

Church of the Good Shepherd

December 2010 Newsletter

Dear friends in Christ,

It's Advent and we need to prepare! We need to prepare for the Christ Child. We need to clear our heads and our hearts so we can welcome the real reason for the season. In four weeks (about five days after Christmas) nobody will remember how much you spent on whoever it is, but they will remember the quality time and love you've poured on them. They will cherish those Christmas moments that were made special by a prepared heart and a soul ready for the Incarnate Son. You are the gift, you are the real treasure. First Advent has already come but there is still time for your Christ work, your preparation for the greatest birth, the greatest gift ever.

Part of the preparation is getting our affairs together. For us in the church, it's both the spiritual and the physical. Yes that means move that saddle bag along. Look deeply into your heart for your pledge. Do all your budgeting – family, faith and future – require your time and your treasure. If you wish to help with the greening of the church, be sure to fill out your sheets. Sign up for the WOC sheets. Be a part of the church's activity. You are the Body of Christ on this world and in this place. Step up. Look for those ways you can help. Get in the spirit of this most spiritual time.


Please consider serving on the vestry. We need people willing to get active and involved. It doesn't matter if you've never served. That's how you get started. Yes, it might be a bit overwhelming at first, but unless you are willing to dive in, who do you think will?

Keep in mind that Soup and Scriptures continue Mondays at 12:10 except this Monday, the 6th. I will be out of town at a meeting by then. Lessons in Morning Prayer will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, the 6th, and Tuesday through Friday at 9:00 a.m. It's part of your heritage and needs to be part of your rule of life. The bumper snicker on that is: Let Prayer Rule Your Life.

The 24th is on Friday. Service will be at 8:30 p.m. with caroling starting at about 8:15 p.m. You should be ready because the youth will be caroling prior to that to get you warmed up. Sue Byrd is working overtime to get that lined up for Sunday, the 19th. Christmas Day service will be at 10:30 a.m. for those needing to come up for some spiritual air. Normal Sunday service will be at 10:00 a.m. on the 26th. Excepting pastoral emergencies, I will be hard to find on the 27th and 28th.

Beloved, take advantage of Advent, Christmas, and the 12 Days to have the fullest spiritual times of your life.

Blessings,

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

Weekly Schedule

Sunday

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist – *Nave*
 11:15 a.m. Refreshments – *Parish Hall*
 Following Church School
 (beginning 9/12)

Monday

12:10 a.m.-
 12:50 p.m. Soup and Scriptures – *Parish Hall*

Wednesday

6:30 a.m. Brotherhood of St. Andrew Service - *Nave*
 followed by Breakfast – *Parish Hall*
 (All men and boys are invited)
 5:15 p.m. Simple Said Service - *Nave*

Nursery care available on Sunday mornings

Responsibilities for December

Chalice/Readers:

5	Ann & Bob Beadel
12	Joe Tom Childs
19	Kathy & Jeff Marugg
24	Harry Thomas
26	Ann & Bob Beadel

Altar Guild: Sue Byrd ,
 Deborah Childs

Greeter: Peggy Ross

Acolytes & Candles:

5	Bettis Morelock, Trey Glasscock, Tara Glasscock
12	Sara Byrd, Robert Orr
19	Bettis Morelock, Trey Glasscock, Tara Glasscock
24	Sara Byrd, Robert Orr
26	Bettis Morelock, Trey Glasscock, Tara Glasscock

Meals on Wheels: Week of 6th-10th

Contact Susan or Kit Timmins

WOC Hostesses: Officers at Bonnie Dillard's House, 14th

Celebrating December Birthdays and Anniversaries

1 – Josh Soto, Bob Rider
 4 – Jay Timmins
 5 – Cooper Morelock
 9 – Dcn. Dennis Helbert
 11 – Sherri Ornelas, Stephanie Adamez
 14 – Ben Kennedy

17 – Dan Bower
 19 – Don Dillard
 24 – Anna Stone
 28 – Betsy Childs, Carly Childs
 31 – Margaret Clayton



6 – The Morelocks
 9 – The Garretts

13 – The Niemiacs
 15 – The Kennedys
 21 – The Dillards

22 – The Claytons
 26 – The Courseys
 31 – The Ceto Salazars

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, it is not included in the parish roster. Please contact Betty Broome at bbroome@hputx.edu to provide your family's information!

Christmas Caroling



The Church Youth will be caroling again this year. Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 19. All children are asked to meet at the church parking lot at 5:30 p.m.

