

2025



THE GOOD SHEPHERD

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Volume 55, Issue 1

From Generation to Generation

Dear Friends in Christ,

Our theme for 2025 is "From Generation to Generation." We are so blessed to be a church that is growing with many young families and children, and with this great blessing comes a great responsibility, that of "helping these children (and parents) grow into the full stature of Christ", as we commit to in our baptismal service.

The nature of our relationship with God is that it is lived out in people's lives and passed down from person to person from generation to generation. The Church is the repository of our faith. Faith is not a possession but a gift, a gift received, and a gift given. Our faith in Jesus is ancient, but also fragile, as it is always one generation from extinction.

God knew this when He gave Moses the roadmap to a relationship with God and one another. Moses said, "These are the laws the Lord your God charged me to teach you to observe the land that you are about to cross into, so that it may go well with you and your children and your children's children. Keep these words in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise."

We all want it to go well with us, but especially with our children and our children's children. So, as parents and grandparents, Godparents and sponsors, mentors and friends in Christ, the most important mission that God has given us all is to pass on a living faith to the next generation. It is, by far and away, the greatest gift one could give to a child, or anyone. Our focus this year will be on growing in faith from one generation to the next.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26th in Munds Hall from 9:00-10:00 a.m. We will have breakfast, vestry elections, and reports from the Wardens and Treasurer. Please try to be present at this important parish meeting. If you are unable to be there, be sure to come by the church office to vote absentee for vestry beginning January 13th. Please join me in thanking all of those who were willing to stand for election to the vestry this year and keep them in your prayers. We will elect six people to serve a three-year term.

We continue to give God our thanks and praise for the health and vitality of this amazing community of faith. "Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to Him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Eph. 3:20 & BCP 126" Looking forward to a great year!

Yours in Christ,

CHURCH COMMUNITY

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

Church of the Good Shepherd ANNUAL PARISH MEETING



Sunday, January 26

9:00 a.m.

Munds Hall Auditorium

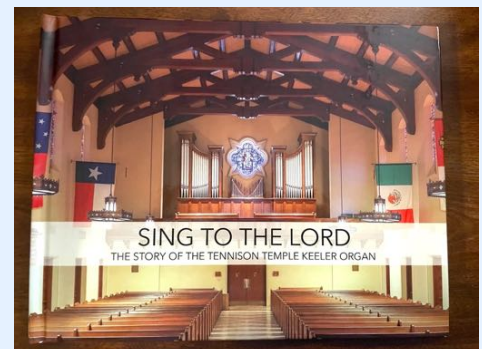
Come hear about the impact of the Church in 2024
and the direction we are headed for 2025.

Breakfast will begin at 8:45 a.m.

We will vote on new Vestry members at the beginning
of the meeting, so please be on time.

Organ Book

We have created and published a book that tells the story of the Tennison Temple Keeler Organ. It tells a beautiful story of God's provision, generosity, community, and vision. Come get your copy of this historical moment in the life of the Church of the Good Shepherd. They are available for you to purchase for \$30 in the Church Office, or we can mail you a book at no extra charge.



IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT PLEDGES NEEDED

We praise God that we are a growing Church, but with growth comes new challenges. We need your help to make sure we are prepared financially for the coming year.

Approximate number of families in our church community: 470

Household Pledges received for 2025: 183

Our goal, based on our needs, is to receive 300 pledges and increase pledges, in total, by at least \$245,000. Please help us reach our goal by the end of this month.

How to Help:

- Make your pledge for 2025 by scanning the QR code on this page. You can also go to cotgs.org or turn in a pledge to the Church Office.
- Consider increasing your pledge for 2025.
- Consider giving for a specific purpose: youth and children's ministries, mission and outreach, Christian Education, facilities upkeep and repair, music ministries, etc.



If you have made a pledge for 2025, thank you! If you have not yet done so, we ask you to prayerfully consider your financial expression of gratitude toward God through the life of the Good Shepherd.

ANGEL TREE GIFTS FOR KOSTORYZ ELEMENTARY

Thank you to everyone who put together a bag of gifts for children at Kostoryz Elementary!
What a Blessing!



CHURCH COMMUNITY

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ADULTS

SUNDAYS AT 9:30 A.M. BEGINNING JANUARY 5

Living Word: Going Deeper into Sunday Scripture Readings - *in the Parlor*

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.

New Members Class - *in Dobbins Hall Adult Classroom*

The Rev. William Campbell will lead an adult New Members 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 have any questions about this class please call Fr. William.

