



Along The Way

The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham July 1, 2026

Reflections

*From the
Pastor*



Good Shepherd Friends,

On Sunday we will hear the following parable from Matthew's Gospel:

"A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

God is constantly scattering seeds of the kingdom of God in our lives. These seeds are meant to build up the kingdom of God, to make the world more loving, compassionate, and just. These seeds come in the form of an inspiration to perform acts of goodness and kindness. They come through the words or actions of others which inspire us. They come from the word of God. They come from our quiet time in prayer and reflection. The seeds are scattered and then it is up to the soil that is our lives to accept and nurture these seeds, so they bear fruit in the world.

But not all soil is the same. Sometimes the soil of our lives is not too receptive of the seeds of the kingdom of God. The good news is that we can do something about this. With God's help, we can make our lives more receptive and nurturing of these seeds so they can bear the fruit of the kingdom of God and make the world a brighter and better place. How is the soil of your life? Does it need tending to?

I encourage you to examine how you can make your soil more receptive to the seeds of the kingdom of God. What are the weeds in your life that suck up all your energy and choke off the ways of Jesus? What do you need to remove from your life, with God's help, in order to be a better partner with Jesus in advancing the kingdom of God in the world?

Peace,

Pastor Dan

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE July 12, 2026	
8 AM	10 AM
READERS: JANET DRUM HOSPITALITY MINISTERS: KAREN CLARK EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: JOELLA CRUZ	READERS: SCOOTER HOLCOMBE JAN BARTON HOSPITALITY MINISTERS: JUDY GOVONI & RICHIE BALANCA EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: DALE WINTERS NURSERY MINISTERS: NO NURSERY COFFEE HOUR HOST(S) TBD SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

WEEKLY SCRIPTERS

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A FEW NOTES & REMINDERS

1. This coming Sunday, July 12, our annual *Mid-Year Financial Review* session will be held in the church Hall from 9-9:40. All are encouraged to participate. Look below for more information.

2. Our *Mid-Year Financial Appeal* is under way. If you are able, the Vestry asks that you to consider making an additional donation to help with the church's 2026 budget shortfall. Look below for more information.

3. If you have *church 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

Mid-Year Financial Review Meeting

On Sunday, July 12, there will be a mid-year church financial review meeting from 9-9:45am (between Services), which will be led by our treasurer Becky Hansan. This meeting will update parishioners on the church's financial position halfway through our budget year. All are welcome and encouraged to participate.

The Next Vestry Meeting

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

Pastor Dan Will Be Away

I will be taking time off from July 13-21. The Reverend Sue Lederhouse will be presiding at the Sunday Services on July 19. I will be back to the church on July 22. If you have a pastoral issue which cannot wait until my return, please contact Deacon Hilary. If you have some church-related business which cannot wait until my return, please contact our Senior Warden Joella Cruz. Their contact information can be found in the church picture directory. *Pastor Dan*

Confirmation/Reception Informational Meeting – July 26

Those who are interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation or being Received into the communion of the Episcopal Church, or in getting more information about these, are invited to an informational meeting with Pastor Dan on Sunday, July 26, beginning at 11:30am. This meeting will last about 30 minutes and will take place in the Good Shepherd meeting room (which is near the church offices). At this meeting information will be shared about the Confirmation/Reception Service, which will be held at the Bishop's Visitation Service on September 20 during the 10am Service, and the preparation sessions beforehand. All are welcome.

Bishop's Visitation with Our Good Shepherd Community

Please save the Date of Sunday, September 20, which is the date that Bishop Ian Douglas, an Assisting Bishop of our Diocese, will be visiting with our Good Shepherd community. Following the 10am Service, there will be a brunch held in the Church Hall. This will be a wonderful opportunity for us to be with our bishop and recognize the greater Episcopal Community to which we belong. Please mark your calendars and plan to participate.

Music from Land's End Concerts

Music from Land's End Wareham is returning to Good Shepherd this year. Wareham summer resident Ariadne Daskalakis said she started this series as an intimate summer chamber music festival. At Music from Land's End Wareham, Ariadne and her husband Sebastian Gottschick have created fascinating programs combining different musical styles. It will be open seating and donations for the concerts will be accepted at the door. There will be two Sunday concerts at Good Shepherd this year, one on July 26 at 5pm and the second on August 16 at 5pm. For more information about the concerts, and for the full schedule, please visit the Music from Land's End website www.mlewareham.org.

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

We have no one signed up to host coffee hour for most of July and August. 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. Every household is invited to host coffee hour, which follows our 10am Sunday Service. You can host by yourselves or join with another household. Coffee hour hosts are asked to bring a quart size carton of half-n-half, a half-gallon carton of juice, and some snacks to feed 6-8 children and about 30 adults (for example: cake, pastry, cookies, brownies, cheese and crackers, fruit, cut up veggies, etc.). Hosts arrive at the church by 9:15 to set up for coffee hour. Judy Govoni will be there to assist you. Hosts are also asked to clean up after coffee hour. The idea is that each household would host coffee hour about every three or four months. The sign-up list and more information can be found on the wall behind the coffee hour food table.

