



The Shepherd's Voice

January 2017

Services

Saturday:

5:00 pm Holy Eucharist

Sunday:

8:00 am Holy Eucharist
Rite I (Nursery
available)

9:15 am Adult Spiritual
Formation (Nursery
available)

10:45 am Holy Eucharist
Rite II (Nursery
available)

10:45 am Children's
Church (Children go
directly to Children's
Church)

Tuesday:

7:00 pm Healing with
Soaking Prayer

Wednesday:

Noon Holy Eucharist
with Healing Prayer

The Rev. Dr. Bill
Breedlove
Rector

The Rev. Turner Guidry
Deacon

Love on Parade

5th Annual Parade of Tables and Silent Auction

Too early to think about Valentine's Day? Absolutely not! It will be here before you know it. Actually, Good Shepherd will be celebrating this special holiday just a little early on Friday, February 10th, with our 5th Annual Parade of Tables Dinner and Silent Auction, themed appropriately "Love on Parade."

And such a deal! Nowhere else will you be able to get a fabulous meal, including appetizers, entrée (choice of prime rib or eggplant rolatini), dessert, and beverage (includes complimentary beer and wine) for only \$20 per person. Plus, you'll enjoy dancing to music from the 50s to the 80s (or maybe just watching those brave enough). You can even send your valentine a special message in a slide presentation prepared lovingly by Fr. Bill. We may even have a few more surprises in store for you!

Suzi Herbert will collect 'significant other' photos and messages for the slide presentation. Please place these in her mailbox in the closet next to the office. Messages and photos can also be sent via email to Fr. Bill. Names need to be on photos to be returned. The deadline for submissions is January 31.

You'll notice some changes this year. Table hosts will remain unknown to those buying tickets, and tables will be numbered and filled as tickets are purchased. Even the table hosts won't know who's sitting at their table until right before the event! No one will be able to 'reserve' a spot for others. If you want to be seated with anyone in particular, you'll need to purchase the tickets together at the same time. No one receives a spot until a ticket is purchased.

Tickets will go on sale Saturday, January 21 and will be available for purchase after church services until February 5. You are encouraged to pay by check since it will be shown on the church giving statement as a tax-deductible contribution.

You won't want to miss this fun and important fund raising event. If you have any questions, please contact Laurie Wright (828-389-1995) or Suzi Herbert (828-389-9929).

SPECIAL NOTE: We are actively recruiting table hosts. If you are interested, please contact Suzi (828-389-9929), Laurie (828-734-0762) or Betsi Wilson (404-313-2311).

Silent Auction Items Needed

The bidding will soon begin at the Love on Parade Dinner and Silent Auction on Friday, February 10, but we need you to think and act now so that we will have quality items to bid on at the event. Quality items needed: Fine jewelry, property rental/vacations, gift certificates for food or services, sports memorabilia, animal services, fly fishing or golf lessons, handmade wood or furniture. Items that do not do well: Glassware (unless handmade), china or

silver plate or collectibles.

You can drop off your donations after all church services from January 21 through February 5 or call Joy Fox for an appointment. This will be a true "silent" auction, as bidding will be done by ticket rather than by name as we have in years past.

Questions? Call Joy Fox.

The Shepherd's Voice

Christian Education

Ongoing

- **Lectionary Bible Study** meets in the Library downstairs. Join us each Sunday at 9:15 as we work through the appointed readings for the following Sunday. All are welcome.
- **Fit 4 God** is a healthy lifestyle men's group, based on "The Daniel Plan" by Rick Warren and "Younger Next Year" by Crowley and Lodge. The group meets in the library at 6:00 pm on Monday. For more information contact David Hourdequin at 828-421-6216.

Upcoming

- A Brief History of Christian Spirituality: Early Martyrs to Modern Missionaries on Thursdays 5:00-6:30 pm in the Undercroft

We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses and over time those witnesses have left of a history of their attempts to know and experience God. A history of their attempts can not only reveal the general shape of their spirituality and their contexts but can help us see where we both connect with the past and where we might be challenged to grow.

