

805 SE Ellsworth Road
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

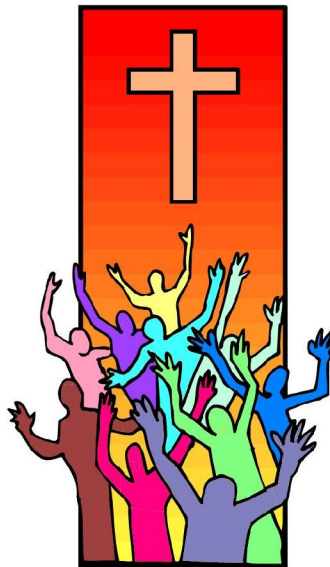
Faith Community Nurse
Helen Lehner

Administrative Leader
Anne Brown

GOOD SHEPHERD HOSTS SPRING HYC MARCH 25-27: YOUTH NEED YOUR HELP!

How can you help?

- We still need housing for 25 youth! Please phone Chris Burleigh ASAP at 993-4047.
- Help is needed in the kitchen Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday morning. Sign up for on the sheet in the entryway for the shift of your choice. It's lots of fun!



The weekend of March 25-27
Good Shepherd will be filled with the enthusiasm, energy and spirit of teens from across the Diocese. We have the honor of hosting the Diocesan sponsored High School Youth Conference this spring. This event allows teens to come together in a larger community setting and gives them time to share, worship and fellowship with each other. In order to make this event a success for our youth, Youth Ministries needs the help of the Good Shepherd community.

THURSDAY LIGHT IN LENT

We are pleased to continue to offer Thursday Light during Lent. For five weeks, beginning March 17, we will have worship at 5:30, a light supper at 6:00, and classes from 6:45-8:15.

Honoring our commitment to the observance of a holy and prayerful Lent, we are offering two classes. *Lenten Kaleidoscope: To Love Mercy* will be a multi-media exploration of the concept of mercy. Each week will feature a different teacher, leading us through visual art, sculpture, music, iconography and yoga to contemplate God's mercy. *Centering Prayer*, taught by Clemie Perslin, is based on the contemplative dimension of the Gospel in everyday life, and will include background and instruction in Centering Prayer plus opportunities to practice the prayer.

Please sign up in the entryway for supper, classes and childcare. NOTE: *childcare will be offered during this session only on an as-needed, week-to-week basis.* If you need childcare for a Thursday session, please call the church or sign up in the entryway by the Tuesday beforehand.

ADULT ED FOR LENT: ANGLICAN ETHOS 101

Ever wondered what Anglicans think about Scripture or tradition? Or about how Anglicans talk about the inner life or about service in the world? Then join us for a 5-part series on Sunday mornings during Lent, 10:15-10:55, with a different teacher each week, to learn about the beauty and gifts of the Anglican way.



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

Mar. 20: Movie Night
 Mar. 24: Thursday Light
 Mar. 25-27: HYC at Good Shepherd
 Mar. 27: Newsletter Deadline
 Mar. 31: Book Club at Nancy Fritz's
 Mar. 31: Thursday Light
 Apr. 3: Movie Night
 Apr. 3: Baptism Preparation
 Apr. 4: G.R.E.A.T. Group Potluck
 Apr. 4: Plant orders due
 Apr. 5: Vestry Chat
 Apr. 7: Thursday Light
 Apr. 10: Newsletter Deadline
 Apr. 10: Baptism Preparation
 Apr. 10: LA Group Brunch
 Apr. 14: Thursday Light
 Apr. 16: Grounds Cleanup
 Apr. 16: Children's Prayer Walk of the Passion
 Apr. 17: Palm Saturday (no Sunday School or Chapel)
 Apr. 17: Baptism Preparation
 Apr. 18-23: Holy Week services
 Apr. 22: Prayer Vigil begins
 Apr. 24: Easter Sunday (no Sunday School or Chapel)
 Apr. 24: Newsletter Deadline

HAVE YOU VISITED THE WEBSITE LATELY?

www.goodshepherdvancouver.org

RECEIVE YOUR GOOD NEWS BY EMAIL!

