



Along The Way

The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham February 5, 2024

Reflections

*From the
Pastor*



Good Shepherd Friends,

On Sunday we will hear a passage from Luke's version of the Good News (Gospel) of Jesus. It begins with these words:

"the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God...."

Wow. They were "pressing in on him." What was Jesus saying to them that would have people so eager to hear his words that they pressed in on him? What could he possibly have to say to them that they would take the time to find him and listen to his every word? This particular passage does not share with us what Jesus was saying that day.

Based on many other passages in the Gospels, I image Jesus was sharing a message of hope. The lives of most of the people that Jesus encountered were difficult. They were burdened by the loss of their ancestral lands, excessive taxation to support Roman occupation and the building projects of King Herod, and the burden of not knowing if there would be enough food to feed one's family. Then there were some of the religious authorities who seemed more focused on appeasing the Romans in order to maintain the business of the Temple, and less focused on ministering to the suffering ones. And on top of that, some of the religious leaders brought on more suffering with burdensome adherence to laws, and through harsh judgements of one's worthiness before God.

Yes, I image that Jesus' words gave them hope. Hope of a new day. Hope of a time when oppression by the Romans and by some of the religious leaders would end. Hope of a time when their suffering would give way to peace, and their dignity as children of God would be restored.

I image Jesus saying to them that the Kingdom of God must begin today. God hears your suffering at the hands of our leaders. God hears your fear and your despair. God hears your longing for a new day. God hears your fading hope that God will one day act and all will be made right; your fading hope of a new day when the poor, the sick, the lowly, and the oppressed will be comforted and not pushed away. God hears you. I hear you.

We also need to press in and listen to our teacher and friend Jesus, to be reassured that God is with us and that God will not leave us and to allow Jesus to comfort us and heal us of the fear and hopelessness that sometimes threatens to overwhelm us.

We also need to be reminded that Jesus invites us to join him in building the Kingdom of God, which he never promised would be easy. We need to be reminded that those who wish to be faithful to Jesus must follow him. We must live like him and love like him. And we must do so even in the face of opposition, especially in the face of opposition. In difficult times, when those to who Jesus ministered most closely are being pushed away and ignore by others, we must double down on our commitment to carry out Jesus' mission of love and compassion.

So let us press in dear friends. Let us press in and listen to his words. Let us press in and be comforted. Let us press in and love as he loved. And let us do so together. This is what is required of us. This is what is expected of us..

Peace,

Pastor Dan

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 9, 2025

8 AM	10 AM
<p><u>READERS:</u> CHUCK MCCULLOUGH</p> <p><u>HOSPITALITY:</u> MIKE ALFONSO</p> <p><u>EUCCHARISTIC:</u> JOELLA CRUZ</p>	<p><u>READERS:</u> S.G. PRESTON SCOOTER HOLCOMBE</p> <p><u>HOSPITALITY:</u> GINGER BARRETT & BILL WILBURN</p> <p><u>EUCCHARISTIC:</u> RICH ELLIS</p> <p><u>NURSERY:</u> JESSI MERRICK & KERRI GALLAGHER</p>

WEEKLY SCRIPTERS

[SUNDAY READINGS
CLICK HERE](#)

MONTHLY VESTRY MINUTES

[VESTRY MINUTES
CLICK HERE](#)

A FEW NOTES & REMINDERS

1. Since we forgot to do so last Sunday, at the 10am Service this coming Sunday, we will celebrate with those who are celebrating their birthdays and anniversaries in the month of February.
2. This coming Sunday there will be a baptism at the 10am Service. Liam Alexander Winters, the son of Jasmine & Brandon Winters and the grandson of Becky Ryder, will be baptized.
3. All are encouraged to participate in the upcoming faith enrichment opportunities on Sunday February 9 & 16. Look below for more information.
4. 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.

[!\[\]\(6059a5aa8b4ca7bb793408023d6c6e42_img.jpg\) ollow us on Facebook](#)

[!\[\]\(c50c8b7b2cc2cf9ff925edec0ee94c0d_img.jpg\) arish Website](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR PARISH CALENDAR](#)

Current Happenings

WEEKLY UPDATE

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.

Black History Month: Adult Faith Development Opportunities

All will be held in the Church Education/Meeting Room

- 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 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 church, or by emailing him indicating which sessions you plan to attend (pastor.dan.bernier@gmail.com) at least 3 days before each event.

The Next Vestry Meeting

The next meeting of the Vestry will take place on Thursday, February 13, beginning at 6:00pm. If you would like to submit possible agenda items for consideration, you can do so through Joella Cruz (Senior Warden) or Pastor Dan by February 6.

Annual Meeting Leadership Decisions

At our Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 2, we had the following parishioners take on new leadership positions. Our new members of the Vestry are Mike Alfonso, Kerri Gallagher, and Vivi Marty-Paquin (each serving a three-year term). Our new Senior Warden is Joella Cruz. Our new treasurer is Becky Hansen. Our Delegates to Diocesan Convention are Joella Cruz and Kathy Doyle (each serving a one-year term). Our Deanery Assembly Representatives are Joella Cruz and Kathy Doyle (each serving a one-year term). We thank these members of our Good Shepherd community for stepping forward and accepting the call to leadership.

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.

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 be no Mid-week Eucharist on Wednesday, February 12 & 19.**

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!

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 February, the Sunday School will be held on the 1st and 2nd Sunday due to the holiday this 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). ***The Sunday Nursery will be closed on February 16 (Holiday weekend).***

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