

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church
Annual Parish Meeting - January 26, 2025

Gather, Transform, Go



The Rev. Joe Hudson, Presiding
Robert Sawyer, Senior Warden

Agenda

Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting January 26, 2025

The Rev. Joe Hudson, Presiding

- Call to Order & Opening Prayer
- Approval of Minutes from the 33rd Annual Meeting on February 5, 2024
- Welcome to New Vestry Members, Acknowledgment of Continuing Vestry Members
- Recognition of Members leaving the Vestry, Announcement of Senior Warden
- Service Recognitions and Words of Thanks
- Treasurer's Report of 2024 Financials
- Presentation of the 2025 Budget
- Rector's Closing Comments and Blessing
- Adjournment

2025 Annual Report Table of Contents

Last year's Minutes - Annual Meeting 2024
Treasurer's Report - Summary for 2024 & 2025 Budget
Rector's Report – Father Joe Hudson
Assistant Priest's Report – Father John Warfel
Deacons' Reports – Archdeacon Michael Kitt,
Deacon Rich Wilson & Deacon John Riherd
Choir Report – Chuck Bradley
Sr. Warden's Report – Robert Sawyer
Capital Campaign Report – Robert Sawyer
Jr. Warden's Property Report – Don McKelvy
Hospitality Report – Ruth Bruno
Bread Ministry Report – Bob Sawyer
Outreach Report – Megarie van Sickle and Christine Pizer
Parish Care Report – Carole LaBate and Elaine Hedrick
Spiritual Formation Report – Libby Chinman
Welcome Report – Ed Silva
Communication Report – Nancy Fees

MINUTES
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
34TH ANNUAL MEETING - FEBRUARY 4, 2024

The Annual Meeting was called to order by Fr. Joe Hudson at 10:02 a.m. prior to the beginning of the Sunday worship service. There were 130 in attendance and a quorum was established.

Senior Warden Christine Puthoff represented the nominating committee and introduced the candidates advanced for consideration for the openings on the Vestry for 2024: Libby Chinman, Christine Pizer, Bob Sawyer, and Megarie van Sickle. Christine stated that the bios of the four candidates had been published during the month of January in the Sunday bulletin and in the Wednesday E-Blasts in accordance with the by-laws. She also commented that these bios made it obvious that the candidates were well qualified for the Vestry. Fr. Joe called for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, a motion was requested to elect those presented. John Johnson so moved, and Ed Silva seconded. The candidates were approved unanimously.

Fr. Joe then requested a motion to adjourn the meeting and to reconvene following the worship service. It was so moved by Ellen Flanagan and seconded by Larry Freeman. Motion passed unanimously.

Following the morning's service, the Annual Meeting reconvened at 11:39 with a prayer by Fr. Joe with a count of 103 in attendance.

The first order of business was to approve the minutes of the 33rd Annual Meeting which was held on January 29, 2023. The minutes had been presented to the congregation in print. Fr. Joe asked for a motion to approve. Paul Altimier so moved; Marcia Matthews seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Fr. Joe requested the whole vestry, in-coming, continuing, and out-going to come forward. While they were assembling, Christine Puthoff stated that it had been an honor to work with the nominating committee because there had been such a rich pool of people coming forward. She continued by acknowledging and thanking the new Vestry members for their willingness to serve, and she wished them each "a wonder filled, joy filled tenure" on the Vestry. She also reminded all that Commissioning would be the following Sunday at the ten o'clock service. Fr. Joe then brought forward those whose Vestry terms had been completed: Stephanie Kitt and Barbara Rao. Fr. Joe first reminded the congregation that Libby Chinman had just completed a partial term on the Vestry and, according to the bylaws, is able to stand for another term. He then recognized Stephanie's and Barbara's work over the past few years. First, he recognized and thanked Barbara for her flexibility in filling several different roles in the Vestry. Fr. Joe also mentioned that Barbara is continuing service to the congregation in co-chairing the Altar Guild. He then recognized Stephanie for being a fierce advocate on the Outreach Commission, particularly in face of the danger of inward focus. Admitting the need for inward focus because of the age of our congregation, he also pointed out the need for outward focus and the ways that Good Shepherd accomplishes that goal as well. Fr. Joe extended thanks to Stephanie for her work in pulling

together a team for various ministries within Outreach and for providing the platforms for our church community to reach out to those in need.

Fr. Joe continued by recognizing Christine Puthoff for her tremendous contributions in the role of Senior Warden over the past four years. Fr. Joe explained the option the by-laws give to the rector to request an additional year from a vestry member. Christine was scheduled to step off last year, but agreed to stay on. Fr. Joe expressed sincere thanks to Christine for her skills and experience and for her consistency and invaluable help during this restoration and renovation time.

Fr. Joe then announced Bob Sawyer as the new Senior Warden. He spoke about Bob's background as Treasurer following Dave Beall. He acknowledged Dave's long term as Treasurer before Bob stepped up. Fr. Joe announced Dave as Treasure Emeritus and also spoke about his continuing work in areas such as the Annual Fund Campaign. Fr. Joe expressed gratitude as well for Bob's work as Treasurer not only each month's work for the whole parish but especially since Ian in the miraculous job Bob has done each month putting together an amazing spreadsheet of the restoration process and of the renovation process. Fr. Joe also recognized the great work Bob has done putting together information on the insurance and FEMA processes during this past year and in looking toward the Capital Campaign. Fr. Joe informed the congregation also that Bob had been Senior Warden before Christine during the search process to find a new pastor following Fr. Gary, as well as part way through Covid, and had done an amazing job. Fr. Joe followed that by introducing and welcoming Lynne Altimier as the one who will take Bob's place as Treasurer and spoke about her medical and financial background as well as her experience as Assistant Treasurer here.

Fr. Joe then moved on to service recognition and words of thanks. He pointed out that there are two plaques in the Parish Hall: one for vestry recognition and one for special recognition. He went on to say that because there are so many dedicated individuals in the parish it is difficult to single out the few who stand out slightly above the rest. Peter Walker came forward after hearing about difficulty with roofing contractors and stepped in with help that was cruelly needed at the time. Peter had headed up a major roof restoration in Pelican Point; in the middle of a struggle with roofing contractors, Peter came with a skill set that met the task. Fr. Joe gave multiple examples of the help that Peter provided. Peter Walker's name will be on the plaque for special recognition. Fr. Joe also recognized and thanked Peter's wife Cobi for her support for all the hours Peter put in here.

Fr. Joe also recognized and thanked Teresa Merino for her many hours and years of assisting Lois Cotrell in heading the Altar guild and for the many extra hours she put in to be sure everything was ready for church services. The parish is presenting her with a rosary for all of her dedication.

Fr. Joe also highlighted the Project Management Team. After Ian hit, a parish restoration and revisioning team was formed to address not only what needed to be restored but also to envision what changes might be beneficial looking toward the future. A team of nine people met almost every week putting in Innumerable hours. Fr. Joe asked those team members present to stand for recognition and applause. Fr. Joe especially cited John Buntell for his work in on-site supervision and also Dave Beall for his work in securing contracts

among other things. Fr. Joe mentioned that this is their third involvement in renovations in this church, first in 2006 and again in 2014.

Fr. Joe also wanted to recognize all of Good Shepherd's volunteers. He said that other rectors and staff envy our church's passionate volunteers.

Fr. Joe then turned the floor over to Bob Sawyer for the 2023 financial report. Bob began by saying that the 2023 operations went very well. There was just under \$50,000 surplus in operation thanks to marvelous contributions. Secondly, Bob addressed the restitution and renovation construction. From various sources the church has received \$1,237,691. There are also other sources available: insurance is expected in the range of \$50,000 although the amount that FEMA will pay is still unknown. There are, however, still expected expenses and Bob expects a shortfall of approximately \$250,000 due to insurance deductibles and revisioning projects and needed upgrades to make the church better and stronger against future storms. The parish has applied for a loan from the Diocese, expected to be approved in the amount of \$250,000. Monies from the insurance company and from FEMA will go towards paying off that loan. He anticipates that in another sixty days or so, a Capital Campaign will be requested of the parish. More information will follow at a later date.

Bob also briefly reviewed the 2024 budget which was in the Annual Meeting handout. He noted a deficit of under \$5,000 which is attributable to extra expenses such as adding two new part-time positions, an Assistant Priest and a Communications Director. However, there is a surplus of almost \$50,000 from last year that will be rolled over to defray the deficit. Bob stated that he anticipates a good year.

