

The Voice

Volume 2016, Issue 2

February 2016

Inside this issue:

February Birthdays	2
Parish Profile Update	2
Vestry Nominees 2016	3
Vestry Nominees continued	4
Discipline is Not a Dirty Word	5
Intergenerational Family Camp	5
2016 Pledge Report	6
Spring is Starting Early at the Pool	6
Cuban Fiesta Invitation	7

Rector's Reflections

Dear Parish Family,

The month of February is going to be a busy month. It begins on February 7th with a special day when we celebrate our scout troops, have our monthly potluck lunch and convene our annual meeting in preparation for the business of our parish in 2016.

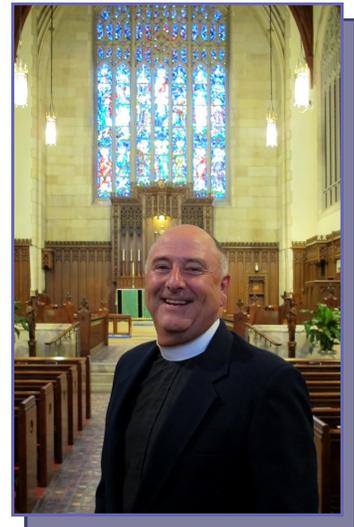
Last fall we were asked if we would be interested in sponsoring a new Girl Scout Brownie troop. We have sponsored Boy Scouts for nearly 100 years, and the opportunity to do so again with Girl Scouts was immediately coordinated. In fact, our Brownie troop meets on Tuesday evenings in the third floor youth room of our parish house. Boy Scouts also meet on Tuesday evenings in a different part of the building. Every year on the first Sunday in February we have welcomed the Boy Scouts to our 10:00 service. I hope you will plan on being with us to recognize and support the children we sponsor in scouting.

That same day we will move our monthly potluck luncheon to coincide with our annual parish meeting. The Episcopal Diocese of Florida requires that annual parish meetings take place within two weeks of the annual diocesan convention. This dictates that our elections and

approval of a new budget take place by February 7th. We are blessed with a strong slate of candidates for the vestry and as representatives to future diocesan conventions (see accompanying information.) This meeting will also recognize those retiring from the vestry, Homer Bliss, Tom Moore and Keith Sands. The annual meeting of a parish is an important event in the planning and future of all churches.

Within days of the annual meeting, the season of Epiphany will come to a close on February 9th with Shrove Tuesday, or as some parts of the world call it, Mardi Gras. The celebration of the end of Epiphany has a rich and historic tradition. Early on, the practicality of using up certain foods that would not be consumed during Lent was the occasion for some pre-Lenten treats. Also, as Lent is a season of discipline and abstinence, the end of Epiphany was one last time to have some fun prior to the 40 days of Lent. We will recognize the occasion with a pancake supper on Tuesday evening at 6:00.

Services on Ash Wednesday, February 10th, including the imposition of ashes will be at 12:00 noon and 7:00pm. I like to think of Ash Wednesday as a reality check, when we are re-



mindful that we are not in control of everything around us. As our prayer book says, "You are dust and to dust you shall return", but because of the message of Easter and the resurrection we are able to proclaim our belief in eternal life.

Regular programs continue throughout February with children's chapel now at 5:00 on Monday evenings. The Holy Eucharist is celebrated every Wednesday at 5:00 pm followed by adult Christian Education at 6:12 in Craig Lounge. (Check out the "Lent Madness"

Continued on pg. 2

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper—February 9, 6:00 pm—Worsham Hall



Removing Christmas Greenery

Rector's Reflections continued

program described in this newsletter.)

One of the beauties of the Episcopal Church is the continuation of traditions such as Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. These add meaning and diversity to our annual cycle of worship, which emphasize important aspects of our faith that could easily be lost. Lent brings a tone of solemnity as marked by the

absence of flowers on the altar replaced by simple green ferns. It is also a time when we pause to consider some of the dramatic aspects of our faith that will unfold in the weeks to come. May this be a time of growth for our individual faith, and in terms of our parish as a whole. God blesses us in many ways. May these parish events bind us together as a congregation and instill in us a recognition of the spiritual presence

God has in our lives and in our church.

