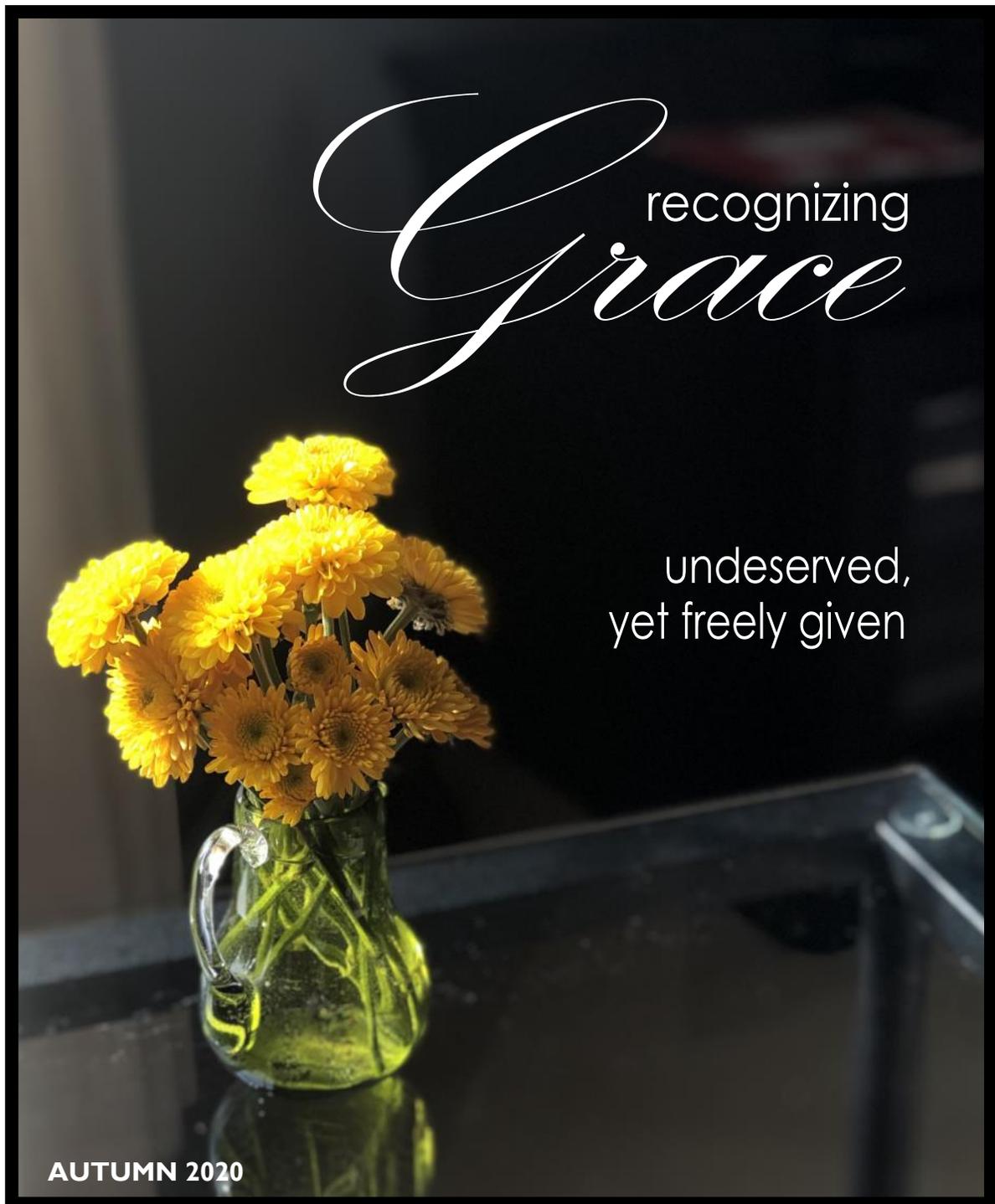


Tidings

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

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GOOD SHEPHERD VESTRY 2020

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Gwen Gouery, *Clerk*
Bill Unger, Irina Cole, Denise Preston,
Rob Taylor, Kathy Hawken, Steve Pollard,
Mark Chittum, Heather Graham, Matt Ulman



Perspective. Six months into the Covid-19 pandemic, when few things seem right with the world, it's easy for us to experience negative emotions in our everyday lives. The good news is that the inverse is also true. We can, and should, be always on the lookout for the gifts so freely given to us by God. Kindness, abundance, resilience, and even humor. *Grace.*

WELCOME! As of this printing we are still not meeting on church property, but we have a variety of digital content and ministry opportunities to help you engage in parish life. Get to know us online and, eventually, join us in person!

BAPTISMS are generally administered on Easter Eve, Pentecost, All Saints' Sunday and the first Sunday after Epiphany. Pre-baptism classes are scheduled and held seasonally. 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.

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. During social distancing, special accommodations may be made.

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

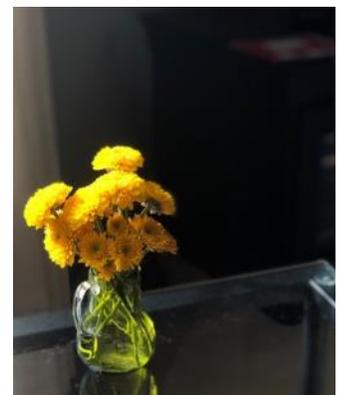
NEW TO GOOD SHEPHERD? Please let us know you're here! Contact Jo Wood, our Director of Hospitality at jwood@goodsheponline.org or call the office at 561-746-4674. You can request information or let us know if you would like to be added to our mailing list.

COVER IMAGE

The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:5

A typical household scene — something we are all too familiar with during this extended period of social distancing — bright yellow flowers catch the sunlight. This contrast of light and dark illustrates the surprising, attention-grabbing visual gift of a burst of color.

Photo credit: 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. If you do not wish to receive a copy in the mail, please notify the office at mail@goodsheponline.org or 561-746-4674. Please see submission guidelines at www.goodsheponline.org. *Tidings* is produced in-house and edited by Merike Seely. Photo credit Merike Seely unless otherwise indicated.

