

# Heart of the Shepherd



## The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

1115 Center Road, Venice FL 34292  
941-497-7286 [www.goodshepherdvenicefl.org](http://www.goodshepherdvenicefl.org)

December, 2014

### December Calendar of Events

The Parish Office is closed 12/24-26 in observance of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ and 12/31-1/1 for New Years Holiday.

### Wednesdays Through Dec. 17

9:15 AM - Holy Eucharist with Healing Service  
10:15 AM – Women’s & Men’s Bible Studies  
6:00 PM – ALPHA Dinner & Program

### Friday, December 5

Advent Parish Retreat – DaySpring  
Depart Church 8:00 AM

### Sunday, December 7

Pledge Sunday  
Breakfast Buffet After 10 AM Service

### Saturday, December 13

Christmas Cookie Swap – 2 PM  
Advent Taize Service of Prayer, Praise & Reflection – 7 PM

### Sunday, December 14

Deadline for Poinsettia orders

### Monday, December 15

Deadline for January Newsletter  
[nancyelaine@yahoo.com](mailto:nancyelaine@yahoo.com)

### Tuesday, December 16

Intercessory Prayer Group – 10 AM  
Vestry Meeting – 6 PM

### Saturday, December 20

Committal Service for Herb Egan – 10 AM  
Learning the Anglican Rosary with Anne Collins – 2 PM  
Movie Night – “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” – 6 PM

### Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

Holy Eucharist – 4:30 PM  
Candlelight Choral Eucharist – 10 PM

### Thursday, December 25 – Christmas Day

Holy Eucharist – 11 A M

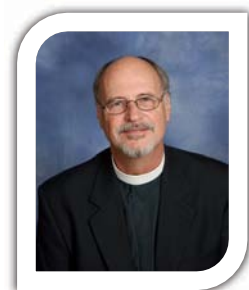
### Do You Have the Christmas Spirit?

A question we hear often during this time of year is: “Are you getting the Christmas spirit?” What does it take for you? Going to a children’s Christmas program? Seeing an Advent wreath in church? Putting up the tree, or listening to Handel’s *Messiah*?

For some reason, as a season like Christmas approaches, we find in ourselves an ever-increasing desire to get in touch with some deep feelings. Feelings of reverence, of joy, of mystery.

Do you know what I mean? It’s a desire to be closer to what we know – deep inside – is the really *valuable* side of life: The “spiritual” world. Maybe that’s why we call it the Christmas SPIRIT.

But with all the activity, visiting, eating, shopping (hard work!)—the “spirit” we yearn for may seem farther away than ever. And in spite of all our attempts to usher in the Christmas Spirit with food and prayers and carols and family fun, we might notice within ourselves (if we take a moment to be alone) a haunting feeling that maybe even God is a bit far away. And that it would take an extreme amount of *effort* on our part to get Him to come closer.



Fr. Gary Wilde

Have you ever felt that way? I have. And especially at times like Christmas, when the “spirit” is supposed to be so evident.

Perhaps this is the time to remember that, ultimately, Christmas is about the **incarnation**—the “enfleshment”—of the living God. That is, God came to earth in flesh and blood, in the person of Jesus. It is an amazing, if not shocking, event. Yet it was prophesied for centuries before it occurred, and its effects still ripple down through our lives today.

In fact, what we celebrate during Advent and Christmastide is an event so unlike any other philosophy or religion. This was an historical claim that could be checked—verified, proved or disproved. This was a claim that touched real life. How does that claim touch *you* during this season?

Christmas says so many things to us—but one of the most important things is: “God is *not* far away; He is very close.” He proved it once by taking on a human body and touching people like you and me. And this longing we feel for the “spirit”—not *just* the Christmas spirit—but the LOGOS, the Word (see John 1), the *realness* behind the externals, the *meaning* behind the routines of life ... this is a longing for which God has provided satisfaction.

With gratitude for this great gift at Bethlehem, we can hardly avoid enjoying the warm glow of the Christmas spirit.

So let us not become so concerned with external considerations that we fail to take advantage of the opportunity to deepen our relationships during this season—with our Lord, too. He calls us from the hectic pace and says: “A deep relationship with Me is always ready for further cultivation. Turn to Me. I really am so close.”

Rev. Gary Allen Wilde  
Rector

P.S. The Calendar of the Christian Year tells us that Advent is celebrated on four Sundays. During that time, our worship music incorporates the great Advent Hymns (see the Hymnal, pages 53-76). Then, after December 25, which is Christmastide, we sing the grand old Carols (Hymnal, pages 77-115). Come, let us adore Him!



