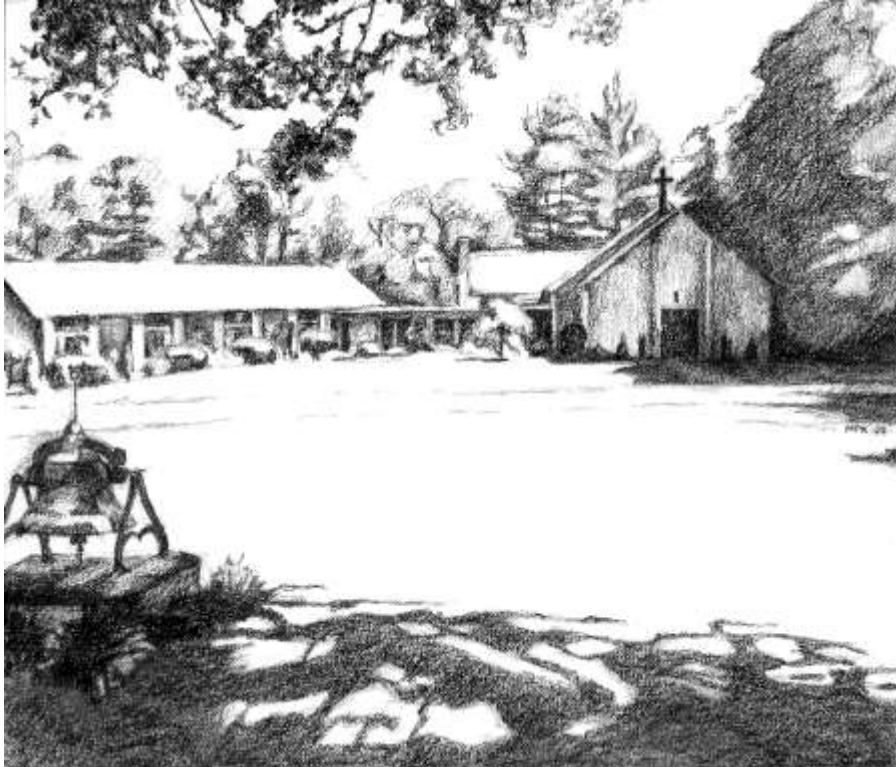


**Church of the Good Shepherd**  
Granite Springs  
Episcopal Diocese of New York



**2014 Annual Report**

Of the Church of the Good Shepherd  
For year ending December 31, 2014

**Annual Meeting: January 11, 2015**

## 2014 CLERGY & STAFF

**Rector:** The Reverend Matthew Hossie Mead

**Choir Director & Organist:** Cecilia Sparacio

**Sexton:** Bernie Sotter, Joyce Levy, Phil Levy

**Child Care Provider:** Sharen McKenna

## 2014 VESTRY

**Rector:**

The Reverend Matthew Hossie Mead

**Wardens:**

Maria Kaprielian (1<sup>st</sup> term ending in 2016)

Rick Vesperman (1<sup>st</sup> term ending in 2015)

**Clerk (appointed):**

Nancy Haensch

**Treasurer (appointed):**

Paul Miller

**Assistant Treasurer (appointed):**

Sally Stevens

**Financial Secretary (appointed):**

Bob Bubeck

**Class of term ending in 2015**

Scott Jones

Phil Levy

Chris Palmer

**Class of term ending in 2016**

Nancy Haensch

Eric Parsons

Tom Rubino (resigned November, 2014)

**Class of term ending in 2017**

Diane Buschel

Jose Trinidad

Fay Wright

\* \* \* \* \*

## AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

1. Invocation and Call to Order – The Rector
2. Review & Approval of the Minutes of the 2013 Annual Meeting (January 2014)
3. Nominations
  - a. Nominations are open for 1 hour.
  - b. **Vernon Alexander, Phill Pinkney, and Megan Whalen** have been nominated to serve on the Vestry for three-year terms.
  - c. **Bernie Sotter** has been nominated to serve on the Vestry for a one-year term.
  - d. **Rick Vesperman** has been nominated to serve as Warden for a second two-year term.
  - e. Nominations for Delegate and Alternate Delegate to Diocesan Convention.
4. Rector's Report
5. Wardens' Reports
6. Report of Organizations & Committees
7. Election
8. Congratulations to those who are newly elected!
9. Thanks to 2014 outgoing leaders
  - a. Bob Bubeck for service as Financial Secretary
  - b. Scott Jones, Phil Levy, Chris Palmer, and Tom Rubino for service on Vestry
  - c. Eric Parsons for service as Stewardship Chair
  - d. Nancy Anderson for service as Birthday Card Committee Chair
10. Appointments and new positions
  - a. **Paul Miller:** Treasurer (appointed by Vestry for a second year – max of six consecutive years)
  - b. **Chris Palmer:** Financial Secretary (appointed by Vestry for a first year – max of six consecutive years)
  - c. **Nancy Haench:** Clerk (appointed by the Rector for a second year - max of six consecutive years)
11. Old Business
12. New Business
13. Benediction and Adjournment – The Rector

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, GRANITE SPRINGS: JANUARY 12, 2014

1. The meeting was called to order at 11.02am by Father Matthew H. Mead. An attendance sheet was circulated.
2. At 11.03am Father Matt read the slate of nominations:
  - a. Diane Buschel, Jose Trinidad, and Fay Wright to serve on the Vestry for three-year terms.
  - b. Maria Kaprielian for Senior (Financial) Warden to serve a two-year term.
  - c. Rick Vesperman for Junior (Property) Warden to serve a one-year term.
  - d. Nominations remained open for one hour.
  - e. Fr Matt requested nominations for Delegate and Alternate to the Diocesan Convention. Phil Levy and Bernie Sotter volunteered.

3. A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting was proposed by Bernie Sotter and seconded by Wilfried Haensch. The motion was carried unanimously.
4. Reports and Thanks:
  - a. Fr Matt thanked outgoing leaders:
    - i. Wardens Bruce Barber and Jan Corning
    - ii. Amanda Slattery, Katrina Stebbins and Rick Vesperman for their service on the vestry.
    - iii. Sally Stevens for her service as Treasurer.
    - iv. Amanda Slattery for her service as Clerk to the Vestry.
    - v. Anne Siemerling for her service as Sexton.
    - vi. Nancy and Wilfried Haensch for service as Outreach Co-Chairs.
    - vii. Maria Kaprielian for her service as Stewardship Chair.
  - b. Fr Matt introduced our Indaba partners from St. Paul's Poughkeepsie and St. Matthew and St. Timothy in Manhattan.
  - c. Fr Matt presented the Rector's report.
  - d. Wardens' Reports
    - i. In the absence of Bruce Barber and Jan Corning Fr. Matt advised that the Financial and Property reports were printed in the Annual Report.
  - e. Sally Stevens presented the Treasurer's report. She requested that everyone submit their pledges for 2014 and noted that pledge cards are available.
  - f. Maria Kaprielian presented the Stewardship report.
  - g. Cecelia Sparacio was present but unwell and advised that the Music Director and Organist's report was printed in the Annual Report.
  - h. Nancy Haensch presented the Outreach Committee report.
  - i. Chris Palmer and Phil Levy presented the Pastoral Care Committee report.
  - j. Glenn Hintze presented the Sunday School report. Fr Matt added that a Confirmation class is running now in preparation for Confirmation on June 29.
  - k. Amanda Slattery presented the Communications, Advertising and Publicity Committee report.
  - l. Fr. Matt thanked organizers of the fundraisers held during the year.
  - m. Leslie Fulton and Flo Barber presented the Memorial Garden report.
  - n. Fr. Matt thanked Bill and Nancy Anderson for the Birthday Card Committee report.
  - o. Fr. Matt described Bruce Barber's work on the vegetable garden.
  - p. Bill Greene presented the Seniors Group report.
  - q. Fay Wright presented the Youth Group report which was not printed in the Annual Report. She said that the group is getting going and had decided to meet each week during coffee hour. The group took the 1 am slot during the recent prayer vigil and a bowling evening was held last night.
  - r. Fr. Matt reported that the Men's Group report was missing from the Annual Report. The group meets to eat and Fr. Matt thanked Rick Murphy and Dave Stevens for preparing the food for the Annual Meeting and Jim Corning for donating the food.
  - s. Dorothy Baeder presented the Women's Group report.
  - t. Scott Jones presented the Poetry Group report.
  - u. Chris Palmer presented the warming Center report.
    - i. Fr. Matt thanked Thelma Barlow for creating the Generator Fund.
  - v. Fr. Matt announced that the capital campaign is on hold until the water bill has been settled.

- w. Thelma Barlow thanked the church for sponsoring Scout Troop 376. Fr. Matt reminded the meeting that Scout Sunday will be February 2.
- x. Fr. Matt thanked Diane Buschel and Bernie Sotter for setting up coffee hour each week.
- y. Flo Barber expressed gratitude to Pat Mulholland for the flagpole.
- 5. At 12.04pm there had been no further nominations to the vestry. As Clerk to the vestry, Amanda Slattery cast a single vote for the proposed slate of nominations.
- 6. Fr. Matt announced that volunteers are needed to chair the Stewardship Committee and the Outreach Committee.
- 7. The following appointments and new positions were announced for 2014:
  - a. Joyce Levy and Bernie Sotter: new Sextons
  - b. Paul Miller: Treasurer
  - c. Sally Stevens: Assistant Treasurer
  - d. Bob Bubeck: Financial Secretary
  - e. Nancy Haensch: Clerk
- 8. There was no old business.
- 9. There was no new business.
- 10. Fr Matt adjourned the meeting with a benediction.

