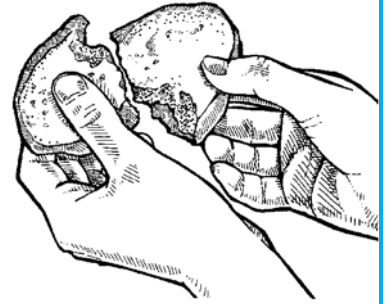


BREAKING BREAD

Good Shepherd Catholic Church



Wrapped in the Warmth of Prayers and Love

by Mary Ann Erdtmann

When you are sick and alone, it is comforting to know that someone cares. Showing that care, is the purpose of the prayer shawl ministry at our parish. When the sick or shut-ins put on these shawls, they are wrapped in the warmth of prayers and love.

Each prayer shawl comes with the following prayer:

Just wrap this prayer shawl around you

Whenever you need a hug and prayer.

I've prayed for you as I knitted your gift,

So that our loving God will bless you

With whatever you need most right now.

And, I will continue to pray for you.

It is signed with the shawl maker's first name.

The ministry started about three years ago when parishioner Betty Wachowiak saw a display of prayer shawls at a Lutheran church. "I thought this would be a good way to reach out to those who are sick and alone," she said. An

announcement was then put in the bulletin to recruit people.

Fran Fryer, who has been making prayer shawls for Community Memorial Hospital for five years, was one

of the first people to respond. "I think making these prayer shawls is a worthwhile thing to do," she noted.

Last year she received a pin from the hospital marking 500 hours in making prayer shawls. It takes her about 20 hours for each shawl, so that's 25 prayer shawls, not counting the ones she's made for Good Shepherd parishioners.

The ministry now includes 14 women. Most shawls are delivered by the parish home visitation team. Others are given to those who come to the prayer corner for personal prayer after Mass.

"We invite anyone to join this ministry—experts or beginners," Betty said, adding that "instructions are gladly given." She also appreciates that many people have been donating yarn, which can be put in the specially marked collection barrels in the coat room.

The prayer shawls can be made in many colors. "There are no specifications," Betty said. "I tell the people to be creative." A special feature is the adding of three beads "representing God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit," she reported. The beads can be knit or crocheted anywhere in the shawl and the receiver has to look for them.

"Recipients are very touched," Betty said. One person reported that her elderly mother wraps her shawl around herself every night. Another person donated money for yarn in memory of her mother, who had received a shawl before she died.

If you would like to serve in this ministry or know someone who would like to receive a prayer shawl, please contact Betty at (262) 253-0700, or Cheryl Matusiak, Pastoral Care Coordinator at the parish office.

"We invite anyone to join this ministry—experts or beginners . . . instructions are gladly given."



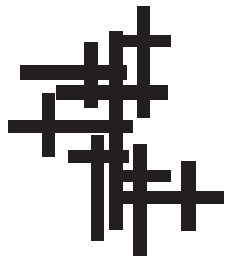
Fran Fryer, Barb Finley and Betty Wachowiak examine one of the prayer shawls.

Eschweiler New Century Fund Memorials

by Mark Steimle

The Eschweiler New Century Fund was established as an endowment to provide additional support in carrying out the mission of Good Shepherd. Since July of 2009 the fund has received contributions in memory of the following:

Susan Decker	Virginia Goddeyne	Carl Merkt	the Arnold Family
Jim Rahoe	Ernest & Louella	Jack Rutkowski	Hortense Kass
George Rahoe	Christensen	Jean Witkus	Clarence Kass
Jim Wrocklage	Art & Mae Goulet	Dominic Bertucci	Nancy Wild
John S. Bartolotta	Deceased members of	James Jalas	Joseph D'Agostino
Lee A. Romens	the Dubnicka Family	Shirley M. Pusa	Ed Springman
William Klinker	Deceased members of	Dean M. Pusa	Sue Springman
William Klinker Jr.	the Frank Family	Tom Malone	Maribeth Springman
Nancy Seay	Theobald Family	James Fitzgerald	Deceased members of
Mergenthaler Family	Filo Family	Robert F. Dienhart	the Lehman Family
Pollack Family	Hassenfelt Family	Robert Wanke	Deceased members of
Florence Slowiak	Tom Lietzau	Fred Wells	the New Family
Vince Polyak	Ronald Langkau	Ron Knutel	Jim & Patty Wallace
Henry Knudson	Roman Langkau	Fred Butenhoff	Dr. James J. McDevitt
Joe & Tristan Sofio	Leroy J. Allen	Gene Schuenemann	Mary Held
Roseanne Duffey	Don & Marie Stuart	Deceased members of	Theodore Szudajski
James Friedel	Leo Stuart	the Collins Family	Richard Szudajski
Joseph Friedel	Bill & Jeannette Keaton	Deceased members of	Edward & Jean Zunk



