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## FAMILIES

I'm from a small family. There was just my brother and me and my father and mother. My mother died two years ago and my father died two weeks ago, both at a great age. My mother's family was full of unmarried or childless aunts. There were a few cousins on my father's side but I was never close to any of them. So now there's just my brother and me, though my brother is married and has four daughters who themselves have about 34 children, or at least that's how it seems when we're all in the same house.

There were times when I didn't much want a family at all. During a few of my teen years the existence of my family was an annoyance and an embarrassment. And then there were family problems. There always are. My mother was depressive and alcoholic for much of her life, though she joined AA in her 50's and quit drinking, which was something I thought she would never be able to do.

As we all got older we grew closer and we learned to forgive. That sometimes happens with families. The world can be a cold and unforgiving place and families are where we go to feel known and safe.

I know that that's not true for everybody. People who are abused in their families or gay and lesbian people who are rejected by their families have to assemble from the people they know families of their own. Their friends become their families. That's not surprising. Everyone needs a family, even if it can't be the family we are born into.

Our Lord himself recognized that families are more expansive, more commodious than what we might be used to. When a crowd pointed out to Jesus that his mother and brothers were asking for him (Mark 3:31-35), he makes the point that "whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

It's never really easy to live with or among other people, even if, or maybe especially if, they are biologically related to us. But one thing is so clear. We can't get through life by ourselves. It's just too hard. We need our families. Wherever we find them.

~ GTW

# PARISH NEWS -

## March 19, 2014

### Remembering Good Shepherd

The Parish of the Good Shepherd has received a bequest of \$133,000 for the endowment from the estate of George Brett. George and Ginny Brett were faithful members of Good Shepherd for many years and even after Ginny's death in 1984 and George's remarriage and removal to Cape Elizabeth, Maine, he continued to make an annual financial pledge to Good Shepherd and remembered Ginny twice a year by donating altar flowers on their wedding anniversary and the anniversary of her death. George's faithfulness and loyalty should remind us all to remember Good Shepherd in our wills and estate planning. If you have questions about this please contact Terry Robinson (robinson.terry@verizon.net).

GTW

### Donate Sports Gear for Epiphany

Epiphany School, a tuition-free middle school for disadvantaged students in Dorchester, is short on equipment for PE classes and for baseball and softball. Good Shepherd is collecting sports gear for them during March. In particular, the PE coach has asked for individual jump ropes, group jump ropes, agility ladders, flag football belt sets, baseball/softball gloves, batting tees, and baseballs and softballs. Used gloves in good condition are welcome! **Bring your gift to the Loring Room by March 30.** If you would rather skip the shopping, you may participate by writing a check to Good Shepherd, with Lenten Collection in the memo line. The Outreach Committee will shop for you. If you have questions, contact Rogers Olverson (chair, Outreach committee) at rolverson@comcast.net.

#### Looking Ahead to

#### † Holy Week

#### Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday – 4/13

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Palms, Procession and Sung Eucharist

#### Maundy Thursday – 4/17

7:30 p.m. Sung Eucharist

9:00 p.m.–12 a.m. Watch Before the Blessed Sacrament

#### Good Friday – 4/18

10:00 a.m. Observance for children K-5<sup>th</sup> grade

12 noon Stations of the Cross

7:30 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy and Mass

#### Easter Eve – 4/19

7:30 p.m. Great Vigil and First Mass of Easter

#### Easter Day – 4/20

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:00 a.m. Solemn High Mass

### FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & PROGRAMS

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))

### MARCH

#### 23 - The Third Sunday in Lent

10:00 AM: Level I & Level II Atrium (*note this is a later and shorter meeting time, this Sunday only*)

10:00 AM: 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> gr in Loring Room  
6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> gr into church

#### 30 - The Fourth Sunday in Lent

8:45 AM: Level I & Level II Atrium

10:00 AM: 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> gr in Loring Room  
6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> gr into church

### APRIL

#### 6 - The Fifth Sunday in Lent

8:45 AM: Level I & Level II Atrium

10:00 AM: 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> gr in Loring Room  
6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> gr in Youth Room

*Mission Trip discussion for teens currently in 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade (see below)*  
*Confirmands' Palm Sunday Passion read-through with Fr. Welch (see below)*

#### 13 - The Sunday of the Passion::Palm Sunday

8:45 AM: *Confirmands in church for Passion read-through with Fr. Welch*

8:45-9:50 AM: Level I & Level II Atrium

9:50 AM: *All children and parishioners in Common Room for Blessing of the Palms & Procession into church*

10:00 AM: All children in church for Confirmands' Dramatic Reading of the Passion offered during the ten o'clock service

#### 17 - Maundy Thursday::Liturgy & Nightwatch

7:30 PM Liturgy followed by Prayers and Meditation before the Blessed Sacrament

*(Confirmands keep watch for the first hour)*

#### 18 - Good Friday::Observance & Liturgy

10:00-11:30 AM: K-5<sup>th</sup> grade children invited to the Loring Room for a Good Friday Observance

12:00 Noon: Stations of the Cross (*Confirmands encouraged to attend*)

#### Teens currently in 8<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> grade (including

**Confirmands):** Come hear about the mission trip to New Orleans from the kids who went last year. Meet (for no more than 30 minutes) in the Youth Room following the ten o'clock service on Sunday, April 6. This meeting is for the kids only; parents will be updated about trip details later in the spring.

**Confirmands:** meet briefly with Fr. Welch on April 6 immediately following the above mission trip meeting for a run-through of the Dramatic Reading of the Passion for Palm Sunday. We will be finished by 12:30. Parts will be assigned. A final read-through will take place with Fr. Welch on Palm Sunday at 8:45 AM in church.

**Offerings for Heifer International:** Please continue to encourage your Church School-age child (Pre-K-8<sup>th</sup> grade) to bring in their Heifer offerings each Sunday through Lent and Easter. This is their outreach mission. Heifer provides seeds, animals, and farm training to poor families in the United States. On Pentecost, children will meet to vote on how to apportion the money they will have collected.

*Why I so much prefer autumn to spring is that in the autumn one looks at heaven—in the spring at the earth. ~ Kierkegaard*  
*Lenten blessings, Mary Ann.*