



# The Shepherd's News

132 East Valley Forge Road · King of Prussia · Pennsylvania 19406 · 610.265.4545

Fall 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“What did you do during your summer vacation?” It seemed that no matter what year I was in school, that was the question posed by my English teacher on the first day.

If I was asked to write an essay in response to that prompt this year, I would have lots and lots to say! It was a magnificent summer! 2015 marked the first year Good Shepherd engaged in global mission. We shouldn't be surprised. For over 55 years this congregation has always been engaged in mission ... feeding the homeless in our community and the other side of the world. We have sent youth on mission trips and this past summer sent a group of youth to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit where they engaged in mission. Since its very beginning, the people of Good Shepherd have always been focused on alleviating the needs of those who live on the margins. All of that is to say that Global Mission was a natural step for us.

I, along with 7 of our members, went to the Nibakure Children's Village in Rwanda. Because of the generosity of our members and friends, we were able to host a “Block Party” for the people who live in the community that surrounds the village, in addition to giving away 15 goats to the neediest families. We brought shoes along with us ... shoes that many of you donated (saddles, sneakers and school shoes). The children loved them! We were able to bring medicine that is not available or too expensive to buy in the country. We took the children to Lake Kivu (a resort community) over night ... something these children rarely get to do. All of this was possible because of your prayers and financial support. **Please come out on Rally Day, September 13 at 9:45 am in Founder's Hall to hear about our extraordinary mission trip.**

While in country we learned a few Kinyarwanda words. One of my favorite was “Tugende” ... it means “Let's go.” We would say it to each other when it was time to get on the bus or go to our next activity.

“Tugende” members of Good Shepherd! The summer is coming to an end ... and so “Tugende,” Let's Go! Let's see what new missions and ministries God is calling us to today!

Pastor Julie DeWerth

## SPECIAL WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES THIS FALL

**Beginning September 13th we will return to two Worship Services at 8:30 & 11:00 A.M.**



**September 13th** — Rally Day — Blessing of Backpacks

Presentation of Bibles to Kindergarten, 1st, 5th, 6th and 7th Graders

Installation of Sunday School Teachers

**September 25th** — Family Day in Valley Forge Park (2PM-5PM)

**September 27th** — Commissioning of Lydia Visitors (11AM)

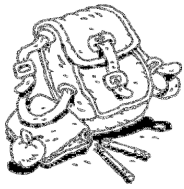
**October 25th** — Reformation Sunday

**November 1st** — All Saints Sunday — The names of those who have been baptized at Good Shepherd during the past year and those who have entered the church triumphant this year will be recognized during the prayers of intercession.

**November 8th** — Veterans will be recognized during the Prayers of Intercession.

**November 15th** — Hearts & Hands Sunday—With a display of their handiwork.

**November 22nd** — Christ the King — Commitment Sunday — Members will be invited to bring forward their 2016 gift intention to Good Shepherd at worship during the offering.



Bring your backpack on Rally Day for a Backpack Blessing at Sunday's services

**RALLY DAY—September 13, 2015**  
**Worship Services—8:30 and 11:00 A.M.**  
**Education Hour—9:45 A.M.**



Rally Day is a day when the church “rallies” together to launch all of the educational ministries for the upcoming school year. We will celebrate Rally Day on September 13th. Our theme this year is “God’s work. Our hands.” All are invited to join us in Founders Hall for a special presentation by the Rwanda Mission group.

Our Sunday school program will start each week promptly at 9:45 A.M. in our classrooms and continue until 10:45 A.M. Our program has been designed to provide meaningful Christian education for children and adults wherever they may be on their faith journey. Classes are offered for adults, youth and children from age 2 on up.



**Important dates for our Fall Sunday school calendar are:**

**9/13/15—Rally Day**

Presentation of Bibles to Kindergarten, 1st, 5th, 6th & 7th Graders

Installation of Sunday School Teachers

Blessing of Backpacks (Both Services)

**10/16/15—10/18/15—Youth Retreat (Grades 5-12—Paradise Lake)**

**11/29/15—Thanksgiving Break—No Sunday School**

**12/20/15—Christmas Pageant (11:00AM Service)**



**RALLY DAY, SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13TH**

We’ve gone the road less travelled and have safely returned! It was an eye-opening experience, and we would like to share the story of our trip to the Nibakure Village in Nyamata, Rwanda. On Sunday, September 13th at 9:45am, please join us in Founders Hall. We will be talking about Good Shepherd’s first global trip mission and discussing where we went, what we saw, and what we learned. There will be pictures, stories, and even some Rwandan coffee and tea to share.

