

2023



THE GOOD SHEPHERD

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Volume 53, Issue 10

An Update from the Rector

Dear Good Shepherd Family,

I am thrilled to be back home in Corpus Christi and doing well! The stem cell transplant went according to plan, without setbacks, and my cancer is in full remission, where hopefully it will remain forever. The transplant involved one heavy dose of chemotherapy to wipe out my immune system and then a reintroduction of my own stem cells to regenerate all new blood cells and a new immune system. As a result of the chemo, all previous immunities, both natural and vaccine related, have been removed. I'm like a newborn baby who will need to be revaccinated over time and slowly develop my natural defenses against the most common diseases.

I have missed you dearly and am eagerly looking forward to getting back to the good work that God has called us to at the Good Shepherd. The immediate plan for the month of October will be to work remotely by zoom, phone, and email. As I progress in strength and health, we will work on a plan to manage my exposure to larger groups and environments that may pose some risk. We will have to be creative for a while until I can return to the full Sunday worship experience in person. My desire is to get back to normal as soon as possible without throwing all caution to the wind. We have come too far to do that now.

The Lord has been teaching me through this journey how to be on the receiving end of His love through all of you. I do not have words to express my gratitude to each of you for your thoughtful notes and generous meals, your uplifting prayers and encouraging words. I have never experienced anything quite like the overwhelming support of this congregation. There is no doubt that God's healing grace is very present in your prayers, and they are the reason why I have responded so well to my treatments.

I want to thank each of you, our vestry and staff, for all of your ongoing support during this time. Please keep the prayers coming; they have made all the difference. Pray particularly for protection against any setbacks or infections, and for a full remission forever. Thank you for your amazing love and prayer support.

I am yours in Christ,

CHURCH COMMUNITY



It is that time of year when we consider all that the church means to us and all that the Lord has provided for us. After your prayerful consideration, we ask that you make a pledge for the coming year. Pledges can be made in church, by mail, on our website (cotgs.org), or on our Ministry One app.

Pledge cards will be sent out the first week in October along with a letter from Milton about Stewardship and our theme, "Come Let Us Sing to the Lord" as we give thanks and offer praise to Him who gives us all that we have.

Ways to make your Pledge:

Bring your Pledge Card to Commitment Sunday

Mail your Pledge Card to Church of the Good Shepherd

Pledge Online at cotgs.org under the Giving tab

Pledge on our Ministry One app

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

Sunday, October 22

At all of our Services:

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

5:30 p.m.

Pledge cards will be mailed out the first week in October. Please prayerfully consider your commitment to God's work through the church.

On Commitment Sunday, we will go forward to the altar with our "first fruits" in the form of your pledge. This motion is a beautiful sacramental action. We are taking something that represents our life and bringing it to the altar to dedicate it to God. So, please bring your pledge card with you to church on Sunday, October 22nd to make this commitment to God.

October Schedule of Events

October 1 - **Blessing of the Animals**

October 4 - **Kingdom Kids**

October 9 - 13 - **St. James Episcopal School Fall Break**

October 21 - **Wheelchair Ramp Build**

October 22 - **Commitment Sunday**

October 22 - **Get Connected Luncheon for Newcomers**

October 27 - **St. James Episcopal School Fall Fest**

A Stewardship Message from the Rev. Milton Black

“Come Let Us Sing to the Lord. Let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.” Our praise and worship is our sacramental offering to the Lord, our outward and visible expression of the inward and spiritual grace that God has done in our lives. Because of God’s unconditional love for each of us, we express that love back to Him through our lives. That’s what happens here at the Good Shepherd, we come and experience God’s love and forgiveness and take His love and forgiveness out into the world around us through our lives.

Each of us represents an outward and visible sign of God’s love in the world. We express that Love of God through the commitments we make of our time, talent, and treasure. These are the expressions of our lives that define us, our personal investments in the **“Changing of Lives, and the Sharing of Christ,”** in our own lives and in the world around us. The mission and ministry of this Church is incredibly important to the health and vitality of our community.

This is the time of year that we ask each of you to prayerfully consider your financial expression of gratitude toward God through the life of the Good Shepherd and take another step in faith. The financial commitment that you make is a hopeful projection of what you would like to give back to God through the Church in the calendar year 2024. The strength of our Church family, which we all see and enjoy, is founded upon the many years of faithful supporters like yourselves.

As we look toward the coming year, it is our prayer that you will partner with us in the mission and ministry of Christ by making a pledge commitment which expresses your sacramental offering to God as a percentage of your income, working toward the biblical standard of the tithe (10%). Please use the enclosed 2024 pledge card to record your desired giving for the coming year.

