

Good Shepherd Catholic Church

From 1981 to 2021

the
good shepherd
CATHOLIC CHURCH



40th
Anniversary



DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

Office of the Bishop

7200 Stonehenge Drive • Raleigh, North Carolina 27613-1620 • (984) 900-3103

December 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I extend my congratulations to you on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the founding of Good Shepherd Parish. I join you in thanking Almighty God for the many blessings He has showered upon your parish throughout the past forty years and in praying for His continued guidance and protection.

Your parish has been blessed with the wonderful example of so many of the lay faithful. It is obvious that your community members have truly rooted their hearts in the Gospel and have distinguished themselves as generous and dedicated servants of Our Lord. I express my profound gratitude and pray that Almighty God keep you strong in faith and steadfast in Christ our hope.

As you enter into the joy of this fortieth anniversary celebration, know of my profound gratitude for the powerful witness of your faith and of my prayers for your entire parish community. Through the intercession of Mary our Mother, may Our Lord Jesus, our Good Shepherd, bless you and watch over you now and always.



In Christ,


† Luis Rafael Zarama, J.C.L.
Bishop of Raleigh

“GRATITUDE FOR OUR PAST - JOY IN OUR PRESENT - FAITH FOR OUR FUTURE.”

Dear parishioners of Good Shepherd, Hope Mills, I greet you with the joy of the Lord. I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the former and current Raleigh Diocesan authorities, the former pastors and deacons, all the ministries and the entire parish community for attaining 40 years of service in the body of Christ. As we mark many years of changing and touching lives, and also as I am celebrating my 25th Ordination anniversary I am so honored to join this Parish community as a Pastor. What a Mighty God we serve! I am honored and count it a privilege to be a part of this Parish community as Pastor and this most historic celebration. From the humble beginnings of worship under a grapevine to this present moment, truly the Lord has been with Good Shepherd Parish community every step of the way. The rich history of Good Shepherd Parish is a true testimony to the faith that our founding fathers and mothers had in God when they embarked on this faith journey in 1981.

Through the grace of God, let me take this precious moment to thank our heavenly Father for the sufficient grace given to the church as we celebrate and mark this important occasion in our church history and also my 25th ordination anniversary in my priestly life milestone. To the church members, the organizers and people of goodwill, we have come this far not on our own but by the grace of God. The Lord has brought us this far and we are grateful today as we celebrate great blessings upon our Church. He has promised that He will never leave nor forsake us, and we are sure that with God on our side, the future is bright.

Our theme for this great milestone of 40 Years is --- Great is God's Faithfulness: Gratitude for our Past - Joy in our Present - Faith for our Future." For 40 years, each generation of the membership have been bold witnesses to the power of Almighty God. Although our history is very rich, our future promises to be even richer. Our church's anniversary should be remarkable in every sense of the word, teaching, worship, health fairs, community gatherings, community outreach, etc., the year promises to be most memorable. The Apostle Paul says it best in 1 Corinthians 2:9, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man. The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

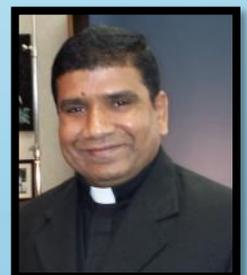
As beneficiaries of the saving grace of Christ Jesus, let us be encouraged to keep pressing in the light of God. May we be victors at all times over the challenges life throws at us, and may the church withstand and conquer every power contrary to that of Christ. May we continually bask in the love of Jesus which binds us together. May that love be strengthened be among us as in the days of the apostles. May the church radiate the love of Jesus to the world and attract lost souls to the kingdom.

As with every new season, may this new anniversary be the fresh beginning of new and amazing things in this church. May we ask and be given, knock on the doors to be opened and seeks to find. Happy Church Anniversary. The blessings of Christ Jesus be upon this parish community.

Again, on behalf of our church family I say welcome! It is our prayer that you will be able to join us at as many of the spiritual events possible and receive the grace of God in all your life journey. Please know that you are always WELCOME at Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Hope Mills, NC.

May the love of God bind us forever in Jesus' name.

Father Arul Yagappan, M.S.F.S.
(Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales)
Pastor
Good Shepherd Catholic Church
Hope Mills, NC.



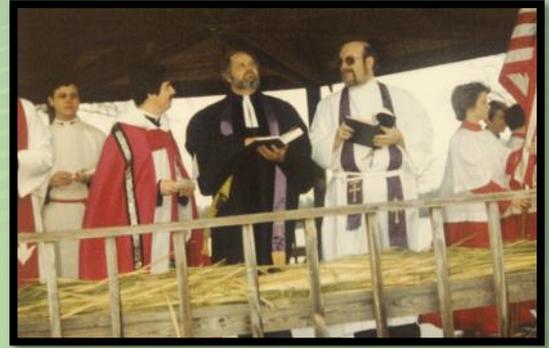
FROM MISSION TO CHURCH

In January 1981, Good Shepherd started as a Mission Church due to the efforts of Father Tom Sanford. Father Sanford along with a few people from Hope Mills began the process of gathering families in the Hope Mills area. Around 45 families made up the beginnings of our Church.

The first Mass was held January 31, 1981, at the Presbyterian Church. About 150 people attended, including Bishop Gossman. Winnie Golden showed Father Sanford around Hope Mills to find a site for the building of the Church. Pastors from Christ Episcopal and Hope Mills Presbyterian Church were very interested that a Catholic Mission was coming to Hope Mills and were very helpful. During the time of celebrating Mass at other churches, the Civic Center, Southview Senior High School, outside and even at Reeves Funeral Home, Winnie Golden and Roxie Vendetti would transport all the items used during Mass. Good Shepherd's first social activity was Mardi Gras held at Saint Patrick's Social Hall.



Mass celebrated at unknown place.



Mass celebrated at Hope Mills Lake

In September of 1981, fifteen acres of land and a small house located on Oak Street and Lake Forest Road were purchased for \$110,000 as the future site of the Church.



Sign reads:

Future Home of Good
Shepherd Roman
Catholic Church

In November of 1981, Good Shepherd went from Mission status to Church status, established by the Most Reverend Joseph F. Gossman, Bishop of Raleigh. The official anniversary date is November 18, 1981.

Many people contributed to the beginnings of Good Shepherd, although all cannot be listed here, they are much appreciated. Joe Pucholowski became the first Eucharistic Minister. Gus Vendetti served as Lector Chairman, Parish Council Member, and Director of Religious Education. As DRE, Gus assembled 20 catechists and assistants. Gus would carry the material necessary for Religious Education in his car to use on Sundays evenings for classes either at the Presbyterian Church or homes of parishioners.

