

# The Shepherd's Staff

June 2023



June 10-23 - Ellen Oak on Vacation

**June 17 noon-3 pm - Acton Pride Festival  
at Nara Park**

June 22-25 - Rev. Terry on Vacation

July 2 Through Labor Day at 9:00 am -  
Single Service every Sunday

July 5 - 22 - Rev. Terry on Vacation

August 15 - 22 - Delegation is in El Salvador,  
Rev. Terry accompanies them

August 15 - 22 - Deacon Ken is on Vacation

September 3 at 9:00 - Last Summer Eucharist, regular  
service schedule resumes Sept. 10

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Episcopal Diocese of  
Massachusetts

# A Word from the Fold



As I worked with the kids and their parents in preparation for Special Communion Sunday on June 4, I got thinking about our theology of including kids in the Holy Eucharist. In the Episcopal Church, it is normative for all the baptized, regardless of age, to receive Holy Communion. Baptism is the entry rite into full life and participation in the Church. There is no other requirement to participate in Holy Communion. No minimum age. No expectation that one be confirmed or complete particular instruction. All are welcome as baptized members to begin receiving Holy Communion at any age.

For those of us who came of age in a tradition other than the Episcopal Church, or did so prior to the publication of the *1979 Book of Common Prayer*, we may recall a time when young children did not participate in Holy Communion. It was taught that the Sacrament was reserved only for those old enough to understand it, or who had received “first Communion” instruction, or had been confirmed. The implication was that children were somehow not holy enough, or not mature enough, to receive something so sacred.

That was not the experience throughout much of church history, however. All the baptized, including very young children, received the Eucharist from the earliest days of the church through the 11th c. In medieval times, as the Church became more powerful and developed rules and norms that governed and controlled the role of the laity, children were restricted from the Eucharist. By the 16th c. Council of Trent, Communion was understood to be “neither necessary nor appropriate for children”.<sup>1</sup>

That view began to change in the Episcopal Church in the 1970s. Parents, parishes and priests came to realize that, in fact, Communion “is an integral part of a child’s Christian experience.”<sup>2</sup> The *1979 Prayer Book* introduced a renewed understanding of the historic importance of baptism as the qualifying experience for Holy Communion. That meant even young children had a right to receive the Eucharist as baptized members of the Body of Christ. Today, it is not uncommon for one’s first Communion to be the day of their baptism. Even babies can participate by taking a small portion of the wafer, or a drop of wine, from their parents. I had a classmate in seminary who would dip his finger in the chalice so his infant daughter could receive a tiny drop of wine on her lips beginning the day she was baptized. I asked him why he did this given how very young his baby was. He said he never wanted her to know a day when she wasn’t welcomed and included at God’s altar. I’ve always admired his response, even if most kids in my experience, including my own, are a bit older than that when they first receive.

Children may not yet fully understand what is happening when they receive Communion, but even young children know what it is like to be included. Children have an innate ability to sense when something special is happening around them. They can be very attuned to ritual. They observe and mimic. They place their open hands at the altar rail when they see their parents do so, and their eyes light up when they are offered some of the special food. For many parents, the decision when their child begins to receive Communion happens organically. A day comes when the child, led by the Holy Spirit, is ready and puts out her open hands.

1 Mary Lee Wile *This Bread and This Cup: Episcopal Communion Instruction for Children* (2003) p. 7.

2 Wile, p. 7.

Other families choose the time intentionally- waiting until a particular age or day when their child begins to receive. My approach is to encourage parents to choose what is best for them and their child, knowing that their children are welcome to participate at any time.

Here at Good Shepherd, instruction for kids and youth about Holy Communion is offered throughout their church school years. Whether they have been receiving all along, or have not yet begun to take Communion, it's important for kids (and adults, as well) to have opportunity to learn, think and reflect upon the importance of this most special sacrament.

How we understand what happens in the Holy Eucharist, what it means to each of us personally, is part of the journey of faith. Our connection to Christ through the Eucharist develops as we bring our joys, burdens, concerns, sorrows, and faith to the altar over the course of a lifetime. What matters, no matter our age, is not how much we know or understand of the theology of Communion, but that we have a place at the Table. That we are worthy and invited to be part of the Body of Christ, because this is God's table and all are welcome.

