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Associate Pastor
The Rev. Shelly Fayette

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Kelly Nolen

Junior Warden
Jim Green

Children's Ministries Leader
Kara Uhrich

Youth Ministries Leader
Elizabeth Sloan

**Director of
Good Shepherd Montessori**
Marcella Rush

Music Ministries Leader
Mikkel Iverson

**Stewardship Ministries
Leader**
Greg Rhodes

Outreach Worker
Barbara LeRoy

Faith Community Nurse
Helen Lehner

Administrative Leader
Anne Brown

The Good News

October 20th, 2011 -- Vol. 2011, Issue No. 18

WOMEN'S 2011 FALL RETREAT

LIFE, WHOLE AND UNDIVIDED



**Friday, November 11, 5:30 pm to
Sunday, November 13, 12:00 pm**

**Shalom Prayer Center,
840 S. Main St., Mt. Angel, OR**

Cost: \$135.00 - includes private room & meals
partial scholarships available; contact Rev. Shelly

Facilitated by: The Rev. Grethe Barber, Anne Vitort & The Rev. Shelly Fayette

SIGN-UP SHEETS IN CHURCH ENTRYWAY

*A nourishing and restful retreat for women, where we will spend time
with others and with ourselves, in contemplation and in laughter.*

Invite a Friend to Church !

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THIS IS YOUR COMMUNITY

We invite you to share events and news of interest with the Good Shepherd community. See the back of this newsletter for due dates and contact information.

SERMONS ONLINE - Were you unable to come to church on Sunday? Sermons are available to listen to at www.goodshepherdvancouver.org. Click "sermons" on the top toolbar.

"We are people of God, committed to acting in love, seeking and serving Christ in the world, one another and ourselves."

Good Shepherd Activities

Oct. 25: Book Party with Richard Rohr at Trinity, Portland
 Oct. 27: Book Club at Stavigs'
 Oct. 28-29: Middle School Overnighter
 Oct. 30: Commitment Sunday
 Oct. 30: Sunday Night at the Movies
 Nov. 4: Locks re-keyed
 Nov. 4: Rahab Sisters Orientation at Sts. Peter & Paul Church
 Nov. 5: Harvest Dinner
 Nov. 6: All Saints Sunday
 Nov. 6: Plastics Recycling Sunday
 Nov. 6: Our Common Spiritual Life session
 Nov. 6: God Pub at McMenamins
 Nov. 7: G.R.E.A.T. Group potluck
 Nov. 10-13: High School Youth Retreat
 Nov. 11-13: Fall Women's Retreat
 Nov. 13: Veterans' Sunday
 Nov. 13: LA Group Lunch at Applewood
 Nov. 13: Safeguarding God's Children Training
 Nov. 13: Our Common Spiritual Life session
 Nov. 13: Sunday Night at the Movies
 Nov. 13: Children's Pageant sign-up deadline
 Nov. 14: Wreath & Poinsettia Orders due
 Nov. 18: Thanksgiving Basket Donations Due
 Nov. 18-30: JYC at St. Paul's, Bremerton
 Nov. 19: Thanksgiving Baskets assembled
 Nov. 19: Acolytes make Giving Tree ornaments
 Nov. 20: Thanksgiving Sunday
 Nov. 20: Advent Party

HAVE YOU VISITED THE WEBSITE LATELY?

www.goodshepherdvancouver.org

RECEIVE YOUR GOOD NEWS BY EMAIL!

Send your email address to:

goodnews@goodshepherdvancouver.org

PLEASE REMEMBER! Our newsletter is posted online. For articles requiring contact information, please be aware this information may be viewed by anyone accessing the Good Shepherd website. For privacy concerns or other options, please contact us at goodnews@goodshepherdvancouver.org.