Fr. Joe concluded the business portion of the meeting by telling the congregation about a planned celebration on Saturday, April 13 at 2 p.m. The hope was to have our bishop, Bishop Sharf, present to consecrate the building; due to conflicts in schedules arranging that became difficult. However, Bishop Garrison will be present to consecrate the building and to celebrate with us.

Fr. Joe then called for a motion to adjourn the 34th Annual Meeting of the Church of the Good Shepherd. Linda Zaleski so moved. Ann Peck seconded. Motion was passed unanimously. Meeting was closed with a prayer and adjourned at 12:11.

Respectfully submitted.
Judith Jarvis
Clerk of the Vestry

Treasurer's Report

CALENDAR YEAR 2024 OPERATIONS

In 2024, we continued ongoing renovations and revisions after Hurricane Ian. By the grace of God our beautiful church and all the hard work done by many was spared major devastation by Hurricane's Debby, Helene, and Milton. After 2 years and several months the rebuilding and refurbishment have been completed, and now, we look forward to worshipping and enjoying the renewal of our beautiful church.

As we begin 2025, we continue to grow in faith and are blessed with the generosity of our parish family as we end 2024 and look forward to a financially healthy 2025.

2024 – Year End	Actual	Budget	Variance
Revenues	467,508	413,720	+ 53,788
Expenses	440,338	431,124	-9,214
Total Variance			+ \$44,574

Revenue Variance

We were blessed with a 11.5 % increase over revenue what we had budgeted in 2024. Excluding the contributions to the Capital Fund, our revenues in 2024 (\$467,508) exceeded our revenues in 2023 (\$400,662) by 16.7%. We are truly blessed by your faithful generosity and commitment to support the ministries of Good Shepherd Church!

Expense Variance

The -\$9,214 negative variance is 2.1% over the budget for 2024. The increase in expenses for maintenance and repairs, insurance coverage increases, and other inflation related expenses were offset by the year-end with a positive variance in revenues. In 2024 the Vestry approved the addition of two part-time staff positions, an Assistant Priest and a Communications Director.

CASH ON HAND as of December 31, 2024

FUND-1	Operating Budget	
	Restricted Funds	\$128,597.09
	Unrestricted Funds	\$175,698.81
	Total:	\$304,295.90

FUND-2	Capital Campaign	
	Restricted Funds	\$252,249.90
	Unrestricted Funds	\$72,896.46
	Total:	\$325,146.36

COMBINED	Restricted Funds	\$380,846.99
	Unrestricted Funds	\$248,595.27
	Total:	\$629,442.26

INVESTMENTS

Our Endowment Fund is invested with National Church in State Street Bank Global Advisors. These investments increased in value over the year by \$11,828 (+12.9%).

We have two accounts controlled by our Vestry. They are held by Wells Fargo Bank and administered by Capstan Financial located in Sarasota. The Wells Fargo balances are as follows:

Wells Fargo Account	Balances 01/01/2023	Balances 12/31/2024	% Change (+/-)
Bldg. & Grounds	\$ 82,276.00	\$ 93,255.25	+13.3%
Memorial Garden	\$ 8,917.21	\$ 9,765.80	+9.5%
Total	\$ 91,193.21	\$ 103,021.05	+12.9%

Updated Land and Building Value

The table below reflects the Sarasota County assessed value of our land and building in 2023. Because we don't amortize, values don't get depreciated and assets that are discarded (especially after Hurricane Ian) don't get removed from the books unless we make an affirmative effort to do so. Our financial statement has been updated to reflect the 2023 values as valued by the Sarasota County Assessors.

	2023 Assessment	Stmt Fin Position	Adjustment	Revised
Land	\$ 349,600.00			
+ Paving	\$ 22,100.00			
Land Subtotal	\$ 371,700.00	\$ 316,145.40	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 376,145.40
+ Building	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 1,745,304.07	\$ (800,000.00)	\$ 945,304.07
Total	\$ 1,294,700.00	\$ 2,061,449.47	\$ (740,000.00)	\$ 1,321,449.47
Furnishings		\$ 25,754.42	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 65,754.42
		\$ 2,087,203.89	\$ (700,000.00)	\$ 1,387,203.89

2025 BUDGET

The attached 2025 budget was proposed by the Finance Committee on December 28th and approved by the Vestry on January 7th.

Revenue:

In 2025, our parish made commitments that exceeded the 2024 pledges by 6.3%, with an additional \$33,000 commitment towards 2025 operations. We continue to be blessed by the generosity and continued commitment of our parish family.

Expenses:

Our expenses are expected to increase over last year with the largest increase of 38.4% attributed to the apportionment. A portion of this difference (equal to the assessment for capital campaign funds) will be covered from the Capital Fund. The additional expenses include an increase in insurance costs, building and grounds maintenance, and other increases due to inflation.

Upon the recommendation of the Endowment Committee the Vestry approved to take half of the income from the endowment fund for 2024 in an amount up to \$5000 and to dedicate that amount to the Outreach Commission for use in 2025

THANK YOU!

I have many people to thank that have offered their support, service and guidance: Dave Beall, our Treasurer Emeritus, who continues to offer his insight and valuable experience, and other members of the Finance Committee, John Buntel and Steve Eibling, our Rector Father Joe, Wardens, Bob Sawyer, and Don McKelvy.

In addition, thank you to our 2024 Audit Committee, John Radomski and Joe Bentley.

Faithfully,

Lynne Altimier
Treasurer

The following pages include:

- ◇ 2024 Financial Activity vs. Budget
- ◇ Financial Position as of 12/31/2024
- ◇ Accounting of Reserved Funds
- ◇ 2024 Budget

Statement of Activities

Date Range: Jan 1st 2024 - Dec 31st 2024 | Includes Open Transactions | Filtered by: Fund

Accounts	Actual Jan 01, 2024 - Dec 31, 2024	Budget Jan 01, 2024 - Dec 31, 2024	Budget Remaining Jan 01, 2024 - Dec 31, 2024
Revenues			
Plate and Pledge			
175100 Plate Offerings	12,494.35	6,000.00	(6,494.35)
175210 Pledge Offerings	444,030.59	387,000.00	(57,030.59)
175211 Other Offerings	7,293.85	20,000.00	12,706.15
Total Plate and Pledge	463,818.79	413,000.00	(50,818.79)
Other Income			
175220 Miscellaneous Income	591.03	480.00	(111.03)
175500 Interest Earned	137.80	120.00	(17.80)
175700 Processing Contributions	69.10	120.00	50.90
175900 Un restricted Fundraising Revenues	2,891.51	0.00	(2,891.51)
Total Other Income	3,689.44	720.00	(2,969.44)
Total Revenues	\$ 467,508.23	\$ 413,720.00	(\$ 53,788.23)
Expenses			
Apportionment			
186300 Diocesan Apportionment	34,593.00	34,593.00	0.00
Total Apportionment	34,593.00	34,593.00	0.00
Clergy Expenses			
186710 Rector's Stipend	39,497.58	38,079.00	(1,418.58)
186711 Rector's Pension	18,854.22	15,120.00	(3,734.22)
186712 Rector's Housing Allowance	50,004.00	50,000.00	(4.00)
186713 Rector's Sabbatical	5,000.00	0.00	(5,000.00)
186714 Professional Enrichment	140.00	600.00	460.00
186715 Rector's Medical Insurance	25,239.00	23,196.00	(2,043.00)
186716 Supply Clergy	0.00	300.00	300.00
186717 Assisting Priest Stipend	24,000.00	22,100.00	(1,900.00)
186718 Clergy's Receipted Expenses	119.88	360.00	240.12
186719 Ministry Formation	1,500.00	2,500.00	1,000.00
Total Clergy Expenses	164,354.68	152,255.00	(12,099.68)
Personnel			
186720 Staff Wages/Salaries	62,209.61	76,020.00	13,810.39
186740 Social Security Expense	4,739.99	6,120.00	1,380.01
186750 Paychex Billings	1,424.87	600.00	(824.87)
Total Personnel	68,374.47	82,740.00	14,365.53
Office			
186803 Telephone	5,934.48	4,800.00	(1,134.48)
186804 Copier/Computer	9,725.08	7,500.00	(2,225.08)
186806 Postage	1,429.60	840.00	(589.60)
186810 Office Supplies	4,898.10	3,240.00	(1,658.10)
186812 Livestreaming	12,245.00	12,600.00	355.00
186813 Realm, Vanco, Website	2,814.68	3,600.00	785.32
187201 Miscellaneous Expenses	757.91	600.00	(157.91)
Total Office	37,804.85	33,180.00	(4,624.85)
Property/Building /Maintenance			
186760 FPL/H2O/Trash	26,805.43	26,200.00	(605.43)

