

The Shepherd's Staff

Jan/Feb 2024

PREPARING FOR LENT



Feb. 3 at 10 am - Men's Group

Feb. 4 at 8 & 10 am - Holy Eucharist

9:20 am - Progress Group Meets

10 am - Church School Meets

Feb. 10 at 10:30 am - Deanery Confirmation & Reception

Feb. 11 at 9 am - Holy Eucharist

10:30 am - Annual Meeting w/ Potluck Brunch

Feb. 13 serving 6 - 7pm - **Shrove Tuesday**

Pancake Supper

Feb. 14 at 8 am & 7 pm - **Ash Wednesday**

Service with Imposition of Ashes

Feb. 18 at 8 & 10 am - Holy Eucharist

10 am - Church School

11:30 am - Adult Lenten Forum

Feb. 25 at 8 & 10 am Holy Eucharist

11:30 am - Adult Lenten Forum

March 3 at 8 & 10 am - Holy Eucharist

10 am - Church School

11:30 am - Adult Lenten Forum

March 9 from 6-8 pm - Pupusa Truck Fundraiser for
El Ocotillo Scholarship Fund

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Episcopal Diocese of
Massachusetts



“When she read the Word of God it went to her head and then it got in her heart and she decided to put her hands to the things of God. From her head to her heart to her hands.”

Rev. Tony Lowden, Pastor of Maranatha Baptist Church,
at Rosalynn Carter’s funeral

A Word from the Fold

This issue of the Shepherd’s Staff reflects the incredibly full and meaningful month we have shared at Good Shepherd. I hope you will take the time to prayerfully read through all of it. Revel in the photos of our festive Christmas services. Delight in the fond remembrances of John Link and Kate Ogle whose lives are celebrated. Be stirred and take pride in the mission of our church as we make a difference in the lives of students in El Ocotillo, El Salvador and the Rohingya refugee family from Myanmar. Learn about upcoming events to deepen our faith in Lent, celebrate our youth confirmands, and support our annual parish meeting.

God is at work in our midst! t

This past Sunday we had a beautiful worship experience that highlighted the long journey of the Rohingya family we are sponsoring through the Acton Stow Interfaith Partnership for Refugee Resettlement. Barb Magee closed her remarks by noting how much heartbreak we see in the news every day and how hard it can be to not be depressed by the staggering need. Yet, she reminded us, we are also surrounded by countless kind and wonderful people who came together to help this family who have travelled half the world to seek refuge in our state.

On Saturday, our church was full of people who gathered for the funeral of one of our own beloved. Since then I have received a number of phone calls and emails from guests who attended, thanking us for the beautiful service. God’s Spirit touched them here.

This weekend was a deeply emotional and meaningful witness to church at its very best. God is working in us and through us. I am so proud to be part of our Good Shepherd community and to walk this journey of faith with all of you.

Peace to you and thank God for you,
Ellie+

Stewardship

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Stewardship Team, on behalf of the Vestry, is reaching out to you at this time to let you know that we face a shortfall of roughly \$17,000 for the 2024 budget. While this is not the first time Good Shepherd has faced a deficit budget – and we have sufficient funds in savings to weather this deficit this year – we are hopeful that we can reach our balanced budget goal this year. We have closed such shortfalls in the past thanks to the generosity and unflagging support of you, the congregation.

Our budget is very lean and there are no places to increase savings without directly impacting our ministries, our current staff, and our community life. To put it another way, it costs us \$30,000 a month to run Good Shepherd (\$1,000 per day!).

Thus, we ask you to prayerfully consider a supplemental pledge gift if you can do so. This is not something that everyone is able to do and that is perfectly OK and should not be a source of guilt. Ninety percent (90%) of Good Shepherd's income comes from pledges. We currently have 69 pledges. If we can average an additional \$250 per pledge, we will have bridged the \$17,000 gap. However, a supplemental pledge of any amount will be a blessing and a boost to our communal effort.

Another way that you can help is to keep Good Shepherd in mind for rental opportunities. We have a beautiful and comfortable space, including our Parish Hall, classrooms, a library, and a

kitchen which is not used much during the week. We also have lovely outside space and ample parking. Rental income derived from the use of our building and grounds can help reduce our dependence on pledge income. Reach out to the Church office to discuss potential rentals.

We want to note, too, that the proposed 2024 budget includes fundraising income of \$15,000, which will most likely be an auction. Without this planned fundraising income, the deficit gap would be \$15,000 greater (\$32,000). Any supplemental pledge income above the \$17,000 could reduce the need to generate the fundraising income. We have not had an auction since the online one in 2021 (and an in-person one in 2017). These can be wonderful social events, but they do require volunteer time and effort to organize. We trust that God will provide for us through his abundant Grace that makes all things possible. Please consider fulfilling God's promise with a supplemental pledge that will allow us to support our clergy and staff, our parish community, and our missions. Supplemental pledges may be made online using the link on our website and weekly eblast. Please note in the "other information" box that it is a supplemental pledge. If it is easier you can just send a note with your supplemental pledge and mail it to the Church or place it in the offertory plate.

In gratitude,
Lydia Tolley, Stewardship 2024

Senior Warden's Message



Church of the Good Shepherd has found a reliable contractor for small construction and repair tasks. Jerry, from Capital Carpentry, has been invaluable tackling small projects that were tack-

led by parishioner volunteers in the past. This has been a huge help for upkeep at the rectory and at our church building. He most recently arranged for yards of loam delivered to fill in a low spot at the rectory, in area just off the rear patio, that filled up with water with every rainstorm. After hand spreading, Jerry covered the small site with ay to keep the soil in place for spring seeding. We have him currently working on replacing dam-

aged hollow core doors in a rectory bathroom with up-to-date solid core versions. Other projects have included replacing the stove exhaust vent and replacing the bulkhead stairs. Our upkeep punch list

across both buildings is long, so, if you see Jerry around, give him a cheery wave and hello!

Wendy Feddersen

Junior Warden's Message



Party Time!

We are blessed to have many opportunities to socialize with each other. This year, we have a collision of calendars, which has resulted in a very social time during the second

weekend of February, Feb. 10th to Feb. 13th.

On **Saturday, Feb. 10th**, we have the **Confirmation Service 10:00 am** for our confirmands, and the other confirmands in the Deanery.

Good Shepherd is hosting both the Confirmation service and the reception, and Bishop Carol Gallagher will be presiding. Please



come to support Obi, Ikenna, Michael, Brian, and Julie who are from our parish. There will be many people from other churches at this event and we would like to be gracious hosts. If you can help with the reception, please contact Wendy Feddersen at wfeddersen@gmail.com.

On **Sunday, Feb. 11th**, we have **Annual Meeting**. Our **only worship service will be-**



gin at 9:00am. Annual Meeting will begin around 10:30. Please plan on attending; we have a lot to share with you. If you can, please bring a brunchy item for everyone to munch on or eat (This is usually a wonderful spread!) If you are willing to help with setup or cleanup, please contact the Creation Care Committee.

On Monday, Feb. 12th, we rest!

On **Tuesday, Feb. 13th**, it is **Shrove Tuesday!** Easter falls on March 31st this year, so Shrove Tuesday is very early as well. We will be having our traditional **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 6-7pm**.

Please stop by and eat some delicious pancakes (regular, blueberry, chocolate chip, and GF), served with sausages, meatless sausages and bacon; and fruit. [RSVP here](#). If you can help with setup, cooking, or cleanup, please contact me, Gail Lyons.



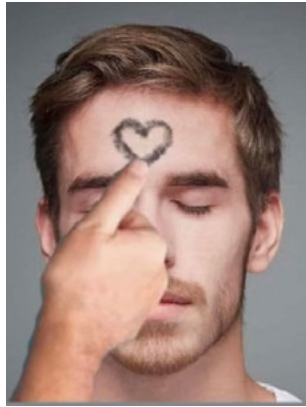
Although this is a busy weekend, we will have lots of opportunities for celebration and fellowship. I look forward to seeing you at all of these events!

