

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

**Good Shepherd Episcopal Church--Centennial, Colorado**  
**January 28, 2024--10:30 a.m.**

- 1) Prayer for the Parish**
- 2) Approval of Agenda, Appointment of Clerk & Quorum Call –  
Fr. Gary Brower**
- 3) Approval of Minutes of the 2023 meeting – Fr. Gary Brower**
- 4) Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members – Fr. Gary Brower/Jim Wolfe**
- 5) Nominating Committee Report – Mary Ann Panarelli  
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 2023 Financial Report – Amy McLaughry**
- 8) 2023 Stewardship Report – Anne McMahan**
- 9) Presentation of 2024 Budget –Amy McLaughry**
- 10) Reminder of Who We Are: Holy Spirit Awards – Fr. Gary Brower**
- 11) Special Video Presentation**
- 12) Presentation of the 2023 Annual Report and Pastor’s Remarks—  
Fr. Gary Brower**
- 13) Congregational Comments**
- 14) Closing Prayer and Adjournment**

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**2023 Financials** – Projected during the Annual Meeting.

**2024 Budget** – Projected during the Annual Meeting.

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

**2022 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES— ROUGH DRAFT**  
**GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**JANUARY 28, 2023**

The 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church was called to order at 10:40 a.m. in person in the Parish Hall. Members were asked to sign the attendance sheet to assure a quorum at the meeting.

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 was acknowledged. The agenda for the Annual Meeting was approved.

Regarding the Minutes of the January 30, 2022, Annual Meeting:

**The Motion was made, and seconded, to approve the 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes as presented. On a voice vote, the motion passed. There were zero "no" votes.**

Fr. Gary Brower recognized the outgoing members of the Vestry Class of 2022—Mark Kelly, Anne McMahon, and Dennis Phillips; and Keith Anderson, who served a partial term from the Class of 2023. He also offered a heartfelt thank you to our Senior Warden, Jim Wolfe; and to Junior Warden, Christina Blackburn, and Treasurer Elaine Gilley, who have completed their year of service.

The current members of the Vestry Class of 2023 are Andy Folkerth, Robin Gear, and Mary Ann Panarelli. Members of the Class of 2024 are Nan Behringer, Hugh Cook, and Linda Messer. The Vestry is Good Shepherd's decision-making body, overseeing the mission, ministry, and maintenance of the church, while also moving forward with its vision.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by outgoing Vestry Member, Keith Anderson, presented the slate of nominees for the Vestry in the coming year. For the position of Junior Warden, Marge Pegula. For the three-year terms in the Class of 2025—J. C. Campos, Pam Dominguez, and Duanne Namaksy. The biographies for the nominees were distributed to the Parish via email prior to the meeting.

**A Motion was made, seconded, and approved by acclamation to accept the Vestry Slate as presented by the Nominating Committee.**

**A Motion was made, seconded, and approved by acclamation to accept the nomination of Marge Pegula as Junior Warden.**

Fr. Gary announced with gratitude that Jim Lee Wolfe will continue as our Senior Warden for 2023.

Elaine Gilley, our Treasurer in 2022, will not continue in that position for health reasons, and Amy McLaughry has agreed to step in as our Treasurer for 2023.

The slate for the Corporate Officers was presented as follows: President – Fr. Gary Brower; Vice-President – Jim Lee Wolfe; Secretary – Kathy Hunter; Treasurer – Amy McLaughry.

**A Motion was made and seconded to approve the slate of corporate officers. On a voice vote, the motion passed.**

Amy McLaughry gave the 2022 Financial Report. Our total 2022 income was \$513,725, with total expenses of \$513,234, with a net ordinary income of \$392. The church overcame a deficit of \$40,838 and had \$56,000 in Capital expenditures for the building. These expenditures include money raised in a Phase 1 Capital Campaign to upgrade the sound technology in the sanctuary, and to build a new control booth to be used with the new sound equipment. Phase 2 of the project will take place in 2023 when equipment will be installed, with cameras, and display panels, with the goal of livestreaming our services from the Sanctuary.

Anne McMahon reported on the Stewardship Campaign for 2023, *Building Relationships through Christ, Church, and Community*. Anne recognized the members of the Stewardship Committee—Anne McMahon, Chairperson; Nan Behringer, Mike Blackburn, Andy Folkerth, Lori DeLue, Joyce Manning, and Dennis Phillips. She included thanks to the 30 Ambassadors and the 30 Very Important Prayers (VIPs) who prayers the campaign prayer through the entire campaign. The Stewardship Team included 73 participants, including the Team and staff. For the 2023 campaign, there were four increased pledges, 26 pledges over \$5,000, 17 pledges over \$7,500 and 10 pledges over \$10,000, which equals 136 pledges for a total pledged of \$476,193, with 15 new pledges totaling \$31,000. This is all good news, with impressive results for 2023.

Amy McLaughry then presented the 2023 budget to the Parish. Total income is projected to be \$518,024, (\$460,774 in pledges, \$37,500 in plate, and \$19,750 miscellaneous income), with expenses of \$548,319 and \$30,295 cash on hand, equaling a balanced budget. Capital projects in 2023 include Building and Grounds funds of \$7,000 for resurface of the parking lot, and the rest of the raised funds for technology upgrades.

Fr. Gary Brower explained a pie chart showing the 2023 Functional Budget expenses, showing the percentages of spending according to the different ministries of the church, including the staff salaries and expenses that support each ministry. This chart shows 28% to Administration, 24% to Music & Worship, 17% to Building Operations, 11% to Education, 11% to Outreach, and 8% to Community and Pastoral Care.

**A Motion was made and seconded to approve the 2023 budget as presented by the Finance Committee. On a voice vote, the motion passed.**

Fr. Gary Brower presented the 2022 Holy Spirit Awards, which are given to parishioners who have served the church in major ways. One of this year's awards goes to Connie Branton, who serves as Good Shepherd's music director, and also leads the very active Senior Singles' group; she also filled in the gaps as director of our contemporary group and the Black Sheep Men's Choir, and she went above and beyond her job in provided recorded music for online worship. The second award goes to Marge Pegula for her work with the Technology Task Force and the new Sanctuary sound equipment, along with her work as the coordinator of the contemporary group, and on the Building & Grounds Committee.

Fr. Gary Brower encouraged all members to read the 2022 Annual Report, which is full of useful information about all Good Shepherd's ministries. The report will be available online on the church website tomorrow.

He then asked for any feedback the members had to share. All members should be proud today of the work done here at Good Shepherd in 2022, coming out of the pandemic, and including the technology project, and Phase 2 of the project to come this year. And, we had one of the best Stewardship campaigns ever.

The meeting concluded with a standing ovation for our Rector, Fr. Gary Brower. Fr. Gary Brower led us in prayer to end the meeting.

**A Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the 2022 Annual Meeting, and it was rigorously approved.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am.

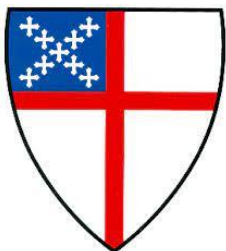
Respectfully Submitted,

*Kathy Hunter*  
Secretary

## CLERGY REPORTS

### REPORT FROM THE RECTOR

The Rev. Gary R. Brower, PhD



Last summer, Bp. Epting, Fr. Jim Miner, and I tag-teamed a Faith Forum series on the “Hymnal of Israel”—the Psalms. Many folks attended, either in person, or “later” by viewing the recordings (and you can go to our YouTube Channel to find the “Hymnal of Israel” playlist). The series was organized around a relatively common division of the psalms into categories—for example, royal psalms, laments, psalms of Zion, hymns, etc.

Two of those categories are represented in the psalms we read this morning (and I would encourage you to have them in front of you!) Psalm 111 is often referred to simply as a “hymn”. Hymns lift the hearts and minds of worshippers from their own problems to God, whom they have gathered to worship. As the psalm begins: “Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.” Psalm 112 is categorized as a “wisdom psalm”—a psalm that teaches worshippers how to be faithful to the will of God.

I chose to add Psalm 112 to our worship this morning (with the Prayer Book’s permission) for two reasons. First, the last verse of Psalm 111 and the first verse of Psalm 112 seem to link the two together. “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; those who act accordingly have a good understanding” (111.10) leads right into: “Happy are they who fear the Lord, and have great delight in his commandments” (112.1). The second reason is that both psalms are “acrostics”. That is, each psalm has 22 lines, each beginning with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. That’s cool—appealing to the nerd in me—even if scholars aren’t sure what it means! That said, while they’re not the only acrostic psalms, the fact that these two are “joined” together in the Psalter—a kind of textual diptych—seems to me to be significant.

As a hymn, Psalm 111 extols the nature of God: God leads Israel; God is faithful to the covenant; God delivers the faithful from trouble; God provides instruction. And the psalmist charges us to learn by studying these attributes (111.2). As a wisdom psalm, Psalm 112 exhorts us to put into practice what we have learned: be faithful to the teaching; be industrious; be generous of spirit; tend to justice; care for the poor. And it is that linkage—what we have learned of God through our experience, and how we mirror that—it is that linkage, I believe, that speaks to our common life at Good Shepherd.

And, so . . . “Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation. Great are the deeds of the Lord! They are studied by all who delight in them!” (111.1-2). We have so much for which to be thankful! Just as the Israelites were encouraged to know their stories of God’s leadership, faithfulness, deliverance, and continued instruction, and while I encourage you to read the annual reports that tell our stories, I would like to hit some highlights of 2023.

God has provided for us! In terms of overall care for the sheep, we should all be thankful for the prayerful leadership of our Senior and Junior Wardens: Jim Wolfe and Marge Pegula! Our vestry spends much time in its meetings in reflection and community building; it is strong. We have dedicated and thoughtful committee chairs: Finance (chair: Amy McLaughry); Stewardship (chair: Anne McMahan); Building and Grounds (chair: David McLaughry); Legacy Society (chair: Kees Corssmit); and our Faith in Action Team (chair: Shelley Hitt). And, of course, none of those committees is only one person; all have equally capable and caring members—see their annual reports! And, speaking of reading the annual reports, it must be said that there is amazing and devoted leadership in the person of our Parish Administrator, Kathy Hunter, who not only collected and collated those reports, but who “takes the lead” in so many other ways in the running of this parish.

We have been blessed by God with fabulous leadership when it comes to worship! Immediately springing to mind is music, and our Music Director, Connie Branton; our Contemporary Assistant, Marge Pegula; and our Handbell Director, Tricia Hartman. As with the committees, the music programs are not “one-person”. What a committed group of singers and instrumentalists make up the Choir, Uplifted, the Black Sheep and the Handbell Choir! “In the assembly of the upright, in the congregation”, we praise with splendid music!

In addition to musical leadership, our worship would not be what it is without those folks who ensure that other ministries are filled. Nan Behringer leads our Altar Guild. (As a former “stand-alone” campus minister, that is one group of people I cherish!). Chuck and Sue Kelley and Joe Gavlick ensure that we have ushers (the

Kelleys) and greeters (Joe) to help folks feel welcome and supported. And Arden Larsen herds the sheep who read our lessons and prayers, and who assist with the distribution of communion. “Herding sheep” is an amazing and necessary ministry!

Furthermore, I cannot stress enough how fortunate we are to have so many associate clergy at Good Shepherd who bring years of experience to bear in their various ministries—as liturgical leaders, pastoral caregivers, and teachers—of both youth and adults. THANK YOU Bishops Cal Schofield and Chris Epting! THANK YOU, the Reverends Sandy Boyd, Merrie Need, Jim Miner, and Howard Warren. And, of course, leading worship with the amazingly-capable Deacon Nadine Pope is an absolute joy! God has blessed us richly!

