

October
2005

Birthdays:

Oct. 10: Kathleen Butler
12: Fred Timm
19: Jake Moran
21: Liz Moran
26: Lyndelle Phillips

Happy Birthday to you all!

The Rev. David Lee Carlson
Rector

Don Carolina
Organist Director of Music
& Parish Administrator

Priest Associates:

The Rev. John E. Denaro
The Rev. Canon Edgar F. Wells

Fred Timm
Sexton

Jerome Hanauer, Adair Russell
Wardens

Vestry:
Class of 2006
Christina Hing,
Jeanet Radifera

Class of 2007
Carole de Braganza,
Shirley Brooks

Class of 2008
Marie Forray, Katherine Stronk

Co-Treasurers:
Marie Forray & Jean Krulis

Rectory Tel: 212.532.3039
Office Tel: 212.689.1595
Fax: 212.686.2613
Email: goodshepherd2003@aol.com
Website:
www.goodshepherdnyc.dioceseny.org

The Shepherd's Herald

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
240 East 31st Street, New York, NY 10016

FROM THE RECTOR'S STUDY

Dear Friends,

October means harvest. The horn of plenty bursts forth with the bounty of God's good creation. The air cools and clears to help us make the seasonal transition from autumn into winter. I love this time of year. It feels good to wear a sweater and there is nothing like a good soup or stew to warm our tummies. I believe that the sight and smell of the apple harvest reminds us that we are blessed with a new Eden. For me, October is about abundance.

Jesus calls us to a ministry of abundance. In John's Gospel he teaches, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete." (Gospel of John 15:9-11) The antithesis of these teachings is hardness of heart and scarcity. But that is not living in the spirit of God. John's Gospel reveals that Jesus wants us to be whole and holy.

It is easy to live our lives in a place of scarcity. With economic uncertainty, devastating storms like Katrina and Rita claiming people's lives and resources, and the war in Iraq (just to name a few), we have many reasons for worrying that there may not be enough to go around. In the face of great need in our world, what is the secret to feeling happy and satisfied? According to Jesus, contentment is based on how we live. Do we keep God's commandments? Do we abide in God's love? Do we trust that we will have enough? Here at Good Shepherd we are in transition. For years we have been besieged by low income, making deficit spending necessary in order to pay the bills. As winter approaches, do we, like squirrels, store up our blessings to make sure that there will be enough? No. We must trust that God, to whom our needs are known before we ask, will nurture us with love, joy and completeness.

This October, the harvest of our daily life in this parish is full. There is much happening, from concerts to events to classes and parties. We are blessed. May each of us live in the knowledge of that grace and open our hearts to welcome all comers to share in the abundance of our common life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

With love in Christ,

WELCOME OUR SEMINARIAN! It is a joy for the parish to be a site of education and formation for students from The General Theological Seminary. In that spirit, we welcome Pattie Curtis of the Diocese of North Carolina to our common life. Pattie will be teaching a monthly Bible Study, she will be preaching twice a term and she will be assisting in our liturgies.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY OFFERING. This fall, our seminarian, Pattie Curtis, will be leading a class entitled "Encountering Jesus: Seeing our lives through the eyes of God." Reading the familiar stories of Nicodemus, the woman at the well and Mary and Martha, we will examine how, during the course of their daily lives, these familiar Biblical characters came face to face with the divine. How can we be open to the divine presence in our own lives? Classes begin on Wednesday, October 5 at 6:30 pm and continue on November 9 and November 30.

QUESTIONING OUR FAITH The Rector will offer an ongoing Christian Education course that will meet once a month focusing on the tough questions of life that challenge our faith. The second gathering will be Wednesday, October 26, immediately following the 6 pm Holy Eucharist. This month's topic will be *HOMOSEXUALITY (MARRIAGE AND ORDINATION)*. Attendees are asked to bring any pertinent materials (from Holy Scripture to the New York Times) to contribute to the discussion.

NEW CONCERT SERIES BEGINS ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 1ST AT 8PM!!!**The Urban Brass Quintet (UBQ)** is an exciting chamber ensemble which was founded at the Julliard School in 2002. Based in Manhattan, The Urban Brass' most recent performances include a return recital at Barge Music in Brooklyn, a performance at Tonic in Manhattan and performances with the American Brass Quintet, with whom they have recorded a CD to be released soon. The Summer of 2004, UBQ was the fellowship brass quintet in residence at the Aspen Music Festival in Colorado. Their concert here at Good Shepherd will consist of music ranging from the 15th and 16th centuries to the new millennium. Please come out and support this fine ensemble of young musicians as we embark on new music adventures at Good Shepherd. Admission is \$10 per person at the door.

AND YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS:

Halloween Concert and Party: Saturday, October 29th at 7pm All are invited to a special evening of music and reveling to celebrate All Hallows' Eve. Our organist, Don Carolina, will be joined by Timothy Smith, the organist of The Riverside Church, to offer a spooky and fun recital on our historic Jardine organ. The music will include selections by Mendelssohn, Franck, Brewer, Lefebure-Wely, Bizet, Grieg and Bach. There will be a \$10 donation at the door in support of the parish Music Fund. Afterward, all are invited to the undercroft for Halloween revels! Please feel free to attend in costume.

HURRICANE RELIEF If you would like to offer financial help for the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, you may do so by writing a check to "Episcopal Relief and Development" with the notation "Hurricane Relief." Please mail or deliver your check to the parish office.

