



Along The Way

The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham November 28, 2018

Reflections


*From the
Pastor*



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Friends of The Good Shepherd,

On Sunday we begin the Church Season of Advent, which also marks the beginning of a new church year. During Advent we focus on the longings of our hearts for God's presence and action in our lives. At the beginning of Advent we focus on our hopes that God's Kingdom will one day be fully accepted and lived out in this often troubled world of ours; that God's justice will prevail. We finish Advent with the hopes which are fulfilled in birth of our Savior.

Let us take time during the Season of Advent to recognize where we need a Savior in our lives. Let us pray for deliverance from our fears and concerns of life. And let us hope in Jesus, trusting in him as we follow The Way of life he has shown us. For he is the light of the world.

See you Sunday!

Peace,
Pastor Dan

A FEW NOTES & REMINDERS

1. Saturday, December 1, is our Good Shepherd's Guild Christmas Fair. The Fair runs from 9am until 2pm. See below for more information.
2. If you have not yet made your financial pledge for 2018, please do so. The vestry is in the process of preparing a budget for 2019 and needs to know the projected income for 2019, which is primarily the pledge payments we anticipate. Thank you to those who have already made their pledge.
3. If you have information to get to the Good Shepherd community in our weekly newsletter ("Along The Way"), please submit the information to our office manager Cathi Maurice.

Current Happenings

WEEKLY UPDATE

Annual Good Shepherd Guild Christmas Fair

On Saturday, December 1, 2018, at 9:00 AM the Good Shepherd Guild is holding its annual Christmas Fair. We have been working on crafts, but we need your help with some of our other offerings. Used Christmas items (good time to clean out), new and used jewelry, new and gently used scarves, new and like new gift items for all ages of children and adults for the Children's Shopping Room. Start collecting these items at home and bring them to the Church the week before the Fair so that we can sort and organize. We will also offer a variety of Crafts and Gift Baskets made and put together by the Good Shepherd Guild. All parishioners will receive a letter with all the details, raffle tickets and additional requests for the Baked Goods Table. Your baked goods should be brought to church on Thursday evening (11/29) or Friday morning after 11:00 (11/30). A luncheon will not be served to our guests this year due to limited space for other tables. Your help and especially your attendance and support are greatly appreciated. We are in need of anyone who could stand in for just an hour or so to provide a break for those working the tables. See you there! Thank you for your support. ***The Good Shepherd Guild***

Christmas Gifts for Children of Families in Need

Turning Point Special Programs (Turning Point works with those who are homeless or near homeless in Wareham) is hoping to ensure that every child in our area can share in Christmas joy. Their goal is to provide a Christmas dinner, gifts, and clothing to as many children and families in need that they can. To make this happen, ***they need help in the form of volunteers*** working to sort, organize, and pack, as well as ***people willing to sponsor families or make donations*** of food for the dinner baskets, gift cards to local grocers, Target, Walmart, TJMAX, Old Navy. Movies, Pizzas, Ryans. Etc. Families in need can register for Holiday help by sending an email to Turningpointspecialprograms@gmail.com (on December 15, food, gifts and clothing will be distributed to the families in need). Let's do what we can at Good Shepherd to help. Volunteers can sign up to help via the above email. Gift Cards (see above suggestions) can be dropped off at Good Shepherd through December 9.

Christmas Flower and Decoration Donations

Donations to the Church Flower Fund, on the occasion of Christmas, can be made in memory of a deceased loved one, in thanksgiving for blessings in your life, or simply to the Glory of God. Donation envelopes and forms are available at the entrances of the church. Your donations will help us to decorate the church for the celebration of God abiding presence in our lives. The names of those in whose names donations are made will appear in the Christmas service booklets. ***Please return the envelope by Sunday, December 16.*** Thank you!