The Church is the only organization in the world that makes an eternal difference in the lives of individuals, families, and communities for Christ. Please join us in celebrating the remarkable life that we enjoy here at Church of the Good Shepherd. As an expression of our praise and thanksgiving, bring your pledge cards to Church on **Commitment Sunday, October 22nd**, where we will all come forward and make our sacramental offering to the Lord together.

Thank you for your support of the mission and ministry of the Good Shepherd.



MISSION TRIP TO SOUTH DAKOTA

Report from the Rev. Philip May on the Mission Trip to the Cheyenne River Reservation

Here is a quick look at some of the highlights of the mission trip to the Cheyenne River reservation in South Dakota. **Kent and Kimberly Tompkins and I** joined a group from Christ Church in San Antonio, and two other folks from St. Dunstan's in Houston, to help repair some church buildings and to create some friendships. There are ten episcopal churches on the reservation, which itself is about the size of Connecticut. They are tended by Fr. Kurt and Mother Ellen Huber, who are a very dynamic duo. Kurt and Ellen also run a mission called Black Horse Ranch, which gives Lakota youth an opportunity to work with horses, and discover their equestrian roots.

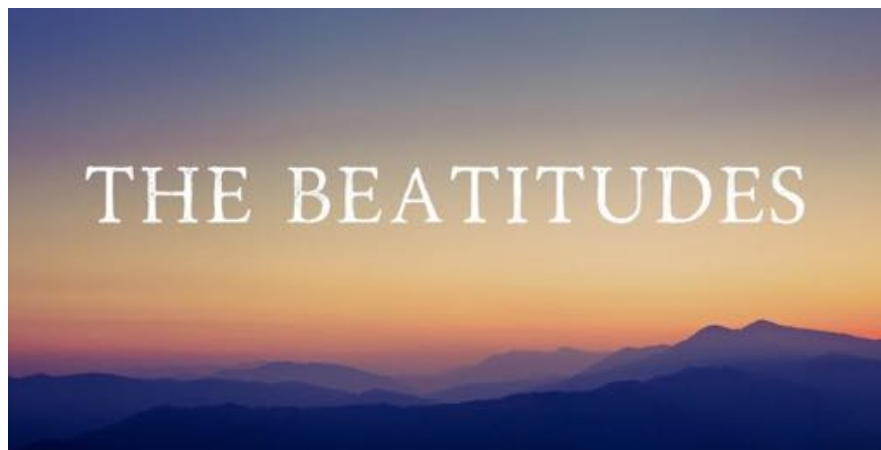


We fixed walls, painted inside and out, did some landscaping, and all sorts of other projects, to help keep the buildings vibrant as centers for their little communities. We celebrated the Eucharist with Mother Ellen and Father Kurt and their communities, and had two community "feeds", where we provided dinner, got to know people, and Kent Tompkins played some basketball with young folks (and very well, too!)

We'll be presenting more information in the near future, and we'd love to go back. Maybe you'd like to join us.



CHURCH COMMUNITY



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Beatitudes Developing Spiritual Character

TUESDAYS

10:00 - 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor

The beatitudes reveal to us qualities that bring God's blessing. Jesus highlighted these to offer both encouragement and instruction to his followers in a world with values much different than God's. Using John Stott's book, *The Beatitudes: Developing Spiritual Character*, we will study these qualities and integrate them into our lives so we can receive the blessing Jesus promised to his followers then and now.

Our Women's Bible Study will be lead by a team of women including Sam Gates, Janie Bruun, Lula Martin, Betty Fuller, June Leibfarth, Claire Campbell, Natalie Werkhoven, and Marcia Mell. If you have questions, contact Betty Fuller at seedlings@aol.com.

Bring your Bible and the study book. The book can be purchased on Amazon. Search for The Beatitudes by John Stott. (The cost is \$11.19.)



MORNING PRAYER

Monday - Thursday

8:00 a.m.

on Zoom

w/Rev. Philip May

Start your day out right! Join Fr. Philip for a *Morning Prayer by Zoom*, Mondays through Thursdays. The link is on the Church web page, and on our Ministry One app.

This is a very simple service of scripture and prayer, and we'll be finished and ready to face the day in 15 - 20 minutes.

Find the Zoom link at
[cotgs.org/worship/
morning-prayer/](http://cotgs.org/worship/morning-prayer/)

Wheelchair Ramp Build Ministry

Next Build is Saturday, October 21

8:00 a.m.

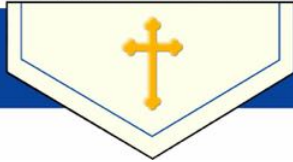
Location to be announced soon.

