

# The Shepherd's Staff

September 2020



## Church of the Good Shepherd

*The Building is Closed but Our Hearts are Open!*

**Sept. 13 at 10:00 am - Regathering Sunday  
at church via Zoom**

**Sept 15th - Fundraising Christmas Wreaths  
orders accepted**

**Sept 25 at 8:30 pm - Spiritual Parenting via  
Zoom**

**Sept 27 - deadline for biographies for Rev. Ellie  
Terry**

**Oct. 4 - Farewell & Celebration of Rev. Melissa  
Buono's Ministry**

**Oct. 18 - Crop Walk**

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Episcopal Diocese  
of Massachusetts

# A Word from the Fold

## What's Happening at Church of the Good Shepherd?



It feels like we just got into the rhythm of summer with the hot humid days of August when suddenly we've turned a corner, and here we are approaching Autumn. This is my favorite time of year with its warm days and cool nights, not to mention all the fall activities like apple picking and pie baking. Of course, this is normally also the time for back to school and a return to a full schedule of church programs. But

this year is quite different for all of us as many of the routines have changed due to the ongoing pandemic.

This is also a time of new beginnings at CGS. Programs will look a little different this fall but rest assured that many people have been hard at work behind the scenes preparing for this new phase of ministry.

The Regathering Committee has been mapping out a plan for holding outdoor worship services at least while the weather cooperates. Protocols have been written and are being submitted to the Diocese for approval. In order for everyone to hear the service outdoors, we need to purchase some sound equipment. A sound tech has visited the church and made a recommendation for our set-up. Approvals from the Finance Committee and the Vestry are complete, and the order is in process. We will let you know as soon as possible when all is ready for our first outdoor service.

With regard to Christian Education, Taryn Ross-Hyman has been meeting regularly throughout the summer with church school and youth leaders from across the diocese. These Zoom sessions have provided a way for folks to share ideas about how best to re-engage the children and youth in faith formation. Taryn hopes to offer several activities for the children in the coming weeks. The Church School Council met last week along with Barb Magee from Mission Outreach to brainstorm ways to continue providing opportunities for the kids to get excited about mission and help others in communities near and far.

The Vestry is undergoing a process of linking its members with the various standing committees of our parish in an effort to foster better communication and support for ministry leaders. There are a number of areas in which parishioners can be of assistance in helping to keep this a strong and vibrant parish.

So while we've not been together in the building at 164 Newtown Road over the last six months, there is a great deal going on by members of the church to keep things moving forward. A number of improvements have been made to the building and grounds, the most recent being the installation of phone system and internet upgrades. These developments will enable continued live streaming of our worship, even after services resume in the sanctuary.

In the meantime, I hope that you will continue to support the ministry of CGS through your participation, your financial pledge and your prayers. May God continue to bless us for service in our communities as we journey together in faith.

Blessings,  
+Melissa



# Senior Warden's Message

There is excitement in the Parish these days, despite the closed building. For example, the Vestry just approved Phase I of a sound system to make it possible for use to have outdoor worship services this fall, and even to integrate the online service with the outdoor worship service, allowing our entire community to have a common worship experience. Phase II of the sound system, if approved, will add additional equipment to enhance indoor worship later. The Regathering Team has met several times and has thoughtfully prepared our Outdoor Worship Plan to submit to the Diocese, to ensure the safest possible "regathering" that is also in accord with Diocesan requirements. Jessie Panek has pursued quotes for the replacement of our aging roof (circa 1985). Could it be possible that we might get a new roof this fall? The Vestry voted in July to endorse a Declaration of a Climate Emergency, joining forces with other communities of faith in the area to help put climate change center stage in the consciousness of the Acton community, and we hope in other communities as well (<https://www.actonclimatecoalition.org/>).

And yet this is backdrop only. Around the middle of October, Rev. Eleanor Terry (Ellie) will be joining us. I offer profound thanks to the Rector Search Committee, and especially Chris O'Leary who led the Committee, for their tireless work and thoughtful discernment in recommending Ellie to the Vestry as the 5th Rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd. Following the completion of the work of the Search Committee, a new Transition

Team has been formed. The Transition Team has been meeting to brainstorm ways to support Ellie in getting to know both groups and individuals within our community (see Emmanuel Aronie's piece within this Shepherd's Staff for one such idea). And we will reluctantly bid Rev. Melissa Buono a fond farewell with an outdoor gathering on **Sunday afternoon, October 4**. Stay tuned for more details about this event and initiatives that are in the works for the transition.

I can feel the excitement building and I hope others can too. The pandemic has forced us to adapt and find new ways of connecting. It has been challenging, but it has also helped us to move initiatives forward. It will be exciting to get to know our new Rector and her family, and for her to get to know us.

Along with excitement comes energy. Let us harness that to continue to build on our solid base. Consider switching around your commitments within the Good Shepherd Community. Many of us have been serving in the same roles for a while. Call up others and offer to switch with them (our new Parish Directory is imminent). Consider planning an activity for the children or youth, join a team to work on the exterior repairs on the church building, be a Delegate to the (virtual) Diocesan Convention, or learn how to operate the new mixer that we'll use to balance the sound between speakers, music, and online attendees. In so doing, you will likely get to know new people (or get to know them in a different light) and our communal energy will continue to build. Onward and upward!

