

# The Shepherd's Call

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## HELPING STUDENTS SUCCEED

By Ruth Misiewicz

In last month's newsletter, we announced that this year's funds designated for outreach activities from the Shepherding Our Gifts campaign were awarded to Bishop Ward High School in Kansas City, Kan. As a follow-up to that monetary donation, the Outreach and Social Justice Council is exploring ways that Good Shepherd members can become personally engaged in helping the school fulfill its mission.

One program offered in the Ward curriculum is the Academy of Finance. AOF is part of the National Academy Foundation which was founded in 1982 by Sanford I. Weill, Chairman Emeritus of Citigroup Inc. According to its website, the goal of the foundation is to "foster partnerships between the business and education communities to provide opportunities to underserved students. Weill's original intent was to connect young people to entry-level jobs in New York City's growing financial sector. His program did much more than that. His vision led to a national movement of preparing students for successful careers.

"Nearly 50,000 students participate in NAF academies; 64 percent of students are

black or Hispanic/Latino. Research and evaluation confirm the effectiveness of NAF academies and the career-academy model:

- More than 90 percent of NAF students graduate from high school — compared to 50 percent in the urban areas where most NAF academies are located.

- Four out of five NAF students go to college or other post-secondary education."

Bishop Ward is one 214 high schools nationwide offering an AOF program. **Jack Misiewicz** has been a local AOF board member for more than 10 years and has been involved with the Ward academy since its inception in 2007. "Academy of Finance is a great opportunity for students to learn skills that will serve them well throughout their lives. Besides business and accounting courses that prepare them for the academic side, they also learn resume-writing and interviewing skills, as well as real-world work experience through shadowing and intern opportunities. It is a very successful program that can open doors for many students who otherwise might not consider pursuing a career in the financial sector."

Cindy Heiman is the Academy of Finance Director at Bishop Ward. Cindy says there are many ways to be involved in the

program. "I could use a few more Business Plan Advisors in my Entrepreneurship class to help the students create their business plans. It is a full-year course and we are in the beginning stages of the plan currently. The BPAs will meet with the students once a month from December through April. This class is offered in partnership with Youth Entrepreneurs and it is a great part of our program.

"I will also be looking for business partners to host our students for a one-day job shadow. We try to do those in February although we do have some flexibility. I will have more details on that in the next few weeks.

"Next semester we are starting an AOF lecture series as well. I am in the process of identifying speakers for that program. Those lectures will be in the Wednesday morning homeroom block. The purpose of the lecture series will be to provide students a connection between the high-school curriculum and the business world and also to provide role models for students to gain knowledge from and emulate. This connection allows students the opportunity to understand the relevance of education and to broaden their knowledge of future career possibilities."

Outreach and Social Justice council member **Marilyn Breitenstein** says, "I would like to see us build a relationship beyond the dollars. There is a need for mentors and lecturers in the Academy of Finance and in other areas as well, including the life sciences. We have so many Ward alumni in our midst and I am confident we can tap into the pool of talents in our parish to help fill some of the needs at Bishop Ward."

If you would like to learn more about how you can assist the students at Bishop Ward in one of the following ways:

- business plan advisor
- job shadowing
- mentor
- lecturer

please contact **Ruth Misiewicz** at 913-541-1851 for more information. Watch for additional volunteer opportunities in upcoming issues of *The Shepherd's Call*.

## Warm comfort



*Fifty Good Shepherd students in the Shepherd's Staff group recently completed 25 comfort blankets that were donated to the Sunflower House. Several parents and grandparents donated fabric and helped the students assemble the blankets. Organizer **Gerilyn Smith** said Sunflower House was very grateful for the students' handiwork.*

### WANTED: VIDEO/SOUND TECHS

**Do you know how to operate Powerpoint? If so, we can use your help from November 27 through the Christmas season as we use videos to introduce the new Mass parts. Contact John Rudzinski at 563-5305.**



# Spotlight on Stewardship

## A willing hand

By Scott Cahill

The opportunities to volunteer or participate within the Good Shepherd community are numerous and rewarding.

One individual who has utilized his professional experience, while making a significant impact on our parish facilities and grounds over the last 15+ years, is **Dion Gartner**. Dion is a current member of the Good Shepherd Facilities Council, and as a Facilities Supervisor at Bayer Health Care, he utilizes his unique work skills and experiences to build, repair and improve both church and school facilities.

Born and raised in Pittsburg, Kan., Dion met his wife of 20 years, **Theresa**, while she was attending Pittsburg State University. He moved to Kansas City, married Theresa, started a family, and joined Good Shepherd in 1993. Today, they have two daughters, **Mary Kate**, a freshman at Pittsburg State, and **Anne Marie**, a sophomore at St. James Academy. Both girls attended Good Shepherd School.

