

AUGUST 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

### I AM A CHURCH MEMBER

This summer, I have enjoyed presenting the six part sermon series entitled "I Am a Church Member" based Dr. Thom Rainer's devotional by the same title.

I will use this month's column to offer a brief review of each of the six points of the series. It is my prayer that you have come away from this series understanding the reality that church membership is a precious gift from God. If you missed a week, I would encourage you to go to our website to listen to any part of the series or to purchase a copy of the book which is available on Amazon for about \$6. It is well worth the minimal cost investment.

**Pledge 1: I will be a functioning church member.** Being a member of the Body of Christ can only be realized when one is *functioning* as a member. This means that attendance at church is not optional; nor is giving. Functioning members give, serve, minister, evangelize, and seek to be a blessing to others.

**Pledge 2: I will be a unifying church member.** I understand that there are no perfect churches, perfect pastors, or perfect members, but I strive, with the help of God, to be a unifier in the local church. I will not seek to have things my way, but rather will work for the betterment of the church.

**Pledge 3: I will not let my church be about my preferences and desires.** I will not fall into the trap of being self-serving in my church. I am a member to serve others and to serve Christ. I can and will deal with inconveniences and matters that just aren't my preference or my style, because that is what healthy members of a local church do.

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**Pledge 4: I will pray for my church leaders.** I realize that my pastor's work is seemingly never-ending. I will commit to pray for him daily. I will also pray for his family as well as those in our local church who are called to be leaders. I will pray that God will grant to my pastor and our church leaders, wisdom and strength to do all that God is calling them to do.

**Pledge 5: I will lead my family to be healthy church members.** I will join with my believing family members to pray for our church regularly. For those members of my family that are not active, functioning members of the church, I will also pray. I will pray that their hearts will be open to the Holy Spirit moving in their lives and I will pray that they will come to be worshippers in Christ's Holy Church. I will pray that I will fall deeper and deeper in love with the local church that God has placed me in and that my affection for that church will be seen by my family and result in my family joining me as a part of the Good Shepherd family of faith.

**Pledge 6: I will treasure church membership as a gift.** I am deeply aware that when I received the free gift of salvation through Christ, I became of a part of the Body of Christ. As such, I am not only obligated, but humbled and honored to serve God and others as a healthy member of the local church. I will pray that I will never take my church or membership in it for granted, but will always see it as an opportunity to serve and to be part of something greater than one person or one member.

Even if you were not present to fill out each pledge card, I encourage you to read those pledges again, and in prayer, and by the power of God, make each pledge, prayerfully seeking the Lord's power to keep them.

Until next month, let your light shine!

**The Rev'd Randall M. Graf, Pastor**

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## GSC WELCOMES NEWEST MEMBER, PATSY ENGLER



Photo by D.J. Estopinal

On Sunday, July 28, Good Shepherd Church welcomed our newest member, Ms. Patsy Engles.

Patsy was received into membership of the church at a ceremony that took place during the 10:00 AM worship service (see photo to the left). She has been visiting with us since Spring of 2018 when she served as an accompanist to guest vocalist Rev'd Jerry Bass who sang for us at a worship service.

Patsy is gifted pianist, who since January, has been coordinating a hymn sing program each month at GSC. She is also a talented teacher and a beautiful poet. (See her poem "Forgiven" on page 3 of this publication.) Our church is blessed to welcome Patsy Engles as our newest member!



Goodbye Summer!



In the *Back to School spirit*, here are a few quotes to ponder.

**"Don't be afraid to start over. It's a new chance to rebuild what you want."** Unknown

**"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."** Nelson Mandela

**"You must do the things you think you cannot do."** Eleanor Roosevelt

**"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose."** Dr. Seuss



## FORGIVE

By Patsy Engles

The unkind word of yesterday  
We must forgive and forget  
Even tho' our hearts may bend  
And burden with regret  
We must forgive ourselves and others  
And let our souls be free  
To receive the power and blessings  
Which are here for you and me  
For deep within each of us  
Is the ability to find  
The way to overcome the fault  
To accomplish peace of mind

Christ forgave upon the Cross  
Those who caused Him pain  
He set for us the example  
That there is all to gain  
If we but look beyond our grief  
And victory acclaim  
So when life seems all too heavy  
As unkind thoughts obstruct our view  
We must forgive ourselves and others  
And find our strength anew  
And take each other by the hand  
As we journey side by side  
Forgiving one another  
As we in His love abide

## SUMMER MISSIONS UPDATE

By Heidi LaGarde

Our Summer mission at Good Shepherd is **Hope Lodge**. "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.

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## BACK TO SCHOOL DONATION DRIVE

It's that time of year again! Our annual Back to School Donation Drive is underway. The school supplies will be collected during the entire month of August. We will then deliver the donations to our neighborhood schools.

Please bring in notebooks, pencils, pens, rulers, glue, crayons, loose leaf paper, book bags, or any other new (unused) school supplies to church

Please see Heidi LaGarde for more information.



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## TAKING A BITE OUT OF HUNGER IN OUR COMMUNITY

A reminder that the summer months can often be very taxing on local food shelters.

Help us with our continued support of the Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans by bringing in canned goods and other nonperishable food items to church with you. Together, we can help take a bite out of hunger in our community.

For more information about Second Harvest, please see our food drive coordinator, Joan Lyles.

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."

