

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

February 2011

(our website good-shepherd.us)

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd is a Christian community empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness to the good news of Jesus Christ through worship and service, in faith and with love, to all people.

From The Pastor

To all the saints at Good Shepherd,

Each year between the festivals of The Confession of St. Peter on January 18 and the Confession of St. Paul on January 25 Christian churches of all denominations are encouraged to participate in what is known as A Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This year members representing seven local congregations came together here at Good Shepherd on Sunday, January 16, to worship and engage in fellowship.

Personally I think the most important part of the afternoon was, when following the worship service, refreshments were provided and people gathered in circles of eight to ten people to introduce themselves to one another and then engage in a discussion of three questions asking their thoughts concerning what unity means, and how it might be expressed throughout the year. After about thirty minutes each group's recorder shared the results of their conversation, and it was remarkable how energized people had become, and what good ideas had been developed. I know the clergy were very pleased with what took place, and will meet to further consider how we can keep the idea of unity alive.

Why was this event so significant? Because it evidenced to me that people of the various faith communities need to have a closer relationship with each other. They need to know that despite different denominational labels there is much that can be done to strengthen ties among fellow Christians as we strive to work, study and pray together in the future.

Unity is not uniformity. Unity means that despite differences in theological matters, worship styles or other factors, there is something much more important that transcends those matters. That something else is serving our Lord by loving one another, and by together loving the community where we live.

As a follow up to this event there will be a meeting of the pastors of the participating congregations to consider the ideas compiled by the discussion groups. From that there should begin to emerge a clearer picture of what future unity opportunities might be. I will keep you informed.

Grace and peace

Pastor Jack

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY- even though I am your half-time Pastor, I am available to provide emergency pastoral care on a FULL TIME basis. Therefore, if you are in need of pastoral help, please know you can call me at my home 732-864-0616 rather than waiting until I am in the office. This also applies if you should know someone else who is in need of a Pastor because of serious circumstances. Pastor Jack

Council Minutes 01/10/11

In attendance were the following:

Gil Vatter, Garry Westerweller, Andy Mathisen, Karl Torjussen, Tom Tehve, Pat Miller, Mike Carp, Steve Miller and Pastor Elstad.

Sharon Oberkehr, Lil Nemcik, Lou Medici, Liz Westerweller, and John Crump were excused and not in attendance.

Gil opened the meeting with prayer

Pastor led us in devotions from the Book of Concord. "we should take a moment before we speak and act as we may save a life"

December 13th minutes were approved

Reports

Treasurer's Report presented by Pat Miller.

- Monthly and Annual Report attached
 - December giving was exceptionally low
 - Expenses for 2010 were a little higher than last year due to legal costs
 - Insurance and utilities were lower than expected
 - Gave \$3250 this month to local charities and Synod
 - Little Chiefs is a new source of income for us, but start up costs were high
 - German school suffered a small loss of students
- Approved as received

Christian Education Report presented by Gil

- Thanks to Andy for volunteering to be the new Sunday School Teacher
- Awaiting report from Sharon on bible purchases for Sunday School
- Proceeding with voluntary nursery care, will ask Sharon status of permanent person

Evangelism Report none presented as Lil Nemcik is going into the hospital. Our thoughts and prayers are with her for a speedy recovery

Fellowship Report

- Debbie and crew are planning on providing refreshments for the January 16th Unity Service

Finance Report presented by Karl Torjussen

- Though we are thankful for each and every pledge, we will send Thank you letters to those whose pledges are known.
- Budget OK'd to present to Congregation at the annual meeting

Property Report presented by Steve Miller

- Steve reviewed some of the repairs that have been made
- Clearing of Snow, Front Flood Bulb replaced, Narthex Fluorescent u-bulb replaced, HVAC filters and valves checked.
- Experimented with lowering heat settings in certain areas and calculated a \$108 gas bill savings.
- Reported on changes to our Website postings.
 - Good Shepherd will move its hosting service
 - We will stop paying for Little Lambs domain names
 - Suggestions were presented to create a new sub site for Good Shepherd Youth.
- Publicity Person's job description to be run in voice

Social Ministry presented by Mike Carp

- \$1125.00 in sponsorship is committed for 2011 to St. Marks
- Souper Bowl of Caring is coming up. This should be a youth coordinated event

Worship and Music presented by Andy

- Carols and readings service was represented well
- We will need assistance for upcoming Miae vacation
- Andy also presented a list of Council members that will serve again in 2011. They were as follows; Mike Carp, Karl Torjussen, Garry Westerweller, Steve Miller, Lil Nemcik, Sharon Oberkehr, Tom Tehve, John Crump, Pat Miller, Andy Mathisen, and Andy Lichter.

