



The Shepherd's Voice

OCTOBER

2010

IN OUR PRAYERS...

Your prayers are asked for Julie, Bill, Daudi, Andy, Donna, Norma, Carolyn, Franca, Robert, Harriet, Madeline, Tom, Maria, Kathleen, Jennifer, Carol, Dan, Mike, Margaret, Debbie, Phil, Mary Lou, Donald, Jackie, Janice, Andy, Sonya, Angel and Shamyra; and the children of the Carpenter's Kids program in Tanzania; we pray for an end to all war and armed conflict and for our service men and women on active duty, especially William and Brandon. Your prayers are asked for Kristen and Alexandra for safety in childbirth.

SPECIAL THANKS...

Special thanks to Alfredo Santucci & Sons for filling many potholes in the church driveway and parking lot on September 24, 2010. The work was done as a gift at no cost to the parish. Thank you so much! . . . Special thanks also to Cate Hohwald and Beverley Lemon for donating furnishings for the parish office. Thank you both so much!

CELEBRATING BAPTISM...

We give thanks for the baptisms this past month of Callie Marie Caron, Dylan Leonard Jones, Lara Alice Jones, and Matthew Charles Rubino.



FROM THE RECTOR: A GREAT YEAR!

The Reverend Matthew Mead

I have been rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd for one year. My wife, Nicole, our sons, Liam and Nicholas, and I moved to Granite Springs at the start of September one year ago. We have had a wonderful year, we love Granite Springs and Good Shepherd, and I would like to offer my sincerest thanks to every member and friend of Good Shepherd for making our first year a great one: thank you very, very much!

In particular, I would like to thank all of the members of the vestry, those who currently serve, and those who served in 2009. The lay leadership of the parish gives so much time and hard work to Good Shepherd. We are blessed with great lay leadership, and it is an honor to be the rector of a church with such a devoted and hard working vestry. Thanks so much!

The Wardens, Jim Corning, Bruce Barber, and last year's Property Warden, Phil Levy, have been absolutely fabulous. We are blessed to have the wardens that we have. They have worked for the church constantly, and the fruit of their work is everywhere. Thanks so much!

The other parish officers, Sally Stevens, Jan Corning, and Bob Bubeck, have put in countless hours during the day, at night, and after church as our treasurer, clerk, and financial officer, respectively. They are, to a great degree, the three people who make sure all of the details and numbers add up. Thanks so much!

I would also like to thank the staff of the parish who ensure that Good Shepherd remains open and operational. We have a small staff, but that does not diminish the wonderful work they do. I would like to thank Ann Siemerling, our sexton, who has worked tirelessly keeping the church open and clean every day of the year. I would like to thank Cecilia Sparacio, our organist and choir director, who has ensured that we have a great variety of lovely music at church services on Sunday, during the week, and at special events. I would like to thank Sharen McKenna, our child care provider, who has made sure that our Nursery is open and full of children every Sunday of the year. Finally, I would like to thank our parish secretary, Cindy Sotter, who died this past June after many hard months of illness, and her husband Bernie, for his behind the scene secretarial assistance. Cindy did all of the little things that needed to be done during the week at a church, and her loss in the office and parish community has been great, but I am thankful for the time that

MEMORIAL GARDEN

Information & news

After many months of hard work, the final design of the Memorial Garden has been completed. With the help of a local landscape architect, Diane Dreier, the details of this beautiful, peaceful garden have been finalized and we look forward to construction of the major "hardscape" components such as retaining walls and a cross pedestal this October and a dedication service either the first or second Sunday in November! Some additional components of the garden, such as flowers and shrubs will be installed this Spring.

A rough circle representing the perimeter of the garden has been taped off in the wooded area at the right rear corner of the property (as entering the rear parking area from the church driveway). This circle is visible from the edge of the parking lot. Please have a look but be careful if you want to enter the woods to get a closer look, there are substantial areas of poison ivy (one of the first projects we will have to address). There is a presentation board in the hallway outside the Guild Room so everyone will be able to see the design and features of the garden. We are all very excited to complete this project but we need a little bit of your help.

The Memorial Garden Committee has made every effort to control costs while ensuring

Continued on next page...

