

# THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

www.goodshepherd-towson.org

## THE FOLD

### LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

In 2009 we will celebrate Good Shepherd's centennial: 100 years of ministry in Ruxton from our humble beginnings as a Sunday School mission of Trinity Episcopal Church in downtown Towson. A new Vision Committee is being pulled together to look ahead at appropriate ways to mark this important year in our history, and you will be hearing more about that as this year unfolds.

Good Shepherd has gone through some dramatic changes in its first 100 years of life. From a Sunday School class that met in a local home to the acquiring of the land in 1909 for the first church on Maple Avenue to the construction of our current Nave beginning in 1915, we were able to adapt to change from the very beginning of our history. We survived the Great Depression and built a Parish Hall in the midst of that. We saw exponential growth in the 1950s which prompted the building expansion that closed Chelsea Street and bridged the two buildings together with a connecting wing.

We've also seen decline. The skeptical era of the Viet Nam war took its toll on almost all churches in the 1960s. We survived a new prayer book, women clergy, and even a gay bishop. We've struggled to compete with other Sunday morning venues, such as sports and retailers, or just sleeping in. We are a much smaller congregation than we were in the mid 1960s when this steady decline began. Despite flagging numbers in the Nave, reduced pledges, and operating deficits, we are still known as one of the largest and healthiest parishes in our diocese and that is good news. We have so many resources that so many others lack, including a dynamic and collegial staff, a tremendous cadre of skilled and faithful lay leaders, a dynamic Parish Hall service, and

*(Continued on page 4 - Future)*

### OUTREACH MISSION

The mission of the Outreach Committee is to encourage, support, and expand the work of Good Shepherd and the personal involvement of members of the Church in efforts to improve the lives of residents of the greater Baltimore community. We hope that *all of you* will find an opportunity to join us in one or more of our projects this year.

Throughout the next few months, we will be working on our tenth house for Habitat for Humanity. If you have not joined a team, why not help by providing lunch for our volunteers? Contact Christie Root (410-296-5776 or root-zoo@aol.com) to assist with lunch.

We will also be providing monthly meals to the guests at Sarah's Hope (previously known as the Eastern Family Resource Center). We will be looking to you to help provide ingredients for dinner casseroles, to help prepare casseroles in our COGS kitchen, and to drive the food to the center.

**The Outreach Committee needs your help to provide all of these services.** Prayerfully consider how you might reach out to help others in need.

Contact me for more information (410-494-8074, or suzannegw@aol.com).

—Suzanne Whitney, Outreach Chair

MARCH  
2008

**Inside this issue:** Clergy perspective— page 1 \* Outreach Mission— page 1 \* Life Transitions— page 2 \* Easter Adornment, Rite 13 Celebration, J2A Pilgrimage— page 2 \* Service Schedule— page 2 \* Holy Week & Easter Schedule— page 3 \* Foot Washing, Stations of the Cross— page 3 \* Safety Concerns— page 4 \* Christian Formation Calendar— page 4 \* Southwest Pilgrimage— page 4 \* Stewardship— page 5 \* Day School Update— page 6 \* Day School Celebration Invitation— page 6 \* Calendar— page 7 \* Bulletin Board— back cover

**\*STAFF\***

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*Parish Secretary*  
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*Organist*  
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Guy Wolf \*\*\*\*\*  
Pat Edlund  
*Diocesan Delegate*  
Guy Wolf  
*Diocesan Delegate*  
Mabeth Hudson  
*Alternate Diocesan Delegate*  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Hilary Sargeant, *FOLD Editor*

**LIFE TRANSITIONS**

We pray for the newly baptized:  
Bennett Walker Cook, son of Sandy & Candice Cook,  
and grandson of Bill & Susie Hunter

We pray for those who have died:  
John Orrick, husband of Becky Orrick  
Bob Barnhart, son of Jim & Eleanor Barnhart and brother of Brad Barnhart

**EASTER ADORNMENT**

Easter is coming and we are ready to awaken the church with beautiful fresh flowers that welcome the new season. Come join us on Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00- 12:00 to help decorate the church. No experience necessary. Many thanks to anyone who can bring daffodils on Saturday March 22<sup>nd</sup> for the living cross. Call Julie Minch (410-828-0703) to volunteer.

**RITE 13 CELEBRATION**

On Sunday, March 30, our last group of current Rite 13ers will celebrate their manhood and womanhood at a combined service in the Parish Hall that morning at 10 AM. A reception for all our Rite 13 celebrities and their families will follow in the Foyer. Please join us.

