

# Parish of the Good Shepherd



## Lent: a Season of Silence, Reflection, Repentance, and Compassion

There are many ways to honor Lent, whether by taking on a discipline, or by giving something up, in a quiet echo of what Jesus gave up for us when he died on the cross. The Parish of the Good Shepherd's lay and ordained leadership have planned a Lenten season that is focusing on the themes of repentance and compassion this year. What will be right for your Lenten walk this season? Here are some possibilities:

- Come to our February 18th Ash Wednesday Service at 7:30 pm tonight. Start the solemn reflection of the season with a community experience of the limitations of a life span and the need to engage our lives soulfully: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."
- Join our Adult Forum on Sundays after the 10:00 service. This Sunday, Margaret will be leading a forum on "Sharing in the Healing of the World's Brokenness" and Charles will lead a series of forums on the true nature of Jesus. (see the second page for more info.)
- Read a short daily meditation. Sign up for The Society of St. John the Evangelist, daily meditations at [SSJE.org/time](http://SSJE.org/time), or read a daily meditation with a *Forward Day by Day* book. Books are on the table in our undercroft.
- Join us for March 1st, when The Reverend John Finley IV, head of The Epiphany School, preaches at our 8 am and 10 am services.
- Pray for our Confirmation Class of 2016, who go on their first overnight retreat at the Barbara Harris Camp and Conference Center on March 6th.
- Turn off the extra noise in your home. Let the TV, radio, the music, the cell phone, the computer, be "off" for some of the time they would otherwise be "on." See what can be born in silence.
- Do something to build up God's Kingdom. Serve a food pantry, or help support Epiphany, or B-Safe, two of our Outreach Committee's longstanding outreach projects. Offer an action of love, an action of kindness, an action of peace to God as part of your journey.
- Give up something you love - a food, an event, a daily experience like Facebook or twitter- and see what an experience of intentional sacrifice can teach.

Of course, there are many ways to live a faithful and transforming Lent. The choices above are just a few of them, but they are choices we can make, as individuals, and as a community, to enter the silence, the reflection, the penitence, the compassion of the season. What calls out to your soul?

I look forward to joining you on the solemn, soulful journey.

*Peace in Christ, Margaret*

*"We cannot stop the thoughts that come into our hearts,  
but we don't have to invite them to tea."*

*(Rumi, The Anglican Digest, Spring 2014)*

# PARISH NEWS – February 18, 2015

## Forum during Lent

This Sunday, our Interim Priest, The Reverend Margaret Schwarzer, will lead an Adult Forum titled "Lent: Sharing in the Healing of the World's Brokenness." We will reflect upon what suffering and penitence teach us about our own humanity, and how we can use them to contribute to the healing of the world's brokenness.

During the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent, Dr. Charles Foster will lead an Adult Forum series entitled "Who Do You Say That I Am?" A number of views of Jesus have been put forward in the past decades: peasant, preacher, philosopher, zealot, magician, myth, and many more. So who was Jesus really? This Lent we welcome all of you to a very special series of Forums in which we will explore within the Christian tradition the true nature of Jesus as reflected by those who knew him best. In these Forums we will look at the ways Jesus is known to us: Lamb, Shepherd, Lord, Rabbi, Word, Son of God. In the process, we will put together a true composite picture of our Lord.

~ Charles Foster

## Head of Epiphany School to Preach March 1st

The Reverend John H. Finley IV will be our preacher for the second Sunday of Lent. He will preach at both the 8 am and 10 am services. Good Shepherd has supported Epiphany for many years; come learn about recent developments as we affirm all the good work of the Epiphany School.

~ Rev. Margaret

## Noah is a Candidate for Holy Orders

Congratulations to Noah Van Neil who was admitted to candidacy this month. He has been invited to apply for ordination in June 2015. Mark your calendars, as we anticipate a wonderful event.

~ Rev. Margaret

## An Invitation: Become an Usher

You may not have noticed, but our corps of lector/ushers has been gradually declining in numbers. We really need a few more so that nobody has to serve more than once every couple of months and we can double up on important Holy Days. Being an usher involves getting to church early on your assigned Sunday; greeting fellow parishioners and handing out service leaflets; reading the first lesson; standing ready to lend a hand on the stairs at communion; and other small tasks. It's a nice way to help out. Please contact me if you can help or want to know more, or take a look at the usher's crib sheet at the back of the church.

~ Vivi Leavy, Director of Acolytes

## Prayer List Update for Lent

If you would like a name to continue on our Sunday prayer list, please contact Lynette in our office this week or next. We are updating our Sunday prayer list, and we want to be sure that all the names of people for whom we are praying are current.

~ Rev. Margaret

## Join Good Shepherd Email for newsletter and updates

If you would like to receive our email newsletter and updates, please sign up on our website at [www.goodshepherdnewton.org](http://www.goodshepherdnewton.org).

~ Jim Nauen

## **From the Director of Education and 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 (or email) Mary Ann Stewart with any questions about our Christian Education Program: [ce@goodshepherdnewton.org](mailto:ce@goodshepherdnewton.org)*

## **February 22: The First Sunday in Lent**

9:45 AM: Church School: Combined class Atrium- 5th Grade

10:00 AM 6th and 7th Graders attend church with parents

## **March 1: The Second Sunday in Lent**

9:45 AM: Atrium - note that we will meet later on this Sunday only

9:45 AM Church School

**March 6 & 7:** Confirmands' Overnight Retreat (please see details below).

**Please note:** There will be a combined Atrium-5th grade class with Mary Ann on February 22 and also no formal class for Middle School students, who may attend church with their parents.

**Confirmands' Overnight Retreat** at the Barbara C. Harris Camp, Greenfield, NH. Please return completed forms to Mary Ann by Monday, February 23. We will meet in the church driveway on Friday, March 6 at 3:15 to depart on time at 3:30.

## **Teachers Needed for Block IV (March 1st- March 29th)**

We are currently in need of teachers for all three of our classrooms. Please prayerfully consider signing up to guide one of our student classes through the four lessons in March. Questions? See Christin Gillooly, Mary Ann Stewart or one of our dedicated teachers:

(1st & 2nd grade) Patty and Griffin Morgan, Biz Bracher, Mo Leacock, and Alison Corkery

(3rd - 5th grade) Hien Rivers, Deb Molrine, Mo Leacock, and Alison Corkery

(6th & 7th grade) Kevin Richards and Julia Johnston Ketterer

~ Blessings, Mary Ann