

**AGENDA**  
**45<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**Good Shepherd Episcopal Church--Centennial, Colorado**  
**January 31, 2021--10:30 a.m. via Zoom**

- 1) Prayer for the Parish**
- 2) Minutes of the 2020 meeting**
- 3) Presentation of the 2020 Annual Report and Pastor's Remarks –  
Fr. Gary Brower**
- 4) Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members – Fr. Gary Brower**
- 5) Nominating Committee Report – Griffin Bridgers**  
**Appointment of Senior Warden – Fr. Gary Brower**
- 6) Presentation of Slate for Corporate Officers – Fr. Gary Brower**
- 7) Presentation of the 2020 Financial Report – Joe Namaksy**
- 8) 2020 Stewardship Report – Jim Wolfe**
- 9) Presentation of 2021 Budget – Joe Namaksy**
- 10) Ministry Presentations**  
**Night Prayers (Compline)**
- 11) Reminder of Who We Are: Holy Spirit Awards – Fr. Gary Brower**
- 12) Congregational Comments**
- 13) Closing Prayer and Adjournment**

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**2020 Financials** – Will be projected during the Annual Meeting.

**2021 Budget** – Will be projected during the Annual Meeting.

**Vestry Nominee Biographies and Vestry Ballots** – Sent to Parish via email before the meeting.

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

### **2019 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES— ROUGH DRAFT GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL CHURCH JANUARY 27, 2019**

The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church was called to order at 10:45 a.m. in the Parish Hall, following one 9:00 a.m. service and a delicious continental breakfast. A clipboard was passed around the tables for parishioners to sign in. Copies of the 2018 Annual Report and the 2018 financials, and projected 2019 projected budget were available to those members in attendance.

The meeting was opened with a quorum of 100 members attending, plus quite a few more who did not sign in. Fr. Gary Brower opened the meeting by leading a corporate Parish prayer.

Regarding the Minutes of the January 28, 2018 Annual Meeting:

**The Motion was made and seconded to approve the 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes as presented in the 2018 Annual Report. On a voice vote, the motion passed.**

Fr. Gary Brower recognized the setup team for our delicious continental breakfast, including Marjorie Lell, Liz Peel and Jennifer Spahr.

Fr. Gary then introduced this year's outgoing Vestry members—Shane Jones, Nora Earnest and Sam Arthur. He presented them with gifts of appreciation and thanked them for their service.

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Shane Jones, Nora Earnest, Sam Arthur, and Marjorie Lell, presented the slate of nominees for election to the Vestry Class of 2021. Christina Blackburn, Ellen Blackburn, and Marjorie Lell are nominated for three-year terms on the Vestry, Class of 2021. Greg Bell is nominated to complete a one-year term in the Class of 2019. Karin Elsen is nominated as Junior Warden. All nominees were asked to stand. Nominations from the floor were requested. There were none.

**The Motion was made and seconded to approve the Nominating Committee's presented slate of nominees for this year's Vestry members. On a voice vote, the motion passed.**

Fr. Gary also introduced the current members of the Vestry, Class of 2019, and Class of 2020, and asked them to stand and be recognized. Fr. Gary announced that he has appointed Carl Algermissen to serve as our Senior Warden in 2019.

The slate for the Corporate Officers was presented as follows: President – Fr. Gary Brower; Vice-President – Carl Algermissen; Secretary – Kathy Hunter; Treasurer – Greg Bell.

**A Motion was made and seconded to approve the slate of corporate officers. The motion passed.**

The 2018 Senior Warden, Shane Jones, presented information to the meeting about this time of Transition and the Priest-in-Charge Process. There are three stages in this process. The Season of Discovery is now, as Fr. Gary Brower is in community with us and is working to understand the Parish. The Season of Visioning comes next and will begin around the end of this summer. We will look at our vision for the whole Parish; what we will continue to do and what we may stop doing. The Season of Discernment is the last stage, and it is a time when our vision is in place, and Fr. Gary and the congregation will discern whether we will all continue in ministry together, with Fr. Gary as our Rector.

Greg Bell introduced the financial report for 2018. Our income was \$428,624, and our expenses were \$441,479. Net ordinary income shows a loss of -\$12,855. Our 2018 Operations cash balance on December 31,

2018 was \$33,280. Favorable financial impacts in 2018 were increased building use, low transition costs, reduced snow removal costs and lower utilities. Unfavorable impacts included lower plate giving, lower pledge payments, and higher building maintenance and repairs. We replaced four furnaces in 2018.

Jim Wolfe presented a report on the 2019 Stewardship Capital Campaign. He acknowledged the members of the Stewardship Committee: Kip Travis, Jim Wolfe, Keith Anderson, DeeDee Atwood, Tom Billings, Griffin Bridgers, Fr. Gary Brower, Anne McMahon, Joe Namaksy and Deb Roden.

Our goal for the campaign was 175 pledges totaling \$437,500, or \$2,500 per pledge. The actual outcome was 150 pledges totaling \$373,879, at \$2,493 per pledge. We received 49 increased pledges, 55 pledges that were the same as last year, and 32 decreased pledges. There were 26 missing pledges and 14 new pledges. Eight of the missing pledges were members who moved or left the church. The pledges were down -\$29,972 from last year.

Greg Bell discussed the 2019 Budget. Significant changes will have to be made in the budget, and we are facing possible reduced staff. The 2019 income numbers were reduced by 8%, with lower plate expected, lower pledges and high building costs. Our administrative costs will be higher this year since Fr. Gary Brower will be here a full year, instead of four months. Maintenance costs also are higher. We are facing a deficit of close to \$75,000.

Reductions to our 2018 budget include reducing all non-essential staff positions after March 31, 2019, reducing expenses where possible, reducing our mortgage principal and interest, and reducing income to compensate for the deficit.

A Supplemental Stewardship Campaign is vital to do, and we have a goal of raising \$75,000 more for 2019. This additional campaign begins today. A mailing will go out to all members of the Parish this Tuesday, and we are hopeful that everyone will pledge to supplement the 2019 budget, and that we can retain all our staff members. We have God's work calling us.

**The Motion was made and seconded to approve the 2019 budget as presented with a new Supplemental Stewardship Campaign to begin immediately. On a voice vote, the motion passed.**

Fr. Gary remarked that "this is really hard." He mentioned the "E" word—evangelism. It is not just about cutting staff, reducing expenses, and increasing pledges. We must encourage new life and new members as we move forward together, showing our gratitude for our blessings here at Good Shepherd.

Many members chose to speak to the gathering about their feelings in this financial situation. They expressed thanks to the members of the church staff. Stories were shared. Ideas were presented for ways everyone can be part of the solution. Everyone can do their part.

The meeting was closed with a closing corporate Parish prayer at 11:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kathy Hunter*  
Corporate Secretary

## CLERGY REPORT

### PRIEST-IN-CHARGE REPORT

The Rev. Gary R. Brower, PhD



Good afternoon, friends! I am happy, today, to “deliver” my annual pastor’s report in video format. Odd, I know . . . but that is the nature of this year!

It has been 372 days since our last annual meeting! What a great meeting it was! We had just come off very successful stewardship campaign. We had elected a great new group of vestry members.

We celebrated completing the campaign for a new organ. The floods (in the basement) were behind us! The feeling was something like “We’re ready to take off!”

Yet, also, on that day, we had begun to hear about something called the “COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus”. We had learned that it was spreading around the world, and it was a matter of some concern for us, but . . . we thought we had seen similar things before, and most of us, I think, doubted that we would be significantly affected. Yet the days were beginning to darken. Within a few weeks, we found ourselves passing the peace with “Namastés”, peace signs, and elbow bumps.

And now, it has been 315 days since we last gathered for a “normal” Sunday. We thought the break would be brief—a few weeks. And then we had to set aside “normal” Holy Week and Easter plans. “But, surely,” we thought, “We’ll be able to celebrate Pentecost—a youth Sunday, say good-bye to Stephen and Neal, and have our parish picnic!” But no. And now, we have just completed a virtual Advent and Christmas, and are looking at our next ZOOM Easter.

We can easily feel that we have lost so much! Youth trips—both the Quest trips, and bigger National Youth Events—were cancelled. Music with a Mission was put on hold after the February program. As I mentioned, we missed our picnic and our chance to celebrate Stephen and Neal in the ways we would have liked. The parish office was, for all intents and purposes, closed. Our “regular” lives began to “feel the pinch”: most of us locked down for several weeks. Family vacations and professional trips were cancelled. We began to learn of family and friends who had contracted COVID; some have succumbed.

Oh, and then there were the events of the summer that threw the nation into even greater confusion than COVID itself, those being the issues around racial unrest. In addition to that was the incredibly contentious election season that seemed to drag on and on. The comments and social media memes about 2020 getting over quickly multiplied!

But, as the prophet Isaiah told the people of Judah as they returned to Babylon: “[T]hus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: ‘Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior’” (43.1-3). Despite all that has transpired during 2020, God has been with us at Good Shepherd. We are “passing through waters and rivers and fire”, and we have been neither overwhelmed nor consumed. On the contrary, we have seen possibilities, and, in some respects, we have thrived!

No doubt about it, things changed for us! But we have bobbed and weaved, and carried on! Our weekly worship moved to the world of ZOOM. And, in that move, we made the transition from weekly Eucharist to Morning Prayer—what a rich resource THAT has been, opening us up to new varieties of prayer. We observed Holy Week and celebrated Easter—lighting the Paschal Candle in my backyard was something I never expected to do! We were able to say “good-bye” to Stephen and Neal — the parade of cars was so much fun to see! The animals were blessed on St. Francis’ Day. We continued our practice of the fifth Sundays being Youth Sundays, with them remaining as amazing as they had been pre-COVID. Adjusting, and in keeping with social distancing

requirements, we were able, for a while, to offer eucharist out-of-doors . . . and could celebrate a baptism! We had a Christmas Eve Service with Pageant—all on-line!

The Altar Guild, when it was able, stepped in (as we all expected) to ensure that we could worship outside or in the Chapel; thank you Sally VanWelden and crew! And, of course, the work of the “Re-Gathering Committee” made possible that outdoor worship; THANK YOU Casey Creenan, Bob Rae, Susie Street, Anne McMahon, Jim Wolfe, and Becky Beall-Moore. Worship—whether indoors or out, ZOOM or in person, continued to require lay-readers and eucharistic ministers. Thank you for your work, readers! And thank you, Ellen Blackburn, for herding those sheep!

Our committees continued to do their work, from GROW to Stewardship and Finance to Outreach. THANK YOU to the chairs of those committees—Nora Earnest, Jim Wolfe and Anne McMahon, Joe Namaksy, and Randy Hubbard— for ensuring that the work of the congregation carried on despite the challenges. The work of the Transition Team continued—both in committee work, as well as with the congregation. And, of course, a HUGE THANK YOU to the Vestry, and Senior Warden Carl Algermissen and Junior Warden Karin Elsen for the significant work demanded by this extraordinary year!

A special note needs to be made about the work of Buildings and Grounds (with chair David McLaughry). During a year when the building has most stood empty, that vacancy has provided opportunities. Yes, the hope of moving back inside for worship meant installing a new HVAC filtration system. But we have also begun replacing an under-performing internet system; our in-house labor has saved us a lot of money. And, of course, Renee Tschetter and the lawn-mowing team have not let a little “vacancy” keep them from keeping the building looking fabulous!

The Men’s Group, the Book Club, the Faith Club, Hungry Flock, Senior Singles continued to meet; nothing would keep the sheep from gathering! THANK YOU to all the leaders of those groups for maintaining those connections.

The formation ministries of the congregation carried on! Sue LeFant and Elaine Oxenbury have done what they can to move our children’s programming on-line. Rachel Whipp has kept up with the youth—as best she can with a population that is “ZOOMED-OUT”—drawing them together when the weather has allowed. Adult Formation continued throughout the year—both on Sunday mornings with offerings as diverse as a series “Teach Us to Pray” to a discussion of *Canoeing the Mountains* to Bible 101 (thank you Merrie Need) to a discussion of Marcus Borg’s book *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*. Evening formation opportunities ranged from Episcopal 101 to a series on the Sacraments (at a slant) to a discussion of the book *The Color of Compromise*.

In any year, these would be both joyous and satisfying things to report—evidence that, even though “passing through waters and rivers and fire”, we have been neither overwhelmed nor consumed. But, as I mentioned a minute ago, we have thrived! The amount of “new stuff” we have undertaken is astonishing!

Chief among all of that has been, of course, our learning of the ZOOM platform. It has not been without hiccups, of course, and some of our folks are either not able or comfortable to use it—completely understandable! BUT what we have learned (in addition to the “mechanics” of “sharing screen, and my “sharing computer sound” on Sunday mornings) is that the remote platform has allowed for folks to “attend” services from all over the country! Shut-ins can join with their friends. Many people have finally been able to put names to the faces in the “Hollywood Squares”! We have learned that, when we are able to (mostly) return to in-person worship, we will continue to offer some kind of streaming worship. And we are working on how best to do that.