+Ellie

## Deacon's Corner

**"I see trees of green, red roses too!  
I see them bloom for me and you.  
And I think to myself, what a wonderful world."**  
-- George David Weiss and Bob Thiele



Well, maybe there are no roses yet, but this truly is such a beautiful time of the year when Spring blooms into Summer. I am writing this on the sunny Friday before Pentecost. Pentecost is a day celebrating the Holy Spirit descending on the Apostles, empowering them for their lives of spreading the

Good News. It is often referred to as the birthday of the church. We will wear red to honor the Holy Spirit

Pentecost is also a time of transition from Easter season to Ordinary time. Soon we will be celebrating one service on Sundays, at 9:00. Some of those services will be outdoors in a, hopefully, shady portion of the lawn. Our Sunday liturgy will be refreshed to go along with the new Summer season. It will be nice to have the 8:00 and 10:00 communities worshipping together!

Coming up on Sunday, June 4, we will have a

Children's Special Communion Service. We hope to have as many young people as possible, of all ages, participate and join us at the altar to help celebrate this special day. We also hope that this day could inspire them to continue to play an active role in our Worship through an Acolyte program.

Finally, looking back to the Rise Against Hunger gathering, it was so wonderful to see so many young members of our community take part in preparing 10,000 meals! Everyone had a wonderful day, and we really helped ease some of the suffering in our world. Let's pray and look for more such opportunities to live out our Good News! Be well, my friends.

[Deacon Ken Schmidt](#)



## Your Pastoral Needs This Summer

### **Vacation Schedule:**

Rev. Ellie Terry will be on vacation 6/22-25 and 7/5-30, and away on our Mission Trip to El Salvador 8/15-22.

Deacon Ken will be away 8/19-25  
Laura will be away 7/31-8/8

As our minds start to focus on going away for vacations or fun times at home we need to remember that Church of the Good of Good Shepherd is here to always meet your spiritual needs and worship. Life, with its ups and downs, happens all summer long and we are here, your firm foundation in times of need. If you need clergy while Ellie is on vacation or on the El Salvador Mission Trip, please don't hesitate to contact the office (978 263-5782) during our business hours or call one of our wardens, Wendy or Gail, anytime; they will be able to contact someone who can help you.

Our clergy schedule can be found above. Email links are embedded in this article.

If you or someone you know needs prayer you can contact Jane Lothian for the Prayer Chain at any time. If someone is hospitalized please let Ellie know asap. If Ellie is away please call the Wardens; they will let covering clergy, Pastoral Care and the Prayer Chain know if they are needed - a one-stop effective connection. If you know of anyone who needs a prayer shawl, please contact Diane Cooke; prayer shawls are given to anyone anywhere who needs to be wrapped in prayer. If someone is in need of meals, a lay visit, or a ride call Diane Cooke or Margaret Geanisis.

As the song says, **“God has no hands but ours...”**, rest easy knowing that you are always resting in God's hands and we are here with human hands for you this summer and always.

Margaret Geanisis

## Worship

### Summer Worship Return to the Book of Common Prayer

Beginning on Sunday, June 4, Trinity Sunday, our 10am service switches to a service from the *Book of Common Prayer*. At both the 8am and 10am services we'll be using Eucharistic Prayer B. This Eucharistic Prayer was written for the

*1979 Book of Common Prayer*. It incorporates language from a eucharistic prayer written by the Most Rev. Frank Griswold, who served as the 25th Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church 1998-2006. It also contains elements from Eastern Orthodox liturgies and an Anglican communion



prayer from the 1549 Prayer Book. It is a great example of the way modern liturgies combine elements and images from earlier sources to create fresh new expressions of prayer. There will be two services, at 8am and 10am through June.

### **9am Worship in July & August**

On Sunday, July 2 we will switch to a new summer schedule and have one service at 9am through Labor Day. Most Sundays, this will continue to be a service of Holy Eucharistic from the *Book of Common Prayer*. The service will be designed to be less than an hour in length. Back during the first year of the Pandemic, we held one service. Many people appreciated that experience and the opportunity to worship and get to know people from the service other than the one they normally attended. We look forward to worshipping together again this summer as we continue to build back our Good Shepherd community. One service will also offer an easier pace for the altar guild, coffee hour hosts, musicians and other liturgical leaders (LEMs, readers, ushers) at a time of year when many are traveling and our numbers are thin.

