

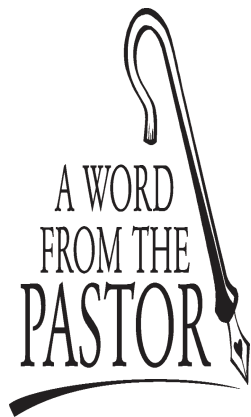
The Staff

The Newsletter of the Lutheran Church
of the Good Shepherd

Our Mission:

To equip God's people for ministry with a vision to share God's Word!

February 2010



“MARCH MADNESS IN FEBRUARY”

It's that time of the year again. Not only is the hot topic already being discussed on sports talk radio and our sports sections of our newspapers, but even people who to this point have had little interest in College basketball are getting on board for the NCAA college basketball championship tournament which crowns the nation's number one college basketball team.

In the church, our March madness begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17th and climaxes with Holy Week which begins with Palm Sunday on March 28th. This is the season which focuses on the suffering and death of Jesus.

What but madness would cause the holy Son of God to willingly suffer shame, torture, and death? The cross is ugly and depressing. It is the symbol of death and loss. The cross reminds people of sin and guilt. It destroys our self-image. The cross reminds us that all isn't right with us as we are by ourselves.

The Law reminds us that we really are in desperate need of repentance and a crucified Savior and that only the death of the King of kings could be the sufficient sacrifice for our sins.

The limp, helpless, bloody body of Jesus hanging on the cross is folly, madness to those who are perishing, but to us who believe it is the “power and the wisdom of God” at work for our salvation.

But Jesus has done this and he's done this for us. What the world considers madness is our salvation.

The season of Lent with its special mid-week services, invites us to once again experience for ourselves the incredible love of God coming for us and on our behalf. Let's use this season to grow in wonder and thankfulness for this unspeakable gift of life that can never be taken away!

Pastor Bill Qualman

Good Shepherd Children's Center

WHAT'S NEW AT SCHOOL



I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays. Mine were wonderful; lots of visiting with friends and family and having extra time at home was nice as

well. It means a lot to me to have time to reconnect with my family. I feel every day we are all off in different directions, and with my boys getting older "family time" isn't what it used to be, so Christmas gave me a wonderful opportunity just to be with them.

The children at GSCC came back from their vacation and actually seemed to settle back into their old routine rather nicely. Sometimes it's difficult for them getting off their sleep schedule and all the excitement of the holidays is enough to send an adult into a bit a tizzy let alone a 3, 4 or 5 year old. I am such a firm believer in that kids need routine and actually thrive on it that it was nice to see them make a smooth transition.

January is a nice month, not only because of my birthday (LOL), but because at GSCC we are busy getting ready for the next school year believe it or not. January 16th from 9 am to 1 pm we had our Open House and we had a nice turn out. Not as many families as last year, but it varies from year to year. In case most of you didn't know, we open up the spaces in the school to currently enrolled families, after they have made their selections, then Open House allows the general public to fill in our remaining spots for students new to the school. From time to time we do hold two Open Houses, and we will be planning another one for the end of February, possibly March, so if you know of anyone who needs a preschool please have them call us at the office to make an appointment for a tour.

*Lorraine Campo, Director
GSCC*



From the Alleys

Submitted by Laurie Burke

Congratulations to Lane Rovers (Bob & Carol Hahl and Steve Weiss Sr) for becoming the 1st half champs. Wayne Krawiec still has high game with his 300 and Carol Hahl has women's high game with a 212. Our second half started Monday January 18th with everyone tied. Check next month to see how the 2nd half is shaping up.

