

# News From The Good Shepherd



Dear Friends in Christ:

I can think of no better way to begin this New Year than to pray. Here are a couple of prayers to surround this new beginning with God's grace and love.

## **A Prayer for January**

"Loving Creator, as we welcome the dawn of a New Year, we are grateful for Your love and grace. We Thank You for the gift of time, allowing us to make amends and pursue our dreams. Guide our hearts and renew our minds as we embark on new paths and move forward in faith with courage, strength, and love guiding our actions."

---Anonymous

## **A New Year's Prayer**

"Dear Lord, please give me. . . A few friends who understand me and yet remain my friends. A work to do which has real value, without which the world would feel poorer. . . A mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail be not blazed. An understanding heart. . . A sense of humor. Time for quiet, silent meditation. A feeling of the presence of God. And the patience to wait for the coming of these things, with the wisdom to know them when they come." W.R. Hunt

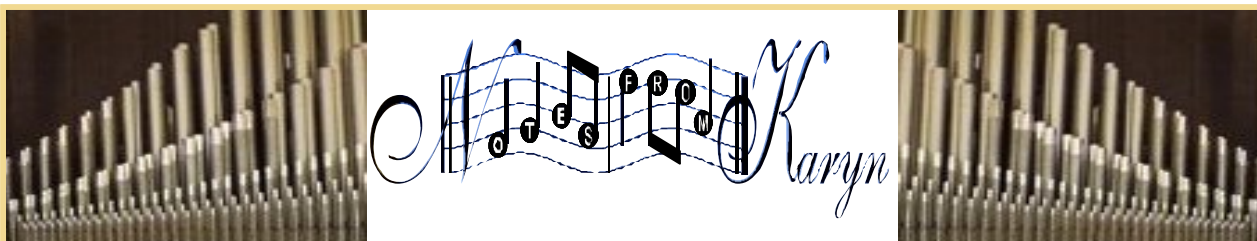
And finally,

"When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among brothers,  
To make music in the heart". . . . Howard Thurman

Many Blessings for the New Year.

Faithfully,





*“Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?  
For we have seen his star in the East,  
And have come to worship him!”  
(Matthew 2: 2)*

Epiphany is the season of gifts and light. It’s the celebration of the coming of the wise-men with their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They followed the light of the Star to the Christ Child, the Light of the World.

Christina Rossetti gave us the gift of two beautiful Christmas carols. She wrote them in the 1800s, but they ring as true and meaningful today as they did at that time.

The first is “In the Bleak Midwinter.” It ends with this verse:

*“What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part.  
Yet what I can I give him, give my heart.”*

This Christmas the Adult Choir sang another of her hymns during communion on Christmas Eve. The poem is beautiful:

*Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine.  
Love was born at Christmas: star and angels gave the sign.*

*Worship we the Godhead, love incarnate, love divine.  
Worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?*

*Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine.  
Love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.*

Our Christmas music was truly a gift of love by many. By the choirs, the ensembles, the vocalists, the instrumentalists, and the congregation and by those who broadcast our liturgies. Thank you to everyone for making our Christmas celebrations so festive and meaningful!

Now we carry our gifts of music and the meaning of Christmas into the Epiphany season. May the light and love of Christ shine in all our hearts as we celebrate this season of light!

*“So, bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.”  
 (“What Child Is This?” verse 3)*



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the Good Shepherd**

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**Episcopal Diocese of Rochester**  
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**Rector**

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**Junior Warden**

Peter Rothfuss  
(585) 626-9829



Good Shepherd Webster



@FrLanceRobbins

## GOOD SHEPHERD VESTRY

By Diane Castle Babcock, Senior Warden

The vestry met on Thursday, December 14th.

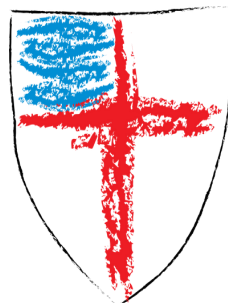
Kris Murray said that the new prayer books have arrived and are placed in the pews. The vestry discussed returning the old prayer books to the families of those who had donated them. If this is not possible, we will contact the diocese to see if they can be used by another parish.

The vestry discussed quotes provided by Chris Nuccitelli for stripping and cleaning of the parish hall and music room floors. He also submitted a proposal to repair the floor in the downstairs bathrooms. All agree that the work needs to be done. The vestry has decided to table this project until 2024 because this expense was not budgeted, and we need to have adequate funds to cover the expense.

