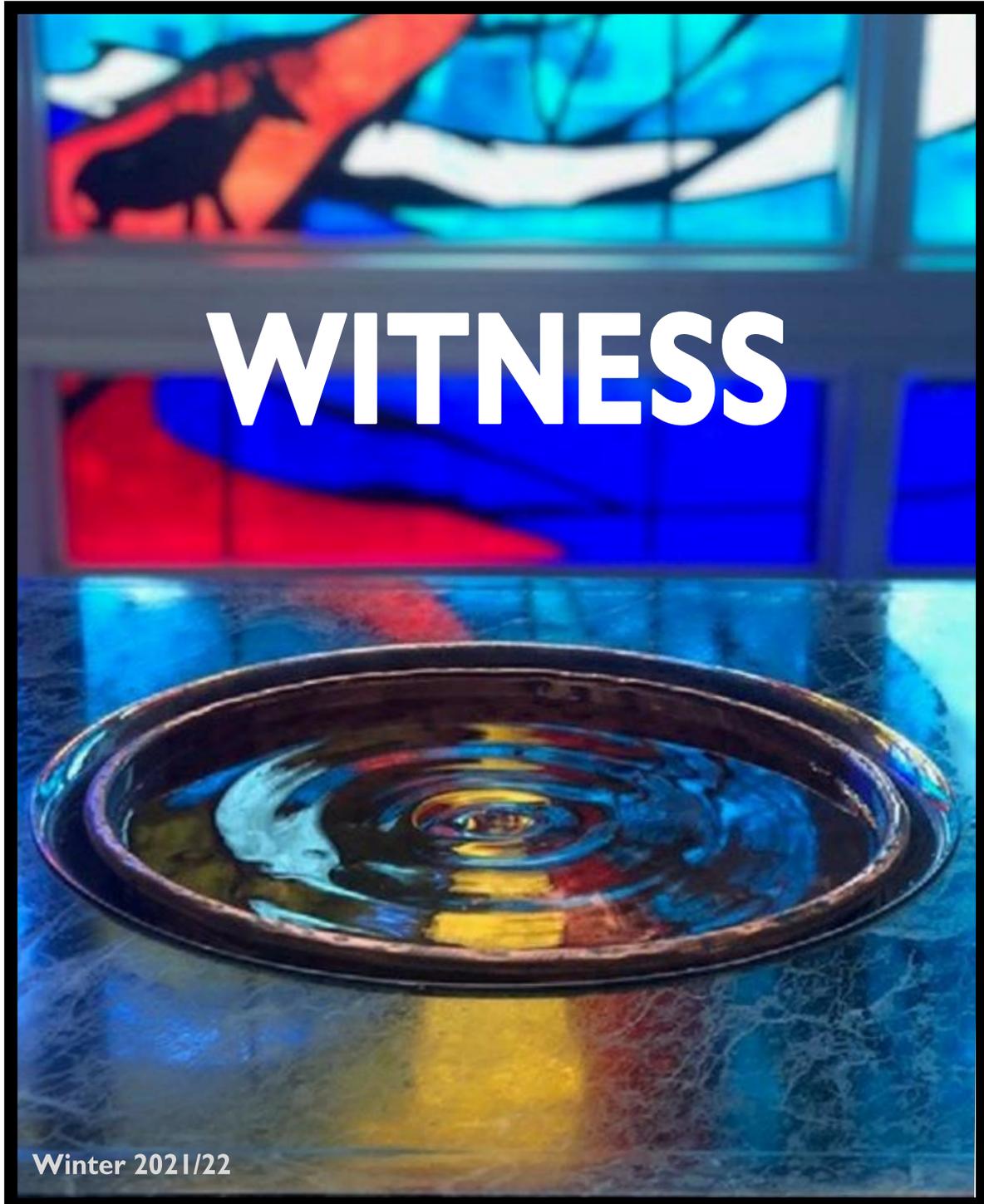


Tidings

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church and School, Tequesta, FL



Winter 2021/22

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



GOOD SHEPHERD

EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL

GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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A spectacular backdrop for our new worship service. *Church on the Green* celebrates spiritual lessons from the seasons of nature and the church with natural elements, Holy Eucharist, and fellowship with each other. We meet on the second and fourth Sunday of each month at 5:00 PM. Find out more on page 6.

WELCOME! As of this printing we are still in Phase 2 of our reopening plan which includes in-person worship. 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

As Christians, we demonstrate faith through word and deed, guided by five questions of our Baptismal Covenant. Our witness is unique to each of us, like ripples reflecting the light of the creation window in our baptismal font.

'Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.' - *Matthew 5:16*

Photo: Evelyn Seely





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OUR VISION

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

Tidings is the quarterly newsletter of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church and School. To receive a copy in the mail, please notify the office at mail@goodsheponline.org or 561-746-4674. 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.

"To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart."