Youth Group Report presented by Garry

- Upcoming event needs to be scheduled. Possibilities include; Ice Skating, play, Crayola Factory visit.
- Note that as we proceed with youth events we must keep in mind our social ministry obligations through the youth.

Pastor's Report presented by Pastor Elstad

- Copy of Pastor's report and Activity Summary is attached
- Officiated at Memorial Service for Scott Barlett on 12/12.
- Met with area clergy to plan for the observance of The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Christmas Eve service attendance was up from last year
- 4:00 PM Earlier service seemed to work well

Presidents Report presented by Gil

- Committee reports are now due to Pat Dunn
- Unfinished Business;
 - We must continue to emphasize Youth Activities
 - Push for Public Relations and Publicity for Church
 - Monument and Plaque procedures must be written and presented
 - Separate the Stewardship and Finance Committee. Should be 2 Committees
 - Need new Membership lists
 - Must Check Holmdel Escrow Act to see if funds are due us
 - Council Organization for February meeting
- Patty Vatter has volunteered her services as Little Chief Liason
- Gil has volunteered his services as the German School Liason
- Gil will ask Dick Alberti to chair Memorial Fund Committee
- Thank you note received from Lunch Break

Old Business – None

New Business

- It was so moved and seconded that Patricia Vatter become the liaison for Little Chief's. Motioned was unanimously carried.
- It was so moved and seconded that Gil Vatter become the liaison for The German School. Motioned was unanimously carried.
- It was so moved and seconded that Ruth Elstad and Elizabeth Haggery be permitted to offer a Courage in Aging Course. Motion was unanimously carried

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Garry Westerweller

2011 Congregational Meeting Minutes 1/23/11

The meeting opened with Gil declaring a quorum to be in attendance.

The meeting then opened with prayer.

44 congregational members were in attendance

Last year's minutes were approved as written.

The following is a brief synopsis of all the reports that were submitted at the congregational meeting. A copy of each report, in detail, was handed out as part of the annual report.

Pastor's Report

- Written report presented by Pastor Elstad
- There were no additions to Pastor's written report and no questions from the congregation

President's Report

- Written Report submitted by Gil Vatter
- There were no additions to Gil's report and no questions from the congregation

Treasurer's Report

- Written report submitted by Pat Miller
- Pat presented a short synopsis of her written report
 - New source of income through Little Chiefs
 - Start up costs were higher than expected due to legal fees.
 - German school income should stay close to the same despite the loss of a few students
 - We ended the year \$25,000.00 better than last year
- There were no questions from the congregation

Christian Education

- A written report was presented by Sharon Oberkehr
- Enrollment is up to ten students, 3 classrooms

Evangelism

- Prayers go out to Lil Nemcik on her upcoming operation

Fellowship

- Presented by Debbie Blackburn
- Debbie thanked the many people that help her committee throughout the year

Finance/Stewardship

- Report presented by Lou Medici
- Only 37 pledges were received this year, pledging \$90,000.00
- There were no questions from the congregation
- Gil suggested that this committee be divided into two. One for Finance and one for Stewardship

Property Committee

- Written report submitted by Steve Miller
- Steve appealed to the congregation to help keep the church clean. We have multiple groups that use our facility and it is incumbent on us to set a good example
- Many thanks to all who volunteer their time throughout the year

Social Ministry

- Presented by Gil Vatter
- This congregation continues to come through as we donated over \$16,000.00 last year to various groups in need
- A detailed written report was submitted by Mike Carp

Worship and Music

- Written report submitted Andy Mathisen
- There were no questions from the congregation

- Gil Suggested that we ask council to come up with a written policy for the memorial garden

Youth and Family

- Written report presented by Liz Westerweller
- Garry reviewed some of the potential plans for future events
- Gil asked that council continue to focus on this committee and commitment

2011 Operating Budget

- Presented by Lou Medici
- No questions were asked by the congregation

New Business

- Gil presented himself as the new liaison for the German School, his wife Patti as the new liaison for Little Chiefs, and Dick Alberti as the new chairperson of the Memorial Fund.
- Andy Mathisen presented the following slate of candidates for the Church Council; Andy Mathisen, Garry Westerweller, Karl Torjussen, Steve Miller, Lil Nemcik, Sharon Oberkehr, Tom Tehve, John Crump, Andy Lichter, and Mike Carp.
- Andy opened the floor for additional nominees and none were presented
- The president directed the secretary to cast a ballot for these 10 nominees
- Lou moved that the budget be passed as follows;
 - \$163,025.00 in expenses
 - General Contributions @ \$130,000.00
 - German School Income @ \$4,500.00
 - Little Chief income @ \$35,610.00
 - For a total income of \$170,110.00
- Clem seconded the motion and the vote was carried unanimously
- Steve Miller has written a job description for a PR person and Karl has agreed to assist in this area. ONE ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER IS NEEDED!

