

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

January 2013

(our website good-shepherd.us)

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd is a Christian community empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness to the good news of Jesus Christ through worship and service, in faith and with love, to all people.

From The Pastor

To All the Saints at Good Shepherd,

It is interesting to note that the celebration of Jesus' birth on December 25 assures the fact that it will always be observed at some point during the final week of the calendar year. In other words the final message of the church to itself and to the world will always include these words found in the gospel according to St. Luke where he writes the following:

*“And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And the angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone all around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, ‘Be not afraid; for behold I bring you good news of a great joy which will **come to all the people:** for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you; you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.’” Luke 2: 8-12.*

How appropriate it is for that message to be announced as people all around the world prepare to start another year. But will 2013 truly be a *new* year, or will it be merely a further extending of what has recurred many times over so as to give truth to the saying “there is nothing new under the sun.” The kind of newness to which the gospel confronts us with is a gift which is not satisfied simply by something new under the Christmas tree no matter how much it may have cost, but something much more profound. What would truly be new would be a change of heart, a change in thinking, a change in how we live together, each of which is necessary to basically make the world a better place for everyone. Such adjustments in attitude and behavior, even to a small degree, would do much to fulfill the words of the angel quoted above – “*I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all people.*” Deep in heart of every human being there is the yearning that one day there will come the enlightenment which will cast out all the miseries of crushed hopes, broken dreams and searing disappointments. And in their place will be justice, freedom, dignity, and peace.

I began this article with an observation about the timing of the Christmas celebration, and I conclude it with the following words of Marcus Borg:

“The birth stories make use of more primal religious imagery. With their stories of Jesus conception by the Spirit, both Matthew and Luke affirm what happened in Jesus was not simply “of the flesh” but also “of God” – that is, “of the Spirit”. Both powerfully express the ancient theme of light coming into the darkness, Matthew with the star shining as a beacon to the wise men, Luke with the glory of God appearing in the night sky as angels sing to the shepherds. The decision of the Christian church in the fourth century to celebrate Jesus’ birth at the time of the winter solstice expresses this symbolism perfectly: he is born at the time of deepest darkness, and his birth is the coming of the light. Or, to put it even more compactly, Jesus is the light in our darkness.”

Ruth and I extend to you all our best wishes for a blessed Christmas and a very happy new year. We have already received a very wonderful gift by learning that the treatment for her thyroid cancer is going well even though there are still matters remaining that will be dealt with after the first of the year. Many thanks for your prayers and personal notes. They do much to lift our spirits.

Grave and Peace,
Pastor Jack

A Thought for the Month

Life loves to be taken by
the lapel and to be told:
“I am with you kid,
let’s go!”

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A Thank You From Pastor and Ruth

We want to extend our thanks for the monetary gift which we received shortly before Christmas. This will help in meeting the additional expenses incurred with the medical issue Ruth is dealing with. It is indeed heart - warming to know how caring the members of this congregation are and who evidence their love in so many ways when there is an opportunity to be supportive whether it be within the congregation or the community. Following surgery on November 6 for the removal of her cancerous thyroid gland which had metastasized, Ruth has begun receiving therapy which is normally prescribed for cases such as hers and will continue for some time. On December 26, we received a very good report as to the results of that total scan. We are grateful for your concern and your many prayers. Grace and peace to you all on the journey through a new year.

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HOLD THE DATE: JAN 20
ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING – immediately after service.
Copies of annual reports to be available Jan 13 in narthex

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Wednesday Afternoon Adult Forum
1:00 P.M.

Beginning January 9, Pastor Elstad will be offering the opportunity to utilize articles which have appeared in *The Lutheran* as a source of discussion and Bible study.

The first of these topics to be offered is on the theme

The Spiritual Practice of Shedding Stuff

“Clutter seems a fact of American life – we accumulate more and more material goods and then buy bigger houses to put them into. When the attic, garage and basement are full, we turn to self-storage units for the overflow. Is this the life of abundance that Jesus promised us when he said: ‘I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly?’

Using these timely and informative articles can be an effective means of bringing together the issues of our life of faith and the message of the scriptures. Put another way, we are seeking to be reverent and relevant at the same time.

A copy of the article which inspired the use of the study format we will be using will available in the narthex in advance on
Sunday, December 30 and January 6

All are welcome

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GOOD SHEPHERD ANNUAL PARTY WELCOMES CHRISTMAS

by Gil Vatter

More than 70 people gathered into the gaily decorated Frank Hall on Sunday evening December 9 for the annual parish Christmas party. The Christmas party has become one of the more carefully preserved traditions of the Good Shepherd congregation and this year's celebration was in keeping with the best of this long time series of events, commemorating the birth of Christ.

The evening began at 5:00 PM with hors d'oeuvres and a period of fellowship. Master of ceremonies for the evening, Garry Westerweller, welcomed everyone to the festivities and read several announcements, including a letter to "all the saints at Good Shepherd" from Pastor Elstad, who was unable to attend. With "The Piano Man", Dick Alberti at the piano, the group sang a variety of Christmas carols, from "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" to a new version of "The Christmas Song" ("chestnuts roasting on an open fire."), called "Christmas Party", ("Let's all sing while Dick is playing...") with new words written by Garry Westerweller. Garry set the tone for the evening by reading the 2012 version of his annual Christmas poem, the fifth one in as many years, to an appreciative audience.

