

805 SE Ellsworth Rd.
Vancouver WA 98664

(360) 892-7770
Fax: (360) 892-2018

office@goodshepherdvancouver.org
www.goodshepherdvancouver.org

newsletter submission:
goodnews@goodshepherdvancouver.org

Sunday Services
7:30am, 9:00am, 11:05am

Sunday School for all ages
during the school year
10:15am

Nursery Care 8:30-12:30

Midweek Service:
Tuesday 9:30 a.m.

Clergy

Rector
The Rev. Dr. Tom Warne, III

Associate Pastor
The Rev. Shelly Fayette

Senior Warden
Kelly Nolen

Junior Warden
Jim Green

Children's Ministries Leader
Kara Uhrich

Youth Ministries Leader
Elizabeth Sloan

**Director of
Good Shepherd Montessori**
Marcella Rush

Music Ministries Leader
Mikkel Iverson

**Stewardship Ministries
Leader**
Greg Rhodes

Outreach Worker
Barbara LeRoy

Administrative Leader
Anne Brown

LIGHTS OF THE WORLD: AN ADVENT QUIET DAY

Join us for an Advent quiet day on Saturday, December 3, from 10:00 - 2:30 PM at Good Shepherd with Canon Educator Mary Sicilia as facilitator. Take a little time apart for yourself as we begin this busy Advent season with a few hours of prayer, reflection, worship and quiet conversation. There is no charge - bring a bag lunch, beverages will be provided. Please sign up table in the church entryway if you plan to join us.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DECEMBER 18

Please join the children and youth of Good Shepherd on Sunday, December 18, at 4:00 PM for an afternoon of Christmas drama and music. A reception for everyone will follow in the parish hall. Questions: contact Kara at karau@goodshepherdvancouver.org or 892-7770.



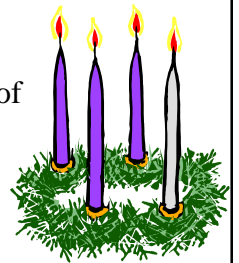
Opportunities for Children and Youth to Perform in the Family Christmas Program - Children and youth interested in playing a musical instrument, singing, reading poetry, or being our Master of Ceremonies for the Family Christmas Program on Dec. 18 should contact one of the following people: Kara Uhrich 892-7770 or karau@goodshepherdvancouver.org Mike Iverson at 253-8622 or mikei@goodshepherdvancouver.org

"LESSONS AND CAROLS" COMING SOON

Mark your calendars now to attend our annual *Advent Lessons and Carols* service being held at Good Shepherd on Sunday, December 11, at 4:00 PM in the Sanctuary, featuring the Good Shepherd Handbell Choir, the Children's Choir, and the Good Shepherd Choir which will be performing works by Hovland, Poulenc, and J.S. Bach. The choirs will be presenting music and readings appropriate for the season of Advent as well as congregational hymn singing.

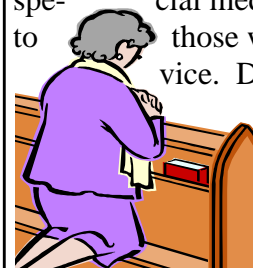
There is no admission charge, but a free-will offering will be taken in support of local charities. If you would like childcare for this event please call the church office by Thursday, December 8.

Please join us for this very special afternoon of worship and music and be sure and invite a friend or two!



SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

The Service of Remembrance on Sunday, December 18, at 1:30 pm is a service for those who have lost loved ones and find sadness at the holidays. Music, prayers for those we have lost, and a special meditation offer comfort to those who attend this service. Do you have friends



who have suffered the loss of a loved one this past year? Invite them to attend.

Invite a Friend to Church !

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THIS IS YOUR COMMUNITY

We invite you to share events and news of interest with the Good Shepherd community. See the back of this newsletter for due dates and contact information.

SERMONS ONLINE - Were you unable to come to church on Sunday? Sermons are available to listen to at www.goodshepherdvancouver.org. Click "sermons" on the top toolbar.

"We are people of God, committed to acting in love, seeking and serving Christ in the world, one another and ourselves."

