

AGENDA
45th ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

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

- 1) Prayer for the Parish**
- 2) Approval of Agenda, Appointment of Clerk & Quorum Call –
Fr. Gary Brower**
- 3) Approval of Minutes of the 2021 meeting – Fr. Gary Brower**
- 4) Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members – Fr. Gary Brower/Karin Elsen**
- 5) Nominating Committee Report – Karin Elsen**
Presentation/Election of Vestry Members & Junior Warden
Appointment of Senior Warden – Fr. Gary Brower
- 6) Presentation of Slate for Corporate Officers – Fr. Gary Brower**
- 7) Presentation of the 2021 Financial Report – Joe Namaksy**
- 8) 2021 Stewardship Report – Anne McMahon**
- 9) Presentation of 2022 Budget – Joe Namaksy**
- 10) Reminder of Who We Are: Holy Spirit Awards – Fr. Gary Brower**
- 11) Presentation of the 2021 Annual Report and Pastor's Remarks—
Fr. Gary Brower**
- 12) Congregational Comments**
- 13) Closing Prayer and Adjournment**

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2021 Financials – Projected during the Annual Meeting.

2022 Budget – Projected during the Annual Meeting.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

2021 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES— ROUGH DRAFT GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL CHURCH JANUARY 31, 2021

The 45th Annual Meeting of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church was called to order at 10:15 a.m., virtually via Zoom, following the 9:00 a.m. service. Members signed into the meeting via the Zoom Chat feature, and they also preregistered online. The 2020 Annual Report was again posted on the church website this year, along with a recorded video as Fr. Gary Brower's Annual Report. Printed copies of the Annual Report are available if requested, as well as 2020 financials and the 2021 budget. All were encouraged to read the report online.

Fr. Gary Brower opened the meeting by leading a Parish prayer. Kathy Hunter, Good Shepherd's Parish Administrator, was appointed Clerk for the meeting, and a quorum of over ninety members signing in was acknowledged. The agenda for the Annual Meeting was approved.

Regarding the Minutes of the January 26, 2020, Annual Meeting:

The Motion was made by Doris Truhlar, and seconded by Shane Jones, to approve the 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes as presented in the 2020 Annual Report. On a voice vote, the motion passed. There were zero "no" votes.

Fr. Gary Brower made a brief comment about the changes we experienced in 2020, especially the change in our manner of worship. Then, he recognized the outgoing members of the Vestry Class of 2020—Griffin Bridgers, Bob Rae and Susie Street. He also offered a "huge" thank you to our Senior Warden, Carl Algermissen, who has served on the Vestry since 2015. His gift is the icon St. Cecilia of Rome (martyred in the 3rd Century). Carl has not just contributed his gifts to the Vestry, but has also shared his musical talent with the church on many occasions. St. Cecilia is the patron saint of music and church musicians.

The current members of the Vestry Class of 2021 are Ellen Blackburn, Christina Blackburn, and Casey Creenan. Members of the Class of 2022 are Anne McMahon, Dennis Phillips, and Doris Truhlar, who was appointed in 2020 when a member resigned from the Vestry.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by outgoing Vestry member, Griffin Bridgers, presented the slate of nominees for election to the Vestry: For the three three-year terms on the Class of 2023—Sarah Adams, Tom Billings, and Mary Ann Panarelli. For the two-year unexpired term in the Class of 2022—Doris Truhlar. For the one-year unexpired term in the Class of 2021—Nan Behringer. Current Vestry member Ellen Blackburn is nominated as the Junior Warden for 2021. The biographies for the nominees were distributed to the Parish via email prior to the meeting.

A Motion was made by Ellen Blackburn, and seconded by Cathy Conley to accept the Vestry Slate by acclamation. The motion passed, was one vote opposed.

A Motion was made and seconded to accept the nomination of Ellen Blackburn as Junior Warden, by acclamation. The motion passed.

Fr. Gary announced with gratitude that he has appointed Karen Elsen as our Senior Warden for 2021.

The slate for the Corporate Officers was presented as follows: President – Fr. Gary Brower; Vice-President – Karin Elsen; Secretary – Kathy Hunter; Treasurer – Joe Namaksy.

A Motion was made by Deborah Sampson, and seconded by Cathy Conley to approve the slate of corporate officers. On a voice vote, the motion passed.

Fr. Gary Brower then shared the video of our farewell car parade for Dr. Stephen Fiess and Neal Wegener, which took place on May 31, 2020.

Joe Namaksy expressed his thanks to Greg Bell, our former treasurer; for Finance Committee members Becky Beall-Moore, Elaine Gilley, Jim Wolfe, Andy Folkerth; for staff members, Kathy Hunter, and Marjie Rogers, and thanks to the members of the 2020 Vestry and Fr. Gary Brower. He offered a special thank you to his financial “right hand,” Charlotte Stasko, our Business Manager, for her help in 2020, along with appreciation for the work she did to apply for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan in 2020. She also managed the paperwork for the loan to be forgiven by the Small Business Administration. We have already applied for a second PPP loan in 2021.

Our total 2020 income was \$471,217, with total expenses of \$474,173. So we had a \$2,856 loss, before the PPP loan proceeds. With the PPP loan of \$55,085, we ended 2020 with \$52,229 net income. The 2020 Cash Balance at the end of the year was \$105, 846. Favorable impacts included the PPP loan, lower building maintenance costs, and reduced administrative expenses. Unfavorable impacts were COVID-19, lower plate offerings, and loss of building use fees for most of 2020.

Jim Wolfe shared the results of the 2021 Stewardship Campaign. He thanked the members of the committee—Keith Anderson, Nan Behringer, Andy Folkerth, Anne McMahon, Tom Billings; and Communications Director, DeeDee Atwood, and Fr. Gary Brower. He also expressed his appreciation for the 20 Ambassadors and 15 members of the Prayer Team for their faithful service to the campaign.

We are pleased with the results of the 2021 campaign, as the total pledges were 149 pledges for \$459,933. This total is close to the 160 pledges for \$463,172 for 2020. Fr. Gary Brower thanked Jim Wolfe for his fabulous work on this committee for many years, as he is stepping down as the Chair of the Stewardship Committee this year. We have great gratitude for his tireless work, and are happy that he will continue as a member of the committee. Anne McMahon will take over as Chair for 2021.

The 2020 budget includes \$472,000 in projected income, and \$490,000 in projected expenses. Our cash balance will cover any shortfalls. Uses for available cash could include: completion of the high-speed internet and Wi-Fi project, resurfacing of the parking lot, repair/replacement of carpeting and front doors and locks, update of the technology in the sanctuary, and reducing/eliminating our \$26,000 mortgage debt. Our new PPP loan request has already been approved, which will also give us about \$60,000 to add to our budget.

Our expenses consist of 75% salary and administration, 12% building operations, 11% for outreach, and 1% for other budget areas. Fr. Gary Brower showed a pie chart that further explains the 75% salary and administration budget. The breakdown is: 25% Administration, 24% Music and Worship, 17% building expenses, 16% education, 13% outreach, and 6% community and pastoral care. This 75% is not just salaries, but includes many things. No building use fees were included in the budget, as we have no idea when outside building users will be back using our building space. If we can open the building to them in 2021, there will be additional income.

Amy McLaughry asked about the timeline for paying off the mortgage balance. There will be no fundraising for mortgage payments at this time. We are expecting a legacy payment from the estate of a former parishioner, which could pay off the mortgage balance. The payments on the mortgage balance

are small amounts, and the mortgage expires in three years. We are hoping to pay this balance off as early as this year. The Finance Committee will make this decision as soon as the amount of the legacy is known and received.

Sam Arthur asked about the surplus funds from the 2020 PPP loan and possible 2021 PPP loan. It does not seem ethical to just put these funds in the bank. What is the plan for these funds? The Finance Committee and the Vestry will discuss the building projects that are needed, and we see these funds as a way to help the economy by hiring and paying local contractors to do needed work. The Diocese office recommended and encouraged churches to use this PPP program, and put money back into the economy from needed projects. Jim Ball questioned where the funds came from in 2020 to upgrade the air filtration system in the building, which was done due to COVID-19 concerns. Joe Namaksy explained that the building maintenance budget had excess funds available because the building has been closed, so we were able to absorb the \$4,500 expense for the new six filtration units for our air system.

Tom Billings asked if a hard copy of the charts used during this meeting were available. Kathy will be able to print them, and they will also be available for viewing on the Annual Meeting website page.

A Motion was made by Ellen Blackburn, and seconded by Nan Behringer, to approve the 2021 budget by acclamation, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion passed.

A Mission & Ministry video presentation was played regarding our new Night Prayer (Compline) service. Dianne Draper and Marge Pegula have been working on this short service, which is offered online each Wednesday night at 8:45 pm. The service began on July 11, 2020, and has continued each Wednesday night since. It is led by laypersons, and we want it to continue. It is a beautiful and short service, and is only about 10 minutes in length. It is for anyone from anywhere. Our Compline service is unique, as it changes with the liturgical season. Those helping with the service are Dianne Draper, Marge Pegula, Karin Elsen, DeeDee Atwood (music), Deborah Sampson, and Elaine Oxenbury. The service will continue virtually well beyond the pandemic. This is Dianne Draper's favorite service from the Daily Office.