Bruce Dunn presented a budget worksheet for 2024 and the expense and income for the month of November. When our CD comes due in February, Bruce will transfer the funds to our Diocesan account, which will yield more interest. Year-to-date we have earned more than \$3000 in interest on our savings account.

The vestry is asking Chris Nuccitelli to research ways to decrease our utility bills, as the rising cost of gas and electricity is a concern. Kris Murray offered to have her husband, John, review our existing insurance policy to assure that the coverage is adequate, and the premium is competitively priced.

Our next meeting is on January 18th, when we will finalize and approve the budget for 2024. At this point, we are \$80,000 short of our projected "bare bones" budget. We also have another \$20,000 of needed repair work we would like to complete in 2024. Please pledge if you haven't already. To those who have, thank you!





## STEWARDSHIP NEWS

by Kris Murray



Happy Winter to all.

As 2023 has come to a close it is important to be ever thankful for all that our Lord has provided. As other parts of the globe implode, it is a time to bow in prayer for all those who suffer on this planet. Our church is generous in outreach and in prayer to help sustain this world.

We are a strong congregation, and we are growing, as we represent the word of God in Jesus.

In November we spoke of the need to provide for our church through stewardship. We learned a bit about some of the parishioners here, and what Good Shepherd has meant to them.

We wish to thank all of you who have pledged your financial support for the 2024 year. Some folks don't submit pledges until the end of the year. If this is you, thank you for your anticipated pledge.

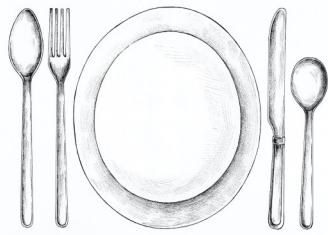
To date 12/23/23, we have a proposed "bare bones" budget of \$344,241.00 and a proposed budget with needed repairs of \$355,768.00

Pledges received to date \$247,655.00

It is unclear how we will make up the deficit.

Peace on Earth.





## MEAL MINISTRY

by Debra Nelson

Please call Debra Nelson at 585-671-5581 if you know of anyone in our church family who needs to have their meals prepared and delivered to their home AND/OR you are interested in preparing OR delivering meals to those in need. THANK YOU!!  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!



By Dianna Guerin



On December 17th the children performed in their first in-person Christmas pageant since the pandemic. It was a fun and joyful time. Many thanks to Laura Rosato for directing the pageant. On that same Sunday the children played games, decorated the tree in the narthex, and sang carols to members of our Good Shepherd community at their homes. Sunday school will resume on January 7th during the 10:15am service.





## THE BEST STORY: An Imperfect Christmas Pageant

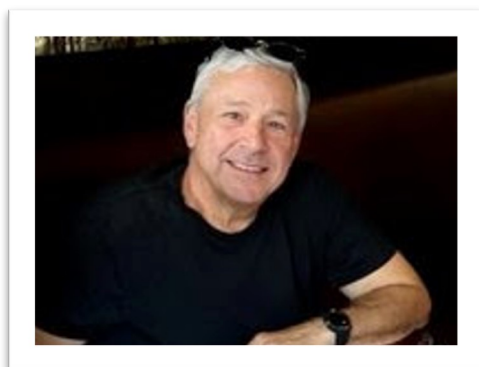


Proudly presented by the Children of Good Shepherd (and assorted grownups!) December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the 10:15 am Eucharist

December 17<sup>th</sup> saw a production of *The Best Story: An Imperfect Christmas Pageant* which gave a major singing role to those in the pews with five traditional Christmas carols. The cast included Fr. Lance Robbins, Mailani Brennick, Leah & Chloe Schinaman, Mike Rosato, Ty-leeah & Gabby Barber, Daniel Guerrin, Sasha & Ian Daniels, Vivien & Fiona Cornetta, Arabella & Finn Crosby, Owen Hartline, Aidyn Butera, Jackie Finn, Isaac Dunn, Annie Bishop, Kris Murray, plus a few surprise guests.







Chris Nuccitelli's life experiences have taught him well how to use his gifts and talents in the everyday world to benefit others and bring glory to God. The accumulation of his creative endeavors and professional experience have made for a very interesting "retirement," which includes singing and playing the guitar at our church and as half of the acoustic duo "Take 2," livestreaming our church services, acting as Sexton of Good Shepherd, and as the newly elected President of the Board of Directors at A Meal and More!

