

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

January 2015

(our website good-shepherd.us)

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

Please attend the **Annual Congregational Meeting** Jan 25th immediately after the service

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Council Minutes - 12/8/14

Meeting called to order at 7:00. Pastor Rachel led with devotions from Paul: “Always be joyful in the Lord”.

Agenda approved and minutes from previous council meeting approved.

Treasurer’s report: Deficit is (\$7546), much improved from last month. Stewardship/Temple Talks were helpful in increasing awareness of the need we have to reduce the deficit.

Pastor Rachel’s report: She is checking in periodically with Pat Dunne for any updates. Tom Kerns, Tam Tammaru’s son-in-law passed away after a lengthy illness. They are receiving pastoral care in Long Branch. Pastor will be preaching the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month starting in January. The Congregational meeting will be held the 4th Sunday in January after the service.

We had a wonderful response to the request for donations for COG, allowing for additional gift cards to be purchased.

Property Committee report: Fire Chief report was received and detectors need to be updated as well as the fire alarm itself in order to pass inspection for the school. The property committee will be clearing these items over the next month and a half.

Fellowship: The annual congregational Christmas party is scheduled for 12/14/14 in Frank Hall. Gary Westerweiler and Debbie Blackburn are the organizational wizards, as always.

Finance committee: working on the upcoming budget- it will be slightly smaller than last year’s by about 10% and funding for the new P/T pastor will be factored in.

Communications: Lou shared some recent mail we received regarding Habitat for Humanity and Jersey Shore Work Camp for next summer which will be posted. Mike Carp will be given correspondence regarding information on Lutheran World Relief.

We are looking for new council members and the nominating committee will reach out to potential candidates. The February meeting will be the first council meeting for the new members. Steve Miller has agreed to stay on for an additional year, and Lou Medici will extend his term as President until June.

Next council meeting is 1/12/15.

respectfully submitted,

Marion Schloemer

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SUNDAY SCHOOL PRESENTS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

by Gil Vatter

The children from the Good Shepherd Sunday School presented their annual Christmas Pageant during the communion service on Sunday December 7 at 10:00 AM. Under the direction of Sharon Oberkehr, Superintendent of the Sunday School, and assisted by Karen Rajala and Andy Mathisen, the children offered a musical description of the nativity story.

Narrator Tim Wilgus began the familiar story of the birth of Jesus, followed by the introductory music, "Gloria in Excelsis Deo", by the children's bell choir made up of Isabella Antonacci, Natalia Gracia, Bella Miller, Hannah Oberkehr, Leah Oberkehr, Matthew Oberkehr, Morgan Summey and Logan Wilgus. The story continued, interspersed with "Away in the Manger" by the bell choir, "The First Noel", "Good King Wenceslaus" by a duet of Hannah Oberkehr on flute and Leah Oberkehr on trumpet, "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" by Leah Oberkehr on trumpet, "Do You Hear What I Hear" sung by Bella Miller, "Joy to the World" by Hannah Oberkehr on flute and the finale, "Silent Night" accompanied by Minister of Music, Miae Park and sung by the entire Sunday School cast:

Isabella Antonacci, Natalia Gracia, Hannah Oberkehr, Leah Oberkehr, Matthew Oberkehr, Bella Miller, Morgan Summey, Logan Wilgus

The production was repeated on Sunday evening December 24 at 4:00 PM as part of the Family Christmas Eve service. The congregation thanks our Sunday School children and their teachers for this introduction to the Christmas season and all the hard work which was put into preparing this production.

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AROUND THE PARISH

by Gil Vatter

We'll take a cup of kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.

1. Happy birthday to *Pam Brown, Pat Dunn, Dorothy Groh, Bob Horlocher, Andy Mathisen, Pat Miller, Fred Oberkehr, Ellen Tehve, Bill Theune, Kim Wehrli and Bill Wehrli* - all born in January.
2. Happy anniversary to *Pam & Al Brown, George & Lois Frank and Andy and Karen Lichter*.

It's not that they were married late in life.....but, Medicare picked up 80% of the honeymoon. (Grace Brinkman)

3. The congregation brought almost 150 cans of food to church for the *Bayshore Lunch Program*, almost 1,650 cans year to date plus two frozen turkeys, coffee, tea, pasta, pasta sauce and a lot of baby food. This almost guarantees the biggest year for food collection in the history of the church. Thanks to everyone who contributed.
4. *Walter Keyl* is reading John Grisham's new book, "Grey Mountain".

I've learned that there is always room for dessert. (Bill Wehrli)

5. *Pat and Steve Miller* took a cruise to the Carribean with several members of their family in mid-December.
6. In December, Good Shepherd welcomed four substitute pastors :
Rev. Scott Schantzenbach
Rev. Rachel Semovoski
Rev. John Hansen
Rev. Dallas Dorward

Lena, Ole and Sven wish you all a **Godt Nyttar**.

