

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

June 2013

(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,

For the next six months the Sundays of that period are identified in our book of worship as being “Time after Pentecost”. However there is another term which is often used for that same period: “ordinary time”, which is a translation of the Latin term *Tempus per annum* (literally “time through the year”). Of the two, I prefer the latter because it reminds us that the Church has as its calling to minister to the world in its everyday life where everything is deemed to be so ordinary.

One of the best ways to appreciate a word is to describe it by its synonyms. When this done with “ordinary” this is what we find: *conformity, conventionality, common, habitual, as usual, typical, normal*. In other words, every day is pretty much like any other day. And that’s not very appealing. In fact it may become depressing and wearisome. That is why I share with you the following excerpt from a booklet titled “*The Extra-Ordinary in the Ordinary*”*

“In biblical understanding, wisdom shows itself in the capacity to see the many traces of God’s kingdom that are hidden in plain sight. . . . How can we develop an eye for the extraordinary concealed within the ordinary tasks, relationships, and events of our days? One clue is given in a teaching of Rabbi Moshe of Kobryn, a spiritual descendant of Shelomo of Karlin. The rabbi noted that God’s words to Moses, “put off your shoes from your feet” (Exod. 3:5), apply to us all: “Put off the habitual which encloses your foot, and you will know that the place on which you are now standing is holy ground. For there is no rung of human life on which we cannot find the holiness of God everywhere and at all times.”

In other words habitual patterns of perception and response have the capacity to dull our sensitivity to the extraordinary in the ordinary. But very often in the most ordinary activity we can discover something extraordinary which can change our thinking and our spirit.

Recently I was doing something very ordinary – helping to prepare items for our evening meal – and had a very profound insight regarding God’s provision to abundantly meet our needs. Having opened a spaghetti squash I was in the process of scraping out the unwanted seeds when I noted how many seeds there were. I didn’t actually count them but there must have been at least 30. Amazing. We were going to enjoy a meal which would include this one squash, but in preparing it was the realization that it also had the possibility of producing 30 more! From that one insight was reinforced the goodness and graciousness of all of God’s creation and the understanding that there is more than enough for all to enjoy if we choose to do our part in replenishing creation in any way we can. Right now there are 6 of those seeds are planted in the garden and the others are being saved for next year.

All of this may seem very insignificant but to me it reinforces the idea that even the simplest of ordinary experiences by other people can awaken the mind and the spirit to the holiness surrounding us and with it a deeper joy for living.

I encourage you to find whatever the “extraordinary” may be among the ordinary things of your life and sense the joy of being on holy ground.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Jack

*Weavings: A Journal of the Christian Spiritual Life

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GRATITUDE FOR 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

It is with extreme gratitude that I extend my thanks to all who made yesterday’s service one that I will never forget. I was deeply moved by the words spoken and the warmth of spirit which was so genuine. The occasion was sparked by something I had written in the January annual report and noted by Steve Miller at that time. Before the service began, Steve, made some announcements and also read excerpts from a letter sent by former Bishop Ed Ehlers. On behalf of the congregation, Gil Vatter offered a very kind and sincere message as only he can. Good Shepherd is so blessed to have a gentleman whose churchmanship is so clearly evident. And what is a fellowship event of this congregation without the immediate and enthusiastic directing of Debbie Blackburn and those who work with her: Karen Rajala, Maureen Bartlett, Marian Williamson, and on this occasion, Grace and Ernie Brinkman who provided the delicious cake.

A special touch were the 50th all-chocolate lollipops made by our church secretary, Pat Dunn.

I was especially touched by the letter my wife, Ruth wrote in which she shared, as only she can, what it has meant to being married to a pastor. She has been a wonderful partner and has been a source of strength and comfort in all the seasons of our life together. I am most fortunate to have had her at my side as we have journeyed together nearly 52 years. Ruth also, contacted some of our family members and a few friends and invited them to attend the service. .

I was truly surprised and glad to see them. Dr. Ralph Holmin, former pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Toms River also shared some very kind remarks.

