

# The Shepherd's Staff

**June 2021**



**Church of the Good Shepherd**  
*The Building is Closed but Our Hearts are Open!*

## **Breaking News!** **The Diocese has approve new** **Post-Covid regulations !** **Details Inside**

**June 4 at 8:00 pm - Zoom Spiritual Parenting**

**June 6 at 9:00 am - Holy Eucharist Moves to the**  
**Summer Schedule Time**

**June 21 - Acton Town Meeting to vote on**  
**Clean Energy Bills**

**June 21-29 - Ellie is off on Vacation**

**June 23 at 7:30-9:00 pm - Hop, Skip, Jump Through**  
**the Bible**

**August 9-30 - Ellie is off on Vacation**

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# A Word from the Fold



A few thoughts as we approach the summer months and anticipate a return to more normal life as the pandemic wanes.

First, an expression of deep gratitude. The wardens, Regathering Team and I are extremely grateful to our beloved congregation for your steadfast patience and commitment to following the restrictions that have been in place to keep us all safe. It has not always been easy, or comfortable. Yet, as I acknowledged in my Pentecost sermon, there is no more Christ-like ministry than to care

for those most vulnerable among us. You have kept the faith, honored the restrictions and remained engaged, despite the loss of our in-person worship and fellowship. Thank you for your faithfulness and commitment.

An expression of deep gratitude, part two, to our amazing tech team! I am not sure how many of you realize how hard this great group of people work to ensure a smooth worship experience for all of us. It takes many hours of preparation each week. They arrive at least an hour and half before the service begins to set up the equipment that allows for our services to be live-streamed and audible to both our in-person and remote congregations. They have learned to trouble-shoot all kinds of issues which inevitably happen. Please offer your thanks to them, especially Tom Hoch and Jon Panek, the masterminds behind the laptops and control panels! If you are interested in joining this talented team, please let them know. They offer great training, a guiding hand, and the satisfaction of participating in a new form of vital ministry.

Second, a request to remain patient and compassionate. As much as we might wish for an immediate full return to the lives we had before, our regathering as a church community will continue to be a gradual one. It is important to remember that not all of us are vaccinated – including every child under the age of 12. As a parish that prides itself on its love for children, and their central role in our life and worship, we need to remember that our younger children remain vulnerable to COVID, as do some adults with certain medical conditions. We have made tremendous progress in our fight against COVID, but it is not over yet. We will continue to face restrictions, wear our masks inside, and follow the recommended safety measures until all of us are safe from harm.

I commend an article, recommended by our Bishops, entitled, “If You End Church Mask Mandates, My Family Can’t Be There.” Here is a link to the article.: <https://sojo.net/articles/if-you-end-church-mask-mandates-my-family-can-t-be-there?fbclid=IwAR0CoEdxFE1fJmWXbdmxy7Is3i7MMmyEdBQtIDXGs9OPhiGW-loNTYZqjxAQ>

Third, a reminder that while much has changed (and that’s not always a bad thing), we have been able to keep many ministries alive throughout the pandemic. New ministries have sprung up. Others have changed. Some may not return. We have an opportunity to listen deeply for God’s call to our community. What is essential about our life in Christ as lived out here at Good Shepherd? What might we embrace as we discern the future together? Where is God challenging us to grow? What have we learned about ourselves that we might share with those beyond our community?

Finally, a call to rejoice as we approach the time of summer sabbath. We have worked hard and endured much over the past year. I pray that all of us may take some time off this summer to be refreshed in the Spirit, enjoy the loosening restrictions (as may be best for us), and perhaps even venture forth to enjoy a bit of summer travel.

