



THE SHEPHERD'S CALL

A publication of Good Shepherd United Methodist Church

January 2010

Living as People of Faith in a Media Saturated World

Every year after Christmas Pastor Ed preaches a series of sermons that address topics of immediate concern to persons. Our next Timely Topics, "Living as People of Faith in a Media Saturated World," begins Sunday, January 10. The media has revolutionized our lives. The internet, email, 24/7 cable news channels are just a few of the types of media that inundate our lives. Our children are shaped from an early age by these media, as well, in often subtle ways. How do we as people of faith understand the media in such a way that it can serve us rather than we become its servants? The schedule is:

Sunday, January 10 – What do we Mean by Media and Why is it Important?

Sunday, January 17 – *How Does Media Shape our Children?* with **Barry Hewett**, a child psychologist speaking.

Sunday, January 24 – *Getting the Story: The Life of a Reporter* with **Melanie Goodpasture** who has worked as a television news reporter.

Sunday, January 31 – *How Does Media Shape Our View of Islam?* with **Imam Ammar Amonette** of the **Islamic Center of Virginia** speaking. There is one service this day at 9:30 a.m. followed by a reception. After which Imam Amonette will teach a 45 minute session about Islam and answer questions.

Invite your friends, family and neighbors to come out for these services which will have a great impact upon your understanding of media.

Guatemala Mission Team Announced

Living Ministries is excited that the summer 2010 Guatemala Mission team has been formed. We have begun meeting as a team, and ask for prayers as we prepare for this important mission. The following persons are on the mission team:

Chrissy Ammons
Tyler Biggins
Alex Britt
Hunter Crosby
Sara Eddleton
Aaron Elmes
Cole Evans
Theresa Hayes
Lindsay Higginbotham
Brian Lynch
Johnette Overton
Jordan Truda
Kendra Woodley

Beginning in January, we will share ways in which you can support our fundraisers for the team. The goal is to raise a total of \$6,000 to support the team of 13.

Winter Small Group Offerings

Helping you grow in your discipleship to Jesus Christ is one of our main goals at Good Shepherd. Beginning the week of January 10, Winter Adult Discipleship studies and small groups will start. A complete listing is found on the website and hard copies are located at the Welcome Center. Hard copies will be mailed upon request. There are many opportunities to share spiritual growth and connection in the Discipleship Journey in both large and small groups. After reviewing the listing, registration is available online and/or by contacting Lisa McGehee.

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Church Staff and Leadership

Edward R. Walker, Pastor
walker.ed@gmail.com

Karen O. Albro,
Office Administrator
karen.albro@verizon.net

Tom Heaton, Minister of Music
musicmantom@verizon.net

Jon Marshall,
Contemporary Worship Leader
gsmail@gmail.com

Roz Blankenship, Accompanist
buildingsets@aol.com

**Lisa McGehee, Min. of Adult
Discipleship and Communications**
lisa.mcgehee64@verizon.net

Sara Eddleton,
*Min. of Youth Discipleship and
Missions*
eddltonsb@gmail.com

Jodi Bischoff,
Min. of Child Discipleship
msbisch@verizon.net

Susan Mongold, Council Chair
mongold3@comcast.net

Barry Hewitt, Council Co-Chair
barry@hewettproperties.com

Ellen Smith,
Staff Parish Relations Chair
wmsmithuva@verizon.net

Carol Walker, Treasure
carolkwalker@verizon.net

**Jim Branscome, Financial
Secretary** jimrich99@gmail.com

**Sonny Rea, Stephen Ministry
Leader** erea97@aol.com

Moveable Benches

I read recently that **John Wesley's** New Room in London, the site of his weekly gatherings with his Methodist followers, had moveable benches rather than pews fastened to the floor. When a tourist asked the museum docent why, the docent responded that after worship the benches were pushed aside so the room could be used to feed the hungry and be engaged in other types of mission. When I read this I immediately thought of Good Shepherd. Our worship space has moveable chairs. Our worship space is used for mission when we host CARITAS and Vacation Bible School. Now, I know that our worship space is intended to be temporary until we can afford to build a dedicated sanctuary on the north lawn. But, how would a dedicated sanctuary change us? Would CARITAS have the same impact on our congregation if we only glance through the doors at the cots and bins of personal belongings as we proceed on our way into a beautiful, dedicated sanctuary with fixed pews? Would we lose our connection with the poor if we don't have the opportunity to be inconvenienced twice yearly with a Celebration Center that is relative disarray?