NEWS OF THE G.R.E.A.T. GROUP



The G.R.E.A.T. Group will meet in the Parish Hall for potluck and a program at 12 noon on Monday, November 7. The speaker will be Christy Hammrich, Director of Development for the Episcopal Retirement Community Foundation. The subject of her talk is "The Heart of Senior Living" in which she will tell us about services available to seniors of the Diocese of Olympia. There are two retirement communities, one in Bremerton and one in Port Angeles. She is making a special trip from Bremerton to present this program to us and will be returning home the same day, so let's all support her. Invite a friend to hear her, and bring a dish to share. Questions? Call Betty Yingling at 256-2956.

L.A. GROUP NEWS

Living Alone and Laughing A Lot Group luncheon on 13 November. Are you living alone and looking for a group to dine with once a month, as well as share in interesting activities/concerts/ trips, etc.? Please think about joining us on the 13th of November for our monthly luncheon/meeting. We will meet at Applewood Restaurant (2005 SE 192nd Avenue) at 1 pm. Questions? Call Carolyn Berkey (254-7985) or Nancy Fritz (571-5028).

HALLOWEEN HOE-DOWN

St. Luke's Episcopal Church invites you to a Halloween Hoe-Down on Friday, Oct. 28, 7:30 - 10:30 PM. Cost is \$5 / Person, kids under 10 are free.



Featuring: Western Swing Dance Lesson with Drew & Chel; Portland's Premier honky-tonk band Lisa & Her Kin; and special guests, teen band TwoStep. **Costumes are welcome!** Snacks and non-alcoholic beverages will be for sale. St. Luke's ~ San Lucas is located at 426 E. 4th Plain Blvd Vancouver. For more information, call 696-0181.

ACOLYTE ALERT

The "Christmas Giving Tree" ornament-making party will be held on Saturday, November 19, from 2:00-4:00pm in the Youth Building. This is an annual acolyte tradition in which acolytes contribute their talent and time to support those less fortunate in the community. PIZZA, TREATS, MOVIE. FELLOWSHIP. Come be a part of this "giving" event.



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 6

Prayers for loved ones who have died is an important part of our All Saints celebration. If you would like the names of your loved ones who have died in the past year printed in the All Saints bulletin on November 6, please contact the church office at 360-892-7770 or office@goodshepherdvancouver.org

GOOD SHEPHERD BOOK CLUB

The meeting for October will be at Deb Stavig's house on Thursday, Oct. 27 at 10:00am.

We will begin with a book discussion of the books currently being read and end with a potluck lunch. Please contact Deb by email or phone for more information and to RSVP: 891-7161 or deb.stavig@gmail.com.



THANKSGIVING BASKETS

School has started and Halloween is coming soon. That means it's time to think about Thanksgiving Baskets for those less fortunate who may not be able to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal. A list will be posted in the Parish Hall of items needed for the Thanksgiving Baskets. They will be assembled on Nov. 19.

The need is great; last year Good Shepherd provided baskets for 45 families, this year we anticipate helping 60 families. Your donations will be needed by November 18th. Please help our neighbors who may be less fortunate and unable to afford a Thanksgiving meal.





CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sign-up and Rehearsal Dates

The children of Good Shepherd will present the Christmas Pageant on Sunday, Dec. 18, during the Family Christmas Program, which begins at 4 PM.

Children ages four through the sixth grade are invited to be a part of this special presentation. Please complete a sign-up form for each child interested in participating. Forms can be found on the table in the narthex (front entry of church), from your child's chapel leader, or Sunday school teacher. **It is very important to return the forms to the box on the table by Sunday, November 13th in order to assign roles to the children.** If you have any questions please call Kara Uhrich at church 892-7770 or email: karau@goodshepherdvancouver.org
Rehearsals are as follows:

Saturday, December 3	9:00 – 10:30 AM
Costumes handed out	
Saturday, December 10	9:00 – 10:30 AM
Saturday, December 17	9:00 – 11:00 AM
Dress Rehearsal	

PLEDGE STATEMENTS AVAILABLE

Third quarter pledge statements have been printed and are available in the church entryway. If you don't find yours, please let the church office know at 360-892-7770 or office@goodshepherdvancouver.org.