## Sunday, December 7 is Pledge Sunday

This is the time of year when we are called to consider how we can give thanks for all those gifts received from God and how we can continue to support the Word of God through Good Shepherd. We give thanks to God by sharing our time, talents and treasures. Scripture instructs us on how we are to build and glorify His kingdom. The Biblical tithe, giving back one-tenth of what we receive, goes back to Abraham. Christ, many times, told parables concerning stewardship and the importance of being a thankful giver: "...for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21)

You should all have received your Pledge Card and letter from the 2014 Stewardship Committee: Steve Eibling, Chairperson; John Buntel, David Beall, Judi Glowiak, Ken Harrison and Fr. Gary Wilde. Please prayerfully consider what you are able to commit in Time, Talent and Treasure in support of Good Shepherd and be joyful and blessed in presenting your completed pledge card on Sunday, December 7 – Good Shepherd Pledge Sunday.



## Good Shepherd's Advent and Christmas Observances



The Sundays of Advent  
November 30, December 7, 14, and 21  
Rite One - 8:00 AM  
Rite Two - 10:00 AM

Wednesdays  
December 3, 10, 17, and 31  
Eucharist with Healing - 9:15 a.m.

Saturday, December 13  
Taizé Service by Candlelight 7 p.m.

The Eve of the Nativity, December 24  
Christmas Eve Service - 4:30 p.m.

Choral Candlelight Service - ("Midnight Mass")  
10:00 p.m.

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, December 25  
Christmas Day Service - 11:00 AM

The Holy Innocents, First Sunday after Christmas  
Day - December 28  
Rite One – 8:00 AM  
Rite Two – 10:00 AM

### What would it mean for you to serve on the Good Shepherd Vestry?

Serving on the Vestry is one of the most significant ways one can serve Christ through this congregation and help fulfill its mission: "Make disciples of all people."

The Vestry is a group of your peers who support the life of the church through regular worship, brief monthly meetings and leading the ministry Commissions: Outreach/Missions, Evangelism, Liturgy, Finance, Communications, Fellowship, Pastoral Care, Christian Education and Property.

Vestry candidates are elected at the Annual Meeting held in January. On Sunday, January 25, we will elect three new members to the Vestry.

Requirements according to the By-laws of Good Shepherd are: Be an active member of Good Shepherd for one year in good standing, who is regular in attendance and makes good stated contributions of record to its general support.

If you are interested in serving, the Clerk of the Vestry, BetteAnn Janes, will be accepting resumés from candidates until December 15, 2014. You may send your resumé to the Church Office addressed to the Clerk of the Vestry.

BetteAnn Janes  
Clerk of the Vestry





### Christmas Poinsettias

All parishioners are welcomed to place a poinsettia in church at Christmas in Memory or Honor of a loved one, or in Thanksgiving for blessings received.

Please **find the form to use in the decorated basket on the sign-up table**. Complete and return this form no later than Sunday, December 14th.

Seasonal folks or others who are unable to pick up a form at church should notify the parish by phone 941-497-7286 or by e-mail to [goodshepherdvenicefl@verizon.net](mailto:goodshepherdvenicefl@verizon.net).

All persons lovingly remembered or honored will be included in the list printed for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

Donations may be given to the Glory of God toward the cost of the florals, evergreens, and other decor creatively designed by the Flower Guild for this blessed liturgical season.



### Good Shepherd All-Parish Retreat



Our annual Good Shepherd All-Parish Retreat will be held at Day Spring Retreat Center on Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> and will be led by Father Gary. The theme for this year's retreat is "That They May Be One" (Meditations on Christ's Prayer for Us, the Family of God. - John 17). The entire congregation is invited to this yearly event to enjoy a time away from your busy life to sit on the porch in a rocking chair and enjoy the beautiful surroundings, walk the Stations of the Cross, pray at the outdoor chapel or ... just enjoy!

We will leave Good Shepherd at 8:00 AM, carpooling to Day Spring. The day begins at 9:00 AM with breakfast snacks, then continues with time for walking or rocking (chairs!) or meditating—and listening to three brief talks by Father Gary. Lunch is served, and we close with Holy Communion in the St. Thomas Chapel at 2:30pm. Come and rest in the Lord in preparation for a joyous celebration of Christmas.

Use the sign-up sheet to let us know you plan to attend. Cost: \$21 (Continental Breakfast & Buffet Lunch). Please let Bev Wolff (941.493.8178) know if you will need a golf cart ride to the chapel.

### JOYOUS BAPTISMS



Rebecca Leigh and Rachel Elizabeth Hurley were the lovely 12-year old twins receiving the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on All Saints Sunday by Fr. Gary Wilde, in the presence of their mom, Julie Hurley, godparents Linda Keclik & Jorge Gueimunde, sponsors, priests and congregants at the 10am service. The girls were given personal copies of the Book of Common Prayer in honor of their baptisms. We wish the two "soon-to-be-teenagers" a happy 13th birthday this month on December 13.