Where am I going with this? It is this – is mission so much a part of our DNA as a congregation that we need to rethink a sanctuary, or at least what kind of sanctuary we build? When we went through our visioning process several years ago mission was highlighted as the highest priority of Good Shepherd. As we think ahead what kind of facility does that mean we should have? That we should build?

This is something I encourage you to pray about. Blessings, *Pastor Ed*

Lent 2010 – Exploring the Way

In times such as these there has been a renewed interest in spiritual reflection. During our fall stewardship campaign many hearts were touched by the word “contentment” and the prayer tiles we handed out. It has led to many conversations since that time. Our labyrinth has also seen regular participation as people walk in and out from the center pondering and praying. The comment we hear more often now is, “I find such peace in seeking contentment and walking the labyrinth. How can I go deeper?” Going deeper is what we will cover in our Lenten theme this year – specifically looking at the spiritual disciplines that can lead to a life that finds fulfillment not in consuming but in being content with what we have. In our worship, small group study and children's events we will, together, explore the way toward becoming like Jesus in all the many parts of our lives.

Beginning Ash Wednesday, February 17, our Lent Dinner and Program Series will return through the end of March. Dinner begins at 5:45 p.m. with a speaker and/or service following and ending by 7 p.m. There is a nominal cost for dinner. There will be a children's program and nursery available for infants through two-years old. Registration will begin late January.

Music Notes

Wow! What a wonderful Christmas season we just had at GSUMC. On December 5 and 6, the **Good Shepherd Players** presented “**Happy Birthday, Jesus**”. Also on December 6, the **Celebration Choir** performed a Christmas program at historic **St. Luke’s Church in Smithfield**. The **Annual Advent Dinner** was held on December 13 and the Choir presented its Christmas musical program that evening, showcasing the variety of musical talents held by **Roz Blankenship, Sharon Walker, Laura Stanton, Bob Lowerre, Karen Huddle** and **Lynn Bremer**. Our **Christmas Eve** services were well-attended and carefully designed to showcase not only the joy and delight of the holiday season but also to provide room for contemplation and reflection.

As we begin 2010, this is a good time to follow-through on some New Year’s Resolutions: get more exercise, maintain a better diet, slow down our hectic holiday pace...and **join the choir!** What? Joining the choir wasn’t one of your resolutions? That’s okay – getting you to join was one of *mine!* I would love for you to give us just one practice session to show you that being a member of the choir is FUN! We will start working on Lent and Holy Week music soon and would love to have **you** as part of our band of music makers. No auditions or appointments. Just show up at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday nights. I promise you will reap many benefits! Blessings, *Tom Heaton ~ musicmantom@verizon.net*

A Way of Worship

Carol Draper, a member of the Contemporary Worship Team, shares her reflections on how worship has changed for her this past year.

I’ve had the opportunity to be part of the Contemporary Worship Team over the last nine months. And as a life-long United Methodist, it has been a good journey for me. There are many things I love about the traditional United Methodist service and to be able to find a new way to worship during the 11 a.m. service has been a step forward for me. My journey to be closer to God is about embracing something new, new music, new ways to worship, new people, and new ideas. One particular Sunday, Pastor Ed asked the congregation to gather in a large circle and serve each other communion. For me, this was a new way of participating in communion. Pastor Ed reminded us we needed to be there for those around us. I remember the person I served that day and a change stirred within me at that very moment. I made a promise to be there for this person and others.

Another new way I’ve come to understand worship is the celebration that the music can bring to your heart. Before this experience with the Worship Team, I had never listened to Contemporary Christian music. Now, I also listen to 90.5 FM radio and am especially grateful that my daughters and I can listen together and I know they are hearing music about God. As a part of the Worship Team, I’ve also learned worship is not just about the music but also how we create opportunities for people to experience worship. This can be when scripture is read in the middle of a song or when music makes you want to dance, clap and be joyful, or be quiet — all to bring one closer to God.

At Good Shepherd, we are always evolving our worship experiences. This year, in all of our services we have integrated media clips as a way to visually aid and enhance how we hear and see the sermon. Our current equipment needs to be updated. This spring, we will seek financial support to purchase and install new projectors and media screens. May your journey include experiencing new and familiar ways to worship God.

