

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

December 2016

(our website good-shepherd.us)

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

Message from the Pastor

During the Season of Advent, the church begins to prepare for the celebration of The Nativity of Our Lord;...that is, the birth of Jesus the Christ, or, what we more commonly call 'Christmas'. The bible readings remind us that it is a period of waiting and watchfulness as well as planning and anticipation. Towards that, we hear about the many prophets, whom the Christian faith teaches, predicted the coming of a Messiah. Old Testament prophets are read as well as the New Testament prophet John the Baptist, who announces Jesus as the Son of God come into the world. Throughout the year, in various other contexts, we read from and hear what these people say about God and the state of a humanity that needs saving grace.

But this time of year, unlike most others, we hear about other messengers of God - angels! It seems that only around now do God's angels come front and center and take a prominent role in the faith. They are on Christmas cards, placed as ornaments on trees, and have an otherwise highly visible place in the preparing for and telling of the story of Jesus birth.

Yet don't they exist and remain active at other times and during the rest of the year? Aren't they as close to God as any other? Of course! The bible refers to angels at many other times, including in Genesis and Job and in the story of how St. Peter was delivered from prison by the work of God's angels. Some speak about or of having guardian angels, although Luther never said much about them. Yet they go way back in the history of the church and even Luther himself refers to them in his Morning and Evening prayers when, probably referring to Psalm 91, he prays "Let your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me".

So as we prepare for Christmas and see all those angels and hear about their work, maybe we can keep in mind that God is always present and active in our lives. During the holidays we give thanks for the role God's angels play in announcing the birth of our Lord, but don't let it drop there. Anticipate them continuing to be at work in the world and your life just as Luther did. Look for them to be manifested in many different ways (not necessarily with wings, but sometimes through other people!) and for God to keep on announcing his love for us through Jesus Christ.

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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 and leave information with Nancy Hergenhan (732-224-8808). The price has not changed - \$15 each. Last day to signup is Sunday December 18th.

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From Pastor Pete ---- During the season of Advent each year we invite members of the congregation to take part in the ritual ceremony of lighting a candle on the Advent Wreath. Each of the four Sundays we light another candle as we move closer to the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

This year, recognizing that 2017 will mark the 50th anniversary of Good Shepherd, we will be inviting Charter Members to be the candle lighter each Sunday at worship. As we honor them and their commitment to the church, we honor our Lord's commitment to us.

Give them a big thank you for that when you see them!

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From Pastor Pete ---- As has been in years past, on the Sunday after Christmas (Jan. 1, New Year's Day) Good Shepherd worship service will consist of 'Lessons and Carols' as we continue to celebrate The Nativity of Our Lord! If you would like to read one of the short bible readings scheduled for that day, please indicate your willingness to help by emailing Pastor.

Thank you.

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AROUND THE PARISH

by Gil Vatter

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior , which is Christ the Lord.

1. The annual Good Shepherd Christmas celebration is scheduled for Sunday December 11 at 5:00 PM. It's the one time and place when most of the congregation get's together for fun. Don't miss it. Sign up today.

2. Happy birthday to Maureen Bartlett, Julie Blackburn, Marian Williamson and our Christmas baby Clem Hergenhan. Hope you all get Christmas presents and birthday presents.

Local sign - **FROG PARKING ONLY - ALL OTHERS WILL BE TOAD**

3. Fifteen families from the congregation have now volunteered to be "Sponsors" for the Bayshore Lunch Program. This will assure at least one check or more every month from our church to help augment the menu at the Keyport kitchen.

ARE YOU A BLP SPONSOR?

4. Patty and I have already delivered more than 1,470 cans of food which you have provided for the BLP kitchen. We expect to deliver about 200 more cans in December or almost 1,700 cans for the year. This does not include the large amount of other items which you have brought to church. We thank you all for your faithful support of this very worthy cause.

How come we choose from just two people for president and over fifty for Miss America?

5. We salute and wish the best for the young people from the congregation who are attending college this fall

Abby Miller - Rider University

C. J. Miller - Berkley College

Julia Blackburn - The Fashion Institute

Mack Scott - The College of New Jersey

Jon Kim - Carnegie-Mellon University

6. Congratulations to Mike Carp, Kim Wehrli and any others who participated in the annual CROP WALK in Red Bank. Good Shepherd was able to send \$787.50 and some collected food to local food banks and kitchens.

Did you know that every day thousands of plants are killed by vegetarians - Help end the violence - Eat a hot dog!

7. *Pastor Pete* is walking on air since the Chicago Cubs won the seventh game of the World Series and became world champs.

8. The German School of Monmouth County presented two puppet shows at Good Shepherd on Thursday November 3 : "Die Reise zur Pirateninsel" and "Die drei Zauberfedern".

