

Church of the Good Shepherd



Annual Report 2021

Rector Report



“May the peace of God which surpasses understanding keep your heart and mind in the knowledge and love of Christ.” (Philippians 4:7)

There has never been a time, like this past year, when I have prayed so repeatedly for this peace. For myself and for our congregation. It is an understatement but still true - this year has been a challenge. There have been joys we could not celebrate. There have been losses we could not grieve.

The normative practice of a faith community is to gather for worship. Every. Single. Sunday. That is what “church” is. To gather and give thanks and praise to God. To listen to the stories of our faith, sing the beliefs of our faith, and speak prayers faithfully prayed for centuries.

The normative practice of people is to gather. To see one another, connect with each other. Shake hands and share the peace. The peace of God that surpasses human understanding.

We still wait for that normative time to be made new. We have not yet fully resumed our practices of gathering for worship or anything else. The peace that surpasses understanding guards my heart and mind with the trust that in Christ, that reality will be made new, soon and very soon.

Practicing gratitude is what continues to keep me most connected to the abiding peace God gives. So, my report is to give thanks. Thank you, Tina Thomas for sharing in leadership ministry with me as the Sr. Warden. For your availability, insights, prayerful and positive presence. Thank you, Harry Andrews for sharing in leadership to care for the campus and building which was utilized all year for our Good Shepherd School.

Thank you, Bill Nesbitt. For taking on the role of lay minister and faithfully being present on the altar and in a sanctuary that felt many a sabbath like the empty tomb that follows Good Friday. For supporting me in presiding at worship, through sharing in the responsibilities, decisions and even, breaking open the word of God in a pulpit. And of course, for sharing your skills and gifts as Treasurer.

Thank you Mabeth Hudson, Chair of Outreach. We partnered in facilitating one of the most profound experiences I have had in faith formation. Through the Sacred Ground sessions we connected with the reality of narrative history. How it has shaped us individually and as a society in ways that are heartbreaking and hopeful. Thank you for leading our outreach committee which combines discernment with compassionate action in our community.

Thank you Cynthia Fraser for your patient and diligent record-keeping as Registrar. One day, I know for certain, people (definitely future clergy) will be very interested to read how we lived through this pandemic. This is what church records are for. They tell the story of a community and serve as valuable references in decisions that will need to be made in a future we cannot fully imagine.

Thank you, Vestry. The work of stewarding our church did not stop for one minute. Thank you for your presence, support, connection, wisdom, prayers, engagement with scripture and spiritual nourishment. Thank you.

Thank you Kevin King, Jane Miller, and John Bonn for making music as we have been able. Thank you to the smaller ensemble of our choir, Ginny, Faith, Renee, Mark and Bill. “How can we keep from singing?” one hymn asks. Eventually, all of our choir will and our congregation, too.

Thank you Fran Duffy, Mary Snead, Julie Minch, Christie Root and Jane Banks for preparing our altar for worship as you could and when we were able. I am sure there are other who we need to thank and hope we can add a few more hands to this guild in the coming months!

Thank you Wim Cassard and Kate Knott. The TIRELESS efforts of Wim (pronounced “Vim”) and Kate enabled us to livestream worship consistently throughout the year. I am most grateful for their calm and dedicated presence on Sunday mornings and on the days in-between as we kept learning what works, and what did not. The right equipment is but a piece of the necessary machinations for delivering live, online worship. Thank you Sara Noon and John Horine assisting in this new ministry, too.

Thank you, Sarah Lemon for the compassionate and diligent oversight of the GSS community. Your concern and dedication to the families continued to inspire ongoing delight, development, and discovery in the children. And I join with you in giving thanks for all the teachers and school staff. The school as a cornerstone of The Church of the Good Shepherd has never been more evident. Thank you, Poppy McClellan, Board Chair as well as the board for the additional time, communication and understanding in how we worked to share our building and campus through difficult and anxiety-filled circumstances.

Thank you, Kim Chalmers, Finance and Facilities Manager. The job title does not convey the breadth of Kim’s work. Many more of you now know her friendliness and proactive attention, personally. I am most grateful to work together and for the many ways she gives so generously of her time and talents to support the work of the church and smooth operations in our building this past year.

