

# The Voice

Volume 2014, Issue 2

February 2014

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## Vicar's Voice

Back in the 1960's the celebrated folk musician and composer Pete Seeger wrote a song based on Ecclesiastes, chapter three. He called it "Turn, Turn, Turn." In part the song says:

"For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest. A time to tear down and a time to build up. A time to cry and a time to laugh... A time to embrace and a time to turn away. A time to search and a time to quit searching..."

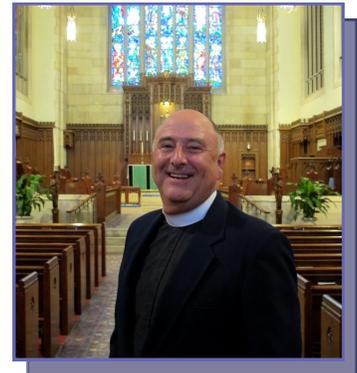
This comes to mind as Good Shepherd is in a time of transition at the beginning of 2014.

On January 19th we bid adieu to Shannon Gallier and Linda Ross. When I first met Shannon over two and a half years ago I knew what everyone knows, that not only is he a talented musician with extraordinary skills as an organist and choir director, but he is able to balance those "professional" skills with the grace and personality to interact with people both young and adult. At a lunch we shared a month after my arrival I remember thinking, "We are blessed to have Shannon with us, but this is a man who will have many opportunities open up to him as he grows and matures. It will just be a matter of time until he is recruited to a major metropolitan city." We bid him farewell also knowing that this congregation offered him his first practical experience and that we

contributed to his growth and success.

Linda Ross is known to virtually everyone within the parish and many beyond our doors. First as a parishioner, later as a volunteer in the office, most recently as a part-time member of the staff, Linda is also a bright, articulate, and extremely spiritual special person. Her contribution in the office has brought creativity and precision to our communications. But beyond that, her assistance with finances, youth and adult education, and especially her continual push for spiritual and worship opportunities has benefited our congregation, as well as visitors and newcomers. After organizing and often conducting numerous morning and evening prayer services, Linda made the observation that we probably have more neighborhood residents dropping in for the daily services than we have regular parishioners. This is not a criticism of the congregation, rather a huge statement about our outreach to Riverside and Avondale. Linda will be moving to New Jersey to be closer to one of her many sisters. She will be dearly missed, but will continue to support us long distant thanks to the benefits of computers and technology.

Since learning about these changes in December a number of people have offered their assistance to help us move forward. A plan is already well underway to engage an interim



organist and choir director. An advisory group has helped identify four potential candidates and a choice should be finalized in early February. This interim will serve for possibly six months while we conduct a nationwide search for a permanent organist and choir director. I also have a number of applications for the administrative assistant position. Interviews have already begun and I expect we should have someone identified in the next month or so.

When Pete Seeger wrote his song he added the words "Turn, turn, turn" to the passage from Ecclesiastes. We are in a period of turning at Good Shepherd. In some respects it is sad; in other respects it is wonderful that our friends and colleagues have exciting opportunities before them. That is a blessing for them as they have been a blessing to us. May God continue to bless all of us as we seek to serve God in all that we do.

Sincerely and faithfully,

Fr. Jeff



The new floor in Craig Lounge

## From the Editor

Dear Voice Readers,

Since 2010 it has been my privilege to edit and publish the Good Shepherd parish newsletter. In the beginning it was a quarterly effort but it soon became a monthly communication tool for the parish. I have enjoyed gathering news of interest, photos of events around the parish and other items to include in the newsletter. Members of the parish have provided invaluable assistance in their contributions and have been a source of encouragement with

their kind comments about each issue.

As I leave Jacksonville to move closer to my family, I go with warm memories of being part of such a wonderful parish family. I thank you, one and all, for your friendship and love. I will hold you in my heart and remember you often. God's peace and blessings be with you.

Linda Ross

lrr0217@gmail.com

## Feeding the Soul

Feeding the Soul, the newest addition to our Outreach Ministries at Good Shepherd, was launched on Friday, January 24th! Over a dozen of our parishioners met at Second Harvest for a tour and to gather food supplies for ten children of West Riverside Elementary and their families. We have partnered with WRE on several recent ministries and are so pleased with their response and willingness to assist to make it all happen!

Our partnership with Second Harvest allows us to provide more food than we would have otherwise, and to include the families of the students at WRE. In addition to weekend nourishment, the program will also cover extended holidays such as Spring Break and Christmas.

