

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

December 2015

(our website good-shepherd.us)

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

Message from the Pastor

There are lots of 'new' things going on and happening at Good Shepherd! First, you all have a new pastor to help lead and minister to the people, but that pastor also has a new congregation to get to know. It's an exciting time for all of us and, I trust, the beginning of a very positive new chapter in the life of the church.

We also have a new church year beginning with the season of Advent as we once again tell and share together the year-long story of Jesus the Messiah. Advent helps enhance our anticipation as we begin that story of how God comes to us in the baby in the manger. It was, in fact, a new beginning for all of humanity and a new chapter that continues today as God is still with us!

So we enter the time before us with a sense of many things being 'new', and that is good. For no matter how much we think we know, or how much we think we have seen or heard or done it all before, every day is an opportunity for something new to enter our lives and our hearts of faith. While many have been in church for years, there is still the chance for new things. New ways to understand Jesus and what he was all about. New ideas of seeing God present in our lives. New chances for growth in our faith that will help us to better cope with adversities and better cherish the blessings that we have. Even the pastor must embrace the possibility of new ways in doing ministry and understanding new ways of how to better serve the people and grow in faith himself.

So as we enter all this new stuff around us, let's try to let new things enter our hearts and minds as we go forward into Advent, and then Christmas and beyond. Being open to such 'new' things will help us to grow in faith and be an even better presence of Jesus Christ in the world we live in.

God's blessings,
Pastor

+++++

Poinsettias

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia to beautify the sanctuary for Christmas, please add your name to the signup sheet displayed in the narthex or call the church office and leave information with Pat Dunn (732-842-4596). The price has not changed - \$15 each. Last day to signup is Sunday December 20th.

+++++

GOOD SHEPHERD WELCOMES NEW PASTOR

by Gil Vatter

More than 60 members of the Good Shepherd congregation were on hand to meet the Rev. Peter Hutchinson as he officiated and preached at his first service as the newly appointed pastor of the church. Pastor Hutchinson, from Toms River, New Jersey, had been nominated by the Bishop of the New Jersey Synod as the Interim Pastor-Part time of Good Shepherd Church and had been endorsed by the church's Call Committee at an October 21 meeting in Holmdel.

Minister of Music, Miae Park offered "Flute Piece", by W. Hine as her organ Prelude and the congregation and choir sang Hymn 422, "For All the Saints" to open the worship service. Sue Alberti served as Lay Assistant and read from Isaiah 25 and Revelation 21. Pastor Hutchinson's sermon for November 1, All Saints Day, was "Crying is a Part of Life", using the Gospel reading, the book of John, chapter 11 as his text. In honor of the day, the Choir sang "Psalm 150" by Cesar Franck.

Pastor Hutchinson offered his first Holy Communion as Pastor of Good Shepherd and the service ended with Hymn 423, "Shall We Gather at the River" and Miae Park's organ Postlude, "To God Be the Glory" by W. Doane.

A reception followed in the narthex, where the members of the church were introduced to Debby Hutchinson, Pastor Hutchinson's wife and had the opportunity to become acquainted with and welcome the newest shepherd of the congregation.

+++++

Good Shepherd's Annual Christmas Party



Sunday December 13th 5:00 PM

*It's a Good Shepherd Christmas
Time for fun and good cheer
The Congregation was stirring
As the day's drawing near*

*This year's Christmas party,
Once again in Frank Hall
You won't want to miss it
Come one and come all*

*The big sheet in the Narthex
Just write down your name
It's your ticket for fun
And our Trivia Game*

*Come Join in the fun
As we meet, greet, and eat!
Reserve your spot now
And we'll save you a seat!*

**Join us For Food, Fun, Fellowship, and our EIGHTH (8th)... (can you believe it?)
Christmas Trivia Quiz!**

Sign up now! All are Welcome!

+++++

PLEASE NOTE on December 27, Pastor will be away and we will have Lessons & Carols at 10 AM instead of our usual Sunday Service.

+++++

Council Meeting Minutes Nov 9, 2015

Lou Medici called to order at 7:00PM

Council members present: John Crump, John Dall, Stephanie Dall, Nancy Fitch, Andy Mathisen, Pastor Pete, Marion Schloemer (by phone from her North Carolina home); Lou Medici, Steve Miller, Garry Westerweller; Marion reported that Ed Schloemer has a herniated disc. John Dall will send a card.