PLASTICS RECYCLING NOVEMBER 6

Waste Connections has just informed its users that small plastic tops and lids of bottles are too little to be recyclable. Therefore you can throw them straight into the trash.

Our next Good Shepherd recycling day will be Nov. 6. We thank you all in advance for taking the time to recycle your plastic bags, clamshells, and lids for tubs, such as butter or margarine containers. A complete list of acceptable items is available on the table in the church entryway.

Our Common Spiritual Life - The Conversation Continues!

Home gatherings to talk about how we experience 5 core elements of our spiritual life together – connection, formation, fellowship, service, and worship – were held during the past two weeks.

Next, please join us in the parish hall during Adult Education time (10:15-11:05) starting October 23 to talk about each of these elements in depth. Come hear what was shared during the home gatherings, and share your thoughts on how we can best experience each of these on Sundays and beyond.

The schedule is: October 23 – Connection
October 30 – Service
November 6 – Fellowship
November 13 – Formation
November 20 – Worship

Additional sessions will be offered from 3-4:30 on November 6 and 13 so that those who cannot attend during Adult Education time can participate.

Information gathered during these sessions will be used to shape several new approaches to Sunday morning at Good Shepherd. As we begin the New Year, these will be tried during Epiphany, the season of surprise. Come share your thoughts!

THANK YOU!

The response to the Back to School Supply Drive was incredible. THANK YOU so much for your generosity. The schools were very grateful. We gave donations to Ellsworth Elementary School, Burnt Bridge Creek Elementary School, Marrion Elementary School, Cascade Middle School and Pacific Middle School.

Thank you to April Earl, Libby Jensen, Coy Stevenson and Barbara Le Roy for their help in sorting all the supplies.

~Sarah Sherington

FALL FAITH FORMATION!

Good Shepherd is hopping this fall with opportunities to learn and grow. Please join us!

Adult Education Class



Adult Faith Formation on Sunday Mornings takes place from 10:10 – 10:50 in the parish hall. From October 23 – November 20, the Vestry will be leading a course about our common spiritual life. Beginning on November 27, and continuing throughout Advent, Rev. Shelly will be offering a course about the Gospel of Mark.

Thursday Night Light is our education and fellowship evening for adults. Evenings begin with a 5:30 Eucharist, continue with a light supper, and then on to breakout classes. Fall term concludes November 10. Come for one part of the evening or all of them! *Child-care is provided for this event. You must reserve childcare each week by signing up in the entryway or by calling the church office by the Tuesday prior to each class.*



Fall Women's Retreat will be a nourishing and gentle retreat, a time to connect with other women at Good Shepherd and to offer yourself some much needed rest and healing. It will be held Nov. 11-13 on the holy ground of Shalom Prayer Center in Mt. Angel, OR. Cost is \$135, room and meals included. Partial scholarships are available: please contact Rev. Shelly about scholarships.

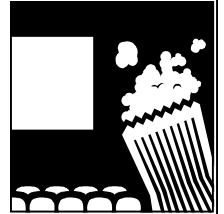
God Pub is an informal time of conversation, sharing, questions, and laughter. No dogma, no drama – God Pub is for everyone, believers and skeptics alike. God Pub runs the first Sunday of each month (November 6, December 4...) from 7 pm – 9 pm at the East Vancouver McMEnamin's on 162nd.



SAINTS AND SINNERS OF THE SILVER SCREEN

For older teens and adults

Youth Building



This Fall we will be changing our meeting dates to the 2nd, 4th, & if available, 5th **Sundays of the month**. Starting at 7:00 p.m., we will view a series of films focusing on community and family.

What is the good community? ...the good family?

These basic questions will be at the center stage for our viewing and discussion.

