



GOOD SHEPHERD

EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL

GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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www.goodsheponline.org
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GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

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www.goodshepschool.com
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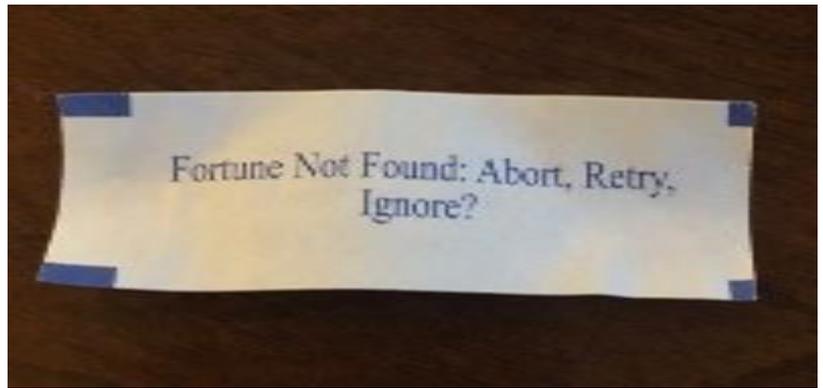
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GOOD SHEPHERD VESTRY 2020

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Gwen Gouery, *Clerk*
Bill Unger, Mike Howard, Denise Preston,
Rob Taylor, Kathy Hawken, Steve Pollard,
Mark Chittum, Heather Graham, Matt Ulman



2020 — the year of technology challenges. Even our fortune cookies had trouble! At Good Shepherd we were able to pivot from traditional methods to make ministry both accessible and meaningful during a pandemic. Read more about what we did and how it's working, on page 16. (Yes, this came from an actual cookie. Oh, 2020!)

WELCOME! As of this printing we are in Phase 2 of our reopening plan which includes in-person worship. **Registration is required.** Ministry groups are still virtual with the exception of our Thrift Shop and other diocesan approved activities. We continue to offer a variety of digital content and ministry opportunities to help you engage in parish life. Get to know us online and, eventually, join us in person!

BAPTISMS are generally administered on Easter Eve, Pentecost, All Saints' Sunday and the first Sunday after Epiphany. Pre-baptism classes are scheduled and held seasonally. A person of any age may receive the sacrament of Holy Baptism. The application form for baptismal candidates is available online under the WORSHIP tab.

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE requires a minimum of 90 days notice to our office and requires premarital counseling. An initial conference with the clergy should be scheduled by the couple to review the process and any special circumstances before commitments may be made. Please contact Jo Wood to schedule. jwood@goodsheponline.org

FUNERAL OR MEMORIAL SERVICES for communicants of the parish are customarily held in the church and may include the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. During social distancing, special accommodations may be made.

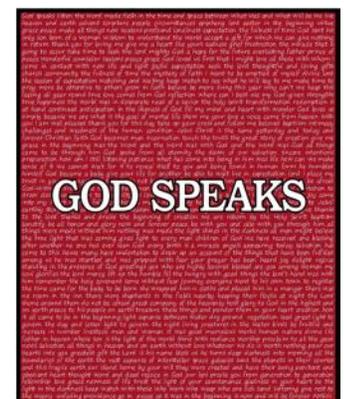
To **TRANSFER YOUR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP** to Good Shepherd, please contact the office to initiate a transfer. mail@goodsheponline.org

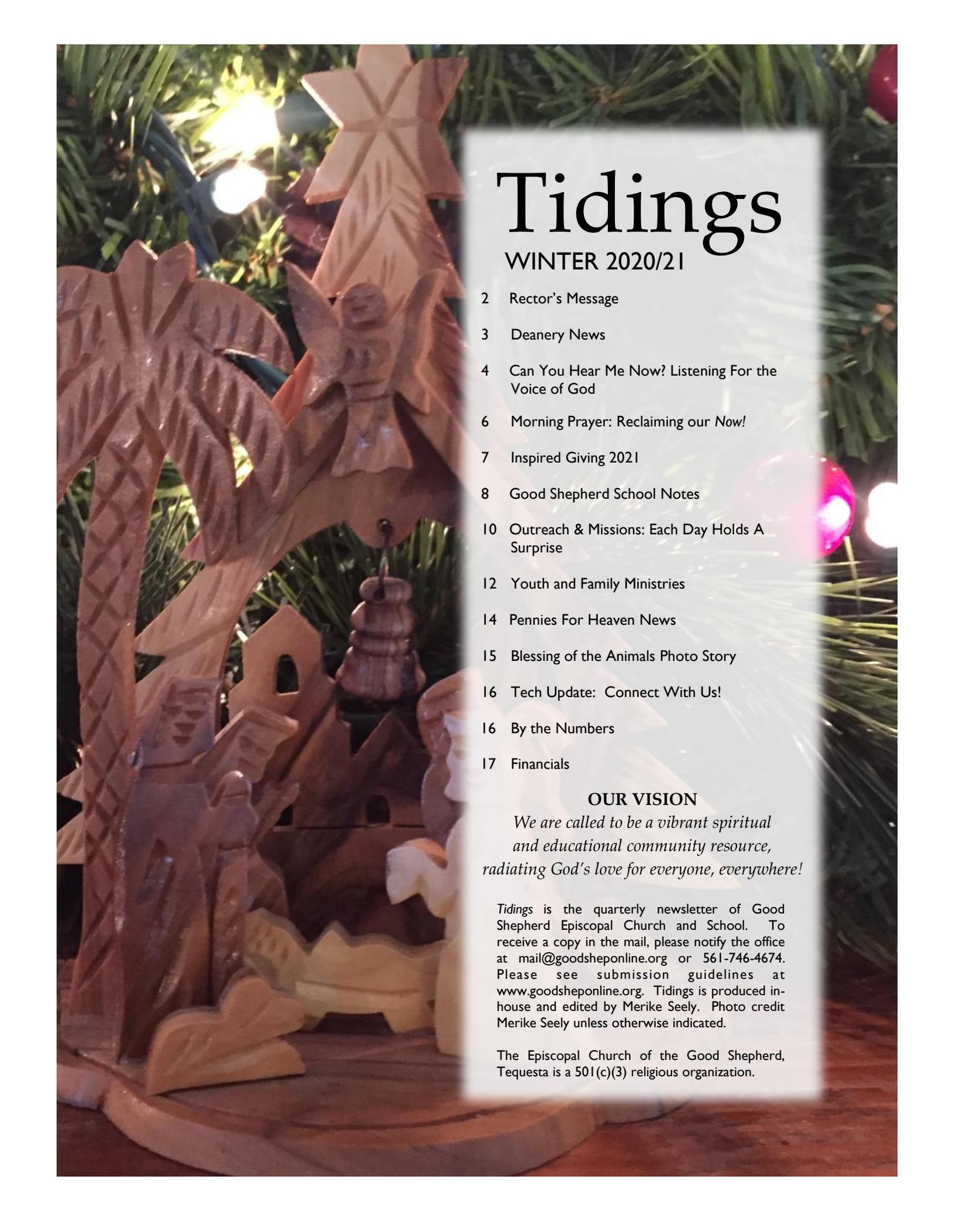
NEW TO GOOD SHEPHERD? Please let us know you're here! Contact Jo Wood, our Director of Hospitality at jwood@goodsheponline.org or call the office at 561-746-4674. You can request information or let us know if you would like to be added to our mailing list.

