

Give Thanks With A Grateful Heart!

by Pastor Beverly Berry

The season of Thanksgiving is one of my favorite times of the year. Do you know that wonderful praise song, "Give thanks with a grateful heart?" It goes like this:

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One.
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong."
Let the poor say, "I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us!"

Give thanks with a grateful heart.
Give thanks to the Holy One.
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.
Give thanks, give thanks.

I've found myself humming that tune lately—and I take it as a sign from the Holy Spirit that I need to renew my focus on giving thanks to God for all that He has done for us. For Christians, our entire life is a season of thanksgiving, just as the song says.

As Christians, we're commanded to thank and praise God. One of my favorite Scripture verses is found in Paul's first letter to the Christians in Thessalonica: "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thess. 5:16-18) As Christians, we give thanks for God's great love for the whole world. We know that our joy and attitude of thanksgiving is not determined by our circumstances; rather, they come from a sure and certain knowledge of what God has already done for us in and through Jesus Christ. We are grateful because through His life and death and resurrection, Jesus is able to offer the gift of salvation and eternal life to everyone! Thanks be to God!

We need to remember, too, that giving thanks **in** all circumstances is not the same thing as giving thanks **for** all circumstances. We do not give thanks for the difficult, even evil, circumstances in our lives, but we give thanks in such situations because we know that Jesus is with us, just as He promised. The risen and victorious Jesus reassures us with these words, "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:20b)

As we approach the secular season of Thanksgiving, let us, as disciples of Christ, remember our attitude of gratitude in our hearts, and let us show forth that gratefulness in our daily lives. There are so many ways we can do this. We could end each day with an intentional effort to list the ways God has blessed us in that day, and give thanks to Him. We could deliberately seek out one person each day and say "thanks" to him or her for their actions which have brought us joy. We could send an anonymous note of thanks or small gift to someone. Use your imagination—which is also a gift from God for which we give thanks. You may also like to join with your brothers and sisters in Christ at Good Samaritan for a service of Thanksgiving on November 26 at 8:30am in the church. At that service we will give thanks to God for one another and for the common mission to which He has called us of sharing the Gospel message.

Finally, may I suggest you commit to daily use of the form of *A General Thanksgiving* found on page 836 in our *Book of Common Prayer*.

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

Notes from the Parish Administrator

by Jeff Moretzsohn

“MAKING CHURCH HAPPEN” You may have seen and/or heard that over the last few weeks this tagline has become part of our common language here at Good Samaritan. Posters inviting you to a combined service on November 8th at 10:00am have been scattered around to make sure you don't forget. Reminders during Sunday announcements and teasers with Fr Todd (dressed as Uncle Sam) pointing at you and me saying “I Want You!!!” on the monitors in the Atrium and Fellowship Hall.

Friends, the \$64,000 question is: What's this all about? What is “Making Church Happen” and how does it apply to me? If memory serves me, I recall my marketing professor taught us something like: don't give away the punch line until you've reeled the customer in.

As I reflect on this, I am both convicted and reminded of the fact that Making Church Happen isn't, nor should it be, a “marketing strategy.” Making Church Happen is our response and responsibility as Christians in a community of faith. This reality has eternal consequences; each of us is called to participate and partner in God's plan for his Church and the world. The Book of Common Prayer says this about the question of what is the ministry of the laity of the church: *“The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church.”* (BCP 853). This clear and concise description of our responsibilities as part of the body of Christ is both challenging and exciting. Each of us has a part to play in God's eternal plan. The question is: How will we answer the call?

At the September vestry meeting a Strategic Plan was adopted entitled “Building up the Body, Moving Forward in Mission.” This plan provides detail and timing for programmatic initiatives, mission and ministry priorities as well as staffing and infrastructure requirements to support these programs. At the October vestry meeting a budget was prepared, presented and passed which lays out the financial requirements of the specific components of the strategic plan which, with God and you as our helpers, will be addressed in 2010.

So here we stand, ready and willing to Make Church Happen in 2010, but we can't do it alone. We Need You!!! Your time. Your talent. And yes, your treasure!!!

Over the next few weeks letters will arrive in the mail, announcements will be made, videos run, presentations made; all in an effort to enlist your commitment and participation in this holy endeavor. My prayer each day is that in your prayers, God speaks clearly as to what He asks of you, and us. And that we listen and respond with joy and gratitude as a people who owe everything to Him!!!

"Making Church Happen" We Need You!



Join us for a combined service of worship
Sunday, November 8 at 10:00am

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Fellowship and Forums will follow in  
Walton & Ashton Halls

*Building up the Body, Moving Forward in Mission*

## Vestry Corner

The October Vestry meeting was held on Monday, October 19. The meeting was originally scheduled for Monday, October 12, but the meeting was not held because a quorum was not available - the first time in memory that happened. The meeting began with evening prayer in the Chapel and the meeting itself was opened with prayer at 7:35pm. Fr. Todd presided. The minutes of the September meeting were approved after correction and will be available on the Good Sam website.

