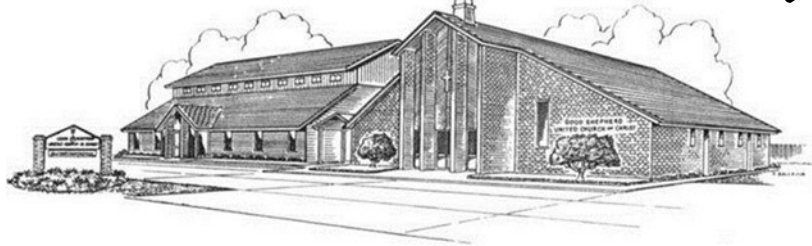


FEBRUARY 2020

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-
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

Writing my column for February is quite exciting because in this last week of January, there are so many exciting things going on in the pastor's study.

You may be thinking... *Exciting things happen in the pastor's study?*

YES! YES THEY DO!!!

First of all, I am excited to be setting up a time to speak to Bishop Clark Lowenfield in The Woodlands, Texas, in order to begin to file the necessary documentation formally entering Good Shepherd Church into fellowship status with the Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast of the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA). The unanimous vote of the congregation in support of this process at our annual meeting on January 26 brings about an anticipation of new things to come in our church family as together we continue to follow the course that the Lord is charting for us.

I want to make certain I thank each member of the Denomination Task Force. This group has been working diligently for two years to help find a denominational home in the Reformed Tradition that values orthodoxy and does not require surrender of church property by the local church parish and with the ACNA, they have met that goal. When you see members of the task force, make sure you express your gratitude for their hard work and commitment. Under the leadership of Task Force Chair, Mel Aucion, they are: Margaret Aucoin, Sharon Hensley, Shawn Hotard, Joan Lyles, Don Peters, Pam Peters, and Carla Scallan.

Continued on page 2

As I write this column, I am also excited to be having back and forth phone calls with a lady representing a company in Slidell, LA called Creations Unlimited. This is the company that Good Shepherd Church is purchasing a beautiful, life-sized statue of Christ kneeling in prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. This statue will be the centerpiece of the memorial prayer garden that is being built on the west lawn of the church property. Weighing in at just under a half of a ton, the company must use a special bobcat machine to place the statue on its foundation and in order to do so, the lawn must be relatively dry so that the machine doesn't get bogged down. At the time of this writing, we've had a bit too much rain in the past 48 hours to allow it to be delivered in the next 48 hours.

You might have noticed that the fencing on this part of the property has been taken down. This has been done by our building manager, Mel Aucoin, in order to allow for the proper amount of clearance for the bobcat to bring the statue into place. If you know Mel the way I know Mel, you'll know that he'll have that fence back up as soon as possible and that it will probably look better than it did before he took it down.

All funds used to construct the memorial prayer garden have been specifically donated as memorial gifts by members, family, and friends of members who have returned heavenward to be with our Lord. No funding has been provided for in the annual church budget or originates from the church general fund. As we move forward with this project, our next phase will include the purchase and placement of plants and greenery to beautify the area. Once the memorial prayer garden is complete, we will hold a special dedication event to consecrate it. If you would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one to help defray the costs of completion of this project, please speak to me.

Until next month, let your light shine!

The Rev'd Randall M. Graf, Pastor



SERVICES SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 2020

Sunday, February 2 @ 8:30AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist (Candlemas)

Thursday, February 6 @ 6:35 PM—Midweek Holy Eucharist

Saturday, February 8 @ 11:00 AM—Monthly Service of Intercessory Prayer

Sunday, February 9 @ 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Worship Service

Tuesday, February 11 @ 7:00 PM—Mothers Prayer Group

Thursday, February 13 @ 6:35 PM—Midweek Holy Eucharist

Sunday, February 16 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist

Thursday, February 20 @ 6:35 PM—Midweek Holy Eucharist

Sunday, February 23 @ 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Worship Service

Wednesday, February 26—Ash Wednesday (Service times to be announced)

Thursday, February 27 @ 6:35 PM—Midweek Holy Eucharist

MEN'S CLUB NEWS

Our next Men's Club meeting will be held on Monday, February 10, 2020 in the meeting room of the church's Fellowship Hall for starting PROMPTLY at 6:00 P.M.