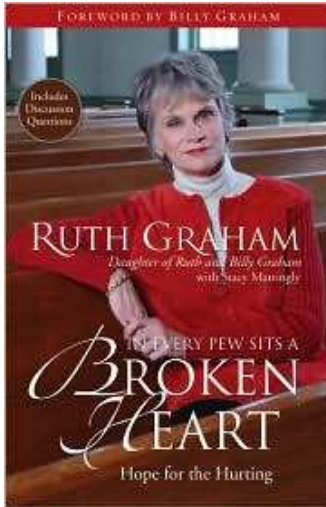
JOIN US FOR THIS BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION

March Book Club

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. in the Church Library

In Every Pew Sits a Broken Heart: Hope for the Hurting, by Ruth Graham



Offers help and hope to those who wonder if they have out-sinned God's grace or if their life circumstances have set them aside from being used by God, with practical help to every believer and church leader who sits side by side each Sunday with the broken and hurting.

Graham's platform as the daughter of beloved evangelist Billy Graham gives her the credentials to spin this competent tale of brokenness. But she offers more than a famous lineage: "I am qualified to write this book because I am flawed," she writes. She shares her struggles parenting three children through out-of-wedlock pregnancies, drug use and bulimia; her battle with depression and flirtation with suicide, and her disappointment over her two divorces. "I know what it's like to sit in the pew with a broken heart," says Graham. It's her vulnerability in the memoir portions that lend credence to the basic application items at the end of the

chapters. Graham finds solace for the brokenhearted through scripture, looking at the lives of Jeremiah, Elijah and other biblical examples. Unlike many inspirational books of this ilk, there's no fairytale ending. Graham admits she is in the midst of a third faltering marriage, but says she's grateful God accepts her as she is - "hurting, wounded, broken." In true Graham fashion, the book concludes with an altar call. Weary Christians disappointed with the way their lives have turned out should find this a heartening read.

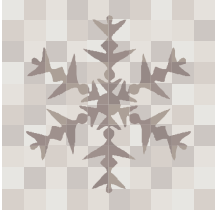
Source: www.barnesandnoble.com

Mark your calendars!
Future Book Club dates:

May 11, 2010
September 21, 2010
November 9, 2010

Is there a Christian book you have read and want to recommend? Each Book Club meeting is led by someone else...recommend a book, and lead a session!

Questions? Contact:
Jamie Toth jamie.marie.toth@gmail.com or Marie Bergfeldt marie@lc-goodshepherd.org



SNOW STORM PROCEDURES

We always try to hold services on Saturday evening and Sunday morning, no matter what the weather. However, once in a while, the weather is extreme, such as when there's a major snow storm like we had the week before Christmas. In such cases, we will endeavor to provide the latest information on the church being open through two channels:

- 1) Call our telephone number **732-679-8883**.
- 2) Check our web site, www.lc-goodshepherd.org.

In both cases, if there's a closing, we'll put up a message saying so.



CHRISTMAS PRESENTS BRING GREAT JOY TO MANY

submitted by: Paulette Hacker, Chairman Mission Committee

Thanks to the generosity of our wonderful congregation, Christmas Day was a day filled with the sounds of laughter and joy as over 130 people as they opened their beautifully wrapped packages to see what wonderful surprises lay inside. You can read the thank you letters we received on the Bulletin Board and see how your thoughtful gifts brought tears of appreciation to the hearts of many moms who thought their children would have no presents under the tree this year. This year we not only helped our neighbors at the Sayreville Group Home, Amandala Crossings, Old Bridge Welfare, but also the teenagers at Irayna Court and many Senior Citizens. We also received very generous contributions to "My Brother's Keeper" which allows Pastor Qualman to help the people in our church family who are going through financial difficulties due to unemployment or illness. May God Bless you for all that you do, not only at Christmas, but throughout the year!



We would like to thank Sing Chung Restaurant in Old Bridge for donating soup containers to the Sub Shop. Without question they were willing to supply us with materials. Our greatest thanks is patronizing their establishment.

