

# Parish of the Good Shepherd

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## Imagining the Kingdom

*Rogers Olverson, Outreach chair*

The pile of hats and gloves and balls in the Loring Room was bigger than I expected. The envelope with the gift cards was nearly bursting. Wow! In all we collected 13 sports balls, 18 hats, 25 pairs of gloves, 3 pairs socks/slippers, and \$1,315.00 in gifts cards.

Not only do I think this collection might be the biggest ever at Good Shepherd, but I noticed so many cute hats, balls chosen for their official-ness, gift cards set in greeting cards. These gifts were chosen with care and concern. In fact, I would venture to say that we were imagining God's kingdom as a place where all children have warm hats and gloves, where they all have balls to play with, and where all families can afford enough food to eat.

So I toted the gifts to Epiphany School, the tuition-free Episcopal middle school for disadvantaged children, and ran right into the needs. As I carried some of the balls in the door, a boy looked up from his homework and whispered longingly, "a basketball." I learned that a teacher/coach was looking for more basketballs on this wet and cold day.

Michelle Sanchez, Epiphany's principal, also told me that one student had been asking for gloves that very morning. She promptly began to dig into our bags of gloves to find just the right pair.

Michelle was delighted with the gift cards, too. She had really depleted her budget for helping families at Thanksgiving because so many more families were asking for help. One family in particular worried her: a single mother of three bright students had her benefits taken away because of an immigration challenge. The gifts cards will help this family -- and others -- get through a tough time this holiday.

Thank you all for your generous gifts. They are going right to work to help needy families.

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### **WARRANT**

Pursuant to the By-Laws (as amended) of the Parish, the Annual Meeting of the Parish of the Good Shepherd of Waban, Massachusetts will be held in the Common Room of the Church on Sunday, January 26, 2014 following the 10:00 a.m. service.

The business to be transacted is:

1. The receiving of reports;
2. The election of three members of the Vestry (class of 2017);
3. The election of clerk and treasurer
4. The adoption of the budget for 2014;
5. The transaction of any other business that may properly come before it.

*Terry Robinson, Clerk*

# PARISH NEWS –

January 8, 2014

## The Flower Chart for 2014

A new flower chart 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. Suggested donation is \$75.

**Something new at Good Shepherd:** Please note that Good Shepherd now offers parishioners who can't attend the service the option to view live or recorded versions remotely over the internet on a password protected website. If you would like access, please email Lynette at [office@goodshepherdnewton.org](mailto:office@goodshepherdnewton.org).

## Forum

Sunday, January 12 -

Beyond Sunday School: challenges and solutions for bringing up children Christian and Episcopal in today's world.

and...

Coming up soon! "This is my church too": An exploration of still-hot issues concerning God and the place of women in the Church, in liturgy, theology, and the life of the parish, now and in the past. We will look at everything from the names of God to the still evolving role of women in the Episcopal church.

looking ahead...

In April we will be having a series of 3 forums on religious art. On successive weeks, Nancy Ketterer, Pam Rothwell, and Charles Foster will each discuss one or two works of art of their own choosing. The point is not only to develop our understanding of religious art—the ways artists make a point and tell a story—but also to open up our understanding of religion and perhaps our own spirituality.

## **FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & PROGRAMS**

### **JANUARY 2014**

*Nursery is available every Sunday for infants through 4 year-old. Atrium Levels I & II are open each Sunday at 8:45 AM. Children age 3-8 are welcome after they have been oriented to the learning space (scheduled separately). Please speak with Mary Ann Stewart with any questions about our Christian Education Program ([ce@goodshepherdnewton.org](mailto:ce@goodshepherdnewton.org))*

## **12 - The First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

8:45 AM: Level I Atrium

9:45 AM: Level II Atrium

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> gr to Loring Room

6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> gr to Youth Room

## **19 - The Second Sunday after the Epiphany**

8:45 AM: Level I Atrium

9:45 AM: Level II Atrium

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> gr to Loring Room

6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> gr to Youth Room

## **26 - The Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

8:45 AM: Level I Atrium

9:45 AM: Level II Atrium

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> gr to Loring Room

6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> gr to Youth Room

Our Middle School class of 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders is still in need of a teacher (Block 3 = 6 Sundays from January 12 through February 16 ). If you are willing and interested, please speak with Mary Ann Stewart about getting a copy of the materials. **Heartfelt thanks to Hien Rivers** (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade class) and **Kevin Richards** (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade class) for teaching in the last block and to **Jennifer Pachus** for teaching the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade class in the current block.

**Time for Prayer:** Recalling the child to pray on a regular basis throughout the day is a useful support so that prayer is not forgotten or overlooked in day-to-day life. Parents and those of you who are in daily contact with children can help them exercise that inner movement of the heart—which is the spirit of prayer—in relation to the events of everyday life, such as at meal times and before bedtime, and so forth. There are many opportunities to pray together with the child; some joy, a particular happening, or whatever is part of the child's ordinary life can present an occasion for prayer. This helps the child to understand that prayer is not only for certain times or places.

*It is necessary for me to see the first point of light that begins to be dawn. It is necessary to be present alone at the resurrection of Day in solemn silence at which the sun appears, for at this moment all the affairs of cities, of governments, of war departments, are seen to be the bickering of mice. I receive from the Eastern woods, the tall oaks, the one word DAY. It is never the same. It is always in a totally new language. ~ Thomas Merton (Journals, May 1965)*

Peace,  
Mary Ann.