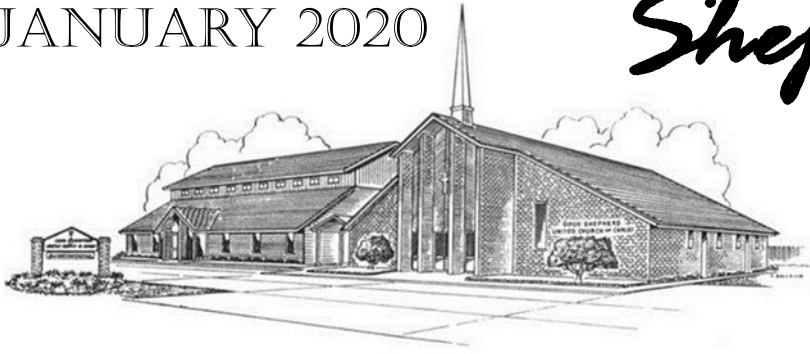


JANUARY 2020

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

What's new for you in 2020? The New Year can be filled with the excitement of resolutions and the chance for a fresh start at doing things differently.

One thing Good Shepherd Church will be doing a little differently in 2020 is eliminating the sponsorship of flowers that adorn our Lord's Altar. Historically, the live flowers have been paid for by members wishing to honor the memory of a loved one or wishing to celebrate a special event such as a birthday or anniversary. Unfortunately, each year, some Sundays were not sponsored and a few Sundays that were pledged to be sponsored ended up inadvertently falling through cracks. When these things happen, the church has been left having to pick up the tab for the weekly floral arrangement.

Beginning in 2020, the GSC Altar Guild will experiment with the use of professionally arranged silk flowers. These arrangements will allow for a great diversity of color and beauty while providing the benefit of a one time cost for arrangements that can be used over and over again.

The ability to honor, remember, and celebrate people and events, however, will continue, but will no longer be associated with flowers.

A "Sunday Celebrations, Honors, and Remembrances" form is now available. By completing the brief form with the necessary information (e.g., John and Jane are celebrating 20 years of marriage on June 15 or Mike and Sue wish to honor the memory of Sue's mother, Pauline on what would have been her 100th birthday) and turning it in along with a small \$10 honorarium, you can be assured that the Sunday of your choosing includes the publication of your honor in our Sunday bulletin and prayerful remembrance during our Sunday service.

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In addition to being published in the Sunday bulletin and prayerfully remembered during the chosen Sunday service, I will also personally provide a beautifully printed and signed cardstock certificate to commemorate your special occasion or memorial.

As in previous years, we will continue to adorn our Lord's Altar with live Easter Lilies on Easter Sunday and with live Poinsettias for our Christmas Eve services.

For more information, pick up a "Sunday Celebrations, Honors, and Remembrances" form and/or speak to me or any member of our GSC Altar Guild.

Until next month, let your light shine!

The Rev'd Randall M. Graf, Pastor



Our Lord's Altar at Good Shepherd Church was beautifully adorned for the Christmas Season with poinsettias. Many thanks to each parishioner who sponsored the poinsettias and very special thanks to Mr. D.J. Estopinal for ordering and delivering them and to Mrs. Pam Peters for artfully arranging them.

MEN'S CLUB NEWS

Annual Dues

Men's Club annual dues are now due for the year of 2020. **Annual dues are \$25.00.** Give your dues to Men's Club Treasurer, Mr. Don Peters, either in cash or check. If paying by check, please make your check payable to "**G. S. C. Men's Club**".

Any man that would like to join the G. S. C. Men's Club needs only to pay his annual dues and attend our next meeting.

Next Meeting

The Men's Club will not hold a meeting in January. Our next meeting will be held on **Monday, February 10, 2020 at 6:00 P.M.** in the meeting room of the Church's Fellowship Hall. Supper will be provided at the meeting, as usual.

D.J. Estopinal
GSC MC President



WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS

We had a very successful year in 2019 and I am excited for our year ahead in 2020. The GSC Women's Guild officers for 2020 are: President, Barbara Mehrtens; Vice President, Shelia Fussell; Secretary, Norma Cook; and Treasurer, Susan Schaff.

Our January meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 14 and will begin at 10:00 AM with worship in the sanctuary.

Come on out and help make our Women's Guild even better in 2020!

Barbara Mehrtens
GSC WG President



SERVICES SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 2020

Sunday, January 5 @ 8:30AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist (Epiphany)

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

Sunday, January 12 @ 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Worship Service

Tuesday, January 14 @ 10:00 AM—Women's Guild Holy Eucharist (but EVERYBODY is invited!)

Tuesday, January 14 @ 7:00 PM—Mother's Prayer Group

Sunday, January 19 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist

Sunday, January 26 @ 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Worship Service (Annual meeting after service)

GSC DENOMINATIONAL TASK FORCE NEWS

Over the course of the last two years we have been studying where Good Shepherd Church fits in with other denominations in the 21st century of Christianity.

Our research into church history has caused us to focus on the Anglican Church of North America (ACNA). This denomination's core beliefs are identical to that of the historical German Evangelical Church. The English Anglican church and the German Evangelical church developed at the same time after the protestant reformation. This is why so much of the Order of Worship in our hymnal mimics the liturgy of the Anglican Church.