Suggestions for the good of the congregation

- A special thanks was voiced by Clem to Gil Vatter for his exemplary work as Council President.
- Pastor and his wife, Ruth also added their thanks
- Nancy Fitch has agreed to represent Good Shepherd on the COG Board

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Garry Westerweller
Council Secretary.

Secretary's Notes: (unofficial addendum)

- On a personal note, and not mentioned at the congregational meeting, I thought it would be appropriate to officially thank Lou Medici for his many years of service on the council as well. The meeting moved so fast Lou, and I know I speak for all the congregation in thanking you for your many years of service.

Bible Study on the book Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time

Marcus Borg is one of the most popular Christian scholars today whose books have been widely read by persons of all denominations. His writings provide readers with fresh insights into the person of Jesus and his ministry, and are extremely helpful to those who have done very little serious Bible study and want to better understand and appreciate what lies at the heart of the Christian faith. Thus the title of his first book, *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time* will be used as text for a nine session series led by Pastor Elstad on Thursday afternoons at 1:00 pm starting February 17 and concluding on April 14. Those planning to attend will find it

helpful to purchase a paperback copy of Dr. Borg's book and become familiar with the first chapter prior to the start of the sessions. A sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex as of Sunday, January 30. This book is an opportunity to stretch your mind and deepen your faith. As one reviewer stated, "Borg has done a great service for all of us in drawing upon contemporary research to present a fresh and imaginative picture of Jesus that has profound implications for our contemporary faith."

AROUND THE PARISH by Gil Vatter

1. Did you know-----the cost of a 12 can carton of corn or green beans at Costco is only \$6.99? Buy one soon for St. Marks.
 2. Remember the family of Donna Myers in your prayers. And God will wipe away all tears.
 3. An "adage" from PASTOR JACK - "The larger the congregation, the shorter the sermon".
 4. In Pennsylvania, an atheist is someone who doesn't know who JOE PATERNO is.
 5. They say there are only two kinds of people in the world. Those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning Lord." and those who wake up and say "Good Lord, it's morning". (Bill Theune)
 6. BILL WHERLI spent January in Boynton Beach, Florida.
 7. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd fez to ANDY MATHISEN, the newest member of SHARON OBERKEHR'S Sunday School teaching staff.
 8. Don't argue with an idiot, people watching may not be able to tell the difference. (Bill Wherli)
 9. The Social Ministry Committee delivered over 1,650 cans of food to St. Mark's Pantry last year.
 10. Sign in a veterinarian's waiting room: "Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!"
 11. Wanna' dance the bolero - Check with ANDY LICHTER.
- IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO SHOULD BE RECEIVING THE "SHEPHERD'S VOICE", PLEASE
NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE
12. Happy Birthday to GEORGE FRANK and PAT MILLER.
 13. Did you know.....When you've seen one shopping center, you've seen a mall.
 14. Three things a person must learn in life - First, "Be kind !". Second, "Be kind !" Third, "Be kind !". William Blake (Pastor Jack)
 15. The GOOD SHEPHERD LADIES LUNCHEON GROUP had to cancel their January get-together at the Pour House because of the snow storm.
 16. Why do people order a double cheeseburger, large fries and a DIET COKE? (Ernie Brinkman)
 17. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd stetson to DEBBIE BLACKBURN and the ladies of the church for providing refreshments for the Christian Unity service.
 18. Remember MARIAN WILLIAMSON in your prayers. She underwent an operation in January.

BRING SOME FOOD TO CHURCH THIS WEEK

19. HOLY SMOKE ---- BOB HORLACHER and BILL WHERLI both turned 80 in January and are both now officially older than dirt.
20. Ole called the airlines and inquired, "How long does it take to fly from Minneapolis to Fargo?"
"Just a minute", said the very busy clerk.
"Vell", replied Ole, "If it flies that fast, I think I'll just take da' bus." (Ernie Brinkman)
21. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd derby to LOU MEDICI for six years (or so) on the Congregation Council.
22. RANDI STETZ says it's colder here sometimes than it was back in Norway.
23. PAT DUNN and BRYAN attended a boat show in Florida the last week of January.
24. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd beanie to our acolytes - PHILIP COZZI, TAYLOR DOREUR and C. J. MILLER.

