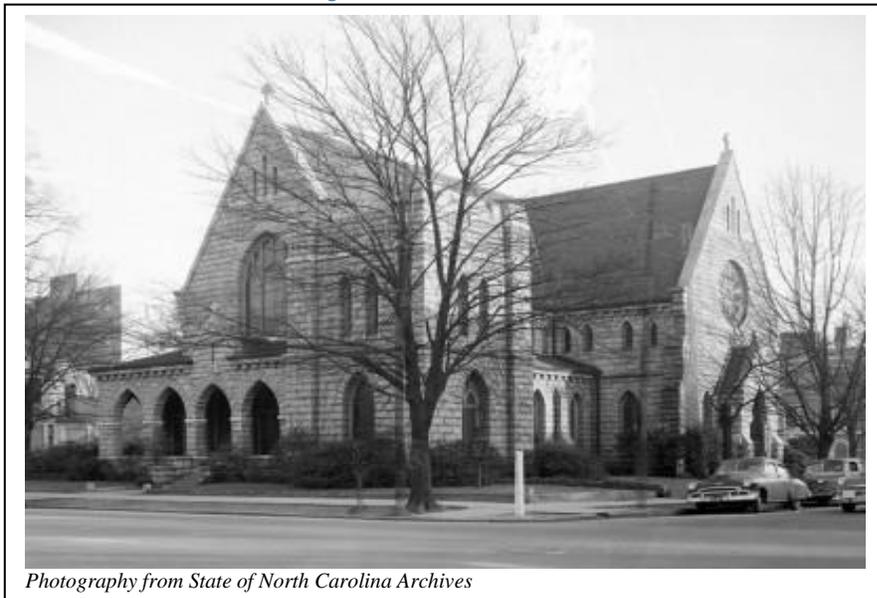


THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

*An Episcopal Church in the
Diocese of North Carolina*



Photography from State of North Carolina Archives

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2017**

125 HILLSBOROUGH STREET
RALEIGH, NC 27603

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The Rector's Report

As I begin my twenty-second annual report, I need to bring you up-to-date on some of the events recorded in the Registers of the Church for 2017. Through December 4, 2017, we have conducted 235 services of worship. These include 221 Celebrations of the Holy Eucharist: 96 on Sundays, 65 on weekdays, and 58 Private Communion. We have had 1 service of the Daily Office, 10 Baptisms, 4 Celebrations of Holy Matrimony, and the Burial Office was read 9 times.

From the Parochial Report for 2016, our parish size was listed as 1,499 Baptized Members and 920 Communicants in Good Standing. These numbers have been affected in the following ways: 10 Baptisms, 1 Transfers In, 14 Confirmations and Receptions, 20 Transfers Out, and 7 Burials. As of today, there are 1,509 Baptized Members and 915 Communicants in Good Standing. These numbers will be adjusted at the end of the year.

We continue to work with BB&T on the debt on our Parish Life Center. Through the efforts of those continuing to give in response of pledging, other gifts and bequests, we now have a debt of 750 Thousand Dollars.

We have had one new addition and one change to our staff this year. The Rev. Cheryl McFadden has joined our staff as Associate Rector and Director of Family Ministry. We look forward to her Ordination to the Priesthood on Thursday, December 14, 2017

The remainder of our staff continues to perform in an outstanding manner. It is a blessing to have all of them serving the Lord in this place.

The wardens and Members of the Vestry continue to serve in a faithful ministry of leadership in the parish. We also look forward to the election of four new Members at the Annual Meeting at 9:15 am on December 10, 2017.

I want to thank each of you for being a part of the mission and ministry of The Church of the Good Shepherd. It is through the gifts of your time, talent, and treasure that we can continue to share the Good News of God in Christ to our Community and our Diocese.

May the Peace of the Lord be with you always.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Dr. Robert C. Sawyer
Rector

Associate Rector's Report

The Ministry of the Apostles

Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. I do not even judge myself. I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive commendation from God. (1 Corinthians 4:1-5)

...we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom... **The Holy Eucharist, Rite One, THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER**

The Apostle Paul's phrase "*stewards of God's mysteries*" which he speaks of in his First Epistle to the Corinthians has become more and more important to me as I reflect on what it is to be a person ordained to ministry, serving day to day in a parish church. This to me separates out this calling from other kinds of vocations in the world, and indeed, it separates out the calling and vocation of any identifiably Christian society or organization, especially the Church, from other human endeavors. **Clergy and people together bear the mysteries that are made present in the Eucharist**, the Mystery of Christ's saving death, and the renewed life, for us, and for the whole creation, that comes from his death. We carry those mysteries into the world, and they especially shape our life together as Christ's Body, the Church. And a significant part of this mystery of being the Church is that what we do as the Church, we do not do to be judged by people, but to glorify God, and for the sake of his love for us and for all. Communicating this has been something I have had a passion for, in both preaching, teaching, and helping to lead Adult Christian Formation in this Parish, and in every act of pastoral care. In leading **a series on the first part of the Book of Genesis** this year, I have tried to emphasize how the narrative in Genesis, chapters one and two, "the creation account," chiefly sets forth for us that God endowed humans with God's own image and likeness, so that through human life, the whole creation would fulfill God's purposes in bringing it into being, and fill the whole creation with God's glory, which, according to the Scriptures, is God's ultimate intention and purpose in and for all things. I love teaching the Scriptures, and I am grateful for those who participate in our Bible classes. As we look to the future, **I am especially excited about our new Adult Formation series, upcoming, on Pastoral Care**, where we will help **form a team of called, equipped, and commissioned lay ministers to collaboratively assist the clergy** in various pastoral care ministries.