Expression of Gratitude

Good Shepherd Family,

These past few months have been challenging and at times difficult for our family. But at the same time, we have again experienced the awesome power of many prayers and God’s protection over us. The prayer shawl I received is both beautiful and a source of comfort and warmth. And the one that was provided for my mother, Audrey Nichols, after her stroke is always on her when I visit her at Crump Manor. She’s still struggling to regain her health and I’m adjusting to my new role as her guardian. Thank you for your prayers and the prayer shawl. They mean so much to me.

Grace and peace, Jim Moss

PJ Party Lock-In for 3rd-5th Graders

Friday January 29– Saturday 30

Bring your children to **River Road United Methodist Church** at 6:30 p.m. on Friday night and pick them up at 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning. We will have fun with our friends from **River Road** and **St. Mathew's UMC**. We'll have games, movie, crafts, snacks, and a bedtime story!

Please bring your favorite board game to share and a new or gently used children's book to be donated to **Reach out and Read**, a non-profit organization that partners with clinics and pediatricians serving children in low income communities to help enhance literacy skills. Check them out at

www.rorva.org.

Sign up with Ms. Jodi by January 22. You can email her at msbisch@verizon.net.

Thank You

A big thank you to everyone who placed gifts under the Advent trees. This mission enables Good Shepherd to bring the Star Child to children at **Coal Pit Learning Center, Longan Elementary** and **Dumbarton Elementary** throughout the coming months.

Kids With Purpose Update

This fall we had 33 kids participate in KWP! We accomplished many things. We delivered 653 pounds of food to Lamb's Basket, decorated pillowcases and helped prepare and serve dinner for our CARITAS guests, made toiletry kits for the Hospitality House, raked leaves and pulled weeds around the main entrance, made star ornaments for Christmas Eve services, visited several of our senior congregation members' homes, and had 60 children attend Jesus' birthday party.

We are now ready for our Winter Session to begin. We start again on January 13 and will meet until February 17. Our primary scripture will be 1 John 4:19, "We love because He first loved us." We will share His love with neighbors, the hungry, the elderly, and animals.

"Here I am...Send Me!" If you'd like to volunteer one Wednesday afternoon or more, we'd love to have you join us!



Kids With Purpose participants share their enthusiasm for missions with this joyful pose.

A Kids With Purpose participant shows one of the pillowcases made for and given to a CARITAS guest.



Contact Jodi Bischoff, Minister of Children's Discipleship for more information about any of the events and activities on this page.

Jodi can be reached at 270-7613, 217-9734 or msbisch@verizon.net

Youth News

The youth at Good Shepherd have been quite busy learning, praying, helping, and enjoying the fellowship of one another. Back in November, we studied Judaism one Sunday evening. This prompted the request of studying other world religions. During January, the youth will be learning more about Judaism, and also studying Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. I hope that this intriguing study will help the youth to learn more about the world and those around them, while helping them to better understand their own beliefs as Christians. In February, we will begin our Lenten study on Sunday evenings.

Please be sure that you are reading the Youth News email that is sent out every Wednesday. These emails include many important pieces of information. As always, if you have any questions about anything going on with the youth ministry please let me know.

Grace and Peace,
Sara Eddleton



Senior High Youth enjoyed a weekend of spiritual nourishment, reflection, fun and fellowship during the Senior High Youth retreat in Virginia Beach.



For information about our Youth Ministry, contact Sara Eddleton, Minister of Youth and Missions at 270-7613, 839-7195 or eddletonsb@gmail.com

Dates to Remember

- January 3: Ski Trip Deposits DUE
- Jan. 6: Small Group
- Jan. 10: FUEL
- Jan. 13: Small Group
- Jan. 15: Middle School Bowling Night: Sign up by Jan. 10th
- Jan. 17: FUEL
- Jan. 20: Small Group
- Jan. 24: FUEL
- Jan. 27: Small Group
- Jan. 29-30: LOCK-IN at the church. Details coming through bulletin and email!
- Jan. 31: Final Ski Payment DUE and FUEL
- Feb. 3: Small Group
- Feb. 5-7: Ski Retreat
- Feb. 7: No FUEL
- Feb. 10: Small Group
- Feb. 14: Youth Sunday and FUEL
- Feb. 17: Small Group
- Feb. 21: Bowl-a-thon Fund raiser for Guatemala
- Feb. 26: Middle School Night
- Feb. 28: FUEL

Hermitage Helpers Seeks New Coordinator

Living Ministries would like to thank Carol Draper for faithfully serving as **The Hermitage Helper's Coordinator** for many years. Hermitage Helpers provide assistance at the Sunday afternoon worship service at The Hermitage retirement community. The helpers generally are ushers during the service and will greet the residents, light the altar candles and assist with the offering. We are praying for a new leader to emerge that wants to help coordinate this mission. Contact **Carol Draper** at **883-1108** or **gskidssing@gmail.com** or **Andrea Fuller** at **672-2444** or **a fuller321@verizon.net** if you have questions about the coordinator position.

