

Along The Way

The Weekly Newsletter of
The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham
October 21, 2026



Good Shepherd Friends,

This coming Sunday, October 25, stewardship pledge packets will be distributed at our 8am and 10am Services. 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. Last week, members of the Vestry shared with you what The Church of the Good Shepherd has meant for them. Here are some thoughts from some other Vestry members.

In April of 2009 Donna and I were looking for a place to worship. We had been trying out different churches for a couple of years and were not having any luck finding a place where we felt like we fit. We were invited by a friend to try Good Sheperd, she said we would love the people and the minster was great. I came by myself one Sunday and was warmly greeted by Pat Probert. The atmosphere was friendly and inviting, I felt very comfortable, even though I was in a strange new place. The following week Donna joined me and within a couple of months, we both knew we had found our new church home. Soon enough we became involved in some of the groups/causes the church has to offer; Nights of Hospitality, Ushering, Children's Ministry, Bible/Book Study, Walk for Hunger/Homeless and Vestry. It was through these groups we learned more about our fellow parishioners than if we just sat next to each other for Sunday services. We have made so many connections with people we never would have guessed would become close friends. Those friends have become our second families; they hold us up when we are struggling and celebrate with us on special occasions. Donna and I have been amazed at how our church keeps growing. We hear of many other parishes that are struggling to stay open and we keep growing. Pastor Dan and the people here at Good Shepherd are doing something that makes others in the community want to join us, keep up the great work! We feel blessed to have found a home here at Good Shepherd, we know this is where we belong and look forward to seeing where this journey will lead us. ***Chuck Tolley***

Good Shepherd is a friendly congregation where ALL are welcome. I am a member of Good Shepherd because it's a church committed to putting the teachings of Christ into action by serving people in

the community. ***Elaine Graybill***

The Good Shepherd community is important to me because it is a place where I feel loved, welcomed, and connected to God. It gives me strength, peace, and hope during difficult times and reminds me that I am never alone. The Good Shepherd community is also a place where I can grow in my faith, learn about God's teachings, worship, pray, and be in fellowship with others who share my beliefs. It encourages me to become a better person and to show love, kindness, and compassion to others. The church of Good Shepherd is more than just a building; it is a spiritual family that helps me grow closer to God and reminds me of His love and purpose for my life. ***Ally Preston***

My why for being a member of the Good Shepherd family is simple. It's all about love. The love we share with our Good Shepherd family, volunteering at Damiens Pantry, Turning Point, Shepherd's Table, and in all the other ways that we serve. We welcome all, no matter who they are. ***Joella Cruz***

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

Peace,
Pastor Dan

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE October 25, 2026	
8 AM	**10 AM**
READERS: CHUCK MCCULLOUGH **HOSPITALITY:** MIKE ALFONSO **EUCHARISTIC:** MICHELLE MURRAY	**READERS:** CHILDREN'S SERVICE **HOSPITALITY:** CHUCK & DONNA TOLLEY **EUCHARISTIC:** ELIANE GRAYBILL **COFFEE HOUR HOST(S):** THE PRESTON FAMILY **NURSERY:** NO NURSERY **SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS:** NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

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A FEW NOTES & REMINDERS

1. This coming Sunday, October 25, our 10am Service will be a ***Children's Service***. The music, readings, prayers, and message will all be geared toward our children. Look below for more information.

2. Children are welcome to wear ***Halloween costumes*** to church this coming Sunday. Look below for more information.

3. This coming Sunday, October 25, the 2027 ***Stewardship Pledge Packets*** will be distributed. Those not picked up on Sunday will be mailed on Monday. The Pledge Forms can also be found on our Good Shepherd Wareham Website. 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.

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.

An Important Message/Reminder from the Good & Green Team

The Wareham Recycling Center is holding several special collections event on Saturday, November 7th from 9am-Noon. Paper shredding and electronics collection along with some other household items will be collected. For more info, please visit: Collection events at Dixon Recycling Center Nov. 7 | Wareham
Are you looking to have a more sustainable Halloween this year for your family? Remember the REDUCE and REUSE motto to follow some of these tips: https://www.storyofstuff.org/blog/your-guide-to-a-zero-waste-plastic-free-halloween/

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 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"

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. ***There will not be a Wednesday Noon Service on November 4 & 25.***

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 November 1 & 15.***

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 25 and November 22 & 29.***

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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