Soon after joining the parish, Dion and Theresa received a call seeking new parishioners to help with the 1994 Fall Festival. They thought it would be a great way to help the church, get involved and meet new people. They also started participating in what back then was the Dinner Committee, a once-a-month fundraising dinner to benefit the church.

Because of his facilities expertise, Dion volunteered the following year to serve on the American with Disabilities Act committee for the new church building. That eventually led to the formation of the Facilities Council.

The council directs maintenance for the church, school, community center and rectory. In addition, the council oversees all ground maintenance (i.e., landscaping, snow removal, etc.), as well as facility improvements such as carpentry, electrical, plumbing, painting and HVAC work. If you've noticed the recessed lighting over the choir area in church or the overhead projectors in the classrooms, you'll see just two small examples of Dion's handiwork and the benefit it provides.



Over the last 15 years, Dion has served in a variety of capacities, including the community center building committee, Lollapalooza, Fall Festival, fish fries, Eucharistic Minister and numerous other church-related activities.

One of Dion's most rewarding experiences at Good Shepherd has been his involvement with the Knights of Columbus. "The camaraderie and fellowship of the Knights truly makes it a brotherhood," Dion says. "Volunteering at fish dinners, helping direct traffic at special events, or any of the numerous other activities conducted by the Knights provides for immediate enjoyment, satisfaction, and knowing you've been able to help some-

one." Dion is a former Grand Knight and Trustee within the organization.

Since joining Good Shepherd in 1993, Dion and Theresa have found a church and community that have become an important part of theirs, as well as their families' lives. As a result, the church and our Good Shepherd community have grown and benefited directly from Dion's special skill set and his continued willingness to assist — at any time and in any way.

"Volunteering and assisting on various committees and the Knights has been extremely rewarding," Dion says. "It has provided for new friendships and new 'brothers,' and provided Theresa and me with a greater appreciation for the church and our school, as well as the importance of giving both our time and talent to the Good Shepherd community."

## Three seconds on "stun"

By Cecilia Jaggard

No, we're not talking *Star Trek* here. But we could be talking "star quality."

The Good Shepherd Adult Choir participated in a wonderful benefit concert, on Nov. 11, featuring eight local Christian choirs: Central Church of the Nazarene, Salem Lutheran Church, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, St. Paul's United Methodist Chancel Choir, Holy Trinity Chorale, Holy Trinity Bells of Joy hand-bell choir, Lenexa United Methodist Church and Good Shepherd's Adult Choir. Bryan Busby, of KMBC 9 News, was Master of Ceremonies for this community musical event held at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Lenexa. The audience contributed bags of groceries to help replenish the Johnson County Human Services Food Pantry.

For this Veterans' Day event, an official color guard presented the American flag. We pledged allegiance, and then the combined choirs formed to lead everyone in singing all three verses of the *Star Spangled Banner*. (Thank goodness all the words were in the program. I didn't know there were three verses!) The combined choirs continued with *Ring the Bells of Freedom/I Sing the Mighty Power of God*.

Bryan then introduced each choir as they, in turn, formed in front of the audience. Although of differing sizes and styles, each choir director brought out the best in his/her particular group, uplifting the audience with various patriotic songs and church hymns. Holy Trinity Bell Choir was a spectacular treat in the middle of the evening.

As the final church choir to perform, Good Shepherd took the stage, and John Rudzinski energized us into and through *Be Still and Know That I Am God*. After the last note was sung, silence reigned for a count of "one-thousand one, one-thousand two, one-thousand three..." Three seconds and then the whole church erupted in massive applause!

It was reported that the Good Shepherd choir's performance was, indeed, "stunning" and that several folks in the front rows even had tears in their eyes!

The combined choirs ended the evening with everyone singing *God Bless America*, and then had time to appreciate all the community choir members who participated. We ultimately realized that together we are definitely better in many patriotic, practical and enjoyable ways. I hope we are on again for next year! I was proud to be a part of this.

# SCHOOL NEWS

## Pride in our students' achievements

By **Samantha Roy**

The Duke University Talent Identification Program's 7th Grade Talent Search identifies students across the United States who have scored in the 95th percentile on a grade-level achievement test. As part of the program, these academically talented students take above-grade-level college entrance exams (ACT or SAT) to learn more about their abilities.

We are extremely fortunate at Good Shepherd to have a teacher with a degree in gifted education. **Heather McAnerney** sponsors the program for our school.

Within our current eighth grade more than half of the students qualified for the testing. Eighteen students enrolled for the program. State Recognition honors students who earn scores equal to or better than 50 percent of the college-bound seniors who

took the test. Twelve Good Shepherd students qualified for this honor.