Father John Carchich became pastor in July 1983 and implemented the construction phase for the building of the Church. After finding abundant plans and spirit, Father John also discovered there were no funds available. So the former Pallotine Father went back to his roots and secured a \$200,000 grant. With this money, a \$30,000 loan from the Diocese, free labor from the Fayetteville Technical Institute Building Trades Department, and a six man building committee led by John Hoffman, the Good Shepherd facility was built over a ten-month period. All of the stained glass windows were donated by parishioners and the large Good Shepherd was donated by Jerry & Jean Wahl. The furniture on the Altar was built by Chester Burnog. The Altar Servers, under the guidance of Joseph Bailer, raised funds for the Processional Crucifix. Through the efforts of the parishioners, the Church building of Good Shepherd was dedicated on October 14, 1984.



Announcement about Good Shepherd Ground Breaking on Hope Mills Board near the lake.



Parishioners on the future site of Good Shepherd. The Rectory is in the background.

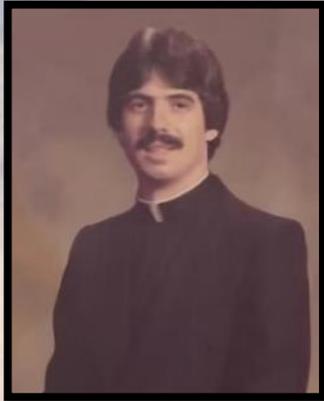


Ground breaking ceremony for the building of Good Shepherd on Oak Street.



A SHEPHERD THAT LEADS.....

God has blessed our Church with very dedicated and faithful Priests throughout the years, each one leaving their mark on the Parish.



Reverend Thomas J. Sanford
November 1981-July 1983

Fr. Sanford was a priest at St. Patrick's in Fayetteville. Seeing the need for a new church in the Hope Mills area, he began the process of gathering families to form Good Shepherd.



Reverend G. John Carcich
July 1983-July 1987

Fr. John was instrumental in raising funds for the construction of the grounds and building of the Church. He was able to get a donation of \$200,000 from the Pallatine Fathers.



Reverend Joseph F. Bumann
July 1987-May 1989

Fr. Bumann was truly an example of what a spiritual leader should be. His homilies and talks were inspiring. He established the RCIA process for the Parish. Unfortunately, Fr. Bumann died in a tragic car accident twenty-two months after becoming pastor of Good Shepherd.

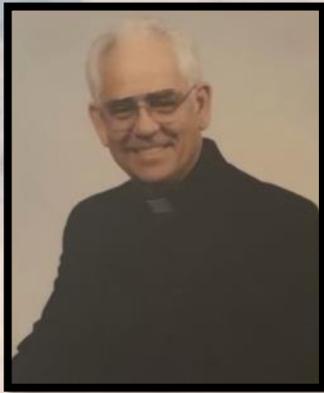


Reverend Phillip Leach
July 1989-May 1992

Fr. Phillip is a natural teacher. He inspired the youth and adults alike. Fr. Phillip also completed a remarkable feat of paying off the mortgage. He led the Church to build a house for Habitat for Humanity. Due to Fr. Leach's efforts, Good Shepherd became a part of the Alms House.

A SHEPHERD THAT LEADS.....

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Reverend Gerald L. Lewis
May 1992-March 1993

Fr. Lewis had a beautiful devotion to the sick and dying, visiting them whenever he could. He also completed the Habitat for Humanity project started with Fr. Phillip.



Reverend Thomas J. Gaul
March 1993-December 2002

Fr. Gaul is an amazing homilist, inspiring the whole congregation. Fr. Gaul oversaw the addition to the Church, managing the growth and conserving our resources. Fr. Gaul instituted the "1/2 Can-a-Day" fund to offset the cost of construction of the Social Hall.



Reverend Thanh N. Nguyen
December 2002-June 2010

Fr. Thanh is a very personable priest, remembering everyone's name and taking the time to get to know people. Although sometimes quiet and reserved, his love for Jesus and the Church always shined through. He supported and completed Good Shepherd being Mother Church for the mission, granting Deacon Nay Henriquez permission to pursue, build and establish San Isidro.



Reverend Thomas R. Davis
August 2010-July 2012

Fr. Davis, recovering from surgery, was with Good Shepherd a short time. He led the construction of the elevated "Cry Room" to help families with young children better participate in Mass.

A SHEPHERD THAT LEADS.....

God has blessed our Church with very dedicated and faithful Priests throughout the years, each one leaving their mark on the Parish.



Reverend Douglas J. Smiley
December 2012-October 2013

Fr. Smiley was only with Good Shepherd for a very brief time period of ten months. He refocused the community on the beauty of and respect for the Eucharist.



Reverend Thomas J. Gaul
October 2013-June 2021

Due to the need, Fr. Gaul came off medical leave to lead Good Shepherd once again. He was able to spiritually guide Good Shepherd through the global pandemic of covid.



Reverend Arul Yagappan
June 2021-Present

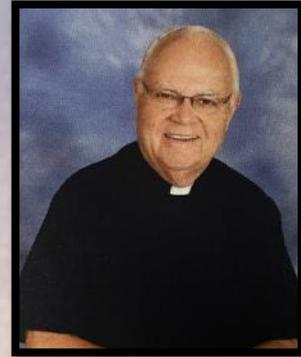
Fr. Arul became our pastor in June of 2021. He is from the Missionary Order of St. Francis de Sales.

SUPPORTIVE PRIESTS



Father Trent Watts

Fr. Trent served Good Shepherd while he was being ordained into the priesthood. Fr. Trent left Good Shepherd for St. Mary's in Wilmington, but has recently passed away.



Father John "Jack" Kelly

Fr. Kelly helped to serve as an Associate Pastor under Father Gaul at Good Shepherd, and celebrant at San Isidro as well.



Father Mark Betti

Fr. Betti was a Prochiral Vicar for a very short time, under Father Gaul.



Father Edison Urrego

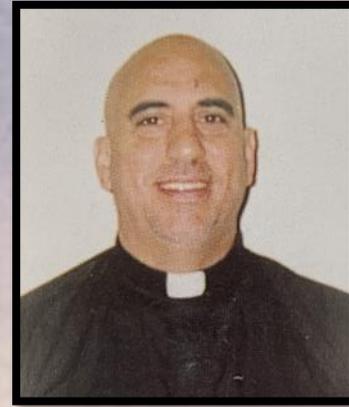
Fr. Edison was appointed Pastor for San Isidro Mission Church in June 2020. Due to Fr. Gaul being unable to celebrate Mass, Fr. Edison graciously celebrated Mass for Good Shepherd from June 2020 to June 2021. He was a blessing to Good Shepherd during the year of the COVID pandemic.

