

# GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – FEBRUARY 4, 2024



### **2024 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA**

Call to Order  
Opening Prayer  
Establish Quorum  
Approval of 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes  
Acceptance of Reports  
Treasurer's Report with Proposed 2023 Budget  
Approval of 2023 Budget  
Adjournment

### **MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 5, 2023 ANNUAL MEETING**

#### **Meeting to Order** – Fr. Randall

- Opening prayer
- Establish Quorum - yes – (21) count, greater than 50% of regular attendance.

#### **Secretary's Report**

Mel makes a motion to approve the minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sandy Graci, Vote: all aye's, Passed.

#### **Treasurer's report** –

Handouts: Profit & Loss Statement \_ January 2022-December 2022

Bottom line: Increase in tithing and rental income allowed us to meet our expenses. We can expect another 18% increase in insurance next year, also expect an increase in utilities in 2023.

Budget for 2023-

- We expect a decrease in rental income in 2023 (we lost one of our biggest tenants)
- Total budget estimate \$135,000.
- Projected (-) \$5,300.00 loss.

The only way to eliminate the deficit: it is to increase income and membership. Fundraising is going to be very important to meeting our budget.

Questions to Treasurer:

Q1. Sheila Fussel asked about the lack of Christmas offering envelopes, 2022.

RE: Council discussed Christmas envelopes and intends to have them out in 2023.

Q2. Sheila asked that a comparison month to month by year be posted on the bulletin board.

Re: Don said, "We can do that."

Mr. Stan makes a motion to accept the treasurer's report, Mark Cabrera 2<sup>nd</sup>, Vote, Passed

### **Bylaws Update**

Bylaws are 90-95% complete. It must be eyed by diocese chancellor.

In a few weeks, we will be getting a draft out prep for a special meeting.

### **Safe Church**

The next huge project is to tackle Good Shepherd's Safe Church policy, a Provincial requirement.

Q1: Renee – What kind of training is the for Safe Church?

RE: Policy will require background checks for all employees.

"Sometimes we have to build it while we fly it."

### **Diocesan Workshop:**

The diocese is planning Biblical Life Weekends. Focus on how we live life out.

### **How you can help the church -**

- Invite friends, family.
- Volunteer for Sunday school, nursery, VBS will be coming up.
- Rentals – more parties, need help set up and clean up.
- 

Mr. Stan makes a motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carla, Vote, all Aye's, Passed.

**Closed in Prayer**- Fr. Randall

Respectfully submitted,

**Margaret Aucoin**, Council Secretary

## **RECTOR'S REPORT**

Founded in 1976, the year 2023 represented the 47<sup>th</sup> year of Good Shepherd Church as a part of the Body of Christ. Allow me to state from the outset of this report, what a blessing it is for me to realize that God has called me to serve this beautiful church parish.

### **Rites and Sacraments for 2023**

#### **Holy Matrimony:**

June 17, 2023 - Noah Huntley and Taylor Hale

#### **Holy Unction:**

December 5, 2023 - David Workman

#### **Burial of the Dead:**

April 5, 2023 – Stanley Blaise McDonald, Sr

May 27, 2023 – Patricia Verstappen Carter

December 15, 2023 – David Carey Workman

December 29, 2023 – Elvin Frederick Munster, Sr & Doris Bertha Elder Munster

### **Worship**

We continue to offer two Sunday morning services at Good Shepherd Church. Our 10:00 AM service historically has had a significantly larger attendance than our 8:30 AM service, and that has held true for 2023. Since summer of 2020, after returning to in-person worship from the initial onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 8:30 AM service remains a weekly offering. Prior to that, it only met on the first and third Sundays of the month.

In 2022, we made a concerted effort to begin celebrating many of the Red Letter Holy Days that occur outside of the regular Sunday obligation. While we have always had services for the Church's Principal Feasts—Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, Trinity, Christmas, Epiphany, and All Saints—this year, we also commemorated many of the other Red letter Holy Days of the Church Calendar. In 2023, we did not hold as many of our "Midday Masses" on weekdays to commemorate Red Letter Days but it is my goal to offer more of these in 2024.

In keeping with tradition, we also held multiple special services including Ash Wednesday, Stations of the Cross, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Women's Guild services.

### **Other Events at Church**

Good Shepherd Church remained a very active parish with plenty of noteworthy events in 2023. Annual events such as Trunk or Treat, the October Pet Blessing, Black and Gold Sunday, our Live Nativity, and Breakfast With Santa were all once again big hits in 2023.

Around the Diocese

Each Spring, the Diocese holds a clergy retreat. In 2023, our retreat was held at the Holy Name Passionist Retreat Center in Bunkerhill, TX. From March 8-11, I was blessed to be in retreat with my brother priests and bishop of our diocese.

From November 2-4, I had the pleasure of attending the annual synod of the Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast. As usual, this event began at the HopePointe Cathedral in The Woodlands, TX. It ended however with the diocese celebrating the new home of our cathedral at St. Timothy's in Spring, Tx. Good Shepherd was also represented at synod by three voting delegates: Margaret Aucoin, Mel Aucoin, Rinda Coleman, and Mark Cabrera.

