

join us

directory of ministries

2011-2012



2011-2012

ministry directory

"I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd." (John 10:14-16)



Whether you are returning to church after a time away or are altogether new to the faith, looking for a new church home or simply seeking a place to be quiet, please know that you are welcome at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd. In the pages of our directory of ministries we hope you will discover that we are a community seeking to be authentic and faithful to our charges to love one another and to serve a hurting world. We pray that you will find just such a community when you visit us. We hope that you will find a ministry here at GS that you would like to become a part of. Peace be with you as your journey continues, and know that at Good Shepherd you have companions eager to join you along the way.



The Episcopal Church
of the Good Shepherd

512.476.3523 www.gsaustin.org

3201 Windsor Rd. Austin, TX 78703

gs choir
evensong choir
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dok
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habitat for humanity
seasons of giving
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dress for success
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worship

join us!

music

GOOD SHEPHERD CHOIR

- The GS Choir seeks to lead and interact with congregational singing, to sing portions of the liturgy, to enrich our celebration of the liturgy with appropriate offerings of beauty, and to foster musical growth, spiritual formation, community-building, and an attitude of service among the choristers, to the glory of God
- September–May, Wednesdays, 7:30–9:00p
Sundays, 8:30–9:00a in the Choir Room
Services: Sundays, 9:00a (11:30a instead once a month) and services of Principal Feasts, Fasts, and Holy Week.
- This choir is a commitment group, albeit one that always seeks and warmly welcomes new members high school age and older.
- More info? Contact Jonathan Babcock: jonathan@gsaustin.org.

EVENSONG CHOIR

- Evensong Choir participates in the Divine Office, the Church's ancient and ongoing daily cycle of prayer, through the media of chant and Anglican choral music, to the glory of God.
- September–May, Wednesdays, 6:45–7:30p in the Choir Room. Second Sundays, 5:00–6:00p in the Church. Services: Second Sundays, 6:00p.
- This choir is composed of members of the GS Choir who can make the extra commitment to Evensong.
- More info? Contact Jonathan Babcock: jonathan@gsaustin.org.

music

SUMMER CHOIR

- Summer Choir provides an opportunity for new singers to participate in choir without the expectation of an ongoing commitment. The summer choir leads and interacts with congregational singing, enriches our celebration of the liturgy with appropriate offerings of beauty, and fosters musical growth, spiritual formation, community-building, and an attitude of service among the choristers, to the glory of God
- June–August, Sundays 9:00–10:00a in the Choir Room. Services: Sundays 10:00a.
- This choir is open to all singers of any experience level, middle school age and older, without the expectation of an ongoing time commitment.
- More info? Contact Jonathan Babcock: jonathan@gsaustin.org.

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

- The children's choirs provide our young church members with the opportunity to develop their mind, body and spirit and voice through music, worship, fellowship and service. Singing in the choir gives the children the opportunity to be an integral part of the worship experience and to share their voices with the church community.
- October-May, Primary choir & Junior choir meet to practice. Time & Location TBA. The children's choirs are open to all children in Kindergarten through high school.
- More info? Contact Jeane Burks: Jeane@gsaustin.org.

**To learn more about Children's Ministries, visit the Worship section found in the back of the ministry directory.*

fellowship

THE WOMEN OF GOOD SHEPHERD (ALSO KNOWN AS THE ECW, EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN)

- The Women of Good Shepherd aim to empower one another to live the life to which Christ has called us. It is organized to develop the gifts of all its members through friendship, worship, education, evangelism and pastoral care.
- This year, the Women of Good Shepherd will host the Annual Women's Retreat and the Christmas Tea.
- The Women of Good Shepherd comprises of ALL women of the parish. If you'd like to help shape and develop the events offered, please contact Jordan Cronin.
- More info? Contact Pres. Jordan Cronin: jordie.cronin@gmail.com or President elect, Lindsey Majors: lindseycmajors@yahoo.com.

ST. ANNE'S GUILD

- St. Anne's gathers each month for friendship and fellowship and to receive stories from guest speakers on a variety of church-related topics.
- 4th Tuesday of every month, 10:30a in the Choir Room
- Come as you are and come when you can! All are welcome to join.
- More info? Contact Sondra Ryan: rryan9@austin.rr.com.

