

# Tidings

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church and School, Tequesta



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



# GOOD SHEPHERD

EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL

## GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

## GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

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

## PENNIES FOR HEAVEN THRIFT SHOP

561-746-4674 ext. 112

\*\*\*

### THE REV. DR. DOUGLAS F. SCHARF

Rector  
dscharf@goodsheponline.org

### DR. ROSEMARY MARSHALL

Head of School  
rmarshall@goodshepschool.com

### MERIKE SEELY

Parish Administrator  
mseely@goodsheponline.org

### TIMM C. JOHNSON-REYNOLDS

Organist & Music Director

### JO WOOD

Director of Hospitality & Facilities  
jwood@goodsheponline.org

### PAULA FULLAGER

Parish Secretary  
pfullager@goodsheponline.org

### DEBBIE WHITE

Assistant Music Coordinator

### IAN ANDERSON

Interim Youth Minister  
youth@goodsheponline.org

### KATE GOUERY

Interim Sunday School Director  
sundayschool@goodsheponline.org

### MARCIA AYDLETTE

Nursery Director

### BILL JOWETT

Sexton

## GOOD SHEPHERD VESTRY 2019

Jim Couillard, *Senior Warden*  
Kevin Johnson, *Junior Warden*  
Mike Greene, *Treasurer*  
Gwen Gouery, *Clerk*  
Bill Unger, Catherine Oenbrink, Irina Cole,  
Maggie Riddle, Denise Preston, Rob Taylor,  
Kathy Hawken, Steve Pollard, Tracy Smith



**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.

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

To **TRANSFER YOUR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP** to Good Shepherd, please contact Paula in the office to initiate a transfer. (746-4674)

**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. Find out about the many ways to participate fully in the life of this parish community through events, services, outreach, fellowship, and more.



### COVER IMAGE

The Credence Table is always set for services at which there is communion. Despite its location near the altar, many congregants never see it. The table is reverently prepared with a cruet each of water and wine, a Ciborium to hold the wafers, and a Lavabo bowl with which the hands of the celebrant are cleansed.



# Tidings

## SUMMER 2019

- 2 Rector's Message
- 3 Connect with Realm
- 4 Celebrating Ordinary Time
- 6 School Highlights
- 7 Vacation Bible School: *Roar!*
- 8 Growing in Grace: *An Update on Our Strategic Plan*
- 10 Outreach & Mission: *Abundant Love*
- 11 Three Great Reads
- 12 Youth Group: *Engaged and Influential*
- 14 Essay: Sunday School Matters
- 16 By the Numbers
- 17 Financials

### 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 561-746-4674 or contact Paula at [mail@goodsheponline.org](mailto:mail@goodsheponline.org). Please see submission guidelines at [www.goodsheponline.org](http://www.goodsheponline.org).

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

# Welcome

to the New *Tidings*

For the past several months, our staff and volunteers have been working hard to provide timely information about the vibrant mission and ministry at Good Shepherd. Effective and efficient communication is an essential part of any organization, but especially in the life of the church, which comprises a diversity of programs and ministry opportunities. As part of our ongoing work to improve communication, we are reformatting *Tidings*, which will now be published quarterly, instead of monthly.



This new quarterly publication of *Tidings* will enable us to accomplish two important communication goals. First, we will be able to feature longer articles that highlight and celebrate the many accomplishments that we experience throughout the year. These articles will also explore various topics related to the wider church, the diocese, and our local community. Secondly, a quarterly *Tidings* will allow for longer range communication about the seasons of the church year and where we are heading with regards to our strategic plan. More short-term communication needs will be met through our weekly Sunday announcement page and email newsletter.

Finally, each quarterly issue of *Tidings* will focus on a particular theme. The theme for this first issue is *Growth*. Corporately, as a congregation, we are experiencing a season of growth and development as we welcome new members and continue the implementation of our strategic plan. Individually, we are each on our own path of spiritual growth and formation as we seek to faithfully follow Jesus in our daily lives. Locally, we are witnessing ongoing growth and expansion in our surrounding region. In response, we are seeking to develop new opportunities to reach out to our community with God's love and grace.

As we continue our journey of faith together, it is important to remember that we all have a part to play; we all have gifts to offer to the glory of God. Perhaps the Apostle Paul said it best in his First Letter to Corinthians, "I planted, another watered, but it is God who gives the *growth*!"

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doug +". The signature is written in a dark ink or color.

# Join realm<sup>®</sup> and stay connected!

**What is Realm?** *Realm is a real ministry tool.*

Realm is an online ministry tool designed for real time connection. It helps our church connect with you and you connect with us. If you consider yourself part of this church family, you'll love it. Realm allows you to manage your personal information and who is allowed to see it, control your giving, and keep in touch with the groups that matter to you.

**Why use Realm?** *Realm strengthens church connections.*

Being the church doesn't just happen at the church. Realm helps us serve you better and leads this church well between Sundays. Everyone can be connected from anywhere at any time, right from our mobile devices. It engages everyone in the life of our church by supporting the healthy relationships essential to our church's mission. We'll stay organized, and you'll stay informed about all of the opportunities for fellowship. When we share life together, we will grow together.

**What about my privacy?** *Realm is safe, private, and secure.*

Your privacy is one of our greatest concerns. Realm is only made up of the people in your church, it's not like a social network that's open to everyone. Realm keeps your data safe and gives you control over what information you share and who can see it.