SPONSORS ARE NEEDED FOR ALTAR FLOWERS - SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX

25. Remember LIL NEMCIK in your prayers. She underwent an operation in January.
26. A backward poet writes inverse. (Larry Jackson)
27. Dr. Bloom, who was known for his miraculous cures for arthritis, had a waiting room full of people, when a little old lady, completely bent over in half, shuffled in slowly, leaning on her cane. When her turn came, she went into the doctor's office, and, amazingly, emerged within a half hour, walking completely erect with her head held high. A woman in the waiting room who had seen all this, walked up to the little old lady and said, "It's a miracle ! You walked in bent in half and now you're walking erect. What did the doctor do?" She replied, "Miracle, schmiracle, he gave me a longer cane."

SEE YOU IN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

GOOD SHEPHERD HOSTS 2011 COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE

by Gil Vatter

A special service dedicated to Christian unity took place at 3:00 pm on Sunday afternoon, January 16 at Good Shepherd Church. The Ecumenical Celebration of the Word of God was sponsored by and presented by a group of clergy from the Holmdel/Middletown area during the 2011 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Holmdel - The Rev. John Elstad
Lincroft Presbyterian Church - The Rev. Brian Croak
Reformed Church of Middletown - The Rev. Eltje Brunemyer
Old First Church, Middletown - The Rev. Joyce Antila Phipps
St. Catherine's Roman Catholic Church, Holmdel - Msgr. Eugene Rebeck
United Methodist Church, Middletown - The Rev. Glenn Ferguson
Holmdel Community Church - The Rev. Russell Eidmann-Hicks

Music for the event was furnished by Miae Park, Minister of Music and organist at Good Shepherd Church. A large gathering from the participating churches was greeted by Pastor John Elstad of the host congregation, followed by the opening hymn, "We All Are One In Mission". After an Invocation, Opening Prayers and readings from Isaiah 58 and Acts 2, the sermon was offered by Pastor Brian Croak of the Lincroft Presbyterian

Church, who used Acts 2:42, "One in the Apostles' Teaching, Fellowship, Breaking of Bread and Prayer" as his text.

Following the sermon hymn, "Praise and Thanksgiving" and prayers, participants from each church represented at the service placed a candle at the altar to remember Christians throughout the world who suffer because of their faith.

The service ended with a Litany of Christian Unity, The Lord's Prayer, a Sending Forth, a Blessing and the final hymn, "Lord, You Give the Great Commission".

After the service, the congregation moved to Frank Hall for a time of fellowship with refreshments provided by the women of the Good Shepherd Fellowship Committee. Eight groups were then formed and each group was asked to discuss and then answer three questions:

1. What things bind your congregation closer together?
2. What do you feel keeps your congregation from greater unity?
3. Among our local congregations, what events or experiences could help us express greater unity as Christians?

After about ten minutes, a "secretary" from each group orally reported the findings of each group and gave the written results to the presiding clergyman for future study.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH GROUP (COG)

In response to a request by the COG President to have a representative from Good Shepherd serve on their board of trustees, I am happy to report that Nancy Fitch has agreed to serve in this capacity. It has been sometime since our congregation participated on the Board and we are fortunate that Nancy has accepted this position.

Pastor

Fellowship News

Mark your calendars now. The first fellowship event of the year will be a potluck supper held Sunday, February 20th at 5PM. There is a signup posted in the narthex.

Think about your best joke!!

A FEW NOTES FROM THE CHOIR by Gil Vatter

Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.

For God is the king of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm.

Psalm 47

January 2 - "Let Our Gladness Know No End" - L. Claude D'Aquin

January 9 - "Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain" - Carolyn Jennings

January 16 - "Be Thou My Vision" - Carlton Young

January 23 - "The Only Son of Heaven" - J. S. Bach

Robert Kim - Violin

Jonathan Kim - Cello

Prelude - "My Peace I Give Unto You" - Arr. P. Krestianson

Postlude - "Blessing Song" - Arr. - Y. J. Noh

January 30 - "Canticle of Love" - Hal H. Hopson

BETH GEBHART NAMED DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY PARTNERING & ADVOCACY

by Gil Vatter

"He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness."

