

Parish of the Good Shepherd

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Summer Sabbaths

The biblical idea of the Sabbath is that one day of the week would be set aside for the worship of God and for the rest and recreation (in the literal sense, a re-creation) of God's creation. Orthodox Jews and some small number of Christians do still strictly observe a Sabbath and there is a growing interest among many other religious people in observing this fourth ("remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day") of the Ten Commandments. But for most people I know keeping a real Sabbath day remains an unrealized if desirable ideal. The closest I get to observing a Sabbath is during the summer, and even then it is almost never a whole day. But in summer there are what I've got used to thinking about as Sabbath times or moments. These are those occasions when I find that I've just sat for say ten minutes without a conscious thought. Or paddled out to the middle of a lake and then just let the canoe drift for twenty minutes. These times I used to think of as an indulgence or a luxury, but now know that they are essential and restorative and even religious.

There are ways in which summer Sundays feel like Sabbath to me, even when I am "on duty". The one service we have here is pretty easy to manage. I don't fret too much over the sermon and sometimes that means that it is pretty bad but sometimes surprisingly satisfying. Maybe because I am less fretful, these summer Sundays can be among the most fruitful worship times of the year. Maybe what is happening is that Sabbath is breaking in, even in the midst of worship, and isn't that an amazing thing to have happen?

So wherever you are this summer, I hope that you will let some Sabbath time happen for yourself, and also allow people around you to get some themselves without making them feel guilty about it.

GTW

I wrote this cover for the newsletter in 2004 and in the years since it seems to have become even more pertinent, if I do say so myself.

First Sunday of the Summer Schedule

June 24th

One Eucharist at 9:00 a.m.

The nursery is open for all summer services.

PARISH NEWS – June 13, 2012

Get Ready for B-SAFE *

Mark your calendars! We'll be cooking for B-SAFE on July 21 and 22, and serving lunches at the Epiphany School site on July 23 and 24. Find the volunteer sheet in the Common Room and sign up for a job. We need volunteers to prepare food in the church kitchen, and we need people to tote and serve lunches at Epiphany School. You'll help a good cause, and, as a bonus, you'll be working with Good Shepherd teammates.

2012 will be our sixth year partnering with this summer enrichment program for inner city kids. Administered by St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in the South End, B-SAFE provides about 550 elementary and middle school students a safe and stimulating place to spend 6 weeks of the summer. It also hires nearly 100 teens as counselors and 15 young adults, aged 18-20. You can learn more at www.ststephensbos.org/summerprograms.html

* For the record, B-SAFE stands for Bishop's Summer Academic and Fun Enrichment program.

Adult Forum Topics for Next Fall and Spring

It's that time of year again! After an engaging and thought-provoking year of Adult Forum discussions, I am beginning to make a list of possible topics for next fall and spring. It's very important that our topics for discussion are guided by the interests of the parish. If you have an idea for a topic related to the Bible, Christian history or practice, religion in contemporary life, theology, spirituality, or something else you would like us to explore, be in touch with me in church or by email, regina.l.walton@gmail.com

Altar Guild Reminder: The sign-up sheet for the 9:00 Holy Eucharist, July 1 through September 2, is posted in the Common Room. Please sign up early for Sundays you know you will be in town, and feel free to sign up for several Sundays. If plans change after you've signed up, please let me know or find a substitute. *Thank you, Joy.*

Summer 2012 Hospitality

We are a friendly parish, and take seriously our ministry of hospitality. Following the 9 o'clock summer service, we greet each other and our visitors in the Common Room for simple, light refreshments and fellowship. Bring sparking flavored water, iced tea, lemonade and store-bought cookies and crackers. Due to the heat and humidity, we don't make hot coffee for our summertime "coffee hour." A bright yellow sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board downstairs. For more information, contact Ann Honeycutt (annhoneycutt@verizon.net and 617-990-2396). Thank you.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian Ed Committee is looking for teachers (or co-teachers) to teach the 3rd-5th grade and the 6th-8th grade classes next year. Teaching blocks run for either 6 or 7 weeks, depending on where they fall. Church School Registration will take place on Sunday, September 9 at 9:45 AM and classes will resume on Sunday, September 16. Speak with Patty Morgan or Mary Ann Stewart about your interest in working with our young people in the coming school year.

The Parish Nursery is professionally staffed each Sunday of the year. Sunday, June 17, is the last Sunday with two services at 8:00 and 10:00 AM. Beginning Sunday, June 24 we move to one service at 9:00 AM and the Nursery will be open at 8:45 AM (through September 9).

See you in September - With the close of Church School for the year, there is a hiatus in the Christian Ed office until September. Have a wonderful and relaxing summer.

*Blessings,
Mary Ann.*