

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

*An Episcopal Church in the
Diocese of North Carolina*



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**ANNUAL
REPORT
2015**

125 HILLSBOROUGH STREET
RALEIGH, NC 27603

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The Rector's Report

As I begin my twentieth annual report, let me bring you up to date with some of the events recorded in the Registers of the Church for 2015. Through November 30 we have conducted 276 services of worship. These include 219 Celebrations of the Holy Eucharist: 96 on Sundays, 64 on Weekdays, and 59 Private Communion. We have had 40 services of the Daily Office, 13 Baptisms, 4 Celebrations of Holy Matrimony, and the Burial Office was read 8 times. From the Parochial Report for 2014, our parish size was listed as 1,486 Baptized Members and 947 Communicants in Good Standing. These numbers have been affected in the following ways: 13 Baptisms, 17 Transfers In, 14 Confirmations and Receptions, 14 Transfers Out, and 8 Burials. As of today, there are 1,496 Baptized Members, and 956 Communicants in Good Standing. These numbers will be adjusted at the end of the year.

We continue to work with BB&T on our debt on the Parish Life Center. Through the efforts of those who have participated in the Generations Campaign and some bequests, we are continuing to pay down the debt. At the present time it stands at 1.279 Million Dollars.

I give thanks for all of the outstanding work by the members of our staff. We have had one staff change and expect another by the end of the year. We said good-bye to Elizabeth Dawkins, our Publications Secretary for the past fifteen years as she took a new position at the Diocesan Office. We will also say good-bye to The Rev. Dr. Colin Miller, our Associate for Urban Ministry at the end of the year. We welcomed Julie Allen as our new Publications Secretary.

I want to thank each of you for being a part of the mission and ministry of The Church of the Good Shepherd. May the Peace of the Lord be with you always.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Dr. Robert C. Sawyer
Rector

Associate Rector's Report

“...you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light... wrap yourselves in humility and be servants of each other...” – 1 Peter 2:9; 5:5

“...God came among us in the person of Jesus of Nazareth to show us the Way. He came to show us the Way to life, the Way to love. He came to show us the Way beyond what often can be the nightmares of our own devisings and into the dream of God's intending... This is the Jesus Movement, and we are The Episcopal Church, the Episcopal branch of Jesus' movement in this world...” – The Most Rev'd Michael Curry, 27th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, “A Word to the Church”

It is a privilege and an exciting challenge to share in leading this Episcopal Parish community, Church of the Good Shepherd, at a time when a new Presiding Bishop who has been our Diocesan Bishop here in North Carolina, and with his family, a special part of our Parish, begins his ministry with an inspiring call to be “the Episcopal branch of Jesus' movement in this world. In Adult Christian formation we seek to explore more deeply what that means, and to move forward from that understanding to righteous action – in Jesus' Name - that fulfills “the dream of God's intending” as we know that through Jesus Christ. Bishop Curry's call is not to ungrounded activism, but a call first to go deeper in our understanding of the faith, and then forward. Bishop Curry himself has spoken earlier in a pastoral address to the N C diocesan convention a few years ago of “going deep to go forward.” That is the purpose of Adult Christian Formation at Church of the Good Shepherd, to go deeper in our understanding of the Christian Faith to be able to go forward with the mission of redeeming and reconciling the world in Jesus' Name. We do this in Bible study, in studying the saints of the Church, and the fundamental beliefs and doctrines of the Christian faith, on Sundays and in weekday offerings. I am thankful for Fr. Colin Miller, the Rev. Nancy Allison, Debbie Moyer who are gifted teachers who help “equip the saints” of Good Shepherd “for the work of ministry.”

- The Rev. Bill Bennett, Associate Rector

Associate Rector for Urban Ministry The Church of the Good Shepherd

In general, I have continued this year in my duties at Good Shepherd to set before us the vision and reality of being a church where the poor are welcomed *as the poor* in order to find ways that the whole Body of Christ living together can be mutually enriching for rich and poor alike. I have particularly emphasized this year the connection between the heart of the Church's life, the adoration of the Trinity in the celebration of the Eucharist, and a commitment to being a church *of* the poor. To this end, in my capacity as a part-time (~30 hrs/wk) clergy at Good Shepherd, I have done a variety of things.

LITURGY AND PREACHING: Among my primary duties as a priest is facilitating the public worship of the Church and proclaiming the Word of God in sermons. I have been privileged to do this at Good Shepherd regularly throughout the last year at each of our Sunday Eucharists.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: I have regularly taught classes that give a Christian theological and ethical frame to issues of poverty, homelessness, liturgy, and life together.