Send your email address to:

goodnews@vancouver.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 GREAT Group of mature members at Good Shepherd will meet on Monday April 4th for potluck in the parish hall at 12 noon. Fr. Tom Warne will talk about his "Sabbatical Sojourn in the United Kingdom." This will be very interesting so plan to attend and bring a friend as well as a dish to share.

Questions??? Call Betty Yingling at 256-2956.

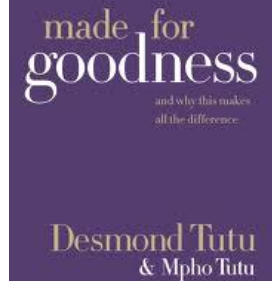
MEN'S SPRING RETREAT

The men of Good Shepherd will have their spring retreat May 20-22 at the diocesan retreat & conference center, St. Andrew's House, on the beautiful Hood Canal in Union, WA. Mark your calendars NOW and plan on joining the men of the parish as we gather and share our journeys together. More information will follow. Questions, talk to Fr. Tom, 892-7770 or tomw@goodshepherdvancouver.org. Thank you!



BISHOP RICKEL'S LENTEN BOOK SELECTION

Dear Ones: My Lenten book selection for 2011 will be Desmond and Mpho Tutu's book, *Made for Goodness: And why this makes all the difference*. Archbishop Tutu will be in Western Washington, Tacoma to be precise, on May 12-14 to speak against violence among youth for the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation. We are working on all the details of the visit but as a lead up to his visit I thought it would be only right to spend Lent looking at this very good book which I have just finished myself. We are fortunate indeed that the book came out in paperback on March 8. It is also available in hardback and on Kindle.



As in past Lenten studies, I will be blogging each week as we travel through the book. I have provided a suggested schedule but feel free, as I know you will, to fashion the study as you feel it fits locally. And as you run upon good ideas please be sure to send them on to me so we might share them with others who are taking the journey....

Taken from Bishop Rickel's Feb. 27th blog entry at: <http://www.bishoprickel.com>

NO CHAPEL APRIL 17TH & 24TH

No Children's Chapel or Sunday School on April 17th, Palm Sunday; or April 24th, Easter Sunday. Please have your children join you in church for these special Sunday services.

SPRING WOMEN'S RETREAT AT MENUCHA



Mark your calendars! Mary Sicilia and Shelly Fayette will be leading a retreat for women May 13-15. We will

be focusing on the lives of the fascinating and brave women of the Hebrew Scriptures. The retreat will run from Friday evening until late Sunday morning. Limited scholarships are available. Contact Rev. Shelly for more information (892-7770 or shellyf@goodshepherdvancouver.org).

CHAT WITH THE VESTRY

Members of the Vestry will again be available Tuesday, April 5th, from 6:00-6:55pm in the Parish Hall.

If you need child care or a ride, please let a member of the vestry know no later than March 29. Contact information is available in the church entryway and on the web. We continue to look forward to dialoguing with the congregation.



MONTESSORI PLANT SALE

At last springtime is near! Soon it will be warm enough to beautify your yard with lovely plants from our annual plant sale. The organic herbs and vegetables were a big hit last year and we are happy to offer them again, too. Orders are due in the church office by Monday, April 4th. Checks should be made out to Church of the Good Shepherd. Orders will be available for pick up in the church courtyard after 3p.m., Friday, April 29th. If you have any questions, please contact Marcella at 892-7770. Happy gardening!

SAINTS AND SINNERS OF THE SILVER SCREEN

1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays,
7:00-9:30 pm, Youth Build.
For older teens and adults



March 20 - Lady Jane. In this film we'll deal with the beginnings of the Protestant Reformation in England and examine the doomed life of Lady Jane Gray, a remarkable young woman of conscience who is fated to rival Mary Tudor for the throne of England. Helena Bonham Carter in her first starring movie role is remarkable as the feisty, vulnerable and compelling Jane Gray.



OFFICE VOLUNTEER NEEDED (SUMMER)

Interested in a volunteer position filled with light and laughter? Our Monday morning office volunteer for summer is unavailable this year. Would you be interested in filling in Monday mornings from 9-12am this summer? The position is short-term and ends in September.