The Discernment Committee reported continuing progress. They have a big job and they take their assignments seriously. The Discernment Gathering process is now complete, analysis is underway, and creation of the Parish Profile will then begin. Stay tuned.

Fr. Todd reported that he met recently with our own Bishop Michel for the purpose of acquainting him with Good Samaritan and to solicit areas of prayer concern for the Bishop. They also discussed issues of interest regarding the Anglican Communion Partners statement.

Fr. Todd also reported that Todd Brewer, son of our own Greg Brewer, and a recent seminary graduate, will be ordained as a deacon in the Episcopal Church here at Good Samaritan on the evening of Thursday, November 12. Bp. Michael Smith of North Dakota will preside, and Fr. Greg will preach. What a wonderful opportunity for Greg to witness his son's elevation to this post in the church! Bp. Smith will also help plan our Dakota mission strategy while he is here. Look forward to it.

Finally, Fr. Todd noted that the staff will now hold its regular weekly staff lunch meeting on Tuesdays rather than on Mondays beginning in November. This is a significant departure, as these meetings have been on Mondays since just about time immemorial.

Bob Anewalt reported that our monthly financial result for September was, for the first time this year, an item of concern. Revenue was very low and expenses were on budget, so we had a substantial deficit for the month. October looks to be satisfactory and we will depend on a robust November and especially December to bring us to year end on plan.

The vestry also approved a preliminary budget for 2010 in the amount of \$2,099,605. This is an increase of about 9% over 2009. Ambitious to be sure, but necessary to keep the lights on, maintain programs that you have come to expect, and continue our mission and outreach to those less fortunate. The budget detail will be made available as part of our stewardship program.

Finally, Bob reported that our Day School continues to post very satisfactory operating results.

Jeff Moretzsohn, Parish Administrator, reported on several items of interest regarding the upcoming diocesan convention. One resolution regarding youth participation in vestry affairs will most likely not come to convention because PA state law conflicts with some of its provisions. Also introduced is a resolution calling for formation of a diocesan task force to develop a vision for the mission and ministry of the diocese.

Jeff also reported that he is beginning to implement new ACS software to build on the expertise we have developed in this area. New modules will improve our room scheduling capability, and for the first time give lay leaders controlled access to schedule events and access the database for current contact information. (think online directory) It will also give us better control of our website; an increasingly important part of our communication plan.

Charlene Fitzwater reported on our stewardship plan. Note especially the combined service on November 8 as a kickoff for this year's stewardship campaign. A short testimonial video is being prepared, and speakers have come forward to host the forums in Ashton and Walton Halls. It will be an important venue for everyone to attend. This year it will be important for us all to focus on Time and Talent in addition to Treasure, because as Fr. Todd has so memorably put it -

**WE NEED YOU.**

Andy Krider reported on Discipleship by noting the success of our current ALPHA program, and by noting again the important work Tracy Defina is doing to identify and engage newcomers into the life of the parish. Small Group and Life Group attendance continues to grow, and the nourishment of these groups is getting more intentional. John Yates is training leaders and some larger groups seem set to "multiply" in the months ahead.

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## *Vestry Corner continued*

Andy also attended and reported on our very successful recent men's retreat held at Daylesford Abbey. About 40 men attended. Teaching was by Dr. Jonathan Yonan, a parishioner and professor at Eastern University.

Peter Niedland reported on our Children's Ministries. Sunday School continues to grow. Jenn McMahon is implementing important new programs and each Sunday about 140 children are in attendance. Volunteers are still needed, but the core of her programs are proceeding well and on plan. Our Day School also continues to do well and Barb Condit is to be commended for her efforts. The staff and the parent committee are developing new web-based content (the Day School website is [www.goodsamdayschool.org](http://www.goodsamdayschool.org)) as the younger families migrate very naturally to this mode of communication.

The meeting concluded with prayer at 9:08pm.

Respectfully Submitted by your Wardens

## **Year-end Gifts**

In the course of year-end tax planning, some of you will find yourself considering special one-time donations. As you contemplate year-end gifts, please keep the Church of the Good Samaritan in mind.

**Please Note:** The brokerage information for donating stock gifts has changed. The forms on the website are current. You may also contact Susan Crumpler for the updated information. Electronic Funds Transfer forms are also available on the website: [www.good-samaritan.org](http://www.good-samaritan.org).

## **Cursillo Weekend #81**

**Thursday evening-Sunday, November 12-15, 2009**

**St. Mary of Providence Center, Elverson, PA**



Mike Wolford of Good Sam is the assistant weekend leader! Registration forms are available at [www.cursillodiopa.org](http://www.cursillodiopa.org) or through Betsy Wolford at [betsy@good-samaritan.org](mailto:betsy@good-samaritan.org). For those of you who may have

heard of Cursillo and want to know what you are missing, this weekend is for you!