Because music is so important in any service I want to remark on how well the choir, under Miae’s expert directing, sang the wonderful anthem that was most appropriate: “With a Voice of Singing” It truly fit the occasion.

Finally, I will be sending my good friend, Pastor Jaggie, a special note of thanks for the fine message he shared.

How special it was to experience this day with so many of our church family here in Holmdel. I was deeply honored by this outpouring of affection.

Grace and peace to you all. Pastor

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Council Minutes 05/13/13 from Garry Westerweller

In attendance were the following: Garry Westerweller, Steve Miller, Mike Carp, Tom Tehve, Pastor Jack, Karl Tourjussen, and Andy Lichter

Absent: Andy Mathisen, Sharon Oberkehr, Jamie Antonacci

Steve Miller declared a quorum to be present

Pastor opened the meeting with devotions reading from I Corinthians. Also discussed the article; “The Shrinking Church”, and compared Good Shepherd Worship attendance to other local churches, 2005-2011. This led to a discussion of what we can do as a Church to reverse this trend. Pastor suggested that Good Shepherd:

- Establish Goals
- Develop its Identity

- Determine Community Hopes and Fears

Steve described a relationship to

- Andy Mathisen's initiative to Develop the Good Shepherd Mission
- Karl Torjussen and Michael DiPiazza initiative "Achieving Congregational Growth Through Marketing"

Garry introduced the concept of doing a business management exercise called a SWOT analysis where you examine your organizations (**S**trengths, (**W**eaknesses, (**O**)pportunities, and (**T**hreats, in an effort to identify yourself as a congregation. The following was the Council's initial SWOT analysis;

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>STRENGTHS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fellowship • Music • Accessibility (location) • Building (Facilities) • Positive Cash Flow • Social Ministry 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>WEAKNESSES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more fellowship events • Age of congregation • Poor congregational mix • Lack of a Youth Ministry • Positive Cash flow based on Little Chief \$ • Social Ministry relies on donations during public events; congregation donations is much smaller
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>OOPPORTUNITIES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of overall appearance • Lots of traffic (building used for many things) • Invite these people to our Social events • Holmdel Community Day: Make our presence known in the Community • Social Media awareness through internet, Facebook and Twitter, Update our Website; place on-line ads (Holmdel and Middletown "Patch", Radio Web site...) • Start thinking "out of the box" • Possibly sponsor a Girl or Boy Scout Troop • Host some type of Community Event 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>THREATS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibility of members moving out of the area • Lack of involvement by Congregational members for various committees and posts • Loss of current Council Members at end of year due to term limitations.

Steve reviewed the agenda for the evening and it was unanimously approved

April Minutes were approved as written

Submission of **Treasurer's report** as prepared by Clem was presented to Council with the suggested changes from the last council meeting. Overall year reflects a positive cash flow. April expenses exceeded revenue. **Steve will ask Clem why that is.**

Motion by Garry, seconded by Tom/Andy to approve report. Unanimously approved

Pastor report can be viewed on line. Pastor mentioned he would be having eye surgery on May 30th.

Social Ministry reported that there was a drop in the value of food donated. Mike will also discuss some minor accounting issues with the Finance Committee.

Property Committee: no report was submitted

Christian Education reported VBS would be held in August, however volunteers were needed to assist as some teachers and helpers from last year were no longer available.

Spiritual and Out Reach: no report was submitted

Mission Support: no report was submitted

Fellowship: no report was submitted

Worship and Music: no report was submitted

Action items from the last meeting were reviewed. What follows are the remaining open action items:

- The request for a hard copy of the Financial report may not always be available and can be found through a link on the meeting agenda. (This should in theory close this action item, recorded here strictly for informational purposes)
- **Andy Lichter will contact Paul Kraus for planting ideas**
- **Property committee to review a potential solution for rotting RR ties in parking lot**
- **Jamie following up on a quote from alarm company to update our fire alarm system**
- **Steve to draft policy for designated host at concert events, etc...**
- **Andy still waiting for architect on elimination of column/ wall. Will try to contact Patock Industries, (Builder of Church addition)**
- **Finalization of tile choice, not only by color but by type and texture. Andy waiting for final quote from tile company and will involve Gil again with tile choice decision.**
- **Council Members need to continue to reach out and take in active role in recruiting people to assist on various projects and committees.**