BEYOND THE DOORS GROUP: A group of about 10-15 people meet regularly to pray, study, eat and learn more about what the Church teaches about the poor. This group also sponsors, plans, and executes some of the events below that facilitate face to face interactions between those in our neighborhood. Each month this group and any at Good Shepherd are invited on the first Sunday to the Maurin House in Durham where Colin works as priest in charge of the Community of the Franciscan Way.

OPEN DOORS: This year, with a hiatus in the summer, Good Shepherd's nave has been open from 11am-2pm, Tuesdays-Thursdays for any who want to come in off the street for prayer, meditation, or simply rest. Members of the Parish volunteer to staff an information table during these hours, and Noonday Prayer is said from the Book of Common Prayer each day at 12:15. This service is often attended by friends and strangers alike. Depending on the day, anywhere from 5-15 visitors enjoy our beautiful church.

NEIGHBORHOOD COOK-INS: Roughly once a month Good Shepherd invites all those in the neighborhood to a lunch shared together in Shepherd's Table Soup kitchen. Members of Good Shepherd bring dishes to share, and rich and poor eat together around tables and begin to forge relationships. We usually feast with between 30-100 guests.

STREET PRIEST: Among other duties, I am charged with simply being a sacramental and pastoral presence on the streets of Raleigh. I spend about five hours a week in this capacity. – variously at Moore Square, the Soup Kitchen, or Love Wins Ministries, where I seek to be present (in my collar), get to know people, and be a sort of missionary from Good Shepherd to our neighbors.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE and PASTORAL CARE: I have regularly responded to requests for financial assistance and pastoral care to those who come to her doors directly from the streets.

Father Bob has been a supportive and wise mentor, and I have grown in many ways as a priest this year.

Respectfully submitted,
Your Brother in Christ,
Fr. Colin

Senior Warden's Report

As the 2015 Vestry began the year, we took on the theme "Making Disciples" to be intentional in our work together. This has been a year full of dedicated work surrounded by God's love as we focus together toward "Making Disciples" in all that we do at the Church of the Good Shepherd.

There has been an intentional focus on continuing to be a welcoming church. Vestry members wear their nametags and focused throughout the year on being a welcoming community. A project completed by vestry members was an all parish survey to update information in order to make sure that the church office has the best contact information on parishioners and their interests in ministries. Google Ads were run during Holy Week to reach out to our community by social media. Vestry members held clean-up days to make sure that our church grounds were kept clean and welcoming.

The vestry has been intentional in what it means to be a very active church in growing Downtown Raleigh. We held a discussion with the Executive Director of the Raleigh Downtown Alliance and we look to continue to seek opportunities to serve the community from our downtown location.

The Church of the Good Shepherd has been blessed by generous gifts of time, talent and treasure in many ways this year. The Stoker family estate provided such an opportunity as we were able to pay our loan payments on the Parish Life Center for 2016 and 2017 from this gift.

Celebrating our future at Good Shepherd, we have heard the gift of children's voices singing with the children's chapel choir that formed this year.

This year will be historically marked as the Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina became Presiding Bishop. It was an honor to truly celebrate the Presiding Bishop and Mrs. Curry as host to the final celebration reception of the Diocese being held at Good Shepherd. Then, on November 1, 2015, we shared together in laughter and love while watching Presiding Bishop Curry's installation in the Shepherd's Hall.

Our clergy continues to provide our parish with great leadership and care. I would like to thank Dr. Sawyer for his innovative way of "Making Disciples" as he guided us to be intentional in our prayers for one another this year during Lent. Dr. Sawyer also began the Education Initiative as he saw a community need.

I would also like to express my appreciation to each of the vestry members for your dedication to "Making Disciples" in your hours of commitment to our church. Our clergy and parish staff cannot be thanked enough. This has been quite a team and it has been an honor to work together.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith L. Swindell,
Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Report

Tony Wilson, our sexton, Robert Jones, assistant sexton, and Darylene Netzer, our parish administrator, are the people most responsible for the daily maintenance and upkeep of our buildings and grounds. Without their dedication to their roles, our buildings would not be in the lovely condition it is every Sunday – and every other day of the week! Please remember that although large projects are necessary and important to our church, the daily watchfulness and concern for the church is absolutely vital to its usefulness. Please take time to thank them for their excellent work.

Thank you to all parishioners who have shared their input, time and talents on the welfare of the church buildings and grounds this year. Many plans have been discussed, some have been implemented, and more repairs to current infrastructure have been made. Special thanks to Don Blankenship for his continued service to the church, completing repairs, small and large, on short notice. Several individuals that have given significant donations to complete major repairs and projects this past year. Thank you all.

