

Episcopal Church in Navajoland
Report to ECN Convention June 2025
Vicar of Good Shepherd Mission and Vicar in the Southeast Region of ECN

1. Name of Ministry/Program:

Vicar of Good Shepherd Mission and Vicar in the Southeast Region of the Episcopal Church in Navajoland

2. Activities, Projects, and Programs

- Clergy engage in all Episcopal Church in Navajoland (ECN) official meetings such as ECN Council, Economic Development Committee, Friends of Navajoland, and Commission on Ministry.
- Clergy is on the board council of Province VIII as co-chair for Cluster IIA: Multi-Cultural committee. Also, Clergy is on the General Convention Commission of "A127 Resolution for Telling the Truth about The Episcopal Church's History with Indigenous Boarding Schools" Rev. Cathlena also now serves as the Committee's Secretary.
- On the Parish level, the Vicar engages in Parish Council Meetings monthly, weekly GSM Staff meetings.
- Since the start of the pandemic, the clergy of GSM has also been involved with food distribution to "in-need" families with ready-made boxes. We are maintaining a number of 50 or so families at this time.

3. Successes

- Food Distribution continuing, thanks to a family living on Campus they have volunteered some time during the week to help run the now called "Good Samaritan Food Pantry"
- This Easter season we have received four new members to our Good Shepherd Mission, through Baptism, and two are eager to involve themselves with the music part of the church.
- St. Mark's has been bustling with fundraising activities for families attending doctor's appointments and the congregation's children live in far off states and need help with travelling costs to stay connected to families.
- Navajo Hymnal Study and Church Music became a common staple to our Advent, Lent, and Easter Season, though we will postpone for the Summer season, it was exciting to be able to gather and learn new hymns together, while at the same time healing our "souls" through songs.

4. Challenges

- Continued maintenance of our buildings is a continued challenge. Rev. Leon, as ECN's Grounds and Property Manager, has been involved with bids with contractors for future repairs for our Parish Hall Building and Thorne building. These plans are still being fleshed out. Rev. Leon did, however, gain a grant to fix the roads on GSM Campus, in which gravel was purchased to fix the roads on our Campus.
- Policies and procedures research for our ever-evolving Parish Council, or Bishop's Committee, Episcopal Church Women of Navajoland Committee, and youth ministry

Committee. The new Missionary Diocese will play a huge role on how things will change with these three vibrant Committees at the Southeast Region.

5. Future Plans

- A Total Ministry model is greatly needed at GSM; the clergy is yet to establish formation for the Altar guild committee, continued lay leadership such as assigned readers for Sunday services, a hospitality committee to lead coffee hour, and fellowship after church services. We are also yet to find someone to lead Sunday School for our school-aged children who attend church on Sundays. Formation for baptisms and confirmations.
- Which then brings up ECW or The Episcopal Church Women in Navajoland and their slow process of starting up, and their ministry and involvement for the southeast region and possibly showing a model for all the regions. So far, the group's strategies have been meeting every second Sunday with an invitation sent out to the Utah region women to join by Zoom conferencing. The women are planning to create a logo to best represent their ministry.
- Last but not in least important, the development of a Youth Ministry program that will be on-going throughout the year, leading up to the summer VBS or travel to mission partners' VBS camps in their dioceses. Overall, organizing the rules, policies, so that there is a working youth ministry program happening for the southeast region on a regular basis. A future plan as well as a challenge.

6. Leaders:

Rev. Cathlena Plummer, Vicar of GSM

Rev. Leon Sampson, Co-Vicar of GSM

Margaret Putnam, Financial Administrator of GSM

Respectfully Submitted by:

Rev. Canon Cathlena Plummer

Vicar of Good Shepherd Mission