Fr. Gary Brower presented the 2020 Holy Spirit Awards, which are given to impressive folks who have stepped up for the church in a big way. This year's awards go to Ken White, David McLaughry, and Whit Hill, as they have worked tirelessly to upgrade our internet system and Wi-Fi capabilities in the building. Their expertise, energy and training have been amazing. Their gift is the icon St. Isidore of Seville, the patron saint of the Internet, computer users, computer technicians and programmers.

Fr. Gary Brower encouraged all members to read the 2020 Annual Report, which is full of useful information about all Good Shepherd's ministries. He also acknowledged that we continue in the Priest-in-Charge process that began when he came to Good Shepherd in 2018. We have completed the Season of Discovery and are close to finishing the Season of Visioning. Our visionaries are: Carl Algermissen, Becky Beall-Moore, Christina Blackburn, Karin Elsen, Randy Hubbard, Shane Jones, Deborah Sampson, Sally VanWelden, Jim Wolfe, and YOU! He shared A Vision of Good Shepherd chart with attendees, which explains the What? Why? and How? of our work here at the church. The chart shows where we are and where we are moving forward, and why? How do we relate with Christ, each other, and the world around us?

The Season of Discernment will begin soon and, in 2021, the Vestry and Fr. Gary Brower will decide if we will continue together into the future. We also have an Advocacy Team that is working and planning for the future of our beloved church community. Our Invite/Welcome/Connect team can always use help, so let Fr. Gary know if this is an area that interests you.

As we emerge from the hibernation of the COVID-19 pandemic, what things we are experiencing now would we like to take with us into the future? Fr. Gary Brower set up breakout groups for all attendees to discuss what we would like to see continue when the pandemic is over. The groups met for five minutes. After the breakouts, members came back together to share many things that are making them happy now that they would like to see continued, which includes: more selfcare, the new Compline service, Morning Sheep Count, continued contacts with parishioners who have moved away, out-of-state relatives who are now worshipping with us online, the challenge to be innovative and do things in a new way, to keep some of our online services, even when we are back to in-person worship, Gary's Midweek Moment, committee meetings online.

Fr. Gary Brower led us in prayer to end the meeting.

A Motion was made to adjourn the 2021 Annual Meeting, seconded by Bruce Oxenbury, and approved on a rigorous voice vote of "Alleluia." The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Hunter
Corporate Secretary/Vestry Clerk/Parish Administrator

CLERGY REPORTS

REPORT FROM THE RECTOR

The Rev. Gary R. Brower, PhD



Many of you will know that I am more than happy to have a passage from Paul's letters to the Corinthians as one of the lessons appointed for the day. Paul was writing to a congregation in a very cosmopolitan city. It doesn't take *deep* reading to see that his audience includes Jews and non-Jews, women and men, rich and poor, well-educated and uneducated, high society and . . . not-so-high—a congregation not unlike many that I drive by, even here in the southern 'burbs of Denver. And, given the nature of that mixed congregation, there were bound to be conflicts . . . conflicts that were given a different "light" in a Christian context. There were conflicts over "wisdom," e.g., street smarts over classical learning. There were conflicts over how ministers operated, e.g., should they be paid or not. There were conflicts over whose standards of morals/ethics would rule, e.g., "Who can we sue?" There were even conflicts over who got invited to dinner! (Anyone who thinks Paul was only writing about theology really needs to re-read Corinthians!)

Paul's genius is found, however, in his re-direction of these debates; he doesn't "take sides." The basis for his ethic—his community rule—is different (and we'll hear more about this next week!). Paul emphasizes that the Christians' relationship to Jesus Christ is the thing upon which all congregational relationships are based. And he appeals to an image which all of his can identify: the body. So "common sense." So universal. We can easily identify with his observation that a body with only eyes wouldn't be much of a whole. Nor would a body with only ears. In our reading this morning, it is clear that all parts of the body are necessary . . . including those that we might discount, or cover over. All parts of the body are necessary. And that is even more true when the body is under stress, as was the church in Corinth!

But doesn't "a Christian body under stress" describe our common life these last, many, months? When we went under "lock-down" in March of 2020—2020—we had little idea that we would still be dealing with COVID in 2022. Our lives were upended, including our church lives. Masks, social distancing, and Amazon Prime became the norm. Worship went "on-line." Pastoral visits were curtailed. Study groups met "virtually." Conflicts arose—as in Corinth—about which ethic should "rule"—concern for personal rights/desires as opposed to concern for the common good. Those conflicts have not been absent from the life of Good Shepherd. And they have been exacerbated by the uncertainty of COVID. I like to compare our life to balancing on BOSU ("both sides up) ball—trying to keep upright in a changing reality! And this last year has been full of changing realities!

We began 2021 in the shadow of COVID. We were meeting online—not only for worship, but for everything! There were occasional in-person meetings, but they were rare and, if possible, out-of-doors. We were trying to maintain a way-of-being-church that had been the norm for decades. And we did pretty well. But there were blips—some more major than others. "Blips" that this congregation has rallied to weather!

On the "challenge" side of the ledger, we had to say "Fare-well" to some wonderful staff people. Beginning with Rachel Whipp's departure at the end of May, and then with DeeDee Atwood leaving in August, and Marjie Rogers in September—we have had some significant holes to fill in our staffing! How would we support our youth? How might we continue our contemporary music emphasis? Will our stewardship records be maintained? Well . . . Yes, we can handle this! We were fortunate to be able to find and engage Cole AllSmith as Youth Minister! A HUGE thanks goes to Charlotte Stasko for taking up the baton handed over by Marjie with regard to the financial/giving records. The Contemporary Music Ensemble and Black Sheep rallied— despite budget uncertainties—to continue

meeting, rehearsing, and planning for that day when there would be a new director. Thank you to Marge Pegula, John Mumford, Whit Hill and Kees Corssmit for keeping those groups vibrant! And, because of the congregation's financial commitments, we can begin the search processes for a Contemporary Music Director, a Black Sheep Director, as well as a Communications Director. We can continue pursuing great things!

Like many congregations, we struggled with the challenge of maintaining contact with the whole congregation. Some, we knew, had "issues" with connecting via Zoom. Others, while Zoom-capable, longed for in-person worship. And, still others, who wished for in-person worship, were prevented because of other health issues. How to balance these!? Compounding this was the realization that there was a ministry opportunity: CAN we engage, or involve, folks who wish to be with us, yet from a distance? Good Shepherd has added members who found us online, and have remained with us! Welcome to you! So the challenge/opportunity of addressing the needs of our less-obvious members is one that we must address in 2022.

2021 was not, however, about meeting challenges brought about by COVID. Good Shepherd continued to be Good Shepherd; in Paul's language, the Good Shepherd "body" continued to be active. Under the leadership of Connie Branton, DeeDee (until she left), Trish Hartman and Kees Corssmit, the music programs continued as they could—in small ensembles, via YouTube, and then, as we were able to regather, with the fabulous "Gospel Magnificat" and Christmas Eve Services. "Thank you" to all who maintained our strong heritage of music. And a special thanks to Curt Watson for employing his gifts in wood-working and carpentry, providing gorgeous new cabinets for our bells.

Education, like music, has been a hallmark of Good Shepherd. Both on Zoom and in person, we have endeavored to provide quality programs for children and adults. Sue LeFant, Elaine Oxenbury, Rachel Whipp (before her departure), and Cole AllSmith have worked with our kiddos from pre-school through high school age. I've been joined by Merrie Need and Deacon Nadine in offering educational opportunities for adults—from a series on Saints in the Episcopal Church to Merrie's "Bible 101 on David" to Deacon Nadine's series on gratitude.

Another hallmark of Good Shepherd has been our strong involvement in Outreach. Led by the Outreach Committee (chaired by Randy Hubbard), we have continued to support St. Clare's Ministries and the St. Francis Center. We have also begun to look closer to home, developing ties with Giving Heart Englewood, and, most recently, Walnut Hills Elementary. Our second "Living Nativity," while providing an opportunity to tell the Christmas story in a "different" way (who doesn't enjoy dressing up as a shepherd or wise man?), also had its outreach component, collecting food and money for Covenant Cupboard. The congregation's compassion and generosity go beyond established ministries, stepping up over the last several weeks to assist those affected by the Marshall Fire—more than \$2,000 in gift cards has been donated!

Because of good financial stewardship, and the availability of funds freed up by the PPP loans, we were able to address some significant building and grounds issues, including a new patio and sidewalk and new front doors. We were able to complete our internet/Wi-Fi upgrades, and begin installation of needed and long-overdue security cameras. And, significantly, we were able to pay off our mortgage. For the first time in decades, there is a big fat "ZERO" in the liability section of our balance sheet. A huge thank you to the Building and Grounds Committee (chaired by David McLaughry), and the Finance Committee, its Chair, Treasurer Joe Namaksy, and our Business Manager, Charlotte Stasko. AND we ended the year with an extraordinarily successful Stewardship Campaign. Thank you to that team, its Chair Ann McMahon . . . and all of you who pledged to our mission and ministry in 2022!

