



**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
LIVE  
LENT**

## March 2021

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Episcopal Diocese of  
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# The Shepherd's Staff

## Church of the Good Shepherd

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

**March 1-31 - Lenten Food challenge**

**March 5 at 8 pm - Spiritual Parenting**

**March 7 at 10 am - Inter-generational  
El Salvador Sunday with guest  
speaker David Argueta**

**March 7-21 at 11:15 am - Lenten  
Adult Formation Class**

**March 13 at 5-6 pm - Pupusa Food Truck to  
benefit Scholarship Students**

**March 17 from 7:30-9 pm - Hop, Skip and  
Jump Bible Study**

**March 21 at 9 am- Church School  
March 21 from 7-8:15 pm - Story of Plastic  
Zoom discussion**

**March 24 at 8 pm- Church School Council  
Meeting**

**[Important Stuff In Here - read me or print me up](#)**

# A Word from the Fold



Dear Good People of Good Shepherd,

We are encouraged that the vaccines are starting to be available to members of our congregation. We will eventually emerge from the restrictions under which we have lived and worshipped for almost a full year. There is certainly reason to be encouraged by the recent drop in COVID cases and hospitalizations in our community.

Yet, it is imperative that we do not let our guard down prematurely. We are still not in a safe place and may not be for many months to come. As much as we all would like to resume in-person worship and fellowship events, we will not be able to do so safely until community spread of the virus is drastically reduced and more of us are vaccinated. The emergence of new more transmissible and more dangerous variants is concerning.

Our church building continues to be closed for church events and gatherings. We are aware, however, that parishioners may occasionally have reason to stop by the building from time to time. Please be aware that our Diocesan Guidelines remain in

effect which “require use of masks while inside and while entering and exiting places of worship or otherwise participating in in-person services.” **We ask all parishioners, staff and visitors to our church to continue to wear appropriate masks, even if you have been fully vaccinated.**

At Good Shepherd, we remind everyone coming into the church for any amount of time to continue to follow these recommended mask practices from the [CDC](#).

## Masks should:

- Completely cover the nose and mouth
- Fit snugly against the sides of the face and not have any gaps
- Be handled only by the ear loops, cords, or head straps (not by the surface of the mask)
- The CDC does not recommend using face shields or goggles as a substitute for masks.
- Double masks (a cloth mask over a disposable one) may be more effective in reducing the spread of new variants and is encouraged for those able to safely do so.
- Staff and church members who are alone in an office or enclosed part of the building may remove their mask, but must replace it when in common areas or with other people.

We are proud of the love and care that our community has shown to one another through this hard year and we look forward to the time we can return to gathering together in person. Until then, we thank you for your continued compliance and dedication to the care of all of us at Good Shepherd. We will continue to get through this together, thanks be to God.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Eleanor Terry, Rector  
Lydia Tolley and Harry Peebles, Wardens

# Warden's Message



## Senior Warden Remarks Annual Meeting February 14, 2021

My report in the Annual Meeting document you all received via e-mail summarized this past, crazy but important, eventful

year; these remarks will be forward-looking, to share with you some aspirations for the coming church year.

There is much to hope for as we start our first full year with Ellie as our Rector and we see the possibility of the end of the pandemic. But I do want to caution that we must not get ahead of ourselves — know that there are no plans to gather in the sanctuary or the building until we've reached some degree of vaccination level and the Regathering Team has settled upon a plan which has then been approved by the Diocese.

What I do think we can do now is to plan and execute some events that bring us together as a community and are more consistent with “normal” times, even though we will need to handle them differently, online or socially-distanced outside. The first of these is an online, virtual auction, which I see, first, as a chance for us to share our talents and creativity with one another, and, secondly, as a commitment to meeting our financial goals. Our Treasurer, Denise Kelly, will be presenting our 2021 budget later in this meeting. It is a BALANCED budget, but it does include a line item for an auction (\$9770 - Line 4420 of the 2021 Operating Budget). The auction will be different, since we will not be able to ask for free gift certificates from restaurants and business — as we all know, this year has been very tough on businesses, especially small local ones. However, there's a lot we can do, for example:

- Online classes – think about how you can share your skills and talents, which is a life-affirming thing to do – these could include, for example, photography, origami, knitting, one stroke painting, cooking, legal issues, creative writing, how to select a good wine, teach a foreign language, host a yoga class
- Online social events – my company offered a Zoom mystery party, we assumed characters, people dressed up in character and loaded thematic computer wallpapers behind them to create a scene, and the mystery was solved through guided questioning.
- Lead a socially-distanced hike, or a birdwatching walk
- Vacation house stays
- Cook a meal to be delivered
- Six months of home-baked cookie delivery or a birthday party in a box
- Offer a gourmet dinner at your house for a group of parishioners, to be held on a date to be determined
- Buy gift certificates from local restaurants and businesses

The nice thing about a talent auction is that it makes it possible for you to contribute in non-financial ways also, as we know that there are those amongst who have felt the financial impact of the pandemic, and we want everyone to feel they can participate and feel included in our community. A few people have already offered to help me organize this auction and I would be happy for any additional help. The timing has not been settled yet, but we'll work with Ellie on a good timing, perhaps after Easter but before the summer.

