

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

March 2012

(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

As I write this message it is the evening before Ash Wednesday. The solemnity of the liturgy appointed for that day will provide the opportunity for us to pause in our normal daily routine for a time of reflection concerning not only our personal lives but also as members of the body of Christ. The liturgy is filled with reminders of our living in a world which in so many ways is hurting from misplaced values, careless and reckless misuse of many God-given gifts, and from seemingly numbing indifference. To do this should not be understood simply as being negative, but rather as being openly honest about what we are daily confronted with in the headlines of the newspapers we read as well and the endless scenes brought to our attention via television and the internet. From time to time it is important to avail ourselves of such an inventory, but also at the same time be encouraged to consider that with God's help and our commitment as members of the body of Christ, matters can change for the better. It is an opportunity to open our minds and hearts to an understanding that time does move along and in so doing there come new challenges. And this is something which the Church and the world should always welcome so as to evidence the effectiveness of the Gospel when properly understood and applied.

Just today I came across a study paper of the former Lutheran Church in America written by Dr. William Lazareth in 1966 when he was a member of the faculty at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Even though it was written nearly fifty years ago its message is still relevant, especially the following portion which that I have selected to bring to your attention. *"The modern world of the last 400 years is dying before our eyes, taking its place beside the ancient and medieval ages. In its stead the twentieth century is painfully giving birth to an awful and yet wonderful "post-modern" world. At the same time the Christian church has been engaged in repentant self-examination and spiritual renewal. . . In the face of this new situation, Christians must reaffirm their commitment to a **vital social ministry as an integral part of the church's total mission to the world.** In the critical decades ahead, it will be imperative for Christians, both privately and corporately, as citizens and as churchmen to join hands with all men of good will in working together for the common good of humanity. Nevertheless, their motives, resources and goals will remain radically different. For a Christian social ministry must always be obedient to God's Word as well as relevant to God's world. . . Thus, just as churchmen witness to their faith and hope in a Christian ministry of Word and sacrament, so will they also testify to their love in a Christian ministry of justice and peace."*

Dr. Lazareth's remarks brought to my mind that each congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is mandated in its Statement of Purpose to do six essential things. One of which states: *"Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless, and committing itself to their needs."*

To endeavor to fulfill this purpose becomes the task of our Social Ministry Committee. At the present time Nancy Fitch and Mike Carp are heading that committee and will be making every effort to raise our consciousness to the above mentioned items and others that may be deemed to be important. But they need the help of any others who may want to give them assistance. Meetings of the committee will be made periodically – all are welcome.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jack

P.S. For those who have been attending the Wednesday afternoon TABLE TALK Bible discussion meetings please note that they will resume Wednesday, April 25, at 1:00 after the Lenten series, Caring and Community, has been completed.

Please mark your calendars:

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

April 1, Palm Sunday, Holy Communion, 10 am

April 5, Holy Thursday, Holy Communion 7:00 pm

April 6, Good Friday, Tenebrae service, 7:00 pm

April 8, EASTER, Holy Communion, 10:00 am.

COURAGE IN AGING will not be meeting again until Tuesday, May 15 at 1:30 p.m. We encourage our members to join the Lenten Series, Caring and Community, being offered on Wednesdays during Lent at 1 and 7 p.m.

Elizabeth and I look forward to seeing you all at our next discussion which will be on Communications. We will address both spoken and unspoken ways of communicating, if our communications reflect our belief system and God's love, how to express our differences with others in a healthy way without damaging or injuring the other party and many other issues relating to this topic. Please invite your friends to join us for this very interesting topic.

GOOD SHEPHERD COUNCIL MEETING 2/13/2012

Attendees: Andy Mathisen, Pastor Jack, Sharon Oberkehr, Andy Lichter, Tom Tehve, Steve Miller, Karl Torjussen, Clem Hergenhan. Absent: Jamie Antonacci and Garry Westerweller

- Opening Prayer & Devotions: Pastor Jack - pastor passed out literature asking the council to read it for the next meeting to help us define Good Shepherd's purpose and goals.
- January 11 & 15 meeting minutes. approved
- Treasurer's report approved

Steve requested that all reports be emailed to him by the Sunday before each Council Meeting so that we can read them ahead of time and only raise items in the reports where action is needed rather than simply read them at the meetings. Therefore the minutes will only contain brief reports as raised by committee chairpersons.

