

# The Shepherd's Staff

May, 2024



**April 27** at 10 am - Men's Group

**April 28** at 8 & 10 am- Holy Eucharist

Deadline to Raise \$4,100 to Cover Food Cost for Rise.

**May 4** at 10 am - Men's Group

1pm - Vestry Retreat

**May 5** at 8 am - Holy Eucharist

9 am - set up **Rise Against Hunger**

10 am - Holy Eucharist and Church School

Noon - 2pm - **Packaging Food for Rise Against Hunger**

**Week of May 6** Bishop Meet & Greets (see page 17)

**May 11** at 10 am - Men's Group

**May 12** at 8 & 10 am - Holy Eucharist

**May 14** at 7 pm - Vestry

**May 18** - Bishop Election

10 am - Men's Group

**May 19 Pentecost Sunday**

8 am - Holy Eucharist

10 am - Holy Eucharist and Church School

5 pm at Trinity, Concord - Joint Choir Evensong

**May 26** at 8 & 10 am - Holy Eucharist

**June 2** at 8 & 10 - Holy Eucharist & Last Service with Choir

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Website

<https://goodshepherdacton.org/>

**FB: CGSActon**  
Episcopal Diocese of  
Massachusetts

Sunday, May 5th,  
Noon - 2 pm

Contribute to our \$4100 goal  
click below to  
[to sign up or contribute](#)  
More information on p. 10



# 2023 IMPACT REPORT

Rise Against Hunger is growing a global movement to end hunger by nourishing lives, empowering communities and responding to emergencies. Targeting remote, last-mile communities within hunger pockets designated "serious" or higher by the Global Hunger Index, we work with local leaders to harness the strengths of their communities and tackle their own food and nutrition security challenges with agency, dignity and resilience.

**3,665,952** *lives impacted*



**4,836**  
METRIC TONS  
FOOD PRODUCED/PROCURED

**57.4 million**  
MEALS PACKAGED

**78.9 million** *meals distributed*  
INCLUDING RISE AGAINST HUNGER MEALS AND  
LOCAL + REGIONAL PROCUREMENT OF FOOD

**\$45 million**  
IN DONATED GOODS, PRIMARILY  
MEDICINES AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES

**37 COUNTRIES SERVED**

**IT STARTS WITH A meal**

You, our community of Hunger Champions, have made it possible for Rise Against Hunger to continue our vision of a world without hunger by empowering communities and paving the way toward brighter futures, one meal at a time.

[riseagainsthunger.org/give](http://riseagainsthunger.org/give)

**3,027 MEAL PACKAGING EVENTS**

**331,199 VOLUNTEERS ENGAGED**



## A Word from the Fold



***“Would I recommend the Three Days liturgies to others? Oh yes...to all who wish to become part of community ...especially important during these times of spiritual and social challenges.”***

I really needed the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter this year. And they spoke to me in ways that felt healing and rejuvenating. You will always hear clergy encourage participation in the powerful Three Days leading in to Easter. A colleague of mine, the Rev. Tim Schenck, wrote a post that

made its way around the internet (including our Facebook page) during Holy Week. He wrote, in part, *“When you hear clergy strongly encouraging you to attend the services of Holy Week... it’s not just because they like to see more people in the pews...or they want you to see how much effort goes into these liturgies. It’s because they believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the transforming power of the Christian faith. It’s because they love you and want nothing more than for you to have such a moving encounter with our Lord, that it will change your life.”*

That’s a bold claim! And one that I believe, too.

Over the past three years, Ellen, Ken and I have crafted worship across these Three Days, adapting and refining the services to reflect both ancient tradition and more contemporary expressions of spirituality and grace. We envision the worship to be one continuous service, beginning with sundown on Holy (Maundy) Thursday and continuing through until sundown on Easter evening. This year, a number of people attended all of the services and experienced the continuous nature of each worship service blending into the next. Others popped in as they were able. While, as is always the case, the majority came for Easter Sunday.

For me, as a priest of the Church in this era of Christendom, when churches are rarely full and Holy



Week does not draw a crowd, there is something powerfully counter-cultural and profound about gathering in the evening, with a small but faithful group of Christians, to keep alive a difficult and challenging witness of Jesus’ life, death, and return to life again. In this 3-day liturgy, we discover a truth about life, about our collective human experience, about the earth, that we can see reflected all around us. We receive a message about how to endure the unendurable. We embark on a journey that reminds us that God’s desire is for life to always be renewed and restored.

All liturgy is a living experience that adapts and responds to our deepest emotions. Like all worship, there will be aspects of Holy Week that speak to some more than others. There will be parts that challenge us, others that comfort us, perhaps something that disappoints us or is lacking from what we need or want from these Three Days. I welcome your thoughts to how these services spoke to you.

Ellie+

A number of parishioners who attended some or all of the Three Days this year were invited to share their reflections with us. Here are some of their comments, you will also find some in our worship section, along with photos of Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter.