I would be remiss if I didn't mention some other noteworthy features of 2021. We—the congregation and I—finished the three-year Priest-in-Charge process, culminating in a fabulous Celebration of New Ministry. So much fun to have Bishop Kym here, joined by clergy colleagues from the Episcopal Church and other faith traditions, augmented by so much music! We have been oh-so-fortunate to be joined by Deacon Nadine Pope, with her passion for outreach and advocacy. Speaking of advocacy, the new Advocacy Team has provided opportunities for learning how we can better “respect the dignity of every human being.” We've begun a program aimed at getting folks out-of-doors, enjoying and appreciating God's creation. Called “Altars in the World”, we've hiked up Waterton Canyon, viewed a sunset from Lone Tree, walked along the South Platte looking at birds, and learned about astronomy—in the context of the Christmas Star . . . always with a worship component. And we've begun a new once-a-month late-afternoon Eucharist, providing a different opportunity for worship, augmented by some crafts, discussion and, when possible, a meal. Thanks to Ellen Blackburn, Susan Bailey, Susie Street and Marge Pegula for helping me with that!

There is always more to say than time allows. So many people to thank; in Paul's imagery, so many parts of the body who keep us going. The staff has been amazingly flexible and resilient this year. Thank you, thank you, Kathy Hunter, Charlotte Stasko, Sue Lefant, Connie Branton, and Cole AllSmith. Thank you to our wardens, Karin Elsen and Ellen Blackburn. Thank you to the vestry who has led the congregation through this challenging year. And you may not see them, but every week other members of the body are in the building, tending to its needs and upgrading its possibilities. Thank you to Ken White, Whit Hill, David McLaughry, Jim Wolfe, Renee Tschetter, Donna White, and Duanne Namaksy.

And thank you, the good folks of Good Shepherd, for your continued engagement with this congregation during these very challenging times. As a congregation, you've born witness that COVID didn't “close the church.” Indeed, this church—this body with its many members—is well-positioned to follow its Shepherd into new mission fields.

Amen.



My ministry as your Deacon at Good Shepherd officially began on September 1, 2021. As I write this, we are returning to a (hopefully) brief period of remote worship as the result of the rapidly spreading Omicron variant. So I am a bit nostalgic as I think of last September—the month when we also celebrated Fr. Gary's New Ministry and began to return to gatherings in the church building. This is an interesting time to be a clergy person in a new church assignment. As I have said to many of you, it is really difficult to become familiar with so many people when we all have masks on. So, thank you for your continued patience with me and for wearing your nametags or walking up to me and immediately telling me your name, knowing that I need that prompt!

These past four months, my focus here has been to acquaint myself, gain my own overall sense of the collective identity of Good Shepherd, and to begin reflecting on God's purpose for this church and its people. This is simply reflection, and I certainly don't have an agenda. In a sermon several years ago, Assistant Bishop of Atlanta, the Rt. Reverend Keith Whitmore had these words for the congregation of our 175-year-old parish: "I challenge you to begin to have the conversation about why you are here. Why did God plant this congregation on this corner in this community?... How do you live out who it is [that] you are as children of God, inheriting the kingdom of Heaven, transforming the world in which you exist?" Since then, in each parish I serve, I revisit that message. It helps me keep my work and our work together in perspective. One thing I really love and appreciate about Good Shepherd is that there are many of you who are leaders and willing to "step up". The people of Good Shepherd are refreshingly active and vibrant members of the Body of Christ.

During these months, in addition to my role in worship services, in November, I lead a three-week Faith Forum series on Gratitude. I participate regularly with the Advocacy Team and the Outreach committee, and I have attended a vestry meeting, and one meeting of the Faith Council of the City of Centennial. Along with several other parishioners, I took part in the 10-week book study on "Caste: The Origins of our Discontent" by Isabel Wilkerson, organized by the Colorado Council of Churches. In December, I helped coordinate the assembly of 65 bandana gift packets to distribute at St. Clare's while we were there during Christmas week, and arranged the purchase of 70 sleeping bags which were distributed to St. Clare's and Giving Heart ministries.

When I'm not at Good Shepherd, to a great extent, my heart belongs to those I serve at my new job. I am providing mental health counseling to folks who are housed at Safe Outdoor Spaces (SOSs) and tiny home villages created by the Colorado Village Collaborative. I continue to take courses related to trauma treatment and grief counseling, function as a liaison for diaconal postulants, and coordinate the current formation process, serve on the Diaconal Council and the High Plains Executive Committee.

I feel we have made a good start together. I am filled with gratitude—for the opportunity to be in your midst, to learn from you and grow with you. I look forward to this new year and continuing this journey together, by the Grace of God.

Many Blessings,
Deacon Nadine



The power of the future lies not in the hands of those who believe in scarcity but of those who trust God's abundance. – Walter Brueggemann

When our Senior Warden, Carl Algermissen, retired at the end of 2020, I, then Junior Warden, was asked if I would assume the role in 2021. I agreed to a one-year term as defined by our by-laws. Good Shepherd was entering its third and final season of the Priest-in-Charge process, focusing on discernment of the new rector call. Because I had been serving as vestryperson and warden continuously since 2016, and having a personal affinity for the practice of discernment, I felt comfortable in leading us to closure of that chapter.

In the past year, as Senior Warden, I have supported our Rector with vestry planning, business, and matters of parish continuity, while taking on other responsibilities such as:

- Attending Zoom church leadership meetings facilitated by the diocese throughout the year, focusing on churches' response to the pandemic.
- In March, planning and attending the vestry weekend retreat online exploring *The Way of Vestry Leadership* with The Rev. Vanessa Stickler-Glass, Canon for Transitional Ministry.
- Since 2020, examining the hybrid church model with the entire vestry to move forward in a post-pandemic world.
- In May, leading the vestry in prayerful discernment of the Rector call, based on the fruits of our Priest-in-Charge journey, culminating in June when the Vestry elected Fr. Gary as our next Rector.
- During the summer, working with staff on third-party use upon the reopening of our building and giving feedback on our yearly financial audit.
- Working with the Bishop's office and Good Shepherd staff in finalizing our new Rector's employment details.
- In August, attending with the vestry a mid-year retreat at St. Michael's Episcopal in Colorado Springs, learning more about the Welcome, Invite, Connect ministry. Then coming together with the diocese in a Celebration of A New Ministry of our new Rector later in the month.
- In October, participating with Fr. Gary in a virtual workshop on shared leadership at the Episcopal Church in Colorado's Annual Convention.
- Serving as Good Shepherd Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Visitor, Compline lector, Stewardship Ambassador, and member of the Priest-In-Charge Visioning Committee, the Technology Task Force, and Vestry Nominating Committee.
- In the wider church, serving on the board of the United Thank Offering, part of The Episcopal Church's Reconciliation, Justice, and Creation Care (RJCC) Ministries. UTO supports innovative ministries which the Church budget has not yet expanded to fund.
- Through The Episcopal Church, receiving continuing leadership education in Brené Brown's *Dare To Lead* program; anti-racism training, *Seeing the Face of God in Each Other*; grant evaluation using Asset Based Community Development focus; bible study led by the Presiding Bishop's RJCC staff; and briefing from the Bishop's Delegation to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26).
- In the fall, participating with other people of faith in the Denver area for the Colorado Council of Churches' study of Isabel Wilkerson's book *Caste* and next steps in racial healing and reconciliation.
- Continuing my personal spiritual direction throughout the year to approach the work of the church with an open mind and heart.

Despite changes and challenges, 2021 has been a year of great joy for our church! We have a gifted and relatable Rector. We have a new deacon, Rev. Nadine Pope, who is sharing her passion for justice ministry with us. We have dedicated staff and volunteers who have taken on more responsibilities because of the changes. I said in my last report, which still remains true, every Sunday I am filled with gratitude for our clergy's pastoral response, our coming together both indoors and virtually, 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.

As I wrap up my final year of leadership service at Good Shepherd, here are my thoughts for the future: I sometimes hear a defeatist narrative that the Church is dying and will become extinct in a few decades. I loathe that sentiment because I love the Church. But I mostly object to its meagerness of spirit.

It is true that Sunday morning in-person church attendance across the country and other markers of success in Christendom culture and faith practices are on the decline. "Christendom" is defined as the "recently-passed time when churches functioned primarily as vendors of religious services."

But as we learned in our parish-level discussions, being *missional* "differentiates certain congregations from those that were primarily organized around the maintenance of Christendom culture and faith practices. "**Missional churches** are those that understand 'the church as fundamentally and comprehensively **defined by its calling and sending**, its purpose to serve God's healing purposes *for all the world as God's witnessing people to all the world.*"

In 2021, Fr. Gary and Good Shepherd leaders created the *Why Wheel – A Vision of Good Shepherd*, an infographic representing how our faith drives our action. Good Shepherd's statement of purpose and our church's Catechism, and Baptismal Covenant are at the center of the wheel. Our outreach and ministries, our calling and sending, are in the outer circle. I urge every parishioner to be familiar with our Why Wheel. Look to your left as you enter the building through the vestibule for a framed copy.

Moving forward, I invite Good Shepherd to continue to think **missionally**, trust in **God's abundance**, and reject the tired and false mindset of scarcity. To dive deeper to into **evangelism and technology** - both tools to know our community and be known in it. To acknowledge the **sin of racial and all inequality and injustice** that separates us from our siblings and God. To honor **Creation** and take real steps to protect our environment. And to listen to the prophetic voice of **youth**.

In faith and with thanksgiving, Karin

Quotes are from [Canoeing the Mountains](#) by Tod E. Bolsinger, as presented in 2020 Faith Forums.



2021 was an interesting year to be Junior Warden at Good Shepherd. Keeping track of COVID-19 restrictions and best practices was consuming at best. In addition to that, I have supported Karin and Father Gary with Vestry business, planning and visioning.

