

ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2017

DEACON'S REPORT

We are blessed. In 2017, we were able, through God's many invitations, to do His work by helping others. We have brought food to the homeless, donations to Hands on Hartford, provided Eucharist and lunch each Tuesday at Foodshare. We gave mittens, gloves, and hats to children in two Hartford schools, and gave monetary help for our brothers and sisters in Puerto Rico and in Texas.

In December, we donated 32 personal care packages for distribution at the "Footwear with Care Boot Party" at City Hall in Hartford. We also had two volunteers from the parish for the event. Reflecting on the last outreach work in 2017, with little time to pull it together, God made it happen through us as a community of love and compassion working together. We certainly provided 32 useful personal care packages, but most of all, we provided a connection of comfort and love. To paraphrase one of the most powerful passages in the Bible, when you did not know me you gave me a care package. Matthew 25:40, "The King will reply, Truly, I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine you did for me." Let God's light continually shine through us.

The Rev. Elizabeth Knauff

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

This year has been one of gains and losses, but Good Shepherd continues to move in a positive direction. I'm grateful for all the people who make our life at Good Shepherd possible.

This year Miyoko Burr and Pat Dixson, longtime pillars of our family, have moved on to be with family in Southern Connecticut and California, respectively. Our assistant priest, Valerie Miller has taken a new position as chaplain at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield. We will certainly miss them. Luckily Terry Plumley has stepped in to take over managing altar flowers. It remains to be seen whether we will find a new Altar Guild coordinator. Certainly nobody can replace Pat in that role. We will wait until we have a new rector before determining what to do about an assistant priest. I also want to thank Teresa Sharp for all of her contributions to the life of Good Shepherd. She makes sure that readers are scheduled for the 10:00 service and that we have plenty to eat at the coffee hour after the 10:00 service and at special events. She is completing her term on the vestry and we will miss her there. Thanks, Teresa.

Our efforts to raise funds to improve the Parish House continue to move very slowly. Limited time and energy have been factors, but so has uncertainty about and reduction of the state budget. Our hope had been that funding from the State Historic Preservation Office would be a significant part of the financial picture, but that now seems less likely. The Elizabeth Colt Society has received tax-exempt status from the IRS. That may help in future efforts to raise funds.

Work continues to develop the Coltsville National Historical Park. The National Park Service has completed the work necessary to pursue establishment of the park. All that remains is for NPS to take title to the two buildings intended to become the park visitors center. With luck, that will happen this year. Completing the actual transfer of property is the final step before the Secretary of the Interior can officially establish the park. Establishment means money will be able to flow and work can begin to make our neighborhood look and act like a national park. In the meantime, NPS has created a mobile visitors center and has hired a full time staff person out of Springfield to attend to Coltsville. There will be more tours and events in 2018, and planning activities will continue.

2018 will be a year of searching for a new rector. Father Irizarry will be leaving us in March and we will be searching widely for the perfect clergy for Good Shepherd. There will be many opportunities throughout the year for everyone to express their thoughts and feelings about the future of Good Shepherd. Please join in. I also ask everyone to be patient this year. This transition will be stressful for all, but it will be a great opportunity for us to live our mission.

Finally, I want to recognize our clergy team that provides such blessings to us and to our wider community and also Janet, Cindy, and Joe who see that the office is running, the books are kept and the buildings and grounds remain serviceable. Thank you.

Jack Hale

ACOLYTES & USHERS - 10:00 SERVICE

Crucifer: AL Wilkinson, Michael Plumley

Ushers: Larnetta King, Lyn Prescod, Al Wilkinson & Paul Zimmerman.

We are blessed to have Michael Plumley, who is very helpful as Crucifer. Isaiah Gwynne is not with us at this time. Please give Michael your support and love as he continues his ministry. Our children are our future. Keep Michael in your prayers as he continues his training process.

Thanks to our Ushers. They are dependable, dedicated and knowledgeable. We thank them for sharing their love with our Good Shepherd family.

Thanks to all of you for your prayers and support.

Sincerely,
Al Wilkinson, Head Usher

ACOLYTES & USHERS - 12:15 SERVICE

We are grateful to have good number of faithful people who serve as acolytes and readers at our Spanish mass.

