

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – JANUARY 31, 2021



2021 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Call to Order – Margaret Aucoin, 2020 Council President
Opening Prayer – Fr. Graf
Establish Quorum – Adam Bennett, 2020 Council Secretary
Approval of 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes
Acceptance of Reports
Treasurer's Report with Proposed Budget – Don Peters, 2020 Council Treasurer
Approval of 2021 Budget
Election of 2021 Council and 2020 Nomination Committee
Vote to Approve Full Standing of GSC in Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast (ACNA)
Adjournment

MINUTES OF JANUARY 2020 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting of Good Shepherd Church was called to order on January 26, 2020 at 11:00 A.M. by President Margaret Aucoin. Pastor Randall Graff opened the meeting with prayer. A quorum was confirmed with 37 members in attendance. The Annual Congregational Meeting booklets were distributed.

The 2019 Annual Meeting minutes were reviewed and Mel Aucoin motioned to accepted as presented. John Falanga seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

President Aucoin asked the congregation to take a few minutes to review the departmental reports presented in the Annual Congregational Meeting booklets. The floor was opened to questions. With no questions presented, Joe Deibel motioned to accepted as presented and Debbie Volk seconded. The motion passed.

Treasurer, John Falanga, presented the budget, explaining the 2019 budget vs actual and the proposed 2020 budget. Questions were opened to the floor. With no questions presented, Pam Peters motioned to accepted as presented and Sharon Hensley seconded. The motion passed.

The first order of new business was the nominations for 2020 Church Council. The Nominating Committee (Susan Schaff, Sheila Fussell, and Norma Cook) presented nominations of Adam Bennett and Don Peters to serve a Two (2) year term on the Council. These nominees will replace 3 members who have completed their terms, John Falanga, Pam Peters, and Shawn Hotard. We thank you for your faithful service to Good Shepherd Church. The floor was opened for nominations. With no other nominations, Joe Deibel motioned to accept and Pam Peters seconded. The motion passed.

The following council members have completed their first two (2) year term and are being nominated for a second (2) year term Barbara Mehrrens, D.J. Estopinal, and Sandi Graci. Bob Volk motioned to accept as presented and Adam Bennett seconded. The motion passed.

The following council members have an additional year on their first two (2) year term, Margaret Aucoin, Joseph Deibel and Sharon Hensley.

The second order of business was nominations for the Nominating Committee. The committee submitted Rebecca Estopinal for a Three (3) year term to replace out-going member Susan Schaff. Thank you Susan for your faithful service. Sheila Fussell will be serving her third year of her three (3) year term (2018/2019/2020). Norma Cook will be serving her second year of her three (3) year term (2019/2020/2021). With no other nominations, Mel Aucoin motioned to accept as presented and Debbie Volk seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The third order of business was to vote to approve the fellowship Status of GSC in Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast (ACNA). Margaret and Mel Aucoin gave a brief overview of the findings of the Denominational Task Force with a brief description of the ACNA including our similarities and differences before opening the floor for discussion and vote. Adam Bennett motioned to proceed with a 1 year Fellowship with the ACNA and to revisit after the year moving to full membership with the ACNA. Joan Lyles seconded the motion. The motioned passed unanimously.

At 12:20 PM with no further business, there was a motion to adjourn by Mel Aucoin and seconded by Pam Peters.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by:

Pam Peters, Council Secretary

PASTOR'S REPORT

2020 in Review – Some notes

In 2020, Good Shepherd Church complete her completes the 44rd year of Christian ministry, mission, and fellowship as a part of the Body of Christ serving our community of Metairie, LA. Allow me to state for the outset of the report how blessed I consider myself to be able to continue to answer our Lord's calling on my life to serve Him through service to His Church and in particular in the body of believers and family of faith that is Good Shepherd Church.

I can no doubt state that 2020 is a year like no other previous year in my 11 years of ministry. In fact, for the reasons I state that—primarily the COVID-19 pandemic—I can state that 2020 was a year like no other I can recall in my lifetime. The COVID-19 pandemic and its resulting restrictions and seemingly all-encompassing influence on our world certainly made for a significant and lasting fingerprint on Good Shepherd Church.

As a result of the pandemic, Good Shepherd Church ceased having open, in-person worship services during the season of Lent 2020. As I prepare this report, I am rereading a pastoral letter I prepared on March 12, 2020 which spelled out our early attempts to continue worshipping on Sundays. This included the addition of a 2:00 PM service and encouraging members to voluntarily spread their out across the 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM, and 2:00 PM services, in order to decrease the concentration of attendance in the sanctuary. By Sunday, March 22, 2020, we were no longer holding in-person worship.

