

Parish Profile

**Good
Shepherd
Episcopal**

*Friendswood,
Texas*





WELCOME



We are a Pastoral-sized church continually seeking, in a spirit of love and respect, to provide meaning and purpose to all our members and our community through the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Good Shepherd is a place of worship where we maintain and deepen our faith; where we renew our hope in God's love; and from which we go out into the world to spread the Good News of God's love.

About Good Shepherd

Good Shepherd is a church that seeks to offer love, fellowship and acceptance in the community of Friendswood, Texas. We believe in holy scripture, tradition and reason as we do what is needed for our church to be a sanctuary.

Starting in 1959 in the Friendswood School auditorium, Good Shepherd has matured through four Rectors.

From the beginning, our church offered sanctuary to those seeking it. Our church doors were never locked, allowing entry to those who wanted to pray, needed a place to escape, or spend the night. Several people have shared that our church was their haven when they had nowhere to go.

Introduction

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Office@gshepherd.net



www.gshepherd.net/gsec/home



[https://www.facebook.com/
GoodShepherdEpiscopalChurchFriendswood/](https://www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdEpiscopalChurchFriendswood/)

OUR VISION

*To offer love, fellowship,
and acceptance to our
community and each
other through Jesus
Christ.*

OUR VALUES

- *Service to others*
- *Hospitality and fellowship*
- *Intellectual curiosity*
- *Our church family*
- *Meaningful worship*

OUR MISSION

*It is to serve the Lord by bringing
the peace and love of Christ to
all.*

all are

welcome

here...

Rector We Seek



The rector we seek is a committed **follower** of the teachings of Jesus Christ manifested through Episcopal discipline and doctrine.

The rector we seek is a **pastor** who can minister to the spiritual needs of the congregation and encourage respectful relationships among our parishioners; a pastor who helps us discover new ways to strengthen our worship and attract new families into our fellowship; a pastor who deepens our sense of connection to God and one another through strong worship services.

The rector we seek is a **preacher** who can effectively communicate the Gospel and inspire the people to apply its precepts in their everyday lives; a preacher who reminds us that Sunday worship is only the beginning of our weekly walk with God in the world.

The rector we seek is a **teacher** who can show us the way to an ever-closer connection with God; a teacher who can encourage and foster spiritual formation for all ages.

These attributes combine to make a **leader** for our congregation who can

- Help us maintain and renew our work to become what God is calling Good Shepherd to be
- Be open to and supportive of music and liturgy styles that can present a meaningful worship experience to the congregation
- Develop and encourage the spiritual generosity of the people to financially support the church and its many ministries
- Encourage parishioners to join in fellowship away from the church campus – shared meals, small group meetings, etc.
- Develop and encourage strong lay leadership
- Work with the Vestry and other lay leaders in performing the day-to-day business of the church
- Support all Good Shepherd's outreach ministries
- Work to continue and strengthen community partnerships
- Acknowledge the diverse talents and life experiences that Good Shepherd's parishioners have to offer





Our History

In the beginning there were 17 sheep and one shepherd. On Palm Sunday in 1959, the Rev. Mark Boesser, Rector of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, League City, held Good Shepherd's first worship service in the auditorium of the Friendswood School. In July 1959 a ground-breaking ceremony was held on a five-acre prairie tract in Galveston County located on the outskirts of Friendswood. The land had been purchased by the Rt. Rev. John Hines, an extraordinary man of vision who later became Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church.

The Rev. Boesser served as priest-in-charge until 1963 when the Rev. J. Raper was appointed as the church's vicar. The Rev. Bill Sterling served Good Shepherd from 1966 until he was elected Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Texas in 1989. For the first years, Good Shepherd continued to hold services at Friendswood High School. It was an exciting time --NASA was developing its space program to put a man on the moon. Many of the people moving to the area to work for NASA or NASA's contractors found their way to Friendswood and to Good Shepherd. Not only did they work together, but they prayed together as well. Our first building, a multi-purpose building designed for worship and community services, was dedicated in June 1969.