Gail Lyons

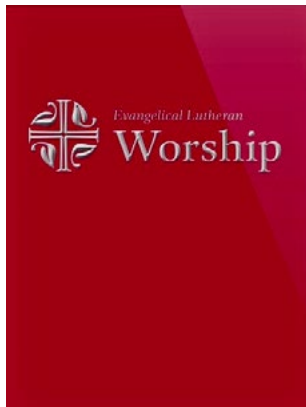
Worship

Ash Wednesday & Lenten Worship

This year **Ash Wednesday falls on February 14** (which is also Valentine's Day). We will have **services at 8 am and 7 pm**. Both will include Holy Eucharist. The evening service will be available on Zoom. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of **Lent**. It is an ancient but accessible service that invites us to pause and take stock of our lives and our faith as we enter **Lent** and prepare for Holy Week and Easter. Perhaps this is the year to experience Ash Wednesday again... or maybe even for the first time.



Our 10 am worship in **Lent** and Eastertide comes from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Holy Communion Setting Nine. Since July 2000, the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) have been in Full Communion, sharing liturgy, allowing the exchange of clergy, and working together for the common mission of proclaiming and serving the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The tone of our liturgy in **Lent** is designed to create space for prayer, silent reflection and self-examination. We enter into a spirit of prayer and consideration of our baptismal covenant, so that come Easter, we are ready to live into the new life of grace offered to us in Jesus. Best wishes for a holy and fruitful **Lent**.



-Rev. Ellie & Ellen Oak

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

Music Ministry at a Glance

Last fall I created a flier for the Good Shepherd display table at the Acton Oktoberfest. It's a one-page snapshot of why and how we do what we do. Look for it on the following page and on the desk by the front door of CGS. I also brainstormed with the choir to articulate some themes and values of the choir's ministry at Good Shepherd. Notes from that session are posted next to the piano in the library. Stop by and check it out!

Upcoming Special Events

Musical plans are underway for the **Celebration of Confirmation on Saturday, February 10 at 10:30 am**; for Triduum (Holy Thursday evening through Easter Sunday evening); and for the whole seven-week season of Easter culminating in the festival of **Pentecost** on Sunday, May 19. These are wonderful "one-off" opportunities to make music together giving glory to God. If you have questions about or interest in any of the above; or if you have a musical idea or talent you want to share that you don't see listed, please connect with me, either at coffee hour after the 10 am service most Sundays or you can also email me.

[Ellen Oak](#), Pastoral Associate for Liturgy and Music

A Joyful Noise!

Making Music at Good Shepherd Acton

It is fun.
It is spiritual.
Joyous. Uplifting.
Accessible. Communal.
Diverse.

The whole worship service is filled with music and everybody sings out.

Making music is at the heart of who we are.
It is our grace and glory;
our laughter and our tears;
our loud, bright shouting,
and our whispers in the dark.
It is our soul's enlivening
silence and song, offered in
love for the life of the world.

Singers

Mixed Choir – All voices high school age and up. Rehearsals Thursdays 7-8:30pm. Warm Up Sundays 9:15am. Service at 10am.

Treble Singers – High voices of any age and vocal experience. Gathered for special occasions.

Players

All instruments, ages, and skill levels are welcome. For example—handbells, flute, djembe, sax, cello, dulcimer, violin, recorder, guitar, trumpet, electric bass. Flexible schedule. Play for special occasions. Repertoire designed and adapted for you.

Director

Ellen Oak is the Pastoral Associate for Liturgy and Music at Good Shepherd. A graduate of the Yale School of Music and Yale Divinity School, they strive to provide engaging and transformative experiences of making music as a spiritual practice—a way of life—celebrating the gifts of varied cultures and musical styles.

Altar Flowers

For those who may not know, altar flowers for the Sunday services are donated by parishioners. All you need to do is sign up, and you will be contacted for dedication information to be listed in the Sunday bulletin.



The 2024 Altar Flower signup sheet is hanging in the narthex (on the wall to the right before entering the sanctuary). In addition, you may sign up [online at Signup Genius with this link](#). The cost for an altar flower arrangement is \$65. After the Sunday services, the flowers are delivered to a parish member who could use a pick-me-up.

Diane Cooke

Liturgical Arts: Expanding an important ministry

Do you love worship? Are you a Visually Creative Person? Did you used to be on this committee or a parishioner way back when it was called the Environment Committee, and loved the energy it created at worship? Are you a newer member of CGS and the idea of this sounds exciting and fun - which it is? Well, perhaps God may be calling you to this powerful ministry here at Good Shepherd.



Ellen Harland, fearless leader of this ministry for many years, has decided to step away from this position. She has done a fabulous job for us, but her husband Bill needs constant care, and besides,



after her long dedication and devotion to this work, it's time for someone else to pick up her mantle.

Come and help create a worship space which furthers the understanding of our seasonal worship, or visually creates the Bible lessons for a season. All those who would like to join are invited to brainstorm, while potentially using the information Ellen has left for us. You will understand the church calendar in ways you never imagined, deepening your knowledge and



appreciation of our form of worship.

Please let [Ellie](#) know if you are interested in leading or joining this rewarding ministry.

Margaret Geanisis

Usher Ministry

The Usher Ministry has had a wonderful year -- added two teen-age boys, were very flexible for changes, greeted everyone with a smile, helped visitors feel welcome. I would like to say thank you to each and every usher (see pg 18). You helped all of us feel comfortable. I look forward to another great year for the Usher Ministry. If you would like to become a member of this fabulous group, please let me know.

Marilyn Fedele

Advent



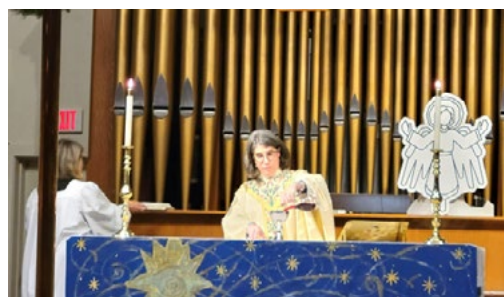
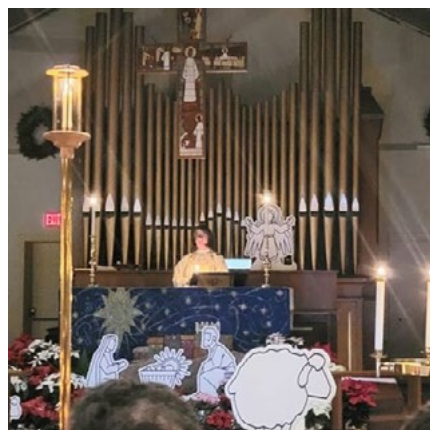
Blue Christmas



4:00 pm Christmas Eve



9:00 pm Christmas Eve





Epiphany - Snowed Out

“We think that photography and storytelling have that power to motivate people and to draw their attention to our crisis,” says photographer Mohammed Salim Khan. “There are a million Rohingya people living in the world’s largest refugee camp who are suffering in a dire situation.” NPR, Dec 22, 2023



Rohingya Refugee Sunday



Christian Formation

Men's Group

Did you know Jesus drove a Honda? The Men's Group came upon this a few weeks ago when we were discussing a passage from John's Gospel. We were talking about Jesus' relationship to John the Baptist. As usually happens, our theological discussions turn to practical applications to our everyday lives. This particular Saturday, we wound up talking about our first cars, then old cars in general. We go where the Spirit leads.

If this sort of mixture of fellowship, theology, history, and life sounds interesting to you, please join us **every Saturday at 10:00 am** in the Parish library. Bring your coffee, your theology, your spirituality, and your questions and doubts. We may not have all the answers, but we will love exploring your questions.

Oh! About Jesus' Honda: in the Gospel of John, 12:49, Jesus said, *"For I did not speak of my own accord ..."*.

I knew that seminary humor would come in handy!

Deacon Ken

Lenten Study Program

I don't know if it's only me getting older, but time sure is flying! It seems like we just put away the Christmas decorations and celebrated the new year, and now we're talking about Lent! The Epiphany Season is short this year, and Ash Wednesday is February 14.

This year, our **Lenten Study** will be a program developed by The Forward Movement, a ministry of The Episcopal Church. It will be presented **after the 10:00 am service**, allowing time for folks to get their coffee and snack. This study group is based on our Baptismal vows. The program is appropriate for Lenten study as Lent is, historically, a time of preparation for Baptism which is associated with Easter.