On Sunday, March 22, 2020, Good Shepherd Church did something we had never done before but have done every Sunday since—we livestreamed our worship service on the internet. Our practically unknown YouTube channel, which had 7 subscribers at the start of 2020, now has over 180 subscribers as I write this report and logged over 8,300 views from March to December 2020. Not only have we been able to livestream every Sunday morning worship service, but we have also aired Midday Prayer twice per week, Compline once per week, and other special services as well.

As the State of Louisiana moved into Phase 1 of reopening on May 15, Good Shepherd Church set a goal of returning to in-person worship for Trinity Sunday, June 7. Working closely with the Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast, we developed health and safety protocols and were ready to move forward, only to be delayed because of Tropical Storm Cristobal. On June 14, 2020, we again opened our doors to in-person worship offering services times of 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM, and 2:00 PM. Effective July 1, Jefferson Parish placed a mask mandate into effect, which later became a statewide mandate on July 13, 2020. In September, we discontinued our 2:00 PM Sunday service as it was the least well attended of the three offerings. Prior to the pandemic, our 8:30 AM service was only offered on first and third Sundays of the month, but has now become a weekly offering and has grown in attendance as some who typically attended the much larger 10:00 AM gathering have opted for the still smaller 8:30 AM service.

Upon restarting in-person worship, Good Shepherd Church did not restart of weekly Thursday evening midweek service. This service, which has been a staple at Good Shepherd Church since October 2009, remains on hiatus in large part because of the amount of manpower dedicated to properly cleaning and sanitizing the sanctuary after each worship gathering per our COVID-19 protocols. A goal in 2021 is to hold occasional midweek evening services around special holy day celebrations such as Epiphany, Candlemas, etc. and to reexamine a regular meeting once restrictions on meeting relax further and more people are inoculated.

Other health and safety changes to our worship practices that resulted from the pandemic included the removal of water from the holy water font, removal of pew bibles and hymnals from the pews, suspension of the passing of the peace, offering only the consecrated bread during Holy Communion and only by reception in the hand from the celebrant at the altar, suspension of our Sunday nursery and children's Sunday School programs.

Rites and Sacraments

Despite the obstacles of 2020, Good Shepherd Church received several new members into our family of faith, including: **Joseph Samuel Geeck**, **Yolanda (Lacey) P. Gianelloni**, **Lisa Ann Williams**, **Cody Williams**, **Emily Williams**, **Alison Williams** (child of Cody and Emily Williams), **Karen Strom**, and **Denae Segari**. On Sunday, October 11, 2020, Good Shepherd Church also witnessed the Confirmation of **Travis David Corley** and **Gabriel Reese LaGarde** as we welcomed Bishop Clark Lowenfield to our church that Sunday. It was also my blessing to administer the Sacrament of Baptism on **Jade Marie Schmitt** on Sunday, October 18, 2020. Jade is the granddaughter of Shirley and Mike Adams who used to regularly attend Good Shepherd Church before moving to Baton Rouge.

In 2020 I performed four funerals, the names and dates of which are listed below.

Carmel Graci

Sacramental Rite of Holy Unction on January 2, 2020
Passed heavenward on January 3, 2020
Funeral on January 10, 2020

Barbara Munster (Not a member of GSC; wife of Dottie Frilot's cousin)

Passed heavenward on February 27, 2020
Funeral on March 7, 2020

Maria Heikamp

Sacramental Rite of Holy Unction on April 24, 2020
Passed heavenward on May 25, 2020
Funeral on June 27, 2020

Lloyd Aucoin (Not a member of GSC; step-father of David Workman)

Passed heavenward on October 8, 2020
Funeral on October 15, 2020

Storms of Life and Gardens of Repose

As if the COVID-19 pandemic was not enough, 2020 turned out to be a very active season for tropical storms and hurricanes in the Atlantic basin. Louisiana endured a record setting five named storms during the season, including our immediate area being impacted by Cristobal (June 7 TS), Marco (August 24 TS), Zeta (October 28 Category 2). Southwest Louisiana was hit extremely hard on August 27 by Category 5 Hurricane Laura and then again on October 9 by Category 2 Hurricane Delta. The damage to the southwestern part of our state was immense and Good Shepherd Church coordinated with local celebrity Chef Amy Sins to hold a bottled water drive which took in over five flatbed truckloads of water for the impacted area. We also collected in excess of \$1500 in gift cards. The water and gift cards were able to be transported to our ACNA sister parish Trinity Anglican Church in Lafayette for distribution by their rector, Fr. Peter Johnston and his staff.