Narthex Improvement

- Porcelain Tile, and grout sealer or impregnator- mixed with grout , and/or darker grout seems to be the recommendation
- Andy presented three quotes for tile installation, **He will contact the low bidder to tweak and finalize his quote.**
- Tile quotes came in anywhere between 13K to 21K. **Andy will also check references on the low bidder.**
- Andy also presented a quote of \$4500.00 for a potential awning for the front doors.

Discussion ensued about time frame to complete tile project by Sept 1, and responsibilities to the congregation in regard to making them aware of the costs and getting their approval. It was decided to have a special congregational meeting on June 9th to discuss.

- **Andy will prepare a time line of what it will take to complete the project for presentation at the meeting.**
- **Garry will compose a letter to inform the congregation and reach out to Gil as a potential speaker to present the proposal. The letter must be postmarked before May 26**
- **Andy will also submit formal quotes for tiles via e mail for council approval prior to 5/26**

New Business

Council targeted September as a potential month to hold a Sunday School Picnic.

Tom and Steve will present pictures and discuss Israel.

Steve will reach out to Sharon to try to confirm a date.

Steve asked Karl for a copy of his marketing report, which Karl gave to Steve to Scan. **Steve will scan and re-distribute electronically to Council.**

5/28 date was chosen to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Pastor Jack's ordination.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

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COURAGE IN AGING - please mark your calendars and note that Courage in Aging has a change of date for June. We will be meeting on June 25th at 1:30 in the church library. Please plan to join us and feel free to bring a friend. Call Ruth Elstad with any questions at 732-864-0616

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A Note from Pastor Schmidt ----

When I went to the gym on Friday morning, April 19th the last thing I was expecting was a heart attack. Yet by 4 p.m. I was in Virtua's (Voorhees) ER experiencing just that! I was rushed to the OR at Cooper in Camden, had a stent inserted into a 100% blocked artery, and the healing began. All doctors, techs and nurses were excellent.

Thank you all at Good Shepherd for your prayers, cards and well wishes during this time. I am grateful for all your concerns. I appreciate Pastor Jack's call as well my wife, Pat's, hovering over me with great love and concern.

The Lord Jesus has blessed me though all all this with His love and grace and your prayers. I am truly grateful.

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AROUND THE PARISH by Gil Vatter

1. The Social Ministry Committee delivered 116 cans of food plus loads of pasta, sauce, paper products, ketchup, tea bags, cold drink mix, etc. to the *Bayshore Lunch Program* on May 1.
2. It was recently announced that the *Ministry of Keyport Food Pantry*, formerly located at St. Mary Episcopal Church in Keyport will move to the Community Church of Keyport, right next to the *Bayshore Lunch Program*.
- Sean said to Paddy, "Me wife is drivin' me to drink." Sean replied, "You're a lucky man Murphy. My wife makes me walk." (Bunny Kuhl)
3. The congregation welcomed *Pastor Neil Jaggi* on Sunday May 5 when *Pastor Jack* was under the weather.
4. *Coast Guard Warrent Officer Pat Nichols* and wife *Theresa* will relocate to Glen Burnie, Maryland in July. *Pat*, who has been a member of the Coast Guard for almost 26 years, has been transferred to a Coast Guard station near Baltimore. Hey, we'll miss you guys.

Reporter to 20 year old man - "What would you like people to say about you 100 years from now?"
Man - "I hope they say, 'Boy, he looks great for his age'." (Grace Brinkman)

5. Happy birthday to *Diane and Rachel Mathisen, Maggie Harris* (Debbie and John Blackburn's granddaughter), *Lillian Nemcik* and *Miae Park* (Sorry I missed you last month Miae).

6. *Doreen and Glenn Hoffman* spent the end of April in Aruba.