Zoom was the key for the beginning of the year, and it seems fitting that my term will also end on Zoom. Between worship, meetings, and retreats, we've all become more versed in the use of Zoom than we ever imagined. After all the screen time, it was great for the Vestry to be together in person for a mid-year retreat in July, where we focused on Invite, Welcome, Connect (IWC) and its importance in this uncertain climate. It was also wonderful to worship in person again. Pivoting was all important, and each direction showed different possibilities as we kept our pivot foot firmly planted in our faith and our tradition.

During the year I worked with the Regathering group. I have continued to schedule lectors and lay Eucharistic ministers in addition to serving as such. I have worked on the planning team for 3rd Sunday gatherings, and I have spoken with many of you, the people of Good Shepherd. You inspire me with your willingness to serve and your desire to make life a little easier for those around you. As we move forward and hopefully out of COVID land, my hope is that we all carry with us the lessons we have learned and maintain our commitment to be the church outside of the building.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF COLORADO



(Why we support – We made our 10% Mandatory Pledge in 2021)

Good Shepherd made a great accomplishment in 2021, as we paid our mandatory 10% pledge (\$46,909) to the Diocese for the first time since 2003. We have paid our Diocesan pledge each year, but we have been under the mandatory 10%. It is 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 working in the Office of the Bishop and parishioner Larry Hitt serving 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 and Rev. Nadine Pope from Good Shepherd serve 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 2022 – 14.5%)
 - 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 – in 2022 they will offer retreats for Musical Directors. Church Administrators, Youth and Young Adult leaders, Clergy, and Clergy and their spouses.

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 8 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 Ministry – 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 32nd Avenue Jubilee Center – Serves the Northwest Denver Community
 - g. St. Benedict Health & Healing Ministry – located at the Sister Carmen Community Center in Lafayette, it provides 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 three 50-unit apartment facilities for the homeless in downtown Denver, all 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.

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 give 1% (\$4676) of our plate and pledge to the Region. The Region coordinates our annual Confirmation, a luncheon for Parish 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 the list of the Churches and Outreaches that we are supporting, as this should be rewarding and impressive to each member of Good Shepherd.



The High Plains Executive Committee has approved the following Church Grants and Outreach projects for 2021 and 2022. The Region has a paid Administrator, and all other members of the Executive Committee (10) donate their time, we estimate that for each dollar collected \$.90 goes directly to Grants or Outreach.

	2021 (\$) Original	2021 (\$) Revised	2022 (\$) Proposed
Income (Estimated)	100,000	124,725	125,000
Expenses			
Paid Administrator	16,000	15,000	15,000
Programs (listed above)	12,000	5,000	10,000
Church Grants and Outreach			
1. Prince of Peace, Sterling		6,000	6,000
2. St. Charles, Ft. Morgan		6,000	
3. St. Thomas Episcopal Church		10,000	
4. Colorado Episcopal Service Corps.		15,000	15,000
5. HAAT		5,000	10,000
6. St. Clare's Ministries		8,000	8,000
7. Women's Homeless Initiative (WHI)		8,000	12,000
8. Cathedral Ridge		4,000	8,000
9. Covenant Cupboard Food Pantry		5,000	5,000
10. Hope and Help Center, Castle Rock		5,000	
11. Support for Rev. Cesar Hernandez		14,950	
12. St. Peter's and St. Mary's		1,700	
13. Holy Redeemer		1,000	20,000
14. DU Campus Ministry		5,000	
15. New Tracts		5,000	
16. For this Reason		2,000	
17. Intersession, Thornton		10,000	7,500
18. St. Elizabeth's, Brighton		5,000	4,000
19. Emergency Grant – Haiti Earthquake		5,000	
20. Cathedral Ridge – Youth Scholarships/ Summer Camp			5,000
Subtotal Church Grants and Outreach	85,000	121,650	100,500
Subtotal Available for Grants			14,500
21. Pastoral Support (For Pastoral needs)	5,000	1,000	5,000
Total Expenses	118,000	142,650*	145,000*

*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 speak with Good Shepherd members Shelley Hitt or Rev. Nadine Pope, who are two of the 10 members of the High Plains Executive Committee.



When I drafted this report for the year 2020, I did not imagine that in 2021 we would still be concerned for our health all year, due to the pandemic, and that we would still have regular operations limited and disrupted. The year was long, and had its challenges, but it is still my joy to be in my ninth year as your Parish Administrator. We still accomplished a lot of wonderful things here at Good Shepherd in 2021. Thank you all for your support.

Fr. Gary Brower continues to lead the staff with both energy and patience, creating amazing programs with and for this Parish as our official Rector. The highlights of 2021 include a new project to install a security system, with cameras, for the building, which will include a new security policy for the church. We completed a new patio and sidewalk on the west side of the building, and resurfaced and striped the parking lot. The Digital Task Force did a lot of research on the best way to livestream our services from the Sanctuary, a project which should begin taking shape in 2022. We have missed much in 2020 and 2021, but we have done our best to stay in touch with each other. And we still collected food, supplies, and money for our ministry partners.

We welcomed our community building users back into the building in August 2021, and they were glad to be back, including the Founders Home School, AA and SA 12-step groups, music teachers, a monthly PEO meeting, South Suburban Music Teachers, and we welcomed a new group, the Columbine Genealogy and Historical Society, meeting once month. We lost some of our community users due to COVID, but we are happy to have our other groups back. Good Shepherd groups and committees have begun meeting in the building again as well, though we are still Zooming quite often too. Worship via Zoom is still meeting each Sunday at 7:45 am, along with parishioners in person, followed by Faith Forum and the 10:30 am Eucharist service in person. For everyone's safety, we are still signing in for worship and wearing masks. Coffee hour came back on a limited basis.

Church maintenance tasks continued as always in 2021, 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, and overseeing building supplies and equipment. We replaced our front door in 2021 and it looks great. This included a new lock and new keys for those who need them. I continue to order office supplies and oversee maintenance and supplies for the copier. The good news is that less work in the building leads to less expenses, which has been good for our budget.

Volunteers for the office have returned, but on an as-needed basis. I appreciate those who are willing to show up on call to take care of Parish mailings.

Communication is still such a key piece of my job, and I am missing our former Communications Director DeeDee Atwood very much. We continue to send Parish emails each week, in the hopes that everyone in the Parish can stay connected to the church and the ongoing programs. Our weekly E-news has been our best line of communication, as our newsletter *The Sheepskin* is on hiatus until new staffing is decided. I continue to encourage all who are receiving our emails to be diligent about reading the information and staying connected. I am always here if you have a question.

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. You can also get information by going to our website, at: www.gshep.org. We continue to look for ways to inform the Parish and encourage participation at Good Shepherd. Even during a second challenging year, we have welcomed many new members who have joined the Parish and are participating in worship and programs.

I would like to personally thank all church leaders and staff members for their support and encouragement in such a trying year. If you need to come to the church for any reason, be sure to let me know. Our staff schedules in the office can change day to day, and we do work from home sometimes, so be sure to call before coming to the office in person. I am here most days, though, and welcome calls, visits, and questions.

I wish you all a Happy and Blessed New Year in 2022!



The Building and Grounds Committee accomplished several major projects in 2021. This Committee is led by Coordinator David McLaughry, and members include Rev. Gary Brower, Dave Hill, Kathy Hunter, David Matthews, Marge Pegula, Renee Tschetter, Curt Watson, Ken White, and Jim Wolfe. The key projects completed in 2021 are listed below.

2021 Capital Building and Grounds Work, approved by Finance Committee and Vestry:

	Original Estimate	Actual Cost	Budget
1. Church Entrance Doors	\$6,574	\$6,574	Capital
2. Patio/Sidewalk	\$29,960	\$32,272	Capital
3. Parking Lot	\$6,200	\$6,122	Capital
Total	\$42,734	\$44,968	

Major Operating Budget Work completed (Billed to Building and Grounds Budget)

1. Carpet Repair	\$765	(saved us two years on replacing carpet)
2. Anchor Engineering	\$775	(evaluation and report of potential water damage around building)
3. Reseed grass area	\$1,032	(grass area out front)
4. Stone along front walkway	\$4,146	(improve appearance and drainage)
5. Irrigation Work	\$2,350	(associated with new patio and sidewalk)
6. Telephone System and Wi-Fi	\$1,077	(Total cost - \$7305, 2020 - \$6228)
7. Security Camera System	\$1,600	
8. New Safe	\$150	
Total	\$11,895	

Total work for Capital and Operating Budget – 11 projects - \$56,663

Additional Projects completed in 2021:

1. Clean and add Shelves in shed
2. Clean and repair dumpster enclosure – repair walls
3. Change parking lot filters
4. Clean area by basement at base of patio stairs
5. Repair gutters damaged by falling snow
6. Regular yard maintenance – cut and fertilize grass, trim bushes
7. Clean northwest corner of property – remove excess pallets
8. Replace damaged concrete bumpers in parking spaces and replace ground cover – damage done one by snow removal company

I'd like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Jim Wolfe for his diligent recordkeeping and for compiling all the above information, to Curt Watson for building the beautiful handbell cabinets now on display in the chapel, to Renee Tschetter for her tireless dedication to our church landscaping, and to our lawn mowing volunteers who keep the grass looking tidy between all those high-profile projects. Finally, I want to recognize and thank all the committee members whose various talents for carpentry, gardening, IT, project management, and more, combined to accomplish these projects and more.



