

HILLTOP HIGHLIGHTS

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

*“THE SHINING LITTLE CHURCH
ON THE HILL”*



JANUARY /
FEBRUARY
2018

ADDRESS

P.O. Box 132
1634 Hilltown Pike
Hilltown, PA, 18927
Office: (215) 822-3930

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesdays and Wednesdays
9:00 am—Noon

Thursdays
By Appointment

RECTOR

The Rev. Catherine D. Kerr

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Bobbie Livesey

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:00 am
Holy Eucharist Rite II

MIDWEEK SERVICE

Wednesdays at 9:30 am
Holy Eucharist &
Healing Prayer

SPECIAL EVENT

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Wednesday February 14th
9:30 am and 7:00 pm
Holy Eucharist with
Imposition of Ashes



Dear friends,

We are natural-born storytellers. Our stories help us make sense of our lives, to understand what matters to us and what our true values are.

That is especially true for us Christians. The central writings of our faith are a collection of stories about what Jesus did and said. They tell us that he was a healer and teacher who sought out those on the margins of society—sinners and tax collectors—and made them his companions. **He talked about God’s love and about getting back to the true meaning of religion.** We know that he was put to death, and that he rose again. The stories of Holy Scripture can be a source of comfort and reassurance when our lives are difficult, but they also challenge us to be our best selves, to be the people God created us to be.

We tell ourselves these stories from the Gospels over and over again, in church and in our own devotions. Each year I look forward in particular to reading **Luke’s version of the nativity at our Christmas Eve service at Good Shepherd: the birth in rough quarters, the glorious appearance of angels, the visit of humble shepherds who came to see for themselves what they had been told about this infant.**

I savor the words of the angel, which have been part of my Christmas since I was a child: **“Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.” (Luke 2:10-11)**

Luke is such a wonderful and vivid writer. As a lover of stories and as a story-teller myself, I admire his skill in weaving so many vignettes together into an engaging and inspiring account of the life and death of Jesus, and the early years of his church. **At Good Shepherd, we’ll explore Luke’s writing in depth this year beginning in Lent, starting with his Gospel and then moving on in the season of Easter to the continuation of his narrative in the book of Acts.**

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VESTRY MEMBERS

Peggy Lewis
Senior Warden & Outreach

Karen Bossert
Accounting Warden

Cindy Schwebel
Vestry Clerk

Sara Campbell
Communications

Kathy Goff
Social Events & Photographer

Barbara Gregory
Member-at-Large & Art Show

Dan Pillie
Adult Education

Kathy Strong
Children & Youth Education

Scott Strong
Property

WORSHIP

ALTAR GUILD
Wendy Gogol, Chair

MUSIC
Cindy Schwebel, Director
Vaughn Rennie, Organist
The Shepherd Singers
The Shepherd Ringers

COMMUNICATIONS

Rob Gogol
Website Manager

Sara Campbell
Newsletter Editor

HILLTOP HIGHLIGHTS is a bi-monthly publication of Good Shepherd Church. All submissions are due to the Editor by the 15th of the months of February, April, June, August, October and December. All newsletter artwork and design are © Shirley Springsteen. Art is to be used **ONLY with artist's permission.**

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We'll be working with a program called *The Good Book Club*, a churchwide program led by Forward Movement – the publisher of *Forward Day by Day*. There will be a list of suggested daily readings, and we'll gather after Holy Eucharist on Wednesdays to discuss what we've read. Other resources will be available for use at home for those who can't be with us on Wednesdays.

As the organizers of the Good Book Club say: "Luke-Acts provides a wonderful two-part narrative. Luke tells the wondrous story of Jesus' birth, ministry, teaching, death, and resurrection. Acts picks up where Luke leaves off and tells the story of the earliest disciples through the lens of Peter and Paul and the real star of the show – the Holy Spirit. Written by the same author, the books are accessible, and the story is a page-turner!"

I'm looking forward to reading Luke again, and sharing thoughts and reflections about these stories with you.