**What about giving?** *Realm gives you control over your giving.*

Giving should be easy, and Realm places giving right in the palm of your hands. You may set up recurring gifts, view your giving history, and make changes at any time. Realm automatically records all electronic gifts and adds them to your giving record making it easy for you to give, and easy for our bookkeeper to track. Give from your phone, tablet, laptop, desktop, and something new — text to give!

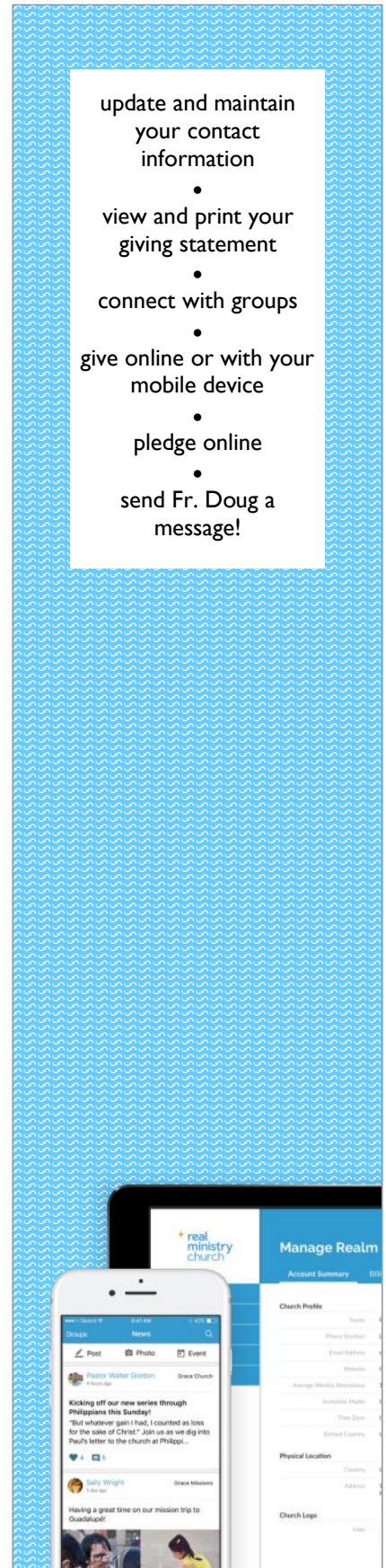
**How do I start?** *Follow a few simple steps.*

If you haven't received an invitation to join Realm yet:  
Contact Paula in the church office to make sure we have your current email.

OR

Contact Catherine Oenbrink at [coenbrink@bellsouth.net](mailto:coenbrink@bellsouth.net), or Denise Preston at [denisepreston@me.com](mailto:denisepreston@me.com).

- update and maintain your contact information
- 
- view and print your giving statement
- 
- connect with groups
- 
- give online or with your mobile device
- 
- pledge online
- 
- send Fr. Doug a message!



# Celebrating Ordinary Time

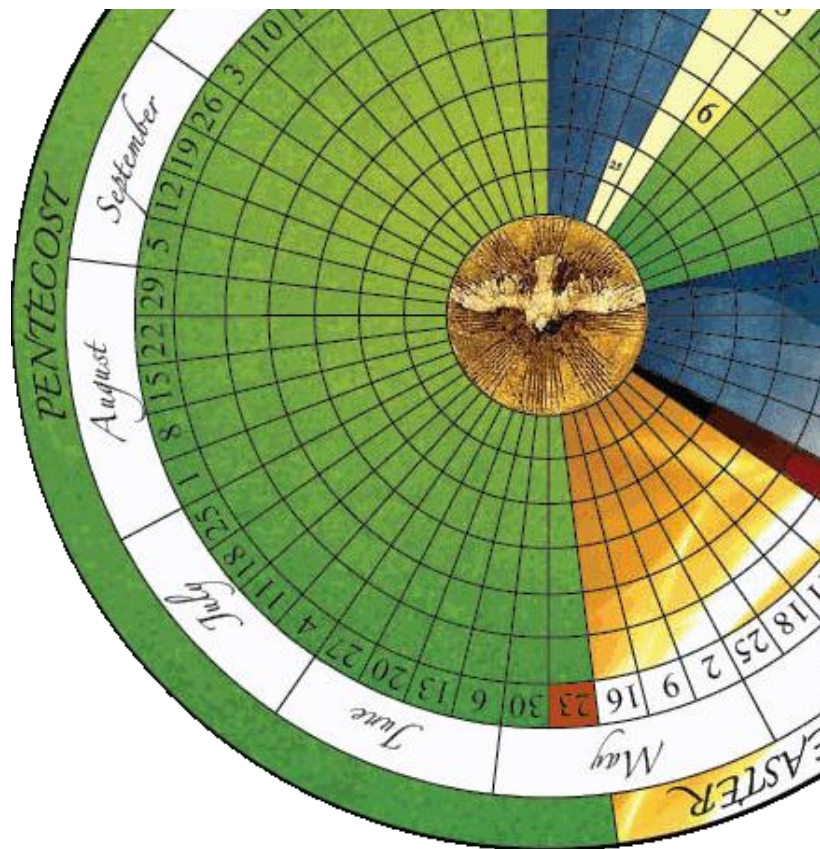
## *Spiritual Growth in Daily Life*

By The Rev. Dr. Douglas F. Scharf

For almost half the year, our church calendar is full of major feast days and celebrations. Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, and Easter all seem to rush upon us in quick succession. However, as we enter into the summer months, we enter into the period of the church year referred to as *ordinary time*. This extended season of the church year is called *ordinary* because it is not related to any particular feast or major celebration. Compared to the great festivals that commemorate the Incarnation, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus, the remainder of the year seems, well – rather *ordinary*! This period of time is also referred to as the “green season,” since the liturgical color remains green for months on end.