We know that God continually leads, but also teaches us; we “who delight in the deeds of the Lord” study those deeds! Our Children’s Program—so ably led by Sue LeFant—is unique in the area; it is year-round! And it can be year-round because of the support Sue receives from the Rev. Merrie Need, Susie Street, Kaitlyn Bridgers, Kellee Jentz, Donna White, Natasha Roth, Matt Bates, and Amy McLaughry. Anna Branton has helped by leading an occasional Children’s Choir, as well as heading up the Children’s Christmas Pageant. We have faithful folks who are tending to our littlest members in the nursery—many whom I just named, as well as Pam and Dave Dominguez.

Education and formation are life-long, and we have multiple opportunities for adults to learn. Numerous Faith Forum series have been led and/or co-led by different people (Bp. Epting, Fr. Jim Miner, Deacon Nadine, former parishioner Mark Kelly and myself). Subjects included “Difficult Books of the Bible”; “Poetry in Lent”; “*The Book of Joy*”; the “Hymnal of Israel (Psalms)”; “Hymns of the Church”; and “Caroling 101”. A very well-received and timely “one-off” program on Israel and Gaza (co-led by Bp Epting and me) had more than 20 people in the room, and the video has been viewed by 60+ more! Equally timely was a short series on Holy Dying—pastoral care and education combined!

Learning of the “deeds of the Lord” is not, however, restricted to Sunday mornings! We have active, long-time study groups that meet weekly either in person, or on Zoom. While two of those groups are made up of women, the Men’s Group (ably led by Pete Roden) meets semi-monthly for fellowship, study and service. A big THANK YOU goes to Melissa Besfer and Celeste Parmley for re-organizing and keeping track of our library. And those among us who’ve made “Altars of the World” pilgrimages this year to South Valley Park, Staunton and Castlewood Canyon State Parks and Fairmount Cemetery (rumors of my death are over-stated!) know that God’s creation is a fabulous teacher.

Not only has God led us, and taught us, God has delivered—and will continue to deliver—us from various challenges! 2023 saw several staff changes—and, as we know, change is always difficult! I believe we have good people in place: Amy McLaughry as Financial Administrator; AshlyNne Doidge handling our Sound Booth; and Kolya Hein as our Communications Director! And while the “Great Office Flood” of 2023 was nothing in comparison with the Basement Floods of 2019, the quick attention of several parishioners—especially Renee Tschetter—kept damage to minimum.

The experience of the psalmist as recounted in Psalm 111 has been our experience at Good Shepherd! We have learned of God’s leadership, marvelous deeds and care/mercy! Furthermore, in keeping with line with Psalm 112, we have taken the “fear of the Lord” and “delight in God’s commandments” beyond ourselves. Our “Gifted & Going On” gatherings last September (thanks, Susan Bailey and team!) helped guide how we might make God known in and around our community as God has become known to us. Hallelujah!

As God is generous, so Good Shepherd is generous with its resources! This congregation did not build Good Shepherd only for ourselves; we share our building with the community! In Kathy Hunter’s “Parish Administrator” report, you can see all of the groups that use our building. Some of them make contributions for that building-use; to others, we “donate” the space. All are incredibly grateful for what we provide; it is our corporate stewardship and sharing of our resources that is on display.

We are generous of spirit. What I hear, when I speak with newcomers, is that the welcome they receive is well-beyond what many of them experience in other churches—whether Episcopal or otherwise. Yes, that begins with the Greeters and Ushers, but it extends to the handshakes in the pews, and the offer of cookies and coffee. I believe that we have learned of God’s graciousness and that we feel the need to share it with others. That sharing goes beyond our doors. The investment we’ve made in our sanctuary audio/visual/live-streaming capabilities not only allow parishioners to “be with us” from afar, but are also a generous offering to those who are looking for a place to belong; we want to present well our experience of the God who loves us.

As we have learned that God is “gracious and full of compassion”, we mirror that in our inner-congregational dealings, certainly. And many of the ways we do that go far beyond our congregation. As we offer healing prayers on the third Sunday of the month (thank you Christina Blackburn and Elaine Oxenbury), I know that many who are “prayed for” are not members of our congregation. Our Congregational Care Ministry (led by Karin Elsen) does look to our congregation, but in many instances provides support for extended family members. Our Hospitality teams—the Marthas and the Coffee Hour folks—make members and visitors feel cared-for—and often, as with the work of the Marthas at difficult times. Thank you, Liz Peel and Jennifer Spahr, for making God’s abiding love known! The Men’s Group and Ministry with Men reach both within and without the congregation to provide opportunities for fellowship and service; thanks Pete Roden and others for making these happen! Our Hungry Flock and Senior Singles groups provide “food”—both actual and metaphorical—to many in the congregation; thanks Tricia Hartman and Connie Branton for making that happen!

As we have learned that God “gives food to those who fear [God]”, that the “works” of [God’s] hands are faithfulness and justice” (Ps 111.4, 5, 7), so do we mirror that in the world around us. Our “light will shine in the darkness” (Ps 112.4); we will tend to justice (112.5); we “give freely to the poor” (112.9). The work of our Faith In Action Team extends our hands far beyond Yosemite and Dry Creek! Our folks work directly with those in need at St. Clare’s, at the St. Francis Center, at Covenant Cupboard, at Giving Heart, at Walnut Hills Elementary School, and with Family Promise. Beyond physical/personal involvement we give, both financially and with physical donations, to those groups as well to the National Alliance for Mental Illness and the HAAT project. We create Manna Bags for those experiencing homelessness. We participate in blood drives—literally giving the gift of life to those who need it. We’ve given support to the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem as they work to alleviate some of the suffering resulting from the Israel/Gaza war. And we’ve worked with the Centennial Faith Council, and the Iron Sharp Foundation to provide backpacks and food to families experiencing homelessness in the Cherry Creek School District. The list goes on; read the report!

There is so much more to say about Good Shepherd’s 2023; please read the Annual Reports! I would be remiss, however, if I didn’t mention some of the horizons to which God is leading us in 2024.

We are challenged to address questions of our membership. This is not simply a matter of “growing the church”, as if numbers were everything. As I’ve recounted, there are so many amazing things we’re doing . . . amazing things for which we’re known. The resources required to maintain those levels of engagement, however, are not going to go down . . . and I’m not just talking about financial resources. We need human resources—people to read the lessons, to help with lawn-mowing during the summer, to serve on Altar Guild . . . and more. Many of the folks I have named in the course of this address are ministering in multiple ways. They can become “tapped out”; volunteer burnout is truly a thing.

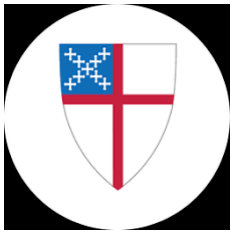
We also need to address the need to find someone (or someones) to work with middle-high and high-school youth. As you have probably seen over the last few weeks, we are “welcoming into worship” many younger children; they are aging up! And we’re seeing newcomers arrive with older kids. Dedicated youth directors are a proud part of our legacy—one which we need to continue—whether with volunteers, or with a paid position. Horizons in view! We can make it.

Psalms 111 and 112 gave voice to the Israelites’ experience learning of the “great deeds of the Lord”. It is a hymn, a song of praise, for the greatness of God. Psalm 112 exhorted the Israelites to re-create that goodness in their lives, their world. We, at Good Shepherd, have had the experience of God’s great goodness this past year. We are called to share that bounty with others. It is our calling in 2024—to reach out. To be a light shining in the darkness. To let our righteousness stand fast. To hold up our head with honor. And, to invite others into the joy we’ve experienced.

I look forward to our journey together in 2024!

Amen





*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.*

1 Peter 4:10

2023 was my second year serving alongside you as your deacon, and it has been a joy!

This year, we narrowed our attention to some more targeted areas of ministry outside the church that parishioners identified as being important to them, based on feedback from Gathered & Gifted last year. In January, Dixon Cravens from St. Timothy's Episcopal Church spoke to the parish about a ministry that St. Tim's is involved with, Family Promise, and invited us to participate with them by hosting and providing meals during the two-week period that families were living in their building. Members of Good Shepherd did get involved, giving us the opportunity to interact directly with those we were serving rather than only making donations to support them. We hosted on Friday and Saturday, August 4 and 5. Thank you to Mary Ann Panarelli, Elaine Schofield, Susan Bailey, Sandi and Tom Price, Irma Princic, and Rod Pope for hosting as well as serving, and providing meals. We look forward to participating again in 2024.

During Lent, we launched "Sticky Note Project #1." In order to bring to the parish's attention the activities and ministries "outside our walls" that people from Good Shepherd participate in, we asked parishioners to write those activities on pink sticky notes and post them in a designated area on a window in the narthex. We had around 60 sticky notes posted! It was nice to highlight what folks are doing out there in the world, and to visualize how active members of Good Shepherd are. It inspired conversations and led to some inquiries related to folks getting involved in community activities that are new to them. We later did a second "Sticky Note Project" to highlight activities that parishioners are engaged in which reflect care for creation.

On Sunday, April 23, we celebrated Earth Day with a special Creation Care liturgy, and audio-visual display at both services. We had a child-friendly "sermon," in which children participated. Several displays and activities were set up in the parish hall for all to enjoy and engage in; you could make a bird feeder, plant a flower, make art projects, and learn about water, composting, and pollinators. We even had earth-friendly healthy snacks. A BIG shout out (thank you!) to Susan Bailey, Ellen and Mike Blackburn, Jane Gregory, Maria & Will Luckman, Liz Peel, Donna White, and Celeste Parmley who worked together to make it a fun and educational event, which we hope to do again next year.

For six weeks during Eastertide, Mark Kelly and I led a Faith Forum discussion on "The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World," in which Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama shared their wisdom and insights into finding joy and happiness. It was an enjoyable and well attended series. Thank you, Mark! Then on May 3, over 30 parishioners got together in the parish hall for pizza and a viewing of the delightful film "Mission Joy" with Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama, to follow up on our book discussion. We also shared in "discussion and dessert".

This summer, a group of parishioners led by Susan Bailey further summarized and compiled the information we collected from Gathered and Gifted, and a general outline of Called to Transformation (C2T), the Asset Based Community Development model used in the Episcopal Church. Susan created a binder of the information and led the group forward with "Gifted and Going On," a gathering of those who were ready to lead and take action. Priorities were determined and 'next steps' were identified. A significant aspect of "Gifted and Going On" is that it is entirely lay led, which was a primary long-term goal when Gathered & Gifted" was initiated. Thank you, Susan, and your team, for your initiative!

For most of 2023, I continued as the Dean of Diaconal Formation for the Diocese. In this newly formed position, I identified the material which we would use in our formation program, curated largely from the Iona Collaborative of the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, TX. I participated in creating curriculum and assembled a small team to create a majority of the curriculum. I attended monthly meetings via Zoom with other Deans, and

a conference in Houston in August. I am passionate about diaconal formation and confident that God has called me to be a leader in the development and promotion of diaconal formation and growing the diaconate in Colorado. We currently have only about 21 active deacons. Nonetheless, for several reasons, I found it necessary to step away from the Dean position this fall. I continue to be active in the Association of Episcopal Deacons and the Diaconal Council in Colorado, and I will attend the Deacon Directors Conference in Tennessee in March 2024.

