

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

The Shepherd's Voice

Newsletter from Good Shepherd Parish



January and early February 2019



Pastor's Perspective

To the faithful followers of Jesus who gather for worship at
490 Broadway in Pawtucket, RI,

By now you have all received a letter from me explaining that I have submitted my resignation as your Priest in Charge to the Vestry. I have done this to give the congregation more budget flexibility by allowing you to seek a priest whose required compensation is lower. My last Sunday with you will be February 3rd. That letter addresses some of the immediate questions you will have about this transition. The meeting with Canon Grenz on February 10 will be another opportunity to ask questions about the next steps.

Stepping aside from my ministry at Good Shepherd was a hard decision to make. But I think it is the right one.

When I accepted this call, I asked Bishop Knisely about his hopes for my tenure at Good Shepherd. The Bishop spoke appreciatively of your energy, generosity, and good nature, and your impact on the community, and said that I was to simply love you and minister faithfully with you. That is what I have striven to do.

Passing the milestone of the 150th Anniversary celebrations seems to be a good time to reassess and set new goals for the parish's next era.

At present, any conversations about the parish's priorities and vision for the future stall out at the "but how will we make ends meet—we're barely in the black, and everything is getting more expensive" conversation. My salary and compensation comprise the largest expenses in the parish budget. (In round numbers, my compensation for my half-time employment at Good Shepherd in 2018 was \$36,000, of which \$11,000 was health and pension benefits, out of a total parish budget of \$86,000).

Making budgetary ends meet has required much of the parish leadership's energy be devoted to fundraisers or other cost-saving labor. This in turn means that when we have contemplated new ministries, or new approaches to old ones, the first question always seems to be "Do we have the energy for that, given all the energy we're already spending on the next fundraiser, or on [internal administrative process]."

The most important question for Good Shepherd (or any parish) at a turning point is, **"What ministries would help us better reach the people in this neighborhood, enable them encounter God more deeply through our witness, and work towards the values of God's kingdom here in this neighborhood and city?"**

The answers to those questions then drive your budget and your clergy selection.

There are many wonderful things that can be done at Good Shepherd. You are an amazingly generous, compassionate, and hardworking congregation. This transition provides a good checkpoint to look at things with fresh eyes.

You don't have to do things the way they've always been done, or have been done for the past 5 or 15 years. You don't even have to do all the same things, just because they've always been done. But it's admittedly hard to think creatively and ambitiously and bravely when you're focused so much on the nickels and dimes.

On which ministries would you as members and leaders truly enjoy spending your volunteer time and energies? What brings you joy? Where do you see Jesus at work in this parish's life? How can you help His light shine more brightly within and among you, and all around the neighborhood? In contrast, which ministries and tasks can best or only be done by those with specialized skills and abilities and/or ordination, people who need to be compensated for their time and skills?

I hope you will allow your most hopeful and courageous ministry desires for the future to determine the right mix of priestly and pastoral ministry, skilled administrative support, and volunteer focus for the next era of Good Shepherd's life.

And do so knowing that you are an amazing congregation that any priest would be blessed to serve, as I have been so richly blessed.

In Christ,



Sunday morning at the Church of the Good Shepherd:

Holy Eucharist at 10 am

Choir Rehearsal at 9:15 am

Sunday School at 10:00 am

But, if a parking ban is in effect at 12 Midnight Saturday night/12 am Sunday morning there will be no Sunday Service.

Sunday, January 20th: Annual Meeting following the Eucharist

Sunday, January 27th: snow date for the Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 3rd: special event (see below)

Sunday, February 10th: Welcome the Rev. Canon Linda Grenz to Good Shepherd

Continuing events:

Trash or Treasure continues to be open from 9 am to noon on Wednesday and Saturday unless there's a weather emergency.

AA meeting every Saturday: 5:30 - 6:30 pm - "Big Book"
7:00 - 8:00 pm - "Sober Sweet"

Fun Friday, February 1st from 5:30 - 7:30 pm.

The need for **food for the Food Closet** continues no matter the winter weather! While there is still ample canned food from the collection at Thanksgiving from the Winters School, the bins that keep the little critters out of boxes, are empty of **cereal. Can you add an extra box of cereal to your grocery cart?**

The Food Closet has been giving groceries out in reusable bags, encouraging their return for refilling; the response has been good.



This newsletter is being written as the football playoffs begin, but there will be a Super Bowl on **February 3rd** and Patriots fans are certainly hoping it will be **Go, Pats!** On that day we'll begin our **annual Souper Bowl collection** which will continue on Feb. 10th! Chicken soup is a plus for those suffering colds or flu but any kind of soup can be lunch or supper or even breakfast for our neighbors.



**of the Parish of the Good Shepherd
Sunday January 20th (Jan. 27 snow date)
following the 10 am worship**

Why should I come to the Annual Meeting? This is your parish.

Come and learn from the many reports covering 2018.

Know about the finances of your parish. Vote on a budget for 2019.

Choose the lay people who will direct Good Shepherd in 2019.

Leadership slate to be approved:

One-year term: Senior Warden Joseph Silvestri

Junior Warden: Dennis Tripodi

Clerk: Christie Harrison

Treasurer: Carol Keiser

Vestry: two year term ending at the Annual Meeting 2021

- Patricia Pelletier
- Joyce Silvestri
- Karmin Wiggins

Vestry: one year term ending at the Annual Meeting in 2020

- Frank Cook

Diocesan Convention & Deanery Delegates:

- to be announced

Elected at the last Annual Meeting for terms on the vestry, ending with the Annual Meeting in 2020:

Peter Tengbeh and Karen Tripodi

Pray!

