

Growing In Our Prayer Life Together

By Pastor Beverly Berry

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.

Our Lord Jesus is our model for continual prayer. As Christians, we're called to pray without ceasing. As part of the body of Christ at Good Samaritan, we have many opportunities to grow in our prayer life together.

One such recent opportunity was the "listening prayer" workshop led by the Rev. Dr. Valentine Inglis-Jones, who visited us this summer. Val led us through an exercise designed to help us understand that God **does** communicate with us. This workshop was a powerful experience for the more than 30 folks who attended.



The *Book of Common Prayer* defines Christian prayer as, "response to God the Father, through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit" (page 856). Notice that we are in the position of *responding to God*—He initiates everything. For our workshop, Val encouraged us to sit in groups of 4 people whom we didn't know very well. Then we prayed, *silently, for 10 – 15 minutes*, in turn for each of the 4 persons, writing down any images, words, or Bible verses God gave us about the person for whom we were praying.

We were responding to God's presence in our daily lives. We didn't start by asking the person about his or her prayer needs—we simply came into God's presence in humility and with the expectation that He would speak to us. The results were encouraging, because God revealed common themes as we listened. Even people who were initially uncomfortable with so much silence decided to participate, and they were blessed. We're exploring how to provide more ways to help us grow in our prayer life together.

At the start of our fall season, it's always good to remind ourselves of ways to be involved in prayer ministry and to ask for prayer at the Church of the Good Samaritan:

- The *Daughters of the King* is a religious order for women that focuses on prayer and evangelism. If you fill out a *blue prayer request card* (found in the pews), the Daughters will pray for your request for one month.

- For long-term prayer needs, you may ask to be placed on the *soaking prayer list* by contacting Barbara Connett or Pastor Beverly.

- For prayer needs during September – May, you may ask to be placed on the *daily prayer chain* by contacting the person designated for that month.

- A *weekly e-mail prayer chain* is sent out by Mary Ann McClarnon, who may be contacted at

mcclmak133@hotmail.com.

- You may also request *an appointment* with one of our prayer teams for more intense prayer, join in *prayers with the Vestry* in the Chapel on the 4th Monday, beginning at 7:00pm, or in the *evening prayer service* on Sunday.

- Trained prayer intercessors* are available during communion at our Sunday services and we pray for one another during the prayers of the people. The bulletin has the names of those who've requested prayers for healing and we encourage you to take this list home to use during your personal prayers. We're going to pray aloud for those persons who were added to our sick list during the week, to highlight their need.

Let us renew our commitment to faithful and intentional prayer for one another at Good Samaritan in the season ahead. If you have any questions about prayer opportunities or would like to talk about becoming involved, please contact Pastor Beverly at Beverly@good-samaritan.org or at 610 644-4040 x 213.

Vestry Corner

On Monday, September 14th, following Evening Prayer in the Chapel, the vestry met for its regular monthly business meeting. Father Todd opened the meeting with prayer, called the meeting to order and the vestry worked through a packed agenda.

Among the regular updates, Bob Anewalt, Financial Warden, reported that the overall state of the parish's finances continue to be healthy. Year-to-date, we remain slightly ahead of our budgeted projections and look to the fall to continue the positive trends. Fr Todd reported on the memorial service for Fr Dan Sullivan who faithfully served as rector at Good Sam for 25 years. Todd went on to discuss the announcement of Chris Garven's resignation, which was announced last week. While it's still early, Fr Todd assured the vestry that work is already underway in developing an interim strategy which will provide a way forward. A letter to the congregation will be forthcoming. The loss of Chris and Debbie Garven and their contribution to our life here at Good Sam will be felt for some time. Finally, Fr Todd also spoke about the plans for the upcoming Parish Forum on September 20th.

Jeff Moretzsohn, Parish Administrator, submitted the final audits of the Church and the Day School for last year and indicated that copies were sent to the diocese as per canons. Additionally he reported that in addition to Tracy Defina, who has been hired as the Asst. Dir. of Parish growth, Bill O'Meara has been hired to serve as the part-time New Chapel Coordinator. These staff additions had been budgeted and are important components of our larger strategy.

