

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

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DECEMBER 2008

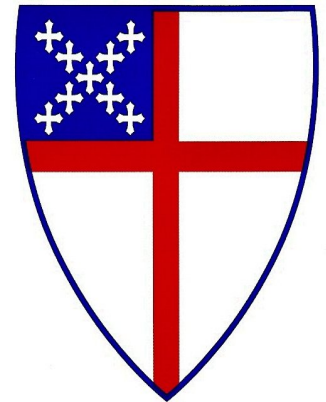
Dear Friends,

The Society of St. Francis teaches that Saint Francis once taught the Sultan. He said, "Christmas is the time when Light looked down from heaven and saw darkness and so came down as Light. Peace looked down and saw our strife and came down as Peace. Love looked upon our hatred and descended as Love." In other words the Gospel of John teaches the same thing. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

We invite you to share with us this Christmas in God's Light and Peace and Love. Join us in the services and opportunities listed in this newsletter and on our website. Visit the elderly and tell those you love how deeply you feel. Give to the poor in body and in spirit. Build up the Body of Christ. Pray for your own needs and those of others. Rekindle your own faith. Rejoice this season and know that Love came down at Christmas.

Faithfully yours,

Robert Davenport
Rector



To
Know
Christ
and To
Make
Him
Known

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, Submitted by Patricia McKee:

At 4:30pm on Christmas Eve it will be Our time to tell The Story- with young and old together at Good Shepherd. Practice to tell the story is very simple, children's classes and youth will be given parts during the church school time in December beginning on December 7th. Dress rehearsal is important, only happens one time on December 20 from 9-11. Young children will be scheduled early and allowed to leave. Those with speaking parts, or main roles need to be available a bit longer. Refreshments will be provided at dress rehearsal, parents are needed to bring something to share at rehearsal. Thanks to everyone at the end of the pageant. Music in the pageant will be especially wonderful this year under the direction of Ben Blanchard. Children wishing to have special musical parts need to try and attend Ruach on Wednesdays in December, 5:15 - 6:15. Sign up for the pageant in the hall at the kitchen, and/or contact patricia@goodshepherdnorfolk.org.

Come and Go With Me Where I'm Bound! Advent 2008 begins our journey together in worship and learning. Advent Workshops for adults and children will happen on November 30th at 9:15 as we begin a new liturgical year! Adults will all meet together on this Sunday in the Parish Hall to consider the gifts we share in our community and world during this special season. Children, Youth-with-their-parents if making an Advent wreath will gather upstairs in the Rug Room to step into the Advent adventure entitled Come and Go With Me Where I'm Bound- Advent calendars and path will be introduced.

Adults take note, Sunday mornings in Advent will merge the **Adult Forum and Synthesis** classes as we begin to introduce the Gospel of Mark for the new lectionary year, as well as focus on the lectionary readings for our worship throughout Advent. 9:15-9:55 Parish Hall.

Faith Matters will continue their focus upstairs-except for November 30th when we will all meet together to begin Advent.

Advent Quiet days are offered on Wednesdays from December 4-24. From 10am to 6pm each Wednesday. Opportunities for personal reflection (our own and reflection shared by persons in our worshipping community) and prayer, light fare available to share in Fellowship, and a chance to plug in to service opportunities as we prepare for Christ's birth.

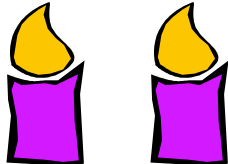
Wednesday Synthesis/Bible Study is currently focusing on the Book of Isaiah of the Old Testament. Everyone is welcome to join us as we enjoy these very special writings, and touch on the Advent hopes that come from them in December.

**Week One:
Bound for Hope!**



Worship Opportunities at Good Shepherd During Advent To Christmas

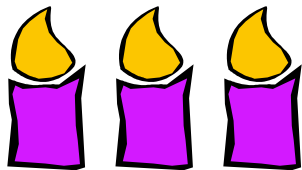
**Week Two:
Bound for Peace!**



Week One: Bound for Hope!

Sunday Nov. 30—Eucharist: 8am & 10am
9:15am: Advent Workshop: upstairs
Adult Forum on Gifts Shared in Advent
Wed. Dec. 3: 10-6, Eucharist: 11 am
Advent Reflections and Light Fare.

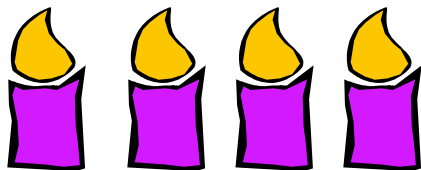
Week Three: Bound for Joy!



Week Two: Bound for Peace!

Sunday Dec. 7—Eucharist: 8 am and 10 am
Wednesday Dec. 14—10-6, Eucharist 11am
Advent Reflections and Light Fare

**Week Four:
Bound for Love!**



Week Three: Bound for Joy!