I've learned that life is like a scooter car - not much happens unless you do some peddling (Bill Wherli)

9. Thanks to *Bunny and Herb Kuhl* for sending a frozen turkey to the Bayshore Lunch Program before Thanksgiving.

10. *Pastor Pete* began his November 6 sermon with the words from "Somewhere Over the Rainbow". De-ja vue all over again.

Lena applied for a job at a citrus grove and the foreman asked her, "Do you have any experience picking lemons?" "Vel", she replied, "I've been married three times." (Bob Stetz)

11. *Garry Westerweller* entertained the congregation on Sunday November 13 with a recitation of his annual invitational Christmas poem and with a promise of a tougher Christmas quiz at the December 11 celebration.

12. The Ladies Luncheon Group meets the third Friday of every month for fun and fellowship. In November they dined at the Sono Japanese restaurant in Middletown.

Everything I know about cooking I learned from Chef Boy-Ar-Dee.

13. *Walter Kyle* will be attending a few more rehab sessions for his right knee. C'mon back soon, Walt, we all miss you.

14. Remember our parish shut-ins - send them a card this December.

ANTS ARE HEALTHY BECAUSE THEY HAVE LITTLE ANTIBODIES

15. *Kirsten Mathisen* is now working for the International Orthodox Christian Charity. A non-profit in Baltimore, Maryland, where she now lives.

16. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd fedora to *David Kim* for all the beautiful music he provides for our worship services on his cello. Thanks Dave, we enjoy your playing.

You know you're getting old when you're 17 around the neck, 42 around the waist and 96 around the golf course
(Bob Stetz)

17. *Rachel (Mathisen) Fink and Captain Mike* have relocated near Fort Benning, Georgia, where Mike is now stationed with the U. S. Army. Rachel will receive her Nurse Practitioner degree in December. Congrats, Rachel.

18. *Summer Howard* needed a box to stand on in order to be Lay Reader on Sunday November 27. She is our smallest and youngest Reader but always does a great job.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

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Good Shepherd's Annual Christmas Party



Sunday December 11th 5:00 PM

It's getting closer to Christmas
Once again, time to rhyme
And to send out this invite
For you to have a good time!

This year's Christmas party,
Is where else, but Frank Hall
You won't want to miss it
Come one and come all

It's the event of the season
One that shouldn't be missed

So sign up today
Avoid the Naughty list!

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!

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Minutes of Council Meeting, Monday November 7, 2016 - 7:00PM

- Members in attendance: John Crump (Treas), John Dall (Sec), Stephanie Dall (Vice Pres), Andy Mathisen (Pres), & Pastor Pete.
- Congregation Members are invited to participate, or simply observe – no additional attendees

Andy Mathisen opened the meeting

Devotions - Pastor Pete – Pastor discussed Martin Luther’s view of civil government and reflected on his own feelings on the role of government in addressing a “variety of social issues, including poverty, health care and racism”.

Approved November 7 Agenda – SD moved to approve, AM seconded

Approved Oct 11 Minutes - JC moved to approve, SD seconded

Approved October 31, 2016 Treas report (Stephanie Dall) - JD moved to approve, JC seconded

Pastor's report - Pastor Pete – Confirmation classes are moving along as a joint effort with Pastor Rachel. He is making an effort to stay in touch with members that have not been attending recently.

Outreach reports - Germaine Scarborough – Nancy Fitch will be collecting money for gift certificates to provide COG clients for Christmas. She wanted to confirm that we are still happy to have COG as the recipient and the council confirmed.

Property - John Dall – The contract with Molzon for snow removal was renewed. Property day went well and most of the open maintenance items were completed.

Christian Education - Andy Mathisen – No issues or items of special interest to report.

Finance & Stewardship – John Crump, Stephanie Dall – All is operating without issue.

Worship and Music – Andy Mathisen – Planning is underway for the Christmas season. New members have joined the altar guild.

RECENTLY RECEIVED COMMUNICATIONS: Andy Mathisen, President – NA

OLD BUSINESS

- Team (or persons) to work on update of By-Laws <http://www.good-shepherd.us/Documents-Processes/By-Laws/GS%20BYLAWS.pdf> (placed on agenda by Pastor Pete). The team will consist of all those in attendance at this meeting. Will begin this work by meeting after services on April 24th. OPEN ITEM WILL BE RESCHEDULED IN NEW YEAR.
- John Crump – Pink House project update. – Review second bid (John Dall). Second bid was reviewed and came in significantly lower than the first bid. Council agreed to have a brief look into a possible subdivide and sale of the property around the Pink house before deciding on a proposal to the congregation.
- Pastor Pete - Landscape improvement suggestions. – Review bid. The bid was all inclusive of a major improvement to the church grounds. It was on the high side. Council decided to list all capital improvements needs and prioritize and possibly modify the grounds improvement request downward.

