

Tidings

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church and School, Tequesta, FL



We exist to be a beacon of faith, hope, and love!



GOOD SHEPHERD

EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL

GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL CHURCH

400 Seabrook Road, Tequesta FL 33469
www.goodsheponline.org
561-746-4674

GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

402 Seabrook Road, Tequesta FL 33469
www.goodshepschool.com
561-746-5507

PENNIES FOR HEAVEN THRIFT SHOP

561-406-2923

HEATHER GRAHAM

Senior Warden
hgraham316@yahoo.com

THE REV. DEREK M. LARSON TSSF

Associate Rector
dlarson@goodsheponline.org

HEATHER VAUGHN

Head of School
hvaughn@goodshepschool.com

MERIKE SEELY

Parish Administrator
mseely@goodsheponline.org

JO WOOD

Director of Hospitality & Facilities
jwood@goodsheponline.org

DAVID DIXON

Youth and Family Minister
ddixon@goodsheponline.org

TIMM C. JOHNSON-REYNOLDS

Organist & Music Director
timmcjfl@gmail.com

LYNN EVANS

Business Manager
account@goodsheponline.org

MARY LOU CRIFASI

Interim Office Coordinator
mcrifasi@goodsheponline.org

DEBBIE WHITE

Assistant Music Coordinator
gmcdw@comcast.net

BETH LONG

Thrift Shop Manager
blong@goodsheponline.org

ERIK PARISELETI

Technology Coordinator
erik@pariseleti.com

EVELYN SEELY

Digital Media Assistant
seely.evelyn@gmail.com

JAMIE PHILLIPS

Nursery Coordinator



God is present in our stories of community; stories that are caring, relevant, and intergenerational. Good Shepherd volunteer Elinor Pedrick hands out medals to runners in the Li'I Pilgrim Dash at the 22nd Annual Run 4 the Pies on Thanksgiving morning. Check out more photos from this major event that happens right in front of Good Shepherd on the Outreach page of our website.

WELCOME! Ministry groups are back on campus. We continue to offer a variety of digital content and ministry opportunities to help you engage in parish life. Get to know us online, or in-person! Visit GoodShepOnline.org for our calendar.

BAPTISMS are generally administered on Easter Eve, Pentecost, All Saints' Sunday and the first Sunday after Epiphany. A person of any age may receive the sacrament of Holy Baptism. The application form for baptismal candidates is available online under the WORSHIP tab. Please contact Merike Seely or clergy for information.

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE requires a minimum of 90 days notice to our office and requires premarital counseling. An initial conference with the clergy should be scheduled by the couple to review the process and any special circumstances before commitments may be made. Please contact Jo Wood to schedule. jwood@goodsheponline.org

FUNERAL OR MEMORIAL SERVICES for communicants of the parish are customarily held in the church and may include the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

To **TRANSFER YOUR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP** to Good Shepherd, please contact the office to initiate a transfer. mail@goodsheponline.org

NEW TO GOOD SHEPHERD? Please let us know you're here! Contact Jo Wood, our Director of Hospitality at jwood@goodsheponline.org or call the office at 561-746-4674. You can request information or let us know if you would like to be added to our mailing list.

COVER IMAGE

Behold! God is here. The Christmas window in our sanctuary tells us, through jewel-toned glass imagery, the story of God coming to Earth as a baby. This detail of the window features the guiding star — the light that the magi followed — and the community that Jesus was born into; Bethlehem. Belonging to community reinforces the Baptismal covenant in which we are all connected — one body in the community of life.

Cover photo: Merike Seely





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OUR VISION

*We are called to be a vibrant spiritual
and educational community resource,
radiating God's love for everyone, everywhere!*

Tidings is the quarterly newsletter of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church and School. To receive a copy in the mail, please notify the office at mail@goodsheponline.org or 561-746-4674. *Tidings* is produced and edited in-house by Merike Seely. Photo credit Merike Seely unless otherwise indicated.



A Word from the
Senior Warden

Dear friends,

Every Christmas we read the wonderful story of the birth of Jesus, but we are often so wrapped up in the hustle and bustle of shopping, cooking and vacation that we forget the incredible message that the word “Emmanuel” — *God with us* — brings.

Jesus did not come as a King, but rather as a humble man so that he might identify with our sufferings and hardships. He came not just to a first century Jewish neighborhood, but also into our communities where we live today. And so we live “Emmanuel” in hope and personal faith as Christians, knowing that we are never alone and that He is with us always.

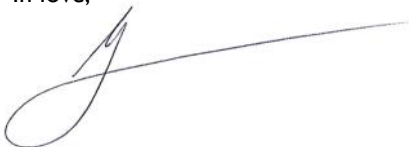
“Emmanuel” however is not just a promise that we hold on to in faith, but also a way to live our lives. “Emmanuel” should change the way we approach everyday life. Jesus lived out human suffering and we are called to do the same for others. When God seems absent to members of our community it is up to us, his disciples, to show his presence to all in need. We can show others the hope and comfort of “God with us” by being present for others as God is present in us.

This edition of tidings is devoted to the stories of “Emmanuel” here at Good Shepherd, where we find God’s presence every day in many ways.