On All Souls Day, November 2, we formally dedicated our Memorial Prayer Garden on the westside of our property. The prayer garden had been over four years in the making and began to really come together in late 2019 and early 2020. In February 2020, the beautiful centerpiece of the garden, a half-ton, near life-size statue of Christ praying in the Garden of Gethsemane was delivered not long after the paved walkway had been laid. Many countless hours of work were put into the Memorial Prayer Garden by Margaret Aucion, Mel Aucoin, DJ Estopinal, Sheila Fussell, Joan Lyles, and before her passing, Sharon Wetzel. The three benches in the garden hold placards in memory of Ferdinand Berry, Keith Wells, and Harry & Sharon Wetzel, all of who's estates made extremely generous donations to this project. Their names are also inscribed on the memorial marker in the garden and in 2021, our leadership will be opening that marker to the addition of other names to be memorialized.

Concluding the Year as Christ's Priest

In 2016, Good Shepherd Church leaders and members recognized the need to disaffiliate from our former denomination and in 2017, acted to do so. At that time, it was necessary that move my ministerial credentials to

some ecclesial authority that was congruent with our orthodox and biblical view of the faith. I began a journey of pursuing Holy Orders in the Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast, Anglican Church of North America. I am joy-filled to conclude this document reporting that on June 19, 2020, at Trinity Anglican Church in Lafayette, LA, I was accepted into the Order of Deacons or Anglican Diaconate, and on December 12, 2020, in the sanctuary of Good Shepherd Church and in apostolic fashion and succession, The Right Reverend Clark WP Lowenfield, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast laid hands upon me ordaining me to the Order of Priests in the Anglican Presbyterate and making me a Priest in Christ's Holy Church.

In conclusion, allow me to again state how blessed I am to be called to be a servant of Jesus Christ and His church on earth and to manifest that service as pastor of Good Shepherd Church.

May God the Father continue to bless us; may God the Son, Jesus Christ of Nazareth continue to be our joyful hope; may God the Holy Spirit continue to indwell us, moving each of us toward our calling of service to His Kingdom; and may we continue to be open to that calling on and in our lives, being good stewards of those heavenly blessings we enjoy, while remaining active and obedient disciples of our Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus.

Soli Deo Gloria!

In service to Christ and His Church,
Father Randall M. Graf, Pastor

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Good Shepherd Church council for 2020 consists of Margaret Aucoin (President), Sandi Graci (Vice-president), Don Peters (Treasurer), Adam Bennett (Secretary), Joe Diebel, D.J.Estopinal, Sharon Hensley, with Father Randall Graf and Mel Aucoin (Ex-officio).

Thank you to each council member! You have been faithful participants of the church council, near and far. Thank you for your time on Zoom meetings, telephone calls, and board room meetings. Each of you has contributed your ideas, hopes, and dreams for our church, and each has been vital to the on-going care and growth of our church. But, in a Pandemic, what *can* we do?

This is what we did.

In a pandemic, our Pastor and Council have really done a lot. I am sure it will be repetitive for me to state the amazing job Father Randall has done over this year. In the face of being told not to have church, Father Randall exploded with electronic out-reach to our Good Shepherd flock and to the world! God BLESS him, in all aspects of his life!

- We did apply for government PPP monies (Paycheck Protection Plan). This money paid church salaries for two months.
- We did finish the Prayer Garden and have a beautiful place to worship outside and remember our loved ones. We did continue our Easter tradition of filling the Cross with flowers and start a new tradition of Easter pictures outside in the Garden. It was beautiful.
- In June, the Governor said we could regather in the sanctuary, with sanitizing and social distancing. We started and continue a new regimen of sanitizing before and between services.

- In October, Council decided we could do a socially distant garage sale and kicked off sales of the Christmas Cash Raffle. You donated and came out, masked and gloved, to work the garage sale.
- In December, the Christmas Spirit was dragging. We said we can do more. We can have outside caroling and a Live Nativity. We can couple it with the drawing for the Christmas Cash Raffle. We threw it together with what we had, you came, we sang. We saw some of our children! It was nice. I hope we can do it again.