7. Word on the street is that *Joan and Bob Horlacher* will be moving to Middletown in January. Welcome back folks.
8. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd beret to *Sharon Oberkehr* for the Sunday School Pageant, presented during the December 7 worship service. Encore! Encore!

Ole - "What do you call a Norwegian who knows how to control his wife?"
Lena - "A bachelor."

9. The Ladies Luncheon Group met at the Molly Pitcher Restaurant on Friday December 12 for their Christmas lunch. For details on the January get-together, see *Barbara Haher*.

10. Cellist *David Kim* (Miae Park's middle son) will take part in a musical competition at New York's Carnegie Hall on Friday January 16. Good luck Dave.

You know you're old when you are told to slow down by your doctor, not by the police.

11. **WONDERFUL!!!!** The congregation responded to the COG "Calico Cat Food Pantry and Cupboard 2014 Christmas Gift Program" with a gift of \$1,300, including a donation from Thrivent.

12. Hope you were in church on Sunday December 14, when *Garry Westerweller* read his poem, inviting everyone to attend the 2014 church Christmas party. It was a lulu.

What do you call a boomerang that doesn't come back? - A stick.

13. *Pastor Rachel Semovoski's* children's sermon on Sunday December 14, reminded the kids to keep the time before Christmas uncluttered with unimportant things. She used Christmas wrapping paper to illustrate her point.

14. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd sombrero to *Garry Westerweller* and all the others who helped to prepare for or clean up after the December Christmas Gala. It was a great party.

Ole - "Lena is driving me to drink."
Sven - "You're lucky. My wife makes me walk."

15. Thanks to every family which added poinsettias to the altar during the Christmas season. With the tree and wreathes, the sanctuary really felt like Christmas. The Altar Guild did their usual, good job.

16. Thanks and a tip of my bonnet to the 17 families and 2 organizations (Sunday School & Ladies Lunch Group) which are participating in the 2015 "BLP Sponsors Program". If you are not a Sponsor for 2015, please sign up today.

Did you hear about the massage therapist who went bankrupt? - She rubbed people the wrong way. (Bunny Kuhl)

17. The church has been notified of the death of Tom Kerns, son-in-law of *Tam Tammaru*. And God will wipe away all tears.

18. It was nice to have all three of the Mathisen kids in church on December 21 and 24. *Rachel* did her usual superb job, playing the hand bells on Christmas Eve and the twins sang with the choir.

By the time a man is wise enough to watch his step, he's too old to go anywhere.

19. How about a New Years *mitzvah* - Vivian Sislian has been ill. Send her a card at:
101 Sunset Drive
Brielle, NJ 08730

20. *Anne (Rajala) and Scott Medling*, who are now living in Australia, spent the holiday there by visiting several national parks. Anne played the violin at their church on Christmas Eve.

Families are a lot like fudge.....mostly sweet, with a few nuts. (Bill Wehrli)

21. *Maureen Bartlett* spent the end of December in the San Francisco area with daughter Becky; *Bob Fulmer* had Christmas with his kids in Allentown (New Jersey, that is); *Walter Keyl* hosted Christmas dinner at his apartment (with the assistance of Wegmans); *Randi Stetz and Barbara Haher* cooked on Christmas Eve for their families; *Trudy Miller* cooked a big dinner on the Saturday after Christmas for her Connecticut kids; The *Oberkehr* family visited grandparents *George & Lois Frank* in Fort Myers, Florida; *Ellen & Tom Tehve* left immediately after the Christmas Eve service to spend the holiday with their relatives in North Carolina and *Patty and I* drove all the way to Freehold Township to be with our gang.

22. *Pastor Dallas Dorward* reminded the congregation on Sunday December 28 that there are three major means of communication.....telephone, telegraph and tell a woman, during his sermon - "A Partridge in a Pear Tree".

MAY WE ALL HAVE A HAPPY AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR

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GOOD SHEPHERD GALA CELEBRATES NATIVITY

by Gil Vatter

The rafters of Frank Hall reechoed with the sound of laughter and applause on Sunday December 14, when 80 to 90 members of Good Shepherd Church marked the birthday of Christ with the annual Christmas party. Genial Emcee, Garry Westerweller, set the mood for the evening as he welcomed the crowd to the festivities with the recitation of one of his incomparable poems, which traced the activities of the past year, incorporated a tinge of nostalgia and added a tinge of the real meaning of Christmas. Visiting former-Pastor Jack Elstad was called on to lead the group in prayer after which Dick Alberti accompanied the singing of traditional Christmas carols and songs as the crowd entered into the joy of the season.