Peace and Blessings, The Rev. Bill Bennett, Associate Rector

Senior Warden's Report

It has been a pleasure to serve this parish and our Rector as Senior Warden this year. I want to begin by thanking Bob for his faith in me, the rest of the clergy and the church staff for their support throughout the year, as well as the support I have received from other parishioners. I also want to thank the 2017 Vestry for their work this year. This was a very engaged Vestry and I thank each of them for their service.

The Vestry undertook a number of initiatives this year. We made significant progress in some areas, but fell somewhat short in others. Two things stood out for me as the highlights of this year: the hiring of The Rev. Dr. Cheryl McFadden to head up Family Ministry and the undertaking of a 5-year Strategic Plan for the parish.

Cheryl has brought a new energy to the Family Ministry program, fulfilling a need that many had expressed for stronger clergy support for youth and young families. She has also successfully used her skills to enhance the clergy's pastoral care efforts, reaching out to both young and old in the parish. I am excited about the new pastoral care effort that Bill and Cheryl have initiated because it is something that we all should be doing, and, with their guidance, it will be done in a truly spiritual way.

Robert Goodale approached the Rector and myself earlier this year about steering a committee to develop a 5-year strategic plan for Good Shepherd. Under Bob's guidance and the leadership of committee chair Jack Boyne, the strategic planning committee has worked hard this year to come up with a plan for the parish. They will be presenting a preliminary report to the Vestry at the December meeting, sharing it with the parish, and discussing their proposals in detail with the 2018 vestry. I am looking forward to hearing their report and hope that it will provide Good Shepherd with a strong vision for the future.

There were other achievements this year as well as other projects that got started. Of those that are not yet complete, I hope they will come to fruition in 2018. Here are some highlights in no particular order:

- Debt Milestone. The loan on the Duncan Giersch Center dropped below \$1 million this year. This is a significant milestone for our church. Thanks to an anonymous donation of \$100,000 at yearend, the principal balance stands at \$750,000. With over a year to go on the current loan, we have time to think about restructuring this debt now that the principal balance is at a manageable level.
- Membership/Welcome committee. Shannon and Mike O'Brien have worked tirelessly to welcome new people to Good Shepherd. They are some of our best advertising! Shannon, who headed up the Membership Committee this year, has had postcards made up for parishioners to write notes to visitors. She also created some business cards with service information for people to pick up in the Narthex or for people to share with others who might be interested in our church. I encourage everyone to utilize these simple tools for spreading the word about Good Shepherd.
- New church website. Our website is the first thing most people looking for a church see about Good Shepherd. It needs to be fresh and inviting and easy for church personnel to maintain. Under the direction of Ed Sharp, the Communications and IT committee started working on a new website design this year. That effort is still underway, and should be completed soon. The committee is also trying to improve our Facebook page and streamline communications.
- Stewardship. Our Stewardship plan this year focused on what The Church of The Good Shepherd means to each of us. I hope you have all enjoyed the videos that our own Rob Poston produced for us. If you haven't seen them, there is a link to a compilation on the website. We planned to try to connect parishioners on a regional basis, by meeting in parishioners' homes across the Triangle. Frankly, I think

the attendance could have been a lot better, but those who did participate really seemed to enjoy the opportunity to connect with others from their area. Of course, I have to add that it's not too late to submit your pledge to annual giving! Please let the church know that we can count on your support next year.

- **Planned giving.** (AKA the Legacy Guild.) This committee met this year and plans to provide some educational material for parishioners who wish to remember Good Shepherd in their wills or estate planning. This is something that everyone should be cognizant of, regardless of their stage in life. Look for some new material and education sessions in the coming year.
- **Outreach.** The Outreach Committee has not been functioning in recent years as funding has been somewhat lacking. The committee was re-formed in late 2017 and is starting to plan for outreach in the coming years. Thanks to some donations received this year that were designated for outreach, the committee can now start looking at new outreach opportunities.

