

Partnership with local non-profit



The Rev. Bob Scott, Good Shepherd, Cloverdale

I was ordained as a vocational deacon in May 2019. Ever since then, my focus has been on finding ways to connect with others in our community to see how Good Shepherd might be able to help. Because our church has a relatively small number of parishioners and is somewhat limited in financial resources, I have especially looked for ways to partner with other organizations in our community. For my field experience in becoming a deacon, I served with people from many different churches (as well as Good Shepherd) in our local St. Vincent de Paul conference which provided services to any in need for food, clothing, a bag lunch, connection with housing organizations, county mental health services, and even trash bags for people living on the Russian River to help keep trash out of the river. Unfortunately, when the pandemic hit, our weekly outreach was shut down and did not return.

Since then, Good Shepherd has assisted with another local church in raising funds for refugee resettlement through World Relief in Sacramento and leased one of our church buildings to Reach For Home, a non-profit that provides shelter for those in need. As part of my own outreach to the community, I learned of the efforts of Zeke Guzman who has spent his retirement helping to get services for the farm workers in Northern Sonoma County. The church has helped families with rent and utility payments during slow work periods to tie them over so they would not become homeless. This eventually led Zeke to start a new non-profit called La Familia Sana (The Healthy Family) in which I was the Treasurer helping to get the new organization set up with accounting and administrative systems (in my former life I was a CPA). LFS provides mental health, health, and other services to the farm worker community and it has been so successful in raising funds that I was able to step

away and look for new opportunities to assist in the neighborhood. So, don't ever think your church is too small to make a meaningful difference in your community. Be on the lookout for opportunities to partner with others to serve God's flock.