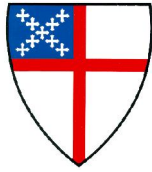


# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

## THE CALL



## JANUARY 2014

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRIEST

#### “Living the Love of God”

We continue our theme—I hope through repetition to let it worm its way deep into our hearts, to where it forms our thinking about God, the world and our relationships.

Sometimes it just takes repetition. The business of our minds and our calendars keep the doors to new ideas closed—no malice intended, just that so often all the circuits are full. But when something gently knocks again and again slowly it cracks the doors open and slips in, sometimes almost unawares, and then it sets up home inside us and begins changing things. That’s why we do the same liturgy every Sunday. That’s why the liturgical year turns year after year.

Now the Gregorian Calendar has turned and it’s 2014. We’re planning and resolving. Some stuff from last year went well, and we’d like to do it again. Some stuff needs tweaked, and a few things didn’t work very well at all. Repetition here would be destructive, for repetition must never be rote, but always considered and thoughtful. Just like a careless, “I love you” to your significant other is so shallow compared to a thoughtful gaze and heart-felt inflection, so even loving should be thoughtful and never rote.

As this month comes into swing I invite you to consider what it really means that God’s incredible unconditional love is the truest thing you know. Thoughtfully think about how you are going to live into that love this year.

Next month: What else might it mean?

Paul+

### **Sharing the Faith Dinner**

We are still looking at having the dinner in the first quarter of 2014. We want to make this a relaxing event for the Church family. Therefore, the plans are to have this dinner be a catered event. Please look for updates in the CALL and in the bulletin concerning date and time.



### **COLUMBARIUM EXPANSION IS COMPLETE!**

Take a few minutes to go to the back of the church and look at the completed Columbarium expansion. Especially beautiful is the granite top which protects the new cabinets and gives a safe place to put flowers and other ‘water bearing’ items. A BIG THANK YOU to Kathy Strange and the entire Columbarium committee for all of their hard work!



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 cost of a columbarium niche is \$500.

## FROM YOUR PRIEST'S WARDEN

Jesus Christ came into this world as human yet divine. The love that He gives to us is free and unconditional. He loves us, not expecting anything in return. However, I believe Jesus expects us to love our fellow man in the same way He loves us. He tells us that "even as you have done it to the least of these, you have done it also unto Me." Although I consider myself a compassionate person, I care for other people a lot more if they express gratitude for the favor I have rendered. That is not unconditional or "Jesus-like" love.

I have always been amazed at how one spouse would care for the other sick and dying spouse at the end of life. Even though the "healthy" one was frail and elderly, he or she continued to render loving care to the other, well past the point of emotional and physical exhaustion.

I will attempt to describe several examples of Christ-like or unconditional love that have particularly moved me. I previously mentioned the boy who fainted while waiting in line to donate blood for his friend. When his blood was checked his blood count was much lower than the friend he wanted to help. Another time I was particularly impressed by a lady who wanted to donate a kidney to another person. The amazing thing was she didn't have a recipient in mind. She didn't want the recipient to know who she was, and she didn't want to know anything about the recipient. She just wanted to help another human being. She accomplished that goal. I recall another man who had a myocardial infarction at about age 50. As soon as feasible he retired, and devoted the rest of his life to helping the needy of Grant County. For many years he helped low income people complete their tax returns. He formed an association of men to cut wood for the needy of Grant County. He cut and cut and cut and cut. He split the wood and delivered it. I asked, "Aren't you tired of doing some of this? You could get some help and those people could also help." He said, "I promised the Lord that if He would let me live I would devote the rest of my life to helping the needy." Even into his eighties, after he broke his ankle and walked with a heavy limp, he cut wood for the people without heat. Even after he had severe cardiomyopathy and it was physically dangerous for him, he insisted on cutting wood for the needy.

I will mention one other example. One night near Christmas I was in my office doing paper work. The janitor sat by me. He told me he was going to be away for a few days. He said every year right after Christmas he always visited a prisoner in another state to bring God's love to him. He also wrote to him weekly. The janitor was about 45 years old. He had done this annually 25 years. He said the man had no interested family and expected to die in prison. I stupidly asked him why was he in prison. He answered that it was not my business. The janitor said it was his business to love him and let him know that God also loves him. This man was handicapped, earned near minimum wages, had an unreliable car and spent the little money and vacation he had because he felt God's tug to bring comfort to another human being. No one outside the prison system except his wife and me knew he did this. That is Christ-like, unconditional love.

God bless each of you as you extend Christ-like unconditional love to others in 2014. "Even as you have done it unto the least of these, you have done it unto Me."

John Bell, Rector's Warden

## Outreach

To cut down on the announcements time, I will use the written medium to discuss outreach. We're asking others to do the same and to be concise at announcements time.

The Christmas Party in Palomas was a big success. We estimate that about 1,000 people attended. The music, the various presentations by the churches and the preaching was great. The scholarship kids had organized booths so one could test one's skill and luck. Several hundred gift bags were handed out that included tickets for the booth games. The mayor elect is Telaco Sanchez. He let us use his building for the party. Jim Noble, the president of Casa do Amor para Ninos, says that Telaco has been a new light of hope and inspiration for Palomas. Dale and I were able to spend time with our scholarship students and their families. Mine writes me regularly and I have been invited to their home. The father lost his job in Juarez so they are making to do by making tortillas and selling them to the stores in Palomas.