However, this long liturgical season into which we are about to enter is also a time for us to reflect upon the *ordinariness* of our faith. Clearly, our faith in Christ and the transforming power of the Spirit are anything but ordinary, but we live out that faith in the ordinariness of everyday living. Tending to children, cleaning the house, ironing the clothes, putting away the groceries. This is the stuff of everyday life. These are the tasks that occupy a great deal of our time and energy. Too often our faith becomes church-centered. We associate our faith with Sunday morning worship, retreat weekends, ministry events, and the host of other activities connected to the church. Although all of these church-centered activities are vitally important to our spiritual growth and development, the reality is that most of our life is spent in *ordinary time* – the day to day living of life.

Jesus often connected faith to everyday life. Most prominently, Jesus taught in the form of parables, which have been defined as “an earthly stories with a heavenly



meaning.” In his teaching, Jesus compared the kingdom of God to a mustard seed, a fishing net, and a batch of dough. He pointed to the “birds of the air” and the “lilies of the field” as examples of God’s provision and grace. Jesus took the most common elements of any meal – bread and wine – and used them as symbols of his own body and blood. Over and over again, Jesus points to “the stuff of everyday life” as an illustration of God’s presence and power in the world. Jesus reminds us that the kingdom of God is among us and we can experience spiritual growth in the *ordinariness* of daily life.

One of the most famous examples of “spiritual growth in daily living” is found in a small booklet entitled *The Practice of the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence. In the monastic community where Lawrence lived, much emphasis was placed on the traditional disciplines of prayer, study, and work. These are, of course, important elements of the spiritual life! But Brother Lawrence wanted to experience God in the midst of what he called the “common business” of life – tasks such as washing the dishes, mopping the floors, weeding the garden, and changing the sheets. Lawrence developed a habit of intentionally talking to God and “lifting up his heart” while he was going about his daily business. He

firmly believed that “we ought not to be weary of doing little things for the love of God, who regards not the greatness of the work, but the love with which it is performed.” After several months of “practicing the presence of God” in the midst of daily living, Brother Lawrence experienced a deeper level of joy, peace, and purpose in his life. He wasn’t focused on doing great things, but on doing small things with great love.

*The whole world is a series of miracles  
but we’re so used to them we call them ordinary things.*  
—Hans Christian Andersen

---

*“Jesus reminds us that the kingdom of God is among us and we can experience spiritual growth in the ordinariness of daily life.”*

---



As we enter into the long days of summer and begin this extended season of *ordinary time*, let us be reminded that growth in the spiritual life is often experienced in the midst of the *ordinariness* of our daily lives. Mountain-top experiences and moments of profound spiritual awakening are often few and far between. But we can *lift up our hearts* to God as we go about the “common business” of lives. We can be intentional about *practicing the presence of God* even as we complete the mundane tasks of daily life. And as we experience God in the *ordinary*, we come to know more deeply the peace that truly passes all understanding.

#### LET GO AND LET GOD

Fr. Doug spends a quiet moment offering the petitions of parishioners to God. Prayers are written on paper scraps and collected in a wooden box in the Narthex. Anyone may contribute a concern, a thanksgiving, or a prayer knowing that it will be prayed for and then burned, the smoke rising skyward, carrying the burden with it.



## Good Shepherd School Notes

*“Our renewed partnership with the Church brings Jesus into the daily lives of our students.”*

*—Dr. Rosemary Marshall, Head of School*



April was an exciting month to be at Good Shepherd Episcopal School!

We began the month reviewing and modifying our Mission Statement and Core Values, spending much time exploring our true purpose and vision that we have for our students. Working as a team, the teachers and administration are delighted with the student progress that has been made. As the school's leader I hold tremendous pride in my staff and in the many accomplishments that are only possible due to an unwavering effort on the part of these committed individuals.

Throughout this school year, The Strategic Plan for the Church and the School has served as the cornerstone for all decisions and policy changes that have been made. Joint decision making between the faculty and administration has brought greater execution of the

changes. A key focus of The Strategic Plan is bridging the relationship between the School and Church. As stated in an earlier Tidings, joint ventures such as the Christmas Program and the community outreach projects have allowed the “Episcopal Way” to be lived by the students and staff. Partnering with CROS Ministries, April's Gleaning performed by our parents, students and teachers brought in over 2000 pounds of green peppers which was distributed through the Palm beach County Food Bank to needy families. Our renewed partnership with the Church brings Jesus into the daily lives of our students.

One of the most challenging aspects of leading an Independent School is to provide educational opportunities that surpass those offered in competitive Independent Schools, as well as those in the public school system. We have done this with ease as we expanded the minds of our students, dedicating ourselves to having each child reach their greatest potential. We observed

the keen interests that many of our students have in the arts and sciences.

To meet these interests we produced *Seussical JR.*, a full length musical production which delighted parents and church members alike and we increased the use of STEAM activities in our science classes, culminating with a family STEAM event. We are steadfast in our efforts to continue to enhance our arts and sciences, as we move toward our goal of the Good Shepherd Episcopal School Arts and Science Academy.

