



Worship & Study Opportunities

Sundays

The Holy Eucharist

8:00 a.m. *Lake Wylie*

10:30 a.m. *York*

Morning Prayer is offered at 10:30 a.m. on the Third Sunday of Each Month (York).

Christian Education

9:30 a.m. for All Ages

Wednesdays

11:00 a.m. Healing Service

(Parlor)

6:15 p.m. Bible Study

(Library, Fr. Robert)

7:00 p.m. Lenten Study

(Parlor, Fr. Mills)

Saturdays

5:00 p.m. The Holy Eucharist



From the Rector

Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word (BCP Page 265).

Perhaps you are like me around this time of year as I decide what to give up for Lent. I am old enough now that the things I wanted to give up for Lent as a child, such as eating my vegetables, taking a bath or doing homework, no longer intoxicate me as they once did. How do we decide what would be an inconvenience to do without for 5 weeks without inadvertently picking something that would cause anxiety or hardship?

I wonder if I might make a small suggestion. The Sunday readings in our lectionary this year are particularly rich. What I will be doing, and I invite you to do this as well, is to take a few minutes everyday to read aloud the Epistle lesson and the Gospel lesson for the coming Sunday, reflect on each reading for two minutes and then closing by praying the Collect of the Day. If we can do this without bringing a snack, we can satisfy four of the six requirements listed above. I'm kidding with that last sentence (or am I?) – but this simple discipline will reap good benefits.

To make it even easier, I have put together a booklet with the readings and collects which will be in the narthex of the church as well as on the library page of our website. In addition, I will be available in the library on Wednesday evenings from 6:15 until 6:45 p.m. for any questions you may have concerning the readings, or to pray with you for whatever reason you bring.

With prayers for a blessed and holy Lent.

Monthly Meetings

Next ECW meeting: Tuesday,
March 3: 6:30 pm in the parlor

The Vestry meets at 7:00 pm on
MONDAY, March 16 at 7:00 pm
Please note the date change.



Dear Friends:

This is just to remind you of the Lenten series on Anglicanism: From the Reformation to the Present. There will be five Wed. night presentations, beginning on **March 4** and ending on **April 1**. The sessions will meet from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. I plan to make my presentation during the first half hour or so and hope that will lead to questions and discussions during the latter half. The first session will be a consideration of certain terms (beginning with Anglicanism itself) that will be used throughout the series and a brief overview of things to come.

I look forward with enthusiasm to this opportunity and hope to see old and new friends alike.

Peace,
Father Joe

Christian Formation

By: Doug Clark

My heartfelt desire is to know the truth. And Christians know Truth to begin with a capital T because Truth is a person. This person is none other than Jesus Christ. In fact, He told us, "I am the way, I am the truth, and I am the life. No one comes to the Father but by me." So goes the traditional understanding.

Now, I know this verse, as traditionally translated and understood, is offensive to many, just as the cross is an offense. But why is it offensive in its traditional interpretation? Perhaps, in the American context, because, consumerism has taught people that they have many options. Perhaps people expect that, just as they can shop around for a flat screen TV or a pair of shoes, they should be able to shop around for a faith that fits them. Or maybe people think they can channel surf or click their way to a tailored religion.

So, what if the Church has gotten it wrong all these years? Is it possible that there is another way as some argue; and as many hearts urge?

This matter prompted me to look at the Greek version of John 14:6. Word for word, it reads "I am the way and the truth and the life; no one comes toward the Father but through me." I am still surprised by how closely this resembles our English versions, even in word order.

After reading it in the original language, I questioned whether or not Jesus was speaking in code. But, then I read it again. I couldn't get past the part where He said, "no one comes toward the Father but through me."

Just as was the case 19 years ago, when I came to faith in Christ, I had to deny my pride and submit to the Truth, like it or not. And I admit, this is hard to do because I so much want to be the one in the driver's seat. But, the simple fact is that I am incapable of coming up with a better way than did God and Jesus. I mean, if I were the one in charge and let everyone in. Wouldn't Heaven be just like earth with Hitler and Bin Laden and Dalmer ... and me in my pride? In deed, such decisions are too lofty for me.

So, once again, I had to deny myself and submit to the plain language of Scripture. I had to reaffirm that Jesus is the only way to God and I am not Him.

And speaking of denial, Jesus said something about this too. "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." So, when I am offended by the plain understanding of Scripture, perhaps it is time to take a gulp of my pride, deny myself and go again to the self-sacrificing cross. I admit, this isn't pleasant for me. But, it's good for me.

