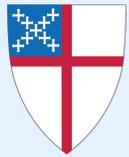


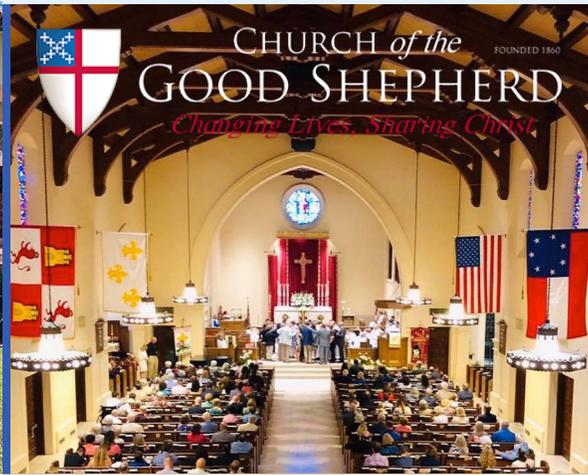
2020



THE GOOD SHEPHERD

MAY NEWSLETTER

Volume 50, Issue 5



Latest Update from the Rector



April 29, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are now in our 7th week of “stay at home” orders, and suspension of “in-person” worship at the Good Shepherd. I know this trying time is taking a toll on all of us mentally, physically, and spiritually. There are many among us who are silently hurting in all kinds of ways. Please know that we are praying for you and are here for you; and are grateful for your prayers as well. As difficult as this has been, I am beginning to see light and new life breaking through.

Over these last weeks we have been learning “on the fly” how to respond to the challenges of creating a “virtual” worshipping community, as well as caring for one another from a distance. I am pleased to say, we have now turned our attention to planning the execution of a “safe” reopening of our beloved church. We are being guided by our national, state, and local officials, but our Bishop is the final authority on when and how we return to in-person worship, and other gatherings. Governor Abbott has issued his plan to reopen Texas which is very encouraging. And last week Bp. Reed released his latest correspondence, extending the current suspension of in-person gatherings until May 15th. Below is an excerpt of the Bishop’s statement.

“My fervent hope and prayer, and I know it is yours as well, is that by mid-May we can *begin* to reopen churches and *begin* to resume something resembling normal church life, and also begin to discover what our new “normal” may be. **But we all need to understand that this reopening will be phased. It will not happen all-at-once, nor will it look the same in all our churches and communities at the same time. We will be reopening while the pandemic is still in our midst, and so it will be essential that we fully recommit ourselves, and our churches, to continue the self-restraint and love of neighbor that have been at the heart of our response to COVID-19.**”

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UPDATE FROM THE RECTOR (continued)

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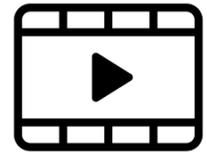
Bishop Reed is currently preparing his detailed plan of what a “phased reopening” would look like with all of the required health protocols. This plan is expected to be released very soon, and we will let you know the details when we know. We are already planning and anticipating many of the logistical issues associated with this next step; and there will be many, but know that your health and safety will always be our first priority. We are looking forward to reopening for worship with the Bishop’s approval, when the conditions warrant, and we have a clear plan of action that we are capable of safely executing.

I am pleased to share with you that Bishop Reed will be our preacher this week, so you will definitely want to tune in this Sunday for our online service. I know he is looking forward to encouraging us in this unique time we are living through. Perhaps we will get some further clarity on his plans to reopen, and when we might plan for a Confirmation service. With the economy opening back up, and a new “normal” presenting itself, we have a lot to look forward to. I want to remind you that in every crisis there are new opportunities, and so I want to encourage you to keep the faith and claim the life of the Risen Lord Jesus who is in our midst.

Yours in Christ,
Milton+

Worship Online During this Time

Our clergy and church staff are continuing to provide ways for us to worship virtually online. You can find all worship videos on our website at cotgs.org. Each Sunday's worship video will also be emailed to you Sunday mornings.



Offertory Online

The Church is still in operation even though we are not gathering in person at this time. Any monetary help you can give would be appreciated. We ask that you continue to give regularly if you are able.

Two ways to give at this time:

- Online at cotgs.org/giving/pay-online/
- Mail a check to the Church Office.



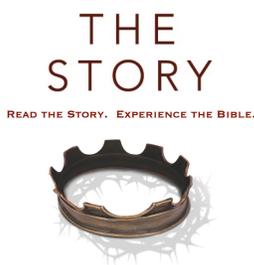
Good Shepherd turns 160!

The Church of the Good Shepherd will have it’s 160th birthday on September 15th! We are hoping to be able to celebrate this joyous occasion on Rally Day which is scheduled for Sunday, September 13th. Save the date!