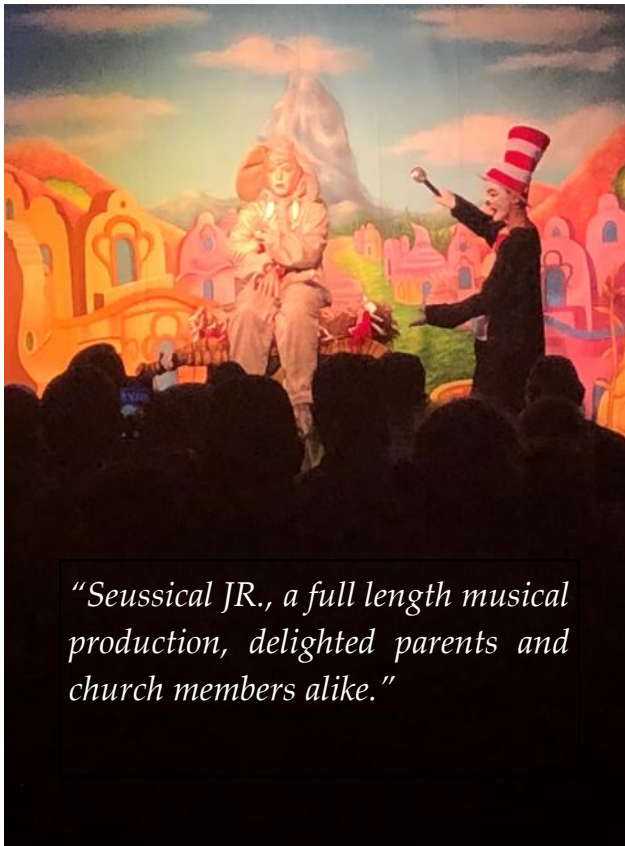
The month of May brings to a close a busy year. I thank you for your support and look forward to a successful conclusion to the school year.

Closing in love and prayer,

*Dr. Rosemary Marshall*

Head of School





*"Seussical JR., a full length musical production, delighted parents and church members alike."*

## Arts and Sciences Summer Academy at Good Shepherd Episcopal School



Our summer program concentrates on the Arts and Sciences, including sensational STEAM activities, dance and drama, with all instruction taught by certified Good Shepherd faculty.

Get a jump start on  
the next school year!



LEARNING TO LOVE, LOVING TO LEARN

- Ages 2 - 5
- June 17 - August 9
- Half Day (8am-12pm); \$125-175/wk
- Full Day (8am-3pm); \$163-225/wk
- Academic learning through play
- Lively Letters, Wilson Reading, Envision Math Strategies

**(561) 746-5507**

[www.goodshepschool.com](http://www.goodshepschool.com) | [Admin@goodshepschool.com](mailto:Admin@goodshepschool.com)

402 Seabrook Rd | Tequesta

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**JUNE 10-14**

**9:00AM - NOON**



Things are going to get *WILD* at Good Shepherd in June! We have a great week of Vacation Bible School fun planned for your little adventurers, age four through fifth grade.

Each day includes an engaging lineup of hands-on, developmentally appropriate activities that foster fellowship and community among the groups. Expect music and song, fun and games, and some zany characters that bring the setting to life!

Registration is open **NOW** and we're filling up fast. VBS is fun to help with, too. Volunteer to assist during the week by contacting Shannon, our VBS Coordinator at [shannonscharf@yahoo.com](mailto:shannonscharf@yahoo.com). Adults are encouraged to participate — this is an intergenerational community event. Youth volunteers will be eligible to receive volunteer community service credit.

Snack is included in the registration fee. This year, Good Shepherd School is offering an aftercare program for the week of VBS. Please call the school at 561-746-5507 for rates and information.

Print the registration form on our website. The cost is only \$30 per adventurer for the week.

# Growing in Grace

## *An Update on our Strategic Plan*

By The Rev. Dr. Douglas F. Scharf

Just over eight months ago, we officially launched Phase One of our Strategic Plan. During this time, we have been focused on the implementation of this new plan as well as the development of the resources and leadership we will need to make this plan a reality. Here is a brief overview of what has been accomplished so far:

### **Our Vision and Mission**

As a church and school, our vision is to be “a vibrant spiritual and educational community resource, radiating God’s love for everyone, everywhere!” This new vision reflects our calling to be a vibrant and life-giving community. God is calling us to be a place where everyone can discover the depth of God’s love and wideness of God’s mercy. This new vision also reflects God’s call for us to be outward focused, to be missionally engaged with our local community. We are called to be a resource – to connect with our neighbors and to create ministry partnerships with those around us. In order to make this vision a reality, we are focused on the following three goals:

### **Goal One: Intergenerational Community**

We believe that God is calling us to create an “intergenerational community that meets people wherever they are on their faith journeys.” Over the past eight months, we have been working to create a master communication plan for our church and school, and this first edition of the new quarterly *Tidings* is part of that master plan. A new Parent’s Fellowship Group has been established to foster community among our youth group parents. The Pastoral Care team continues to grow, and new Eucharistic Visitors and Hospital Ministers have been trained. A new ministry for seniors called OWLS has been meeting regularly for several months. And additional Bible study and spiritual formation opportunities have been created to meet the growing needs of our congregation. These are just a few of the initiatives that have already been accomplished this year.



*An intergenerational community meets people wherever they are on their spiritual journey.*

## **Goal Two: Thriving and Joyful Learning Community**

Our school is continuing to develop under the leadership of our Head of School, Dr. Rosemary Marshall. Several new fellowship opportunities have been created to foster a deeper sense of community among parents and alumni. Creative fundraising, careful budgeting, and other significant steps have been taken toward greater financial sustainability and growth. This summer, the school is expanding the number of weekday camps that will be offered in order to respond to the changing needs of our local community. In the classroom, enhancements have been made to the curriculum and enrichment activities in order to strengthen our commitment to academic excellence. Many steps are being taken to ensure a strong and healthy future for our school and church communities.

