

Tidings

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church and School, Tequesta, FL



PURPOSE

We belong to God.

AUTUMN 2021

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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www.goodshepschool.com
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PENNIES FOR HEAVEN THRIFT SHOP

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MARCIA AYDLETTE

Nursery Director



We wanted to welcome Fr. Derek with a small gift from the office but flowers just didn't seem right and, well, he already has a bowl of fruit. So, since he bikes to work every day it seemed appropriate to give him the gift of air pressure! Armed with his new air pump and an affinity for prayer, he can confidently pedal to the office over all manner of pointy objects!

Fr. Derek describes a different kind of journey in his essay on finding purpose in priesthood. You can read it on page 6.

WELCOME! As of this printing we are still in Phase 2 of our reopening plan which includes in-person worship, however, registration is no longer required. Ministry groups are gradually coming back on campus with changing levels of safety protocols. We continue to offer 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! Visit GoodShepOnline.org for regathering updates.

BAPTISMS are generally administered on Easter Eve, Pentecost, All Saints' Sunday and the first Sunday after Epiphany. Special accommodations are in place for baptisms during the pandemic. 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. 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

"...you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. Amen."
Baptism Liturgy, BCP p. 308

Even though she doesn't really know what is happening at the very moment she enters Christian life, there is unmistakable joy on her face. In June, Hartleigh Dixon, David Dixon's granddaughter, was baptized by Fr. Doug with her extended family present. Promises made and covenants renewed, a life in Christ begins.

Photo: Merike Seely



Tidings

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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. Please see submission guidelines at www.goodsheponline.org. *Tidings* is produced and edited in-house by Merike Seely. Photo credit Merike Seely unless otherwise indicated.

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

Autumn means back-to-school
at Good Shepherd.



A Word from the Rector

In the spring of 2020, none of us could have predicted that nearly eighteen months later, we would still be battling the relentless onslaught of the COVID-19 virus. The promising signs of early summer, which appeared to suggest the pandemic might finally be waning, have all but vanished. Moreover, political and social unrest



continue to undermine our attempts to take the necessary steps to safeguard our communities and mitigate the spread of this dangerous illness. And yet, in the face of all these challenges, the *church* has never stopped being the *church*. Even when our buildings were closed, the church was never closed. We continued to worship and pray together as the people of God. We continued to study God's Word and share fellowship with one another. We continued to reach out to the hungry, the sick, the lonely, and the hurting. In other words, the mission of the church has and will continue *no matter what!*

As we begin this new program year, the leadership of Good Shepherd is committed to the work of building up the Body of Christ and equipping all our members for the work of ministry. Even though many of our usual programs and ministries will not be able to commence immediately, we know the time will come when our campus will be vibrant and thriving once again as we fulfill the mission God has entrusted to us. Therefore, this edition of *Tidings* is all about reclaiming our *purpose* and renewing our commitment to the ministry we share together. Long ago, God's people found themselves in exile – isolated, discouraged, and afraid. And yet, in the midst of those challenges, God said to his people, "I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11).

God's promise is just as true today as it was in the days of the prophet Jeremiah. We have a *purpose*. We have been equipped with spiritual gifts. We have been marked as Christ's own forever. May we hold fast to the promise of God's presence and remain steadfast in our call to be witnesses of God's grace *no matter what!*

In Christ,

Doug +

GROW

Wednesday Bible Study

The Autumn Bible Study series will be offered on Wednesdays on Zoom to begin, and in person as gathering protocols change. Join us at 11:00 AM. Recorded sessions will be available on our website.

Count It All Joy

A Five-Week Study of the Letter of James
Begins September 8

How do we respond to pain and suffering? How do we deal with conflict? Why should we closely monitor what we say and how we speak? How should we think about and plan for the future? These are just some of the practical questions that are addressed in the New Testament Letter of James. Join Fr. Doug for this important study of one of the Bible's most celebrated and controversial books.

An Invitation to Prayer

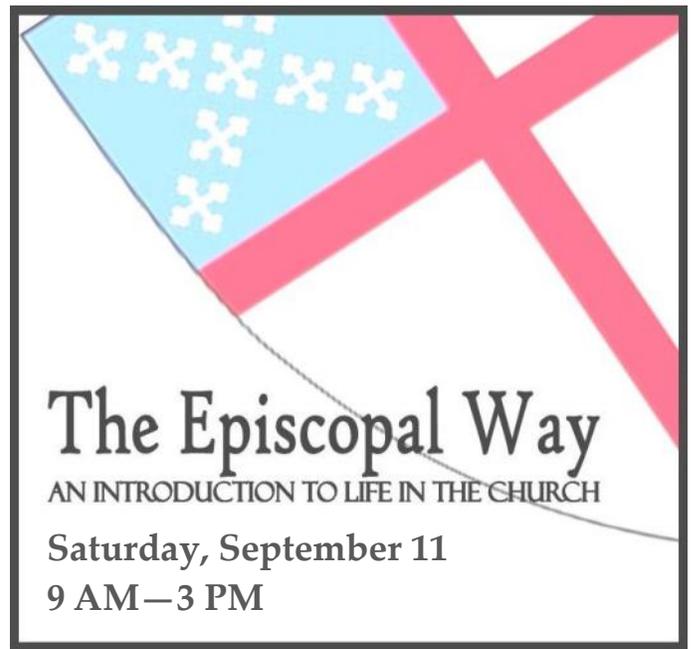
A Six-Week Introduction to the Book of Psalms
Begins October 13

Compiled in ancient Israel over the course of hundreds of years, the Psalms have been the primary hymnal of the Jewish and Christian peoples for millennia. From lamentation to celebration, from liturgy to patriotism, from thanksgiving to condemnation, the Psalms cover the vast expanse of human emotion and experience. It's no wonder they have sustained the faith of so many! Join Fr. Derek in this exploration of the Psalms and how they teach us to pray in every circumstance.

Great Expectations

From the Prophets to Jesus
Begins December 1

For hundreds of years, God's people were waiting for the long-expected Messiah. During the season of Advent, we hear from just a few of prophetic witnesses who articulated the deep longing for healing, renewal, and restoration. The earliest Christians believed and proclaimed that Jesus was the fulfillment of these prophetic expectations and the One who came to inaugurate the Reign of God. Join Fr. Doug for this short three-week exploration of how the prophets point us to Jesus.