**J2A PILGRIMAGE**

Our current group of J2Aers are traveling to Oregon this summer for a pilgrimage through a Christian ministry called Wonder Voyage. Our pilgrims will be joining up with the J2A group from Holy Comforter in Lutherville for this week of spiritual adventure July 6-12. Please keep this group in your prayers as they prepare for their journey together.

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

*Please call the Church for a specific Sunday Schedule*

Sunday

8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist (Church)
9:00 AM	Stumbling Over Scripture (Room 14)
10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist (Church & Parish Hall)
11:15 AM	Adult Enrichment & Sunday School for Children

Wednesday

7:15 AM*	Morning Prayer (1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> ) or Holy Eucharist (2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> ) and Breakfast (every Wednesday)
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*\*during Lent (through March 19th) Holy Eucharist will be offered every Wednesday morning.*

**THE FOLD** is a publication of the Church of the Good Shepherd, 1401 Carrollton Avenue, Ruxton, MD 21204, and is published monthly, except for a mid-summer edition which replaces July & August issues. We can be reached at 410-823-0122 or at our website [www.goodshepherd-towson.org](http://www.goodshepherd-towson.org). Send address changes to **The FOLD**, Attention: Editor.

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Please join us for the variety of these unique and meaningful services during the most important week of the Church year.

### **Palm Sunday, March 16**

8:00 AM—Blessing of the Palms and Holy Eucharist (Church Nave)

10:00 AM—Blessing of the Palms (Plaza) and Holy Eucharist (Church Nave and Parish Hall)\*

### **Wednesday, March 19**

7:15 AM—Holy Eucharist (Church Nave) with breakfast following

### **Maundy Thursday, March 20**

7:00 PM—Liturgy of the Day, with optional foot washing, Eucharist, and stripping of the altar.

### **Good Friday, March 21**

10:00 AM—Stations of the Cross for all ages

12:00 Noon—Liturgy of the Day

6:00 PM—Stations of the Cross for all ages

### **Holy Saturday, March 22**

9:00 AM—Liturgy of the Day (a brief service in the Chancel for those preparing the Church Nave for Easter)

7:30 PM—The Great Vigil of Easter (beginning in the Columbarium and proceeding to the Nave). A multimedia service for all ages.

### **Easter Sunday, March 23**

8:00 AM—Holy Eucharist, Rite I (Church Nave)

9:30 AM—Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Parish Hall-style worship in the Church Nave)\*

11:15 AM—Holy Eucharist, Rite II with adult choir (Church Nave) + \*

*+Please note the changed time for the 11:15 service on Easter Day.*

*\*Child care is available*

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## FOOT WASHING IN HOLY WEEK

Is it good hygiene or just plain weird to have your priest wash your feet in public? Foot washing is an integral part of the Liturgy of the Day on Maundy Thursday, the day we commemorate the Last Supper. As that meal began, Jesus washed the grimy feet of each disciple, much as a servant would have done. It was embarrassing and awkward for the disciples to have their master perform such a menial task.

It is likewise just as embarrassing and awkward to come to church and have the clergy do the same thing. But for some people, it is a profoundly meaningful experience to have their feet washed in such a unique way. For others, just watching is meaningful enough. Still, many people avoid coming to church that night for fear that they will be roped into getting their feet scrubbed against their wills.

There is something about feet. That's the point. This service is powerful in so many ways, and shouldn't be missed, even if you're a bit foot-shy. Washing is always optional, and only a handful of people come forward for it. If you haven't witnessed this unique expression of humility, come join us this year (7:00 in the Nave, with our incredible choir singing us into the darkness) as we gather to cleanse our hearts, not simply our feet.

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## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Good Friday is a very confusing day for many of us, especially given its name. Children of all ages struggle to make sense of the crucifixion of Jesus, and the Stations of the Cross is an ancient way of rewalking Jesus' path to Calvary and thus better understanding what it all means for us. Unlike the longer and more formal liturgy at noon that day, the Stations of the Cross are more accessible to children and even some adults. It is a short service that keeps us moving, literally, throughout the building as we visit scenes along the Via Dolorosa, the way of tears. The 10:00 AM service is a good alternative for young children that day and the 6:00 PM service offers an alternative to adults who cannot attend the noon service due to work obligations. Please consider traveling with us this year on this path toward Easter.

