

Parish of the Good Shepherd
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LETTING THE TRUTH SLIP OUT

I love following political campaigns. Of course, it helps that I long ago lost my airy idealism, so I'm not surprised when politicians turn out to be rogues or fools or crooks. After all, why shouldn't they be like the rest of us? Some of them are decent sorts, some aren't. All shade the truth. They have to. No one can be a total truth teller and be elected. I would say that no one can live in the world and be a total truth teller. It just gets you into too much trouble.

Occasionally or more than occasionally a politician will commit a gaffe. A gaffe has been defined by someone as the truth inconveniently slipping out. It usually happens when a politician leaves the script and isn't sufficiently cautious about what they're saying. And then they say what they really think, as opposed to what their campaign managers have told them they need to say to be elected.

As someone who hasn't preached from a written text in over thirty years and who occasionally extemporizes, I know well how it feels to let something unplanned slip out. Sometimes I regret what I'm saying as I'm saying it. But more often I'm grateful that God has subverted my cautious plans. For what comes out unplanned is often more true than what had been carefully crafted.

No matter whether we define ourselves politically as liberal, moderate, or conservative, most of us are cautious and conservative people in the way we live our lives. And that's all to the good. But sometimes I worry that our controlled lives don't leave room for the marvelously disruptive work of the Holy Spirit, which has a way of upending our plans and words in the most revealing way.

So the next time you find yourself startled or embarrassed because you've said something you hadn't planned to say, pay attention. It might just be that God is telling you something about yourself that you would rather not know, or something that you need to know, or something that could change your life.

~ GTW

PARISH NEWS – March 1, 2012

Weekday eucharist: Wednesday, 7:15 a.m.

Vestry:

Senior Warden	Brian McTigue
Junior Warden	Chris Sole
Treasurer	Ted Ketterer
Assistant Treasurer	Gail Murphy
Clerk	Terry Robinson

To January 2013

Betty Blume Loring Conant Emily Guimaraes

To January 2014

Kathy Hassinger Ken Rothwell Jeff Russel

To January 2015

Peter Barber Ann Honeycutt Jim Nauen

Lenten Forum Series: The Gospel of John

This Lent we will meditate the riches and mysteries of the Fourth Gospel. We will explore how John differs from the other three gospels; Jesus' unique identity in John; John's version of the Passion narrative, and the difficult issue of John's harsh language about the Jews. Join us for an in-depth reading of a biblical book that has had an enormous influence on the Christian faith.



Bodybuilding group to meet

The "Bodybuilding group," which aims at building us up as the body of Christ on earth and growing our parish, will be meeting again after coffee hour on March 4. (Our fitness analogy is perhaps apt as we've over the winter not been formally working out together!). All are welcome as we join to think about how we can be more welcoming and what our vision is for Good Shepherd in the years to come.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

www.TrueVineChronicles.blogspot.com

MARCH

2-3: Confirmands will be at Barbara C. Harris Camp in New Hampshire

4 – Second Sunday in Lent

8:45 AM: Nursery Open
8:45 AM: Level I Atrium
9:45 AM: Level II Atrium
10:00 AM: 3rd-5th gr to Loring Room,
6th-8th gr to Youth Room

11 – Third Sunday in Lent

8:45 AM: Nursery Open
8:45 AM: Level I Atrium
9:45 AM: Level II Atrium
10:00 AM: 3rd-5th gr to Loring Room,
6th-8th gr to Youth Room

18 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

8:45 AM: Nursery Open
8:45 AM: Level I Atrium
9:45 AM: Level II Atrium
10:00 AM: 3rd-5th gr to Loring Room,
6th-8th gr to Youth Room
5:30 PM: Pizza & Passion Rehearsal with Kathy Hassinger (pizza form 5:30-6:00; Rehearsal in church from 6:00-7:00)
for Confirmands and High School youth

23-24: CRDYC Overnight for Middle School 6th, 7th, & 8th graders here at Good Shepherd – details to be mailed out

25 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

8:45 AM: Nursery Open
8:45 AM: Level I Atrium
9:45 AM: Level II Atrium
10:00 AM: 3rd-5th gr to Loring Room,
6th-8th gr to Youth Room
5:30 PM: Pizza & Passion Rehearsal with Kathy Hassinger (pizza form 5:30-6:00; Rehearsal in church from 6:00-7:00)
for Confirmands and High School youth

Please keep our Confirmands, Truman, Regina, Kevin Richards, and Mary Ann Stewart in your prayers as they travel to the Barbara C. Harris Camp in Greenfield, New Hampshire for the annual overnight retreat before Confirmation (in May).

Communion Instruction for children Saturday, March 10, 2012 at 10:00 AM. Please let Mary Ann Stewart know if you are interested in having your child receive this instruction. We will think about why we go to church and what we do when we are there and will talk about the very special thing that the Church does: Eucharist, or Holy Communion. Children will be shown how to receive (unconsecrated) bread and wine or, how to show the priest they do not want to take the bread or wine.

Good Shepherd will host the annual Charles River Deanery Youth Collaborative overnight for Middle School youth in 6th, 7th, & 8th grade Friday March 23 through Saturday, March 24. Middle School youth from across the Charles River Deanery will join us at 4:00 Friday, March 23 for some fun, prayer, and fellowship. The retreat concludes at about 9:30 AM Saturday, March 24. We will need some adults to assist as chaperones. Please let Mary Ann know if you are available.

*Lenten blessings,
Mary Ann.*