The acolytes receive their training and assignments from me and those who participate are Marta Gonzalez, Mariana Acosta, Abigail Cintron, Edgar Rodriguez, Maria Costa and Carmen Diaz.

Our readers are Ricardo Gonzalez, Nereida Rivera, Ivelín Irizarry, Milagros Rodriguez and Carmen Mulero.

These also setup and clean the altar for the Spanish Mass. Mariana Acosta often serves in our Tuesday Eucharist.

Respectfully submitted,
Luis Mulero

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Most Sundays during the school year, October-May, you will find three to ten children in the parish hall learning God's word in the Bible, conversing about the message of the day, sharing how the theme relates to their lives, doing word searches or crafts, praying, enjoying fellowship, and a snack, especially the ones Paul Zimmerman provides.

This school year we purchased a new curriculum called Seedlings, which guides us with themes and ideas. We use this with the Arch Books based on The Old and New Testament, the Bible, and other suggested resources. At our closing in June, some children participated in the Pentecost bilingual service. As a thank you and in gratefulness for each member of the Sunday school class a goat was purchased from Episcopal Relief and Development in appreciation for the children of Good Shepherd. The certificate given to each child shared this thought, we give this goat in appreciation of you to a family in need so their lives will change just as yours are changing by learning, knowing, and living the teachings of our savior Jesus.

God has provided an awesome match as we, Terry Plumley and Deacon Elizabeth, teachers, dedicate our time, our energy, our hearts to love, our ears to hear stories, our voices to tell the stories, and our hands together as teachers and children to pray. We are devoted to make the Sunday school experience one of meaning, love, care, and joy. Of course, without the faithfulness of the children and those who bring them we would not be experiencing this time together.

Lord, may you watch over and bless the children of Good Shepherd. Let our parish community continue to nurture and guide the children as they grow in their Christian character.

Terry Plumley and Deacon Elizabeth Knauff

MUSIC - 10:00 SERVICE

The Church continues a long-time tradition of welcoming Hartt School students to our beloved choir.

Our Soprano Section Leader, Hannah Shanefield joined the CGS's choir on late 2016 followed by Bryce French as our Bass Section Leader shortly after.

In October 2017 we welcomed Nick Turner as our new Tenor Section Leader.

CGS choir looks forward every year to our Holiday Season where we join forces with the Spanish group: Lorena Garay, Eugenio Huanca and Gonzalo Cortes. It is very special to be able to praise God singing in a language that isn't native to us in communion with the native speakers.

Much gratitude is due to our ever faithful, kind, loving and spirited members of the choir: Hannah Shanefield, Emily Uz, Bryce French and Jack Hale.

Anyone interested in joining the choir and praise God in the ministry of Music, please look for the Music Director or any member of the choir. We will warmly welcome new members.

Rebecca B. de Almeida
Music Director

MUSIC - 12:15 SERVICE

The Spanish music ministry is here to serve the Spanish-speaking congregation of the 12:15 p.m. service by encouraging spiritual growth through music and congregational singing. Every Sunday, Music Minister Lorena Garay and the other members of the Latin American group Surcari, Eugenio Huanca and Gonzalo Cortes, along with parishioner Roxana Rosario, lead the hymns during worship. We present a mix of familiar hymns mixed with new hymns and are very excited about the recent arrival of the third edition of the new Flor y Canto Hymnal.

Parishioners join us enthusiastically by singing and playing all kinds of handheld percussion instruments, including tambourines, guiros, and maracas. The Spanish service includes music from various cultures and traditions from South America, Central America, Mexico, The Andes, and the Caribbean Islands, played on guitar and traditional instruments.

March 5th was my first Sunday as Music Minister at Good Shepherd. Ever since, it has been a true joy working with my fellow musicians and being a part of such a vibrant church community!

Music Minister Lorena Garay

PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

The Parish Life Committee has faithfully worked for one year on the implementation of the three Priest in Charge/Vestry Goals to help prepare the church to continue the process of calling a new rector. The goals being Member Incorporation and Community Building, Improve Communications, and Spiritual Formation Across Whole Parish.