Gil Vatter offered prayer and, again in traditional style, Ernie Brinkman was directed by the master of ceremonies to lead off the line of hungry folks ready to sample the goodies prepared for us by the catering company.

After dinner, Garry introduced his annual "diabolical" quiz, written to confound the participants and guaranteed to be a lot of fun. Questions in the 2012 Christmas Trivia Quiz included, "Who was the first President to decorate his White House Christmas tree with electric lights in 1895?" (Grover Cleveland), "How many years have we been doing this quiz?" (five), "The average number of lights that adorn a Christmas tree are?" (200) and "Which holiday produces the highest candy sales?" (Halloween). The winning team included Linda Burns, Herb Kuhl, Elaine Medici, Steve Miller, Bill Nemcik, Tom Tehve, Gil Vatter and Kim Wehrli, who narrowly beat out another team to win the coveted Dunkin Donuts gift cards.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the 2012 Christmas Awards List. Those persons on the list this year included:

Mike Carp - The Good Shepherd's Helping Hands Award

"In recognition of your hard work and dedication you exhibit in the area of Social Ministry"

Bill Wehrli - The Good Shepherd "Just for Yuks" Award

"In recognition of your frequent contributions to the "Voice". Keep 'em coming, we all need a little laughter in our lives."

Gil Vatter - The Good Shepherd Martin Luther Award

"In recognition of your effort to re-write and record our church history. Martin Luther may have had his 95 theses, but you covered 45 years of our history."

Clem Hergenhan - The Good Shepherd's Christopher Columbus Award

"Christopher Columbus may have discovered America, but (thanks to "Sandy") you discovered a whole new place to dock your boat (and become famous for it on the Weather Channel).

Lou and Elaine Medici - The Good Shepherd's Musical Chairs Award

"In recognition for the bravery and adventurous spirit you show each week by not sitting in the same seats for Sunday services."

Finally, Garry Westerweller was surprised with a certificate, the "2012 Good Shepherd Christmas Elf Award", "for all his efforts at making the Christmas party our favorite fellowship event."

We were happy to welcome Pam (Everett) and Frank Baglieri, who drove all the way from Hanover, Pennsylvania to be with us.

Despite the rain, everyone left the building with a smile, looking forward to a merry and blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.

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Council Minutes 12/10/12

In attendance were the following: Garry Westerweller, Steve Miller, Jamie Antonacci, , Sharon Oberkehr (via phone), Mike Carp, Andy Lichter, Tom Tehve, Karl Tourjussen, Dick Alberti (via phone), and Nancy Fitch.

Absent: Clem Hergenhan, Pastor Jack, and Andy Mathisen

The meeting was called to order with a quorum declared.

Steve led the council in devotions from II Corinthians.

Steve reviewed the agenda for the evening and it was approved.

November minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's report was presented via phone by Dick Alberti. Dick's general feeling was that we were in good shape as we head towards year end. Karl motioned that the report be approved, Tom seconded and the council approved to accept the report.

Pastor Jack's report was reviewed on line along with the greeting he wrote to the attendees of the Christmas Party.

Nancy Fitch submitted a report from COG reviewing where donated funds are distributed to various charities. Nancy asked that council consider continued donations to COG and if possible to earmark those donations specifically for EAF (Emergency Assistance Fund)

Mike Carp reported that we would receive a 30% match of funds from Thrivent on donations for the victims of Sandy. Mike also requested that he would like to be made better aware of donations from the congregation so that he can notify the donors that their money went to the specific funds they were designated for. Steve suggested Mike work with Dick and Clem to see how this could be accomplished.

Steve reported that he would be meeting with the Gateway Church of Christ in an effort to identify a few possible families that we could potentially adopt and donate to. Steve would also like to document their stories.

Property Report was reviewed by Steve. Steve mentioned that the Fire Marshall had inspected us and recommended that we replace our 30 year old fire alarm system. A discussion ensued about the documentation that should be presented by the Fire inspector outlining the guidelines for such a recommendation.

Little Chief's sign was deemed to be unacceptable by Holmdel inspectors. Little Chief asked and received a grace period to review and to potentially inquire about a permit for their sign.

Action items from last council meeting were reviewed.

Discussion still ongoing on possible replacement of Church Windows. It appears that for now we will be using the bank to write checks and still be recording in Church Windows as we make a slow transition to something better. Jamie recommended that whatever we use, it be generic and simple in nature to assist in our finances.

Steve reviewed a parking paving quote: in spring, 2013: blacktop the driveway (removing rotted RR ties; replace broken concrete landing beneath the front steps). Partial paving closest to church: \$16.2K; paving closest half of parking:

\$23.6K. The large expenditure must be prioritized with forthcoming Narthex improvement expenditures - perhaps let congregation decide via money designation in a special capital campaign?

No meeting held with the cleaning people held. Karl seems to be spear heading the effort to look into improving this area as it appears we are unsatisfied with our current cleaning service.