Counting Good Shephard's weekly income continued on a modified basis throughout 2021, because of Covid precautions. Rather than count weekly as has been done in the past, counting continued bi-weekly by two of the ten counters. Bank deposits were made on the same schedule. You may have noticed a change in your checks clearing your accounts during this period.

With the church's bookkeeper retiring this past year, the church staff has undertaken a review of its current procedures for processing and recording income. This led to a small team of volunteers conducting a review of the practices used by our neighboring Episcopal churches in the region. Their mission was to determine other churches' approach for processing their income and to learn from their experiences. These interviews were informative and educational as changes were recently implemented at Good Shepherd.

The most notable change was the retirement of the counting team. With improvements in technology, expanded banking services, and new church software offerings, the church has undertaken an effort to evaluate its current practices to count, post, and deposit its weekly income. Although this effort is still underway with many decisions to be made, the collection of weekly plate income is now performed by two unrelated ushers and/or greeters. They secure the income in an envelope, which is placed in a lockbox until a church staff member can retrieve it midweek for processing.

Since Covid has changed many things, one positive outcome has been that many parishioners are now making electronic contributions, thus reducing the amount of money received in the Sunday plate. This method of payment is now preferred by the church going forward. More information will be coming out later in the year to assist parishioners with making the transition.

Good Shepherd is grateful for the many counters over the past 30+ years that devoted several hours each Sunday to count and deposit the church's weekly income. This behind-the-scenes ministry did a commendable job to ensure the accuracy of the count and make timely deposits for all of the church's services.

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.

The continuing impact of COVID-19 made 2021 a difficult year. Fortunately, for the second straight year, we were able to obtain a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan in the amount of \$62,790 from the Small Business Administration. Because we used that money to pay salaries, we were able to have the loan forgiven. During the year, we completed several needed capital improvements. We also paid off the Church mortgage, enabling us to be debt-free for the first time in many years.

We are also required by the Diocese to conduct an annual review of the books and records of Good Shepherd. Due to the efforts of Charlotte Stasko, our Business Manager, who collaborated with the auditor, the review was successfully completed. It was then delivered to, and accepted by, the Diocese.

Thanks to the continuing support of the congregation, we were able to finish 2021 on a positive note. Thanks also to the hard work by Anne McMahan, Jim Wolfe, and the rest of the Stewardship committee, we are able to present a 2022 budget that will allow Good Shepherd to continue its ministry.

I would like to thank the members of the Finance Committee (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 challenging year. Fr. Gary has worked with the Committee and helped us focus our efforts during these challenging times. My continuing special thanks go to Charlotte Stasko. She has helped me immeasurably and made my job so much easier.

GROCERY CARD PROGRAM

Charlotte Stasko and Kathy Hunter



The Community Rewards program through King Soopers continues at Good Shepherd. 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, along with the other cards we sell to parishioners, brings about \$4,000 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) or Kathy (khunter@gshep.org).

Projects completed last year:**Spring 2021**

- Had sprinkler system turned on by Bryan Supala
- Annual lawn fertilization and weed control program with Fit Turf begins - a series of four applications
- No tree mite and insect spraying done to pines this year due to expenses of other pending 2021 lawn projects
- Annual Spring cleanup of gardens, lawn and parking lot islands and perimeter

**Summer 2021**

- Trimming of all large juniper shrubs around perimeter of parking lot (thanks to Kip Travis for assisting) including small junipers and trees in islands.
- Maintaining, deadheading, and pruning of all flowers and shrubs in front garden and main entrance garden.
- Had several areas (3+) of damaged rock wall rebuilt and repaired along Dry Creek Rd. by a professional concrete contractor. These areas were damaged by cars impacting the wall. I verified with the City of Centennial who was responsible for maintaining the rock wall. It is Good Shepherd!
 - Six yards of good lawn soil delivered and rototilled into front yard to reclaim dead areas and rejuvenate frier soil, seeded, and over-seeded several times to attempt to establish grass. Labor was provided by a hired landscaping service.
- Replaced and moved sprinkler line along Dry Creek Rd. up three feet to get efficient water coverage for lawn and correct sprinkler runoff/erosion along front rock wall. Metal edging, landscape fabric and rock filled along the area. Materials and labor provided by hired landscaping company.
- Removed dying juniper by back patio that had roots destroyed by voles and had the large stump removed. Plan to replace with another planting in the future as budget allows.
- Moved entire sprinkler line and heads along the west side of new patio and sidewalk.
- Brought in loads of topsoil filler and lawn soil to fill in gaping areas around new patio and build up the back slope. Filled depressed areas of front yard from past water erosion. Seeded all areas.
- Called SaBelles to come and replace seven broken parking lot blocks and plowed up mulch on the islands that they disturbed during last year snow plowing.
- Replaced the hedge shrubs on left side of front door garden. Had sprinkler line replaced and rocked in the area. Also planted a small 'lollipop' crabapple in front garden. It should stay round and small. Also added a few new plantings.
- Removed the red bricks that were out front by the stone sign garden that looked uneven and were lifting. Easier mowing now.
- Ongoing plant and shrub maintenance, trimming throughout the growing season.

Fall 2021

- Had sprinkler system turned off and system blown out to winterize.
- Cleaned up gardens and shrubs to get ready for winter. Picked up, raked leaves and needles in gardens and parking lot. Thanks to Jim Wolfe for cleaning and bagging debris around shed area. Big job!
- Had a professional service do final pine needle and leaf clean and mow overgrown lawn one last time for clean winter appearance. \$340 and well worth it!! Done on Dec 3rd!!

Winter 2021/2022

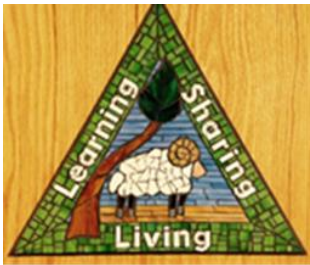
- Will arrange continued services for yard fertilization, weed and insect control to begin Spring 2022

Goals for 2022 growing season:

- Add mulch to perimeter parking lot areas that didn't get done this past year due to the above-mentioned projects.
- Maintain gardens, lawn, islands, and sprinklers as needed
- Deal with a protruding drainage pipe in front yard that keeps getting hit by lawn mowers.
- Finish up adding soil and new grass along the back patio.
- Move garden plants that are blocking sprinklers in front of stone sign, and attempt to make the area easier for mowing behind the sign.
- New flowering plants for gardens.

LEGACY SOCIETY

Kees Corssmit



The Good Shepherd Legacy Society was founded in 2006. Its purpose is to develop an Endowment Fund for the parish based on the church's teachings for stewardship.

The Legacy Society started with 25 parishioners that pledged to leave some of their financial resources, either during or after their death, for an Endowment Fund that, after reaching a certain level of investments, could be used for the needs of the parish. An exhibit in the hall close to the copy room shows the founding members names. This endowment fund has not garnered much capital since its beginning, but did recently receive a significant bequest thereby accelerating the growth of the fund.

The Legacy Society has not been regularly active for the last several years, but our Vestry reappointed a full five-member slate of Board members two months ago with the goal to reinvigorate the program. We will conduct a number of activities in 2022, including communications that explain the whos and hows of this ministry. Additionally, we will also plan some social/educational gatherings of members and interested parishioners, and the use of diocesan materials prepared for such purposes.

If you are interested to explore the subject in the interim, please contact the newly appointed Officers listed below.

Legacy Society Officers:

Keith Anderson - keith_jody98@q.com
Randy Hubbard - randyhub22@gmail.com
Amy McLaughry - ADMcLaughry@aol.com
Anne McMahan - armcmahan@aol.com
Kees Corssmit - cwcorsmit@gmail.com (303-638-7216)

MORTGAGE DEBT REPORT – We Paid off our Debt!!

Jim Lee Wolfe

In 2021 we paid off our mortgage debt!! Good Shepherd has been working on paying off our Mortgage Debt for 10 years. In that time, we have had four Capital Campaigns (as shown below) and raised \$758,000 over those 10 years or an average of \$76,000 per year. The Vestry voted to pay off our remaining mortgage debt at their November meeting with available funds.

As a reminder this debt was created from our 2003 major expansion and renovation of Good Shepherd, at the end of that expansion and remodel we had a \$1,500,000 remodel of Good Shepherd and we had \$750,000 in capital contributions leaving us with \$750,000 in mortgage debt.

Year Capital Campaign	Capital Campaign Amount Raised \$	Remaining Debt (end of campaign) \$	Yearly Debt Payments Operating Budget (end of campaign)
1/1/2011		750,000	73,000
2011-13	200,000	500,000	47,000
2014-16	461,000	120,000	12,000
2017	62,000	60,000	6,000
2018	35,000	30,000	4,000
1/1/2021		24,690	1,282
1/1/2022		Paid Off	

In addition to paying down the debt over the last ten years, we have paid about \$150,000 in additional capital expenses from our capital campaigns during this time:

1. Capital donation to Cathedral Ridge	\$40,000
2. Fees for our Second campaign to Consulting Company	\$46,000
3. Roof Replacement	\$8,000
4. Principal and Interest on the Loan	\$45,000
5. Basement Renovations	\$5,000
6. New AC unit	\$5,000

This is the first time that we have not had Mortgage debt since 1980. Good Shepherd was started in 1976 and met in our first Rector's basement for two years, before moving to Sand Creek Elementary School for two years, while saving money to purchase the current site of Good Shepherd and borrowing money to build the original building in 1980.