Booklets will be provided, containing five chapters based on the five "will you" questions of our Baptismal Covenant. Each week we will examine and discuss one of these questions.

Conversational-style readings will be provided to prompt our own questions, experiences, responses, and discussion. This is a program of exploration, enrichment and sharing, so while some reading and preparation is indicated, attentive and active listening is also encouraged.

Our Vows of Baptism are statements we, as baptized Christians, all have in common. In these days of feeling alone and isolated, where it seems we are intentionally being separated from each other, I hope you will welcome this opportunity to explore and live into this common ground of our Spirituality. This is another opportunity to be open to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

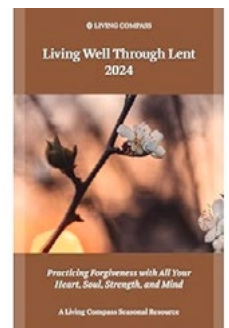
I hope you will join us on this journey, and that, together, we will discover deeper dimensions of our faith. Come, Holy Spirit!

Deacon Ken

Personal Lenten Study Meditation Booklets Arrive!

The *Living Well Through Lent* booklets have arrived and will be available on **Sunday, February 4, 2024**. These are the booklets for personal reflection, meditation and devotion released every Lent and Advent. They also provide material for discussion, and an opportunity to examine and challenge your own faith journey. The booklets provide Scripture-based readings centered around a particular theme. This Lent, the theme is *"Practicing Forgiveness with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind."*

Please be sure to pick up your copy, and make these brief readings a part of your Lenten daily practice. While there will not be a formal educational program around these booklets, there's certain to be informal discussions during coffee hours and other gatherings. Take, read, and enjoy!



Documentary inspired by



presiding bishop's teachings on love

A Case for Love premieres on Jan. 23 [Episcopal News Service]: A feature-length documentary inspired by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's message of unselfish love is headed for a **nation-wide theatrical release on Jan. 23.**

The film, "[A Case for Love](#)," the project of a nonprofit movie company led by Episcopalians, is expected to appear in at least 1,000 theaters for the one-day initial release, and more dates could be added

if large numbers of moviegoers turn out for the premiere. The nonprofit, Grace-Based Films, also hopes to generate interest from streaming services.

The new film is structured as seven chapters featuring 14 individual stories of people from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences. Between each chapter, the filmmakers include clips from some of their "people on the street" interviews, as well as some well-known public figures in politics, the arts and religion, such as Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, actor Sam Waterston and the Rev. Kelly Brown Douglas, canon theologian of Washington National Cathedral and interim president of Episcopal Divinity School. Though some church leaders are interviewed, the target audience extends beyond churchgoers. [Read more.](#)

WILD TEA With Jesus

A DAY RETREAT AT BCH

March 16, 2024 9am-3:30 pm

Join Linden Rayton of *Living Water Nature Programs* on a day retreat at BCH where we will enter into Jesus' Lenten journey by engaging in an ancient human tradition- making tea. Our tea will be created from wild ingredients on the BCH property. Through the ritual of foraging, brewing and drinking our tea, we will create an atmosphere where we can dig deep into two separate stories of Jesus staying close with God in his last days.

The day will start with a morning session, break for an included lunch, continue with an afternoon session, and finish with a closing prayer. Each session will include brewing a different kind of tea, and explore a different story of Jesus. All participants should bring outdoor-appropriate clothing and footwear, as we will be outside for two portions of the day, except in case of extreme weather.

Meet your facilitator

Linden Rayton is an environmental educator and Episcopal Christian from Hopkinton, New Hampshire. She has been active in the Episcopal church of New England for years alongside a career as a naturalist with many different organizations. As co-owner of Living Water Nature Programs, she hopes to inspire a deeper relationship between people and the outdoors through exploration, education and reflection, especially at the intersection of faith and nature.

Register Now!

Register using this link:
<https://forms.gle/ezuqtsBxfRBCASur6> or by e-mailing info@bchcenter.org

Barbara C. Harris
EPISCOPAL CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

CONTACT US 108 Wally Stone Lane
Greenfield, NH 03047 603-547-3400
bchcenter.org

Church School

Confirmation

On **Saturday, February 10** we will host other Episcopal parishes from the Concord River Deanery for a **regional Confirmation Service**. Thus far, there are 22 candidates registered for either confirmation or reception into the Episcopal Church from five different parishes. I am excited that five of the confirmands are young people from Good Shepherd: Obi and Ikenna Umeh, Julia, Brian and Michael Michaels.

Confirmation is a significant rite of passage for youth and adults who are ready to make a mature claim to their faith and commitment to life in the church. This year, we are collaborating with Trinity Church in Concord to prepare our students for Confirmation.



I am co-leading the weekly class along with colleagues from Trinity. Together, we are preparing 8 students, the five from here and three teens from Concord.

Hosting the regional Confirmation service is a significant opportunity for us at Good Shepherd. The service is open to everyone and we hope many of you will choose to attend and support our confirmands, clergy and choir. Bishop Carol Gallagher will be the preacher and celebrant. We look forward to welcoming her and fellow Episcopalians to Good Shepherd.

Gift to Our new Refugees

The older Church School students' lessons

this fall focused on Christian faith (what we believe) and the environmental crisis (what they know). We discussed ways in which they might respond to this, their time in history.

From the Outreach Committee, the class read *The Doll* by Nhung N. Tran-Davies, and learned about the importance of a welcoming gift for children. They were excited to give a doll to each girl in the refugee family Good Shepherd is helping to sponsor.



At the 10 am service on Sunday, January 21, where pictures of refugee life and comments by the photographers were shared, Barb Magee expanded on our information regarding the family we're sponsoring, and told of their terrible trials, not only in living but in traveling here to the US. She also thanked the class for their donation of dolls, saying that when the refu-



gee children saw them, their eyes lighted up and they were so happy to have them. The class had supplied a change of clothes for each doll, and their new owners enjoyed putting new outfits on their dolls even before breakfast. The dolls were a big hit, and really helped these girls to adjust to their new home here.

Mary Bunker

Church School Calendar

February 4 at 10 am - Church School

February 13 serving 6-7 pm - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 18 at 10 am - Church School

March 3 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.”

Mission Outreach Calendar

March 9 - Pupusa Dinner, Fund Raiser for El Ocotillo Scholarship Fund

May 5 - Rise Against Hunger Food Packaging Event

The Journey

What must it be like to travel eight days under the care of an international agency?

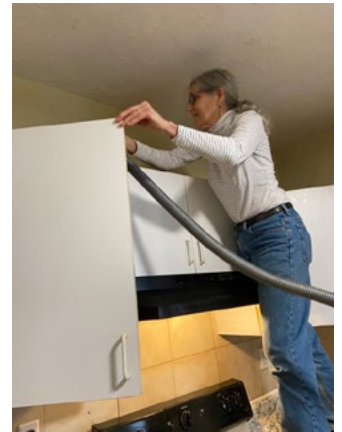
You may never have been in a car or a bus or on an airplane. You don't find the food palatable along the way and your stomach feels ill from stress, so you don't eat. You are stuck in Dubai for two extra days. You fly through the night and land in NYC at 8:00 am, but it's a nine-hour time difference, so your body registers 11:00 pm. It is 17 degrees Fahrenheit, and the world out your bus window is white and gray. You don't speak the language. Your baby screams when she is put in a car seat. You are almost there, only to find that your home is not ready, and you will stay in an American home with strangers. Yet your mother and brother are only 30 minutes away...

There's so much to process, and it is difficult to predict what will have occurred by the time this is published.

This is the story of the week of January 14th.



It has been a whirlwind week. Our refugee families were due to arrive Thursday, January 18 and an apartment was identified on January 11. We couldn't get into it until Monday, and over the next three days, 20-25 of us scrubbed it from top



to bottom, and boy, did it need it! But, Twist #1, there was no heat! Wednesday evening, the landlord said he'd need a week to fix the heat, so we figured out Plan B. A hotel was out of the question; that felt like abandonment. So, we decided we would host them at Barb Magee's house. The incredible Interfaith Partnership team organized a crew of cooks to provide meals as well as people to come to help each day and even an additional person to spend each night.

