

# *The Voice of the Good Shepherd*

**August 2015**

(our website ..... good-shepherd.us )

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

## AROUND THE PARISH

by Gil Vatter

### GOOD SHEPHERD - THE FRIENDLY CHURCH

1. Happy birthday to *Larry Jackson* who turned 92 in August and also to *Matthew Oberkehr* who became 9.

2. Happy wedding anniversary to *Ruth and Pastor Jack Elstad*, who were married for 54 years in August. We hope you have many, many more.

Venison for dinner again? Oh deer.

3. In June the congregation donated 160 cans of food for the kitchen at the **BAYSIDE LUNCH PROGRAM**. that adds up to almost 1,000 cans for 2015 to date. Way to go.

4. The **BAYSHORE LUNCH PROGRAM SPONSORS** have sent more than \$2,200 to the Keyport soup kitchen through July. Thanks for your involvement in this important outreach program.

There are no eggs in eggplant, no ham in hamburgers and no apples or pines in pineapple. (Bunny Kuhl)

5. *Kurt Mathisen* is working as an intern at a summer camp for kids in Miami, Florida.

6. Substitute pastors for July - Rev John Hansen (July 5), Rev. Rachel Samovoski (July 12 and 26) and Rev. Jim Jacob (July 19)

Never hit a man with glasses. Hit him with a baseball bat.

7. *John Dall* has abandoned his "boot" and is back to wearing shoes and socks on both feet. It's hard to tell that anything is wrong with his achilles tendon.

8. *Walter Keyl* is reading "Orbit". A book about the future of the United States space program.

I've learned that you always gain five pounds on the scale in your doctor's office. (Bill Wehrli)

9. *Kirsten Mathisen* will become an associate of Lutheran Volunteer Services in Baltimore, Maryland at the end of August. Good luck Kirsten.

10. *The Ladies Luncheon Group* met at the Boondocks Restaurant in Red Bank on Friday July 17. Information about the August meeting will appear in the Sunday bulletin.

You know you're old when everything hurts. And what doesn't hurt, doesn't work. (Bill Wehrli)

11. *Kelsey Kazmac* has become a volunteer for the Monmouth County Historical Society at MCHS sites such as Marlpit Hall. She is also a guide at the Monmouth Museum. Busy, busy.

12. *Pat and Steve Miller* spent two weeks in July touring Ireland

If it's true that the world is getting smaller, how come airline fares keep going up? (Bunny KUhl)

13. It's Homecoming at the Kuhl's in Holmdel. All the friends and relatives are staying at Chez Kuhl for the summer. Herb is thinking about a Hilton franchise.

14. Former *Pastor Jack Elstad* is doing a lot of substitute preaching around the south Jersey area this summer.

News report - Xerox and Wurlitzer will merge to produce reproductive organs.

15. Special thanks from the Social Ministry Committee to *Kim and Bill Wehrli* for their contribution of six cartons of canned food for the **BAYSHORE LUNCH PROGRAM**. Much appreciated.

16. Ask *Dick Alberti* how the Philadelphia Phillies are doing this season. Just Wait 'til next year, Dick.

The Law of Logical Argument - Anything is possible, if you don't know what you're talking about.

17. *Patty Vatter* had an operation on her right foot in July. She expects to be able to wear shoes again by early August.

18. *Pat Dunn's* twin granddaughters were a year old in July. Time flies when you're having fun.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR PLEDGES UP TO DATE DURING THE SUMMER

19. *Trudy and Charlie Miller* have been entertaining grandchildren this summer, mostly from the Connecticut branch of the family.

20. Are you a BLP Sponsor?

**SEE YOU IN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY**

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**VBS at King of Kings** from Andy Mathisen

This summer we have chosen to hold VBS at King of Kings Lutheran Church, 250 Harmony Rd, Middletown, NJ 07748. The program starts on August 10th - 14th at 8:45am and ends at 12:00, noon. Contact me for forms and more information if interested.

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**CONGREGATION BIDS FAREWELL TO OBERKEHR FAMILY**

by Gil Vatter

The following is the text of a farewell message to Sharon and Fred Oberkehr and their family delivered on Sunday June 6, 2015.

It must be almost forty years ago that a few of us from Good shepherd proposed to Pastor George Frank that we plan and present a "demonstration Seder" some time during the Jewish celebration of Passover. A Jewish friend gave me enough Haggadah booklets for eight or ten people to use for the Seder and among us we divided up the responsibility for the traditional food needed for the dinner. One final, but very important decision we had to make.....who was to sit at the table and take part in the Seder. The committee felt that we should choose a representative cross section of the congregation so a list was made, comprised of people both young and old as well as male and female, a nice balance of participants.

However, as anyone who has attended a Seder knows, the ceremony must include a very young person at the table to ask the all important question, "Why is this night different from every other night?" Looking over the available candidates for the job, the committee chose Pastor Frank's very young, blonde daughter, Sharon, who must have been all of five or six in those days, and, as we had planned, at the proper time, on the night of the demonstration, she performed perfectly in a loud, clear voice.