- November 13**, In Denmark, Christianity can become a bit say, heavy. *Babette's Feast*, taken from an Isak Dinesen story, attempts to lighten a leaden contentious community through the oldest of all shared group rituals, a meal together.
- November 27**, we will watch *Ordet*, made by the great Danish director Carl Dryer. This film is about conflicting faith claims, family rivalry, and the power of love. Completely unique and disquieting, it evidences God's radical awesome grace.
- December 11**, as an early Christmas celebration will we watch the first part of Ingmar Bergman's *Fanny and Alexander*, the story of a young boy and girl, experiencing the wonder and joy of their extended family's festive and lusty celebration of life and theater. Plus we'll watch a clip or two from *A Christmas Story*.

Join us in January to continue the saga of *Fanny and Alexander*, and continue our adventure together into community.

GOOD SHEPHERD COOKS

CALLING FOR RECIPES. We are looking for the recipe to re-create flavors from your youth or from your favorite pot-luck dinner, but we can't create that great parish cookbook without all of you contributing that great recipe!

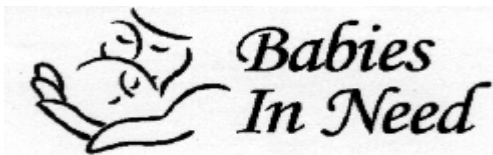
Do you have a favorite recipe you'd like to see included? Please fill out one of the recipe forms found



in the Narthex, or now we have an online form that is easy to fill in – just email Libby Jensen at elibbybeth@gmail.com or Janice Crumbaker at crummybaker@comcast.net and we will send you the quick link,

or check the website for the link. You can also phone Libby at 360-896-8433.

We will accept recipes in all forms – photocopies, scans, emails or recipe cards. We are also wanting to include low fat, diabetic, low carb or gluten free variations on traditional recipes, so anyone who has a great variation, we welcome your contribution!



BABIES IN NEED BARN RAISING

Babies In Need has outgrown its space at All Saints. We've obtained designs, approvals, permits and funding for a new 20'x38' storage building. We now have a foundation and construction schedule for volunteers at 8:00 am on Saturdays in Oct. and Nov.

Can you join us? All you need is a few tools, various skills or the willing hands and heart of a "gofer." (Please see Construction Schedule the table in the narthex.) Your support, donations and prayers have helped provide over 3000 layettes, 1500 car seats, and 570 Sibling Bags to needy families during the last 12 years. Thank you! Kitty Ash, Director, 360-901-7474, KittyAsh2@msn.com

YOUTH VISIONING TEAM UPDATE

Our youth (6th through 12th graders) are an integral part of our church family. Since June, a team has been meeting to consider the possibilities for future youth ministry at Good Shepherd. This team has been asked by the vestry to gather information from inside and outside our church community and recommend a vision of ministry that will continue to meet the ever-changing needs of our youth and their families. Participants have included Mason Mendenhall, Steve Curtland, Jennifer Thoreson, Dani Billings, Sherri Iverson, Laurie Evans, Kathleen McLaughlin, Kelly Nolen, Elizabeth Sloan, and Todd Spike. We have visited or talked with the leaders of other youth groups, as well as Young Life, and learned from their experiences.

The input of youth and their families is critical to this effort. For the past 6 weeks, youth have had the chance to complete a brief survey via Survey Monkey. Thank you to all who took the time to respond, and congratulations to Mikayla Mayhew, who won an I-tunes gift card for participating.

Now it is the parents' turn! An email has gone out to families with youth from 6th to 12th grades with a link to a new survey designed for parents. Take a few minutes to respond, and you will be entered into a drawing to win a \$25 Target gift card. So watch your inboxes, and thank you in advance for your help! If you did not receive the email, please contact Kelly Nolen at goowls1@comcast.net, or 573-6967. A link to the survey will also be on the Good Shepherd website.