Review of safety guidelines still needs to be done as it pertains to substitute teachers for the Sunday School. Steve's action: look for any updated ELCA guidelines; Sharon's action: consult with Pastor Jack

Budget Review for 2013

Tom presented the tentative budget for 2013 which was discussed, at length, by council. **Tom will revise the budget for final review, prior to the annual congregational meeting.**

Discussions of where any end of the year donations would go were tabled until next month's meeting so that we could review 2012 end of year financials,

Old Business

ELCA Lift Program was discussed.

Andy Mathisen is leading a team (to include Nancy Fitch) to develop Good Shepherd's mission statement. This endeavor should involve the whole congregation and focus on us listening to God through scripture and prayer, listening within the church, and finally listening to the community.

Karl reviewed the marketing plan for our church. Karl also asked for and received approval to run an ad in the local paper, advertising our Christmas Services.

New Business

Steve presented the notion of a time and talent drive in an effort to get more new people involved in the council, committees, etc..

Steve sought approval from council, on behalf of the NJSYO to store 4 cabinets of sheet music in the pink house. Council approved.

Council set end of year 2012 staff gifts and 2013 raises.

Gil Vatter wrote a proposal for narthex improvement, and will head a committee, to begin 1/1/2013

Karl forwarded me the following on behalf of the nominating committee for the 2013 Church year:

Karl heads nominating committee consisting of: Ellen Tehve; Debbie Blackburn; Diane Mathisen; Grace Brinkman

Most of the following positions do not need any nominations because they are already filled thru 2013 or the council members have agreed to continue serving.

President: Steve Miller (although Steve indicated he may step down as President)

Vice President: Karl Torjussen

Council Secretary: Garry Westerwweller

Worship & Music: Andy Mathisen

Christian Education: Sharon Oberkehr

Finance: Tom Tehve

Property: Jamie Antonacci
Spiritual Renewal & Outreach (Evangelism): (Clem Hergenham?)
Fellowship: Debbie Blackburn (but Debbie says she does not think she can handle it all herself in 2013 because she has extra family responsibilities.)
Social Secretary: Mike Carp
Treasurer: Dick Alberti & Tom Tehve.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

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CHRISTMAS PAGEANT LEADS OFF SUNDAY SERVICE by Gil Vatter

A special presentation by the children of the Sunday School led off the Communion Service on Sunday December 16 and helped put the congregation into the spirit of Christmas. It has long been a tradition for the children of our Sunday School to offer a holiday program each year and for the past few years their Christmas program has led off one of the early December communion services. In 2011, Sharon Oberkehr prepared a new version of the Christmas story for the children and this version was offered again this year.

The Sunday School Christmas Pageant re-tells the traditional tale of the time and place where Jesus was born. The roles of all those involved in the story are, of course, played by the children of the Sunday School:

- Isabella Antonacci - a donkey - a camel*
- Michael Antonacci - Caesar Augustus - a king*
- Katey Howard - an angel - a shepherd*
- Kolby Howard - an innkeeper - a shepherd*
- Bella Miller - Mary*
- Hannah Oberkehr - an angel - a camel*
- Leah Oberkehr - a sheep - the star*
- Matthew Oberkehr - a horse - a king*
- Colin Purcell - an innkeeper - a king*
- Logan Wilgus - a dove - a camel*
- Tim Wilgus - Joseph*

Following the presentation of the Christmas story, the children sang "Away in a Manger", with the congregation joining them for the final two verses. We thank the children for their presentation of the old story and we thank also the staff of the Sunday School - Sharon Oberkehr, Karen Rajala and Andy Mathisen for all the work they did to prepare the children, write the script and make the costumes for this Christmas Pageant. Thanks from all of us in the congregation.

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TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT SERVICE GREETS CHRISTMAS by Gil Vatter

After the organ Prelude, "The First Noel", played by Miae Park, an anthem, "Softly, So Gently, He Comes" by Douglas Wagner, sung by the Choir began this year's traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve service at Good Shepherd, a tradition that has been renewed each year for most of the church's 45 year history. The front of the church was beautifully enhanced with flowers in memory of loved ones by the Kuhl family, poinsettias given by members of the congregation and a tall freshly cut tree, put up and decorated by the Altar Guild. The congregation joined Minister of Music, Miae Park and the Choir with a well supported version of "O Come, All Ye Faithful", followed by a Christmas greeting by Pastor John M. Elstad. "Angels We Have Heard On High" set the mood for the reading of the traditional Christmas texts from Isaiah 9 and a portion of Saint Paul's letter to Titus, read by Kim Wehrli. "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" set the mood for the Gospel story of the birth of the baby in Bethlehem from the second chapter of Luke and Pastor Elstad's Christmas homily. The congregation underscored the words of the sermon with "The First Noel".