But ZOOM worship has offered and taught us more! Connie Branton and DeeDee Atwood have figured out how to do things with our music and musicians that is amazing! THANK YOU, Connie, and DeeDee, and all

the others who have enriched our worship with music! I've begun to get used to using slides to illustrate my sermons. We have beefed up our options for on-line giving!

Weekly Compline/Night Prayers have been added to our worship offerings, in response to a congregational desire for an additional worship opportunity.—something we probably would never have done if we only focused on using the building. THANK YOU, Dianne Draper, for leading the charge on this, as well as the team that regularly leads that service. We now offer informal morning prayer four times a week, as well as noon prayers and Bible Study on Wednesdays—again something we probably would not have done before. In addition, the small communities that have resulted from these additional worship gatherings have stretched across the previous “7:45a/9:00a/6:00p” service-time divides! Indeed, we have discovered that lay-led services are every bit as “Anglican” and fulfilling as those usually led by clergy. That said, I am grateful for the clergy participation we have had this year, especially Bp. Schofield, and the Reverends Merrie Need and Sandy Boyd . . . and, prior to her call as Priest-in-Charge at St. Martin in the Fields, Aurora, The Rev. Anna Horen.

Other “initiatives” were occasioned by the “waters, rivers and fires” of 2020! Resulting not from the challenges of 2020, but rising to those challenges was the work of the “Fun Committee” (a direct product of last year’s annual meeting!). Led by Deb Sampson, Suraya Bowermaster and Kaitlyn Bridgers, that group has brought smiles to folks on Friday nights once-a-month. THANK YOU! An outgrowth of the events of the summer, the continuing challenges to “civil discourse”, and a desire to fulfill the promise of our baptismal covenant to “strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being” has led to the establishment both of an Advocacy Team, as well as the programmatic offering “Hope, Not Despair”. THANK YOU to the people who have, and will continue, to bring the pressing needs of society to our attention. I want to highlight, too, that joyful event we celebrated on December 20: The Living Nativity! Led by Deb Sampson, Mary Ann Panarelli and Susan Bailey, this new initiative—a direct result of our inability to gather for Christmas services—raised hundreds of dollars and brought in hundreds of pounds of food for Covenant Cupboard. And that, in addition to gathering—socially distanced, of course—a slew of volunteers who so enjoyed being shepherds, angels and wise men . . . or building the sets for those characters!

So much of this successful response to the challenges of 2020 is due to the work of the Good Shepherd staff. I have already mentioned Sue and Rachel, Connie and DeeDee (and Stephen). But the tireless work of Kathy Hunter—trying to manage ZOOM links, and dealing with folks who wanted access to the building (including FedEx and UPS), while not having the same enriching experiences doing so while seeing familiar faces—cannot go un-recognized: THANK YOU! Charlotte Stasko, our fabulous Business Manager, with the help of Marjie Rogers, not only took care of our finances, but did yeoman’s work on the budget, and helped us successfully apply for, and have forgiven, our first PPP loan! (The second is in the pipeline!) THANK YOU! And, to all of you, the flock of Good Shepherd, THANK YOU! Your faithfulness in “attendance”, in fulfilling your pledges, your inviting friends and family to ZOOM with us, in your supportive comments to me and the staff—what a difference it has made in this trying year. And it is because of all of that that I feel as positive at this annual meeting time as I did last year.

The prophet Isaiah continued his words to Judah, and I close with them:

*Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: . . . I am the LORD, your Holy One . . . who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters . . . Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. . . I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.*

Praise God, Good Shepherd!

Amen





***“No worldly fear must turn us aside from following the light unflinchingly.”\****

It has been an honor to serve as Senior Warden and, as we welcome new leadership, I look forward to what the future brings. Towards the end of 2018, when Fr. Gary asked if I would accept the position as his first appointed Senior Warden, I was deeply honored, humbled, and, to be honest, a bit daunted by the path that lay ahead. Looking back, I am grateful for the opportunity to have served. The journey that we have taken together has been remarkable.

Who would have imagined that these past “seasons” of the Priest-in-Charge process would have included multiple floods in the first year and a pandemic in the second? It has indeed been “an unexpected journey,” and yet, as Gandalf reminds Frodo in Tolkien’s *The Fellowship of the Ring*, “All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.”

During this past year, we stood fast as a community, even as routines were upended by a global pandemic. We turned obstacles into opportunities and found new ways to connect and carry forth God’s light. I am profoundly thankful for the countless examples of dedication and leadership that have kept us together over the past year. Please take time to review the various reports on all our wonderful ministries and programs that were prepared for our Annual Parish Meeting. In these reports you will find stories of hope and love, testaments to the many members of our church family who stood together, resolving to give their time and talent to enrich our spiritual journeys.

The Vestry held meetings every month since our last Annual Parish Meeting, in addition to the Vestry Retreat last February. These meetings transitioned from in-person to online once the pandemic started. Vestry members were active with many ministries at Good Shepherd, and made a point to engage with the congregation during this past year through individual phone calls and involvement in many events at our Church. Your Vestry has been attentive to Good Shepherd’s needs; co-operation was superb, and discussions were always respectful, with active listening and great civility. I am delighted to convey that, thanks to the work of our dedicated Pastor, Staff, Vestry, Ministry Leaders, and strengthened by the faith, generosity and dedication of our congregation, Good Shepherd remains in good health financially, functionally, spiritually, and in fellowship, stewardship, and outreach. The Vestry remains committed to continuing to do the work of the Parish, especially in this time of transition, and my sincere thanks go out to every Vestry member.

It should come as no surprise that our congregation is comprised of talented, caring, and giving people who love Good Shepherd and this community. Together, a fresh, forward-looking, narrative is evolving that looks to bring into focus what we can achieve together in our spiritual journey. We are called to serve one another, and nowhere was this more evident than the way in which we collectively pivoted when the pandemic struck, to band together and find new ways to worship and support each other.

To every person who earnestly stepped up during this time of need, my heartfelt thanks. It is because of the dedication of stalwart individuals that worship continued, that we “canoed the mountains” together, that outdoor services could be safely offered, that beautiful music flourished, that mobile communion could be offered, that our children were engaged in creative ways, that new technologies were explored to communicate with one another, that in-gatherings and outreach opportunities continued, that our beautiful landscaping was taken care of, that events were held purely for fun and fellowship, that our fifth Sundays were energized by our youth, and that new and creative ways to celebrate Advent and a “Living Nativity” brought joy to so many!

There are so many individuals that model devotion to Good Shepherd through tireless service and love. Their contributions are simply too many to list here. As I did last year at this time, I ask that you please pause for a moment to think about – and give thanks for – the work and details handled by so many, and how their efforts

impacted the formation of our faith. Servant leadership makes a difference and touches hearts. Every contribution helps us on our individual journeys to spiritual maturity.

Even during a year such as we have just experienced, Good Shepherd continues to welcome and embrace new visitors. We continue to grow spiritually. And we continue to be fiscally sound, thanks to a stewardship campaign and budget that embraced an idea of all that could be, as an act of faith. That all this has been achieved this year is a testament to the faithful and resilient execution of their charges by our Pastor, our Ministry Directors, our Music Leaders, our Staff, our Vestry, our standing committee members, our ministry volunteers, and our parishioners – all of whom believe that everything we are and everything we have comes from God’s Love, in which we place our faith.

I extend my deep appreciation to all those with whom I have served on the Vestry over these many years and to all the wonderful individuals who help lead our ministries and dedicate themselves to moving our church forward in every area. When Fr. Craig first spoke with me about joining the Vestry back in 2015, I could not have imagined the rich experiences that were to come. Please continue to encourage our church leaders as we move forward, and reach out to them, letting your needs, concerns, and ideas be known.

It has been said that Senior Wardening (if that can be a word) involves doing what a duck does: above the surface, smooth movement; below the surface, paddling like crazy! I sincerely thank Fr. Gary for asking me to take on this rewarding role for these past years – it has been an honor to serve as Senior Warden for this parish as Fr. Gary began his tenure with us. Our Pastor has a remarkable dedication and devotion to Good Shepherd for which I am deeply grateful – we are blessed to have him.

Let us continue to advance our common mission, realize our vision, and further God’s purpose. The future is bright!

*\* From a letter by J.R.R. Tolkien to his wife Edith.*



2020 was my second year as Junior Warden. For those new to Good Shepherd, the Junior Warden role here is that of a “People’s Warden.” During the year, I have supported our Senior Warden Carl and Fr. Gary with Vestry planning and business and taken on other responsibilities:

- In January, Carl and I attended the Warden’s Dinner sponsored by the Diocese to meet other church leaders and explore common issues facing our churches. Obviously, challenges dramatically increased in the ensuing months. For the past ten months, I have attended weekly and bi-weekly COVID-impact meetings via Zoom with the Bishop, Cannons, and Diocesan and church leaders, where we hear from speakers such as an environmental sciences professor and medical and public health officials.
- In February, prior to pandemic restrictions, I attended a Vestry retreat with an emphasis on leadership training, led by The Rev. Canon Alex Dyer.
- In October, I was a lay delegate, representing the Good Shepherd vestry, to the Episcopal Church in Colorado’s virtual Annual Meeting.
- Throughout the year, I have served in other capacities at our church, including Zoom Morning Prayer and Compline lector and leader, “Canoeing the Mountains” facilitator, Congregational Care minister, United Thank Offering coordinator, Stewardship Ambassador, and as a member of the Priest-In-Charge Visioning Committee and Communion Committee.

Every Sunday I am filled with gratitude for our clergy’s pastoral response, our coming together virtually or outdoors, and our resilience in these trying times. Recalling that “ecclesia,” or “church,” means assembly of the faithful, I take heart that we are learning valuable new ways of being a church, all in the name of Christ.

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF COLORADO



### 2020 Annual Report - (Why support?)

Since Good Shepherd decided to maintain our Diocesan Pledge at 9% (\$42,727) for 2020, I felt it was important to remind ourselves why we support the Episcopal Church of Colorado. It should be noted that Good Shepherd has a history of being one of the leading supporters of the Diocese of Colorado with time, talent, and treasure. Currently we have parishioner Dianne Draper and former Good Shepherd member Nancy McClung working in the Office of the Bishop, and parishioner Larry Hitt serves as the Chancellor (Chief Lawyer) for the Episcopal Church of Colorado.

As many of you are aware, the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado has a mandatory assessment of 10% of Plate and Pledge income each year as the primary way to pay for their expenses. The 92 Episcopal Churches and Missions in Colorado currently average pledging 9.0% of their Plate and Pledge income to the Diocese with 55 Churches paying 10% or better.

### Why Support?

1. We are part of the Episcopal Church of the United States of America (ECUSA).
2. A Board of Directors or Standing Committee advises the Bishop of the Diocese (Rt. Rev. Kym Lucas) and has canonical responsibilities for the Diocese. The Diocese is divided into five Regions with a Missioner over each region. Our current acting Missioner is Rev. Brian Winter from Christ Church in Castle Rock. The High Plains Region Executive Committee has ten members, and Jim Wolfe serves as Treasurer and Shelley Hitt from Good Shepherd serves on the Regional Executive Committee. Each Region has one lay person and one Clergy person serving on the ten person Standing Committee.
3. The Diocese of Colorado is moving toward the mandatory pledge of 15% to the National Church. (for 20209 – 12.5%)
  - a. They also pledge to Province VI — The Episcopal Church is divided into nine Provinces. Province VI includes Montana, North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, and Colorado.
  - b. They support the Anglican Studies program of the Iliff School of Theology
  - c. They support the Colorado Council of Churches
  - d. They support the 34 Jubilee Ministries in Episcopal Churches in Colorado (Good Shepherd is one of the 34)
4. They support the Diocesan Convention held annually.
  - a. Opportunity to discuss the direction and work of the Episcopal Church in Colorado
  - b. Seminars, Training and Exhibits – unfortunately, this was virtual in 2020 and 2021.
5. Communications — Episcopalian/ Website and Website Development/ Weekly Diocesan Digest
6. Commission on Ministry — Works with Postulants and Candidates for Priesthood, Diaconate, and Continuing Education for Clergy and Lay Leaders.
7. Youth — Coordinates the Quest and Genesis Retreats each year.  
Coordinate Safeguarding God's Children program.  
Coordinates the Episcopal Service Corp of Colorado
8. Congregational Development
  - a. Deployment of Priests and Deacons
  - b. Planting new Churches/ Support for existing Churches

- c. Offering classes at Cathedral Ridge – 2020 classes on Honoring and Protecting Creation, and Bringing Hope - Preventing Suicide.
9. Cathedral Ridge Camp and Conference Center
    - a. Conference Center for Retreats
    - b. Camps over the Summer for all age children and the Colorado Leadership Institute for teens
  10. Diocesan Institutions – Currently, eight Diocesan Institutions are under the Office of the Bishop.
    - a. St. Bridget’s Village – a 50-unit apartment complex in Windsor for senior citizens.
    - b. Colorado Episcopal Foundation – manages a \$7,000,000 Endowment of the Episcopal Church in Colorado, manages \$32,000,000 of investments for all Churches in the Episcopal Church of Colorado.
    - c. Colorado Episcopal Service Corps – brings young adults to Colorado for a year of service, spiritual formation and living in community.
    - d. St. Clare’s Ministries – serves supper each Tuesday to 100-125 people.
    - e. Golden Community Commons – purchase of an Armory in Golden for use by businesses and the Golden community.
    - f. The 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Jubilee Center – Serves the Northwest Denver Community
    - g. St. Benedict Health & Healing Ministry – located at the Sister Carmen Community Center in Lafayette, providing health services to an estimated 40,000 people in Boulder County.
    - h. Cathedral Ridge Camp and Conference Center – described above.
    - i. St. Francis Center – provides a daytime shelter for the homeless with showers, storage space, meals, clothing, and a mailing address. They have built two 50-unit apartment facilities for the homeless in downtown Denver, completely paid for with national, state, and local funding.