Luke 2:11, 19

A Word from the Rector

Dear Friends,

In the last edition of *Tidings*, we explored the theme of *purpose*. We reflected on our call to ministry and the promise that through baptism we have been marked as Christ's own forever. We have been equipped with spiritual gifts. And we have been empowered by God's Spirit for the work of God's kingdom. Of course, over the past few months, we have endured yet another surge of the COVID-19 virus, which resulted in some delays with regards to our reopening process. But things appear to be back on track. Sunday School and Youth Group are back in full swing. We are once again gathering on Wednesdays for Holy Eucharist and Healing. Other small group ministries and programs have also resumed meeting on campus. There are encouraging signs of new life all around us!



However, even as we resume many of our previous routines and patterns of activity, we have to acknowledge that our world has changed. Many members of our community have experienced significant loss over the past two years. A certain degree of uncertainty remains as we look toward the future. And we continue to experience ideological division and political discord. When the first followers of Jesus were sent out into the world, they faced many of the same challenges. Yet, in the midst of these challenges, the disciples of Jesus were given a specific mission – to be *witnesses*. The disciples were sent forth to share the good news that the powers of sin and death had been defeated and God's new creation was beginning to emerge.

In this edition of *Tidings* we will be focusing on the theme of *witness*. What is a witness? What does it mean that we are called to be witnesses for Jesus? How do we live out this calling in our lives and through the work of ministry? These are just some of the topics that will be explored in the pages that follow. May God grant us strength and wisdom to be witnesses of God's unconditional love, for everyone, everywhere!

In Christ,

Doug +

Rector's Forum

Practicing Incarnation God Enters our Ordinary Lives

During the fall season, we spent some time exploring our spiritual gifts and the ways in which we can all implement spiritual practices that strengthen and sustain our faith in Christ. As we enter into the seasons of Advent and Epiphany, we are going to turn our attention to the foundational Christian belief that in Jesus “the Word became flesh and dwelled among us.” We do not believe in a God who is distant and removed from our daily lives. To the contrary, the God of the Bible is a God who has entered into the fullness of our humanity. But what difference does that make in our lives? During the months of December, January, and February, we are going to explore what it means to *practice incarnation* in all we do.

Session 1: Practicing Theology

December 19

Special Guest: The Rev. Canon Licia Affer

Does the Incarnation have anything to do with my life? What difference does it make that we believe in a God who took on human form and lived as one of us? During this first session, we will be exploring these basic questions as we seek to discern how the Incarnation of Jesus impacts our daily lives.

Session 2: Practicing the Presence of God

January 16

Fr. Doug Scharf

In our modern world, we often make the false distinction between the religious and the secular, or the holy and mundane. We often think that what we do in church on Sundays is somehow removed from our daily tasks and obligations. But the reality is that God is present in every facet of our lives. In this second session, we will focus on the intentional ways we can “practice the presence of God” in the midst of the stress and strain of daily living.



GROW Sunday

Faith Formation for Everyone
Adults • Teens • Children

Third Sunday of each
month at 9:00 AM

Session 3: Practicing Domestic Rituals

February 20

Fr. Derek Larson

In the age of smart phones and tablets, when we are faced with a particular challenge or opportunity, someone will often respond, “There’s an *app* for that!” Well, did you know that in our tradition as Episcopalians, we have a rich variety of resources you can use in the course of your daily life? In other words, when we face challenges and opportunities in the church, we say, “There’s a *prayer* for that!” Join Fr. Derek as we explore the myriad of prayers and rituals you can use in your home and community.

Clergy Bible Study

Great Expectations

From the Prophets to Jesus

Three Week Study - 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 the 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.**

My Soul Magnifies the Lord

The Importance of Women in the Gospel of Luke

Eight Week Study - Begins January 5

Of the four canonical gospels, the Gospel of Luke uniquely highlights the significant role that women played in the ministry of Jesus and early Christian movement. The Gospel of Luke shows us women from a wide range of social standings, and often portrays their interactions with Jesus in parallel with similar interactions he had with men. These women include well-known figures such as Mary and Elizabeth as well as many unnamed women who are empowered to serve and lead as disciples of Jesus. **Fr. Doug and Fr. Derek will be co-leading this eight-week study. Hope you can join us!**

Can I Get A Witness?



Matthias Grünewald; The Crucifixion. (detail)

Pointing People to Jesus In Love

By the Rev. Dr. Douglas F. Scharf

Matthias Grünewald; The Crucifixion (detail) 1515 Panel from the Isenheim altarpiece: oil on wood 105 7/8 x 120 7/8 in; Musee d'Unterlinden, Colmar, France

The text reads, 'He must increase, but I must decrease.' -John 3:30

My childhood days were spent immersed in the sights and sounds of the church. Stained glass windows. Hard wooden pews. Whistling organ pipes. Clanging sanctuary bells. These were the outward and visible signs indicating the Christian community was gathered for worship. I do not remember a time when I was not regularly present in a church building or participating in a church function. For my entire life, I have been surrounded by ecclesiastical structures, activities, and programs. However, although I have spent literally hundreds of hours sitting in the *house of God*, it has consistently been the *people of God* who have most profoundly shaped my spiritual journey.

In other words, it has been my relationship with key individuals over the years that has made all the difference. There was the retired nurse who sat in our pew when I was four years old and who made the most delicious homemade bread. There was the life-long engineer who taught my junior high Sunday school class and who left an indelible mark on my life. There was the blind priest who prayed with me during a time of personal struggle and who taught me to see God's presence more clearly. These are just a few of the *people* who have crossed my spiritual path. It was their example that made the difference. It was the way they lived their lives. It was their *witness* that ultimately changed my life and deepened my faith in God.

