

The Voice

Volume 2014, Issue 1

January 2014

Inside this issue:

Outreach	2
Church without Walls	2
Birthdays	2
Construction Update	3
Music Notes	3
Calendar	4

Vicar's Voice

Dear Parish Family

"On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me..." Can you remember all the gifts that were given over the 12 days of the Christmas season? (Test your memory against the answers below.) The Christmas season may seem to come and go without anyone noticing except for this familiar song. In fact, the 12 days of Christmas, the shortest liturgical season of the church year, takes us from Christmas up until the day of Epiphany, January 6th. With Christmas falling on Wednesday this year we will have two Sundays during the Christmas season leading up to Monday, January 6th, the Feast of the Epiphany.

The season of Epiphany is one of the flexible seasons of the church year, like the season of Pentecost. The length of Epiphany is actually determined by Easter later this spring. Easter is preceded by the 40 days of Lent. Since Easter is rather late this year, (April 20th) and Lent is a fixed number, the church

calendar adds time to the Epiphany season. Epiphany ends with Ash Wednesday on March 5th.

Epiphany is known as "the season of light." Think of it as the analogy of when you come to learn or understand something. The Sunday readings during the season of Epiphany will teach us about the life and ministry of Jesus, beginning with his birth and visit by the Magi, his baptism in the Jordan by John the Baptist, the teaching of the Beatitudes and numerous other lessons paving the way for his message to bring peace and comfort to a broken and difficult world.

We are fortunate to have the seasons of the church year as a means to learn what started with Christmas and will come to light through the teaching and ministry of Jesus in the weeks and months to come. Each season gives us time to reflect on



Children's Chapel Choir Sings

how God seeks to enter our lives and how through the power of God's Holy Spirit we continue to keep God's presence alive and engaged in our world. May these seasons of Christmas, Epiphany and beyond inform and enable us to be modern day disciples of Jesus by furthering God's message of compassion, peace, hope and joy.

Peace and blessings,
Fr. Jeff

Gifts for the Twelve Days of Christmas

1st Day A partridge in a pear tree
2nd Day Two turtle doves
3rd Day Three French Hens
4th Day Four calling birds

5th Day Five golden rings
6th Day Six geese a-laying
7th Day Seven swans a-swimming
8th Day Eight maids a-milking

9th Day Nine ladies dancing
10th Day Ten lords a-leaping
11th Day Eleven pipers piping
12th Day Twelve drummers drumming

Outreach Ministries Update



Shepherd's Tree gifts

We delivered over 100 presents to children at West Riverside Elementary from our Shepherd's Tree! As we were leaving the guidance counselor stopped and said, "But for Good Shepherd, these children would have had nothing on Christmas morning!"

I share this with you because it is your generous and never failing service to our community that Outreach at Good Shepherd can and does make a difference in the lives of so many.

As we move into the New Year Good Shepherd takes on a new and exciting Outreach opportunity! Feeding the Soul will launch in mid January. With our partner, West Riverside Elementary, we will provide backpacks filled with nourishing non-perishable foods to sustain children during the weekend. The food items and backpacks will be in the church kitchen. During the week our "packers" will fill the backpacks and deliver them to the school by Thursday, and send the children home for the weekend with a backpack of nourishment! The school staff will return the empty backpacks to

us the following week and we prepare for the next week.

Many of you have expressed an interest in helping with this project. In early January I am planning a meeting after the 10:00 service to answer questions and create teams of packers. We are beginning with ten children and hope to increase the number. Look for announcements in the bulletin! Questions? **Contact Susanah Sands** at 228-0815 or susannahsands@hotmail.com

Matthew 25:40... "Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."



Preparing meals for Thanksgiving



Greening the church

Church without Walls

Recognizing that "church" at its best cannot be contained, this "church without walls" shares the unconditional love of Christ with and through people who ordinarily would not mix.

The "Church Without Walls" ministry of The Episcopal Diocese of Florida calls people from all walks of life into partnership with "the least of these." We are a "community of presence" made up of individuals looking for spiritual

companionship and connection that give meaning to life. We welcome everyone -- the homeless and the affluent, the addicted and those in recovery, the churched and the unchurched, the spiritual but not religious, the believer, the doubter and the seeker.

We are grounded in the reality that "by opening ourselves to strangers, the despised or frightening or unintelligible other, we will see more and

more of the holy (from prologue to Take this Bread)." Again and again, we will be transformed.

Contact the Rev. Beth Tjoflat at bethtjoflat@gmail.com for more information.