**Cursillo** is a "short course" in Christian living. In our Baptismal Covenant, we make a commitment to proclaim by word and example the Good News in Christ, and to seek and serve Christ in all persons. Cursillo helps us to fulfill our Christian commitment.

**The Weekend:** Most persons who are part of Cursillo start by attending a three-day program called "The Weekend." It is a "retreat" only in the sense that the group attempts to limit the influence of the outside world. The word "advance" would probably be more descriptive.

The Cursillo weekend is a deeply moving experience in which we ask ourselves: What am I doing here? What does God want of me? What does Christ see in me? What do I see in Christ? What is Christ saying to me?

**The Fourth Day:** The Cursillo weekend is not an end to itself. It is a starting point that lasts the rest of your life. The Fourth Day includes:

**Rule of Life** - "walking the walk," a personal spiritual journey including piety, study, and apostolic action.

**Group Reunion** - a small group who meet regularly and who hold each other accountable for their spiritual journey.

**Ultreya** - a periodic "reunion of reunions" that provides support and builds community by sharing communal experiences.

**Spiritual Direction** - seeking out skilled lay persons or clergy for spiritual direction to provide help in deepening our union with Christ.

For more information log onto [www.cursillodiopa.org](http://www.cursillodiopa.org)



**The PA Symphonic Wind Band**  
**Church of the Good Samaritan**  
**Sunday, November 15**  
**4:00pm**

The Pennsylvania Symphonic Wind Band (PSWB) is one of the leading amateur civilian wind bands in the state of Pennsylvania today. Comprised of 45 woodwind, brass and percussion players, the band performs an eclectic blend of music ranging from the stage and screen to the classic and contemporary. It combines the traditions of the British wind band with the musical heritage of the international stage in a 21st century wind ensemble. This event is free and open to the public.

**Episcopal Day School Craft Fair**  
**Wednesday, November 4**  
**9:00am-2:00pm**

Food: Hot dogs, soft pretzels, baked goods and sodas!

Vendors' items will include:  
 belts, headbands, American Girl doll clothes, tie-dyed clothing, accessories, Silpada Sterling Jewelry, Polar Fleece, purses, keychains, pewter & glass jewelry, Christmas decorations, Premier Jewelry, handmade chocolates, face painting, furniture, marionettes, handmade beaded Christmas ornaments, handmade South African jewelry, Longaberger baskets, and

The Sweater Lady is back again this year!



*Betty and Larry Colletta and friends*

**Mark your calendars**

On Sunday, November 15, from 1:00-3:30pm, the Bolivia Committee will host a luncheon for Larry and Betty Colletta, who will be making a presentation describing and discussing their missionary experience in Bolivia.

Larry and Betty have returned from their service in South America and want to share how God is at work in Bolivia and in their lives. Please join us in Walton Hall for light refreshments, good fellowship and conversation.

**Red Cross Blood Drive**  
**Friday, November 6**  
**1:00pm-7:00pm**

The Red Cross will host a blood drive at the Church of the Good Samaritan on Friday, November 6 from 1:00pm-7:00pm. Please contact Kathleen 215-451-4353 or [www.pleasegiveblood.org/donate](http://www.pleasegiveblood.org/donate) to make an appointment. Please mention sponsor code 10059. There will also be an opportunity to sign up at the church between services on Sunday, November 1.

**Men's Breakfast**  
**Saturday, November 21**  
**8:00am-9:30am**

ALL men are welcome to a hearty Men's Breakfast on Saturday, November 21, from 8:00am-9:30am in Ashton Hall. The discussion topic will be Christian Discipleship, a follow-up to the recent men's retreat.

Childcare will be available during the breakfast, so let Mom sleep in and bring the little ones along. Sign-up and get more information via [mensministry@good-samaritan.org](mailto:mensministry@good-samaritan.org).



**“Be still and know that I am GOD!”**

*Psalm 46:10*

**A WOMEN’S ADVENT QUIET DAY**

**Sponsored by the Women’s Ministry**

**December 5, 2009**

**1:00 – 4:00pm**

**Walton Hall**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Please Join Us  
for a Service of Celebration**

The Dakota Committee in Conjunction with our  
friends from the Standing Rock Reservation

Canon John Floberg

Deacon Terry Star

Deacons Brandon and Angela Mauai

Innocent Mauai

Scarlet Goodhouse

Carmen Goodhouse

Rosa Wilson

Invite you to join us for an evening of celebrating  
decades of ministry together.

Come and share your greatest memories of how this  
partnership has touched your life. We will have a  
covered dish dinner, a time of sharing and worship,  
concluding with Eucharist.

