



Along The Way

The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham

October 30, 2024

Reflections

*From the
Pastor*



Good Shepherd Friends,

On Sunday, we will hear the following Gospel passage from the Gospel according to Mark:

One of the scribes came near and heard the Sadducees disputing with one another, and seeing that Jesus answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,'—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any questions.

I would like to focus on the scribe's response to Jesus that loving God and loving neighbor are most important. He ends by saying "this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." What does this mean in regard to burnt offerings and sacrifices? In the time of Jesus, an important way for one to get right with God, or stay right with God, was through burnt offerings and sacrifices in the Temple. With the statement, "this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices," the scribe is saying that loving God and neighbor is what is most important in order for one to be right with God. Jesus then acknowledges this to be true.

This passage can be a reminder for us of what is most important to God, which is that we be people of love. If we want to be right with God, we must be loving. And it is not enough to say we love God; we must love our neighbor as well.

Sometimes we can look to other things as being most important to God, such as going to church, saying prayers, and reading the bible. These are all important, but they alone do not put us right with God. They can teach us about loving, but loving is what is most important.

*God, help us through the power of the Holy Spirit,
to love as Jesus loved.*

Peace,

Pastor Dan

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE NOVEMBER 3, 2024	
8 AM	10 AM
<p>READERS: JOELLA CRUZ</p> <p>HOSPITALITY: KAREN CLARK</p> <p>EUCCHARISTIC: MICHELLE MURRAY</p>	<p>READERS: SG PRESTON SCOOTER HOLCOMBE</p> <p>HOSPITALITY: CHUCK & DONNA TOLLEY</p> <p>EUCCHARISTIC: MAURICE PARKENON</p> <p>NURSERY: ELIZABETH MANDELL & ANDREA LAMONTAGNE</p>

WEEKLY SCRIPTERS

[SUNDAY READINGS
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MONTHLY VESTRY MINUTES

[VESTRY MINUTES
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A FEW NOTES & REMINDERS

1. This coming Sunday, November 3, is All Saints Sunday. We will celebrate the Saints of God, both past and present, at both of our Sunday Services.
2. This coming Sunday is a Sunday School Sunday. See below for more information about our Sunday School.
3. If you have parish information to pass on to the Good Shepherd community in our weekly newsletter ("Along The Way"), please submit the information to our office manager Cathi Maurice or to Pastor Dan.

[CLICK HERE FOR PARISH CALENDAR](#)

Current Happenings

WEEKLY UPDATE

2025 Stewardship Pledge Drive

Our Good Shepherd 2025 Stewardship Pledge Drive has begun. Please return your completed pledge forms to the church on either Sunday November 10 or 17 and place them in the pledge basket in the front of the church when the offering is brought to the altar. If you will not be in church November 10 & 17, please mail in your pledge form to the church by November 10. Extra pledge packets are available in the back of the church and on our church website (www.goodshepherdwareham.org). With the realization that all we have is a gift from God, given for the greater good, let us work together to brighten our world with the peace, hope and love of our God. For those of you who have been supporting our parish through ministries and financial contributions this past year, thank you!

The Next Vestry Meeting

The next meeting of the Vestry will take place on Thursday, November 14, beginning at 6:00pm. If you would like to submit possible agenda items for consideration, you can do so through Becky Hansen (Senior Warden) or Pastor Dan by November 7.

Installation of Our new Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop

Our new Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Bishop Sean Rowe, will begin his ministry as Presiding Bishop on November 2. The Presiding Bishop is a bishop of the Episcopal Church who represents the Episcopal Church in the world around us and serves as a unifying presence for all the dioceses of the Episcopal Church. The beginning of Bishop Rowe's nine-year term as Presiding Bishop will be celebrated with a livestreamed investiture on Nov. 2. A Diocesan Role Call begins at 9:30am and the Service begins at 11am. Click on this link [Livestreamed Presiding Bishop Investiture Service](#) to participate in the Service, which will be shown on the Episcopal Church Facebook page. Please keep Presiding Bishop-Elect Sean Rowe in your prayers as he begins his new ministry, and please keep Bishop Michael Curry in your prayers of thanksgiving for the wonderful faithful leadership he has provided as Presiding Bishop.

Operation Christmas Child – Shoe Box Ministry

It's time once again for the "Operation Christmas Child" shoe box ministry. This is a *global* ministry where boxes filled with toys and useful items are sent to children across the world, along with messages of God's (and *our!*) love for them. Shoe boxes and information are available at the back of the church near the entrance. Filled shoe boxes can be dropped off at the church through Sunday November 24. Please include a \$10 check for shipping, made out to "Samaritan's Purse". You can also pay the shipping with a credit card online (see link below). Contact Jeane Wallace if you have questions: jmarg2000@yahoo.com or 508-291-2095. For more information about Operation Christmas Child, and guidelines for packing a shoe box visit: <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

On the first 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, November 3, we will celebrate with those who have November birthdays and anniversaries.

Church Service Booklet Ads Fundraiser

One of the main fundraisers of our church is the ad section of our Sunday Service booklets. Businesses take out ads each year, which helps them and us at the same time. [Please help us raise funds for our church](#) by giving an area business the opportunity to advertise in our Sunday Service booklets. Church ads fundraiser packets can be found in the back of the church, which will guide you on how to invite businesses to advertise with us. Thank you!