*We look forward to seeing you there!*



**Flea Market & Bake Sale**  
**Saturday · September 19th · 9AM—2PM**  
**(The kitchen will be open for lunch!)**

Space Available (Indoors and Outdoors)  
 \$20 per table—610.265.4545

**INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS!**

**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS — SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4<sup>th</sup>**

This special event will take place in the outdoor sanctuary on October 4th at 1:30 P.M. We will have a short liturgy. No pet is too big or too small, too slimy or too furry. Even if you don’t have a pet ... come out and enjoy other people’s special friends!



## The Music Ministry of Good Shepherd

Can you believe it? We're about to start our second year together! We've had many great moments over the past 12 months, and now it's time to get started on the next 12.

We have opportunities for you to get involved. If you have *thought* about joining us...  
...well, what are you waiting for? Come speak with me and let's get you plugged in and offering your talents here at Good Shepherd!

Here is all the start-up information:

**The Chancel Choir** will resume rehearsals on  
**THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 3, 7:30pm-9:00pm.**

All are welcome to join us for the year, or even a portion of the year.

**The Chancel Ringers** will resume rehearsals on  
**THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 6:30pm-7:30pm.**

If you are interested in ringing to God's glory, please speak with me.



**The Good Shepherd Orchestra** – "The GSO" will continue to play together several times this year with rehearsals starting in October. The music is accessible for folks of all musical ability. If you play an instrument, let's get you a seat!

**Instrumental or Vocal Solos** – Anyone who feels led to do either of these is welcome to do so here at Good Shepherd – let's talk about how you can offer your talent.

As always, if you have questions about our music ministry or perhaps are still hesitant to join us, please contact me at: (484) 369-1017 or through [GoodShepMusic@yahoo.com](mailto:GoodShepMusic@yahoo.com)

It's going to be a great year, let's make a joyful noise together!  
Thank You!! ~Ross

## SEPTEMBER OUTREACH — NORTHERN CHILDREN'S SERVICES



During the month of September our special outreach will benefit the Northern Children's Services which supports the healthy development of children while stabilizing their families to build stronger communities. Everything that's done at Northern Children's Services is designed to ensure a more promising future for children and is driven by the belief that every child possesses inherent value, potential, and the ability to transform him or herself – regardless of his or her background or life circumstances. By providing behavioral health services that emphasize safety, health, permanency, self-sufficiency and positive relationships, the children will lead happier, healthier, and more productive lives and contribute to society in meaningful ways.

*Checks may be made payable to Good Shepherd and designated for "Outreach".*

## OCTOBER OUTREACH — BRIDGE OF HOPE

In October, our special outreach offerings will benefit Bridge of Hope Buxmont. This program offers a three-way partnership between the homeless family, a local church mentoring group and the Bridge of Hope BuxMont professional staff. They provide financial assistance on a gradually decreasing basis for one year. What makes BOH work is the pairing of families to church-based mentoring groups. These trained mentors help the single parent find a job, childcare, housing, transportation or whatever is needed. Mostly, however, they offer support, encouragement and friendship. We at Good Shepherd have mentored two families and have seen how well this program works.



*Checks may be made payable to Good Shepherd and designated for "Outreach".*

## NOVEMBER OUTREACH — NEIGHBORHOOD MEALS ON WHEELS



Forty years ago Neighborhood Meals on Wheels was organized in Upper Merion Township to fill a need—that is, getting meals to the homebound and convalescing in the township. Many of the organizational meetings, were held at Good Shepherd as several of the organizers were Good Shepherd members. Fast forward forty years and the need is still one that must be addressed daily. Neighborhood Meals on Wheels accepts no government funding and as a result is able to bring new clients on board with much less paperwork than is required by the county and state. However, because it has no government funding it must rely on the generosity of friends, neighbors, community groups and faith based organizations to sustain it.

If you know of anyone in Bridgeport, King of Prussia or West Conshohocken in need of this service (two meals a day are delivered, fifty-two weeks a year at a cost of \$25 per week) **OR if you are able to assist in delivering meals on a regular, substitute, or emergency only basis (time needed for meal delivery is approximately 90 minutes)** please contact the Meals on Wheels office (610.265.7051).

*Checks may be made payable to Good Shepherd and designated for "Outreach".*

## RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE—Friday, October 2, 2015

Good Shepherd will be hosting this important mission on Friday, October 2nd from 2:00—7:00 P.M. In addition to the regular blood donors in the King of Prussia area, the Red Cross would like to find some 'new blood!' We ask that you consider becoming a blood donor and if you are not able, perhaps there is another family member, neighbor or friend, who you know that may be a willing donor. Please do not wait to be called to volunteer! If you are willing and able, contact the church office as soon as possible and we will schedule a time for you to donate. Kendra Zadrejko is coordinating this event and can be reached at 484.213.7023 or email [kzadrejko@gmail.com](mailto:kzadrejko@gmail.com).



