

Annual Address from the Rector

Grace to you and Peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

As we reflect on last year and look forward to 2023, I give thanks to God, for clearly His hand has been upon our church this past year. The theme we began the year with was "the Lord is near you, on your lips and in your heart." Well, the Lord has been very near to us indeed. We have come out of the pandemic extremely well. We continue to experience year over year growth in all age groups, especially young families, and children. Last year we welcomed into our fellowship 62 adults and 34 children. That doesn't include those who wish to remain anonymous. You can't help noticing the amazing number of young children and families in our midst.

God is blessing the Good Shepherd in so many ways. I am pleased that we were able to return to our regular schedule of programs this past year. We still have work to do in restarting some of our committees, as well as reenforcing some of our lay ministries who need additional people. Let us know if you would like to serve as an usher, greeter, lay reader, acolyte, altar guild, or choir member. There is a place for you here to exercise your gifts. We have so much to celebrate, and to be thankful for, and you are a big part of what makes Good Shepherd such a special place. It is all about the people, the warm hospitality, and a faithful community.

This coming year our theme will be taken from Psalm 95:1, "Come let us Sing to the Lord." These are words of praise put to music in the familiar canticle known as the Venite. You know it well. "Come let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to Him with psalms." "Come let us Sing to the Lord, for we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand. Oh, that today we would harken to His voice." Jesus is our Good Shepherd who is leading us, providing for us, and protecting us. We sing to the Lord our praise and thanksgiving for He is with us to deliver us. It is the message of salvation which the world is dying to hear. Come let us sing to the Lord!

There is a lot of excitement going on in our music ministries under the direction of Dr. Mi Ou Lee. Mi Ou has brought our Adult Choir back to support us in our worship. She has hired Joyce Wilcox to lead our bell choir, and what an amazing job Mi Ou done with our children's choir. In addition to everything Mi Ou is doing, she has been heavily engaged in the purchase of a wonderful new pipe organ for our church. With the help of our consultant, we have

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FROM THE RECTOR (continued)

contracted to have a beautiful new pipe organ built by the reputable Schoenstein & Co. of Benicia, CA. Established in 1877, Schoenstein & Co. is the oldest and largest organ builder in the western United States with a long list of notable projects, including St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Houston and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir Organ in Salt Lake City.

Our new organ will be designed and built specifically for our worship space and will include over 2000 pipes and 44 ranks with beautiful casework and exposed pipes in the chancel and in the balcony. It will be built this year and installed by the summer of 2024. Our existing organ, which has served our church beautifully for over 70 years, will be removed in January 2024. The organ chamber will be prepared for our new organ in February and March. The new Schoenstein organ will be installed in April and May of 2024, and then tuned in June 2024. That means we will be without an organ from January through June of 2024.

Today we are launching our "Sing to the Lord" campaign to fund the balance of \$1 million needed for the new organ. We hope to conclude this effort by the end of May. I want to thank our committee chairs Mary Clark, Karen Bonner, and Alex Kirkland for their hard work and dedication to this project. We welcome your generous participation in this exciting project that will be a blessing to this community for generations to come. Come let us Sing to the Lord!

