GOOD SHEPHERD
EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL
TEQUESTA, FLORIDA

Vestry Highlights

August 2026

The Vestry met on Saturday, August 15, 2026, for its annual retreat and regular monthly meeting. Please note there was no Vestry meeting in July.

A Moment of Gratitude

This month's Moment of Gratitude is shared by George Creel, who lifts up the Smith family with deep appreciation for more than thirty years of faith, friendship, service, and commitment to the community of Good Shepherd.

The Smith family's story at Good Shepherd began in 1995, when Tracy, whose family were already longtime parishioners, introduced Howard and Jean to the Rev. Bob Taylor and Marlene. Howard and Jean, both English and lifelong members of the Church of England, soon became part of the Good Shepherd community. Over the years, they became deeply woven into the life of the parish, contributing not only through their service but through the friendships, social gatherings, and fundraisers that helped build the community we know today. It is sometimes said, with affection, that this is the "House that Bob built"; Howard and Jean were very much part of the family that helped make it so.

Howard served Good Shepherd generously as a Eucharistic Minister and Lector, and as a member of the Rector Search Committee that called Father Doug. He was active in Good Guys, OWLS, and Hallowed Hikes, and was perhaps best known for his joyful role, top hat and all, as the longtime emcee of Pennie's Fashion Show. Howard took particular pride in worshipping alongside his son Larry, daughter-in-law Tracy, and granddaughters Megan and Emily.

Good Shepherd has also marked important moments in the family's life. In 2000, Larry and Tracy's marriage was blessed in the old church, and the parish has remained an important part of their lives ever since.

Tracy has been a longtime parishioner and a devoted servant of Good Shepherd in her own right. She has served twice on the Vestry and continues to contribute regularly as a Verger and Eucharistic Minister. She and Larry have also been active in Cursillo, representing Good Shepherd through that ministry. Together, they have carried forward the family's tradition of service and participation in the life of the parish.

Larry has now stepped once again into parish leadership, having recently rejoined the Vestry and been appointed Junior Warden in January. A cradle Episcopalian, Larry was baptised at Immanuel Episcopal Church on the Green in New Castle, Delaware, and later confirmed at Good Shepherd. Over the years, he has served the parish in many capacities, including as a Cursillo Board member, Verger, Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Visitor, Stewardship Committee co-chair, and member of the Master Plan and Youth & Children's Foundation teams. Today, he is deeply involved with Jo Wood and the team leading our "For Such a Time as This" Capital Campaign, working to renew,

improve, and strengthen Good Shepherd for the future. His service reflects not only a commitment to the parish as it is today, but a vision for the parish we hope to pass on to those who come after us. He has also shared his time and leadership with our young people, including travelling with the Youth Group on mission trips.

And then there is the third generation: Megan and Emily have grown up at Good Shepherd, from Sunday School to Youth Group to Acolyting, giving many years of their time and energy to the parish. Now a senior and sophomore in college respectively, they carry with them the experience of having been formed within this community and having served it from an early age.

For more than thirty years, the Smith family has been woven into the life of Good Shepherd. From the old church to the parish we know today, from Howard and Jean to Larry and Tracy, and now to Megan and Emily, three generations have worshipped, served, celebrated, and grown here.

And perhaps that is the greatest gift the Smith family has given Good Shepherd: not simply their years of service, but their presence across generations. As Larry now helps lead us into the next chapter through "For Such a Time as This," the Smith family continues to help build the Good Shepherd of tomorrow.

The Good Shepherd family gives thanks for Howard and Jean, for Larry and Tracy, for Megan and Emily, and for the many years of faith, friendship, laughter, service, and love they have shared with us. We are grateful that, for more than three decades, Good Shepherd has been part of the Smith family's story, and that the Smith family has become such an important part of ours.

Rector's Report
Father Groff celebrated a busy summer of ministry at Good Shepherd. Since the Vestry's last meeting, he officiated at four baptisms, one graveside service, and one wedding. Our youth also completed their mission trip to Costa Rica, where they joined in Vacation Bible School and construction projects serving the local community.

The parish celebrated **Mary Lou Crifasi** upon her retirement and welcomed **Pam Steele-Unger** to the staff in a part-time communications role as she continues as our Thrift Shop Assistant Manager. **Lisa Ellington** will now serve as Office & Communications Assistant.

