

The Voice

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Rector's Reflections

Dear Parish Family,

My thoughts this month begin with our parish retreat, which will actually be September 19th – 21st. It may sound like it is too early to talk about something happening the third week of September, but in making plans for the resumption of many of our parish activities after Labor Day, the parish retreat is very influential to so much of what we will be doing.

For those of you who have been on recent retreats, you know the special tone or atmosphere that develops when people can spend quality time together. Our theme this year will be "How do the psalms speak to us as a parish?" Psalm 23, probably the most familiar, begins with who we are: "The Lord is my shepherd... He leads me beside still waters (imagine looking out over the beautiful lake at Camp Weed)...He restoreth my soul (how often have we sought God's support?) ...thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me (as the church of God, we comfort one another,) ...Thou preparest a table before me (one of the things we do well at Good Shepherd is eating together, especially on retreat)...and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever." (Church, retreat, mountains, our homes, we dwell in God's house everywhere.) You may have a particular psalm that speaks to you. This promises to be an enlightening theme.

As in years past, we are designing flexibility into the retreat. You can attend from Friday evening straight through to Sunday noon, or you can arrive on Saturday morning and stay for just the day, or through noon on Sunday. This year we are trying to make the retreat as affordable as possible. (Fees will be detailed later in this newsletter.) Last year, many arrived on Friday with so many snacks, that we decided to just plan a potluck dinner on Friday evening this year. If you want to stay in the 16-member cabin on Saturday evening, the parish will make that available at no cost. We hope families will want to take advantage of this. You can also camp with an RV or tent at substantial savings. Conference rooms are limited because of other groups using the conference center, so they will be available on a first come first serve basis. Consider sharing a room with one or more other parishioners.

The basic design will be Friday afternoon or evening arrival, social time, dinner around 6:00. We will have our first session at 7:00 followed by compline (short prayer service) at 8:30. After compline we will have games and free time. Saturday breakfast begins at 8:00. Saturday morning's first session will be from 9:30 until noon with breaks during the morning. Lunch in the dining hall then Saturday afternoon is activity



Camp Weed

time. Activities include free kayaking on the camp lake; or for a fee, river kayaking on the Suwannee; hiking, swimming in the camp pool, lounging or getting in that long overdue afternoon nap! Dinner on Saturday in the dining hall, followed by an evening psalm session. Please note, plans are underway for dedicated psalm sessions just for our youngsters. For those who are unable to attend the retreat, regular Sunday services will take place at Good Shepherd.

Ann Pridgen and others are helping to plan the retreat. Registration forms are in the narthex and will be available after services during coffee and refreshments. You can also call the parish office at 387-5691 to make your reservation. We expect a strong gathering. Get your reservations in early!

Faithfully,

Fr. Jeff



Camp Weed

Lodging and Meal Options for the Retreat

Lodging Options:

Conference Center Room
2 double beds per room
(LIMITED NUMBER
AVAILABLE) - \$75 per night

Camp Cabin
18 beds per cabin
2 bunk beds in each
semi-private division
AVAILABLE SATURDAY
NIGHT ONLY)- No Charge

RV Hook-up - \$26 per night

Tent Site - \$14 per tent per
night

Meal Options:

Friday Night
Good Shepherd Pot Luck, Re-
treat-Style (We'll provide the
sandwiches, you bring
munchies and goodies for
sharing.)

Saturday

Breakfast: Adults - \$8.50,
children - \$7.50
Lunch: Adults - \$11.00,
children - \$7.50
Dinner: Adults - \$12.00,
children - \$7.50

Sunday - Breakfast and lunch
pricing same as above

Thank you Courtenay

Regular readers of our monthly newsletter will notice recent contributions from one of our Diocesan convention delegates, Courtenay Wilson. Delegates to the annual meeting of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida in late January are asked to attend a one or two day business meeting of the Diocese. The convention includes reports from our bishops, updates on assorted ministries like the Wounded Warrior Project, and reports from our companion Dioceses in Cuba and Peru. Delegates may also consider and vote on resolutions and canons (by-laws of the Dio-

cese), and approve the budget of the Diocese.

After attending the last convention in January, Courtenay prepared a written report for our parish annual meeting in February. Then she took it upon herself to begin monthly articles about aspects of the Diocese, including articles about the history of the Diocese, past bishops, Camp Weed, and youth and young adult ministries.

