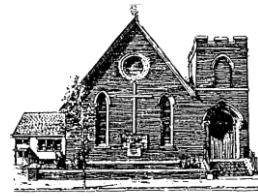


The Shepherd's Voice



The Newsletter of the Parish of the Good Shepherd

February 2012

Dear Friends — *Will you still need me, will you still feed me, When I'm sixty-four?* With the words of this Beatles' tune still ringing cheerfully in my ears (thanks to Ric Emerson's presentation of a delightful "singing bear" during the Eucharist on December 18th), I began the sixty-fifth year of my life just a few weeks ago. Sixty-four seemed like a very advanced age when I first heard this song at the end of my freshman year in college, and while I don't necessarily feel as decrepit as the lyrics suggest, I'm certainly aware of the passage of time between 1967 and the present — a period that for me encompasses over four decades of ministry as a seminarian, deacon, and priest.

As I look forward to what will likely be my last full year as priest-in-charge at Good Shepherd, I think it's useful, first, to glance backward briefly at some recent trends here. Although statistics in our 2011 Parochial Report reveal that parish membership has been declining, the total attendance at services has held roughly the same since 2007. No matter how anyone might wish to interpret such figures, I've still been consistently pleased with the vitality and enthusiasm exhibited when we worship together, and our ability to sustain this spirit in all aspects of parish life represents a very hopeful sign.

Those who were present when Bishop Wolf visited the parish on December 4th will also remember the accolades she gave us, especially regarding our commitment to outreach. Bishop Wolf not only complimented parishioners that day, but in a follow-up postcard she also congratulated us for "our wonderful work in the neighborhood," asserting that the people of Good Shepherd "are truly witnesses to God's kingdom." According to the Prayer Book "*the ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons,*" and certainly those who support and serve in our outreach ministries continually demonstrate the importance of lay leadership in fostering Christian social ideals.

As I mentioned in my 2010 annual report, at each month's Vestry meeting I summarize my activities during the prior weeks. These Vestry reports reveal that on most weeks I work between thirty and thirty-five hours, spending my time in three major types of activity: preparing for and officiating at worship; providing pastoral care, principally by visiting parishioners who are unable to come regularly to church; and administering day-to-day parochial affairs in conjunction with the Vestry and leaders of the various parish organizations.

While recognizing how much it is possible to accomplish as a half-time priest in a parish with such strong lay leadership (and feeling personally comfortable in this part-time role), I'm also acutely aware that there are additional opportunities for ministry that could be developed under the leadership of a younger, more dynamic, full-time priest. Of course, given the fiscal realities of Good Shepherd's situation — our location in a neighborhood with very limited monetary resources, the generally poor state of the Rhode Island economy, and the increasing amount of financial

compensation required to support clergy employed in this diocese — it's unlikely that Good Shepherd will be able to hire a full-time priest in the foreseeable future. Nevertheless, if extra funding were to become available, attention could be given to endeavors with significant long-term implications, such as the expansion of our outreach programs or a more focused approach to congregational development.

As we look to the future, moreover, we're faced with two major uncertainties relative to our position within our diocese. The first concerns the election of the new bishop who will replace Bishop Wolf at the end of this year. There are currently nine candidates (as yet unnamed) being scrutinized for the position, but at this time no one knows either who will emerge as the winner or — even more critically for a parish like ours — what our next bishop's priorities will be.

The second uncertainty concerns a controversial resolution that was to be introduced at the diocesan convention last November but was withdrawn shortly before the meeting. If you read the article about it in the Fall issue of *RISEN*, then you're aware that a group of clergy and lay people proposed a revision of the diocesan canons relating to the procedures for reducing otherwise self-supporting parishes to "mission" status. The proposal focused principally on parishes that are unable to fund the work of a full-time rector. If it had been adopted, our bishop would have been granted the authority to compel any church employing only a part-time priest to (in the words of the resolution) "surrender all rights and privileges as an organized parish."