In confidence and faith,  
Lydia Tolley



# Junior Warden's Message

Lots of things are different in this COVID time, but some things never change: Roofs get old and need replacing. Most roofs are expected to last about 30 years. The church's roof is 35! We have talked about needing to

replace ours for years now, and we can't keep postponing it; we need a complete roof replacement. A couple of years ago, we had major ice dams and in removing the ice dams it became clear that parts of the sanctuary roof were rotted.



If we wait longer, the damage underneath the shingles is only going to get worse and become much more expensive. We don't think it is wise to wait another winter. (We don't want to wait



until we are 'baptized' by water dripping from the ceiling...)

We have some funds set aside in our Major Repairs Designated Fund for this project, about \$45,000, funds that were set aside

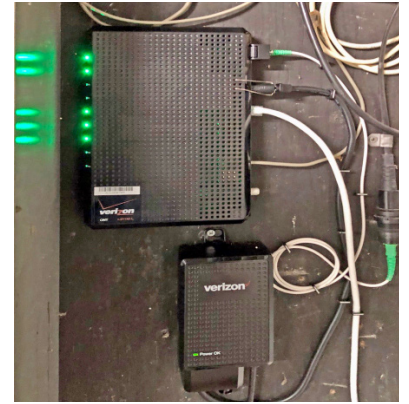
from previous years' savings and from parishioners anticipating this need. However, initial estimates are around \$60,000 to replace the entire roof, and we know that we may have significant additional expenses to replace sections of the wood layer that has rotted beneath the shingles. We can't know how much until the current roof is removed.

**The bottom line is we need your help!** We expect to need an additional 20 to 30 thousand dollars to complete this project. We know this is a financially difficult time for some, but if you are able, please make a gift toward the roof replacement. Be sure to designate that it is for the roof. Thank you for helping us with this essential repair.

A major improvement we have completed this summer is our internet. We now have Verizon Fios, high speed fiber optic internet, with new wiring into



the sanctuary to enable a better upload of our online services. When we return to the building, you will also find that Wi-Fi internet access is available in all parts of the church, from the library to the Sunday School rooms.



In other property news, we are finally moving toward achieving one of our first strategic plan goals, to enable the congregation to hear better in the sanctuary. Why now, you may ask, when we are not currently able to be IN the sanctuary? Because for us to hold outdoor services, certain audio equipment is needed,

and this is not something we have. Rather than spend money on something that only addresses this short-term need, we are purchasing components which will become the core



of an improved audio system in our sanctuary. We met with a sound engineer to discuss our needs, and we are getting a modern digital mixer (to replace the antique electronics we currently use from the 1980s), an improved headset microphone for our priest, and two speakers that we will use to amplify our service outside. These components are 'Phase one' which will allow us to have outdoor worship and should also improve the audio quality of our online worship. 'Phase two,' to be purchased later, will add six more speakers and make it easier for everyone to hear well in the sanctuary.

Jessie Panek

# During Our Interim

## Rector Search Committee Update

The Search Committee is pleased to report that we successfully completed our work and recommended the Rev. Ellie Terry to the vestry to be our next Rector. Ellie impressed us with her lively personality, intelligence, warmth and sincerity, and we very much look forward to her joining us in October. We can move forward with confidence knowing that we are in good hands!

The Search Process was complicated, of course, by the COVID-19 pandemic. While our diocese suspended search activities for an extended period in the spring, search processes in other dioceses proceeded apace. The committee felt a sense of urgency to complete our work, knowing that the highly qualified candidates that we were considering were almost certainly looking at other opportunities. We are grateful that the Holy Spirit led us to Ellie, and we're excited about what God has in store for us together at Church of the Good Shepherd.

I believe that the Church was very well served by this group of 10 faithful women and men. Without exception, this was a group of passionate, articulate, insightful and faithful people. We discussed energetically and argued respectfully. Each offered his or her opinion and perspective effectively and challenged the points of view of others on the committee. We worked extremely hard, prayed faithfully, laughed easily and may have shed a tear or two. It is important to stress that all our decisions were made by consensus; not everyone may have agreed, but everyone supported the final decision.

The committee would like to thank the Parish for your faithful support and patience! We knew that there were members of our prayer team holding us up whenever we met. We felt the presence of the Holy Spirit guide and encourage us. We're grateful for all of the feedback, phone calls, letters, conversations, emails and points of view. Your voices were heard and guided our discernment.

And with that, the committee stands adjourned! Thanks to the members of the committee. Well done all!

Search Committee Members: Kristen Bates, Wendy Fedderson, Debby Flint-Baum, Ellen Harland, Tom Hoch, Neal Ogle, Chris O'Leary, Rafael Pupo, Bev Ridpath, Elgin Summerfelt

Chris O'Leary



## News from the Transition Team

Hello, Emmanuel Aronie here, a member of the COGS Transition Team. We are responsible for meeting and greeting our new rector, Rev. Ellie Terry. Secondly, of saying goodbye and good luck to our dear Rev. Melissa Buono, who has beautifully shepherded



us all through these many months, some of them quite difficult.