- *Easter morning as a stand alone service does not have the depth and richness of the Three Days.*
- *Feeling of spiritual community was intense, even*

*over Zoom.*

- *Telling our story once a year feels important - both the welcome stuff and the parts of it that we struggle with. Especially that. We can't pick and choose our story so it's important to engage in all of it.*
- *The service in our garden of remembrance was a good conclusion to the three days - light and warmth and the cross flowering and fellowship. A celebration of the power of light over darkness.*

## Senior Warden's Message



*I wrote this piece in June of 2021 for our church's (Church of the Holy Nativity in Aina Haina, Oahu, Hawaii) weekly bulletin, when we thought the pandemic was abating, urging parishioners to return and connect with the church community and*

*each other and those still suffering from the virus. While I have made a few changes, I offer it as a comment on today's world, urging us to "connect" and describing the loving community we have at the Church of the Good Shepherd.*

*(NB: written in June, 2021, with some changes)*

Imagine this: You are visiting New York City and staying in a Midtown Manhattan hotel; perhaps the five-star Pierre or someplace a bit less exotic. With the windows closed, it is quiet, and with the air conditioning or heat on, you are comfortable, oblivious to the noise outside. Later you take the elevator down to the lounge for a drink before dinner in the quiet and calm of the restaurant. Back in your room, you read for a bit, then turn out the light for a good night's sleep. But outside on the streets people are rushing around, taxis with horns honking and tires screeching swerve in and out, stopping and starting: all racing to get somewhere, or nowhere. But you? You, comfortably removed from the Sturm and Drang outside, fall into a deep sleep.

That scenario could serve as a metaphor

for many during this pandemic, certainly for the Moore family. Since both Delia and I are retired, we suffered no work dislocation or had to adjust to working from home. The stock market has risen, increasing our retirement portfolios.

And what better place to be in lockdown than Hawaii, where we can be outdoors all day all year? Our children and their spouses have good jobs, can work from home, own their own homes, and are fully vaccinated. None have school aged kids, so no issues with virtual learning. Working from home, our youngest, Lora, and hubby Dave have had lots of quality time with eighteen-month-old (now four) Finn and two-year-old Graham. Terry and Jenn's two children are adults and out on their own. Maile can serve as her terminally ill mother's caretaker while working from home. And no member of the family has contracted the virus. Although there have been some minor dislocations (no in-person church, theatre, or travel), we are managing the pandemic quite well, thank you very much!

Meanwhile almost 600,000 Americans and 3.5 million worldwide have died from the virus, which continues to rage in countries throughout the world, causing social and economic chaos as well as medical horrors. (Remember, these are June, 2021 numbers). With much of the population vaccinated and the number of new cases and deaths declining, America is reopening, and maybe getting back to some sort of normal.

And now, three years later, starvation, poverty, war, displacement, etc. rage in so many countries. People are suffering terribly in (for them) a world without hope. It is imperative, I believe, that as we emerge from our bubbles, we look out and

find ways to connect on some level with those still in the grip of the virus and the unspeakable horrors of 2024. In a different context, a sermon delivered in E. M. Forster's [Howards End](#) asserts that when we connect, "human love will be seen at its height, and we will live in fragments no longer." In short, we will have "connected to the divine."

I cannot tell you or anybody how to connect to the divine, but Bishop Michael Curry can:

*"There is a simple way to connect to the divine, anytime you feel like it. If God is love, and love is an action, you've only got to go out there and do it. You've got to go out there and receive it. And the easiest way to do that is to become part of a community of people who want to give and receive love, to liberate themselves from the tyranny of self to look outward. From a small gesture to a large sacrifice every day provides*

*an opportunity to do love so long as you're not living a life in isolation. And if you've got a loving community, you can rest in God's hands anytime you need to." Bishop Michael Curry in [Love is the Way](#) (pp.28-29)*

This is the loving community I have found at The Church of the Good Shepherd, and which has been a life saver for me.

On an official note, the vestry has approved, and the church has signed, a contract to install solar on our roof (see Creation Care Committee report for more information). There are other irons in the fire and as these are fleshed out and given form, we will let you know.

Thank you all,  
Ed

## Worship

# Save the Date!

# Pentecost is Sunday, May 19

# Please wear something red to church if possible

## Service Schedule

### Sunday

8:00 am Holy Eucharist

10:00 am Holy Eucharist, also live streamed on Zoom

### Wednesday

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, followed by potluck breakfast

### Thursday

8:00 pm Compline via Zoom

## Palm Sunday



## Maundy Thursday



*"I sensed a connection among the community during these services."  
"Hope we do this next Easter season. Will urge friends to attend."*

## Good Friday

*"The Good Friday service was very moving and meditative."  
"Very human and timely...sensitive to cultural nuances and diversity."*

