

Striving to be an Icon of Christ to our community and the world.
The Shepherd's Voice
Newsletter from Good Shepherd Parish



December 2018

When the Church of England broke away from the Roman Catholic church, the writers and editors of the first Book of Common Prayer gave us a great gift: the service of Morning Prayer. This put in the hands of every member of the Church the daily prayers previously accessible only to clergy and monks and nuns. Everything in Morning Prayer can be read and done by a lay person.

Those of you who have been Episcopalians for 40 years or more remember when Morning Prayer with sermon and hymns added was the primary Sunday service two or three Sundays a month, and the Eucharist was only celebrated one or two Sundays a month. With the 1979 version of the Book of Common Prayer we moved to weekly Eucharist, which had the unintended consequence of younger and newer members of our churches no longer becoming familiar with Morning Prayer.

At a recent leadership day with parish wardens, Bishop Knisely suggested that clergy refresh our congregation's experience of Morning Prayer. One of the characteristics of Morning Prayer is the use of scriptural hymns, or canticles, as responses to the readings. Many of the canticles have themes which fit nicely with the season of Advent. So, for three of the four Advent Sundays this year (December 2, 16, and 23) we will change the structure of our service to use a slightly modified version of Morning Prayer for the first half of the service, the Liturgy of the Word. The part of the service from the Peace onwards will remain the same. When Morning Prayer and Holy Eucharist are combined, we have all the same parts of the service we normally do, but in a slightly different order, and with one or two extra opportunities to sing.

We will explain more about the service as we do it. I encourage you to come to worship in December open to experiencing a slightly different rhythm, and to (re)acquaint yourself with a beautiful element in our worship tradition.

Peace, Gillian+



**Sunday mornings in Advent
at the Church of the Good Shepherd**

Choir Rehearsal at 9:15 am
Sunday School at 10:00 am
The Holy Eucharist at 10 am

*"Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free:
From our fears and sins release us, Let us find our rest in thee."*

As explained at the beginning of this newsletter, our worship on December 2, 16, and 23 will begin using a modified version of the Service of Morning Prayer. What is happening on December 9th? On that day we will celebrate the baptism of four children; come and welcome them into the family.

“O come, let us adore him. Christ, the Lord.”



Christmas Eve - Monday, December 24th

5:45 pm Carol Sing

6 pm Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day - Tuesday, December 25th

10 am Holy Eucharist

First Sunday after Christmas Day - December 30th

10 am • Service of Lessons and Carols with the Holy Eucharist

Be a Part of Soup Suppers



On the three Wednesdays in Advent (**Dec. 5, 12 & 19**) take advantage of an opportunity to draw together with the Good Shepherd family for warm soup and bread and conversation. At 6 p.m. each night we will watch a very short video depicting an aspect of the spiritual life in a contemporary way. We will then share dinner and conversation.

We will close the evening with the “bedtime prayers” of the church, the short service of Compline.

Mary Ann will provide the food for the December 5 gathering and invite folks to sign up to contribute for December 12 and 19.

You can preview the style of the videos on Sunday, Dec. 2nd at coffee hour, when Mary Ann will have one playing. The videos are part of a series called NOOMA by Rob Bell, a pastor and speaker whose books include Love Wins and What We Talk About When We Talk About God.

Ongoing events:

- **AA meetings every Saturday:** 5:30 - 6:30 pm - “Big Book”
7:00 - 8:00 pm - “Sober Sweet”
- **Trash or Treasure** is open on Wed. and Sat. from 9 am to noon
Note: it will be closed on Wednesday, December 26th.
- Throughout December and January we will collect **cereal for the Food Closet**. On Tuesday, November 20th there was a grand procession of 3 classes of students bearing lots of canned goods from the Winters School to Good Shepherd and down the stairs to the Food Closet. It was a rainy day but that did not dampen the spirit of the kids. Their gift will help feed many of our neighbors for weeks to come. However, **cereal** was not part of that collection.
- **Fun Friday** will have a holiday theme on **Friday, Dec. 7th** and welcome in the new year with winter fun on **January 4th** but no indoor snowball fights! Volunteers are always needed - just two hours from **5:30 - 7:30**. Help in the kitchen. Play a board game with a couple of kids. Create with paper and glue and maybe glitter. Have a cup of coffee with a parent.

