

Church of the Good Shepherd  
Bluemont (Pine Grove), Virginia



# 2025 Annual Congregational Meeting

February 9, 2025

# Welcome

- Introduction
  - Penni Tidwell, Junior Warden
- Opening Prayer
  - The Rev. Cathy Tibbetts



# Agenda

- Our Place in The Diocese
- Vestry Committee Elections
- State of the Parish
- Property Stewardship
- Good Shepherd Ministries
- World Vision “Global 6K Walk for Water”
- Wrap-up / Questions & Discussion / Closing Prayer



# Our place in The Diocese of Virginia

- The Rt. Rev'd E. Mark Stevenson is the 14th Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia.
  - He will celebrate Holy Eucharist at Good Shepherd on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter – 27 April 2025
- The Rt. Rev'd Gayle Harris appointed Assistant Bishop in April 2023
  - She visited Good Shepherd on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter, 2023
- Good Shepherd is one of about 30 Mission Churches in the Diocese.
- We are one of 7 churches in the Northern Shenandoah Region
  - Judy Hall is our representative and also the region secretary
- Committee on Congregational Missions (CCM) lead by the Rev Webster Gibson
  - Determines the allocation of financial Mission Support
  - Provides oversight in reporting and operations
- Diocesan financial support is critical to our operations
  - CCM aid: 2022: \$13,900, 2023: \$14,400, 2024: \$14,400 , 2025: \$14,400
  - 2023 Bishop's Appeal Grant of \$2,000 for new carpet for Parish Hall
  - 2024 gift of \$4,000 for repair of foundation



# Vestry Committee Elections



- Vestry Committee - Lay Leaders of our mission church
  - Responsible for finance, property, and equipping ministry leaders
  - Vestry Committee Members serve for 3 years (Cycle off for at least one year)
  - The new vestry will elect officers at its first meeting
- Committee membership

## Continuing:

Year 3: Janet Locklear (current Registrar), Lee Ruddle

Year 2: Penni Tidwell (current Junior Warden)

## Cycling off:

Cindy Ingram (3+ years), Tim Hall (3+), Ray Ewing (2), Penelope Yungblut (1)

## Vestry candidates:

Rose Holden, Judy Hall, Ryan Keelor

- Time to vote!

# State of the Parish



- Church growth
  - New members in 2024: 4 persons. Total Members = 34
  - ASA increased from 18 in 2023 (plus 3 online) to 20 in 2024 (plus 4 online)
  - Plate and pledge increased from \$49,101 in 2023 to \$54,470 in 2024
  - Stewardship campaign for 2024: 17 pledges for \$45,480
    - (2024: 16 pledges for \$48,270)
- Sunday worship services
  - Holy Eucharist services: 35 in 2023 → 39 in 2024
    - Sacrament of Healing on 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays (4 times/year)
  - Morning Prayer services: 18 in 2022 → 13 in 2023
    - Cindy Ingram, Josette Keelor, and Tim Hall: lay leaders
  - Continued to provide hybrid worship with Zoom (4 ASA)
- *More details recorded in our annual Parochial Reports*



# State of the Parish – Supply Clergy



## Rev. Deborah Rutter

- Retired from Calvary, Front Royal in 2017.
- Started with us in September 2020 as we were coming out of the COVID shutdown.

## Rev. Martha Clark

- Retired from St. Augustine, Washington DC in 2019 and moved to Lincoln, VA in 2020.
- Started with us in February 2022, after being licensed to serve in the Diocese of VA.

## Rev. Cathy Tibbetts

- Prior to her ordination in 2008, Cathy spent 30 years in healthcare.
- Retired from Christ Episcopal Church, Luray in 2024, after 10+ years as its rector.
- Started with us in October 2024 and plans to stay with us this year!

*See Cathy's introductory letter in your handout.*

## Rev. Rob Banse

- Retired from Trinity, Upperville in 2018, after serving for 11 years as its rector.
- Served with us from January 2023 to September 2024.
- Left to be Interim Rector at Grace, The Plains – but wants to come back!



# State of the Parish – Financial Overview



- Operating Checking Account
  - \$25,000 moved to Money Market account on 11 Jun 2024
  - Balance on 12/31/24: \$10,011.27
- Building Checking Account
  - Closed in 2024 – funds moved to interest bearing Money Market account
- Money Market Account
  - Earns interest at variable rate (currently 3.61%)
  - Balance on 12/31/24: \$47,965.81
- Trustee of the Funds (TOTF) Investment Account
  - Moved \$5,000 from checking to TOTF on 01/22/24
  - Value as of 12/31/24: \$33,780.67

*More details and budget information are included in your hardcopy handout*

# State of the Parish – Audit



- Audit of 2023 books completed in July 2024
  - Diocesan requirement to be conducted annually
- Conducted in accordance with Diocesan directions on performing audits
  - You can find them here:  
<https://www.thediocese.net/resources/administration/finance-and-management/audit-forms-and-updates/>
- Audit includes
  - Audit Short Form
  - Balance Sheet
  - Previous Year End Reconciliation Balance Reports
  - Bank Statements
  - Audit Findings and Recommendations
- Developed “Draft Guidelines for Auditor”
  - Specific to Good Shepherd
  - Would you like to help?

*These files, which were emailed to the Diocese at the conclusion of the audit, are available for review, upon request.*

# Property Stewardship Facility – 2024 Accomplishments



- Established a 5-year planning team to identify short and long term facility needs
- Gifts to the Church
  - Front door, large flower pots, smart TV and wall mount, Noah's Ark artwork, painting of the Last Supper, blinds in fellowship hall, Oneida flatware, property maintenance equipment, Diocesan gift of \$4,000 for foundation work
- Work Completed
  - Electric work, mailbox, exhaust fans, new outdoor spigot, basement outside door
  - Meditation Garden – many new plantings and additional deer protection
- Major Purchase
  - Office Printer/Copier
- Health and safety
  - Two AEDs purchased, 2 fire extinguishers, 2 new Fire and CO alarms (voice)
- Major Facility repairs
  - New Well Pump and Water Pressure Tank
  - Foundation stabilization and sump pump and drainage work completed
  - Church front door (mentioned under Gifts)
  - Major tree work to remove dead limbs as well as 2 dead trees
- Year round maintenance
  - Thanks to everyone who help maintain our church building and grounds!

*More details and information on 2024 accomplishments are included in your hardcopy handout*

# Property Stewardship

## Looking forward in 2025



- Fire Exit signs
- Concrete work for the front steps, and top of patio stairs
- Add stone or concrete stairs, with railings, in the grassy median from the grass parking area.
- Brick work to repair sunken pavers outside the kitchen door
- Repair basement entry from kitchen door (possible replacing with concrete flooring)
- Storm windows or replacement window in the Fellowship Hall
- Sacristy door work and Sacristy windows (adding/replacing storm windows)
- Church inventory
- Repair / stabilize altar railings
- Repair / restore church pews, if possible
- Continue important work of ongoing building and grounds maintenance

# Worship



- Lectors – changed to two lectors each Sunday
  - More voices and more opportunities to read
- Music
  - Rose Holden joined the musical leadership of Eileen Cawood and Janet Locklear
  - Choir and musicians (Can you say “washtub base”? We want more!)
- Altar Guild
  - Join this growing corps.
  - Manage altar settings and flower arrangements and donations.
- Ushers – Welcome, hand out bulletins, ring bell, offering
  - An important ministry that needs regular participation
- Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEM)
  - Training for new & continuing LEMs this Spring. Join us!
- Preaching – Many voices from the pulpit
  - Our supply clergy, lay leaders, Bp. Stevenson and Rev. Shirley Smith Graham this coming April
- Different worship themes and presentations
  - Dramatic Passion Reading, Earth Day, Season of Creation, Animal Awareness, Healing services, All Saints!

# Study & Spiritual Growth 2024



- Noonday Prayer and Lenten Book Study “Will You?”
  - Every Friday in Lent, noon to 2pm, beginning on February 16th
  - Led by the Rev. Deb Rutter, with shared prayer, a light meal, and discussion
- “The Philadelphia Eleven” – Saturday 24 Feb at 10am
  - Held at Grace, Berryville
  - Co-sponsored by Good Shepherd
- Saturday “Quiet morning” w/ Rev. Martha during Lent (March 16 from 9:30 to Noon).
- Monthly, lay-led, Spring & Fall meditation walks on Saturday mornings.
- Autumn Evening Prayer in the Meditation Garden

# Study & Spiritual Growth

## Plans and ideas for 2025



- The words of Jesus as understood by his contemporaries
  - Parables and/or difficult sayings, as they would have been understood by Jews at the time
  - Wednesday evenings during Lent – 6:00 p.m. Soup & bread, 7:00 p.m. DVD & discussion
  - With Rev. Cathy – starting March 12
- Exploring our dreams to find a word from God
  - Using the text by Episcopal priest Morton Kelsey, “Dreams: A Way to Listen to God.”
  - With Rev. Deb – dates and times TBD
- The Prodigal Son from multiple viewpoints
  - Identifying with the father, the elder son, and the prodigal
  - Using the book by Henri Nouwen, “The Return of the Prodigal Son.”
  - With Rev. Martha – dates and times TBD
- Christ Church, Millwood: Invitation to join their Grief Group
  - Led by the Rev. Donna Scott, all are invited to participate
  - Monthly on second Saturdays (Feb 8, Mar 8, etc.): 9:30 am-12 noon
  - Registration requested ([see your hardcopy](#))
- Lay-led spiritual formation, education programs, and/or book studies
  - With Cindy – World Religions, Part II – Buddhism & Hinduism
  - Others?
- Meditation Walks

*A new community ALANON  
group led by a neighbor will  
be meeting in our Parish Hall  
– Dates & times TBD*

# Serve Our Neighbors 2024



- Through congregational generosity and from church funds
  - We supported the Absalom Jones Fund (\$1,225), the Good Friday Offering (\$1,500), Blue Ridge Fire & Rescue (\$200), VTS (\$200), St. Mary's Berryville (\$130).
- We met our pledges of \$3,500 to the Diocese of Virginia and \$350 to our region.
- We supported FISH with 452 meals and 1,327 pounds of food & household essentials.
  - Another 30% increase in donations and we more than doubled our “to-go” meals
- Remembering St. Francis of Assisi, during October
  - We collected pet food and monetary donations for the Clarke County Animal Shelter (\$350), and Casey's House (\$180).
  - We welcomed visitors to a free community breakfast and our indoor Blessing of the Animals
- For our 5th annual Christmas tin outreach, we filled and distributed 110 holiday gift tins to our Pine Grove and Shenandoah Retreat neighbors.

# Parish Life

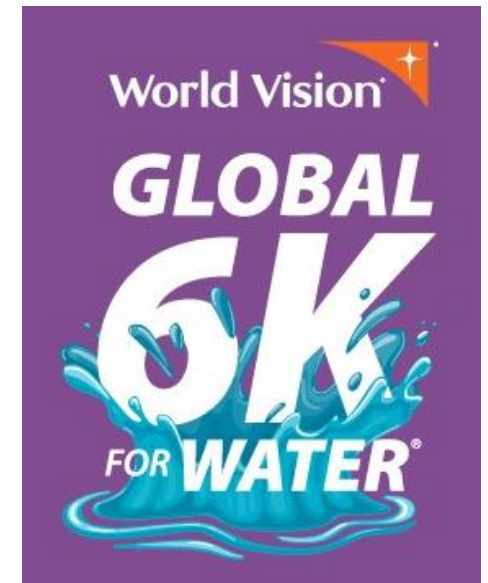


- “News from the Mountain Top”
  - If it’s important to us, we need new energy to take on this effort!
- Email communications
  - Parish events, notices, calendar, prayers, and worship service information
- Fellowship hour after church
  - Should we be more organized, with a roster, for example?
- Mardi Gras Party (w/ palm burning) on Shrove Tuesday
- Summer Movies / Game Nights
- July Picnic or Ice Cream Social
- Harvest dinner in the fall
- Field trips (e.g. Juneteenth, Josephine School)
- Congregational retreat (one-day or overnight)

# World Vision Global 6K Walk for Water



- Your 2024 Vestry felt called to be a sponsor for this effort
- **CLEAN WATER IS LIFE**
  - More than 800 children under the age of 5 die every day from diarrhea caused by contaminated water, poor sanitation, and improper hygiene.
  - Furthermore, the average distance many women and children in the developing world walk for water is 6K (3.7mi).
- Our church's vision is to welcome participants to Cool Spring, with the Pavilion as our fundraising HQ
- Join us in planning for and participating in the truly life-changing event
  - Saturday, May 17, 2025 – all day!



# Wrap-up



- Questions & Discussion
- How would you like to see us “thrive in 2025”?
  - In worship?
  - In spiritual formation?
  - In serving our neighbors?
  - As growing together in the body of Christ?
- Did you say you wanted to volunteer?
- Closing Prayer