The Story

We are continuing with The Story each week. Please refer to your brochure on The Story, or our weekly announcements to follow the chapter for the week. Read the chapter and then watch our weekly Sunday worship video to hear the readings and the sermon pertaining to that chapter. We are currently studying the Old Testament which will conclude on June 28th. We will begin the New Testament in September.



Wednesday Classes Online "Deeper into The Story" on Zoom

You have a choice of two class times:

4:30 - 5:30 p.m. or 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

The Rev. Philip May's Wednesday evening class is available online. He is facilitating his class through the online meeting site called Zoom. This is a great way to connect with others and dive deeper into The Story. If you are interested in being added to this online group, contact Fr. Philip at pmay@cotgs.org.

Confirmation News

Confirmation has been postponed, but it will happen at a later date. All of our current sixth grade confirmation students will be receiving information from our confirmation teachers.



Visit the Holy Land in 2021

B Journey with us to the Holy Land and experience the deep history and connection with the world that Jesus inhabited. Our guide, Canon Iyad Qumri, has 20 years of experience in historical, biblical, and cultural knowledge.

If you are interested, please contact Susan Linnane or Rev. Milton Black. The deposit is \$500 per person. (The total cost of the trip is not yet been confirmed.) There is limited space, so interested parties will be taken on a first come, first serve basis.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Daily Morning Prayer with the Rev. William Campbell

If you are looking for ways to connect with God as a family, or if you're seeking resources for deepening your own spiritual walk, visit Rev. William's new site www.AllThisGift.com. You'll find opportunities to join in praying the Daily Office of Morning Prayer, learn techniques for praying, St. James School content, "how to" videos, and more.

Right Now Media

Right Now Media is like a Christian Netflix. You will find Bible studies, documentaries, movies, children's programming, Christian education, and so much more. If you have not received an invitation from the Church to join, please email Lesleigh Landreth at LLandreth@cotgs.org and we will get that sent to you. RNM is free to all of our members of Good Shepherd! Visit www.rightnowmedia.org to get a sneak peak of this great website.

Elizabeth Black's Website and Blog

Elizabeth Black's website and blog are wonderful resources during this time. Visit her site for inspiration, encouragement and fellowship. When you get to her page, fill out the "Subscribe" section to receive her emails of her blog. It is free and your information is not shared with anyone else. To subscribe for free to her emails and blog, visit www.elizabethheadblack.com.

CHURCH COMMUNITY

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Egg Ladies

If you were not able to pick up your beautiful Easter eggs a couple of weeks ago, **call or email the church office** and we will arrange a time for you to come by.

With the money the Egg Ladies raised from the sale of their eggs, they were able to give a generous donation to the **Coastal Bend Food Bank**.

Salvation Army

As you know, we deliver meals to people on the streets of Corpus Christi once a month on the Salvation Army Mobile Canteen. Since this time of staying home, we have been unable to make deliveries. In lieu of meal deliveries, Good Shepherd has made a monetary donation to the Salvation Army so that they can continue to help those in need.

HOW CAN I HELP RIGHT NOW?

Coastal Bend Food Bank

The Coastal Bend Food Bank is doing everything it can to get food distributed to those who need it during this challenging time. They need volunteers to help sort food. Go to **coastalbendfoodbank.org** or call 361-887-6291 to volunteer individually or to plan a group volunteer time. (Masks and gloves required.) You can also give monetary donations online.



Hope House

Hope House is a local shelter for mothers with infants and young children. They also provide baby items to mothers in need in our community. They have expressed a need for the following items:



- Diapers (Sizes Newborn, 4 and 5)
- Baby Wipes
- Baby Formula
- Toiletries for moms and babies

If you can donate any of these items, please drop them off at **3226 Reid Drive, 78404** (the street behind the Glazebrook/Alameda HEB).

Monetary donations can be made to the same address.

FROM THE CORNER

The Good Shepherd's Corner provides low-cost, quality merchandise, and enables consigners to earn income by selling their goods through the Corner. In 2015 we changed how we disperse our profits to the community. We went from providing grants to charitable enterprises to a program that provides employment and job-training to sheltered, case-managed women. This helped us fulfill our new mission of providing a place for healing and job-skills training.

We call our program the Acacia Program. The name of the program is derived from the Acacia tree, known as the Huisache tree in South Texas. The Acacia tree was provided by God and served many of the needs of the children of Israel. It is a very strong and indestructible tree and we want our program employees to become strong and steadfast.

Program employees come to us from partnerships with Metro Ministries and Hope House. The program covers job-seeking and job skills training focusing on sales, customer service, computer skills, point of sale, and business skills. We provide a place to heal, grow and thrive.

Acacia employee 'S' - "I have major depression and live in a shelter. The opportunity to do job-skills training at Good Shepherd's Corner has given me confidence, friends and interaction with the community. It is a chance to get my life back on track."

