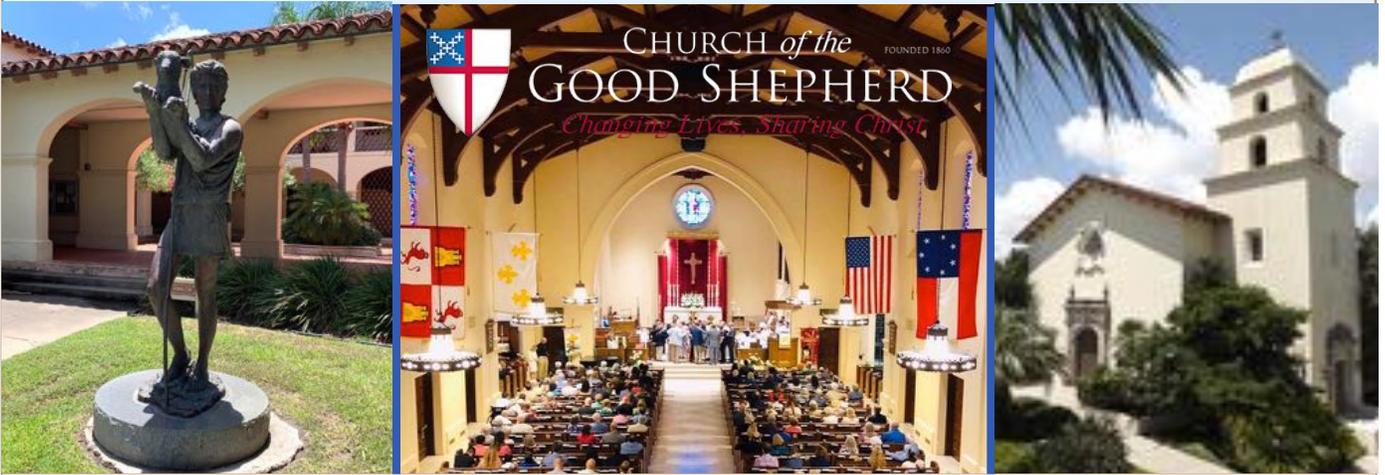




THE GOOD SHEPHERD

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Volume 50, Issue 9



From the Rector



Dear Friends in Christ,

We are thankful that Bishop Reed has given us permission to move forward with the next phase of reopening our church; which he is calling "Phase 2b: A Modified Return to Congregational Life." Worship has been our primary focus over these last six months. Now that we have done such an excellent job of executing worship safely, we are moving forward with limited in-person gatherings.

Phase 2b will begin September 14th and will be limited to Adult Bible Study, Sunday School for all ages, Youth Group, and Childcare. These will be our next focus. We are developing detailed plans for each class and meeting space that will include wearing facial masks, maintaining social distance, and regular sanitation. There will be a maximum occupancy for each space depending on the size of the room. Please refer to this newsletter for specific program details.

Additionally, we will resume the 5:30 p.m. Service on Sunday, September 13th, as well as the Wednesday evening healing service on September 16th at 5:30 p.m. If you have been waiting to have someone baptized, please call the church office so that we can move forward with planning that baptism. Also, the clergy are available for pastoral visits over the phone or in-person. Please let us know how we can support you.

All of this is very exciting news as it gives us hope for the future. We are moving forward, and we need to do this next phase in a safe way. Unfortunately, we can't do everything at once. So, we appreciate your patience and understanding as we try to do the next thing; which is Bible Study. We need to get this right before we do more and remember that it is all dependent upon our local health conditions.

(continued on page 2)

UPDATE FROM THE RECTOR (continued)

(continued from page 1)

We are so excited to begin again with our Rally Day Picnic outdoors, September 13th following the 10:30 service. Come casual and enjoy a boxed lunch with friends and family. It will be a wonderful way to celebrate Good Shepherd's 160th Birthday!

We need to take the next step in getting our lives back. Take care of yourselves and take care of one another. We understand if you are not able to return yet, but we are very much 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 offer all three of our Sunday worship services beginning Sunday, September 13th. Until then, we are offering the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services in-person.

