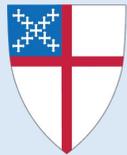


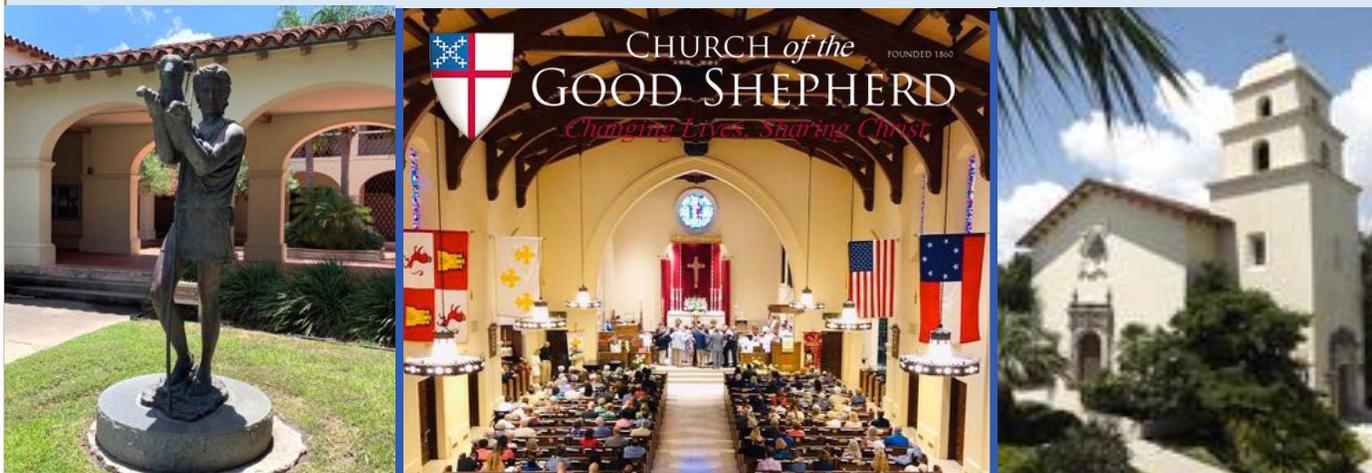
2021



# THE GOOD SHEPHERD

## JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Volume 51, Issue 1



### Important Message from the Rector for 2021

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"

~Psalm 122:1

Dear Friends in Christ,

A very Happy New Year to you all! 2020 is officially in the history books and we are all looking forward to a new beginning this new year. 2020 was difficult but also revealing. Our vulnerabilities were exposed, as well as those things that are most important. We were reminded of the things which sustain our lives; our faith in Jesus, our family and our friends.

The pandemic has been a direct assault upon the life of the Church and has given us a deeper appreciation of what we have missed. Praise and worship of our Lord is an essential life-giving aspect of our lives. We have sacrificed much under the circumstances to be safe as we continue in modified worship, social distancing, and viewing from home. I want to encourage everyone to continue in safety until we are over this, but for those who are able, it is really important for us to come back together. We need each other in more ways than we could have previously known.

Online worship is convenient but will never be an adequate substitute for worshipping together in-person. Worship is essential, but it is communal and incarnational, Spirit in the flesh. When we are singing and praising God together in His Holy Temple, God is powerfully present in His people gathered. We are fed, encouraged, lifted up, and sustained. We have been through a desert experience and are all hungry for a deeper communion with God to restore us to life and health, and there is only one place where that can truly happen; in the house of the Lord.

(continued on page 2)

## FROM THE RECTOR (continued)

(continued from page 1)

That's why this year's theme is Psalm 122:1, "I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." This year is all about coming back together and reclaiming the Holy Spirit in our lives; returning to the house of the Lord for the essential acts of praise, prayer, and worship. We need to be praying for each other and with each other. We will be teaching and preaching on the meaning of our actions and the value of our worship. Psalm 100 says, "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and go into His courts with praise."

It is going to take time for us to return to the strength and health we enjoyed before the plague. This year is going to be a rebuilding year, focused on rebuilding our community life. We hope to see everyone back in the house of the Lord together soon. We know we can't flip a switch, it's going to take time for the vaccine to circulate. Thank you for your patience and continued support. We have an amazing community of faith, and it is time to reclaim it.

Draw near to the Lord and He will draw near to you. The Lord inhabits the praises of His people. Keep on praising the Lord!

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.

### Online Options:

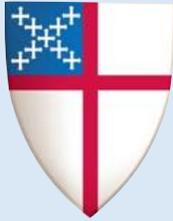
We record one of the Sunday morning services and then email the service to our congregation. It is also posted on our website at [cotgs.org](http://cotgs.org). Live Stream is also available on our website and our app at 10:30 a.m. Sunday mornings.