Acacia employee 'R' - "I have benefitted and grown so much working at the Corner. I have become more confident while dealing with customers one on one and have better communications skills. I have gained knowledge of retail business and have learned the basics of QuickBooks."

We are thankful of our Church of the Good Shepherd's members who volunteer and support us with donations and merchandise to sell. Keep a look out for our reopening announcement via email or 'like us' on Facebook!

CHURCH COMMUNITY

Something Special for our HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!

Our hearts break for seniors who are unable to finish their final year of high school with friends. They have missed classes, sports, proms, and much more.



We encourage you to honor our Good Shepherd seniors by writing them a note or letter and mailing it to them. This is a great time to share spiritual wisdom, words of encouragement, and inspiration to help them continue on their faith journey.

Addresses are available in our church directory. (Email the church office if you need addresses at cotgs@cotgs.org.)

Our Good Shepherd seniors include:

| | | |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Katie Anderson | Sam Mathews | Richard Waterhouse |
| Drew Bandas | Peyton Meares | George Webster |
| Billy Durrill | Kaitlin Urban | Abby White |
| Ashlyn Madry | Whitney Vogt | |

YOUTH GROUP ONLINE

Middle School Youth

Middle School Tuesday Kahoot!

We will meet to play Kahoot Tuesday afternoons at 3:00. Feel free to invite a friend. Don't forget you will need two devices to play.

Middle School Thursday Youth Group

We will meet Thursday afternoons at 3:00. We will have a discussion about our faith and pray.

High School Youth

High School Kahoot!

Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m.
You will need two devices. One for Kahoot and one for the Zoom meeting. Invite friends! The more the merrier!

High School Faith Discussion

Tuesdays Anytime
Go to flipgrid.com/ff8d685b
Click the topic you are interested in.
Watch the video and look at questions.
Participate by clicking the green button.



FROM THE REV. BUR DOBBINS

Greetings,

As you probably know, my mother (Anne Dobbins) died on November 30, 2019 while living in Fredericksburg. She had been ill for quite a while and entered into Hospice care a few days before her death.

I was blessed to spend some wonderful time with Mom prior to her death. I was especially blessed to have prayed with Mom a few hours before her death when she was still somewhat aware of her surroundings. During our prayer, I gave thanks for her and her ministry and I specifically prayed for and gave thanks for each church Mom and Dad served. I prayed for loved ones and friends by name. I prayed for the memories of youth in Virginia and life as a transplanted Texan. I prayed for God's blessings and gave thanks for God's love of Mom and all of us. My words and her way of acknowledging them -- both gifts from God -- were incredibly comforting.

On December 19, 2019, the Rev. Milton Black (Rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Corpus Christi) and I prayed the Burial Office and interred Mom's ashes next to Dad in the Columbarium.

Because of the COVID-19 issues and uncertainties, we will not have a memorial service. We would ask that whenever you are worshipping and there is an opportunity to lift up those who have died, that you would lift up Mom in prayer. I know that during our All Saints services in November, Mom will be specifically remembered in my church.

I give thanks to God each day for Mom and also for all of the people in her life who were there to lift her up and who may have received her love and guidance from time to time. May her soul and the souls of all the departed rest in peace.

Faithfully,
Bur

WORSHIP SERVICES & HOURS (suspended until further notice)

Sunday Schedule

8:00 a.m. Traditional Eucharist (Rite I)
8:45-9:30 a.m. Breakfast Fellowship
9:30-10:15 a.m. Sunday School Classes
10:30 a.m. Family Eucharist (Rite II)
5:30 p.m. "Come As You Are" Eucharist (Rite II)

Nursery For the Little Ones

0 - 2 Years in the Nursery 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
3 Years - Kinder in Children's Chapel 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.
From Children's Chapel they join their families in Church before Communion.

Sunday School Classes

Sundays 9:30-10:15 a.m.
Children Meet in the Water Street Classrooms
Youth Meet in the Water Street Classrooms
Adults:
Large Group w/Rev. Black & Rev. May in Munds Hall Auditorium
Young Families w/ Rev. Campbell in Dobbins Hall Classroom
Small Group w/Rev. Fuller in Munds Hall Library

Weekday Services

Tuesdays at 12:15 p.m. Midday Eucharist (Rite II)
Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. Healing Service with Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

Monthly Services

Church of the Good Shepherd offers a service of Holy Communion at the Trinity Towers retirement community at 3:30 p.m. on the first Sunday of every month.

St. James Chapel Services*

Tuesdays at 8:05 a.m. Contemporary Morning Prayer (Middle School Chapel)
Tuesdays at 8:40 a.m. Contemporary Morning Prayer (Lower School Chapel)
Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. St. James Preschool Chapel
Thursdays at 8:10 a.m. Contemporary Morning Prayer (All School Chapel)

* During the school year

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