

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

August 2014

(our website good-shepherd.us)

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

Greetings from The President of Church Council

I hope every one is having a great summer! Next week Sunday Aug 10th our Vice Pastor Rachel Semovoski, will be preaching at our Church. Please come and worship with Pastor Rachel. She will also be preaching the second Sunday of every month, visiting the sick and will be at our Council meetings.

Please come next Sunday to Welcome Pastor Rachel Semovoski.

Yours in Christ
Louis Medici
Council President

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From The Pastor

July 31, 2014

To all the saints at Good Shepherd,

Ruth and I will never forget the wonderful outpouring of love from all those who attended worship and the luncheon which followed it on Sunday, July 27 that marked the conclusion of my four-year ministry at this remarkable congregation.

From Ruth's receiving a lovely corsage to the cutting of the beautiful farewell cake, there was a spirit of fellowship marked with nostalgia, humor, and yes, tears.

We are very fortunate to have been blessed by having bonded with such gracious, caring people, both, young and old, who make up this congregation. Good Shepherd may in terms of statistics be a small congregation, but in terms of service, faithfulness, friendliness and generosity, it is a very big congregation. And that is what matters most.

It is our belief that Pastor Rachel will be a perfect person to be your Vice-Pastor. She has all the assets you could hope for to take over the ministerial responsibilities during this period of transition. You will continue to be in our thoughts, prayers and hearts always.

*Grace and peace to you all.
Pastor Jack*

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MINUTES for July 14, 2014 Council meeting

ATTENDEES:

1. **COUNCIL:** Steve Miller, Sharon Oberkehr; Tom Tehve; Marion Schloemer, Stephanie Dall, John Dall, Pastor Jack; Lou Medici (via speakerphone)
2. **EXCUSED:** Karl Torjussen (family commitments); Jamie Antonacci (business trip).
3. **GUEST:** Michael Carp

Marion Schloemer called the meeting to order at 7:10PM.

Vice Pastor Rachel Semovoski briefly attended and introduced herself. In Jan, 2014, Pastor Rachel (& husband) was called to serve at King of Kings; originally from south Jersey, she graduated from Gettysburg Seminary; Rachel has a 2 year old daughter.

Pastor Rachel's roles at Good Shepherd:

1. Supply Pastor once per month (2nd Sunday, after council discussion)
2. Emergencies, hospital visits, confirmation, weddings, funerals, First Communion, Christian Ed (Sharon Oberkehr to coordinate, and set date/time at either Good Shepherd or King of Kings)

Devotions - Pastor Jack

Approved this agenda

Approved minutes of June 9, 2014 council meeting

Approved June 30 Treasurer's Report, by Clem Hergenhan

- Negative 9K cash flow 1H2014 (after subtracting reserve for capital improvements and social ministry)
- Contribution explanation provided by Doreen & Clem

The council assigned a team to understand current GS financial details, and propose a GS action plan: Marion Schloemer (head); Tom Tehve (Finance); Dick Alberti (Treasurer); Clem Hergenhan (Asst Treasurer); Doreen Hoffman (Financial Secretary). Pastor Jack suggested that a resulting plan to grow the congregation might attract people by featuring areas of general interest: music; environment, etc.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Pastor's report - Pastor Jack

"Creation Care" Environmental Committee -

1. Nancy Fitch (Styrofoam collection planned in Sept);
2. Mike Carp requested milkweed be planted on church grounds, to help preserve the monarch butterfly; Mike volunteered to write a suitable bulletin insert for this fall

Social Ministry - During August, Mike Carp will sell \$5 coupons for Macy's "Shop for a Cause". Proceeds will be split among Project Paul, Red Bank Crop Walk, and the COG Back to School initiative. Nancy Fitch requested a donation of \$500 for COG "Back to School". The Council approved a motion to ensure a total gift of \$500 is donated to COG "Back to School". Good Shepherd will add to the COG portion of the amount raised from congregation members for "Shop for a Cause".

Property - John Dall. John reported that a required fire alarm upgrade will be classed as maintenance. Following are capital improvements, pending funding:

1. Parking lot paving (options include paved walkways and partial lot paving)
2. Front door awning
3. Narthex wall (replace the existing stand-alone solid wall with two columns to match the remodeled wall)
4. Landscaping improvements in the area between sanctuary and parking (match the existing landscaping between cross and education wing): remove overgrown evergreens, install a tiered block wall.,

ENSURE CHURCH DOORS ARE LOCKED: the event organizer and/or last person leaving must ensure exterior doors are locked. Gil Vatter found the front door unlocked on July 7. Steve Miller found Classroom 2 exterior door unlocked on July 13.