Faithfully,

Fr. Jeff

February Birthdays

Chris Ball (4)

Karen Zell (10)

Miller Pickett (27)

Susan Merrett (5)

Fay Lee (11)

J F Bryan (6)

Erin Kistner (13)

Robert Cocanougher (6)

David Moomaw (13)

Nadia Williams (7)

Keith Sands (16)

Becky Garrison (9)

Billy Ball (21)

Debbie Conder (10)

Zach Lawson (26)



Removing Christmas Greenery

Parish Profile Update

In an effort to keep our records up-to-date and accurate, we are asking all members to complete the new "Parish Update Form-2016." The form is available in the back of the church or through the parish office. This will ensure that all the information we have for you and your family are correct and you are getting all of the information sent out from the

office in a timely fashion. You can return your forms either by mail, email (jeanne@gsjax.church), fax (904-387-9575), or drop it off in the office. We appreciate your participation in this endeavor.

Vestry Nominees 2016

Donald "Todd" Allerton

Spouse: Peiney, Daughters: Hannah, Gabrielle, Isabella, Son: Isaac

Todd is a graduate of University of Virginia, BA Economics and received his MBA from the University of Florida. He joined the Navy in 1984 and became a helicopter pilot, serving on active duty for 14 years. He left active duty in 1998 to attend graduate school at the University of Florida. His prior employment was as an airline pilot for a commuter airline and helicopter pilot in Alaska and the Gulf of Mexico. He concurrently served in the U.S. Navy Reserves as a helicopter pilot, commanded a helicopter squadron at Naval Station Mayport, FL, and as a staff liaison officer at NAS Jacksonville.

The Navy brought Todd to Jacksonville in 1995. He came to Good Shepherd in an attempt to find a church closer to where he lived so he could be more involved for himself and his younger children. He attended Church of our Savior in Mandarin, where he married his wife Peiney and daughter Izzy was baptized. He found that the time and distance limited his ability to become as involved as he would have liked. "I tell my family that I came to Good Shepherd for the location but stayed for the beauty of the grounds, majesty of the music and fellowship of the parishioners."

Adele Griffin

Spouse: Kirby Griffin; Children: Katie Griffin, Parker Griffin, Margaret and Price Pickett, Nancy and Sean Mercer; Grandchildren: Miller and Mary Price Pickett

Adele attended Converse College in Spartanburg, SC and graduated from Peabody College of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, with a BA degree in 1975. She is currently the North Florida Regional Director for US Senator Marco Rubio. She has worked for three senators in the past 11 years. Her other work experience includes Episcopal Children's Services, Vander-

Vanderbilt University, and Walt Disney World.

Adele is touched by Good Shepherd because of the way the congregation cares for one another and their willingness to share this compassion with the community.

Susan Morgan-Leu

Wife: Shawna Morgan-Leu
Children: Matthew and Jonathan
Ubl

Susan received her Masters of Education from the University of North Florida. She has been a teacher with the Duval County School Board for 26+ years. She currently teaches special needs 2nd and 3rd graders at John E Ford.

When Susan and her family started attending Good Shepherd 11 years ago, she was touched by how welcomed her family was by the community. She continues to be touched by the love of fellow church members, both for her and her family, especially her sons. She is also forever grateful for the music education that her son Jonathan has been given. The music program here fostered his talent and has given him dreams of a career in music.

Brian Palmer

Brian has been Associate Professor of Dance and Chair of Theater and Dance at Jacksonville University since 2002. He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from Radford University and graduated with a Masters of Fine Arts in Dance from Florida State University where he was the recipient of a Suzanne Farrell Fellowship. He began his career as a professional ballet dancer; nine years with the Richmond Ballet and two years with the Suzanne Farrell Ballet sponsored by the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington DC. Though now an educator he

continues to perform annually with the First Coast Nutcracker in Jacksonville. His current professional organization accomplishments include serving as an evaluator for National Association of Schools in Dance, a dance review panelist for Florida's Division of Cultural Affairs and Board of Directors member with the Florida Dance Association. For the 2014-15 academic year he was named the Jacksonville University Professor of the Year.

Brian's spirituality has always been an important part of his life but has struggled to connect that to a religion. When he first started coming to Good Shepherd he immediately found the match of faith with an understanding and acceptance of people. Love, compassion and an open respect for many viewpoints have kept him coming and has encouraged him to be more active within the church. After completing the Episcopal class in 2013, he was confirmed by Bishop Keyser in February 2014.