During our first meeting while discussing what might make the transition easier for Ellie, I came up with an idea which will be nourishing and possibly inspiring for any church member. We are asking all who feel moved to write a little bio about yourselves or your entire family in whatever way your creative self directs introducing yourself, so that before we even meet with Reverend Ellie, she may feel some comfort about all the people she will come to know. This could be short; in print, 300-500 words, or a short introductory video, or perhaps paint a picture of welcome, sing a song, play an

instrument, etc.

Does that get your creative juices flowing ? I hope so. And, in these times of Covid, it's a real way to get close, while we cannot be close in the old ways we are used to, so, this may help convey our collective joy at receiving and communing with our

new Rector.

Please send your various forms of biographies by Sept 27th to [Emanuel Aronie](#).

Emmanuel Aronie

## Worship

### Worship

Worship this Fall will continue online via Zoom using the Service of Morning Prayer from the BCP. Currently there is one Sunday service being offered at 9:00 AM. The Regathering Committee is working on putting together an outdoor worship service to be offered mid-September\* through October as the weather allows. The safety protocols required by the Diocese have been written for our parish and are being submitted for approval with the help of a Regathering Shepherd to be assigned by the Canon to the Ordinary, Rev. Bill Parnell.

Jessie Panek, along with Tom Hoch and others, met with sound engineer David Giangarra to assess our sound needs with regard to both indoor and outdoor worship. David is an A/V engineer for TD Garden. His proposal has been reviewed by the Finance Committee and the Vestry and, with their approval, we are moving ahead with purchasing the necessary equipment that will allow us to hold outdoor worship services in the parking lot. The benefit is that the equipment will also be used throughout the year in the sanctuary when worship resumes in that environment.

In the meantime, all are welcome to the services of Morning Prayer and Compline on

Wednesday mornings at 7:30 am and Thursday evening at 8:00 pm respectively. With fewer people in attendance, these worship opportunities provide a more intimate setting and allow for the offering of special prayers upon request. Please join us as your schedule allows.

Melissa

*\*We plan to hold our first outdoor Sunday service using this new equipment on September 13. Please note, you will need to sign up ahead of time, since attendance is limited by state law. Attendees are asked to bring their own chairs, and you will be seated in 'COVID circles' to maintain the necessary physical distance between families. More details will be sent in the weekly eblast. We are so looking forward to seeing each other and worshipping in person together! (Pray for a sunny day!)*

Jessie Panek

### Good Shepherd Music

On Friday, August 28th, two builders from Andover Organ Company visited Church of the



Good Shepherd to take back with them several ranks of wooden pipes from our beloved Hook & Hastings tracker organ, 1892. These pipes, made of pine and original to the organ, will be repaired and voiced for some weeks to

come at their shop in Methuen.\*

What this means is that, although the organ is still playable, there are three stops I will not be able to use; two on the Swell - upper keyboard manual, and one on the Great - lower manual. Additionally there are some notes or keys which will not sound within certain stops. Those of you that participate



# Service Schedule

Sunday:

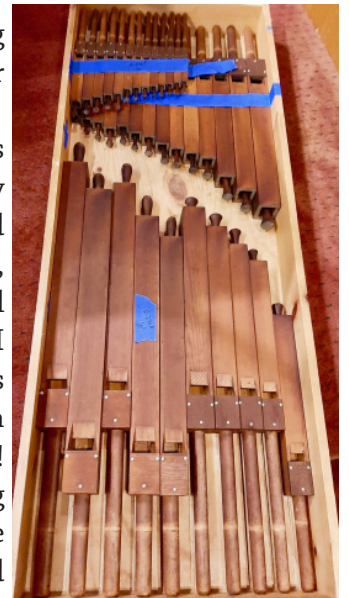
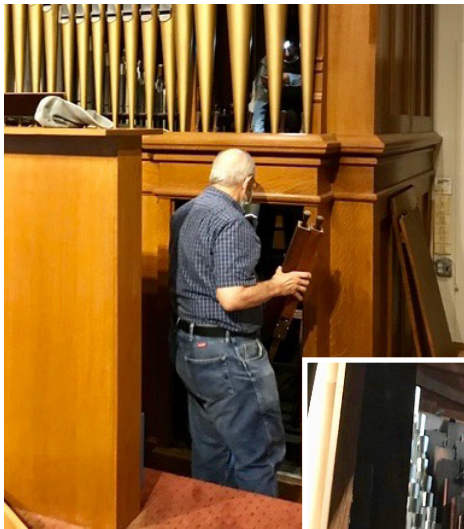
10 am Morning Prayer  
at church and on Zoom

Wednesday:

7:30 am Morning Prayer  
on Zoom

Thursday:

8:00 pm Compline  
on Zoom



are separately practicing another piece slated for September.

September 8th marks one year since I began my work here at CGS, so I'd like to say how gracious, generous and congenial all of you have been as I navigate my way in this most wonderful advent in Episcopal music ministry! I have enjoyed working with you, having some laughs here and there, and otherwise doing our best to provide the congregation with music as befits our particular parish. I look forward to the future, learning and growing in my role as church musician.

