



The 2025 Annual Report
The Church of the Good Shepherd

An Episcopal Church located at
639 Edgewater Drive, Dunedin, FL 34698

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Annual Meeting Agenda: February 15, 2026

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| I. | Call to Order | The Rev. Whitney Burton |
| II. | Opening Prayer | The Rev. Whitney Burton |
| III. | Approve Annual Meeting Minutes, February 9, 2025 | The Rev. Whitney Burton |
| IV. | Presentation and Election of Candidates | The Rev. Whitney Burton |
| | A. Vestry | |
| | B. Endowment Board | |
| | C. Convention Delegates | |
| V. | Reports | |
| | A. Endowment Fund | Carolyn Hughes |
| | B. Finance | Robin Megel, <i>Treasurer</i> |
| VI. | Celebrations | |
| | A. Recognitions | |
| | 1. Recognition of Vestry, Endowment Board, and Staff | The Rev. Whitney Burton |
| VII. | Rector's Remarks | The Rev. Whitney Burton |
| VIII. | Slide Show | Presented by Judy Warner |
| IX. | Closing Prayer | The Rev. Whitney Burton |

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2025 VESTRY MEMBERS:

Mary Ratliff.....Senior Warden
Caroline Maisel.....Junior Warden
Robin Megel.....Treasurer

Whitney Burton.....Rector
Pat Cates.....Vestry Clerk

London Bates
Judy Warner
Marc Jacobson
Sandy Kneed
Rhiannon Sharpe
James Goletz
Ed Steponaitis

Annual Meeting of the Church of the Good Shepherd
Dunedin, Florida
February 9, 2025

I. Opening Prayer

- The Opening Prayer was given by Judy Warner.

II. Slide Show

- A video program highlighting the Church of Good Shepherd in 2024 was presented.

III. Call to Order—the meeting was called to order by Senior Warden, Mary Ratliff at 10:55 AM, and a quorum was declared.

1. Approve Annual Meeting Minutes, February 11, 2024

- Michelle Schombs made a motion to approve the February 11, 2024 minutes as presented.
- The second was provided by Dave Dube.
- Approved.

2. Presentation and Election of Candidates

A. Vestry

- London Bates recognized the three candidates for Vestry: Ed Steponaitis, James Goletz and Mary Ratliff.
- She made a motion to accept the three candidates for Vestry by acclamation.
- Passed unanimously.

B. Endowment Board

- London Bates recognized the two candidates for the Endowment Board: Dave Megel and Andrea Zahn.
- She made a motion to accept the two candidates for the Endowment Board by acclamation.
- Passed unanimously.

C. Convention Delegates

- London Bates recognized the three candidates for Convention Delegate: Cheryl Sharpe, Mary Ratliff and Dominic DiRienz.
- She made a motion to accept the three candidates for Convention Delegates by acclamation.
- Passed unanimously.

3. Vote to adjust the date of the 2026 Annual Meeting

- A motion to move the 2026 meeting to February 15, 2026 so as not to interfere with the 140th Anniversary Celebration was made by Michelle Schombs with a second by Laura McGary.
- Approved.

IV. Rector's Report via Video

- Rev. Whitney is continuing her maternity leave and filed her report via a video presentation.
- She thanked Rev. Kathy Walter and Mary Ratliff for their diligent work during this time.
- Rev. Whitney gave an update on Personnel. Cristi Cruz Lefebvre is currently serving as Parish Administrator. Miranda Harrison-Quillin served as ministry intern during the summer months.
- Deacon Cindy Roehl retired after ten years of service to Good Shepherd and will be greatly missed. At this point it is not known if the Bishop will assign another deacon to serve the church.
- The Furniture Thrift Store closed its doors in April after ten years of dynamic ministry to the community. They are currently in discernment as to their next ministry

- The parish was affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton which brought some damage to the property. Both of these storms affected the life of the church.
- After the storms Garry Lumm announced that he and his family would be moving from the campus and a team has been assembled to look at future use of the property at 617 Edgewater Drive.
- In March the church received a bequest from the Ethel Fisher Estate.
- The bequest was carefully studied by the Vestry and is currently housed in the Endowment Fund under its own spending policy.
- Mission and Ministry, Fellowship, Formation and Worship continue to thrive at Good Shepherd. Welcoming Materials have been updated and improved.
- The children's spaces have been updated with a Sunday School/Youth room designated on the second floor and improvements to the Nursery downstairs.
- As part of Formation for all ages, a new youth program has begun and Supper Clubs have been formed. There will be more activities in 2025.
- Rev. Whitney is grateful for each person at Good Shepherd and the many contributions of time, talent and treasures which are vital to the work of the parish. It is through this work that the church has continued for 139 years, and she looks forward to future ministry together.

V. Reports

1. Endowment Fund, Inc.

- President Carolyn Hughes spoke on the Endowment Fund and brought attention to the report as found in the 2024 Annual Report.
- She welcomed new member Dave Megel and thanked Andrea Zahn and Jim Ratliff for their continued service to the Endowment Fund.
- Carolyn also thanked Shirl Ahrens for taking the place of Marc Wigmore who had to take a leave of absence last year.
- Carolyn reviewed the history of the Endowment Fund which started in 1963 under the leadership of The Rev. Charles Folsom-Jones and four parishioners who had the foresight to establish the Fund.
- The Fund was started with \$3K and over the last 61 years has given \$3.7M to the operations of the parish.
- At one point 50% of the church's income came from the Endowment Fund which currently gives 4% of its assets per year to the church.
- Over the years the church membership has been instrumental in helping to reduce the dependency on the Endowment Fund.
- Carolyn looks for the Endowment Fund to continue growing during the next 140 years of the church.

