

CELEBRATE GOD'S LOVE: Ministries that Foster Spiritual Growth

ACOLYTES

Ellen and Michael Blackburn

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

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



ALTAR GUILD

Sally VanWelden

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



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

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

THE BLACK SHEEP CHOIR

Kees Corssmit and David McLaughry



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

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

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

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

Singing to the Lord is Praying Twice!

Kees Corssmit
Chair, Black Sheep
303-638-7216

David McLaughry
Vice Chair
720-870-0366

Marti Diehl
Pianist/Organist
303-771-5497



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

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

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

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

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

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

Guest Musicians:

Adam Cave

Rosemary Downs

Simon Harrison

Sarah Harrison

Joel Rinsema

Good Shepherd Musicians who helped lead worship:

Kees Corssmit

David Gallas

David & Amy McLaughry

Mike Blackburn & family

Anna Branton

Patty Juhl

Julie Wadle

Stephen Fiess & Neal Wegener

Tricia Hartman

Mary Dakos

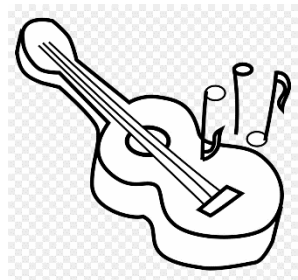
Jim Ball

John Stidman

Karen & Matthew Allison

James & Carl Algermissen

Gary Brower



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

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

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

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

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

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

EUCHARISTIC VISITORS (EVs)

Greg Bell

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



FLOWER MINISTRY

Lori DeLue



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

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

HAND BELL CHOIR

Tricia Hartman



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

Please contact Tricia Hartman at 720-810-0850 or at hartmanpe@me.com 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.



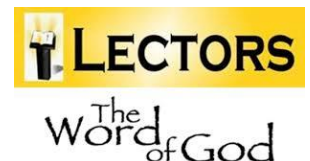
LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS (LEMs) AND LECTORS

Ellen Blackburn



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

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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