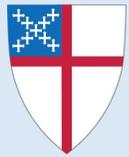


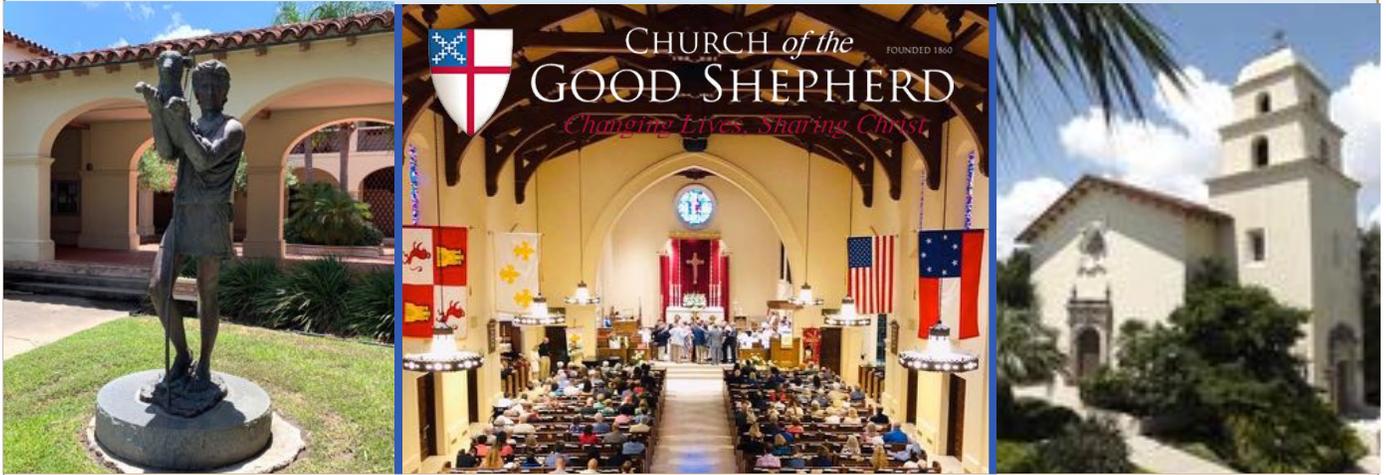
2020



THE GOOD SHEPHERD

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Volume 50, Issue 12



A Message from the Rector



November 18, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

I have an important announcement regarding our Christmas Eve services. We are so thankful for the opportunity that we have had to worship in-person since June 14th and for the way in which everyone has come together and to adjust to this modified way of worship. It's not ideal, but it has been so vital to our spiritual lives to keep our church worshipping through this unprecedented time.

This brings me to the question that we get asked a lot these days: **"What are we going to do about Christmas Eve services?"** Well, we have been thinking a lot about that question. As has been the case all year; a lot will be determined by the local health conditions at the time, as well as the number of people who plan to attend one of our services. Those are both hard to predict.

Under our current health protocols for worship, we can only accommodate 175 people in our sanctuary. That poses a real problem for our early service as we usually have over 500 people attending our 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service and only 75 attending our 11:00 p.m. service. The early service has grown tremendously over the years while the mid-night service has steadily declined. It is always hard to predict how many will be here for Christmas when so many visitors come to see us and many of our regulars are traveling. Not sure this year.

(continued on page 2)

FROM THE RECTOR (continued)

(continued from page 1)

In order to accommodate the number of people we expect in attendance for Christmas Eve, we are making two important changes to our Christmas Eve service selection:

First: We are adding an additional service at 3:00 p.m.

Second: We are moving the 11:00 p.m. service to 8:00 p.m.

Therefore, we will have three Christmas Eve services: 3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

We will have our Christmas Day service at 10:30 a.m.

We think these changes will provide safe options for the largest number of people to worship with us for Christmas Eve. Additionally, we believe more people will worship at our late service if it starts earlier in the night. It will also provide an opportunity to relieve pressure on the earlier services. As we get closer to Christmas, we will want to assess the actual demand for each service, so that we know what to expect. **Be on the lookout for an important survey that will let us know your desires in order to better accommodate everyone.**

Yours in Christ,

Sunday Worship Services

8:00 a.m. + 10:30 a.m. + 5:30 p.m.

The Church offers three Sunday worship services in-person. We are following our Phase 2b Protocol and Guidelines in order to continue to provide a safe way to worship in our sanctuary. Please wear your mask to church.

The nursery is available from 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon on Sundays.

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.**

Angel Tree for Kostoryz Elementary

Thank you for helping make this Christmas a special one for students in need at Kostoryz Elementary.

What to do: buy gifts for that child, place it in the provided gift bag, and bring it to the Church Office with the angel tag attached to bag.