2. Finance

- Robin Megel spoke of four major events in the life of the church: the birth of Whitney and Steven's second child, Hazel; the closing of the Furniture Thrift Store (FTS); the Ethel Fisher Bequest and the hurricane storm damage.
- The FTS donated an average of over \$22K a year to Mission and Outreach. \$10K was donated to the church's Operating Funds and \$11K to the Capital Reserve Account.
- The FTS building was sold. After the repayment of the loan and 10% for the Endowment Fund \$618K was remaining from the sale.
- \$500K was put into a moderate risk investment account which left a balance of \$118K for immediate improvements including the Kirk Hall air-conditioning, pre-painting of the Folsom-Jones Building, pest remediation, Christmas decorations, improvements to the Sunday School and to the Altar Guild for supplies.
- The church received approximately \$1.1M from the Ethel Fisher Bequest and invested in a moderate risk investment account with the Vestry discretion of taking a 1% quarterly disbursement.

- There was storm damage from the hurricanes which affected the campus. The Diocese sent a check and forgave the Diocesan Tithe. In addition there were payments from the insurance company and savings on insurance deductibles for a total of \$53K.
- At the present time approximately \$19K has been spent for repairs.
- Outreach in 2024 was \$113K which is the third year in a row to exceed \$100K.
- The Bagzilla collection was approximately 6,000 lbs. of food and over \$3.8K.
- Robin gave the list of nine ministries which benefit from Mission and Outreach.
- Volunteer hours were 8,000 in 2024.
- Total income in 2024 was \$450K which was 4% above 2023
- The operating expenses in 2024 were \$460K which left a \$10K deficit for the year. These expenses included Personnel (the largest expense), Buildings and Grounds (larger than 2023 due to insurance costs) and the Diocesan Tithe.
- Ending balances for 2024 were \$2.1M (Endowment Fund), \$1.1M (Ethel Fisher Bequest), \$25K Operating Cash and \$804K Restricted Funds.
- 2024 Capital Expenditures included the Kirk Hall air-conditioning and Pest Control which were both paid through the FTS.
- The expenses for the 2025 budget include Personnel (\$271K), Buildings and Grounds (\$134K), Diocesan Tithe (\$43K) and other expenses (\$43K).
- The total expenses are \$491K which is a \$31K increase over 2024 actual.
- As part of the presentation on income, Robin gave a chart showing pledge totals since 2021.
- The total income for 2025 is anticipated to be \$448K which will leave a deficit in the budget of \$43K.
- Robin concluded her presentation with a look at the Reserve Funds: Operating Reserves (\$60K), Vestry Designated Funds (\$12K) and Storm Repairs (\$34K).

VI. Recognition of Vestry, Endowment Board and Staff

- Mary Ratliff thanked the staff for their tremendous work.
- She asked the members of the Vestry to stand and be recognized.
- Vestry member Robyn Harker is retiring after serving for six years and was recognized and given a small gift by Mary Ratliff.
- Mary also thanked the Hospitality Committee for all their work to make the Annual Meeting a success.

VII. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

- The Closing Prayer was given by Caroline Maisel, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
C. Pat Cates, Vestry Clerk

RECTOR'S REPORT

I give thanks to God for the life we share in this parish and for the many ways the Holy Spirit has been at work among us this past year.

I offer my sincere thanks to The Rev. Kathy Walter and our staff who managed the church needs while I was away on maternity leave for twelve weeks beginning mid January. Rev. Kathy took on many roles from worship to pastoral care to teaching and I am grateful for her service. Our staff took over many additional roles during my time away and I returned to a church that was still running well. We also welcomed a new Parish Administrator, Catherine Lee, to our team in the Spring, who works part time. This has required some shifts in work load but has been working well.

Worship lies at the heart of our community. Week by week, in all the seasons of the Church year, we have gathered at the Lord's Table to pray, sing, listen, and be renewed. In Word and Sacrament, God has met us with grace and steadiness. This year we have welcomed new members through baptism, confirmation, and Reception and commended our beloved dead to God's eternal care. Each of these moments has reminded us that the Church is not an institution alone, but a living community shaped by love, loss, joy, and promise.

Our Christmas, Holy Week, and Easter liturgies stand out as particularly moving services. From solemn foot-washing to joyful Easter hymns, our worship grows and develops our faith. It also takes many hands to bring it together. Our servers, singers, ringers, ushers, Altar and flower guilds, clergy assistants, children's ministers, and so many more come together to help us glorify God through Sunday and Holy Day worship. It truly is a community effort.

Beyond Sunday worship, our life together has been enriched through opportunities for formation and fellowship. Adults, children, and youth have gathered to learn, ask questions, and grow in faith. Small groups, classes, and informal conversations have deepened relationships and strengthened our shared commitment to following Christ. I am especially grateful for the lay leaders who offer their gifts so generously, often behind the scenes, making these ministries possible.

Pastoral care remains a sacred and essential part of our calling. This year has held moments of illness, grief, transition, and uncertainty, as well as times of celebration and new beginnings. I have been continually moved by the ways this congregation shows up for one another—with prayers, meals, notes, visits, and quiet acts of compassion. In these moments, we truly become the Body of Christ to one another.

Our parish continues to look outward in service to the wider community. Through outreach ministries and partnerships, we have sought to live into our baptismal promise to seek and serve Christ in all persons. Pack-A-Sack provides thousands of meals for children in our local community; our support of Dunedin Cares helps a vital social service continually open their doors to feed our wider community; our utility assistance program helps families keep the lights on and the water running; and the many other ways in which we offer support through clothing, hygiene items, and more help spread Christ's love outside of our campus. These ministries are signs of God's love made visible, and they remind us that the Church exists not for itself alone, but for the sake of the very world God loves.