COVER IMAGE

The image for this issue is a punctuation-free mash-up of quotes, themes, seasons, prayers, psalms, liturgy, circumstances, emotions and the human condition. God speaks to us in all of these ways and sometimes we think we know what it means. But, when we remove the constraints — *the punctuation* — these words give forth new and unexpected meaning, surprising and different for each reader. This issue is about recognizing how, when, and what God is saying to us right now.

Cover design: Merike Seely





Tidings

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OUR VISION

We are called to be a vibrant spiritual and educational community resource, radiating God's love for everyone, everywhere!

Tidings is the quarterly newsletter of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church and School. To receive a copy in the mail, please notify the office at mail@goodsheponline.org or 561-746-4674. Please see submission guidelines at www.goodsheponline.org. *Tidings* is produced in-house and edited by Merike Seely. Photo credit Merike Seely unless otherwise indicated.

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Tequesta is a 501(c)(3) religious organization.



A Word from the Rector

Just one year ago, the world was a very different place. We were preparing for upcoming holiday gatherings, greeting one another with a warm handshake or gentle embrace, and moving about our community unhindered and unaware of the impending pandemic about to grip our nation. The year 2020 has been marked by dramatic and unprecedented change, and with change comes grief and loss. Of course, this is not the first time humanity has faced sudden and unexpected change, and it almost certainly will not be the last. Nevertheless, the challenges of the past year have left many feeling tired and discouraged.



In the midst of all the changes and chances of this life, we in the church are preparing to celebrate Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. Together, these three seasons of the church year represent the promise of *incarnation*, the promise of the *Word made flesh*. As Christians, we believe that Jesus came among us to reveal God's grace and truth. We believe that Jesus became one of us in order to show us what it means to be truly human. As the author of the Letter to the Hebrews declares, "Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways, but in these last days he has *spoken to us by his Son*." Through Christ, the Word of God became flesh and blood. Jesus entered into the messiness and brokenness of this world in order to heal and restore all of creation.

The theme for this edition of *Tidings* is "God Speaks." We are living in a time of transition and change, and yet we believe that God is still actively present in our lives and the world. So, as we reflect on *what was* and anticipate *what will be*, how is God speaking to us? How is God leading us into the future? Throughout this edition of *Tidings*, we will be contemplating these questions, because now is the time for deep listening and prayer discernment.

*"The Lord is our God, and we are the people of this pasture
and the sheep of his hand.
Oh, that today you would harken to his voice!"*

Psalm 95:7

In Christ,



GROW

And He Shall Reign

A Biblical Study of Handel's Messiah

3 Week Study – Begins December 2

The lyrics of Handel's *Messiah* are drawn from 81 verses of the Bible that come from 14 different books of the Bible. The oratorio is divided into three parts, each focusing on a distinct facet of Christ's life. During the season of Advent, we will be reading the Biblical texts that Handel used to craft his masterpiece. A copy of the text of *Messiah* along with Biblical citations will be posted on the "Prayer and Study" page of our Virtual Church website.

Ambassadors of Reconciliation

A Biblical Study on Forgiveness

5 Week Study – Begins January 13

One of the central themes throughout the Bible is *forgiveness*. As Christians, we believe that God has extended grace and forgiveness to all of creation through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. In turn, we are called upon to forgive others as we ourselves have been forgiven. However, the work of forgiveness and reconciliation is difficult, and many people have misconceptions of what the Bible teaches about forgiveness. So, during the season of Epiphany, we will be studying several Biblical passages from the Old and New Testaments that can help us more fully understand and live into our call to forgive. A complete list of readings will be posted on the "Prayer and Study" page of our Virtual Church website.

Rector's Round Table

Schedule to be determined for 2021

Our well attended Fall conversation series examined the role of faith in the context of cultural challenges of our time. While we may not always agree on a particular topic or issue, we can still model what it means to be a Christian community and how we are called to respect each other even when we disagree. The 2021 schedule will be announced late December.

SERVE

Fr. Doug is the New Dean of North Palm Beach

In case you didn't know, the Diocese of Southeast Florida is divided into six regions called deaneries. A deanery is a designated geographical area, and the congregations within that area work together to share resources and support one another in common mission. Good Shepherd is part of the North Palm Beach Deanery, which includes a total of 17 Episcopal congregations. Every month, the clergy of the deanery meet for fellowship, mutual support, and conversation regarding the work of the diocese. In addition, the clergy and lay leaders from around the deanery gather twice a year to meet with the Bishop and receive information about the ongoing mission of the diocese. One clergy member is selected every three years to serve as the Dean of the deanery. The Dean works with the Bishop and other leaders to provide oversight of the deanery, to coordinate meetings, and to disseminate information and diocesan communications to the local congregations. It is customary to designate the Dean by the use of the title *The Very Reverend*. We are excited that Fr. Doug has been selected for this role. He will be assisted by Catherine Oenbrink, who will be serving as the Lay Deanery Coordinator.