Approved Agenda

Devotions - Pastor Pete- from book of Lamentations

Approved Oct 12 Minutes

Approved Oct 31 Treas report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Pastor Pete's report - Future reports to Council will be verbal. STEVE ACTION: advertise church web master
- Creation Care Environmental Committee. Nancy Fitch will create a climate change email: announce support for the early December Climate Change global meeting in Paris.
- Social Ministry - Nancy Fitch reported on COG activities and plans to use a Christmas tree for volunteers to give gifts for COG (to be organized with the Sunday School)
- Property - John Dall; fire alarm system is decades old, subject to false alarms, and must be replaced. Council approved \$10K for replacement
- Christian Education - Andy Mathisen; the youth bell choir (3 children/3 adults) plans monthly concerts (1st concert Nov 29).
- Evangelism - Marion Schloemer (cards for the sick).
- Publicity/Advertising- Karl Torjussen - new resident "welcome" banner is now being displayed next to road
- Fellowship - expected to support Dec 13 Christmas Party
- Finance - Stephanie Dall; Dick Alberti, Treas; Clem Hergenhan, Asst Treas; Stephanie has added attendance data to the monthly financial spreadsheet
- Worship and Music - Garry Westerweller reported that Nancy Hergenhan needs assistance for Christmas decorations & tree. GARRY ACTION: write a bulletin insert requesting Christmas seasonal help.

OLD BUSINESS

- Status of "Congregation Survey" conducted by the Call Committee. JOHN DALL ACTION: provide the data to Pastor Peter, and report at the January, 2016 Congregational meeting.
- Monthly attendance figures are now included in financial reports. 2014-2015 attendance comparison (thank you Stephanie)
- Status of Fellowship committee organizing Dec 13, 5PM-9PM Christmas party. Garry Westerweller to host the party. Garry relies on catering and relies on Fellowship Committee for logistics: setup tables/decorations on Dec 12 (eve) after Little Chief leaves. Council approved \$1420 for Christmas Party. (~\$250 is historically reimbursed by a "free will" offering at the Christmas dinner). Garry will invite Pastor Jack & Ruth, and Pastor Rachel.
- John Crump has begun ramping to replace Dick Alberti who is retiring after many years as church treasurer.

NEW BUSINESS

- 2016 Council nominations - need 5 (replacement quickly needed for Marion Schloemer, head of nomination committee).
- Pastor Pete office requirements and solutions. Council suggested a laptop, and voted approval to spend up to \$600 for pastor's PC/office needs (STEVE ACTION)
- Steve created a Facebook page to attract a younger population. <https://www.facebook.com/goodshepherdus> Congregation members must now visit, "like", and populate with relevant stories, photos and video.
- Create handouts and/or "gifts" for visitors. (example: Dec 5, 1-4PM "Visit with Santa Claus") ACTION: Update the old "welcome to Good Shepherd" brochure, and insert latest issue of "Voice" Play slide show on large monitor in Narthex. Pastor to create text inviting guests to Christmas Eve service

- Announce November 20, 2015 talk on Internet Security (Lou/Steve action item ~2 years ago). (STEVE ACTION): place a bulletin announcement.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: Dec 14, 2015

+++++

AROUND THE PARISH

by Gil Vatter

GOOD SHEPHERD - THE FRIENDLY CHURCH

"Joy to the world, the Lord is come".

1. The big news at the end of November 2015 is the wonderful response the congregation made to our appeal for food for the *BAYSHORE LUNCH PROGRAM*. On Monday November 30 Patty and I delivered an overflowing trunk full of food to the Keyport kitchen and.....we will have to make a SECOND trip to deliver what was left over. You brought over **265** cans of food to church in November and the year to date total is already 1800 cans. CONGRATULATIONS everyone. We were even able to give them a frozen turkey again this year plus more than usual extras such as baby food, rice, pasta , pasta sauce, coffee and tea.

2. The **BLP SPONSORS** have supplemented our food gifts to the Keyport soup kitchen with almost \$3,000 in monetary donations. This has been a great year for Good Shepherd outreach. Thanks to all who participated. Seven families have already signed on as Sponsors for 2016. Sign up today.

Ole - "Hey, Sven, what do you call people who are afraid of Santa?"
Sven - "Claustrophobic."

3. *Walter Keyl* reports that he recently read "The Red Badge of Courage", that wonderful old Civil War story.

4. The Annual Good Shepherd Christmas party is scheduled for Sunday evening December 13 at 5 PM. Your jovial Master of Ceremonies, Garry Westerweller will offer his 2015 Christmas quiz, following all the good eats.

As the Webmaster sang, "Oh dot com all ye faithful."

5. Hope you didn't miss *Pastor Pete's* first Sunday, November 1 - and, to boot, we met his wife Dabby. A pretty good All Saints Day.

6. Happy birthday to *Julia Blackburn, Marian Williamson* and that Christmas baby....*Clem Hergenhan*.

Did you know - Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.

7. *Becky Bartlett* worshiped with us on Sunday November 1.

8. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd sombrero to the *Sunday School* which raised \$123 for the Crop Walk. Way to go kids.

I've learned that when there is something unpleasant to do, I should do it first. (Bill Werhli)

9. *Ellen and Tom Tehve* returned on November 19 after a three week tour of China, which included the Great Wall, Pandas and a cruise up the Yangtze River.

10. *Cathy DeGiau and John McCord* Visited Phoenix and Sedona, Arizona and then went on to Florida for Thanksgiving. John plans to squeeze in five auto races in the process.