Opportunity may knock once but temptation bangs on the front door forever. (Bill Wehrli)

7. Thanks and congratulations to the young folks from our Sunday School who prepared art work for the cover of the Sunday bulletin to illustrate ecological concern: *Michael Antonacci* for the cover of the May 5 bulletin (Don't take long showers) and *Leah Oberkehr* for the cover of the May 12 bulletin (Save water). Nice work guys.

8. Happy wedding anniversary to *Shirley and Larry Jackson* (#65) and *Ed and Pat Schmidt*.

As Ole approached the freezer one morning before going to work he turned to Lena and said, "What shall I take out for dinner?" Lena turned and quickly replied, "Me." (Grace Brinkman)

9. Congratulations to *Sue and Dick Alberti* who became grandparents of twin grandsons; *Anthony and Cole*.

10. *Randi Stetz and Andy Mathisen* marched in the Norwegian Day parade in Manhattan on May 19. Both were soaked to the skin because it rained all day. *Bob Stetz* helped cook enough food to feed the wet marchers.

Don't let your worries get the better of you. Remember, Moses started out as a basket case. (Bill Wehrli)

11. Congratulations to Anne Rajala Medling who, after a lot of hard work, will receive her PHD degree from Cal Tech in June. She and husband *Scott* will do their post-doctorate work in Australia for the next three years

12. Ask *Karen and Andy Lichter* how to do the Viennese waltz. They're experts and have performed the dance in dance programs.

A country boy was walking along a deserted road when a state policeman pulled over and asked him, "You got any ID?" The young man replied, "Bout what?" (Bunny Kuhl)

13. Check with *Pastor Neil Jaggie* about the importance of knowing a second language.

14. We feel for *Andy Lichter* who waited until after performing the waltz to have a tooth pulled and a bone transplant. Ouch!!!

Recent headline - **ENERGIZER BUNNY ARRESTED - CHARGED WITH BATTERY**

15. Here's some good news - At his 15 month check-up, former member *Bill Theune* got a clean bill of health from his doctor.

16. In 1963, *Pastor Jack* won a trip to Las Vegas on the television show - CONCENTRATION.

Ole inserted an ad in the local paper, "Wife Wanted". During the next week he received over 100 replies. They all said the same thing, "You can have mine". (Bill Wehrli)

17. Remember former member *Bob Horlacher* in your prayers. He fell recently and has run into complications.

18. Happy to see *Larry Jackson* back in church on May 26 after a time in the hospital.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

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CONGREGATION MARKS PASTOR'S 50TH YEAR OF ORDINATION

by Gil Vatter

On Sunday May 26, the congregation of Good Shepherd Church celebrated the fiftieth year of the ordination of its Pastor, Rev. John M. Elstad. Pastor Elstad received his STM degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 1963. In May 1963, he was ordained as a clergyman of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in

America. Now, fifty years later, more than 80 friends, colleagues and members of the parish gathered to honor Pastor Elstad and thank him for his fifty years of service. A display of some of the high-points in Pastor Elstad's career were displayed in the narthex.

The service began as the Acolyte, Michael Antonacci, lit the candles on the altar and Minister of Music, Miae Park, presented the Prelude, "Holy, Holy, Holy" by Lani Smith. The congregation entered the sanctuary and were followed by Pastor Elstad and Pastor Neil Jaggie, a good friend of Pastor Elstad as well as a familiar face at Good Shepherd, who would give the message of the day. Congregation President, Steve Miller, greeted those present and made remarks about Pastor Elstad's importance to Good Shepherd. Pastor Elstad began the service with the Confession and Forgiveness and the choir and congregation continued the service with the Gathering Hymn, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty". Pat Miller, Lay Reader for the day, read from the books of Proverbs and Romans and the choir led the chanting of Psalm 8. Pastor Jaggi read the Gospel from St. John and then gave his homily, "The Language of God's Love". His sermon was very personal and aimed at the recognition of Pastor Elstad's life and work. His final words to Pastor Elstad were, "Continue the race, you good and faithful servant."