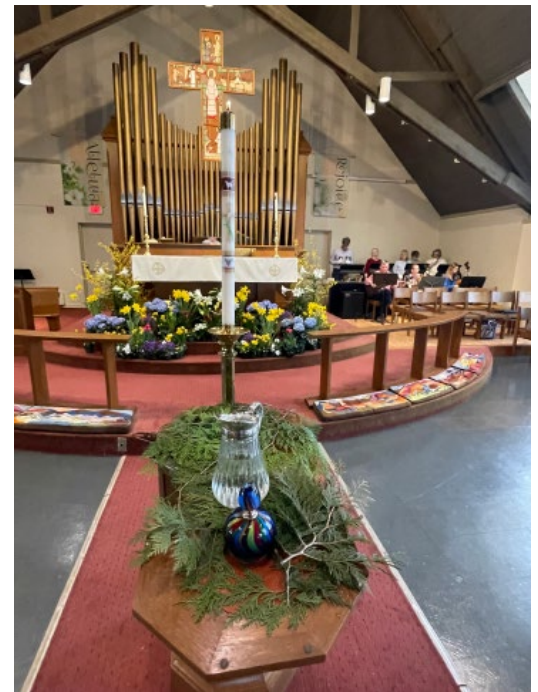




## The Great Vigil of Easter

*"The Vigil service is always my favorite - so full of light, flowers, music and joy as it was this time. And the fellowship after the service with simple treats made it more of a community celebration than all heading out the door at the end to go to our own homes."*

*"I liked the worship at the back of the church for some of the services and I loved some of the hymns we sang then."*



*“My experience of spiritual community was the feeling of everyone being in the same emotional place at the same time.”*

*And a special memory from 3- year old Amelie who said of the baptismal water sprinkling at the Easter Vigil, “I like splashing people with water because then they look at me and smile!”*







## Easter Evening



*“The service in our garden of remembrance was a good conclusion to the three days - light and warmth and the cross flowering and fellowship. A celebration of the power of light over darkness.”*

Want to see more photos?  
they can be found on our [FaceBook Page.](#)

## Seriously God – I’m Called to Bells????

I had never attended a church which had bells until I came to Good Shepherd, and I was delighted by them. And, there were a lot of them. They didn’t play every Sunday, but often enough that it happened more than on very special occasions. Whenever I would tell a bell ringer how much I enjoyed them, the bell ringer would say I should try them and that you didn’t even need to read music to join and play.

You probably need to know that I have a sad and varied history with music-making. When I was little and took dance lessons, I had a horrible time staying on beat — or even finding the beat for that matter. I had to leave the junior choir when I was around 11 because my voice was throwing the whole choir off key, I’m truly tone deaf. My father bought an electric organ, and I had music lessons from ages 9-15. For most of the years I enjoyed playing, but a new teacher dropped me quickly for lack of talent. I continued to play on my own for a while, even when Tony didn’t really appreciate my level of playing — his sister taught violin and



played in an orchestra. Once our kids were out of the house I stopped playing and we gave Great Aunt Mildred’s piano to friends for their daughter to take lessons.

Then...one Sunday in February or early March, I found myself talking to Ellen Oak about trying to play the bells. (I think Ronnie Diesl planted the seed decades ago.) Ellen was gracious, inviting, encouraging, and reassured me that it would be ok if I messed up and to try them. So after many years of “thinking about it,” there I was one Saturday morning with Lesley Murray, Delia Moore, and Josh Conway helping to get me set up to play, giving me tips, and reassuring me that I could do it. Ellen had us diving into “Ode To Joy,” and I realized

that I was using parts of my brain that I hadn't used in decades — and it felt wonderful! I had completely forgotten how much fun it was to make music, and the bells were not difficult. Ellen was reassuring and informative when necessary. She also told me that the congregation wouldn't mind if I make a mistake because everyone just loves to hear the bells, and I thought back to how I felt when I heard the bells, and she was right!

It was a great experience for me, and I enjoyed playing with others, which was something

I had never done. Lesley was great at helping me keep track of where we were in the music, Delia had great practicing tips, and Josh was great and repaired some problems I had with sticky bells. I look forward to playing them again.

It's always amazing how listening to God's call and answering "Here I am, Lord" can enrich your life and bring joy.

Margaret Geanisis

PS. Feel free to try the bells some time, the company is wonderful.

## Church School



Easter Egg Hunt



## Church School Calendar

Sunday, May 5 at 10 am - Church School - followed by Rise For Hunger meal packaging

Sunday, May 19 at 10 am - Church School

Sunday, June 2 at 10 am - Church School

# Mission Outreach

*“We are called to be the change we want to see in the world by honoring human dignity and seeking to improve the rights and conditions of people locally, nationally, and globally.”*

**IT STARTS**  
WITH A *meal*

Ready to get started with your group's Rise Against Hunger Experience?  
It starts with a meal, and it starts with you!



As many as 783 million people are facing hunger globally, according to the 2023 edition of the FAO's State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report recently published. That equates to just under 10% of the world's population.

Bring friends and family for an afternoon full of important work and joy!  
Be a part of packaging 10,000 meals!

## Sunday, May 5, 12-2 in the Parish Hall

Contribute to our \$4100 fundraising goal – we have to contribute to the cost of the food which we pack That's \$.41 per meal!

[Here's the link to donate and volunteer.](#)



[Read here about Rise Against Hunger's food programs](#) in the Philippines where our meals went last year.

# Church of the Good Shepherd Visits Esperanza Academy

On April 11, a group of 11 from our parish (Pastor Ellie, Carolyn and Andy Platt, Rafael Pupo, Barb Magee, Bev Ridpath, Karen Root Watkins, Alex Flores, Ellen Oak, Margaret Geanisis, and Barbara Dailey) traveled to Lawrence, MA to spend an inspiring afternoon with the students and staff of Esperanza Academy.