In 2024, the Church-owned house at 617 Edgewater sustained damage from storm surge during Hurricane Helene. In 2025, I commissioned a team to look at potential future uses of the property and, following their recommendation, the Vestry has approved the intention of opening it as a new thrift store. The building has since been repaired and we are working to obtain permission from the City to move forward with this ministry.

I am deeply thankful for our vestry, staff, and ministry leaders, whose faithfulness and wisdom guide our shared life. Stewardship this year has been an expression of trust and generosity, and I am grateful for all who give of their time, talent, and treasure in support of our mission. We received 72 pledges for 2026 totaling just under \$220,000. These gifts help us to keep our doors open and our ministries running.

Like any year, this one has brought its challenges and its lessons. We continue to learn how to be the Church in changing times, listening carefully for where God is calling us next. I am encouraged by this congregation's resilience, openness, and willingness to grow.

As we look ahead, I do so with hope. In a time where our Country and the World are full of division and hate, I believe God is inviting us to deepen our communal life of prayer, strengthen our relationships, and continue to bear faithful witness to Christ both in this place and outside of our walls.

My prayer is that we will move into the coming year grounded in gratitude, attentive to the Spirit, and committed to walking together in faith.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Rector. May God continue to bless this parish, and may we be given grace to love God and one another more fully in the year to come.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Whitney Burton

Rector

WORSHIP

LITURGY

By Rev. Whitney Burton

Liturgy means “the work of the people,” and indeed, here at the Church of the Good Shepherd, our liturgy is just that. From our Sunday and weekday worship, to our special seasonal worship and all of the things that happen in between such as weddings, funerals, and baptisms, there are many people who make our Liturgy and Worship possible. Our musicians, acolytes and servers, ushers, Altar Guild, Flower Guild, technology team, and many more all work hard to make our worship possible.

Our worship is central to who we are and what we do here at the Church of the Good Shepherd. In the following pages you will find just some of the many groups and guilds that make it all possible.

MUSIC MINISTRY

By Tom Huffman, Organist/Choirmaster

I am thankful for the opportunity to continue serving as the Organist/Choirmaster at Good Shepherd. In October I completed four years in this position.

It is a pleasure to work with a creative and helpful staff including Rev. Whitney. The choir has remained faithful and works hard to produce excellent music. Thanks to each person in the choir for the many hours given in rehearsal and worship as well as doing some homework. Our paid singer Jacob Caldwell served well singing in choir and also playing occasional trumpet and trombone solos. In September he became a freshman music major at USF and in October Brody Holland, a senior at East Lake High School, was hired. Jacob continues to help out occasionally in organizing brass quartets and playing trumpet/trombone.

This year we added two especially effective services involving the choir. First, the Tenebrae service on Good Friday and an Advent Lessons and Carols Service. For the Lessons and Carols, we combined with the choir of St. Alfred's Episcopal and presented a stunning program to a full church at St. Alfred's. Future plans include doing something similar at Good Shepherd.

I should also mention that in July, seven of us related to Good Shepherd traveled to New York City and sang a full concert at Carnegie Hall. Well-known composers Mark Hayes and Lloyd Larson conducted a large choir and orchestra in their own compositions. Those from our choir included Judy Warner, Carolyn Hughes, and Cindy Huffman. It was exciting to work with composers whose music we frequently sing in worship.

In preparation for the 140th anniversary of Good Shepherd, we commissioned composer Lloyd Larson to write an anthem for presentation on Sunday, February 8, 2026. A number of people in the congregation generously underwrote the cost of this idea, which ultimately produced the choral anthem in four parts, with trumpet, organ, and congregation, titled “An Ascription of Praise.” Words and music are by Larson, closing with the great hymn of the church by Isaac Watts, “O God, Our Help in Ages Past.”

I am thankful for the assistance of my wife, Cindy, who spends a couple hours a week filing, and producing the choir music packets for each service.

Bells of Hope handbell choir continues to ring regularly during the season (October-April) and I'm grateful for the volunteer leadership of Pat Cates, who devotes many hours with the bells.

My duties primarily include playing our Zimmer pipe organ (sometimes the keyboard) for worship services, leading the adult vocal choir, and choosing the hymns and service music.

Outside the walls of the church, I serve on the Executive Board of the Clearwater chapter of the American Guild of Organists and chair the scholarship committee of AGO as well as edit and produce the monthly newsletter, *The Windline*. In June at a yearly week-long church music Workshop in Leesburg, FL, I served as a worship planner, organist for the worship services, and adult choral accompanist. I still occasionally accompany East Lake High School choruses for various events. These things give Good Shepherd recognition in the community.

I am thankful to be here at Church of the Good Shepherd working with a congenial and dedicated staff as well as an appreciative congregation.

BELLS OF HOPE

By C. Pat Cates

The Bells of Hope experienced another wonderful year in 2025 and rang on a number of different occasions. The year started on February 16th with a spirited adaptation of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy." Valerie Stephens arranged this familiar melody for handbells, which were played exclusively with mallets. The percussive sound of this technique drove the piece forward to a glorious conclusion. As part of their Lenten music, Arnold Sherman's haunting "O Sacred Head Now Wounded" was rung. This piece combines the familiar melody with music written by Mr. Sherman. The piece reaches a dramatic conclusion and one can envision our Savior on the cross before the piece concludes in a soft setting, laying the groundwork for the glorious Easter to follow.

The ringers were part of the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM services on Easter morning. At 8:00 "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" was the Opening Voluntary and was followed at 10:00 AM by "An Easter Celebration." Both settings use the "Llanfair" melody and were arranged by Robin Benton. Joe Marrone played the trumpet on both pieces.