The parish response to this program has been awesome! Please consider joining this ministry. We will pick up the

food on Friday mornings and deliver it to the school for distribution to the students. We anticipate that each volunteer (working in pairs) will only cover one Friday a month/6 weeks. If you are interested contact Susannah at susannahsands@hotmail.com



New flotation belt at the pool

## Progress at the Pool

January seems to be donations month! Becky Gibbs, our benefactor last year for our new handicapped lift chair, has followed this year with a donation of \$4,600 toward the cost of a new access ramp! The ramp, part of the ongoing variety of projects around the church, will lead from the Park Street parking lot into the entryway for the pool and rear of the church. Thanks, Becky!!

Focus Physical Therapy, our resident water therapy group, has donated six exercise flotation belts that can be used by the new Aqua Yoga program as it expands. The belts -- almost \$50 each -- are available as well for individual exercise use by pool members. Thanks to Scott Crawley of Focus!

And, certainly not least, Senior Warden Ross Krueger reports the receipt of two more \$1,000 donations toward the heating

fund for the pool, bringing the total raised so far to \$19,000. While the system to heat the pool's water continues to function great, the old heating system for the pool air has not worked for some years. During cold weather, getting in and out of the pool can be pretty nippy. Current plans for a new heating system are estimated to cost around \$31,000. Additional donations are very welcome!

## February Birthdays

Annith Harris (3)  
 Chris Ball (4)  
 Susan Merrett (5)  
 JF Bryan (6)  
 Becky Garrison (9)  
 Karen Zell (10)  
 Debbie Conder (10)  
 Fay Lee (11)  
 David Moomaw (13)  
 Keith Sands (16)  
 Billy Ball (21)



**Demolition done, new  
Community Resource  
Room is ready for  
completion**

## Daily Office Leaders Needed

With the departure of Shannon Gallier and Linda Ross, we need a few new leaders for the Daily Office. Morning Prayer is read at 7:30 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and Evening Prayer at 5:30 on Tuesday and Thursday.

These are services that lay people are encouraged to lead. They last for about 20 minutes and involve reading from the prayer book and the Bible. Very little preparation is re-

quired – only to find the day's lesson in the Daily Office lectionary. Attendance has been growing for these daily services, and it is important that Good Shepherd continue to offer this ministry to the community. If you are interested in leading one of these services (especially Morning Prayer), if only for a few weeks, please talk with Fr. Jeff as soon as possible.

## Flower Donations

The flower donation poster has openings for Feb. 9th, June 8th, Aug. 31st and Nov. 30th. If you want to provide flowers at the altar in thanksgiving or memory of someone on one of these dates, please call the parish office and let us know. The cost for altar flowers each week is \$75.00 and contributions from our parishioners help to make sure we have these lovely enhancements to our worship.





**New plumbing and electrical in the men's room**

## 2014 Stewardship Update

I am thrilled to let you know that our stewardship effort for 2014 has been most successful. We have met our goal for funding parish operations for another year. This is thanks to our parishioners' faithful commitment to Good Shepherd.

We received 104 pledges for 2014, totaling \$340,311. Of these, 18 were new pledges and 41 included increases in pledged amount over 2013. Overall, our pledges were up \$42,221 from last year.

Your pledges are much appreciated, and your payments toward those pledges will be put to good use in making sure our staff is cared for and our finan-

cial responsibilities are met. On behalf of the vestry and parish staff, let me say thank you for your generous financial support of our mission and ministries.

Fr. Jeff

## Vestry Nominees for 2014

### Ted Centerwall

Ted works at the University of North Florida Library in the Acquisitions Department as a library services specialist. He will reach his tenth anniversary at UNF this year. Ted's involvement with Church of the Good Shepherd began 12 years ago, and includes contributing his annual pledge and serving as a lay reader, choir member, lay Eucharistic visitor, and convention delegate. He has also led Sunday classes for adults. Volunteering in other activities has also been a part of his service here. For example, in the past Ted has driven the van to bring parishioners to church and return them home. Serving on the vestry is something Ted is looking forward to!

### Kate Medill

Kate currently is a stay-at-home mother to Oliver (4) and Grey (2). Before deciding to

stay home with her children, Kate worked as a senior project manager for a translation company. Kate originally joined Good Shepherd 7 years ago to sing in the choir. Kate has recently been involved with organizing and coordinating events and gatherings for the Families with Young Children. She is honored to be nominated for vestry and looks forward to continuing her involvement at Good Shepherd.

### Matt Wolfe

Matt is an attorney and partner at Crumley and Wolfe, P.A. Matt specializes primarily at bankruptcy and real estate, but also provides estate planning and probate services. Matt is a former member of the Vestry where he served as the Pool Committee Chair and the Chancellor. Presently Matt serves as an usher, a member of the Pool Committee, and as

a lay reader.