Good Shepherd Activities

Nov. 30: Family Fun Night
 Dec. 2: Wreath & Poinsettia Pick-up Begins
 Dec. 3: Advent Quiet Day
 Dec. 3: Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
 Dec. 4: Newsletter Deadline
 Dec. 4: God Pub at McMenamins
 Dec. 4: Blessing & Celebration of Babies-in-Need Building
 Dec. 5: G.R.E.A.T. Group Luncheon
 Dec. 6: Chat with the Vestry
 Dec. 10: Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
 Dec. 10: Lessons & Carols Rehearsal
 Dec. 11: LA Group Lunch
 Dec. 11: Lessons & Carols
 Dec. 11: Sunday Night at the Movies
 Dec. 13: Giving Tree Gifts Due
 Dec. 15: Giving Tree sorting
 Dec. 17: Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal
 Dec. 17: Distribute Giving Tree gifts
 Dec. 18: Newsletter Deadline
 Dec. 18: Service of Remembrance
 Dec. 18: Family Christmas Program and Pageant
 Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Services: 4:00, 6:00, 10:00 pm
 Dec. 25: ONE service: 10:00 am
 Dec. 26: Office Closed
 Jan. 8: Babies in Need building blessing
 Jan. 28: Mystery Quilt Class
 Feb. 10-12: Order of St. Luke Healing Weekend

HAVE YOU VISITED THE WEBSITE LATELY?

www.goodshepherdvancouver.org

RECEIVE YOUR GOOD NEWS BY EMAIL!

Send your email address to:

goodnews@goodshepherdvancouver.org

PLEASE REMEMBER! Our newsletter is posted online. For articles requiring contact information, please be aware this information may be viewed by anyone accessing the Good Shepherd website. For privacy concerns or other options, please contact us at goodnews@goodshepherdvancouver.org.

NEWS OF THE G.R.E.A.T. GROUP



The G.R.E.A.T. Group will meet in the Parish Hall at noon on Monday, December 5. Our potluck lunch will be followed by a Christmas musical program. Church member and pianist Ray Watson will perform, and there will be group singing as well. Bring a white elephant gift for exchange. If you are eligible for A.A.R.P., you are eligible for the G.R.E.A.T Group! Come, enjoy the fellowship, and bring a friend. Questions? Call David Owens at

MAKE SOMEONE'S CHRISTMAS SPECIAL: INVITE A FRIEND TO CHURCH

Christmas Eve

4:00 pm* - The Holy Eucharist with sermon for the whole family. Music with children in mind. Infant and toddler care.

6:00 pm* - The Holy Eucharist with sermon and a mix of traditional and contemporary music led by ShepherdSong.

10:00 pm - The Holy Eucharist with sermon, traditional Christmas carols and special music by the Good Shepherd Choir.

*Nursery care will be available at 4:00 and 6:00 pm on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Day

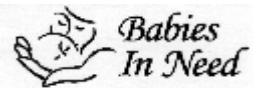
10:00 am** - The Holy Eucharist with sermon and Christmas carols. There will be no nursery care.

****Please note: There will be only one service on Sunday, December 25 - at 10:00 am.**

CHAT WITH THE VESTRY

Members of the Vestry will again be available Tuesday, December 6 from 6:00-6:55 in the Parish Hall. Should you need child care or a ride to attend, please let a member of the vestry know no later than November 22. Contact information is available in the church entryway and on the web. We continue to look forward to dialoguing with the congregation.

DEAR FRIENDS AT GOOD SHEPHERD,



The Celebration and Blessing of the new Babies In Need building has been moved to January 8th at 2:30 PM at All Saints Episcopal Church. Please join them for this joyous occasion! Babies In Need is located at 2100 NW 99th St. (From I-5, turn west on 99th St. in Hazel Dell. Go 1.5 miles to 21st Ave. NW. All Saints is on the corner.)

UPCOMING GOD PUB

God Pub is an informal time of conversation, sharing, questions, and laughter. No dogma, no drama – God Pub is for everyone, believers and skeptics alike. God Pub runs the first Sunday of each month (next meeting, December 4) from 7 pm – 9 pm at the East Vancouver McMenamin's on 162nd.



HIKE...

Would you like to walk off some of those turkey and mashed potatoes? Come and join us for a 4.3 mile hike at Lacamas Creek. Rain or shine, we will meet at the trail head at 12 noon the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Dress appropriately and bring water. Directions and description of the hike are at http://www.portlandhikersfieldguide.org/wiki/Lacamas_Creek_Hike. questions? Contact Rhonda Turner at (360) 980-8482 or earnhardtrkt@msn.com





The

Christmas Giving Tree

is an annual project at Good Shepherd.

