

The Shepherd's Staff

March 2022

Church of the Good Shepherd
Our story inside these pages



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Episcopal Diocese of
Massachusetts

Mar. 2 at 7:30 am & 7:30 pm - Ash Wednesday

Mar. 3 at 7:00-8:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal

Mar. 6 at 8 & 10 am - Holy Eucharist

11:30 am Lenten Program: What Is Truth?

Mar. 10 at 7:00-8:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Mar. 13 at 8 & 10 am Eucharist w/ Church School at 10:00 am

11:30 am - Lenten Program: what is Truth?

Mar. 16 at 7:30-9:00 pm - Hop, Skip and Jump Bible Study

March 17 at 7:00-8:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal

Mar. 19 at 9:30 Lenten Quiet Day - Reconciliation: Putting

Your Burdens Down, on Zoom

Mar. 20 at 8 & 10 am - Holy Eucharist

11:30 am Lenten Program: What Is Truth?

Mar. 24 at 7:00-8:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal

Mar. 27 at 8 & 10 am Eucharist w/ Church School at 10:00 am

11:30 am - Lenten Program: what is Truth?

Mar. 31 at 7:00-8:30 Choir Rehearsal

April 10 - Palm Sunday

April 17 - Easter Sunday

All quotes inside are from Bishop Michael Curry's book Love Is The Way: Holding On To Hope In Troubling Times.

A Word from the Fold



After taking an Advent retreat with the Rev. Callie Swanlund in December, I subscribed to her online Wholehearted Weekly column (www.callieswanlund.com). She usually includes a short reflection; often a prayer; a verse of Scripture; sometimes even a link to music. This week, this is part of what she wrote:

“Last week I was driving downtown for an appointment, and I marveled at the art museum as I passed—as I always do. This time I felt like it was calling to me, and I checked in with my partner about disappearing for a few hours. He said, “Go, be inspired.”

“And I was.

“I went on a spiritual expedition that day. My first stop was at the Jasper Johns special exhibit. While there were many pieces that caught my eye, what truly made me stop in my tracks was a gallery dedicated to his trial & working proofs. These pieces—where an artist tries different colors, papers, and makes modifications—are usually thrown away or repurposed, but this artist has more proofs than final pieces in his collection.

“Because, dear ones, sometimes the process is just as (if not more) important as/than the product.

“I was blown away by this realization. We get so focused on the end result that we sometimes forget to pause and revel in that which we’re learning along the way.

“Perhaps the destination is never to arrive at all. Let us go be inspired.”

I remembered Callie’s reflection as I was reading my email this evening and came across Canon Martha Hubbard’s reply to an email I had sent her earlier in the day thanking her for her visit to Good Shepherd this morning. Canon Martha wrote: *“It was such a lovely morning with you all. I have been doing a lot of heavy lifting lately with parishes that have suffered some conflict or loss of one kind or another. So, to show up to a happy place, well connected people, to celebrate happy things, was true grace to me!”*

It was nice to read her words, and to be reminded of all that we have to celebrate together at this juncture in our ministry together. We’re still in the midst of a pandemic. We have not yet fully recovered from the challenges caused by our time apart. We have goals to discern and effort to exert as we seek our way forward toward our new resurrected reality. Yet, Rev. Callie and Canon Martha reminded me this week that it is just as important to notice and celebrate where we are today. -To delight in the process of becoming something new. -To rejoice in our happiness in the present moment. -To give thanks for today as we strive to build our tomorrow.

As Callie wrote, *“we get so focused on the end result that we sometimes forget to pause and revel in that which we’re learning along the way.”* That’s a great reminder for our life and ministry here at Good Shepherd. It’s also a great reminder for our own lives as well. As the mother of a high school senior, it’s easy to be focused on all that lies ahead for my son. But it’s also important, perhaps this year more than ever, to revel in today.

“This is the day that the Lord has made”, writes the Psalmist in the present tense.

“Let us rejoice and be glad in it.” (Psalm 118:24)

Faithfully,
Ellie+

“If God is Love, and love is a action, you’ve only got to get out there and *do it.*”

Warden’s Message



Let me first say thank you for accepting me as your new Senior Warden. I am truly blessed and will work diligently to support the community of the Church of the Good Shepherd Acton and our mission in the world.

In my lifetime, I have tried many, many sports. One that has stayed with me in body and spirit is rowing. I took lessons years ago, and from there I purchased a tubby little recreational scull. I would row on places like the Concord River and Bare Hill Pond in Harvard. Team boats, also attempted, require unison and timing. Today, without a scull, I get in my meters on a stationary Concept II.

You sit low, nearly level to the top of the water, with little chop, as you want to row when the air is still. It is quiet, save for the splash of the oars and turning of the oar locks. Pulling cleanly through helps keep your balance. The receding shoreline often serves as your focal point to keep you heading in a straight line. A rower faces the back of the boat, blind to what is ahead. It can be truly magical; a reverie interspersed with moments of consternation as a motorboat blows past you,

creating a massive wake and pitching you out!