GriefShare

GriefShare is a program of focused group discussion and personal study for those who have experienced

significant loss. We have been meeting via Zoom since the closure of our campus in March. We continue to offer special sessions, so please watch the announcements for dates and times.

Anyone who has experienced loss is encouraged to join the group or extend the invitation to someone you know. We will also provide tech support if you need it. The minimum technology required to join a meeting is a phone. Please contact the program registrar, Beverley, to register at 561-339-4750.



CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

Listening for the voice of God

By The Rev. Dr. Douglas F. Scharf

God Is Still Speaking

The Bible is abundantly clear – *God has spoken*. In the beginning, *God spoke* and light was created, the waters of chaos were ordered, the birds of the air took flight, and humanity was formed in the image of divinity. *God spoke* and Noah built an ark, Abraham became a father, and Moses led the people of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt. *God spoke* and the prophets powerfully declared a transformational vision of justice and healing for all nations. *God spoke* and Jesus came among us in great humility to save us from our sins and make the whole creation new. The Bible is clear – *God has spoken!*

However, it is one thing to believe that God has spoken *in ages past*; it is quite another to believe that God is still speaking *in the present*. In other words, we can say with confidence that God spoke to our ancestors long ago, but

our confidence level seems to drop precipitously when asked if God speaks to us here and now. Yet we have been called into a *relationship* with God through Jesus Christ, and any healthy relationship requires *communication*. Jesus said we are his sheep, and his sheep will know his *voice*. If we believe that God is fully present with us, that God is active in the world today, then it stands to reason that God is still speaking. So, how do we hear and respond to God's voice?

Hearing and Responding to God's Voice

In the Bible, we are given the impression that God spoke audibly and often to human beings. We find numerous examples of God engaging in extended conversation with people like Abraham, Moses, and the Apostle John. However, most people do not report *hearing* the audible voice of God, but rather they describe God speaking in the

midst of the daily activities of their lives, specifically through *scripture*, *people*, and *circumstances*.

Scripture

As Christians, we believe that the primary way God *has spoken* and *continues to speak* is through the Bible, the sacred scriptures passed down to us across the ages. When we read the words of scripture, we are not simply reading an account of what happened thousands of years ago, but we are opening ourselves, our heart and minds, to the activity of the Holy

“It is one thing to believe that God has spoken in ages past; it is quite another to believe that God is still speaking in the present.”

Spirit. As the author of the Hebrews declares, “the Word of God is living and active.” The practice of regular Bible reading is important, because it positions us to actively listen for God’s voice in our lives.

People

Another significant way we hear the voice of God is through *other people*. God has called us into community to share a common purpose and mission, but also to hear God speaking to us in the context of these relationships. God speaks through appointed leaders

such as pastors and preachers, but God also speaks through our friends, spouses, and children. God can even speak through our enemies. Of course, not every conversation includes an inspired divine utterance, but if we are listening, we will hear God’s voice through the voices of those around us.

Circumstances

In addition to scripture and other people, God speaks to us through *circumstances*. These are occasions when events seem to converge in such a way that the path forward is made abundantly clear. Maybe you didn’t get the job you applied for, only to have a better job offered to you soon after. Maybe you experienced the painful ending of a relationship, only to discover a deeper sense of independence and purpose. It is most often only in *hindsight* that we discern God speaking through our circumstances. As Soren Kierkegaard observed, “Life is lived forward, but understood backward.” Now this does not mean that every event and circumstance in our lives is God’s will, but it does mean that as we reflect on the trajectory of our lives, we can perceive God’s voice leading and guiding us over time.

The Call to Deep Listening

The experience of reading scripture, being in relationship with other Christians, and reflecting on the trajectory of our lives are all ways we can hear and respond to God’s voice. But there is a more constant and intentional practice of “deep listening” to which we are called. This “deep listening” requires creating space and time to listen *with our hearts*. Spiritual author and teacher, Henri Nouwen, puts it this way:

“In the biblical understanding, our heart is at the center of our being. It’s not a muscle, but a symbol for the very center of our being. Now the beautiful thing about the heart is that the heart is the place where we are most ourselves. It is the very core of our being, the spiritual center of our being. Solitude and silence, for instance, are ways to get to the heart, because the heart is the place where God speaks to us, where we hear the voice that calls us beloved.”

To listen with our hearts first requires us to create *exterior space*, which means setting aside a spot in our homes where we are able to be still,

Continued next page



DOUG SCHARF

Continued from page 5

to quiet our minds, and to focus our attention on God's presence. The creation of *exterior space* might include lighting a candle or playing inspirational music. It's not as important where this space is located or how you choose to design it. What is important is being intentional about designating space where you are able to spend time with God.

The greater challenge is to create *interior space*, which means learning to be still and to become comfortable with silence and solitude. As spiritual author Cynthia Bourgeault writes, "even though we can find ways to stop the *outer* noise, it is much more difficult to still the *inner* noise." In recent years, the practice of centering prayer has become popular as a way to quiet the mind and open ourselves to God's presence. Through centering prayer, we can focus our attention on God's presence with us and to let go of our anxious thoughts and distractions.

Listening for the voice of God is a life-long journey. As we grow in our relationship with God, we become more attune to the movement of God's Spirit. We begin to hear the voice of God through scripture, other people, and the circumstances of our daily lives. And as we learn to quiet our minds and open our hearts, we are able to listen deeply and attentively to the voice of the One who calls us each by name.



SAVE THE DATE

2020 ANNUAL MEETING

JANUARY 24, 2021
TIME TO BE ARRANGED

THIS MEETING WILL BE PRESENTED IN A WEBINAR FORMAT IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A QUORUM

WORSHIP

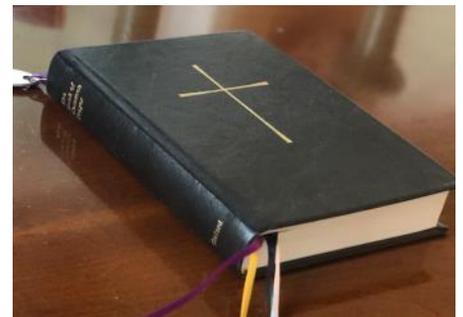
Daily Morning Prayer: Reclaiming our Now!