We provide neighborhood families food, hygiene baskets,



and



two gifts for each child 18 and under, a clothes item and a special



request



gift like a toy. We receive names of families from local schools



and



also from a nursing home. We invite everyone who is able to take tags

from

the

tree

and buy gifts.



The Good Shepherd community has made this a delightful and rewarding success over the years. There is more information and sign-up sheets in the Narthex. Please call if you have questions or if you would like to be in charge of any areas. Call Sandy at 571-0389.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Sundays, Nov. 27, Dec. 4 & 11: CHOOSING OF GIFT TAGS

Sunday, Dec. 11; Thursday, Dec. 15 & Friday, Dec. 16: SHOP FOR GIFTS

Tuesday Dec. 13: RETURN GIFTS

Wednesday Dec. 14: YOUTH SHOP FOR GIFTS

Friday Dec 16 starting at 4:00PM: SORTING OF GIFTS

Saturday Dec 17 starting at 1:30PM: GIFTS passed out at the church to their recipients.

We ask that the **maximum** amount of money spent on each gift be **(\$35)** thirty-five dollars.

For food and hygiene baskets there is **no money limit.**

Sandy and Chuck Bristol @ 571-0389.

Living Alone and Laughing A Lot Group luncheon will be held December 11

Are you living alone and looking for a group to dine with once a month, as well as share in interesting activities/concerts/ trips, etc.? Please consider joining us for our Christmas luncheon/meeting on December 11. We will meet at Applewood Restaurant on 2005 SE 192nd Avenue at 1:00PM. Questions? Call Carolyn Berkey (254-7985) or Nancy Fritz (571-5028).

THANK YOU...

...to Julie Moyer, Patti Woodell and Jason West for helping with the distribution of the Thanksgiving Baskets. Also a special thanks to David Uhrich and Jim Kribs for the organization and shopping for additional supplies for the baskets as well as their help with the distribution. Thank you to Karen Allenby for making decorations for the baskets. With the support and donations made by the congregation, there are 55 families able to enjoy a traditional meal on Thanksgiving. Thank you also to all who made a contribution of either food or funds for this project. We saw many grateful families Saturday when they picked up their baskets.

Barbara LeRoy

LIVE THEATER is coming to Good Shepherd in April 2012

"CHRIST IN THE CONCRETE CITY," a play by Philip Turner, will be produced and is scheduled for 7PM, on April 2 & April 3, 2012 the beginning of Holy week. *This is a call for actors.* We need 4 men & 2 women actors. Practice will begin in late January 2012. We want to nail down some actors in December who will commit to a new and different Lenten journey. All I can promise is that this is a lot of fun, full of camaraderie, a chance to make a real difference in yours and the lives of others. Written by an Anglican priest in 1953, this play is produced in Cities all over America every year. Now it is our turn. To get on the Actors LIST for audition or just learn more about this play, call Jim "deZz" Desmond 360-882-4903 my home, 360-931-5972 my cell or email the producer: jdesmo@comcast.net.

With Gratitude to Helen Lehner, our Faith Community Nurse

For several years, Helen has served Good Shepherd as our Faith Community Nurse and as a leader of the Care Team. She brought tremendous skill and passion to these roles and greatly enriched the life of our parish. Helen has decided to step out of these ministries at this time. We have deep gratitude for all she has done for Good Shepherd.

A message from Helen: "Thank you to everyone who has supported me as Faith Community Nurse and a member of the Care Team. At this time I have chosen to step back from these ministries. In January of 2011, many of you graciously completed the Service Survey. The data from the survey has been passed on to Father Tom and the vestry. At the time of the survey, several members of the congregation offered to consider leadership positions within a system where we could support each other geographically. I am hopeful that developing this system will be a priority for Good Shepherd in the near future."

Many thanks to Helen for her leadership and compassionate service!

BLUE CHRISTMAS PRAYER SERVICE

Christmas can be a difficult time of year for many reasons, including separation from loved ones; a loss of job, home or relationship; depression; an association with painful Christmases past; or a feeling of intense disconnection from the prevailing demands and commercialism of Christmas. The Blue Christmas Prayer Service at All Saints' Church offers space, accepting community, and time away from the hype of Christmas to experience stillness, acceptance and Sacred Presence in the midst of our ever changing lives. Please join them – and bring a friend, a neighbor, a co-worker if you like.