From Jesus to Constantine - Jesus' Revolution *in Munds Hall Library*

The group around Jesus erupts in three centuries from a small Jewish cult to a worldwide church that captures the hopes of an empire. This class will explore how the New Testament writers and the leaders, thinkers, and martyrs that succeeded them saw God's transforming work revolutionizing their church world. What can their faith and teachings say to us today? Join the Rev. Frank Fuller for this new class.

NEW WEDNESDAY EVENING CLASSES FOR ADULTS

WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30 P.M. BEGINNING JANUARY 8

Christian and Being Disciples - *Led by Rev. Philip May in the Parlor*

We will be reading and reflecting on two wonderful books by Archbishop Rowan Williams: *Being Christian* and *Being Disciples*. *Being Christian* is about the foundational things that make our Christian community unique: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, and Prayer. *Being Disciples* reflects on the ways these essentials work in our lives. Williams' reflections are always profound, but also expressed in commonsense, practical ways that will help us all. Join us, to learn and to share a nice pot luck dinner each week. Both books are available at Amazon.

Different Witnesses: The World Religions - *Led by Rev. Frank Fuller in Dobbins Hall Class*

How are Christians to understand the teachings and practices of the religions that guide the lives of so many other human beings? What can we learn, and what must we teach in this multicultural world? This class will continue to survey the major world faiths, focusing on east Asia and modern ideologies, using Stephen Prothero's book *God is Not One* and other resources.

Martin Luther King Day Walk & Service

Monday, January 20

Begins at noon at the Nueces County Courthouse

The march will process from the courthouse to the Church of the Good Shepherd. Delta Sigma Theta will sponsor this annual event. Everyone is welcome!

St. James Sunday

Sunday, February 2

10:30 a.m. Service

On February 2nd we will welcome all of the students, families, and staff of St. James Episcopal School at our 10:30 a.m. service. We will celebrate our partnership as a church and school!

CHILDREN'S & YOUTH MINISTRIES

Youth Summer Mission Trip

Our youth will be going on a mission trip to Austin, Texas from July 20-25. The cost is \$350 but we also have scholarships to attend. This opportunity is open to rising sixth graders through 2024 high school graduates. While Austin is a vibrant city known for its diversity and creativity, its growing community has led to rising living costs and an increased homeless and low-income population. Participants will make a significant impact by serving in adult programs, homeless ministries, food banks, and kids' programs. We are partnering with Group Mission Trips, the same organization we use for VBS resources. Glenn Meschko, who has participated in many of these trips, has witnessed students' lives changed in Christ through these experiences. Group designs Jesus-centered experiences through devotions and interactive programs, fostering meaningful encounters with Jesus and fellowship. Local projects include engaging with seniors at an Adult Day Health Center, serving meals at a Soup Kitchen, and supporting children at a Child Development Center, all guided by well-trained, Scripture-focused staff. **Spaces are limited, so please let Glenn know if you are interested.**

<https://groupmissiontrips.com/trip-types/community-service/austin-texas>

January Youth Group

Sunday, January 5

High School at Marble Slab at 6:30 p.m.

Friday, January 10

Middle School Gym/Youth House from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Friday, January 17

No Middle School Youth Group

Sunday, January 19

Middle and High School

Cops and Robbers at TAMU-CC at 6:30 p.m.

Friday, January 24

Middle School Gym/Youth House from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 26

High School Dinner and Game Night w/Friends at 6:30 p.m.
(Location to be determined.)

Friday, January 31

Middle School Gym/Youth House from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.



KINGDOM KIDS

Wednesday, January 8

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Kingdom Kids is a fun evening of fun, food, and fellowship for children from Good Shepherd and St. James. There are games and free-play in the gym, as well as dinner and a bible story for children in Junior Kinder - 6th grade. The nursery and Kid's Zone are available for younger children. The cost is \$8 paid online at cotgs.org. Registration is open.



SUNDAYS FOR CHILDREN

Sunday School

9:30 a.m.

Children Preschool 3 - 5th Grade
Water Street Classroom 107

Confirmation (6th Grade)
Munds Hall Auditorium

Children's Chapel

10:30 a.m.

for 3 year olds - Kinder

Celebration Chapel

10:30 a.m. in Munds Hall
1st - 6th Grade

NURSERY

Ages 6 months - 2 years

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

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

VESTRY NOMINEES

The Vestry is a lay led board of 18 members who are elected by the congregation and serve a 3-year term. It makes the governing decisions for the business and ministry of the church. The following members of Good Shepherd have been nominated to serve on the Vestry. **We will elect 6 new members at our Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 26th.** Thank you to each of these members for faithfully agreeing to be nominated. If you are unable to make it to the meeting, you can absentee vote in the Church Office from January 13 - 24. Voting must be done in person.