Two student tour guides spoke with pride and confidence about their lives at school. Administrators Pati Fernandez and Candice Pechilis explained their innovative curriculum and how it advances Esperanza's educational mission. They also outlined plans for a new, and much-needed, school building.



We also saw the library where the books from our recent book drive are now on the shelves or in the hands of student readers. An article about CGS's book drive appears in Esperanza's latest newsletter. Click on the link to read more: [Esperanza Academy](#)



Barbara Dailey

## Pupusa Dinner Fundraiser a great success!

On Saturday evening March 9, the El Salvador Committee hosted our annual fundraising event to benefit the El Ocotillo Scholarship Pro-



gram. Once again, our parish hall was decked out with bright colorful decorations and the kitchen was transformed into a Pupusa Truck. Pupusas are the national dish of El Salvador. They are delicious handmade doughy corn tortillas which are stuffed with cheese and a variety of other ingredients including chicken, beans, spinach, and jalapeño peppers. This year we discovered an even better Salvadoran restaurant in Framingham called La Pupusa Loca. Those of us lucky enough to visit this restaurant in advance all agreed these are the best pupusas we've had outside of El Ocotillo! We served our pupusas with fresh slaw, red and green sauces, and sweet ripe plantains.



Over 40 parishioners and other friends enjoyed this special and very traditional Salvadoran meal. Afterward, 3 presentations were given by Rafael Pupo, Karen Root-Watkins, and Barb Magee to give context to our long-standing scholarship program and bring everyone up to date on important developments in El Salvador as a whole and El Ocotillo specifically.



Rafael described the founding of our sister

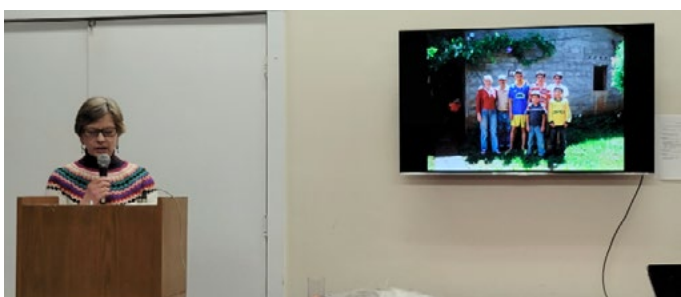
community of El Ocotillo following the civil war which ended in 1992. He highlighted the Guzman family whose patriarch and matriarch were the original leaders of the village. Their spirit and strength lives on in their granddaughter Idania whose education since she was in middle school has been made possible through the support of our scholarship program. She is currently in her third university year working on a degree in Systems Analytics.



Next, Karen shared a PBS video on the dramatic political changes going on in El Salvador. The national government has restored order and safety by imprisoning tens of thousands of gang members, but the price has been the loss of basic legal rights and the consolidation to single party rule. Karen explained how the new government policies have made it more difficult for many of the graduates of our scholarship program to find employment — especially if their political views don't align with the current government.



Finally, Barb shared the inspiring story of another branch of the Guzman family. Many of us will recall the visits to Good Shepherd by Lilian Guzman Vasquez and two of her sons, Ilvin and Erick, in the years before the pandemic. While three of the four sons in this family have emigrated to the US, they have sent funds back to support a remarkable enterprise in El Ocotillo. Their father, Ever Guzman, and his son Carlos, have built two commercial-scale greenhouses in El Ocotillo. They



produce a huge quantity of tomatoes with state-of-the-art drip irrigation and fertilization, as we witnessed during our delegation trip last summer. Both Erick (now in the US) and Carlos (in El Salvador) obtained university degrees with the support of our scholarship program. They are both putting their education to good use in this joint family venture in El Ocotillo. It has always been our dream that supporting the education of these youth would benefit the community in the long run. We see this story as a realization of this hope.



Those in attendance that Saturday evening as well as other parishioners the following Sunday morning were extremely generous once again, and well over \$4000 dollars was raised for the continued support of our nine students in 2024. If you would like to donate now, please send a check to Church of the Good Shepherd with Scholarship Fund in the Memo. In addition, at Sunday's coffee hour Nick Terry organized a sale of wonderful photographs to benefit the scholarship program. Many of those images were taken by Nick as a member of the Good Shepherd delegation to El Salvador in August of 2023.

Thank you to all the generous donors, to the faithful members of our committee, and to all of you who continue to hold this very special ministry in your prayers. If anyone is interested in joining our committee or simply getting more information about our connection with El Salvador, please feel free to contact Rafael Pupo or Barb Magee. Our contact information is always available through the church office.

Rafael Pupo

### For Further reading:

*Everyone Who is Gone is Here: the United States, Central America and the Making of a Crisis* by Jonathan Blitzer

This is a comprehensive and riveting history of the decades of policy errors that have created our



border crisis as told by New Yorker author Jonathan Blitzer through the perilous lives of a fascinating cast of resilient characters.

If you would like to deepen your understanding of how we reached this impossible border dilemma, this is a must-read book that is hard to put down.

