



The Shepherd's Voice

FEBRUARY

2011

IN OUR PRAYERS...

Your prayers are asked for Vilmarie, Elvira, Destiny, Jim, Andy, Donna, Norma, Carolyn, Franca, Robert, Madeline, Maria, Kathleen, Jennifer, Carol, Dan, Mike, Margaret, Debbie, Phil, Donald, Jackie, Janice, Andy, Sonya, Angel; and the children of the Carpenter's Kids program in Tanzania; we pray for an end to all war and armed conflict and for our service men and women on active duty. Your prayers are asked for Kristen for safety in childbirth. We remember and pray for the souls of the departed, especially, Mary Lou, Harriet, and Shamyra.

COMING EVENTS...

On the Eve of Candlemas, Tuesday, February 1, 2011, at 6:00 PM Sung Holy Eucharist with the Blessing of Candles will be celebrated, the service will be followed by the annual Chili & Chowder Competition . . . The Annunciation and Charity Wine Tasting will be on Friday, March 25, at 6:00 PM: a minimum suggested donation of \$30 per adult is asked at the door.

PHOTO GALLERY...

We are thrilled to announce the creation of the Good Shepherd online photo gallery. Anyone may add photos to an existing gallery or create a new gallery and add photos to that. If you have digital photos from events (past or present) please upload them today!!! You can reach the gallery through a link on the parish website home page.



FROM THE RECTOR: CANDLEMAS & THE LAMB OF GOD

The Reverend Matthew Mead

On Tuesday evening, February 1, we will celebrate the Eve of Candlemas (Good Shepherd offers AA on Wednesday evenings, so when possible we try to celebrate our feast days so that we don't interfere with their meetings). That evening, we welcome as our guest preacher, the Reverend Robert Rhodes, rector of Grace Church, Westwood, New Jersey. Following the service, we will celebrate our annual Chili and Chowder festival! We have nearly fifty people signed up! Pray for good weather and I'll see you there!

Candlemas is a feast with a number of different names. It is affectionately known as Candlemas, but that's not its official name. In most churches, including the Episcopal Church, it is officially known as the Presentation of Jesus Christ in the Temple. Up until the liturgical renewal

February 1, 2011, Tuesday

The Eve of Candlemas

6:00 PM Sung Holy Eucharist

7:00 PM Chili & Chowder Competition

March 9, 2011, Wednesday

Ash Wednesday, The First Day of Lent

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

12:00 PM Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

6:00 PM Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

March 25, 2011, Friday

The Annunciation

6:00 PM Sung Holy Eucharist

7:00 PM Charity Wine Tasting

April 17, 2011, Sunday

Palm Sunday: Sunday of the Passion

7:40 AM Morning Prayer

8:00 AM Blessing of Palms & Said Holy Eucharist

10:00 AM Blessing of Palms, Procession from the Memorial Garden to the Church, Reading of Saint Matthew's Passion Narrative & Sung Holy Eucharist

April 21, 2011, Thursday

Maundy Thursday

6:30 PM Agape Dinner – Potluck Mediterranean

7:30 PM Celebration of the Lord's Supper with the Washing of Feet & Stripping of the Sanctuary

April 22, 2011, Friday

Good Friday

6:30 PM Soup & Bread Potluck Dinner

7:30 PM Celebration of the Lord's Passion with Reading of Saint John's Passion, Solemn Collects & Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament

movement in the 1950s, 60s and 70s, it was generally known as the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary – and in some churches it is still called by that name. These names are drawn from events heard in the Gospel account assigned for the Holy Eucharist on Candlemas: Luke 2:22-40.

