



Along The Way

The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham January 9, 2019



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Friends of The Good Shepherd,

I hope you are well and that your hearts have been open to receive the gift of God's loving presence in your life.

On Sunday we will celebrate the Baptism of Jesus. After Jesus' baptism, we read in Luke's Gospel: "And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'" What a beautiful statement. What more could we ever want for God to say about us, especially after we have taken our final breath?

Blessings in the new year. See you Sunday!

Peace,

Pastor Dan

A FEW NOTES & REMINDERS

1. Tonight (Wednesday, January 9) begins a three week study of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's "A Letter From a Birmingham Jail." See below for more information..
 2. 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.
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Current Happenings

WEEKLY UPDATE

A Wareham Community Engagement Initiative Update

We would like to take a moment to emphasize our appreciation for the support of our community and to give a quick update on the work of the Wareham Community Engagement Initiative (WCEI - a community-run initiative founded by members of the Church of the Good Shepherd with the help of Episcopal City Mission).

Over the past two years, WCEI has come together, asked questions of our community and engaged in volunteer activities. The citizens, leaders and children, whom we've spent time with during this process, have blown us away; the quality of character and level of passion and dedication that defines Wareham (and our amazing neighbors) is remarkable. What a special community we have here.

The objective of our Initiative is "*Until all children in Wareham have the support they need to succeed.*" We truly believe that relationship building between our diverse group of volunteers and children, grounded by a common goal of achieving success, yields a powerful impact on the community as a whole. This year, we are humbled by the relationships we've been blessed to be able to build.

This September, we began working with the incredible Vicky White and her kids at Brandy Hill with a club called Homework Heroes. Every Tuesday afternoon, members of WCEI and our community volunteers meet with Vicky and the kids of Brandy Hill to work on homework, practice flash cards, do word searches, and simply chat and enjoy each other's company. We've spent time with the Brandy Hill community barbecuing, playing outdoors, holiday gift shopping, decorating a tree and verbalizing wishes for our community and the world. The kids even prepared a wonderful Thanksgiving meal for the volunteers simply to say thank you.

We want to thank every one of our team members and volunteers, our community and partners, the Church of the Good Shepherd, Episcopal City Mission, The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts and, of course, Brandy Hill and the beautiful children who have opened up their doors and vibrant personalities to us - we could not have achieved this success without your time, honest opinions, heart and dedication. We are excited to continue working with the community of Wareham and Brandy Hill in 2019!

If you'd like to learn more about the work we're doing, become a volunteer, or participate in a youth developmental asset training, please reach out to Kelly at wcei.wareham@gmail.com or call the Church at 508-295-2840. Everyone is welcome and appreciated.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" Study

Beginning Wednesday, January 9, there will be a three-week study on The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," which speaks about the importance of Christians standing up against injustice in the world. It is a beautiful and challenging letter, which is as important today as it was 50 years ago. The study will be from 6:30-8:00pm and will be held in the church Conference Room. The dates are January 9, 16 & 23. There is a sign-up list in the back of the church, which will help us plan for the study.

What Does it Mean to be an Episcopal Christian in the World Today?: A Faith Enrichment Opportunity

A six-session faith enrichment program for all those who would like to deepen their appreciation of what it means to be an Episcopal Christian in the world today will begin on Sunday, January 27. We will examine our understanding of the bible as a whole. We will look at who God is, who Jesus is, and what it means to have faith. The sessions will meet from 12:00-1:30pm, every other week for six sessions. If you think you might be interested in being a part of these faith enrichment sessions, please sign the list in the back of the Church or contact Pastor Dan. This program is for anyone who wants to grow deeper in their faith but will also serve as a preparation process for those wanting to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church (see Pastor Dan for more details). The meeting dates are January 27, February 10 & 24, March 10 & 24, and April 7.

A New Year and New Beginnings

Deacon Sharon will be leading a study once a month for this year, using the book "Fresh Bread and Other Gifts of Spiritual Nourishment" by Joyce Rupp. You can attend either the last Monday of the month from 6:30-8 or the last Tuesday of the month from 11:30-1:00. You can purchase the books from either Barnes and Noble or Amazon. You should purchase the book and read the first chapter, before the first meeting. Each chapter has a reading, short scripture texts you can read and questions for journaling. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church. Looking forward to seeing you there. *Deacon Sharon*

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 January 16.*** 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.