Committee Reports (where discussion followed):

- Youth: group made cookies and treats for 5 members who are away at school: they participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring and raised about \$300.
- Social Ministry: \$300 of matching funds were received from Thrivent for last years crop walk; the Souper Bowl of caring has raised about \$407 to date. There was discussion and planning for temple talks.
- Fellowship: a soup supper is planned for Ash Wed before service; a discussion ensued as to whether suppers or refreshments would help draw people to the several concerts planned for the spring.
- Stewardship: the Dave Ramsey financial planning program is still a possibility although Karl emphasized that it is probably more useful to a younger congregation.
- Worship & Music: beginning in Lent a new procession order for communion will be instituted to smooth the flow of communicants.

Pastor's Report – pastor highlighted the days he will be away and is working to make sure all Sundays are covered.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Audit Committee, Feb 2, 2012, examined and approved Good Shepherd's financial records.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A committee is needed to address improving the roadside church sign.
- A committee is needed to address putting a cross on the north-side (street facing wall). Karl, Andy L, Steve, Pastor and Tom volunteered. Jamie was volunteered as head of Property.
- Nancy Fitch has volunteered to head a committee on environmental issues for the church.

CALENDAR: Council approved many events for the spring which need to be coordinated.

- April 21 – yard sale (with German School?) in hopes of emptying Pink House (Sharon volunteered to get things going).
- March concert by NJ Youth Orchestra.
- April 28 “Singing Boys of PA” concert has been booked.
- May 5 – Miae string concert.
- May 20 – Congregation picnic.
- June 9 – Kathrine Clores concert (not a church sponsored event).
- June 25 – Life Line screening to be done in Frank Hall (not in Sanctuary).

Meeting was adjourned with the Lords Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Clem Hergenhan (substituting for Garry Westerweller, Secretary)

YOUTH CORNER by Sharon Oberkehr

The youth group met at church after school on Feb. 8th. We decorated cookies and treats for 5 Good Shepherd members who are away at college. This activity was organized by Karen Rajala, and 9 children attended.



We also collected funds to support the Souper Bowl of Caring after church on Jan. 29th. We collected around \$300.00, which was turned over to Mutual Ministry for distribution to charity.

AROUND THE PARISH

by Gil Vatter

GOOD SHEPHERD - THE FRIENDLY CHURCH

Do you know someone who should be receiving the "Voice"? Please notify Pat Dunne in the church office or send their e-mail address to Clem Hergenhan - clem@csfcorp.com.

1. In February, the Social Ministry Committee delivered 170 cans of food, plus other non-canned items, to St. Mark's Pantry in Keansburg. (360 cans YTD.)

2. Happy Birthday to GARRY WESTERWELLER. (AND MANY MORE !!!!)

My Uncle Ernie started walking five miles a day when he was 60 years old. He's 97 now and we don't know where the heck he is. (Dick Havill)

Only in America....do drugstores make sick people walk all the way to the back of the store to pick up their prescriptions, while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front of the store. (Bill Wehrli)

3. After many years, PAM BROWN has retired from teaching. No more papers to correct....No more pop quizzes.

4. Congratulations to CLEM HERGENHAN who has become a new member of the Congregation Council.

Committee - A group of people who, individually, can do nothing, but as a group, can meet and decide that nothing can be done.

Politics is the gentle art of getting votes from the poor and campaign funds from the rich by promising to protect each from the other. (Adlai Stevenson)

5. On February 5, the congregation welcomed eight members of the Philo Masonic Lodge to worship. The last time they were here was in February of 2008. ANDY LICHTER is the Grand Master of the lodge.

6. Try to wipe the grin off of FRED OBERKEHR'S face after his New York Giants won against the New England Patriots in the XLVI Super Bowl.

Did you hear about Ole reading through the Oslo phone book...."Svenson, Svenson, Svenson"....."Boy, that guy Svenson, sure has a lot of phones."

My first job was in the woods as a lumberjack, but I just couldn't hack it and they gave me the axe.

7. The Women's Luncheon Group dined at the Nauvoo Grill in Fair Haven on Friday February 17. To meet with them in March, see Barbara Haaher.

8. WALTER KYLE just finished reading "Inferno", a book about World War II.

Two guys go into a bar, order drinks, sit down, take sandwiches out of a bag and start eating. "Hey!!!!", says the bartender, "You can't eat your own food in this bar." The two guys look at each other, shrug their shoulders, swap sandwiches and continue eating.