The vestry spent a considerable amount of time reviewing, refining and finally unanimously accepting the resolution of the Strategic Vision Committee to adopt the proposed Strategic Vision document. This document, representing the combined effort of vestry, staff and congregational leaders, has been a work in progress for over 1 ½ years and sets our programmatic course for the next 18 months. Publication is underway and copies will be made available at the Parish Forum as well as posted on the Good Sam website. Moving forward, this document will be used as the fundamental guide to our programmatic direction, budget prioritization and staffing requirements. More importantly, this document provides the congregation with a concise snapshot of what we're doing, where we're going and how we're planning on getting there.

Commission Reports from Mark Stockwell highlighted the ongoing work of the Missions Committee, while John Searle provided a report on the upcoming programmatic focus on Evangelism this fall.

For further information feel free to contact the church office if you would like to review official minutes and/or corresponding attachments of vestry meetings.

Respectfully submitted, The Wardens



Episcopal Day School Special Events

“Twice Is Nice” Consignment Sale
Ashton Hall
October 20-October 22
9:00am-1:30pm
and 5:00pm-7:30pm Tuesday

Bring your friends to browse and buy gently-used Fall and Winter children's and maternity clothing, baby equipment, toys, books, bedding, Halloween costumes, snow equipment and snow clothing, boots, mittens, and more!

Consignors from Good Samaritan families are welcome. Pick up a consignor's packet September 23-30 in the Day School office between 9:00am-1:00pm. The cost to consign your items is only \$5.

For more information contact Barb Condit at barbc@good-samaritan.org, 610-644-6181.

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

Come shop at The Episcopal Day School's annual Craft Fair. Enjoy a hot dog and some homemade treats from the Bake Sale while doing some early Christmas shopping.

Discernment Committee Update

by Mac McCausland

The members of the Discernment Committee have worked diligently throughout the summer gathering information for the parish profile in preparation for seeking applicants for rector of Good Samaritan. As we move into the fall season, we are approaching the completion of our self-study process and are providing you with the following highlights:

- More than 200 parishioners including the vestry, staff and clergy have completed the Transforming Church Index (TCI), and as many, if not more, have participated in a Discernment Gathering. We are gratified by the strong interest and level of participation.

- Throughout the next few weeks, there will be several small Discernment Gatherings, as well as one final large gathering, Sunday, September 27 following the New Chapel service.

- We are finalizing plans to include the youth in our information-gathering process. Our hope is that the September 27 meeting will draw the older high school students, as well as the young adult population. Additionally, a Discernment Gathering for youth will take place October 11 during regular core group meeting time. The thoughts of our young people are very important to us, and we are eager to engage them. We are also planning to email the Discernment Gathering worksheet to college students.

- A template for recording the information on the Discernment Gathering worksheets has been developed and various members of the Discernment Committee are collating these worksheets. The results, both in graph form and as raw data, will be made available to the vestry, and eventually to the parish.

Once our self-study is complete, the Parish Profile will be completed and will incorporate data from the TCI survey and the Discernment Gatherings as well as our rich parish history of being a “lighthouse for Christ.” Our hope is to have the profile completed in early November for presentation to the vestry for review. After approval by the vestry, the parish profile will be published and used as a tool to recruit a rector.

We are currently discussing our process for soliciting applicants, screening applications and interviewing candidates.

The Discernment Committee maintains a dedicated email (goodsamdcinfo@gmail.com) that is checked each day, as well as the snail-mail box for the Discernment Committee in the parish office. We encourage anyone who has any questions, comments, or suggestions, to email us at that address, or drop off your comments in our mailbox in the office.

We thank everyone for their continued prayers during this process of seeking a new leader for our parish. May we ever keep our eyes on Him, who knows the plans He has for us, plans for a hope and a future.