I saw an article last week about a foundation that trains support dogs for soldiers struggling with PTSD and physical recovery from war-related injuries. Their fund raiser consisted of a group of veterans who rowed as a team across the Atlantic. How did they keep that straight line, I wondered, with no visible shore or focal point? How would you learn to sync up, set the boat on the choppy ocean, productively pulling in unison as a team without ceasing?

Coming out of the pandemic, our congregation, along with so many others, has been moving away from that familiar shore of how we traditionally worshipped, congregated, and supported each other. It is, in many ways, receding from us. Ahead, there will be times that will be tippy, our bearings hard to keep in focus. Societal tensions and the ever-shifting health concerns may sometimes stymie the hard work we will have put in toward “setting the boat”, restoring our balance.

Regathering will be an evolving process that will benefit from many hands, pulling together without ceasing, synching up on what Good Shepherd means to us and our community. As a congregation, we have tremendous heart and faith.

Let’s all pick up an oar and row!

Peace,
Wendy



Deacon’s Corner

What a beautiful Sunday morning it was for me at CGS Acton! It actually started before I even arrived at the church. Today’s Gospel was from Luke, and it was about Jesus teaching the disciples to “love their enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.” While driving up 495, I listened to Krista Tippet’s podcast, “On Being”. It was a rebroadcast of an older program, with two Buddhist teachers and writers discussing the power of loving your enemies! They spoke of how, by most Westerners, this teaching is con-

“Whenever someone tells their story, you are standing on holy ground...Its so much harder to hate who someone has shown you their heart.”

strued as being a doormat, being weak. Their point was that love truly is a power, a force for positive change.

Later, when Canon Hubbard presented her Sermon, she used almost those very words to interpret today’s Scripture passages! She told us that when we resist the hatred of our enemies, when we try to push back with our own negativity, we get stuck and consumed by that negativity. We carry it around with us, continuing to use that violence to wound ourselves long after the encounter. She spoke of using our capacity to love, to meet that negativity with the powerful healing force of love. Not solely as a way to protect ourselves, but to possibly be a positive, healing force for others, even those who seek to do us harm.

This idea sounded so counterintuitive to my

ears that I was stunned when I heard the same message said so many times in so many ways today! We repeated and discussed this theme very enthusiastically in our discussion of Archbishop Curry’s book, *The Way of Love*. I guess the power of God’s love really wanted me to hear Jesus’ message today.

And what a fitting message to hear on the day Canon Hubbard celebrated the Ministry of Rev. Ellie as Rector, Ellen as Pastoral Associate for Liturgy and Music, and me as Deacon assigned to CGS! It is a very fitting message for all of us as we continue our joyous work together to help create a loving community and a safe, welcoming space for everyone. It makes me wonder what we will hear next week!

Stay tuned! The adventure continues!

Deacon Ken

Worship

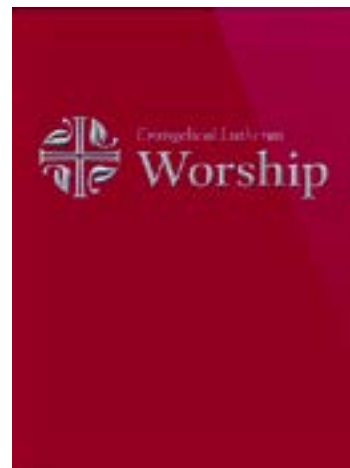
Lenten Worship

When we think of the season of **Lent**, themes of repentance most likely come to mind. It’s the season of preparation for Easter, and the Church has long viewed these six weeks as penitential. **Lent** is an opportunity to reflect on our sin, our need for God. **Lent** is a time to fast, to give something up, or take something on that will have spiritual benefit.

In the Ash Wednesday service from the *Book of Common Prayer*, the Celebrant offers an invitation to the observance of a holy **Lent** by noting, “the first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord’s passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting.” The invitation goes on to say, “The season of **Lent** provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism.” (BCP p. 264). This year, our worship in both **Lent** and Easter will focus on this ancient

emphasis on baptism.

Our 10 am worship for both the seasons of **Lent** and Easter will come from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America’s new worship resource, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. We will use the same liturgy for both **Lent** and Easter, with seasonal variations for each. We will experience both **Lent** and Easter as one Paschal season which celebrates the passion, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus as a whole. We will reflect and prepare for the promises of baptism during **Lent** and consider how we live into Christ’s mission as baptized people in Eastertide.



Rev. Ellie

“Love is meant to saturate all levels of human living and existence, because the God who gave us life is love”

Altar Flowers

“My mother and grandmother always donated flowers to the altar in memory of loved ones on the date of their death. We’ve continued that tradition, but on their birthdays to celebrate their lives. I always love to see flowers on the altar, it’s as if we’re holding up God’s beautiful creations for all to see in



thanksgiving.”