I have finally done something about my weight - I don't get on the scale anymore.

11. A big congratulations to *Shirley and Larry Jackson* whose grandson was married Friday November 20.

12. Good Shepherd volunteers, *Mike Carp, Diane and Andy Mathisen and Kim Wehrli* raised over \$900 walking in the CROP WALK on Sunday October 18 in Red Bank. Thanks from all of us.

The three phrases that best sum up the Christmas season ;

1. Peace on earth
2. Good will to men
3. Batteries not included

13. *Pastor Pete* reminded us on Sunday November 22 that Christ the King Sunday marks the end of the church year. Advent began on Sunday November 29.

14. *Pat and Steve Miller* took a cruise to Panama in late November.

Ole - "Lena, what would it take to make you kiss me under the mistletoe?"
 Lena - "An anesthetic."

15. *Bob Fulmer* has adopted a new pastime. He spends a lot of time in the orthodontist's office. Poor Bob. We all hope its finished soon.

16. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd beret to all the ladies of the parish who cooked around the Thanksgiving holiday and now have Christmas staring them in the face.

King Wenceslas phoned the pizzeria and the salesgirl asked, "Do you want your usual, deep pan, crisp and even?"

17. *Kirsten Mathisen* worshiped with us on Sunday November 29.

18. Don't forget to sign up for a poinsettia for the altar this Christmas.

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
 Their old familiar carols play.
 And wild and sweet the words repeat,
 Of peace on earth, good will to men.
 (Henry Wadsworth Longfellow)

SEE YOU AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY AND IN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

++++
 The Christmas season is a busy time for all of us – including the few members of the altar guild. Please consider these opportunities to give a small amount of your time to help us -----

Sunday December 20 – as we decorate the tree after service.

Tuesday December 22 – 11AM – as we arrange the poinsettias around the altar.

Monday January 4 – 1PM – as we undecorate the tree and 7pm to remove the tree and cleanup.

The altar guild will also be carrying on our usual duties – changing candles, banners and paraments; setting up the altar for communion and cleaning up after service; and washing and ironing the altar linens.

++++

2015 CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR COG

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 2015 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.

Here at Good Shepherd we will be asking you to provide monetary donations. By using this approach COG can purchase gift certificates in bulk at a discount.

Our Sunday School Student Team will be asking for your contributions on three consecutive Sundays – Nov 29, Dec 6, and Dec 13th. These contributions can be

provided in cash or to track as charitable contribution a check made out to The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. Place COG on the memo line of the check. The contributions should be provided directly to a team member, our progress will be shown by decorating Good Shepherd's Christmas Tree chart in the narthex.

+++++

THOSE WERE THE DAYS

by Gil Vatter

A continuing recap of activities at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for almost 50 years.

January 1979 - The new Lutheran Book of Worship (the "Green Book") was introduced to the congregation and became the basis for worship.

February 24, 1980 - A second Sunday service was introduced at 8:15 am on a trial basis during Lent.

April 25, 1982 - The 15th anniversary of the church was observed with a special service of Thanksgiving and a luncheon at the Old Orchard Country Club.

February 6, 1987 - The congregation approved affiliation with the Lincroft Center for Children with classes to begin in September.

April 1994 - The congregation agreed to call Rev. Jean Vargo as Assistant Pastor for a one year term and Seminarian Steve Sweet completed his time at Good Shepherd.

+++++

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

The Choir sends best wishes for a happy and blessed Christmas to every member of the Good Shepherd congregation.

Choir Anthems - November

- November 1 - "Psalm 150" - Cesar Franck
- November 8 - "Oh! Sing to God Your Joyful Praise" - George F. Handel
- November 15 - "Glory to Thy Name, Most Holy" - M. McDonald
- November 22 - "Crown Him King of Kings" - J. S. Bach
- November 29 - "Come Rejoice, Believers" - D. Buxtehude

Organ Postludes - November

- November 1 - "To God Be the Glory" - W. Doane
- November 8 - "Trumpet Voluntary" - W. Goodwin
- November 15 - "March" - G. F. Handel
- November 22 - "Coronation March" - G. Meyerbeer
- November 29 - "Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland" - J. S. Bach

"Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the new born King."

+++++

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 2015	YTD 2015	YTD Budget	YTD 2014
General Contributions	8,882	83,979	95,833	95,492

December 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
				7:30 - Choir Practice		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9- Sunday School 10 - Service				7:30 - Choir Practice	12:30 Ladies Luncheon at Huddy's	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9- Sunday School 10 - Service 5- Christmas Party	7pm Council Mtg	7:30- Compassionate Friends		7:30 - Choir Practice		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9- Sunday School 10 - Service & decorate tree		11AM - decorate sanctuary with poinsettias		Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at both 3pm & 10pm	CHRISTMAS DAY	
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
9- Sunday School 10 -Lessons & Carols						