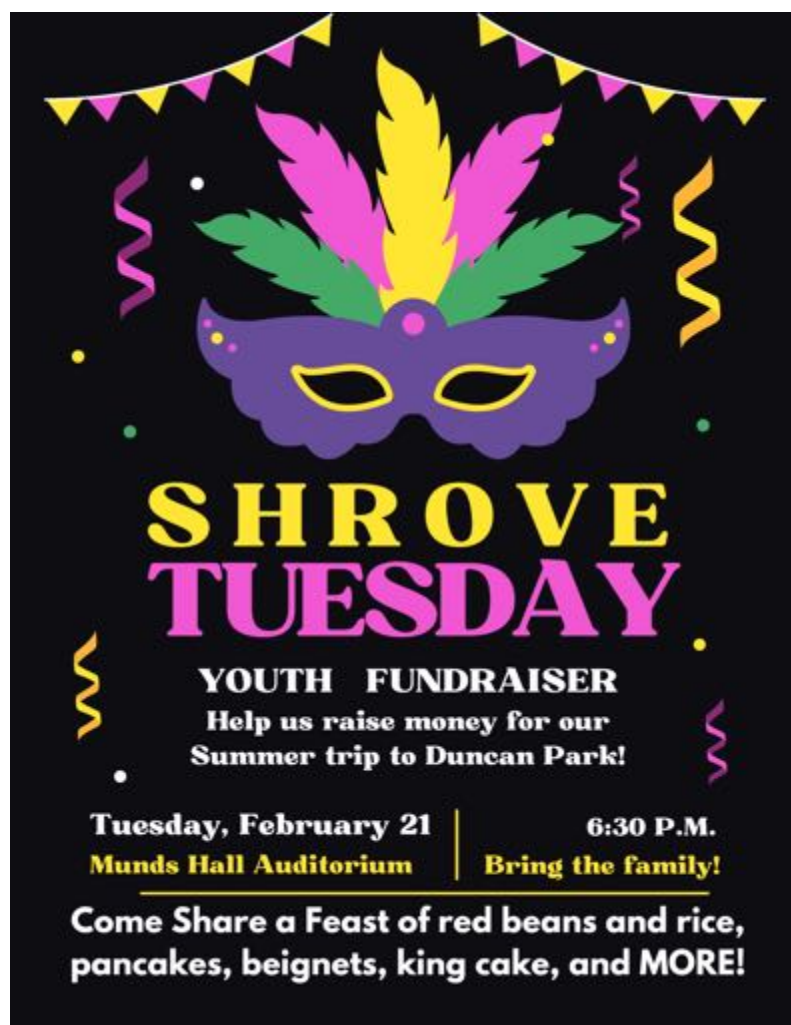
I am so proud of the outreach our church does through our many local mission partners, addressing the issues of poverty, hunger, homelessness, sex trafficking, and prison ministry. The Corner continues to thrive with the Acacia Job Training Program assisting women in transition with essential job skills. We continue to partner with Metro Ministries, Mission of Mercy, Mission 911, Kostoryz Elementary School, Operation Christmas Child, and support our camp scholarships and the Mustang Island Conference Center. Spend a moment with the Annual Report for a detailed list of our outreach for the year. It is very commendable. Come Let us Sing to the Lord!

I am grateful to the vestry and to this church for supporting a Sabbatical time away from my parish duties from April 10 - July 30, 2023. This year will mark the completion of my 15th year as your Rector and my 22nd year of ordained ministry. I am looking forward to another season of life together and give thanks to God every day for the privilege of serving with you.

Sabbath time is ordered by God in creation and is necessary for spiritual renewal, restoration, and recommitment to the next phase of our journey together. The Good Shepherd is blessed to have a strong team of clergy and an amazing staff to carry on our normal ministry activities. The team has assured me of their support, and I am confident that the church will not miss a beat in my absence.

We are grateful to be a part of this very special church family. I want to thank each one of you for your continued support, and all that you do to make our church so strong and vibrant. And last but not least, I want to thank our amazing staff. They serve faithfully every day in so many different ways. Each one of them is a true gift from God. We have the best team ever! Thank you all.

May God continue to bless us this year as we seek to be Christ in the world, and for the world. Come let us Sing to the Lord!



Shrove Tuesday Fundraiser

Shrove Tuesday will be hosted by our Youth Group this year. They are taking donations at the event for a Summer high school youth trip they are planning at Duncan Park, Colorado. Duncan Park is one of the camps of the Diocese of West Texas. They will explore this mountain area through various activities like hiking and river rafting, while also building their faith.

Our youth will set up for the event and clean up afterwards, as well as serve and make beignets.

There will be a basket set up at the Shrove Tuesday event for donations. You can also give online at cotgs.org under the Giving tab.

Thank you in advance for your support!

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 22

Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes

7:00 a.m.

12:15 p.m.

5:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday is the first of the forty days of Lent. The ashes placed on our foreheads are a sign of penitence and a reminder of our mortality.