At Steve Miller's request, John Dall will investigate solar cells to be installed on the Sanctuary roof top, and invite a vendor to present a proposal. The objective: energy conservation as well as cost savings. An option: contract for electric power savings, with no up-front cost. Possible vendors include Trinity Solar, Wall Township.

Christian Education - Sharon Oberkehr reported plans for an action-packed VBS. Sunday School kickoff will be Sept 14 (2nd Sunday of Sept)

Evangelism - Marion Schloemer (cards for the sick): Marion asked for advice on identifying the sick, after Pastor Jack leaves. Council supported Pastor Jack's plan to continue visits to Rich Bartlett due to the severity of his medical condition and Rich's relationship to Pastor.

Fellowship - Debbie Blackburn/Kathe DaGau/Germaine Scott - planning the July 27 re-retirement luncheon
Worship and Music Pat Miller is playing piano through July 27 while Miae is vacationing. Pat is featuring music by these composers: Chopin on July 13; Bach on July 20; Beethoven on July 27.

OLD BUSINESS

- Apr 14 action items; May 12 action items; Jun 9 action items

NEW BUSINESS

- Luncheon July 27 for Pastor Jack (Debbie Blackburn is organizing); Islamic Society plans to say a few words; a cash gift is planned for Pastor Jack's retirement - Council proposed an email requesting cash donations. This email would go to thechurch mailing list (STEVE MILLER ACTION);
- Create a stewardship plan. (KARL TORJUSSEN ACTION). Invite Rev Scott Schantzenbach, Asst to the Bishop on Stewardship issues, to come to preach at Good Shepherd (the Reverend's time is very busy in the fall!). ANDY MATHISEN ACTION
- Possible video web advertising (free training: July 17 "webinar", 2PM) (how to market by leveraging video)
- Completion of annual Workmans Comp insurance audit, by Hartford Ins.: (due 8/5/2014): STEVE MILLER ACTION -(previously completed the audit in 2012 and 2013
- Postcard mailing by end of August to (~200?) new residents within x radius? STEVE MILLER & KATHE DaGIAU ACTION. Enlist Germaine as postcard Grapic Artist.
- Advertise fall Sunday School launch: (PR text photos to be submitted to Karl Torjussen)
 - Narthex posters - display prior to Little Chief opening; also display during the earlier Little Chief "open house" SHARON OBERKEHR
 - Postcard mailing (end of August) STEVE MILLER
 - Write Press Release & photo(s) for Sept 1 Holmdel Happenings; Lincroft Journal; Colts Neck Journal: SHARON OBERKEHR to submit to KARL TORJUSSEN
 - Submit Press Release & photo for "event" calendar of Holmdel Patch and Middletown Patch: Use KARL TORJUSSEN's PR: STEVE MILLER ACTION
 - Investigate submission to *99.1 (radio) Calendar of Events (assuming little/no cost): MICHAEL CARP
- coordinate/screen mail list for subsequent periodic mailings to neighborhood move-ins .SHARON OBERKEHR ACTION:
- The council expressed great gratitude for Pastor Jack's last 4 years of service to Good Shepherd.

NEXT MEETING: 7PM, August 11, 2014

ADJOURNED with Lords Prayer

Respectfully Submitted: Steve Miller, Council Secretary

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AROUND THE PARISH
by Gil Vatter
GOOD SHEPHERD - THE FRIENDLY CHURCH

1. Happy Birthday to *Larry Jackson (91 years old), Rich Bartlett, Barbara Haher and Matthew Oberkehr (8 years old)*.

2. Happy anniversary to *Ruth and Jack Elstad (53 years)*.

Sunday School teacher - "Can anyone tell me the story of Adam and Eve?"

Little girl - "First God created Adam. Then he looked at him and said, 'I think I could do better if I tried again' so, he created Eve." (Grace Brinkman)

3. *Nancy Fitch* enjoyed a week on the Outer Banks of North Carolina right before the onset of Hurricane "Arthur" in July.

4. I hope you were in church on Sunday July 6 to help sing "America the Beautiful" to celebrate Independence Day. What a great experience.