There is a sign-up sheet with the angel trees in the Church Office and in the Narthex. It is important to put your name on the sign-up sheet so we know who has committed to each child.

Each gift bag should include:

- one jacket
- one pair of shoes
- one or two toys



(Sizes and interests are indicated on the paper angels.)

Please return your gift-filled bag with the angel tag attached by December 14th.

Seeking Vestry Nominees

The Nominating Committee of the Vestry is actively seeking qualified candidates who are interested in being considered for nomination to the Vestry.

The Vestry is a board of lay leaders in the Church who have been elected by the congregation to govern the parish. They oversee all aspects of the Church's operations, including the finances, the property and the mission of the Church. The Vestry consists of 18 members who have demonstrated leadership, commitment and service to the Church, and who actively dedicate themselves to the mission of the Church. Each member brings their own unique experience, knowledge and expertise from various sectors of the community, benefiting the church immeasurably. Six new members are elected every year for a three-year term, as six rotate off the Vestry having completed their term. Elections are held annually at the Parish Meeting in January.

Vestry Qualifications

- At least 18 years of age
- A baptized and confirmed member of Good Shepherd
- Regularly participate in worship and parish events
- Seeking to grow in faith in Jesus
- Making a regular financial commitment to the Church
- Dedicated to the mission of Christ in the world

If you meet these qualifications and are interested in being considered for nomination to the Vestry, or if you have additional questions about service on the vestry, **please contact the Senior Warden, Dr. John Mason by email at jbmasondds@aol.com by the deadline of December 4, 2020.** The Nominating Committee will be pleased to consider your nomination.

CHURCH COMMUNITY

Worship In-Person or Online

Currently, we offer services at 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. on Sundays. 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. It is also emailed on Saturdays at noon.

Wednesday Evening Service

Wednesday 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist/Healing Service

This is the perfect service for those who want a smaller setting with fewer people. 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 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.

SCRIPTURES FOR ADVENT



December 1 John 1: 1-5
December 2 Isaiah 9: 2-7
December 3 Isaiah 11: 1-10
December 4 Jeremiah 33: 14-16
December 5 Luke 1: 5-10
December 6 Luke 1: 11-17
December 7 Luke 1: 18-25
December 8 Luke 1: 26-38
December 9 Matthew 1: 18-21
December 10 Matthew 1: 22-26
December 11 Luke 1: 39-45
December 12 Luke 1: 46-56
December 13 Luke 2: 1-5
December 14 Luke 2: 6-7
December 15 Luke 2: 8-12
December 16 Luke 2: 13-14
December 17 Luke 2: 15-18
December 18 Luke 2: 19-20
December 19 Micah 5: 2-5
December 20 Matthew 2: 1-2
December 21 Matthew 2: 3-6
December 22 Matthew 2: 7-8
December 23 Matthew 2: 9-12
December 24 John 1: 14

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

at
Church of the Good Shepherd

CHRISTMAS EVE

3:00 p.m. * 5:00 p.m. * 8:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY * 10:30 a.m.



Nursery will be available for the 3:00 p.m. service.

The 5:00 p.m. service will be on Facebook Live and will be recorded and sent out in an email and placed onto our website after the service.

ADVENT THEMED SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join our Sunday School classes at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday in December for Advent-themed classes. The four Sundays of Advent proclaim aspects of our divine nature—hope and faith, peace, love, and joy.



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

**Sunday, December 13
10:30 a.m.**

We are excited to present our Christmas Pageant this year. **It will be a smaller production with only our high school students presenting the pageant.** We will not be able to include preschool, elementary and middle school age children in the production in order to follow social distancing guidelines.

Anyone of any age who would like to attend the pageant is welcome.

We will follow Phase 2b worship protocol. The pageant will also be video recorded and posted on our website.



ADVENT CHILI SUPPER CANCELLED

After much consideration and out of an abundance of caution, we have decided to cancel our Advent Chili Supper. We want to ensure that everyone stays healthy for the upcoming holiday season.



Advent Already?!

I don't know about you, but I'm having a hard time believing that Advent is here. Credit that how you may: from "COVID-tide" (Advent 1 marks 260 days and counting—and all the restrictions and guidelines and protocols and quarantines that have gone with it), to it having been a contentious election year, to just being, well, tired. Not that the lead-up to Christmas is ever truly refreshing anyway, right? I feel like I've been "expectantly waiting" and "preparing" enough this year already, even if this year is looking to be somewhat quieter than those to which I've grown accustomed. Anyone else with me? So I have found myself feeling especially nonplussed about entering a season that is all about "expectantly waiting" and "preparing" myself and my life for Christmas.