From the recent letter to the parish:

”When we talk about supporting the church, we use the phrase “time, talent and treasure.” Each of us has time to give, talents to share and treasure to contribute. At different points in our life we may have more of one and very little of one of the others. ... This annual giving campaign is when we focus on the treasure part of the mix.”



On Sunday, **December 2nd** we will observe our **Annual Commitment Dedication** during the morning worship. Some pledges have already been received; others will be returned on Dec. 2nd. Everything we have in hand will be blessed at that time. However, it is never too late to make a financial pledge to support the church.

Back to the letter:

“Receiving pledges before a fiscal year begins helps the Vestry budget realistically and responsibly. ... Whatever you pledge, a pledge is a good-faith estimate of your financial support and can be adjusted up or down at any time as your circumstances change by speaking with the treasurer or the priest.”



With many events scheduled for December it is important to remember the **winter storm policy** of Good Shepherd: if there is parking ban in effect in Pawtucket during the time of any event, including Sunday worship, **the event is canceled.**

Christmas Memorial Flowers: Please submit the names of deceased loved ones to the parish office by **Tuesday morning, Dec. 19th** for inclusion in the Christmas Eve Staff. Do note that this list will include names of individuals submitted each year as well as those who have passed away during the year. A donation to help pay for flowers is gladly accepted but not necessary. There are envelopes at the back of the church.



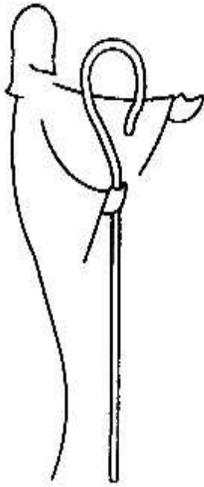
*“Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints
Where there is sorrow and pain no more,
Neither sighing, but life everlasting.”*

The congregation extends its sympathy to the family and friends of Barbara Michel who died on November 4th and Bertha Bourgault who died on November 6th.

For many years Barbara Michel was a soloist with the Good Shepherd choir enriching the worship of the parish with her gift of music.

Bertha Bourgault presided over the work table at Trash or Treasure year after year with a good eye for what something might be worth and a welcoming word for our neighbors.

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



150

The weather could not have been any better on Sunday, November 4th as the Parish of the Good Shepherd celebrated its 150th Anniversary. The choir began the festivities with a choral prelude: Love grows here, sung at Good Shepherd for years and a fitting theme for the day... a homecoming for many ... For all the saints ... Every Book of Common Prayer held a commemorative bookmark printed with the 23rd Psalm ... a gala coffee hour ... a starry 150 ... delight with the tree painted on the back wall of the stage, now adorned with leaves bearing the family names of current parishioners ... Festive!

Finally off to Twelve Acres for lunch where we were joined by Bishop Knisely and his wife, Karen ... a very special continuous slide show organized by Mike Bouchard ... How young we were! ... a proclamation from the bishop celebrating the 150 years of ministry centered at Good Shepherd on Broadway ... greetings from Mayor Grebien ... a free penny social with a variety of prizes ... Dennis Tripodi as the MC ... What was in the time capsule so deeply buried in the church yard? ... bits and pieces of the past ... flowers for Karen Tripodi and Cheryl Scarpetti, co-chairs for the 150th celebration ... an updated history in a special booklet to treasure ... 2019 calendar magnets to use as Good Shepherd moves into year #151!

The final event of the 150th Celebration will take place during the coffee hour on Sunday, Dec. 2nd, the first day of the Church's new year, the 1st Sunday of Advent when a new time capsule will be filled and laid to rest - not under four feet of rocky New England soil! In case you do not plan to be present for its opening in 2043 it will contain:

- a PawSox cap (sad),
- a Good Shepherd tee shirt,
- a memorial flower chart,
- plastic Easter eggs without candy,
- programs from many wine and beer tasting events,
- flags from the prayer flag project,
- the Hymnal 1982,
- a Fun Friday notice
- and lots lots more.



