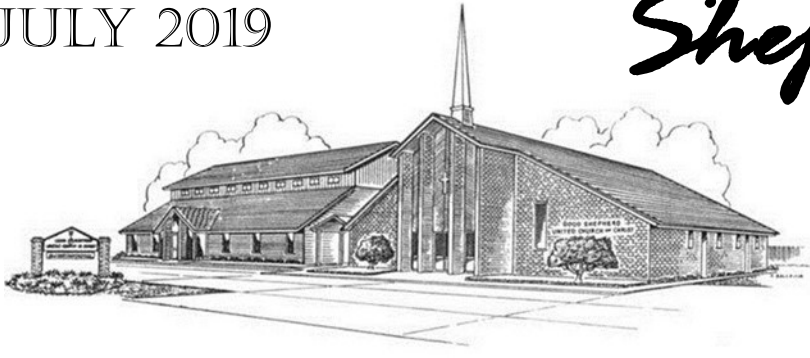


JULY 2019



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:

CAN THE CHURCH WORK TOO HARD?

*This month I am taking a rest from writing this column. In-
stead, I bring you a column written by my colleague and
brother clergyman, The Reverend Ken Barnes. Rev'd Barnes
published this in the Summer 2017 edition of Networker.*

Rev'd Graf

For the last few years my wife and I have attended a church near our home that seems to be defying the odds when it comes to growth. It is a church with Reformed theology that unashamedly practices infant baptism, worships in a "traditional" church building constructed more than fifty years ago and is located in an established suburb of the city with little new home construction and many older residents. Yet the church has been growing, most with younger adults and families, to the point that the average Sunday attendance is probably somewhere in the neighborhood of 150 adults and about 100 kids every week. Now that may not seem like years ago, the attendance was probably half that number or less.

Of course, being the analytical type person that I am, I've been trying to figure out why this particular church is growing while so many others that are quite similar are declining and even dying. It could be that the pastor, who is well known for his preaching skill is a catalyst of the growth, but then again, I've seen many other churches with gifted preachers that are declining. It could be that the musicians who lead worship are drawing people in, although I've been in plenty of churches with worship music as good or even better in quality that are declining.

Continued on page 2

It could be that the children's programming attracts families, although whenever I talk to volunteers who are leading that branch of the church's ministry they share how they're struggling to get volunteers just like most and can barely handle the huge influx of children they've been seeing each week.

No, the truth of the matter is, I haven't found any one thing about this church that could "explain" the growth being experienced there. Instead, I've been looking at the bigger picture of how some of the things this church does (or doesn't do) are different from many of the other churches with which I'm familiar. In fact, if someone were to ask me how this church is different from many typical congregations, I would describe it in one sentence: ***This church never seems to be in a rush to accomplish anything, but rather seems mostly concerned with helping people figure out how to live the Christian life outside the church with no pressure to perform.***

This, I believe, is one of the things that makes this church different from many typical churches facing the same demographic realities. A common attitude found in many struggling churches is the idea that if church members just work harder, spend more time planning and organizing church activities and put the pressure on everyone in the church to "do more," then the church will grow and people will come to faith. In fact, in his book *Reclaiming Glory: Revitalizing Dying Churches*, Mark Clifton says this, "Older generations expected to be busy at church. Younger families do not. They need space to live their faith outside of the church building. Simplifying your strategy and reducing the time members are expected to be in the church building gives them that space.....Many older, dying churches have complex and detailed organizational structures that make the decision-making process slow and unresponsive. Your church needs to facilitate kingdom growth, not prohibit it."

I can't tell you how many times I've been in churches that may only have fifty people in worship, but they have eighty people serving on standing committees that meet at least once a month (if you do the math, that means some people have to serve on multiple committees and have multiple meetings per month!). The organizational structure of many churches keeps the active members so busy doing "church work" that nobody has any time to be involved in the community or to develop meaningful relationships with people outside the church who need Jesus.

The truth is, many churches need to simplify their organizational structure and put less demands on people to do "church work" so they can have more time to actually live the Christian life in the community. For some churches this might mean getting rid of committees that may have been needed when the church had 500 members but are not longer needed when the church has fifty in worship. It might mean letting one or two people handle a particular task without oversight rather than insisting that an entire committee be required to oversee a particular ministry.

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At this church my wife and I attend, one of the unique elements of the congregation's organizational structure is that the entire church has decided to practice a spiritual discipline that is as old as the Creation itself. Every three months the entire church takes a Sabbath rest. Here's how it's described on the church's website:

Most of us aren't rest-a-holics. Most of us are worn out with hard work and a frenetic pace **trying to do large things famously as fast as possible!** The problem is that most things that truly matter in life require us to cultivate **small mostly overlooked things over a long period of time.** For this reason, our church has resting months. We seek seasons of strategic rest for the purpose of passionate ministry. So, during the months of April, August, and December our Weekly Ministries (except for Sunday Mornings), take a break!