Faithfully,  
Ellie+

# Warden's Message



As we contemplate reopening, I find myself thinking of the children and youth who have been so much less visible to me during these months, despite Taryn's creative and faithful efforts to keep them engaged. It was a joyful sight to see a band of kids processing with the Peace Dove and the red and orange streamers at

today's **Pentecost** service. And I relished the cluster of kids around the lemonade table after the service, debating who would prefer pink versus yellow lemonade. They were dutifully masked, without questioning, while the adults, mostly vaccinated, were mostly unmasked. I felt a twinge of guilt that I was able to be unmasked, while they accepted that they were still vulnerable and still potentially able to expose others to an unseen illness. They have been so patient through this very trying time.

I have always liked to see the children and young people participating in the service, in the traditional ways such as serving as crucifer, or acolyte, or reading a lesson, or singing in the choir. I've been touched by their appeals for their service projects, showing up with home-made signs nervously stepping into the lectern to make announcements to the congregation. Equally, I have enjoyed seeing them race around the Parish Hall or out on the playground after the service. I've even enjoyed their

harmless shenanigans, as they take the opportunity to check out the coffee hour food spread in the Parish Hall on the way back from a bathroom break during the service.

But, most of all, I like the sense I get that they feel that the church is a safe place, where they can move around freely and not just their parents are keeping at least a half of an eye out for them. And it's not just the adults who are supporting them. It is their peers also, especially as they move into their middle school and teen years. And it's other adults, during a phase of growing up when it's easier to open up with adults who aren't your parents.

For my part, with the auction moving into the rear view mirror (and thank you, all, for your generous support and contributions), I want to focus on what we can do to welcome kids and families back, as immunity and safety allows, not just through church school but also through other activities. Maybe we can start with a kids and family barbecue, or an outdoor storytelling session, movie, or karaoke night, or an outdoor Christian rock concert. The children and youth — and their families — have struggled uniquely through this pandemic. As wonderful as Taryn is, she cannot do this alone. Let's all think about ways we can support the children and youth, and their families, as we make our reopening plans. There is ample creativity within this community, and plenty of commitment to match it.

Peace and health to you all,  
Lydia



# Junior Warden's Message

## **"Continuously Under Attack"**

In the 1973 movie *Paper Moon*, Ryan O'Neal's character earns money by tricking widows into buying over-priced bibles. Being an itinerant con man, he preys on the grief of strangers. The story is fictional. The cheating remains real. It has perhaps existed across all of history.

Fast forward to 2021. Every one of us, and every organization, is under constant attack from grifters. They call us on the phone. They reach out to us via email. They claim to be from the bank, the government, the church. The predators are after money, or information that can get them money. They feign urgency. They pose as a person of authority or trust. They sometimes insist on confidentiality. This explains what happened at Good Shepherd this spring.

How do we defend ourselves? Easy. We learn how scams work. Please take a few minutes to re-view the articles posted at these links. A little bit of

reading now can save time and money later.

- <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/scam-alerts>
- <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-recognize-and-avoid-phishing-scams>
- <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/topics/privacy-identity-online-security>

We're in this together. When uncertain about the authenticity of a communication, ask a friend. Ask me. If we don't know the answer, we'll find somebody who does.

Peace,  
Harry Peebles

## Worship

### Regathering Team update

On Thursday, May 20, our Bishops issued a new Pastoral Letter with updated COVID-19 Guidelines for the Episcopal Churches in our Diocese. A link to their full letter is included below.

The new guidelines offer some very exciting and hopeful guidance which reflects the rapidly changing and improving conditions of the pandemic. The Bishops' letter also continues to offer strong cautions that "we must still be vigilant to protect one another."

Our Regathering Team met on Tuesday, May 25 to consider the updated guidelines. We believe the best process toward more fully reopening our church building to worship and other activities is a gradual one. We know that there are many members of our beloved Good Shepherd family (including all children under the age of 12 and adults with certain health conditions) who are not able to be vaccinated. It continues to be important that we prioritize the health and safety of all our households, especially those most vulnerable among us.