2015 Accomplishments:

- Replaced (2) drives in cooling pumps in the AC units
- Repaired roof leaks in PLC and church roof over the stairwell to the balcony
- Repaired water spigots on the front of the church
- Repainted the 1st floor entry and hallways and bathrooms of the PLC
- Refreshed the landscaping around the church building and grounds
- Washed the porch and façade of the sanctuary
- Repaired the plaster cracks and peels in front half of the sanctuary
- Replaced garage door with new door and design for improved safety
- Installed a gate to limit access to area between PLC and NC DOL building
- Improve weekly cleaning of the PLC
- Many relatively small repairs to the Parish Life Center and church go unnoticed because they are fixed without fanfare and request for help – they are just fixed. If you know these people who make these repairs happen, please take time to thank them. Providing a place for worship is a ministry in itself, and these quiet and selfless gifts are very important to the mission of the church.
- The Vestry holds “cleanup days” on mornings before scheduled events, like weddings and ordinations. We assist the sextons in making sure the church is presentable for our guests on their important days. Volunteers are always welcome. The work is generally light, and made lighter with more hands!

2016 Plans:

- Several projects have been proposed for completion in 2016
 - Replace (1) compressor in PLC A/C unit

- Repaint the 1st floor office spaces, hallways, breakrooms, and choir/music rooms
- Repaint the 2nd floor hallways, classrooms, and bathrooms
- Upgrade security monitoring equipment
- Continue to maintain the landscaping around the church building and grounds
- Install landscape lighting to surrounds of church for added security and appeal at night
- Add signage designating the address and name of the Parish Life Center
- Continue to regularly wash the porch and façade of the sanctuary
- Repair the plaster cracks and peels through the remainder of the sanctuary
- Remove unnecessary items from under the sanctuary, and in work closets in the PLC
- Continue to improve weekly cleaning of the PLC

Plans beyond 2016

- Repaint the 3rd floor of the PLC in 2017.
- Address the encroachment of the oak trees on the front of the church.

Thank you for your interest in the church building and grounds. I am humbled by your responses to the needs of this church.

Faithfully,

Steve Dorer,

Junior Warden

Director of Family Ministries

The following report covers activities in our parish since January 1, 2015.

Good Shepherd continues to have an outstanding and reliable staff in the nursery. We are incredibly fortunate to have Nancy East at the helm. Early this year, guidelines regarding visitors to the nursery were posted to facilitate creating a calm, consistent environment and to allow the staff and parent volunteers to give their full focus to infants to four year olds. The results have been extremely positive, and I often hear compliments on the quality of the nursery program from parents and visitors. The nursery rooms are thoroughly cleaned and toys inspected each week. Carpeting was given its annual deep cleaning again this summer. For the second year in a row, the nursery space was also the site of an August celebration for children starting kindergarten this fall.

The Sunday school year began with a teacher workday on August 29. We currently have 20 adult volunteers working as teachers in our Children's and Youth Sunday School program. Rally Day was held on September 13 with the theme of *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*. Elizabeth Gant provided much of the creative inspiration in incorporating this year's theme into the second floor hallway and bulletin boards. The 3-year-olds, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classes use a home grown CGS curriculum; the elementary grades and the Middle School class work from the Episcopal curriculum *Weaving God's Promises* and the High School uses Virginia Theological Seminary's Youth Curriculum. All teachers have access to the *Weaving God's Promises* curriculum on line, and many use it as a resource and supplement. The 3-year-old class is currently on a short hiatus due to low enrollment, but we are hopeful that opening the class up to younger 3 year olds this spring will make this class viable.

Children's Chapel remains a thriving ministry and draws large attendance each week. We frequently have more than 20 children ages 4 to second grade participating. Volunteers continue to use an online sign up tool to recruit storytellers and greeters for the *Godly Play* program. We hosted a *Godly Play* training workshop at Good Shepherd in April 2015 in conjunction with the Diocese. We had good participation from our parish and welcomed visitors from Greensboro, Chapel Hill, and Southern Pines. This spring we collaborated with the choir to incorporate music instruction into Children's Chapel time. This spring's pilot was extremely successful and allowed us to experiment and refine the program. Jessica Bowen now leads (5) five-week music modules that alternate with five or six week sessions of *Godly Play* over the course of the year. The result has been a model for Children's Chapel that is more sustainable from a staffing perspective and provides children with a connection to music as a cornerstone of our worship.

