



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

THE VOICE

MAY 2012

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:6-8

Dear Friends in Christ,

May the peace of our risen Lord and savior Jesus Christ be with you! The Easter shouts of "Alleluia!" still ring in our ears, as our celebration continues. In worship, we hear stories of those first post-resurrection days, filled with remarkable encounters with the risen one. Jesus met his followers in the midst of their fear, doubt and skepticism, offering words of peace. "Peace be with you," seems to be the most common greeting Jesus uses in this new post-Easter reality. Perhaps he knew that peace would be one of the greatest resources his friends would need to face the unknown future that lay before them.

Resurrection changes things. It has always amazed me that a common theme in these stories is a desire on the part of the disciples to return to the way things were before they ever met Jesus. They gather in upper rooms. They go fishing all night. They walk back to Emmaus. But the risen one will not let things remain as they have always been. Resurrected Jesus finds a way in, and moves them forward.

Yet those times, those tremendous encounters with Jesus, are brief and fleeting. Before they know it, Jesus is standing among them for the last time. And then he's gone. As he leaves them behind, he gives them a gift and a job. The gift is the Holy Spirit, the very presence of God dwelling with them. The job? Well, that's where it gets interesting. Jesus' disciples ask him that burning question, "Are we there yet? Is this finally the time when you will restore the kingdom?" His answer isn't quite what they were hoping for, I imagine. He says their job isn't to try to figure out when (or how or where...). Their job is to give voice to the story, to take their experience of life with Jesus, and talk about it. Tell what they know. Leave the rest to God. Jesus gave them everything they needed. He offered them peace. He promised the power of the Spirit. He told them what to do. For nearly 2000 years, neither the gift nor the job has changed. We also have received the peace of the Lord. We also have received the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We also have been invited to share what we have seen, heard and felt.

So much is made of trying to figure out when and where and how all of this will end. Yet Jesus told us not to waste our time arguing over those things. Instead, he invites us, each and every day, to simply give voice to the gifts we have received. We do this all the time, by loving one another, even when it is hard, by seeking the good of the other as often (more even!) than we seek our own good.

Jesus is no longer with us the way he was with the disciples. But we have seen God's power in the world around us. Share the story. Live in the light of the resurrection.

In peace,

Pastor Kathy

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Worship

Easter: Season of Celebration!

Sunday, May 13th ~ Celebrate the Gift of Music

Worship at 8 and 11 a.m. highlighting the musical gifts of the congregation. Choirs and instruments will lead us in Easter praise!

Sunday, May 20th ~ Celebrate Growing in Faith

Worship at 8 and 11 a.m. with special recognition and blessing of the Class of 2012.

On this final day of our Sunday School program year, we celebrate with a special breakfast between services. All are welcome!

Sunday, May 27th ~ Celebrate the Spirit

We begin our summer worship schedule with one worship service at 9:30 a.m. for the Festival of Pentecost. Come celebrate the ways the Holy Spirit of God is blowing in our midst!

There will be a baptism at 9:30am service on May 27th. The baby's name is Vivian Susan Baird. She was born on December 29, 2011. The parents are Susan & Brian Baird.

Music

Music Sunday

On May 13, both services will feature a Music Festival Sunday. Participating will be our Senior Choir, Memorial Handbell Ringers, Junior Choir, and Instrumental Ensemble. We will celebrate the rich musical gifts God has given our congregation. This will mark the close of the season for the handbell and junior choirs. Join us in celebrating.

Phillies/Nationals Game

Good Shepherd Choir has been invited to join the choir of Aldersgate United Methodist Church on the field at Citizens Bank Park to perform the National Anthem before the game on Tuesday, May 22.

- David Bowlsbey, Director of Music

YOUTH NEWS

Note: Youth groups are held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of May instead of the 2nd and 4th as usual.

Origami Youth Group

May 6th, 4:30 – 6:00

Come learn how to make some awesome origami. From flowers to cranes to 3D globes - you'll learn it here!