I pray that this Christmas season “God with us” may fill your homes, work places and hearts and enrich your faith and relationship with Our Savior through service to others.

God bless you all.

In love,



Heather Graham
Senior Warden





Advent and Christmas

The Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 18
10:00 AM in Church

Youth Christmas Cookie Sale

Sunday, December 18

Christmas Flower Forms are due
for printing in holiday bulletins
Sunday, December 18

The Longest Night

A Service of Hope and Light on
the Longest Night of the year
Wednesday, December 21
6:00 PM

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24
4:00 PM Family Eucharist
7:00 PM Festive Eucharist
10:00 PM Festive Eucharist

Christmas

Sunday, December 25
10:00 AM Christmas Eucharist

Christmas I

Sunday, January 1, 2023
8:00 AM Rite I
10:00 AM Lessons and Carols

Rector Search Q & A

Q When will we call our next Rector?

A The estimate for Good Shepherd is about one year from the time the former rector left. Because we went through this process about five years ago, and we are considered a healthy parish, we are familiar with the requirements and recommendations for a successful search. That said, it should be noted that the timing can change depending on factors such as candidate availability, interview schedules, and overall response to our opening.

Q Will the people of the parish get to decide on the candidate?

A No. The parish elected a Vestry to appoint a Search Committee, a group that works confidentially and with oversight of the entire process. The Search Committee plans, prepares, evaluates, schedules, interviews, and finally, makes a recommendation of ONE candidate to the Vestry. The Bishop is then notified for the final approval.

Q Where are we in the process right now?

A As of early December, we are finalizing our Parish Profile for submission to the Diocesan office. The profile is an important document because it introduces candidates to who we are and why we are a great faith community. It tells our unique story and invites the reader to see themselves in this place of purpose and potential. It also highlights our desirable geographical area which will interest many priests scraping ice off a windshield in January.

Q What can I do as a parishioner while we wait?

A Be a parishioner! Live fully into the life of the parish. There is no shortage of engaging worship, education, and fellowship opportunities. Continue to support Good Shepherd faithfully and financially so that the next rector has a strong foundation to build on. Be a loving friend and neighbor. Share joys and sorrows with each other. Pray. Volunteer. This is an exciting time to be here as the next chapter in our story unfolds.

Updates on the search process are posted on our website every two weeks or so. You can find the link on our home page at GoodShepOnline.org. The Rector Search page also has a chronological list of updates, a transition message, our CAT Survey Executive Summary, and links to our Strategic and BRIDGE plans.



Community 101 is back in the new year! Be sure to check our website for new short courses for building community and growing in our faith. Each series is facilitated by various members of Good Shepherd at different times, different dates, on different topics. Sign up in January for any or all of the opportunities to participate.

GoodShepOnline.org/community-101



Behold! God's Healing in One Another

The Rev. Derek M. Larson, TSSF

Three women, each coincidentally with an injured wrist or hand, came forward side-by-side, arm-in-arm for prayer and anointing at a recent Wednesday morning Holy Eucharist and Healing in the church.

The service is one of my favorites that we do here at Good Shepherd, and with usually between two and eight people in attendance, the service is more informal, intimate, and communal in nature. In place of a homily I normally offer a short reflection on the topic of a saint or Feast Day and invite those gathered to share their own thoughts and reflections. As we share, we learn from the wisdom of each other's stories. After the homily we pray a litany for healing, often led in the moment by one of those in attendance, followed by an opportunity to come forward for prayer and anointing.

While folks usually come forward one at a time, they are often surrounded by others in attendance who sometimes place a loving

hand on their shoulder. In the year and a half of participating in this service, however, I had never had three people come forward together, side-by-side. It was a beautiful demonstration of solidarity, and later as I reflected on the experience, it occurred to me how appropriate it was, because healing almost always comes in the midst of community. Healing, of course, comes from the gracious hand of God, but more often than not, we are God's hands for those around us. God uses us when we gather together. We need one another for true healing.

And healing is what we're really all after in life, isn't it? Whether it is physical healing after an injury, emotional healing after a broken relationship, psychological healing after an experience of trauma, or spiritual healing after a crisis of faith, we are all looking for healing. And a worshiping community like Good Shepherd is a great place to experience and participate in the

Holy Eucharist and Healing meets on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM in the chapel
Please join us!

work of healing because we are a community focused on embodying the love and care of God for one another. We are both those seeking healing for ourselves and those offering healing to others. We are—as the priest and wisdom writer, Henri Nouwen, would say—wounded healers. And we find healing and offer healing in community.

This edition of *Tidings* — Behold! — focuses on calling our attention to the many ways that God’s presence is incarnated in the community of Good Shepherd. The word “behold” has mostly fallen out of use in contemporary English, and harkens back to the days of the King James

*Wherever we gather
together God is at
work among us,
bringing healing
through the hands of
those beside us.*

Bible. In fact while the New International Version of the Bible uses the word just once, the King James Version uses it almost 1,300 times! Today we associate it most often with the telling of the Christmas story on the lips of Peanuts characters and angels (who always seem to prefer King James English), “Behold, I bring you tidings of great joy!” But if we’re using the King James Bible, the word is all over scripture.

One of my favorite passages that uses the word takes place at the end of the gospel of John with Jesus on the cross.

“Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother...When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.” (John 19:25-27)

I can only imagine the grief and brokenness felt by the disciple and Jesus’ mother there at the foot of the cross. I can only imagine the long road to healing they must have walked after that experience. Even after Jesus was raised I imagine the trauma of it all haunted their dreams for years to come. And yet seeing their pain (even while suffering his own), Jesus called on each to behold the path of healing in one another.

In my time here at Good Shepherd, time and time again I have beheld God’s healing hand working among us. On Sunday mornings. In Grief Share. In discernment groups. On Wednesdays. At the food pantry. In the Pennies shop. Wherever we gather together God is at work among us, bringing healing through the hands of those beside us.

In this winter season perhaps you are looking for healing. Perhaps you feel isolated or alone. Perhaps you are

looking for deeper connections. I invite you, then, to behold those standing beside you. Behold your community of Good Shepherd. Behold God’s presence in those around you. And come, arm-in-arm, to experience the healing of God.

GROW Sunday Sunday Forum

On the third Sunday of each month we meet for Sunday Forum, a conversation between clergy and neighbors in our community doing important work for the benefit of us all. The autumn sessions invited us to think about issues in city planning, and homelessness. In the coming months we will meet leaders and coordinators who focus on environment, education, incarceration, and more. Bring a cup of coffee and Join us in the Parish Hall on third Sundays at 9:00 AM.



If you have ideas for future conversations,

contact Fr. Derek at
dlarson@goodsheponline.org

WORSHIP

In the Quietness of My Heart: A Reflection on Morning Prayer

By Debbie White



Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen. - Collect for Proper 28, page 236, Book of Common Prayer

I am one of a core group that attends Morning Prayer offered LIVE online Monday through Friday at 9.00 am. Led by Ian Anderson are wonderful readers: Joan Engskow, Pam DeFelice, Kathy Hawken, Ian and Letty, David Dixon and Fr. Derek. I do

not have perfect attendance; however all are warmly welcomed by name when signing on. Often with a cup of tea at my side, I hear Morning Prayer. As a cradle Episcopalian, four of the five churches I have attended in my life offered Morning Prayer as the main Sunday service, with Holy Communion served only once a month. So the reciting of this service feels like going home.

Also, we often mark the calendar and learn of a particular saint and what challenges they faced and met. Or sometimes a sidebar explanation of a biblical event is shared.

But in the quietness of my heart or in a confidence that I can text on the chat line, my dear desires for the health and welfare of friends and

family and the struggles or blessings I experience are shared and prayed. As I leave this ZOOM meeting a feeling of happiness washes over me, much like the feeling one has as a church service ends: moments of God's grace in calibrations measured in heaven's terms. We reset with a smile.

Recently, after Morning Prayer finished, several of us switched on our mics to wish each other safe travels and a Happy Thanksgiving. Someone realized and said "Hey, WE are a family!" Behold! I'm struck like lightning. After three years of Morning Prayer digested, we discovered, by God, that we are indeed a family!



Church on the Green
Spiritual Lessons
from the
Seasons of Nature
and the Church

We meet outside on the lawn behind the Parish Hall on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 5:00 PM

It's a casual service.
Bring a chair,
your family and friends,
and an open heart.

Many services have themes, so watch your bulletin or our website for a schedule of fun activities in the hour before the service, or bring a suggested item from home for a blessing.

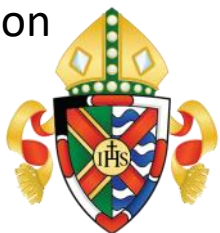


Morning Prayer
Weekdays at 9 AM
Zoom Live
link on Prayer page
Recording available
later on the
same page

Bible Study Schedule
Bible Study with Clergy is back on Wednesday, January 4, 2023, at 11:00 AM.
Series topic will be announced soon!

Diocesan Convention

October 28 and 29 saw the 53rd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida. The meeting convened over two days at St. Mark's, Palm Beach Gardens. This year, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry was in attendance and addressed the assembly on Saturday.



Good Shepherd volunteers were asked to work the registration desk for both days of the event. Thanks to everyone who agreed to help. Also, thanks to Letty Anderson for coordinating the group on the days of the event.



Presiding Bishop Michael Curry



Above top: Bishops and Priests at the 53rd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida including Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and our Diocesan Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Peter Eaton. **Above:** Some of our volunteers from Good Shepherd who served at the registration desk for both days of the event. Thank you to our faithful volunteers for your participation in this special event.

Holy Eucharist & Healing on Wednesdays

Join us every Wednesday starting September 14th for our service of Holy Eucharist and Healing. This is a simple, contemplative service with normally between 4 and 10 people which celebrates the Feast Day of a saint and has a special emphasis on healing. The homily is normally an informal conversation about the saint whose day we are celebrating and is followed by prayers for healing and an opportunity to be anointed with holy oil.

Whether you are looking for healing for yourself, a loved one, or the world, you are welcome to join us! Here is a schedule of saint's day we will be celebrating throughout the year.