Accounts	Actual	Budget	Budget
	Jan 01, 2024 - Dec 31, 2024	Jan 01, 2024 - Dec 31, 2024	Remaining Jan 01, 2024 - Dec 31, 2024
186901 Mowing, Pest, Fert, Fire & Sec	12,487.07	10,800.00	(1,687.07)
186903 Maintenance & Repairs	25,281.36	12,000.00	(13,281.36)
186910 Buildings & Grounds	15,377.91	6,000.00	(9,377.91)
186911 Kitchen/Cleaning supplies	2,345.93	1,200.00	(1,145.93)
186912 Cleaning Services	11,564.30	13,200.00	1,635.70
187102 Bldg Insurance & Worker's Comp	24,837.75	32,166.00	7,328.25
187103 Non-Ad Valorem Taxes	4,141.36	3,800.00	(341.36)
Total Property/Building /Maintenance	122,841.11	105,366.00	(17,475.11)
Vestry Control Expenses			
186410 Outreach Missions	4,000.00	10,000.00	6,000.00
186411 Spiritual Formation	276.03	720.00	443.97
186412 Altar Guild	952.92	1,800.00	847.08
186413 Music & Choir	1,208.81	840.00	(368.81)
186414 Hospitality	2,436.78	1,800.00	(636.78)
186418 Receptions (Non-Memorial)	0.00	120.00	120.00
186419 Welcoming	1,090.65	1,440.00	349.35
186441 Parish Care	169.11	600.00	430.89
186450 Flowers	275.35	720.00	444.65
186451 Sanctuary & Vestments	0.00	600.00	600.00
186453 Parish Retreats	0.00	250.00	250.00
186726 Vestry Expenses	1,593.49	1,700.00	106.51
186808 Advertising	366.98	2,400.00	2,033.02
Total Vestry Control Expenses	12,370.12	22,990.00	10,619.88
Total Expenses	\$ 440,338.23	\$ 431,124.00	(\$ 9,214.23)
Net Total	\$ 27,170.00	(\$ 17,404.00)	(\$ 44,574.00)

Episcopal Church Of The Good Shepherd
Statement of Financial Position

As of: Dec 31st 2024

Assets

Cash Accounts	
100401 Wells Fargo Operating	629,442.26
Total Cash Accounts	629,442.26
Investment Accounts	
105500 Endowment Fund (State Street)	231,117.51
105600 Bldgs & Grounds Investment	93,255.25
105602 Memorial Garden Investment	9,765.80
Total Investment Accounts	334,138.56
Fixed Assets	
440100 Land	376,145.40
440510 Buildings & Fixtures	945,304.07
441500 Furniture & Equipment	65,754.42
Total Fixed Assets	1,387,203.89
Total Assets	\$ 2,350,784.71

Liabilities & Net Assets

Liabilities	
Payroll Liabilities	
153010 Soc Sec Withheld	315.19
153020 Medicare Withheld	73.70
153030 GS Soc Sec & Medicare	388.91
Total Payroll Liabilities	777.80
Long Term Liabilities	
458003 Prepaid Burial Funds	8,506.00
458004 Diocesan Loan	102,260.63
Total Long Term Liabilities	110,766.63
Total Liabilities	111,544.43
Net Assets	
Without Donor Restrictions	1,721,866.07
With Donor Restrictions	517,374.21
Total Net Assets	2,239,240.28
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 2,350,784.71

2025 BUDGET		
Account	Description	Annual
175100	Plate Offerings	\$ 7,200.00
175210	Pledged Revenue \$425,000 Slippage (3%) (-\$12,750)	
	Net Pledged Revenue	\$ 417,745.87
175211	Other Offerings	\$ 42,000.00
175250	Investment Income (Endowment)	\$ -
175220	Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 480.00
17550	Interest earned	\$ 120.00
175700	Processing Contributions	\$ 120.00
175900	Fundraising Revenue	\$ -
REVENUES		\$ 467,665.87
186300	Diocesan Apportionment (+38.4%)	\$ 48,000.00
186710	Rector's Stipend	\$ 42,182.51
186711	Rector's Pension	\$ 17,492.85
186712	Rector's Housing Allowance	\$ 55,000.00
186713	Rector's 2026 Sabbatical	\$ 3,000.00
186714	Rector's Professional Enrichment	\$ 600.00
186715	Rector's Medical Insurance	\$ 23,244.00
186716	Supply Clergy	\$ 300.00
186717	Assisting Priest	\$ 24,720.00
186718	Clergy's Receipted Expenses	\$ 360.00
186719	Ministry Formation	\$ 2,500.00
186720	Staff Salaries/Wages	\$ 78,300.60
186740	Social Security Expense	\$ 4,854.60
186750	Paychex Billing	\$ 600.00
186803	Telephone	\$ 6,192.00
186804	Copier/Computer	\$ 6,000.00
186806	Postage	\$ 1,008.00
186810	Office Supplies	\$ 3,564.00
186812	Live Streaming Expenses	\$ 14,400.00
186813	Realm/ Vanco/Website	\$ 3,600.00
187201	Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 660.00
186760	FPL/H2O/Trash	\$ 24,000.00
186901	Mowing/Pest/Fire.	\$ 10,800.00
186903	Maintenance/Repairs	\$ 9,600.00
186904	Handyman	\$ 9,600.00
186910	Buildings & Ground	\$ 6,600.00
186911	Kitchen Supplies	\$ -
186912	Cleaning Services.	\$ 13,530.00
187102	Building Insurance & Workers Comp	\$ 42,203.50
187103	Non-Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ 4,250.00
186410	Outreach Missions	\$ 5,040.00
186411	Spiritual Formation	\$ 720.00
186412	Altar Guild	\$ 1,800.00
186413	Music & Choir	\$ 960.00
186414	Hospitality (& Kitchen combined)	\$ 4,080.00
186418	Receptions - Non Memorial	\$ 120.00
186419	Welcoming	\$ 1,440.00
186441	Parish Care	\$ 600.00
186450	Flowers	\$ 240.00
186451	Sanctuary & Vestments	\$ 600.00
186453	Parish Retreats	\$ 250.00
186726	Vestry Expenses	\$ 1,700.00
186808	Advertising	\$ 720.00
EXPENSES		\$ 475,432.06
		\$ (7,766.19)

Compare 2024	
Budget	Actual
\$ 6,000	\$ 12,494
\$ 387,000	\$ 444,031
\$ 20,000	\$ 7,294
\$ -	\$ 5,000
\$ 480	\$ 591
\$ 120	\$ 138
\$ 120	\$ 69
\$ -	\$ 2,892
\$ 413,720	\$ 472,509
\$ 34,593	\$ 34,593
\$ 38,079	\$ 39,498
\$ 15,120	\$ 18,854
\$ 50,000	\$ 50,004
\$ -	\$ 5,000
\$ 600	\$ 140
\$ 23,196	\$ 25,239
\$ 300	\$ -
\$ 22,100	\$ 24,000
\$ 360	\$ 120
\$ 2,500	\$ 1,500
\$ 76,020	\$ 62,210
\$ 6,120	\$ 4,740
\$ 600	\$ 1,425
\$ 4,800	\$ 5,934
\$ 7,500	\$ 9,725
\$ 840	\$ 1,430
\$ 3,240	\$ 4,898
\$ 12,600	\$ 12,245
\$ 3,600	\$ 2,815
\$ 600	\$ 758
\$ 26,200	\$ 26,805
\$ 10,800	\$ 12,487
\$ 12,000	\$ 25,281
\$ -	\$ -
\$ 6,000	\$ 15,378
\$ 1,200	\$ 2,346
\$ 13,200	\$ 11,564
\$ 32,166	\$ 24,838
\$ 3,600	\$ 4,141
\$ 10,000	\$ 4,000
\$ 720	\$ 276
\$ 1,800	\$ 953
\$ 840	\$ 1,209
\$ 1,800	\$ 2,437
\$ 120	\$ -
\$ 1,440	\$ 1,090
\$ 600	\$ 169
\$ 720	\$ 275
\$ 600	\$ -
\$ 250	\$ -
\$ 1,700	\$ 1,594
\$ 2,400	\$ 367
\$ 417,924	\$ 440,338

Annual Rector's report for 2024

Joe Hudson - Rector

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Venice

In John's gospel we read Jesus' prayer to his heavenly Father on behalf of his disciples: *"The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."* This was Jesus Christ's grandest goal and deepest longing, that all his disciples down through the ages would be united as one, with Christ. This was not some pie-in-the-sky pipe dream, but his expectation to be sought after. This was not a oneness of uniformity, but a oneness of unity amid diversity.

