

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

May 2014

(our website good-shepherd.us)

Open Minds ... Open Hearts ... Open Hands

From The Pastor

To all the saints at Good Shepherd,

The celebration of Easter does not have us focus on an empty tomb with its association with all that has been, but rather on the rising of the sun with its brilliance and the promise of all creation being renewed. What a miracle it was for those who first confronted the scene and were told "He is not here, he risen! Why seek you the living among the dead?" Such statements meant only one thing – JESUS DID NOT DIE - HE WAS ALIVE! And because He lives we are empowered to make daily living the opportunity to live the gospel he taught with enthusiasm and expectation. Possessing such an attitude allows us to confront even the most profound challenges of daily life with a greater sense of courage and expectation. Resurrection is about life and the future. Regardless of what the past may have been we can now journey into the future with the anticipation of renewal and peace. And as we travel the road of renewal we have this promise given to us by Jesus - "Lo, I am with you always" - to calm our fears and help us to live boldly, confidently and cheerfully each new day.

For me personally I find the hymn "The Strife O'er, the Battle Done" to be most profound of all the hymns of the Easter season:

The strife is o'er, the battle done; now is the victor's triumph won!
now be the song of praise begun.
The powers of death have done their worst, Jesus their legions
has dispersed, Let shouts of holy joy outburst.
The three sad days have quickly sped, Christ rises glorious
from the dead. All glory to our risen head!
Christ closed the yawning gates of hell; the bars from heaven's high portals fell;
let hymns of praise his triumph tell.
Lord, by the stripes which wounded you, from death's sting free your
servants too, that we may live and sing to you.

These words serve to remind us that the God who gives us life is also the one who redeems us when we feel lost and defeated, and the one who assists us in restoring hope and joy once again. Yes, Jesus is alive. Alleluia!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jack

+++++

ERNIE BRINKMAN DIES AT AGE 84

by Gil Vatter

Ernest William ("Ernie") Brinkman died on Monday April 7 at CentraState Medical Center in Freehold. He was 84 year old. Ernie was born in Brooklyn, New York on May 6, 1929 and grew up on Staten Island. The Brinkman family lived on Long Island, in the Chicago area, Lincroft, New Jersey and in Howell Township, where they moved after he retired. He was employed by Continental Insurance Company for 45 years, retiring as Vice President of Claims. He was a veteran of the United States Army, having served during the Korean War.

He played golf whenever possible and was a member of the "Golf Group", made up mostly by members of Good Shepherd Church. He and his wife Grace were long time members of Good Shepherd, serving on many church committees and attending many of the social activities of the Adult Fellowship group. Ernie was an usher, insurance advisor, a confirmation class teacher, a member of the Congregation Council and president of the Council in 1996, a critical period at the end of Pastor George Frank's tenure and the beginning of Pastor Michael Gebhart's pastorate.

In addition to his wife of 59 years Grace Ekeland Brinkman, he is survived by four children and eight grandchildren. Pastor Elstad officiated at a memorial service at Good Shepherd Church on Friday April 11 with interment following at Brig. Gen William C. Doyle Veterans Cemetery in Arneytown, New Jersey.

++++
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES for April 14, 2014, 7:00PM

Council members Present: Steve Miller, Sharon Oberkehr; ; Tom Tehve; Marion Schloemer & Stephanie Dall.
+ Mike Carp(non-council)

Excused absences: Lou Medici (cruise); John Dall (work deadline); Karl Torjussen (travel in CA) ; Jamie Antonacci (heavy work)

5 of 9 council members was a quorum and the subsequent meeting was led by VP Marion Schloemer, in the absence of President Medici.