We have not had a meeting in over three months and have a lot of business to attend to, so I hope to see all of the Men's Club members there!

A very BIG thank you to all Men's Club and church members who bought and/or sold Super Bowl squares. This fundraiser has netted an additional \$1,000 toward the Men's Club project of purchasing a new church sign for Good Shepherd Church.

D.J. Estopinal
GSC MC President



AVERTING A LOOMING CHURCH CRISIS

In an effort to avoid a looming church crisis, Good Shepherd Church is calling on all members to seriously consider assisting with the Sunday morning donut situation. According to church leadership, several months in 2020 still remain without volunteers to pick up the donuts from the donut shop and bring them to church.

Most church leaders have publicly expressed cautious optimism that the crisis will be averted, but until it is, a sense of uneasiness shrouds the hallowed halls of GSC donut distribution headquarters. One church official, who asked to remain nameless, was quoted as saying "If we don't get this taken care of soon, this could be as big as the 1973 oil crisis."

Good Shepherd Church pastor, The Rev'd Randall Graf, issued an urgent statement earlier this week to the membership in which he strongly denied rumors that the church was considering hiring an outside firm, the H. Simpson Corporation, to help manage the potential donut crisis.

The official statement from the pastor's office ended with an emotional plea to parishioners which concluded with the ominous words "What message are we sending future generations? Please folks... do it for the children."

The 2020 Donut Sign Up Sheet hangs on the bulletin board in the narthex. This is real folks. We need your help.



GSC 2020 CHURCH COUNCIL

At the annual congregational meeting of Good Shepherd Church, held on Sunday, January 26, the congregation elected the 2020 Church Council.

Completing their terms of office on Council are: Shawn Hotard, John Falanga, and Pam Peters. Please remember to thank each of these individuals for their service when you see them.

Members being reelected for a second two year term are: Barbara Mehrrens, D.J. Estopinal, and Sandi Graci.

Members continuing on Council in 2020 but who were not up for reelection are: Margaret Aucoin, Joseph Deibel and Sharon Hensley.

Being elected to first of potentially two, two-year terms are: Adam Bennett and Don Peters.

The Nominating Committee wishes to thank all Council members for their service and also thanks Susan Schaff for her previous three years of service on the Nominating Committee. Susan will be replaced by Rebecca Estopinal who was elected to year one of a three year term and will join Sheila Fussell and Norma Cook.

The Installation of Church Council will take place during the 10:00 AM worship service on February 9, 2020.



NOTES FROM RINDA

Henry Van Dyke wrote the text to the hymn "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" in 1907. It is still relevant over 100 years later. Hymnologist Albert Bailey wrote "creation itself cannot conceal its joy and that joy is appreciated by God the center of it all, likewise all nature fills us with joy caused fundamentally by our recognition of God as the giver." We often rush through life, not pausing to stop and be filled with joy. We are distracted by so many things, but with our knowledge of Christ's redemptive power, how can we not praise him!

The music to this hymn was written by Ludwig van Beethoven. It is the melody of his famous ninth symphony. The German text is about the universality of friendship. It is often called "Ode to Joy."

Rinda Coleman
GSC Music Director



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.



GIVING STATEMENTS AND OFFERING ENVELOPES

It's that time of year when folks are getting ready to visit their tax preparer. Make certain you have your 2019 Giving Statement in hand. If you have not yet picked your statement up, please check the box on the small table in the narthex. Giving statements are in envelopes which are filed in alphabetical order.

A few folks have yet to pick up their 2020 Offering Envelopes. Envelopes are also in the same box on the same small table in the narthex.

Thank you for your generous support of the mission and ministry of the Body of Christ through the local church parish of Good Shepherd Church!

