

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

November 2015

(our website good-shepherd.us)

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

GOOD SHEPHERD GETS NEW PASTOR NOVEMBER 1

BY Gil Vatter

On Wednesday October 21, the Call Committee (see page 3, August 2015 "Voice") met with Pastor Aaron Richter, Assistant to the Bishop of the New Jersey Synod, for an introduction to Pastor Peter C. Hutchinson of Toms River, New Jersey. Pastor Hutchinson has been designated by the Bishop as the new Interim, Part Time Pastor for Good Shepherd Church.

The meeting was opened with devotions by Pastor Richter, who then made a brief introduction of Pastor Hutchinson and reviewed his training and background. The members of the Call Committee provided a history of the church with emphasis on achievements, problems and hopes for the future. An in-depth introduction of Pastor Hutchinson followed, which evolved into a "conversation and dialogue" between the Pastor and the members of the committee, both asking and receiving information about the church and about Pastor Hutchinson's experience in solving the many problems facing the congregation. After a discussion of the financial aspect of the call and some of the details of the Pastor's responsibilities, the committee agreed to endorse the installation of Pastor Peter C. Hutchinson as pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd.

Pastor Hutchinson , a New Jersey native, is married and is the father of four adult children and the grandfather of one three year old. He was educated at Kean College (B.A. Public Adm./Political Science - 1978), Rutgers (M.A. Labor Relations - 1985) and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (M. Div. - 1999). Upon graduation, he worked in employee relations for the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights and the New Jersey Department of Higher Education. He served as pastor of First Lutheran Church, Philipsburg, Pennsylvania from 1999 until 2003 and as pastor of Saint James Lutheran Church, Pottstown, Pennsylvania from 2003 until 2012, after which he retired from the ministry. Meantime, however, he became a chaplain at a hospice program in Pennsylvania until the family moved back to New Jersey to be closer to elderly parents. In Toms River he became involved with an agency that provides services for the developmentally disabled and continues to act as a supply pastor in the New Jersey area.

"Pastor Pete" will begin his tenure at Good Shepherd on Sunday November 1 and will officiate at the service and preach the sermon as well. We welcome Pastor Pete into our congregation and look forward to his contribution to our ministry.

+++++

COUNCIL MINUTES for Oct 12, 2015. DRAFT 1.1

Council members attending: John Crump, John Dall, Stephanie Dall, Andy Mathisen, Vice Pastor Rachel, Marion Schloemer (by phone); Lou Medici, Steve Miller

Excused: Garry Westerweller;

Lou Medici opened, and suggested a possible Reformation topic (Sunday Oct 25). Compare Pope Francis and Martin Luther. Would Martin Luther have posted his 95 theses?

Council approved Agenda

Pastor Rachel opened with devotions

Council approved Sept 14 council minutes

Council approved Sept 30, 2015 Treasurer's report. Steve Miller ACTION: ask German School the status of Sept and Oct payments.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Pastor Rachel reported that Michael, as discussed at an earlier Council meeting, was given the option of individual training or group confirmation training, at King of Kings Lutheran. Michael chose the group, and is one of 7 confirmation members.

- Creation Care Environmental Committee (Nancy Fitch). Steve Miller discussed an environmental planning meeting Sept 27. A number of projects will be rolled out to the congregation through May, 2016.
- Property - John Dall reviewed a long list of property projects that have been completed since June..
- Christian Education - Andy Mathisen reported Sunday School is off to a good start, 6 children so far in attendance, Karen Rajala, Rikki and Andy are teaching. We are going to start a combined children and adult bell choir this Fall, and might have a Christmas concert.
- Evangelism - Marion Schloemer continues to send cards to sick. Marion is creating an up-to-date list with Pat Dunn.
- Publicity/Advertising- Karl Torjussen - proposed a two-sided banner. The \$232 cost was approved by council
- The Fellowship Committee will be asked to help Garry Westerweller with the Dec 13 Christmas Party: - ACTION: Ellen Tehve, fellowship Head
- Memorial Committee requested council to assume spending responsibility for the Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund. The fund has accumulated ~\$5700 over many years. Council is expected to spend the fund in accordance with "Potential Purposes for Memorial Funds", and " Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund Guidelines", both approved by council 4/9/2012 (copies are in Council's web site). In response, Council asked Nancy Hergenhan to continue her plan to buy shorter, oil-filled altar candles, and recommends the eternal candle be replaced - but mounted on a chain to easily lower and raise.

