

# Parish of the Good Shepherd



## WELCOMING THE DIVINE

Dear People of Good Shepherd,

This Sunday, we are anticipating our children preaching to us about the coming of Christ in the music and songs of a Christmas pageant. Shepherds will gather sheep and meet angels, angels will flutter and proclaim the promise with joy, Baby Jesus will coo or cry, and Wisemen will faithfully seek and celebrate. We have the opportunity to follow in our children's footsteps this Sunday, as we learn about the challenges and the gifts of stepping into Christ's ancient holy story. Our children are doing hard and important work when they lovingly offer the story to us, their church family, and we want our children to learn something about God's promise to dwell with each of them when they act out the first Christmas for us.

Of course, as our parent, God longs for the story to be born in us each year, too. Each year, we are meant to take our place, or recognize our place in the story. During the pageant this year, I invite you to consider who you are meant to be. Will you stand firm, like a Wiseman, looking to expand your knowledge of the divine this year? Will you be a faith-filled and vigorous apostle, like Mary, or Joseph, or Elizabeth? A determined shepherd? Perhaps a sleepy dove in the rafters of the barn, somehow in the story, but not quite sure of what is being asked of you?

Find inspiration and camaraderie this Sunday as we all live into the promise of new birth.

And join us for our Christmas Eve, or Christmas Day services.

May you, and all whom you love, find a fresh and certain experience of the Messiah this year.

Blessings in our Advent Journey,  
Margaret

What good is it to me if this external birth of the Divine son takes place unceasingly but does not take place in me?  
And what good is it to me for the Creator to give birth to his son if I do not also give birth to him, in my time, and in my culture?  
This then is the fullness of time,  
when the son of God is begotten in me.

- Meister Eckhart, c 1260-1327

German theologian and Christian Mystic

# PARISH NEWS – DECEMBER 10, 2014

## The Epiphany School Gift List: Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> Deadline

Warm hats, gloves, scarves, socks are all needed. All sports equipment - especially soccer balls and basketballs - are always received with enthusiasm. Also gift cards (\$10-20) to Target.

Epiphany has given us a list of fifty kids who are particularly in need. Their names, genders and ages are on the bulletin board in the Common Room. If you choose a child from this list, write your name on the list, and wrap the gift(s) with the child's name. We still have 10 children's names waiting to be taken.

Also welcome are gift certificates to Stop & Shop. These will be kept by the principal and handed out to families who need them.

Please bring all gifts to the Loring Room by December 14 to be delivered on the 15<sup>th</sup>. If you have questions call or email Mary Jo Bomberowitz at [mj.bomberowitz@rcn.com](mailto:mj.bomberowitz@rcn.com) or Louise Lazare at [wieczidotcom@verizon.net](mailto:wieczidotcom@verizon.net).

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## Waiting for a Call in Advent

A couple of weeks ago I went through two days of grilling by the Commission on Ministry to determine if my sense of being called to ordained ministry as a deacon was confirmed by their sense of my being called. Now they hold my answers, and God holds me, in the palms of their hands, and they assess and I wait, along with 18 other people.

The collect and readings for the first Sunday of Advent remind us of how the end of the process that begins with the birth of Christ is His returning in glory to judge us, in case we fail to appreciate that we're not just waiting for a baby but for what will happen to that baby and what that baby will become. This little piece of waiting I am doing also ends in a judgment. I know the people who are doing the judging: they tell me it is done with love, and I believe them.

So here I am, feeling that no matter what everything will be okay.

~ Charles Foster

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## Pledge cards

Stewardship 2015 is underway and pledge cards have been mailed out. If you misplaced yours there are extras in the back of the church.

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## Christmas flowers

The season of Advent began November 30 and continues until Christmas Eve. During the four Sundays in Advent, the tradition at Good Shepherd has been to have simple seasonal greens surrounding the Advent wreath rather than the

traditional bouquet of flowers during the Sunday morning worship service. When the Christmas season begins, the church will be decorated with wreaths, seasonal plants and flowers once again - a wonderful way to celebrate the birth of Christ. You are invited to help make this happen by using the enclosed Christmas Flowers envelope to make a donation in any amount in memory of or in thanksgiving for family members and/or friends who are special to you. **Please return envelopes to the church office by December 18 by mail or by putting them in the offering plate this Sunday.**

You may also email your request to [office@goodshepherdnewton.org](mailto:office@goodshepherdnewton.org)

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## **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))

## DECEMBER

10 - 6:00 PM: Mid-week Pizza & Pageant rehearsal  
*Scripts memorized, no costumes (6-6:30 pizza; 6:30-7:30 rehearsal)*

14 - Third Sunday of Advent – *Pageant Sunday*  
8:45 AM: Pageant Dress Rehearsal – *No Church School Classes*

10:00 AM: Pageant offered during 10:00 AM service

21 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 AM: Atrium

9:45 AM: Church School

24 – 4:00 PM: Family Christmas Eve Service

10:00 PM: The Christ Mass with Festive Choir

25 – 10:00 AM: Christmas Day: The Nativity of Our Lord, Jesus Christ

28 - The First Sunday after Christmas Day

*No Atrium or Church School Classes*

This Sunday, December 14, many parish children will assume memorable roles of the infancy narrative when they offer the Annual Advent/Christmas Pageant during the ten o'clock service in lieu of the Gospel reading from Luke (2:26-38). Thank you to all of the families who have been working with their children to learn their lines, take their places, and project their voices so we all can hear their wonderful telling of the story! Parents: remember to bring cameras to the Dress Rehearsal at 8:45 AM on Sunday, 12/14!

Daily prayers, meditations, and other good things for Advent are being posted to [www.TrueVineChronicles.blogspot.com](http://www.TrueVineChronicles.blogspot.com) – consider following for regular updates.

*Advent blessings, Mary Ann.*