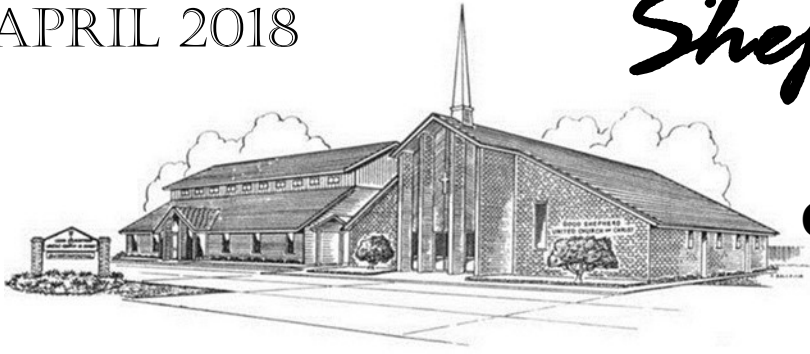


APRIL 2018

Shepherd's Voice



The monthly parish newsletter of
GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

WHAT WE BELIEVE...

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down
from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the
Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance
with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver
of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son
who with the Father and the Son is wor-
shiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic
Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the for-
giveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

AN EASTER EUCHARIST—CELEBRATING THANKSGIVING IN THE SPRING

Most people probably think of the earthly season of Fall when they think of Thanksgiving. But as Christians, the Easter Season in Spring is also a time of GREAT THANKSGIVING.

The word "Eucharist" is most commonly used in church to refer to the Sacrament of Holy Communion, yet few Christians know that the real meaning of the word is *thanksgiving*. We get the word *Eucharist* from the Greek noun *eucharistia* which literally translates to mean *thanksgiving*.

Most Christians are probably familiar with the part of the Eucharistic Liturgy that includes the words:

*The Lord be with you. **And also with you.***

*Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.***

*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

That responsive exchange between the minister and the congregation is often called "The Eucharistic Prayer" or "The Great Thanksgiving".

As we enter into the earthly season of Spring and into the Liturgical Season of Easter, let us remain mindful of all that we have to be thankful for. In fact, I believe we should look upon this season with the same sort of fondness and gratitude that we look upon turkey, stuffing, apple pie and football games in the Fall.

As the penitential season of Lent comes to a close, Easter gives us an opportunity to enter into a time of joyous celebration. We celebrate that by the finished work of the Cross at Calvary and in a perfect victory over the grave, our Lord conquered sin and death once and for all for those who place their faith and trust in Him. We remember and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and we are thankful for the promise of new life in Him!

Continued on page 2

It is no coincidence that the universal Christian church celebrates Easter in the Spring. The evidence of new life abounds this time of year all through nature. You need only look and you will easily find evidence of blossoming trees, blooming flowers, baby birds chirping and brown lawns turning green again. Let these worldly sights serve as reminders to you to offer thanks to God for all the gifts of rebirth you have experienced in your life.

As I write this, I think about Good Shepherd Church and how much we have to be thankful for this Easter. Off the top of my head, I can easily list five examples of how our church is blooming this Spring. In no particular order, the first five that come to mind are: 1. Our awesome music program that is currently seeking a candidate to replace the incredible 14 years of service that Jordy blessed us with; 2. The abundance of kids that are active at our church; 3. The recent welcoming of five new adult members and baptism of two infants into the Body of Christ; 4. The willingness of our congregation to stand on the authority of God's Word, even when it means making difficult decisions; and 5. Our Sunday morning Bible study recently started by Mel and Margaret Aucoin.

I could go on, but instead, I'd like to challenge YOU to look around your church and find reasons to give thanks. I would like to challenge YOU to look for Spring blossoms and evidence of new life in and around our church parish. And even more importantly, I would like to challenge YOU to identify areas where perhaps some extra love and care may be needed in our church and then when you spot it, take some time and energy to pray about it, tend to that area and help new life continue to bloom at Good Shepherd Church!

As my friend The Rev. Dr. Joe McKeever recently tweeted on facebook, "When God gets ready to do something amazing, He loves to start with ordinary people in unlikely circumstances and take His own good time. Only people of faith see and rejoice."

As we enter this Easter Season, let us do so as people of faith, ready to see what God would have us see and rejoice in thanksgiving for all He is has blessed us with and all of the blessings He has yet to bestow upon us.

Until next month, let your light shine!