## **Goal Three: Unified and Growing Community**

Finally, the third goal pertains to the relationship between our church and school. The development of a truly collaborative partnership between the church and school has been a priority of this strategic planning process since the beginning. As we look to the future, we feel it is imperative that the church and school have a sense of shared mission and common purpose. To move us closer to this goal, we have been working on collaborative programs such as our annual Christmas program, which this year featured our adult choir, youth music ensemble, students, and staff – and we even had a surprise performance by Fr. Doug and Shannon! We have also been hard at work developing a comprehensive security plan, which will greater unite church and school with regards to safety and emergency response. Most importantly, a Master Campus Planning team has developed a series of draft proposals for the future expansion and development of our property and buildings. These proposals have been presented to the vestry for consideration and a final master plan will be approved in the coming months.

## **What's Next?**

This coming fall, we will be holding a congregational meeting to provide updates regarding the progress of our strategic plan and our plans for the upcoming year. Please check future communications for more information about this meeting. Also, the strategies and initiatives for Phase One of our strategic plan can be found on our church website. Take a look and see where God might be calling you to help make this vision a reality!

---

*“We are called to be a resource — to connect with our neighbors and to create ministry partnerships with those around us.”*

---

## **Music Ministry: Take Note!**

The Strategic Plan includes development of our Music Ministry and there have already been some exciting developments including the hiring of an Assistant Choir Coordinator, Debbie White, to assist Music Director Timm Johnson-Reynolds. An adult choir ensemble has formed to enhance worship. We have welcomed soloists and accompanying musicians for special services and a Youth Band and Choir has formed from our own Youth and Sunday School programs, to provide a musical outlet and an opportunity to play a more significant role in worship for our young parishioners.



Choir takes the summer off and will reconvene in September. However, if you are interested in music through Choir, Ensemble, or any other group, please talk to Timm or Debbie. They will be here throughout the summer months.

We have three leaders who have been tasked with overseeing the specific goals we have established for the church and school. These leaders will be working with our various ministry leaders and volunteers to ensure that the projects and initiatives are running smoothly.

**Patti Hamilton**

**Susie Cooper**

**Catherine Oenbrink**

**Goal One / Church**

**Goal Two / School**

**Goal Three / Church & School**

# Abundant Love = Abundant Sharing

by Marilyn Lawrence

Easter is a time for sharing God's abundant love with others, and throughout the month of April, we did just that!!

On April 1, the first through fifth grade students from our Good Shepherd Episcopal School went gleaning with CROS ministries. Seventeen carloads of students, parents and teachers, drove out to Jupiter Farms, where they picked 2,000 pounds of peppers. It was also an opportunity for the children to learn more about struggling families in our community – and about the value of good nutrition.

On April 10, a team of volunteers from Good Shepherd made their monthly trek to St. George's mission in Riviera Beach, where they prepared and served a nutritious meal to nearly 200 homeless and hungry men, women and children. For nearly 30 years, Good Shepherd has joined with other churches and organizations in Palm Beach County to provide daily meals for those who depend on this mission for their very survival. The Outreach & Mission Committee devotes one-third of its annual budget to provide food and administrative support to this vital program of our Episcopal Diocese.



During Holy Week, we prepared and distributed Easter baskets to several of our own Food Pantry clients, who depend on us to help make their holidays a bright and festive time for their families.

And finally, the week after Easter, we concluded our annual Lenten Collection. This year we chose CROS Ministries' summer camps as our recipients, and on their behalf, we want to thank everyone who contributed to this effort. We thank the Sunday School (and the parents!) who purchased supplies for the camp's many craft projects. We thank the members of our congregation, whose

donations will make it possible for the camp to purchase much-needed equipment, including microwaves to heat snacks and meals, and tablets which will allow the campers to participate in the School Districts' iREADY Reading Program. Additional funds which were collected will be allocated to field trips, which give the campers a chance to see beyond their limited horizons. And finally, we give thanks to the Crafty Ladies, who cleaned out their closets and storage areas and donated some wonderful craft supplies which will enable campers to develop additional creative skills.

We have asked a lot over these last few months, and we honor the extraordinary generosity of the response. We also respect the limits which life and necessity impose on all of us. This congregation has gone above and beyond in showing God's abundant love for our brothers and sisters, and for that we give heartfelt thanks.

## Ministries & Groups

Visit [www.goodsheponline.org](http://www.goodsheponline.org) for information about any of these groups. Sign on to Realm to connect!

### GOOD SHEPHERD GOOD GUYS

Fridays at 8:00AM in the Parish Hall

### MORNING GLORY WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Second and Fourth Friday of each month at 8:00AM

### OWLS (OLDER, WISER, LIVELIER SHEPHERDS)

Third Thursday of each month at 11:30AM in the Parish Hall

### DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Second Saturday of each month at 10:00AM in the library

### WEEKLY 12-STEP GROUPS

#### Monday

7:30 p.m. AA (men and women)

#### Tuesday

10:30 a.m. Harmony (Women's AA)

#### Wednesday

10:30 a.m. Freedom to Grow (Al-Anon for men and women)

#### Friday

10:30 a.m. Harmony (Women's AA)

### ST. GEORGE'S MEAL MINISTRY

Second Wednesday of each month at St. George's Episcopal Church

### WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY WITH THE RECTOR

Wednesdays at 11:00AM in the Library

**The following Groups are Taking the Summer Off... We'll see you in the fall.**

Afternoon Book Group: Thursday Afternoons at 4:00PM

Literary Circle: First Thursdays at 7:00PM

Coffee House Open Mic Night: Third Fridays at 7:00PM

Bridge Club: Thursdays at 1:00PM

Youth Group: Wednesdays from 6:00-8:00PM

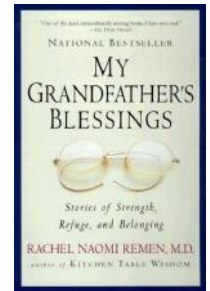
# 3 Great Reads

### My Grandfather's Blessings

by Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D.