Assisting Anne Brown, our office administrator, includes light telephone and reception duties. You would be a part of our church's daily operations and work with our wonderful staff. It's an ideal volunteer opportunity for teachers and others who cannot commit during the school year. Most of all, it's a fun way to start your week! Call the church office for details at 892-7770.

CHILDREN'S PRAYER WALK OF THE PASSION

Saturday, April 16
2nd - 6th grade: 3:00 - 4:00 PM
Age 3 - 1st grade: 3:45 - 4:45 PM

Children age 3 through the 6th grade are invited to experience the Prayer Walk, led by Fr. Tom. The Prayer Walk is a participatory overview of the Holy Week events of Jesus' life that will help children understand more about this special time in the church year. The walk begins with Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, and continues with the Last Supper; the arrest, trial, and crucifixion; the procession of the cross; and the resurrection. Parents/guardians of the younger group of children are asked to attend with their child (ren), and most welcome to attend with their older children. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity!

There are two age groups with different times to attend. If a family has children in more than one age group there will be supplies available to make Easter cards, or they can help plant flowers in the church courtyard.

Registration forms are available on the table in the narthex, or from your child's chapel or Sunday school leaders. Please pre-register children by April 10th. Friends are always welcome! Contact Kara Urich with questions through the church office at 892-7770 or email: karau@goodshepherdvancouver.org



THE GOOD SHEPHERD BOOK CLUB

The March meeting of the book club will be Thursday, March 31st at 10AM at Nancy Fritz's home. We begin with a discussion of books currently being read and follow with a potluck lunch. Everyone who enjoys reading is welcome. Contact Mary Ellen Brock (mebrook@comcast.net) for information and to RSVP.



YOU ARE INVITED

WHO: All women and young ladies of Good Shepherd!! (And your friends!!)

WHAT: Women's Celebration & Tea, "Love, Laughter and Sharing"

WHERE: Church of the Good Shepherd Parish Hall

WHEN: Saturday, May 7th, 11-1:30pm



WHY: To dress up in fancy/fun clothing, wear a hat and sip tea, eat mini-sandwiches, share stories AND come together for a good cause, **SUPPORTING WOMEN, BOTH LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY!!!** How can I do all that in one day??

THIS YEAR WE ARE VERY EXCITED TO ADD A SILENT AUCTION TO THE TEA WHICH WILL BENEFIT WOMEN, BOTH LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY!!

The local program the silent auction proceeds will go to is called Rahab's Sisters, who provide "compassionate hospitality and a supportive presence to women marginalized by the sex industry, substance abuse and homelessness" on 82nd Avenue in Portland. Rev. Sara Fischer, who runs the program will be one of our guest speakers at the tea to share more about the life-changing work they do. Find out more at www.rahabs-sisters.org.

The global program the silent auction will benefit is the Women for Women's Congo Program. This international program supports women in the Congo, often called "the most difficult place on earth to be a woman." International Women for Women helps women rebuild their lives in the most difficult of circumstances. Ann Shannon will be a guest speaker, discussing the passion she and her daughter share for empowering the women of the Congo. Her daughter, Lisa Shannon has written a book about her journey with the Congolese women entitled "A Thousand Sisters".

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- *Come to the tea and bring a friend to learn about these fabulous programs.
- *Sign-up to help bring scones, sandwiches, fruit or quiche for the event.
- *Sign-up to help set-up for the event on Friday, May 6th from 3-6pm/Help clean-up.
- *Sign-up to bring an item for the silent auction. We are looking for NEW items that women can bid on, including jewelry, art, china pieces, hand-made quilts or blankets.

We are also encouraging "Theme Baskets" of new items. An example may be a "Doggy Basket" that could include a dog bowl, food, bones, toys and clothes. Another example is a "Pamper Yourself" basket that could include nail polish, creams, perfume and a gift certificate for a manicure or pedicure. All baskets need to be well presented and have a label attached to them with the name of the basket, a list of items in the basket and name of the donor. Contact Saran Warne at 258-0134 or warne@comcast.net, Barbara LeRoy at 253-7173 or bcleroy@comcast.net or Robbin Hansen at 896-6102 or s_rhansen@msn.com with any questions about the event.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

at Church of the Good Shepherd

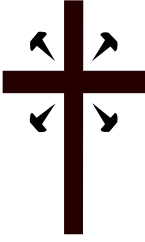
The Sunday of the Passion

Family
Friendly*

Palm Sunday, April 17 - 7:30, 9:00*, & 11:05* a.m.