### **Outdoor Worship in August**

We hope to hold services outdoors on the Sundays in August, and Labor Day weekend, weather permitted. Many of us came to truly love worshipping outside during the Pandemic (with a hearty few of us continuing to do so throughout most of the winter of 2020-21). Stay tuned for further details as those plans come together.

**We will return to our usual 8am and 10am services on September 10.**

## **Special Communion Sunday, June 4**

This year we reimagined Special Communion Sunday as an all-ages celebration of all children as full members of the Body of Christ. The children were invited to join Deacon Ken and me on Saturday, June 3 for an afternoon of instruction, eucharistic show and tell, and to bake Communion Bread for our service on Sunday. I also joined the older church school class on May 21 to offer some additional instruction.

On Sunday, June 4 our liturgy was in the form of an Instructed Eucharist, a “director’s cut” of

# **Service Schedule**

## **Sunday**

8:00 am Holy Eucharist  
10:00 am Holy Eucharist, also live  
streamed on Zoom

## **Beginning July 2nd**

9:00 am Holy Eucharist

## **Wednesday**

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, followed by  
potluck breakfast

## **Thursday**

8:00 pm Compline via Zoom

the worship service to give kids (and adults) some background to the parts and history of our liturgy. The children were invited to join the clergy and LEM at the altar for the Eucharistic Prayer and to lead the Lord’s Prayer, which the younger students have been learning this year.

+Ellie





## Thank You to Our Superb Ushers

A very big thank you to all the ushers who have served us so well this year: John Erickson, Debbie Flint-Baum, Tony Geanisis, Lena Grant, Peter Grant, Jimyung Kim, Gail Lyons, Rafael Pupo Steve Schmitt, and Chuba Udokwu. Three of our ushers have moved on; we miss them and wish them all the best: Debbie Flint-Baum, Jimyung Kim, and Chuba Udokwu. Rafael Pupo and John Erickson joined this ministry in the fall, and we are so glad to have them with us.

We have just added two delightful young men (teen-agers) to our roster. Welcome to Michael Michaels and Obi Umeh.

If anyone wants to join this ministry or

explore it further, please contact me!

Marilyn Fedele

## Liturgical Arts Ministry

For those folks who are new to Good Shepherd, the Liturgical Arts Ministry are the people that change the interior of the sanctuary as the church calendar changes. The goal is to enrich the worship experience of all the parishioners.

The transition from Easter to Pentecost this time was done with the help of Diane and Josh Prunier, and their children Adam and Emily, Cathy King and her sons Brendan and Trevor, and Lydia Tolley. I am so grateful for their help.

If you are looking for a way to become

involved in parish life, this ministry is fun and requires no meetings. Most of the times when we are busy it only involves about 1-2 hours of work every few months. You don't need to be creative, but new ideas are always welcome. You just need the ability to work together. Sometimes we need someone to climb a 10 foot ladder, and we are always grateful for that anyone who can step up to do that.

If you feel called to help with Liturgical Arts, please contact me using the link below.

Faithfully, Ellen Harland

## Many Thanks for a Beautiful Season and a Beautiful Year

On May 28 we had a glorious celebration of Pentecost including music from the 12th to the 21st century; red, yellow, and white streamers waving across the congregation as the Spirit moved us; the wonderful banners for the day which Ellen Harland and company took time and care to set up;

and robust singing throughout. It was a fitting close to the entire Easter season, which we began seven weeks ago at Triduum. Our worship for these seven weeks has been super saturated with song and graced by lots of special instrumental additions. It's been a joy to witness so many musicians of many ages sharing their prodigious gifts with the community, and to see them being received with gratitude, support, and appreciation. So—good on us!!! And deep thanks all around.