"The first words of God are, "Let there be light." Weaving stories from her years counseling cancer patients, Dr. Remen, the granddaughter of an Orthodox Rabbi, sees life as a journey through hurt and darkness into light. It is a journey we travel together as God's people. In sharing, and validating, and blessing one another, we discover our intended wholeness -- and we find it is joy!"

**Recommended by Marilyn Lawrence**

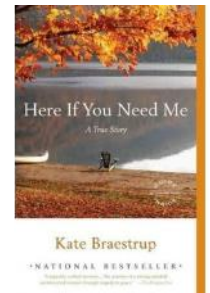


### Here If You Need Me

by Kate Braestrup

Kate Braestrup was for years a chaplain with the Maine Warden service while struggling to raise four children after the tragic death of her trooper husband. This wonderful award winning memoir is both exceptionally funny, extremely moving, and full of great story telling. We read this book in the Afternoon book group about 5 years ago - it stands out as one of my very favorites, very readable, meaningful, and inspirational.

**Recommended by Stephanie Grant**

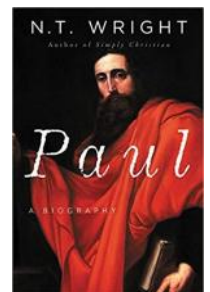


### Paul: A Biography

N.T. Wright

More than half of our New Testament writings are attributed to the Apostle Paul and his followers. But what about the man behind the message? Who was Paul the Apostle? What compelled him to spread the message of Jesus throughout the known world? N.T. Wright's newest book provides fascinating insights into the essence of Paul's life and the extreme unlikelihood of what he achieved.

**Recommended by Fr. Doug**





# Engaged and Influential: Youth Group

By Ian Anderson

*We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us. – from A General Thanksgiving, p 836, The Book of Common Prayer.*

As the end of the program year approaches, we look back to the accomplishments of the parish youth during the past several months and look forward to forthcoming youth activities during the busy month of June. The Youth Group chose as their theme for this year *resilience*: the ability to bounce back in the face of adversity. This choice was in part a nod to the sustained strength of the youth program during an extended “interim” period; even in the face of continuing uncertainty about the direction of the program, the youth group continued to exist and thrive. As interim leader, I would point moreover to the group’s ability to express themselves in new ways, particularly regarding their influence in the life of the Good Shepherd community itself.

The signature event of the past quarter was the *Chez Youth Group* elegant dinner, held on March 30, in which the youth prepared and served a plated three-course dinner for 80 members of the Good Shepherd community. The dinner featured restaurant-quality dishes made from scratch – from cleaning raw shrimp to melting chocolate over a

double boiler – and I believe that it will be long remembered by all who participated, youth and diners alike. Over and above the success of the evening, which raised more than \$3,000 toward this year’s Youth Mission Trip, the event elicited a growth in the character and confidence of our adolescents and young adults; through attention to detail and teamwork they were able to accomplish something that surprised and delighted fellow members of the Good Shepherd community. These same qualities, albeit less dramatically, have been a common thread in youth activities during early 2019, from their carwash fundraiser to their service at *Passport to Paradise*, Good Shepherd’s annual auction and dinner, to their leadership on Youth Celebration Sunday.

June is a busy month for youth engagement, and after a week off after school gets out, we look to three consecutive weeks of activity. The second week of June features

Good Shepherd’s Vacation Bible School, *Roar! Life is Wild, God is Good!* Many of our youth annually participate at VBS as station assistants and youth team leaders, which provide



avenues for them to work alongside parish leaders and show Christian love to the children who attend.

The following week, I will be accompanying a group of 14 youth to *Kanuga Youth Week* in the mountains of western North Carolina, a week providing for Christian fellowship, reflection and spiritual growth. Then, the next week, the youth and several youth leaders travel on a Youth Mission Trip to Marathon, FL. There we will have various opportunities to work with our hosts at St. Columba Episcopal Church to positively impact a community still recovering structurally and emotionally from the ravages of Hurricane Irma in late 2017: assembling cabinets for new apartments bought to provide affordable housing to displaced members of the community, sorting and stocking donations to their *Next to New* thrift and furniture stores, and stocking and setting up stations for their July summer camp for local children. We've also offered our cooking expertise to provide the St. Columba community and those they serve an *ágape* meal should they wish.

In closing, I wish to thank the members of the Good Shepherd community for their sustained support and encouragement to

the youth (and their interim leader!). I ask you to continue to pray for our youth, particularly as we say goodbye to a strong graduating class of five smart and talented young women who are off to college next year. A particular shout-out to Grace Long, who has helped me during this interim period, and who has served as youth representative to the Vestry for the past two years. And I need to name check our Youth Group leaders who faithfully spend their Wednesday evenings helping the youth to grow into the full stature of Christ: my wife Letty, Richard Dunstan, Richard Morie, Jessie Spinnenweber, Ian Taylor, and most especially Beth Bohnsack, without whom my job would be impossible.