MEMORIAL GARDEN *continued...*

that a beautiful and lasting garden which serves as a tribute to our parishioners will be constructed. The current memorial garden fund contains sufficient money to complete the core components of the garden which represent more than one-half of the entire garden. To complete the entire garden... that is where each and every one of you can help.

We will be selling individual bricks for \$100.00 which will be installed along the edge of the main walkway leading to the garden. Bricks may be inscribed with your messages of hope and your memories, and may be ordered at the sign-up table in the hallway outside of the guild room through mid-October. If you cannot make it to church and wish to order a brick, please contact Leslie Fulton, Courtney Velzy or Jan Corning.

Proceeds from the sale of the bricks will be used to complete the remaining sections of the garden such as walkways, plants and edges. We hope that you will find great satisfaction in purchasing one or more bricks which will become such a meaningful, permanent part of our church.

We wish to thank all of you for your continued thoughts, comments and prayers. For those of you who would like additional details and information regarding the Memorial Garden please see Father Matt.

The Memorial Garden Committee

she worked here, and that I was able to work with here. God bless you Cindy, and rest in peace. Thanks so much to all of you!

I would be remiss if I did not also offer thanks and congratulations to you all for a year of amazing growth at Good Shepherd. Good Shepherd averaged 58 people each Sunday from September 2008 to September 2009, and that number grew to 86 people from September 2009 to last September 2010 – so far our average attendance for 2010 is even higher at 88. That is an increase of 31%! A church does not grow unless everyone is involved in some part of welcoming visitors and newcomers. I am so happy that we have such a friendly welcome at the door before and after church, that we always have hearty and fun coffee hours and events, that we have so many people who are involved in supporting and organizing out thriving Sunday School (especially Glenn Hintze and the Sunday School Committee), and that joy is one of the defining features of the worship and everyday life at Good Shepherd. The honest and warm welcome that Good Shepherd parishioners always offer to newcomers, children, friends, and members has been a primary source of growth over the past year. It's a thrill being a part of that!

The 2010 Stewardship Campaign saw nearly identical growth in pledging this past year. Our pledge total for 2010 was \$104,539, nearly \$25,000 higher than in any previous year: that also is an increase of 31%! Thanks to Maria Kaprielian and Leslie Fulton for their organization and work on the Stewardship Committee. Growth like that is commendable, and I would like to thank each and every one of you for your support

of Good Shepherd this past year. I also think every single friend and member of Good Shepherd deserves hearty congratulations for growing the church: Congratulations and well done!

I would also like to offer thanks for all of the time and effort put into beautifying the parish grounds in the last year. A great source of parish pride is our attractive property. Before my family arrived at Good Shepherd a great amount of work was done renovating and repairing the rectory and the grounds. Over the past year a number of work days have continued and built on that work. The woods have mostly been cleaned out and cut back between Granite Springs Road (the front) and Richard Somers Road (in back). Flowers and plants have been carefully planted and maintained all summer long. All of the exterior doors have been painted. Several enormous dumpsters have been filled with garbage. The rectory has a cleared back yard (grass is growing in right now!). The list of those who have worked on various work days is far too long to name everyone, but in particular, I would like to thank Bruce Barber, Phil Levy, Lorne Robbins, and Pat Mulholland, who have taken time this past year to organize work days and work on large and small projects. Thanks so much to you and to all who have done so much to make our grounds so eye pleasing.

I am overjoyed to be a part of a happy and growing church. Thank you so much for making our first year at Good Shepherd fabulous. I look forward to many more years to come, and I pray that Almighty God fills us with the Holy Spirit so that the Good News of the Risen Lord Jesus continues to be spread with such joy and enthusiasm by the people of Good Shepherd!