Second, I have a vision for us having events that our open to the community and promoted as such. The pandemic has been particularly challenging for bringing new people into the church community. I am thinking along the lines of a lecture along with a meal, to be held every other month, for instance. Obviously, we cannot hold such gatherings now, but we should start planning for when we can. We'll discuss this, I'm sure, in Vestry meetings, but please let me know if you are

interested or have ideas.

Finally, the Regathering Team will reconvene soon so that we can prepare for the day when we can gather again in person, indoors. While the day is not here yet, I hope that we will get ourselves ready for that day when it does come. That day will surely come. Keep the faith!

I want to thank the outgoing Vestry members: Danielle Reese, Kathy White, Chris O’Leary, and Peter Church for their service. I also want to extend my profound thanks to Jessie Panek. In her first year as Junior Warden, she arranged for musicians at every service after Tish Kilgore left and before Deborah joined us. It was very seamless and there were some great musicians who came and played for us. She has been so

gracious with her counsel to me – bringing me up to speed on so many of the details that keep this church community running. Her tenacity and follow-through have been very evident in the building projects that she has brought to fruition: the roof replacement and the elevator replacement that was approved by the Vestry this past week. Thanks to these individuals, the church is in a strong position to emerge from the pandemic, with a wonderful, new Rector, and a bright future, full of growth as a community of faith.

Thank you for your trust in me this past year. I look forward to continuing to grow together as a community with God’s Grace this coming year.

Lydia Tolley

## Worship

### Lenten worship

Our worship in Lent is based upon the liturgy for Morning Prayer in the Episcopal resource, *Enriching our Worship*. It begins with the Penitential Order from the *Book of Common Prayer* and the recitation of the Decalogue, or Ten Commandments. The intercessions are from *Common Worship* from the Church of England.

Deborah and I have begun to prepare for Holy Week and Easter. It is hard to wrap my head around the fact that we are now entering our second year of pandemic-affected services and the second Holy Week and Easter disrupted by COVID. I suppose it is good we did not know this a year ago... it would have been very difficult had we known just how long we would need to endure. Yet, here we are again.

We expect to offer a full array of services for the Triduum and Easter, which may include a combination of live-streamed worship on Zoom, pre-recorded liturgies, worship opportunities for families to experience at home, and hopefully, possibly some in-person outdoor liturgy for Easter itself. Keep an eye on the eblast and additional Holy Week and Easter emails for further details.

If you would like to help Deborah and me plan and prepare for these services, please contact

me. We’d love to share what we are planning and invite your participation.

### Old Technology Needed

The Zoom Service Tech Team needs your old or extra laptop (PC or Mac) and an iPad to free the church from reliance on parishioners’ personal devices. If you have such a device please contact Tom Hoch or Jon Panek.

## Service Schedule

### Sunday

10:00 am Holy Eucharist via Zoom

12:30 pm Mini-Eucharist held in our parking lot, weather permitting

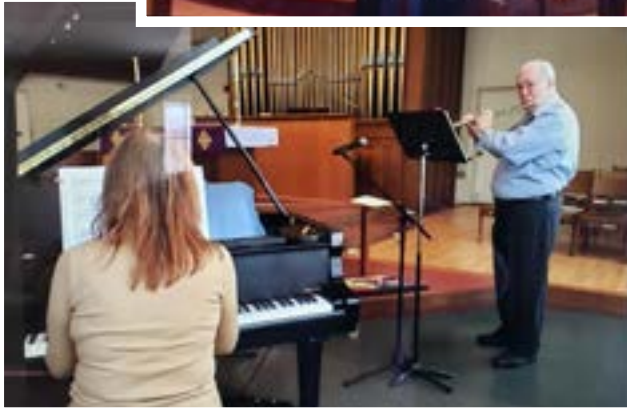
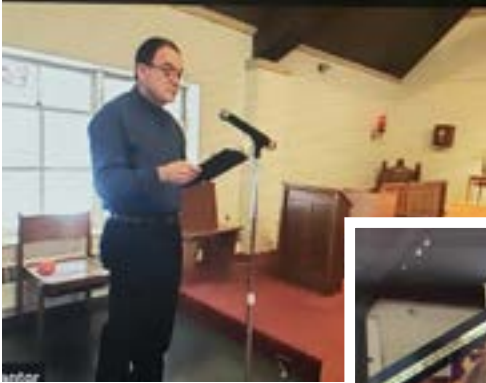
### Wednesday