All are Welcome, Any Faith or No Faith

Tuesday December 21

7:00 PM

*All Saints Episcopal Church
2206 NW 99th Street, Vancouver, WA*



WALK AND KNOCK is scheduled for **Saturday, December 3, beginning at 8:30AM** (until about one).

In 2010, WALK AND KNOCK collected 164 tons of food to be taken to area food banks. The need is even greater this year and W&K depends on volunteers like you to help walk around neighborhoods to collect food!! This is a wonderful opportunity to serve with your kids, friends, neighbors.

You can register on-line and choose the location of the school nearest you:

Go to <http://www.walkandknock.org/> and click **volunteer** and then **register now** to get signed up.

An area captain will then contact you and give you the details. **IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SERVE WITH A GROUP FROM GOOD SHEPHERD, THE AREA SCHOOL WILL BE FRONTIER MIDDLE SCHOOL (North).**

Contact Saran Warne if you are interested in meeting at Frontier and car-pooling. Contact email is warne@comcast.net or call at (360) 258-0134 no later than Nov. 30th. You can also call 877-99KNOCK to volunteer!

Thanks and let me know if you have questions!

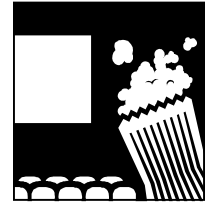
Saran Warne

Do You Need a Babysitter for the Holidays?

Hello! I am Alexandra Uhrich, a sophomore at the University of Washington, majoring in Early Childhood and Family Studies. I will be home during the Christmas break, December 17th through January 1st and will be available to provide babysitting services during this busy time of the year. References available upon request. Please contact me by phone or email: 360-903-7201 or alexandra.u@comcast.net

SAINTS AND SINNERS OF THE SILVER SCREEN

For older teens and adults



Please join on the 2nd, 4th, & if available, 5th **Sundays of each month in the youth building.** Starting at **7:00 p.m.**, we will view a series of films focusing on community and family. *What is the good community? ...the good family?* These basic questions will be at the center stage for our viewing and discussion.

December 11, as an early Christmas celebration we will watch the first part of Ingmar Bergman's *Fanny and Alexander*, the story of a young boy and girl, experiencing the wonder and joy of their extended family's festive and lusty celebration of life and theater. Plus we'll watch a clip or two from *A Christmas Story*.

Join us in January to continue the saga of *Fanny and Alexander*, and continue our adventure together into community.



ORDER OF ST LUKE HEALING WEEKEND

The Order of St. Luke will once again be hosting the "**Heart of Wholeness**" healing weekend in February. The dates will be **February 10-12, 2012**. Don't miss this exciting and well attended event!! Be sure to put these dates on your calendar for the new year!! Key-note speaker and workshops to be announced at a later date, stay tuned!

OUTREACH TEAM UPDATE

With our Outreach Mission Imperative before us *we will share our abundance by responding to those in need throughout the community and the world.*

The visioning team is working to develop a sustainable system that will enable our Good Shepherd community to be faithful stewards. We started our meeting by sharing a scripture that speaks to our hearts regarding outreach, and followed by discussion of existing ministries supported by Good Shepherd. As we continue with our work we will be focusing on ways to allow everyone assessable and meaningful opportunities for reaching out to the local, national and international communities.



wine into water

Christmas can [still] change the world.

The story of Christ's birth is a story of promise, hope, and a revolutionary love. So, what happened? What was once a time to celebrate the birth of a savior has somehow turned into a season of stress, traffic jams, and shopping list. And when it's all over, many of us are left with presents to return, looming debt that will take months to pay off, and this empty feeling of missed purpose. Is this what we really want out of Christmas? What if Christmas became a world-changing event again?

Welcome to Advent Conspiracy
 [Worship Fully]
 [Spend Less]
 [Give More]
 [Love All]

To meet the needs of the communities affected by the absence of clean water and sanitation, Episcopal Relief & Development is partnering with the Diocese of Olympia to construct latrines, fresh water wells and provide health education. With your help, we can promote health and well-being while offering children and families essentials such as a safe water supply, a means to dispose of waste and critical health care services to help prevent disease. Our hope is that, by celebrating Christ in a new way at Christmas, the church can serve as the leading movement behind ending the water crisis once and for all.



John 2:1-11 "Fill the jars with water."

