

The Shepherd

Our monthly newsletter • Dunedin, FL



August 2011

I'm Stuck in LAX: What Should I Pray For?

— A message from our Rector, Pastor Becky

Gus and I just returned from a fabulous vacation in New Zealand. Please be sure that's the context in which you read the rest of my story: we truly had a great time being Down Under.

But getting there wasn't all Irish tea and cheese scones. First, we were flying stand-by, using airline passes a family friend gave us. This greatly reduced our travel costs, but greatly increased the chances we would be bumped from our preferred flights.

And, bumped we were. We were bumped so many times trying to get there and back that we should have worn heavy-duty shock absorbers. At the front end, the bumping meant it took us an extra day to get to Los Angeles, via an unplanned night in Memphis, which had us pretty frazzled. We got to LAX (the huge airport in LA) at noon the next day, then had to spend the entire day there until the flight to Australia left at 10:30 that night. We waited and waited. And then, after all that waiting— that flight, too, bumped us. The flight the next night was already full. We were stuck in LAX at midnight; our vacation seemed to be evaporating before our eyes, we were hip-deep in disappointment, and we had to decide what to do next.

But not until we got some sleep. As we turned off the lights in the second unexpected hotel room of the past three

days, I turned to my night prayers, and realized that I had yet another decision to make: what to pray for. Jesus said, "I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it." (John 14:13–14) Should I ask the Savior of the World to make room on a plane the next day so Gus and I could go on vacation? But, to answer that prayer, would something bad have to happen to somebody else in order for the seats to be open for us? Or, more theologically, would it make the Reign of God more apparent, more real for God's beloved world, if Gus and I got those seats? Would the Father be glorified in Christ if we scored stand-by seats for our vacation? If not, then how could I pray for those seats using the name of Jesus, the Crucified One?

A Different Approach

So I took a different approach: I prayed for peace, for good humor, for clarity, and for a proper sense of priorities. I prayed for the ability to listen, to problem-solve, to be gracious, and to be flexible. I prayed not to be anxious as a stand-by list was posted. And God answered all those prayers— except the last one. I admit that, until we got safely home, my heart beat sickeningly fast

each time we had to look up at the monitor to see if we were getting on a flight.

Obviously, it all came together through one way or another— or else I wouldn't have been able to set the context for this reflection the way I did: we had a fabulous vacation. The greater wonder of it is that 48 hours after getting home, Gus climbed right back on yet another plane to be part of the Dominican Republic Mission Team. No question that THAT trip is about making the Reign of God more real and apparent for God's beloved world! So, this is my prayer for today: may God bless the team and the work that they are doing, and may everyone return home safely— and on time.

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Take Me Out to the Ball Games!

— Two fundraiser baseball games

NetsForLife Fundraiser

How does a Thursday evening chatting with friends while enjoying inexpensive food and beverages sound to you? If you are fond of baseball, add that element to the mix. Wrap it all up with the opportunity to help save lives, and you have a great recipe for Thursday, August 18th when the Dunedin Blue Jays face the Clearwater Threshers at the Florida Auto Exchange Stadium on Douglass Ave., Dunedin. This is a Thirsty Thursday night, where beverages are only \$1.

Good Shepherd Church is partnering with the Jays to help raise funds to purchase NetsforLife, which provides long lasting insect treated mosquito nets to the most vulnerable in Sub-Saharan Africa. Tickets sold by/through Good Shepherd will net us \$3 (half of the \$6 ticket price) for this goal. In addition, Good Shepherd is selling 50/50 tickets (6 for \$5) and having facepainters who will donate part of their collection.

All in all, this promises to be a fun night! Please share this good news with others and get a group together to come out for fun and fellowship. To get your tickets contact Good Shepherd at 727-733-4125 or Maureen Belote at 736-6466 by August 14. **(Tickets sold at the door will not qualify for helping purchase nets.)**

Pack-A-Sack 4 Kids



Our Outreach Committee has been assigned ten children from Dunedin Elementary School who meet the needs of this program. Each week during the school year we deliver ten bags of nutritious small snacks to the school. They give them to the children on Friday to take home.

What Is In the Sack?