If you would like to contribute flowers for the altar now that we are back to having services in the sanctuary, please choose an open date after you click the following link: [Altar Flowers](#)

After you sign up you will be contacted by Diane Cooke. She can help you with any questions you might have. You can contact Diane directly by email as well

Ushering Ministry Opportunities

The pandemic is easing! We are back in the church, and able to have conversations together even though we’re maintaining social distancing. Especially with the constantly changing pandemic restrictions, we need ushers for our



Service Schedule

Sunday

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

Wednesday

7:30 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

Thursday

8:00 pm Compline via Zoom

services. Some of our former ushers have moved away or have health problems and don’t feel up to ushering.

Ushers really enjoy being able to meet people coming into the church, have a quick little chat with them before the service while handing out the weekly bulletin, and directing them to a seat. Ushers also help the children find their parents after Sunday School, and direct people to the communion rail. If you like meeting and greeting people with a smile and making people coming into church feel welcome, please consider becoming an usher.

There are almost always two ushers working together at a service. There are no meetings — your commitment is only for Sunday mornings about every six weeks, or occasionally when we need ushers for a special service. The more ushers that we have, the fewer times you will be asked to usher.

This is a very fulfilling ministry at Church of the Good Shepherd. If this sounds like something you would consider, please contact either Marilyn Fedele or Reverend Ellie.

Marilyn Fedele



“Hope happens – when reality is altered by a new possibility.”

Marking the Beginning of the Relationship of the Congregation and Our New Rector, Deacon, and Pastoral Associate for Liturgy & Music



“And when a person, a human child of God, my sister, my brother, my sibling, becomes an “it” to society or any of its members, then the unthinkable becomes thinkable and the horrible becomes possible.
That’s how someone sits by while evil is done.”

Sing a Spiritual Path This Spring

Ash Wednesday is March 2nd. The journey we embark on that day leads us through Lent, Holy Week, and the Easter season, and finishes with the celebration of Pentecost (this year on June 5). As a unified experience it offers an awesome opportunity to immerse ourselves in the Paschal Mystery—the ongoing dying and rising of Christ. Singing our way step by step can be a powerful, grace-filled way to integrate body, mind, and soul on this journey. All are invited to participate in choir as a spiritual practice this spring. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings 7-8:30 pm. Look for a more detailed calendar for Choir rehearsals in the upcoming E-Blasts.

If this time commitment does not work for you, but you are interested in exploring singing as a spiritual practice this spring, please speak with Ellen Oak, and let’s create some other opportunities together.

Ellen Oak

About our Stations of the Cross

This Lent our Stations of the Cross will feature prominently, and since they are rather unique and created over 30 years



ago, we thought you may want to know about them

The idea/plan for the Stations of the Cross originated with Jim Woods, who was the husband of our Choir Director Jeannette. Our rector, Bill Heuss, had seen first hand how powerful the Stations could be as they were read by each Station on Cursillo weekends and wholly agreed with Jim.

The Stations became a Lenten exercise of-

ferred to all members of the parish who wished to express their faith artistically. Those who participated were given information about the different stations and allowed to pick the one that spoke to them. They were given a pre-cut board and given free rein to illustrate the station however he/she wished.

There were fewer participants than stations so a few people did two. Good Shepherd had a number of talented artists in the congregation who contributed including Bill Harland, Patty Austin and Carol Davis. But many of the boards were done by amateurs who simply wished to express themselves faithfully. Styles included portrait, landscape, and collage among others. Some were traditional and some illustrated contemporary themes such as civil justice.

1. **Jesus is condemned to death** - Bill Harland. “This oil painting of our Lord, alone and bound, reflects my emotions and was painted prayer.’
2. **Jesus accepts the cross** - Andy Harland
3. **Jesus falls the first time** - possibly Carol Davis
4. **Jesus meets His Mother** - Mary Amy Cross Illustrator. Mary Amy also painted the walls in our largest Church School room as well and the painting of Jesus which now greets you as you descend into the Church School area. Here is a link to information about [Mary Amy Cross](#).
5. **Simon of Cyrene carries the cross** - Patty Austin, Illustrator
6. **Veronica wipes the face of Jesus** - Veronica Diesl. “Jim Woods actually assigned it to me because of my name. Since my Roman Catholic father had named me after St. Veronica (since debunked by the way) I couldn’t refuse. Not being much of an illustrator, I felt more comfortable working in three dimensions so I built up the cross and the face and hair of Jesus and the hand of Veronica using Gesso. The veil was

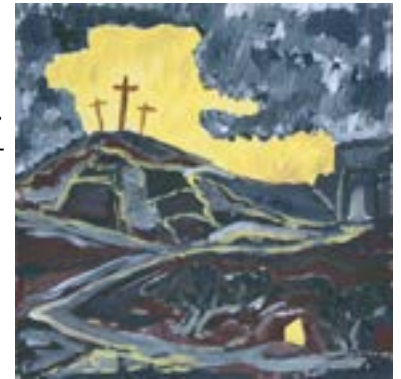
“Courage is being scared to death, but doing it anyway.”

from a piece of fabric from my stash.”