#### Additional Activities, roles, and responsibilities in 2023:

##### Good Shepherd/Outreach:

- Attended Outreach Committee meetings
- Serving on the Board of St. Clare's Ministry
- Coordinate volunteers from GS and ingathering for St. Clare's Ministry
- Provided hospitality at St. Clare's Ministry once each month with a group from Good Shepherd
- Worked closely with new Board Chair on MD performance review, interviewing, and hiring of new MD
- Assisted in planning and executing St. Clare's fundraiser
- Attended Good Shepherd Advocacy Group meetings
- Began attending monthly Centennial Faith Council meetings
- Developed working relationship with Arapaho County/Centennial Homeless Outreach Coordinator (Vanessa Gates), and made outreach visits with her.
- Worship and Liturgies:
  - Served as deacon at 104 services (includes all Holy Week)
  - Served at two funerals
- Attended two Vestry meetings

##### Diocesan Activities:

- Member Commission on Ministry (six meetings/year)
  - Serve as mentor for Anthony Suggs, Wendy McAllister, and Jamie Galbasini
- Member of the High Plains Executive Committee
  - attended bi-monthly meetings.
  - Member of HPEC Social Justice sub-committee
  - Helped facilitate HPR Small Church Gathering
  - Warden's Dinner at St. Gabe's
  - Attended Convocation
- HP Representative on Diaconal Council: serve as an advocate for the community of active, retired, and unassigned deacons including diaconal postulants, and for their diaconal ministries; function as a resource for our Bishop and staff, for all clergy and their parishes, and for all baptized persons who are interested in diaconal ministry.
  - Assisted in planning and executing annual Deacons' Retreat and Day with the Bishop
  - Participated/hosted "Exploring Your Vocation" event.
  - Participate in/facilitate quarterly Council meetings
  - Plan/participate in quarterly meeting with the bishop
  - Plan & co-facilitate Annual Deacons/Diaconal Postulant Retreat
- Member of the Board of Examining Chaplains, serving as liaison to two diaconal postulants
- Attended annual Clergy Gathering, and Diocesan Convention
- Dean of Diaconal Formation for the diocese.
- Attended Deacon Ordination
- Served as Deacon of the Table at the Cathedral for confirmation
- Served as Deacon at DOK All Saints' Day service
- Served as Deacon at Reception Service (w/the bishop) at St. Peter & St. Mary
- Served at Celebration of New Ministry for Terri Colburn (w/ the bishop) in Brighton.

##### Miscellaneous:

- Completed Sacred Ground in the Diocese of CO - A film-based dialogue series on race and faith.
- Participated in Kaleidoscope Training - 8 hours (per the bishop)
- Participated in DOK Study Group - 12 hours



It has been my pleasure to be your Senior Warden for the last two years. Having attended Good Shepherd for the last 38 years, this is a wonderful way to continue my ministry at Good Shepherd. As I said last year, this is a difficult report to write because there are so many Parishioners and Clergy at Good Shepherd that have made my position so much easier. We continue to recover from COVID, and we have had steady growth over the last year.

One of my joys for Good Shepherd is how we have done financially over the last two years. In 2022 we started the year with a \$40,000 deficit budget and we ended up the year with a balanced budget. In 2023 we started the year with a \$24,000 deficit budget and it appears we will be very close to a balanced budget for 2023. Our income has exceeded our budget each year and our expenses have been below budget each year through the support and work of our Parishioners and our Staff.

I am going to highlight several groups and activities in 2023, similar to last year and, as I said last year, I ask your forgiveness if I missed a group or activities you were involved in:

1. Our Rector – It has been my pleasure to work with Rev. Gary Brower this year, with our open communications, his encouragement, his positive attitude, and his leadership. He continues to do exceptional work in pastoral care and working with newcomers. His work with newcomers is one of the keys to Good Shepherd's growth in the last year.
2. Our Deacon – We have been blessed to have Rev. Nadine Pope continue her ministry at Good Shepherd in the last year. Her enthusiasm, energy, and personality continue to have a very positive influence on Good Shepherd. Her quiet ministry continues to influence several groups at Good Shepherd, especially the St. Clare's Ministry to serve a meal to the homeless and hungry in Denver.
3. Junior Warden Marge Pegula – I could not have asked for a more enthusiastic and dedicated person as Junior Warden than Marge Pegula. Marge is going to list many of the areas that she is involved in in her report, but I just want to say that it has been my pleasure to be Senior Warden with a very active Junior Warden.
4. The Good Shepherd Vestry – This group has continued to engage and manage the overall activities and affairs of Good Shepherd in a positive and uplifting way in our monthly meetings. I appreciate the dedication of this group to the benefit of Good Shepherd.
5. Building and Grounds – We have worked as a group to maintain the physical structure of Good Shepherd. We have done an outstanding job of moving water away from the building with the patio, the new sidewalk on the west side of the Church and the drains effectively moving water away from the building. We have one area left to work on by Father Gary's office on the outside of the building. This group, under the leadership of David McLaughry, filled the cracks in the parking lot and restriped the parking lot, adding more handicapped spaces and spaces for newcomers, and repaired leaks in the roof. Thank you to Rene Tschetter for her leadership and time and talents working in the yard.
6. Technology Task Force – over the last three years this group has improved the sound in the sanctuary and set the sanctuary up for live streaming services and events in the sanctuary. See the separate write-up for this group.
7. Stewardship Program - This group continues to work in a year-round Stewardship Program under the leadership of Anne McMahan and achieves wonderful results.
8. Outreach Committee – This group under the leadership of Shelley Hitt and a very active Committee has undertaken many projects you will read about in her report, and they are making a significant impact in the community.
9. Music program - Good Shepherd continues to have an outstanding program under the guidance of Connie Branton for three programs and under the guidance of Trish Hartman for the Bells program. Connie Branton coordinates the Choir, the Black Sheep, and the Uplifted (Contemporary Group) with assistance from Marge Pegula for this group. Connie Branton also does work with a Women's Choir and a Youth Choir. Trish Harman continues to work with our excellent Bells Choir Group.

10. Men's Group and Women's Groups – Our Men's Group under the leadership of Pete Roden, meet on a regular basis and do several events as he will document in his report. The women of Good Shepherd have continued to meet in the Monday Book Club and the Tuesday Faith Club on a regular basis throughout the year.
11. Our Finance Committee led by Amy McLaughry meets monthly to monitor our finances and have been very effective in 2023.
12. Good Shepherd has continued our support of the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado and the High Plains Region. For the third year in a row, Good Shepherd had paid our mandatory 10% pledge to the Diocese and has contributed 2% of our plate and pledge to the High Plains Region.
13. A special thank you to our Parish Administrator Kathy Hunter, who continues to respond to every request in a cheerful and dedicated manner. She has also coordinated the use of our building with numerous individuals and organizations. These individuals and organizations do provide some additional revenue for Good Shepherd, but our primary focus is to make Good Shepherd a central meeting location for organizations and individuals in our community.

A final thank you to all the groups that make our Church services so enjoyable on Sunday mornings. This includes the Altar Guild, the Ushers, the Greeters, the Eucharistic Ministers, the Lay Readers, our Music groups, and our Coffee Hour volunteers.

I know I have missed some individuals and organizations that have made Good Shepherd such a special place and running so smoothly during this year. A heartfelt thank you to all the individuals and organizations that serve our Church.

This was a somewhat difficult year for me personally as I lost my son in March and almost lost my wife in September. One of the supporting groups during these times for me personally, was my Good Shepherd family with their Prayers and their verbal and written support. I just want to say thank you for all your support through these events.



2023 has been a very busy year for me. Unfortunately, I missed the Vestry Retreat in February because I was in the hospital. Nonetheless, once I was back on my feet, I began to ease my way into the role of Jr. Warden.

**Accomplishments:**

- \* Attended the Warden's Dinner at St. Gabriels
- \* Organized the Newcomers Brunch
- \* Initiated the Bread for Visitors Ministry
- \* Organized the Summer Solstice Sing-a-Long (A family-oriented event)
- \* Became Assistant Music Director for Uplifted
- \* Operated the cameras once the A/V equipment was installed.
  - \*\* Developed the protocols for camera operation and trained two volunteers to continue camera operations
  - \*\* Assisted in the first Live-Stream Broadcast (A funeral Service for Reid Osborne)
- \* Created the Disaster Preparedness Ministry
  - \*\* Initiated and completed the First Church Inventory (with the help of volunteers)
  - \*\* Contacted the Church Insurance Group who sent a representative to conduct a risk assessment and reduce our annual insurance premium
  - \*\* Wrote the Policies and Procedures for viewing the Security Cameras
  - \*\* Part of the team that created a Disaster preparedness Plan for Good Shepherd
- \* Organized the Winter Solstice Carol Sing (A family-oriented Event)
- \* I am a member of several other ministries: Altar Guild, Building and Grounds, Technology Task Force, Music, Lector, Lay Eucharistic Minister

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF COLORADO



The Episcopal Church in Colorado – 2023 Annual Report  
(Why we support – We made our 10% Mandatory Pledge in 2023)

Good Shepherd made our mandatory 10% pledge to the Diocese for the third straight year in 2023. 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 serves as the Chancellor (Chief Lawyer) for the Episcopal Church of Colorado.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN  
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 a little over 8.6% of their Plate and Pledge income to the Diocese.

### 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 High Plains 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 currently pays the mandatory pledge of 15% to the National Church.
  - 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 – the 2024 Diocesan Convention will be held in person in Ft. Collins the first or second week of October.
5. Communications — Weekly Diocesan Digest/ Semimonthly Leadership Guide
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 Young Episcopalians in Service (YES) Program
8. Congregational Development
  - a. Deployment of Priests and Deacons
  - b. Planting new Churches/ Support for existing Churches.
  - c. Offering classes at Cathedral Ridge – in 2023 they offered retreats for 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 nine 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 \$6,600,000 Endowment of the Episcopal Church in Colorado, manages \$36,000,000 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. (Organization discontinued in late 2023)
  - d. St. Clare’s Ministry – serves free dinner each Tuesday to 80 - 120 people.
  - e. Golden Community Commons – purchased of an Armory in Golden for use by businesses and the Golden community.
  - f. The 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Jubilee Center – Serves the Northwest Denver Community
  - g. St. Benedict Health & Healing Ministry – located at the Sister Carmen Community Center In Lafayette, 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, completely paid for with national, state, and local funding.

Obviously, we have missed some of the responsibilities and services of the Office of the Bishop for the Episcopal Church in Colorado, but hopefully this will provide you some information on our connection with the Episcopal Church in Colorado and why we pay our assessment. Questions? Ask Jim Wolfe (303-791-2613) or email him at: [jimwolfe05@comcast.net](mailto:jimwolfe05@comcast.net).



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 contributes 2%). The Region coordinates our annual Confirmation, a luncheon for Church Administrators, and several Clericus meetings (gathering of all the ordained Clergy in the region) in addition to the regular meetings of the High Plains Executive Committee. Good Shepherd currently has three Good Shepherd members on the Executive Committee, Deacon Nadine Pope, Shelley Hitt, and Jim Wolfe. Please take the time to read through the Churches and Outreach that we are supporting, 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 2023. The Region has an Administrator, that is paid, and all other members of the Executive Committee (10) donate their time, we estimate that for each dollar collected \$.90 goes directly to Grants, Outreach and Programs.

	2023 (\$) Proposed Budget	2024 (\$) Proposed Budget
Income (Estimated)	146,537	150,000
Expenses		
Paid Administrator	18,000	18,000
Programs (Convocation, Clericus, Special Programs, Confirmation, Admin. Luncheon)	10,000	10,000
<u>Church Grants and Outreach</u>		
1. Prince of Peace, Sterling	6,000	6,000
2. Colorado Episcopal Service Corps.	20,000	
3. HAAT	11,500	10,000
4. St. Clare’s Ministries	9,000	10,000
5. Women’s Homeless Initiative (WHI)	12,000	7,500
6. Covenant Cupboard Food Pantry	5,000	
7. Backpack Ministry (2023), Christ Church, Castle Rock	5,000	5,000
8. St. Peter’s and St. Mary’s	13,750	3,500
9. Intersession, Thornton - Ministry	20,400	9,000
10. Cathedral Ridge – Youth Scholarships/ Summer Camp	8,400	17,000
11. YES (Young Episcopalians in Service)	7,200	6,000
12. St. Martin-in-the Fields	6,000	6,500
13. Christ Church, Denver; St. John’s Cathedral – “El Hogar”	2,500	
14. Creation Care Retreat – Cathedral Ridge	1,350	
15. Christ Church, Denver	5,000	
16. St. Thomas – Ghana Trip		2,500
17. St. Thomas/Good Shepherd – Front Range Events		1,500
18. St. Stephens – VBS		2,000
19. Peace in Christ, Elizabeth – Ministry		5,000
20. Sterling Ranch – Church Plant		25,000
Subtotal Church Grants and Outreach	133,100	116,500
Total Expenses	166,100 *	149,500

\*The Region will run a deficit budget for 2023 to reduce the surplus that the Region has accumulated.



## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

### PARISH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

**Kathy Hunter**



My 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary as your Parish Administrator was September 1, 2023, and it is still my joy to serve with and for this Parish, in a job that continues to feel like my calling. We continue to move forward from the pandemic years, and there is great hope for the future here at Good Shepherd. This year again brought some sad moments, losing several very dear parishioners. I also want to thank the parish for the love and support I received after my knee replacement surgery in September. There were a few unexpected challenges involved in my recovery, but I am very glad to be back in the office, and with a much stronger left knee. My daughter and family moved to South Carolina last

October, so I am dealing with the sadness of being without my family. I will be making a trip to see them in May. I am ever thankful to work in this Parish, and I appreciate your continued support, and the Christmas cards and gifts I received this year.

We have enjoyed a lot of new and wonderful events this year, and we are now working to livestream our services on Sunday mornings. This was a labor of love by many in the congregation. We now have two part-time staff members—Kolya Hein and Ashlynn Doidge—working in our new sound booth each Sunday. Kolya is our new Communications Director, and we are enjoying getting to know him. Our staff works very well together, and it has been a good year. Thanks to Fr. Gary, Deacon Nadine, Connie Branton, Sue LeFant, Amy McLaughry, and Marge Pegula for their support in 2023. It is a joy to work with all of you.

As always, I have enjoyed working with and supporting our Outreach and Missions Committee, now called our “Faith and Action Team (FIAT). Their dedicated work makes a big difference to our neighboring community. I am always impressed by the scope of their work and the passion they bring to outreach, and I enjoy supporting their efforts.

The list of community groups who use our building has changed a little for 2024. The Founders Home School group is no longer meeting here due to their dwindling family participation. Boy Scout Troup #634 now meets in our Parish Hall each Monday. The AA and SA 12-step groups continue to meet, and we have added an Al-Anon group once a week. We still have two violin teachers and a flute teacher using our building for lessons. We host monthly meetings of the Mount Rosa Chapter of the DAR, the South Suburban Music Teachers Association, an Alzheimer’s Caregiver Support Group, and the Columbine Genealogy and Historical Society. The AARP Denver Chapter that was meeting here has disbanded. All our ministry groups are busy and meet both in person, and on Zoom as needed. Worship continues at 7:45 am on Sunday in the Chapel and via Zoom; followed by Faith Forum in person and via Zoom, and the 10:30 am Eucharist service in person in the Sanctuary, which we are working to livestream through our YouTube channel. It will also be advantageous to offer livestreaming for future memorial services and special occasions.

Church maintenance tasks continued as always in 2023, including keeping track of the annual inspection of fire alarms, fire extinguishers, sprinkler system, kitchen hood, grease traps, backflow devices, AED device checks, and basic building safety; pest control, heating and air conditioning maintenance, trash and

recycling pickup, communicating with our building cleaning crew, and overseeing building supplies and equipment. Our snow removal contractor continues to work hard to keep the parking lot safe and the sidewalks free of ice. I continue to order office supplies and oversee maintenance and supplies for the copier. We have again been able to keep expenses for supplies and postage below budget for 2023, which is always a good outcome.

Getting ready for Sunday worship is a key piece of my work each week – creating the service bulletin, the readings and announcements, and the Prayers of the People, and coordinating the service with other staff members. I also send service reminders each week via email for our Altar Guild Teams, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Vestry Person of the Day, Ushers, Greeters, and Coffee Hour hosts.

I am now working with those in our community in need of assistance who contact us for help. We provide King Soopers gifts cards each month that can be used for food, prescriptions, and fuel.

Communication is still such a key part of my ministry here at Good Shepherd. I encourage all of you to read your E-News each Thursday so that you are aware of all the things that are happening at Good Shepherd. This weekly email is our best way to communicate with you and to stay connected. However, do not hesitate to call me if you have a question about anything going on here at Good Shepherd.

You can also get information by going to our website, at: [www.gshep.org](http://www.gshep.org). We continue to use many tools to inform the parish, advertise classes and events, invite new parishioners, and encourage participation at Good Shepherd. Also, if any of your contact information has changed (address, email address, phone numbers), please let the office know. You can email these changes directly to me at: [khunter@gshep.org](mailto:khunter@gshep.org).

We continue to have many new visitors and new members who have joined the Parish and are participating in worship and programs, and I am anxious to have an organized program to welcome them to Good Shepherd.

I am thankful to all of our ministry leaders and staff members for their support and encouragement each year, with a special thank you again to Senior Warden, Jim Wolfe, who has worked closely with me these last two years, and who gives new meaning to “dedication” to his church. He has worked very hard for this Parish. And, I am especially thankful for Fr. Gary Brower’s support and encouragement. He is a joy to work for here at Good Shepherd.

If you need to come by the church for any reason, be sure to call the office. I am here most days, and welcome calls, visits, and questions.

I wish you all a Happy and Blessed New Year in 2024!



The Building and Grounds Committee accomplished several major projects in 2023. This Committee is led by Coordinator David McLaughry, and also includes Rev. Gary Brower, Dave Hill, Whit Hill, Kathy Hunter, David Matthews, Marge Pegula, Pete Roden, Renee Tschetter, Curt Watson, and Jim Wolfe.

Significant Projects in 2023

- Crack seal and striping parking lot..\$5150
- Replace two Emergency lights .....\$881
- Repair two flat roof leaks .....\$2300
- Total .....\$8331

These expenses were included in the Building Operations budget.

Significant Projects for 2024

- 1) Two roof repairs in 2024 (already approved) .....\$2900
- 2) HVAC repair or replacements?
- 3) Heavy rainstorms continue to challenge our drainage system on the north side of the building. We are planning to re-grade part of that area to improve drainage away from the building and protect the integrity of the foundation.
- 4) We are investigating the feasibility of adding rooftop solar to offset our electricity use. Incentives and financing are available through the state which, according to preliminary estimates, would make the installation cash flow-neutral initially, becoming cash flow-positive as the cost of electricity increases, while the loan payment remains fixed.
- 5) We hold two special workdays at the church in the spring and fall to maintain our building (inside and out) in excellent condition. We are adding a third this year, as we have separated the spring workdays into Indoor (Saturday, March 23) and Outdoor (Saturday, April 27, weather permitting) events. Both are scheduled from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm, and lunch will be provided.
- 6) We also have a dedicated group of men and women that maintain the yard with cutting and trimming throughout the summer as volunteers and save us \$20,000 to \$30,000 in labor costs.
- 7) Finally, special thanks to Renee Tschetter for her continued work in the gardens and grounds to keep the outside of our building looking great.

We do have a wish list for your time, talent, and treasure:

- 1) A new electronic sign out front
- 2) New members for our grass cutting team
- 3) Volunteers for our spring and fall workdays



Since joining staff as Communications Director last fall, I've made dedicated efforts to learn about the people and culture of Good Shepherd and to enhance our communication strategies.

### **Live-Streaming Success and Challenges:**

The primary communication focus revolved around implementing live-streaming for our Sunday services. This has been conveyed as a high priority, and it's important to honor the substantial financial and personal effort that has been applied to this project so far. Despite encountering challenges, it's crucial to continue to refine our approach and process, and

as we do, it becomes more clear that everyone's prior efforts here will be worth it. Our collective work bore fruit during the successful live-streaming of the Christmas Eve service, which allowed us to share our service with those at home and out of state. Since then, we've continued to identify issues and have been in contact with Equalized Productions, our A/V partner, who will be on-site at the end of the month to address any remaining concerns. This has been a journey, but I strongly believe we are near the end and want to commend all the staff and volunteers who have contributed so much to this project.

### **Exploring New Communication Approaches:**

My secondary focus since arriving has centered on cleaning out outdated communication methods (including over 4,000 unread emails in the Good Shepherd communications inbox!) and brainstorming new approaches, reflecting on past and current practices and exploring avenues for the most effective communication for our church community.

Moving forward into 2024, the major communications focus will be on the following:

***The Good Shepherd website.*** Significant work has been done to launch a cleaner, more modern, and easier to navigate version of our website. Our focus is two-fold: having practical usability while ensuring that our digital presence reflects the warmth and inclusivity of our congregation. In my research, I've found that church websites are visited for the following reasons:

1. Interest: Potential new attendees who are trying to determine the nature of Good Shepherd.
2. Worship: Congregants that missed a service or event and want to participate remotely.
3. Process: Members looking for practical resources, such as documentation, scheduling information, or photographs.

Our new design strives to honor all three of these rolls. Father Gary and I are meeting this week to review any final changes, and you can expect to see a revamped website launch in February. As with all communication efforts, this should reflect the needs of the community and be flexible in its approach, so please don't hesitate to weigh in with suggestions or concerns once the new site arrives.

***Graphic Design Availability.*** Good Shepherd has many wonderful programs, and we've found that posters and graphics are an inexpensive and effective tool to communicate with the congregation at large. The process to make these materials is rather quick, so communicating the ease and availability of this communication option to the larger church body will be vital in our 2024 communications strategy.

***Streamlining Existing Social Media.*** With the imminent revamp of the website, we will be rebranding our other online presences to better interface together - the specific immediate focus being on Facebook and the YouTube channel. The timing of this work is intentional, as we prepare for Father Gary's upcoming sabbatical, and we want to have those resources completely autonomous in time for his departure.

***The Sheepskin.*** This is in very early stages, but we are looking to bring back the bi-monthly newsletter for 2024.

Moving forward, my hope and expectation is that the unseen foundational work for our communications strategy will display strong, visible yields that reflect the vibrant spirit of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church. I'm optimistic for the future, and want to say thank you for your continued support and participation in our shared journey.



At the request of the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado, Bishop Kym Lucas encouraged each parish in the diocese to “develop a Resilience & Preparedness Plan appropriate for their congregation and ministries.” As a result, the GSC Emergency

Preparedness Committee was formed, and we divided this work into two phases. The first phase was the development of an Emergency Response Plan, which is focused on prevention and immediate response to medical emergencies, fire and hazardous materials incidents, weather related hazards, and human caused threats. The 2024 draft of this plan is close to completion and will be available to the parish after approval by the Vestry. The second phase is to develop a Disaster Preparedness Plan which will develop policies and procedures to ensure that records are protected and essential services and programs can continue in the event of a catastrophic incident that resulted in prolonged or permanent absence from the current building. The work relating to these phases and their respective implementation is significant and will continue well into the coming year.

Good Shepherd’s Preparedness Committee consists of Pete Roden, Marge Pegula, and Mary Ann Panarelli. A special thank you to Pam Dominguez who worked with the committee for several months before having to step down. To develop this plan the committee reviewed preparedness plans from other Colorado churches, attended the Safety in Faith Summit hosted by the Arapaho Sheriff’s office, met with the regional representative from The Church Insurance Company (which provides property and liability insurance for Good Shepherd), and met with J. D. Knight, Community Resources Officer, Arapaho County Sheriff’s Office.

The following are brief highlights of the goals and some of the progress made to date associated with these within the draft plan:

Emergency Response Plan – To ensure the health and safety of all members of Good Shepherd; while at church, and on group outings.