In faithful service to Christ,

The Discernment Committee

September Membership Statistics

Deaths:

Rev. Daniel K. Sullivan on 9/3/09

Charles Willmore on 9/16/09

Frances Hanscom on 9/16/09

Relocations:

Matthew & Jennifer Smith and family to TX

Fred & Sue Hopewell to Florence, SC

The Rev. Ron and Nicky Irene: Moving to Paraguay to serve as Missionaries

Ronald Irene and Nicola Venables Irene who, along with their children Natasha, Tamara and Danny have been supported by Good Samaritan through our partnership with Bolivia, will be moving to Paraguay to begin serving two churches in Asuncion, the capital city. The Irene family visited Good Sam in 2007 and Ron was with us just this past June. You may have seen him working with us at Fair Days or preaching at one of our Sunday services.

During their time at Cristo Salvador (Christ the Savior) in La Paz, Bolivia, Ron and Nicky ministered to a congregation of primarily young families which, Praise God, doubled in size during the four years of Ron’s leadership! When asking Ron to reflect on his ministry to the people of Cristo Salvador and the call to a new ministry in Paraguay he said; “Our congregation has come to understand that we must be active Christians and that all of us have responsibilities towards God and others. The Holy Spirit has anointed us with the necessary gifts and thanks to this clear understanding we are leaving a healthy, active church. God has called us to use those same skills to help develop new leaders in Paraguay.”

The Anglican Church in Paraguay has had a very stable leadership structure for a number of years, but without new leaders being raised up. Now there is a tremendous gap between the leaders who are about to retire and youth under the age of 25 who are just beginning to develop leadership. The Irene’s call to Paraguay is to raise leaders, helping to identify gifts in each member of the body and encourage them to use their gifts for the benefit of others and for everyone’s blessing.

The Rt. Rev. Peter Bartlett, who was called to serve as Bishop of Paraguay has asked the Irene’s to pastor two churches. One started five years ago and is focused on youth. The other is also called Cristo Salvador (like the church in La Paz!) and they will be starting this church from scratch. The reality is, however, that the church in Paraguay has no resources or funds to pay the salary of a pastor, much less a family of five.



The Irene Family, from left: Ron, Danny, Nicky, Tamara & Natasha

The Missions Committee of the Church of the Good Samaritan voted to extend support to the Irene’s as they pursue their call to serve God and His church in Paraguay. It should be noted the decision of the Missions Committee does not, at present, include any financial support.

In light of Good Samaritan’s long association with Ron and Nicky and in response to a number of parishioners who have asked “How can we help”, the Bolivia Committee respectfully suggests first and foremost, you can pray! As you know, prayer sustains mission! Secondly if you would like to provide financial support, funds are being solicited and will be directed through the *South American Missionary Society*. If you are interested in further information feel free to contact the Parish Administrator, Jeff Moretzsohn at jeff@good-samaritan.org or (610-644-4040 x219).



Missions Concert of Prayer

Please join us for the first missions concert of prayer this year! On Wednesday, October 14, we will meet in Room 263 for refreshments and fellowship at 7:15pm, and worship and prayer from 7:30-8:30pm. Life groups and anyone interested in prayer for God’s kingdom are encouraged to come and take part in the Great Commission.

Notes from the Parish Administrator

Building up the Body and Moving Forward in Mission...

These words, while a growing part of our lexicon for the past year or so, have been until now little more than a tag line to a Strategic Vision Plan that seemed stuck in the twilight zone between “pending” and “a work in progress.”

I am deeply grateful for the diligence, hard work and faithfulness of all those who labored for so long in the fields of *where have we been... where are we now... where are we going!!!* Particularly, I am profoundly appreciative of the work of the Strategic Vision Committee who were charged by the vestry to do most of the tilling and weeding.

In a world of uncertainty surrounded by the many voices of diversion it is a good thing to have a plan of action which represents the collective prayerful hopes and dreams of the vestry, staff and congregational leaders. The identified goals and the corresponding programmatic initiatives provide a road map on which to navigate our congregational life together. It should be noted that because of the current “season of transition”, the specific action plans are focused on our programmatic initiatives over the next 18 months. More importantly, we believe that this plan will provide a solid foundation on which to continue to build into the future.

