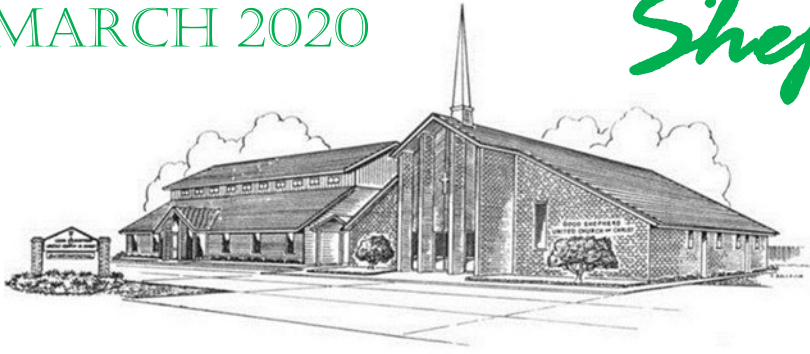


MARCH 2020

Shepherd's Voice



The monthly parish newsletter of
GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

WHAT WE BELIEVE...

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down
from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the
Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance
with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver
of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son
who with the Father and the Son is wor-
shipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic
Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the for-
giveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

There are essentially three types of times in the church year—times of fasting, times of feasting, and all other times. As the month of March is upon us in the natural world, we have now entered into the penitential season of Lent in the universal Church.

Soon enough we will come upon the feast of Easter and the joyous celebration of the resurrection of our Lord. But for now, we spend the 40 days and 40 nights of Lent preparing ourselves for that feast. We prepare ourselves through the three pillars of Lent—prayer, fasting, and almsgiving—modeled, at least in part, after Christ's teaching in Matthew 6—the Gospel we heard on Ash Wednesday.

On the first Sunday of Lent (this year on March 1) we hear the story of Jesus being led by the Spirit into the desert for 40 days and 40 nights to fast, pray, and be tempted by the devil. Allow your imagination to run wild for a moment as you picture what it must have been like for our Lord. Living for over a month in the harsh, uncomfortable, conditions of the desert with only water to survive in the hot, barren, wasteland.

In a sense, we too enter into a time of desert-living during Lent. We try to simplify our lives, perhaps decluttering our days of the mundane, the superfluous, and the luxurious. Perhaps, like Jesus in the desert, through fasting and prayer, we will allow the Holy Spirit to guide us into a closer relationship with God the Father, and better discern His call upon our lives.

Continued on page 2

Throughout this month of March, I will be spending greater time in prayer and contemplation, carefully discerning the Lord's call on my life. I ask you to remember me in your prayers during this special time as well.

On the first weekend of April, I will travel to Lafayette, Louisiana to attend a clergy meeting of the Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast and on Saturday, April 4, Lord willing, I will receive the first of my two ordinations into Anglican Holy Orders.

As you may know, ordinations in the Anglican tradition occur "in order" from Diaconate (deacon), to Presbyterate (priest), and Episcopate (bishop). When Good Shepherd Church voted to disaffiliate from our former denomination, I also renounced my ordination from the same. Bishop Clark Lowenfield has been very kind and supportive to me during this time by offering me shelter under his wings throughout this interim period—essentially providing me with endorsed ministerial credentials through the Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast of the Anglican Church in North America. By pursuing and accepting ACNA ordination, I will be "closing the loop" so-to-speak, by departing from my interim ministerial status and entering formally into the fold of ACNA clergy.

This is an exciting time for me and my family. I hope you, my church family, share with me in this excitement as the Holy Spirit guides me out of the uncomfortable, dry, lifeless, long-term uninhabitable desert of ministerial "no man's land" into the rich, lush, nourishing and nurturing life of the diaconate and priesthood of Christ's Church that is the Anglican Church in North America.

Until next month, let your light shine!

The Rev'd Randall M. Graf, Pastor



SERVICES SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 2020

Sunday, March 1 @ 8:30AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist (1st Sunday in Lent)

Thursday, March 5 @ 6:35 PM—Midweek Holy Eucharist

Sunday, March 8 @ 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Worship Service (2nd Sunday in Lent)

Tuesday, March 10 @ 7:00 PM—Mothers Prayer Group

Thursday, March 12 @ 6:35 PM—Midweek Holy Eucharist

Saturday, March 14 @ 11:00 AM—Monthly Service of Intercessory Prayer

Sunday, March 15 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist (3rd Sunday in Lent)

Thursday, March 19 @ 6:35 PM—Midweek Holy Eucharist (Feast of St. Joseph)

Sunday, March 22 @ 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Worship Service (4th Sunday in Lent)

Thursday, March 26 @ 6:35 PM—Midweek Holy Eucharist

Sunday, March 29 @ 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Worship Service

HAVE YOU SEEN IT?