This is a oneness found despite differences culturally, socially, theologically, liturgically, and politically. We come from backgrounds that are high church and low church, and progressive and conservative. Within this diversity we are one in Jesus Christ. I saw that oneness last Sunday when four or five of our parishioners saw a brother in need and immediately went to work to render aid. I saw this oneness during Coffee Hour when the tables were filled for conversation, and the energy was positive and electric with the presence of the Holy Spirit. I see this oneness among members of the Altar Guild and Flower Guild and Men's Breakfast team and choir as each group meets and produces something beautiful out of their diversity.

Our mission as a parish is to Gather, Transform, and Go. As we Gather as one, seeking communal oneness with God and each other, we will continue to be Transformed into the image of Jesus Christ. As we are transformed, we will Go out to a world in need, bringing the love of God; touching, healing, feeding, providing.

Our goal is to become completely one, that the world may know, and hunger, and seek, and be fed. May God's richest blessings be with us in this year ahead as we Gather and Transform and Go.

Fr. Joe Hudson

Rector

Deacons' 2024 Reports

Archdeacons Michael Kitt

I must admit, as I look back on 2024, it was a very difficult year for me physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Physically, I began the year recovering from being hospitalized for several heart related issues. These issues led to an ablation in March, a cardiac catheterization in September, followed by a heart valve replacement in November. Not to mention the countless tests and visits to my many physicians and the related co-pays. I know much of this comes with my age, but really? It has been an emotional roller coaster to say the least.

2024 was also a year of grieving for me and many of my clergy and diocesan staff colleagues. We had THREE hurricanes in 2024. We had to cancel our annual convention due to devastating damage to the convention center in Port Charlotte. Our Bishop and the diocesan staff had planned for a joyous and fulfilling time for our diocese. Visioning, learning opportunities, gathering for worship and fellowship, all lost due to the hurricane. The barrier islands suffered significant damage, having not fully recovered from hurricane Ian two years ago. Many of our parishes were damaged, some beyond repair. Jackie Overton from Redeemer and I took carloads of relief supplies up to a recovery station run by St. Albans on St. Pete's Beach. I was deeply saddened by the level of destruction that both Helene and Milton had inflicted on this island.

St. Albans and the surrounding neighborhood had sustained four feet of water from both the gulf side and the bay. Everything was lost. Father Omar Reyes and I walked the neighborhood offering some basic supplies to folks. It was hard to see so many homes destroyed and folks just sitting out front of their homes, now homeless. It was just as difficult to see Fr. Omar look at his church buildings totally lost. His parish is now homeless themselves.

If all of this was not enough, on October 26, I lost a very good friend. Bishop Dabney T. Smith died suddenly after a brief hospitalization. Bishop Smith was instrumental in forming my ministry in this Diocese. He appointed me to the Deacons Council over six years ago. He then appointed me to the Commission on Ministry and subsequently the Bishop Coadjutors Search Committee. One of his last appointments before retiring was to appoint me as Archdeacon of our Diocese. He is someone who has formed me to be the deacon I am today. I will miss him.

Despite all of this, my ministry continues to thrive. The Deacons Council had our annual retreat with Bishop Scharf in mid-February. Almost every active Deacon in the Diocese attended. Bishop Scharf shared his vision of the Diaconate with us, and Archdeacon Jeffery Smith from the National Church and on the Presiding Bishops Staff was our guest speaker.

Mid-year, the Deacons Council took on our annual task of reviewing the Episcopal Charities Grant Applications addressing food insecurities. We received 22 applications totaling \$

121,300. The Council recommended the awarding of \$ 45,000 to 18 congregational ministries with final approval by Diocesan Council.

It is important to note that the primary source of this grant funding is predetermined and comes from the Annual Bishops Appeal. My hope is to encourage every Deacon in our Diocese to actively advocate support for this Appeal.

I am now serving a second-three year term as a member of the Commission on Ministry. In 2024, we had 4 ordinations, and we currently have over 30 applicants at some level of formation or discerning their call to ordained ministry in the Diocese. I served as Commission Liaison to three of them.

I am well into my third year as Archdeacon of the Diocese. My role continues to provide diaconal leadership to congregations in the Diocese. As a member of the Bishops staff, I continue to assist the Bishop and the staff in the administration and ministries of the Diocese.

The Bishop also looks to me as an advisor on all aspects of discernment, formation, assignment, and continuing education for the Deacons serving in our Diocese. Our task in 2025 will be to identify the many parishes in the diocese that do not have a Deacon. Our focus will be to educate those parishes as to the nature of the diaconate and help identify and raise up deacons in those parish communities. Our vision, long term, is to have a deacon in every parish.

I continue to be deeply grateful to Father Joe, Father John and the Vestry for their support as I balance parish and diocesan life. And to my two brothers in Christ's service, Deacon Rich and Deacon John for their continued support. My workload is a bit lighter because of these two fine Deacons and friends.

Please know that I remain deeply privileged and blessed to continue serving the Diocese of Southwest Florida here at Good Shepherd as one of your Deacons.

In closing, I turned 74 this past year. According to the Canons of the Church, Deacons are to retire and resign from our positions when we reach the age of 72. I have retired three times now. Once again, Deacon John reminded me that I am not doing retirement very well. I guess that as long as there is a need to serve, I am willing and able to do so through the grace of God.

So, may God continue to bless all of us here at Good Shepherd and all the people of this great Diocese.

Your Brother and Servant in Christ,

Archdeacon Michael

Deacon Rich Wilson

Given my previous job as a hospital chaplain, taking communion to our sisters and brothers who aren't able to make it to church on Sunday is probably my favorite part of ministry at Good Shepherd. I almost reached double digits in the number of people who received a Eucharistic Visitation from me – and then returned to church to regular worship on Sundays with all of us. I won't reveal names, but one couple came back for the husband's funeral service, an Easter liturgy celebration of resurrection: the husband "remained" in our beautiful Memorial Garden, the wife is now back in church on a regular basis. Praise God, and Bob Clark and the crew who keep our Memorial Garden beautiful.

Another couple hasn't made it back to church because they've moved to Sarasota. But the wonderful people of Good Shepherd keep sending me to them with the Blessed Sacrament. If you want to know how our beloved friends Paul and Maggie Buonarosa are doing, just ask Bob Sawyer, Bob Clark or I. They're great, ministering more to us than we do to them.

Thank you to Archdeacon Michael, Libby Chinman, and the rest of the clergy who make Eucharistic Visitation possible at Good Shepherd.

I thought I had retired from scheduling and training when I left AT&T, but it seems that "just when I thought I was out, they keep pulling me back in!" Actually, I enjoy scheduling and working with all of our amazing Acolytes and Readers – but only because of the people involved. Bob Sawyer is the heart and soul of this ministry; and Fr. Joe and our clergy are important contributors too. I've never seen a church with this many ministers dedicated to proclaiming God's word and serving at God's table. Every one of you is a joy to serve with.

Of course I love serving as a Deacon at as many services as I can. Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus, the Good News, is a privilege; and it is an honor to be allowed to preach quarterly at Good Shepherd. And I have a 2025 goal for my next sermon: it will be my shortest!

As you may know, I stream Morning Prayer Rite II, including a short reflection on the Morning Prayer Gospel, on Good's Shepherd's Facebook page every Wednesday at 9:15 am. Please join us!

Faithfully,

Deacon Rich

Deacon John Riherd

This past year I have been part of the Clergy ROTA for Sunday liturgy, Morning Prayer, and other services and have visited members of our parish who are unable to attend our Sunday Eucharistic Service with communion. I continue to serve on the Spiritual Formation team, helping to plan and facilitate various activities for our congregation.