Tuesday, November 10, 2009

Church of the Good Samaritan

Room 263/264

6:30-9:00 pm

Please bring your scrapbooks, photo albums,  
keepsakes, and favorite covered dish to share.

RSVP by November 5

to Jenn McMahon 610-644-4040 x206

Hope to See You There!

**October Membership Statistics**

Births:

Joseph Alexander (Xander) Yates on 9/29/09  
to Fr. John & Alysia Yates

Transfers In:

Mrs. Elaine Sullivan  
from Glory of God Anglican Church, Florida

Transfers Out:

Michael & Tracy Guernsey  
The Leuders family (John, Kerry & Mackenzie)  
to St. Matthew’s Church, Chester Springs

Deaths:

Hope Cook in October 2008

(just received word)

Elizabeth (Betty) LeBoutillier on June 20, 2009

(just received word)

Alan Forsythe on September 19, 2009



*Bishop’s Camp at  
Camp Gabriel  
Summer 2007*

## Good Samaritan Christmas Trees

Christmas trees will again be available for purchase on the Church grounds from Friday, December 4 through Sunday, December 13. All donations above and beyond the cost of the trees go to support our local outreach ministries.

The tree lot will be open Fridays 5:00pm-9:00pm, Saturdays 9:00am-8:00pm, and Sundays 9:00am-6:00pm. Many volunteers are needed to operate the tree lot! Don't miss this opportunity to fellowship with the community and your fellow parishioners.

We also need volunteers to help unload the trees when they arrive on Sunday, November 29. Sign-up sheets will be available in the Atrium between Sunday services starting November 8.

Please contact Alison Gleichman (610-293-0442, alicatz@verizon.net) for more information and to volunteer your time.

## Piano Recital Sunday, November 29 4:00pm

Gary Gress will play a piano recital in the church featuring the Mendelssohn piano concerto, assisted by Chris Garven, and solo works by Chopin and Debussy.

## Food Closet Thanksgiving Outreach

Thanksgiving is just around the corner! Once again the Food Closet will be preparing gift baskets for approximately 30 local families in need. Please help others celebrate this day of thanks by donating any or all of the following: a whole turkey or turkey breast, 5 lb. bag of potatoes, stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce, a frozen pie.

The deadline for dropping off these items is Monday, November 16. Baskets will be distributed Thursday, November 19. Please leave frozen items in the Ashton Hall kitchen freezer, leave perishable items in the Food Closet refrigerator in the Ashton Hall kitchen, and leave non-perishables in the marked box in the Ashton Hall kitchen.

As always, your generosity is very much appreciated by both the Food Closet volunteers and the food basket recipients. Many thanks.

## Plan Now for the Freedom In Christ Retreat February 6-8, 2010

Is now the time? Have you thought about attending the FIC retreat but never acted on it? Plan ahead to give yourself an important gift: time away to identify any roadblocks that are keeping you from being fully effective in your walk with Christ. All this, plus teaching, worship, fellowship and good food in a peaceful setting on the bay in Harvey Cedars, NJ.

Freedom in Christ is a three-day retreat that combines teachings on Christian principles of growth, inner healing and wellness with private time to study, reflect and listen to the Lord. "You must give up your old way of life; you must put aside your old self which gets corrupted by following illusory desires. Your mind must be renewed by a spiritual revolution, so that you can put on the new self that has been created in God's way" (Ephesians 4:22-24). An essential part of the retreat is the testimony given by Good Sam parishioners about how God has worked in them through difficult times, guiding them toward transformation.

Plan now to set aside three days, February 6-8, for the FIC retreat. The cost is \$225 (double occupancy) or \$330 (single). If you would like more information, contact Pam Hicks (mhicks7540@aol.com) or Heather Gallagher (heatherkevin@comcast.net).



*Harvey Cedars Bible Conference*



## **he Church of the Good Samaritan**

212 West Lancaster Avenue Paoli, Pennsylvania 19301

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# ***Fall 2009 Events Calendar***

November 1  
Baptisms

November 4  
EDS Craft Fair

November 6  
Red Cross Blood Drive

November 6-7  
Alpha Holy Spirit Weekend

November 8  
"Making Church Happen" 10:00am  
Combined Service & Forums

November 10  
Dakota Potluck Dinner

November 12  
Brewer Ordination

November 14  
Diocesan Convention

November 15  
New Member Liturgy & Brunch  
Colletta Lunch  
PA Symphonic Wind Band

November 17  
Samaritan Deadline

November 21  
Men's Breakfast

November 22  
Connecting Coffee with Clergy

November 23  
Prayer with the Vestry

November 26  
Thanksgiving Service 8:30am

November 29  
Advent Wreath Making Event  
Christmas Trees arrive  
Gary Gress Piano Recital 4:00pm