

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

www.goodshepherdwv.org

The Rev. John C. Seville, Interim Rector
Paula Hoffman, Ministries Coordinator

Ginger Smith, Parish Administrator
February 10, 2010

MISSION STATEMENT: Good Shepherd is growing in: Faith and knowledge of God, ministry in our neighborhood, love for one another and support for those seeking Christ.

SENIOR WARDEN'S CORNER by Wendy Tuck

"Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." Each one of us brings our own experiences and ways of expressing our love for God to the table. Without each one, our church community, our church body is incomplete. God has given each one of us to the church and to each other for a reason. Not all of us are toes, or hearts, or brains, and not all of us serve in the choir, at the healing altar, or as an acolyte. That's as it should be – since God made each of us with unique skills, gifts, and ideas. There is only one Alan Parks and only one Aran Barney. We are who we are because of them, and because of you. And we are incomplete – there are others whom the Lord will send, for our good, for their good, and His.

While each of us bring our experience, strength, and hope to the church, the Lord's purpose is greater than any one of us. Look at the person in the pew behind you on Sunday and think of them as the one for whom Christ gave his life, the one to whom Christ promises his Holy Spirit and calls "my beloved". Pray for one another, then, and pray for the church. Pray for the blessings of God to roll bountifully into the lives of those around you, and those to come. Pray the Lord's Prayer "Thy will be done" and be transformed into a living witness to the power of His love for us, our love for one another, and for those outside the church doors.

PARISH BREAKFAST – FEB. 14

The EYF will be hosting breakfast this Sunday, Feb. 14. Enjoy Valentine's Day breakfast with the parish family. Donations are split between Aid to Seminarians and Friends of Peterkin.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER Feb. 16th, 5:30-7pm by the Peterkin Pals

Shrove Tuesday will be here before we know it, so don't forget to mark your calendar for that famous pancake dinner. We will begin serving at 5:30 and run until 7 P.M. Bring your whole family and all your friends and neighbors. This is the best bargain in town! Homemade (from scratch) buttermilk pancakes and delicious sausage prepared by the Peterkin Pals. If you want to be a Peterkin Pal and help with this project, sign up at the office door.

Remember the donations go to support Peterkin so be generous!

"I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU WELCOMED ME"

What do we do when a stranger comes to us and is hungry or in need of financial assistance?

If they come on a Sunday, there is no one in the office. But we do have a process for ministering to them.

1) If someone comes to ask for help during the service, ask them to wait until the service is over and someone will be with them then.

2) Encourage them to come worship with you.

3) If you need to talk with them, please take them to a private area in order to preserve their dignity when they talk about their finances.

4) Although Ginger comes to church to worship on Sunday, in an emergency she is willing to meet the family after the service. Please respect her need for worship, Eucharist, and prayer. Let her know immediately after the service that someone is waiting to see her. If they are in need of food, she will give them food to get them through the day and refer them to the food pantry that services their area. She will also let them know where they can get free hot meals until their pantry can get them scheduled for assistance.

5) They really should come back on Monday, when the office is open. Ginger can listen to their needs and help them with every available resource.

6) If you would like to help someone financially, the best thing to do is to contribute to the Discretionary Fund. *Never give someone cash!* That's what our Discretionary Funds are for. Ginger will determine their needs and write a check to the business that will meet their needs so that we are certain our money is being used appropriately and not for alcohol or cigarettes, etc. Ginger is great at determining what people's needs are and how best to help, whether it's with food, utilities, prescriptions, emergency transportation, or other various needs. It is a beautiful thing that our hearts are so full of love and eagerness to help.

You can be absolutely confident that anyone coming to our doors will be helped, and that the process we have in place works very well. Thanks for helping the church be consistent in the way we minister to all those who come to our doors for help.

LENTEN SEASON FOR ADULTS AND YOUTH

Starting on February 24 for five weeks, the adults will have a series of Lenten studies on the familiar hymn, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" by Isaac Watts. Joyce and Keith Haynes, Dianna Quick, Pat Amos, and John Doughty have agreed to facilitate the discussions. Dinner will start at 6:15, and the programs will begin at 7 PM, finishing by 8, after Compline.

The EYF will lead "PK:L" for the younger children in our parish. Also known as "Peterkin Kids: Lent" – the EYF will be organizing music, crafts, activities, and movies that fit with the "living under grace" that is experienced so wonderfully at Peterkin.

Bring your favorite dish, your favorite friends and family, an open heart, an inquiring mind, and a desire to grow closer to the Lord and let Him make us more like Christ.

PRAYER LIST UPDATE

It is time to update our loved ones on the Mideast and Cancer part of our prayer list. Please call the parish office or put a note in the collection plate with an update on your loved one. If we do not hear from you, we will assume that they have returned from the Mideast or their cancer is in remission and they will be removed from the Sunday bulletin. If you see that we have removed your loved one and feel they still need prayers, please do not hesitate to call the parish office. We will be happy to put them back on the prayer list. We hope to have the Mideast and Cancer list updated every 6 months. Thank you.

RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM

The Relay for Life Team is forming right now. If you are interested, please call Suzanne Anderson 304-424-6230 for more information. We will have a "team meeting" on Sunday, Feb. 21st after the adult forum. Please bring fund raising ideas!!

VALENTINE COOKIES FOR RELAY FOR LIFE

The Pink Church Walkers will be raising money for Relay for Life by selling heart-shaped frosted cookies after both services on Feb. 14. If you can help bake cookies contact Suzanne Anderson (304-429-6230).

RUMMAGE NEWS by Darlene Slusher

The day started at 6:30am, clear and cold. The weather man said the temperature should get up to 40. We carried items out of the basement to put on the tables Greg Berry had set up for us in the church parking lot. Strollers, high chairs, booster seats, 3 beautiful wood end tables, box springs and mattress. The remainder of the Basement Gang arrived with goodies that would feed us this day. 8:30am finally arrived...we had a line of waiting customers that numbered about 35...all waiting for the doors to open and each person looking for their own bargain. The Rummage Sale had started!

The people were coming, but so was the road crew from the City of Parkersburg with dump trucks and a back hoe and a ROAD CLOSED Sign. "Not today" we mumbled! "Wow" "This is going to really hurt our business." But it didn't.

I took one of the rummage sale signs down to a couple fellows taking a break in their pick-up truck and asked if we would be allowed to place it in front of their sign and if they would allow cars to get through to our sale. "Sure, he said. I'll wave them through". The road work didn't deter the people from coming.

Friday's weather was RAIN to turn to snow; and rain it did but people still came and waited (in the rain) for the doors to open. Friday is the dollar a bag day with knick-knacks and big items ½ price. We all kept a keen eye on the weather waiting on the big snow storm, waiting on the first of the snowflakes to come. We didn't have to close early, the snow held off. Bob Lanyon counted the cash drawer, not once, not twice but three times. We made \$1,590.78. All the money goes to support the Adopted Families Christmas.

Thank you for your donations, help hanging clothes & your prayers.

With grateful hearts, The Basement Gang