*Almighty and ever-living God,
ruler of all things in heaven and earth,
hear our prayers for this parish family.*

*Strengthen the faithful,
arouse the careless,
and restore the penitent.*

*Grant us all things necessary for our common life,
and bring us all to be of one heart and mind
within your holy Church;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*



**to Celebrate the five years that the Rev. Gillian Barr
has been the Priest in Charge
of the Parish of the Good Shepherd**
by attending
The Holy Eucharist at 10 am on Sunday, February 3rd
and
the Luncheon,
catered by Spumoni's, that will follow in the parish hall.
(Note: There's no age limit up or down to attend.)



While you are marking your calendar with these special dates, remember that there are 2 important calendars for us at Good Shepherd that are posted on the wall outside the door to the sacristy. These are the **flower and sanctuary candle "charts"** or calendars **for 2019**. Names can be added at any time but please step back, take a second look and make sure that the name or names that you've written can be easily read. The suggested donation to the altar guild is \$3 for the sanctuary candle and \$3 for flowers from our varied selection of floral arrangements. A donation is not required. You can also make arrangements to have a florist deliver flowers but first check with the altar guild for an acceptable delivery time.

Most of the Christmas merchandise at **Trash or Treasure** has been cleared away except for angels (timeless) and snowmen (seasonal) which are both offered at 1/2 price right now. Our loyal customers are slowly trickling back but several new faces have shown up thanks to The Pawtucket Times and The Valley Breeze publishing our hours in their daily calendars.



Home goods and clothing are always in need, especially shoes. Think of Trash or Treasure as you look to clear space to put those new Christmas gifts! If you are swamped with shopping bags, we are not! Again, remember us. Happy New Year.

Cheryl Scarpetti



to those celebrating their special day in January

- 2 Joseph Silvestri 11 Zachary Marcotte 15 Gregory Brailsford 18 Fr. Jim Frink
- 19 Abigail Tripodi 21 Philip Alarie 27 Joyce Rodrigues 28 Cassidy Dekreon
- 30 Peter Dekreon

and in February

- 1 Ralph Pelchat 7 Kathleen Olbrych 19 Frank Cook

Looking back at December & early January:

- In the midst of the December **Fun Friday** there was quiet! Then the hall resounded with The 12 Days of Christmas as each table sang their assigned line of the song until we sang backwards from “twelve drummers drumming.”
- Thanks to the altar guild for the beauty of the church this past Christmas season - the poinsettias, those long red velvet bows, the candles - all together it was magical, especially during Silent Night.
- Special thanks to the choir for weeks of practice on a very difficult anthem that brought unexpected applause from the congregation on Christmas Eve.
- There on the front page of The Valley Breeze as a “Photo of the Year” were Pat Pelletier and Edward Wleh dancing at the June **Block Party**, a gift from the Kevin Hosey Memorial Hospitality Fund.
- You could call it a late New Year’s Celebration but after a rather chaotic January 4th **Fun Friday**, there was organized noise as the lights went on and off and the glow sticks glowed brightly and the crowd counted down, not once, not twice, but “do it again!” LOUD!
- We have a large bag of hats and gloves to take across the street to the Winters School to help keep kids warm on their walk to school. thanks to everyone who participated in this project.
- Fr. Jim Frink sends thanks to everybody who had a part in his very surprising 90th birthday party on Sunday, January 13th - lucky day.

Around the parish:

- We have an **updated address** for Janet Jackson who is now at the Life Care Center of Attleboro, 969 Park St., Attleboro, MA 02703. Mail is certainly appreciated when you are away from home.
- This past month we have welcomed Sampson Olayinka back to Good Shepherd after an extended stay in Nigeria.



- From the treasurer, Carol Keiser, “It is not too late to catch up your 2018 financial pledge to the parish or to make a pledge for 2019.”

- **A faith group discussion** was offered three Wednesday nights during the Advent Season.



We watched three videos from the Nooma series featuring Rob Bell. The evening consisted of soup, video and discussion and usually lasted an hour and a half. We had meaningful discussions about our faith life with lots of laughter, joy and hope and great soups made by the attendees. **Look for another three part series to be announced for Lent!**

Before Lent begins the Blackstone Valley Deanery invites you to a



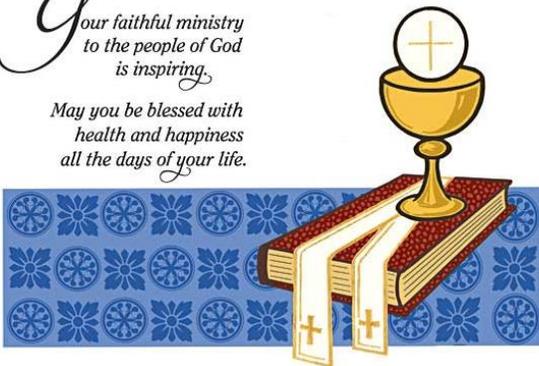
**on Sunday, March 3rd from 4 pm to 6:30 pm
at St. Luke's Episcopal Church
670 Weeden St.**

There will be a free will offering to benefit ECC.

Would you like to be on a team representing Good Shepherd?
Age is no barrier! Speak to Deacon Mary Ann or to Caryl Frink if you are interested so that we can form as many teams as possible.
You do not have to be on a team to attend!
Be a cheerleader!!

**Sunday, February 3rd
Farewell luncheon for the Rev. Gillian Barr**

To the Reverend Gillian Barr
Your faithful ministry to the people of God is inspiring.
May you be blessed with health and happiness all the days of your life.



*From your friends and parish family
at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd*

*With Sincere Thanks
for Your Priestly Ministry*

*The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,
And give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26*

**Ash Wednesday, March 6th, Lent begins
and continues until
Easter on April 21st**