



The Shepherd's Voice

JANUARY

2010

BISHOP'S VISITATION

We are thrilled to have Bishop Sisk visit Good Shepherd on Sunday, June 20, 2010. Please mark your calendars!

FROM THE RECTOR: THE PASCHAL MYSTERY

Matthew Mead

On New Year's Day the baseball movie, *Bull Durham*, was playing on the television. I hadn't seen the movie in years and enjoyed watching it, as if for the first time. There was a great scene midway through the movie on the team's tour bus: the young star pitcher, named Nuke, was playing guitar and singing *Try a little tenderness* by Otis Reading. Nuke didn't know the words and kept singing "woolly" instead of "weary" and "stress" instead of "dress". He sang until the veteran catcher, Crash, snatched the guitar from him and said: "I hate people who get the words wrong. It ain't *woolly* it's *weary* and it nobody's got *stress*, they're wearing a *dress*..." What we say matters. A song sung with the wrong words loses much (or all) of its original meaning. I wonder if that is any different than singing a song and never once taking time to consider what the words of the song are saying. A tune, as great and familiar as one might be, is only part of a song when words are involved. For example, Handel's Messiah is a great piece of music, but the point of that music is expressed in the words that are being sung. Without the words, the meaning is lost.

I've been paying more attention to the words of hymns lately. I wrote last month about some of the great Advent hymns. Over Christmastide, I noticed that most of Christmas hymns are not focused exclusively on Christmas. A number of them work better lyrically

moving into Epiphany (for example *The First Nowell* and *What Child is this* both transition quickly from the manger to the magi), while others climax in a celebration of the Paschal Mystery:

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings, hail, the Sun of Righteousness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! (from *Hark the herald angels sing*)

God comes down that we may rise, lifted by him to the skies; Christ is born for us that we born again in him may be. (from *Sing, O sing, this blessed morn*)

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord; that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought. (from *The first Nowell*)

The church year is rich with symbolism. In the midst of that symbolism, every Christian celebration, including Christmas and Epiphany, finds its meaning in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Many of the hymn writers took great care to point singers and hearers of those hymns toward Easter. Every celebration of the Holy Eucharist culminates in the Paschal Mystery. The words of the Holy Eucharist are the words we worship with, but they can also inform us about the faith we share. I am convinced that Christians learn through worship. Every now and again I think that it's important to recognize that fact and pay a bit more attention to some of the details.

A good new year's resolution might be to sing the words of each hymn with special care to understanding what the words are saying. Another great resolution might be to pray and hear the words of the Holy Eucharist with a newly tuned ear. In addition, I highly recommend carving out time once a week this winter to learn about the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Information on the class I will be offering is below.

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST: ADULT EDUCATION & CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Matthew Mead

Parts of the Gospel accounts of the Passion are read every year during Holy Week (Matthew, Mark & Luke are read in a three year cycle on Palm/Passion Sunday; John is read every year on Good Friday). The narratives of Jesus' death and resurrection are the heart of the Gospels. The texts are better, richer and more interesting than any movie.

This winter I will offer a ten-part class on the Passion Narratives in the Gospels. We will read and compare the narratives of Jesus' betrayal, trials, crucifixion and death found in the four Gospels. If you haven't had an opportunity yet to learn and study these essentials, this class is for you! This class will allow participants to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest all four narratives. The class will be offered on Sundays at 9:00 AM and again on Tuesdays at 6:00 PM (The Tuesday class will repeat what was covered on Sunday). This class is designed both for **adults** and also for **young people who wish to be Confirmed** by the Bishop in June.

This class is open to everyone. It is a great way for parents and their confirmation age children to learn about their faith together. It is a wonderful opportunity for people who recently discovered or rediscovered Christ to learn about their faith. It can serve as a helpful refresher for Christians who want to recharge their spiritual batteries. It is a fantastic way for any Christian to prepare for Holy Week & Easter. We begin on January 17 (repeated on January 19) and conclude March 21 (repeated on March 23). The class is being offered twice each week in the hopes that more people will be able to find a way to fit it into their schedules. Food and beverages are welcome at both classes.