The Nicene Creed, the prayers of the church, including the singing of "My Country 'Tis of Thee" to honor Memorial Day and those men and women who died in the service of our country followed. The choir presented "With a Voice of Singing" by Martin Shaw as its offering. After those present exchanged the Peace, Pastors Elstad and Jaggi moved to the introduction of Holy Communion, which included the singing of the Lord's Prayer by the choir and the congregation. The pastors and the worship assistants distributed the elements of the Communion.

Following Pastor Elstad's recitation of the Prayer After Communion, Gil Vatter reviewed some of the history of Pastor Elstad's tenure at Good Shepherd as well as some of his background, including the other churches where he has served. He also thanked Ruth Elstad for all that she has done for the congregation and praised "Pastor Jack" for "50 years of faithful service to the church and to your fellow Lutherans. May there be many, many more."

Mrs. Ruth Elstad, Pastor Elstad's wife of more than 52 years, offered personal insights into sharing the past 50 years as John Elstad's wife and having her own, "personal pastor" Doctor Ralph Holman, a retired Lutheran clergyman and friend of Pastor Elstad, lauded Pastor Elstad's 50 years of dedicated and meaningful service to the church. Pastor Elstad gave the Blessing and the service ended with the hymn "Lead on, O King Eternal" and Miae Park's Postlude, "All Hail the Power" by R. W. Thygerson. Michael Antonacci extinguished the altar candles and the worship service ended with the Dismissal from Worship Assistant, Pat Miller, ("Go in peace; Proclaim the good news").

A reception followed in the narthex featuring a special cake, honoring Pastor Elstad, provided by Grace and Ernie Brinkman and coffee provided by Maureen Bartlett.

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KEYPORT MINISTERIUM SLATES NEW PANTRY

by Gil Vatter

It was recently announced by the Ministerium of Keyport that the Food Pantry, which they have been administering from a two room basement at Saint Mary the Virgin Episcopal Church for over 30 years, will soon move to a new location. According to a May 16 article in the "Independent", the Pantry is expected to relocate to a brand new 2,400 square foot building on Warren Street in Keyport this summer. Isaiah Cooper, Director of the Pantry, says that this move will allow them to better serve the hundreds of families who depend on the Pantry for food on a regular basis. In addition to providing bags of groceries, the Pantry's 22 volunteers work to connect their clients with social services such as job training and housing programs, which can help them build a better future. So far, the Pantry has raised \$323,000 of the \$340,000 needed to build the new facility. The funds have come through grants, donations and the efforts of the Pantry's volunteers. The

Community Church has agreed to donate the land and the members of Habitat for Humanity, the Keyport Garden Club and several Bayshore area contractors will combine to help clear the site before construction begins.

Of particular interest to members of Good Shepherd, the Ministerium expects to break ground for the new Pantry at the Keyport Community Church where the Bayshore Lunch Program, formerly Saint Mark's Kitchen, is already offering lunch to hungry families in the Bayshore area. With the addition of the new Pantry, meals and groceries will now be available from the same location on a regular basis. This also means that any food donated to BLP by Good Shepherd that cannot be used to feed their clients, will be given to the Pantry for distribution during regular food pick-up days.

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COG REPORT

Nancy Fitch

The second quarter COG Board meeting was held on May 15th at Good Shepherd. Serving as hosts from Good Shepherd were Kathe DaGiau, Dianne Epstein, and Nancy Fitch.

The Calico Cat Cupboard and Food Pantry Coordinator, Janice Liebenow, thanked the many organizations and persons who provided donations and help for the past quarter. She stated that the Food Pantry especially appreciates donations of jelly, personal care items, cooking oil, and large and medium diapers. The Cupboard's current needs are queen sheets, and children's spring/summer clothing.

COGs Emergency Assistance Fund (EAF) coordinator, Jane Chou, reported that 37 families were helped in the first Quarter with an avg. of \$315 per family. She thanked Good Shepherd for its generous contribution of \$1000 to EAF during the quarter.