One day a man decided to wash his sweatshirt. From the laundry room he called to his wife, "What setting do I use on the washing machine?" "It depends", she replied, "What does it say on your shirt?" He yelled back, "Rutgers University".

9. In PASTOR JACK'S sermon on Sunday February 12, he offered five things to improve our lives: 1. STOP SMOKING. 2. DECREASE ALCOHOL INTAKE. 3. KEEP STRESS UNDER CONTROL. 4. EAT RIGHT. 5. EXERCISE. (Who needs Doctor Phil?)

10. The congregation extends its sympathy to Vivien and Bob Sislian on the death of their son, Ted. And God will wipe away all tears.

Rocket scientist Ole went into the office of his colleague, Sven. "The Norwegians will be the first to send a manned rocket to the sun", he said. "But Ole", Sven replied, "the temperature will be millions of degrees there." "Don't worry about that", said Ole, we'll land the rocket at night."

Nothing is worse than that moment during an argument when you suddenly realize you're wrong. (Bill Wehrli)

11. The GERMAN SCHOOL OF MONMOUTH COUNTY, which meets at Good Shepherd, celebrated "Karneval" on Thursday February 9 with costumes, singing, dancing and games.

12. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd fez to JON KIM for his beautiful music on Sunday February 19. He seems to improve with age.

A minister was finishing a temperance sermon. He said, "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd pour it into the river." "And, if I had all the wine in the world, I'd pour it into the river." "And, if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd pour it into the river. Amen." With some embarrassment, the song leader then announced the next hymn, "Shall We Gather at the River." (Carol Seip)

I totally regret all those times I didn't want to take a nap when I was a kid. (Bill Wehrli)

13. The congregation extends its sympathy to TERRY NICHOLS, whose father, Don Wilson, died on February 19 in North Carolina. And God will wipe away all tears.

14. Saw PAT and PASTOR ED SCHMIDT recently. Both are doing very well and send their greetings to all their friends in Holmdel. Ed is still Interim Pastor at Holy Trinity in Wildwood.

Sven and Ole went into a lumberyard to buy some 2 X 4's. The sales clerk asked them, "How long do you want them?" The boys replied, "Oh, for a long time We're going to build a house."

Incense - "Holy Smoke"

15. In his sermon on Sunday February 19, PASTOR JACK noted that "If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem."

16. ELLEN and TOM TEHVE spent a week in North Carolina and a week in the Florida Keys at the end of February.

There was a Scottish painter who was interested in making an extra buck when he could, so he often thinned down his paint to make it go a wee bit further. As it happened, he got away with this for a long time, but eventually, the local church decided to do a big restoration job on the outside of their buildings. The Scotsman put in a bid, and, because his price was so low, he got the job.

He set up the scaffolding and bought the paint and, I'm sorry to say, thinned it down with turpentine. The job was almost finished, when suddenly the sky opened and the rain began to pour down, washing the thinned paint from the building and knocking the Scotsman to the ground. He was very frightened and felt this may have been a judgment from the Almighty. He fell to his knees and cried out, "Oh, God, forgive me; what shall I do?" And from the thunder and rain came a loud voice saying....."Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!"

17. PAM (Everett) BAGLIERI sends greetings to all her friends at Good Shepherd. Pam is recovering from rotator cuff surgery. She and her husband, FRANK have recently moved from Gettysburg to Hanover, Pennsylvania.

18. KELSEY KAZMAC is a sophomore at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

There are more churches in Las Vegas than casinos. During Sunday services, some worshipers contribute casino chips instead of cash. However, since the chips come from so many different casinos and since they are worth a lot of money, the churches are required to send all the chips to the diocese for sorting. Once sorted into their respective place, a junior priest takes the chips to the proper casino to turn the chips into cash. This junior priest, of course, is known as "THE CHIP MONK"

19. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd beret to the Fellowship Committee, especially chair DEBBY BLACKBURN, VIVIAN SISLIAN and PATTY VATTER, who made soup, BARBARA HAHER, who brought sandwiches, SUE ALBERTI and SHIRLEY JACKSON, who brought dessert and GRACE BRINKMAN, who brought bread and rolls for the ASH WEDNESDAY Soup Supper on Wednesday February 22.

