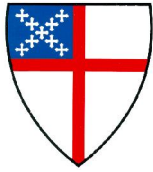


THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

THE CALL



DECEMBER 2013

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIEST

“Living the Love of God”

What does that mean?

It's still November as I write this, but outside it looks like December. 3 inches of snow fell over the weekend transforming our beautiful little corner of the world into a winter wonderland. Predictably, attendance at Church on Sunday was low, but by the afternoon when the Parkhurst Memorial Recital took place the church was full, the music was wonderful and the reception was glorious and all was right with the world. It seems like Winter has arrived.

Let it come. The ancient Celts marked their new year to begin at the beginning of winter, understanding winter to be the necessary preparation for spring. Though the temps outside are cold, there is a lot going on behind and beneath, preparing for the new life of next year. Such is Advent. Though the days are growing shorter there is a lot going on. Love will always hope in the dark and cold, knowing that Hope is born in the dark and cold.

So out of love for the Christ Child let us prepare. Let us learn more profoundly how to love one another. Let us give gifts remembering the unconditional gift of Love we receive in Christ. Let us receive from God the gift of an earnest Advent, where joy and anticipation drive deep spiritual growth within each one of us and within our community of Hope.

Next month: What else might it mean?

Paul+

FROM YOUR PRIEST'S WARDEN

We are entering the season of Advent—the season of hope, the season of expectation.

We of the western world often expect that if we study and obtain a good education and work diligently in our profession or trade that we will be financially successful. There is also the opposite feeling that if we are not financially successful we are a failure. Sometimes we overstep these boundaries and equate financial success with spiritual success.

A satisfying spiritual life has more to do with our internal peace than with our outward appearance. There needs to be a time for us to be still and listen to the voice and direction of God.

In college at a weekly chapel service at Texas Christian University, the guest minister said stop and ask the question who are you, where are you going, and what do you want to accomplish? Where do you want to be in five years in every aspect of your life—your private life, your professional and work life, your family life, and especially your spiritual life? Things happen over which we have no control. Sometimes we all make mistakes along the way. We have to adjust our plans. When that happens we have to seek the most honorable solution possible, readjust, but continue with the plan of where are we going? That minister gave me good advice over 50 years ago and it is still good advice today at 72.

Even today I need to reinvest in a plan and expend the energy to make the plan happen, adjusting along the way but not “giving up”. Years ago one of my patients at 85 made a five year plan and 10 year plan for her life. One might think this unrealistic, but she lived to be 104 and achieved some of those plans.

Even at the end of your life you need to have a plan of hope. Especially if you are a provider, spouse, friend, or partner of that one nearing the end of this life, you need to enrich that hope by assuring that loved one that you will not forsake them, that you are there for them, and that you will make their last days as peaceful as possible. Assure them that your spirits are one throughout this life and all eternity.

To paraphrase an unknown author: There is a life on earth and a life beyond. The bridge beyond is love.

Cecilia and I were united as one in holy matrimony December 23, 1966 at Tyler Street Methodist Church, Dallas Texas. Cecilia and I wish each and every one of you a spiritual Christmas.

John Bell

A Message From the Treasurer

The budget approved by the vestry for the 2013 current year was \$163,485.00. This included an over projection of \$15,000 in plate, \$133,485 in pledges, and \$15,000 carry-over from 2012. However, Plate contributions are coming in much less than the projected which has created a "short fall" in the current budget. As the year has progressed, we have noted that several line items in the 2013 budget will need to be increased for 2014 to meet the needs of those line items. These line items have increased as we have seen a need for additional office supplies, printing, and postage. Also to be increased will be the church's portion of FICA Employee Contribution in addition to an increase in the line item for Convocation and Deanery Convention Expenses. Because the 2013 budget was a "bare bones" budget, there are very few areas that can be cut in order to balance out increases.

In looking at projections for the 2014 budget, we have set a pledge goal of \$142,000 which is \$9,000 over the 2013 pledge amount. This will allow the vestry and finance committee to make necessary increases in critical line items and adjust the plate contribution. Currently we are "over budget" in a number of areas by 25-30 percent. It is important to remember that Good Shepherd is a vibrant congregation, and as we grow and increase programs and activities, expenses also increase. Inflation affects a church as well.

We often hear "God will provide." We are fortunate to have a loving congregation that cares for the welfare of others. We are fortunate to have so many volunteers who work tirelessly in a variety of areas in our parish life. We are fortunate to have a dynamic priest in Father Paul and the friendship and talents of Karisse. I truly believe that "God provides" by having each of us search our hearts in determining the importance of our spiritual life. If you have not turned in your pledge, please do so. For everyone who has turned in a pledge, thank you! You make my job as treasurer effortless. It is through pledges received that the vestry and finance committee is able to draft a realistic budget.

All pledges received will be blessed at both services on December 8.

God's blessings on each of you.
Betty Himes, Disbursement Treasurer

"Sharing the Faith" dinner

Our "Sharing the Faith" dinner is on the move! After looking at the Church's calendar of events for November and December, we have decided to reschedule the dinner. The dinner is on the move to the January or February timeframe. We plan to have this dinner catered so that all may be free to come and participate. Enjoy all the upcoming Church events scheduled for the Advent and Christmas season!