Youth Run Coffee Hour

May 13th

Come represent the youth group at coffee hour. Bring some of your favorite breakfast food to share.

End of Year Olympics & BBQ

May 20th 4:00 – 6:30

Get pumped for the Summer Olympics! Teams will face off in events like volleyball, relay races, and obstacle courses. Enjoy a BBQ together afterwards.

Look for information about a trip to the Elk river in June!

- Katie Mulrey

VBS



This year we are very excited about our summer VBS program:

Sky, where “Everything is possible with God” (Mark 10:27).

Sunday June 17th – Thursday June 21st come soar with us from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. Each night we'll have games, crafts, singing, Bible stories, and skits. We'll take a short break for supper prepared by our own Sky Chefs.

Cost: \$20 per child or \$30 for a family to help defray costs for food and supplies.

If you cannot come every night, that's okay. Come when you can.

And bring a friend or several friends. Everyone is welcome!

Sky flight reservations are available in the narthex. We'll also be accepting “applications” for flight attendants, pilots, co-pilots, and sky chefs.

Need more information? Ask air traffic control: Nancy Wolfe, Jennifer Quillen-Strauss, Paul Mackay, or Sharon Oslin.

Registration forms are available next to the posters and electronically with the Voice. Please return completed forms and payment to the church office.”

Family Promise Update.....

As we prepare for our May hosting, we want to update all of you on the status of this ministry at Good Shepherd. The Network has a new wonderful, dedicated and dynamic Executive Director. Carolyn Gordon's first day in her new position was in November, 2011 which also was one of our host weeks. On her second day of work she visited Good Shepherd at dinner time to say "Hi" and take a tour. Under her capable leadership this ministry is going to grow and thrive.

We are happy to report that 3 of the 4 families that were with us in both November and February have all graduated to independent living with secure jobs and housing. Two of the families even received donated cars from two of the churches. One family found their jobs through contacts with the church volunteers. With fourteen host churches and ten support churches, there are many resources to help find jobs, housing and goods for our families. The goal of the Network is to move the families into independent housing as soon as possible. After obtaining housing, the Network will offer them support services and training for another six months to help build a solid foundation toward maintaining independent living. We are, indeed, helping these families gain self esteem, hope and independence.

As of yesterday, **we** now have a committed support church. Chester- Bethel United Methodist Church will be helping us during each host week. Details have not yet been worked out, but we expect that they will be providing up to two of the evening meals and possibly some of the van driving. We will keep you informed as they expect to be on board for our May hosting.

Finally, as you know there is now a new policy at Good Shepherd that suggests that leadership roles rotate and change every 3 years. This is our third year of doing Family Promise. We will be looking for new task coordinators and church coordinators in the months to come. If you have any interest please let us know. Our coordinators have done a fabulous job getting this ministry up and running. It is a work in progress and continues to need good leadership to carry us forward. Thank you to each and every one of you who has done anything to support Family Promise in any way. Our collective efforts are making a difference in the lives of our guest families.

LCS FAITH Center Delivers



We received a warm letter from a recent FAITH Center client that goes a long way toward explaining the unique role that the FAITH Center plays for its clients. The letter begins: *"I was at my lowest point on April 4, 2012, but little did I know that on that same day I would receive monetary and nonmonetary deliverance through the FAITH Center."* Dorothy's story is almost like a composite of our clients...a traumatic upbringing, job downsizing, unemployment, constant badgering from bill collectors.... Also like many of our clients she was confused about her appointment, showed up on the wrong day but returned on the right one. Dorothy calls that meeting a "turning point in my life," and a "divine appointment" that went well beyond her need for utilities. She had nothing but positive things to say about the LCS FAITH Center employees. Her letter was peppered with praise about their welcoming caring attitude, compassion, and empathy. To conclude, Dorothy got financial help with her utilities, and much more.