The eleven girl orphans continue to excel in school and are exceptionally good. Alicia won a math completion and competed state wide in Chihuahua and I think won. We will probably keep the girls at the orphanage until they graduate from college, get married, or get a job. They would like to be adopted and are hungry for affection, but their chances for adoption are slim.

Father Henry Hoffman from the Anglican Church was elected president of United Campus Ministry. The Board decided to terminate our paid relationship with Maria Domingues, WNMU's MASA (Multicultural Activities and Student Affairs) Director. Father Paul, Dale and I were not in favor of the decision. We favored continuing the paid relationship, but at a reduced level. The reality is we could not afford the old rate of pay. Maria provides food, clothing and other things that the students need; she's with them and their families when they are in trouble or need. Because she is available and has their trust, she ministers, she's asked to be with them when there's a death in the family, the student gets in trouble with the administration or the law, is homeless, etc. Maria will continue doing this and the Board will continue to support her needs for material support as we, the church, Episcopal, Methodist and Presbyterian, at this time, are able.

The After School Program is thriving under Sarah Guck. In previous years, by now the children had become disorderly. This year, they are getting better mannered as time goes on thanks to Sarah leadership and her continual reinforcing of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Four of the ASP girls are schedule for baptism early next month and the whole family has been attending the 10:30 service and made Good Shepherd their church.

The Brotherhood of Saint Andrew continues to do projects, not only for our church family, but for others as well. Joe Pidutti with help was able to repair four holes in the floor of a trailer of a single mom with dying child. This was a project worthy of a contractor and Joe bought the materials, had the skills and made the time to do it. Mario Olgas, (works for Joe) Tony Guck, and I were the help. One of the things that the Ortiz family liked about our church was that we help one another. They were impressed to know that Father Paul had made a ramp for Father Gene and with the request for help with a pellet stove.

Tom Bates


**JANUARY LAY READER AND ACOLYTE SCHEDULE**

| DATE   | LAY MINISTERS   | GREETERS                                   | ACOLYTES                                     | SUNDAY SCHOOL/<br>NURSERY  |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| JANUARY 5<br>8:00 AM<br>10:30 AM             | Karisse Moore<br>Pat Brown<br>Jane Bates                            | Dora Somerville<br>Dora Somerville         | Anthony Guck<br>Tobias Guck<br>Adrian Melon  | 9:15 AM<br>Adult Kerygma Class<br>10:30 AM Youth Sunday<br>School<br>Nursery: Karisse Moore  |
| JANUARY 12<br>9:30 AM<br>COMBINED<br>SERVICE | Carol Coon<br>Lector: Sara Boyett<br>Mary Ihlefeld                  | Mitzi Roberts<br>Marianne Bray             | Carol Coon<br>Linda Shay<br>Mary Ihlefeld    | 9:15 AM<br>Adult Kerygma Class<br>10:30 AM Youth Sunday<br>School<br>Nursery:                |
| JANUARY 19<br>8:00 AM<br>10:30 AM            | Karisse Moore<br>Mary Harrell<br>Linda Shay<br>Lectors: Nick Seibel | Dave & Pam Kuthe<br>Dick & June<br>Rhoades | Anthony Guck<br>Tobias Guck<br>Linda Richter | 9:15 AM<br>Adult Kerygma Class<br>10:30 AM Youth Sunday<br>School<br>Nursery: Karisse Moore  |
| JANUARY 26<br>8:00 AM<br>10:30 AM            | Linda Shay<br>Linda Shay<br>Lector: Paul Sherrell<br>Win Taylor     | Barry Rimmel<br>Margo Rimmel               | Adrian Melon<br>Win Taylor<br>Mary Ihlefeld  | 9:15 AM<br>Adult Kerygma Class<br>10:30 AM Youth Sunday<br>School<br>Nursery: Holly Peterson |
| FEBRUARY 2<br>8:00 AM<br>10:30 AM            | Karisse Moore<br>Pat Brown<br>Joe Pidutti<br>Lector: Ted Presler    | Dora Somerville<br>Dora Somerville         | Anthony Guck<br>Tobias Guck<br>Adrian Melon  | 9:15 AM<br>Adult Kerygma Class<br>10:30 AM Youth Sunday<br>School<br>Nursery: Karisse Moore  |

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

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Eucharistic Visitor Schedule</b>                     |   |
| January 5—Tony, Josiah & Tobias Guck                    | The first Eucharistic Visitor listed is lead. If you cannot serve on the day scheduled, please contact Mary Harrell or Father Paul. |
| January 12—Eduardo Arguello/Dora Somerville             |   |
| January 19—Linda Shay/Mary Harrell/<br>Griffon Campbell |   |
| January 26—Karen Morant/Margo Rimmel                    |   |

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
January

|    |                  |   |
|----|------------------|---|
| 12 | Paddy Kuehnlenz  |  |
| 21 | Heather McClaren |   |
| 25 | Cecilia Bell     |   |
| 30 | Linda Richter    |   |

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**  
January



Do you have a birthday or anniversary in January 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!