Thank you, Lauren Rohrs, Communications Coordinator. Lauren is behind all our online communications, without which we would not be able to communicate this year. She gave generously of her time over many a weekend so that we could livestream worship on Sundays. I am grateful for the newly formed Personnel Committee that will be working with me in ensuring we recognize and continue to develop our staff and staffing capabilities.

Our Annual Meeting this year occurs on Pentecost when we Jesus tells us he sends us an Advocate. The Holy Spirit who will stay with us, guiding us through all things specifically how we seek, find and serve Christ through the community of The Good Shepherd.

Thank you for holding space for my thanksgivings; may we encourage one another to rejoice in the Lord always and give thanks without ceasing. My sisters and brothers in Christ I long for the day when we can all be together at The Church of the Good Shepherd and sing our praises of thanks to God – and then gather for an in-person coffee hour!

With gratitude and in Peace, Arianne+

Senior Warden Report



Senior Warden – Annual Report 5/23/2021

“The human capacity for burden is like bamboo- far more flexible than you'd ever believe at first glance.” - Jodi Picoult

“When the whole world is entrenched in the bunker of physical and often emotional isolation, only flexibility and ingenuity can revive us to remain grounded and imbibe the bolstering sunlight piercing through the canvas of chaos.” - Erik Pevernagie

Flexibility and ingenuity seem like the perfect words to describe how the Church of the Good Shepherd handled the challenges of the past year: The Staff, Clergy, Choir, Congregation and the Day School Director, Teachers and Staff. In every area, we have had to be both of these: flexible and ingenious. We learned to zoom every vestry meeting, livestream our services, connect in myriad of new ways. We ran a Stewardship Campaign, continued our programming, ran a Mutual Ministry Review. I am so proud of all that has been accomplished. It seems now that we are close to the end of the worst of the pandemic and opening up again.

Before we consider the future, I would like to look back first. Here are a few observations and thanks!

Thanks

Staff

First and foremost, thanks go to Kim Chalmers and Lauren Rohrs Saleh for keeping our church safe, sound and stable! With their help we were able to keep paying our bills, communicate with the congregation and meet all the needs of operating a building as a church and school. We are truly grateful and thankful for both of them.

Clergy

Arianne has been delivering week after week inspiring sermons, words of encouragement and common sense during the entire pandemic. I cannot say enough about the time and effort she takes to keep COGS running with heart and soul.

Amid all this, we lost Van Gardner – our beloved friend and assistant rector to a battle with cancer. Van brought calm, common sense as well as “good trouble” to us for the short time he served at COGS. We will forever be grateful for his wisdom, kindness and smile.

Bell Ringing

Once again, thanks to Cynthia Frasier and Rebecca Williams for overseeing the bell ringing in honor of frontline healthcare workers. It was a delight and hoping that we can do more bell ringing in the future.

Vestry

First, we need to thank Harry Andrews who served so faithfully as our Junior Warden these past years. Thanks to him for all the hard work, time, energy and wonderful talent. Bill Baker will be taking on the task as Junior Warden and I am sure Harry will do everything in his power to make the transition a smooth one.

A huge thanks go to John Bonn, Hilary Zouck Shaffer and Kate Knott for their service to the Vestry. They stayed on an extra six months because of the pandemic. They all helped in many ways. John and Hilary both served as liaisons to the Outreach Committee. Kate Knott helped with the Children, Youth and Families not to

mention assisting me with some notetaking and help with future plans. Finally, a thanks again to Dick Reid our Treasurer, who helped us understand the Church's Finances and reported monthly on our condition for many years.

We welcome four vestry members including Mary Ellen Gervais, Jill Hanson, Marge Rodgers and Barry Rollins who has served on the vestry before. Bill Nesbitt remained on the Vestry and now serves as our new Treasurer.

The Vestry and Arianne conducted a Mutual Ministry Review in February. It was facilitated by Joanne Frisch's son, John Frisch who is a consultant. It was a great experience and encouraged open discussions between the vestry and Arianne.