- A. An AED device is located outside the sanctuary door; First Aid kits, including Narcan, and Stop the Bleed kits are located outside the sanctuary, in the kitchen, in the nursery, and downstairs.
- B. Cell phones are in abundance in the sanctuary during services, should a ‘911’ call be necessary. Police and rescue have indicated they can respond within four minutes of a 911 call. Walkie talkies will be purchased to communicate with the nursery and downstairs children’s areas in the event of an emergency.
- C. Initial interest in participating on a Church Safety Team was solicited at the Ministry Fair (additional volunteers will be needed).
- D. Training opportunities in emergency response are being identified and will be available to members of the Church Safety Team, staff, ushers and greeters, and open to other interested members of Good Shepherd.
- E. A vulnerability (to human caused threats) assessment was completed by the Arapaho Sheriff’s Office and short and long-term plans are being developed to address identified areas of concern. The 2024 budget includes \$1,000 to fund purchase of additional locks, walkie talkies and other recommended improvements. The sheriff’s office complimented the Good Shepherd camera surveillance system’s quality, design, and layout.

Disaster Preparedness Plan – To protect and preserve our church building, grounds and valuables.

- A. Good Shepherd is covered by the Diocese's insurance policy, and the contact information is in the Preparedness Plan.
- B. Good Shepherd has contracts for fire monitoring and inspection of AED, fire extinguishers and alarms, and internet server maintenance (including key financial records). The Disaster Plan committee will focus on these plans in greater detail.
- C. A Knox Box containing a master key is available on the outside of the building to allow police and fire/rescue access in an emergency.
- D. A written inventory and video have been made of the equipment and furnishings in Good Shepherd and is stored on a thumb drive off-site. This will provide adequate verification for insurance purposes.
- E. The Building and Grounds Committee has worked diligently to address drainage issues, to update heating and cooling systems, and to ensure maintenance of the roof, lighting, and grounds, which reduces the risk of fire and flood damage.

Thank you to the Emergency Preparedness Committee for your dedication to this project. We're off to a solid start, and look forward to working with all members of the congregation to fully implement this plan, in order to keep us all safe and able to continue to worship together.



The Finance Committee is made up of the Financial Administrator, who takes care of the day-to-day financial aspects of the church; the Treasurer, Father Gary Brower, the Senior Warden, and other parishioners who are interested in helping. The committee reviews the financials of the church on a monthly basis as well as any major projects of the church, including the capital campaign to improve our sound system, as well as those items that require cash to maintain the grounds and the building that are not in the operating budget. The Finance Committee is also responsible for supporting Father Gary Brower and the Treasurer in reporting the financial position of the church to the Vestry and keeping them apprised of any financial issues that have arisen during the prior month.

The church was able to maintain a healthy cash balance and still completed several crucial projects during the year to maintain the building. We ended the year with a positive operating budget, despite projecting a deficit operating budget for the year and losing some major donors in 2023.

We are required by the Diocese of Colorado to conduct an annual audit of the books and records of Good Shepherd. The audit was completed in August of 2023 and there were no major areas of concern.

We would like to thank the members of the Finance Committee; Becky Beall-Moore, Andy Folkerth, Jim Wolfe, Fred Hirst and Joe Namaksy, for their assistance in helping Good Shepherd through another successful financial year. The Treasurer, Amy McLaughry, took over the financial administrative duties of the church with the departure of prior staff. We appreciate the guidance of Father Gary Brower, as he has assisted the Finance Committee this year. Your insight and guidance has been greatly appreciated.

**GROCERY CARD PROGRAM**

**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. We currently have 77 households at Good Shepherd who have signed up for this program. If you have not yet 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 in the Parish Hall, or contact Kathy Hunter in the office, and she will email them to you. If all families at Good Shepherd were enrolled in this program, it would be a significant annual income to the church. Since we all have to shop for groceries, this is a very simple way to help the church and, again, it does not cost us any extra money. If you have any questions about this program, contact Kathy Hunter at: [khunter@gshep.org](mailto:khunter@gshep.org). **This program is a WIN-WIN for everyone, so please join!**

We also have reloadable cards from Safeway, which you can pick up from me in the office. The trick is that you cannot let the reloadable card balance go to zero, as it is then unloadable. We do receive a quarterly percentage donation from Safeway, so if you are a Safeway shopper, please pick up a card.



## LANDSCAPING & GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

Renee Tschetter

### Spring 2023

- Sprinkler system mainline water supply turned on for the season by Brian Supala. All coverage checked and heads adjusted as necessary.
- Core aeration of entire lawn and over seeding done to fill weak grass areas.
- Repair edging and backfill of soil to front rock/grass area.
- First of four Fit Turf lawn fertilization and weed control program applications begins.
- Choke cherry trees (2) by shed are pruned professionally.
- Spring cleanup of gardens, lawn, parking lot and perimeter.
- Flowers planted in garden by front door.



### Summer 2023

- Sprinkler heads all relocated further away from building in front garden to further mitigate any possible moisture issues near building.
- Deeper trenching and rock work done in both front garden areas to help water run-off from storms.
- Gutters cleaned out and drain spouts cleared by members of Men's Group and Building and Grounds Committee to improve storm run-off.
- Weekly mowing by the GS volunteer mowing crew. Great job!

### Fall 2023

- Sprinkler system turned off and winterized by Brian Supala.
- No 'Fall Clean-up Day' of the grounds necessary this year other than regular maintenance
- All perennials trimmed down.

### Winter 2023

- Had professional lawn service do a final mowing, leaf and pine needle cleanup on December 1.
- Will arrange continued service for fertilization and weed control to begin Spring 2024.

### Goals for 2024 Growing Season

- Address further mitigation of water/flooding at entrance of building which may include re-do of the entrance garden
- Remove a few dead shrubs around perimeter of parking lot that don't get enough water
- Maintenance of gardens, lawn, islands, and sprinklers as necessary



After the adoption of the Article 7 revision of our Church's By-laws during the 2023 Annual Meeting, the year was used to focus on the Church's Endowment Policy. We refined our Good Shepherd Episcopal Church's guiding document concerning the acceptance of gifts and bequests intended to provide for the future of our church. That document was first adopted in 2006 and has now been updated to clarify types and acceptability of gifts and Endowment Fund practices. It awaits finalization by the Legacy Society's Board of Officers before submittal to the Vestry. With the expected completion of the work on the legal aspects of the Endowment Policy in the next few months, we hope to initiate other actions to help communicate the Fund's purpose and practices, and thereby enhance its growth.

The Endowment Fund currently has an accumulated a total of \$94,524. The Fund generated a new return of 5.46 percent in 2023.

Our Board of Officers met regularly through the first half of the year to address various agenda items but slowed down in the second half, mainly due to health issues. A number of board vacancies will be addressed in the next few months. Interested parishioners are asked to contact Jim Wolfe, or any of the current slate of officers to obtain further information.

#### Legacy Society Board of Officers

Kees Corssmit, [Chair/cwcorssmit@gmail.com](mailto:cwcorssmit@gmail.com) 303-638-7216

Keith Anderson / [keith\\_jody98@q.com](mailto:keith_jody98@q.com)

Andy Folkerth / [aafolkerth@hollandhart.com](mailto:aafolkerth@hollandhart.com)>

Randy Hubbard / [randyhub22@gmail.com](mailto:randyhub22@gmail.com)

Amy McLaughry / [ADMcLaughry@aol.com](mailto:ADMcLaughry@aol.com) (temporary)



This is a story of remarkable work done by many Good Shepherd parishioners over three years to improve the sound in the Sanctuary and bring the capability of livestreaming services in the Sanctuary to Good Shepherd.

In early 2021 Good Shepherd formed a Technical Task Force to look at improving the sound system in the Good Shepherd sanctuary and livestreaming events (including worship services) in the sanctuary. This group included DeeDee Atwood, Karin Elsen, Christina Blackburn, and Whitney Hill. They issued a report of their work dated September 21, 2021. They estimated a cost for this work of \$72,484 and a recommendation to use Equalized Production for the technical work. This work and the report laid the groundwork for moving forward on this project.

Good Shepherd formed a new Technology Task Force (TTF) in February of 2022, to follow through on the recommendations by the 2021 TTF. The first meeting for the TTF was held on February 22, 2022, and the original members were Jim Wolfe, Chair; Sara Ball, Doug Haynes, Whitney Hill, Bruce Oxenbury, Curt Watson, and Ken White. The TTF, after some discussion, elected to continue to work with Equalized Productions as our technical consultant and contractor. The TTF divided the Project into two separate projects:

1. Control Booth and upgrade the sound system - \$45,000.
2. Future – Livestreaming - \$35,000.

The Good Shepherd Vestry approved this project on June 21, 2022, and authorized a Capital Campaign to raise \$45,000. This Capital Campaign took place in July of 2022 and raised \$55,802 for the project from 65 pledges. Several individuals shared that they would contribute if a second Capital Campaign was necessary.

With the money raised, the TTF continued to meet and move forward with Phase 1 of the project. This project was divided into two separate projects—the control booth, and the upgraded sound system. The estimates for these two parts were:

- |                                       |                              |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Control Booth - \$4,000 to \$5,000 | Actual final cost - \$5,490  |
| 2. Sound system - \$45,00 to \$50,000 | Actual final cost - \$48,187 |

It is important to remember that the control booth and the wiring for the upgraded sound system would also be used for livestreaming and therefore the livestreaming cost would be less. The TTF Committee lost some people during Phase 1, and we added several people, including J.C. Campos, Marge Pegula, Steve Cearley (Consultant), and Rev. Gary Brower attended several of our meetings. As we were working on the project, Ken White attended a performance at Wellshire Presbyterian Church. He asked the technology person, Steve Cearley, for a tour of their technology system. Steve then became our consultant with knowledge of the technology we were using on our projects.

In the final costs for the two initial projects, it is important to remember two facts. As for the cost of the control booth, most of this work was done by a team of Parishioners consisting of Whitney Hill, Ken White, David McLaughry, Curt Watson, and Pete Roden. If we had this work done with contractors, it would have cost two to three times as much. For the sound system, the contract cost for technical equipment from Equalized Production was \$33,274. The team of parishioners mentioned above did a lot of support work for the sound system installation.



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

### 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.”*

The Angels of the Altar Guild have worked diligently in 2023, continuing to enrich our weekly Sunday services by preparation of the Chapel and the Sanctuary, arranging flowers for the Altar, providing bread for the Eucharist, changing over between services, cleaning up after, and caring for our linens and utensils. We had a number of funerals early in the year, and while we are blessed to be able to provide comfort and assistance to families as they grieve their loss and say goodbye to loved ones, we were happy to have had a healthier congregation and not be as needed later. We inventoried the Sacristy and our storage area in the tunnel, found a few things we didn’t know we had and hadn’t been using regularly, and are blessed to have such wonderful resources at our disposal to use to enrich and beautify the worship of all at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church. We continue to have a monthly rotation of four teams to set up on Saturday, and members serve for about a half-hour before and after each Sunday service. This helps lighten the workload on all our members and keep our work fresh and fun.



With God’s help, we are able to provide support to our church, our clergy and our congregation, as well as to each other, for both our worship and personal lives. The joint membership of the Altar Guild gathered three times this year for fellowship, food, fun and learning, and to catch up with each other since we all attend and serve at different times on different weeks as well as being involved in other ministries, both in and out of service, that often command our time when we are here on Sundays. We enjoyed our regular pre-Christmas and pre-Easter potluck brunches and fellowship, using the time together to plan for the additional upcoming celebrations. We plan and put special effort and care into beautifying Good Shepherd and the Sanctuary for these two great celebrations and all the AG Angels work together to assist as able with the extra hours of service and additional duties involved. We added a third gathering this year, a coffee/tea held at the end of the summer to allow us to catch up on each other's summer activities and to begin our planning for the resumption of our regular two service schedule following the less intensive Summer season.



