

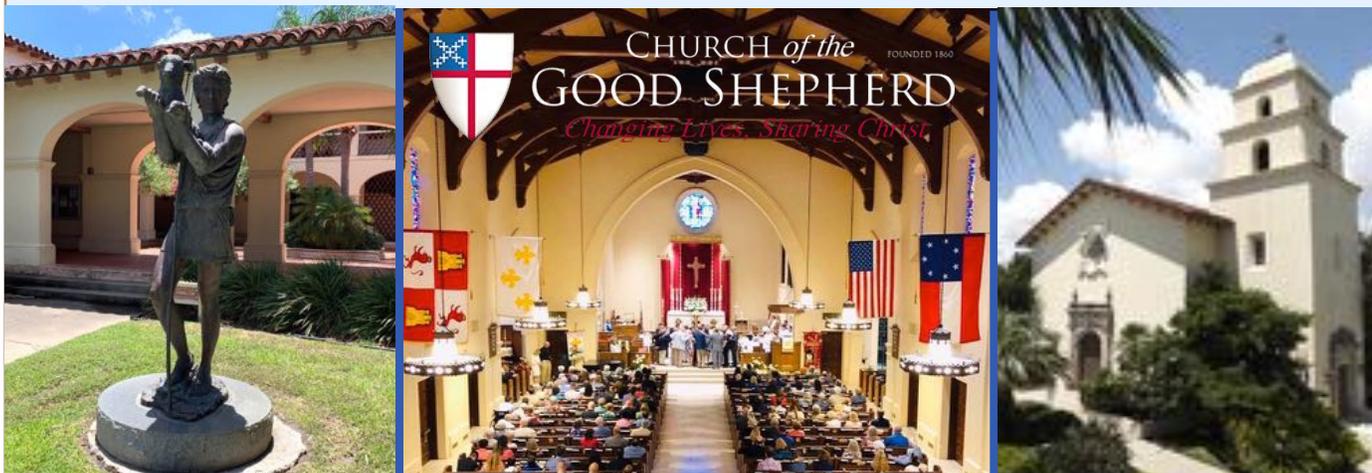
2020



THE GOOD SHEPHERD

JULY NEWSLETTER

Volume 50, Issue 7



Latest Update from the Rector



June 30, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

These last four months have taken a toll on all of us. We had all hoped and prayed that we would be on the downside of this pandemic by now, or at least in a seasonal lull, but that is not the case. Our seemingly isolated paradise here on the Coastal Bend, has not been able to successfully avoid the increased spread of the coronavirus, as all of Texas now seems to be on the increase. The Governor has reimplemented certain restrictions and is asking all of us to continue to do our best to slow the spread by wearing masks, maintaining proper social distance, and minimizing the number of people we come in direct contact with.

The Church of the Good Shepherd has been following a very strict set of guidelines for the last three weeks of our in-person worship, and we remain confident, given the large amount of space in our sanctuary, that our preparations, planning, and protocols are sufficient to continue to accommodate the number of people, currently 30, who are attending each service. Unless the Bishop suspends our Phase 2 in-person worship, we plan to hold services this Sunday.

However, if you have been exposed to someone who is sick, or even if you are not feeling well, please do not risk exposing others until you have been tested and cleared by your doctor. If you have an underlying health condition, please consult your doctor before returning to public gatherings. We will continue to offer online worship each Sunday recorded from one of our Sunday services. That service will be posted online later that same day. We hope to have live streamed capabilities in place very soon.

(continued on page 2)

UPDATE FROM THE RECTOR (continued)

(continued from page 1)

This is my last weekly update to you for a while, as I will be leaving for vacation this weekend, and returning at the end of the month. My family and I bid your prayers for a much-needed rest and renewal. I want to encourage you to stay current with all the latest news and information by reading our weekly email each Thursday afternoon and regularly checking our website. There you will find all the latest information.

In the meantime, your Senior Warden, Dr. John Mason, will be in charge along with the Phase 2 Committee. They will be making decisions at the local level as they continue to oversee our plan and execute our protocols. Our wonderful team of clergy and staff will continue to be at your service for all your pastoral needs. I want to thank each and every one of them for the wonderful job they have done and continue to do.