Called To Be a Witness

The word *witness* in the New Testament means to give testimony. Specifically, a witness is someone who testifies to the good news of God in Christ. A witness is someone who speaks about God's dream of renewal and restoration for all people, and indeed all of creation. A witness is someone who speaks the truth in love. *In short, a witness is someone who points people to Jesus.* Of course, this is not always popular. There will always be those who reject the truth or resist the call to be a part of God's mission. In fact, in the New Testament the word for *witness* is the same word for *martyr*, a clear indication that answering the call to testify to the truth of the gospel comes with a cost. Yet, the first followers of Jesus were joyful in their testimony and deeply committed to their vocation as *witnesses* of God's good news for the world.

Now, it should be noted that to be a witness is not simply about sharing generic information or general truths about God, but rather to be a witness means that we tell the story of how God has been active and present in our lives. As one New Testament writer puts it, "You are called to be God's witnesses in all the world of *what you have seen and heard*" (Acts 22:15). We are called to tell others about *what we have seen and heard*. In other words, to be a witness means that we tell God's story and *our story*; we share about our experience of God's presence in our lives. We testify to God's unconditional love. We tell people about the ways in which our faith in Christ has impacted our lives and given us hope in the midst of life's challenges. This does not mean we

have to stand on a street corner handing out tracts or go around knocking on doors to tell people about Jesus. But it does mean that the way we live our lives should point people to Jesus. We are called to be witnesses in the world of *all that we have seen and heard!*

"...to be a witness means that we tell the story of how God has been active and present in our lives."

Telling Your Story

So, what does that look like? How do we live as God's witnesses? How do we tell our story and tell others about our faith experience? These are challenging questions and there many possible responses. However, in the Episcopal Church, we are blessed to have been a given framework by which we can understand our call to be God's witnesses, and that framework is our baptismal covenant. As part of our baptismal covenant, we make five promises which can help guide our spiritual lives and strengthen our *witness*.

Stay Connected – The first promise we make as part of the baptismal covenant is to "continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship." We are committing ourselves to remain connected to the Christian community as a main source of strength, inspiration, and encouragement. *To be a witness for Jesus means that we are connected to something bigger than our ourselves.*

Seek Forgiveness – The second promise we make is to be quick to seek forgiveness from God and one another. The reality is that we will fall short. We will make mistakes. We will let people down. Yet, we commit ourselves "to repent and return to the Lord." *To be a witness for Jesus means that we are humble and acknowledge our need for God's grace.*

Show Authenticity – The third promise is related to our proclamation of the good news, which we typically associate with *words*. But the third promise of our baptismal covenant calls us to proclaim the good news of God in Christ "by word and example." This means that our words and actions must be in alignment; we are called to practice what we preach. *To be a witness for Jesus means that we are authentic in seeking to live a transformed and Christ-centered life.*

Serve Generously – The fourth promise goes even deeper and calls us to a life of service. We promise "to seek and serve Christ *in all persons*." Not just a few persons. Not just the persons we like. Not just the persons we agree with. In all persons. *To be a witness for Jesus means that we offer ourselves generously to serve others for Jesus' sake.*

Share Peace – The fifth and final promise is perhaps the most challenging of all. We are committing ourselves to "strive for justice and peace" and to "respect the dignity of every human being." This promise goes to the very heart of the gospel. Jesus came to bring us peace with God and one another. He came to bring God's *shalom* (the Hebrew word for peace, wholeness, and healing). *To be a witness for Jesus means we share God's peace through our relationships with one another.*

Continued next page

Continued from page 5

Pointing to Jesus

In my life, the people who have embodied the core values of the Gospel as expressed in our baptismal covenant have made all the difference. The retired nurse in the pew next to me, the life-long engineer sharing a Sunday School lesson, the blind priest gently holding my hand in prayer, and countless others all pointed me to Jesus. Their names are not listed in the chronicles of saints. They are not remembered for great acts of boldness. But they stayed connected, sought forgiveness, showed authenticity, served generously, and shared the peace of Christ through their lives. We are *all* called to be witnesses. We are *all* called to testify to what we have seen and heard. We are *all* called to point others to Jesus. I invite you to take some time to reflect on the promises we have made through our baptismal covenant. How is God calling you to be witness a in your family, your neighborhood, your school, or your workplace? How is God calling you to point others to Jesus? In the words of the well-known Afro-American Spiritual, "If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul, you can tell the love of Jesus, and say, "He died for all!" (1982 Hymnal, 676 – *There is a balm in Gilead*).

The Daily Office: Morning Prayer Meaningfully

Morning Prayer is a service offered every weekday online. We hope you will consider joining us in the coming weeks, perhaps as an Advent discipline. As we approach Christmas and Epiphany, there is no better time to reflect on the significance of the season that brings us the Christ child.

Monday through Friday at 9:00
Zoom Live: link on Prayer page
of GoodShepOnline.org
Recording available later on the same page

WORSHIP

New Service!