In faith,

Cathy+

Keep watching for more information about the Good Book Club. We'll be sharing the reading list and other resources at church and through our weekly email as we get closer to Lent. You can also learn more about the overall program at this website: goodbookclub.org.



2018 GOOD SHEPHERD SECOND ANNUAL ART EXHIBIT

FEBRUARY 23, 24, & 25TH



Theme: ***“All Things Bright and Beautiful”***



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, January 29th Deadline for Submission of Applications

Friday, February 2nd Notification of Accepted Works

Wednesday, February 21st Installation of Art

Friday, February 23rd

5:30-7:00pm **Artists' Reception**

7:00pm **“Fridays in Lent”**—Art & Spirituality program led by Phoebe Griswold

Saturday, February 24th 11:00am—3:00pm Art Show open to the public

Sunday, February 25th 11:00am—1:00pm Art Show open to the public

Sunday, February 25th 1:00-3:00 pm Art pick-up

Contact friends and relatives and let them know about our next annual art exhibit so they will have plenty of time to create a painting, take a photo, or create a sculpture that depicts our **theme, “All Things Bright and Beautiful.”** Application forms are now available in the narthex. If you would like to be part of the team working on the art exhibit, please contact Barbara Gregory or Shirley Springsteen.

MESSAGE BOARD

✝ **VESTRY** Wednesdays January 10th and February 21st at 6:00 pm

SENIOR WARDEN'S REFLECTIONS

Father Time has marched by to the beat of a very fast tune. We have just finished celebrating Christmas, the most anticipated and joyous time of the year when God gave mankind the most priceless gift of all Jesus his only begotten son. We sang Auld Lang Syne to 2017 and welcomed 2018. I pray this New Year will bring peace to the world.

Liturgically speaking Christmas ended January 5th and Epiphany (the third church season) began January 6th. **Epiphany means “making God manifest.” The primary theme is baptism. The color is green representing the green things of God's earth and the growth of the spirit of God within us.** Ash Wednesday is on February 14th, a day of fasting and the beginning of our next season, that of **Lent. We receive the ashes from our rector reminding us of Genesis 3:19: “For dust you are, and to dust you shall return.” Lent is observed for forty days when Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for forty days. The color is purple – the color of humility, penance, and wisdom that comes from inward discernment.**

In the months of January and February we get a chance to slow down and catch our breaths. The

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winter solstice has occurred so the days are getting longer. Weather-wise we will see what Mother Nature has in store for us. It is a time to hibernate, relax, sit in front of the fireplace and read. Many people are enjoying their winter sports – ice skating, skiing, sledding etc. Even though it is a time to slow down, Good Shepherd Church continues to be active. In January we continue enrichment sessions and our Wednesday morning prayer circle. Some parishioners have volunteered to help Rev. Cathy visit people and administer communion. Other parishioners visit retirement homes to read to people and support them spiritually. We have once again started our prayer chain for not only members but also family and friends. If you have any needs or questions please contact Dolores Henry. In February we are even more active. A work day is scheduled for Saturday, February 10th. The pancake breakfast is on Sunday, February 11th. Ash Wednesday services will be on February 14th. We begin Fridays in Lent and continue faith enrichment. Our 2nd annual art show “All Things Bright and Beautiful” will take place on Friday February 23rd.

I am so thankful that Good Shepherd is blessed with parishioners who have a big heart and welcoming arms. Please remember, “A good life is when you smile often, dream big, laugh a lot, and realize how blessed you are for what you have.”

Faithfully Yours,
Peggy

FOOD PANTRY

We delivered 95 pounds of food to the three food pantries in the our area during November and December. In addition, we delivered enough food for 5 families to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal to Keystone Opportunity Center in Souderton. Thank you to Elizabeth Dinlocker, Peggy Lewis, Rob Gogol, and Bob Wozniak for delivering the food and to all who donated it!

Dan Pillie

OUTREACH

Our Outreach program has been very active and diversified this year. All of our parishioners deserve a very big thank you for their support in making these projects a huge success.