We are all experiencing this together. Please pay attention to your own needs and take good care of yourselves. We will get through this together. We miss you so much and are looking forward to seeing you soon. Keep the faith. "Be of good courage. Hold fast to that which is good! Render to no one evil for evil. Support the weak, help the afflicted, honor all persons; love and serve the Lord," and may the peace of Christ rule in your hearts always.

Yours in Christ,
Milton+

Sunday Worship Services

8:00 a.m. † 10:30 a.m. † 5:30 p.m.

The church will continue to offer three Sunday services. For those who would prefer to view the service online, we will continue to offer that option. We record one of the Sunday morning services and then email the service to our congregation on Sunday afternoons. It is also posted on our website. We are working on a Live Stream option to be available sometime in July.

Those who have underlying health conditions are encouraged to consult with your doctor before returning to public gatherings.

Phase 2 Diocesan Worship Service Protocol & Guidelines

Before Entering the Sanctuary:

- Follow the instructions of Greeters & Ushers
- Put on face mask
- Sanitize hands
- Pick up Service Bulletin

Seating:

- Ushers will direct seating options
- Sit on the end of an open pew
- A household of 5 or more will need an entire pew



Modified Liturgical Plan:

- We will not have procession or receiving lines
- Music will be played, but no singing
- Passing the peace will be a wave from a safe distance
- Offertory basins will be stationary in the rear of the church

Communion:

- The Clergy will bring communion in one kind (bread only) to the congregation
- Remain seated in your pew with hands out to receive the wafer
- If you would prefer a blessing, cross your hands over your chest

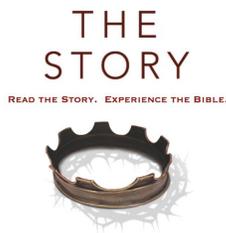
Dismissal:

- Please take your bulletin and mask with you, do not leave anything in the pews
- The Clergy will offer directions for exit options
- Pews will be dismissed individually

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

The Story

We have now concluded the Old Testament portion of The Story. We will begin the New Testament in September.



Live Stream Church Service Coming Soon!

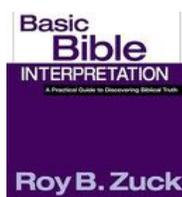
The church continues to offer three Sunday services. For those who would prefer to view the service online, we are offering that option. Currently, we are recording one of the Sunday morning services and then emailing the service to our congregation on Sunday afternoons when the download is complete. It is also posted on our website. We are working on a Live Stream option to be available sometime in July. Please continue to check our regular communications via email to get the latest information on Live Stream services.



Wednesday Classes Online NEW TOPIC for Summer on Zoom

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

The Rev. Philip May's Wednesday evening class is available online. We will be reading a wonderful book together: *Basic Bible Interpretation: A Practical Guide to Discovering Biblical Truth*, by Dr. Roy Zuck. The Bible is *our* book, but it's not always easy to understand. Dr. Zuck guides us in a faithful, careful, down to earth way, showing us how to interpret scripture honestly and reverently. We all know folks who make the Bible say whatever they want it to say. We don't want to be those folks! Join us, and learn how to listen to scripture. If you are interested in being added to this online group, contact Fr. Philip at pmay@cotgs.org.



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

New Confirmation Information

**Tentative Date: Sunday, August 30
10:30 a.m. Service**



For those who missed their Confirmation this year, we have good news! Bishop Reed will be with us Sunday, August 30, for Confirmation at the 10:30 service. Of course, like everything else these days, **this is tentative**, depending on the state of the health crisis. Your confirmation teachers will be in touch with you regarding the details.

Sanitation of the Church

After each Sunday service, the entire sanctuary and other common areas will be sanitized with Vital Oxide, a no rinse sanitizer. Vital Oxide is an EPA registered hospital disinfectant strong enough to kill the Corona Virus plus many other viruses and bacteria, yet gentle enough to be used on food contact surfaces. It will not irritate your skin, and does not contain Volatile Organic Compounds. It is applied with an Electrostatic Sprayer that ensures 100% surface coverage.