## **2014 PARISH REGISTER & ATTENDANCE**

### **SERVICE NUMBERS & ATTENDANCE FOR 2014**

Total Sunday Attendance: 5466  
 Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) for 2014: 105  
 Christmas & Easter for 2014: 484  
 Total Weekday Attendance: 1201  
 Total Sunday Holy Eucharist services: 100  
 Total Sunday Daily Office services: 70  
 Total Weekday Holy Eucharist services: 18  
 Total Weekday Daily Office services: 145  
 Total Private Communion/Reserved Sacrament: 16  
 Total Baptisms under age 16: 12  
 Total Baptisms over age 16: 0  
 Total Confirmations under age 16: 11  
 Total Confirmations over age 16: 1  
 Total Receptions: 1  
 Total Marriages: 1  
 Total Burials: 3  
 Active Baptized Members (end of year 2014): 182  
 Communicants for 2014: 219  
 Communicants under age 16 for 2014: 49  
 Sunday School registration for 2014: 36

# **RECTOR'S REPORT**

## **Thanks so much...**

I am now into my sixth year as Rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd. My wife, Nicole and our two sons, Liam and Nicholas, wish to offer thanks to all of the members and friends of Good Shepherd who have made this year so wonderful.

## **Fruits of the Holy Spirit Seen in a Growing Church**

Our congregation (attendance and pledging) has doubled in the last five years, and we have done many things trying to live into that growth. There are several obvious signs of that growth. The first is that more people are worshipping at Good Shepherd. Second, the number of Committees, Ministries, and Special Events has grown, as has the involvement of parishioners in every aspect of Good Shepherd. Third, we have become better stewards of our financial resources and property.

## **Fruits of the Spirit 1: Worship on Sunday, Holy Days, and Weekdays**

Our life as Christians, members, parishioners, and friends of Good Shepherd begins and ends with worship. In 2008 we averaged about 55 people on Sunday. We have grown steadily since then and we finished 2014 with an average Sunday attendance of 105. Likewise, in 2008 weekday services totaled about 600 people; in 2014 we had about 1200 people in attendance at the various weekday services that were held.

We offer services at 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM every Sunday of the year. In addition, we offered numerous 5:00 PM services on Saturdays and a regular 7:40 AM Morning Prayer service most Sundays.

The 10:00 AM Sung Eucharist is our biggest service each week, and a great many activities and events are linked to it. Each Sunday we have Sunday School, childcare for younger children, tasty receptions and fellowship time, wonderful group activities, and a variety of educational presentations. Our other weekend services are no less important, though they are smaller. The 8:00 AM Sunday Said Eucharist is a traditional language service and allows for a reflective and quiet beginning to the week. We had experimented with a 5:00 PM service each Saturday, but the service never really caught on. After the summer of 2014 we began offering the 5:00 PM service once a month when it fell on a major Holy Day. Attendance at that monthly service was significantly higher than it had been when offering it weekly.

I am grateful for the assistance of Father Peter Powell who again celebrated and preached when I was away in July (and also on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent when I was away for Indaba). This is Father Powell's fourth year with us at Good Shepherd. I am hopeful that he will be available to be with us again in the summer of 2015. When Father Powell was not available we offered Morning Prayer at 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM, led by one of our lay readers.

Bishop Andrew Dietsche made his official visitation on the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, Sunday June 29, 2014, and he was our celebrant and preacher. He also confirmed eleven teenagers and one adult, and he received one adult into the Episcopal Church. We had an enormous picnic after the service, and it was a wonderful way to start the summer.

Our worship, fellowship and educational events on Sunday are greatly supplemented by worship and fellowship activities on weekday Holy Days throughout the year. A few highlights: Our Pageant

and Twelfth Night Celebration begins each year with a great celebration on or near Epiphany. Candlemas is coupled with our Chili competition. Annunciation is coupled with Chowderfest. The services of the Easter Triduum in Holy Week are always amazing, and each begins with a marvelous themed dinner (Mediterranean Night and Pizza Making Night were among my favorites of the entire year). We celebrated Ascension Day Sung Mass in the late spring followed by a fabulous steak and wine dinner. Holy Cross day is followed by Chickenfest. Michaelmas is followed every year by our annual Oktoberfest. On All Saints' Day, which fell on a Saturday in 2014, we offered Sung Eucharist with our new Suffragan Bishop, the Right Reverend Allen Shin, as celebrant and preacher. We followed that service with a wine and cheese reception, and the Youth Group made pizza and stayed late to watch a movie. We also celebrated Thanksgiving Day Sung Eucharist. On the Fourth Sunday of Advent we offered an amazing Lessons and Carols service, which featured many of the talented musicians we have in our midst. Christmas was celebrated with wonderful music, children's procession, and beautiful decorations. Our 5:00 PM Family Eucharist with children's procession continues to be our most crowded Christmas service, and the music at the later Christmas Concert and Midnight Mass was exquisite. There was some discussion about whether or not to move the Midnight Mass to an earlier time (one proposed time was 9PM). We decided to keep the service time at 11PM for 2014, and our attendance went up significantly. That said we are still planning to revisit the Christmas schedule discussion in 2015 to see if our current schedule is ideal or not.

On Weekdays (Tuesdays to Fridays, and Holy Days) we offer Morning Prayer. The time of Morning Prayer shifts a bit every academic year and is determined by the bus schedules of the rector's children (during the 2013-2014 academic year Morning Prayer was offered at 9:00 AM, for the 2014-2015 academic year it is offered at 8:30 AM). On most Major Holy Days there is a Eucharist at 6:00 PM; that service is said or sung, depending on the "rank" of the Holy Day.

### **Fruits of the Spirit 2: Committees, Ministries, and Events**

There are a wide variety of groups, committees and ministries at Good Shepherd. Wardens and Vestry members are elected at the Annual Meeting each year, and they oversee the finances and program life of the parish. Ideally the Vestry is a true representation of the larger parish. The Vestry has made a concerted effort over the last five years to seek out a mix of newer members, longer-term members, men, women, and people representing the diversity of our parish to take on active roles in the operation and leadership of the church. These roles include serving on the Vestry and also serving as chairs and liaisons to the many committees and ministries in the parish. I believe that we have a great mix of members taking part in and organizing groups and committees and serving on the Vestry. If you are interested in getting involved in a committee or group or taking on a new project, please let me know.

Growth has meant that our parish groups, education offerings, and outreach efforts are thriving. See reports below for more information on our many committees, groups, ministries, and events, including, but not limited to the Choir & Music Ministry, Stewardship & Finance Committee, Seniors' Group, Youth Group, Poetry Group, Women's Group, Men's Group, Sunday School, Vacation Bible Study, EfM, Confirmation Class, Outreach Committee, Pastoral Care Team, and Birthday Card Team. The church has the space and resources to make it easy for all of these groups to meet and organize events and programs.

I would like to thank all our elected and appointed parish leaders, especially Maria Kaprielian and Rick Vesperman, our Wardens, Paul Miller, our Treasurer, Bob Bubeck, our Financial Officer, Nancy Haensch, our Clerk, and all of our Vestry Members. They work tirelessly behind the scenes

making sure that the parish runs smoothly. The work and time that they put in this past year has been essential to the life and growth of the parish, and I want them to know how much their work is appreciated.

Thanks also to the members of our staff: Cecilia Sparacio, our organist and music director, Joyce Levy, Phil Levy, and Bernie Sotter, our sextons, and Sharen McKenna, our childcare provider. The work done by the staff is fundamental to the day-to-day life at Good Shepherd. It is a joy and a pleasure to be the rector at Good Shepherd where I am able to work with such devoted and hardworking people.

Many thanks to all of the volunteers who have assisted in every possible way throughout the year, there are too many to name, but I would be remiss if I did not mention a few people beyond our officers and vestry. Thanks to Eric Parsons for his work on the Stewardship Committee. Thanks to Arleen Flury and Thelma Barlow for their tireless efforts in the Sacristy and preparing the altar. Thanks to Diane Buschel and Bernie Sotter for organizing coffee hour and to all who volunteered over the year as Coffee Hour hosts. Thanks to Amanda Slattery for organizing the Outreach Committee. Thanks to Wilfried Haensch for growing and mentoring our EfM group. Thanks to Bill and Gwen Greene for being the liaisons for the Seniors Group. Thanks to Suzanne Bracken, Jan Corning, Fran DiBernardo, Arleen Flury, Leslie Fulton, Glenn Hintze, Sue Hintze, Kerry Irwin, Megan Whalen and all of the Sunday School teachers for making our Sunday School thrive and presenting a wonderful pageant year after year. Thanks to Vernon Alexander and Fay Wright for organizing our Youth Group. Thanks to Chris Palmer and Phil Levy for organizing the Pastoral Care Team. Thanks to Scott Jones for organizing the Poetry Group and our Arts Jam. Thanks to Lorne and Christine Robbins for organizing our annual Awards Dinner. Thanks to Arleen Flury for organizing our annual Christmas Bazaar and our annual Tag Sale. Thanks to Glenn Hintze for organizing our annual Wine Tasting. Thanks to Bernie Sotter and Phil Levy for being our Delegates to Convention. Thanks to Adrienne Pizzuti and Arleen Flury for her card ministry. Thanks to Nancy Anderson for her ministry organizing the Birthday Card Committee. There are many, many other people who have volunteered in more ways than I can count. Thank you all so much! Good Shepherd has so many volunteers who do so much: thank you all for all you do!

### **Fruits of the Spirit 3: Stewardship of Finances and Property**

The past five years has seen a dramatic increase in the health of our financial stewardship and property stewardship.

Our pledging increased dramatically heading into 2015. Our estimate is that we will increase pledging by about 30% in 2015. Thanks to all who made a pledge in 2014, and to all who have pledged for 2015! For detailed information, please see the Stewardship Report below.

Our endowment drawdown has been static for a number of years, and due to changes in the market we were forced to lower our draw significantly and move from a dollar amount draw to a percentage (we now draw at about 3%). In the short term, that meant lowering our operating income, but the long term benefit far outweighs that as we will be able to draw a reasonable amount of income each year while also growing the endowment. For more information on Finances and Budget, please see the Financial Warden Report and Treasurer's report.

A link between property and finances are the various tenants that use our space. In 2014 Bright Beginnings Nursery School left Good Shepherd (their enrollment had been dwindling for several



years). The loss of income is significant. That said, our Parish Hall has been freed up, and we believe our utilities and maintenance costs will decrease significantly. Not having a tenant in the Parish Hall allows us to schedule, plan, set up, throw, and clean up events much more easily, and eliminates an enormous time drain on staff and volunteers breaking down and resetting a Nursery School for every event. The Vestry will continue looking for the right, new tenant (or tenants), but the many positives of being able to use our own space for our own events outweigh the limited income most tenants will provide.

