

# Parish of the Good Shepherd



## OUR SEASON OF DISCERNMENT: PARISH DISCERNMENT MEETINGS APRIL 30TH AND MAY 17TH

Our first Parish Discernment Meeting happens tonight, from 7 pm- 9pm, and the second one will take place on May 17th after church.

During these meetings, we will be discerning what we want Parish of the Good Shepherd to look like in the future.

In secular culture, "discernment" means to exhibit keen insight and good judgment about a particular issue or situation. We certainly will be doing that in these two meetings, but we will also be doing more than that alone. When we turn to our spiritual heritage to consider "discernment", the invitation to discern is a much greater and more important invitation. In our Christian life, discernment itself is considered a virtue, and a discerning person is understood to possess both wisdom (good judgment) and an ability to envision God's desire for a situation or event.

At Parish of the Good Shepherd, we will be engaging our best intelligence, our prayer, our reflection, and our love of God and neighbor to help us determine who Good Shepherd wants to become, and what qualities you will want to find in the Rector who will lead you toward those goals.

Our Search Committee Chairs, Julia and Biz, wanted all of us to have the questions that will be asked at these meetings, so each of us can reflect on them and pray about them as we prepare to gather as a community and answer them.

Please come to the meetings ready to speak candidly about your opinions and to listen carefully to others. In the steady process of discernment, a detailed picture of Good Shepherd will emerge.

Blessings to each, as we embark on this concrete and essential part of the discernment process,

~ Margaret

### PARISH DISCERNMENT MEETING QUESTIONS:

**Q1.** Initial survey results tell us that the congregation feels that Good Shepherd is caring, open and welcoming. Our strengths lie in our people, music and Anglo-Catholic worship traditions while areas of improvement have themes around parish growth, physical plant, visibility in the community and Christian education. With this in mind, at its core, what makes Good Shepherd your Episcopal parish of choice?

**Q2.** The survey questions asking about what attracted you to Good Shepherd and what made you stay yielded the same top response - Truman Welch. Why? What qualities did he bring? What did he do that we can bring with us to the future?

**Q3.** Top responses to the survey questions asking about importance of each of the 12 ministries listed below include liturgy and worship, Christian Education and music. Thinking about each of the 12 ministries, which ones are the most important for the clergy to lead? And for the laity to lead? Are there ministries that should be led equally by both the clergy and laity? Place each of the 12 ministries in one of the three answer categories.

\*general ministries of Good Shepherd listed on the survey were as follows:

Administration	Lay pastoral care
Adult Christian Education	Liturgy and Worship
Child Christian Education	Music
Clerical pastoral care	Outreach
Diocesan and deanery involvement	Parish Events
Governance	Stewardship and Finance

**Q4.** The top responses for goals for the next five years are attracting young people and families to Good Shepherd and increasing the percentage of members that are pledging. How will Good Shepherd accomplish these objectives? What are your best ideas?

### 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.

# PARISH NEWS – April 30, 2015

## Rest In Peace

Rob Hausman's funeral will be held on May 9th at 11 am. A reception in the church will follow.

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](mailto:ce@goodshepherdnewton.org) by April 27th.

If you have any questions please email

[search@goodshepherdnewton.org](mailto:search@goodshepherdnewton.org)

## Adult Forum: Visions of Resurrection

Our series of four forums on the art and spirituality of the Resurrection continues into May. Each forum looks at interesting and important paintings depicting an episode of the Resurrection. We discuss these paintings and the spiritual implications of the episode. Here is the next forum: May 3. *Supper at Emmaus*. Why was it so hard for the disciples to recognize the risen Lord? What does it really mean to recognize Him?

~ *Charles Foster*

## In Thanksgiving

For the role you have played in my formation and education over the past few years I invite you to join me for a vocal recital which I will be giving on May 23, 2015 at 2:30pm in Andover Chapel at Harvard Divinity School. I will be joined by Professor Harry Huff on piano and Ms. Eileen Coyne on french horn, performing works by composers such as Ralph Vaughn Williams, Benjamin Britten, Charles Gounoud, and Felix Mendelsohn. The concert is free of charge, but a voluntary offering will be taken up and donated to the Society of St. John the Evangelist to support their many ministries.

All friends and family are welcome to attend. A light reception will follow the recital.

~ *Noah Van Niel*

## Thank you !

Outreach would like to send a **HUGE** shout-out to the team of youth who made a hearty snack last Sunday for the SSYP at the St Augustine & St Martin site in Lower Roxbury. We delivered several trays of turkey roll-ups, apples, chips and carrot soup to the group of K-4th graders who were thrilled! Next month Outreach is looking for a group of men willing to prepare the snack after church one Sunday in May. Please contact Pia Bertelli [p.bertelli@comcast.net](mailto:p.bertelli@comcast.net) if you are interested. Recipe and food will be provided. Outreach will make the delivery. Just show up to cook and have some camaraderie!

~ *Pia Bertelli*

## 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 ([ce@goodshepherdnewton.org](mailto: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 Sixth Sunday of Easter**

9:00 AM: Atrium

9:45 AM: Church School

### **May 17: The Seventh Sunday of Easter**

9:45 AM: Atrium & Church School

All teachers, substitutes, assistants, and children will be recognized during the ten o'clock service on Sunday, June 7. Our Annual Parish Picnic follows on the church lawn (weather permitting).

*Blessings in Eastertide,*

*Mary Ann.*

## From the Christian Education Committee

Thank you to the parents who attended the meeting on programming for our Middle School and High School youth. Our discussion was full of wonderful ideas for outreach opportunities, social events and how to structure the frequency and times for meetings. If you were unable to join us, but would like to share your ideas and vision for our youth program next year, contact Christin Gillooly at [cgillooly6@gmail.com](mailto:cgillooly6@gmail.com).

~ *Christin Gillooly*

## B-Involved in the Mother's Day Walk for Peace May 10

**Please Join us or help support some of Good Shepherd's families as they walk for the B-Peace for "Jorge Team"**

**Sunday May 10 8AM-11AM Dorchester MA.**

Since the tragic death of Jorge Fuentes, Members of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts have supported the Mothers' Day Walk for Peace. Jorge Fuentes grew up and worked in the B-SAFE summer and B-READY after school programs supported by our diocese. Your support will help programs to instill peace in school and community settings, support survivors of homicide victims and provide training to those that work with youth and families impacted by violence.

To make a financial contribution or to find out more information about the 3.6 mile walk go to

<http://www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org/home.html>

To donate, click on "Be A Sponsor," select "Sponsor A Team" and search for "B-Peace for Jorge" Team. Select "donate" and enter your pledge.

If a member of your family would like to walk with the Dragat, Gillooly and Bracher families please e-mail Pia Bertelli [p.bertelli@comcast.net](mailto:p.bertelli@comcast.net) for instructions on how to register and other important details about the morning.