Friendswood, originally founded by Quakers, still prohibited dancing. Good Shepherd soon broke with the tradition and held the first high school dances in Friendswood. From the beginning, Good Shepherd had a reputation for offering sanctuary to those seeking it. The church doors were never locked, allowing entry to those who wanted to pray or who needed a place to escape or spend the night. Several people have shared with us that our church was a haven for them when they had nowhere else to go.

Good Shepherd obtained Parish status in 1977. In 1980, a new worship space was completed. On Palm Sunday, 1999, we dedicated our parish hall, Sterling Hall, named in honor of former rector Bill Sterling and his wife, Evelyn. Considerable "sweat equity" was invested in the building of Sterling Hall, with many parishioners sacrificing countless hours in general planning and construction. The congregation participated in the raising of the walls and provided much of the interior work.



In 2001 our main worship space was significantly remodeled. We expanded the seating and added a chapel, choir room, prayer room and Bride's room/parlor. We celebrated the grand opening and re-dedication of our beautiful worship space on Pentecost Sunday, 2004. God has continued to bless Good Shepherd. We embraced our Vision of being a sanctuary in early 2001. Our average Sunday attendance more than doubled from 151 in 2000 to 320 in 2010, and our capacity to provide sanctuary in an atmosphere of love, security and support has multiplied.

Good Shepherd continues to earn praise for the friendliness of its people and its worship environment. It is not a pretentious church. It is an active, worshipping community of people who are dedicated to their church and the Lord's charge to be a servant to others.



Sunday Mornings at Good Shepherd

Good Shepherd has worship services on Sunday morning. We had two worship services before COVID and currently still have one service as we are cautiously gathering together again.

- **8:00 AM** service is Holy Communion **Rite I**, and is a spoken service.

- **10:00 AM** service is Holy Communion **Rite II** with music.

Children ages 3 through 10 are invited to Children's Church for their own worship service during the first part of the 10:00 am service. After the sermon the children rejoin their families for Holy Communion.

In worship, we are united, acknowledging the holiness of God, to hear God's Word, to offer prayer, and to celebrate God's presence among us. All are welcome to participate in our worship services. It is in worship that we live out our life as a Christian family. Our service follows the Book of Common Prayer; two-thirds of which is scriptural. The Book of Common Prayer allows everyone to participate, reminding us that each person is an important part of the worship experience. Every worship service includes the reading of Holy Scripture from the Old and New Testaments.



Worship Ministries

We strive for our services to be exceptional in both quality and spiritual content. We desire to deepen our sense of connection to God and one another through strong worship services.

Music Ministry The mission of the Music Ministry is to enrich worship at Good Shepherd.

The Choir provides music at the principal service and at special celebrations throughout the church year.

The Handbell Choir is a group of 8-10 dedicated souls who play occasionally for the joy it brings them and the congregation.

The Praise Band provides contemporary Christian music at various times throughout the church year.

Service Ministries

† Acolytes † Altar Guild † Lay Readers † Vergers † LEV

† LEM

† Prayer Team † Ushers † Greeters † Children's Chapel team



Parish Life

- Christian Formation
- Spiritual Growth
- Ministries
- Community Connections
- Activities
- Parish School



Christian Formation

Good Shepherd is blessed with a team of dedicated and inspired teachers for Christian formation. These leaders infuse their ministry with enthusiasm and devotion to provide a positive environment for age-appropriate learning.

Adult Formation

Opportunities for Christian education for adults are offered on Sunday mornings. The discussion is based on Sunday's liturgy with special topics added throughout the year. Other offerings are provided throughout the week.

Youth Formation

Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) is for youth 6th grade through High School. Our program is designed to promote Spiritual Formation for young people. "Spiritual Formation" means learning by engaging in Christian practices and then reflecting on them with others. This 'doing' and 'reflecting' helps us to form young people in their faith. Instead of just talking about Christian service, we SERVE. Instead of teaching about prayer, we PRAY. Instead of sharing about Christian Community, we actively and intentionally work to BUILD the community.