The Reverend Randall M. Graf, Pastor

SERVICES SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 2018

Sunday, April 1 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM—Easter Sunday

Thursday, April 5 @ 6:35PM—Midweek Service of Holy Eucharist

Sunday, April 8 @ 10:00 AM—Sunday worship

Thursday, April 12 @ 6:35 PM—Midweek Service of Holy Eucharist

Saturday, April 14 @ 11:00 AM—Monthly Service of Intercessory Prayer

Sunday, April 15 @ 8:30AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday Worship

Thursday, April 19 @ 6:30 PM—Midweek Service of Holy Eucharist

Sunday, April 22 @ 10:00 AM—Sunday Worship

Thursday, April 26—Midweek Service of Holy Eucharist (Healing Service)

Sunday, April 29 @ 10:00 AM—PLEASE NOTE: Worship will be held at the Church Picnic

CHURCH FISH FRY

The congregation of Good Shepherd Church will put on a fish fry on Sunday May 6th between 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM. The cost is \$10 each for adults and \$7 for children 12 and under. Proceeds from this event will supplement the church's operating budget.

The menu will be fried catfish, coleslaw, French fries, bread. Soft drinks and deserts will be available for an additional \$1 each. To go boxes will also be available.

This event will not only be a fundraiser but an opportunity to bring in people in our community to share a meal and Christian fellowship.

To put this on we need plenty of help! We will hold an organizational meeting in the conference room on Sunday April 15th after the 10:00 AM worship service.

For more information, please see Mel Aucoin.



THE PASSION OF OUR LORD



Stan McDonald, Mel Aucoin, Bob Volk, and Thom Kolesa presented the Passion of Our Lord at Good Shepherd on Palm Sunday, March 25, 2018. Seated at the feet of Saints Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are scribes played by Gabe LaGarde and Daniel Landry. The presentation was based on "The Word" by Thom Kolesa.

WOMEN'S GUILD YARD SALE A GREAT SUCCESS!

The Good Shepherd Women's Guild held their Spring Yard Sale from on Saturday, March 3. Many thanks to all who volunteered to work the sale and the preparation days in the lead up to the event. The Women's Guild raised over \$1600 at this sale! Well done, ladies!

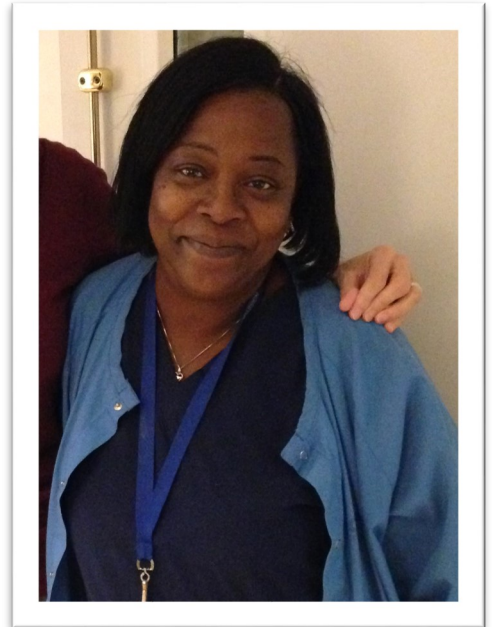
SHEILA'S STORY

You haven't met Sheila, but you ministered to her. Sheila has been a housekeeper for Ochsner for 23 years. 2017 was a very difficult year for her. In February when the tornados hit New Orleans, Sheila's house in New Orleans East was destroyed. All she had left were the clothes on her back and her car. Sheila began the difficult task of rebuilding her home. In the fall of 2017, her step-granddaughter was killed in a house fire. And, during the holidays at the end of the year, her dad died on hospice. A heart wrenching year.

After the garage sale last Saturday, the church ladies were packing up the gym. As they worked they set aside juice glasses, coffee mugs, water glasses and sheets for Sheila. An arm chair left from the sale was donated to her as well.

“. . . Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me”—Matthew 25:40.

You haven't met Sheila, but you ministered to her.



SHEEP IN THE NEWS

First, I want to congratulate our trio singers, Madison Graf, Haley Lagarde, and Madison Verbest on the beautiful song they sang on Jordy's last Sunday. We really have some talented youth. Great job girls.

I also want to congratulate Madison Verbest on placing 4th in her category at the Regional Science Fair at Tulane University. She placed 4th out of 18 contestants in her category. Fantastic job, Maddie. She also won 2 special awards from the New Orleans Geological Society and from the Society of Civil Engineers and she received a goodie bag of prizes for winning the Social Media Award. We are so proud of you, Maddie. Keep up the good work.

We have one more congratulations to extend. Madison Graf was inducted into the National Honor Society at John Curtis High School. Way to go, Madison. We are very proud of you and wish you continued success.

Debbie Volk

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

By D.J. Estopinal

To anyone interested in spending time reading out loud and discussing God's word as an act of worship. Mrs. Margaret M. Aucoin is leading a bible study class.

The bible study class starts promptly every Sunday morning at 9:00 A. M. There is no need to do anything but to quietly drop in and join the group in the conference room in the Good Shepherd Church, every Sunday morning.

The bible study group is unique in that there is **no sign up, no homework and no commitments**. You can attend just one class or become a permanent bible study group member.

Currently the bible study group is studying the book of "Romans" in the N. I. V. Bible. Come and join us in the study of the holy word next Sunday.