Then, Twist #2: we heard Thursday morning that the flight from Bangladesh was delayed. They were in Dubai and would not arrive in NYC until Friday morning.

Our families finally arrived on Saturday.



They were exhausted after eight days of travel from the Cox Bazar Refugee Camp to Dhaka, to Dubai, to NYC, and by bus to the NH airport. They arrived, of course, not knowing that there was yet another step: staying with strangers in a house 30 minutes from Lowell. They must have felt like chess pieces being moved from place to place. The women and children were stoic and blank-faced. The little one was uncomfortable and stressed.

We learned that their mother and brother had arrived in the US in December and were in Lowell. With the apartment not ready, they wanted to be with them, which made perfect sense.

They were so exhausted that only the men and one of the girls ate while the others fell onto their beds for the night.

The morning started very early, and gradually they appeared in the kitchen. Yasin, one of the men, became more comfortable communicating, and his English got exponentially better as the day progressed. He's smart, energetic, and carrying the load as the only English speaker. He was concerned that the women hadn't eaten for three days and had unsettled stomachs, so he made omelets for them and, proudly, for us. Once they knew that we had permission to bring them to their mother's little apartment later in the day, everyone started relaxing and smiling.

After lunch, amidst tremendous chaos, we packed up all the food, blankets and bedding and three cars headed to Lowell. On the way, we took them to the mosque in Lowell where we talked with a man about how to transport them there for services. Their mother is greatly stressed that her Islamic faith is hard to access here. We also showed

them their future apartment.

The reunion of the family was full of joy! The mother brought out plates of fruit for us and later a whole meal was served to us at the small table while they sat on the kitchen floor. Yasin played host and we laughed at the role reversal.

So, the chaos of this experience continues, which we are told is typical. We make so many assumptions that are quickly flipped when we encounter the culture, expectations, and goals of real people. And we realize that the next week, or two or six, will be unpredictable and full of U-turns.

Barb Magee

Resources:

The Sunday, January 21 service that devoted the sermon time to the Rohingya refugees was truly inspirational. If you'd like to learn more about the Cox Bazar Camp, check it out. <https://goodshepherdacton.org/news/2024/1/23/refugee-support-amp-slide-show>

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is a United Nations agency that oversaw our new friends' entire trip. Learn more about their work here: <https://www.iom.int/who-we-are>.

[Slide Presentaion at Church on Sunday January 21](#)

The Interfaith Partnership for Refugee Resettlement:

Church of the Good Shepherd

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church

South Acton Congregational Church

First Parish of Stow and Acton

Apple Valley Catholic Community of Acton & Stow

St. Anne of the Field Episcopal Church of Lincoln

Trinity Chapel of Shirley



Esperanza Academy Book Drive

Pati Fernandez, Chief Development Officer at Esperanza writes: "your outreach will make such an impact, please share with your parishioners how grateful we are for their generosity."

Thanks to everyone who helped make our

Advent book drive for Esperanza Academy a success. The coordination between Esperanza, The Silver Unicorn Bookstore, and CGS- Acton was a new initiative for all of us, and with patience and communication we made it work. **Our parish purchased 56 new books from the Esperanza Academy wish list** that was posted on the Silver Unicorn website. These purchases totaled a little over \$806.00 and will go a long way toward building the school's library collection for all reading levels. The book drive was sponsored by our Mission Outreach Committee.

Barbara Dailey

3,2,1: Esperanza Academy Soars to New Heights with Polaris Dawn Crew Visit

When the world sits down to watch the Polaris Dawn mission head to space this spring for five days in orbit, Esperanza Academy students will be cheering extra loudly for their new heroes—the two female astronauts on board.

On February 1, Polaris Dawn crew members Sarah Gillis (mission specialist) and Anna Menon (medical officer) will spend the day at Esperanza Academy discussing aerospace engineering, building model rockets, and sharing insider details about what it's like to prepare for a mission to space.

About Esperanza Academy:

At Esperanza Academy, we are fortunate to serve our students, their families, and the community of Lawrence. We are a tuition-free independent school because we believe that everyone deserves the right to high-quality independent school education. Our school is a revolutionary antidote to racism; we, as an academic community, emphasize racial and cultural identity affirmation, love of community, and restorative justice. By creating a culture of achievement in which academic success and self-discovery are paramount, we protect and nurture the innate confidence that each of our girls possesses.

Would you like to visit Esperanza sometime in the next few months?

Let Barbara Dailey or Carolyn Platt know.

Shawl Ministry

We give grateful thanks to the “Loving Stitches” knitting group of the Council on Aging, Littleton, for their wonderful donation of 14 prayer shawls. Our prayer shawl ministry is overwhelmed by their generosity, as we distribute shawls (theirs and ours!) to all the people who need them: those who mourn, who are sick, who are celebrating a new birth, who are in crisis, and for any other need that requires comfort and prayer. The Littleton group knew about our ministry because our member, Marilyn Fedele, a board member of the Littleton COA, always knits at the meetings, telling her friends there that she is making prayer shawls. So, we also thank Marilyn for publicizing (and demonstrating!) our continual need for the shawls. Additionally, we thank Jen Thornton for making a new variation of our identifying tag which clearly shows which shawls were donated by the Littleton knitting group. For everyone involved, including the future recipients, this feels like a true act of faith and community.

Nancy Brown and Lorraine Summerfelt

Loaves & Fishes

Valentine's Raffle to benefit Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry

(which serves many of the towns that CGS members live in). Wouldn't you love to own or give this beautiful handmade quilt to someone you

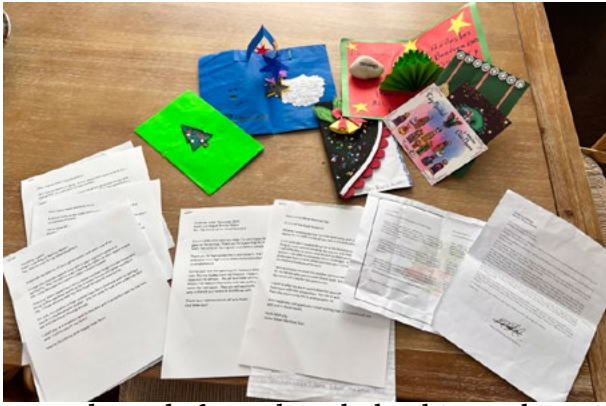
love? Buy a raffle ticket to benefit the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry in Devens and you could. Made by Maureen Clapp, a volunteer at the pantry, this 'Exploding Heart' design is 100% cotton, machine washable, 75" by 75". The colors are incredibly bright and beautiful. Contact Jessie Panek to purchase tickets — \$2 each or 3 for \$5 — by **Feb. 11**. (Drawing is on Valentine's Day).



Jessie Panek

El Ocotillo Scholarship Students

We received a package of holiday letters and



homemade cards from the scholarship students in El Ocotillo. I've now finished translating them.

Some translations are written on the cards themselves and the letters have a corresponding page in English stapled to the original (David and Angel Terencio provided their own translations).

The cards and letters are now posted on the bulletin board in our Parish Hall by Karen Root Watkins with photos taken by Nick Terry when he was in El Ocotillo this past summer. Please take time to check out the board; some of the Christmas cards are incredibly beautiful. Look for more letters in the next Shepherd Staff issue.

Rafael Pupo

Members of the El Buen Pastor community,

Hello, I greet you with great satisfaction and gratitude for having awarded me the scholarship for my University studies. This opportunity has meant a lot to me as it has provided me with the financial support necessary to continue my studies and achieve my academic goals.

I want to express my most sincere gratitude to El Buen Pastor community for their dedication and effort in making this scholarship possible. Furthermore, this year I completed my Civil Engineering degree and next year I plan to do my pre-specialization and thus be able to graduate.

I take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas! May this season be filled with joy, peace and love for all of you and your loved ones. May the coming year be full of success and blessings for everyone in the Sister El Buen Pastor community.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! The Good Shepherd.

Sincerely, Terencio Angelberto Rodriguez Portillo

Dear Friends from Good Shepherd,

I am Patricia Martinez Perez, it is an honor



once again to write you – hoping that you and your families are well.

