



# Along The Way

## The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham January 29, 2024

Reflections

*From the  
Pastor*



Good Shepherd Friends,

Was there ever a time in your life when you held back from letting people know that you are a follower of Jesus? Have you remained silent when someone else was being ridiculed or slandered in some way? Have you held back from doing the right thing because you didn't want to go against the crowd? I imagine we all have been there at some point.

On Sunday we will hear the passage from Luke's Gospel when Jesus goes to his hometown and is rejected by his own people. This is a reminder that some people could not accept that God was at work in the life and ministry Jesus. Some could not accept Jesus' challenge to their understanding of God and how God wanted for God's people to live with one another. Jesus shared God's vision of a world without the walls which divided God's people. He challenged the walls around nations, the walls around religions, the walls of a class system, the walls established to keep those deemed "unworthy" from knowing God's love.

Jesus worked to dismantle the walls which divided people. He worked instead to build bridges, and he brought people together. This took courage and deep faith. He stayed true to the mission of love, compassion, mercy, and reconciliation; even when it was unpopular to do so.

After Jesus was put to death because his ministry was deemed a threat to the powers of this world, some of his followers accepted their call to continue the work of Jesus, the work of building bridges and bring people together. Empowered by the Holy Spirit they boldly loved as Jesus loved. They witnessed this love through their words and through their actions. This wasn't easy, but they refused to be controlled by their fear.

It is with courageous love and compassion that we are called to be faithful followers of Jesus, to do the right thing and not be controlled by the crowd, to speak up and not remain silent. We are called not to build walls between people, but to build bridges and bring people together.

So, let us choose to be bridge builders, like Jesus was. Let us reject those who try to divide us. Instead, let us bring people together, and not just those who are like us. Let us look for ways to form diverse friendships by getting to know those who are currently the "others" in our lives. Again, following Jesus let us dismantle walls and build bridges.

Peace,

*Pastor Dan*

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE  
FEBRUARY 2, 2025

8 AM	10 AM
<b><u>NO SERVICE ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY</u></b>	<b><u>READERS:</u></b> JANE MANDELL SHERYL FACCHETTI  <b><u>HOSPITALITY:</u></b> JUDY GOVONI & RICHIE BALANCA  <b><u>EUCCHARISTIC:</u></b> SHERYL FACCHETTI  <b><u>NURSERY:</u></b> S.G. PRESTON & ALLY PRESTON

WEEKLY SCRIPTERS

[SUNDAY READINGS  
CLICK HERE](#)

MONTHLY VESTRY MINUTES

[VESTRY MINUTES  
CLICK HERE](#)

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[!\[\]\(de95854c7ee024cfadc48187bbb781b2\_img.jpg\) arish Website](#)

A FEW NOTES & REMINDERS

1. This coming Sunday, February 2, is our Annual Meeting Sunday. There will be no 8am Service on Sunday. We will worship together at 10am, followed by the Annual Meeting. After the Annual Meeting there will be an expanded coffee hour, which is being hosted by the Vestry.
2. At the 10am Service this coming Sunday, we will celebrate with those who are celebrating their birthdays and anniversaries in the month of February.
3. 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.
4. All are encouraged to participate in the upcoming faith enrichment opportunities. Look below for more information.
5. 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. 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.
6. 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 ("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

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## 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.

## 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 are now available in the church and on our [www.goodshepherdwareham.org](http://www.goodshepherdwareham.org) website.

## 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](mailto:pastor.dan.bernier@gmail.com)) by February 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, February 2, we will celebrate with those who have February birthdays and anniversaries.

## Black History Month: Adult Faith Development 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 documentary film entitled "Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin." This documentary 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 faith development 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](mailto:pastor.dan.bernier@gmail.com)) at least 3 days before each event.

## 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](mailto:goodshepherdwareham@gmail.com).

### **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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.goodshepherdwareham.org)). ***The Sunday Nursery will be closed on January 19 (Holiday weekend) & 26 (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](mailto: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