

# The Shamrock News

St. Patrick Community News

Winter 2009

Vol. 2 No. 1

## ***PASTORS TO MEET***

Area pastors are scheduled to meet in early February to assess the degree of interest and commitment to a parish nursing program in conjunction with Cape Fear Valley Hospital. The program is a holistic approach dealing with physical as well as psychological, social, and spiritual needs of the patient.

St. Patrick's is part of a task force formed nearly a year ago when it was suggested by the **Human Concerns Committee**. Since then, representatives from hospitals that have been part of such programs have addressed various groups in the parish, and a workshop was held to assist health professionals, lay persons, and clergy in learning how to implement a health programs in their congregations.

Father Mike has invited over a dozen area pastors to the February meeting. Cape Fear Valley Hospital CEO Mike Nagoski will be a participant.

## ***WHERE'S MY ANGEL ?***

Most of the 300 attendees at the **Meet Your Advent Angel** party in mid-January did not, but that did not mar the fellowship and camaraderie of the event. Parishioners enjoyed searching for their prayer partners, enjoying a casual food menu, socializing, and line dancing. (There is no truth to the rumor that Fr. Mike has been invited to appear on *Dancing with the Stars*).

For the first event of the newly formed **Hospitality Committee**, it was a quick organizational effort. Fourteen parishioners responded to Fr. Mike's call for a "parish hospitality committee to expand the spirit of welcome in all aspects of the parish."

The group first met in November; then met with several parish ministries and came up with the Advent Angel event. Each Advent Angel family was assigned to pray for another parishioner family; the party was arranged, and the turnout was beyond expectations.

Although few angels were able to pair up with their partners, attendees enthusiastically enjoyed the search. Maybe next time will be a charm.

A scheduled Hospitality meeting for January 20, the day of Fayetteville's big snow, was postponed until February. The main item on the agenda is to determine

the major functions of the committee, according to Bob Theobald, an advisory board member.

## **BUDGET IN CRISIS**

The country's financial crisis has filtered down to St. Patrick's collection plate. The offertory collection has been in the red for several months and in a decline for at least two years. At the end of January the offertory was \$38,000 below budget for the first seven months of the fiscal year. At the same time last year the budget was down \$29,000. That deficit was offset by increased donations, interest income, and salary savings from two vacant staff positions that have since been filled.

The weekly offertory provides 96% of the revenue the church uses to pay its bills and support its ministries. While some parishioners are contributing all they can to financially support the church, the church budget deficit for the year could reach \$75,000 if the current trend continues.

Although tough times touch almost everyone, Finance Chairman Don Ruther hopes the parish will prayerfully consider their offertory commitment.

"We need to hang in there, share our concerns with the parish. We cannot put our heads in the sand and pretend it does not exist. I believe we need to put God first starting with monetary gifts to Him. We will get it back in time," he commented.

Administrator Don Bray added that all ministries that submit budgets, such as Religious Education, Music, Family, Youth and Nursery, have been asked to reexamine their budgets and to cut where possible.

So far, cuts have been made in supplemental music for special liturgical celebrations, the number of phone lines into the office, social events and activities. There is a spending freeze across the board, Don Bray said.

Also cutting back is *The Shamrock News*. Instead of mailing the quarterly newsletter to parishioners, it will be e-mailed to those parishioners who have provided e-mail addresses to the church office. Persons with computer access should contact [tmcdowell@stpatnc.org](mailto:tmcdowell@stpatnc.org) to get on the mailing list. Subject line can read Shamrock News. A limited number of hard copies will be available to parishioners who do not have computer access.

## Shamrock Spotlight On: The Holahans

Need a lector at daily mass? Some body to occasionally recruit Eucharistic Ministers at the 7:30 Sunday mass or serve as one? Sing in the bereavement choir or stuff bulletins on Friday for the weekend?

Pat and Charlie Holahan are usually there to step in when needed. St. Patrick parishioners since 1985, they are familiar faces on the St. Patrick scene, although Charlie insists he does not volunteer.



The Holahans arrived in Fayetteville in 1964 courtesy of the U.S Army. During Charlie's tours in Vietnam and Korea, Pat remained in Fayetteville with their children. Charlie retired from the Army in 1971 and soon began a career as a civil servant, ending his working days in 1993.

Until 1985, the couple attended mass on post. Pat's mother, Helen McCormick, who lived with them, was in poor health and concerned that her wishes for a final resting place in Pennsylvania depended on diocesan certification that she was a practicing Catholic, and so the Holahans joined St. Patrick's through Margaret Yadusky, a former parishioner.