*In
Loving
Memory*

Preparing Children for First Reconciliation

by Lorrie Maples, Director of Christian Formation and Child Ministry



“As the primary catechists of their children, parents take a very active role in the preparation of their children for First Reconciliation.”

God loves us “no matter what.” That is the message that the children preparing for their First Reconciliation receive. God loves us “no matter what.” God loves us unconditionally and so do our parents. Parents are the first ‘images of God’ that children experience. Children are encouraged to speak openly and honestly with their parents about anything in their lives that is causing trouble for them. In the same way, they learn to come to God with their troubles. They learn that their parents and God love them no matter what!

Children around the age of seven have trouble understanding abstract concepts such as “God forgives our sins,” but they understand and can learn from concrete experiences. Children learn by doing and from hearing the stories of forgiveness from scripture and from their parents. Children of this age also appreciate that the world functions according

to rules and that there are consequences for breaking those rules. God’s rules for living are found in the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, Jesus’ parables, and church teaching as found in their student text books.

As the primary catechists of their children, parents take a very active role in the preparation of their children for First Reconciliation. At Good Shepherd, parents and children attend three 90-minute preparation classes before reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Each session includes a ritual such as blessing each other with the sign of the cross, laying on of hands, and making the sign of peace. The parents and children work through each chapter in their textbook together during the class sessions. Parents and children have fun role playing “confession” which helps the children get ready for the big day.

After the reception of the

sacrament for the first time, parents and children come together for one more session. At the last session, the parents and children “break open” the experience of First Reconciliation by sharing their experience and feelings with one another. We end the preparation sessions with refreshments and reception of their certificate.

The children and their families are encouraged to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation often. All Catholics who have reached the age of reason (7 years old) are required by the church to confess serious sins at least once a year. Less serious sins are forgiven in the penitential rites of the Mass and the reception of Eucharist.

May God continue to bless the children who received the sacrament of reconciliation for the first time this year and may we all come to know that God loves us “no matter what!”

An Invitation to *The Shack*

by Donald Williams

How does a story written as a gift for his children, and photo-copied at Office Depot to share with family and friends, become a world-wide best selling book? First time author William Paul Young's work has sold over 7 million copies from here to India and back. Yet countless more have read it, because it tends to be passed around in homes, schools, prisons, and among friends. Why has this story of a broken man's relationship with God and his family captured our imagination?

Is it because *The Shack* wrestles with the timeless philosophical question, "Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable

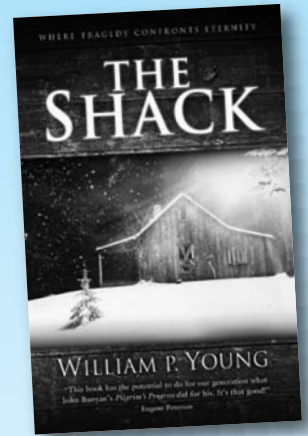
pain"? Or is it, to quote John Leaf, a group discussion leader at a church in Mequon, because "The book addresses a lot of the core questions we all deal with . . . How do we work through pain in our families? Who in our families is the glue when tragedy occurs? What about the mystery of God? What about our anger at God? And who's really in control of our lives"? If these questions spark an interest, we invite you to participate in a three-session discussion of the book, sponsored by the Good Shepherd Men's Group.

It is interesting to note that Christian denominations as diverse as Lutherans, Baptists, and Catholics have

held similar groups. The book has created some controversy for such things as its' depiction of the Trinity. However, as a Lutheran discussion leader said, "The book is about the role of a loving and relational God in our lives, and that shapes the core of all the major Western faiths."

The first discussion of *The Shack* is scheduled for January 27, 2010. All men of the parish are welcome. Bring a friend. For more details about the room, time, etc., check the church bulletin for information and updates.