## SUNDAY MORNING SAFETY CONCERN

We know, we know. It's tempting. You drop your child off at Sunday School and you've got 45 whole minutes ahead of you. Go to Graul's and do some quick grocery shopping? Go home and change into comfy clothes? Head to Starbuck's and pick up a good cup of coffee? Wherever you're heading, if you're leaving your child here, you're leaving your child and Good Shepherd in a potentially unsafe situation. Primarily, we're concerned with your child's safety. If you feel that it's necessary to leave, PLEASE leave a cell phone number with Mary Claire Kretzschmar, or your child's teacher. Even better, don't go. Stay. Following our 10:00 services, there are usually at least two Adult Education opportunities. Not up for being structured and "heady"? Hang out in the Foyer, or the Hall and catch up with members of your Good Shepherd family. Our coffee's not *that* bad....

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## CARE PACKAGES TO COLLEGE FRESHMAN

If your child is a college freshman and you provided us with his/her address at college, ask them about the "love note" they received from Good Shepherd! Members of our Pastoral Care Committee boxed up some goodies, just to remind our freshman that they are loved!

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*(Future—Continued from page 1)*

a strong, healthy day school.

Nevertheless, God is always calling us to look forward, to those who are not yet with us, to those we are called to invite into our fold. God also continues to call us to reach out with our love and resources to those who are most vulnerable in today's society. So how is God calling us to do this differently in the near future?

One most noticeable change in recent years has been in the attendance of the 10 AM Nave service. Attendance has dropped to half of what it was when I arrived in 2001.

Our other two services have remained steady, but there is a definite disquieting spirit in the 10 AM Nave service that is increasing.

So as we look to the next century, we must ask ourselves, "What is to be done? What is God calling us to do, and are we ready and willing to do it?" One thing is clear: our Parish Hall service is a key to our future. It is where most newcomers attend and where a majority of our young families are most "at home." We now have empty-nesters and grandparents who worship in the Parish Hall rather than the Nave, and that is a reality we must embrace. What this means for the two Nave services is uncertain, but we know that we must be listening prayerfully and acting faithfully now to sustain our health for the near future.

When I returned from my sabbatical, it was clear to me that something must be done soon. As a result, I have initiated discussions among both the Worship Committee and the Vestry about exploring options for Sunday morning. One option that I see us moving closer toward is the possibility of combining the two Nave services into one at 9 AM. This would be good stewardship in many ways, but would probably induce a time adjustment for our Parish Hall service as well as Sunday School. Despite the challenges and sacrifice that it might entail, it could yield tremendous benefits for our future, and that is something we all need to keep in mind.

With change comes fear, but also with change comes faith. We must look and listen beyond our fears to the faith that God has in us to move ahead for our future. As part of the listening process, you are invited to participate in a worship survey that will be conducted later this month both on Sunday morning and available online. Likewise, you are free to share your thoughts at one of the Cottage meetings being held during Lent, or feel free to speak directly to a member of the Vestry or staff.

Lent is a perfect time to listen and reflect on how God may be seeking to transform us. We need you to listen with us for the direction God is calling us to take as we begin a new century of ministry in our community.

—Scott Slater+

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION CALENDAR

The month of March brings with it wonderful opportunities to experience our relationship with God in new ways! Lent continues for the first couple of weeks; and then we enter Holy Week with all that it brings in the way of drama and intensity. Easter on March 23 provides us an opportunity to leave Lent behind and celebrate the resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ!

Join us for these opportunities for formation!

### SUNDAYS—

#### Sunday, March 2, 2008

9:00—*Stumbling Over Scripture* continues. After spending some time building a foundation, using *Welcome to the Bible* as an introductory resource, we'll delve into some Scripture study. Whether you're a novice, or a full-time, committed Bible scholar, please plan on joining us at 9:00 on Sunday mornings.

11:15—*Sacramental Stories* continues, as well. On March 2, we'll hear from newlyweds and not-so newlyweds in our series on the sacraments, as we take a closer look at marriage.

#### Sunday, March 9, 2008

9:00—*Stumbling Over Scripture* continues. See above.

11:15—*Sacramental Stories* - Death isn't always the most exciting thing to talk about; but, oftentimes, the experience of a loved one dying, or our presence at their burial is so impactful and profound. Come hear from those who have been near to that

experience, and look more closely at how the Church helps us struggle through this difficult event.

#### Sunday, March 16, 2008 – PALM SUNDAY

9:00—*Stumbling Over Scripture* continues. See above.