In addition to our twelve team members, we have one special talented member who arranges and places the altar and pulpit flowers each week and gathers and arranges our poinsettias at Christmas and the beautiful flowers to grace the Altar of Repose and Lilies at the end of Lent and for Easter, as well as another who bakes to assist us in keeping bread for Eucharist each week. We would like to recruit new AG members to join us in our service to Good Shepherd. Our Spring (pre-Easter) brunch is scheduled for Saturday, March 9 at 10:00 am. It is a potluck and anyone who is interested in joining us is welcome to come, get to know us better, and learn a bit more about what goes into the services we offer. Any Altar Guild member, on the teams listed in each Sunday’s bulletin, will be happy to talk with you about our service.

## FLOWER MINISTRY

Lori DeLue



Using God's blooms to show our love and appreciation is a joyful gift. Throughout the year the flower team created arrangements for various celebrations and memorials each Sunday. This year, as in years past, the team includes Jody Anderson and Sue Mackenzie. The altar guild helped set and arrange the Holy Week and Easter altar gardens with potted plants and flowers. Special thanks to Irma Princic, Rachel and Rebekkah Anderson, and my husband John for poinsettia help for Christmas and Christmas Eve.

If you want to remember or celebrate anyone or any occasion, please consider giving \$45.00 to beautify the altar, or you may bring your own arrangement, the sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hallway next to the front doors.

This wonderful ministry blesses us in so many ways! Won't you join us! Please consider joining the Flower ministry, contact me if you are interested (303-870-3773 or at: [lldelue@gmail.com](mailto:lldelue@gmail.com)).

## HAND BELL CHOIR

Tricia Hartman



The handbell choir continues to ring monthly at the 10:30 am service from October through May. We are always looking for new ringers to join us. We practice on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm in the Chapel.

Please contact Tricia Hartman at 720-810-0850 or [hartmanpe@me.com](mailto:hartmanpe@me.com) if you would like 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 consists of Elaine Oxenbury and Christina Blackburn. We served multiple congregation members within the ministry on the third Sundays at both services for 2023. This ministry welcomes new members, and we will provide training. Contact Christina Blackburn at: [ChristinaL.blackburn@gmail.com](mailto:ChristinaL.blackburn@gmail.com).



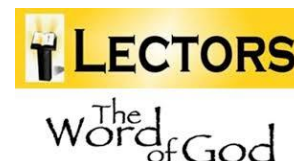
## LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS (LEMs) AND LECTORS

Arden Larsen



We have 25 individuals serving as Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, or both. Eucharistic Ministers distribute wine at the 7:45 and 10:30 am services. Lectors read the lessons, psalm, and prayers of the people. Our worship is greatly enriched by their contribution. Thank you all for your generous gift of time and service.

We welcome all who may wish to join this ministry. We are especially in need of Eucharistic Ministers at this time. Please contact me if you have an interest and we can arrange instruction and training.



## MUSIC DIRECTOR REPORT

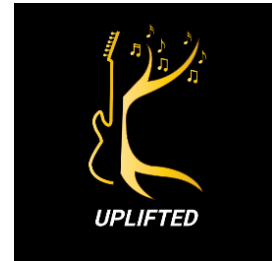
Constance C. Branton



The Good Shepherd Choir continues to be a dedicated group of singers who enjoy being together and sharing music with the congregation. The choir provides leadership for the congregation three Sundays per month during the school year and one Sunday per month during the summer months. The choir also sings for special services during the year such as Christmas Eve, Maundy Thursday, and for two services on Easter Sunday. The choir also was the central group for the “Advent Choral Extravaganza” which featured all the choirs of Good Shepherd, including a children’s choir, on Sunday,

December 3, 2023. This was very well supported by the congregation and received many lovely accolades.

Connie Branton took over the direction of the “Uplifted” Praise Group several month ago. The group has grown to include as many as eight members and provides music for three Sundays per month, the second Sunday of each month as the only choir, and two other Sundays per month as part of a blended music service. Uplifted also did a sing-a-long in the summer and one on the Winter solstice, and was the choir for the Easter Vigil. The group provides music when the Good Shepherd Choir is not available, such as during vacation times. Marge Pegula continues to do dedicated and amazing work as the assistant director—choosing music, providing copies of music for all of the singers, and doing the email communication with the group.



As organist, I continue to provide music for all services at Good Shepherd, including funerals. I play every Sunday during the school year for services at 7:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. I also play for any extra services, i.e. Ash Wednesday, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and Holy Week Services.



As music director, I plan and choose anthems for three choirs-- Good Shepherd Choir, Uplifted and Black Sheep Men’s Chorus. I also recommend hymns and service music to Father Gary Brower for his final choices of this music.

I am grateful to the many singers and other musicians in the church who donate so much of their time and talent to bring quality music to the congregation of Good Shepherd.

We have welcomed several new members in each choir and certainly hope to continue our ministry of quality music for the congregation of Good Shepherd Church.

As pianist/organist, Connie continues to provide music for the congregations at both the 7:45 a.m. service and the 10:30 service. In addition, she plays for many extra worship experiences such as Ash Wednesday, Christmas Eve, and Holy Week, and also funeral services.

In November, Connie was appointed as Director of the Black Sheep Men’s Choir. The group began rehearsals on three Sundays in January 2023, following the 10:30 am. services. We plan to sing for the Bishop’s visit on Sunday, February 5. The group is re-inventing itself and hopefully recruiting several new male singers, which should add to the health and longevity of the music department of Good Shepherd.

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT FOR 2023/2024

“Building Relationships through Christ, Church & Community”

Anne McMahon



“Building Relationships” was again the core theme for our general operating fundraising campaign. The Parish membership has again stepped up to make this a successful fundraising activity.

Here are the highlights:

**\$ 472,736 in funds raised (out of our goal of \$475,000) – 99.5% of goal**

\$ Average gift by members: \$3,476

Total Members replying: 149 for 90% response rate – Historic high %

    Gifting: 138 for 83%

    Cannot Pledge at this time: 11

    Plate donation only: 4

    No reply: 13 (health issues or just no reply)

    Moved away: 6

    Have left Good Shepherd: 8

    New Parishioners: 13

    Deceased: 2

Gratitude was an underlying message this year, and we are so grateful to the entire membership for their extraordinary participation this year. We achieved an historic high of 90% participation this year.

### **The 2023/24 Campaign Team this year were the following:**

Chairperson: Anne McMahon

Team Members: Nan Behringer, Andy Folkerth, Lori Delue, Joyce Manning, and Dennis Phillips.

Ambassadors this year: 25 members.

Prayer Team grew to 30 members.

Special thanks to our previous Communications Manager Natalie Ryan, stalwart super-woman Kathy Hunter, creative force-of-nature Marge Pegula, and Care Team speaker Karin Elsen. And, of course, we couldn't have done it without the inspirational sermons by Father Gary. We are grateful to all who helped and participated.



## USHERS

Chuck and Sue Kelley

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 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 a.m. service, one usher and one greeter will 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.



We currently have about five volunteers for the 7:45 a.m. service and 13 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, 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 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**

**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 when there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, on Christmas Day and Easter Sunday, regardless of all other holidays or school breaks. Both the *Godly Play* program and the one created by the Rev. Merrie Need 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 2nd grade. Susie Street, Kaitlyn Bridgers, Kellee Jentz, Donna White, Natasha Roth, Matt Bates and myself are privileged to be with your kids in the *Godly Play* room. Our second Sunday school class is for

our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. The lessons are taught by the Rev. Merrie Need, Donna White or myself, and Amy McLaughry is our faithful helper.

It has been exciting to have numerous families visit us downstairs and join our church family. We offered many programs/events, including our Communion instruction class, Palm Sunday Liturgy, Easter Egg Hunt, All Church Picnic, Advent Liturgy and Family services. Anna Branton brought back a children’s choir and they sang at the Advent Choral Extravaganza on Sunday, December 5.

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.

Natasha Roth, Molly and Matt Bates, Pam and Dave Dominguez, Donna White (and our former caregiver Maddie McGrath) cared for our littlest ones over the year.

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!





After a major reorganizing of the library collection in 2022, the library was kept tidy and organized in 2023. Weeding of the collection was done to ensure it is current. A “Love Our Library” event was held in February to reacquaint parishioners with the library. Numerous donations were made to the library throughout the year and have been integrated into the collection. Guides remain posted that explain how items are arranged. All are welcome to

borrow any of the items in the library and simply return them to the book cart when you are done for reshelving.

In 2024, we are planning to share a “wish list” of items for parishioners to consider donating to the library. The list is based on gaps we have found in the collection. If you have questions about the library, reach out to Celeste Parmley or Melissa Besfer.

**COFFEE HOUR**

**Liz Peel**

2023 was a busy year for our Coffee Hour Crews! As faith programs developed between services, we saw an increase in socialization and use of the coffee hour services. We also had an increase in the number of parishioners who stay after services to chat and visit with each other—what a wonderful sign of growth!



Our host/hostess crew saw some change this year: We lost **Mark Kelly**, who moved away, but we welcomed **Jody Anderson**, who has been a great addition to our ministry. Thank you to the **Men’s Group** for handling early service set-up and hosting, to **Marilyn Taylor, Kathy Alfeld**, our **Senior Singles, Elaine Farrell (and her sons)**, and **Liz Peel** who hostess and do clean-up for the second service. **Jennifer Spahr** continues as head of the kitchen and is a joy to work with—thank you, Jennifer!

As always, we would love to have even more people join our 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! **Liz Peel** is the contact person for second service. Ideally, we would love to have crews host every other month or have a list of substitutes/alternates to fill in as needed.

There is absolutely **NO** kitchen experience needed to join our ministry—we will show you the ropes and have you work with another team! Please do consider joining us—this is a great service opportunity for families!

If being a host is not for you, please do 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 time and efforts are greatly appreciated!



Members: Carol Andrews; Rev. Gary Brower; Nan Behringer; Greg Bell (until September 2023); Rev. Sandy Boyd; Karin Elsen; Duanne Namaksy; Tom Price; and Sandi Castro-Price.

Good Shepherd’s Congregational Care Ministry (CCM) accomplished the following in 2023:

- We assembled more resources for older adults which can be found here: [gshep.org/older-adult-resources](https://gshep.org/older-adult-resources). We continue to build relationships with local community groups and resources.
- In March, our lay Eucharistic Visitors, after completing training and licensing by the Diocese of Colorado, were commissioned by our Rector at both services. Good Shepherd’s Eucharistic Visitors are Nan Behringer, Karin Elsen, Duanne Namaksy, and Jim Wolfe.
- In 2023, Holy Communion was taken approximately 52 times to 20 parishioners who were homebound, ill, or otherwise could not physically attend the Sunday Eucharist service. Of these visits, approximately 32 were performed by lay Eucharistic Ministers. Our Ministers help clergy in providing timely visits when one is requested. To request a visit, please contact the church.
- In July, we hosted HomeWatch CareGivers for a presentation on caregiver burnout and hidden benefits to tap when needing care. This well-attended presentation was very informative. HomeWatch will return in 2024 to present another topic of interest.
- At the parish-wide Ministry Fair in September, CCM and Eucharistic Visitors participated by staffing tables and talking with people. Thanks to Duanne Namaksy and Karin Elsen for their engagement.
- An introductory video about Eucharistic Visits and Visitors was filmed in November and will be shared with the congregation in 2024.
- The Prayer Shawl Ministry completed shawls and lap rugs which are blessed on healing Sundays (the third Sunday) and made available to the entire congregation. Thanks to Carol Andrews for taking on this ministry.



- We continued our card writing ministry as a means of outreach to parishioners experiencing loss, illness, or separation. We also sent Christmas cards in December. Thanks to Sandi Price for her faithful card writing.

In 2024, Congregational Care Ministry will again host experts on wellbeing, safety, and aging concerns to share their knowledge with us. We will be providing information on fall detectors/alerts which will be helpful if you are looking to purchase one. Other ideas in the works are presentations on medical insurance, housing options and aging in place, and learning about The Pain and Prayer Project, a tool for pain management developed by an Episcopal priest who is also a medical doctor. Please let us know if you have any other suggestions or requests.