The **5:30 p.m. service** has been suspended for part of the summer, but will **resume on Sunday, September 13th** with Steven Hansen leading the music.

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.** It is also posted on our website at cotgs.org.

We also offer **Live Stream through Facebook Live at 10:30 a.m. Sunday mornings.**

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

RALLY DAY

CELEBRATING



160 Years



of the

Church of the Good Shepherd

Sunday, September 13
Following the 10:30 a.m. Service
on the Church Lawn

Sunday School will begin the
following Sunday, September 20th

- Picnic Box Lunch Outside & Kona Ice Truck
- Social Distance with your Family
- Tables set up with a Reservation

Everyone must RSVP for Rally Day.
We need to plan for plenty of space and boxed food.

Call the Church Office at 882-1735

Adult Sunday School

Sundays beginning September 20

THE STORY

9:30 a.m. in Munds Hall Auditorium

Led by the Rev. Milton Black and the Rev. Philip May

We are going through the entire Bible in 2020. *The Story* curriculum gives adults the opportunity to learn, discuss and apply the Chapter of the Week.

THE STORY for Young Families

9:30 a.m. in Dobbins Hall Classroom

Led by Rev. William Campbell

This is a special Adult class for parents. This class will not only take parents through the Bible, but will also help parents guide their children through the Bible.

Wednesday Classes

Wednesday Evenings beginning September 16

GOING DEEPER INTO THE STORY

7:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the Parlor

Led by the Rev. Philip May pmay@cotgs.org

RSVP by email to reserve your seat or to join us online.

Join Fr. Philip in the Parlor *or online* for a bible study, "Going Deeper Into the Story". We will explore the historical setting of the New Testament, and how it affected the life and ministry of Jesus. Please email Fr. Philip if you would like to participate in person, so we can arrange the Parlor to keep everyone at the approved distance. Don't forget your mask! You may also participate online via Zoom. Please let Philip know.

THE REVELATION OF JOHN: Light for Dark Times

6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in Dobbins Hall Adult Classroom

Led by the Rev. Frank Fuller fef3t@aol.com

RSVP to Fr. Frank to reserve your seat

Through the centuries, the last book of the Bible, the Revelation, has given hope to Christians through persecutions, plagues, wars, and catastrophes. The text has confused, befuddled, inspired, and enraged interpreters for two millennia. This class will try to read closely the visions of the seer John, seeking light to live by for our own times.

NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Pilgrim's Path: A Study of the Psalms

Tuesdays Beginning September 15

10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

in the Parlor and Online

Elizabeth Black will begin a new study this Fall: *Pilgrim's Path - A Study of the Psalms*. For almost thirty years, Elizabeth has connected with the Psalms by reading them daily, allowing them to shape her prayer life, and her spiritual walk.

In 2015, Elizabeth published a devotional book on the Psalms called *Hand in Hand, Walking with the Psalms through Loneliness* that highlights the presence of God in our lives. This year, she has chosen to readdress these powerful scriptures through a more theological lens. She has studied theological resources on the Psalms, including books and commentaries by C.S. Lewis, John Stott, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Eugene Peterson, Timothy Keller and more.

This study will trace the magnificent, creative outreach of God to his people, the response He so desires from us, our struggle between two worlds, and how He leads us back to himself.

This Study Includes:

- 13 weekly lectures posted as a Podcast
- 13 sets of study questions
- 13 weekly Group Discussions (in person)

3 Ways to Participate:

- In-Person (limited seating)
- Online with Podcasts and Study Questions
- Do your own group study using materials

How to Sign-Up:

Go to elizabethheadblack.com

Everyone must register online on her website whether you are doing the study in person or online. You will receive a pass code to get materials. The cost is \$10.

CHURCH COMMUNITY

Worship In-Person or Online

Currently, we offer services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Our 5:30 p.m. "Come As You Are" service will resume in-person on Sunday, September 13th. For those who would prefer to view a service online, we offer that option. We record the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service and email it to our congregation and post it on our website. We also offer a **Live Stream** service through **Facebook Live** at **10:30 a.m.** on Sundays.