Winter/Spring SCHEDULE

- January 4: Holy Name Day
- January 11: Aelred of Rievaulx
- January 18: Confession of St. Peter
- January 25: Conversion of St. Paul
- February 1: Brigid of Kildare/ Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
- February 8: Fanny Crosby
- February 15: Absalom Jones
- February 22: Ash Wednesday
- March 1: David of Wales
- March 8: Perpetua, Felicity and their Companions
- March 15: Patrick
- March 22: The Annunciation
- March 29: John Donne
- April 5: Wednesday in Holy Week
- April 12: Wednesday in Easter Week
- April 19: Anselm of Canterbury
- April 26: Mark the Evangelist
- May 3: St. Philip and St. James
- May 10: Julian of Norwich
- May 17: Ascension
- May 24: Augustine of Canterbury
- May 31: Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

HAVE YOU RETURNED A PLEDGE CARD FOR 2023?
VISIT [GOODSHEPONLINE.ORG/GIVING](https://goodsheponline.org/giving)
THANK YOU!

In this issue of Tidings, we invited ministry volunteers to talk about their own perspectives on finding God in everyday places.

YOUTH and FAMILY

The Gift of Community

A Reflection by Beth Bohnsack, Volunteer Youth Leader

Over the years while working with the youth of our parish, there have been many opportunities to see God’s grace, goodness, and beauty at work. What stands out the most is seeing children grow into young adults, a transformation from sixth graders in middle school to seniors in high school. It is a joy to see them take leadership roles and guide the younger members of the group. It makes my heart happy when one of them steps up to support church leadership by vocalizing or explaining the importance of a project. The relationships that are built within the group strengthen each year. Sure, they may disagree and argue, but ultimately, they talk about it over time and remain friends with a stronger bond.

Some of the most enduring memories which demonstrate that God is among our youth community have occurred on our mission trips and pilgrimages. I can remember encouraging a sixth grader to go out and pick up trash because that was what needed to be done; flash forward and as a tenth grader that same person is leading a team of youth in another project — digging a trench for a water pipe. The youth are proud of the work they put into mission trips. Some even had their family drive by St. Columba, in Marathon Key, to see the work they did in 2019 to assist with ongoing recovery after Hurricane Irma and helping the parish with light construction and thrift shop organization.

During our Alaska Pilgrimage, it was an honor to see the girls step up and take the lead during hikes — both flat and mountain trails — surprising not only me, but some of the older (possibly more athletic) boys on the trip! It takes time, but each member opens up and challenges themselves during our trips, from talking one-on-one to solve a problem or stepping up to do something they are not entirely comfortable doing (lip sync battle or saying a prayer at dinner). It’s a rewarding to witness the youth demonstrate empathy and caring not only for those they serve, but for each other.

Over six years ago Good Shepherd began the practice of inviting a Youth Group member to report at Vestry meetings, which we continue today. It’s helpful for our governing body to hear youth perspective, challenges, and successes — a reminder of finding God in one another and the wonderful gift we have in community.



Contact David to find out more about Youth and Family Ministries at ddixon@goodsheponline.org

Visit our Youth and Family Ministry page for info and ministry schedules. GoodShepOnline.org



Did you know that in addition to mission trips, Good Shepherd youth help ministries right here in our own neighborhood? Making sandwiches for bag lunches for distribution at St. George’s Community Center in Riviera Beach is one way they have helped recently.

Family Ministries for Fellowship and Fun

Here are some of the multi-generational events and services (for anyone in our parish) that bring us closer together. We hope you'll check some of them out!

- **Fifth Sunday Youth Service**—The youth Ensemble and youth vocalists take on the music for the 10AM service. Youth also serve as readers and help lead worship.
- **Church on the Green**—Everyone is invited to this themed outdoor Eucharist with a focus on bridging faith and the natural world through scripture. We meet on the lawn behind the Parish Hall. Bring a chair or blanket.
- **Family Formation Events**—Gatherings with a craft component that highlight the theme of Church on the Green for that Sunday. Get creative!
- **Game Night in the Barn**—Something new that's all fun and games. From 6-10, this is well attended by young adults from the greater community. Bring a game or join in one of the many we have on hand.
- **Coffee House Open Mic Night**—It's back! Warm up your vocal chords or bring an instrument to perform on stage. Not ready for that? Just come to listen and support friends for a friendly Friday night out.

Visit our the [Family Ministries page](#) on our website or the [calendar online](#) for dates and times of these events and more!



Youth Calendar Events

- 12/10 Sign up for FAU Ropes Course
- 12/18 Pilgrimage Christmas Cookie Sale
- 12/18 GROW Sunday Youth & Donuts
- 12/18 Family Fellowship Reception
- 12/21 Youth Christmas Party
- 1/13 Youth Weekend Retreat
- 1/14 Leap of Faith FAU Ropes Course
- 1/15 Grow Sunday Youth & Donuts
- 1/22 Family Fun Activity 4-5 PM
- 1/29 Youth Sunday Praise Ensemble
- 2/12 "Souper" Bowl of Caring Event
- 2/12 Valentine's Share the Love Craft
- 2/17 Artie's Party: *Outreach Express*
- 2/26 Sunday Night Live Youth Activity

Youth Group for students in grades 6-12 meets Wednesdays at 6:00 PM. Dinner is provided. Join us in our remodeled youth space, The Barn, found in the church office building.

Sunday School for students PreK-3 through 5th grade meets on Sundays at 10:00 AM in the church office building. Children join their families in church before communion.