The Holy Eucharist with the Palm Sunday Liturgy and Choral Reading of the Passion of Jesus Christ. At 9:00 and 11:05 am, the service will begin with the Palm Sunday procession. *There will be no Sunday school or chapel on this day. The nursery will be open from 8:45-12:45.*

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in Holy



Monday, April 18 - 7:00 p.m. A Contemplative Holy Eucharist. That means there will be fewer words, no sermon, more quiet, and peaceful music.

Tuesday, April 19 - 7:00 p.m. A Contemplative Holy Eucharist. That means there will be fewer words, no sermon, more quiet, and peaceful music.

Wednesday, April 20 - 7:00 p.m. A Contemplative Holy Eucharist. That means there will be fewer words, no sermon, more quiet, and peaceful music. This service will include special prayers for healing.

The Triduum

Maundy Thursday, April 21.

Family
Friendly*

7:00 p.m.* The Holy Eucharist with a liturgy of foot washing. The Good Shepherd Choir will offer special music. The service ends with the solemn stripping of the altar. The offerings received will be used for the care of the poor in our community *Nursery care will be provided.*

A Prayer Vigil will last from the end of the Maundy Thursday service through the start of the Great Vigil at 8:00 p.m. on Holy Saturday. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the entryway.

Good Friday, April 22.

Family
Friendly*

12:00 - 3:00 p.m. Open Prayer Vigil with Meditation. Come and go any time during the 3 hours

7:00 p.m.*. The Good Friday Liturgy will include the reading of the Passion, prayers and Holy Communion from the reserved sacrament. The offerings received will be sent to the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. *Nursery care will be provided.*

Family
Friendly*

Easter Eve, April 23 - 8:00 p.m.* The Great Vigil, featuring the first light of Easter, the story of Creation and Redemption, Holy Baptism and the first Holy Communion of Easter. (A small amount of incense will be used at the beginning of this service.) The open offering will be used for the mission of church of the Good Shepherd *Nursery care will be provided.*

The Feast of the Resurrection

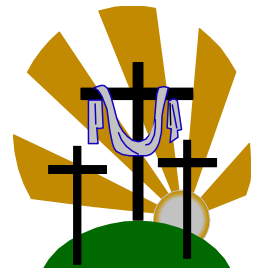
Easter Day, April 24

7:30 a.m. The Holy Eucharist with music by the Good Shepherd Choir.

9:00* a.m. The Holy Eucharist with music by the Good Shepherd Choir.

11:05* a.m. The Holy Eucharist with music by ShepherdSong.

There will be no Sunday School or Chapel. The nursery will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.



Family
Friendly*

*Family
Friendly*

**Nursery care is offered at these services. Children are warmly invited to participate with their families.*

Getting Ready for Holy Week and Easter



Holy Baptism will be celebrated at the Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 23, at 8:00 pm. If you are interested in baptism for yourself or for your children, please contact Rev. Shelly, 892-7770, or shellyf@goodshepherdvancouver.org. You may also sign up in

the church entry. Baptism class dates will be April 3, 10, and 17 at 12:30 pm in the youth building, after the 11:05 service. These classes will involve light reading, fellowship and story-sharing.

Easter Memorials - Memorial gifts for Easter altar flowers or individual lilies can be arranged through the Church office, 892-7770. If you would like to make an offering toward Easter flowers, call with your memorial information by April 13.

A Prayer Vigil begins immediately after the Maundy Thursday worship service and continues until the start of the Great Vigil at 8:00 p.m. on Easter Eve. Jesus asked his disciples in the garden at Gethsemane, "Could you not watch with me one hour?" We try to answer that question by praying throughout the 48 hours in the church in one-hour shifts. There is more information and a sign-up sheet in the entry. Please call the church if you are unable to come at the time you signed up for. Questions, call Chuck or Sandy Bristol – 360-571-0389.