The **service bulletin** is attached to the email on Sundays and on the website post. We also post the bulletin on Facebook on Sunday mornings.

Wednesday Evening Service

Wednesday 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist/Healing Service Resumes September 16th

This is the perfect service for those who want a smaller setting with fewer people. The service includes a special healing portion. Healing prayers are offered for your health, addiction, mental well-being, restoration from broken relationships, and peace.

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.

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.

MEN'S LIFE FELLOWSHIP RESUMES

Tuesday, September 15

7:00 - 8:00 a.m. in the Parlor

This discussion-based group focuses on building community, fellowship, and discussion of real issues in men's lives. This group offers encouragement and support for your daily life. Come to share or come just to listen.

MISSION & OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

Help those impacted by Hurricane Laura in Louisiana

In the Coastal Bend, we are well-aware of the destruction a hurricane can bring and the many items that are needed to recover. It is our turn to help our neighbors in Louisiana. We are collecting some of the necessary supplies that they need:

- bug spray
- heavy duty black trash bags
- disinfecting wipes
- gloves

If you are able to provide any of these items, please call the Church Office at 882-1735 and we will let you know when and where to place the items.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

If you would like to be confirmed or received in the Episcopal Church, please contact Susan Linnane in the Church Office at 882-1735. She will give you the information you need to know.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



YOUTH GROUP KICK-OFF!

Sunday, September 20th Outside at the Youth House

- **Middle School Games (6th - 8th) 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.**
- **Middle and High School Dinner 7:30 - 8:00 p.m.**
- **High School Games (9th - 12th) 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

Youth Group will officially begin Sunday, September 20th! **Our Youth Minister, Glenn Meschko, has been working hard at planning a fun and safe way to meet.** We will begin with games and dinner. Activities and dinner will be held outside.

Middle Schoolers will begin the evening with games from 6:30 - 7:30. Then the High Schoolers will join for a group **boxed meal in their own area.** Middle school will then leave and high school will play games

Safety Protocol:

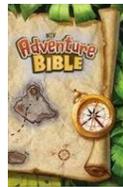
We ask all youth to bring their **masks.** We will practice **social distancing** and we will provide hand sanitizer. We will be following the protocol and guidelines of our church, the diocese, and the state.

The Phase 2 Youth Group Guidelines and Protocols for In-Person Gatherings is posted on the next page.

Glenn is looking for parent volunteers for the Youth Group Kick-Off. Please text Glenn at 210-460-8788 if you would like to help.

THIRD GRADE BIBLES

All 3rd grade Good Shepherd and St. James students will receive a new Bible as a gift from the Church. Third graders will receive them in Sunday School on September 20th. Sandy McCampbell will give the St. James students their Bibles during school if they are not able to attend Sunday School. Contact Sandy at 361-779-7742 if you prefer to make other arrangements for getting your child's Bible.



SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

**SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS
SEPTEMBER 20TH
9:30 a.m.**

Sunday School will begin September 20th for all ages. We will follow all Phase 2b protocol from the diocese. Masks are required and we will social distance. Each of the three age groups will be in separate classrooms. We will begin the New Testament portion of The Story. Adults will lead these classes.

3 Year Olds - 1st Grade: Room 107

2nd - 5th Grade: Room 102

6th Grade Confirmation: Room 106

NEW 6TH GRADE CONFIRMATION

**Confirmation Class Meets
Sunday, September 13th
9:30 a.m. in Munds Hall Auditorium**

We are excited to begin a new year of confirmation class for our sixth graders. John Mason and John Perabo will continue to be our wonderful confirmation teachers. If you would like your child to participate in confirmation, please contact Sandy McCampbell at 361-779-7742.

**Parent Meeting:
Sunday, September 13
4:30 p.m. in the Parlor**

YOUTH GROUP GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOL

YOUTH GROUP: The youth are going to gather once again in person. It will be necessary to do this in a safe and responsible manner. We will gradually and incrementally take on this process of gathering. We need parents to help by providing meals, ensuring our students keep their masks on, washing their hands, and observing proper social distancing practices. Please contact Glenn Meschko if you can help in any way at 210-460-8788. We are also discussing how we phase in our acolytes. We know it is important to have our students involved in our worship once again.