7. **Jesus falls the second time**
8. **Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem** - Intentionally anonymous. From Andy Carpentier: “It was my idea to paint them in a subdued palette. The gestures are exaggerated in desperation.”
9. **Jesus falls the third time** - Margaret Geanisis. “During my first year of EFM, I was called back to begin painting again. This is one of my very early pieces after that call. My experiences of the Stations had always been wood carvings in Catholic Churches, so that is what I immediately pictured. It was completely done in Burnt Umber and medium so that the wood grain would show through. All Stations of the Cross always break my heart, I can’t believe what we did to Jesus.”
10. **Jesus is stripped of His garments**
11. **Crucifixion: Jesus is nailed to the cross** - Bruce Metcalf
12. **Jesus dies on the cross** - Don Geanisis. - Don was in the Youth Group at the time and I think Bill Heuss talked him into it. He copied the illustration that went along with the handout and painted it in acrylics
13. **Jesus’ body is removed from the cross** - Rev.

Bill Heuss - Margaret Geanisis: “I remember Bill working on this all by himself at the last minute because no one wanted to make this Station. There was some kind of Lenten Program happening, but he sat himself down at a table and worked on it in the midst of the event until it was done.”

14. **Jesus is laid in the tomb and covered in incense** - Andrew Carpentier “This was painted knowing it would be hung on the far wall near the sanctuary exit door. So that it would be looked at from a distance. And I chose to emphasize the cross and the tomb. Visual exclamation points.” About ten years later we realized the Stations needed some kind of framing around them, someone volunteered to frame all of them. We hope you are touched by our stations in some way this Lenten Season.



Margaret Geanisis

Christian Formation



Adult Forum in Lent: What is Truth? An Embodied Lenten Series

This 6-session Lenten study, prepared by our Diocese’s Racial Justice Commission, invites congregations, small study groups and individuals to go deeper into Pilate’s question “What is truth?” and the truths we’ve learned about our history, our personal truths in relationship to the broader community, and national truths that have been told and, in some cases, need to be untold and then retold.

In light of our Vestry and Mission Outreach Committee’s commitment to exploring racial justice as a congregation, we invite you to join Rev. Ellie and Deacon Ken in this provocative Lenten forum.

Each session will include a theological reflection; suggestions of a short reading, online video or other media; a discussion guide; suggestions for group action in response

The only people who have ever changed the world or anything for the good have been those who dare to dream of an alternative reality, another possibility other than the one that confronts us day by day.

to the content and discussion; and suggestions for individual and household follow-up reflection, study and action during the week. For more information, [visit here](#).

The program will be held in the Parish Hall and on Zoom on the following Sundays:

March 6, 2022 11:30 am

Mar 13, 2022 11:30 am

Mar 20, 2022 11:30 am

Mar 27, 2022 11:30 am

Apr 3, 2022 11:30 am

Apr 10, 2022 11:30 am

Here is the link for the Zoom Meeting.

Please join us!

Ellie

Lenten Booklet

Many of us were raised with a **Lenten** spiritual practice of giving up something we enjoy. Let me suggest that, this year, we reframe that practice as 'letting go'.

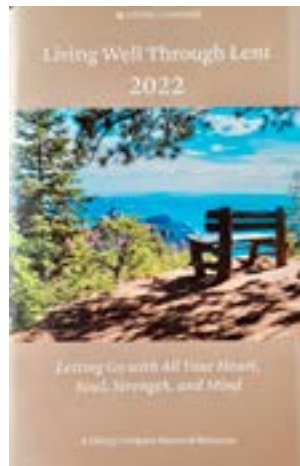
Our church has a booklet for you, *Living Well Through Lent, Letting Go with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind*. This booklet can be a daily guide of brief readings, devotionals and reflections to help with your spiritual journey.

You may read and ponder them on your own, or share your insights in conversations with others as you share your journey. I'm told the readings are just long enough for a morning cup of tea or coffee!

Please pick up a copy or two on your next visit to church, and enjoy.

Be well, stay safe, do good.

Deacon Ken



Hop, Skip and Jump through the Bible

We will be holding our Bible Study on Zoom on Wednesday, 16th March from 7.30 – 9 pm. The Zoom link and readings will be posted in the e-blast for two weeks before the meeting.

Come and join us as we explore the scriptures and consider how they speak to us today. Each session is a stand-alone meeting so join us for whatever sessions you can fit into your schedule. All are welcome!

Bev Ridpath Neal Ogle

Sign up by April 1 to join "Encounters in the Holy Land"

After two years of postponement due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, the fall pilgrimage that Bishop Gayle E. Harris has been leading annually since 2009 is back on the calendar this year. She and the Rev. Manny Faria plan to co-lead the "Encounters in the Holy Land" mission pilgrimage to Israel and Palestine, Oct. 17-28.

The group will visit holy sites in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, the Jordan Valley, Nazareth, Galilee, Nablus and Ramallah.



Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem

My only challenge was to receive anger and not give it back in return

There will also be opportunities to learn about active mission in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem through its school, health care and peace-making ministries.

