

OCTOBER 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-
shipped 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

We are a worship community. That's one of the foundation-
al missions and ministries of the Church. In Acts 2:42, Luke
tells us that the early Christians "devoted themselves to the
apostles' teachings, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread
(the Lord's Supper), and to prayer." I so strongly believe
that those words describe exactly what the Church is sup-
posed to do, that I've have that verse printed on the back
of my business cards.

This month, Good Shepherd Church will hold what seems
like an extraordinary number of services. We will devote
ourselves to the apostles' teachings by hearing the Word of
God read aloud. We will fellowship as a corporate body.
We will break the bread in the Holy Eucharist. And of
course, we will pray together. In addition to our typical Sun-
day morning services and Thursday evening Holy Eucharist,
I'm excited to announce that we'll hold a number of spe-
cial services.

On **Tuesday, October 2, at 7:00 PM** in the sanctuary, Good
Shepherd Church will hold our first meeting of our **Mother's
Prayer Group**. This group of ladies will meet monthly for the
express purpose of praying for our children, grandchildren,
and all young people in need of prayer. If you would like to
be part of this forming ministry at Good Shepherd Church,
please see Mrs. Gwen Martinez. She may be reached by
text/phone at 504-481-5118 or by email at gwendo-
lyndmartinez@yahoo.com.

On **Saturday, October 6, at 10:30 AM**, Good Shepherd
Church will commemorate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi
with our annual **Blessing of the Animals**. St. Francis is known
as the patron saint of animals, and I would like to invite you
to bring your pets to church that morning for a very special
service that celebrates the gift that they are in our lives.

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On **Tuesday, October 9, at 10:00 AM**, our **Women's Guild** will once again host a **Service of Holy Eucharist**. Although this will be held to start our Women's Guild's monthly meeting, all are invited to this service of worship, whether a member of the Women's Guild or not, and whether you are a woman or not.

Finally, on **Thursday, October 25** our regular **6:35 PM** Thursday evening Holy Eucharist will feature a **health and healing theme**. If you or someone you know and love is in need of God's healing touch in their lives for physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, or any other type of healing, please make certain you mark your calendar and attend this very special worship service. You will not regret it.

Looking ahead to **November**, please plan to join us for our special **All Saints Day** observance at our **6:35 PM Thursday** evening Holy Eucharist on **November 1**.

Until next month, let your light shine!

The Reverend Randall M. Graf, Pastor



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.GSCMet.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!



SERVICES SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 2018

Tuesday, October 2 @ 7:00 PM—Mothers Prayer Group

Thursday, October 4 @ 6:35PM—Midweek Service of Holy Eucharist

Saturday, October 6 @ 10:30 AM—Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 7 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, October 9 @ 10:00 AM—Women's Guild Holy Eucharist

Thursday, October 11—Midweek Service of Holy Eucharist

Saturday, October 13 @ 11:00 AM—Monthly Service of Intercessory Prayer

Sunday, October 14 @ 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Worship Service

Thursday, October 18 @ 6:35 PM—Midweek Service of Holy Eucharist

Sunday, October 21 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Worship Service

Thursday, October 25—Midweek Service of Holy Eucharist

MEDIA BOOTH MASTERS

Article and photo by D. J. Estopinal

Most Good Shepherd Church parishioners understand that the prayers and songs that we sing and pray during church service are projected on the front wall of the church sanctuary, not done by magic, but by someone in the Media Booth.

But do you know who is behind the walls of the media booth operating the sound system and visual arts computers?

This is a boring and repetitive job that must be done, week after week, month after month.

A very nice gentleman named Brennen handled our media booth until he left us and went to college. This occurred in August of 2017. All of a sudden, we did not have anyone to operate the media booth equipment. Pastor Graf asked if anyone from the congregation would be willing to volunteer to take over this job? Only one couple answered the call. Mr. Carmel Graci and his wife Sandy Graci.



Mrs. Sandy & Mr. Carmel Graci

Every Sunday since August of 2017, they have manned the media booth.

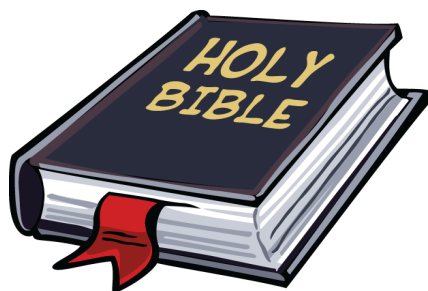
Sandy and Carmel have been married for fifty (50) years. They joined Good Shepherd Church in 1984 and have been loyal members ever since. They also own "Graci Real Estate and Appraisal Services, L.L.C." which is located in Kenner.

The Graci's have also donated many items, including many large screened TVs, to be used in raffles, to generate money for our church.

Good Shepherd Church is indeed fortunate and blessed to have such a devoted couple in our congregation.



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY AT GSC



A reminder that Bible study is held every Sunday morning at 9:00 AM in the conference room. The current study is focused on the Book of Genesis. Interested participants may enter into the class on any given Sunday. All are welcome!

For more information, please see Mrs. Margaret Aucoin.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS 2018

Last year Good Shepherd Church (GSC) partnered with Metairie Baptist Church (MBC) to provide Thanksgiving baskets to families in the community and student families in need at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Our church provided five (!) baskets. This year we will again partner with MBC to provide this ministry.

If anyone knows of a family in need, please submit the name, address and contact information to Helen Brister at rabrister@bellsouth.net by November 11th. Each basket costs approximately \$125 per basket depending on the size of the family.

If you would like to contribute to the baskets, please mark your gift as "Thanksgiving baskets" and place in the offering plate from now through November 11th. Shopping and delivery of the baskets will take place Saturday Nov 17th. If anyone would like to assist with the shopping and delivery of the baskets please let me know. It will take approximately 4 hours. This ministry is in addition to GSC's support of Second Harvest Food Bank.