## Wednesday Evening Worship

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.

# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING



Sunday, January 24  
9:00 a.m.  
in the Sanctuary



Come hear about the impact of the Church in 2020  
and the direction we are headed for 2021

## EPIPHANY SUNDAY BLESSING

Sunday, January 10

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

Join us as we celebrate the visit of the wise men on the Feast of the Epiphany. As part of our celebration, we invite you to pray God's blessing over your home and loved ones for the coming year.

*Almighty God, you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. May we be blessed with good health, goodness of heart, gentleness and the keeping of your commands. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our love for each other may go out to all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## THANK YOU FROM THE CLERGY

We want to thank each and every one of you who so generously contributed to a Christmas offering for all of us. Your generous offering blessed us, not only by the amount, but by the spirit in which it was given. We would also like to thank those of you who brought Christmas sweets and goodies for the office staff to share. What a treat! Thank you for all of the Christmas blessings!

Gratefully and humbly yours,  
Milton, Philip, William, and Frank

## MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY MARCH & SERVICE

### Parade & Service Suspended for this Year

Martin Luther King Day will be held Monday, January 18th, however, this year the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority will not be able to sponsor the annual parade and service. We look forward to hosting the service at Good Shepherd next year.

*"Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."*

- Martin Luther King

# IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Dear Good Shepherd Family,

The Vestry has been preparing for our upcoming Annual Parish Meeting for the last couple of months. A very important part of preparation for the new year is nominating new vestry members. Due to the unique circumstances of our current situation relating to COVID-19, your Vestry saw the need to make a change under our Canons regarding the election of our new Vestry members. We carefully considered and discussed the challenges and requirements. This method is acceptable under our Canons.



On November 16, 2020, I submitted and the Vestry passed the following resolution: The outgoing vestry members, serving as the Nominating Committee for 2021, will select a slate of six (6) qualified parishioners, to be presented to the Vestry for adoption. The slate of six will then be presented to the congregation at the Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 24, 2021. This slate will be voted on as a group by acclamation to serve a 3-year term. Nominations will be closed December 4, 2020, thus there will be no nominations received from the floor of the Annual Meeting. **This process of election is being proposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and will be in place for this year only.**

We subsequently received a letter from Bishop Reed on December 7, 2020 reminding us of our duties under the Constitution and Canons. His letter discussed safety in gatherings both for Christmas services and our requirements to hold an Annual Meeting. Our Canons require that we elect our Vestry members at this meeting. He reminded us that: Voting shall remain anonymous so no “show of hands” or voice votes when electing Vestry members. However, if the number of nominees selected by the committee is the same as the number of vacancies, the slate may be elected “by acclamation”.

The following slate of nominees selected by the Nominating Committee and adopted by the Vestry will be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting: Rob Grainger, Amy Liles, Sue Madry, Joseph Payne, Gregg Robertson, Kimberly Tompkins.

Peace and joy be with each of you,

John Mason  
Sr. Warden

# VESTRY BIOS



## **Rob Grainger**

My wife, Georgia, and I joined the Church of the Good Shepherd when we moved here in 2011 shortly after we were married in Houston. Georgia and I have two boys, Robert is 5 and Mitchell is 2. Both have been baptized in this church. As an occupation, I have been the Ranch operations manager for a Dallas based family for 12 years on their landholdings in Texas, Missouri, Kansas and Arkansas. I am also a licensed Real Estate agent with Republic Ranches and own a Farm and Ranch recruiting service. I am honored to serve on the Vestry of the Church of the Good Shepherd.



## **Amy Liles**

I was educated as an attorney and spent my early years working in Trusts and Estates law in Houston where I met my husband of nearly 20 years, Kevin Liles. After moving to Corpus Christi and having twins in 2003, I officially retired from the practice of law and have enjoyed the last 17 years at home with Kaden and Olivia. I have served on numerous local boards and local charities, PTAs, clubs, and every activity with which my children were involved. Church of the Good Shepherd has been my family's church home since moving to Corpus Christi. I have taught Sunday School, Bible Study, Confirmation classes, acted as Vacation Bible School Director, Christmas Pageant Director, Acolyte Director, and served on Women of the Church, and as a Youth Advisory Committee member. My crowning achievement, however, is winning the "Golden Spoon" award at the advent chili supper in the mid-2000s!



