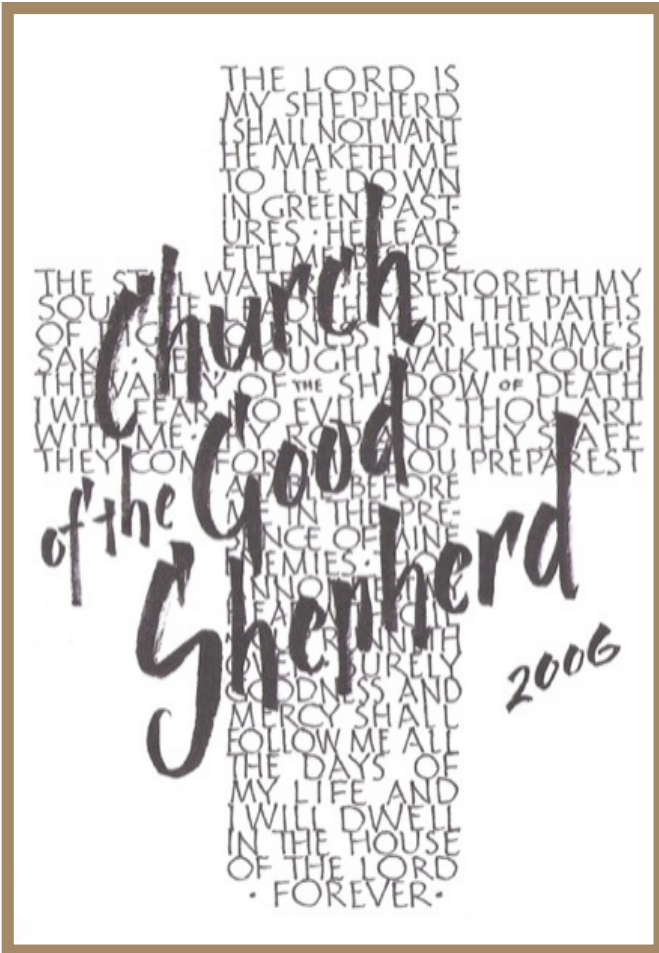


December 2011

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD



...and the sheep follow him because
they know His voice - John 10:4

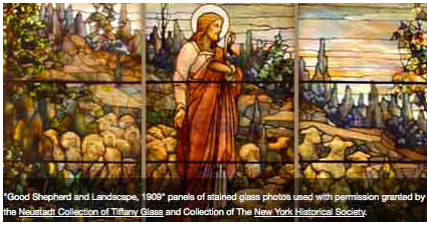


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December Happenings

12/10 D.O.K. - 11 AM
 12/10 EpiscoPals -12 PM
 12/11 Welcome Rev. Pamela Dolan & Food Bank Sunday
 12/14 Vestry Meeting -7 PM
 12/18 Hanging Greens-11:30 AM
 12/24 Christmas Eve Service- 10:30 PM
 12/25 Christmas Holy Eucharist and Baptisms - 11 AM
 Note: All Mondays - December AA Meeting 7- PM

OUR MISSION

TO SHARE A PLACE OF WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP WHERE OUR HEARTS MEET GOD'S LIGHT ...

OUR VISION

TO BE A VIBRANT COMMUNITY THAT KNOWS CHRIST AND MAKES HIM KNOWN.

From the Desk of Pamela Dolan

It is such a pleasure to have this opportunity to begin to introduce myself to the people of the Church of the Good Shepherd. I say “begin” because I hope that we will have many opportunities to be together in person and to get to know each other better in the coming days.



Although I am not from St. Louis, I know that the big question is, “Where did you go to high school?” Ironically, the same thing is true in my hometown of Kailua, Hawaii. (For the record, I went to Punahou, a school that boasts one president and one Dancing with the Stars judge among its alumni.) I studied English as an undergraduate at UC Berkeley, then went on to Harvard Divinity School and New York University for graduate studies. I do not surf, but I did take hula and ukulele lessons in school!

My husband, John, grew up in Webster Groves and still has family here; we moved back to this area nearly six years ago. We have two wonderful daughters—Annabel, age 13, and Kathleen, age 7—and a much-loved dog named Abbey. Although our girls’ activities keep us pretty busy, we enjoy cooking, hiking, books, movies, and travel.

My discernment process and ordination took place here in the Diocese of Missouri. Becoming a priest has been the fulfillment of a lifelong vocation, a call that began when I was seven years old and received Holy Communion for the first time. I experience priesthood as ministry among and with and for the community of the Baptized, and hold deeply to the belief that all Christians are called to a lifelong process of formation; through regular worship, fellowship, and immersion in Scripture and the sacraments, we do indeed find ourselves being “transformed into His image from glory to glory” (2 Cor 3:18).

I am honored, humbled, and delighted to have been called to be Rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd, and I look forward to walking this journey of formation and transformation together.

Faithfully,
Pamela+

Vestry Meeting Synopsis – Nov. 9, 2011

The Vestry of The Church Of The Good Shepherd held its regular meeting on Wednesday, November 9, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. The Rev. Susie Skinner called the meeting to order and began with prayer.