However, that feeling—of being jaded or fatigued or "here we go again" or of "once more into the breach" (to quote Shakespeare's *Henry V*)—is an important part of what Advent is all about. I think most adults can speak to the moment in their lives that Christmas went from being a season of wonder and excitement to one of anxiety and stress and/or profound loneliness. There are times when we all struggle to follow Christ with the child-like vigor that Jesus tells us is essential to faith, and I believe that Christmas is both especially hard on us and especially revealing about the current status of our faith. Jesus addresses this issue himself when he says, "And because of the increase of lawlessness, the love of many will grow cold (Matthew 24:12). But Christ also says, "But the one who endures to the end will be saved" (Matthew 24:13). The struggle is to keep our faith brilliant and new even though the world—life in the flesh—works so hard to tarnish it.

So what can we do to renew that childlike faith to which God calls us?

Something I've taken great delight in this year has been our congregation-wide study of *The Story*, and I think that it has helped to keep us (and me) relatively on-track throughout the struggle of 2020. Now that's over, too, but *The Story* hasn't left us without tools to polish our faith into renewed brilliance. Revelation—the last book of the New Testament (and the focus of the last chapter of *The Story*)—gives us a glimpse into the renewal of life to which God calls us: a new heaven and earth; a new Jerusalem; a new garden; and a new relationship with God as He intends. And in Revelation, John of Patmos is instructed to write to churches to plead with them to renew their faith. He writes, "Remember then from what you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first" (Rev. 2:5a). Remember, repent, and do the works you did at first. That's needed advice.

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FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

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With all that COVID-19 has taken from us this year, I think it is also giving us an opportunity to renew the ways we approach the seasons of Advent and Christmas: without the baggage of dozens of parties, the chaos of shopping in crowded stores, and non-stop busyness. And I would urge you to take some time to think about this unprecedented opportunity:

- take some time to remember what made your childhood holidays special (or not special)
- think about what has changed (or not changed) to dull them
- repent—admit and leave behind—those things that dull
- hold fast to the things that brighten this holy season and holy day: the wonder and the excitement of new (and renewed) faith in Jesus Christ.

His Peace,
William

EXPERIENCE THE SPIRIT OF THE HOLIDAYS

Looking for a way to get into the spirit of the holidays in a faithful way? One of William and Claire's favorite things is traditional Lessons and Carols. Because of the pandemic, Sewanee (their Alma Mater) is presenting their annual Festival of Lessons and Carols Online on December 6 (at 7:00 PM).

Go to the Sewanee website to watch:

<https://new.sewanee.edu/campus-life/believing/all-saints-chapel/lessons-and-carols/>

William, Claire, and Sarah Jane
welcome "Henry" to the Campbell family!

William Henry Campbell

was born Friday, November 20th

"For you formed my inmost being. You knit me together in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful. My soul knows that very well." Psalm 139:13-14



STEWARDSHIP

YOUR STORY + OUR STORY + GOD'S STORY *Stewardship 2021*

Stewardship falls in the category of discipleship. Part of discipleship is the use of our money, gifts, abilities and resources. As followers of Jesus, we are called to leave the kingdom of this world and come under the rule and reign of God. When we choose to follow Him, we serve a new master and everything we have belongs to Him. We give back to God as His instruments on earth with praise and thanksgiving.

Video Messages

We were blessed with three special video messages from church members. These video messages were recently emailed to our congregation and are also available to view on our website. **Leslie Peart, Kimberly and Kent Tompkins**, and our Senior Warden **John Mason** each created short video messages to our membership telling about what Good Shepherd has meant to them during this time and what it means to them to give to the church.

Please take a few moments and watch these videos if you have not. They can be found at <https://cotgs.org/2020/10/26/commitment-sunday/>. (On the Home page of our website.)

Ways to Pledge

- **Pledge Card** - mail to the Church Office or bring to church
- **Pledge Online** - <https://cotgs.org/giving/make-a-pledge/>

Pledge cards have recently been mailed to every member of our congregation. If you did not receive yours, please call or the Church Office.

We appreciate your commitment to Good Shepherd. It takes all of us, as members, to run our facility, grounds, and programs, as well as help our community through mission and outreach.

Pledge cards can be placed in the offertory plate on Commitment Sunday, or anytime you are in church. They can be mailed or brought to the Church Office, or you can go on to cotgs.org and make a pledge or payment online.

GIVE ONLINE

Giving Online is simple!

3 Easy Steps:

1. Go to cotgs.org
2. Click the GIVING tab
3. PAY ONLINE & SUBMIT

The drop-down menu gives options to pay on your pledge as well as the ability to make other contributions.

If you have a **QR code reader** on your mobile device, scan over the image below and it will take you directly to our Online PAYMENT page!