Good Shepherd Guild Christmas Dinner

The dinner will be held Monday, December 3 at 6pm in the parish hall. Italian buffet with dessert and drinks included. Price is \$11.00 per person and sign up sheet in office on wall. Please make checks payable to Good Shepherd Guild and put in Assistant Treasurer box. We will be doing a \$10.00 limit Yankee Swap. Monday 26th of November is the cut off date to sign up. Questions call Karen Clark 508-763-5129. All are welcome to join the fun and enjoy some Christmas spirit.

Healing Service Sunday

Sunday, December 9, there will be a healing service as part of the 8AM & 10AM Services. Following the sermon, prayers for healing will be offered for all of us who wish to receive them (for whatever form of healing is needed; emotional, spiritual, relational, physical, etc.). Those who come forward to receive these prayers for healing will also be anointed with blessed oil. Please consider inviting family and friends to the Healing Service, especially those who might most benefit from healing prayers. These formal healing services, as part of the Sunday Services, are held quarterly.

Vestry Meeting

The next meeting of the Vestry will take place in the Parish Conference Room on Thursday, December 13, beginning at 6:30PM. Anyone who would like to submit possible agenda items for consideration can do so through Pastor Dan or through our Senior Warden Chuck McCullough by December 6 (one week before the meeting).

2019 Pledge Update

Thank you to all who have made a financial pledge of support for 2019! Your continued spirit of generosity is very much appreciated. The Church of the Good Shepherd makes a difference in our lives and the lives of so many others, and your financial partnership helps to make that possible. So far we have received 40 pledges, totaling \$72,716 for 2019 (last year's pledges totaled \$102,000). If you have not yet made your pledge of support for 2019, it is not too late to do so. Extra pledge forms can be found in the parish office. Please return your forms (by mail to the parish office or through the offering box in the church) as soon as possible. Thank you again for your partnership in making the ministries of the Good Shepherd faith community possible!

Bible Study – An Introduction to the Gospel of Luke

Beginning November 28, there will be a four-week Bible Study which will introduce the Gospel of Luke. The Gospel of Luke will be the Gospel we will hear from for most Sundays in 2019. In this bible study we will grow in our understanding of the background and context of Luke's Gospel; as well as highlight the themes of Luke's Gospel. This will help us as we hear passages from Luke's gospel on Sundays. **We will meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30PM in the parish Conference Room** (near the Parish Office). There is no fee for the Bible Study. All are welcome! Please let Pastor Dan know if you are interested in taking part in the Bible Study, by signing the list in the back of the church.

Winter Weather and Sunday Services

In the event that the Sunday Services are being cancelled due to the weather conditions, an email will be sent out informing you that the Services are being cancelled, and the church answering machine will have a message announcing the cancellation. Of course, please use your own discretion as to whether or not it is safe for you to get to church, even if the services have not been cancelled.

Food Pantry

On Tuesday, December 4, the Good Shepherd Food Pantry will be open from 3-5PM. All who are in need are welcome! The Food Pantry is open on the first Tuesday of every month.

Collecting Socks for the Homeless

Please consider purchasing socks for our homeless brothers and sisters. Clean dry socks are very much needed and welcomed by those who live outside. There will be a collection box in the back of the church for you to place them in.

Mid-Week Eucharist

On Wednesdays at Noon there is a celebration of the Eucharist in the church, which is open to all. This is an opportunity to gather for prayer and reflection, and be reminded of God's presence between Sundays. For those on your lunch break, the celebration of the Eucharist is approximately 25-30 minutes. **There will be no mid-week Eucharist on December 26.**

Would you like to be Confirmed or Received into the Episcopal Church?