The Episcopal Way

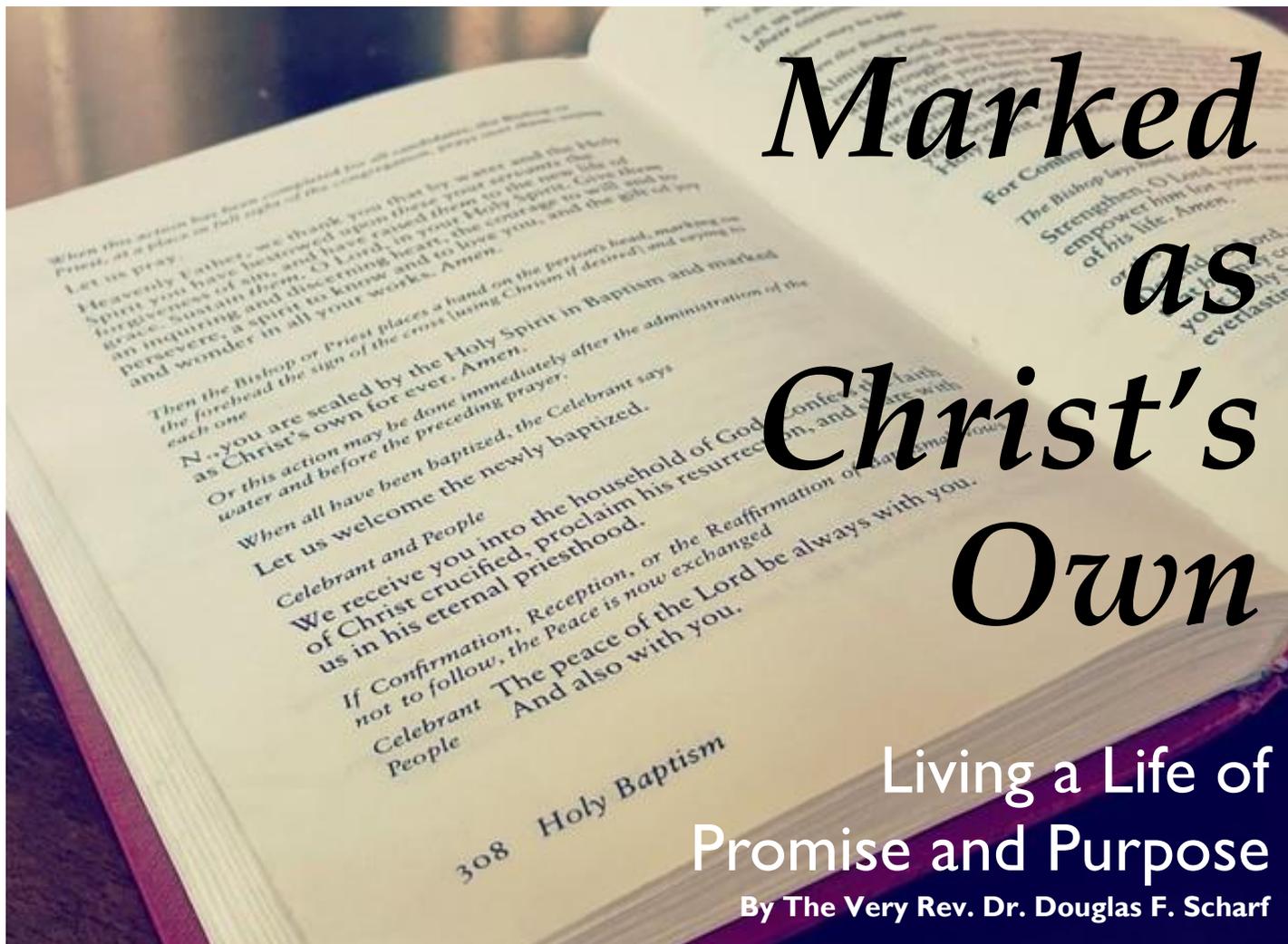
September 11
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Next month, Fr. Doug and Fr. Derek will co-teach a one-day introductory class on the history, worship, and mission of the Episcopal Church. This class is required for anyone seeking to be Confirmed or Received as a member of the Episcopal Church, but *everyone* is encouraged to attend this class. Whether you're brand new to the church or have been an Episcopalian your whole life, you're sure to learn something new and deepen your commitment to Jesus. If you're interested in attending this class, please email the church office at mail@goodsheponline.org

The Daily Office: Morning Prayer Schedule for Fall

Morning Prayer will return to its Monday—Friday, 9:00 AM schedule *after Labor Day*. As we transition back to the full schedule we will be testing various platforms that will be flexible for in-person and online delivery. Links will be posted on the Prayer and Study page of GoodShepOnline.org.

Morning Prayer—New Schedule
Monday through Friday at 9:00 after Labor Day
Zoom Live: link on Prayer and Study page
of GoodShepVirtual.org
Recording available later on the same page



Marked as Christ's Own

Living a Life of
Promise and Purpose

By The Very Rev. Dr. Douglas F. Scharf

God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life! This was the phrase we used to begin a conversation about the good news of Jesus Christ. The year was 2005 and I was still a relatively new priest. The congregation where I was serving decided to host a week-long revival, featuring a guest preacher who specialized in training people for “street evangelism.” The schedule for the revival was quite simple. Every night we gathered for worship, teaching, and prayer. And every morning we were sent out to parking lots, shopping malls, and local parks to talk to people about Jesus. (Yes, you read that correctly – *Episcopalians went out into the streets to talk to people about Jesus.*) Our strategy was fairly straightforward. We would strike up a conversation with a total

stranger, exchange a few pleasantries, and then ask the question – *Do you know that God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life?*

The experience of being trained and sent out to talk to random strangers about Jesus taught me two important lessons. First, I learned that “street evangelism” is not my primary calling! I was stretched well beyond my spiritual and emotional “comfort zones.” But despite my discomfort and anxiety, I learned that people are longing to discover their *purpose*. To my great surprise, the vast majority of the people I encountered over the course of that week-long revival were eager to learn more about God’s plan for their life. I knew nothing about their personal stories. I knew nothing about their

home life or work environments. I knew nothing about their spiritual and religious histories. And yet, I was able to connect with a total stranger and have a conversation about *purpose*. I was able to speak words of hope and grace. I was able to remind people of God’s unconditional love and unique plan for their lives.