We now head into the season of “ordinary time.” It's called “ordinary” not because it is mundane or boring, but because the Sundays are named by their number (or “ordinal”) after Pentecost—for instance, June 11 is the second Sunday after Pentecost. We'll be in this mode all the way until Advent, which begins this year on December 3. Musicians from our midst have stepped up to lead the congregation on three Sundays while Ellen is away on vacation. And we'll have a wonderful opportunity to delve into a different experience of singing as we gather outside


*Cont. on page 7*



Merrimack Valley Ringers  
**MOSAIC**  
CONCERT TOUR SPRING 2023





**Sunday, June 11, 3:00 pm**  
St. Matthew's United Methodist Church  
435 Central Street • Acton, MA



**First Annual**  
**BARBARA C. HARRIS**  
**HYMN SING**  
**JUNE 11, 2023 - 4 PM**  
ON THE EVE OF HER BIRTHDAY

Congregational choirs are invited to offer an anthem in tribute to Bishop Barbara



**THE EVENT IS FREE TO ALL.**  
**THERE WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO:**

- Buy an extra verse of a hymn
- share stories and thanksgivings of Barbara
- Enjoy a festive reception

**FOR MORE INFO**  
lmunding@diomass.org  
stpaulboston.org  
617.482.5800

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul - 138 Tremont St. Boston, MA  
Across from Park St. MBTA Station



## May Worship





for worship for the month of August (weather permitting).

As we conclude this “program” year, I’d like to especially thank the choir for a year of incredible dedication week in and week out, hard work, fun, vocal and musical development, and spiritual growth. It is an honor and a pleasure to work with

this group of amazing people. I’m already looking forward to gathering with them again in the fall—and welcoming new singers and new music as we continue to open ourselves to all that God is doing in our midst.

Ellen Oak

## Church School

### Special Communion Preparation

A Special Communion Worship was held Saturday, June 3rd at the church. The children present learned about the meaning behind the communion and wine and then baked bread to be used at Sunday’s Eucharist. Sometime was spent learning all about Communion, and then we moved into the sanctuary. Here the children learned about our two worship spaces, about what is worn by worship leaders and why (and tried some of them on) learned about what is on the altar and how to receive communion.





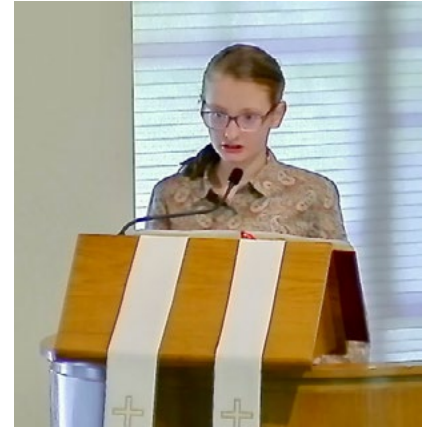
## Youth

### Youth Sunday

On May 14 we celebrated Youth Sunday. Our older church school class served as lectors and four of our youth offered their musical gifts during the service. Thanks to teacher Mary Bunker for preparing her students and encouraging their participation.

The youth lectors were Nathaniel MacDonald, Lily MacDonald, Emily Terry and Andrew Bates. Musicians included Nathaniel and Lily MacDonald, Audrey Conway and Erin Kim. It was wonderful to have the kids involved in worship! Thanks to all of them for a great job!!





## 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

August 15 - 22 El Salvador Delegation Trip

#### El Salvador Trip

The El Salvador Mission Trip group was meeting as the Shepherd’s Staff was being produced, so please check the weekly e-blast for important updates.

#### Rise Against Hunger Event

On May 21 we worked to the beat of happy music and the sounds of conversation and laughter. The hum of busy workers was interrupted periodically by a child sounding the gong in celebration of another 1000 meals packaged towards our goal.

Seventy-three people, ages one to eighty-something, worked toward one purpose: to package 10,000 meals for a community far from Acton. We divided up at stations to measure, weigh, seal and count meals of soy, dehydrated vegetables and rice. The children joined us at these jobs or chose to be runners, zipping baskets of meals from table to table and ultimately into boxes. Little girls proudly lifted heavy boxes onto trolleys smiling with an “I can do it” spirit.

We learned from Marc Vermouth, the National Director of **Rise Against Hunger**, about the realities of hunger in other parts of the world and the change that takes place in schools when children receive the meals that we were preparing. The meal packaging is one leg of their mission to build sustainable agricultural practices in food insecure villages.