We have done a lot of work on the property in the last five years....In 2010 we completely cleaned out decades of junk that had been dumped throughout the property's woods, removing over 30 tons of debris, new AC units were installed throughout the rectory, the well water pump was replaced, the parish office was completely renovated, and we built the Memorial Garden. In 2011 we put a new roof (including new insulation and a new gutter system) on the church and parish hall building, we replaced the boiler in the church, replaced and updated all the exterior lighting on the property, and installed the flag pole. In 2012 the windows in the church were replaced, the electrical panels and wiring in the rectory were completely upgraded, a new fence was installed at the rectory, and the area behind the church was landscaped. In 2013 a generator was installed in the rectory, a new septic system was installed in the rectory, we built the Peace Pole, an energy audit was done in the rectory, and the hot water heater in the church was replaced.

In 2014 the well line feeding the rectory and the church was replaced, the UV filter system for the well was overhauled and repaired, the rectory was completely insulated following the recommendations of the energy audit done in 2013, the gutters and downspouts on the rectory were replaced with a larger "commercial" size which has alleviated some of the water issues in the basement, the carpeting in the Guild Room, Breezeway, and both entry hallways was replaced, the ladies room was renovated, the church chimneys were refurbished, the boiler in the rectory was replaced, a new microwave and dishwasher were installed in the rectory, the parish hall was painted, all of our gardens, including the Memorial Garden and Path, were spruced up with new woodchips, and the broken fence in the parking lot was taken down.

Our finances and property are healthier than they have been in many years. We have more work to do in 2015 and beyond, but a firm foundation has been built by our current and past wardens and treasurers. I am optimistic that in 2015 we will continue to move from health to health.

### **Pastor, Priest & Rector**

As your priest and rector I try to visit people who are in the hospital as often as I can (every day is ideal but not always possible). I try to visit people in nursing homes and those who are homebound on a regular basis. Every one of us can visit our brothers and sisters in Christ, and it makes me very happy that so many people in this parish visit their brothers and sisters in Christ when they are sick. If you are hospitalized or if you want me or any other parishioner to visit you, please let me know. There is more to pastoral care than such obvious pastoral visits. I have a cell phone (914-471-0260) at which I can be reached almost instantly. If I do not answer, leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as I can. I am always available for a meeting or a conversation or counseling of any sort. The Episcopal Church offers the Sacramental Rite of Confession. I have heard many confessions, I make regular confessions to a priest, and I am always available for anyone who wishes to make a confession. I am your priest and rector. If you need me, please call me.

In addition to my work at Good Shepherd, I also serve on several committees in the Episcopal Diocese of New York: I serve as Chair of the Budget & Finance Committee of the Diocese of New York; I served as Dean of the Sawmill Clericus; I serve on the Congregational Support Plan Committee; I serve on the Commission On Ministry; I serve on the Ecumenical Committee of the Diocese of New York; in 2015 I will serve as Alternate Deputy to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church.

I think working on these committees greatly helps serve the work of the Diocese of New York, and I think that it also helps me with my work at Good Shepherd. Like all of you who lend your time and talents to Good Shepherd, I am a volunteer when I serve the Diocese, and it makes a great deal of difference when I hear that my work is appreciated. I hope you all know that your time and energy at Good Shepherd is greatly appreciated by me and by everyone in our church family.

It has been a fantastic year at Good Shepherd. I look forward to 2015! I think that it's going to be a fantastic year, and I hope and I pray that Good Shepherd will continue to be a growing church that is spreading the good news of the risen Lord Jesus to more and more people every day of the year. I am thrilled and blessed to be the rector of a church that continues to grow and thrive. I think our church has the perfect mix of warm hospitality, welcoming fellowship, serious yet fun worship, loving pastoral care, and active outreach and educational opportunities and programs. By focusing on the many things that we already do so well and remaining open to new ideas and new faces, I am convinced that our church will keep thriving.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead  
Rector

## **DIOCESE OF NEW YORK 2014/2015**

Three major events happened in the Diocese of New York that directly affected Good Shepherd. The first was the consecration of our new Bishop Suffragan, the Right Reverend Allen Shin. Bishop Shin was elected at the end of 2013, and he was consecrated as our Bishop on May 17, 2014. Bishop Shin visited Good Shepherd for the first time on All Saints' Day, November 1, 2014.

The second event was our involvement in Indaba (a more thorough description appears later in this report). Good Shepherd fielded a team (Fay Wright, Phill Pinkney, Gwen Green, and me). We also hosted the final Indaba celebration for teams from churches around the Diocese of New York, on May 3, 2014. We threw a huge BBQ (everything made and served by our parishioners) and hosted about 200 people, including the Bishops and most of the Diocesan staff. It was a great day, and a blessing to offer hospitality to the Diocese (and show them all how a BBQ is done!).

Lastly, our annual Diocesan Convention was held in November. Bernie Sotter, Phil Levy, Norm Fulton, and I attended Convention. A number of interesting programs came out of Convention, among them a greater financial and programmatic commitment to Latino/Hispanic Ministry in the Diocese.

Due to the practicality of our facilities, parking, location in Region 2, and the fact that we pulled off the Indaba celebration so well, the Diocese requested that we host a special upcoming event. On

February 20-21, 2015 we are hosting the Latino/Hispanic Ministry Conference for Region 2 of the Diocese of New York. The Conference is entitled: "New Camino: Reimagining Latino/Hispanic Ministry in the Diocese of New York in the 21st Century". Please speak to me if you are interested in attending this Conference on behalf of Good Shepherd (we still have to register, even though we are hosting it).

Respectfully submitted,  
The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead  
Rector

## **FINANCIAL WARDEN'S REPORT**

As I look back on my first year as Financial Warden of the Church of the Good Shepherd, I'm reminded of all the financial challenges that occurred in 2014 and I'm proud of the way that we pulled together as a parish family to deal with these changes. Within the first few months of my tenure, it became apparent that our major endowment fund, the Yandersitz Portfolio, had lost significant ground from the original donation of \$275,000 invested in June 2000 to an amount of \$215,000.00 by February 2014. This loss of principal was due to a gradual but steady practice of withdrawing more income each year than we gained from our investments and a serious capital loss on one of the funds of the portfolio. In a bold move to "stop the hemorrhaging" and keep the Yandersitz investment account from being depleted in the next 15 years, the Vestry voted in March to decrease our monthly income withdrawal amount from \$1300 (an unsustainable 8% of the portfolio) to \$550 monthly (3%). Extra income generated each month is now being reinvested to help regrow the fund back to \$250,000 within the next 10 years. With the guidance of our financial advisers at Morgan Stanley and Good Shepherd's Finance Committee, the portfolio structure was also changed in the hopes of preventing further losses and to revitalize the principal of the fund. These actions were taken to keep the endowment fiscally sound for future generations. Unfortunately they also resulted in a smaller revenue stream for us to work with than in past years.

Another economic hurdle to overcome was the loss of income from our former tenant, Bright Beginnings Preschool. After 31 years of renting the Parish Hall from the Church of the Good Shepherd, it became apparent that the school would have to close its Granite Springs location due to low student enrollment for the coming year. This unexpected departure left us with \$7250.00 less income than we anticipated for 2014.

In addition to the loss of income from these two sources, our finances were also strained by several unforeseen expenses. The "worst winter ever" (well it certainly felt like it) left us with snow removal costs totaling \$6515.00, while utility costs for the church building (which included heating oil) were almost \$13,800.00. Replacing the well line and UV filter for the water system cost \$1489.00 and \$1937.00 respectively. A new boiler for the rectory demanded an outlay of \$6000.00, although we recovered some of that expense since the old boiler was still under warranty and the remainder was paid for with money from the capital improvement fund.

Yet, despite all the financial challenges, we've managed to end the year with all of our bills paid. How have we done that? Everyone had a part to play. The parishioners who made and kept their financial pledges to the church played a significant role. So did the 26 families who gave to the Special Appeal campaign, raising \$13,400.00 for our operating budget. Several parishioners

organized fundraisers which netted the church close to \$13,000.00. It was truly a group effort. Finally, everyone should say a prayer and thank you to Pat Katz for her generous bequest to Good Shepherd and the needs of its parish. Without this “cushion” we couldn’t have ended our year in the black. As an added bonus, we are able to start the new year having paid off our rectory roof and church boiler loans.

Looking ahead to 2015, we can anticipate some savings in heating costs due to sealing and insulation improvements done to the rectory last spring, a new rectory boiler, the decreased need to heat the Parish Hall for Bright Beginnings and lower oil prices. As far as renting the Parish Hall and Guild Room to outside groups to generate income, there have been a few organizations expressing interest but no major players yet like Bright Beginnings. As always, I look forward to hearing your suggestions for how we can increase our revenue stream for the coming year. Remember that making an pledge is a small but significant step you can make to ensure that we always have money in our bank account to pay the bills.

I would like to recognize the following people for their contributions to the financial health of the church (and the mental health of its Financial Warden) in 2014. Thank you to Father Matt and Rick Vesperman, Property Warden, for all of their guidance on church matters, both local and global in scope. Thank you and congratulations to Eric Parsons for running such a successful Stewardship campaign, with projected pledges exceeding \$177,500.00 for 2015 (see Stewardship Report). Thanks to Bob Bubeck, our outgoing Financial Secretary, for his meticulous record-keeping of financial contributions to Good Shepherd for the past 6 years. Finally, a special thank you to Paul Miller, our Treasurer, for keeping me informed about our finances at every step of the way this year. Without his help we would not have such a firm grip on our income and expenses or such a comprehensive and transparent budget for 2015 (see Treasurer’s Report).

Respectfully submitted,  
Maria Kaprielian  
Financial Warden

## **PROPERTY WARDEN’S REPORT**

As my first year as Property Warden comes to a close, I would like to thank everyone for their help and support in keeping the church property and grounds up and running. As the Property Warden it is my responsibility to see that repairs are made and that the church and the grounds are properly maintained. However, I would not be able to accomplish this without all of you pitching in, as you always have. This past year has seen some trials and tribulations, which we were able to overcome, but it has also seen some great improvements.