LOCKS TO BE RE-KEYED NOVEMBER 4



In order to ensure that our buildings and the people who use them are kept safe and secure, we will be re-keying the locks on all the doors at the Church of the Good Shepherd on November 4. At that time, our current keys will no longer work.

If you or anyone in your ministry requires a key to access spaces that would otherwise be locked, please let the church office know ASAP at 360-892-7770 or office@goodshepherdvancouver.org.



The logo features the word "Youth" in a yellow, textured font on the left, a central black oval containing the words "Good Shepherd" in white script with "youth ministry" in smaller text below it, and the word "News" in a yellow, textured font on the right.

Youth Group

October 26: Movie Discussion 6:30-8:30pm

High School- True Grit

Middle School- Kung Fu Panda II

November 2: First Wednesday 6:30-8:30pm. Join us for dinner and Faith Lens discussion in small groups

November 9: Volunteer at WHO shelter

November 16: Faith Lens. High School and Middle School Small Group discussion

The Justice Conference : Justice Hangs By A Thread. The work of justice is to mend the holes injustice inflicts upon the garment. It is a brave, challenging, courageous work and it does not begin with expertise or duty. It begins with love... and love is a thread. You are invited to come weave your voice and gifts into the conversation. Join us, and discover that in the garment of justice, your love is an irreplaceable thread. February 24–25 2012, Portland Oregon

Young People, does getting involved in the conversation interest you?. Student pricing and scholarships available! Please let Elizabeth Sloan know if this is something you would like to attend by November 9th 360-892-7770 or email:

youth@goodshepherdvancouver.org

ADVENT PARTY

**Sunday, Nov. 20 - Open House Format,
3:00 – 5:30 PM in the Parish Hall**

Advent is the season before Christmas, and we in the church use this time to remind ourselves to prepare our hearts. Spending time with Scripture and prayer helps prepare our hearts to receive the love that God has offered us with the gift of Jesus. Decorating our homes inside and out tells all who visit that we are awaiting the Light of the World, the Christ Child.

The Good Shepherd Advent Party is a wonderful way for people of all ages to come together and begin these preparations. Advent Wreath materials are provided to make a wreath complete with candles that help count-down the four Sundays in the Advent season. There will also be other seasonal craft supplies available for every age and ability. A small, free-will offering will be accepted to help cover the cost of the Advent candles.

Appetizers and beverages will be provided. Please let us know if you'll be joining us by placing your name on the sign-up sheet found in the front entry of the church.

To volunteer with this event, or to have your questions answered, please contact:
Kara Uhrich, Children's Ministries Leader 892-7770
or email karau@goodshepherdvancouver.org

RAHAB'S SISTERS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Rahab's Sisters is a Portland ministry which provides compassionate hospitality and a supportive presence to women working in the sex industry. It is a place where women are welcomed without judgment, just as they are. Good Shepherd women have an inaugural opportunity to volunteer with this amazing organization headed by The Rev. Sara Fischer. Orientation night will be Nov. 4 at 6PM, at Sts. Peter and Paul Episcopal Church (8147 SE Pine St., Portland, OR 97215), which houses this ministry. We will be in orientation for the first hour or so, and then begin serving that night. Please join us! To sign up or ask questions, contact Rev. Shelly at 360-892-7770 or revshellyfayette@gmail.com.

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

We will give thanks this year during the week of Thanksgiving by having special prayers and music during all three services on Sunday, Nov. 20. This special service (in lieu of a Thanksgiving Eve service) will be especially beneficial to those who don't like to drive after dark and/or who are usually heading out of town on Thanksgiving Eve.

We are encouraging **EVERYONE** to bring a canned food item for the food bank that day as a thanksgiving for the blessings you have received and to help alleviate the hungry in Clark County.