The Grand Recognition honors seventh graders who scored equal to or better than 90 percent of college-bound seniors who took the same tests. We are proud to announce that three students of our present eighth-grade class qualified for this exceptional honor. **Dawson Downing, Sam Korth and Andrew Lavery** were each invited to a ceremony at Duke University for recognition. This is the first time for Good Shepherd to have students score in the Grand category.

This past year, of the over 63,000 participants nationally, 24,847 students have been invited to attend their State Recognition Ceremony and 2,085 students have been invited to the Grand Recognition Ceremony.

Congratulations to all the students for their wonderful accomplishment. What great role models to lead our school this year!

## VITAL STATISTICS

### New Members:

Kevin Brennan  
6135 Walmer St.

Evelyn Anderson  
12116 W 82nd Ter.

Pamela Foley  
1103 George Ct, Apt 4

Crystil Heldrich  
6438 Roundtree St.

Rickey & Rachel Nelson  
23611 W 72nd Ter.

Jeff & Heidi Carroll  
4758 Lucille Ln.  
Children: Isabel

Edward & Colette Bernica  
12708 W 76th Ter.,  
Children: David

Matt Vogel  
6916 Quivira Rd.

Sean Allshouse  
605 W 88th Ter.

Alan & Tasha Thilking  
15109 Lake Side Dr.  
Children: Kieryn

Jean-Paul Assouad & Stephanie Yau  
7770 Pflumm Ct.  
Children: Isabella

### Baptisms:

Adrienna Coral Guge  
Parents: Tyler & Refugio Guge

Connor James Althaus  
Parents: Eric & Erica Althaus

Abby Lynn Dvorak  
Parents: Nicholas & Kelly Dvorak

Maeve Margaret Sojka  
Parents: John & Whitney Sojka

### Marriages:

Rickey Nelson & Rachel Noel      October 8

### Order your 2012 calendar

Parishioners can pre-order a Good Shepherd/Buen Pastor 25th Anniversary 2012 Calendar. The form is on the Good Shepherd website. Fill it out and send with a check for \$12 before Nov. 27. Mail to the church or make arrangements with **Teresa Wancura**, [twancura@everestkc.net](mailto:twancura@everestkc.net) or 268-7483. It's the perfect gift for a former traveler or parishioner. Your \$12 purchase actually buys one calendar for you and one to donate to Buen Pastor — so you are getting two calendars for the \$12. You can also designate a family at Buen Pastor as your calendar recipient.

## PAC meeting minutes

By **Ed Lowndes**

The Pastoral Advisory Council met on Oct. 27. Those attending were **Fr Jim, Ed Lowndes, Rita Hyde, Larry Livingston, Theresa Hursh, Judy Desch, Carol Koch, Chris Masoner and Mary Losik**. Carol led the opening prayer.

**Staci Burson** and **Pam Melo** reported on behalf of the Social Council. They said the Parish Welcome Breakfasts continue to be well received as a unique aspect of Good Shepherd. New parishioners are grateful for this opportunity to learn what goes on at Good Shepherd and they appreciate that they are encouraged to be involved in parish activities. The Spirit Café also continues to be a success. The council hosted the beverage tent at Fall Festival and supports other councils and celebrations within the parish. Upcoming events include Chili-Bingo and Trivia Night.

Fr. Jim provided this month's Spiritual Formation with sayings from the "God Speaks" series of billboards in Arizona.

Facilities Council has reviewed proposals for window repairs to address air and water infiltration. The roofs continue to be a concern but are expected to have a useful life of five to seven more years before any major repairs will be needed.

Worship Council has begun planning for Advent and Christmas. The focus this year will be a more natural appearance. The Council has also been active in educating parishioners on the new Roman Missal.

Caring Ministries is conducting grief sessions for many in the parish and is preparing for All Souls Day Mass.

The many programs of Christian Formation are off to a great start. On Dec. 4, there will be a "virtual pilgrimage" and the parish retreat will begin Feb. 18.

Stewardship Council was focused on how to enhance the offertory program. They concluded that we need to simplify the appeal by focusing on the stewardship of giving and limiting other elements of prior appeals. The council discussed changes to the Ministries Fair.

The PAC reviewed the upcoming council chair/co-chair development program. The program will focus on the upcoming strategic planning process.

# Celebrating 24 years of friendship

By Marian VanVleet

The El Salvador Fiesta, on Nov. 5, was a spirited evening, indeed. It began with Mass, concelebrated by **Fr. Jim** and Fr. George, enhanced by the special musicians and choir. It continued in the social hall where nearly 200 guests enjoyed the delicious taco dinner, prepared by the Knights of Columbus, and Sheridan's ice cream, donated by **Doug Korth** and **Paul Wagner**.