An Episcopal Revival

Now most Episcopalians are never going to willingly march off to the local mall to spontaneously talk to a total stranger about Jesus, but through our baptism, we have been called “to proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ.” In fact, our baptismal liturgy contains all the elements of a proper revival. There is the moment of commitment when the candidate “turns

to Jesus Christ and accepts him as their Savior.” There is the shared declaration of faith when the community “turns from evil and renews their commitment to Christ.” And, of course, there is the assurance of being “cleansed from sin” and “born again.” But the most poignant moment of the entire baptismal

I felt God speaking to heart, and the words came, “You are not identified by what you do for me, but by who you are in me.”

liturgy comes at the very end when the priest places oil on the forehead of the newly baptized and declares, “You are sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism and marked as Christ’s own forever.” This declaration that we are eternally set apart and claimed as God’s beloved in Christ *defines our purpose* and firmly *establishes our lives* in God’s grace.

Living The Promise

However, in order to live into the *purpose* God has for our lives, we must first receive and fully embrace God’s promise that we are “marked as Christ’s own forever.” That is who we are. We belong to God. We are his beloved children. And nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. The fundamental importance of this promise was revealed to me several years when I was struggling to discern God’s purpose in my own life. Even though I was active in the church and exceedingly busy doing ministry, I still felt disconnected from a true sense of *purpose*. One day, while praying and writing in my journal, I felt God speaking to heart, and the words came, “You are not identified by *what you do for me*, but by *who you are in me*.” In other words, I came to understand that the promise that I am God’s beloved defines who I am. The promise that I am

“marked as Christ’s own forever” is the foundation of my identity. In a world in which productivity, efficiency, and achievement are heralded as the ultimate measure of a person’s self-worth, the promise that we are unconditionally loved and accepted as God’s beloved is very good news indeed. Our *purpose* flows from the *promise* that we belong to God.

Living With Purpose

Once we have received and fully embraced the *promise* that we are God’s beloved, then we can begin the process of discerning God’s *purpose* for our lives. On one level, we are all given the same *purpose* by virtue of our baptism. We are called to “seek and serve Christ in all persons,” to “love our neighbors as our ourselves,” to “strive for justice and peace,” and “respect the dignity of every human being.” The sign of the cross placed on our forehead is the evidence of our calling and purpose given to us at our baptism. However, beyond the general purpose given to all the baptized, we are each endowed with unique gifts and talents which are intended by God to be used to bless others and build up the Body of Christ. When people pose the question, “How do I know my *purpose*?” my first response is to ask them a question in return – “What gives you *joy*?” Because, often our *purpose* – what we are *called* to do – is intimately connected with our source of *joy* – what we *love* to do.

An Invitation

So, how do we ultimately discern God’s *purpose* in our lives? This fall, the Rector’s Forum, held on the third Sunday of each month, will explore this fundamental question. I invite you to join us as we explore our spiritual *gifts*, rediscover the importance of spiritual *practices*, and reflect together on the work of spiritual *discernment*. We all are called. We all have a purpose. We all are members of one another. So, remember, *God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life.*”



GUIDED LABYRINTH WALK

Sunday, September 26
11:30 a.m.

Good Shepherd
Outdoor Labyrinth

*You're invited to walk the labyrinth with
an open mind and heart.*

New to the labyrinth? Guides will be ready
to introduce this contemplative practice.

Did you know Good Shepherd can be found on
the Worldwide Labyrinth Locator?

Labyrinthlocator.com

GROW

Beyond What We Can Ask Or Imagine

By The Rev. Derek Larson, TSSF

“I will never be a pastor.” These were the words that played over and over again in my mind throughout my time in college. “I will never be a pastor.” You see, I knew what a pastor looked like. I was the son of a pastor. I knew how a pastor spoke, how a pastor dressed, what a pastor believed. I was not that. “I will never be a pastor.”

It’s not that I didn’t love God. In fact, I had a deep love of God. It’s why I majored in theology. I assumed I’d be a religious studies professor. So there I was in college taking every theology class I could and avoiding all of the ministry classes, because I would never be a pastor. And yet in my last semester, because of my program’s requirements, I found myself begrudgingly taking a class on preaching.

I remember the small chapel where we preached our class sermons and the curious faces on my peers when I departed from our traditional, pentecostal cadence. I remember the white board on which I drew diagrams and Greek words. I don’t remember my exact message that day, but I do remember feeling satisfied that I had confidently preached the hidden message to which I was clinging so tightly: “I will never be a pastor.”

At the end of my sermon the future pastors in the room—who preached exactly like all the pastors I knew—began to speak sharing praise and encouragement, but with a single, unified caveat: “it sounded more like teaching than preaching”. I slowly smiled and confirmed their response, “yes, that’s right. I don’t want to be a preacher. I’m going to be a teacher. I will never be a pastor.” And then the professor spoke from the back of the room.

“Don’t put yourself in a box,” the professor said. “A preacher is one whom God calls to preach. A pastor is one whom God calls to pastor. It doesn’t matter if you don’t look and sound like other pastors, if God calls you to preach you’re a preacher, and God might just be calling you. Will you listen?”

That was almost exactly 10 years ago now, and here I am newly ordained a priest and ready to serve as preacher and pastor at Good Shepherd in Tequesta, FL.