OLD BUSINESS

- Time-talent-survey had been requested at the January, 2015 Congregation Meeting). MARION & JOHN DALL presented the survey results- 15 people responded (out of 41 average attendance)
- Stephanie proposed a way to include church attendance in the monthly treasurer report. Council accepted the proposal.
- Stephanie provided a comparison of 2014 to 2015 attendance, which council discussed.
- Status of Fellowship committee organizing Dec 13 Christmas party: Garry Westerweller plans to host the party, and is looking for nominations for the annual Christmas "Special Award".

NEW BUSINESS

- Council passed a resolution that Little Chief be asked to pay the Holmdel property tax (presently \$2500/year). The property tax results from Little Chief, a for-profit organization, using Good Shepherd's facilities. STEVE ACTION: Strategize with Patti & Gil Vatter and then discuss with Little Chief.
- Council recommended that Worship and Music committee periodically arrange for congregation to sing the "Lords Prayer" in Sunday service.
- Dick Alberti is resigning as treasurer the end of 2015. Dick will be asked to write a treasurer's job description, which will be circulated in both Sunday bulletin and the Voice.
- Steve created a Facebook page [facebook.com/goodshepherdus](https://www.facebook.com/goodshepherdus) to attract a younger population. Congregation members must now visit, "like", and populate with relevant stories, photos and video. The Good Shepherd web page, now contains Facebook links to both the Good Shepherd Facebook page and Little Chief Facebook page.
- Council discussed the need for a salary/benefit outline, to help define elements of total compensation to be paid to an interim pastor. The ELCA Synod, later provided an ELCA Benefits Calculator which appears to provide the guidance needed by Good Shepherd. (Stephanie and John no longer need to create the salary/benefit outline).

Next meetings: meeting with Pastor Aaron, ELCA synod, on Oct 21. Next regular council meeting Nov 9, 2015
 The council meeting was adjourned with the Lords Prayer
 Respectfully submitted, Steve Miller, Council Secretary

+++++

AROUND THE PARISH

by Gil Vatter

GOOD SHEPHERD - THE FRIENDLY CHURCH

1. We welcome Pastor Pete Hutchinson to our parish and pray that he will be with us for a long time and will contribute to the growth and success of the congregation.

2. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd pill box to Pastor Rachel Semovoski, who was our Vice-Pastor for sixteen months. Thank you Pastor Rachel for all that you contributed to Good Shepherd during your stay.

Lena - "My Ole reaches down and touches his slippers 50 times every morning. Then, if he feels like it, he gets up and puts them on.

3. Happy Birthday to *Pat Schmidt, Pastor Jack Elstad and Bob Stetz*. May you all have many more.

4. The congregation brought 140 cans of food to church in September and we have supplied ***Bayshore Lunch Program*** with more than 1,500 cans of food so far this year. Great job everyone!!!!

If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring?
Pilgrims.

5. Substitute Pastors for October - Rev. Carl Joecks, October 4 - Rev. Rachel Semovoski, October 11 and 25 - Rev. John Hansen, October 18.

6. The BLP Sponsors have sent over \$2,600 to the soup kitchen so far this year. Are you a BLP Sponsor?

If you divide the circumference of a pumpkin by its diameter, you get pumpkin pi.

7. *John Crump* is still deeply involved in renovating his house.

8. It was worth the price of admission to watch *Steve Miller* change the light bulbs on the ceiling of the sanctuary last month. First he had to remove the old ones and then do the operation all over again as he put in new ones. It was a very long distance between Steve and the bulbs.

I've learned that if you're too busy to do a favor for a friend, you're too busy. (Bill Wehrli)

9. There were some Good Shepherd folks at the 40th reunion of the Holmdel High School class of 1975 - *Diane Mathisen, Pam Keyl and Frank Csulak*.

10. *Ellen and Tom Tehve* travelled to China for three weeks in late October and early November.

Ole - "I'm trying to cross a turkey with an octopus."
Sven - "Why in the world would you do that?"
Ole - "So that everybody at the Thanksgiving table can have a drumstick."

11. The sad demeanors on some of your Good Shepherd friends (including your faithful scribe), was the result of the Yankees loss to the Astros in the American League wild card game. Wait'll next year.

12. A group of Good Shepherd members again took part in the 2015 Crop Walk in Red Bank on Sunday October 18. Thanks guys and thanks to all who contributed to the Crop Walk fund..

We never really grow up....we only learn how to act in public.

13. *Pastor Rachel's* Children's Sermon on Sunday October 11 was, "Confidently Approach the Throne of God".

14. *Diane Mathison and Bill Wherli* attended the Trustees Dinner at Wagner College on Saturday October 10. Both are graduates of the Staten Island school.