Items were collected and delivered to St. James School in Philadelphia. We collected money to send to Good Shepherd Academy in Africa to purchase animals, academic supplies, sports equipment, and a water system. In September we purchased 12 back packs to fill with school supplies providing much needed items for children in Philadelphia. Hygiene and kitchen kits were assembled and taken to Fish in Perkasio for the homeless. Saving Soles was our next project to collect socks (a much needed item at the shelters). We sent five Thanksgiving dinners to Keystone Opportunity Center in Souderton for those in need. The Mitten Tree was decorated in a multitude of hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves and those items were also sent to Keystone Opportunity Center. Thanks to Flo Zadik we filled a Christmas stocking with food cards to be distributed to local organizations. We continue to contribute food on a weekly basis to support our three local pantries – Manna in Lansdale, the New Britain pantry, and Fish in Perkasio.

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Hopefully we will be able to continue to support these and any new groups you feel are worthy. Once again thank you and blessings to all!

Peggy Lewis

SUNDAY SCHOOL

What are your Christmas traditions? We shared what our families do to get ready for Christmas. Everyone enjoys decorating and shopping, or making gifts for family members and friends.

We talked about how far the Holy Family had to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem. The journey of about 70 miles took them through Samaria, a town that did not like Jews. Traveling on foot, they could walk about 6 miles a day. We tried to think about times when we had to walk a distance and how it felt.

It was the custom of the people to invite travelers into their homes for the evening. How different it is now when families travel!

In the new year will be learning more about Jesus. The children will guide us. They know many of the stories of his life. We will explore some of the others.

Jane Ryan, Sunday School Teacher

HOSPITALITY

New signs have been added to the kitchen bulletin boards to guide hosts/hostesses through the coffee hour set-up. Three major differences:

1. Air pots are pre-heated with hot water. Simply fill the pots with hot water and let them sit for 20 minutes before you fill them with coffee. Coffee can be made and left on the burners until the pots are heated.
2. These air pots can be cleaned with warm soapy water. After they are rinsed, they should be dried inside and out with a dish towel. The handle of a cooking spoon can be used to help reach the bottom of the pot.
3. One pot is marked with a W. That pot is for hot water only, to help keep tea tasting like tea. Spring water will be provided for the hot water pot, again to keep the tea flavor.

The coffee maker is plugged in on Friday. This means that you do not have to prepare it and wait for it to heat up. It is ready to go!

If you have any suggestions on what should be part of the coffee hour fare, please let me know. Juice choices?? Sweetener choices?? Creamers??

Thank you to those who sign-up for coffee hour and provide the treats.

Jane Ryan
216-620-5702
janebusel@comcast.net

CELEBRATIONS



BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY

01/04 Barbara Kegley
01/10 Kathleen Binder
01/11 Sandi Gratias
01/16 Emily Brown
01/16 Butch Campbell
01/21 Kara McGinnis

FEBRUARY

02/12 Cathy Herb
02/13 Darya Tasker
02/19 Lesley Heckenswiler
02/20 Hilda House
02/21 Elizabeth Dinlocker
02/25 Michelle Riley
02/27 Bob Wozniak



ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY

01/22 Wally and Kathy Goff

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When you shop Amazon online using a special link, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5 percent of your eligible purchase to Good Shepherd Church. Just be sure to start your shopping here:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-1720812>

SAVE THE DATE!



Lehigh Valley IronPigs vs. Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders

Sunday, April 29, 2018 – First Pitch – 1:35 pm

Tickets are \$28 each. Seats are in the Berks Food Picnic Patio.

Tickets sales will begin in January 2018. Please see Rob Gogol for details.