7:30 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

### Thursday

8:00 pm Compline via Zoom

# Worship Snapshots



# Christian Formation

## Lenten Adult Formation Class

A discussion of [A Spring in the Desert: Rediscovering the water of life in Lent](#) by Frank and Victoria Logue will be led by Rev. Ellie. The book provides a Lenten journey inspired by the imagery of water and desert. The discussions go **through March 21**. We will start shortly after the Zoom service ends **at 11:15am**. Each class will be about 45 minutes. There are a few hard copies of the book available; please contact Ellie if you would like one. If you would like to, you can order a Kindle copy from Amazon by clicking on the title link.



## Spiritual Parenting

On February 5, Rev. Ellie and a group of CGS parents met on Zoom for another Spiritual Parenting session. Once again the format was relaxed and laid back. We started and concluded with prayer and in between shared stories, questions and support.

We look forward to meeting next on **March 5 at 8 pm.** We welcome all interested parents. If you would like more information, please reach out to Rev. Ellie or Taryn.

## Anti-Racism Book Group Update from Rev. Ellie

We have continued to read and discuss *Seeing My Skin: A Story of Wrestling with Whiteness* by Peter Jarrett-Schell. It is a compelling book, filled with the author's reflections on his experiences coming to terms with race as a white man. He is an Episcopal priest who now serves an historically Black congregation in Washington, D.C.

The book is organized into places Jarrett-Schell has lived and visited including San Francisco, New Haven, El Salvador, Berkely, Ethiopia, Maryland. He uses these locations as the backdrop to his reflections, recounting stories and experiences that have helped him (and sometimes forced him) to wrestle with his whiteness at different times of his life. His conversational writing style is easy to read, and it has prompted some great discussion among the members of our book group. All of us have found opportunity to look back over our own lives, in much the way that Jarrett-Schell does his own. Recalling our own experiences and memories and looking at them again through a lens of race has been an important exercise. I know that I have learned a lot, not just about the author's circumstances, but about my own as well.

Our final discussion of *Seeing My Skin* is on **March 2 at 1pm**. We invite others to join us, even if you have not had opportunity to read the book. We are committed to continuing to meet as the Anti-Racism book group and will be selecting our next book in the next few weeks. If you have a book to recommend, or would like to read, please email Ellie. Look for details about our next selection in an upcoming E-Blast.

## Hop, Skip and Jump through the Bible

We will hold our Bible Study on Zoom on **Wednesday, March 17 from 7:30 - 9 pm**. The readings for this month will be posted in the Eblast two weeks before the meeting, along with the Zoom link. 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 whichever sessions you can fit into your schedule. All are welcome!

Bev Ridpath, Neal Ogle

# Church School

## Church School Update



Church school picked up again on January 31. We have been exploring the theme of love through different New Testament stories. We love to talk about the ways we see examples of

loving others, loving God, and also loving self. I'm grateful for all the kids who attend, as well as the parents and teachers who assist. Special thanks to Audrey Recko, who helped me make a tutorial for the kids.

Between church school weeks, we took the theme of love to heart for Valentine's Day. I gathered and delivered materials to K-5 as well as some youth group kids, and we made a huge batch of Valentine cards for students at Esperanza Academy. Thanks to Ellie George for donating Valentine materials. The Esperanza head of school, Jadi Taveras, had spoken to the congregation about how important it was for the school to make sure their students felt love. We wanted to join in the chorus, since we have love for their community, too. Hopefully, our messages



brought some sunshine and warmth during the cold winter break.. Many thanks to Ellie George for her help with the materials, and to Audrey Recko for helping with the tutorials.

Over the next several weeks, we will be incorporating thoughts and actions for **Lent**. I delivered bags of **Lenten** activities to church school regulars on February 13 (extras are held outside the church). We discussed the materials, which include Audrey Recko's family **Lenten Food Challenge**, which focuses on weekly themes for Acton Food Pantry donations. Individually or as families, the students can consider and enact different preparations for Easter. For the week of Easter itself, Jen Thornton thoughtfully provided a mystery of Easter puzzle activity. There are plans to launch a congregation wide activity for the Easter season, so stay tuned.

For general information, resources, and the church school calendar, please check out the CGS church school website which links to the church's main website. You can find it at [www.sites.google.com/view/cgschurchschool](http://www.sites.google.com/view/cgschurchschool). You may also reach out to me via email with ideas, questions, and offers to volunteer.