The Episcopal Ministries of Corpus Christi join together once a month to build wheelchair ramps for families in need in our community. This is a wonderful way to not only build something that will make life better for someone, but also to make connections in our community. The builds typically take place the third Saturday of the month and begin at 8:00 a.m.

The next build will be Saturday, October 21. Be on the lookout in our Sunday Announcements and our Thursday emails for the exact location of this build.

CHURCH MINISTRIES

Altar Guild



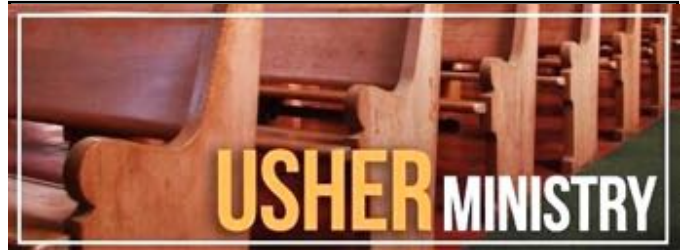
Join the Altar Guild!

The Altar Guild is a dedicated group of women who are committed to the service of God. They maintain the sacristy and sanctuary, care for the sacred vessels, linens, candles and liturgical decorations used at the altar. Members commit to serving before and after a service, including weekday services, weddings and funerals. They work in teams to prepare for the weekly services. There is no age limit to join! They will teach you everything you need to know. All you need is a willing heart to serve God and our Church.

You only serve once a month!

- You work in teams
- One service a month (a Sunday or a week day). You spend an hour or two "housekeeping" on a day of your choice.

Please contact Amber Fish at 828-612-6231 if you are interested.



Join our Usher Ministry!

A great ministry for anyone who wants to serve!

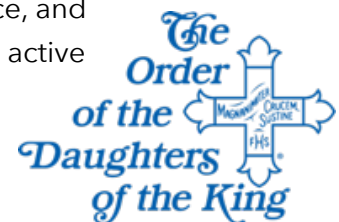
- **Enjoy it as a personal ministry.**
- **Enjoy it together as a family**
- **Enjoy it as a way to get service hours**
- **You can serve as much or a little as you want.**

The Usher Ministry is in need of more men and women to volunteer at each of our 10:30 a.m. Sunday services. The primary duties and responsibilities include welcoming parishioners, passing out the bulletins, taking up the collection, and offering assistance. This is a great opportunity to serve with very little time commitment required. You will serve about once a month, or more if you would like. It is an important ministry!

Schedules are very flexible. You can serve as often as you would like. If you are interested please contact Susan Linnane in the Church Office.

Join the Daughters of the King

The Daughters of the King is an international lay order for Anglican, Episcopal, Lutheran and Roman Catholic women who are vowed to prayer, service, and evangelism in their daily lives. The Church of the Good Shepherd has an active chapter which meets regularly to pray and study together. The Daughters of the King pray for our parish, for individuals based on submitted prayer requests and for the wider community and world.



If you are interested in finding out more about the Daughters of the King or would like to join them, please contact Pam Greene who will be the new president beginning in September. Call the church office to get her contact information.

FALL CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES

Adult Sunday School this Fall

LIVING WORD - Going Deeper into Sunday Scripture Readings

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

The Rev. Milton Black and the Rev. Philip May lead a discussion-based class utilizing the scripture readings from each Sunday's services. The day's scriptures will guide us as we learn from one another and better understand God's Word.

ARE MY KIDS ON TRACK?

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

In Rev. Campbell's new Sunday school class, we define emotional, social, and spiritual milestones for our children, break them down for understanding, discuss stumbling and building blocks associated with each, and ask questions to identify practical ways to help equip our kids as they learn, practice, and progress in them. We utilize the book, *Are My Kids on Track: The 12 Emotional, Social, and Spiritual Milestones Your Child Needs to Reach*.

THE PSALMS: God's Songs and Ours

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

The Psalms are ancient lyrics that touch our hearts to this day. Whoever uses them finds them able to express our hopes and laments in the best and worst of times. This class embraces and searches through the Psalms to explore God's word for all our moments, from joy to despair and back.

Wednesday Evening Classes this Fall

RELIGION & SCIENCE: Conversations Seeking Paths to Truth

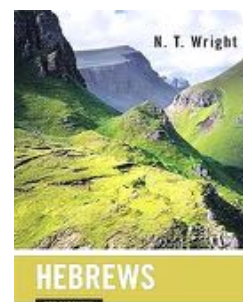
6:30 p.m. in Dobbins Hall Adult Classroom - Led by Rev. Frank Fuller

The search to better understand the world through scientific inquiry has seemed for some to deny any search to know God. Are faith and reason friends, enemies, colleagues, or frenemies? The class examines the historic conversation between science and Christian spirituality to seek a more mature faith and a deeper appreciation of what modern science can achieve and what it cannot.

EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS

6:30 p.m. in the Parlor - Led by Rev. Philip May

The Rev. Philip May leads a class on the Epistles of the Hebrews using Bishop N.T. Wright's book *Hebrews for Everyone* available on Amazon. (For a clickable link visit the Home Page of our website and look under "The Latest" for Wednesday Classes.) This class is offered both in person and online through Zoom.





BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

**Sunday, October 1
4:30 p.m.
in the Courtyard**



Join us for our annual Blessing of the Animals in the Courtyard. Please bring your pets on leashes, in crates, or in cages as needed.

If you would like to help a local animal shelter, please bring dog or cat food to donate.



CHILDREN'S & YOUTH MINISTRIES

KINGDOM KIDS

Wednesday, October 4

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.

You must RSVP online through our website (cotgs.org) or through our Ministry One church app.

October Youth Group

Sunday, October 1

Water Balloon Launcher!

Meet at the Youth House

6:30 p.m. Middle School

7:30 p.m. High School



Sunday, October 8

Fall Break - No Youth Group

Sunday, October 15

Board Game Night

Meet at the Youth House

6:30 p.m. Middle School

7:30 p.m. High School



Sunday, October 22

Movie Night

Location to be announced

6:30 p.m. Middle School

7:30 p.m. High School



Sunday, October 29

Serve Dinner at Ronald McDonald House

time to be announced

SUNDAYS FOR YOUTH & CHILDREN

Sunday School

In Water Street Room 107

9:30 a.m.

Confirmation Class

In Munds Hall Auditorium

9:30 a.m.

Children's Chapel

In the Children's Chapel

Preschool - Kinder at 10:30 a.m.

Celebration Chapel

In Munds Hall Auditorium

1st - 6th Grade at 10:30 a.m.

Youth Group

6:30 p.m. for Middle School

7:30 p.m. for High School

NURSERY

Ages 6 months - 2 years

Sundays from 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

We offer nursery in Dobbins Hall during Sunday School hour and the 10:30 a.m. service.

Happening #155

November 17 - 19

Church of the Good Shepherd, Corpus Christi

Attention all High School Students in 10th-12th Grade!

You can "Happen" right here in Corpus Christi...at Good Shepherd!

This is a life changing and extremely fun weekend you will NOT want to miss!

Happenings are for high school students in the diocese who are in 10th - 12th grade. This is a spiritual renewal weekend for high school students and is led by their peers.

You can invite a friend to share the experience with you. You do not have to be a member of Good Shepherd to participate. The cost is \$60. (All meals included.) Scholarships are available. Call the Church Office at 361-882-1735 to get information about scholarships.

Registration fills up quickly, so register as soon as possible!

Register at dwtx.org.

Happen in
Corpus Christi at Good
Shepherd!

Diocesan Celebrations of Bishop David & Patti Reed

The Bishop's Transition Committee is excited to invite everyone in the Diocese of West Texas to two celebrations for the shared ministry of the Rt. Rev. David M. Reed and his wife Patti.

October 7 at Camp Capers in Waring and November 4 at St. Alban's in Harlingen

Give a Gift of Gratitude:

Give a gift of gratitude for Bishop David & Patti Reed to the St. Francis Chapel Renovation! *Make your gift by September 1 to be recognized during the Camp Capers celebration.*

You can give only at dwtx.org/give or mail a check to the diocesan office made out to DWTX and labeled "St. Francis Chapel Gift."

Cursillo #289

Mustang Island Conference Center: October 5-8

Led by Lay Rectora Michelle Little (Holy Spirit, San Antonio) and the Rev. Tommy Bye (interim St. Luke's, Cypress Mill), Cursillo #289 will take place October 5 - 8. This "short course" in Christian life is a four-day retreat for adults that aims to create disciples - Christians empowered and strengthened through prayer, sacraments, study, and community. Participants will receive practices to live out their faith at home, tools to share the joys of knowing Christ with others, and the support of the 4th Day community.

[Click here](#) to learn more and sign up or go to dwtx.org.

PHOTO GALLERY

Third Grade Bibles



Rally Day



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

6 months - 2 Years in the Nursery 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Located in Dobbins Hall (next to Munds Hall).

Sunday School Classes

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

Living Word w/Rev. Black & Rev. May in the Parlor for Adults
Are My Kids on Track? w/Rev. Campbell in Dobbins Hall Class
The Psalms w/Rev. Fuller in Munds Hall Library
Children meet in Water Street Class 107

Good Shepherd Office Hours

Monday - Friday from 8:00 - 5:00

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.