Programming

Sacred Ground

Arianne and Mabeth Hudson lead two groups in a ten-week course called Sacred Ground: A film based dialogue base on race and faith offered by the Episcopal Church. If you have any interest in learning more about this thought provoking and moving series, please contact Arianne, Mabeth Hudson, or me. A wonderful outcome of this programming was the a beautiful Lenten Series Booklet put together by Ellen Brinkley who also participated in Sacred Ground. Daily meditations written by participants of the Sacred Ground Series were thoughtful and profound.

Love is the Way

Arianne offered a wonderful six-week book study of Bishop Michael Curry's Love is the Way. If you have not read this book, I highly recommend it as a tool for life.

Personnel Committee

A new Personnel Committee was created to strengthen our understanding of the personnel roles and commitments going forward. Committee co-chairs are Hilary Sargeant and Marge Rodgers and other members include, Arianne, Bill Nesbitt and me. More to come.

Palm Sunday & Easter Service were held on March 28 and April 4 with our first services including congregants thanks to sign up and volunteers to check in each participant.

Ongoing

Stewardship – I wish I could say that we have reached our goals for pledging but currently we are way behind to meet our annual budget. If you have not pledged yet, it is not too late. I hope that you can see that the church still needs your pledge to operate the building, pay salaries and continue our outreach commitments.

Live Streaming – On a weekly basis, Vim Cassard, Kate Knott and Sara Noon worked tirelessly to bring you our 10 am services so that we could stay connected with our church, our rector, our choir and music. They are continuing with that effort until we can have more people trained in the process. If you have any tech acumen and would like to offer your assistance in this area it would be much appreciated. In the meantime, we give thanks for the talents of our tech team.

Altar Guild – Christie Root, Julie Minch, worked on Sundays to make the altar look beautiful and continue every Sunday going forward.

Outreach Committee – Mabeth and all the members of the Outreach committee have continued to be active in planning all outreach efforts. ACTC is continuing, SLYC is returning for summer camp and you can read her detailed report to find out more.

Looking Forward

Future of our church - We must all be thinking, coming together and anticipating the goals, needs and actions we will need to take the Church of the Good Shepherd into the next decade and beyond. We know that there is one more portion of roof to be replaced. We know that we need to make some very major infrastructure repairs like upgrading the kitchen and the parish hall, and we know we need to be able to support a second clergy member. We will have to work together to figure out how all these goals will be achieved.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Thomas

Jr. Warden's Buildings and Grounds Report



For the past 12+ months it may feel as if time has stood still. With our change of pace and restrictive repetitive activities it is no wonder. But I also feel as if I have aged at an alarming rate. The structures of Good Shepherd, little affected by the changes, have by and large maintained their pace of aging.

Weather continues to erode, facilities continue to wear, and wear out. We have had a water heater fail, and some light fixtures. Condensation has once again damaged ceilings, and ice damming, once melted found its way inside.

Limiting access for health concerns made maintenance and repairs a challenge, and any improvements out of the question. We were able to finish both nave and parish hall roofs before funds were exhausted. Many necessary improvements await funding.

Even in isolation, many volunteers, as well as staff and clergy, have rallied to the various challenges to maintain some semblance of cohesiveness. From Alter Guild, to the newly formed Videography team, and all other Committees mentioned in this report, as well as our B&G contributors, ... All of you I thank for your efforts to get us thru these most stressful of times.

Respectfully,

Harry Andrews, JW 2017-21

Outreach Report



For the past fifteen months, our world has been experiencing a pandemic that has taken its toll on everyone, especially the most vulnerable. At the same time, our country and communities have been reckoning with racial injustice. The Outreach Committee has been working to help meet these needs, along with building relationships with our mission partners. Here are some highlights:

We continue to be in supportive relationship with the SLYC (St. Luke's Youth Center) community. SLYC serves the children and families of the impoverished neighborhood of Franklin Square. We plan to host Camp Imagination for two weeks this summer and are working with SLYC leadership to raise funds for the dream of a community center on the former grounds of St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

We have strengthened support for Assistance Center of Towson Churches (ACTC). ACTC provides emergency assistance for our neighbors in need in Baltimore County and Baltimore City. During the pandemic, ACTC focused on feeding the hungry. We collected food and provided financial support to meet the increased needs of our neighbors.

