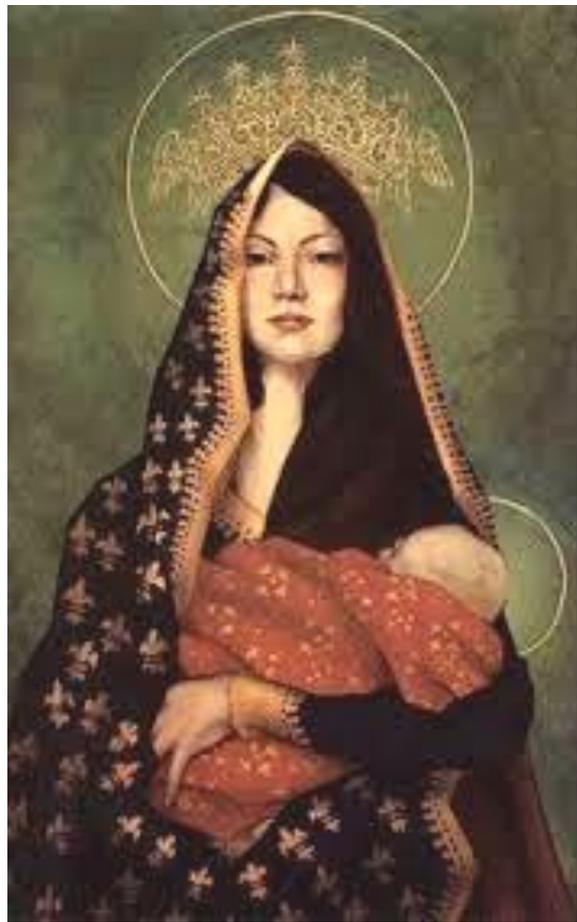


The Shepherd's Call

December 2016



Welcome ☩ Worship ☩ Serve



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From the Priest-in-Charge

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Christmas is barreling down upon us and the retail economy would drown us all in a daily barrage of advertisements and email specials. I find I can barely keep up with the email deletions from day to day. How did the occasion of the celebration of the birth of one small baby in a stable cave over two thousand years ago come to be the central focus of so much money spent, so much angst sweated out, so much depression felt? Having worked in retail department store advertising for almost twenty years, I can tell you, that the folks who work in the industry dread Christmas. They have seen firsthand the full range of emotions that out-sized Christmas expectations can elicit from normally respectable people. It takes only one experience of dealing with a man in a three-piece suit who is in tears, pleading and shouting, because the store is closed on Christmas eve and he's only just remembered that he has no gift for his wife, to make you wish that Christmas would just quietly go away.

Poor, lowly Jesus—the boy who came into the world so that men and women, boys and girls, young and old, gay and straight, and every color of flesh, could be free of the oppression and expectations of the powerful, to bask in the mercy and grace and love of the God who loved them from before

[Continues on page 4](#)

Ongoing Offerings

<i>Sundays</i>	<i>Thursdays</i>
8:00 am, Holy Eucharist 9:30 am, Faith Formation for Children 9:30 am, Holy Eucharist w/music	6:30 pm—8:30 pm, Choir Practice

Save the Date

Friday, December 16th 7:30 pm
Holiday Classics with The Elm City Girls Choir

The Church of the Good Shepherd is pleased to host Holiday Classics featuring the Elm City Girls Choir. The concert will take place on Friday, December 16 at 7:30 PM. The program will include a variety of holiday music performed by New England's premiere girls' choral ensemble. The choir is based in New Haven and has performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and throughout North America, Europe and Asia. Advance tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8 for seniors/students. Tickets may also be purchased at the door for \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors/students. Advance tickets may be purchased after church services on Sundays or by contacting the church at (203)795-6577. Proceeds from all ticket sales benefit the United Girls' Choir scholarship program.

Rummage Sale Update

Thank you to Elaine Swirsky and her crew of volunteers for another successful Rummage Sale. The sale which took place the first weekend of November brought in \$970. Congratulations!

Treasurer's Report

Hello Church!

Many thanks to all of you who have kept current on your pledges. We have managed to stay on top of our expenses and meet our obligations as a result of your timely contributions. If you recall, we went into 2016 with a big question mark about our ability of cover expenses. If you read these monthly updates, you will see that our income and expenses are very close. We have just reached the point where our year-to-date expenses have outpaced our income. If you still owe your pledge for 2016, please bring things up to date.