Pat Wingman gave a brief presentation on the resolutions submitted for the Diocesan Convention.

Susie Skinner announced that her last Sunday would be November 20th. Susie also commented on her time with us and thanked the church for celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of her ordination.

Lesley McIntire reported that the youth group had a great fall outing and is planning a December event.

A motion was made and passed to allow Wayne Beugg to sell pictures that he took at Trivia Night with the proceeds going to EpiscoPals.

Mary Mercurio submitted the October financial statement by e-mail and it was accepted as submitted.

Linda Eveland reported on the transition to The Rev. Pamela Dolan as the new Rector of The Church Of The Good Shepherd. Pamela's first day in the office will be December 5th and her first Sunday will be December 11th. We will have a brunch after the service to welcome Pamela.

The Jr. Wardens report for October was filed by e-mail and accepted. A motion was made and passed that the over hang to the front door be replaced using existing copper drains and new shingles on the roof. The AAL Committee will approve the color of the shingles. Mickey also reported that the work on the outside of the Church should be completed by the end of November. At that time an accounting will be submitted to the Diocese and the grant money will be released.

January 22, 2012 was set as the date for the annual meeting. A nominating committee for new Vestry members and Convention Delegates was formed. The committee is Linda Eveland, Mary Mercurio and Lesley McIntire. Any parishioner interested in serving on either of the groups is urged to speak to a member of the committee.

Please remember your Vestry is here for you. Do not hesitate to contact us.

Bishop Wayne Smith

In this Season of Advent

Our culture is in danger of losing any meaningful sense of the future. On the one hand, there is the trend toward hopelessness and despair, the logical consequence of losing a future. On the other hand, there is an inherent impatience created by our fast-paced culture and its technologies. We learn not to wait, and we expect the instantaneous, even when it is not available.

Christian faith asserts a future. Christian character takes shape in the course of waiting, within a leisurely patience. So much of what we value takes time--the exercise of hospitality, for which there is no hurry-up; the growth of love toward God and neighbor, and toward one's own beloved; the healing of what ails us, if that healing is to be more than a Band-Aid.

Advent is the season devoted to the future. It bids the Christian not to hurry up but to wait, to savor the time, and to question the instantaneous. A favorite season for many of us, perhaps it taps into something we know we need but hardly know how to express. It orients us toward a future in which Christ awaits.

May this Advent be leisurely and holy, chock full of hope, tilting toward God's future.

What is EpiscoPals?

The men of the Church of the Good Shepherd have organized as the "EpiscoPals" to further expand the camaraderie already prevalent in the various charitable projects they take on. The year 2011 was for working closely with the Junior Warden, enhancing the grounds keeping....from helping the staff maintain the grounds to a thorough cleaning of every inch of the interior of the church when needed. They started a small library with donated books, sold on an individual basis to raise funds for more good deeds. In November, the group pitched in at the Veteran's Hospital at Jefferson Barracks, entertaining patients with "bingo," prizes and surprises.

Meeting monthly, the EpiscoPals are an active "bonding" among the men of the Church as a fraternity in Christ. We serve at the pleasure of the Rector under the guidance of the Junior Warden. Great friends have been established and 2012 will be an even more cohesive and visible presence within COGS. Every male of the parish is invited to join in the fun and fraternity with the ultimate goal to help out where needed, both within the physical church and outside charities as assigned.

The Church of the Good Shepherd

Date	12/4	12/11	12/18	12/25
1st Reader	Pam Evans	Kathy Wall	Diane Stirling	John Sant
2nd Reader	Bobbee Ross	Diane Radford	Annie Vogt	Nannette Musgrave
Crucifer	Linsey Eveland	Audrey Kennedy	Sophie Kennedy	Stevia Schenck
Usher	Eveland	Kennedy	Schenck	Eveland
Greeter	Wilson	Sant	Kennedy	
Collection	Mary Mercurio & Annie Vogt	John Sant & Caroline James	Don Kennedy & Pam Evans	

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Save These Dates

December 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1 City Voices & COGS Choir Practice 7 PM	2	3
4 10 AM Holy Eucharist	5 AA Meeting 7 PM	6	7	8 City Voices & COGS Choir Practice 7 PM	9	10 D.O.K. 11 AM Episcopals 12 PM
11 10 AM Holy Eucharist Food Bank Sunday	12 AA Meeting 7 PM	13	14 Vestry 7 PM	15 City Voices & COGS Choir Practice 7 PM	16	17
18 10 AM Holy Eucharist 11:30 AM Hanging of the Greens	19 AA Meeting 7 PM	20	21	22 City Voices & COGS Choir Practice 7 PM	23	24 10:30 PM Christmas Eve Service
25 11 AM Holy Eucharist (and double Baptism)	26 AA Meeting 7 PM	27	28	29	30	31

December 10	Daughters of the King-11 AM; EpiscoPals-Noon	
December 11	Food Bank Sunday	10 AM
December 11	Welcome Pamela Dolan!	10 AM
December 18	The Hanging of the Greens	11:30 AM
December 24	Christmas Eve Service	10:30 PM
December 25	Christmas Holy Eucharist	11 AM

Sen. John Danforth

Dear Good Shepherd Family,

John Danforth defines a national challenge—extreme polarization—and models a solution in the space of 40 minutes. On an October Sunday, he told us the story of his relationship with former Senator Russell Long, a Louisiana Democrat who chaired the Finance Committee from 1965 to 1981. The competent chair of the powerful committee heard the suggestion of a minority junior senator in 1976. Then Sen. John Danforth, the youngest legislator in the room, suggested a tax cut. Long asked clarifying questions such as, “How much of a tax cut?” and as Danforth scrambled for an answer, he found his suggestion propelled forward. Long validated the proposal and, in so doing, validated the junior senator himself. It would have made more sense politically to dismiss the idea and the upstart who authored it.

