



Along The Way

The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham January 22, 2024

Reflections

*From the
Pastor*



Good Shepherd Friends,

Speaking truth is not always welcomed. The biblical prophets were often ridiculed, rejected, and sometimes experienced violence because they dared to speak God's truth to those in leadership. This was also true for John the Baptist who dared to speak truth to King Herod and was put to death because of it. And it was certainly true of Jesus, who challenged the political, economic, and religious status quo which left many people oppressed and destitute and made to feel inferior even unloved by God. He gave people hope of another way of living in which all people are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve as children of God. It was because of this hope that he instilled within God's suffering people, that those in power put Jesus to death.

Yes, speaking God's truth, the truth that Jesus taught and lived is not always welcomed by those in power. But it was so very welcomed by the people Jesus ministered to. It was welcomed by the poor, the widows, the orphans, foreigners, women, the chronically ill, those with physical and mental disabilities. These people who had been marginalized, taken advantage of, abused and pushed away as being without worth welcomed the good news that God loved them and did not want for them to suffer.

Jesus spent most of his time with those who were suffering. He healed them with God's love as he listened to them and cried with them. He spoke to them about the Kingdom of God, which can be a present reality and not a future place for when we die. The Kingdom of God becomes a reality here on earth when we love one another, show kindness, respect, mercy, fairness, and equal justice. The Kingdom of God becomes a reality here on earth when we follow Jesus' Way of Love. The Kingdom of God becomes a reality here on earth when we see one another as children of God in all the beautiful colors, languages, cultures, and faith traditions in which God has created us.

Let us not be intimidated to speak the truth of God's love, which Jesus has shown us. With courage let us love as Jesus loved. Let us stand with our siblings who are being marginalized, taken advantage of, abused and pushed away as being without worth. Let us stand with those being rejected because of who they love, because of their gender identity, because out of desperation have come to this country to escape extreme poverty and violence. For it is with these now fearful siblings of ours, that Jesus once stood and would stand with today. And so must we.

I believe that it is with this in mind and heart that Washington Bishop Mariann Budde gave her sermon at the National Cathedral yesterday. I imagine that most of you have heard it or heard about it. It was a sermon which I believe Jesus would have given. For it was a sermon based on the teachings of Jesus. With a respectful, yet direct tone, it spoke God's truth to power. Bishop Mariann's sermon was about the good news that all are loved equally by God and should be treated with dignity, mercy, and compassion as they are all the children of God.

If you have not heard her sermon, you can download the video [HERE](#).

Let us continue to love as Jesus loved. Everyone. Every day. Everywhere. And not just in our prayers but also in our words and in our actions...

Peace,

Pastor Dan

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

JANUARY 26, 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> CHILDREN'S SERVICE</p> <p><u>HOSPITALITY:</u> DAN & ANNA & BECKY HANSEN</p> <p><u>EUCCHARISTIC:</u> ELAINE GRAYBILL</p> <p><u>NURSERY:</u> NO NURSERY</p>

WEEKLY SCRIPTERS

[SUNDAY READINGS](#)
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MONTHLY VESTRY MINUTES

[VESTRY MINUTES](#)
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A FEW NOTES & REMINDERS

1. The 10am Service on Sunday, January 26, will be a Children's Service. The prayers, readings, the message, and the music will all be geared towards the children. All are welcome, for we are all children of God.
2. All are encouraged to participate in the Part III Session of our Good Shepherd Year of Renewal on February 6. Look below for more information.
3. All are encouraged to participate in the upcoming Black History Month faith enrichment opportunities. Look below for more information.
4. Please respond promptly to the email Cathi Maurice has sent you regarding updating our Good Shepherd picture directory or being added to our picture directory. We will need the information by January 26. If you have not heard from Cathi it means you are not on our contact list. Please reach out to her about being added to our picture directory. Her email is goodshepherdwareham@gmail.com.
5. 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 Annual Meeting Journal

Please refer to the Annual Meeting Journal for Church leadership and ministry reports, the year-end 2024 church financial report, the 2025 church budget, and other year-end church information. The annual meeting Journal will be available in the church and on our www.goodshepherdwareham.org website beginning Sunday, January 26.