Committee members are Luis Mulero, Cedric Newman, Justina Black, Al Wilkinson, Mary-Ellen Powell, Carmen Murillo, Father Irizarry, and Deacon Elizabeth Knauff serving as Father Irizarry's advisor and scribe. Adam Yates is the ECCT consultant.

With information gathered from results of scheduled conversations with parishioners from both services and the Spiritual Life Survey, both the responsibility of the committee to implement and facilitate, the committee was able to clearly identify the "pulse" of the parish. The results also presented the committee with ideas and ways to improve communication and connections within our community. The committee planned programs to do soon and came up with possible programming ideas for the future. Many goals have been put in place and achieved, while some goals continue to be part of the process.

The committee could not have done its job without total congregation involvement. That charge continues as Church of the Good Shepherd moves forward continuing to identify God's vision for us in 2018. We give thanks for God's continual guidance and care in the transition process.

Elizabeth Knauff

FOODSHARE

Through its seventy Mobile Sites, Foodshare distributed over 3 million meals worth of food through November of 2017. Most of this was fruits and vegetables.

At the Good Shepherd Site, Foodshare distributes food each week alternating between Tuesdays and Thursdays. The amount of Food distributed from January to November was would make 116,873 meals. The average weekly attendance is 115 individuals.

Thanks to our volunteers, we provided efficient and courteous service to everyone. I would like to thank all of our volunteers from both services: Errol Archer, Ivan Diaz, Marta Gonzalez, Carmen Mulero, Valerie Dixon, Mariana Acosta and Marta Plaza.

I would like to thank Fr. Irizarry for this opportunity to serve the church and the community.

Respectfully submitted
Luis Mulero

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)

What is one way ALL women of the parish can receive companionship as well as, together, find ways of serving others surrounded in fellowship and Christian friendship with one another? The answer is: By being part of the *EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN*. All women of the church are members of the E.C.W. Our goal is to continue to invite and encourage the women from both services to join in creating an even stronger bond with all women of the parish.

Our meetings are usually on a Saturday afternoon several times during the year. Sometimes it is for planning. Other times for doing the Lord's work as well as getting to know each other as sisters in Christ.

In 2017 we had several opportunities for serving as well as fellowship.

ingathering of gloves, mittens, scarves collected in 2016-Jan. 2017

delivering to 2 schools in Hartford, Jumoke Academy and Martin

Luther King, Jr. Elementary School

Two successful bake sales for emergency bags and fabric for dresses Sewing for Hope for orphan girls in Tanzania

Assembled emergency bags

Spring Tea in April, featuring delicious food and tea, wonderful fellowship and beautiful paper pins made by Valerie Dixon

Several attended the May Annual ECW meeting at AquaTurf

Spring ingathering United Thank Offering - Sent \$168.84

As a group we miss Pat Dixson and Miyoko Burr who moved.

2018 VISIONS include getting involved in Hands on Hartford-Backpack Nutrition Program, making dresses for Sewing for Hope, meditating with Icons with Beverly Berger, developing other programs in mission to others, seeking speakers of interest, and keeping in touch with the women in our parish who are no longer able to attend church.

Thanks to all who joined in on the companionship along the way as it was a wonderful 2017 for our ECW. For those not coming please consider this your invitation to come and be involved in this women's group in 2018.

In Christian love,
Deacon Elizabeth Knauff and the faithful and active members of our ECW

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

In the sixties existed a cluster of churches known as Center City Church; this was the bedrock of what we now know as Hands on Hartford. So without further ado Hands on Hartford continues its quest.

In the year 2017 Hands on Hartford served about 25,000 hot meals at the Church Street location; Christ Church Cathedral – Hands on Hartford provided items like eggs, milk, toiletries, baby formulas, etc. to families.

Let us not forget, Hands on Hartford gave backpacks to about 230 school children every week of the school year, filled with nutritious food.

Due to space limitation this train of thought must be discontinued. Oh! Hands on Hartford was instrumental in helping someone obtain a college degree.

Good Shepherd donated 875 pounds of food to MANNA community pantry; an extension of Hands on Hartford. Church of the Good Shepherd gave a check in the amount of \$300. To Hands on Hartford.

The Food Share annual Walk Against Hunger continues to be a tremendous success.