What an added benefit this has been to our entire parish. We have many volunteers who

serve our congregation, often in subtle ways. Many of you know how important I believe continuing education is, and that includes learning more about our church, and the Diocese we are in. On behalf of everyone, let me express our appreciation to Courtenay for her help and support. Through her writing, Courtenay has helped tie us closer to the Diocese and the wider Episcopal Church.

Fr. Jeff



Mandi's Chapel
Camp Weed

August Birthdays

Palmer Lamb (3)	Vera Brown (11)	Maureen Ely (19)
Emily Leeser (5)	Gabrielle Allerton (12)	Pat Lee (24)
Chris Lamb (5)	Ross Krueger (13)	Susan Croom (31)
Emily Miller (6)	Paula Lamb (13)	
Lawrence Denton (7)	Maggie Ely (14)	
Charlotte Lewis (7)	Blythe Ely (17)	
Dinky Rosborough (10)	Elaine Draper (18)	

Finances of Good Shepherd

The vestry would like to keep the congregation apprised of the finances of our parish.

The parish budget for 2014 is based on pledges of \$350,000. Total expenses are projected at \$483,046. Much of the difference from pledge income to total expenses comes from unplugged, rentals, special donations and investment income.

On the revenue side, we are blessed with a number of pre-paid pledges in January and February of every year. On an annualized basis, we need approximately \$30,000 per

month of pledge income, which is why it is helpful, especially over the summer months to keep your pledge up to date.

At the half way point, the June actual finances indicate we have received \$244,885, compared to expenses of \$214,584.

While this is indicative of a \$30,301 surplus, please remember that we received a number of prepaid pledges in January and February and some of our bigger expenses, including property insurance, pension expenses and maintenance, will occur during the second half of the year.

In summary, this is a very successful report. We have had the funds to meet all of our expenses, including some that were carried over from last year. In the not too distant past, we were borrowing funds just to pay the utilities. With the continued support of our membership and barring any major unexpected expenses we continue to be optimistic entering into the second half of the year.

Treasurer, Ross Krueger will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.



Episcopal Children's Services Sign

Episcopal Children's Services

Have you noticed the banners and more recently the bright blue flags announcing the early learning program provided by Episcopal Children's Services (ECS)? Renovations are proceeding to the rooms along the parking lot in addition to plans for building a playground.

We have heard that ECS will open its Good Shepherd site in September, and they are actively enrolling children ages 18 months to age four. If you would like more information or to register a child, please contact ECS at 904-726-1500 or you can visit them online at

www.ecs4kids.org. Flyers are available in the narthex of the church or in the parish office. We look forward to this new ministry serving Riverside, Avondale and beyond.

Construction Updates

As of this writing, the new CRR (Community Resource Room), sometimes referred to as the "upper room" (the former 2nd floor ladies locker room) is being painted. This is an important development because as soon as it is painted, the air conditioning machinery can be installed, getting us that much closer to opening the room to numerous community groups.

As you can see, the ramp has been poured leading into the

breezeway serving the pool and rear of the church. We are waiting for the fabrication of the handrails by that subcontractor.

We are looking forward to winding down our renovations and repairs. Soon it will be time for the new carpeting in the breezeway entrance to the courtyard, and safety treads on the stairs to the music room.

While these projects have taken longer than expected, they should be completed by the end of summer. This will be most welcomed by parishioners, guests and the neighborhood programs that we help sponsor as we begin anew in September.



New ramp in breezeway



Children's Enrichment Workshops (CEW)

Ten or more years ago, Good Shepherd was one of the founding churches for the Children's Enrichment Workshops. The purpose of CEW is to provide after school enrichment education to Central Riverside, West Riverside and Fishweir elementary schools. These enrichment classes have included dance, art, music and this year we will begin offering computer education.

In addition to weekly classes for students from kindergarten through fifth grade, CEW provides a once a year donation of

school supplies to students. Traditionally, Good Shepherd is linked to Central Riverside School, and we look to providing supplies (see the accompanying list) to their 25 teachers. Collection boxes are located in the narthex of the church and outside the parish office.

These supplies will be presented to the teachers on August 15th when CEW hosts all the teachers and principals from the three schools for an appreciation lunch at Riverside Christian Church. Good Shepherd Church is asked every

year to provide desserts for the luncheon. A sign up sheet will be in the narthex of the church for volunteers who would like to help with the desserts. Please bring your brownies, cakes (pre-cut) and cookies to the parish office on Wednesday, August 13th so they can be delivered prior to the luncheon.

It is great to know that Good Shepherd is still actively involved in CEW after so many years!

School Supply List

Once again it is time to think about a new school year and what we can do to support our neighborhood schools with the supplies they will need for a successful school year. There is a collection area in the narthex to drop off your donations. We will collect supplies through Sunday, August 10.

