

The Shepherd's Crook

The Church of The Good Shepherd
Pitman, NJ



Mother Patricia Daniels Pierce-Rector

April 1, 2009

"We Love Our Church"

Bible Study

We have met on and off this past couple of months because of inclement weather and sickness (mostly Mother Pat). We will get back to our regular schedule after Easter on April 21st, reading and discussing the Gospel accord to John.

Please plan on joining us for thoughtful examination of this Gospel and how it can be reflected in our daily life.

We meet on Tuesday evenings from 7 – 8:30pm. We end with the reading of the Office of Compline. Please join us.

Ruth's Children

Ruth's Children is a support group for the adult children of the elderly. We meet on the first Monday of each month at the Church from 7:30 to 9:00 PM. The format is a free flowing conversation in which we offer understanding and comfort to all who are facing the difficult task of caring for our aging parents. There is complete privacy and no judgment is ever made. If you are the adult child of an elderly parent or you know someone who is, please join us on **April 6th**. Call 856-589-8209 for more information.

Janice Gowland

Deadline

The deadline for the May Crook will be on April 15, 2009. Please e-mail all articles to me at:

Truejoymin@aol.com

*****If I could ask that all articles be "cut and pasted" into an e-mail. My new Windows "Vista" isn't able to open some attachments.**

Thank you,
Carmen Russo
Editor

Service Schedule

Sundays

8:00 AM – Holy Eucharist

10:00 AM – Holy Eucharist

Saturdays – CASUAL DRESS

5:30 PM – Holy Eucharist

Daily, Monday-Thursday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

From the Parish Register

Baptisms

March 22, 2009

David Joseph Schwartzer

*“Sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked
as Christ’s own forever.”*

BCP p. 308

Burial Office

John Anthony Portocalis

February 26, 2009

*“May his soul and the souls of the
faithful departed rest in peace.”*

BCP p. 502

***Christ is Risen,
Alleluia!
He is Risen indeed,
Alleluia!***

Tax Time

I am sure we are all checking our mailboxes to see if our tax refunds have arrived. Here is an idea to give you extra spending money each week. When you get your refund, write out a check to The Church of The Good Shepherd for all or part of your yearly stewardship pledge. This will give you extra money each week that you don’t have to put into your envelope.

Prayers for Safekeeping in the Military

Hugh Robinson	Curt Townsend
Raymond Harris, III	Matt Rebecca
Scott McPherson	Joe Sheridan
Lynn D’Amato	Peter Larabee
Buzz Parish	Charlie Hiemeril
	Keith Tucker
Hal Wagner	Mike Grybowski
Brian Almondrod	Steven Sanders
Don Bollinger	Jon S.Lehr
John A. Lukacs	Greg Bentancourt
Matt Spangler	
Andrew Ten Eyck	
Shaun Hoffman	Dale Marta +
Matt Spangler	Zach Bartelt
Matthew Cushinotto	Andrew Olsson
Theresa Cushinotto	Kate McGriff
Shane Luurtsema	Greg Murphy



“Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils, which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

We pray for the Sick and for those in any Need

Lorraine Barger
Kelly Clemment
Barbara Eastman
Barbara Ferrell
Kathy Napier
Jeanne Longmire
Stephanie Uibel
Sheila Prage
Josie Fletcher
Joe
Dane Dougherty
Ruby Waters

Janet Knoebel
 Theresa Swam
 Mary Fischer
 Mary Still
 Mickey Conover
 Stephanie
 The Sirisky Family
 Cindy Kehler
 Alexander
 Ruth
 Dolly
 Steve Fama
 John Wisniewski
 Ashley
 The Tait Family
 Diane Cercurio
 Jill Caskey
 Joe
 Thomas Higgons+
 Bob Guarni
 Debra Russo
 Charles Russo
 William Russo
 John Miller
 Babs Phalunas
 Makayla Healey
 Erin Klein
 Sarah Bailey
 Nora Wilson
 Joyce Mannon
 Clif Daniels

FIRST COMMUNION **CLASS**

A class for those children who are not receiving Holy Communion yet was held on Saturday March 14th. The class was lead by Mother Pat and Deb Prieto. We had seven young children and their parents participate that day. We talked about Jesus, how he loves us so much that he has promised to be with us in a very special way in the Holy Eucharist. We also talked about and practiced how

to receive Holy Communion too. The children and their families will come all together to receive Holy Communion for the first time on Sunday, March 29th. In the Episcopal Church, our theology is that all Baptized Christians are welcomed at Jesus table (Altar).

