

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church Annual Report for 2009

Presented at the Annual Parish Meeting on February 28, 2010

Building and Grounds Committee

2009 was, to say the least, a busy year on the building and grounds front. Our major accomplishments were:

- We had the old Fig Tree area filled, leveled, and sodded. Thanks to Joe Burckle, who found the contractor and oversaw the work, which turned out beautifully.
 - We had all three offices rewired; each is now on a separate circuit, and we are no longer violating the fire code by overuse of extension cords.
 - We had a French drain and air circulator installed in the preschool area, which – after many years – seem to have solved the mold and mildew problems caused by excessive moisture. The preschool teachers were telling us a week after the project was finished that they could already tell the difference in air quality.
 - We painted the parish hall and preschool area, including the old cabinets, as well as the downstairs rest room dividers, all of which took several weeks during the summer and involved at least 28 people.
 - Frank Hartman designed and, with a couple of helpers, built new cabinets in the preschool area to replace old ones that had mold damage. Many thanks to Frank, who did this over a period of several weeks – while serving as a member of the Search Committee!
- We replaced the gutters and downspouts on the office and education wings with larger ones, to handle the runoff from big rainstorms more effectively.
 - And we had two very successful cleanup-fixup days in the spring and fall, with participation from many parishioners each time.

Thanks to everyone who gave their time and effort to keep our physical plant in good shape. And special thanks to Bill Mautz and Don Schimmel for all the repairs they do around the church all year round.

Submitted by Kirk Franklin,
Junior Warden

Chimes Choir

The Chimes Choir was founded and directed by Mary Drak many years ago in the old church. After a number of years, she decided to devote her energies elsewhere in Good Shepherd and asked David Batty to assume the duties of conductor. Mr. Batty led the group for about eight years up until this winter. Don Lewis became the new conductor in December of 2009. The choir members are mostly non-musicians, but apply themselves to the task and create beautiful ringing melodies and harmonies for the enjoyment of the congregation. The Chimes Choir invites any interested person, any age or gender, to join in the pleasure of making music. The choir plays at four to six services annually. No experience is needed; it is not necessary to read music - the ability to count to four is all that is required. The Chimes Choir practices at 7 PM in the

education wing on the first and third Wednesday of each month and may take a recess in late summer.

Submitted by Don Lewis, Director

Communications Team

The Communications Committee's 2009 accomplishments included:

- Organizing a new Olan Mills Photo Directory
- Announcing a new Photo Policy (published in the newsletter periodically)
- Publishing *The Shepherd's Voice* which is Good Shepherd's monthly newsletter
- Posting the newsletter on our Web site www.gsecmd.org
- Ongoing work includes recording and posting the rector's sermons to our Web site, and maintaining and enhancing Good Shepherd's Web site

Members are Patty Mitchell, Eric Reiffenstein, Shaun Hardy, Diane Janesko, Jennifer Sullivan and John Rees.

Submitted by Patty Mitchell, Chair

Craft Fair

Vonnie Schoppelrei and Beth Baker chaired the 2009 Crafts/Collectibles Fair and Raffle.

- October 11th – Coffee Hour Prelude to Craft Fair and Raffle
- October 18th – Crafts/Collectibles Fair/ Pumpkin Sale/Raffle
- October 19th – Coffee Hour/Pumpkin Sale

Submitted by Vonnie Schoppelrei

Gathering of Men

The Gathering of Men is an excellent way to meet with other parishioners in a non formal, unstructured environment. There are no membership requirements or roll calls, no officers, etc. The Gathering meets on the first Monday of each month at 7 pm in the St. Francis Room. There are normally from 4 to 12 attendees and all men are invited. We usually have a "check in" during which each of us (if we care to) briefly states what of importance has occurred in their life in the last month. Then we will discuss whatever seems to grab our attention. Meetings last from one to one and a half hours. Again, we encourage all men to spend an interesting evening among their peers.