The Choir presented "When Salvation Was Born", by Susan Callaway and Rachel Mathisen, accompanied by Miae Park on the organ, played a lovely medley of favorite Christmas carols on the bells as the offering was received. The congregation sang "What Child is This?" to begin the Holy Communion. Following Pastor Elstad's prayer after the communion and prayers, the ushers dimmed the lights as candles were lit throughout the sanctuary and the Choir and congregation sang the old German Christmas carol, "Silent Night, Holy Night" in the light of the candles, after which the music segued into "Joy to the World, the Lord is Come" as the lights were turned on again. The Choir ended the service with a rousing anthem, "Angels From the Realms of Glory" by Lani Smith, the 45th Good Shepherd Christmas Eve service ended and the congregation left the church to the strains of the organ Postlude, "Joy to the World", to continue their own preparations to celebrate one of the most important holidays on the church calendar,

A crowded church had seen an earlier family oriented Christmas Eve communion service at 4:00 PM with Fred Oberkehr as Lay Reader and Hannah Oberkehr as Acolyte. In total, more than 130 people participated in the celebration of the birth of Christ at Good Shepherd this year.

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Please pick up your **2013 Giving Envelopes in the Narthex**. If you don't see yours or need a new one see Clem Hergenhan or Doreen Hoffman.

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AROUND THE PARISH

By Gil Vatter

GOOD SHEPHERD - THE FRIENDLY CHURCH

"Should auld acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind,
Should auld acquaintance be forgot and days of auld lang syne.
For auld land syne, my dear, for auld land syne,
We'll take a cup of kindness yet, for auld lang syne." - Robert Burns

1. *HAPPY NEW YEAR* to each and every one of you. May 2013 prove to be a healthy and happy year for all and may the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd grow and prosper.

2. *Pat and Brian Dunne* drove to New Orleans the week before Hurricane "Sandy" struck. What a homecoming!!!

3. Good Shepherd has provided funds to assist victims of "Sandy" with a "Special Relief Fund". Among other things, the fund has already purchased a new funace for a family in Union Beach.

A man was brought before a judge. The judge said, "You've been brought before this court for drinking". The man replied, "OK, Let's get started." (Bunny Kuhl)

Doctor - "I predict that you'll live to be 60"

Patient - "I am 60!"

Doctor - "See, What did I tell you." (Bunny Kuhl)

4. We were all happy to see *Terry and Pat Nichols* back in church again after their ordeal with "Sandy". Coastguardsman *Pat* and his boat have been assigned to the Staten Island area.

5. The congregation welcomed two new families into the church on Sunday December 2 - *Greta and Jason Buerkle and children, Charlotte Ella and Jason and Maggie and Kieth Purcell and children, Emma and Colin*. Lots of friends and relatives were in attendance for the happy occasion.

6. Victims of "Sandy", *Elaine and Lou Medici* had the walls of their home torn down by a volunteer squad recently. They expect to put up new walls in the near future, after everything dries out. Their repaired electrical system has also been inspected and OK'd.

After a night of riotous drinking to welcome in the New Year, Ole goes up to a parking meter, puts in a quarter and the dial goes up to 60. Ole says, "Wow, I lost 100 pounds."

Doctor Olsen calls Ole and says, "Mr Swanson, your check came back." Ole replied, "So did my arthritis."

7. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd fez to every family who provided a Christmas poinsettia to decorate the altar this year. They were beautiful and thanks to the Altar Guild for arranging the flowers and the beautiful Christmas tree at the front of the sanctuary.

8. For the season of Advent, this year, the congregation sang "Accept, O Lord, the gifts we bring" to the old traditional tune of "Barbara Allen".

9. *Pastor Jack's* children's sermon on Sunday December 2 was, "What are we waiting for?"

Two Mexican cops were investigating the murder of Juan Gonzalez. "How was he killed?" asked one cop.

"With a golf gun", replied the other cop.

"A golf gun?", "What's a golf gun?", said the first cop. "I'm not exactly sure, but it sure made a hole in Juan", said the second cop.

He who hesitates is not only lost, but also miles from the next exit. (Bill Wehrli)

If you don't know where you're going, you're never lost. (Bunny Kuhl)

10. January birthdays : *Pat Dunn, Dot Groh, Bob Horlacher, Ellen Tehve, Bill Theune, Kim Wehrli, Bill Wehrli.* Many Happy Returns!!!!

11. January anniversaries : *George and Lois Frank, Karen and Andy Lichter.* Have Many More!!!!

12. Remember in your prayers, *Bob Sislian*, who is recovering from pneumonia at home. Get well, Bob.

Sven was recovering from surgery and Lena arrived to ask him how he was feeling. "I'm feeling pretty good, but I didn't like the four letter word Dr. Olson used in the operating room." My goodness", said Lena, "What did he say?" "Oops", replied Sven.

13. Congrats to "C. J." Miller, a member of the Jackson Memorial Jaguar Marching Band, who will go with the band to Pasadena, California to march in the famous Rose Parade on New Years Day. Watch for them on television. The band will also go to Washington, D.C. to march in President Obama's inauguration day parade. Busy, busy!!!!

14. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd beret to Good Shepherd's Poet Laureate, *Garry Westerweller*, for all his hard work preparing and emceeding the annual parish Christmas bash. Nice work, old pal.

15. Cellest Jon Kim, Miae Park's son, has been selected to play in the District Orchestra in his area. Congrats Jon.

A snowman goes to the doctor with a carrot sticking out of one ear, lettuce sticking out of the other ear and a zucchini up his nose. "Doctor", he says, "What's wrong with me?" The doctor replies, "Well, for one thing, you're not eating right."