My reason for writing is to express my gratitude to each of you who support our scholarships and contribute to making this community a special place.

Thank you for the moments of shared laughter, for the blossoming friendships, and for the occasions of solidarity.

I also want to let you know that soon I will have only 3 years of studies remaining to complete my degree as a systems and network engineer. Each day I learn something new and feel inspired to continue studying in my field of interest.

Once again thank you for all the support and care. I hope to have you gain soon in the community of El Ocotillo.

*With gratitude and affection,
Idania Perez*

Still Here: A Benefit Concert for the Acton & Stow Area interfaith Partnership for Refugee Resettlement



Music of Sorrow, Resilience, and Joy Inspired by the Courage of the Ukrainian People, will be played by Jonathan Russell, clarinet/bass clarinet, Solon Gordon, piano

Sunday, February 4, 2024 • 4 pm

Admission free • Suggested donation \$5-\$40
[Tickets here.](#)

Join us at First Parish Church of Stow and Acton on Feb. 4th at 4pm for a program of four musical works that explore the various shades and colors of sorrow, joy, and resilience – and the ways

in which they can intimately intertwine with one another.

The centerpiece of the program is Jonathan Russell's 2022 composition "Still Here" for clarinet and piano. Inspired by the courage and resolve of President Volodymyr Zelensky and the Ukrainian people in the face of Russian aggression, the piece is dedicated to all oppressed peoples in all times and places, who assert through culture, art, music, and community that they are "still here."

Russell's other composition, "Sonata #2 for Bass Clarinet and Piano" is lighter and groove-driven but with darker underpinnings lurking below the

surface. Francis Poulenc's colorful and character-rich "Sonata for Clarinet and Piano" and Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's poignant "Sorrow Songs" round out the program.

Performed by Jonathan Russell, clarinet + bass clarinet; and Solon Gordon, piano.



Events

Annual Meeting

Sunday February 11 after the 9 am Eucharist

Featuring a great potluck brunch (please bring something if you can). We will have lots of important things to share as well as going over the 2024 budget and voting in our new Warden and Vestry.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 13th serving from, 6 - 7 pm

Serving plain, chocolate chip and blueberry pancakes, sausage & bacon
[RSVP Here](#)



Free will offering to cover cost of dinner

Save the date
for our
Annual Pupusa dinner & fundraiser for the
El Salvador Scholarship Fund!
on
Saturday, March 9th from 6-8 pm
All Ages are invited.

With Abundant Gratitude to:

- our ushers this past year: **Marilyn Fedele, Steve Schmitt, Rafael Pupo, John Erickson, Gail Lyons, Lena Saetre-Grant, Peter Grant, Michael Michaels, Obi Umeh, Chuba Udokwu, and Tony Geanisis.**



- BJ Jacobs and the Progress Committee:** energy, persistence, and guidance to get the handrails installed, **Jeff Feddersen** who designed and installed concrete bases, **Ray Lyons** who installed posts and railings.
- Christmas musicians,** our celebrations of Christmas Eve were rich and varied, joyous and moving. The following musicians shared their time, talent, skill, and souls so generously, cheerfully, and



beautifully. Thank you!! At the 4 pm service: Handbells: **Josh Conway, Alex Flores, Delia Moore, Lesley Murray. Audrey Conway and Lily MacDonald,** cello; **Obi Umeh, Jr.,** bass clarinet; **Nathaniel MacDonald,** trumpet; **Chris Tolley,** electric bass. At the 9 pm service:

Singers: **Barbara Dailey, Ronnie Diesl, Alex Flores, Joy Hamel, Dave Hazen, Neal Ogle, Jessie Panek, Lydia Tolley. Wallace Dailey,** violin; **Ray Lyons,** flute.



- Margaret Geanisis,** for stepping in to handle the prayer chain while Jane Lothian was traveling during Christmas 2023.
- Barbara Dailey** for organizing the very successful Esperanza Academy Book Drive, and to **Barb Magee, Carolyn and Andy Platt, Beverly Ridpath, and Rev. Ellie** for their faithful support of the Esperanza Academy Book Drive.
- Ellen Harland** who had a busy season decorating the church for Advent and Christmas. She is so grateful for everyone's help. (see below)
- John Link** who donated our live tree just before he passed away. The people who brought it in and set it up were **Kevin Gross, Paul Zinn,**

and Chris Jones.

- **Cathy King and Diane Prunier, Andy and Carolyn Platt and Diane Cooke**, who hung the courtyard wreaths and inside garland.
- **Alex, Benji and Amalie Flores, Lydia Tolley, Jane Lothian, Peter Church, Catherine Conway and family**, who helped with the “turn-over” on Advent 4, Christmas Eve morning
- **Walter and Joannie Faccenda, Joy Hamel, Jane Lothian, Dave Hazen, Tony Geanisis, Peter Church, Wendy Feddersen, Gail Lyons, Barb McGee, Jessie Panek, Diane Cooke, Karen Wiss Pupo, Renee St. Germain, Brian and Michael Michaels, and Alex, Benji, and Amalie Flores**, who helped with the final “takedown” of Christmas; it felt as if it was a total congregational effort. This is a very special community, and all who helped decorate really made the seasons richer and more meaningful to all of us..
- It is with very grateful hearts that we thank **Ellen Harland** for her years — no, decades — of service on the Liturgical Arts Committee. She is one of the original members from way back when Rev. Morris created the group to amplify the meaning of our worship services for each season in a visual way. She was always enthusiastic, wanting to do whatever she could to make our worship services more meaningful. It was during Rev. Gareth Evans’ tenure as rector



that she took over the leadership position and has continued through this Christmas. If you picture Easter, Christmas, Pentecost, and Holy Week worship at Good Shepherd, Ellen has been a part of the creation of that picture. And for many years she enjoyed helping to create the picture as much as you did living it. Thank you, Ellen, for helping create the visual framework of our worship.

- **Acton Community Chorus**, for singing *The Road Not Taken* so beautifully at John Link’s funeral. (photo below)
- all those who provided Coffee Hour this year: **Daniel MacDonald, Diane Cooke, Doug Recko, Gail Lyons, Helen Young, Jessie and John Panek, John Erickson, Karen and Rafael Pupo, Karen Root Watkins, Kim Jimyung, Laura Sponseller, Lydia Tolley, Margaret and Tony Geanisis, Mary Bunker, Pat Kosicki, Peter and Lena Grant, Renee St. Germain, Taryn Ross-Hyman, Kim**



Wardwell, Alex Flores, Bev Bryant. If we missed anyone, please contact [Wendy](#) to get on our roster!



- **Deacon Ken** for faithfully leading the Men's Group every Saturday morning.
- **Karen Root Wakins** for assembling the El Ocotillo Scholarship board. Make sure you not only check out the board, but look at those Feliz Navidad Cards!
- **Rafael Pupo** for cutting out ALL our new nativity figures, bringing them to life this Christmas so the children could arrange them around the church. It was a lot of work to mount them to the foam board, cut them out and stand them up, but Rafael did it with grace, humor, and skill and made it look easier than it clearly was. Well done!



- our wonderful staff, **Laura Brock, Ellen Oak and Deacon Ken** who helped us prepare for the Advent and Christmas services. Ken and Ellen brought their creative energy and rich spirituality to our collective work shaping our worship. Laura kept us on task and on pace to have everything prepared for the five services we offered in 24 hours December



24-25. You all are amazing and a joy to have as my colleagues and friends. -Rev. Ellie



- our outgoing Warden, **Wendy Feddersen**. Your faithfulness and dedication to our parish has been unwavering. We are grateful for your leadership and sharing your gifts of time and talent.
- our outgoing Vestry members, **Margaret Geanisis, Diane Zimmerman-Decker and Helen Young**. Thank you for your service and commitment to our parish. We'll miss your presence and contributions at our meetings.
- **Bill Harland** for painting and especially **Nick Terry** for helping rehang the sign! (Also **Rafael Pupo and Rev. Ellie**)
- **Jessie Panek, Dave Hazen, Mary Bunker, Kevin Gross, & Rafael Pupo** who helped to clean the Lowell Apartment
- **Delia Moore** for helping to sort items at St. Matthew
- **Ellen Harland** for cooking.