**Sing Chung Restaurant, 3147 Route 9, Old Bridge, NJ
Tel: (732) 679-2828**



LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Submitted by Pat Pryor

Each household has its own routine. We go to work; we help the kids with their homework and attend their events; we make the meals, clean the house, and do the laundry. Our days are full – sometimes too full. So full that time for the Lord is abbreviated or omitted altogether. Then comes Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. It's just what we need to get back on track. We gather together for worship. We hear again about Jesus' ministry, about the events that eventually lead up to His Crucifixion, about His zeal for the Lord's house. We hear His prayer for His disciples and His words of comfort and preparation to them.

Our hearts are turned to Christ instead of toward ourselves. We ask for grace to love and serve as He did, sacrificing self for the good of others. *"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends"* (John 15:13). Paul comments, *"Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:7-8). God loved and chose us, the unlovely, to shed His grace upon. We are reminded that, *"since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another"* (1 John 4:11).

"Love one another." Not just our close friends or those who agree with us, but *"one another."* We can't do it, can we? Some people are just too hard to love. Some people are not deserving of our gifts and our attention. Some people aren't interested in the love we have to offer. The command remains: *"Love one another."*

Now is a good time to read John 15. Here we find the secret of loving and serving. Here we find the source of love, of faith, of everything we need. That source is Jesus. He is the Vine. He sustains and nurtures us, the branches. He enables us to bear fruit, to *"love one another."* He calls those who obey Him His friends and tells us He will give us whatever we ask in His name. So we pray, Lord, let us *"love one another."*



**New Bible
Study Series**

NEW ADULT BIBLE STUDY TO START

February 7th at 9:25 in the church library
**Discipline and your
Tweens/Teens**

A discussion based group based upon God's word and helpful insight from renowned Christian/psychologist/father of 10 - Dr. Ray Guarendi
This bible study will be lead by Faith Caban



MEN'S MINISTRY CHILI COOKING CONTEST Fund Raiser

The Men's Ministry is going to hold a Chili Cook-off as a fund raising activity to finish paying off the expenses of the Narthex Improvements. The Chili Cook-off will be held on Sunday, February 21st after the 10:30 AM service. We will charge adults \$5.00 for a bowl which they can use to go around and taste the various chili dishes. We will give each of them a chili bean which they will use to vote for the winner by putting their bean in the jar which corresponds to the person's chili they like the most.

The following people have volunteered to make a large pot of chili:

- Bob Shipley
- Dan Cinquegrana
- Ken Hullings
- Kevin Hullings
- Tommy Doukas
- Jeff Campbell
- Pat Pryor
- Tom Rutan

We are looking for additional chili-making volunteers – the more, the merrier. You can make any kind of chili you like – hot or mild, meat or vegetarian, beans or no beans, etc. If you have any questions, see either Ken Hullings or Pat Pryor.

LYF – MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

February 13th – The LYF will throw a Valentine's Day Party for children age Kindergarten through 6th grade. This event will be conducted as a babysitting service for parents attending the Marriage Renewal event that evening.

Watch for more details regarding the Spring LYF Stage Production. We are bringing back the LYF Play this spring. Try-outs will be scheduled for February.

Submitted by Beth Meyer

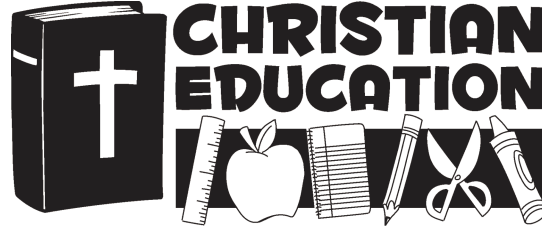
“FAITHBOOK”

By Amber Brown, Coordinator of Christian Education

Ok, so I admit it...I just got sucked into the swirling vortex of nosiness that is called Facebook. I held off for *so long*, convinced that if anyone needed to reach me, they could email me, call me at home, call me on my cell or text me...aren't those enough contact options for Heaven's sake? Apparently not, since I had friends asking...nay, *nagging*, 'you *have* to do Facebook'. Well, it started rather innocently...I just wanted to take a peek and look for a friend...but if you are going to do that you have to sign up. Rather harmless, I thought, but the Facebook industry makes it soooooo easy to join...and set up a profile...and add pictures...and share your interests, thoughts, beliefs, standards.... And so here I am, 48 hours into my Facebook adventure and wondering when the curiosity buzz is going to wear off.