I chose St. Anne's Guild many years ago when I first moved to Austin and my membership to Good Shepherd. I wanted to join a group of women with the same need to focus on a spiritual guidance in my life. I found that with St. Anne's Guild. The speakers, the friendships and fellowship among all the members has been a valuable asset to my life.

--Marilyn Devine

fellowship

FOYER GROUPS

- Foyer Groups are groups of 8-12 parishioners sharing meals and fellowship. The intention is to develop new friendships, to become better acquainted, and to strengthen the bonds of church community.
- Groups are formed once a year following a sign up beginning in Jan. with a Kick-Off Dinner in the Parish Hall. Foyer Groups meet monthly with each group deciding their format – meeting in restaurants, gathering in members' homes with a pot-luck, or each member providing the entire meal.
- The role of host/hostess rotates each month and the group selects a date and time convenient for all members. Each member should make an effort to be present at every meeting and be on time.
- More info? Contact Bettie High: bbhigh@austin.rr.com or Nancy Wade: alwnbw@hotmail.com.

My husband, Michael, and I have enjoyed being members of various foyer groups at Good Shepherd over the past several years. We originally joined a foyer group with hopes to meet more people in our parish. Although we felt as though we knew quite a few people, we always found ourselves migrating to our same group of comfortable friends. We hoped being a member of a Foyer Group would help us branch out to those we had not met. Well, not only have we met more people, we have developed wonderful friendships with parishioners of all ages and stages in life and have loved getting to know every one of them. We have the best time sitting around our friends' dining room tables or in a lovely restaurant, laughing, sharing life's experiences and enjoying the fellowship of our Good Shepherd friends. If you haven't been a member of a Foyer Group, do it! You don't want to miss out of the fun any longer!

--Susan Klein

fellowship

serving your parish family

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

- We seek to bring the people of generation X & Y together for fellowship, fun, and service.
- We meet on the 2nd Saturday of every month at 5:00p at the Gingerman (near 3rd & Lavaca) to sample homebrew. Please email Silas in advance if you plan on attending so we may reserve a seat for you.
- This ministry is going through a rebirth and we welcome your ideas, support, and participation. In addition to our monthly meetings, we will have a quarterly session where we gather to make homebrew.
- More info? Contact Silas Parker: scparker@eaglestrategies.com.

GOOD OLE BOYS

- Good Ole Boys brings grilling enthusiasts together to cook hamburgers, hot dogs, sausages, turkeys, chicken, fajitas, BBQ, and the inevitable veggie burger for church events.
- Pentecost Parish Picnic, Oktoberfest, TX Tailgating season and other various events
- Members maintain the church grill and smoker and its surrounding meditation garden while helping with the annual church picnic, Oktoberfest, and other church events that are enhanced by fall-off-the-bone delicious BBQ and grilled meat.
- More info? Contact Jeff Whitehurst: jwhitehurst@austin.rr.com.

WEDDING GUILD

- Members of the wedding guild assist the GS Wedding Administrator in providing information and guidance to couples. We also assist the couple the day of the wedding by receiving them joyfully into our community of faith, and to celebrate with them the beginning of their life together as a Christian couple.
- Members attend the rehearsal and Marriage Ceremony of each couple as well as observe and assist the Wedding Administrator. Members are invited to attend one or more Wedding Seminars to familiarize themselves with the agenda. At least two members of the Wedding guild help serve at each wedding, with or without the Administrator.
- More info? Contact Kathy Jolink: kathyj@gsaustin.org.

It seemed to me that the Wedding Guild was a great opportunity for me to give back a tiny bit of goodness that the Church has provided me. On a personal note, during my wedding celebration weekend, there were women present from the Church whom we referred to as the "Church Ladies". These women were so nice, friendly, and kind, and were of invaluable assistance to all of us at the wedding. I was very grateful they were at my wedding. The Wedding Guild here at Good Shepherd seemed to me to be a great opportunity for me to be my own version of a helpful Church Lady. Plus, hopefully I am a welcoming representative of the Church to wedding guests and participants who do not regularly attend, or have never attended, a service or event at Good Shepherd. The members of the Wedding Guild are fabulous, we have a great time, and who doesn't love a wedding!