Last January (the day of 12th night to be exact) it was discovered that the well line feeding the rectory and the church had sprung a leak. We were able to get a plumbing company in on a Saturday with equipment and manpower and it was repaired in a matter of just a few hours, thereby saving our pageant and celebration. We then found out that the filter system for the well had failed and since we are a “public water source” it needed to be replaced. Our well company did extensive research and was able to locate replacement parts for our very old system and made the necessary repairs to get us back up and running, and saved us from having to hire an engineer and revamping our entire system. The oil burner in the rectory sprung a leak and need to be replaced; luckily it was

still under warranty so we only had to foot the bill for the installation. The rectory dishwasher and microwave needed to be replaced and were purchased from our friends at Atlantic Appliance and were picked up and installed by Fr. Matt and me, again saving us delivery and installation charges.

We have also made the following improvements: The insulation project at the rectory which was started under the guidance of Jan Corning was completed using funds from a generous donor. The gutters and downspouts on the rectory have been completely replaced with a larger “commercial” size and this seems to have alleviated the water issues in the basement. Thanks to the generosity of Lorne and Christine Robbins we replaced the carpeting in the Guild Room, Breezeway, and both entry hallways. They also provided the supplies to give the ladies room in the Parish Hall a much needed face lift, with Lorne and Pat Mulholland providing the knowledge and muscle needed to complete the task. If you haven’t seen it lately, I suggest you take a look as you pass by, it truly is a “work of art”. Eric Parsons “adopted” the chimneys and had the caps replaced (they blew off during one of our nasty storms), and the chimneys inspected (no cleaning necessary at this time). The Parish hall was painted by Maria Kaprielian, Bob Velzy, Father Matt, Diane Buschel and Lorne Robbins, then the rug was cleaned by several volunteers using rented equipment. Our friends at Top Notch Tree Service generously provided us with wood chips for all of our gardens, including the Memorial Garden and Path. Again, the sweat equity was provided by several of the men of the parish.

Throughout the year we held three “workdays” for general outdoor cleaning and maintenance, and again, without the time and talents of our Parish Family these would not have been possible. I look forward to working side by side with all of you over the next several years, either as the Property Warden or just as a member of this wonderful Parish, to help keep Good Shepherd a beautiful and inviting Church.

Remember, as with anything else, it takes all of us to make this happen. If you see something, say something. I am always available via email, text or telephone.

Thank you for your continued support, and may God bless us all.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rick Vesperman  
Property Warden

# TREASURER'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL RESULTS

## 2014 Financial Results and 2015 Proposed Budget

From a financial perspective 2014 was a challenging year. We were faced with a deficit of \$28,174 to overcome if we were to break even for the year. As usual, with God's guidance, we pulled together and overcame this challenge by raising additional income of \$33,070.

This additional income was provided in various ways. The primary means was a result of most of us being faithful in our regular envelope giving of \$150,000. We exceeded this by \$1,460. Then, in the summer, 26 families responded to the Vestry special appeal by donating \$13,400.

Unfortunately, it was decided that the net income from the 2014 fundraisers had to be used in the operating budget rather than for other causes. This decision resulted in additional income of \$12,929. Another decision was to use the funds available to us from the Koegel Fund. This Fund is managed by the Episcopal Diocese of NY on our behalf. This produced income of \$2,811.

Lastly, at the December meeting, the Vestry approved that any remaining 2014 deficit and the prior year 2013 deficit of \$750 were to be covered by the Katz bequeath that the church received in 2014. This resulted in an entry to the General Operating Fund of \$8,362 allowing us to finish in the black by \$750 for 2014. Our General Operating Fund balance entering 2015 is zero.

As you can see 2014 was an income story. As for our operating expenses in 2014, we were \$4,146 over budget. However, this is a good news story because this overage is a result of the Vestry approving at the December meeting that we pay off our EDNY Rectory Roof Loan and the Church Boiler Loan. This caused the Capitalized Loan Payment line to be over budget by \$3,264.

Now let's look at the 2015 budget. The 2015 budget is based on our response to the 2015 Stewardship Campaign. The primary assumption as in 2014 is that we will be faithful givers at 100% of our regular envelope giving of \$177,542. All of the other assumptions for both income and expenses are based on history and last year's actuals.

As you can see, it takes \$219,000 to operate the church and our income at this time projects to be \$208,000 leaving us with an \$11,000 deficit to overcome in 2015. Better than \$28,000 but still a hill to climb.

I am sure with God's guiding force we will successfully overcome this deficit in 2015 as we did in 2014.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul H. Miller  
Treasurer

# 2014 Financial Results

2014 Balance Sheet As of December 31st  
2014 Restricted Fund Activity  
2014 General Operating Income & Expense Results

**The Church of the Good Shepherd**  
**2014 Balance Sheet As of December 31st**  
**Assets, Liabilities & Restricted Accounts**

Account Name	December 31, 2013 Actual Balance	December 31, 2014 Actual Balance	December 2014 Change to December 2013
<b><u>Church Asset Accounts</u></b>			
Checking Account	36,185	44,962	8,777
Organ Fund CD	5,837	7,030	1,193
Savings Account	196	0	(196)
Organ Fund - Restricted	302	0	(302)
Adult Education - Restricted	73	0	(73)
Investments - Yandersitz Fund	233,274	215,456	(17,818)
Land, Building, Equipment Valuation	1,290,560	1,290,560	0
Capital Improvements			
Rectory Roof	1,017	0	(1,017)
Church Roof	24,707	22,054	(2,653)
Church Boiler	3,352	0	(3,352)
<b><u>Total Church Assets</u></b>	<b>\$ 1,595,503</b>	<b>\$ 1,580,061</b>	<b>\$ (15,442)</b>
<b><u>Church Liability Accounts</u></b>			
Loans Payable	0	0	0
Rectory Roof	1,017	0	1,017
Church Roof	24,707	22,054	2,653
Church Boiler	3,352	0	3,352
Accounts Payable	0	0	0
<b><u>Total Church Liabilities</u></b>	<b>\$ 29,076</b>	<b>\$ 22,054</b>	<b>\$ (7,022)</b>
<b><u>Total Church Restricted Accounts</u></b>	<b>\$ 1,566,427</b>	<b>\$ 1,558,007</b>	<b>\$ (8,420)</b>
<b><u>Summary of Church Balance Sheet Accounts</u></b>			
<b>Total Church Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,595,503</b>	<b>\$ 1,580,061</b>	<b>\$ (15,442)</b>
<b><u>Total Church Liabilities &amp; Restricted Fund Accounts</u></b>	<b>\$ 1,595,503</b>	<b>\$ 1,580,061</b>	<b>\$ (15,442)</b>



**The Church of the Good Shepherd  
2013 Restricted Funds Activity**

Account Name	December 31, 2013 Actual Balance	YTD December 2014 Actual Income	YTD December 2014 Actual Expenditures	December 31, 2014 Actual balance
<b>Church Restricted Funds</b>				
General Operating Fund Balance	(750)	224,357	223,607	0
Capital Improvement Fund Balance	3,109	48,274	20,142	31,241
Capital Improvement - Carpeting Fund Balance	0	3,100	3,100	0
Capital Improvement - Generator Fund Balance	0	795	0	795
Capital Improvement - EDNY Mission Grant Fund	5,000	0	2,348	2,652
Rectory Improvement Fund Balance	18,040	0	18,040	0
Rector's Discretionary Fund Balance	250	700	1,079	(130)
Rector's Education Fund Balance	0	0	0	0
Outreach Fund Balance	0	1,179	677	502
Outreach - Carpenter's Kids Balance	3,651	2,083	3,780	1,954
Outreach - Bishop's Fund Balance	416	172	558	30
Adult Education Fund Balance	73	0	0	73
Fulton Children's Education Fund Balance	1,730	0	0	1,730
Altar Guild Flower Fund Balance	886	1,570	1,359	1,097
Parish Support Fund Balance	885	310	150	1,045
Senior Group Activity Fund Balance	50	0	0	50
Fellowship Fund Balance	405	1,875	2,192	88
Flagpole Fund Balance	320	0	0	320
Sustainability Fund Balance	0	0	0	0
College Fund Balance	0	0	0	0
Fund Raiser's Current Year Fund Balance	0	4,654	4,654	0
Memorial Garden Fund Balance	2,462	110	170	2,402
Organ Fund Balance	4,953	2,077	0	7,030
Investment Fund Balance	233,274	13,682	31,500	215,456
Land, Building, Equipment Valuation	1,290,560	0	0	1,290,560
Memorial Fund Balance	1,113	0	0	1,113
Helen Moore Fund Balance	0	210	210	0
<b>Total Restricted Funds Activity During 2014</b>	<b>\$ 1,566,427</b>	<b>\$ 305,147</b>	<b>\$ 313,567</b>	<b>\$ 1,558,007</b>

