

The Week at a Glance

Monday Prayer & Praise – 7:30 PM

Tuesday Ladies' Bible Study – 9:30 AM
Alpha I / Alpha II – 6:30 PM

Wednesday Parent Group Meeting – 6:45 PM
Club House – 6:45 PM
Jr Highs & Sr Highs – 7:30 PM

Thursday Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 PM

Friday YG All Nighter – 7:00 PM
Stuffing the Christmas Bags – 7:00 PM

Saturday College & Career – 7:30 PM

Sunday Convergence – 9:00 AM
Worship Service – 10:30 AM
Slivers of light: A Service of Lament and Healing – 7:00 PM



Join us in bringing the Good News to our Community this Christmas

This Friday, Dec. 11TH at 7:00 PM, Church volunteers will be stuffing Christmas bags for distribution in our neighbourhood, and we need your help! Each bag needs to be stuffed with an “ESV Outreach New Testament Christmas Edition,” “The Good News of Christmas” tract by Max Lucado, information about our church including an invitation to our Christmas Eve service, and a free gift. Then the week of Dec. 20TH, volunteers will be going out into the community to hand out the bags and invite folks to our church. If you would like to volunteer to help with one or both of these aspects, please see Murray Lahn or sign up after the service in the foyer.

Christmas Donations for Pregnancy Care Centre

Please join us in helping the women in need at the Pregnancy Care Centre this Christmas by donating items such as diapers (any size), baby wipes, BPA-free bottles and women's pampering items (body wash, lotions, soaps). You can place them in the bassinet at the back of the church until December 13TH.

We Found the Lost

Please stop by and check the tables for items that might be yours. Today is the final day to take whatever is left over before it is given away

Calling all visual artists!

We are looking for visual art (paintings, sketches, photographs, etc.) to appear on the bulletin covers during the Season of Lent and on the cover of our Lenten devotional booklet. The Lenten preaching series will be called “Signs of Grace.” Submissions must be black and white and should be submitted electronically in a resolution of at least 400 dpi to rob@gsc.ca before January 11, 2010.

Good Shepherd Community Church

Sunday, December 6, 2009

The Second Sunday of Advent

Welcome - *Joan Howell*

Silent Prayer

Reflection: "Of the Father's Love Begotten" - *Resonance*

Opening Prayer - *Rob Dean*

Lighting the Candle of Peace - *The Robinson-Dressekie family*

Songs of Praise

The Presentation of Gifts - *Peter Oulton*

Offertory: "Comfort Ye My People" - *Resonance*

Doxology: "Emmanuel" (#134)

Children's Ministry - *Carol Smith*

Life & Ministry of the Church

Scripture: Luke 2:1-7 - *Nancy Lahn*

A Reflection from the Inn Keeper - *Frederick Buechner*

Scripture: Luke 2:8-20 - *Sam Proulx*

A Reflection from the Sheep Herder - *Frederick Buechner*

Passing the Peace

Choral Reflection: "An Advent Question" - *Lantz*

The Sacrament of Holy Communion - *Chris Platteel*

Communion Praise

Comissioning and Blessing

** Following communion, a prayer team will be present at the back of the sanctuary for those who wish to receive the ministry of prayer.*

Encountering Christ and Thoughtfully Following Him

Life and Ministry of the Church

Upcoming Events: Please Mark Your Calendars

Dec. 11: Stuffing the Christmas Bags - 7:00 PM. Youth All Nighter

Dec. 13: Slivers of Light: A Service of Lament and Healing - 7:00 PM

Dec. 13-18: Distribution of Christmas Bags in the Neighbourhood

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service - 7:00 PM

Slivers of Light: A Service of Lament and Healing

The Christmas season is usually considered to be a time of joyous celebration, but navigating through the bright lights, festive music, and lavish meals of the season can be particularly difficult for those who have experienced loss or are grieving in some way. Slivers of Light is a service for anyone carrying the burden of grief associated with the loss of a loved one, or other significant losses such as the loss of a job or the end of a dream, during this holiday season. It is an opportunity for the entire Good Shepherd Church family to accompany those members of our body who are journeying through the valley of sorrow. The service will be held on the evening of Sunday, December 13TH at 7:00 PM.

Sanctuary Decorations – Christmas Poinsettias

You may purchase one or more red poinsettias in memory of a loved one. All memorial gifts will be published on December 20TH. To order, please fill out the poinsettia envelope, including payment in cash or cheque (payable to Good Shepherd) and place in the offering. All orders must be received by Dec. 13TH.

Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree is now up! Knitted mittens, scarves and hats will be greatly appreciated. Articles will be used for the Pregnancy Care Centre and the Woodgreen Community Centre this year. If you have any questions, please contact Ev England at 416-444-4342.



Advent Offering

Last September, the Philippines experienced what was considered the worst disaster since the 1960s when two typhoons ripped through the region bringing strong winds and torrential rain that resulted in Manila and its neighbouring regions being submerged in 6 feet of water. For this year's Advent Offering, Good Shepherd is partnering with Compassion Canada in helping to bring relief to the area and to their Child Sponsorship projects. Please be generous when donating to our Advent Offering this year by using either the Advent Offering Envelope or by indicating "Advent Offering" on your regular Sunday envelope. All cheques should be made payable to Good Shepherd Community Church, through whom you will receive your tax receipt. The money will be forwarded by Good Shepherd to Compassion Canada for use in the Philippines in aid of our brothers and sisters in need.

SPOTLIGHT

Merry Christmas and Happy Easter?