20. REMINDER - March 24 - New Jersey Youth Orchestra concert
April 21 - German School Yard Sale
April 28 - Singing Boys of Pennsylvania concert
April 29 - Good Shepherd 45th Anniversary celebration
May 13 - Miae Park concert

The concerts are being given to benefit local food pantries. - Look for more details as the dates get closer.

PEW - a form of midieval torture still found in many churches.

KYRIE ELEISON - The only Greek words most of us can recognize besides gyros and baklava.

21. BRIAN DUNN was in Miami for two weeks for the big Florida Boat Show.

22. BUNNY and HERB KUHL are both having health problems. Remember them in your prayers.

One day Ole was walking home, carrying a bag when he met Sven. Sven asked him what was in the bag. Ole replied, "Chickens." Sven asked him how many he had. Ole said, "If you can guess how many chickens are in my bag, I give you both of them." Sven replied, "Three."

Even under ideal conditions, people have trouble locating their car keys in a pocket, finding their cell phone and pinning the tail on the donkey. But, I'd bet everyone can find and push the snooze button from 3 feet away, in about 1.7 seconds, eyes closed, first time, every time.

23. Did you know - PASTOR JACK has been preaching for almost 50 years.

24. Congratulations to MICHAEL BROWN and his wife who just became parents of a baby girl. PAM BROWN is a first time Grandma.

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride wearing white?" The mother replied, "Because white is the color of happiness and today is the happiest day of her life." The child thought for a moment and then said, "So, why is the groom wearing black?" (Lil Nemcik)

Warner Communications paid \$28 million for the copyright to the song, "Happy Birthday". (Bill Theune)

25. THRIVENT MEMBERS - Blue Claws game Friday May 11 at 7:05 PM Free admission - Call Andy Mathisen 973-766-4145

26. Remember GINA BLACKBURN in your prayers.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY !

TED SISLIAN (August 3, 1965 - February 12, 2012)

Theodore ("Ted") Sislian, son of Vivian and Bob Sislian, died at home in Brick, New Jersey on Sunday February 12 after a long illness. He was 46 years old. He was born in Point Pleasant and raised in Brielle. A 1983 graduate of Manasquan High School, he attended the University of Tennessee and Monmouth University. He was employed by Gammon Technical Products for nearly 25 years, until illness forced his retirement. He was a well-known expert in the field of aviation fuel handling.

Ted is survived by his wife of 18 years, Marlena and his four year old son, Hudson; by his parents; by two sisters, Barbara Sislian of Budd Lake and Lisa Marie Krauthem of Palm Beach, Florida; by a brother Robert of Point Pleasant; by two step-brothers, David Corsello of Hawthorn and Mark of Troy, Michigan. He was pre-deceased by his mother, Eileen Sislian in 2004.

Ted was an avid fisherman and spent many hours in his own boat, the "*Eileen S*", fishing for tuna and fluke off the New Jersey coast. He was an advocate for the homeless in Lakewood's "Tent City" and worked with the Jenni Sunshine Foundation to serve the poor and those in need.

A service of thanksgiving and celebration for the life of Ted Sislian was held at the First Presbyterian Church of Manasquan on Monday February 20 at 11:00. The Reverend Dr. Robert Morrison presided and words of remembrance and eulogy were presented by Robert Sislian, Ted's father.

Baseball Game at the Blueclaws for Thrivent Members

Event: Blue Claws Minor League Baseball Club Date: May 11, 2012 Time: 7:05pm
Contact: Andy Mathisen, e-mail: amathisen@njtransit.com, cell# 973-766-4145

All tickets are free to Thrivent members. Food and drink vouchers provided free to Thrivent members at game. FirstEnergy Park is located at 2 Stadium Way in Lakewood, NJ 08701, at the intersection of Cedar Bridge and New Hampshire Avenues.

A FEW NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

by Gil Vatter

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you...we are an offering
Miae Park - Minister of Music

February 5 - "He Leadeth Me" - John Purifoy

February 12 - "Create in Me a Clean Heart" - B. Harlan

February 19 - Prelude - "Psalm 21" ----- Postlude - "Blessing Song" - Jonathan Kim, Cello
Anthem - "Beautiful Savior" - Jonathan Kim, Accompaniment

February 26 - "Jesus With Us Abide" - W. Glen Parst

**Singing Boys of Pennsylvania Choir Concert April 28
7 PM Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Holmdel**



Concert part of 45th Anniversary of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Singing Boys of PA are of international renown. The group was founded in 1970 as the Pocono Boy Singers. They have won great acclaim throughout the United States Canada, Mexico, England and Japan. The company consists of young artists - aged 10 to 14 - selected from the ranks from the organization's training choir who have been rigorously prepared for two or more years. They have appeared with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, the National Orchestra, Rochester, Northeastern, Corning Philharmonics and many regional orchestras as well as Musica Sacra of New York.

