

The Shepherd's Call

Vol. 19 No. 1 January 2012

Shepherd's Staff serve the community

By Renee Hance

Good Shepherd's service club, the Shepherd's Staff, has been taking their energy out into the Greater Kansas City community recently. This is the club's second year presenting service opportunities for sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students.



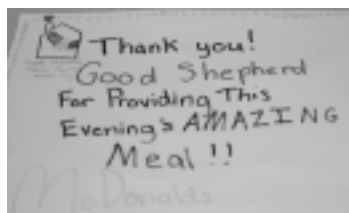
Christmas caroling has become a tradition for the Shepherd's Staff. This year, **Diane Schell** and **Theresa Taylor** organized 13 club members to visit Garden Terrace, a skilled nursing center that specializes in serving patients with dementia. Garden Terrace was chosen as our destination for this year's caroling because Theresa's mother, Dorothy Van Booven, works there, and because our parish is responsible for Garden Terrace's Mass on the third Friday of every month. Occasionally, Diane has been the accompanist for the monthly Masses and has seen the joy music can bring to the faces of the residents.

"I believe everyone likes to hear Christmas carols as well as sing them," Diane said. Before leaving the school, club members made cards and attached a bell to make candy cane ornaments. These were given to the residents while they caroled. Diane said, "Whether the residents jingled along with us or just listened, it was the smiles on their faces that gave us the joy of spreading 'good will to all' that made the event meaningful."

Over Christmas break, **Lisa Palmer** met with 10 club members early on Saturday morning, Dec. 17. With four adult chaper-

ones, Lisa took the Shepherd's Staff to Metropolitan Lutheran Ministry, a nonprofit community service agency that helps disadvantaged people of all races, religions and nationalities in metropolitan Kansas City. MLM distributes 200 to 300 holiday baskets in the weeks before Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. While there, Shepherd's Staff club members separated donated food and filled grocery bags to be handed out the following week. Rice, potatoes, gravy, desserts, stuffing, soups, and canned fruits and vegetables were donated through grocery stores and organizations such as Harvesters to distribute to the needy in the community.

The kids made two banners to wish the recipients a Merry Christmas and enough cards to be sure that every one of the 150 grocery bags they filled had a Christmas message. "The kids really enjoyed using their creativity along with making a large banner with all their names on it to be displayed when the guests arrived to pick up their basket of goodies," Lisa said. "Our goal for this service activity was to expose the students to another great service organization in the inner city serving the needs of the community. MLM was well organized when we arrived and kept us on track during our time there. We hope to participate in their



and **Fred Kouri** organized the evening for the club. Laura said, "We were really pleased that so many students and parents wanted to help and were very generous with their donations. We felt the dinner went well and are looking at scheduling another one this summer."

The members of the Shepherd's Staff have enjoyed getting out and serving in the community. We are looking forward to upcoming service opportunities including helping the Special Olympics, Valentine's Day Stampede Project, and an Easter Egg Hunt for the young parishioners of Good Shepherd.

Easter basket-filling project and possibly another one in late April."

To ring in the New Year, 13 club members and eight adult chaperones spent the evening of Jan. 2 serving dinner to at least two dozen guests at the Ronald McDonald House. The service club visited the house near Children's Mercy Hospital in order to provide dinner and entertainment to the families with sick children who stay there for free. Students prepared two soups, tossed salad, and fruit salad. Desserts, which were prepared in advance, were also served. After the meal was ready, students cleaned the dining room and set up for an evening of Bingo. While guests ate, several students took turns calling Bingo numbers. **Laura**



SHARING MEMORIES, NOT FORGOTTEN

By Mary Morin

We often remember people we've known in the past and then lose track of them over the years. So it was with Peggy Clabaugh.

I met Peggy six years ago when she joined our JustFaith group. So when the opportunity arose to track her down, I took to the Internet looking for her son, Matthew, who lives in Gardner, Kan.

He told me his mom was in a care facility closeby. I asked if I might visit her, along with two others from our JustFaith group, **Maggie Streff** and **Sheri Potter**.

He said, "Yes, but she may not remember you as she has Alzheimer's."

I assured him that wouldn't be a problem as my mom had had it too.

Not knowing if Peggy would know us, I printed off a picture of all of us. When we arrived at the home, we waited for Peggy to

come to the common area. I showed Peggy the picture and pointed out each of us by name.

We talked awhile and then Peggy took us to her room, which was neat and tidy. A beautiful poinsettia sat on the table. Peggy pointed out pictures of her children and grandchildren around the room.