Submitted by Don Lewis

Hospitality Committee

The Hospitality Committee meets on the second Monday of each month, 7 p.m., St. Francis Room. Active Committee members are Jennifer Hendricks, Diane Kelleher, Melissa Marquez, Vonnie Schoppelrei, and Vanvisa Sivali. Our activities during 2009 were:

- January 24th – Church Family Potluck to Welcome Newcomers
- March 14th – Game Night/Pizza Party
- June 6th – Game Night/Pizza Party
- July 19th – Outdoor Game Night and Cookout
- August 23rd – Cookout and Ice Cream Social
- September 19th – Church Family Potluck to Welcome Newcomers
- October 3rd – Game Night/Pizza Party
- November 14th – Game Night/Pizza Party
- November 15th – Evensong/Organ Dedication Reception

- December 20th – Christmas Caroling and Party – **Cancelled by snow!**
- December 27th – Coffee Hour Reception-Goodbye to Rev. Frederick Walker

Submitted by Vonnie Schoppelrei, Chair

Joyful Giving Campaign

The 2010 Joyful Giving Campaign was designed to ensure a personal contact with each member/family of the congregation. A goal of 100 pledges was established by the Vestry. To this end, the following took place:

- Jocelyn Harmon volunteered to chair the campaign. She and the Vestry asked Lynn Wood to serve as co-chair.
- A team of stewards was selected by the Vestry to make a personal contact with each parishioner. The team consisted of: Doug Barrington, Diane Bendahmane, Linda Campo, Ben Hendricks, Ana Janckson-Curtis, Joan Lewis, Jillian Newby, Becky Parks, Araba Pobee, and Elizabeth Quinn. They were joined in their task by Jocelyn and Lynn. Joe Burckle from the Vestry also stepped forward to provide additional support.
- On October 4, stewards and members of the Vestry attended a training program organized by Jocelyn, Lynn, and Pastor Linda.
- An informative letter and a pledge form were mailed to each household the week of October 19.
- The official kick-off date of the campaign was October 25. Stewards began to contact parishioners by phone. A concerted effort was made to reach each Good Shepherd parishioner/family personally to speak about our

church present and future and to ask that prayerful thought be given to making a pledge for 2010. Various articles were written in the e-news, bulletin, and Voice, along with announcements during church services, to explain the practical, personal, and theological dynamics of making a pledge and the importance to the Vestry and Finance Committee of knowing how much income to expect in their formulation of a budget for the coming year.

- The official campaign concluded on November 22 with a joyous potluck luncheon.
- The results were as follows: 94 pledges for a total of \$292,120. Thank you, Good Shepherd, for your generosity, especially considering these challenging economic times.
- There were close to 20 new pledges. Many parishioners found it possible to increase their 2009 pledge. Others held steady while only a few decreased. A small number of previous pledgers who remain parishioners did not renew their pledge.
- It is not too late to make a pledge for 2010. Forms are on the ushers' table under the lockbox, into which they may be placed.

Submitted by Lynn Wood, Co-chair

Latino Ministry Group

During the year the Latino Ministry group sponsored a number of activities designed to increase the congregation's awareness of Latino issues and to explore how Good Shepherd might best address them

In November-December 2008, a well-attended four-session education program on *A Faithful Response: A Study for Churches*

on Welcoming the Stranger was conducted. Each session was held twice: after the 10:30 service on Sunday and on Tuesday evening. The participants indicated that the sessions had been informative and helpful and considered that in serving the Latino community it would be desirable to join forces with existing organizations rather than trying to do something by ourselves.

Latino Ministry hosted the coffee hour on January 4, 2009 and celebrated the Spanish festival, Día de los Tres Reyes, with a traditional Three Kings cake. The children made themselves crowns to wear and then distributed gold chocolate coins as gifts.

On April 26 following the 10:30 service Candace Kattar, the Executive Director of **Identity**, described how **Identity** works with Latino youth to empower them to reach their full potential and how individual members of the Good Shepherd community might contribute.

Good Shepherd joined forces with the Maryland Immigrant Rights Coalition (MIRC) to co-host the Legal Fair that was held at Good Shepherd on May 9. Many members of the congregation volunteered before and during the Fair. The report of the Fair in the July-August issue of *Washington Window* prompted an inquiry from another church in the Diocese about how they might hold one.

In November the Vestry approved signing an agreement with Silver Spring Spanish Seventh Day Adventist Church (SS SSDA) to use Good Shepherd building space. The first SS SSDA services at Good Shepherd were held in December.

Members: Patricia Dorn, Ana Janckson-Curtis, Carol Lewis, Althea McKenzie, Elizabeth Quinn, Lynn Wood.