It is quite remarkable to me how I, literally, had 6 friends in high school...but for some reason, now I have 58! How did that happen? How did people all of a sudden become so interested in me, but in high school they weren't? Where did all these people come from? So away I've been chatting and commenting and posting and uploading to this person and that about this thing or that until my hand has a cramp!

I found out that you can 'chat' with someone (those of you who are 'FB' users will know what I am talking about.) I was in the middle of uploading some pictures late the other night and a little tiny box pops up in the bottom right corner of my computer screen with my friend's picture on it and a short little sentence asking how I am...it occurred to me that he was talking to me at that very moment, (what is it called...I.M.-ing?) except I had no clue how to respond! How ridiculous I felt...and all my pride from figuring out how to do an FB profile and upload pictures was dashed as I stared blankly at this little box. Then I noticed a flashing cursor and wondered if that had something to do with how to answer my friend. So I started typing. And nothing happened- that is until I hit the 'enter' button.



Seconds later another message pops up from my friend and now we are 'chatting'. Would you believe that for *three hours* I sat focused at this absurd task?! I can not recall when I spent three hours at a time chatting with the Lord!

Clearly my priorities are misguided!

Then it occurred to me that I don't need to be spending time that I really don't have on the investigations of others on Facebook when I really should be focusing on my own *Faithbook*...time in God's word and His promises. Couldn't my time be better spent investigating God's word instead of the words of others? This is not to say that Facebook is bad...it just is for me...I think. But then I wonder if Facebook could be used as an outreach for God's *Faithbook* and an opportunity to witness to others about the saving grace of Christ. So, here I sit, in the internet conundrum, wondering whether I should go with the flow of millions of World Wide Web users or try to resist the technology that will not stop.

I was never one for technology. I much prefer the simplicity of an unplugged life. Sure, I like my TV shows and have some favorite movies, but I prefer the quietness of a still house (not that *that* ever happens with four kids dashing hither and yon and another one on the way...) and a good book (not that I ever have time to read one-at least one with grown up words!) But ready or not, here technology comes, spiraling towards me like so many tornadoes and I want to duck and hide in the nearest barn...and then I see my Bible. I do not spend time in God's word like I should or as I would desire, but it is always there, waiting for me to discover the timeless truths of God's saving love, power, peace and grace. He lavishes these on me without hesitation, why, then do I hesitate to read, learn, discover, cherish and share these graces with others? There is always work to be done for the Lord and times when I know I could be doing more. The stamina to accomplish these comes from His gifts and His word, all I need to do is search. So what about you? Do you *Faithbook*?



Those Recovering

Pastor Ben Mallepalle
Michael Junco

Those in Nursing Homes

Tom Qualman
Emmy Moore –sister of Katrina Clapsis
Leela Mallepalle

Those who are Shut-in

Marion Morgan
Joan Brenner
Josie Schubert –mother of Mary Artache

Those with Other Needs

Nicole Stacy
Jesse Blajek – son of Judy Yohannan
Margaret Yager – Mother of Barbara Yager
Dawn Nolan – niece of Dave & Marie Bergfeldt
Olivia Rae Vargas – niece of Sue Hawley
Gloria Carias
Ruth Gunderson –mother of Lynn Hughes
Ray Monel –father of Barbara Di Maggio
Jake Johnson –grandson of Pastor &
 Georgeann
Gregory Pryor –brother of Patrick Pryor
Vincent Siclari, Jr. –brother of Ed Siclari
Terry Hayes –mother of Laurie Burke
Eric Brown –son of Amber and Steve
Dylan Brown –grandson of Hatcliffes
Margaret Wrigley –suffering with arthritis
Michael Troutman – son of Child Care
 Teacher