Our stewardship campaign in concluding, and we need help from everyone in setting things up for a successful 2017 fiscal year. I know it is often difficult to commit to a certain pledge. Speaking as your treasurer, it is very helpful to know what our expected income will be. Thanks to all of those prompt families who have submitted their cards!

Annual Budgeted Expenses	\$241,338
Year to Date Budgeted Expenses	\$220,216
Year to Date Actual Expenses	\$177,674
Year to Date Income	\$169,421

Please note that all expenses include roof loan payments.

Blessings,

Sarah Greifenberger

From the Priest-in-Charge *continued*

they were born. The boy who would shatter the dark hold of evil in this world with the blinding light of unequivocal redemptive love. The boy who would through his death on the cross give each and every one of us the promise of eternal life and love. What gift could be better? What love could be stronger? What strength could be surer?

In this season when it is easy to forget why there is a Christmas, and what Christmas actually symbolizes and reflects, remember Jesus in all things, love Jesus in all people, live Jesus in every moment. Then come to Good Shepherd and sing out your praises and thanksgivings to the One who loves you more than you can ever imagine. Remember Jesus. Come, and be welcome. Come and join your voice with others in worship. Come to live anew a life of service to Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

Diana+

Christmas Drive for Those in Need

Christmas and the arrival of winter with its cold, sleet, and snow is the most difficult time of year for those in our communities who are in need of help. Church of the Good Shepherd will provide the Christmas dinner fixings for six food baskets to go with turkeys given out by Orange Community Services. That is not all that is needed.

Good Shepherd has a history of providing Christmas cheer through the Angel Tree. This year no leader has stepped forward to manage this beneficial project, but there is still time! If anyone feels called to this ministry, please contact the office immediately so that we can put you in touch with the agency that gathers the names and lists of families in need.

Did you know that the VA hospital in West Haven accepts non-cash donations in the form of magazines, coffee and cookies, gently used clothing, and telephone cards which are then distributed to patients at the hospital? These heroic men and women often face long hospital stays due to major trauma and chronic conditions caused by injuries received as a result of their military service. Consider making a donation to the VA this Christmas.

Finally, Rev. Diana's Discretionary Fund is always in need of cash donations or gift cards, 100% of which are given to those in need who reach out to the church or with whom Rev. Diana comes in contact. Make checks out to Church of the Good Shepherd with "Discretionary Fund" in the memo line.

Stewardship and Community

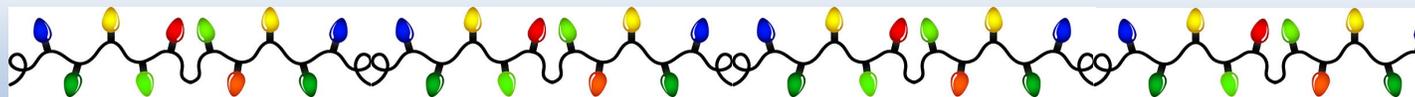
"Community is first of all a quality of the heart. It grows from the spiritual knowledge that we are alive not for ourselves but for one another." (Henri J. M. Nouwen, *Bread for the Journey*)

In Henri Nouwen's book, *A Spirituality of Fundraising*, stewardship, or fundraising in Nouwen's lexicon, is inextricably linked to community and spirituality. Faith communities are centered in relationship. Relationship with God, and also with one another through friendship, compassion, and caring.

When a community forgets the reason for its existence—the goodness and faith of each other—it can lose its way, and its reason for being. God, Christ Jesus, and particularly the writers of the Book of Acts and the epistles, or letters, to the young Christian communities scattered around the Mediterranean Sea call us into community in many ways through scripture (Matthew 18:20, Psalms 133:1, Acts 4:23, Ephesians 4:3). God's greatest desire is that we be as one in unity and harmony with each other and with the Godhead. As the writer of Acts points out this is only possible with the contributions of all, large and small, to the common good of the whole.

And this call to unity is not just for a short period of time in the autumn of the year, but must be ingrained into a way of faithful living, all the year round; not just in church, but also in all we do, think, and say. It must be the end goal of all our striving—not just for the circle of this faith community, but also the circle of this town, this larger church, this whole world. "The mystery of ministry [and community] is that we have been chosen to make our own limited and very conditional love the gateway for the unlimited and unconditional love of God." (Nouwen, *In the Name of Jesus*) Therefore, true community must be mutual with each member's offering being sufficient for the mutual life of all.

Christmas 2016 at CGS



Sunday, December 11th, Advent Lessons & Carols

Please join us at the 9:30a service for our annual Advent Lessons & carols.