Obviously, we have missed some of the responsibilities and services of the Office of the Bishop for the Episcopal Church in Colorado, but hopefully this will provide you some information on our connection with the Episcopal Church in Colorado and why we pay our assessment.

Questions? Ask Jim Wolfe (303-791-2613) or jimwolfe05@comcast.net. Remember, we are all part of one Episcopal Church in Colorado and one Episcopal Church in America.

## 2020 HIGH PLAINS REGION REPORT

Jim Lee Wolfe

There are 24 churches in the High Plains Region for the Diocese of Colorado. The finances of the High Plains Region go directly to Grants to Churches and for Outreach in the Region. The Episcopal Church of Colorado has suggested that each Church contribute 5% of their plate and pledge income to the Region, Good Shepherd currently gives 1% (\$4,750) of our plate and pledge to the Region. The Region coordinates our annual Confirmation, a luncheon for Church Administrators and several Clericus meetings (gathering of all the ordained Clergy in the region), in addition to the regular meetings of the High Plains Executive Committee. Please take the time to read through the Churches and Outreach that we are supporting; this should be rewarding and impressive to us all.



The High Plains Executive Committee approved the following Church Grants and Outreach projects for 2020/2021. The Region Administrator is paid, and all other members of the Executive Committee (10) donate their time. We estimate that, for each dollar collected, \$.85 goes directly to Grants or Outreach.

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Income (Estimated)	\$ 130,000	\$ 100,000
<u>Expenses:</u>		
Paid Administrator	17,000	16,000
Programs (Convocation, Clericus, Confirmation, Luncheon)	1,000	12,000
<u>Church Grants and Outreach:</u>		
1. Prince of Peace, Sterling	6,000	6,000
2. Intercession, Thornton	7,500	
3. St. Charles, Ft. Morgan	6,000	6,000
4. St. Thomas Episcopal Church		10,000
3. Colorado Episcopal Service Corps.	20,000	15,000
6. Latino Ministry	30,000	
4. Homeless Awareness and Action Task Force (HAAT)	5,000	5,000
5. St. Clare's Ministries	5,000	8,000
6. Women's Homeless Initiative (WHI)	9,000	8,000.
7. Young Episcopalians in Service (YES – Colorado)	5,000	
8. St. Martin-in-the Fields - Emergency Repairs	5,000	
9. Cathedral Ridge Camp and Conference Center	1,000	4,000
10. Covenant Cupboard Food Pantry	5,000	5,000
11. Hope and Help Center, Castle Rock		5,000
12. Support for Rev. Cesar Hernandez		20,000
Subtotal Church Grants and Outreach	\$ 104,500	\$ 92,000
16. Pastoral Support (For Pastoral needs)	5,000	5,000
Total Expenses	<b>\$ 127,500</b>	<b>\$ 125,000*</b>

\*The Region will run a deficit budget for 2021 to reduce a surplus that the Region has accumulated. It is estimated the surplus will be gone in two or three more years.

If you have questions about the Region, please talk to Jim Wolfe, who serves as the Treasurer on the High Plains Executive Committee; or Shelley Hitt, who is one of the 10 members of the High Plains Executive Committee.

## PARISH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Kathy Hunter



During 2020, I began my eighth year at Good Shepherd as your Parish Administrator, and I have to say that I have never experienced a year like 2020. Of course, 2020 was unexpected by everyone – so many changes, so much concern and stress for us all. As always, it has been an honor to serve with our wonderful staff, and our very creative leadership. I believe we have all worked together to survive and succeed through a very challenging year. Thank you for your support.

Fr. Gary Brower has led all of us with energy and creativity, doing amazing things every day for and with this Parish. The highlights of 2020 include new air filtration filters in the building, the installation of high-speed internet for the church, along with a new VOIP (Voice Over Internet Phone) system coming soon. My favorite events this year must be the online “Fun” Committee celebrations, the Blessing of the Animals at Willow Creek park and, of course, the first presentation of “The Living Nativity” in our parking lot on December 20, with about 50 volunteers working to make it possible. We missed so much in 2020, but we did our best to stay in touch with each other. And, we still collected food, supplies and money for our ministry partners.

The church building, that has always been so busy with meetings, support groups and music lessons, has been quiet since the middle of March, as we did all we could to keep our staff, members, and community groups safe during the pandemic. Of course, we certainly hope to have our community groups back in the building as soon as possible. I do still schedule meetings for the Parish, but they are now all taking place via Zoom. If you need a Zoom meeting set up, please contact me.

Church maintenance tasks continued in 2020, including keeping track of the annual inspection of fire alarms, fire extinguishers, sprinkler system, kitchen hood, grease traps, backflow devices, and basic building safety; pest control, snowplowing and shoveling, heating and air conditioning, communicating with our building cleaning crew, overseeing building supplies and equipment, along with repair of the building door latches and locks, which may need replacement in 2021. I continue to order office and building supplies and oversee maintenance and supplies for the copier. The good news is that less work in the building leads to less expenses, which is good for our budget.

I miss seeing the volunteers that have helped me in the office, and I sure hope that we can all get back to our normal schedules as soon as possible. I hope you all know how much I appreciate your help, as you always come when you are called, even during a pandemic.

Communication has been more important than ever with the building closed. I have worked closely with DeeDee Atwood to get news and updates communicated to you all. We have sent many Parish emails this year, just to keep you up to date on the things we are doing. Our weekly E-news has been our best line of communication, along with *The Sheepskin* newsletter, which will see some changes in 2021. I encourage those who are receiving our emails to be diligent about reading the information, and I urge all who are not receiving these emails to let me know, so that I can add you to the contact list.

Also, if any of your contact information has changed (address, email address, phone numbers), please let the office know. You can email these changes directly to me at: [khunter@gshep.org](mailto:khunter@gshep.org). You can also get information by going to our website, at: [www.gshep.org](http://www.gshep.org). We continue to look for ways of using the website and social media as tools to inform the parish, advertise classes and events, invite new parishioners, and encourage participation at Good Shepherd. Even during a pandemic, we have new members who have joined us online for worship.



## AUTO DONATION PROGRAM

Deb Roden



Beginning in 2012, Good Shepherd has had an auto donation program to benefit the church. If you are looking for a 2020 tax deduction, please consider this program. Your auto donation qualifies as a charitable deduction on your federal tax return, and the proceeds will benefit our church. We will take your vehicle, running or not! There are flyers in the parish hall with specific information. You can also contact Deb Roden directly at H. M. Brown & Associates, 303-414-7721.

## BUILDING AND GROUNDS

David McLaughry

The Mission for the Building and Grounds Ministry and is as follows:

*To maintain and make improvements to Good Shepherd's building, infra-structure, and property through the work of volunteers and contractors when necessary.*

2020 was a quiet year inside Good Shepherd, for the obvious reason, but we did accomplish two significant projects.

- Our HVAC contractor, L&L Heating & A/C, installed electrostatic air cleaners on all our furnaces. This was directly in response to the pandemic, but will have the ongoing benefits of reducing dust and allergens as well as most bacteria and viruses in our indoor air.

- We have substantially upgraded our computer network by replacing the DSL connection with a gigabit-speed fiber optic connection from Ting, and by adding high-speed Wi-Fi hotspots in the main level hallway, sanctuary, and basement hallway.

Looking ahead to 2021, the networking project continues with a new Voice-over-IP (VOIP) telephone system to increase functionality and reduce cost, and with planned additional Wi-Fi coverage in the Chapel and Parish Hall.

Many thanks to Renee Tschetter for her tireless efforts to maintain the church landscaping and lawn. Be sure to read her report on plans for 2021. Thanks as well to our team of lawn mowers who volunteered to keep the grass mowed and trimmed during the mowing season.







Good Shepherd continues to be a leader in the Diocese in communications and technology. We offer many different vehicles to keep our congregation informed; including our newsletter, *The Sheepskin*; our weekly E-News, our website, social media postings, and our Sunday announcements. While our approach to some of these vehicles has changed because of COVID, our goal remains the same: to convey the most accurate information about the happenings at Good

Shepherd while enticing you to find ways to get involved.

Here are some of the changes that happened in 2020 because of COVID:

- **Utilizing Zoom meetings:** We did not waste time getting set up with a Zoom account when COVID closed in-person meetings. We were amazed to see how many parishioners took the leap with us as we began using the platform for Sunday Worship, as well as committee meetings. Once we got our feet wet, we added Gospel & Grub, Morning Sheep Count, Fun Committee activities, Sunday school and Youth group, Night Prayers, Adult Ed, etc. We discovered that the online platform afforded many pluses that we did not see coming.
- **Shift from in-house printed materials to exclusive digital promotion:** Since we were no longer in the building, posters and table-top displays were no longer necessary and we switched over to only digital communications, utilizing our E-News, monthly newsletter, and Sunday announcements during worship on Zoom.
- **Increased parishioner interaction with website** – Parishioners began getting used to receiving and relying on information via digital means. We offer parishioners the ability to sign up for events, make payments and pledges, and receive additional information by linking our E-News and *The Sheepskin* articles to elements on our website.
- **Communications Survey:** After several months of COVID communications, we decided to launch a survey to the parish (October 2020) to see how we were doing, and to discover ways of improving our communications. Turns out we were doing just fine, but we tweaked a couple of things regarding our weekly E-News and *The Sheepskin*.
- **Re-Defined roles for Sheepskin and Weekly E-News:** We determined from our communications survey that there seemed to be some overlap between our weekly E-News and *The Sheepskin*. As a result, we will publish a bi-monthly schedule for *The Sheepskin* (every other month) starting in February of 2021. We hope to re-define the type of content we present to celebrate more in-depth information about the ministries and the life of our church in a more first-person narrative/storytelling style, rather than simply news reporting on an event/group/ministry. Specific information about up-coming events will now exclusively be presented in the Weekly E-News.
- **Outdoor worship and Eucharist sign-up forms:** We added an outdoor worship service in the fall of 2020 which required weekly sign-ups for both the service, as well as picking up consecrated hosts. We created sign-up forms on our website and created a running spreadsheet of information for registrants.

- **Created New Facebook Group – 24/7 Coffee Hour:** Groups are a way for fans of our Facebook Page to post, comment and discuss everything related to Good Shepherd and Christianity. Open to all, this group of about 40 people (and growing) is a place to share something funny, inspirational, uplifting, or for spiritual musings and thoughts.
- **Livestreaming on YouTube:** We started livestreaming our Sunday services to YouTube in December 2020, which will open our worship to the greater public.
- **The power of video in communications:** We realized the importance and effectiveness of video messages during COVID, and we started utilizing them for Fr. Gary’s Midweek Moment, our Stewardship Campaign, Adult Ed, and music videos from our musicians. All these videos are being archived at our YouTube channel and, as of this writing, we now have over 75 subscribers! In addition, we have links to our sermons, Midweek Moment, and adult education classes right on our website.

## COUNTERS

**Ken White**



Counting Good Shepherd’s weekly income was modified to accommodate COVID-19 social distancing restrictions and the church’s intent to remain closed during the pandemic. As such, counting was performed every other week rather than the usual weekly schedule. This was done typically on Mondays. Bank deposits were made on the same day. Because of this modified schedule, some parishioners may have noticed their checks did not clear their accounts as they would have expected. However, all income was properly tallied, recorded, and deposited according to church procedures.

Although there are 10 members on the counting team, the counting process was restricted to two members who volunteered their time throughout the year to perform the count at the church. They were Duanne Namaksy and Ken White. Marjie Rogers was very instrumental in preparing each week’s income to expedite the counting process on this new schedule.