Baptism on the First Sunday after Christmas, 2009.



Pencil drawing by Maria Kaprielian

OUTREACH & MISSION

The Outreach Committee will meet in Sunday, January 10 after the 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist. We will outline all current parish mission and outreach projects and discuss ways to support them more fully. We will also discuss upcoming projects for 2010 and look into ways to expand Good Shepherd's outreach endeavors. All are invited to join the Committee.

OUTREACH & MISSION:

COMMUNITY CENTER OF NORTHERN WESTCHESTER

The Harvest Sunday food and supplies offering is expanding! Every month food and supplies will be given by Good Shepherd to the Food Pantry at the [Community Center of Northern Westchester](#). A basket at the back of the church is always available for donations. The Food Pantry is specifically looking for: Dried black and pinto beans; Cold cereal; Tuna; Canned beef stew; Spaghetti sauce; Fruit juice; Baby food; Diapers.

YOUTH GROUP & CONFIRMATION CLASS

Members of the Youth Group who are going to be confirmed by Bishop Sisk on June 20, 2010 will continue reading the New Testament Lesson for the next few months. Thanks to those members who have already read! Great work! Please check with Father Matt to go over your reading a week before you are scheduled to read. The Youth Group will participate in a “Midnight Run” in the next few months. Also, please note the class on the Passion Narratives is offered for any who wish to be Confirmed. Those who wish to be Confirmed are strongly encouraged by the rector to join in!

THE REVEREND JOHN MERZ

We are pleased to announce that the Reverend John Merz will be the new assistant priest at Good Shepherd. Father Merz will celebrate and preach at Sunday services in July, 2010 (and hopefully in July for years to come). He is one of the University Chaplains for the Diocese of New York, and he serves the student body at New York University. So that you can meet him, Father Merz will be at Good Shepherd to preach at some point in the winter or spring.



Twelfth Night Pageant 2009

“WHY I LOVE GOOD SHEPHERD”

Bruce Barber

This article is the second in a series presented by the 2010 Stewardship Committee. If you are interested in submitting an article for the series, please contact Father Matt, we'd love to print your submission! This month we continue the series with a note from Bruce Barber:

Each Sunday, with the words “The peace of the Lord be always with you,” the extended family, that is the Church of the Good Shepherd, collectively rise as one from their pews to greet each other, wish each other peace and just for an instant, check in with one another to make sure all is well. What occurs during this moment, “the Peace” represents why I love the Church of the Good Shepherd. During the Peace there is every representation of formal and informal greeting ranging from handshakes, to hugs, to kisses on the cheek, to pats on the back. I am sure some of the expressions, or length of same, break some formal church rules, but no one seems to care.

The expressions during the Peace, our Peace, collectively result in the warm feeling that you are welcomed, that you belong and are cared about, that you have the support and kindness of the “church family”. In this crazy time we live in, when we all need reassurance, this simple moment of peace becomes one of renewal and recharge with affirmation and solace that it all still does work.

I love our “Peace” on Sunday mornings but is the peace that you feel being part of this family that is so remarkable.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Bob Bubeck

The 2010 offering envelopes are on the table at the back of the church. Please take your envelopes.

If there is no assigned envelope box for you, and you want envelopes, please take an unnamed box with the corresponding numbered card. Fill out and place the card in the offering plate, give it to an usher or give it to me (Bob Bubeck, Financial Officer). Thanks so much!