Nursery is provided for babies and toddlers aged 0-2 in the church office building on Sunday morning.

GROW Sunday
Third Sunday of
Each Month
Bring the whole family
for fellowship and
formation. There's
something for everyone!



GOOD SHEPHERD
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Story Time

Behold! God is here.

The Good Shepherd community is a mosaic of interesting, colorful people each with individual perspectives and a personal story. These stories belong to people we live and work with everyday, yet we may never hear them. Whether through the loss of a loved one, life-changing catastrophe, or a deep sense of community, how we behold God in our lives is rooted in these personal experiences. For this issue, three of our wonderful teachers at Good Shepherd School share their story — their experience of grace.



The Family We Choose

I discovered God's goodness in my work. I lost my husband on October 8th, seven years ago. This October, I participated in the Good Shepherd Fall Festival and for the first time, I did not feel alone. I felt so much love and support from my co-workers. They are like family to me. I thank God for bringing me to this community! I love my work family!

Rieko Richardson
EL-3 Teacher

Contact Good Shepherd School for enrollment information at 561-746-5507 or visit us online at GoodShepSchool.com

After the Storm

I feel God's grace in everything, everywhere and everyday. I have always felt his love in my heart, but even more so since I went through Hurricane Dorian. We lost everything...our business, our home, our school...our everyday lives. My faith was strengthened after the storm, though, when he just kept guiding us along a new path. Doors were opened and silver linings showed up everywhere! We found a home and jobs and rebooted our lives. We are beyond grateful and so blessed. I love my job and my school family; they have been my saving grace!

Tara Claridge
EL-3 Teacher

Show Me a Sign

My story of experiencing God's grace actually relates to my employment at Good Shepherd Episcopal School. I became certified to teach Preschool thru 3rd grade in the spring of 2021 and had been actively looking for an elementary school position to no avail. Every interview I went on just didn't feel right and I was becoming very discouraged. I remember lying in bed feeling very despondent and actually looking up at the ceiling and praying "Please God show me a sign as to where I need to be". Literally 15 minutes later I received a notification on my phone that Good Shepherd had a teaching position available. Immediately I knew this was a sign from God because my Grandfather had been a very active parishioner for years in the church before passing away in 2006. I knew my Grandfather was watching over me and leading me to this school. From the moment I walked into the school and had my interview, I knew I wanted to work here and make a difference in young children's lives. I wholeheartedly believe it was God's grace that opened this opportunity for me and I am extremely grateful to be a part of such a caring and compassionate teaching team at Good Shepherd Episcopal School.

Cara Cantrell
EL-3 Teacher

There is much to be thankful for at Good Shepherd School, including a staff of committed and genuinely joyful teachers. Thanks to all of our teachers, faculty and administration!





A Weekly Miracle

By Ian Anderson

Every Sunday morning, something of a miracle takes place at the 10:00 service. The mystical transubstantiation of bread and wine into the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, you ask? Well, sure. But a second, less obvious miracle also takes place. I'm talking about the music that Timm, Debbie and the parish choir provide to enrich our worship services — a moment of joy.

The finished product that the congregation witnesses on Sunday mornings emerges from the middle of the choir's midweek rehearsal, when we run through the coming week's hymns, fine tune Sunday's anthem, and then, with whatever time is left, look ahead to the coming weeks. Words cannot capture the cacophony of these gatherings. "Don't punch the final syllable!" "The men are not singing together!" "What page are we on!?!". I often find these rehearsals reminiscent of a Thanksgiving gathering of extended family, complete with laughter and chaos and all that entails. But ultimately the efforts of these disparate souls coalesce as we focus on what's really important, which is providing glory to God and inspiration to those who worship with us through singing the music the best we can. And we continue, week after week, faithful to our task, giving our best effort, while regarding with charity the foibles of our fellow choristers. *Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.**

I invite all members of our congregation to consider joining our messy family, to engage in our weekly miracle. As the youngest of our volunteer members are now in their sixties — yes, really! — we can't continue indefinitely without a new generation stepping forward. There is no audition requirement, and you might find that the preparation for Sunday morning really enhances your appreciation of our weekly worship. Believe me, *we have a place for you!*



Technology Team requests volunteers

Tech is currently seeking people to train for the following:

- Soundboard at 8:00 AM service
- Soundboard at 10 AM service
- Livestream at 10 AM service

Full training is provided with supervised, hands-on experience. Our system is in place and ready for you to bring ministry to everyone, everywhere.

Please contact Erik at erik@pariseleti.com to set up an initial training inquiry.

**Where there is charity and love, there God is also.*



SAVE THE DATE!

Artie's Party 2023:

Outreach Express

Friday, February 17, 2023 at 6:00 PM

All aboard the Outreach Express as we "journey" to the many places in the world that our Outreach ministries serve. Think elegant dining car attire and arrive at the Good Shepherd station before boarding for dinner. Tickets in January.