Each sack contains a combination of 6–10 items such as cereal, fruit rollups, chicken vienna sausages, peanut butter, crackers, apple sauce, fruit or pudding cups, granola bars, raisins, cookies, and milk. The cost is around \$45 each week. We want to stock up on the various items to be prepared for school starting August 22nd. We welcome any help you would like to give: monetary donations, contributing food from our list, or helping assemble the sacks each Wednesday. If you are interested please contact any of the following: Deborah Bouvier (727) 736-2979; Carol Cretella (727) 736-1102, or Betty Fraley (727) 474-2885.

All churches in our diocese are promoting Episcopal Relief & Development's Nets Inspiration Fund, with the goal of getting 10,000 nets. It's no fun to get bitten by a mosquito anywhere, but in Sub Sahara Africa, that bite could mean disease or even death from malaria. \$12 purchases a net that protects and provides education on symptoms and treatment. This is an easy and fun way to support this effort. C'mon out!

Baseball with the Bishop

The diocese's third annual "Baseball with the Bishop" event is set for Friday, September 9 at 7:10 p.m. when the Tampa Bay Rays take on the Boston Red Sox at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg. Upper Reserve Infield Ticket are \$19. A portion of each ticket will benefit the Episcopal Charities Fund. For Good Shepherd to order tickets at the group rate, we need a minimum of 20 people. Let Becky know if you want tickets, or give a check for the number of tickets you want made out to Good Shepherd, with "Rays Game" on the memo line.



All churches will receive a group welcome on the video board. Any church who purchases forty or more tickets will be entered into a raffle for an autographed baseball! The deadline to purchase tickets is August 31, 2011.

Survey Results

The Parish Communications Committee thanks those who took time to respond to a recent survey regarding church news. With ninety responses it is clear that members are interested in church news and how it is distributed and received. The intent is to further analyze the data and pass on the information to the Vestry and Pastor Becky.

Upon first look, it appears as if the majority prefers to receive church news electronically either by the parish website or via email. That said, there are many who still want a hardcopy Sunday Bulletin and weekly or monthly newsletters. In addition, it was interesting to hear how important Becky's announcements prior to the start of each service are appreciated and that over 80% want to hear church news on a weekly basis. Upcoming events and the parish calendar are the most read news articles followed by the parish prayer list.

Feel confident that parish leaders are committed to listening and responding accordingly. A full report of survey data will be available later this month.

Education for Ministry: EfM

On the EfM website (www.sewane.edu/EFM/EFMAboutUs.htm) it says the following:

“Every baptized person is called to ministry. The Education for Ministry (EfM) program provides people with the education to carry out that ministry. During the Service of Confirmation we ask God to ‘Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at Baptism. Send them forth in the power of the Spirit to perform the service you set before them.’ EfM offers an opportunity to discover how to respond to the call to Christian service.”

For anyone not familiar with the program, EfM is a four year certificate program by extension through the University of the South School of Theology. It is an opportunity for lay leaders and those considering lay leadership in the Church to enhance their knowledge of scripture, Church history, and philosophy. Participants learn how to apply theological thinking to everyday life. Once you’ve been “bitten by the EfM

bug” you’ll be forever a part of a community who has learned together, prayed together, laughed together, and worshipped together. Church of the Good Shepherd, Dunedin, and St. John’s, Clearwater, will again co-host this year’s EfM in the Largo/Clearwater/Dunedin area.

Though it’s a four-year certificate program, you commit to one year at a time and all four years study together. Learning is accomplished in the seminar format facilitated by a mentor. It is a process of reading, discussion, theological reflection, and worship together. We meet once each week for three hours for a total of 35 weeks – a lot like taking a college course, but without exams! No one expects you to write research papers and the only reading outside of your weekly chapter, is some scripture during the first two years. Chapters vary from about four pages to maybe 10 or 12. The average chapter length is about eight pages and the material is printed in type large enough for those of us who find reading a strain at our age, very

comfortable. I think you might be too young to participate in EfM as you do have to be able to read, but you will never be too old to learn more about how God might be calling you into ministry both in your church and in your community.

