

# The Voice

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December 2013

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## Vicar's Voice

Dear Parish Family,

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." (Luke 2: 11-12 King James Version)

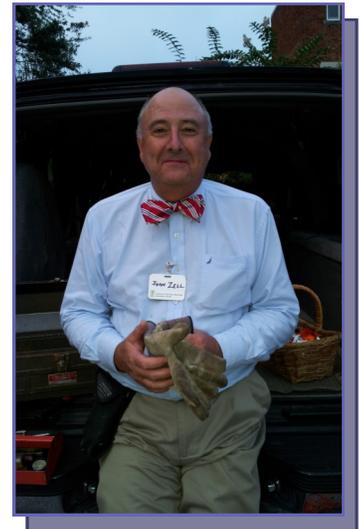
There is something beautiful about the poetic language announcing the birth of Jesus over 2,000 years ago. The angels instructed the shepherds that in Bethlehem, the city of David, the messiah (the Hebrew term for the Christ) would be born. The shepherds then went to see the babe wrapped in tight blankets lying in a manger. It is a romantic image of the incarnation of God into our world, but not something anyone expected.

Modern day religions struggle to interact with an ever-changing culture. With stores courting you as early as November, the church season of Advent seems to fade in importance. Advent historically was akin to a mini-Lent observed by prayer, fasting, and discipline in preparation for Christmas, the birth of the prince of peace into our midst. The last few years I have struggled with the notion that Christmas may begin on Thanksgiving and run through December 26th. Yes, there are a lot of preparations for Christmas during December, but with the decorations, parties and other festivities, at times I feel like we are celebrating Christmas for a month or so leading up to De-

ember 25th. Then the day after Christmas, the music stops and we are already into celebrating the end of the year. As we all know, some will have Christmas trees on the curb the day after Christmas, when in fact the church is just beginning the 12 day season of the nativity of our Lord.

In fact, Christmas is all about change: changing attitudes, behaviors and experiences. I am writing this in late November, and already the media is reporting how stores are going to be open on Thanksgiving. The biggest shopping day of the year, Black Friday, is changing and being expanded. It is an interesting commentary on the need to expand the commercialization of Christmas. However, this shopping frenzy has at its essence the desire of people to exchange gifts with one another. Christmas generates a season of giving, changing attitudes of how we interact with one another. Oh, wouldn't it be better if that "spirit" that fills our season of Advent in December were to last longer than the day after Christmas!

I am looking forward to Christmas, even if it takes place during the month-long season of Advent. If the two seasons are getting blended together, so be it, if it allows our world to realize that things can change and be better. The world needs to hear that we are preparing for Christmas. And Christmas is proclaimed by decorating



Fr. Jeff channels John Zell at Trunk or Treat

homes and stores, gathering for parties and sensing that things can be better. We have a need today, just as the world had a need 2,000 years ago, to change. God saw the need for peace, compassion, forgiveness and joy and chose a very different way to make that known. In our hearts we know how important that is, and that we need to keep those messages alive, which is why we continue to celebrate Christmas every year.

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace good will toward men.'" (Luke 2: 13-14)

Merry Christmas!

Fr. Jeff



**Gypsy Sheryl at Trunk or Treat**

## Christmas Worship Opportunities

Our worship plans for Christmas include our traditional family Eucharist at 5:00 pm on Christmas Eve. Our St. Cecilia Choir will lead this service, with assistance from members of the Chancel Choir. Children and youth will be reading our lessons, helping with ushering and participating in the service in other ways. At 10:30 pm that night, we will have Christmas carols by choir and congregation, then at 11:00 pm, our festal Christmas Eucharist. In sensitivity to our worshippers, we will not have incense at

either of these services. More information about these services is in Shannon's article below.

On Christmas Day, Rite I Eucharist will be said at 9:00 am, and will include three hymns. We encourage you to attend one or more of these worship opportunities to experience the real spirit of Christmas.

## Music Notes

It always seems like Christmas sneaks up on us.

This will be my fifth Christmas Eve at Good Shepherd, and as always, it will be a highlight for me (and I suspect for many of you!). Every year we greet the Incarnation of Our Lord with great pomp and ceremony. Timeless carols, beautiful anthems sung by our excellent choirs, the elegant playing of our string orchestra. All of this helps to make our service spe-

cial, memorable, and more meaningful.