We all know of Jesus' miracle of turning water into wine. One of the ways we can serve Him is by turning water from a source of disease into a source of good health.

Dear Friends,

Just open the tap and out it comes—clean, cool water. It's something we typically take for granted. But for more than 1 billion people, access to clean, safe drinking water is simply unattainable. Worldwide, 2.5 billion people are at risk of deadly waterborne diseases due to lack of proper sanitation. More children under the age of five die from unsafe drinking water and poor sanitary conditions than from any other cause in the world.

Successful water projects like those run by Episcopal Relief & Development can have an enormous ripple effect, because a well that provides clean, potable water means so many things. It can bring an end to rampant diarrhea caused by waterborne disease, or free up hours upon hours of people's time once dominated by lugging water from faraway streams. Without this burden on their time, children have time to study and women can invest themselves in starting small businesses or other endeavors. Agricultural productivity is often increased, as is the standard of living.

Water is central not only to life and health, but to economic development, community cohesion, environmental sustainability, regional political security and self-sufficiency.

Help Episcopal Relief & Development provide clean water and prevent diseases in the countries that we serve. We can reach many of those who are still denied this simple human right and save many precious lives. Together we can heal a hurting world by creating access to safe, clean water.

Faithfully, The Rt. Rev. Greg Rickel, Bishop of Olympia

It was shared at diocesan convention that about \$111,000.00 has been raised so far in our diocesan Wine into Water campaign. I would like to see us here at Good Shepherd join this campaign and help provide more than three (3) families with clean drinking water this holiday season! Surely we could raise at least \$1,500 and provide clean water for SIX (6) families! And who knows, maybe we could even raise \$5,000 to drill a well for an entire village!! -- Fr. Tom

To donate, please make your check payable to Church of the Good Shepherd and then note in the memo line that it is for "Wine into Water." To learn more, visit www.er-d.org.



Wednesday Youth Group
6:30-8:30PM

Nov. 30: Toy Story 3
Dec. 7: First Wed. (food and fellowship)
Dec. 14: WHO Service and Toy Shopping!

Upcoming Events!!!

**Family Fun Night featuring Toy Story 3,
Wednesday November 30, 6:30-8:30PM**

A fun, family time where parents & kids of ages 0-18 can enjoy the lessons of friendship and love with Woody, Buzz and the whole Toy Story gang! Popcorn & juice provided. Childcare for this event is available with advance registration for children too young to watch the movie. Please reserve childcare using the sign-up sheet located in the front entry of the church by noon on Monday, November 28th.

The Justice Conference:

Justice Hangs By A Thread.

The work of justice is to mend the holes injustice inflicts upon the garment. It is a brave, challenging, and courageous work and it does not begin with expertise or duty. It begins with love... and love is a thread. You are invited to come weave your voice and gifts into the conversation. Join us, and discover that in the garment of justice, your love is an irreplaceable thread. February 24th – 25th 2012, Portland Oregon

Young People, does getting involved in the conversation interest you? Student pricing and scholarships available! Please let Elizabeth Sloan know if this is something you would like to attend 360-892-7770 or email: youth@goodshepherdvancouver.org



**'Tis the Season for
"Seasonal Singers"!**

The Good Shepherd Choir would like to extend an invitation for singers to join them for the upcoming Advent/Christmas season including two very special worship services: *Lessons and*

Carols (December 11, 4:00PM) and *Christmas Eve* (December 24, 10:00PM). If you are someone who does not have the time to commit to the choir on a full-time basis then this is a wonderful opportunity to share your gift of music as a "seasonal singer."

The choir meets on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary and have began rehearsing music for the *Lessons and Carols*. We will rehearse every Wednesday through December 7, dedicating the first hour to *Lessons and Carols*. There is a dress rehearsal on Saturday morning, December 10, from 9:30PM -12:00PM.

Singers interested in joining us for Christmas Eve: we will begin rehearsing music for that service on Wednesday, December 7, from 8:15-9:00PM and continue on December 14 & 21 from 7:00-8:30PM.