Since Maggie is a Eucharistic minister, she came prepared to distribute Communion to us all. After asking Peggy if she would like Communion, Maggie took out a little prayer book and started to read: "Grace and peace be with you more and more.

"In the Blessed Sacrament Jesus gives



himself to us as nourishment. He is food for the soul that brings peace of mind and strength of spirit. Jesus speaks of himself as our nourishment when he says in the Gospel, 'He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him. As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me. This is the bread come down from heaven; anyone who eats this bread will live forever' (John 6: 56-58).

"To nourish ourselves on Jesus, the Bread of Life, means more than sacramental Communion. It means believing him with our entire mind, loving him with all our heart, following him with all our will. When we feed on him in that way, he will be all we need to carry on. Let us ask the Father for the daily nourishment we need in the words that Jesus taught us."

We all joined in to say the "Our Father." It touched me that those words memorized so long ago were still in Peggy's memory.

Afterwards Peggy said, "That was very nice."

We chatted a bit more. I had brought cookies and Sheri offered Peggy a soft fluffy stuffed penguin. Peggy took it and commented on the smooth surface and how cute it was.

For some time Peggy had been corresponding with Sheri with cards and brief notes. When Sheri said, "We're pen pals, Peggy," Peggy asked, "What was your name again?"

When Sheri told her, Peggy's face lit up with recognition. "Oh!" she said, and smiled brightly.

It wasn't long before we left and we hugged Peggy and said we'd be back.

Driving away, each of us was pensive about our visit. We kept saying, "I'm so glad we came."

If you would like to send Peggy a card, please feel free to do so. She does love to get mail. She may not remember you, but I'm sure many of you remember her.

Peggy Clabaugh
c/o Vintage Park at Gardner
869 S Juniper Terr.
Gardner, KS 66030

Speak today, shape tomorrow: strategic planning

By Mary Losik

Thirty parishioners and staff met Jan. 8 to participate in the third phase of a multi-step strategic planning process to write a Strategic Plan for 2012-2017. In all, over 175 parishioners will be involved in setting the direction of Good Shepherd for the next five years.

Now, at midpoint in the process, those gathered on Jan. 8 reviewed mission, vision and value statements and received feedback specific to their councils, and instructions and formats for writing their section of the parish plan. Those participating, by council, are:

PAC — **Judy Desch, Theresa Hursh, Rita Hyde, Carol Koch, Larry Livingston, Ed Lowndes, Chris Masoner**

Council Chairs and Co-Chairs — Caring Ministries: **Lisa Englert, Mary Kay Allen**; Christian Formation: **Rachael Wohletz, Terri Marshall**; Facilities: **James Mulick, Jim Harvey**; Outreach: **Kathleen Rundle, Marilyn Breitenstein**; Social: **Staci Burson, Pam Melo**; Stewardship: **Scott Anderson, Dave Kelley**; and Worship: **John Jones, Annemarie Gremming**.

Staff — Fr. **Jim Ludwikoski, Debbie Carmody, Steve Lemons, Mary Losik, Ann McGuff, Mary Mueller, Candi Phillips, John Rudzinski, Martha Tady, Penny Volmer**.

Already completed are the input stage,

where parish members replied to questions about Good Shepherd's greatest strengths and what is hoped for in future years, and the next stage, in which that wealth of feedback (input) was recorded in detail, analyzed and discussed. Recurring themes were noted and parish priorities identified: more inviting, more inclusive and more formational.

Next steps include:

January – March: The seven councils write their respective council plans in support of the parish plan.

April 22: At this second meeting, the councils review and ratify the 2017 mission, vision and values discussed at the previous session, identify mutual themes/trends between the seven councils and ways to work together to better fulfill the plan. Then, finally, these members will ratify Strategic Plan 2017.

May: Parish Advisory Council will present Strategic Plan 2017 to Good Shepherd faith community.

The whole strategic planning process is a time for prayer. We pray continually that the Holy Spirit be with us every step of the way, that individuals respond to what is in their hearts, that the team hears their wisdom and crafts a direction that brings us closer to God's Plan for Good Shepherd. Your prayers are greatly appreciated.

Say it with flowers

By Ellen McAndrews

Each week as you enter Good Shepherd, you cannot help but notice the beautiful floral arrangements that adorn the altar. These arrangements change weekly and are often influenced by the season or Church feast days.