QR CODE to GIVE ONLINE



You can scan the image below and it will take you to our "Make a Pledge" page on our website.

QR CODE to PLEDGE ONLINE



OUR NEW CHURCH APP IS AVAILABLE NOW!

Check Out Our Church App!

Access sermons, prayer requests, events and more.



1. Download Church by MinistryOne in App Store

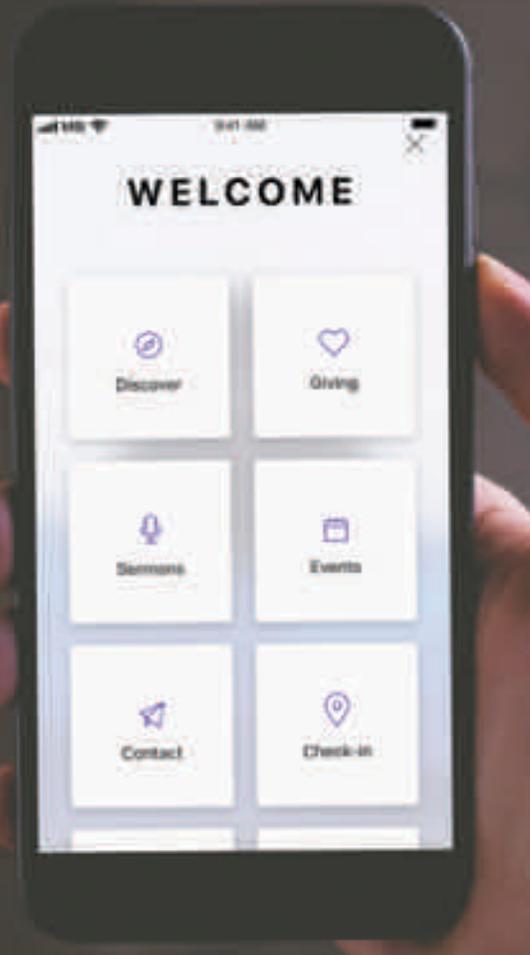


2. Search for Our Church



3. Select & Explore!

This App is Safe & Secure!



Church of the Good Shepherd is excited to announce our new "Ministry One" Mobile App!

Our App will allow you to:

- connect with members through the directory
- register and pay for events
- send prayer requests
- update contact information
- view recorded worship services
- pledge and give online and see giving history



← **Look for this App icon!**

The App is called MINISTRY ONE in the App store on your mobile device.

Once you download the app, church members can request to set up a personal profile. The directory will only be visible to members with these credentials. Members can also access their account.

Adult Sunday School

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

ADVENT-THEMED STUDY

9:30 a.m. in Munds Hall Auditorium

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

Join Fr. Milton and Fr. Philip for an Advent-themed Sunday School class. Come and be inspired by the season of Advent as we prepare the way for Him.

Sunday School for Young Families

Led by Rev. William Campbell

This special class for parents will take a break in December. It will resume with a new topic in January.

Wednesday Classes

Wednesday Evenings

NEW CLASS STUDY

7:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Zoom

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

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

Join Fr. Philip online for a bible study. The Story has concluded and a new topic of study has begun. Contact Fr. Philip at pmay@cotgs.org to sign-up and to get more information.

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.

TUESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Pilgrim's Path: A Study of the Psalms

IN-PERSON SPACE IS STILL AVAILABLE

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.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



YOUTH GROUP

Sundays - 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.

Our Youth Minister, Glenn Meschko, has created a fun and safe way to meet. We have games, fellowship, and a boxed dinner each week.

Activities and dinner are held outside. You must wear a **mask** and we will provide hand sanitizer. We will follow the protocol of the school/church, diocese and the state. Bring a friend!

Glenn is looking for parent volunteers for the Youth Group Kick-Off. Please text Glenn at 210-460-8788 to volunteer.

Children's Chapel

3 years old - 1st grade

Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

We are happy to provide Children's Chapel this Fall during our 10:30 a.m. service. Safety guidelines and protocol will be followed. **Temperatures will be taken upon arrival and masks must be worn. Hands will be sanitized.**



- Meet outside the chapel.
- We will walk socially distanced in a line to the playground for story time.
- Then we will play with social distancing.
- We will join the parents in the church during the Peace.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

9:30 a.m.

Sunday School is offered for all ages. We will follow 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 lead these classes.

3 Year Olds - 1st Grade: Room 107

2nd - 5th Grade: Room 102

6th Grade Confirmation: Room 106

NURSERY

Ages 1 - 2

Sundays from 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon

We are following our Phase 2b guidelines which can be found on our website. 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.

WORSHIP SERVICES & HOURS

Sunday Schedule for Summer

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

1 - 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

Weekday Services

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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