

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

December 2014

(our website good-shepherd.us)

Open Minds ... Open Hearts ... Open Hands

Good Shepherd Christmas Party – December 14, 5PM See You There!!!!

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MINUTES for Nov 10, 2014 Council meeting DRAFT 1.2

council members attending:: Sharon Oberkehr; Tom Tehve; Stephanie Dall, Lou Medici ; John Dall ; Karl Torjussen ; Steve Miller; Pastor Rachel

Absent: Jamie Antonacci; Sick: Marion Schloemer; Visitor: Nancy Fitch

DEVOTIONS - Pastor Rachel. Matthew Chapt 4: Jesus said "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men". Pastor then led a discussion of our present difficulty to "follow"

Approved the agenda

Approved minutes of Oct 13, 2014 council meeting

Approved Oct 31 Treasurer's Report

Pastor Aaron, Asst to the Bishop, led a discussion of the Call Process

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Pastor's report - Pastor Rachel led 2 worships, 3 visits, 1 funeral (Pastor Jack preached), 2 Confirmation classes, and checked in weekly with Pat in Church Office
- Social Ministry - Nancy Fitch reported that COG is supported by 10 area churches. The facility includes the Callico Cat Thrift Shop, a Food Pantry, and an Emergency Assistance Fund (Social Agencies refer clients who are unable to pay utility bills). The number of families utilizing the Food Pantry has grown 23% from 2013 to 2014. Nancy convened a Thrivent-sponsored Action team (including Sunday School children) to raise money for gift certificates. Certificates empower the recipient who feels down and out of control. The Good Shepherd Council authorized a \$750 cash advance against expected gift card contributions. (Any shortfall in congregation gifts will become a charge against church general funds). . The advance would be combined with a Thrivent \$250 grant, to launch the program, eliminate a Dec 15 Thrivent deadline, and arrange a 5% discount on food certificates. . **STEVE MILLER ACTION: photograph** the Christmas gift certificate display (& children support) on Nov 30 and Dec 7.
- "Creation Care" Environmental Committee. The Nov 6 recycling tour had 10 people. A summary will appear in Voice. EPS (styrofoam) recycling will resume after 1st of year. A committee meeting is planned after church Nov 16.
- Property - John Dall. Discussed Water line insurance and Verizon Fios bundled proposals. The council voted to continue the snowplowing contract, at the same rates as last winter, with Molzon. The German School now has a 3 hour class on Sat afternoon. Complaints were raised: leaving on lights, and leaving a "mess" (after Good Shepherd's normal weekend cleanup) for Sunday Service. **JOHN DALL & GIL VATTER ACTION:** discuss these issues with the German School. Invite the German School to the January council meeting to provide the first annual status report on the German School.
- Christian Education - Sharon Oberkehr. Dec 7 will have ~10 minute Christmas pageant. Children will work with Nancy Fitch gift certificate program (described above)
- Spiritual Renewal and OutReach (Evangelism)- -Karl Torjussen The Nov 8 Wagner College concert brought in ~80 attendees - including many visitors to Good Shepherd.

- Mission Support (Stewardship pledge ; letter ; program) John Dall summarized 21 responses (~30% of members). This degree of pledge participation was judged accurate, and historically represents about 50% of Good Shepherd's income. **JOHN DALL ACTION:** restore a pledge box in Narthex for additional pledges through the Dec 7 special Stewardship sermon by Rev. Scott Schantzenbach.
- Fellowship - Debbie Blackburn/Kathe DaGiau/Germaine Scarborough. Diane Mathisen coordinated the Wagner College Concert; close to \$1000 raised to benefit the chorus.
- Finance - Clem Hergenhan/Dick Alberti/Tom Tehve. The 2015 budget process will need to start soon. **(TOM TEHVE ACTION)**

Worship and Music -Andy Mathisen - Pastor discussed possible changes to the weekly Lay Readers. The council decided to continue each week with both a weekly "Lay Reader", as well as an "Assistant to the Lay Reader"

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Poinsettias for the Altar

Please help beautify the sanctuary with Christmas poinsettias as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. The price is still \$15 and the last day to sign up is December 21st. The signup sheet is in the narthex. You can also notify Pat Dunn in the church office (732-842-4596) or email Nancy Hergenhan (nancyh@comcast.net).

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COG Drive by Nancy Fitch

Good Shepherd as one of the 10 faith-based congregations supporting the Community Outreach Group (COG) has been asked to participate in the Calico Food Pantry and Cupboard's 2014 Christmas Certificate Program. This year as in the past COG hopes to provide a \$25 Gift Certificate for each child and a Shop Rite Certificate of \$25 to 50 for each family. They believe this approach provides the parents with the dignity to purchase some items for their families at Christmas and allows them to put some additional food on their tables.