This past summer I prepared an eleven-part weekly series of articles for the Wednesday Blog on the Book of Common Prayer. This fall I facilitated a six-week program on the Book of Revelation. Our Communication Director has posted the Revelation classes online.

I attended the Diocesan Clergy Retreat in November and participated in the virtual Annual Convention. I also enjoyed ringing the bell for The Salvation Army a couple of times at Christmas time along with my wife Katherine and many other members of the Good Shepherd family.

My ministry as a volunteer chaplain with Tidewell Hospice, serving at the Hospice House in Plantation and at Village on the Isle, continues to provide me with many blessings.

Along with a few good fellows, we formed a Good Fellas fellowship and spiritual discussion group for the men of our parish. This group now meets monthly.

This coming year I will seek opportunities to be involved with the interfaith clergy group to encourage participation in regular prayer for peace gatherings. I sense a need for interfaith prayers for peace in our fractured world.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve you as one of your Deacons.

Thank you.

Deacon John Riherd

Choir Report **NEED**

2023 was a year of flexibility and change for music at Good Shepherd! With the impact of Ian mostly behind us, we began to return to "normal", providing music through the liturgical year. We continued in our "impromptu" space as plans were made for continued restoration of our space and resources. We provided a Taize service in Lent with Deacon Rich on guitar. Our faithful choir members provided beautiful music for Holy Week and Easter, as well as each Sunday Eucharist. Our parish musicians joined in for a wonderful "Caribbean Sunday" in the spring before our usual summer hiatus. However, we knew after Ian that the organ had a short shelf life as water had "wicked" into the electronic circuit boards. Approximately one month before we moved into the parish hall for renovations, the organ began to have serious problems with various stops working intermittently or failing altogether. However, we adapted and pressed on, using only piano during the time in the parish hall. We soon returned to our worship space with a new organ that includes antiphonal speakers and much updated technology. In addition we placed the organ on a moveable platform for flexibility, and to prevent any damage if we are flooded again. We also added choral risers to enhance the sound and visibility of the choir. In this new space, we continued our new year with Advent Lessons and Carols with guest cellist Susan Debronsky, and Christmas Eve services with choir. We are now in Epiphany and preparing for Lent and Easter just ahead of us. At the time of this writing, our choir room is being completed and will provide a wonderful rehearsal space as well as additional meeting space for the church.

2023 also saw new faces join the choir, adding their joyful song to our community. As well, we grieved the loss of one of our long-time choir members, Shirley Gooding, beloved wife of Tom Gooding. A special thank you to all of our choir members for 2023:

Sopranos

<i>Lynne Altimier</i>	<i>Betsey Hubbard</i>
<i>Kay Clark-Butz</i>	<i>Elise Logan</i>
<i>Grace Gagliardi</i>	<i>Judy Macklin</i>
<i>+Shirley Gooding</i>	<i>Marlene Schomp</i>
<i>Elaine Hedrick</i>	<i>Linda Zaleski</i>

Altos

<i>EK Beall</i>	<i>Christine Pizer</i>
<i>Cindy Esselburn</i>	<i>Melissa Wall</i>
<i>Ann Peck</i>	

Tenors

<i>Larry Fees</i>	<i>Richard Trautwein</i>
<i>Sandra Hackett</i>	<i>Arline Wilson (emeritus)</i>
<i>John Radomski</i>	

Basses

<i>Tom Gooding</i>	<i>Chuck Taylor</i>
<i>John Mitchell</i>	

In addition to our choir members, we have been blessed with other wonderful musicians this year! Thank you to the following who have added their talent to our worship:

Char Esselburn-Drums/Percussion

Nancy Fees-Guitar

Bob Hazelrigg-Guitar

Rich Wilson - Guitar

Barb Hornyak-Flute (we miss you)

Margi Miller-Harp (we miss you)

John Mitchell-Guitar

As I submit this, we continue with our renovations and restoration from Ian. 2024 opens with great opportunities as we seek to serve our Lord with music. Oswald Chambers wrote a devotional book many decades ago called "My Utmost for His Highest". I take this to heart in my own musical offerings and in providing the highest quality music for our Lord. I challenge all with the grace and the help of our Lord Jesus Christ to strive for that mark with our musical offerings, whether as a choir member, instrumentalist, or parishioner. As always, I am deeply grateful for the musicians and parishioners of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, who have demonstrated their resilience, flexibility, and positive outlook in all things! It is a pleasure to continue serving as your parish musician. I pray that the song in our hearts ever be "Alleluia, Alleluia"!

In Soli Deo Gloria

Chuck Bradley

Organist/Choir Director

Annual Report of the Senior Warden - 2024

We entered the year 2024 still in the throes of renovation projects that have been ongoing since Hurricane Ian devastated our church two years ago. At our Annual Meeting on February 4th, Christine Puthoff, Stephanie Kitt and Barbara Rao, retired from Vestry service with our deep gratitude for their faithful service. Three new members joined the Vestry, Libby Chinman, Christine Pizer and Megarie Van Sickle. And yours truly rejoined after two years as Treasurer. During the month, we were pleased to welcome our new Assistant Priest, Father John Warfel, and to appoint Nancy Fees to a new staff position of Communication Director.

On April 13th, our good friend, retired Bishop Michael Garrison, joined us to rededicate our restored and rejuvenated building to our ministry to the glory of God. The Parish Restoration & Revisioning Team and Project Management Team were thanked for their tireless efforts, with a special honor for Peter Walker, who supervised a very complex roofing project to completion.

On April 21st, the Men's Breakfast team offered up their first Sunday morning feast since COVID-19 had shut us down in 2020.

During May, our congregation responded to our capital campaign, "*Restore, Renew, Rejoice*," by pledging over \$330,000 over three years. We are truly blessed by this faithful financial support.

We extended our weekly Sunday 8:00 am Eucharist services over the summer, along with twice-monthly Saturday night services. And the Nave was filled with worshippers every Sunday at 10:00 am. Summers can no longer be called "sleepy" here at Good Shepherd!

It was well into summer before our new roof was finally finished...and it was quickly tested by three hurricanes this fall, Debbie (8/4), Helene (9/26) and Milton (10/9). Our building weathered these storms splendidly, thanks to God and a lot of hard work over the last two years!

Over October and November we conducted our annual fund campaign. We were very conscious of the fact that everyone had been so very generous during the capital campaign. Would we be able to reach our targeted goal for 2025? Not only did we meet our goal...we exceeded it! Thank you again for your trust in our leadership!

As 2024 comes to an end, we face a bright future. Our congregation continues to grow as we attract and welcome new worshippers to our parish family. We are blessed with two priests, Father Joe and Father John, and three deacons, Deacon Michael, Deacon Rich and Deacon John. Each of them brings unique spiritual gifts to guide and serve our parish. And Good Shepherd continues to be blessed with a most extraordinary laity, dedicated to bringing forth the love of Jesus Christ into every part of our parish life. Thank you to each one of you for your contributions of time, talent and treasure to serve and praise the Lord here at Good Shepherd.

Bob Sawyer
Senior Warden

Capital Campaign

Early in 2024, the Vestry determined that a capital campaign was needed to fund the completion of renovations and desired improvements to the church facilities after Hurricane Ian. At the conclusion of a very successful appeal to the congregation (thank you!), a separate fund was established to account for the assets, revenues, liabilities and expenses of the campaign. All monies are commingled in a single bank account, but accounted for separately from our standard operating budget.

Capital Campaign Fund – In March 2024, all restricted funds then being held for renovation of the church were transferred out of our operating fund into a new accounting fund. This included the balance of earlier contributions, insurance proceeds, and cash we “borrowed” from our own building and grounds reserve investment account. We also added the proceeds of a new five-year loan from our Diocese at a very favorable 3.5% interest rate. The reserve and loan cash were needed to maintain our cashflow during construction.

Your Pledges to the Campaign – Because of the generosity of you, our congregation and friends, we were blessed with pledges totaling \$333,610, to be paid in over a three-year period. As of 12/31/2024, a total of \$204,777, or 63% of the pledges, has been received. Again, we thank you! Please see the attached financial schedule.

Assets/Revenues – A total of \$846,165 was transferred in and received during 2024. This

included pledge contributions, loan proceeds and a generous final check from our insurance company.