In light of the Bishops' May 20 Pastoral Letter:

#### **Regarding worship this summer:**

- We will continue to worship outdoors in the parking lot on Sundays. There are no attendance limits and no further contact

## Summer Service Schedule

### Sunday

9:00 am Holy Eucharist in the parking lot, live streamed on Zoom

### Wednesday

7:30 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

### Thursday

8:00 pm Compline via Zoom

tracing or advance sign-up will be required. We urge families to practice social distancing of 6 feet between other households. Per CDC guidelines, those who are not yet vaccinated should continue wearing a face covering and maintain physical distance. We encourage all worshipers to maintain these precautions in order to protect one another.

- Outdoor singing by both choir and congregation is now permitted. We look forward to singing together in the coming weeks! Masks and social distancing will remain necessary. Keep an eye on the E-blast for

updates.

- Coffee Hour with food and drink is back! In the summer, it will be served outside, in individual portions (no buffet, or common plate).
- Our Sunday service will continue to be live-streamed on Zoom to enable those who worship from home to participate in the liturgy (including as lectors and intercessors).
- On rainy Sundays, until further notice, we will offer a full Zoom service without an in-person congregation. Later this summer, once the tech set-up in the church has been modified for in-person attendance, we may be able to offer an in-person option for rainy days. Watch the E-blast for updates and check Facebook on Saturdays for any weather-related changes to the worship schedule/location.
- **Sunday, September 12** is the target date for a return to in-person, indoor worship at both 8am and 10am.

#### Regarding use of our building:

- Masks continue to be required for everyone when in the building, whether or not you are fully vaccinated. The only exception is for staff working in their offices and when others are not present.
- Vaccination (or a medical exemption) will be required of all church staff, musicians/choristers and volunteer leaders of Christian formation (especially with children). No proof of vaccination is required to attend worship, however we strongly encourage all members to be vaccinated against the coronavirus as soon as they are eligible.
- When we resume in-person worship, capacity in the church is capped at 50% of occupancy (or 125 people) until July 1, after which we can return to full capacity (250). Social distancing is still recommended, however, so our actual numbers will be considerably lower.

Full text of the Bishops' May 20 Pastoral Letter and Updated COVID-19 Guidelines may be found here: <https://www.diomass.org/news/diocesan-news/may-20-pastoral-letter-covid-19-guidelines>

Thank you again for your continued patience as we gradually return to in-person worship and fellowship. May God's Spirit continue to guide and

bless us on our way.

Faithfully,  
Rev. Ellie+

and the members of the Good Shepherd Regathering Team : Wardens Lydia Tolley and Harry Peebles, Tony Geanisis, Gail Lyons, Marilyn Fedele, Jessie Panek, and Kathy White and Barb Magee, in absentia.

## Summer Liturgy



Beginning this coming **Sunday, May 23**, our liturgy will be drawn from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*. Many of you will be familiar with this setting, as it is one that has been used in prior summers here at Good Shepherd. We will continue to celebrate the Holy Eucharist both in person and

live-streamed on Zoom for those of you who prefer to worship from home.

Since the very first *Book of Common Prayer* was published in England in 1549, the use of a common form of worship in the vernacular language of the people (as opposed to Latin) has been a hallmark of Anglican worship. Today, books of Common Prayer exist in over 50 countries throughout the Anglican Communion of churches, and are used in over 150 languages. *A New Zealand Prayer Book* is the authorized form of the Book of Common Prayer for our sister church the Anglican Church of New Zealand. It was first authorized for use in 1988.



According to its forward, "*A New Zealand Prayer Book/He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa*" reflects the importance of ecology and environmentalism, Māori and Pasefika identity, principals of the Treaty of Waitangi, equal partnership between women and men, and the centrality of lay ministry.

These priorities remain central to our theology and community life across our islands, and thus continue to be hugely significant to our liturgical formation.” (Forward, ix)

It is precisely these priorities, which flow through the prayers and liturgies, that make *A New Zealand Prayer Book* such a beautiful and beloved resource throughout the Anglican world, including here at Good Shepherd. Its commitment to themes of creation care make it a particularly appropriate choice for our summer outdoor services.

