



WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!

By Robyn Harker

We are all creatures of habit and resistant to change but, boy, have things changed in the last two months! I don't think any of us could have imagined the current state of our personal life or the world. That being said, we have learned to adapt to many differences in how we live our lives both at home and in public. We have also been able to change the way we serve God and the community with the help and guidance of our amazing Pastor Becky and our equally amazing staff.

The vestry members have been meeting through video conferences for the past two months and, I might add, we have had perfect attendance. These are challenging times and the vestry has been working to keep in touch with both the church committees and most importantly the needs of our parishioners. Some of our other teams, such as Worship Planning, Finance, and Buildings & Grounds, are meeting virtually, as well.

COGS has now added live streaming at 8:00 a.m. as well as continuing with the 10:00 a.m. Sunday service. Holy week started on Palm Sunday with a drive-thru Palm pick up. We hosted a live stream of the stripping of the altar on Maundy Thursday and The Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. On Easter Sunday the church was blessed with wonderful music and beautiful flowers. After the service we hosted drive-through communion during which we served 66 people while doing our best to maintain social distancing and safe handling of the communion vessels. A lot of thought and planning went into making Holy Week as special as it could be under the circumstances. We are Easter people!

In true Good Shepherd fashion, many parishioners have been assisting fellow members by shopping or going to the drug store. The folks who sew have been making masks for healthcare workers, parishioners and neighbors. One business owner asked a member of the Quilters Team would make masks for their employees, which they'd be glad to pay for. They worked out that the owner would pay

\$5 per mask, which would be given to the Discretionary Fund. In addition, some generous donors have augmented that Fund to help members of the church who have been laid off from their jobs. Checking in with each other has been a major focus of our parish's phone tree, which has called everyone to see how they are, find out prayer requests, and help connect people who need help with those who are able to assist them. If you need help or know of someone who does, please call the office.

Although many of our usual activities have been disrupted, there are still a number of things happening on campus. The church is open for individual prayer during business hours, Monday-Friday 9:00 am-4:00 pm. We collect food for Dunedin Cares; you can find the bins in Kirk Hall during business hours and on Sunday morning. One of the community groups is very grateful that they can still use our campus to meet. All we ask of anyone who comes here is that we all observe the social distancing rule of no more than 10 people in a group who all stay 6 feet apart.

Until we can gather again, please join us online for services; we are constantly working on ways to increase the quality of the livestreaming experience. You are also invited to attend a variety of our church activities virtually on Zoom. If anyone needs help with this technology, please call the office.

- *Bible Challenge with Deacon Cindy on Sundays 9:15-9:45*
- *Coffee Hour on Sundays after both services.*
- *Tea with Pastor Becky on Wednesdays from 3:30 pm-4:00 pm join*

We are looking at using Google's "House Party" platform for our Parish Game Night; be on the lookout for details.

WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER! COGS is still a very active church serving the needs of the community. I cannot thank Becky and her staff enough for their time, talent and dedication to the COGS during these very difficult times; they all made it look so easy. **THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU**



Ubuntu *

*by Mary Ratliff
Co-Leader of the
Connect Team*

Sandy & Frank Kneen

How long have you attended services at COGS?

since 2009

What inspired you to attend?

Sandy: We ran into our old friends Betty and Dick Fraley who raved about Becky and begged us to come check her out!

Frank: *The Fraley's have been our friends for many years.*

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

Sandy: That we have a great priest and we do a lot of outreach. We also have made great friends because of the many good people at Good Shepherd.

Frank: *There is an amazing sense of community at COGS.*

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

Sandy: I am a retired social worker, we have one son who lives in town. I love yard work and jazzercise, we have 2 dogs and a cat. I volunteer at the Furniture Thrift Store. We both enjoy cooking and eating and drinking wine with friends.

Frank: *For my entire career I have been in the food business, first as a chef, and now in contracting for Meals on Wheels programs. For hobbies, besides hanging around the kitchen, I enjoy Tai Chi, and cruising around in the golf cart.*