Sunday, December 18th, Annual Christmas Pageant and Wassail Party

Please come and enjoy our Annual Christmas Pageant at the 9:30a service followed by the Wassail Party. There will be no 8 am service on December 18th.

Saturday, December 24th, 4:30p , Christmas Eve Service

Please join us. Carols start at 4:30p followed by Holy Eucharist at 5pm.

Sunday, December 25th Christmas Day Service

Please join us for our regular Sunday services at 8am (Holy Eucharist without music) and 9:30 am (Holy Eucharist with music).



Christmas Baskets

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our monthly drives for the Orange Community Center. We are now collecting food for Christmas Baskets. We are in need of the following items: 6 \$25 Supermarket Gift Cards, Coffee or Tea, Cake Mixes and Frosting, Bottles of Juice, Boxes of Stuffing and Mashed Potato mix, Cans of Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans, Canned Corn and Turkey Gravy.

Thank you in advance for your participation and generosity. Please drop off food donations in the Parish Hall by Wednesday, December 14th. Gift card donations can be delivered in the collection plate or dropped off at the office. Please contact the office at 203-795-6577 with any questions.

Episcopal 101

Eucharist: /'yook(ə)rəst/ *noun*

1 the Christian ceremony commemorating the Last Supper, in which bread and wine are consecrated and consumed.

°the consecrated elements, especially the bread.

Origin: late Middle English: from Old French *eucariste*, based on ecclesiastical Greek *eukharistia* 'thanksgiving,' from Greek *eukharistos* 'grateful,' from *eu* 'well' + *kharizesthai* 'offer graciously' (from *kharis* 'grace').

(Source: Google Online Dictionary)

Serving Schedule Signup

The serving schedule for Sunday January 1st through Sunday, March 26th for the 9:30 am service is available for signups. Please signup online or you can phone or email the office. Please remember to sign up if you have not already. You are responsible for finding a replacement if you cannot serve. Please look for an email in the last week of December with the schedule. Thank you for your service.

Faith Formation for Children

We offer faith formation for children every Sunday during the first half of the 9:30 service. Children of all ages are welcome to attend. Recently, we made Advent wreaths, put on a small play about Daniel and the Lions, made many art projects and learned a lot about Jesus. Our lessons during Advent and Christmas will closely follow what the adults are learning upstairs. We will not have class on December 18 due to the Christmas pageant. If you have any questions or are available to help out, please contact Sarah Greifenberger at (203)795-1661 or Sarahgreif@yahoo.com.

Altar Flowers

If you would like to reserve Altar Flowers you can do so by calling the office or signing up in the Parish Hall. Flowers can be given in honor of someone or in memory of someone. Please let us know if you have any special requests when you sign up. The cost is \$30 per Sunday.

Many hands make light work!! Call for Wassail Party Volunteers

Sandy Bremer is coordinating this year's Wassail Party. Volunteers are needed to set up & decorate and we also need a cleanup crew. Please bring your favorite casseroles, side dishes and desserts for Sunday, December 18th after the 9:30 am service. Please phone Sandy at 203/610-3366 or email sandybremer104@optonline.net if you can help or with any questions.

December Activities

CGS Music Program

The Christian Faith has inspired the largest body of great music ever composed by mere mortals. From the chants of the Early Church to the great larger works by the great composers of the Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Contemporary periods as well as folk music of the past two thousand years - all written, played and sung to the Glory of our Lord. The music written to celebrate the birth of Jesus is some of the most beautiful and joyous of that music. It is no wonder that this is my favorite time of the Church Year.

In addition to our own music, we are excited to host Holiday Classics featuring the Elm City Girls Choir. The program will include a variety of holiday music performed by New England's premiere girls' choral ensemble. The choir is based in New Haven and has performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and throughout North America, Europe and Asia. Advance tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8 for seniors/students. Tickets may also be purchased at the door for \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors/students. Advance tickets may be purchased after church services on November 27, December 4 and December 11. Proceeds from all ticket sales benefit the United Girls' Choir scholarship program.

Great blessings to you!



December Activities continued

Stewardship Reminder

Thank you to everyone who has submitted their pledge card. A gentle reminder that parishioners should have received Stewardship Letters and Quarterly Statements in October. We ask you to prayerfully consider how much you will give as financial help for 2017 and return the pledge card by December 31st of 2016. Look for your 2016 Giving Statements in January of 2017.

Favorite Hymns and Church Songs

#78 and #79

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ was born of Mary; and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in.