Pat's first parish involvement came when Fr. John Durbin was pastor. She was a volunteer receptionist one day a week, and her "volunteer" career took off from there. She joined the Sodality, became a Eucharistic Minister and pitched in where needed. Charlie was not far behind. (Of course, he doesn't volunteer.) He joined the handbell choir, moved to the church choir, and is currently a member of the bereavement choir.

Pat and Charlie celebrate their 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary February 9. Best Wishes! Congratulations! And thanks for being folders, tapers and labelers for The Shamrock News for so many years. The parish appreciates your "involuntary" volunteerism.

## LUTHERAN-CATHOLIC DIALOG

Raleigh Bishop Emeritus F. Joseph Gossman, a signatory of the **Lutheran-Catholic Covenant Series**, will be the speaker at the Lutheran-Catholic dialog February 12 at 7 p.m. at St. James Lutheran Church on Morganton Rd. All are invited.

The covenant series began when North Carolina Catholic and Lutheran bishops signed on in 1991. One of its goals is to pray together, study together, and join in services on diocesan, synod, and local levels through annual dialog, joint observances, and Lenten devotions.

Fr. Tony will be the facilitator at the second meeting February 19 at 7 p.m. at St. Patrick Church when the dialog will consist of ways to implement portions of the covenant in Fayetteville.

## MINISTRY ON THE MOVE

Bethany Ministries, formed less than a year ago to reach out in support and friendship for those who have lost loved ones, has expanded its focus.

In place are a November Remembrance on All Souls' Day, phone calls to families, sending cards and letters, and assisting at funerals. **Lean on Me**, a support circle for widows and widowers, meets on the first Saturday of each month after the 9 a.m. Mass. **You've Got a Friend**, a support group for those who have suffered the loss of a loved one, meets on the last Saturday of the month after the 5:30 Mass in the church office. Each group shares experiences and provides support for each other.

A work in progress is a **Companion Ministry**. Companion ministers will assist a family through funeral and grieving and will serve as liaisons between family, parish and others. They will provide support and information, remaining in contact with the family throughout the year depending on the family needs. Companions can assist formally and informally. Theresa Southers is leading this effort, and can be contacted at 867-5646 for more information.

The ministry originated when Liturgy Director Joe Long and parishioners Theresa Southers and Xoan Thi Nguyen saw the need to question "what happens after the funeral", a group came together, discussed, and organized the Bethany Ministries.

## MUSIC OF NOTE

The Music Ministry of St. Patrick's has two spring events scheduled for its **Music for Charity Series**. Now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, the increasingly popular program for charity has scheduled a Grammy Award nominee duo and a selective chorus ensemble.

First on the schedule for March 15 is **Duo 46**. This is a guitar-violin, husband and wife duo, who will present their repertoire at 7:30 p.m. in the church. They are known for their breadth of work on classical guitar and violin. Their range includes classical to flamenco, gypsy to Turkish, jazz to rock, folk to Bartok, and New Age to avant-garde.

**ECU Chamber Singers** are scheduled for April 23 at 7 p.m. in the church. This group is the most selective of four university choral ensembles at East Carolina University. Consisting primarily of music majors, the singers have performed at state, regional, and national levels. Their first professional recording was released internationally in 2007.

Music for Charity concerts are free, with donations received at each concert given to a specified charity.

## Hispanic Calendar

A marriage retreat is scheduled for February 27, 28, March 1 at the Family Life Center. Contact Hispanic Minister Sylvia Espada (910-323-2410 x 111) or Jose and Sylvia Gierbolini (910-339-4288) for additional information. Registration fee is \$50.

The long-anticipated cookbook, a fundraiser for the new church building fund, should arrive in March. Further information will be available for reserving copies.

The Hispanic Fayetteville Deanery Task Force will have a workshop in the social hall April 25, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to mark the 2000th anniversary of the birth of St. Paul.

## Youth Lenten Fast

For the fourth year, the **Youth Group** will fast for Social Justice by observing a 30-hour famine beginning Saturday morning, March 28, and ending with 11:30 Mass the following Sunday morning.

Sponsored by World Vision International, approximately 50 St. Patrick teens in grades 6-12 will fast for 30 hours. During that time, they will only have drinks as sustenance. Breakfast will follow Mass on Sunday.

According to Youth Group Minister Vince Mescall, the 30-Hour Famine is a "unique retreat experience spending 30 hours together." The focus is on learning about world hunger and other social justice issues. A local service project is also a component of the retreat.