So although I am pleased at the goals we achieved this year, as always, there is more to do! The report of the 5-year Strategic Planning Committee will be something for all of us to study and digest in the coming months. I challenge the 2018 Vestry to listen to the recommendations of the Committee and adopt a plan that will move this parish forward in the coming years.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Lowe
Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Report

January:

1. Completed repairs on Fire Panel/Back Flow system reported on the Fire Marshalls report on 2016. Pye-Barker \$8,496.47
2. A sign was installed outside for Dave and Labelle Bowden for donating a tree that needed to be replaced.

February:

1. Newcomb replaced the motor starter and the overload on fan F-1 and the temperature controller on the chiller located in the Duncan Giersch Center \$1,663.18

March:

1. Newcomb replaced the presser relief valve on the boiler for DGS \$734.09.
2. Santi Harwood flooring took the carpet up and refinished the chancel floor and steps. \$2,814.20
3. Duncan Giersch Center sign was installed on Hillsborough Street. \$3,780.40

April:

1. Santi Harwood Flooring quoted tearing out the rest of the carpet in the church and refinishing the entire church floor to match the Chancel area. \$15,291.30.
2. Habitat for Humanity started.
3. Pye-Barker cleaned the exhaust and fixed the tamper switch in the Shepherds Hall Kitchen \$559.91

May:

1. Newcomb replaced two blowers and two capacitors on the church air conditioning units \$1,687.00
2. Church clean-up. Cleaned crawlspace, installed Handicap signs, painted rails, installed mulch and pine straw and we did a deep clean in the interior of the church.

June:

1. Newcomb replaced the actuator on the first floor of the Duncan Giersch Center \$885.11
2. Newcomb also replaced the actuator on the second floor \$898.93
3. Quality Home Improvement painted the 1st-floor hallways and breakroom. They also pressure washed the front canopy of the Duncan Giersch Center. \$4,950.00

July:

1. Newcomb replaced the 5-ton air conditioning unit on the third floor of the Duncan Giersch Center \$6,924.00
2. The roofing company Allen & Deans cleaned and resealed the gutters/flashing on the glass breezeway roof. \$245.00

August:

1. Altons Custom Cabinets quoted repair on splits in the pews and came out and repaired one for our inspection to see if we wanted to move forward with the rest. The pew that they repaired looked beautiful although we have this on hold until approval in early 2018. \$16,580.00

September:

1. Lift Station in the garage was brought up to working condition by Gregory Poole by replacing the battery and

a service call. We spoke with the Chairmen of the Shepherds Table Graham Clements, and he agreed to split the cost 50/50 for the service call and a three-year maintenance plan to keep it up to working condition. Total cost \$3,845.12. The church contributed half the total price. \$1,922.56

October:

1. Newcomb insulated the refrigerant lines on the two ductless air conditioning units in the upper choir balcony \$824.46

November:

1. Water Heater in the Duncan Giersch Center restroom in the Parlor flooded the area. Cleaned and repainted. Most of the cost has been applied to insurance.

2. Pye-Barker maintenance inspection of the fire panel/backflow. \$359.28

Office of Family Ministry

Human Resources

There have been many changes in the Office of Family Ministry. First, we bid farewell to Carolyn Wilson, the director of the office for three years and Rhoda Towns, a nine-year member of the nursery staff. We are grateful for their service and wish them well in their new endeavors. We welcome Jessica Duncan to the nursery staff and Rev. Dr. Cheryl McFadden as the new Associate Rector and Director of Family Ministry.

Sunday School

Rally Day welcomed sixty-three registered children and youth to the Sunday school program taught by sixteen amazing teachers, twelve of whom are veterans of five years. The theme for this year's program is "Day by Day." Our office is grateful to the Fellowship Committee and all the volunteers who made Rally Day a success. The teachers are implementing Weaving God's Promises curriculum and many other creative ideas and concepts into the program of study. You might have noticed the various "rocks" located throughout the Parish Life Center displaying encouraging words and Scripture verses as part of the curriculum. Our middle school students and teachers rock!

Children's Chapel and Godly Play

Sarah Barrett and volunteers use the Godly Play curriculum to share Bible stories using parables, sacred stories, and liturgical lessons. Children explore their faith through story, wonder and play. Jessica Bowen teaches the children beautiful hymns to accompany these stories and reflect God's love and care. It is a pleasure to hear the children's voices in our sanctuary, praising God. Many thanks to all the volunteers who support this program.

Nursery

Nancy East, coordinator, and Allison Baer and Jessica Duncan are our extraordinary nursery teachers. This year the staff has revitalized the nursery with new resources, curriculum, and décor. In January, there will be a "Grand Re-Opening" celebration and we hope all of the parish family will join in the festivities.

EpiscoPals

The purpose of this program is to foster friendships and fellowship among children in third through fifth grade and their families. This year the EpiscoPALs collaborated with the EYC and sponsored a meal for the students and the young adult missionary at Episcopal Campus Ministry program at the Cheshire House at North Carolina State University. Our children, youth, and parents participated in a Holy Eucharist service with the students and shared a meal together. This event was very successful and will occur again in February of 2108. Many thanks to Meredith Swindell who developed this organization and to Maggie Fyfe who will lead these efforts in the new year.

