



Spotlight on Stewardship

Strong faith and actions connect our lives

By David Kelley

Romans 12:6-8 tells us that we each have different gifts to share and that these gifts are examples of how we should express our faith outwardly to others. Peter builds upon this thought by telling us, "Each of us should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

Jeff and Lisa Englert are long-time members of Good Shepherd whose strong faith and actions demonstrate how a commitment to serving others helps to connect us in our lives. They have two sons, Robbie and Kenny, who attend Rockhurst High School, and two daughters, Abby and Julia, who attend grade school at Good Shepherd.

Jeff and Lisa moved to the area almost 20 years ago. Lisa was a life-long Catholic and Jeff could see how important her Catholic faith was in her life. Shortly after they joined Good Shepherd, Jeff entered the RCIA program and became Catholic too. Like many couples, they attended Mass and church events, and looked for opportunities to become involved and meet new friends.

Lisa had an early interest in becoming part of the team from Good Shepherd that visits patients at Shawnee Mission Medical Center. They both signed up together and were trained, but after a year it was Jeff who really found it to be his calling. He continues to volunteer every other Sunday and has done so for the past 18 years.

The program, coordinated with other parishes, ensures that Catholics who are in the hospital receive a visitor every day. "It's been one of the best personal growth experiences I've ever had," Jeff says. He shared the story of visiting the mother of another Good Shepherd parishioner who was being released to Hospice on the day of his visit and was very near the end of her life. "I was inspired because of her faith. She was confident and at peace. She knew where she was going," Jeff says. "The experiences I've had during these visits have helped to shape my faith and influenced my family's too."

Jeff has participated on the parish Stewardship Council and later on the Pastoral

Advisory Council, eventually serving as chairperson of each. "I got to learn a lot about how the church worked internally, what our needs were, and how everyone was involved," Jeff says. He was instrumental in planning for the new community center and actively involved in more than one capital campaign. Currently, Jeff is the leader of our parish Planned Giving committee, whose goal is to educate and inspire parishioners to remember Good Shepherd in their estate plan-



ning and to join the Good Shepherd Legacy Society which recognizes those who have designated the parish as a beneficiary of their estate.

Throughout the years, Lisa has done many things on a regular basis with the school, lunchroom and funeral dinners.

"She's someone who is always ready to help out and to do whatever is needed" says parish secretary Kathi Oppold. Most recently, Lisa has been actively involved in the Caring Ministries Council, where she is completing her third year and is currently the chairperson. "There are so many wonderful things this ministry has to offer. I've really enjoyed serving on this council and assisting others alongside so many wonderful people in our parish," she says.

Jeff and Lisa's children share their strong faith and commitment to serve others. Both boys started out as servers and today are Eucharistic Ministers. Robbie runs the sound board during events at Good Shepherd. Both boys like to sing and they participate at Mass and even in some individual performances. Lisa involves the girls on occasion to say the rosary with the residents at Garden Terrace when Good Shepherd visits. They have also helped with the Lucky Seniors luncheon.

We can profess our faith to others, recite Bible verses, and show up at church to worship — but our faith, our heart and our inward light will only shine when we set aside ourselves by serving others. Our service is the true window to our soul. The Englert family is an outstanding example of this at Good Shepherd.

Let's welcome...



Jeff and Melissa Cartmill who recently relocated here from Sioux City, Iowa. They are both employed at Cerner Corporation and in their spare time they enjoy reading, gaming and crafts.

VITAL STATISTICS

New Members:
Melissa Bewley
5602 NW Plantation Dr.

Andrew Clark
4551 Washington St.

Ryan & Christy Dejmala
7423 Cottonwood Dr.
Children: Evan, Sam

Susan Hoskins
9914 W 65th Dr.
Children: Jacob, Zackary

Joann Daif
14322 W 89th St.
Children: Joshua