By 2:15 pm the boxes were on the truck, a group photo was taken (hairnets and all), and the parish hall was quickly cleaned by a large enthusias-

tic crew.

Thank you to everyone who made this **Rise Against Hunger** event so special: the generous donors, the set-up crew, the packaging gang and the clean up crew. Our work will make a difference in the lives of many people.

*More photos of **Rise Against Hunger** can be seen in the Event section of the Shepherd Staff (page 14)*

## Habibi Family

We were all very delighted to see the Habibi family as they joined us to pack meals for **Rise Against Hunger**. It was very emotional to think that this family possibly had these meals, or something very similar, when they were in a refugee camp. It’s amazing what God’s love can do through people helping one another.



## Emmanuel Continues to Send Funds to Ukraine

Since Emmanuel Aronie’s return from Ukraine (next page), he has continued to funnel needed funds to those who need money in Ukraine. Below you will find more of those benefitting from our generosity. Emmanuel likes to carefully account for all the funds he’s been given. He will be returning to the Ukraine in July (he hopes). If you would like to donate please contact Emmanuel Aronie.



I sent to Cap Hensley, an American about my age, who recently went to Kherson to distribute money to needy families there. Each family received 1000 Grivnya, about \$26, not a lot for us, but a nice infusion for each of 71 families total. So, our contribution helped about 12 families.



Several weeks ago I sent \$200 to my friend Tanya Zhebko, now in Lutsk) who in turn distributed \$ 50 to each of her 4 workers, Allochka, Lenochnka, Galya and Luda.



I had previously given about \$ 50 (about 2000 Grivnya) to Masha Z., an art teacher in Dnipro, photo with refugee children from the Donba

I also sent \$ 100 to Marsiyah, a friend from Cherkassy who fell down some stairs at her dacha (little country garden house) and broke her leg.



# Events



**ACTON  
PRIDE**

**NARA Park  
Amphitheater**

June 16  
Drag Show (14+)  
8:00-10:00 PM  
\$10 in Advance  
\$15 at the Gate

June 17  
Pride Festival  
12:00-3:00 PM  
Youth activities, games  
and live music!

**All are welcome!**

PRIDE 2022

## Good Shepherd Celebrates Pride Month!

The Town of Acton will be hosting its first ever Pride Festival on Saturday, June 17 from 12-3 pm at NARA Park, and Good Shepherd will be there! We will have a booth at the festival, and we are a sponsor of this important community event. Please stop by and show your support of our parish, and our LGBTQ+ community.

The Episcopal Church has long been a supporter of LGBTQ+ rights. We believe that God loves all people, no exceptions. Our Church welcomes, baptizes, blesses, marries, and ordains people regardless of gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression.

Your Rector and Vestry are proud to sponsor and support this year's Acton Pride Festival. Incidences of discrimination and hate towards the LGBTQ+ community have been on the rise locally and nationally. As Christian people, we have a moral obligation to speak out against such hatred. We encourage our congregation to celebrate Pride Month as one step we can take to combat hate and extend God's message of inclusion and love for all people.

To learn more about the Episcopal Church and LGBTQ+ ministry please visit <https://www.episcopal-church.org/who-we-are/lgbtq/>. Additional articles and videos sharing stories of LGBTQ+ experiences in the Church are here: <https://www.ecfvp.org/vestry-papers/132/lgbtq-pride>

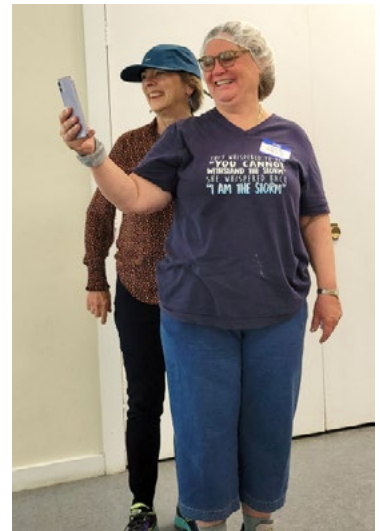
Rev. Ellie+

# Preparing 10,000 Meals - together!

## Please note:

*You are all much better looking than you appear in these photos! I don't know what went wrong! I blame the hair nets.*







# Parish Picnic



# Ministry Updates

## Coffee Hour

### Happy June!

The Church of the Good Shepherd traditionally continues to offer a welcoming coffee hour each Sunday during the summer months. Some members are busy or travelling, but often we will have visitors who are vacationing in New England and join us for worship.