SAFEGUARDING GOD'S CHILDREN TRAINING SESSION

**Sunday, November 13, 1:00 – 4:00 PM
Youth Building**

Church of the Good Shepherd is committed to the safety of all God's people. A training session will be offered on the afternoon of November 13th. The following people are required by the Diocese of Olympia and Church of the Good Shepherd's policies to attend a SGC training session:

- Clergy – stipendiary and non-stipendiary
- Vestry Members
- Paid Staff Members of Church of the Good Shepherd and Good Shepherd Montessori Preschool/Kindergarten
- Volunteers who work with or around youth and/or children, or are part of a decision-making group that serves children or youth at Good Shepherd
- Contracted Service Providers

Other parishioners are welcome to attend. Please pre-register by placing your name on the sign-up sheet located on the table in the narthex. If you have any questions please contact Kara, Children's Ministries Leader, at 892-7770 or karau@goodshepherdvancouver.org

WREATH AND POINSETTIA SALE BENEFITS THE MONTESSORI

It is once again time for the annual Montessori Preschool Poinsettia and Wreath sale! The sale of these beautiful plants and fragrant greens has become an annual tradition at the Church of the Good Shepherd. The proceeds of these sales support the scholarship program. Order forms were sent in the mail and are also available in the church entry.

Orders are due at the church by Monday, November 14, 2011. Thank you for your continued support!. Any questions? Contact Trish Owens, 306-977-8439.

ORDER OF ST LUKE HEALING WEEKEND

The Order of St. Luke will once again be hosting the "Heart of Wholeness" healing weekend in February. The dates will be **February 10-12, 2012**. Don't miss this exciting and well attended event!! Be sure to put these dates on your calendar for the new year!! Key-note speaker and workshops to be announced at a later date, stay tuned!

I received this message from a parent of one of our former students. She asked me to share her dear friend's message with you to prevent any such tragedy happening to other children.

Marcella Rush, Good Shepherd Montessori

IF YOUR KIDS ARE YOUNGER THAN SIX, AND YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE STORY TO YOUR HOUSE, GET WINDOW GUARDS FOR YOUR WINDOWS!

Our son fell out his window and suffered a severe traumatic brain injury a year ago. The sad truth is that our sweet son's fall was preventable. I'm writing this because I hope our story will motivate you to safeguard your windows in time to protect your children from our son's fate. I wish someone had reached us with that message before our 3-year old fell through his screen onto concrete fifteen feet below.

I'm certain there are many educated, involved and loving parents out there who don't have child safety window locks, but would install them if they knew the risk compared with the minimal effort and time to put them on. Telling kids to stay away from windows isn't necessarily enough to avoid tragedy. I strongly encourage you to get child safe window **stops or 4-inch window opening limiters** if you don't already have them. Here are three window safety products recommended by the Safety Store located inside the Legacy Emanuel hospital:

- Guardian Angel window guards <http://www.angelguards.com/>
- Kid Co Window Stop <http://www.amazon.com/KidCo-Window-Stop/dp/B003LZU0PG>
- KidCo Mesh Window Guard <http://www.amazon.com/KidCo-KID-S303-Kidco-Window-Guard/dp/B002H0JDPY>

Window guards or child safe window locks can be simple and cheap and they are worth your child's continued well-being. Staff at the Safety Store are passionate and knowledgeable about window safety and more than willing to help. Their number is **503-413-4600**. Also, feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Becca Cunningham 360-828-4676 beccakeen@hotmail.com

THE BACK PAGE



Swearing to God

How many times have you sworn today? I don't mean to ask if you've used any profanities, though they are about as useful as the type of "swear" of which I write. In the Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel according to Saint Matthew, Jesus tells his followers about the emptiness of swearing. *"Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one."* Matthew 5.33-37

Augustine paraphrased Jesus writing, "speak the truth [and] commend it, not with habitual swearing, but with upright conduct." He saw an expectation here that he believed did not require any explanation: people should speak honestly—it should be natural. If honesty were the norm, others would expect to hear the truth instead of lies, thereby removing the necessity of swearing. Jesus probably recognized how much distrust had the power to corrupt relationships between people. This "chicken or egg" scenario about where distrust actually begins is endlessly debatable; do we lack trust because so many are dishonest, or are so many dishonest because we lack trust?