Benefiting from the artistic environment created by his mother Diane and her musical siblings, Chris got his creative start early, learning to play the guitar at age 7, making short films at 12 with his Dad's Super8 camera, and finally moving to New York City after high school to attend the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and studying acting in 1977. Chris continues to use these gifts for our benefit at Good Shepherd – as he adds to the musical talent in our church services at St. Andrews Chapel on the Lake and at Good Shepherd. Chris also performs with Take 2, his acoustic duo with longtime musical partner Darlene Dietrich. They play out in venues across Wayne and Monroe counties.

While studying at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, Chris realized his future lay behind the camera. So, Chris transferred to New York University and completed his education in the Film and Television Department, eventually leading him to various network television and film jobs including the then-new, upstart cable news channel called CNN, where he stayed for six years, shooting, directing, and editing news programs. Moving back to his hometown of Rochester in 1989 Chris continued to work as a producer and director. He directed the 6:00 and 11:00 newscasts for WROC-TV, the local NBC affiliate, and made documentary and educational programming for the National Technical Institute for the Deaf. Chris continues to help those in need, even using a little sign language at times, while he volunteers at A Meal and More.

In 2020 when COVID struck and the churches closed, his skills in TV news were the perfect addition to the effort started by fellow parishioners, filmmaker and composer Jeff Arnold and Sound Engineer Bruce Dunn, to build Livestream capability into the church and record the Sunday liturgies. Chris and Karyn Robbins created The Good Shepherd Virtual Choir, allowing the Adult Choir to add their music to the recorded liturgies. Today these skills continue to be shared in streaming diocesan conventions and many other productions throughout the year.

After his brother Michael purchased Parlec, a local manufacturing company, Chris joined the company in 1992 as Marketing Manager. As Parlec struggled to adapt new imaging technology for their tool measuring product line, Chris applied his experience in digital imaging and video technology to help Parlec develop the first in a line of new high-precision video measuring and inspection equipment. As Product Manager he helped grow the product line to number two in the world. His business-sense and management of people will come in handy in his role as President of A Meal and More.

*Continued*



*Continued*

Chris retired from manufacturing when he and his brothers sold their company in 2019 and currently has a number of interests and ministries, primarily through Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Webster and A Meal and More at Christ Church in Rochester. Additionally, he was Vestry Warden and currently is the Sexton at Good Shepherd, responsible for upkeep of the buildings and grounds. Again, his role as Sexton and the five years he has volunteered at A Meal and More prepares him well for planning ahead at the community kitchen, efficient organization of the supplies needed to run a “soup kitchen,” inventory and storage of the food donations from churches like Good Shepherd and being resourceful in putting monetary donations to their most cost-effective use.

Chris was elected the Board President of A Meal And More community kitchen, effective December 1. Serving over 12,000 meals a year to Rochester’s homeless and underemployed, A Meal and More has been a foundation of food security in downtown Rochester for over forty years. Chris wonders, “How can we allow anyone to go hungry with the abundance of this world? The post-COVID world has changed things, especially for community kitchens and food pantries. We are learning how to navigate that, while never losing sight of our primary mission to feed people. Whether it’s Sunday dinner with my kids and brand-new granddaughter, or Wednesday lunch with my city family, there is something special and restorative about the community table. It’s important. I feel blessed to be a part of this program as it continues to make a difference in the lives of those who have limited access to hot, nutritious meals.”

Chris is building his vision for the future of A Meal and More as he begins his term guiding the organization into a bright.

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THANK YOU to all the wonderful members of our church family that donated to the Advent Food Drive! We helped the A Meal and More pantry stock up for the winter. The number of people served has been steadily rising and our donations go a long way in helping the marginalized in the Rochester community.

IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY, THE CHEF IS ASKING OUR CHURCH FAMILY TO DONATE CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES (28 OZ or 10# cans are great), PASTA, BROTH (BEEF, CHICKEN, VEGETABLE), GALLON-SIZE APPLE JUICE. DONATIONS CAN ALSO INCLUDE: LUNCH MEAT, CHEESE, CARROTS, POTATOES, ONIONS, AND GROUND BEEF. Please put perishables in the parish hall freezer marked with “AMAM.”