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Tequesta is a 501(c)(3) organization.

A Word from the Rector

Let's be honest. The year 2020 has been challenging to say the least. For nearly six months, our lives have been turned upside-down by a global pandemic. During that same time, we have witnessed a surge in racial tension and political unrest, and many are experiencing first-hand the economic impact of these unprecedented times. On a deeply personal level, many people are feeling the emotional, psychological, and spiritual effects of "social distancing." We were designed by God to be in relationship with one another, and when those connections are abruptly suspended, we naturally experience loss and grief. This has indeed been a challenging year, and we still have one-third of the way to go!



However, in the midst these difficult times, I have received numerous messages from people who have experienced moments of blessings, moments of spiritual growth and transformation despite the challenges and obstacles this year has placed in our path. As Christians, we have a word to describe these moments of unexpected blessing – *grace*! We believe that God's mercy and steadfast love are present and active in our lives no matter what. We believe that by *grace* we have been saved and made children of God, and *grace* continues to break into our lives in unexpected and surprising ways!

Throughout this edition of *Tidings*, we will be exploring the theme of *grace* – What is it? How do we recognize it? What difference does it make in our lives? In the midst of all the change and uncertainty of this year, one thing remains constant – the promise that God is with us no matter what, the promise that we are loved deeply and unconditionally, the promise of *grace*. So, join me this Fall as we explore the riches of God's outrageous and extravagant *grace*!

We may not know exactly what the future will bring, but we know that God's presence goes before us. We know that despite the challenges of this world, "the God of all grace will restore, support, strengthen, and establish us in Christ" (1 Peter 5:2). I pray that God will continue to bless you abundantly!

In Christ,

Doug +

Rector's Bible Study

Fall 2020

Recognizing Grace

This fall, we are focusing on the theme *Recognizing Grace*. The Bible is full of stories about how God's people come to experience and recognize *grace* in their lives. Over the course of 12 weeks, we will be studying three very different books of the Bible. These are relatively short books, but they each reveal a different dimension of *grace*. Together, these three books can help us better understand the role of *grace* in our lives and how to recognize *grace* even in the midst of challenging times.

Running from Grace

A Four Week Journey with Jonah

Jonah is commissioned by God to bring a prophetic "Word of the Lord" to the people of Nineveh, but Jonah runs away and attempts to flee from God's call. Jonah is angry that God is compassionate. He doesn't want God to give the people of Nineveh a chance to repent. However, Jonah ultimately completes his mission, and witnesses firsthand the breadth of God's mercy and grace.

Jonah 1 **August 26**; Jonah 2 **September 2**;
Jonah 3 **September 9**; Jonah 4 **September 16**

The Joy of Grace

A Four Week Study of Paul's Letter to the Philippians

This important letter was written by the Apostle Paul while he was in prison. Yet despite his dire circumstances, Paul speaks powerfully of the humility and sacrifice of Jesus, by which we have received grace. In midst of challenging times, Paul expresses authentic joy and encourages his congregation to "rejoice always" in the Lord.

Philippians 1 **September 23**; Philippians 2 **September 30**;
Philippians 3 **October 7**; Philippians 4 **October 14**

Surprised by Grace

A Four Week Study of the Story of Ruth

One of the major themes in the Book of Ruth is God's faithfulness and lovingkindness as expressed through human relationships. This is a story of one family and the struggle to support one another through the challenges of life. At the end of this story of surprising grace, we are given the genealogy of King David – the lineage from which the promised Messiah would arise. The study of the Book of Ruth is a perfect segue to the season of Advent.

Ruth 1 **October 21**; Ruth 2 **October 28**;
Ruth 3 **November 4**; Ruth 4 **November 11**

* We will take the last two weeks of November "off" and resume with an Advent study beginning December 2. Link to join is on the Prayer & Study page of GoodShepVirtual.org



What is Grace?

The Rev. Dr. Douglas F. Scharf

The word *grace* is tossed about a lot in the life of the church. We *read* about it. We *sing* about it. We *pray* for it. And yet, few people can actually *define* it. Part of the problem is that we use the same word in a wide variety of contexts. At holiday meals, a family member is usually assigned the task of saying the *grace*. A person who exhibits simple elegance and refinement is described as possessing *grace*. If the payment of a debt is delayed, we refer to such an extension as a *grace* period. And in royal circles, a Duke or Archbishop is frequently addressed as "Your *Grace*." With so many different usages of the same word, how do we know what we mean as Christians when we refer to God's *grace*?

In the Catechism of the Book of Common Prayer, *grace* is defined as "God's favor toward us, unearned and undeserved; by grace God forgives our sins, enlightens our minds, stirs our hearts, and strengthens our wills" (BCP 858). The key words in this definition are *unearned* and *undeserved*. As Episcopal priest and scholar, Justin Holcomb observes, "Grace is the opposite of karma, which is all about getting what we deserve." We have done nothing to deserve God's love and mercy. We have not earned our salvation. In fact, when you read the Bible, God's people from the very beginning have consistently rebelled and rejected God's love. Yet despite our sin and brokenness, God's reaches out to us in mercy. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). That's *grace*! In our lives, *grace* is the deep assurance that we have been made worthy through Christ, and nothing can ever separate us from the unconditional love and mercy of God.

Recognizing Grace

opening our eyes to God's wonder

The Rev. Dr. Douglas F. Scharf

Throughout his earthly ministry, Jesus frequently makes the invisible visible. What I mean is that Jesus often takes notice of what others fail to notice.

Doug Scharf

A divorced woman sitting by a well. A blind man begging for his next meal. A widow placing two small coins in the Temple treasury. These daily occurrences went unnoticed by the average passerby, and they were utterly invisible to the political and religious establishment. Yet Jesus takes notice. He sees these otherwise unseen individuals as recipients of God's mercy and examples of God's grace. Jesus makes the invisible visible.

I wonder how much of the spiritual reality that surrounds us remains invisible to us simply because our spiritual eyes are not open. I wonder how often we go through our daily lives completely oblivious to the signs of God's grace all around us.

