

Parish of the Good Shepherd

1671 Beacon Street
Waban, Massachusetts 02468-1401

SABBATH TIME

I saw something remarkable yesterday afternoon. It was just after a thunderstorm had passed off to the east. The dark clouds were still in the eastern sky but the setting sun had come out in the west, throwing a complete rainbow across the sky. Not only was the rainbow unusual because the arc was unbroken, but it also was the most vibrantly colored rainbow I have ever seen. Rainbows are most often rather weakly colored. This one glowed like it was powered by neon gas. An amazing sight. And so I stood in the front yard for maybe 20 minutes, just staring at the sky, until the sun went down and the rainbow quickly disappeared. This was sabbath time. A time of rest and wonder and refreshment.

The biblical Book of Genesis tells us that God created the earth and heavens and then on the seventh day God rested and made holy the seventh day. And so observant Jews do no work on the Sabbath, which for them is Saturday. Christians, too, have observed the Sabbath, which for us is Sunday, by devoting the day to worship and reflection. But I'm afraid that sabbath observance has almost completely disappeared for most of us. Even if we don't go to our offices and even if we resist the manage to stay away from stores and from online shopping, we give in to activities which might be amusing and diverting, but are not really about sabbath rest.

For you see, sabbath is about doing nothing, which is not something we do well. The reason that my rainbow experience qualified as sabbath time, even though it happened on Monday, is that it required nothing of me. I didn't make it happen. I didn't need to buy a ticket to see it. It took no skill on my part. It required no expenditure or effort. And what also made it sabbath time was that it recalled to me God's creation and it restored to me a sense of my place in that creation, which is an important place but also very small.

I hope you can find some sabbath time for yourself this summer. It can happen any time and any place. It only requires that you stop doing whatever you are doing, even if it is fun, and just be still. And do nothing. Nothing at all. And if you have children, let them see you taking sabbath time. For, gosh knows, they need your example. Their lives are so filled up with things to do and people to see and places to be, that even hearing about them exhausts me. And if you're lucky, you might see something amazing, a rainbow glowing intensely. But even if you don't, you will be refreshed and rewarded, because you have freely chosen to stop doing doing. And BE.

~ GTW

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at 9 a.m. begins Sunday, June 23 and continues through September 8.**

**During our summer schedule there will be no church school classes
but the nursery will be staffed by professional sitters.**

PARISH NEWS – June 18, 2013

The summer schedule of one Sunday eucharist at 9 a.m. begins Sunday, June 23 and continues through September 8.

The choir is on break until September 8 when we return to two services at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

During our summer schedule there will be no church school classes but the nursery will be staffed by professional sitters.

Church school registration will take place September 8 and church school classes begin September 15.

Congratulations to Chip and Hannah Franklin and big sisters Lee and Eliza on the birth of Pippa Adams Franklin on May 10th.

"Listening Event" Election of Next



First Step Towards Diocesan Bishop:

In January, Bishop Tom Shaw announced his retirement, which will occur sometime in 2014. We continue in prayer for Bishop Tom's healing in the wake of his recent surgery to remove a cancerous brain tumor. The Diocesan Discernment Committee has set up a series of "listening events" around the diocese, to gather input from which they will draw up the criteria for choosing the next Bishop of our diocese. The "listening event" for the Charles River Deanery (of which Good Shepherd is a member) will be held at St. Paul's Church, Brookline (15 St. Paul's St. Brookline) on June 19th, from 7-9 pm. If you are not able to attend this event but would like to participate, check the diocesan website (www.diomass.org) for a list of other listening events around the diocese, or you may take this survey online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DioMassDiscernment>

A longtime Good Shepherd parishioner would like to rent a room for a limited amount of time starting late in the summer. If you would have a room available, please call Fr. Welch.



2013 Hospitality – June 23 through September 2

Following the 9 o'clock summer service, we greet each other in the Common Room for simple, light refreshments and fellowship. Bring sparkling flavored water, iced tea, iced coffee, lemonade and store-bought cookies and crackers. Due to the heat and humidity, we don't make hot coffee for summertime "coffee hour." We welcome volunteers from the choir and those who attend 8 o'clock service. The signup sheet is on the Common Room bulletin board. For more information, contact Ann Honeycutt (annhoneycutt@verizon.net and 617-990-2396). Thanks for your help.

Revive your inner camp counselor!

Good Shepherd is *not* organizing a B-SAFE project this summer, but we do have an invitation to help St. Dunstan's, Dover with their B-SAFE field trip July 12. (B-SAFE is the summer enrichment day camp for inner city children lead by St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Boston.) St. Dunstan's will be hosting 120 children and 40 staff at Hale Reservation in Westwood. They need folks to help serve lunch, folks to organize games like whiffle ball or scavenger hunts, folks to help the kids have fun. If you'd like to sign up, please contact Rogers Olverson, rolverson@comcast.net or Gayane Ebling, gayane@comcast.net.

Altar Guild Reminder

The sign-up sheet for the 9:00 Holy Eucharist, July 7 through September 1, is posted in the Common Room. Please sign up early for Sundays you know you will be in town, and feel free to sign up for several Sundays. If plans change after you've signed up, please let me know or find a substitute. *Thank you, Joy.*



Church School Outreach

Thank you so much to everyone who has brought in nonperishable food, personal hygiene items, and cleaning supplies for the Centre Street Food Pantry. Students will continue to collect items until June 23rd (before the 9:00 service). Several members of the Upper Elementary Church School Class will deliver all of your generous donations to the pantry after the first summer church service. What a great way for the kids to see their faith in action!