*"Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants, Rebecca Leigh and Rachel Elizabeth, the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. Amen."*

*Book of Common Prayer - Prayer for the Newly Baptised*

*"God our Father, you see your children growing up in an unsteady and confusing world: Show them that your ways give more life than the ways of the world, and that following you is better than chasing after selfish goals. Help them to take failure, not as a measure of their worth, but as a chance for a new start. Give them strength to hold their faith in you, and to keep alive their joy in your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."*

*Book of Common Prayer - Prayer for Young Persons*





We are off to a great start with the “Shop With Scrip” program here at Good Shepherd. Thanks to everyone who has already begun to use the program to do their everyday shopping (groceries, gas, pharmacy, restaurants, etc.) as well as to all who are taking this opportunity to shop for Christmas gift cards for their family, friends and others on their holiday lists.

A special thanks to Rusty Shelley who approached the company for whom she works, Pacer Marine, and told them about this program. With her encouragement, they purchased 155 - \$25 Walmart gift cards for their employees for Thanksgiving. What a way to kick off this program for Good Shepherd! And the best news is that they are doing it again for Christmas!!!

Just FYI – Several retailers are increasing their percentages for Christmas. Those retailers include Bath and Body Works – up 5% to 18%; Hallmark – up 2% to 6%; Bass Pro Shops – up 4% to 13%; Walgreens – up 2% to 8%; and Aeropostale – up 3% to 10%.

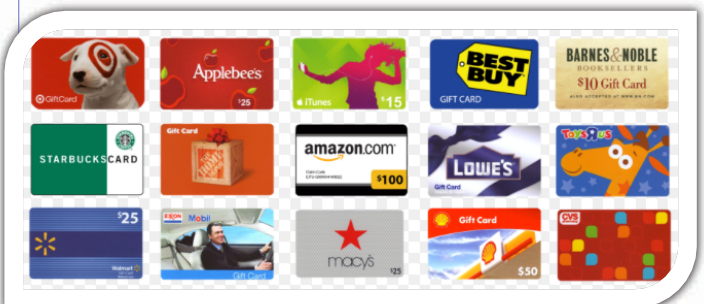
Here is how it works - Good Shepherd members buy gift cards through the parish at full face value and use them in place of cash, checks, or credit cards for their **everyday shopping**. Good Shepherd then purchases the cards from Great Lakes Scrip Center® at a reduced cost. The difference is immediately credited to the Good Shepherd accounts.

A display that includes flyers describing the program, retailer lists, and order blanks are available in the Parish Hall for your use. Orders for the gift cards are collected by the coordinators on Sundays, and the gift cards are delivered the following Sunday.

We will continue to receive orders for your cards through Sunday, December 14, with delivery of that last order on Sunday, December 21. As this is an ongoing project, we will resume taking gift card orders January 4, 2015.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Nancy Fees at [nancyelaine@yahoo.com](mailto:nancyelaine@yahoo.com). Or, call her cell at 248-891-6256.

You will be amazed at the number of merchants where you shop regularly who participate in this program! Here are just a few!



## Transportation Ministry

One of our most valuable ministries here at Good Shepherd is the Transportation Ministry. This is a group of volunteers who give rides to folks who do not have transportation to church or are unable to drive themselves.



At this time we are in need of a Transportation Coordinator. This position involves matching up drivers with those who need rides to and from church on Sundays and for other parish events. Please consider volunteering to fill this most important position.

In addition, we also need a few willing drivers to assist in this ministry. If you are willing to help out in this ministry, please contact me. Thanks for your prayerful consideration.

Jerry Metzger  
(941) 484-8134  
[metzger22@verizon.net](mailto:metzger22@verizon.net)

## United Thank Offering



As commission chair of Outreach, I would like to thank Jackie Fuller for an outstanding job as Chair of the recent United Thank Offering (UTO) in-gathering held on November 2, 2014. Jackie's knowledge of the United Thank Offering (UTO) organization's work throughout the world was an inspiration to all of us.

I am pleased to announce that the United Thank Offering (UTO) contribution has reached \$1300.00. Our contribution will help UTO in many ways. What a blessing it is for Good Shepherd to be able give so generously to this wonderful ministry.

BetteAnn Janes  
Outreach Chair



Once again, I want to express my gratitude to all my brothers and sisters for my transportation to church services and to many, many church events as well.

With a grateful heart –  
In Christ.

Always,  
Linda Vaughn

# FIRST ANNUAL

# COOKIES AND COCOA



Please join us for our 1st Annual Cookie Exchange Party - Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup> - 2:00 pm - 4:00 PM. This event is hosted by the Good Shepherd Youth Group, and a sign up sheet is in the Parish Hall.

Please bring 6-8 dozen of your favorite homemade cookies to swap and an additional 1-2 dozen to put on a tasting table. Also please bring your recipe typed or printed so that we may make a cookbook afterwards.

