

The Shepherd's Call

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Vacation Bible Camp a blast

By Erin Marshall

Sixty-four volunteers and 102 campers, ranging from 4 years old to fourth grade, gathered June 14-17 at Good Shepherd Catholic Church for vacation bible school. This year's theme was Baobab Blast. At the beginning of the day, **Debbie Carmody** gathered all the kids in the gym and showed a video skit of the Bible story of the day. The kids then split up into three groups and spent the morning doing crafts, playing games, dancing and singing, and then met up with their homeroom teachers for snacks and learned more about the day's lesson.

Father Jim made a few appearances throughout the week, watching the skit at the beginning and even making train noises during the games portion of the day.

As usual, the kids had a service project

for the week. This year, the project was to bring plastic bags to give to Catholic Char-

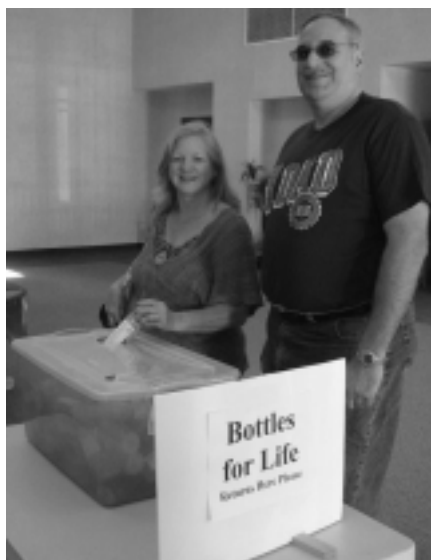
ities' New Roots for Refugees program, where the refugees will use the plastic bags to sell



BOTTLES FOR babies

*The Knights of Columbus distributed empty baby bottles at Masses on Mother's Day weekend and collected them, filled with change, on Father's Day. The proceeds from the Bottles for Life project will benefit Advice and Aid Pregnancy Center and the Wyandotte Pregnancy Center. This money helps women and families who are struggling with a pregnancy or are looking for options to give life to their babies. Grand Knight **Steve Glary** said, "Several other parishes in Kansas City have started doing this the last few years with very good success."*

***Paul Faltermeier** of the Respect Life Committee added, "We hope this project is successful in building awareness and support for all the wonderful areas that the local pregnancy crisis centers can assist women, families and babies in need of support." Photo by Ruth Misiewicz*



the food they grow at the Farmer's Market. The bags were collected at the end of the week and were carried away in a rather large plastic bag. The bags that the campers collected throughout the week will be a great help to the organization.

This year was the first year that the new community center was used for vacation bible school. The drop off/pick up station was moved from the narthex to the gym, and the games portion of the camp was moved from Seuferling Hall to the gym. This relocation gave the campers more room to run around and play, and therefore, allowed for a wider variety of games to be played. Having the drop off station in the gym also gave the kids room to run around and play while they were waiting for the camp to start.

At the end of the week, the parents of the campers came and watched their children perform the dances they learned to two of the songs and watched a PowerPoint presentation filled with pictures taken over the course of the week. Overall, it was a week full of fun, learning and adventure.

Celebrating Fr. Tom's 50th!

By Mary Morin and Anne Harvey

Photos by Terri Russell.

On Pentecost Sunday, May 23, at the 11:00 a.m. Mass, the church was splendid with banners of red and gold. Baskets of red carnations flanked the altar. Colorful presents were placed before the altar representing the seven gifts of the Spirit.

The choir members took their places. All present were eager to participate in the celebration of **Fr. Tom Kearns'** 50th anniversary as a priest. The community joined together, giving thanks to Fr. Tom for all of his many years of faithful service to God and to his fellow Catholics.

As the procession started down the aisle, the congregation sang, "Spirit Blowing Through Creation." Nine priests joined Fr. Tom, who wore a beautiful gold vestment made by his sister Ellen McCarthy.

Fr. Jim welcomed the people by saying that the 10 priests present represented 468 years of priesthood. "Let the Spirit continue to work in the church," he said.

During the first reading, three persons spoke in their own language. In response, the choir sang "Send forth your Spirit, oh Lord, and renew the face of the earth." Good Shepherd's **Derrell Southern**, a parishioner from Fr. Tom's first assignment, read the second reading.

Fr. Francis Hund, former pastor and long-time friend, was invited to give the homily. He began with, "It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood..."

When he asked Fr. Tom to turn off his

microphone, everyone heard a quiet "No" which caused a ripple of laughter throughout the church. (One more example of the ongoing, friendly teasing between these two priests!)

Fr. Francis took the microphone, and with the help of **Anne Harvey**, he began, "Fr. Tom, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit run through your life and ours. Please select a gift."

Thus began seven reflections on this 50th anniversary celebration. In keeping with a reminder of how the Holy Spirit blesses us with seven gifts, seven representatives were invited to reflect on the gifts they had received through Fr. Tom's priestly life.