It has been said that every flower is a soul blossoming in nature. Two souls have blossomed for many years at our church. **David and Terry Hahlen** have been donating these gorgeous flowers to Good Shepherd for the past 33 years. Every Thursday, Terry assembles two arrangements for the sanctuary and one for Mary's altar in the Romero Chapel. On Friday, they are delivered from their floral shop, Tanan Floral on Armour Road in North Kansas City.

David and Terry moved here from Ohio in 1973. That fall, they joined Good Shepherd Church which met in the basement of a house. "You knew everyone in the parish at that time. We all worked hard fundraising for a church of our own," Terry recalls. They raised three daughters who still live in the area. One daughter, **Kim Peak**, is a member of Good Shepherd.

Terry had grown up with flowers and had worked in a floral shop in Ohio. On April Fools' Day, 35 years ago this year, they purchased their own floral shop. Terry and David had been very active in the parish, David serving on the church council and Terry singing and playing guitar in the choir. "Once we bought the shop, we were working 10-hour days and no longer had the time

to spend at church," Terry states. Still wanting to be involved in ministry at Good Shepherd, a year after they purchased the shop they made the decision to donate the floral arrangements to the church.

Surprisingly, no big drama has happened with all those arrangements. Terry did recall one First Communion ceremony where a grapevine trellis started to tumble to the ground, but was rescued before its demise.

Martha Tady, liturgist for Good Shepherd, commented, "When I tell folks at other parishes who do art and environment about the Hahlens' generosity, they are amazed. To have fresh floral arrangements every week to enhance our worship and to remind us of the beauty that God has given to us is truly a blessing. We are truly blessed to have Terry and Dave as members of our parish family, and I pray that God will bless them as



much as they have blessed us with their kindness."

In addition to the three arrangements, they also provide the poinsettias at Christmas, Easter lilies, and other live arrangements required at church. When this writer commented that she did not realize all those flowers were donated, Terry softly answered, "We keep quiet about it. It is our privilege to contribute."

The secret is out of the box now, and I'm sure all the parishioners appreciate and thank them for their many years of quiet, beautiful ministry to our parish community.

Toys topped the truck

By Debbie Eisenhower and Terry Piere

It was another amazing Advent Season for the Tree of Love! On Dec. 11, the narthex was the location for the box-making, toy-sorting, boxing and tallying. It took less than one hour to complete the task!

- 459 new toys were collected.
- 31 gift cards totaling more than \$620 were donated.
- 21 elves volunteered to sort, box and tally the toys.
- 15 adults, five teens and one child sorted and boxed the toys.

Prayer was offered for the many families who would be recipients of the generosity of the Good Shepherd faith community, for those who shopped and those present for the sorting and boxing. Catholic Charities picked the toys up the following day to prepare for the set up of the Christmas Store. **Mary Mueller** said, "It was amazing to see the truck literally packed to the ceiling with the gifts."

We very much appreciate everyone who helped in this 17th year of the Tree of Love!

SCHOOL NEWS

Great news about Good Shepherd School

By Samantha Roy

Good Shepherd will be opening a preschool in August 2012. The Little Rams Preschool will be a fully accredited program. Our preschool will build on our tradition of excellence, as Good Shepherd is recognized as one of the top 25 private schools in the Kansas City metropolitan area. **Ann McGuff**, principal, stated, "With small class sizes, we will create an environment where each child's needs will be met in the classroom. Our goal is to create a loving and nurturing program, as it is their first exposure to a school setting."

With this in mind, Good Shepherd hired **Pam McMullin** as the preschool teacher. Pam has been a long-time member of Good Shepherd parish and has a passion for working with young children.

"I am very excited to be part of Little Rams Preschool program at Good Shepherd. I love teaching and interacting with young kids. I feel the preschool years for a child are the foundation of their entire academic life. I try to make the classroom environment fun and inviting so the children are actively learning through the activities and experiences in the classroom," Pam said.

Pam graduated from Iowa State University with a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. She has taught preschool for 25 years. For the last five years, Pam has taught kindergarten art for Good Shepherd. **Father Jim** said, "We are blessed that Pam has accepted the position at Good Shepherd. With her leadership and experience, our preschool will excel."

The program will utilize the Archdiocese of Kansas City's preschool outcomes. These outcomes will be supplemented by "Creative Curriculum." "Creative Curriculum" is a research-based curriculum that incorporates developmental skills in pro-social behavior, physical development, language development and cognitive development. With the combination of the curricula, the social, cognitive, physical, language and spiritual needs of the children will be addressed.