## A Reason to Celebrate

April 21 is an important date on the calendar for the Habibi family. In 2022 they got on a plane in Turkey and landed at Logan Airport on this date. They had fled from Afghanistan in 2016 after family members were murdered by the Taliban. They flew to Iran and then traversed the mountains



on foot to the safety of Turkey. Latifah was eight months pregnant, Aida 16, Mahdi 11, and Diyana 5. They waited in Turkey for six years during the time when immigration to the US was reduced to a trickle.

Today, with the help of the Interfaith Partnership, they are living in Lowell and fully independent. Haidar, the father, has a dependable full time job. All three adults have drivers' licenses. Mahdi, through specialized care at the Down Syndrome Program at Boston Children's Hospital, has had his first hearing and vision tests, dental appointments and language assessments. Diyana, a bright-eyed fast learner, now helps her parents navigate English, and Mehsid is a happy second grade student. Aida, who has carried the huge load of translating for her parents since her teen years, is now a student at Middlesex Community College studying to be a Registered Nurse. The family recently received their Green Cards which officially allow them to live and work permanently in the United States.

In a text message marking this important date, Aida wrote:

*We are so grateful that we have such nice and kind*

*friends .... Thank you for being with us.*

Barb Magee

## From Emmanuel in Ukraine.....

Hi,

Emmanuel here. What a life. Stress lives here, without a doubt, whether it's ripples of the Holodomor, the systematic forced starvation of millions of Ukrainians in the 1930's, or the constant pressure of the Russian military machine on Ukrainians.

There are thousands of cases of this stress. For example, a local woman I have known for years just left a demanding job. She's 60 and now receives a tiny pension. Her 85 year old mother who lives with her had a Russian pension until February 2022 when the Russian SMO (special military operation), essentially a real war, began. I try to help her when I can, but there are 1000's of such cases, without an Emmanuel.

Today, I visited a non-governmental school (Sophia School), which looks after some normals, but mostly a wide variety of kids with problems like ADD, Autism, Hyperactivity etc. The small English department wanted to see what a "native speaker" could do with their students - a real humdinger, one might say.



But, I felt like I totally melded in and did fine. It's a religious based school, originally supported by the Baptists, so, at the end of the lesson, each kid prayed for me, and I prayed for them. It was quite touching. I visited several classes and promised to return in a month. That's the best I could do, since it's located far from my apartment and my schedule is already packed. What's challenging is that the school stopped paying salaries for 4 or 5 months. Not much I can do, personally, but God knows this.



So, that's me lately.

I wrote two poems recently which appear at the back of the Shepherd Staff.

I should be back for a short visit some time in late June.

All the very best, and love to you all,

Emmanuel

\* Look for Emmanuel's poems at the end of the Shepherd's Staff

## Ministry Updates

### Creation Care News – The Power of the Sun!

The Creation Care Committee is happy to report that the Church of the Good Shepherd is one step closer to drawing power from the sun. At the April 9 Vestry Meeting, the Vestry members present voted unanimously to approve a contract for a solar panel project of the west roof of the nave. Before the project can proceed, the final hurdle will be a roof inspection from a structural engineer, expected to happen in the next few weeks.

If the roof passes muster, the 25Kw project will be overseen by 621 Energy, a Concord company that has worked on many houses of worship in the area. For example, they recently installed solar carports at Congregation Beth Elohim in Acton. That project won a 2024 Department of Energy SUNNY Award! Because our lot is so shady, the Good Shepherd project will be much smaller. However, solar panel technology



has advanced to the point where even the church's west-facing roof should generate enough power to more than cover the Good Shepherd yearly electrical bills—at a savings of close to \$5000 each year—plus provide modest earnings for the church. Over the life of the solar panels, Good Shepherd is projected to save between \$200,000-\$280,000 in energy costs. Best of all, we will be helping the planet by adopting renewable technology.

We will keep you posted with more information as the project proceeds.

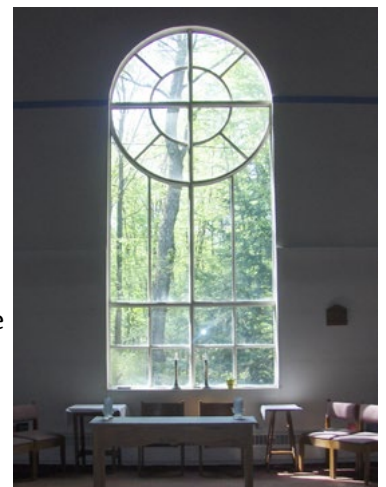
Finally, please check out the [Creation Care Earth Month](#) calendar, great for ideas any month of the year. And look for Meatless Monday recipes each week at coffee hour.

Karen Root Watkins

### Sanctuary Window

The planning to replace the back window in the sanctuary began about a year ago. This window has been deteriorating over many years. The funds for this project were graciously given in Howard Kuenzler's name. Carol Kuenzler told me that this is something which he wanted done.

It was difficult to find the right people to make the new window and install it. We have been lucky enough to find a gen-



tleman who repairs and makes stained glass windows (though our new window will not be stained glass). He has all the connections that we needed to get the window frames made. The new frames will be made out of aluminum and will come in three sections. Using the template he makes from the new window frames, he will have new double-pane glass made.