--Kathryn Baffes

serving your parish family

GUILD OF THE CHRIST CHILD

- The goal of the Guild of the Christ Child is to foster the relationship between the youngest members of our parish, their families and The Church of the Good Shepherd
- Members are asked to contact expectant mothers to touch base and offer support. After the birth, guild members deliver a gift, information about GS, and food.
- More info? Contact Becka Swift: beckaswift@gmail.com.

The Guild of the Christ Child gives church members an opportunity to literally “welcome the little children” - being a part of welcoming our newest members and offering love and support to their families is both privilege and blessing.

--Laura Van Slyke

ALTAR FLOWER ARRANGING GUILD

- This guild seeks to enhance our experience of worship by creating beautiful flower arrangements for the altar each Sunday.
- Members of this guild volunteer to assemble the altar flower arrangements each Sunday. Typically, volunteers work in pairs and arrange once every two months. Once a year, we will hold a design workshop and training for those interested in learning how to arrange. Throughout the year, donations are given to the Altar Flowers in memory, celebration, or honor of friends and family, which supports this ministry.
- Flower arrangements are typically assembled on Saturday mornings.
- More info? Contact Sallie Wright Milam: swmilam@gsaustin.org.

serving your parish family

ST. ELIZABETH'S GUILD

- St. Elizabeth's supports Church worship and coordinates with the Altar Guild in maintenance and creation of linens and vestments used for the Glory of God and in the worship services at Good Shepherd.
- Quarterly at 10:00a on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in the Choir Room
- To contribute to the making of Baptismal towels for the church and to assist in needle work (hemming, mending, and embroidery) as needed for the church.
- More info? Contact Alice Scarbrough: ascarbrough@padminc.com or Barbara Hunt: huunt@aol.com.

St. Elizabeth's Guild has made me feel more a part of the church. I have always enjoyed sewing and handwork, but the gratification is three-fold because I feel I am contributing to my church.

--Judy Vance

ACOLYTES

- Acolytes serve the parish by assisting with the regular worship on Sunday morning. They prepare the sanctuary for worship, lead the various processions within the service while carrying symbols of our faith, assist with the proclamation of the Gospel, and help with preparation of the Eucharist. Acolyting gives youth the opportunity to experience and participate firsthand in the leading of our worship services.
- Acolytes are youth in grades 7-12. Each youth attends an annual training as well as rehearsals for special services such as Christmas Eve and Holy Week services. A youth is then assigned to a team that is scheduled according to a rotation.
- More info? Contact The Rev. Chris Duncan: chris@gsaustin.org.

servicing your parish family

The Altar Guild is a way of deepening my spiritual life and enjoying fellowship. It is also a wonderful way to learn about the traditions of the Episcopal Church. I bring my granddaughter and grandson with me periodically, and they love to "help." I feel it's a great way for them to learn about the altar, the sacred vessels and the beautiful accoutrements of the sanctuary in a relaxed way. I love serving on Altar Guild...it's a peaceful, contemplative break for your spirit to rest in the presence of God.

--Betty Southerland

ALTAR GUILD

- Altar Guild serves the parish by maintaining the Altar, Sacristy, vestments, linens, vessels, candles, and supplies for all our regular worship and special liturgies and to prepare the church for our Sunday worship. If you prefer to participate behind-the-scenes, the Altar Guild is a wonderful opportunity to serve and learn more about The Episcopal Church.
- Altar Guild meets every six weeks on Saturday mornings in the Sacristy. There are six teams so we serve every sixth week.
- Altar Guild Team: Works every six weeks to clean, polish, and prepare the altar on Saturday and to set up/take down for all Sunday services. The Weekday Altar Guild Team works three times a month during the week setting up and taking down week day services. The Funeral Team sets up and takes down for all funerals. The Flower Delivery Team rotates every six weeks to break down, arrange and deliver flowers to the ill, elderly, and homebound as directed by the Clergy.
- More info? Contact Elaine Heinze: elaine.heinze@yahoo.com or Susie Piaget: susiepiaget@gmail.com.