Wear your favorite Christmas T-shirt and enjoy delicious selections of cookies and cocoa. We will have a door prize, games, music and fun!

If you have family or friends outside of Good Shepherd who like to bake, please invite them too! If you have any questions feel free to ask Lynn Tabor. Phone (941) 716-2406.

**Cookies & Cocoa**

Please join us for our 1st Annual Cookie Exchange Party.  
Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup>  
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Hosted by the Youth Group

A sign up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall.

Please bring 6-8 dozen of your favorite homemade cookies to swap and an additional 1-2 dozen to put on the tasting table.

Also please bring your recipe typed or printed so that we may make a cookbook afterwards.

Wear your favorite Christmas T-Shirt and enjoy a delicious selection of cookies and cocoa.

We will have a door prize, games, music and fun!

**COOKIES**

## THE SALVATION ARMY RED KETTLE DRIVE

Good Shepherd is once again participating in the Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive at the local Walmart on Route 41 from Black Friday through Christmas Eve. Volunteers from Good Shepherd will ring the bells daily from 8:00am to 8:00pm. Our commitment to the Red Kettle program involves over 275 hours, is very ambitious, and will require the involvement of every family to be successful.



Anyone who has experienced Bellingring knows the joy, love, and self-satisfaction it can give at Christmastime!

The signup center and schedule is located at the church entrance. If you are curious, uncertain of what Bellingring entails, or want more information, contact me at [venicefranco@aol.com](mailto:venicefranco@aol.com) or 941-492-4470.

Joe Franco

## Salvation Army Angel Tree

All gifts for the Salvation Army Angel Tree must be brought to the church UNWRAPPED, with the tag attached, by Dec 7th.

Once again Good Shepherd has opened its collective hearts in making this a joyous Christmas for the less fortunate.

Thank you, Lois Cottrill



## Prison Angel Ministry Christmas Tree

Deadline for bringing to the church your WRAPPED gifts for the Angel tree for the Prison Ministry is Sunday, December 14. Again, please attach the tag to the package.

Thanks to everyone who has been willing to assist with this ministry. We have always been blessed by the generosity of our Good Shepherd family.

Thank you, Bev Wolff



**The Next Hot Breakfast Buffet**

...will be held Sunday, December 7th after the 10 a.m. service. These breakfasts are sponsored each month by the Men's Fellowship from November-April. All are welcome to stay and enjoy. Any donations left in the basket placed on the buffet table will help to defray the cost. Plan to stay after the service for a great meal and great fellowship with your Good Shepherd family.

**Christian Women's Christmas Fellowship Luncheon**

The Women's Christian Fellowship Luncheon will be held on Monday, December 8th. All women of the parish and their female guests will enjoy the annual holiday luncheon at the Jacaranda West Country Club at 11:30 am. Our ladies will savor their choice of a delicious midday meal (either Chicken Cordon Bleu or Quiche) selected with their advance reservation. Please sign up on the list provided in the Parish Hall.



Reminder: Please bring a donation of canned or dry pantry goods to the luncheon for the benefit of the Salvation Army Food Bank. See Kay Lang for any late reservations or further information.



In November, the Christian Women's Fellowship filled many Christmas boxes to be distributed to shut-ins and nursing home residents for the Christmas season.

**Photo Sale Fundraiser**

Our thanks go out to Al Bosch, one of our resident photographers, who recently held a photo sale as a fund raiser for the Memorial Garden and the Episcopal Relief & Development Fund.



Al & Liz Bosch presented several of Al's framed photos over a two week period, during which time Al raised \$600.00 for the Memorial Garden and ERD.

BetteAnn Janes  
Outreach Chair

**Introducing Orianna Vasquez**

by Margi Miller

Orianna, age 10, is a student at the Colegio Episcopal San Andrés, located in the capital city of Santo Domingo of the Dominican Republic. She's in the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, and her favorite subject is Mathematics. She loves to play volleyball during her spare time. She has one sibling. Orianna's goal is to eventually study Engineering in college.



The Church of the Good Shepherd is sponsoring Orianna's education with a scholarship through the Episcopal Diocese of the Dominican Republic. She is one of 30 students at Colegio Episcopal San Andrés whose family could not afford to educate her.

The school is small by American standards, with 370 students—just the right size to give Orianna the encouragement she will need to achieve her academic goal.

If you would like to contribute to Orianna's yearly scholarship of \$350, contact BetteAnn Janes, Chairperson of our Vestry's Outreach Committee, or make out a check to the "Dominican Development Group" with the notation "Scholarship" and place it in the Sunday collection. Any amount you might contribute will be appreciated.