2010 Christmas Bazaar

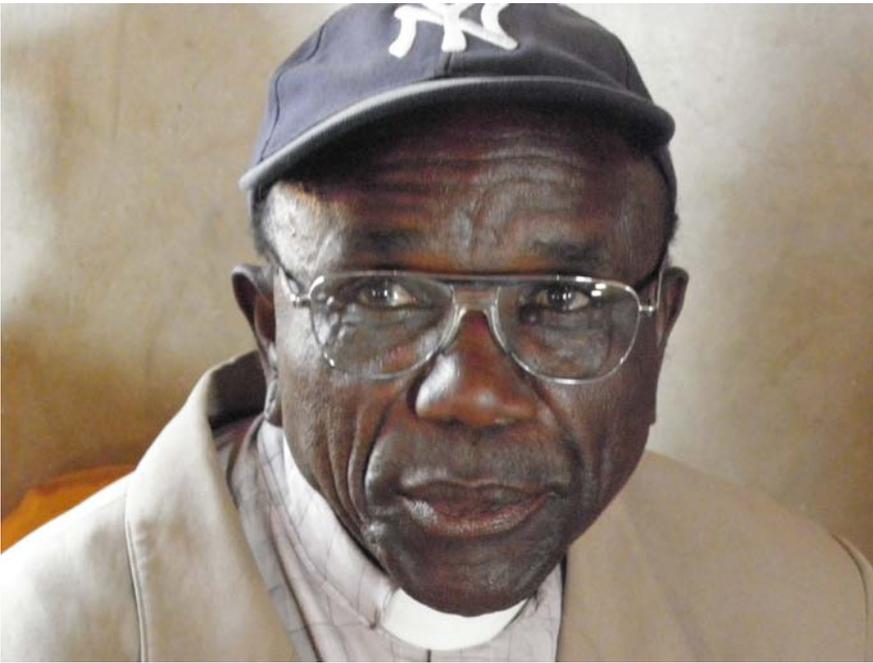
Hard to believe, but Christmas is coming again soon! This year's Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday, December 11 from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM. The Bazaar is a great opportunity to raise much needed funds for Good Shepherd and for our Outreach programs. The secret to the success of a large event is always planning and participation. It takes the whole congregation to make it work – we all have different gifts and different talents and there's more than enough room to use them all.

We are planning on selling handmade Christmas ornaments and gifts, stocking stuffers, gift baskets and baked goods. Several people have already expressed interest in helping with crafts and offered their ideas. Sally Stevens has offered to coordinate a Baby Gift table and Courtney Velzy and Diane Buschel will run a "make and take" center where children can make ornaments and small gift items while their parents shop. Special thanks to Lindsey Velzy who has volunteered to be our special consultant on children's items. She is already working on ideas for bracelets. Jan Corning is working on prayer necklaces she learned to make in Africa. The proceeds from those will go directly to the Carpenter's Kids program. We are looking for someone to help oversee the bake table and also to coordinate advertising. We are considering setting up a small café with a limited lunch menu (maybe here's a place for the guys to get involved?), and we will need help setting up, as well as sales people the day of the bazaar and clean up afterward.

Workshops will be announced. They are always fun and everyone is welcome to attend. You don't need any special crafting talent, just the desire to participate (and maybe a pair of scissors).

All ideas and suggestions are welcome...I am eager to hear from you and look forward another successful event. Save the Date Get Involved....Tell Your Friends...

Arleen Flury



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: THE PROPHET AMOS

The Reverend Matthew Mead

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study resumed this past week – please note we will not meet on September 29. We read the Book of Amos, one of the Twelve Minor Prophetic Books.

Amos was a shepherd from the Southern Kingdom of Judah. His book is a collection of oracles that were delivered in and to the Northern Kingdom of Israel during the reigns of King Uzziah of Judah and King Jereboam II, King of Israel, sometime between 760 and 750 BC. (Recall that King Saul, King David and King Solomon presided over a united kingdom, but after Solomon's death the kingdom split into two: northern Israel and southern Judah – the Biblical account of the united and divided monarchies can be found in the Old Testament Books 1 & 2 Samuel and 1 & 2 Kings.) Amos' oracles were delivered to Israel at a time when the Northern Kingdom was in the midst of a period of unprecedented peace and prosperity, yet only one or two generations away from being overrun and destroyed by Assyria (in the 720s BC).



PHOTOS FROM JAN CORNING'S TRIP TO AFRICA

Jan Corning's presentation of her trip to Africa on Sunday, September 19 was fabulous!!! As we go to press, eleven new sponsors signed up for the Carpenter's Kids program!!! If you are interested in signing up, please contact that parish office today!!! For those who missed it, this issue of the Voice features a few more pictures. Above is Jackson, the recently retired priest in Izava, and his wife. The photo on the front page was taken during the presentation of gifts to Jan at Izava.

