

# Parish of the Good Shepherd

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## TWO PRAYERS

God of hope,  
in this time of change and waiting,  
we ask that your Spirit  
guide and strengthen our parish;  
that we grow in understanding  
who we are, what we need,  
what we have to give,  
and what we can become.  
Help our search committee to speak clearly,  
listen deeply, consider boldly,  
choose wisely, and so find a new leader  
who can help us respond to your will for us.  
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

*Written by the Rev. Louise Conant, a  
parishioner of Good Shepherd, and prayed  
at each service as we await a new rector.*

O God, our heavenly Father, make the door of our parish church wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship and a Father's care; and narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and uncharitableness. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling-block to children, to weak or straying feet; but rugged and strong enough to turn back the tempter's power.

O heavenly Father, make the door of our parish church a gateway to thy heavenly Kingdom. Bless every member and worker in this parish. May all we do be to thy honor and glory, the upbuilding of our parish, and the extension of thy Kingdom. May we continue to be thine for ever, and daily increase in thy holy Spirit of love and service to others, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

*The Rev Richard Loring included this prayer in his sermon at Good Shepherd on January 31; he notes that the prayer is revised by Fr. Samuel Hale from Fr. William Hale.*

## Thank You

The parish's response to the Outreach Committee's outerwear and gift card drive for the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program as our Christmas project was overwhelming! I delivered a bin of hats, scarves, and gloves so big I could not carry it myself. We collected many gift cards, which will enable people to go to Dunkin Donuts for coffee and use the bathroom, or to buy items not found at a food pantry. The Committee also used funds from our budget to buy wool socks for the foot clinic's use and additional gift cards for homeless families living in hotels. In conjunction with Children's Education, we collected items for St. Stephen's Youth Program's B-READY program. At our Epiphany brunch on January 3, our children wore paper crowns and collected our gifts, laying them at the manger just like the Magi. We collected Bananagrams, Scrabble, dictionaries, playing cards, flash cards, crayons, pencils, markers, construction paper, scissors, glue, workbooks, and a basketball. All of these gifts did not fit into my huge bin! We are fortunate to be able to help the clients of BHCHP and the children of SSYP and I am fortunate to witness this amazing outpouring of generosity. Thank you, Good Shepherd!

*~ Pia Bertelli, on behalf of the Outreach Committee*

## *Parish News - February 17, 2016*

### **John Burruss to Preach on February 21**

This Sunday, February 21, it will be our privilege to have John Burruss, a parishioner of Good Shepherd, as our preacher at both services.

### **Take a Guided Tour of the Church on February 21 & 28, and March 6**

Do you wonder why there is a lamp hanging in the middle of the sanctuary? Do you know how many sides the baptismal font has, and why? If you've ever wondered what the signs and symbols of our worship mean, join Kourtnei Brown, John Burruss, and Sarah Conner for a guided tour of the church. The same tour will be offered on these Sundays: February 21, February 28, and March 6. The tours are family-friendly – children are welcome – and will last no longer than 15 minutes. Tours begin right after the organ postlude ends.

### **2016 Parish Directories Now Available**

Copies of the 2016 parish directory are available in the back of the church; you may also call the church office to have one mailed to you.

### **Do You Have a Nametag?**

Most Sundays at coffee hour, you'll find Jim Nauen or one of our young people manning a nametag printing station. They will be happy to print a nametag for you, which can also list any parish groups you are involved in. Nametags are hung on a bulletin board in the Common Room when not in use. Remember to wear your nametag at coffee hour – it helps us to know and connect with one another other.

### **Cooks Needed for Easter Coffee Hour**

There will be a special coffee hour on Easter Sunday (March 27), and many cooks and bakers are needed. Please sign up on the bulletin board downstairs if you can help out.

*~ Karen Hamilton*

### **Christian Education News**

#### **Lenten Devotional**

Every morning during Lent a devotional prayer and a challenge will be sent to parishioners through email and Facebook. These challenges are designed to help us raise money for Heifer International while also inviting us to reflect on our own lives.

#### **Snacks for St. Stephen's**

On Sunday, March 6, we are having a second round of snack making for St. Stephen's After School Program. Contact either Pia Bertelli [p.bertelli@comcast.net](mailto:p.bertelli@comcast.net) or Christin Gillooly [cwgillooly6@gmail.com](mailto:cwgillooly6@gmail.com) for more information.

#### **The Saturday before Palm Sunday**

On Saturday, March 19 in the afternoon, we are inviting all of the children and youth to come to the church. We will be looking at the passion narrative as a whole – Holy Week tends to break the story up. The highlight of the event will be making the Communion bread for Maundy Thursday.

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#### **Next Newsletter**

The deadline for the next newsletter is **Monday, February 29.** Please email your items to our Parish Administrator, Margaret Harrison, at [office@goodshepherdnewton.org](mailto:office@goodshepherdnewton.org). Thank you!