

Rector's Welcome



I am a big fan of chocolate in all its forms: dark and bitter, creamy smooth, with nuts or without, exotic flavorings or plain. My life is just better, richer and more complex with a daily dose of chocolate mixed in.

Churches also come in different flavors: they can be formal or not, large, small or in-between, Protestant, Catholic, or Pentecostal, enveloping a visitor or leaving you on your own.

The Church of the Good Shepherd has its own special blend and make-up. We follow the Book of Common Prayer Book for worship, but we are not stuffy. We value our intellect but we are earthy and practical too.

For a small congregation, we are global in our membership. Our parishioners hail from as far

away as the Philippines, Ghana, Jamaica, France, New Zealand, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and England. We are like a mini-United Nations.

We enjoy doting on our medical students, and we cook amazing community meals. Despite the hard economic times, we have committed to help underwrite the primary school education of fifty-eight children in Tanzania through the Carpenter's Kids program. Our members have impressed me with the ministry they carry out in their every day lives: teaching kids how to cook, supporting cancer survivors, working to end human trafficking, organizing micro-finance programs for women entrepreneurs – among others.

Somehow Jesus, *the* Good Shepherd, ties us all together as one body; gathering the scattered from many lands and making of us more than we would ever be on our own.

I hope this gives you a taste of the flavor of Good Shepherd. My life is better, richer, and more deliciously complex because of this church. Being a part of Good Shepherd may even be better than chocolate.

Sincerely,
Amma Erika