Finally, in this Strategic Plan, we have a document which provides a framework from which programmatic priorities can be identified and specific initiatives undertaken while at the same time providing a baseline for funding and staffing requirements. As the cornerstone of our upcoming pledge drive this fall, this Strategic Plan gives the entire congregation a more complete understanding of what we, as stewards will be asked to support with or time talent and treasure.

The success of this or any Strategic Plan requires commitment and sacrifice from all of us. More importantly, we must be grounded in prayer and continue to seek His face and do His will. My hope and prayer is that we, as the Church of the Good Samaritan, will continue to walk together in this journey.

Faithfully,

Jeff Moretzsohn

Win, win, win, win, win, win....

by Robin Smith

The first two weeks of the fall Furniture Sale at the Rectory got off to a good start. People who wanted to un-acquire furniture were relieved of the labor and cost of having to hire someone to do the job. Tad is deliriously happy to have so much good furniture to pick up for sale. People find real bargains on great used furniture (some in such excellent condition you'd swear it had just come from the manufacturer except of course for the price), and they get to hear about some of the good things the church is doing! The budgets of Missions and Outreach are boosted; 100% of the proceeds go into those accounts. And the opportunity to serve by working at the Furniture Sale matches some people's skill sets.

Of special note, in inventory right now is an elegant formal French Dining Set, classic and modern, six chairs, china showcase and serving buffet. There is a magnificent Bombe chest, 7.5 feet tall in a deep brown with beautiful brasses. Not to be overlooked is a Civil War period Secretary (oops, sold) with original glass in the doors and original brasses. Or if you need to get organized, there are a dozen chests of drawers in a variety of styles. The prices on the couches are still coming down.

Thank you for donating, thank you for buying, thank you for sending your neighbors, thank you for being interested.

The Furniture Sale at the Rectory is open Thursdays 1:00pm-7:00pm and Saturdays 10:00am-1:00pm.

Office Receptionists

Volunteers are needed at the Receptionist Desk between 8:30am-12:30pm & 12:30pm-4:30pm to answer the phone, help ready mailings and bulletins and greet visitors. We offer very pleasant working conditions and a much sought after personal invitation to the Annual Volunteer Luncheon held in November.

If you are interested, please contact:

Esther Walker

esther@good-samaritan.org, 610-644-4040 x208

or

Jeff Moretzsohn

jeff@good-samaritan.org, 610-644-4040 x219



Alpha is Coming!

Alpha will be at Good Sam beginning Sunday evening, September 27 and will run through December 6. The course meets weekly with a weekend away from November 6-7. The emphasis is upon exploration of the Christian faith and discovery in a relaxed and informal environment. The course consists of a series of talks addressing key issues related to the Christian faith:

- Who is Jesus?
- Why did Jesus die?
- How can we have faith?
- Why and how do I pray?
- Why and how should I read the Bible?
- How does God guide us?
- How can I resist evil?
- Why and how should we tell others?
- Does God heal today?
- What about the Church?
- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- What does the Holy Spirit do?
- How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?
- How can I make the most of the rest of my life?



In addition to inviting others to attend (along with ourselves!), let's make this a memorable and life-changing experience for those with questions and doubts about the wonderful faith that we share. Please continue to pray that God leads "the last and the least" to attend so that we may share in the most important journey of their lives.

For questions, please contact Fr. John Yates, Betsy Wolford or Tracy Defina in the church office.

Good Samaritan's 2009 Men's Retreat Friday, October 16 - Sunday, October 18



ON CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP:

Why being a Christian Disciple is more like following Peter than Jesus

Led by Dr. Jonathan Yonan
Assistant Professor, Templeton Honors College
at Eastern University
Contact George Scheffey for a brochure:
mensministry@good-samaritan.org

How do I say thank you to 250 parishioners (or there about) singing Happy Birthday, accompanied by the organ? It was such fun and a great way to start my next decade. It makes me wonder... can I turn 80 again next year? ~Dorothy Jessup

Welcoming Newcomers This Fall

by Tracy Defina

Fall is a great time for new beginnings and fresh starts, which often brings many newcomers to our church. In addition, we are hosting the Alpha Course this fall and look forward to many visitors. Following are opportunities that you can share with newcomers to help get them connected and meet their needs for more information.