**Intercessory Prayer Group**

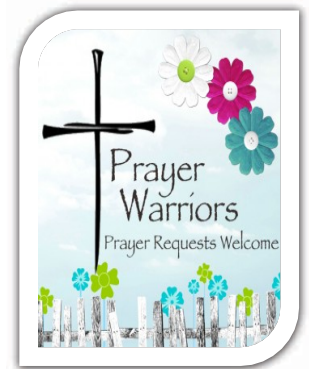
Good Shepherd has an active prayer group and welcomes calls or emails from parishioners and loved ones who want special prayers and support in times of need.

This group meets the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the library. December 16<sup>th</sup> will be the final meeting of this group for 2014. The meetings will resume in 2015 on the third Tuesday, January 20, and continue every third Tuesday in the months following.

All members, as you enter the church, may add names to the intercessory prayer list, and these names are carried forward and become part of the Prayers of the People during the liturgy.

Each Sunday at the 10:00 a.m. service members of this prayer group stand by the altar at Communion time and offer individual prayers for those who wish to approach.

Contact E. K. Beall - 941-488-7312 - ekaybeall@gmail.com



## Cursillo Ultreya



*Ultreya* is a Spanish word, derived from the original Latin, meaning Onward! It was in common use by pilgrims to greet and to encourage one another along their way. This word is now used by the Cursillo community to identify the monthly meetings that are held after a Cursillo experience.

*De Colores* – a phrase conveying the blessings of “all of the colors of God’s love” - is a greeting often exchanged by those who have experienced joy of the Cursillo weekend.

Good Shepherd’s Ultreya is a monthly gathering of those who have been to a Cursillo weekend where Christians are challenged to take the “next step” in deepening their life in Christ, through renewing their faith and commitment to Him. The Cursillo Cross proclaims: “*Christ is counting on you!*”

You may also attend a Cursillo Ultreya at Good Shepherd if you would like to learn more about Cursillo and how to live out your faith in your church and community.

The Ultreyas begin at 5:30pm with a Pot Luck supper, followed with singing, fellowship, listening and sharing with one another as we seek to deepen our faith and expand our knowledge of the Christian life. In a climate of friendship, members share their life experiences based on the three tenets of the Cursillo life - Prayer, Study and Action.

There will **not** be an Ultreya in December as the fourth Friday is December 26.

**The next scheduled Cursillo Gathering is Friday, January 23, 2015.** 5:30-7:30 PM. Sign up sheets are on the table in the Parish Hall. We look forward to welcoming Good Shepherd parishioners who would like to know more about this discipleship ministry and Cursillistas at Good Shepherd to join us for a delightful evening.

**Info: Fr. Calvin and Sandy Davis, 941-485-2755 /  
cdavis9626@verizon.net.**

## Family Movie Nights

We are excited to continue our Pizza and Movie Nights! (Each movie will be listed in our Events section.) All movies are on Saturday nights from 6:00 pm – 8:00 PM.

The cost will be \$5.00 per person with a maximum of \$15.00 for a family. That price includes pizza, either Pepperoni or Cheese from Marco’s Pizza and a choice of a beverage. Popcorn and a large selection of boxed candy will also be available to purchase at \$1.50 each.



To go along with your popcorn at the Pizza and Movie nights, we always have a nice selection of [Kernel Season's Popcorn Seasoning](#). What is your favorite flavor? If you could have any flavor this minute, which would it be?

Pre-registration and payment is required. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration forms are available on the back table in the Fellowship Hall and can be returned with payment to Lynn Tabor. Online Registration is available for the following movies by going to the Good Shepherd Calendar on the website: <http://www.goodshepherdvenicefl.org/>



December 20<sup>th</sup> - [How the Grinch Stole Christmas \(PG\)](#)

Kids who come in Christmas Pajamas will receive 1 free bag of popcorn!

January 24<sup>th</sup>  
Heaven is For Real (PG)

February 21<sup>st</sup>  
Frozen (PG)

March 21<sup>st</sup>  
The Lego Movie (PG)

April 18<sup>th</sup>  
Saving Mr. Banks (PG-13)

May 16<sup>th</sup>  
Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (PG)



## NEW MEMBERS WERE WELCOMED ON ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Several persons came forward on Sunday, November 2nd to be welcomed by Fr. Gary Wilde as new members who joined our fellowship of believers in the prior 12 months. The new members include Doreen Wilson, Mary Anna Johnson, Fred & Barbara Seiler, Catherine & John Saynor, Bob & Anne McKenty, Bob & Pam Clark, George & Mary Lou Donatello, Clo & Ann Improta, Ron & Christine Neal, Barbara & John Robinson, Julie, Rebecca, & Rachel Hurley, Bill & Neal Bolton, Frank & Theresa Marino, and Jean Taylor.