Unfortunately this year the Food Pantry and Cupboard has been experiencing about a 23% increase over last year in the number of working poor families needing their services. We at Good Shepherd have been asked to consider increasing our donations. To help to meet this demand an Action Thrivent Team has been formed here at Good Shepherd to collect monetary donations. By using this approach Thrivent will provide the team a credit card worth \$250. This money along with your MONETARY contributions (which we hope will reach \$750) will be used to make a one-time \$1000 purchase of Target gift certificates. The resulting receipt will need to be shown to Thrivent to prove that their funds were put to good use.

Therefore your Good Shepherd Thrivent Action team, comprised of Nancy Fitch, Dianne Epstein, Sharon

Oberkehr, and **our Sunday School students, will be asking for your contributions on three consecutive Sundays – Nov 30, Dec 7, and Dec 14th.**

These contributions can be provided in cash or to track as charitable contribution provided as a check made out to The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. Place COG on the memo line of the check. Please provide your contributions directly to a team member, our progress in reaching our \$750 goal will be shown by decorating Good Shepherd's Christmas tree chart.

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AROUND THE PARISH

by Gil Vatter

GOOD SHEPHERD - THE FRIENDLY CHURCH

1. Happy birthday to *Bob Stetz, Julia Blackburn, Charlotte Buerkle, Marian Williamson* and our aging editor, *Clem Hergenhan*. who will celebrate on Christmas day.

2. *The Social Ministry Committee* delivered over 180 cans of food to the **Bayshore Lunch Program** in Keyport in November. Year to date, you have contributed over 1,500 cans of food to help feed your hungry neighbors. Keep up the good work.

Postcard to the Weather Bureau - "Sirs, I thought you would be interested to know that I have just shoveled two feet of 'partly cloudy' from my driveway." (Grace Brinkman)

3. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd mortar board to the folks who delivered the Temple Talks during the November Stewardship campaign.

4. Good Shepherd welcomed four substitute pastors during November ;
Rev. Neil Jagge
Rev. Rachel Semovoski
Rev. David Mangiante
Rev. John Hansen

I've learned that chocolate is a "food group". (Bill Wehrli)

5. HAVE YOU VOLUNTEERED TO BE A BLP "SPONSOR" ?

6. Notice how many people remain seated after the service to hear Miae Park play her Postlude? It's like a weekly concert series in our own back yard.

Ole - "We had grampa for dinner on Thanksgiving Day."
Sven - "Really..... We had turkey."

7. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd bonnet to *Diane Mathisen* who made all the arrangements for the appearance of the wonderful Wagner Choir.

8. Here's your chance for a Christmas *mitzvah* - Send a card to:
Larry Jackson
Chapin Hill
100 Chapin Avenue
Red Bank, NJ 07701

Doctors tell us that over seven million people are considered to be obese. These, of course, are only round figures.

9. *Randi Stetz* is in the midst of a series of dental procedures.

10. Did you hear *Pastor Rachel Samovoski's* children's sermon on Sunday November 9 ? She used a flashlight to illustrate her point and told the children to "Be Prepared."

Although the grass may look greener on the other side of the fence, it still has to be mowed. (Bunny Kuhl)

11. The congregation enjoyed several selections by the Children's Bell Choir on Sunday November 9. They presented "Ode to Joy" and "We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessing". The choir is made up of children from the Sunday School and is under the direction of *Sharon Oberkehr*.

12. My annual thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd turban to *Maureen Bartlett* who, so faithfully, prepares the coffee for the fellowship time after every service, all year long.

The Four Stages of Life

1. You believe in Santa Claus
2. You don't believe in Santa Claus
3. You dress up as Santa Claus
4. You look like Santa Claus

13. Poor *Pastor Dave Mangiante*. He was half-way to Holmdel when he discovered that he had left his vestments at home. It didn't seem to change his sermon in any way.

14. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd chapeau to *Bunny and Herb Kuhl and Bill Wehrli* for contributing a frozen turkey for the Bayshore Lunch Program. Much appreciated.

What do you call a bunch of Grand Masters of chess bragging about their skill in a hotel lobby?
Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer.

15. *The Ladies Luncheon Group* met at Houlihan's in Holmdel on Friday November 21 for lunch. For details on the December get-together, ask *Barbara Haher*.

16. *Kelsey Kazmac* had a fender bender near James Madison University, where she is enrolled in the masters program in Education. Best news....she's fine.

What do you get when you divide the circumference of a pumpkin by its diameter?
Pumpkin Pi.

17. Please support the *Calico Cat Food Pantry Christmas Program*. Check the bulletin for details.

18. Another important reminder - - - the 2014 Annual Congregation Christmas Party takes place on Sunday December 14 at 5:00 PM - Don't miss it.