11:15—*Intergenerational Sunday School* No matter your age; no matter how often you attend Sunday School, join us on March 16 for an all ages activity. This is a great way to work alongside your children and avoid those awkward, "Hey, honey, what did you do in Sunday School today," conversations that we're all so familiar with!

#### Sunday, March 23, 2008 – EASTER

The opportunity for formation! Hearing the story of the resurrection of our Lord at our three Easter services (8:00, 9:30 or 11:15). \*\*NO SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS OR CHILDREN\*\*

#### Sunday, March 30, 2008

9:00—*Stumbling Over Scripture* continues. See 3/2.

11:15—Join us as we celebrate our Rite-13 celebrities following their ceremony. We'll all gather for a reception in the Foyer following the 10:00 service. \*\*NO SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS OR CHILDREN\*\*

### WEDNESDAYS—

Our Lenten Lunch series runs through Wednesday, March 12 (12:30 – 2). If you haven't been able to join us at Good Shepherd, but would like to follow along, pick up a copy of *The Last Week* by Marcus Borg & John Dominic Crossan and pick up a Study Guide from Rebekah at Church.

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## SOUTHWEST PILGRIMAGE

Good Shepherd is partnering with Well for the Journey to organize a pilgrimage to New Mexico for September 23-October 1, 2008 with a focus on Native American spirituality both in its ancient roots and including the influence of Christianity. We plan to visit many sacred sites, along with visits to at least two reservations, and significant time in Santa Fe. An informational meeting will be held at Good Shepherd on Sunday, March 9th at 1:30 PM. Information on dates, cost, accommodations, and itinerary will be discussed. This trip is being coordinated by Scott Slater and Well board member Karen Giliss. Space is limited to 12 participants and a reduced fee is available to Good Shepherd participants. For further information, contact Scott at Church.

## NEWS FROM THE GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOOL

The Good Shepherd School looks forward to spring! We will begin the month of March with parent-teacher conferences on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of March. We are also looking forward to attending the Parents' Association 50<sup>th</sup> Year celebration on the evening of March 7<sup>th</sup>. The school will be closed for spring vacation from March 17<sup>th</sup>- March 25<sup>th</sup>.

—Susan Andrews, Director

The Good Shepherd Parents' Association cordially invites you to join us in celebrating 50 years of family, friends and faculty of

### **The Good Shepherd School**

**Friday, March 7, 2008**

**7:00pm-11:00pm**

**Maryland Club**

**1 East Eager Street**

**\$50.00 per person**

**Attire: Cocktail (jacket and tie required)**

The evening festivities include buffet dinner, dancing and silent auction.

Please make checks payable to GOOD SHEPHERD PARENTS' ASSOCIATION and drop them off at the church office.

### **BISHOP'S ELECTION**

On Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, delegates from around the Diocese of Maryland will gather at St. James' on Lafayette Square in Baltimore to elect (God willing) our next diocesan bishop. There are six candidates, information about whom is available on the diocesan website ([www.ang-md.org](http://www.ang-md.org)) or in a special edition of Maryland Church News.

Everyone in the diocese will have an opportunity to meet the candidates at a series of "Walkabouts" the week of March 3<sup>rd</sup>. That information is on the website. If you have thoughts about any of the candidates, feel free to contact Scott, Rebekah, or one of our lay delegates, Guy Wolf, Pat Edlund, or Mabeth Hudson (alternate).

Once elected, the new bishop will be consecrated on Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup> and "seated" in our cathedral the next morning (the word "cathedral" derives from "bishop's seat"). Keep our diocese and our delegates in your prayers.

### **STEWARDSHIP UPDATE**

As noted in the recent letter from the Senior Warden, we are still significantly behind in both pledge numbers and total amount from what was originally budgeted for 2008. The Vestry is now in the unenviable position of having to decide what can be cut from what is already a very lean budget. If you have not yet pledged, there is still time. Remember, even if you give regularly you must give us a pledge in order for your donations to be put toward the operating budget of Good Shepherd.

If you have already pledged but "just pledged the same as last year" we would hope that you could consider an increase to your pledge. An easy way to do this would be to earmark all or part of any income tax refund you receive toward the Church of the Good Shepherd. Or consider signing over your upcoming tax rebate check to Good Shepherd to help "stimulate" our economy! Remember to let the Church know that this donation is intended for the operating budget.

For those who have already been so generous, the entire Parish thanks you.

