

COMBINED REPORTS

March 2026

HOSPITALITY - Pat Madyda and Donna McCutcheon

The Newcomer's Reception was held on March 24th. The event went well. A total of 42 were in attendance. This consisted of the Clergy, Fr. Joe and Desiree Hudson, Fr. John Warfel, Deacon Rich and Kathie Wilson, Deacon Michael Kitt and Deacon John Riherd. Church Staff consisted of Nancy Fees and Ella Fast. The Vestry attended along with Lynne Altimier, Treasurer. Pat Madyda and Donna Our quilting bees were busy "buzzing" around on Tuesday March 10th for our CWF meeting. Our guest speaker, Martha Nehers, shared both historical and current information on quilts and brought a large display of all sizes, shapes and colors for our ladies to see. Also other ladies from our parish shared their quilt collections with us:- Sue Miller, Bobbie Kropff and Jane Murphy. Judy Becker, Are' Weerasodroya, and Carolyn Hinton - for supplied delicious desserts to share! were the Hospitality Committee reps. The rest of the attendees consisted of newcomers and some long-standing members.

Donna and Pat coordinated, ordered from Publix and picked up the food. The Vestry was charged with bringing appetizers and wine. There was a donation of white wine from the Men's Breakfast group. We also served iced tea and water. Bob Sawyer was the Bartender Extraordinaire.

There was a meet and great time when the appetizers were offered. Then the buffet line was opened with all the food/dessert on the serving table. Fr. Joe led the evening Agenda with the Vestry Members being introduced and describing the jobs/liaison roles they have. The event was over around 7:30.

We continue to order kitchen supplies via Amazon through Nancy Fees. The pantry and back room will continue to be organized as events happen.

Christian Women's Fellowship - Carol Gargon

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Sincerely,
Pat Madyda
secamad@gmail.com

Donna McCutcheon
mccutcheond@yahoo.com

OUTREACH: Barbara Davis and Megarie van Sickel

The Outreach team had a busy month with its scholarship awards as well as our ongoing programs.

The Outreach team's scholarship project for low-income students pursuing technical and vocational studies worked with Suncoast Technical College's financial aid office counselors to identify and recommend needy recipients for the winter/spring semester. The funding for these first students comes from a generous anonymous Good Shepherd parishioner who has donated \$5,000. The Outreach Commission already had a budget of \$5,000. appropriated for five scholarships. The additional donation has made a total scholarship budget of \$10,000. available for ten separate \$1,000. awards this year. Four Suncoast referred vocational students were interviewed for their eligibility and selected to each receive a \$1,000. award. One is studying HV AC installation and repair, another is studying digital cinematography and Artificial Intelligence, and two are obtaining their Licensed Practical Nursing degrees. The students were notified in late March and early April and expressed their deep gratitude to Good Shepherd. The Outreach Commission will continue to work with Suncoast Technical College to award the remaining six \$1,000. scholarships this year.

Food distribution continued throughout March with All Faiths Food Bank on the first and third Wednesdays, coordinated by John Buntel. Panera and Publix overstock bread and pastry items are delivered each Monday to Children First's Project Headstart classes in Venice by Megarie van Sickel. Grace Gagliardi oversees and schedules the two store pickups and deliveries of our food donations to the Center of Hope.

Planning continued for the annual children's book drive, which will run from April 12 to May 10 to benefit The Twig Cares and Children First's Project Headstart classes. Parishioners will be asked to purchase new fiction and nonfiction books to help The Twig's foster children clients from birth through teens and the Children First's preschoolers. Last year over 200 books were donated to benefit The Twig charity and this year we are pleased to be adding Children First as a recipient. The weekly newsletter featured the drive to build up interest. A book cart will be located in the Parish Hall for members to bring in their donations.

Eight Good Shepherd Habitat for Humanity volunteers, led by Dave Beall, are ready for their next assignment after completing a new home this winter.

The mini-grant program is reviewing worthy local charities for this year's funding. This program has a budget of \$2,000. for four charities to receive \$500. each. John Pearson is assisting with research for potential recipients.

The Creative Designs ministry is currently on hiatus and weekly meetings will resume later in the year.

A thank you luncheon for all the Outreach Commission chairs is being planned for Friday, April 24 in the church library with invitations extended. The luncheon will be combined with an informal meeting with reports from all the Outreach chairs.

The Outreach team is grateful to the parish for its support and donations which make all these contributions to the community possible.

Megarie van Sickel
Barbara Davis
Outreach Co-Chairs

PARISH CARE - Elaine Hedrick

The Parish Care Commission did not meet in March and will not meet in April, but will begin to meet in May to form a group that is being recruited to work on preparing to give at least two presentations to the congregation during the 2026-2027 season for our parish. For one presentation, we await further direction from the clergy and communications groups to form new, explanatory instructions as to the process and paperwork that needs to be completed in order to request interment in our church Memorial Garden and/or funeral services to be held at Good Shepherd. For the second presentation regarding Aging and Senior Services available in the Venice area, once members have been recruited to work on this project, we will begin to prepare a presentation which would be informational and helpful to our full-time members and seasonal members as well.

Pam Clark
Parish Commission Chair

Grief Recovery – Deacon Rich

Nothing to report.

Mailbox Ministry – Megarie van Sickel

March 2026

Birthday cards sent - 22
Anniversary - 3
Get well – 4
Sympathy - 1

Comfort Meals – Barbara Rao

No food distributions in March 2026.

Eucharistic Visits – Deacon Rich

March 2026: 7 Visitations with 23 Communicants. March Year to Date: 19 Visitations with 53 Communicants.

PRAYER TEAM – EK Beall/Liz Bosch

The total number of NEW Prayer Requests for the month of March was 6. We also had UPDATED Prayer Requests for those on our on-going prayer list for a total of 4.

Our Prayer Support Team continues to pray daily for those on our prayer list, as well as contacting them throughout the month with phone calls, emails, and personal visits. We also offer Intercessory Prayer during our 10:00 a.m. Sunday Service for those who wish prayer for themselves, or for their loved ones.

It is truly a privilege to pray for our Good Shepherd family, to offer our comfort and support in their time of need.

Sending God's Peace, Love and Prayers,

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SPIRITUAL FORMATION - Libby Chinman

Happy Easter!!

We are on our way to another Florida spring time here at Good Shepherd!!

It's been wonderful having our Northern light families with us!

We were fortunate in having studies continue with Father Joe's Core Curriculum program which will continue into next session when he returns from sabbatical.

Deacon John offered an Lent study, and Deacon Michael offered the Prodigal Son, soup and Compline service on Friday evenings.

It was a beautiful Lent into Easter season.

Women's Bible study and Centering Prayer as well as our various Flocks are always available.

Look to E-blasts and the Communication table at back of Parish hall for all upcoming events!

Any questions, please contact me:

Libby Chinman

WELCOME - Bob Sawyer

During the past month:

Our greeters and ushers faithfully served at all Sunday worship services.

I served on the crew for the Community Dinners on March 11th and 25th.

I was the "MC" for the St. Patrick's Day Dinner on March 21st.

I served as the bartender at the Newcomer's Reception on March 24th.

Bob Sawyer