My mother taught me LOGIC - "If you fall off that swing and break your neck, you can't go to the store with me." (Grace Brinkman)

When people say, "You look great", why do they always have to add, "For your age." (Bill Wehrli)

16. Add *Joan Horlacher* to your prayer list. She underwent a heart procedure in early December and is recovering at home in Sugarloaf, Pennsylvania. Get well soon, Joan!!

17. The congregation was happy to welcome Pam (Everett) and Frank Baglieri, who worshipped with us on Sunday December 9. The Baglieris also joined us at the annual Christmas party.

18. The Ladies Luncheon Group celebrated Christmas this year at the Nauvoo Restaurant in Fair Haven on December 14. If you want to join the women for their January get-together, see Barbara Haher for details.

Doctor Olsen was examining Lena in the Emergency Ward of the hospital. He took Ole aside and said, "I don't like the looks of your wife at all."

"Me neither, Doc", said Ole, "but she's a great cook and a really good housekeeper."

19. The congregation was happy to welcome *Nancy Fitch's* son, *Dan Shrimpton* and his family, who worshipped with us on Sunday December 9.

20. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd fedora to the staff and students of our Sunday School, who presented their annual Christmas Pageant on Sunday December 16 during the worship service. What a nice tradition this pageant has become.

21. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd panama to the Altar Guild, the Choir, the Council, the pastor and everyone else who made Christmas so special this year.

Sven was walking down the street with a duck under his arm. "Where did you get the monkey?", asked Ole.

"It happens to be a duck", said Sven.

"Shut up, Sven", said Ole, "I'm talking to the duck."

22. One of our senior members, *Mabel Diercks* died on Thursday December 13. Mabel was an avid bridge player and seldom missed church on Sunday morning. She was 100 years old. *And God will wipe away all tears.*

23. Good Shepherd welcomed *Pastor Fred Schott* on Sunday December 16, while Pastor Jack was away.

24. *Ernie Brinkman* looked like he had gone 10 rounds with George Foreman after a recent visit to his dermatologist.

You know you're getting old when you look in the mirror while shaving and realize that the face you're looking at is your father's. (Bill Wehrli)

25. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd sombrero to *Nancy Fitch* for organizing the COG Christmas Program and thanks to everyone who responded. It helped make Christmas happier for a lot of families in our community.

26. *Andy Lichter* retired on December 28. Have a great retirement Andy and Lotsa Luck Karen.

27. *Cindy and Chris Kazmac* are caring for five handicapped cats at their home.

Something everyone in the world is doing at the same time isGROWING OLDER. (Grace Brinkman)

28. Congrats to the string ensemble - Jon Kim, cello - -Tommy Choi, piano - - Robert Kim, violin - -Na Young Yang, violin - who recently won the Prima International Competition in Morganville, New Jersey.

29. The congregation welcomed *Linda Frank* to the worship service on Sunday December 16. Linda stopped on the way to Fort Meyers, Florida to be with her parents.

30. *Rachel Mathisen, RN* was on TV during "Sandy" when she and her colleagues took newborn babies down dark staircases and out of the hospital. *Rachel and Lt. Mike Fink* were in church on December 23 and 24. Rachel played the bells at the 10:00 PM service. Mike was recently promoted to First Lieutenant by the Army at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

If you think nobody cares, try missing a couple of payments.
Frustration is trying to find your glasses.....without your glasses. (Bill Theune)

31. Notice *Andy Mathis'* new beard? Andy is going to "Northern Tier", a Boy Scout facility in northern Minnesota (brrrrr) in January (I get cold just thinking about it). I believe I would have chosen Miami Beach for a January foray, instead. Son, *Kurt*, is also growing a beard. He blames it on "Beard Month", "Manuary", etc.

32. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd hat to everyone who brought food for Saint Mark's Pantry as well as all those who acted as "Sponsors" in 2012 for the Pantry and Kitchen. Our church contributed more than 1600 cans and lots of miscellaneous food to Saint Mark's Kitchen and Pantry as well as more than \$1300 during 2012.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

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FORTY-FIVE YEARS AT GOOD SHEPHERD - PART 8

by Gil Vatter

2010 - In January, Gilbert Vatter was re-elected President of the Congregation Council and Pastor Ed Schmidt's contract as Interim Pastor was extended through June 2010. In February, for only the second time in the history of the congregation, the Sunday service was cancelled because of heavy snow. On March 9, the Little Chief Learning Center requested the use of Good Shepherd's education facilities for the fall of 2010. On March 11, Miae Park, Minister of Music, presented a concert by her students to benefit the victims of the Haiti earthquake. In June the Congregation Council submitted a Ministry Site Proposal to the New Jersey Synod. June 27 was the final Sunday for Interim Pastor Edward C. Schmidt, who left with the admiration and appreciation of the congregation. On July 4, Pastor John M. Elstad was appointed by New Jersey Synod Bishop Roy Riley as Half Time Pastor. On July 9, the Holmdel Township Zoning Board denied the use of Good Shepherd's facilities by Little Chief Learning Center, which they classified as a "private entity". After an appeal by the Congregation Council, Holmdel Township granted a "use variance" to allow Little Chief Learning Center to use Good Shepherd's facilities. On September 10, Little Chief Learning Center opened their new branch at Good Shepherd. On November 7, the congregation dedicated a new Memorial Garden, Kurt Mathisen's Eagle Scout project.

