

Reflections & Editorials:

Thoughts on stewardship from Jeff Towner, one of our parishioners:

5 Reasons I Support The Church of the Good Shepherd: #1 – It’s a practical necessity; the need is real: Just as all of us feel the pinch of a very poor economy, all churches are as well. #2 – It’s all about Outreach: We have an effective ministry, our “footprint” is not only local, it’s state-wide and even global. We have seen how many people depend on Good Shepherd during this Thanksgiving Season. #3 – Giving is the best therapy for our heart and soul: The Bible says, God loveth a cheerful giver. #4 – God does not need our money. He wants us to position ourselves so He can give us His blessing not curse, He prefers our obedience to sacrifice. #5 – The most important reason for me is to preserve the most perfect Theology and Doctrine on the planet which The Episcopal Church possesses: We, Episcopalians Baptized unto Christ’s Resurrection are Saved and Born Again believers and are made Alive by receiving the two Sacraments He Ordained.



*Editors Note: You may submit your own reflections, thoughts, or letters to the editor by e-mail to: jwkeillher@aol.com or GHShattuck@cox.net. All submissions are subject to space limitation and may be edited accordingly. In order to allow timely response, the deadline for these submissions is one week prior to the newsletter deadline. Please include your name, phone number, e-mail, and contact preference, in the event that further communication is necessary.

The Shepherd's Voice

The Newsletter of the Parish of the Good Shepherd

December 2011

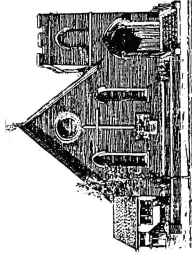
Dear Friends — For most people the end of the world isn't a pleasant subject to contemplate, but it's also hard to resist thinking about it, especially during troubling periods like the one we're currently enduring. Even a couple of recent movies (*Take Shelter* and *Melancholia*, in case you're interested in seeing them) have explored this topic, though in them it's never clear whether the characters are observing actual cosmic disturbances, or whether they're simply having visions symptomatic of a deep psychological disorder. In either case the characters seem ill at ease in the world, and we as viewers of the movie feel similarly uneasy about what they're experiencing.

As I'm trying to suggest by mentioning these films in which the end of the world *might* be taking place, many Americans right now believe we're caught in extremely perilous circumstances. Against this backdrop of great national anxiety the church begins its observance of Advent, summoning us, as it does every year, to welcome the Savior who will redeem our sorry, fallen world.

On the first Sunday of Advent this year the lesson from St. Mark's Gospel (13:24-37) speaks about a crisis far more dire than any of us are ever likely to face. Written immediately after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem and the dispersal of the Jews from their homeland in 70 A.D. — a human catastrophe of immense proportions — this lesson contains Jesus' prediction of the momentous cosmic events that will take place prior to his return to earth: the sun and moon will cease to shine, the stars will fall from the sky, and angels will gather together God's "*elect*" in joyful expectation of the Messiah's arrival.

Although Episcopalians have usually not emphasized a literal reading of the disturbing images and topsy-turvy ideas presented in this Gospel lesson, we still believe that the ultimate resolution of the world's troubles lies outside of ordinary time and history. Whatever troubles may confront God's people — whether the terrors of war in first-century Judea, the economic uncertainties of the present day, or everyday worries regarding our own health and the well-being of our families — both the Old and the New Testament teach that God's purposes will not be fully realized until the establishment of Christ's kingdom on earth.

During the Advent season, therefore, we prepare to receive the One whom God sends to rescue us from sin and death. Let us always be ready to welcome our Redeemer's arrival — **Faithfully yours, Tuck**



The mission of the Church of the Good Shepherd is to be a community of faith with Jesus Christ as the head, committed to worship and to proclaim his universal acceptance and healing by word and deed.

Worship Service Schedule

Sunday: The Holy Eucharist
* 8 a.m. 8:10 a.m.

Choir Rehearsals: * 9:15am
Sunday School: * 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday: The Holy Eucharist
* 6:30 p.m.

*Schedule changes are noted on each calendar

Vestry Meeting/Christmas Party:
Wed. Dec. 21st at 6pm (Home of Mr. / Mrs. Tripodi) *There will be NO service of Holy Eucharist.

ECW News and Information:
ECW Christmas party to be held on Mon. Dec. 12th, 6:00pm at The Old Grist Mill Tavern, Seekonk. Tickets \$25.00, please see Jean Emerson before Dec. 4th for reservations and choice of entrée.

RI ECW "Distinguished Woman" Award: We offer congratulations to Modesta Pellet, St. George's Church, Central Falls, (Blackstone Valley Deanery) who will receive this award at the 2012 General Convention. Further, we offer our congratulations to our own Jean Emerson, who was one of twelve nominees for the same honor.