Where children pure and happy pray to the blessed Child,
where misery cries out to thee, Son of the mother mild;
where charity stands watching and faith holds wide the door,
the dark night wakes, the glory breaks, and Christmas comes once more.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893).
Music: *Forest Green*, Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872-1958)
or *St. Louis*, Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908)

Interesting facts: Phillips Brooks was an Episcopal priest and rector of Church of the Holy Trinity in Philadelphia. The poem was written three years after Fr Brooks visited the village of Bethlehem outside of Jerusalem, and was set to music by the organist at his parish, Lewis Redner. In 1869 Fr Brooks became rector of Trinity Church Boston until in 1891 he was elected bishop diocesan in the Diocese of Massachusetts. He died on January 23, 1893, at the age of fifty-seven, barely a year after his episcopal ordination.

Monthly Offerings

CGS Book Club

Merry Christmas to all CGS Book Club members and thank you for your participation in 2016. Please enjoy your holidays and we will see you in the New Year. Please mark your calendars with the following dates:

- **Tuesday, January 24th, we will discuss Charles Dickens', "A Tale of Two Cities".**
- **Tuesday, February 28th, we will discuss Joseph Heller's "Catch 22" .**
- **Tuesday, March 28th, we will discuss Colton Whitehead's "The Underground Railroad".**

Locations to be determined. Any volunteers?

The book club meets on the last Tuesday of the month.

Please contact Kathy Bellis at kbroadwarrior@yahoo.com if you are interested in attending, have a book suggestion or would like to host a meet up.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Thank you and Merry Christmas to all of the CGS Knitters. There will be no Prayer Shawl Gathering in December but please mark your 2017 calendars with these Wednesdays, 6p-8p, at the Church:

- **January 25th.**
- **February 22nd.**
- **March 29th.**

Our inventory is low and demand high. Please keep clicking. When you have a completed prayer shawl, please contact Kathy Bellis at kbroadwarrior@yahoo.com and she will be happy to pick it up and/or please bring it to church.

Until then, best wishes for a safe, healthy and happy holiday season.



Healing Prayer Service

On the last Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm, a Service of Prayer and Healing is offered, and includes the laying on of hands and Holy Eucharist. This intimate, informal service provides a space for a deepened connection with God's power to heal.

There will no Healing Prayer Service in December. January's Healing Prayer Service is on Wednesday the 25th at 7 pm. Please join us. All are welcome.

Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour hosts are needed . If you have never done it before there are simple directions to follow. Please sign up in the Parish Hall or call the office.

Monthly Offerings continued

Vestry

The December Vestry meeting is Tuesday, December 20th at 7 pm in the Parish Hall.

The Vestry meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7pm.

Choir Practice



Choir Practice is Thursdays at 6:30 pm.
Please contact the office if you are interested in joining the choir.

Prayer List

Do you have someone you would like to add to our prayer list? Please contact the office and we will add the name to our list.

Walking the Labyrinth

The season for monthly Saturday morning prayer walks at the Good Shepherd labyrinth has ended for 2016. Watch for an announcement in the spring of 2017 for the date when they will begin again. The labyrinth is available at any time to anyone at any time, we ask only that you leave it as you found it – in peace. If you see trash, please dispose of it in the large brown trash container near the lower entrance to the church. If you have time to weed, you may dump the offenders in the woods that border the property.

The Good Shepherd Labyrinth is now listed on the World Wide Labyrinth Locator web site at www.labyrinthlocator.com. Several visitors have walked our labyrinth as a result.

PB & J Club

The PB & J Club will not meet in December. Join the men of the parish on Monday January 16th in the Parish Hall at 7:30 pm for friendship, study, conversation and support in developing a deeper relationship with God and one another and find out.

The PB & J Club meets on the third Monday of the month in the Parish Hall.

If you are interested, please contact Joe Scaglia at joseph.scaglia@yahoo.com or 203-795-6555

December 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 6:30p - Choir Practice	2	3 9-11a Advent Prayer Lab
						
4 8:00 a, Holy Eucharist, No Music 9:30 a, Faith Formation for Children 9:30 a, Holy Eucharist, With Music followed by coffee hour	5	6	7	8 6:30p - Choir Practice	9	10 9-11a Advent Prayer Lab
						
11 8:00 a, Holy Eucharist, No Music 9:30 a, Faith Formation for Children 9:30 a, Holy Eucharist, With Advent Lessons & Carols followed by coffee hour	12 Episcopal Kalendar Orders Due	13	14 Holiday Basket Donations Due	15 6:30p - Choir Practice	16 7:30p - Holiday Classics Featuring The Elm City Girls' Choir	17 10a—Pageant Rehearsal 10a—Choir Rehearsal
						
