

today

The Rt. Rev. Dena A. Harrison Visiting Today



PLEASE JOIN US TODAY FOR BREAKFAST WITH THE BISHOP BETWEEN the 9:00a and 11:30a worshiop services. Bishop Dena Harrison joins us for our Baptism

and Confirmation services. Bishop Harrison attended The University of Texas at Austin where she received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. She received her Master of Divinity degree from the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest in 1987. Bishop Harrison served as assistant rector at All Saints' Church, Austin, and as rector of St. James' Church, La Grange, and St. James the Apostle Church, Conroe. She served as Canon to the Ordinary from 2000-2003 and served as Archdeacon and Canon for Ministry until her election as bishop suffragan in 2006. She offices in the Austin diocesan center and serves the central region of the diocese.

All are invited to join us in the Parish Hall for a breakfast with the Bishop between the 9:00a and 11:30a services. Please join us in welcoming Bishop Dena Harrison to Good Shepherd!

Baptism Candidates:

- Emma Barta
- Sarah Barta
- Lucas Stone Lawler
- Lilly Catherine Lawler

Confirmation Candidates:

- Stephen Barrow
- Adam Paul Barta
- Heather Chesney
- David Garraway
- Eric Hansum
- Heidi Hicks
- Brandon Hicks
- John Andrew Rice
- Aaron Trull

Children's Choir & Evensong



THIS EVENING, we are delighted to have the Children's Choirs leading Evensong as we prepare for the coming of Jesus. Join us this evening at 6:00p for a 45-minute musical service of scripture and prayer – a perfect chance for renewal before the start of another hectic week. With nursery care now available, you can drop the kids off and refresh your spirit at this wonderful service.

lookingahead

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee!



Come Caroling with Us! On Sunday, December 19, we will gather at 5:30p in the Church Office to go caroling! Depending on how many people join in, we may split into caroling groups. The more the merrier! Let us make a joyful noise together! For more info, please contact Kathy Jolink at kjolink@gsaustin.org or 476.3523.

The Longest Night Liturgy



Tuesday, December 21 at 7:00p: The Longest Night Liturgy: A communion service of hope, healing and remembrance,

accompanied by piano, seeking to support those for whom the holiday season is difficult or painful.

For those who have experienced the loss of a loved one, the Advent-Christmas season is not always a joyful time, but can be rather a painful one. And so, on the longest night -the Winter Solstice - of what for some feels like a very long season, Good Shepherd will offer a contemplative liturgy of hope, healing and remembrance.

You are invited to bring meaningful objects, pictures or mementos of loved ones who have died to place on the altar as an act of prayer. Candles will be lit as a sign of hope. All are welcome.

EYC Christmas Party!



TODAY from 3:00-4:30p join us for our end of the semester Christmas party! We'll munch on cookies and hot chocolate, listen to Christmas music, play games, and more. **WE'LL HAVE A WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE (PRICE LIMIT OF \$5), SO BE SURE TO BRING A WEIRD/TACKY/ UNUSUAL GIFT!** We'll see you there! EYC will begin meeting again in January.

lookingback

EGW Christmas Tea! Thank you to the EGW Committee for planning this wonderful Good Shepherd Tradition! Happy Holidays to all!!



Christmas Giving Tree



THANK YOU TO ALL who have chosen a family of the Good Shepherd Giving Tree. All the families have already been chosen! This ministry

works with established programs like Faith in Action, the City Housing Authority, and Wonders and Worries. We adopt families (from a single widower to an active family of six or more) and help make a few of their Christmas dreams come true.

PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO DROP OFF YOUR WRAPPED GIFTS TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17 FOR DELIVERY!

Christmas Flower & Music Donations



Don't forget to return the Donation form (located in the Narthex

or Church Office) by 5:00p on December 15 to be acknowledged in the Christmas Eve service leaflet. Donations received after December 15 will be acknowledged after Christmas.