Ian Anderson, Coordinator, Daily Office Team

Every weekday morning, Morning Prayer is live-streamed on Good Shepherd's Facebook page, and, more recently, on Zoom.* Many of the Good Shepherd family take time each day to follow these services, whether participating live and contributing prayers of petition, intercession and thanksgiving, or watching the service later in the day on Facebook or YouTube. Daily Morning Prayer provides an opportunity to escape the incessant demands on our time and the time-blur of the COVID-19 era to seize, even for just half an hour, the *now*: a time to be present with God and our neighbors. Many participants have shared with me that the words of the service – whether from the psalms, lessons, canticles or prayers – often speak to the *now* of their lives: a difficult time in a friendship, frustration with the divisive nature of our present culture, or some surprising source of joy that has suddenly appeared to them. Please join us for weekday Morning Prayer: you may reclaim your own experience of the *now*!

*We began live-streaming simultaneously on Facebook and Zoom, as we understand that not everyone uses Facebook. Find the Zoom link on the Prayer and Study page of our website.

You can use your prayer book to follow along with the service OR use the very convenient download of the customized bulletin available on the Prayer and Study page of GoodShepVirtual.org



Morning Prayer—Weekdays at 9:00
FaceBook Live: @GoodShepOnline
New—Zoom Live: link on Prayer and Study page of GoodShepVirtual.org
Later on YouTube: Good Shepherd Tequesta

Visit our website for the latest digital content, services, downloads, information and ministry news!
www.GoodShepVirtual.org

Inspired Giving 2021

Goal
\$618,000

Total Estimates to Date
\$403,818

Percent of Estimates received compared to 2019
55%

Sharing our Gifts: Where tech and discipleship collide

You can help some of our home-bound parishioners who have no way to connect with Good Shepherd virtually.

If you have any devices that enable an internet connection we are accepting donations of your hand-me-downs including iPads, android tablets, laptops, and even kindles.



We will restore factory settings and repurpose these devices for ministry! Please drop devices off at the church office Tuesday—Friday, 10—2, or bring them to church on Sunday and give them to clergy or staff. Thank you!

Inspired Giving Campaign Update

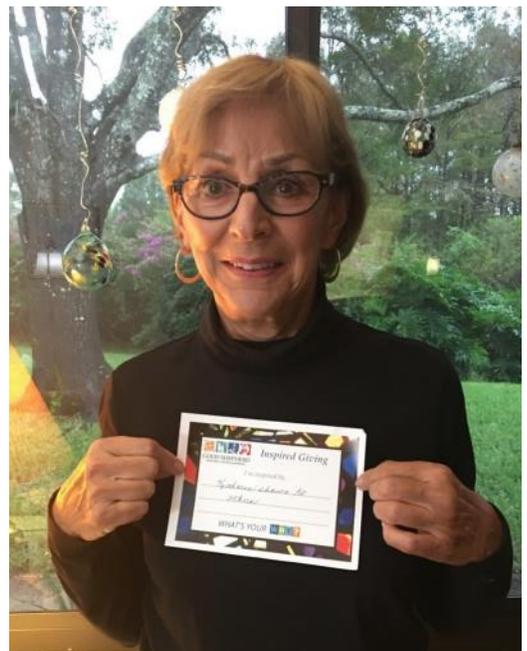
At Good Shepherd, inspired giving happens all year long. However, at one point we ask for your estimate of giving so that we may plan ministry and operations for the coming year. 2020 has been extraordinary in so many ways. We have been committed to working hard to adapt ministry to accommodate the limitations presented by COVID-19. And you have been committed in your support. Thank you!

At this point we don't yet know what to expect for the next budget year, but we're off to a good start in this campaign. For most of us, this pandemic has been challenging emotionally and socially, and for some of us it has been financially challenging as well. We understand that. Estimates of giving are just that — estimates. People change their giving as they need to and it's not unusual. That said, even if you think you are unable to contribute financially this year we would still like to hear from you. Let us know how you are.

Our Generosity Statement was crafted with the over-arching idea that *all we are and all we have comes from God*. It calls us to trust in God's abundant provision. It ties gratitude to giving. And, it was born of an abundance mindset. These things don't change during a pandemic. We can all be inspired, even in the worst of times. Your enthusiastic response to this campaign has been affirming.

Please visit our Giving Page at GoodShepVirtual.org and click on Inspired Giving 2021 to make an estimate online, print your inspired card, examine giving options, or simply reach out to us.

What inspires you? Mary Lawton holds up her *Inspired* card, part of our 2021 Inspired Giving campaign, which reads "*kindness shown to others.*" We couldn't agree more, Mary! That inspires us, too. Fill out and send in a photo of yourself holding up your card for an upcoming presentation. Cards are available on the Inspired Giving page at GoodShepVirtual.org or in the packet that was mailed out in early November.



MARY LAWTON



Ah yes, "God Speaks", but do we hear?



HEATHER VAUGHN

First Graders at Good Shepherd School collect food for the Food Pantry in November. They're listening to God's word.

In the usual hum-drum of our busy lives it is so easy to have chores, errands and appointments fill our days. It is only during times of deep thought, daydreaming or prayer that we can concentrate our entire being on our God. Most of us increase our dialog when we need God to answer our prayers.

But on March 13, the world changed! I think back to the old movies when a telephone operator sat at a switchboard and physically plugged in telephone connections. Lily Tomlin played this role perfectly, getting overwhelmed with the volume of calls sometimes needing to be connected. This is my visual of all of us speaking to God, asking for answers, praying for the health of others, hoping for economic relief and so many other thoughts. During quarantine, my thoughts and prayers were often directed to the needs of my students and staff.

God spoke and I listened. In so many ways his message was loud and clear. The School staff is now a close team. We made a tough situation successful for our students. Within one week all students went to Distance Learning and we were forced to complete the 2019-20 year without the many end of the year celebrations that students remember for a lifetime. The new school year began in a face to face format but all smiles hidden under masks, forcing us to "eyeling," or smile with our eyes.