servicing your parish family

LAY MINISTERS

- Lay Ministers assist the Clergy by participating in those parts of the Worship Services as authorized by the Rector and permitted by the Rubrics of the Church.
- Members serve during times of worship. Meetings are called by the Rector, typically no more than 3–4 times a year.
- Lay Ministers include the Vergers, Hosts/Greeters, Intercessors, Lectors, Ushers and Eucharistic Ministers. Members of the group are scheduled on a monthly basis to serve in the type of activity for which they are licensed by the Bishop (EMs and Ws) or for other activities, such as Vergers or Intercessors, for which they have been trained. We attempt to limit service to a maximum of twice a month. Members are expected to show up when they are scheduled or to arrange a substitute in their place.
- More info? Contact Earl Nesbitt: enesbitt@texas.net

I've been an Eucharistic Minister now for about 7 years and have absolutely enjoyed this wonderful experience. I love being a part of our service and participating in something as meaningful as sharing the sacrament. I also love serving my fellow parishioners and serving the children. It always puts a smile on my face when I kneel down to serve our youngest as they come to the altar. The most meaningful part is when my own family comes to the rail. Serving my wife and children makes me feel closer to them and to God. It's a very meaningful service and one I hope to do forever.

--Bobby Jenkins

faith & formation

MEN'S BREAKFAST & BIBLE STUDY

- Breakfast begins at 7:00a and discussion of next Sunday's Readings begins at 7:30a. On the 4th Wednesday of the month, service and Eucharist begins at 7:00a and Breakfast at 7:30a. All are invited to come when you can!
- Wednesday morning, 7:00-8:00a in the Parish Hall
- More info? Contact Earl Nesbitt: enesbitt@texas.net or William Cromwell: wocromwell@aol.com

MEN'S BIBLE & BREW

- Bring your own Bible, bring your own beer, and bring your own brothers.
- Mondays, 6:30p Sept-May in the Conference Room
- We hope that all members will be active and consistent participants. All are welcome and munchies are always provided.
- More info? Contact The Rev. Kelly Koonce: Kelly@gsaustin.org.

DISCOVERY CLASSES

- For those who seek to learn more about what it means to think, live, and love as a follower of Jesus in the Episcopal tradition, and for those who would like to be confirmed in The Episcopal Church.
- Retreats are held bi-annually in the spring and in the late fall.
- Participants are expected to attend the retreat in good faith on Friday evening and Saturday morning/afternoon.
- More info? Contact The Rev. Kelly Koonce: Kelly@gsaustin.org.

faith & formation

MOMS' BIBLE STUDY

- This group of women meets weekly to learn more about God's Word and to support one another in the trials and joys of rearing children. Each "semester" group members choose a new study. The coffee is always hot, the conversation is always warm, and, importantly the Nursery is always available!
- Wednesdays at 9:15a in the Choir Room.
- New additions to the fellowship are welcome at any time—no reservations required!
- More info? Contact Melissa Castelluccio: melissacastelluccio@hotmail.com.

The Moms' Bible Study has been a place of support, learning and laughter for me over the past three years! I have met some of my closest friends through the study, and I've never left feeling less than inspired and comforted. For anyone trying to navigate the rough waters of motherhood, this is a great group!

--Taylor Bowles

EFM: EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

- A small-group course of study, prayer and reflection following a curriculum provided by Sewanee: The University of the South. EFM combines study of scripture, Christian tradition, and theological reflection to equip its participants to discern and carry out their ministry.
- Monday, 6:30-9:00p September-May in the Conference Room
- EfM is a 4-year program of study
- More info? Contact John McFarland: jmcfarland@gdhm.com or Connie Hudson: constancehudson@mac.com.

caring for your parish family

PRAYER SHAWL GUILD

- The Prayer Shawl Guild comes together as experienced and beginner knitters, to produce handcrafted prayer shawls through faith and fellowship. We strive to be mindful of our far-reaching potential through outreach and through welcoming newcomers to our ministry.
- 10:00a the 3rd Friday of the month in Conference Room
- Come when you can and knit when you can. There are no deadlines or production requirements.
- More info? Contact Betty Hendrix: bwhendrix@att.net or Jenny Hassibi: jhassibi@gmail.com.

EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS

- Eucharistic Visitors (EVs) visit, bring communion and pray for the homebound and hospitalized members of the Good Shepherd family. They offer a pastoral presence to those who cannot come to Church or who may need some spiritual companionship.
- EVs visit parishioners once or twice per month. EVs gather as a large group 2-3 times a year for continuing education and reflection upon their ministry.
- Eucharistic Visitors are trained in the parish and licensed by the Bishop of Texas.
- More info? Contact The Rev. Kathy Pfister: kathyp@gsaustin.org.