Taryn Ross-Hyman

## Lent Madness

If you are looking for a fun and different way to practice Lenten devotion, try Lent Madness! Rev. Tim Schenck and folks at Forward Movement have selected a collection of saints and placed them



into a tournament-like single elimination bracket. You get to review or learn about different saints as they face off against each other each week. Just like basketball's March Madness, the pool of competitors whittles down until there is just a final two and then the winner!

The best part is you can play along. If you want to play less officially, fill out a bracket and send a picture of your choices to Taryn. You can also officially vote for your choice for the winner of each battle at the [Lent Madness](#) website or the [Lent Madness Facebook page](#). Either way, we hope you take a look and consider reflecting on this impressive group of faithful people as we journey toward Easter.

## Lent in a Bag

(Children's activity for the weeks of Lent)

Lent is a great time to explore new activities that help us to deepen our faith and relationship with God. This year Taryn has compiled a variety of ideas and materials for kids to use toward this end. The activities in this "Lent in a Bag" guide children to look outside themselves through giving, learning, loving, concentrating and connecting. The activities also lead them back to center or themselves for Easter. Hopefully kids and families have fun along the way.

## Church School Council

The church school council will next meet again on **March 24 at 8pm**. Anyone interested in

supporting the faith formation of our youth is welcome to attend. There are many ways you can share your gifts with our young people. We are grateful for your consideration.

## Special Communion Class – on hold until...

Our annual Special Communion Class and celebration for children will not be offered this spring due to the restrictions in place due to the pandemic. In order to offer this class in its fullness, we really want to be able to have the children together in person. Given the limitations on in-person worship, and the reality that we are not celebrating the Holy Eucharist regularly right now, it makes sense to postpone this offering until we are able to do so. I look forward to working with the children and celebrating them at the altar when we are all able to be back together again. We'll let you know as soon as we are able to schedule this program — perhaps in the fall.

The Rev. Eleanor Applewhite Terry, Rector



## Church School Calendar

March 5 at 8 pm Spiritual Parenting

March 7 at 10:00 am Intergenerational Sunday worship

March 13 Youth group activity TBD

March 21 at 9 am Church school

March 24 at 8 pm Church school council meeting



## Kids' Lenten Food Drive

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday Feb. 17	Thursday Feb. 18	Friday Feb. 19	Saturday Feb. 20
<b>Lent Begins!</b> <b>Week 1 Theme:</b> Baby Recommended Items: Diapers (size 4, 5, 6), Formula, Baby Wipes, Baby Shampoo.						
Feb. 21	Feb. 22	Feb. 23	Feb. 24	Feb. 25	Feb. 26	Feb. 27
<b>Week 2 Theme:</b> Movie Night Recommended Items: Microwave Popcorn, Chips, Candy (with or without peanuts)						
Feb. 28	Mar. 1	Mar. 2	Mar. 3	Mar. 4	Mar. 5	Mar. 6
<b>Week 3 Theme:</b> Hygiene Recommended Items: Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Shampoo & Conditioner, Razors, Deodorant						
Mar. 7	Mar. 8	Mar. 9	Mar. 10	Mar. 11	Mar. 12	Mar. 13
<b>Week 4 Theme:</b> Birthday Recommended Items: Cake Mix, Canned Frosting, Candles, Icing, Other Cake Decorations						
Mar. 14	Mar. 15	Mar. 16	Mar. 17	Mar. 18	Mar. 19	Mar. 20
<b>Week 5 Theme:</b> Favorite Meal Recommended Items: Components to make your favorite meal						
Mar. 21	Mar. 22	Mar. 23	Mar. 24	Mar. 25	Mar. 26	Mar. 27
Mar. 28						
<b>Donation Collection Day!</b>						

## 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

February–June 2020 Acton-Boxboro Family Project

February 17–April 4 Acton Food Pantry Lenten Challenge

March 7 David Argueta from El Ocotillo joins our service

March 13 Pupusa dinner and video

## Our Guest Speaker for El Salvador Sunday



On Sunday March 7 at the 10 am service one of our scholarship students, David Argueta Nolasco will be featured and narrating a video about our scholarship students and what the program has meant to them. This

will be lively and meaningful as all who have supported our El Ocotillo ministry can see first hand the fruits of your donations. For more information about David, please read the following article. We hope to see everyone on Zoom for this meaningful presentation.

## A Little Bit About Our Speaker David

I met David Argueta (Dah-veed Ahr-gettah) when I went to El Ocotillo in 2014 with the Good Shepherd Delegation, and I remember him still. You know when you meet someone who is just so special you don't forget them? Someone who is so filled with light, energy and caring that they stand out? That's how I think of David. I felt such a connection that I was moved to ask if I could write this article, even though there are many more at CGS who know him better than I do.