SUPPORTIVE DEACONS



Deacon Patrick Snyder

Deacon Pat was ordained into the Deaconate while a parishioner of Good Shepherd. He loving and faithfully served Good Shepherd for 21 years. Deacon Pat lead the Sick and Homebound Ministry, which was very close to his heart.



Deacon Juan Nay Henriquez

Deacon Nay was ordained into the Deaconate while a parishioner at Good Shepherd. He was instrumental in overseeing the construction and dedication of San Isidro, Good Shepherd's Mission Parish.

When I was asked to write about my diaconal experience all I could think was; "How do I put all those years into a couple of paragraphs?" In the wee hours of the morning it finally came to me, the one common factor across all of the uncommon experiences. The grace to pour one's self out for someone else. So many times we are reluctant to assist anyone because we are afraid of the impact that it will have on our lives. The commitment of time, talent and treasure is too great we think. We believe that we will not have anything left for ourselves. No time to relax, a life of constant burn-out from the mental pressure, and living on the edge of poverty because we have given so much away. All valid concerns, particularly if you have a family to care for in the mix.

But the experience doesn't work out as we expect. Yes the work requires sacrifice, but without sacrifice, how can we tie our experience to the sacrifice of the Cross? How can we minister without sacrifice? If there is no sacrifice in what we do, then there is no value in what we do. I have been called for emergencies in the middle of the night more times than I can count, and I usually did not get back to bed before having to head in for a full day's work. But I wasn't exhausted, a little tired maybe, but not enough to interfere with my day. I have been and continue to be responsible for a broad range of tasks and have to answer numerous questions as a Deacon, but they never wear me out. I do my level best to be generous, sometimes to my wife's exasperation, but we have never wanted for anything.

The reason for the unexpected result is that when we sacrifice for the benefit of the children of God, he has our back. Our Lord knows us better than we know ourselves. He isn't going to let our sacrifice be unrewarded in heaven or here on earth. The more we pour ourselves out for Christ, the more grace he pours into us. That doesn't mean that problems are eliminated from our lives by sacrifice, it does mean that when the problems arise, we will make it through and what seemed to be insurmountable becomes just a speed bump in the road. Will we always live up to our goals? Of course not, but the awareness of our failure helps us to do better next time. So to quote Our Lord; "Do not be afraid!" Put your shoulder to the wheel and push, that is love without reservation!

~Deacon Patrick D. Snyder

SUPPORTIVE STAFF

The Priests of Good Shepherd have been aided by supportive staff members throughout the years.

Office Staff

The ladies of the Office Staff have been many throughout the years, offering a helping hand and a smiling face to those who pass through the doors. The following is a list of Office Staff.

Barbara Harold	Jean Brown	Christine Gailey	Cheryl Dockery
Janice Scott	Cynthia Halstead	Ann Provencher	Cynthia Reilly
Maria Rosario	Amanda Allen		

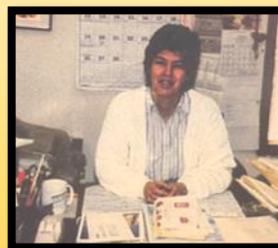
Building & Grounds

Keeping the Church and Grounds looking nice has been the job of many volunteers and staff. The following is a list of those in charge of Building & Grounds:

Tom Kovasckitz	Douglas and Joyce Rockafellow	Paul Koffman
Lawrence Adair	David Riley	Rick Underwood

Cleaning Teams

Cristina Winchell	Rhonda & Norma Delodge	Barbara Chapman
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Educating Our Parish

Faith Formations through the Years



Directors of Religious Education

The history of Religious Education at Good Shepherd would be nothing without someone to lead it.



Gus Vendetti



Mary Packer



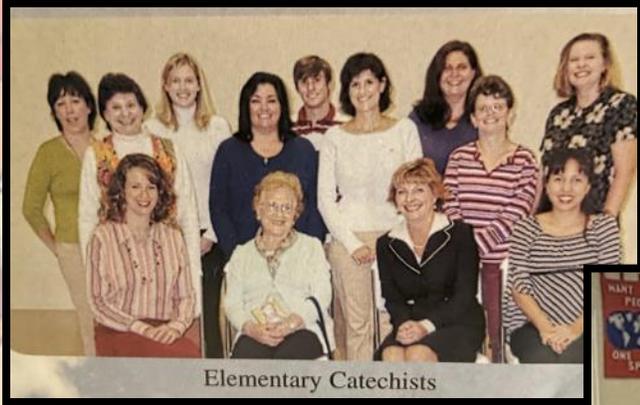
Jan Carnahan



Patricia Martin-Kamionka

Educating Our Parish

Pictures of Faith Formation throughout the Years



Elementary Catechists



Educating Our Parish

Pictures of Faith Formation throughout the Years



Educating Our Parish

Faith Formations through the Years

R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

R.C.I.A. is a process in which baptized and un-baptized adults learn the Catholic faith and become a part of the Catholic Church.

Father Bumann established the process at Good Shepherd. He and Bob Martin attended "Beginnings and Beyond," which educated church leaders on how to bring this process to their Parishes. Father Phillip Leach continued what Father Bumann started, forming catechists to be part of the team and also providing catechesis and sessions. In 1990, when Bob Martin retired, Camille Grupy became coordinator until June of 2020.

Many of the formation sessions were given by our pastors, with the rest and dismissals provided by catechists.



EVENTS THROUGH THE YEARS

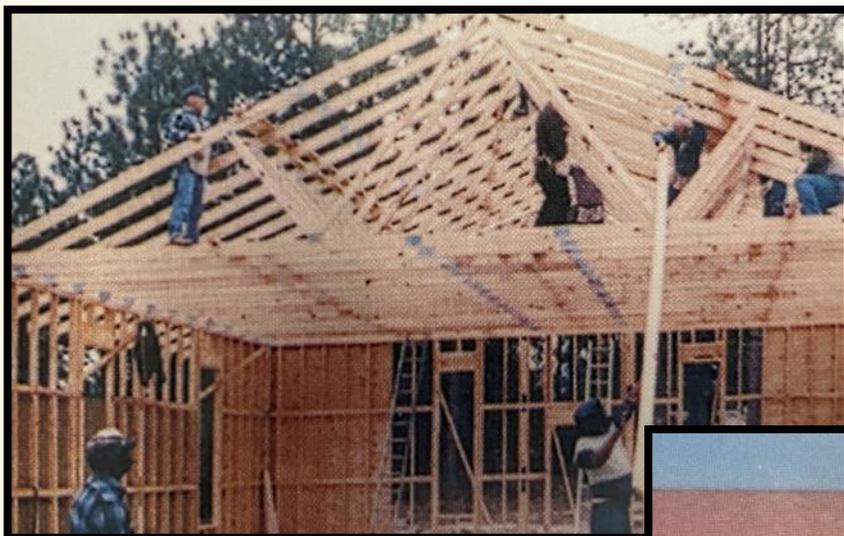
The Addition to the Church

Good Shepherd grew quickly and the need for more space occurred in no time. So, construction began on an addition to the Church building. The addition added new office rooms, a new Gathering Area, a room that doubled as a cry room and meeting space, a Vestry, a room for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and space for the Religious Articles to be sold. Adding the Gathering Area allowed for more room in our worship space.