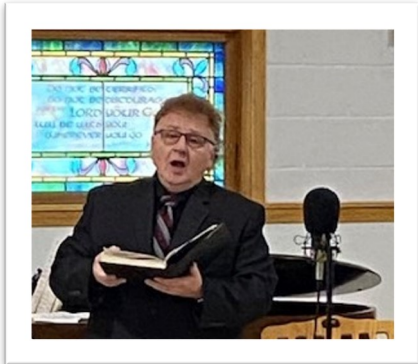




**AS SEEN AT  
GOOD SHEPHERD**



**(and beyond)**



On December 10<sup>th</sup>, Chales Morgan visited Good Shepherd to add his magnificent voice to our second Advent service at 10:15am.



On December 17, Bobby Rosato returned to lead us in the Lord's Prayer during the 10:15am service.



On December 10<sup>th</sup>, at the invitation of Peter W. Stein (pictured about to light the candles), senior rabbi at Temple B'rith Kodesh in Rochester, about 20 members of Good Shepherd attended a Hanukkah service followed by a light meal and fellowship.



Advent wouldn't be complete with our wonderful manger scene in the Narthex.





Dianna Guerin and son, Daniel, offered the Prelude: "The Snow Lay on the Ground"

## CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00 PM EUCHARIST 2023



Our Brass Ensemble: Bobby Rosato and Will White (Trumpets); Shannon Rosato (French Horn); Don and Jim White (Trombones)



The Youth Choir presented Raney's "Angels Watching Over Me."



The Postlude, Toccata on "Adeste Fideles," was given by violinists Mailani Brennick and Kayleigh Lowenguth and guitarists Jack Brennick and Bobby Rosato



Bobby Rosato presented, Lane and Klosner's "I Am a Carpenter"



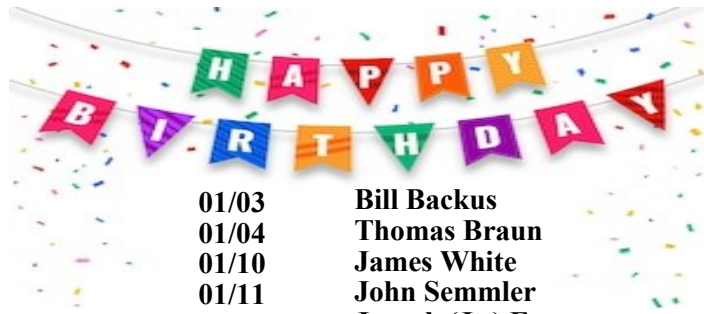
Baritone Nathaniel Peets sang a stirring, "Silent Night"



Father Lance reads John, Chapter 1 by candlelight







Joe Yelle  
 Mary Jean Crawford  
 Dawn Wilkins  
 Brenda Pierce  
 Rudy Meyris  
 Cheryl Kuberka  
 Spencer Stokes  
 Sully Allen  
 Bill Lynam  
 Abraham Carrington  
 Betty Nohle  
 Fred Giovinazzo  
 Olivia Hess  
 Kristen Kuberka

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Bill Backus  
 Thomas Braun  
 James White  
 John Semmler  
 Joseph (Jr.) Francz  
 Isabel O'Neil  
 Robin Mason  
 Jack Norris  
 Brianna Bohannon  
 Dottie Smart  
 Wayne Delperdange  
 Barbara Kilian  
 Peter Rothfuss

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By: Betty Nohle

Welcome to the New Year 2024!

This is to remind you all that in the Winter months of JANUARY, FEBRUARY and MARCH we will be meeting at NOON instead of for Dinner. So put this on your calendar. Watch for an email as to where we will be meeting about a week in advance. I do need a count as to how many will be joining us. Some of the restaurants are really fussy about reservations, so please confirm with Cheri Mascitti or me that you will be coming.

I look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year. Remember it is on the LAST TUESDAY of the month.

### *A Prayer for the New Year*

#### **Learning to Walk by J. Bradley Wigger**

O God of steadfast love,  
 trusting you, we devote our hearts to learning  
 and our lives to walking.

Teach us truth, that we may walk with courage.  
 Teach us mercy, that we may walk with humility.  
 Teach us forgiveness, that we may walk with compassion.  
 Teach us grace, that we may walk with strength.  
 Teach us wonder, that we may walk with praise.  
 Teach us goodness, that we may walk with those in need.

O God of steadfast love,  
 Learning from you, may we walk well.  
**Amen.**

From *Together we Pray: A Prayer Book for Families* (Chalice Press, 2005)  
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