January 12 - Martyrs and The Early Church

January 19 - Desert Saints and Monastics

January 26 - Holy Heroes, Mystics, and Medieval Lay Piety

February 2 - Reformers, Evangelicals, and Missionaries

- **Space for God: the Study and Practice of Prayer and Spirituality** — A new book study will begin Sunday, Jan 29, 2017 and continue each Sunday through April 2, 2017. Carol Smucker is facilitating this class. Integral to each of the nine chapters of the book are famous works of art, many by VanGogh. Carol will obtain books for class members to purchase. The purchase price is about \$7.00. The Library has a copy of the book, which will be set out on the Library table for you to examine, if you wish. The first class will be an introductory class when we will receive our books.

The class will be limited to 12 participants. The sign up sheet is in the Hallway.

The class will meet in the Undercroft at 9:05 a.m. (so that members of the choir may more fully participate) on Sundays, starting January 29. If the cost of the book purchase is an obstacle preventing participation, please contact Kathy Wright, as scholarship assistance can be arranged. If you wish to purchase your own copy of *Space for God: the Study and Practice of Prayer and Spirituality* by Don Postema please notify Carol so that she does not over purchase.

Love on Parade — Pictures and Messages Needed

In February of 2017, Fr. Bill will be putting together a slide show, centering around the theme of love. If you would like to be included in this, please send photos or messages to him by the end of January. These could be wedding photos, pictures of you and a significant other, or even you and your sweet dog playing in a pile of leaves.

Your message could be a simple "Be my valentine, Abraham" or a racy "Remember that night in the submarine, Adam?"

Please email pictures and messages to Fr. Bill at rectorgsec@brmemc.net.

Made in the Image and Likeness of God

"God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.'" Genesis 1:26

- *The Tanach*, Jewish Publication Society tr. [1917].

I had a professor once who spoke in what seemed to me to be riddles. "Thing as thingness is" and "The quiddity of the thisness and the thatness," he would say. It has been a while since he spoke those and other memorable phrases, but they did stick and I have come to understand some of what he was saying. I do not know if he considered himself Christian, but it seems to me that his criticism of our perception of the separateness of things and our treatment of others as "others" is also a Christian criticism of the way our modern world is presented and the way we moderns too often live. Early in the book Genesis, we read that we are all made in the image of God. That first and primary statement of our identity is that we all have one identity. It is not that some people in some places are and others are not. It is not that some people know or do or profess the right things and therefore are in the image of God, and that others who do not are not. It is simply that God made all - male and female; black, brown, white, yellow, red; Jew, Hindu, Christian, Muslim, Buddhist; theist, atheist - in the image of God.

What I find so profoundly unifying in this common identity is that God not only made us in God's image, but that God also signed humanity

with the name of God. Although the scriptures give many names for God, the primary name is YHWH for the God who said my name is "I am." YHWH, the "I am" is pure being, existence, and reality. We human beings carry the name of God in our physical being. Written in the Hebrew language and turned vertically, can you see it? You might try tracing God's name on your body. Trace your thumb across your

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forehead and down the center of your face, then across your shoulders and down your arms. Next trace from your neck to your waist, then from hip to hip and down each leg. You have now written God's name, which is God's essence and being, on your being.

Genesis 1:26 continues on to say that we are made in God's likeness. The likeness of God is the way that we live

and it is related to but independent from our image. Image is, if you will, a given, but likeness is a choice. Like identical twins look the same but can have different personalities, being in the common image of God is no guarantee that we will act in the common likeness of God. Some will and others will not. God's likeness is justice, mercy, compassion, peace, and holiness. God's likeness is to defend the orphan, the widow, and the alien. The prophet Micah put being in the likeness of God this way: "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Some do this and some do not. Perhaps seeing the first half of Genesis 1:26 is necessary for the living out the second. Perhaps only when we see God's image in ourselves and our common image, and that all are signed with the name of God, will we be able to live into God's likeness, no longer divided into "thisness and thatness," "the us and the them," "those who God loves and those whom God hates." There is a Jewish legend that says an angel of God goes before all of us saying, "Behold, the image of God." It is as much an announcement of who we are as it is a command to be observant of who others are as well. It is a hopeful thought and one with which I wish you a Happy New Year of living in the image and likeness of God.