I realize again, Jesus is not one of many product choices, but my only hope. He is the only game in town. I can't

shop around for a better deal. I must crucify my pride and accept the fact that I am not God and I am incapable of comprehending His ways or judging Him for His exclusivity. After all, compared to God, what do I know?

So, what's this got to do with Christian formation? Everything. It is a daily battle for me to be formed into the likeness of Christ. And I realize that the only way to succeed in Christian formation is through the cross that Jesus said I must take up in order to come after Him. There are a lot of things in Scripture that make me uncomfortable. Just as there were a lot of things my loving family said and did when I was a child. I was too small to understand that the hard teachings were actually best for me.

As a father, I am on the other side of the equation now. I often have to say and do things that are painful to my children. But, because I love them and know better, I make the hard choices so they can be formed correctly. My children need to trust me, even when my words and decisions hurt, because I love them more than they can know at their tender ages.

So, too, we must accept our heavenly Father's hard words and be rightly formed. Maybe this is what Jesus meant when He said that anyone wishing to enter the Kingdom of God must become like a little child.

So, part of Christian formation is becoming like a little child, not understanding everything and not being pleased with everything. So, join me in enjoying a second childhood as we are formed into the likeness of our loving Father and become lovers of the only person named Truth.

Youth Highlights

By: Shay Wilkerson

Congratulations to **Sarah Schultz** and **Catherine Taylor** for their academic achievements. Sarah is listed as number ONE in her class and Catherine as number FOUR in the ninth grade at York Junior High.

The ski trip to Winter Place was great fun this year. We had great weather and no broken bones. While we were there Scott Thielbar who now lives in Beckley, WV, came by to visit with us. Next year he told us we can stay for free at his church there.

The youth are planning a youth event for March. Movies, dinner, and fun are certainly on the agenda. If you would like to help out with any of it, please contact Shay Wilkerson at 627-4138.

The Virginia Creeper is once again on our calendar. It is beautiful to do the trail in spring. Everyone be thinking about going, as any skill level of rider is capable of doing this trail. Young children to grand parents are welcome. It would be wonderful to make it a parish wide event!!

Choir News

By: Steven Aycock

EVENSONG - Our choir joins with the choir of St. John's Church, Carmel Road, Charlotte to sing Evensong and Benediction. On **March 22**, we will sing in **Charlotte** at **St. John's** at 5:00 pm. On **March 29** at 5:00 pm both choirs sing the service at Good Shepherd in **York**. This is a fine opportunity for contemplative worship in Lent.

Evensong

EVENSONG is a very tiny fragment of something else: it is a fragment of the worship offered to God by Christian people, at every hour, in every part of the world. When you come to Evensong here, it is as if you were dropping in on a conversation already in progress—a conversation between God and his people that began long before you were born, and will go on long after you are dead. So do not be surprised, or disturbed, if there are some things in the conversation which you do not at once understand.

Evensong is drawn almost entirely from the Bible. Its primary purpose is an act of praise to almighty God that proclaims His wonderful acts in history and in the life and death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Its secondary purpose is to evoke from the worshipper a response of praise, penitence, prayer and obedience.

The form of the service is very little altered from the form of the sixteenth century, but the content has a longer history. The Psalms were the hymnbook of the Jewish temple. Canticles are taken from the New Testament, and in the set prayers and responses, thanksgiving and petitions the people of God have always found themselves trying to make are expressed in words that were shaped and refined by long usage. The service is in three parts. The first part, quite brief, prepares the worshipper for the story that is to follow. The second part is the narrative of God's redeeming work, beginning with the Psalms. The recitation of the Psalter is at the heart of the sevenfold monastic office, and this is reflected in the composition of evensong. The story of God's work continues in the reading of the lessons appointed from the old and New Testament. Canticles of praise in response to this story, the *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis*, are taken from the gospels. This part reaches its climax in the Affirmation of Faith (the Creed). The third part is our prayerful response to the God who has been revealed in history, in Jesus Christ, and in the Church.

The music offered here is the counterpart of the architecture and stained glass of the building: it is a finely wrought music, in which the musicians offer on behalf of the people what the people would wish to do themselves, had they had the ability. Each service is an act of worship addressed, as worship must be, not to you but to God, an act of thanksgiving and an act of intercession for all. This worship goes on daily, whether people come or not,

because the love of God is a continuing, living and unconditional reality.

