

# THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

"... the sheep follow the shepherd, for they know his voice." –  
John 10:4



**Good Shepherd**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**1050 NW Maynard Road, Cary, NC 27513**

Classes for Adults and Child Care: 9:15 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship and Child Care: 10:30 a.m.  
Classes for Children K-5: 10:45 a.m.  
Wednesday Choir Rehearsal: 7:30 p.m.



**NEWSLETTER**

**MARCH 2010**

## CELEBRATION OF PALM SUNDAY AND THE EASTER SEASON

### **Palm Sunday, March 28**

On Palm Sunday, March 28, you'll want to be with us for two exciting presentations. We will celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem with our palm-waving procession as we enter the sanctuary together. The Intergenerational Class will present a dramatization of Jesus' last week from the Gospel of Mark. You don't want to miss these exciting events.



### **Maundy Thursday, April 1, 7:30 p.m.**

Our Tennebrae service includes the reading of multiple scriptures that tell the powerful story of Jesus' final night with his followers. After each reading, the sanctuary gradually grows darker. Our Communion this evening recalls the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his disciples that night. Members of our sister church, Cary First Christian, will be our guests. Yvonne Riddick will give the meditation.

### **Good Friday, April 2, 7:00 p.m.**

We'll be the guests of our sister congregation, Cary First Christian, as we share in their Good Friday worship service beginning at 7:00 p.m. Cary First is located at 1109 Evans Road.

### **Easter Sunday, April 4**

Our early service on Easter Sunday begins in the sanctuary at **7:30 a.m.** This will be a Praise Service, complete with Communion by Intinction and lots of upbeat music. We'll also decorate our Flowering Cross, so if you have fresh flowers you'd like to share from your garden, please bring them along. Our Student Intern Pastor, Linda Velto, will be preaching.

Please join us at **8:30 a.m.** for our traditional Easter morning pancake breakfast. You'll enjoy the great food along with good conversation. Dave Stonefield will be our Master Chef, and members of the Youth Group will help to serve.

The children will love the Easter Egg Hunt which begins at **9:30 a.m.** They will be divided into two age groups, and each child should provide his or her own basket to collect the eggs.

Immediately following the Easter Egg Hunt, we'll have our annual Easter Bonnet Contest. This contest is open to men and women, and you are encouraged to apply all your creative energy to making a bonnet that will amaze the judges.

Our more traditional Easter service at **10:30 a.m.** will feature communion and Yvonne Riddick will be the preacher.

## THE GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH VITALITY INITIATIVE – WHAT’S THIS ALL ABOUT?

What does your Faith say about our congregation? Who are we? Where are we on our Faith journey? Where are we vital now? What is God calling us to be and to do? How can we nurture that call? What might be getting in the way?

Three years ago, these questions were brought up to a few of our key leaders by the United Church of Christ as a part of the on-going national “God is Still Speaking” campaign. For a variety of reasons, the idea of renewing our church vitality resonated with our leaders. Having just celebrated our 20-year anniversary, many of us were wondering where Good Shepherd would be in 2028? We started asking these questions and to our surprise, the UCC provided us with a step-by-step process to find answers and to plan for future church growth.

The UCC Vitality initiative states that “We believe that God is still speaking and God is saying to the United Church of Christ, “Ready, Set, Grow!” A few Good Shepherd leaders felt God was encouraging our congregation to be ready and set to grow in vitality. With the Holy Spirit in our midst and the UCC as our guide, we prayerfully followed their Five-Step Plan.

- Step 1: Build your team
- Step 2: Know thyself, know thy product
- Step 3: Know the marketplace
- Step 4: Be clear about your congregation’s strengths
- Step 5: Plan for desired and measurable outcomes

Faithfully our team engaged in a three-year process that culminated in the adoption of our **Cornerstone Statement**, our **Well-FED** statement and the initiatives outlined in the **6-C’s** program. Next month we’ll dig deeper into what the 6 C’s are all about but suffice it to say, we believe God is still speaking and we really are

trying hard to listen to what God wants us to do. We also believe that by going through this process we have set the stage for 20 years of growth measured by the vitality of the Holy Spirit working in the minds, bodies and souls of our congregation as we minister to each other and our community. (For more information visit [www.ucc.org/vitality](http://www.ucc.org/vitality))

Harold Litzenberger  
Good Shepherd UCC Vitality Team Leader

## KEEPING CHINA ON OUR MINDS

As Pat begins his sabbatical in China this month, we can learn more through the following:

