste of the Olympics



The annual Youth Group Dinner will take place on Saturday, February 6. Come support the Good Shepherd youth and enjoy a fabulous dinner themed after the 2010 Winter Olympics! There will be entertainment and international food, with a special emphasis on Canadian dishes. What a great way to kick off the Olympics! Look for a reservation signup sheet in early January, and invite your friends and neighbors!

—Katie Mulrey

January Youth News

Happy New Year! Here is what the Youth Group will be up to this January...

Youth Group & Dinner

Sunday, January 10th 5pm-7pm

Join us for a Youth Group meeting and a home-made dinner

Monster Movie Night

Friday, January 15th 7pm-10pm

Bring a monster snack and watch a monster movie! (Monster costumes are encouraged.)

RoadTrip

Friday January 22nd - Sunday January 24th

High schoolers will head off to Ocean City for a synod-wide youth event.

Taste of the Olympics Planning Meeting

Sunday, January 31st 12:30pm – 3:30pm

Keep the following events in mind for February:

Taste of the Olympics

Saturday, February 6

Come support the Youth Group at their annual dinner fundraiser! This year we will be celebrating the start of the 2010 Winter Olympics!

Retreat

Friday, February 19 – Sunday, February 21

The Youth Group will retreat for a weekend of fellowship and spiritual growth.

—Katie Mulrey

Council met on December 9. The Bible study was lead by Pastor Bob centering on Acts 2:17. The main point of this scripture is 'When you dream, dream big'.

The financial report was given by Malcolm Styer. As of November 30, the amount of pledged income received was 93% of prorated amounts pledged through 11 months of 2009. At the same time in 2008, the percentage received was 96%. December 2009 income is forecast to be greater than that month's expenses resulting in a small projected surplus for this year. Pledges brought current will be appreciated.

The Pastors' Report was filled with activity and enthusiasm.

- ◆ It has been a busy time for pastoral care and funerals.
- ◆ Pastor Bob, as District Dean, installed Pastor David Mueller at St. Stevens, Wilmington.
- ◆ There are many upcoming opportunities for worship during Advent and Christmas.
- ◆ The Advent Celebration was attended by more than 60 people.
Sharon Oslin and Abby Wolfe coordinated.
- ◆ The election of synod bishop in January has been cancelled and will be held at the annual synod assembly in June 2010.

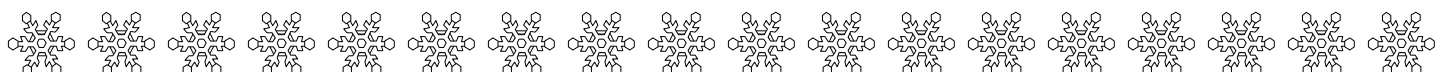
The Vice President of Modern Controls visited and reviewed for Council details of its proposal for a new heating/air conditioning system. A considerable amount of time was spent with questions and dialog. Following his visit Council prepared the details for the December 13th Special Congregational Meeting for funding this project.

Other considerations reviewed were –

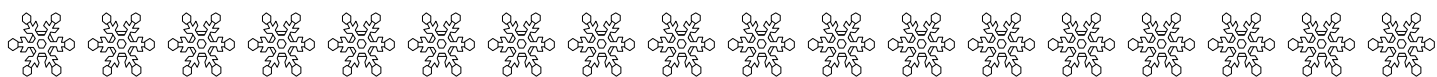
- ◆ Council approval of a one year commitment to the Family Promise Program
- ◆ The completion of the inventory of church property
- ◆ An update on the endowment fund
- ◆ Fine tuning of the 2010 budget based on latest receipts of 2010 pledges

Please contact any member of council with your questions and concerns. Thank you.

On behalf of Council,
Jim Simpson



May you have a blessed and joy-filled New Year.



From the Volunteer Coordinator

HELP!! We need a few couples to help with Funeral luncheons. We have one very dedicated couple now (Cy and Joanne Ohnmacht) but we need an understudy in case they are out of town. Also its good to have a couple extras to make work easier. For details, please talk to either Joanne Ohnmacht or Nancy Griffith.