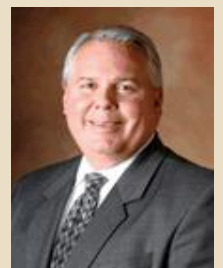
Ian Anderson  
Interim Youth Minister  
youth@goodsheponline.org

CLOCKWISE BELOW Grace Long celebrated her eighteenth birthday at a regular Vestry meeting which she attended as a Youth representative throughout 2018/19. Group photo in the Outdoor Chapel at the Youth Winter Retreat in January. Emily Smith finishes up a windshield at the Youth Car Wash. Chez Youth demonstrated the skills developed by the group in a very challenging full-service dinner experience which was appreciated by many parishioners. OPPOSITE PAGE Despite the funny ties, this group takes service seriously. The ever-popular kid's table at Chez Youth.



All youth are encouraged to participate in our Sunday services as an Acolyte. Please contact Kevin for training!  
kevin.johnson@thebreakers.com

Kevin Johnson,  
Acolyte Master



# Sunday School Matters

An Essay by Merike Seely

I was recruited to teach Sunday School at Good Shepherd in 1998. A voice told me to do it. Not nearly as dramatic as a burning bush or an angel from on high, this voice came to me in the ladies room of the church office building—from the next stall. “You should teach Sunday School,” the voice said. Then, a brief silence. “Okay,” I hesitantly replied.

What else could I say? Our Associate Priest, Wendy Williams, was doing her job as chief recruiter of Sunday School teachers. She had a gentle demeanor and an ingenious strategy. I couldn’t say no. And, in retrospect, I’m incredibly glad that I didn’t.

At first, I felt like a fish out of water. It seemed as if the four-year-olds might see right through my “teacher” facade. They would intuitively know that I hadn’t read the whole Bible. They seemed to confound me with unanswerable questions like, “What does God look like?” Or, “Did my dog go to heaven?” These are great questions. And twenty-one years later, I still can’t answer them. That is the mystery. The certainty is in the source of the questions.

Kids grapple with existential issues just like adults. Who will take care of me? Will I be loved? What if I fail? As Christians, we hope to address those concerns through the lessons of the Bible. As Sunday School teachers we pore over curriculum catalogs and research the best classroom resources and coloring pages. We read books about Sunday School lesson plans and stay up late cutting and tracing for Sunday morning. This is all good. We are prepared. Then we go into the



classroom and we set up a road to Bethlehem. It’s a strip of purple felt and there is a three-dimensional cardboard model of a city rising up at the end. There are little standing palm trees, prophets, and approaching the city, a family. A king is coming.

The children are gathered around. The story begins. And then, one little girl quickly crawls around the edge of the display to get a better view. The Velcro of her sneaker catches the edge of the felt pulling it wildly around in a flourish, sending palm trees and prophets flying in all directions. Squeals of disbelief fill the room. Children are scrambling to collect the assembly of characters. The road to Bethlehem is still attached to her shoe, being dragged surely to Jericho by this point.

And that was the precise moment when the lesson began. We were no longer watching the story, but living it. We were carefully replacing the road, putting the prophets in order, slowly and delicately replanting the trees with pinkies extended. We skillfully rebuilt the city. No one blamed



anyone. There were no tears. We talked through the entire process of helping each other with our task. We were resilient, cooperative, caring, and most of all, loved.

This is why Sunday School matters. If we desire to raise up disciples of Jesus, we need to give them permission to imagine and ponder the big questions. Why did this happen? How will we get past this? Things don't always go the way we plan. They didn't for Abraham and Sarah, or Jonah. They sure didn't for Mary. Things happen that are unlikely. We may not see it coming. But together, with each other and our faith in God, we get through it. These are the meaningful connections that Sunday School makes which are often difficult to find in secular education. Some questions may not be answered satisfactorily, and some will never be answered, but that is why our spiritual journey is life-long.

Wondering is a great way to get kids to think about the big questions. I once wondered with a class about where the sand in the vast desert came from. A five-year old boy gave it some thought and seriously said that, "the desert was the sand that came out of God's pocket." What a parable for the enormity of God! (If you are a parent of a boy, you will appreciate the truth in that association.)

So, parents, let your children come to Sunday School. They may not leave class able to explain a biblical concept or quote a verse, but they will know that they are loved and welcomed as a part of a larger fellowship. They will know that they are important. They will know that we all make mistakes, that we have the capacity for forgiveness, and that we are never alone. They will come to understand that we are all learning, no matter how old we are. And, teachers truly learn as much as the children. So if you ever hear a voice asking you to teach Sunday School, just say "Okay." I know you will be glad you did.

# GS Kids

## GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY SCHOOL

Pre-K 3 through fifth grade  
9:45AM Sunday Mornings  
Children join their families  
in church before communion

### SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERS NEEDED

Please sign up in the Narthex or contact Kate at the email below to say you will lead a 40-minute, completely planned group activity one Sunday this summer. This will give our program year teachers a much-needed break.

### MOVING UP

Congrats to our fifth graders who are moving up to Youth Group when we start up again in August. And welcome to the Nursery grads who will be turning three this summer. We can't wait to see you in GS Kids for fun and fellowship!

### PROGRAM YEAR TEACHERS & ASSISTANTS

We recruit year-round for Sunday School staff. Contact Kate or Merike to find out about training and program details.