18 8a Pageant Rehearsal 9:30 a, Holy Eucharist, with Christmas Pageant followed by Wassail Party	19 Christmas Memorial Flower Orders Due 	20 7p, Vestry	21	22 6:30p - Choir Practice	23 The office is closed.	24  4:30p, Christmas Eve Service
						
25 <i>Christmas Day</i> 8:00 a, Holy Eucharist, No Music 9:30 a, Holy Eucharist, With Music 	26 The office is closed.	27	28	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i> 

January 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1 <i>New Year's Day</i></p> <p>8:00 a, Holy Eucharist, No Music 9:30 a, Faith Formation for Children 9:30 a, Holy Eucharist, With Music followed by coffee hour</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>The office is closed.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:30p - Choir Practice</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:00 a, Holy Eucharist, No Music 9:30 a, Faith Formation for Children 9:30 a, Holy Eucharist, With Christmas Lessons & Carols followed by coffee hour</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> 	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:30p - Choir Practice</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:00 a, Holy Eucharist, No Music 9:30 a, Faith Formation for Children 9:30 a, Holy Eucharist, With Music followed by coffee hour</p>	<p>16 </p> <p>The office is closed. 7:30p, PB&J Club</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7p, Vestry</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30p - Choir Practice</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:00 a, Holy Eucharist, No Music 9:30 a, Faith Formation for Children 9:30 a, Holy Eucharist, With Music followed by coffee hour</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:30p, PB&J Club</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:00p, CGS Book Club</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:00p, Prayer Shawl Gathering 7:00p, Prayer & Healing Service</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> 	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:00 a, Holy Eucharist, No Music 9:30 a, Faith Formation for Children 9:30 a, Holy Eucharist, With Music 10:30a Annual Meeting</p>	<p>30</p> 	<p>31</p>				



From The Episcopal Church in CT

Resources for your Advent Devotion



Free Advent Course with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby titled "[Getting More Out of the Bible](https://churchnextblog.wordpress.com/the-big-class)." (<https://churchnextblog.wordpress.com/the-big-class>)

On the first day of this new year, the Advent of Christ's coming and coming again, may Our Lord Jesus fill us with renewed courage, love, and joy, to live lives fully dedicated to his will and work. -Churchnext.tv This course is made possible by the generous support of the Office of the Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, the [Bible in the Life of the Church](#) initiative, and [ChurchNext](#). More information and downloadable content is available [here](#).

Here are some resources that might of interest:

[SSJE's #AdventWord](http://adventword.org/) (<http://adventword.org/>) daily email and social media reflection (ECCT will be participating in this Advent reflection, using our Social Media accounts)

[Daily reflections on hope](http://episcopalct-advent.blogspot.com/2016/11/2016-advent-reflections.html) (<http://episcopalct-advent.blogspot.com/2016/11/2016-advent-reflections.html>)

The [2016 Advent Devotional Calendar](#)

(<http://episcopalct-advent.blogspot.com/2016/11/2016-advent-reflections.html>)

designed by Thomas Mousin and Merry Watters and published on their [website](#)

(<https://thomasmousin.wordpress.com/2016/11/01/the-2016-advent-calendar-is-here/>)

it is a simple calendar that suggests a scripture reading and devotion for each day of Advent

Episcopal Relief & Development's [Advent toolkit](#),

(<http://www.episcopalrelief.org/church-in-action/church-campaigns/advent-toolkit>)

offering prayers, activity guides, and an advent calendar

[Journey Through Advent](#)

(<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/journey-through-advent-2016/id1171802675>)

calendar app for iOS, offering scripture reading and an interactive image

Advent guide from Living Compass titled:

[Living Well Through Advent 2016: Practicing Simplicity With All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind](#). (Please pick up a copy in the Narthex) .



From The Episcopal Church in CT

The [2017 Episcopal Youth Event \(EYE17\)](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/blog/eye) (<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/blog/eye>) will focus on the theme *Path to Peace*. This theme is based on the Gospel reading of the Beatitudes in [Matthew 5:1-12](#).



Path to Peace as a theme was developed by the EYE17 Mission Planning Team who discerned a call to focus on peacemaking and the ways each member of the Jesus Movement can pursue a path to peace.

Drawing hundreds of youth from throughout the Episcopal Church, EYE17 will be held on July 10-14, 2017 on the campus of the [University of Central Oklahoma](#) in Edmond, OK, in partnership with the [Diocese of Oklahoma](#).