SERVE



Outreach & Missions: Behold! Community with purpose

By Jennifer Uible, Outreach & Missions Committee

My relationship with God is unique, just like everyone else. I have always been a faith-filled person, but not always a church-going person. I find His presence in all aspects of my life and I work hard to be the best person I can be. Every day, on my drive to work, I have a conversation with God. I begin by thanking him for giving me this day and for all the help and guidance from the day before. I am always tremendously thankful that He has watched over my family and kept them safe as well. I ask for guidance, help and grace in the upcoming day. I then, begin my prayers (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be and the Serenity prayer). This of course helps me start my day.

When I was asked to write this piece I was humbled and grateful to do so. Beyond praying and going to church, I feel and see God's presence in our community. Where I feel His presence most, is in places and opportunities where I can help and give back. Over the years, Good Shepherd has given me a number of these of opportunities.

I learned about "gleaning" one Saturday, years ago, when a group from Good Shepherd joined others and picked corn in Stuart. My youngest son came with me and we spent three working hours picking corn and learning that our efforts would help others have fresh food. After Hurricane Maria hit the Florida Keys, again, the church offered the opportunity for me to put my faith into action and I spent a long weekend with others from our parish in Marathon helping to clean up after the destruction. We did not know the family we helped nor did they know us. They realized that we had been sent by the local Episcopal church and that beyond the physical labor we would offer, we would offer our fellowship. I was so pleased that later that year, the youth of the church would also travel to the Keys to continue to help the cleanup. These are just a few examples for me of how I feel and see God in my community.

Church to me is more than a building, and prayers are more than words. I gather with my faith-based community most Sundays (in person or virtually) and know that I have a place



to belong and worship. I am thankful for the Outreach Ministry here that provides opportunities for me to give back however I am able. The yearly drives that we have to help our local school children make my heart smile, as I am teacher and hate to see a child needing anything.

The food packing days that we have are filled with energy, love, and understanding for our neighbors, known and unknown. I believe that God and the Holy Spirit are present in all aspects in my life; however, I feel his smiles most when I can give back to my community. I am certain that is what drew me to Good Shepherd and eventually to the Outreach Committee. The motto "We have a place for you" is true here. I am grateful and thankful to have found a community that allows me to worship in many ways, not just on Sunday.

Thank you!

Outreach and Missions Committee meets monthly to discuss projects and opportunities that make a real difference in real lives. To learn more, please contact Marilyn Lawrence at marilaw@msn.com or visit us online.

Outreach celebrates successes

By Marilyn Lawrence, Outreach & Missions Committee Chair

Our November Outreach & Mission Committee meeting was also a celebration!! Four of us on the Committee had applied to Episcopal Charities for grants in support of our various ministries --- and all four of our requests were approved! Hats off to the grant writers in our group: Katharine Murray, who received \$20,000 for the South Florida Haiti Project; Teresa Grashof, who was awarded \$15,000 for Food Packing for Haiti; Denise Preston who received \$10,000 for St. George's Table ministry; and Marilyn Lawrence who received \$3,000 for the Good Shepherd Food Pantry. And there was also a FIFTH grant that we celebrated: the Edna Runner Tutorial Center in West Jupiter applied for a grant under the sponsorship of Good Shepherd Church, and their request also was approved.

In addition to the wonderful support which we receive daily from our own Good Shepherd community, we also receive notable support from other groups and organizations. Just in the month of November, we were the beneficiaries of a Food Drive conducted by the Hub Insurance Group, another food drive conducted by the Lady Golfers of Riverbend; donations for our Thanksgiving baskets from the Tequesta Brewing Company and the Jupiter-Tequesta Rotary Club --- and then there was Run 4 the Pies and the wonderful support that we receive each year from the Palm Beach Roadrunners!!! We are truly blessed by this affirmation of the worth of our various ministries.



Photo left page: Food Packing for Haiti provides meals for students and others in our partner community of Bondeau, Haiti. **Above:** Thanks to our community partners at Hub International for their holiday food pantry donations; and Tequesta Brewing Company for a tremendous turkey donation! **Bottom left:** Gleaning provides fresh food for food banks and pantries like ours across Palm Beach County. Watch the calendar for upcoming gleaning events! **Below:** Some of the community ministries and groups we partner with to bring the love of Christ to people locally, regionally, and globally.



The Food Pantry is open Tuesdays from 11-2 curbside in the south parking lot for pick-up or drop-off



FOOD PACKING FOR HAITI
SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2023

CONNECT

God Smiles On Us

**A Reflection By Mary Jane Seitz,
Pennies For Heaven Volunteer**

After my husband's death 10 years ago, I felt useless and empty. I was an Episcopalian all my life so I joined Good Shepherd. Looking for a way to help in the church, I joined the volunteers at the Thrift Shop and I am glad I did. We have fun every day. There are many jobs to do, cleaning shoes and jewelry, pricing clothes and toys, chatting with customers, and making new friends.

You never know what you will find in a thrift shop. There are clothes of all types and sizes, kitchen items, bedding, toys, puzzles, books and interesting customers, but most of all *memories!* A thrift shop is a history of the lives of ordinary and extraordinary people and their treasures. What I enjoy is the companionship and sense of love and community. It seems that everyone is working for the same goal. We recognize that all the items in the shop were someone's treasure and that when no longer needed, they were donated to a good cause. These pieces of history represent the eras they lived in, and now they are going on to new families and new places. What a great experience for all of us at Pennies. When we gather together to work, we feel that God is there with us, smiling at all our efforts.