The remarkable proficiency which the choir brings to performances has been demonstrated in hundreds of recitals for colleges and universities from Oxford to Stanford. The concert at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Holmdel will be held at 7:00 PM on Saturday, April 28. Admission is free but contributions can be made to support local food pantries. Reception with refreshments to follow.

Comments and reviews about the choir include:

"One of the great choirs of America", Stanford University, CA

"They opened with "AveMaria" a lovely crystal clear rendition that explained quite solidly what they were: A superb boys choir" Record Searchlight, Redding, CA

"Delightful performance...we would be interested in another performance by this fine group" Julia Bagwell, Fine Arts Series, Halifax, VA

The performance was absolutely superb". Keystone Junior College, LaPlume, PA

"From beginning to end, the young performers captured their audience with charm, unquestionable talent, and a repertoire of surprising variety. The joy and warmth radiating from the stage created a feeling of good cheer among the large crowd, and one could see smiles in the audience that equaled those of the Singing Boys from

the opening number to the final encores. It was the kind of evening that lets you feel- for a while, anyway- that all's right with the world" Redding Living, Redding, PA

From "The Kitchen at St. Mark's"

January 26, 2012

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd 112 Middletown Rd. Holmdel, NJ 07733

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your very generous donations of \$100 in November and \$1,000 in December.

Thank you also for the many groceries you donate throughout the year, and also to the church members who give \$75 regularly to cover the cost of a meal in the soup kitchen each month.

In 2011, we served a total of 18,767 meals. This number includes the lunchtime and late-afternoon meals as well as those from Family Nights. We distributed 1,942 bags of groceries, including 180 delivered to disabled people in their homes.

Because of your kindness and commitment to feeding the hungry through the Kitchen at St. Mark's, many families and individuals in the Keansburg community are getting the help they need this winter and throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Nancy Mester Co-Director

Doreen Minutella Co-Director

GOOD SHEPHERD WELCOMES SOUTH RIVER MASONIC LODGE

Philo Lodge #243, Free and Accepted Masons, chose Good Shepherd Church as its annual place of worship on Sunday morning February 5. Eight members of the lodge, all dressed in tuxedos and Masonic regalia and wearing the insignia of their rank in the order, were welcomed by the congregation at the regular Sunday morning communion service. Pastor John M. Elstad added his welcome and thanked the group for choosing Good Shepherd as the designated church for this year's worship meeting.

The Exalted Master of the Philo Lodge, located in South River, New Jersey, is Andreus Lichter, a member of the Good Shepherd Congregation Council and the Senior Choir.

PROJECT PAUL OFFERS HOPE TO MANY LOCAL FAMILIES

According to the February 9, 2012 edition of the "Independent", in 1980, St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church founded a food pantry as a part of their community outreach ministry and named it *Project Paul*. The program grew through the 80's and 90's and became what it is today, a key player in the care of needy citizens of the Keansburg section of Monmouth County. As activities expanded at Project Paul, one floor of a building on Carr Street in Keansburg was leased and eventually grew into two floors and a Thrift Shop. To help defray expenses, Project Paul relies on income from the Thrift Shop and from a furniture store. The Thrift Shop, located in the same building as the Food Pantry sells household items, clothing, books and a wide variety of other goods. The furniture store, located around the corner, offers household furniture at reduced prices.

Three times a week, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, clients line up at the food pantry to receive groceries. The pantry gives away 200 to 250 bags of food per day and each bag will feed a family of six. Up to 80,000 people a year are fed through the program, according to Sal Cortale, Executive Director of Project Paul. Each person receiving food has been pre-screened and has been issued an identity card, which entitles them to not only food, but also clothing and household goods. Once each season, clients are eligible to receive two shirts,

two pairs of pants and two pairs of shoes. Most of the pantry's food comes from donations or from local food stores.