Please also note that we have a pending FEMA claim being advocated by a consultant provided by our Diocese. All Ian claims appear to have been stalled by federal budget constraints, so we fear it is possible we will never see any benefits resulting from this claim.

Liabilities/Expenses – Total liabilities of \$521,019 are owed and expenses paid out during 2024. This included the two loans payable, plus paying for the many large and small improvements you see around the church property.

Fund Balance – as of December 31, 2024, there is a cash balance of \$325,146 in the Capital Campaign Fund. We can anticipate receiving an additional \$128,833 in pledge contributions, plus a possible payout from our FEMA claim.

During 2025, we plan to pay off the Diocesan loan and return the borrowed money into our reserve investment account. And finally, we will continue to seek out ways to better enhance our property and protect our building against the ravages of future storms.

Bob Sawyer
Senior Warden

2024 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN		GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL CHURCH				FUND 002									1/1/2025
Account	Description	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual	
175210	Pledged Offerings				66425.00	41500.00	25410.00	7345.00	6700.00	1728.61	12778.61	27295.00	15595.00	\$	204,777.22
105601	Investment Contribution			96889.82										\$	96,889.82
331000	Contributions Balance Fwd.			103586.59										\$	103,586.59
334100	Insurance Proceeds									181351.07			9560.53	\$	190,911.60
336902	Diocesan Loan Proceeds			250000.00										\$	250,000.00
106001	FEMA Claim													\$	-
ASSETS / REVENUES				450476.41	66425.00	41500.00	25410.00	7345.00	6700.00	183079.68	12778.61	27295.00	25155.53	\$	846,165.23
105601	Investment Payback			96889.82									6368.66	\$	103,258.48
186410	Outreach					1000.00								\$	1,000.00
186910	Buildings & Grounds			124079.82	52282.46	58080.22	587.04	22702.64	3104.00		4645.00		9713.03	\$	275,194.21
186913	Miscellaneous Expenses						145.44					489.28		\$	634.72
336902	Loan Payments				3818.77	3829.91	3841.08	3852.29	3863.52	3874.79	3886.09	103897.43	3908.79	\$	134,772.67
187001	Interest Expense				729.17	718.03	706.86	695.65	684.42	673.15	661.85	650.51	639.15	\$	6,158.79
LABILITIES / EXPENSES				220969.64	56830.40	63628.16	5280.42	27250.58	7651.94	4547.94	9192.94	105037.22	20629.63	\$	521,018.87
DIFFERENCE														\$	325,146.36

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	2717.25								
	3529.14								
	3307.45								
	-648.28								
1080.75	4230.00	1080.75							
2000.00	6248.00	2043.68							
1816.55	2717.25	1485.13		71.04					
31151.50	7331.65	24691.33		984.90	64.00				
52887.50	21550.00	2044.00	145.04	21550.00	3000.00				9560.53
35143.52	1300.00	31344.89	587.04	96.70	40.00		4645.00	489.28	152.50
Total Invoices	124079.82	52282.46	58080.22	732.08	22702.64	3104.00	0.00	4645.00	9713.03

Jr. Warden Report

2024 was another busy year, so grab a cup of coffee and let us take a look back. I would like to start by thanking Bob Sawyer for stepping up to be our Senior Warden at a crucial time in the life of our church. I would also like to thank Fr. Joe for providing the vestry with spiritual guidance and support.

Our Project Management Team (PMT) continued to meet weekly through February. We followed up with the restoration activities associated with Hurricane Ian. Special thanks to Peter Walker and his assistants Paul Altimier and Bob Hazelrigg for monitoring our two roofing contractors for several months, not an easy task. Our new gutters and downspouts were installed in January.

We signed a service agreement with Jan Pro, a professional janitorial company who cleans the interior of the church on Sunday and Friday evenings. Rich Esposito came on board as our "handy man" and provides valuable assistance with a variety of projects. We completed our annual backflow, fire suppression, and fire hydrant inspections in February. New flags (American and Episcopal) were installed in the nave by Town and Country flags. Lykins Sign Tech installed our new frame for our banners in time for our Easter banner. American Drilling switched out our old dual filter system on our well pump with a larger, more efficient single filter. Imperial Blinds and Shutters installed our new plantation shutters in April.

Sleuth Leak Detection and Diagnostic Services conducted a "smoke test" to determine if there was a leak in our plumbing system which was causing the unpleasant odor that we experienced from time to time. The smoke test revealed drain system failure in two areas and Kurtz plumbing made the necessary repairs. We replaced the fan on top of our stove vent stack. We were not getting proper ventilation off the stove which created increased temperatures in the kitchen. Green Topps Landscape removed two dead slash pine trees at the end of our parking lot. Many thanks were extended to Bob Clark and the memorial garden team who did major cleanup jobs following Hurricanes Debby and Helene. We prepped the exterior of the church for Hurricane Milton, and we did not have any water enter the building. We had a good turnout for our "cleanup party" to clear the parking lot of tree branches. Our lawn service removed the large piles of branches and storm debris. American Drilling remounted our pressure tank to our well which had been blown over by the storm. We evaluated a flex seal tape on our doors to provide a means to stop rain/flood water from entering our building. We were satisfied with the results and have purchased a two-year supply of the tape.

John Buntel took the lead along with Tri-County Air Conditioning in assessing and resolving our problem with high humidity in the church. They recommended and the vestry approved the purchase of new programmable thermostats which were installed throughout the church. Barrett Electric installed our new light pole in the parking lot, replacing the old pole that had been damaged by one of the construction vehicles. Our new dish washer was installed in October.

In December, Fr. Joe called a meeting of the newly formed Building and Grounds Committee. The following agreed to join Fr. Joe and serve on this committee, Bob Sawyer, John Buntel, Dave Beall, Bob Clark, Paul Altimier, and myself. It was decided that going forward John Buntel will be our primary contact for issues inside the church, and Bob Clark will be our primary contact for issues relating to the grounds.

As I conclude my term as Jr. Warden, I would like to thank the many volunteers who assist with a multitude of projects to maintain our building and grounds. Special thanks to John Buntel, Dave Beall, and Bob Clark for their constant and tireless dedication to supporting our church home.

Thank you and God Bless,

Donald A. McKelvy, Jr. Warden

Hospitality Report 2024

The groups under the Hospitality Commission are: Christian Womens' Fellowship hosted by Terry Murphy and Rusty Shelley; Good Fellas at Good Shepherd hosted by Dave Sayer and Bill Flack. John Johnson leads the men's group that offers the parish breakfast during season on specified dates. He also leads the men in arranging the Pasta night, as well as selling hot dogs at the Craft Fair with the assistance of Harry Bruno. Thank you to Chef Paul who has provided breakfasts and meals to the Good Fellas group and Clericus meetings. Stephanie Kitt is the chair of the Memorial Committee and plans and works at all these events.

During 2024 the Hospitality Committee sponsored the following events:

2/4/24 Annual Meeting –attended by Parish members

3/7/24- Local clergy meeting (Clericus) Breakfast for 10-14

4/13/24 Rededication of Church by Bishop-(103 attended)

4/18/24-Newcomers' Reception – (attended by about 50)

11/7/24-Clericus – Chef Paul cooked breakfast (10-14 clergy)

Sue Miller also offered pot luck "meet and greet get togethers" for all every few months throughout the year. These all were well attended.

A big thank you to the members of the Hospitality Committee who make all the events possible by their assistance:

E.K. Beal, Maureen Bentley, Jane and Steve Bonville, Jeffrey Cox, Tricia D'angelo, Sally Flack, Stephanie Kitt, Janet Lawlor, Joan Lynch, Robin Martocci, Sue Miller, Sally Mock, Lois Mueller, Linda Moore, Babs and Art Pringle, Degen Sayer, Megarie VanSickle, Ruth and Harry Bruno.

Submitted by Ruthanne Bruno 1/1/25

Bread Ministry

Good Shepherd continues to receive generous donations of unsold end-of-the-day bread and pastry products, every Saturday and Sunday morning from Publix, and every Saturday evening from Panera Bread. We are grateful for these companies' donations. This ministry mixes hospitality with outreach, as we get to enjoy treats during coffee hour on Sunday mornings and we redistribute goods to needy families in the parish and community.