EYC

We have a very successful EYC program. The number of youth participating in the program has increased with fifteen to twenty youth attending regular meetings and social/outreach events. This increase is attributed to the leadership of Shannon Warchol O'Brien, Michael O'Brien, and Stephanie Bias. During the year, the youth helped plan and execute the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, the Winter Warmth Drive and the hot chocolate sale at the Christmas Parade. The youth participated in a diocesan youth event in April that focused on promoting meaningful conversations with people from different backgrounds and viewpoints.

Eleven youth participated in a fun day at Carowinds Theme Park in July. Many thanks to the four fearless chaperones who weathered scorching temperatures to accompany the youth on the trip! In October, the youth

participated in the first lock-in many years. In addition to fellowship among the youth and chaperones, the lock-in included service projects with the Raleigh Dream Center, Raleigh Rescue Mission, and the Beyond our Doors Ministry. The Raleigh Dream Center venue allowed our youth to participate in Bible activities and games with children and distribute free groceries to their families at the Casa De Luna Apartments.

Many children and youth have received usher and lector training and are participating in these ministries on a regular basis. These ushers and lectors have contributed greatly to our worship service. We are grateful Julie Lowe and Richard Netherby for offering the training session. We hope more children and youth will volunteer to participate in these important ministries of our church.

Eighteen youth have already registered to participate in a week-long mission project in June of 2018. The youth will be collaborating with the Baptist on Mission organization to rebuild homes damaged from Hurricane Matthew in Lumberton, North Carolina. Our youth are on the move to help those in need!

We will bid farewell to our outstanding EYC leaders at the conclusion of 2017-2018 academic year. Stephanie Bias and the O'Brien's have served the youth for ten and four years respectively. We are grateful for the love and devotion they have shown to our youth. They have made a lasting impression on them and will be missed by all.

Acolyte Ministry

There are twenty-four youth participating in the Acolyte Ministry during the 2017-2018 academic year, of which six are new acolytes this year. An acolyte training program is mandatory for both new and returning acolytes with parents requested to be present during the training sessions. Our acolytes are superbly trained and led by David Stroud.

In October twelve acolytes participated in the 2017 National Acolyte Festival at The Cathedral Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul in the City and Diocese of Washington, commonly known as the Washington National Cathedral, Washington, D.C. A two-day trip was new experience and we had the most representation in the history of The Church of the Good Shepherd at this event. Additionally, the acolytes from The Church of the Good Shepherd were the only parish represented from the Diocese of North Carolina. Our acolytes and their leader have made The Church of the Good Shepherd a top-notch ministry in the Diocese and we are very pleased by their participation in this national event. We are grateful to the five marvelous chaperones who accompanied the acolytes on the trip.

Confirmation and Grapes and Grains

In January, Jeff Whittaker led a ten-week Confirmation class with ten youth confirmed and three being received into The Episcopal Church. Confirmands received an engraved copy of The Book of Common Prayer. Many blessings to the confirmands and newly received members of The Episcopal Church. The upcoming year's confirmands and any other confirmed youth will be invited to attend a weekend pilgrimage at Cathedral of all Souls in Asheville in the spring of 2018.

Anna Howard led the Grapes and Grains five-week class as they explored the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Eucharist. The culmination activity was a parish-wide instructed Eucharist. Howard was assisted by Maggie Fyfe. We are grateful to both of these volunteers for their service and to the children and parents who participated in the class.

Other Programs/Events Updates

The Office of Family Ministry organized a parish-wide Advent Festival and Palm Sunday event. During the Lenten season, the children raised \$140 for Operation Kid to Kid and Living Water International, a nonprofit that provides sustainable wells in Peru.

In July, the Office sponsored a day trip for our long-term parishioners to Dortches Red & White. Eleven people attended and we hope to offer another similar trip in the new year.

Ian Finley, Liturgical Drama Coordinator and many volunteers offered a Vacation Bible School program to children and youth. More than fifty children and youth participated in the program and learned about the ministry of St. Paul in Rome.

The call for the cast of the 2017 Christmas Pageant has been issued and rehearsals have been scheduled. Ian Finley and many volunteers are leading the efforts for this year's pageant on December 17th at 4 pm. It promises to be a spectacular event. Hats off to all the participants and volunteers!

We offered three well-attended "Splash" dinners for families with children ages four and younger. The Halloween themed Splash dinner in October was enchanting for both children and parents. We appreciate all the young children and their parents in our community of faith.

The Office provided "share bags" for children during the service. This year we have added new "share bags" with sensory components. We hope the children and parents enjoy these bags. Many thanks to Peggy Hawks for her faithful service in replenishing the bags on a weekly basis.