If you need to order, or get a book (at discount), call Gene Christensen at the Parish Office (262) 255-2035.



**GOOD SHEPHERD
MEN'S GROUP
DISCUSSION**

The Shack
by William P. Young

**First of three sessions
starting January 27**

CONFIRMATION RETREAT



The young women on the Confirmation retreat finally stopped talking at 3:45 a.m. as they moved into the state of "Snoozing and Loozing".



Confirmation candidates listen to a witness talk given by a team member.



Confirmation candidates engage in a "non-traditional" spiritual exercise where they reflect on their "blindness" to God's guidance and direction.



MEET OUR Pastoral Council



Dave Christensen

November 2, 2009 Pastoral Council Minutes

Jim Yerger reviewed the procedures and success criteria for the “Ears of the Parish” initiative.

The Council liaison to each of the commissions is to explain this process to set expectations going forward.

One new inquiry was received this month regarding the past feedback that had been gathered during the FIOF town halls and specifically addressed liturgical music.

The preliminary budget report for October 2009 shows a YTD surplus although contributions and other revenues continue to track lower than budgeted.

The Christian Formation Commission reported that the

FIOF expenditure for Daniels Hall audio/visual improvements is advancing. The Christian Formation Commission is reviewing workcamp and alternatives.

The Prayer and Worship Commission is actively considering several topics for FIOF expenditures.

Mary Oswald will be joining the Pastoral Care Commission as the Council liaison.

Beth reported that the Council Discernment committee is working on revisions to the discernment bylaws and considering a mission statement.

The Council reviewed “10 Signs of a Vibrant Parish” looking for a measure of how well GS stacks up.

Mary Oswald suggested that each commission provide input on how well GS stacks up on the 10 signs, some of which are:

- Welcome and hospitality
- Liturgy
- Parish mission
- Members are recognized as gifted
- Outreach is practiced
- A plan for a sustainable future
- Communal life abounds
- Baptism’s vocational call is cultivated

A brief discussion on the idea of a Public Awareness Committee ensued. The Council was asked to think about how this might be formed for further discussion at the next time.

Good Shepherd Reaching Out

by Jane Clare Ishiguro

The latest Outreach donations were given to three local and one global causes:

To Casa Guadalupe Education Center - \$1500

Founded in 2006, this center serves Hispanic Catholic immigrants in Washington and Fond du Lac counties. Its mission is to be the bridge of integration to Hispanics and to the communities in which they live through education and pastoral faith formation. The people served are low income. For more information go to casaguadalupeonline.com

To the local bi-county chapter of Special Olympics - \$1500. According to its mission statement Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with cognitive disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate

courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other special Olympics athletes and the community. We are fortunate to have a number of special Olympians in our parish. For more, go to www.specialolympicswisconsin.org

To SET Ministry - \$1500. The purpose of SET (Service, Empowerment, Transformation) is for personal transformation of people living in poverty without the means of helping themselves – to fight for social justice among the poor. Some of the services provided are: youth counseling, nurse case management, apartments for the homeless, and assistance with job search. For more, go to www.setinc.org

To SHARE Foundation – \$1500 - emergency funding for El Salvador in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida.

Hurricane Ida hit El Salvador on November 9th destroying more than 7000 homes and damaging many more. At last report over 130 people have been killed and thousands more injured. This donation will help fund access to emergency shelter and potable water and food. SHARE Foundation serves the area. SHARE has, for many years, assisted us in our relationship and delegations to and from our sister parish in Ellacuria, El Salvador. You can learn more about SHARE at www.share-elsalvador.org

May our financial and prayerful support continue to God’s work within each of these causes.

Your comments and/or questions about Outreach funding are most welcome. Contact Barb Messerknecht (committee chair) or Jane Clare.





Who's Who and What Do They Do?

Meet the Good Shepherd Staff – a series for Breaking Bread

This is one in a series of articles on the members of our parish staff. The intent is to better acquaint parishioners with the “Team” and provide a better understanding of the responsibilities of their position.

MEET THE GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF:

A Realistic Optimist

by Bryan Ramsey

"Ladies and gentlemen!"

"If I could direct your attention to center stage at this time. Watch and be mystified as the amazing Mark Steimle keeps these 20 plates spinning in the air right before your very eyes!"