We maintain an ongoing effort to provide children's bulletins and share bags for young children during worship. The bags are lovingly refreshed each week by office volunteers. Peggy Hawks leads the effort and is unwavering in her commitment to the children of our parish. Anna Howard once again ably led the Grapes and Grains Communion class for first graders and is gearing up for the next installment of the class in early 2016. We are incredibly lucky to have her talents as a teacher in this endeavor.

CGS hosted several *Splash* dinners for families with a child or children under the age of three

years during 2015. These dinners are consistently well attended. Karen Sommerville generously prepares the meals and sets beautiful, child friendly tables with fun themes.

As well as youth Sunday school, CGS continues to offer regular EYC programming on Sunday evenings. Stephanie Bias along with Shannon and Mike O'Brien lead the evening group, which is averaging around 15 youth a week. During 2015 the youth enjoyed a special lunch with Bishop Curry on Palm Sunday as well a trip to the Cheshire House at NCSU. Jeff Whittaker led Youth Confirmation classes this spring with confirmation on Easter Day. He has generously agreed to lead the class in 2016 in anticipation of the Bishop's visit in May.

In addition to regular meetings this fall, the EYC has also enjoyed a trip to a corn maze and a Thanksgiving potluck for youth and parents. Plans have been made for the youth Christmas Party (potluck and white elephant gift exchange) later this month. Twenty CGS youth and adults attended Trinity Center in September for a weekend retreat and participated in the *Sound to Sea* program. They also attended services and walked the labyrinth at St Francis by the Sea in Salter Path. During November, the youth spearheaded a very successful Winter Warmth Drive benefitting Shepherd's Table. In addition, they have completed three profitable fundraisers: the annual Hot Chocolate Sale during the Raleigh Christmas parade and the annual Poinsettia Sale and Easter Flower Sale.

Intergenerational activities and events continue to be integral to fellowship and the family ministries of our parish. Our very successful *Hometown Nazareth* VBS held in June is a wonderful example of the success our parish enjoys when we work together. Our youngest participants were three years old. Our volunteers ranged in age from middle schoolers to grandparents. Elizabeth Gant stands out for her instrumental assistance in VBS organization and planning. Other 2015 intergenerational events included a Pancake Supper on Refreshment Sunday (postponed from Shrove Tuesday due to ice), a Palm Sunday all parish event, the Saint Francis Day Pet Blessing, and the Advent Festival held earlier this week. The annual Christmas Pageant and All Parish Christmas Party are just around the corner. A gingerbread competition will add a fun new twist to the Christmas Party.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Wilson
Director of Family Ministries, Church of the Good Shepherd

Music Ministry Report

Our parish is truly blessed with beautiful and inspiring music every Sunday and on special occasions by our numerous choirs and ensembles: The Chancel Choir, the CGS Ensemble, the Hand Bell Choir, the Youth Choir, and our youngest voices from Children's Chapel. In addition to our choirs, we enjoy the talents of many of the finest instrumentalists in Raleigh, many from the North Carolina Symphony. Indeed, our worship services are filled with glorious music.

Our volunteer musicians are vital to the success of our Music Ministry. In addition to our volunteer musicians, we also have a number of volunteers who help in other ways. Special thanks to Nan Robinson and Dar Jennings, our volunteer music librarians who keep a zillion sheets of music catalogued and in order. Special thanks to Elizabeth Gant for helping to keep our robes organized and maintained...and for the occasional yummy treats! Special thanks to Jan Harris who keeps accurate financial spread sheets for our fundraisers, AND a heartfelt THANK YOU to the many parishioners who give of their time and treasures to support this ministry.

Our ministry continues to attract new volunteer voices and participants. It's great when people want to join a wonderful community of loving people and great musicians. While our purpose as a Music Ministry is to provide beautiful music for our services, it's our sense of COMMUNITY that is vital to the ongoing success and fulfillment of this ministry.

On a "high note" Our Youth Choir has become quite a force. They are a small collection of nine youthful voices, with a HUGE talent and an INCREDIBLE sound! It is a real pleasure to work with such fun and talented young people. Another "high note" is the recent inclusion of Music Modules in our Children's Chapel led by Jessica Bowen. This program has proven to be very popular with children and their parents. The congregation has also greatly enjoyed the small children's voices on occasion in our worship services.

Our annual Music Ministry Fundraisers, the 88 Key Campaign and our Christmas Greenery Sale, have both remained successful even in our challenging economic times. We are truly blessed with amazing support from our church family.