Construction of the Social Hall

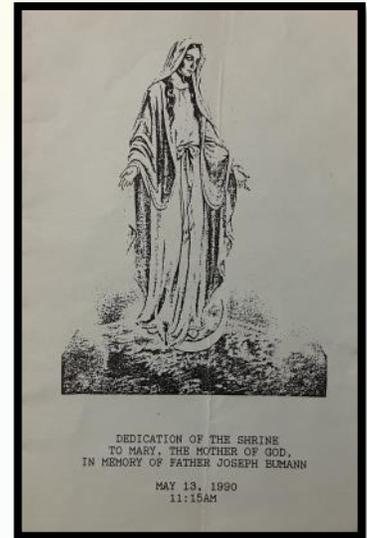
Although the addition to the Church added more space, Good Shepherd still continued to grow. The need for more classrooms and a larger event area propelled the construction to begin on a new building under Father Gaul's guidance. The Social Hall features a large meeting space upstairs and many classrooms downstairs.



EVENTS THROUGH THE YEARS

Shrine of Mary

The Shrine of Mary, the Mother of God was dedicated on May 13, 1990 in honor of Father Joseph Bumann. Mass was celebrated by Father Phillip Leach. The statue was funded by many parishioners.



Nativity Scene

The Nativity Scene placed out in front of the Church each Advent was built and donated by Tom and Marlene Kovasckitz. The Knights of Columbus have been tasked now with the safety and care of this beautiful Nativity.



EVENTS THROUGH THE YEARS

Rite of Election

Good Shepherd hosted the Rite of Election for the Fayetteville Deanery in 2000 with Bishop Joseph Gossman. The Mass was concelebrated with Father Gaul. A most important event in the lives of Catechumens journeying towards the Sacraments of Initiation in becoming Catholic is the Rite of Election. Celebrated with the Bishop, they become the Elect, declaring their intent to continue towards Easter and Initiation. To be asked to host this event is a an incredible honor. Not having the Social Hall, the Gathering area was the space used to provide refreshment. The hallways to the left and right of the nave were the classrooms for catechesis and our guest were seated there to enjoy the repast.

Catechist of the Year – Camille Grupy

Good Shepherd has been blessed to have very dedicated catechists throughout the years. One of our catechist, Camille Grupy was named The Mary Dowling Master Catechist of the Year for the Diocese of Raleigh in 2010. On September 19, 2010, Bishop Burbidge, Father Gaul, and Father Davis concelebrated Mass in honor of Camille's achievement. The Parish hosted a luncheon after the Mass. Camille was also featured on the cover of NC Catholics, November 2010 issue.

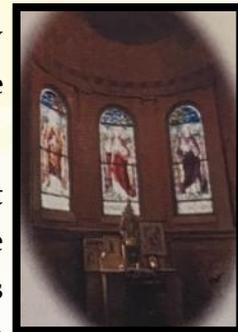


EVENTS THROUGH THE YEARS

Pilgrimage to the Holy Doors of the Basilica Shrine of St. Mary

The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy began with Pope Francis celebrating the Holy Mass in St. Peter's Basilica on December 8, 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and continued through November 2016, the Feast of Christ the King.

At the end of the Mass, Pope Francis opened the basilica's Holy Door. It is the first time the Holy Door of St. Patrick Cathedral, which had been bricked up since the Great Jubilee in 2000 called for by St John Paul II had been opened.. The Pope was quoted as saying the Holy Door was a "Door of Mercy, through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons and instills hope".



Pope Francis then issued a Jubilee Indulgence for the faithful to rediscover the richness of the spiritual and Corporal works of mercy. To experience and obtain the Indulgence, the faithful were called to partake in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the reception of Holy Communion with a reflection on Mercy, and make a pilgrimage to the Holy Door, which was open in every Cathedral or church designated by the Diocesan Bishop.

The Office of Faith Formation arranged a date for parishioners of Good Shepherd Parish to make such a pilgrimage. On June 4th on a rented bus from St. Ann Catholic Church driven by Ralph Hinrichs and in private vehicles, the faithful of Good Shepherd Church made the pilgrimage to Basilica Shrine of St. Mary in Wilmington, NC.

We were welcomed by Fr. Bob and enjoyed Holy Hour, a tour of the basilica by John Walsh, and were invited to take part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Holy Mass. It was a day of reflection, companionship and many more blessings.



EVENTS THROUGH THE YEARS

Confirmation

In February of 2019, Good Shepherd hosted Confirmation of the High School Youth. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop Luis Zarama. More than 300 people were in attendance. Youth from Good Shepherd, San Isidro, and St. Francis de Sales were confirmed in Christ. A luncheon was provided by the Parish Social Life Committee after the Mass.