Micah 6:8

The Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey has announced that Beth Gebhart, a former member of Good Shepherd Church, has been named the Director of Community Partnering and Advocacy. Beth, a member of St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Cherry Hill, where her husband Mike serves as pastor, teaches confirmation and serves on the Christian Education Committee. She has been involved with the Cherry Hill School system and currently serves as chair of the Cherry Hill Food and Outreach Council, an ecumenical group from eight congregations who provide food staples to members of the community.

When asked about her view of social ministry, she responded, "We love because God loved us first". "I truly believe we serve food to the hungry, provide shelter to the homeless, speak for those who cannot speak for themselves, nurse the sick, provide compassion to the hurting and safe haven to those who are in danger." "I am excited to be part of the Social Ministries team and look forward to working with many Lutheran congregations as we grow in our understanding and further development of social ministry."

Beth may be reached at 609-699-4133 or bgebhart@lsmnj.org.

DONNA HOLCOMB MYERS DIES AT AGE 72

The church has received word that Donna Holcomb Myers, a long time member of Good Shepherd church, died on Friday January 7, 2011 at her home in Holmdel. She was 72 years old.

Born in Minot, North Dakota, the daughter of Gladys and Kenneth Holcomb, who were also members of Good Shepherd, she is survived by her husband of 47 years, Charles L. Myers and by a son, Chip, his wife Kim and a grandson, Dylan Myers. She will be remembered by many for her reading as a member of the Lay Assistant Corps.

Donna graduated from North Dakota State University with a degree in Home Economics and was recognized as an expert in food, wine and spirits public relations and marketing communications. She was considered to be a pioneer for women in her field. She was also known as an authority on barbecuing and grilling and advised manufacturers, contributed to cookbooks and was frequently quoted by the media as an expert on the subject.

A memorial service was held for Donna at the church on Tuesday January 18.

COURAGE IN AGING

Please mark your calendars and invite your friends to a four-week discussion series starting on Tuesdays, March 1 through March 22 at 1:30 until 3:00. We will be meeting in our church library.

Ruth Elstad and friend, Elizabeth Haggerty M.A., will be the facilitators for the group. They received their training as peer counselors and facilitators at Preferred Behavioral Senior Guidance Program of Ocean County and have conducted this series since 1999.

We will be covering the following topics:

March 1 – Myths about Aging and Aging Well

March 8 – Grief and Loss (all kinds)

March 15- Stop Worrying and Start Living

March 22-Counting our Blessings

Signup sheets will be in the Narthex the last week in January. Feel free to call Ruth Elstad with any questions you may have at 732-864-0616. The size of the group will be limited to twenty participants so please sign up soon.

We look forward to meeting together.

LUNCH BREAK SENDS THANKS TO GOOD SHEPHEERD

Lunch Break - Celebrating Over 27 Years of Dedicated Service

December 21, 2010
121 Drs. James Parker Blvd.
P.O. Box 2215
Red Bank, NJ 07701

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, staff and clients of Lunch Break, please accept our gratitude to you for the recent generous donation of \$1,000.00 to Lunch Break. You've exemplified the spirit of community and giving back and we are extremely grateful for your support and thoughtfulness towards our agency.

It is due to good friends and concerned individuals, such as you, supporting our mission that we are able to provide our daily services to those in much need. We provide direct services to our patrons daily and with the current economic situation, our services are needed more now than ever.

Again we thank you for this generous and thoughtful contribution. And please, feel free to contact me to discuss opportunities available to build upon this mutually beneficial relationship all year.

Very warmest regards,
Gwendolyn O. Love
Executive Director

February 2011

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1	2	3	4	5
		5pm -7:30 German School		7:30-9:00 Choir Rehearsal 4pm – 8 German School	9am - 11 German School	1pm – 4 NJ Youth Orchestra
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9 – 9:45 Sunday School 10 – Service		5pm -7:30 German School		7:30-9:00 Choir Rehearsal 4pm – 8 German School	9am - 11 German School	1pm – 4 NJ Youth Orchestra
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9 – 9:45 Sunday School 10 – Service	7pm – Council Meeting	5pm -7:30 German School		6pm – Confirmation Class 7:30-9:00 Choir Rehearsal 4pm – 8 German School	9am - 11 German School	1pm – 4 NJ Youth Orchestra
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9 – 9:45 Sunday School 10 – Service 5PM – Pot Luck Supper		5pm -7:30 German School 7:30pm – 9:00 Compassionate Friends		6pm – Confirmation Class 7:30-9:00 Choir Rehearsal 4pm – 8 German School	9am - 11 German School	1pm – 4 NJ Youth Orchestra
27	28					
9 – 9:45 Sunday School 10 – Service						