

Shepherd's Journal

C H U R C H O F T H E G O O D S H E P H E R D

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Financial Facts
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- Trustees' Report
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PASTOR'S NOTES

"I'm so plain," said Potato. "Nobody will miss me in the soup."

"At least you're big," replied Salt. "I'm so small and insignificant. In that big kettle, I'm nothing."

"They call it 'Vegetable Soup'," said Meat. "They don't recognize what I add - why bother?"

"Everybody else is on the list to be added," moaned Broth. "I'm just there - that's all. No one would notice if I weren't there."

"I may go to Salad," added Carrot. "I'd get noticed in the middle of all that green stuff."

So they didn't go to Soup.

They were missed.

See you in church,

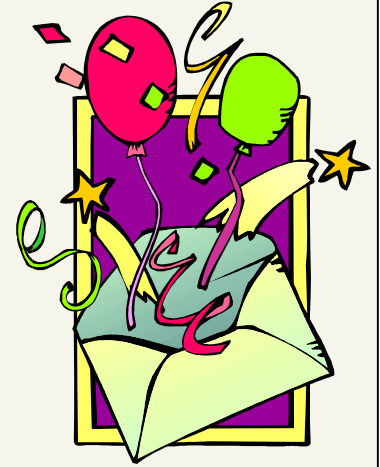


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D E C E M B E R B I R T H D A Y S

December 02 David Murphy Sr. Kay Toth	December 11 Patty Stewart	December 18 Susan Foster Jodi Bias
December 04 Carol Murphy Evan Stevens	December 12 Robert Rigg Jonathan Maier	December 19 Francis Nestor
December 06 Lynn Smith	December 14 Madison Rigg	December 21 Bev Kuhl
December 07 Ryan Stallings	December 15 Michelle Moon	December 24 Bill Knotts
December 08 Mallory Brown Bob Harman	December 16 Michael Hawranick Brendan Kunce	December 26 Amber Baker
December 10 Erica Bunner	December 17 Chris Sine Andrea Stolzenfels	December 27 Jarret Lambert
		December 29 Cheryl Whitescarver
		December 30 Abigail Reynolds



Heifer Project - Reminder - As you celebrate your birthday, think of those that are less fortunate by placing 1 penny for each year of your age in the Birthday Church. The wooded church is located in the Narthex of our church. Happy Birthday, Nurture Committee

D E C E M B E R A N N I V E R S A R I E S

<u>December 04</u> Pam & Rich Poling	<u>December 22</u> Jane & Roger Sine	<u>December 29</u> Bev & Arnold Kuhl John & Katereni Coffman
<u>December 11</u> Jon & Melissa McBee-Anderson		



D E C E M B E R S C H E D U L E O F E V E N T S

<i>December 5 - Second Sunday of Advent</i>	<i>December 14 - Administrative Council 7:30</i>
<i>December 6 - Trustees Meeting 7:30</i>	<i>December 18 - Noon - 2:00 Parish Christmas Dinner</i>
<i>Little Shepherd Board 6:30</i>	
<i>December 7 - LGBT - Prayers for Understanding 7:00</i>	<i>December 19 - Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>
	<i>Choir Cantata</i>
<i>December 12 - Third Sunday of Advent</i>	<i>December 24 - 7:00 Holy Communion</i>
<i>Cookie Sale 12:00</i>	<i>7:30 Early Service</i>
<i>December 14 - Finance Meeting 6:30</i>	<i>11:00 Late Service</i>

SPOTLIGHT ON THE FLOCK - CONVERSATIONS WITH CARLA

This month I talked to Cathy McDaniel. She said that she has a very fulfilling life and without the help of God and her strong faith she would never make it through the problems that life has put her through. Everything that happens makes her stronger. That is a wonderful model of how to live your life; don't you think so?

She has lived in Grafton all of her life. Cathy has four sisters and one brother. Her parents are Bud and Jessie Stull. She grew up on West Washington Street in the Judge Dent Mansion, a house with slave quarters and a carriage house. Her bedroom was beside the slave quarters. Sadly, the house had to be torn down because of sagging chimneys.

She went to school at Grafton Grade and Junior High (the old middle school) and then graduated from Grafton High School.

Her husband, Roger, was dating her best friend in high school and she tagged along. After they broke up he started talking to her more, but went into the military and got married. After he divorced, they were married on September 1, 1983. Cathy said they went to Oakland to get married and had to be back home in time to get his children off of the school bus. She has four children. The oldest two, Rocky and Violet, were the children that she received when she married Roger. Together they have two children - Kristy and Matt. She has six grandchildren and another will be born in February. She said that the best thing about being a grandma is spoiling the children and then taking them home.