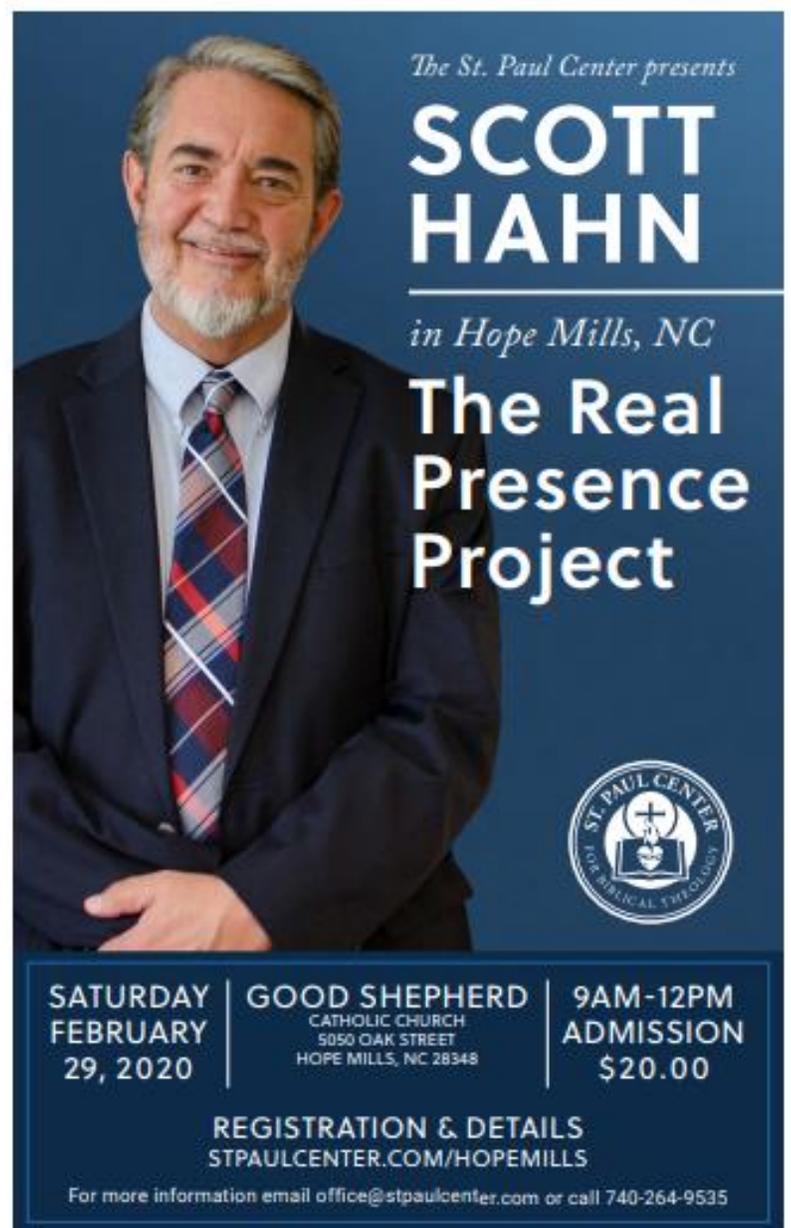
A Visit from Scott Hahn

In February of 2020, Good Shepherd was blessed to have Scott Hahn, a respected writer and theologian, visit our parish. The event was set up via the Office of Faith Formation. We welcomed well over 375 people, parishioners and visitors; some traveled from as far as Georgia and Virginia to attend.

The morning began with an introduction and welcome to Dr. Hahn by Joe Bierkorte.

Dr. Hahn spoke on his books *Lord Have Mercy* and *The Fourth Cup*. He also regaled us with personal experiences and anecdotes. (Posed for several pictures and signed many books).

We were also blessed to have Fr. Gaul and several local parish priests attend and offer us the opportunity to take part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It was a blessed and enlightening day for us.



The St. Paul Center presents

SCOTT HAHN

in Hope Mills, NC

The Real Presence Project



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 29, 2020 | **GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH**
5050 OAK STREET
HOPE MILLS, NC 28348

9AM-12PM ADMISSION \$20.00

REGISTRATION & DETAILS
STPAULCENTER.COM/HOPEMILLS

For more information email office@stpaulcenter.com or call 740-264-9535

EVENTS THROUGH THE YEARS

Mardi Gras

Good Shepherd has always been a community Parish, knowing how to bring everyone together. Mardi Gras was one of those events that brought people together. Typically the last Saturday before Ash Wednesday, this event was a last party before the seriousness of Lent began. Many parishioners have helped to organize Mardi Gras throughout the years and a good time was had by all who attended. The first Mardi Gras ever hosted by Good Shepherd was held at St. Patrick's Social Hall. Two people showed up with luggage believing they were actually going to New Orleans.



EVENTS THROUGH THE YEARS

Christ Life

Christ-Life was an evangelization program based on the Catholic faith held at Good Shepherd between September 2016 to March 2019, was dissolved due to the pandemic. The purpose was to evangelize those who have fallen away from the church. The work of evangelization is that all people might personally encounter Jesus Christ and be transformed into His missionary disciples. We developed the evangelization process which is a relational way to make missionary digests by helping people discover, follow and share Jesus Christ.

Christ Life is a three-tier program allowing a step-up program of explaining the discipleship of Jesus Christ through Discovering Christ, Following Christ, and Sharing Christ, in our faith of Catholicism. Christ Life planning committee consisted of volunteers, facilitators, hospitality, a coordinator, who were trained to help bring people back into the fold.

It met on Monday nights for 7 to 8 weeks. We watched videos, discussed how to evangelize and held retreats for fellowship.

Christ Life is for those we hope would come back Into the faith, and for any persons who want to strengthen their faith. it was partnered with other parishes, priests, clergy, religious and lay leaders, who are seeking to answer the church's call for the New Evangelization through a proven method of parish evangelization and outreach.



In Service to Our Church

Ministries of Years Past

Ladies' Guild

The Ladies' Guild started out with two Sacristans, Mary Strathern and Irina Anderson, during the time with Father Carcich as Pastor. These ladies took care of all the altar linens, cleaned the Church, prepared the Church for Mass celebrations, including decorating for Christmas and Easter.

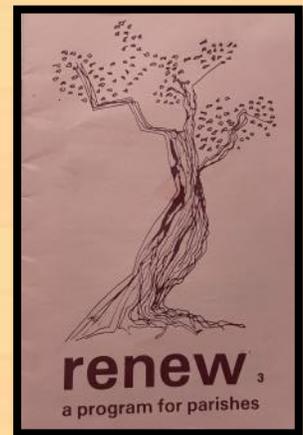
Irina sewed the hangings used on Pentecost Sunday and also made vestments for most of our pastors, from Father Carcich to Father Gaul's second time.

They encouraged some other ladies to help them and this became the Ladies' Guild. They met socially for fellowship but if an event was scheduled that required a meal, they provided for this. Often they cooked for visiting priests, here to participate in Advent or Lent Penance Services. They continued through the leadership of Father Lewis.



Renew

Renew was a Diocesan initiative to provide a program that encouraged small groups to meet for fellowship and faith sharing. Groups met in homes of parishioners from 1986 to 1990.



Funeral Support Committee

The Funeral Support Committee was established under the auspices of Father Gaul's first pastorship. It's purpose was to provide support to the family. A brochure was created with instructions to help the family with funeral arrangements. It provided a lunch, if requested. This evolved into a Social Life Committee function.

In Service to Our Church

Ministries of Years Past

Bingo Committee

Bingo, conducted by the Knights of Columbus, occurred between 2007 and 2009, all proceeds raised for the Church. Father Thanh put up his own money of \$22,000 to fund this activity. Within three months, he was reimbursed and all other monies raised went towards Church expenses.