We launched two Sacred Ground groups. Sacred Ground is a film-and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Groups met over Zoom for this ten-part series from July 2020 through January 2021 "to peel away the layers that have contributed to the challenges and divides of the present day – all while grounded in our call to faith, hope and love." (from the Sacred Ground website)

We also provided support to organizations and mission partners such as providing afterschool enrichment and support for an elementary student at Claggett, and recently gave money for oxygen supplies for those suffering through COVID in India.

Thank you to everyone for being part of our vital Outreach ministry. The Outreach Committee meets on the first Tuesday of most months from 6:00-7:00 pm. Are you curious or intrigued about how to get more involved? We welcome you!

A special thank you to these dedicated Outreach Committee members: Missy Adams, John Bonn, Cynthia Fraser, Mary Ellen Gervais, Ellen Hoitsma, Margie Long, Stephanie Bartal Lubitz, Wim Cassard, Suzanne Whitney, Hillary Shaffer, Barry Rollins, Krane Oakjones-Burgess, Rev. Arianne Rice, Mabeth Hudson (Chair)

- Mabeth Hudson, Outreach Committee Chair

Treasurer's Report



I took over the position of Treasurer from Dick Reid in July of 2020. Dick did a terrific job, and has made my transition into this job very, very painless. Thank you, Dick, for your service to Good Shepherd.

As of this writing the overall financial position of the Church continues to be strong. Our assets total \$3.05 million, with total liabilities of only \$6,207 as of April 30, 2010. Despite the overall financial strength we enjoy, there are some areas of concern related to our overall operations. For the past three years we have operated at a deficit, and have failed to meet our Stewardship/pledge goals. This is not a sustainable operational model.

This year has been challenging for obvious reasons, but we have taken steps to try to ensure continued revenue flow while containing expenses. These efforts will need to continue in order for us to avoid dipping into our assets to cover operational budget shortfalls.

Budget/Stewardship – The budget approved by the vestry for 2021 projected a significant deficit. While we have already identified several ways to trim this deficit, we want to avoid operating “in the red” as a matter of course. Revenues have suffered, both because of the pandemic and as a result of us falling \$75K short of our stewardship goal for annual pledges. If you have not yet made a pledge for 2021, it’s not too late!

Pandemic Impacts – Thankfully, the CARES Payroll Protection Loan that we received through M&T Bank was forgiven in full. This loan provided significant relief to us last year. Unfortunately, no such relief is available to us this year. Although we are back to limited in-person worship, our revenue stream has been adversely impacted (and will probably continue to be) by the reduced number of attendees on Sunday. In addition, we have incurred additional expense for the technical support and enhancement of our virtual worship setup.

Pending Capital Needs – We still have a number of large, expensive projects that need to be completed over the next few years to maintain the physical condition of our property. The roof still needs to be completed, the air conditioning system needs to be replaced and the kitchen needs updating. While we are blessed to have resources to support some of these projects, we do not want to deplete our investment resources without careful consideration. As Dick suggested in last year’s report, we should consider an improvement/Capital campaign to help support these efforts.

I would like to thank Kim Chalmers for all of her hard work in tracking and reporting the financials each month. I would also like to thank the members of the Finance Committee for their assistance and guidance.

- Bill Nesbitt, Treasurer

Music Annual Report



Fourteen months have passed since the choir was able to rehearse. In that time we've utilized our fine soloists to fill the offertory anthems. Due to COVID precautions, we have cut down the music to just an Opening Hymn and a Closing Hymn. The Gloria, Psalm, and Sanctus have been discontinued to cut down on the congregational singing. It is hoped that soon we will begin to add music back into the appropriate places.

Jane Miller, our organist, has requested that she begin to cut back on her time with us. She is playing two Sundays a month for the foreseeable future with John Bonn, myself, and others playing on the open Sundays.

On Easter, we had a trumpeter adding to the festivities. In the future, the choir will resume their normal schedule in September (fingers-crossed), rehearsing on Thursdays from 7:30 to 9 PM

and on Sunday mornings 9:15 to 10:00 service time

including warm-up with piano, robing, last minute rehearsal, and prayers.

