

The Shepherd's Voice

July ~ August 2018

From the Pastor's Desk ...

What is General Convention?

Why should I care?

How do I learn more?



The General Convention of the Episcopal Church occurs once every three years. Thousands of Episcopalians will gather in Austin, Texas from July 5-13, 2018 for the 79th General Convention. 79th? Yes, the first General Convention was held in Philadelphia in 1785! Why? General Convention is the highest authority in the Episcopal Church. It is a legislative gathering of *elected* lay and clergy representatives from each diocese in the Church.

That is why it is important—because unlike many other denominations, the major decisions in our Church—decisions about our worship, how the larger Episcopal Church spends energy and money, and what views we offer to secular governments about current issues—are all determined by an elected body prayerfully seeking the best path for the entire Church. Our church's practices and policies are not determined by cardinals or a Pope (as in Roman Catholicism), or, conversely, solely by the whims of the local pastor without any broader accountability (as in many Baptist or non-denominational churches).

Just like the US Congress, General Convention is comprised of two houses, the House of Deputies (elected lay people, deacons and priests) and the House of Bishops (who are in the House by virtue of having been selected by a diocese as a bishop at some point). And just like Congress, there are committees which consider and refine legislation and send it to be voted on by both Houses. A resolution has to be passed by both Houses to become official.

At the same time deputies and bishops are meeting, other church organizations take advantage of such a large number of Episcopalians being in one place. The triennial meeting of the Episcopal Church Women is a vibrant gathering; many other church-related organizations offer speakers and exhibits: there is a Youth Presence and so much more.

The exhibit hall is huge! Vestments, books and gifts from all over the world are available in abundance. There is time to learn more about various ministries: sit and talk with a member of an Episcopal religious order; get knitting instruction from the Knit before Christmas project of the Seaman's Institute; talk with native American Episcopalians about their ministry. Many people describe General Convention as "one part legislative meeting, one part family reunion."

All of this is grounded in prayer and worship.

This General Convention will be easier to follow in real-time than ever before. Use this link: episcopalchurch.org. All of the proposed legislation and committee reports and the daily schedule for convention can be found at <http://generalconvention.org>. All of the worship services (imagine thousands of Episcopalians worshipping together daily) and many of the legislative sessions will be live-streamed. There will also be a daily video "talk show" summarizing the day's events. And for those of you who want to follow a particular legislative item in detail, the "digital binder notebook," previously only available to deputies and bishops, will be accessible to all online.

These Deputies, elected at Diocesan Convention in 2016, are registered to represent the Diocese of Rhode Island:

• **The House of Deputies - Clergy:** The Venerable Deacon Janice Grinnell, the Rev. Patrick Greene, the Rev. Sunil Chandy, and the Rev. Nathan Humphrey

• **The House of Deputies - Lay:** The Honorable Scott Avedisian, Ms. Lora MacFall, Ms. Jane Jellison, and Mr. David Seifert

The House of Bishops: The Rt. Rev. W. Nicholas Knisely,
The Rt. Rev. Geralyn Wolf
The Rt. Rev. George Hunt

Pray for our Church.

Peace. 

Editor's Note: Linda Guest from St. David's, Cranston is the 1st Vice-President of the National Board of the Episcopal Church Women with responsibility for the program of the Triennial Meeting in Austin. She was a staff member at ECC for years, including directing the Camp for Older Girls. She is married to Peter Guest who grew up at Good Shepherd. It is "a small world!"



Sunday mornings at the Church of the Good Shepherd during July and August

The Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m.
a simple Coffee/lemonade "hour" follows



As was announced in last month's newsletter the Rev. Gillian Barr is now on medical leave until the middle of August. In the event of an emergency, please contact The Rev. Mary Ann Mello (401- 864-6612) or Carol Keiser (401-429-3033).

Please welcome these priests to Good Shepherd:

- June 24: The Rev. Michael Pearson
- July 1: The Rev. James Frink
- July 8: The Rev. Canon Linda L. Grenz
- July 15: The Rev. Philip Devens (The Rev. Mary Ann Mello is preaching).
- July 22: The Rev. Cara Rockhill, Young Adult Missioner for the Diocese of RI
- July 29: The Rev. Anne Bolles-Beaven
- August 5: The Rev. Philip Devens
- August 12: The Rev. James Frink

Ongoing events:

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



The Trash or Treasure Shop will once again close for a few weeks beginning July 21st; until then we will be open on Wed. & Sat. from 9 am - noon but closed on July 4th! **We will need some extra hands to bag up all the leftover summer merchandise at about 11am on Saturday, July 21st.** Work sessions will be determined to stock the selling floor with Fall and Winter merchandise. This closure gives our staff some needed time off and gives us the opportunity to restock at a leisurely pace.