*Thank you for considering this vital outreach!*



## CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY

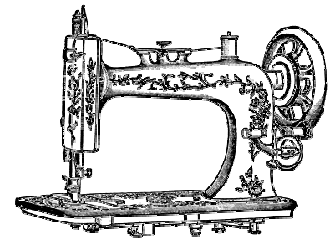
**“I see them in church every week...but I don’t know their name!”** How many times have you thought that after a church service and wished you could check it out in your church directory? Of course you could simply ask! However what we would like to do is bring everyone up to date by compiling a new pictorial church directory. The new guide is being done “in house.” When photos are taken you will not be asked to purchase prints. We DO hope you will participate so that we can have as many members as possible included in the new publication.

On Rally Day Sunday, September 13th, our two photographers (Jennifer Elberti and Helga Yang) will be located in the church library. We ask that you take a few minutes to stop in and have your picture taken. They will be taking individual as well as family photos. You can then confirm the additional information that will be included in the new directory. (If for some reason you are not able to have your photograph taken on the 13th, there will be additional dates set up, but the goal is to have as many photographs taken that day as possible!)

*We look forward to seeing YOU in the new pictorial directory!*

## ATTENTION SEWERS!

The 2015 Sewing Fellowship is scheduled for Saturday, September 12th from 9AM—Noon. This year’s format will be a little different from those held in the past. Needed are portable sewing machines, thread, pins, ironing boards and irons...and of course—YOU! If you can sew but do not have a machine that can be transported, please let us know and we will be sure one is provided. We are in need of children’s cotton blend prints & coordinating material for a border. Two pillow cases take 1 1/2 yards of fabric for the case & 22 inches for the border. Fabric donations may be placed in the wicker basket in the Narthex. The focus of the morning will be completing pillowcases for **Ryan’s Case for Smiles**. Light refreshments will be provided. If you have an interest in taking part in this event, email the church office ([gskopstaff@verizon.net](mailto:gskopstaff@verizon.net)) and use the word PILLOWCASES in the subject line. Let us know what you can do!



## HEARTS & HANDS

Please join the ladies of Hearts & Hands each Wednesday from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. planning activities and working on mission projects. The third Wednesday morning of each month we are truly blessed to have Pastor John Kerr lead us in Bible study in the church library. For more information please contact Barbara Schneider at 610-265-5976 or [bfschn@gmail.com](mailto:bfschn@gmail.com) or the church office at 610-265-4545 or [gskopstaff@verizon.net](mailto:gskopstaff@verizon.net).

Hearts & Hands Calendar of Events: **October 21, 2015** Annual Dinner for the women of the congregation along with their friends. **November 15, 2015** is Hearts & Hands Sunday.

## FALL DINNER for the WOMEN OF GOOD SHEPHERD Wednesday, October 21st

Hearts & Hands will be hosting our Annual Dinner for all ladies of Good Shepherd and their friends. Look for details in future Sunday bulletins.





## Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:45-10:45 in Founders Hall



All youth, 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders and their families are invited to come to the BBE (Best Breakfast Ever). Let's chat about this year's activities and the future of the Good Shepherd Youth Group.

RSVP to Erin Rackovan at [erack83@gmail.com](mailto:erack83@gmail.com) or Jamie Bubeck at [jamiiebubeck@verizon.net](mailto:jamiiebubeck@verizon.net) or the Church office at [gskopstaff@verizon.net](mailto:gskopstaff@verizon.net).

## Breakfast is Calling You!!!

## YOUTH RETREAT OCTOBER 16TH—18TH

The youth retreat will be held Oct. 16th—18th at Paradise Lake in Lancaster County. This retreat is for all youth grades 5 through 12.

*Details will be provided via email.*



The Valley Forge Tourism & Convention Board, the official tourism marketing agency for Montgomery County, PA, invites you to a special day of programming related to the upcoming World Meeting of Families and visit by His Holiness, Pope Francis.

**Families are invited to Valley Forge Family Day, September 25, 2015 at Valley Forge National Historical Park, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.** It is an afternoon to come together, enjoy one of our national treasures and spend time reconnecting with the history, natural beauty and family fun that is integral to our county. The timing coincides with the conclusion of the official programming for the World Meeting of Families, prior to the arrival of Pope Francis.

It promises to be a day of community-building with tours, historic reenactments, commemorations, music and family fun. Food will be available for purchase, or families may choose to bring picnic fare.