The Book of Amos begins with a series of oracles (chapters 1-2) indicting Israel's neighbors for their various sins and crimes: if you look at a map you can see that Amos first points far north to Damascus, then far south to Gaza, then north again,

though not as far, to Tyre, then south once more, again not as far south, to Edom, gradually and continually naming neighbors closer and closer to Israel and Judah. The penultimate oracle in this section lambasts Judah for rejecting the Law and being “led astray by the same lies after which their ancestors walked” – precisely what 1 & 2 Kings states the leaders of Judah and Israel did. Finally, Amos looks at Israel and indicts them on a far greater scale than the rest. Israel is guilty of defrauding and oppressing the poor and making a mockery of their religion by letting it be swallowed up in the cultic practices of their neighbors. One assumes that a resident of the Northern Kingdom hearing this first part of the oracle would almost cheer as God’s wrath is made known about the sinful neighbors, one after the other, not noticing that the neighbors in question seem to be getting closer and closer. However, at the mention of the sister Kingdom Judah, that same resident’s ears might prick up and an audible *gulp* might escape his or her lips. I find Amos’ rhetorical skill quite impressive in this opening sequence.

The second part of the book (chapters 3-6) lists in great detail Israel’s shortcomings and the punishment that God is most certain to bring. The people have “trampled on the poor” and “turned justice into poison”. Amos is blunt about what the Lord will do: “I will punish the altars of Bethel, and the horns of the altar shall

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2010 Blessing of Animals 12:00 PM



THANKS!!! THANKS!!! THANKS!!!

Thanks to Bruce Barber, Florence Barber, Arleen Flury, Wilfreid Haensch, Claire Hintze, Glenn Hintze, Breht Hohwald, Matthew Mead, Ann Siemerling, Bill Siemerling, Amanda Slattery, Sally Stevens, Bob Velzy, Courtney Velzey, and Lindsay Velzey for all of their help on the cleanup day on Saturday, September 18!!!

Michaelmas & Oktoberfest 2010

All are welcome!!! Bring your family and friends!!!



Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Sung Mass at 6PM

*Guest Preacher is the Reverend Andrew Mead,
Rector of Saint Thomas Church in New York City*

Oktoberfest celebration following the service!!!

*featuring traditional food and beverages:
whole roasted pork, various (potluck) sides,
draught ale & lager, soda & other beverages!*

Child care is provided

SUNDAYS SCHOOL

**Sunday School resumed on September 19!!!
Thanks to the Sunday School Committee for all
their hard work preparing for this year's classes.
There are over 25 children registered for this
year's Sunday School. Sunday School meets every
Sunday at 10:00 AM.**

be cut off and fall to the ground". And he is clear that the "notables" who "lounge on their couches", "sing idle songs", "drink wine from bowls, and anoint themselves with the finest oils" will "be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away."

The third and final part of the book (chapters 7-9) details several visions of Amos. Amos sees locusts devouring the king's fields, he sees fire devouring the deep and the land, and is shown a plumb line, symbolizing the fact that Israel does not measure up. After being confronted by Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, who tells Amos to go home and prophecy somewhere else, Amos compares Israel to summer fruit... which will rot in short order. To many Christian ears, one of the last few oracles echoes forward to Good Friday: "On that day says the Lord God, I will make the sun go down at noon, and darken the earth in broad daylight. I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation; I will bring sackcloth on all loins, and baldness on every head; I will make it like the mourning for an only son, and the end of it like a bitter day." In the final vision of Amos, the Lord appears next to Amos at the altar and commands him to "strike the capitals [of the altar]", and "I will shatter the heads of the people".

A theme running through the book is that the Day of the Lord is coming.

Amos corrects the presumption that the day of the Lord will be far off, or that it will be a good thing... but in fact the day of the Lord is unexpected, near, and severe. “[The Day of the Lord] is darkness and not light; as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear, or went into a house and rested a hand against a wall, and was bitten by a serpent.” Amos is clear that the Day of the Lord will come, but it will be followed by resurrection and new life: “I will raise up the booth of David that is fallen”, and “restore the fortunes of my people Israel.” “I will plant them upon their land, and they shall never again be plucked up out of the land that I have given them, says the Lord your God.”

