

COMBINED COMMISSION REPORTS

RECTOR, SENIOR WARDEN, JUNIOR WARDEN

OCTOBER 2024

RECTOR - FR. JOE HUDSON

It is a joy to see our Northern Light good friends beginning to return to their winter nesting place here at Good Shepherd! Living in southwest Florida does bring its unique situations, including that of having two different seasonal communities. Although many of our Northern Lights have been out of sight to us for many months, yet, thankfully due to Livestreaming, we are not always out of their sight and hearing as they join us for services and various Zoom occasions.

If you observe our weekly Eblasts you cannot miss how things around here ramp up during our “in-season” time. There are many activities going on each week, and only a certain number of locations to meet at any given time. It does present good logistical challenges. Now that we are on the other side of the Pandemic, and Ian restoration, we are beginning to establish some kind of “normal” rhythm with our growing congregation with their Rector and clergy and staff. I am VERY thankful for the many passionate workers around here who make sure things run as smoothly as possible.

In October, along with our usual activities, we welcomed St. Francis by blessing dogs and cats on the 4th. In support of our community, I rubbed shoulders with other election Inspectors two afternoons as a Pollworker for Early Voting. The Hudson Fellowship Flock has also begun again after the summer break.

Fr. Joe

SR. WARDEN - BOB SAWYER

October was another exciting month as we had to deal with yet another hurricane, this time named Milton. God truly blessed us as we had no damage to our building this time around, thanks in large part to all the hard work of our Parish Revisioning Team (“PRT”) and Project Management Team (“PMT”) over the two years after Hurricane Ian. Our new roof and hurricane impact windows weathered the storm brilliantly!

My activities during October included:

- On 3 Thursdays, I participated in the Men's Bible Study.
- On 10/8, an intrepid team placed plastic sheeting and sandbags on all the doors of the church, getting ready for Milton.
- On 10/14, the PMT met to evaluate the effects of the hurricane and to organize a plan to evaluate possible systems to protect our doors from future flooding.
- On 10/15, I attended a Good Fellas morning worship service; delivered our donations to the Center of Hope; attended a stewardship committee meeting and spiritual formation committee meeting in the afternoon. And finally, I attended the Vestry meeting in the evening. A busy day!!
- On 10/16, I visited the Buonarosas with Deacon Rich.
- On 10/23, I chaired a meeting of the Diocesan Disciplinary Board; and later attended our monthly Flock gathering.
- On 10/24, a group of parishioners met with Ms. Denise Grimes from an organization called "Care Portal." This is a new initiative brought forward by our Outreach leaders, Megarie VS and Christine P.
- On 10/26, I picked up the wine, beer and pizza for the party held after the Saturday evening service. Over 80 people attended. Wow!
- On 10/28, the altar party met to rehearse the use of incense for All Saints Sunday.
- On 10/31, the stewardship committee gathered to stuff envelopes for our Annual Fund Campaign mailing.

I need a vacation!

Bob Sawyer
Senior Warden

JR. WARDEN - DON MCKELVY

Thanks to Fr. Joe, Paul Altimier, Bob Sawyer, Dave Beall, and Rich Esposito who joined me in prepping our church for Hurricane Milton. All of our entrances were protected with sandbags and tarps and we did not have any water enter the building. We did experience a large number of downed branches and the pressure tank to our well was knocked over. We had a good turnout for our "cleanup party" on Saturday October 11th. The parking lot was cleared of tree branches and our main entrances were cleared. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped cleanup! American Drilling remounted our pressure tank which included replumbing the system and replacing the damaged

fittings. Our lawn service provider removed the large piles of branches and storm debris. We replaced our U.S. and Episcopal flags by our entrance. The Vestry approved the purchase of new programmable thermostats which will allow us to better control the temperature and humidity in the church. A new hot water heater was installed in the kitchen which will provide service to our new dishwasher. Thankfully, we have moved past hurricane season (I hope!). Thanks to everyone who helped with the prep and cleanup this season.

Thanks, and God Bless,

Donald A. McKelvy, Jr. Warden