We plan to reopen Trash or Treasure on August 18th, just before school reopens. Any help you can offer will be appreciated. Have a great summer!!! ~ Cheryl Scarpetti

Sunday, August 5th after church there will be a 150th Anniversary Committee meeting

continuing the Good Shepherd Story:



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“At a special meeting of the Vestry on May 10, 1903 the rector, the Rev. Asaph Wicks appointed a committee to work on plans to build a Parish House, for which money had been accumulated ... the cost with furnishings was \$6,500 and a \$3,100 mortgage was taken... that mortgage was burned on November 1, 1908... the next project was the purchase of a pipe organ ... the cost = \$3,150.00... \$3,178.77 had been raised!”

“The 50th anniversary was celebrated on November 1, 1918 with 5 services during the week; an anniversary fund of \$ 1,450 was used to renovate the interior of the Parish House and pay off part of the debt on property at the corner of Broadway and Carnation St.” These were certainly years of growth for Good Shepherd.

to be continued...



We are now close to four months away from celebrating the 150th Anniversary. We hope that everyone reading this newsletter has marked their calendars for November 4th when there will be a special Celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 10 am, followed by a coffee hour and then a dinner at Twelve Acres in Smithfield at 1:30 pm.

From the Committee meeting on June 3rd:

- There is no line item in the parish budget for this celebration! But, there will be costs. Everyone is invited to take a special box or pouch from the church and fill it with 150 pennies or nickels or dimes or quarters or ??? Or, you can create your own “bank” at home. These will be collected in the Fall.
- Ideas are still needed for the Time Capsule.
- We have copies of the booklets from the celebrations in 1968 and 1993 and we are borrowing the best ideas. While we will not solicit commercial advertisements, there will be a page for Memorials at \$10 a line and a page for Friends of Good Shepherd at \$25 a line. More to come about this...
- There will be a visual history premiering at the dinner and Mike Bouchard is still accepting photographs to be considered.
- Watch for a parish family tree to be painted on the back wall of the stage by a group of parish artists.

* The Outreach Committee will commemorate the 150th anniversary with a few special \$150 donations. The first one was agreed upon on Sunday, June 24th and is to ECC for things needed in this summer's camp program, given via an Amazon gift card with this note:

“This gift is part of the 150th Anniversary Celebration of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Pawtucket and is sent in thanksgiving for the vital ministry of ECC and in honor of its importance to the people of this parish through the years.”

* Yes, the school year just ended in Pawtucket, but the “back to school” sales will start soon after we celebrate the 4th of July! It's time for the ninth edition of Tools for School which benefits the teachers and kids at the Winters School. Thanks to Karmin & Amy and their daughters Kaylee and Haylee for helping us update our request list; they already have official supply lists from their new teachers. Until Labor Day we will be collecting: **pencils** (wood or mechanical); **crayons**; **glue sticks** (never enough); **pocket folders** (hold notices and homework!); **blue or black pens**; **student scissors**; & **Kleenex!** Blackboards have been replaced by white boards so they also need **dry erase markers**; these are a lot more expensive than chalk and any donations of \$\$ will enable us to buy some in bulk. **Donations of copy paper** are definitely a plus and we can also use \$\$ to buy more.



* Yes, there will be Fun Friday during the 2018-2019 school year!

* Harvest Hope Church of God in Christ will hold their Revive us Again Conference 2018, “The Power of Prayer” at 7 pm on Wed. July 18th, Thursday July 19th, and Friday July 20th. Their guest speaker is Bishop Melvin L. Sanchez. All are welcome. No other meetings will be scheduled then.

* All of the garden plots are planted. These plots are definitely fertile ground for weeds but we hope that the gardeners will win the battle! Master Gardener Jeff Faria will be available on Saturday, August 11th from 9:30 - noon for individual assistance and he will give a talk, “Garden Maintenance and Harvesting” at 10 am. Home gardeners are welcome to come. Inside? Outside? Depends upon the weather. Look around for us.