Many changes had to be made to comply with CDC Guidelines. Class numbers were reduced, seating was spaced, and resource teachers moved rather than students to name just a few of the changes. More important was the message God sent, "God Speaks". We

began to see the true importance of school. It serves as the necessary social outlet that our students crave and we can now give 100% of our attention to educating students and not put energies into evening events and school celebrations. Yes, they are important and they will return, but while we are in this state of "limbo" we can use this God-given time to concentrate on academics. And what about our staff, you ask? They are closer than they have ever been! Of course we have had Halloween Celebrations, Pumpkin Patches, Spirit Days and the like; things just look different.

Our Annual Fund began in November with the theme of Community represented by the bee hive. Since the beginning of recorded history, the honey bee has had great spiritual significance and traces back to many diverse ancient cultures. The bee and its hive have a variety of symbolic meanings, but most often it represents community. Like the workings of a nest, the team effort at the School is integrated to create the sweetest product imaginable- our darling "honeys", our students!

ENROLLMENT IS OPEN

If you are still looking for a viable solution for fall, please consider applying to Good Shepherd Episcopal School! We still have a few openings in Early Learning through 5th Grade. All classes are currently being delivered in-person and follow a full-week schedule. Please call Heather Vaughn for information about our live streaming option, or to schedule a tour of our School. 561-746-5507

THE ANNUAL FUND



Find out what the "buzz" is all about.

GoodShepSchool.com/show-support/

Festive Fall Photos from Good Shepherd School

Traditional Halloween festivities saw costumes and carved pumpkins at “Gourd” Shepherd in October!



DOUG SCHARF

Above:

A spook-tacular display of jack-o-lanterns along Seabrook Road under a full moon.

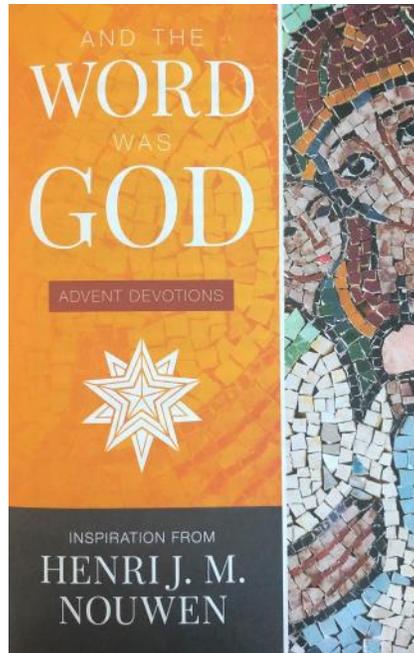
Right: Two of the entries in the carving contest.

Below: Yep. They really ARE that super! Our Pre-k staff takes on the challenge of teaching in a COVID world.



HEATHER VAUGHN

GROW



Devotions for a Meaningful Advent

On Advent I, November 29, we will be distributing Advent packets for guidance on keeping a meaningful, holy season. The included devotional — *And The Word Was God* — by Henri Nouwen, priest, professor, writer, and theologian, is all about words. We hope you will find that Nouwen’s treatment of words will draw you deeper into the meaning of Advent through

reflection and spiritual enrichment.

Advent packets will be distributed:

- At church on November 29 after the 10 AM service
- At a drive-thru packet pick-up on November 29 at 1 PM (south parking lot)
- By mail at your request (please request at info@goodsheponline.org)
- In the office (Tuesday—Friday, 10—2)

Love Music, Love Thy Neighbor

Advent will see a return to singing by the soloist or other singers present in church, shielded behind a clear barrier to allow compliance with distancing guidelines.

From the beginning of the pandemic, singing has been one of the more difficult logistical challenges for a safe space. Music and singing enhance the worship experience and are an meaningful element of the service, so we are doing our best to try to bring it back in some way.

While full choral singing and congregational singing are still off-limits, we are encouraged by this next step in bringing live music back to church. We are blessed with ample square footage for distance, and we have been able to procure materials that will enable this change safely.



Outreach & Missions: *Each Day Holds A Surprise*

By Marilyn Lawrence

“Each day holds a surprise. Whether it comes to us as sorrow or as joy, it will open a new place in our hearts, a place where we can welcome new friends and celebrate more fully our shared humanity.”

(Henri Nouwen, “Bread for the Journey,” meditation for January 1.)

This year has certainly brought surprises. It has, without question, come with both joy and sorrow. And it truly has opened new places, in our hearts and in our community, where we have welcomed new friends and celebrated more fully our own shared humanity. None of us could have imagined, on January 1, 2020, the cataclysmic events that have rocked us to the core: the sickness and death, the unemployment and financial distress, the social isolation that has kept us apart. But that which has kept us apart has also brought us together, and made us much more aware of our shared humanity.

Each week, we see a parade of people coming to our Food Pantry for help. They are people who never thought they would have to ask for

help. Many of them never even heard of Good Shepherd before the pandemic hit! Yet they come, each week, eager not only to receive the food, but also to share a few moments of friendship, to tell a story, to enjoy a laugh. “I enjoy coming here,” is something we often hear. But they are not the only ones who enjoy coming to the Pantry; our volunteers and our donors look forward to it, too. How else to account for the extraordinary outpouring of generosity that we have seen, both from our donors and from the recipients themselves!

Food Pantry recipients look out for one another; they offer each other rides, or pick up groceries for others who are unable to come themselves. Members of our congregation come with donations every week, after checking the color-coded needs on the Good

For information about the Outreach & Missions Committee at Good Shepherd, please contact Marilyn Lawrence at marilaw@msn.com

Shepherd website. Our **Good Shepherd School** has joined in a Food Drive. And more and more, the larger community around us has become involved, as donations have poured in from Addington Place, Riverbend, Riverwalk, Economy Tire, the Anne Goss Foundation, Rotary Club, and Tequesta Brewing Company, to name just a few. And in the process of giving and receiving, we have ALL become much more aware of our shared humanity.