- We hope to have a blog (which stands for Web log for those of you who don’t know!) up and running around the middle of March at [www.gsucc.org/pat](http://www.gsucc.org/pat). There will be a tutorial on the blog describing how to post to it. And hopefully, Pat will be able to share information on the blog regarding what he’s doing in China.
- Check out some of the great books, videos, and DVDs in our China library at the back of the sanctuary (see page 5).
- Follow Pat’s journey on the map at the back of the sanctuary.
- Join us for Munchies and a Movie on Friday, March 19, to see *Together* (see page 5). Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the movie will start at 7:30.
- Participate in the Chinese New Year celebration at the State Fairgrounds on March 27 between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Mark your calendars for Friday, April 23, at 7:30 p.m. to hear Dr. Ted Shear from the NCSU Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources speak on sustainable forests, environmental issues, and how NCSU and China Universities are working together doing research in these areas. This is a very appropriate topic for the day after Earth Day! Dr. Shear has traveled to China and has conducted research projects related to China. He is a colleague of Terrie Litzenberger.

## Where In The World Is Pat?

On Tuesday morning, February 16, Pat's sabbatical began as he flew to California to spend a week's vacation with his cousins and niece. The week of February 22 he stayed at the Immaculate Heart Retreat Center in Montecito, California, reflecting and preparing his body, mind, and spirit for the journey ahead.



Very early on Sunday, February 28, he flew to Chengdu, about 1,300 miles west of Beijing, arriving on Monday afternoon, March 1. The first few days he will settle into his apartment, provided by

the Diandi TV & Radio University, and meet his roommate, Tom Morse, and his translator/guide. On March 8, he will begin a six-week voluntary placement teaching English to rural and minority students at Diandi University. He plans to speak on topics such as the history of popular music in the United States, popular American films, youth culture in the US, the poetry of Robert Frost, and minority groups in the US.

On the weekends, he hopes to sightsee with students and take field trips to the University of Sichuan Museum, X'ian (China's foremost archeological site 500 miles north), the Terre Cotta Warriors, and the Chengdu Panda Breeding and Research Center. These places all have a connection with his grandfather.

Let's pray that he will be able to seek spiritual renewal by engaging with people in creative, mutually rewarding dialog and further explore his grandfather's roots in China.

## GOOD SHEPHERD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (GSPC) Ad-Hoc Committee

The committee has been very active since our last newsletter report. Since that time we have had a very informative meeting with Rev. Park and representatives of the GSPC church to share information. We have also met with Rev. Dr. Charles (Chuck) A. Wiessner of the First Reformed Church of Cary since they have engaged in a similar situation with a Hispanic church over the past three years.

This past month your ministries have been hard at work thinking about the impact of having the GSPC church share our facilities. Ministries have been asked to list all the activities/events they are involved with, concerns, and the benefits they see in relation to the GSPC.

We invite you to contact any of the ministry chairs to provide input regarding their specific ministry. We will also provide an opportunity for the congregation to give similar input. Over the next few weeks we will continue our feasibility study including compilation of the information from all the ministries.

Our committee members include: Laurie Ringaert (Chair), Susie Oliver, Dave Yuska, Dave Sniffin, Carla Gleason, Rob Lundin, Carolyn Lundin, Thelma Faulk, Pat Russell, Ex-Officio: Mike Smith.

We encourage you to contact any one of the committee members if you have questions or suggestions. Please also feel to contact Laurie Ringaert, Chair, [laurie@dslidesignconsulting.com](mailto:laurie@dslidesignconsulting.com).

## GIVING TREE

Have you ever thought about giving a little extra at church but you weren't sure how? Or you'd like to contribute to projects that are meaningful to you but you don't know what is needed? The Good Shepherd Giving Tree is an opportunity to help fund some of our basic needs, as well as some of our special projects.

Similar to the tree with Sunday School supplies requested each fall, our Giving Tree will have "leaves" that describe an item or event. If you see a project that you'd like to fund, take the leaf from the tree and put the leaf and your donation in one of the envelopes provided. The leaves will indicate if your donation should



be for a certain dollar amount or if you should purchase specific items. If you donate money, you can put the envelope in the offering plate or put it in the Treasurer's mail box in the

Education Building. If you write a check, please put the description of the item on the memo line. If you donate items, you can put them in the basket in the narthex.

Look for the Giving Tree in the narthex in March.

### GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1050 NW Maynard Road, Cary NC 27513

Office Hours: By appointment and

Wednesday–Thursday, 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Phone: (919) 481-1441; FAX: (919) 481-0015

Website: [www.gsucc.org](http://www.gsucc.org)

Ministers: The People of Good Shepherd

Interim Pastor: The Reverend Yvonne Riddick

Student Intern Pastor: Linda Velto

Pastor: The Reverend (F. Patrick) Pat Russell

Moderator: Mike Smith

Secretary: Mary Horn

Pianist: Linda Velto

Choir Director: Carla Gleason

Praise Team Director: Chris Alberti

Custodian: Mary Snyder

## SPRING WORKDAY

**SATURDAY MARCH 27, 2010**

**8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.**

The spring workday will be on Saturday, March 27, starting at 8:00 a.m. This is an earlier start than usual; however, there is a "Let's Go" event planned for the afternoon (see page 5). The earlier start time will allow people to work for three hours and go home to get cleaned up for the "Let's Go" event. For people not attending the "Let's Go" event, we will have an afternoon session.



We have a variety of projects that need to be done. They include yard work, cleaning, organizing closets (or I should say throwing out junk), and making minor repairs to the building. So, I'm sure that there is a project just right for you. If you have any questions please contact Dave Stonefield at 919-467-8421 or any member of the Property Ministry.

## A TIMELY REMINDER

Please remember that Daylight Savings Time officially begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 14. That means you'll need to set your clocks and watches ahead an hour (you'll lose an hour) before you go to bed on Saturday night. If you go to bed at 10:00 p.m., at that time set your clocks for 11:00 p.m. Otherwise, when you arrive at church on Sunday morning, you'll be walking in at the end of the service.

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles are due in the church office by 9:00 p.m. ([secretary@gsucc.org](mailto:secretary@gsucc.org) or 481-1441) on:

**Wednesday, March 24**

**Wednesday, April 21**

Please also copy Moderator Mike Smith ([ncsmiths\\_98@yahoo.com](mailto:ncsmiths_98@yahoo.com)) when you submit your articles in March and April.

## MUNCHIES AND A MOVIE FOR MARCH

Please join us on Friday, March 19, 2010, for Munchies and a Movie - doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the movie starts at 7:30. This month's feature will be *Together*, the story of a poor rural father in China who is determined that his prodigy son will train under the best violin teacher in Beijing. The movie is gorgeous to look at, and it presents interesting characters and beautiful music. You will gain insight into modern Chinese culture and probe the difference between commerce and art. The movie is rated PG and is presented with English subtitles.



- 4 Katherine Farmer
- 10 Mike Carney
- 11 Debra Adkins
- 12 John Cole
- 12 Marian Wilson
- 15 Nick Rice
- 17 Grant Murray
- 21 Nan Alberti
- 21 Chuk Gleason
- 21 Nancy Henderson
- 24 Jon Scarantino
- 28 Sally Godfrey
- 31 Andy Vaughan

If you have a birthday in March and it is not listed, please call 481-1441 and let us know.

## HISTORIAN REQUEST

If you attend an event at church or a "Let's Go" activity and you happen to take some digital photos, please send some of them to me to incorporate into our Historian Scrapbooks. You can send them to me by e-mail and I will print them out.

Thanks! Kathy Boyer, [nckathyb@aol.com](mailto:nckathyb@aol.com)



## ANNUAL EASTER BONNET CONTEST

Believe it or not Easter is right around the corner and now is the time to plan your Easter Bonnet! Do you have a hobby or passion you'd like to express? Put it on a bonnet. Compete for the highly coveted first, second and third place prizes. The only rule is that the bonnet must be able to sit on your head for judging! Here is your chance to let your inner child shine. The Youth Group will be judging. Be as outrageous and creative as you can.

## "LET'S GO!"

### CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

The Chinese New Year Celebration that was scheduled for January 30 has been rescheduled for March 27, 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., at the NC State Fairgrounds.

A group will be meeting at the church at 1:00 p.m. to attend or you can go on your own schedule. Please see Sue Rice if you already purchased tickets. Tickets are available at Grand Asia Market for \$5.00. Tickets are \$8.00 at the door. Children 6 and under are free.

## CHINA LIBRARY

Have you noticed the books and DVDs in the back of the sanctuary? Good Shepherd has added over 100 items in our China Library. There is something for everyone including travel guides, Chinese-English dictionaries, books about Chinese cooking, Feng Shui and Chinese history. Please take a look before church or during fellowship.

If you'd like to borrow a book, simply put your name on the card in the book and leave it in the tray. If you'd like to borrow a movie or item without a card, there is a log book for you to let us know what you have borrowed. You may return your books in the library in the Education Building. Check back often as new materials are being added each week.

# COMING UP IN MARCH

Worship in March will continue this Lenten Season's "Journey to the Cross." We will follow Jesus as he ministers in different ways to his disciples and the people he meets on route to Jerusalem. You don't want to miss Mike Rowland, our "special speaker" who will take the pulpit in March.