The Book of Amos is probably the earliest of the written prophetic books. Amos’ language is stark and at times very violent, and sometimes people have difficulty with the idea of God’s wrath. But that wrath is spoken of in the context of extreme injustice in the midst of prosperity. Amos sees Israelites who are wealthy, peaceful, and happy, but who are also very unjust, immoral, and practitioners of religious abominations (temple prostitutes and so forth), and so he indicts them for their injustice and treatment of the poor and for their false religious practices. Amos may not have known that his oracles would come true soon, but that luxury and prosperity was gone quickly when Israel was overrun by the Assyrian Empire, and everything that Amos said was going to happen, happened. For



We need photos!!!!

If you have any photos of recent parish events, please email them to mead@goodshepherdny.org



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday School Program is a Lectionary based program, which means that the children learn essentially the same lessons that we do in Church.

We recruit teachers from the Parish to teach those lessons. They are sometimes trained as teachers, and sometimes not.

We do crafts to reinforce the lessons that are taught. We may make a drawing, or create a collage, or glue different materials together that when one, become something much different than the sum of the original materials.

Unlike “traditional” school, we do not test the children on what they learn. We have really, no measure of what they come away with. So why do we do it?

When I think about the lessons that we have heard over the past few Sundays, I can honestly tell you that I do not remember a single reading or gospel.

And I can also say that I do not ever being taught “religion”, but somehow, I learned the parables and the stories. And learned what they meant. Not like the bible scholars know what they mean, based on the connection to somewhere else in the Bible that I hear about and think Huh! But I learned about loving my neighbor as myself. I learned compassion. I learned patience (well, most of the time!). I learned that sometimes the most wonderful things are not the things that you buy in the store, but the things that are not bought. As a matter of fact, they are not even for sale. And I learned faith. That God would take care of me.

When I was in Africa, I asked about “Sunday school” for Christian education. There was one village that was trying to start a program, but it would be on Saturday, not Sunday. Most of the villages however, did not seem to have a desire to have a Sunday school. And yet, these Christians knew those lessons inside and out. They had learned the words to the parables through song, and the meanings of the parables through their lives. They really are given food to eat and water to drink.

Our mission, to teach, is not just confined to one hour each Sunday. It is much broader than that – it is how we are each and every day, based on faith. *Jan Corning for the Sunday School Committee.*

Christians the book has served as a preview of the events of the Passion, when both the Day of the Lord and the restoration of the people would truly come with the death and resurrection of the Son of God. The book also serves as a reminder that we are called by God to use all the gifts that we have been given in this life to love God and our neighbor. Amos might say there is no time like the present to act.

If you are interested in learning more about the prophets and coming to the Wednesday Bible Study on the prophets, we will read Hosea and Isaiah in the next few weeks; the class meets Wednesday mornings at 8:00 AM. *(Note: We will not meet Wednesday, September 29.)*

FUN BUNCH

The 21+ Fun Bunch will gather at the church to COOK, EAT, DRINK & BE MERRY!!!! All are invited. Join us on Saturday Evening, October 9, 2010, at 5PM for an evening making Pizza (to be eaten on site) and Hot Sauce (to be taken home in large or small bottles you bring). BYOB and/or a \$10 donation to cover food is requested.

Sunday & Holy Day Attendance

The 14th Sunday after Pentecost, Aug. 29, 2010: 76
The 15th Sunday after Pentecost, Sep. 6, 2010: 85
The 16th Sunday after Pentecost, Sep. 12, 2010: 115
Holy Cross Day, Tuesday, Sep. 14, 2010: 11
The 17th Sunday after Pentecost, Sep. 19, 2010: 105
Saint Matthew's Day. Tuesday, Sep.21, 2010: 5

Total Weekday Attendance for 2010: 1492
Total Sunday Attendance for 2010: 3345
Average Sunday attendance for 2010: 88

STEWARDSHIP

Sunday, October 24th: Stewardship Luncheon

This will be a potluck luncheon so bring a dish to share. Sally Stevens, our Treasurer, will discuss the budget for the coming year.

