

Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd

Reaching Individuals and Families of the Concho Valley with the Transforming Love of Jesus Christ!

AGNUS DEI

July 2015

*“...and
the Lord
added to
their
number
daily
those who
were
being
saved.”*

Acts 2:47

Anglican Church
of the
Good Shepherd

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“...and the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

Acts 2:47

Sisters and brothers,

The Sunday morning catechism class has far ranging discussions. In the past three weeks we have discussed “apostolic succession” (the differences between Roman and Anglican understandings); the “priesthood of all believers” and each of us taking the initiative in ministering and caring for one another (and then did it at the end of class!); we also discussed church growth, and compared the structure of some ‘mega-churches’ we are familiar with, to local Baptist and Methodist practices. It is this last area I would like to encourage us to ponder and discuss over the summer.

Small groups seem to be central to the ministry of churches that are attracting seekers and welcoming new members. What is it that makes these small groups different than small groups we have? Our discussion uncovered a couple of differences.

Our brothers and sisters **structure** their small groups. Let’s describe the **structure** in terms of “vines and trellis.” In order for grape vines to effectively grow and produce fruit, they need a trellis to support them. The trellis of a small group consists of members intentionally committed to meeting regularly and faithfully. When one is missing, the members call and inquire on the welfare of the missing member. Another aspect of the trellis is that each member is encouraged to contribute to the group: each one praying for others, leading the singing, leading the lesson, sharing testimonies, inviting new members to join the group. The trellis also allows for the time for ministry to occur. Typically, the groups meet for 1½ to 2 hours. Leaders also keep the pastoral staff of the local church apprised of special needs and concerns, but by and large, the trellis allows the group to nurture and equip more people to do the work of ministry. Increased ministry results in increased ministry.

The vine also needs regular **pruning**. The small group with a flexible trellis can respond quickly to encourage what benefits the group and discourage what is not helpful. One thing that is always encouraged is keeping an empty chair to remind us that we are called to reach out and include new folks in our fellowship. Pray for specific people outside the church you want to invite. One thing that is not helpful is to allow one member or several to dominate the conversation, discussion or some aspect of the small group. For example, members should each take a turn in serving in as many areas as possible. The small group thrives on those who are servants stepping into leadership. Too often we look for leaders to serve. Our Lord Jesus models a servant who leads. That is foundational to small group health and growth.

I encourage you to read through Acts 2.42-47. What is the essence of how our first Christian brothers and sisters related to one another and the community around them. Would you be willing to serve as a catalyst in forming such a group at Good Shepherd. Does your current small group need some pruning to encourage growth and fruit production. As they devoted themselves to worship, study, praise, fellowship and concern for one another, *“the Lord added daily to their number those who were being saved.”*

We are securely His own forever,

Stan Burdick +

Father Stan

Women's Retreat

Friday, September 18 through Sunday, September 20, the women of the parish will have the opportunity to retreat to the Walnut Creek Ranch in Water Valley, TX to be refreshed, blessed and challenged in their life as a disciple of Jesus. More details will be available in the August newsletter and the Narthex of the church. Please put the dates on your personal calendars, and remember those gathering on retreat. More information on the Walnut Creek Ranch may be found at www.walnutcreekranch.com.

Men's RETREAT

Friday, October 23 through Sunday, October 25, the men of the parish will have the opportunity to retreat to Stasney's Cook Ranch, located 5 miles north of Albany, Texas. Men will be refreshed, blessed and challenged in their life as a disciple of Jesus. Details on the weekend will be available in the September newsletter and the Narthex of the church. The cost of the weekend is \$150/person. Scholarships are available, contact Father Stan. More information on Stasney's Cook Ranch is available at their web site www.stasneyscookranch.com.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

Summer Potluck Breakfast

9:00 AM - August 9

DOHC Installation

Rally Day Breakfast

9:00 AM - September 13

Soups, Stews, and Salads


12:00 PM - October 11

Stewardship Dinner

November 15

St. Nicholas Day ~ High Tea

December 6



What Love Is, a 7 session study of 1, 2, & 3 John by Kelly Minter. You may participate online (Lifeway.com) or you may come to the church library on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 to watch a 30 minute video and discuss the blog questions. If interested, contact Nan Barber at 374-4598. The study book and/or watching the trailer can be found at Lifeway.com.



Wow Wednesday at the River Stage.



ACGS enjoyed an evening of Christian worship featuring comedian and writer Scott Davis and songwriter Matt Duren at the Riverstage June, 3rd.



250 folks attended, 15 made a commitment to Christ and numerous others sought prayer with our prayer teams! The entire event was funded through donations which exceeded the cost of the show. Thanks to everyone who served.





TO BE A CHRISTIAN, *An Anglican Catechism*


The study of *To Be A Christian, An Anglican Catechism*, which began with the Inquirers and Confirmation Class in February will resume on Sunday continues on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM in the Library. We will continue to study the Scriptural foundation of the Catechism, currently studying the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit. A copy of the Catechism is available for purchase in the Narthex for a donation of \$19.00. All are welcome!