What nationality is Santa Claus? - North Polish.

19. Are you aware that we still have six charter members of the congregation active in the church? *Ines and Frank Csulak, Bob Fulmer, Walter Keyl, Nancy Fitch and Tam Tammaru*.

20. All four *Mathisen* kids were home for Thanksgiving and worshipped with us on Sunday November 30: *Kirstin* from Delaware, *Kurt* from Pennsylvania and *Rachel and Mike* from Texas.

Lena, Ole and Sven wish you all a *God Jul* !!!!!

21. *Pat Miller* sang with the Monmouth Civic Chorus as they presented their annual rendition of Handel's "Messiah".

22. *Bill Wehrli* slipped while visiting his place at the beach and fell on his knee. For this misdemeanor he was sentenced to return to his wheel chair. The sentence may be reduced for good behaviour.

Your family tree is worth bragging about if it has consistently produced good timber and not just nuts. (Bill Wehrli)

23. *Ellen and Tom Tehve* spent Thanksgiving with their family in North Carolina.

24. Notice the first signs of Christmas. The sanctuary has been decorated with Christmas wreathes by the Altar Guild. On Sunday November 30, the First Sunday in Advent, the first Advent candle was lit during the service by Pastor Henson to begin the new season.

25. *Charlie Miller* had a great Thanksgiving - the Eagles beat the Cowboys.

MAY WE ALL HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY AND HAPPY 2015

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WAGNER COLLEGE CHOIR WOWS G S AUDIENCE

by Gil Vatter

The Wagner College Choir, under the direction of Roger Wesby, presented "A New York Romance" to an enthusiastic audience of more than 80 people in the sanctuary of Good Shepherd Church on Saturday November 8. The concert reflected 175 years of American music by composers who "lived in, immigrated to, visited for a good while or just kept returning to New York". The music selected for the evening ran the gamut from Stephen Foster (1826-1864) to Stephen Sondheim (b. 1930) and the fathers of "Hairspray", Marc Shaiman (b. 1959) and Scott Wittman (b. 1955). All in all, the oversight consisted of 26 different numbers, all chosen to illustrate a particular facet of the "New York" literature.

To revue every song here presented by the choir would be a daunting task and make this revue far too long to fit the format of a news letter. Instead, I propose to hit the highlights of the concert and tell you up front, the choir was excellent and the concert an entertaining way to spend any Saturday evening. Roger Wesby was obviously in full control of the group and the accompaniment by Barbara Wesby, was an addition, not a distraction to those songs for which she played. The 60 voice Choir also presented some of the concert in smaller format with the "Stretto vocal ensemble" of seven voices and the "Chamber Singers", a 22 voice petite-chorus.

The full chorus began the evening with two familiar hymns, "At the River" (arr. Aaron Copeland) and "My shepherd Will Supply My Need" (arr. Virgil Thomson) and flaunted their depth and musical ability. My personal favorites followed, two typical Russian pieces displaying the usual emotional tone and musical depth of Eastern European music, "Lord, now

lettest thy servant depart in peace" and "Virgin mother of God". The men of the Choir were challenged by the vocal range of this music but responded very well. The men and women of the choir also showed their versatility by singing these and many other of the evening's works in the language in which they were originally written and a capella in many cases.

The audience was surprised but pleased to hear "Come Sunday" by Duke Ellington and those of us used to "A Train" and "Satin Doll" shook our heads in wonder at Ellington's genius. "Come Sunday" was new to me but there was no doubt that it was written by the "Duke". Following a stirring version of the spirituals "My Lord What a Morning" and "Elijah Rock", the program turned to more modern music with Kurt Weill's "My Ship". The program listed three numbers attributed to Weill and indicates his importance in the history of the modern American genre. This version was copied from the arrangement by Gil Evans for Miles Davis in his "Miles Ahead" album. It rocked. Even Antonio Carlos Jobim was represented with his "Agua de beber" by the "Stretto" singers. A popular representative of South American rhythm during the 60's and 70's, Jobim is still an American favorite. For seven singers, these kids presented a solid presentation of very difficult, rhythmical, and sometimes atonal, music.

The Foster melody, "Hard Times Come Again No More" was pretty but truly dated and was followed, in contrast, with "Sing the Spring" by George Gershwin from his musical drama, "Damsel in Distress", which ushered in the era of modern music from Broadway musicals. Kurt weill ("Lost in the Stars"), Leonard Bernstein ("West Side Story") and a selection from "Hairspray", accompanied by guitar and bass, ended the two hour concert by the talented and appealing college group.

The standing ovation by the appreciative audience was proof of the way they had been so well entertained during the evening. The young people of the Choir were obviously pleased with the reception they had received. Roger Wesby thanked the church and particularly Wagner alumna, Diane Mathisen, for making all the arrangements for the Wagner Choir to appear and for the meal served to the group by the women of the church. He also invited the audience to a reception in Frank Hall for the "blessed Lutheran sacrament of coffee". All proceeds from the evening were presented to the Wagner choir to help defray tour expenses.

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**Good Shepherd "Creation Care" Committee
Toured Recycling Center, Nov 6, 2014**

10 adults and children braved the rain to tour the single-stream Ocean County Recycling Center in Lakewood. Recycling capabilities and markets are always changing, so we learned a lot of new information.

The Ocean County plant takes recycling from Middletown and surrounding Monmouth County towns whenever the seasonal shore demand is lower, such as in the winter, to fill out its daily 400 tons of recycling. Both Ocean County and the alternative site, Newark, have the same capabilities now. Some things we learned:

- They now process all recyclable plastics 1 – 7, any shape, but not EPS styrofoam. Optical machines separate 1s, 2s, and 3-7s, with 1s the most valuable and 3-7 the least.
- People put all sorts of non-recyclable contaminants in, and these must be removed, mostly manually by people. NO-NOs include kitchen garbage, clothing, diapers, oil-contaminated pizza boxes, and no scrap metal (other than aluminum or tin cans)
- Number one NO-NO is NO PLASTIC BAGS. Not only must these be removed by hand, but if missed they will jam and shut down the entire assembly line. We saw several people pulling them out by hand at the rate of about one per second.
- All recyclable materials (plastics, paper, cans, cardboard, glass) should be dropped unbound into hard recycling containers or trash bins, covered.
- Oversized cardboard such as long carpet rolls is OK only if cut into manageable pieces that will not jam the line.
- Twine on newspapers should not be used, and must be removed by hand. Newspapers should be dry. If moisture is too high, they will be rejected.
- Paper recyclables are pressed into large bales, and most is sold to China. An on-site inspector, Mr. Lee, samples bales to take apart and inspect for contaminants 3 times a week before accepting them.
- Aluminum cans are the most valuable product. There is currently no market for processed, ground-up, mixed glass. Most is used as a landfill filter now, but research is ongoing for future economical uses for mixed glass. It still must be recycled and not thrown in the trash.

submitted by Pat & Steve Miller

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A FEW NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

by Gil Vatter

Sing praises to God, sing praises;
Sing praises with a psalm. (Psalm 47)

November 2 - "Psalm 150" - Cesar Franck
November 9 - "It is Well With My Soul" - M. McDonald
November 16 - "Here I Am Lord" - Stan Pethel
November 23 - "Come, Worship the King" - R. Kalbfleisch
November 30 - "Even So, Lord, Quickly Come" - Douglas E. Wagner

Choir rehearsal is every Thursday evening at 7:30 PM in the sanctuary - Everyone is welcome.

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Contributions Update by Clem Hergenhan

Here's some info from the monthly Treasurer's Report given to Council at their meetings. The General Contributions are used for our yearly budgeted items.

	Oct 2014	YTD 2014	YTD Budget	YTD 2013
General Contributions	10,135	87,629	112,500	112,322

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FORMER MEMBER ALVIRA GILLE DIES AT 95

by Gil Vatter

The church has been notified that Alvira Brosius Gille, a long time member of Good Shepherd Church died on Monday November 24 at a constant care home near Baltimore, Maryland. She was 95 years old and a native of Jersey City, New Jersey, where she was a resident for many years. She had been in a hospice since the early part of November because of increasing health problems.

She was married to the Rev. Dr. Samuel Brosius, a Lutheran clergyman, who was called to All Souls English Lutheran Church in Jersey City, where he served for many years. Twenty years after her graduation from high school, Alvira was accepted by Jersey City State College, where she received a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Following graduation, she became a third grade teacher at Tobert Walters School in Union City, New Jersey.

Her first husband, Dr. Brosius, preceded her in death and she later married H. Edward Gille. After Mr. Gille's death in the 1990's, she moved to the Marlboro area, near her daughter and son-in-law, Linda (Brosius) and Bill Theune and became a member of Good Shepherd Church. Following Linda's death, she moved to an assisted living facility in the Baltimore area, near her son. She is survived by her son, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

December 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
				7:30 - Choir Practice		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9- Sunday School 10 - Service	7pm Council Mtg			7:30 - Choir Practice	12:30 Ladies Luncheon @ Molly Pitcher	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9- Sunday School 10 - Service 5- Christmas Party		7:30- Compassionate Friends		7:30 - Choir Practice		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9- Sunday School 10 - Service			Christmas Eve Services 4pm & 10pm	CHRISTMAS DAY		
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
9- Sunday School 10 - Service						