The Guild Christmas Fair is Coming Soon - We Need Your Help

On Saturday, December 7 from 9am-2pm, the Good Shepherd Guild will hold its annual Christmas Fair. We have been working on crafts, but we need your help through donations of the following items:

- Used Christmas items
- New and used jewelry
- New and gently used scarves
- New and like new gift items for children of all ages and for adults (for the Children's Shopping Room)

[Please start collecting these items at home](#) and bring them to the Church the week before the Fair so that we can sort and organize them. We will also offer a variety of Crafts and Gift Baskets created and assembled 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. Thank You! **The Good Shepherd Guild**

The Good Shepherd's Table Thanksgiving Day Meal

On Thanksgiving Day (November 28) there will once again be a Thanksgiving meal served in the Church Hall at 1pm, preceded by a prayer service in the church at 12:30. All are welcome to share in this meal, which is open to the public. Please help us let others know about this opportunity, especially those who may be alone for Thanksgiving.

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 well-being... 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, lacy shawl. It can also be modified to make a man's lap robe. All patterns, of course, are welcomed. If needed, yarn will be provided. If you would like to support the prayer shawl ministry but do not knit or crochet, ask Judy about a way you can help.

Please Stay Home When You're Not Feeling Well

This is a reminder that if you have covid or another contagious illness, please do not come to the church. Basically, if you are not feeling well, please stay home. It is important that you stay home and rest, and it is important that we be vigilant in order not to spread viruses with one another. Remember, the 10am Sunday Service is offered on Facebook Live every Sunday, and the link to the recorded Service is sent to those on our church email list following the live Service. Stay home, rest, and participate online.

The Good Shepherd Guild Craft Nights

Every Monday evening the Good Shepherd Guild holds "Craft Night" in the Church Hall, which begins at 6pm. The crafts are later sold at the Guild Christmas Craft Fair in December. All are welcome to join in support of this fundraiser for the church, and to enjoy one another's company in the process. No experience is needed (really), just a willingness to help. We hope to see you there.

Sunday School

Sunday School is held during the first half of our 10am Sunday Service on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. The Sunday School is located in the church meeting room, in the office area. All Sunday School volunteers have undergone CORI background checks and received training, including the Safe Church training required by the Episcopal Church for all those who work with children. Please contact Pastor Dan for more information. The registration form can be downloaded from our Good Shepherd website: www.goodshepherdwareham.org

The Good Shepherd Sunday Nursery

The Good Shepherd Sunday Nursery (for children through kindergarten age) is open during our 10am Sunday Services. Children are most welcome in the church, but the nursery will be available for them as well. Children can arrive at the nursery beginning at 9:50am and the nursery will close 10 minutes after the conclusion of the 10am Service. The Sunday Nursery is located on the third floor of the church, which can be accessed at the top of the church office stairwell in the back of the church building, through the door (marked Sunday Nursery). All nursery volunteers have undergone CORI background checks and received training, including the Safe Church training required by the Episcopal Church for all those who work with children. If you have questions about the nursery or would like to volunteer, please contact the church office (508-295-2840). The registration form can be downloaded from our Good Shepherd website (www.goodshepherdwareham.org).

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 mid-week Eucharist is approximately 20 minutes. ***There will not be a mid-week Service on Wednesday, November 13 & 27.***

Good & Green Team

Every month, on the 3rd Sunday, the Good and Green Team collects 5 cent redeemable cans and bottles along with sneakers to raise money for sustainable efforts in our parish. You can bring them in and leave them in the Parish Hall before, between and after our Sunday services. Thank you! Our monthly meetings take place on the 3rd Sunday of the month (the second Sunday in the month of November) at 9am in the Parish Hall. All are welcome! For more information on who we are and some "green" tips, visit the Good Shepherd web site: <https://goodshepherdwareham.org/green-team/>

Prayer Request Book

In the back of the church on Sunday mornings, there is a Prayer Request Book. As you come into the church each Sunday, you are welcome to record in the Prayer Request Book the names of those who need prayers. During the prayers of the people, we pray for "all those whose names have been recorded in the Prayer Request Book."

Sunday Coffee Hour

Every Sunday, following the 10am Sunday Service, coffee hour is held in the Church Hall. Coffee hour is an opportunity for us to further get to know one another and share our lives with one another. The wearing of a facemask is welcome, for those who choose to wear one. Like all other indoor church functions, if you are not feeling well, please do not participate at coffee hour.

Good Shepherd Table

Good Shepherd's Table serves a free in-person meal, which is open to the public, every Thursday at 4:30pm. Take-out meals are available from 4:30-4:45pm for those who choose not to eat indoors with others. Like all other indoor church functions, if you are not feeling well, please do not participate in the Good Shepherd Table indoor dining.

Food Pantry Schedule

The Food Pantry is open on the First Tuesday of the month from 3-6pm. People can pick up food from the Food Pantry one time per month.

Good Shepherd Food Pantry Wish List

We are looking specifically for cereal, toilet paper (4 packs), and individually packaged paper towels. Donations to the Food Pantry can be dropped off on Thursday afternoons from 2:00-4:00 or can be left in the back of the church on Sunday mornings.

Pastoral Care

If you would like yourself or someone else placed on the Good Shepherd prayer list, please contact me (Pastor Dan). The Good Shepherd prayer group prays daily for those on the prayer list. If you need or would like a pastoral visit from the priest, please let me know. My contact information can be found below and is also on the back of the weekly Sunday Service Booklet. The only way I know that you need a pastoral visit is if you let me know. You might want to keep my contact information (cell # 603-953-3659 for emergencies) somewhere handy, so you know where to find it if the need arises. Pastor Dan

Contacting Pastor Dan

You can contact me by email (pastor.dan.bernier@gmail.com), by calling the church number (508-295-2840) and leaving a message, or if it is an urgent matter by calling me through my cell phone (603-953-3659). Pastor Dan

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