

JULY 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-
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

SOME SUMMERTIME HAPPENINGS

Thus far this summer you might have noticed a few new faces with us on Sunday mornings. Those would be the faces of folks from St. Stephen's Anglican Church. Those parishioners and their rector, Fr. Jim Tomkins, began meeting with us in June. As a very small parish of the ACNA, they most recently were holding their Sunday worship in the chapel of a funeral home. We are blessed that they have decided to join us for worship and look forward to the day, God-willing, that they will formally join our family of faith as parishioners of Good Shepherd Church. This is indeed the plan that all involved are praying for this summer.

One of the things that St. Stephen's was doing is holding a weekly Bible study. That Bible study has continued here at Good Shepherd Church and is meeting each Thursday evening in the conference room beginning at 6:30 PM with coffee and dessert being served. I had the privilege of attending and enjoyed my time with them. Since then, unfortunately, my Thursday evenings are scheduled out to participate in a clergy book club with our bishop. The group continues to meet, however, and a few of our Good Shepherd folks have joined in. I highly encourage you to consider joining in as well. Fr. Jim leads the discussion each week and I think you will count it as a blessing to participate.

As I mentioned, as time moves us forward, we are praying that the parishioners of St. Stephen's will feel welcomed and comfortable with our church family and will decide to formally become a part of us. This will not only allow us to welcome several new folks into our fold, but it gives Fr. Jim and chance to focus on a few other callings in his ministry. One of those that he and I are working jointly on is to start an Anglican Campus Ministry at the University of New Orleans. Fr. Jim is also discerning a new church plant on the north shore. Please keep all of these causes in your prayers.

Continued on page 2

As you pray for these causes, allow me to share a very exciting story with you. On Sunday, June 27, our 8:30 AM service had a first time visitor at it. After the service, I introduced myself to the young man and learned his name is Noah. As we briefly chatted, he informed me that he is a member of the Anglican Church in North America and recently relocated from Wisconsin to Slidell, LA for his job. As we chatted a bit more, he mentioned that he was involved in an ACNA church plant while in college, is discerning a call to the Anglican priesthood, and would be very open to helping start a church plant on the north shore where he lives. As I mentioned a moment ago, Fr. Jim is discerning his calling to plant an ACNA parish on the north shore.

This caused me to stop and once again contemplate the awesomeness of the God we serve—a God who is a provider and who provides exactly what we need, exactly when we need it.

As I write this, we are less than one week removed from the above story, so obviously, it's a bit too early to know what the ultimate outcome will be. But regardless of what comes of it, I personally am considering it as a beautiful blessing and affirmation from the Lord of the work we are trying to do through Good Shepherd Church.

Until next month, let your light shine!

Fr. Randall Graf+



MOTHERS PRAYER GROUP

Are you a mom or grand mom looking for a group of ladies to join with you in prayer? Look no further than the Mothers Prayer Group that meets monthly at Good Shepherd Church.

The next meeting of the MPG will be on Tuesday, July 13 at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. For more information, please see Gwen Martinez.



FROM THE COUNCIL

We have TWO summer fundraisers happening in July and we need everyone's help to make them a success!



Our first fundraiser is a “**Christmas in July**” cash raffle. Tickets are available for \$5 per chance to win a \$500 cash prize donated by Sandy Graci and Graci Real Estate and Appraisal Services, LLC. The winner of this raffle will be drawn after services on Sunday, July 25. Please consider purchasing a few chances AND, EVEN MORE IMPORTANT... PLEASE CONSIDER taking some tickets to sell to your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers. EVERY SINGLE DOLLAR made on this fundraiser is pure profit for the church! Help us make this a GREAT success! See Mel Aucoin or Joe Deibel for tickets.

Secondly, we are having a **football pool fundraiser** for the **2021 Saints** season! It's a 100 square pool and each square will cost only \$30 for the entire 17 regular season Saints games. Participants will keep the same square for the entire season, but each week the numbers will change. Winners will get \$25 per quarter (no overtime). This fundraiser will net \$1300 for the church! Please see Joe Deibel to purchase your square(s) and please let friends and family know in case they want to get in on the pool.



Joe Deibel
Church Council President



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 JULY 2021

Friday, July 2 @ 9:00 PM—Office of Compline (online only)

Sunday, July 4 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday Morning Holy Eucharist (**Independence Day**)

Monday, July 5 @ 6:00 AM—The Arise Sacred Hour (online only)

Tuesday, July 6 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)

Wednesday, July 7 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)

Friday, July 9 @ 9:00 PM—Office of Compline (online only)

Sunday, July 11 @ 8:30AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, July 13 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)

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

Wednesday, July 14 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)

Friday, July 16 @ 9:00 PM—Office of Compline (online only)

Sunday, July 17 18 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, July 20 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)

Wednesday, July 21 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)

Friday, June 23 @ 9:00 PM—Office of Compline (online only)

Sunday, June 25 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist

~~**Tuesday, June 27 @ 12:15 PM**—Midday Prayer (online only) Returns the first week of August~~

~~**Wednesday, June 28 @ 12:15 PM**—Midday Prayer (online only) Returns the first week of August~~

~~**Friday, June 29 @ 9:00 PM**—Office of Compline (online only) Returns the first week of August~~

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.



