



Along The Way

The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham October 14, 2026

Reflections

*From the
Pastor*



Good Shepherd Friends,

On Sunday, October 25, stewardship pledge packets will be distributed at our 8am and 10am Services (look below for more information). In God's great love for us, we have been called to this Good Shepherd community. In the coming weeks, let us consider what Good Shepherd has meant for us over the years, and how each of us will help financially support our church community in 2027. Members of the Vestry would like to share with you what The Church of the Good Shepherd has meant for them. Here are some of their thoughts.

*I have been attending Good Shepherd for approximately 27 years. I first started coming after returning to the area, inspired by my mother and a close friend who were already attending. Shortly after getting involved with the 3rd-floor addition, I began attending services regularly. I have always felt at home here, experiencing both great joy and comfort during difficult times. I believe our biggest assets are the people and the church's deep involvement in the community. I always look forward to Sunday services, as it is often when I feel closest to God. **Michael Alfonso***

*I have been going to Good Shepherd for 31 years. As soon as I walked through the doors it was a welcoming addition to my family. Here I can be myself and enjoy others in building our faith together. It has been a place of comfort at times I needed it to be. I often reflect back on the others who were there when I first came to Good Shepherd and how they have impacted my life. I believe God's places in our lives the people we meet, especially at Good Shepherd. I am happy for all those have wandered through our doors. You have enriched my life and have made Good Shepherd a welcoming place for all. **Karen Clark***

*Judy and I have attended Good Shepherd since 1971, but it is not habit that has kept us here. Over the years we have worshiped with wonderful, friendly, loving people who by their behavior show God's love working among us. Good Shepherd is where you can sense God's love. **Rich Ellis***

I came to Good Shepherd from a church that appeared welcoming, but placed restrictions on participation: not everyone was welcome to serve or to receive communion. New members were routinely faced with a daunting process of formation or pages and pages of paperwork while hoping to be fully welcomed into their new church. There were so many rules and regulations, and I found it to be overwhelming, and would frequently remind myself to just "focus on Jesus".

*The first time I attended the Church of the Good Shepherd, I was greeted warmly at the front door by a hospitality minister who I think could tell I was nervous. He answered my questions and guided me right inside the building to another hospitality minister who helped me find a seat. Beautiful music started (and continued throughout) the service, which included a sermon about focusing on Jesus when the outside world gets chaotic. (I don't believe that was a coincidence!) Then I heard the sentence that I realized I had been hoping to hear all along: "The Gifts of God for ALL the people of God". That's when I knew I would be back! **Kerri Gallagher Thibedeau***

What has our Good Shepherd community meant for you? There will be more thoughts from other Vestry members next week.....

Peace,

Pastor Dan

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE October 18, 2026	
8 AM	10 AM
<u>READERS:</u> KAREN CLARK <u>HOSPITALITY:</u> KAREN CLARK <u>EUCCHARISTIC:</u> NATECIA ALFONSO	<u>READERS:</u> CECILY KOST JO-ANN FINN <u>HOSPITALITY:</u> DAN ANNA & BECKY HANSEN <u>EUCCHARISTIC:</u> MAURICE PARKENON <u>COFFEE HOUR HOST(S):</u> THE SOUZA & LOPES FAMILY <u>NURSERY:</u> JOELLA CRUZ & ALLY PRESTON <u>SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS:</u> DALE WINTERS & S.G. PRESTON

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WEEKLY SCRIPTERS

[SUNDAY READINGS](#)
[CLICK HERE](#)

MONTHLY VESTRY MINUTES

[VESTRY MINUTES](#)
[CLICK HERE](#)

1. This coming Sunday, October 18, is a **Sunday School** Sunday. The **Sunday Nursery** will also be open. Look below for more information.
2. 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.

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Current Happenings

WEEKLY UPDATE

2027 Stewardship Pledge Drive: In Support of the Mission of Good Shepherd

During the Fall of each year, we hear about the importance of stewardship in our lives of faith, and in the mission of the Church, as we prepare to make our annual parish financial pledges for the following year. On **Sunday October 25**, pledge packets will be distributed to parishioners at the Sunday Services. More information about the pledge drive will be made available at that time. Meanwhile, please begin to consider the ways God has blessed you in your life, especially through the Good Shepherd faith community, as you prayerfully consider your financial pledge for 2027. Thank you for your ongoing financial support in 2026. Your contributions keep our faith community alive and active in the lives of many people, both within and outside of our Good Shepherd community.