Article by D.J. Estopinal

Have you seen it?

Have you taken the time to take a look at it?

What am I talking about?

I am talking about a project that Brother Mel Aucoin has been working VERY hard at. The "Prayer Garden"!

The "Prayer Garden" is approximately 75% complete and is really looking good. Three trees have been planted and flowers are about to be purchased and placed in the ground as donations and Spring weather allows. The centerpiece of the garden is a beautiful, half-ton statue of Christ praying in the Garden of Gethsemane (photo above).

If you have not taken the time to take a look at the "Prayer Garden", take five minutes the next time you are at church and go take a look. If you like what you see, let Mel know how much you appreciate all of his hard work.



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead

one hour before going to sleep

on Saturday, March 7, 2020.

Daylight Savings Time returns

and we want to make certain

you're on time for church!



GSC 2020 CHURCH COUNCIL

At the annual congregational meeting of Good Shepherd Church, held on Sunday, January 26, the congregation elected the 2020 Church Council.

Completing their terms of office on Council are: Shawn Hotard, John Falanga, and Pam Peters. Please remember to thank each of these individuals for their service when you see them.

Members being reelected for a second two year term are: Barbara Mehrtens, D.J. Estopinal, and Sandi Graci.

Members continuing on Council in 2020 but who were not up for reelection are: Margaret Aucoin, Joseph Deibel and Sharon Hensley.

Being elected to first of potentially two, two-year terms are: Adam Bennett and Don Peters.

The Installation of Church Council took place during the 10:00 AM worship service on February 9, 2020. At the Council meeting of the same date, the following officers were elected:

President: Margaret Aucoin; Vice-president: Sandy Graci; Treasurer: Don Peters; Secretary: Adam Bennett.

When you see a Council member, remember to thank them for their service to our church!

NOTES FROM RINDA

This year the entire month of March falls during the season of Lent. We all know that Lent is a time for reflection and introspection. The solemnity of the weeks leading to the celebration of the resurrection is sometimes misinterpreted as a time for giving up something as a sacrifice. It would be better observed as a time to take on more—more personal meditation, prayer, and good works. We as a congregation will be called upon to examine our spiritual progress.

As we listen to the scriptures and the messages from our pastor, let us also listen carefully to the music of Lent. The choir has several anthems which emphasize the introspection of the season. Obviously the music is not joyful praise music, but hopefully it will assist in meaningful worship during this season.

Rinda Coleman
GSC Music Director



PRAYER REQUESTS

A reminder that you may submit a name or cause to be entered on to the Good Shepherd Church prayer list by completing a prayer card found in the pews and placing the card in the offering plate. Please note that the computer program used to track our prayer listings places a time limit on entries. If a name or cause that was included on the list is no longer listed and you would like it to be, simply complete another prayer card. Likewise, if you would like to update a prayer request and have it removed from the list before it automatically cycles off by reaching its time limit, this too can be done using the pew prayer cards.



SHEEP IN THE NEWS

By Heidi LaGarde

Congratulations to **Joan Frilot** for being elected Key Club Web Master for next school year!

Madi Graf placed 4th in the behavioral and social sciences category at the Greater New Orleans Regional Science Fair. Way to go, Madi!!

Gabe LaGarde made the 7th grade baseball team for John Curtis Christian. Go Gabe and Go Patriots!

Haley LaGarde's hard work earned her several partial scholarships for academics and housing at the University of Lafayette! Geaux Haley and Geaux Cajuns!

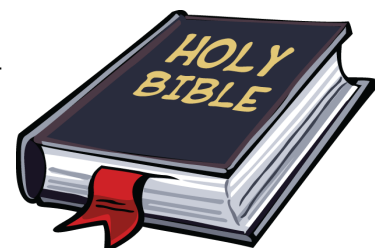
Please let me know what your child or grandchild has accomplished so we can share it with the entire flock! We are so proud of all of our sheep at Good Shepherd Church! God bless and keep them all!

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY AT GSC

Good Shepherd Church holds a Bible study every Sunday morning at 9:00 AM in the classroom directly behind the conference room.

The current study is focused on the Epistles of St. Paul. Interested participants may enter into the class on any given Sunday. All are welcome!

For more information, please see Mrs. Margaret Aucoin.



SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS AND REMEMBRANCES

A reminder that each Sunday affords an opportunity to honor, remember, and celebrate people and events. Want us to offer prayers of gratitude for a wedding anniversary or prayers of remembrance for a loved one who has returned home to the Lord or prayers of thanksgiving for a special person's birthday? Let us know by filing out the blue "Sunday Celebrations, Honors, and Remembrances" form.

The "Sunday Celebrations, Honors, and Remembrances" form is now available in the narthex of the church. By completing the brief form with the necessary information (e.g., John and Jane are celebrating 20 years of marriage on June 15 or Mike and Sue wish to honor the memory of Sue's mother, Pauline on what would have been her 100th birthday) and turning it in along with a small \$10 honorarium, you can be assured that the Sunday of your choosing includes the publication of your honor in our Sunday bulletin and prayerful remembrance during our Sunday service.

For more information, please see Reverend Graf.



A LENTEN MEDITATION

Good Shepherd Church member Patsy Engles is a published poet. Originally composed and published in 1990 by Eagle Wings Ministries, Ms. Engles offers her poem entitled "Forgive" as a Lenten meditation for Good Shepherd Church.

FORGIVE

*The unkind word of yesterday
We must forgive and forget
Even tho' our hearts may bend
And burden with regret
We must forgive ourselves and others
And let our souls be free
To receive the power and blessings
Which are here for you and me
For deep with each of us
Is the ability to find
The way to overcome the fault
To accomplish peace of mind
Christ forgave upon the Cross
Those who caused Him pain*

*He set for us the example
That there is all to gain
If we but look beyond our grief
And victory acclaim
So when life seems all too heavy
As unkind thoughts obstruct our view
We must forge ourselves and others
And find our strength anew
And take each other by the hand
As we journey side by side
Forgiving one another
As we in His love abide*

CONFIRMANDS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Since the Fall of 2019, two young men have been meeting regularly with Reverend Graf and studying Scripture and the catechism "To Be a Christian" (published by the Anglican Church in North America) in preparation for being confirmed into the Body of Christ.

These two young men, Travis Corley and Gabe LaGarde, as a part of their assignment to study the meaning of the Lord's Prayer, were required to rewrite the Lord's Prayer using their own words. Please give these two paraphrases of our Lord's teaching a read and when you see Travis and Gabe, congratulate and encourage them on their continued hard work in confirmation class.

Our Father who is in heaven

Your name is holy

Your kingdom is here

It will be done

On earth as it is in heaven

And forgive us our sins

As we forgive the sinner

Take us away from evil.

Amen.

By Travis Corley

Dear God the Father

Heaven has come

God's plan will come

On earth as in heaven

Give us food and Jesus' heart

and forgive our sins

as we forgive sinners

Protect us from temptation and from evil

**For heaven is the kingdom, the power, the glory
forever to come. Amen.**

By Gabe LaGarde

YOUTH MOVIE AND PIZZA

The **Youth Group** will hold a movie and pizza party on **Saturday, March 14** at **4:30 PM** in the conference room. All youth are invited and may bring a friend. Please let Rev. Graf know if you are coming and if you'll be bringing a friend so that the proper amount of food can be ordered.

We will be watching the movie "The Encounter" and having a brief discussion after.

WOMEN'S GUILD

WOMEN'S GUILD will meet on Tuesday, March 10th at 10:00 a m with a Guest Speaker, Katie Elliot! We invite all ladies to attend this meeting as Pastor Randy has advised that Ms. Elliot has a wonderful source of knowledge who can really put folks at ease in talking and thinking about planning for the future when the Lord calls us home as our loved ones remain behind. We will have our regular Business Meeting afterwards, and then go out to enjoy a nice lunch at HOBNOBERS and some great fellowship!! You don't want to miss this meeting!

Barbara F. Mehtens

GSC Women's Guild President

Sunday, March 29 from 11:30 – 2:00

FISH FRY!



Eat In
or
Take Out

\$10 ADULTS advanced tickets (\$12 at the door)

\$8 CHILDREN* advanced tickets (\$10 at the door)

**under age 12*

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

5122 W. ESPLANADE AVE – METAIRIE, LA 70006



GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

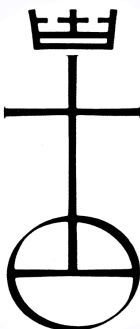
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The Rev. Dr. Randall M. Graf, Pastor



Sunday Services

10:00 AM every Sunday

8:30 AM 1st & 3rd Sundays

Midweek Services

6:35 PM Thursdays

Intercessory Prayer

11:00 AM

2nd Saturday of the month