Devotions - Pastor Jack

Approved this agenda

Approved minutes of Mar 10, 2014 council meeting;

Approved Mar 31 Treasurer's Report, by Clem Hergenhan

DISCUSSION OF TREASURER'S REPORT: As of March 31, 2014 general contributions, year to date, are \$14K below March 31, 2013. Pastor distributed records of church attendance, which showed a decline in 1Q2014 vs 1Q2013; pastor also keeps an informal record of all attendees. The council then created the following steps:

- o quarterly 2013, vs 2014 notices, for each congregation member: **Tom Tehve action**
- o Public announcement during service: **Marion will announce** during service, the Sunday after Easter
- o Email congregation members: **Marion to write a proposal** and give to Clem for proofing, to be emailed this week to all congregation members

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Pastor's report - Pastor Jack

Social Ministry - Mike Carp

Property - John Dall

Council recommended following activities in connection with May 3 property day (9AM to 3PM):

- o Easter bulletin announcement about May 3 property day **John Dall**
- o trim bottom of pine trees along border to St. Catherines; trim brush along Middletown Road; trim brush in old Memorial Garden (N of church); trim pines between pink house and rear door to Frank Hall
- o Plant flowers around cross, etc.; paint yellow walkway barrier;
- o After Easter, remove Poinsettias, etc from altar area, and plant outdoors
- o **Pastor Jack to register** with United Way of Monmouth County for workers we need on May 3.
- o **Property team** to call younger members to get involved in work day.
- o Hold a men's breakfast: potluck on May 3 at beginning of work day!
- o **Sharon will make poster. Steve will provide work descriptions** to Sharon.

Christian Education - Sharon Oberkehr .

- o Sharon discussed Elaine Sedan is no longer available to "sit" for the preschooler through 2nd grade.
- o Sharon decided to rotate among the mothers for the time being
- o Marion Schloemer volunteered to provide care, as needed
- o Children donate monthly: COG gift cards; St Marks; shampoo, etc for COG;
- o Sharon is planning Easter Sunday children bells.

Following Reports were not received:

- Spiritual Renewal and OutReach (Evangelism)- Patch Advertising results -Karl Torjussen
- Evangelism - Marion Schloemer (cards for the sick)
- Mission Support (Stewardship) - Karl Torjussen
- Fellowship - Debbie Blackburn/Kathe DaGau/Germaine Scott
- Finance - Clem Hergenhan/Dick Alberti/Tom Tehve
- Worship and Music -Andy Mathisen

Council discussed German School children: On Thursday, there is a period of time, when parents drop off children, teachers are not yet on duty, and children run around/unsupervised/out of control. The choir room, nursery, and Frank Hall classrooms are now locked when not in use. The German school has arranged to be given a Frank Hall classroom key, which teachers can use to open up classrooms only when teachers are present.

Palm Sunday attendance and breakfast were not well-published (not in previous week's bulletin) and were not as well attended as expected,

OLD BUSINESS

- o PREVIOUS ACTION ITEMS; SUMMARY ; Oct 14 ; Aug 12 ;june24 ; Nov 11; Dec9 ; Feb 10, 2014 ; Mar 10, 2014
- o Committees and Positions/photos (to be posted on bulletin board - Steve will print, at Staples, "church positions"; and also print photo of new members Germaine-Mack-Harold Scott
- o Doreen Hoffman (Financial Secretary) wants a replacement by 1/2015. Stephanie Dall volunteered to train and become the 2015 replacement.
- o Annual Financial Audit report (Gil Vatter, Walter Keyl, Tom Tehve); document was signed by Pastor; and should have been mailed to Synod
- o Good Shepherd Mission -committee meeting March 17 (Andy M) - **Steve Miller to report**, for Mission Committee, on Easter Sunday (after Gospel; prior to sermon)
- o Council reviewed Dr. Grafton's adult forum on Islam; feedback?; next steps

NEW BUSINESS

- o Lou Medici (in absentia) proposed Good Shepherd buy a portable coat rack. An interim solution: **property team** could put an end-barrier/wall extension, so the existing coat rack is not visible from front door.
- o Alternative plans if Pat Dunn is not available: Sunday bulletin, etc.
- o Need to review Pat Dunn's email list. who is missing; who should be dropped? **RESULTING COUNCIL ACTION:** conduct an email drive: congregation members could record their new/revised email on a slip to be placed in offering plate or in a special box.
- o The council remembered Ernie Brinkman

ADJOURNED with Lords Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Steve Miller, Council Secretary

+++++

COURAGE IN AGING - Will meet on Tuesday, May 20 AT 1:30 in the church library. Our topic will be "WHEN THE GOLD IN THE GOLDEN YEARS BEGINS TO TARNISH. Elizabeth and Ruth are hoping to see you all there to reunite after several months of absence and to discuss this topic that affects so many. Feel free to call Ruth with any questions at 732-864-0616.