Discretionary Fund Contributions

Sunday, January 20, is the third Sunday of the month. Although donations can be made at any time during the month, on the third Sunday of the month parishioners are invited to make a contribution to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, as they are able. It is from the discretionary fund that Pastor Dan assists those in need. You may make contributions to the discretionary fund by placing your contributions in one of the discretionary fund envelopes (found in the back of the church) and placing the envelope in one of the church offertory boxes. Please consider making a contribution to the discretionary fund. Checks should be made out to "Church of the Good Shepherd – Clergy Discretionary Fund." Thank you to those who have made contributions in the past!

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

Please consider donating boxes of cold cereal, toothpaste, bar soap 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!

Annual Meeting

The Church of the Good Shepherd Annual Meeting is on Sunday, February 3, immediately following the 9:00AM Service. There will be only one Service on February 3, which will be at 9:00AM. This is a very important gathering in our parish, and all members of the parish are encouraged to attend. Elections will take place as well as a presentation and discussion on the vision of the church as we move into 2019 and beyond. The Annual Meeting Journal, containing the financial and ministerial reports for 2018 and the budget for 2019, will be available beginning Sunday, January 27.

Annual Meeting Reports

This is a reminder to all ministry and committee leaders that your annual meeting reports are due by January 13. Please send them electronically to Cathi Maurice (goodshepherdwareham@gmail.com). It is important that these reports be received by January 13, so the annual meeting journal can be produced and given out the Sunday before the annual meeting. Our Office Manager is with us a limited number of hours, so please make sure the reports are submitted on time. Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 3. Thank you! Pastor Dan

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.

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.

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

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

On the last Sunday of the month we recognize, with a special blessing at our Sunday Services, those who celebrate birthdays and anniversaries during that month. On Sunday, December 30, we will celebrate with those who have December birthdays and anniversaries.

Only One Sunday Service on February 3

Sunday, February 3, there will be only one church Service, which will begin at 9:00AM. There will not be an 8AM or a 10AM Service on February 3. Please make a note of this change. Immediately following the 9:00AM Service the Parish Annual Meeting will be held in the Parish Hall, followed by a coffee hour.

Nights of Hospitality Ministry

Good Shepherd will again be participating in the Nights of Hospitality (NOH) Ministry. NOH is an outreach ministry of area churches to shelter the homeless during the cold winter months. The Church of the Good Shepherd will be participating by staffing two of the weeks when the shelter is being held at St. Patrick's Church. On the weeks we will be staffing the Nights of Hospitality ministry, the host church (St. Patrick's) will provide the space for the shelter, but the staffing of the shelter and the meals will come from our church. Our weeks for staffing and providing meals for the Nights of Hospitality ministry will be the weeks of **February 3-9 and March 10-16**. There a sign-up list in the back of the church. You may also contact Chuck McCullough to sign-up or to receive more information (cwmccullough@comcast.net or 508-758-1326). Please consider serving in this important ministry.

Others Parish News

WEEKLY UPDATE

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!

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.



January 2019

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
		1	2	3	4	5
		3-5 PM Food Pantry	12Noon Holy Eucharist	5 PM Good Shepherd's Table		8-11 AM Egyptian Coptic Orthodox Service
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
The Epiphany Sunday 8 AM Holy Eucharist 10 AM Holy Eucharist 11:15AM Coffee Hour		6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	12Noon Holy Eucharist 6:30PM MLK Study	5 PM Good Shepherd's Table 6:30 PM Vestry Meeting		8-11 AM Egyptian Coptic Orthodox Service
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
The 1st Sunday after the Epiphany 8 AM Holy Eucharist 10 AM Holy Eucharist 11:15AM Coffee Hour	6:00 PM Good Shepherd's Guild Meeting	6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	12Noon Holy Eucharist 5-8:00 PM Addiction/ Recovery Drop-In Center 6:30PM MLK Study	5 PM Good Shepherd's Table		8-11 AM Egyptian Coptic Orthodox Service
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
The 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany 8 AM Holy Eucharist 10 AM Holy Eucharist 11:15AM Coffee Hour		6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	12Noon Holy Eucharist 6:30PM MLK Study	5 PM Good Shepherd's Table		8-11 AM Egyptian Coptic Orthodox Service
27	28	29	30	31		
The 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany 8 AM Holy Eucharist 10 AM Holy Eucharist 11:15AM Coffee Hour		6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	12Noon Holy Eucharist	5 PM Good Shepherd's Table		