Safe Church Training

The Office of Family Ministry provides Safe Church training (Level I) for all individuals that interact with children and youth. If individuals interact with children and youth more than four hours per week, these individuals receive training from the Diocese of North Carolina. We follow all Safe Church practices at The Church of the Good Shepherd.

Lunch and Learn Series

The Office of Family Ministry in collaboration with Rev. Bill Bennett has initiated a Lunch and Learn series on the first Sunday of each month from 11:45-12:45 pm. The first Lunch and Learn class featured Martha Myers who facilitated a discussion on "Welcoming All God's Children to Church." Martha Myers and others established new policies and procedures for welcoming children with special needs into our faith community. These individuals also reconfigured the nursery space to promote the spiritual health of all God's children.

The Lunch and Learn series focusing on pastoral care began in December and will conclude in June Of 2018 with a commissioning of a lay pastoral care team. The class in December focused on the Four C's of pastoral care: Care, Confidentiality, Compassion, and Community-Building. Future classes will include the following topics: training on being a Lay Eucharistic Minister, pastoral care development, bereavement counseling, prayer and meditation, and visiting care seekers in clinical settings and homes. These classes will be facilitated by Rev. Bill Bennett and Rev. Dr. Cheryl McFadden accompanied by several guest speakers. Lynn Wiss is the lay coordinator for the pastoral care team. Many parishioners have volunteered to be part of the pastoral care team and we are grateful for their service to our community.

The mission of the Office of Family Ministry is to serve the children, youth, parents, and families at The Church of the Good Shepherd. We care about our parishioners and want to help you on your spiritual journey. Please let us know if we can be of service to you. May God bless you.

Faithfully Yours,
Sunday School Teachers,
Anna Howard, Grapes and Grains
Jeff Whittaker, Confirmation Teacher
Nancy East, Allison Baer, Jessica Duncan, Nursery School Staff
Stephanie Bias, Shannon Warchol O'Brien, Michael O'Brien, EYC Leaders
David Stroud, Acolyte Ministry Leader
Sarah Barrett, Children's Chapel and Ms. Jessica Bowen, Godly Play Coordinators
Ian Finley, Liturgical Drama Coordinator
Lynn Wiss, Pastoral Care Lay Coordinator
Cindy Voegeli, Rev. Dr. Cheryl McFadden, The Office of Family Ministry

Music Ministries 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, our youngest voices from Children's Chapel, and our Newest Ensemble, our Flute Ensemble directed by parishioner, Mary Norris. In addition to our choirs and volunteer instrumentalists, we enjoy the talents of many of the finest musicians in Raleigh, many from the North Carolina Symphony. Indeed, our worship services are filled with glorious music.

Our Gifted and Talented 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, for recovery efforts when robes go mysteriously astray...and for the occasional yummy treats! Also, a heartfelt THANK YOU to the many parishioners who give of their time and treasures to support this vibrant 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 continues to be quite a force...with the recent addition of a few more male singers! They're an amazing collection of youthful voices, with a HUGE talent and an INCREDIBLE sound! It is a real pleasure to work with such fun and talented young people. The addition of Music Modules in our Children's Chapel, led by Jessica Bowen, continues to be popular among parents and our youngest voices. The congregation has also greatly enjoyed our small children's voices on occasion in our worship services.

This year, we have also enjoyed the dramatic talents of Ian Finley, our new Liturgical Drama Coordinator. Ian has facilitated with Vacation Bible School, a dramatic skit reading at our recent Annual-Giving Campaign Luncheon, and he will also be directing our infamous Christmas Pageant this year and going forward for years to come.

Our annual Music Ministry Fundraisers: the 88 Key Campaign and our Christmas Greenery Sale, have both remained successful even in our challenging economic times. However, this year we had to forfeit the Greenery Sales Fundraiser due to a number of logistical reasons. Instead, we are producing a CD of the Chancel Choirs Anthems, which will be available to parishioners for a suggested donation of \$40. We hope our Parish family will enjoy this musical treat for years to come.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dwayne Holloway

Director of Music Ministries & Organist

Fellowship Committee Report

2017 saw another year of wonderful fellowship events at Church of the Good Shepherd, starting with the annual Chili Cook-off which culminated with Ed Sharp bringing home the coveted best chili honors. We had great participation with 12 chili's competing. In May on Kentucky Derby Day we held the annual Mike Beard Memorial Pig Pickin' back at beautiful Tara farms. Coopers BBQ of Raleigh catered the event once again while we sipped mint julips and watched the big race. As always, sincere gratitude and thankfulness for The Pugh's for allowing us to host events at their venue! We brought back the Rally Day Carnival again this year in lieu of the traditional Parish Picnic, serving up hot dogs, chips, cotton candy, and howling cow ice cream from the NC State Creamery, along with lots of jumping fun in the bounce castle. What a great way to kick off the start of another wonderful fall Sunday school schedule! The annual Oyster Roast rounded out our years activities, and has now been dedicated to the memory of our beloved friend Jim Propst, who helped make so many Oyster Roasts possible. The previous location of the event, the L.R. Harrill Center at the NC State Fairgrounds, is no longer available to rent. So instead we had a fantastic event right in Shepherds Hall, which allowed us to cook, serve food, and clean up extremely quickly. The Oysters and Shrimp from Saltwater Seafood in Raleigh were delicious again this year.