David was about seven years old when CGS

began our Sister-Community relationship with El Ocotillo, and many of us have watched him grow up. In some ways I feel the same about David and our scholarship kids as I feel about about our Youth Group kids. As a child he was often on the sidelines watching, somewhat shy, but his smile lit up his face – and he smiled easily. (David is on the top right)



David's father died when he was about six years old, and he lived with his mother and sister. His mother took care of the kids. They were very poor, and, while his mother was a hard worker, she never worked outside the home. He does have much older siblings, who were born in the 1970s before the long civil war and who live with his family. This situation is common with many families in El Ocotillo. David and his sister were born as part of this younger (post-war) generation of siblings.

After graduating from high school David became one of our college scholarship students. During his first year at university, his sister was brutally murdered, and he had to drop out of school where he was excelling. He



needed to support his mother at this difficult time, and, understandably, the events really affected him. The community and those involved in Fundahmer grew concerned as they witnessed his struggles.

Fundahmer was fundamental in getting David into what may have been a life-changing program, in New York of all places. He got a full scholarship to an intensive, two-year, full-submersion English language exchange program for Central American students through SUNY Broome Community College.



I met David just after his return from New York. The village had a bit of the “all hail, returning hero” towards David. And of course, being David, he put his newly found English skills right to work as a translator for our delegation. He even, shyly and with a little smile, showed off his knowledge of American slang. But he also functioned as glue to bind the other scholarship students together, enabling them all to participate and get to know all of us. Here you can see him presenting something that the scholarship kids all worked on together.



:Since then David has held onto the dream of getting back to college while working at Perquin City Hall to support himself and his mother. He has also been honing his leadership skills and putting those talents to good use. During our 2018 delegation trip he led the celebration at the school with all of the school-age children, directing the games, activities, and performances. He also helped to plan and organize the events for our last trip to El Ocotillo. In 2017, Cristosal led a course on Human Rights



Community Development for us and our village partners. As part of that, we had long discussions with the com-

munity about whether the scholarship program was reaching every student with potential to succeed in academics, and a decision was made to create one full scholarship for a student who could otherwise not afford schooling. (Other students pay ½ of their schooling costs.). The community chose David, who had been unable to continue his schooling after returning from the states. He is now an English major in his fourth year (out of five) at the Instituto Nacional De Perquin, which he attends on weekends while working full time. He got married this past year to Beatrice Amaya. Congratulations! Through all the travails of his young life, his faith and hope in God has remained very strong. His Facebook cover page has a quote from Isaiah 40:31, “... but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” And David does in fact soar!



Margaret Geanisis

## Lenten Food Challenges

NBC News reported this week that 6 million more people have applied for food assistance during the pandemic. Please consider one of Good Shepherd’s Lenten Challenges to support the Acton Food Pantry.

In the past it was customary to “give up” something for Lent, but now many also “take on” something. We have two Lenten Challenges you can choose between (or you can do both if you want). Each has its own Calendar:

# Lent 2021

## Feed My Sheep



*Creator of my life, renew me to new life in you. Touch me and make me feel whole again. Help me to see your love in the passion, death and resurrection of your son. Help me to observe Lent in a way that allows me to celebrate that love. Prepare me for these weeks of Lent as I feel both deep sorrow for my sins and your undying love for me.*

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	February	17	18	19	20	
		<b>Canned Meat</b>	Diapers (size 6)	<b>Gluten Free Cereal</b>	Toilet Paper	

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.*

- Matthew 25:31-40

21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<b>Spaghetti Sauce</b>	Tissues	<b>Canned Fruit</b>	Shampoo	<b>Canned Tomatoes</b>	Incontinence Briefs	<b>Nut Milk</b>

*A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*

Proverbs 11:25

28	March 1	2	3	4	5	6
Flushable Wipes	<b>Gluten Free Pasta</b>	Bladder Control Pads	<b>Ground Coffee</b>	Shampoo	<b>Canned Meats</b>	Mac & Cheese

*Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.*

Luke 6:38

7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>Cereal</b>	Pasta	<b>Spaghetti Sauce</b>	Oatmeal	<b>Canned Fruit</b>	Peanut Butter	<b>Canned Soup</b>

*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.*

2 Corinthians 9:6

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
March 4	15	16	17	18	19	20
<b>Cereal</b>	Tissues	<b>Spaghetti Sauce</b>	Oatmeal	<b>Gluten Free Mix</b>	Diapers (size 6)	<b>Canned Fruit</b>