Many parishioners paid their pledges via direct deposit, while some sent checks through the mail. A few delivered their checks to the church and slipped them through a mail slot in a door to the right of the main church door. This mail slot ensures the checks are safe until they are retrieved for counting. Parishioners were also encouraged to use the church’s website to make their payments.

It is expected that this procedure will continue until services resume under normal circumstances.

If you are looking for a quiet ministry where you can support Good Shepherd from behind the scenes, consider becoming a member of the Counting Team. You need not be a CPA or accountant, but attention to detail and accuracy is a plus. Please contact Ken White or Marjie Rogers if you have questions or would like to volunteer.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

Joe Namaksy, Treasurer



The Finance Committee assists the Treasurer in making recommendations to the Vestry on the best use of available funds to meet the current and future needs of the Church. We meet monthly and review the income statement and balance sheet to assess the financial “health” of Good Shepherd.

When I replaced Greg Bell as Treasurer, I knew he would be a hard act to follow. Greg helped me transition, and graciously agreed to stay on the Finance Committee. COVID-19 presented new challenges for the Committee in managing the financial resources of Good Shepherd.

Once we ceased in-house Church services due to the pandemic, our plate offerings dropped off substantially, as did our building use income, when we had to discontinue availability to outside users. However, we were also able to reduce expenses, in part, by not replacing our organist (Stephen Fiess) who moved to North Carolina in June, and by realigning some staff duties, as well as other cost-cutting changes.

In May 2020, we were very fortunate to obtain a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan from the Small Business Administration (SBA) in the amount of \$55,085. Having these additional funds enabled us to maintain Good Shepherd’s staff during these difficult times. Because we used these funds entirely for salaries, the loan was forgiven by the SBA. Thanks to the PPP funds and the congregation’s commitment to their pledges for 2020, we were able to finish the year on a positive note financially.

We are also required by the Diocese to conduct an annual review of the books and records of Good Shepherd. Thanks particularly to the hard work of Charlotte Stasko, our Business Manager; in working with the auditor, the review was successfully completed in July. It was then delivered to, and accepted by, the Diocese.

In developing a budget for 2021, we had to assume we would not be back to “normal” for some time. Thanks to a highly successful stewardship drive headed by Jim Wolfe and Anne McMahon, we can present a budget that will allow Good Shepherd to continue its ministry without interruption. The members of this congregation have stepped up again, as they have in the past.

I would like to thank the members of the Finance Committee (i.e. Becky Beall-Moore, Greg Bell, Andy Folkerth, Elaine Gilley, Ken White, and Jim Wolfe) for their much-needed assistance in helping Good Shepherd throughout a very challenging year. Thanks also to Marjie Rogers, our Bookkeeper, for all her hard work. Fr. Gary has brought a special insight to the Committee and helped us focus our efforts during these difficult times. My special thanks go to Charlotte Stasko, as she helped me immeasurably after I became Treasurer, and made my job so much easier.

## GROCERY CARD PROGRAM

Charlotte Stasko and Kathy Hunter



The Community Rewards program through King Soopers continues, and it is likely that our quarterly donation check from them will be as much or maybe more as last year, considering that we are all purchasing more groceries these days. We certainly hope so. If you have not signed up for this program, we certainly encourage you to join. All purchases made at King Soopers, including groceries, gasoline, or prescriptions, are linked to your King SooperCard.

The good news is that all your regular purchases trigger an automatic donation back to Good Shepherd. The church receives a quarterly check, which is a percentage of all purchases linked to the church account. If you have not signed up online for this program, it is an easy task, at no cost to you, and an important way to fund donations back to Good Shepherd. Instructions for using this program are available. Just contact Kathy Hunter in the office, and she will email them to you. **This program is a WIN-WIN for everyone, so please join!**

We do still have reloadable gift cards for Safeway, and \$25 cards for Sprouts and Tony's Market, and they are available in the office. If you need to purchase any of these cards, please contact Kathy Hunter, just to be sure she is available, and she can take your check and give you the cards you need.

A budget note: The King Soopers Community Rewards Program brings almost \$5,000 a year to our budget, and that number will grow as more parishioners sign up. This is a very simple way to help the church. If you have any questions about this program, contact Charlotte Stasko ([cstasko@gshep.org](mailto:cstasko@gshep.org)) or Kathy ([khunter@gshep.org](mailto:khunter@gshep.org)). When we can have in-person worship in the church, we will again sell all the cards on Sunday morning.

## LANDSCAPING

Renee Tschetter

### Projects completed last year:

#### Spring 2020

- Annual lawn fertilization/ weed control program with Fit Turf begins.
- Tree spraying program begins for mites in lawn and trees.
- Completion of locust tree removal and stump grinding.
- Professional pruning of deadwood/shaping of large ash tree in front yard.
- Annual Spring cleanup of gardens, lawn and parking lot islands and perimeter.



#### Summer 2020

- Trimming of all juniper shrubs on perimeter of parking lot and small juniper/trees on islands.
- Maintaining, dead heading, and pruning flowers/shrubs in front garden and entrance garden.
- Removal of dead and damaged boxwood hedge in entry garden due to deep freeze (x2) and overnight temperature swings.
- Replacement of dead plants (x12 or more) of vinca minor in front garden by stone sign.
- Daily manual watering with hoses and sprinklers of front yard dead and sickly grass due to lack of water and defective sprinklers.
- Had sprinklers heads replaced for damage/leaking and inadequate water pressure due to leaking.
- Had one sprinkler head added to improve inadequate coverage.
- Added over 60 bags of mulch to external junipers outside perimeter parking lot, front area outside of Fr. Gary's office, and the front garden (hope to finish the entrance of parking lot area in Spring 2021).
- Trimmed and removed deadwood in and under large spruce tree outside of Fr. Gary's office.

#### Fall 2020

- Cleaned up gardens to get ready for winter. Picked up, raked leaves and pine needles in gardens, lawn, and parking lot (ongoing for weeks).
- Hired a professional service to come and do a final pine needle and leaf clean and mow the overgrown lawn one last time in November.

#### Winter 2020

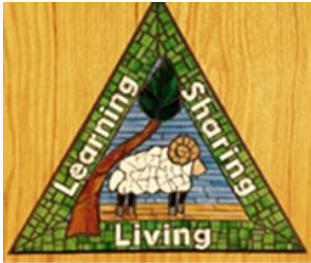
- Lined up services for yard fertilization, weed and insect control for lawn, to begin Spring 2021.

#### Goals for 2021 Growing Season

- Repair/replace dead areas of grass in front lawn due to draught and mite damage under ponderosa grove (southwest exposure makes this a challenge).
- Possibly remove damaged large juniper shrub in front yard damaged by voles (will try and save if possible).
- Get sprinkler system corrected and repaired, as necessary.
- Replace the 17 boxwood shrubs in the front entrance garden.
- Complete unfinished areas of mulch around parking lot perimeter.
- Maintain gardens, lawn and parking lot islands as needed.
- Possibly add some new flowering plants in front entrance garden.

## LEGACY SOCIETY

Amy McLaughry



The Legacy Society's principal goal is to carry forth **our Episcopalian message that good stewardship encourages each parishioner to submit an annual pledge, participate in periodic capital campaigns, and document our final plan for our personal affairs in a Last Will & Testament.** That typically means that we plan and specify provisions for our family members and favorite recipients and organizations in our estate plans and, if possible, also leave a gift to Good Shepherd's Legacy Society to help our Parish remain relevant and alive after we pass.

Such a gift can be accomplished in several ways—for example, either by (1) inclusion of a bequest, large or small, in your will, or (2) by designating Good Shepherd as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, or (3) by creating your own legacy fund. The Diocese has some good materials in this regard which we have pulled together to share with the congregation. Go to the Good Shepherd website (Donate – Planned Giving) to check out various items, including a link to the Diocese website with suggested pointers for developing a personal Legacy Plan for you and your family. Also, be sure to look at our Bulletin Board in the Parish Hall.

We are looking for people to join us in the coming year. Terms are typically for three years. We usually meet once a month and these meetings are limited to one hour. If you are interested in learning more and learning how you can help us grow our Legacy Society, or if you are just interested in learning more, please let us know.



## CELEBRATE GOD'S LOVE: Ministries that Foster Spiritual Growth

### ACOLYTES

Ellen and Michael Blackburn

There are seven 4<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> graders serving as acolytes for the 10:00 am Sunday service, and special services when we can meet in person. These youth serve as crucifer and torch bearers in procession, receive the offering and serve at the altar, and cannot wait to get back to in person services. We are proud and humbled to work with them.



We had two seniors graduate in June and will have two more graduating this year. We look forward to adding more youth to the group. Please let us know if you are interested in joining us in this ministry. Contact Ellen at [mebbdm@aol.com](mailto:mebbdm@aol.com).

### ALTAR GUILD

Sally VanWelden

*“The mission of the Altar Guild is to serve the Lord by reverently preparing the altar for worship and by maintaining the liturgical appointments of the church.”*



As with many ministries, flexibility was the guiding premise for our work this year. Since there was no communion for many months, our duties were halted except for appropriately adorning the altar in the Chapel to reflect the church seasons during Zoom services. When parking lot communion began, a group of Altar Guild members gathered (observing the CDC protocols) and placed 300 wafers in glassine envelopes. These were distributed, touch free, to congregants at the parking lot services and the drive-by pickup. With the resumption of the communion service, the Altar Guild was able, once again, to continue our ministry of preparing the altar for the blessing of the sacraments.

We look forward to the time when we can be together, in person, to perform the ministry that we are so dedicated to and passionate about.

## THE BLACK SHEEP CHOIR

Kees Corssmit and David McLaughry



Our volunteer choir consists mostly of adult male voices, complemented by several female singers to round out our Tenor I section. We include people that are retired, want to retire, or just want to rekindle their singing talents for spiritual as well as fellowship reasons.

Two events changed our choir's routine in 2020. First, COVID-19 severely impacted us. We did sing in the early part of the year, but we ceased rehearsing and performing after learning the dangers of organized choral activities for contracting the virus. Although at least one member was diagnosed with the virus in the latter part of 2020 we, luckily enough, are not aware of any significant illnesses incurred by any of our 24 members or their immediate families.

The second major event was the departure of Director Neal Wegener and member Stephen Fiess, as they who relocated their music business to North Carolina after Easter, in early June. This was a huge loss for our choir and the Parish. We will miss them badly.

With the uncertainty related to the COVID, we do not know when we will restart our activities. When and if that happens, we will aim to conduct weekly rehearsals and monthly performances during Mass. If you have an interest in trying us out and becoming a Black Sheep, please contact our founding member, accompanist Marti Diehl, David McLaughry or Kees Corssmit.

*Singing to the Lord is Praying Twice!*

Kees Corssmit  
Chair, Black Sheep  
303-638-7216

David McLaughry  
Vice Chair  
720-870-0366

Marti Diehl  
Pianist/Organist  
303-771-5497



## CHOIR DIRECTOR/ORGANIST

Connie Branton



The choir year started off well but was shut down in the form we knew as of March 12. I cancelled choir rehearsal that evening, and we have not been together as a choir since that date.

Choir members have been very supportive of the program even in these difficult pandemic circumstances. Many of the choir members continue to “attend” our Zoom church services, even though they do not participate as a group in the singing. Several choir members also participate in the Thursday Zoom meetings that we have had since the pandemic began. Some members do not “believe” in Zoom so have not been a part of these check-in times, but other choir members are present each Thursday afternoon and find comfort in the friendships that we have shared prior to COVID and since. Some members who do not “Zoom” have kept in contact with me through email. All are anxious for the pandemic to abate so that we can get back to making music together.

One sad event for the choir in 2020 was the loss of our organist, Dr. Stephen Fiess, who resigned to move to North Carolina to find a new life there. He is sorely missed -- his musicianship, his support, and his friendship with everyone in the choir and the congregation. Stephen and Neal Wegener were treated to a goodbye drive-by in June just prior to their leaving Colorado. Many, many cars with friends and members of the congregation came by to say goodbye and to donate to a parting gift for them. Stephen and Neal have kept in touch with Good Shepherd by attending many of our worship services and by coming to our choir Zoom times. We are grateful for their continued friendship.

As of June 2020, I took over as organist for the church. Some members of the congregation were unaware that I also have organist skills that could enhance the worship services. Since the cessation of in-person worship, I have not only provided most of the organ and piano playing, but I have recruited singers for the hymns and anthems, as well as helped with youth services, special events, and Christmas celebrations. Many people in the choir, as well as my family members and several friends outside the church, have helped in this regard. At the end of this report I have included a list of those persons who have assisted Good Shepherd by making music for the congregation.

As part of the learning process for delivering music to our church via Zoom, my daughter, Sarah, and I have delved into using the present sound system of the church to record a few singers singing the hymns for the congregation. We have just scratched the surface of this technology and look forward to making better and better use of the system that we have, plus adding to the live-streaming capabilities of our parish. When we can worship in person again, this technology will help make for a better quality of shared worship. The new organ has many capabilities that also can be used to facilitate excellence in a live-streamed service, including being hooked into the church’s present sound system.