Read more about EYE17 theme *Path to Peace* [here](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/posts/publicaffairs/eye17-theme-path-peace) (<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/posts/publicaffairs/eye17-theme-path-peace>). To be involved with EYE17 or to learn how ECCT is participating, please contact [Bishop Laura](mailto:lahrens@episcopalct.org) (lahrens@episcopalct.org).

There will be an information session on January 22 at 4:00 p.m. at [St. John's in North Haven](#). A panel of youth will share their stories from EYE 2014 and discuss what EYE 2017 will look like. Please register to attend this session [here](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/episcopal-youth-event-eye-planning-meeting-january-22-2017-tickets-29591051632) (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/episcopal-youth-event-eye-planning-meeting-january-22-2017-tickets-29591051632>).



Applications accepted for Young Adult Service Corps (YASC) 2017-2018 placements. [YASC](#) serves throughout the Anglican Communion, and works alongside partners in administration, agriculture, communication, development, and education. Possible placements for 2017-2018 are Brazil, Costa Rica, England, Ghana, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong, Japan, Jerusalem, Mexico, Panama, Philippines, South Africa, Tanzania, and more. For more information contact [Grace Flint](#), Episcopal Church Staff Officer for YASC Programming.

Applications Due: January 6.



ECCT Convention Update

2000+ Episcopalians Celebrated the Spirit in Connecticut

"Let the press and the media know, that a couple thousand Episcopalians were in the convention center," Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's opening statement to his powerful sermon.



Sunday, November 20, was a lively celebration complete with dramatic readings, St. Luke's Steel Band, a bountiful choir, an inspiring sermon, and the sharing of the Eucharist. Joy and light filled Ballroom B of the Hartford Convention Center. If you'd like a bulletin, [here's a link to the PDF.](#)

At the Celebration of the Spirit, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry offered a powerful message to those gathered in person and via livestream. He focused on turning to the rock, turning to Jesus as our foundation when times get shaky.

Watch his sermon here (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wxQBQ3q0pLk>) :



ECCT Convention Update Cont'd

Bishop Ian's 'TED' Talk Address & Annual Convention Report

Bishop Ian addressed the 232nd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut on Saturday, November 19. He discussed the accomplishments and changes that ECCT has experienced over the last year, and he invited ECCT to try something new on for this next year.



He invited all to try on a Sabbatical Year, to rest in the grace and love of God. Bishop Ian explained this new idea imagined for ECCT:

[This Sabbatical Year] is not a call to complacency, inaction, or passivity. It is a call to present-ness before God and present-ness with one another in the goodness and fullness of God's grace and love in service to God's mission. It is a call to go deeper into the heart of God, a call to trust in God, to discover anew what God desires for us. What it is not, is a call to nihilism, depression, sadness, or making peace with evil...during this year of waiting on God, resting in God, we need to be ever present to the love of God and our invitation and our commission to make that love known and real in this world and in this country."

Listen to his full 'TED' talk address [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pkc2KCw9iEw) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pkc2KCw9iEw).

At Convention, six resolutions were passed (four with amendments) and one resolution was tabled. One courtesy resolution was proposed and passed. Twenty-six individuals were elected to fill the following positions: Standing Committee (Lay & Clerical), Provincial Synod (Lay & Clerical), General Convention 2018 (Lay & Clerical), and Mission Council. You can read a report of the Annual Convention [here](https://www.episcopalct.org/news/report-annual-convention-2016/) (https://www.episcopalct.org/news/report-annual-convention-2016/).

A Light Touch

Question: How many Episcopalians does it take to change a light bulb?

Answer: Ten. One to actually change the bulb and 9 to stand around drinking coffee as they remark on how much they like the old bulb.

Be The Church Fall Clean Up



Thank You to Our Fall Clean-up Participants

Diana Saccente who made delicious Cincinnati style chili and help coordinate and schedule the event, **Jaime Fields**, **Roseanne Wilkerson**, **Holly & Brian DeLorme**, **Peter & Ed Boppert**, **Art Miller**, **Elaine Swirsky**, **Sandy Bremer**, **Dan & Michael Haverstock**, **Rich**, **Joey**, **Alan & Mary Antaya**, **Paul Greifenberger**, **Freddy Prentice**, **Ross Cotjanle**, **Marilee Silva** who made chili and prepared the kitchen and brought supplies, **Rick Buckholz** who gave a bag of work gloves and 40 Hummel hot dogs.