Submitted by Carol Lewis, Chair

Landscape Committee

- Worked with the Landscape Architecture firm DFB to develop a master landscape plan for the grounds of Good Shepherd. The final concept plan was presented to the Vestry and approved in June of 2009. Further work on the plan which included a prioritization of goals and the division of the plan into various phases was put on hold because most if not all committee members involved were over extended with the rector search. It is anticipated that this work will be taken up again soon and the plan presented to the congregation once the prioritization of phasing is completed.
- Worked with John Kilmer to develop an Eagle Scout project that would benefit the church and the surrounding community. The final project was the construction of a foot path connecting the neighborhood located behind the church to the church parking lot. The foot path consists of a stepped path constructed of landscape timber risers and gravel treads. This path is used by the residents of the neighborhood to access University Boulevard, and it enables parishioners to park in the neighborhood during busy Sundays and have easy access to the parking lot.
- Worked with the preschool, parish parents, and the sales representatives of several playground equipment companies to develop a custom play structure that would meet the needs of all users. Conducted a fundraiser to raise the remaining funds needed to purchase and install the new play structure. Held two work days to prepare the

playground for the installation. Contracted with a fencing company to relocated the playground fence and add a large gate for equipment and construction access.

- Reclaimed the Fig Tree site, removing foundation plantings and shrubs that were no longer planted around anything, and returning the area to turf. The Fig Tree was a small consignment shop located in a green trailer that was sited by the handicapped parking and the playground, beneath the large red maple tree. The trailer that housed the shop was demolished and removed in the fall of 2008, and the site sat barren over winter while it was determined what to do with the site. Proposals for a victory garden and other uses were considered, but the shady location and the eventual implementation of a comprehensive landscape plan dictated the simple solution of laying sod until the greater plan was implemented.
- Participated in two parish cleanup days and several weeding parties to maintain the church grounds.
- Continued removal efforts to eliminate Japanese knotweed from the church grounds. This invasive exotic weed is present in large numbers along the edge of the woods behind the parking lot and has been spreading and causing damage to church property. It has begun appearing in the stone border around the church, it has been running under the parking lot and damaging the paving, overgrown the new path constructed by John Kilmer, and spread into the storm water management structure located at the base of the parking lot. In the last example it caused the storm water facility to fail a county inspection. Work to eliminate this

noxious weed will continue for many years.

Submitted by Joe Burckle, Chair

Memorials Committee

The Memorials Committee monitors gifts to the Memorial Fund and allocates accumulated memorial funds to purchase items to beautify and enhance our church. It is a standing committee of the Vestry. The Committee is very active, thanks to the generosity of Good Shepherd parishioners and friends. During 2009, we celebrated completion of the organ renovation with a festive evensong in November. Gifts in memory of Odessa Doneghy by her children put us over the top of a fundraising drive co-sponsored by the parish and the preschool to purchase new playground equipment. To celebrate and honor our newly activated acolyte ministry, the Committee decided to purchase a banner and processional torches. These items, which arrived in time for Christmas, were paid for with accumulated memorial funds and a generous gift from Arthur Dodds. A communion kit, for use by the newly formed Pastoral Care Committee, and some new vestments for our taller acolytes were also purchased. Members of the Committee assisted the Rev. Linda Grenz to evaluate the needs for management of the Columbarium and worked with the Landscape Committee as it proceeded with a proposed master landscape plan for Good Shepherd. More work in these two areas will be needed in 2010. At the end of the year, the Memorial Fund's balance was approximately \$10,000. In the coming months, the Committee will be prioritizing ideas about what items to obtain in 2010. Parishioners are encouraged to suggest ideas to the Committee for consideration. As of the end of December 2009, the following were members of the Memorials Committee: Diane Bendahmane, Frank

Desmond, Anna Gillespie, Linda Grenz, Donna Gullickson, Doris Hurdle, Helen Neale, Don Schimmel, and Marca Woodhams.

Submitted by Diane Bendahmane, Chair

The Needlers

The Needlers are a group of parishioners who like to do all kinds of needle work including knitting, crocheting, sewing, needlepoint, etc. We meet the third Saturday of the month in the St. Francis Room from 9:30-12. We gather together for companionship and for support. The Needlers welcomes everyone to the group including men, women and children. Currently we have four children who are members, one man, and 12 women. Our motto is: "each one teach one." Each year we have made hats and scarves for Shepherd's Table. We have just started making lap robes and prayer shawls. Since we were established we have been given gifts of yarn that we have used in our projects.

Submitted by Marca Woodhams

Office Volunteers

The use of volunteer office helpers began in the fall of 2008, shortly after the arrival of the Interim Rector, Linda Grenz, and the resignation of the Church Secretary, Jan Eisenbarth. At that time it was decided to hire a temporary secretary, Janis Brown, to cover the secretarial position. The volunteer workers were recruited from the parishioners to help provide continuity and to lighten the duties of the temporary secretary.

Volunteers were scheduled to cover the hours from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Mondays through Thursdays. The shifts were divided into two periods of 2-1/2 hours each, with

some volunteers working more than one shift per day. Other volunteers agreed to serve on an as-needed basis for special projects.

The Interim Rector developed lists of duties and suggested work assignments for the volunteers, partly in response to suggestions from some of the volunteers that there was not enough work for them to do. In addition to providing telephone and visitor support, the office volunteers help with incoming and outgoing mail, proofreading, and many other small tasks that add up over time. In several cases, individual volunteers have now taken on responsibility for specific functions, such as overseeing the filing system, working on the physical production of the weekly bulletin, and database input.

The Interim Rector and the Temporary Secretary were very pleased with the arrangement, and they coined the term Office Angels to show their appreciation for the work of the volunteers. After the Administrative Assistant, Sarah Zygmunt, was hired to replace the Temporary Secretary, it was decided to continue the use of office volunteers.

Although over time some of the volunteers have dropped out for a number of reasons, mostly involving health problems, the following parishioners have volunteered their time and assistance since this effort began and most continue to do so: Eloise Achhammer, Beth Baker, Diane Bendahmane, Arthur Dodds, Nella Fischer, Irene Fletcher, Dot Ford, Anna Gillespie, Donna Gullickson, Louise King, Carol Lewis, Joan Lewis, Althea Peters, Phyllis Radovich, Beth Rowe, Vonnie Schoppelrei, Maggie Silberstein, Marca Woodhams, Irene Yazge, Barbara Young.

Submitted by Gayle Batty, Coordinator

Nursery Oversight Team

The Nursery Oversight Team oversees the smooth operation of the Sunday nursery which provides childcare for the church's babies and toddlers during the 10:30 AM Sunday Service. The team's responsibilities include the supervision and scheduling of the nursery care-provider staff, drafting of written guidelines for the nursery staff and nursery operation, and regular inventory of nursery supplies. The team brings to the attention of the rector and/or senior warden any staff or parent concerns with the operation and maintenance of the nursery. This year, the team interviewed and recommended for hire nursery care-providers Almita Phillips and Sara Martin and substitute, Leah Cho. Members are Elizabeth Quinn, Heather Hartman-Hall, Melissa Garcia.

Submitted by Elizabeth Quinn

Pastoral Care Team

After last year's annual meeting, the Rev. Linda Grenz established a new ministry of lay pastoral care at Good Shepherd. While many parishioners were in the habit of making calls on sick and shut-in members of our community, no organized effort was afoot to assure that all in need were being visited, and there were no licensed lay Eucharistic visitors. In May 2009, the Pastoral Care Team was organized and its mission, activities and norms were established. The mission of the Pastoral Care Team is to assist the Rector by visiting the sick and shut-in and bringing communion to them. Pastoral Care Team visits do not take the place of clergy visits but rather complement them. All members of the Team were trained by the Rev. Grenz in the art of visiting the sick and in offering communion. Regular visits are now being made every month, thus the congregation gathered in church on Sunday mornings

share the holy gifts of communion with those unable to be present. In the words of the Pastoral Team commissioning prayer, "We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread and one cup."

Pastoral Care Team members are Diane Bendahmane, Judy Brown, Liz Cocke, Karen Colbert, Anna Gillespie, Donna Gullickson, Joan Lewis, Pat Ogg, Althea Peters, Florence Walters, Greg Wood, and Lynn Wood. Other members of the parish, who are not formal members of the Team continue to visit the sick; their efforts are greatly appreciated and irreplaceable. In addition, we are blessed with an effective "Casserole Ministry" coordinated by Pecky Sullivan, in which parishioners volunteer to provide cooked meals to families in need.

