

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

The Shepherd's Voice

Newsletter from Good Shepherd Parish

September 2017



Morbid or meaningful? Planning your funeral in advance

As both a person who has lost loved ones, and as a priest, I have sat with people overwhelmed by grief who are suddenly confronted with the task of planning the funeral service of their loved one. Often it is a question they have never discussed, and the bereaved family members have no idea what the deceased would have wanted, nor have they thought about what they themselves would find helpful as they grieve.

Planning one's funeral and discussing one's wishes with family seems like a morbid task. But it can be a good opportunity to reflect on your own spiritual values and what you wish to convey to those who will mourn you. It is also a huge gift to your loved ones.

One place to begin is by leafing through the burial section of the Prayer Book, especially pages 490-507. If you have been to a funeral at Good Shepherd, you know that the usual Episcopal burial service is not all that different from our Sunday services, but with prayers specific to the occasion, and additional prayers added at the beginning and end.



See especially the "Note" on page 507, which begins, "The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised."

As you consider specifics, you will want to pick Scripture readings, either from those listed in the Prayer Book or others which have special meaning to you, and also think about hymns you would like. Funerals, like Sunday services, generally use music from one of our hymnals, not secular music. Also think about people you want to have involved as readers or pall bearers.

If you ask, I can share the basic worksheet I use when planning a funeral, and you can fill it out as you plan, or create a similar document for yourself. I can also meet with you to help you as you plan. We can keep a copy of your plan on file at the church so we have it if/when the need arises. You might also want to involve your family in your planning discussions, and share a copy with them.

Think about which charitable agencies you might want to name to receive memorial donations in lieu of flowers. Many name the Church of the Good Shepherd as one of the options. (You may also list Good Shepherd as a beneficiary in your will, of course). Lots of our recent programs and improvements have been funded by bequests and memorials--a wonderful way to continue your support of Good Shepherd.

The current cost of funerals can come as a rude shock. Good Shepherd itself does not charge fees for parish member's funerals, but the services provided by the mortuary/funeral home, the cost of cremation or interment, and caskets/urns and headstones/plaques are considerable. The average funeral cost in the USA is between \$7,000-10,000. Even the simplest cremation can cost several thousand dollars. If you can set aside some money or an insurance policy to cover these costs it relieves your survivors of potential stress and debt.

Millard

Sunday mornings at the Church of the Good Shepherd:

The Holy Eucharist at 9 am on September 3rd.

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

September 10th, Sunday School registration
at 10 am in the Jenks Room (bright rug on the floor.)



September 17th at 9:15 am, Choir rehearsals begin

more information about Sunday School & choir follows

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. 20th at 6 pm.**

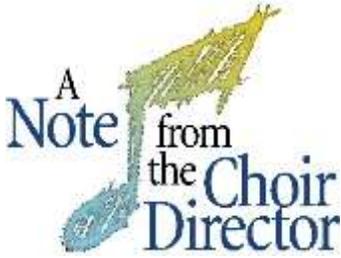


Sunday School is a time for children and young teens to learn the stories of our faith and to experience the community of the Church. Many of us who are NOT kids remember well those who were our Sunday School teachers and the beginning of our Christian education.

At Good Shepherd we have a single class that includes young people from age 4 through middle school; it is important that all children be able to sit for a lesson and follow the teacher's plans for activities.

We do not have space and leadership for child care other than Sunday School so we ask parents to be sure that the child they register is ready for a group setting or not too old either!

Sunday School begins each Sunday at 10 am in the Jenks Room and all will join the congregation with a song just before the peace.



Choir rehearsals will resume on **Sunday, Sept. 17th at 9:15am**; we plan to end ten minutes before the Eucharist begins at 10 am so that there will be a more prayerful atmosphere as folks arrive. If you've ever thought, "I'd really like to be singing that" Come try the Good Shepherd Choir on for size! You do need to be able to carry a tune but you don't have to read music; we're glad to pass on the basics of music reading.

In late August the Frinks attended a choral reading session in Newton, MA presented by the GIA publishing company. In two hours (with a 15 min. break) we sang 24 anthems! Not all were suitable for us at Good Shepherd, but some were, so there definitely will be new music this season as well as favorites to sing.

Wine & Beer Tasting Fund Raiser

This every other year event is coming soon, a major fund raiser to support the outreach programs of the Church of the Good Shepherd.



*Good Shepherd,
Good Friends &
Good Cheer.
It's That Time
of the Year!*

Trash or Treasure, the Food Closet, Fun Friday, the Community Gardens, AA, individuals in need and so much more depend on the congregation and the Good Shepherd building and grounds being a presence here in Pawtucket. So

Save the date: Saturday, October 21st (6:30- 9:00pm)

Twelve Acres, 445 Douglas Pike, Smithfield, RI

Invitations will be going out shortly; look for them in the mail and pass them on to family and friends. More are available.

There are many ways to help this fundraiser be a success:

- buy a ticket for \$30 and encourage friends to come with you
- make a donation if you cannot attend
- donate an item (for example, bottle of wine, movie passes, themed basket, gift card, etc.) for either the silent auction or the raffle.

?? about a possible donation item: ask a committee member

- offer your help as needed

Committee members to contact with questions:

Dennis & Karen Tripodi, 401-524-8727

Joe & Joyce Silvestri, 401-497-8533

Carol Keiser, 401-429-3033.

Other committee members are busy with "assigned tasks"!