+++++

The Flea Market scheduled for May 17 has been canceled.

+++++

AROUND THE PARISH

by Gil Vatter

GOOD SHEPHERD - THE FRIENDLY CHURCH

1. In April, the Social Ministry Committee delivered over 100 cans of food (and a frozen turkey from the Kuhl family) to the Bayshore Lunch Program in Keyport making the year to date total for 2014 - 660 cans. Thanks to everyone who brought this food to church.

2. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd fez to Dr. David Grafton, who preached at the Sunday April 6 service and conducted an Adult Forum about Christian-Muslim relations in America.

Lena said, "Ole and I have a strange and wonderful friendship. I'm wonderful and Ole's strange (Grace Brinkman)

3. The Bayshore Lunch Program "Sponsors Group" has already contributed more than \$700 to the soup kitchen this year.

4. Remember the Community Outreach Group's June Household/Personal Goods collection.

I've learned that when you're at a family picnic, you shouldn't say you don't like what you're eating because the person sitting next to you might have prepared it. (Bill Wehrli)

5. I hope you didn't miss *Pastor Jack's* Childrens Sermon on Sunday April 6, "You are the Future."

6. Two more signs that spring has finally arrived in Monmouth County.....Both *Janice and Paul Kraus and Bill Wehrli* were in church on April 6.....Florida is emptying out. Also, the church's stand of Bradford Pear trees has been blooming most of the month. Beautiful trees that bloom every April.

Lena was knitting and driving fast on the turnpike. A policeman pulled up beside her and yelled, "Pullover." Lena yelled back, "No. It's a scarf for Ole."

7. *Trudi Lenz* is the proud owner of a brand new hip. She and husband *Harold* are both recuperating at home.

8. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd bonnet to *Debbie Blackburn* and *Kathie DaGiau* and all those who provided food for both the Sunday April 6 brunch and the Sunday April 13 Palm Sunday breakfast. Lots of good food and great fellowship.

Don't forget-----Moses started out as a basket case.

9. The congregation welcomed *Linda Frank* to worship on Sunday April 13. Linda has lived on Cape Cod for a number of years and is in the real estate business.

10. Yours truly loved the silver slippers worn by Acolyte *Leah Oberkehr* at the worship service on Sunday April 20.

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day
Teach a man to fish and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day.

11. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd stetson to all the families who helped provide lilies to decorate the altar and front of the sanctuary on Easter Day and thanks to the Altar Guild for all their work.

12. Happy birthday to Anthony Alberti, Hannah Oberkehr, Jeffrey Miller and Miae Park.

It was time to eat on a flight to Los Angeles and the flight attendant asked a passenger if she would like some dinner. "What are my choices, she asked?" The girl replied, "Yes or no." (Bunny Kuhl)

13. Happy Wedding Anniversary to San Francisco resident *Becky Bartlett* and her husband, *Lou and Elaine Medici* and *Pat and Brian Dunn*.

14. Speaking of wedding anniversaries; *Randi and Bob Stez* and *Diane and Andy Mathisen*, celebrated wedding anniversaries together this year over dinner. They share the same wedding day.

Conjunctivitis.com - A site for sore eyes

15. Another anniversary of note - *Pastor Jack* will celebrate the anniversary of his ordination on May 28.

16. *Karen and Dave Rajala* just returned from an exciting visit "down under" to visit daughter *Anne Medling and son-in-law Scott*, who are doing research at the University of South Australia in Canberra, the capital of the country. They report that Anne and Scott are doing very well and enjoying their stay in New South Wales.