Our Sunday worship together will be distilled down to one service time instead of two, beginning July 2, at 9:00 am. This way, we beat the heat, but still have time to grab a cup of coffee or tea, a sweet snack, and catch up with folks.



Please consider signing up to host coffee hour some week this summer.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d45a4a829a57-coffee#/>



## Disability Ministry of Good Shepherd

There's always something that the Disability Ministry is working on while drinking tea and coffee and having some snacks as we meet every other Sunday at 9:20am near the TV across from the kitchen. If you feel called to join us, we'd love to see what you are passionate about and what you are good at. I'm sure we could fit something into the group. Here's what's happened so far:

- **Rides to and from church:** Thank you to those who give rides.
- **Fidget/sensory toys and coloring supplies:** We have these available for anyone that wants them. Both children and adults use them. Thank you to those who donated.
- **Printed sermons:** Thank you to Rev. Ellie and Deacon Ken (and anyone else that may preach) for printing out your sermons. This has helped many people who are hard of hearing feel included and able to hear the message better.
- **Railings for the walkway:** We are now in the process of working on trying to get the approval to build railings along the walkway ramp into the church. It's hard for those in a wheelchair, walker, or walking with canes to get to the church door. I hope this also serves to bring awareness that you must step down to the ground, therefore preventing falls.

Renee St. Germain and William (BJ) Jacobs

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

To all our knitters and crocheters, thank you for all your work so far this year! We still need more shawls, since we get calls and requests for them every day. Summer is a great time to make a shawl — it's a leisurely activity, it does a lot of good for both the giver and the receiver, and it feels SO good when you've completed one. We remind you to put completed shawls in the correct place: we have a cabinet in the library (on your left as you enter) labeled for our ministry; put new shawls in the "unblessed" bin with your name on it, so we will know



who to thank! The shawls will be blessed at the beginning of each month. Then we label them and place them in the “blessed” bin, ready for distribution by Ellie or the pastoral care ministry.

We encourage you to make shawls since the need for them is so great; we are anxious to increase our supply. Please contact either one of us if you have questions (or want to learn to knit or crochet!)

Nancy Brown and Lorraine Summerfelt

### Ad Hoc Building Committee

On May 6 Ken Kozik, Doug Recko and I did some repair work on the church building, replacing rotted trim with PVC on the cemetery side of the church. There are still classroom windows and others throughout the church that need replacing, but for now



we removed the rotted sills, installed PVC trim, and used silicone to seal them up temporarily. The big

problem window is the large one in the back of the church, where the bottom exterior sill has completely rotted away!



This window will take professionals to replace, which will be costly.

Tony Geanisis

### Creation Care

For more information and guidelines for participation, go to [EnergizeActon.org](http://EnergizeActon.org). This is a follow up to the 2021 BioBlitz sponsored by Green Acton.. The 2023 BioBlitz is a collaboration of people from the Acton Conservation Trust, the Boxborough Conservation Trust, AB PIP Stem, Acton Men’s Outdoor Club, Energize Acton, and the Acton Discovery Museum.

**Happy BioBlitzing!**

Watch for a new season of outdoor gatherings to be announced soon! Possible topics -

- What is happening with electric vehicles?
- Meet an Acton Clean Energy Coach
- How to create a “Decarbonization Roadmap”

for your own household

- State and Federal Incentives for Homes, Businesses, and Nonprofits
- Go Solar - Acton Homeowners Share
- Green Travel
- Celebration of Plant Based Food
- Special Film



## With Abundant Gratitude to:

- **our local Cub Scout Pack 1** who raked leaves and did a Spring Cleanup on our church property on May 25. We are so grateful for their help. Thanks to their leaders and parents who helped the young Scouts with this service project.
- **our Choir** for making the Pentecost ribbon banners.
- **Barbara Magee and Rafael Pupo** for spearheading and organizing the VERY successful Rise Against Hunger event
- **those who arrived early** to set up the Rise Against Hunger event, **those stayed late** to clean up after the event, and especially **those who were there for the whole thing**
- **Marilyn Fedele** for hosting two Funerals this month, and those who helped set up and take down tables.