The "season" was concluded on May 4th with the ringing of one of our favorite pieces. "Andante Maestoso" was arranged by Kevin McChesney for handbells and organ and is based upon the beautiful melody found in Gustav Holst's "The Planets (Jupiter)." It always serves as a beautiful Opening Voluntary.

The Bells of Hope took its usual summer break and resumed rehearsals in October in preparation for the fall season. Our first challenge was to ring an Opening Voluntary on November 2nd which was the kick-off service for the 2026 Stewardship Campaign. Another group favorite, "Thanks Be 'To Thee" arranged by Janet Linker and Jane McFadden, was rung with beautiful organ accompaniment provided by Tom Huffman. This piece is widely believed to have been composed by George F. Handel. Years of research have indicated that it was probably composed by Siegfried Ochs in the late 19th century in the style of Handel. The Bells of Hope was also blessed to have Whitney join us, ringing handbells for the first time at Good Shepherd. This was later noted by The Rev. Canon Richard Norman, who preached on November 9th as part of the Stewardship Season.

While the Bells of Hope did not sponsor its traditional Carol Sing, they provided beautiful music during Advent and on Christmas Eve. "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" (Lloyd Larson) and "Savior of the Nations Come" (Cathy Moglebust) were rung during Advent. The mysterious "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" was enhanced with guest musician Heather Wood playing the wind chimes. On Christmas Eve "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" and "Prelude on Adeste Fideles" (both arranged by Mitchell Eithun) were part of the pre-service music.

While ringing handbells may appear to be easy, it takes a lot of work and dedication to ring the beautiful music that has been composed and arranged by a number of talented individuals. In addition to weekly rehearsals during “the season,” there is much work which has to be done. The tables have to be set and covered in black cloths, the handbells need to be polished and set out, and all the various equipment has to be maintained for peak performance. The Bells of Hope are grateful to Garry Lumm, who brings the equipment to the Sanctuary for set-up and returns it to storage each year.

Are you ready for a challenge? The Bells of Hope are always on the lookout for new ringers, and if you are interested please talk with any member of the group.

2025 Bells of Hope: Gerry Boone, Cindy Huffman, Carolyn Hughes, Dave Megel, Robin Megel, Sue Pate, Sheila Scott, Brian Shannon, Cheryl Sharpe, Rhiannon Sharpe, Laurie Toohey, Judy Warner, and Tammi Wrest

WORSHIP TEAM

By Heather Elder

The Worship Team continues to support and work closely with Reverend Whitney. Reverend Whitney welcomes all input, and decisions are made to ensure in planning Worship Services that are both meaningful and relevant to the congregation.

FLOWER TEAM MINISTRY

By Maryellen Tilly

The Flower Team consists of volunteers who are both church members and non-church members. They work under the guidance of the Rector and the Holy Spirit to supply the Altar Flowers at all services as needed at the Church of the Good Shepherd.

The Flower Team follows the Liturgical Calendar for the Episcopal Church. Two large vases are arranged with fresh flowers prior to the Sunday morning service and are then removed from the church Monday mornings and donated to the charity “Random Acts of Flowers” for reuse. The vases are then cleaned and stored. The Flower Team purchases flowers and other required materials. These items are all stored at Good Shepherd in the Flower Room located in Kirk Hall.

The Flower Team may occasionally try to accommodate requests for special flowers for weddings, funerals, and baptisms – but only as part of the regular service flowers.

The fresh flower purchases are made using a Church of the Good Shepherd Publix card. Sometimes flowers must be obtained from sources other than Publix, in which case a receipt is turned in for full reimbursement.

Flower Team Members use a rotating flexible schedule. Members include Maryellen Tilly, Katherine Woods, Judy Kern-Bertram, Donna Charles, Elena and James Goletz.

ALTAR GUILD

By Members of the Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is made up of several parishioners who keep our church looking beautiful. It's a behind-the-scenes duty which we keep the brass and silver items shining. We also change the paraments and linens as needed. We make sure that there is enough wine and bread for communion and order these items when needed.

This year we replaced the candles and holders that we use on Christmas and Easter. The holders are safer and prevent the candles from dripping onto clothing or seat cushions.

Presently there are eight women members of the Altar Guild and four men who assist on special occasions. We alternate Saturday mornings to prepare for Sunday services. We would like to have more members, especially when we do extra embellishments in the sanctuary. If you feel that you would like to be a part of this group, please contact the church office and let us know.

OUTREACH

PACK-A-SACK

By Michelle Schombs

During the past year, Pack-A-Sack has provided over 5,000 meals to food-insecure children at two Pinellas County elementary schools in Dunedin. We are currently serving Dunedin Elementary and San Jose Elementary. Each bag provides 11 shelf-stable items purchased through generous donations from our parish, Soul Sisters-ECW, the church budget, a grant from the City of Dunedin, and fund-raising efforts by the COGS Crafters. The annual cost for the 138 students we currently serve comes to approximately \$20,000 for this school year. Our volunteer hours for this past year total over 580 hours.

We have a dedicated group of 14 volunteers who make food purchases, inventory stock, and prepare the items and bag them each Wednesday morning for distribution to the schools. Garry Lumm continues to be our delivery person to the two schools.

This year we have been ordering our food items from Sam's Club. Our milk has again remained a no-cost item thanks to the food bank at the Free Clinic of St. Petersburg.

The Pack-A-Sack ministry wishes to thank all those who have contributed in any way to the success of this ministry. We continue to enjoy our service in this important outreach ministry as our way to walk humbly with our God.