Tuesday Morning Outreach Program

OUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
If you have stopped by the parish office on a recent Tuesday morning, you may have noticed a gathering of people in need around the Administration Building. Last month Good Shepherd initiated our Tuesday Morning Outreach Program to better serve the indigent of the Austin community. Beginning at 8:00a, we offer a light snack and beverage to those who have made the trek to Good Shepherd. Then, at 8:30, we begin meeting with each person individually to hear their story, to help financially as we are able, and to pray with them. Assistance frequently includes a month-long bus pass, a grocery gift card, and utility assistance for those who have a home. We maintain records of those individuals we have served and limit the amount of assistance any one person may receive within a calendar year. While we have always been committed to helping those in need, the designation of a set hour each week, ordered by previously scheduled appointments, allows us to serve more effectively, while also maintaining a safe environment on our campus.

FUNDING
In the past, the clergy of the parish were each responsible for an individual "Discretionary Fund," for the purposes of almsgiving and the support of parishioners' ministries. To encourage shared responsibility and mutual accountability, in January of this year all of these funds were consolidated into the common, Parish Ministry Fund (PMF). The primary financial source of the PMF is the "Loose Offering," the undesignated cash given in the collection plate during worship services on the first Sunday of every month.

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE
You can help host these neighbors from the Austin community. We need parishioners to greet those who have come seeking help, offer refreshments, and later visit with our guests to determine how Good Shepherd can be a resource for them. Training will be provided Tuesday, December 14 at 7:30a in the Administration Building. If you would like to participate, please email the Rev. Chris Duncan at chris@gsaustin.org or 476.3523.

looking ahead

Sign up now to write a Lenten Meditation!



THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING are creating a booklet of forty Lenten meditations—each one based on readings for one of the days of Lent.

Sign up for one of the days and get the list of readings for the day and simple instructions for how to write up a short meditation. To sign-up, please call Holly Noelke at 799.8899.

Flower Vases



Every Monday, members of the Altar Guild deliver 4-5 flower arrangements from Sunday's altar flowers to

the sick, homebound, and families of recently deceased. We are in dire need of flower vases to allow us to continue this important ministry. If you have any extra flower vases (of any shape or size) that you no longer need, we would be happy to take them off your hands! Please contact Kathy Pfister at kpfister@gsaustin.org or Elaine Heinze @ elaine.heinze@yahoo for more info.

GOT STOCK?

If you will be making stock gifts to Good Shepherd at the end of this year, please allow processing time for the gift to be received. We will record your stock gift on the date it is received in our account, not the date you initiate the transaction. During the holidays, there can be delays on financial transactions; therefore to ensure your stock gift will be included in 2010, please have the gift reach our account by December 15, 2010. Thank you for giving to Good Shepherd!

Christmas Music



Our Christmas Eve liturgies are always enriched by the singing of many beloved hymns by the biggest group of music-makers at Good

Shepherd – the entire congregation. In addition, our choirs – the members of our congregation with particular time, talent, and training to devote in service of the parish – along with guest musicians contribute to the festivity of the occasion with anthems and a choral setting of the Mass. This year, our musical forces will be distributed as follows.

The 2:00p children's pageant includes the congregational singing of stanzas of a number of Christmas hymns. At 5:00p the Primary and Junior Choirs lead the congregational singing of the service music and hymns and further enrich the liturgy with anthems; at 8:00p the Good Shepherd Choir and orchestra do the same.

The 11:00p Eucharist, in addition to congregational hymnody, will feature parts of Mozart's 'Organ Solo Mass' (Missa Brevis in C, K. 259) sung by the Good Shepherd Choir with soloists and orchestra. Mozart, like few others, infused his music with both great depth and great delight; the prominent twentieth-century theologian Karl Barth, a great lover of Mozart, wrote, 'It may be that when the angels go about their task praising God, they play only Bach. I am sure, however, that when they are together en famille they play Mozart, and that then too our dear Lord listens with special pleasure'. We will join them, then, with this brief but festive setting of the service music, a fitting crown to our celebration of the Feast of the Incarnation. Finally, a half-hour of carols for congregation & choir will precede the 5:00 and 11:00p Eucharists.