It is an amazing gift to be able to represent the Good Shepherd Community by taking communion to someone who is unable to be at church. Often, it is a parishioner who has given the most active part of their long life in service to our community, and now we are honored to be able to serve them.

--Peg Meek

caring for your parish family

ST. BRIGID'S GUILD

- St. Brigid's Guild has a two-fold purpose: it provides fellowship opportunities for its members and it provides frozen food items for shut-ins and recently hospitalized parishioners and for families celebrating the birth of a child.
- St. Brigid's meets on the 2nd Friday of each month beginning at 9:00a. We work until our recipes are completed (usually between 10:30 and 11:00a). We meet and cook in the Church kitchen and serving area.
- We are a group that enjoys cooking and providing for the parish's needs whether for in-home meals or events at the Church. Participation is not restricted to Friday mornings. We have volunteers that bake and package cookies and brownies that are distributed with the other menu items. We love providing delicious food to Good Shepherd parishioners and friends.
- More info? Contact Kay Smith: katymo@sbcglobal.net.

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUP

- Contemplative prayer (sometimes called centering prayer or Christian meditation) is a form of wordless prayer that aims to open us to the divine presence within.
- Wednesdays at 12:15p in the church; Thursdays at 5:30p in the church
- All are welcome. No prior experience necessary. Participants gather in the chancel of the church and, following a brief meditation, and sit together in silence for 30 minutes.
- More info? Contact the Rev. Kelly Koonce: Kelly@gsaustin.org.

caring for your parish family

INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP

- The GS Prayer Group comes together in faith to pray for those who are kept on our parish prayer list.
- Wednesday, 11:00a-12:00p in the Bride's Room
- All members of Good Shepherd are invited to join for friendship and prayer.
- More info? Contact the church office: info@gsaustin.org.

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

- DOK is an Order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church, churches in communion with TEC, and all churches who are part of the Historic Episcopate. Members undertake a Rule of Life, incorporating a Rule of Prayer and a Rule of Service. By reaffirmation of the promises made at Confirmation, a Daughter pledges herself to a life-long program of prayer, service, and evangelism, dedicated to the spread of Christ's Kingdom and the strengthening of the spiritual life of her parish.
- Members are expected to actively participate in gatherings and meetings held throughout the year and to uphold the pledges one takes upon joining this group.
- More info? Contact Marion Mark: 477.2753.

Our family has become involved with the family outreach committee to find family activities that promote service, community and family growth. Through our activities we have found all of these things.

--Sarah Eller

outreach

FAMILY OUTREACH

- The Family Outreach group ministers to the greater Austin community as a parish family. We look for opportunities to serve in the location of need while teaching our children about Christian service and the needs of others. We seek to transform the lives of those in our community, our families, and our parish.
- Social gathering held semi-annually. Service activities vary throughout the year with an average of 3 activities per month. Some organizations where we serve include: Ronald McDonald House, Micah 6 Pantry, North Loop Apartments, Heart House, and St. James Episcopal School.
- Each family helps to lead at least one service event per year and participates in as many service events as possible.
- More info? Contact Becky Svahn: psvahn@austin.rr.com.

OLIVIA'S CLOSET

- Olivia's Closet provides basic care items such as diapers, wipes, and toiletries to infants of families in need by offering access to Good Shepherd's diaper pantry. At this time, families receive help from Olivia's Closet after obtaining a referral from a social service agency.
- During the 2011-2012 Program Year, Good Shepherd is looking to renew the ministry of Olivia's Closet in order to incorporate more parish members and to reach more families in need. If you would like to help breathe new life into a wonderful ministry that touches lives then this is a great opportunity for you.
- More info? Contact The Rev. Chris Duncan: chris@gsaustin.org.

outreach

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

- We seek to serve the local community through the Austin Habitat for Humanity program assisting in the building of homes alongside the families who will live there once completed.
- Twice a year, members of our church community participate on an Episcopal build or an all faith build in Austin.
- There is usually a build in the fall and one in the spring. Each build takes about 16 weeks to complete and we typically provide a construction crew for two Saturdays.
- Most build Saturdays are limited to workers over sixteen years old. However, on days when there are no power tools in use, it is possible for families with young children to join in for landscaping days.
- Sign up for a Saturday and be prepared to work from 8:00a-3:00p. Volunteers are also needed to help provide lunches for our group or other groups on Saturday during the build.
- More info? Contact Susan Kidwell: susankid@swbell.com or Holly Noelke: hnoelke@austin.rr.com.