School Supply List

Pens—all colors
Pencils—wooden and mechanical—erasers
Crayons
Colored Pencils
Markers
Highlighters
Sharpie Markers
Rulers

Glue Sticks and Elmer's Glue
Scotch Tape
Composition Books
Spiral Note Books
Report Covers
Note Book Paper

August 2014 Calendar



Every Sunday

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

Every Monday

7:30 am Morning Prayer

Every Tuesday

5:30 pm Evening Prayer

Every Wednesday

7:30 am Morning Prayer
5:30 pm Holy Eucharist
6:12 pm Adult Study Group

Every Thursday

5:30 pm Evening Prayer

Every Friday

7:30 am Morning Prayer

Sunday, August 10, 11:30 am

Worsham Hall—monthly
Potluck lunch

Wednesday, August 13,

4:00 pm Craig Lounge—
Prayer Shawl Ministry

Monday, August 25, 6:00 pm

Library/archives room—
Vestry Meeting

Sunday, August 31, 11:30 am

Craig Lounge/courtyard –
Sundaes on Sunday

Pool News

Recently, our pool director, Dave Callen, presented Fr. Jeff with an intriguing proposal. Another church in Jacksonville, which places an emphasis on mission work to people in need, inquired about the possibility of co-sponsoring swimming lessons for children from the Hollybrook Homes, a subsidized city housing neighborhood.

One of the purposes of our pool has always been to serve as an outreach ministry to our local neighborhoods. Our pool is used by lap swimmers, swim team coaches, and SCUBA

programs certifying divers. One of the most important uses of the pool may actually be in saving lives by teaching swimming, especially to children. Good Shepherd committed to the program, which started July 12th, even though we did not have the funds but feeling that we could find funds for such a worthy cause.

The expense of teaching twelve youngsters with two swimming instructors and a lifeguard, plus regular pool expenses totaled nearly \$2,000. We committed to half or \$1,000. If you or someone you know would like

to help Good Shepherd defray our portion of these expenses, please speak to Fr. Jeff, or Dave Callen, our pool director.

Given the success of this pilot program, in the next year or so we plan to apply for a grant to expand this ministry beyond just a summer experience. Years ago we are told that the John Gorrie School walked students to the Good Shepherd Pool for PE classes. How wonderful it would be to once again offer swimming lessons to groups, especially those who might not be able to afford individual lessons.



Summer Learn to Swim Program

Successful Stewardship = Successful Outreach

Once I commented to a clergy friend of mine that I didn't think you could separate Stewardship and Outreach. My friend rolled his eyes and that was the end of the conversation! I still believe that the two are difficult, if not impossible, to separate. The reason I hold to this theory is that the giving of time, talent and treasure of the members of a congregation of good stewards begets energized supporters of outreach. **Outreach is Stewardship in Action!**

Let's take a look at some of the fruits of your Outreach participation for the past year.

Our mission work for **Cuba** raised \$1,927 for our companion Diocese of Cuba.

School Supply Drive provided classroom needs for the teachers and children of Central Riverside Elementary School—2013 and is underway now for the 2014 school year.

Thanksgiving Meals provid-

ed a traditional Thanksgiving meal for twenty-five families—130 people.

Lenten Offering resulted in additional funds so we can add fifty more people to the Thanksgiving Meals list for this year.

The Shepherd's Tree provided over a hundred beautifully wrapped gifts for the children at West Riverside Elementary.

Computers are being donated for our fall **CEW Computer Lab/Classes**.

Feeding the Soul supplied food for weekends for four hundred children/family members of West Riverside Elementary School every Friday for the last six months of this school year.

Church Without Walls Good Shepherd provides lunch quarterly for the congregation in the Diocesan parking lot—now up to 100+ attendees per Sunday.

St. Catherine's Food Pantry baskets each Sunday provide food for their food pantry which serves many in our community.

CEW Art Class for the last school year provided an after school enrichment opportunity for children in our community.

Salvation Army joyful bell ringers during the holiday season collected money for the needy.

You, the good and faithful stewards of this congregation, have made this outreach a reality in our community and beyond. If you are new to the congregation or not yet involved, please consider joining an Outreach Ministry—there is work to be done! Just ask the person beside you, in front of you, behind you, or the person across the aisle on Sunday. Chances are they are involved in an Outreach Ministry!

Susannah Sands



Summer Learn to Swim Program



Summer Learn to Swim Program

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**Parish Retreat
September 19-21**