In other words, how often do we fail to *recognize grace* right in front of us? One of my favorite lines from the Book of Common Prayer comes from Eucharistic Prayer C, in which we ask God to "open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us" (BCP 372). This is a prayer that I have included as part of my daily routine. I pray that God would *open my eyes* and make me spiritually awake and aware of God's presence in my life and in the world. So, in this brief essay, I would like to share some of the ways I believe we can *recognize grace* in our daily lives.

Creation

Have you ever thought about the fact that the act of creation

was an act of *grace*? We did nothing to deserve or earn life. We did not assist God with the creation of the world. It is pure gift! The act of creation itself is an expression of God's extravagant love. So, whether we are catching a glimpse of the rising sun or standing in awe of snowcapped mountains, we are witnessing *grace*; we are experiencing the undeserved and unearned favor and blessing of God. Every step we make and every breath we take are reminders that our very existence is proof of God's *grace*.

Church

The church may seem totally obvious as a place to encounter *grace*, but I believe there are times when we are spiritually unreceptive even in church. It is easy for us to grow so accustomed to the well-worn patterns of ministry and congregational life that we lose sight of the deeper spiritual rhythms that undergird all we do. Sharing bread and wine, proclaiming our faith, baptizing in Jesus' Name, reaching out with God's love to those in need. These are sacramental actions that are ultimately expressions of *grace*, visible signs of God's boundless mercy. The church is not simply another civic society or social organization; it is an icon of *grace*, a visible reminder that God is present and active in the world in order to establish justice and renew all things.

Community

Creation as the manifestation of God's love, and the Church as the visible sign of that love, both remind us that we were made for relationship. We were formed to be part of a *community of grace*. I believe we most clearly recognize *grace* in the lives of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. We see the evidence of God's love in the transformed lives of those around us.

We experience God's mercy most fully in the messiness of real human relationships. Of course, we hurt each other. We make mistakes. We fall short. We miss the mark. But that is precisely what makes *grace* so amazing! Despite our failures, there is redemption. Despite our divisions, there is reconciliation. Despite our brokenness, there is the promise of healing. The act of forgiveness is one of the most powerful and transformational expressions of *grace*. So, where do we find *grace*? In community. In the messiness and inconsistencies of our human relationships.

Calling

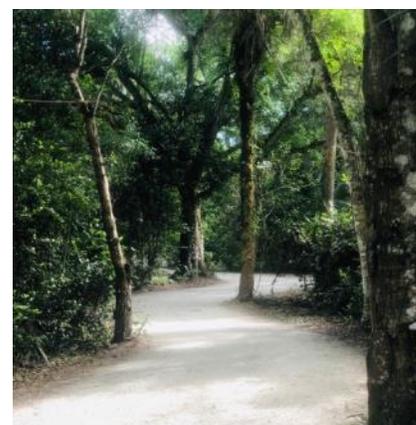
Finally, I believe we need to rediscover *grace* in relation to our own sense of calling as servants of Jesus. In other words, God has called us to be participants in a mission that is bigger and more comprehensive than anything we could ask for or imagine. We are

“The church is not simply another civic society or social organization; it is an icon of grace...”

not fully equipped for this task. We are not worthy. We are not strong enough. And yet, God calls us anyway. As the saying goes, “God doesn't call the equipped; he equips the called.” I can think of no clearer example of *grace* than the fact that God works through us – our weaknesses and inadequacies – to accomplish his mission of healing and renewal in this world.

Open Our Eyes

As we continue to push through these strange and uncertain times, may our prayer continually be, “Lord, *open our eyes* to see your hand at work in the world around us.” Look at creation. Look at the church. Look at our community. Look at your own calling. These are all expressions of God's amazing *grace* – unearned and undeserved. For these and all our blessings, we give thanks and praise to God, who is the author of *grace*, the One who makes the invisible visible!





Defining Generosity at Good Shepherd

By Patti Hamilton, Co-chair,
on behalf of the Giving Team



Last year, Father Doug asked us all a basic question - Why? Why do we do what we do? Why do we engage in the work of ministry? Why do we give of our resources to support the work of the Kingdom? Last fall, parishioners were asked to answer the question and present it on a card. We received over 200 cards.

As members of the Giving Team we were tasked with looking at the structure of stewardship and what it means in the long term at Good Shepherd. In developing the Today, Tomorrow, and Forever strategy we began by asking ourselves, “what do we believe spiritually in regard to stewardship, giving and tithing?” We asked our “Why?” And then, we found that many of our answers were the same as the answers you gave on the cards.

Generosity and Giving is our response to God’s unconditional love and in turn is an expression of our gratitude. We contemplated our relationship with God as it relates to our possessions and as we prayerfully discerned how God was calling us, we developed a Generosity Statement. We believe this statement frames an ideal for generosity as an expression of gratitude.

We invite you to join us in this contemplation.

We invite you to read and then pray on the words of this statement, as we move to a place where our generosity spans every moment, a place where we are not dependent on a 90-day window of time to ensure we have the funds to support the ministries that serve not only our church family, but the community at large. We invite you to a place where generosity comes not just from tradition or a feeling of

obligation, but from a place of true *gratitude*.

One of the most foundational answers to the Why question is *grace*. Grace is God’s favor and blessing, which we do not deserve and have not earned.

Grace is the reality that all we have is a gift from God. As we look to the fall season, we are hoping to focus our attention on the ways we *recognize grace* in our lives every day and determine how the gifts we are given are best used to serve.

We live in an ever-changing world and our work is more important than ever before. Examining what is meaningful in our lives leads to the true meaning of gratitude. This Generosity Statement serves as a reminder or perhaps a “pledge” from each of us to be reminded that, “All We Are, All We Have – Come From God”

By offering a variety of ways for our congregation to live into the spiritual discipline of generosity, we will be able to ensure a viable, enduring Christian presence Today, Tomorrow, and Forever.



The 2020 Giving Team: (l-r) Patti Hamilton, Co-chair; Rob Taylor, Co-chair; Teresa Grashof, Ron Doucette, Fr. Doug Scharf, Merike Seely, O'Neal Bardin

Generosity Statement

All we are and all we have comes from God.

Generosity is our response to God's unconditional love and an expression of our gratitude.

Generosity requires us to examine what is meaningful in our lives, where we place our priorities, and how we nurture those priorities.

Generosity and gratitude turn what we have into enough. We commit ourselves:

- To trust in God's abundant provision.
- To love one another and serve others in Christ, by sharing ourselves and our gifts from God.
- To prayerfully discern how God is calling us to use the financial resources entrusted to our care.
- To practice radical generosity, striving toward the biblical standard of the tithe.

We invite our congregation:

- To examine your relationship with God as it relates to your possessions.
- To join us in giving generously and meaningfully in order to sustain the mission and ministry of Good Shepherd.

We were listening

Gratitude, mission, love, service, sharing, relationship with God. These are words and phrases taken directly from your responses to the Why? Question last year and they convey our deep connection between gratitude and giving.

Good Shepherd's Giving Team was called together for the purpose of assigning direction and structure to stewardship and how we respond to your gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Much thought was given to crafting a statement that frames an ideal for generosity—an expression of gratitude—that is true to who we are spiritually, as a parish family. Ministry is possible through inspired giving and recognition of gratitude. God works through us in the world.

"True generosity requires us to examine what is meaningful in our life — where we place our priorities and how we nurture those priorities. As reflected in Corinthians 9:7 and 9:11, *'In cultivating a generous heart, you will be enriched in every way for your generosity.'*"

- Ron Doucette, Giving Team

TODAY

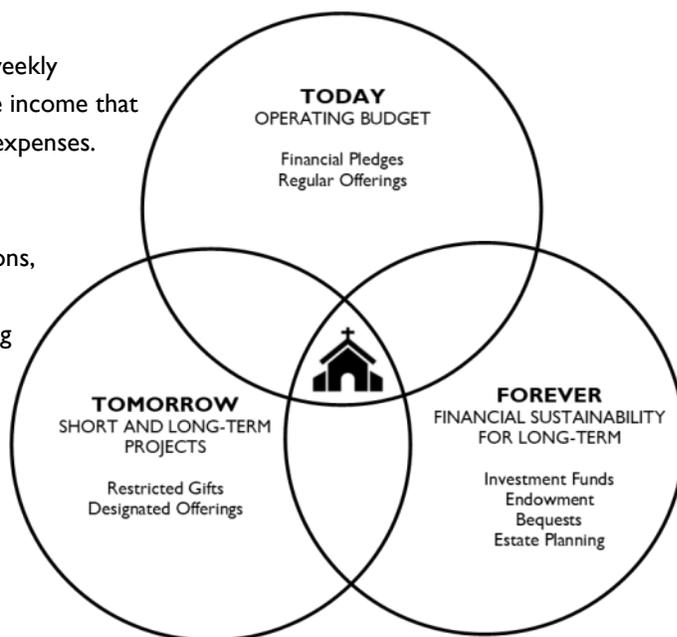
The financial pledges and weekly offerings which provide the income that funds ongoing, day-to-day expenses.

TOMORROW

Outside of normal operations, these gifts fund short and long-term projects including outreach initiatives and property maintenance.

FOREVER

Giving that ensures financial sustainability through endowment and investment funds.





Good Shepherd School Notes

School is in session!

With new safety protocols, dedicated teachers, and by the grace of God

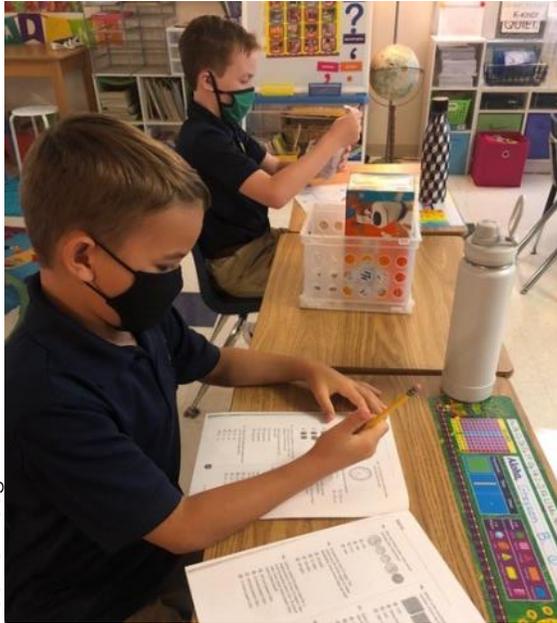
By Dr. Rosemary Marshall, Head of School

As an educator with over 35 years of experience, this school year brings with it challenges and blessings like none other. “Recognizing Grace” is my first thought when I think of 25 special educators who are fulfilling this exact message when students returned to the School on Monday, August 17th. We are blessed to have the loyalty that the staff show to our School and their love for our students.

In the midst of all the confusion and unrest in the country and world, one thing remains a constant — *We at Good Shepherd are here for our school families!* Although we have made changes in order to provide the safest and healthiest environment possible, the happiness of our students and the continuation of a child-friendly atmosphere remain important. Many new policies and procedures have been temporarily put in place for this new school year. A lot of thought and effort was placed on making changes that would keep the integrity of the unique school that our Good Shepherd Community has come to love. A Good Shepherd COVID-19 Task Force, consisting of

teachers, administrators, parents, and medical personnel, was formed to offer suggestions and ideas to the school administration. These suggestions together with numerous resources were used by the administration of Good Shepherd to develop a Re-Opening Plan. This plan was approved by the Good Shepherd Board of Trustees on Thursday, July 23rd and it will be used to guide the re-opening of the School in a safe and healthy way.

“Grace” as demonstrated through the bestowal of blessings from God, has allowed the School staff to work together with the parents to present the safest environment possible, while still providing services within the school so that parents and students can embrace a daily routine. With God, “all things are possible!”



Heather Vaughn



Heather Vaughn

ENROLLMENT IS OPEN

If you are still looking for a viable solution for fall, please consider applying to Good Shepherd Episcopal School! We still have a few openings in Early Learning through 5th Grade. All classes are currently being delivered in-person and follow a full-week schedule. Please call Heather Vaughn for information about our live streaming option, or to schedule a tour of our School. 561-746-5507



Heather Vaughn

WORSHIP

Weekday Morning Prayer: A Ministry Sprouts in a Time of Pandemic

by Ian Anderson, Coordinator, Daily Office Team

*For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ, **We thank you, Lord.***

From "A Litany of Thanksgiving," pp 836-7 in The Book of Common Prayer



During this time of extended closure of our facilities due to high infection rates of COVID-19, weekday Morning Prayer has been a vital source of worship and community for me, a daily opportunity for me to share with God and my neighbors. The 9:00 AM live stream on Facebook is joined each morning by a about twenty regulars who have made this a part of their "COVID rule of life," in addition to others who, while not attending daily, join us whenever there is an intercession that they wish to hold up to the community. In addition, each Morning Prayer service is typically viewed after the fact on Facebook by dozens of others who tune in at their convenience. Given these numbers, I think it safe to say that these offerings have become a touchstone for many in our congregation, a way of connecting with a familiar face, and reading the greetings and prayer requests of the Good Shepherd family.

That we've managed to develop a fledgling Daily Office Ministry at Good Shepherd during a time when we're physically distant is a powerful manifestation of God's grace. When Letty and I joined Good Shepherd, I'd mentioned to Father Doug that I'd helped to found a ministry of lay-led Morning Prayer at my former church in Knoxville, and suggested a similar ministry here. But there were more pressing ministry needs (apparently, the long-time Youth

Minister was soon to leave!), so God, as usual, had plans for me that were different from my own. To use an expression that I've learned from a friend at Good Shepherd, "In God's time, Ian."

Fast forward three years, and God's time arrived. On Saturday, March 14, 2020, our church facilities were ordered closed "for two weeks" due to the local spread of COVID-19. At the time, we were in the midst of the season of Lent, and thus were observing Good Shepherd's custom of weekday morning prayer in the chapel. So, with church offices closed, it made sense for Father Doug to continue the tradition of weekday morning prayer, only live-streamed via Facebook, at the beginning of the following week. When it became apparent that the two-week closure was to continue indefinitely, Father Doug enlisted me to share the officiating duties, and as spring turned to summer, the need to enlist other readers arose, and thus live-streamed Morning Prayer emerged as an accidental ministry at Good Shepherd. Many thanks to my wife Letty, Paula Fullager, and Pam DeFelice who have taken a day to officiate during the past two months, as well as Fr. Doug and David Dixon, who have read a couple times a month.

Thanks be to a gracious God, who provided an opportunity for the people of Good Shepherd to gather in worship at a time when everything we took for granted in life has been swept away; and thanks to all for sharing themselves in the image of Christ. And of course, to conclude: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.

Amen. *2 Corinthians 13:14*

Morning Prayer—Weekdays at 9:00
FaceBook: @GoodShepOnline
Or watch it later on our YouTube channel
Good Shepherd Tequesta



Outreach & Missions: See God's Grace in Every Place

By Marilyn Lawrence

Many years ago, I wrote a poem that ended with the lines: "Our God is in the beauty - He's in the fallow, too. To see God's grace in every place is to see God anew."



We are certainly seeing God's grace anew these days, and in some unexpected places indeed. God's grace abounds in our generous parish donors to the **Food Pantry**. Instead of putting a few cans in the baskets in the Narthex on Sunday mornings, people are now pulling up with bags and even carloads of supplies! Some people say that since they are not going out to lunch or dinner, they are spending the money on those who truly need the food. Others are putting their children to work: the Ullman's did a neighborhood food drive, and brought a car full of donations. We look forward to these donations, and to a few graced moments when we can visit.

The response of the wider community is also a sign of God's grace. One day a woman crossed the parking lot and said, "I live in the neighborhood and I see what you are doing, and I want to help": and she handed us a check for \$100! Another day we had a call from Addington Place, a senior living community in Abacoa: they had conducted a food drive, and we were the designated recipients. Of course, we were delighted with the news. But we

didn't expect to see them pull up in a BUS! Nor did we know that they had also reached out to the grocery chain, Sprouts, which donated cases of bottled water and soda and snacks. And then there's the awesome couple in Jupiter Farms. When the pandemic began, they realized that people would be hungry, and they wanted to help. So they began growing fruits and vegetables hydroponically, and are now providing both our Good Shepherd Food Pantry and the mission at St. George's with beautiful fresh produce!

God's grace also abounds in the people who turn to us for help. If courage is defined as "grace under pressure," many of these people are very brave indeed. This is their own time of greatest need – yet they are also thinking of, and sharing with, others. Some of them are also picking up food for neighbors. Others bring their bag of groceries home and pool what they have with neighbors or friends. One gentleman, who is currently unemployed, visits several food pantries a week. He collects whatever he can, assembles bags of food, and takes them to shut-ins who cannot

For information about the Outreach & Missions Committee at Good Shepherd, please contact Marilyn Lawrence at marilaw@msn.com

get out to get food for themselves! And one young woman quietly handed us a note: “when I receive a gift, I receive a warm hug, and I know that I am not forgotten.”

We are experiencing grace in many other ways as well. When the pandemic first hit, **CROS Ministries** shut down all its gleaning programs. But the food had to be gathered, and people were hungry! So they reached out to persons ages 18-65, and began limited operations. The result? I’ll let Keith Cutshall, the gleaning coordinator for CROS, speak to that: “Not only have you enabled us to recover more food than ever before, but you helped us do it in the midst of a pandemic and an exponential rise in the need in our county!” Our deepest thanks to our own gleaning coordinator, Beverly Cunningham, and to Denise Preston, who frequently filled in as a CROS supervisor when the organization did not have enough employees available.

Then there is **St. George’s**, where the number of people turning to them for help has almost doubled since the pandemic began. Denise Preston continues to assemble 150 Manna Bags each month, that St. George’s gives out to the homeless. We also share any excess from the Food Pantry with the St. George’s mission. And since we cannot send volunteers to cook an evening meal, we provide financial support to the staff, which serves the meal instead. And we give thanks to Beth Long and the **Pennies Shop**, which each month provides clothing for the Dare to Care shower program, which continues to operate at St. George’s. But St. George’s doesn’t reach all of the homeless. One of our parishioners, Rob Steiner,

has long had a personal **back pack ministry** in which he gives back packs filled with food and toiletries, plus a book of devotions, to homeless persons whom he encounters in his daily travels. He asked the Outreach Committee to help him further this mission, and through the grace of God our support will enable him to access additional funds through a grant for these needed supplies.

And who ever thought we’d be giving thanks for The Grace of Amazon! But that’s how we conducted our annual **“Back to School” collection** this year for the Warfield School in Indiantown. There was no way we were going to ask anyone to go shopping in a real store for school supplies. Instead we posted the list of needed items on the church website, and supplies could be ordered through Amazon and shipped directly to the school. The response was generous, as always, and the supplies were there when the school opened its doors on August 11th.

We have also recognized grace in our **overseas mission programs!** The truck which was purchased with our Lenten collection has been put to good use, and Fr. Ward has happily shared photos with us, showing it loaded with building supplies. Some of those supplies also came from Good Shepherd! Since we have not yet been able to send our mission team over to help with the rebuilding, thanks to Mike Grashof, we have found an alternative: a company in Miami that makes weekly deliveries straight to Green Turtle Cay. Utilizing their services, Mike has been able to assemble and ship supplies – including front doors! – for the rebuilding of one of the churches.

And finally, we recognize grace in our mission to **Bondeau, Haiti**. The South Florida Haiti Project was not able to have its annual fund-raising dinner and auction this year – but through the grace of modern technology, they were able to do an auction online! And through the further grace of technology, on August 7th they were able to present a virtual tour — ‘Journey With Bondeau,’ — reaching many more people than would have been reached through an ACTUAL event. So far, the online event has **raised \$20,000** to support the mission in Bondeau, but as of this writing, donations are still coming in. And for anyone who missed the initial presentation, ‘Journey With Bondeau’ can still be viewed on the South Florida Haiti Project website.

While we cannot be together, truly we are seeing God’s grace anew, and in unexpected places, and it is proving the truth of the old adage, that when God closes one door, He opens another. May we always have the grace to see those doors, even where walls once stood.



It’s Virtual This Year!

Palm Beach Roadrunners has organized a virtual event this year with a limited option of in-person race only if allowed. Run wherever you are and support our Food Pantry! Keep the tradition alive! Search [Run4thePies](https://www.run4thepies.com) online and sign up!

Fall Programs and Events are Here!

By David Dixon, Youth and Family Minister

I hope that everyone is having a great end to their summer. For some of you, a new school year has already begun. For others, school will begin in the next week. Parents around the nation are concerned with their children returning to school during the COVID-19 pandemic. As you prepare for this new school year, I would like you to know that you and your families are in our prayers. We stand with you and offer you our continued support as the school year begins. Whether your child attends school virtually or in person, please know that we are available to you for any support you or your family may need.

As we begin our fall program year at Good Shepherd, I want to remind you of several activities that are upcoming.

This coming **Sunday, August 30, 2020** is a **special virtual service where we offer a “Back to School” blessing and at 1:00 PM** we will provide a drive through “Backpack Blessing” on the campus of Good Shepherd. The backpack blessing will take place in the circle in front of the Good Shepherd School. As you drive up to the school, please remain in the car as Fr. Doug offers

the blessing. The Youth and Family Ministry Team has put together a back to school goodie bag for each student that I will hand out at the conclusion of the blessing. This is our way of letting you know that we are so very proud of our youth and children and that you have our support.

In addition, we have planned some special activities for our fall youth and family programs at church. Our design team has planned an **“Amazing Fall Kick-off Scavenger Bingo Hunt,”** where youth and children can compete for a gift card to an ice cream shop. We will make available a Bingo Card that will have directions on how to participate in the hunt.

Also, our **Wednesday Night Youth Group will resume meeting together on Zoom September 9, at 7:30-8:30 PM.** We have some special activities planned and we encourage all the youth to sign on for a great time of reconnecting and fellowship. A Zoom invite will be sent out to all youth.

Also, on **Wednesday, September 9, at 5:00-6:00 PM, Confirmation Class for all 9th and 10th grade youth** who have not been confirmed and wish to explore the pathway to confirmation will begin. This will be conducted virtually via Zoom. The confirmation class will be held over the course of a year and conclude with participants being confirmed in October 2021. We will provide a mixture of activities designed to engage each student. If you would like to sign up or need more



Sunday School lessons are acted out in video recordings by families who take turns creating an immersive experience each week. You can see their presentations on the on our YouTube Channel Good Shepherd Youth and Family Ministries

information, please contact me or Ian Anderson.

GS Kids Sunday School will continue to be provided virtually on our Youth and Family Ministries YouTube Channel. If you have not subscribed to the channel, please do so at <https://www.youtube.com>. Do a search for Good Shepherd Youth and Family Ministries to subscribe. Every week a teacher will provide a brief lesson along with some activities for the entire family.

On **Sunday, September 13**, we will begin our **Sunday Morning formation program for Youth** via Zoom. We will make the Zoom invite available on a weekly basis. This will be a time of connection and growth as we learn about important biblical principles that are designed to help with everyday life.

Well, as you can see, we have a lot planned for our youth and families here at Good Shepherd. I encourage you to participate in as much as you can. I look forward to reconnecting with everyone this fall. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at Ddixon@goodsheponline.org or by calling or texting me at 864-541-1861. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Peace, DD



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

Youth and Family Ministries
GoodShepVirtual.org
Click on Youth & Families

Video lessons: YouTube.com
Search Good Shepherd Youth and Family Ministries to view our channel

Please share ministry offerings with friends. We have a place for you at Good Shepherd!

Grace Challenge

By David Dixon, Youth and Family Minister

Throughout my journey toward an ever-increasing faith in God and the work of God, I have often been challenged by my commitment to grace. Situations arise in life and I hear the challenge, “How committed to grace are you, David?”

At times, those “grace” challenges seem greatest in terms of relationships, particularly with family. This is especially the case since most of us have been quarantined with our children, spouses and parents for the past six months. How committed to grace are we when tough situations involve family members, children, husbands and wives, moms and dads? Before I overreact to my loved ones because they make bad choices, behave unwisely, or just do something that gets on my last nerve, I need to remember my commitment to grace and rise to the challenge of being gracious. It’s often about perspective.

I remember the first time I ever went to a big city, driving with my family as a child. We approached Atlanta and on the horizon you could see the skyline—so cool to see all the buildings. What was amazing is that at a distance you really couldn't appreciate their size, greatness, or their glory. But, the closer we came into the city, the larger the skyline became and finally once we arrived, the buildings were so huge and great that there was no way of looking around them or missing their glory. The skyline was engulfed by the awesome size of those buildings.

For me, that’s how it is with the majesty of the cross of Christ. At a distance we try to draw the boundaries, but the closer we get to it, we discover that we can’t size up the work of the cross or make it fit our expectation of its awesome glory. The closer we get to the cross the more we realize our foolishness in thinking we can somehow explain it. The journey is everlasting, and there is grace in that.

I continue to be both captivated and challenged by this great commitment to grace we have all been called to live. May we all rise with grace to meet this challenge of being committed to grace daily in our own journey.

SERVE

Pennies For Heaven News:

Adapting to online sales makes a lot of “cents”

By Beth Long, Pennies For Heaven Shop Manager

The fact that Pennies thrift store is on the church’s campus is a great thing during “normal” times, convenient for the parishioners, close for the school parents and local for the community. However, during a pandemic, not so much. Since we follow the Episcopal guidelines put forth by the Bishop, Pennies has remained closed for the past 6 months. We continue to take donations, Tues. and Thurs. from 11-4 p.m. We keep what we can and then outreach to many different places like Faith Farm, Hannah’s Home, St. George’s, and Big Dog Ranch to name a few. When we do get to open, we will have a store bursting at the seams with wonderful and special items!

So in the meantime, it has been challenging trying to keep a little income flow to support our mission. We recently revisited setting up an ebay account and realized it was the perfect time. Catherine Oenbrink came on board and helped create a Pennies “virtual” store on ebay, we made a spot in the store to take pictures of our treasures and posted them, and we were off and running! As we sold items, we realized where God’s grace came into the picture... sure the sales are great, but what stood out to us is the feedback from the customers that meant the world to us. One woman

bought a unique piggy bank from us (she collects them) and was so excited to add it to her collection, she complimented us on our packing abilities because when it reached her doorstep, the box looked like it had been bounced around quite a bit. Another gal collected Mary Hadley pottery and couldn’t believe all the pieces we had and ended up buying all of them! She shared her joy by sending us a picture of her grandson eating his breakfast on a M. Hadley plate. Grace is all around us as we build new and different relationships during this time. It’s not the usual way we do business, but through God’s grace, a new opportunity revealed itself!

To visit our new online store, visit ebay and search PenniesForHeaven400 to see over 50 items available anywhere in the world.

Photos at right: The shop, in case you’ve forgotten what it looks like. A happy (hungry) distance customer. Pottery piggy bank with actual site feedback!

HOURS

The shop is closed right now but we are accepting donations by appointment. Contact Beth at blong@goodsheponline.org



Perfect packing! It survived Fed-Ex DROP KICKING this package. Thank you! A+A+A++ VINTAGE RARE - HAND SIGNED - CARLOS ROBLEDO HANDMADE PIG - PIGGY BANK POTTERY

NEW! Rector’s Round Table Wednesdays 7:00 PM

This fall, in place of the usual Rector’s Forum held on Sunday mornings, we will gather for conversation on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM. There is a lot going on in our world this year. We are facing one of the worst public health crises in more than a century. We are witnessing the ongoing effects of racial injustice in our country. And we are about to experience one of the most consequential presidential elections of our time. As Christians we need to meaningfully reflect on the role of our faith in the midst of the changes and uncertainty of the times in which we are living. These are topics that demand more of our attention than one 45-minute adult forum. So, we will spend **three sessions on each topic beginning on September 9**. I hope you will join me for these important conversations about our faith and the world.

God and the Pandemic
A Conversation About Faith
Beginning September 9th
White Fragility
A Conversation About Race
Beginning September 30th
Faith and Politics
A Conversation About Civility
Beginning October 21st

SERVE

Drainage Project Update

In May, our Senior Warden, Kevin Johnson, presented a letter to the parish regarding the Vestry's intent to move forward with a property improvement project for the storm water retention area at the northeast corner of our property, adjacent to the school building. We are pleased to report that the job has been completed with the expert guidance of Steve Oenbrink. Steve was integral in the coordination of every stage, from permitting and surveying, to scheduling workers and arranging inspections.

The Vestry believes that fulfilling this first step of our strategic plan is a sign of hope as we look toward the future and the fulfillment of God's vision for us at Good Shepherd. It's also a great place to play, and our Good Shepherd School students have given the site a thorough test. Our whole-hearted thanks to the many volunteers who pitched in and got their hands dirty to help keep us near budget. We are especially grateful to the following individuals and community partners without whom this project would not have been possible.

Steve Oenbrink

Steve served as our volunteer project manager and oversaw the project from start to finish. Steve's professional experience and love for Good Shepherd were the perfect combination for this important project.

DS Eakins Construction

We are so grateful to the dedicated team from DS Eakins Construction, who worked diligently to overcome the impacts of heavy rain and managed to stay on schedule. The staff was highly responsive and efficient throughout the course of the project.

All Star Aggregates

This local firm donated the rock materials that our contractor used to construct the exfiltration trench. Over 14 truckloads of material were delivered to the site and used for the drainage modification project.

JW Turf Farms

A big "thank you" to Jordan Brees and his team from JW Turf for donating nearly 20,000 square feet of sod for the new field. Jordan's children attend Good Shepherd School.

StormwaterJ Engineering

The detailed engineering of the project was overseen by our own Mike Hanseter and his team from StormwaterJ Engineering. Thanks, Mike!



Doug Scharf

Before and After

Above, the site in July as drainage and fill are applied to create a field where there was a pit.

Below, the site is now kid-tested and approved.



Doug Scharf



Heather Vaughn

Music Ministry expands to music sharing application

If you have been enjoying the beautiful music from services online, you can now access it anytime in playlist format on the Worship page of our website.

Just click on the playlist and you will see many more selections on our Sound Cloud channel. Good Shepherd Tequesta. Check it out!



By the NUMBERS

Here are some of the numbers behind this year's events, services, and activities that reflect the life of this parish through August 2020.

50

Most people served at Food Pantry in one day to date

\$35,420

Money raised for Live Stream installation

125

YouTube subscribers for Good Shepherd Tequesta

7,328

Emails we sent in August

2,638

Emails you opened in August (come on, just open them)

29

Ensemble music tracks on our new Sound Cloud channel (see pg. 15)

339

Number of times the August 2 Sunday service was viewed

167

Days since we closed the campus at the beginning of the pandemic

3

Thermometers we've purchased for temperature checks when we gather again



Paula Fullager

Paula Fullager Steps Down as Parish Secretary

We are sorry to report that Paula Fullager, our Parish Secretary since 2015 has decided to leave her role at Good Shepherd to pursue a different career. Paula has been a valuable member of our staff and a great support to our parish community. Happily, she and her husband John are planning to remain part of our Good Shepherd family and active members of the congregation.



Please keep Paula and John in your prayers. We are so grateful to Paula for her dedicated service to our congregation and we are praying for God's abundant blessings upon her as she moves into the future. Thank you, Paula!

School Board members complete terms

It is with thanksgiving and appreciation that we recognize two parishioners who have recently concluded their service on our Good Shepherd School Board. **Bill Sarcia** has served since 2014 and **Catherine Oenbrink** has served since 2015. During their terms, we have seen much growth and change, most significantly with the transition to a new Head of School, Dr. Rosemary Marshall. We are very grateful for their steadfast commitment to Good Shepherd Church and School, and the success of this ministry. Thank you Bill and Catherine!

Live Stream capability is almost here!

We are in the midst of expanding our digital reach with the installation of a live stream video system thanks to contributions from parishioners. **Together we raised over \$30,000 to make this vital ministry tool a reality.** Thank you!!

Live streaming will enable us to bring church to your computer or phone in real time, as it's happening. Currently we are pre-recording services. When we are able to gather for in-person worship, our Re-entry Committee has been diligently working to make it a safe and meaningful transition. Thanks to Fr. Doug, Kevin Johnson, Dan Gilbert, Kathy Hawken, Tracy Smith, and Jo Wood for helping to reopen.

Year-to-date Financials 2020 (January—July)

	Actual	Budget	Annual Budget	Variance
Operating Revenues	535,636	560,070	960,120	(24,434)
Operating Expenses	545,792	574,358	984,614	(28,567)
Net Total	(10,156)	(14,288)	(24,494)	4,133

GriefShare during the pandemic:

GriefShare is a program of focused group discussion and personal study for those who have experienced significant loss. We have been meeting via Zoom since the closure of our campus in March. Here are upcoming programs:

Monday, September 14, 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

Loss Of A Spouse: This two-hour, single session offers guided support to grieving spouses. Please register for meeting invitation.

Monday, September 21, 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

Fall 13-week Series begins: For anyone who has gone through one of life's most difficult experiences, the loss of a loved-one. You are never alone. Visit or join at any time. We will be meeting on Zoom in the fall. Please register for meeting invitation.

Anyone who has experienced loss is encouraged to join the group or extend the invitation to someone you know. We will also provide tech support if you need it. The minimum required to join a meeting is a phone. Please contact the program registrar, Beverley, to register at 561-339-4750.

GIVING: 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.

Text to Give

Yes, you can now text [goodsheponline](https://www.goodsheponline.org) to 77977 and receive a link to give any amount to Good Shepherd. You will have the option to designate the gift as pledge, undesignated, or type in what you would like to give toward. Setting up your first gift takes about a minute and after that, it truly only takes 10 seconds to express your generosity with a financial gift.

Checks and Credit Cards

We continue to process checks even though there is no plate offering at this time. 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.

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.** We want to properly recognize and allocate your gift. Contact us at mseely@goodsheponline.org.





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Tequesta, FL 33469

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POSTS TO FACE BOOK

AT 10:00 AM ON SUNDAYS

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WEEKDAYS AT 9:00 AM

ON FACE BOOK

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY – FRIDAY

Location Temporarily Closed
Staff available during business
hours at

mail@goodsheponline.org or
leave a message at 561-746-4674

THRIFT SHOP HOURS

MONDAY – FRIDAY

Temporarily Closed

Donations by appointment only

blong@goodsheponline.org



As we approach the beginning of our program year, we are ready to make the necessary changes to accommodate the latest safety guidelines set forth by our Diocese and the most current government and health policies.

Communication

You can find digital content, meeting links, ministry resources, and messaging options on our website. We also send an announcement page every Friday. If you aren't receiving it, first, check your spam folder, and then, contact us to be added to the list. This mailing list is our primary information vehicle. Don't miss it!

Fellowship & Ministry

We are still meeting virtually! Through Bible Study, informal meet-ups, structured discussions, game nights, and all sorts of meetings, we are very active

in supporting mission and ministry. At the minimum, all you need to join us is a phone. We also have an active team of callers who reach out to parishioners for whom technology is a challenge. If you would like to receive a call, just to catch up, let us know. We want to hear from you!

Re-opening

The church has never really been closed, but we have been unable to gather for worship in accordance with Diocesan guidelines. Once the conditions allow us to gather, we will begin to use a reservation system for attending in-person worship. With our new livestreaming capability, we will also continue our services online, except they will be in real time. We are currently making plans for additional worship opportunities as well, so stay tuned! Hopefully, it won't be long.

www.GoodShepVirtual.org