Faithfully submitted,

Kevin King

Altar Guild Report



What a year it has been! A few ladies from the guild continued to create arrangements and set up for virtual services over the past year. One person went in each week to take care of the needs and to be socially distanced. We are slowly working to get back to small groups coming in together to work as a team. We hope others will join this small group to help set up for services and/or create arrangements to adorn the altar. Men and women of all ages are encouraged to help.

Christie Root & Julie Minch

Micro-Loan Program Report

The economic shutdown caused by COVID-19 has had an impact on the Good Shepherd Micro-Loan Program. We suspended the payment obligations of our two active borrowers pending their return to their business activities. We have kept in touch with our Champions, but they have not had the opportunity to recommend applicants to us during the pandemic. They know that the program remains open for applications, and we trust that the resumption of normal economic activity will soon create the opportunity for new investments in the community.

We have continued to describe the program to other churches, including three recent presentations to leadership of St. James Church in Monkton and a meeting with the Missions Committee of Hunt's Memorial Methodist Church on May 23, 2021.

Since its inception, the Good Shepherd Micro-Loan Program has helped nine small businesses and permitted the creation of six new jobs. It has issued sixteen loans, totaling an investment of \$51,250.00 in the community. No funds have been requested from Good Shepherd beyond the \$15,000.00 approved by the Vestry from the Disciples Fund six years ago.

The program has additional funds available for lending, and we would be glad to know of anyone who might be an appropriate candidate for a micro-loan.

Any questions about the Micro-Loan Program may be directed to the undersigned.

Snowden Stanley

Bob Locke

State of School Report 2020-2021



Our Reopening: The 2020-2021 school year has been challenging, to say the least. At this time last year, our doors had been closed for two months yet we had 144 registered students for the fall- our largest enrollment in years. By the time we reopened our doors on September 1st, we had 81 students. Our Parent/Toddler classes were cancelled due to the inability to allow adults other than staff into the building to comply with Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) guidelines which kept 27 students from joining us this school year. Other families had to make the difficult decision to keep their child home due to their personal circumstances which greatly affected our enrollment as well. Several teachers with young children were affected by the continued closure of BCPS which made staffing challenging as September quickly approached. In mid-August, I reached out to

Ascension Lutheran Nursery School who had just been informed that they would not be able to reopen in September to discuss a partnership between our schools. We were blessed to have them join us with their teachers filling the gaps in our staffing and their Director, Lori Pagano, coming on board as our Special Projects Manager to help us implement our Procedures and Protocols Plan to successfully reopen GSS. Our reopening went off without a hitch by utilizing our staggered carpool system, implementing our new Brightwheel Health App for daily health screens of every student and keeping our classes from mixing with other classes through an elaborate set of schedules. Lori and I were able to share our school operations and processes, our program curriculums, grant opportunities, and so much more making both schools stronger and more efficient after our collaboration. When Ascension reopened their Pre-K program in November, they were well-prepared to face the challenges of opening a preschool in a pandemic from their GSS experiences. It was an amazing partnership that was a win-win for both schools and our friendship and partnership are still strong today as we continue to share information and ideas for leading our school communities through these challenging times.

Thank You to All Who Made This Year Possible: While this school year has been challenging, it has also been very rewarding and we are grateful for all we were able to accomplish this year. Thank you to our amazing teachers and staff who jumped in to help wherever needed to make it a successful year of in-person learning and placing themselves at risk to do so. Their determination and drive to forge through the challenges of teaching young children amid the stress that COVID-19 produced and the stringent guidelines that made the work exhausting at times was absolutely remarkable. Their love of working with young children has never been more evident as this year when they came to work each day ready to engage and inspire their students with a sense of curiosity and a love of learning while exposing themselves and their families to greater risk. I fondly refer to the extraordinary teachers and staff we have at Good Shepherd as the GSS Dream Team for good reason.

Thank you to Poppy McClellan, who has served as our School Board Chair for the past three years. Her leadership of the Board, her support of the school and her accessibility and willingness to help at all times have gone above and beyond the normal expectations of a Board Chair. Poppy's whatever-it-takes attitude and her insightful perspective have been instrumental in helping me to guide the school through these unprecedented times. Poppy and the McClellan family will be sorely missed as their son George graduates from our Kindergarten program this June. GSS is a stronger community because of Poppy's leadership as our Board Chair.