Fr Bill+

The Shepherd's Voice

Absentee Voting Procedures for Vestry Election

The procedure for absentee voting is:

1. Absentee ballots may be requested from the Parish office during normal business hours, in person, by phone, by mail or by email. When an absentee ballot is requested, the Parish office issuing the ballot will mark the requester's name from the master list of Parish members eligible to vote, and such person will not be permitted to vote in person without first surrendering the absentee ballot in blank.
2. Absentee ballots must be physically received in the Parish office no later than Friday noon preceding the last Sunday of regular voting.
3. An absentee ballot will be sealed in a plain envelope without the voter's name appearing. The envelope containing the ballot will be placed in a second envelope that does include the voter's name so that it may be checked as received.
4. All absentee ballots will be opened as soon as the ballot boxes are closed, and their count will be supervised in the same manner as regular ballots.
5. The vestry election will take place on January 8 and 15 after both services. Absentee ballots may be requested now but will not be mailed before December 30. Absentee ballots must arrive back in the church office by noon on January 13.

Financials (November 30, 2016)

2016 General Operations Fund:

Balance December 31, 2015	[\$5,933]
Income year to date	378,294
Expenses year to date	<u>-348,845</u>
Balance in Operating Account November 30, 2016	\$23,516

Balance on bank mortgage \$159,216

Balance on Mt. of Faith loan \$25,000

The church's financial statements are posted each month on the bulletin board by the office door.

For any questions, please contact our church bookkeeper, Susan Wyman in the office on Mondays.

Burning of the Greens

The Annual Burning of the Greens

Saturday January 7 @ 6:30

Bring a favorite beverage, a snack to share, and your folding chair. We will gather in the playground area and use the undercroft.

Parish News

Birthdays in

- 2 Hannah Jones, Pam Rivers
- 6 Barrie Lyden
- 7 Dorman McLamb
- 8 David Bruce
- 9 Sharon O'Dell
- 12 Cindy Nodine
- 16 Craig Underwood
- 17 Wendy Walker, Zach Whitehead
- 21 Becky Van Gorder
- 24 Elizabeth Rybicki
- 25 Carolyn Cline-Griffiths
- 27 Ruthanne Chesebro
- 29 Chuck Van Gorder
- 31 Dorothy Leroux

Anniversaries in

- 12 Meliss and Jon Czarnecki
- 25 Krista and Jon Strain
- 27 Kathleen and Barrie Lyden

In Sympathy we are thinking of:

The family of Clint Cummins.

Jean Miller and the Miller family on the death of Duane Miller.

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

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Thanks!

Myles and I are warm and safe with family here in Jupiter, FL. We offer a simple but heartfelt "Thank you" for our parish family. For ten years you provided a home and companionship for us. You have supported us in prayer and love. With gratitude and thanksgiving, we wish all our 'brothers & sisters': the peace that passes understanding; gentle JOY; a Shalom holiday season (Epiphany starts the new year/2017). May you be blessed as you have blessed us!

"Love transcends time and space"-we are united forever in Love.

Judy Steinbauer
Myles Clark

Centering Prayer Workshop

If you have ever longed to respond to the divine invitation, "Be still and know that I am God"... If the thought of the complete surrender of spirit and great peace of mind of our contemplative forefathers and mothers draws you to the contemplative lifestyle, but you just don't quite know how to get there...then you are invited to attend an introductory workshop on Centering Prayer, to be held at St. Clare's on Saturday, February 4th, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Registration begins at 9: 30 am. Bring a bag lunch.

Centering Prayer is a method of quieting our mind and opening up our spirit in order to surrender ourselves to God at ever deepening levels. Adopted for modern needs from the model of the Prayer of the Heart

described in the *Cloud of Unknowing* and practiced by Christian monastics since before the third century and up to the present time, it leads us to an ever-deepening relationship with the Father who creates us, the Son who showed us the way, and the Spirit who continues to guide us, if we only open our hearts and consent. There will be no charge for the workshop, but offerings to support the work of Contemplative Outreach, the ecumenical network of clergy and laity dedicated to teaching Centering Prayer and supporting the contemplative lifestyle, will be gratefully accepted. Books supporting the practice of Centering Prayer will also be available.

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Lectionary Readings

First Sunday after Christmas Day January 1	Feast of the Epiphany January 8	2 Epiphany January 15	3 Epiphany January 22	4 Epiphany January 29
Isaiah 61:10-62:3 147:13-21	Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14	Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-12	Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1, 5-13	Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15
Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7 John 1:1-18	Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12	1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42	1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23	1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:1-12



"Get out of the doghouse' free card-
February 10th

Stay Tuned!



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