Sun. Dec. 14—Eucharist: 8am and 10am
Wed. Dec. 17—10-6, Eucharist 11 am
Advent Reflections and Light Fare

New this year: Advent Eucharist and Reflections (story, remembrance, service) on Wednesday's With Light Fare provided.

Week Four: Bound for Love!

Sun. Dec. 21—Eucharist: 8 am
LESSONS and CAROLS—10 am
Wednesday Dec. 24: Advent Reflection and Light Fare 10-3pm

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Pageant and Eucharist: 4:30 pm
Eucharist 10:30 pm
Followed by Champagne Breakfast.

Announcements, Announcements:



Let's celebrate the holidays together at Good Shepherd's Annual Christmas Party on Sunday, December 14th at 6pm, in the home of Laurie and Jamie Marshall, 1415 Daniel Avenue. Child care will be provided in the church nursery.

WELCOME !!

On Sunday, November 9th, the Church of the Good Shepherd welcomed those new to this congregation of prayer and fellowship. Including:

Justin Collings

Tracy and Hans Copeland and sons, Darden and Jack

Claudia and Mark Hough and children, Beach, Griffin, and Lara

Barbara and Mike McCandless

Stephanie and Chris (deployed) Miller and children, Libby and Logan

Lesla and Chris (deployed) Nelson and daughters, Faith and Hope

Peggy and Dean Troyer

Jay and Meg Mahoney and children, Jack and Maddie

We thank Hazel Peck, Lelia-Graham Webb, David and Patti Stracener and all those who baked the delicious pumpkin bread whose efforts made this day possible.

Early Christians: An adult education opportunity for Advent and Epiphany: What? A careful, inquisitive and prayerful reading of the Gospel of Mark. When? 7:00 AM to 8:00 AM Thursday mornings, December 4 to February 12th, excluding Christmas and New Year's Day. Why? To become further immersed in the version of the Gospel being read this coming liturgical year in worship. Where? At the Church of the Good Shepherd, either in the library or the Rector's study. How? By addressing three questions: What does it say? Why was it preserved? What does it say to us? Join us. Heavenly coffee will be provided.

Our Stewardship efforts for 2009: are underway with the Vestry and other volunteers planning to have conversations with each Good Shepherd parishioner regarding the wonderful ministries that God has called us to serve in this place and at this time. I ask that you agree to meet with the volunteer who will gratefully call you and promise that there will be no pressure, but will allow you to discuss anything that is on your mind about our church and our ability to serve not only our own congregation but the larger community as well. Our theme this year is Abundance, even in these difficult economic times. You are invited to make Good Shepherd a high priority for you that is reflective of your trust in God and God's people.

John Meek, 2009 Stewardship Chairman

Children at Risk

The Parish's Long Range Plan includes the goal of providing support to an exploratory committee within Good Shepherd whose mission it is to provide mental, physical, and spiritual care for children (birth through 3 years) and their families in the local community through an infant, toddler and parent program.

A group led by Buffy Driskill has been meeting twice a month since the summer gathering input from people in the local community and beyond who are knowledgeable about such subjects.

This group has found the work of Geoffrey Canada very helpful. He adopts a conveyor belt philosophy where children from the lowest socio-economic group that receive a quality education with support from families, guidance counselors and medical personnel continually from pre-birth through college graduation will be on the same playing field as middle class citizens and receive the same opportunities to contribute to their communities. The support must remain constant and the "cocooning" care must be widespread among the community to seem like the norm.

Our next step is to ask the National Association of Episcopal Schools to help us sharpen our focus on our mission and action plan in order to expand these outreach efforts. If you are interested in helping us in this dream and plan, please contact Buffy or the Rector. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 3 at 4:30 PM at the Church.

Annual Parish Meeting, December 7th, 2008:

The Annual Parish Meeting for the Church of the Good Shepherd will be held Sunday morning, December 7th. We will pray, celebrate and reflect on what it is "To know Christ and make Him known" in this place and at this time during both services with hymns, prayers, Eucharist and presentations from the Rector and Senior Warden. Between services we will gather in Memorial Hall to hear and receive reports from committees of the parish, staff, Junior Warden, Stewardship Chair and Treasurer. The leadership of the parish will also respond to questions as time allows. We will also elect four new members of the Vestry. Those being nominated are Sherwood Duffy, Frank Thomas, Diana Smelt and Robin Starck. We will also be thanking outgoing Vestry members Elliott Webb, Jean Bryan, Eddie Wolcott and Senior Warden Jim Izard. Please join us for this important event in the life of your parish.

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THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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The Vestry

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Junior Warden: Randy Noe

Treasurer: Steve Cyrus

Jean Bryan, Molly Parsons, John Chandler, Lelia Graham Webb, Rich Crawford,
Jennifer Sanford, Keith Hope, Rexanne Metzger, Elliott Webb, Beth Williams, Eddie Wolcott