As pious Jews, Mary and Joseph were fulfilling two rituals proscribed in the Law. The first ritual involved the first male child born in the family. According to the Books of Exodus and Numbers, the first male was given back to the Lord and presented in the Temple. Sometimes, very rarely, the child would actually be given to the temple and raised there, such as in the case of the prophet Samuel. More often, however the child would be redeemed with a money offering. The second ritual is rooted in ritual and purity laws from the Book of Leviticus and involved the mother. Having giving birth, the mother was regarded as ritually unclean. After forty days – eighty if the child was a girl – the mother was directed to offer a sacrifice for her purification: A lamb if she was able or two turtle doves if she was poor.

I'm not sure why the Purification of Mary, rather than the Presentation of Jesus, was highlighted for so long, since it focuses less attention on Jesus and more on the fulfillment of a purity ritual. In any

event, the name change to the Presentation in recent years reflects the reality that the feast is really all about Jesus. A fact which I think, perhaps ironically, is made even more evident when examining the ritual of purification narrated by Saint Luke.

I mentioned the offering that Mary was to give: a lamb or two turtle doves. Being poor, she and Joseph offered two turtle doves. But the reality is that they also brought with them a lamb – Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. It is Jesus who will, years later, himself be offered as a sacrifice. One offered not for the purity of his mother in the Jewish Temple, but for the sins of the whole world on the cross. With that in mind, I think it's fair to say that our celebration of Candlemas, which is the concluding feast in the Christmas cycle (40th day after Christmas) points directly toward Holy Week and Easter: the Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Lamb of God.

I believe that the point of that Gospel account is that Simeon and Anna see and recognize God. Filled with the Spirit, both the righteous old man and the pious old prophetess look at a child and see only the Lamb of God, the Messiah, the Savior of the World. They saw exactly what John the Baptist saw thirty years later at the Jordan when he suddenly pointed to Jesus and exclaimed: "Behold, the Lamb

April 23, 2011, Saturday

Easter Eve

6:30 PM Pasta Potluck Dinner

7:30 PM The Great Vigil of Easter with Lighting of the Easter Fire & Paschal Candle, Exsultet, Great Prophecies, and Sung Holy Eucharist

April 24, 2011, Sunday

Easter Sunday

7:40 AM Morning Prayer

8:00 AM Said Holy Eucharist

10:00 AM Sung Holy Eucharist

11:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt on the Lawn

June 2, 2011, Thursday

Ascension Day

6:00 PM Sung Holy Eucharist

7:00 PM Steak & Wine Dinner

June 19, 2011, Sunday

Father's Day & Trinity Sunday

7:40 AM Morning Prayer

8:00 AM Said Holy Eucharist

10:00 AM Sung Holy Eucharist

7:00 PM The Brotherhood Presents: BBQ PORK

August 15, 2011, Monday

Saint Mary the Virgin

6:00 PM Holy Eucharist

7:00 PM The Rector's BBQ & Hot Wing Festival

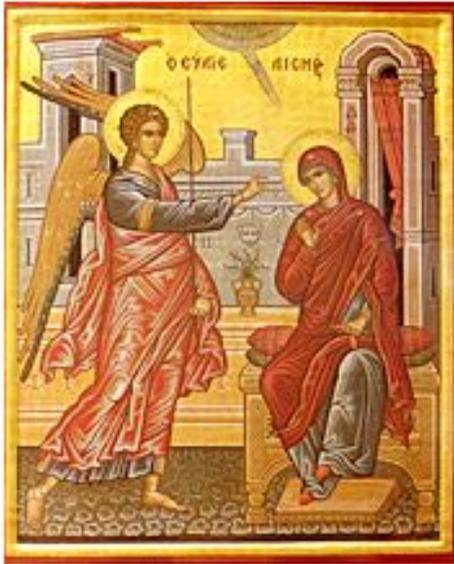
September 29, 2011, Thursday

Michaelmas & Bishop's Visitation

6:00 PM Sung Holy Eucharist with Bishop Sisk

7:00 PM Oktoberfest

The Annunciation & Charity Wine Tasting Friday, March 25, 2011



On Friday, March 25, we will celebrate the Annunciation with Sung Holy Eucharist. The service will be followed by our second annual Charity Wine Tasting & Potluck dinner, hosted by the Outreach Committee.