Once we receive all the pieces, the contractor

and I will be removing the old window and installing the new window frames. We hope this will only take a day to accomplish. The next day the glass panels will be installed, and the finished work will then be completed — if all goes to plan it should be completed by the end of the summer (prayers welcome). It is planned to look same as the window that is there now.

Tony Geanisis

## With Abundant Gratitude to:

- **Bev Ridpath, Jessie Panek, Carolyn Platt, and Karen Root Watkins** for all the work and time they have put into the Solar Panel Project
- **Margaret Geanisis** for handling the Prayer Chain while Jane was traveling in April.
- **Rev. Ellie and her daughter Emily** who hung the Easter banners and the new Good Shepherd banner
- **Ellen Harland** who ordered our beautiful “Welcome to Good Shepherd” banner and helped decorate our sanctuary for Easter.
- those who helped with the Papusa Event: **Karen & Rafael, Barb Magee, Jessie Panek, Tom & Kathleen Hoch, Kevin Gross, Nick Terry, Ellie Terry, Karen and Ian Root Watkins, Margaret Geanisis**



- all who made our Holy Week and Easter services especially meaningful this year:
- **Ellen Oak and Deacon Ken** who led all the services with me and worked incredibly hard in preparing these liturgies for all of us.
- **Laura Brock** who kept the office running

smoothly throughout the busy month. We have a wonderful parish staff. It is a joy to serve and worship with you!

- **Pat Kosicki, Joy Hamel and the members of the altar guild** for their care in preparing for the many services. You make it all look so easy!
- **Pat Kosicki and Jessie Panek** who filled the void left by John Link and prepared an exquisite flower display for our Easter altar.



- **Diane Cooke, Marilyn Fedele, Diane Prunier, Joanie Faccenda, Jen Nash, Jane Lothian and Ellie George** who coordinated and delivered flowers to our homebound parishioners after Easter.
- **Lesley Murray, Gail Lyons, Marilyn Fedele** who secured LEMs, readers, and ushers for the many services and for all who served in these roles. You all did a wonderful job.

- **Angus Michaels, Obi Jr. and Iken-na Umeh** who served (all for the first time!) as our LEM and acolytes on Easter Sunday. It was a pleasure to





serve with you at the altar. Well done!

- our amazing and tireless **Tech Team** who ensured all our services were available on Zoom for those unable to join us in person. It makes such a difference and widens our community. Thank you!
- **the special musicians and bell choir** who helped us make such joyful music on Easter. And a very special shout out of thanksgiving to our wonderful choir and Ellen Oak. They sang beautifully at every service through the Three Days and Easter morning. Thank you all for infusing our worship with such lovely music!



- **Emily Terry** for helping to put away the labyrinth and for helping to hang the Easter banners.
- **Bev Ridpath, Toni Berryman, Wendy Feddersen and Karen Root-Watkins** for hosting the festive coffee hours on Easter Sunday.
- **the parish children who led us** into Holy Week by leading us in the Palm Sunday procession and then created such joy on Easter morning as they sprinkled us all with baptismal waters and decorated the church with their Alleluias!
- our Coffee Hour Hosts in March and April at both services: **Karen Root Watkins, Karen Pupo, Wendy Feddersen, Kim Jackson, Toni Berryman, Bev Ridpath, Andy & Carolyn Platt, Jessie and Jon Panek, Linda Schmitt, Renee St. Germain, Chris and Lydia Tolley**
- **Barbara Dailey and Andy & Carolyn Platt**



for organizing our group trip to Esperanza Academy.

- **Tony Geanisis** for checking our Emergency lights, which were not working properly, and determining we needed to call an electrician
- **all our knitters and crocheters** for shawls they've made and donated in March & April
- **Tom Hoch** for his tech help with Pupos Night



- **Ellie George**, who always makes sure we have cards to sign after church for those who are ill.
- **Rev. Ellie** for blessing the marriage of **Dick & Marilyn Fedele** for their 62 years of a loving marriage.



### **From Jorge:**

Carolyn and I are so grateful for the kind and generous celebration of my 50th ordination anniversary on March 3. As I look back over 50 years, the things that keep coming back to me are the precious opportunities I've had to share deeply with people in the most meaningful times of their lives. Sunday, March 3, was one of those special times when you shared your ministry with us and we both thank you. Being home with you reminded us of how much we miss you and of course, miss those wonderful friends who have gone before us. We rejoice in the vibrant spirit that is evident at Good Shepherd and hold you close in our hearts.

In gratitude, Jorge



### **From Carolyn:**

Thank you so much. Words are inadequate to say how much it meant to both of us to be back at Good Shepherd and particularly for the warmth we felt. When we find our new parish, it'll be a hard act to follow.

And thank you especially for documenting it, so we can look back and re-experience the day.

Blessings, Carolyn

### **From Esperanza:**

Since 2007, Church of the Good Shepherd has supported Esperanza Academy in countless ways, including providing teacher workshops, executive coaching, library volunteers, science fair judges, fundraising dinners, and assisting students in writing school applications.