## Would You Like to Be a Lector?

Do you enjoy reading aloud? We always need more people to read the weekly lessons during the Sunday 10 am service. Being a lector is a minimal commitment, as you get to choose the dates you are available. Also, you can read in-person or from home via Zoom. How convenient is that? I typically send the readings to the week’s lectors by Wednesday, so that the readers have time to review the lessons and feel comfortable with the text. I use Sign-up Genius for scheduling, which is convenient for readers and for me.

Please reach out to me by email or at a Sunday service. Hope to have you join in!

Debby Flint-Baum

## Newcomers and Greeters Alert!

The Newcomers Committee together with Greeters can’t wait to welcome New and Oldcomers back outdoors and indoors when permitted! As we unmask, in addition to greeting old friends, would everyone be on the lookout for real newcomers? Please reach out and welcome any new faces! More



details coming.

## Calling New Newcomer Committee Members

Please join the Newcomers Committee by contacting Andy Platt or Karen Pupo. Our role is to identify anyone new to the church, help them learn about various CGS opportunities, and assist in connecting them with other parishioners. It is not a large time commitment, but it is a critical ministry.

## Worship Snapshots



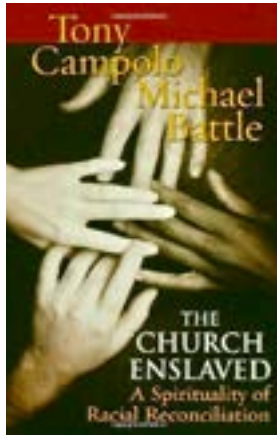
# Pentecost



# Christian Formation

## Anti-Racism Book Group

After a bit of a hiatus during Lent and Eastertide, our Anti-Racism Book Group is considering our next steps.



I suggest our next read be *The Church Enslaved: A Spirituality of Racial Reconciliation* by Tony Campolo and Michael Battle. This book explores the sad history and present realities of racism in the churches and then offers a vision of a church and society without racism. The authors challenge Christians to a deeper spirituality,

enabling them to resume leadership in overcoming and redressing America's legacy of racial division.

The time and location (perhaps in person; perhaps over Zoom) are to be determined. If you are interested in being part of this important discussion, please email Rev. Ellie .

## Hop, Skip, and Jump Through the Bible

We will be holding our Bible Study on Zoom on **Wednesday, June 23, from 7:30 – 9:00** pm. This month we will be looking at the concept of the Trinity. We close our prayerful Collects to God with the phrase *“through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.”* We sing *“One God, three persons,*

*blessed Trinity.”* And we make the sign of the cross. The word “Trinity” does not specifically appear in scripture, so how does this concept of *“one in three and three in one”* become such a foundational doctrine in our Christian belief? We will look at that development and at the scriptural references supporting it.

**Readings: Matt 28:19, 2 Cor. 13:14**

The Zoom link will be posted in the e-blast for two weeks before the meeting. Come and join us as we explore the scriptures and consider how they speak to us today. Each session is a stand-alone meeting so join us for whatever sessions you can fit into your schedule. All are welcome!

Bev Ridpath & Neal Ogle

## Spiritual Parenting

The last gathering of parents for the school year will be **June 4th**. E-Vites with Zoom links will be shared via email the week of the meeting. Parents **will then gather online at 8 pm** on that Friday. We look forward to hearing updates, stories and questions. As always, the format is laid-back and supportive.

Spiritual Parenting will resume in the fall and will occur monthly. We encourage anyone to join in at any time. Additionally, if you are not able to connect during this meeting, please reach out to Pastor Ellie or me. We welcome ideas, questions and any level of participation. It's a great way to strengthen our faith and community.