CHURCH PICNIC APRIL 29

By D.J. Estopinal

Good Shepherd Church will be having a picnic held at **Wally Pontiff Playground, Shelter # 3**, located at 1521 Palm Street, Metairie on **Sunday, April 29, 2018**. The church will be providing Hamburger and Hot Dog Buns, Ketchup, Yellow Mustard, Sweet Pickle Relish and Bar-B-Queuing Hamburgers and Hot Dogs,

There will be **NO** charge to attend the picnic, however, there is a food sign up list posted on the bulletin board. We ask that if you are planning on attending our church picnic, you sign up to bring one or more of the side dishes listed on the sign-up church memo. You must also bring whatever you want to drink and folding chairs. There will be **NO** church service at Good Shepherd Church on Sunday, April 29. Church service will be held at the Wally Pontiff Playground at 10:00 A.M., with the picnic to follow. You may start arriving at the playground after 9:00 A.M.

PLEASE NOTE: NO GLASS, CORNING WARE OR PETS OF ANY TYPE IS ALLOWED at the Good Shepherd Picnic or on the Wally Pontiff Playground Property!

We need volunteers to help with setting up and taking down everything on the Sunday of the picnic and with children's activities. Located next to the pavilion we will be at, there is a children playground and swing set. Ms. Sheila is planning children activities. You may pick up a map of the playground with the Jefferson Parish playground rules on the back, on the table next to the Sunday Church Bulletins.

FOR RENT

LOOKING TO RENT A LOCATION FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT?

Good Shepherd Church, 5122 West Esplanade Ave., Metairie, La. is located **two blocks west of Transcontinental Drive on West Esplanade Ave.** Good Shepherd Church will **RENT**, for **VERY** reasonable rates, their Fellowship Hall, Inside Basketball Court/Volleyball Court, meeting Rooms, fully equipped Kitchen, etc.



Varied Meetings & Gatherings



Basketball or Volleyball



Fully Equipped Kitchen



Fellowship Hall

Our Fellowship Hall is perfect for parties, dances, wedding receptions, small and large meetings, luncheons, Banquets, Class Reunions, Seminars, Training Sessions, Sales Presentations, Club Meetings, Fund Raising Events, Movie and Commercial Filming, etc.

For further information, rental rates and a tour of our Fellowship Hall facility, please call the **Good Shepherd Church Office at (504) 454-0764**. If no one is available to answer your call, please leave a message and someone will get back in touch with you. You may also visit us online at www.GSChristian.com.

GROWING THE BODY OF CHRIST

During the month of March 2018, Good Shepherd Church was blessed to grow her family of faith and the Body of Christ. We welcomed five new adult members to full membership in our church family and also baptized two infants into the Universal Christian Church.



Top left: Baptism of Benjamin Thomas and Andrew Daniel Signorelli, March 11, 2018.

Right: Clif Frilot is welcomed into the family of faith of Good Shepherd Church on March 18, 2018.

Bottom left: Rev. Graf welcomes Adele Engelbracht, Mike Engelbracht, Barbara Pellerin and Carmel Gracii as new members at Good Shepherd Church on March 11, 2018.

STAY UP TO DATE

To make sure you're keeping up-to-date with everything that is happening at church, sign-up for our Thursday morning e-newsletter by going to our website at www.GSChristian.com. While you're on the website, go to "Calendar" and take advantage of syncing your Google calendar app with ours! You can also follow Good Shepherd on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube!

JASPER
the



CHURCHMOUSE says...

And Jasper says.... "I QUIT!"

....No more of this writing a story for the Good Shepherd Newsletter every month.

....I quit writing the monthly newsletter once before so I'm getting pretty good at quitting it. It's not hard at all. The deadline comes so quick! Nobody else wants the job and probably nobody reads it anyway.

"!looFlirpA"

That's April Fool spelled backwards. My Grandmice caught the joke before I got this next paragraph started. How about you?

Wouldn't it be terrible if we only did things that we wanted to do, when we wanted too, and how often we wanted too. It is so wonderful that all of your volunteers and staff members are so dedicated and do their jobs for the good of everyone and not just for themselves!

See you next month, and the next, and the next, and the next, etc.

....With Love of the Best Kind, I am,

Jasper



Good Shepherd Church

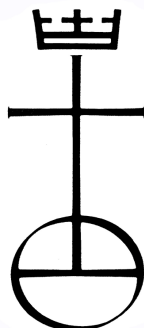
5122 West Esplanade Ave

Metairie, LA 70006

504.454.0764

www.GSChristian.com

The Rev. Dr. Randall M. Graf, Pastor



Sunday Services

10:00 AM every Sunday

8:30 AM 1st & 3rd Sundays

Midweek Services

6:35 PM Thursdays

Intercessory Prayer

11:00 AM

2nd Saturday of the month