Christmas Revelry and Merry Making for All Ages!



GET OUT YOUR TACKY CHRISTMAS SWEATER AND JOIN us in the Parish Hall on December 19 between the 9 and 11:30a services for an intergenerational Christmas

Celebration. There will be a hot breakfast provided while we all take part in this Christmas celebration!

All are invited to bring two or three dozen of your favorite cookie or candy. (Bring printed out recipes if you'd like to share!). We will then combine everyone's goodies and make two plates: one for ourselves and one to be delivered to homebound parishioners.

We will have a variety of crafts and activities for all ages! We'll be decorating Christmas cards for the homebound, singing Christmas music, and enjoying activities galore!

Please come dressed in your tacky Christmas sweater ready to play and celebrate with your Good Shepherd family!

GS Women's Retreat!



SAVE THE DATE & GRAB A ROOMMATE! The Good Shepherd Women's Retreat is around the corner. Each of you and your presence is what makes the retreat so special. We hope you all will plan on attending!

Fellowship-Reflection-Worship-Music- Massage

Retreat Leadership

Theme Facilitator: Patricia Speier
Worship Leader: The Rev. Kathy Pfister
Fun & Fellowship: Catherine Parks & Company

Friday, February 4-6, 2011
T-Bar-M Ranch, New Braunfels, Texas
More details to follow.

To learn more about T-Bar-M Ranch, visit www.tbarm.com

OUR ADVENT WREATH MAKING WAS A HUGE SUCCESS! THANK YOU TO ALL WHO TOOK PART AND TO ALL WHO LENT A HAND TO HELP OUT WITH THIS FUN AND SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF THE ADVENT SEASON!



Advent & Christmas Worship

Sunday, December 12: Baptism & Confirmation Sunday

10:15a Breakfast with Bishop Dena Harrison
6:00p Evensong led by the Children's Choirs

Tuesday, December 21: Winter Solstice

7:00p The Longest Night Liturgy: A communion service of hope, healing and remembrance, accompanied by piano, seeking to support those for whom the holiday season is difficult or painful.

Friday, December 24: Christmas Eve

2:00p Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Children's Christmas Pageant
4:30p Christmas Carol Sing: Join the Children's Choirs and sing familiar hymns of the season.
5:00p Holy Eucharist, Rite II, with Children's Choirs
8:00p Holy Eucharist, Rite II, with the Good Shepherd Choir & Orchestra.
10:30p Christmas Carol Sing: Join the Good Shepherd choir and sing familiar hymns of the season.
11:00p Sung Eucharist, Rite I, with the Good Shepherd Choir & Orchestra, featuring Mozart's Mass in C, K-259.

Saturday, December 25: Christmas Day

10:00a Holy Eucharist, Rite II: The Feast of the Incarnation celebrated with music.

Sunday, December 26: I Christmas

7:30a Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00a Holy Eucharist, Rite II
6:00p Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Saturday, January 1: Holy Name

10:00a Holy Eucharist, Rite II: The commemoration of Jesus; receiving of a name in the Temple, eight days after his birth. Prayers will also be offered in thanksgiving for year passed, and in hope for the arrival of the new year.

Sunday, January 2: II Christmas

7:30a Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:00a Holy Eucharist, Rite II
11:30a Holy Eucharist, Rite I
6:00p Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Wednesday, January 5: Twelfth Night, Eve of Epiphany

7:00p Holy Eucharist, Rite II: The Christmas season concludes as we remember the visit of the Magi, led by the star of Bethlehem to the infant Jesus. We invite you to have a Parent's Night Out. Childcare will be available for those attending this service starting at 5:00p. You can enjoy a dinner together and return to the church for the Holy Eucharist, Rite II service. We hope all will be able to join.