Phase 2 Youth Group Guidelines and Protocols Church of the Good Shepherd, Corpus Christi, Texas In-Person Gathering

The purpose of this document is to provide a template for staff and volunteers serving the Youth Group of Church of the Good Shepherd (COTGS) in Corpus Christi, Texas during the phased reopening of churches in West Texas during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Prior to serving in Phase 2 Leadership, it is essential that staff and volunteers have an understanding and working knowledge of *Guidelines for Phased Reopening of Churches in West Texas: 2-A* (dated May 1, 2020) and *2-B* (dated August 14, 2020) produced by The Episcopal Diocese of West Texas.

The Guidelines and Procedures listed herein will follow the Guidelines and Procedures for In-Person gathering at Church of the Good Shepherd (COTGS) drafted in response to the pandemic by the COTGS Phase 2 Committee and approved by the COTGS Vestry, the COTGS Rector and Clergy, and the Bishop of West Texas.

Guidelines and Procedures listed herein will assume the above Diocesan and COTGS documents while marking any necessary changes given the environment and complexities of providing a safe environment for the Youth Group of COTGS.

Pre-arrival

- Please remain home if you have been in contact with someone or personally show symptoms of COVID-19.
- The Youth House and any other building used during the meeting will be sanitized before the arrival of students.
- Staff and volunteers will go through the same screening process as the students that night.
- A parent or staff member will be assigned to make sure our group is observing the protocols.

Arrival

- Each youth, staff, and volunteer will be required to wear a mask, and if they don't have one, one will be provided.
- On arrival, each youth, staff, and volunteer will have their temperature taken, followed by washing or disinfecting their hands.
- Once the screening process is complete, the youth, volunteers, and staff will observe the six-foot social distance rule.

Social Distancing During Youth Group

- We will observe the social distance rule of six feet. There will be marked areas for youth. We will not have worship with singing to help mitigate the dangers of the virus.
- There will not be contact between the youth group members. Of course, there may be accidental contact and the staff and volunteers will do the best they can to minimize those incidents.
- The Church equipment in the Youth House will be disinfected weekly.
- There will be extra masks and hand sanitizer for the youth during the meeting.
- Throw all drinks and food away, even if everything was not consumed.

Nursery

Ages 1 - 2 (we will not take infants under 1 year at this time)

Resumes Sunday, September 20 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



We are happy to provide the nursery for parents again. Please see the safety guidelines below. We are working on a more detailed protocol that will be ready soon. Until further notice, we will only be able to accept children ages 1 - 2 in the nursery. All infants under the age of 1 are welcome to go with their parents to the adult Sunday School classes. They are also always welcome in the sanctuary during worship. We will have three rooms open in the nursery so we can social distance all children, and there will be plenty of adult supervision.

Phase 2 Nursery Guidelines and Protocols Church of the Good Shepherd, Corpus Christi, Texas In-Person Gathering

The purpose of this document is to provide a template for staff and volunteers serving the Nursery of Church of the Good Shepherd (COTGS) in Corpus Christi, Texas during the phased reopening of churches in West Texas during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Prior to serving in Phase 2 Leadership, it is essential that staff and volunteers have an understanding and working knowledge of *Guidelines for Phased Reopening of Churches in West Texas: 2-A* (dated May 1, 2020) and *2-B* (dated August 14, 2020) produced by The Episcopal Diocese of West Texas.

The Guidelines and Procedures listed herein will follow the Guidelines and Procedures for In-Person gathering at Church of the Good Shepherd (COTGS) drafted in response to the pandemic by the COTGS Phase 2 Committee and approved by the COTGS Vestry, the COTGS Rector and Clergy, and the Bishop of West Texas.

Guidelines and Procedures listed herein will assume the above Diocesan and COTGS documents while marking any necessary changes given the environment and complexities of providing a safe environment for the Nursery of COTGS.