2011 - In January, Andrew Mathisen was elected President of the Congregation Council. On May 1, Miae Park, Minister of Music, presented a concert by Edward Kim, piano; Robert Kim, violin; and Jonathan Kim, cello to benefit the victims of the Japanese earthquake and tsunami. The congregation honored Gilbert Vatter for his service as President of the Congregation Council with a parish dinner at a local restaurant. Miae Park, Minister of Music, presented an organ concert, featuring violinist, Robert Kim.

2012 - In January, Steven Miller was elected President of the Congregation Council. On March 24, the New Jersey State Youth Orchestra Chamber Music Players presented a concert to benefit Saint Mark's Kitchen and Pantry in Keansburg, New Jersey. On August 28, the Singing Boys of Pennsylvania presented a concert to

benefit the Food Bank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties. On April 29, the congregation celebrated the 45th anniversary of the church with a special worship service and a series of reminiscences by long time members of the congregation. On May 6, Miae Park, Minister of Music, presented Jonathan Kim, cello; Tommy Choi, piano; and Euihyun Kim, viola in a concert to benefit local food kitchens and pantries. In late October, Hurricane "Sandy" struck the New Jersey shore and effected almost every member of the congregation. For the first time, church was cancelled for two Sundays in a row, November 1 and November 8, because there was no electric power to the church.

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GOOD SHEPHERD TO EXAMINE CONDITION OF NARTHEX by Gil Vatter

At the request of the Congregation Council, an ad hoc committee will be formed early next year to examine the condition of the narthex of the church and recommend changes and improvements.

For some time, members of the congregation have been offering informal suggestions to the Council on improving the appearance of the narthex, the entry point to the church and the first impression of our church to any visitor. Over the years, sporadic changes have already been made, which have helped to reorganize this part of the building. Now, in January 2013, a Council appointed Narthex Enhancement Committee will meet to formally look at the physical lay-out and appearance of the church's entryway and submit a written report to the Council for review, a financial evaluation (what can we afford?) and a scheduled course of action.

The Council has long recognized that anyone driving to Good Shepherd will first see the "campus" on Middletown Road and will form a "first impression" of the church through the "Pink House", the church building itself, the church and Little Chief sign, the German School sign, the lawn, the parking lot, the Memorial Garden, the cross, the trees, bushes and shrubs, the playground, the door to the "old kitchen", the mail/package box which hangs on the wall nearby and the ramp and stairs and walkway that lead into the building. This is another project all together.

The "second impression" happens when a visitor walks through the front doors of the building; the narthex, now, becomes the representation of Good Shepherd; an environment which, up until now, has promised a "busy" organization operating in a limited space - a coffee serving table, carpet, bench, "Vines" plaque, pictures on the wall, bulletin boards, coat racks, tables with literature, easels with "sign-up" or announcement sheets, flowers sign-up sheets, wall rack with literature, collected food inside and out of large baskets and on the floor, "cry room", ushers station, church office, hallways to Frank Hall and classrooms. I'm sure there is even more to be seen in this entry area, but this list indicates how crowded it is, how much activity occurs here and just how overwhelming it might be to first timers.

This is the challenge facing the Narthex Enhancement Committee when it gets together next year:

1. Make a list of everything that should be eliminated or relocated from the narthex.
2. Make a list of everything that should be added to the narthex, regardless of cost.
3. Decide which existing items ought to remain in the narthex as before.
4. Consider the decor of the narthex: wall color, color and type of carpet, wall decorations.
5. Consider narthex color and decor as it compares with and effects surrounding areas, such as the sanctuary and hallways.

Whatever conclusions the committee reaches will be submitted to the Congregation Council, which will have the responsibility of evaluating all the suggestions, checking financial feasibility and deciding what changes will be made and when those changes will be undertaken.

There will be an announcement in the bulletin, beginning January 6, listing the time. date and place of the first Narthex Enhancement Committee meeting. So, if you would like to be a part of this committee, you are invited to make your interest known to Pastor Elstad, Steve Miller or Gil Vatter or simply come to the organizational

meeting in January. it should be an interesting assignment and could well make an important contribution to the future of the congregation.

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A FEW NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

By Gil Vatter

Miae Park - Minister of Music

"Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!" (Hymn 283)

December 2 - "Even So Lord, Quickly Come" - D. E. Wagner

December 9 - "Every Valley" - Mark Hayes

December 16 - "Father, We Worship You" - Victor C. Johnson

December 23 - "And the Glory of the Lord" - G. F. Handel

December 24 - **Prelude** - "Softly, So Gently, He Comes" - D. E. Wagner

Anthem - "When Salvation Was Born" - Susan N. Callaway

Postlude - "Angels From the Realms of Glory" - Lani Smith - Pat Miller, Piano

Offertory - Christmas Medly - Rachel Mathisen, Bells; Miae Park, Organ

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COG REPORT (Nancy Fitch)

I attended the fourth quarter COG Board meeting on Dec 5th as Good Shepherd's representative.