One goose, two geese. - - One Moose two meese? (Bunny Kuhl)

15. *Rachel Mathisen and Mike Fink* worshiped with us on Sunday October 25. They are living near Dallas, Texas while Mike is stationed nearby and Rachel pursues her studies to be a Nurse Practitioner. Their home is in the area flooded by Hurricane Patricia but little damage was done in their neighborhood.. Mike has recently been promoted to Captain in the U. S. Army.

16. The sanctuary shook with the words and music to "**A Mighty Fortress is Our God**" on Reformation Sunday, October 25.

On Thanksgiving Day, all over America, families sit down for dinner at the same moment.....
half time.

17. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd turban to the congregation's Call Committee for the work they did to prepare the church for a new pastor,

18. Notice how many people now remain seated after the last hymn? They stay to hear Miae Park play her weekly mini-concert before leaving the sanctuary.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL

An Ode to Thanksgiving

May your stuffing be tasty
May your turkey be plump.
May your potatoes and gravy
Have nary a lump.
May your yams be delicious,
May your pies take the prize
And may your Thanksgiving dinner
Stay off of your thighs!

SEE YOU IN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

++++
++++

"SPONSORS" BEGINS NINTH YEAR

by Gil Vatter

For when I was hungry you gave me food, when thirsty, you gave me drink. Anything you do for my brothers and sisters, however humble, you do for me.

The Social Ministry Committee will again organize a support group of families from the congregation who will help to finance the **BAYSHORE LUNCH PROGRAM**, an independent, non-profit organization located in nearby Keyport. BLP now serves a hot lunch to needy families from the northern section of Monmouth County five days a week, and makes other peripheral social services available at the same time. Between 50 and 75 person are fed each day at the kitchen, located at the Community Church of Keyport, 42 Elizabeth Street, which also houses a food pantry, sponsored by the Ministerium of Keyport, The pantry distributes bags of food once a week to vetted families.

Members of Good Shepherd Church have been involved in the work of the soup kitchen since 1988, when a small group of people from the congregation began serving a monthly hot meal at the kitchen, then located at Saint Mark's Episcopal Church in Keansburg. In 2008, Good Shepherd began the monthly delivery of food, contributed by the membership. To date, almost 11,000 cans of food and a large amount of pasta, rice, coffe, tea, baby food, pasta sauce and other food has been delivered to BLP on a monthly basis by Social Ministry volunteers.

Begining in 2008, Good Shepherd began a "Sponsors" program, which provides a cash gift to the kitchen each month , sent by one or more families from the congregation. In eight years, more than 30 families have participated in the program and have made it possible for our church to send about \$13,000 to help feed our hungry neighbors. The list for 2016 is now being prepared and everyone in the congregation is invited to become a part of this vital activity.

It's easy:

1. You sign up as a 2016 Sponsor

2. You are assigned a month during next year by the Social Ministry Committee
3. You are notified the prior month by mail when, how and to whom to send your contribution
4. You write a check for at least \$75 and follow the instructions of #3

That's it.

To become a member of the 2016 BLP Sponsors, simply indicate your interest to Patty or Gil Vatter or to any member of the Congregation Council. The need, as always, is great. Please become a 2016 Sponsor today. Thank you.

+++++

THOSE WERE THE DAYS

by Gil Vatter

A continuing recap of activities at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for almost 50 years

July 1, 1966 - The Board of American Missions sends Rev. George J. Frank, jr. to the Middletown/Holmdel area to survey the religious make-up of Lincroft, Oak Hill, and Holmdel.

February 12, 1967 - Charter Sunday - 58 signatures, only 2 less than required to organize.

June 4, 1967 - Rev. George J. Frank, jr. called as the first pastor of the congregation, effective July 1, 1967

December 1974 - Because of increased giving and a special gift of \$3,000 from one member, the second mortgage obligation to the Board of American Missions was retired.

May 18, 1980 - Groundbreaking for a new education addition to the building.

+++++

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

The choir meets for rehearsal each Thursday evening at 7:30 PM in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited to come and sing.

Choir Anthems From October

- October 4 - "Lord of Hosts, We Praise You Forever" - Joseph Haydn
- October 11 - "Be Still and Know" - Victor C. Johnson
- October 18 - "He Leadeth Me" - J. Purifoy
- October 25 - "God is Our Strength" - R. E. Schram

Organ Postludes From October

- October 4 - "Fugue" - Johann Sebastian Bach
- October 11 - "March" - Giacomo Myerebeer
- October 18 - "March" - Alexandre Guilmant
- October 25 - "Built on a Rock" - E. Broughton

+++++

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.

	Sep 2015	YTD 2015	YTD Budget	YTD 2014
General Contributions	7,025	75,097	86,250	85,943

November 2015

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