All are invited to attend, we ask for a minimum donation of \$30 per adult at the door. Any wine that is offered for tasting may be purchased at the event at a discounted rate by the bottle, half case or case. The church receives a percentage of every bottle of wine that is sold, so if you plan to come and you like wine, this is a fabulous day to stock up your wine cellar for charity.

of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

The prophetess Anne, in what may have been her last prophetic word, spoke to everyone she saw about this baby boy. Saint Luke doesn't write that she said he had his mother's eyes or that he might someday be a carpenter. He writes that she told everyone who had been waiting and looking for the redemption of Jerusalem that she had found it in the baby Jesus. Likewise, the words of Simeon are not a lullaby for a baby boy; they are words of recognition about the Son of God who will open the gate of heaven to all people, Jew and Gentile, by dying on the cross and rising from the grave: “Mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou has prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for the glory of thy people Israel.”

The candle light entrance procession that we will begin the service with on Candlemas is as much a celebration of Jesus Christ who is the Light of the world as it is a celebration that we can see that Light. It develops because Christians are dramatically illustrating the fact that they have been enlightened and, like Simeon and Anna, can see Jesus for who he really is.

I love Candlemas because I love watching the candle light slowly

spread from person to person: it reminds me of how Anna and Simeon, who had waited so long to see Jesus, were finally able to. And when their eyes saw, their voices spread the good news of Jesus to the people they encountered. I also love Candlemas because I know that when Candlemas arrives, Lent is right around the corner and Easter is not that far away (this year Lent is actually as far around the corner as it can be, but even so, Ash Wednesday is little more than a month away). I do love Candlemas, but I really love Holy Week and Easter because that is when we get to concentrate on and celebrate God's love conquering sin, death and everything in between.

Sometimes it takes a whole lifetime to know that the sacrifice and resurrection of Lamb of God has opened the heavenly sanctuary to all people (including you and me!) Sometimes you've known that Good News as long as you can remember. But when you do know, passing on that knowledge is as easy and natural as lighting the candle of the person next to you. You have the light and it's very obvious that your neighbor needs that light too... so you pass it on.

As we move toward Lent next month, and we officially begin the journey toward Holy Week, many Christians will settle on a Lenten Devotion. Before we get there, I would like to suggest an "Epiphany Season is really, really long" devotion. Pick a friend or a family member who has not yet seen



February Events

Candlemas & Chili/Chowder: Tuesday, February 1, 6:00 PM

Rector's Christian Education Forum: Sundays, 9:00 AM

Outreach Committee Meeting: Sunday, February 6, 11: 30 AM

LEV & LEM Training Part 1: Sunday, February 13, 11: 30 AM

Senior Fellowship Lunch: Tuesday, February 15, 12:00 PM

Vestry Meeting: Wednesday, February 16, 7:00 PM (tentative)

LEV & LEM Training Part 2: Sunday, February 20, 11: 30 AM

Lenten Devotion Committee: Sunday, February 28, 11: 30 AM

Server & Reader Schedule

Monday, February 1 – Candlemas

Chalice	Robert Rhodes
Acolytes	Abbey Vesperman Emily Vesperman
OT Reader	Fay Wright
NT Reader	Wilfried Haensch
Prayers	Sally Stevens
Ushers	Glenn Hintze Rick Vesperman

Sunday, February 6, 5 Epi/Scout Sunday

Chalice	Phil Levy
Acolytes	Kayleigh Kenny Melody Rubino Liam Kenny
Readers/Prayer	Scouts
Ushers	Scouts (w/ Rick Vesperman)

Sunday, February 13, 6 Epiphany

Chalice	Gwen Greene
Acolytes	Kayleigh Kenny Liam Kenny Jesse Lewis
OT Reader	Fran DiBernardo
NT Reader	Gwen Greene
Prayers	Arleen Flury
Ushers	Bob Velzy Bernie Sotter