PARKING LOT TEAM

by Shirl Ahrens & Dave Megel

The Parking Lot Team serves to accommodate public parking in the parish's paved and unpaved parking lots on campus. Team members assist the public in finding a parking spot in one of our lots while serving for 2 to 3-hour shifts during special events downtown.

2025 was a return to a more normal year with the absence of major weather events such as those that impacted us in 2024. The Team monitored our parking lots for 9 Special Events during 2025 and raised a total of \$16,100. This total is down by about 7.5% from the previous year. As the city adds more free public parking we are seeing a decrease in demand. Also, the city held fewer events, including a major Arts & Crafts Fair in the fall of the year, which historically is one of the larger events. Nevertheless, we continue to look for innovative ways to increase income. We have begun to offer parking during home Spring Training games with volunteer-staffed and self-park options.


Parking also offers us an opportunity to promote the parish as we meet hundreds of people at every event. We have begun to use business cards as an aid for parkers to return to their cars while communicating church services and special events on the opposite side of the card.

Members who volunteered for the Parking Lot Team in 2025 include Jim Acre, Rose Acre, Shirl Ahrens, Sherry Boothe, Tony Bowman, Vicki Dencker, Dan Depies, Ted Dorner, Jocelyn Frenette, James Goletz, Carolyn Hughes, Keith Manning, Kam McDaniel, Dave Megel, Hank Nalewajek, Chris Schombs, Sharon Ozbun, Judy Warner, Tammi Wrest, and Andrea Zahn.

We welcome anyone interested in joining the team to help with this important and fun ministry. We do on-the-job training if you are new and willing to serve a few times a year for just a few hours! **We do need more help!**

CARING CARD MINISTRY

By Priscilla Bowman

 The Caring Card Ministry nurtures the spirit of all members through prayerful, hand-written cards for special occasions: • Christmas • Birthday • Anniversaries • Get Well • Sympathy, and more. The church provides stamps and cards, along with donations of cards from the parish and the community.

EPISCOPAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

By Maureen Belote

Parish Partner Maureen Belote keeps the church aware of the work and mission of EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT through Mission Moments, special needs announcements, and a presentation for the Episcopal Church Women's Group, Soul Sisters. Donations are sent to ease suffering from natural disasters and promote development for community sustainability. Between 1992 and 2025, Good Shepherd, Dunedin, FL, gave over **\$41,511.03 through direct appeals, Shrimp Boil Dinners and Spaghetti Dinners**. Under Fr. Patrick Ward, individuals affiliated with the church sent a dozen volunteers who traveled to Honduras to build homes for those who had suffered loss from mudslides.

CLOTHES TO KIDS

By Heather Elder

This is a non-profit organization which is continuing to be supported by Good Shepherd. Clothes to Kids donate free school-appropriate wardrobes to needy and in-crisis school-age kids in Pinellas and Hillsborough counties.

We collected this year, in 2 Sundays: 880 pairs of underwear
 210 pairs of socks
 Monetary donations of \$2,953

Thanks to all who helped to "CLOTHE A CHILD AND CHANGE A LIFE."

PRAYER QUILT/CRAFTERS GROUP

By Mary Ann Wigmore

In 2014 the Church of the Good Shepherd prayer quilt group was started by Deborah Bouvier, who sadly passed away in December 2023. She began this group to provide quilts of comfort and healing to parish family and friends who were going through medical difficulties. This wonderful lady was the inspiration and the guiding light to many who learned to quilt under her tutelage.

In 2018 this group expanded its membership to other parish crafters, and its mission, to include raising funds for other church ministries, primarily Pack-A-Sack.

During 2025 eight prayer quilts were gifted. The group also made the Pentecost wall hanging for the church and the 140th anniversary banner for the anniversary celebration.

The group continued to focus their attention towards making quilts and other items for sale. They made quilts, wall hangings, pillows, table runners, pot holders, tote bags, aprons, tree ornaments, original works of art, stuffed

animals and other crafts. The group held their annual craft and quilt sale in October and December, 2025. As a result of these efforts they were able to raise over \$8,000 to support the Pack-A-Sack program.

Over 1,800 volunteer hours were devoted to making prayer quilts and the items sold during 2025.

DUNEDIN CARES

By Rev. Whitney Burton

The Church of the Good Shepherd is a proud partner of Dunedin Cares Food Pantry. We were able to contribute 7,983 pounds of food and \$3,500 in 2025 to Dunedin Cares Food Pantry. Through donations they are able to accomplish their mission of striving to alleviate hunger by providing food to our local community.

FARM WORKERS CHRISTMAS MISSION

By Sally Wakefield

The annual Farm Workers Christmas Mission for 2025 was very successful. This year the people of Good Shepherd focused on supplying food and other essentials along with gifts and toys in order to bring holiday joy to agricultural workers and their families.

A special thanks to everyone who generously gave gifts, time, and money. The dedication of volunteers who sorted and packed the items was most appreciated. Also, a huge thank-you to Caroline and Steve Maisel for delivering these gifts to Dade City prior to Christmas so that they could be distributed as needed.

Together, the Good Shepherd family provided a sense of appreciation to the people who help supply our food system.

RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

By Catherine Lee

Donations to the Rector's Discretionary Fund were received in 2025 through the loose offering on the first Sunday of each month, donations by individuals and groups, and donations to the Rector for weddings, baptisms, funerals, etc. 2025 Donations Totaled \$19,957.84; \$5,166.89 was a donation from the church Ethel Fisher endowment fund.

Our Discretionary Fund Team assists the Rector with the disbursement of funds. The team takes calls for one day each month between the hours of 10:30 a.m. and 12 noon from those requesting assistance with a water or electric bill.

