



### Accentuate the +

by Bill Blizzard  
 Vestry Liaison: Communications

Presenting our theme of Advent last month - "You've Got to Accentuate the Positive" - Pastor Becky gave us some general news about her future and led the congregation in a rousing chorus of the song. Even with a positive outlook, we are likely to experience a range of emotions. This is a normal part of change. How we work together as a new priest is called to serve will be a testament to Becky's legacy.

Months ago, in talking about attracting younger families to the parish, I wrote, "I do know that change should not be feared, but embraced. Change is not a threat, but represents opportunity. We can take this opportunity to think about the future, rather than simply recreating the past." Seems to me this is just another way of saying "You've Got to Accentuate the Positive."

I for one have learned a lot from her while serving on Vestry, which brings me to my point ... my time is up ... Nixon's time is up. We're going to need some of you to think seriously about serving on the Vestry, especially next year. Joe is term limited. He has dedicated six years over two terms. Not to be concerned, however, because he has agreed to stay involved as Treasurer. My situation is a bit different. Pat and I will be out of town for the first four months of 2021. This will be at a critical time for transition, so I'm stepping down now so one of you will have most of next year to acquaint yourself with the workings of Vestry before this time occurs. Over the years Vestry has fashioned and pledged:

We Aspire

To live in a world where  
 all creation thrives in God's love,  
 And Seek

To become who God created us to be by  
 Worshipping Joyfully, Respecting All,  
 Sharing Generously, Nurturing Every Spirit

And - We are committed to moving from a pastoral-centered parish to a program-centered parish, not only by growing our membership, but also by engaging and enabling our congregation to become more involved and to grow spiritually and thrive.

What will your voice add to future pledges?



### Ubuntu \*

by Mary Ratliff  
 Connect Team, Co-Leader

\* "I Am Who I Am Because of Who We are Together" – Exodus 3:14 and Desmond Tutu

### This Month We Welcome Mike Mahan



Mike, we're so glad that you decided to make our family a part of your life. We'd like to get to know you a little better, so tell me, how long have you attended services?

**I started coming to worship at Church of the Good Shepherd in June of this year. I joined the church in October.**

Are you coming to Good Shepherd as an Episcopalian? What other churches have you attended?

**I was raised Presbyterian, and I became a Methodist when I moved to Columbus, Mississippi in 1998. When I moved to Maine in 2011, I worshiped at the United Church of Christ.**

How did you find Good Shepherd?

**When I first moved down here, I came by the church every day on my way to work. I noticed the signs out front about some of the ministries of the church and was intrigued by them, and its location. I looked up a lot of churches on the internet and was still very interested in Church of the Good Shepherd. I, however, moved to Palm Harbor and started worshipping there close to the house. This year I felt the need to look again at places to worship, visited here.**

What inspired you to continue attending?

**I discovered that worshipping here was fun with Pastor Becky, the church does indeed do a lot of ministry with the local community. I am very interested in helping with some of these.**

What would you want to tell others about COGS in encourage them to come and explore our parish?

**Jesus told Peter that if he loved him, that he would help to feed and take care of his sheep. If you are interested in helping Jesus feed his sheep, you would want to worship here.**

Please tell us a bit about yourself outside Good Shepherd - your jobs, your family, hobbies - whatever you like.

**I was raised in Eastern Arkansas and I finished my education in Little Rock. After college, I started working in Health Care as a Nursing Home Administrator.**

**I discovered the not for profit side of this industry and have worked the past 30 years for not for profit providers of housing and health services for our country's elders. I have moved several times to Mississippi, Maine, Pennsylvania and to Florida in 2017. I am currently serving the elders of Mease Manor, Inc. in Dunedin.**

**My son Ryan, his wife Mandy and my grandson Sig live in Biloxi, Mississippi. I enjoy going to baseball games, watching sports, cooking, reading and I want to learn more about fishing, so that I can teach my grandson.**



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