Please consider joining us for this wonderful singing ministry!! Any questions, contact Mike Iverson at 253-8622 or mikei@goodshepherdvancouver.org

**13th Annual
Mystery Quilt Class**



The Mystery Quilt Class is scheduled for January 28, 2012. Once again, Lawry Thorn, from the Stitchin' Post in Sisters, Oregon will be our instructor. This is a very fun day of quilting along with great fellowship and fabulous food created by Linda Dawson and Sandi Green. Registration forms will be available in the narthex beginning November 27th. As a fair warning, there is quite a bit of cutting and some sewing prior to the class. Once your registration is received, I will give you the initial instructions. We are holding the price at \$40. Your check must be attached to your registration form to confirm your registration. Space is limited to 30 people, so sign up early. Questions? Contact Bette Ludden.

Mutual Ministry Review for Church of the Good Shepherd

Summary

A Mutual Ministry Review (MMR) was held October 15, 2011 in Vancouver, Washington. This was the first time our church has engaged in the process, so we were guided through the process by MaryAnn Seward, a consultant from the Diocese of Olympia with a long history of engagement and familiarity with Good Shepherd. Participants included our clergy, Rev. Tom Warne and Assoc. Rev. Shelly Fayette, Senior Warden Kelly Nolen, Junior Warden Jim Green, Vestry members Will Barnard, Sharon Farr, Jan French, Julie Gullett, Nancy Huffaker, Roger Lyngholm, Matt Thoreson, and Clerk James Howard.

What is an MMR? The concept is simple. It is a review of our leadership team's (Clergy and Vestry) progress toward our shared goals. The purpose of an MMR is to create a time for the Clergy and Vestry of Good Shepherd to come together and evaluate our goals, ask ourselves where we are succeeding with those goals, and what challenges have surfaced that might be impeding progress toward them. Additionally we looked at our relationships and how we are working together as a leadership team. In short, it's an opportunity to reflect and ask, "How are we doing and what can we do better"? Although Good Shepherd has had a history of informally evaluating our progress, this was the first such MMR and it is our intention to make this a yearly event.

We each were given a series of questions as homework, each grounded firmly in Mission 2018. With each question we had to evaluate our performance as leaders and individuals. The categories we considered tracked each of the mission imperatives in Mission 2018 - Spiritual Growth, Evangelism, Diversity, Community, Leadership, Resource Growth, Outreach, and Core Values.

We felt that our strongest category was Spiritual Growth, through which we honor each person's journey toward faith in Christ and one another through a diverse set of spiritual opportunities from Sunday mornings to Thursday Night Light and Education for Ministry. We are currently working to further enhance this area through the "Our Common Spiritual Life" process, considering the Sunday experience and beyond.

Another area of strength was Community. We continue to believe that small groups are essential to building ties and community within our congregation. One challenge is helping new parishioners and those who have been here longer find existing groups or form new ones. We believe this is a communication challenge and are taking steps to help parishioners

One major challenge that emerged as a central theme of the day was how do we as leaders sustain and advance excellence in leadership throughout the congregation? This will be a pivotal theme for the vestry going forward and ties into all the categories above.

As MaryAnn gracefully guided our conversations, we felt the presence of the Spirit as we were able to be truly open and honest about issues that have been looming but have remained unaddressed. Among them was the need for a system and structure for creating and sustaining ministries. Secondly, we recognized the need to move out of the "transition" mindset. This has to be a mental shift for us all. It is easy to get "stuck" and use transition as an excuse not to move forward. For many years, we have talked about moving from a priest-centered to a mission-centered church. We recognized the need for all of us, laity and clergy, to have a common understanding of what this means and how we will build this new creation.

The first MMR was a day of hard work, honesty, and hope. We left feeling overwhelmed at the work ahead of us but at the same time energized and excited. It was a rewarding experience that we plan to carry forward in the years ahead.

Good Shepherd is going to Peru with Courts for Kids!



After a great meeting and weighing and praying over our options a small group of us picked the small rural community in the northern sierra of the Andes mountains in Peru called La Conga, where we will go to build a soccer/basketball/volleyball court for a community with great need for a safe place for their kids to play.

COME WITH US!! We are looking for 12-26 participants to join us on this life-changing adventure (people outside of the GS community are more than welcome to join us). If you have a desire to learn, serve, sweat and laugh alongside the beautiful Peruvian people then you can't miss out!

When: July 21-29

Cost: \$2,300 per person (tax deductible)

To get more details you can email Selene at selene@courtsforkids.org or you can go to our website and download the packet of information on this trip at www.courtsforkids.org/upcoming.htm.