GOOD SHEPHERD YARD **SALE** **Saturday, April 25th**

Start cleaning our your houses for our Second Annual Yard Sale. Donations may be made by leaving all your “stuff” by the desk in the hallway of the Office Wing. Last year we raised \$1,015.00, which was put, toward our Annual College Scholarship Fund. So tell you friends and neighbors about the Sale, Let’s raise even more money this year.

April Events

April 1 – 7pm, Brotherhood of Saint Andrew
April 2 – Fun with Friends, 1 – 3pm
All Thursdays - Choir Practice, 8pm
April 4 – Spring Clean-up Day, 8:30am
April 4 & 5 – **THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: PALM SUNDAY**
 Blessing of Palms & Holy Eucharist at each Service
 (No Sunday School)
 11:30am Inquirers’ Class
 2pm, EFM
April 6 – Ruth’s Children, 7:30 – 9pm
April 9 – **MAUNDY THURSDAY**
 6pm – Agape Supper
 7pm – Holy Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar
 8pm – Watch before the Altar of Repose

and/or the Labyrinth

April 10 – GOOD FRIDAY

10:30am – Children’s Service

Noon – Stations of the Cross

7pm – Mass of the Pre-Sanctified

April 11 – 7pm, Easter Vigil & Holy Eucharist

(No 5:30pm Eucharist)

April 12 – EASTER DAY

8am – Holy Eucharist

10am – Festival Eucharist with the “flowering” of the Easter Cross by our children.

An Easter Egg Hunt, organized by our Youth Group (Grand Ole Youth) Will be held immediately following the Service in the Church Courtyard

April 13 – Women at the Well, 7 – 8:30pm

April 14 – District ECW Meeting, Christ Church, Woodbury, 10am

April 15 – Good Shepherd Quilters, 6:30 – 8pm

April 16 – Fun With Friends, 1 – 3pm

April 18 & 19 – Second Sunday of Easter

**April 19 – 11:30am Vestry Meeting
2pm – EFM**

2:30pm – Supper Group

April 21 – Adult Bible Study, 7 – 8:30pm

April 22, 23, 24 – Yard Sale Set-up

April 25 – Yard Sale

April 25 & 26 -- Third Sunday of Easter

All Services, United Thank Offering Presentation

April 26 – Page Turners Book Group, 11:30

EFM – 2pm

WOMEN’S RETREAT
BUILDING FAITH &
FRIENDSHIP

Eighteen of our women spent 3 days at the Stella Maris (Star of the Sea) Retreat House in Elberon, NJ for a time of Retreat and nurturing of friendship and deepening of faith.

It was a wonderful time of peace when we laughed, sang, and shared.

We want to do this again!

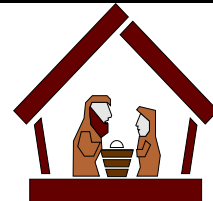
GOOD FRIDAY
CHILDRENS’ SERVICE

As we did for the first time last year, we will be having a special Good Friday Service, age appropriate for our children. It will be held in the church at 10:30am, followed by a craft time in the parish hall where the children will be making Crosses to take home.

Remember

If you need to get in touch with **Mother Pat**, please call the Rectory phone at 856/582-6712.

O Come! All Ye Faithful.



O holy night!

The stars are brightly shining...

We are getting very excited about the upcoming Christmas Pageant.

Our children can learn so much by participating in the Pageant. They are

our *stars*.

The date for our very own performance by our very own *star-lit cast* is Sunday December 13th. (**Mark your calendar NOW**).

Parents, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, Friends; we need your help. No Experience Necessary!