The Rector's Discretionary Fund team processed 120 requests for assistance during 2025. Total amount disbursed in 2025 through the Rector's Discretionary Fund – \$23,919.89

\$19,668.12 for Power Bills

\$ 4,051.77 given towards Water/Gas Bills

\$ 200.00 for other needs

SOUL SISTERS

By Michelle Schombs & Elena Goletz

The Soul Sisters (ECW) for our church continued to be an active force in our parish in 2025. Our calendar was full of varied opportunities for fellowship, sharing and giving back to our community. During 2025 the Soul Sisters sponsored many local organizations with financial contributions. The Soul Sisters gave contributions to many charitable causes including the Shepherd Center in Tarpon Springs, Dunedin Cares, the Farm Workers of Southern Florida, the Episcopal Church Fund, San Jose Elementary, Dunedin Cares, and Pack-A-Sack.

The Soul Sisters organized a book discussion at one of their meetings. Monthly meetings typically offered a discussion by a guest speaker. Among the many speakers was our own Frank Kneen, who discussed his involvement and support of local food banks and education of local teenagers with regard to nutrition and cooking skills.

The Soul Sisters are looking forward to continuing their work in the community and our church in 2026 and beyond.

COMMUNITY LIFE

CHILDREN AND YOUTH AT COGS

By Carey Cherivtch

From our littlest littles to our towering teens, the children and youth at COGS were quite active in 2025. The COGS Nursery, located on the first floor of the education building, saw the largest growth within our Children's Ministry groups. Nine littles, aged newborn to four years old, attended nursery sessions during our 10 AM Sunday services this year. It has been a delight to witness once timid babies and toddlers blossom into fully confident and comfortable members of our church family.

Children's Sunday School also takes place during our 10 AM Sunday services. Although often small in numbers, our active kiddos in grades K-6 brought vibrant energy to our classrooms, services, and coffee hours throughout 2025. A new offering was added this year for toddlers and children in grade school who prefer to stay with their families during services – a "Kiddo Corner" filled with quiet, in-pew activities to help littles remain engaged during all church services. Many visitors with young children have opted to take advantage of our activity bags. Miss Maggie Burton-Smith has enjoyed testing out our seasonal offerings, and will likely offer an honest review if prompted.

This year our teens in grades 6-12 actively participated in monthly youth group meetings, attended diocesan-wide youth events, New Beginnings and Happening, and served during worship services as acolytes, livestream techs, and musicians. Our church family is blessed to have engaged youth at our church, especially knowing that their time and focus is often drawn elsewhere.

Heartfelt thanks should be heaped upon the staff and volunteers who filled our spaces with their love and patience in 2025: Cheryl Sharpe, Rhiannon Sharpe, Dayana Mosquera, Ashley Kilroy, Dominic DiRienz, Lynne Henderson, Nancy Valley, and Caroline Maisel. It has been a delight to witness the joy in each of your hearts manifest in your service to our youngest family members. Thank you! Anyone interested in participating in these ministries should contact Carey Cherivtch or the church office.

PASTORAL CARE: EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

By Rev. Whitney Burton

The Eucharistic Visitors continue to be a vital ministry of presence and connection within our parish. Through prayerful visits, the sharing of Holy Communion, and attentive listening, Eucharistic Visitors extend the Church's care to those who are homebound, hospitalized, or otherwise unable to attend worship regularly.

This past year, our Eucharistic Visitors faithfully carried the Sacrament and the prayers of the congregation into homes, care facilities, and hospital rooms, reminding those they visit that they remain an essential part of the Body of Christ. Their ministry has provided comfort, encouragement, and a tangible sign of God's abiding grace.

PRAYER CHAIN

By Priscilla Bowman

"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God." —Romans 8: 26-7 NRS Version

This intercessory prayer chain consists of a group of parishioners who have been called to the ministry of praying for others on a regular and ongoing basis. It is accomplished via the Realm Prayer Chain group and/or email, and is a commitment to regularly and confidentially pray for requests from parishioners, friends, and family. Members also seek to gain permission to add someone to the prayer chain as we hear of a need in other ways than by request.

At times we will not have a specific name to hold up, and so we offer the following prayer:
“Dear God, we entrust all who are dear to us, all whose names we do not know, and all whose needs are known only to you ... to your never-failing love and care for this life and the life to come; knowing that you are doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, AMEN.”

WELCOME TABLE

By Maureen Belote

Thanks to our friendly greeters, we have two people each week from 9:40 to the start of the 10:00 service to welcome newcomers, engage them in brief conversation, and invite them to come to the coffee hour. The table provides information about our church outreach and more. Visitors are encouraged to get a name badge. These faithful welcomers also take time to seek out the visitors after the 10:00 service and introduce them to others.

ANNUAL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS REPORT 2025

By Cheryl Sharpe

The 2025 committee members included: The Reverend Whitney Burton, Garry Lumm (Sexton), Caroline Maisel (Junior Warden), Cheryl Sharpe (Chair), Tony Bowman, Hank Nalewajek, and Rose Aker.

The Buildings & Grounds committee is responsible for overseeing the process of all the capital improvement projects and the daily maintenance and repairs of our campus complex.

Accomplishments 2025:

BUDGET 2025: \$134,036.00

YTD ACTUAL: \$123,925.45

- Spring and Fall cleanup by several hardworking parish members. A special thank-you to all who have spent many hours to beautify our campus.
- New carpet upstairs offices
- Cleaning of all the carpets and cushions
- Painting Sacristy
- Painting Education Building and Kirk Hall
- New Church sign
- Major tree trimming

PROJECTS SLATED FOR 2026

- Library and upstairs offices renovations
- Landscaping Memorial Garden in front of church and Albert Street house
- New chairs Kirk Hall
- Refurbish or replace playground equipment (rusting)

FINANCE

FINANCE TEAM – ANNUAL REPORT 2025

By Andrea Zahn

Oversees church financial matters and presents recommendations to Vestry.