- **Bev Ridpath, Rev. Gareth Evans and Carolyn Platt** for the beautiful obituaries they wrote about John Link and Kate Ogle.
- **Jane Lothian, Marilyn Fedele, Carole Knenzler, Ellie George, Jessie Panek, Margaret**

Geanisis, Rafael & Karen Pupo, Jay Lane, Beverly Duncan, and Bev & Helen Young for sharing their memories of John Link and/or Kate Ogle.

- **Rev. Ellie Terry, Ellen Oak, and Jon Panek** for the wonderful job they putting together the service about our refugee family
- **“Loving Stitches”** knitting group of the Council on Aging, Littleton, for their wonderful donation of 14 prayer shawls and to **Mari-**

lyn Fedele for sharing information about our ministry.

- **Dottie Scotten** for the beautiful graphics in memory of John & Kate.

Administration

Church Directory Is Being Updated

For starters, saying the Church Directory is being updated is not entirely accurate. The Breeze program we use is updated all the time all by our staff and treasurer. We will actually be updating your copy of the directory. This is an opportunity for you to change/update your photo, to make sure our information is still correct (have you replaced that land line phone number in our files with a cell number?), and to add information that may help us serve you better.

If we are missing any information, you will get an email from me, Margaret Geanisis, asking you to fill in the blanks and to please send in the information as soon as possible.

At the Annual Meeting (February 11) and the Pancake Supper (February 13), we will have rough drafts for you to check, and you can write in corrections and add missing details.

Hopefully we will have a much more easily downloaded new Parish directory for you by the end of February. (Please pray and keep your fingers crossed.)

If you need to change information or send a new photo, please email it to me at mgeanisis@gmail.com before Washington’s Birthday, on February 19. Margaret Geanisis.

Slate of New Officers

Warden

Still to be determined, please pray for call

illumination.

Vestry

Three positions

Edward P. Moore, Jr.



Delia and I moved from Honolulu to Stow two years ago to be near our younger daughter Lora’s family: husband Dave, four-year-old Finn, and almost two-year-old Graham.

After attending other Episcopal churches in the area, we landed at Good Shepherd — a wonderfully soft landing! The support of the church and the congregation during our recent tragedy attests to the wisdom of our choice, and thus both of us wish to become more involved in the church. I have thus far served as a lector and delivered a “short” stewardship message.

I taught upper level and honors English at Punahou School (Barack Obama’s school) for 47 years as well as coaching baseball and softball, and also counseling. As a member of The Episcopal Church of the Holy Nativity, I served four three-year terms on the vestry, ushered, delivered homilies, wrote for our monthly newsletter The Banyan Tree, ran adult formations, and for a short while served as Eucharistic Minister. Holy Nativity Vestry has oversight not only of the church, but also of the 160 student

pre-K-6 elementary school (where I also served on the school board), Thrift Shop (\$125,000.00 net per year), professional kitchen, community center (gym and playing field) and meeting rooms.

Both the church and the school went through very difficult times during my tenures (scars abound, not a few in the back!), but we prevailed, and both the church and school are stronger as a result. I am looking forward to serving Good Shepherd bringing whatever experience and “talent” I might have.

Karen Root Watkins



After a college degree in religion and a Master’s in theology, I spent most of my adult life as an elementary teacher learning with children, from the bilingual kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade program in Trenton, New Jersey, to the Montessori Children’s House in Massachusetts.

Teaching was my prayer!

I am passionate about ecology and our connections to the natural world and to each other as a global community. My husband, Ian, and I have lived in Acton for 12 years and we have an adult daughter, Gwen, in Michigan. I love gardening, reading, visiting with family and friends, and discussing/working on public policy.

Although a newcomer to Good Shepherd, I am thankful for the beautiful community here.

Barbara Dailey



I have been a member of this parish for almost two years with my husband Wallace. Before moving to Acton with our son Sam in the summer of 2019, we were active members of Church of the Good Shepherd, Watertown for over twenty years. During those years, I served on several church committees; and

was on the liturgical team and the vestry. Here at CGS, Acton, I am in the choir and on the Mission

Outreach Committee. My professional life has centered on historical studies, in which I completed a doctorate in 1984. I’ve worked in research libraries; taught college and high-school history courses; and did some academic publishing. In 2020, I retired from teaching after sixteen years at the Willow Hill School in Sudbury. I now the Library and Archives Associate at Groton School. I love working and worshipping with people, and look forward to serving this parish as a member of the vestry.

Vestry Vignettes December

Rev. Ellie opened the meeting with prayer for John Link, a former vestry member, who died on December 5th. She also offered updates on pastoral care concerns, and offered prayers of healing. Minutes from the vestry meeting in October were approved.

Warden’s report:

Wendy talked about placing the rainbow fish on the signage in Acton. Wendy also discussed how she was promoting Christmas Services; a recommendation that the Service schedule be posted on Littleton Common was also discussed.

We talked about making additional repairs to the rectory building, and agreed to get competitive quotes on the work.

Treasurer’s report:

Denise presented a picture of this year’s budgets and noted expenses of the rectory as being over budget. She also commented that not all pledges have been received. We also looked at a picture of next year’s budget, and noted that the rectory expenses were unknown. We understood that next year’s budget would be another deficit, and discussed how concerned we were over the pattern of multiple years of deficits. We approved a motion regarding Rev Ellie’s parsonage allowance, and approved a 3% increase in wages for the staff.

We tabled a discussion about declining membership, since we ran out of time. Rev. Ellie noted that over the last two years, our attendance has grown steadily.

Deacon Ken closed the meeting with prayer, particularly mentioning John Link.

Passages - Funerals

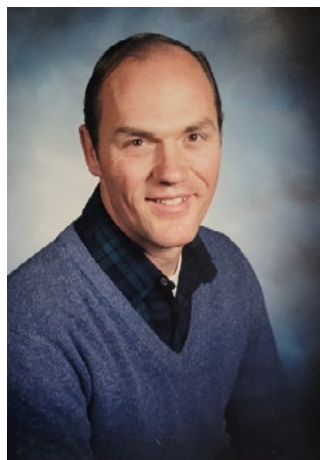


John H. Link, Jr., 79 of Stow, MA passed away on December 5th, 2023. He is survived by his brother James Link, sister-in-Law Rose Mary Link, and 3 nieces. His brother Jeff predeceased John. John grew up in Burnt Hills, NY, and graduated from Cornell University with a degree in Architecture.

John was a great and hearty raconteur, who would tell amazing “God-moment” stories during Wednesday morning breakfast or at Coffee Hour after the early service on a Sunday. He was also a sage, a mystic, and a healer with big hands and a sonorous voice who enriched our church community for many years with his profound spirituality. He expressed God’s love through all that he was and did and he found joy in the darkest of places. He ran our Taizé healing service for years and his prayers seemed always to wrap us all in God’s love.



John’s younger adult life took him on a spiritual odyssey that might best be described as an heroic search for the meaning of life. At one point he embraced a monastic life as a member of a radical religious order that would send him and a few companions into challenging, even dangerous urban areas with



next-to-no resources, to minister to people they encountered with an absolute trust that “God would provide.” He loved to regale us with hair-raising stories of running from hostile gangs in an inner city neighborhood; arriving at a YMCA where all the resources their group needed were miraculously provided; and landing in a California neighborhood with no money and being immediately employed as a landscaper— a job he was well qualified to do. He attributed his good fortune to an abiding trust in God’s providential care. The Order he had joined finally folded because as he put it, “the Brothers one by one fell in love and got married.” So John, not wanting to pursue an alternative order, left that life behind in favor of a life that was much more in the “mainstream.”

Digging into his horticultural interests, John got a job at Russell’s Garden Center in Wayland where he worked for many years. It was a place he loved and where he was loved. John’s knowledge of plants was truly encyclopedic and he was often the “go-to guy” for advice on a variety “plant problems.” He loved the book *Braiding Sweetgrass* and nature documentaries like *The Green Planet* and would enthusiastically retell great stories and insights he had gleaned from them at Coffee Hour, sharing his excitement and wonder at the natural world that he so appreciated. He was gifted in designing displays of flowers and always created a beautiful crib setting at Christmas.