Positions Open

The following are positions where Good Shepherd could use some help from volunteers. Please consider where one of the positions is calling for you! Contact the office to volunteer.

News from the Pews Compiler-- We need someone/s willing to compile a list each month of news about the Good Shepherd community members. This would include names of new members, birth announcements, death announcements, hospitalization/rehab requests for cards or meals, school awards, school graduations, etc.

Sunday Lectors-- Each Sunday we need two lectors for the 9:30 service who read the lessons, lead the psalm, and pray the intercessions (Prayers of the People). If you're interested in this ministry, training is provided. Anyone age 10 to 100 is eligible.

Eucharistic Ministers-- Serving as a Eucharistic Minister (EM) is a licensed sacred calling open to all lay persons 16 years old or older. Younger persons may serve as an EM on an occasional basis. EM's assist in setting the altar for Eucharist, distribute the blessed wine, hold the Gospel book while the it is being read and assists at the altar as requested by clergy. If you are interested in this ministry please speak with Rev. Diana.

Confirmation at The Good Shepherd



Persons interested in being confirmed in the Episcopal Church should contact the office (203-795-6577) as soon as possible. Teenagers in 10th grade or above, and adults 18 years of age and older are encouraged to become students. The teen age program will last the academic year. The adult program will run for about four months. Join us as we learn about the rich history and tradition of the Episcopal Church, the deeper spiritual teachings of the Bible, and our call to work for the common good of all persons.

Episcopal Church Year Kalendars



2017 is almost upon us. We are ordering the Episcopal Church Year Guide Kalendars for 2017 in December. Parishioners wishing to purchase a calendar should contact the office at 203-795-6577 or thegoodshepherd@optonline.net by Monday December 12th.

Please specify how many calendars you would like. The more calendars we order the lower the price so we will inform everyone of the suggested donation when we have the final order count. Calendars will be distributed by the end of December 2016.

Please contact the office with any questions.

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD PRAYER LIST

Please remember the following in your prayers this month:

Aden, Nicole Antaya, Debbie, Beth Bailey, Charlie Schetlin and the Bailey-Schetlin family, Edward Brown, Anne Cherniavsky, Merritt Clark, Joseph Cottle, Frank Donroe, Glen Fettes, Ray, Sandy and Wil Gambardella and family, Gini Gilmer, Marie Grant, Grace Ann Gray, Cindy Habig, Bill Halkovitch, Betheny, Justin and Meagan Hawkins, Helen, Arlene Joy Kaufman, Jim Kelly, Frank Johnston, Jane, Jenifer & Jonathan, Joan, Debbie, Robert, Laura, Leslie, Lloyd, Jack Lyons, Mary Kelly, Ken, Kim, Jim, Sabrina Bristol Marsh, Maribel, Marion, Chris Mihok, Marie Miller, Helen Moore, The Morris Family, Cavan Murphy, The Naylor family, Margaret Nichols, Gina Panza, Ralph, The Rev. Mark Robinson, Robert Snell, Bernice Snell, Lloyd Snyder, Stephen, Elaine Swirsky and family, John Van Arman, Sue Wasylink



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

December Birthdays

Katie Browe

Joey Antaya

Paula Szakonyi

Kelly Molina

Aaron Frey

Liv Holland

Brett Hutchison

Ray Lasky

Eric Silva

Ray Serra



December Anniversaries

Renee & Neal DeLaurentis

Ray & Delores Serra



Poetry Corner

A Visit from Saint Nicholas

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all thro' the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar plums danc'd in their heads,
And Mama in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap—
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters, and threw up the sash.
The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow,
Gave the luster of mid-day to objects below;
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and call'd them by name:
"Now! Dasher, now! Dancer, now! Prancer and Vixen,
"On! Comet, on! Cupid, on! Donder and Blitzen;
"To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall!
"Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!"
As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of toys—and St. Nicholas too:
And then in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.

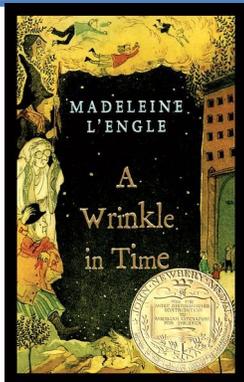
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound:
He was dress'd all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnish'd with ashes and soot;
A bundle of toys was flung on his back,
And he look'd like a peddler just opening his pack:
His eyes—how they twinkled! His dimples: how merry,
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry;
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath.
He had a broad face, and a little round belly
That shook when he laugh'd, like a bowl full of jelly:
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laugh'd when I saw him in spite of myself;
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And fill'd all the stockings; then turn'd with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.
He sprung to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew, like the down of a thistle:
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight—
Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night.