There is hope that the virus will be stamped out. But that is not my only Hope. I Hope that we will all actively work to Grow the Lord's Church, for the Lord's sake, for the sake of needy people. The Un-churched. In your family? Your neighbor's children? You know, those people who don't know how to be nice. To behave. To love their family. To forgive. And lonely people. We've got a wonderful friendly loving church, a good pastor, dedicated Sunday school teachers, (potentially adult Sunday school), a great building, a great location. Yet, the Lord keeps us hungry... for funds ... hungry...for people?

Margaret Aucoin, Council President 2020

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

The Christian Education Board has been meeting to determine the best time to resume Sunday School and nursery. Due to the number of COVID cases in our area, our initial plans for an Advent relaunch were postponed, as were our plans for a first of the year relaunch. At this time, we think it's best to wait until just before Lent to reexamine the situation with an eye toward an after Mardi Gras relaunch if numbers are going in the right direction and the vaccine has made suitable inroads into the population.

When we resume classes there will be several exciting changes to our program. Please see the list below:

Sunday School will now take place from 9:00-9:45 on Sunday mornings. The students will be separated by grade level and taught by the following teachers:

PK4 - Kindergarten - Mrs. Rinda

1st & 2nd grade - Mrs. Debbie

3rd & 4th grade - Mrs. Renee

5th & 6th grade - Mr. Bob

7th grade and up - Mrs. Kelly

We do not have the availability to offer nursery during this Sunday School time. However, the nursery room will be available to any parent who wishes to use it for a younger sibling while the older ones are in Sunday School.

Our curriculum will be lectionary-based and follow the teachings that are being used each Sunday in worship. Each week's lesson includes a take home sheet for the students to discuss the lesson with parents. The beauty of this is that all of us, regardless of age, will be learning the same Scripture lessons each week and this will also afford the chance for families to continue discussing the lessons after church and into the week!

Our 10:00 worship service will offer a “Children’s Church” for students in PK4 through 4th grade. This will be taught by Mrs. Heidi and follow the lectionary readings, as well.

Nursery will be available during the 10:00 AM service for infants through PK3. We are asking each parent to volunteer to be placed on a rotating schedule to watch the nursery children. Anyone from our church family who is interested in volunteering for the nursery will be very much appreciated. Please call or email me to be placed on the rotation. My contact information can be found below.

All children who are in the Sunday School age group (PK4 and up) will be expected to continue wearing a mask and continue practicing social distancing and other health promoting behaviors for as long as federal, state, local, and diocesan authorities ask us to remain compliant with health guidelines. In accordance with guidelines, Nursery aged children, at this time, are not required to fulfill the mask mandate.

Please keep our Christian Education program in your prayers. We are striving to provide meaningful lessons to all the children of Good Shepherd Church.

In continued service,

Renee Graf, Christian Education Director

MUSIC DIRECTOR’S REPORT

January-March

Conducted rehearsals, played piano and led choir for worship services

Mid March-May

Collaborated with Rev. Graf on virtual mid week prayer services

Mid March-October

Provided music for virtual worship services

June

Attended ordination of Rev. Graf as a deacon in the Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast of the Anglican Church of North America

October-December

Resumed choir rehearsals and Sunday anthems, maintaining social distancing and masking

December 12

Ordination of Fr. Randall Graf to the priesthood in the Anglican Church of North America, prepared music for the service, including choral anthem written by David and Rinda Coleman for the service

Throughout the year I attended Council meetings and Education Committee meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

Rinda Coleman, Music Director

BUILDING MANAGEMENT GROUP

We have just completed a very challenging year between COVID-10 and hurricanes. Rentals have been very good and have personally kept me extremely busy. This has been because other venues were not renting out their facilities. We have had a steady stream of tenants in the gym including volleyball and basketball. We currently have two home school groups using both buildings on Tuesdays and Fridays till May. We have two different volleyball groups using the gym for training and payer development on Monday through Thursday evenings every week. We have two volleyball fun leagues playing on Monday and Wednesday mornings and on Saturday nights. Rental have been a significant component of our budget.

Our volunteer clean crew have increased the cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces to minimize the possibility of infection transmission.

The NA group that was using our conference room stopped meeting. Attendance at a socially distance meeting didn't work out so they decided to stop meeting. The regional organization still hold their meeting every third Sunday in our sanctuary.

The Korean Church of New Orleans has stopped meeting as they have been for many years. They have recently asked about using the sanctuary again. We currently trying to negotiate an agreement with them that they and GSC can live with.

In March we began streaming services on YouTube having no other choice to reach our congregation. Father Randy has been instrumental in setting this up and has extended our reach to several out of town individuals as well as our own members.