Good Shepherd probably would have been targeted by this canonical change, requiring us, perhaps, to relinquish some of the administrative and financial independence with which we've operated since the late nineteenth century. Despite having temporarily withdrawn the resolution its proponents are still convinced that it could be an effective tool for restoring the spiritual and financial health of our diocese. Although I happen to think the proposal is badly flawed, its advocates clearly believe in its potential effectiveness. Would Good Shepherd be better equipped to meet the needs of our community as a full-time diocesan *mission* rather than as an independent, part-time parish? Whatever the answer might be, Good Shepherd (as well as several other small parishes) will need to be ready to respond to this question at some time in the near future.

Let me close by expressing thanks to the many dedicated lay people who lead and work in our various parish organizations. Your numerous contributions to the ministry of this church are deeply appreciated. I also wish to offer special recognition to the three volunteer secretaries who have so faithfully supported and assisted me in the parish office over the past year: Jim Kelliher (who is also editor of this Newsletter!), Carol Keiser, and Ray Stephenson. Each of these volunteers brings his/her own particular skills, interests, and experience to the tasks that need accomplishing, and together Jim, Carol, and Ray have helped create a most pleasant and efficient office atmosphere, for which I am extremely grateful — **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. & 10 a.m.

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

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

Tuesdays: **"Lenten Series" begins
Feb 28th 6:00pm

**Please note changes in service offerings for the month of February listed on the Parish Calendar.*

Vestry Meeting: Wed. Feb.15th at 7pm, in the Jenks Room.

Newsletter:

Please submit any information or notices for the March newsletter by *Thursday February 23rd* to Jim Kelliher at jwkel-liher@aol.com

Outreach News and Information:

Fun Friday:

Fun Friday, February 3rd.

5:30pm to 7:30pm

"Will you be my Valentine?" So far this has been a fairly mild winter, and where there's no snow and the first Friday of the month, there is Fun Friday at Good Shepherd. Perhaps we'll make some valentine's, or some other fun crafts, but you can bet there will be hot coffee for parents, a good meal and lots of noise from the game players to make even the coldest of nights worth going out for..

ECW News and Information:

Bakers wanted for the annual "Valentine's Day" bake sale. Sunday February 12th is the date. Why not bake your favorite sweetheart treat, and hey you can perhaps buy another?

The Food Closet:

Help and stock the **food closet** with canned soup on *Souper Bowl Sunday*, February 5th or anytime during the month.

The Soup Kitchen:

It's never too early to plan ahead. On Sunday March 18th, it will be Good Shepherd's turn to serve lunch at the **St. George's Soup Kitchen**; as always we'll take food (often salad, bread, and dessert), a check to help pay for the main course and welcoming smiles. This is an important hour and a half for both volunteers and those who depend on our being there.

Sunday School Announcement:

Now that the Patriots are on their way to the Super Bowl we can celebrate and cheer them on. We can also help the Sunday School by donating cans of soup for "Souper Bowl Sunday" on February 5th. This is also the first Sunday of the month so soup is on the menu for our food closet collection. Let's see how many cans we can collect and don't forget to wear your favorite football apparel.

Save the date: May 11th – 12th, the "Bishop Nominee Walkabout. Location, Time, and Final Information to be announced. This is an excellent opportunity to listen and speak to the candidates. Let your voice be heard to your delegates: Caryl Frink & Jim Kelliher

Choir News:

Look and listen for a very special anthem on Sunday, Feb. 5 when the choir will be joined by the older Sunday School students - "This little light"!



Birthday Greetings to...

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Ralph Pelchat | 2/1 |
| Kathleen Olbrych | 2/7 |
| Irene Grasso | 2/8 |
| Abigail Ainley | 2/9 |
| Jeannette Filion | 2/9 |
| Kalea James | 2/11 |
| Buzz Rice | 2/13 |
| Arthur Andrada | 2/14 |
| Steven Scarpetti | 2/16 |
| Frank Cook | 2/19 |
| Abraphine Ngafaih | 2/24 |
| Ashley LeMire | 2/27 |

Happy Anniversary



Happy Anniversary to...

| | |
|-------------------------|------|
| James & Edith Karneeb | 2/12 |
| John & Jamie Caswell | 2/13 |
| Steven & Lisa Truesdale | 2/14 |

In the Parish and Deanery:

A meeting of the Blackstone Valley Deanery will be held at Emmanuel, Cumberland on Tuesday February 6th at 7:00pm.