Since the beginning of the pandemic in 2020, Zoom has become an integrated part of week to week activities for me at church. As I mentioned in previous annual reports, while there are times when I wish it was never invented, the reality is, ZOOM has allowed for the ability to have meetings that otherwise would be much more difficult to hold. Bishop Clark continues his "head of congregations" meetings every other month on Zoom where I get to meet online with my him and my brother priests in the diocese who are "rectors" (lead pastors) of their parishes. The bishop also holds "College of Presbyters" Zoom meetings every other month where he updates all of the priests in the diocese of ongoing diocesan and provincial events, issues, and associated information.

Coming in 2024

It is my pleasure to announce in this report that in May 2024, our Bishop, The Right Rev'd Clarke Lowenfield and the entire diocesan teaching team will be at Good Shepherd for a weekend experience called *Evangelism Life Weekend*. This weekend long event will begin with dinner followed by worship on Friday evening, May 17. On Saturday, May 18, the core of the Evangelism Life Weekend will be offered beginning with a continental breakfast in the morning and breaking for lunch at noon. The entire weekend will come to a conclusion on Sunday May 19 which is Pentecost Sunday. On that Sunday, Bishop Clarke will serve as celebrant for our Sunday worship and he will also lay hands on anyone who is wishing to be confirmed or received into membership.

Finally, allow me to report with great excitement that Good Shepherd Anglican Church is in the very early stages of forming an Hispanic Ministries Outreach in our parish. Our ultimate goal is to provide weekly Spanish language services and thereby continuing to grow the Kingdom. In the meanwhile, we are in the planning stages and are working closely with Bishop Clarke and with Fr. Oscar Gallego; our Diocesan Canon for Hispanic Ministry. I am currently joined in this project by Dr. Mark Cabrera and the Rev'd Andres Gonzalez, both of whom are fluent in the Spanish language and both of whom are fully committed to this ministry. In fact, Dr. Mark is in the very early stages of pursuing Anglican Holy Orders as he is discerning a calling to the Sacred Diaconate (i.e., to be a deacon). Meanwhile, Rev'd Gonzalez began worshipping with us in 2023. He is an ordained Old Catholic Priest and is a retired police officer and police chaplain. Padre Gonzalez is currently in a process known as incardination, which will include a period of discernment followed by, Lord-willing, either a reordination or other canonical

endorsement of his priestly faculties in order that they may be exercised in our parish. This is a very exciting project which I believe has the potential to develop beyond what we can even imagine.

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 rector of Good Shepherd Anglican 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, Rector**

### **MUSIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

During 2023, music continued to be a vital part of worship at Good Shepherd Anglican Church. My responsibilities as music director include choosing appropriate hymns for worship. I rely heavily on suggestions from the Lectionary when selecting hymns. In addition to congregational hymn singing, I provide worshipful instrumental music during the prelude to the service to begin the service of Holy Eucharist in a prayerful manner.

The Good Shepherd Choir provides anthems on a regular basis during worship. I lead rehearsals each Wednesday. When the choir is on hiatus, I provide solos, small ensembles and instrumental solos.

During July, Good Shepherd Church held a "Christmas in July" themed Vacation Bible School. I helped to get faculty and staff and served as Director. Father Randall Graf wrote the curriculum which the children and faculty enjoyed.

In addition to weekly services, I provided music for two memorial services, Red Letter Day observances, as well as services on Christmas Eve, Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday.

On November 3-4, 2023, I attended the Annual Synod of the Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast in Texas as a voting member.

On December 17, 2023, the choir presented a Christmas Cantata, "A Song Is Born."

It is a privilege to be a part of the ministry of Good Shepherd Anglican Church.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Rinda Coleman, Music Director**

## **BUILDING MANAGEMENT GROUP**

The past year has been very profitable for our building rentals. The Good Shepherd received \$37,523 in renting the gym/classrooms/meeting rooms. Sports have been our major source with hourly gym rentals, home schools (Classic Conversations), Korean Church of New Orleans, Unity non-profit groups (monthly meetings plus weekly N.A. and O.A. groups), Jefferson Coral, VIB Handicap Education and summer volleyball groups displaced out of JPRD gyms for summer programs. Some have come and gone and others have been with us for years. We have also rented to several parties and showers. There are very few days when we are not renting our facilities. We have lost VIB from last year as they are now renting a storefront in Harahan. We have added Core Elite Volleyball back from the North Shore using our gym 4 evenings a week and Basketball using our gym Sunday mornings. We also get many inquiries from the web site. Our rental calendar has become very full, sometimes we can accommodate and other we cannot.

We have scheduled a spring yard sale on Friday May 3 and Saturday May 4. Setup and pricing the two days before. We are going to try to have two sales this year. We need many people to help to make that happen. There is a constant need for help. We are in constant need for volunteers. If you see any item that needs attention please let me know. A special thanks to Rinda Coleman, Bob Volk, Joe Edwards, Gwen Martinez and Margaret Aucoin for their past and continued help.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Mel Aucoin, Building Maintenance Group**

## **WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT**

During the year 2023, the Women's Guild focused on a study of Amazing Women of the Bible, based on a book by John McDonald. Rinda Coleman led the study which will conclude in the spring of 2024.