Taryn Ross-Hyman

# Church School

## Church School Update

May marks the end of the church school year. At the beginning of the month, several youth met at the church and participated in some beauti-

fyng activities e.g. weed pulling, materials organizing and StoryWalk straightening. Throughout the month the younger kids and I met three times for online classes. In our lessons, we examined and discussed Jesus's commandment to love others, Jesus as a shepherd and Jesus's message of love through



the Holy Spirit. Mary Bunker provided frequent support and wisdom while the students offered heartfelt thoughtfulness and smiles. Parents were also present in the way they encouraged and guided participation.

Some of us gathered in person on the last day of class which was **Pentecost**. After our Zoom class, I scurried over to the church and set up activities for the kids to work on during the worship



service. These items included puzzles, coloring, and a craft project which I called the Pentecost Wand. The kids attached crepe paper streamers to a paper towel roll in order to symbolize the Holy Spirit wind and fiery tongues of **Pentecost**. At the conclusion of the service we processed around the congregants



marching to the beat of the closing hymn and waving our special wands.

During the service announcements, I shared my gratitude to all the adults and kids who helped



make the year a success. Thank you to Reverend Ellie for her guidance and involvement as well as the wardens, vestry and mission outreach committee members. Thank you to Deborah for her musical accompaniment and mentoring. We appreciate everyone who, in any way big or small, supports our faith community because it in turn bolsters anything we do for our young people.

Finally, a huge thank you goes out to all the kids and parents who followed my occasionally crazy lead as I navigated teaching church school online during a pandemic. It wasn't hard to believe that I had only been on the job a few months before everything went upside down and we had to chart a new faith formation path. I'm beyond grateful that



they stuck with me, the other teachers (thank you Elea-nore, Mary and Jen) and the church. We hope you learned at least a little and had fun.

Over the summer we will regroup and reflect. I encourage anyone to volunteer their ideas or time and energy to next year's programming. If interested, please look out for a church school council meeting some time in August. Guidelines continue to change and in many ways we will want to return to what is familiar. At the same time, I look forward to continuing our growth as a united community supporting each other as we find new ways to explore and expand upon our faith.

**Note:** As always, please reach out to me with comments and/or questions. The link is below or, you may use [cgschurchschool@gmail.com](mailto:cgschurchschool@gmail.com). Also,

feel free to pop onto the church school website to check on the latest events and resources (<https://>

[sites.google.com/view/cgschurchschool/](https://sites.google.com/view/cgschurchschool/)).

## Church School Calendar

May 23 - Last day of Church School

June 4 at 8:00 pm - Spiritual Parenting (will resume in the Fall)

June 30 - Church School summer activity book available

August - Church School Council meeting (date and time TBA)

## 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.”***

### Esperanza

An event called HOPE RISING was held to celebrate the RISE of the students and community as the girls take their next steps on their academic journey. There’s a great visual on their home page <https://www.esperanzaacademy.org>, and also <https://www.esperanzaacademy.org/hope-rising>.

Please link to [Hope Rising](#) video on utube to celebrate the RISE of the students and community as the girls take their next steps on their academic journey.

*Dear Friends,*

*We will host our virtual event, Hope Rising, right here on Thursday, May 27 at 7:00PM! We are all so excited to share this documentary style program with you that follows the notion of hope as it rises throughout our 12 year commitment. I hope you enjoy it.*

*Gratefully, Jadi  
Head of Esperanza*

### Cristosal

In the last two weeks six members of our



congregation, including Rev. Ellie, have had three meetings with staff persons from Sen. Warren, Sen. Markey, and Rep. Trahan’s offices to share our concerns about the autocratic changes in El Salvador and specifically the vulnerability of our friends working at Cristosal. We worked together prior to the meetings to craft our message and assign roles. We specifically asked for their support to pressure the Salvadoran government to safeguard human rights workers and to put it on notice that the United States is watching their actions.