If you would like to join Good Shepherd parish, or if you already consider yourself a member but never “officially” joined, just notify the Church Office with your Baptism information, and we will enter your name in the official membership register. There is also information on our website [found under the About Us tab] offering a warm invitation to attend Alpha, the Inquirer’s Class, and the Network Workshop, as three steps to entering more deeply into fellowship and service at Good Shepherd.

You may also speak to Father Gary or to the Parish Administrator, Diane Fay, to initiate a letter of transfer-in from another Episcopal parish. Seasonal parishioners may desire to be recorded as “Associate Members” of Good Shepherd if their membership lies with their Northern church.

## All Saints Memorial Garden News

The Garden Crew has been busy on projects again this month. Portions of the long viburnum hedge along Center Rd. had been growing out to where it would soon impact upon aerial wires. That's been pruned back encouraging fuller growth of the lower portions of the hedge to help shield the view of the road and cut down on road noise. We have also relocated a birdbath to the center of the St. Francis Pet Memorial Garden. The worn out Indian hawthorne plantings at the gazebo have now been removed.

BetteAnn & Gary Janes have made a contribution to the Memorial Garden in loving memory of the Janes and Simet families. This contribution was used to purchase a sitting bench that has been situated along the walkway, towards the gazebo. A cast brass memorial plaque in memory of the Janes and Simet families is on order and will be installed once it arrives. Thank you, BetteAnn and Gary, for your donation.



*Garden bench dedicated in memory of the Janes & Simet families.*

Al Bosch, our fellow parishioner and very talented wildlife photographer, hosted a sale of his photographic artwork at the Church. Al has elected to most generously donate the profits from his sale to equally benefit both the Memorial Garden and the Episcopal Relief and Development project. Thank you, Al, for the generous gift of your time and your talent.

If you have a loved one or friend who has been interred in our Memorial Garden, I ask you to please visit our webpage, under the tab "About Us" – "Our Facilities" -- "Memorial Gardens." Margi Miller maintains a list on the website of all who have been interred in our Garden, along with birth and death dates. Some of the data that we have on birth and death dates is incomplete. If you see an error or can help with any missing data, please bring it to our attention. We are happy to correct or update our data. Thank you, Margi, for your tireless work on our webpage.

Jim Dellecker

*Give rest, O Christ, to  
thy servants with thy  
saints,  
where sorrow and  
pain are no more,  
neither sighing, but  
life everlasting.*

*Book of Common Prayer*





Recent Member Activity:

Ellen and Marty Flanagan have moved to North Venice and live in the Willow Chase subdivision. Their new address is 1137 Cielo Ct, N Venice, FL 34275

Mary and Ron Smith, former members, have left the area and moved closer to their children about an hour north of Tampa. Now residing at The Highlands, their address is 38708 Callaway Blvd, Dade City, FL 33525.

Directory Correction for Lynette & Lou Morgan: the Illinois town should be Mt. Vernon.

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Bob & Shirley Adams of Osprey, formerly active parishioners here from 1997 to 2003, have transferred their canonical letter of membership to St. Mark's in Venice.

Directories Have Arrived!

Beautiful pictorial directories arrived and were distributed to aid us in connecting to one another in ministry and fellowship. Seasonal members whose portraits were included by LifeTouch Studios have their complimentary directory reserved until they return to Venice. LifeTouch has provided a secure website where parishioners can view the same portraits and contact information wherever they are with Internet access [read website article for more details].

So whether you hold a directory in hand or are viewing online, now is the time to learn names and faces and make a connection to someone new in the Good Shepherd Family. As our family grows, we will have the chance to schedule another portrait day with LifeTouch for newcomers and anyone else interested in adding or changing their portrait...just click "Update



my Portrait"...in the online directory and **when we have just 15 requests we can schedule a professional photography session at Good Shepherd.**

It has been our policy to not publish changes for parishioner phone numbers and emails in the parish newsletter. Our secure online parish directory will continue to be the source of the most current contacts for parishioners. Parishioners who would like access to the online directory should contact the office to obtain their personal login.



IN MEMORIAM

A Committal Service for Herbert Frank Egan will be held on Saturday, December 20th at 10am. Family and friends, along with our priest, Fr. Gary Wilde, will gather in All Saints Memorial Garden to commend Herb to God rejoicing that he is present with the Lord.

Herb passed from this life in August and is survived by his beloved wife, Judy. The Egans were very active parishioners in the late 1990's before moving to Tennessee.

Daughter Aimee Harrison still lives in Venice with her family. Parishioners who knew the Egans are most welcome to attend the committal.