To contact this ministry, please call the church or send an email to: [congregationalcare@gshep.org](mailto:congregationalcare@gshep.org).

## THE ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Christina Blackburn



Good Shepherd's chapter for The Order of the Daughters of the King is now active. The chapter reconstituted with two new daughters, Nan Beringer and Sandy Castro-Price. We also had three active DOK members joining the chapter. We are still determining the best time to meet each month. We are looking for others to join the chapter and support each other in our call to Prayer and Service. If interested, please contact Christina Blackburn at: [ChristinaL.blackburn@gmail.com](mailto:ChristinaL.blackburn@gmail.com).

## 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. We are still in need of additional Greeters at both the 7:45 and 10:30 am services. This small group is doing their best in performing their duties and services to make everyone feel welcome. I would greatly appreciate your consideration for serving as a Greeter. With a few more volunteers, it would only require your services once or twice a month, and would also give you the opportunity to be reacquainted with fellow members and meet new parishioners. Please contact me at [joegavlick@hotmail.com](mailto:joegavlick@hotmail.com) if you have an interest or know of someone else who might have an interest.



## HOSPITALITY AND THE MARTHAS

Jennifer Spahr

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



We had a heavy workload this year covering nine funerals, and I would like to sincerely thank all who have volunteered to be part of this ministry and who supported these events in 2023 – your service was so appreciated by all of the families that we served. It was such a pleasure to get to know one another and work together during the following events:

### January

- Hospitality for the funeral of Pat McKeever
- Hospitality for the funeral of Jim Greathead
- Hospitality for the funeral of Nora Earnest
- Support for the brunch served at the Annual Meeting

### February

- Hospitality for the funeral of Rob Baumann

### April

- Hospitality for the funeral of Thomas Wolfe
- Hospitality for the funeral of Joan Swanson

### June

- Hospitality for the funeral of Sally Marfia

### August

- Hospitality for the funeral of Jeffrey Stephenson
- Hospitality for the funeral of Reed Osborne

I would like to particularly thank Cathy Conley and Renee Tschetter who stepped forward to lead several of the funeral receptions when I was out of town. The Martha's group really works so well as a team and I am so grateful to everyone.

We welcomed two new Martha's to our group this year and, if you would also 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](mailto:jennifer_spahr@yahoo.com) if you are interested in learning more.

## HUNGRY FLOCK

**Tricia Hartman**



Hungry Flock is Good Shepherd's monthly "supper club." We meet to share a meal and to get to know each other better. Everyone—singles and couples—is welcome, including significant others who do not attend Good Shepherd. We meet the second Saturday of the month from October through May. We meet in small groups at a designated host's home. The host provides the main dish and wine for the meal. Guests bring, at the host's choice, an appetizer, salad, vegetable, rolls, or dessert. Everyone hosts once during the year either at a month of your choice or in May when we all gather at the church. And we all meet at one home in December for appetizers and desserts.

We would love to have you join us. Please contact either Tricia Hartman at 720-810-0850 or [hartmanpe@me.com](mailto:hartmanpe@me.com) or Amy McLaughry at 303-907-7590 or [admclaughry@yahoo.com](mailto:admclaughry@yahoo.com). New members are always welcome.

## MEN'S GROUP

Pete Roden

The Good Shepherd Men's Group completed our 38th year of meeting in 2023! A remarkable accomplishment, and my sincere gratitude goes out to all of the men within the Men's Group who made it possible!



I'm happy for and proud of the group, as throughout the year we had 24 meetings, taking place twice a month on Saturday mornings. During the year all of our meetings were in person. We currently have approximately 39 members and average about 16 participants at our in-person meetings. During our meetings we provide a full breakfast (1<sup>st</sup> meeting) or a lighter fare (2<sup>nd</sup> meeting), fellowship, along with our prayers and the featured program. The Men's group is built on four principles: **Fellowship, Prayer, Study, and Service.**

Our group prays for our members in need and those who have passed, the Good Shepherd church family, our community, country and the world, any special requests, and the Episcopal Church. Through email and our group roster, we maintain the Prayer list and send prayer requests. We will lay hands on and pray for individuals and/or situations in our meetings as appropriate.

Our programs during any given year generally originate from the Serendipity Bible, Sunday scripture readings, special book reviews and other current day issues/topics. During 2023 with participation from men within the group volunteering to cover the topics, our study programs came from a number of book reviews which included:

“The Episcopal Handbook” by Tobias Stanislas Haller BSG  
“Meeting Jesus” by Leighton Ford – Life Guide Bible Studies

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

This year's guest speakers included two of our Men's Group participants, Curt Watson, providing us highlights of his and Melissa's travels – “Trip to the Holyland” taken in 2023 and Bob Truhlar, providing us with a Program on “Choices” along with another unique and thought-provoking Christmas Program! We thank them both for their willingness to share their highlights/insights and appreciated their efforts in pulling these together.

We also provide the group a listing of historical and upcoming service events. This past year we were able to resume and host the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (February 21<sup>st</sup>) and the All Men's Retreat – Lenten Retreat on Personal Forgiveness & Forgiveness of Others (March 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>). We're already planning for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper coming up in mid-February 2024!

During 2023 we continued our long-standing involvement in various service activities and Men's Ministries providing assistance with hosting the coffee hour between services (special thanks to Chip R., Mark K., Kip T., Jim W. for their participation and coordinating efforts), on-going lawn care/maintenance/clean-up days and major maintenance/building/technical IT-related improvement projects (special thanks specifically to Whit Hill, David McLaughry, Curt Watson and Jim Wolfe for their lead roles in scheduling/coordinating these) taking place at various times during the year at GSC; hosting the GSC Annual Summer Picnic (with help and involvement from the Youth Group and the Sunday School Program, thank you!); volunteering to assist with set-up and take down for other various events within GSC.



## **MEN'S GROUP - continued**

The Men's Group also worked with St. Clare's Ministry at (St. Peter's and St. Mary's Church) feeding a meal and providing clothing to people in need. Special thanks to Deacon Nadine Pope, who leads/assists in keeping us informed and involved with this, along with several of our parishioners within the Outreach 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, program feedback/ideas, areas for service within the community for our consideration and overall support; to Kip Travis for his valued contribution in creating new/refreshing events and areas for service within the community for our consideration; to Curt Watson for his help/cooperation in a variety of areas; for all the men within our group who volunteer for the activities/events mentioned above including the set-up, service, program presentation and clean-up associated with our meetings; and, finally, thanks out to Jim Ball, Kip Travis, and John Michel for their continued assistance of reaching out reminding our members of upcoming meetings.

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 2024, when and where able, while building support within and for our group, other ministries, our parish, and the greater community.

I'm very fortunate, blessed and honored to have the opportunity of coordinating/leading our meetings for this long-standing group of men and appreciate all the cooperation and support they've provided during this past year 2023! God's Peace and Guidance as we continue our journey.

If you're interested in learning more about our group or considering becoming a member, please contact either Jim Wolfe [jimwolfe@comcast.net](mailto:jimwolfe@comcast.net) or Pete Roden [roden.pete@gmail.com](mailto:roden.pete@gmail.com). We look forward to talking with you.



The Good Shepherd “Ministry with Men” completed our first full year of activities in 2023!

Ministry with Men is new to Good Shepherd with the concept/idea taking place in mid-to-late 2022 and further evolving in 2023 to formulate the group’s current main principles built on: **Fellowship, Service Projects, and Small Group Meetings/Discussions, surrounding Faith Development, Education and Other Pertinent Areas (TBD).**

Our core group meetings in 2023 involved discussions surrounding the group’s formation and what we possibly wanted it to look like. Our primary goal was to obtain ideas and feedback of seeking opportunities for the men within GSC to increase their participation in church and the greater community, in addition to supporting their on-going Journey with Christ. We came up with the idea of providing men within GSC to participate in activities containing the principles mentioned above, and to include those who for whatever reason(s) were not inclined to be members of the existing GSC Men’s Group. Ministry with Men’s focus is to provide ministry opportunities for all men of Good Shepherd, and to encourage them to be more actively involved in the life of the parish. Our intent is not to compete or interfere with the existing GSC Men’s Group. We strongly support the Men’s Group and many of our members belong to this group as well.

In 2023 the group hosted a couple of fellowship events open to all GSC parishioners, their families and friends, which included a presentation from Curt Watson, a GSC parishioner, providing highlights of his and Melissa’s (spouse) travels – “Trip to the Holyland” (March 7<sup>th</sup>); and an opportunity to watch a NCAA “March Madness” Men’s Basketball Game Party (March 23<sup>rd</sup>) in the parish hall. Most recently the group hosted a well-attended Movie Night, considering the weather (January 11, 2024), where 27 parishioners enjoyed watching an exciting and uplifting movie “Gran Turismo.” We look forward to hosting similar or other fellowship events at GSC in the future!

A special thank you to Whit Hill, Kip Travis, Curt Watson, Andy Folkerth, JC Campos and Alberto Silva for their on-going contribution, cooperation, support, guidance, and volunteering efforts towards the evolving development of this group this past year.

Once again, I’m very fortunate and blessed to be a participant assisting in coordinating/leading meetings for this group of men for 2023! God’s Peace and Guidance as we continue our journey developing this group.

If you’re interested in learning more about our group or considering becoming a member, please contact either Whit Hill [rockymtnhills@gmail.com](mailto:rockymtnhills@gmail.com), Kip Travis [kipwstiii@gmail.com](mailto:kipwstiii@gmail.com), or Pete Roden [roden.pete@gmail.com](mailto:roden.pete@gmail.com). We look forward to talking with you.

## PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY

**Patricia Hartman**



Prayer chain members have continued to be privileged to join with many of you in prayers for yourself, family members, friends, and our world during this past year. We deeply appreciate you allowing us to join you in your prayer needs. The prayer chain receives prayer requests from all, for any concerns. Requests can also be anonymous. We

appreciate updates, but we know that the Lord knows what we are praying about and primarily wants to hear from us. We welcome new members/prayer-ers.

Please contact Tricia Hartman at 720-810-0850 or by email at [hartmanpe@me.com](mailto:hartmanpe@me.com) for prayer requests or to join us. You can also fill out the form on the Good Shepherd website to request prayers.

## SENIOR SINGLES OF GOOD SHEPHERD

**Connie Branton**



The Senior Singles group of Good Shepherd continued to be an active group of senior adults who happen to be single during this time in their lives, and enjoy being with friends. The group meets at least once per month in the homes of members for a meal, fellowship, fun, and planning of further events.

The group counts about 30 Senior Single people as members. Dinners together usually feature a theme such as celebration of holidays, i.e. White Elephant Christmas gift exchange, St. Patrick's Day, summer celebration, etc.

Senior Singles has welcomed several new members this year who are new to Good Shepherd. We are a very friendly and supportive group and enjoy having these new friends join us.

The group also helps with projects for the church like the Fall Bazaar, helping with coffee hour the second Sunday of each month, and donating time to many special programs. The group goes on short trips together to visit museums, concerts, art events, etc. Several individual members help to coordinate these times together.

Any Senior Single is welcome to join us. Please reach out to Connie Branton or other Senior Singles' members for further information.



## SERVE THE WORLD IN CHRIST'S NAME:

### Ministries that Reach Outside the Congregation to Serve the Community

#### FAITH IN ACTION TEAM (FIAT)

Shelley Hitt

*Our team 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.*



**Good Shepherd continues to practice radical generosity and share the love of Christ with others.**

The work of the Outreach Committee and the Advocacy Team has always been closely aligned. In 2023 a decision was made to join forces into a newly named ministry, the Faith in Action Team (FIAT). The partnership is strong and provides more of a platform to work on systemic solutions to community needs Good Shepherd parishioners care about, e.g. homelessness and food insecurity.