This edition of *Tidings* is all about purpose. For some people, personal purpose is something they know well from early in life and they work hard and joyfully towards fulfilling that vocation. For others of us, purpose is something that surprises us years



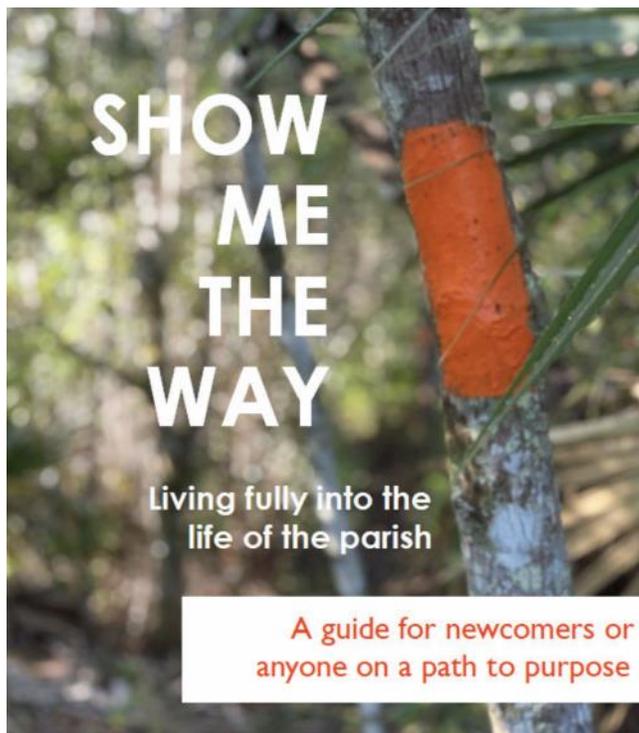
down the road and takes some creativity even to wrap our minds around. *And while intimidating at times, that’s exciting!*

Perhaps my favorite passage of Scripture that can be found in the Book of Common Prayer as one of the closing sentences of Morning Prayer is from Ephesians 3: “Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.”

Serving as a priest here at Good Shepherd is certainly way beyond the scope of what I imagined for myself all those years ago in preaching class, and yet, the joy of serving in this way is beyond measure. That’s what happens when we give ourselves over to God’s imagination. We can certainly find important and meaningful purposes in many ways throughout our life journeys, but the greatest and most fulfilling kind of purpose comes from the endless creativity of God when we step out in faith and listen to God’s whisper calling us to something new.

My prayer for the Good Shepherd community is that as we discern our personal and communal purposes we think big and imagine wide. May we not be afraid to leave our comfort zones, crossing over into new lands, to find the purpose to which God is calling us beyond anything we can ask or imagine. As my professor said to me, “God might just be calling. Will you listen?”

Rev. Derek Larson is the Assistant Rector at Good Shepherd since July 2021. Reach him at dlarson@goodsheponline.org.



Finding your way

By Merike Seely

Do you want to support ministry but you're not sure what to do? Here are some tips to get you started on your own path to purpose:

- **Let curiosity be your guide.** The ministry you know *least* about may offer surprises and engage you in new ways. Even if it doesn't turn out to be a good fit, you will still have learned something new about Good Shepherd and yourself.
- **Try something that speaks to you.** Is there a volunteer opportunity or project that keeps popping into your mind when you least expect it? Do you have a vision for something new that lives into our overall mission of being a ministry of faith, hope, and love? Let's explore that! Contact the office to connect with someone who can get you started.
- **Don't think you have nothing to offer.** God has blessed each of us with gifts. Even if you can smile at people, we have something for you. I recently heard from someone who thought they may be "smiling too much." *Just to be clear* — that's not a thing.
- **Stretch yourself.** Have you ever thought, "I'm not cut out for that." Well, maybe you should try it anyway. One thing about even the most daunting tasks: they're made better with friends. You will meet people and create shared experience. Sure, you're packing and mailing boxes for eBay, but you're part of a fun team effort!

Please take a look at some of the volunteer opportunities we have happening right now. If something is drawing you in, contact us! We are happy to connect you with a ministry leader, or work with you to discover something new.

Coffee Hour Hosts — Sunday mornings. Make coffee and keep carafes filled. Meet and greet people. This is a fun job! Very simple coffee machine. Call Jo 561-746-4674

Thrift Shop Intake Assistant—Pennies for Heaven Thrift Shop is looking for someone to process donations. Sort, identify, and classify items for sale. Call Beth 561-262-8032

Thrift Shop Cashiers and Retail Associates—Pennies is in need of friendly, helpful people to operate the register or assist customers in the shop. Very flexible hours. Tell us when you can help. Call Beth 561-262-8032

Ushers — Sunday mornings. Assist with seating, greeting, counting, and guiding people to the altar rail for communion distribution. Full training provided. Call Jo 561-746-4674

Sunday School Assistants—Be an extra set of hands to greet or guide parents on Sunday mornings. Call David Dixon 864-541-1861

New DOK Chapter president to be installed



Patti Hamilton

Patti Hamilton will be installed as President of Good Shepherd's Wendy A. Williams Chapter of The Order of the Daughters of the King at the 10:00 service on **Sunday, September 5**. We hope you will be able to attend in person or online in support of Patti in her new role.

Facilities Assistant hired



Deven King
Facilities Assistant

In July we welcomed Deven King as our Facilities Assistant at Good Shepherd. Deven has been working with Jo Wood to keep our campus and buildings maintained and safe. He brings a broad range of skills and a pleasant demeanor to this position. He's also a problem-solver with a great work ethic and we are so glad to have him join us. Welcome, Deven!



GOOD SHEPHERD

EPISCOPAL SCHOOL



Dear Good Shepherd Community:

As a school, our purpose is simple: we exist to educate children. While this is true, what does that mean to us? And why do we do it? The definition of our purpose stretches well beyond the mechanics of writing and the joy of reading.

As an institution, our mission is to provide a firm foundation that meets the needs of each of our students. However, as educators, our purpose is far greater. We assure the children in our care feel a sense of belonging and emotional security as well.

"I chose this field to give my students and players a positive experience - and to teach them about life after they are out of school. I know I've made a difference in my students' and players' lives. Getting those thank-you letters years later means the world to me!"

Danny Vaz
Athletic Coach

**Safe
Loved
Respected
Inspired**

Our purpose is to cherish and nurture every child in our care. We help them discover their special talents and encourage them to pursue their passions. We provide a soft landing when they fall and lift them back up with a gentle hand. Our students are taught that they are an important part of the Good Shepherd family, with each of us bringing something unique to the table.