Sunday, January 20, 7 Epiphany

Chalice	Fran DiBernardo
Acolytes	Abbey Vesperman Emily Vesperman Jesse Lewis
OT Reader	Marshall Kidder
NT Reader	Jan Corning
Prayers	Sally Stevens
Ushers	Rick Vesperman

Sunday, February 27, 8 Epiphany

Chalice	Diane Buschel
Acolytes	Kayleigh Kenny Liam Kenny Jesse Lewis
OT Reader	Gretchen Hintze
NT Reader	Marshall Kidder
Prayers	Arleen Flury
Ushers	Bob Velzy Bernie Sotter

the light of Christ and see if you can light a spark. Maybe the flame that you have tried to pass on won't be visible for many years, but I believe when any one of us speaks about what we know to be true, someone is listening and at some point the story that has been told will be told in a new voice to a new person who hasn't yet heard it. Remember... You have the light and it's very obvious that your neighbor needs that light too... so you pass it on.

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Sunday School News

By Glenn Hintze

Thanks to everyone who supported and attended our January 8 presentation of the annual Christmas pageant, held in conjunction with our fifth annual "Twelfth Night" celebration.

The children worked very hard for two months on the pageant; we had 23 performers. We reprised "The First Christmas" from last year. Some children were in their first pageant while other veterans played two parts, and they all did a marvelous job acting, singing and telling the story of Jesus' birth. We again had "live" animals (including a unicorn and a lion!!) and a "live" Baby Jesus (thank you, Matthew Rubino!). We appreciate the support of all parents and everyone else who was involved--it takes a village to present a pageant!

The following Twelfth Night celebration, also organized by the Sunday School, was again an evening of food, fellowship and festivity, with the Magi (Liam Kenny, Diane Buschel and Phil

Levy) bringing gifts for everyone.

Father Matt opened and closed with prayers. Thanks to everyone for their generous donations of food and gifts, and to the organizing committee, especially Arleen Flury and Leslie Fulton, for making it happen.

We are on to our next session, being taught by Suzanne Bracken and Mella Donofrio (thank you!) and it will conclude February 27 with a Family Sunday service, where the children will perform most of the roles in the 10am service--something they really enjoy. Following that, Leslie and Courtney Velzy will teach the March-April session, leading up to Easter. They can use help if you are interested! Then in May and June we will have several weeks of "Christian Education" where parishioners are invited to spend a Sunday with the children, telling them about a hobby or engaging them in activities such as planting flowers. We are looking for more participation during these weeks--it is a very rewarding experience. Gwen Greene will also be working with the children during this time on the annual spring concert which will be presented in church.

Please talk to anyone on the Sunday School Committee if you want to join us! The children would love to see you!

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Sunday & Holy Day Attendance for Christmas and January

Christmas Eve, Friday, Dec. 24, 2010: 183
Christmas Day, Saturday, Dec. 25, 2010: 16
First Sunday after Christmas, Dec. 26, 2010: 70

Second Sunday after Christmas, Jan. 2, 2010: 100
First Sunday after Epiphany, Jan. 9, 2010: 171
Second Sunday after Epiphany, Jan. 16, 2010: 88
Third Sunday after Epiphany, Jan. 23, 2010: 100

Total Sunday Attendance for 2011: 459
Average Sunday attendance for 2011: 115

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Regular Service Schedule in February 2011:

*Morning Prayer will resume on Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday, and Friday, at 7:40 AM.*

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Happy Birthday!!!