THANKS to the entire parish and staff for your many positive comments, and your incredible support of this very special ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

Dwayne Holloway
Director of Music Ministries & Organist

Fellowship Committee Report

The year 2015 started with the Chili Cook-off in February, then the Mike Beard Memorial Pig Pickin' in May (Kentucky Derby Day), the Fall Parish Picnic in September and ended with the Oyster Roast and Shrimp Fest in November.

We were fortunate to have great weather and a great turnout of attendees and volunteers at each event; approximately 124 people at the Mike Beard Memorial Pig Pickin', 60 people at the Parish Picnic and 125 at the Oyster Roast and Shrimp Fest. 85 people attended the Chili-Cook-off, to taste and savor 17 entries for the best chili of 2015!

Event	Food/Supply Cost	Facility Cost	Income from Tickets	Net Income/Lost +/-
Chili Cook-off	0	0	0	0
MBM Pig Pickin'	\$1,606.76	0	\$1,615.00	\$8.24
Parish Picnic	0	\$60	0	(\$60.00)
Oyster Roast	\$1,055.99	0	\$1,371.00	\$315.01
			Total	\$263.25

This year the locations were: Shepherd's Hall for the Chili Cook-off, Tara Farm for the Pig Pickin', North Hills Park for the Fall Picnic and Shepherd's Table for the Oyster Roast and Shrimp Fest. Sincere gratitude and thankfulness for The Pugh's and the staff at Shepherd's Table for allowing us to host events at these venues.

Fellowship events are a great time of fun and celebration for our Good Shepherd family as we continue to strengthen our relationship with each other. We continue to amaze ourselves at the generosity of time, talent and treasures we share in making each of these events successful. Thank you all for being a part of something special and please extend invitations to your extended family and friends to any and all future fellowship events at CGS.

Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering for any future fellowship events. Keep an eye out for the 2016 fellowship event dates and be sure to mark your calendar.

Gerard McNeill, 2015 Fellowship Chair
Mac Gilbert, 2015 Fellowship Vice-Chair

Outreach Committee Report

The Church of the Good Shepherd has a long history of outreach to those in need. Outreach ministries supported through funds and volunteers in 2015 included: Shepherd's Table Soup Kitchen, Lowes Foods Pick Up, St. Francis Needlework Guild, St. Nicholas Tree, Meals on Wheels, Migrant Farmworker Ministry, SAMS, Inter-Faith Food Shuttle, Sarah Cheshire House, Wake Interfaith Hospitality Network (WIHN), Thompson Child and Family Focus, Warmth for Wake coalition, the blood drive, The Community of Historic Churches' annual Church Walk and Good Shepherd's computer lab for Wake County GED students.

Good Shepherd at Work in the Community

Situated in the heart of downtown Raleigh, Good Shepherd is in the midst of not only the revitalized downtown business and residential community, but also the city's disenfranchised population – many of whom are barely able to keep a roof over their heads and many who sleep in shelters, cardboard boxes or doorways. The **Shepherd's Table Soup Kitchen**, housed on the ground floor of the Duncan-Giersch Parish Life Center, has for many years provided for the hundreds who line up along Morgan Street every weekday, knowing they will receive a hot lunch. Good Shepherd also provides referrals and information about available community resources to those who come to the church asking for assistance.

Under the leadership of Larry Seiger, **Good Shepherd's Blood Drives** were conducted by the Red Cross in Shepherd's Hall. By donating blood, members of Good Shepherd quite literally saved lives in our community! This ministry is one we share with our neighbors at First Presbyterian. Each church advertises the other's blood drives and several donors give blood at each of these events.

During the summer, a group of Good Shepherd members enjoyed lunch and fellowship with our long-time friend, Armando, who lives and works during the growing season at a farm in Dunn. In its eleventh year, Good Shepherd's **Migrant Farmworker Ministry** continues to adapt to the needs of our friends who labor in the fields so far from their homes and families.

Since 2010, Good Shepherd has served as the **Wake Interfaith Hospitality Network** support church for our neighbors at First Presbyterian Church when they host families overnight for four weeks each year. In March, June, October and December, Marguerite Sullivan and team leader Caryn Meade organized volunteers to provide meals, drivers for the WIHN van, overnight hosts and evening activities for the children. This ministry enables us not only to help, but to have personal interaction with individuals and families in need in our community.

In 2015, Good Shepherd continued its involvement in **The Community of Historic Churches**. The fifth annual **Church Walk** was held on October 3, 2015, with visitors touring The Church of the Good Shepherd and the seven other churches on the Walk. Good Shepherd's volunteer greeters, organized this year by Karen Boyne, answered questions and pointed out details and items of interest, offering visitors a unique glimpse into the church's physical and spiritual presence in the Downtown Raleigh Community. All of the churches involved support The Community of Historic Churches' website: www.DowntownRaleighChurches.org. The website not only provides information and links to each of the participating churches but also includes an extensive listing of links to the many organizations supported by the outreach missions and ministries of these churches.

