

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

The Shepherd's Voice

Newsletter from Good Shepherd Parish

July and August 2017



When I was a child my family took lots of road trips to visit relatives. Before the days of seat back video screens and iPads, we occupied ourselves with old-fashioned games. One contest was to see who could spot the most moving vans on the highway which belonged to their chosen van line. I still remember that my father counted United Van Lines vans, my mother Mayflower, and I looked for Allied. Over 40 years later I still notice and get a small sense of triumph from every orange Allied van I pass.

When we start actively looking for a specific thing, whether a type of vehicle or anything else, often we are surprised to suddenly see examples all over the place, as if they'd rapidly multiplied. But they have always been there--we're just finally noticing them.

That's one reason I've invited us all to be on the lookout this summer for moments when the Kingdom of God is visible around us, and why I've distributed small notebooks for you to use as your "observation journals."



The nightly news shows and front pages show us all too many examples of the kingdom of the flesh: greed, anger, violence, hatred, fear, selfishness, war, and hardheartedness. There are other forces at work in the world as well --love, compassion, generosity, and sacrifice. But they are easy to miss. Once we start looking for them, though, we will notice them and see that they are more numerous than we'd thought.

So, open up your notebook. Be on the lookout for moments when people choose care rather than callousness, compassion rather than judgment, the well-being of a person in need rather than their own security or profit. I'll be asking you to share some of your observations on Sundays.

Together we are seeking and noticing the Kingdom of God, so we can tell others where to find it.

William+

Sunday mornings at the Church of the Good Shepherd:



The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 9 am every Sunday in July and August and on September 3rd.

While we are in the long stretch of “Ordinary Time” between the end of the Easter Season and the 1st Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2017 our summer Sundays are rarely ordinary! And they will be cool because we now have air-conditioning!!

On **Sunday, August 6th** we will celebrate the **Feast of the Transfiguration**, a feast that only occasionally comes on a Sunday. but when it does, we hear in the scripture, “This is my Son, my chosen; listen to him!” We will sing, “The Light of Christ” and “I want to walk as a child of the Light.” and more. Come.



Speaking of singing - **Singer’s Choice** is your opportunity to sing your favorite hymns & sacred songs. Give your list to Caryl and if there are special days you want to remember with music, don’t be shy about asking.

Continuing events:

Trash & Treasure continues to be open on Wed. and Sat. from 9 am to noon through July. There’s still an abundance of clothing for warm weather and the Bag Sale, a favorite, begins on July 1st.

See the special announcement about August.

AA meeting every Saturday at 7 pm.

The need for **food for the Food Closet** continues no matter the weather! Suggested items for donation in July are **peanut butter and/or jelly**; no glass jars, please, but certain brands of grape jelly are available in plastic and many brands of peanut butter are in unbreakable containers. **In August** we’ll collect **cereal**.



Yes, the coffee hour continues during the summer, expanded to the **coffee/cold drink “hour”** but offering simpler snacks so that no one has to bake. Cheese & crackers are almost always on the menu and cookies from the supermarket are just fine. If you have signed up for a summer coffee hour, please check the closet in the kitchen for crackers and cookies and the refrigerator for cheese and use these.

**“Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens
and I will give your rest.”**

Jesus says this to a crowd and when I hear it, I always remember that Jesus is there to help me; God is here to hear my prayers and give me courage to do whatever must be done and to rest from troubles. Sometimes we get wrapped up in our busy lives and forget that we can ask for the Holy Spirit to help us.

This excerpt is from the Gospel of Matthew that will be proclaimed on **July 9, 2017**, which will also be the start of a special summer offering of prayers.



We have a little bit of fencing real-estate out in front of the church that is just the perfect size for a **Prayer Flag Project**. Along the fence we will have the opportunity to hang our prayers and invite the neighborhood to write their prayers on bright color strips of plastic and hang them from the fence.

This is an engaging way to find out the needs of the neighborhood, and to be a visible presence of peace and love and caring. It will also be a place where people can write their burdens and hopes and prayers for the world in safety. So in keeping with our summer theme of looking for signs of the Kingdom, I invite you all to come out after the 9 o'clock service to hang your prayers on the fence and be a sign of God's Kingdom for others to see and find!

Faithfully yours,
Deacon Mary Ann

GONE FISHING - Not really!



The Trash or Treasure Shop will close on Saturday, July 29th so that the staff can restock fall merchandise at a more leisurely pace. Work sessions will be scheduled in August around the availability of volunteers. Anyone willing to help, either mornings or evenings, please contact Cheryl Scarpetti at 401-728-5996. We plan to reopen the shop on Wed, Aug. 23rd or Sat., Aug. 26th. But, before that - **volunteers** are needed on **Sat., July 29th at 11 am** to bag up whatever clothes are left after the bag sale days so they are ready to be passed on. Cheryl

More Summer dates:

• On the evenings of **July 19, 20, and 21 Harvest Hope Church of God in Christ will host their Annual Conference**, No other meetings will be scheduled then.

• **Gardening Together on July 8 and August 12....** the Master Gardeners are available for help from 9 - 11 am with an educational talk at 11 am: July: planning your second harvest and August: composting and food scraps. All gardeners are welcome.

• **Bee diversity research project: July 23rd and August 20th**, weather permitting. There is a detailed description of this project on the Outreach bulletin board but the Master Gardeners will be collecting data in our gardens and send the data to URI.

• **Vestry Meeting** at 6 pm on **August 16th**.

On Sunday, July 9th we will kick off **Tools for School 2017!**

Yes, school in Pawtucket has only been out for a week but soon after July 4th the “back to school” sales will begin. Crazy! But that’s the way retail works.

This is our opportunity to support the teachers and students of the Henry J Winters School.