**By fulfilling our purpose,
we help children find theirs.**

If our purpose speaks to you, please ask me how you too can become a parent, grandparent, or volunteer at Good Shepherd Episcopal School.

Warmly,
Heather Vaughn

Heather Vaughn
Acting Head of School
hvaughn@goodshepschool.com

"I started at Good Shepherd almost 12 years ago in Administration. I fell in love with the School and the family-like atmosphere and knew immediately that I had to become a teacher. Best career change ever!"

Jen Cady
Pre-K Teacher

"Teaching is my calling. I always knew I wanted to make a difference and have a positive impact on others. Teaching does exactly that."

Molly Daniels
First Grade Teacher



"I was a tutor in Virginia for several years before I decided to turn my gifts into a career. Whether it was Middle School or Elementary School, my favorite part of teaching has always been seeing the "lightbulb" go off when a student experiences that "AHA!" moment."

Susan Allen
Kindergarten Teacher

Snapshot Journal



Above: Over 30 students, teachers and administrators gathered for a back-to-school blessing on August 15.

Right: David Dixon's granddaughter Hartleigh, and her smiling parents Jeremiah and Serah, at her baptism in June.

Below: Our vocal trio, Lydia Schweizer, Debbie White, and Ian Anderson, gave a beautiful musical presentation on July 4.



Above: Even Bingley can use some pastoral care from time to time.

Left: A huge thank you to Fr. Charles Sakin for serving as our celebrant and preacher for a month this summer. We are grateful for his teaching and for offering pastoral care as various situations arose while Fr. Doug was on vacation. We wish Fr. Charles and Kathy happy and safe travels in the coming season.



For I know the plans I have for you

By Debbie White
Assistant Choir Coordinator

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11-12

Knowing God's plans for me, and acting on them becomes my purpose. I can't know all that is planned, but I do know I am blessed in many ways. I have the gift of song, and to sing His praises in His house gives my work and life purpose.

This pandemic shackled my voice. But here, at Good Shepherd each musical challenge was met and surpassed with the help of other musicians. Encouraging, coaching, and cooperating are my tools for work.

I am grateful to Lydia and Paul Schweizer and Ian Anderson for their technical computer skills and musical talents. I'm thankful for our combined purpose to sing for the Lord. Timm Johnson-Reynolds and I are grateful for our visiting musicians, and our youth – singers and musicians to share God's message. Also, to Eric Pariseleti for sending our services out to you and the world.

My cup runneth over with joy as we create music. At times I feel transported as my voice blends with other voices singing with the spirit. Amazing grace, I thank you. My purpose is a joy.

Timm and I look forward to your return as choir and congregation. Challenges arise. To serve God by singing His praise may be your purpose too.



Outreach & Missions: Bloom Where You Are Planted

By Marilyn Lawrence, Outreach & Missions Committee Chair



GRAPHIC Evelyn Seely

Years ago when I worked in Washington, D.C., I hung a poster in my office. We were all Flower Children then, and the poster read: “Bloom Where You’re Planted.” As simple as it sounds, that is the calling of all Creation. Bloom where you’re planted. If you’re a bird, sing. If you’re a tree, give shelter and shade. If you’re a river, nourish the earth. If you’re a person, use your God-given talents to add something to the world around you.

During my student years at Boston University, I was blessed to come under the spiritual influence of the Dean of our Chapel, Howard Thurman. He imparted two lessons that have stayed with me all my life: “There are many roads to God.” “And Faith is expressed in Action.” Sixty years have passed, and I have followed many paths, but always I have been a person of action. At different times, I have found my purpose as a writer, a teacher, a caregiver, an advocate, a counselor, an organizer, a gardener. I have fought for civil rights, drafted legislation, nursed animals back to health, written books and poetry, and led organizations. And I have found joy in every role.

But as our Presiding Bishop says, “We live at the intersection of faith and life.” Life is ever-changing. The road takes many turns. How do you maintain a sense of ‘purpose’ when you’re cut off from all you know? What is the ‘purpose’ of being home alone? It’s an existential challenge that shakes us to the core. Winston Churchill probably said it best: try to “Stay Calm and Carry On.”

These days, I find purpose in serving in the Food Pantry. There is purpose in providing for the Warfield School, in supporting the ministries at St. George’s, and in Haiti and Honduras. There is joy in identifying new projects and new ways to serve. And most of all, there is joy in opening up opportunities for others to share THEIR God-given talents, and to find their own source of joy! Nothing gives greater joy than to see children from our Good Shepherd School come to the Food Pantry with their Lenten mite boxes, or bring their canned goods to Wednesday chapel; they are learning to share. It is a joy to receive donations from members of our parish and from our community; as we all find new ways to fulfill that essential sense of purpose.

Yes, I find purpose in other areas, too. Now that volunteers are back at Jupiter Medical Center, there is purpose in helping visitors and patients once again. There is purpose in exploring and explaining our rich history as a researcher and writer for the Loxahatchee River Historical Society. But it is at Good Shepherd that I have found the richest soil, and the greatest growth. We are all called to ministry. “We Have a Place for You” invites us ALL to find our joy, to use our talents – sometimes in new and surprising ways - to *Bloom Where We Are Planted*. “We live at the intersection of faith and life.” It is in this interconnection, in interaction, in community, that we find our fullest joy.

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.

Madagascar Mission Update

In 2016, a small group from Good Shepherd made its way to Toliara, Madagascar to work with Bishop Todd and Patsy McGregor's ministry in the community at St. Patrick's Cathedral. One of their projects was the construction of a labyrinth garden near the church.



The Good Shepherd Mission Team: (l-r) Sandi O'Malley, John Dysard, Mimi Howard, and Katharine Murray

We were recently updated on a refurbishing project by a group of 35 youth and children of the parish, who completely renovated the labyrinth removing every rock, digging out the weeds and reforming the paths. They also learned some of the history of the labyrinth and how to use it in their spiritual lives. Through this experience, the children and youth were encouraged to give freely as has been so freely given to them.



Friends of Toliara

Children of the St. Patrick's Cathedral community standing on the labyrinth.