Such an idea may sound radical to the work-a-holics in your church, but although it's radical, it also sounds pretty biblical. I'm reminded of someone else who seemed to see the importance of rest over rushing.... **"The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to Him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have chance to eat, He said to them, 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.' So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place."** (Mark 6:30-32, NIV)



SERVICES SCHEDULE FOR JULY 2019

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

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

Sunday, June 14 @ 10:00 AM—Sunday morning worship; Mardi Gras Chorus

Sunday, June 21 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist

Sunday, June 28 @ 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Worship Service (Christmas In July celebration!)

Please note: Our Thursday evening Holy Eucharist will be on Summer hiatus during the months of July and August. We look forward to returning to our Midweek Holy Eucharist in September!



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

"You have to love a nation that celebrates its independence every July 4th, not with a parade of guns, tanks, and soldiers who file by the White House in a show of strength and muscle, but with family picnics where kids throw Frisbees, the potato salad gets iffy, and the flies die from happiness. You may think you have overeaten, but it is patriotism." – Erma Bombeck

SOME SPECIAL DAYS IN JULY 2019

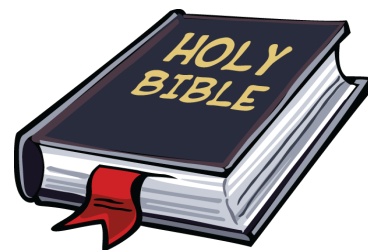


- ♦ *Independence Day, July 4*
- ♦ *International Kissing Day, July 6*
- ♦ *Barbershop Music Appreciation Day, July 13*
- ♦ *National Hot Dog Day, July 17*
- ♦ *National Vanilla Ice Cream Day, July 23*
- ♦ *National Avocado Day, July 31*



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY AT GSC

Good Shepherd Church holds a Bible study every Sunday morning at 9:00 AM in the classroom directly behind the conference room. The current study is focused on the Book of Revelation. Interested participants may enter into the class on any given Sunday. All are welcome!



PRAYER REQUESTS

A reminder that you may submit a name or cause to be entered on to the Good Shepherd Church prayer list by completing a prayer card found in the pews and placing the card in the offering plate.



Prayer Requests

Please note that the computer program used to track our prayer listings places a time limit on entries. If a name or cause that was included on the list is no longer listed in the bulletin prayer list but you would like it to be, simply complete another prayer card. Likewise, if you would like to update a prayer request and have it removed from the list before it automatically cycles off by reaching its time limit, this too can be done using the pew prayer cards.

JAM JAM, FOX 8 NEWS, CHEF AMY, AND JAMBALAYA CALAS!

In June, as the Good Shepherd Church Men's Club prepared for their June 29 Jam Jam fundrasier, they announced Chef Amy Sins as the Spokeschef of the event.

On Monday, June 24, Chef Amy joined Reverend Graf on the set of the Fox 8 Morning News where news anchor Nancy Parker led a discussion that helped promote Jam Jam during the 9:00 AM news segment. During that segment, Chef Amy prepared a treat called Jambalaya Calas.

We are pleased to share Chef Amy's recipe this month in the Shepherd's Voice Newsletter!

Jambalaya Calas

1 cup of jambalaya
1/2 cup flour, plus a little lagniappe if needed
2 tsp baking powder
1 egg
3/4 cup milk
1/4 cup green onions, chopped
1 tbs lemon juice
Salt, black pepper and creole spice to taste
Vegetable oil- for frying

Combine jambalaya, flour, baking powder, egg, milk, green onion and lemon juice. Add salt, pepper and Creole spice as desired.

Heat fry oil to 375*. Spoon batter into hot oil. If it falls apart and disperses, add a touch more flour to the batter. The batter doesn't look right, it is very wet. Fry calas until golden brown and remove from the oil. Transfer to a wire rack, this keeps the bottom from getting soggy. Season with salt while they're still hot. You can keep them warm in the oven at 350* until they're ready to serve. You can also reheat in the oven. These are best eaten immediately with a little pepper jelly dipping sauce.

You can learn more about Chef Amy Sins by visiting her online at www.ChefAmy.com.



Jam Jam Spokeschef Amy Sins, Fox 8 News anchor Nancy Parker, and GSC's Rev. Graf, on the set of the Fox 8 Morning News, June 24, 2019. (Photo by Madi Graf.)



Make sure you're keeping up with everything happening at Good Shepherd Church!

Subscribe to our weekly e-news letter by visiting www.GSCMet.com.

SHEEP IN THE NEWS

Sydney Mondello received the Christian Action Award at St. Rita school. Her ability to live out her faith helped her obtain this award. We are so very proud of Sydney! She also received the award for "Most Generous" for her third grade class. May God continue to guide your sweet spirit, Sydney!!

Gabe LaGarde finished out his sixth grade year at John Curtis with all As and Bs. He was also recognized by the Daughters of the American Revolution with the Youth Citizenship Award for his "honor, leadership, integrity, and patriotism." Way to go, Gabe! We pray that God will continue to use you as a role model in others' lives.