*Eternal rest grant unto them,  
O Lord, and let perpetual  
light shine upon them.*

*May the souls of the faithful  
departed, through the mercy  
of God, rest in peace.*

*Book of Common Prayer*

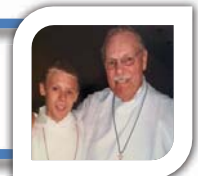
2015 Liturgical Calendars

**2015 Liturgical Calendars** are available on the table in the Parish Hall. The calendars are once again provided by the generous sponsorship of Farley Funeral Homes and Crematory, a family owned and operated Venice business. The Episcopal church year begins on the First Sunday of Advent—November 30<sup>th</sup>. Liturgical colors, Principal Feasts, Holy Days, and Days of Special Devotion for 2015 are designated, along with Eucharistic readings, Collects, and liturgical notes—it's a great resource for every household. **Please take one.**



ACOLYTES NEEDED for the 8 AM Service....

Interested adults should contact Bill Hornberger at 941-484-6563 or by email at [harryhwhorn@aol.com](mailto:harryhwhorn@aol.com).



## Christmas Traditions

We usually associate Saint Nicholas with many Christmas traditions. Nicholas was born during the Third Century in the village of Patara. At the time the area was Greek and is now on the southern coast of Turkey. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young.

Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God as a priest and was consecrated Bishop of Myra while still a young man.



Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships. What a contrast this is to the image we have in popular culture of Santa Claus as an old man living at the cold north pole!

One story tells of a poor man with three daughters. In those days a young woman's father had to offer prospective husbands something of value—a dowry. The larger the dowry, the better the chance that a young woman would find a worthy husband. Without a dowry, a woman was unlikely to marry. Without dowries, the alternative for this poor man's daughters was to be sold into slavery. Mysteriously, on three different occasions, a bag of gold appeared in their home, providing the money for the dowries. The bags of gold, tossed through an open window, were said to have landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. This led to the custom of children hanging stockings or putting out shoes, eagerly awaiting gifts from St. Nicholas. And so St. Nicholas became known as a gift-giver. He did many kind and generous deeds in secret, expecting nothing in return.

We remember St. Nicholas on his feast day, December 6th. Over the centuries, people have reenacted the stories that surround this beloved man. In Germany and Poland, boys would dress as bishops, begging alms for the poor—and sometimes for themselves. In the Netherlands and Belgium, St. Nicholas arrived on a steamship from Spain to ride a white horse on his gift-giving rounds. In the Netherlands St. Nicholas is celebrated on December 5th, the eve of the feast day, by sharing candies, chocolate initial letters, small gifts, and riddles. In Holland, children leave carrots and hay in their shoes for the saint's horse, hoping St. Nicholas will exchange them for small gifts.

By simple gift-giving in Advent, many Christians throughout the world preserve the focus on the Christ Child on Christmas Day.

Saint Francis is also the source of one of our Christmas traditions. Born in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century, we discover this founder of the order of servants of the poor was the originator of the story of the Christmas crèche. Francis had his brothers create a model of the barn where Jesus was born. He had all his close friends, and all his close animal friends, take their places in this replica of Bethlehem.

Francis' mirroring of Christ's love for all creation was so real, it was said, that in the manger appeared the Infant Jesus. The hay in which the Christ child lay was fed to people and animals who were ill, and it freed them from their diseases. F. L. Cross, in *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, records "The night was lighted up like the day, and it delighted (people) and beasts...The woods rang with the voices of the crowd and the rocks made answer to their jubilation."



The tradition of the crèche has continued all over the world since Francis inaugurated it in the Thirteenth Century. The crèche placed each year in the nave of Good Shepherd Church is to remind us that Christmas is not so much about exchanging gifts and gathering with family members or friends as it is about honoring with one another the nativity of Jesus Christ.

### Christmas

*O blessed be Babe Jesus who comes with stars of light;  
And blessed be His Mother and all the angels bright.  
We welcome Him this morning, who in a manger lay.  
He comes to be our Savior this blessed Christmas Day.*

*The shepherds will adore Him. The wise men come to see.  
With myrrh and gold and incense, they humbly bow the knee.  
We'll praise His name forever, this infant child so small.  
He comes to bring salvation; He comes to free us all.*

*Let bells ring out rejoicing, let every voice be heard  
Proclaiming this great morning the birth day of the Word.  
So tiny and in swaddling, He as a baby came  
We celebrate his birthing. We praise his holy name.*

*Matthew 1:21*

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11/20/2010



### English Tea...from John Buntel

The 2014 English Tea was a tremendous success! We served approximately 330 guests. Nothing but compliments was heard, and best of all, we gratefully received the most donations ever turned in to our church! This was successful due to the dedication of the team leaders and support staff. I am blessed to have such a dedicated group with whom to work. Looking forward, the 2015 Tea will be held on Thursday, February 12, with two seatings, and Friday, February 13, with one seating.

Our annual English Tea has become a much anticipated event for your guests. My hope is we will do even greater things this year. Looking ahead, tickets will go on sale starting Dec.7th this year. They make great stocking stuffers. Keep in mind that we totally sold out this past year. We had a waiting list for tickets if they became available... (which none did). So buy your tickets early!