As Christmas approaches, one of our most popular outreach ministries becomes a visible sign of the season. Each year, the stars on the **St. Nicholas Tree's** branches disappear, quickly to be replaced by brightly wrapped gifts for children whose families are served by The Episcopal Farmworker Ministry near Newton Grove.

Thanks to the enthusiastic and loving generosity of Good Shepherd members, many of whom make this a family shopping and wrapping event, these children will have gifts to open on Christmas day. As she has for many years, Nan Robinson organizes this ministry.

Established in 2012, the **Computer Lab for students attending GED classes** at First Presbyterian Church continues to provide a crucial and required resource for the students and teachers who walk across Morgan St. from First Presbyterian Church for morning and afternoon classes. Due to changes in the GED requirements, the lab time was doubled to Tuesdays and Thursdays last year.

The Duncan-Giersch Parish Life Center is an integral extension of The Church of the Good Shepherd's commitment to community outreach, providing a meeting space for several non-profit organizations at reduced or no fee. The clergy, staff, vestry and outreach committee continue to look for opportunities to offer our facility to the glory of God and to fulfill Christ's commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves.

The Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee considers the financial needs of the various CGS ministries and other organizations and makes decisions on how to designate the yearly budgeted **Parish Outreach funds**. Each year, the Outreach Committee sends \$5,000 to Juan and Maria Marentes, our missionaries with SAMS, as well as other designated organizations which receive donations as funds are available.

To **inform, engage and involve** the congregation in the church's many outreach events, the Outreach Committee contributes announcements and articles to the newsletters, bulletins, website and parish-wide emails throughout the year.

The **Outreach Ministry brochure** highlights all of the outreach activities in which CGS is currently involved, with descriptions of the ministries as well as contact information. The brochure is handed out to visitors during special events and is always included in the materials available in the Parish Life Center foyer and in the Newcomers' bags available after Sunday services.

The Outreach Committee acknowledges the dedication and loving acts of faith of all those who participate in the many outreach ministries of The Church of the Good Shepherd. **All of these ministries are vital to the life of Good Shepherd, to the community we serve and to God's Kingdom.**

Respectfully submitted 11/30/2015 by
Margaret Park, *Outreach Committee Chair*

Stewardship 2015

Take the first step in faith.

Dear Good Shepherd Family,

First, let me thank everyone for the generous gifts you have bestowed upon us. Your contributions enable us to do incredible work in the name of Jesus! We are deeply grateful for those blessings you have provided as faithful stewards of our Church of the Good Shepherd, blessings in the forms of your time, talents, and treasures. In terms of stewardship, we have had a truly transformative year!

We have been the beneficiary of many financial gifts during 2015. These included three large bequests from the estate of Elizabeth Stoker. With these planned gifts we were able to prepay the 2016 and 2017 principle payments on the bank loan for the Duncan-Giersch Parish Life Center. In addition, we also will have enough remaining to pay the associated interest expense into 2017 and we also began a small seed fund to pay for future necessary capital improvements to the Duncan-Giersch Parish Life Center. In addition to those bequests we received several other generous contributions we used for repayment of the Duncan-Giersch Parish Life Center. We also received several other offerings that were targeted for specific projects including plaster work in the sanctuary; landscaping and lighting to make our grounds more appealing and safer; and to increase Fr. Colin's hours further expanding our ministry to the poor.

This year we also decided to give our annual giving campaign a makeover. We enlisted the assistance of 25 parishioners to personally reach out to over 300 households who regularly pledge and give to the Church of the Good Shepherd. The primary goal of these phone calls and in-person visits was to say thank you on behalf of the Church of the Good Shepherd as well as to invite them to our new tradition, Commitment Sunday. Commitment Sunday is our celebration of generous giving, and it quickly proved to be a showcase of our people donating their time and talents in thanksgiving of the generosity you all have shown by pledging your treasures. We had a wonderful meal prepared by a crew of more than 20 volunteers who began cooking and prepping in the wee hours of the morning. We showcased talented members of the parish and choir who entertained us with Broadway renditions, Irish dancing and special hymns. And what an incredible turnout we had! Even Father Bill indicated it may have been the most people he'd ever seen in Shepherd's Hall. We hope that each of you has been able to pick up a pocket cross as a sign of our gratitude and as a continuous reminder that "God loves you. No exceptions." While we still have not heard from everyone who will pledge this year yet, we believe that this will be our most successful campaign in years and that our new traditions will be the foundation of future campaigns in years to come.