+Alleluia! Blessed are those who die in the Lord+

We pray for the family of Joe Mazur who died on Monday, April 2, 2012. A funeral service was held on Monday, April 9th at McCreary & Harra Funeral Home.

PRAYER LINE REQUESTS

PRAY FOR:	CONCERN:	REQUESTED BY:
KAREN BARTKOWSKI ROE BLUME	Massive Stroke/Heart Attack Lung Tumor	Donna Harris Pastor Kathy
STEPHANIE CORNELL DIANE FULGINITI KELLY HARROUN TRINA HAXTON	Well Being Heart Problem Breast Cancer Auto Accident	David Bowsbey Fran Dixon Chris Otto Susan Wendt
KARLA KLUMP BOB MELEGA BETTY NOLAN LISA PELLIGRINO JOE PRUCINO JAN ROMANO JUNE ROBINSON	Cancer Dememtia Cancer Neck Surgery Lung Cancer Cancer Continued Care	The Wolfe's Victor Melega Fran Dixon Betsy Lengel Sally Heinz Joe Schwartz Debbie Sheridan
JUNE SERCER SUE SHANK OTIS SHEALY	Broken Hip Valve Surgery Continued Care	Susan Hooper Barbara Keller Pastor Kathy
BILL STANZIALE DANNY SWAGGART HELEN TORGERSON NANCY WILLIAMS	Failing Health Cancer Continued Care Well Being	Betty Rodham Barbara Keller Bob Torgerson Janet James



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

Prayer requests may be made by calling Pastor Kathy at the church office, (302) 478-3030 or Faith Moyer (302) 475-3122

LUNCH BUNCH VISITS GALLERY

On April 19, fifteen of us visited the Andre' Harvey Gallery in Breck's Mill on the scenic Brandywine River just downstream from Hagley Museum. The sculptor works in bronze, using the lost wax method of casting. The many pieces on display show beautiful artistry with the animals (including a full size cow!) even showing some whimsy.

Plan on joining Lunch Bunch May 17 when we gather at the Tidewater Grille (inside dining or on the deck) in Havre de Grace, Maryland, about 40 miles away, traveling by carpool. A very informal town tour with minimum walking will follow. Nancy and Jim Simpson are hosts.

June 21 Annual picnic at Karol Hitt's summer house on the Chesapeake

Sep 20 Mercer Castle in Doylestown PA

Oct 18 Shady Maple Restaurant in East Earl PA

Nov 15 Victrola Museum in Dover

Please put these dates on your calendar and join us. All are welcome.

- Jim Simpson

Congratulations to parents, Lindsay and Greg Dearing, and grandparents,

Doreen and Pat McGrath, on the birth of Caitlyn Elizabeth on Friday, April 6th.

I wish to thank the wonderful people of Good Shepherd for the beautiful flowers, lovely cards, calls and especially prayers following my recent knee replacement. They were all greatly appreciated. Thank you so much.

- Sarah Hess

Save the date:

Sunday, June 10th
2012 Church Picnic

If you would like to help organize this event, please contact Linda Ulmanis or Sharon Oslin.



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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On the web:

www.goodshepherd-wilmington.org

Sunday Worship

May 6, 13 and 20:

8:00 & 11:00 AM

May 27: 9:30

Church Staff:

Pastor: Kathy Ierien

Youth Minister: Katie Mulrey

Secretaries: Susan Wendt and Sandy Andrews

Church Council President: John Schneeweis

Director of Music: David Bowsbey

Handbell Director: Margaret Love

Parish Administrator: George Huemmrich

Parish Nurse: Heidi Preisendanz

Sexton: Bob Moyer

Volunteer Ministry Coordinator: Nancy Griffith

Voice Editor: Lynn Ziemer

Note to Contributors:

For the next issue, please submit your articles by May 15th. If you would like to send a contribution by e-mail, please send an attachment in Word to TheVoiceGS@GMX.com.