

# Parish of the Good Shepherd



## Extraordinary Grace in Ordinary Days

"What a waste it is to be surrounded by heaven, by sky 'made white by angels' wings' and to be unaware of it," writes Esther de Waal. "Perhaps the first step is that we really should want to unearth God in our midst... (to) let the mundane become the edge of glory, and find the extraordinary in the ordinary."

- Esther de Waal

Last Sunday, we celebrated Pentecost, the birth of the church. That holy day invites us to consider the church we have been birthing in our Interim time together, not just the church's first birthday, thousands of years ago. In the first seven months of Good Shepherd's Interim time, we have been doing the "ordinary" work of transition and finding the extraordinary grace God gives us in the midst of our hard work and new beginnings.

In our interim time together:

- Our Vestry nominated a Search Committee.
- We held Parish Discernment Meetings in April and May.
- We answered a parish survey (put together by our Search Committee) to expand our knowledge about our fellow parish members' faith and interests.
- Our teens took a tour of Episcopal charities on Good Friday.
- We had five stations of engagement, prayer, and reading during our Maundy Thursday Vigil.
- New leadership emerged on our Outreach Committee and Christian Education Committee.
- Reverend John Finley, Charles Foster, Reverend Louise Conant, and Noah Van Niel were guest preachers.
- Outreach added a new ministry: monthly cooking of a hearty snack for St. Stephen's after school program.

All these events happened in addition to Good Shepherd's regular rhythm of Tuesday Bible Study, Sunday Adult Forums, wonderful sacred music, special classes and retreats for our Confirmation Class, and beautiful, solemn Rite One Holy Eucharists on Sunday mornings. Though there is more to do before you call your new rector, much has been accomplished this year.

As we prepare for summer's invitation for rest and renewal, I hope each of us uses our recent experiences of church this year to remember that we find God's grace in ordinary moments of work and play, as well as in the extraordinary moment of Jesus' resurrection.

Your friend in Christ,  
Margaret

JUNE 6th - Noah's ordination in Emmanuel Church, 14 Newbury Street at 10:30 am

JUNE 7th - Annual Parish Picnic

# PARISH NEWS – May 27, 2015

*Speak with Mary Ann Stewart with any questions about our Christian Education Program ([ce@goodshepherdnewton.org](mailto:ce@goodshepherdnewton.org))*

## Adult Forum

On Sunday, May 31, we complete our series of forums on the art and spirituality of the Resurrection. We will focus on paintings having to do with *The Ascension*. We will explore, as we see Jesus' feet disappear into the cloud, what have we lost with his departure, and what have we been left with. Forum takes place following the 10:00 a.m. worship service and meets in the Loring Room. All are welcome.

~ Charles Foster

## Save June 7<sup>th</sup> for our annual Parish Picnic

On June 7<sup>th</sup> we will have our last Spring Sunday service with Choir, give thanks for our Choir, Organist-Choirmaster, Church School teachers and children, and enjoy a Parish Picnic following the 10 am service. Please mark your calendars!

- Margaret

## Worship services

Our regular schedule of two Sunday services will continue through June 14<sup>th</sup>. We will begin our summer schedule of one 9 a.m. Sunday Eucharist starting June 21<sup>st</sup> and continuing through Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. The regular Sunday schedule of two services resumes on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

~ Margaret

## Summer coffee hour: Please sign up

Please sign up for summer 2015 coffee hours – No fuss! Bring sparkling flavored water, iced tea and store-bought cookies for parishioners to enjoy while we greet one another following the 9 o'clock services this summer. Sign up sheet is posted in the Common Room.

~ Karen Hamilton

## Lost and Found – 3 pairs of glasses

We have found 3 pairs of glasses in the past month which need to be returned to their owners. If you are missing a pair please check the plastic holder on the outside of the office door to see if yours may be in there.

## 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*

## May 31: The First Sunday after Pentecost

**9:45 AM:** Atrium & Church School

*Graduating high school seniors to be recognized during the 10:00 AM service*

*Christian Ed Committee meets following the service at 10:00 AM*

## June 7: The Second Sunday after Pentecost

Recognition Sunday and Parish Picnic

**10:00 AM:** This is the last Church School Sunday for this year. There will be a group presentation for Atrium - 7th grade in Loring Room. When children rejoin the congregation at the Peace, all involved in our Church School program for the year will be recognized with a small token of appreciation for their contributions and participation.

**Graduating High School Seniors:** We hope you will join us in church **this Sunday, May 31**, when we celebrate graduating high school seniors during the ten o'clock service. Margaret will offer a blessing and each graduate will receive a small gift to mark this important milestone. Graduating from Newton South High School on June 4 are **Danny Brack, Emma Churchill, Julia Churchill, and Brendan Duggan. Betsy Richards** will complete her course of study from Wellesley High School on June 5. **Anna Nesgos** will graduate from Newton North High School on June 8. **James Rothwell** graduated from St. Stephen's International School in Rome, Italy on May 29. Congratulations and best wishes to all!

**Recognition and Annual Parish Picnic.** All teachers, substitutes, assistants, and Church School children will be recognized during the ten o'clock service on **Sunday, June 7**. The Annual Parish Picnic follows on the church lawn (weather permitting).

**Parents of rising 6-12 grade youth:** There will be a discussion with parents of middle and high school youth on **Sunday, June 14** before the ten o'clock service. This is to follow up on the discussion that was begun on Sunday, April 26 regarding the structure for programming specific types of outreach projects and social events for rising 6-12 grade students for the coming year (2015-2016). Please join us.

*Peace and prayers,*

*Mary Ann.*