The short program was delightful. Last year fourth-grade Girl Scout Troop 1560 wrote letters to pen pals in Buen Pastor, which were hand-delivered by the June delegates. The Salvadoran children wrote letters in response, and for the fiesta program Girl Scouts **Olivia Sloan, Jennifer Schell, Merritt Parsons, Lily Havranek, Karsen Koziol, Samatha Russell, Bridget May, Meg Ramaecker** and **Brynne**



**Franzen**, now in fifth grade, read the translated letters and presented a slide show of the originals written in Spanish. The troop leaders are **Susan Havranek** and **Lynne Miller**.

A raffle was held for a framed tapestry, won by **Monica Drone**, which raised money to help the victims of the recent flooding in El Salvador. The program also featured the presentation of a plaque to the Good Shepherd community, a replica of the larger one at Buen Pastor, commemorating the opening of their new recreation park named in honor of Fr. George Seuferling.

The evening concluded with children eagerly breaking piñatas. You know the saying that it takes a village... Well, it also takes a parish community to come together to celebrate our 24 years of twinning with Buen Pastor. Thanks to all for a great evening.

## Buen Pastor sends message to parish

November 4, 2011

From: Buen Pastor Aguilares

To: Good Shepherd Parish

Please receive a very warm greeting from the community of Buen Pastor. For our community it is an honor to have reached our 24th anniversary of a sistering relationship with your community! We think of those pioneers who decided to form a sistering relationship in the past as having done a heroic act. Our community back then was just coming back to a new place where no one had come from, but a place they would call home. This place would be where the rest of their history would be written. That place was Tres Ceibas in the City of Apopa and three brothers/sisters would arrive there, among them Father George. Back then, many foreign people came to visit the refugees to help and accompany them. The community would welcome them with excitement, since the times in our country at that time were so precarious, repression going on, so it was like a breath of fresh air to receive these people whose only wish was to accompany us on our journey to our new homes. They were our hope that we were not walking alone.

Many of those children in the community back then you have now seen grown. Now as adults they continue to live in the community; others have left to other communities or have left us to join God above already. They still send us blessings from above. These past 24 years have given us many things to think about, especially of how much our relationship has matured and grown in love through the years. We are grateful for the celebration you are having and we are grateful that the youth in your parish choose to come to visit every summer as they are the reason our relationship continues to grow.

We also thank the spiritual guides that have been with each one of you thru time: Fr. George, Fr. Francis and now Fr. Jim

May you have a wonderful day and may God bless each one of you in the celebration of our sistering relationship.

¡¡ Que viva la comunidad Buen Pastor!!  
¡¡ Que viva the community of Good Shepherd. !!

Sincerely, the Directiva and Community of Buen Pastor, El Salvador

## Spread a little "Love"

By **Debbie Eisenhower** and **Terry Piere**

Toys for all of God's little girls and boys! In partnership with Catholic Charities, Good Shepherd will help provide toys to more than 230 families. A database maintained by Catholic Charities ensures that families meet the guidelines for assistance. Adult members from each family registered with Catholic Charities will "shop" for their children from the Christmas Store Dec. 19-21.

This is the 17th year for the "Tree of Love" ministry and being a part of this outreach effort is easy! Beginning Nov. 19, you may select a tag from the Tree of Love located in the Narthex. Each tag will list the age and gender of a child. Tags for those wanting to purchase a Wal-Mart or Target gift card will also be available. Be sure to notate the amount of the gift card. Tags go quickly. Should no tags remain, however, feel free to purchase a toy anyway.

Next, drop off the new, unwrapped, age-appropriate toy(s) and/or gift card with the tag you selected attached to it, to the Good Shepherd Outreach Closet (northeast corner of the Narthex). All toys and gift cards need to be at church by 5 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 10.

The total number of donations to the Christmas Store determines the number of toys a family may select per child. It is hoped that each child will receive three toys.

Six different age groups of boys and girls are represented on the tags: newborn to 12 months; 1-3; 4-6; 7-9; 10-11 and 12-13 years. For the newborn to 12 months group, Catholic Charities requests activity centers, busy boards, push toys, soft blocks and shape sorters, but no stuffed animals for this age group. For all other age groups we are asked to refrain from purchasing board games, balls, art supplies and clothes.

Another way to help is to become a sorting and boxing "elf." On Dec. 11 from 3:00-4:30 p.m. "elves" will sort and box the toys. All ages are welcome! Catholic Charities will be by later to load them up for delivery to the Christmas Store in Kansas City, Kan. To volunteer for this special job, call **Debbie Eisenhower** at 962-2368 or **Terry Piere** at 268-4753 by Dec. 4.

Much appreciated behind-the-scenes support from staff members **Mary Mueller, Candi Phillips** and **Martha Tady** contributes greatly to the success of this ministry.