FROM THE TREASURER: INCOME AND EXPENSES FOR 2009

**Income and Expenses Year To Date
December 30, 2009**

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
Pledges`	77,071	Advertising	1,008
Loose Plate	2,061	Diocesan Assessment	8,233
Yandersitz Fund	15,600	Office Expenses	6,020
Donations For Use of Space	20,611	Supply Priests & Organists	850
Income-Easter, Birthday/Initial	4,533	Worship Supplies and Music	1,601
Sunday School	229	Utilities, Heat	12,589
Altar Guild	1,577	Insurance	4,155
Due to Others	4,521	Maintenance	10,297
Fund Raisers	1,669	Rector's Compensation	73,093
Rector's Discretionary	650	Staff Compensation	19,009
Rectory Improvement	829	Altar Guild	1,689
Capital Improvement	2,216	Capital Improvement	9,500
Parish Support Fund	60	Rectory Improvement	4,378
Memorial Funds	800	Rector's Discretionary	1,422
Misc. Income	74	Outreach	1,050
Total Income YTD	\$132,501	Carpenter's Kids	3,786
		Auditor	800
		Sunday School	298
		Payroll Expenses	506
		Roof Loan	1,045
		Pass Thru Funds	510
		Miscellaneous Exp.	<u>713</u>
		Total Expenses	\$162,552

Net Loss (\$30,051)

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flower donations are needed for the next two months (until Lent), and for two Major Feast Days that will have services followed by festive food events: Candlemas (February 2) and Annunciation (March 25).

If you wish to donate money for flowers please contact Bob Bubeck, Financial Officer, and give him the following: 1) Your Name, 2) Names of the people that the flowers are given in memory of or in thanksgiving for, 3) The date you want to donate flowers for, 4) A donation to pay for the flowers.

2010 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

The Stewardship Committee

The 2010 Stewardship Campaign has gotten off to a wonderful start. As of today we have 29 signed pledges and 15 unsigned pledges for a total of \$80,694.00.

We are thrilled to report that we have already surpassed the amount pledged in 2009, however, there is some work left to do. Our goal for 2010 is \$120,000, the amount needed to balance the budget and ensure that we continue to keep Good Shepherd an open, staffed and active parish. We are 67.245% of the way toward our goal, which means that we still need to raise \$39,306 in pledges.

Day to day life at Good Shepherd is not supported by an endowment, but by the pledged giving of its members and friends. Good Shepherd needs and is grateful for your support this year.

If you have made a pledge in the past, please prayerfully consider making one this year. If you have never pledged before please know that a pledge is a commitment between yourself and God that supports and makes possible the day to day life of the church. If you are unsure of your own finances for 2010, please know that a pledge can be adjusted – just speak to the Financial Officer, Bob Bubeck – at any time. If you have already made a pledge, consider adjusting it to add \$5 or \$10 a week more, which will greatly help us toward our goal. We are confident that we can reach our goal if every member makes a pledge for 2010. Please prayerfully consider what you can do to keep Good Shepherd thriving. Thank you so much! Happy New Year and God bless!

THANKS

Thanks to all who made Christmas so wonderful this year at Good Shepherd. Thanks to Arleen Flury for working so hard on the Christmas flowers and other decorations. Thanks to Cecilia Speracio for her work with the choir and trio at Christmas: the music was marvelous! Thanks to Sally & Dave Stevens for donating a new computer for the Parish Office at the beginning of December. Thank to Doug Buschel for fixing the kitchen sink in December and replacing the hot water heater in early January. Thanks to Bruce Barber, Jen Ciallela, Phil Levy, and Janet Wilson, whose terms are ending on the Vestry, for their service in 2009. Thanks to Bob Bubeck, Jim Corning, Jan Corning, Phil Levy, and Sally Stevens for their time and work serving as parish officers in 2009.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: PAGEANT, 12TH NIGHT & BEYOND

Glenn Hintze for the Sunday School Committee

The start of 2010 will be a very busy one for the Sunday School program. Our annual pageant will take place at 6:00 PM, Saturday, January 9, in the church. We have a new play and a new set to show off this year. The children have been working very hard on this year's production, so we hope everyone will come out to enjoy it. Following the pageant, the 12th Night celebration will be held in the parish hall. Please sign up to bring a dish or dessert. Each person attending should also bring a wrapped gift valued at no more than \$5.00. On the gift tag, please indicate if it's for a boy, girl, teen or adult. Three "magi" will be chosen to deliver the gifts during the celebration. We'll have a brief service in the church to conclude this festive evening.