The deadline for registering is April 1. The group will meet twice before the trip for preparation and community building. Estimated cost is \$4,400-\$4,600 per person (double occupancy), with all payments due by Aug. 15.

The pilgrimage is an opportunity for anyone who is interested in experiencing the land of the birth of the Christian faith; who is willing to listen and learn from siblings in God who live their faith in a different culture and context; and who want to engage in the mission of God beyond their doorstep.

Inquiries about joining the mission pilgrimage are welcome. Contact [David Ames](#) or 617-482-4826, ext. 445.

**Note from the editor: I have known several people who have done this and have just loved it.*

“Reconciliation: Putting a Burden Down,”

[A Lenten Quiet Day](#) will be held on March 19, 9:30 a.m.-noon via Zoom, sponsored by both Massachusetts Episcopal dioceses, open to all and led by Margaret Bullitt-Jonas. Through brief presentations and conversation, as well as silent prayer and guided meditation, this retreat time will give space for participants to explore and pray about the places in their lives where God may be inviting them to let go burdens of resentment, guilt or shame.



Lenten Madness

[Lenten Madness](#) began in 2010 as the brainchild of the Rev. Tim Schenck. In seeking a fun,

engaging way for people to learn about the men and women comprising the Church’s Calendar of Saints, Tim came up with this unique [Lenten](#) devotion. Combining his love of sports with his passion for the lives of the saints, Lent Madness was born on his blog “Clergy Family Confidential” which has subsequently moved locations and become “Clergy Confidential.”



The format is straightforward: 32 saints are placed into a tournament-like single elimination bracket. Each pairing remains open for a set period of time and Who will win the Golden Halo? people vote for their favorite saint. 16 saints make it to the Round of the Saintly Sixteen; eight advance to the Round of the Elate Eight; four make it to the Faithful Four; two to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the coveted Golden Halo. The first round consists of basic biographical information about each of the 32 saints. Things get a bit more interesting in the subsequent rounds as we offer quotes and quirks, explore legends, and even move into the area of saintly kitsch. If you’re not sure about terminology, [check out our glossary](#). It’s free!

The major change from 2010 to 2011 was the introduction of four “celebrity bloggers” to champion particular saints through the Faithful Four. In 2012 we partnered with Forward Movement and Executive Director Scott Gunn to create our own website and broaden the number of people involved in the writing process, with Tim and Scott serving as the self-appointed Supreme Executive Committee.

Along the way we’ve added more celebrity bloggers, a poster-sized bracket, weekly Monday Madness videos, and the Saintly Scorecard, an annual publication containing all 32 first round bios, information about how to participate in Lent Madness as a congregation, and an essential Vocabulary List to decipher all things [Lenten](#) Madness.

“Evangelism is a word with a lot of baggage that to me simply means modeling Jesus’ love in our daily lives and finding opportunities as a church to share that love.”

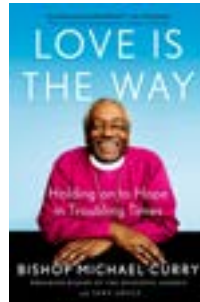
We’ve also inspired thousands of people along the way by forming an online community of people who are passionate about taking their faith but not themselves too seriously. Articles and spots about Lent Madness have appeared in the Washington Post, NPR, Huffington Post, FOXNews, NBC, USAToday, and even Sports Illustrated.

As Lent Madness continues to grow and evolve, what won’t change is the essence of Lent Madness: allowing people to get to know some amazing people who have come before us in the faith and reminding one another that there’s no reason for a dreary Lenten discipline. If this helps people connect with the risen Christ during this season of penitence and renewal, and have a bit of fun in the process, then it continues to be worthwhile.

We hope you’ll participate fully this Lent and vote with reckless abandon!



Love is the Way Book Group: Final Thoughts



This coming Sunday will be the last session to discuss this wonderful book. Everyone who has read it really has gotten a tremendous amount of information and tools for the future from this book. **We all highly recommend it to you.**

The quotes at the top of each page comes from this wonderful book of love.



Church School Calendar

March 13 at 10 am - Church School & Holy Eucharist

March 27 at 10 am - Church School & Holy Eucharist

“We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders, ministers not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own.” Fr. Romero

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

May: Creation Care

“The loving way to experience others is through a relationship, which requires you to forget what you think you may already know and open yourself to new possibilities.”

Bishop Michael Curry

The Acton Area Interfaith Partnership has been researching the many options for supporting an Afghan refugee family and listening to the experiences of other groups involved in these endeavors.

On February 17 Caroline Rowe, the director of IINE’s Lowell office, joined our meeting. To date the Lowell office has resettled 221 Afghan evacuees at a rate of almost one family every day over the last three months. This week they received the last family who will come from a U.S. base as the government closes the temporary housing provided by Operation Allies Welcome. IINE expects future Afghan families to come directly from bases in Germany, Qatar, and Dubai where many evacuees are waiting.