Mark Simons

Mark and Bonnie have been married for 14 years; his step-son and his wife are expecting their first child in April. The rest of Mark's family lives in Indianapolis.

Mark received his BA in Criminal Justice and Sociology from Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana. His background for the past twenty years has been in clinical research and is currently a Contract Manager for PRA Health Sciences.

Mark really enjoys history, so the history of Good Shepherd, the architecture and the history of the Riverside community is probably what grabbed his attention initially. From the first time he walked into Good Shepherd, he immediately felt comfortable so he knew this is where he wanted to become a

continued on p. 4

Vestry Nominees 2016 continued

Mark Simons continued

member. This is due to the warm welcome by the clergy, parishioners and staff; it is easy to feel at home at Good Shepherd. He also prefers the traditional service, which goes well with the beautiful church. Each week the sermon explains one or all of the readings in such a way that he is able to relate it to everyday life. When he and Bonnie were preparing for their wedding in 2001, the priest that officiated at the wedding told them, "the people in the church are what really

make it your church." He and Bonnie have found this to be true of Good Shepherd.

Baby Shower for Fr. Wiley and Laura



Discipline is Not a Dirty Word

Often when we think of “discipline” the first thing that comes to mind is a harsh schoolteacher or something that’s lacking for “today’s rowdy children.” Discipline has positive connotations as well, especially since discipline shares a root word origin with “disciple.” Discipline, in the spiritual sense, is something that focuses our efforts on making space for God to enter into our lives. One of the best books I have ever encountered on this subject is Richard Foster’s *Celebration of Discipline*, a book that identifies core disciplines of Christian spirituality. There are three categories: inward, outward, and corporate and four disciplines in each category. Not only does Richard Foster describe them in detail, but he gives a detailed introduction to their practice as well. As you consider your Lenten discipline this year, you could do far worse than Foster’s *Celebration*.

A second book to consider is Thomas à Kempis’ *Imitation of Christ*. This is a Christian devotional classic if there ever was one. *Imitation* is a 600-year-old devotional manual that is still being read for devotion today. Ironic that it was part of a

movement called “modern devotion” in the 15th century. *Imitation* focuses on the life of Christ in scripture as a model for living and is particularly inward focused, almost to the avoidance of exterior “distraction.” **Caution:** this book has been known to cause asceticism, monasticism, and mysticism. It has also been known to cause incredibly enriching prayer lives.

For the more internet-focused among us, there are three great opportunities for Lenten devotion offered by our diocese and the larger church. First, Bishop Howard has filmed a four-part series on the book of Revelation for study and discussion during the season of Lent this year. Filmed at St. John’s Cathedral, Bishop Howard engages in conversation with Deacon David Crabtree about Rev. chapters 2 and 3, and their lessons for our faith. You can find the trailer for this 4-part series at: [youtube/ROJw_zqEk0o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROJw_zqEk0o)

Secondly, you can take part in our goofy bracket game of Lent Madness. Published by Forward Movement publication, this is a silly game about serious content. Fill out a bracket and

compete for your own Lent Madness prize and join us on Wednesday nights at 6:15 to learn more about the lives of the saints who have gone before us. Grab a bracket at the back of the church or find more online at LentMadness.org.

Finally, if you’re an internet-enabled ascetic (and who’s not?), the brother of the Society of Saint John, Evangelist are publishing a new online video series with an episode every day in Lent entitled “Growing a Rule of Life.” This series focuses on discipline as a matter of everyday Christian living and how to cultivate the love and practice of a rule of life in your spirituality. Find out more on this series at ssje.org/ssje/growrule/.

There are more ways than I can count to find your way to the cross and empty tomb this Lent. Don’t miss an opportunity to give God space to change you, and through you, change the world. Join me in taking on a discipline this Lent and start something *old*. May God bless all our efforts to seek Him.

Fr. Wiley



Intergenerational Family Camp

Camp Weed is offering something new this year – an Intergenerational Family Camp from Thursday, June 9 at 3:00 pm to Sunday, June 12 at 3:00 pm. Friendships blossom among and within families in this multi-generational camp for families who want to share a Summer Camp experience. See what kind of community can develop when God’s children of all ages spend their days playing, relaxing, talking and exploring together. There are 47 spots remaining for this event. For more information, visit the Diocesan website at diocesefl.org.