SEASONS OF GIVING

- Last year at Good Shepherd, a new outreach initiative came to live: Seasons of Giving. This is a ministry that combines several older ministries: Shepherd Bags, Elder Care Fan Drive, and Christmas Giving Tree along with others. Four times a year (winter, spring, summer, and fall), Seasons of Giving will lead the parish in different ministries.
- More info? Contact Jennifer Brandt: jenbrandt99@gmail.com.

outreach

TUESDAY MORNING OUTREACH

- Good Shepherd has teamed up with five non-profit agencies in Austin to provide free, month-long bus passes to those less fortunate souls who have no other mode of transportation, as they try to rebuild their lives. In its more expanded nature, the program brings the reality of those at the bottom of the socioeconomic ladder literally to Good Shepherd's doorstep. It is where East Austin meets West Austin.
- Every Tuesday morning, beginning as early as 6:45a, you may notice folks beginning to congregate around the front door to the Administration building. We open the doors at 8:30a and over the next hour, we meet with these folks to ostensibly give them their bus pass but also to engage as God's people in a dialogue that is meant to show them that God's love can be shared.
- More info? Contact Scott Ferguson: scottferguson@grandecom.net.

Serving those who come to Good Shepherd's Tuesday Morning Outreach is an honor and an opportunity to help those who are truly in need. We serve about twenty individuals who are sent to Good Shepherd by agencies such as Trinity Center or Salvation Army. Our primary purpose is to provide them with a much needed monthly bus pass. As our clients struggle to become stable, the bus pass allows them to look for work or to get to and from a job they already have. We offer our neighbors breakfast food, coffee, water, bags filled with healthy snacks, a visit and a prayer (if they wish). Each recipient appreciates what we are doing, and I consider it a blessing to serve them in such a meaningful way.

--Joanie Sharpe

outreach

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

- The DFS supports disadvantaged women who are entering the workforce and striving to become economically self-sufficient. DFS provides to their clients professional interview attire as well as a support network to mentor clients throughout the interview process.
- Good Shepherd runs a purse drive in the spring and a toiletry drive in the fall to support this organization.
- More info? Contact Mary Ellington: bketexas@mindspring.com.

MEALS ON WHEELS

- This ministry provides at least 1 healthy meal per day to homebound clients of all ages and needs in the Austin area.
- Each of the sixteen Good Shepherd volunteers are assigned one day a month to pick up the meals before noon at The First Unitarian Universalist Church on Grover Ave. and deliver them to the clients.
- More info? Contact Alice Scarborough: ascarbrough@padminc.com.

TRINITY STREETS

- The Trinity Center is best described by its mission statement: to serve the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of people experiencing homelessness and poverty.
- Members of the parish minister to our neighbors who are homeless and in poverty six times a year by preparing a warm meal and leading a worship service. It is an incredible time of prayer, hospitality, service, and meeting people's needs.
- More info? Contact Martha Stone: mstone07@sprynet.com.

good shepherds

I love being an intercessor because it has helped me learn to lead other groups I belong to in public prayer... something I was never comfortable with in the past. I appreciate the honor of praying for others and the parish administration makes this a simple, non-time-consuming way to give back to the church.

--Caroline Osmon

I initially became an EV because I felt it would be a wonderful way to serve and support those not able to go to church. But, in reality, these folks are giving me a gift -- of letting me into their lives at a difficult and vulnerable time for them. It's a powerful ministry ... one of presence, trust, empathy, and connectedness.

--Bettie High

My reasons for taking part in the Good Ole Boys are one selfish and one altruistic. The selfish one is that I enjoy cooking, playing and drinking in the company of friends that don't require me to be on top of my game all the time. The other one is that it feels good to do something that allows others to enjoy a meal or afternoon with their friends and fellow parishioners. Well, maybe the second is selfish too...