Here are some outcomes:

- We’ve begun to form relationships with a Regional Director (Markey), a Chief of Staff (Trahan), the staff Immigration Specialist (Warren) and a MetroWest Regional Director (Warren). They know who we are now and why we are invested in the issues in this part of the world. Good Shepherd is on the map!! Cristosal is a known name to notice, seek out, and pay attention to in the news.

We’ve learned a lot about political process:

- It helped a lot when we were very specific about what we needed for communication. Warren's staff assured us that these meetings make a difference. It helped to clarify expectations for further communication.
- Sen. Merkley (Oregon) is the lead person on the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee overseeing Central America. Action is likely to come from his office and then Markey and Warren would decide whether and how to support it. We need an Oregon constituent to open the door to a conversation with his office. Warren's office would then facilitate connecting us to the appropriate person at Merkley's office.
- Rep. Trahan is on the Hispanic Caucus which met last week with VP Harris about the Northern Triangle countries (Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador). Her Chief of Staff will get back to us with information about what was discussed at that meeting.

It has been energizing learning how to be actively engaged citizens and finding that our legislators do want to hear from us. I feel strongly that we have a responsibility to use our delegation experiences and relationships to advocate for the vulnerable democracy that so many of our friends in El Ocotillo fought for in their long civil war.

Cristosal is teaching the Salvadorans how to demand their constitutional rights as citizens of a

democracy. The Cristosal Advocacy Group is teaching us how to do the same in our country on behalf of this southern neighbor. We've all learned this year that democracies must be tended to survive. It is a circle.....

In the next weeks we will continue to take steps to get the word out about our concerns and specifically to find an Oregon connection for a meeting with Sen. Merkley. If you have any interest in these issues or would like to learn with us how to do the work of citizenry, please reach out to Barb Magee.

Barbara Magee

**Presiding Bishop sends letter of solidarity to El Salvador's Anglican-Episcopal Church amid the country's political unrest - Episcopal News Service:** <https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2021/05/28/presiding-bishop-sends-letter-of-solidarity-to-el-salvadors-anglican-episcopal-church-amid-the-countrys-political-unrest/>

### **Guiding Principle of Cristosal Education and Advocacy Group:**

*When people's basic needs are met and rights protected, they will have options other than migration.*

## Events

### **“Spring Into the New Normal” Virtual Auction**

The Auction Committee says a GREAT BIG THANK YOU to everyone who donated auction items. We also have a GREAT BIG THANK YOU to everyone who so generously bid. You all helped to make this a success! The “Spring Into the New Normal” virtual auction brought us **\$6,040.00!** We are thrilled with all that was accomplished during these unusual times.

The committee consisted of Joanie Faccenda, John Link, Lydia Tolley, and Marilyn Fedele. Surprisingly, none of us had ever worked on prior auctions! Fortunately we were up to the challenge and

were able to plan and figure things out as they came along. We loved the opportunity to raise the money for Good Shepherd, and are glad that it was such a successful event.

Thank you, and we all hope that you enjoy all the items you bid on and won!

Marilyn Fedele

### **“Refreshment” Hour (aka “Coffee Hour”)**

Last Sunday — **Pentecost** — those of us who were in the church parking lot slaked our thirst after the service with store-bought lemonade. What a refreshing change!

The Regathering Team, in reviewing this week's new guidelines for reopening (see Rev. Ellie's article), have recommended that we proceed with an outdoor, simple "coffee hour" following the 10 am Sunday services throughout the summer.

We will set up a single table in the shade on the Newtown Road side of the church building. We ask that those who attend the parking lot service in person sign up to bring: one or two types of beverage (one, preferably, caffeinated!) for a Sunday during the summer, paper cups, and a snack to serve on individual paper plates or napkins, as opposed

to on a communal plate. (Please, no plastic cups or plates.) We will not use the kitchen, so plan to bring everything (take-out coffee cartons, bottled ice tea, etc.). Please sign up at this link [Beverage Hour](#), we will all be very grateful..