WEDNESDAY LENTEN PROGRAMS

Wednesdays beginning March 1

Our Theme for Lent 2023:

"I Am the Good Shepherd"

Our theme and focus for this coming Lenten season reminds us each of us is the Good Shepherd. Through our ministry at church and in the world, we live a life for Christ. We come together to worship our Lord and to serve him through Christian Community.

We will highlight and celebrate the ministries of Good Shepherd. We will have "Ministry Moments" as we focus on a different ministry each week. Come hear stories of inspiration and celebration.

Each Wednesday in Lent we will gather for a program and potluck supper.

March 1

Music Ministries

March 8

Children's & Youth Ministries

March 15

Mission & Outreach Ministries

March 22

Men's & Women's Ministries

March 29

Worship Ministries

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Adult Sunday School

LIVING WORD - Going Deeper into Sunday Scripture Readings

9:30 a.m. in the Parlor - Led by the Rev. Milton Black and the Rev. Philip May

The Rev. Milton Black and the Rev. Philip May will lead a discussion-based class utilizing the scripture readings from each Sunday's services. This is very similar to what we have offered this summer in the Parlor, which has been very popular! The day's scriptures will guide us as we learn from one another and better understand God's Word.

INQUIRERS CLASS

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

The Rev. William Campbell will lead an Adult Inquirers Class in Dobbins Hall Classroom 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. Please call Fr. William in the Church Office at 361-882-1735 if you have any questions about this class or officially joining the church by being confirmed or received.

WISDOM IN THE HEBREW BIBLE: The Human Condition

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

Some of the lesser known writings in the Old Testament grapple with the most difficult challenges of life. This class will search through the books of Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Songs to explore God's lessons on despair, folly, cynicism, and passion. Can we find God's grace, mercy, and forgiveness in the darkest and brightest times in our life? Join Fr. Frank in Munds Hall Library.

Wednesday Evening Class

HOW WE GOT THE BCP: Prayer Books through the Centuries

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

Led by Rev. Frank Fuller

We continue our study in the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) as a treasure mine of spiritual experience built on thousands of years of human exploration with God. We look at what history can teach us and how our lives can be enriched by the resources of the BCP.

THE OLD TESTAMENT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT: How the Evangelists Interpret the Prophets

6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the Parlor

Led by Rev. Philip May

Rev. Philip May's new Wednesday evening class is a follow-up to his Fall class, *The Words of the Prophets*. Join him in the Parlor!



**WOMEN'S RETREAT
2023**
God's Grace
THE FOUNDATION OF A LIFE OF GODLINESS

Mustang Island Conference Center
Wednesday, March 29 - Thursday, March 30
(6:00 p.m. Wednesday - 1:00 p.m. Thursday)

Cayce Harris will lead our Women's Retreat at the beautiful, Mustang Island Conference Center this Spring. Cayce is a mother of five and executive director of the ONE prayer ministry in San Antonio, and she currently resides in Port Aransas. We have a special treat this year - Betsy Pierce will be our musician! And we are excited to be able to use the new conference center chapel!

Linda Pate will host the event for women of all ages. This is a wonderful weekend of relaxation, inspiration, fellowship and delicious food! All of your meals will be provided: dinner Friday night and breakfast and lunch Saturday. All rooms have two double beds, as well as a balcony.

1 to a Room - \$205 2 to a Room - \$180 3 to a Room - \$140 4 to a Room - \$105
Day Guests (no overnight) - \$20 per meal
(Room prices include dinner Friday night and breakfast and lunch Saturday.)

The retreat begins Wednesday with dinner at 6:00 p.m. but you can arrive as early as 4:30 p.m. to check in.

For more information contact Linda Pate at 361-739-2292.

REGISTER ONLINE HERE: cotgs.org/2023/01/27/womens-retreat-2023/
(Or you can scan the QR code to the right)




NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
in the Parlor
Led by Elizabeth Black

One of the hardest things we are asked to do is love each other.

How do we love those nearest to us, whose faults we know so well?

How do we love our neighbor, whom we hardly know?