The Denomination Task Force recommends that Good Shepherd Church begin a period of fellowship with the ACNA. The members of the task force have all made ourselves available with our phone numbers in each Sunday's bulletin to answer questions.

It is not good for us to be independent. Leadership comes and goes but God's will never changes.

At our church's annual meeting on January 26th the congregation will vote on a formal proposal to pursue Fellowship status with the ACNA. This is not a vote to join the denomination, but is a declaration that we are interested. It's a time to for our congregation to learn more about the ACNA and for the ACNA to learn more about us and being in fellowship will allow the opportunity for GSC to get to know the ACNA better as well as for the ACNA to get to know us a little better.

Mel Aucoin

Chair, Denominational Task force



ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING



As per our congregation's by-laws we have scheduled our annual meeting for **January 26th** after the 10:00 AM worship service. It is a time to come together and plot our congregation's direction for the coming year. The items to be discussed and voted on include our **2020 budget** and the **election of 2020 council**. We will also vote on our Denominational Task Force's recommendation to seek Fellowship status with the Anglican Church in North America.

Those leaders submitting **annual reports should e-mail them to Reverend Graf by January 12th** so they can be organized and distributed before the meeting.

Please make every effort to be with us on January 26 and plan to stay for about half hour after the service so that we can have a proper quorum to conduct the important business of the church.

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. 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 and 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.



PLEDGING TO SUPPORT OUR CHURCH

The mission and ministry of Good Shepherd Church can only happen because her members lend support in the form of time, talent, and financial gifts. If you have not yet completed and turned in your 2020 Pledge Card, please do so. This data is used to help our Budget and Finance Committee create the budget that will be presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 26, 2020. Completing a Pledge Card greatly enhances the accuracy of our budget and your continued generosity greatly enhances our Good Shepherd's ability to continue to minister to her members and reach new people with the love of God through Christ our Lord.

As a reminder, a few parishioners have not yet picked up their 2020 giving envelopes. The remaining giving envelopes are arranged alphabetically in the narthex of the church.

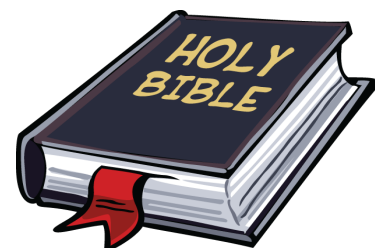


WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY AT GSC

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 Books of Galatians and Ephesians. Interested participants may enter into the class on any given Sunday. All are welcome!

For more information, please see Mrs. Margaret Aucoin.



GSC CHRISTMAS CANTATA A BIG HIT!

Article and photo by D.J. Estopinal

On Sunday, December 15, 2019 at the 10:00 A. M. church service, the congregation was treated to a very special presentation by Music Director Mrs. Rinda Coleman and the church's choir. There were also two narrators. They were Ms. Susan Schaff and Reverend David Coleman, Mrs. Rinda Coleman's husband. The title of the presentation was "Were You There on That Christmas Night?"

The Cantata consisted of eight (8) Christmas Songs.

Everyone attending enjoyed the Cantata very much and is looking forward to next year's Cantata.



Photo of the choir and narrators of the Good Shepherd Christmas Cantata presented on Sunday, December 15, 2019. The choir was under the direction of Mrs. Rinda Coleman. Narrators were Mrs. Susan Schaff and The Reverend David Coleman. The cantata was entitled "Were You There on That Christmas Night?"

DATE SET FOR ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

A date for our 2020 annual Good Shepherd Church picnic has been set. If you are planning on attending our annual picnic, mark your calendar for **Sunday, April 26, 2020**.

If you are interested in being a member of the 2020 Picnic Committee, please contact me, D. J. Estopinal. This is one of the easiest committees you will ever serve on.

Further details will be forth coming.



SPREADING CHRISTMAS CHEER TO OUR VETS

On Saturday, December 21, 2019, Rebecca Estopinal led a dozen or so members of Good Shepherd Church to the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Home located in Reserve, Louisiana. Their mission was to greet, interact with, sing Christmas Carols to and hand out Christmas presents to the residents of the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Home.

Amongst the many good shepherds attending were our pastor, members of the GSC Youth Group, members of the GSC Choir, and members of our GSC parish including our own WWII Veteran, Mr. Thom Kolesa. All in attendance had a joyful time with these veterans of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam.



NOTES FROM RINDA

A new year, a new decade.

The changing of the year always makes me a little nostalgic for friends and family no longer with us, as well as for events of the past.

Ten years ago I was a different person in so many ways. I had no idea then that I would be led by the Spirit to this family of faith at Good Shepherd Church. I thank God every day for this opportunity to use the gifts that God has given me.

Our choir remains the most dedicated group of musicians that I have ever worked with. My resolution for the year (if I actually made resolutions) is to work as hard as they do.

2020 will be a year like all others, full of surprises, plans, work, and play.

As for the new decade, we can only imagine! Happy New Year to each of you!

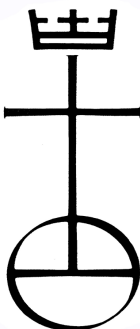
Rinda Coleman
GSC Music Director



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