

2024



THE GOOD SHEPHERD

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Volume 54, Issue 2

Annual Address from the Rector

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

2023 was marked by several significant events which truly reflected the health and vitality of the Church of the Good Shepherd. We began by launching our "Sing to the Lord" capital campaign for our new Schoenstein Pipe Organ, followed by an unexpected cancer diagnosis and sabbatical time away for the Rector. It was not the sabbatical I had planned, but given the circumstances, a timely gift from God.

The silver lining in an otherwise challenging year was realizing how very present God was to me and Elizabeth during all of it, teaching us to lean on Him one day at a time, and learning to receive your powerful love and healing prayers. Your words of encouragement, loving notes, delicious meals, and unfailing prayers, are evidence of God's Holy Spirit at work through you, and were also the means by which I am now healed and in full remission.

Thanks to our incredible staff, seasoned leadership, and the powerful presence of the Lord in this place, our church carried on through it all without missing a beat. I am so grateful for the support of so many. I feel like the "new guy" who has some catching up to get to know our new members who have come among us in my absence. I am fully back, highly energized, and really excited about all that the Lord is doing among us in this next season of ministry together of Changing Lives and Sharing Christ.

On August 6th we celebrated a tremendously successful "Sing to the Lord" capital campaign which raised \$1.4 million in support for our new organ. I want to thank our committee members, ambassadors, and all who contributed to the success of this effort.

Our old organ had served us well for 74 years and has now gone on to a new home. The space is being prepared for the installation of our new Schoenstein pipe organ, which will begin in April and end in July. There is tremendous excitement around this project, as well as with our entire music program under the leadership of Dr. Lee. The children's choir is at full capacity, the adult and bell choirs are doing great, and the new organ is going to add so much to our worship.

Last year we welcomed into our fellowship 64 new adults and 34 children. That's almost the same amount as the previous year, and that doesn't include those who wish to remain anonymous. We baptized 29, confirmed 21, and sent 23 of our loved ones off on to their next great adventure in Christ.

As our various ministries continue to grow, we have to be able to resource and support the growth that we are experiencing, which necessarily means stepping up our financial support. We have recently hired Devin Batey as a Youth Ministry Assistant, Julia Prickett as a Children's Ministry Assistant, and we are currently in need of a Music Ministry Assistant.

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ADDRESS FROM THE RECTOR (continued)

It's an exciting time to be here, and an opportunity to step out and be involved in what God is doing among us. The Lord continues to bless us financially as we finished the year in very strong fashion, but every year our Ministry Plan is based on faith. We trust that God will continue to provide as we seek to do His will. The funds needed to support our ministry continue to increase, so it's really important to have all of our members giving toward the mission of the church.

We are in a generational transition, which is evident in the number of young families and kids that we have, and the number of funerals that we are doing. And so, it's critical that we pass on healthy giving patterns to the next generation as they will be growing into the leadership of the church. Our expectation is that everyone who is blessed to call the Good Shepherd home would develop a habit of giving proportionally back to God through the Church as a sign of your commitment to God, and your church family.

As we look forward to 2024, our focus will be on claiming the Light of Christ in our own lives and shining His Light into the world around us. In Matthew 5:14, Jesus said, "You are the Light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden." The Light of Christ is a gift that is not meant to be hidden, so we are going to be learning to let our light shine more brightly before our friends, our kids, our co-workers, and our neighbors so that everyone can see it and come to it.

Jesus invites us to share life with Him and participate with Him in His ongoing mission for the sake of the world. He calls us to be followers and disciples, to be learners and students, so that we can be "fishers of people." We are all students of the Master, each growing in our capacity to know Him more and to make Him known, Changing Lives and Sharing Christ.


Our renewed emphasis on basic discipleship is central to our vision at the Good Shepherd. We are a welcoming Christ-centered church in a time of declining church engagement and cultural fragmentation. Our church is uniquely called to be a bright light to all in our community. This vision is not fulfilled with more church programming and services, but by each member learning more how to grow in Christ and going forth into the world for Christ.

Our light shines through our outreach into the community in so many different ways. Spend a moment with the Annual Report for a detailed list our outreach for the year. Our total outreach last year was \$254,500 and 11,400 service hours.

I want to thank each one of you for your continued love and support, and all that you do to make our church so strong and vibrant. And I want to thank our amazing staff. Let's give them a hand! They serve faithfully every day in so many ways. Each 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 continue to shine the Light of Christ into the world, and for the world. We are the Light of the World!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Milton" followed by a small cross symbol.




**SHROVE
TUESDAY**

Come share a Feast of red beans and rice, pancakes, beignets, king cake, and MORE!
We will have crafts for children.

Tuesday, February 13 | **6:30 P.M.**
Munds Hall Auditorium | **Bring the family!**

Any donations you would like to give at the Shrove Tuesday event will go towards our youth program and diocesan camps.

