

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

The Shepherd's Voice

Newsletter from Good Shepherd Parish

May 2017



One question clergy often are asked is **“How do I become a member of this church?”**

There are different answers to that question, depending on whether you’re wondering “what it takes to be on the rolls of the parish as a member” or “what is expected of a member of this parish” or “what does it mean to be a Christian?”

From a technical administrative perspective, in order to be considered a member of an Episcopal parish, the minimum requirements are:

- You have been baptized at some point in your life—not necessarily in an Episcopal Church;
- You tell us when and where you were baptized, as best you know, and also tell us you wish to transfer your membership from wherever you were last officially a member, if anywhere; and give us your basic contact info.
- You attend worship and receive communion at least 3 times a year;
- You contribute to the life of the parish financially in some way that we are aware of (this can be by donations of goods or money).

Anyone who fulfills these requirements is considered a member, and if age 16 or over, may vote in parish meetings.

Additionally, if you are age 16 or older, you are expected, although not strictly required, to work with your priest to study the basics of the Christian faith in whatever way you both deem most helpful, and then make an adult profession of your faith in the presence of the Bishop. This is called Confirmation, Reception, or Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows; the exact procedure differs somewhat based on the church in which you were raised.

Being confirmed etc. is also a requirement to hold certain roles in the church, such as serving on Vestry or as a lay Eucharistic minister, or considering whether you might have a call to ordained ministry. The next opportunity for confirmation at Good Shepherd will be during the Bishop’s Visitation on November 26th.

This Sunday (May 7th) we will hear a passage from the Book of Acts, which includes these verses:

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. (Acts 2:42; 44-46)

That description gets to the much more important question, of what it means to live as a mature Christian.

The Episcopal parish where I worshiped before being ordained gave the following guidelines for all members.

We aspire to • Pray daily • Worship weekly • Learn constantly • Serve joyfully • Live generously

Those are some worthy goals for all of us, no matter how long we have been associated with Good Shepherd.

William+

Sunday morning at the Church of the Good Shepherd:

Choir Rehearsal at 9:20 a.m.

Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

The Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m.

Sunday, May 7th, the 4th Sunday of Easter is traditionally called “**Good Shepherd Sunday**”. The lessons and much of the music for that Sunday will be centered on the Good Shepherd and around the Diocese of RI congregations will pray for us.



On Sunday, May 28th, Katie Grace Marcotte, whose smile is as bright as her pink helmet, will be baptised and we will pray “Give her an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works.”



The Easter season continues until the Feast of Pentecost on June 4th.

In case we are late with the June edition of this newsletter, color **Sunday, June 4th RED**, the color of fire and the Holy Spirit ... red vestments red streamers ... whatever red you want to wear!

Ongoing events:

Trash or Treasure is open on Wed. and Sat. from 9 a.m. to noon.

There's an **AA meeting** every Saturday at 7 p.m.

Also on the calendar for May:

Yes, it's a favorite of the young but **macaroni and cheese** in the “blue box” or any box is an easy meal to prepare. Please add a box to your shopping cart this **May** and bring it to church so that it can be added to the bags of food given out in the **food closet**.

Fun Friday for this school year will end on May 5th. **Thanks** to anyone who has volunteered this season. We've been way up and way down in family attendance but a warm welcome has always greeted each person.

Wednesday, **May 17th** at 6 pm - Vestry meeting

Harvest Hope Church of God in Christ

invites you to a

May Breakfast

Sat., May 6th from 9 - 11:30 am

Menu: eggs, bacon or sausage
grits, pancakes, toast
juice, coffee, & tea



**Donation: \$ 8.00 your choice; \$10.00 entire menu
\$ 6.00 children under 11 years old.**

Enjoy a good meal in the Good Shepherd Parish Hall with a new stove to make the cooking easier though still hard work!