Fun Friday:

Come to **Fun Friday** for the umpteenth time or the first time on Friday, **December 2nd** from **5:30pm-7:30pm**. There'll be the usual games, a variety of Christmas crafts, and lots of good, kid friendly food. These hours are much more fun than "black Friday" - come see

The Food Closet:

On **Sunday, December 4th** we will be collecting cereal; a breakfast, lunch, or supper food.

Newsletter:

Please submit any information or notices for the January 2012 newsletter by Thursday December 29th to Jim Kelliher, jwkelliher@aol.com. *Please note: as always we strive to include all submissions timely and accurately, however space constrictions will occasionally necessitate editing. Additional information can be found on the reverse side of the calendar.

Outreach:

Thanks for every contribution of food and money for the Thanksgiving baskets prepared by Harvest Hope Church of God in Christ for distribution at Good Shepherd. The office phone was almost disabled when the Salvation Army began to refer folks to us; that's the enormity of the need. We had \$500 from the Advent Fund on hand for Stop & Shop gift cards, and we used your cash donations and other funds to add \$300 which meant we bought 80 \$10 cards. WOW!

Thanks, too, to the kids at the Winters School who arrived on Wed., Nov. 23rd with boxes and bags of non perishable food to help restock the shelves.

Sunday School Announcement:

Any children, who would like offering envelopes, please speak to Jim Kelliher. No commitment is expected or asked, we offer an opportunity to participate in YOUR parish, "...an offering and sacrifice to God"

Stewardship Sunday:

If you have not received your pledge card, please contact: Jim Kelliher, Frank Cook, or Ric Emerson. If you have not returned your commitment yet, please do so as soon as possible, so the Vestry can submit an accurate budget. And, if you have already made your commitment to YOUR parish.....Thank You!

Fund Raiser (sort of):

Do you plan to do your holiday shopping online? Do you shop on-line regularly? Well here's some exciting news, now you can support your church at the same time. Good Shepherd is now registered with bluepew.com. Here's how it works, log on to bluepew: ID jwkelliher@aol.com, Password: outreach. View the vendors participating, and shop

normally. There's no additional cost to you, nor are the prices elevated. Depending on the vendor, Good Shepherd gets a percentage as outlined every 6 months. It's that simple. Vendors include: Kohl's, Target, Sears, Barnes & Noble, and many others. In order for Good Shepherd to get this credit you MUST register/shop through bluepew.com, each purchase you make.



Birthday Greetings to...

Jeremy Ainley	12/1
Beatrice Minkins	12/1
Susan Jenson	12/2
Bruce Cyganoski	12/4
Gladys Clark	12/6
Geoffrey Hitt	12/7
Maxwell Alarie	12/12
Joyce Silvestri	12/18
Fr. "Tuck" Shattuck	12/21
Joseph Maddix	12/23
Clement Bethel	12/24
Jessica Olbrych	12/31



Happy Anniversary to...

Jim & Cheryl Scarpetti 12/4

In the Parish and Deanery:

A meeting of the Blackstone Valley Deanery will be held at St. Luke's, Pawtucket on Tuesday December 6th at 7:00pm.

Almost here: December 4th, will be our final service with The Rt. Rev. Gerilyn Wolf, here at Good Shepherd before her retirement. We will be celebrating this event with one service to be held at 10:00am, followed by a special coffee

hour/reception. Please plan to attend this special service of worship to wish Bishop Wolf well in her future endeavors.

Choir News:

Regular choir rehearsals continue on Dec. 4, 11, and 18 at 9:15am. On Christmas Eve we'll rehearse as close to 5:15 pm as we can so that we'll be ready for the Carol Sing at 5:45pm. We'll take a break from rehearsals on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 and resume on January 8th at 9:15 am.

The Choir sends Esther Anderson home to Liberia with our prayers for safe travel and a good visit with family and friends BUT we're going to miss her, and we want her to know that we'll sing for joy when she comes home to Good Shepherd in August!

Annual Parish Meeting:

Sunday Jan. 22nd, we will vote to fill twelve parish leadership positions: Sr. Warden, Jr. Warden, Treasurer, Clerk, four Vestry members, two delegates to diocesan convention, and two alternates. If you would like to run for any of these positions, please speak to a member of the nomination committee (Mr. Thatcher Berry, Mr. Franklin Cook, or Mrs. Susan Hossey)

www.goodshepherdri.net

Yes, we do have a church website! It is updated weekly, at least with the Sunday lessons, the Good Shepherd Staff and any announcements. Also The Shepherd's Voice newsletter and the church calendar are available monthly. You can help by forwarding information and communications to Mike Bouchard the web-servant. There's much more we can do with our website, so keep in touch by sending information and suggestions to: goodshepherdri@comcast.net.