Kate Gouery  
Interim Sunday School Director  
sundayschool@goodsheponline.org



### SUMMER SHOP HOURS

Tuesday—Friday 9AM-4PM  
Saturday 10AM-2PM  
Sunday & Monday closed

Donations are gladly accepted  
when the shop is open.



## Second Time Around

As a first effort for co-chairs Judy Kinard and Jennifer Johnson, Second Time Around was a great success. With the help of the entire Pennies For Heaven volunteer staff, bakers, burger makers, sign hangers, heavy lifters, and of course, shoppers, the sale raised about \$6,500 for Good Shepherd's operating budget over the weekend of May 4. We thank everyone who worked long hours and contributed their effort and skill to achieve this accomplishment.

# By the NUMBERS

Here are some of the numbers behind the events, services and activities that reflect the life of this parish in January, February, and March 2019.

**236**

congregation individuals or families made financial gifts or pledges

**\$179,290**

Individual and family contributions

**4,324**

attended Sunday services

**1,346**

attended other services

**37**

received private Holy Communion

**85**

Average attendance at Lenten education series

**6**

Baptisms

**\$8,205.50**

Cash gifts toward CROS Camp Lenten outreach campaign



**225**

Artie's Party Annual Dinner and Auction attendees

**\$45,544**

Net amount raised at Artie's Party Annual Dinner and Auction



OUTREACH & MISSIONS COMMITTEE Chairperson, Marilyn Lawrence, presents Emily Zarzycki of CROS Ministries with a check for \$8,205.50 to help with program costs for CROS Camp, a nine-week summer day camp which gives children a safe, engaging experience by laying the foundation of Christian values and providing on-site or off-site field trips, academics, music, sports, arts and crafts. Thank you for your kind donations.

# Q1 2019 (January—March)

	Q1 Actual	Q1 Budget	Variance
Operating Revenues	205,237	211,660	(6,423)
Operating Expenses	198,118	218,953	20,835
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>7,119</b>	<b>(7,293)</b>	<b>14,412</b>

## Thank You

We would like to thank those individuals and families who have kept their pledge giving current or prepaid for 2019.

By the end of March 2019, Good Shepherd had received \$148,594 in pledge and prepaid pledge contributions.

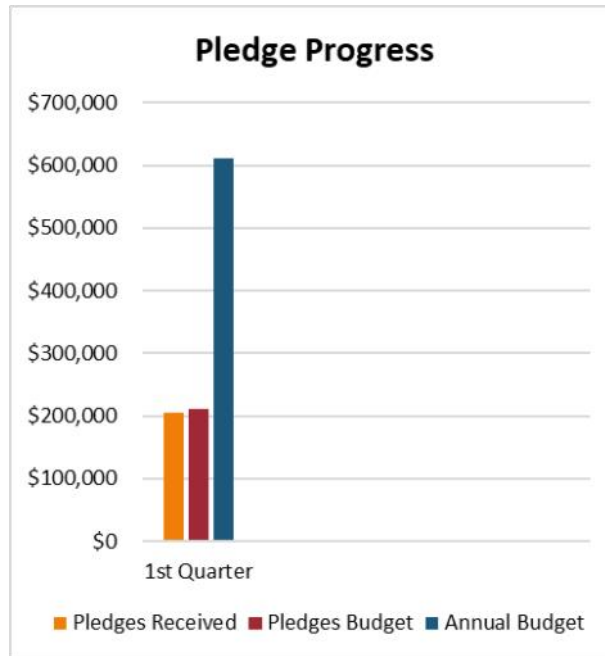
We also would also like to thank newcomers for their pledges toward the 2019 operating budget. Estimates of giving are welcomed at any time of the year.

## Summer

With the summer months upon us, we remind our parishioners who travel north for the season that we offer a variety of options to keep pledge contributions current. Please visit the Giving page of our website or contact Merike in the church office. (746-4674)

## New In June

In June you will receive information about our new integrated platform for mobile giving, recurring gifts, online giving, and text to give. It's easy, fast, secure, and is easily managed for reporting and administering your gifts. Your check and cash contributions, however, are still welcome and very much appreciated.



## 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 in the office 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 are unable to identify the source of such gifts unless you have told us. We want to properly recognize and allocate your gift. Call Merike at 561-746-4674.

## Where are the Vestry Highlights?

Vestry Highlights will be posted on our website beginning in July. There was no regular meeting in May due to the Vestry retreat. June minutes will be published in July.

Financials



Good Shepherd Episcopal Church and School  
 400 Seabrook Road  
 Tequesta, FL 33469

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

Current resident or

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

### SUNDAY

*Holy Eucharist Rite I*

8:00AM

*Holy Eucharist Rite II*

10:00AM

*Sunday School and Nursery*

9:45AM

### WEDNESDAY

*Holy Eucharist and Healing*

10:00AM



## SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

### MONDAY – THURSDAY

9:00AM – 3:00PM

### FRIDAY

9:00AM – 1:00PM

### SATURDAY

Closed

## SUMMER SUNDAY CAFÉ SCHEDULE

JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST EVERY SUNDAY THIS SUMMER!

June 9	Pennies For Heaven
June 16	Good Shepherd School & VBS
June 23	Special Events & Hospitality
June 30	Daughters of the King
July 7	Altar Guild
July 14	Outreach & Missions
July 21	Vergers, Acolytes & Eucharistic Ministers
July 28	Vestry
August 4	Pastoral Care & GriefShare
August 11	Choir
August 18	Good Guys
August 25	Annual Parish Picnic

9:00—9:45AM  
 Parish Hall

Free Breakfast  
 Donations accepted

Bring the whole  
 family!