<b>The Church of the Good Shepherd</b>					
<b>2014 Financial Results of the General Operating Fund</b>					
<b>Year To Date December Actual &amp; Budget</b>					
	<i>FY 2014 Actual Better / (Worse)</i>				
	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2014 Budget</b>	<b>2013 Actual</b>	<b>2014 Budget</b>	<b>2013 Actual</b>
<b><i>Income - General Operating Fund</i></b>					
<i>Endowment Gifts</i>	9,600	9,600	19,350	0	(9,750)
<i>Congregation Donations</i>	176,108	160,627	143,310	15,481	32,797
<i>Regular Envelope Giving</i>	151,460	150,000	135,907	1,460	15,553
<i>Special Envelope Giving</i>	7,429	7,737	4,999	(308)	2,430
<i>Congregational Appeal</i>	13,400	0	0	13,400	13,400
<i>Rental Donations</i>	13,640	20,750	21,670	(7,110)	(8,030)
<i>Fund Raisers</i>	12,929	0	5,532	12,929	7,397
<i>Other Income</i>	12,080	310	443	11,770	11,637
<i>Koegel Fund Income</i>	2,811	0	0	2,811	2,811
<i>Capital Improvement Fund (Katz)</i>	8,362	0	0	8,362	8,362
<b><i>Total Income General Operating Fund</i></b>	<b>\$ 224,357</b>	<b>\$ 191,287</b>	<b>\$ 190,306</b>	<b>\$ 33,070</b>	<b>\$ 34,051</b>
<b><i>Expenses</i></b>					
<i>Rector's Compensation</i>	62,426	62,806	54,306	(380)	8,119
<i>Rector's Stipend</i>	54,068	54,069	49,000	(1)	5,068
<i>SECA (FICA) Allowance</i>	5,598	5,977	5,306	(379)	292
<i>Non-Accountable Allowances</i>	2,760	2,760	0	0	2,760
<i>Rector's Benefits</i>	59,353	58,287	58,332	1,066	1,021
<i>Medical / Dental Insurance</i>	30,864	30,864	28,896	0	1,968
<i>Rector's Pension</i>	15,336	14,552	14,361	784	975
<i>Rector's Travel Allowance</i>	2,374	2,260	2,374	114	(0)
<i>Child Care, Health Club, Cell Phone</i>	8,196	8,235	10,454	(39)	(2,258)
<i>Other Benefits</i>	2,583	2,376	2,247	207	337
<i>Staff Salaries &amp; Expense</i>	18,385	18,328	17,976	57	409
<i>Utilities</i>	22,776	23,100	17,779	(324)	4,998
<i>Maintenance</i>	17,565	16,805	13,718	760	3,847
<i>Office Expense</i>	8,837	9,500	8,161	(663)	675
<i>Diocesan Assessment</i>	10,861	10,860	9,655	1	1,206
<i>Other Expense</i>	23,404	19,775	18,519	3,629	4,885
<i>Insurance</i>	5,902	5,623	5,701	279	201
<i>Capitalized Loan Payments</i>	8,666	5,402	5,448	3,264	3,217
<i>Church Programs &amp; Worship Exp</i>	7,187	6,083	5,818	1,104	1,369
<b><i>Total General Operating Expense</i></b>	<b>\$ 223,607</b>	<b>\$ 219,461</b>	<b>\$ 198,446</b>	<b>\$ (4,146)</b>	<b>\$ (25,161)</b>
<b><i>Total Net Operating Income</i></b>	<b>\$ 750</b>	<b>\$ (28,174)</b>	<b>\$ (8,140)</b>	<b>\$ 28,924</b>	<b>\$ 8,890</b>

# 2015 Proposed Budget

2015 Stewardship Results  
2015 Proposed General Operating Income & Expense Budget

**The Church of the Good Shepherd**  
**Summary of 2015 Stewardship Campaign As of 12/31/2014**

	-----2014-----		-----2015-----		Inc / Dec Over 2014	
	Units	Amount	Units	Amount	Amount	%
<b>Consecration Sunday Results</b>						
2014 Pledge Units / Dollars	63	\$ 143,364	63			
Three 2014 Pledges Removed Env #9, 49 & 94	3	2,340	3			
Adjusted 2014 Base (Starting Point)	60	141,024	60			
Sum of 2014 Pledges Present 11/9/14	38	91,440	38	109,360	17,920	19.6%
Sum of New 2015 Pledges on 11/9/14		-	9	16,280	16,280	—
Consecration Sunday Results	38	91,440	47	125,640	34,200	37.4%
2014 Pledges Not Present 11/9/14	22	49,584	22	49,584	-	0.0%
<b>Projected Total as of Consecration Sunday 11/9/14</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>\$ 141,024</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>\$ 175,224</b>	<b>\$ 34,200</b>	<b>24.3%</b>
<b>New Consecration Sunday 11/9/14</b>						
Sum of 2014 Pledges Present 11/9/14	38	91,440	38	109,360	17,920	19.6%
Sum of New 2015 Pledges on 11/9/14		-	9	16,280	16,280	—
<b>Pledge Results After Consecration Sunday</b>						
<u>As of Sunday 11/16/14</u>						
2014 Pledges Received 11/16	4	10,100	4	9,740	(360)	-3.6%
New 2015 Pledges on 11/16/14		-	1	600	600	—
<u>As of Sunday 11/23/14</u>						
2014 Pledges Received 11/23	4	12,740	4	14,720	1,980	15.5%
<u>Received After Sunday 11/23/14</u>						
2014 Pledges Received After 11/23/14	4	4,904	4	5,002	98	2.0%
<u>2014 Pledges No Response as of Now</u>						
2014 Pledges No Response as of Now	10	21,840	10	21,840	-	0.0%
<b>Projected Total as of 12/31/14</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>\$ 141,024</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>\$ 177,542</b>	<b>\$ 36,518</b>	<b>25.9%</b>
0						
<b>Summary of 2015 Growth over 2014 Pledge Base</b>						
2014 Pledges Who Have Responded	50	\$ 119,184	50	\$ 138,822	\$ 19,638	16.5%
2015 New Pledges Were Non Pledge Last Year	10	-	10	\$ 16,880	\$ 16,880	—
Total Families Pledging in 2015	60	\$ 119,184	60	\$ 155,702	\$ 36,518	30.6%
2014 Pledges No Response as of Now	10	\$ 21,840	10	\$ 21,840	-	0.0%
Growth Including 2015 New Pledges	60	\$ 141,024	70	\$ 177,542	\$ 36,518	25.9%

<b>The Church of the Good Shepherd</b>					
<b>2015 Proposed Budget of the General Operating Fund</b>					
<b>Year To Date December Actual &amp; Budget</b>					
	2015 Budget	2014 Actual	2013 Actual	FY 2015 Budget Better / (Worse)	
				2014 Actual	2013 Actual
<b>Income - General Operating Fund</b>					
<i>Endowment Gifts</i>	6,600	9,600	19,350	(3,000)	(12,750)
<i>Congregation Donations</i>	188,167	176,108	143,310	12,059	44,857
<i>Regular Envelope Giving</i>	177,542	151,460	135,907	26,082	41,635
<i>Special Envelope Giving</i>	6,850	7,429	4,999	(579)	1,851
<i>Congregational Appeal</i>	0	13,400	0	(13,400)	0
<i>Rental Donations</i>	4,650	13,640	21,670	(8,990)	(17,020)
<i>Fund Raisers</i>	6,500	12,929	5,532	(6,429)	968
<i>Other Income</i>	2,291	12,080	443	(9,789)	1,848
<i>Koegel Fund Income</i>	1,900	2,811	0	(911)	1,900
<i>Capital Improvement Fund (Katz)</i>	0	8,362	0	(8,362)	0
<b><u>Total Income General Operating Fund</u></b>	<b>\$ 208,208</b>	<b>\$ 224,357</b>	<b>\$ 190,306</b>	<b>\$ (16,149)</b>	<b>\$ 17,902</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>					
<i>Rector's Compensation</i>	66,009	62,426	54,306	3,583	11,703
<i>Rector's Stipend</i>	59,410	54,068	49,000	5,342	10,410
<i>SECA (FICA) Allowance</i>	6,099	5,598	5,306	501	793
<i>Non-Accountable Allowances</i>	500	2,760	0	(2,260)	500
<i>Rector's Benefits</i>	59,001	59,353	58,332	(352)	669
<i>Medical / Dental Insurance</i>	33,588	30,864	28,896	2,724	4,692
<i>Rector's Pension</i>	16,121	15,336	14,361	785	1,760
<i>Rector's Travel Allowance</i>	2,260	2,374	2,374	(114)	(114)
<i>Child Care, Health Club, Cell Phone</i>	4,536	8,196	10,454	(3,660)	(5,918)
<i>Other Benefits</i>	2,496	2,583	2,247	(87)	249
<i>Staff Salaries &amp; Expense</i>	18,036	18,385	17,976	(349)	60
<i>Utilities</i>	20,334	22,776	17,779	(2,442)	2,555
<i>Maintenance</i>	15,084	17,565	13,718	(2,481)	1,366
<i>Office Expense</i>	9,420	8,837	8,161	583	1,259
<i>Diocesan Assessment</i>	12,219	10,861	9,655	1,358	2,564
<i>Other Expense</i>	19,225	23,404	18,519	(4,179)	706
<i>Insurance</i>	6,321	5,902	5,701	419	620
<i>Capitalized Loan Payments</i>	4,063	8,666	5,448	(4,602)	(1,385)
<i>Church Programs &amp; Worship Exp</i>	7,375	6,345	5,818	1,030	1,557
<b><u>Total General Operating Expense</u></b>	<b>\$ 219,328</b>	<b>\$ 223,607</b>	<b>\$ 198,446</b>	<b>\$ 4,279</b>	<b>\$ (20,882)</b>
<b><u>Total Net Operating Income</u></b>	<b>\$ (11,120)</b>	<b>\$ 750</b>	<b>\$ (8,140)</b>	<b>\$ (11,870)</b>	<b>\$ (2,980)</b>

# STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Stewardship Committee: Wilfried Haensch, Maria Kaprielian, Paul Miller, Eric Parsons

Stewardship is about being grateful, responsible stewards of the gifts we receive from God. The Episcopal Church sees stewardship as more than simply contributing money to the church; it's also about contributing time and talents. Stewardship was abundant at Good Shepherd in 2014 as evidenced by the numerous outreach activities and ministries described elsewhere in this Annual Report. The focus of the Stewardship Committee is on financial stewardship.

Financial stewardship at Good Shepherd extends well beyond the work of the Stewardship Committee. Many people throughout Good Shepherd have for many years developed, executed, and participated in successful fund raising events critical to the church's financial operations. These events, which raised nearly \$13,000 in 2014, are listed below. In 2014, as in past years, the proceeds from the fund raisers were used to cover church operating expenses. The Vestry's goal is to grow pledge revenue to a level adequate to cover operating expenses so that fund raiser proceeds can be used to build an emergency reserve fund, for outreach, and for capital improvement projects.

## **2014 Fund Raisers**

(Arranged in chronological order)

Event	Coordinator	Amount Raised
Wine Tasting	Glenn Hintze	\$2,450
Tag Sale	Arleen Flury	\$745
Arts Jam	Scott Jones	\$485
Awards Dinner	Lorne & Christine Robbins	\$7,046
Wine Tasting	Fay Wright	\$354
Christmas Bazaar	Arleen Flury	\$1,850
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$12,929</b>

The Stewardship Committee's specific goals in 2014 were:

1. To reduce the 2014 operating deficit to zero through the Vestry Special Appeal, and;
2. To try the "New Consecration Sunday" approach to financial stewardship.