Dear People of Good Shepherd,

Let us begin by thanking all of you who have turned in pledge commitments for 2012. Unlike other Episcopal Churches, who may have an endowment to help with their operating budget, the Church of the Good Shepherd throughout her history has relied on pledge income to meet the mission budget of this fine parish. It needs to be said from the start and in this economy more than ever, that continuing to live into the abundance that God has put before us is as important as ever. Now is not the time to shrink back; cling to; or feel scarce.

Your finance committee and vestry understand all too well the challenges that people are facing in their personal financial households; but we also understand that in order for us to continue to retain the present extraordinary staff that we have and the excellent programs that we offer, we need your help.

With this in mind, we would like to give you an update on where we stand at this time, so that you can make as informed and prayerful decision as possible; remembering that every gift no matter how small or how large is absolutely vital to us continuing on the journey that God has placed before us.

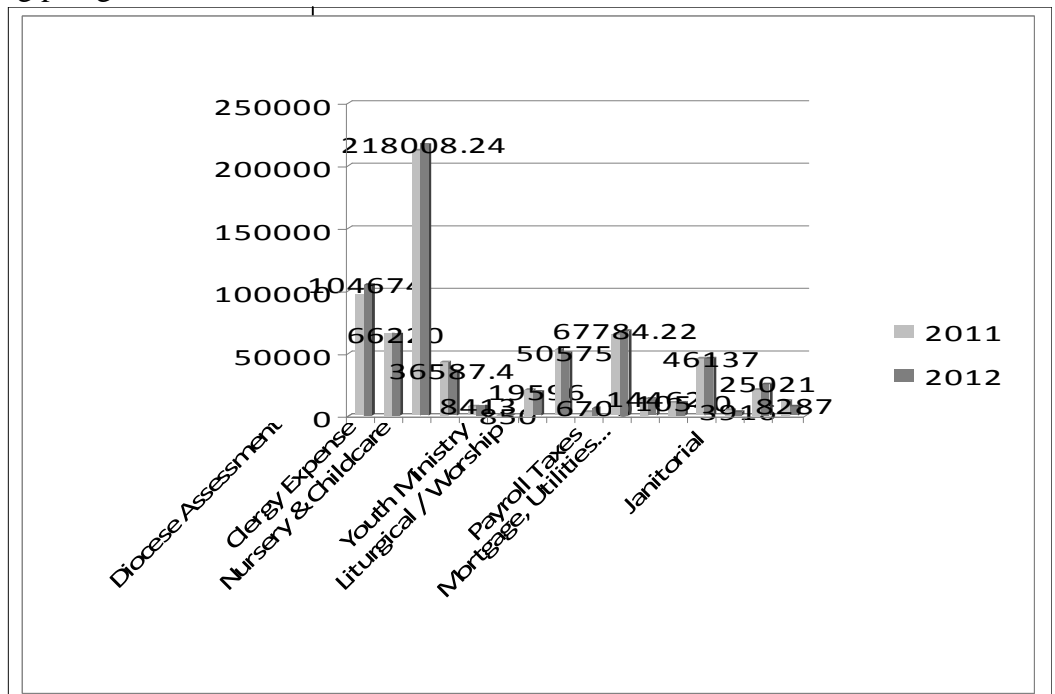
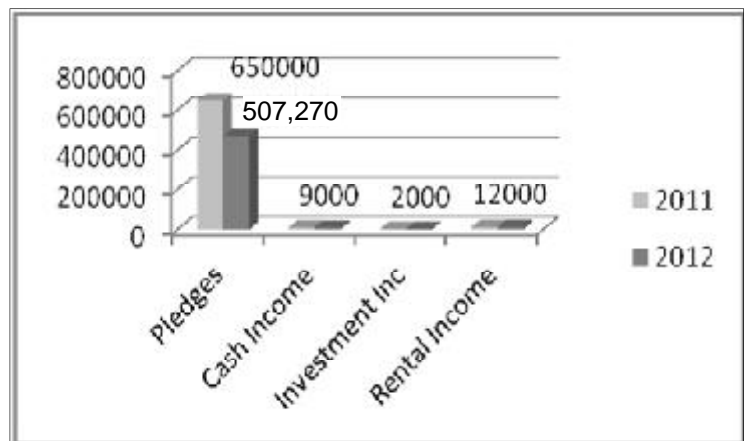
To date, we have received \$363,960 in pledges. Looking at numbers from people who have pledged last year, but haven't made a pledge yet, we estimate another \$143,310 in outstanding pledges, which would bring us to \$507,270. This still leaves us well short of our 2012 projected pledge goal of \$675,000 (a difference of \$167,730). Your leadership feels that it is very important to keep you abreast of these pledge income numbers as they become available, and we promise to hold before you where we're at with the numbers periodically, rather than wait until our annual meeting in January.