John asked himself, “Why did Russell do that?” His reflections on this question have helped to shape a statesman who honors the integrity inherent in individuals on both sides of a political equation and seeks to rebuild community among them. He advocates the simple measures of getting to know each other, spending time together, socializing together, and caring about each other as people. When John became the chair of the Commerce Committee, he asked Russell for advice. “Give everyone at the table a stake in the legislation at hand,” Russell said. In other words, create inclusion.

John recognized an essential aspect of Episcopalian theology that allows such inclusion. We remind ourselves through Isaiah, he said, that we do not know the mind of God. It follows that we do not know God’s political party or platform. With that realization, we are encouraged to build community within the common ground of Christian love that envelopes our fiercest differences, that keeps us connected despite the political passions and suspicions that could divide us. We do this at Good Shepherd using the same recipe John gave us: by worshipping together, socializing together, getting to know each other and our families, and caring about each other.

I want us to capitalize on this strength and on John’s message as our country braces for elections. Commercials, articles, talk shows, editorials, and blogs will be relentless in their disparagement of the current President, the candidates and those serving in Congress. That creates an environment that tempts us to forget the humanity of those involved; to forget they have chosen to serve our country with energy, sacrifice and dedication.

Let us give thanks for our membership in a community that worships together and cares deeply about each other and the people close to us. Let us give thanks that as a community we embrace Republicans, Democrats and possible third parties. We know as friends people who belong to the Tea-party and march with Occupy Wall Street. Let us give thanks that we are led by John Danforth’s example. He showed us how to appreciate the integrity and impact of individuals, whether we agree with their politics or not. And he invoked Isaiah to remind us that our politics are not God’s politics.

--Diane Stirling

Youth Group

On Saturday November 5, the Youth Group went to Lesley McIntire's farm for an evening of fellowship and prayer. We picnicked in the old log cabin, skipped rocks in the Missouri River, and hiked along the Katy Trail. The highlights of the day were making s'mores in the fireplace of the log cabin and launching prayer boats after a short compline service.

How to Make a Prayer Boat

By Audrey Kennedy

To make a prayer boat you will need:

1. Small paper plates
2. Miniature votive candles
3. Pens or markers of your choice
4. Matches
5. A large body of water

The first step to making your prayer boat is to choose a pen or marker and inscribe a prayer on either the top or bottom of your small paper plate. This prayer can be one that you find in the Book of Common Prayer or one of your own making. If you do choose to make your own prayer try to focus on content over presentation and remember, God won't mind if your spelling needs work.

Once you've finished your prayer, place your candle on top of your plate; you can experiment with various types of candles to suit your preferences. Then you'll need to light your candle with your matches. Make sure your wick is extended fully upright when lighting your candle. Once you're ready, carefully place your prayer boat on the surface of your body of water. It is ideal to find a spot where the current is strong as this will take your prayer boat out into the fast moving parts of the water.



From the Senior Warden

Another year is just about behind us again - where does it go?

We really do have so much to be grateful for inside the doors of The Church of the Good Shepherd. The year was a challenge but we succeeded beautifully. Susie was a wonderful interim minister to us, handling funerals and weddings, visiting members who could not attend services, dealing with all of our differences and steering us in the right direction. We should always appreciate all she did for us and keep her in our prayers.

The Search Committee put in more hours than you can imagine to find a new rector who could be a good fit and spiritual leader for Good Shepherd - and WE DID THAT. I look so forward to you all getting to know Pamela and for her getting to know us as well. She will be good for us, I know. She, as well should be in our prayers. We are a lot of work!

My wish and prayer for everyone is that you are blessed with a joyous Christmas Season spent with loved ones and friends and that you are blessed with God's Peace. I believe with all my heart that 2012 will be a good year for the church we love so much.

Merry Christmas!

Blessings,

Linda



Our Church:

Welcoming In ...

Birthdays ...

Anniversaries...

Anniversaries:

12/29 Don & Carie Kennedy



O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and His church; send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Birthdays:

12/1 Yara Sarkissyan

12/8 Jacob Terris

12/8 Loren Tvedt

12/15 David Rees

12/26 Carol Link

12/26 Herb Strain

12/31 Darla Ferrario

Watch over thy child, O lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their heart may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of their live; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

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Our Mission: To Share a Place of Worship and Fellowship where Our Hearts Meet God's Light

Our Vision: To Be a Vibrant Community That Knows Christ and Makes Him Known