Parish of the Good Shepherd



EASTERTIDE: A SEASON OF DISCERNMENT

We just celebrated wonderful Holy Week and Easter services, which included a "standing room only" service at our 10 am Easter Sunday service; it was a joy to be with you. Now, we have 50 days of Eastertide - 10 more days than our Lent's 40 days - to practice the faith, hope, and joy of our Christian life together.

This year, two Parish Discernment Meetings will also take place in the season of Easter. Our Search Committee is inviting the parish to come to two Parish Discernment Meetings (on Thursday, **April 30**th, and on Sunday, **May 17**th *) where we can reflect together on the unique qualities and character of Good Shepherd, Waban. The goal of these meetings is to build a description of who you are as a parish community, and to clarify the goals you hold for your shared future. We want to be sure the full range of opinions and perspectives is shared so that all members of our church have an opportunity to appreciate one another's opinions, voices, and hopes. These meetings will help us to build a unified vision, but the process of doing this is intentionally a slow and careful one. We want to develop a rich and nuanced picture of Good Shepherd.

Please come to the meetings ready to speak candidly and to listen carefully. In this steady process of discernment, a detailed picture of Good Shepherd will emerge. What do you most treasure about Good Shepherd? What might our parish look like 5 years from now? Where are the growing edges?

Every member of the parish matters in this process; we want the greatest possible participation level. Mary Ann is making sure that we will have child care for children of all ages during both meetings, and people are also welcome to come to one or both meetings. The Search Committee is eager to include your input into the search process.

Peace in Christ,

Margaret

* Save These Dates!

The Rector Search Committee asks that you plan to attend at least one of the two Parish Discernment Meetings on Thursday, April 30th from 7-9 pm and Sunday, May 17th from 11:30 am-1:30 pm. For those needing childcare during these meetings, please confirm with MaryAnn at ce@goodshepherdnewton.org by April 27th.

If you have any questions please email search@goodshepherdnewton.org

BISHOP'S VISIT ON MAY 3RD

Please mark your calendars for a visit with Bishop Gayle Harris on May 3rd. She will join us for worship, gather with us during coffee hour, and meet with our Vestry.

More details to come.

PARISH NEWS - April 15, 2015

Congratulations to....

Mindy and Matt Barber on the birth of Elizabeth Reed Barber (Lizzie) born on April 2nd.

~ Margaret

Emails for Newsletter/Updates

If you would like to receive our newsletter and updates as emails, please sign up on our website at: www.goodshepherdnewton.org

~ Jim Nauen

Adult Forum: Visions of Resurrection

On Sunday, April 19, we start a series of four forums on the art and spirituality of the Resurrection. Each forum will look at interesting and important paintings depicting an episode of the Resurrection. We will discuss these paintings and the spiritual implications of the episode. Here are the two forums for April:

- April 19. Noli me tangere. Did the resurrected Christ really not want Mary Magdalene to touch him?
- April 26. "Put out your hand, and place it in my side." What really happened when Thomas said that seeing is believing and Christ offered to let him touch his wounds, and what does it mean for those of us whose faith can't be based on seeing and touching?

~ Charles Foster

Outreach: Successful Epiphany Drive

Thank you to all of you who participated in our Lenten Art and School Supply Drive for Epiphany School. We collected 148 items. Thank you to Mary Jo Bomberowitz who was able to get 100 pencils and buttons donated by the New England Patriots and to the church school children that made spring flowerpots for the pencils and cards for the students at Epiphany.

WORK TO DO: On Sunday April 26 after church, the

Parish Youth are invited to prepare a hearty snack for the St Stephen's Youth Program (SSYP). Interested youth will meet in the church kitchen after coffee hour. The activity should last about an hour and a half. A member of the Outreach committee will deliver the snack on Monday or Tuesday. Any student grade 6-12 is welcome. We would also welcome assistance with purchasing needed food items. Please let us know if your son or daughter can join us.

~ Pia Bertelli, Outreach & Christin Gillooly, Christian Ed

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & PROGRAMS

Nursery is available every Sunday at 9:45 AM for infants through Pre-K. Children age 3-6 are welcome to the Atrium after attending an orientation (scheduled separately). Please speak with Mary Ann Stewart with any questions about our Christian Education program.

April 19: The Third Sunday of Easter

9:00 AM: Atrium

9:45 AM: Church School

April 25: Children's Communion Instruction (see below*) April 26: The Fourth Sunday of Easter – Good Shepherd Sunday

9:00 AM: Atrium

9:45 AM: Church School

Parent Discussion of Youth Programs – follows the ten o'clock service in

the Youth Room (see below)

April 30: Parish Discernment Meeting

7:00-9:00 PM

Childcare available with RSVP to ce@goodshepherdnewton.org

May 3: The Fifth Sunday of Easter – Bishop's Visitation

9:00 AM: Atrium

9:45 AM: Church School

May 10: The Third Sunday of Easter

9:00 AM: Atrium

9:45 AM: Church School

Teachers this Block: Maureen Gass is teaching the 1st and 2nd grade class; Christin Gillooly is teaching the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade class; Pat Gillooly teaches middle school 6th and 7th graders. All teachers, substitutes, assistants, and children will be recognized during the ten o'clock service on Sunday, June 7.

* Communion Instruction: All baptized Christians, including children from the very youngest, are invited to receive communion. Having children share in the mystery with us reminds us that no one receives because we understand, but because we are loved and accepted at Christ's table. Instruction is not necessary in order to receive communion in the Episcopal Church, but it is offered as an opportunity to show children the various ways of receiving the bread and wine, or a blessing, at the altar rail. If you desire this instruction for your child on Saturday, April 25 at 10:00 AM, kindly email Mary Ann Stewart at ce@goodshepherdnewton.org no later than Thursday, April 23 to let her know.

Youth Programs: Parents of Students Grade 6-12 are invited to an informal discussion after church on April 26 to discuss opportunities for service projects and social events for older youth. In the past, youth have participated in the trip to New Orleans, Relay for Life, snow tubing, and white water rafting, among other things. We would love to hear your ideas and interest in participating in events such as these. Grab a quick bite to eat and meet us in the youth room. Please let Christin Gillooly know if you can join us: cwgillooly6@gmail.com

Join "Christian Ed" on facebook: "Christian Ed" is the Director of Education and Programs for Children, Youth, and Families at the Parish of the Good Shepherd in Waban, Massachusetts. Please friend and follow!

Blessings in this Joyful Eastertide, Mary Ann.