Two featured items this Christmas Eve will be the hauntingly beautiful anthem by the late Sir John Tavener, "The Lamb." This simple, ethereal setting of the William Blake's poem has gained much popularity over the years. The string orchestra will perform Arcangelo Corelli's 'Christmas Concerto' as part of the prelude leading up to the 11pm service on Christ-

mas Eve. We are blessed to have so many excellent musicians with us on Christmas Eve.

I hope you will consider making a generous donation to the Christmas Music fund this year to help us create beautiful music for the Infant King.

Shannon Gallier

Organist-Choirmaster



**This pair is a treat by themselves**

## December Wine Down

This month's Wine Down will be on Thursday, December 5th from 5:00-7:00pm, at the home of Tripp Newsom and Matt Wolfe. Their address is 1401 Avondale Ave. and the house will be filled with holiday spirit! Plan to stop by for a glass of refreshment (non-alcoholic alternatives will be available) and conversation with other Good Shepherd parishioners.

These monthly get-togethers are a great way to become

better acquainted with each other outside worship and coffee hour. If you've not attended before, why not bring an appetizer or a bottle of wine to Tripp and Matt's and try Wine Down this month?

## Woman's Club of Jacksonville Christmas Party

The Woman's Club of Jacksonville will have its annual Christmas party in Worsham Hall at the Church of the Good Shepherd on December 18th. Social time will begin at 11:00 am, with lunch served at 11:30. Following lunch, a special holiday presentation will be offered by Boathouse Cello Choir Ensemble, at 12:30 pm.

The party is a fund raising event for the club and is open to men and women. Reservations for this event are required. The cost is \$20.00 per

person. Donations will be accepted for the Woman's Club Scholarship Fund.

Please call 904-636-7505 to make your reservations, or for additional information about the event.



A neighborhood trick-or-treater

## The Shepherd's Tree

It is time to think about Christmas! This year our Shepherd's Tree will be up early to give us extra time to select tags, wrap gifts, and return them to the church for timely delivery to West Riverside Elementary School. Look for the tree on Sunday, December 1st and check it often for new tags. The deadline for bringing your gift to the church is Sunday, December 15th.

This Outreach project is a long

standing tradition at Good Shepherd. There are many children in our community that look forward to receiving the gifts we give. Please take a tag or two and know that you are giving great joy to a needy child at this blessed time of year!

We will deliver the gifts the week of December 15th. Please consider assisting. Contact Susannah at [susannahsands@hotmail.com](mailto:susannahsands@hotmail.com) for details.

## December Birthdays

Fran Wulbern (1)	Izzy Allerton (14)	Lysa Hofmann (23)
Mia Edgar (1)	John Walters (17)	Gregg Conner (25)
Jeanne Moomaw (1)	Jonathan Ubl (18)	Liam Edgar (25)
Gunner Miller (4)	William Leaser (18)	Gray Lindsey (25)
Jennifer Keen (5)	Julie Humphress (18)	Steve Wilson (29)
Griffin Lasch (5)	Tish Stoneburner (19)	Jody Poulos (29)
Austin Clark (6)	Raymond Norville (20)	Vonn Draper (30)
Steve Gillick (7)	Jackie Illingworth (21)	Bette Mackoul (30)
Ted Centerwall (8)	John Conder (22)	Mary Loftin (31)
	Grey Medill (23)	



Trunk or Treat



## Pool News: Open on Sunday

Beginning Sunday, November 24th, the Pool will be open for Members from 12 noon to 8 p.m. every week.

As one parishioner exclaimed, **“This means I can swim after church!”**

The additional day of service to Members does not mean an increase in fees. Pool Committee chair Tracy Leaser advocated for the change and finally persuaded everyone else of the value of her idea.

As part of the Pool’s continuing improvements program, new, brightly colored mats have been installed in both locker rooms to guard against slips and falls – red for the ladies’ locker room (mauve was not available) and blue for the men’s.

