

Parish of the Good Shepherd

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Museum or Zoo

In Sunday's sermon, I read a short bit from one of C.S. Lewis's Narnia books. In it, Aslan, the great lion who also is a Christ-figure, accompanied by the children Lucy and Susan, come upon a great stone courtyard inhabited only by marble statues of woodland creatures. These unfortunate beings have been spellbound by the evil White Witch. Aslan breathes on them, one after the other, and they come to life. "The courtyard looked no longer like a museum; it looked more like a zoo. Creatures were running after Aslan and dancing.....and instead of the deadly silence the whole place rang with the sound of happy roarings, brayings, yelpings, barking, squealings, cooings, neighings, stampings, shouts, hurrahs, songs and laughter."

I said in the sermon that the Church is really more like a zoo than a museum, full of living creatures, unpredictable, marvelous, quirky-----a great and diverse assemblage of living beings.

I love zoos but I also love museums. Museums contain the best of past human experience, insight, creativity, and beauty. They tell us just how much our lives are indebted to those who have gone before and they help us be able to see the path ahead.

So I guess the Church is BOTH museum and zoo. Because we are not the first people to experience God, we learn from the lives of others, even though they might have lived thousands of years before us. That's what the Bible is----the record of those who searched for God, found God, loved God, and, miracle of miracles, were loved back.

Being in a museum always makes me want to go to the zoo. Being in a zoo always makes me want to go to a museum. I guess I'm just looking for balance. Churches seek balance, too. We never get it right, of course, but I pray that we never stop trying.

GTW

PARISH NEWS – APRIL 25, 2012

Weekday eucharist: Wednesday, 7:15 a.m.

Easter Joy

Nobody really knows how many people came to the 10 o'clock service on Easter Day. At various times there were people crowded in the back, sitting in the aisles, and standing on the porch. I think it's safe to say that there were more people at this service than have worshipped on a Sunday at Good Shepherd in many decades. Many thanks to all who contributed to this great celebration---the choir, the ushers and their helpers, the altar guild and altar servers, those who arranged the Easter Egg Hunt for the children, and all who made good things to eat for the reception following the service.

After the last Alleluias had rung out, the last Easter Egg discovered, the last lemon square eaten, and the last child drug reluctantly away, I locked up the church and walked across Beacon Street to the rectory. But when I looked back, I would swear Good Shepherd was still glowing.

- GTW

New Orleans

Join us Sunday April 29 for some New Orleans Goodies at coffee hour and a presentation of the Parish of the Good Shepherd High School Youth Group right after. This 2012 February break (Friday, February 19 – Saturday, February 25), the Parish of the Good Shepherd high school youth group and some friends went on a mission trip to New Orleans at Camp Restore. Camp Restore is a volunteer camp in the 9th Ward of New Orleans, LA. There we participated in environmental and community service projects ... as well as seeing New Orleans in high gear at Mardi Gras. Come see the sights at a slide show presentation and hear about our trip, the road traveled and the lessons learned!

Bible study

The Tuesday evening Bible study group meets each week at 7:00 in the Loring room (the reception room down the hall from the church office). **Newcomers are always welcome !** Study guides are on the tract table in the Common room.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

APRIL

29 - The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Good Shepherd Sunday

8:45 AM: Nursery Open

8:45 AM: Level I Atrium

9:45 AM: Level II Atrium

10:00 AM: *3rd-5th grade in Loring Room*

6th-8th grade in Youth Room

MAY

6 - The Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:45 AM: Nursery Open

8:45 AM: Level I Atrium

9:45 AM: Level II Atrium

10:00 AM: *3rd-5th grade in Loring Room*

6th-8th grade in Youth Room

13 - The Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:45 AM: Nursery Open

8:45 AM: Level I Atrium

9:45 AM: Level II Atrium

10:00 AM: *3rd-5th grade in Loring Room*

6th-8th grade in Youth Room

Confirmands honored at Coffee Hour

20 - The Seventh Sunday of Easter

8:45 AM: Nursery Open

8:45 AM: Level I Atrium

9:45 AM: Level II Atrium

10:00 AM: *3rd-5th grade in Loring Room*

6th-8th grade in Youth Room

27 - The Day of Pentecost

8:45 AM: Nursery Open

8:45 AM: Level I Atrium

9:45 AM: Level II Atrium

10:00 AM: *3rd-5th grade in Loring Room*

6th-8th grade in Youth Room

This year's Good Shepherd Confirmands will be honored and acknowledged at Coffee Hour following the ten o'clock service on Sunday, May 13, 2012. Please join us!

Save the Date: Recognition Sunday and Parish Picnic will take place on Sunday, June 10, 2012. All teachers and children in Level I Atrium through 8th grade will be acknowledged during the ten o'clock service; the Annual Parish Picnic follows on the Parish lawn, weather permitting. Please plan to join us!

*Easter blessings,
Mary Ann.*