## **Sue Madry**

I am a native of the Dallas area having moved to Corpus Christi in 1978. I was married to Bob Madry for 36 years until his death this past April. Together, we have 4 children, 2 daughters-in-law, 1 son-in-law and 5 grandchildren with another on the way. As a Registered Nurse, I work part time with CHRISTUS Spohn Health System's Community Wellness program. I was confirmed at Good Shepherd and became a member in 1987. My life has been enriched because of my involvement at Good Shepherd. I have taught Sunday School, served on the search committee for a Director of Music, was President of Women of the Church, and as a committee chairman at the 2010 and 2017 Diocesan Council. I am a past Directress of the Altar Guild, a past Vestry member, chaired the Evangelism Committee, and served as a Diocesan Council delegate twice. Currently, I serve on the Altar Guild, and enjoy a very long history in the Hand Bell Choir. I enjoy many community volunteer activities and have served on several community boards. I am honored to be nominated for the Vestry again and welcome the opportunity to serve.



## **Joseph Payne**

I have lived in Corpus Christi since I was 8, and I first began attending the Church of the Good Shepherd with my wife, Elena, more than 12 years ago. Good Shepherd is a very special place to me for many reasons. My wife and I were married here, and I was baptized along with my daughter, Juliana, in 2013. This event was very meaningful for me, and I have fully embraced my faith and commitment to raise my family in the presence of God. Later on, our son Parker had the honor of "playing" baby Jesus in the Christmas pageant and was also baptized in the church. Our children attend St. James Episcopal School, where they are given a loving learning environment only achievable through the strong connection that exists with Good Shepherd. I have worked in the medical device industry for 14 years, and I am currently employed as a District Sales Manager for Medtronic, Inc. I am honored to serve on the Vestry and look forward to being a voice for the young families of the church.



## **Gregg Robertson**

I have been a member of Good Shepherd since I joined the second St. James 1st grade class in 1962. Since then, I have been privileged to share most of the memorable moments in my family's life in the church. The Rev. Charles Dobbins sent me off to Sewanee in 1974 and since then, my sister, two daughters, two nieces and about 20 other Good Shepherd high school seniors have followed his sage advice. I have been honored to serve the parish in many capacities, but I am most proud of my tenure as an Acolyte director, Confirmation Class teacher, and member of the Belarus mission teams. I have served three previous terms on Vestry and currently enjoy significant involvement with the church at the diocesan level.



## **Kimberly Tompkins**

My husband Kent and I have been members of the Church of the Good Shepherd since 1997. We have three children: Riley, Reid, and Reagan. I have enjoyed being part of the Christian formation of the children of Good Shepherd over the years serving as Godly Play teacher, Sunday School Teacher, Youth Group volunteer, and Vacation Bible School volunteer. I have also served previously as a Vestry member, as a Greeter, and the Belarus Mission Trips. I am currently a member of the Daughters of the King. I am honored to again serve the Church as a member of the Vestry.

# CHRISTIAN FORMATION

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## Adult Sunday School

### LET US GO TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

**9:30 a.m. in Munds Hall Auditorium - Led by the Rev. Milton Black and the Rev. Philip May**

The Rev. Milton Black and the Rev. Philip May will lead an adult Sunday School class beginning in January. Together they will dive into the theme for 2021: "Let us go to the House of the Lord." They will discuss the importance of worship. Online worship is convenient but will never be an adequate substitute for worshipping together in-person. Worship is essential, but it is communal and incarnational, Spirit in the flesh. We have been through a trying year and are all hungry for a deeper communion with God to restore us to life and health, and there is only one place where that can truly happen; in the house of the Lord.

### THE BCP: RECALLING OUR CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

**9:30 a.m. in Dobbins Hall Adult Classroom - Led by Rev. William Campbell**

The Rev. William Campbell will lead a Sunday School class for all adults on the Book of Common Prayer. The BCP, as we call it, is the way we talk to and are in relationship with God as a group of Episcopalians. For us, it holds the words of our living faith. Bring a cup of coffee and your questions, and join Rev. William as he dives into the history, theology, and practice of who we are as Episcopalians and how we use the BCP to worship.

### NEW ADULT INQUIRERS CLASS

**9:30 a.m. in Munds Hall Library - Led by Rev. Frank Fuller**

The Rev. Frank Fuller will lead an Adult Inquirers Class in the new year for anyone interested in officially joining the Episcopal Church. This class will give a wealth of information about the Church and what it means to be an Episcopalian. If you are interested or have any questions, please email Fr. Frank at [fef3t@aol.com](mailto:fef3t@aol.com). (Attending on Zoom can be requested.)

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## Wednesday Evening Classes

### SHORT STORIES BY JESUS

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

**Led by the Rev. Philip May**

The Rev. Philip May will continue his online class, "Short Stories by Jesus." This is a study of the parables in the Gospels. Contact Fr. Philip at [pmay@cotgs.org](mailto:pmay@cotgs.org) to get the Zoom online meeting 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](mailto:fef3t@aol.com)**

Fr. Frank continues the class he began in the Fall on Revelation. 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 reads closely the visions of the seer John, seeking light to live by for our own times.