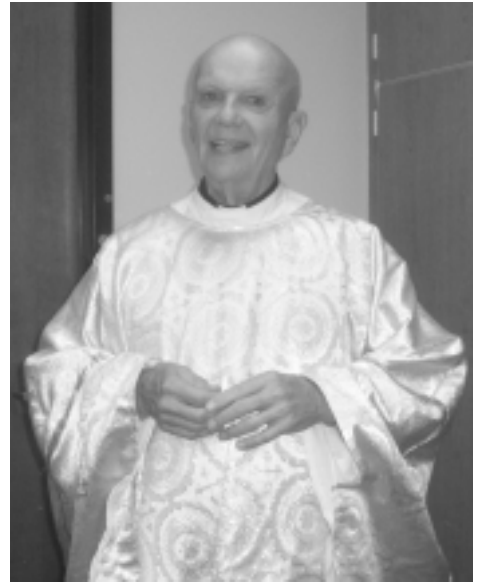
Opening the box labeled Understanding, Fr. Tom's sister Ellen read, "You are present for our family at the most trying times of our lives, and just your presence and your obvious

faith have given us comfort when it has been most difficult to find.

"We see how you appreciate the beauty of nature, which reminds us of how the work of God's hand is visible in all things beautiful," she said. "You treat each person you encounter so as to preserve and celebrate their dignity."

Selecting the box labeled Wisdom revealed an intricate piece of plastic pipe tubing sent by Fr. Al Rockers (perhaps to fix the plumbing at the cabin Fr. Al and Fr. Tom have shared for many years).

The box labeled Knowledge was presented by a former co-worker at Queen of the Holy Rosary, Sr. Margaret O'Rourke, Sister of St. Joseph. She recalled, "You were so supportive of the many new ministries we



wanted to introduce. The parish blossomed and experienced great liturgical celebrations and adult participation in so many enriching ways."

With the opening of the box labeled Piety, **Maya Sprague** stepped forward. She had received her First Communion from Fr. Tom during the last year. In her handmade card she reminded Fr. Tom that he is "a funny, great priest!"

Rita Hyde, a member of the Good Shepherd Pastoral Advisory Council, represented members of the community. She said, "Your gift of Counsel shows in the way we are uplifted by your enjoyment of so many things — the Mass, your priesthood, your leisure, our community activities and personal life events."

She continued, "We are thankful for the reverence, laughter, joy and appreciation you bring to the altar and every event you share with us. Through your joyful ministry, we receive the love of Jesus!"

*Continued--
See Fr. Tom, next page.*



Fr. Tom--continued from previous page

Fr. Francis commented on the gift of Fear of the Lord. "One of the great Spirit-given gifts that you have shared throughout your years of priesthood is supporting seminarians and young priests.

"I recall the day you urged me to join the priesthood. From the day you sat beside me on the organ bench before Mass in my 'Holy Land' of Paxico, inviting me to consider a vocation to priestly service, to sitting together here in this sanctuary for many celebrations, you have witnessed to me the Spirit of encouragement, listening (as impossible as this might seem!) and friendship," he concluded.

The gift of Fortitude was commented upon by life-long friends, Derrell and **Elaine Southern**, who have known Fr. Tom in three different parishes in their lifetime. As Derrell said, "We knew you when you were at Sacred Heart Parish in Kansas City, Kan., your

first assignment. We met with you again in your bright red jacket in Edgerton, Kan. And now at Good Shepherd, here we are again 50 years later, both blessed with no hair!"

During the offertory procession, Father Tom's family brought the gifts to the altar while the congregation sang "We are a pilgrim people."



The priests present joined Father Tom on the altar for the concelebration of the Eucharist. Father Tom commented on the chalice he used. "It had been commissioned by my

parents and contains the diamond from my mother's engagement ring."

After communion the congregation raised their hands in blessing as the choir sang a special reflection: "May God bless you with His love, always fill you with His

love; may He hold you in the hollow of His hand. For the Lord is with you in goodness and love; may His light shine out in your heart."

And then it was time to party, and what a party it was! A potluck was hosted by the Social Council, the Knights of Columbus and the Good Shepherd community.

Fr. Tom, we thank you for all the ways you have brought Christ to us. Please continue to be present in our lives. We are humbly blessed.

Personally speaking Our journey

By Donna Cornett

It was a beautiful day in Kansas as we started our annual journey to Lawrence, to explore the many wonders of a lovely water garden place and to imagine the possibilities for beautifying our own water gardens.

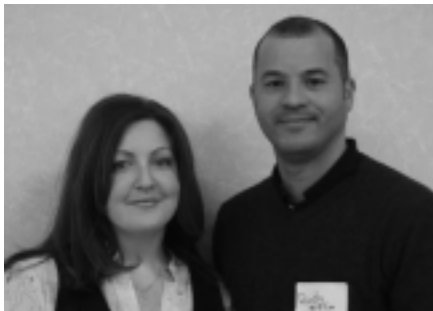
After we selected our plants, we continued to a new restaurant with a unique atmosphere. These yearly pilgrimages enable **Anne Harvey** and me to discuss plans for the church environment without interruption. After lunch and a trip to a local gallery to admire the beauty of art, we continued through some back roads of Lawrence and stumbled upon a nursery. "We have to stop," we both exclaimed! Wherever there are flowers, fabrics or art, we must check it out!