Black History Month: Education and Reflection Opportunities

All will be held in the Church Education/Meeting Room

- On Wednesday, January 29 from 6-8:30pm, we will watch and reflect on the documentary film entitled "Freedom Summer: Mississippi 1964." This documentary film concerns the struggle for voting rights in Mississippi in the Summer of 1964.
- On Sunday, February 9, from 11:45-1:15, we will watch and reflect on the documentary film entitled "Backs Against the Wall: The Howard Thurman Story." This documentary film explores the life and legacy of one of the most important religious figures of the 20th century, planting the seeds of the non-violent Civil Rights Movement.
- On Sunday, February 16, from 11:45-1:15, we will watch and reflect on the film entitled "Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin." This film explores the life of Bayard Rustin, a visionary activist and strategist who has been called "the invisible man" of the civil rights movement.

If you plan to participate in these education opportunities, please let Pastor Dan know by putting your name on the sign-up sheets in the back of the church, or by emailing him indicating which sessions you plan to attend (pastor.dan.bernier@gmail.com) at least 3 days before each event.

Year of Renewal Part III Gathering on February 6

The final part (Part III) of our Good Shepherd Year of Renewal will begin with a gathering of our community on Thursday, February 6, from 6-8pm in the Church Hall. A pizza dinner is included. At this gathering we will brainstorm strategies we can use to invite people to be a part of our Good Shepherd community. Inviting people to come to church is not something most of us are comfortable doing. In this gathering we will look at ways that we can share the message about who we are, who Jesus is to us, and what we believe following Jesus is all about. We will look at different ways we can invite people to our Sunday Services and to become a part of our community. Our Good Shepherd community is a gift from God and has meant so much to us. Like us, there are many others who could benefit from our community and are just waiting to know about us and to be invited to join us. If you plan to participate in our Year of Renewal Part III gathering, please let Pastor Dan know by putting your name on the sign-up sheet in the back of the church, or by emailing him (pastor.dan.bernier@gmail.com) by February 2.

Children's Sunday Service – January 26

Our next Children's Sunday Service will be held on Sunday, January 26 during our 10am Service. This Service will focus on the children of our Good Shepherd community. The prayers, music, readings, and the sermon will speak to the children. All are invited to participate in these children focused Eucharistic Services. There will be no age restriction. Everyone can benefit from these Services. Let us gather in support of our young families and their children.

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.

Only One Sunday Service on February 4

On Annual Meeting Sunday, February 2, there will be only one church Service, which will begin at 10:00am. There will not be an 8am Service on February 2. Please make a note of this change. Approximately 20 minutes following the 10am Service the Parish Annual Meeting will be held in the church, followed by coffee hour in the church hall.

Outgoing Church Leaders – Thank You

We give thanks to the following members of the vestry, whose time on the vestry will come to an end at our annual meeting on February 2. Thank you, Cheryl Denton and Jane Mandell (each serving a three year term), and Maurice Parkonen (serving a two year term). Thank you Donna Tolley for serving as our Good Shepherd Treasurer for the past 5 years and on the Vestry three years before that. Thank you Becky Hansen for serving as our Senior Warden for the past three years. Thank you Dale Winters for serving at our Deanery Assembly Representative and Delegate to Diocesan Convention this past year.

2025 Annual Meeting - Leadership Nominations

The Vestry nominating committee is nominating the following parishioners to serve on the Vestry. The election for these positions will be held at our February 2 Annual Meeting and will take effect immediately.

Senior Warden – Joella Cruz

Junior Warden – Karen Clark

Treasurer – Becky Hansen

Clerk of the Vestry – Rich Ellis

To serve 3-year terms: Mike Alfonso, Kerri Gallagher, and Vivi Marty-Paquin

Each of the following two members have been nominated to serve a one-year term as Good Shepherd's Delegates to Diocesan Convention, and serve as the Good Shepherd Representatives to the Cape & Islands Deanery Assembly (effective February 2): Joella Cruz & Kathy Doyle.

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.

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.

Good & Green Team: Meetings & Collection

Our monthly meetings take place on the 3rd Sunday of the month from 9-9:45am in the Church 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/>. Every 3rd Sunday of the month, the Good and Green Team collects 5 cent redeemable cans and bottles, and used sneakers; which help us raise money for sustainable efforts in our church. You can bring them in and leave them in the Church Hall before, between and after our Sunday Services. Thank you!

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 26 (Children's 10am Sunday 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

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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