Deborah Colageo

*\*The leathers at the base of the wooden pipes need to be replaced every so many decades, and ours have reached that point. The really good news is that Jay Lane raised money through some organ concerts for an Organ Designated Fund, because he knew they would need repair at some point, and the amount in that fund almost exactly covers the cost!*

*The organ has many metal pipes as well as these wooden ones, and the organ can be played in the meantime, just not with as many options for sounds.*

*Jessie Panek*

Did you notice what our church mouse left in a pipe in one of the photos?

in live Zoom services on Sundays may notice this difference in certain music I present; in other repertoire, not so much. I will no doubt also play more music on the piano in light of the absence of my usual range of various colors or instrumental sounds at this time. Please bear with me.

On another note (ha!), in the coming months I plan to add additional musicians to our gatherings, including the possibility of soloists and/or vocal duets! It's been great to have Ray Lyons playing live with me in the sanctuary from the start, and we

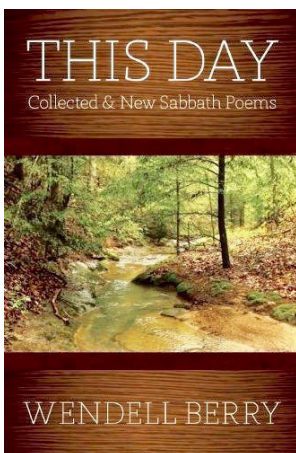


# Christian Formation

## Adult Formation

***“I come into the peace of wild things who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief... For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.”***

The Adult Formation group continues to meet via Zoom on Sunday mornings after worship. This has been a wonderful opportunity to connect through a variety of resources. Throughout the summer, the group read and discussed Barbara Brown Taylor’s *An Altar in the World*. This book challenged each of us to see our faith reflected in ordinary everyday occurrences. Each chapter highlighted a way in which to experience God as One who is integral to our lives beyond our experience of worship. With a treasure trove of personal stories, Taylor shared some of the ways that her faith has been challenged and stretched thus bringing her to an understanding of God’s presence in everyday encounters from the grocery store clerk to the occasional power outage. Her reflections invited us to think about our own encounters with the Divine in places we’d least expect.



The next series of Adult Formation discussion will focus on the Sabbath poems of Wendell Berry, American novelist, poet, essayist, environmental activist, cultural critic, and farmer. *“For nearly thirty-five years, Wendell Berry has been at work on a series of poems occasioned by his solitary Sunday walks around his farm in Kentucky.*

*From riverfront and meadows, to grass fields and woodlots, every inch of this hillside farm lives in these poems, as do the poet’s constant companions in memory and occasion, family and animals, who have with Berry created his Home Place with love and gratitude.”* The book is called *This Day: New and Collected Sabbath Poems 1979-2012* and is available

through special order at the Silver Unicorn Bookstore and at your local library. Please plan to join us on Sundays at 10:45am - 12:00 pm via Zoom as we delve into these treasured writings. The Zoom link is available in the weekly e-blast.

+Melissa

## Spiritual Parenting Returns!

Like all activities at Church of the Good Shepherd once COVID hit, the Parenting Potluck moved from a physical gathering for supper and conversation to an online group meeting. For this reason, the name is being changed back to Spiritual Parenting - as the potluck feature is not an option at this time. But we have been able to meet virtually as a group and usually at a later time in the evening after most of our kiddos have gone to bed.

Parents have enjoyed catching up with each other, offering support, and sharing experiences of how to cope with family life in this new reality. Topics discussed have ranged from dealing with our kids’ increased screen time to finding ways to break the isolation of physical distancing. While it has been a challenge for everyone, families have been finding ways to get outdoors in the warm weather and enjoy activities like geo-caching and exploring the local nature trails.

With schools starting in most communities throughout the week of September 14, it would be great to have a virtual Spiritual Parenting get together towards the end of the month. This will definitely be an interesting time as families find new and varied routines around hybrid and remote learning situations. You are welcome to sign on via Zoom on **Friday, September 25 at 8:30 pm**. Look for the link in the weekly e-blast. Parents of children of all ages are welcome to join the conversation and support one another in this unique time.

Blessings,  
+Melissa



# Exploring the Scriptures: A Hop, Skip and Jump through the Bible

We are continuing to hold our Bible Study on Zoom once a month on Wednesday evenings from

7.30-9pm. The dates and readings will be posted in the E-blast two weeks before the meeting. Come and join us as we consider how the scriptures speak to us today. All are welcome!

[Bev Ridpath](#)

## Church School

### Church School Update

## Love, Love, Love.

Some of you already know that one of my favorite bands is the Beatles, thanks to the passionate influence of my dad, Thomas. It seems that so many of their lyrics help to tell the stories of our lives. Right now, that seems especially true when I think of the song All You Need is Love.

When you feel uncertain, the answer is love. When you feel worried, turn to love. When you feel fear, embrace love. When you are searching for hope, find it in love. It is a time when we are feeling all of these emotions and so many more.

For that reason, this year we are picking a theme for church school and it is LOVE. Love First, actually. Colette Potts, former Director of Christian Ministries for Saint Barnabas Episcopal Church in Falmouth, wrote a guide for this kind of curriculum in the book *Love First: A Children's Ministry for the Whole Church*.