### **GIFT CERTIFICATES:**

Don’t forget – you can give a pool membership gift certificate for Christmas! The gift certificates are available in monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, and

yearly – AND, are available to parish members at the 25% parish discount! See Dave or Robert in the pool office, OR, call the pool office with a credit or debit card and [the certificate can be mailed to you.](#)

## New Outreach Ministry: Feeding the Soul

In September we introduced plans for our new Outreach Project—Feeding the Soul. We are pleased that beginning in January we will be partnered with West Riverside Elementary School and begin to deliver back packs filled with nourishing non-perishable food items to sustain the children over the

weekend. We will begin with ten children and hope that we can reach many more in the future.

If you are interested in participating in this project please contact

[susannahsands@hotmail.com](mailto:susannahsands@hotmail.com).

There are many ways to help and the school administration is thrilled about this project and their partnership with Good Shepherd.

## Riverside-Avondale Luminaria



Riverside Avondale’s beloved Luminaria celebration is almost here! The traditional lighting of the lanterns at sundown will occur Sunday, December 15th. Luminaria is one of RAP’s biggest fundraisers and is a wonderful community-building event that celebrates the season.

The history of Riverside Avondale’s Luminaria all began with a devoted community member and RAP supporter, Jerry Spinks. Mr. Spinks was merely looking for a way to help fund

raise for Riverside Avondale Preservation during this magical time of year. He thought that he would sell a bundle of luminaries to his neighbors. But to his surprise, he sold out quickly. In fact, he had to go around town gathering more supplies to keep up with the demand. Decades later, the community organically turned this event into a Winter Wonderland. The closing of the streets, light parades, block parties, bike rides, and church festivities have now become a part of this great neighborhood as its annu-

al holiday tradition.

Good Shepherd will participate by setting out luminaries along Park, Stockton and Forbes streets and by hosting an Advent carol sing-along at 5:45 pm.

**Volunteers are needed** to prepare the luminaries after the 8:00 and 10:00 services on December 15th, and to help set them out and light them at 5:30 that evening. Please call the parish office to let us know you are willing to help.

## Stewardship Thoughts

Organization consultants describe how institutions grow through phases. The early phase is simply to establish a mission or program. That includes the people and facilities necessary to accomplish the mission. A subsequent phase can be described as a second generation when the initial programs are improved to take the mission to the next level. Good Shepherd may be in its third or fourth generation, having been well established on the corner of Stockton and Park with fabulous facilities for nearly 100 years. Our history is rich with successful programs and statistics. Recently we have been gravitating into another phase, one of rebuilding our mission, membership, presence, and facilities, focusing on growing the congregation, renewing a presence in Riverside and repairing our facilities (see report and pictures on pages 6-7.)

This past year has seen our membership buy (no pun intended) into these initiatives. The commitment to stewardship in time, talent and treasure is now realizing changes and

improvements. This is because stewardship is not a once a year topic but constantly ongoing. Personal stewardship is also not haphazard. It is a discipline, realizing how we return to God our recognition of all our blessings. Stewardship is not haphazard planning on the part of the parish either. We are taking better care of our buildings, and focusing on ministries. We also need to show appreciation for the dedication of our staff, and consider how we will support the diocese and wider church. That is where we are now in planning for 2014. We are grateful for the pledges we've received for next year, 80 pledges totaling \$285,000. In order to pursue our growth, this is approximately 80% of our funding for next year. This 80% is truly a gift toward taking the parish to another level of ministry. If you have not had a chance to make a pledge please do so by leaving your commitment card in the Sunday offering plate or by returning it directly to the parish office. It is this remaining 20% that will help us grow to a higher level of ministry and

ensure our growth and future of Good Shepherd.

We are clearly experiencing God's blessings by our members, and we are most grateful. Good Shepherd is making a difference thanks to the stewardship of our membership. May God continue to bless you and our parish as we seek to be an ever increasing presence of God's peace and glory!



Good Shepherd trick-or-treaters

## 2013 Contribution Statements

During week of December 8th, contribution statements for 2013 to date will be emailed to parishioners. Please review your statement and call Alina in the parish office to report any errors or discrepancies.

Contributions to be credited toward 2013 charitable giving should be mailed to the parish office no later than December 27th or put in the offering plate on Sunday, December 29th to ensure posting to the 2013 ledger.