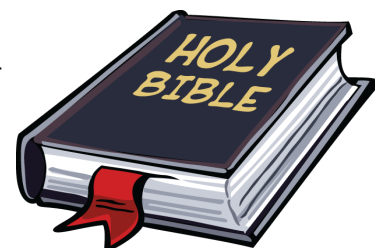


WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY AT GSC

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 Epistles of St. Paul. Interested participants may enter into the class on any given Sunday. All are welcome!

For more information, please see Mrs. Margaret Aucoin.



SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS AND REMEMBRANCES

A reminder that each Sunday affords an opportunity to honor, remember, and celebrate people and events. Want us to offer prayers of gratitude for a wedding anniversary or prayers of remembrance for a loved one who has returned home to the Lord or prayers of thanksgiving for a special person's birthday? Let us know by filing out the blue "Sunday Celebrations, Honors, and Remembrances" form.

The "Sunday Celebrations, Honors, and Remembrances" form is now available in the narthex of the church. 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.

For more information, please see Reverend Graf.

ASH WEDNESDAY—FEBRUARY 26, 2020

As February starts, so too does the Carnival Season in New Orleans, and as February comes to a close, New Orleans, as always, will hold some incredible Mardi Gras parades and parties on and in the lead up to Fat Tuesday.

As February begins comes to a close and the last street sweeper heads down Bourbon Street, the Christian world in the west will head into the penitential season on Lent.

Ash Wednesday this year is on Wednesday, February 26. Good Shepherd Church will be asking for your input during the first couple of weeks of February to help us plan times to receive Ashes on Ash Wednesday.

Last year, we offered services at 7:30 AM (before work), 12:15 PM (over lunch) and 6:30 PM (after work). The midday service, believe it or not, was our best attended service, attracting lots of folks from our neighborhood who are not members of our church. Unfortunately, very few took advantage of coming in before work.

Please make sure you turn in the short Ash Wednesday survey letting us know what times are best for you. We'll compile the data in an effort to accommodate as many people as possible in an manner as convenient as possible and we'll announce service times by the middle of the month.

May your Lenten Season be blessed, holy, and meaningful.



Ash Wednesday

DATE SET FOR ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

By D.J. Estopinal

Mark your calendars! The date for our annual Good Shepherd Church Picnic has been set. The date is **Sunday, April 26, 2020**. You may start arriving any time after 9:00 A.M.

The location of our picnic is the exact same location as the past two years, Jefferson Parish's, **Pontiff Playground, Shelter number 3**.

The Pontiff Playground permit has already been acquired.

Pastor Graf has advised me that he will conduct a short church service, at the picnic site, starting at 10:30 A.M. There will be **NO** church services at Good Shepherd Church on this date.

We would like that everyone who is planning on attending to bring one, picnic appropriate, dish. Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, buns and the condiments will be supplied. You also need to bring your own chairs and what ever you want to drink for the day. **NO** alcoholic beverages please!

I am starting to put together the picnic committee for this year.

Mrs. Kelly Frilot has volunteered herself and the Youth Group to handle the children's activities. Anyone who wants to work with them, please contact her and advise her accordingly.

I also need volunteers to handle with:

- Set Up and Take Down
- Cooking
- Food Coordinators
 - ◆ These people would handle the acceptance of food arriving at the picnic site and displaying it for the picnic meal.

Please advise me if you are interested in volunteering to handle any of the above positions. This will be the easiest committee you have ever been on. We will have one (1) quick meeting before the picnic date for logistical purposes.

That's it!!!!



HYMN SING ON FEBRUARY 4 AT GSC

Good Shepherd Church is pleased to host our next "Songs of Celebration and Sanctuary" on **Tuesday, February 4 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.

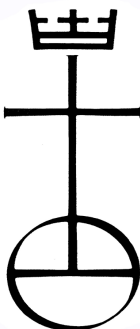


You can always check out what's on the Good Shepherd Church calendar by visiting our online calendar page. Go to www.GSCMet.com and from there click "Resources" and then "Church Calendar." And while you're on the website, if you have not yet signed up for our weekly e-newsletter, go ahead and do so!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

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

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