Choral Shepherds' CD is a hit for many

By Mary Morin

Recently Mark Oppold interviewed **John Rudzinski** for the radio program, "The Catholic Way." The program is part of the archdiocesan communications office and is played on five different stations throughout the archdiocese.

John said the interview centered around the recently released CD recording by the Good Shepherd adult choir, the Choral Shepherds. "I recorded three sessions with Mark," John said. "The first will be played just before Lent. The Lenten pieces on the CD will be broadcast, and my commentary will also be played."

Choir members also promoted the CDs by selling them or giving them as gifts. Speaking for her husband, **Maggie Streff** said, "**Tim** gave some of the CDs to family in Nebraska and here locally. He also sold some to people who asked for them."

Pat Hayden, another choir member said, "I had a friend at work buy the CD and she loved it. She gave it to her dad to listen to it,

and he has not given it back yet. I guess they're all enjoying it as much as we did singing at the University of St. Mary on June 5, when it was recorded."

"All together I purchased four," said **Dawn Malis**. "Three were gifts. One was for my mom who is 86 years young and sings in her parish choir at St. Catherine of Alexandria Church in Oak Lawn, Ill. She loved the variety of music and thought it was very professional and extremely well done. I agree with her 100 percent.

"One CD is for a parishioner who has become a dear friend, and the other CD is for a former co-worker who is having surgery. I am grateful to be a part of Good Shepherd Parish where we are reminded *Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place* by our beautiful and gifted choir!" Dawn concluded.

The CD is available at \$10 per copy. It traces the Church year in song. Contact John or a choir member or the church office to purchase them.

VITAL STATISTICS

New Members:

Dave Stanton & Melinda Murphy
625 S Montclair Dr.
Children: Skylar

Chris & Christy Stimac
3906 N 60th St.
Children: Olivia, Savannah

Joe & Pam Gottschall
10310 W 71st Pl.

Bradley & Angela Conrad
6930 Eby Ave.

Kelley Lane
6632 Noland Rd.
Children: Austin

Annie Hirt
12724 W 49th St.

Brandon & Alicia Dean
7709 Westgate Dr.
Children: Mason, Ethan

Andrew & Patricia Stannard
7329 Kenton Rd, 66227

Joel & Guadalupe Moreno
10903 W 66th Ter, Apt 104
Children: Joel, Diana

Chris Collins
7903 Gillette St.

Brad & Jeaveen Neaderhiser
6200 Rene St.
Children: Eladia

Fred & Jennifer Rivera
7717 Acuff Ln.
Children: Frederick, Kate, Megan

Baptisms:

Olivia Bristol Stimac
Parents: Christopher & Christy Stimac

Michael Stephen Risk
Parents: Michael & Stephanie Risk

William Thomas Griffin
Parents: Dustin & Laura Griffin

Emily Marie Yarbrough
Parents: Brandon & Erin Yarbrough

Deaths:

Charles Van Hee

December 16

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR PARISH RETREAT

By Mary Mueller

Although the Christmas festivities are just now fading from our thoughts, it is time to begin thinking about the upcoming Lenten season and the annual parish retreat that will be held Feb. 20-22 at 7 p.m.

Our retreat director will be Father Francis Gargani, C.Ss.R. He is a Redemptorist priest who lives and works in the New York area. A dynamic speaker, he brings parish ministry, mission and retreat experience to share with us.

The title of this year's retreat is "Remember Who We Are," and each night will focus on a particular aspect of who we are as Catholics. Monday will focus on "We are People of the Book" (People of Story); Tuesday is "We are People of Sacrament"; and Wednesday, where Father Gargani will de-

liver the Ash Wednesday liturgy homily, will focus on "We are People of Ministry and Mission."

This year there will also be a children's track offered for school-aged children, and babysitting will be available for children who are pre-school aged and younger. There will be a fee for the babysitting service and advance registration is necessary to ensure that enough sitters are available.

On Monday evening, the parish will have a potluck dinner beginning at 5:30, and on Tuesday evening there will be a dessert and discussion session following the formal retreat experience.

Father Gargani will offer morning topical sessions on prayer and spirituality as well as being available in the afternoons for one-on-one spiritual direction. This is a wonderful opportunity for people to sign up for a short period of time and get a sense of what is involved with spiritual direction.

Watch for more details that will follow in the bulletin and in verbal announcements in the weeks ahead.

**Don't miss chili, bingo
and dessert.**

**January 22 at 6 p.m.
Social Hall**