Good Shepherd has a new outdoor service during our "season" of great weather — Church on the Green. This service celebrates both our verdant, natural world and

our spiritual nature. Fr. Doug and Fr. Derek both participate in this service that includes scripture, music, prayer, Holy Eucharist, fire, light, and darkness. Held outside behind the Parish Hall, you are invited to a casual and grounded connection with God while birds fly above and the setting sun turns the sky into a magnificent "stained glass" backdrop.

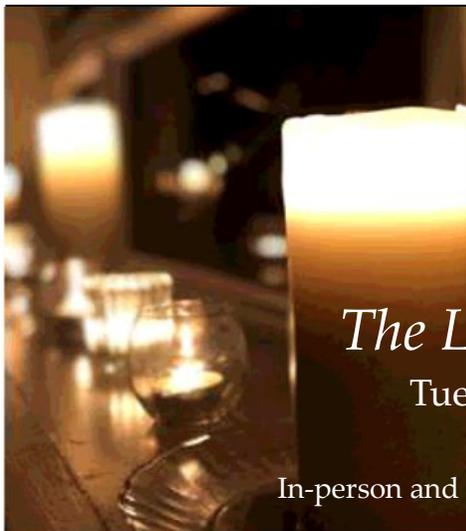
Church on the Green is a perfect family setting and a great opportunity to introduce friends and neighbors to Good Shepherd. Bring a chair or blanket. Flashlight and marshmallows, optional. Meets every second and fourth Sunday at 5:00 PM.

Please visit our website GoodShepOnline.org for the latest pandemic safety protocols for worship services and campus facilities.
Love Thy Neighbor!



GriefShare is a program of focused group discussion and personal study for those who have experienced significant loss.

We will begin a new 13-week session in the new year. Please watch our website for upcoming dates and times.



A service of healing and hope for those who are hurting at Christmas.

The Longest Night

Tuesday, December 21

6 PM

In-person and Online

Resist, Repent, Return

By The Rev. Derek Larson, TSSF

“Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?” (The Baptismal Covenant, BCP 304)

A friend in seminary introduced me to the celebration of St. Lucia's Day, which takes place on December 13, right in the middle of Advent. Legend has it that under the rule of Emperor Diocletian, when Christians gathered for worship in the catacombs for fear of persecution, Lucia (or Lucy) would bring food to those in hiding. Because her hands were occupied with the prepared meal, Lucia crowned herself with a wreath equipped with candles to light her path in the darkness of the catacombs. In this way she lived up to her name (meaning light) and became for those in the darkness a “Bearer of Light.” Today in many cultures, St. Lucia's Day, is celebrated as a Festival of Light not long before the winter solstice and Christmas, when night is at its longest. In Sweden, where the holiday is especially important, a girl is chosen to dress in white with a crown of artificial candles to lead a procession with a tray of pastries and refreshments, hearkening to the historical Lucia in the catacombs.

The celebration is a perfect image for the exhortations in our Baptismal Covenant: to resist, repent, and return. On a historical level, St. Lucia is an example of holy **resistance** in the face of great injustice—a person who refused to give into Roman persecution, choosing instead to feast with her people, even in the catacombs. On a symbolic level, with

her crown of candles, St. Lucia demonstrates the resistance of Advent light which breaks through into the darkness.

The festival's location close to Christmas and the winter solstice also richly demonstrate the themes of **repentance** and **return**, for the winter solstice is a kind of repentance in the natural world. In Greek the work repent (*metanoia*) literally means “to change one's mind” and carries the connotation of a person turning around in another direction. This is what happens at the winter solstice. While darkness had lengthened its grasp over the land, on the solstice comes a change in direction, and the light of the day begins to grow again.

In Scripture this is expressed so well in John 1:9, which is read on both Christmas and St. Lucia's Day: “The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.”

Advent, then, is the perfect time to reflect on this question from our Baptismal Covenant.

Resist

In what ways are we resisting evil and injustice around us? How are we shining a light in the dark places in our communities? How do we serve those the world pushes to the catacombs of society?

Repent

In what ways do we recognize our own participation in the systems of darkness around us? Have we taken



the time to examine our lives and actions recently? What are some tangible ways to orient our hearts towards the light of God?

Return

Where in our lives have we been absent to the presence of God and how might we return? In what ways might we prepare ourselves for the return of Christ on Christmas and in the end? How might we celebrate the light of God come into our lives?

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



Adventure Kingdom
Sundays for Children
at
10:00 AM
In the Parish Hall

YOUTH and FAMILY

By David Dixon, Youth and Family Minister

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
(The Baptismal Covenant, BCP 304)

Continue. I like that word especially in context of the community of faith. The life of faith is NEVER a life lived in isolation. From the very beginning in Genesis we hear these words, "It is not good that [hu]man [kind] should be alone." The life of faith is lived in community with God and with each other. The life of faith is strengthened and aided by God's abundant mercy, grace and love, all of which may be experienced relationally. That's why much of what we hold dear as rites and traditions like baptism are celebrated in community.

During confirmation, our youth tackle a lot of theological concepts regarding faith and life. One of the lessons in the confirmation process covers the creeds of the church. The Apostle's Creed and the Nicene Creed are both a confession of faith and a proclamation of life lived in community. "We believe....", a corporate expression of faith and community.