The Calico Cat Thrift Shop coordinator, Kay Chen, reported that thrift shop sales for 2012 thru Oct 2012 were \$94,806 - a gain of \$16,902 over 2011 for the same period. Kay has proposed a new service of managing estate sales as an additional source of revenue. The Board voted to approve her proposal. Kay is also planning to provide information to The PATCH to advertise the Calico Cat Thrift Shop.

Janice Liebenow, Cog vice president and coordinator of The Calico Cat Cupboard and Pantry, reported that donations from churches and individuals provided \$7787 for the Aug. and Sept. Back to School drive. These funds were used to assist 130 children. Good Shepherd's congregational contribution of \$570 to this cause was much appreciated.

Good Shepherd is currently supporting COG's Christmas Program by contributing gift certificates to COG to support COG clients and families with food and gifts for Christmas.

The monthly evening pantry will continue to provide cleaning and personal care items to support their working low income clients in 2013. Good Shepherd has been asked to donate 28 orders of these items by June 22, 2013 as well as provide 4 to 6 persons to assist with packing the bags on the Saturday before the June 25 Tues. evening pantry.

Jane Chou the EAF (Emergency Assistance Fund Coordinator) reported that in the third quarter of 2012 (July-Sept) \$12,994 was paid to 56 family units. Emergency needs include gas, oil, electric, rent, water and sewer.

The following distribution of \$15,000 of Calico Gift Shop profits to other non-profit organizations serving our community was approved as follows -

- Asian Youth Ministries - \$1000
- Counseling Ctr for Human Development - \$500
- Family Promise of Monmouth Country - \$2000
- HABcore - \$1500
- St Marks Episcopal Outreach - \$3000
- Manna House - \$1000
- St Ann's Day Care - \$2000
- EAF - \$4000

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MABEL L. DIERCKS DEAD AT 100

by Gil Vatter

Mrs. Mabel L. Diercks (nee Konther) of Wyckoff, New Jersey died on Thursday December 13 at age 100 at Van Dyk Manor in Ridgewood, New Jersey. She was born in Brooklyn, New York and lived in Shadow Lake Village in Middletown, New Jersey for many years. She was predeceased by her husband John H. F. Diercks in 1993 and is survived by her children, Barbara Trisimen of Wyckoff, New Jersey, John Diercks of State College, Pennsylvania and Robert Diercks of Troy, New York, four grandchildren and five great grandchildren. She was buried at Fair View Cemetery, Route 35, Red Bank, New Jersey on Monday December 17.

Mabel and Jack Diercks were long time devoted members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Holmdel and participated in many activities. John sang bass in the choir and both were members of the Adult Fellowship Group and the church's Bridge Club. Following John's death in 1993, Mabel continued to attend church on a regular basis until she moved to Teaneck, New Jersey to a constant care facility, because of failing health.

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KITCHEN AND PANTRY RE-LOCATE by Gil Vatter

The church has been notified that the kitchen and food pantry, formerly located at Saint Mark's Episcopal Church in Keansburg will be moved to Calvary United Methodist Church in Keyport. The move is planned for early January and details of the move and new location will be listed in the February issue of the "Voice".

Although the kitchen and food pantry will soon be operating in a new location, it will continue to be called "the Kitchen at St. Mark's" for the immediate future and will also continue to use P.O. Box 193, Keansburg, NJ 07734 as its mailing address until the new location has been established. A new name and mailing address will be chosen eventually. The "Kitchen at St. Mark's, Inc." will continue the same mission it has fostered for almost two decades; providing hot meals for hungry people in the Bayshore area and food for local, needy families.

Co-Directors Nancy Mester and Doreen Minutella will continue as co-directors in the new location and request that regular volunteers and longtime supporters continue to work with and for the success of the new kitchen and pantry.

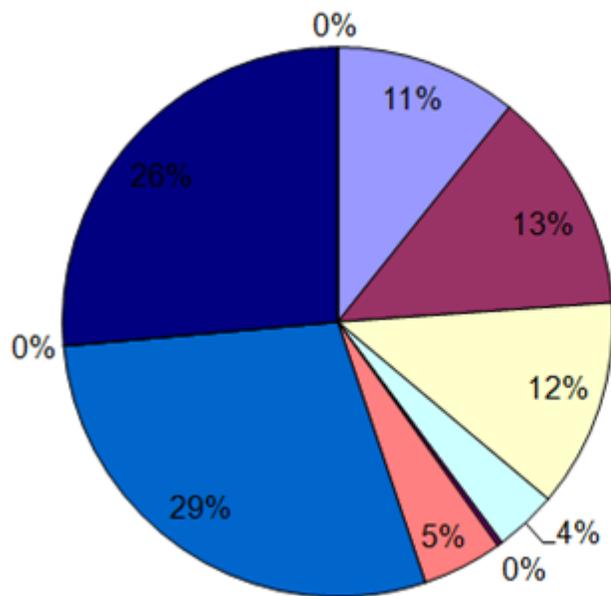
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2012 Stewardship from Mike Carp