As described in the Treasurer's Report, Good Shepherd was faced with a significant operating deficit in 2014, even with the proceeds from the fund raisers listed above. In order to ensure that the church could satisfy its financial obligations, during the summer of 2014 the Vestry charged the Stewardship Committee with organizing and running the Vestry Special Appeal. Although we did not achieve our goal of eliminating the operating deficit, the generous response of 26 families contributing \$13,400 reduced the deficit significantly. ***Thank you!***

As the summer of 2014 was coming to an end, the Stewardship Committee changed its focus from the 2014 operating deficit to planning for the 2015 stewardship campaign. Father Matt had heard that several other congregations in the area successfully used an approach outlined in the book New

Consecration Sunday by Herb Miller<sup>1</sup>. This approach to stewardship focuses on the question “*What is God calling me to give?*”

New Consecration Sunday is a step-by-step guide including form letters, announcements, presentations, a guest speaker, collecting RSVPs for meals, etc. In the book, Herb Miller indicates that to be successful each step must be followed precisely. The Stewardship Committee followed all of the steps, though as we worked through the program we realized that some of the language in the form letters and some of the steps in the process were not practical, desirable, or culturally compatible with a parish like Good Shepherd. In retrospect, the Stewardship Committee would probably make some changes to the program if we were to use it again, though we also believe that we learned some valuable lessons about stewardship and stewardship campaigns from New Consecration Sunday.

The Stewardship Committee believes that the results of New Consecration Sunday demonstrate the congregation’s strong commitment to Christian stewardship and to Good Shepherd’s mission and ministries.

- 30.6% growth in pledges including increases in existing pledges and new pledges
- 16.5% growth in pledges by those who pledged in 2014
- 10 new pledges offset by no response to date from 10 families that pledged in 2014

The Stewardship Committee encourages everyone to provide us with candid feedback on New Consecration Sunday; especially if you didn’t like it!

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, I want to thank the congregation for its prayerful and generous response to our fund raisers, the Vestry Special Appeal, and New Consecration Sunday. I also want to thank the many people who developed, ran, participated in, or supported new or existing fund raisers for your dedication and hard work. Last but not least, I want to thank Father Matt for giving me the chance to run with Stewardship this year, and to thank my fellow Stewardship Committee members for their hard work and wisdom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eric Parsons

## **MUSIC MINISTRY REPORT**

The growth in our congregation is usually reflected in the ministries it supports. It is so with the music ministry. The increased and committed participation of the youth and the young adults in the choir, at the services, and at the Arts Jam is an indication that the music ministry is playing an important role in creating a nurturing and welcoming environment for families, where they can practice and share their emerging, and already honed talents.

The choir remains a dependable, devoted ensemble now more multi-generational in scope. In 2014, we had as many as fourteen fill the choir ranks. At Lessons and Carols, two Christmas Eve services,

---

<sup>1</sup> In the November 2014 edition of “*The Shepherd’s Voice*”, Father Matt talks about Christian stewardship, stewardship campaigns, and the importance of trying new approaches.

Holy Week and Easter services, over a dozen individual church members were involved as solo instrumentalists or singers (not counting the choir). The response I have received from parishioners after these services has been very positive. Listeners were impressed by the varied, extra musical offerings. Tapping into the wealth of our community and being receptive to its new and changing presentations has been a hallmark of our church's fellowship. Additionally, special mention was made of the beautiful work of the professional instrumentalists at the late Christmas Eve service. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could include these players as a part of our services during Holy Week/Easter? This would entail an additional \$600 to the Helen Moore Fund.

Currently, the annual budget for the music ministry is \$300. I used these funds for music purchase, preparation cost of the practice CDs for the children in the Spring, and incidental expenses. The balance was put toward the cost of musicians.

Thanks to Father Matt for his continued suggestions, guidance and support.

Thanks to Gwendolyn Greene for partnering with me to teach songs to our young people in the Spring.

Let me give a special acknowledgement to Marshal and Mary Lou Kidder for many years of dedication and good humor to the choir, and sharing their love of music with us.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cecilia Sparacio

## **ALTAR GUILD REPORT**

The Altar Guild at Good Shepherd is a group of dedicated people who are responsible for preparing the altar for the worship service and assisting the clergy before and after the services each week. Throughout the year we are responsible for the care of the altar linens, priest's vestments, brass, silver, candles and flowers.

We prepare the altar for regular Sunday worship services and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. We also prepare the church for all special services such as Lent, Easter, Harvest Festival, Christmas, Baptisms, weddings and funerals. It is our privilege to help to make worship as meaningful as possible for our congregation and visitors to Good Shepherd.

Altar flowers are donated by parishioners during the year in recognition of special events in their lives, in memory of loved ones, or in thanksgiving for special blessings. A sign-up sheet is posted in the hallway to request a specific Sunday for dedications. The requested donation for the flowers is \$35.00. Please contact Arleen Flury with any questions.

Currently there are four full-time members. If you are interested in joining us in this ministry or have questions about how you can participate, I would be happy to talk with you. We would love to have you join us.

Respectfully submitted,  
Arleen Flury



# OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

Good Shepherd's outreach directs time, talent and treasure to local, national and international causes.

In 2014 our members supported the following activities:

- Nancy Haensch spent the month of May working in the Quito Center in Malawi, taking with her first-aid supplies donated by our parishioners.
- Relay for Life on Friday, May 30th: Youth Group, led by Fay Wright, participated in the Somers event. The Rosso family participated in the Yorktown event.
- Fr. Matt accepted the ALS Ice Bucket challenge and made a donation (a number of other parishioners, including Jose Trinidad also accepted the challenge and/or made donations).
- Support connection 5k Support a Walk on October 5. The Good Shepherd Sheep team of fifteen walkers was led by Diane Buschel, Donna Paterno and Sarah Connors and raised over \$1,145.
- A dedicated team of parishioners collected groceries donated weekly by parishioners and delivered these monthly to the Community Center of Northern Westchester. We participated in the Holiday Food drive and the Share the Warmth drive.

In 2014 we made the following distributions:

- Mite box collection from Christmas 2013: \$180 donated to AFEDJ.
- Boy Scouts: \$75 (3 x Eagle Scouts)
- Episcopal Charities: CGS listed as \$500-\$999 donor in 2013 Report. \$102 dispersed in current year.
- AFEDJ: \$158 from loose change jar thru Easter
- Princess Basma Center (AFEDJ) \$500
- Carpenter's Kids: \$158 from loose change jar thru Easter
- CCNW: \$500 line item in church budget
- Carpenters Kids program: \$1,954.02 distributed. Shortfall of \$1,825.98

Future Plans

- The Carpenters Kids program has ended.
- Relay For Life: Good Shepherd has registered a Somers team for next year's event on May 29, 2015.
- There is interest in adding to the programs supported by our outreach. The outreach committee will be pleased to hear from anyone who is interested in supporting a new project.
- Income to the General Outreach fund in 2014 came from the loose change jar and from sales of vegetables grown in the church garden and in parishioners' gardens. There was strong support for Good Shepherd to commit a minimum of 10% of every fundraiser to the General Outreach fund, to be distributed annually as agreed by the committee.

A heartfelt thank you to all who contributed their time, talent and treasure to our outreach program this year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amanda Slattery  
Outreach Co-ordinator

## **OUTREACH REPORT: COMMUNITY CENTER OF NORTHERN WESTCHESTER**

Good Shepherd has been a community partner of the Community Center of Northern Westchester (CCNW) since 2013. In addition to our annual \$500 contribution to the center, this commitment includes collecting food for the food pantry and participation in several drives held throughout the year to help struggling families living in our area. These are the collections that probably sound very familiar to everyone by now: school supplies in the summer, holiday foods in the fall, and warm sleepwear in the winter. Parishioners are encouraged to view the CCNW website to identify ways they might volunteer their time and talents! Nancy Haensch was joined this year by Catalina Trinidad to share the role of parish representative. Together they have attended quarterly community partner/board meetings, volunteered their time at the Center, coordinated Good Shepherd's donations, as well as the schedule of parish delivery volunteers. They are always available and happy to convey parish concerns and interests to CCNW leadership.

In the coming year, as in 2014, we will continue to rely on parish volunteers to drive our donations to CCNW each month. Please see the sign-up sheet in the breezeway if you can help out for a month or two!

Our total contributions for 2014 were: 1252 pounds of food, 40.9 pounds of clothing and share the warmth supplies, 57.8 pounds of school supplies, and 50 reusable shopping bags!

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Haensch

## **OUTREACH REPORT: CARPENTER'S KIDS**

This past year has been a difficult one for the Carpenter's Kids program, with the untimely death of Bishop Mdimi Mhogolo and the retirement of Bishop Catherine Roskam. Then, of course, is the question about what does "sunsetting" mean.

The results of the original mission – to send orphaned, at risk children to primary school – not only resulted in reaching nearly 7,000 children with the gift of education, but the building of churches, schools, a library, water projects, cow distributions, book distributions, purchase of bicycles for priests, cars for the program, food in time of drought and famine and much, much more. More than 100 people traveled on mission trips to visit the villages with which they were linked and meet the children and families that were participating in the program. More importantly, the bonds of friendship that remain were developed and remain strong.

The diocese asks that all New York Links continue their support through 2015 because there are many children enrolled who will not finish primary school until 2017. It has been ten years and the diocese knows that the support that they receive may dwindle. This does not mean that the funds are not needed. There are still years of education for these children.

I believe that we are still shy of our commitment amount, so please look to your hearts to see if you can fund a week's worth of education – or a month. Literally every penny counts here.

However, you should also know that an amazing offer was made by a group called the “friends from Colorado” – a group of people who attended college together, maintained their friendship through annual vacations together, and decided as a group to support the program at its inception. They will, starting in 2015, support any Carpenter's Kid who earns an A or a B on national exams through Secondary School.

Your support was, is, and will always be appreciated!

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Corning

## **INDABA REPORT**

In 2013 and 2014 the Diocese of New York embarked on an exciting journey under our new Bishop, the Right Reverend Andrew Dietsche. He announced the beginnings of a Diocesan-wide strategic plan, and he has asked every parish to join in that conversation by taking part in the Indaba process of the Diocese of New York.