Ole walked into a bar with a chunk of asphalt under his arm. He asked the bartender for a beer and one for the road.

17. *Elaine and Lou Medici* celebrated their wedding anniversary with a cruise to the Caribbean on the new Norwegian Cruise Line ship "Breakaway".

18. The congregation welcomed *Pastor Neil Jaggie* on Sunday April 27 while Pastor Elstad and Ruth vacationed in North Carolina.

My wife sat down next to me as I was surfing channels. She asked me, "What's on TV?" I said, "Dust." And that's when the fight started. (Bill Wehrli)

SEE YOU IN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

+++++

DR. DAVID D. GRAFTON VISITS GOOD SHEPHERD

by Gil Vatter

Dr. David D. Grafton was the guest speaker at Good Shepherd Church on Sunday April 6. His homily was "The Raising of Lazarus in Islam: Unbimding our Views of the Other". Dr Grafton is Associate Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations and the Director for Graduate Studies at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Prior to his coming to Philadelphia, he served as the Coordinator of Graduate Studies at the Evangelical (Presbyterian) Theological Seminary in Cairo, Egypt, Director of the Center for Middle East Christianity at the Seminary and Adjunct Lecturer in Islam Studies at the Dar Comboni Institute for Arabic and Islam Studies in Cairo. He also acted as pastor of St. Peter's Church, an international, inter-denominational congregation in Cairo. He is married and has three children.

Following the 10:00 PM service, Dr. Grafton addressed an Adult Forum in Frank Hall as a part of the congregation's continuing attempt to understand more about Islam, the religion of our neighbors at the Muslim Center a short way up the street. His opening remarks included a short biography of his training and experience and a few words about Muslims - there are one billion Muslims in the world, including many in the large cities of the United States. Dearborn, Michigan has one of the oldest Muslim communities in this country, where they came in the 1800's to find jobs in local industry.

Dr. Grafton opened the floor to questions from the audience and responded to a wide variety of questions from those attending including:

What it is like to be a Christian in a predominant Muslim country like Egypt

A Christians struggle to understand Islam - Christian/Muslim relations

Christians, Jews and Muslims are all religions of the "Book"

Muslims consider Jesus a great prophet

Sharia law - How to live ones life as a Muslim

Faqua - Religious opinion

Social and economic progress of Muslims in the USA

The on-going dispute between liberal and orthodox Muslim Sects - Why some Muslim groups resort to violence

The difference between Shia (10% of Muslims) and Suni (90% of Muslims) and how they interpret the Koran

+++++

FULL HOUSE AT GOOD SHEPHERD CELEBRATES THE RESURRECTION

by Gil Vatter

On Sunday April 20, with bright sunshine, blue skies and mild temperatures enhancing the day, the congregation and friends of Good Shepherd Church joyfully replied to Pastor Elstad's announcement, "Christ is risen." with the traditional reply, "He is risen indeed. Hallelujah!" as they gathered to begin the church's 2014 service of Easter. The altar, baptismal font and pulpit were brightly decorated with dozens of blooming white lilies provided by families from the church and the aroma of the flowers filled the air.

The congregation had met to consider the meaning of Holy Week at a communion service on Maundy Thursday and the Tenebrae service of sadness and reflection on Good Friday was past and now, with the good news of the resurrection ringing from the rafters of the sanctuary, over 100 people listened to Rachel Mathisen play an Easter melody on the bells, accompanied by Minister of Music, Miae Park, followed by the Gathering Song, "Jesus Christ is Risen Today". After the prayer of the day, the Children's Choir, made up of five members of the Sunday School, Isabella Antonacci, Bella Miller, Hannah Oberkehr, Leah Oberkehr and Matthew Oberkehr, played several traditional Easter selections, conducted by Sharon Oberkehr.

