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CHURCH OF THE



GOOD SHEPHERD

Good Shepherd E-News (28 December 2017)

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Athens, Ohio--seeking to know and serve Christ in loving service to the campus, the community, and the world.

This Sunday: 31 December 2017



First Sunday After Christmas (Feast Day of The Holy Innocents)

8:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist
Rite I

10:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist
Rite II-A

Nine Lessons and Carols

Thank You !

We are deeply grateful for everyone who helped make our celebrations of Christmas so lovely and bright. From the members of the Altar Guild, to the acolytes, lectors, LEMs, choir members, ushers, helpers with the Interactive Christmas Gospel, and especially to those of you who made the services beautiful with your presence, together we were part of a beautiful day. A special thank you to those who didn't miss a moment of being present or participating all the services. We hope your celebration of Christmas was a rich, full one.

Upcoming Church Events

Nine Lessons and Carols and Eucharist - Sunday, December 31, 10:30 a.m.

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Free Lunch - Wednesday, January 3, noon

Prayer Shawl group - Tuesday, January 9, home of Jude Pizzolato

**From our friends
in St. Luke's
Episcopal Church
in Mérida,
Mexico.**

Free Lunch - Wednesday, January 10, noon

Second Sunday Brunch - Sunday, January 14, noon

**"José's Weekly
Reflection"**

Free Lunch - Wednesday, January 17, noon

Vestry - Thursday, January 18, 7:00 p.m., Hobson

[ENGLISH](#)

Prayer Shawl group - Tuesday, January 23, home of Stephanie Goldsberry

[SPANISH](#)

Free Lunch - Wednesday, January 24, noon

[Altar Flowers
How to Order](#)

Free Lunch - Wednesday, January 31, noon

[Your Kroger
Plus card can
help the
Church](#)

Annual Meeting - Sunday, February 18, following 10:30 a.m. service

Christmas Season

Our Christmas Celebration may have ended; however, it is still the season of Christmas. The Church gives us a time of twelve days to celebrate and pray and contemplate the Incarnation and what it means. May each day in this season be an opportunity for you to see God With Us.

December 28 Feast Day of The Holy Innocents

The Fourth Day of Christmas presents us with what seems a contradictory remembrance during the celebration of Jesus' birth. Today the Church commemorates the tragic loss of life of infants two and under who were murdered by order of Herod. You can read the story for yourself in Matthew 2:13-18.

I once read an article written by a historian that claimed this event from Matthew's Gospel never happened because no adequate record of the order calling for the execution of children from that time period has been found. I've also read multiple articles by various theologians stating that this tragic event never happened and that instead it is included in Matthew's Gospel as a way to link Jesus's life events to those

of Moses from the Old Testament book Exodus, as these theologians believe the author of Matthew is trying to show that Jesus is the new Moses. And there may be truth in both theories. Far be it from me to go up against historians and theologians, but I can't help but wonder if there is too much relief in so easily dismissing this troubling and tragic event.

There may be something else in this day that may very well be needed, especially in light of so much violence we have seen in this year. To me, there is a wisdom in this event that can be painful to look at but life-giving at the same time.

First, the story shows that God's choosing to become part of humanity is not received as good news of great joy by all people. Some of those who were in power were not happy to hear about this. They responded with fear. And this fear not only led to violence; it also led to loss of innocent life.

I believe this story can teach us something about fear and choosing fear over joy and over vulnerability. While it can be easy to point our fingers and shake them at those in power over us, instead I wonder what would happen if we pointed those fingers back at ourselves and reflected on what can happen when we choose fear. We may not be as powerful as presidents or kings and queens, but each of us has the ability to influence the lives of others. On this day in particular it might be enlightening, even if slightly painful, to reflect on what happens when we choose fear. Who do we hurt, or what innocence do we destroy, when we choose fear, whether fear of losing control, fear of loss, or whatever fears can take hold of us?

My intention isn't to disturb, hurt, accuse, or intimidate in this reflection, only to open. For the message of the angels is always first and foremost to not be afraid. And perhaps we can see the deeper value of such a message when we see the terrible cost of fear. We also see in this story that the Incarnation doesn't mean the end of bad things happening, but it can mean that it is possible to find ways through any difficulties that are not fear based.

On this Fourth Day of Christmas may you fear less and hope more, forgive those who hurt out of fear, including yourself, and remember that you are not alone. Jesus is with you.

Many Blessings,
Mother Deborah

Participants scheduled for
This Sunday, Dec. 31 - First Sunday after Christmas

Altar Guild: David Burton and Zelma Coleman

Altar Flowers:

Coffee Hour: Sharon Huges and Sally Spero

8:00 a.m. Service: Holy Eucharist Rite I

Celebrant: The Rev. Katharin Foster

Lector: Joanne Larson

Prayer Leader: Earl Stump

10:30 a.m. Service: Holy Eucharist Rite II-A

Nine Lessons and Carols: Bella Martin, Peter Buckley, Gregory Proctor, Norman Fox, David Burton, Richard Carlson, Alexandra Buckley, and Dana Carlson.

Eucharistic Ministers: Dana Carlson and Lynn Graham

Ushers: Anne Braxton and Julie Nehls

First Crucifer: Peter Buckley

Second Crucifer: Owen Buckley

Lessons: First Sunday After Christmas - Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7; John 1:1-18; Psalm 147 or 147:13-21 <http://www.lectionarypage.net/>

Please Include in Your Prayers

In our world, we pray for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, and for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; we pray for peace with justice throughout the Middle East. We pray for all people affected by natural and environmental disasters. We pray also for the people who are suffering from war, especially all refugees. We pray for Donald, our president, and John, our Governor, the Supreme Court, and the members of Congress.