Music was an-

other of John's "avocations." He sang in the church choir and in the Acton Community Chorus for many years. Singing, and the community of singers he in which he immersed himself, were cherished parts of his rich life.

In recent years, back pain prevented John from being very active so he doubled-down on reading. He was a voracious reader with eclectic tastes and ran a church book group for the longest time. Wendell Berry was one of his favorite writers and Berry's Sabbath poems provided him a lot of comfort in recent years.

John was a big and beautiful presence and we will miss him greatly – his talent, his presence, his prayers, his spiritual gravitas and the whoop of his laughter, ringing through the Parish Hall. Our condolences to his family and condolences to all of us, his grateful companions along the Way.



Bev Ridpath with Rev. Gareth Evans

I only came to "know" John in the last few years when we were on a committee together. He really loved his association with Good Shepherd, and he enjoyed selling the gorgeous wreaths at Christmas time. This is when he got the chance to visit with all the parishioners from both services.



John was always very willing to obtain the most beautiful flowers and arrange them for the altar at Christmas and Easter. If you had a problem with your garden and asked John for advice, he was more than happy to help you. I always wanted to snap those colorful suspenders

he wore, but I never got the chance!!!

Marilyn Fedele

I first met John when he worked for a short time as a Realtor. I remember him telling me he was interested in ministry and loved plant life. How nice when he joined our church. On occasion he would sing with us in the choir and who could forget his presence at Christmas time standing at the microphone promoting the sale of wreaths. When I found out he worked in a nursery, I asked him to locate a nicely-shaped witch hazel tree for my side yard. Shortly thereafter he brought one over and today its yellow, sweet perfumed blossoms announce in late February or early March the coming of spring. So thank you, John.

Carole Kuenzler

Six or seven people are needed to even begin to take on the work that John did for our parish! Ordering plants for our Christmas and Easter altars, sale of Christmas wreaths as a fund raiser for many years,

servicing as a LEM, providing foods for 8 am Sunday coffee hour, offering heart felt prayers for friends, family and co workers



at Compline, providing fascinating insights on a myriad of subjects in conversation, sharing great movie and book suggestions, driving people home after church. He was always there for each of us! Always!!!!

Ellie George

John and I served together offering healing prayers at the Sunday evening Taizé service for a few years. I was awed by his knack for spontaneous prayer and heartfelt imagery. I recall him once imploring the Creator to surround the supplicant with white light. Coming from anyone else, it might have sounded a bit forced, but not from John.

At Christmas, when most people are overcommitted, John often joined the Anthem Choir to ensure a fuller sound for our ambitious annual Lessons and Carols services. John also shared his opinions freely.



We worked side by side during the food packing event for Rise Against Hunger. Although he was steady and productive, he let everyone know that he found it annoying to work with the background pop music, and that he felt Vivaldi would

be a far better selection.

Jane Lothain

I remember when John came to Good Shepherd because he had seen an article in the Action Unlimited about a book discussion of the newly published DaVinci



Code. That was followed by his reading about our first Taize Healing Service and he came the first Sunday night we offered it. I used to see him in the early days at the 10 am service sitting on

the right hand side near the front of the church, very solitary, very devout, very moved by the service.

As we got to know each other, I found out that he had been a monk in an Eastern Orthodox Monastery! I was quite impressed and we talked a bit about the commonalities of the Episcopalian faith and Eastern Orthodoxy; I found him fascinating. And of course we both loved books, though his choices were a bit more highbrow than mine. We worked together over book selection for quite a few years when he led the Not-So-Serious monthly book group; I got the Book Group bags from the library and he led the group. He was in the choir for a while before moving onto the quieter, more contemplative 8 am service. I also served with him in the early years of the Taize Healing service and in the later years on Shepherd's Staff articles.

But the best was when



we prayed and I had conversations with him. We talked about all sorts of things including but not limited to gardening, books, that he was a bee keeper for the monastery, Christmas greens and all sorts of other things. He recently served on the Vestry for one year, and I was amazed and just loved his gentle wisdom when it was most needed. It was during his funeral that I realized one of our strongest connections was that we recognized each other as pilgrims on their journey. I am much better for knowing John Link.

Margaret Geanisis



Katherine (Kate) Ogle, 81, wife of Neal Ogle,



died at her home in Stow on Dec. 31, 2023. Kate is survived by her husband Neal, her brother Stephen "Spike" Paranya and his wife Kathy, her sister Jane Boynton and husband Stan, and much-loved nieces and nephews. She is also survived by her two cats, Connor and Thea.

As was their long time custom, Kate and Neal went to this year's Christmas Eve dinner at the Pupo's and then on to the Good Shepherd Christmas Eve service. Kate and Neal entered the sanctuary adorned in twin red jackets evoking smiles all around from fellow parishioners. After all, Kate was in hospice, but there she was in all her splendor,

smiling, singing and, even standing...quite able!

Christmas Eve could be called Kate's Last Supper, first at the Pupo's and then Holy Eucharist at the railing. From the moment she woke up the next day she barely ate, and she slowly surrendered to her last week of life. The afternoon of December 31, Ellie visited, and her PEO friends sang to her. A few hours later, surrounded by Neal and several Good Shepherd friends, Kate passed peacefully.

Kate came to Good Shepherd in the early seventies and was a folk mass regular. After the folk mass ended, she became a regular at the 8 am for the rest of her life. Over the years she was a Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM), served on the altar guild, sang in the choir, was junior warden and a search committee member.

Kate participated in Education for Ministry (EFM), a 4-year mentor-guided small group adult theological study program for lay people that provides tools to help explore faith and discern the call as to how to incorporate ministry into their lives. As a bonus, Kate and Neal met each other at EFM. Neal was a third-year student from Emmanuel Parish, Wakefield, when Kate came into the group for her first year, and in 1990 they became man and wife. They were married for 33 years.

Kate made her Cursillo in the mid-eighties. Cursillo is a three-day retreat meant to empower people by strengthening their faith and giving them the tools and encouragement to live their faith

in their daily lives. Around this time, she, Beverly Duncan, and Sonia Stevenson formed



Katherine Paranya



their "reunion" group. CGS minister Bill Heuss called them the "Squish Faces" and they later invited Carolyn Platt to join them. The Squish Faces gathered weekly for breakfast, prayer, and African Bible Study for many years.

Kate had a deep knowledge of the Bible and church history, and artfully connected her life experiences with her spiritual journey, frequently with a dash of humor.

Kate was born in Boston, Massachusetts, and grew up in Lexington, MA. She attended Mount Holyoke College where she studied Latin and medieval history graduating Phi Beta Kappa. She went to the Pontifical Institute for medieval studies at the University of Toronto. Realizing that she "did not want to know so much about so little" she returned and worked as an administrative assistant at the Houghton Library at Harvard. Two years later she went to the University of Denver for her Master of Library Science Degree and began her 35-year career as a librarian at the Worcester Public Library, where she had risen to Head of Branch Libraries at her retirement.

Kate was an active member of P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization), Chapter AI, Massachusetts, since 1995. She was devoted to the effort to provide financial support for women seeking higher education through the organization's loan funds and scholarships. She loved to garden and very much appreciated the bird life. Kate, almost from birth, loved horses – especially thoroughbred racing horses. Her knowledge of Kentucky Derby winners was immense, knowing the pedigrees as well as the races won. Her joy in the last few years was to travel to the Lexington, Kentucky, area to visit the various mare and stud farms.

Her funeral service will be on March 2, 2024 at 11:00 am at the Church of the Good Shepherd. In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to Church of the Good Shepherd, or to Old Friends thoroughbred retirement facility at www.oldfriendsequine.org.

Carolyn Platt



Kate and Neal were two of the first people we got to know at Good Shepherd. We spent Christmas Eve and Easter together for most of the years since. Kate would hide little chocolate Easter eggs all over her house for our kids to find. They were so well hidden that some would be found months to years later! Alix and Isa have very special memories of Easter at their home. Kate was always very kind and interested in what they were doing.



I also appreciated Kate's intellect and storytelling ability! I will miss her greatly.

Karen Pupo

I will always miss Kate....for her humor, her encouragement, and her incredible insights. She had a love of language and enjoyed hearing stories. She was an ideal companion on the spiritual path.