- Cereal
- Rice
- Pasta
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Mac & Cheese / SpaghettiOs
- Canned Beans (black, pinto, etc.)
- Baked Beans
- Canned Veggies
- Canned Fruit
- Peanut Butter
- Jam / Jelly (focus on staples!)
- Crackers
- Canned Tuna
- Canned Chicken or Ham
- Chili / Corned Beef Hash / Stew

← **Look for this handy chart** to know what the current Food Pantry needs are. It can be found on our website from a link on the home page and it is updated weekly. Green items are in good supply, yellow are going to be in short supply soon, and red means those items are in need now. Because the list can be accessed on our site, you can refer to it on your phone while you are in the grocery store! Thanks so much for your continued support of our Food Pantry. Items may be donated when the pantry is open.

St. George's Center Request

The St. George's Center, in Riviera Beach, is requesting items to help people in their community who are living or spending most of the day outdoors. You can imagine how uncomfortable constant heat and exposure to the elements can be in South Florida in August. If you are able to donate any of the items on the following list, you would be doing a great service to your neighbors in need.

Items may be brought to Good Shepherd and we will deliver them to St. George's. We are accepting items at the Food Pantry on Tuesdays, the church office or Pennies For Heaven (mark "for St. George's") on Tuesday through Friday, or drop off in the Narthex on Sundays. Thank you for your support! We will be collecting on an ongoing basis for the coming months.

Needed items:

- t-shirts and shorts (all sizes)
- Mosquito repellent
- Sunscreen
- Straw brimmed hats with pull string
- Crocs or other lightweight shoes
- Rain ponchos

New Food Pantry Hours beginning August 31

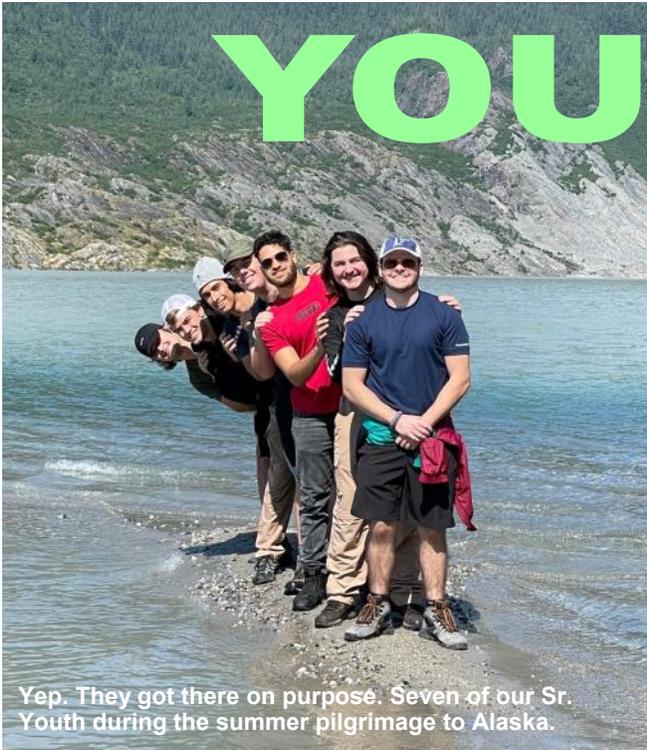
In order to facilitate student pick-up at the school, we are adjusting the hours of the Food Pantry beginning Tuesday, August 31. The new time is 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and visitors are asked to stay in their car to be greeted by an attendant. Please wear a mask.

Right, Marilyn Lawrence and Denise Preston received a check for \$1,000 from Lakeside Methodist Church in Lake Worth, in support of our Food Pantry in June. Thank you!!



YOUTH and FAMILY

By David Dixon, Youth and Family Minister



David Dixon

Yep. They got there on purpose. Seven of our Sr. Youth during the summer pilgrimage to Alaska.

As many of you know, this summer we took eleven youth on pilgrimage to Alaska. The point of this pilgrimage and the reason the destination is such a distant and out-of-the-way location is primarily so that all the pilgrims (leaders included) could find it easier to unplug. Situated in a place of wonder and amazement allowed us to be open and receptive to God manifesting in us and to us through hiking, journaling, silence, and being in community for seven days.

The first night in Alaska our guide called us together. As we gathered around the fireplace in the Lodge at The Shrine, he informed us of the plans for the following day. Brett, our guide, told us to make sure we have our lunches in our backpacks, water bottles filled, and our hiking shoes on. The plan was to make a long trek to see Herbert Glacier approximately 14 miles in and out.

While on the hike, one of the young pilgrims found a tree limb that a previous hiker had used as a walking stick on a previous journey. Why use a hiking stick or trekking pole? Well, as a general hiking aid, poles are used to help distribute weight, for balance, and to keep your footing on rough ground or loose surfaces. They are especially useful when descending with a heavy backpack. Reaching down with the pole helps increase confidence with every step.

But the stick the young pilgrim found was not always a walking stick. Originally, it was part of a tree. A tree branch's job is to provide a way for tree leaves to act as a net for sunlight. Tree branches will grow to give the most leaves the most light, even if that means growing sideways. Trees need light for photosynthesis, which is how green plants generate their energy. But the pilgrim used the branch as a walking stick adding to the branch's original purpose and design.

Often, purpose reveals itself in a time of need or even crisis, and may be redefined through time and experience. When I accepted the call from God to surrender my life to be a minister of the Gospel I did not have an epic encounter as some of the big names in the Bible. My calling was more subtle and less earth moving. I often use the story of young David to illustrate what I mean. David's brothers were all called to go to the battle against the neighborhood bullies, the Philistines. It was at this time that they encountered a giant threat, Goliath. David shows up and his brothers asked him in a rather snarky way, "Why have you come up to the battle?" David's reply was simple enough, "Is there not a need?" When I responded to the call to ministry it was because I found myself at the intersection of need and opportunity. I simply responded to the need that was present and as a consequence God snatched me up into a life of ministry the purpose which has been defined and redefined over the years.



Eleven pilgrims on the bus to their next destination outside of Juneau, Alaska.