Fifty-two pies were delivered to Harriett Tubman Church on Thanksgiving morning after the "Pie Elves" came and loaded them into my car. They were unloaded by young people from the church who were happy and enthusiastic about receiving them. Thanks to all the bakers.

—Nancy Griffith

Attention: Assisting Ministers Eucharistic Ministers Communion Assistants

January 17, Pastor Kathy will review the protocol and purpose of the various duties of Assisting Ministers and Eucharistic Ministers/Communion Assistants. There will be training sessions following both the 8 and 11 o'clock services. We welcome eleven new participants as worship leaders in these capacities and encourage all new and experienced people to attend.

Scott MacLaughlin
Worship & Music Committee



Kids at St. Philips' Grocery Club With Payless Coupons



LCS Distributes Shoes for Christmas

Payless ShoeSource selected Lutheran Community Services as a partner in the Payless Shoes 4 Kids Program – a national initiative to deliver \$1.2 million worth of free shoes to children of families in need this holiday season. LCS received 100 \$15 shoe gift coupons redeemable for, or toward, a pair of children's shoes at any Payless ShoeSource store in our area. More than 2,800 nonprofits applied for this program so we at LCS were pleased to be among the 700 selected. We know that a new pair of shoes can lift spirits, bolster self confidence and bring a huge smile to a child's face, especially when they get to pick the shoes out themselves, which makes the gift even more powerful. LCS distributed its coupons mainly through its network of Grocery Clubs at Lutheran Churches and through the LCS FAITH Center on Walnut Street in Wilmington.

Christian sympathy is extended to the families of these members who died.

Shirley Wartel died on November 1, 2009. There was a memorial service for her at Good Shepherd on December 5, 2009.

Lee Olson died on December 5, 2009. The Rite of Christian burial was held at Good Shepherd on December 12, 2009.

Christmas Pageant

At 9:45 AM on December 13, a little over 40 children brought the Christmas story to life under the direction of Paul and Kim Klocke. Others who helped in the production include Emily Trebilcock, Becca Holloway, Jessica Quillen, Kim Oslin, David Bowlsbey, Bert Hiddemen, David Ropars, and Susan Vantresca. Thanks to all who participated in this heartwarming event.

7 New Ways to Find Happiness

By Deepak Chopra

If you're struggling with how to define your life beyond material goods, Deepak Chopra has seven ways for you to make the shift, once and for all, to a purpose-driven life and authentic happiness.

One of the most positive ways to live is to look on every obstacle as a hidden opportunity. This holiday season poses huge challenges for those among us who have lost their jobs or feel financially insecure. Even if you don't fall into that category, the evening news brings worries on many fronts, from the deficit to terrorism. I'd like to propose that there is a common problem in all these things that you can turn into an opportunity.

The problem is how to be happy.

Right now, the American way of life defines happiness along lines that are quickly being outmoded:

You will be happy if you consume as much as possible.

You will be happy if you have money, the more the better.

You will be happy if you can distract yourself with video games, television, the Internet and movies.

You will be happy if you fall in love with "the right one" and raise a family in a house you own paid for by a secure job.

The current economic downturn has affected all these factors, and even before it happened, high divorce rates were undermining the traditional model of the American family, moving from job to job was becoming increasingly common and rates of depression, anxiety and drug use continued to soar. As a background to all these things, stress is rising in everyone's life.

Instead of ignoring these trends, why not go to the root of the problem, which is that we need a new way of being happy. What do divorce, terrorism, unemployment and buying big-screen TVs have in common? They all show that happiness can be taken away, because when you depend on anything outside yourself to make you happy, your happiness is vulnerable.

A new way to be happy would be based on the following new principles:

1. **Life has a purpose.** When you live up to that purpose, inner happiness develops.
2. **Inner happiness can't be taken away.**
3. **In place of consumerism, you can base everyday happiness on relationships.**
4. **In place of distractions, you can fill your time with activities that make your heart grow.**
5. **You can find a place beyond fear that crises and anxiety cannot touch.**
6. **You can find a place of peace that stress cannot wear out.**
7. **Wellness will make your body happy.**

If people took a look at their lives and made real attempts to follow these seven principles, a new kind of happiness would be born that no one can take away.

[Apply each of the principles today.](#)

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Contributed by Kay Gallogly