There are never enough:

- **#2 pencils - wood or mechanical**
- **crayons** - including some for little kids as the Winters School is now pre-K through 5th grade
- **glue sticks**
- **single subject wide ruled notebooks**
- **boxes of tissues**, so many runny noses



Remember blackboards? Gone! Special request this year:

- **white board markers & erasers** (often come in sets of 4)

Some like to shop - some prefer to donate \$\$ so others can shop.

We will use \$\$ donations to buy white board markers in bulk (cheaper) and to once again buy cases of colored copy paper that the school uses for school/home notices.

This is our summer outreach project.

Save this date - Saturday, October 21st
6:30 - 9 pm at Twelve Acres, Smithfield



Wine and beer tasting event with “penny social” and silent auction - an evening of fun and fellowship to benefit the ministry and outreach of the Church of the Good Shepherd.

Your support is needed. **How?**

- **Save the date** and invite friends to buy a ticket and come with you.
- **Volunteer** to help out now or at the time of the event.
- **Donate an item** for the “penny social” or silent auction, for example a themed basket or a gift card to a local attraction or something new that you really can’t use.

Karen & Dennis Tripodi and Joyce & Joe Silvestri are chairing this event and can give you more information about how to help.

More to come in the September & October newsletters

It's a small RI world! In the midst of a conversation with Vicki, a regular customer at Trash or Treasure, she mentioned that at a wonderful memorial tribute to **Hamilton "Buzzy" Rice** on Prudence Island she learned that he had founded the Food Closet at Good Shepherd. She said, "I know that place; it's my Wed. stop!" (CSF) Then a few weeks ago we received a memorial check for \$200 for the Food Closet from some of his friends on Prudence Island. We are grateful for that gift which will be converted to food for those in need.

The parish has received a special gift of \$100 from the **Tu-Som Club** in memory of members who have died in the past four years:

Ralph Etherington	Millie Cyganoski
Ron Rodrigues	Thatcher Berry
Diana Bethel	Hamilton "Buzzy" Rice
Nelson Collins	Ruth Velucci

*"Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord;
And let light perpetual shine upon them."*



According to one long time member, the club is now more widows than twos but getting together is still as important as it ever was.

Around the parish:

- **Frank Cook** is our representative to the Center for Reconciliation, launched by the Diocese in 2014 and now a separate nonprofit to be located at the Cathedral of St. John. Its mission is to confront the history and legacies of slavery and the slave trade in order to build respectful and equitable relationships across racial lines. The vision of the Center is to offer educational and dialogue programs for all ages.

You are encouraged to explore their website: **cfri.org**

- **Janice Johnson** is still missing from her favorite pew and we'd like to be wrong about this but we understand that a knee replacement is now in her immediate future. Enough! Her address is PO Box 2124, Attleboro, MA 02703.

- Every Sunday we pray for **Andrew Emerson** who is a detective with the RI State Police. Recently he broke his hand in a training accident and he has learned that some things are almost impossible to do with one hand and the rest are hard to do!

- Our condolences to **Bruce Cyganoski** on the death of his uncle. Milton Franklin who had deep Pawtucket roots though he lived more than half of his life in MA. *May he rest in peace.*

- Seeing is believing! Or, at least it is when the master Sunday volunteer schedule created by **Vince Cherico** appears. It's a large whiteboard that gets attacked by folks wielding dry erase markers, eager to sign up to read the lessons or the prayers, to be an usher, to host the coffee hour and more. Vin then moves everything to his computer and prints schedules. Terrific idea that works!



• That sign up board has meant a new acolyte at Good Shepherd; **Armanda Martinez** has begun by shadowing Karen Tripodi, watching carefully and learning on the job. If you signed up for something you have never done before, watch and learn.

• The headline in the *Pawtucket Breeze* read, “Sea of blue graduates” and in the center of the accompanying photo with a smile to light up the world was **Josfaih Ngafaih** at his graduation from Shea High School. Josfaih is at URI for 6 weeks this summer as part of the URI Talent Development Program; if he passes all his classes with at least a 2.0 GPA, he will become a URI freshman. We have watched him grow up and send him off to URI with the best wishes of the congregation.



• On Sunday, June 4th, **Pentecost**, the congregation of the Church of the Good Shepherd was alive in many shades of red. The Sunday School entered the church with red streamers flying and everyone left with a red pinwheel ... “wind, wind, blow on me ... my Father sent the blessed Holy Spirit.”... a reminder!



We celebrate the birth on June 11, 2017 of
Miles Raymond Gentile
 son of Christina Keiser and Angelo Gentile
 little brother of Carter Gentile
 grandson of Carol and Raymond Keiser



He weighed in at 8 pounds, 10 ounces
 & was 22 inches long - we're waiting to meet him.

Happy Birthday to all those celebrating their special day in July:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Joseph Risho | 3 Michael Scarpetti | 3 Logan Tripodi | 5 Elizabeth Cook |
| 18 Roberta Cook | 19 Lucas Gilligan | 23 Kelley Dwyer | 23 Carol Keiser |
| 23 Chesney Rose Scarpetti | 23 Brady John Scarpetti | 28 Muriel Madigan | 31 Cheryl Scarpetti |

and in August:

- | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1 Jennifer Alarie | 7 Bertha Bourgault | 10 Naomi Tengbeh | 25 Melissa Brailsford | 28 Ric Emerson |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------|

Happy Anniversary

- on **July 20th** to Philip & Jennifer Alarie
 and on **August 1st** to Kerri & Chuck Marcotte
8th to William & Danielle Cook
9th to Dennis & Karen Tripodi
17th to Vincent Cherico & James Reynolds
23rd to Maurice & Marie St. Jean
29th to Gail & Jim Lexner
30th to Gregory & Melissa Brailsford



Enjoy the Summer of 2017, everyone!