Those Struggling with Cancer

Vinny Campo – husband of Care Center Director
Elaine Bosco, sister of RoseMarie Staudinger
Laurie Burke
Kathy Hogan
Laurie Troutman – daughter of Child Care
 Teacher
Marie Giacomini – mother of Bill Burke
Peggy DeMarco – friend of the Kotora
 Family
Joseph Spinelli – friend of Toni & Pat Pryor
Debbie Pryor – cousin to Toni & Pat Pryor
Kathy Hill – friend of Pryors
Karen Ollivierre, daughter of Barbara Wittig

Those in the Military

George F. Hawley, Jr. – nephew of Sue Hawley
Nelson Junco – nephew of Millie Junco
Patrick Grimes – grandson of Joan Brenner
Jeff Borkowski
Brian Farrell
Rob Farrell
Dustin Brown
Jeff Kotora
Guy Kotora
Brian Borkowski –nephew of the Borkowski's
Fabian Lopez –friend of Russell Domis
Darrin Brown –co-worker of Beth Meyer
David Haczyk –friend of Siclari's
Elizabeth Roslak –friend of Siclari's
Jon Griswold –brother-in-law of Heidi Griswold
Marc Artache –nephew of Julio & Mary Artache
Robert Bracero –nephew of Julio & Mary Artache

Please review the list, and let Marie know if there are any changes. Thank You

For Your Information

Happy Birthday to...

Margaret Wrigley	2/01
Robin Schmitz	2/01
Patty Curro	2/02
Marianne Krawiec	2/06
Blair Fink	2/07
Leslie Green	2/08
Taylor Bliven	2/11
Frans van Riemsdyk	2/12
Grace Wong	2/14
Rebecca Marcinczyk	2/15
Kate Ann Brace	2/15
Carol Sereda	2/17
Cynthia McGrane	2/19
Robert Schmitz	2/20
Nicolas Zolfo	2/20
Nicholas Sloan, Jr.	2/20
David Bergfeldt, Jr.	2/21
Marie Bergfeldt	2/22
Aida Verello	2/23
Leah Svat	2/24
Lori LaFlower	2/24
Samantha Wong	2/27
Colleen Cistone	2/27



Happy Anniversary to.....

Miriam & Juan Nieves	2/20
A.J. & Amy Ford	2/22

The Staff is published monthly for members and friends of The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd.

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Mr. Greg Ricca

Bell & Youth Choir Director

Mrs. Amber Brown

GS Children's Center Director

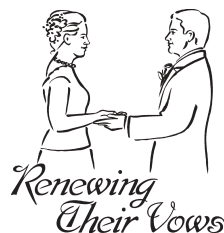
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Sexton

Frank Lylo

Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Dr. Norman L. Johnson
revdrj46@peoplepc.com

*Reaffirmation of Wedding Vows
Ceremony & Dinner
Saturday, February 13, 2010 at 5:45 PM*



*Baby Sitting will be available.
For more information, please see Kathy Hogan*



THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE RECRUITS

STEW-ARD (stoo' ard) n. a person morally responsible for the careful use of money, time, talents, or other resources, especially with respect to the principles or needs of a community or group / to be the steward (of something); manage - stew'-ard-ship' n.

On January 7, 2010 the Stewardship Committee met for our first meeting of the New Year. You may have heard the invitation to attend in church. January is when we formulate our Action Plan for the coming year. Some of you only think of Stewardship as the group that talks about money every year. Yes, we are responsible for church pledge forms and mailings in the fall, as well as many other things. Did you realize it was Stewardship who organizes our Ministry Festival to celebrate the time that our church volunteers donate and the talents they contribute while doing these jobs? Did you realize it was Stewardship who has arranged outside speakers to speak to us about Living Wills, and College Planning? When we think of Stewardship we think of being prudent guardians of that which we control. At Good Shepherd we call that Time, Talent, and Treasure. Now, the Stewardship Committee doesn't actually control these things at all; you, our congregation does. And that brings me right back to why Stewardship Committee wants to recruit you.