Take note **CHOIR HOLIDAY**

The Parish musicians, led by Judy Holik and Henry McWilliams, meet every Tuesday evening and Sunday morning for rehearsal, as well as lead the singing during worship for most services during the church year. Beginning June 28, the musicians will be on a well deserved summer holiday from rehearsal and special music preparation until late August. Why not express your personal thanks to this wonderful group who so faithfully leads us in song as we minister to the Lord and one another? Thank you good and faithful servants!

CHOIR PLANS

The choir will meet three times during the coming months for "choir days." Choir Days will be 6 or so hours of intensive rehearsal, fellowship, lunch together. The Choir Days are scheduled for: Saturday - August 22, Saturday - November 14 and Saturday - February 6, 2016. Time and place to be announced.

Daughters Of The Holy Cross Meets the 1st Monday

(2nd Monday on holidays)
at 6:00 pm in the Library.

ONE MILE CHALLENGE

Those serving on Teams, as well as those interested in becoming a part of a Team or learning more about our neighborhood outreach, contact Fr. Stan, Steve Shaw, Deacon June, Mark Brown, Ruth Ann Wallace, Teddye Read, David and Katie Harrison, Billie Smithwick, Jean Yarbrough, Anita Reisdorfer, and Larry Weber.

July & August Musical Presentations 
We are looking for folks who will play an instrument or perform a solo or several folks to do special music at services while the choir is on holiday. If you are interested please contact Judy Holik or Henry McWilliams.

Christian Reporter News presents...
Homeland Terrorism Conference
Islamization in US Courts - Schools - Churches Unveiled
July 18, 8:00-5:00 p.m.
West Texas Training Center
3501 N. US Hwy 67
San Angelo, TX 76905
Tickets are available at www.ChristianReporterNews.com today.

THE VESTRY MEETING
The Vestry will hold our monthly meeting on Monday, July 20th at 6:00 PM in the Library.

July Bible Readings

New Testament		Old Testament	
▶ LUKE	▶ COL.	▶ PSALMS	▶ 1 CHRON.
1. <input type="checkbox"/> 7:11-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 123-124	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2
2. <input type="checkbox"/> 7:18-35	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:15-29	<input type="checkbox"/> 125	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4
3. <input type="checkbox"/> 7:36-50	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-7	<input type="checkbox"/> 126	<input type="checkbox"/> 5-6
4. <input type="checkbox"/> 8:1-15	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:8-15	<input type="checkbox"/> 127	<input type="checkbox"/> 7-9
5. <input type="checkbox"/> 8:16-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:16-23	<input type="checkbox"/> 128	<input type="checkbox"/> 10-11
6. <input type="checkbox"/> 8:26-39	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 129	<input type="checkbox"/> 12-14
7. <input type="checkbox"/> 8:40-56	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:15-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 130-131	<input type="checkbox"/> 15-16
8. <input type="checkbox"/> 9:1-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 132	<input type="checkbox"/> 17-19
9. <input type="checkbox"/> 9:18-27	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:10-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 133-134	<input type="checkbox"/> 20-22
	▶ 1 THESS.		
10. <input type="checkbox"/> 9:28-36	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 135	<input type="checkbox"/> 23-25
11. <input type="checkbox"/> 9:37-50	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 136	<input type="checkbox"/> 26-28
12. <input type="checkbox"/> 9:51-62	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:10-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 137	<input type="checkbox"/> 29
			▶ 2 CHRON.
13. <input type="checkbox"/> 10:1-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:1-6	<input type="checkbox"/> 138	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2
14. <input type="checkbox"/> 10:17-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:7-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 139	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-5
15. <input type="checkbox"/> 10:25-37	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:1-10	<input type="checkbox"/> 140	<input type="checkbox"/> 6-7
16. <input type="checkbox"/> 10:38-42	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:11-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 141	<input type="checkbox"/> 8-9
17. <input type="checkbox"/> 11:1-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 5:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 142	<input type="checkbox"/> 10-12
18. <input type="checkbox"/> 11:14-28	<input type="checkbox"/> 5:12-28	<input type="checkbox"/> 143	<input type="checkbox"/> 13-16
	▶ 2 THESS.		
19. <input type="checkbox"/> 11:29-36	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-7	<input type="checkbox"/> 144	<input type="checkbox"/> 17-19
20. <input type="checkbox"/> 11:37-54	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:8-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 145	<input type="checkbox"/> 20-21
21. <input type="checkbox"/> 12:1-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 146	<input type="checkbox"/> 22-24
22. <input type="checkbox"/> 12:13-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:13-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 147	<input type="checkbox"/> 25-27
23. <input type="checkbox"/> 12:22-34	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> 148	<input type="checkbox"/> 28-29
24. <input type="checkbox"/> 12:35-48	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:6-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 149	<input type="checkbox"/> 30-33
25. <input type="checkbox"/> 12:49-59	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:14-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 150	<input type="checkbox"/> 34-36

JULY BIRTHDAYS

7/1	Bob Masterson
7/10	Sherri Brown
7/13	Jen Roberts
7/14	Betty Smith
7/14	Ruth Ann Wallace
7/17	Mark Hennings
7/20	Rick Smith



BLESSINGS
ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY

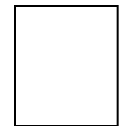
**August Agnus Dei
Deadline is July 24**



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