The tourism board asks only that interested families register at the site, [homeawayfromrome.com](http://homeawayfromrome.com), to estimate turnout. Further, the expectation is that transportation may be a challenge and carpooling/ride-sharing is highly encouraged.

**Pastor Julie**, along with other faith leaders in our community, will be at the opening ceremony which will be at the main stage located between the Arch and the Visitor Center at 2PM. Our very own **Ross Boerner** will be directing the community choir.

**CASSEROLE DAY**

**Saturday— October 3rd and November 21st—Help Needed to Feed the Hungry**



Please join us for an hour or two of fellowship and service (beginning at 7:00 A.M. in Founders Hall) as we make casseroles and bag lunches to feed 200 homeless people who come to the Germantown Soup Kitchen for nourishment of body, mind and spirit. The soup kitchen is just one part of St. Vincent DePaul's ministry to the poor, which they call "Face to Face."

Consider bringing your whole family (children as young as elementary age are welcome) as there is something for everyone to do. We also need drivers who meet at the church at 10:50 A.M. to deliver the meals. Please call Joan Jenaway (610-337-7264) if you are able to help.

**MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST and FELLOWSHIP**

**Saturdays—September 12th \* October 10th \* November 14th \***

Join us for the Men's Fellowship Breakfast in Founders Hall at 9:00 A.M. for some food and a time of fellowship with your Christian brothers.



**COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE**

**Sunday, November 22nd—7:00 PM**

**Mark Your Calendars**

This is a wonderful opportunity to give thanks side-by-side with other members of our community. This year's preacher and the service location will be provided in the coming weeks.

**COMMITMENT SUNDAY—November 22nd**

A time when you will be asked to consider your 2016 gift to Good Shepherd to continue the important work of the church. Pledge cards for 2016 will be mailed out the beginning of November. Mark this date on your calendar!



**MANOR CARE WORSHIP SERVICE**



Good Shepherd will host a brief worship service for the residents at Manor Care, located at 600 W. Valley Forge Road on **Sunday, November 29th**. We invite children, youth and adults—all are welcome (and needed!) to assist in this outreach ministry. We hope that you will open your heart and consider this ministry opportunity. We gather in the Manor Care lobby at 2:20 P.M. and conclude the service by 3:00 P.M. No preparation is needed—just a joyful heart and a friendly smile!

**GOOD SHEPHERD PRESCHOOL PROGRAM BEGINS 27th YEAR**

Openings are still available for the 2015-2016 school year. Classes are available for children ages 2-5. Please contact Diane Smith at 610-265-0733 for more information.





*Do you make purchases from any of these retailers?*



**GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE THROUGH GOOD SHEPHERD!**



If you would like to view a complete list of retailers who participate in this program, visit ShopWithScrip.com via the internet. Choose the cards you would like to receive and write a check, payable to Good Shepherd, for the total amount of the face value of the cards and place your order and check in the offering plate clearly marked "gift card order". (Order forms are available on the kiosk in the Narthex, on our website ([www.gskop.org](http://www.gskop.org)), outside the church office and the entrance of the education building. You may also order gift cards by placing an envelope with your request and a check payable to Good Shepherd Sunday's offering. (Be sure to clearly mark the envelope GIFT CARD ORDER.) Your cards will be available the Sunday after the order is placed. A percentage of the sale will benefit Good Shepherd and the percentages range from 1% to 20% depending on the retailer you select.



**THE MONEY THAT GOOD SHEPHERD EARNS ON EACH GIFT CARD YOU PURCHASE IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE ON YOUR TAX RETURN IF YOU ITEMIZE.**



You may also place your own order online by going to [www.ShopWithScrip.com](http://www.ShopWithScrip.com). Good Shepherd Lutheran Church—Code B5E89DAC35656. You will be given a purchase order number along with the total amount that you owe. Bring a check to Good Shepherd on Sunday for that amount and your order will be processed.



**Mark Your Calendars!**

**WOMEN'S RETREAT**

**For the Women of Good Shepherd and their Friends**

**January 22 - 23, 2016**

The retreat will begin on Friday evening at 7:00pm and end Saturday afternoon at 2:30pm. It will be held at the Franciscan Spirituality Center, 609 S. Covent Road, Aston, PA - about 25 miles from Good Shepherd. The cost is \$80 which includes lodging and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Space is limited, so please contact the church office to make your reservation!