Benediction

BENEDICTION is a beautiful word. It means a blessing, a greeting, and an expression of kindness and love. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament is a service that makes real to us in an impressive way the fact that God is always reaching out to us, to bless, to strengthen, to assure us of his loving kindness toward us. The greatest blessing that God ever bestowed or could bestow was the sending of his Son. He is no longer present in the physical body that was his in Palestine many centuries ago, but we believe that he is really present among us in the Sacrament which he appointed. "This is my body," he said over the bread at his Last Supper with his disciples. The same words are said over the bread at every Eucharist, that it may be to us the body of the Lord, so that he may come among us today as he came at his first appearing in Palestine.

We come to Benediction waiting and expectant. We open our hearts to God, knowing that he who sent his Son to lighten the darkness of the world sends through the same Son his blessing to us. A remarkable thing happens as we find ourselves saying the words of the Divine Praises: "Blessed be God! Blessed be his holy Name!" We came seeking God's blessing, and now find that we are blessing God! This indeed is the goal of all our worshipping—that we may come to love God better. And we cannot love God without loving our neighbor, so that in seeking God's blessing, we are praying that, in blessing us, he will make us a blessing to others.

ECW News

Thanks again to all the ladies who came to our potluck supper meeting! We had a terrific time. Here are some upcoming dates to remember:

March 1: Prayer Guild meeting noon (after coffee hour) in the parlor. Everyone is welcome to come and bring their special prayer requests. It's a warm and helpful time.

March 3: ECW meeting, 6:30 p.m. in the parlor. Karen, Andy, Silva and I will give you a quick rundown on Convention. Save room for dessert!

March 9: Bena Dial scholarship deadline

April 9: Maundy Thursday -- we'll be serving lunch as part of Holy Week. This year it's at Divine Saviour. Jot it down on your calendar -- we'll need volunteers!

May 9: Garden Tour

Questions or more info, call Cheney at 628-4064 or email ECW@goodshep.net.

Angel Food Ministries

Two ordering dates:

Saturday, **Feb. 28**, from 1-2 p.m.,
Good Shepherd parish hall, 108 E. Liberty St., York

Saturday, **March 14**, from 8:30-9:30 a.m.,
Good Shepherd parish hall, 108 E. Liberty St., York

In person, we accept **CASH and FOOD STAMP (EBT) ONLY. YOU PAY WHEN YOU ORDER. NO CHECKS.**

Online, you may order with a credit or debit card by going to: www.angelfoodministries.com/host.asp?id=6753 and clicking on "Order Online". If you have questions, please call 684-4021 or e-mail angelfoodnyork@hotmail.com

Pickup date is Saturday, **March 28**, 2 p.m., Good Shepherd

York Place

Building Bridges for Children

Please join us for a Bridge/Game Benefit for the children of York Place.

Place: York Place, Smith Dining Hall

Date: Thursday, March 26

Time: 1:00-4:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$100/table or \$25/individual
(tickets are tax deductible)

**Prizes, desserts, coffee, cold drinks
Silent Auction**

Building the Bridge by Will Allen Dromgoole

"An old man traveling a lone highway,
Came at the evening cold and gray,
To a chasm vast and deep and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
The sullen stream held no fears for him;
But he turned when safe on the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," cried a fellow pilgrim near,
"You're wasting your time in building here.
Your journey will end with the closing day;
You never again will pass this way.
You have crossed the chasm deep and wide,
Why build you this bridge at even-tide?"

The Builder lifted his old gray head:
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,
"There followeth after me today
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
This stream, which has been as naught to me,
To that fair-haired youth may pitfall be:
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim.
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him."

Thank you for helping us build bridges for the York Place Children.

Please contact Joyce Sanders, 684-4011 x 1009, 684-0539 or John Shiflet, 628-2760, for tickets.

Parish Register News

Gaynor "Bud" Nash & Clayton Nash transferred their membership from Good Shepherd to Our Saviour, Rock Hill.

Tom & Betty Sanders have transferred their membership from St. Paul's, Winston-Salem (Tom) and Trinity, Statesville, (Betty) to Good Shepherd.

If you would like to move your membership to Good Shepherd, please contact the church office at 684-4021 or e-mail to sherryramsey@goodshp.net. We will need the name and address of the last church you were a member of.

Prayer Concerns

We pray for the Sick, especially for....