What is Indaba? It is a Zulu word that means “gathering” and has a connotation of meeting simply for the purpose of understanding one another. The Indaba process arguably saved the Anglican Communion several years ago. Every ten years the bishops from every diocese across the Anglican Communion gather together in Lambeth, England, to discuss communion-wide issues and challenges (the Episcopal Church is one province of the international Anglican Communion, which is the third largest Christian denomination in the world). Lambeth Conferences in the 1980s and 1990s had been particularly contentious, and so for the 2008 Lambeth Conference an intentional effort was made to break through the shouting and put faces and backgrounds to the differing viewpoints that were being articulated. The bishops from each Diocese or region were matched and grouped with bishops from two completely different regions (for example, New York might have been grouped with a Diocese from rural Mexico and a diocese from Nigeria). For the duration of the Conference those bishops travelled together, ate together, sat together for meetings, etc., and through that immersion began finally to understand each other. The Indaba process at Lambeth has since been implemented around the Anglican Communion on regional and local levels, and it has been a means for gaining understanding in complicated systems where people don't really know or understand each other's background and culture.

The Diocese of New York is not as complicated as the Anglican Communion, but there is a vast difference between Trinity Church on Wall Street, Good Shepherd in Granite Springs, and Saint Anne's Church in the South Bronx. Each of those churches is essential to the ongoing mission of the Diocese of New York. Each faces vastly different challenges, has hugely different resources and

gifts, and ministers to enormously different neighborhoods and cultures. Each is bound by strong ties to the others – not just ties on the Diocesan level, but also spiritual, financial, and cultural ties, and it is quite true that without one of these three churches, the witness to the Gospel of the other two would be diminished.

With that in mind as we enter a period of strategic planning in our Diocese, Bishop Dietsche asked every parish to take part in the Indaba Process. Each congregation was asked to form a “road team” of four, to be made up of the rector and three other parishioners recruited and appointed by the rector. That team was then grouped with teams from two other congregations in the Diocese of New York (congregations that are distinct from us, regionally and in other ways). Those three teams then spend three weekends together, one weekend gathered together at each church, eating together, meeting together, travelling the neighborhood together, and worshipping together. The result of this immersion is that we (and they) gained a greater understanding of our sister parishes in the Diocese of New York, and as the Diocese begins to make strategic decisions, those decisions are informed by a knowledge of more than just life in upper Westchester (or Wall Street or the South Bronx).

The 2013-2014 Good Shepherd Indaba team was Fay Wright, Phill Pinkney, Gwendolyn Greene, and myself. Our team was matched with Saint Paul’s Church in Poughkeepsie and the Church of Saint Matthew and Saint Timothy in New York City. Our three teams met for three weekends over the last year, once at SS. Matthew & Timothy, once at Good Shepherd (in January), and once at St. Paul’s. It was a wonderful and eye opening experience, and I think that it helped to build bridges and create understanding between our three congregations.

On Saturday, May 3, Good Shepherd hosted the Diocese of New York Inbada Celebration. Teams from every congregation that participated in the Indaba process came together at Good Shepherd (about 200 people from about 70 churches in the Diocese). As hosts, we provided the space for this once-in-a-lifetime gathering, and we also provided hospitality (thankfully the Diocese of New York provided all of the funding!). I want to thank our team and those who volunteered from the congregation for all the hard work they put in making this great event happen. It is a unique opportunity for Good Shepherd to throw a huge party for so many Episcopalians across our large and diverse diocese, and if I may be blunt, I think it is a VERY BIG DEAL. It is a pleasure and honor being rector of a congregation that can pull off such a service for the Diocese of New York.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead  
Rector

## **PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY REPORT**

The Pastoral Care ministry was created in 2013 to help care for parishioners in need and to support and enhance the loving and compassionate community of Good Shepherd. In 2014, we focused on visiting and contacting the sick and homebound; prayer; and working with the rector to respond in times of crisis. We coordinated meals for several weeks for 2 families, visited several hospitalized and homebound parishioners, mailed out personalized cards to people on the prayer list, and since Lent, the Prayer Group has grown from 2 to 12 people. Prayer requests have been centralized, and the list is monitored and updated regularly to ensure that it is kept current. In 2014 we made it

possible for Prayer Requests to be made online. The traditional method of filling out a card at the back of the church is still available. Prayer requests submitted via the website are automatically sent to the Rector (Father Matt) and to the organizer of our Pastoral Care Ministry Team (Chris Palmer).

Prior to 2014, the prayer list was only read in church whenever there was a service, either on Sundays or during Morning Prayer. Now, the 12 parishioners in the Prayer Group have each committed to lifting the prayer list at least one day a week, so people are being prayed for everyday, regardless of what's happening at church that day. This group has become a very special blessing for many of us. The Prayer Group provides the opportunity for you to lift the prayer list on behalf of your parish family, on your own schedule. This can be done at any time during the day that is convenient for you, from your home, work, car, at church, or from anywhere. Depending on the format you choose to use, it generally takes 5-20 minutes. You pick the day that works for you, and we will add you to the schedule. Then, each week on your chosen day, we will know that you are praying for us all, on behalf of the parish. We would be delighted to welcome you into this ministry, and see Good Shepherd's prayer network continue to grow and flourish.

Looking ahead, we would like to expand our bank of volunteers that are willing to be contacted in times of need, for any number of things. Everyone has something they can share with another. Would you be willing to help prepare meals, run errands, walk the dog, stop at the store, offer rides, or send a friendly note to someone in need? Maybe you can visit someone in the hospital? Please consider how you might share your gifts with your parish family. We're all in this together!

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about the Pastoral Care Team, or if you'd like to join the Prayer Group, please contact Chris Palmer or Father Matt.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Palmer

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Sunday School experienced yet another productive--and growing--year in 2014. A few more children joined our program while a few others "graduated" from 8th grade and are now active in the revitalized Youth Group. We have more than 25 children attending Sunday School on a regular basis, from pre-kindergarten through 8th grade. In September 2014, we began our second year of teaching three levels of classes---grades pre-K-2, grades 3-5 and grades 6-8.

No example of our continued vitality is better than the just-presented Christmas pageant, which was held January 3, in conjunction with our ninth annual "Twelfth Night" celebration. We presented a pageant called "Twas The Night Before Christmas," in which a "mouse" who is overrun by the "commercialization" of Christmas learns the real story of the birth of Jesus. This year we had live "animals" and a live "star." Some children were in their first pageant while other veterans performed like professional thespians, and they all did a marvelous job reading, acting, singing and telling the story of Jesus' birth.

The following Twelfth Night celebration, also organized by the Sunday School Committee, was again an evening of food, fellowship and festivity, with the Magi (Julia Whalen, Teresa Larson and Hugo Pizzuti) bringing gifts for everyone. Father Matt opened and closed with prayers, and the

children's Saint Nicholas Mite Boxes were collected and blessed. Thanks to everyone for their generous donations of food and gifts, and to the organizing committee for making it happen.

Gwen Greene and Cecilia Sparacio once again worked with the children to present a marvelous Spring 2014 concert of songs. And we also had several "Family Sundays" where the children perform most of the duties at the 10am service. They love doing this and the congregation seems to respond well.

Sunday School is in its ninth year of a "lectionary-based" curriculum, which means the children are learning the same lessons (at their level) that the rest of us are learning in church. For the younger groups, each Sunday starts with a worship service, followed by a lesson and activity/craft before they come into church for communion. Teachers change every session for this group. For the older children, we were extremely lucky and grateful to have had Paul Miller and Courtney Velzy teaching their third straight full year. They ended their run in May 2014, and they are missed! Fortunately, Maria & John Kaprielian and Scott Jones have stepped up to teach the older children. All the children continue to respond well to this "lectionary" format and we are told that some good family discussions have occurred after church on lessons learned that day. The lectionary curriculum seems to be working well on many levels.

Our big news in 2014 was that for the first time we held a Vacation Bible School, from August 19-21. For three hours each morning, our 10 enrolled children enjoyed a mix of scripture, lessons, songs, crafts and other activities including nature walks, tree rubbings, water play and a trip to Stuart's Farm for a special tour. It ended with a barbecue for all involved families to celebrate a successful first year. We were very happy to introduce this program and really hope that other children will join this summer. Thanks so much to Bruce Barber, who was the chief creator and architect of the program, to Megan Whalen for overall lesson planning and orchestration and to Father Matt for his participation and support.

Of course we are always looking for more teachers. This year we especially need teaches for Grades 6-8 from March-June. We have five sessions during the year. Each lasts approximately six weeks. We also need folks to do crafts (or other activities) every Sunday during the summer. You can sign up for one or more summer Sundays.

Please prayerfully consider sharing your talents with the children. They are bright, fun and easy to work with. Each teacher is paired with at least one other (or an assistant), receives relevant materials and has the support of the Sunday School Committee. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has answered the call to teach. You have made a real difference and hopefully have felt rewarded by your experience.

We are blessed to have a "bumper crop" of young children in the program who want to be there each week. They are our greatest asset and with your continuing support, we pray that with a solid Christian education, they will be better equipped to face the world they are quickly growing up in!

Many thanks to all of you from the Sunday School Committee (which by the way welcomes new members anytime!)