Parishioners will gather at either the Painters or the Dillards for refreshments and visiting while awaiting the carolers' arrival. Please call hosts or sign up in the Parish Hall and join in another CGS tradition.

Painter – 643-1847 or Dillard – 646-2255

Vestry Members

Next Vestry Meeting is December 12. Give input to your vestry members concerning your wishes, suggestions, or questions about our Parish...

Melissa Alward	Bonnie Dillard, <i>Treasurer</i>	Clois Broome
Jose Brown	Cooper Morelock	Robert McDaniel
Michael Heinrich	Pam Rider	Peggy Ross
Al King		Jay Timmins

Holy Days in December



21 St. Thomas the Apostle
25 The Nativity of our Lord

26 St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr
27 St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
28 The Holy Innocents



Prayer Web

A group of women have committed to pray on a daily basis for the needs of parishioners and friends. Requests are delivered to e-mail addresses or by phone.

Please call any one of the following to request prayer for a special need:

Stephanie Adamez
Melissa Alward
Susan Bradley
Betty Broome

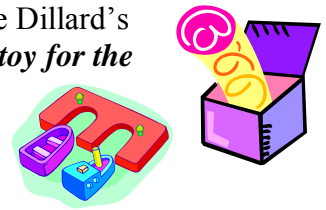
Sue Byrd
Deborah Childs
Margaret Clayton
Lynda Thomas

Kit Timmins
Susan Timmins
Mary Jo Turner



Women of the Church

For the last meeting of the year on Tuesday, December 14, the WOC will meet at the Dillard's home with the current officers serving as hostesses. ***You are encouraged to bring a toy for the annual Toys for Kids drive.*** The meeting will be preceded by Holy Communion at 11:30 a.m. When the service is over, the group will drive over to the Dillard's for the meal and a brief meeting.



Beautification Days

December clean-up date is the 18th. Help make the parish ready for Christmas decorations. There is something for everybody to do. Refreshments are always available to wet your "whistle while you work." No list to sign, just show up and be ready to enjoy the company of friends!

Food Pantry Items Needed



Collection of non-perishables food items is on going for the needy families of our community. The items are taken to the food pantry monthly after the Women of the Church meeting on the second Tuesday of the month. May we always be mindful of the needs of the less fortunate in our midst.

Greening of the Church

Watch as the children join the Altar Guild to transform the church before your eyes from the expectation of Advent to the joyous celebration of Christmastide. Mark your calendars for December 23rd at 10:30 a.m.. Volunteers are needed every year for this inspirational and enjoyable activity.

Beehive

This modern symbol represents the church and its many, varied "workers." A multitude of people, each with different tasks and gifts, works to build up the body of Christ. Often, nine bees are pictured near the hive to represent the nine fruits of the spirit (see Galatians 5:22-23).



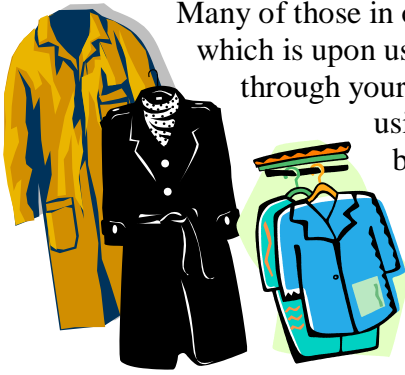
2011 Parish Yearbook

We're getting a jump on the 2011 Parish Directory and encourage you to sign up at your earliest convenience. If you have been a host/hostess in the past, you might want to ask a newer member to be your partner to help get them started. If you want a new picture published this year, please notify Betty. Otherwise, we will use your picture from last year. These are the available lists:

- 1) Floral remembrances
- 2) Lenten Supper Host/Hostesses
- 3) WOC Luncheon Hostesses
- 4) Refreshments after Sunday Service

Coat Drive Ministry

Many of those in our community do not have adequate coats for the winter season, which is upon us. The annual coat drive is in progress. Make it a point of going through your closets this week. Then, put those coats that you are no longer using to a good cause. All sizes and styles are needed. There will be a box in the Parish Hall designated for this purpose.



Lend a helping hand...



Soup and Scriptures

On Monday, November 15, The Church of the Good Shepherd began *weekly* sessions to study the Gospel of Mark. “Soup and Scriptures” times are from 12:10 p.m. to 12:50 p.m. to allow those who work the opportunity to attend. Father Bradley leads the group in the Parish Hall. *There will not be a session on Monday, December 6th.*

Take advantage of a homemade light lunch and stuff yourself with the Word of the Lord in preparation for Christmas.