A recent postcard to the Good Shepherd parish community from Bishop Wolf:

"Thank you for the beautiful gift basket that you gave to Tom and me-it was a great way to raise a toast at Christmas. We both enjoyed a visit with you very much, and congratulate you on your wonderful work in the neighborhood. You are truly witnesses to God's kingdom. This comes with prayers and best wishes for the years ahead."

Annual Parish Meeting:

If you were unable to attend on Sunday Jan. 22nd, and would like a copy of the 'Annual Meeting Report', please see Fr. Shattuck, or contact the church during weekly office hours, and we will see that you receive your copy.

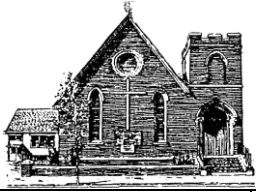
Looking ahead to Lent in 2012:

The season begins on February 22 with the Ash Wednesday Liturgy in the church at 7:00 p.m. This year's Blackstone Valley Deanery Lenten program will take place at Good Shepherd on Tuesdays (starting with supper at 6:00 p.m.) between February 28 and March 27. Each week we will watch and talk about portions of the award-winning film, *Chocolat*, and we will conclude the evening with a celebration of Compline. (Please note: there will be no Wednesday Eucharist on February 29, and March 7, 14, and 28). In addition, on the four Sundays in March the 10 o'clock Eucharist will follow the Rite I (traditional Anglican language) version with discussion by Fr. Shattuck about the different forms of the service provided in the Prayer Book.

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.





THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

February 2012

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|----------|
| | | | <p>1</p> <p><u>Holy Eucharist:</u> 6:30pm (Jenks's Room)</p> | <p>2</p> <p>Please, please, please don't let him see his shadow!</p>  | <p>3</p> <p>Fun Friday: 5:30pm to 7:30pm</p> | |
| <p>5</p> <p><u>Epiphany 5</u> *Holy Eucharist Rite II: 8am & 10am *Sunday School: 10am *Choir Rehearsal: 9:15am "Souper Bowl Sunday"</p> | | <p>7</p> <p><u>Blackstone Valley Deanery Meeting:</u> 7:00pm (Emmanuel, Cumberland)</p> | <p>8</p> <p><u>Holy Eucharist:</u> 6:30pm (Jenks's Room)</p> | | | |
| <p>12</p> <p><u>Epiphany 6</u> *Holy Eucharist Rite II: 8am & 10am *Sunday School: 10am *Choir Rehearsal: 9:15am</p> | | <p>14</p> <p>Happy Valentines Day</p>  | <p>15</p> <p><u>Holy Eucharist:</u> 6:30pm (Jenks's Room) <u>Vestry Mtg.</u> 7:00pm Trash & Treasure Work Party</p> | | | |
| <p>19</p> <p><u>Last Sunday after The Epiphany</u> *Holy Eucharist Rite II: 8am & 10am *Sunday School: 10am *Choir Rehearsal: 9:15am</p> | <p>20</p>  | | <p>22</p> <p><u>Ash Wednesday</u> <u>Holy Eucharist:</u> 7:00pm (Church)</p> | <p>23</p> <p><u>Deadline</u> <u>Newsletter Submis-</u> <u>sions for</u> <u>March 2012</u> jwkelliher@aol.com</p> | | |
| <p>26</p> <p><u>Lent 1</u> *Holy Eucharist Rite II: 8am & 10am *Sunday School: 10am *Choir Rehearsal: 9:15am</p> | | <p>28</p> <p><u>"A Lens on Lent"</u> (Good Shepherd) 6:00pm to 9:00pm (Parish Hall)</p> | <p>29</p>  | | | |

First Sunday and remainder of the month reminder: Food Closet donation suggestion is: Canned Soup
Also, every Month, one quarter of the total loose collection goes to the Rector's Discretionary Fund