Billie Gabbitas, Emily House, Nadja Hudson, Sylvia Noble, Joanne Lentz, Patricia Rice, Vernon & Joan Sanders, Donald Beyer, Bettie Matthews, Rachael Gleason, Linda Tiblier, Judy Tomes, Gara Brown, Parpi Von Chrismar, Pam & Ken Jernigan, Jenkins Mikell, Hazel Sims, Kensley James, Allen Aycock, Deanna Greiner, Mary Lou Jordan, EJ Carico, Joe McCorkle, Judi Smith, Yolanda Burton, Judi Glazier, Silva Davis, Helen Dearborn, Grace Amer, Anne Fishburne

We pray for the Shut-ins, especially for....

Bee Decker, Elsie Castle, Margie Miller, Mamie Miller

We pray for the men and women serving in our military, especially for....

Geoffrey Gibson, Jonathan Morrison, William Stanley, John Kerns, Travis Eusted, Ken Roberts, Paul Mishoe

We pray for those with special needs, especially for....

York Place Board, Staff and Children, Kayleigh Edson, Mark House, Jack Burton, Sarah Schultz, Kerry Davis, Ray Dearborn, the Fishburne Family

Companion Niches are available in our Columbarium

Please contact the church office at 684-4021 or sherryramsey@goodshep.net if you are interested in purchasing a niche.

Stewardship 2009

The Stewardship 2009 campaign received additional pledges since the last report. Total pledging to the operating fund for 2009 now totals \$176,428 with 83 families pledging. This compares to the 2008 pledge total of 85 families pledging \$180,472. All of the pledges are very much appreciated. We are in better shape heading into 2009, but we will still be operating on a tight budget. If you have not yet responded in some way, please do so soon. Thanks to all for your support.

Reminders

- Continue to bring empty INKJET printer cartridges – they are worth \$2 each to the kitchen Fund. There is a box in the hallway to deposit your used cartridges. Please be sure to place them in the box carefully, they will only be accepted if the tip is not broken.
- All activities that require the use of the building must go through the church office.
- Please fill out a Prayer Request form to add names to the prayer list. Forms are located in the bell tower. You may add names from our web site as well.

Pastoral Care Committee

Members of the Pastoral Care Committee will joyfully visit parish members who, due to illness or confinement, cannot attend regular church services. We want to make certain that no one in our church family is overlooked or neglected in their time of need.

To request a visit or phone call from the rector, please call or email the church office to provide some basic details & preferences or please make certain that a family member or loved one contacts the church on your behalf. Father Robert or Sherry will return the contact as quickly as possible, and make arrangements to visit or speak with you. The church office phone number is 803-684-4021. Our email addresses are: rector@goodshep.net or sherryramsey@goodshep.net. If you would like a visit or phone call from a member of the Pastoral Care Committee, please call (803-327-5582) or email

(kpm@comporium.net) Kaye McMaster or Frank Van Leer (803-631-3543; k9cr8@comporium.net)

Finally, you can also contact any member of the Vestry; and they will make Father Robert aware of your needs.

Things in General

Church Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The church office is closed on Fridays.

This is the Rector's day off.

Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. Bulletin Deadline
20th of Each Month Newsletter Deadline

E-mail addresses:

The Rev. Robert Gaillard Kirkland, Rector
rector@goodshep.net

Doug Clark, Director of Christian Formation
dougclark@goodshep.net

Steven Aycock, Organist/Choir master
stevenaycock@goodshep.net

Sherry Ramsey, Parish Administrator
sherryramsey@goodshep.net

Dona Van Leer, Newsletter Editor
shepherdstales@goodshep.net

John Ness, Senior Warden
Vestry@goodshep.net

Randy Neff, Treasurer
Treasurer@goodshep.net

Please visit our web site for a complete listing of our e-mail directory.

Our web site is: www.goodshep.net

Stewardship Thoughts for the Month

The financial and talent needs of Good Shepherd are opportunities.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR
ANNUAL PARISH CLEAN UP DAY**

MARCH 28, 2009

9:00 A.M.

**PLEASE BRING YOUR YARD TOOLS, AND
CLEANING TOOLS.**

**NO NEED TO RSVP, AS WE ARE PLANNING
ON EVERYONE ATTENDING!**

The Church of the Good Shepherd
108 East Liberty Street
PO Box 437
York, SC 29745

Web site: <http://www.goodshep.net>



March 2009