

The Week at a Glance

Monday	Elders Meeting – 7:00 PM Prayer & Praise – 7:30 PM
Tuesday	Ladies' Bible Study – 9:30 AM Alpha I / Alpha II – 6:30 PM
Wednesday	Club House – 6:45 PM Jr Highs & Sr Highs – 7:30 PM
Thursday	Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 PM
Friday	
Saturday	
Sunday	Convergence – 9:00 AM Worship Service – 10:30 AM



Volunteers to Deliver Christmas Bags

On Friday night, volunteers stuffed 750 Christmas Bags for distribution in our neighbourhood. Now we need your help to deliver them! Each bag contains an “ESV Outreach New Testament Christmas Edition”, “The Good News of Christmas” tract by Max Lucado, information about our church and programs including an invitation to our Christmas Eve service, and a free gift. 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 the distribution, please see Murray Lahn today.

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.



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@gbcc.ca before January 11, 2010.

Good Shepherd Community Church

Sunday, December 13, 2009

The Third Sunday of Advent

Welcome & Greeting ~ *Brian McConnell*

Silent Prayer

Prayer of Approach and Confession ~ *Rob Dean*

Choral Reflection: "Celtic Advent Carol" – *Angerman/Barrett*

Lighting the Candle of Joy ~ *Cathy Xu*

Songs of Praise

The Presentation of Gifts ~ *Nigel Chang*

Choral Offertory: "Christ Came to Bethlehem" – *Johnson*

Doxology: "O Come Let Us Adore Him"

Children's Ministry ~ *Carol Smith*

Life & Ministry of the Church

Scripture: Luke 1:39- 45; 57-66 ~ *Cindy Geevarghese*

Elizabeth's Reflection ~ *Sharon Tam*

Video Reflection: "Mary Did you Know?"

Scripture: Luke 1: 26-38; 46-56 ~ *Gertie D'Silva*

Mary's Reflection ~ *Sharon Tam*

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Musical Reflection ~ *Barb Constable & Debi Radin*

The Ministry of Prayer

Advent Carol: "Joy, to the World"

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

Tonight: **Slivers of Light: A Service of Lament and Healing** – 7:00 PM

Dec. 20-24: **Distribution of Christmas Bags in the Neighbourhood**

Dec. 24: **Christmas Eve Service** – 7:00 PM

Slivers of Light: A Service of Lament and Healing – TONIGHT

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

TODAY is the last day for donations toward the purchase of one or more red poinsettias (\$10 each) in memory of a loved one. Memorials will be published December 20TH. To order, fill out the poinsettia envelope, including donation in cash or cheque (payable to Good Shepherd), and place in the offering.



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

Ministry in Focus – Slivers of Light: A Service of Lament and Healing

Each of us carries our own story of loss, sadness and grief. To be human is to experience grief and none of us goes through life without the pain of loss. Losses begin early in life and continue until we die. Some grief is dealt with easily but some will linger on to burden our lives for years to come. Each person handles their grief differently, but sharing our experience with others is common to all successful journeying through grief. Telling the story of loss – of dreams, of a loved one, of a job, of hope for the future, of health, of finances – lessens our burden and lightens our load. And ultimately, it is in surrendering our pain to the Lord that healing can begin. One of the most profound experiences of the healing of our grief can be found in the experience of worship. The Lord longs to reach out to us, to carry us in his arms and to wipe away our tears. Consider bringing your loss and grief to the Lord this evening and receive the healing he longs for you to have.

Eye on Outreach: Tim and Renata Constable

Renata and I are starting a group in our house where we will study Christianity through studying a book for those that have expressed an interest in exploring faith in Christ. We have three couples that we are inviting. As you may or may not know, several months ago Renata started going to a women's prison here in Warsaw. Unfortunately, the majority of inmates have no community of believers that they would like to attend on a regular basis. So in order to better serve them, they are currently planting a church in prison. Over the next several weeks we will be seeking out people ministering to the homeless and destitute. This is something very much lacking in the Christian community in Warsaw. Tim is working with International Christian Fellowship here in Warsaw as the Arts and Worship Coordinator. This next year will be crucial in the life of ICF as it looks for a new senior pastor. We are also expecting our third child in March.



Good Shepherd Community Church

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Prayer

- ♦ **MONDAY: Elders Meeting.** Pray that as they provide spiritual leadership for Good Shepherd they continue in integrity, trust and dependence on God in their decision-making and that there is a spirit of unity amongst them.
- ♦ **TUESDAY: Evangelical Fellowship of Canada.** Pray that they will be effective in bringing the plight of persecuted Christians before the Canadian government, and in encouraging the Canadian Church to raise public awareness on behalf of our brothers and sisters worldwide.
- ♦ **WEDNESDAY: Christmas Bag Outreach.** Pray that we would be able to reach our neighbours and community through this initiative, and that God would call people to the church. As we seek to be 'fishers of people,' pray that the Lord would bless the work of our hands.
- ♦ **THURSDAY: Stan Branch,** 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.
- ♦ **FRIDAY: Carol Smith,** who has a broken leg. Praise God that the break is less serious than last time, and pray for a quick recovery.
- ♦ **SATURDAY: Pray for those at Good Shepherd** who are mourning the loss of loved ones during the Christmas season. Pray for the comfort and peace of the Lord during this difficult time.
- ♦ **SUNDAY: God of all hope and joy,** open our hearts to welcome Your Son, Jesus Christ, that He would find us prepared and waiting for Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.



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



Our Families in Prayer This Week

Peter, Maureen, Zachary & Phoebe Oulton
Tania, Kaylin & Emma Paige
Betty Painter