Jean Albright



I was baptized in 1938 in Trinity Episcopal Church, Yazoo City, and Bill Barth and I were married in 1958 in St. James Episcopal in Jackson, Mississippi. In 1965, we moved to Corpus Christi with our four children-- Billy, Bobby, Margaret, & Mary Bet-- when Bill began his OB-GYN practice. And here, we added John, our true Corpus Christi native. Our family entered Good Shepherd through "the portal" of St. James School, where my children received the excellent foundation that has served them through academia and beyond. At the urging of Mary Bet & John, the tug of our litany during St. James Chapel services, and Bill's quiet encouragement, I moved my letter to Good Shepherd. Here, I've served on the Altar Guild, participated in Women of the Church, Jenette Hammer Guild, & Friends of St. James. Bill, ever steady, followed, was confirmed here and, in time, was buried from Good Shepherd's sanctuary in 1998. I married Jim Albright in 2000 at COTGS. We moved to Rockport where I joined St. Peter's and was a member of the Altar Guild, Community of Hope, Circle of Care, and the Audit Committee and taught VBS and Sunday School. I returned to Good Shepherd in 2015. I am grateful and take great joy in gathering, in learning, in the way this church holds us all with care and purpose.

Jordan Anderson



I began attending Church of the Good Shepherd after my first child was born in 2010. I was raised in the Methodist Church, and I am the great grand daughter of a Bishop of the Methodist Church of Virginia. My husband and I were married at First United Methodist Church in Corpus Christi. I was drawn to Good Shepherd in 2010, as it was the place where most of my friends attended at the time, and I wanted my children to grow up in a church family surrounded by people they knew and trusted. Both of my children Harlan (14) and Finley (12) were baptized at Good Shepherd. Harlan is now an acolyte for the church and Finley is currently in the Confirmation Class. Finley is also a 6th grader at St. James Episcopal School. I would be honored to serve on the Vestry and give back to the place that welcomed me with open arms.

Sam Beecroft



I was raised in Corpus Christi and attended St. Bartholomew's growing up. I have been a member of the Church of the Good Shepherd since I returned to Corpus Christi in 1984. I was welcomed as a visitor on my first visit to the church and have felt at home here ever since. Over the years I have served as usher, Sunday School teacher, Vestry member, Junior Warden, and a committee here and there. I have worked in commercial building construction since coming back to Corpus Christi, have been active in community affairs from time to time, and have recently stepped back a bit from work. But I have the good fortune to be husband to Melissa Wilson and new grandfather to our son Davy's first child, Claire Elizabeth Beecroft.

Rebecca Bradford



Ten years ago, I was looking for a new Church home. Linda Pate said we should come see the Christmas Pageant at her Church. She said she knew our family would love the Church of the Good Shepherd, and we do. The Clergy, Staff and parishioners are warm and welcoming. Now, this is also the Church of our children and their families. We have four grandchildren. One is in the U.S. Navy. The three younger grandchildren have been Baptized in this beautiful Church and all three are St. James Jaguars. I am a member and past president of Jenette Hammer Guild and am honored to be nominated for Vestry this year.

Hicks Layton



I have been a lifelong member of the Church of the Good Shepherd. I was baptized & confirmed here, and I served as an acolyte until I left for college in 2016. Since moving back to Corpus Christi in 2021, it's been a pleasure to get more involved in the church community. I currently serve as a lay reader, have attended Father Phillip's Wednesday evening classes, and am a member of our new Evangelism Committee. I am humbled to be nominated for the vestry and look forward to another opportunity to serve our church community.

VESTRY NOMINEES



Jonathan Martin

As a recently retired family physician I made my home in Corpus Christi for the past 40 years where I met and married my wife Lula Lee. We were married in the Church of the Good Shepherd although we attended Presbyterian churches where I served on the session and diaconate and chaired the budget and stewardship committee. Our family later transferred to the Good Shepherd where we enjoy a supportive church family and spiritual worship services. I have served on the Good Shepherd Endowment committee in the past. We raised our 3 children Sarah, Jonathan and David who each attended St James. Sarah was also married to David Nuss at the Good Shepherd becoming the fourth generation in Lula's family to be married in the church. I look forward to having the opportunity to serve the church.