Confirmation is the liturgical rite in which a person stands before the Bishop and renews their commitment to follow the Way of Jesus, by renewing their Baptismal Covenant. Today, the Sacrament of Confirmation usually occurs when a person is at least 16 years of age. If you have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation, I would like to encourage you to consider it. I believe that Confirmation is an important sacrament, especially considering that most of us were Baptized at a very young age and were not able to pledge our commitment to follow the Way of Jesus through the Baptismal Covenant. In Confirmation we make the decision for ourselves. We stand before the Bishop and before the Church and say Yes to God and Yes to following the Way of Jesus. If you did receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, but not in the Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Church still recognizes your Confirmation. But I would like to encourage you to consider being formally **Received** into the Communion of the Episcopal Church. At the Confirmation Service, those who were Confirmed in a non-Episcopal church have the opportunity to acknowledge their desire to follow Jesus by way of the communion of the Episcopal Church. Like those being Confirmed, those being Received renew their commitment to follow the Way of Jesus, by renewing their Baptismal Covenant. Please see Pastor Dan if you are interested in either receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation or being Received into the communion of the Episcopal Church.

The Sign of Peace – Staying Healthy and Avoiding Illness

We gather each Sunday to worship and share in the fellowship of the church, which is very important to us. At the Sign of Peace we exchange handshakes and hugs as we connect with one another and support one another in the love and peace of our God. But there are times that it is not appropriate to "reach out and touch someone", for example when we have been ill or have been in contact with someone who is ill. There are also times when we may not want someone else to reach out and touch us, for example when our immune system may be weak. **For these reasons, we will not be exchanging the Sign of Peace for the remainder of the cold and flu season. Instead we will be pausing to pray for peace.** If you are ill, please consider staying home and resting, so as not to pass on your illness to others. All are welcome to use the hand sanitizers located at the entrances of the church as you enter the church and as you leave the church; as a way to help prevent the spread of infection and illness.

Are You Receiving Our Weekly Newsletter?

Good Shepherd now publishes a weekly electronic newsletter called "Along The Way". The newsletter is published mid-week. If you would like to receive a copy of the electronic newsletter, please email the parish office with your name and email address (goodshepherdwareham@gmail.com). We also print a limited number of copies of the newsletter for distribution on Sunday mornings. You will find these paper copies in the back of the church. Please save these printed copies for those who do not have email access.

Upcoming Events

WEEKLY UPDATE

Addiction Drop-In Center

The Wareham Fighting Against Addiction coalition has opened an addiction drop-in center for Wareham, which is open every third Wednesday of the month from 5-8pm. **The next Drop-In Center night is December 19.** The Drop-In Center, which is held in the Parish Hall at Good Shepherd, is a place where those who need and want to be treated for their addiction can be helped. It is a place where resources related to addiction can be found, including recovery support groups and support groups for those whose loved ones have an addiction. Please keep the efforts of the Wareham Addiction Coalition in your prayers. And remember, addiction is not about choice or a reflection of one's moral character, addiction is a disease that takes hold of one's life and we should treat it as such.

Our Christmas Services

Our Worship Services in celebration of Christmas will be held at **4:30PM** (Family Service) and **8PM** (Traditional Candlelight Service with Choir) on Christmas Eve, and at **10AM** on Christmas Day (Traditional Service).

Others Parish News

WEEKLY UPDATE

Volunteers needed - Damien's Food Pantry

Damien's Food Pantry ([3065 Cranberry Hwy. Wareham](https://www.wareham.org/3065-Cranberry-Hwy-Wareham)) is looking for volunteers to help with food distribution. Volunteers opportunities available on Thursday and Saturday from 8:30am to 12 noon. For additional information call [508-295-3486](tel:508-295-3486) leave message for Louise (volunteer coordinator).

Watch Our 150th Anniversary Concert

Our 150th Anniversary Concert was filmed by WCTV and can now be viewed using the following link (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2cgKaEJ02T8>). It is a reminder of the wonderful job our choir and other music ministers did. Please pass this link along to those who might want to see the concert.

Looking for "Homework Heroes" Volunteers

Our Wareham Community Engagement Initiative, which is working to help all children of Wareham to succeed, is looking for volunteers! This is an opportunity for you to support and encourage children in the community by becoming a "Homework Hero", and helping children check over their school work. No expertise or major time commitment required. Contact Kelly at wcei.wareham@gmail.com with any questions.