Our involvement in a wide variety of community organizations remains consistent and robust. Other organizations have been included in our outreach efforts as additional needs come to our attention. A summary of the organizations and our contributions is below:

**St. Clare's Ministry:** Susan Hall, Jazz Krebs, and Deacon Nadine all serve on the St. Clare's Board of Directors, providing much needed leadership and support. Faithful volunteers from Good Shepherd serve a hot, homemade meal the third Tuesday of every month, organize the clothing closet, and assist the guests in selecting clothing. Our congregation regularly and generously donates clothing to the "closet" as well. A donation of \$1,000 was made in December to purchase sleeping bags for the cold months ahead. \$500.00 was also used to create gift bags of needed items for St. Clare's guests for Christmas.



**Covenant Cupboard Food Pantry:** Located at the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant in Greenwood Village, this food pantry distributes food every Friday to those experiencing food insecurity. Good Shepherd purchased items needed to complete their Thanksgiving dinner outreach and donated \$500.00 for the purchase of turkeys. Over 255 families received supplies for a Thanksgiving meal, a new record for Covenant Cupboard. Every year an **Angel Tree** is set up in the Parish Hall for the collection of Christmas gifts for children in the families served by Covenant Cupboard. 2023 was no exception. A special thanks to Sheri Heslen for faithfully leading this effort again this year. Over 100 meaningful gifts were donated by the congregation.

**Giving Heart Englewood:** Giving Heart Englewood is a day shelter for the unhoused and working poor on South Broadway in Englewood. It is open two days a week from 9 am to 3 pm. They serve a hot lunch and provide a place for their guests to be off the streets for a while. There are between 50 and 65 guests who come on a regular basis. Good Shepherd has been a supporter of Giving Heart for over three years. This past year, Good Shepherd gave \$5,000 for their shower/laundry project.



## FAITH IN ACTION TEAM (continued)

There was also a laundry supplies drive to get things going. They now have four showers, one ADA shower, two commercial-size washers and dryers, and three lavatories. In the first three weeks with their new facilities operating, their guests took 124 showers and did 56 loads of laundry. The facilities are always busy.

Good Shepherd gave 25 sleeping bags for Christmas which are always needed. Many members of the congregation baked cookies for Christmas and many weeks afterwards. Marilyn Taylor is our faithful leader coordinating all of Good Shepherd's good work at Giving Heart.



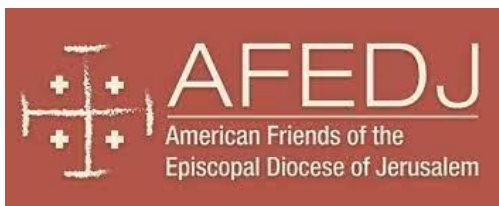
**Walnut Hills Elementary School:** This school is the closest to Good Shepherd, and has the highest population of children unhoused or temporarily housed students, primarily in hotels on Arapahoe Road, in the Cherry Creek

School District. Based on our communication with the principal, social worker, and other school staff, we were made aware of the need to supply backpacks for these students, whether they arrive in August or later in the school year. In January an in-gathering was conducted to provide teachers with daily snacks for those students who come to school without one. In partnership with the Iron Sharp Foundation, we provided several dozen backpacks for these students. \$300.00 in gift cards was also donated for additional needs these students might have. In December, instead of providing gifts at the holidays for these families, The Faith in Action Team voted to donate \$750 in Target and Walmart gift cards, and the congregations donated another \$650 in gift cards so parents could buy the food, clothes and toys their children needed most. This translated to \$75.00 for each student identified as in need by school staff. It is important that we continue to identify the needs that exist in the areas surrounding Good Shepherd, as well as those in the greater metro area. Mary Ann Panarelli leads our outreach to Walnut Hills Elementary.

**Iron Sharp Community Foundation:** Fr. Gary's membership on the Centennial Faith Council introduced us to Iron Sharp. Iron Sharp Community Foundation strives to build a more enriched, compassionate, and sharpened community, locally and globally, through service, heart-reach, and love. By establishing long-lasting relationships with all sectors of the community, the Iron Sharp Community Foundation collaborates with faith-based organizations, non-profits, municipal governments, and private sector organizations to service communities in need and forge a better sense of community, value, and honor. Iron Sharp accomplishes its mission through mobilizing community resources and networks through heart-reaches to communities in need, education and mentorship initiatives, and community engagement programs.



Good Shepherd contributed \$300 to their drive for school supplies in August and \$1,500 to the two Lavished with Love meals put on for unhoused or temporarily housed students in December. Kip Travis and Mary Ann Panarelli volunteered at these events.



**American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ) | Transforming lives of the vulnerable and displaced in the Middle East through support of schools, hospitals, and centers for children with disabilities.** Bishop Epting has a deep personal knowledge of and experience in Israel and Palestine. Peoples of all faiths have been devastated by and

are suffering as a result of the Middle East violence. American Friends of the Diocese of Jerusalem is an excellent organization to provide aid to victims of all faiths. We donated \$1500 to AFEDJ after the start of the Israeli-Palestinian war in Gaza.

## FAITH IN ACTION TEAM (continued)

**NAMI Walk:** In early May, close to 30 parishioners joined in the fundraising and awareness walk for the National Alliance for Mental Illness. Our team raised over \$3,000 for this worthy organization.



**Our Annual Blood Drive** was conducted again this year, and many pints of blood were donated, improving our collection rate over 2022. 28 units of blood were collected, saving, and enhancing the lives of up to 84 patients. Watch for notice of our 2024 drive scheduled on Sunday, April 28. Let's improve our collection numbers this year! Thanks to Liz Peel for her faithful coordination and organization of this effort each year.

**Manna Bags:** Liz Peel and Randy Hubbard spearheaded creation and distribution of these bags of useful necessities that members could distribute to those people they encounter asking for donations on street corners. Items such as hand warmers, Chapstick, sunscreen, water and snacks were included.



**HAAT Task Force:** a \$1,500 donation was made to the Homelessness Awareness and Action Task Force (HAAT) in the South Metro Area to provide additional motel vouchers for the vulnerable in our community during especially cold nights.

**Fall Harvest Festival:** Over \$1,500 was raised during the Fall Harvest Festival, sponsored by the Senior Singles, with leadership from Marge Pegula and Connie Branton, that provided additional funds for the generous holiday outreach provided Good Shepherd in 2023.

**Nora Earnest Scholarship Fund:** A \$500 donation was made to the Nora Earnest Scholarship fund. Nora was an active member of Good Shepherd for many years and recently passed away. Originally diagnosed with Hodgkin Lymphoma in 2008, Nora and her husband Randy created the Earnest Scholarship Fund at Porter hospital in 2011 to offer families dealing with cancer an opportunity to take a break from the realities of cancer treatment, to travel to the Colorado mountains as her own family had done and enjoy a peaceful time reconnecting as a family. This donation was made in memory of Nora and her generous spirit.



Thanks to your amazing generosity, the Outreach Committee made a \$1500 donation to Episcopal Relief and Development to support the humanitarian efforts in Turkey and Syria after the massive earthquake.

A special thank you goes out to Liz Peel and her students at St. Thomas More Catholic School for making 97 blankets that have been distributed to guests experiencing homelessness at Giving Heart in Englewood, and St. Clare's Ministry in Denver.

## JAMAICA MEDICAL/DENTAL MISSION REPORT

Melissa Watson



I am excited to announce the Jamaica Medical/Dental mission will be returning in 2024, February 23 through March 2, for the first time since the mission was suspended in March 2020 due to the COVID pandemic. The mission will be comprised of 14 volunteers serving on the medical team and nine on the dental team. As it has been four years since the last mission, this year's mission will be a trial run of sorts to determine the effect of changes within the country and the Jamaican Ministry of Health. It will also be a time of rebuilding, reestablishing partnerships and relationships with our local logistical partners, sourcing and replacing all of our medications, and most of the supplies that were stored in Jamaica.

There is a lot to be determined; therefore, not much was publicized about this year's mission, as recruiting was restricted to previous participants, and medical and pharmaceutical professionals for this initial return. We expect to be back to full force and full recruiting mode for the 2025 mission. In the meantime, if anyone is so inclined to make a monetary donation to replace medications, or to donate toothbrushes, it would be greatly appreciated. Donations may be made to Good Shepherd and marked for "Jamaica Mission." I am looking forward to participating this year and reporting on our findings as we prepare for the future.

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Carol Andrews

The Prayer Shawl ministry has been gathering momentum in 2023 after being slowed down by COVID. These knitted and crocheted shawls and lap robes are blessed by Fr. Gary and are given to those needing comfort as a token of the love of Christ and of our parish. A note is sent with the prayer shawls, including a prayer and the name of the knitter. Kathy Hunter responds to the requests that come in, both from the church and online. She packages the shawls and mails them to those who make requests from other states. Many who receive them send a donation back to cover the postage.



The prayer shawls are stored in the wooden cabinet at the back of the sanctuary. If you need a shawl for yourself or for someone you know who needs comfort, please feel free to take one.

We are always needing more knitters and crocheters. All that is required is basic stitches. There is a supply of yarn and needles in the cabinet. Instructions are also available in the notebook. If you would like to pick up yarn, please call the parish office and make plans with Kathy Hunter. Of course, you may use your own yarn. It is nice to have a variety of colors, for both men and women. Neutral tones are appropriate for everyone.

If you would like to join this ministry, please contact Carol Andrews via email at: [lioness85285@att.net](mailto:lioness85285@att.net).

## UNITED THANK OFFERING (UTO)

**Karin Elsen, Province VI Board  
and President-Elect**



UTO, a ministry of The Episcopal Church, provides opportunities through its formation materials and events for all people to embrace and deepen a personal spiritual discipline of gratitude. Resources for Lent, November, stewardship, children and families, theology study, Spanish language, and year-round gratitude practice can be found at [unitedthankoffering.com/gratitude](http://unitedthankoffering.com/gratitude).

UTO is entrusted to receive thank offerings from individuals and churches and distributes **100%** of what is collected as grants. These grants support innovative mission and ministry throughout the Church and Anglican Communion, honoring the gifts, talents, and participation of those who directly benefit from the award. A justice orientation, embracing Asset Based Community Development practices, is core to UTO's ways.



UTO gave over \$1 million in 2023 for truly impactful projects inspired by Jesus' words in Matthew 25 (*I was in prison and you visited me*), specifically addressing the worldwide incarceration crisis. These grants will:

- Prepare church volunteers to provide faith-based support to women recently released from prison in the **Diocese of Iowa** in Province VI;
- Fund a clergy jail monitoring program in the **Diocese of Western New York** to observe conditions, hear stories of incarcerated people, and report findings and recommendations;
- Renovate an historically Black church in the **Diocese of Chicago** to create new communal space for persons returning to the community;
- Form life skills and job training programs for returning citizens, such as sewing, baking, and hospitality, in **Bethlehem, PA; Maryland; Brazil; Burundi; Kenya; Palestine; and Ghana.**
- Serve children of incarcerated parents through care, feeding, education, and music programs in dioceses in **Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Kenya, Mexico, and Tanzania.**

UTO also gave a 2-year grant to the **Episcopal Service Corps** for young adults to learn new personal and vocational skills and a grant to **Episcopal Migration Ministries** to train congregations and groups to support asylum seekers.

A special UTO challenge grant, created in partnership with The Good Friday Offering of The Episcopal Church, will be made to the **Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem**. The grant will help sustain over 59 outreach ministries, schools, centers for the disabled, hospitals and clinics, elders' homes, and guesthouses in the war-torn region.



Thank you to those who champion all God's people by practicing gratitude and passing on the blessing as a UTO thank offering! For more information, contact [KElsen@episcopalnetworks.org](mailto:KElsen@episcopalnetworks.org).

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH 