



42% Less

by Joe Nixon
Vestry Liaison: Finance & Administration

When I moved to Dunedin and became a member of Good Shepherd in 2010, I couldn't help but notice that our day-to-day operations were heavily dependent on the church's Endowment Fund and if things didn't change, we would soon be in danger of exhausting the fund. Established in 1963, generous contributors have since donated about \$1M with the goal of supporting the church in difficult times. As with most endowments, funds are to be invested wisely and have a perpetual existence.

In 2011 disbursements from the Fund accounted for over 50% of the operating budget. To avoid further compromise of the Fund capital, the Endowment Fund Board initiated a more fiscally responsible spending policy, to which Vestry agreed. That action alerted church members that a combination of increased giving and reduced expenses would be required.

Since then, annual stewardship campaigns and cost reduction measures have been implemented. Each year we have been able to reduce our Endowment Fund dependency. As a result, Endowment Fund dependency for day-to-day operations has steadily declined from its high of 53% in 2011 to just 15% in 2018.

The combination of your increased giving, multifaceted endeavors to reduce expenses, and a determined Endowment Fund Board, have provided a winning formula for which we should all be proud.

Thank you, and if you ever have questions regarding our church financial status, please don't be afraid to ask. Our goal is to be

completely transparent and accountable with your donations.

And don't forget to use our secure online directory and database, **Realm**, where you can privately track your pledge and gifts.

Thanks,
 Joe Nixon
 Treasurer.



Helpful REALM Hint:

To join Realm, you may go to COGS' website at www.cogsdunedin.com and click on **Realm** at the top right hand corner, or send an email to info@cogsdunedin.com to receive a link.

Do it today . . . you'll be glad you did!



Ubuntu *

by Mary Ratliff
Co-Leader of the Connect Team

This Month We Welcome Steve and Priscilla Gill

Steve and Priscilla, we're so glad that you've decided to make our family a part of your life. We'd like to get to know. You a little better, even though you've both been attending Good Shepherd longer than I have! So tell me, how long have you attended services?

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



Steve and Priscilla Gill

We have been attending COGS since 2005 whenever we are in Dunedin and we are both Episcopalian.

What inspired you to attend?

When we first began to attend we enjoyed the Rector who was here at that time. When Rev. Becky came we enjoy her as well.

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

I tell others to come and hear that at this church all are welcome, no exceptions.

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

We live on an island in Rhode Island accessible by ferry. We delight in the warmth and ease of life in Dunedin with its beauty and amenities. I am a retired elementary school teacher and Steve is retired from the Navy. We met in 1949 and married in 2006.

Among our many blessings we count my daughter and son-in-law who encouraged us to move here, five minutes from them. Life is indeed good for us and we are most grateful.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN FEBRUARY

Annual Meeting

February 9 @ 11:45-1:00

We have fun at our Annual Meetings! After enjoying a spectacular potato bar, we'll get to know each other, hear the highlights of the past year, and elect our new leaders.

Shining Our Light

In Our Lives and Our Community

Look for a pledge card in the mail the week of February 10th. We ask for your *joyful* support at our pledge ingathering on February 16th. Don't forget the \$1 bill Canon Gray gave us in church!



Parish Game Night

February 21 @ 6:30

Come to the Patio Room for a low-key time to kick back, play a game, make some friends, and nosh on some snacks.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT!

**Community Dinner at the Dunedin Mosque
Partners in the United Faiths Walk of Peace!**



**FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 28th, 2020
@ 7pm**

Masjid Al Salaam

**CORDIALLY INVITES THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY
TO OUR ANNUAL**

Dinner of Peace and Unity

1218 New York Ave. - Dunedin, FL
ALL ARE WELCOME

*Come join Peace Walkers, neighbors, and friends old and new
to share a delicious, authentic meal
and the desire for peace on earth for all!*