Additional 2012 end-of-year donations are expected from Council meeting on Jan 14, 2013
Your designated gifts, when combined with others, make a significant impact (details in Annual Report)

FINANCIAL DETAILS FOR RECENT EVENTS: (from Steve Miller, Council President)
DEC 9, 2012 CHRISTMAS DINNER
GIFTS RECEIVED FROM PARTICIPANTS: \$1685
RESULTING DONATIONS:
\$200 designated for "Christmas dinner" (used to buy food for the greater-than-expected turnout)
\$665 for a gift for Pastor Jack (for commuting expenses to care for Ruth in Philadelphia)
\$820 designated for Sandy "Special Relief Fund"

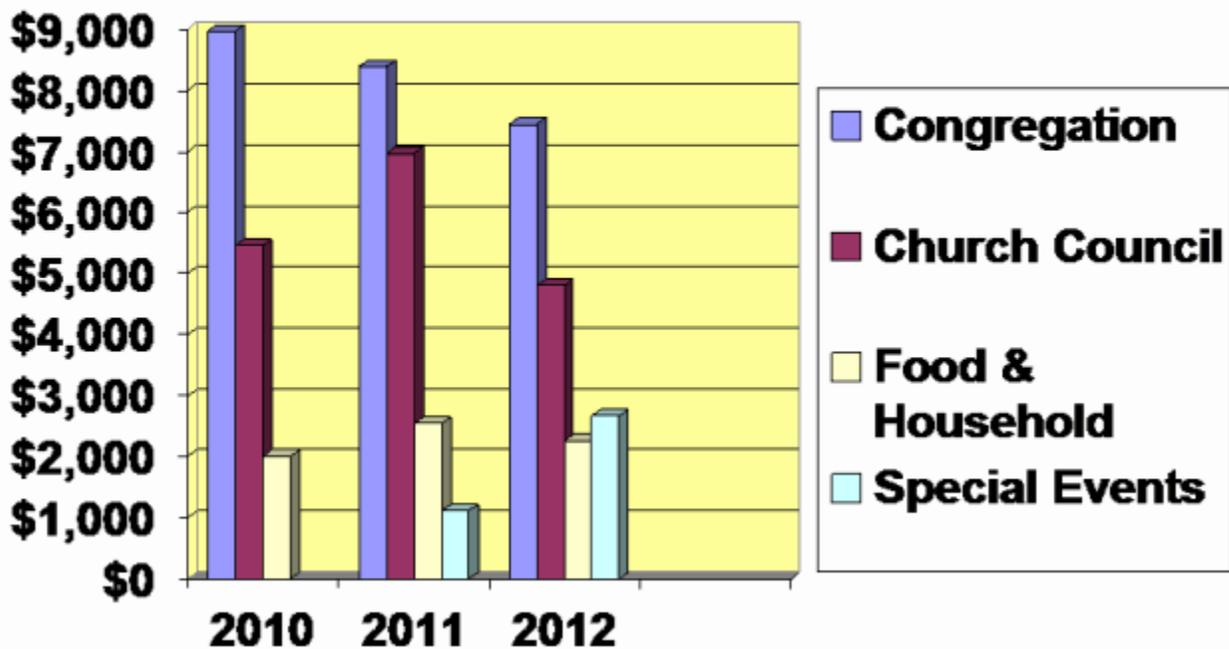
SANDY "SPECIAL RELIEF FUND"
GIFTS RECEIVED: \$4200 (plus ~\$1400 matching, to be received from Thrivent Financial)
RESULTING DONATIONS:
\$450 given to a congregation family displaced by flooding from Highlands, NJ
\$450 given to a congregation family with flood damage in Union Beach, NJ
\$2850 paid to A.A.Richards Heating (replacement furnace, paid in full, for a Union Beach 9 member, 3 generation family)
\$450 given to Project Paul (designated toward 2 additional furnaces in Keyport and Union Beach)
~\$1400 (Thrivent matching check) to Project Paul, for Bayshore Sandy victims

2012 Giving To Missions



- Lunch Break
- St. Mark's
- COG
- ELCA World Hunger
- Project Paul
- Red Bank Crop Walk
- ELCANJ Synod
- Emmanuel Cancer Fund
- GS-Sandy Relief Fund
- Holmdel Community Services Orgs

Giving Report 2012



January 2013

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1	2	3	4	5
				7:30pm – choir practice		NJ State Youth Orch 1- 4pm
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service			1pm – Adult Forum	7:30pm – choir practice		NJ State Youth Orch 1- 4pm
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service	7pm Council Meeting	7:30 – 9:00 Compassionate Friends	1pm – Adult Forum	7:30pm – choir practice 6pm - Thrivent Mtg	12:30 – Ladies Luncheon Group @ Lincroft Inn	NJ State Youth Orch 1- 4pm
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service followed by Congregation Meeting			1pm – Adult Forum	7:30pm – choir practice		NJ State Youth Orch 1- 4pm
27	28	29	30	31		
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service			1pm – Adult Forum	7:30pm – choir practice		