



# GOOD SHEPHERD

EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL

TEQUESTA, FLORIDA

## Vestry Highlights

January 2026

The Vestry met on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, for its regular monthly meeting.

### *A Moment of Gratitude*

This month's *Moment of Gratitude* was shared by Senior Warden Dan Gilbert, who lifted up **Dr. Marilyn Lawrence** with deep appreciation for her extraordinary service and spirit. At Good Shepherd, Marilyn has been instrumental in growing our Food Pantry, has faithfully chaired the Outreach Committee, was a long-time School Board member, and is a beloved Artie's Party aficionado. Her impact extends well beyond our parish. In the wider community, she founded the Jupiter Medical Center Volunteers program and has authored several books, including *The History of Good Shepherd*. Her career also includes working for a U.S. Senator during her time in Washington, D.C. And, in true Marilyn fashion, she once had a horse named Tequila, because even legends have flair. We give thanks for Marilyn's vision, generosity, and the joyful imprint she has left on so many lives.

### **Capital Campaign Planning**

Good Shepherd Church and School is beginning to plan a capital campaign for launch later this spring. While the full vision will be shared in the coming months, one early area of focus is the Narthex, a space that shapes how we gather, greet one another, and prepare for worship.

The Vestry recently met with parishioner and interior designer Courtney Davis to explore initial ideas for enhancing the **Narthex, bathrooms, and choir room**. Her thoughtful designs and palette offered a fresh perspective on how beauty and function can support the hospitality we already value so deeply. This was just an early conversation, but the Vestry is encouraged by the direction and looks forward to sharing more as the process unfolds.

### **Rector's Report**

Father Groff reported that the end of the year was a great success, especially with the many Christmas services and festivities. Attendance for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services increased to a total of **785 people**. There were numerous Christmas and holiday gatherings for various groups throughout the season. Since the last Vestry meeting, the parish celebrated two funerals and a wedding, the **first wedding Father Groff has officiated** at Good Shepherd. There were also five baptisms in January.

Father Groff shared that the youth had a successful retreat to St. Columba's Episcopal Church in Marathon, Florida, over MLK weekend, with 13 youth attending alongside two chaperones. He concluded by **thanking the outgoing Vestry members** for their service and dedication to the

church, including Senior Warden Dan Gilbert, Junior Warden Kevin Riddle, Clerk Carolyn Reikenis, and Caroline Boren. New Vestry members will be elected at the Annual Meeting.

### **Senior Warden's Report**

Senior Warden Dan Gilbert expressed **gratitude** for the opportunity to serve as Senior Warden and for the incredible group of people he has come to know through his service on the Vestry.

### **Good Shepherd School Report**

Julie Hirsch, Vestry liaison to the School Board, reported that the school is approximately halfway through the academic year. **Tuition and calendar dates** for the coming year were approved by the School Board. She shared that the continued emphasis on mission fit for students and families strengthens both the school community and the overall experience.

### **Youth Liaison's Report**

Youth Liaison Sophie Riddle reported that everyone greatly enjoyed the recent retreat. February will be a very busy month for the youth group, beginning with the **Souper Bowl Food Drive** on February 8. Youth will also serve at **Artie's Party**, followed closely by making pancakes for **Shrove Sunday** on February 15 between the services at 9 a.m. On Sunday, February 22, the youth will offer a **presentation on their experience in Maine** last summer during the Sunday Forum at 9 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Through these activities, they hope to raise funds for their upcoming summer trip.

### **Financial Reports**

The year-end December church financial report was presented. **The year-end operating income totaled \$84,703**, driven by revenue exceeding the budget by \$72,863 and expenses coming in \$11,352 under budget. The Vestry expressed gratitude to all who supported the church financially in 2025. The majority of the surplus will be allocated to Parish Operating Reserves, with additional funding designated for restricted maintenance needs related to Pennies and technology.

A consolidated financial report for December is included below. Questions regarding the budget or church finances may be directed to Treasurer Mike Greene. For updates on pledges or giving, parishioners are encouraged to contact Business Manager Lynn Evans.

### **2026 Budget Approval**

The 2026 budget was presented and approved by the Vestry. The budget represents an **approximate 10% increase, totaling \$1.3 million**. Revenue streams will continue to be diversified and strengthened, with both pledge and non-pledge offerings projected to increase by approximately 10%.

### **Vestry Hosts on Sunday**

Members of the Vestry will begin serving as "Vestry Hosts" at both Sunday services. Vestry Hosts will be present in the Narthex wearing name badges and will assist clergy and staff in ensuring a smooth service. They will also be available to **answer questions and welcome parishioners** and visitors. Please be sure to say hello as they begin this new ministry of hospitality.

**Church Of The Good Shepherd**  
**Analysis of Revenues & Expenses - Summary**  
**2026 Budget**

	YTD Budget (2025)	YTD Actual (Dec. 2025)	Proposed Budget (2026)
<b>Income</b>			
Pledges	\$ 668,148.00	\$ 636,330.91	\$ 716,805.00
Contributions	191,500.00	272,475.80	202,094.09
Other Income	252,391.73	268,448.95	301,888.76
School Contributions	91,555.66	99,202.25	112,937.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>\$ 1,203,595.39</u>	<u>\$ 1,276,457.91</u>	<u>\$ 1,333,724.85</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
<b>Stipends, Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>			
Clergy	226,547.56	190,602.78	225,861.72
Administrative	256,571.91	274,778.25	308,961.53
Children, Family & Youth	35,325.43	26,923.22	51,156.00
Worship & Music	70,968.59	71,843.10	80,138.53
Thrift Shop	65,240.83	66,073.60	69,027.37
Insurance	2,500.00	2,867.00	4,000.00
<b>Total Stipends, Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>	<u>\$ 657,154.32</u>	<u>\$ 633,087.95</u>	<u>\$ 739,145.15</u>
<b>Property Expenses</b>			
Church Property	259,987.70	263,212.04	271,660.46
Rectory	19,764.27	23,169.93	29,452.24
Ridgewood	16,201.13	17,406.39	28,459.00
<b>Total Property Expenses</b>	<u>\$ 295,953.10</u>	<u>\$ 303,788.36</u>	<u>\$ 329,571.70</u>
<b>Diocesan Expenses</b>			
	<u>\$ 125,479.00</u>	<u>\$ 125,379.00</u>	<u>\$ 134,218.00</u>
<b>Administrative Expenses</b>			
Office Expenses	42,950.00	38,089.34	33,200.00
Professional Expenses	24,600.00	33,464.94	25,250.00
Thrift Shop Expenses	8,000.00	9,889.36	9,200.00
Miscellaneous	-	78.06	-
<b>Total Administrative Expenses</b>	<u>\$ 75,550.00</u>	<u>\$ 81,521.70</u>	<u>\$ 67,650.00</u>
<b>Program &amp; Ministry Expenses</b>			
Formation	7,920.00	7,249.53	9,300.00
Hospitality & Evangelism	10,200.00	11,511.79	13,300.00
Worship & Music	30,850.00	29,216.50	40,540.00
<b>Total Program &amp; Ministry Expenses</b>	<u>\$ 48,970.00</u>	<u>\$ 47,977.82</u>	<u>\$ 63,140.00</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>\$ 1,203,106.42</u>	<u>\$ 1,191,754.83</u>	<u>\$ 1,333,724.85</u>
<b>Net Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<u>\$ 488.97</u>	<u>\$ 84,703.08</u>	<u>\$ -</u>