David Dixon

I am convinced that everyone has a purpose or a calling in life. Your existence is evidence that this time and place needs something that your life contains. It doesn't matter if it is on the scale of a young, soon to be king David who defeated the threatening Goliath, or a hiking stick that helps others along their way. One of the goals of pilgrimage is to help open our heart, mind and eyes to the purpose we are all born to. Just like the branch that became a hiking stick for a pilgrim, our life has value not because of its duration but because of its donation. Being available at the intersection of need and opportunity allows purpose to manifest.

Purpose can drive people to give more of their time, energy and strength in order to live effectively. I heard one preacher say, "You are not important because of how long you live, you are important because of how effectively you live." I think this coming church year will be a time of discovering, defining and even redefining our purpose both individually and corporately as people of faith. Purpose doesn't make life easy, it makes life possible.



Contact David to find out more about Youth and Family Ministries at ddixon@goodsheponline.org Visit our Youth and Family Ministry page to see the video journals from the trip! GoodShepOnline.org

Middle School Youth Group Summer Camp

The seniors weren't the only ones travelling this summer. In June, five of our middle school youth headed to Parrish, Florida, for a week at DaySpring Episcopal Retreat Center, where they all had a great experience making new friends and growing in faith. Through sports, games, music, and arts, youth are in an environment that invites them to grow in community and make memories that last a lifetime.

Pictured from left to right are Dominic Chin, Dominic Gouery, Jack Grashof, Sophie Riddle, and Emily Smith as they arrived at the camp.



David Dixon

In-person Sunday School and Youth Program Start Dates Postponed

Due to the rapid changes in the current local Covid rates, our formation programs that were scheduled to begin meeting in-person have been postponed until after Labor day when safety metrics in our area are reassessed. Thank you for your cooperation as we work to balance safety for our children and the need to meet in-person.

Did you know?

Our Youth and Family Ministries Design Team works to plan programs, events, and steer formation for kids of all ages. Contact David Dixon to find out more!

SERVE

Pennies For Heaven: What brings you joy

By Beth Long, Pennies For Heaven Shop Manager



I am not quite sure when “What gives you joy?” became a coined phrase, but I know I like it and what it represents! What makes you happy or puts a smile on your face? It’s very rewarding when the place you work does just that, or better yet, when something totally unexpected gives you happiness!

How does doing something joyful — something you love — translate into purpose? The purpose that our shop provides for the community is clear: we offer low-cost quality items and outreach to those in need, which supports the mission and ministry of Good Shepherd. But, I was curious what my volunteers thought, so I asked them... what brings you joy when you think about Pennies?

The comradery of working with friends and meeting new customers went hand in hand. Lori Connors, who has only worked at Pennies for a couple of months, and Elinor Pedrick, who worked at Pennies for many years, both enjoy the friendships they have found at the shop. In addition to the friendships, both Connie Timmerman and Connie Rinko who work the register, enjoy the customers that come in the shop, the positive attitudes, and the comments

that they share about the “new look” or “great deals” they found. Jessica Spinnenwebber loves greeting the customers and sharing the specials of the day. And, as Connie T. stated, “where else can you buy back your own donations?!”

And I believe we have all learned something along the way as Jean Smith, who has volunteered in the shop for 20 years said, “sometimes we come across a donation that we have no idea what it’s purpose is — something in the kitchen or a tool — and we often end up getting the customers involved to figure it out!”

Pennies outreach into the community resonates with Julie Bohnsack, as we help those who have lost loved ones bring in furniture and clothing donations, or we give donations to groups such as Oasis Foster Care and St. George’s for those in need. Denise Parson and Catherine Oenbrink reflected on this past year and how we all had to re-examine our purpose by reaching out differently to our customers and redefining how the shop could serve our community. We

watched our new apps like Offer Up and Facebook Marketplace bring in new customers. Catherine’s focus on Ebay has improved sales tremendously. As she said, “the joy of discovering treasures within the shop and connecting it with the perfect buyer who has been searching for an item for a long time is so rewarding.”

With help from Evi Seely, we continue to broaden our advertising through social media on Facebook, Constant Contact and Instagram, hoping to continue to reach more people in the community who have a need, or welcome new people to find “purpose” at Pennies. Are you at a point in your life where you are contemplating what brings you joy? Why don’t you stop in Pennies, look around and talk to our volunteers, we definitely have a place for you!

THRIFT SHOP HOURS:
Tuesday—Friday, 11-3
Please check our Facebook page for current safety protocols.
Donations accepted when the shop is open or call us to make arrangements at 561-406-2923. Thank you!



Pennies For Heaven Thrift
is able to provide in stock medical equipment to our parishioners at no cost.
If you are in need, please contact the shop to see what we have on hand!

(And, we have very reasonable prices for the public.)

wheelchairs	canes	hand rails
crutches	commodes	shower chairs
walkers	tray tables	...and more!



SERVE

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT:

TECHNOLOGY

By Merike Seely

Ministry has evolved over the past 18 months in ways we never imagined. The pandemic has hastened adoption of livestream capability and forced us to embrace technology. While not ideal, and certainly not how we used to do it, there have been some great benefits through technology.

Until we are back, Zoom continues to be the way many of us connect. There was a learning curve and it has real drawbacks, but video conferencing makes attendance possible for those with time or place constraints. Vestry meeting attendance has never been better! At our Annual Meeting the parish voted altogether with the touch of a button from our living rooms. To continue this benefit, we recently installed a hybrid Zoom conferencing set up in our library to include more people even for when we are back in-person.

In April 2020, we established a website solely for the organization of our digital content. In early September 2021 it will transition to mirror



Fr. Doug is interviewed for a promotional video by Vibe, our livestream providers.



At first glance, this circuit board could easily be mistaken for a satellite city view. Changing the way we look at our ministry and connection continues to be what shapes our programs and engagement at Good Shepherd.

our overall theme of Worship, Connect, Grow, and Serve as our main site. Be sure to check GoodShepOnline.org soon!

Through YouTube we have been able to connect with people locally and globally. Our channel is loaded with video content including services, guides, prayer, announcements and more. Formation has been offered continuously to youth and adults via video content, and Fr. Doug's blog. And now we have a podcast, *Sunday Ready* — a weekly discussion of the readings.