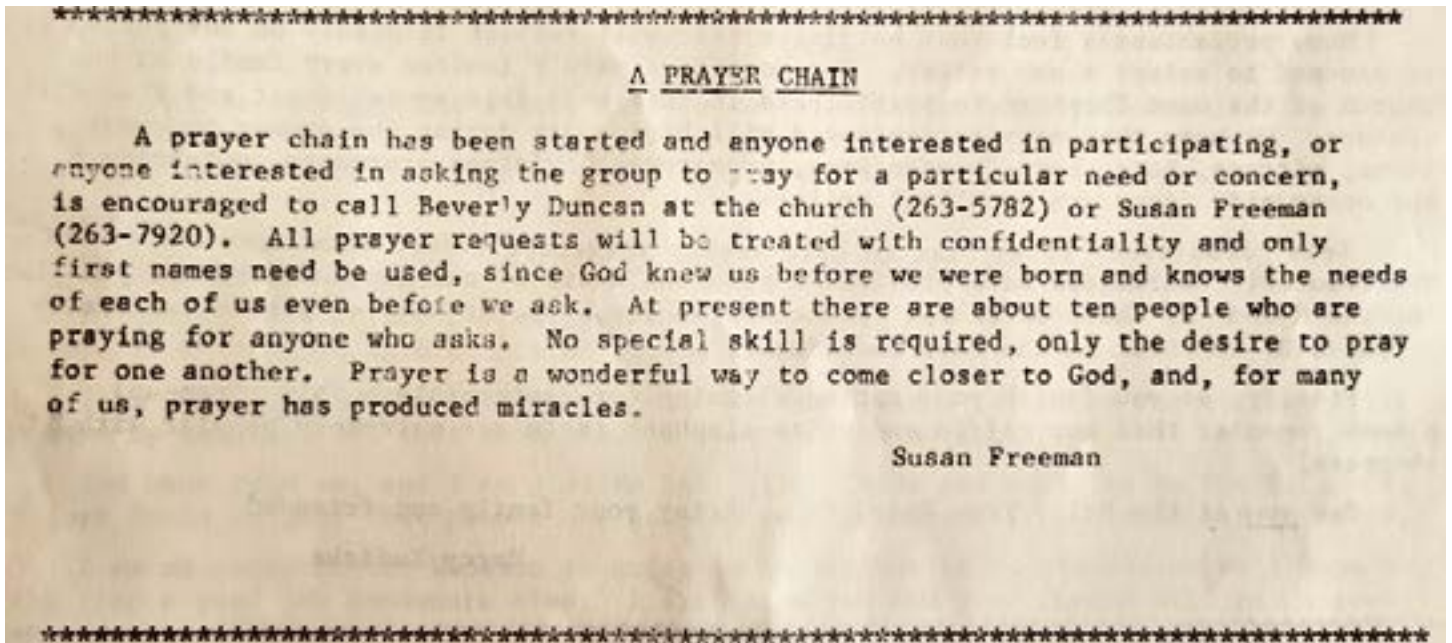
The Partnership will be making a decision in February about how to move forward based on the



feedback it receives from the six faith communities in the group. Our Mission Outreach Committee and the Friends of Afghan Refugee group is meeting to think deeply about our role in this work.

Barb Magee

“The church is the only society that exists primarily for those who are not their members.”



Look What We Found About Our Prayer Chain!

Last month, while looking for photos of Dick Davis, I came across an envelope marked For the Church of the Good Shepherd from the family of Roger Wootton. So, of course I couldn't not look to see what was inside. There were a few photos, some cassettes, and five old Shepherd's Staff issues for 1981-1982! Several of the issues talked about the brand new Prayer Chain. One such article appears in the photo at the top of this page.

I talked to Binki Wright about it, and she told me that the Prayer Chain began as a small group of about ten parishioners; that number has now grown to 31! Susan Freeman was the original leader, and when she stepped down, Binki became the coordinator. In those days, we used a phone chain. The phone chain took longer, but it was great at building relationships and knowledge between Prayer Chain members. I eased into Binki's position when Dick became ill, and a few years later, Jane Lothian joined me as co-leader.

Little has changed about the Prayer Chain, except that we now often list first and last names in requests, but sometimes we list no name, just

something like "a woman in trouble". We still have a wide variety of requests; no request is too small. To ask the Prayer Chain to pray for a concern or person, contact Jane, the Church Office, or myself. If you are called to pray for people and situations, please contact Jane or me to learn about joining the Prayer Chain.

Margaret Geanisis

Prayer Shawl Ministry

We are still in dire need of full size prayer shawls 18"x72".

Our numbers are very low. Your Prayer shawls can be dropped during office hours or on Sunday mornings. We can't thank our knitters and crocheters enough as this is a vital church ministry

and our shawls have gone all over the world. For more information, or if you want to join in, please call Nancy Brown.



“The loving way to experience others is through a relationship, which requires you to forget what youo think you may already know and open yourself to new possiblities.”