When the Food Pantry was moved into the same building as **Pennies For Heaven** earlier this year, it had the collateral effect of encouraging greater cooperation between our two ministries. There are people who come to the Food Pantry and also need clothes, or children’s toys, or household items. And there are shoppers who come to Pennies – and also need food. We work together.

We have also substantially increased cooperation on other Outreach projects: Pennies has collected clothes and books for the children at the **Warfield School** in Indiantown. Recently, at the request of our **Kairos** ministry, Pennies helped with collecting clothes for inmates being released from the Martin County Correctional facility. And when Pennies held their “Flea Market”, they added a request that shoppers bring something for the Food Pantry when they came!

But there have been other surprises as well, and many more surprises of sorrow than of joy. We are seeing an increasing number of homeless people, as more and more people encounter insurmountable financial

obstacles. Our ministry to them has increased as well: we are bringing 200 or more **Manna Bags** each week to **St. George’s Mission** in Riviera Beach. We are working with a member of Good Shepherd, Rob Steiner, to expand his **backpack ministry** to the homeless. And we have increased our annual donation to **The Lord’s Place**, which provides shelter, counseling, education and job training to help people get back on their feet.

But the pandemic isn’t the only disaster to strike God’s people this year. Just in the past few weeks, Central America has been hit by TWO devastating hurricanes, which have brought homelessness and horror to many thousands. THREE of the missions we help to support have been severely impacted: **Our Little Roses, Osman Hope, and Guatemalan Tomorrow**. All of us here in South Florida know what hurricanes can do, and just as we came to the aid of our brothers and sisters in the Bahamas last year, and our friends in Bondeau, Haiti, in years past, we are mustering resources to help the victims of Hurricanes Eta and Iota in Honduras and Guatemala.

Bishop Leo Frade, our former Bishop of Southeast Florida, and his wife Dr. Diana Frade were with the staff and the girls at Our Little Roses in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, when Hurricane Iota struck. As the storm was approaching, he issued a heartfelt prayer: “Lord you calmed the storms on the Sea of Galilee, deliver us from the storms that are raging” all around us. It is a prayer we could all be uttering these days, in our several needs. But in the time and space

between ‘what was’ and ‘what will be,’ we listen for that WORD. And that WORD seems to be urgently opening ‘a new place in our hearts’, where we are much more fully aware of our ‘shared humanity.’



Hit the button on your browser before you shop!

- Cereal
- Rice
- Pasta
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Mac & Cheese / SpaghettiOs
- Canned Beans; Diced Tomatoes
- Soup
- Canned Veggies
- Canned Fruit
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Crackers
- Canned Tuna
- Canned Chicken or Ham
- Chili / Corned Beef Hash

Wondering what the Food Pantry needs? The answer is found on the home page of our website:

GoodShepVirtual.org

Click on the link in the **Food Pantry** section to see what our most urgent needs are, what we are on the verge of running out of, and what we have plenty of at the moment. This list is updated twice weekly. When there are shortages of items, we rely on your kind financial donations to purchase the needed items.

If you have the page bookmarked, be sure to refresh to get the most updated info!

Thanks to Ian Anderson for creating and maintaining this helpful system!

We Have Not Passed This Way Before

By David Dixon,
Youth Minister

"Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure. Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you must go, for you have not passed this way before." Joshua 3:4 NKJV

We are approaching the conclusion of the current church year on November 22 with Christ the King Sunday and looking ahead to the start of the new church year on November 29 with the first Sunday of Advent. These two Sundays serve as bookends for the liturgical calendar. The church year ends with a proclamation, Christ is King and it begins with the promise and anticipation of the coming of Christ in Advent. Christ is King and Christ is coming.

Between these two Sundays-- Christ the King and the First Sunday of Advent there are 50 Sundays. The time between the first Sunday of Advent and the last Sunday of the church year we are called to live into the ever present reality and the ever coming reality of God's Kingdom.

Looking back over the past liturgical year we will no doubt recall the twists and the turns that were involved in the shaping



The path forward is new to us. While we may feel uncertainty and concern, with faith we press on. Through the grace of God may we see its promise and possibility.

of our lives. Looking forward to the liturgical year that lies ahead of us we no doubt anticipate the hope and the promise of new beginnings that shine bright with Advent.

When we look back over the previous year, we are familiar with it. We remember the events. The year 2020 will go down in the history books as a year of crisis on top of crisis. No one was prepared for a global pandemic. No one expected the amount of civil unrest in our country and around the world due to racial injustices and economic upheaval compounded by COVID-19. Social distancing is the new norm. Tribalism and division are the distinguishing marks on a society pushed to the limits. Global, national, local, as well as, individual concerns and dilemmas have ruled the day.

BUT, by faith, we press on. We continue to confess that ALL of

our lives and times are in God's hands and we trust the way of the Lord. As we come to the end and the beginning of another church year, and as we rapidly approach the start of a new calendar year what can we expect? How do we let go of the old and embrace the new in the midst of crisis and uncertainty? We look to the months ahead and realize that the pathway that lies before us is completely unknown to us. As familiar as we are with the past events of 2020, we are completely unfamiliar with the coming events. These are uncharted waters. We have not gone this way before. It is not strange for us, therefore, to have some feelings of uncertainty and apprehension.

In Joshua 3, the children of the Lord, the Israelites, found themselves in a similar situation. It was time for them to travel. They had to move forward. The Lord had safely brought His people up out of the land of

Egypt. They had completed their 40 years of wandering in the desert. Now, under the leadership of Joshua, the people were preparing to take possession of the promised land. Now it was time to move. The time had finally come for the Lord's people to cross the Jordan River and enter into the Promised Land. The Lord's people are preparing to take their first steps along a new pathway; a way that they had not gone before. I am sure there were feelings of uncertainty and uneasiness about what lie ahead of them.

The Lord tells His people to follow Him because they do not know the way. They had not gone this way before. They did not know where they were going. They did not know what lay ahead of them. But the Lord graciously leads His people because He does know the way.

Here we stand at the threshold of something new. Although we must confess that we do not know what the coming months will hold for us, we do know that the Lord knows the way. There may be wonderful days waiting for us, but there also may be difficult days ahead. Sometimes we want to push a wheelbarrow of "what-ifs" ahead of us in anticipation of the future. We are concerned about "what if illness comes" or "what if war breaks out" or "what if some tragedy happens."