We experienced a termite attack under the west front window in the narthex. Terminix did a preliminary spraying and came back and treated the area with minimum damage to the sheet rock.

Due to an extremely heavy rain our roof developed a leak where the speakers for the bell system is mounted. The leak is been temporally fixed and the ceiling texture will be replaced. One of the hurricanes did some minor damage to the aluminum soffit and fascia on the upper part of the gym. It also took down our rotted sign. We will soon have another temporary sign until we have the funds to install a permanent electronic sign on the street.

I am happy to report that the prayer garden was completed and dedicated this year. We will continue to add to and maintain this garden in the years to come. Some tree trimming has been done at the rear of the property and missing fence boards have been replaced. Hand rails have been added to the sanctuary raised area.

Projects we hope to complete in the coming year by several volunteer work days are repaint the parking lot striping. Some interior painting needed in the fellowship hall. Floors will need to be stripped and re-waxed. Many of the older fluorescent lights will continue be retrofitted with LED lights for cost savings.

We have has several volunteers step up but the need is great. Personally I need help to get all the many tasks around the buildings accomplished.

Respectfully submitted,
Mel Aucoin, Building Maintenance Group

WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT

The Women's Guild only met 4 times in 2020 due to COVID-19.

Rev. Graft had a Worship Service for the ladies in January before our business meeting.

In February and March we had business meetings and afterwards went out for lunch.

In December we met to elect officers for 2021. They are as follows:

Barbara Mehrtens, President

Sheila Fussell, Vice President

Pam Peters, Secretary

Susan Shaff, Treasurer

We are praying that 2021 will bring us together again. We will hold our first meeting, January 12th with a Worship Service by our minister and then a business meeting. We will be holding this meeting and future meetings in the Sanctuary where we can be socially distanced.

We want to invite all ladies to join with us on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara F. Mehrtens, President

MEN'S CLUB REPORT

The year of 2020 proved to be a very challenging year for the Good Shepherd Church, Men's Club, because of Covid-19. All but three (3) Men's Club meetings had to be canceled and all but one fundraising event were done.

However, Men's Club business was conducted.

Men's Club elections were held. President D. J. Estopinal, Treasurer Don Peters and Secretary Bob Volk were elected for a two (2) year term.

The annual Superbowl Football Pool fund raiser was the only fundraiser conducted by the Men's Club in the year of 2020. Over \$1,000 was raised for purchase of our new sign.

Several ideas for Men's Club fundraisers were discussed and approved for the year. All had to be canceled because of Covid – 19.

Hurricane Zeta totally destroyed the Good Shepherd Church sign that had been located close to West Esplanade in front of the church. This made the purchase of the new Good Shepherd Church sign vital.

Because of the inability of the Men's Club to conduct any fund raisers in the year of 2020, except the one, the Superbowl Football Pool, it was decided that the Men's Club would have to change plans for purchasing an electric/computerized sign. Instead it was decided that a standard analog letter sign be explored. As soon as bids for the new sign comes in, the Men's Club will decide on which sign and company will be chosen.

Respectfully submitted,

D. J. Estopinal, President

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Council

The nominating committee (**Sheila Fussell, Norma Cook and Rebecca Estopinal**) submits the following nominees for consideration by the Congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting of Good Shepherd Church, January 31, 2021.

The following council members have completed their first two (2) year term and are being nominated for a second (2) year term, **Margaret Aucoin, Joseph Deibel and Sharon Hensley**. Their nominations require a vote of the congregation.

The following council members have an additional year on their second two (2) year term, **Barbara Mehrtens and Sandi Graci**. **Adam Bennett** and **Don Peters** have one year left on their first two (2) year term. These members do not require a vote.

The Nominating Committee nominates **Carla Scallon** to serve a two (2) year term on the Council to replace **DJ Estopinal** who has completed his first (2) two year term and has decided to step down from council. We thank DJ for his faithful service.

If approved these nominations result in an 8-person council which is within our bylaws.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee submits the following church member for a 3-year term to this Committee, **Pam Peters**.

Norma Cook will be serving a third year of her 3-year term (2019/2020/2021) and **Rebecca Estopinal** will be serving a second year of her 3-year term (2020/2021/2022).

We would like to thank Sheila Fussell for her 3-year completed service on this committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Fussell, Norma Cook, Rebecca Estopinal

PLEASE SEE SEPARATE DOCUMENT FOR TREASURER'S REPORT AND PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2021.