Senior Warden's Report
Senior Warden George Creel reported that the Investment Committee has completed a comprehensive review and update of Good Shepherd's Investment Policy Statement, focusing particularly on investment earnings, spending policy, and target asset allocation. Approximately half of the parish's invested funds are held in the Perpetual Endowment, from which up to 3% may be drawn annually under the spending policy. The remaining invested funds are designated for Mission & Ministry.

George also encouraged Vestry members to attend School Chapel and celebrated the beginning of another season of Bible Study. The new **Barn Raising** ministry has gotten off to a strong start, and plans are underway to continue the Advent Devotions project following its success last year.

Junior Warden's Report
Junior Warden Larry Smith offered special thanks to Rob Steiner, Jo Wood, Diane Spinnenweber, Father Groff, and everyone who has helped shepherd the campus through this summer's extensive construction work. That work has included a new roof on the church, school and rectory as well as

new air conditioners in the church, two in the parish hall, and rectory. Painting has been ongoing on all campus buildings. The men's toilet in the Narthex bathroom has been replaced. It has been a very busy summer and he thanked everyone for their contributions to the Capital Campaign and for their patience.

School Report
Julie Hirsch reported that the summer campus construction was completed in time for the **first day of school**. The Vestry celebrated the successful completion of the work and the beginning of another school year at Good Shepherd.

Capital Campaign Update
The **"For Such a Time as This" Capital Campaign** continues to make strong progress. As of the August Vestry meeting, **$1,668,300 has been committed through 59 pledges** toward the campaign's $2 million goal. To date, $478,683 has been received to fund the work already begun.

Quotes continue to come in for various projects, including a landscape master plan. The parish is also working with an architect on plans for the Narthex. The Narthex project is still in a conceptual stage and those ideas will be shared with the parish as soon as they are ready.

Financial Reports
Treasurer Mike Greene shared that through the end of July, the parish remains in a strong financial position. Year-to-date revenues totaled $819,576, approximately **$52,800 ahead of budget**, while expenses totaled $777,636, approximately **$13,600 below budget**. This resulted in a **year-to-date operating surplus of $41,939**, compared with a budgeted deficit of approximately $24,450 at this point in the year.

Pledge income continues to be particularly strong, running approximately **$29,300 ahead of budget** through July. Other income is also approximately **$30,200 ahead of budget**, while contributions are about $6,700 below budget. On the expense side, property, administrative, and program and ministry **expenses remain below their year-to-date budgets**, helping contribute to the parish's favorable overall position.

The Vestry also received the **2025 Financial Review**, which Senior Warden George Creel reported was a clean review. The Vestry unanimously voted to accept the 2025 Financial Review.

A consolidated financial report for July is included below. Questions regarding the budget or church finances should be directed to Treasurer Mike Greene. For updates on pledges or giving, parishioners are encouraged to contact Business Manager Lynn Evans.

Church Of The Good Shepherd

Analysis of Revenues & Expenses - Summary

July 2026

	MTD Actual (This Year)	MTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Budget (This Year)	Annual Budget (This Year)	YTD Budget Remaining (This Year)
Revenues						
Pledges	$ 37,314.72	$ 59,733.75	$ 447,455.92	$ 418,136.25	$ 716,805.00	$ (29,319.67)
Contributions	6,031.00	16,841.17	111,182.78	117,888.19	202,094.09	6,705.41
Other Income	30,352.13	21,750.00	187,630.98	157,444.38	301,888.76	(30,186.60)
School Contributions	16,894.00	16,894.00	73,306.00	73,306.00	112,937.00	-
Total Revenues	$ 90,591.85	$ 115,218.92	$ 819,575.68	$ 766,774.82	$ 1,333,724.85	$ (52,800.86)
Expenses						
Stipends, Salaries and Benefit	$ 60,708.57	$ 61,262.12	$ 435,062.17	$ 430,834.84	$ 739,145.15	$ (4,227.33)
Property Related Expenses	49,461.98	50,165.65	196,464.17	201,510.55	329,571.70	5,046.38
Diocesan Expenses	11,176.50	11,176.50	78,235.50	78,235.50	134,218.00	-
Admin/Office Expenses	5,464.78	11,989.83	36,476.04	43,061.81	67,650.00	6,585.77
Program & Ministry Expenses	2,252.77	6,154.18	31,398.47	37,579.26	63,140.00	6,180.79
Total Expenses	$ 129,064.60	$ 140,748.28	$ 777,636.35	$ 791,221.96	$ 1,333,724.85	$ 13,585.61
Net Operating Total	$ (38,472.75)	$ (25,529.36)	$ 41,939.33	$ (24,447.14)	$ -	$ (66,386.47)