CELEBRATE GOD'S LOVE: Ministries that Foster Spiritual Growth

ACOLYTES

Ellen and Michael Blackburn



This ministry was not active during 2021.

ALTAR GUILD

Nan Behringer

“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.”

During the first part of the year, we were pretty dormant with no in-person services, but each of our four teams came together to serve our ZOOM Eucharistic services when they resumed. We packaged communion wafers for distanced distribution following those services. Our Altar Guild Angels proved very adaptive in setting up for the outdoor services and then for the changing circumstances as we learned to meet again together indoors, and adjusted to different requirements each week while we all learned what worked and what didn't with ZOOM, and during the transition to our new hybrid and in-person services. We were so grateful for Father Gary and his adaptiveness, and willingness to adjust and communicate as we learned - and made more than a few mistakes - in the changing set up.



After an extended absence from each other, we were able to gather in person for our pre-Christmas AG Brunch and fellowship, and look forward to continuing the tradition with our Pre-Lenten/Easter brunch as well, COVID willing.

Our major project for 2022 will be to inventory and provide a photographic record of all the Vestments and Altar Guild equipment and supplies, for the church and for insurance valuation. It seems that “Like Topsy, we just grew” and have added to our consecrated inventory with no records having been kept of what we have, or it's source. As a result, not everything is being used to its fullest potential in the Glory of God as a part of our services.

Marjie Rogers who had been with us the longest and was our true institutional memory bank, has retired and we have lost several other members due to health, family or relocation so are now actively recruiting, and hope to add additional members to each team in the near future. We would love to have teens and youth join us, as those in high school could fulfill their community service hours through this service to Good Shepherd.

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 want to rekindle their singing talents for spiritual as well as fellowship reasons.

Our choir's routine continued to be impacted by COVID-19 restrictions. We only started to rehearse in September and only performed for retirement center/homebound parishioners during the Christmas season. None of our nearly 20 members was significantly impacted by the COVID virus.

We are still awaiting the appointment of a new music director to replace the duo of Stephen Fiess and Neal Wegener, who relocated their music business to North Carolina two years ago now. We did obtain a grant to replace this position, and pray to find someone like the unforgettable Dave Diehl who left some big footsteps to fill. We have asked the Vestry and Fr. Gary to help select and appoint a suitable new director.

With the latest uncertainty related to Omicron 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 singer, please contact our founding members, 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



The year began with Covid protocols and choir not meeting in person. As the year progressed, in person worship resumed and so did our choir. Summer saw our choir coming again to church to lead the congregation in hymns and service music. Several new members decided to join us, and the choir grew in spite of several long-time choir members who decided to leave the church or leave the choir. This means that our choir survived the 2021 year in good shape.

In early December, the choir led the congregation in worship with the “Gospel Magnificat” written by African American composer, Robert Ray. Twenty-five singers, a Gospel Soloist, and a jazz combo combined to sing and play this uplifting piece of music. From all reports, the congregation was incredibly supportive of our efforts, even though it was quite different than the choir’s musical offerings in the past. It was a “stretch” for our choir, but they enjoyed the challenge and rose to meet it.

When we resumed the fall season, Good Shepherd Choir rehearsals were changed from Thursday evening to between services on Sunday mornings. This change was made to limit our times together during the pandemic as well as to streamline rehearsals. I, as choir director/organist, provide recordings of the voice parts to the singers so that some practice can be done independently at home. Reports from choir members say that they appreciate this way to learn their parts.

As organist/pianist since June of 2020, I have provided all of the keyboard music for services. This involved recording soloists or small ensembles for the hymns and special music, plus all preludes, postludes, and offertories. This then was uploaded for the Zoom services for the first half of the year. When we began in-person services, I began playing for the 7:45 a.m. service in the chapel, as well as for the 10:30 a.m. service with organ. I also provide the Rector with hymn suggestions from which he chooses what will be sung at all services.

Since the church is now only doing Zoom services for the near future, I will again be doing recordings as needed. One superb asset that we now have is that our organ is capable of recording and playing back music. This means that I record hymns and service music for worship when I am not in attendance, and a non-organist pushes the buttons to make the organ play. This saves the church the cost of substitute musicians.

The choir continues to be a supportive and dedicated group of musicians that works hard to provide a quality musical experience for the church. We look forward to getting back together when the current virus surge abates.

EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS (EVs)

Eucharistic Visitors visit those in hospitals, nursing homes and member's homes, who cannot be with the congregation. In 2021, COVID shut down our visits until Easter season. Nevertheless, we went out to approximately 22 visits, bringing the Eucharist to approximately 54 people. If anyone is interested in this ministry, we will arrange training and be glad to welcome you to our team. Hopefully, 2022 will be a more active year, as the need always exists! While dealing with COVID restrictions, if you know of anyone in need of our ministry, please let Fr. Gary, Kathy Hunter, or myself know.

Greg Bell



FLOWER MINISTRY

Lori DeLue



In 2021, we had flowers for Easter and Christmas. We also resumed weekly arrangements when in-person services began meeting again. We would enjoy additional arrangers, if you interested, and Lori DeLue is happy to provide training. Any flower expense is reimbursed. Please contact Lori DeLue if you would like to join her in this ministry at: lldelue@gmail.com.

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 wonderful 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 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.



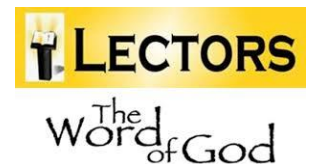
LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS (LEMs) AND LECTORS

Ellen Blackburn



There are 30 people serving as LEMs and/or Lectors during Good Shepherd services. Lectors read the lessons, the Psalm, and the Prayers of the People. Eucharistic Ministers are helping with distribution of bread at the 10:30 am service. We look forward to communion in both kinds when this pandemic is over. This amazing group of individuals has mastered Zoom and has been willing to turn on a dime when our worship situations change. Our worship is greatly enriched by their voices. Thank you all!!

If you are interested in joining us, please let me know, via email at mebbdm@aol.com. I am happy to offer training that will fit your schedule.



STEWARDSHIP REPORT FOR 2022

“Building Relationships thru Christ, Church & Community”

Anne McMahon



Our Stewardship campaign, *Building Relationships thru Christ, Church & Community*, has been a success! Here are the highlights:

We have had \$484,450 pledged by 136 parish members, which was more money raised than 2021, even with fewer pledges, which was due to those moving away (6) @ \$13,600, leaving the church (8) @ \$12,640, or decreasing their pledge amount (16) @ \$17,003.

We continue to follow up with the few members who did not reply, or who made a verbal pledge and have not yet sent in their commitment. Only four members replied they would not pledge at this time, but would continue to support Good Shepherd and contribute to the plate as they were able. New members (10) were incredibly generous in pledging \$29,780. Existing members (52) increased their pledge, @ + \$55,810, with 51 staying at 2021 level.

The campaign started earlier this year, in mid-October, and that will continue for next year. The purpose of this timeframe adjustment is to be able to end before the holidays begin – for the benefit of all.

We are a remarkably generous parish, even with all the uncertainty we are experiencing - with approximately 80% of all active members making a pledge. Our goal for 2022 will be to have 90% of members participate.

If you have any further questions, please contact Anne via email at: armcmahon@aol.com, or call her at 720-930-9901. She is happy to answer.

Additional information:

26 members pledged more than \$ 5,000

17 members pledged more than \$ 7500

10 pledges were for \$10,000 or more

1 pledge came in for \$20,000 – a first for Good Shepherd!

Committee members: Keith Anderson, Nan Behringer, Tom Billings, Andy Folkerth, Lori DeLue, Jim Wolfe, and Anne McMahon

20 Prayer team members

35 Ambassadors

1 Accounting manager

1 communications/E-News copywriter

63 total participants

USHERS

Chuck and Sue Kelley



Due to the Covid 19 pandemic this year, we have had to ask **everyone to sign in for worship and provide a phone number.** (For contact tracing if needed). **Everyone is required to wear a mask at this point.** If someone doesn't have a mask, they can take one that is provided by the church. We hand out the printed bulletins, or folks can get it on their phones if they would prefer doing that.

Hopefully 2022 will fill us all with HOPE, and we will all eventually gather for normal indoor services and be together in person again on a permanent basis.

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 come in contact with 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. At the end of the 10:30 am service, one usher and one greeter collect any offering that has been put in the Offering Box and fill out the Cash Counter Form, totaling the contents of the Offering Box, and then put it in a secure location for future deposit.

We currently have about seven volunteers for the 7:45 a.m. service and 14 for the 10:30 a.m. service.

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 as an usher, we will always check on your availability and schedule you according to your needs. We 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 long-time ushers who have been serving over the years, you are so appreciated. Many hands make light work.

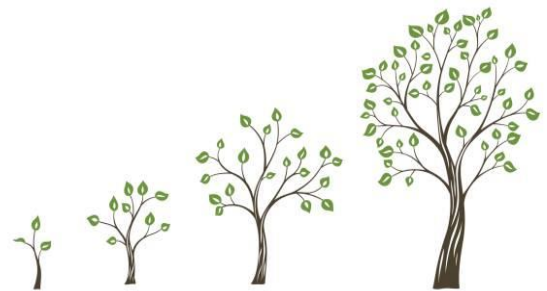
GROW TOGETHER IN FAITH: **Ministries that Foster the Internal Growth of the Congregation**

GROW TEAM REPORT

Nora Earnest

Grow with Us! Maybe next year!