As with last year, we were again fortunate to have great weather and a good turnout of attendees and volunteers at each event. Approximately 70 people attended the Chili-Cook Off, 90 attended the Mike Beard Memorial Pig Pickin', 80 attended the Rally Day Carnival, and 100 at the Oyster Roast.

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. 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.

And a very special thank you to all the wonderful people who volunteered and helped put these events on. There were many volunteers and it would not have been possible without you!

I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the members of the Fellowship Committee without whom I could not have organized my way out of a paper bag. I have enjoyed our time together and I'll miss assigning you work to do.

Since this third year marks the end of my tenure on the vestry, it is now time to pass the torch on to the next chair of the Fellowship Committee. These three years have passed by faster than I could have ever imagined and my time on the vestry and with the Fellowship Committee has enriched my life in ways I did not know were possible. But you are not getting rid of me yet because I look forward to continuing to help with our future events and make them even better!

2017 CGS Fellowship Committee

Mac Gilbert, Fellowship Chair

Ed Sharp

Stephanie Bias

David Stroud

Dwayne Holloway

Margaret Nobles

Gerard McNeill

Stewardship Committee Report

This year, the Stewardship Committee wanted to make the campaign more personal in nature, offer easier ways to pledge, and communicate better. We felt like we should find a way to tell the Good Shepherd story of who we are, what draws us together in this family of God, and then celebrate it.

After some upgrades to our internal computer systems, in the spring and summer, we were able to have a number of our members and clergy produce videos that were posted on our web site. Each of these told of their individual stories, of what brought them to Good Shepherd, and what it means to them now. Great sharing by all.

In the fall, we organized three covered dish dinners around the city to promote some fellowship and have a brief presentation on stewardship.

And on November 12 our ingathering Sunday, we enjoyed a lunch and dramatic presentation organized by Ian Finley and his Play Makers. Several members, new and old, from our congregation shared their Good Shepherd stories. Very well done and very moving.

The numbers are starting to come in. As of Nov. 29, we have received the following results:

Pledges for 2018 totaling \$443,041.

145 Pledges, 43 of whom increased their pledges from last year; 18 decreased their pledges.

Comparing this to last year's results, we had 183 pledges but it should be noted that 41 of those came in December and the first of January.

My hope and prayer is that we will continue to receive pledges through December and beyond.

I also want to thank everyone who has helped with this campaign; the committee, the church staff, each of you who were willing to host a dinner or make a video or serve in Ian's presentation. Most especially, I give thanks to God for his blessing on this Church family.

Van Giersch

Volunteer Committee Report

CGS has a wonderful Volunteer Base that touches so many lives each and every day! I'd love to talk to **YOU** about an area in which you may be interested!

Our Volunteer Opportunities are divided into three Volunteer Service Areas: Worship, Church 'In'Reach and Community Outreach. Under these areas are:

Worship

Acolytes
Altar Guild
Chalicer
Lay Eucharistic Ministers
Lay Readers/Lectors
Music
Usher
Verger

Church 'In'Reach

Children's Activities
Daughters of the King
Fellowship Events
Flower Delivery
Gardening Guild
Library Guild
Meals & Funeral Receptions
Nursery Guild
Office/Receptionist
Recording Ministry
Sunday School Teacher
Teller
Transportation
Vestry
Youth Advisor/Aide
Wedding Guild

Community Outreach

Beyond Our Doors
Cheshire House Meals
Community of Historic Churches Walk
Family Promise (formerly WIHN)
Habitat For Humanity
Lowe's Food Pick-Up
Meals on Wheels
Mission Trips
St. Francis Needlework Guild
St. Nicholas Tree
Shepherd's Table Soup Kitchen
Warmth for Wake

"Volunteer Spotlight" has run monthly throughout 2017 and highlights those who help us all in AMAZING ways to make our parish and our life in it better!! Thanks to all who do things with no thought of anything in return – you'll never know how you touch the hearts of others and change their lives for the better!!

Hugs to All!!!

Jan Harris

Volunteer Coordinator

919-872-7273

Altar Guild Report

Year after year, Church of the Good Shepherd is blessed by the dedicated ministry of our Altar Guild members who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure everything is prepared for worship. With a parish as busy as ours, it is no small undertaking!