Events

Save the Date For a Joyous Concert

Saturday, April 23, at 4:00 pm

Good Shepherd will host a performance by the *a cappella* octet NOTA (which stands for None of the Above). Pastoral Associate for Liturgy and Music Ellen Oak sings with this group. The repertoire spans classical, jazz, pop, and folk genres. All proceeds will be donated as micro loans through KIVA, supporting the development of new entrepreneurial projects run by people of color in the US. Fun, beautiful, and uplifting live music enjoyed in community, and resources shared outward—it will be a grand occasion!

Annual Meeting



Continued on the next page

“It is all too easy for faith communities to drift slowly towards existing primarily for the good of their members.”



Budget vs Actuals (2021)

Ordinary Income	Budget	Actual	Variance
Income	225,700	229,625	(3,975)
Expenses	(244,000)	(238,800)	5,200
Net Ordinary Income	(18,300)	(10,175)	8,125
Other Income/Expenses			
Special Income	22,000	22,000	0
Special Expenses	(8,500)	(14,500)	6,000
Net Other Income/Expenses	13,500	7,500	6,000
Net Income	(4,800)	(2,675)	2,125

Finance Other

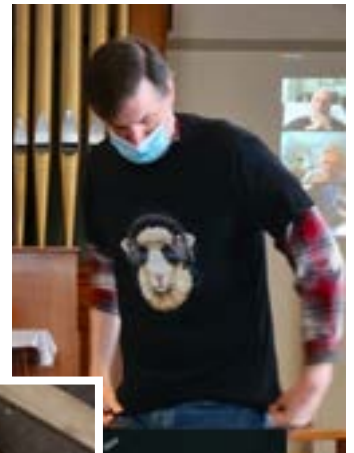
Pledges or Gifts

- Checks can be mailed to the church office
- Automatically from bank using on-line Bill-Pay
- Online using the link on our website
- Stock transfers
- Directly from IRA (if over 70 1/2)

Audit -

- 2019 Audit Completed in 2021
- 2020 Audit postponed to 2022

New Tech Team Shirts were also presented at the Annul Meeting



“This is the spirit of nonviolent change. You develop the spiritual discipline of receiving, and receiving and letting go, receiving and letting go.

Committee News

Building & Grounds News

Uplifting News!

Our beautiful new “Vertical Platform Lift” is finally inspected and ready to transport anyone who could use a little help with the stairs up to the sanctuary level. It also provides access down to the Sunday school level of our building. It is easy to operate, its generous size accommodates modern wheelchairs, and entrance through the glass doors offer a considerably brighter and more pleasant experience than did our previous unit.



As most of you know, in March, 2021, the Vestry decided to replace our obsolete, 35-year-old lift because we were facing continual expensive repairs. We send much gratitude to Bob Christmas for his many hours making the adjustments to prepare our site for the larger platform of this unit, and his finished work to make it fit in beautifully. Everything from cutting concrete to painting, Bob did it. He is a man of many talents, and he has shared them very, very generously with us over many decades.

I also want to acknowledge some memorial gifts used to help pay for the new lift: donations given in memory of Jennifer McCabe (Billingsley), Albert Koch, Dominic Castelline, Carol Kachajian, Tom Heaney, Jr., Louise Hryniewich, and Hugo Stapel as well as the Anne Atwood fund from St.

George’s (Maynard) that Good Shepherd received.

Instructions for using the new lift:

Using our new lift very simple, but please note these things:

- ***It only moves while you are holding in a button.*** Whether you are calling the platform to a level, or are in the lift moving to another level, you must hold in the button for the level you want the platform to go to.
- ***The entry level is level 2 (II), the sanctuary level is 3 (III), the basement is 1 (I).*** You direct the lift to go to a certain level, rather than up or down.
- ***Don’t panic if you are in the lift and the door won’t open!*** Once you’ve reached your level, the door will unlock, but will lock shut within 5-7 seconds after you release your destination button. Simply push the button again (for the floor you are on), and the door will unlock. Likewise, if the platform is already at your level when you approach, you must push the button for your level to unlock the door and enter. The door will close automatically behind you.
- ***Don’t lean against the big red knob inside!!*** This is an emergency shut-off, and it will sound a very loud alarm and will stop the lift. Just pull it back out if you push it accidentally.



Jessie Panek

Racial reconciliation and the care of of creation aren't distinct at all. They are part of the same issue.

Good Shepherd Sidewalk Care

We had fabulous participation over the past month. And it's usually so easy! Sign up for dates [here](#). The morning of your dates, swing by the church by 9:00am. If the entry walkway needs some scraping or salting, please do that. Whether you needed to get out of your car or not, congratulate yourself.

Harry Peebles

Creation Care

Here is a Lenten opportunity to open ourselves as stewards of God's Creation.

Daily Lenten Meditations on Creation Care:
The Diocese of Western Massachusetts Creation

Care Leadership Circle invites you to sign up to receive an inspirational daily meditation (including a short quote and an image) during the 40 days of Lent. Lent invites us to reflect on our relationships with God, each other and the Earth upon which all life depends. The quotes come from many sources, honoring the wisdom of many voices and traditions. The daily meditations offer the opportunity to contemplate the gift of the natural world and our calling to reconcile humanity with the rest of God's creation. [Sign up here](#).