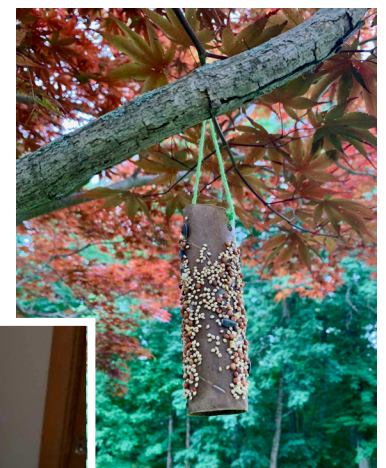
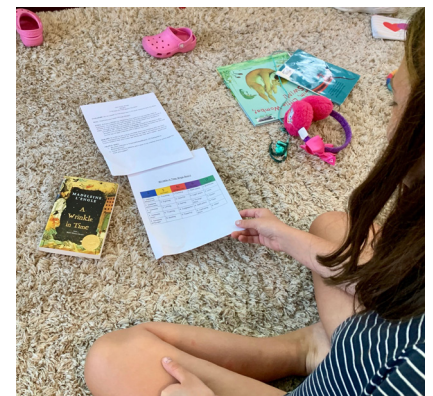
We will draw on the ideas of this book as well as the wisdom, experiences and talents of many others to create a path of love for our young people. The rector, church school teachers, parents and other volunteers will help to offer a combination of virtual religious education lessons as well as activities and social gatherings. Collectively the aim will be to use love before anything else to support kids and their families during this unusual and challenging year.

We hope to maintain some familiar practices such as participation in church services, mission outreach projects, and community events. We also plan to go outside the box and provide a number of ways to stay connected to our faith and to each other. A lot is changing in the next few weeks including our transition to new leadership so stay tuned for

updates and specifics as they evolve.

Blessings,  
Taryn

P.S. Below please find some images of the activities I whipped up for the summer for church school kids and youth group teens.



# 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

September - “Reclaim Our Vote” postcard writing

October 18 - Crop Walk

November - Undies Sunday and the Lowell Transitional Living Center - stay tuned...



## CROP Walk

The CROP Walk is ON but will be different this year. HUNGER is a huge global issue because of the pandemic. Good Shepherd will participate in the CROP Walk this year on **Sunday, Oct 18**. We will have our own socially distanced walk in Acton. Stay tuned for the time and place.

## “Reclaim Our Vote” Initiative

In September a group of Good Shepherd volunteers will write 350 postcards for Reclaim Our Vote, a non-partisan organization that is working to encourage minority voting in states with voter suppression. The postcards inform and mobilize voters of color to make sure they are registered and they know how to get a ballot and vote. The Center for Common Ground, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, runs this

campaign which has sent almost 5 million postcards in 2020.



## Esperanza Academy COVID-19 Response



Esperanza Academy is a tuition-free independent middle school in the Episcopal tradition welcoming girls of diverse faiths, races, and cultures from Lawrence MA. Good Shepherd has had a long relationship with the school since its start 14 years ago.

Jadi Taveras, head of Esperanza Academy, gave an inspiring Zoom update on the school's response to COVID-19. He shared the effects of COVID on students and families of color—the high risks, barriers, and the fact that COVID is magnifying the often invisible inequities. He highlighted three main focus areas for the school: Esperanza's commitment and innovation in anti-racist teaching, the strength of their community partnerships, and an updated mission statement and core values. The school's work with students and families using Restorative Justice Circles is an example at the local level of what Ibram X. Kendi's book *How to Be an Anti-Racist* is all about.

Learning will be remote the first four weeks of school and then go hybrid with some on-line and some in-school learning. The school will be open for the most vulnerable learners and they are offering a daily pick-up lunch. The level of response and action

at Esperanza goes beyond academic skills to embracing and supporting these students of color and their families. To quote Jadi, "Esperanza is a home and safe place for the girls."

We plan to share the recording of this update when it becomes available later this month. Meanwhile to learn more about Esperanza, go to [esperanzaacademy.org](http://esperanzaacademy.org).

Esperanza Mission for 2020-21 Academic year:

***Through the 2020-21 academic year Esperanza will deliver a holistic program focused on addressing the academic and social disparities that impact our students and their families as a result of the covid 19 pandemic.***

***We will continue to be a school that focuses on the growth of each student through culturally responsive teaching and prioritizing restorative justice practices. We will maintain our relationship-centric ethos and our commitment to our program that honors and celebrates the cultural, linguistic, familial and navigational capital of the families from Lawrence MA.***

Carolyn and Andy Platt

## Yarn for Charity Knitters

I have been gifted with a large amount of yarn, mostly acrylic. I have donated some to the Prayer Shawl group. Do you knit for Christmas donations or charitable groups? Come and see what you can use! Contact [Ellie George](mailto:EllieGeorge@prayerawl.org) at 978 263 5416 .