Saturday, November 13th: 24-Hour Prayer Vigil

Our 22nd year! The Prayer Vigil starts at 8:00 am on Saturday November 13th and ends at 8:00 am on Sunday November 14th. Sign up to spend an hour in prayerful meditation at the church.

Sunday, November 14th: Covenant Sunday

Pledge cards for 2011 will be presented at the altar during the services. A special coffee hour will follow the 10:00 am service.

Join a Group of Good Shepherd Walker for the 16th ANNUAL SUPPORT-A-WALK 10:00 AM, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2010 at FDR State Park

The Walk is held to raise breast and ovarian cancer awareness. All proceeds benefit Support Connection's FREE support services for people affected by breast and ovarian cancer. The three-mile Walk will be held at FDR State Park (Route 202 off Taconic State Parkway) with pre-Walk activities beginning at 9:00 am. At 10:00 am, the ribbon will be cut and the Walk begins. People walk in teams or as individuals. Some walk in memory of or in celebration of people affected by breast and ovarian cancer. There is a warm-up session preceding the Walk and refreshments and entertainment after the Walk. Join us for this uplifting experience.

Please speak to Vilma Mulholland for information about the Good Shepherd Walking Team.

A service will be held for walkers at the church on Saturday, October 2, at 5PM.

Happy Anniversary!!!

October 12 Norman & Leslie Fulton

October 24 Tom & Cindy Rubino

October 27 Jim & Jan Corning

October 27 Glenn & Sue Hintze

Happy Birthday!!!

10/02	Diana Bubeck	10/17	Molly Gardineer
10/04	Paige Ciallela	10/19	John Levy
10/04	Jim Corning	10/20	Daniela Murphy
10/08	Isabel Hohwald	10/20	Keith Barlow
10/09	Lauren Batten	10/21	Alex Mattos
10/11	Roy Flury	10/28	Janice Vesperman
10/14	Sarah Manders	10/28	Kathleen Parsons

Sunday, October 3

& Sunday October 31

Chalice	Diane Buschel
Acolytes	Abbey Vesperman Emily Vesperman
OT Reader	Fay Wright
NT Reader	Gretchen Hintze
Ushers	Sally Stevens Rick Vesperman

Sunday, October 10

Chalice	Gwen Greene
Acolytes	Kayleigh Kenny Liam Kenny Jesse Lewis
OT Reader	Fran DiBernardo
NT Reader	Sarah Corning
Prayers	Arleen Flury
Ushers	Bob Velzy Bernie Sotter

Sunday, October 17

Chalice	Phil Levy
Acolytes	Melody Rubino Liam Kenny
OT Reader	Jim Corning
NT Reader	Wilfried Haensch
Prayers	Bob Bubeck
Ushers	Arleen Flury Bernie Sotter

Sunday, October 24

Chalice	Diane Buschel
Acolytes	Melody Rubino Kayleigh Kenny
OT Reader	Julia Bacal
NT Reader	Emily Barber
Prayers	Jan Corning
Ushers	Glenn Hintze Bob Velzy

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
39 Granite Springs Road, Granite Springs, New York 10527
www.goodshepherdny.org 914-248-5631



STAFF

The Reverend Matthew Mead, *Rector*; Sharen McKenna, *Childcare*;
Cecilia Sparacio, *Organist*; Anne Siemerling, *Sexton*.

VESTRY & PARISH OFFICERS

Jim Corning, *Warden*; Bruce Barber, *Warden*; Jan Corning, *Clerk*; Bob Bubeck, *Financial Officer*; Sally Stevens, *Treasurer*; Arleen Flury; Glenn Hintze;
Gwendolyn Greene; Maria Kaprielian; Dorothy Light; Pat Mulholland; Bob Velzy.

Contact information for the Reverend Matthew Mead

Work: 914.248.5631;

Cell: 914.471.0260;

Home (in case of emergency): 914.556.6246

Email: mead@goodshepherdny.org

**THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
P. O. BOX 150
39 GRANITE SPRINGS ROAD
GRANITE SPRINGS, NEW YORK 10527**