This coming year we hope to focus on year-round stewardship where we intend to keep the conversation going regarding all aspects of stewardship; our time, our talents and our treasures with a focus on planned giving, annual giving and capital giving.

Sincerely,

Frank E. Fee, III

Volunteer Committee Report

In past years, I have reported the number of people in our parish who have expressed an interest in any of our Volunteer Opportunities. After some considered thought, this is not reflective of the number of people who actually do participate. This year I took the Volunteer Opportunities brochure and tried to find out just how many people really are involved in these Ministries – Worship, Church ‘In’Reach and Community Outreach. By the count, we presently have **655 people/slots** being filled in our volunteer activities. Yeah us !!!

I hope to have many more of our Church Family joining us in our worthwhile ministries that continue to bring us closer together and closer to our God. Please pick up a Volunteer brochure from the Parish Life Center brochure racks and let me know how I can help **you** become more involved !!

I look forward to hearing from you soon,
Jan Harris
Volunteer Coordinator
919-872-7273

Altar Guild Report

Altar Guild service is a true love-offering. Although it is one of the oldest lay ministries in the Christian church it remains one of the least visible. We are very blessed to have so many dedicated members, divided into four weekly teams, who work tirelessly behind the scenes throughout the year to ensure everything is in place and properly prepared for worship. In addition to all of the regular Sunday services, Altar Guild provides support for the Thursday Eucharist and Healing service, weddings, funerals, ordinations and other events Good Shepherd might host throughout the year. This is no small undertaking!

Twice each year the entire Guild sets aside a day to do a thorough cleaning of Church and Chapel; all the silver and brass is polished, seat cushions and kneelers are removed and vacuumed, and the beautiful marble of the Altar and reredos receives a gentle but thorough bath. If you want to experience teamwork and fellowship in action, come join the fun of a Fall or Spring Altar Guild Cleaning Session!

The days of Altar Guild being just the “little ol’ ladies” of the church is past! Both men and women are welcomed. The time commitment is small but the rewards of this ministry are great as any of our team members will tell you. Members will often relate, with pride, how they are the 2nd or 3rd generation of their family to serve. We are always excited to welcome new members and all our teams are flexible enough to accommodate even the busiest of outside schedules. Please contact me or any member of the Guild if you are interested in joining or just would like to know more.

Many thanks to all of the Team Co-Chairs and Team Members, your caring devotion to this ministry is truly appreciated and I am blessed to serve with you. Special thanks also to Sexton Tony Wilson and Assistant Sexton Robert Jones who keep an eye on us and help us out in a multitude of ways.

Respectfully submitted,

Caryl G. Fuller
Chairman

Episcopal Church Women Report

The ECW had many successful events in 2015.

The Episcopal Church Women began the calendar year by supporting a return to the annual Epiphany Service at CGS. The ECW hosted a fellowship dinner after the service, with all proceeds (\$534.50) benefitting the Raleigh Convocation Missionaries in Pakistan.

In February, the ECW helped to host The Braille Challenge, an event for blind children in our area. This event, which is a competitive academic event, was held on February 12 in our Parish Life Center. Many ECW volunteers donated their time and hospitalities.

The ECW met for an educational and fellowship opportunity in mid May in our own sanctuary. Duke Fentress provided the group with a CGS history lesson and tour of our beautiful stained glass windows. This was an event aimed towards preparing our ECW members to be volunteers at the Annual Historic Church Walk event.

In August, the ECW hosted a celebration reception in honor of fellow parishioner, Lisa Towle, recently elected to serve as the next National ECW President. Women from parishes around the state joined us in honoring Ms. Towle.

The fall provided many opportunities to serve. The ECW supported the Annual Downtown Raleigh Historic Church Walk, a reception honoring Bishop Curry's election to Presiding Bishop, the 3rd Annual CGS Golf Tournament and the decorating of our beautiful Chrismon Tree.

The ECW continues to run a Church Mouse program to support young parishioners in their first year away from home after high school. Care packages are delivered throughout the year. Four new students were identified for the 2015-2016 school year.

Six CGS women attended the annual meeting of the ECW-Diocese of NC in November. Mary Gordon, from Greensboro, was announced as the interim President of the Diocesan ECW. The 2016 budget was approved and an ECW board committee is working on updated the bylaws of the diocesan ECW for approval at the 2016 annual meeting. An endowment fund, named "The Lisa Towle Endowment Fund" was approved, with the purpose to be the empowerment of ECW women through development and leadership.