Singer and songwriter Ben Folds wrote in one of my favorite of his songs that, "it seems to me, if you can't trust, you can't be trusted." Because if you don't trust others you are probably more likely to focus more on yourself, or protection than you are on living the way Jesus taught us to. If you are so focused on yourself, others will react to that self-centeredness and do likewise—creating the pattern Jesus was probably aware of when he told his followers to return to a place of simple honesty.

I attended a business and marketing conference in high school, and I remember one seminar where a somewhat successful self-help-for-businesspeople guru told us never to begin a sentence with the phrases "to be honest" or "let me be frank." He said that using those implies that everything else out of your mouth might be a lie. Instead, your conduct in business and professional relationships should be ethical, and your words should be simple and always true. Even though at the time (and even today) I chuckle at the kind of advice he gave us, that tip stuck with me. I think it speaks to a real pattern of distrust present in our professional and personal relationships and perhaps most in the way we interact (or don't) with strangers.

Admittedly, I regret that I have neglected to give a person begging for money my extra change or dollar bill. Sometimes I give, but sometimes I'm just in too much of a hurry to do more than offer a forced and conflicted smile. Sometimes I make a quick judgment that any money would just go toward booze. There are, of course, ways around this. There are ways to make myself feel good again. I drop a five-dollar bill in the offering plate, or give money to a known charity. By doing something like this, I give myself permission to walk by that person who is begging. I often distrust the stranger as I did when I was a child told to do so, and I swear to myself every time that if I should win the lottery or have some sort of opportunity to help people like that beggar, then I will. But swearing is unproductive, even dishonest. Martin Luther wrote about Jesus' point of the antithesis in the sermon: we do not have the power or authority to swear; we do not even have the power to change the color of a single strand of hair from the tops of our heads. None of us are Creator; to implicitly or explicitly claim this authority is (in a way) to deny God. It is dishonest to walk past the beggar and promise God to do something about it when it's more convenient, knowing that I make that promise, and that I swear for my own sake.

The knowledge that I have this inside of me is both imprisoning and freeing: imprisoning because I feel trapped by the fact that I can never do enough to make this world right; and freeing because of what I know about grace. Grace makes even our most regrettable shortcomings acceptable to God. We are relieved from the duty of being God. We are released from the belief that our inability to fix the world condemns us. We are free from the thought that because we didn't give that begging stranger our spare change, we, ironically, are worthless. We're not worthless, but we're not God either, and there *is* something we can do. There is something that we can give freely: trust. Trust is a companion of love. We can let go of cynical thoughts when we pass the begging stranger, and that might lead us to something new. A kind word or some spare change or learning the begging stranger's name won't fix the world, and it certainly shouldn't make those of us who have plenty feel warm and fuzzy, but radical discipleship has to start somewhere. It should start with an action—not with a vague promise sworn to God for the sake of our own personal assurance.

Like profanity, swearing gets us nowhere...that is probably why the two are synonymous.

~Curtis Farr

The Good News

Church of the Good Shepherd
805 SE Ellsworth
Vancouver WA 98664

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How do I get something into the newsletter? It's easy!

- Send it in an email to goodnews@goodshepherdvancouver.org
- Or turn hard copy or disk in at the Parish Hall mailbox marked Newsletter, and call the church office at 892-7770 to let us know its there.
- Please be aware contact information in your article may be viewed by anyone accessing our website. Contact us for concerns and other options.

Thank you,
Cheryl Armstrong and Jennifer Myers-Power, editors

What's Inside

Next Newsletter Deadline:
Sunday, November 6, 2011
Will be mailed: November 10, 2011

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The Good News is published the
1st & 3rd week of the month
during the school year,
and the 2nd week during the
summer months.