

Striving to be an Icon of Christ to our community and the world.

The Shepherd's Voice

Newsletter from Good Shepherd Parish

September, 2016



Building Our Children's Faith Brick By Brick

The expansion of our corps of Sunday School volunteers so that we have two each Sunday (required by diocesan Safeguarding God's People guidelines, but a good idea anyway!) is not the only change coming to Good Shepherd's Sunday School this fall. We are also moving Sunday School from the Parish Hall to the Jenks Room, and using a new curriculum.

The curriculum called *Building Faith Brick By Brick* uses storytelling and Legos™ to help children engage with the stories of the Bible. Each Sunday features a different story, progressing through the Old Testament into the New. The Sunday School leaders tell the story in their own words, and then engage the children in "wondering questions" to help them enter imaginatively into the story.

Then the Legos™ come out—and children build figures or scenes which they feel represent some aspect of the story, and share the meaning with the adults and other children. This program has been well-received in other churches because it involves children with the stories using a medium they enjoy. Also, the adults who help lead the class are invited into the biblical narrative in a more consistent way, as they learn the stories in order to share them.



Feel free to contribute any previously-loved Legos from your family toyboxes—we are looking particularly for generic blocks, animals, and general minifigures, rather than highly-specific parts.

If you want to know more about this approach, see some of the resources posted on our parish Facebook page and website.

A special thanks to our team of teachers for this year: Carol Keiser, Sandy Ustas, Ann Maddix, Christina Keiser, Kerri Marcotte, Betty Collins, Cheryl Scarpetti, - all under the leadership of Karen Tripodi. And if you want to volunteer too, now that you know it involves playing with Legos™, speak with Karen or Deacon Mary Ann.

In Christ,



Sunday mornings at the Church of the Good Shepherd:

The Holy Eucharist at 9 am on September 4th.

The Holy Eucharist at 10 am on September 11th and on every Sunday until further notice!

Sunday School at 10 am for ages 4 thru middle school beginning in the Jenks Room

Choir rehearsal at 9:15 am, beginning on Sunday, September 18th

Continuing events:

During September we'll collect **cans of soup or boxes of crackers** for the Food Closet; cool days are coming.

Trash or Treasure - Wed. and Sat. from 9 am to noon.

AA meeting every Saturday at 7 pm.

The regular **Vestry Meeting** will be on **Wed. Sept. 21st at 6 pm.**

Sunday, July 17 at Good Shepherd began much like any other summer Sunday but as soon as the final hymn ended, organized chaos reigned because Dennis Tripodi had a text on his cell phone that the long awaited repairs to the church could begin on the next day. That meant that the church building would have to be emptied. Not that we had to move pews but we had to move the "little stuff".

From Dennis in late August: "We are in the process of fixing the damage from the winter ice storm of 2015. Most of the storm damage occurred on the Woodbine Street side of the church, however some did occur in the parish hall near the stage and in the basement just below. That part will be finished last. We are also repairing the ceilings in the peaks of the church on one side, the other was replaced a few years ago. Many of the walls in the church have been dry walled and plastered and we are hoping to start painting soon.

The ceiling on the organ side has been replaced and new recessed lighting has been installed over the organ. We are still on schedule and hoping to complete the project in the beginning of September rather than later."

Anyone who has done a home improvement project knows how one thing can lead to another. With the pews moved out of the church the whole floor became visible, a floor that is estimated to be at least 50 years old! Dennis began to get replacement prices and called a special vestry meeting for Sunday, August 28. The vestry approved replacing the floor AND a long hoped for improvement: air-conditioning for the church! The air-conditioning will also have a heating component that will help us save on oil.

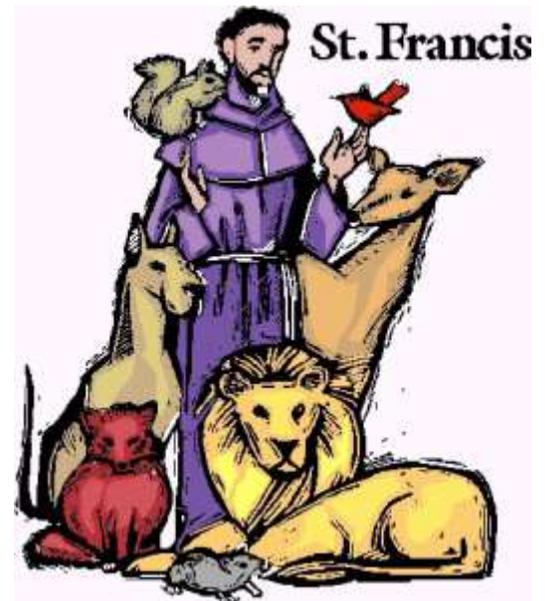


How will we pay for all this? First, the parish has very good insurance through the Church Insurance Company and this will pay for all the storm damage and the parish was a beneficiary of the estate of Beatrice Minkins and her legacy will finance the rest.



St. Francis of Assisi was born in Italy around 1181 AD and was well known for his love of all creation. He is the patron saint of animals. Stories tell of Francis preaching to the birds and convincing a wolf to stop terrorizing people and livestock in Gubbio, Italy where he lived at one time. Francis is also the founder of The Franciscans, a monastic order known for taking a vow of poverty and being servants to the poor. By Francis's life example, we learn about love for God, thanksgiving for God's creatures, and respect for all of nature from the greatest in the ocean to the smallest leaf and love for our brothers and sisters. So great was Francis's belief that all creation was intended to live in harmony, he calls the sun, Brother Sun and the moon, Sister Moon in his well-known canticle, tying all that we can see together in God's dominion equally.