The following list is people who have helped in 2020 to provide music for the virtual worship services. (Note: this does not include those musicians who participate with DeeDee Atwood in the praise bands or Tricia Hartman and the bell choir.) Apologies to anyone inadvertently omitted from the list.

### Guest Musicians:

Adam Cave

Rosemary Downs

Simon Harrison

Sarah Harrison

Joel Rinsema

### **Good Shepherd Musicians who helped lead worship:**

Kees Corssmit

David Gallas

David & Amy McLaughry

Mike Blackburn & family

Anna Branton

Patty Juhl

Julie Wadle

Stephen Fiess & Neal Wegener

Tricia Hartman

Mary Dakos

Jim Ball

John Stidman

Karen & Matthew Allison

James & Carl Algermissen

Gary Brower

### **CONTEMPORARY MUSIC DIRECTOR**

**DeeDee Atwood**



Good Shepherd's Contemporary Music Program took on a whole new level of music making during 2020 due to restrictions from COVID 19. Since we could not gather in the building, we had to get creative with how we would produce Songbook Songs and Anthems so that we could still serve the needs of the congregation. This meant experimenting with and learning new forms of technology – Audacity (audio editing software), VSDC (video editing software), and each musician learning how to make audio recordings from their homes with their cell phones.

I would like to recognize our core musicians who have been vital in bringing music to the congregation during the COVID crisis:

- Whit Hill: Melodica, vocals, and percussion
- John Mumford: banjo, mandolin, ukulele – and who created several video preludes and postludes during the year for us.
- Bruce Oxenbury: vocals and bass
- Marge Pegula: vocals, aerophone, bass, percussion, and video and audio editing
- Deb Sampson: vocals and recorders (soprano, alto and tenor)

Each one of these talented individuals have been very dependable and flexible during COVID, and they have given much of their time to keeping our music alive. Thanks to you all!

Making audio recordings has allowed us to “blend” in a way that we could not do previously during a live worship service. Since we have never had a sound engineer during worship, we most often were not able to achieve the balance of voices to instruments that we desired. By doing audio recordings, each individual track can be adjusted to make sure that all voices and instruments are heard for the final product. It has been creative and very fun for us all – being apart for recordings, but still united in music on Sunday mornings.

While we look forward to worshipping in person again in 2021, we also hope to incorporate some of our new skills going forward.

## **EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS (EVs)**

**Greg Bell**

Eucharistic Visitors visit those in hospitals, nursing homes and member's homes, who cannot be with the congregation. In 2020, COVID shut down our visits in mid-March. Nevertheless, we went out for approximately nine visits and we brought the Eucharist to about 24 people. If anyone is interested in this ministry, we will arrange training and be glad to welcome you to our team. Hopefully, 2021 will be a more active year, as the need always exists! Once COVID has passed, if you know of anyone in need of our ministry, please contact me, Fr. Gary, or Kathy Hunter.



## **FLOWER MINISTRY**

**Lori DeLue**



Using God's blooms to show our love and appreciation is a great gift. In January and February, the flower team, Shunila Rae and I, created arrangements for your celebrations and memorials. And then with Ash Wednesday the last week of February, we entered Lent, a time with no flowers on the altar. And though we did not meet in person, starting with our Easter celebration, we did have flowers in the chapel or sanctuary that provided a backdrop for the service.

As many of you know, I get great joy from choosing the flowers and then arranging them to honor, celebrate and remember. And I hope that some of you will consider joining me on the flower team this year.

## **HAND BELL CHOIR**

**Tricia Hartman**



The handbell choir has been greatly impacted by the COVID-19 restrictions. We like to contribute to the service once a month during "normal times." However, we were only able to ring a few times for the 9:00 am service last fall by practicing in small groups and recording the pieces for the service. Thankfully, several composers and arrangers have helped by providing music that three to four people can ring, while being socially distanced and masked. We had to stop our small group practices when the COVID-19 numbers increased again, at which time only solo or duet bell pieces were prepared. We hope to resume our small group practices for Lent, Easter, and in May. If you have ever thought about ringing bells, this is a great time to start as you only ring two bells and the pieces are recorded, thus permitting "do-overs," if needed! We hope the pandemic will soon end, so that we can resume full bell choir pieces in the fall.

Please contact Tricia Hartman at 720-810-0850 or at [hartmanpe@me.com](mailto:hartmanpe@me.com) to join us.

## **HEALING PRAYER TEAM**

**Christina Blackburn**

Healing prayers is a quiet and gentle transformative process of inviting a loving God to be present in our lives. The Healing Prayer Ministry team has been unable to continue their prayers with you during worship, due to COVID. We certainly hope to be back at our prayer stations when it is safe for us and for you. This ministry welcomes new members, and we will provide training. Contact Christina Blackburn at 859-749-2722.



## LECTORS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS (EMs)

Ellen Blackburn



There are 30 people serving as EMs and/or Lectors during Good Shepherd services. Lectors read the lessons, Psalm, and prayers. Eucharistic Ministers serve wine at communion, either with a chalice or intinction cup, and several of our EMs help with distribution of bread at the 10:00 am service. Lectors and LEMs at the 7:45 am and 6 pm services can also be found serving as acolytes (carrying the cross or torches in procession and assisting at the altar).

And then came COVID. This amazing group of individuals has mastered Zoom and has been willing to turn on a dime when our worship situations changed. We have five or six Zoom slots every week in addition to two slots for in-person worship, when possible. Our worship is greatly enriched by their voices. The EMs are outside distribution hosts on Sunday afternoons. Thank you all!!



This group is amazing in their dedication. If you are interested in joining us, please let me know. I am happy to offer training that will fit your schedule.



We want to thank all the Parishioners who have pledged for the 2021 Stewardship Campaign. As of January 11, 2021, we have received 149 Pledges for \$459,733, which is an average of \$3,085 per pledge. This compares to our 2020 Stewardship Campaign when we received 160 Pledges for \$463,100. As we mentioned previously, the Stewardship Committee set a goal for 2021 for 175 pledges and a total pledge amount of \$500,000. Considering the coronavirus in 2020, we believe we have done very well this year to match our total pledge amount from 2020.

As we talked to our Parishioners, we realized we have families with unemployment, cases of families not receiving their unemployment benefits, and we have some of our senior citizens that have financially helped children and grandchildren through these times. When we consider all these impacts on our families, we feel extremely fortunate with the results of our 2021 Stewardship Campaign.

Our Stewardship Campaign was important this year because the Finance Committee and the Vestry build our 2021 budget based on 2021 Stewardship Campaign pledges. Approximately 95% of our total income for 2021 will come from pledges to Good Shepherd from our Parishioners, because of the reduction in income in the plate and reduced income from the use of our building due to the Coronavirus.

We encourage pledges throughout the year; however, our Stewardship Campaign generally runs in November and December so we can build a balanced budget for Vestry approval in January, to be presented for approval at our Annual Meeting on January 31, 2021.

Our 2021 Stewardship Campaign was coordinated by the Stewardship Committee listed below, plus 20 Ambassadors that contacted Parishioners, and we a 15-member Prayer team that Prayed for Good Shepherd and the Stewardship Campaign. We wish to thank all these individuals for their commitment to this Ministry. Our Stewardship Committee meets throughout the year, and we are always looking for new Committee members. Finally, we want to thank the Good Shepherd community and families for their generous support of the 2021 Stewardship Campaign.

Stewardship Committee: Keith Anderson, DeeDee Atwood (Communications), Nan Behringer, Tom Billings, Fr. Gary Brower, Andy Folkerth, Anne McMahon (Co-Chair), Jim Wolfe (Co-Chair)

## USHERS

**Chuck and Sue Kelley**



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this year there is not much new to report since we have not been able to meet in person for indoor services. However we were able to have a few outdoor parking lot services while weather permitted, which was wonderful and receive a packaged wafer for communion.

I would like to thank the Creenan Family for taking the lead for their involvement in planning, marking the parking lot, and setting up for the first outdoor service. I would also like to thank all those who helped in either set up or tear down for each outdoor service as we were able to have them.

Hopefully 2021 will fill us all with HOPE and eventually the ability to be able to have indoor services and all be together in person again. It is an honor and privilege for us to be able to serve in this fulfilling ministry. As ushers, along with the greeters, we are among the first people to meet our parishioners and visitors. We pass out the bulletins, help seat people, assist with the collection, and make sure everyone has an opportunity to take communion. We also direct our parish guests to various facilities in the church. We currently have about 8 volunteers for the 7:45 a.m. service and 12 for the 10:00 a.m. service. We would like to thank Randy and Tina Hubbard for staffing the 6 p.m. service for us.

We are always looking for new members to join our ministry. It is a fun way to serve Good Shepherd and meet new people. If you decide to volunteer, we will always check on your availability and schedule you according to your needs. Chuck and Sue will either provide a training session for you during your first service or will pair you with another experienced usher. This year, alongside other ministries, our goal is to focus on the best approach to welcome visitors and newcomers. Whether our visitors come for just one day or join us for the long haul. Our wish is for them to have the best experience possible here at Good Shepherd. To those of you who have signed up this year to lighten the load, we thank you so much. And to all our longtime ushers who have been serving over the years, you are so appreciated. Many hands make light work.



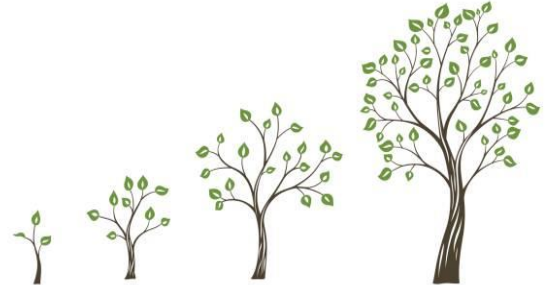
# **GROW TOGETHER IN FAITH:** **Ministries that Foster the Internal Growth of the Congregation**

## **GROW TEAM REPORT**

**Nora Earnest**

### **Grow with Us!**

2020 has been anything but a typical year for our church congregation! Despite these unique challenges brought on by COVID-19, stay-at-home orders, and social distancing, the “Grow Together in Faith” ministry continued to offer opportunities for education, fellowship, and spiritual reflection. I hope you were able to participate in some (or all!) of these events and I hope you consider *Growing in your Faith* during 2021.



### **2020 Accomplishments**

#### Youth Sundays

“Youth Sundays,” held on the fifth Sundays of the month in 2020, continued to be a great success! The congregation was blessed to hear sermons written and presented by our youth, as well as innovative themes and creative uses of technology to share music and messages of faith.

#### Back to School

Recognizing that “back to school” would look different in 2020, the Grow Team invited School Social Worker, Jen Jones, to discuss the unique stressors facing families and students this school year. *Back to School Stressors: A Facilitated Discussion*, was held on August 19 over Zoom. A summary of the discussion and resources are included on the church website, under “Back to School 2020.” Special blessings were also offered in August to our student athletes and coaches, as well as for the technological devices (laptops, phones, iPads) students would be using as part of their day-to-day, online or hybrid education.

#### Family Picnic and Movie Night

The Grow Team coordinated a fun, in-person family picnic on August 30, held on the lawn at Good Shepherd. For many, it provided a welcome opportunity for families to reconnect (in a socially distanced, masked manner) with one another! Additionally, a youth and family movie night was also held on the lawn on September 19, which provided another great way to connect in-person with our church community during times of isolation.

#### Blessing of the Animals

Following the success of the 2019, offsite “Blessing of the Animals,” the Grow Team was pleased to again hold the 2020 blessing at Willow Creek Park. The service was well attended and included the opportunity to donate blankets and other pet items which benefited local pet shelters.

#### “Fun” Committee

The Good Shepherd congregation has always been one for fun, and 2020 was no exception! The newly formed *Fun Committee* developed several online events intended to provide opportunities for fellowship and fun. Activities included sports trivia, a cooking class, pumpkin carving, and Christmas cookie baking!

## 2020 Advent and Christmas

While the days leading up to Christmas may have looked different for children and families, they were still invited to experience the joy and wonder of the Advent season at home. Advent bags were created and delivered to families of young children and included activities, games, and stories. A virtual Christmas pageant was also developed, enabling the children of Good Shepherd to tell the story of Christ's birth during the Christmas Eve service.

## **2021 Goals**

### Intergenerational Opportunities

In 2021, the Grow Team will continue to explore ways to bring parishioners of all ages together. Whether by creating "mentorship" programs or identifying church events that appeal to all ages, the Grow Team would like to continue to find ways to bring *all* parishioners together to explore their faith, socialize, and build relationships with one another.

### Identify Opportunities to Collaborate

Following up on the success of past collaborative programs (mental health speakers' series, etc.), the Grow Team would like to explore ways to continue its collaboration efforts with the Outreach Team (and other Good Shepherd Ministries) to bring opportunities for education, service, and spiritual reflection to the congregation. We look forward to identifying additional topics that may be of interest to the congregation and speakers who could present on a variety of educational and spiritual topics.