Children's Sunday Service – October 25

Our Next Children's Sunday Service will be held on Sunday, October 25 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.

Children Invited to Wear Halloween Costumes to Church

Children are invited to wear their Halloween costumes to church on Sunday, October 25. The preference is for fun type costumes over horror costumes. If you are not sure about the appropriateness of the costume reach out to Pastor Dan.

Priscilla Beach Theater Group for 2027

For the past few years, a group of Good Shepherd parishioners have gathered once a month during the summer to go to Priscilla Beach Theater in Plymouth. It is a beautiful old “theater in a barn” that puts on four musicals per season. The 2027 season should be another good year. The season kicks off with “Company, The Musical”, then “Dear Evan Hansen” in July. The August show is “Beautiful, the Carole King Musical” and in September, John Denver’s “Almost Heaven” closes out the season. For more theater information, visit PBTTheater.org. For this year we continue to have two show options, either a Sunday matinee or Saturday night. See below for the shows and the dates. Tickets are \$172 per person for the season (for the group you must get all four shows). Choose either Sunday matinee or Saturday night (sorry no mixing). The Saturday group meets for dinner before the show at 5 PM at the 99 Restaurant in Plymouth (not required). If you are interested, we would love to have you join us. Tell your friends and neighbors, maybe even relatives and see if they would like to take part in the fun. I would like to order tickets by October 30, 2026 to ensure we get good seats and I will need the money when you place your order. Please let me know if you have any questions; call Chuck Tolley at [774-313-6281](tel:774-313-6281) or email- cntolley@gmail.com

Sunday 2PM Shows

May 30, 2027- “Company, The Musical”

July 11, 2027- “Dear Evan Hansen”

August 15, 2027- “Beautiful, the Carole King Musical”

September TBD, 2027- “Almost Heaven, John Denver’s America”

Saturday 7:30PM Shows

June 5, 2027- “Company, The Musical”

July 17, 2027- “Dear Evan Hansen”

August 21, 2027- “Beautiful, the Carole King Musical”

September TBD, 2027- “Almost Heaven, John Denver’s America”

The Good Shepherd Guild Craft Nights

Every Monday the Good Shepherd Guild holds “Craft Night” in the Church Hall, which begins at 6:00pm. The crafts are later sold at the Guild Christmas Craft Fair in December. All are welcome to join in support of this fundraiser for the church, and to enjoy one another’s company in the process. No experience is needed (really), just a willingness to help. We hope to see you there.

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.

We Are Looking for Sunday Nursery Volunteers

We are looking for 2 new Sunday Nursery (10am Service) volunteers. Volunteers will serve approximately every 4-6 weeks. This is mostly play time for the children, with a short time to tell and discuss a story. All nursery volunteers must undergo a background check and complete Safe Church Training. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Pastor Dan. Thank you.

Sunday School

The Good Shepherd Sunday School is held during the first half of our 10am Sunday Service, usually on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. In September, due to Labor Day Holiday and the Bishop’s Visitation, Sunday School will be held on September 13 & 27. The Sunday School is located in the church meeting room, in the office area. All Sunday School volunteers undergo CORI background checks and receive 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 next Sunday School Sundays will be October 18 and November 1 &*

The Good Shepherd Sunday Nursery

Beginning September 13, the Good Shepherd Sunday Nursery (for children through kindergarten age) will be reopen 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 not be open on October 11 (holiday weekend) and will not be open on October 25 (Children's Service Sunday).*

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.

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

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.

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.

Food Pantry Wish List

Church of the Good Shepherd is partnering with Damien's Place Food Pantry by provided 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!

Wareham Media (WM) Sunday Service Coverage

Wareham Media, the Wareham local access channel, broadcasts recordings of our Sunday Services. The recorded Services air during the week after the Sunday Service. 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. You can also find our Services beginning the Tuesday after the Sunday Service on the [Wareham Media YouTube channel](#).

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.

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."

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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