An organizational meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, March 8th** immediately following the 10:00 Service in the church. (**Mark your calendar NOW**). We do not wish to overwhelm anyone with another project, but a little help from many goes a long way. Your children can attend this meeting as well – after all, it is their pageant; *they are the stars!!!*

Even if you have no *stars* in Good Shepherd, but think you would enjoy helping with costumes, set, props, sound, music, lighting, programs, publicity, fund raising or other associated activities, please come!

All children (Pre-school through High School) whose parents give permission will be *stars* in the pageant.

Tom & Marie Rigg

Families in Need

With economic uncertainty and raising unemployment, the Vestry has voted to start a "Church Family in Need Fund". This fund is designed to help any member in financial need. Mother Pat will handle each request in strict confidence. This fund is not part of the Budget and will be funded through direct contributions. If you would like to support "Church Families in Need" please make your donation out to "Church of the Good Shepherd - Family in Needs Fund". Thank you.

Darrin Buono

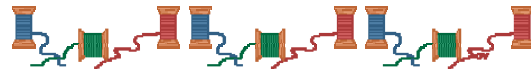
Cell: 609/203-6323

Fax: 609/456-4355

Outreach

Thanks again for all the wonderful donations of coats and clothes for Your Food Shelf in Camden! They always need coats and especially men's clothes and shoes! If you wish to have us deliver something for you, please drop them off on our front porch – in bags! Please do NOT leave clothes in boxes. Thanks so much! Our address is 223 Highland Terrace, Pitman.

Ellie Dunn



GOOD SHEPHERD QUILTERS

Listed below are meeting dates for our quilting club. We have many members from the surrounding area who attend. We meet in the Parish Hall and we have one quilt project each year. The group shares projects they have been working on and we learn a lot from each other. We also do many philanthropic projects as an outreach.

All are welcome!

2009 Proposed Schedule

Meetings 6:30 to 8:00 pm

3rd Wednesdays

Apr. 15

May 20

Shelly Harris & Sodie Potter

April Birthdays – 2009

01 – Robbie Larrabee
01 – Debra Prieto
02 – KC Edinger
04 – Erin Hills
04 – Diane Dilworth
05 – Nickolas Amato
05 – Amanda McNally
06 – Joy Lundahl
06 – Laura Ridge
08 – Elisabeth Brent
09 – Kaylee Braidwood
10 – Carlee Chew
10 – Lauren Elwell
11 – Nancy Johnson
12 – Steve Funk
12 – Laura Manganello
13 – Connie Elliott
16 – Paul Budman
16 – Grace Sobolewski
16 – Megan Wolk
17 – William Black
17 – Mackenzie Harrington
17 – Trey Scull
18 – Jennifer Miller
18 – Candyce Smashey
20 – Karen Lynd
21 – Hailey McCafferty
22 – Beth Snodgrass
23 – Avril Miklavcic
23 – Lauren Robbins
24 – Chelsea Earley
24 – Alex Edinger
25 – Dana Earley
29 – Jill Landau

Easter Egg Hunt

Our Youth Group, the Grand Ole Youth, is organizing an Easter Egg Hunt. It will be held on Easter Sunday, April 12th

immediately following the 10AM Holy Eucharist. The “eggs” will be hidden around the Church Courtyard, and we ask all parents to be part of the hunt with their children.

Thanks, Youth Group!

WELCOMING PRAYER

Holy Spirit living with us, guide our hearts and minds as we welcome all those who worship with us at Good Shepherd. Give us generous hearts, so that everyone who crosses our threshold feels welcome in the Spirit of your Love. Help us to recognize each person as an individual, sent by you, to enrich our lives. And most of all, O Go, let this be a place of love and acceptance of all your children: in the Holy Name of your Child, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

LENTEN HABITS

In addition to weekly attendance at church, and prayer, there is a whole selection of Lenten materials and booklets to be used for your Lenten Readings. They can be found at the back of the church. We also will have the Labyrinth available to be “walked” on the following times:

Maundy Thursday, April 9, 8pm

We also ask that each of us use the time before the Eucharist begins each week in quiet, in prayer. If you notice there is no music played before the service either. We should use the Sundays in Lent to remind us of the sacrifice that our Lord made for each one of us on the Cross at Calvary.

