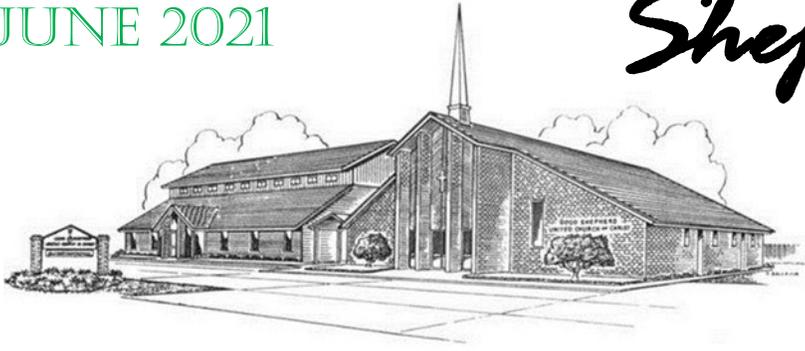


JUNE 2021

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

REFLECTIONS ON PENTECOST 2020 VS PENTECOST 2021

As we enter into the sixth month of the secular calendar, we have now celebrated the Feast of Pentecost on the Christian calendar. And what a blessing it was to host Holy Spirit Weekend on the weekend in advance of celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday.

The Acts story of the coming of the Holy Spirit to birth the church at Pentecost is one that always brings me great joy to read and to experience annually in our liturgical celebration of worship. Pentecost 2021 seemed to have even greater cause for celebration perhaps because of where the world was on Pentecost Sunday 2020. On Pentecost Sunday 2020, I gathered with our musician, Rinda Coleman, our lector, Kelly Frilot, our camera man, Mel Aucoin, and a couple members of church council and we livestreamed our Sunday service—making certain we were properly distanced from each other. In all honestly, it was one of the most depressing Pentecost services I've ever experienced. Yes, we wore red. Yes, we read that incredible story from Acts 2. Yes, we knew that where two or three were gathered in His name, He was with us. Yes, we were thankful for the technology that allowed for so many parishioners to worship with us virtually from their homes. But the re-presentation and re-experiencing through the Word of the first Pentecost day felt almost empty in 2020. How difficult it was to imagine all those faithful Jews gathered to hear St. Peter preach as the Holy Spirit descended upon them to birth the Christian church.

In the lead up to Pentecost 2020, I reached out via our e-news to asks if I could secure some volunteers to pray with me for the Church during the nine days between the Feast of the Ascension and the Feast of Pentecost.

Continued on page 2

These nine days of prayer, even when done virtually (as it was), is known as a novena and it is a practice that comes right out of Holy Scripture. In fact, the Book of Acts actually begins with a novena. St. Luke tells us in Acts chapter 1 that the resurrected Christ had said to his disciples that he would have to ascend to his Father in heaven so that the promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit could be given to them. Acts 1:9-11 describes Jesus ascending and Acts 1:12-14 explains that from the time of the Ascension until the day of Pentecost (9 days), the twelve, plus Mary the Mother of Jesus, and several other disciples "with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer" and thus giving the Church the concept of the novena, or nine day devotion to prayer.

In May 2020, I put the call out to our Good Shepherd Church family of faith to ask if any felt called to pray with me for a moving of the Holy Spirit on Good Shepherd Church and the Church universal during a dark time in our world. I honestly had low expectations—perhaps a mere reflection of the malaise so many of us were experiencing during lockdown. I was pleasantly surprised when 21 people signed up to receive nine days of an early morning email from me with the prayers to pray and prayer intentions to offer each day.

Here's a list of what we prayed for each of the nine days:

Day 1: For the welfare of Christ's Church throughout the world and the welfare of Good Shepherd Church

Day 2: For persecuted Christians throughout the world

Day 3: For churches around the globe forced to meet underground

Day 4: Thanksgiving for the lives of those who, like St. Stephen, were martyred for the One, True, Faith

Day 5: For those churches closing forever and for churches that could carry on their light

Day 6: For the strength of Christian clergy everywhere to hold their churches together, especially in the midst of pandemic

Day 7: For those churches and parishioners in the Anglican Church in North America, especially those in our Anglican Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast

Day 8: For churches, congregations, and Christians under the influence of false teachers

Day 9: For Christian clergy throughout the world, that they would remain faithful to the Word and Sacraments of Christ's Church

I do believe that the novena offered to the Holy Spirit by the Good Shepherd Church faithful during May 2020 influenced our ability to begin a strong come back in late 2020 and early 2021. I also believe that the Holy Spirit Weekend that the Diocese offered to hold for us the weekend prior to Pentecost 2021 is a part of those prayers being answered.