Steve Stone

I grew up in the Methodist faith in Houston where I was a Sunday School teacher, Church Board Member, VBS volunteer, and usher for 30 years. I always appreciated the Episcopal Church for the history and focus on the sacraments and traditions. When my wife, Wynette and I moved to Corpus Christi in 2015, our daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren had become involved in COTGS, through St. James Episcopal School. We immediately loved the welcoming school community and started visiting the church. Soon we found ourselves in Bible studies and Confirmation class. My wife Wynette found wonderful friends through Elizabeth Black's Bible Study, and we enjoyed Sunday classes, worship, and helping with VBS. The Church and Clergy helped our family tremendously when Wynette passed away in early 2021. She loved the Church so much, so to keep myself busy and honor her passion for it, I committed myself to many activities including cooking breakfast, building sets for VBS, being a confirmation sponsor, Wednesday evening classes, ushering, and then becoming a Lay Reader. COTGS and SJES are where I spend most of my free time these days - whether it's working the scoreboard at basketball games or making breakfast on Sundays, I value my time spent with the community and am honored to be nominated. I would proudly and faithfully serve the Vestry.



Michael Sasser

My wife Christina and I joined the Church of the Good Shepherd seven years ago when we moved back to Corpus Christi where we both grew up. I was a member at Parkway Presbyterian Church but attended youth group at Good Shepherd. We have three children, June(8), Tate(6), and Jacob(3) all who attend St. James Episcopal School. Outside of the Church I manage my family's ranching and hunting operations as well as sell farm and ranch real estate. I also serve on the board of Foster Angels of South Texas, the board of Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers, and as a Commissioner in the Buccaneer Commission. I am honored to have been nominated to run for the Vestry and if elected look forward to serving the church family we have grown to love.



Elizabeth Vanexan

After moving here in 2001, Ken and I joined the Church of the Good Shepherd. Ned Bowersox announced to the congregation that we were new members and called us to the front of the Church for a meet and greet. We weren't prepared for the announcement, he surprised us. This started our incredible journey at the COTGS. Early on I belonged to the Guild of the Christ Child, was president of the Women of the Church, and for many years I have volunteered at Vacation Bible School. I have also seen the Church's impact on my children, Stewart and Wilson. From baby Jesus to Gabriel to the Acolyte program to youth group my boys have grown up in this amazing Christian environment. In recent years, we opened our home for movie nights and the annual youth Christmas party. COTGS truly guides the youth, and I have felt fortunate to help in those efforts. Currently, I am a lay reader, an experience that has positively impacted me and continues to strengthen my faith. I feel so blessed to be part of our Church community and would be honored to serve on vestry if elected.



Gaylynn Wheat

I was born and raised in Corpus Christi. I was baptized and confirmed in the Methodist church, and participated in the Children's and Youth choir and was an active member of the Methodist Youth Fellowship. I graduated from King High School, attended Southwestern University, and earned my bachelors degree in Elementary Education from the University of Texas. I started my teaching career in Flour Bluff and then moved to San Diego, CA where I taught for 16 years. During that time, I earned my Masters degree in Education from San Diego State University and was involved with the Junior League. I moved back to Corpus Christi in 2003 and worked as Assignments Editor at a local TV station and then went back to teaching. When I met my husband, Tom, I began attending Good Shepherd and it has become a very special place of worship for me. Tom and I were married here in 2017 and I have enjoyed this community so much! I retired in 2016 and I have been blessed to be a part of the Jenette Hammer Guild, serving as secretary for two years, attending Corpus Christi Women's Bible Study, and have been a member and yearbook editor for the Ocean Drive Garden Club. I am blessed to be a part of this church and community! I am honored and humbled to have been nominated and considered for the Vestry and look forward to serving if elected.



Judy Woodson

I was confirmed at Good Shepherd in 1980, along with my husband Ronnie and two children, Jeff and Ashley. Ronnie had completed medical school in Galveston and moved back home to practice. Jeff and Ashley attended St. James, and I served as President of the Friends, School Board Member, and Sunday school teacher. Through the years, I have been President of the Women of the Church and the Jenette Hammer Guild. A most exciting time for me at Good Shepherd was when I organized and attended an EFM class (4 years) and training as a teacher. God and Good Shepherd play a major role in my life, and I am honored to be considered for your Vestry.

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

New Members Class w/Rev. Campbell in DHAC

From Jesus to Constantine w/Rev. Fuller in Munds Hall Library

Children meet in Water Street Class 107

Confirmation Class meets in Munds Hall Auditorium

Weekday Services

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 8:40 a.m. K- 4th Grade Chapel

Wednesdays at 8:20 a.m. Preschool Chapels

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

Parents are welcome at All School Chapel on Thursdays.

Good Shepherd Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.