HOLY WEEK **SCHEDULE**

The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

April 4 -- 5:30pm Holy Eucharist

April 5 -- 8 & 10, Holy Eucharist

Maundy Thursday, April 9

6pm – Agape Supper in Parish Hall
Holy Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar,
7pm

Labyrinth & Watch before the Altar of
Repose, 8pm

Good Friday, April 10

Children's Service, 10:30am

Stations of the Cross, noon

Mass of the Pre-Sanctified, 7pm

Holy Saturday, April 11 – Easter Vigil
& Holy Eucharist, 7pm

(no 5:30pm Eucharist)

April 12 – EASTER DAY

8am – Holy Eucharist

10am – Festival Eucharist & flowering
of the Easter Cross by our children

CHURCH MINISTRY **LEADERS**

*These are some of their names and
numbers, if you have any questions.*

Senior Warden – **Terry McCallum**

856/589-0370

Junior Warden – **Stu Lynd**

856/582-0232

Treasurer – **Lee Braidwood** – 856/228-
0737

Assist. Treasurer – **George Funk** –
856/468-5543

Sunday School – **Joy Lundahl** -

856/863-8365

Patty Fortney – 218-9757

Brotherhood of St. Andrew – **Carl**

Dunn - 856/582-9445

Women at the Well – **Sr. Kara**

Anderson – 856/589-5818

Sr. Cass Lavin-Spouse – 856/218-8372

Altar Guild – **Shelly Harris** – 856/589-
8160

Looking For Pictures

At vestry today the idea of getting pictures of former priests at Good Shepherd was brought up. The thought was to hang them in the conference room with the two that are already there. If anyone has pictures, even snapshots that could possibly be enhanced they would be greatly appreciated.

Connie Parent

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR **OUR GRADUATES**

There are some church-related scholarships available to our June graduates. Their application form packets are on the bulletin board outside the Conference Room. Please note the deadlines that the different forms are to be filled out and mailed.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR!

Carrie Jordan has been honored for her many years of dedication as a 2nd grade teacher. She received the Teacher-of-the-Year Award to represent Wedgwood Elementary School in the Washington Township Public School District.

The selection process involves parents, students and teacher filling out forms that express who their nominee should be. Out of a field of many nominations, Carrie was selected. Those of us who work with her believe that it is a well-deserved award and we are very proud of her.

-Shelly Harris



RECIPE FROM THE ALTAR GUILD

Submitted by Connie Parent

This is a favorite recipe of my family which I got from a friend, **Susan Dietz**. It is the vegetable they want for holidays. Connie

Garden Vegetables with Horseradish Sauce

3 cups cauliflower
1 lb. carrots, sliced 1 inch pieces
1 lb. broccoli cut in 1 inch pieces
1 cup reduced calorie mayonnaise
1/4 cup finely chopped onion
3 tbsp. horseradish
1/4 tsp. salt
Dash of pepper
1/2 cup dry bread crumbs
2 tbsp. butter, melted
1/8 tsp. paprika

Steam veggies until crisp & tender. Do separately.

In a small bowl combine mayo, onion, horseradish, salt and pepper.

In a 2 qt. casserole combine veggies and mayo mixture.

In a small bowl combine bread crumbs, butter and paprika.

Sprinkle over veggie mixture.

Bake uncovered in a 350° oven for 15 minutes.

Makes 8 to 10 side dish servings.

The PRAYER CORNER – A Forum

Shelly Harris, Editor



April Article

SNOW DAY

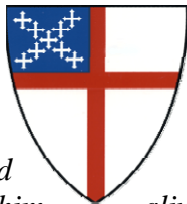
(Monday, March 2nd, 2009)

I know most people look forward to a snow day and a “day off” from the usual grind. I don’t. A snow day usually means rescheduling within an already structured week of seeing patients. With deep regret I telephoned all my patients for today and rescheduled them for Wednesday. That pushes Wednesday’s appointments to Friday and I will have to work Saturday to see Friday’s patients. Typically I see 10-12 patients a day, 4 days a week and work in the office on Thursdays. Couple this with Choir on Thursdays, Church on Sundays and a couple of other standing meetings during the month; I have very little flexibility in my schedule. You would think I’d be ecstatic about this unplanned day off. I’m not. In fact, my mood has

been rather depressed all day. I cannot seem to get my “act together” and do something meaningful, like my taxes. Fortunately I don’t feel this way very often. Usually I’m upbeat, busy and full of activities that satisfy me.