We each experience the Holy Spirit in diverse and multiple ways and I read an article once that referred to the Altar Guild as “sacristy evangelists”. The phrase stuck with me, because, yes, the “feel” within a worship space can be an important witness to God’s Word....and the Altar Guild plays a huge role in creating that “feel” in what they do and the reverent way they go about doing it.

In addition to regular Sunday services, our teams set-up and clean-up for every mid-week Eucharist, wedding, funeral, ordination or other worship gathering held at Good Shepherd. They prepare “traveling kits” for our clergy to take to a local senior-living community and for lay ministers to take on visitations to those unable to come to church.

For these men and women who are entrusted with the care of Holy things; each washing of a chalice, ironing of linens, setting of The Table, changing out the colored hangings of one season for the next, glorifies God in an act of prayer through “doing”.

My deepest appreciation goes to the Team Co-Chairs and Members with whom I am blessed to serve. They continue to serve with devotion and faithfulness week after week. Thanks also to Sexton Leon Crosby and Assistant Sexton Robert Jones who keep an eye on us and are readily available with a helping hand and some extra muscle when needed.

We are always excited to welcome new members and 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. The time commitment is small but the rewards of this ministry are great.

Respectfully submitted,

Caryl G. Fuller Chairman

The Church of the Good Shepherd Endowment Fund Trust Report

The Church of the Good Shepherd Endowment Fund Trust was created by the Vestry in 1993. The Trust was established to provide a framework for a variety of bequests that had been left to the church and to provide a vehicle for parishioners to make special gifts and bequests to the church in the future. The Trust is overseen by a five member board that meets quarterly to review investment performance; manage investment policy; and make disbursements requested by the Vestry. Each board member serves a five year term, with a new board member appointed each year by the Vestry.

In 1996, the Trust was amended to organize the various funds in the Trust into three categories: Capital Improvement, Outreach and Operations. Since the bulk of the funds in the Trust are restricted by direction of wills or donors, only a portion of fund earnings are available for unrestricted operations of the church. Endowment funds are pooled for investment purposes, but principal and income are tracked for each fund held within the Trust. The board monitors unrestricted funds monthly, balancing investments with projected cash needs for the church; keeping in mind that the purpose of these funds are for the long term benefit of the church and its programs.

It has been a good year for the Trust. The market value of the Trust on 12/31/2016 was \$1,720,037. As of 9/30/2017, the market value was \$1,931,406. As of 9/30/2017, that was a 12 month rolling rate of return of 10.08%. The overall fund balances are currently invested 60% in equities and 40% in fixed income assets. Expected annual dividend income for 2017 is \$39,750. Due to some large bequests to the church this year, disbursements from the Trust through 11.30/2017 totaled \$40,000 for church operations, \$4,189 for other church expenses, and \$5,000 to match the funds raised in support of the window restoration at St. Paul's AME Church. A total of \$12,015 was incurred for accounting administration, investment management and supporting activities. The unrestricted funds balance as of 9/30/2017 was \$393,543.

One new fund was added in 2017: \$20,000 was donated to set up a Music Ministry Fund which is intended to be used for special needs of Music Ministry.

Parishioners who wish to make special gifts and bequests to the Church are encouraged to contact any of the Trustees for information on how the Trust may be used to carry out their wishes and desires.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Hays - Chair, Jamey Bass - incoming Chair, Rob Robinson, Will Cherry, Mary Beth Fee

Treasurer's Report

The Finance Committee meets on the second Sunday of each month to review the reporting package and discuss matters related to our parish's financial status. The most recently approved statements cover the period ending October 31, 2017.

As of October, year-to-date revenue from all sources was \$538,522. Although this fell short of the amount budgeted by \$117,828, a large portion of the variance is due to the fact that only half of the planned draws of Endowment Trust funds had been necessary during the first three quarters of 2017.

At the end of October 31, total expenses of \$768,260 were under-budget by \$10,490. The difference attributed partially to timing of invoicing for regular services and a decision not to proceed at this time with a previously-budgeted project to install security cameras.

Through the continued generous support of Good Shepherd parishioners responsible for regular pledge and non-pledge gifts to the capital fund, we have made \$350,000 in principal payments on the PLC loan this year. We will enter the Advent and Christmas season with an outstanding balance of only \$750,000 and sufficient funds additionally on hand to cover monthly interest payments for up to two years.

Sincere thanks to each of the members of the 2017 Finance Committee for the blessing of their generous gift in volunteering time and talent on behalf of our Good Shepherd family.