Thank you to Billy Duffy who just recently joined the Board as our Finance Chair for the next three years- we are grateful for his time and expertise to guide the financial health and well-being of the school.

I would also like to thank our School Board of Directors which include Reverend Arianne Rice, Adam Ariosa, Dee Baker, Lauren Cole, Eden DeNardi, Liza Ebeling, Sydne Goodier and BG Groff for their commitment and dedication to Good Shepherd School. A special thank you to Dee Baker who remained on the Board for an additional fourth year to provide continuity during this challenging year and thank you to Sydne Goodier who has offered to remain on the Board for a fourth year for the 2021-2022 school year.

They Will Be Missed: We have three wonderful teachers retiring from Good Shepherd this year: Julie Miller (27 years), Robbi Walls (14 years) and Brook Yearley (13 years). These three teachers have been an integral part of our GSS community and they have collectively impacted the lives of hundreds of our students over the years. We are grateful for their years of service and all they have done for Good Shepherd School. They will be greatly missed by all but we are happy for them as they pursue the new paths that lie ahead for each.

Summer Camp Returns: We are thrilled to be hosting our beloved GSS Summertime Camp this summer after a year hiatus due to Covid. Our camps were quickly filled within the first two weeks of registration which is unprecedented. We are so excited for this tradition of summertime fun at GSS to return! Thank you to Alicia Connor, our Summer Camp Director, who has worked tirelessly to make camp a reality amid the current MSDE guidelines- no easy task.

We Are Growing: We are looking forward to the 2021-2022 school year with our enrollment nearly full at this time. We have returned our 2s programs to full capacity, we have added an additional 3-Day 3s class and we have expanded our 5-Day 3s program for the fall. One of our Pre-Kindergarten classes will be moving to a larger classroom to accommodate more students for new families that will be joining us in September. Currently, we have limited spaces in our 2-Day 2s, our 3-Day 3s, our Pre-Kindergarten and our Kindergarten for the 2021-2022 school year.

Thank You to the Church: We are grateful to the Church for the flexibility with building space to enhance several of our programs. Our new Kindergarten program will move into the Choir Room as a shared space between church and school as it has been for the past several years but with other programs. This new Kindergarten space will allow our Kindergarten students more room to experience new interest centers such as the Writing Center, the Listening Lab, the Reading Nook, the Construction Zone, the Science Station and more. Due to the enlarged space, it will also allow us to accommodate all of our returning students as well as new students.

We are very grateful for the flexibility and support of the Church for their graciousness to share the Nursery and Room 14 with us so we can accommodate our Parent/Toddler programs in the fall. We are thrilled that we are able to host these classes for children 12-24 months after a year of closure for these programs. It has been wonderful working with the Space Sharing Committee made up of church and school community members to discuss ways the church and the school can plan for the future uses of the building while creating spaces that have multiple uses for both communities.

Thank you to Arianne, the Church Executive Board and the Vestry for supporting the school through these trying times and helping to create a stronger shared community of church and school. Our Executive Teams are looking forward to working together with Ann Mellow from NAES in early June to forge a stronger relationship between the two Boards that will help us support one another toward our common goals as part of our mission of the Church. We are excited for the possibilities that lie ahead for our Good Shepherd community.

Live Stream Worship

In response to COVID-19 restrictions, Good Shepherd instituted live streamed worship services through YouTube.

Total Streamed Services: 45

Total Streamed Children's Chapels: 14

Total Views: 9,709

New Subscribers: 132

Top Services:

April 12th (Easter) - 563

March 29th—401

November 15th— 306

April 3rd—276

December 24th (Christmas Eve) - 274

Church of the Good Shepherd



Online Holy Eucharist



Baptisms and Funerals

Five Baptisms

- Boone August Mohler
- Joseph Whitaker Ariosa
- Madison Ann Hopper
- Joy Reese Hopper
- Gifford Stevenson Wilson

Five Funerals

- Richard Alden
- J. Richard Thomas
- Molly Rinker Lewis
- Susan W. Hunter
- Earl Richard 'Dick' Watts, Jr.

2020-2021 at Church of the Good Shepherd