Matthew 25:35





## **BLESSING OF THE BOOK BAGS**

On **Sunday, August 11**, all students are encouraged to bring their bookbags to church during the 10:00 AM service. Family members (parents, grandparents, etc) will be invited forward as we lay hands on the students to prepare for a wonderful 2019-2020 school year. Please make plans to attend this special service.

## **BABY CAKES BASEBALL**

On Saturday, July 20, members of the Good Shepherd Youth Group attended the New Orleans Baby Cakes baseball game.

Despite our "root, root, rooting for the home team" the Baby Cakes dropped a close one to visiting Round Rock by a score of 13-0. A great time was still had by all in the old ball park!



## **RALLY DAY 2019**

Rally Day signifies the beginning of a new Sunday School year and students move up to their new classes. This year Rally Day will be held on Sunday, September 8 during the 10:00 AM service. In addition to promoting our students to their new classes, we will also install and commission our Christian Education teachers and board. Our church also has a tradition of presenting Bibles to incoming 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. We have two students who will receive their Bibles, Carly Bennett and Rivers Barbara.

## NOTES FROM RINDA

August can be a busy, confusing month! It's the end of vacation and the beginning is of school. (Sorry, kids!) One of my favorite August memories will always be August of 2018 when I began serving as Music Director at Good Shepherd Church. This year has been a wonderful series of firsts for me and I look forward to many more years of service.

And since it's August, we will begin choir rehearsals on August 7 at 7:00 PM. This would be a great time to join this dedicated group of singers. There's plenty of room for you! I want to take this opportunity to thank those choir members who shared their talents in worship while the choir took a break. We are truly blessed!

**Rinda Coleman**  
Music Director



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# GSC Spaghetti Luncheon Fundraiser



*Sunday, August 18 from 11:30 until 1:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Adult dinners \$10. Dine In or Take Out!*

*Tell a neighbor; bring a friend! Help us make this a successful fundraiser! (See D.J. for tickets.)*

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## SERVICES SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST 2019

**Sunday, August 4 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM**—Sunday Morning Holy Eucharist

**Saturday, August 10 @ 11:00 AM**—Monthly Service of Intercessory Prayer

**Sunday, August 11 @ 10:00 AM**—Sunday Morning Worship Service

**Tuesday, August 13 @ 7:00 PM**—Mothers' Prayer Group

**Sunday, August 18 @ 8:30AM & 10:00 AM**—Sunday Morning Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, August 25 @ 10:00 AM**—Sunday Morning Worship Service

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!

**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](http://www.GSCMet.com).**

## GSC MEN'S CLUB NEWS

This is for **ALL** members of the Good Shepherd Church Men's Club.

I would like to personally thank each and every member of the Men's Club for showing up and working so hard with the set up, working the beverage tables and the take down of the Fellowship Hall for the Jam-Jam fund raiser event.

I was **VERY** impressed that everyone of the Men's Club members showed up and worked so hard to make Jam-Jam the success that it was. Never before have I seen so many members of an organization show up to work so hard to make an event a success. The Men's Club raised another \$2,296.10 towards our church's new sign fund. Thanks guys! Job well done!

Please be reminded that our next GSC Men's Club meeting will be at 6:00 PM on Monday, August 12, 2019.

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## HYMN SING AUGUST 6 AT GSC

Good Shepherd Church is pleased to host our next "Songs of Celebration and Sanctuary" on **Tuesday, August 6 at 2:00 PM** in the sanctuary.

This old fashioned hymn sing is open to all and promises to bless all in attendance. Pianist Patsy Engles will once again join with vocalist Rev. Jerry Bass to lead the faithful in songs that celebrate our faith and honor our God. Light refreshments will be served afterwards.

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## CHRISTMAS IN JULY

*Story and Photos by D.J. Estopinal*

On Sunday, July 28, 2019, Good Shepherd Church held their annual "Christmas in July" church service. The attending church congregation sang numerous Christmas Carols as did the children of the church. Bible verses referring to the birth of our Lord were also read by our youth.

After the worship service was completed, everyone moved to the church's Fellowship Hall where they enjoyed ice cream with all the fixings.

It was at this time that Santa Claus made a rare summer appearance. The children told Santa what they wanted for Christmas and had photographs taken with him. Santa handed out peppermint candy canes to the children. Even a few adults had photos taken with Summer Santa and everyone in attendance had a jolly good time!



## THE MARDI GRAS CHORUS RETURNS IN AUGUST

It's a much anticipated Summer tradition—the Mardi Gras Chorus singing at Good Shepherd Church. After being “rained out” by Hurricane Barry on July 14, Mr. Stan McDonald and his group have rescheduled to be with us at our 10:00 AM worship service on Sunday, August 11.

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!

These gentlemen always enhance our worship service and always provide for a great time during fellowship after the service. Please make sure you join us and as always, bring some friends with you!



## 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](http://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

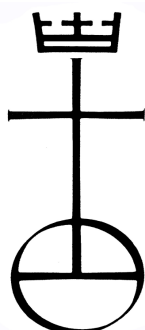
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The Rev. Dr. Randall M. Graf, Pastor



### **Sunday Services**

10:00 AM every Sunday

8:30 AM 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays

### **Midweek Services**

6:35 PM Thursdays

(Currently on Summer hiatus until September.)

### **Intercessory Prayer**

11:00 AM

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month