Carolyn Platt

With Abundant Gratitude to:

- **Lydia Tolley** who found our Tech Team shirts, to **Rev. Ellie, Harry Peebles and Lydia** who thought of the wording for the back. And finally Ellie's husband, **Bronson Terry**, who used his hot press machine to add the lettering to the backs of the shirts,
- all who helped make Canon Martha's visit, and the occasion of her prayers for Deacon Ken,



Ellen Oak and myself so special. It was a joy (and a surprise) to see the church decorated so festively, thanks to our creative and talented **Liturgical Arts ministry**. Thanks to **all who hosted and provided the lovely coffee hour** after each service, and for the beautiful flowers. It was a special day!



- the members of our **Altar Guild and Tech Team** for their help with James Kinicki's funeral. To **Cindy Woodman and Peter Grant** who ushered, **Diane Zimmerman-Decker** who served as LEM, **Ronnie Diesl and Andy Platt** who were the lectors, to my colleagues **Ellen Oak and Deacon Ken** for their roles in the liturgy and to **Marilyn and Dick Fedele** who hosted the reception for the family. The Kinicki family appreciated being welcomed home to Good Shepherd with such love and care.

“Some see things as they are and ask why. I dream things that never were and ask why not?” JFKt

- our outgoing Vestry members: Warden **Lydia Tolley**, Clerk **Dawn Hill** and Vestry member **Paul Zinn**. We are grateful for your service and leadership.
- **all who attended our Annual Parish Meeting** and to our amazing **Tech Team** who allowed our Zoom attendees to participate fully in the proceedings
- **Liturgical Arts ministry**. Thanks to **all who hosted and provided the lovely coffee hours** after each service, and for the beautiful flowers.
- **Jesie Panek** for all her diligent work and time spent throughout the new elevator process. It was not easy work.
- **our Ushers** who, over the past few months, have had to deal with changing Covid restrictions and funerals and special services.
- **Laura Brock** who has become of the queen of multiple and “different” service folders almost every week, and sometimes several times a week.
- **Jon Panek**, who quietly and regularly appears with a new device which aides the Tech team
- our ever constant and dedicated Church School teachers, **Mary Bunker and Jenn Thornton**, to **Taryn Ross-Hyman** who assists, and to **Diane Moss Prunier** who subbed for Jenn one Sunday.
- **Veronica Diesl** who wrote much of the Stations of the Cross article.
- * If you ever know of someone who we’ve missed in our thanks and appreciation section, please let Margaret Geanisis know, so they can be thanked in the next issue

Passages

Moved

The Christmases have moved to New Hampshire! They have been hard-working, active, very generous church members for decades. Once their children got older, Bob and Susan were regulars at the 8:00 service, when they weren’t up at Lake Winnepesaukee.

They will be greatly missed for the laughter and good times they brought us. Here’s to good times on the lake and in the mountains!



From Susan:

We have not reached our final destination yet but will be building this spring. We are currently renting a home in Barnstead, NH. and hope to be in our new home before Christmas 2022.

The past year definitely was a whirlwind. It all started when we were in Myrtle Beach, SC. in April, visiting our cousins living their best life by the ocean. As we drove home, we started to consider that the land in Wolfeboro would be a nice place to retire. Soon after, our neighbors listed and sold homes within hours, then another, and another. The decision was made and the work began to ready our home of almost 30 years for the hot real estate market. After



“Let’s all stop worrying about whether we like each other and choose to believe instead that we’re capable of doing good together.”

four months, we received the offer to purchase, so now we are full-fledged New Hampshire residents.

We started to attend services at Good Shepherd when Heather started school around 1986. As I grew up in a Catholic household, with the proverbial Sunday lunches after services at my father’s family home, it was important to me to attend church and bring children up in the church. Bob, however, really did not have any interest in attending the Catholic Church, so we made a compromise. We would attend a service or two at Good Shepherd and see how it went.

Well, after the first service and the warm welcome we received, the church was chosen.

It seemed like Bob was always involved with the Property Committee. When Heather was first in Sunday School, I served as Church School director for a year, but most of my involvement was helping Bob with his projects, including serving as his straight man when he did his stand-up routine (auctioneer at the church auction).

So now after 35 years, we will no longer be part of the flock at Good Shepherd. We have many memories including our children’s baptisms, first communions, confirmation and our oldest daughter’s marriage. We will always remember the Easter pansies, Christmas Eve service and pageant, auctions, coffee hours, and progressive dinners. But we will remember most of all our friends, although some are no longer with us, and some have moved away.

If ever anyone decides to visit Wolfeboro, we hope you will give us a call and let us know, possibly

we can have dinner. Our cell phone numbers are the same, so please do not hesitate to call.

Susan Christmas

Note from the Editor: Often we include personal recollections from parishioners, but in the case of the Christmases, we could fill a whole Shepherd’s Staff just with happy Christmas stories. Thanks for the Memories!