Much like the Israelites, we cannot

envision every event that will take place in the weeks and months ahead of us and that is okay. We do know that the Lord goes before us and as we go with our God, we can handle the next steps. We can live one day at a time.

While it is true that we do not know what may come tomorrow, there are lots of things we do know. We know that the Lord knows all things. Acts 15:18 says, "Known to God from eternity are all His works." If hardship awaits us, we can be encouraged by Job's faithful confession in Job 23:10, "But He knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold." We know that the Apostle Paul tells us in Romans 8:31, "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

As we begin a new journey we should recognize that we have not passed this way before. This pathway is new to us. But also, at the beginning of this new church year, we should realize that God knows the way. The Lord goes before us. The Lord knows every event that will unfold in our lives and promises that God's grace will be sufficient for us. Because of our God, we can look ahead with confidence as we follow the Lord unswervingly. When we follow humbly and faithfully, then we can be assured that it will indeed be a year filled with promise and possibility.



Contact David to find out more about Youth and Family Ministries at ddixon@goodsheponline.org

December Youth and Family Events

Every [Sunday morning](#) Virtual Sunday School for GS Kids @ Good Shepherd Youth and Family Ministries YouTube Channel

[Wednesday Night](#) Youth Group from [6:30-7:30 PM](#) on campus outside behind the Parish Hall. Activities for the month of December include Holiday art fun, Game Night, Make an Ornament for your family, and other fun stuff.

The last Sunday of every month is Outdoor Youth and Family Worship Experience [from 5:00-6:00 PM](#). A casual time to see one another and worship together.

Stay tuned for more activities coming your way in 2021!

Youth and Family Ministries
[GoodShepVirtual.org /](https://www.goodshepvirtual.org/)
Youth & Families

Video lessons:
[YouTube.com/](https://www.youtube.com/)
Good Shepherd Youth and Family Ministries

Please share ministry offerings with friends. We have a place for you !

Outdoor Youth Group will meet again on Campus!
Wednesday Evenings at 6:30 PM
All Outside — Masks required — Social Distanced

SERVE

Pennies For Heaven News: *Inspired Connections*

By Beth Long, Pennies For Heaven Shop Manager

During this time of Covid, anxiety, and unrest, you don't know how great it was when we finally got the "go ahead" to open the Pennies shop! We opened with a shorter work week (Tue – Fri) and shorter hours, (11 – 3 p.m.). But the volunteers who were willing to come back were equally as excited! Not only was it amazing to see our volunteers back in business, but our local "thrifters" waiting at the door on the first day was super special.

Even though the Pennies shop runs like a business on the Good Shepherd campus, I feel God is all around us and ever present every day. As we follow the guidelines with masks and keep track of how many people are in the store at one time, I'd like to think the lord is keeping an eye out on our health and keeping everyone safe. His presence is there as people come and go with donations or come into shop. It is a safe place and a place of compassion for so many different outreach programs that we help on a daily basis.

Not only do we outreach to the community, but we help a number of our own parishioners who are downsizing, moving or dealing with a loss of a loved one. For those that are donating to us, they have no idea who they are helping on the other end. God is there to guide us and help us be the middle-man to the best of our ability.



If you like to serve, stay busy, use your creativity, interact with others (safely of course), Pennies Thrift Shop is a place for you! It is different every day and we can always use your help. Stop in and take a look, we are completely ready for the holidays! If you are interested in helping out or have any questions about Pennies, donating items etc. Please contact Beth Long at 561-406-2923.

HOURS

Tuesday—Friday
11-3

Social distancing required
Please wear a mask

Donations accepted when the shop is open
or call us to make arrangements
561-406-2923

Thank you!

The Longest Night
Monday, December 21
6 PM
Livestream (no in-person service)
A service of healing and hope for those who
Are hurting at Christmas.
GoodShepVirtual.org

Can't make it during the shop hours? You can now shop 24/7 on our ebay Store Pennies For Heaven Thrift



Pennies For Heaven Thrift

CONNECT

Blessing of the Animals: Pandemic Edition

It wasn't as "ruff" as expected!

How do we get the pets in one place without getting their people together? Drive-thru! Sunday, October 4, saw over 30 cars drive through our south parking lot for pet blessings on St. Francis Sunday. Fr. Doug distanced himself from each car, and with a gold aspergillum, sprinkled the passing pets with holy water and said a blessing. This year we saw more cats and birds, probably due to the quiet car setting and tinted windows. Encouraged by our Office Dog, Mr. Bingley, we are happy to report that no pets tried to drive themselves to church.



Bring your pets... or they might just bring themselves!



ALL PHOTOS THIS PAGE JO WOOD

By the NUMBERS

Here are some of the numbers behind this year's events, services, and activities that reflect the life of this parish.

156

Weekly number of people served by Food Pantry

\$404,818

Estimates of Giving for 2021 as of November 23

2

Hurricanes that have ravaged Central America and our ministry partners in as many weeks

5 and 10

Dollar amounts of Publix gift cards included in food bags from Food Pantry

80

Current max number allowed for in-person worship based on seating restrictions

200

Manna Bags per week distributed to St. George's

\$36,200

Raised for purchase of livestream system

255

Days since we closed the campus at the beginning of the pandemic



This is what a livestream service looks like on our website. Notice the comment bubble in the lower right corner? That is on every page of our website (including the livestream page) and allows viewers or anyone visiting our site to let us know that they are with us! We also welcome prayer requests and any other general comments you wish to pass along. These are *not* broadcast during the service. Every comment will be acknowledged. You can comment anytime!

Connect with us!

Because of your generosity, we were able to fast-track one of our Strategic Plan goals of “developing a system to increase accessibility to ministry through technology.” The Technology Fund was able to raise \$36,200 in about eight weeks this summer and we quickly turned that into a system that provides livestreaming for our Sunday and special services. Before the livestream we were recording services during the week and broadcasting them on Sundays. While this worked for a while in the beginning of the pandemic, it soon became clear that the time and effort of so many throughout the week was not sustainable with the other ministry offerings we were providing.

