

Congregational Date: Church of the Good Shepherd 138th Annual Meeting

Date: January 27, 2019

Speaker: Mrs. Jill Rosier, CGS Senior Warden

Topic: Senior Warden's Report

It is great to see you all here today! Thank you for making the time to attend today's Annual Meeting, especially with the date change. Many thanks to the Fellowship committee, especially to Maureen Legallo and Karen Desjadon for organizing the luncheon, and thanks to everyone that prepared and brought food today or helped with set up/clean up.

Congratulations to the incoming members of the vestry, this will no doubt be an amazing time to be part of Vestry as we interview and call our new Rector. Thank you to the outgoing members of the Vestry, and immense thanks to all members of the Vestry for your dedication and commitment to CGS for the past year. The additional time you have given as we continue to move through this transition is greatly appreciated. If during today's meeting you were curious or had lots of questions, I encourage you to run for Vestry in the years to come, it is fun, interesting and you really get to know others on Vestry.

2018 was another great year here. We continued with programs and events that have been an integral part of CGS for so many years, but we have also added new one such as the wildly successful Gingerbread Church event for the Holiday Stroll. Thank you to the committee that worked tirelessly to make this happen; John Lewis, Missy Carnevale, Adrienne Marshall, Diane Robinson and Denise Thompson. Pastor Kate was instrumental in starting the Community Garden, receiving a mission resources grant to help fund this wonderful program bringing together so many organizations in the Nashua area working together to provide healthy and fresh foods for some of our neighbors in need.

Last Spring we held 3 Community Action Focus Groups and from these gatherings we learned that people were looking for hands on and direct service opportunities. So we had our 1st CGS Cares Day. 15 parishioners from age 14 up worked on projects around our property. I am happy to report that we will have the 2nd CGS Cares Day this Spring, watch for details soon. It is our hope CGS Cares Days will be a regular event working on our own property and extending out into the community helping at other organizations.

The Front Door Agency continues to be a strong part of our legacy. Aside from our monetary giving as a parish, we provided Christmas gifts for 51 children, several Easter Baskets, Backpacks for back to school, and due to an abundance of pumpkins in the garden decorated pumpkins with children and their mothers. Toiletry drives, food donations and the countless volunteer hours of CGS members reaffirms that FDA is the backbone of our Community Action here at CGS.

We have been blessed with new faces and members joining our parish which is always wonderful. The Welcoming Committee is hard at work planning newcomer events and other ways to help new parishioners feel connected.

We are blessed to have incredible clergy guiding us through this time. We continue to be grateful to Pastor Fred, our interim consultant for his guidance and support in this transition time. Pastor Kate – thank you for everything you give to CGS and the greater Nashua Community. Your input and devotion to the Community Garden has been instrumental in its success. The confirmation process, under your guidance the confirmation process for our youth is evolving into a meaningful process with adult mentors, allowing these youth to deepen their faith. Thank you for all you do.

Pastor Alanna, 8 and ½ years ago you joined our parish as assistant rector. I have been fortunate to work closely with you from the beginning, as part of the search committee, then as the Sunday School Coordinator and now as Senior Warden. Witnessing your growth in this time at CGS is incredible, from a nervous new rector giving your first sermon to now leading this large, active and strong parish for 2 years under your strong leadership is most impressive. I have said from the start of this transition your compassion for and commitment to this parish is incredible. You continue to work tirelessly leading us, guiding us and imparting on us so much knowledge so that we can move forward successfully after you leave. Yes you do love a meeting or two, now and then, but I know it is with the best intentions that you like to gather us together, (to put our best foot forward as we call our next Rector). Saying good bye will be difficult but I have no doubt God has incredible plans for you. I want to take this moment to also thank your family, Franklin and Nora, for sharing you so generously with us.

Thank you to Mary O'Reilly and Pastor Kate for the ongoing dedication to the Sunday School program and to all the Sunday School teachers for all you do. Thank you to Nancy Madeira, our youth leader this year. She leads a strong group of youth advisors as they guide our youth in their faith, including Leo and Eileen Brunk, Calann Hertel. Again this year, CGS will send a large group of our youth to NJ for the annual Mission Trip in July. Remember to get your flyer and eat at Margarita's next Wednesday night Feb 6th to raise funds for this important trip. ? Erin story.

Brett continues to lead our music program with brilliance and devotion, with many opportunities for one to be involved with music here at CGS, a number of choirs, kids programs and bell choirs. Brett all of your hard work is so appreciated and is not unnoticed. Thank you.

We have an incredible and hardworking office staff of Laurie Ascani and Abbie Law, dedicated to their responsibilities at CGS to keep us humming along, frequently going above and beyond. Any opportunity to have to say thank you to them, please do.

And to our search committee, the time has come, the end is near. You are now in the exciting time of interviewing and meeting candidates. I continue to hear about all the excellent applicants, one of whom will become our next rector. Thank you for giving so much of yourself to this very important task. Oh I wish I could be a fly on the wall in your interviews and meetings!!

I thank everyone who gives their time to be part of the many programs and groups, which are an integral part of what we love about CGS and what makes it our church home. This is a wonderful, busy place!

CGS continues to be a vibrant, active and strong community. It is the people of this parish that make CGS what it is.

CGS Strong!