I've learned that God doesn't ask you to be the best, just to do your best. (Bill Wehrli)

5. *Bill Wehrli's* adventures with the medical profession over the past weeks has read more like the "Odyssey" than "The Cure". He has moved from the hospital to re-hab, back to the hospital, back to re-hab and now is at the Bayshore Health Care Center on Beers Street waiting to have another procedure done at the hospital. I sure hope that hospital bed is on wheels.

6. The congregation joined together to sing "Happy Birthday" to *Shirley Jackson* on Sunday July 6.

Patient - "Doctor, doctor, I keep thinking I'm a bell."

Doctor - "Take two aspirin and, if that doesn't help, give me a ring."

7. *Pastor Jack* and the congregation joined to wish Minister of Music, *Miae Park*, bon voyage, before her three week trip to Korea to visit relatives and friends.

8. Good Shepherd families brought more than 120 cans of food plus pasta, peanut butter, jelly, rice, coffee and tea for the Bayshore Lunch Program during June. Year to date contributions now total more than 885 cans of food and much much more. Thanks everyone for your generosity.

Television is called a medium because so much of it is either rare or well done.

9. *Andy (the Viking) Mathisen* had a beard after a two week sojourn at the Fillmont Scout Camp in Colorado. He promised *Diane* to shave it off as soon as he wore it - JUST ONCE - into the office.

10. *Debbie and John Blackburn* sold their home in Lincroft after only five days.

Ole took his wife to a restaurant.

The waiter, for some reason, took his order first.

"I'll have the steak, rare, please". he said.

"Aren't you worried about the mad cow?", said the waiter.

"Nah, she can order for herself."

And that's when the fight started. (Bill Wehrli)

11. *Bunny and Herb Kuhl's* granddaughter, *Jesse*, will receive her bachelor's degree from Rutgers in mid-August.

12. Is it any wonder that *Dick Alberti* looks so sad these days. The Philadelphia Phillies are having a lousey year (again) and there's no light at the end of the tunnel.

Time flies like an arrow - fruit flies like bananas (Confucius?)

13. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd derby to *Pat Miller* for playing the piano for three services during July while *Miae* was in Korea.

14. Congratulations to *Mack Scott* who made his debut as a lay reader on Sunday July 13. Way to go Mack!!!

Doctor - "Take the green pill with a glass of water when you get up, take the blue pill with two glasses of water with lunch and take the red pill with three glasses of water before bedtime."

Ole - "Exactly what's my problem?"

Doctor - "You're not drinking enough water."

15. *Col. Dan Shrimpton*, *Nancy Fitch's* son, has been assigned to the Pentagon by the U.S. Army. Good luck on the new job, Dan.

16. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd panama to *Debbie Blackburn* and all those who helped make Pastor Jack's farewell party such a success.

Clerk - "What is your date of birth, Mr. Olson?"

Ole - December 10"

Clerk - "What year?"

Ole - "Every year."

17. *Ines (accordion) and Frank (trumpet) Csulak* are still playing in several local bands on most week-ends.

18. *The Ladies Lunch Group* dined at the Oyster Point Hotel in July. For information about the planned August lunch, see *Barbara Haher* for time and place.

There was a fisherman named Fisher

Who fished for some fish in a fissure.

'Til a fish with a grin

Pulled the fisherman in

Now they're fishing the fissure for Fisher.

19. Hearty congratulations to *Pat and Brian Dunne* who became the grandparents of twin girls in early July.

20. *Trudy and Charlie Miller's* granddaughter *Erin* (from Connecticut) spent a week in Lakewood with her grandparents.

I know I'm getting bald because it takes longer and longer to wash my face. (Bill Wehrli)

21. *Bunny and Herb Kuhl* will soon be hanging a Holiday Inn sign in front of their home. The visitors, mostly family, keep on flocking to Holmdel this summer.

22. Have you noticed that *Hannah Oberkehr* is growing up. She will start sixth grade this fall.

Ole frantically phoned a doctor. "Doctor, my wife Lena is pregnant and her contractions are only two minutes apart."

"Is this her first child", asked the doctor

"No, you ninny" shouted Ole, "This is her husband."

23. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd stetson to the Reverend John M. Elstad for his four years of dedicated service to the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. We'll miss you, Jack and Ruth too.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

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PARISH SAYS FAREWELL TO PASTOR JACK AND RUTH ELSTAD

by Gil Vatter

On Sunday July 27, a crowded church was the scene of the final appearance of Pastor Jack Elstad as pastor of the Good Shepherd congregation. Pat Miller, playing the piano, opened the Holy Communion service with a Beethoven Prelude and the congregation sang Hymn number 533, "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty". Lay Reader, Gil Vatter read portions of First Kings and Paul's Letter to the Romans and the congregation read Psalm 119.

After his reading of the Gospel, Matthew's parable of the mustard seed, Pastor Elstad reminisced about his last four years at Good Shepherd and about some of the events that he recalled from his experiences in Holmdel. He also talked about the new Vice Pastor, Rev. Rachel Semovoski, co-pastor of King of Kings, who will work with us after he leaves and he encouraged the people of the parish to welcome her.

Holy Communion followed and the service ended with Hymn #660, "Lift High the Cross" and Pat Miller's Postlude, "Song of Joy" by Beethoven.

Everyone then moved to Frank Hall for a farewell dinner for Ruth and Jack prepared by Debbie Blackburn, Fellowship chair, and many of the women of the congregation. Following dinner, Council President Lou Medici introduced a series of speakers from Good Shepherd, from Pastor Elstad's former congregation and representatives from the Islamic Society of Monmouth County. All spoke of his talent, sense of humor, interest in outreach and dedication to his calling. All expressed their wish for future health and happiness for the Elstad family. Garry Westerweller presented a poem which saluted the "Elstad years" at the church and Gil Vatter, the final speaker, recalled Pastor Bruce Ewen's introduction of Pastor Elstad to the Congregation Council and his early days as spiritual leader of Good Shepherd.

Pastor Elstad responded to all with the hope that the church will continue to grow and prosper. He thanked everyone for their help and friendship over the past four years and especially those who prepared the day's celebration.

+++++ Retirement Poem (7/27/14)

Through the years of our church history
We've had our ups and downs.
We've shared happiness and fellowship
And days that made us frown

Of course we're saddened by the news
That Pastor's time is at an end
I am sure I speak for all of us
When I say we'll miss you, friend.

You brought to us your leadership
And did it all with Grace
You helped us through and leave us now
In a much, much better place

And now that you're retiring
Please don't think me wrong
For four years now I've sometimes thought
Your sermons were too long

But it wasn't just the sermons length
That really got me down

It was just that every time I read
You made me wear that Choir gown.

So thank you for the memories
For these four years of your life
And for sharing your life partner
Your loving, caring wife.

Now before I end these verses
And cease to write no more
This thought popped up inside my head
Didn't you retire once before?

So maybe this is really not
A fond farewell to pastor jack
Maybe, oh just Maybe
He will once again come back

I know it's wishfully thinking
He's retiring, it's clear
But you're in Good Shepherd's family now
And you're both always welcome here

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

	Jun 2014	YTD 2014	YTD Budget	YTD 2013
General Contributions	9,060	52,874	67,500	67,393

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 Received by Treasurer Dick Alberti



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June 12, 2014

1115
 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
 PO Box 452
 Holmdel NJ 07733

TO: Congregation Treasurer:

I want to express my deep appreciation for what the gifts from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church mean to the support and momentum of the ministries of the New Jersey Synod. But equal to the monetary value, I so greatly appreciate the interdependence that is reflected though these gifts. I thank you.

The challenges to the church at times seem daunting, but knowing we have the support of congregations like Good Shepherd Lutheran Church certainly affirms that we neither walk this path alone nor do we lack the resources needed to be the church in turbulent times.

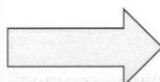
Please know of the thankfulness and appreciation of all your ministry partners for your generous living.

Gratefully,

Rev. Scott C. Schantzenbach

MISSION SUPPORT GIFT TRACKER

\$6,000.00	2014 Mission Support Intent
\$3,000.00	Projected Second Quarter Sharing [= (Intent/12) x 6]
\$3,000.00	Actual Gifts Received by NJ Synod End of May
\$0.00	"Keepin' On-Pace" gift for June



August 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 - Service						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10 - Service	7pm Council Mtg				12:30 Ladies Luncheon @ Off The Hook	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10 - Service		7:30- Compassionate Friends				
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10 - Service						
31	1	NOTES				
10 - Service						