3 celebrations in June ...

* How many people have chocolate frogs at their birthday party? The Rev. Gillian Barr celebrated #50 on June 3rd wearing a wizard's hat as she cut into a Harry Potter decorated birthday cake. Lots of Harry Potter glasses were worn by young and old and then there were those frogs! It was also #?? for Jeannie Emerson who was given a tiara.

* With candles held high the young children and youth of the parish entered the church while everyone sang, “I want to walk as a child of the light... June 10th, Youth Sunday... Kaylee Ramsay opened the service with prayer and read the Scripture lesson.... Bells rang out as we sang, “Gloria”... gathering around Deacon Mary Ann as she read the Gospel... Abraphine Ngafaih and Connor Maddix read Old Turtle by Douglas Wood to us.... Who is God? Where is God?... Lots of singing with bells as we made a joyful noise unto the Lord!... When the saints go marching in!



* The sun was shining for the Block Party on Saturday, June 16th as the church lawn was alive with people - young and young in spirit. Joe Silvestri was the grille master aided by Joyce Silvestri and Sue Hosey and many, many volunteers... best way to eat a hot dog is freshly grilled....

Gloria Garnett and Mary Tengbeh offered Liberian specialties of chuck rice with a gravy of chicken and fish & collard greens with chicken, beef, and turkey over rice; Josephine Ngawor sent fried plantains... new (for many of us) yummy tastes!... Edward Wleh provided equipment to fill the air with West African and American Gospel music... lots of popcorn... no one was too old for face painting... or balloon animals either. How Kevin would have loved this celebration provided in his memory, but most of all he would have loved the ending!... the prearranged ice cream truck came quite early and seemed to be short of many of the things on Joyce's list.... the driver was confused but he took the tickets and the \$\$ Joyce paid him... the ice cream was a welcome treat as the afternoon was heating up.... then at the arranged time the "real" Palagi's Ice Cream truck drove up!... What would Kevin do? Have 2 desserts!!... so, more tickets were passed out, more ice cream was enjoyed and the block party ended with lots of smiles. Thank you to everyone who carried food, supplies, and chairs & tables in and out, poured lemonade, cleaned up, welcomed everyone and even delivered "room service" to the bus stop.

Around the parish...

- For the June newsletter the Rev. Gillian Barr wrote this about her pending surgery. "They are cautiously optimistic that there is not actually cancer present, but have no way of knowing for sure without the surgery." As this newsletter is being written Deacon Mary Ann has passed on the good news that the pathology reports after that surgery do not show any cancer. We pray for a return to good health. If you'd like to send a card or a note to Gillian, her address is 146 Woodbine St., Providence, RI 02906.
- We are advertising a simple coffee/lemonade "hour" for the summer months. If you have not signed up for a Sunday, it's still OK to donate crackers, cheese and cookies; this will help those who have signed up. Carol K. does make sure there is milk & cream so you do not have to bring those.
- "Summertime and the living is easy ..." but not for the parish treasurer! The bills often come in faster in the summer than the income so it is important to keep your pledge as current as you can.



Happy Birthday to those celebrating their special day in July:

3 Michael Scarpetti	3 Logan Tripodi	5 Elizabeth Cook
18 Roberta Cook	23 Kelley Dwyer	23 Carol Keiser
23 Chesney Rose Scarpetti	23 Brady John Scarpetti	
28 Muriel Madigan	29 Linda Viveiros	31 Cheryl Scarpetti

and to those celebrating their birthday in August:

1 Jennifer Alarie	4 Susanne Stewart	7 Bertha Bourgault	10 Naomi Tengbeh
17 Nancy Brissette	20 Kaori Ramsay	25 Melissa Brailsford	28 Richard Emerson

Happy Anniversary to Philip & Jennifer Alarie on July 20th

and Happy Anniversary in August to:

1 Chuck & Kerri Marcotte	8 William & Danielle Cook	9 Dennis & Karen Tripodi
17 Vince Cherico & James Reynolds	23 Maurice & Marie St. Jean	29 Gail & Jim Lexner
30 Gregory & Melissa Brailsford		

And to everyone reading this newsletter - Enjoy the Summer or 2018!