July 2—World UFO Day

July 4—Independence Day

July 8—National Freezer Pop Day

July 11—National Mojito Day

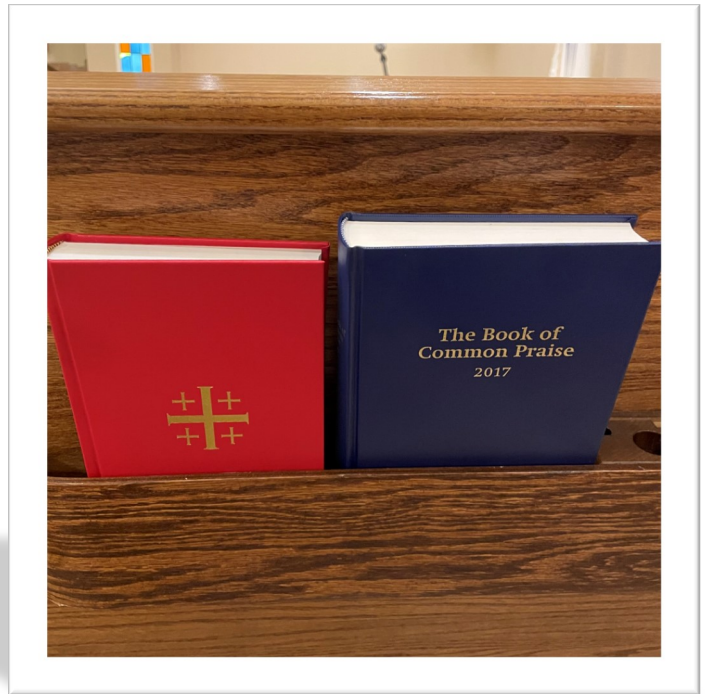
July 19—National Daquiri Day

July 30—National Cheesecake Day



Summer has definitely arrived, complete with heat, humidity and thunderstorms! Having been a teacher for most of my adult life, summer has always been a time of rest, rejuvenation, and preparation for a new school year. As we continue to get vaccinated and get back to "normal," we can be thankful for so many blessings we receive at Good Shepherd. Fr. Randall has done an outstanding job of leading us through the pandemic, and we are looking forward to fall and the beginning of a new church year.

Everybody who knows me knows that I love hymns--everything about them--singing, studying their history, sharing them with our church family. One of the hardest things for church musicians during the pandemic was having to cut back on singing God's praises during worship services. We are fortunate that because of social distancing and family groups we were able to begin singing before many other congregations. We are blessed in the ACNA to have access to a new hymnal, the **Book of Common Praise**, which is closely aligned with the **Book of Common Prayer**. This new hymnal has both old and new hymns and spiritual songs, chants, lectionary connections, and quite a few hymns, such as Amazing Grace, that were left out of the hymnal we currently use.



If you're like me and have occasionally lost the middle pages of your worship bulletin, you will be glad to know that if we have copies of the **BCP's** in the pews, we won't need to have a lengthy bulletin. In addition to being less cumbersome, we'll save a few trees!

This is all leading up to a suggestion for our congregation. For a donation of \$50.00, you can provide a hymnal and a prayer book for the pews. This can be donated in honor or memory of loved ones. I plan to donate at least one set in honor of our dedicated choir members. There will be a tribute stamp placed in the front of the books. I know that in the past when I open a hymnal and see the person honored or remembered, it brings many fond memories.

We will begin accepting donations now. Be sure to indicate on your check that the gift is for hymnals and prayer books. We will place a sheet in the narthex for you to put the names of people you are honoring or remembering.

I would be remiss if I did not thank those folks who are providing anthems during the summer. We are so blessed to have people who willingly share the God given gift of music with us.

Blessings,

Rinda Coleman

GSC Music Director

GSC MEN'S CLUB NEWS

The Good Shepherd's Church Men's Club cordially invites all men of the church to attend the next Men's Club meeting scheduled for **Monday, July 12, 2021 at 6:30 P.M.**, in the Good Shepherd's Church Sanctuary. Mask and social distancing **will** be observed by **ALL** attendees. **NO** food or beverages will be served at this meeting.

The July Men's Club monthly meeting will be the **last** one held in the church's sanctuary. **Starting in August, the Men's Club meeting,** will be held in the meeting room of the Fellowship Hall. Also, no mask or social distancing will be observed for the Men's Club meeting and food and soft drinks will be available.

If you wish to become a member of the Men's Club, the 2021 annual dues **have been waived.** Now is the time to join!

If you have any questions about the Men's Club, see Men's Club President D. J. Estopinal, who attends the 8:30 A.M., Sunday church service. If you attend the 10:00 A. M. Sunday church service, see Brother Bob Volk, Secretary or Brother John Falanga, Treasurer.