Children's Formation

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a Montessori-based Christian formation curriculum for ages 3 through 6.

Good Shepherd's Nursery is available during all Sunday worship services. Our professional staff provides care for children 4 years and younger in an attractive, clean and loving environment.

Children's Church is for preschool through fifth grade. They are invited to Children's Church for their own worship service during the first part of our main service in the sanctuary. Children's Church helps children to learn and understand the basics of a typical Episcopal worship service. Simple craft projects or coloring pages are often used to illustrate the Gospel lesson.

Sunday School is provided during adult formation for children ages 7 through fifth grade.

Spiritual Growth



Wednesday service and Bible study is held in the chapel and includes prayers for healing and celebration of the Eucharist.

Daughters of the King's mission is to extend Christ's Kingdom through prayer, service, and evangelism. Good Shepherd's DOK chapter meets monthly for prayer, study and outreach. The DOK has a dynamic prayer network.

Lenten Series are hosted at Good Shepherd leading up to Easter.

Baptism and Confirmation Preparation Classes are offered by appointment for people who are interested in Baptism. Confirmation classes are offered once a year.

Women's Bible Study happens in the fall and spring of each year. Good Shepherd offers Bible studies for women that meet once a week. The classes are designed to strengthen participants' relationships with Christ and one another.

Alpha Course is an opportunity to explore the meaning of life in a relaxed, friendly setting. The Alpha Course has been offered several times over the past few years at Good Shepherd. The Alpha Course usually meets once per week for ten weeks. During each session, people enjoy great food, laughter and learning in a fun and friendly atmosphere.

Ministries

Newcomer Ministry

Good Shepherd's Newcomer Ministry is facilitated by a designated staff member. Great attention is paid to helping visitors feel comfortable and engaged as a new member of our church family. Our newcomers are welcomed in several intentional ways.

Newcomer Bags Every Sunday during announcements, newcomers are invited to identify themselves. We offer each newcomer a Welcome bag which provides information about Good Shepherd and what our church has to offer as their new spiritual home.

Liturgy of Belonging This liturgy is included in our worship service on a quarterly basis for those newcomers who have decided to join our church family. New members come to us in a variety of ways and this is our opportunity, as a church family, to officially welcome them. This short liturgy includes vows for both the new members and the congregation. The members of the congregation and the new members pledge to encourage and support each other in their life in Christ.

New Member Gathering The newcomers of the church are invited to a gathering to meet the parish leadership and ministry representatives.



Our caring ministries are always available for anyone in need, whether or not they are members of our church family. At Good Shepherd, we are blessed to have so many compassionate parishioners who willingly give of their time and talent to share the love of Christ by reaching out.



CLICK PICTURE FOR MORE INFORMATION

Ministries



Episcopal Church Women is a ministry that meets regularly, holds entertaining and educational events for its members, and hosts many of our Parish gatherings. ECW is dedicated to serving the Lord through service, worship, education, evangelism, and pastoral care. All women in the church are members. The ECW generously supports many of our ministries and provides outreach to the larger community.



The Brotherhood of St. Andrew is the Episcopal church's oldest ministry. It supports worship and fellowship of our church. Funds raised by the Brotherhood are used towards a Camp Allen camping experience for inner city boys, part of the Positive Image Program, as well as providing college scholarships for deserving youth.

Hospitality Hosts provide coffee, juice, and refreshments for the congregation on Sunday mornings in the parish hall. This ministry provides an inviting environment for fellowship.



First Sunday Breakfast is hosted by our dedicated "First Sunday" Cook Teams. Good Shepherd parishioners enjoy a scrumptious made-to-order breakfast.

Bereavement Team is dedicated to assisting families to plan and orchestrate their loved one's service. Our goal is to support families during their bereavement.

Ministries

Community Connections

HARVEST FEST is an annual community-oriented Christian fundraising event held in the fall for our Friendswood Community as a family-fun festival.



