

**2024 Team/Committee Reports
Annual Meeting
Church of the Good Shepherd
January 19, 2025**

- **Caring for Each Other Team**

Our group had a busy year. We tried to provide events and opportunities for our congregation and friends to gather and enjoy conversation and activities.

1. We helped to coordinate Good Shepherd Coffee Hour by providing a sign up list at the back of the church.
2. We helped to organize a Shrove Tuesday dinner
3. In February, we held a Cupcake Social
4. Our group helped to organize a Kitchen Cleaning
5. We held an Egg Decorating Event for children and adults.
6. A 2nd Tuesday Craft and Conversation group started and will continue through the Spring, pausing for a summer break. It is a lively group with between 4 - 8 participants on any given 2nd Tuesday, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at Good Shepherd.
7. A Cameo Baroque concert was held at Westview Meadows.
8. A Christmas Tea and Cookie Exchange was a great success.
9. Another Holiday activity was the Gingerbread House/ Advent Wreath/ Christmas Wreath Event.
10. A Men's Breakfast Group was started. They plan to meet monthly through the Spring on the 2nd Saturday of the month.

Some future plans for the Spring include Easter egg decorating and another Tea.

Christina Hirsch

- **Mission and Outreach Committee**

In seeking to set priorities for the MO committee, I began with a search for what the Episcopal Church considers the hallmarks of mission. What I found is below:

FIVE MARKS OF MISSION

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

To teach, baptize and nurture new believers

To respond to human need by loving service

To seek to transform unjust structures of society

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

We work from these categories to brainstorm different initiatives. The highlights from 2024 were a large fundraising dinner which we did as a group along with 2 pie sales. We held 2 separate study groups in the “Being With” format, one on our relationship with Creation, and the other a basic overview of the Christian life. We reached out to Adult Basic Education in order to work with folks learning English. This project is ongoing. Several of our members have active work in the above categories which they pursue on their own. We welcome you to join us and we welcome your ideas.

Beth Mueller

- **Programming for Children and Families**

Purpose:

Welcome the youngest members of our at-large community into our church community.

Strategy:

Provide positive experiences for children and provide support for their families.

Accomplishments in 2024:

Babysitting events--held in February (Valentine date night for parents), October (autumn date night for parents), and December (holiday shopping & gift wrapping day for parents). Our December event was especially successful with a total of 7 children participating throughout the day and a grateful family sending in a \$100 donation to express their appreciation!

Secured Diocesan Grant funds--We have been awarded grant money to purchase Godly Play materials to help us establish a Sunday School, as well as funding to purchase supplies for additional babysitting events and personal care supplies for the Care Cupboard.

Amy Eschelbach

- **Growth & Finance**

The fall Stewardship campaign was a success with the total pledges rising to 31 with \$ 61,725 committed. To be discussed with the 2025 budget.

The mailing included information on Wills, setting the framework for a Planned Giving campaign late in the first quarter of 2025. We also began in November a monthly “Men’s Breakfast” which has proven very successful and will continue in 2025.

It was also approved that any profits from the “Good Eats” program seed a Capital Fund for the renovation of the kitchen and undercroft. The kitchen committee will develop the list of agreed upgrades and hire an architect to put together the detailed specs and budget. This will be addressed later in the year when the plan and budget are better understood.

Ron Hirsch

- **WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

The purpose of the Worship and Music team is to help increase congregational growth & community well-being through our worship services and music program.

Our goals for 2024 included 1) holding more contemplative services, 2) investigating returning to two Sunday services, 3) beginning occasional morning prayers services, and 4) making Eucharistic elements available to Zoom participants.

What we were able to accomplish:

- 1) Continuing our tradition of Easter Vigil, and Evening Prayer, with the addition of an Advent retreat.
- 2) With input from the parish, we made the decision to remain with one service at 9:30
- 3) While we have not instituted occasional Morning Prayer services, Linda Webster and Marjorie Strong completed Diocesan training (and received certificates to prove it!)

Some thoughts for 2025:

- 1) Start training Eucharistic lay ministers so that Zoom participants and anyone unable to attend in person can receive the Eucharist.
- 2) In partnership with Saint Mary’s, offer more opportunities to celebrate holy/feast days throughout the Church year.
- 3) Create opportunities to develop our spiritual relationship with nature through prayer walks.
- 4) Develop a larger pool of acolytes.

Marjorie Strong

- **GARDEN COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Garden Committee had a quiet year with no major improvements. There was enough rain so extensive watering was not needed. With the city dealing with the damage caused by the floods, understandably, the patching of the granite wall did not happen. Some annual flowers were planted in the “sign” bed to fill it out until more long-term planting is done. Smoothing out the lawn and the granite bench will be 2025 projects. Thank you to Jim Willis for keeping the lawn mowed/trimmed and looking nice. Thank you to Linda Webster for keeping the flower beds in the front of the church free of weeds and supplied with new flowers – both annual and perennial. It always looked very nice thanks to Linda’s attention to it. And a very big THANK YOU to Leo Martineau for cleaning up the abundance of trash around the back flower beds.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Willis

- **Pet Pantry Report**

Pet Pantry provided over 2,000 gallon bags of cat and dog food to Enough Ministries in 2024 for those people having pets but were economically challenged to maintain them. This program helps people keep their pet as an important support system and allows the pet to be properly fed as well. We increased the level of food provided during the flood recovery period this year and last as more families were in need. Thank you to Phil Moros, Beth Mueller, Ron & Christina Hirsch, Cindy & Jim Willis, Felicia & Leo Martineau, & Jean McDonald for provision of product and/or funding for such. Thanks also to Kim & George Bryant and Ron Hirsch for bagging the product. This program has been in operation since 2021 and will continue in 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Webster