--Louis Wade

Well, the ministry chose me, or rather I should say the Rector chose me. Regardless, I love being a verger because it permits me to combine a desire for structured order while absorbing the beauty of the service and its subtle variations. Quietly assisting the altar party carry out its responsibilities to serve God and his people and act as a mentor to acolytes helps to fulfill my pastoral mission.

--Jeff Simpler

the episcopal church

WHAT IS THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER?

The Book of Common Prayer is the collection of worship services all Anglican worshipers follow. It's called "common prayer" because we all pray from the same book together, around the world.

Many other worship resources and prayers exist to enrich our worship, but The Book of Common Prayer is the authority that governs our worship. The prayer book explains Christianity, describes the main beliefs of the Church, outlines the requirements for the sacraments, and serves as the main guidelines of Episcopal life.

WHAT IS A EUCHARIST?

Eucharist is a sacrament of Christ's body and blood and the principal act of Christian worship. The term is from the Greek word "thanksgiving." Jesus shared the bread and cup of wine at a sacred meal with his disciples. He identified the bread with his body and the wine with his blood of the new covenant. Jesus commanded his disciples to do this in remembrance of him.

The Eucharist is also called the Lord's Supper, Holy Communion, the Divine Liturgy, the Mass and the Great Offertory.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DIFFERENT "RITES?"

Rites are prescribed for various sacraments, offices and occasions in liturgical churches, including the Episcopal Church. These rites are found in The BCP. The term may also designate a particular collection of liturgies. Rite 1 uses traditional language; Rite 2 and other liturgies use more contemporary language.

WHAT IS LITURGY?

Worship in the Episcopal Church is said to be liturgical, meaning that the congregation follows service forms and prays from texts that don't change greatly from week to week during a season of the year. This sameness gives worship a rhythm that is comforting and familiar to worshipers.

WHAT IS AN "EPISCOPAL" CHURCH?

The Episcopal Church is the American branch of the Anglican Communion. The Episcopal Church has its roots in the Church of England, but separated from the Church of England shortly after the American Revolution. The Anglican Communion consists of churches around the world that are bound together by tradition, Scripture, and the inheritance they have received from the Church of England. Anglicanism is distinguished by the following characteristics:

- Protestant, yet Catholic. Anglicanism stands squarely in the Reformed tradition, yet is directly descended from the Early Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches. Episcopalians celebrate the mass in ways similar to the Roman Catholic tradition, yet do not recognize a single authority, such as the Pope of Rome.
- Worship in one's first language. Episcopalians believe Christians should be able to worship God and read the Bible in their first language.
- Anglicanism is distinguished by scripture, tradition, and reason. While Christians universally acknowledge the Bible as the Word of God and completely sufficient to our reconciliation to God, what the Bible says must always speak to us in our own time and place.
- What Christians have said to us through the centuries about the Bible is critical to our understanding of it in our own context. The traditions of the Church connect all generations of believers and give us a starting point for our own understanding.
- Episcopalians believe that every Christian must build a relationship with God's word in the Bible, and to do that, God has given us intelligence and personal experience, which we refer to as "reason." Based on the text of the Bible and what Christians have taught us about it through the ages, we can then embark on our own lifelong search for an understanding of God's word.

WHAT DOES THE WORD "EPISCOPAL" MEAN?

"Episcopal" means "bishop" in Greek. The Episcopal Church is governed by our bishops. The basic unit of ministry in the Episcopal Church is the diocese, or a region of a reasonable number of Episcopalians. Each diocese is presided over by a diocesan bishop who may have help from other bishops serving in various supporting capacities. Good Shepherd is part of the diocese of Texas.

worship

7:30A: HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

Our most traditional worship, this celebration of Holy Communion includes not only the older language of Rite I, but also models closely the Eucharistic rite from the 1928 Book of Common Prayer, including The Great Commandments, the Prayers of the People, the AgnNs Dei, and the Prayer of Humble Access.

9:00A: HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Our parish's Liturgy Committee, comprising of our clergy, music staff, and lay ministry coordinators, has worked collaboratively to shape a faithful Eucharistic liturgy. You may trust that we will begin our worship on time, and that we will keep our prayers and praise moving and lively.

EPISCOPAL FAMILY GROUP (EFG)

In addition to participation in worship, EFGs serve as the primary mode of Children's Christian Education for the 2011-2012 school year and will take the place of Sunday School for those in grades K-5th.