50 + Club



In Service to Our Church

Current Ministries of Good Shepherd

Liturgical Ministries

Liturgical Ministries include many different titles, some have changed through the years, but all are important and meaningful to Good Shepherd. Liturgical Ministers include Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Lectors, Sacristans, Master of Ceremonies, Ushers, and Hospitality. Good Shepherd thanks all those who have served under these titles the past 40 years.



Eucharistic Ministers 1989



Lectors 1989



Sacristan 1989



Eucharistic Ministers 2006



Lectors 2006



Liturgical Ministry

Parish Pastoral Council

A wise Pastor knows to surround himself with people who love the Church, so he turns to the parishioners who serve on the Parish Pastoral Council. The Council aids the Pastor in making decisions in the best interest of Good Shepherd. Many thanks to the parishioners who have served on the Parish Pastoral Council the last 40 years and today.



2006



1989

Sick & Homebound Ministry

Taking care of the sick and homebound is a tradition that predates Christianity. In the early Church bringing the Eucharist to the sick and those who were to be Martyred was considered no more than a natural extension of our faith, and was often entrusted to the children because they were less likely to be questioned. At Good Shepherd, like all Catholic Parishes, ministry to the Sick and Homebound has always been an expression of our faith. When Fr. Gaul became Pastor, he appointed a layperson to the head of the ministry and placed them on the Parish Council. This was the genesis of the formal organization of the ministry. Over the next several years the person in charge changed several times and eventually ended up with Patrick Snyder around 1994, many years before he became our first Deacon. This ministry has served as many as 25 parishioners on a Sunday and has had as many as 16 active EXOs on the roster to support this effort.

This ministry is inspired by a love of the Eucharist, our Faith, and of the least of those among us. When we look at 2 different places in the New Testament, Mt 9:37-38 where Our Lord speaks to the need for workers for the harvest and the parable of 'The Workers in the Vineyard' (Mt 20:1-16) the mission becomes clear.

Altar Servers

Altar Servers are a vital part of the Mass and have served Good Shepherd from the beginning. The first group of Altar Servers, under the direction of Joseph Bailer, raised funds to purchase the Processional Cross that is still used today.



Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus, Council #8857 is the longest, continuous ministry at Good Shepherd, started in January of 1986. The Knights began with 30 members and continues to grow. Throughout the years, the Knights have organized and lead many events and fundraisers, including Mardi Gras, Octoberfest, Thanksgiving & Christmas baskets, Operation LAMB (Least Among My Brethren), and Coats for Kids.

The Knights established the Barbara Watson Scholarship, given to a deserving High School Senior.

Through Operation LAMB, 85% of the monies raised went to Special Needs Children in our local schools. Checks to these schools were given out at the Mardi Gras celebration to representatives who were guests.

When Good Shepherd was first established the Knights were the first Master of Ceremonies, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharists, and often called upon to be Pallbearers at funerals.

They continue to be a vital part of our Parish community.



Women of Charity

The Women of Charity ministry evolved from a group of women who met weekly for Bible study and reflection. It was an idea that grew out of corporal works of mercy and its founder was Kay Isham. She approached Father Gaul and it was established in 2000. Many of its actions include visiting nursing homes, finding household items (furniture, clothing) for needy families, helping at funeral luncheons and donating necessities plus toys to children who might otherwise have none.

It's annual Christmas fundraiser raises money to be able to provide both Christmas and Easter goodies to children and families both at Good Shepherd and St. Isidore's. When St. Isidore's was being established, the ministry helped with yard sales and fundraisers. Now headed up by Robin Candido, it continues to provide for the least among us. All the women of the parish are considered a part of this ministry.



Welcoming Committee

The Welcoming Committee is an extension of the Women of Charity. Requested by Father Thanh, as he saw a need to welcome our newest parishioners. The Committee serves a lunch four times a year, using the Rectory and Social Hall. The lunch not only provides fellowship but an opportunity to learn about the many ministry opportunities they may wish to participate in.

Widow's Watch

Widow's Watch, established in 2018, is a ministry for the women of the Parish who are widowed. It is a support group that reaches out to our widowed sisters and encourages fellowship, faith, and prayer. Once a month, Widow's Watch meets, attends Mass, and enjoys lunch together.

They also communicate through cards and notes of encouragement. When a parishioner loses their spouse, they help the new widow with the logistics that follow and offer support.

Widow's Watch raises funds and supports the "Wreaths Across America," which places wreaths on veterans graves during the Christmas season.



Holy Stitchers

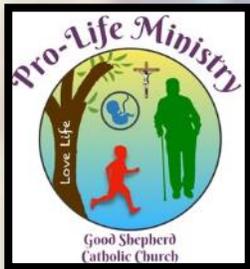
Holy Stitchers are a group of ladies that have been getting together for many years. They make quilts for the nursing homes, rosaries for whom ever needs them, burial gowns for infants that die at the hospitals and many other projects. Holy Stitchers have made many items for Good Shepherd, including the purple cloths used during Lent, the Altar strips, and the banners in the Sanctuary.



Pro-Life Ministry

The Pro-Life Ministry has been called different names throughout the years, Respect Life and Social Justice Ministry for one. But the Ministry has always had one goal, respecting the dignity of life from natural conception to natural death.

The Pro-Life Ministry has hosted many events through the years, including Pregnancy Loss Retreats, Theology of the Body Sessions, and Human Trafficking Awareness Sessions. They participate in the bi-annual 40 Days for Life Campaign, which prays to end abortion. A major focus for the ministry is fundraising for local pregnancy resource centers through Pancake Breakfasts or Baby Showers.



Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary is a lay apostolic association of Catholics who, under the sanction of the Church and the powerful protection of Mary Immaculate, serve the Church and their neighbor on a voluntary basis in about 170 countries. The object of the Legion is the Glory of God through the holiness of its members developed by prayer and active cooperation in Mary's and the Church's work. The local unit of the Legion of Mary is the praesidium, where prayer is intermingled with a weekly meeting, reports, and discussion.

Some Good Shepherd Parishioners were members of the Legion of Mary at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Fayetteville. An interest meeting to set up a praesidium at Good Shepherd was held in September of 2019. Father Gaul approved the Praesidium to be established in October 2019 and he became the spiritual director.

The praesidium here at Good Shepherd is "Mother of the Eucharist." The members of the Legion of Mary pray the Rosary publicly each week for the protection of the Youth against secular forces, instituted by Father Edisson. They also bring the Pilgrim Virgin Mary statue from home to home, encouraging parishioners to not only pray for their own needs but also for the Legion of Mary's apostolic works.