During the holidays, parishioners organized a Book Drive, in collaboration with The Silver Unicorn Bookstore, donating a total of 56 books to our library! The students created a custom wishlist of book selections that donors chose from.

Barbara Dailey, a Good Shepherd church member, explains why they chose to support the library: *"Books spark the imagination and teach new ways to learn and think about the world and its people."*

Book drives like this and others throughout the year, including on Giving Day, added hundreds of new books to our library. Our Library Committee has been hard at work categorizing them all by genre and completing themed book displays during special events like Valentine's Day and the SpaceX visit.

Thank you to everyone involved for supporting our students and sparking their imagination through literacy!

## **Administration**

### **Bishop's Election FAQs**

By Rev. Ellie

#### **When?**

On **Saturday, May 18**, the Episcopal Diocese will be electing our new diocesan bishop.

#### **Why?**

Every diocese in The Episcopal Church is led by a Bishop Diocesan who guides, in our case, the 180 congregations in eastern Massachusetts, and serves as the chief pastor to the clergy and people. In 2023, Bishop Alan Gates announced his intention to retire at the end of 2024 and called for the election of his

successor.

#### **How is a bishop elected?**

In the Episcopal Church, bishops are elected by the clergy and people of a diocese. They are not appointed from on high. Here's how the process works:

- Every bishop, priest, and deacon who is canonically resident in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts has a vote. Here at Good Shepherd, that includes our Rector, Rev. Ellie, our Deacon Ken, and the Rev. Daniel MacDonald, who is a member of our congregation.

- Every congregation in our diocese elects two lay (non-ordained) members as our Delegates

to Convention, who also have a vote in the election. Our delegates, whom we elected at our annual parish meeting in February, are Alex Flores and Lorraine Summerfelt.

- Clergy and laity vote on separate ballots. In order to be elected, a nominee has to receive a simple majority of BOTH the clergy and lay ballots.

- It usually takes more than one (sometimes many more than one!) round of voting for a nominee to receive the majorities of both clergy and lay ballots needed to be elected. After each round of voting, the results are announced, prayer is invited, and another round of voting takes place. This process is repeated until an election is achieved. This means that clergy and lay delegates often change or adjust their votes as voting continues. Nominees may also choose to drop out of future votes. It is a very prayerful process, and in the midst of the election you can often feel the Holy Spirit guiding the hearts and minds of the delegates.

### **Who are the nominees?**

A search committee comprised of clergy and laity from throughout our diocese oversaw a national search process which recommended nominees to the Standing Committee (kind of like the Vestry for the Diocese). The Standing Committee has announced a slate of 5 nominees:

- [The Rev. Dr. Brendan J. Barnicle](#), Rector, St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church, Wilsonville, Oregon.

- [The Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa](#), Th.D., Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries, Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts.

- [The Very Rev. Gideon L. K. Pollach](#), Rector, St. John's Church, Cold Spring Harbor, New York.

- [The Rev. Julia E. Whitworth, Rector](#), Trinity Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, Indiana.

- [The Rev. Edwin Daniel Johnson](#), Director of Organizing for Episcopal City Mission, Eastern MA Diocese (added by petition).

To learn more about these nominees, click on the links above.

### **Will there be a chance to meet the nominees before the election?**

Yes! The diocese has invited all nominees to a series of Meet and Greets the week of May 6. They are open to anyone in the diocese. Here's the schedule: <https://www.diomass.org/bishop-search/meet-greets>. Let me know if you plan to attend any of

them. I'd love to hear your impressions.

### **How do our delegates decide whom to vote for?**

It is a prayerful process. For me personally, I reflect on the materials each nominee has submitted. I consider my own experience working with a variety of different bishops over my 20+ years of ministry. I attend the Meet and Greets to experience the nominees in person. I welcome thoughts and comments from my colleagues, and from all of you. I pray for our diocese and where God is calling us. And then I trust the process and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

### **What happens to Bishop Carol Gallagher? I thought she was our bishop too?**

She is! Bishop Carol was appointed by Bishop Alan Gates to serve as Assistant Bishop for our Diocese. She was already a bishop (having been elected in another diocese), and was appointed to serve here by Bp. Alan through his tenure. It will be up to the new diocesan bishop, in discernment with Bp. Carol, to decide whether to continue her appointment. Assistant Bishops do not have an automatic right of succession to become diocesan bishops. They would need to be nominated and elected to the position.

### **When does the new bishop begin their ministry?**

Bishop Alan remains our Diocesan Bishop until the day the new bishop is consecrated, October 19, 2024. At that time, he will step down and the newly elected bishop becomes the 17th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts.

### **What can I do to support this process?**

- Pray. For the nominees, for our Diocese, and for our electing delegates and clergy.

- Review the materials the nominees have submitted and attend a Meet and Greet if you are able.

- Share your thoughts with our delegates and clergy.

### **A Prayer for the Election of a Bishop**

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this diocese, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*(The Book of Common Prayer, p. 818)*

# Vestry Vignettes

## March 2024

### **Vestry orientation:**

Introductions to one another, goals we each have for vestry. Recurring Themes were a) why church is important (and why THIS church is important) b) rebuilding the church and c) opportunities for mission outreach. We all enjoyed meeting together in person instead of using Zoom, although we acknowledged that for people living far away or for those who are sick or traveling, Zoom is still important.