If desired, hosts can submit an expense reimbursement form for their costs; \$20 per Sunday is available in the budget. Look for the form when you sign up.

Thank you!  
Lydia Tolley



Coffee Hour Shanigans



# Committee News

## Volunteer Opportunity

Now that we are enjoying “Refreshment Hour”, we need someone to schedule our hosts. Debby Flint Baum did a great job of reorganizing our on-line system, really streamlining the time spent organizing everyone. Please take some time out to see if God might be asking you to take on this easy ministry. Then say, “Here I am” to God and our Wardens. We’ll all thank you.

will consider.

Carolyn Platt

## Do you know this about plastic?

As we’ve gotten better about using less oil and gas for energy and transportation, the fossil fuel industry has found a lifeline in plastics.

Got 5 minutes? Take 2 quick and easy actions to reduce single use plastic waste.

### Action #1

Go to <https://recyclesmartma.org> Recyclepedia to learn what can and cannot be recycled in MA.



## Creation Care



The Good Shepherd Vestry, along with Acton Congregational Church, South Acton Church, West Acton Baptist Church, local businesses and organizations, supports this concrete step in lowering Acton’s carbon footprint, as one way to participate in the emergency mobilization needed to arrest and reverse climate change.

On **Monday, June 21**, Acton will hold its annual Town Meeting. Please review the [Building-WithCleanEnergy.org](http://Building-WithCleanEnergy.org) website, which answers many questions about these warrant articles.

Strong support will be needed to pass these articles, so Acton residents, please attend Town Meeting to vote for them. If you are able to attend and vote for the Building with Clean Energy articles, please fill out the pledge form on the website.

This step towards clean energy is one we hope other towns represented in our congregation



### Action #2



GET INVOLVED! Help MASSPIRG tell Whole Foods that it must “Move Beyond Plastic” by eliminating all single-use plastic packaging from its stores.

TAKE ACTION! <https://masspirg.org/feature/map/tell-whole-foods-move-beyond-plastic>

# Administration

## Office Vacations

The office will be closed while Laura is on vacation from June 22 through July 7.

Rev. Ellie will be away June 21-28 (away 1 Sunday 6/27), and from August 9-30 (away 3 Sundays 8/15; 8/22; 8/29). During Ellie's vacation please call our Warden Lydia if you are in need of clergy.

## Treasurer's Report

Through the end of April we are ahead of budget by \$11,000, with pledges ahead of projection and expenses less than estimated. However, most of this is variance is due to timing and is expected to even out by the end of the year.

We are in the process of switching over to a new pledge and contribution tracking system that has a number of benefits. One of these is that it provides the ability to send periodic and annual statements by email instead of regular mail, which will save time, paper and postage expense. Another is that it provides an integrated online giving feature – the online contribution link is already available on our website. Over time this link is expected to replace PayPal.

Denise Kelly

## May Vestry Vignettes

Ellie began the meeting with Opening Prayer and then we continued our discussion about We Shall Be Changed: Hard Choices and Helping Hands's Third Conversation. We discussed CGS's varied history in talking about money which ultimately led to talking about the relationship we used to have with St. Mary's in Dorchester. It was pointed out that as part of the Strategic Visioning Process, we came up with guidelines on how to spend Church resources. We might use those guidelines to explore whether we should partner with another church or do a community-based approach

April Vestry Minutes were approved as amended.

### **Finance Update:**

The budget is on track, and we are over in pledges and under on expenses, mostly due to timing. We're in good shape.

### **Rector's Remarks:**

There is a possibility we may get a new Deacon, it will be explored further. Ellie is fully vaccinated so she has been more intentional about doing on-site pastoral care visits. For the same reason Ellie is spending more time in the office.

### **Auction Update**

Based on bids received to date, we are 25% towards our goal.

### **Wardens' Report (given by Harry Peebles):**

Safe Church Training needs to be completed every 3 years by Vestry members.