NEW BUSINESS

- Pastor Pete – Begin to discuss plans for Good Shepherd’s 50th anniversary in 2017. Had preliminary discussions about an April celebration.
- Pastor Pete – Discuss Christmas Eve service times. Council agreed the Pastors suggestion for a 4pm and 9pm Christmas Eve services. Since Christmas falls on a Sunday and there will be services on Christmas Eve there will be no service on Christmas Day. On January 1st the service will be lessons and Carols as the Pastor will be out of town.
- Stephanie Dall – Update on Pat Dunn leaving and planning for her replacement. Arrangements are being made for Pat to sit down with the secretary of the King of Kings to bring her up to speed on what is needed from the position. Pat plans to stay until the end of November, but has agreed to come in additional days to ease the transition. It is planned that the secretary from the King of Kings will be carrying out the secretary duties mainly remotely.
- John Dall – Plan for next year’s council members and annual meeting. Various council members will reach out to prospective new council members over the next couple of months.

MEETING ADJOURNED with Lord’s Prayer

Next meeting will be on Tuesday December 6th at 6:30pm.

Minutes have been prepared by John Dall.

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PLEASE SUPPORT THE CALICO FOOD PANTRY AND CUPBOARD 2016 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

From Nancy Fitch

The Calico Food Pantry and Cupboard is asking Good Shepherd to support their plan to give Christmas gift certificates and food certificates to food pantry families. This financial gift relieves some of the financial burdens that come with the Christmas season for families of low income. They will be giving each family a \$25 gift certificate for each child and a Shop Rite \$25 -\$50 gift certificate for food. They are hoping for a commitment of \$800 per church but any and all gifts are appreciated. These gift certificates will be given out on Sat. 12/17.

Good Shepherd's Sunday School students will be asking for your contributions on three consecutive Sundays - Nov 27, Dec 4, and Dec 11th. These contributions can be provided in cash or provided as a check made payable to the Community Outreach Group, Inc. Please clearly identify your church name on the check's memo line.

When you provide your contribution directly to a Sunday school student, they will record our progress in reaching our \$800 goal by decorating Good Shepherd's Christmas tree. If you are unable to attend church on these Sundays and wish to contribute you can mail your check to the Calico Food Pantry at 96 Kings Highway, P.O. Box 4041, Middletown.

Participating churches; Christ Episcopal Church, Middletown, Holmdel Community United Church of Christ, Lincroft Presbyterian Church, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Holmdel, Middletown Reformed Church, Middletown United Methodist Church, Old First Church, Middletown, St. Catharine's Catholic Church, Holmdel, St. Leo's Catholic Church, Lincroft and Westminster Presbyterian Church, Middletown.

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THOSE WERE THE DAYS

by Gil Vatter

September 25, 1966 - Good Shepherd congregation holds first service at Thompson School in Middletown with 74 in attendance.

April 30, 1972 - Good Shepherd Church chartered a bus to transport members of the congregation to Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania with clothing, furniture, etc. to aid victims of a flood. Members also worked to repair flood damage.

September 15, 1978 - The Senior Choir of Good Shepherd Church traveled around the Monmouth County area to demonstrate the use of the new Lutheran Book of Worship to other Lutheran congregations.

January 20, 1988 - Good Shepherd Church joined with other local congregations in a service of "Prayer for Christian Unity" at Saint Catherine's Roman Catholic Church in Holmdel. Pastor George Frank was the preacher for the service.

August 30, 2007 - The Saint Mark's Sponsors Program was organized to provide additional funds for the Keansburg soup kitchen.

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A FEW NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

by Gil Vatter

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands ; lift up your voice, rejoice and sing.

Choir anthems

November 6 - "You Are My Song" - C. Berry
Communion - "I'll Walk With You" - Nicolas Brodsky

Andrew Mathisen - Tenor
November 13 - "It is Well With My Soul" - M. McDonald
November 20 - "How Excellent Thy Name" - George Frederick Handel
November 27 - "Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel" - D. Cherwin
David Kim - Cello

Organ Postludes

November 6 - "Postlude" - F. Walczynskt
November 13 - "Echo Alleluia" - M. Purcell
November 20 - "Trumpet Voluntary" - J. Stanley
November 27 - "Trumpet Tune" - J. Roberts

The choir thanks David Kim for accompanying the anthem, "Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel" on Sunday November 27.

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Several members of Good Shepherd participated in the Crop Walk on October 16 and raised \$837.50 in food and cash donations.





December 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
				7:30 - Choir Practice		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10 - Service & Sunday School				7:30 - Choir Practice		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10 - Service & Sunday School 5pm Christmas Party	7pm Council Mtg			7:30 - Choir Practice	12:30 Ladies Luncheon	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10 - Service & Sunday School 1PM Services at Willows		7:30- Compassionate Friends				Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at both 4pm & 9pm
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
CHRISTMAS DAY No Services						