All Christians are called to a ministry of care and compassion. The Pastoral Care Team is the outward and visible sign of that ministry consciously carried out by our congregation. Members of Good Shepherd can provide practical help by keeping the Rector and Pastoral Care Team up to date on pastoral needs. If you know of someone who is in need of a pastoral visit, please let the Team or the Rector know.

Submitted by Diane Bendahmane,
Coordinator

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee was formed soon after Linda's arrival to review personnel policies and establish standardized HR processes at Good Shepherd. The group reviewed employment contracts of various positions at the church. We were also involved in interviewing for and the development of compensation packages for the parish administrator and organist. We look forward to assisting David with future personnel concerns.

Submitted by Jennifer Hendricks

Prayer and Meditation Group

The Inner Life: The Prayer and Meditation Group continues to meet monthly since its first organizational meeting on April 1, 2000 at 8 am. The group was called together by Diane Bendahmane, Sylvia Eliot and Maggie Silberstein. It has continued to meet on the first Saturday of the month. Meeting times have varied and currently we meet from 8-9:30 am. The format includes prayer, silence, journaling and discussion.

In the past we have tried to attract more and younger members by starting at 9:00 but with slight success. As a result we reverted to the earlier time since it was more convenient to those attending. Members include Diane Bendahmane, Sylvia Eliot, Anna Gillespie, Beth Rowe, Maggie Silberstein, Florence Walters and Katie Williams. Membership is open to non-parishioners.

Submitted by Maggie Silberstein

Preschool Advisory Committee

The Good Shepherd Preschool Advisory Committee (PAC) came together mid-year to serve as a liaison between the Good Shepherd Preschool and the Vestry, and the parish as a whole. Comprised of the rector, preschool director, preschool parents, Vestry members, and parishioners, the PAC meets every other month. The PAC is responsible for providing recommendations to the Vestry concerning significant preschool financial issues, and updates on preschool enrollment, preschool events and opportunities for cooperation with the parish, fundraising efforts and other preschool news. Noteworthy this past year was the installation of a new playground structure now enjoyed by children of the preschool as well as the older children attending Good Shepherd on Sundays. The

PAC hopes to explore other events and projects which will bring together our two communities in the coming year.

PAC members: Elizabeth Quinn (chairperson), Rev. David C. Wacaster (ex-officio), Preschool Director Mary Lureau (ex-officio), Gary Anderson, Leslie Anderson, Judy Brown, Jennifer Chambers, Kristen Hawley, Doris Hurdle, Dianne Russell, Joel Sparks, and Whitney Staub.

Submitted by Elizabeth Quinn, Chair

Rummage Sale

After 36 years of the Good Shepherd Rummage Sale we saw the end in the summer of 2009. This past summer there were a few radical changes; some we liked, some we didn't. Overall the rummage has been a wonderful ministry for our parishioners and the community. In the 36 years of the rummage this sale has contributed more than \$270,000 to the operating budget of Good Shepherd. The fellowship that developed through the years has been fantastic and gave rise to the Lunch Bunch, which continues to this day.

Submitted by Susan Dugard
and Doris Hurdle

Shepherd's Table Volunteers

In 2009, the volunteers from Good Shepherd worked the first Friday of each month serving an evening meal to the clients at Shepherd's Table of Silver Spring. I gratefully acknowledge the gift of time and energy from our volunteers: Beth Baker, Doug and Francine Barrington, Bill and Ursula Dobson, Irene Fletcher, Rita Forbes Morgan Hoover, Diane and Lou Janesko, Carol Lewis, Joan Lewis, Tom McLemore, and Vonnie Schoppelrei.

Shepherd's Table receives financial support from Good Shepherd through the contributions to the Globe each Sunday. The Vestry voted to approve giving one-sixth of the contributions to Shepherd's Table; other local and international charitable organizations receive the remaining portions.

On November 8th the Social Ministries Team arranged for Jacki Coyle, the Executive Director of Shepherd's Table, to visit with parishioners after each service. She told us about the many services that Shepherd's Table provides to our local community. She thanked us for the important contributions we make, through the donation of our time, financial donations, and donations of clothing items.