You might have wondered why we use the decorations we do, when decorating the church at Christmas time. Many of them are symbols that help to express our faith. Candles remind us that Christ is the light of the world. Evergreen boughs tell us of the everlasting life in Christ. However, the one that is so important is the holly wreath. It may seem like a simple decoration, but did you know that it reminds us of Christ's sacrifice on the Cross? Holly leaves represent the crown of thorns that Christ wore and the berries represent the blood He shed for us. This year while you celebrate the birth of our Lord, keep your eyes on the wreath and remember why God sent His only Son to us. Merry Christmas and Happy Easter!

God At Work In Club House

Each Wednesday, kids from both our community and our church, enjoy their own "Small Group": there are 5 age-oriented groups from age 3 to grade 6. The leaders plan a variety of activities which are fun, educational, and usually lead to learning new skills and earning awards! The two kinds of awards are "Bible Exploration" and "Activity Awards," which all help to put the Pioneer Clubs motto into practise: "Christ in Every Aspect of Life." For example, the "Discovering Creation" Bible award had the grade 6 kids into Genesis as well as some of the Psalms, and the activity awards "Hiking" and "Nature" helped them actually experience God's wonderful creation. Each year, a child can earn quite a few awards at Club; also one that all the groups work on together is the "Missions" award. Some years we respond to an international crisis, or to a missionary need in other countries; or we might do a project or performance for a Seniors' Home. This year we are focusing on various local charities, starting with a service organization in Toronto that provides the essentials of life to 38,000 people annually: Woodgreen Community Services (where one of our leaders is employed). The children have been bringing in food and other necessities each week, filling up a "basket" and learning how God can multiply our "loaves and fishes."

Good Shepherd Community Church

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Prayer

- ♦ **MONDAY:** Dave McCready, who is recovering from having a pacemaker installed this week. Pray for peace, comfort and for the family during this time.
- ♦ **TUESDAY:** Ila Hunter, one of our beloved members, who is unable to attend regularly due to health issues. Thank the Lord for the blessed promise to be with us through difficult times and that thousands of saints stand as proof he will never leave us or forsake us.
- ♦ **WEDNESDAY: Parent Group Gathering.** Pray that the Lord would be in the midst of these gatherings and that all those who are unfamiliar with the faith may experience the rich blessing of fellowship and conversation.
- ♦ **THURSDAY: M.A.T.E. (Missions Advancing Theological Education).** Pray that they may continue to serve in their ministries of training pastors and crisis intervention overseas in the next year and to celebrate what the Lord has done within them and through them over the past year.
- ♦ **FRIDAY: YG All Nighter.** Pray that this would be a great opportunity for the youth to celebrate winter together and have a lot of fun. Pray for safety, health and fun for everyone who participates.
- ♦ **SATURDAY: College & Career.** Pray for Nigel as he leads this group of young adults in exploring their faith in the midst of their lives. Pray that they would continue to develop deep, supportive friendships, and that the group would grow.
- ♦ **SUNDAY: O God,** we listen for your voice, as we seek the peace of Christ and praise and bless your coming.



Please notify the church office (office@gsccl.ca) if you have a prayer request.



Our Families in Prayer This Week

Dale & Brigitte McInnis

Jean Miller

William & Natalie Nash

Sarah Normore

Update from the Board of Elders of the meeting held on November 16TH, 2009

The Board received a number of updates and reports at this meeting. We received:

- a report from the Stewardship Committee and the Year-to-Date financials from Joan Howell
- an update on the Youth ministry from Nigel Chang
- an update on the Worship, Convergence and Care ministries from Rob Dean
- a report on the overall GSCC ministry from Sharon Tam
- an update on the feasibility of a Community Garden on our property from Peter Oulton
- A report on the Child Youth Leader Protection Policy was presented by Rej Proulx
- A report from the Outreach committee recommending the designation for our Advent offering from Murray Lahn

The Board of Elders also

- agreed to change the way financials are reported in the bulletin to show more clearly how general offerings are tracking to our budget
- provided their approval to the project plan and problem statement of Board of Elders/Board of Directors Responsibility Project
- adopted a set of Board guiding principles
- assigned Sharon Fiennes-Clinton to the Elder Nominations Committee
- discussed objectives for the January 30th Elder Day Apart
- made a decision to defer building a Ministry Continuity Plan in favour of dealing with issues as they arise
- identified action from ministry leaders and pastoral team to improve compliance to the Child-Youth-Leader Protection Policy
- signed a number of documents necessary to complete our Submission to the Office of the Registrar General in order to request our ministers be licensed to perform marriages.
- agreed on the designation of our advent offering to assist in relief efforts in the Philippines following recent Tsunamis as per the Outreach Committee recommendation.

Finally, we prayed for the needs of many in our congregation as well as for each other.

The Board would also like to provide you an update to a question that arose at our annual meeting on November 8TH. There was a question related to the Statement of Cash Flows on the audited statement related to Deferred Day Camp Fees of \$22,620.00. The line was mislabeled and should have read Deferred Income. This line item was derived from the line called "Increase in Cash for the Year" (\$20,151) from the Statement of Cash Flows from the 2007-2008 Audited Financial Statement plus a small portion of unallocated Day Camp fees (\$2,469). We can expect that in our audited statement from 2009-2010 ministry year to see a deferred income line \$30,577 consistent with the line labeled "Increase in Cash for Year" from the Statement of Cash Flows – plus any unallocated Camp Fees.

If you have any questions regarding activities of the Board of Elders or anything in this report, feel free to approach Natalie Nash, Brian McConnell or Joan Howell.