We hope to make this our most successful fundraiser yet!

What's happening as summer heads towards fall?

• Many Hands Make Light Work!

By the time you read this edition of our newsletter, **Trash or Treasure** will be up and running for another season after being closed for a few weeks. Thank you to all the helping hands that made for a smooth transition and a much needed reprieve for our volunteer workers. We are open every Wednesday and Saturday from 9 AM-Noon. Come by to see if you can find a treasure or just to socialize!

Cheryl Scarpetti

PS - We are very short of **large bags** for winter coats and blankets & comforters bought by our customers, many of whom walk.

• **Tools for School**, our summer outreach project for the Winters School is winding down but not finished. School supplies including "Kleenex" can be brought to church through Sunday, Sept. 10th and we will be accepting monetary donations as well for we still have to buy the colored copy paper that puts a smile on the principal's face!

Thank you to Harvest Hope Church of God in Christ which is also helping with this project. There will be a full report next month.

• The Ken Lagerquist Community Gardens are flourishing; finally tomatoes are ripening. One gardener shared her early tomato harvest with the Pawtucket Soup Kitchen; one has brightened the neighborhood with flowers. There are 2 more "**Gardening Together**" Saturday events and anyone with a garden is welcome to come for the Master Gardeners' presentations at 11 am:

Sept. 16th - Cooking with your garden vegetables

Oct. 14th - Preparing your garden beds for winter

Looking back at July and August at Good Shepherd

• On Sunday, July 9th, Deacon Mary Ann introduced us to the Prayer Flag Project. There were brightly colored plastic strips and Sharpie markers for folks to use to write their prayers; we tied the strips to the front chain link fence and a box was added with more strips and markers for our neighbors to use. And they did! What a beautiful sight. On August 13th all the written prayers were prayed as part of the Prayers of the People ... peace ... mental illness and people it affects ... for people in transition ... Daniel ... the homeless ... keep my family safe and healthy ... let Jesus in your lives ... Pray for continued blessings so that every time I think there us no way ... Amen. Amen.

• Thanks to **Christie Harrison** who kept the music going at Good Shepherd for 3 Sundays in July so that the Frinks could enjoy an extended time in Vermont. She will also play on September 3rd while the Frinks visit their son Andrew and his wife Jenny in their new home in Francis, Utah.

• The Episcopal Conference Center was the place to be this Summer for **Joseph & Connor Maddix**. Joseph (now 9th grade at Tolman High School) went to Teen Camp & Summers End and had an awesome time! Connor (now 7th grade at Joseph Jenks Middle School) had lots of fun during his last year of Older Children's Camp. If you're lucky you can catch them in the "videos" on the ECC website.

- There continue to be changes and improvements to the property of Good Shepherd. It took some fiddling with the controls but the new **air-conditioning** made Sunday worship much more pleasant this summer. A risk assessment by the Diocese of RI led to the installation of new lighted exit signs with **emergency lights**. Imagine a power failure during Fun Friday! Read again about the fund raiser that helps to make outreach possible.



**WE'VE
MOVED!**

It was a very busy summer for three families who moved:

Gail Lexner moved back to Pawtucket.

Kerri, Chuck, Zac & Katie Grace Marcotte moved to Cumberland.

Christina Keiser, Angelo Gentile and their sons Carter & Miles moved to Rehoboth, MA.

We wish them well and say thanks for the household goods that have helped fill the shelves at **T or T**, except for a hot dog cooker left behind by a seller that Dennis grabbed for Fun Friday!

- If anyone else has moved or moved digitally (email address), please be sure Good Shepherd has your new information. Your birthday or anniversary has not moved, BUT if we don't know what it is, we can't pray for you at the appropriate time. Again, let us know.

- We have been working our way through the **Volunteer Schedule** that began in June. Soon Vince Cherico will appear with his white board & marker to ask you to sign up for the coming months. Your enthusiasm has been great. Small caution: after you sign-up, leave a slot or two for folks who may be absent on the 1st Sunday of the signup.

- During this summer we have welcomed Patricia Pelletier, Linda Zannarelli and Brian Viveiros to Good Shepherd. Many "regulars" have been away and it's never too late to add your personal welcome to those who have joined us.



**Happy Birthday to all those celebrating
their special day in September:**

2 Lynn Karneeb

12 Hannah Dwyer

14 Samantha Brailsford

17 Lynnsey Olbrych

23 Mary Tengbeh

29 Bill Cook

9 Jimmy Boateng

12 Owen Brown

15 Lory LeFort

19 Bryan Brailsford

28 James Kelliher

Happy Anniversary in September to

3 Fr. Jim & Caryl Frink
12 Paul Mayben & Jim Kelliher
23 Peter & Mary Tengbeh

9 Eric & Julie Tripodi
22 Anthony & Josephine Ngawar
25 Michael & Melissa Scarpetti



Looking ahead:

- **Friday, October 6th: Fun Friday returns!** We are collecting glass jars for a Halloween craft project - medium size, for examples: pickle or salsa or spaghetti sauce jars. Please take the labels off. Thanks.

Save  **Please!**

Every clip counts



- Any month, any season is the right time to cut and clip these coupons on familiar products. Bring them to church and put them in the little basket on the back table and we'll get them to the librarian at the Winters School so that she can use them to benefit the kids.

- It is easy to remember this year:

10 am on the 10th of September
return to fall, winter & spring Sunday schedule
for the Holy Eucharist at the Church of the Good Shepherd.