The ECW is looking forward to another wonderful year full of fellowship and outreach in 2016.

Karen Boyne, ECW President

The Church of the Good Shepherd Endowment Fund Trust 2015 Annual Report

The Church of the Good Shepherd Endowment Fund Trust was created by the Vestry in 1993. The purpose was to provide responsible management and accountability for sizable bequests and gifts made to the parish. These funds are generally for the long-term benefit of the church and its programs. One new trustee is appointed by the Vestry each year for a 5 year term. The trustees meet on a quarterly basis to review investment performance, determine any changes needed in investment policy, and consider requests from the Vestry. Trustees also are responsible for directing investment of new funds, of which there have been none in recent years. Endowment Funds are pooled for investment purposes but accounted for separately. As of 9/30/15, they were allocated 65% Equities – 35% Fixed Income.

The market value of the Trust on 12/31/2014 was \$1,710,515. At 9/30/2015 that value was \$1,547,804. The rolling 12 month investment rate of return for 9/30 was 0.86%. Distributions from the Trust for the 9 month period amounted to \$100,000 for church operations and \$2,863 for accounting administration and supporting activities.

Since the predominance of the Trust funds are restricted by direction of wills or donors, only income from most of the funds may be used for unrestricted operations. Therefore, monitoring of unrestricted funds is carefully made on a monthly basis. At 9/30 that number stood at \$291,607. Expected annual dividend income is \$43,675.

The Trustees encourage members who wish to make special gifts and bequests to the Church to contact any one of them for information on how the Trust may be used to carry out their wishes and desires. The Trustees welcome any questions or comments from any communicant of the Parish.

Respectfully submitted,

Duke Fentress- Chairman, Julie Lowe- 2016 Chairman, Martha Hays, Jamey Bass, Rob Robinson

Treasurer's Report

At its last meeting, on November 9th, the Vestry reviewed and approved the Finance Committee's report on our parish's financial status as of the end of October.

As of October 31st YTD revenue from all sources was \$728,735, exceeding projected levels by \$82,185. The positive variance is primarily the result of a bequest received from the Elizabeth Stoker estate. The Stoker family had a history of generosity spanning generations and this gift added to that legacy through operational support reducing the need for use of budgeted Endowment Trust funds and has helped bridge a \$39,600 year-to-date shortfall in expected Pledge Revenue.

At the end of October 31, total YTD expenses of \$725,295 were slightly less than the \$741,904 anticipated by this point in the year. Although there have been some unplanned outlays for plumbing, electrical, HVAC and general repair projects, savings in other departments as well as several designated non-pledge gifts contributed to the overall positive outcome.

With good momentum leading into December (always the strongest month of the year for both pledge and general offering collections), we anticipate a strong and stable finish to 2015.

Due to additional generosity from Elizabeth Stoker as well as regular gifts, both pledge and non-pledge, during 2015 we were not only able to prepay our annual principal reduction requirements through 2017 but we made significant progress towards permanently retiring the entire PLC debt. The current outstanding balance is \$1,279,000; a reduction of \$620,000 compared to this time last year.

A sincere thank you to the dedicated members of the 2015 Finance Committee for their generous gifts of time and talent in service to our Good Shepherd family: Bob Sawyer, Meredith Swindell, Steve Dorer, Frank Fee and Dave Roten.

Respectfully submitted,

Caryl G. Fuller
Treasurer

Financial Report
Summary of Total Year-to-Date Revenue and Expenses
as of October 31, 2015

	Actual YTD	Budgeted YTD	Favorable / (Unfavorable)	Total Budgeted for 2015
<u>Revenue</u>				
Pledge	415,311	455,000	(39,689)	620,000
General Offering	265,959	79,000	186,959	100,000
Endowment Trust Funds	20,000	80,000	(60,000)	80,000
Other Income	27,465	32,550	(5,085)	40,750
Total Revenue:	728,735	646,550	82,185	840,750
<u>Expenses</u>				
Diocesan Support	85,080	85,080	0	102,096
Outreach	3,609	17,500	13,891	20,500
Clergy, Programs & Ministries	325,594	334,489	8,895	409,894
Clergy, Programs & Ministries' Support	139,495	145,510	6,015	172,538
Property Operation	171,518	159,325	(12,193)	186,622
Total Expenses:	725,296	741,904	16,608	891,650
<u>Net Surplus/Deficit</u>	3,439	(95,354)	98,793	(50,900)