JANUARY 2018

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

CONTACT: 215-822-3930

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Happy New Year!</i> Church Office Closed	2 Office Hours 9am—Noon	3 Office Hours 9am—Noon <i>9:10am Church open for silent prayer</i> 9:30am Holy Eucharist & healing prayer	4 Office Hours <i>By Appointment</i> 7:00 pm AI Anon	5 Church Office Closed	6 <i>Feast of The Epiphany</i>
7 First Sunday after the Epiphany 9:00 am Shepherd Singers 9:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Three Kings Play and Holy Eucharist II 11:30 am Shepherd Singers <i>(Lunch and Practice at Cindy's house)</i>	8 Church Office Closed	9 Office Hours 9am—Noon	10 Office Hours 9am—Noon <i>9:10am Church open for silent prayer</i> 9:30am Holy Eucharist & healing prayer 11 am Pine Run Service 6 pm Vestry	11 Office Hours <i>By Appointment</i> 7:00 pm AI Anon	12 Church Office Closed	13
14 Second Sunday after the Epiphany 9:00 am Shepherd Singers 9:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II 11:00 am Faith Enrichment Series	15 Church Office Closed	16 Office Hours 9am—Noon	17 Office Hours 9am—Noon <i>9:10am Church open for silent prayer</i> 9:30am Holy Eucharist & healing prayer	18 Office Hours <i>By Appointment</i> 7:00 pm AI Anon	19 Church Office Closed	20
21 Third Sunday after the Epiphany 9:00 am Shepherd Singers 9:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II 11:30 am Shepherd Singers	22 Church Office Closed	23 Office Hours 9am—Noon	24 Office Hours 9am—Noon <i>9:10am Church open for silent prayer</i> 9:30am Holy Eucharist & healing prayer	25 Church Office Closed 7:00 pm AI Anon	26 Church Office Closed	27
28 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany 9:00 am Shepherd Singers 9:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II 11:30 am Shepherd Singers	29 Church Office Closed <i>Deadline for submitting Art Show applica-</i>	30 Office Hours 9am—Noon	31 Office Hours 9am—Noon <i>9:10am Church open for silent prayer</i> 9:30am Holy Eucharist & healing prayer			

FEBRUARY 2018

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

CONTACT: 215-822-3930

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Office Hours By Appointment 7:00 pm AI Anon	2 Church Office Closed	3 <i>COHI Retreat at Good Shepherd</i>
4 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany 9:00 am Shepherd Singers 9:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II 11:30 am Shepherd Singers	5 Church Office Closed	6 Office Hours 9am-12pm	7 Office Hours 9am—Noon 9:10am Church open for silent prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist & healing prayer	8 Office Hours By Appointment 7:00 pm AI Anon	9 Church Office Closed	10 <i>Work Day (inside)</i>
11 Last Sunday after the Epiphany 9:00 am Shepherd Singers 9:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II 11:00 am Shrove Sunday Pancake Breakfast	12 Church Office Closed	13 Office Hours 9am-12pm	14 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Office Hours 9am—Noon 9:30am & 7pm Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes 11 am Pine Run Service	15 Office Hours By Appointment 7:00 pm AI Anon <i>Mar/Apr Newsletter Article Deadline</i>	16 Church Office Closed <i>6:30pm Fridays In Lent</i>	17
18 First Sunday in Lent 9:00 am Shepherd Singers 9:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II 11:00 am Faith Enrichment Series	19 Church Office Closed	20 Office Hours 9am-12pm	21 Office Hours 9am—Noon 9:10am Church open for silent prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist & healing prayer 10:15am Good Book Club <i>Art Show Installation</i> 6 pm Vestry	22 Office Hours By Appointment 7:00 pm AI Anon	23 Church Office Closed <i>5:30-7pm Art Show Artists' Reception 7pm Fridays in Lent: Art & Spirituality with Phoebe Griswold</i>	24 <i>11am—3pm Art Show</i>
25 Second Sunday in Lent 9:00 am Shepherd Singers 9:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II 11:30 am Shepherd Singers <i>11am—1pm Art Show 1pm—3pm Art pick-up</i>	26 Church Office Closed	27 Office Hours 9am-12pm	28 Office Hours 9am—Noon 9:10am Church open for silent prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist & healing prayer 10:15am Good Book Club			