# CHURCH COMMUNITY

## ELIZABETH BLACK'S ONLINE BIBLE STUDY

### **Pilgrim's Path: A Study of the Psalms**

Offered Again this Winter as an Online Only Study

Independent Online Study

Work at your own pace!

**Pilgrim's Path - A Study of the Psalms is for those who seek to know and love God more, to discover God's purpose for their lives, and find their life in it.**

The book of the Psalms is a beautiful composition of poetry, ancient songs, and prayers that formed the Hebrew prayer book and hymnal that Jesus knew by heart. It has always led God's people to worship, drawing them into a vibrant relationship with the living Lord. It is also a book of wisdom, which uniquely prepares us for any spiritual, social, and emotional condition we can encounter in this life. To read the Psalms is to be given a powerful tool to walk through this circuitous and sometimes dangerous life with confidence, trust and hope in the God who has prepared the way.

#### **This Study Includes:**

**13 weekly lectures posted as Podcasts**

**13 sets of study questions**

#### **Work at your own pace:**

Listen to the Podcasts any time on any device (mobile phone, tablet or computer).

**This study is ideal for personal use or it can be the basis for a small group study - even remotely.**

#### **To Learn More Go To:**

**<https://elizabethheadblack.com/psalms-study/>**

#### **Register online to participate in the study.**

Direct Link to the registration page for the study:

<https://elizabethheadblack.com/psalms-registration/>

\$10 cost for all online materials.

## CHURCH COMMUNICATION

### **ARE YOU RECEIVING CHURCH EMAILS?**

If you have not been receiving weekly emails from the Church, please let us know. First check your "junk" email. If they are not there, please contact the Church Office so we can check to make sure you have not been "unsubscribed" and that we have your correct email address.



Email is our best way of communicating with our congregation in a timely manner.

## LIVE STREAM

### **LIVE STREAM IS NOW AVAILABLE ONLY ON OUR WEBSITE AND OUR APP**

We currently offer two online options for viewing our 10:30 a.m. service on Sundays.

- LIVE Stream
- Recorded Service

LIVE Stream gives you the ability to view the service in real time. Go to [cotgs.org](http://cotgs.org) and scroll down on the Home page to "The Latest." Or you can watch Live on our app.

Recorded services are available through our website and email after the 10:30 a.m. service.

# MISSION & OUTREACH

## THANK YOU ANGELS

Thank you to everyone who brought gifts for children attending Kostoryz Elementary whose names were on the Angel Tree! You are making a difference in a child's life. The gift you have given is beyond just the items in your package...you shared the love of Christ. We were able to help **70 children** who would have gone without gifts for Christmas right here in our own community!



## A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE CORNER

At this time of year our thoughts turn gratefully to those people who have made our progress possible! We cherish all our Patrons who provide donations; our Consignor's' mutually beneficial supply of goods; our generations of loyal customers and our volunteers' gifts of time so graciously given! We send our heartfelt **Thank You** to all who give to our mission!



We are so thankful, especially during these unprecedented times in our 45-year history, to have been able to continue our Acacia Program! In 2016 we expanded our mission with the Acacia Program to implement a paid job training program for case-managed women to acquire the necessary computer and business skills to move up and out of their sheltered environment. We have been so blessed to be working with some wonderful, remarkable women, who give us so much in return!

Also a **special Thank You** to our Acacia Program Director, Suzie Watson, for her special love and guidance in working with all of us in this highly successful program and to our store Manager, Julie Mundell, who graciously gives us direction with her special 'know how' when responding to a myriad of questions!

**Thank you**, Kathy and Mockette Lorenz for producing our new website: [GSCornerCC.com](http://GSCornerCC.com) being publishing just before Christmas!

We wish all y'all a joyful merry Christmas, good health and a prosperous new year!

Blessings!

GOOD SHEPHERD'S CORNER

*Susan T Swain*

President, Board of Directors

***"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction,  
faithful in prayer."*** Romans 12:12

# 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.

### Ways to Pledge

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

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](https://cotgs.org) and make a pledge or payment online.

## GIVE ONLINE

Giving Online is simple!

### 3 Easy Steps:

1. Go to [cotgs.org](https://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 church 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.

# YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



**RESUMES  
SUNDAY,  
JANUARY 10**

## 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!

## CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

3 years old - 1st grade

Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

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

**Hands will be sanitized.**

- Meet outside the chapel.
- We will practice social distancing.
- We will join the parents in the church during the Peace.



**Sunday School and Children's Chapel  
will resume Sunday, January 10th!**

## 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.

# PHOTO GALLERY

## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



## YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTIES



# 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  
Adult class w/Rev. Campbell in Dobbins Hall Classroom, and  
Adult Inquirers class w/Rev. Frank Fuller

## 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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