2021 saw very little activity for the Grow Team, due to the COVID pandemic. Good Shepherd still had some of the church's usual events once we could gather in person, but just did not have any new in-person gatherings or special programs or events. The Grow Team certainly hopes to be back in business in the near future, to offer opportunities for education, fellowship, and spiritual reflection. We certainly hope our parishioners are all finding creative and special ways to *Grow in their Faith*.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

Sue LeFant

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 intricate part of our ongoing goal to reach our kids for Christ is to offer Sunday school every week, with the exception of our family service on a 5th Sunday of the month, Christmas Day, and Easter, regardless of all other holidays or school breaks. Both the *Godly Play* program and *Living the Good News* are curriculums that are designed to help students continue moving forward on their spiritual journey. Our *Godly Play* classroom reaches children aged 3 years through second grade. Our Storytellers are me and Susie Street, and our primary Doorpersons are Kaitlyn Bridgers, myself, and Amy McLaughry. We continue to see spiritual and social growth in the students through the use of these curriculums. Our second Sunday school class is for our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students. The lessons taught are from *Living the Good News* and Elaine Oxenbury is the leader in this class. For the first half of the year, both Elaine Oxenbury and myself were each using the ZOOM format for our respective classes. Since I returned to in-person Sunday school (using the *Godly Play* presentations) on June 20, we have seen a consistent attendance level (with slow growth in the *Godly Play* class, and the upper grade level class has yet to see regular attendance since moving from ZOOM to in-person on September 12). We anticipate that as more kids are able to and want to get vaccinated, attendance will increase.

It has been exciting to have numerous families visit us downstairs. Despite not being able to offer many programs/events, including our First Communion class, Palm Sunday Liturgy, Easter Egg Hunt, full-fledged Parish picnic, etc., we look forward to continuing to safely resume programs/offering in 2022! We did have our first fifth Sunday family service on Oct. 31. Our First Communion instruction class will return starting March 6 for 5 weeks, leading up to our Palm Sunday liturgy.

The Advent liturgy downstairs on November 28 drew the largest return of kids to Sunday school since our return to the building. Christmas Pageant rehearsals were very well attended as we had a great response...with nineteen kids participating!

The 4:00 pm Christmas Eve service was filled with families celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Anna Branton headed up the Children's Christmas Pageant, with Suraya Bowermaster, Kaitlyn Bridgers, and me helping her to make this possible.

Our continuing goal is to offer programs 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



Our church nursery (located at the end of the main hallway to the right of the water fountain) has been in very capable and reliable hands this past year, while resuming our nursery care after reopening the building. Cindy McLain has been a blessing, providing all the little ones a welcoming and caring place to be, whether it is on a regular Sunday morning or for a special event/meeting or church service.

To make sure we maintain a safe environment, we are seeking nursery volunteers to assist Cindy. The Diocesan policy requires us to have two adults present in the nursery. We are looking for volunteers to ensure coverage and to be available to fill in for Cindy on the rare occasions that she is not available to be with the infants/toddlers. There are usually a couple of kids in the nursery each week, with occasionally more. We have had quite a few kids graduate into the *Godly Play* program downstairs.

We really appreciate all volunteers! One of the best things in the nursery is when the parents show up at the end of church to pick up their child and the child is having so much fun in the nursery that he or she doesn't want to leave!

Currently, our nursery is available for the second worship service at 10:30 am, and looking ahead, for special parish fellowship events such as the Annual Parish Meeting (when not held virtually), Newcomer Luncheons, and on Christmas Eve for the final pageant rehearsal and then for the 4:00 pm family service. Currently Cindy arrives at 10:15, but if requested, the nursery could be made available starting at 8:45 am to accommodate parents for choir rehearsal and those who wish to attend the Faith Forum program.

A goal for 2022 is to expand the volunteer base in order to allow more adults (who have been certified through the Safeguarding God's Children program and have had a background check) the opportunity to experience the joy of spending up to an hour and a half or so on a Sunday morning with the littlest of our flock so their parents can attend the service.

COFFEE HOUR

Liz Peel



2021 has seen the return of Coffee Hour! After a long break due to COVID, we started a modified coffee hour protocol in the fall, and it was wonderful to be able to socialize in person after church! Our COVID modifications included serving individual, pre-packaged treats/snacks, using disposable paper goods, and wearing masks in the Parish Hall except when eating or drinking.

With the change in service times and the early service celebrated via Zoom, we have seen a shift in our pre-COVID crew, and the shift has brought new groups and people to our ministry! Thank you to the **Men's Group** for managing all early services set-up, to **Senior Singles** for host the second service coffee hour on the second Sunday of the month, and to our **Youth Group** for taking on the second service coffee hour on the fifth Sunday. In addition, **Marilyn Taylor, Kathy Alfeld, Elaine Farrell,** and **Liz Peel** are also hosts for the second service. Marjorie Lell stepped down from her position as kitchen coordinator, and we miss her, and Jennifer Spahr has admirably filled her shoes—thank you, Jennifer!

As always, we would love to have even more people join this ongoing ministry! If you are interested or would like to find out more about Coffee Hour, **Jim Wolfe** is the contact person for first service--thank you Jim, for all you do to keep us organized! And **Liz Peel** is the contact person for second service. Ideally, we would love to have crews host every other month or have alternates to fill in as needed.

If being a host is not for you, please consider signing up to bring snacks/treats; the sheet can be found on the hallway bulletin board. Thank you to everyone who has served in this ministry; your service is greatly appreciated!

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY

Karin Elsen, Junior Warden



Members: Karin Elsen, Rev. Gary Brower, Rev. Sandy Boyd; Greg Bell, Eucharistic Visitors; Bev White, Nan Behringer, and Duanne Namaksy

Contact us at: congregationalcare@gshep.org

This committee has not been serving as planned, due to the COVID pandemic, but hope to get busy again caring for the congregation just as soon as possible.

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. Now that the church is open for both 7:45 and 10:30 am services, we are in desperate need of additional Greeters. When the church closed last year due to the COVID 19 virus, we had sixteen volunteers. We are now down to only twelve volunteers, and they are doing their best to perform their duties to make everyone feel welcome here at Good Shepherd. We would appreciate your consideration of serving as a Greeter. With a few more volunteers, it would only require your services once or twice a month, and would give you the opportunity to reacquaint with friends and fellow members and with new parishioners. Please contact Joe Gavlick, at: joegavlick@hotmail.com, if you have an interest or know of someone else who might have an interest in this welcoming ministry.



HOSPITALITY AND THE MARTHAS

Marjorie Lell



The Hospitality Ministry supports the celebration of milestone events held in our parish hall, including weddings, funerals, baptisms, confirmations, and other special events. Our group of volunteers sets up the parish hall, serves refreshments, and cleans up after events in support of individual families and our parish as a whole.

Thanks to all who have volunteered to be part of this ministry and who have supported our events in 2021 – your service was so appreciated, particularly as we learned to navigate a safe path in our new pandemic world. It was such a pleasure to get to know one another and work together.

While there were no events for the first half of 2021, in August we did begin working with Good Shepherd staff and the Coffee Hour team to open up the kitchen and parish hall and begin our new “normal” gathering procedures. Our team supported the following events in the second half of 2021:

August – the Martha’s worked to plan and host the reception for Father Gary’s installation as our new rector, which included a visit from Bishop Kym Lucas, and other dignitaries from the diocese and from other denominations / churches in the Denver area. We were blessed to have perfect weather which allowed us to hold the reception outdoors on our beautiful new patio. Attendees enjoyed multiple stations of food and beverages and celebrated not only Gary’s installation, but also the first opportunity to gather as a parish in over a year and a half.

September – The Martha ministry provided hospitality for the funeral of Ron Juhl.

October – The Martha ministry provided hospitality for the funeral of Don Fisher.

If you would enjoy being part of the Martha’s, we would welcome you on our team. Events occur throughout the year and each team member may participate in as few or as many events as they would like, depending on individual schedules. Please contact Jennifer Spahr at 303-807-8302 or jennifer_spahr@yahoo.com if you are interested in learning more.

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. Currently we are offering two options: (1) meeting in person in small groups at a member’s home (all fully vaccinated), or (2) continuing to meet by Zoom, which has the added advantage of allowing those who have moved away to join us. We hope to all be able to gather in person in May 2022 in the Parish Hall at the church. Please contact Tricia Hartman at 720-810-0850 or at: hartmanpe@me.com, or Amy McLaughry at 303-907-7590 or at: admclaughry@yahoo.com if you would like to join us.



The organization, set up and implementation of the drive-through Living Nativity went very smoothly. We had almost fifty volunteers in one role or another; from set up, to traffic, to food collection for Covenant Cupboard, to cast members, costuming, etc. Cars flowed safely through the event and people who participated as volunteers and those who attended as visitors had positive comments about the experience. It was tremendously helpful to have scenery, costumes, set up plans, publicity plans, music, and experienced leaders from last year, so actual implementation was just a matter of fine tuning what had been done before.