Team members during 2025 were: Andrea Zahn – Chairperson, Robin Megel – Treasurer, James Goletz – Assistant Treasurer, Laura McGary – Secretary, Whitney Burton-Smith – Rector, Carolyn Hughes, Shirl Ahrens, Mary Ann Wigmore, Steve Maisel, Ed Steponaitis.

We meet monthly for approximately one hour to:

- Review and monitor monthly financial reports prepared by Treasurer (Reports provide a snapshot of: funds used for outreach, mission & ministry, volunteer hours for mission & ministry, church income & expenses, church operating cash, investment holdings and restricted funds.)
- Monitor monthly cash flow projections

Regularly we:

- Evaluate fundraising proposals and requests for unbudgeted expenditures
- Evaluate contract proposals and forward recommendations to Vestry
- Monitor status of Capital Improvements and Buildings & Grounds projects

Annually we:

- Review insurance policies and maintenance contracts
- Evaluate Budget Team's annual proposal
- Review Financial Policies & Procedures
- Review Audit Team's Annual Report

Check us out!

The Finance Team is a great way to stay informed about the church. Speak to a team member or consider attending our next meeting scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month at 3 p.m. in the Patio Room.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

By Judy Warner

Committee Members:

Rev. Whitney Burton, Carolyn Hughes, Robin Megel, Judy Warner – Chair

Our Fall campaign, "Tell Out My Soul," kicked off on Nov. 2nd and lasted 4 weeks. The first Sunday, All Saints Sunday, included a post service brunch to honor all volunteers.

The second Sunday featured our guest preacher, Canon Richard Norman, who delivered a wonderful message on generosity and giving. Our third Sunday featured Rev. Whitney's inspiring sermon and Robin Megel, our Treasurer, who witnessed about her personal commitment to Stewardship at Good Shepherd.

Finally on Sunday, Nov. 23rd, our "Gathering Sunday," Whitney preached and blessed our pledged offerings and gave thanks to our faithful gifts. Throughout the campaign we were also blessed by wonderful music provided by our organist, Tom Huffman, and the choir, who consistently reminded us about telling out our souls through music. Thank you to all!

The campaign results showed a total of 72 pledging units compared to 74 last year, which is a decrease of 2.6%. The pledged amount was \$219,364 compared to \$201,000 last year, which is an increase of 9%. May we all continue to give back generously to our church home as we Tell Out Our Souls by expressing our stories and professing our faith.

Thank you to all who supported the campaign and continue to give of your time, talent, and treasure to the Church of the Good Shepherd.

ENDOWMENT FUND, INC.

By Carolyn Hughes

Mission

Incorporated in 1963, the Endowment Fund was created to receive gifts to be managed for the benefit of the Church of the Good Shepherd. The corporation is subject to the Constitution and Canons of The Diocese of Southwest Florida, Inc. “This Corporation shall have *perpetual existence*” according to the Articles of Incorporation.

Management

The Endowment Fund is governed by its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. In accordance with those documents, the management of the Endowment Fund is overseen by a five-person Board of Trustees consisting of the Rector as member ex-officio and four members of the Parish elected at the annual meeting. Lay members of the Board serve for 3-year staggered terms to ensure continuity of management, and are eligible for re-election. Trustees elect their respective officers annually. The officers of the Board and the year their terms as Trustees conclude are as follows:

President	Carolyn Hughes	2027
Vice President	Jim Ratliff	2026
Secretary	Dave Megel	2028
Treasurer	Andrea Zahn	2027
Ex-officio	Rev. Whitney Burton	

Jim Ratliff is running for another 3-year term on the Board as his current term ends with this annual meeting.

Carolyn Hughes is retiring one year early after 14 years of service on the Board. Steven Maisel is the candidate for her remainder term.

Accomplishments

1. The Rod & Staff Society. This legacy Society was started in 2013 to recognize and thank those individuals and families who have committed to Good Shepherd’s ministries and vision by remembering the Endowment Fund in their estate plans through a documented planned gift. Rod & Staff Society members are: Shirl Ahrens, Laurel Banta, Deborah Bouvier, Robert Brook, Sharon DeVore, Joanne and Doug Forsythe, Lela Highsmith, Miguel Solari, Judy Warner, Andrea Zahn, Carolyn Hughes, and Cheryl & Brian Sharpe. Over the last four years, legacy gifts have been received by the Endowment Fund from Deborah Bouvier, Lela Highsmith, Teddy Hughes, and Brian Sharpe.
2. The Board has worked diligently in a collaborative effort with the Finance Committee and the Vestry to educate and implement the Investment Policy Statement for the Endowment Fund of the Church of the Good Shepherd, particularly the spending policy limitations.
3. ProVise Management Group, LLC (Clearwater, FL) has managed the Fund for the past 15 years. The Board maintains close communication through emails, monthly and quarterly statements as well as personal presentations by ProVise advisors at our Board meetings.
4. The Board retains the accounting firm of Tax Solutions Plus to provide the record keeping in accordance with the Diocesan stated requirements. The firm maintains the books and records, prepares quarterly and

annual financial statements and associated notes in accordance with the Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

5. The annual internal audit, in accordance with Diocesan guidelines, was completed successfully with no recommendation of improvement.