Mark is a man with long-reaching arms into the business side of Good Shepherd.

If you have given money in the combined collections, been involved in a Work Camp experience, received reimbursement for the snack you bought for a human concerns meeting, chances are the transactions have seen the desk of Mark, the Director of Administrative Services. "I'm kind of a jack-of-all-trades," Mark says. "It's all the administrative tasks of the parish – kind of overseeing the parish financial process, the personnel things, the maintenance department. I don't want to call it a glorified clerking job, but some days, that's what it is."

The biggest part of his job is making sure the money parishioners give each week go to the designated ministries. He keeps the financial books in order as department heads request funding for projects and keeps an eye on the Good Shepherd pocket book. "I maintain a balance between the ministry and what the parish is all about, but at the same time, do what's best for the business of the parish," says Mark. "I work in a very collaborative

fashion, but I usually try to raise the issue from a different perspective. So before someone says, 'Let's do this', I've thought about the down side of what's going on. Some people might say I'm a pessimist. A realistic optimist is the way I put it."

The position is a vocation for Mark, doing something he's good at while aspiring to a higher calling. "There's a certain freedom in managing the business of church in that you don't have to worry about how many widgets you have to get out the door. The end product is much more valuable."

Mark's had the unique perspective in the four years he's been Administrative Services Director. He is a parishioner at St. Sebastian in Milwaukee yet working for Good Shepherd. It has been a joy working for a parish that has such a heavy emphasis on outreach and so many passionate people committed to their particular ministry. "I've been in church work long enough to know that we do some things at Good Shepherd that many other parishes don't, and we do them pretty well," says Mark.

The many plates will continue to spin with more added all the time. And Mark Steimle will and has always done his best to keep them spinning.



Mark Steimle
Director,
Administrative Services

"I've been in church work long enough to know that we do some things at Good Shepherd that many other parishes don't, and we do them pretty well . . ."

An Irish New Year Blessing

*May the new year bring
The warmth of home and hearth to you.
The cheer and goodwill of friends to you,
The hope of a childlike heart to you.
The joy of a thousand angels to you,
The love of the Son and God's peace to you.*



Proper Hand Washing

Submitted by Laverne Schoonover, RN



Most of us already know about the necessity of washing your hands often to prevent disease. Did you know that there is a right way and a wrong way? Washing your hands with soap and water or rubbing them with an alcohol-based sanitizer are the two most effective ways to prevent the spread of bacterial or viral infections to yourself and others.

Hand sanitizers are convenient to use throughout the day and are actually more effective than washing when it comes to killing germs on unsoiled hands. Use an adequate amount of the sanitizer to cover all of the surfaces of your hands, wrists, cuticles, fingernails, and between your fingers and thumbs.

It remains important to wash before eating, after going to the bathroom, and when your hands are dirty. Wash your hands properly by:

- **Working up a lather:** Using warm water and soap, lather your hands, wrists, cuticle area, and between your fingers and thumbs. Continue to lather for 15 seconds. (Kids are taught to sing the Happy Birthday song)
- **Focusing on your fingertips and around your fingernails:** Thoroughly clean this often neglected area whether washing your hands or using a sanitizer. Press the fingertips of one hand into the cupped palm of your other hand. Rotate your fingertips in a circle. Do this for each hand.
- **Not touching the faucet with clean hands:** Dry your hands with a paper or hand towel and use the towel to turn off the water. Or, try turning off the faucet with your elbow or top of your wrist.



To further the spiritual growth of the Good Shepherd Community by providing an inspirational view of parish life.

YOUR GREEN CORNER

by Mary Kult

A New Year's Plan

Answer the following questions and pick one habit that you can work on in 2010.

Better yet, choose two habits.

What are your Green Habits?

- When printing, print double-sided
- Use canvas bags when shopping
- Avoid running the water while brushing
- Drink fair trade coffee
- Shop/eat locally/in season
- Ride share/use public transportation
- Avoid excessively packaged products
- Buy sweat-free/second hand clothing
- Recycle



Our Green Habits can inspire inspire other green habits and before long we've begun to really make a difference in our world!

—Message from *The School Sisters of Notre Dame*



Welcome New Members!

Peter Basler

(Father of Theresa Midlikowski)

Dorothy Roche

Good Shepherd Catholic Church

BREAKING BREAD

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