## Events

### Holiday Fund Raiser

Dear friends, this year we hope to continue our tradition of selling Christmas wreaths as a holiday fund raiser. The choices will be the same as last year with red, burgundy, wintergreen and cranberry bows. It would simplify everything if we stick to the 25" wreaths and eliminate "swags" this year! Prices have gone up a bit: Classic (red) will be \$28, Victorian (burgundy) will be \$30, and Cranberry Splash

and Wintergreen will be \$32.

We will try to have them delivered by the week before Thanksgiving so we can have them up for the whole holiday season. We should be able to keep a safe distance throughout the sale process. You can begin placing orders Sept 15th. For more information or to place your order, you can call John Link at 978-298-5141, email at [John Link](mailto:JohnLink@prayerawl.org), or sign up church. **Samples are on the next page.**

John Link



Classic  
Wreath



Cranberry Splash  
Wreath



Victorian  
Wreath



Wintergreen  
Wreath

# **Farewell and Celebration of Melissa's Ministry at Good Shepherd**

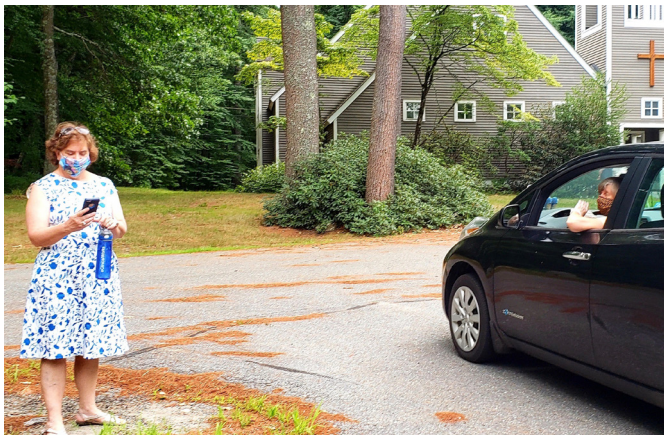
**Sunday Afternoon, October 4**

**Details to follow in an upcoming e-blast**

# Good Shepherd Says Thank You to Ruthann and Wishes Her Godspeed

Good Shepherd parishioners made a special visit to the church parking lot to greet Deacon Ruthann Savage-King in person albeit socially-distanced, one more time before she drove

to North Carolina to settle there. Ruthann and Cindy have moved to be closer to Cindy's family. Once settled (including with their many pets), Ruthann expects to reach out to the Episcopal Diocese in North Carolina and see how she may be called to use her spiritual gifts in that region. Thank you for all your support, Ruthann. We will miss you very much.



# Committee News



## Stewardship

***“They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.”***

1 Timothy 6:18-19 NRSVA

Taking “*hold of the life that really is life*” is something to which we all can aspire. That is a life filled with generosity based on our faith in a God who is generous in all things.

The TENS (The Episcopal Network for Stewardship) theme for 2020/21 is a call to each one of us to be “*generous and ready to share*” so that our futures are secure and our lives are worth living. Eugene Peterson writes it this way in *The Message*:

*“Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage — to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous. If they do that, they’ll build a treasury that will last, gaining life that is truly life.”*

This year we hope to present a year-round stewardship focus with articles in the e-blast and inserts to the bulletin that will help us think about all that God provides throughout our days. But for now, we will kick off this year’s stewardship campaign in October with stories of giving from our members and how Church of the Good Shepherd provides opportunities to support ministries together thus making a bigger impact than one’s individual donation. Stewardship will be a bit different this year in that we will be having a mix of in-person and online worship with pledge cards being mailed to the church or made online through the church website. A huge thank you to Dave Hazen for his assistance with this year’s campaign and we look forward to hearing the shared stories of faith-filled generosity as we come to more fully appreciate the many signs of God’s abundance.

+Melissa

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## Pastoral Care

The summer months of 2020 have not been very busy ones for the Pastoral Care Team, partly due to the coronavirus and people just not getting out as much usual. We were lucky not to have had many emergency situations where people needed a dinner or a ride.

In early summer one of our parishioners had a baby, and the Pastoral Care Team was set to deliver

some meals, but between various allergies and severe COVID restrictions, it was decided to offer the family a raincheck and asked them to call on us when they need a break later, in the hopes that COVID would be less limiting to our activities. Several committee members did bring dinners to a parishioner who had broken her ankle in early summer, and they made life a little easier for someone on crutches!

The Pastoral Care Team stepped up to help Lorraine after Elgin’s sudden passing, but there are many parishioners beyond the Team providing care and visits. If you would like to help Lorraine, you can

reach out to her at the Facebook page that was created for this time: [Lorraine's Lifeline](#)

If anyone is interested in joining the Pastoral Care Team or becoming a Back-up Angel to supplement our cooks during an emergency situation, we would happily welcome you! Just click on my name below. There are occasions when we get a request but our committee members are away on vacation or not available to help out, when additional backup would make a difference.

[Kathi Haney](#)

## Prayer Chain

If you or someone you know or love could benefit from being prayed for, we are more than happy to pray for them. There are now 32 of us who pray for requests for two weeks, unless it's a long term situation and then we hold the person in prayer. We not only pray for illnesses, but job situations, for wisdom and discernment about decisions to be made, relationships, safety when needed, and other needs you may have. Every request is held in complete con-

fidence, and we don't even need a name if it needs to be that private, God will know. Please contact [Jane Lothian](#) or [Margaret Geanisis](#) with requests.