Cleaning Protocol for Church Services:

1. We spray Vital Oxide on all pews, door handles, panic bars, and railings.
2. All bathrooms will be sprayed with Vital Oxide.
3. The outside trash can liners will be removed and discarded between each service.
4. The Sextons will wear protective gloves and masks.

Offertory Online

We know that not everyone is ready to return to in-person worship at this time. We ask that you continue to give regularly if you are able. Thank you!

Two ways to give at this time:

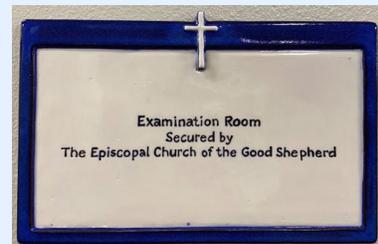
- Online at cotgs.org/giving/pay-online/
- Mail a check to the Church Office.

MISSION & OUTREACH

MISSION OF MERCY

Thanks to your generosity, the Church of the Good Shepherd secured the naming opportunity of an examination room in the new Mission of Mercy building through an endowment distribution for mission and outreach.

Mission of Mercy provides medical services to the un-insured and under-insured in our community. Now more than ever, the Church collaboration with Mission of Mercy is vital for the well-being of our community.



A Message from our Youth Minister



I hope everyone is doing well. We have witnessed, and have been a part of some important and historical events recently. The question I have been pondering is this, how do I continue to serve God and His people and at the same time keep myself and others safe? There are a few obstacles in the way right now regarding ways to serve God's people. With prayer and the willingness to serve we will find opportunities to serve.

How can we serve right now? What does that look like? I have a few opportunities for you and your family.

1. As a family, choose one of the opportunities below.
2. Make sure you are safe as you are thinking about serving others.
3. Let me know by calling, texting, or emailing if you are interested in getting more information.
4. Pray and ask God to guide you as you choose where to serve.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Ronald McDonald House

This opportunity is flexible. Contact Ronald McDonald House about cooking a meal for their current residents. Choose a date, cook the meal in your home, and deliver it to the Ronald McDonald House. This will be a great family activity. Make sure everyone participates. The phone number to call is 361-854-4073.

Mission 911

The mission is needing you and your family to help to fix up their property. You might be painting, participating in minor construction, yard work, and whatever else they may need. We have fixed dates for this mission opportunity: July 20-24, any of those days would work. The work can be done any time during the day including after work. Contact Glenn for more information at gmeschko@cotgs.org or call the church office or his cell.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions about these opportunities to serve as a family.

Glenn Meschko
Director of Youth Ministries
gmeschko@cotgs.org
office 361-882-1735
cell 210-460-8788

TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
A JOURNEY TO THE HOLY LAND

2021


QUMRI PILGRIMAGES
IN THE LAND OF THE HOLY ONE

October 29 - November 9, 2021

Cost is approximately \$2,435
(\$500 deposit holds your spot)

Call Susan Linnane in the Church Office
if you are interested at 361-882-1735.
Space is limited.

12 Day Tour

Under the Direction of
The Rev. Milton Black

Local Guide
Canon Iyad Qumri

You are invited to join other pilgrims from the Church of the Good Shepherd as we walk in the footsteps of Jesus. Together, we will visit the places of his birth, life, ministry, death and resurrection. Our experienced personal guide Iyad Qumri, will lead us in exploring ancient places, vibrant markets, and modern museums in a land that is suspended between East and West, past and present.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Specially-designed private worship and Eucharist services in locations where key biblical events are commemorated: Nazareth, Bethlehem, Capernaum, Sea of Galilee, Jericho, the Dead Sea, and Jerusalem.

Meet the "living stones" of the ever-diminishing communities of local Christians, including an introduction to the vital ministries of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

One-of-a-kind tours and visits to unique locations in Nazareth, the Jordan River, Jericho, and Jerusalem.

Opportunity to visit and worship with local Palestinian Christian congregations.

WORSHIP SERVICES & HOURS

Sunday Schedule begins June 14

8:00 a.m. Traditional Eucharist
10:30 a.m. Family Eucharist
5:30 p.m. "Come As You Are" Eucharist

Nursery For the Little Ones

(Suspended until further notice)

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

(Suspended until further notice)

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

(Suspended until further notice)

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

(Suspended until further notice.)

We offer 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

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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