2016 Pledge Report

Over the past months we have been talking of the importance of financial stewardship to Good Shepherd Church through annual pledges. As of today we have received a total of 77 pledges for 2016 for a total of \$316,382. This is impressive and we appreciate those who made a pledge for this coming year.

Last year we had a total of 96 pledges for a total giving of \$334,805. As you can see, we are behind last year's results. Our current budget is built on estimated pledge income of \$350,000. In essence, we are in need of additional

pledge cards in order to match last year's results and to reach our goal for 2016. If you have not made a pledge to Good Shepherd, please do so with a pledge card available in the narthex of the church or available in the church office.

Each and every pledge helps to promote the ministries and life of Good Shepherd Church. Pledges are not about what is large or small, rather that individuals and families commitment themselves to our church throughout the year whether they are in church or not. Don't think of this as a lump sum, but as a weekly do-

nation, which when spread out over 52 weeks makes pledging much more manageable. We are optimistic we will equal our pledges from last year which should enable us to meet our budget projections. If you have already pledged, thank you! If others could complete a pledge card, it will benefit the entire parish throughout the year. Thank you for your commitment and generosity.

Faithfully,

Fr. Jeff

Spring is Starting Early at the Pool

Our Infant Swim Resource classes have resumed after the winter. Sonya Collins is at the Pool five days a week at 1 p.m. Children 6 months and older can benefit from learning to float if they fall into water, and we've seen it work amazingly well! Interested? Call Sonya to discuss fees and scheduling: (904) 349-0674.

Edward Waters College has returned, too, for their Spring semester Learn to Swim for

EWC students. Lots of African American kids don't learn how to swim, sometimes with tragic consequences in water-rich areas such as ours. We're pleased to be making a dent in that problem, and introducing young people to an enjoyable form of recreation and sport.

Spring Parties have begun! We currently have dates available in March, April, and May. Party rentals give you the whole pool, permit food and beverage

es to be served, and include lifeguards. Call Dave at the Pool office for more information – 387-4298.

And, of course, the Pool has lots of other offerings: swim classes for kids 3 to 14, Learn to Swim for Special Needs folks, Water Exercise and Yoga, and, soon, arthritis classes!

Dave Callen
Pool Director

Ladies Wine and Dine





CUBAN FIESTA "Old Havana Cafe"

Church of the Good Shepherd
Craig Hall

Saturday, March 12, 2016
6:30 p.m. – Mojitos & Hors d'oeuvres
7:30 - Dinner

**To Welcome Padre Rody Perez
and to benefit the Church of the Anunciacion
Florida, Cuba**

Festive Attire or Costumes
Invite Your Friends
Bring your own wine or beverage
Reservations Required – (Deadline Monday, March 7th)
Space Limited to 100 people

I would like to make a reservation for _____ people.

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____
(**minimum** suggested: \$25 per person)

I am unable to attend, but would like to contribute
\$ _____ to the Cuba Fund.

> Name _____ Tel _____

Please return or deliver to the Church of the Good Shepherd,
1100 Stockton St., Jacksonville, FL 32204
(questions – call 387-5691)

**THE EPISCOPAL
CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD**

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**Find us on the web
www.GSJax.church**

February Calendar

Every Sunday

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II
12:00 pm Youth Group (3rd floor youth room)

Every Monday (except Feb. 15)

5:00 pm Chancel – Children’s Chapel and Cherub Choir rehearsal

Every Wednesday (except Feb. 10)

5:30 pm Chapel – Holy Eucharist
6:12 pm Craig Lounge – Adult discussion group
7:00 pm Choir room – Chancel choir rehearsal

Every Friday (except February 5)

11:00 am – 2:00 pm Pele’s Wood Fire Food Truck

Sunday, February 7, 11:30 am Worsham Hall – Monthly Potluck Lunch and Annual Meeting

Tuesday, February 9, 11:30 am EWES lunch – Whiteway Deli; 6:00 pm Worsham Hall – Pancake Supper

Wednesday, February 10, 12:00 pm and 7 pm – Ash Wednesday liturgy

Monday, February 15, President’s Day – Parish Office Closed

Wednesday, February 17, 4:00 pm Craig Lounge – Prayer Shawl Ministry;

Monday, February 22, 6:00 pm Library – Vestry Meeting

Friday, February 26, 12:00 pm Retired Men’s Lunch - Pele’s, Good Shepherd