Our Parishioners Stories

These are stories submitted by the people of Good Shepherd.

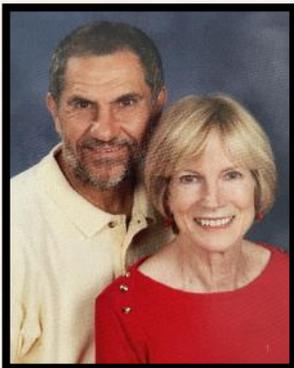
When Good Shepherd became a mission of Saint Patrick's, I believe my first reaction was "that's nice, it's close to home." After that, I started thinking about how I enjoyed celebrating Mass with Father Sanford and also having the opportunity to become a member of a "startup" parish, I was ready to join.

Looking back, I realize this new experience with the going from location to location for Mass with smaller gatherings, observing dedicated parishioners at work, and finally settling into our own Church, made me more aware of my Faith. Overtime, this new awareness grew and I slowly became active in Parish Life. This then allowed the "Good Shepherd" that He is to start my move out of that "cradle Catholic" mold and into my ongoing journey to become a practicing Catholic Christian.

An added blessing of becoming a Good Shepherd member was meeting Sherri, a remarkable wife and wonderful mother. For 34 years and counting, she has enriched and anchored my life, and continues to help me grow.

I can safely say my Good Shepherd experience was a major factor on the path I'm still traveling.

Submitted by: Nick Foti



"The Story of Christopher and Aurelia Wilson"

We are happy that our daughter Marinelle Bland was a parishioner in Good Shepherd Catholic Church.



My family

(Christopher, Aurelia, and Anthony Wilson) moved here in Hope Mills, NC from Groton, Connecticut in June 2009. Marinelle guided my family to register in GSCC in 2009.

As time goes by, my husband Christopher was blessed and converted to Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults in March 2017.

Also, my husband and I marriage was blessed by Reverend Thomas J. Gaul on March 27, 2017.

Next, on June 7, 2017, we were both blessed on our 25th marriage anniversary by Deacon Pat Snyder. My husband Christopher and I celebrated our Silver Marriage Anniversary in GSCC. We really had great time with our family and friends.

We both are very thankful to God for our togetherness. Our lives had some difficulties but made our lives stronger to survive. And thankful to our Good Shepherd community guiding us to meet our happiness as we made our lifetime together.

Thank you so much Lord Jesus Christ for everything!

Submitted By: Aurelia D. Wilson



Our Parishioners Stories

“Do you also bless a house, daddy?”

Since May 2014, upon relocating from Alaska, my family and I have worshiped steadily here at the Good Shepherd parish at Hope Mills, North Carolina. As a veteran family this is our 3rd Good Shepherd Parish (previously, Orlando-Florida- where our children received their infant baptism; and Fort Wainwright-Alaska, from where I deployed to Afghanistan). So, the Good Shepherd means a lot to my entire family than words could precisely describe. Memorably, that teachable moment remains permanent for my youngsters, when Father Thomas Gaul did us the honor of blessing our new home in Raeford after we closed on the purchase deal. At that event, while sprinkling Holy Water around every nook and cranny of the house, Father Gaul emphasized to us, that it's essential to bless the home frequently. And yes, Father Gaul told us; “you should also bless every gift that God gives you”

The mustard seed: The parable of the mustard seed was animated every year, as our erstwhile shepherd Reverend Father Gaul, ensured that we get to see, feel, touch, and take home the mustard seed. This sure provided a great forum for my elementary school graders to frequently reflect on the multiple aspects of the faith teaching. There's no gainsaying that they attempted to sow them in our backyard garden, and eagerly looked forward to the giant tree sprouting therein. Yes, in its fresh and untreated form, it is likely to grow in any environment.

Historical Milestones: As we mark the fortieth anniversary of our beloved parish, my reflections focus on four resonating landmarks. The mustard seed (really, mustard grain) experience narrated above, stands out as first in the milestones. Secondly, it is distinctive (going through the parish pastoral archives), that our beloved parish has been blessed with 10 Shepherding Pastors since 1981. Thirdly -and modestly- two parishes; San Isidro (Fayetteville), and Saint Elizabeth of Hungary (Raeford) stand quite vibrantly as fostered outposts parish communities to the testament of the Good Shepherd. His anointing surely overflows (Psalm 23:5).

The Vocations Chalice: The fourth landmark is uniquely distinctive, and rooted in its liturgical experiences. Every week, the faithfuls get to take the chalice home, for prayers! Yes, prayer for vocations. There could be other parishes unknown to me, where parishioner get to take home the sacred chalice blessing their homes. However, in my previous Good Shepherd parishes, this never happened. Here in our beloved parish, our cup truly runs over (Psalm 23:5). Similarly, our liturgical experiences have been richly humanized by the many practical homilies afforded us yearly to know, and really touch the gold, frankincense, and myrrh that our infant savior Jesus received at birth from the three wisemen (Matt 2:11).

Coming of Age : Finally, in my view, the vibrancy of the Legion of Mary Ministry, emerging in the past couple of years, truly fosters a recognition in the fashion of the sacrament of confirmation, at which we officially become soldiers of Christ. There are multiple symbolisms of forty years, and the number 40 that we cannot afford to miss. In addition to Jesus Christ's stay in the wilderness for 40 days, it is well known that the Lenten season lasts for 40 days from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday, which replicates spiritual testing for the faithfuls. Moreover, the great flood of Noah was 40 days-and-40 nights of rainfall (Genesis 7:12). Perhaps most noticeably, as parishioners, this fortieth year marks a new era that also mirrors the 40 years the Israelites spent in the wilderness of Egypt (Joshua 5:6). Evidently, our parish has truly attained maturity. With the prominence of the mustard seed, the good shepherd furnishes us with the stability of mind, body, and soul.

The Years Ahead: This week's readings exhort us as one body with many parts in Christ, (1Corithians 12) to support one another in Him. As we welcome our new shepherd Father Arul, let us continue to support and pray for our local ordinaire His Excellency the Most Reverend, Luis Raphael Zarama, the Bishop of the Diocese of Raleigh, North Carolina. May the Holy Spirit of God continue to guide and strengthen us all in or various vineyard callings. Amen

-Alex Osifo

Our Parishioners Stories

My Time at Good Shepherd

"You must have a wonderful peaceful workday everyday working at a church! I'm envious!" If we had a dollar for every time someone has said that to us, we would be billionaires. Among staff, we have joked and said, "If people only knew what goes on here, they'd be shocked, as we do not sit around all day twiddling our thumbs."