STOP HUNGER NOW

On the fifth Sunday of May, (May 30), we will join together for one worship service. At the completion of the worship service we will participate in the Stop Hunger Now mission here at the church. As the body of Christ we will work together to bag 10,000 meals to be sent throughout the world to those in need. This mission is a wonderful opportunity to work together in an inner-generational setting to provide meals to the hungry of this world. During Lent, we will be collecting change in buckets to raise \$2,500 to support this mission opportunity. If you have any questions about this mission opportunity, contact **Andrea Fuller** at **672-2444** or **a fuller321@verizon.net**.

Bowling for Stoves

Sign up now to bowl with friends and family while raising funds to support the stove building efforts of the summer Guatemala mission trip. On Sunday, February 21, from 1-3 p.m. we are bowling for stoves! The cost is \$20 per adult or \$15 per child (includes 3 games and shoes). There will be fun door prizes, opportunities for lots of laughter and a chance to get a photo worthy of any scrapbook!

There are three ways you can join in the fun:

1. Put together a team and sign up to bowl.
2. Sponsor a player or team.
3. Provide a door prize to be given away during the event.

Interested? Need more information? Want to sponsor a team or player but don't know who is going to Guatemala? Want to bowl but don't have a team? Contact **Susan Mongold** at 346-3303 or **mongold3@verizon.net**

Lamb's Basket Needs Update

Lamb's Basket provides food to people in Henrico County. Did you know Lamb's Basket also distributes diapers, pet food, and gently used or new blankets and sheets? With the recession, there has been a dramatic increase in requests for these items. In addition to the food items we collect, we will now collect these items. The most needed food items are pasta sauce, jelly and crackers. Each week, volunteers take your donations to Lamb's Basket and see the many blessings that occur because of your generosity. Contact **Hansi Brittain** at **231-0102** or **hansibrittain@verizon.net**.

Fifty-five Plus

Good Shepherd's 55 Plus group enjoyed many wonderful activities during the year and throughout the Christmas holidays. We are a group that focuses on fellowship, mission, service and spirituality. A highlight of our work in 2009 includes:

Monthly meals where we enjoy fellowship and often have speakers and performers. Attended local plays and production such as a play at Hermitage High School, the West End Assembly of God and performances at the Gospel Chicken House. Toured Tangier Island in the spring and the Richmond Tacky House light tour in December.

We also serve at Good Shepherd, often behind the scenes. This year we hosted one of the Lenten dinners, we prepare food for funeral receptions, our CARITAS guests, and hospitality hour on Sunday mornings. We also volunteer at Lamb's Basket and some of us put the labels on this newsletter. We visit those in the hospital and who are homebound. We are ushers, greeters, worship leaders, work at the Pumpkin Patch, prepare Communion, and we sponsor families at Christmas.

Spiritually, we lead and participate in small groups and Sunday Schools. We teach children of all ages. We serve on committees and represent Good Shepherd in many organizations.

We are meeting in January to discuss our plans for next year.— and we invite you to join us. If you have an activity you would like included, contact **Jean Deal** at **270-3520**. Also, we are establishing a new calendar for helping with hospitality hour the first Sunday of the month. If you can assist with this please contact **Shirley Wright** at **270-1343**. We invite you all to join us for the fellowship and enjoyment we share each month.

4th Annual Prayer Shawl Retreat

January 30

10 a.m. to Noon

Come and enjoy fellowship, time of prayer, learn to knit and/or crochet and a delicious lunch.

Invite your friends—ages 8 and older welcome

R.S.V.P. to **Diane Ladd**

Dianeladd@vaumc.org

672-1855



United Methodist Men Fellowship Breakfast

Second Sunday Monthly

8:15 a.m.

Youth Adult Education Building

Men of all ages are encouraged to participate in this time of fellowship, devotion and to enjoy a wonderful meal.