If you have ever struggled with real, practical ways to love another, please join us for this new study, LOVE IS, written and led by Elizabeth Black. In it, we will take an in-depth look at the four famous, often-recited verses of 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Following the teachings of Jesus throughout the gospels, and the Apostle Paul, we will discover that love is an action, not a feeling - love is strong, not soft or sentimental - love is committed, not fleeting. Above all else we will discover that love is the attitude, character, and action of God at work in us.

NEW VESTRY MEMBERS

Thank you to all who came to our Annual Parish Meeting on January 29th. We had a full house, a fabulous breakfast, an overview of the past year's ministry highlights, and a look at our vision for 2023.

We elected a new class of six vestry members to serve a three year term. The newest members of the vestry:

John Bishop
Cecil Childers
Dos Gates
Ward McCampbell
Nina Perabo
Elizabeth Stewart

A very special thank you to everyone who faithfully agreed to be nominated. You have the gratitude of our congregation.

Our new Senior Warden is Gregg Robertson.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR PERFORMANCE DATES

Our Children's Choir will be performing for us on the following days:

Wednesday, March 1

6:45 p.m. in Munds Hall (Lenten Program)

Sunday, March 26 at the 10:30 a.m. service

Sunday, April 23 at the 10:30 a.m. service

Sunday, May 21 at the 10:30 a.m. service

SOCCER GEAR DONATIONS NEEDED

Sixth Grade Confirmand, Thomas Patterson is collecting used soccer essentials for kids of all ages who do not have equipment to play as his confirmation project. Donations can be brought to the school or church offices. Thank you!

Gear Needed:

soccer cleats
shin guards
soccer balls
goalkeeper gloves

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

FEBRUARY YOUTH GROUP

Sundays for All Youth 6th - 12th Grade!

Sunday, February 5

Prep Bags for Tacos not Bombs

- Middle School from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Youth House
- High School from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Youth House

Sunday, February 12

Serve at Tacos not Bombs

- Middle & High School meet at the Youth House at 11:45 a.m. and carpool to Artesian Park
- Lunch afterwards at the Executive Surf Club

Sunday, February 19

Gym Night

- Middle School from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Gym
- High School from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Gym

Sunday, February 26

Arts & Crafts or Four Square Tournament - Your Choice!

- Middle School from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Youth House
- High School from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Youth House

KINGDOM KIDS

Wednesday, February 1

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Kinder - 6th Grade in the Gym

Younger children in the Nursery



Kingdom Kids is an evening of fun, food, and fellowship for children from St. James and Good Shepherd. There are games and free-play in the gym, as well as dinner and a bible story.

The cost is a \$8 donation paid online at cotgs.org. RSVP online through our website or through our Ministry One church app.

HAPPENING #153

March 3- 5

St. Albans Episcopal Church, Harlingen

All high school students in 10th - 12th grade are encouraged to attend Happening! This is a spiritual renewal weekend for older high school students, led by their peers. This is a fun and life changing retreat weekend you will not forget! Please go to dwtx.org to register today. Registration fills up quickly!

ST. JAMES SUNDAY

Sunday, February 5 at 10:30 a.m.

We will welcome the students and staff of St. James Episcopal School for our annual St. James Sunday service. The children and youth of St. James will participate in our 10:30 a.m. service. A reception will follow in the Courtyard.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

9:30 a.m.

Sunday School is offered for all ages. Each week we offer a bible story with fun activities.

3 Year Olds - 5th Grade: Room 107

6th Grade Confirmation: Munds Hall

CELEBRATION & CHILDREN'S CHAPELS

10:30 a.m.

Children's Chapel

for children ages 3 - Kinder
in the Children's Chapel

Celebration Chapel

for children in 1st - 6th grade
in Munds Hall Auditorium

Each Chapel is a special service created especially for children. Children will join their parents in church for communion

NURSERY

Ages 1 - 2

Sundays from 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon

We offer nursery for children ages 1 - 2 in Dobbins Hall during Sunday School hour and the 10:30 a.m. service.