D. J. Estopinal,
President GSC Men's Club



SUNDAY LECTIONARY FOR JULY 2021

Sunday, July 4 (Proper 9)

Ezekiel 2:1-7

Psalms 123

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Mark 6:1-6

Sunday, July 11 (Proper 10)

Amos 7:7-15

Psalms 85

Ephesians 1:1-14

Mark 7:7-13

Sunday, July 18 (Proper 11)

Isaiah 57:14-21

Psalms 22:23-31

Ephesians 2:11-22

Mark 6:30-44

Sunday, July 24 (Proper 12)

2 Kings 2:1-15

Psalms 114

Ephesians 3:1-21

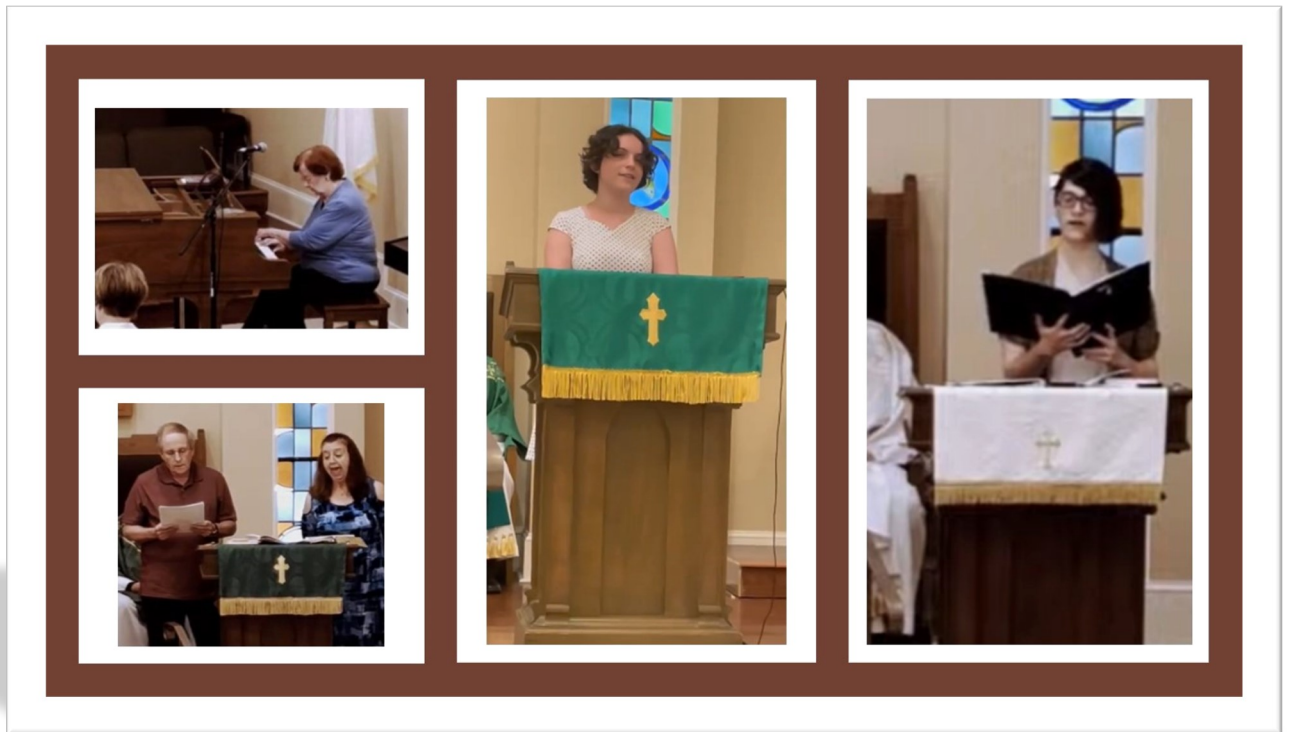
Mark 6:45-52



SUMMER MUSIC SERIES

Each summer, the GSC Choir goes on a bit of a break, taking time off to rest and recuperate their voices. While that leaves our 10:00 AM service without a choir anthem, we are blessed that blessed many of the gifted musicians in our church step up each week to provide the gift of music for our worship experience.

Throughout the end of May and June we were blessed by musical gifts offered by Emily Fettet, Patsy Engles, Bob and Debbie Volk, and Joan Frilot.



Summer musicians pictured are:

Patsy Engles (top left); Bob and Debbie Volk (bottom left);
Joan Frilot (center); and Emily Fettet (right).

If you missed any of this worshipful musicians, you may go back and watch past worship services on our YouTube channel. The dates, songs, and musicians are as follows:

Sunday, May 30—Wings Like Eagles performed by Emily Fettet

Sunday, June 13—Medley of Gospel Hymns by Patsy Engles

Sunday, June 20—His Eye is on the Sparrow by Bob and Debbie Volk

Sunday, June 27—Eagles Wings by Joan Frilot

Our YouTube channel is located at www.YouTube.com/GoodShepherdMet.

When you see any of our musicians, or Rinda Coleman, our Music Director, please let them know how much you appreciate all that they contribute to our worship experience each Sunday.

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

5122 West Esplanade Ave

Metairie, LA 70006

504.454.0764

www.GSCMet.com

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)