But more importantly, I don't believe the Holy Spirit is done yet. I firmly believe that Good Shepherd Church has not yet even scratched the surface on the work and blessings of all that God has in store for us.

The Holy Spirit Weekend held from May 14 – 16 indelibly touched every single person who obediently answered the call to attend and participate. I am amazed at some of the stories I've heard from some of the participants. In fact, one participant, Kelly Frilot, has submitted an essay on her thoughts on the Holy Spirit which is included on page 6 of this newsletter. I highly recommend you give it a read and speak to her—in fact, speak to ANYONE who attended Holy Spirit Weekend. Do not underestimate the power of the Holy Spirit living within them to be able to kindle in your heart the power of the same Holy Spirit who indwells you.

As one of the prayers from the Novena to the Holy Spirit taught us:

**Come, Holy Spirit,
Fill the hearts of thy people,
and kindle in us the fire of thy love.
Create in us a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within us.**

Until next month, let your light shine!

Fr. Randall Graf+



CELEBRATIONS, REMEMBRANCES, AND ETERNAL FLAME DEDICATIONS

Each Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate and remember in our church family. To celebrate a birthday, anniversary, graduation, or other joyful event or to remember a loved one who has returned home to the Lord, simply fill out a blue "Celebrations and Remembrance" form and submit it with a suggested \$10 honorarium. The name and event will be published in our Sunday bulletin.

If you would like to dedicate the weekly Eternal Flame Lamp in memory of a loved one who has returned home to the Lord, you may view the open dates in the red binder located in the narthex. The suggested minimum honorarium for the Eternal Flame dedication is only \$15.

SERVICES FOR JUNE 2021

Tuesday, June 1 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)
Wednesday, June 2 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)
Friday, June 4 @ 9:00 PM—Office of Compline (online only)
Sunday, June 6 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday Morning Holy Eucharist
Monday, June 7 @ 6:00 AM—The Arise Sacred Hour (online only)
Tuesday, June 8 10:00 AM—Women's Guild worship service
Tuesday, June 8 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)
Wednesday, June 9 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)
Friday, June 11 @ 9:00 PM—Office of Compline (online only)
Sunday, June 13 @ 8:30AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist
Tuesday, June 15 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)
Wednesday, June 16 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)
Friday, June 18 @ 9:00 PM—Office of Compline (online only)
Sunday, June 20 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist (Fathers Day)
Tuesday, June 22 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)
Wednesday, June 23 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)
Friday, June 25 @ 9:00 PM—Office of Compline (online only)
Sunday, June 27 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist
Tuesday, June 29 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)
Wednesday, June 30 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)

PLEASE NOTE: As a reminder, all services are held in-person unless otherwise noted as "online only". Our Sunday service at 8:30 AM is a MASK REQUIRED service while our 10:00 AM is a MASK OPTIONAL service. In addition to being offered in-person, our Sunday morning Holy Eucharist at 10:00 AM is also live-streamed. Our YouTube channel is located at www.YouTube.com/GoodShepherdMet.



June 4—National Donut Day
June 6—D-Day
June 8—Best Friends Day
June 14—Flag Day
June 18—National Go Fishing Day
June 20—Father's Day

NOTES FROM RINDA

I have always been fascinated by American hymnody. I grew up singing hymns in church and my favorites were often Appalachian mountain hymns, many of which originated in Scotland and Ireland and crossed the Atlantic with settlers. When I was in graduate school, I had the privilege of studying under one of the foremost authorities on this type of music. It is known as Sacred Harp music.

The term "sacred harp" means human voices singing. In Protestant churches, singing was taught using shape notes that were given syllables-fa, so, la, mi, and re. Singers would read the shapes, first singing the syllables, then transferring to the texts of the humans. Without actually reading music, harmony was produced. Some of the hymns have continued in the lexicon of current hymnals.

One of my favorites is "What Wondrous Love is This." Like many of the hymns of the tradition, it is in a minor (modal) key. There is also a great deal of repetition of text, since most churches had no hymnals. Here are two of the verses.



*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul.
What wondrous love is this, O my soul.
What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.*

*And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on
And when from death I'm free I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on.*

Rinda Coleman
GSC Music Director



GSC WOMEN'S GUILD

The next meeting of the GSC Women's Guild will be held on Tuesday, June 8. The meeting will begin with a brief worship service led by Fr. Randall in the sanctuary.

GSC MEN'S CLUB

The next meeting of the GSC Men's Club will be held on Monday, June 14 at 6:30 PM. Dinner will not be served this evening and the meeting will be held in the sanctuary with social distancing and masks required.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

BY KELLY FRILLOT

The Holy Spirit has seemed to become the forgotten one in the Blessed Trinity. We know that he was promised by Jesus.

John 14: 15-17 ¹⁵ “If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.”