The first question in our baptismal covenant is a call — a challenge or even a commitment to continue. *Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?* That is, will you continue in learning, in fellowship, communion, and prayer? That is a lot to continue, isn't it?

At the heart of Christianity is this shared life, a life in community. A shared life is an abundant life. The promises we make as Christians we make with one voice in

community at baptism— as individuals, yes, but also as the community of Jesus Christ, within the universal Church that exists through time. But how does this work in the context of youth ministry?

Recently, I revisited the writings of one of my favorite theologians of the 19th century, Dietrich Bonhoeffer. The ideas he proposed in "Sanctorum Communio" were highly influential in working out my own theology of the person. My ideas of youth ministry as relational were influenced by the early works of Bonhoeffer, a German theologian who spent a lot of time in youth ministry prior to being arrested and eventually killed by the Nazi regime. He pointed out that long ago, youth ministry isn't about setting aside a special place for young people in the church but about moving them into the center of the church community.

In an essay titled, "Eight Theses on Youth Work", Bonhoeffer has a lot to say about youth work with respect to faith formation. His ideas there continue to be relevant. There is a different prevailing view of youth work which asserts that in order to attract youth and keep them engaged they need a place that more directly forms their identity as "Christian youth," a place that gives them an identity that will stick during and after their time at college.

Yet Bonhoeffer says we should do the opposite. He says we should not set aside a special place for youth if we really care about their faith formation: "Youth enjoys no special privilege in the church community. It is to serve the church community by hearing, learning, and practicing the word. God's spirit in the church has nothing to do with youthful criticism of the church. The radical nature of God's claim on human beings has nothing to do with youthful radicalism, and the commandment for sanctification nothing to do with youthful impulse to better the world."

What if the best way to advocate for youth and to do youth ministry is to tell the church community that their young people must be taken deep into the life of the community? Bonhoeffer calls young people to place sharing with all the adults of the community. This is thoroughly relational. With no more privilege than anyone else, youth



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

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



Left: Our intergenerational “Fifth Sunday” band provides music for the 10 AM Holy Eucharist on October 31.

Below: Mixing it up. Youth learn valuable skills in the kitchen in small group fellowship with Ian Anderson. (The recipes are really good!)

should be invited into friendship at the center of the community. There we encounter Jesus Christ in our midst.

This is why I am so excited that this year we decided to make every fifth Sunday, Youth Sunday, not to give privileged status to our youth, but because it is an intentional act to bring our youth into the center of our worshipping community through music, word and friendship. Seeing youth as an integral part of the faith community is faith formative. In this we are being intentional with faith formation and relational by place-sharing with our young people. By place-sharing we are continuing in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers

As an advocate for relational youth ministry, I hear the call to participate in the humanity of youth as they encounter the living Christ. Youth ministry as such is not merely a means to an end, the end being “Christian youth”. Rather, youth ministry is an invitation to young people to enter this space of place-sharing being lived out by the community of the church.

Here, youth are not seen as a special area of ministry, but as persons bound to others in faith, hope and love. In the shared space of church, young people encounter the living Christ, who meets them with an invitation to follow.

The response to all the questions asked at baptism is “I will with God’s help.” With God’s help we give witness to the abundant welcome and love of God we each receive, again and again. May we welcome young people as full members into the life of the church so together we continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers. Thanks be to God.



Ian Anderson



Right: Dominic Gouery welcomes his brother Elliot into the Acolyte Guild after training with Youth Acolyte Master Kevin Johnson. Welcome, Elliot!



While not a big fan of baptism by water, Penelope Fagnano demonstrated plenty of Holy Spirit at her baptism on All Saints Sunday when she received the sacrament of new birth and was marked as Christ’s own forever.

See the full Youth Schedule at GoodShepOnline.org/family-ministries



Loving Your Neighbor As Yourself

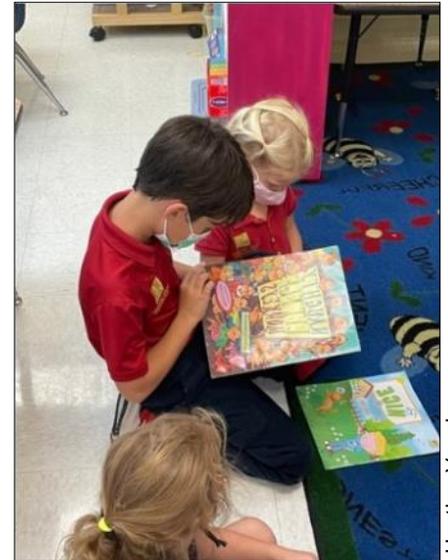
Heather Vaughn, Acting Head of School, Good Shepherd Episcopal School

Each month the students of Good Shepherd focus on a virtue such as empathy and acceptance. It may come as a surprise to you that these are not necessarily innate traits, but primarily learned behaviors. In our Early Childhood program, these virtues are modeled by their teachers and cultivated through play. As students progress from *associative play* (sharing materials) to *collaborative play* (negotiation and cooperation), we have increased opportunities for kind and compassionate interactions. For our Elementary School students, social and emotional learning (SEL) is a part of every school day. It is the foundation of what sets Good Shepherd apart by truly educating the whole child.