Respectfully submitted,

Caryl G. Fuller Treasurer

Financial Report
Summary of Total Year-to-Date Revenue and Expenses
as of October 31, 2017

	Actual YTD	Budgeted YTD	Favorable / (Unfavorable)	Total Budgeted for 2017
<u>Revenue</u>				
Pledge	403,287	475,000	(71,713)	650,000
General Offering	63,993	78,000	(14,007)	105,000
Endowment Trust Funds	40,000	80,000	(40,000)	80,000
Other Income	31,243	23,350	7,893	26,730
Total Revenue:	538,523	656,350	(117,827)	861,730
<u>Expenses</u>				
Diocesan Support	83,347	83,350	3	100,020
Outreach	7,250	8,600	1,350	9,000
Clergy, Programs & Ministries	338,400	344,915	6,515	410,227
Clergy, Programs & Ministries' Support	165,267	160,205	(5,062)	192,094
Property Operation	173,997	181,680	7,683	208,489
Total Expenses:	768,261	778,750	10,489	919,830
<u>Net Surplus/Deficit</u>	(229,738)	(122,400)	(107,338)	(58,100)

Columbarium Committee Report

Space for The Church of the Good Shepherd Memorial Columbarium was set aside by the Vestry and consecrated for use in 2000. It is managed by the Columbarium Committee led by a 5-member Board of Trustees.

All Good Shepherd members in good standing as well as past and present clergy are eligible to reserve niches in the Memorial Columbarium. The contract fee covers placement and perpetual care, a burial container for the remains, and inscription of the memorial marker/plaque.

The following statistics are reported as of November 30, 2017: Total

<u>niches</u>	<u>80</u>
Niches occupied or “pre-designated”:	47
Remaining niches / sold:	17
Remaining niches /available:	16

At its meeting earlier this year, the Committee discussed projected timing of installing the next section of niches and will work with the company who constructed our original columbarium to request necessary information for an expansion.

Respectfully submitted,

Caryl G. Fuller Chairman

Outreach Committee Report

Current outreach efforts supported by Good Shepherd include: Cheshire House, Habitat for Humanity, The Historic Church Walk and Beyond Our Doors. In addition, volunteer support is provided to Meals on Wheels, the St. Nicholas Tree, Warmth for Wake, and Family Promise (formally Wake Interfaith Hospitality Network), to name a few.

This year a generous donation was made to the church in support of outreach. The committee is looking at new opportunities given this new funding. Potential ideas include: Mission trip for youth, Mission trip for adults, FIGS, Shepherd's Table, Green Door Project, Urban Ministries.

Parishioners are encouraged to share ideas for outreach with the Vestry for future consideration.

Strategic Planning Committee Report

The Church of the Good Shepherd Strategic Planning Committee was formed in May 2017 at the request of the Rector and Senior Warden, who selected the participants and tasked them with developing a strategic plan to help set the direction of our church over the next three-to-five years. The committee consisted of 12 parishioners, including its chair and facilitator:

<i>Jack Boyne, Chairman</i>	<i>Committee</i>	
<i>Bob Goodale, Facilitator</i>	Sally	Dwayne Holloway
	Bailey	Gerard McNeill
<i>Sponsors</i>	Jamey Bass	Paul McSorley
<i>Julie Lowe, Sr. Warden</i>	Bill	Michael Springston
<i>Bob Sawyer, Rector</i>	Bennett	Rob Zucker
	Frank Fee	
	Jan Harris	

Strategy Development Process

Developing the strategic plan was completed using an iterative process that involved data collection, data assessment and interviews, followed by extensive review and discussion sessions conducted during three workshops held between September and December. Prior to the first workshop session, facilitator Bob Goodale interviewed 34 people, which included representatives from other Episcopal churches in the area to gain additional perspectives. We also collected vital statistics (e.g. Number of Baptized Members, Annual Pledges, Operating Expenses, and Sunday School Attendance) from church records dating back to 1991, which were consolidated in spreadsheet to evaluate trends. The data gathered from interviews and church records provided the basis for building a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Constraints (SWOC) chart to help prioritize and build the strategic plan.

Each of the 3-hr. workshop sessions began with a moment of reflection from Rev. Bill Bennett and a prayer to consider the renewal and mission of our congregation. At each session, the Statement of Values, Statement of Vision and Statement of Mission were reviewed and refined. The Committee provided input on the SWOC analysis chart and completed a lifecycle assessment, to qualitatively assess the COGS’s current position. The final workshop session was devoted to finalizing the 3-year strategic plan.

Committee Deliverables

Over the course of the workshop sessions, the Strategic Planning Committee completed the following:

- COGS Statement of Values, Statement of Vision and Statement of Mission
- COGS Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Constraints (SWOC) chart
- COGS Lifecycle Analysis
- COGS Goals, Objectives & Strategies

Next Steps

Following the last workshop session on December 4, the final strategic planning document was prepared and reviewed by the Sponsors, the Rector, Rev. Bob Sawyer, and Senior Warden, Julie Lowe, on Dec. 7. A summary of the Committee’s work and an overview of the strategic plan will be presented at the Dec. 11 Vestry meeting. A full exploration of the strategic plan will be discussed during the 2018 Vestry retreat in January and then will be made available to the congregation for comment. We hope that the Vestry will approve and adopt the plan in February.