Pre-arrival

- Please remain home if you or your child have been in contact with someone with COVID-19, personally show symptoms of COVID-19, or test positive for COVID-19.
- The Nursery and contents will be sanitized with Vital Oxide before the arrival of children.
- Staff and Volunteers will put on masks and wash their hands prior to receiving children.
- Staff and Volunteers will go through a screening process before they begin a shift in the nursery to access their health.
- Staff, Volunteers, and Children will be sent home if they have any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Chills
 - Repeated shaking with chills
 - Muscle pain
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Diarrhea
 - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature
 - Greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
 - Known close contact with a person who is lab Confirmed to have COVID-19

(Nursery protocol is continued on the next page.)

NURSERY & CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

(Nursery protocol continued from previous page.)

Upon Arrival

- We will only be receiving children who are 1 year or 2 years old. **At this time we will not be receiving children who are younger than 12 months old.**
- Parents will enter through the double doors in the Pergola area. If the door is not open, ring the doorbell. Please put on a mask before you enter the building.
- There is a wall mounted sanitizer just inside the doors, please sanitize your hands and your child/children's hands when you enter the building.
- Observe the 6' Social Distance Rule as you are waiting to leave your child/children in the nursery.
- The credenza next to the nursery door will have a "Sign In Sheet". Please sign in and a nursery worker will meet you at the door of the nursery to take your child/children's temperature and receive your child/children and their diaper bag, if they have one. **We ask that parents please not enter the nursery.**

During Childcare

- We will have a maximum of 7 children per room.
- Staff, Volunteers, and children will wash hands frequently and after every diaper change or restroom visit.
- Should a child become ill during their time in the nursery, a room has been designated as an isolation area.

Picking Up Your Child/Children

- Parents will enter through the double doors in the Pergola area. If the door is not open, ring the doorbell. Please put on a mask before you enter the building.
- There is a wall mounted sanitizer just inside the doors, please sanitize your hands when you enter the building.
- Observe the 6' Social Distance Rule as you are waiting to pick up your child/children from the nursery.
- The credenza next to the nursery door will have a "Sign Out Sheet". Please sign out and a nursery worker will meet you at the door of the nursery to bring your child/children to you. **Please do not enter the nursery to pick up your child/children.**

Children's Chapel

3 years old - 1st grade

Resumes Sunday, September 20 at 10:30 a.m.

We are happy to provide Children's Chapel again this Fall during our 10:30 a.m. service. It will look a little different and safety guidelines and protocol will be followed. **Temperatures will be taken upon arrival and masks must be worn at all times. Hands will be sanitized.** (Please be on time.)

- Meet **outside the chapel** and stand on the designated spots to social distance.
- We will walk socially distanced in a line to the **gym for story time.**
- Then we will go to the **playground** and play with social distancing until time to join parents in the church.
- We will **join the parents in the church** during the Peace. Children will sanitize their hands upon entering and will find their way to their parents one family at a time.



AROUND THE CAMPUS

IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR CAMPUS

These last few months we have been working on many improvements and upgrades around our church and school campus. The big improvements that we have undertaken this summer are:

- Installation of Two Carrier 4 ton HVAC Units for the Parlor
- Exterior Stucco & Paint repair to Dobbins Hall
- The handrails near the Courtyard were welded with new bases, sanded, primed and painted
- Campus wide a new landscape company is making improvements to our lawns, trees, shrubs, palms, and flower beds
- COTGS purchased new flags for the SJES flag poles which our new facility director, Shane Smith installed with a lift

We are very happy to welcome our **new Facility Director, Shane Smith** to our Good Shepherd / St. James staff. He worked with Russell before his departure and has really hit the ground running this summer! We are blessed to add him to our team.



Images of just a few of our campus improvements this summer.

WORSHIP SERVICES & HOURS

Sunday Schedule for Summer

8:00 a.m. Traditional Eucharist
10:30 a.m. Family 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

(Resumes on Sunday, September 20th)

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

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. K-2nd Grade Chapel
Tuesdays at 8:40 a.m. 3rd & 4th Grade Chapel
Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. Preschool Chapels (4 services)
Thursdays at 8:05 a.m. Middle School Chapel

At this time, we will not be able to accommodate parents at our chapel services. It is for scholars and faculty only until further notice.

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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Corpus Christi, Texas 78401-3521

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