The Calico Cat Thrift Shop coordinator, Kay Chen, reported that thrift shop sales for the first four months of 2013 brought in \$39,670, an increase of 23.5% over the same period last year. This income is used in part to provide financial support to other local non-profit organizations in order to expand COGs ability to effectively serve the needy in our community

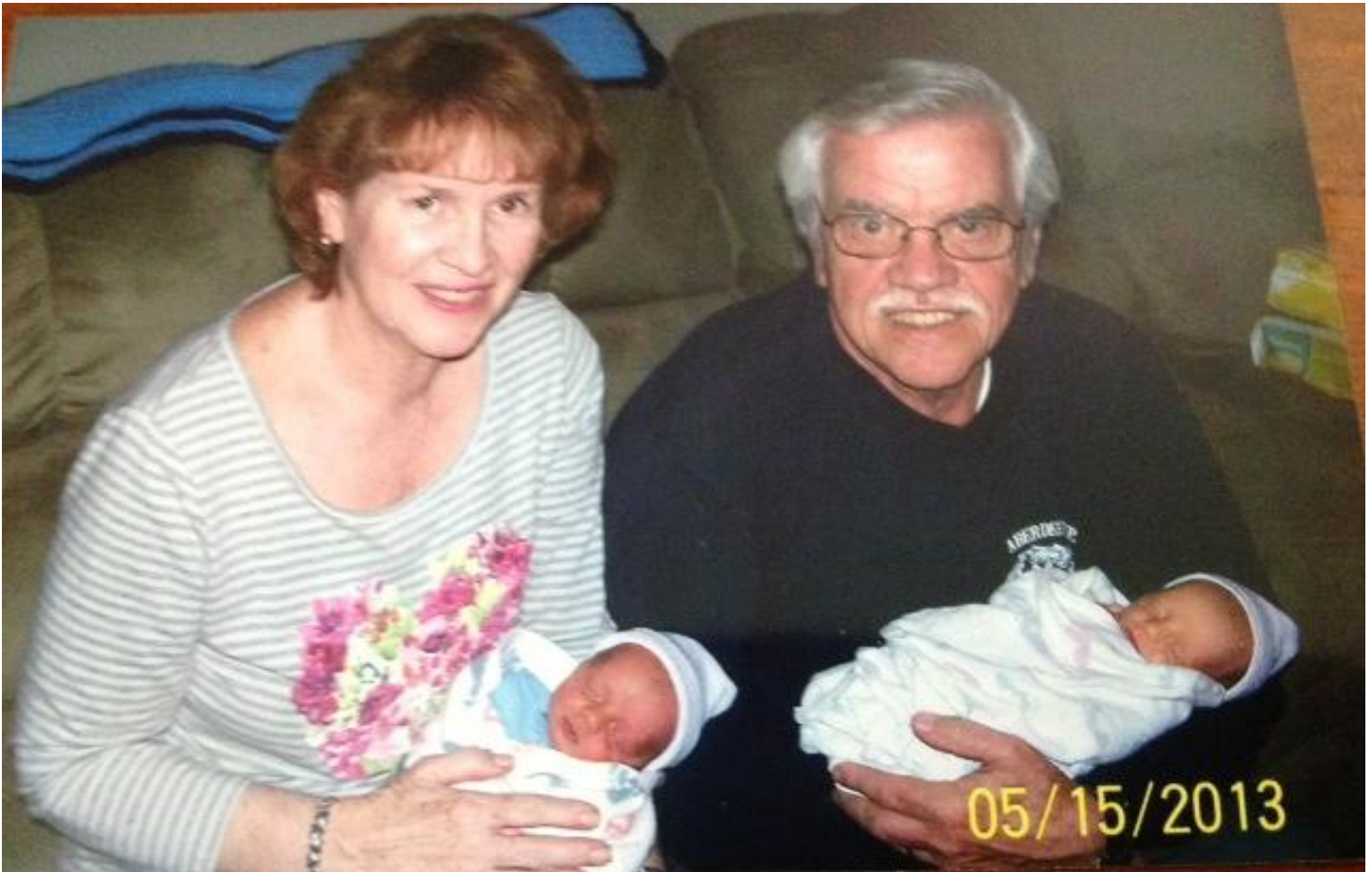
At this meeting the COG Board voted to provide a majority of its mid-year disbursement of funds for 2013 to the Keyport Ministerium Food Pantry to build a new facility, which will stand adjacent to the Community Church of Keyport. A pledge was also made to provide them additional funds at the end of the year to help meet their goal of \$340,000. They currently have raised about \$323,000 over the last 10 years to meet this goal.