No Sunday School or Chapel on Palm Sunday or Easter for children or adults. Please have your children join you in church for these special services.

Help is needed to fold Easter bulletins on Fri., April 22, at 10:00 am and to fold Triduum bulletins on Thurs., April 21, at 10:00 am. If you can help, please sign up in the church entry or call the office.

The Agape Supper on Maundy Thursday has been a tradition here at Good Shepherd; but, in recent years, has not taken place. **If you would like to organize and help bring back this tradition**, please contact the church office, 892-7770. Thank you!

Flowers for the Children - Easter Pansies

for the children is a long-time tradition at Good Shepherd. Be sure your children receive their plant on Easter morning. Thank you to Nick & Barbara Welsh for providing this Easter gift again this year.



The Sacrament of Penance, commonly called Confession, will be offered by appointment only during Holy Week on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday. For some, Confession is a regular part of their faith discipline. For others, it is appropriate when they feel weighed down by sin and are unable to feel forgiven. If you have questions about the Sacrament of Penance and whether it might be helpful to you, or if you would like to schedule a time for Confession, talk to one of our priests, Tom Warne or Shelly Fayette.

Easter Crowding - Easter attendance is the largest of the year. It is the number one day for our own parishioners to be in Church. It is a time when we bring family members and others as guests. It is also the day we have the most visitors. We want everyone to have a special, faith-filled celebration of Easter. Here are several suggestions for how you can help.

To help alleviate parking lot overcrowding, you could bring the whole family to Church in one car or you could park at Ellsworth School. If your schedule allows, consider making The Great Vigil of Easter at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday or the 7:30 a.m. service on Easter morning your Easter celebration. These will be beautiful services with special music. And, there will be lots of available seats.

Whatever works best for your family, our worship leaders have been at work planning for a joyous celebration of the Resurrection. Invite your family and friends to join you for worship on this great day.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

“Inside Out & Upside Down on Main Street”

June 27th – 30th (Monday – Thursday)

9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Children’s Ministries is excited to offer a brand new Vacation Bible School program, “Inside Out & Upside Down on Main Street” this summer. VBS is open to children age 4 through the 6th grade. Friends are welcome to attend! Each day will be filled with fun, music, games, projects and snacks, and other kid-friendly activities. Main Street will help all of us to see how Jesus can make a difference every day. Kids will be challenged to talk about Jesus’ parables, put the Word on the Street into action, and make choices that serve others!

Mark your calendars now with the dates and time. Children’s registration forms will be available May 1st. Many youth and adult volunteers are needed to help staff this program. Please consider how you’d like to help make our summer program successful. On-site volunteer’s younger children will be accommodated: age 3 can attend the program, and infant – 2 years old will be cared for in the nursery. Volunteer forms will be available soon. Contact Kara Uhrich at 892-7770 or email: karau@goodshepherdvancouver.org if you have any questions.

Please start saving the following supplies for our VBS. (place in box in library)

- Round 4 oz. reusable plastic food containers w/lids
- Empty juice drink bags (Capri Sun, etc.), cut hole for straw slightly larger, rinse and let air dry.
- Old denim jeans
- Buttons
- Fabric scraps
- Yarn, string, twine
- Ribbon
- Colored construction paper
- Old T-shirts, adult sizes or youth large
- Paper plates
- Old CDs
- Shoe boxes w/lids
- Empty cereal or cracker boxes
- 16 oz. tin cans, cleaned out
- Egg cartons
- Empty plastic sport drink bottles w/lids
- Small trinkets such as marbles, coins, beads, shells, etc.
- Old 33 LP records (remember these?)
- Wrapping paper on rolls
- Carpet scraps, minimum size 1-2 sq. ft.
- Maps
- Seed packets
- Small jars w/lids
- Large appliance cardboard boxes
- Anything to decorate our “main street” such as road signs, shop signs, food signs, etc. We’ll return to owner if we’re asked, and your name is on the item.



Thank you!



All youth Sunday School

Rite 13 (6th-8th grades)

Mar. 20: Images of God-“Opening the Heart”; Re-view Lenten Soup Supper

Mar. 27: “Opening the Heart” (cont.)