CHURCH AND DIOCESAN NEWS

CAMP SUNDAY

Sunday, February 5

The Diocese of West Texas camping programs host children, youth and adults at three unique locations - **Camp Capers** in the Texas Hill Country, **Mustang Island Conference Center** near Port Aransas, and **Duncan Park** west of Boulder, Colorado in the Rocky Mountains. Donations are needed for scholarships. **There will be a special offertory taken Sunday, February 5th for our camps.** Go to dwtx.org/event-categories/camps to find out more about the camps of our diocese.

119th COUNCIL OF THE DIOCESE OF WEST TEXAS

February 16 -18

American Bank Center, Corpus Christi, Texas

Council 2023 will convene in-person February 16 - 18, at the American Bank Center in Corpus Christi, TX.

Clergy, as well as lay delegates will assemble to hear ministry reports, conduct the annual business of the Diocese, worship together, participate in workshops, and share fellowship. On February 18, the clergy and Council delegates will participate in the Bishop Coadjutor Election.

A selection of reports and worship services will be broadcast live on the diocesan Facebook, Vimeo, and website, at dwtx.org/council.



SPECIAL VISIT FROM BISHOP PONS OZELLE

Sunday, February 19

8:00 and 10:30 a.m. services



On February 19th we will have a very special guest preacher, The Rt. Rev. Pons Ozelle from the Nebbi Diocese of the Church of Uganda. Please join us in giving Bishop Pons a warm welcome. His visit to Corpus Christi begins with Diocesan Council on February 16-18 and will conclude with his visit to Good Shepherd on the 19th.

Rev. Ozelle gave his life to the Lord in 1993 at the age of 24. He was ordained a deacon in 2000 and then made a priest in 2001. He has served as Diocesan Secretary and Diocesan Administrator of Nebbi Diocese, Archdeacon of two Archdeaconries, parish priest, and Chaplain of several schools. Rev. Ozelle has also served with World Vision, taught at Uganda College of Commerce and Paidha Primary Teachers' Training College, and Chaired the Boards of Governors for Uringi Secondary School and Pakwach Secondary School. Rev. Ozelle is married to Edna Owila, who teaches at Uringi Secondary School, and God has blessed them with four children.

COOKIES FOR COUNCIL

St. Mark's Episcopal Church Corpus Christi has been asked to provide 6,000 homemade cookies for the hospitality area during our Diocesan Council. They need our help! Please bag them in Ziplock bags, write the type of cookies and the quantity on the bag. Cookies can be delivered to American Bank Center lobby on Wednesday, February 15th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or bring them to our Church Office and we will deliver them.

SPRING BREAK FAMILY CAMP

March 16 - 19

Mustang Island

Conference Center

Spend Spring Break weekend with your family on the beach at Mustang Island Family Camp! Enjoy swimming, singing, surfing, arts & crafts, delicious meals, a buried treasure hunt, beach games, worship, building sand castles, fishing, resting under a beach umbrella, a campfire, and more. Programming begins Thursday afternoon/evening and continues through Sunday lunch. Each day ends with worship, music, and a family-centered Bible teaching.

Register at dwtx.org.

WORSHIP SERVICES & HOURS

Sunday Schedule

8:00 a.m. Traditional Eucharist
8:45 a.m. Breakfast Fellowship
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Family Eucharist
5:30 p.m. Come As You Are Service

Nursery For the Little Ones

1 - 2 Years in the Nursery 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Sunday School Classes

Sundays 9:30-10:15 a.m.

Children Meet in the Water Street Classrooms

Youth Meet in the Church Office Break Room

Adults:

Large Group w/Rev. Black & Rev. May in the Parlor

Inquirer's Class w/ Rev. Campbell in Dobbins Hall Classroom

Small Group w/Rev. Fuller in Munds Hall Library

Weekday Services

Tuesdays at 12:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist Service

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

Monthly Services

We offer a service of Holy Communion at the Trinity
Towers/Brookdale retirement community at 3:30 p.m. on
the first Sunday of every month.

St. James Chapel Services

Tuesdays at 8:05 a.m. Middle School Chapel

Tuesdays at 8:45 a.m. K- 4th Grade Chapel

Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. Preschool Chapels (4 services)

Thursdays at 8:05 a.m. All School Chapel

Parents are welcome at All School Chapel on Thursdays.

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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