

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

***Follow Christ. Welcome All. Serve Humbly.***



# 2026 Annual Congregational Meeting

February 15, 2026

# Welcome

- Introduction
  - Judy Hall, Senior Warden
- Opening Prayer
  - The Rev. Deb Rutter



# Vestry Committee Elections

(after the worship service)



- 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 2: Judy Hall (current Senior Warden)

Year 2: Ryan Keelor (current Junior Warden)

## Cycling off:

Janet Locklear and Lee Ruddle (3 years each)

## Vestry candidates:

Frank Bredimus, Rick Whitehouse, Kelly Macoy, Christine Kestner

- Time to vote!

*Then move to Parish Hall*

# Agenda

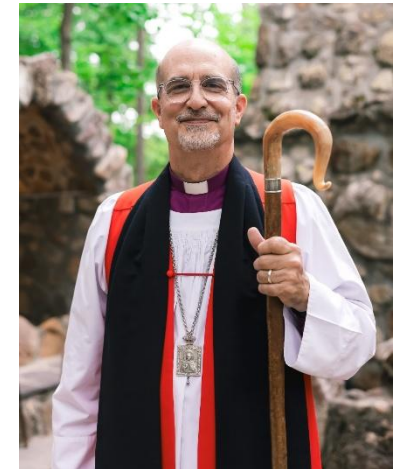


- Our Place in The Diocese
- State of the Parish – 2025
- Property Stewardship – 2025
- Serve Our Neighbors – 2025
- Study, Spiritual Growth and Parish Life – 2025
- Looking Forward to 2026
- Wrap-up / Questions & Discussion / Closing Prayer

# Our place in The Diocese of Virginia



- The Rt. Rev'd E. Mark Stevenson is the 14th Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia
  - Elected on June 4, 2022.
  - Celebrated Eucharist & Healing with us on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – 29 June 2025
- The Rt. Rev'd Gayle Harris appointed Assistant Bishop in April 2023
  - She celebrate Eucharist at Good Shepherd on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter, 2023
- Bishop Mark Allen Boursakis appointed Assistant Bishop in the summer of 2025.
  - Was previously Diocesan Bishop of Southwestern Virginia
- Good Shepherd is one of 25 Mission Churches in the Diocese
- We are one of 7 churches in the Northern Shenandoah Region
- Bishop Boursakis will be working with Rev. Shirley Smith Graham, Minister for Congregational Vitality, to support & equip mission churches and to provide oversight in reporting and operations.
- Diocesan financial support, approved at Convention, is critical to our operations
  - Diocesan aid to Good Shepherd 2023 to 2026: \$14,400 each year
  - 2025 gift of \$4,000 for painting the church roof



# State of the Parish



- Church growth
  - Membership as reported in 2024 Parochial Report: 34
  - Increases during 2025: 5 | Decreases during 2025: 7
  - Total Members reported in 2025 Parochial Report: 32
  - Bishop Gulick confirmed Bethany Whitehouse and reaffirmed Rick Whitehouse during his visit on May 18th
  - ASA decreased from 20 in 2024 (plus 4 online) to 17 in 2025 (plus 3 online)
- Sunday worship services
  - Holy Eucharist services: 39 in 2024 → 38 in 2025
    - Sacrament of Healing on 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays (4 times/year)
  - Morning Prayer services: 13 in 2024 → 13 in 2025
    - Josette Keelor and Tim Hall: lay preachers and worship leaders
  - Continued to provide hybrid worship with Zoom (3 ASA)
  - Invested in new altar linens and altar hanging repairs



*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 visiting Supply for our first outdoor service as we were coming out of the COVID shutdown.
- Plans to continue with Good Shepherd at least through 2026.

## 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 receiving her first 2-year license to serve in the Diocese of VA.
- Received her second 2-year license from the Diocese of VA in 2024.

## 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 but full retirement and relocation after Palm Sunday

We welcomed several guest celebrants last year!

- Bishops Gulick & Stevenson
- Revs. Shirley Smith-Graham, Kate Bryant, Kara Laughlin, and Susan MacDonald

# State of the Parish – Financial Overview



Account Values	<u>31 Dec 2023</u>	<u>31 Dec 2024</u>	<u>31 Dec 2025</u>
• Truist Operating Account:	\$41,833.24	\$10,011.27	\$ 6,592.56
• Truist Money Mkt Account:	\$ 5,825.38	\$47,965.81	\$56,653.45
• VEIF (TOTF) Balanced Fund:	\$25,361.41	\$33,780.67	\$44,091.12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$73,020.03</b>	<b>\$91,757.75</b>	<b>\$107,337.13</b>

- Trustees of the Fund (TOTF)
  - Account established in July 2022 with initial \$22,000 deposit
  - Moved \$5,000 in Jan 2024 and again in Dec 2025
  - Name changed to Virginia Episcopal Investment Fund (VEIF) in Oct 2025
- Money Market Account
  - Opened in June 2024 – Earns interest at variable rate (currently 2.44%)
- 2026 Stewardship campaign results
  - 19 pledges representing 25 parishioners (plus 2 from 2025)
  - Total pledged for 2026: \$48,490 (increase from \$45,480 in 2025)
- Teller and deposit procedures (established late 2024) in use for all of 2025

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

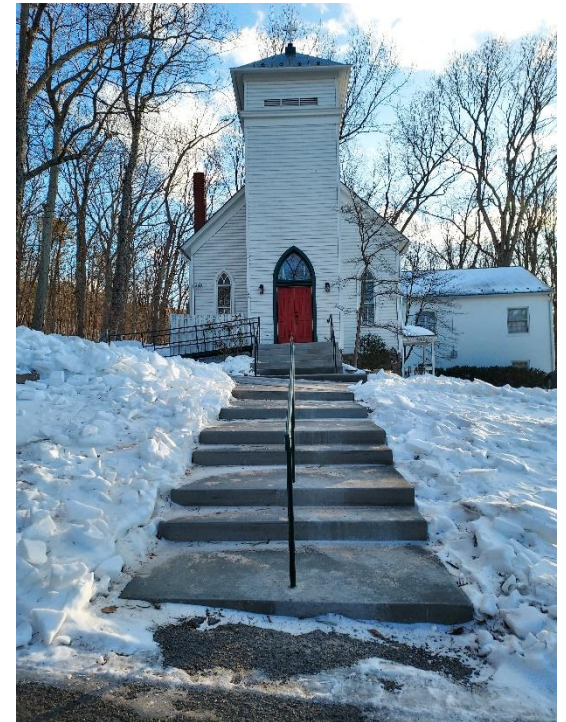
*Actual plate & pledge income increased from \$54,470 in 2024 to \$59,970 in 2025*

# Property Stewardship – 2025



## Gifts to the church

- Credenza in front of wall mounted TV in parish hall. Gifted by Lee Ruddle
- Diocese of Virginia gift of \$4,000 towards metal roof painting
- Concrete stairs, with railings, in the grassy median from the grass parking area. Gifted by Lee Ruddle
- Property maintenance equipment, mowers, blowers, and batteries. Gifted by Ron Edwards
- Flowers and plantings in the front of the church were gifted and planted by Andrea Brown.
- Dogwood Tree in memory of Lois. Gifted by Sharon Smith-Painter and other nieces of Lois Tapscott. Andrea was instrumental in organizing this effort including determining where the tree was to be planted.



# Property Stewardship – 2025



## Work Completed

- Metal Roof Painted
- Added steps and railing from grassy parking area to front of church
- Concrete work to repair the church front steps.
- Removed and replaced outside cellar entry concrete steps
- Replaced plywood cellar flooring to finished basement area with concrete to alleviate drainage issues and increase safety
- Installed a new concrete landing at the top of the back patio steps
- Moved Good Shepherd's mailbox to correct side of road for mail delivery to 27 Good Shepherd Rd
- Tree work – lots of pruning and a couple of trees taken down in Jan 2025

# Study & Spiritual Growth 2025



- Wednesday Lenten evening Soup and Salad Series
  - A simple evening meal of soup, salad, and bread, lively discussions, and Compline.
  - Using the book and DVD by Amy-Jill Levine “Sermon on the Mount: A Beginners Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven.”
  - Led by The Reverend Cathy Tibbetts
- Psalm 119 weekly Zoom study group facilitated by Penni Tidwell
- Advent – Exploring our dreams to find a word from God
  - Using the text by Episcopal priest Morton Kelsey, “Dreams: A Way to Listen to God.”
  - Online discussions and practicing
  - Joined by Good Shepherd in Manhattan NY
  - Led by The Reverend Deb Rutter
- Field trip to the Josephine School to learn more about African-American history in Clarke County

# Serve Our Neighbors 2025



- Through congregational generosity and from church funds, we supported
  - The FISH Food Pantry (\$4,177 cash donations, plus \$2,689 for to-go meals)
  - The Absalom Jones Fund (\$580), The Good Friday Offering (\$1,200)
  - Blue Ridge Fire & Rescue (\$450), Diocesan discretionary funds (\$710)
- We met our pledges of \$3,872 to the Diocese of Virginia and \$300 to our region
- We supported FISH with
  - monthly grocery donations, 570 “to-go” meals (452 in 2024), and 1,158 pounds of food & household essentials (1,327 in 2024).
- We continued, for over 60 years now, the weekly hosting of the Pine Grove Group AA
- We added the hosting of a weekly Al-Anon women’s group
- For our 6th annual Christmas tin outreach, we filled and distributed 135 holiday gift tins to our Pine Grove and Shenandoah Retreat neighbors.
  - Tins contain homemade cookies, ornaments, other goodies, and an invitation to our Christmas Eve service.
  - We had so many homemade cookies that we gave extra bags to AA, Al-Anon, Valley Energy, and Jeanette Carter (98) our eldest congregante and the last of those raised in Good Shepherd church