J2A (9th – 12th grades)

Mar. 20: Born of the Spirit: And what does that mean? John 3:1-17

Mar. 27: Loving People Because People Matter: Reaching out to sinners like me
John 4:5-42

Youth Group Happenings

Mar. 23: Service Night! Serving Our College Friends! We will be skypeing with some of our college youth. Afterwards, we will put together some packages to let them know we care. Please bring goodies to fill the care package!

Mar. 30: Come Together!

Middle School Youth: Food Fear Factor

High School Youth: Guest Speaker!

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Shrove Tuesday pancake supper was a success judging from the crowd served and the smiles on the faces of all. As usual it was a race to cook pancakes as fast as the crowd needed them. The acolyte crew served food and serviced tables cheerfully under the guidance of Tina Henry and Brian Goforth. Several volunteers assisted in mixing batter, cooking sausages, flipping pancakes and washing the tableware.

The parish hall was left in better condition than when we started due to the extra effort of those who took the effort to put away the chairs and tables, vacuum the rug, wash all the tablecloths and equipment.

Enjoy this Lenten season as a period of reflection and perhaps a simpler diet with fond memories of pancakes and sausage until next year.

With thanks to all, Earle Ellis

REGISTER FOR SUMMER CAMP TODAY!

Horse Camp is filling fast, and Missoula Children’s Theater is excited to present Snow White and the Seven Dwarves! *Early Bird Registration Deadline is April 15th!* Scholarships available through your parish and the Bishop Curtis Scholarship Fund or the Camp Huston Director’s Scholarship Fund. To donate and help send a child to camp, visit www.huston.org, contact the Huston office, or donate at church on May 8th – Camps and Conference Centers Sunday!

Save the Date for Camp Huston’s **Open House BBQ, May 21st 11am-3pm** – enjoy walking the trails, meeting the staff, asking questions you have about camp and hotdogs!

Work Weekend, April 29-May 1 – Only \$10 per person to spend the weekend at camp, work hard to rejuvenate the grounds and enjoy good food and fellowship! Jobs available for all ages and abilities so don’t be shy! Youth under 16 years must be accompanied by an adult.

Huston Quilters, April 27-May 1 – Quilt the days away and enjoy your weekend at camp with good friends and good conversation! Four, three, and two night stay options available.

Camps and Conference Center Sunday, May 8th – Bishop Greg Rickel has designated the 3rd Sunday after Easter as C&CC’s Sunday, an opportunity to learn more about the programs offered at Camp Huston and St. Andrews House, learn how to be involved, and offer support to their mission and ministries by way of scholarship.

Visit www.huston.org for more information and registration forms!



THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING RESPONSIBLY

Have you seen the new green recycling bins in the parish hall, youth building and in the hall just past the restrooms? There is also a separate blue bin in the parish hall just for glass. Your help is needed to be sure that the correct items are placed in these bins.

The following items CANNOT be recycled and *must* be put in the garbage: paper plates, cups, napkins, plastic utensils, and anything with food residue. Other items that *cannot* go in our recycling bins are styrofoam, rigid plastic, plastic lids, plastic bags, plastic film, clamshells, and juice concentrate containers. Please put glass only in the blue bin. Thank you for helping Good Shepherd abide by Waste Connection's recycling guidelines!

THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING RESPONSIBLY

**NO
CUPS**

**NO
NAPKINS**

**NO
PLATES**

**NO
UTENSILS**

AND NOTHING WITH FOOD RESIDUE



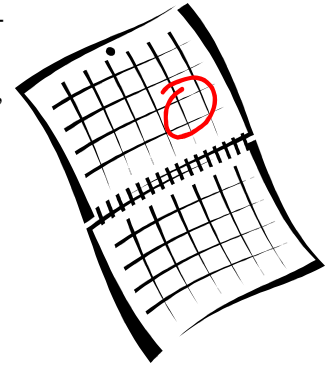
HOPE 2 OTHERS

H2O BAGS - Coming Back Soon! The past couple of years our Middle School Youth started selling H2O bags. The H2O bags are a way to help the homeless you might see hanging out at corners or walking down the street. These bags are gallon size bags that contain food, water and self-care items and are kept easily in the car.