<i>02-Feb</i>	<i>Glenda Jordan & Alexander Palmer</i>
<i>04-Feb</i>	<i>Gwendalyn Hohwald</i>
<i>07-Feb</i>	<i>Bill Anderson, Marshall Kidder & Sam Parsons</i>
<i>11-Feb</i>	<i>Matthew Corning</i>
<i>12-Feb</i>	<i>Richard Slattery</i>
<i>13-Feb</i>	<i>Mike Kordys</i>
<i>15-Feb</i>	<i>Joseph Corcione</i>
<i>16-Feb</i>	<i>Dorothy Baeder</i>
<i>23-Feb</i>	<i>Emily Vesperman</i>
<i>24-Feb</i>	<i>David Kaprielian & Maria Kaprielian</i>
<i>26-Feb</i>	<i>Gretchen Hintze</i>
<i>27-Feb</i>	<i>Brheth Hohwald</i>
<i>28-Feb</i>	<i>Fran DiBernardo</i>
<i>28-Feb</i>	<i>Pat Katz</i>



WHY I LOVE GOOD SHEPHERD

This article is the third in a series presented by the 2011 Stewardship Committee. If you are interested in submitting an article for the series, please contact Father Matt, we'd love to print your submission! This month we continue the series with a note from Sally Stevens:

I love the fact that we are a family... we look after each other in good times and bad. We laugh together, we cry together, we pray together and we work together to make Good Shepherd what it is...a warm and inviting place to worship and where church isn't just a Sunday event. While we come from many towns, we have created our own community here without town boundaries or rivalries. We share our stories and our advice and when needed we all pitch in without having to be asked. We respect each other. We care for each other. We love our church.

I love the way every one counts at Good Shepherd. Each one of us has a particular self determined niche which we fulfill here that makes it all work. It might be as a member of the Choir or Altar Guild, or the Sunday School or as an Acolyte. It might be as an usher, crucifer, torch bearer, lay reader, or a chalice bearer. It might be as a vestry member, or officer of the church. It might be as a committee head or a committee member. It might be as the sexton, the organist, the babysitter or the rector. It might be as one who has so much experience in life that the

WE NEVER HAVE A SNOW DAY!!!

The Church of the Good Shepherd is blessed with a Rectory located on the church property. If you can get to church on Sunday or on any Holy Day, you can be sure that the Rector will be there and the lights and heat will be on! You might need boots, however!

accumulated wisdom is the gift you have to give others. It may be that your hobby or your vocation is the gift that you share with us. It is in the giving of the best of ourselves that Good Shepherd grows and becomes enriched.

I love the way everyone belongs here in every sense of the word. Anyone can join any organization to which they wish to belong. Everyone is welcome... we are an all inclusive church. We are a diverse bunch and best of all everyone can take communion... no matter what age, no matter what religion or denomination you came from or still belong to, if you've been baptized by water, you belong with us at the rail.

I love our great coffee hours. Where else do people linger over coffee for hours after church exchanging news, giving and receiving advice, laughing and showing off grandchildren's or children's pictures or planning the next church project?

I love the clean up days...when we come together to polish up Good Shepherd and make her shine. The crisp fall air or early spring air when rakes, leaf blowers, pruning shears, shovels, and tarps are pulled out and we work side by side and joke with each other, partake of pizza and head back outside to work some more.

I love the beautiful simplicity of our building with its soaring ceiling, its brilliant stained glass window, its beautifully carved wooden altar and its simple cross. Nothing fancy, nothing to



We now have a fabulous photo gallery! Visit www.GoodShepherdNY.org and click the above graphic to reach the new photo gallery. You can view pictures from events over the last year, and you can upload **YOUR OWN** church related photos!!



THANKS

so much
for your support!

The generosity of the people who support Good Shepherd keeps the church open, active and able to spread the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ to others.

**If you have already pledged for 2011,
THANK YOU!**

**If you have not already made a pledge
for 2011, please consider making one.**

I already make a pledge, can I do more? Try to increase the amount that you pledge each week. Think about this: an extra \$10 each week brings the church \$500 closer to reaching our stewardship goal of \$130,000 – we are already 90% of the way there! An extra \$20 each week brings the church \$1000 closer. If you already make a pledge, consider making your pledge an E-Pledge (your donation is taken electronically from your bank account every month).