In addition to monthly meetings, the Women's Guild supported the mission activities of the church, including Soctober and Second Harvesters Food Bank. The activity that the Guild has decided to focus on is the Women's New Life Clinic. This will be an ongoing activity with a collection box in the narthex of the church. Supplies for newborns and new mothers are welcomed. The Women's Guild also made donations to support VBS, and gifted church workers whose contributions are often overlooked.

Officers for 2023:  
Rinda Coleman, President  
Melva Geiger, Vice President  
Sheila Fussell, Secretary Susan Schaff, Treasurer

Our officers for 2024 are:  
Co-presidents – Sheila Fussell, Sudan Schaff  
Secretary – Melva Geiger  
Treasurer – Sudan Schaff  
Bible Study – Rinda Coleman

Respectfully submitted,  
**Rinda Coleman, Women's Guild President**

**FUND RAISING**

In an effort to supplement our church income/budget the Council held the following fund raisers in 2023.

**Lasagna Dinners (To-Go):** The dinners are very labor-intensive events, but the feed-back from members and others purchasing the meals was overwhelmingly positive. We are grateful for all the help in preparing the food, as well as help the day of the event in the kitchen and distributing food as “To-Go”. Clean-up is always a challenge, and we appreciate the help from those who stayed to help with cleaning.

Lasagna Dinner – April 16, 2023

Profit \$1,664 after expenses and donations      Number of To-Go plates served: 100    (tickets sold: 100)

We had originally prepared roughly 130 portions and in the fall sold the remaining frozen Lasagna as well, included in the total profit above.

**Raffles:** We had one raffle in 2023, for cash prizes – Ms. Sandy Graci donated \$1,000 for us to use in the raffle – her donation was greatly appreciated. The Council thought it would be appropriate to split the funds into two prizes.

Raffled 2 - \$500 prizes, \$5/ticket or 6 tickets for \$25. Winners drawn December 16, 2023.

Christmas Cash

Church Portion \$580

**Garage Sale:** Garage Sale was a little smaller and we were only able to hold one event in 2023. This event requires many hands to help with sorting, setting up tables, categorizing items and pricing, as well as packing up and cleaning up after. We have been blessed to have several people that come and help with these tedious tasks. Many needy people in the community attend and rely on these purchases.

August 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Church Portion \$1,215

**Saints Football Pool (Entire Season):** This is a fun event to hold and gives us an opportunity to cheer for the Saints as well. Entire Season Football Pool (17 regular season games) is an easier way to streamline this event, one payment and sign up at the beginning of the football season with weekly game payouts, and 4 chances to win per game. Thanks to Mel Aucoin for tracking the scores and paying out the winnings to the participants. Thanks to all who sold squares to friends and family members.

Saints 2023 Regular Season Pool – Church Portion \$1,300

While we fell short of the 2022 fund raising, we were able to raise a total of \$4,759 to help supplement the General Fund. A big **thank you** to all who helped, from shopping, cooking, distributing, cleaning, printing/selling tickets, donations, and running the football pool. These events would not have been possible without the help and participation of church members. It is important to remember to sell tickets to family and friends outside of our current church family, this helps us to achieve some outreach to the community.

We are planning events for 2024, please consider participating and helping with these events, we all need to participate to make these events successful. Keep in mind to tell friends and family to bring items for the Garage Sale event, date to be announced soon.

Respectfully submitted,

**Carla Scallan**

## **Christian Education**

What's going on with Christian Ed?

- In October, Margaret Aucoin stepped up as Director of Christian Ed, taking it over from Renee Graf who has faithfully served the church for many, many years as director.
- Renee Graf and Heidi LaGarde are continuing as Sunday school teachers, with the addition of Margaret Aucoin, each taking a Sunday to teach Sunday school.
- Izabel Landry is currently our nursery attendant for 8:30 and 10:00 services, with help from our youth volunteers, Gabe LaGarde and Joan Frilot.
- Sunday school attendance varies. The Ben Martinez' boys attend two weeks a month, and the Spencer boys attend most weeks. Leah Aucoin attending when possible.

In summary, we have two really experienced teachers, who have been providing their usual, loving job of teaching. Since taking over as director, I have been a learning and experiencing what it is to be a Sunday school teacher, to see and understand the challenges. I expect to meet with the committee soon to discuss what I've learned about available curriculum for Sunday school and possible VBS offerings.

We really could use one more teacher to fill out the month. Think about it! Pray about it!

Respectfully submitted,

**Margaret Aucoin**, Christian Ed Director

## **MEN'S CLUB**

The men's club has been inactive since the pandemic. Father Randall and I have talked and we will try to have an event, maybe a barbeque before Easter to get the group going again. Please see me or Father Randall if you are interest.

**Mel Aucoin**, MC Treasurer

**PLEASE SEE SEPARATE DOCUMENT FOR TREASURER'S REPORT AND PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2024.**