Jamie Chiles is coordinating workers to provide lunch for worshippers at Church without Walls on January 5th. If you would like to help, contact Jamie as jchiles@comcast.net.



Greening the church

January Birthdays

Bishop Holley (1)

Paul Arrington (1)

Juli Cannon (5)

Tom McKeithen (12)

Linda Alexander (13)

Steven Jockisch (14)

Wade Fisher (15)

Matthew Ubl (16)

Tiana Draper (18)

Charles Keyser (19)

Duncan Sawyer (22)

Elizabeth Frankland (23)

Tony Hofmann (3)

Linda Bauer (23)

Nick Humphress (30)

Jenny Cocanougher (31)

Cecelia Zucconi (31)

Renovation and Repair Update

It is back to Worsham Hall for all parish meetings. The new floor has been laid and stained in Craig Lounge. The next step includes multiple coats of polyurethane, then four or five days for the finish to "cure." On other fronts, most of the roofs scheduled for repair have been completed. Sheet rock has arrived for the new lavatories as most of the plumbing and electrical has been updated. Building permits are about to be filed for a new handicap ramp at the rear breezeway entrance along with construction of the new Community Resource Room and new women's lavatory on the second floor. We are very aware of the inconvenience these protracted restorations have caused, and we appreciate your patience while we make these necessary repairs.



Laying Hardwood in Craig

Music Notes—Message from Shannon Gallier

Greetings!

By now you will have heard the news that I will be leaving Good Shepherd in late January. This is a bittersweet moment for me - after 5 years at this marvelous church, I'm moving on to the next challenge. On February 3 I will begin my tenure as Organist-Choirmaster at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Atlanta, Georgia. St. Bartholomew's is a wonderful parish of faithful people with a strong sense of music and liturgy. I will be leading the church's four choirs in a well-established music program. Twice monthly, an auditioned chamber choir sings Compline, and once a month Evensong is sung by a second auditioned choir. I look forward to learning as much at St. Bartholomew's as I have at Good Shepherd.

Since 2009, we have seen constant (if sometimes slow) growth in our music program at Good Shepherd. The choirs have grown not only in size, but more importantly, in musicianship and musical ability. Our wonderful St. Cecilia Choir can hold their own against the full adult choir, not only augmenting an already beautiful sound, but often singing on their own. Our highly sought after space sees a steady stream of outside groups presenting concerts. Organists from throughout the country come to Good Shepherd simply for the pleasure of playing a recital on our magnificent organ during our Summer Organ Recital Series. Things look good, and I expect to hear of many great things in the years to come.

To the congregation - pick up a hymnal! Don't be afraid to try new things, to sing a hymn you may not be 100 percent familiar with. Allow the organ and choir to lead you, and you'll pick it up quickly. Also, keep supporting our music program with your presence, and where able, with your financial resources. A music program of the quality Good Shepherd deserves is not free.

To our choirs - keep fighting the good fight. Use the interim period to come as a time to reevaluate and rededicate. Yours is a program unusual not only in this city, but in the entire country, and it's worth the effort. The responsibility falls heavily on your collective shoulders to shore up our music program - to keep the momentum we have been building up for five years. I know you can do it, and will keep you all in my prayers as I begin a new chapter.

I wish you all the very best, and look forward to keeping in touch.

Keep singing!
Shannon Gallier



Sanding in Craig Lounge



Library updates are complete

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January 2014 Calendar

Every Sunday

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I

10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

Every Monday

7:30 am Chapel – Morning
Prayer II

Every Tuesday

5:30 pm Chapel – Evening Prayer II

Every Wednesday (except
New Years Day)

7:30 am Chapel – Morning
Prayer II

5:00 pm Choir room – St. Cecilia
choir rehearsal

5:30 pm Chapel – Holy Eucharist

6:12 pm Craig Lounge – Adult
discussion group



7:00 pm Choir room – Chancel
choir rehearsal

Every Thursday

5:30 pm Chapel – Evening Prayer I

Every Friday

7:30 am Chapel – Morning
Prayer II

Wednesday, January 1 –
Parish Office Closed

Thursday, January 2 – Parish
Office Closed

Monday, January 6, 7:00 pm
– Epiphany Eucharist

Wednesday, January 15,
4:00 pm Worsham Hall – Prayer
Shawl Ministry

Sunday, January 19, 11:30
am Worsham Hall – Parish
Potluck Lunch

Thursday, January 23, 5:30
pm, Library – Vestry Meeting