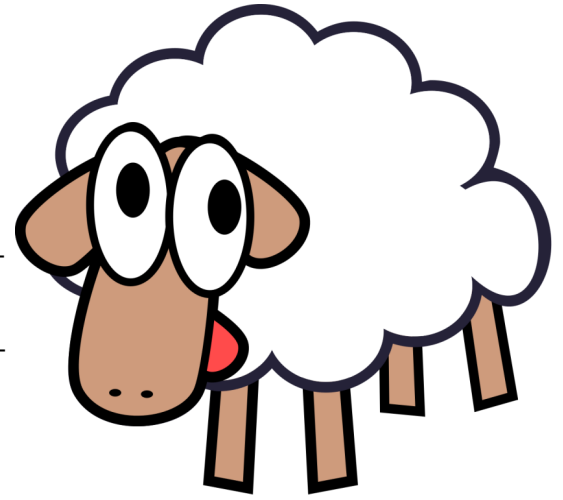
Haley LaGarde finished her Junior Year at Haynes Academy with a 4.0! She also celebrated her Ring Day at Haynes in May. We can't wait to see what God has in store for you during your senior year.

Madi Graf was selected as State Miss Rainbow for the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls at the beginning of June. Congrats on such an honor!

Finally, congrats to all of the 2019 graduates!!

If you have anything you would like included in Good Shepherd Church's Sheep In The News, please forward it to Heidi LaGarde.

Happy Summer!



HYMN SING ON JULY 2 AT GSC

Come on out and join us on **Tuesday, July 2 at 2:00 PM** for our next *Songs of Celebration and Sanctuary*—our monthly hymn sing at Good Shepherd Church!

Since this month's event will occur only two days in advance of our nation's celebration of Independence Day, pianist Patsy Engles has chosen some GREAT patriotic hymns to include in the playlist. As always, Rev. Jerry Bass will be blessing us with his vocals as he joins Patsy in leading us in this monthly music program!

After the program, we'll enjoy some light refreshments in the conference room. Bring a friend and come pass a good time!



DENOMINATIONAL TASK FORCE NEWS

By Mel Aucion

This task force has been meeting throughout this year considering the direction the options available to our Church for the years to come. The purpose of this group is to not select a denomination for our congregation but to give our members information and guidance for our future direction to increase our ability to spread the Word to our community and beyond.

On Sunday July 14 we will provide a handout of what we found and try to list the advantages and disadvantages of associating with the Anglican Church of North America (ACNA) or staying as a non-denominational congregation. We will follow up two weeks later, July 28th, with a brief presentation at the 10:00 AM service and relocate to the gym for a question and answer period. We will continue to hold events throughout the fall as together we explore our paths for our collective future.

The group members are Margaret Aucoin, Mel Aucoin, Dottie Frilot, Sharon Hensley, Shawn Hotard, Joan Lyles, Don Peters and Carla Scallan.



NOTES FROM RINDA

During this month of patriotic observances, it is good to reflect on the ways in which music helps us express our love for our country. One of my personal favorites is "America the Beautiful", written by Katherine Lee Bates in 1893. She was a teacher at Wellesley College when she took a summer trip out west. She first stopped in Chicago to visit the Columbian Exposition. She was awed by the "White City" exhibit which she referred to in stanza 3 as "alabaster cities" and by the "purple mountain majesty" of the Rockies as she continued her trek westward. I am thankful for her poetic vision of our country.



GSC SUMMER MISSIONS

Our June-August mission will be Hope Lodge in Jefferson, LA. "The American Cancer Society Hope Lodge program provides a free home away from home for cancer patients and their caregivers." In addition to monetary donations, we will also be collecting items that the families need to use during the duration of their stay. These items include personal hygiene products (soap, wash cloths, tooth brushes, toothpaste, etc). Disposable products (paper plates, plastic utensils, paper towels, toilet paper, and plastic cups) will also be collected.

We look forward to being able to bless the Hope Lodge in appreciation of their dedication to cancer patients and their families! For more information, please see Heidi LaGarde.

STAN McDONALD'S MARDI GRAS CHORUS AT GSC IN JULY

It's a much anticipated Summer tradition—the Mardi Gras Chorus singing at Good Shepherd Church. Mr. Stan McDonald and his group The Mardi Gras Chorus will be with us at our 10:00 AM worship service on Sunday, July 14.

As is our tradition, after worship, they'll serenade us in the Fellowship Hall as we beat the summer heat by enjoying ice cream sundaes!

Did you know that July 13 is National Barbershop Music Appreciation Day. Join us at church on the 14th and you're sure to appreciate the wonderful sounds, melodious harmonies, and beautiful music of The Mardi Gras Chorus. Bring a friend and share the joy!



ONLINE CHURCH CALENDAR



You can always check out what's on the Good Shepherd Church calendar by visiting our online calendar page. Go to www.GSCMet.com and from there click "Resources" and then "Church Calendar." And while you're on the website, if you have not yet signed up for our weekly e-newsletter, go ahead and do so! You'll receive our weekly e-news in your inbox every Thursday morning!

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

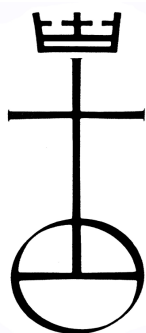
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www.GSCMet.com

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

(Currently on Summer hiatus until September.)

Intercessory Prayer

11:00 AM

2nd Saturday of the month