An EFG is a group of 4-5 families and a clergy member who gather in each other's homes or at church, with children in tow, to enjoy a meal and get to know one another.

These teams then commit to serve for three consecutive Sundays to:

- prepare and present a 3 – 5 minute child-friendly bible lesson in big Church (with lots of guidance from clergy!)

- ~serve as Greeters and Hosts

- ~Serve as leaders of a brief Children's Activity in Children's Chapel

For more info, contact the church office at 512.476.3523.

worship

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

During the 9:00a service a children's chapel is provided for children in grades K-5. Children begin in church with their parents. They come forward for the reading of the gospel. The children then process out behind the cross to the parish hall for children's chapel. The children rejoin their parents at the administration of communion. Please note: Children are always welcome to remain in church with their parents and we encourage you to discover what works best for your family.

11:30A: HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

Worshiping in the traditional language of Rite I, the 11:30a celebration of Holy Communion customarily includes anthems sung by The Good Shepherd Choir. Nursery is available.

11:30A: COMMUNION CAFÉ WORSHIP

This worship represents our continued effort to discern the time, location, and form of an alternative liturgical experience to more broadly serve our parish and our larger community. We gather at round tables for Eucharist in a casual environment. Music is led by singer-songwriter Ryan Young, accompanied by a female vocalist, percussion, and additional guitar.

6:00P: AN ORDER FOR EVENING, HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

Our Sunday evening worship service has returned to 6:00p, and begins with a short Order for Evening, acknowledging the hour of the day. This worship, traditional in its shape and in the language of Rite II, offers a meditative quality amidst candlelight and the quiet of the day's close.

worship

2ND SUNDAYS SEPTEMBER-MAY, 6:00P: CHORAL EVENSONG

Evensong is an old name for what is now called Daily Evening Prayer in our Prayer Book. Consisting essentially of psalms and canticles, scripture and prayers, Evensong (along with the rest of the Office – Matins or Daily Morning Prayer, Noonday Prayer, and Compline) is at heart a very simple, even contemplative service – but, graced with candlelight and incense, simple chant and the great wealth of choral music.

NURSING HOME EUCHARISTS

The Good Shepherd community regularly celebrates Holy Eucharist at several area retirement homes for all residents who wish to participate, and every member of our parish is always invited to attend.

SCHEDULE:

2nd Sunday, 2:00p: Arden Courts

3rd Sunday, 2:00p: The Village at Arboretum

3rd Sunday, 2:30p: The Continental

4th Sunday, 3:00p: Querencia at Barton Creek

3rd Wednesday, 3:30p: Westminster Manor

**Schedule is subject to change.*

TUESDAY, 12:15P:

CELEBRATING THE SAINTS

“Since ancient times, Christians have honored men and women whose lives represent heroic commitment to Christ and who have borne witness to their faith even at the cost of their lives. Such witnesses, by the grace of God, live in every age.” So begins Lesser Feasts and Fasts, the calendar of saints honored by The Episcopal Church. At lunchtime on Tuesdays we meet in the Chapel to continue this tradition and to share in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, Rite II. A brief homily about the remembered saint customarily follows the Gospel reading.

worship

WEDNESDAY, 12:15P, & THURSDAY, 5:30P:

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

During these hours, we offer ourselves to God in silence. This form of prayer is a time of stillness with God, alone or in community. It is a time of letting go, surrendering, and making space for the Holy Spirit. It is a process of recognizing the Divine indwelling in each of us and consenting to God’s leading.

WEDNESDAY, 5:30P:

HEALING WORSHIP

In addition to praying the prayer list of our parish and inviting healing for “all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit,” we offer prayers for ourselves and for one another. This celebration of the Holy Eucharist, Rite II, includes the laying on of hands and unction, an anointing with oil blessed to be a reminder of God’s power and presence with and within us.

THURSDAY, 7:30A:

MORNING PRAYER & HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

On Thursdays, we begin our day with Morning Prayer and Holy Eucharist, all in the language of Rite I. The service will be prayerful and swift, sure to get you on your way to work, school, or the gym, by 8:00a.

SUMMER SCHEDULE

During the summer months, the 9:00a and 11:30a Holy Eucharist worship services are combined and meet at 10:00a. Communion Café continues as scheduled, as do the 7:30a and 6:00p services.

join us