Sunday School will resume with a new session beginning January 17, with Family Sunday on February 21 (when the children perform the duties at the 10am service). We thank Yolanda and Vernon Alexander and Suzanne Bracken for teaching. They will be followed by Mella Donofrio, Jessie Lewis and Suzanne (again!) who will teach in March and April. We still need teachers for the post-Easter session, which begins April 11 and runs until graduation on May 23. Please sign up---the children are a delight to work with! Happy New Year!



Blessing of Animals on Saint Francis Day 2009

CANDLEMAS & CHILI & CHOWDER

February 2 is a greater festival in the church year: Candlemas. A Sung Holy Eucharist will be offered at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, February 2, 2010. After the service we will gather in the parish hall for the Chili & Chowder Competition hosted by the Brotherhood of Saint Andrew.

BIBLE STUDY & ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Matthew Mead

Every Wednesday morning at 8:00 AM a fantastic group of early risers is learning more and more about the Prophets. Do you get up early? Can you carve an hour out of your morning on Wednesday's to learn something new? We meet at 8:00 AM right after Morning Prayer (7:40 AM). Please join us! **Sundays until Easter at 9:00 AM**, On Sundays during January, February and March the rector will offer a class on the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We will read through the Passion Accounts in the four Gospels. Set your clocks a little early on Sundays this winter... you don't want to miss this. **Tuesday Evening Bible Study at 6:00 PM** On Tuesdays, the Bible Study will repeat what was covered on Sunday morning.



The three magi 2009

SUNDAY & HOLY DAY ATTENDANCE IN DECEMBER

The Second Sunday of Advent, December 6, 2009: 85
The Third Sunday of Advent, December 13, 2009: 91
The Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20, 2009: 53 (snow day)
Christmas Eve & Day, December 24 & 24, 2009: 173
The First Sunday after Christmas, December 27, 2009: 99

SERVICE NUMBERS & ATTENDANCE FOR 2009

Total Sunday Attendance for 2009: 3309
Total Weekday Attendance for 2009: 485
Total Sunday Holy Eucharist services for 2009: 90
Total Sunday Daily Office services for 2009: 16
Total Weekday Holy Eucharist services for 2009: 15
Total Weekday Daily Office services for 2009: 75
Total Private Communion/Reserved Sacrament: 28
Burials in 2009: 0
Marriages in 2009: 0

THE BROTHERHOOD...

We will meet on January 17 & 31 to plan for the Chili & Chowder Fest on Feb. 2.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

The Annual Meeting is Sunday January 24, 2010. The Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ is the Temple (aka **Candlemas**) will be celebrated on **February 2, 2010.** Sung Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 6:00 PM. The service will be followed by the Brotherhood's Annual Chili & Chowder Competition. **Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent is February 17, 2010.** The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 8:00 AM, 12:00 Noon, and 6:00 PM. The 6:00 PM service will be Sung. Ashes will be administered at all services. **The Feast of the Annunciation will be celebrated on March 25, 2010.** Sung Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 6:00 PM. The service is scheduled to be followed by a wine-tasting/fundraiser for the parish. More information will be available in the next Shepherd's Voice.

WE NEED RECENT **MORE** PHOTOS

If you have a digital camera, please take photos of events and services at Good Shepherd! We need them for the website and for the Shepherd's Voice. Please email all photos to mead@goodshepherdny.org.



A recent photo from the baptism on the First Sunday after Christmas, 2009.

JANUARY LITURGICAL ASSIGNMENTS

Please contact Father Matt if you are unable to serve as scheduled. Thanks a million!