Margaret Geanisis

## Prayer Shawls

Our knitters and those who crochet have been busy while in quarantine! We have lots of shawls. You participate in our Prayer Shawl Ministry when you give or send one to a loved one, a friend, or a friend of friend who needs to be wrapped in prayer one of our shawls. That's the true purpose of the Shawl Ministry, to extend our prayers to those in need around the world—and they have been mailed or taken to various places around the globe.

It's amazing how touched people are by receiving and using their Prayer Shawl. We bet you can think of someone who could use one even as you are reading this. If you need a Prayer Shawl for any reason, please contact [Diane Cooke](#) or Melissa.

Margaret Geanisis

# Administration

## Treasurer's Update

Like every other area of life in 2020, COVID 19 threw a wrench into our well thought out plans. Our normal sources of income like facilities rental, fundraisers, and plate income were all unavailable or severely diminished. However, it has also meant that some of our normal program expenses didn't happen.

The budget presented at the beginning of the year projected a small loss for the year. At the end of July, compared to budget our income is about \$9,500 less than expected, while expenses are \$22,000 less than expected. This results in a positive variance of \$15,000 through the end of July. The biggest contributors to the variance have been the later than projected hiring of our full-time Rector, lower than budgeted search/relocation expenses, lower than expected program expenses, and the previously mentioned snow removal expense. On an annual basis, our budget reflects the fact that we normally receive

more income in the early part of the year and tend to run a deficit in the later part of the year. At this point we expect that the positive variance from the first half will be completely offset by expected deficits for the remainder of the year. Our current projections indicate that we will end the year with a deficit of close to \$9,000.

Because a detrimental impact to income was expected once the implications of COVID 19 were realized, in May we applied for and received a loan under the Payroll Protection Program. This loan was for a little over \$26,000. Later this year we will apply for forgiveness of that loan and expect that the loan amount will be completely forgiven.

As always, thank you to Harry Johnson for the many hours reviewing the numbers and the book-keeping and to all of you who support Good Shepherd with your generous donations.

Denise Kelly

# Vestry Vignettes

## March 2020

The Vestry approved the use of designated organ maintenance funds (\$4,708) to repair the organ. Two sets of wooden pipes need to have the leathers replaced. We may have an additional (relatively small) expense to repair the humidity control system.

## April 2020

Church members have adapted to Zoom church meetings. Easter Service had 90 in attendance.

Taryn Ross-Hyman has been sending weekly messages to families to help keep children engaged while the building is closed.

The Vestry agreed with the Mission Committee's suggestion to hold a special food drive for the Acton Food Pantry.

We are getting some physical repair work done at the church while it is closed. Some drywall has been cut out due to mold on the lower level. It has been replaced and painted, and the area by the robe closet and up the stairs to the lift area has also been painted. Rotted wood in the Youth and Godly Play Rooms has been replaced.

## May 2020

Our Payroll Protection Program loan application has been approved for \$26,310. We are setting up a separate checking account to house the fund and expenses so we can calculate how we used the funds when we apply for forgiveness.

A hole in the sheetrock in the Women's bathroom (from a plumbing repair) has been repaired and painted. The recently discovered water damage at the back of the Narthex has been fixed.

Having discovered a large termite infestation

in North side of the lower level during repair work, we signed a contract with Colonial Pest for the installation of termite traps to exterminate them.

## June 2020

Repairs in the Sunday School classrooms have been completed. Melissa has been focusing on planning our re-entry into in-person worship.

The Rector Search Committee has narrowed the field to the top 2 candidates, who will be reference checked, visit the Church, have a final interview with the Search Committee and will meet with the Vestry (via Zoom).

The Vestry had a special meeting on June 26 at which we voted to extend a call to the Rev. Eleanor Terry to be the next Rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd. The wardens worked out details of the contract with Ellie and it was approved by the Diocese.

## July 2020

There is a group petitioning the Town of Acton to Declare a Climate Emergency. We had a motion for COGS to endorse the declaration: "Declaring a Climate Emergency: A Better Future Starting Now". The motion was approved.

The Nominating Committee for New Vestry needs to start considering new Vestry members for February 2020. The Nominating Committee includes Danielle, Kathy, Chris, Peter, Jessie, as well as Lydia as Warden and the Rector when she comes on board.

The Vestry is in the process of clarifying what standing committees the parish needs to have and establishing a system where each Vestry member will serve as a liaison to one of the committees. This is to support the activities of the committees and bring greater visibility to their work.

Dawn Hill

## Passages

### Graduations

**Scott Duncan**, grandson of Beverly Duncan, graduated from Wentworth Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science on Aug 16th.

### Moved Away

Earlier this summer, we bid farewell and Godspeed to the **Reesecox family** as they relocated to Chicago to be closer to family. The decision to move was bittersweet as they had really enjoyed their life in the Acton community. But after both



Danielle and Jesse came down with COVID-19 this Spring, the thought of not having family nearby to help with taking care of their kids was frightening. Danielle was able to keep her job and will work remotely from their new home. Jesse will likely find a job fairly quickly with his experience as a nurse supervisor.