The Good Shepherd's Table – Acts of Kindness board

Just a reminder that every Thursday evening at 5PM the Church of the Good Shepherd hosts the Good Shepherd's Table, which serves a free meal. All are welcome! We thank all the many volunteers who make this ministry happen every Thursday! If you would like to assist in the ministry of The Good Shepherd's Table by purchasing items that are needed to serve the meals, please see the Shepherd's Table "Acts of Kindness" board on the doors in the back of the church. Thank you!

Cold Cereal, Toothpaste, and Toilet Paper Donations for the Food Pantry

Please consider donating boxes of cold cereal, toothpaste and toilet paper to the Food Pantry. You can bring them in any Sunday, but we are looking for them specifically on the last Sunday of the month. You can leave them in one of the baskets in the back of the church. Thank you for your generosity!

Sunday Flower Donations

Please consider making a donation for Sunday Flowers in memory of a loved one, or in thanksgiving for blessing in your life. You may do so by filling out the "Altar Flower" sheet in the back of the church and signing the altar flower schedule in the back of the church. The amount we are charged by the florist for the two arrangements of flowers is \$35. Please make a check out to The Church of the Good Shepherd, with a notation of "Altar Flowers". The "Altar Flower" sheet and your check should either be placed in the offering box in the church, or mailed to the parish office. If you are unable to pay the \$35 offering, please give as much as you are able. Your thanksgiving/memorial will be included in the Sunday Worship Booklet and in the Prayers of the People.

Coffee Hour Hosts are Needed

We are in need of coffee hour hosts, after the 10AM Service. The sign-up list and an instruction sheet can be found on the small bulletin board in the Parish Hall, behind the table where the coffee is served during coffee hour. You can sign-up with others to share the expense and the work! Thank you to all who have been coffee hour hosts in the past! Thank you to the

groups and organizations in the parish who have been providing back-up Coffee Hour coverage on the Sundays when no one signs up to host!!!

Acts of Kindness – In Support of Those in Addiction Recovery

In an effort to reach out to those who need to hear the Good News of God's love and compassion, our Good Shepherd community has an Acts of Kindness - Baking Ministry. We deliver baked goods to those who are in recovery from addiction and are living at one of the area halfway houses. The idea is that we can support someone in recovery by letting them know that we care, that we are praying for them, and that they are not alone. We provide baked goods and a card of support from our community once a month. Please contact Donna Tolley (dtolley714@gmail.com or 508-888-9337) for more information about how you can help with our Baking Ministry.

Prayers of the People – Prayer Requests

Every Sunday before the 8AM & 10AM Services you have an opportunity to record in our new Prayer Request Book the names of those for whom you wish us to pray, including those who are in particular need of prayers at this time and those who have died. The book is at the back (main) entrance of the church. The Prayer Request Book will be placed on the altar during the opening procession and we will pray "for all those whose names are recorded in our prayer request book" during the Prayers of the People. During the Prayers of the People you may also voice the names of those you would like to be remembered, as we pause during the prayer for those in particular need and the prayer for those who have died.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

As a way of reaching out to those who are ill or struggling in some way, parishioners have knitted shawls to be given to those who can benefit from receiving these gifts of warmth and comfort. Pastor Dan blesses each shawl before it is given. He prays that "this mantle be a safe haven... a sacred place of security and wellbeing... sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones." Please contact Judy Ellis (Prayer Shawl Ministry Coordinator) or Pastor Dan if you would like a shawl for yourself or someone else. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, and join our knitting team, please be in touch with Judy Ellis (508-295-5318). There is a very basic pattern that makes a beautiful, lacey shawl. It can also be modified to make a man's lap robe. All patterns, of course, are welcomed.