Have you ever thought to yourself there has to be a better way to do that? Had an idea about something you feel should be addressed? Want to see an idea implemented? Wondered how things were prioritized? Stewardship Committee addresses many of these concerns on a regular basis and we recognize that we need fresh ideas and fresh faces with a new perspective to make things happen. Now may not be the right time for you to join something new. How about in a few months? Come to a meeting and lend your voice. See if this is a good fit for you and your own unique blend of talents and person.

Stewardship Committee meets 9 to 10 times a year, usually on the First Thursday of the month. We meet in the Resource Room at 7:30pm. We do not meet during summer or in December. If you have an interest but are not sure, speak to a member of our committee: Abby Eaton, Carol Hahl, Pat Pryor, Tony Puricelli, Pastor Qualman, and myself, Eileen Loughman.

MINISTRY FESTIVAL RETURNS IN MARCH!

March is Mini – Fest Month! This March we will once again celebrate all the wonderful Ministries & Committees of Good Shepherd. It's so much to absorb, we decided you need two weeks. That's right... On March 7 & 21, after both services, there will be a Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall that features different groups. While snacking, stroll about the room and view the different Ministry displays. Speak to the wonderful representatives of these groups and thank them for all their hard work. Come for some fun & conversation. Come to learn who does what for all our benefit. Perhaps you will find a group or committee that appeals to you; you might even offer an hour or two of your time to assist them. See you there.



FUTURE EVENTS

Saturday Evening Services at 5:00 PM – February 6, 13, 20, 27

FEBRUARY 2010

- February 7** **Confirmation Learning Event 12:00 – 2:00 PM**
February 7 Men's Ministry Bible Study – 8:00 AM (Resource Room)
February 13 Marriage Renewal & Dinner after Saturday Evening Service
February 13 LYF Baby Sitting for Renewal Dinner
February 13 First Communion Class 10-12:00
February 17 Ash Wednesday, Service at 7:30 PM
February 18 Administrative Board Meeting at 7:30 PM
February 20 First Communion Class 10-12:00
February 21 Worship & Music Meeting: 9:30 AM (Pastor's Office)
February 24 Dinner 6:00 PM and Mid Week Lenten Service 7:30 PM
February 27-28 Princess Retreat

Saturday Evening Services at 5:00 PM – March 6, 13, 20, 27

MARCH 2010

- March 6** First Communion Make up class 10-12:00
March 9 Book Club - In Every Pew Sits a Broken Heart: Hope for the Hurting – 7:30 PM
March 13 Men's Ministry St. Patrick Celebration (TBD)
March 14 First Communion Sunday at 10:30 service

Lenten Services at 7:30 pm

February 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24,

Dinners before service at 6:00 PM

March 3 Women's Bible Study - Chicken Pot Pie
Anyone interested in hosting a Lenten Dinner - please call the church office

March 28 - Palm Sunday - Seder Meal and presentation by Jews for Jesus at 5:30 PM

April 1 Maundy Thursday 7:30 PM, April 2, Good Friday 7:30 PM

April 4 --Easter Sunday - Services at 7:30 am and 10:30 am

Easter Breakfast prepared by Men's Ministry at 9:15 and 9:45 am

**The Lutheran Church of the
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732-679-8883

The Rev. William A. Qualman, Pastor
The Rev. Ben Mallepalle, Assistant Pastor

GS Children's Center
732-679-8887

Mrs. Lorraine Campo, Director
gsc@lc-goodshepherd.org

Worship Services

Sunday at 8:00 & 10:30 AM

Sunday School at 9:15 AM

Bible Classes at 9:30 AM

**Saturday Evening Service @ 5:00
PM**

Youth Fellowship Meetings 1st Sunday of
each month at 6:00 PM

**Midweek Lenten Services at 7:30
PM:**

February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24

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