### Youth Sundays

The Grow Team will continue to offer opportunities for children, youth, and families in 2021, including Youth Sundays (the fifth Sunday of the month)!

### Grow in Faith when You are Not at Church

There are many ways we might encourage the congregation, especially when they are *not* at church. The Grow Team would like to identify ways to reach parishioners when they are at home or are away, through offering special blessings that can be done at home, or through special readings, activities, or other prayers.

## **Invitation**

Please consider "Growing in Your Faith" in 2021. Volunteers are always welcome! If you would like to get involved with one of our Grow Ministries, please contact Fr. Gary or Nora Earnest at [nearest@msn.com](mailto:nearest@msn.com).



*The mission of Children’s Ministry is to assist parents in making whole-hearted disciples for Christ by teaching Biblical principles and truths to be lived out and passed on to future generations.*

Deuteronomy 6:5-9



An integral part of our ongoing goal to reach our kids for Christ is to offer Sunday school every week, whether it is in person or via ZOOM. Our year started off normally, but we had to quickly learn new ways to reach kids and help them to move forward along their spiritual journey path, albeit using a less than perfect venue requiring more screen time for kids who may already be maxed out. *Godly Play* has continued to meet every Sunday (including Easter), except for November 29, when I passed out the Advent bags during our regularly scheduled *Godly Play* time. It has been my goal to connect with our kids every week through a hybrid *Godly Play* class which includes a science or object lesson that introduces that day’s message, the teaching, and a craft, as well as checking in with the kids to see how they are doing. It has been an ongoing challenge to keep kids engaged with a virtual format. Back in March, I sent out surveys to find out what time the greatest number of families were available for *Godly Play* and after trying a Wednesday night format, the Sunday afternoon time slot was chosen. Elaine Oxenbury resumed an upper elementary (and older) class on September 27, using a workbook on how to deal with the emotional fallout of COVID life changes, and she tied that to Biblical writings. Beginning with Advent, she resumed using *Living the Good News*. Both of us continue to adapt our class presentations to work within the parameters of ZOOM. Each week, beginning last March 22, I send out an email detailing what the themes are for both *Godly Play* and *Living the Good News* (which I started including on September 20), along with activity sheets, a video link, and other supplemental materials. Our *Godly Play* classroom traditionally reaches children age 3 years through 2nd grade, but for the first six months of the pandemic, it was a one room schoolhouse for all elementary-aged kids. Our Storytellers for the first two and a half months of 2020 were Elaine Farrell, Susie Street, Emma Blackburn, Kaitie Blackburn, and me; with Jackie Algermissen, Sally VanWelden, Emma Blackburn, Christina Blackburn, and myself assisting in the role of Doorperson. After March 22, I have hosted *Godly Play* every Sunday via ZOOM, with Emma Blackburn teaching on July 19, as my son got married on that day. Our second Sunday school class is for our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. The lessons taught are from *Living the Good News*, and Elaine Oxenbury is the leader in this class. We have a small but faithful group of kids who join each class on Sundays, even a family from Louisiana!

We were able to “bury” the Alleluia banner on the first Sunday in Lent, and I “unburied” it virtually on Easter Sunday.

A small but fun time was had by those of us who attended a family picnic on the church’s lawn this past summer to enjoy a time of fellowship and games.

A virtual VBS, Bolt, was offered instead of an in-person event. It was designed to allow families to watch a video and do fun activities when their time allowed, instead of being on a set time schedule.

A virtual back-to-school discussion was offered to help families navigate the stresses that kids and families face because of the pandemic and the start of a new school year.

A family movie night was offered on September 19. It was a fun time to gather, with social distancing.

We celebrated an outdoor infant Baptism, albeit cold, on Sunday, October 18.



I put together Advent bags which were distributed via a drive-by delivery on Sunday, November 29. Bags included an Advent activity packet, Advent wreath craft kit, Advent chain and coloring book. It was wonderful to see families in person!

A pandemic could not get in the way of offering the kids a chance to participate in our annual Christmas Pageant. Susan Bailey, Gary Brower, and I put together a video pageant, *A Very Special Baby*, written by Susan. We had seven families participate by videoing and narrating their parts. Susan and Gary edited the segments, inserted music, and created a wonderful addition to the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve online service.

Our continuing goal is to offer programs, regardless of being in person or virtual, that raise a generation of believers. We stress the truth that God is with us and guides us and, with God's blessing, we are raising up a generation for Him!

We also want to hear from you if you have any events that you would like to propose. We are here for all the families!

## **CHILDREN'S NURSERY**

**Sue LeFant**



For our littlest ones, a reassurance, that when we can be back in the building, our nursery caregiver, Cindy McClain will also be back!

## COFFEE HOUR

Liz Peel



Our plea for new coffee hour crews at the 2020 Annual Meeting was well received, only to be interrupted by COVID! I say “interrupted” because Coffee Hour has remained a strong social aspect of our GS family. We welcomed new crew members and were redesigning our coffee hour “flow” when we were forced to take a break. Coffee Hour continued and continues after the 9:00 am service as people choose to stay and chat over their own coffee/snacks prior to Faith Forum. As we move into 2021, I hope that members pick up where we left off in 2020 and express new visions, desires, and commitments to this very vibrant ministry. Please let me know ([epeel11@gmail.com](mailto:epeel11@gmail.com)) if you would like to join this ministry! I am so looking forward to seeing everyone in person sometime soon!

On a closing note, please thank the following hosts/hostesses who so graciously served the GS family during Coffee Hour since the last Annual Meeting and prior to COVID:

Jim and Bev Wolfe  
Pete and Deb Roden  
Shunila Rae  
Kathy Alfeld  
Marilyn Taylor  
Richard Thomas  
Rachel Whipp and the Youth Group  
Marjorie Lell  
Elaine Farrell  
Carol Chamblee  
Jen Lee  
Liz Peel

And here are the members who joined the crew but were not able to serve because of COVID—please do return to us!

Jonathan and Robin Gear  
Curt and Melissa Watson  
Dave and Pam Dominguez

Contact us at: [congregationalcare@gshep.org](mailto:congregationalcare@gshep.org)



Members: Karin Elsen, Jr. Warden; The Rev. Gary Brower, The Rev. Sandy Boyd; Greg Bell, Eucharistic Visitor Ministry Leader; Bev White, Presence Ministry Leader; Nan Behringer, Utility Ministry Leader; and Duanne Namaksy, Utility Ministry Leader

One of the goals during our clergy transition and re-visioning is to revitalize the Congregational Care Ministry (CCM) at Good Shepherd. It is important for the congregation to see itself as the body of Christ and know that love and caring for one another is missional to the Church.

Unfortunately, in 2020, many of our in-person ministry objectives were impacted due to the church closure, social distancing, and stay-at-home recommendations for older citizens. However, we were able to pivot and respond in new ways:

- Throughout the year, CCM members and clergy have been Good Shepherd's pastoral emergency contacts at times when Fr. Gary takes well-deserved breaks. CCM members also reach out to those who leave a request on the church's website.
- In May, CCM sponsored a Zoom Q&A session, "Being Well During Times of Change," featuring experts Bev White, counselor, and The Rev. Canon Carl Andrews, Diocesan Disaster Relief Coordinator, speaking to life and church imbalances due to COVID-19. The still timely recorded session can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=292BYtd3-6Q&t=3010s>.
- In June, July, and August, CCM members prepared the on-line Season II Re-gathering Survey and analyzed survey responses, focusing on personal safety and comfort levels expressed by the survey takers. In addition, CCM analyzed on-line Morning Prayer service attendance records and then reached out with postcards to members not attending. We had distanced drive-by visits with flowers to at-home parishioners. We also shared suggestions for personal wellness in Sound Body, Mind & Spirit communication segments to the parish.
- In September, a subgroup of us helped design communion prayers and drive-by host distribution practices. We continue to pray each week for parishioners who have received at-home communion in the past and hope that we will be able to visit again soon.

Whenever it is safe and practicable, we will continue the Presence Ministry training and, with clergy, plan to develop end-of-life planning resources with a Senior Information Day. As always, you can reach out to us at [CongregationalCare@gshep.org](mailto:CongregationalCare@gshep.org).

## “FUN” COMMITTEE

Deborah Sampson, Kaitlyn Bridgers, and Suraya Bowermaster



At the 2020 Annual Meeting, Suraya Bowmaster, Kaitlyn Bridgers, and Deborah Sampson were sitting together and chatting. One of them said, we need a committee to bring fun back to Good Shepherd. We all agreed and asked Fr. Gary if we could do something. He not only agreed, but announced to the gathering that a Fun Committee was being organized. Then, COVID.

Early in the pandemic, Kaitlyn, Suraya, and Deb discussed activities, but it was a busy time, as parents were creating home school classrooms while also setting up home offices for themselves. Health care employees were working many hours of overtime. We all thought this would not last a long time, and we would come up with new things when we could all get together in person. By late July, it was obvious that this pandemic would keep us isolating for a much longer time. So, the Fun Committee worked to schedule activities that would promote fun and fellowship.

In August, we invited the members of the parish to a Sports Trivia Night. We wore clothes for our favorite teams, explored Zoom backgrounds, learned how to ask for reservations for Zoom events, and even created Zoom polls. There were not a lot of participants, but those who showed up had a great time and laughed a lot. Thanks to the Bridgers who came up with trivia questions and underwrote gift certificates for Buffalo Wild Wings.

September was a big, and somewhat complicated, event with cooking, an option to learn about why it is hard to pair wines with onion soup, family reunions across 500 miles, and a lot of raucous laughter. We also learned that Brad Nye had experience as a tableside French chef. This was our largest event, with 21 registrations and the first with some former Good Shepherd members showing up for the fun.

Pumpkins and costumes dominated the evening for our October event. We have known for some time that Marge Pegula is a creative artist, but she really impressed us with her multi-media pumpkins. The Bowermasters were heavily into the Harry Potter world with their costumes, the Bridgers had something of a fairy tale theme, complete with a large green frog. And Mary Ann Panarelli did Where's Waldo with a flair.

In November, we combined fun and charity with Bourbons and Blankets, where we made fleece blankets for donation to RezDawgs rescue center. Some of us also learned about different styles of bourbon while tying layers of fleece together to make the blankets. We donated dozens of blankets to the charity which matches rescue dogs, cats, and other pets to forever homes.

December had a decidedly festive theme of treats and crafts. Cathy Conley taught us how to make pomander balls from oranges and cloves to make our homes smell wonderful. It is almost impossible to have a December party without festive treats and beverages. About a dozen participating families shared favorite cookie and beverage recipes, and Kaitlyn Bridgers made them into a cookbook that was emailed to participants.

We are looking forward to more fun events in 2021, including a Super Bowl with trivia, and more food donations to Covenant Cupboard, which has been serving many more families than ever before, a chocolate tasting where a local expert will talk about the health benefits of chocolate, and a Chinese New Year activity.

We welcome new members to our committee, either as a full member or as an expert to share expertise at an event.

## GREETERS

Joe Gavlick

Greeters are Good Shepherd's hospitality face to the community. They meet and greet fellow members and new visitors to make everyone feel welcome and a part of our worship community. When the building was closed in March, we had only 16 volunteers serving both the 7:45 and 10:00 am services, and they did an outstanding job performing their duties and making everyone feel welcome. Once we resume in-person services, even with reduced numbers allowed, we will try to find additional volunteers to assist in this very important service. Once our building is reopened, I will be contacting everyone for their consideration and help.



## HOSPITALITY AND THE MARTHAS

Marjorie Lell



The Hospitality Ministry supports events that provide opportunities for parishioners to gather, enjoy refreshments and enjoy the fellowship of our Good Shepherd brothers and sisters.

Thanks to all who served on the two hospitality events in 2020. Because of the COVID pandemic the church was closed in March to all activities including the use of the parish hall and kitchen.

**January** – The Martha Ministry provided hospitality support for the Newcomers Luncheon on Sunday, January 19. The Annual Meeting was held Sunday, January 26, with a delicious brunch provided.

**July** – I contacted Fr. Gary to ask if it were possible for my daughter, Katherine Anne, and me to come into the church to work in the parish hall and the kitchen. He gave permission. We put tables and chairs in storage leaving three round tables with three chairs per table six feet apart in the parish. We disposed of expired supplies and cleaned the pantry shelves. We emptied and cleaned the refrigerator. All while wearing masks of course. It was, I have to say, a surreal feeling to be shutting down the parish hall and kitchen and wondering when we would all be gathering again.

Goals for 2021 include, when our church is open again, inventorying supplies and equipment such as tables, chairs, dishes, and other kitchen/hall equipment and developing a kitchen manual so that anyone using the kitchen and parish hall can safely and efficiently use the kitchen and the hall.