But why is he the forgotten one? He is so powerful and came on Pentecost, as promised, and breathed life into the apostles who were scared and terrified, but still believed.

The Holy Spirit is sometimes referred to in symbols such as a dove, fire, wind, etc.

I like to think of him as the drummer in a band. If you think of a three-person band you have a guitar player, a bass guitar player, and lastly the drummer. The drummer is always in the back of the others. The drummer guides the band and keeps rhythm and time as does the Holy Spirit in our lives. The Holy Spirit is there to guide us always, and sets the tone for our lives, just as a drummer does for a song.

Not to say that God our Father and Jesus our Savior are “flashy”, but the Holy Spirit definitely is not. He is always with us like the rhythm of a song, but we need to sing that song to feel the beat. We need to call on the Holy Spirit to feel his “beat” within us. The drummer in a band is never flashy. They are in the back and do what they need to do. We forget about how the band would be without the drummer just as we forget about how life would be without the Holy Spirit in the Blessed Trinity.

I can remember going to many concerts in my time and the drummers always fascinated me. They were so powerful when they played and the song wouldn't be “the song” without them. But they were never the one that got introduced first and were always the one clapped for last. Why is that? They carry the entire band through a song. Timing is kept as they drum. The other players rely on the beat of the drummer. But no drummer that I have ever seen minded the role that they play.

We should rely more on the Holy Spirit and not see Him as someone in the background. The Holy Spirit is just as important in the Blessed Trinity. It wouldn't be the Blessed Trinity without Him. Just as a band wouldn't be a band without its drummer. We need to remember all the gifts that the Holy Spirit gives to us just as we hear the gift of the drummer. The Holy Spirit can breathe life into us just as a drummer breathes life into a song.



FREE CONCERT AT GSC, JUNE 5 @ 3:00 PM

LUMINARI BOYS CHOIR FROM THE WOODLANDS, TX

Good Shepherd Church is pleased to announce that on **Saturday, June 5 at 3:00 PM**, we will welcome the **Luminari Boys Choir** to our sanctuary.

This concert is free and open to the public. Please plan to join us and please invite a friend, neighbor, coworker, or family member to join you.

The Luminari Boys Choir was founded in 2015 as an outreach ministry of HopePointe Anglican Church, the seat of the Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast. They are a very dedicated and incredibly talented group of young men who have worked extremely hard this past year to raise funds in order to travel over the summer to bring their gift of music to local church parishes.

On Friday, June 4, the Boys Choir will bless the parishioners of Trinity Anglican Church in Lafayette with the singing of Evening Prayer Vespers. On Saturday morning, they will travel to the North Shore to visit an alligator farm before arriving at Good Shepherd Church for a quick lunch, rehearsal, change of clothes, and performance.

The concert will begin promptly at 3:00 PM in the sanctuary of Good Shepherd Church and will last less than an hour. Please show your support for these young men and come out enjoy their incredible gift of music.



GSC to Host Summer Hymn Sing—Tuesday, June 15

After over a year on hiatus due to the pandemic lockdown, Good Shepherd's own Patsy Engles will be holding a good old-fashioned hymn sing on **Tuesday, June 15 at 2:00 PM** in the sanctuary.

If you've ever been to one of Ms. Patsy's hymn sings, you know just how uplifting they are.

And if you haven't yet made it to one, do yourself a favor and join us on the 15th! You will not be disappointed!

Come prepared to hear and sing along with your favorite old time Gospel songs and enjoy a couple of solos and medleys too.



The fun begins in the sanctuary at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, June 15! Bring a friend!

PRAYING AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Since the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown began last year, Good Shepherd Church has been streaming our 10:00 AM Sunday morning Service of Holy Eucharist each week. During the distribution of Holy Communion, the lector reads a prayer entitled **An Act of Spiritual Communion** for those who are watching at home and are unable to partake in the reception of Holy Communion sacramentally. That beautiful prayer comes from the Book of Common Prayer (pg. 677, ACNA 2019) and can be prayed by a Christian any time they are longing for the grace of Holy Communion but are unable to receive the tangible elements of the sacrament. These are the words to that prayer:

***Dear Jesus, I believe that you
are truly present in the Holy Sacrament.
I love you above all things,
and I desire to possess you within my soul.
And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart.
I unite myself to you, together with all your faithful people
gathered around every altar of your Church,
and I embrace you with all the affections of my soul.
Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.***



GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

ANGLICAN CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

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Father Randall M. Graf, Priest & Rector

WORSHIP SERVICES

Holy Eucharist

8:30 AM & 10:00 AM every Sunday

Service of Midday Prayer

12:15 PM Tuesday & Wednesday (online only)

Service of Compline

9:00 PM Friday (online only)