Deadline

The application deadline for this Fall’s seminar is quickly approaching and space is limited. Both Good Shepherd and St. John’s are blessed with several EfM graduates and a few current students in various years. Ask them about their EfM experience and what it was like for them. Ann Scally, a member of St. John’s, served as the diocesan coordinator for EfM for several years while she lived in Alaska and would be happy to share her experience and love for the program.

For more information about attending or just ask questions, contact the church office at St. John’s at 727-581-6020 or me, Bonnie Rosendale, mentor, at 727-466-8389, or by email:

bjrosendale@earthlink.net, but hurry – the summer season is flying by!

Celebrations in August

Birthdays

- Aug. 1 Craig Robison
- Aug. 3 Shauna Morris
- Aug. 4 Garry Lumm
Phyllis Sipos
Donna Anderson
Emma Quinn
Molly Quinn
- Aug. 6 Tara Sheldon
- Aug. 13 Geoffrey Anderson
Mary Ann Koontz
- Aug. 18 Deborah Hill
- Aug. 22 Mary Connell

- Aug. 24 Terry Eldridge
Richard Grubb
- Aug. 26 Savannah Madley
- Aug. 27 Daniel Smith
Evelyn Shambaugh

Anniversaries

- Aug. 21 Robert and Mildred Van Ham

Have we missed anyone? Please call Jan at 733-4125 as soon as possible. We would like to get your name on the weekly bulletin listings.

new!

Chair Yoga

A Chair Yoga class will begin on **August 22**

Seated chair yoga is perfect for those with balance issues or who can’t get on the floor. Join us on

Mondays at 11:00 AM in the Patio Room and wear something comfortable. Shoes are optional.

Class donation is \$5.



Information about The Endowment Fund

Our articles over the last few months have discussed why we are all encouraged to remember The Church of the Good Shepherd Endowment Fund in our end of life planning, as well as some of the vehicles that are available to us. We have highlighted bequests in your will and gifts through revocable trusts, life insurance policies, and retirement plans. This article will touch on the most complex vehicles, those providing for fixed or variable payments annually to you or your family. Certainly you will need advice from your attorney, financial advisor, and/or tax accountant with regard to these vehicles to determine if any one of them fits your situation; but this article will highlight those included under the umbrella of our Endowment Fund.

- **A Charitable Remainder Trust** is a lifetime income plan created by irrevocably transferring assets for tax benefits to a trust that pays you a fixed dollar amount annually. Other persons or survivors can be included for their lifetimes; then the principal transfers to The Church of the Good Shepherd Endowment Fund.
- **Episcopal Church Pooled Income Fund** provides for a giver irrevocably transferring money or securities for tax benefits to a pooled income fund managed by the national church and receiving income for life. The gift then becomes the property of The Church of the Good Shepherd Endowment Fund.
- In a **Deferred Payment Gift Annuity** you make a tax beneficial gift now, and through a program managed by

the national church, you are paid a guaranteed life income starting when you retire or another date you specify.

End of life planning and planned giving are synonymous; hopefully we are providing you with information that will help you sort out some of the options available to you. We are planning a four-week program in October and November to discuss these very important considerations in greater detail. In the meantime, we will continue these articles to help you explore the various dimensions of planned giving.

The Church of the Good Shepherd Endowment Fund, Inc. is not engaged in rendering legal or tax advisory services. For advice and assistance, parishioners should consult their attorney, financial and/or tax advisor. Monthly articles present information of a general nature which is not legally binding.



Please direct your questions to Pastor Becky or a trustee on the Board.

This message is brought to you from the Board of Trustees of the Endowment Fund:

Shirl Ahrens • Scott Hood • Joe Nixon • Phyllis Sipos

Music Basics

—For Singers and Hand Bells

Would you like to freshen up your music knowledge and learn the basics of music notation? **Thursdays at 11:30 a.m.** we will meet in the choir room for a music refresher course. Bob Shone will take you through the basics of counting and notation along with how to relate this material to singing and playing hand bells. Show up this Thursday at 11:30 in the choir room for Basic Music Notation.

Bagzilla

— Our support of Religious Community Services

- On Sunday, August 14, everyone will receive a grocery bag with a list attached of the items Religious Community Services Food Bank needs the most.
- The following **Sunday, August 21**, return your filled bag to be blessed before delivery to the RCS Food Bank. Together we can make a difference to the hungry in our community. Our monthly collection of food has amounted to a YTD total of over 2,000 lbs. A total of \$501 has also been sent this year to RCS Food Bank from Good Shepherd.