Alpha - an opportunity to explore the Christian faith: begins Sunday, September 27, 6:00 pm in Ashton Hall.

Connecting Coffee with the Clergy: Life at Good Samaritan: Room 223, 10:30am, Sunday, October 4, Sunday, October 25 and Sunday, November 22.

Fall Welcoming Dinner hosted by Stephen Ministry at the Linden's home: Saturday, October 3, 5:30pm.

For more information contact Tracy Defina, Assistant Director of Parish Growth at 610-644-4040 x212 or tracy@good-samaritan.org.

September 17, 2009



**16th Annual Golf Classic,
Dinner & Auction
October 5, 2009
Waynesborough Country Club &
Rolling Green Golf Club**

Save the date for this year's CityTeam Ministries Golf Classic! This year's Golf Classic will be held at two exquisite locations, Waynesborough Country Club & Rolling Green Golf Club.

This event is CityTeam's largest fundraiser and helps provide over 80,000 nutritious meals for the less fortunate in the Philadelphia area. Tournament sponsors will help feed the hungry, care for the homeless, help men escape the vice-grip of addiction and restore HOPE to those in poverty.

For more information and to register online please visit CityTeam's Golf Classic event page at www.cityteam.org/philadelphia.

You may also contact Macaira Koch with questions at mkoch@cityteam.org or at 610-872-6865.

New Young Families Home Group for couples and their children will meet the 1st and 3rd Sundays from 5:00-7:00pm. Contact John and Kathy Templeton (610-647-6416) or Tracy Defina (610-644-4040 x212).

Babysitter Needed

Moms In Christ Bible study is seeking a qualified babysitter to help care for infants and toddlers during their Thursday morning study at Good Samaritan. The hours are 9:15am-11:45am every Thursday. The position pays \$12 per hour. If you are interested, please contact Pam Bennett at bennett_1988@hotmail.com or 610-952-7082.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is with sadness that I inform you that Chris Garven, our Director of Music, has accepted a call to St. Peter's Anglican Church in Tallahassee, Florida. I learned of his decision this past week, and I have spoken about it with both the vestry and the choir.

Chris and his family have been with us for eight years, and they have come to be loved and respected as a part of our community. For Chris, St. Peter's represents an opportunity to continue to grow as a music leader, and to contribute to the life of another congregation within the Anglican tradition here in the United States.

Chris will remain on the staff through Christmas of this year, though he and Deb will have their hands full with the impending delivery of twins this November. I have begun the process of putting together an interim strategy that will allow us to continue to invest creatively in our music ministry. Obviously we also find ourselves in a transition period in the congregation as a whole, and a new rector will very much want the opportunity to select their own Director of Music. In that light, we will do our best to provide excellent musical leadership over the short term in such a way that will allow that freedom to our new rector.

In closing, let me say that Chris has become a good friend and valuable colleague over these years. I will not soon forget the look of his orange, spiked hair as he played the organ so expertly. Yet we are in a period of transition, and that means that both things and people will change. I have been reminded that at the heart of the spiritual life is the calling to say good-bye well. So we will do that with the Garven family, knowing we have been blessed by them, that we wish them well, and that God has prepared for us all a very bright future indeed.

Peace,

The Rev. Dr. Todd Cederberg
Priest-in-Charge



he Church of the Good Samaritan

212 West Lancaster Avenue, Paoli, Pennsylvania 19301

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Fall 2009 Events Calendar

October 3
Paoli Blues Festival
Welcoming Dinner

October 4
Connecting Coffee with the Clergy

October 5-9
Episcopal Day School Book Sale

October 7
Episcopal Day School Open House

October 14
Concert of Prayer

October 16-18
Men's Retreat
Middle School Breakaway Retreat

October 18
High School Coffeehouse

October 20-22
Twice is Nice Consignment Sale

October 25
Connecting Coffee with the Clergy

October 26
Prayer with the Vestry

October 27
Women's Book Discussion Group

November 1
All Saints Party
Gospel Banquet Concert

November 4
Episcopal Day School Craft Sale