- **Emily Terry** for cleaning up the kitchen after baking bread.
- **Jen Thornton** for teaching our children the Our Father
- **those who contributed funds** for Emmanuel to give out in Ukraine.
- **Andy Platt and Peter Grant** for grilling for the picnic. The hamburgers were great!
- **the Vestry** for organizing the Parish Picnic – and all the others who lent a hand
- **everyone who created a Prayer Shawl** this year
- **the Michaels and Platts** for hosting Coffee hour in May.
- **Rafael Pupo** for organizing this summer's trip to El Salvador
- **Ken Kozik, Doug Recko and Tony Geanisis** for their repair work and keeping the building standing for a little while longer
- **Bev Ridpath and Carolyn Platt** for efforts to keep us good stewards of our earth.
- **Andy Platt, Diane Cooke, Kim Jackson, Diane Prunier, Ellie Terry, and Emmanuel Aaronie** for contributing photos to this issue and on facebook
- **All who contributed articles** to the *Shepherd's Staff* this year, your work is amazing.



- **Deacon and Rev. Ellie** for the Special Communion workshop (on Ellie's day off)

# Administration

## Treasurer's Report

Through the end of April we are tracking pretty close to our year-to-date budget with Net Income of \$3,300 versus budgeted year-to-date Net Income of \$1,500. This is made up of actual Income of \$125,000 versus a budgeted Income amount of \$124,000 and actual Expenses of \$122,000 versus budgeted expenses of \$123,000.

We plan to send out interim pledge statements at the end of June by email. Thank you in advance for keeping up with your pledge payments over the summer.

Denise Kelly

## May Vestry Vignettes

We opened with prayer and then approved the previous minutes.

Wardens and Rector led an orientation to vestry leadership during the first half of the meeting. We began with a discussion of spiritual gifts and Ellie shared a Spiritual Gifts Inventory for the Vestry to use. A Vestry job description was shared and discussed, as well as a link to the current issue of Vestry Papers, which is an online leadership resource.

Monthly issues will be shared electronically with the Vestry throughout the year.

The Vestry was informed of new memorial funds created in memory of recently deceased parishioners Bruce Stevenson, Marge Kennedy and Donna Heaney. The Heaney family has asked that donations in Donna's name be given toward the upkeep of the Memorial Garden where she is now interred. This memorial gift is very timely as there have been discussions about the need to refresh some of the plantings - the deer have enjoyed some of the shrubs way too much.

Plans were made for the June 4 Parish Picnic which will also celebrate a Special Communion for our children. The June 17 Acton Pride Festival which we will be part of was also planned. The Vestry discussed ways our parish can best support LG-BTQIA+ persons including new signage, welcoming brochures and statement of inclusion on our website/social media. We also discussed some of the problems and dangers which LGBYQIA are currently facing. We have much to learn about on this topic.

We went over the tentative plans for summer worship which will have worshipping all together at one service with some possible outdoor services.

We closed with prayer led by Deacon Ken.

# Passages

## Graduations

**Brendan King**, Son of Cathy and Jim King, has graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute with a BS in Mathematical Sciences with Distinction, and a minor in Computer Science. He is currently seeking employment as a software engineer.



**Alison Rutyna** graduated Summa Cum Laude from Muhlenberg College in PA with a double major in theater and Spanish. From graduation day she left straight for a community trip to Costa Rica and will be home in early June. During college she worked in the Office of Community Engagement and in the Writing Center and enjoyed both jobs. She will spend the summer researching her next step which will hopefully incorporate theater, Spanish, teaching and writing.  
(photo on next page)



## Funerals

**Blanche Gambrill Stockbridge's** funeral was held at 11am on May 20, 2023, followed by interment in the Memorial Garden.

**Donna Mae Heaney's** Funeral was held at 10am on May 13, 2023, followed by interment in the Memorial Garden.

## Weddings

**Hayley Cooke**, daughter of Diane and Bob Cooke, married Jon-Erik Nelson on April 30th at Valley View Farm in Haydenville, MA. They are residing on Nantucket Island.