Lay Assistant, Garry Westerweller read from Acts 10 and Colossians 3 and he and the congregation read Psalm 118 responsively. Following the Gospel, the Easter story from Matthew 28, Pastor Elstad preached his sermon based on the meaning of the resurrection. The choir presented its musical offering, "How Excellent is Thy Name" from George FriedrickHandel's oratorio "Saul" , introducing the Holy Communion. The final hymn was the Sending Song, "The Day of Resurrection" and Miae Park and Rachel Mathisen ended the service with the Postlude, "Hallelujah" as the worshipers filed into the narthex to greet Pastor Elstad and for fellowship and coffee, prepared by Maureen Bartlett, putting the finishing touches to the 47th celebration of Easter at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd.

+++++

SPRING CONCERT HELPS FEED LOCAL FAMILIES

by Gil Vatter

It is fast becoming a tradition at Good Shepherd Church to offer a spring musical event to the Holmdel/Middletown area both as a service to those living in the neighborhood and as a way to raise money to benefit a local or an international charity. There have been many concerts in the past which delighted the supporters of the events and which provided financial assistance to many organizations, such as the Food Bank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, Lunch Break in Red Bank, Water Wells for Africa, Hurricane "Sandy" victims, malaria and others. This year, the recipient of all the receipts from the spring concert was the Bayshore Lunch Program, located in Keyport, New Jersey. BLP is a soup kitchen which is supported by Good Shepherd

Church throughout the year with monthly food deliveries and financial assistance. We were pleased to welcome the Co-Directors of the BLP Kitchen, Nancy Mester and Doreen Minutella to the 2014 concert.

This year's concert took place on Sunday April 27 at 3:00 PM in the sanctuary of the church and featured a quartet of talented young local musicians presented by Miae Park, the church's Minister of Music, who has been responsible for producing many of the past concerts. The performers included four high school students with credentials and musical experience far beyond their years.

Euihyun Robert Kim - Violin
Hyunjee Min - Viola
Jessica Hong - Cello
Tommy Choi - Piano

The afternoon of music began with the entire quartet playing *Be Still*, a pleasant, reflective melody by **David J. Evans** (b. 1957) a contemporary British composer best known for his hymns.

"Be still, for the spirit of the Lord,
The Holy One is here."

Beginning with the piano, the cello, viola and finally the violin each repeated the lovely theme of the composition and then joined together to complete the four part construction. Accompanied by Miae Park, Hyunjee Min, by memory, competently presented *the Allegro from the Concerto in D Major* by the German composer, **Franz Hoffmeister** (1754-1812), best known for his works for the viola. The viola is more seldom heard as a solo instrument and it was a special treat to hear the lower tones of the stringed instrument as Miss Min attacked the Allegro with vigor and demonstrated her skill at the intricate fingering required by the Hoffmeister composition.

Pianist Tommy Choi made use of the entire keyboard as he entertained the audience with his by memory rendition of Hungarian composer **Franz Liszt's** (1811-1886) "*La Campanella*", a decidedly "unLiszt-like" composition based on the third of the Grande Etudes of Paganini. Ignoring the technical difficulties of the piece, Choi handled trills with his right hand and glissandos with both hands to bring out the Spanish flavor of the piano music and dazzle the audience. The first half of the concert ended with *Concerto in D Minor* by **Edouard Lalo** (1823-1892) played from memory by cellist Jessica Hong accompanied by Miae Park. Jessica has been a welcome soloist at Good Shepherd services in the past. The Concerto began with a slow section beautifully presented by Miss Hong and reflecting the deep, echoing sounds of her German cello, moved into a lively allegro and ended with pizzicato chords. The "Introduction/Rondo" showed her evident mastery of her instrument as she changed from a slow andante into a lively rondo and ended with some very fast scales into a trill and resolution. What a treat.

