

Church of the Good Shepherd

Dunedin, FL • January 2009

Our Vision:



The Church of the Good Shepherd is called by God to seek out, bring home, nurture and feed the people of God in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Our Mission:

We respond to this call by:

- valuing** the expression of God through all peoples –
- sharing** the Word of God through the celebration of the Episcopal Liturgy –
- inviting** full participation into the life of our congregation –
- responding** to the needs of our parish and the greater community.



The Church of the Good Shepherd • Dunedin, FL

Belief Statement

As Christians we pray and strive to be more like Jesus—seeking out and caring for the people of God.

We celebrate our traditional Episcopal liturgy and enjoy the flexibility it provides for creativity in worship and music. We value our holy and historic church building, and feel its atmosphere enhances the timelessness of our beliefs.

We are a warm and friendly church, reaching out to people of all types throughout the community. We provide an inclusive and inviting church for families and children. We value our senior members, ensuring them access and inclusion.

We invite and encourage new members to join us and to be part of the activities and ministries of our congregational life. We expect members to participate and to lead according to their means and talents, sharing their gifts. We find our loads lighter and more enjoyable with many people taking part in our responsibilities as well as our fellowship and fun.

Our parish reaches out to help others while remaining conscious of our available resources. We provide a healing ministry, responsive to the needs of our members and our neighbors. We maintain an awareness of the needs of the broader community and world, striving to respond effectively as we are able.

Objectives and Actions Statements (for the next four years)

Objective: To hold true to the Episcopal Liturgy, with its many creative aspects, as a full expression of our faith.

Action: We will use the Episcopal liturgy as the main opportunity to bring the whole of the congregation together to hear the Word of God, understand our call to ministry and learn about our faith tradition.

Objective: To reduce our reliance on the Endowment Fund for balancing the budget.

Action: We will develop a comprehensive strategy that will systematically reduce the reliance on the endowment *and* increase income from other sources. We will do this by focusing on God's presence through WHAT we have, WHO we are, WHERE we are going, and HOW are we going to get there

Objective: To establish and foster an environment which is inclusive and inviting to children and youth

Action: We will offer programming that responds to the needs of the young people we serve in the congregation and community; and create a warm and welcoming environment for families, children and youth through fellowship/program/ministry opportunities (in concert with other affected committees or commissions) and with the enhancement of the physical spaces at Good Shepherd.

Objective: To enable and support all members to participate in the formal and informal positions offered in this parish.

Action: We will develop a leadership training process that finds, equips, and encourages member participation and leadership in all areas of parish ministry in order to minimize lay leader burnout, invite new ideas and perspectives, and expand the pool of qualified members into leadership roles.

Objective: To develop and maintain a coordinated process which invites membership into Good Shepherd, thereby encouraging growth.

Action: We will build on our warm, friendly community by 1. strengthening, nurturing and growing our core committed members into an inwardly spiritually rich community and an outwardly reaching congregation as we, 2. welcome and equip Seekers to become full members in the Body of Christ.

Objective: To extend outreach to the senior members of our parish and individuals in the greater community.

Action: We will strengthen the family sense and individual connections within our parish thereby encouraging greater fellowship in a Christian community. We will do this by enhancing pastoral energies focused on the senior members of our parish; enhancing current fellowship opportunities as well as develop new ones, providing transportation as needed; and by developing an outreach program to the senior members and homeless in our community.

Objective: To nurture and encourage a healing ministry that responds comprehensively to the needs of our parish and the greater community.

Action: We will develop parish-wide engagement opportunities to receive healing through the love of Christ; to learn about healing ministries; and to find ways to share a healing ministry with others.