Lorraine Summerfelt

Kate and Neal married later in life (around age 50) in the fall of 1990 just like Karen and me. They, along with Jon and Jessie, were our first friends at Good Shepherd and we became very close. For as long as we can remember, they would be part of our chosen family at Christmas Eve.



And, until recent years we would regularly celebrate Easter at their house. Neal and Kate loved children and Alix and Isa were always very special to them. The annual Easter egg hunt at their house along with their Christmas Chex mix and Kate's Christmas cookies became cherished traditions.

Her other passions included horse racing, bird watching, and football. She seemed to know everything about New England traditions and the Episcopal church. But mostly, I'll remember her as a very faithful friend with a great smile. I'm glad I got to hug her one last time this past Christmas Eve. She willed herself to attend despite her very frail health by that point. May she rest in eternal peace.

♥♥♥ Rafael Pupo

Kate and Neal were the first parishioners I got

to know after joining Good Shepherd, when we shared a small table at a "Gifts of the Spirit" workshop. We quickly found out that we were both librarians, a forever connection.

I got to know Kate better when I took EFM, where Neal was the leader and Kate was his assistant. There is a lot of sharing each week in EFM and we got to know each other well - did you know that Kate was raised Unitarian? I think it made her wonderfully accepting of people and where they were in their walk of life.

We did survive the true test of friendship, a parting of the ways, but eventually we both moved beyond that and picked up right where we left off. She was always honest with me, a mentor along the way, and a true friend; I will miss her very much and I am very glad that we had the bonus of working together on the Shepherd's Staff these last few years. Thank you, Jesus, for Kate Ogle.

Margaret Geanisis

Kate was one of the first people we met when we joined Good Shepherd a little over 25 years ago. After several years Kate invited me to go to a friend's one evening as an invitation to join P.E.O. She explained that she loved this group and its philosophy and felt that I would. It was not work, it was not church, but a group of friends working to educate women from around the world. During our drives to the meetings, Kate taught me a lot about horse races, how horses got their names, etc. Oh... the conversations we had about everything!!! I will surely miss them.

When Kate started going to the 8:00 am service, I made it a point to visit with her during the coffee hour between the two services.



Marilyn Fedele

I met Kate when I was her mother's realtor. We were similar in age and discovered that both of us had gone to a girl's college, she to Mount Holyoke and I to Wheaton College. At the time she was single but soon thereafter she met Neal and married.

After finding them a home we casually kept in touch through church. She joined choir for awhile and made lots of friends at church. Recently, she asked me

several times if I would like to go out for breakfast and just chat, especially now that I was alone. We had a good time reminiscing, talking about horse racing (her love), and family life.



I always found Kate to be a joyous person and sincerely interested in the thoughts and lives of others. Her smile and jovial outlook will be missed.

Carole Kuenzler

The Lord has most certainly put Kate to work in his animal sanctuary! Her love of horses, cats, wild turkeys, bumblebees --- indeed, of all critters--- was expansive and sincere!

Ellie George

When I was at Good Shepherd, for a time we had three services, so I started a group called the "Hymn Choir" to lead the singing at 9:00 am. Kate and Neal joined, and soon Kate signed up for voice lessons. I remember she was pleased at learning how to sing, when she had been told in her youth that she couldn't. Later on, she would go on to join a couple of choral groups. I admired her willingness to become a beginner and try something new in retirement.

Jay Lane, former music and choir director

I arrived at Good Shepherd on a summer day to discover the service was outside. Kate immediately came to me with a warm welcome. She invited me to sit with her and Neal, and they got me a chair. Kate took

time to explain the particulars of the outdoor service to me. After the service, Kate said she hoped I would come back the next week and that they would save a seat for me. I had been shopping around for a church and was so happy to finally receive a warm welcome.



Tony Berryman

Beverly Duncan and Helen and Bev Young shared and agreed on some memories about Kate:

Kate had a sharp mind...she remembered everything. She could tell you with joy the before, during and after details about each horse at Kentucky Derby time. She had a prodigious knowledge about horses, and she and Neal made many a trip to Kentucky to see the horses. Kate even took riding lessons after she retired.

Kate and I met before I joined the anthem choir, when some of us got our feet wet leading hymn singing at the midmorning service. I soon looked forward to every chance to talk with her. She would bring me up to date on the latest birds at her feeders, and what horse races she had watched. She had strong opinions and expressed them; she stood up for trainer Bob Baffert, for example, when my other friends believed his bad press.

There was practical advice too. When I expressed frustration with my inability to quiet my mind for prayer, Kate shared her evening ritual: intercessory prayers sandwiched between a compline prayer from the BCP and one from the New Zealand Prayer Book.

Jessie Panek

From Ukraine:

Hi there, Margaret,

I hope you are well and COGS is still "cogging" along.

I have a new photo and a redrafted poem, to share.

The photo I took the other morning (about 6:10 a.m.) on the way to yoga. It just seemed so unexpected and snappy. The caption, more or less, reads: "I just came home. Everything will be ready in 5 minutes."

It is not easy here. It's a country in the middle of a war and seriously suffering. But, I have no doubt, they will prevail. Still, the daily or twice or three times daily Air-raid Alerts are definitely spooky. I laugh.

Have a great day.

A belated Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, to one and all,

Emmanuel



At Some Point

___I___

At some point
where you and I will never be
and the when of it,
only years later, will be known
and the world too,
will feel but not know
which levers were pulled,
what pockets stolen from
and which others filled,
most likely,
it will be powerful men
in a well appointed room,
who will cast knowing glances
and the whole matter will roll
towards an unstated agreement..
'He must go'
I would do something Napoleonic
-
find a cold and remote island,
somewhere in the Far North,
and for irony's sake,
it would have
a fully staffed McDonald's.

___II___

At some point,
when enough oxygen
has left the room,
and people are more than wor-
ried,
eyes more frightened than calm –
looking out from Kremlin win-
dows
into a frosty opaqueness,
like Saul on his horse,
stopped on the way to Damascus,
they will wonder,
what will become of me ?
When push meets shove,
out on the corner,
of course, they will struggle,
as mates always do,
maybe a window is broken,
a cup and its contents go side-
ways,
disorder is restored,

the Rohrshach suddenly makes
sense
the ink dries up –
no words are written,
neurons hit a dead end,
and on CCTV,
they all look silly,
lost souls in private,
the drama of driftwood.

___III___

At some point,
the needy will be briefly consid-
ered,
but only after less important
things,
was that Bergamot in the tea ?
Today, the buildings and the sky
all look the same,
a dull grayness grips the city,
and it is pondered across the
land,
who will make this right for
Ukraine,
pick up the garbage
and the uncountable pieces of
plaster,
framing millions of tragic stories ?

Who will cart away
the 1000's of wrecked vehicles ?
Certainly not the wrecking crew.
The air is broken,
nothing is the same,
everything's atilt.
A crowd of people are screaming
on Munch's bridge.
Will the Russians pay for this ?
Yes and No.
More certainly, it is the Chinese
who will reap the benefits
of this enormous miscalculation.

___IV___

At some point,
A little boy with gleaming eyes,
follows his guardians as they
shop,
in the store of many aisles.

The boy sees something he likes,
grabs and pockets it, unseen.
Now, still a child, but years later,
emboldened, he grabs and
pockets
Land and Treasure,
This time openly, for all to see.
We know these children,
they strut proudly through this
world
destroying and trampling on life,

on everything unprotected.
Vladimir's parents, long gone,
will be waiting for him,
in an undisclosed location,
at some point,
they will walk quietly away or
sit stoically, strapped into chairs,
as their long line of victims,
pass by, each wishing,
they had a knife or a sharp stick
to plunge through the eye socket
of their tormentor.

___V___

And, at some point,
the Yuan will roll into town,
and the Chinese will be
heroes without conquering,
in true Taoist fashion.
Buildings will go up,
statues will be erected,
parades, music, drums,
people will stroll in parks,
forgetful of the horrible tragedy,
only watching their playful chil-
dren
and thinking, 'Such beauty and
joy..
where does it all come from ?
What a wonderful place
to raise a family.'

December 27, 2022
Emmanuel Aronie - Cherkassy,
Ukraine

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