Cathy has worked at Tasty-Freeze and Hecks Department Store. She worked at Hecks for fifteen years, in every department, and was one of the last people out of the door when the store closed. She substituted for the Board of Education for about five years and was hired in 1998 as a full time instructional aide for special

needs students. Cathy enjoys working with the children and said that you really need to understand their individual needs. She worked at Grafton High School for 1 year and then at Anna Jarvis for six months. Cathy has worked at the Middle School for the last twelve years.

Her favorite food is steak hoagies.

Her hobbies include collecting old pictures and information about Grafton. She also enjoys taking pictures of the sky including sunsets and sunrises. Cathy also likes to go to yard sales. She enjoys spending time with her new granddaughter, Jada, and all of her grandchildren. She likes to camp at Big Bear Lake with her family. Her sister-in-law and brother-in-law have a campsite beside theirs and they really have a good time. Kristy and Cathy always go shopping the day after Thanksgiving, leaving at about three in the morning and getting home at about three or four in the afternoon. This year Jada spent time with her father and Roger while the women shopped.

She belongs to the following organizations: she is the secretary of the Local School Improvement Council, the Safety Committee, and Staff Relations Committee at Taylor County Middle School. She is also the secretary of the Little Shepherds Board of Directors.

Cathy loves spring because everything has new life. Spring is always like a rebirth and a new beginning.

Christmas is Cathy's favorite time of the year. She loves the lights, the music and spending time with her family. The late candlelight service is one of her favorite times of the entire year.

She said that when you leave the service it is very quiet and peaceful outside. She really misses her mother at Christmas because she always made it so special. Her mother always had such beautiful packages. She would like to continue keeping it a special family day.

She loves our church and Pastor Bert's wonderful sermons. She hates to miss church. She really misses Spencer Howard and still looks for him at times. She is glad that Randy Bolyard is sitting with her now and feels that everyone is very caring at our church.

Cathy's favorite Bible stories are the Christmas and Easter stories. If she had bad health she feels that some way she would have to get to church at Christmas and Easter. Psalm 23 is her favorite chapter in the Bible. This passage tells you that you are never alone, no matter what happens.



PLAN NOW FOR SPECIAL ADVENT WORSHIP



November 28 - Hanging of the Greens
 December 5 - Second Sunday of Advent
 December 12 - Christmas Cookie Sale
 December 19 - Chancel Choir Cantata
 December 24 - Christmas Eve Worship
 7:00 - 7:30 Holy Communion
 7:30 - Early Service
 11:00 - Late Service



NURSERY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Nursery workers need to arrive at 10:30 to receive children. Guidelines are posted in the narthex and outside the nursery door. Weeks can be traded with other volunteers if a conflict arises.

December 5 - Bill & Cheryl Whitescarver December 12 - Brandon & Majesta Antion

December 19 - Volunteers Needed December 26 - Volunteers Needed

SOLIDER CARE PACKAGES

We are currently in need of new addresses for our service men and women. If you have an addresses please call Leah Powell at 304-265-0572 or the church office at 304-265-1705.



Equal Exchange Coffee Project



Good Shepherd is partnering with the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to provide fair trade coffee and other products. UMCOR's partner in the Coffee Project, Equal Exchange, is a worker-owned fair trade organization. On 100 percent of their products Equal Exchange promises:

- ◆ To pay a fair price with guaranteed minimum, ensuring the farmers a fair return for their labors.
- ◆ To work with cooperatives that are owned and governed by the farmers themselves.
- ◆ To buy directly from farmers so the benefits of trade go to the farmers and their communities.
- ◆ To offer credit that farmers can afford, helping them break the cycle of debt.
- ◆ To encourage ecologically sustainable farming practices such as organic and shade-grown agriculture, building a long-term economic base for farmers while protecting community health and the environment.



Our outdoor nativity set, designed by JoAnn Pratt and constructed by Robert McCartney, was recently refurbished by Bill Whitescarver and Jim Work. We will get many more years of service from this beautiful reminder of the “Reason for the Season.”

‘I never got to play John the Baptist’

(Smiley Anders is a regular columnist for the *Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate*. This column is reprinted with permission.)

By Smiley Anders

Due to my strict Episcopal upbringing, I’ve always had the quaint notion that Christmas is a religious holiday rather than a retail spending orgy.

Some of my earliest memories of Christmas don’t involve elaborate gifts, but rather the annual children’s Christmas pageants at Trinity Church in Natchez, MS.

The slightly older kids got the coveted roles of Joseph and Mary, as well as the three Wise Men.

The rest of us were cast as extras, that is to say, shepherds. Unlike the other roles, there was no limit to the number of shepherds, so we all were required to wear our plaid flannel bathrobes (every youngster at that time had a plaid flannel bathrobe, and they were equally ugly) and tie towels around our heads.

One of our number, however, would be picked to be John the Baptist.

This was regarded as a plum role, not because the kid did all that much, but because he got to wear an animal skin – kind of a hairy caveman get-up.

From what animal the mangy skin came was always a mystery to me – long-haired cattle, rabbit, possibly cat – but to my young eyes it was the



Anders

coolest outfit in the whole pageant.

Alas, when I left Natchez in the fourth grade, I had never risen any higher than shepherd.

I never hear “Little Town of Bethlehem” or “We Three Kings” or “Away in a Manger” without thinking of me in my flannel bathrobe, casting covetous glances at John the Baptist’s hide.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The Chancel Choir will present the Christmas Cantata "God with us, Emmanuel" on Sunday, December 19th during worship. Rehearsals will be held on Thursday evenings at 8:15 p.m. Come join us and lift your voice in praise as we celebrate our Lord Jesus Christ's birth!

COOKIE SALE

The Annual Cookie Sale will be on December 12 this year. Cookies are sold by the pound and will be \$5.00 a pound. Please bring the cookies to the church by 10:00 a.m. on December 12. The money from this sale goes to someone in the congregation who could use some extra help. The person that receives the money is known only to Pastor Bert and is decided on after prayerful consideration. If you have any questions contact Carla Powell at 304-265-0572.



REMINDER:

When you GoodSearch and GoodShop first before you order, Good Shepherd gets a percentage of the sale. Go to GoodSearch (be sure to select Good Shepherd) then click on shopping and go to a store website, place your order and the church automatically gets a percentage. No cost to you - just a couple of clicks. This year we have already earned \$58.65. See page 7 for directions.

A Christmas Prayer

May there be harmony in all your relationships.
 May sharp words, envious thoughts, and hostile feelings be dissolved.
 May you give and receive love generously.
 May this love echo in your heart like the church bells on a clear December day.
 May the hope of this sacred season settle in your soul.
 May it be a foundation of courage for you when times of distress occupy your inner land.
 May the wonder and awe that fills the eyes of children be awakened within you.
 May it lead you to renewed awareness and appreciation of whatever

you too easily take for granted.
 May the bonds of love for one another be strengthened as you gather with your family and friends around the table of festivity and nourishment.
 May you daily open the gift of your life and be grateful for the hidden treasure it contains.
 May the coming year be one of good health for you.
 May you have energy and vitality.
 May you care well for your body, mind, and spirit.
 May you keep your eye on the Star within you and trust this Luminescent Presence to guide and direct you each day.
 May you go often to the Bethlehem

of your heart and visit the One who offers you peace.
 May you bring this peace into our world.

—Joyce Rupp
 via Gleamings





Church of the Good Shepherd can earn a donation every time you search the Internet or shop online. Search the web with Yahoo-powered GoodSearch.com and they'll donate a penny to our church each time you use this search engine. Shop at more than 600 merchants including Amazon, Best Buy, Toys R Us, and others, and a percentage of your purchase will go to the church.

Simply go to www.goodsearch.com and type in 'Church of the Good Shepherd' where it says "Who do you GoodSearch for?" Click verify and select 'Church of the Good Shepherd - Grafton (Grafton, WV)' After this it will take you back to the search page with Good Shepherd listed. If you make this your homepage it will come up for Good Shepherd automatically. Now you can start searching.

Go to <http://www.goodsearch.com> and start surfing today.

CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD

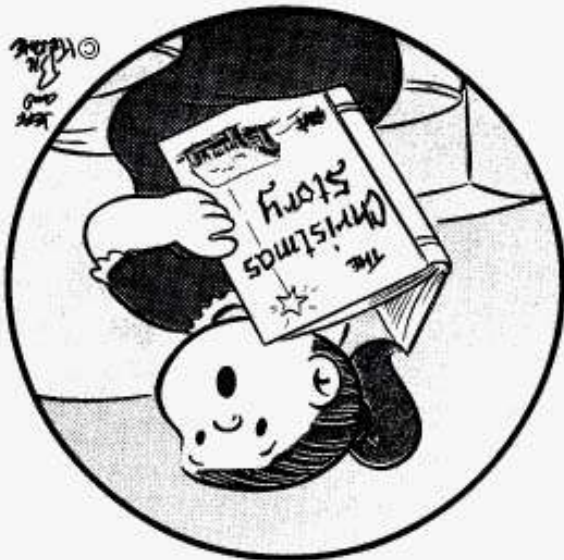
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"Mommy, did you save
my swaddling clothes?"



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

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SPEED BUMP by Dave Coverly

SEE YOU IN CHURCH