Through this astounding growth, we answer an important Baptismal Covenant: **“Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?”** Yes! Our students are learning to be loving servants of each other, to show

compassion, empathy and acceptance. This stretches beyond the individual classroom with programs such as Reading Buddies. One only needs a glimpse of a Fourth Grader reading to a Preschooler, or a First Grader reading to a member of Shepherd’s Flock, to see the impact. These inter-generational relationships foster virtues that are an important part of their growth.

These interactions also exist beyond our school’s walls. Without leaving campus, our young students continue to fulfill this Covenant. On Veterans’ Day, you may have witnessed many of our students stuffing dollar bills into a fireman’s boot to support Honor Flight. I asked a Kindergarten student what the money was for and he answered “for people who fought in the war, so we can say thank you”. You may also be fortunate enough to catch the proud look on a student’s face when they deliver a canned good to the Food Pantry on our way to Chapel every



Heather Vaughn

Third grader, Daniel Degrave, reading to his EL3 buddies.

Wednesday. This month we will spend time discussing our Toy Drive, in conjunction with Jupiter Elementary, to provide holiday gifts for families here in our own community. Regardless of where or how these virtues are nurtured, we know social competency leads to more successful children – and a more loving and productive society.

Good Shepherd School is looking for one part-time and one full-time teaching assistant. These are paid positions. Please contact Heather Vaughn for more information.
hvaughn@goodshepschool.com

We’re having a Toy Drive to benefit kids at Jupiter Elementary! Please bring unwrapped toys to Good Shepherd School or the church by December 10!

Right: Third graders helping their friend master a handstand in recess.



Heather Vaughn

Far right: First grader, Owen Brinkman, comforting his sister, Ella (EL3).



Heather Vaughn



God sings!

By Debbie White
Assistant Choir Coordinator

Zephania 3:17 God will exult joy over you with loud singing.

In order to witness to others and to God, we are asked three things, to pray, preach and sing. The Bible, both old and new testaments, asks us to sing over 400 times; *sing for joy*, Ps. 63:7, *sing a new song*, Ps. 96: 1-2, *if cheerful ...sing songs of praise*, James 5:13. And, there doesn't seem to be any judgement on how well one sings either! Most singers' experience will benefit from education and practice.

Besides being commanded to do so, why sing? Singing God's word does several things to enhance our worship experience:

Songs teach. When children are young, many learn the song, "Jesus Loves Me". Studying the Book of Psalms, as we are currently in Bible study, is a review of the human condition in poetry, from despair, wisdom to joy and praise – all to be sung.

Songs allow us to confess openly, which is good for the soul, i.e. "Amazing Grace", *I once was lost, ... but now I'm found...*

Songs improve memory. There's an ease to remembering scripture with a melody. As memory impaired patients show, they may not be able to speak well, but can sing a song from their youth.

Songs give us time to reflect on a passage. We all know how to say the Lord's Prayer. But listening, or singing Malotte's musical arrangement can be transcending for the soul. Many of us sing and pray in the car listening to the radio.

During this pandemic, we have missed singing as a congregation during worship services. Without singing many folks felt disconnected socially from our church family. Many choir members probably sang behind their masks, and still long to return to choral singing.

Just a note. I feel music should not divide us. Contemporary, traditional or songs of any style of music should unite us. The variety of musical selections we have today can teach us appreciation of others' talents, and help us to understand the Word in a new light. All sacred music reflects the variety in God's creation.

The Indian poet, Tagore said: "God respects me when I work, but he loves me when I sing." Is singing praying twice? You decide.

In order for the word to dwell in us richly, ... sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God, ... in the name of the Lord, Jesus. Col. 3:16, 17.

So, immerse yourself in worship praises, hymns, and spiritual music. Listen to the end of Handel's "Messiah" for words from Revelation 7:11-12.

And Sing LOUD!

A service of
Lessons & Carols
 with Holy Eucharist

January

at 10:00 AM

Holy Eucharist
 Rite 1

8:00 AM

Guided Labyrinth Walk
 Sunday, December 19
 11:30 AM
Peace for your path in Advent



Outreach & Missions: Living into our baptismal covenant

By Marilyn Lawrence, Outreach & Missions Committee Chair



“Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?”

(The Baptismal Covenant, BCP 304)

“Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person how to fish and you feed them for a lifetime.” The fact that virtually every culture claims this proverb speaks to its universal truth. Throughout Outreach & Mission Committee, we try to live into this calling, with our dual emphasis on **food** and **education**. Food provides the energy, education provides the tools. Both respect the dignity of each individual, their self-worth, and their capacity for growth.

A simple review of some of our principal programs speaks to our embrace of all peoples. Through St. George’s Mission, CROS Ministries, the Food Pantry and our Backpack Ministry, we interact with those who are struggling and people who are homeless in our community. Through our Back-to-School drive and our book and hygiene kit collections we give support and encouragement to the children of farmworkers in Indiantown. Through our Food-Sharing – and our recent Food-PAIRING – with Bondeau, Haiti, we help to support at least one community in that strife-torn land. We built a labyrinth for the Diocese of Toliara in Madagascar, and have often sold their lovely handicrafts here at Good Shepherd. We have provided hurricane relief to the Bahamas and to communities in Honduras and Guatemala, to help them rebuild and get back to work.