# Parish Life 2025



- Email communications
  - Parish events, notices, calendar, prayers, and worship service information
- Fellowship hour after church
  - Thank you to everyone who worked to make our fellowship hour so pleasant
- Mardi Gras Party (w/ palm burning) on Shrove Tuesday was extra fun with Kelly and Catherine's games
- World Vision "Global 6K Walk for Water" May 17, 2025
  - Our team of seven walkers at Cool Springs and six in Lebanon, New Hampshire riding bikes raised **\$6,865** for World Vision, providing clean water for **137 people**.
- Harvest dinner 2025 had a wonderful variety in the menu
- Enjoying a Christmas fellowship hour (or 2) and White Elephant (Secret Santa) gift exchange



# Thank you



## **For a wonderful congregation engaged in making Good Shepherd a sacred place**

- Thank you, Janet, for all the work you do to produce wonderful music for our worship services.
- Thank you, Josette and Tim, for adding your musical talents.
- Thank you, all choir members.
- Thank you all who enriched our worship with music, song, LEM, acolyte, readers, care of the altar and elements of communion, and zoom support.
- Thank you, Tim and Charlene, our bulletin publishers.
- Thank you, Janet, for leading our FISH donation and lunch box effort.
- Thank you to everyone who has helped with purchasing, making lunch boxes, distributing lunches at FISH and delivering food to people in Pine Grove.
- Thank you to our facility team members (Tim, Ron, Frank) who have been so vigilant and gracious with their time and talents to maintain the grounds.
- Thank you to Andrea for all her work in the gardens around the sign and in front of the church.

# Thank you (con't)



- Thank you, Janet for bringing the World Vision Walk for Water to our church this year.
- Thank you all who signed up to help with Church Chores and Altar support. This has been a great blessing to the church.
- Thank you, Whitehouse family, for leading the charge at coffee hour cleanups.
- Thank you, Penni, for stepping in wherever needed from property projects, zoom, communion cleanup, and training tellers.
- **Thank you to everyone named and unnamed who make this a vibrant place.**
- **A special thank you to our supply clergy (Deb, Martha, and Cathy) who are constantly called upon to go beyond “supply” to provide spiritual guidance and pastoral care.**

# Looking forward in 2026



## **Finance Practices**

- Set up a Finance Committee – meet quarterly
- Establish written Credit Card procedures

## **Property Stewardship**

- Have foundation work reviewed for settling and issues
- Brick work to repair sunken pavers outside the kitchen door
- Storm windows or replacement windows in the Fellowship Hall
- Sacristy door work and Sacristy windows (adding/replacing storm windows)
- Window work in Sanctuary
- Church inventory
- Repair / stabilize altar railings
- Repair / restore church pews, if possible
- Continuing important work of ongoing building and grounds maintenance
- Paint

# Looking forward in 2026



## **Health and safety**

- Fire Exit signs
- Training in First Aid Equipment as AEDs and Fire Extinguishers
- Safe Church Training
- Disaster Evacuation Plans

## **Communications**

- Roll out new website
- Upgrade zoom hardware, mics and cameras

## **Serve our Neighbors**

- Upgrade and expand our commitment to FISH
- Explore new avenues to serve our neighbors

# Looking forward in 2026



## Worship

- Worship planning committee – will try to meet at least quarterly
  - Work with supply clergy and lay leaders to schedule our services
  - Explore different worship themes and presentations: Dramatic Passion Reading, Earth Day, Season of Creation, Animal Awareness, Healing services, All Saints!
  - Prepare and update Worship Service Roster
  - Work with Service Bulletin preparation
  - Integrate more worship events into our garden space
  - Manage training and certifications for LEMs, Lectors, Lay Pastoral Leaders
  - Search for more music leaders
- Altar Guild
  - Updating of our altar linens and hangings will continue in 2026.
  - Come join this growing group and be a part of managing our seasonal altar settings, making flower arrangements, and receiving flower donations.

# Looking forward in 2026



## Worship (con't)

- Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEM) – Acolytes – Prayer Intercessors
  - A wonderful way to serve and participate in worship:  
Carry the cross, lead the Prayers of the People, assist with communion.
  - Assist with healing services.
  - Training for new & continuing LEMs this Spring. Join us!
- Preaching – Many voices from the pulpit!
  - Our supply clergy and lay leaders (Tim and Josette)
  - We will be searching for more supply clergy as Cathy is fully retiring and moving out of the state.

# Wrap-up



- Questions & Discussion
- What would you like to see us “fix in 2026”?
  - 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

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