COLUMBARIUM EXPANSION

To apply for a reserved niche in the new columbarium, please contact Kathy Strange 538-3310, Bruce Tolhurst 388-8047, or the Church 538-2015. The Columbarium expansions have been ordered and should be ready for inurnment in six months. The cost of a columbarium niche is \$500.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY December

- 1 Richard Peterson
- 8 Lou Brooke
- 8 Boone Boyce
- 25 Carol Mathes
- 30 Betsy Stepanovich
- 31 Margo Remmel



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY December

- 12 Stewart and Robin Arington
- 19 Robert and Rosalie Baker
- 19 Dave and Pam Kuthe
- 21 Robert and Mary Ihlefeld
- 23 John and Cecilia Bell



Do you have a birthday or anniversary in September but don't see your name here? Please call Cherie at the office, 538-2015, and get her to update the database to reflect your info. Thanks!

Church of the Good Shepherd Bazaar 2013

Bazaar Accounting

Bazaar Income:

Deposit 11/4	\$ 4589.58
Deposit 11/13	\$ 408.00
Deposit 11/25	\$ <u>366.50</u>

Total Deposits	\$ 5364.08
Less Change Bought for Boxes	\$ <u>540.00</u>
Total Bazaar Income	\$ 4824.08

(And there are still some IOU's outstanding)

Bazaar Expenses:

Advertising	\$ 362.91
Food and Supplies	\$ <u>231.82</u>
Total Bazaar Expenses	\$ 594.73

Net Bazaar Income \$ 4229.35

Thanks to everyone who made our Annual Bazaar such a huge success! The Bazaar committee and anyone else who is interested will be meeting in December to decide how to spend the money from the Bazaar. Please complete a request form (available on the big table in the Parish Hall) if you have suggestions or requests for funds. Historically, we have used this money for donations to missionaries and missions, community organizations, church programs, Camp Stoney scholarships and other special projects for the church.



OPEN BIBLE WRITING HOUR

Each one of us is a unique human being. Nobody else is you. So each person's response to sacred scripture is unique. Spontaneous writing practice is a way to find out what the living and holy spirit of creation has to say to, and through, you.



Try it! Come to a single meeting, or more.

7 to 8pm Wednesday evenings: Dec 4

4 to 5pm Thursday afternoons: Dec 5

In the Parish Hall of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
6th Street between Texas and Arizona (parking lot entrance)
Free. Bring a pen. Writing (or Bible) experience not necessary.

GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOLARSHIP DESIGNATED FUND

A new designated fund has been set up for a general scholarship fund to be called the Good Shepherd Scholarship. This will work in conjunction, and to augment, the two current scholarships, The Katharine E. Muma Memorial Scholarship and the Frank and Helen Griswold Scholarship. Please denote 'scholarship fund' on your check if you would like to help send church and community young people on to higher education.

DECEMBER LAY READER AND ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

DATE	LAY MINISTERS	GREETERS	ACOLYTES	SUNDAY SCHOOL/ NURSERY
DECEMBER 1 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Karisse Moore Pat Brown Joe Pidutti	Dora Somerville Dora Somerville	Tony Guck Toby Guck Adrian Melon	9:15 AM Adult Kerygma Class 10:30 AM Youth Sunday School Nursery: Karisse Moore
DECEMBER 8 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Karisse Moore Carol Coon Lector: Sara Boyett Mary Ihlefeld	Mitzi Roberts Marianne Bray	Carol Coon Linda Shay Mary Ihlefeld	9:15 AM Adult Kerygma Class 10:30 AM Youth Sunday School Nursery: ANY ANGEL
DECEMBER 15 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Karisse Moore Mary Harrell Linda Shay Lector: Ted Presler	Dave & Pam Kuthe Dick & June Rhoades	Tony Guck Toby Guck Linda Richter	9:15 AM Adult Kerygma Class 10:30 AM Youth Sunday School Nursery: Karisse Moore
DECEMBER 22 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Linda Shay Jane Bates Win Taylor	Barry Rimmel Margo Rimmel	Adrian Melon Win Taylor Mary Ihlefeld	9:15 AM Adult Kerygma Class 10:30 AM Youth Sunday School Nursery: Holly Peterson
DECEMBER 24 5:30 PM 10:45 PM	Karisse Moore Karen Morant Jane Bates Win Taylor		Adrian Melon (and TBA) Win Taylor Carol Coon Linda Shay	
DECEMBER 25 10:30 AM	Mary Ihlefeld Sara Boyett		Mary Ihlefeld	
DECEMBER 29 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Karisse Moore Mary Harrell Carol Coon Lector: Sherry Terrazas	Sherry Terrazas & Betty Gnader	Linda Richter Carol Coon Linda Shay	9:15 AM Adult Kerygma Class 10:30 AM Youth Sunday School Nursery: Karen Morant
DECEMBER 31 5:30 PM	Karisse Moore Linda Shay Lector: Paul Sherrell		Linda Shay Mary Ihlefeld	
JANUARY 5 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Karisse Moore Pat Brown Joe Pidutti	Dora Somerville Dora Somerville	Tony Guck Toby Guck Adrian Melon	9:15 AM Adult Kerygma Class 10:30 AM Youth Sunday School Nursery: Karisse Moore

Lay Readers, please note: the reader listed first will read the first lesson

Eucharistic Visitor Schedule

December 1—Sarah Guck/Tony Guck
 December 8—Margo Rimmel/Karen Morant
 December 15—Eduardo Arguello/Linda Shay
 December 22—Mary Harrell/Griffon Campbell
 December 29—To be Scheduled

The EV team meets with Father Paul after the 10:30 service on December 8th. Please be there!

The first Eucharistic Visitor listed is lead. If you cannot serve on the day scheduled, please contact Mary Harrell or Father Paul.