If you feel hospitality may be the ministry for you at Good Shepherd, please contact me. I am always happy to talk with you or visit with you regarding this important ministry. You may like to email me, at [marjorielell@comcast.net](mailto:marjorielell@comcast.net), or call me at 303-782-5545.

## HUNGRY FLOCK

Tricia Hartman



Hungry Flock is Good Shepherd's monthly "supper club." Everyone is welcome, including significant others who do not attend Good Shepherd. We have continued to meet the second Saturday of the month throughout the pandemic, although now our meetings are by Zoom. Thus, we have missed sharing yummy food, but have been able to continue our fellowship, the most important part of Hungry Flock. We look forward to being able to meet in each other's homes once again in small groups, hopefully, this fall. Please contact Tricia Hartman at 720-810-0850 or at [hartmanpe@me.com](mailto:hartmanpe@me.com) or Amy McLaughry at 303-907-7590 or at [admclaughry@yahoo.com](mailto:admclaughry@yahoo.com) to join us.



## LIVING NATIVITY

Deborah Sampson, Mary Ann Panarelli, Susan Bailey



How do we make Christmas in COVID-land fun and meaningful for members and neighbors? Why, we create a totally new event called a drive-by Living Nativity, that is how! And more than 150 carloads of folks and a few walkers visited the Living Nativity.

Visitors circled the parking lot in their cars or on foot, and they donated food to Covenant Cupboard, saw the Three Wise Men (people, wise guys, etc.) on their way to where the star led them, watched Mary and Joseph with the Baby Jesus (sometimes with animals crawling on the manger, and found the angels visiting the shepherds in the field of sheep. Many of them heard Christmas music and Dave Hill's narration of the nativity story. And Santa got in on the action, distributing candy canes and invitations to our Christmas Eve Zoom service. Apparently, some of the kids considered it a big plus to have the Arapahoe County Sheriff Department car posted at the entry/exit to the event.

Mary Ann Panarelli, Deborah Sampson, and Susan Bailey served as the Triumvirate, aka steering committee, for the event. Marcia Poirier and Katherine Alfeld quickly signed on as Costumers, Curt Watson agreed to manage the scenery and lighting, and Keith Anderson took on the monumental task of managing traffic. Of course, DeeDee Atwood took on the double challenge of publicizing the event and creating narration and music for visitors to the event. Greg Brower made sure there were hot beverages to warm the hands and tummies of more than 30 volunteers and cast members. The Outreach Committee had a small army of volunteers to move the truckload of donated food from cars to the Covenant Cupboard Food Pantry truck.

All of this -- the meetings, the costume fittings, the construction, and the traffic directions -- had to be carried out within the restrictions of COVID safety. We got creative about it. Masks were a constant. Our angels even had sparkly ones as part of their costumes. Our Santas, Merrie Need and Jeff Spahr, worked out a system to get candy canes to the children in the cars, along with an invitation to our Christmas Eve service.

Thanks to cast members Tom Billings; Ellen, Michael, Emma, and Rachel Blackburn; Kaitlyn, Griffin, Maddy, and Macy Bridgers; Alissa, Evelyn, and Chloe Creenan; Nora and Eric Earnest; Molly and Priscilla Hawkinson; Doug Moore and Becky Beall-Moore; Rev. Merrie Need; Jeff Spahr; Donna White; Jim Wolfe; and Rev. Sandra Boyd. Thanks to Katherine Watson (daughter of Curt and Melissa Watson) who painted the camel and donkey, Marge Pegula who created seven of the animal cutouts, and Robert Sampson who was responsible for supporting all the animal cut-outs. Brad Nye, Mark Kelly, Steve Kane (from Men's Group), Andy Folkerth, Jim Wolfe, Pete Roden and David McLaughry were the set-up crew with Curt Watson. Jim Wolfe and Kip Travis helped tear down and store all the pieces. Food Collectors were from our Outreach Committee, Traffic Direction came from Keith Anderson and his crew.

We are calling this a big success. We got to see a lot of friends from a distance and we reached quite a few neighbors, welcoming them to Good Shepherd. Several members jumped in to support this wild idea. The first plans are underway for the next drive-by Living Nativity for 2021.

One of the visitors described it as "the perfect alternative to blow-up Santas and excessive Christmas lights, a reminder of the real Christmas."



The Good Shepherd Men's Group completed our 35th year of meeting in 2020. Wow, 35 years, is amazing!! We had 22 of 24 meetings throughout the year, meeting twice a month on Saturday mornings for either breakfast or coffee and pastries

along with our program. Five of those meetings were in person, with the remainder being held virtually via Zoom due to COVID-19. We will continue to meet this way until we can resume meeting in person sometime in 2021! We currently have approximately 35 members and average about 15-20 at our meetings. The Men's group is built on three principles – **prayer, study, and service.**

Our group prays for our members, the Good Shepherd church family, our country, any special requests, and the Episcopal Church. Through email and our group roster we maintain the Prayer list, send prayer requests, and provide the group a listing of historical and upcoming events. We will lay hands on and pray for individuals and/or situations in our meetings as appropriate.

Our programs during any given year generally originate from the Serendipity Bible, Sunday scripture readings, and book reviews. During 2020, with help from several men in the group who volunteered to cover the topics, our study programs came primarily from book reviews which included:

- “An Uncommon Guide to Retirement” by Jeff Haanen
- “The Twelve Disciples” Life Guide Studies by Douglas Connelly
- “Why Men Hate Going to Church” by David Murrow

All program topics have studies standing on their own, therefore allowing attendees to miss a session without losing the overall theme.

In December, we were also fortunate to have our special Christmas program presented by fellow parishioners Jim Wolfe, with music led by Kees Corssmit.

This year we unfortunately were not able to have our annual Men's Retreat generally held in February due to COVID-19. We plan on resuming this special event in February/March of 2022.

A special thank you to Jim Wolfe for his on-going support, volunteering, guidance and oversight relating to our programs and varying facets of the Men's Group; to Whit Hill for his mentoring and technical support; to Kip Travis for his valued contribution in creating new/refreshing events and programs for our consideration; to Brad Nye for his ability and willingness to create delicious, special breakfasts for a good number of our monthly in-person meetings (while we could), and he has agreed to take the lead in that role for our future similar events; for all the men within our group who volunteer to take on the set-up, service, program presentation and clean-up associated with our in-person meetings; and finally thanks out to Jim Ball, Kip Travis, and John Michel for their continued assistance of calling and reminding our Men of each meeting.

In service, we look forward to the future when we can resume hosting the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, the annual Good Shepherd Church Picnic (with help from the Youth Group, the Sunday School Program team, and the Grow team), and assist with on-going maintenance/clean-up projects at the church. We also look forward to continuing our work with Chuck Kelly, Men's Group member, and Shelly Hitt, fellow parishioner, and St. Clare's board member, who assist in keeping us informed and involved, along with several of our parishioners in Outreach with the St. Clare's ministry (St. Peter's and St. Mary's Church) feeding a weekly meal to people in need. Good Shepherd has traditionally taken



the third Tuesday of each month to serve the meal at St. Clare's, and the Men's Group has coordinated the meal for one month out of the year. With COVID-19 and the related restrictions in place, our involvement has been curtailed, but we will resume those services hopefully sometime in 2021, when we are able to. Finally, for 2020, several men from the Men's Group volunteered to lead and assist in a variety of ways contributing to the success of the church's Christmas Living Nativity event.

We are very proud of our activities and the contributions we make to and on behalf of Good Shepherd, and we will continue to do the same in 2021, when and where we are able, while building support within our team. I am very fortunate and honored to have the opportunity of coordinating this long-standing group of men, and I appreciate all the cooperation and support they have provided me during this challenging year of 2020! God's Peace.

## **PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY**

**Tricia Hartman**

Prayer chain members have continued to be privileged to join with many of you in prayers for yourself, family members, friends, and our world during this pandemic year. We deeply appreciate you allowing us to join you in your prayer needs. The prayer chain receives prayer requests from all, for any concerns. Requests can also be anonymous. We appreciate updates, but we know that the Lord knows what we are praying about and primarily wants to hear from us. We welcome new members.



Please contact Tricia Hartman at 720-810-0850 or email her at: [hartmanpe@me.com](mailto:hartmanpe@me.com) to join us, or to request prayers.

## SENIOR SINGLES OF GOOD SHEPHERD

Connie Branton



Senior Singles of Good Shepherd has been a close personal and active group at Good Shepherd for several years.

The year 2020 started off with our annual White Elephant dinner and gift exchange at the home of Tricia Hartman. The gift exchange is always very entertaining with crazy presents chosen and then stolen from one another.

Senior Singles meets once a month. The group enjoys potluck dinners, usually with a theme. Unfortunately, the COVID pandemic curbed almost all our in-person get-togethers after March 15. Many Senior Singles also help when special donations of funds or goods are solicited by groups in or outside of the church. For instance, we donated many dozens of cookies to a homeless shelter during the Christmas holidays.

Senior Singles started Zoom meetings almost as soon as the quarantine began. These hour-long sharing times have continued to the present day. The group also looks forward to continuing to meet every Friday evening for the foreseeable future. Sometimes these meetings feature a question which is answered by all, i.e., “your favorite vacation”, “most embarrassing moments”, “our animals”, etc. Other meetings consist of mainly checking in with one another, sharing thanksgivings or prayer requests for our families, friends, or ourselves. We also share favorite books, family visit reports, ways to handle getting groceries and other items, and tips for handling the isolation most of us feel.

Senior Singles very much missed meeting together, so after a few months of the pandemic we got together for three in-person picnics in summer and fall. Each person brought their own food, chair, beverage, and wore a mask, of course. We all enjoyed seeing one another again. However, the weather in late fall and winter precluded further meetings face to face. We look forward to our famous dinner meetings when the weather improves, and we have all had our vaccines.



## YOUTH MINISTRY

Rachel Whipp



Good Shepherd youth started the new year strong with our very favorite activity, a lock-in! We had so much fun playing games and hosting the Music with a Mission Concert. February was full of silly games and building community. We had a blast playing pancake relay on Shrove Tuesday. We were preparing to leave for our spring Quest retreat when COVID turned our worlds upside down. With so much uncertainty, we found solace in gathering on Zoom. We shared our tales of boredom and we mourned our losses together. We found online games that made us laugh and helped us pass the time. We created new ways to celebrate milestones. We enjoyed front porch chats, and birthday parades. We were blessed to be able to safely gather in person over the summer. It was precious time spent playing and catching up. Some of our favorite socially distanced activities were making smores over tea lights, watching a movie on the lawn, tie-dye wars, painting, and hiking. We wanted to continue to meet into the fall and winter, but with the rise in COVID cases it became clear that the best way to keep our community safe was to go back to meeting virtually.

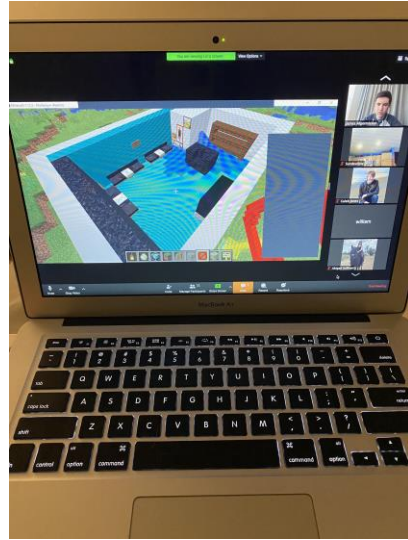
The youth put together four Sunday services, three of which were virtual in 2020. Their creativity, flexibility, wisdom, and talent are astounding.

The resilience of our youth has not ceased to amaze me this year. Our young people have taken a terrible situation and made the best of it. They have sacrificed so much for the good of many. Service to our community has always been a very important aspect of our youth program. While we were not able to participate in service in our typical fashion, I want to recognize the outstanding service our young people have provided our community this year. Our youth have been living in service to us all for the last ten months. For most young people COVID-19 does not pose the same danger as it does for adults. Our children and youth are staying home for us. The sacrifices the youth in our congregation have made this year are too numerous to count. Everything from education, sports, and activities, to internships, and employment opportunities. They have sacrificed friendships, travel opportunities, rites of passage, and so much more. This level of sacrifice has come at a high personal cost for each of them. Our youth truly know what it means to love their neighbor.