Taizé Service: Sat. • August 13 • 5 PM

The basis of the the Taizé form of worship is reverent community song.

Activities and Meetings in August

— A calendar of scheduled meetings at Good Shepherd

Special Events

- Aug. 3: **Children’s Worship & Praise**
6:30 p.m. in Kirk Hall
- Aug. 18: **Nets4Life Fundraiser**
7:00 p.m. at FL Auto Exchange Stadium in Dunedin
- Aug. 21: **Bagzilla Returns**
- Aug. 21: **Newsletter Deadline**

Monthly

- Aug. 3: **Mease Manor Service**
3:00 p.m. at Mease Manor
- Aug. 4: **NA Group**
6:45 p.m. in Kirk Hall
- Aug. 7: **Daughters of the King**
11:30 a.m. in the Patio Room
- Aug. 9: **Worship Committee**
7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room
- Aug. 13: **Taizé Service** • 5:00 p.m.
- Aug. 14: **Christian Formation**

- 11:15 a.m. in the Patio Room
- Aug. 14: **Brotherhood of Good Shepherd**
11:15 a.m. in Classroom 1
- Aug. 16: **Finance**
1:30 p.m. in the Patio Room
- Aug. 18: **Membership Committee**
5:30 p.m. in Patio Room
- Aug. 21: **Brotherhood Breakfast**
9:00 a.m. in Kirk Hall
- Aug.23: **Communications Team**
6:00 p.m. in the Patio Room
- Aug. 24: **Vestry**
6:00 p.m. in the Patio Room
- Aug. 25: **OSL Healing Ministry**
6:00 p.m. in the Patio Room



Weekly

- Sunday: **Worship and Communion**
8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.
- Monday: **Confidential Group**
7:30 p.m. in Classroom 1
- Tuesday: **Yoga Class** 10:00 a.m.
Rotary Luncheon Meeting
Music Lessons 3:30–6:30 p.m.
AA Meetings 8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday: **Communion Service**
10:00 a.m. in the church
- Thursday: **Staff Meeting** 10:00 a.m.
Yoga Class 10:00 a.m. Classrm. 3
Music Basics 11:30 a.m. Choir rm.
- Friday: **Al Anon Group**
9:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Patio Room
Yoga Class 10:00 a.m. Classrm. 3
HOW Group 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday: **AA Meeting**
8:30 p.m. in Kirk Hall

Reminders, etc.

Altar Flowers

On any given Sunday, flowers will be ordered for the chancel only if there are sponsors for **both vases** for that week. If you would like to sponsor and pay for our two vases, the cost is \$50 per week. A sign-up sheet is on a clipboard in the back of the church.

Amazon

If you access your Amazon account for an order from the Church Web site main page www.churchgoodshepherd.org by

clicking on the Amazon link, the Parish will receive a commission on your purchases at no charge to you. You still use your own account for the orders.

Room Requests

If your group or committee would like to reserve a room at Good Shepherd, please remember to contact the church office at

- 733-4125 or
 - goodnews@churchgoodshepherd.org.
- You may either complete a 2011 Room

Request Form or give the office the following information: name of group, contact person (phone, e-mail), meeting day, start time, stop time, and what room you would like to use. Any special set-up instructions should be given to our Sexton, Garry Lumm, by calling his cell phone: 415-0737. Rooms are limited, so we ask that you make requests early!



The deadline for the **September**

issue of *The Shepherd*

Sun. • Aug. 21 • midnight

The Church of the Good Shepherd • Dunedin, Florida

Our Vision: The Church of the Good Shepherd is called by God to seek out, bring home, nurture and feed the people of God in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Our Mission: We respond to this call by: **valuing** the expression of God through all peoples – **sharing** the Word of God through the celebration of the Episcopal Liturgy – **inviting** full participation into the life of our congregation – **responding** to the needs of our parish and the greater community.

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Thank you for your submissions to the monthly newsletter. We reserve the right to edit articles submitted for content and length.

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www.churchofgoodshepherd.org

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