



GOOD SHEPHERD

EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL

TEQUESTA, FLORIDA

Vestry Highlights

November 2024

The Vestry met on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, for their regular monthly meeting.

The last month at Good Shepherd has been quite busy. **Oktoberfest** was a huge success with a German-themed dinner and festive crowd in attendance. The parish fundraiser exceeded the goal bringing in over \$7,456! Bishop Eaton joined for the dinner and then made his annual visitation the next day, confirming and receiving five parishioners.

All Saints' Sunday followed with a heartfelt tribute of all those who have died in the past year. Families and friends of loved ones joined for a moving worship that included a rousing rendition of "When the saints go marching in!"

The Pennies for Heaven **Thrift Shop Holiday Bazaar and Open-air Market** was a festive community event that brought hundreds of people to campus. Over \$15,000 was raised! Many thanks to everyone who worked tirelessly to make the event so successful, with special thanks to Beth Long, our manager, and Jennifer Johnson, the assistant manager.

Father Groff also shared that he is working on creating a **volunteer organizational chart** that will help clarify available ways in which parishioners can become more involved. More information on this will become available in 2025.

Senior Warden Ian Anderson is convening the **Nominating Committee** for next year's vestry class. The committee is made up of outgoing vestry members. The committee will present a slate of candidates to be elected by the parish at the Annual Meeting in January.

Junior Warden Kevin Riddle's report included that a new **ice machine** for the Parish Hall had been installed after the previous one broke. He also shared that **irrigation systems** at the church and Rectory had been repaired, and gave an update on A/C maintenance. Gratitude was expressed to Kevin for his diligence and hard work.

Youth representative Emily Smith reported that **Youth Group** continues to go well. There are some newer students in middle school who have joined in recent months. They also ran the **grill station** at the Holiday Bazaar and raised over \$600 in funds for future youth group trips. Emily spoke about the importance of inviting and welcoming teens to youth group.

The School hosted **Fall Fest** toward the end of October. School liaison Julie Hirsch reported that the event was enjoyed by everyone and that everything went smoothly. She also reported that the school continues to thrive!

The October 2024 financial statements were reviewed, revealing a current operating deficit of just over \$100,000. Despite year-to-date expenses being under budget by nearly \$39,000, income has

not kept pace with budgeted expenses. Careful financial stewardship is a top priority for the Vestry and the budgeting process for 2025 has begun in earnest. Year-end giving will be an important component of ending the year without a deficit. Updates will be available throughout December in the Sunday Announcements page.

The **2025 Stewardship Campaign “Awaken Imagination”** is underway! Father Groff and the vestry wish to thank the nearly 100 individuals and families who have made a pledge so far. Pledges received are on average 19% over current pledges! Such strong trends are one reminder of the health and strength of our parish community. To make a pledge, please click [here](#). Thank you for your faith and generosity.

A consolidated financial report for October is included with these highlights. Any questions about the budget or finances can be directed to Treasurer Mike Greene. For an update on your pledge or giving, please contact Lynn Evans.

A special Vestry meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 3, 2024 to meet with the auditor and review the 2023 audit. The next regular Vestry meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 17, 2024.