The Social Ministries Team sponsored our annual Thanksgiving collection for the clients of Shepherd's Table. We collected new warm socks, gloves, hats, and backpacks to help their homeless and needy clients through the winter and the Good Shepherd Needlers knitted hats and scarves for the third year running. We contributed over 50 pairs of socks, 35 hats, 18 pairs of warm gloves, more than a dozen scarves, and 8 sturdy backpacks!

On behalf of Shepherd's Table, thank you for the many kinds of support you provide this local nonprofit organization that provides basic services to the homeless and needy of our community.

Submitted by Jackie Wright, Coordinator

Social Ministries Team

The Social Ministries Team coordinates and provides leadership for Good Shepherd's outreach to the world beyond our doors. We have three categories of activities that reflect God's call to us through Scripture:

Feed My Sheep:

- **Shepherd's Table:** Please see the separate report written by Jackie Wright.
- **St. Luke Food Pantry:** 812 bags of food delivered as well as \$210 in Giant food cards and an unknown quantity of items delivered personally as a result of the December snowstorm. The special "Yes, We Can!" campaign and guess-the-number-of-cans contest during Lent alone accounted for 554 cans.
- **Bag Lunch Preparation the second Saturday of each month:** More than 1600 bag lunches prepared and delivered to the Men's Emergency Shelter in Rockville. Our costs have gone up recently as we have lost our source of free bread. The average monthly cost of supplies is \$150.
- **Heifer International:** \$3092.67 contributed during our Lenten outreach.
- **Maundy Thursday Soup and Bread Supper:** Well attended. Great food and fellowship! Admission was either a bag of groceries that would serve dinner to four people for St. Luke Food Pantry or a \$20 contribution to Shepherd's Table. Those figures are included in the yearly totals sent to each organization.
- **Sales of Equal Exchange Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, and Chocolate:** Products sold at cost to help provide a livable wage to small farmers around the world. Equal Exchange coffee is served at all Good Shepherd functions. Total amount of products purchased and used at church: \$1655.30

- **Diocesan Hunger Walk in October:** Personal response of a couple of members.
- **Distribution of Globe Offerings in 2009:**

Episcopal Relief and Development (1/2) - \$2044
 MUSST (1/6) - \$751
 Shepherd's Table (1/6) - \$751
 Diocesan Hunger Fund (1/6) - \$751

An additional contribution of \$1272 from Social Ministries' funds was sent to Shepherd's Table.

Let the Children Come to Me:

- **Crossway Community Christmas Outreach:** 44 toys, 16 household items, 22 uniforms, and \$145 in gift cards to Giant and Target.
- **Christmas Cookies for The Episcopal Center for Children:** At least 30-35 dozen.

The Earth is the Lord's:

- A work in progress. Those who have a passion for environmental issues are invited to step forward and notify the Social Ministries Team

Members and associates of the Social Ministries Team are: Judy Brown, Joe Burckle, Caroline Clements, Irene Fletcher, Shaun Hardy, Morgan Hoover, Ana Janckson-Curtis, Diane Janesko, John McKenzie, Catherine Schupp, Rebecca Von Kerczek, Lynn Wood, and Jackie Wright.

Submitted by Lynn Wood, Chair

Sunday School

During 2009, Children Sing! and Sunday School were offered starting at 10:15 A.M. all year except in August. Debbie Beebe led

children, parents and teachers in songs of praise and in prayer, and prepared the children to sing anthems on special occasions during the 10:30 service. We tried several different curricula for Sunday School this year, including the lectionary-based *Living the Good News* from Morehouse Publishing in the spring, *One Room Sunday School* from Abingdon Press for the smaller attendance during the summer, and Workshop Rotation curriculum from *Leadership Resources* in the fall. The Workshop Rotation model was new to us, accommodated many learning styles, and allowed us to explore concepts and stories through a variety of child-friendly approaches. Parent, other adult, and high school student volunteers provided Sunday School for children ages 3 through middle school. High school students attended Youth Group in spring 2009, focusing on confirmation preparation, but did not have meetings in the fall. Goals for 2010 are to continue to provide Christian Education for children and youth, including Youth Group and/or Sunday School for both middle school and high school age youth.

Submitted by Elisa Elliot, Coordinator