*All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.*

Acts 2:44-45

21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Whole Grain Pasta	<b>Canned Tomatoes</b>	Canned Beans	<b>Nut Milk</b>	Apple sauce	<b>Ground Coffee</b>	Incontinence Briefs

*Those who give to the poor will lack nothing, but those who close their eyes to them receive many curses.*

Proverbs 28:27

28	29	30	31	April 1	2	3
<b>Canned Meat/Fish</b>	Canned Vegetables	<b>Spaghetti Sauce</b>	Rice	<b>Canned Fruit</b>	Baking Mix	<b>Gluten Free Bread</b>

*There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land.*

Deuteronomy 15:11

Sunday, April 4

### EASTER DAY - He is Risen!!!

*The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.*

Proverbs 22:9

#### Items in RED are considered Critical Needs

In the past it was customary to "give up" something for Lent, but now many also "take on" something. This Lenten calendar offers a chance to take on something that supports a ministry that Good Shepherd has had for many years: the Action Food Pantry. Your offerings may be put in the large box outside the church front door. Ed Stockbridge, who has been delivering donations to the Food Pantry for years, will see that all the donations get to the Food Pantry on a regular basis.

Buy One Get One free sales will extend the reach of your donations.

To make donations by check, please make them payable to "Action Community Supper and Food Pantry, Inc" and mail to them at P.O. Box 2098, Acton, MA 01720.

The Daily Lenten Challenge Calendar offers a chance to take on a daily contribution to the Acton Food Pantry. Your offerings may be put in the large box outside the church front door. Ed Stockbridge, who has been delivering donations to the Food Pantry for years, will see that all the donations get to the Food Pantry on a regular basis.

The Weekly Lenten Kids Oriented Challenge Calendar (pg 8) invites children and families to collect items for donation to the Acton Food Pantry. The items recommended for this “kid focused” collection are different than the usual Food Drive suggestions in that they are theme based. We encourage kids to have fun thinking about what another child or family would want or need.

To make donations by check, please make them payable to “Acton Community Supper and Food Pantry, Inc” and mail to them at P.O. Box 2098, Acton, MA 01720.

## Supporting Boxborough Fire Families

The 23 families displaced by the fire of an apartment building in Boxborough are very grateful for the outpouring of support from the larger community. UCC Boxborough and their pastor the Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry have been instrumental in helping with many of their immediate, emergency needs. She shares the following ways we at Good Shepherd can continue to support these families in the weeks ahead:

Updated needs are being tracked on the Boxborough Fire Relief Fund website. Financial support can be donated through the UCCB Community Support Fund and the [ABUW United Way](#) both of which are linked to the same website. A donation from our Mission Outreach program will be given on behalf of Good Shepherd, but you are also encouraged to donate directly as well. You may also give to [Household Goods](#) as they will be a source of support in the days ahead as the families seek to set up new homes.

There is also a need for on-going mental health support as the families recover from this trauma. If you have training or experience with trauma counseling and would like to help, please reach out to Rev. Ellie.

UCC Boxborough is pairing each family with

an advocate who will be a support and problem solver. They will work with each family to find out what they need, and then connect them with support. If you would like to assist with this, please let Rev. Ellie know.

## Acton-Boxboro Family Project

Good Shepherd is supporting two families in the A-B School District from February through June. One family is a single parent and three boys. The other is four adults and two children. A family sponsorship for one month involves at a minimum a \$50 gift card to a local supermarket and optionally any other suitable additions. We’ve had a lovely response and have been able to increase the gift each month by having several people contribute together. In February we sent gift cards, games and toys. We will be looking for additional sponsors to fill out the donations for May and June. Please reach out to Barb Magee or Kate Ogle for details if you would like to be a sponsor.

## Acton Food Pantry

Our Lenten Challenge is to stock the shelves of the food pantry! The need is much greater this year. There are two choices for challenges for you to participate, one for adults: <https://static1.square-space.com/static/5c7c38c9e5f7d1392f7694a1/t/602414e5ebe19d02bba0b1fa/1612977381864/> and one for kids and families: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5c7c38c9e5f7d1392f7694a1/t/60257021a383086d76a089f3/1613066273843/> Thank you to Beverly Duncan, Audrey Recko, and Taryn for creating these, and to Ed Stockbridge for his continued devotion to delivering the donations to the food pantry.

# Events

## The Good Shepherd Pupusa truck is doing take out!

**Saturday, March 13th,  
pick up is 5-6 pm in the church parking lot**

**Support the El Salvador Scholarship Fund and bring your family the experience of delicious Salvadoran pupusas!!**



A typical adult serving is two pupusas. Dinner comes with red sauce, slaw and fried plantains. Deliveries are available if necessary.