Every year near October 4, Christians throughout the world celebrate the Feast of St. Francis with prayers for creation and a blessing of the animals. Blessings of the animals/pets entered the mainstream U.S. cultural scene in the latter part of the twentieth century. Although blessings of various animals took place in different times and places and for varying reasons, throughout Christian history, the growth of these rituals beginning in the late twentieth century is dramatic. By the early twenty-first century, thousands of these blessings take place annually.⁽¹⁾ The Episcopal Church has a history of promoting the care of animals and the environment, reminding us that animals are a gift from God and reminding us to be thankful for our dwelling place and to be good stewards of creation.



This year Good Shepherd will celebrate the **Blessing of the Animals** on **Sunday, October 2nd in the church yard at 3:00 pm**. Please help make this a joyous occasion by asking your families and friends to bring pets for a blessing while we celebrate St. Francis's appreciation of God's creation. I hope to see you there.

Faithfully yours,
Deacon Mary Ann

1) Laura Hobgood-Oster, Holy Dogs & Asses: Animals in the Christian Tradition (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2008), 106-116.

Trash & Treasure News from Cheryl Scarpetti, "Thank you to Laura Bennett, Janet Jackson, Kathy Olbrych, Julia Fitton and Caryl Frink for helping with the seasonal changeover of merchandise in T&T. Now that we see what we have, we know that the shop is in **need of soft domestic goods** such as towels, sheets, blankets, tablecloths, etc. We are also short on **boys clothing size 7-16**. As always, volunteers are welcome to help out with cashiering, pricing, sorting and putting merchandise on the selling floor."

Thanks from all of us to Cheryl for organizing the changeover and seeing that the shop looks good; thanks to Jim Scarpetti, too, for his work at Trash & Treasure. The first weeks have seen a lot of cold weather clothing sell, so please keep the new merchandise coming in.

Grocery bags and larger ones, with some kind of handles, are needed for Trash & Treasure and for the Yard Sale, too.

Above all, Trash & Treasure is about people. On August 20th a woman came in quite distraught and it took a bit for Roberta Cook to figure out why she was shouting, "You're here! You're here!" The woman had come by the

week before when the shop did close early for the changeover and she thought that T & T was closed for good; her smile returned when she heard the whole story. *** And on Wed. Aug. 24th a little girl came to the cashier clutching a beautiful pink jacket with a fleece lining; she had a big smile as she counted out \$4.00 in change and we found a perfect lavender bag for that jacket.

The Summer of 2016

• As summer draws to a close there has been a major change in the responsibilities of **the Rev. Gillian Barr**. This past year was an extremely successful one for the Jonathan Daniels House, our Episcopal Service Corps-affiliated young adult service program, of which she was the director. All four of the interns gained clarity about their gifts and passions for service and ministry over the course of the year, as well as a greater understanding of issues of racial justice; two are settling in RI.

However, the Jonathan Daniels House program, has regrettably been suspended, due to a lack of agencies able to fund interns going forward and to a national shortage of interns.

Bishop Knisely has announced that the Rev. Gillian Barr will serve the Diocese of RI part-time as **Digital Communications Coordinator**, “managing our website, social media and e-newsletters, and will work with volunteers and subcontractors for videography and photography. She will continue as priest-in-charge of the Church of the Good Shepherd.”



• Do check out the new look of the **website** of the Church of the Good Shepherd. Thanks to Gillian Barr for the transformation.

• Since July 24th we have **worshipped in the parish house**; just a little rearranging has given us holy space. Table discussions have replaced a formal sermon with an introduction by Mother Gillian, continuing with printed questions she has created. The singing has been great because we are closer together. Coffee hour follows in the same space and it all works!

• On a beautiful August night 30 people from Good Shepherd had a less than beautiful baseball experience at **McCoy Stadium** when the Paw Sox lost 9-0! However, the loss didn’t keep us from enjoying each other’s company, sampling the bounty of the concessions and singing, “Sweet Caroline”!

• Beginning soon after the 4th of July, we have been collecting **school supplies** and **tissues** for the Winters School. We will buy cases of the colored copy paper that is needed and deliver everything early in September. Thanks to all who have given goods and \$\$ to this project. More info. next month!

celebrating their special day in September



- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Lynn Karneeb | 12 Hannah Dwyer | 12 Owen Brown |
| 14 Samantha Brailsford | 15 Lory LeFort | 15 Ronald Rodrigues |
| 17 Lynnsey Olbrych | 19 Bryan Brailsford | 23 Mary Allen |
| 28 James Kelliher | 29 Bill Cook | 29 Pam Fontneau |
| 29 Steven Truesdale | | |



Happy Anniversary in September to

3 Fr. Jim & Caryl Frink
12 Paul Mayben & Jim Kelliher
25 Michael & Melissa Scarpetti

9 Eric & Julie Tripodi
22 Anthony & Josephine Ngawor

Coming early in October:

Saturday, October 1st from 9 am - 2 pm-----Yard Sale

To make this day a success **we need donations,**
we need workers, on the day of the sale and before
and we need buyers!

**Sunday, October 2nd at 3 pm in the church yard,
St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals**

Friday, October 7 at 5:30 pm • Fun Friday resumes
for families with children at the Winters School

Friday, October 14th at 6 pm, Pasta Dinner
chaired by Joyce and Joe Silvestri.



But, before then - remember
Sunday, September 11th
Holy Eucharist at 10 am!