Publix: Every Saturday and Sunday morning at 7:00 am year-round, Harry Bruno arrived at the Publix store on the island to pick up the donations. Harry and Ruth then brought the products to the church, organized them on the tables, prepared treats for coffee hour, and generally made sure that our coffee hour is a joyful time for all. We continue to be blessed by Harry & Ruth's faithful service!

Panera: Thanks also go out to our Panera Bread team. At 8:45 pm each week, teams arrive at the store in the Venice Village Shoppes to pick up the end-of-the-day bread and goodies. Thank you, Britt & Bill Callahan, Nancy & Steve Eibling, Olga & Lyman McIntyre, Carol and John Mitchell, Sally and John Mock, Roger and Terri Murphy, Bob Sawyer, Mark Selby and Barry and Jean Smithies.

Center of Hope Delivery

Each week during 2024, couples picked up the donations left in the narthex and delivered them to the Center of Hope in Venice. Thank you to the Martoccis, to Diane Smith & Tim Chapman and to Judy Jarvis & Bob Childers. We are grateful for your service!

Outreach Commission 2024 Annual Report

This year the Outreach Commission has focused on supporting existing Good Shepherd efforts while also exploring and establishing new outreach initiatives.

To that end, in February, Co-Chairs Megarie van Sickel and Christine Pizer met with outgoing Chair Stephanie Kitt to exchange ideas and files. With that information we developed a contact list for the Outreach team. On February 28th we convened a meeting of the Outreach Commission project chairs. Ten of the 13 chairs attended. The chairs outlined their plans for 2024 and we emphasized our interest in supporting their efforts. We also learned that there would not be a Mission Trip to Tuscaloosa this year. We recognized Dave Beall's 27 years of steadfast service to this project.

During March, a new project in support of Center of Hope lead by Linda Moore was initiated. The Creative Designs Outreach lead by Barbara Johnson was busy at work on Fridays and the All Faiths Food Bank Food Distribution project started up again.

In April, the project in support of the Center of Hope concluded successfully, with several tubs of toiletries collected and delivered to the Center. Based on this success, we decided to continue this effort in the fall. The Habitat teams were also busy in April and the program to deliver snacks to Habitat volunteers was active. Creative Designs Outreach received blessings for their beautiful items that were donated to local agencies and also made available to our parishioners.

We kicked off Fall 2024 efforts on October 2nd with a planning meeting that included the leaders of ministries that launch in late October and early November: Bell Ringers lead by Katherine Riherd, Prison Fellowship Angel Tree lead by Libby Chinman and Salvation Army Angel Tree lead by Cindy McKelvy. Our focus was to ensure that information about these volunteer opportunities is distributed in a timely fashion during the busy holiday season.

We developed a partnership with CarePortal/Bridge a Life. We scheduled a presentation on October 24th by Ms. Denise Grimes about their mission and activities. And on November 20th several of us attended another presentation by Ms. Grimes. We also spoke with Casey Hill, who will coordinate our work with Bridge A Life that initially will focus on Creative Design Outreach baby blankets and making meals for the Bridge A Life's Stew Crew effort. We worked on identifying two leaders for this effort. Sally Flack will lead the CarePortal portion of the project. We continue to work on securing a lead person for Bridge A Life.

During the fall, we also wrote/revised brief summaries of Good Shepherd's Outreach efforts to be printed on cards to inform parishioners and encourage their participation in our efforts.

Bell Ringers, Prison Fellowship Angel Tree and Salvation Army Angel Tree launched in November with great success. By Thanksgiving all Bell Ringing slots were filled and parishioners had taken all of the tags for both Prison Fellowship and Salvation Army Angel Tree gifts. Adding additional volunteers for these efforts definitely promoted this success. Many thanks to the leaders of these efforts and the many volunteers!

We proposed for the Church to match what Christian Women's Fellowship collected for the Salvation Army during their Christmas Luncheon. This resulted in a \$600 gift to Salvation Army (\$300 donated by the women and \$300 match from the Church).

With Vestry approval we made a \$1000 grant to El Hogar. In addition, the Vestry approved granting funds from the Poinsettias to The Twig, a local organization that supports foster children. On December 26th Megarie and Christine were pleased to present The Twig with a much-appreciated check for \$2,205.

In December we were honored to learn from Dave Beall that we would receive funds from the interest on the Endowment to use to further our outreach efforts. We plan to present our ideas for this new outreach initiative at the January Vestry meeting.

It has been an honor and pleasure to work on these important outreach efforts and we are so grateful for the generosity of our parishioners in both time and treasure.

Megarie van Sickel and Christine Pizer
January 2, 2025

Parish Care Report

PRAYER TEAM – EK Beall

I have not submitted an Annual Report for our Good Shepherd Prayer Support Team in the past, as the nature of our ministry is one that fluctuates from month to month, based on the prayer needs of our parish family as new prayer requests are added, updated, or removed.

For example, we began in January with a total number of on-going prayer requests of 179. Through the course of the year up to the end of November, we had a total of 76 new prayer requests. Sometimes the on-going number includes updated prayer requests. Also, throughout the months, we have requests that will be removed, as these needs have been met through God's healing hands through medical care and answer to prayers and consequently, this will cause a change in our on-going number.

Our report as of December 27th reflects a total of 157, which includes 155 on-going requests, and 2 new requests for a grand total of 157 requests.

Our Prayer Support Team continues to faithfully pray daily for those in need, as well as contacting them throughout the months with phone calls, emails, or personal visits. In addition, our Sunday Morning Prayer Team prays faithfully for those who come forward to receive intercessory prayer for themselves or for their loved ones.

It is truly our privilege to pray for our parish family and their loved ones, to offer our comfort and support in their time of need.

MAILBOX REPORT – Megarie van Sickle

December 2024

Birthday cards sent - 32

Anniversary- 3

Get Well - 5

Care and Concern -2

Birthday cards sent - 32

Anniversary- 3

Get Well - 5

Care and Concern -2

Cards sent in 2024

Birthday - 267

Anniversary - 87

Get Well - 41

Care & Concern - 18

Sympathy- 11

COMFORT CARE MINISTY – BARBARA RAO

There are eight members of the committee who are always ready and available to deliver meals to those in need. We have not been asked for help due to the kindness and generosity and neighbors and friends. When we hear of an illness, we contact the family to see if there is a need for food or help. There was service given in March and April. There were no requests in June, July, August nor in September, October, nor November, December.

There will be a new committee formed through Outreach that will include the Comfort Care meals group. It will be an opportunity to create meals and share them with a group that services foster families. We are looking forward to working with this group

EV VISITS – DEACON RICH

Visitations in December 2024

7 Visitations

17 Communicants

Total Visitations in 2024

222 Gathered

202 Communions administered

GRIEF RECOVERY – PAM CLARK/DEACON RICH

No activities in 2024. Will continue to offer groups as needed.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE – ELAINE HEDRICK

The Committee continued to meet mostly monthly until November 2024, with discussions centered on potential Health Fair, possible CPR Course, as well as how to handle emergency situations in church. Due to surgery and medical issues in November, I decided to cancel meetings until after the first of the year. A new automatic blood pressure machine with three different size cuffs were obtained, and used at a few coffee hours. The AED equipment was

updated with new batteries and defibrillator pads. Worked with Deacon Rich in finding an agency (Care Finders) to successfully move a parishioner couple into an assisted living facility (ALF). Also invited an elderly parishioner to lunch at Bay Village of Sarasota, where I live, to help her explore possibility of moving there. Approximately two (2) parishioners had medical issues and were sent to the hospital (one by EMS and one by POV).

Spiritual Formation Report

The Spiritual Formation Team continued to meet this year to discuss the Spiritual Formation journey for Good Shepherd, continuing our growth as a church family in our desire to grow closer to God.

"Our spiritual formation is a journey into oneness with God as we, individually and as a community, live out the purpose of God through the incarnate presence of Christ in us, and around us, in the power of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit works to broaden our knowledge, and deepen our intimacy with God, one another, and all of creation, as we walk Jesus' way of love. In this way, we bring God's "kingdom on earth as it is in heaven".

With Fr. Joe's leadership, a Spiritual Formation Core Curriculum has been developed of which two component studies have been completed with a third currently in progress – Foundational Beliefs, How to Read the Bible and The Wisdom Jesus.