Following a short intermission, Euihyun Kim offered from memory the familiar *Zigeunerweisen* by Spanish composer and violinist, **Pablo de Sarasate** (1844-1908), which just happens to be one of my favorite pieces for the violin. Written in 1878 and based on traditional Gypsy melodies, *Zigeunerweisen* is Sarasate's most popular composition and has been recorded by many violinists. Mr. Kim began with a slow, majestic energy and moved into the more technically demanding figures, difficult runs and ricochet bowing. After a passage of melancholy music, the rondo section proceeded very quickly with long spicato runs, double stops, harmonics and left hand pizzicatas which left the audience amazed. Euihyun plays effortlessly and adapts his playing to the requirements of the composer by his ability to play fast and with expression as well.

Following the musical event, refreshments were served by friends of Miae Park in the narthex of the church.

All in all, it was both an enjoyable afternoon of wonderful music and an opportunity to hear the talents of four well trained young musicians. We thank them for lending their music to a charity concert and for

their competent performances and wish them well in any future musical endeavors they may undertake. We also thank Miae Park for all the work she did to organize and present the concert. Not only was the concert entertaining, these young people have also set a very high standard for any musicians offering future concerts at Good Shepherd.

+++++

A FEW NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

by Gil Vatter

Lord use our voices, Lord use our hands, Lord use our lives. We are an offering.

Sunday March 30 - "The Lord is My Shepherd" - A. Pote

Sunday April 6 - "My Hope is in You" - Ruth E. Schram

Accompanied by Eui Hyun Kim - Violin

Prelude and Postlude - Jessica Hong - Cello; Eui Hyun Kim - Violin; Miae Park - Organ/Piano

Sunday April 13 - "Hosanna Unto the King" - Mark Patterson

Good Friday April 18 - "Come See the Place Where Jesus Prayed" - John Carter

"Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?" - Traditional

Easter Sunday April 20 - "How Excellent is Thy Name" - George Frederick Handel

Prelude - "Hallelujah" - Postlude - Easter Melody - Rachel Mathisen - Bells

Accompanied by Miae Park - Piano

Traditional Easter Hymns - Children's Bell Choir

Isabella Antonacci, Bella Miller, Hannah Oberkehr, Leah Oberkehr, Matthew Oberkehr

Sharon Oberkehr - Conductor

Sunday April 27 - "O Come and Sing to the Lord" - M. Price

Choir rehearsal is every Thursday evening at 7:30 PM in the sanctuary - Everyone is welcome.

+++++

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. Note that we are considerably behind our 2014 budget expectation and our contributions from last year!!

	Mar 2014	YTD 2014	YTD Budget	YTD 2013
General Contributions	9,053	23,912	33,750	33,697

+++++

HELP IMPROVE THE WORLD'S AIR QUALITY

(submitted by Steve Miller, at the request of the Creation Care Committee)

Electrical power plants are the largest source of greenhouse gas pollution in the US.

Good Shepherd's "Creation Care Committee" is supporting an ELCA-advocated letter, addressed to the EPA, to approve carbon pollution requirements on new electrical power generation plants. (Presently there are NO carbon pollution requirements).

Attendees at the May 4 service will be asked to sign the attached letter (recommended by the ELCA). This letter, signed and delivered PRIOR to closing of public comments on May 9, 2014, is our best chance to quickly reduce carbon pollution from new electrical generating plants. If you are not able to attend the May 4 service, you must quickly mail the letter and/or your additional comments to:

Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center,
Environmental Protection Agency

Mail Code 2822T
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20460

REFERENCES:

<http://www.capwiz.com/elca/issues/alert/?alertid=63191741>

<http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards>

May 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	1 7:30 - Choir Practice	2	3 Church Workday
4 9- Sunday School 10 - Service	5	6	7	8 7:30 - Choir Practice	9	10
11 9- Sunday School 10 - Service Mothers Day	12 7pm Council Mtg	13	14	15 7:30 - Choir Practice	16 12:30 Ladies Lunch McLoones on Shrewsbury Ave	17
18 9- Sunday School 10 - Service	19	20 1:30 - Courage in Aging 7:30- Compassionate Friends	21	22 7:30 - Choir Practice	23	24
25 9- Sunday School 10 - Service	26 Memorial Day	27	28	29 7:30 - Choir Practice	30	31
1	2	NOTES				