Not one of these programs was created with just GIVING in mind. They have been intentionally developed to build up the body of Christ, to give to our brothers and sisters the tools to help themselves. But while this has been our intent, has that been its effect? How do the recipients view our efforts? Have these programs truly promoted justice and peace, and respected the dignity of every human being?

We have some direct answers from some of our recipients:

- From the **Warfield School**: “We take pride in the work we do. Your generosity and thoughtfulness make our teachers, staff and students feel valued and appreciated.”
- From our **Food Pantry** recipients: “You are so helpful and friendly, and always glad to see us.” “I have never been a recipient of help before. Your non-judgmental way of giving is greatly appreciated.”
- From Pere Phanord, in **Bondeau, Haiti**: ““We continue to fight with life, we work very hard, and miracles continue. We have the rice and beans for the reopening of school, but the situation asks me to give it to the people in need now.”
- From **Toliara, Madagascar**: “The labyrinth was recently refurbished by a group of youth and children

from the parish. They learned how to use the labyrinth in their spiritual lives. It encouraged them to give freely as has been so freely given to them.”

To build friendships. To be non-judgmental. To help people to feel valued, and to want to give freely. To work with others and to LOVE them. This is how we strive to live into our Covenant, and to share the Good News with all God’s people.

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.



Top: Manna Bag Ministry means business when they meet to pack meals to go for St. George’s Community Center. **Above:** Our friends at Tequesta Brewing Company come through once again with donations of Thanksgiving foods for our Food Pantry families. We served 54 families this year! **Below:** It’s amazing what people will do for fellow human beings...and pie. The 21st Annual Run 4 the Pies had about 1,600 entries this year in support of the Good Shepherd Food Pantry. Thank you!!



good shepherd
presents
the twenty-first annual
artie's party
Friday, February 18, 2022
all proceeds benefit outreach ministry
online auction
come together in-person, outdoors
save the date

Artie’s Party raises funds for Good Shepherd Outreach and Missions for the entire year. Your support of this fantastic event ensures we can live into the important work of service.

- 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.

The Food Pantry is open on Tuesdays from 11-2 Curbside in the south parking lot

Snapshot Journal

The 2021 Good Shepherd Episcopal Church Annual Parish Meeting

Will Be Held
In The Church On
Sunday,
January 23, 2022
at 10:30 a.m.

THE BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THIS MEETING WILL BE:

1. The election of Vestry members
2. Consideration of the 2022 parish budget
3. Presentation on the State of the Parish
4. Any other business that may rightfully come before this parish.

9:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist (Rite 1.5)

10:30 a.m.
Annual Meeting (in Church)

11:45 a.m.
Courtyard Reception

October saw the annual Blessing of the Animals at Good Shepherd with about 38 critters in attendance!

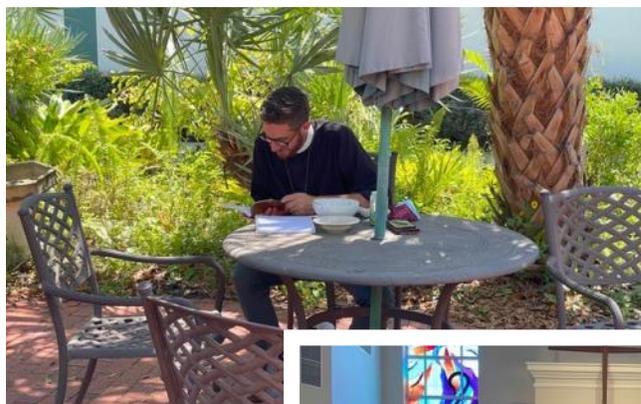
Right: Ed Long holds Gator, who is blessed by Fr. Doug. **Below:** Dawn Gasperino and Snickers.



Right: Julie Brown and Gracie wait for their turn for a blessing.



Left: Fr. Derek finds a quiet spot in the courtyard to catch up on reading and have lunch.



In September, the Wendy A. Williams Chapter of the Daughters of the King celebrated ministry and the installation of new officers for the coming year.

In November, the annual Diocesan DOK Assembly was hosted at Good Shepherd for the first time in decades.



SERVE

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT:

Pennies For Heaven

Looking good for 50 years old!

By Merike Seely

In 1971, the Episcopal Church Women at Good Shepherd started a thrift shop to assist clergy with discretionary expenses. Over the decades, and with much thought and organization the shop has evolved into a robust community resource that provides for people in a variety of needs, and contributes directly to Good Shepherd's mission and ministry.

In 2019 we transitioned from an all-volunteer model and hired Beth Long to manage the operations of the shop. Soon after, Denise Parson joined the team as an assistant for management and merchandising. Catherine Oenbrink, a volunteer on the leadership team, led an effort to move the shop into online sales in 2019, without knowing that six months later it would enable Pennies to not only survive the pandemic, but have its best year on record for gross sales. We now have stores on Ebay and Offer Up, and we participate with other thrift groups on Facebook and Instagram and in our local vicinity.