### Annual Rummage Sale

January 17<sup>th</sup> is our Annual Rummage Sale. Donated items can be brought in anytime to be stored in the back classroom. Any questions, please contact Janet Lawlor – (941) 485-3348.



### 2015 Good Shepherd Annual Parish Meeting – Sunday, January 25

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held Sunday, January 25, 2015. There will be a combined service at 9:30 AM followed by the Men's Fellowship Breakfast Buffet and the meeting. At our annual meeting we will hear the reports from our Rector, Fr. Gary Wilde, as well as all of the various Vestry commissions. Election of new Vestry members will also be held at this time. All members of Good Shepherd are encouraged to attend and take part in this very important event in our Parish life.



## C E L E B R A T I O N S

### December Wedding Anniversaries

- 1 BetteAnn & Gary Janes
- 3 Cheryl & Derek Henwood
- 8 Sudie & Harold Schwartz
- 14 Christine & Ron Neal
- 26 Pat and Dick Bull
- 26 Jane & Mike Wellman
- 28 Barbara & Ed Holcroft
- 30 Moria & Will Hornberger

### December Birthday Celebrations

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 3 Ken Bell, Sr.      | 16 Barbara Johnson |
| 4 Wendy Cannizzaro   | 17 Anna Gladden    |
| 4 Bette Baxter       | 20 Joan Lynch      |
| 4 Rosemary Williams  | 23 Luke Glowiak    |
| 5 Jack Newton        | 26 Gary Janes      |
| 5 Ann Improtia       | 28 Roni Harrison   |
| 7 Thelma Neubauer    | 28 Lynette Morgan  |
| 7 Dolores Constantin | 30 Jessie Hayes    |
| 7 Helga Knoerr       |                    |
| 9 Sandy Davis        |                    |
| 9 Carol Ann Mitchell |                    |
| 11 Ellen Flanagan    |                    |
| 13 Jackie Fuller     |                    |
| 13 Wendy Jeffrey     |                    |
| 13 Janine McCarthy   |                    |
| 13 Rachel Hurley     |                    |
| 13 Rebecca Hurley    |                    |
| 14 Phillis Runyon    |                    |
| 14 Aubrey Golding    |                    |
| 15 Susana Gero       |                    |
| 16 Larry Armour      |                    |
| 16 Judy Welch        |                    |

## Staff

Diane Fay	Parish Administrator
BetteAnn Janes	Bookkeeper
Angela Navarro	Organist & Choir Director
Larry Wills	Sexton
Channing Baxter	Organist Emeritus
Christine Gladden	Nursery Attendant

## Assisting Priests

Fr. Leonard Brusso  
Fr. Calvin Davis  
Fr. Robert Miller

## The Vestry

Ken Harrison	Senior Warden
Cindy Esselburn	Junior Warden
Maggie Buonarosa	Evangelism
Anne Collins	Education
Steve Eibling	Finance
Diana Gladden	Fellowship
Jerry Metzger	Pastoral Care
Marcel Tabor	Communications
BetteAnn Janes	Clerk, Missions/Outreach

Bill Hornberger (ex officio)  
Marjorie Dellecker

Liturgy  
Treasurer



## The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

Bishop: The Right Rev. Dabney T. Smith  
Rector: Fr. Gary A. Wilde  
E-mail: [g\\_wilde@verizon.net](mailto:g_wilde@verizon.net)  
Rector's office hours: Tuesday through Thursday  
9AM – 1PM

The Parish Office will closed for the Christmas Holiday on Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> thru Friday, December 26<sup>th</sup>, and again on Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> and Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup> for New Years.

### Sunday Services

8:00 AM – Holy Eucharist, Rite 1  
10:00 AM – Holy Eucharist, Rite 2  
...and Children's Chapel

### Wednesday Services

9:15 AM – Holy Eucharist with Holy Unction

December 3 - Advent 1

Fr. Gary

December 10 - Advent 2

Fr. Bob

December 17 - Advent 3

Fr. Cal

December 24 - Christmas Eve

No 9:15 AM Eucharist

December 31 – Holy Innocents

Fr. Bob

**ALL NEW COMMUNICANTS** should be sure that the parish office has your name and contact information. Each will be an invited guest at our Newcomer's Reception, and we will publically welcome the year's new members during our worship on All Saints' Day. Those new to Good Shepherd are encouraged to take the Alpha Course (offered in Fall & Winter) and the Inquirer's Class (offered in January on Sunday mornings at 9 AM) with Father Gary. However, joining an Episcopal church simply means giving your Baptism information to the Church Office with request to be added to the Register of Members.

A parish community of The Diocese of Southwest Florida  
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