"Project Paul also helps people who need assistance paying their bills", according to Sister Kathleen O'Halloran, Director of Client Services. "Last year we probably gave out \$500,000 to help pay rents and other household expenses." The organization also offers other services, such as education for single mothers, tuition assistance, English as a Second Language at the Senior Center on Main Street in Keansburg and many other badly needed ministries. During the holiday season, Project Paul coordinates Thanksgiving food with Christmas gift donations.

"In the last year there has been an influx of people and we are trying to grow to meet the need", according to Mr. Cortale. "We are committed, along with St. Anne's Church, to helping the Bayshore area grow and get better."

Good Shepherd Church has helped support Project Paul with cash and food donations over the past several years.

SOCIAL MINISTRY and Environmental Tithing
Nancy Fitch

On Feb. 5th a portion of our prayer of intercession – “Where the earth is exhausted by our demands and the waters are polluted with our waste, bring rest to creation and restore the health of your creatures” brought to my mind the North Pacific Subtropical Gyre. This is a slowly moving, clockwise spiral of currents created by a high-pressure system of air currents. It has given birth to an area filled with trash, millions of pounds of it, most of it plastic. One mass labeled the Eastern Garbage Patch floats between Hawaii and California; scientists estimate its size as two times bigger than Texas. Obviously this type of garbage patch presents numerous hazards to marine life, fishing and tourism.

Plastic constitutes 90 percent of all trash floating in the world's oceans. The United Nations Environment Program estimated in 2006 that every square mile of ocean hosts 46,000 pieces of floating plastic. In some areas, the amount of plastic outweighs the amount of plankton by a ratio of six to one. Of the more than 200 billion pounds of plastic the world produces each year, about 10 percent ends up in the ocean. Seventy percent of that eventually sinks, damaging life on the ocean floor. The rest floats; much of it ends up in gyres and the massive garbage patches that form there, with some plastic eventually washing up on a distant shore.

How to address this problem seems over whelming. One small but significant step as church members could be to environmentally tithe by reducing our use of plastics, specifically plastic bags.

Plastic bags begin as crude oil, natural gas, or petrochemical derivatives that are transformed into resins. The resin is heated and extruded, flattened, sealed, punched, and printed on. The environmental cost of plastic bags is huge. The plastic bags that have inundated our planet are derived from a non-renewable resource and they never break down completely.

Fortunately, neither plastic bags nor paper bags are necessary. Sturdy cloth bags, especially those made with organically grown, sustainable plant fibers, make the best shopping bags, say recycling directors. Large cloth totes and smaller cloth bags for produce, grains, and foods from the bulk section of your market can be reused thousands of times, which more than justifies their initial cost of five to ten dollars.

A second best alternative to cloth bags and a transitional step toward eventually using only cloth bags is to reuse the plastic bags you already have as long as possible. Plastic produce bags can be reused as many as 50 times. If they need washing, rinse them out. Then hang them on a bag dryer, or attach them with clothespins to dry on a coat hanger. When your remaining plastic bags become completely worn out, take them to a recycling center

or set them out for curbside recycling of plastic bags if your community offers it. Use cloth bags exclusively for all shopping from then on.

Several grocery chains are selling very inexpensive reusable grocery bags made of plastic (non-woven polyethylene.) While these bags may encourage people to reuse grocery bags, they have significant drawbacks. They are estimated to last only two to three years; they are often made of virgin (not recycled) plastic and hence are not recyclable into more bags.

Let's put our prayers into actions. Environmentally tithe. **START USING CLOTH BAGS FOR SHOPPING!!**

March 2012

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1	2	3
				7:30pm-9:00 choir practice		1pm – 4 NJ State Youth Orch
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service			1 & 7PM Lenten Discussions	7:30pm-9:00 choir practice		1pm – 4 NJ State Youth Orch
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service	7pm – Council Meeting		1 & 7PM Lenten Discussions	7:30pm-9:00 choir practice	12:30 – Ladies Luncheon Group @ Dublin House in Red Bank	1pm – 4 NJ State Youth Orch
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service		7:30 – 9:00 Compassionate Friends 6:30pm – NJ North Shore Thrivent Mtg	1 & 7PM Lenten Discussions	7:30pm-9:00 choir practice		NJ State Youth Orch Benefit Concert
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service			1 & 7PM Lenten Discussions	7:30pm-9:00 choir practice		1pm – 4 NJ State Youth Orch