Activities include videos, music and role playing to augment the discussions and faith sharing. Mescall said the youth "come to realize how blessed we are, and they reach an understanding of attitude and gratitude". Last year the group raised nearly \$1,500 for World Vision. Participants solicit pledges to reach a goal.

Anyone interested in monetarily supporting this outreach may contact a Youth Group participant or Vince Mescall (323-2410 ext 106) who will coordinate the contact. Information will also be available at the February 27-28 Meet and Greet.

## Have A Question ?

Parish Administrator Don Bray stressed that any concern or question a parishioner may have should not become an annoyance to him/her. Effective communication is important in the parish community, he commented. Here are a few options.

Fr. Mike and Fr. Tony can be reached through the parish office at 323-2410 or at their e-mail addresses: [msgmshugrue@stpatnc.org](mailto:msgmshugrue@stpatnc.org) or [frtony@stpatnc.org](mailto:frtony@stpatnc.org). Written questions or comments may be e-mailed to the parish at [churchoffice@stpatnc.org](mailto:churchoffice@stpatnc.org) or dropped in the collection basket. Include name, phone number or e-mail address.

If you prefer not to speak with the priests or staff, you can address Mike Tucker, chairperson of Pastoral Council, or Finance Chairman Don Ruther. Phone numbers for all staff members are listed in the weekly bulletin.

## Volunteers Needed

Beth O'Leary, Parish Family Life Administrator, is looking for volunteers to visit the homebound and patients at Cape Fear Valley Hospital on a weekly basis. Currently 24 additional volunteers are needed. To volunteer or get more information contact Beth at 323-2410 ext 133.

## Sodality Events

Spring activities for the Immaculate Conception Sodality provide help to both St. Patrick's and the Catholic Charities Regional Office. Under the leadership of Melinda Briones, the Sodality spent \$600 on new altar linens as part of its altar care project. The women also plan to spend \$500 for Easter altar flowers and to contribute \$500 to the school. An annual baby shower for Catholic Charities is another part of their outreach. The shower provides clothing and supplies for the Catholic Charities Baby Closet.

The Sodality funds their outreach projects through sales in its Religious Articles Shop, which is open after all weekend masses.

# Shamrock Calendar of Events

February 1-8	Nazareth House Hosts
February 12	School Science Fair, Social Hall, through school hours
February 12	Lutheran-Catholic Covenant, St. James Lutheran Church, 7-9 p.m.
February 13	Golden Wedding Dinner, Social Hall, 6-9 p.m.
February 15	Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast, after masses
February 19	Lutheran-Catholic Covenant Series, Social Hall, 7-9 p.m.
February 22	Meet and Greet, Social Hall, after masses
February 25	Ash Wednesday Masses at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Distribution of Ashes at noon.
February 27	Lenten Soup Supper, Social Hall, before Stations of the Cross
March 5, 12, 20, 27	Lenten Soup Supper, before Stations of the Cross
March 15	Music for Charity Series, Church, 7 p.m.
March 17	St. Patrick's Day Potluck, Social Hall
March 30	Stewardship Ministry Dinner, Social Hall, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
April 9	Holy Thursday Mass, 7:30 p.m.
April 10	Stations of the Cross, Church, noon Mass and Evening Prayer, 7:30-midnight
April 11	Easter Vigil Mass, 8 p.m.
April 19	Knights of Columbus Blood Drive, Social Hall, 7 a.m.- 3 p.m.
April 26	Sodality Breakfast
April 30	Newcomer Reception, Social Hall, 6-8 p.m.

## 2009 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

*“Be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share”*, the theme of this year’s Bishop’s Annual Appeal, is St. Paul’s stewardship counsel in a letter to Timothy (I Timothy 6:18).

A sacrificial gift to the BAA provides a way for parishioners to heed Paul’s counsel. A letter mailed in late January requests each parishioner to provide assistance for the Priesthood and the Diaconate candidates, the Catholic Charities, essential programs for Catholic college students, coordination of Catholic formation and education, and support for the two diocesan retreat centers. A pledge card was included in the mailing. The parish goal this year is \$172,334, with any amount surpassing that goal returned to the parish.



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**The Shamrock News** is published quarterly by Saint Patrick Catholic Church. We welcome comments, story ideas, and suggestions for coming issues. Send suggestions, ideas, or comments to Editor Van Stryk at 485-6216 or [ds0511@aol.com](mailto:ds0511@aol.com).

### Winter 2009 Edition – Vol. 2 No. 1

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