The point is, a lot of us have known Sharon Frank Oberkehr for most of her life.....almost from birth and baptism, through her years growing up in the parsonage on Nedshire Drive and, after her marriage to Fred Oberkehr, as a responsible and contributing member of the parish.

In June of 2008, when our pastor abruptly resigned and the president of the Congregation Council also left the church, it was up to a small group of us to reorganize the Council and assure that the ongoing mission of this church was not interrupted. As the new Council president, I felt that one of the areas of church life that needed especially close care and special attention was the Sunday School program and the education and nurturing of the young people of our congregation, for they were the future of the church.

to me, the obvious candidate for this important responsibility was Sharon Oberkehr and I did not hesitate to ask for her help. Sharon, as the product of a parsonage upbringing, had a lifetime of experience in religious education and the practical knowledge offered by raising two girls and a boy. Needless to say, Sharon not only took on the job of Sunday School superintendent, she took on the job of overseeing and directing all of the children's activities inside the church; the children's bell choir, the annual Christmas pageant, the SouperBowl of Caring, Vacation Bible School, Honey Money. If it involved kids, it followed that Sharon was probably in charge. To my way of thinking, Sharon not only rescued but also stabilized and improved the activities for children here at Good Shepherd and we must always remember and thank her for that.

We will miss so many things that the entire Oberkehr family has contributed to this congregation.....

Leah, Hannah and Matthew.....we will miss them in the Christmas pageant and other activities of the Sunday School.....we will miss their great work as acolytes on so many Sundays.....we will miss their activities for the Social Ministry Committee (SouperBowl of Caring, Honey Money and other projects).....we will miss their singing and instrumental performances on holiday and special occasions and maybe, most of all, we will miss seeing them grow up.

Fred.....we will miss his smiling face as an usher and greeter or as a lay reader..... We'll even miss this congregation's number one rooter for the New York Giants.

Sharon.....I have said it all. She has been a rock on which the Christian education and social activities of our kids have been anchored.

So, we say farewell and Godspeed to our friends the Oberkehr family.....May you be happy, may you be healthy in your new home.....May you find and contribute to your new church home and may you never forget all your friends at Good Shepherd as you begin your new lives in Florida. You go with our love and our invitation to visit us soon. God be with you 'til we meet again.

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**BARBARA HAHER ENTERS INTO LIFE**

by Gil Vatter

Barbara Alice Haher, a long time, faithful member of Good Shepherd Church died at Riverview Hospital in Red Bank on Wednesday July 8, 2015 from complications of a recent stroke. She was 81 years old and had lived in Middletown for many years. She was born in Jersey City, New Jersey. the daughter of Alice and Frank Hayes. She attended Fordam University and received an Associate Degree in Library Science from Brookdale Community College. She was married to John Haher for 62 years.

She was an avid golfer for many years, a gardener and spent much of her summers on the beach at Sea Bright. Barbara was active in several areas of the church, including the Fellowship Committee and the Women's Luncheon Group, where she served as chairperson. A memorial service was held at the church on Tuesday morning July 14 with Pastor Rachael Semovoski presiding and Miae Park playing the organ.

She was preceded in death by her son Douglas. In addition to her husband John, surviving are her daughters Elaine Haher and Lila DeJulio, her granddaughter Carissa DeJulio of Middletown and a brother, Frank Hayes of North Carolina. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations to Good Shepherd Church.

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**CALL COMMITTEE HAS ORIENTATION MEETING**

by Gil Vatter

A Call Committee, appointed by the Congregation Council, met for the first time on Monday July 20 to review the procedure for calling a new pastor for Good Shepherd Church. Rev. Aaron Richter, Assistant to the Bishop of the New Jersey Synod, explained how candidates for pastor will be found and how the committee will review their qualifications and decide on the possibility of a call from the congregation.

Among many other facets of the process, Pastor Richter listed:

1. The need to consider each candidate free of bias from age, gender, marital status, racial or ethnic background, etc.

2. What is the status of our congregation at this point? Look at ourselves as well as search for a pastor.
3. What skills do we need in a pastor? What are the candidates priorities and theological philosophy?
4. How to meet the candidate; interview and evaluate. Make a decision.
5. The importance of confidentiality.
6. Where do we go from here?

Pastor Richter will be looking for possible candidates for our opening and he will keep us informed of anyone who has the skills and background to serve the congregation. The next meeting of the committee will be called by Pastor Richter to review the progress of the call process.

Members of the Call Committee include:

- Clem Hergenhan
- Diane Mathisen
- Marion Schloemer
- Mack Scott
- Karl Torjussen
- Gil Vatter

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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.

	Jun 2015	YTD 2015	YTD Budget	YTD 2014
General Contributions	7,620	51,369	57,500	52,874

# August 2015

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