There are still bookmarks, booklets and calendar magnets on the table at the back of the church for all to enjoy.



The **“Walking School Bus”** has come to the Winters School. It is quite clear that if children do not come to school, their learning curve will be quite flat! And if students miss weeks of school, a bright future will be really dim! So, there are two routes to school staffed by teachers and their goal is to walk to the homes of nearby students who are usually late and walk them to school. This happens every day, rain or shine and now cold.

To help out with the walking school bus we will be collecting hats and mittens and gloves to make this a more comfortable winter walk for the “bus riders” and other students in need, too. Our collection will begin in Advent and continue through the Christmas season ending on the Feast of the Epiphany on Sunday, January 6, 2019.

Our Trash or Treasure Shop has been very busy putting out our Christmas merchandise. The response from our customers has been very good and we keep filling the empty spaces when things are sold. It is not too late to bring in Christmas decorations, red sweaters, candles and more.



We truly have a **Trash or Treasure Christmas Shop** this year. From a sidewalk in Pawtucket came an artificial tree with no working lights. Thanks to Brenda's creativity it now boasts a knit hat, two red Christmas ball eyes, a nose, a scarf, mittens and a host of snowflake decorations. Stop in, take a look and enjoy a holiday smile.

It seems that general merchandise is flying out the door faster than we can replenish our stock. St. John's, Barrington, just donated the leftover clothing from their rummage sale. This will help us out but **we still need clothing and shoes for men, women and children**. We are in constant need of bags... small grocery ones and big, old ones (oops... we may have some of them already but more are always welcome!) Thank you to all the ladies for stepping up at this busy season. Merry Christmas to all! Cheryl

Around the parish...

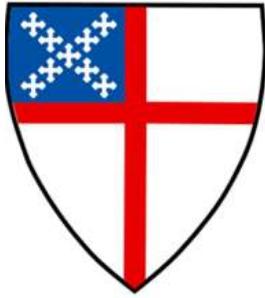
- From Cheryl: despite our enthusiasm for Christmas at Trash or Treasure, the continuing struggle of our friend Janet Jackson to recover from a stroke has certainly put a damper on our spirits; we wish her a full and speedy recovery. Please keep Janet in your prayers.
- To send a card: Janet Jackson
Our Lady of Fatima Hospital, Room 428
200 High Service Ave.
North Providence, RI 02904
- On the Feast of Christ the King, Nov. 25th, the children of the Sunday School entered the church wearing gold crowns as we all sang, "Sing Hosanna to the King of Kings."
- How do you spell "stress"? If you ask Frank or Roberta Cook, they will answer, "M-O-V-I-N-G" and they vow to never do it again!!



Happy Birthday to everyone celebrating a December birthday

2 Susan Jenson	4 Bruce Cyganoski	8 Angelo Gentile	13 Maxwell Alarie
18 Joyce Silvestri	21 Karmin Wiggins	23 Joseph Maddix	24 Clement Bethel
29 Caroline Tripodi	31 Jessica Olbrych		

Happy Anniversary on December 4th - Cheryl & Jim Scarpetti
and on December 31st - Christina Keiser & Angelo Gentile



EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF THE
Good Shepherd

490 Broadway, Pawtucket RI 02860

**A
CHRISTMAS
INVITATION**



“Come and worship ... worship Christ the newborn King”

Festive celebrations of the Holy Eucharist

6:00 pm Monday, December 24 * Christmas Eve

10:00 am Tuesday, December 25 * Christmas Day

10:00 am December 30 with a Service of Lessons & Carols

10:00 am January 6, 2019 * the Feast of the Epiphany



Each of us is an Inn Keeper  who decides if there is room for **Jesus.**
- Neal A. Maxwell

MERRY
Christmas