Since the adoption of livestream, we have realized that there are so many of our home-bound and assisted living parishioners who can now join us for a service online. We get comments from people in other regions who said they have been watching regularly. We have part-time priests from smaller churches in other corners of the country who look to our services for ideas and inspiration. Our Food Pantry clients receive information about service times and some of them have been joining us as well.

In addition to livestream we have been providing Bible Study and Adult Education opportunities online. Ministries such as Healing Team, Outreach, Re-entry Task Force, Giving Team, Youth Group, Good Guys, and Pennies For Heaven volunteers have all found that connecting is as close as your smart phone or computer. Through Zoom, FaceTime, Facebook, and YouTube we continue to be Christ's presence in the community. For those not connected, we make phone calls. Our Daughters of the King chapter is in the initial stages of developing a program to match people who need technology to donated tech. We can now share memorial services with families unable to travel.

While there have been so many hurdles and limits to ministry as we knew it, this disruption has forced us to adapt in amazing and meaningful ways. Thank you.

Financials 2020 (January—October)

	Actual	Budget	Annual Budget	Variance
Operating Revenues	745,333	800,100	960,120	(54,767)
Operating Expenses	776,972	820,512	984,614	43,540
Net Total	(31,639)	(20,412)	(24,494)	(11,227)

GIVING: Ways to Give to Good Shepherd

Recurring Gifts

Linking your giving to your bank account cuts processing fees and means that more of your gift can be used for mission and ministry. You can set up this direct giving on our secure giving page by selecting a recurring ACH gift. You will also have the opportunity to select the giving schedule and, once established, you can change or cancel it at any time.

Text to Give

Yes, you can now text [goodsheponline](https://www.goodsheponline.org) to 77977 and receive a link to give any amount to Good Shepherd. You will have the option to designate the gift as pledge, undesignated, or type in what you would like to give toward. Setting up your first gift takes about a minute and after that, it truly only takes 10 seconds to express your generosity with a financial gift.

Checks and Credit Cards

We continue to process checks even though there is no plate offering at this time. Please mail checks to the church at 400 Seabrook Road, Tequesta, FL 33469. Credit cards are processed easily on our website on the Giving page and can be done at any time on any schedule. You can also set up recurring credit card donations.

Stock Donations

Stock donations may be made to Good Shepherd for any purpose. If you would like to make a donation on realized gains from stock, please contact Merike Seely for the trade instructions. **Important Request:** If you make a stock gift to the church for memorial gifts, for endowment, or for your pledge, **please let Merike or the clergy know about it.** We want to properly recognize and allocate your gift. Contact us at mseely@goodsheponline.org.

TODAY

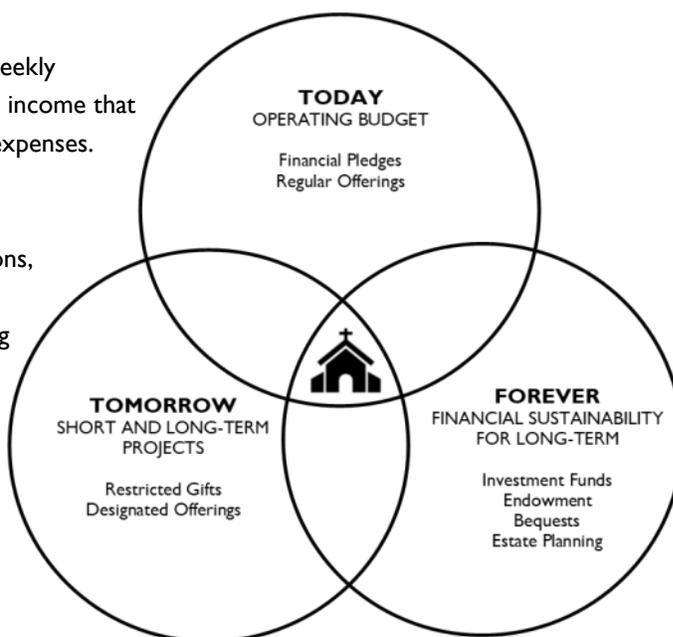
The financial pledges and weekly offerings which provide the income that funds ongoing, day-to-day expenses.

TOMORROW

Outside of normal operations, these gifts fund short and long-term projects including outreach initiatives and property maintenance.

FOREVER

Giving that ensures financial sustainability through endowment and investment funds.



Financials



GOOD SHEPHERD

EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL

400 Seabrook Road
Tequesta, FL 33469

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
West Palm Beach, FL
Permit No. 1930

Current resident or

**Register For
In-Person Worship at
GoodShepVirtual.org**

SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY SERVICE

LIVESTREAM AT

GOODSHEPVIRTUAL.ORG

FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE

AT 10:00 AM ON SUNDAYS

MORNING PRAYER

WEEKDAYS AT 9:00 AM

ON FACE BOOK AND ZOOM

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY – FRIDAY

Tuesday – Friday

10 – 2

mail@goodsheponline.org or
leave a message at 561-746-4674

THRIFT SHOP HOURS

TUESDAY – FRIDAY

11 – 3

Donations accepted when the
shop is open
561-406-2923

CHRISTMAS & Epiphany

This Is What We Know So Far!

December 20	Children's Christmas Presentation
December 21	The Longest Night (Livestream only, no in-person)
December 24	Christmas Eve
	4:00 Traditional Christmas Eve Service
	6:00 Outdoor Christmas Under the Stars
	9:00 Contemplative Candlelight Christmas Eve
December 25	Christmas Day
	10:00 Christmas Service Online (no in-person svc.)
December 27	Christmas I
January 3	Christmas II
January 10	First Sunday after the Epiphany (The Baptism of our Lord)

- * All services will continue to follow current social distancing practices.
- * In-person worship is always subject to change based on metrics.
- * Registration for in-person worship will open on Thursday, December 10.
- * Outdoor services will be social distanced. Please bring your own chair or blanket.

And, mark your calendar for this upcoming event:

January 24 Annual Meeting (online webinar format, except it'll be fun)

www.GoodShepVirtual.org