The inviting aroma of the catered dinner drew the hungry people to help themselves to a variety of tasty food and enjoyable drinks. One of the highlights of the evening was the games for children which followed. The adults were also entertained as about a dozen youngsters vied for prizes as they played games such as "Unwrap the Box" (which was something like "Musical Chairs"), "Christmas Pictionary" (a "Draw and Sing" game) and "Build A Christmas Tree" (a relay race involving red or green, plastic drinking glasses). Matthew Oberkehr was a prize winner for unwrapping the final "Box" and prizes were awarded to all the kids who took part in the "Tree" game.

The highly anticipated, annual "Westerweller Quiz" prepared, of course, by Garry, got underway with the assignment of each attendee to a "team". Each team was given a copy of the dreaded quiz and about 15 minutes was allotted for answering 36 varied questions, such as:

"Vesele Vianoce is Merry Christmas in - a) Greek - b) Rumanian - c) Slovak - d) Czech (Answer - Slovak)

"What came first, the book or the movie of "Miracle on 34th Street? (Answer - the movie)

Team number one, made up of Andy Mathisen, Bob Stetz, Lynne Westerweller, Patty Vatter, Nancy Fitch and Elaine Medici took the honors as they correctly answered 29 out of 36 questions and were awarded Dunkin' Donuts gift cards by Garry. This year the gift cards were personalized to show the Good Shepherd mission statement and logo, including the words, OPEN MIND, OPEN HANDS, OPEN HEARTS.

Following dessert, Emcee Garry Westerweller presented his annual, coveted service awards to seven members of the congregation:

1. **Charlie Miller** - In recognition of his "never say die" spirit in support of his favorite football team! Here's to looking at the glass as being half full! (This award subject to change should the

Eagles ever win the Big Game.) - THE GOOD SHEPHERD "LOST CAUSE" AWARD

2. **Dick Alberti** - In recognition of your dedication and willingness to stick by your team, even though your team is led by a GM affectionately referred to as "Ruin Tomorrow".

THE GOOD SHEPHERD "LOST CAUSE" AWARD.

3. **Fred Oberkehr** - Otherwise known as the "What have you done for me lately" award. This certificate is presented in recognition of your support for a once great team (The Giants)

that is well.....no longer Great! - THE GOOD SHEPHERD "LOST CAUSE" AWARD.

4. **Pat Miller** - In recognition of your dedication to music. In addition to being a valued choir member, you continue to keep the music going by filling in on piano whenever Miae is away

on vacation. - THE GOOD SHEPHERD "MAESTRO OF MUSIC" AWARD.

5. **Mack Scott** - In recognition of your dedication and willingness to "step up to the plate" and become one of our newest Lay Readers for Sunday service. (Debut July 2014)

THE GOOD SHEPHERD "CO-ROOKIE OF THE YEAR" AWARD.

6. **Miae Park** - In recognition of your outstanding contribution to Good Shepherd through your musical passion and expertise. On behalf of a grateful congregation, thanks for the music.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD "MUSIC APPRECIATION" AWARD.

7. **Mike DiPiazza** - In recognition of your dedication and willingness to "step up to the plate" and become one of our newest Lay Readers for Sunday service. (debut October 2014)

THE GOOD SHEPHERD "CO-ROOKIE OF THE YEAR" AWARD.

The congregation thanks everyone who worked to prepare this wonderful celebration, to all who helped clean up after the event and especially Garry Westerweller who has become a permanent symbol of the Good Shepherd Christmas season. Thank you all.

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A FEW NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

by Gil Vatter

Lord, use our voices; Lord use our hands; Lord use our lives, we are an offering.

- December 7 - "Every Valley" - Mark Hayes
- December 14 - "Come Rejoice, Believers" - Dietrich Buxtehude
- December 21 - "Emmanuel is Coming" - Donald Besig
- December 24 - "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" - Antonino Vivaldi
- "Glory to God in the Highest" - Franz Schubert
- "What Child is This?"/Christmas Medley - Hand Bells - Rachel Mathisen

- The choir thanks Kirstin Mathisen and Kurt Mathisen for singing with the choir on December 21 and 24.
- The choir thanks Rachel Mathisen for playing the hand bells on Christmas Eve.
- The choir thanks Miae Park for her leadership as Minister of Music in 2014.

The choir meets for rehearsal each Thursday evening at 7:30 PM in the sanctuary. All are 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.

	Nov 2014	YTD 2014	YTD Budget	YTD 2013
General Contributions	8,729	96,358	123,750	123,554

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January 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4 9- Sunday School 10 - Service	5	6	7	8 7:30 - Choir Practice	9	10
11 9- Sunday School 10 - Service	12 7-Council Meeting	13	14	15 7:30 - Choir Practice	16 12:30-Ladies Luncheon Grp @ Houlihans	17
18 9- Sunday School 10 - Service	19	20 7:30- Compassionate Friends	21	22 7:30 - Choir Practice	23	24
25 9- Sunday School 10 - Service Congregational Mtg following service	26	27	28	29 7:30 - Choir Practice	30	31