What is a pledge? Many people put cash in the collection plate each week rather than pledging. A pledge is more helpful to the parish and to the individual. For the parish it marks a financial commitment that can be counted on throughout the year. For the individual it's a commitment to the church – and not always an easy one – that is lived out over the course of the year. A pledge doesn't have to be everything you plan to give to the church. Try pledging \$20 each week and throw another \$10 in on top of that.

Thank you very much!

distract from the purpose for which we are here—to pray and to glorify God.

I love our service – written out now and easier to follow (thank you Father Matt) so that we know when and how to stand, kneel, respond. Our hymns, old and new always leave me with a joyful heart as we end our services and take our mission out into the world for another week. Let me not forget to mention the Peace. The warmth between parishioners is most tangible during the Peace. Even the shyest children or the newest members eventually realize we sincerely mean “peace be with you”.

I love watching our children grow up, leave and come back with their children to continue our many traditions... the Easter Vigils, stewardship vigils, sunrise services, annual meetings, vestry meetings, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve services, chili and chowder cook offs, Octoberfest, brunches by the Brotherhood, Christmas pageants and twelfth night celebrations, birthday cards on our birthday, the Carpenter's Kids. Ours is a full church life.

People make our church what it is. We are “The Fun Bunch, The Seniors in Denial, The Seniors, The Youth Group, the Sunday School children, the nursery children, we are all children of God. We are the Church Of The Good Shepherd. This is my home.

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The Church of the Good Shepherd is the Episcopal church in Granite Springs, New York. In 1901 a worshipping community in the area of West Somers (as Granite Springs was then known) formed, gathering for prayer meetings in private homes, and the cornerstone of the original chapel, located on Mahopac Avenue just north of Granite Springs Road, was laid in 1904 (the bell in front of the present building is from the original chapel). To accommodate the growing community, a larger church was built on the present site during the 1950s and consecrated in 1958.

All are welcome to enter and pray at Good Shepherd and to join in our services of worship. In the Episcopal Church all baptized persons are invited to receive the Holy Communion: persons who do not wish to receive the Holy Communion are also invited to come forward with everyone else to receive a blessing. If you believe God may be calling you to a new relationship with him through Jesus Christ we want to be of help. Whether you want to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, receive the laying on of hands by the bishop in the sacramental rite of Confirmation or transfer your membership from another church or denomination, joining Good Shepherd is easy, just speak to Father Matthew Mead. The Episcopal Church welcomes you!

Children are always welcome in church. A great place for children to see, hear and participate is in the front pews of the church. Also, childcare is available in the Nursery every Sunday during the 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist. Sunday School is offered during the academic year from September until June. Sunday School begins at 10:00 AM each Sunday. After the children's service and Sunday School activities, the children join the rest of the congregation for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. All baptized persons, including children, are full members of the Body of Christ and are invited to participate in every aspect of the service and receive the Holy Communion.

Do you want to become a member? Do you want to be Baptized? If you want to be baptized or if you want to become a member, we can and will help! Please take a moment to speak to one of the ushers or to the priest after this service. We'll take care of everything, and in no time at all you'll be a member of Good Shepherd. If you would like your child to be baptized, please speak to the priest as soon as the service is over.

The principal Sunday service at Good Shepherd is the 10:00 AM Sung Holy Eucharist, a celebration of the Eucharist in the great tradition of the Church. Every word that is said or sung during our Sunday and Holy Day services is printed in a service leaflet. The service is Rite II from the *Book of Common Prayer 1979*. All hymns are taken from the *Hymnal 1982*. All hymns are reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net A-717752 or with permission from The Hymnal 1982, Copyright © 1985 by The Church Pension Fund (detailed copyright information is below). For convenience and to avoid confusion verses not being sung have been omitted.

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The Reverend Matthew Mead, *Rector*; Sharen McKenna, *Childcare*;
Cecilia Sparacio, *Organist*; Anne Siemerling, *Sexton*.

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