So, I’m searching my soul to discover why this free time disquiets me so. I begin by saying the daily office hoping to find some inspiration from today’s readings. The Psalm for today is Psalm 41. The first few verses are:

Blessed is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble the Lord delivers him. The Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies. The Lord sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness you restore him to full health.



My daily work is to see elderly patients in their homes. They are all sick, “in trouble” if you will and I feel very responsible for them. I don’t let them down and cancelling my visit feels like “letting them down”. So, part of my disquiet comes from not being able to help them today. I feel at peace that the Lord will protect them. In fact every one of them that I spoke with assured me that they didn’t want me to come out in this weather out of concern for my well being.



As I continue my prayers, I look for a prayer for my patients. The Book of Common Prayer offers a prayer for the aged:

Look with mercy, O God our Father, on all whose increasing years bring them

weakness, distress, or isolation. Provide for them homes of dignity and peace; give them understanding helpers, and the willingness to accept help; and, as their strength diminishes, increase their faith and their assurance of your love. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

There-- the word *isolation* jumps out at me. Part of what I do is spend time with these shut-ins who cannot get out and often don’t see any one other than health care workers for days at a time. So part of my disquiet is because I worry about them since they are alone and it is mean and cold out there and I can’t check on them. Lord, help me to always be their ‘understanding helper’.



I’m quite certain that with the condition of the roads today I would put myself at risk to drive from home to home. For many years I worked for a home care agency that didn’t care what the weather was – sort of like that Bayada commercial of a few years ago. When I became a Nurse Practitioner I decided I was more value to my patients alive than dead, so I don’t try to be a ‘hero on the home front’ unless it is a life or death situation, which it rarely is – that’s what 911 is for. I know that I have been called to be a Nurse Practitioner, just as I have been called to become a Deacon. I pray every day on my way to see my patients that I will make correct decisions regarding their care. So, I look again to the Book of Common Prayer for guidance and find a prayer for doctors and nurses:

Sanctify, O Lord, those whom you have called to the study and practice of the arts of healing, and to the prevention of disease and pain. Strengthen them by your life-giving Spirit, that by their ministries the health of the community may be promoted and your creation glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

I'm feeling better that I haven't let anyone down 'professionally' today. Thank you God for blessing me with Your Strength and Guidance in all that I do!

And finally, I find the reason for the snow:

O God of peace, *who hast* taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of *thy* Spirit lift us, we pray *thee*, to *thy* presence, where we **may be still and know** that *thou art* God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Now I'm looking at the giant snowflakes and seeing their beauty, I'm not so morose any longer. It is actually really pretty outside and worth looking at through the big picture windows of my kitchen and wrapped in the warmth of my comfortable home. I know now that God wanted me to have this day for solitude and self reflection. My soul is at peace and I see His handiwork in this day of rest.

Refreshed from this meditation, I'm reminded of excerpts from Proverbs 31: verses 17 through 27

17: She girds her loins with strength and makes her arms strong

20: She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy

21: She is not afraid of **snow** for her household, for all her household are clothed in scarlet

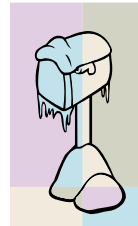
25: Strength and dignity are her clothing and she **laughs** at the time to come.

26: She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue

27: She looks well to the ways of her household, and **does not eat the bread of idleness**

I'm going to get to work now – refreshed and renewed. Thank you God for speaking to me in so many ways today!

May my written word and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, my Lord and Saviour.



Contributed by:
Sally Larrabee
Aspirant for Holy Orders

Crook News

Due to the huge increase of “bulk rate” mail. We have decided to get *The Crook* out to the parish in three ways:

1. In the rear of the church for you to pick up.
2. On our WEBSITE.
www.goodshepherdpitman.org
3. Mailed only to those who are unable to get it the first two ways.