Danielle and Jesse were active members of Church of the Good Shepherd having served in a number of capacities during their time with us. Always willing to jump in and lend a hand, they were both active members of the Spiritual Parenting group and always brought insight and humor to our gatherings.

Danielle was serving on the Vestry and had been the clerk in previous years. She was also the congregational liaison with the Cub Scout Pack that is sponsored by CGS. Last fall, Danielle stepped in as the delegate to Diocesan Convention and would be in attendance virtually this year had they not moved. The children in the 3-5 grade Sunday school class enjoyed Danielle as their leader for the past

several years. She and John Buono served in that capacity and really enjoyed the LEGO creations that were made in conjunction with the Bible lessons.

Jesse too was an active member of the church having delighted us all with his vocal talent singing in the choir and in special performances like the Holiday Pops and Lessons & Carols.

We will certainly miss the Reese-cx children, JJ and Sabra, who brought great energy and enthusiasm to worship especially during carpet time with the children, as well as in Special Communion class. JJ took a liking to attending the 8 AM service on Sundays and would often offer to read one of the lessons. And the ease with which both JJ and Sabra could talk with adults of all ages in the congregation was very special.

We are grateful for all the ways that the Reesecox family has enriched our faith community and pray that they will find a similar church home in Chicago. If you would like to send cards or write to them, their address is: 6943 N. Kolmar Ave, Lincolnwood, IL 60712.



## Deaths



**E.V. Tear** died at age 92 in Adirondack, N.Y. She and her late husband Dick were very active members of Good Shepherd in the 1970's and 1980's. Their 3 children, Greg, Cindy and Tim, were also busy in church activities. E.V. was extremely artistic and shared

her talents with the parish in many ways. She also at one time redid the Sunday School curriculum with enormous care, thoughtfulness and historical accuracy. Her enthusiasm for nature and life in general was contagious. Working with her on a parish project was invigorating!!!

Remembering E.V., causes me to recall so many former parishioners who have moved away or passed away—hundreds of them really, each of them left an imprint on our parish. They sang in the choir, worked on rebuilding the church after the fire, served on the vestry, cooked great meals, and attended services faithfully. Many years ago there was a men's cleaning crew that cleaned the church each week long before we hired cleaners. Each of these friends help to make our parish what it is today.

Ellie George



**Christina Sumner Huggins** age 76, of Concord, passed away on Friday, July 24.

Born in Concord, she was the daughter of the late Gordon and Elise Welch Read Huggins. She attended Concord public schools and graduated from Concord Academy.

Christina worked for many years both as a volunteer and for income, as an animal tender. She volunteered for many local organizations. She was also an active and faithful member of Good Shepherd. She was also a member of Companions of the Holy Cross and went annually to retreats at Adelynrood in Byfield, MA. Growing up in Concord, she enjoyed and was an accomplished horseback rider and competed in horse shows. Throughout her life in her spare-time she enjoyed landscape painting, swimming, singing in the church choir, caring for her dogs and pet parakeets.



Reminences from Ellie George:

*We recently attended a lovely on line memorial service for her from Trinity Church, Concord. Jay Lane spoke of her love of music and her consistent presence in the choir. Her niece and nephew also spoke of her thoughtfulness as an aunt with memories of her always handing out ginger ale and graham crackers when they were sick, and happy times spent with them at their summer place in Maine.*

*She was a member of Good Shepherd for many years, faithfully singing in the choir, always supportive of events by her attendance.*



Trip to St. Mary's

*She also worked behind the scenes for years on the Altar Guild. Even though physical problems made it difficult to get around some times, if there was an event there was Christina!! We shall miss her sweet presence very much.*



Much loved, long-time devoted parishioner **Elgin Summerfelt** passed away suddenly on July 31st; he was 71. He is survived by his wife Lorraine of 34 years, his daughter Kristine and his son Ryan, his virtual daughter Rhonda Litzenberg, and his virtual son Zakai ben-Chaim, and

3 grandchildren.

Elgin earned a B.S. in Psychology and Politi-

cal Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an M.S. in Counseling Psychology from Purdue University. His counseling career spanned more than 40 years. Most recently at Career Source from 2010-2017, he provided job search advice at a One Stop Career Center through Middlesex Community College. During his life Elgin seized every opportunity to share his expertise and compassion. Even while hospitalized earlier this year, he provided mini-coaching about self-care for the doctors and nurses who cared for him.

In his younger years he loved sailing and fenced. A skilled raconteur who loved jazz, gardening, and single malt scotches, he was also known

for making a wonderful El-gin and tonic. Elgin was an active member of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Acton, for over 30 years, serving his beloved church in a variety of ways, including but not limited to serving on the vestry, Pastoral Search Committee, as a Lay Eucharistic Minister, active member of the Men's Group, putting on wine tastings with Andy Platt, and where he was needed. Elgin's service as Master of Ceremonies of a variety of church events is legendary. Elgin was a committed member of Massachusetts Episcopal Cursillo, and currently served on the Secretariat of MEC.

He was a special child of God to many of us and is greatly missed.