Blood Drive
Good Shepherd has been affiliated with Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center since the summer of 2019. Since that time, Good Shepherd drives have given approximately one hundred units.



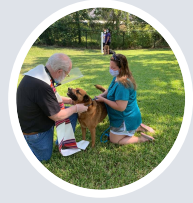
Prayer Breakfast
Once a month on Saturday morning, members of Christian denominations throughout the community meet for a time of prayer, fellowship, and food. About 17 churches are represented, and Good Shepherd is among a dozen churches that serve as hosts on a rotating basis.



City and the Chamber of Commerce
We participate in the community events on the Fourth of July and at Holiday in the Park.



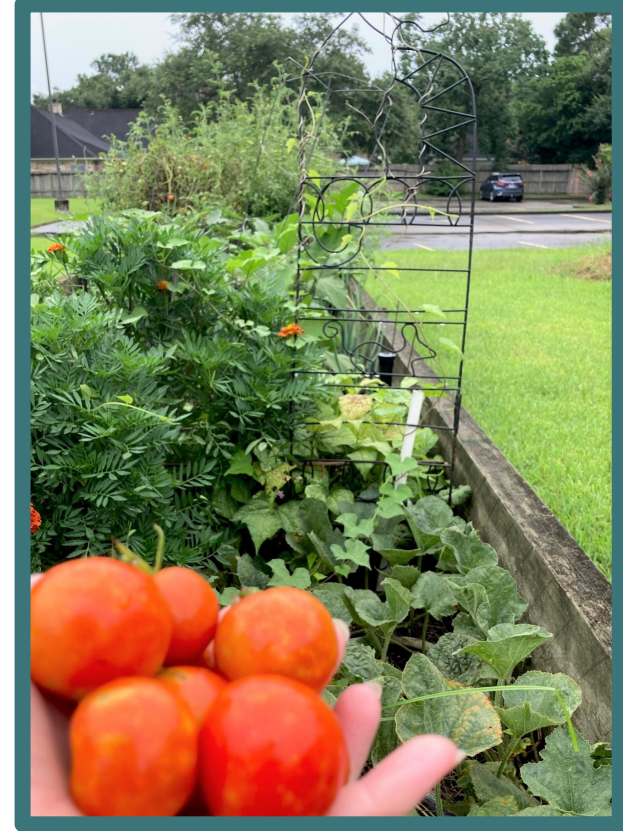
Ashes to Go
On Ash Wednesday, Good Shepherd offers an abbreviated service to commuters.



Animal Blessings
Good Shepherd offers a blessing of the animals off campus on the Feast of St. Francis.

Activities

THE
CLASSICS



PENTECOST
SUNDAY
PICNIC

BRIDGE
NIGHTS



PANCAKE
SUPPER

EASTER EGG
HUNTS

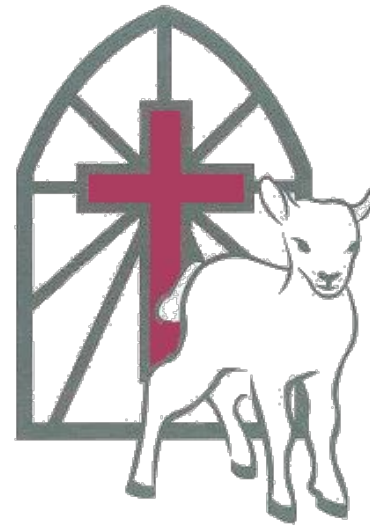


COMMUNITY
GARDEN



Parish School

Good Shepherd Episcopal School



Good Shepherd Episcopal School serves children in Pre-K/3 and Pre-K/4, and is located in the Sterling Hall building. Before school care is from 7:15 to 8:30 a.m., class time 8:30 to 12:00, and after school care until 5:00 p.m. We closely follow the F.I.S.D. public school calendar. The school's focus centers on nurturing children with daily chapel, hands on educational exploration, individual growth, sharing and positive reinforcement. Our experienced and loving teachers delight in the role of preparing children to be successful in life and to meet challenges with confidence, filled with God's love. Partnership with parents is very important at Good Shepherd. The School has earned a strong reputation for excellence in education in an atmosphere of love, security and support. It is a member of the Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools. The Rector is the chairman of the School Board which consists of 7 members. 3% of the students are members of the church.