Lent Begins



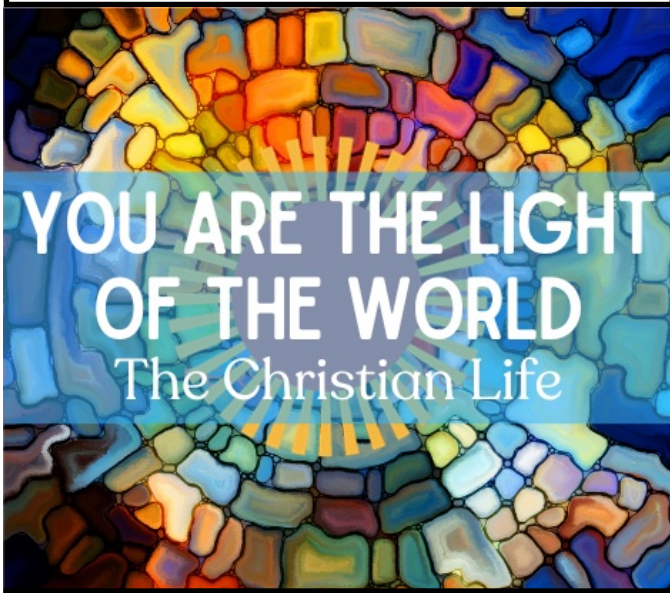
ASH WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

HOLY EUCHARIST & IMPOSITION OF ASHES

7:00 AM
12:15 PM
5:30 PM

Wednesdays in Lent



Lent Theme:
You are the Light of the World: The Christian Life

What does it mean to be a Christian?
What does it mean to embrace light and to shine?
What does it mean to know Christ
and to make Christ known?

Wednesdays in the Season of Lent

5:30 p.m. Eucharist with Healing Service
6:15 p.m. Potluck Supper in Munds Hall
6:45 - 7:30 p.m. Program

February 21 - Why Jesus?
with Rev. Milton Black

February 28 - Why Church?
with Rev. William Campbell

March 6 - Adopting a Rule of Life
with Rev. Philip May

March 13 - Why Scripture?
with Rev. Frank Fuller

March 20 - Conclusion - Owing your Story
with Rev. Milton Black

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER ON C.S. LEWIS

C.S. Lewis Scholar and Collector - Dr. Steven Beebe - This is open to everyone!

Wednesday, January 31 in Munds Hall Auditorium at 6:30 p.m.

On January 31, Rev. Frank Fuller has invited a very special guest speaker to join us. Dr. Steven Beebe is Regents' and University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Communication Studies at Texas State University, San Marcos. He is a communication and C. S. Lewis scholar who discovered a fragment of an unpublished manuscript started by C.S. Lewis that was to be co-authored by J. R. R. Tolkien about communication (*Language and Human Nature*). Beebe has more than 60 published articles and book chapters. He is the author or co-author of 14 books that have been used at hundreds of colleges and universities. He discovered two unknown and unpublished poems by Lewis at Oxford. His book, which summarizes his C. S. Lewis research, *C. S. Lewis and the Craft of Communication*, was published in 2020 by Peter Lang.

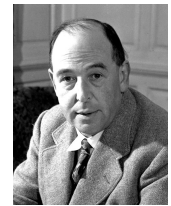


Wednesday Evening Classes

C.S. LEWIS - Short Writings, Long Thoughts

6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in Dobbins Hall Adult Classroom - Led by Rev. Frank Fuller

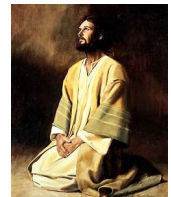
C.S. Lewis remains the most beloved Christian writer of the 20th century. Many know his longer works like *Mere Christianity*. This class reads and explores his shorter works, such as *The Abolition of Man*, to find Lewis' insights into his changing times and ours.



PRAYING WITH PAUL

6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the Parlor - Led by Rev. Philip May

Prayer features in every one of Paul's letters, and Paul can teach us how to pray more faithfully, and more deeply. He encourages us to see prayer as an opportunity to grow into greater intimacy with God, and cultivate compassion for one another. Join Philip in the season of epiphany (January 3-February 14) for a simple potluck supper, and a time to learn about prayer with Paul. We follow a wonderful book by D.A. Carson, *Praying with Paul*, available at Amazon.



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

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

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

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

The Rev. William Campbell leads a New Members Class in Dobbins Hall Classroom for anyone interested in officially joining the Episcopal Church. This class gives 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.

NATIONS RISE & FALL: GOD ABIDES

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

Crisis times are normal through all human history, just like today. This class explores the prophetic works of Jeremiah and Ezekiel as they endured their times of crisis in Judah and Exile in Babylon. God's word to his chosen people during judgment and redemption set the stage for a new world and the coming of Christ. What can their words say to us in our times?

CHURCH COMMUNITY

NEW VESTRY MEMBERS

Thank you to all who came to our Annual Parish Meeting on January 28th. We had a full house, a fabulous breakfast, an overview of the past year's ministry highlights, and a look at our vision for 2024.