The agreed disbursements were as follows-

- Keyport Ministerium Food Pantry - \$8000
- Bayshore Lunch Program - \$2000 (Formerly the Kitchen at St Marks)
- Counseling Ctr for Human Development- \$1000
- St Anns Day Care - \$1000
- The Education Foundation - \$1000.

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"TWICE BLESSED". Anthony John Albeti and Cole Xavier Albeti,
 Dick and Sue's identical twin grandsons were born on Mother's Day!"



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Contributions Update by Clem Hergenhan

Here's some info from the monthly Treasurer's Report given to Council at their meetings. The General Contributions are used for our yearly budgeted items.

	April 2013	YTD 2013	YTD Budget	YTD 2012
General Contributions	9,090	47,085	45,000	45,080

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A FEW NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

by Gil Vatter

"Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are an offering"

- May 5 - "Sweet, Holy Spirit" - J. Purifoy
- May 12 - "Many Gifts, One Spirit" - M. L. Lightfoot
- May 19 - "Every Time I Feel the Spirit" - W. L. Dawson
- May 26 - "With a Voice of Singing" - Martin Shaw

Thursday May 23 marked the final choir rehearsal of the 2012-2013 season and the choir gathered at the home of our Minister of Music, Miae Park for what has become a traditional, annual indoor picnic. The choir thanks Miae for the delicious dinner and the hospitality she and her family extended to the members of the choir.

The choir offered its final anthem of the season, "With a Voice of Singing", on Sunday May 26. During last season, the choir prepared and presented 43 different anthems for Good Shepherd worship services. If you would like to sing with the choir, speak with Miae Park or any member of the choir.

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The beginning of this June 2013 the Environmental Committee will provide the following survey via a green insert in your bulletin. For your convenience you are also welcome to respond via email to nwfitch@gmail.com using this form –

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE SURVEY

“A good man leaves an inheritance for his children’s children” – Proverbs 13:22

Good Shepherd’s environmental committee is requesting your response to this survey to learn how we can best serve and involve our congregation in helping to protect God’s Creation. We appreciate your support in this endeavor.

Environmental Issues of Interest –

Which of these issues would you like to learn more about and/or encourage others awareness?

- Water Pollution & Conservation
- Plastic Impacts, e.g. Styrofoam, Bags, Bottles, Ocean Pollution
- Energy Conservation
- Concerns in Regards to Fracking and Sand Oil
- Global Warming and Reducing Our Carbon Foot Print
- Hazards of Herbicide & Pesticide Usage
- Other _____

Modes of Presentation or Activities

How best to learn and take intelligent action on those environmental issues concerning us?

- Sunday Inserts in Bulletin
- Environmental Bulletin Board
- Posters
- Sun. 1/2 Hour Program After Coffee (Occasional)
- Sun. 9:00 Discussion Group (1 to 4 Sundays on a particular topic – short video)
- Other _____

June 2013

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1
						1-4pm NJ State Youth Orch
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service						1-4pm NJ State Youth Orch
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10 – Service & Narthex Upgrade mtg immed after	7pm Council Meeting					1-4pm NJ State Youth Orch
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10 – Service		7:30 – 9:00 Compassionate Friends			12:30 – Ladies Luncheon Group @ Danish Pastry in the Gallery	1-4pm NJ State Youth Orch
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10 – Service		1:30 Courage in Aging				1-4pm NJ State Youth Orch
30						
10 – Service						