

Parish of the Good Shepherd

THE GIFT OF RESILIENCE

Christmas services were soulful and beautiful at Parish of the Good Shepherd this year. Our 4 o'clock Christmas Eve service was full of joy and energetic children; 160 of us crammed into pews to celebrate the birth of Christ together. At our 10 o'clock Christmas Eve Eucharist, 80 of us gathered in solemn soulfulness to welcome Christ, and on Christmas Day, 11 of us (including two bright-eyed children) celebrated some more. It was a joy to be with you.

Now we find ourselves on the other side of Christmas and Epiphany, and it can be tempting to imagine that resting in love- both human and divine- is the intended and only natural state for human beings. The Christmas stories are inspiring, and in our own celebrations, we have offered the best we have to offer, and received the best others had to give. We can get nostalgic for the simple love and easy moments of Christmas vacation when we return to regular jobs, and regular school routines.

However, when we are honest with ourselves, we know that the whole human enterprise is more complicated than that. Life itself has gifts, difficulties, and brokenness- large and small- hardwired into itself- even for those who appear to be whole and safe. For that reason, during the first week in the season of Epiphany, I invite us to reflect upon the gift of resilience, a quality that brings hope and vitality to those difficult or tragic aspects of our life on this planet. Contrary to popular belief, most psychologists, doctors, and theologians agree that resilience is actually a process, rather than a trait, and that all people can build up their capacity for resilience and the skills and gifts that it brings. Resilience is what lets us find hope and rebuild our lives after something has gone wrong. The more "rebound" we can develop, or find, the more full our future lives can be.

Resilience is what needs to be cultivated when we move from experiencing the joy of Christmas to doing the work needed to bring more light and more love into our world.

THE WORK OF CHRISTMASTIDE AND EPIPHANY

When the song of the angel is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the Kings and Princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
Then the work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost,
 To heal the broken,
 To feed the hungry,
 To release the prisoner,
 To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers and sisters,
 To make music in the heart.

- *The Reverend Dr. Howard Thurman, Dean of Religious Life at Boston University (1953-1965)*

Blessings in the Journey,
Margaret

Save the date:
Our Annual Meeting will take place on
Sunday, January 25th
following the 10:00 a.m. service.
(see Warrant on reverse)

PARISH NEWS – JANUARY 7, 2015

Happy New Year!

Congratulations to...

Chip, Hannah, Eliza, Lee and Pippa Franklin on the birth of Jeb Carpenter and Mae Eliot on January 3rd;

and to Sandy Bittenbender on the birth of a grandson Jackson Brian Ferguson on December 4th. He joins big sister Olivia.

Epiphany Sunday – January 11

Let's kick-off the new year with a great party! If you would be interested in making a casserole of cheese grits or strada for coffee hour on January 11, please let Pia Bertelli know p.bertelli@comcast.net or Karen Hamilton tkbhamilton@rcn.com. Recipes are posted on the bulletin board in the Common room for your convenience. King cakes will be ordered from New Orleans! Who will find the baby Jesus? Who will be the three kings this year?

Pledge cards for 2015 have been mailed out. If you have not pledged yet please do so soon. The vestry will begin working on a budget for the new year once a majority of the pledges are in. The easiest way to submit your pledge is to email the office. Email address is office @goodshepherdnewton.org.

The flower chart for 2015 is posted downstairs in the Common room if you would like to sign up to give flowers in memory of, in honor of or in thanksgiving for a loved one.

Parish “Food for Thought” Bulletin Board

The bulletin board near the Loring Room will hold a “Food for Thought” article about our faith, or an article about Christian life in the larger world. This month's article, called “Science Increasingly Makes the Case for God,” comes from a December 2014 *Wall Street Journal* article which several parish members shared with me. Enjoy.

- Margaret

WARRANT FOR THE PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

Pursuant to the By-Laws of the Parish, the Annual Meeting of the Parish of the Good Shepherd of Waban will be held in the Common Room of the Church on Sunday, January 25, 2015, following the 10:00 a.m. service.

The business to be transacted is as follows -

1. The receiving of reports,
2. The election of three member of the vestry (class of 2018),
3. The election of treasurer and clerk,
4. The presentation and discussion of the budget for 2015, and
5. The transaction of any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Terry Robinson, Clerk

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)

January 11: The First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ

9:00 AM: Atrium

9:45 AM: Church School – *meet in the Common Room for an Epiphany Procession into church before going to classes.*

5:30 PM: Confirmands' Epiphany Yankee Swap in the home of the Boyd's

A festive Epiphany Brunch follows the ten o'clock service (Common Room)

January 18: The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

9:00 AM: Atrium

9:45 AM: Church School

January 25: The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

9:00 AM: Atrium

9:45 AM: Church School

The Annual Parish Meeting follows the ten o'clock service (Common Room)

Child care for children age one month to four years (0-4 years) will be available during the Annual Parish Meeting following the ten o'clock service on Sunday, January 25.

The Twelve Days of Christmas began at sundown on December 24 and continued through sundown on January 5 (Twelfth Night). On January 6 we welcomed the arrival of the Magi in Epiphany. We will celebrate the season of Epiphany with a Church School procession into church and a festive brunch following the ten o'clock service on Sunday, January 11, 2015. Epiphany is a wonderful time to reflect on all that has happened in Advent and Christmas and to think a little more about the appearance of those Magi: Which of the gifts of the Magi would you most like to receive? Why? If you were able to give Jesus a material gift today, what would you bring? Why?

*New Year blessings,
Mary Ann.*