CO-HOSTING COFFEE HOUR is an important ministry we are all invited from time to time to volunteer and participate in with Kathleen Butler, the hostess of Coffee Hour. Indeed, it is the first point at which we display our well-renowned hospitality. If you choose to participate in this ministry, here are a few guidelines to follow:

*Kathleen sets the table for tea and coffee with cups and saucers (or punch cups during summer), silverware, napkins, sugar and milk. Coffee and tea (or punch in summer) are prepared by Fred the Sexton and wheeled into place after the Mass.

*Please arrive early, between 10:00 and 10:30 am. Bring enough cookies, cakes, etc. (your choice) for approximately 20 people. Store bought is just fine. Arrange your "treats" on serving platters lined with doilies, cover with foil or plastic wrap and set on the center table usually put up by Fred.

*Leave the Mass during the last hymn, as Kathleen usually does, to make any final preparations needed, and be in place behind to coffee table to cheerfully greet and serve parishioners and visitors alike. Kathleen will help you serve.

*When Coffee Hour is over, help in clearing the tables and drying the dishes washed by Fred. This takes only a few minutes and your work is done.

*Should you wish to volunteer, please sign up on the calendar at the back of the church or speak to Eva Forson, the Hospitality Chairperson, and she would be delighted to put you on the schedule which is prepared two months in advance. You will be reminded when your time is drawing close. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Blessing of the Pets: Saturday, October 1st at 11 am. Bring your best friends from the animal kingdom to receive a special blessing in honor of St. Francis Day.

Raffle

This fall season, Good Shepherd will be sponsoring a fund-raising raffle to benefit the repainting of the church. The tickets are now on sale and the drawing will take place at the Holiday Boutique, December 10th. The tickets will be sold at \$10.00 each and the grand prize is \$1,000.00. The tickets come in books of 10 and all parishioners are asked to sell tickets to friends, family, co-workers, etc. If we all work together, we could reach our goal of \$10,000 less the grand prize.

VESTRY NOTES: In addition to the reports of the standing committees of the parish, a few highlights of the September meeting included: The transfer of our parish investments from Deutschebank to The Diocesan Investment Trust ; the lease of a new copier for the office; and the purchase of new chair racks for the undercroft.

BOAT TRIP: Saturday, October 15

All are invited for a three-hour boat cruise up the Hudson for a fall foliage tour. An onboard naturalist will offer a talk and lunch is included in the \$20.00 per-person fee. We will board the Friends of Hudson River Park boat at 1 pm at Pier 40 (Houston Street). Please call the parish office to reserve a space.

INTERNATIONAL DAY: Sunday, October 23rd!

Every week we celebrate that, in Christ, there is no East or West, no South or North, but one great fellowship of love. On Sunday, October 23rd, we will be particularly rejoicing in our cultural diversity. Please bring your “native dish” to share at a special pot-luck lunch.

LOOKING AHEAD:

All Soul’s Day, November 2

We will have a Commemoration of all Faithful Departed at our 6pm Holy Eucharist. To submit names of loved ones to be included in the prayers, please send names to or email the parish office.

Film and Discussion: November 2

After the 6pm All Souls Service, all are invited to attend a showing of the film “Flight from Death.” This film, made with the support of the Ernest Becker Foundation in Seattle, shows the socio-psychological basis of violence. Based on the work of the authors of “In the Wake of 9/11,” it demonstrates the way in which perceived threats to a group or society’s culture and belief system can lead to discrimination, mistrust and violence against outsiders. It also deals with differences between fundamentalist and more tolerant forms of religion.

The film grapples with the enlightenment paradox of whether reason can prevail over superstition, violence and evil. The answer it provides is a qualified yes. We can identify the irrational factors in human make-up, which include the rumblings of meaninglessness and death which our culture, belief systems and ways of life help mask, but for which social science and psychology can provide only partial solutions. There is a need for a dialogue between science and religion to suggest ways for humans to overcome the scourge of violence and the central paradoxes of human existence.

“Flight from Death,” written and directed by West Coast filmmakers Greg Bennick and Patrick Shen, is narrated by Gabriel Byrne. Recently released for national distribution on dvd, the film is 90 minutes long and features social scientists, including Robert Jay Lifton, and theologian/author Sam Keene. “Flight from Death” has showcased in Seattle, New York, Los Angeles and a number of regional film festivals to critical acclaim prior to its recent commercial distribution. For further information, consult Flightfromdeath.com

Holiday Boutique:December 10th;

For Good Shepherd’s Christmas Boutique, the undercroft will have to be transformed — if not into Sak’s Fifth Avenue, at least into Walmart Beyond Bling. We have holiday decorations: ornaments, lights, garlands, candles, stockings, all the glittering bits and baubles you’ve been holding on to, but do not plan to use again. Please bring them in.

Also, if lurking in your closet or sweater drawer you have an accumulation of presents received over the years, items you “would not be caught dead in,” bring them in as well and let us re-gift them at the Boutique. Everyone wins and Aunt Edna will never know.

We will need help with decorating, setting up, staffing — so watch for the sign-up sheet. Thank you!!

Christmas Boutique Coordinators: Carole de Breganza, Jean Krulis and Adair Russell

Valentine’s Day Tea and Auction: Saturday, February 11, 2006

We will be looking for some very, very special items that we can auction off that evening. Our guest Auctioneer will be our very own Fr. David. This will be a very exciting event. Mark your calendars and dig into those hidden recesses of your closets.