UBE was given \$500.00, Saint Monica Bible Camp given \$300.00. Food Share was given \$400.00. The Church of the Good Shepherd Outreach Committee also had an expenditure of about \$200.00 supplying socks etcetera to various groups at Christmas time.

Our unending gratitude goes out to Paul Zimmerman, Mrs. Elizabeth Plumley, Metropolitan Community Church and the many others who are involved in helping to get the monthly meal out to the Stewart B.

McKinney shelter. Your continual help is invaluable.

Respectfully submitted,
Trevor A. Prescod

THE UNION OF BLACK EPISCOPALIANS

President- Dorothy R. Jackson, Vice President- Teresa B. Sharp, Treasurer, Sonja Hall, Secretary - Maurice Lewis and Claudette Dixon, Historian.

The object/purpose of this chapter is to stimulate the growth of black membership, leadership and promote the placement of Black Professionals at all levels within the Episcopal Churches in the Greater Hartford area.

Last year, we lost three of our long-time members, who passed away. Mr. & Mrs. Roy Walton, who resided in Georgia and Euna Coleridge, wife of our retired Bishop Clarence Coleridge, who resided in Bloomfield, Ct.

Also, Volenderver Dixson (Pat), who now resides in California. As of now, we have twenty active members.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

January 2017 - Hosted Coffee Hour @ our 10:00 a.m. service, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (@ Good Shepherd Church in Hartford, Ct.

February 2017– New Haven Chapter hosted the Absalom Jones service. Some of us from the Hartford Chapter attended, along with our Assistant Priest, Rev. Valerie Miller and our Deacon, The Rev. Elizabeth Knauff. We all enjoyed the Service. Steve Mullins is the President of that Chapter.

April 22, 2017 - Our Annual Scholarship Luncheon was held at the Chowder Pot Restaurant in Hartford, CT. Our Guest Speaker was Gwendolyn L. H. Thames, Mrs. Thames is a Councilwoman, in the City of Hartford and the daughter of our treasurer, Sonja Hall. It was an honor to have her speak at this event and it was well attended. Also, she presented us with an Official Citation at this event, for the support we have given our students throughout the years.

June 11, 2017- Our Annual Jazz Social was held at The Church of the Good Shepherd in Hartford, CT. At the Social, we awarded eight new students and seven continuing College Students with Scholarships. Since the Inception of our Scholarship Program, we are proud to say that we have awarded forty students. We are proud of them and with the help of God, we will continue to support our children. They are our future!

Our Regional Conference will be held in Newark, New Jersey on February 28, 2018. Our 50th. National Conference will be held on July 23-28, 2018 in Nassau Beach, Bahamas.

Thanks to the Good Shepherd family for the support that you continue to give us. We are looking forward to a successful '2018. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

Peace and Blessings,
Dorothy R. Jackson, Hartford Chapter President

MISSION OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Our charge as a committee is to identify and allocate the money budgeted. The purpose is helping Episcopal as well as appropriate outreach needs in our world outside the local area. The committee members are Betty Plumley, Luis Mulero, Father Irizarry, Deacon Elizabeth Knauff, Olga DelaRosa as substitute, and Rev. Valerie Miller when she served at CGS. The four recipients for 2017 were:

\$200. received for the Hamilton Mountain Basic School in Jamaica. Money received goes for supplies, food, and assistance with charitable work done by CGS parishioners Errol and Myrna Archer. With mission minded hearts they go yearly to help this school.

\$400. To Diocese of Puerto Rico. The funding requested by Rev. Angel R. Rivera Rodrigues from this diocese and president of Companion Department for his registration fee to attend the Annual Global Episcopal Mission Network Conference in Alabama.

\$700. was sent to Episcopal Relief and Development Hurricane Harvey Fund.

\$700. was sent to Our Little Roses in San Pedro Sula, Honduras in gratitude and appreciation for Rev. Valerie's ministry as assistant priest at CGS and to financially support this wonderful place of love where Rev. Valerie spent one year as missionary priest.

Messages of thanks were received. Church of the Good Shepherd made a difference in the lives of those who were given the money.