Good Shepherd trick-or-treaters

## Construction Update

November has been a busy month at Good Shepherd as our repairs and restorations shift into high gear. The emphasis of the work has been the rebuilding of the floor of Craig Lounge and the renovation of the women's lavatory off Worsham Hall and the men's lavatory behind the kitchen.



**Removing the floor in  
Craig Lounge**



**New subfloor goes  
down**

Craig Floor has turned out to be much more complicated than originally anticipated. Once the top layer of floor was removed, it revealed a lot more deterioration of the subfloor. Previous termite damage was expected, but the extent of that damage caused our contractor to revise his plan on how to address both rotten wood and the need to shore up the entire floor. All rotted wood was replaced with pressure treated replacement sections. The actual floor joists over time had sagged, so all those joists were jacked up and rehung with new metal hangers. Support columns were repaired to remove the crown that had developed in the center of the room. Then the entire floor was recovered with tongue and groove half inch plywood in preparation for the new oak floor. The result will be a much more solid, level and beautiful floor that will last for decades. In addition, thanks to Jeanne and David Moomaw, the carpets for Craig Lounge have been professionally cleaned and are ready to be installed when the floor is completed.



**Craig floor**



**Men's room before  
demolition**



**Men's room mid-demo**



**Women's room during  
demolition**

### Construction Update *continued*

The bathrooms have been demolished right down to the studs in the walls. Electricians and plumbers are preparing those facilities for new fixtures, tile and paint. In addition, the church has signed a contract to repair all the remaining roofs which include sections of Worsham Hall, the choir room, the third floor occupied by

Young Life, Craig Lounge and more.

Another room that is still in the process of demolition is the former ladies locker room on the second floor, which will become the new Community Resource Room. This facility is being prepared to host community organizations including

the 12 Step meetings that take place at Good Shepherd every day of the week. These groups will no longer meet in the Sunday school classrooms along the rear of the building. Those rooms will soon be renovated by Episcopal Children's Services which will occupy all of the classrooms once their preschool program begins. ECS anticipates opening their preschool at Good Shepherd next summer.



**More women's room demo**



**Men's room before wall is removed**



**Men's room with wall removed**



**Former locker room before demo**



**Locker room mid-demo**

You will notice when you arrive through the rear breeze-way entrance that the stairs have been treated with a fresh coat of stain following extensive structural repairs. The hallway has been repainted, but the new floor will not be installed until all the other work in that section of the building has been completed. Our contractor has also looked into repairing a roof column in the pool that may need to be



**The back hallway gets new paint**

As you can see, November has been very busy. To date, we have spent \$67,720. We are blessed that we have these funds available to make these necessary repairs. Once this phase of work is completed, another round of repairs will begin in Worsham Hall in January. We will keep you posted on those plans and more detailed results of the work currently under way. Thank you for your patience and for your support in order to make all of this possible.



**More locker room demo**

**THE EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH OF THE  
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## December 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

5:30 pm Chancel – Children's Chapel (except Dec. 30th)

### Every Tuesday (except 12/24)

5:30 pm Chapel – Evening Prayer II

### Every Wednesday (except Christmas Day)

7:30 am Chapel – Morning Prayer I

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

**Sunday, December 1st**, 4:00 pm – 50th Anniversary Celebration for Canon Bob Griffiths

**Thursday, December 5th**, 5:00 pm – Wine Down, Tripp Newsom and Matt Wolfe

**Sunday, December 8th**, 11:30 am – Monthly Potluck Lunch; 6:00 pm – JU Chorus Concert

**Sunday, December 15th**, 5:45 pm – Luminaria Carol Sing

**Sunday, December 22nd**, 11:30 am — Greening of the Church

**Tuesday, December 24th**, 5:00 pm – Family Christmas Eve Eucharist; 10:30 pm – Carols; 11:00 pm Christmas Eucharist

**Wednesday, December 25th**, 9:00 am – Christmas Eucharist; Parish Office Closed

**Thursday, December 26th**, Parish Office Closed

**Friday, December 27th**, Parish Office Closed

**Sunday, December 29th**, 10:00 am – Christmas Lessons and Carols