Following our stop at the nursery, we made our way to Haskell Blvd. and at the intersection of Haskell and 19th Street, we observed a car coming across two lanes, heading right at us. There was nowhere to go, so Anne swerved to the left and still we collided.

At that point God was truly with us — being in a safe car, the airbag implosion, the kind people that came to our aid and the response of the police and fire departments. As we were being transported in the ambulance, we thought how lucky we were.

It will be awhile until the bruises heal, the use on my right hand comes back and Anne's neck injury heals, but we are alive and we will be back stronger than ever — doing what we love to do for the environment and for the people of Good Shepherd, using our time and talents for the glory of God.

Let's welcome...



C. Daniel Link. He formerly attended the Newman Center at the University of Arizona and joined Good Shepherd parish in March. He enjoys music, movies and cooking.

Rudy Melo and Pamela Mullin. Pamela is a physician's assistant and enjoys cooking and bicycling, while Rudy works at Nebraska Furniture Mart and likes cooking and basket-golf. They celebrated the sacrament of marriage at Good Shepherd on May 22.



Joe and Sally O'Brien, who joined the parish in March. They keep busy with their grandchildren, watching KU basketball, cooking and reading.



Photos by Robbie Englert.

Wedding bells, wedding plans

By Mary Morin

Love is in the air. The proposal is made and accepted. Families are told of the upcoming wedding.

Next on the list of things to do should be calling the church office. Couples contemplating marriage need to contact their current parish at least six months prior to setting a wedding date.

Kathi Oppold, church secretary, is their first contact at Good Shepherd. "'I'd like to talk to someone about a wedding' or 'I'd like information on having a wedding at Good Shepherd,' is what I hear in that first conversation," she says.

"I determine then if one or both parties are members here, and if they are Catholic. I will check for availability if they have a target date for their wedding, and I might give them some idea of the cost involved. Then if they want to move forward, I let them know that their next step is meeting with **Father Jim**. He schedules his own appointments and they can coordinate that with him," she concludes.

A meeting is set with the pastor to set the process in motion. After that, additional individual and group meetings are required.

"The preparation is real preparation," Father Jim says. "Only at the completion of all the requirements and approval given by the priest is the wedding date final."

Near the completion of the many requirements, a wedding coordinator is assigned. **Rachael Flener** and **Patti Huegerich** serve

in that capacity at this time for Good Shepherd.

"Nineteen couples have weddings scheduled between May 30 and October 2011," Father Jim says.

On May 8, the second engaged couples' meeting was held at Good Shepherd with six couples attending. Jean Humphrey and Father Jim gave presentations on the sacrament of marriage.

For the majority of these couples, the wedding dates range from June through the beginning of September 2010. "Good Shepherd averages about 11 weddings a year, with fall events becoming more popular," Rachael says.

She adds, "Most brides tend to add more decorations to the narthex than the church. The church is already filled with so many symbols and art, such as the stained-glass windows. For example, the priest has them stand on the top step of the altar which puts them between Christ on the crucifix and the stained-glass window representing the hand of God."

Recent bride **Amy Frederick** wed Michael Hannan on June 5. Her mother, **Chris Frederick**, says, "The first time Amy and Michael met with Fr. Jim, they remarked as to his openness and his sense of humor. He

spent a lot of time during their sessions getting to know them.

"This really showed during the wedding ceremony as he made it very personal. His



Photo by Mary Morin.

homily included comments about things they had mentioned," Chris says. "And they loved that!"

And so it begins. Couples make certain that their married lives start off on the right foot. Surrounded by friends and family, they are supported on their life journey as a couple.

VITAL STATISTICS

New Members:

Phil & Terri Thelen
14814 W 74th Ct.
Children: Jeff

John & Donna Glaser
23539 W 73rd Ter.
Children: Alexander, Madison

Kathryn Kisthardt
5612 Richards Dr.
Children: Jaxson, Kimberleigh

Daniel & Shirley Bowers
12502 W 74th Ter.

Cindy Nusbaum & Jeff Garrett
7615 Richards Dr.
Children: Isabella

Baptisms:

Kora Helen Jacks
Parents: Christopher & Meggan Jacks

George James Befort
Parents: Russ & Jamie Befort

Hyunhu Tomokane Yu
Parents: Hyun Min & Inah Yu

Ellis Anders Olsen
Parents: Aaron & Jennifer Olsen

Marriages:

Rudolfo Melo & Pam Mullin
May 22, 2010



Lending a hand

Several Good Shepherd members joined forces May 24 for a day of work to spruce things up for elderly parishioners. The "crew" brought flowers, washed windows, swept and repaired things for seniors at Situs Place.

Bernadine Asher, one of the recipients, said, "We

seniors admire the energy and lightheartedness of the workers and want to say a big 'thank you'! Your enthusiasm for helping others is contagious, and hopefully we will now be more aware of each other's needs." Those who helped were **Christy, Jake, Joe and Max Heller; Elaine Januzka; Nick, Kaitlin and Linda Arnold; Blake Mayfield; and David Wittman.**