Puerto Rican Hurricane Relief: Members and friends of Good Shepherd contributed to a fund for victims of Hurricane Maria. \$1,000 was sent to the Diocese of Puerto Rico to support their relief efforts.

Submitted by,
Deacon Elizabeth Knauff, recorder

HOSPITALITY - 10:00 SERVICE

MEMBERS: Justina Black, Pat Dixon, Shirley Doughtie, Lyn Prescod, Joe McGrail, Teresa B. Sharp & Paul Zimmerman.

SPECIAL EVENTS IN 2017 PROVIDED BY HOSPITALITY:

January	Annual Meeting
February	Shrove Tuesday
March	Lenten Series
March	Meeting / Diocese
May	Mother's Day & Choir Appreciation also Blessing for Pat Dixon
June	Father's Day.
July	Pilgrimage
September	Annual Meeting with the Trustees of The Colt Bequest
September	Annual Picnic
October	Farewell Potluck Rev. Valerie and Farewell to Miyoko Burr

Another challenging year and still more challenges for 2018.

Let's not forget our focus. We are all in this together. Let us all put our best foot forward and show empathy, kindness and respect towards each other. Treat others as we wish to be treated.

Thanks to all who've participated in the coffee hour by bringing food items and serving as well as donations.

Mission Statement: "Hospitality" Making a place for others to feel welcome and at home. Creating an air of comfort and inclusiveness, all of which are crucial to the mission and ministry of the Church of The Good Shepherd.

Respectfully Submitted,
Teresa B. Sharp, Chair

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Thanks to all who helped keep our building and grounds operating and improving this year. I particularly want to recognize Paul Zimmerman, Joe McGrail, Al Wilkinson, Tim Camerl, and Charlie Surko. Of course, we must acknowledge Elizabeth Colt and the trustees of the Colt bequest. Without her generosity and their careful stewardship, we would not have the ability to carry out any of this important work.

Windows: Installed new triple track storm windows for the large windows of the main floor in the Parish House.

The old Plexiglas covers were removed and replaced with new glass covers on the two large sash windows on the front of the parish house.

Trees Removed a dead maple tree from the rear of the property next to Ayala Way and a dying pine tree east of the parish house.

Volunteer activities: Four groups of Trinity College students came to do volunteer work during the year. It is a pleasure to have them with us.

Miscellaneous

Restored and re-upholstered two chairs in the parlor.

The community garden was in full use this season.

We have replaced our heating contractor. Our new contractor, Mechanical Maintenance, seems to be better suited to servicing our steam heating system.

We have been involved in the Energy Star Green House of Worship program, a lengthy process to assess energy use in our two main buildings and to determine effective ways to reduce energy use. The assessment and planning stages were completed at the end of the year and new lighting and new remote-access thermostats will be installed early in 2018.

We have developed plans with ATC Audio for a new sound system for the sanctuary. It will be installed before the end of January 2018.

Charlie Surko arranged removal of the old heating oil tanks from the church basement.

A baby changing station was installed in the church restroom.

A non-functioning drain line eventually was traced to a blockage in MDC lines under Wyllys Street, but not before we had torn up a section of the basement floor.

The floors in the basement of the parish house were refinished. We plan to do the same for the main floor in 2018.

Thieves broke into the storage container in the parking lot and stole our lawn mower, snow blower, and string trimmer. Police were called and an insurance claim filed. We are gradually replacing the lost equipment.

Roof

Began the process of replacing all old copper flashings on the church. When completed, this work will have cost over \$100,000.

Jack Hale

TREASURER'S REPORT

2017 ran pretty smoothly from a cash on hand perspective in terms of paying the bills. We ended the year with a little over \$6,000 in the bank. The Finance Committee made up of Father Irizarry, Jack Hale, Senior Warden, Mary-Ellen Powell, Clerk, and Charles Surko, met periodically throughout 2017 and recommended the attached budget for 2018 to the Vestry.

The 2018 budget represents a slight increase in income. Expenses are projected to be slightly lower compared to 2017.

The treasurer especially appreciates the dedication of all the parishioners and staff who so diligently count the weekly offerings.

As always, it's been a pleasure serving as Treasurer and I wish everyone a Healthy and Happy New Year.

With God's Peace,
Justina M Black, Treasurer