## Sunday, March 7, 10:30 a.m.

This is the third Sunday in Lent. In her message, "A God of Second Chances," Yvonne will explore the unmerited grace we receive from God as she examines the parable of the fig tree. Scriptures for this day are Isaiah 55:1-9.



## Sunday, March 21, 10:30 a.m.

On this fifth and last Sunday in Lent, "The Journey to the Cross" takes us on the Jericho Road to the city of Bethany. Here Yvonne's message, "The Anointing," looks at relationships with Jesus. The scriptures for this day are Psalm 126 and John 12:1-8.

## Sunday, March 14, 10:30 a.m.

This is the fourth Sunday in Lent. In his sermon, "The Prodigal Son," Mike Rowland will share with us how Jesus communicates with first century Jews and twenty-first century Christians about the Kingdom of God. Listen this Sunday for the greatest parable ever told. The readings for this lesson are Psalm 32 and Luke 15:1-3, 11-32.

## Sunday, March 28, 10:30 a.m.

This is Palm Sunday. Don't miss the treat the Intergenerational Class has in store for us. See page 1 for more information on our Palm Sunday celebration.

## TREASURER'S NOTES:

Offering Status as of February 24, 2010:

Offering Type	YTD	Budgeted YTD	Delta	Delta %
Pledges Received	25,680.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Received in 2009	8,345.50	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Pledges	34,025.50	28,505.66	5,519.84	19.36%
Loose	1,032.25	1,744.68	( 712.43)	(40.83%)
Total for 2010	35,057.75	30,250.34	4,807.41	15.89%

Loan status as of February 24, 2010:

Mortgage	Rate	Balance	Monthly Payment	Estimated Payoff Date
Physical Improvements	7.0	214,629.12	2,651.55	04/30/2019

Treasurer, Rob Lundin

# GSUCC CHURCH CALENDAR

## MARCH 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> 6:30 Staff Relations, HH 8:00 Christian Outreach, L	<b>2</b> [9:00] Men's Breakfast 7:30 Christian Education, HH	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Noon Deacons Meeting, L Noon Youth Group Board Meeting, HH 7:00 Living the Questions, HH	<b>8</b> 7:30 Property Meeting, K	<b>9</b> 7:00 GSPC, L	<b>10</b> Deadline for Southern Conference Scholarship 8:30 Praise Team Musicians, S	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14 Daylight Saving Time begins</b> 6:00 Living the Questions Potluck (final meeting), HH	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> [9:00] Men's Breakfast 7:00 GSPC, L	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 7:30 Council, L	<b>19</b> 7:30 Munchies and a Movie presents <i>Together</i> . (Doors open at 7:00)	<b>20</b>
<b>21 Praise Service</b>	<b>22</b> 7:00 Vitality Meeting, L	<b>23</b> 7:00 GSPC, L	<b>24</b> 9:00 Newsletter deadline	<b>25</b> 7:30 SPT Committee, L	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 1:00 "Let's Go" Chinese New Year <b>Spring Workday</b> [8:00] Morning Session 1:00 Afternoon Session
<b>28 Palm Sunday</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 7:00 GSPC, L	<b>31</b>		CR = Copy Room HH = High House K = Kitchen L = Library S = Sanctuary Hours enclosed in brackets = A.M.	

## **DORCAS MINISTRIES NEW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

This organization was begun over 50 years ago by several churches in order to help meet Cary's crisis needs. It has grown through the help of people of "the Way" - God's way of love. There are now more than 20 area churches that have members who volunteer in some valuable way at Dorcas Ministries.

Currently, the Dorcas Thrift Shop is especially in need of more workers. Choose your time: Weekdays 9:00 to 12:00 or 1:00 to 4:00, Saturdays 9:00 to 2:00, or Thursdays 4:00 to 6:00. There are various jobs, which include sorting and pricing clothing, household goods, or toys; testing electronics; keeping the shop floor racks and shelves stocked and straightened; folding donated bags or working at the check-out counter.

On weekdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., the *Crisis Ministry* volunteers welcome and interview clients who come to our center for



help with past due electric, water, or housing bills. New volunteers will be needed starting in March for new Tuesday and Thursday afternoon two-hour shifts.

Various *Committees* offer opportunities to serve in very important work of the Christian Community in Action organization: Finance, Facilities, Nominating, and Communications are the standing committees. In addition, committees in the Outreach Ministries include the Margaret Keller Education Assistance and Childcare Assistance.

Begin 2010 with a prayerful commitment! Consider contributing your TIME and TALENTS in any of these worthwhile ways to minister to your neighbors.

Contact Harold Elixson, Shop Manager, or Jill Wissing, Crisis Manager, by calling 469-9816 or go online [www.cca-cary.org](http://www.cca-cary.org) for more information.

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