Our retreat leader will be The Rev. Patricia Davenport, Director for Evangelical Mission. Pastor Pat Davenport works with new mission congregations as the deployed Director for Evangelical Mission for our synod, working with new church plants as well as redevelopment and congregational revitalization, evangelism, and transformational ministry. Many of us know Pastor Davenport as she preached at Good Shepherd a few years ago during our Lenten midweek worship services.

Our theme this year is "Their Stories, Our Stories: Women of the Bible."





## CHILD CLEARANCES NEEDED FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS UPDATE AS OF JULY 1, 2015 BY HB 1276 (PN 1997)

Volunteers play a vital role in supporting Good Shepherd's mission and programs. We are blessed with individuals who willingly and abundantly share their gifts and talents with children of the church and our greater community. The Commonwealth has recently implemented a law that requires clearances to be obtained for adults working with children and youth under the age of 18.

This article provides you with important updates about a new Pennsylvania law, Act 153, also known as the Child Protective Services Law. Implementation of this mandate is going to impact all of our volunteers who work with children and youth. Whether you volunteer for one event or volunteer on a regular basis, you will be required to obtain two clearances that we will keep on file at the church. We have included the basic information below, including links to complete each required clearance online.

**The clearances are valid for 60 months from the date of issue. Beginning on July 25th, 2015 the fees for volunteers for these two clearances will be waived.**

\* Pennsylvania Criminal History Record Clearance (ACT 34) <<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=4451&&PageID=458621&level=2&css=L2&mode=2>>

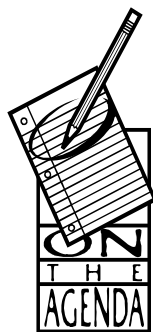
\* Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance (ACT 151) <<http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/findaform/childabusehistoryclearanceforms/index.htm>>

Both clearances can be completed in a relatively short amount of time, and results may take a few weeks. **Jen Loane has agreed to be Good Shepherd's record keeper for the clearances. Copies of the originals may be put in her mail folder in a sealed envelope.** Copies may be made in the church office. Jen will be the only one to see the information on the clearances. She will provide lists of those who are cleared to volunteer to work with our children and youth.

**Volunteers who have not been residents of PA for 10 years consecutively will be required to also obtain an FBI federal criminal history clearance, including submission of fingerprints. This will be required only once of volunteers. The link is: [www.pa.cogentid.com/index\\_dpwNew.htm](http://www.pa.cogentid.com/index_dpwNew.htm). Contact Karen Lehman if you need help with an FBI clearance.**

Thank you for your continued interest in being a volunteer at Good Shepherd. Please bear with us as we, along with every other organization within Pennsylvania that works with volunteers, begin to understand the full implications of this new law. We understand that at first glance this is quite overwhelming. Please know that it is intended for the very best interest and protection of our youth. Your cooperation in this very important matter is greatly appreciated.

**Important Note:** If one of the clearances does not accept "King of Prussia" as a city, type it in as one word with no spaces and it should be accepted.



### MARK YOUR CALENDARS ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2016

All are invited to attend. A luncheon will precede the meeting and details about the meal will be forthcoming.

*We look forward to seeing you!*

# The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

132 East Valley Forge Road

King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406-2031

(610)265-4545 (PHONE) (610)265-4771 (FAX)

Email: [gskopstaff@verizon.net](mailto:gskopstaff@verizon.net)

Web: [www.gskop.org](http://www.gskop.org)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## The Shepherd's News † Fall 2015

**WINTER (December, January and February) NEWSLETTER DEADLINE...**

**MONDAY, November 9th.** Please submit your articles to the Church Office via email or by using the pink form in "forms" slot in front of mail cart. Place forms in "Office" slot.

### OFFICE HOURS

**Monday – Friday: 9:00 A.M. – Noon**

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:30 and 11:00 A.M. Worship Services

Education Hour—9:45 A.M.

(This schedule begins Sunday, September 13th)

"Whoever welcomes one of  
these little children in my name  
welcomes me."

Mark 9:37, NIV



### THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Pastor—Julie DeWerth	610-308-2675
Organist/Choir Director—Ross Boerner	610-279-0410
Office Support—Phyllis Kelly	610-265-4545
Preschool Director—Diane Smith	610-265-0733
Sexton—Ray Erwin	610-265-4545

### EMAIL ADDRESSES

Pastor's Mail	<a href="mailto:JulieDewerth@comcast.net">JulieDewerth@comcast.net</a>
Office Mail	<a href="mailto:gskopstaff@verizon.net">gskopstaff@verizon.net</a>
Music Mail	<a href="mailto:goodshepmusic@yahoo.com">goodshepmusic@yahoo.com</a>
Preschool	<a href="mailto:gskoppreschool@verizon.net">gskoppreschool@verizon.net</a>