### **Regathering Update:**

Anna shared a draft of the Tech Survey that will be sent to people sometime after the auction closes. The Vestry provided feedback on the survey draft. There was also some discussion about having the entire service recorded so that people could worship at other times, but that has challenges with privacy rights and copyrights.

Worship is moving forward, outdoor church will be available most weeks (weather permitting).

We discussed The Summer schedule, both the pros and cons of moving to one 9am service during the summer months, and we would like to understand the impact on the technology before making a final decision

### **Vestry Roles:**

Moving towards the fall, we will have Vestry members provide periodic updates on their assigned committees.

We closed with prayer.

## The Next Shepherd's Staff

The next Shepherd's Staff is planned to come out around Labor Day. However, should there be changes afoot and information you need to know, you may see a July or August or a single "Summer" issue. Stay tuned.....

# Passages

## Graduations

**Eleanor (Ella) Church**, daughter of Peter Church and Jen Nash, graduated from Littleton High School and will attend the University of Vermont where she will be on the Swim Team.

Ella made the Telegraph & Gazette all-star team all four seasons and is a two-time T&G Swimmer of the Year, as well as being Captain of her Swim Team. Besides swimming she likes to hike, and she loves hanging with her dog Oliver. Ella has been involved with many Good Shepherd Church School and Youth activities through the years, and now is often involved with projects and events at Good Shepherd.



**Ainsley Skinner**, daughter of Mike and Alex Reynolds Skinner, graduated from Littleton High School and will attend University of Massachusetts Lowell in the fall, majoring in Biology.

Ainsley was on the Honor Roll several years, and her interests include playing guitar, piano, and ukulele, and playing with her dog, Brownie. Ainsley grew up before our eyes as she was active with Church School and Youth Group for many years. She is still seen helping out whenever needed.

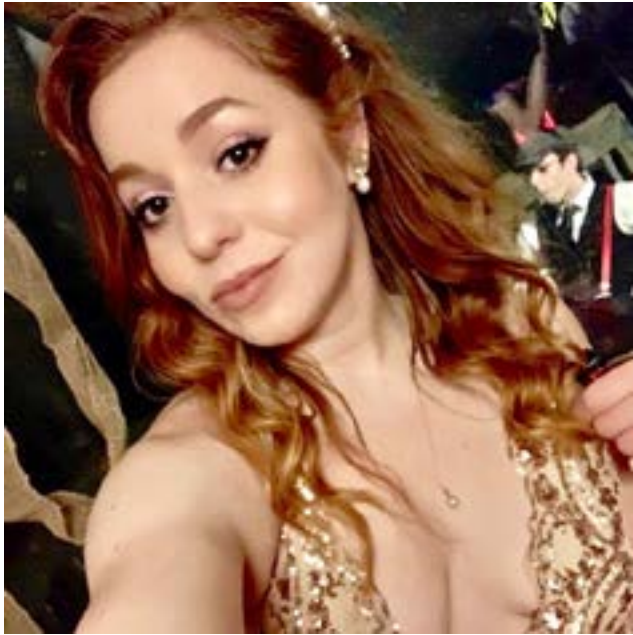


**Jackson Fedele**, grandson of Dick and Marilyn Fedele, graduated from The Proctor School in Andover, NH and will attend Arizona State University, majoring in Construction Management. He is an excellent and avid golfer, placing second in NH State Tournaments and will be playing on the ASU Golf Team. He also likes skiing and all sorts of fast cars.

**Michael Peebles** earned his Bachelor of Music from Baldwin Wallace University. This fall Michael will begin studies towards a Masters of Music at Michigan State University.



**Nicole Fiske**, daughter of Barton and Suzanne Fiske and granddaughter of Dick and Marilyn Fedele, graduated from Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Canada with a Music Degree. She is currently employed by Starbucks while she researches colleges for her graduate Music Degree.



## A Quick Trip Down Memory Lane With Some of Our Graduates