Our weekly Women's Bible Study, led by Nancy Fees, offered studies including a study of the book, *Prayer – Finding the Heart's True Home* by Richard Foster, viewing and discussing Season 4 of *The Chosen*, N.T. Wright's *7 Themes in the Gospel of John* (also studied by the men led by Deacon Rich Wilson and Larry Fees), and *The Women of Christmas* by Liz Curtis Higgs. The women also attended their annual retreat at DaySpring focusing on a program by Carolyn Arends of Renovare – *From the Inside Out – Discovering a Deeper and More Transformative Life with God*.

Centering prayer continues to meet weekly with some extremely engaging and interesting discussions on the book we are reading at the time. We start every session with 20 minutes of silent prayer which helps ground us to grow in the silence of God's presence.

Deacon John Riherd created an eleven-part weekly series of articles for the Wednesday Blog on the Book of Common Prayer, and this fall he facilitated a six-week program on the Book of Revelation. The BCP articles as well as the Revelation videos and documents can be found on our parish website under the Spiritual Formation menu.

The Fellowship Flocks continued to meet throughout the year, and we will be encouraging others to become a part of this small group ministry.

Several members of the Spiritual Formation team attended the second annual “Water and the Word” conference at DaySpring led by Bishop Doug Scharf, the Rev. Jay Sidebotham, Dr. Beth-Sarah Wright, and many more as they led this two-day conference focused on growing in knowledge, mission, and love of God.

Thanks to this amazing group of people on this committee – Fr. Joe Hudson, Deacon John Riherd, Bob Sawyer, Nancy Fees, Bill Flack, Sue Miller, Bill Riesz, Ann Peck, and Cindy McKelvy. We look forward to experiencing continued Spiritual growth as we offer opportunities for the journey.

Libby Chinman

Welcome Report

The Annual Welcome Committee Report for the year 2024 is as follows: We at Good Shepherd have been blessed this past year with having reached out to welcome newcomers to our parish family. In 2024, we received newcomer contact information cards from 38 people.

At present time, we have assigned 15 greeters and 19 ushers between the 8 and 10 o'clock services. As late as the last week of December, we have received 2 requests from newcomers, that are interested in becoming Ushers.

It has been my pleasure to work with all of the ushers and greeters, who have served the Lord, in this capacity. The greeters are so important to newcomers, and to all that enter to worship. The greeters also are a vital part in extending hospitality to the newcomers by sitting with them during coffee hour, when the occasion arises that we have newcomers to the church on any given Sunday.

After the greeters, are the Ushers. Again, people are greeted with a cheerful smile and an extended Good morning. Ushers are responsible for a head count of how many people are present and supplying that information to the clergy for communion purposes. Ushers also are responsible for presenting the gifts to the altar before communion. Also, Ushers are responsible for the collection plates being passed out and being presented to the altar at the appropriate time.

In closing I offer my sincere thanks to all the Ushers and Greeters for their involvement and dedication to Serving Christ while worshipping at Good Shepherd Church.

Faithfully Submitted,

Ed Silva

Communications Report

God's Word calls us to speak to one another in "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs" using our words for "building up" in order that it "might give grace to those who hear" (Ephesians 4:29, 5:19).

Communication empowers people for ministry, keeps people informed, supports people and programs, provides publicity, provides a forum for expression and concern about issues, and builds a sense of community. We've had a great team coordinating the communications for Good Shepherd including Fr. Joe Hudson, Bob Sawyer, Sally Mock, Edie Haack, and Nancy Fees.

Good Shepherd's communication efforts include the weekly email blast – The Heart of the Shepherd – and our parish website. Within these documents you will find important information on current and upcoming activities in our parish. The weekly email blast arrives in your inbox at 630 a.m. every Wednesday, and in addition to information about what's happening at Good Shepherd, Fr. Joe often shares a video chat to inform, encourage and challenge us. You also receive an eblast each Sunday morning with links to the livestreamed service at 10 a.m. We have an amazing "open rate" for our emails – over 62% on average – which is well above the average for non-profit organizations.

Anything you need to know about Good Shepherd can be found on our parish website – history of our parish, our Staff and Vestry, our worship schedule and live streamed services, parish calendar, ministries, Sunday bulletin and announcements, Sermon podcasts and documents, our weekly newsblast with links to our Facebook page and YouTube channel. There are also links to our parish directory, where you can find contact information for our parish family, and to Realm where you can make your pledge and other donations online.

Our Facebook page (GoodShepherdVenice) is also a source for news of events and services here at Good Shepherd. And, you can join the live streamed Morning Prayer service each Wednesday morning at 9:15am. Our YouTube channel – Good Shepherd Episcopal Church Venice FL – is where all our weekly live streamed services, Fr. Joe's Wednesday Chats, Spiritual Formation studies such as Fr. Joe's Core Curriculum classes and Deacon John Riherd's study of Revelation and other projects can be found – over 711 videos that have been produced since 2020.

Often you will see photos and articles about events at Good Shepherd in the Gondolier and/or the Herald Tribune. Our media liaison, Edie Haack, has developed a great relationship with her contacts at these publications, and is always looking for great news from Good Shepherd to share.

Our outdoor communication features large banners announcing times for regular Sunday services as well as times for Easter and Christmas.

Our own Bishop Scharf emphasizes the importance of communication and challenges us with scripture that defines our mission as Episcopal Communicators. In Romans 10, Paul is speaking to the Romans about their responsibility to share the Gospel with everyone.

Romans 10 From *The Message Bible*:

Scripture reassures us, "No one who trusts God like this—heart and soul—will ever regret it." It's exactly the same no matter what a person's religious background may be: the same God for all of us, acting the same incredibly generous way to everyone who calls out for help. "Everyone who calls, 'Help, God!' gets help."

But how can people call for help if they don't know who to trust? And how can they know who to trust if they haven't heard of the One who can be trusted? And how can they hear if nobody tells them? And how is anyone going to tell them, unless someone is sent to do it? That's why Scripture exclaims,

*A sight to take your breath away!
Grand processions of people
telling all the good things of God!*

But not everybody is ready for this, ready to see and hear and act. Isaiah asked what we all ask at one time or another: "Does anyone care, God? Is anyone listening and believing a word of it?" The point is: Before you trust, you have to listen. But unless Christ's Word is preached, there's nothing to listen to.

Building a sense of community and sharing the message of Christ – that is what the mission of the Communication ministry is all about here at Good Shepherd, and we thank all who offer great encouragement and assistance to our work.

Nancy Fees



Our mission is to love, support, and bless our parish family by caring for them through life's joys and challenges.

The Good Shepherd Parish Office is open Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

When the office is closed ... You may leave a voice message by telephone or e-mail us.

The office phone number is 941-497-7286, the email address:

office@goodshepherdvenicefl.org

If you are calling with a pastoral care emergency after hours, please leave a message on the church office voicemails. Voicemails are monitored overnight and on weekends. OR, you may call any of our Clergy directly at the numbers below.

Our Parish Care Ministry is always available to members of our parish family who need assistance, support, and prayer.

If you have any Clergy Pastoral Care needs, you should directly contact our clergy:

Fr. Joe Hudson at (573) 450-9059

Fr. John Warfel at (845) 548-9064

Deacon Michael Kitt at (847) 525-5546

Deacon Rich Wilson at (407) 461-2109

Deacon John Riherd at (503) 753-5115

Have you signed up to be in the Good Shepherd Online Directory?



If you are new to Good Shepherd, please fill out a Membership Directory Information Sheet, available at the Information Center in the Narthex. Return the completed form to the office.

Once your email has been added you can find the Instant Church Directory app in your Apple store or Google Play.

Visit our Member Resources page on the Good Shepherd website:
www.goodshepherdvenicefl.org/learning

Questions? See Nancy Fees for assistance.
Email her at communication@goodshepherdvenicefl.org

Do you receive the weekly email news blast each Wednesday morning?
If not, send your email to communication@goodshepherdvenicefl.org and we will add your email to our distribution.

Visit our parish website:
www.goodshepherdvenicefl.org



Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Venice, FL


ALL ARE WELCOME

Home About Calendar Worship Ministries Join Us Give Connections More



Feed a Hungry Child:
Change a Life

I AM A MEMBER HERE!

WELCOME!

Habitat for Humanity



Good Shepherd Episcopal Church
Venice, Florida

Heart of the Shepherd
Weekly Email
News Blast

[Click here to subscribe to weekly email.](#)



Living Jesus Way of Love