Our thrift shop leveraged the power of eBay, Offer Up, and Facebook Marketplace to continue sales even when our campus was closed. Catherine Oenbrink runs the eBay segment of Pennies For Heaven. Through this site, she is connecting with people from around the country daily.

Pledges and fundraising have been met through an online platform for either one-time or recurring gifts. Artie's Party held its

auction online this year, yielding nearly as much as we earned in the previous year of in-person auction.

We hired dedicated staff in the areas of technology and social media to ensure our communications and content endeavors grow and meet people wherever they are. Timely announcements go out weekly and are also available on the News page of our website. In May 2021, Erik Pariseleti joined our staff as Technology Coordinator, and Evelyn Seely became our Digital Media Assistant to facilitate engagement.

In the summer of 2020 we raised over \$35,000 for the establishment of livestream capability with its associated hardware, software, and apps. It has truly been a lifeline for so many people, in our parish and in the greater community, unable to attend services, funerals of loved ones, and special services of the church year. Tech will continue to be a significant part of our budget but very necessary for us to live into mission as the church of today.

By the NUMBERS

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

6,834

Round-trip miles to Juneau, Alaska traveled by our team of pilgrims in July

16

A/C units on campus (which may explain the perpetual service calls)

\$90,352

Pennies For Heaven net income through JULY! Total 2021 annual budgeted income is \$80,606. Well done!

83

Views of the Sunday Ready podcast for August 15

96

Average in-person attendance at 10 AM Sunday services this summer

2

Priests (yep, we have 2 now)

36

Students and teachers present in-person for the August 15 Back-to-School blessing in church

4

Ministry areas: *Worship, Connect, Grow, and Serve*

16

Stewardship 2022



Generosity Leads to Living with Purpose

It goes without saying, 2020 was a year like no other. Formulating plans for Giving was both challenging and honestly a bit intimidating in the midst of a pandemic.

We contemplated as a team what moved us to give, and we knew we needed to look to all of you to help build of foundation of Spiritual Giving for our church. We turned to what inspires you – the *Why* in your life – and it became much clearer. It helped us to focus on, and celebrate, the contributions each of you make of your time, talent, and treasures to our spiritual community.

We invite and encourage you to continue to revisit the Generosity Statement – YOUR words Of “Why” are in there somewhere.

YOU expressed that, all we are and all we have come from God.

YOU told us that YOU, **trust in God's abundant provision**, to love one another and serve others in Christ, by sharing ourselves and our gifts from God.

When we invited you “to join us in giving generously and meaningfully in order to sustain the mission and ministry of Good Shepherd,” from your homes in isolation, you discerned those words and responded.

By supporting the installation of equipment to provide live streaming, by feeding hundreds of people at the food pantry, and by ensuring our senior congregants and many others could participate in Sunday services through the new Tech to Connect Ministry, YOU showed us Why.

You have demonstrated great commitment and generosity to the mission and ministry of our church and again on behalf of the Giving Team, we want to thank you.

Perhaps most important, the pledges you commit to the operations and work of our church have stayed strong and steady to ensure our staff can continue the important work they do for us here in the church and out in the community. Out of the dark cloud of 2020 came many blessings beyond those we have seen here in front of us. We want to share a passage from a letter Father Doug received.

My neighbor found your service on YouTube and we have so enjoyed listening to Fr. Doug this past year. The enclosed check is for your Haiti food fund. Blessings to you all. Penny, Green Valley, Arizona.

This only tells us we have more to do. We have been blessed with new individuals on our staff that will continue this work by taking technology to those we serve and those who are searching for Christ.

Our team is committed to continue to support these people and the important work that lies ahead of them, and we are confident you, too, will find purpose as part of this mission.

The Giving Team

O'Neil Bardin, Ron Doucette, Teresa Grashof, Patti Hamilton, Rob Taylor

Financial Status (January—July 2021)

	Actual	Annual Budget
Operating Revenues	572,715	948,462
Operating Expenses	542,563	939,341
Net Total	30,152	9,121

We thank everyone for keeping pledges current. If you would like to arrange to have your pledge automatically transferred to Good Shepherd, please contact Letty, our Business Manager. 561-746-4674.

You're Invited to our online database

Good Shepherd has a database for membership that is more than just a list of names!



Realm is a platform for connection and conversation. It connects groups and people to tools for ministry. More than a communication list, once you login, you have access to our catalog of ministries, you can make contacts, update your information, access giving statements, and even make a pledge!

Visit our homepage for a link to join Realm if you haven't already.

Safeguarding God's People

Praesidium, a leading provider of content in abuse prevention training which Good Shepherd has used for many years and is required by our diocese, is updating its platform.

We will be sending all current Sunday School, Youth Ministry, Nursery, and Vacation Bible School staff and volunteers over the age of 18 information about training for the new year. We ask that anyone involved in those programs or anyone considering participation respond to our request for training registration. Thanks so much for helping to keep our children and all people in our parish family safe.

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

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

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd



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 required
regardless of vaccine status**
Updates post regularly on our website

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)

DURING THE WEEK

9 AM MORNING PRAYER
(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 2021

Heather Graham, *Senior Warden*
Mike Howard, *Junior Warden*
Mike Greene, *Treasurer*
Mark Chittum, *Clerk*
Tracy Smith, Rob Taylor, Kathy
Hawken, Steve Pollard, Matt Ulman,
Gwen Gouery, Beth Bohnsack,
Beverley Cunningham



Something New: Ministry Minute

On August 1, we heard from our Verger Coordinator, Peggy Greene, with the first of our Ministry Minute series.

Each week a ministry under one of our main mission areas of **Worship, Connect, Grow, and Serve**

will speak to the congregation about the ministry, its function, and opportunities to participate. In sixty seconds you could discover a way to put your special gifts forward to live purposefully through service.

Several times throughout the year, there will be a fifth Sunday of the month when we will invite our youth and families to take an active role in the service through music, readings, and other presentations. In doing so, we are not just talking about the future of the church, but demonstrating our ongoing commitment to ministry through time, planning, and care. We hope you will find these moments of connection meaningful.



www.GoodShepOnline.org