I will be GS church's liaison with MBC.



Thanksgiving Food Baskets



YOUTH THROW DOWN SOCK-TOBER CHALLENGE TO ADULTS

Throughout October, the Youth Group will begin their "Sock-tober" service project. This will be a sock drive for the homeless. It's also a contest of who can bring in the most socks!



The contest will be the Youth age and below against anyone over that age. We will have two boxes set up—one for each group.

Please bring in new/unused sock throughout the month of October and help us help others!

For more information, see our Youth Director, Mrs. Kelly Frilot.

MUSICAL NOTES FROM RINDA

October is one of my favorite months. Usually we begin to have some cooler weather, a rest from the heat of the summer. We begin to look toward Advent and the Christmas season—especially if you are a part of the choir. Public Service Announcement: now would be a great time to give singing in the choir a chance!



Speaking of the choir, I can't even put into words how great a blessing this group of singers is to me personally. They love God and are dedicated to offering their talents to him each Sunday. Music has always been part of my life and I am grateful to God for the opportunity to serve him through music.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God." Colossians 3:16

Rinda Coleman, Music Director



MEN'S CLUB NEWS

The Men's Club fundraiser dedicated to begin to raise money for the replacement of our existing street sign is now underway. It will be a raffle with one hundred percent (100 %) of the money raised being utilized for the purchase of our new Good Shepherd Church street sign.

The prizes for this raffle are planned to be a bushel basket full of hard liquor (valued at over \$200), a bushel basket full of nice wines (valued over \$150), a \$100.00 gift card to a nice restaurant, and a \$50.00 gift card to Wal-Mart.

However, we have a small problem! We still need donations of seven (7) nice bottles of wine for the wine basket. Also, we still need either a gift card or the money to purchase a \$100.00 restaurant gift card. If you wish to purchase and donate all or part of the gift card or wine or if you wish to donate money for the purchase of the needed above items, please see me, D. J. Estopinal, with your donations. It would be greatly appreciated by the Men's Club.

Next Men's Club Meeting

The Men's Club will hold their next scheduled meeting on **Monday, October 15, 2018**. Our meeting will be held in the meeting room located in the **Fellowship Hall**. The meeting is scheduled to start at **6:00 P.M.**

ALL men of Good Shepherd Church are encouraged to attend. We NEED your support!

BLACK & GOLD SUCCESS!

SAINTS AND GOOD SHEPHERD ARE WINNERS!

Article and photos by D. J. Estopinal

Sunday, September 23, 2018 was our annual Black & Gold Sunday. Almost everyone who attended church wore their black and gold Good Shepherd Church, "We Love Our Saints" Tee Shirts.



After our 10:00 A. M. church service was complete, all persons who attended that church service, plus a few who did not, went next door to our Fellowship Hall.

In our Fellowship Hall, there were two (2), 50-inch, large screen, LCD, T.V. sets set up along with a large "Pot Luck Dinner". Multiple salads, main courses, deserts and soft drinks were there for all to enjoy.

At approximately 11:30 A. M., Pastor Graf said a blessing over the meal before everyone attempted to place a serving of all of the foods that had been prepared on their plate to consume. There were so many different foods to choose from, most found it a challenge and few accomplished the task.

At 12:00 P. M., noon, the New Orleans Saints verses the Atlanta Falcons football game was displayed on both of the large screen TVs for everyone's enjoyment. As usual, the Saint's gave their viewers a nail biter of a football game yet they won the game. The final score, which was achieved in overtime, was Saint's 43 to Atlanta Falcons 37.



During the football games half time, Pastor Graf called Mrs. Pam Peters up to the front of the Fellowship Hall. She was presented with a cup cake with a single lit candle on it. This day was Mrs. Peters' ?? birthday! Everyone there sang Happy Birthday to her.

After that presentation, still during the footballs game half time, Pastor Graf had several of the church's children come up to the front of the "Fellowship Hall". Those children picked the winning tickets to our current church raffle. Below are the results of that drawing.



Mrs. Pam Peters receives a birthday treat from Rev. Graf.



Randy and Lynn Peters pose with Rev. Graf after they won the Black & Gold Sunday Grand Prize, a Sharp 50" Roku television.

Mr. Randy and his wife, Mrs. Lynn Peters (pictured left) won the first-place prize of a "Sharp", 50 inch, FHD, 1080p, TV.

The below is a list of other winners of gift card prizes in the same raffle.

Ms. Dottie Frilot won a "Wal-Mart" Gift Card.

Mrs. Sharon Wetzel won a "Bath & Baby" gift card.

Mr. John Wetzel won a "Carrabba's" Gift Card.

Ms. Barbara Pellerin won an "I-HOP" gift Card.

and Pastor Randall Graf won an "Outback Steak House" gift card.

All of the above raffle prizes were donated to Good Shepherd Church by Mrs. Sandy Graci of "Graci Real Estate and Appraisal Services, L.L.C.", which is located in Kenner, Louisiana. Everyone who attended had a great time. There was so much food that there were plenty of leftovers.

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

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Invite You To The Annual

Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, October 6, 2018 @ 10:30 AM
5122 West Esplanade Ave
Metairie, LA 70006

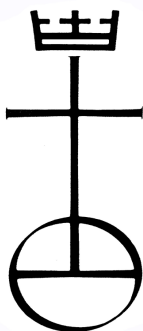
Bring your pets to church for this very special service! We'll meet in the parking lot.



Good Shepherd Church

5122 West Esplanade Ave
Metairie, LA 70006
504.454.0764
www.GSCMet.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