We will be selling them between services this spring (we sold out at our CARNIVAL this fall). The bags are \$3.50. So, plan on picking up a few! The exact date will be announced soon!

NEWSLETTER CHANGE

We've reworked our publishing schedule to be more predictable. Beginning this fall, the Good News will be published the first and third weeks of the month. Summer months (June, July and August), we'll publish only once during the second week. You can continue to look for deadline reminders in the newsletter and via email. Thanks!



DID YOU KNOW?

Good Shepherd Montessori participates in a year round fundraising program called eScrip. Over the past couple of months an average of **\$160** has been awarded to GSM because of your patronage to this program! Anyone, anywhere in the country can earn rewards simply by shopping with participating merchants. Whether you are buying groceries, dining out, purchasing gift cards, shopping on-line, or planning your next vacation or business trip, eScrip rewards us for your patronage.

If you are not a member yet, and to ensure we receive credit for your purchases, please register at www.escrrip.com. Click on "1-Sign Up", enter your Safeway/Vons Club Card # or at least one debit or credit card and enter Group ID #500003441. Once registered, eScrip automatically calculates the rewards and credits them to Good Shepherd. Please register today! You **must renew** each November for the school to receive its percentage of your purchases.

On March 5, a GSM board member delivered a special THANK YOU! to a local Safeway store for having this program. We are grateful to you as well for your participation!

THE BACK PAGE

DISCERNMENT

“Discernment is a term used to describe the activity of determining the value of a certain subject or event. Typically, it is used to describe the activity of going past the mere perception of something, to making detailed judgments about that thing. As a virtue, the discerning individual is considered to possess wisdom, and be of good judgment, especially so with regard to subject matter often overlooked by others.”
(Wikipedia)

What is it about that word “discernment” that bothers me? I think that it is perhaps because it sounds like just so much WORK! Stuff that ‘others’ get to overlook...and then I have to have all that wisdom and do the thinking and listening and paying attention?!!

YUCK.

Knowing myself; knowing others; making big decisions...all maybe not so fun. Then the Christian definition of discernment comes into play: listening for God’s call. Praying is great but then there is the listening and then having to maybe answer a call? Oh, man – that all sounds simply fraught with peril! All kinds of peril. A priest once told me that one of the top fears her parishioners had about just praying to God and asking, “God, tell me what I should do,” was that God would tell them to pack up and move to Africa!

I totally identify with that – not necessarily the moving away part but I guess the fear of **THE ANSWER**. Then there is that part of already knowing in my heart what that difficult answer to my searching question might be! The answer to my question about how to fix any number of my problems lies in first of all facing the problems and then, UGH, actually WORKING on them. Like that sounds fun!

I want this “working on the hard stuff” part of my life to be like the montage scenes in a movie where all these problems or the one big problem all get fixed up and dealt with in the span of a happy, upbeat and inspirational song! With the end being the “perfect” me: all shiny and new and lovely and ready for the close-up! Ta-daaaaa!

But then, if I am really doing that thinking... that discerning, who is the perfect “director” for this “film” of mine? Who already knows what the “perfect” me looks like? What my “happily ever after” ending will be?

That would be our God. He is the guy with THE script. He is the proud grandfather who carries YOUR photo in his wallet. He is the God with YOUR name inscribed on the palm of his hand! (N.B: Not on his bicep to show off to the guys at the gym but the palm of his hand where he can look at it every day, hold you close to His heart and think of you).

Why waste another “scene” without listening to your award-winning director? Remember: the God who is listening to you also talked to Moses and gave him some direction! God knows the Plan and did I mention He loves you? I know you are a good person but when you know “The Lecture” is coming at you, don’t you already know what the Father is going to say?

THAT to me is discernment – and your heart will not lie to you. Go ahead and ask the hard questions and don’t be afraid of the answers...what is there to fear when God is holding you in the palm of His hand?

~Kate Altenhof-Long

The Good News

Church of the Good Shepherd
805 SE Ellsworth
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Thank you,
Cheryl Armstrong and Jennifer Myers-Power, editors

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