Mid-Year Financial Appeal

The Vestry is asking each of us to consider making a mid-year financial gift to help support our church's budget and reduce our budget deficit. A mid-year financial appeal letter and donation envelope were distributed at the Sunday Services on June 21, and mailed to others on June 22. The letter can also be found on our Good Shepherd Wareham website. You can make a contribution by mailing it to the church, or by placing it in the offertory box on Sundays through the end of July. The Vestry appreciates your ongoing financial support of our Good Shepherd Community. We also appreciate any additional financial gift you can make and understand if you are not able to do so. Thank you!

We Need Some Gardening Help at the Church

We are looking for volunteers to do some weeding around the church grounds. Would you be willing to give one hour a month to help us keep our gardens beautiful? If so, please contact Bill Leech (929-810-7672) or Pastor Dan. Thank you!

Become a Recycling Ambassador at the Wareham Gatemen Games

Recycling Ambassadors attend Wareham Gatemen games (Wareham's Cape Cod League baseball team), set up/take down recycling bins and flags, station around recycling bins throughout the game to assist fans to properly recycle, engage the crowd with recycling quizzes and kid's activity sheets, and take pictures/video to share on social media! Volunteers receive a Recycling Ambassador cap, as well as a \$10 voucher to the concessions stand per game. High School and College students are encouraged to sign up as part of any community service and school credit requirements. Also, our Good and Green Team will collect the redeemable bottles and cans to help raise funds for our sustainable initiatives! See Deacon Hilary for more information or to sign up.

Turning Point Wareham Looking for Volunteers

Turning Point Wareham is seeking volunteers to contribute their time and talent in support of our Wareham neighbors in need. It is a not-for-profit, community-based organization serving as a day resource and referral center for those facing housing instability. We provide collaborative, respectful, and supportive services and are committed to empowering individuals who are ready to help themselves.

Direct inquiries to cwmccullough@comcast.net (WACH President)

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, July 15 & July 22.***

The Good Shepherd Sunday Nursery

The Good Shepherd Sunday Nursery, for children through kindergarten age, is closed for the summer. It will reopen on Sunday, September 13.

Sunday School

Our Good Shepherd Sunday School, which is held twice a month during the first half of our 10am Sunday Service, is on summer break. Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 13.

Are You Receiving Our Weekly Newsletter?

Good Shepherd now publishes a weekly electronic newsletter called "Along The Way". The newsletter is published mid-week. If you would like to receive a copy of the electronic newsletter, please email the parish office with your name and email address (goodshepherdwareham@gmail.com), or you can go to our church website (www.goodshepherdwareham.org) and subscribe to our email list which is on the home page.

Discretionary Fund Donations

Good Shepherd has a Pastor's Discretionary Fund. It is from the Discretionary Fund that Pastor Dan is able to assist those in need. There are envelopes at the entrances of the church for you to use to make donations to the Discretionary Fund. Place your donations in one of these envelopes and place the envelope in one of the offertory boxes in the church, or you can mail the donation to the church office with a note that the donation is for the Discretionary Fund. Thank you to those who have contributed to the Discretionary Fund over the years. Those who have benefited from your donations are always very grateful.

Donations From Our Online Community

Thank you to those from our online Sunday worship community who have made regular donations to support the ministries of Good Shepherd. It is very much appreciated. If you have never donated or have not donated recently, please consider doing so as you are able. Your donations help us to continue our mission to spread the good news of God's Love and compassion. Thank you!

Sunday Flower Donations

Please consider donating for the purchase of altar flowers for our Sunday Services in memory of deceased loved ones or in thanksgiving of blessings in your life. More information about how this works can be found in the "Sunday Flower Donations" envelopes which are located in the back of the church, and on our "Church of the Good Shepherd Wareham" website. Please check the Sunday Flowers board in the back of the church, or call the parish office (508-295-2840), to determine which upcoming Sundays are available in 2025.

Food Pantry Wish List

Church of the Good Shepherd is partnering with Damien's Place Food Pantry by providing needed items for those using the pantry. These items are difficult for Damien's to purchase from the Greater Boston Food Bank. Damien's is looking specifically for cereal, jars of jelly, and juice. Donations can be left in the baskets in the back of the church on Sunday mornings or dropped off at the Church Office on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9am-1pm. Thank you!

Please Help Good Shepherd's Table Serve Our Neighbors

Every Thursday for the past 25 years, Good Shepherd's Table has served a community meal (4:30pm). We need help with the tasks needed to make this happen and so we have created a monthly sign-up sheet for the tasks each week. No job takes longer than 45 minutes and you can help set up, plate food, serve food, or clean the dining room after the meal. We especially need help cleaning the dining room after the meal. For more details and to sign up, please reach out to Deacon Hilary. You can choose any week you are available. Thank you in advance for your help!

Thank You for Your Continued Financial Support

Thank you to all who are financially supporting Good Shepherd this year, especially those who made pledges for 2026. Our budget operates on a week-to-week basis, so thank you for keeping your pledge payments up to date. If you are behind on your pledge payments, please work to catch them up as you are able. If you are away for an extended amount of time, please consider mailing in your pledge payments. Again, thank you all for your financial support of the mission and ministries of the Church of the Good Shepherd!

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."

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

Wareham Media (WM) Sunday Service Coverage

Wareham Media, the Wareham local access channel, broadcasts recordings of our Sunday Services. The recorded Services air a week later. WM 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.

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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.



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