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

Drake Beauchamp
Duane Herbst
Mike Kershaw
Sara Smith
Debi Welch
Susanne Wood

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 Barry McBurnett



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Jesus Christ: Teacher, Servant, and Savior

Led by Elizabeth Black and the Teaching Team

Tuesdays in the Parlor

10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

How we understand the person of Jesus, and whom we believe him to be is the foundation of our Christian faith. How can we answer the call to love the Lord with all our heart unless we know him? If you would like to learn more about the most important and central figure of history, and deepen your faith in the One who manifests God's love today, come join this study.

This winter and spring, we will follow John Stott's study, Jesus Christ, Teacher, Servant, and Savior. John Stott was one of the world's leading and most-loved Bible teachers and preachers, named by Time Magazine as one of the "100 Most Influential People in the World". We will explore how Jesus is revealed in the scriptures - the proper object of our worship, witness and hope. This study has the potential to change forever how you know, experience and love Jesus, the "incomparable Christ."

Please join Elizabeth Black and the teaching team for this 14-week study. **You will need to purchase the study booklet, Jesus Christ, Teacher, Servant, and Savior, available through Amazon or your favorite book retailer.** Bring your Bible and a friend. Everyone is welcome!

CAMP SUNDAY

Sunday, February 4

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.

Go to dwtx.org/event-categories/camps to find out more about the camps of our diocese.

120th DIOCESAN COUNCIL

February 22 - 24

The 120th Diocesan Council of the Diocese of West Texas will convene February 22 - 24 in San Marcos. Clergy and lay delegates will assemble to hear ministry reports, conduct the annual business of the Diocese, worship together, participate in workshops, and share fellowship.

HAPPENING #156

March 1 - 3

St. David's, San Antonio

All high school students in 10th-12th grade are encouraged to "Happen!"

Happenings are spiritual renewal weekends led by peers. Registration is open a dwtx.org. Scholarships are available through Good Shepherd or the diocese.

To Know & Be Known Reflections on the Friendship of Jesus



Women's Retreat 2024

Mustang Island Conference Center
Wednesday, February 28 - Thursday, February 29
Speaker: Elizabeth Black

Elizabeth Black will be our speaker for our annual Women's Retreat on Mustang Island. She will speak on the topic: *To Know and Be Known - Reflections on the Friendship of Jesus.*

Linda Pate and Samantha Gates will host the event for women of all ages. This is a time of relaxation, inspiration, and fellowship with delicious food! All of your meals will be provided: dinner Wednesday and breakfast and lunch Thursday.

All rooms have two double beds, as well as a balcony.

1 to a Room - \$215 - 2 to a Room - \$180 - 3 to a Room - \$140 - 4 to a Room - \$105
(Room prices include dinner Wednesday night and breakfast and lunch Thursday.)

Day Guests (no overnight) - \$30 dinner - \$20 lunch - \$15 breakfast

You can pay online when you register or with cash or check the day you arrive at the conference center.

We begin Wednesday with dinner at 6:00 p.m. but you can arrive as early as 4:30 p.m. to check in. The retreat ends after lunch on Thursday.

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



REGISTER ONLINE HERE: <https://cotgs.org/2024/01/10/womens-retreat-2024/>
(Or you can scan the QR code to the right)

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

FEBRUARY YOUTH GROUP

Sundays for All Youth 6th - 12th Grade!

Sunday, February 4

6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Middle & High School Cops & Robbers at TAMUCC

Sunday, February 11

2:00 p.m. Middle & High School at Rock & Rollin Ice Cream (2033 Airline)

Sunday, February 18

11:00 a.m. Middle School prepare lunch at Ronald McDonald House

4:30 p.m. High School prepare dinner at Ronald McDonald House

Sunday, February 25

11:45 a.m. Middle School Pizza & Movie in Munds Hall Auditorium

6:30 p.m. High School Dinner at Cancun Restaurant (4252 S. Alameda)

KINGDOM KIDS



Wednesday, February 7

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. Register and pay online through our website or through our Ministry One church app.

ST. JAMES SUNDAY

Sunday, February 4

10:30 a.m. Service

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.

Join us for some
P B & J

Pickle Ball & Jesus!

For Good Shepherd & St. James Children
1st - 4th Grade

\$60
Per Month

Wednesdays 3:30 - 5:00 pm
Begins February 7
Al Kruse Tennis Center

 Register Here

Transportation will be provided between the Church and Al Kruse for drop-off. (Al Kruse provides the van.)
Parent pick up afterwards at Al Kruse.

The Church of the Good Shepherd is providing an after school opportunity for your kids to learn and play pickleball. Each time we meet we will have a short talk about Jesus and pray together.

The van will pick up your children in the Water Street parking lot at 3:30.
Please bring a water bottle and if you prefer, a change of clothes.
Snacks and paddles will be provided.

Pay for the month when you pick up your child on the first day.
Cash or Credit Card to Al Kruse Tennis Center.

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

New Members 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 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.