## YOUTH PHOTOS - 2020



# YOUTH PHOTOS - 2020





# YOUTH PHOTOS – 2020



**SERVE THE WORLD IN CHRIST'S NAME:**  
**Ministries that Reach Outside the Congregation to Serve the Community**

**OUTREACH AND MISSION MINISTRIES**

**Randy Hubbard**

*Outreach Ministry serves locally and globally, reaching out in love through Christ to minister to a needy world through compassionate outreach that empowers, educates, uplifts and offers hope to people in need.*



As it was for all of us, 2020 was a year that looked nothing like the Outreach Committee, or its members, thought it would when it started. We have all shared fear, trepidation, loss, uncertainty, isolation, and a longing to return to normal, not knowing quite what normal will look like. At the same time, we have discovered resilience, courage, sustained and even strengthened faith, hope, and most importantly, the ability to meet by Zoom, that we may not have known we had. And, despite a pandemic and an inability to meet in person or organize any truly group activities, the Outreach Committee was able to function and accomplish several things, thanks as always to the efforts of its members and the generosity of the congregation and the community. As a reminder, here are the current members of the Committee: Sally VanWelden, Sherri Heslen, Joyce Manning, Jo Ann Schomerus, Kip Travis, Liz Peel, Marilyn Taylor, Fr. Gary Brower, and Randy Hubbard, chairperson. Shelley Hitt, a member of the Outreach Committee for several years, decided to step off the committee during the year—her vision, compassion, and ability to make us focus will be missed. Here are some of the highlights from a very different year.

Even though starting in mid-March we were unable to meet in person or to gather in any meaningful way, we still managed to organize and carry out a few in-gatherings throughout the year. The normally simple and comforting idea of just conducting those in-gatherings the way we always have was out the window; we had to plan with much more effort on how to collect things when we could not get together, when we could not use the church, and when we were not sure how enthusiastic or able people would be about leaving their houses to make donations. However, having to think harder about the in-gatherings also gave us a new focus, and we thought more deeply and intentionally about which organizations we should be supporting, and why. Our in-gatherings included the Super Bowl Sunday collection of food for the food pantry at West Early College, a joint effort with St. Timothy's for a pop-the-trunk collection of food to benefit Covenant Cupboard and Integrated Family Community Services (IFCS), a virtual in-gathering of school supplies, a drive-up collection of food for Thanksgiving, and a modified Angel Tree Project which required both computer skills and drive-up donations. Again, despite the pandemic, parishioners and other members of the community generously donated food, Christmas gifts, gift cards, school supplies and cash that we were then able to distribute to various community organizations. The level of giving was beyond expectations—for example, for our Thanksgiving in-gathering, we collected seven full boxes (140 pounds) of food. And for the Christmas in-gathering, Good Shepherd filled all the available slots for giving presents (approximately 45 children) and, in addition, donated approximately 45 gift cards for families in need. The recipients of these donations continue to express to us how much these donations mean to them and the people they serve. That participation is part of what allows Good

Shepherd to continue to reflect God's love out into the community, which is one of the committee's primary purposes.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the Living Nativity in December. This was not an Outreach Committee-sponsored event, although several of our members participated in the food drive that was part of that effort. We collected about 700 pounds of food and \$450 in cash donations during the event, which was amazing. What the Living Nativity also did reflect, I think, is that even in very difficult times, there is still a desire on the part of this congregation to reach out into the community and give back, sharing our faith by example, and welcoming the community to participate. That spirit, that devotion, that faith, is heartening, and that example is what the Outreach Committee will continue to try and live up to.

COVID-19 did put a significant crimp in our ongoing efforts to make more "hands-on" community service opportunities available, given that the ability to gather in groups was severely constrained. That did enable us to focus, however, on continuing to identify groups "closer to home" in the SE Denver metro area that would provide individual parishioners the opportunity to make donations or even volunteer. We had Zoom meetings with representatives of the Giving Heart day shelter in Englewood, Family Tree/House of Hope (featuring our own Susie Street), and Reading Partners, a group which provides opportunities to tutor elementary school children who need reading assistance. We are also working on, and plan to complete this year, a list of local organizations that provide services to those in need and may provide volunteer opportunities as well. We hope that will be the beginning of an effort to enable Good Shepherd to serve as a sort of community clearing house, being a source of information not only for the congregation but also for the community as to where vital needs can be met and where opportunities for help can be found.

For 2020, as has been the case for the past couple of years, we were allocated a budget of \$3,000. The Outreach Team takes the responsibility of spending this money very seriously. We tried very hard to allocate the money to organizations and projects we believed were reflective of what the congregation would want. We tried also to be always mindful of our goal to minister to those in need. This year, as last year, we tried to focus a bit more on providing funds to groups in which parishioners are involved, and to those in need in our own community, with our donations. We made donations to the HAAT South Metro Task Force, Giving Heart day shelter, Integrated Family Community Services, St Clare's, and a year-end contribution to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. We also donated to the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund for Western Wildfire Relief.

As always, we would very much appreciate suggestions from individual members of the Congregation about outreach projects that they might find appealing or which they think we should consider—and, of course, we would always love to have new members (we meet the first Tuesday of every month, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm, by Zoom until further notice).





**The Jamaica Medical/Dental Mission**, with support of Good Shepherd, completed its annual mission trip February 28 – March 7, 2020, just prior to the Covid-19 lockdown. The 23-person mission team provided quality primary medical care, dental examinations, dental extractions, prescription medications, health awareness education, physical therapy, and other health related services to over 900 patients.

Since its first introduction to Good Shepherd Episcopal Church by Bill and Karen Henwood over ten years ago, the Jamaica Medical/Dental Mission has evolved into a 501c3 under the name Jamaica Missions USA, and is blessed with a core group of medical and non-medical leaders from Good Shepherd and other churches across the US who ensure the continuity of the mission. The composition of volunteers on the mission teams changes from year to year and has been strengthened through the participation of volunteers from the US, Canada, UK, and Jamaica. Also new, through an association with CSU-Pueblo, the Jamaica mission has been able to offer clinical experience and academic credit to RN's pursuing their Nurse Practitioner degree.



What has remained the same over the years, is the mission's goal: to share the **Word of God** by providing quality health care! Each patient is prayed for individually and opportunities to share personal testimony abound. The mission serves with support of the Jamaican Ministry of Health in areas not regularly visited by Jamaican healthcare providers. Patients travel regionally to visit our healthcare providers with the majority walking on foot, often many miles, over rugged mountain terrain to the rural communities in which we serve. For most patients, our doctors and dentists provide the only care they receive during the year. Our teams return to the same communities each year to provide a continuum of care. Both patients and team members benefit from the long-term relationships developed over the years, and look forward to seeing old and new friends on each return trip. Our team members are ever humbled and grateful for the opportunity to serve such gracious people who have little in way of material possessions, but who are so extraordinarily rich in spirit and God's grace.

Though saddened by the cancellation of the 2021 mission due to the pandemic and the deaths of two of our leaders, founder Bill Henwood on January 15, 2021 and our team pediatrician Valerie Royes on November 15, 2020, we look forward to honoring their lives through continuation of the mission they so believed in. The next mission is tentatively planned for February 2022. Please consider volunteering. Non-medical volunteers are always needed, in addition to medical, dental, and pharmaceutical professionals. For more information, please contact Curt or Melissa Watson, or visit: [www.jmusa.org](http://www.jmusa.org).

### JAMAICA MISSION BAG PROJECT

Beverly Wolfe

Beverly Wolfe leads a ministry that makes small bags to hold medicine and supplies to provide to the patients served by the annual Medical/Dental Mission to Jamaica. Sadly, the Jamaica Mission has been cancelled for 2021, so making these bags during 2020 was not necessary. We will look forward to helping with future Missions.



## MUSIC WITH A MISSION CONCERT SERIES

DeeDee Atwood



Our beloved Music with a Mission Concert Series (MWM) came to a screeching halt in 2020 due to COVID. We successfully completed three of the five planned concerts for the 2019-2020 season before we had to shut down in March. Those three concerts generated \$6,400 for our mission partners, bringing our total for four and a half seasons to just over \$40,000.

For those who may not be familiar with our series, we offer four to five concerts each year in a season, which runs from October through April. The concerts feature local artists and are free of charge to the community. Each concert is partnered with a different mission organization, and we collect a “love offering” during the evening of the concert with proceeds going to the charity.

Each MWM season is planned out months in advance, which includes collecting money from our Angel Sponsors to pay for the series, as well as finding and booking our various artists. Because of the pre-planning involved, we will not be able to snap back to normal immediately. It is anyone’s guess when we will be back up and running. Much depends upon a large proportion of the mass public getting vaccinated, and it is not clear yet when we will reach herd immunity. The inability to open doors at full capacity — or even near it — would turn our numbers upside down, and I would rather wait until we can “pack the house” again to make the most of our donations for our mission partners. My best guess is that this fall (2021) will not be realistic for a return, and that we will have to delay to 2022.

We are eager to get the ball rolling again on our series, but we will only do so when it makes sense for our congregation and for the community.

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Marcia Poirier

Good Shepherd’s Prayer Shawl Ministry in 2020 has seen a significant increase in requests for prayer shawls, especially through our website. So, our supply of shawls is dwindling, and we can surely use more knitters to jump in to knit or crochet while watching television during this pandemic. Most are requested by women, but we also keep more neutral-colored shawls that are appropriate for anyone.



Thanks to Marcia Poirier, who has been the chief knitter of prayer shawls over the years, with help from a few other parishioners. Please contact Marcia if you would like to join this ministry, as we can use your help. We do have a supply of yarn at the church, and instructions are also available. If you would like to pick up yarn, please call the Parish office before coming to be sure Kathy is available. You may also use your own supply of yarn, and this is a good way to use up leftover yarn from other projects.

The shawls are blessed by Fr. Gary Brower, and a note is sent with the prayer shawls, including a prayer and the name of knitter. Kathy Hunter responds to the requests, then packages the shawl(s) and mails them to whoever requests them. Many are sent out of state. Most who receive them send a donation back to cover the cost of postage.

**ST. CLARE’S MINISTRIES**

**Shelley Hitt, Board Member**



St. Clare’s Ministries offers short term respite from the harsh realities of homelessness, poverty, and the separation we feel from God and each other. With God’s help, St. Clare’s is an open, welcoming, and diverse community that provides physical and spiritual nourishment, clothing, and other support to our guests in need.

Your financial support enabled us to offer full church services in the sanctuary, serve multi-course hot meals in the church hall, and provide clothing and sleeping bags from our clothing closet, each Tuesday evening until the middle of March in 2020. At that point St. Clare’s was declared an essential ministry to feed the homeless and working poor in the Baker neighborhood in Denver. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Clare’s reverted to its roots by operating outside of the church to distribute to-go meals, bags of toiletries, clothes, sleeping bags and blankets. St. Clare’s has followed all guidelines of the State of Colorado, City and County of Denver, and the Episcopal Diocese in dealing with the number of our guests, sanitation of all surfaces, wearing masks, social distancing, and other requirements. Church services were suspended due to health requirements. Regular volunteers over the age of 65 were sidelined from weekly operations for their health and safety. Operations continued with a smaller number of younger volunteers and staff. St. Clare’s served 4,839 meals over 53 Tuesdays in 2020. 514 volunteers donated 1,523 hours of time to cook, serve and clean up after the meals and operate the clothing closet. We distributed 198 blankets and 174 sleeping bags to our guests experiencing homelessness.

St. Clare’s responded to our guests needs with additional clothing closet inventory due to the sweeps of homeless communities by the Denver Police Department.

We are working on controlling our costs and increasing our funding of the ministry in 2021. We expect our food costs to increase with inflation. So please prayerfully consider continuing your financial support of St. Clare’s in 2021.

We expect to continue to operate outside because of the pandemic for the foreseeable future. We look forward to the day when we can welcome all our guests and volunteers safely back into the church hall to enjoy a hot meal together.

## UNITED THANK OFFERING (UTO)

**Karin Elsen, UTO Province VI, Diocesan,  
and Parish Representative**



UTO is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church since 1889. All are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude by **noticing the good things** that happen each day, **giving thanks to God** for those blessings and **making a tangible offering** for each **blessing** using a UTO Blue Box. 100% goes to support innovative mission and ministry.

In 2020, UTO gathered over \$1 million and awarded domestic and international grants throughout the Anglican Communion, focusing on COVID-affected ministries. We had one UTO ingathering at Good Shepherd in December with approximately \$100 collected. Thank you to those who support the Church's engagement in the world.

In a difficult year with many hardships, UTO invited us to find thankfulness with these offerings:

- The first "Theology of Gratitude Scholar's Conference" was held in April with well-known author, Diana Butler Bass. I highly recommend the conference videos found here: <https://unitedthankoffering.com/conference/>
- In May, the "Grace and Gratitude in our Liturgical Life" webinar explored the role gratitude plays in our common worship, the way our liturgical calendar orients us toward gratitude, and the pattern of Eucharistic worship and its intention to shape us into people who give thanks.
- In September, Colorado Episcopal Bishop Kym spoke about UTO's positive impact in a video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgkwwHFGnwU>
- In October, UTO took part in the Diocesan Annual Convention virtual marketplace.

2021 activities will include the announcement of new ministry grants and other ways to learn about gratitude, and to give thanks and fill your Blue Box.

For more information contact Karin Elsen, or visit [www.episcopalchurch.org/united-thank-offering](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/united-thank-offering).