NAR-ANON Support Group - We Can All Use a Little Help

There is a support group for those who have family members who suffer from addiction to narcotics. It is so important that loved ones of those who are addicted have a place to go and share their stories and receive support. Please pass the information below along to your friends and family members. It could make a big difference in their lives. The NAR-ANON Family Group "Let it Begin with Me" meets on Mondays from 7:30-9pm at the LifeHouse Church in [Middleboro \(17 Jericho Rd.\)](#). This is a 12 step program open to family and loved ones affected by someone else's addiction. This is an "anonymous program. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Natecia 774-260-1924.

Prayer Group Meeting

The Parish Prayer Group meets on the last Thursday of every month. If at any time you would like to have someone included on the parish prayer list, please contact Pat Probert (pattip46@verizon.net or 508-291-3364) or Pastor Dan. The information is kept confidential and is only shared with the members of the Prayer Group. If the person you wish to add to the prayer list is outside your immediate family, please get their permission before having them placed on the prayer list.

Children's Activity Bags

Coloring books and word search books have been stocked in the Children's Activity Bags at the back of the church. These are meant to be a help for younger children whose attention spans are a bit shorter. Please feel free to grab a bag anytime during the service. At the end of the service, simply return the bag where you found it.

Pastoral Care

If you would like yourself or someone else placed on the Good Shepherd prayer list, please contact Pat Probert (508-291-3364) or myself. The Good Shepherd prayer group prays daily for those on the prayer list, and prays together as a group once a month. If you need or would like a pastoral visit from the priest, please let me know. My contact information is on the back of the weekly Sunday Service Booklet. The only way I know that you are in need of a pastoral visit is if you let me know personally or through another person. You might want to keep my contact information (cell # 603-953-3659 for emergencies) somewhere handy, so you know where to find it when the need arises. **Pastor Dan**

Healing Prayers

Prayers for healing are offered on Sundays during communion at the side altar. Healing Prayers can be for many forms of healing; physical, emotional, psychological, spiritual, etc. All are welcome

Please "Like" us on Facebook

Please like us on facebook ("Church of the Good Shepherd Wareham") so we can get the word out about what is happening in our parish community.



December 2018

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
						1
						8-11 AM Egyptian Coptic Orthodox Service 9-2 PM Good Shepherd's Guild Christmas Fair
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
The 1st Sunday of Advent 8 AM Holy Eucharist 10 AM Holy Eucharist 11:15AM Coffee Hour	6 PM Good Shepherd's Guild Christmas Dinner	3-5 PM Food Pantry 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	12Noon Holy Eucharist 6:30-7:30 PM Bible Study	5 PM Good Shepherd's Table		8-11 AM Egyptian Coptic Orthodox Service
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
The 2nd Sunday of Advent 8 AM Holy Eucharist w/ Prayers for Healing 10 AM Holy Eucharist w/ Prayers for Healing 11:15AM Coffee Hour		6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	12Noon Holy Eucharist 6:30-7:30 PM Bible Study	5 PM Good Shepherd's Table 6:30 PM Vestry Meeting		8-11 AM Egyptian Coptic Orthodox Service
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
The 3rd Sunday of Advent 8 AM Holy Eucharist 10 AM Holy Eucharist 11:15AM Coffee Hour		6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	12Noon Holy Eucharist 5-8:00 PM Addiction/ Recovery Drop-In Center 6:30-7:30 PM Bible Study	5 PM Good Shepherd's Table		8-11 AM Egyptian Coptic Orthodox Service
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
The 4th Sunday Of Advent 8 AM Holy Eucharist 10 AM Holy Eucharist 11:15AM Coffee Hour	Christmas Eve Services 4:30 PM Family Service with pageant 8 PM Traditional Service with Choir	10AM Christmas Day Traditional Service		5 PM Good Shepherd's Table		8-11 AM Egyptian Coptic Orthodox Service
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The First Sunday after Christmas 8 AM Holy Eucharist 10 AM Holy Eucharist 11:15AM Coffee Hour						