I started serving the parish first as a catechist for a middle school class with many prayers and expressions of gratitude. I made the big time when Jan Carnahan asked me to become her administrative assistant in April 1999. I learned the inner workings of the parish office, which was more intense than I ever imagined, and enjoyed working with Jan, DRE. My part-time position was created to relieve some of the pressure on the director as we had 500 students receiving instruction.

In 2005, I was promoted, as the "Dragon Lady", the Parish Administrator, retired and I was awarded her position. I had the honor of becoming the new Dragon Lady!

In 1996 there were ten ministries within the parish, which were led by the pastor, two full-time lay staff members, and seven lay part-time or unpaid staff members. We experienced a doubling of the membership from around 300 families to 600 families, which caused a doubling of ministries and staff members during our time of service, to include a permanent deacon and associate pastor. All that growth was exhilarating and challenging as the parish changed from a community where everyone knew each other in a sleepy Southern town to one that experienced an influx of people from all over the country and the world. In 2005, the Diocese ordained its first class of permanent deacons, and our parish was blessed to have two of them. The Spanish-speaking one was assigned as Pastoral Administrator for the parish mission and the other English-speaking one was assigned to our parish.

Catholic priests come in a wide variety of shapes,

sizes, temperament, and sense of humor. For instance, we had a pastor who was called "El Magnifico" by his best friend, a retired Army physician, because of his sensitivity to proper protocol, dress, and decorum and who admired the Marines as the epitome of honor and glory. His sensibilities were assaulted by the associate pastor one day, who was a retired Army chaplain.

One of the staff had a son who was put on in-school suspension for three days because he entertained his classmates by activating his fart-sound device whenever the teacher moved or sat down. The staff member confiscated the device and related the latest incident with her wayward son to the associate pastor, who roared with approval and insisted she bring the device to the office the next day, which she did. The device had a cordless mic, which the associate pastor placed in the pastor's office, and then went into his own office across the hall. All the staff had their doors open so we could hear what was about to happen. The pastor waltzed into his office and immediately sat down. A loud "ppfft" sound emanated from his office. All held their breath to hear his response. Dead silence. A few minutes later, the associate pastor walked to the doorway of the pastor's office and began talking to him. When the pastor swiveled his chair to respond, another "ppfft" could be heard. The pastor, not missing a beat, said, "I wondered who was making those atrocious noises. Having a problem with gas?" The associate shot back, "Not me. Must be you." The pastor's response? ... "I haven't eaten anything that would give me that problem." Later, after the pastor had left the office, the associate grumbled, "He didn't even smile when I showed him the fart machine. Pretended that he'd figured it out.

I could go on about rewarding stories of the many colorful priests and activities that have taken place at Good Shepherd. I really enjoyed my time while an employee at Good Shepherd. Many wonderful memories.

-Janice Scott

Our Parishioners Stories

These are stories submitted by the people of Good Shepherd.

My Story

My beginning is as a cradle Catholic, from cradle to confirmation. Attended Catholic School until the 8th grade, and regular High School. Then college, worked, and married. Raised six children, lost two. During that time, I became estranged from the Church, with working and raising a family. Then I retired moved here to North Carolina. In 2008, after sometime I realized that something was missing in my life. I started to look for a church. I chose Good Shepherd because of its size, I grew up in a small church. After attending Sunday Masses and registering I was approached by Janice to be an usher. Then I thought is there more that I could do so I became a greeter. So I went to the Church Office, spoke to Jan; what ministries need help? I was told that Sick & Homebound. She asked, are you married? I said yes, but my wife of 35 years is in a different denomination. So Father Gaul married us. Before that I became a Knight of Columbus, first, second and third degree in two months and fourth degree some time later. Then I became a Sacristan and EXO. I attend Church regularly and pray daily. We are thankful that the Lord is in our life.

Submitted by: Bill Ball



A Few Anecdotes from Parishioners

During an Easter Vigil Service one year before the Church was built, Mass was being celebrated at the Presbyterian Church. While outside at the fire pit (actually a small grill) for the blessing of the Pascal Candle, a passerby commented that they should get a bigger grill for so many people.

The first fundraiser, organized by the Social Committee, was a luau. This was before the Church was constructed. The fundraiser was held in the field where the overflow parking is today. A hole was dug for a pig roast and Polynesian dancers danced in the back of a flat bed truck. So many people showed up that there were complaints of the food taking too long. It was a very successful fundraiser and the first of many by the Social Committee.

Octoberfest was hosted by the Knights of Columbus a few years. The event included many booths to have fun at, even one where you could send someone to jail and they had to buy their freedom. It was an all day event leading up to Mass on Saturday.

Many seminarians have spent time at Good Shepherd, along with several Religious Sisters, including Sister Laretta.

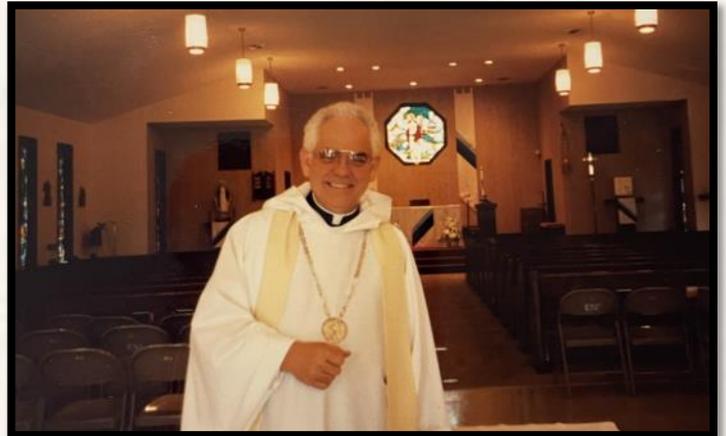
The pulpit was donated to the Church by Bob and Mary Ellen Deberson (Barringer). Chester Burnoj made the Altar.

Our Parishioners Photos

These are photos submitted by the people of Good Shepherd.



Agnes Lightcap & Sr. Laretta Posey



Father Lewis



Kitty & James Wethington, Father Gaul



Father Phillip farewell dinner at the Grupy's



Joseph Bailer

Al Grupy



Father Lewis' Welcome Lunch

Our Parish

Pictures of Good Shepherd as it is in 2021



GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH	
MASS SCHEDULE	RECONCILIATION
TUES 9 AM	WED 5:30 PM
WED 6:30 PM	SAT 4:00 PM
THURS 9 AM	—OR BY APPT
FRI 12 PM	Q OFFICE HOURS
SAT 5:30 PM	MON-FRI
SUN 8:30 AM	10 - 4
11:30 AM	CONTACT #
	810.425.1590
PASTOR FR. ARUL YAGAPPAN, MGS	