While we've had glimpses of spring and even one summer like day, the growing season is upon us. All but one of the plots in our **Ken Lagerquist Community Gardens** are spoken for. The URI Master Gardeners and interns have already started a **demonstration garden in plot H**. The kickoff meeting for "Gardening together" will be **May 13, 2017 from 9:30 to 11 AM**. This is a rain/shine event with plants to distribute in the garden and 3 short talks inside, beginning in the Jenks Room. This will be an opportunity to meet and chat with the other gardeners and to pick up some practical tips especially about small size gardens and composting.

All gardeners are welcome, whether you have a plot at Good Shepherd or a garden at home.



If you'd like to get outside but are not a gardener, consider taking a walk at ECC on **Sunday, May 21st during the annual Open House**. If you've never been to the Episcopal Conference Center or if it's a long time since you've been there, this is a good time to visit. There will be tours and activities for the young and the young at heart from 3:30 - 5pm; ECC style worship in the barn at 5 pm followed by a cookout for supper. Come and go as fits your schedule.

*Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.*



Nancy Carroll died on April 17, 2017 the day after Easter. While you may not recognize her name, you will surely remember the woman with the big smile brought regularly to Good Shepherd by Kelley Dwyer. How Nancy loved to sing! “She overcame her disabilities and lived a full and beautiful life. She loved and was loved.”

“Into paradise may the angels lead you. At your coming may the martyrs receive you, and bring you into the holy city Jerusalem.”

Throughout the Diocese of RI congregations are hearing about the good work being done in our name by **people on the front lines of helping our neighbors** ... young people looking for acceptance... a person contemplating suicide ... someone newly diagnosed with AIDS ... the hungry ... and on and on. The **Episcopal Charities** brochure headline says “Agencies supported by the Episcopal Charities Fund” and that is how the fund does work - supporting agencies - 59 of them in 2016 - each supporting people with different needs!

On April 30th we heard from Adrienne Marchetti from the Pawtucket Soup Kitchen; that agency is **supporting people**, people she knows by name, people who are hungry being served a hot meal in a welcoming setting, people who are not judged as to why they are there. I’m sure that representatives from other agencies are telling similar stories across the state.

If you have already made a pledge or donation, thank you.
If you want to make a pledge or donation, see Carol Keiser.
If you want to make a pledge or donation, you can mail it to the
Church of the Good Shepherd, 490 Broadway, Pawtucket, RI 02860.
(Checks should be made payable to Episcopal Charities Fund of RI)



You can give online at episcopalri.org/charities

Remember: 100% of the money raised goes directly to support people in need. (Episcopal Charities Fund expenses are funded by a bequest.)

Just as every agency supported by Episcopal Charities needs money to do its work, a parish needs money to pay its bills - to keep the lights on, to pay the insurance bills, to provide clergy to minister in the congregation and so much more. Last fall our Senior Warden, Frank Cook, led a stewardship campaign titled, Living Generously, that asked each of us to consider making a gift that “reflects our commitment to living an abundant and generous life.” Then, parishioners made a financial **pledge for 2017**.

Pledge statements will be mailed out soon. You will be receiving them 3 times a year, every 4 months. When you receive yours, please look it over and speak with Carol Keiser if you have questions. It is never too late to make a pledge and receive envelopes. Yes, a pledge can be changed if your circumstances change.

That same Frank Cook is not lost! OK, he might be lost but he will find his way back to Pawtucket - Roberta, too! In the meantime ...



“While vacationing in Naples, Florida, during the month of April, we had the pleasure of visiting with a number of former Good Shepherd parishioners. We came together at a luncheon hosted by Clem Bethel and his wife, Judy. Gathering at Clem's house were Joyce Rodrigues (Roberta's sister), Herb and Barbara Michaels, Marsha Rice (Buzzy Rice's widow), and Meredith Cassick (Roberta's cousin). We also visited with Thayer Caskey and her growing family. Thayer's husband, Charles, was Good Shepherd's rector from 1980 - 1982. Thayer and Charlie have many fond memories of their time at Good Shepherd. They served the church during the time we sponsored the Cambodian families who became a part of our community.”