Outreach Ministries

- *The Nook*
- *Family Promise*
- *World*
- *Community*



The Nook

The Shepherd's Nook is a thrift shop founded in 1978 by the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church Women. The Nook is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization that receives donations of clothing, toys, books and household items from individuals in the community and sells them at deeply discounted prices. The Nook is staffed solely by volunteers. All proceeds from The Nook are distributed to local non-profit organizations. The Nook also provides free clothing and household items to clients referred from area churches and community service agencies such as Christian Helping Hands (CHH). In addition to monetary donations, the Nook has provided free clothing, household items, videos and books to many in need.

Family Promise

Family Promise Good Shepherd has signed a covenant with Family Promise of Clear Creek. As a primary church, we provide dinner, lodging, and fellowship to displaced families. Our commitment is to provide these services one week every quarter as assigned by Family Promise of Clear Creek. A typical Family Promise Week involves twenty to thirty volunteers providing approximately 250 hours of service to the guest (displaced) families

OUTREACH



WORLD

- *Compassion International*
- *Heifer International*
- *Days for Girls*

PARISH

Outreach has long been an integral part of Good Shepherd. Our parishioners give generously of their time, talent, and treasure to spread the Kingdom of God to the world near and far. Individuals are empowered to do ministry in many distinctive ways.

Community

- *Meals on Wheels*
- *Lord of the Streets*
- *Mothers of PreSchoolers*
- *Christian Helping Hands*
- *Disaster Response*
- *Vacation Bible School*

OUTREACH



Living in Friendswood



TM



CLICK PICTURE FOR MORE INFORMATION

Fast Facts about Friendswood

- Friendswood, TX is a suburb on the south side of Houston
- Ranked 8th safest city in Texas in 2018 by the National Council for Home Safety and Security
- Ranked #32 by CNN Money's Top 100 Best Places to Live in America
- ALL schools in Friendswood ISD received an "A" rating by the TEA

Friendswood Demographics

- 21.2 square miles
- Population estimated at 41,118
- Houston DMA population: 6,820,783
- number of households: 14,850
- Average household size: 2.82
- 2018 average household income: \$140,321
- 98% high school graduation rate
- 44% of residents have bachelor's degree
- 16% of residents have a graduate degree
- Median age: 41
- Population by age:
 - Under 14: 19%
 - 15-19: 8%
 - 20-44: 28%
 - 45-64: 31%
 - 65 and older: 14%

Outlook

- 2019 Parochial Report
- Vision and Challenges
- Financial Picture
- Campus Map



Parochial Report

Numbers for 2019:

Total Sunday attendance average: 127

Easter attendance: 230

Members on roll from the previous year (2018): 709

Increase: 5

Decrease: 24

Communicants in good standing: 690

Baptisms 16 and over: 0

Baptisms under 16: 4

Confirmations 16 and older: 4

Regular Sunday or weekday adult programs held: yes

*Number of adults engaged in
religious education or spiritual formation: 75*

Pledges

Pledges in 2019: 70

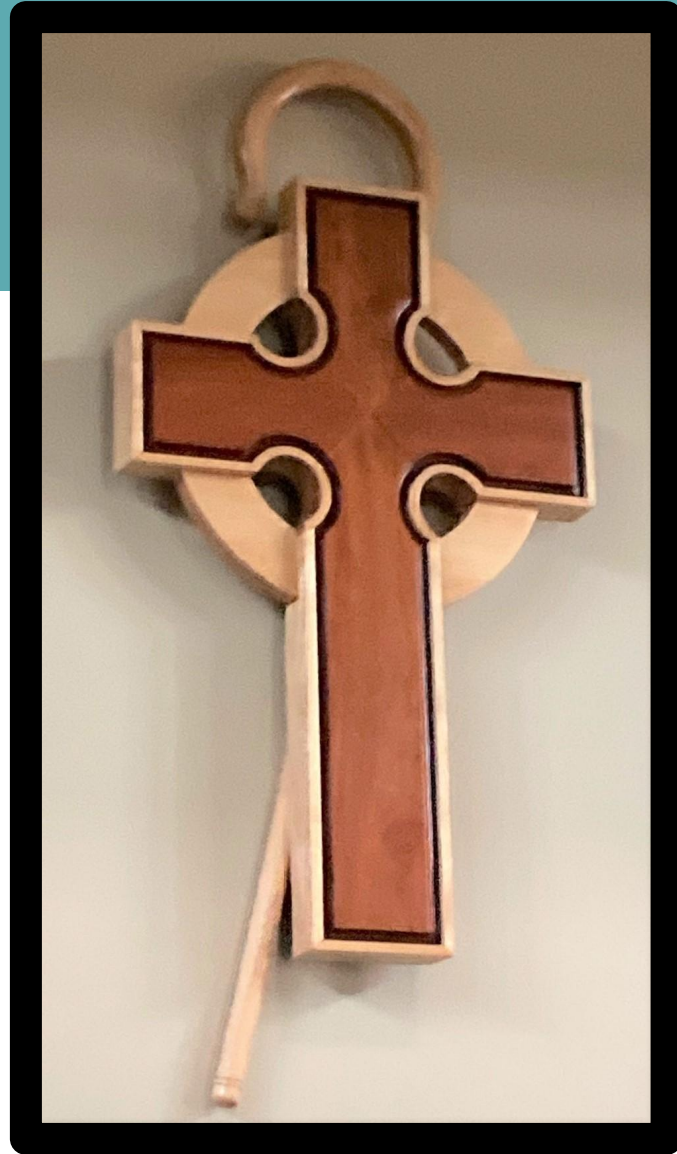
Pledge dollar amount in 2019: \$276,068

*Plate Offerings, pledge payments and regular
support in 2019: \$321,236*

Pledges in 2020: 79

Average pledge amount: \$3,441.23

Expressions of our Vision and Challenges



The ministry of Family Promise is the hands and feet of Jesus.

Our Harvest Fest demonstrates our fellowship with our neighbors in our community.

Our primary challenge is to spread the kingdom of God by growing the church.

