



STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

This month Judy Warner, a long-time parishioner, Vestry member and Chair of the Stewardship Committee, gives us an update on the Stewardship Campaign. The members of the committee include Robin Megel, John Russotto, Phil Beauchamp and Fr. Michael.

Judy says: "We are very excited to inform you that we will be introducing our Stewardship Campaign starting Sunday, January 17. We have four Sundays planned with great messages to share, both from clergy and from our fellow parishioners.

This year's theme is GROWING IN GENEROSITY, ROOTED IN FAITH. By this we mean our faith is what sustains us and feeds us, and helps us to grow in our own love for the Lord. Our love for the Lord encourages us to give back with a happy heart. This will be especially important this year as we transition to our new rector.

We will also be introducing you to our delightful Stewardship Theme Song! Tune in, in person, or live stream, to hear the theme song played during the prelude, accompanied by our Bell Choir.

May God Bless You Always . . . Amen."

WE MEET ED STEPONAITIS

"I Am who I Am because of who we are together"
– Exodus 3:14 and Desmond Tutu

We start 2021 with a big "glad you are with us" to ED STEPONAITIS. It has been great to have him among us for a year now. Mary Ratliff, co-leader of the Connect Team chatted with Ed.

"Ed, we are so glad you joined us at Good Shepherd. Please tell us about yourself."

Ed says: "My previous church was Roman Catholic. A good friend introduced me to Good Shepherd. I had gained my faith and spirituality again. A spiritual advisor asked me if I could find God outside a building, my previous church. I had never thought of her question, but I answered YES without hesitation. During many discussions with a very good friend about my deep concerns of my previous church, he offered to bring me to Good Shepherd.

I enjoy the kindness and friendliness of the parishioners and the priest. Although I only attended three coffee hours after church, I found everyone to be very friendly. I also like the services offered to people in need during the virus. The sermons are related to today's living. They allow me to relate to my own life and meditate on whether I am following my way or God's way. I arrive early just to see the beautiful cross and meditate about the week.

I have been married to my wife Mara for 56 years. We have three children, two sons, one daughter, who all live out of state. We enjoy FaceTime with them and our four grandchildren.

I volunteer at Honeymoon and Caladesi Islands in addition to volunteering in the Nature Center. I've been very involved with fundraising for the Caladesi Discovery Center. I am a graduate of the Florida Master Naturalist Program, enjoy bird watching and am Bird Stewarding for the Florida Audubon Society. I enjoy nature and sharing my experiences with others. I also enjoy cooking."

Again, Ed, we are so glad you have joined us here at Good Shepherd.