Frank & Roberta

Happy Birthday

to all those celebrating their special day in May:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Claire Eggiman | 2 Freda Luther | 10 Melissa Scarpetti |
| 10 Matthew St. Jean | 10 Raymond Whewell | 10 Peter Tengbeh |
| 15 Carter James Gentile | 17 Dennis Tripodi | 18 Richard Warner |
| 19 Brenda Rubin | 22 Janice Courtemanche | 25 Sue Hosey |
| 29 Gail Lexner | 30 Helene Risho | |



Happy Anniversary to:

- Ric & Jean Emerson on May 25th
- Carol and Ray Keiser on May 26th

Around the parish:

- May 10th is not just any birthday for **Ray Whewell**; it is the day he reaches the milestone of 90 years young! That's 90 years of smiles and a fun loving approach to life. How he loves that back pew!
- On her 90th birthday **Julia Fitton's** room was invaded by many Trash and Treasure volunteers who didn't leave until they had decorated her bulletin board with her many birthday cards.
- Missing from Good Shepherd right now is **Janice Johnson** who is battling painful arthritic and orthopedic issues that limit her movement.
- “It takes a village” it also takes a parish to give life to the drama of **Holy Week and Easter** ... bulletins have to be printed ... many readers tell the stories the altar guild sets the stage as each day brings a new emphasis hymns are sung by many and some time by only a few ... Thank you to everyone who gave the precious gift of time to these services.

• Thanks, too, to the table setters and the cooks and the servers and the cleanup crew who made the traditional **Easter breakfast** a delicious success. Also, the children of Good Shepherd thank the “Easter Bunny/Bunnies” for the goodies hidden in **eggs** that were mostly hidden in plain sight on a gorgeous Easter morning.



• On the day that Adrienne Marchetti spoke to us about her work at the Pawtucket Soup Kitchen we brought our Lenten/Easter collection to a close and presented her with **154 pairs of crew socks** and **three “paper boxes” filled with an assortment of toiletries**. Thanks to everyone who gave.

• Not boxes but **LARGE plastic bags that have handles** are needed at Trash or Treasure. There is always a good supply of grocery store bags but bags to hold large household items or a lot of clothes are in short supply. Many customers walk or ride the bus and we need to make it as easy as possible for them to take their purchases home.

• Due to technical difficulties the requested recipe for rice bread from the coffee hour on Sunday April 30th will be printed next month.

• The ECW is in the process of obtaining **new vertical blinds** for the freshly painted parish hall. Gone is the tan paint that had aged into a shade of tan with a pink tinge! Aside from the new stove there is also now a large microwave oven mounted under a new cabinet in the kitchen. Other work continues as outlined in last month’s newsletter.

• **Dates to write in pencil** for now!

Sunday School will end on June 11th.

“Summer schedule” begins on June 18th

Saturday, October 21st is the date for a major fundraiser for the Church of the Good Shepherd.

Karen and Dennis Tripodi are chairs of this event and they will be looking for many volunteers to help with this event.



We have just received word that the **Dedication of the Station Fire Memorial Park** will be on **Sunday, May 21st** with music beginning at 1 pm and the Dedication Ceremony at 2 pm. **FREE Registration is STRONGLY requested by the Organizers and Town of West Warwick, for crowd and traffic control. You can register [HERE](#)**

Over 100 Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Houses of Worship donated money to this memorial and received a commemorative brick in the walk way. Come and see your churches brick!

Parking will be extremely tight. There will be a free shuttle bus to and from the Met Life Parking Lot - 700 Quaker Lane, Warwick. We strongly urge that you use that service.

The music and program will be lively and extensive. We urge you also to bring a lawn chair if you need to.

[HERE](#) is a Poster that you can use to post or send around to other concerned individuals.

Sponsored by the Rhode Island State Council of Churches