### **Rectory update:**

Gail discussed moving forward with plans for communicating with current tenants.

### **Financial update:**

Pledges are less than we had hoped, but Denise believes that because it's early in the year things can improve.

### **Building repair:**

Tony Geanisis provided an update on the status of the replacement of the window in the back of the sanctuary. We expect to begin repairs soon.

## April, 2024

### **Barb Magee presented an update on our Mission Outreach efforts.**

She mentioned four focus areas: Esperanza, Refugees, El Salvador, and Food Insecurity (Rise Against Hunger and local food drive). She outlined outreach efforts to get more people directly engaged in the work and reported that she is pleased with the response. Her group dispersed over \$22k in 2023. The vestry gave Barb a round of applause for her wonderful leadership of this group.

### **Financial report from Denise:**

We made up some ground in pledges and are on bud-

get for income. Heating costs have risen, and we're over budget in rectory repairs.

### **Solar proposal:**

The creation care committee has been working for 10 years to get the church off the grid and supply our own electricity, and this is the moment to act. They have carefully researched companies who can help with this and have selected 621 Energy (who will install, monitor and maintain the solar panels we put on the church roof.) Vestry approved this proposal unanimously. We have enough money in our Building Fund to cover the full cost of the solar system. Finance Committee is recommending applying for a low-interest Green Loan from the Diocese, which combined with a 30% federal rebate, means we would not have to tap into our Building Fund at all. Vestry will vote on funding at our next meeting.

### **Rectory update:**

Vestry approved a solution that will help both the church and the tenants.

### **Alcohol policy:**

Vestry approved the policy written and recommended by the Diocese. This amends our current policy to be aligned with diocesan guidelines and best practices. Any church ministry or outside group that wants to serve alcohol will need to comply with the policy. To see a copy, please contact Laura in the church office.

### **Vestry retreat:**

Ellie is working with Rev. Daniel MacDonald to design a program that will focus on our desire to grow the church; and will be held on **May 4th**.

### **Other business:**

Coming dates are Pride Festival on June 15th and Good Shepherd Sunday on April 21st.

## Passages



### Funerals

**Walter Ferris John**, formerly of Boxborough, MA, died peacefully at his home on April 3, 2024. Walter was born on April 22, 1930 in Bangor, ME.

He graduated from the University of Maine, where he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity and played football. He was proud to be a US Army Veteran; he was a Mason as well as a member of the Boxborough Minutemen.

He worked in the fire insurance industry, becoming a manager. He was an amazing athlete and played tennis for over 40 years. His spirit and personality left an impression on all he met. Family

and friends meant the most to him. He raised his family while they all attended Good Shepherd in the 1970-80s.

Walter is survived by his daughters: Peggy Hester, Elizabeth Martin, Kathy Leotta, his grandchildren, and his sister Dorothy Christmas. He

was predeceased by his wife Margaret Ann and his brother Edward John.

A visitation was held in the Church of the Good Shepherd on April 12, followed by a service. Interment followed in South Cemetery, Boxborough.

## Poetry from Ukraine by Emmanuel Aronie

### The Pigeons

Last minute of the day 23:59,  
air-raid sirens blare.  
It's spring in Cherkasy,  
daytime pigeons,  
paint the sidewalks  
with poop.  
I used to paint houses,  
our only similarity.  
Donald is a Tramp.  
And to make matters worse,  
each day,  
real soldiers die  
horrible deaths,  
all over Ukraine.  
Iranian nitwits with turbans,  
order post-Ramadan underlings  
to launch an armada of deadly aircraft at Israel,  
  
forecasters predict  
Stormy Weather ahead.  
All this while 100+ sweaty Israeli hostages,  
wait in morbid Gaza caves.  
The Hamas 'plan' went terribly wrong –  
Killing 1000's of their own innocent Palestinian  
kids,  
  
all this,  
  
while America sits on its hands, paralyzed,  
  
and China warlords  
wait in the wings,  
drooling.

00:16 / April 16, 2024  
Cherkasy, Ukraine  
Emmanuel Aronie

### Wholeness

There is only one hole –  
the non-hole –  
Wholeness, unity, oneness.  
Few or none of us  
get all the way there –  
but we try, and try and try.  
Much of life is founded on  
trial and error – trying.

A baby takes her first steps, and learns from there.  
Wow !!!

It's un-spinnable,  
You just have to do the work,  
And babies, girls and boys, do it with vigor.

Later, 4:39 a.m.

Air-raid alarm, haunting sirens, really clears my  
head.

And I had just gone to the toilet, using only my  
little black SonyEricsson mobilka, just enough light,  
a real

breakthrough.  
Well, hopefully, that's it for a while,  
and, sans bomb shelter !  
So, we're, I'm lucky.  
I can't imagine the untold, uncalculated

human misery, people karma, this has wreaked on  
the perpetrator ("victim"?) Russia, and their poor,

Kremlin harrassed people.  
Notice a pattern here ? 6:53 a.m.

Cherkasy, Ukraine, April 19, 2024  
Emmanuel Aronie