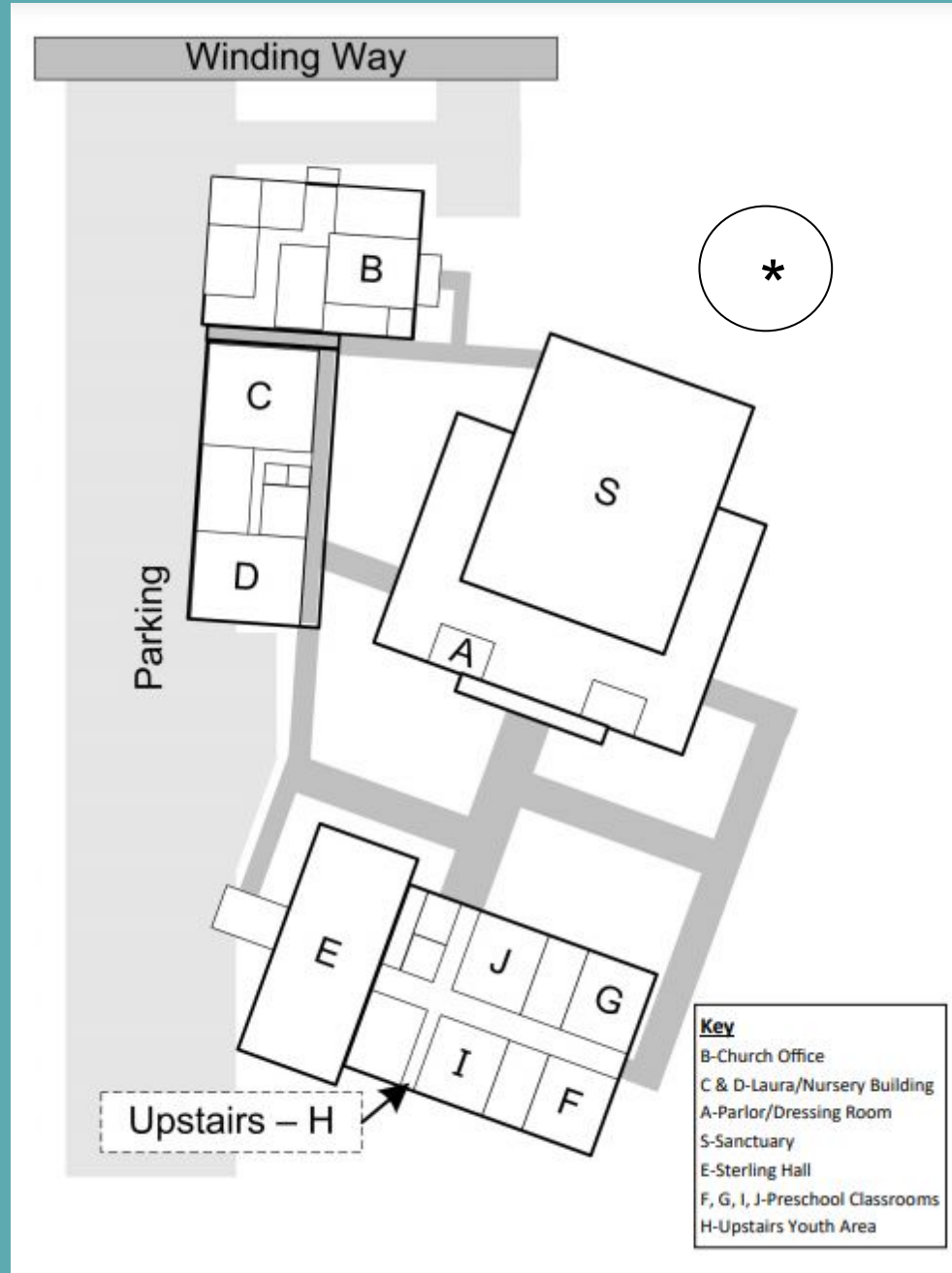
We are also challenged by the need to attract families with children and youth to our church.

We are in need of strengthening pastoral response of the church in serving people in times of need.

Financial Report

2021 Budget		
Income	Account Name	Budget
	Pledges	\$177,800.00
	Plate Contributions	\$1,600.00
	Non-pledge Income	\$38,300.00
	All Other Income	\$6,600.00
Total Income		\$224,300.00
Expenditures	Expenditures	
	Salary and Wages	\$106,400.00
	Diocesan Assessments	\$21,500.00
	Loan Interests	\$5,400.00
	General Repairs and Maintenance	\$28,300.00
	Utilities	\$17,700.00
	All Other Expenses	\$43,500.00
Total Expenditures		\$222,800.00

Campus Facilities



- Campus is 5 acres of land
- Columbarium Memorial Garden * 2014
- Brotherhood's Cathedral of Smoke
- 4 buildings
- Covered walkways
- Worship space
- Chapel
- Bride's room/Parlor
- Choir room
- 2 Vestry rooms
- Spacious Narthex
- Prayer room
- Parish Hall
- Well equipped kitchen in Parish Hall
- 4 classrooms
- playground with gated playscapes
- School office
- EYC Upper Room
- Nursery
- Multi-purpose rooms in Laura Building
- Clergy office
- Staff offices
- Meeting room with small kitchen

The Laura Building and administration buildings were substantially renovated following Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

Good Shepherd Episcopal

