



Along The Way

**The Weekly Newsletter of
The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham
January 2, 2024**



Good Shepherd Friends,

On Sunday we will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany of Jesus. We will hear the story, unique to Matthew's gospel, of when the Magi (non-Jewish foreigners from the east) visited the infant Jesus. It is a time to remember that the gift of God in Jesus was a gift for all people. Not just for the Jewish people and not just for Christians, but for all people. In Jesus, God has called us back together as one family. United not in worship, or theology, or doctrine; but rather, untied in the Ways of Love.

This was good news for a divided world in the early days of the Jesus movement and is good news for our world today. Let us find unity in the Ways of Love.

May the light of God's love continue to shine brightly in our lives, and in the lives of all peoples; filling us with peace and hope. And may this light be our guide and our strength today, and in the days to come.

God's blessings in the new year!

Peace,

Pastor Dan

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

JANUARY 5, 2024

8 AM	10 AM
<p><u>READERS:</u> JANET DRUM</p> <p><u>HOSPITALITY:</u> HERB WILLIAMS</p> <p><u>EUCCHARISTIC:</u> MICHELLE MURRAY</p>	<p><u>READERS:</u> RICH ELLIS JEAN NYMAN</p> <p><u>HOSPITALITY:</u> GINGER BARRETT & BILL WILBURN</p> <p><u>EUCCHARISTIC:</u> DALE WINTERS</p> <p><u>NURSERY:</u> DAN ANNA & BECKY HANSEN</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, January 5, is a **Sunday School Sunday**, and the **Sunday Nursery** will be open. See below for more details.

2. This coming Sunday is the first Sunday of the month and we will be recognizing with a prayer and a blessing all who are celebrating their **birthdays and anniversaries** in the month of January.

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

A Christmas Thank You!

We thank all those who have helped prepare for, and have participated in, our Christmas Services. Thank you to our music ministry team (Jeane Wallace, Jon Andrews, and Leslie Bernier) for sharing your amazing talents with us during the Advent and Christmas Seasons. Thank you to those who prepared the church for our Christmas Services, especially Cheryl Denton and Maurice Parkonen. Thank you to all the children and children's ministry volunteers who made our Christmas Eve Family Service so special. Thank you to our hospitality ministers, communion ministers, and lectors. Thank you to all who made donations which allowed us to decorate the church so beautifully. Thank you all!

The Next Vestry Meeting

The next meeting of the Vestry will take place on Thursday, January 9, 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 January 2.

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, January 5, we will celebrate with those who have January birthdays and anniversaries.

2025 Good Shepherd Picture Directory

We are updating our Good Shepherd picture directory. This is an opportunity for those not currently in our picture directory to be added, and for those in the current 2024 Picture Directory to update their contact information and submit a new picture. Those in the 2024 picture directory will be sent an email from our Good Shepherd office manager (Cathi Maurice) asking you to verify your contact information. Please do so promptly. Those not in the current picture directory will be contacted asking for information and for a picture of themselves for the 2025 Good Shepherd picture directory. The picture directory is a great way to get to know the names of other members of our church. Please submit your pictures electronically emailing them to Cathi, our office manager goodshepherdwareham@gmail.com.

Annual Meeting Reports

This is a reminder to all church ministry/committee leaders that your annual meeting reports are due by January 12. Please send them electronically to Cathi Maurice (goodshepherdwareham@gmail.com). It is important that these reports be received by January 12, 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 2. The annual meeting will also be held on Zoom. Thank you! *Pastor Dan*

Annual Meeting

The Church of the Good Shepherd Annual Meeting will be held in the church on Sunday, February 2, following the 10am Service. There will be no 8am Service on February 2, as we come together to worship as one community. The annual meeting is a very important gathering for our church, and all members of the church are encouraged to attend. Elections will take place as well as a presentation and discussion on the vision of the church as we move through 2025 and beyond. The Annual Meeting Journal, containing our financial and ministerial reports for the past year (2024) and our church budget for 2025, will be available in the church and on our Good Shepherd Wareham website on the last Sunday of January. The annual meeting also will be held on Zoom. A Zoom Link for the annual meeting will be sent to all parishioners a few days before the annual meeting.

Purchase Flowers in January and Help Us Feed the Hungry

Our Good Shepherd's Table Thursday meals has once again been selected to benefit from Stop & Shop's Bloomin' 4 Good Program, created to fight hunger across the communities they serve. For the month of January, a \$10.99 bouquet in the sleeve marked "Bloomin' 4 Good" from the Stop & Shop at Wareham will brighten a home or make someone's day while also directing a \$1 donation to Good Shepherd's Table. So, if you're looking to buy flowers in January, this is a way to help us feed the hungry as well.

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, January 8.***

The Good Shepherd Food Pantry Has Closed

The Good Shepherd Food Pantry has closed. The decision to close the Food Pantry was made due to the opening of the new Damiens Food Pantry facility earlier this year. About 80% of those who used to come to our Good Shepherd Pantry now go to Damien's. For more information about the closing of our food pantry, please refer to the letter Pastor Dan emailed parishioners on November 4.

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.

Sunday School

Sunday School is generally held during the first half of our 10am Sunday Service on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. For the months of January and February, the Sunday School will be held on the 1st and 2nd Sunday due to the holidays during those months. 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). ***The Sunday Nursery will be closed on January 19 (holiday weekend) & 26 (10am Children's Service).***

WCTV Sunday Service Coverage

WCTV, the Wareham local access channel, will now be broadcasting recordings of our Sunday Services. The recorded Services will air a week later. WCTV can be found on Comcast channel 9 and Verizon channel 30. This is a good way to share Jesus' message of love and compassion with our Wareham community, and also let people know about our Good Shepherd community.

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.

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

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, especially about our Facebook Live Services.