The one downside was that, while we had 150+ cars come through in 2020, in 2021 the number was closer to 55. Several factors may have contributed to this—date/day selected, more limited advertising, more competing opportunities for activities with things opening up during Covid in 2021 than in 2020.

Special thanks to Susan Bailey, Kathy Alfeld and Marcia Poirier, Jim Wolfe, Keith Anderson, and Jim Ball for leading the various committees and recruiting people to make sure that everything went well. They, with their teams, ensured that cast members were informed about when to arrive and what to expect, and were outfitted with costumes and accessories; that scenery created last year was recovered from the basement and attic and storage shed (and touched up by Marge Pegula) and put up with appropriate lighting, then taken down and stored again; that visitors received a friendly, personal greeting and traffic moved safely through the lot; and that food donations were efficiently collected, organized, and unloaded at Covenant Cupboard. Special thanks to Curt Watson who provided both expertise from last year and a wide selection of lights, generators, cords, and other tools needed for scenery set-up, and to the more than thirty volunteers who made the evening possible.







The Good Shepherd Men's Group completed our 36th year of meeting in 2021, that's a remarkable accomplishment. I'm happy for and proud of our group as we had twenty-four meeting throughout the year, meeting twice a month on Saturday mornings.

Earlier in the year those meetings were held virtually via Zoom due to COVID-19 then beginning on May 22, 2021, we had our first In-Person meeting for the year. Since then, we've been having a combination of In-Person meetings for the first meeting of the month and Zoom meetings for the second meeting of the month. We'll continue meeting this way until we can resume meeting fully In-Person, hopefully sometime in 2022! We currently have approximately forty members and average about 14-20 at our meetings, with more attendance at the Zoom meetings. During our In-Person meetings we provide either breakfast or coffee and pastries along with our program. 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 originate from the Serendipity Bible, Sunday scripture readings, special book reviews and other current day issues/topics. During 2021 with the help from a number of men in the group who volunteered to cover the topics, our study programs came primarily from book reviews which included:

“Why Men Hate Going to Church” by David Murrow

“The Color of Compromise” by Jemar Tisby

Following the book review of “The Color of Compromise” we were fortunate to have special guest speakers by Darren Armstrong, former Coordinator of the Colorado Episcopal Race Task Force and a parishioner at Holy Redeemer Episcopal Church in Denver and Rev. Bonnie Sarah Spencer, former priest-in-charge at Holy Redeemer Episcopal Church in Denver relating to current issues addressed in the book and potential next steps we could take.

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

This year, due to COVID-19 we unfortunately weren't able to have our annual Men's Retreat held in February. We hope to resume this event sometime in the future.

In service, during 2021 we were directly involved in providing assistance with on-going lawn care/maintenance/clean-up and major maintenance/building improvement projects (special thanks specifically to Renee Tschetter, Curt Watson, Whit Hill, David McLaughry, and Jim Wolfe for their lead roles in these) taking place at various times during the year at Good Shepherd; the Youth Group Sunday program for our Graduating Seniors; volunteering to lead and assist in a variety of ways contributing to the success of the Living Christmas Nativity 2021 event; and taking on hosting the coffee hour between services. We also worked with the St. Clare's ministry (at St. Peter's and St. Mary's Church) feeding a meal to people in need. Special thanks to 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.

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 provided support for serving this meal. However, with COVID-19 and the related restrictions in place, our involvement had been curtailed.

We look forward to the future when we can resume hosting the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and the annual Good Shepherd Parish Picnic (with help from the Youth Group, the Sunday School Program team, and the Grow team).

A special thank you to Jim Wolfe for his on-going support, volunteering, guidance and continued 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, unique breakfasts for a good number of our monthly in-person meetings, and he continues to take the lead in that role for our future like events; for all the men within our group who volunteer for the activities/events mentioned above and to those who 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.

We're very proud of our activities and the contributions we make to and on behalf of Good Shepherd and we'll continue to do the same in 2022, when and where able, while building support within our team/parish. I'm fortunate and honored to have the opportunity of coordinating our meetings for this long-standing group of men, and appreciate all the cooperation and support they have provided me during this challenging year of 2021! 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 these pandemic years. 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 to join us, or to request prayers.

SENIOR SINGLES OF GOOD SHEPHERD

Connie Branton



Senior Singles of Good Shepherd is an active group of people from Good Shepherd and beyond. During 2021 we started the year as a “Zoom” group. Almost every week, several of us met online to share thoughts and feelings, news about our families, and a lot of fun talking with one another. As the virus calmed, we began to meet in person, making sure that all were vaccinated. Most of the time the meetings were at my home. Several times we met outside but as the weather changed last fall, we met indoors.

In addition to enjoying our friendships, our food which we share, and our times together, the Senior Singles also help in other ministries both in and out of the church. We have provided help for homeless shelters, gathered furniture and household items for a homeless family, and provided coffee hour assistance at Good Shepherd.

Many of the people in our Senior Singles group serve in several other ministries of the church, i.e. Altar Guild, Choir, Vestry, Finance, Ushers, Greeters, etc. We provide help for most anyone who asks and will continue to get together as the COVID virus allows.



YOUTH MINISTRY

Cole AllSmith



In my four months here at Good Shepherd, our youth have done nothing but impress me. Reading Rachel's words from last year's report, her words still ring true today. The youth of our congregation have been living lives of sacrifice and service for two years now. During some of the most challenging and developmentally important years of their lives, our youth have been thrust into crisis after crisis, and yet their spirits remain unbroken and, from what I've seen, their resolves have only grown stronger. I could not be prouder of our youth and more grateful for the opportunity to get to know them and do ministry with them. In my time here so far, we have had youth take part in, lead, and preach at a phenomenal Youth Sunday; enjoy a spiritually fulfilling Quest retreat; and take part in our lovely Christmas pageant. As we move forward into 2022, I can only anticipate our youth meeting every challenge in front of them and achieving great things.

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 conduct 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 forty-five 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 seven hundred 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 also tried 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).

JAMAICA MEDICAL/DENTAL MISSION REPORT

Melissa Watson



The last medical/dental mission trip to Jamaica wrapped up in early March 2020 just as Covid was ramping up. (A report on that mission was included in the previous year's Annual Report). Since spring of 2020, the Jamaican government has barred all missions from entering Jamaica due to the low vaccination rates in country. As a result, the 2021 and 2022 Medical/Dental missions were canceled. The next mission is scheduled for February-March 2023. We are optimistic that mission will be a "go" as COVID variants become weaker and vaccination rates increase. If the Jamaican government opens the country to mission teams before 2023, we will definitely consider an earlier mission trip.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Marcia Poirier and Kathy Hunter

Good Shepherd's Prayer Shawl Ministry in 2021 continued to receive quite a few requests for shawls from people all over the country, and even outside the U.S., who found us online and were in search of a prayer shawl for comfort and for healing.



A wooden cabinet to store the prayer shawls and materials was donated to the church in 2021, and has been placed in the back of the Sanctuary. If you need a shawl for yourself, or for someone you know who needs comfort, please take one from the cabinet.

Thanks to Marcia Poirier, who started this ministry, with help from a few other parishioners. Please contact Marcia if you would like to join this ministry and provide shawls. It is nice to have a selection of sizes and colors to offer to those requesting a shawl. So, if you are a knitter, please jump in to knit or crochet while watching television during this continuing pandemic. Women request most, but we also keep more neutral-colored shawls that are appropriate for anyone.

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. Some are sent out of state, many to the Easter U.S., and we have even sent them to Hawaii and to Jamaica. Many who receive them send a donation back to cover the cost of postage.



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 sixty-five 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 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 near 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.



NOTICE. GIVE. MAKE. BLESS.

What if your personal spiritual practice of gratitude could impact thousands of people in lifegiving ways? The United Thank Offering is a way to practice gratitude and change the world. Notice the good things that happen each day. Give thanks to God for your blessings. Make an offering for each blessing. Your blessing becomes a blessing for others.

UTO is made up of a collection of Episcopal lay and clerical members across the world. It is entrusted to receive the offerings, and to distribute 100% of what is collected to support innovative mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion.

In 2021, UTO awarded grants in the amount of nearly \$1 million focusing on COVID-affected ministries. 53 recipients included domestic ministries as well as those in Jerusalem, Guatemala, Ceylon, South Sudan, Brazil, Cyprus and the Gulf, Honduras, Kenya, the Philippines, and Tanzania. UTO supported Episcopal Church ministries at home with grants to Episcopal Migration Ministries (\$50,000) and The Presiding Bishop's Support for Episcopal Chaplaincy (\$36,000). A UTO trust also funded the Episcopal Service Corps (\$66,000).

Good Shepherd donated \$100 to UTO in 2021. Thank you to those who support the Church's engagement in the world and at home.

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

- Anglican Theological Review's Gratitude Edition. Deacon Nadine used this material in her Faith Forum on gratitude in November.
- A hybrid Multicultural Gratitude Conference with the Diocese of Massachusetts kicking off a Year of Gratitude leading up to the 2022 UTO Gratitude Scholars Conference.
- The opening of Trinity Haven in Indianapolis, a transitional home for LGBTQ young people funded in part by UTO.
- The Great EpisGOpal Race, UTO's virtual race to support opportunities for children in need.

For more information, including how to participate, please contact Karin Elsen at: KElsen@episcopalnetworks.org, or visit: www.episcopalchurch.org/united-thank-offering and unitedthankoffering.com.