Respectfully submitted,  
Glenn Hintze for Jan Corning, Fran DiBernardo, Arleen Flury, Suzanne Bracken, Megan Whalen, Father Matt Mead

# CONFIRMATION CLASS REPORT

In 2013 we formed a Confirmation Class with eleven young people in it in preparation for Bishop Dietche's visit on June 29, 2014. The curriculum for 2013-2014 was as follows:

- Session 1 – Saturday, October 26, 4PM
  - IDENTIFYING AND USING YOUR GIFTS
  - Discussion, Evening Prayer, and dinner for Confirmands (we made filet mignon).
- Session 2a – Saturday, November 23, 9:15 AM
  - TOUR OF THE CCNW Food Pantry
  - After the tour we visited Lasdon Park Veterans Memorial and then concluded with lunch at a pizza restaurant.
- Session 2b – Sunday November 24, 11AM
  - PRACTICING OUTREACH
  - Discussion.
- Session 3 – Sunday, December 29, 11AM
  - BASICS OF THE BIBLE
  - Discussion.
- Session 4 - Saturday, January 25, 4PM
  - WHO ARE THE EPISCOPALIANS?
  - Discussion, Said Eucharist, and dinner for Confirmands (we made pizza!).
- Session 5 - Sunday, February 23, 11AM
  - CHRISTIAN ETHICS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
  - Discussion.
- Session 6 - Sunday, March 30, 11AM
  - PAIN & DEATH
  - Discussion.
- Session 7 - Saturday, April 19, 3PM
  - EASTER VIGIL
  - We made pizza for the entire Church for Easter Eve Pizzafest. Pizzafest was at 6PM; We worshipped together at the Easter Vigil at 7:30PM
- Session 8 - Saturday, May 31, 4PM
  - DIFFICULT TEXTS IN THE BIBLE
  - Discussion and Dinner (we made burgers!).
- Session 9 & Confirmation - Sunday, June 29
  - 9AM CHRISTIANS IN THE REAL WORLD
  - 10AM CONFIRMATION BY BISHOP DIETSCHE
  - The Confirmands met with the Bishop for nearly an hour. Then they were Confirmed, and we concluded with an all Parish picnic celebration.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead

## **YOUTH GROUP REPORT**

2014 was a great year to be part of the Youth Group at the Church of the Good Shepherd! We grew in friendship and Spirit. On average, 8 members of our parish family in grades 7-11 met to have fun, fellowship and explore the role of faith in our lives. We participated in Somers Relay for Life, and the COGS Arts Jam! We hiked in Lasdon Park, visited the Community Center of Northern Westchester, and made pizza for Bishop Shin's visit. We also watched movies and made very yummy crepes in the Guild room. To celebrate the end of 2014, we traveled to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and attended evensong at St. Thomas Church in NYC.

In 2015, we plan to take the food to the Community Center of Northern Westchester in January and volunteer our time there too. Bowling, movies and community service are planned as well as participating in the Somers Relay for Life again. We try to meet weekly at one of the round tables during coffee hour – join us as you can! We discuss what the week's readings and sermon mean to us and how they apply to our daily lives. We hope to continue to grow together and WELCOME any and all youth in grades 7- 12th to join us! If you have questions talk to Fay Wright, Vernon Alexander, Zack Palmer, Alex Palmer or Emily Vesperman!

Respectfully submitted,  
Fay Wright

## **AWARDS DINNER REPORT**

OCTOBER 9, 2014

RAFFLE SALES           \$1,830.

We exceeded last year's sales of \$1,366. Sales by the congregation were in line with last year with about 25% selling any tickets. Our major sales effort this year was at Somers Celebration Day where we sold \$700.00 worth of tickets. Thanks to Rick Slattery and Phil Levy for setting up the table and the Good Shepherd promotion and Dorothy Baeder and Sally Fitzsimmons support. I think we all got a lesson on how to work the crowd from Christine who knew practically everyone there, and sold tickets to practically everyone. We also gained some good public relations in promoting Good Shepherd in our community. It is indeed gratifying to see just how well known Good Shepherd is throughout the community. We continue to be disappointed from the poor response to the raffle tickets sales by members of the congregation. We would hope that they would be willing to sell tickets to family, friends and coworkers. We mail out tickets to every family and only get about a 25% response. With greater support we should be able to increase sales to the \$2,000 plus range or more. Since all the prizes are donated there is no cost to this project.

DONATIONS                         \$ 765.

Donations were in line with last year's number of \$810. We fully expect and understand that a number of our congregation cannot for various reasons attend but a nominal donation as a special contribution to this fundraiser, which is our premier Annual Fundraiser, goes a long way for the Committee to achieve its financial goals. We do continue to see donations from invited guests who are unable to attend but make a donation instead.



SILENT AUCTION               \$2,833.

We were slightly below last year's number of \$3,260 but this is a good number overall. Thanks to the members of the congregation, who requested and obtained solicitations from our communities of Somers, Yorktown and Mahopac. Again all our items in the silent auction are at no cost so all sales represent cash on the bottom. We do thank a number of our congregation who purchased items or gift certificates for the auction. Also, a big thanks to our members who donated items or their talents for the auction. Of the 49 items this year 17 were donations by the congregation and we thank you for your support. We have placed a list of all our donors on the Bulletin Board at the Church and ask that you utilize their place of business whenever possible and let them know that you appreciate their contribution and support to Good Shepherd. Please take a minute to review the list on our bulletin board.

DINNER                         \$1,618.

Attendance was up by 10 from last year which resulted in improved revenue from last year's number of \$1,018. The Dinner cost is the only expense in our fundraiser. If at all possible, we want to maintain the cost at \$65 per person. However, we anticipate a cost increase next year.

TOTAL REVENUE               \$7,046.

In summary, we want to say congratulations to our 2014 honorees, Jan Corning, Sally Stevens and Norm Fulton. You have and continue to contribute to Good Shepherd and our Church family. We ask for God's blessings on all of you. Also a special thanks to the Committee members and all who have supported us in making our Dinner another successful one.

Respectively Submitted  
Lorne and Christine Robbins

## **MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE REPORT**

Under the snow and cold, the Memorial Garden awaits Spring.

During this last year, most of the plantings have survived and flourished and a few more bricks have been added to the entry path. This continues to be a valuable addition to Good Shepherds' grounds and ministry.

Sadly, Sheila McCluskey has moved away from Somers. This leaves just two of us (Flo Barber and me) on the Memorial Garden committee. It would be wonderful to have a few more committee members and many more hands to tend the planting, watering and weeding. If there are any among us who like dirt on our hands and the expectation of green growth to come.....please consider joining us. We presently have about \$2,400 in the Memorial Garden fund and would welcome new ideas for improving this lovely spot.

Respectfully submitted,  
Leslie Fulton

## **SENIORS GROUP REPORT**

The Senior Group participated in a variety of activities this past year that included a picnic in memory of beloved parishioner Sandra Strubbe at F.D.R. Park, a tour of Grand Central Station and our annual Chinese luncheon. Some members also participated in C.G.S.'s music and art talent show. We are planning to attend the Westchester Dinner Theater for their annual Christmas show 2015.

We are planning a movies series that will include not only modern movies but movies that allow us to reminisce over classics we enjoyed during our lifetime. Unfortunately many contemporary movies are generally on topics that appeal to young adults and children, with little or no relevance to more mature adult themes; therefore we are choosing movies that offer us the opportunity to have lively discussions pertaining to our common interests. Our first movie is starring Michael Cain entitled, "Is Anyone There?"

Respectfully submitted,  
Gwen and Bill Greene

## **POETRY GROUP REPORT**

Well, what another great year it has been for the P&PG!

We have thoroughly enjoyed the participation of some new members, explored short stories and playwriting in addition to poetry, and who can forget the great experience of putting together the 1st Annual COGS Arts Jam in the Summer.

Undefeated by the elements, we had a great day of sonic, visual and performance art and raised close to \$500 for the Church to boot, with great assistance from Cecilia, Maria and many others. What a fun collaborative experience! Our Group has every intention of improving in 2015 on this great start.

We are also planning a couple of additional performance events in 2015 with staged play readings and possible a murder mystery dinner - so stay tuned.

It should be abundantly clear from The Arts Jam that there is a wealth of talent in our church just waiting to be tapped and expressed. Our ministry in the P&PG is to help facilitate this growth and development. Creativity is a key component in personal, educational and spiritual growth - and we ALL possess the tools to shine in area or another.

If you feel inclined to get involved in the Poetry Group or future Jams, don't hesitate to contact Scott Jones or any other member of the P&PG – we would love to hear from you.

Respectfully submitted,  
Scott Jones

## **WOMEN'S GROUP REPORT**

WOCOGS, the Women of the Church of the Good Shepherd, meets on a monthly basis to discuss both fine and trashy literature at its evening book club, held on the second Friday of the month at the church. Led by our intrepid leader, Arleen Flury, we also run the annual Tag Sale and Christmas Bazaar which together this year raised close to \$2600.00 in income for the church.

Join our email list at <http://groups.google.com/group/wocogs>

Respectfully submitted,  
Maria Kaprielian

## **MEN'S GROUP REPORT**

The Brotherhood (Men's Group) welcomes all men at Good Shepherd to participate. Our activities focus on buildings and grounds projects and making and eating food.

Join our email list at <http://groups.google.com/group/gs-brotherhood>

Respectfully submitted,  
Phil Levy

## **GOOD SHEPHERD VEGETABLE GARDEN REPORT**

The church Vegetable Garden grew a variety of vegetables and herbs that were sold at Coffee Hour throughout the summer and Fall. Seeds and supplies were donated. All proceeds (over \$100) from the vegetables were distributed to the Outreach Fund.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nicole Mead

# COMMUNICATIONS, ADVERTISING AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE REPORT

A Communications, advertising and Publicity Committee was established last year with the purpose of raising the visibility of the Church within the communities of Somers and Yorktown. We identified five major tasks for which we need help from volunteers:

1. Identify and implement ways of publicizing weekly services and ongoing church activities (e.g. CCNW).
2. Send press releases to local newspapers on an ad hoc basis to publicize special church events (e.g. Christmas; Easter; Wine tasting; Tag Sale; Arts Jam; Blessing of the Animals; Christmas Bazaar; e of space; etc.). Thanks to Eric Parsons for organizing many of the press releases in 2014.
3. Identify community activities in which the church can participate (e.g. Relay for Life Somers and Yorktown; Yorktown Grange Fair; Celebrate Somers; Support Connection FDR Park walk; Yorktown Street Fair).
4. Co-ordinate publicity for special events including: Place and remove lawn signs on the day of the event (Tag Sale and Christmas Bazaar); Send announcements to local radio and television stations. Create/update advertising banners. Post announcements on social media.
5. Encourage church members to be identified by wearing and using church merchandise – sweatshirts, T-shirts, pens, beer mugs.

This past year we successfully operated a booth at the one day Celebrate Somers event in October. Thanks for working the booth are due to Dorothy Baeder, Sally Fitzgerald, Phil Levy, Rick Slattery.

We had articles and announcements printed in the local press, especially for Fr. Matt's ALS ice bucket challenge and had local radio and Channel 7 WABC publicity for the Christmas Bazaar.

We could do so much more with more manpower. Please contact Fr. Matt or myself if you would like to help.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amanda Slattery