Pupusa choices are:

Cheese

Cheese and beans

Cheese & chicken

Cheese & pork

Cheese & jalapeño

Cheese & loraco

(like summer squash)

**To place your order:** email the church office  
**by Tuesday, March 9th**

There is no set cost, but a **FREE WILL OFFERING** is greatly appreciated.

**Bonus Treat: Video of our Friends in El Ocotillo making pupusas!**

# **Environmental Movie of the Month**

hosted by Church of the Good Shepherd



## **THE STORY OF PLASTIC**

Watch on your own schedule and

**Join the discussion**

**Sunday, Mar. 21 7-8:15 pm**

The Story of Plastic uncovers the ugly truth behind the current global plastic pollution crisis. Striking footage shot over three continents illustrates the ongoing catastrophe— and the global movement and individual actions rising up in response.

Come to our discussions with questions...Leave with an action goal for yourself, your family, your church or town.

The Story of Plastic is available to watch on the subscription DiscoveryGo streaming service, for rent on Amazon, on Apple TV, and on Xfinity video-on-demand.

[The Story of Plastic](#)

**Area Houses of Worship are invited to join us**

**Good Shepherd Auction - Spring 2021.**

**Help us plan!**

**To volunteer, please e-mail Lydia Tolley**

# Committee News

## Volunteers Needed

Please consider volunteering for “[Good Shepherd Sidewalk Care](#)”. To sign-up click on the link. This cold weather task is to ensure the entry way is clear of ice. The thaw and freeze cycles cause new ice to appear many mornings. There are shovels and salt available on-site. Our snow removal service handles shoveling of “the day of accumulation”. Thank you!

Harry Peebles

## Creation Care: Ice on Fire Movie Discussion



In February our Environmental Movie of the Month was *Ice on Fire*. It tells the story of how we reached 415 ppm of carbon in our atmosphere, the consequences of that, and what we need to do to return to a sustainable carbon count of under 350 ppm. It emphasizes the careful science that has been docu-

menting this for years and the visible effects of this rise in carbon on our planet.

Our discussion on February 21st via Zoom, was attended by around 20 people with members of both the UCC church and St. Matthew’s United Methodist Church in Acton joining our parishioners. We discussed whether the movie had inspired us or paralyzed us, and for most people, it was inspiring. We were surprised at how much technology is now available both to replace fossil fuels in energy production and to remove the surplus carbon that is causing our planet to warm. My personal favorites were the “Silk Leaf” and “Marine Snow”. We met in breakout groups (with Ellie’s help) and our discussions focused mainly on solutions to replacing fossil fuels in our own houses and cars. We spoke of our efforts to encourage our towns to adopt sustainable practices such as the Acton Power Choice initiative, as well as our hopes and fears for the future our children will inherit.

It was an inspiring evening. If you haven’t already done so I recommend watching *Ice on Fire* and also joining us for our next movie discussion on *The Story of Plastic*.

Bev Ridpath

# Administration

## Annual Meeting Recap

Our church gathered, virtually via Zoom, for our annual meeting on Sunday, February 14, 2021, following the 10 am service of Morning Prayer. There were 55 church members in attendance. We began with an opening prayer led by our Rector, Rev. Ellie Terry. We then voted, by show of hands, to approve the agenda, to approve the minutes from the 2020 Annual Meeting, and to accept the 2020 Annual Report, by title.

Leadership reports followed from the Senior Warden, Lydia Tolley (see Senior Warden’s remarks sepa-

rately), the Music Minister, Deborah Colageo, and the Director of Christian Formation, Taryn Ross-Hyman. These reports highlighted the creativity and flexibility of our leaders in continuing to offer sacred opportunities for connection despite the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The heart of the meeting was the Parish Engagement Conversation, facilitated by Rev. Ellie. There was broad and enthusiastic participation from attendees, who reflected on “Who we are” and “What do you wish our local community knew about us?” See Rev. Ellie’s piece about the Parish Engagement Conversation for a closer look at this discussion.



Senior Warden, Lydia Tolley then acknowledged outgoing Vestry members, expressing appreciation for their thoughtful contributions during this eventful year. She shared that each outgoing Vestry person would receive a copy of “Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times” by Bishop Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. Outgoing Vestry persons are Peter Church, Chris O’Leary, Danielle Reese, and Kathy White. Lydia also held up to the camera the “Promise Cross” wall sculpture that she would present to outgoing Junior Warden, Jessie Panek, in gratitude for her many contributions and faithful service.

Jessie Panek presented the report of the Nominating Committee, naming the following candidates for terms of varying length, from one to three years: Brendon Bates, Anna Browning, Margaret Geanisis, Gail Lyons, and Helen Young. Harry Peebles was presented as candidate for Junior Warden for a two-year term. A vote was held and the slate of candidates for Vestry was elected unanimously.