—Beau Whitney

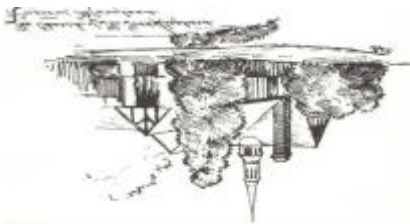
**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT GOOD SHEPHERD (Service Schedule found on page 2)**

MONDAYS	8:30 PM	AA (Parish Hall)
TUESDAYS	6:30 PM	Swing Dance Classes (Parish Hall)
WEDNESDAYS	7:15 AM 9:30 AM	Holy Eucharist/Morning Prayer Staff Meeting (Library)
THURSDAYS	7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
FRIDAYS	8:30 PM	AA (Parish Hall)

**MARCH**

Wed, Mar 5	7:30 AM 12:30 PM	Men's Group (College Manor) Lenten Lunch Series (Rug Room)
Thu, Mar 6	10:15 AM 6:00 PM 7:15 PM	Book Group (Smith Room) Evening Prayer (Nave) Outreach Committee (Smith Room)
Sat, Mar 8	10:00 AM 2:00 PM	Worship Committee (Smith Room) Loaves & Fishes (Kitchen)
Mon, Mar 10	5:00 PM	FOLD DEADLINE
Wed, Mar 12	12:30 PM	Lenten Lunch Series (Rug Room)
Thu, Mar 13	11:00 AM 6:00 PM	Personnel Committee (Library) Evening Prayer (Nave)
Sun, Mar 16		PALM SUNDAY*
Tue, Mar 18	7:00 PM	Vestry Meeting (Smith Room)
Wed, Mar 19	7:30 AM 12:30 PM	Men's Group (College Manor) Lenten Lunch Series (Rug Room)
Thu, Mar 20	7:00 PM	MAUNDAY THURSDAY Liturgy of the Day
Fri, Mar 21		GOOD FRIDAY*
Sat, Mar 22		HOLY SATURDAY*
Sun, Mar 23		EASTER SUNDAY*
Tue, Mar 25	8:30 AM	Our Daily Bread (Kitchen)
Wed, Mar 26	4:00 PM	Networking for Women (Parish Hall)
Thu, Mar 27	10:30 AM	Manna for Moms (Rug Room)

\* see page 3 for services &amp; times



The people of the Church of the Good Shepherd aspire to grow continually in spirit with Christ as our head and the Holy Spirit as our guide. \* We are a parish of many blessings, and we pray that our spiritual growth will be witnessed through loving concern for, and service to, our parish family as well as the broader community, especially our neighbors in need. \* We find strength for the journey in diverse worship experiences, rich Christian education for all ages, and active lay ministry.

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## BULLETIN BOARD

### EASTER FLOWERS

Please complete the form included with this issue of The Fold to request memorial Easter Flowers.

### LAY READER TRAINING

**April 6th, Noon-2:00pm**

Are you a regularly scheduled reader in the Church or in the Parish Hall? Please plan on joining us for lunch and training on Sunday, April 6, 2008 from noon-2:00pm. This will give us a chance to get back on the same page, in terms of guidelines for readings; a chance to share tips for better reading; and a chance for you to ask questions! RSVP by calling the Church Office (410-823-0122) or by e-mailing [rsvp@goodshepherd-towson.org](mailto:rsvp@goodshepherd-towson.org).

### ACOLYTE TRAINING

**May 4th, Noon-2:30pm**

If you currently serve as an acolyte, or are in 4<sup>th</sup> grade or above and would like to serve as an acolyte, please plan on joining us for this training. This is an opportunity for you experienced acolytes to brush up; and for new acolytes to learn the ropes. Lunch will be provided at noon. Please

confirm your presence by calling the Church Office (410-823-0122) or e-mailing [rsvp@goodshepherd-towson.org](mailto:rsvp@goodshepherd-towson.org). Questions? Contact Stefanie Rose (410-821-1442) or Ellen Hoitsma (410-377-6310).

If you will be in 4<sup>th</sup> grade in the Fall and are interested in acolyting, please contact Rebekah Hatch (410-823-0122 ext. 103). There will be a special training session for you!

### MANNA FOR MOMS

We continue to meet on the fourth Thursday of each month, 10:30-11:30. Mark your calendar for the following dates: March 27, April 24, and May 22. Join us for good coffee and good conversation!

### BOOK GROUP

During March, the Book Group will be reading *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy. Please join us on Thursday March 6th at 10:15 AM in the Smith Room.

### NEXT FOLD DEADLINE

Monday, March 10th at 5:00 PM