The bedrock of a successful thrift store is plentiful, fast-moving inventory. Thanks to the donations of parishioners and our community, we have welcomed just about any cast off with open arms. What isn't used in the shop is outreach to another organization in need. And it's no exaggeration to say that furniture is big. Furniture has become essential to our growth, and the need for space remains a major challenge. In the coming year we will be weighing on and off-campus scenarios, keeping in mind that Pennies is more than a shop, but a purpose-filled lifeline for parishioners on our campus at Good Shepherd.

Thrifting has always been fun for the treasure hunter in all of us, but in recent years, thrift shops have become magnets for those seeking vintage and collectables. We happen to have a lot of that, so this year, consider a unique one-of-a-kind item or a new 'tags-on' item for someone on your list! (That's right, some donations have never been worn!) Reuse and recycling reduces our carbon footprint, too! Let's make 2021 a green and very Merry "Thriftmas!"



Above: Pennies For Heaven prays for a successful Open Air Market and Holiday Bazaar. **Right:** It's Team Blue on a special sale day that welcomed travelling shoppers from SHOP HOP HAUL.



Smiling faces at the 2021 Volunteer Luncheon held at River Ridge Clubhouse on November 28, celebrating 50 years of thrift shop ministry!

THRIFT SHOP HOURS:
Tuesday—Friday, 11-4
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!

By the NUMBERS

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

\$10,015

Income from Pennies For Heaven Good Shep Flea Open Air Market in November

11

Circuits on our 40-foot diameter outdoor labyrinth

\$675,000

Pledge goal for 2022

12

States with regular online viewership of our Sunday Services

38

Pets present for Blessing of the Animals

10

Sunday Services in November

103

Burgers and dogs grilled by Youth Group at Good Shep Flea

146

Pledge cards returned as of this print date

54

Families that picked up Thanksgiving baskets from the Food Pantry

Stewardship 2022



Cookie Wisdom:
*All we are and all we have
come from God.*

Giving Campaign Update for 2022

By Merike Seely

On November 14 we celebrated Giving Sunday — the day we turn in our estimates of giving for the coming year. Throughout October we encouraged full participation by everyone in recognizing the gratitude in our heart that fosters generosity. We listened to testimony in church. We tuned in to podcast discussions. Clergy and lay leaders invited us to explore our own unique “Why.” And we have heard from individuals through letters, cards, emails, and in-person about their gratitude for the continuation — and even expansion, in some cases — of ministry over the past year. The need for spiritual and emotional support has been great. Fellowship opportunities are now returning as ministry opens up. As we look to 2022, we see opportunity and promise, not for what we used to need, but for what we need **now** in this time, this place, this ministry of love and concern for others.

As of November 28, we are 78% to our goal of \$675,000 with 146 estimates of giving returned. This is an extraordinary response to our fall campaign and we continue to receive pledge cards daily. If you have not yet provided an estimate of giving for 2022 we ask that you prayerfully consider your response. We would love to see 100% participation because we all make up this body and together we are whole.

So, to paraphrase Ephesians 4, let's hear from all of our apostles, prophets, evangelists, preachers, and teachers! We have been given our gifts through grace for the building up of the body of Christ. And through Him this body is fully equipped to grow in love.



Generosity Leads to
Living with Purpose

Financial Status (January—October 2021)

	Actual	Annual Budget
Operating Revenues	809,096	948,462
Operating Expenses	821,490	939,341
Net Total	(12,394)	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.

End-of-Year Giving Information

- Prepaid Pledge: For a pledge to be prepaid for 2022, it must be received no later than December 31, 2021.
- Please ensure stock gifts and donor advised grants are initiated in time to be received by the end of the month to count for 2021.
- We will be collecting mail even though the office will be closed for the final week of December. Online gifts are received at the time of the transaction.
- Pledge balance inquiries are always available by emailing info@goodsheponline.org with a request.
- You can access your annual giving by logging on to Realm, our online database. The link is on the home page of our website GoodShepOnline.org
- Annual giving statements will be mailed by mid-January. They are available even sooner if you log into Realm.

And MOST IMPORTANTLY, thank you so much for your continued support of Good Shepherd mission and ministry.

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 optional
for those who are vaccinated**
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

Christmas
SERVICE SCHEDULE 2021

December 24
4:00 PM Family Service
7:00 PM Festive Candlelight Eucharist
10:00 PM Solemn Choral Eucharist

December 25
10:00 AM Christmas Eucharist

GOOD SHEPHERD
EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL
TEQUESTA, FLORIDA

Advent and Christmas

December 16 Good Shepherd School Christmas Presentation

December 19 Advent GROW Sunday

December 20 Christmas Flower forms are due

December 21 The Longest Night

December 26 Christmas I—one service at 10:00 AM

January 2 Christmas II—Lessons and Carols

Visit our calendar on our website for times and more information!

7:00 PM Christmas Eve service will be available as livestream.

*The Vestry, Wardens, Clergy, and Staff wish you
a very happy Christmas and New Year!*

www.GoodShepOnline.org