Your leadership feels as many of our Common Spiri-

tual Life conversations over the past month have also borne out, that we have come through a massive change in leadership over the past few years and that we, as a Body of Christ, are finally poised to step into the next chapter that God has in store for us. A pledge, again no matter the dollar amount, from each and every person who calls Good Shepherd their spiritual home, would help contribute greatly to that next chapter being written; as well as being able to accomplish new and exciting things together for the sake of God's people outside our four walls.

Please pray about how God may be calling you to give (or even increase your gift) to the mission and ministry of God's beloved Church, called Good Shepherd.

Faithfully,
Your Rector and Finance Committee



THE 2012 VESTRY ELECTION

The Vestry is made up of nine elected church members who serve three-year terms as the lay leaders of our congregation. At the Annual Meeting on January 29, four new Vestry members will be elected to replace Julie Gullett, Jan French, and Nancy Huffaker, whose terms are expiring, as well as Kelly Nolen, who is completing her year of service as Senior Warden. Please begin praying about how you can take part in this process, either by nominating a fellow church member or considering serving yourself. Nomination forms will be available through December 4 so that candidates may be lifted up for consideration.

As you pray about whether to submit a nomination, we invite you to consider how you see the following qualities for leadership at Good Shepherd rising up in yourself, or a brother or sister in Christ:



- Big picture thinking
- Willingness to actively participate in hands-on work to advance the church's mission, while keeping the big picture in mind
- Ability to work both independently and collaboratively
- Enthusiasm for inspiring others
- Willingness to take risks
- Ability to be a calm presence
- Courage to engage in healthy conflict

Please check with the person before nominating them. The Vestry will prayerfully consider those nominated and discern a slate of candidates. Potential candidates will be contacted and receive information about Vestry member roles and responsibilities. Those who feel called to accept a nomination will complete a profile that will be made available to the congregation, and will also be available at Adult Education in January to answer questions.

Please pray for the Vestry as we proceed with the process to nominate and elect new Vestry members.

Blessed to be a Blessing:

-Reflections on the abundance that flow from the people of Good Shepherd-

This is the time of year when we stop and reflect on the blessings in our lives and what we are most thankful for. One of the greatest gifts in my life and in the life of my family is Good Shepherd and all who flow in and out of the doorways of this very welcoming and warm congregation. There are so many gifts of time, talent and treasure that are represented in this church, way too many to even name. Here is an attempt to list a few of the blessings that flow, not just on Sundays, but throughout the week at this church.

A congregation that welcomes all of God's children.

Bountiful gratitude for our church founders and for their vision and courage.

Unending energy to serve from all generations!

Newcomers who are coming through the doorways weekly to feel warmly welcomed!

Diligent attention to detail, especially in the front office!

Amazing worship music, acolytes and altar guild who serve faithfully.

Numerous ways to get involved and "plug-in", for children and adults alike!

Clergy who are passionate, prayerful, energetic and love to preach God's Word!

Exceptional hospitality and endless laughter and sharing of time, talents and treasure.

Thank you, people of Good Shepherd, for letting your light shine in so many ways and for so warmly embracing the Warne family in your midst. As a family, we feel truly blessed to be a part of such a unique and special community of believers and I, personally, look forward to the adventures that lay ahead with this amazing body of Christ that we call the Church of the Good Shepherd.

A very Happy Thanksgiving to you and your loved ones.

--Fondly, Saran Warne

The Good News

Church of the Good Shepherd
805 SE Ellsworth
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- Or turn hard copy or disk in at the Parish Hall mailbox marked Newsletter, and call the church office at 892-7770 to let us know its there.
- Please be aware contact information in your article may be viewed by anyone accessing our website. Contact us for concerns and other options.

Thank you,
Cheryl Armstrong and Jennifer Myers-Power, editors

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Next Newsletter Deadline:
Sunday, December 4, 2011
Will be mailed: December 8, 2011

The Good News is published the 1st & 3rd week of the month during the school year, and the 2nd week during the summer months.