In our diocese, we pray for Thomas, our Diocesan Bishop, and Nedi, our Assisting Bishop.

In our parish, we pray for Good Shepherd's continued growth, for our Priest-in-Charge, the Rev. Deborah Woolsey, for our Associate Priests, the Rev. Leslie Flemming, the Rev. Katharin Foster, and the Rev. David McCoy, and for our ministry to students, the university, and the community. We pray for our friends at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Mérida, Mexico.

Those for whom our Prayers are Requested: Kris, Kristi, Mary Lou, Weston, Paul, Jackie, Linda, Pam, Jill and family, Jane, Louise, Dot, Ann and Bill, Stephen, Mary, the D'Andrea family, Julie, Chris, Sally, Ted, Norm, Jan, Pat, Doris, Ann, Molly and Mateo, Ivan, and Alejandro, Candace, Emma, Sharon, Bill, Ron, Clif, William, Ernst, Monya, Patricia, Paul, Julie, David, Robert, Holly, Robert, Don, the Sheets family, Ann, Elliot, John, Eleanor, Nancy, Laura, Consuelo and family, Arvin, Sandi, June, and Sister Emmanuel, and we pray for all who care for them.

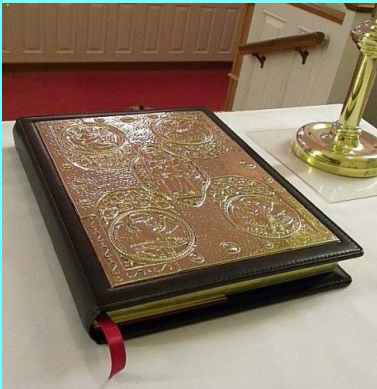
Birthdays: Lauren Spero Wiener (1/2), Elizabeth Sayrs (1/4), Bob Shelly (1/5)

For the deceased: Lyle McGeoch and Nick Dinos

Gospel

First Sunday After Christmas

John 1:1-18



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Christ Church Cathedral (Cincinnati) Midnight Christmas Eve Service 2017

Below is a link to a video of Christ Church Cathedral's midnight Christmas Eve Service which includes Bishop Breidenthal's Christmas message (about an hour into the service if you wish to browse).

<http://dv2.discovervideo.com/play/vod/?lo=291>

Wednesday Free-Lunch Report

On **December 27**, Group IV fed 13 people 20 servings.

MEALS



The main dish served was vegetable minestrone. Salad, fresh fruit, dessert, and beverages were also served.

The volunteers were Anne Walker, Phyllis Dean, Haley Luelloff, and Lynn Graham.

Please remember the hungry in our community in your prayers. To become involved in one or more of the four lunch teams, please speak to Phyllis Dean, Zelma Coleman, Joanne Larson, or David Burton.

New tree city has planted



Awaiting Poinsettias



Greening of the Church



Gospel reading midnight service



Repeat Material Below

Disaster Relief (via ERD)



There are ways we can help those in the path of disaster. One way is to pray. Another is through Episcopal Relief and Development. ERD is one of the first relief organizations to arrive at locations hit by disaster and to stay to help with recovery. They have an excellent reputation for fund distribution and volunteer coordination.

Please visit their website, episcopalrelief.org, to donate, volunteer, and learn more.

Pastoral Care

Because of health care privacy laws, hospitals are no longer able to call your priest or parish when you are in the hospital. That means that if you want a visit from Mother Deborah or a Lay Eucharistic Visitor (a parish member who has some training) you need to call and ask for a visit. For emergencies please call Mother Deborah's cell phone 937-689-8895. If you would prefer prayers instead of a visit, just call and ask for prayers.



Mother Deborah's home phone is 740-249-4497, and her cell number is 937-689-8895, for emergencies.

Her personal email is the Rev. Deborah Woolsey <revdebwoolsey@gmail.com>, and the email through the church is the Rev. Deborah Woolsey <revdeborah@chogs.org>.

Mother Deborah has found that people like to communicate in many ways, so she is reachable on Facebook (<http://facebook.com/deborah.woolsey.12>) and on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/DeborahWoolsey>), and you can check out her blog at

(<http://www.revvedupwoolsey.com/>).

Also, here is the link to the Church of Good Shepherd's **Facebook** page:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Episcopal-Church-of-the-Good-Shepherd-45701/554345594588086?fref=ts>. Once you get on the page, just LIKE it if you are already a Facebook person. Otherwise you will need to create a Facebook account first.

And the Church of Good Shepherd's Twitter account:

<https://twitter.com/CHOGSofAthens>.

Contact Information

For pastoral needs, please contact The Rev. Deborah Woolsey at 740-249-4497 (H) or 937-689-8895 (C) or 740-593-6877 (church), or by e-mail at revdebwoolsey@gmail.com.

To find out more about Good Shepherd and other matters, please contact Allyn Reilly, Senior Warden, at 740-592-2596 or by e-mail at reillya@ohio.edu.

For maintenance matters, please leave a note at the office or contact Allyn Reilly, Senior Warden, at 740-818-5476 or by e-mail at reillya@ohio.edu.

For emergencies, please call The Rev. Deborah Woolsey at 937-689-8895.

NOTE: NON-emergency messages can be left on the church answering machine (740-593-6877).

Office Hours:

10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday (closed Friday and Saturday).

The parish office administrator is Barbara Martin (740-593-6877

or barbara@chogs.org).

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd *Seeking and Serving Christ in All Persons*

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