Top : Mary Jane (left) with friends at the shop. **Above:** Nancy Cole and Beth Long figuring something out. **Left:** The Pennies for Heaven volunteers say a prayer for a successful day at the annual Holiday Bazaar & Open-air Market in November.

THRIFT SHOP HOURS:
Tuesday—Friday, 11-4
Donations accepted when the shop is open or call us to make arrangements at 561-406-2923. *Thank you!*



This Is Not Trash

These bags in the back of Jim Couillard's car may look like they're headed for a landfill, but they are 12 bags of men's clothes — shirts, jeans, shoes, and more — lovingly folded as a donation to the chaplain at Martin County Correctional through the Kairos Ministry. These clothes will be used by people who are being released from the facility or who have to appear before a judge in a formal setting. Often, the inmates have nothing but what they came in with when they are released. These donated clothes are a blessing.

We thank Jim for his continued work with Kairos. For information on the program contact him at: koolyard@bellsouth.net

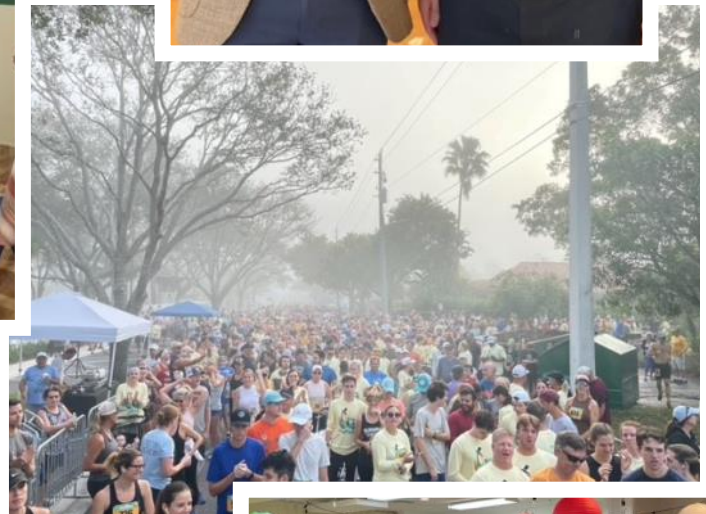
Snapshot Journal

What do a kindergarten, a 4-mile race, a barbeque, a vice-mayor and a prayer ministry all have in common? Good Shepherd! It's been a busy quarter.

Right: The Kindergarten building is complete at the Bondeau, Haiti school. We were able to raise \$15,000 toward its completion.
Below: Students already learning in their new space.



Left: David Dixon and Mike Howard man the grill at the Holiday Bazaar and Open-air market in November. Proceeds from burger sales help to fund Youth Pilgrimage.
Right top: Fr. Derek and Tequesta Vice-mayor Kyle Stone at the October Sunday Forum. The topic was city planning and community space in our area. Thanks to Kyle for taking the time to share perspective on faith and community with us!



Above: The 22nd Annual Run 4 the Pies is ready to begin on a foggy Thanksgiving morning. Thanks to our Good Shepherd volunteers for helping on race day!
Right: Parishioners met to hear Ian Anderson interpret the CAT survey results in September.



Left: Good Shepherd's Wendy A. Williams Chapter of the Daughters of the King met for its holiday luncheon at the end of November. Plans for some DOK events in the spring are in the works to introduce the parish to the many facets of this group. Prayer and service are central to their mission and these women gather regularly to do good work in this place. From making sandwiches for St. George's to assisting individuals in need, to offering prayer support and working the Prayer Chain, the DOK is committed to ministry *In His Service*. For information, contact Patti Hamilton at: pattihamilton@msn.com

Visit GoodShepOnline.org for many more photos of Mission and Ministry at Good Shepherd throughout the year!

By the NUMBERS

Here are some of the numbers behind the events, services, and activities that reflect the life of this parish.

20

Volunteers we sent to our Diocesan Convention for help with registration

\$2,500

Donation to reserve a niche in our columbarium

30

Participants in our new Game Night (and only four were from Good Shepherd!)

0

Percent increase of 2023 pledge goal from 2022 goal (\$675,000)

\$10,000

Amount raised for Good Shepherd Mission and Ministry through the Pennies For Heaven Holiday Bazaar and Open Air Market (wow!)

12

Bags of clothing donated to Kairos prison ministry to help men who are appearing in court or being released

1,710

Participants in the 22nd annual Run 4 the Pies, coordinated by Palm Beach Roadrunners with an assist by Good Shepherd! Thanks, everyone!!



Today Tomorrow Forever

If Good Shepherd fell off the map today, would anyone notice? Would anyone be affected? Would lives change? Well, the answer is — yes.

Our ministries touch lives and provide spiritual and material

support for thousands of people every year. And we do it well. Good Shepherd is blessed with a truly open heart, a strong desire to continue the work of Jesus Christ, and membership that spans generations. We tell our story in the context of God's grace — blessings undeserved, yet freely given. We live in gratitude.

In January we will post a new Giving page on our website that outlines the ways we can express our gratitude through financial support of ministry for today, Tomorrow, and Forever. Expect more information at the Annual Meeting in January.