	Sunday 1/10	Sunday 1/17	Sunday 1/24	Sunday 1/31	Tuesday 2/2	Sunday 2/7
OT Reader:	Sally Stevens	Gwen Greene	Marshall Kidder	Fran DiBernardo	Jim Corning	Glenn Hintze
NT Reader:	Gretchen Hintze	Alex Mattos	Joseph Corcione	Emily Barber	Sara Corning	Amanda Corcione
Servers:	Abby Vesperman, Emily Vesperman, Jesse Lewis	Liam Kenny, Luke Kordys, Max Kordys	Claire Hintze, Sindey Rosso, Joseph Morales	Abby Vesperman, Emily Vesperman, Liam Kenny, Luke Kordys, Max Kordys	Abby Vesperman, Emily Vesperman, Jesse Lewis	Emily Barber, Sarah Corning, Gretchen Hintze
Prayers:	Maria Kaprielian	John Kaprielian	Sally Stevens	Rick Vesperman	Bernie Sotter	Julia Bacal
Chalice Bearer:	Dorothy Baeder	Gwen Greene	Diane Buschel	Fran DiBernardo	Phil Levy	Dorothy Baeder
Ushers:	Bernie Sotter, Bob Velzy	Rick Vesperman, Bob Velzy	Sally Stevens, Diane Buschel	Rick Vesperman, Bob Velzy	Bernie Sotter, Bob Velzy	Sally Stevens Glenn Hintze
Altar Guild	<i>Rotating basis</i>	<i>Rotating basis</i>	<i>Rotating basis</i>	<i>Rotating basis</i>	<i>Rotating basis</i>	<i>Rotating basis</i>

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/2	David Batten
1/8	Tom Rubino
1/8	Cecilia Sparacio
1/11	Jenna Lynn Manders
1/13	Seth Stebbins
1/14	Emma Murphy
1/19	Sally Stevens
1/24	George Parks
1/27	Caitlyn Galloway
1/28	Katherine Kordys
1/30	Joseph Ciallela
1/30	Roger Simpson

PARISH DATABASE UPDATE

Thanks to all who submitted updated information! There is still more work to be done! An information sheet (basic info only) will continue to be available for all to fill out (member, visitor, or friends) in church throughout December. Please take a few moments to fill out the form completely. It will help greatly in parish communication. Thanks so much!

SAVE US MONEY

A growing number of people have signed up to receive the Shepherd's Voice by email: will you join them? Please send an email to mead@goodshepherdny.org if you would like to receive the Shepherd's Voice via email. Save a tree and the cost of printing and postage!

PARISH CALENDAR

The Church Calendar is available online at www.goodshepherdny.org. If you would like to subscribe to calendar you can! Our Calendar is actually ten separate calendars hosted by Google Calendars (for free!). The rector has all of the church calendars on his desktop computer in the parish office AND on his mobile phone... you can too! If you don't have internet access, that's ok. A printout of each month calendar is available upon request from the parish office.

PRAYER LIST ADDITIONS

If you would like your name or a the name of someone you know added to the weekly prayer list, please call the parish office at 914.248.5631 or send an email to mead@goodshepherdny.org. If you would like the name of someone who has recently died prayed for throughout the week at the Holy Eucharist and Morning Prayer, please contact us as well . . .If you would like your name added to the birthday or wedding anniversary list, please call the parish office at 914.248.5631 or send an email to mead@goodshepherdny.org.

ARTICLES FOR FEBRUARY SHEPHERD'S VOICE

Please submit all articles for the February Voice by January 15. This will ensure that the Voice gets published on the last Sunday of each month. Thanks!

Contact information
for the Reverend Matthew Mead

Work: 914.248.5631

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Home (in case of emergency): 914.556.6246

**The Shepherd's Voice is a monthly publication of
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**If you would like to subscribe to the Shepherd's Voice via email,
please send an email to mead@goodshepherdny.org**

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