Denise Kelly, treasurer, presented the financial report, summarizing the 2020 year-end status, the 2021 pledge campaign, and 2021 budget. No vote was needed as the 2021 Budget had been approved by the Vestry at the February 9, 2021 Vestry Meeting.

Rev. Ellie offered some final comments and closed the meeting with a blessing.

Lydia Tolley

## Congregational Conversation Responses

At our Annual Parish Meeting on February 14, Rev. Ellie led us in a conversation about our congregation and the impact of the pandemic on our life together. The following notes summarize the great comments that were shared at the meeting. Thanks to Wardens Lydia Tolley and Jessie Panek for taking them!

### What is the one thing 2020 taught us about ‘who we are’?

- How much we all love to be together; how much we miss being together; how much we and our shared faith stories mean to each other.
- That we want to get together (remotely) even though there is no food involved!

- There is a great sense of unity now that 8 am & 10 am services are worshipping together on zoom (wonder if we can somehow keep this connection.) This is enhanced by how virtual coffee hour has worked — as one big conversation, not in groups of 2 and 3 as happens in person.
- How passionate people are about taking care of each other.
- We are resourceful and creative — “didn’t really miss a beat” as Melissa and team worked through the technical challenges. Much credit to Taryn (Church School) and Deborah (Music)!
- Gratitude for this beautiful community. Hearing Ray playing flute, so moving and beautiful, was a gift in this challenging time.
- How comforting it is to be with church community. The support is there and “I’m feeling the love.”
- There are many ways to get the connection and grace you need. Can find strength and grace at the online Thursday night compline service and Wednesday morning service; 12:30 pm Sunday outdoor Holy Eucharist – no matter how cold – is very meaningful.
- How special it was having outdoor services, in lovely setting, hope to continue to have those in future on special occasions
- We actually are who we say we are – as expressed in our core values. Those core values are helping us survive the pandemic together.
- Our Good Shepherd community of faith is a constant, positive influence. We continue to show up in the face of change and challenge.

### What essential elements have emerged in our community since the pandemic?

- Generosity: we’ve expanded our outreach to our neighbors: e.g. area Houses of Worship coming together around racial issues, people in need from recent apartment fire in Boxborough.
- Creativity: coming up with options for worship, improving infrastructure (internet and sound system) to facilitate services; reading about anti-racism, etc.
- Midweek worship essential for some, especially those drawn to small groups and more intimate worship.
- Faithfulness: how many people have come to church on Zoom!
- Ability to have participation via Zoom even for

- people who aren't nearby or need to stay home
- Appreciation seeing everyone's face on Zoom, not just back of heads.
- Participation ... in-person attendance, Zoom attendance, weekly services, pledging, music, staff, search committee, vestry, tech crew, alter guild, shawl ministry, prayer chain, facilities maintenance, community engagement, etc.

**What one thing do you wish our diocesan leadership knew about Good Shepherd? What do you wish our local community knew about us? Why is this important to you?**

- What a generous parish we are, reaching out locally and globally, even in hard times (But we should have more outreach to towns beyond Acton. Charitable donations to communities get noticed, would help others know about us.)
- That we exist!
- That we have endorsed the Acton Climate emergency and taken many steps with our own building, and how Acton area Houses of Worship are leading in addressing climate change.
- What a smooth transition we made with Ellie as our new Rector
- That we are a loving, caring community — if people in the area knew that, more of those who hunger for spiritual connection would be coming! That the love and support we have for each other is available to others, we are a center of prayer and healing. It is incumbent on us to personally invite others.



- That we are not rigid in our beliefs, but accepting and loving, not judgmental and exclusive. You don't have to be an Episcopalian to come here.
- We are looking to the future and have inventive worship but still value the richness of tradition of Book of Common Prayer
- That we hope to continue to offer virtual worship to those who can't attend services in person, even after pandemic is over.
- Good Shepherd is a light hearted, serious, caring, strong community of faith.

**As we hear what is being shared, what is one way in which you think God may be inviting us to "be made new" in the year ahead?**

- To see more youth in the church, since that is the future of the church.
- To bring more ethnic diversity into our parish.
- Consider how we might worship face to face in the future as opposed to just seeing the back of each other's heads.
- We are being called to reach out more actively for diversity, for LGBTQ, people of color, not sit in these four walls and wait for people to find us and come to us.
- There is healthy Christian energy here for you.
- For me, community outreach is about evangelism and ministry stewardship.
- Before hearing "what [else] is being shared", I think Good Shepherd has an opportunity to become attractive to families with children.

**Valentines made by Church School students which were sent to Esperanza students.**