Clement Clarke Moore (1779-1863)

Coming in January

Annual Meeting - Sunday, January 29th, 2017

Book Nook



A Wrinkle in Time, by Madeleine L'Engle

Madeleine L'Engle won the Newberry Medal, the Sequoyah Award, and the Lewis Carroll Shelf Award with this book, the first in a series, about the Murry and O'Keefe families. The book was written for teens but is beloved by adults, too, around the world.

Published in 1963, *A Wrinkle in Time* tells the story of young Meg Murry, whose intellectually brilliant family of prodigies includes her absent scientist father. When their new neighbor, Mrs. Whatsit, mentions something called “the tesseract” (causing Meg’s mother to almost faint with shock!), the stage is set for the children to begin the hunt for dad who was working on a top secret scientific concept of the same name. Mrs. Whatsit and her companions, Mrs. Who and Mrs. Which, transport the children through universe by means of the tesseract on a mission to save their father. Through their travels they meet up with The Happy Medium who shows them the darkness of The Black Thing (evil) that is trying to engulf the planet Earth. The only reason The Black Thing has not conquered Earth is the valiant effort of religious leaders, philosophers, and artists who have been holding back the great cloud of evil. As they rescue their father, one of the children is left behind, under the influence and in grave danger from IT, a bodiless telepathic brain bent on making all mortal beings into conforming robots with no will of their own. Only Meg can save her brother from IT, and what is one thirteen-year-old girl to do?. The Mrs. W’s arrive, rather like the magi, bearing gifts that will help Meg save her brother. Mrs. Whatsit gives her love; Mrs. Who gives her a passage from scripture (1 Corinthians 1:27), “But God chose the foolish things of this world to shame the wise,” to encourage Meg to be brave; and Mrs. Which gives her the clue to defeating the darkness and saving her brother. Meg succeeds in defeating the evil IT and the Mrs. W’s use the tesseract to reunite all of the Murrays in the family vegetable garden back on Earth.

A Wrinkle in Time was followed by *A Wind in the Door* (1973), *A Swiftly Tilting Planet* (1978), *Many Waters* (1986), and *An Acceptable Time* (1989). A new movie version of *A Wrinkle in Time* is set to be released in the spring of 2018, starring Storm Reid, Oprah Winfrey, Reese Witherspoon, and Chris Pine.

Madeleine L'Engle was a life-long Episcopalian, born in New York City, who lived much of her life in Litchfield County, CT. She died on September 7, 2007, and was interred at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine. Her memorial service was attended by many New Yorkers, and many clergy (quite a few who were alums, students, and professors from The General Theological Seminary, the Episcopal seminary in New York City). But what Ms. L'Engle would have loved most was that there were many grandmothers and aunts in the congregation who had brought their young grand-daughters and nieces to pay their respects to an author who continues to empower girls to be brave, and confident of their own worth.

This book, and the rest of the series, is available through Amazon, Barnes& Noble, and at other bookstores, and libraries.

Words to Reflect Upon

“Aslan is a lion- the Lion, the great Lion." "Ooh" said Susan. "I'd thought he was a man. Is he-quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion"...

"Safe?" said Mr. Beaver ... "Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you."

From The Lion, the Witch, and Wardrobe, by Clive Staples (C.S.) Lewis

Poinsettia Order Form

Poinsettias will be used to decorate the altar during Christmas. Please fill out this form and return it to the office with a check or cash, no later than December 18th. Plants are \$25.00 each. Plants will be available to take home on Christmas Day.

Your Name _____

Number of Plants (\$25.00 each) _____

In Memory of:



Mission Statement

We invite all into a diverse, welcoming, Christian Community. We seek to nurture deeper relationships with God and each other, choosing a foundation of worship, prayer and study of God's word. We strive to serve Christ through our care of all people and creation. We accept our mission to share the good news of Jesus Christ, endeavoring to restore all people to unity and wholeness in God.



The Episcopal Church Of The Good Shepherd
680 Racebrook Road, Orange, CT
Welcome ✠ Worship ✠ Serve

The Reverend Diana M. Rogers, *Priest in Charge*
Phone: (203) 795-6577

Parish Office email is

thegoodshepherd@optonline.net.

Church website is www.thegoodshepherdorangect.org

Our Facebook page is

www.facebook.com/cgsorangect

To:

