



# The Shepherd's Voice

---

Good Shepherd Anglican Church Newsletter – Vol. 1, Issue 11

November 2007

---

*A Word from Fr. Michael*



## Pastor's Journal

### November 18<sup>th</sup> Is Membership Sunday

Please make arrangements to attend our Membership 101 class, Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Adults will meet at the Jones' house, little kids will be cared for at the Wallaces', and older kids will have fun at the Nees' house. Supper will be provided. The three homes are all in the same neighborhood, which is just north of Alga and west of El Fuerte. An email will go out with directions. Please don't miss this event. It's especially important for a new church like ours. One of the strengths of Good Shepherd is the diversity of the people who make up our congregation. The membership class is an important way for us to build unity and relationships with one another, and to discern our place within community. Please contact me if you have any questions. You can call me at 760 445 4378.

---

### Values, Mission, and Vision

We've been developing the following statements for awhile now. I thank all those involved throughout the process from the ground up.

#### Our Values

- **Family.** We care deeply about families, and we want you to be part of ours. Our church family is a place where you can be you. Where you and your children feel safe. Where you can pray, laugh or cry together, trusting that you will be loved and accepted, not judged.

- **Faith.** We know we were created for a purpose. We love the Word of God, and seek its application in our daily lives. We are called to deliver our witness to each other and to the world, and to show our faith through acts of God's love.
- **Authenticity.** We believe in a real God, and in being real with one another. We hold each other accountable. We have a real thirst for truth. We dislike politics and hierarchy. We prefer an honest 'failure' to a successful façade.
- **Healing.** We live in a region where people are, quite literally, sick of the lifestyle and pressures that come with it. We recognize that everyone has scars. We know Christ's healing power is the only answer for a broken heart or a wounded spirit.
- **Learning.** We seek to be and to create passionate, devoted followers of Jesus Christ. Christian education is more than Sunday School. It is about equipping and empowering believers through discipleship.
- **Creativity.** We enjoy a challenge, even if it means taking a chance and risking failure. We're not afraid to push the envelope to find fresh and uniquely inspiring ways to glorify God and share His good news, whether it's through a sermon, an after-school program or a musical performance.
- **Fun.** We are social creatures. Like you, we love sports, music, theater and film, or just surfing the Internet. We embrace joyful fellowship, great food and good humor. We're spontaneous, and just as likely to meet for an impromptu pizza party as a 'formal' event.

## **Our Mission**

To glorify God, share the good news of Jesus Christ, reflect His light in our lives, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, heal a hurting world.

## **Our Vision**

At Good Shepherd, you and your family are welcome to celebrate, love and serve God in a Christ-centered, Bible-based, Spirit-led community. Our growing congregation is dedicated to transforming the world by bringing Christ to the culture through culture, and training others to do the same. We seek to restore and uphold the sacredness of worship through relevant preaching, and reverent celebration of the sacraments. Above all, we strive to embody a church where your life is transformed by knowing Jesus Christ as Savior, Lord and Friend.

## **What This Means to You**

By truly accepting Jesus Christ as Savior, Lord, and Friend:

- You will finally be able to let go—of your fears, of addictions, of materialism, of poisonous relationships, of old wounds from the past, and of worries about the future.
- You will find the courage to admit your weakness and humbly surrender to God's will, finding that, bound in service to Christ, you now have the power to speak and act with genuine authority for the first time in your life.
- You will be set free of yourself, and seeking God's purpose, your outlook on your world, yourself and your relationships with others will forever change as you become the person God always meant you to be.
- You will cease to pursue things the world values, instead investing your money, talent and time in matters of Eternal significance.
- As a result, you will lose some friends and gain new ones, experiencing a joy in Christian fellowship and a love that no one can take away from you.



## Financial Report

by Fr. Michael Nee

Our treasurer, Tom Snodgrass, reports that our balance sheet is looking good. We're doing better than projected. We started the year in faith. We knew that the pledges we gathered at the end of last year, when we had just planted the church, did not entirely cover the projected budget. However, God in His economy, had provided generous gifts that provided more than enough of a balance to get us through the year. We took it as a sign of God's approval and moved forward. Thanks be to God, between new members who have joined us this year and several financial gifts we have received, we have not had to spend nearly as much from the reserve as we had projected. Thanks to all of you for your faithfulness and your gracious spirit. Speaking of faithfulness, a word about Tom Snodgrass. He quietly goes about serving our congregation with love and diligence. The quality of his work as our treasurer is first-rate. We have the best-kept books of any church I've ever seen. He does it with love, and you can tell. He's on the shy side, but you don't have to be. Thank Tom next time you see him. He is one of Christ's "good and faithful" servants.

---

## Worship

---

### Thanksgiving Eve service

We're trying something different this year. Rabbi Mel and I have wanted to share a Thanksgiving service together for some time now. This year he proposed having a shared service on Thanksgiving Eve at 7:15 p.m. I don't know if that seems late for some of you or not. But I agreed to the time. It will not be a long service, we'll be done by 8 p.m., and then have some fellowship time—and food. Please attend if you can. Naturally, I understand that many of you will be traveling, but you will be with us in spirit.

### Sermons

*By Fr. Michael*

#### **Stewardship of Grace**

In November we will focus on *stewardship*, which typically has come to mean making a financial pledge to one's church for the coming year. It's like having a bill come due. That's too bad. It's a shame that that is what it has degenerated into. True stewardship is about gratitude and thanksgiving. It is appropriate that it comes at the traditional post-harvest time, the time of year when we celebrate Thanksgiving as a nation. Stewardship is one way we Christians, as individuals and as a community of faith, give thanks to God. It's an uplifting time in the church because it is a season when we really take the time to concentrate on the graciousness of God.

We focus on His promises and the witness of His gracious provision throughout scripture. We contemplate deeply how He has saved and provided for us as a group and as individuals. Think of [Psalm 103](#) and you'll catch the spirit exactly. You can hardly go wrong contemplating God's goodness to us. That is what we will be about this November.



## Altar Guild

*By Phyllis Gilbert*

The Altar Guild recently lost one of its dedicated 8 o'clock members, Jean Broska, when she and Charles relocated to Santa Barbara to be closer to family. She leaves a big vacancy, and you can fill it. The Altar Guild ministry (at either service) is a blessing to those who set up the altar and clean and store the linens and vessels. Join the group; training is painless and makes you an expert on the difference between purificators, lavabo towels and ciborium. See Phyllis Gilbert, Suzi Jones, Nancy Janovsky, Peggy Street, Carole Papenfuss or Doris Hermes for additional information.

---

### *Ministry*

---

#### **Prayers for The Middletons**

Major Alston Middleton, USMC, has been deployed to Iraq.  
Please uphold him and his wife, Robin,  
and their children Philip and Ruth in your prayers.



---

### Taking Care of Business

Your vestry is hard at work: re-organizing our ministries network, shaping our strategic plan for the coming 12 to 24 months, and searching for new site for our church. Maury Pratt, our senior warden, is doing a great job helping us keep focused and “moving the ball down the field.” Carly Ines has been providing leadership for the site search team. For the time being, in terms of location, we are secure at our current address. Congregation Shir Ami has renewed its lease for another year with an option to renew at the end of that time.

Please keep all our leaders in your prayers. Frankly, what they do is difficult. We are not an institution that can coast. For now, we have to pedal for every mile we travel—and Satan dogs our heels. So give thanks and prayers for those who serve us. Next month we'll have a lot to report on the site search, strategic plan, and the organization of our ministries.

---

---

## *Evangelism & Outreach*

---

### **Greeters Ministry: A Welcoming Smile**

By Carole Papenfuss

We are a small group, but growing & we would love everyone to feel a part of what goes on. One of the smallest, but most vital jobs in terms of the growth of our congregation is greeting. So, if you have been with Good Shepherd from the beginning & want to “do your bit” (I’m SO English!) or if you are a newcomer, who was made to feel welcome (we truly hope you did) & wants to pass that feeling on, then do get in touch with me, **Carole Papenfuss**, either personally at church or via e-mail through the church web-site & I can include you on our next Greeters’ Schedule, which will cover the first 6 months of 2008.

At present we mostly have couples on our schedule, but we are also very happy to have singles & we can pair you up with a greeting partner or you can do the job alone (it really isn’t very onerous). Right now the commitment is one Sunday in 4 at the 8:00 service or one in 5 at the 10:00, but the more people who are willing to join us the smaller the commitment for all & you know well in advance, so that if you can’t make it you have plenty of time to ask another member of the group to exchange weeks. One thing about the Good Shepherd congregation is that they are all so friendly, so, if you volunteer, all you have to do is be your own friendly self - welcome newcomers as they arrive, chat to them as you offer them coffee & goodies at the end of the service, introduce them to others & try to make sure that you get some contact details from them, which you can then e-mail to Father Michael, so that he can follow up during the week. Apart from that you just need to smile & make name tags for all & sundry as they arrive (it’s a GREAT way of getting to know other regular members of the congregation, if you don’t already).

Do give this vital ministry some prayerful thought &, if you feel you can help, I would love to hear from you in the next couple of weeks before I begin to get the new schedule together.

---

## *Fellowship*

---

### **COFFEE HOUR**



Patti, our Head Bean and the coordinator of our coffee hour, has been putting together a sign up sheet for volunteers. Duties include bringing goodies for the 10 a.m. coffee hour, setting up and cleaning up. She’s looking for volunteers for the following dates: Dec. 2, Dec. 9, Dec. 16, Dec. 23 and Dec. 30. If you would like to help out and sign up for one of these dates, contact Patti at (760) 931-2565.

---

## Discipleship

---

### Children's Ministry

#### THE CHRISTMAS PLAY

Just a heads-up—we'll be hitting the ground running the first week in December to begin rehearsing the Christmas Play, which will be great fun this year. It's not often a New York director directs a parish Christmas play, but God in His wisdom provides us with Fr. Michael to take care of business. Parents—please make sure to let us know what your family holiday travel plans are for December. We're not set on dates for performance yet. We'll work with all of you to insure that as many of the children can participate as possible. Rehearsals also provide Mom and Dad time for themselves during the busy Christmas season. Typically we'll have rehearsals on a Saturday afternoon, giving parents time to catch up on sleep, shopping, spa relief—whatever—for several hours. We'll post our rehearsal schedule after Thanksgiving.

---

#### Youth Ministry

We meet with Resurrection Anglican Church at their location, located near the intersection of Melrose and Rancho Santa Fe Road. The regular meeting time is Sunday at 5:30 p.m. For more information, contact Fr. Michael.

#### *The S.O.L.I.D. Schedule*

November

- 4<sup>th</sup> Regular SOLID at church
- 11<sup>th</sup> Regular SOLID at church
- 17<sup>th</sup> Alternative Gift Market, outreach at the Civic Center; goods from fair trade organizations to support the world's poor and persecuted
- 18<sup>th</sup> Trip to the movies, early afternoon
  
- Week of 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> One day trip to Irvine to support Operation Christmas Child – outreach to help pack shoe boxes for needy children worldwide. *Exact date to be announced as scheduled.*
- 25<sup>th</sup> Regular SOLID at church



## **Bible 101 Classes**

*By Phyllis Gilbert*

The Bible 101 evening class (Mondays, 7 p.m., at the Smeltzers' home) will begin a study of II Corinthians on November 5. Be part of the examination of Paul's most autobiographical epistle, and discover why it is probably the fourth letter he wrote to this group of believers at Corinth. This epistle is more than Paul's story; it also contains that wonderful truth that "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: the old has gone, the new has come!" (II Cor. 5:17). The morning class (Thursdays, 10 a.m.) continues to delve into the history of the nation of Israel. Currently under discussion is I Chronicles, largely about David and his rule. Call Phyllis Gilbert (726-8407) for more information about either class.

---

### **STRENGTH AND COURAGE**

It takes strength to be firm.  
It takes courage to be gentle.

It takes strength to stand guard.  
It takes courage to let down your guard.

It takes strength to conquer  
It takes courage to surrender.

It takes strength to be certain.  
It takes courage to have doubt.

It takes strength to fit in.  
It takes courage to stand out.

It takes strength to feel a friend's pain.  
It takes courage to feel your own pain.

It takes strength to hide feelings.  
It takes courage to show them.

It takes strength to endure abuse.  
It takes courage to stop it.

It takes strength to stand alone.  
It takes courage to lean on another.

It takes strength to love.  
It takes courage to be loved.

It takes strength to survive.  
It takes courage to live.

--author unknown

*"...as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and of good courage...." (Joshua 1:5b-6a).*

---

We welcome your questions and comments on our newsletter, *The Shepherd's Voice*.  
If you have news you would like included in future editions, contact Tami Chatfield at  
(760) 431-0502 or [news@gsachurch.com](mailto:news@gsachurch.com).