### John Zell

John is Vice President, Development; The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. John joined Good Shepherd in 1992. He has been an active participant in a variety of ways. He has served as a lay youth group leader, a member of the Vestry, Junior Warden, two restoration committees, finance committee and can be found most Sundays singing in the choir.



**Plumbing is finished in handicapped restroom**

## Construction Continnnnnnues!

Those who have been involved in the restoration and renovation repairs have had quite a learning experience which explains why the construction is taking much longer than planned. In virtually every case the projects have turned out to be much more extensive than expected. The first repair was the stairway leading to the choir room, which required twice the extent of repairs. The sub-floor to Craig Lounge required virtually an extra month of preparation prior to the oak floor being laid.

When it comes to the lavatories, the sub-floor in the ladies room off Worsham Hall had considerable rot and the electrical repairs required when the walls were exposed were extensive. Such extensive "change orders" to the contract have corresponding additional costs. For the projects currently underway, we believe we have addressed most of the repairs necessary, and our contractor has indicated that

dry wall and other rebuilding work will soon be underway. We will soon be able to see actual progress.

In addition, when our roofers started to repair the roof over Craig Lounge, the damage extended much further than previously indicated. The new estimate is now triple the original estimate. The vestry's commitment is "to first fix whatever is necessary to keep the water out!"

Since all of these additional repairs have changed our original time table, and anticipated expenses, the latest plan is to complete the work we have initiated, including the new Community Resource Room in the former ladies locker room. Once we have our current projects completed, we will revisit our budget and resources to re-prioritize how we move forward with repairs to Worsham Hall. The positive result from all of this is that we

will have a much safer facility with electrical and plumbing repairs, plus refurbished facilities that will serve us well for years to come.

As was also previously reported, we have a signed lease with Episcopal Children's Services to open an early education center beginning this summer. ECS will soon be filing for permits to renovate our Sunday school classrooms, construct a playground and make other improvements to our grounds for additional security. ECS will be funding all of these improvements and we are eagerly anticipating inviting 65 children per day to Good Shepherd starting later this year.

The dust, obstructions, and other inconveniences are less obtrusive. We are now looking toward the end of February for the completion of the lavatories and CRR. 2014 is shaping up to be big year of change at Good Shepherd.



**Up next—ceilings and walls in Worsham Hall?**

## Counting Our Blessings

This is the first newsletter since late December as the January edition was mailed prior to Christmas. People often ask "how are things going at Good Shepherd?" Progress is often hard to identify when it comes to a mission organization such as a church since we are not necessarily about numbers. If we are able to help one person with relief from a discretionary account, or when we invite six children from our local elementary schools to the second semester of CEW (the Children's Enrichment Workshop), we are literally touching individuals in a very special way.

Having said that, what caught us by surprise at Christmas was the very strong attendance we had at our Christmas services with nearly 240 people worshipping at the 5:00 service (we ran out of leaflets!). Attendance at the 11:00 service was also very strong and at 9:00 on Christmas morning nearly everyone was a visitor or newcomer!

December also brought us additional blessings. The leadership of our parish is extremely grateful for the financial increases in annual giving to support the continuing work of the parish. For the first time in

many years we will offer salary increases to our parish staff, an expression of our appreciation for their work that often goes above and beyond their job descriptions. The increase in giving will also allow us to continue our outreach ministries and more accurately plan for the future.

This is an exciting time to be part of Good Shepherd Church. God continues to bless us with caring, dedicated people who are acting on their faith to love one another as God loves us. Let us collectively rejoice and be glad for the many blessings we enjoy!



**And perhaps the floors, too?**

**THE EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH OF THE  
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## February Calendar

### Every Sunday

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I

10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

### Every Monday

7:30 am Chapel – Morning  
Prayer II

5:30 pm Chancel – Children's  
Chapel

### Every Tuesday

5:30 pm Chapel – Evening Prayer II

### Every Wednesday

7:30 am Chapel – Morning  
Prayer II

5:00 pm Choir room – St. Cecilia  
choir rehearsal

5:30 pm Chapel – Holy Eucharist

6:12 pm Craig Lounge – Adult



**Beautiful Craig Lounge**

discussion group

7:00 pm Choir room – Chancel

choir rehearsal

### Every Thursday

5:30 pm Chapel – Evening Prayer I

### Every Friday

7:30 am Chapel – Morning  
Prayer II

**Sunday February 9, 11:30**  
am Craig Lounge – Annual  
Meeting and Parish Potluck  
Lunch

**Wednesday, February 12,**  
4:00 pm Worsham Hall – Prayer  
Shawl Ministry

**Sunday, February 23, 10:00**  
am, Bishop Keyser visitation  
with confirmation/reception

**Thursday, February 27, 5:30**  
pm, Library – Vestry Meeting