Goals

1. Continue to monitor with the Vestry the fiscal policies of the Church while adhering to the spending policy articulated in the revised IPS. Our goal is to help educate the Vestry and work cooperatively with them in an effort to continue to lessen the planned dependency on the Endowment Fund for the operations of the Church. The Board's investment policy statement uses the Fund's valuation date as of October 31, and is based on a rolling 3-year average (began in 2019). This allows for more time to budget for the following year, knowing what the maximum disbursement from the endowment could be. A 4% maximum disbursement each year is in line with national endowment fund standards today.
2. Continue to review investment results and performance with the investment management team on a periodic basis, at least semi-annually, and to ensure that all adhere to the approved long-term Investment Policy of the Fund and adhere to the (F)UPMIFA.
3. Continue to educate and counsel parishioners about the purpose of the Endowment Fund and about vehicles available to make contributions to the Fund that are often tax-beneficial to contributors. Gifts of appreciated securities or other appreciated assets, 401(k) or IRA accounts, and Life Insurance Policies can all be gifted (totally or as a percentage) directly to the Endowment Fund with tax benefits. A particular percentage of an estate or a dollar amount may be gifted to the Endowment Fund in one's will or trust. Board members will be able to assist with information. You may wish to consult with your estate planning attorney given recent tax law changes.
4. To thank and recognize our Rod & Staff Society members annually on Good Shepherd Sunday each year and to encourage others to leave legacy gifts to the Endowment Fund.

Investment Results for 2025

The closing net market value of the Fund on December 31, 2025 was \$2,363,055. This reflects an increase in market value of approx. \$285,000. The Fund's investment performance (time weighted), net of fees and expenses, was an increase of 13.6%. This is the third year of double-digit investment returns.

The closing market value of the Ethel Fisher portfolio held within the Endowment Fund, a legacy gift to the Church for its use as the Vestry determines, was \$1,222,196, up 13.6%.

Disbursements to the Church for the year 2025 included \$74,114 requested by the Vestry for operating expense shortfall. Trustee management fees totaled \$13,137 while accounting fees totaled \$1,750. Other expenses during the year were \$61 for licenses and permits. Contributions to the Endowment for 2025 totaled \$5,000.

Annual net income for the Fund in 2026 is estimated at \$40,000. At December 31, 2025 the asset allocation of the investment portfolio was approximately 64% domestic equities, 9% international equities, and 27% fixed income securities and/or cash equivalents.

Good Shepherd is the church it is today, in large part, due to the foresight and generosity of donors who have made planned gifts. Remembering the Endowment Fund in your will/trust is the most enduring statement you can make about your belief in our Christian mission.

Please join those who have gone before us and those currently among us...who have committed a planned gift to the Endowment Fund...by realizing the importance of Good Shepherd in their lives.

2026 Budget Detail: Operating Account			
Income		Music	
Total Contributions	\$288,000	Extra Musicians	\$1,500
Other Income	59,300	Organ & Piano Maintenance	\$2,300
Endowment/Investment Distributions	\$139,850	Choir Music and Supplies	\$1,225
Total Income	\$487,150	Bell Choir Supplies	<u>\$800</u>
		Total Music Expense	\$5,825
Expenses			
Total Diocesan Tithe	\$48,977	Program Accounts	
		Advertising	\$1,500
Total Staff Expense	\$269,285	Hospitality	\$4,000
		Stewardship	\$1,500
Administration Expense		Card Ministry	\$500
Office supplies	\$2,500	Welcoming Teams	<u>\$500</u>
Office Equipment Contracts	\$5,500	Total Program Expense	\$8,000
Electronic Giving Fees	\$1,400		
Postage	\$600	Other Operating Expenses	
Computer/Software	\$8,100	Altar Guild	\$1,700
Telecommunications	\$2,000	Worship	\$1,300
Other	<u>\$950</u>	Floral Arrangements	\$2,000
Total Administration Expense	\$21,050	Convention	\$1,500
		Vestry Expenses	<u>\$750</u>
Buildings and Grounds Expense		Total Other Operating Expense	\$7,250
Utilities	\$24,600		
Building/Grounds Maintenance	\$70,000		
Equipment	\$1,000	Total Expenses	\$517,088
Sexton Sub	\$500		
Insurance	<u>\$58,751</u>	Summary of Budget	
Total Buildings & Grounds Expense	\$154,851	Total Income	\$487,150
		Total Expense	<u>(\$517,088)</u>
Total Christian Formation Expense	\$1,850	Net Total	<u>(\$29,938)</u>

2025 Budget and Actual VS. 2026 Budget

	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Budget
Revenues			
Contributions	\$288,000	237,699	\$288,000
Investment Income	\$106,113	118,914	\$139,850
Other Income	\$53,800	86,149	\$59,300
Total Revenue	\$447,913	442,763	\$487,150
Expenses			
Diocesan Tithe	\$43,424	43,424	\$48,977
Personnel Expenses	\$270,738	248,829	\$269,285
Operating Expenses			
Building and Grounds	\$134,036	123,294	\$154,851
Administration	\$21,300	19,317	\$21,050
Spiritual Formation	\$2,000	2,130	\$1,850
Music	\$5,600	4,963	\$5,825
Outreach Accounts	\$11,800	11,459	\$13,000
Other General Expenses	<u>\$2,500</u>	<u>1,227</u>	<u>\$2,250</u>
Total Operating Expenses	\$177,236	162,390	\$198,826
Total Expenses	(\$491,399)	(\$454,643)	(\$517,088)
Net Total	(\$43,485.72)	(\$11,879.81)	(\$29,938.15)
<p>THINGS TO CELEBRATE IN 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * No Hurricanes and 2024 Storm Repairs Completed * Endowment and Investment Accounts Increased 10% * Parking Lot Team earned \$20K * Funds spent on Outreach, Mission & Ministry \$75K 			

**Church of the Good Shepard
 Contributions Report
 January to December 2025**