Good Shepherd Memorial Garden

On the north side of the church building, in a neat brick-paved garden, is the Good Shepherd columbarium — a place on our grounds for the interment of cremated ashes. The area consists of niches for one or two urns, and is available to members of Good Shepherd and their family (spouses, children or step-children, parents or step-parents).

The donation for the use of the Memorial Garden includes the urn, an engraved plate, and engraving on the granite fascia. Our livestream system is also able to record the interment with audio. Families that cannot be present have been very grateful for this important element of the memorial service.

If you would like information about the Memorial Garden at Good Shepherd, please contact Merike Seely at mseely@goodsheponline.org and she will send you an information packet by mail or email.



Financial Status (Jan.—November 2022)

	Actual	Annual Budget
Operating Revenues	913,744	1,075,754
Operating Expenses	973,651	1,119,521
Net Total	-59,907	-43,767

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

As we approach the end of the calendar year we ask that you consider financial gifts to Good Shepherd in a few ways:

Request your pledge balance. We will send it right out to you with a link to our secure online donation page.

Stock Gifts. Contact your broker for end-of-year gifts. Processing usually takes at least a week and donations are only deductible if received in this calendar year.

Pledge for 2023. We want to be able to confidently plan for 2023, so your pledge is really important.

Prepay for 2023. You can get the tax advantage in 2022 if we receive your gift by December 31.

Have you remembered Good Shepherd in your will?

One of the simplest steps you can take to ensure Good Shepherd is here for future generations is to make a lasting gift through your will. You can do this while creating your will or trust, or you can amend an existing one with a simple document. Good Shepherd can be either a primary or a contingent beneficiary.

You may be a member of Heritage Society already! Let us know if you have made a provision for Good Shepherd in your will or estate plan. **To learn more or to inform us of your existing plans, please visit the Giving page on our website to fill out a quick information request form.**



Request an invitation to join Realm, our online directory. Realm lets you explore groups, make a donation, view and print your giving statement, and update your information. Visit the Realm page on our website, under Connect.

Ways to Give to Good Shepherd

Recurring Gifts

Linking your giving to your bank account cuts processing fees and means that more of your gift can be used for mission and ministry. You can set up this direct giving on our secure giving page by selecting a recurring ACH gift. You will also have the opportunity to select the giving schedule and, once established, you can change or cancel it at any time.

Checks and Credit Cards

Please mail checks to the church at 400 Seabrook Road, Tequesta, FL 33469. Credit cards are processed easily on our website on the Giving page and can be done at any time on any schedule. You can also set up recurring credit card donations or electronic pay-by-check.

Stock Donations

Stock donations may be made to Good Shepherd for any purpose. If you would like to make a donation on realized gains from stock, please contact Merike Seely for the trade instructions. **Important Request:** If you make a stock gift to the church for memorial gifts, for endowment, or for your pledge, **please let Merike or the clergy know about it** so that we can properly recognize and allocate your gift. Contact us at mseely@goodsheponline.org.

financials



GOOD SHEPHERD

EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL

400 Seabrook Road
Tequesta, FL 33469

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
West Palm Beach, FL
Permit No. 1930

Current resident or

Masks are currently optional

Love Thy Neighbor

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8 AM HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I
(IN-PERSON ONLY)

10 AM HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
(IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAM AT
GOODSHEPONLINE.ORG)

WEDNESDAYS

10 AM HOLY EUCHARIST & HEALING

WEEKDAYS

9 AM MORNING PRAYER
MONDAY—FRIDAY
(ON FACEBOOK AND ZOOM)

OFFICE HOURS

TUESDAY—FRIDAY 10 TO 2

THRIFT SHOP HOURS

TUESDAY—FRIDAY 11 TO 4
(DONATIONS ACCEPTED WHEN THE SHOP IS
OPEN 561-406-2923)

FOOD PANTRY HOURS

TUESDAYS 11 TO 2

GOOD SHEPHERD VESTRY

Heather Graham, *Senior Warden*
Mike Howard, *Junior Warden*
Mike Greene, *Treasurer*
Mark Chittum, *Clerk*
Tracy Smith, Matt Ulman, Brad Davis,
Beth Bohnsack, Beverley Cunningham,
Akin Owosina, Ian Anderson,
Carol Block, George Hines
Youth Liaison: Zachary Gouery

The 2022 Good Shepherd Episcopal Church Annual Parish Meeting Will Be Held In The Church On **Sunday, January 22, 2023** at 10:30 a.m.

THE BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THIS MEETING WILL BE:

- The election of Vestry members
- Consideration of the 2023 parish budget
- Presentation on the State of the Parish
- Any other business that may rightfully come before this parish

ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 9:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist (Rite 1.5)

10:30 a.m.

2022 Annual Meeting (in Church)

11:45 a.m.

Courtyard Reception

What is the Annual Meeting?

Part of the Episcopal tradition is to hold an annual parish meeting to share with parishioners a recap of the prior year and a look at the year ahead. Good Shepherd encourages everyone to attend the meeting on Sunday, January 22, 2023. We will have one service on that Sunday — at 9:00 AM with the meeting immediately following. Once the meeting has concluded everyone is invited to a courtyard reception. Nursery will be available during the service and the meeting.