Contact **Sonny Rea** at
erea97@aol.com
for more information

Finance Update

Thank you for your faithful giving to Good Shepherd in 2009. Your commitment to God's mission here on earth, both financially and through your service, has been steadfast and inspirational. Through the end of November our actual year-to-date income amounted to approximately \$480,000 and our actual year-to-date expenses amounted to approximately \$491,000. Although we have experienced an unfavorable (negative) cash flow of approximately \$11,000 to date, it is our hope the level of giving in December, which tends to be stronger due to the Christmas holiday, will allow us to make up some of that difference and perhaps even close out the year in a break-even cash flow position. While we're probably not going to meet our budgeted income goal for the general (operating) fund for 2009, the results for the mortgage reduction program have been better than anticipated. Through November and in this very challenging environment, we have paid off approximately \$112,000 of our mortgage's principal balance, with \$62,000 of that amount coming from giving above and beyond what would normally have been paid off through the general fund. That leaves the outstanding mortgage balance at approx. \$197,000 at the end of November. What a blessing! If the current level of giving to this program continues, we expect the mortgage to be paid off by the end of 2011.

We've recently completed our Fall Stewardship Campaign, which was based on a book entitled *Enough – Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity* written by Adam Hamilton. Over several Sundays in October and November Pastor Ed encouraged us, asking us to consider living simpler lives, living within our means and describing the joy and benefits of being debt free and a generous giver. I believe all of us can take important lessons from these messages and use some of the tools provided during the campaign to better manage our finances.

Although pledges for 2010 are still coming in, the Finance Committee, with guidance from the Church leadership and staff, has submitted a tentative budget for 2010 to Church Council for their approval. The proposed budget anticipates approximately \$576,000 in general fund income and expenditures, which is not too different from the one adopted in 2009. This could again be a bit of a "stretch" for us if the economy does not improve in 2010. That said, we will continue to closely monitor our levels of giving and spending in an attempt to best utilize those resources which you have entrusted to us. While the names are too numerous to mention here, I'd like to thank all of those who helped in this process . . . for their dedication and faithfulness in addressing this task and for always keeping God's work at the forefront.

Lastly, if you would like to have your tithe to Good Shepherd withdrawn directly from their bank account to contact **Jim Branscome** at **306-8277** or jimrich99@gmail.com. You may have funds withdrawn either once or twice a month with options for the following dates: the 5th, 15th, 20th or 30th. Those who have already requested ACH withholding to meet their commitment to Good Shepherd do not need to contact Jim.

Thanks again for your faithful giving in 2009 and your commitment to Good Shepherd in 2010.

Blessings to all,
Ron Britt, Finance Chair

The Shepherd's Call

Good Shepherd United Methodist Church
 Edward R. Walker, Pastor
 9155 Hungary Road, Henrico, Virginia 23294
 (804) 270-7613 www.goodshepherdumc.us

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Glen Allen, VA

Permit No. 152

Worship

8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.

9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages ~ Nursery 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Non-Profit Organization

Address Service Requested

Mark Your Calendars Now . . .

January

5	Monthly Labyrinth Prayer Walk	6-9 p.m.
6	Book Group	10 a.m.
7	Book Group	7 p.m.
	Watercolor (Weekly)	7 p.m.
	Youth Small Group (Weekly)	7 p.m.
8	2nd Friday Quiet Day	9:30-2 p.m.
	Praying the Labyrinth	
10	Men's Fellowship Breakfast	8:15 a.m.
	Unfailing Love Women's Study	6:30 p.m.
11	Line Dancing (Weekly)	7 p.m.
12	Tuesday Morning Co-Ed	10-11:30 a.m.
	Bible Study	
	Lectio Divina Group	6:30 p.m.
	(2nd-4th Wed).	
13	Kids With Purpose Winter Session	3:30 p.m.
	Timely Topics Group	6:30 p.m.
15	Middle School Bowling Night	

29 Youth Lock-In
 P.J. Party and Lock-in 3-5th grade

30 4th Annual Prayer Shawl Retreat 10-2p.m.

30 5th Sunday One Service 9:30 a.m.

February

2 Monthly Labyrinth Walk 6-9 p.m.

3 Cook for Freedom House

4 Serve at Freedom House

5-6 Youth Ski Retreat

12 2nd Friday Quiet Day 9:30-2 p.m.
 Introduction to Centering Prayer

17 Ash Wednesday Dinner and Service 5:45 p.m.

24 Weekly Lent Dinner and Program 5:45 p.m.

26 Middle School Night