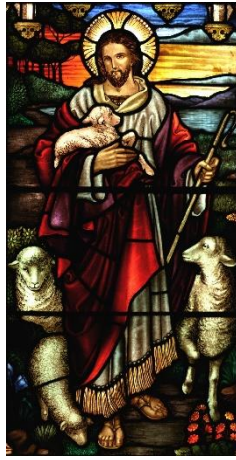


I am the
Good Shepherd



I know my sheep and
my sheep know me

John 10:14

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF
The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd
April 24, 2024

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.

*Please check out the **church calendar** available on our website.*

www.goodshepherdwv.org

Reflections by the Rev. Lou Hays: How will you find a new Rector?

The process of finding a new Rector for Good Shepherd began last fall when the Vestry appointed the Discernment Committee, chaired by Toni DeVore with members Carolynne Cooper, Dave Johnson, Marsha Senchyshak and Tom Simpson. Since then we have spent many hours together and you should thank all of them for their loving and faithful work on your behalf during this sacred time of transition.

A key part of their work has been preparing a Parish Profile. The Parish Profile is a combination job announcement, sales brochure and description of Good Shepherd. It will be the most important part of attracting the person that God is calling to serve as your next Rector. With the help of a number of parishioners, the Profile describes the history, location, worship, ministries, demographics and finances of Good Shepherd. But it was the work that over 50 of you performed during Holy Eucharist and Holy Conversation at *Envisioning Our Future* on April 14 that allowed the Profile to be completed.

Through your discernment, the Profile now describes the core values of Good Shepherd, your hopes and dreams for the future, and the characteristics of the person that God is calling to walk with you as your next Rector. And thanks to you and the hard work of the Committee and the local graphics designer we engaged to produce a visually appealing electronic document, the Parish Profile is at the Diocese awaiting approval. We expect the Rector position to be announced by May 1 with candidates being sent to the Discernment Committee in early June.

So what happens next? Once approved by the Diocese, the position will be advertised in several ways. The Episcopal Church maintains a website for providing information about clergy positions available throughout the Church. Better yet, the Episcopal News Service offers the most current listing of newly available positions on its website and in a daily email received by many clergy. This has become the most productive source of information for those seeking new positions. Our ENS posting will provide links to our website and to the Diocese, and our Profile will be found on both the Good Shepherd and Diocesan websites. The Discernment Committee will review the applications, decide who to interview, and ultimately recommend a finalist to the Vestry for election as your next Rector.

There is another important source of potential candidates for our Rector position: You! Have you encountered an Episcopal priest in your travels that you think would make a great candidate? You can reach out to that person now and encourage him or her to consider applying.

Another very important point: confidentiality. It is critically important that nothing seeps out about applicants or candidates. Nothing is more devastating than for word to get out that a priest is considering leaving his or her current position. And even worse, should word get out and then that person is not selected. That is why there will be no information about the applicants and candidates until everything is signed, sealed and delivered, and simultaneous announcements will be made at Good Shepherd and the person's current place of employment.

Finally, we will continue to pray the Prayer for the Transition every Sunday. Please pray daily for the prospective applicants and candidates (God knows who they are) and for the Discernment Committee and Vestry as they carry out their sacred work.

Adult Forum (with the Interim Rector) Returns

We are resurrecting the Adult Forum during this season of Resurrection! We will meet between services, starting around 9 o'clock and ending around 9:45, in the Junior High room. Lou will have a variety of topics and will consider suggestions from the attendees. One popular topic has always been Stump the Rector! We began Sunday April 21 with a session on next steps in the search for a new rector and will continue with a variety of topics through the month of May.

Shepherd's Closet Rummage

As you do some spring cleaning, bring your donations for the May sale, especially clothing items for warm weather, no later than Monday April 29. All proceeds support the Adopted Families Christmas program.



Altar Flowers:

We have many open dates in the months ahead. Right now, we would like to fill May and June: Open dates are May 12 and 26; June 2, 9, 23, and 30(two vases are available). May 19 one vase is available. Two vases cost \$100 or just donate one vase for \$50. Flowers for the Columbarium are \$20. Please contact Ginger in the office to choose your date and to indicate if the flowers are in memory of someone or to honor a special person or event.



Returning former member looking for rental housing



Wendy Venosh and her family are returning to Parkersburg in June to care for Wendy's father. They are looking for a rental property that will accept a small dog and has 2 bedrooms. They look forward to also returning to worship at Good Shepherd. If you have any suggestions please contact Linda in the office and she will pass them on to Wendy.

An inspirational Quote

Do you have a favorite quote you would like to share? Send it in.

Here is one Vickie Bono found written by Bill Courtney in *Guideposts* magazine:

When you combine what you care about
with what you know how to do
and look for an opportunity to serve,
God will bless your effort.

Found on Facebook – Episcopalians on Facebook - USA

In honor of Earth Day 2024 (April 22)

This thanksgiving is from The Book of Common Prayer, page 840.

For the Beauty of the Earth

We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your Name, now and for ever. Amen.



Peterkin 2024:

Peterkin, our Diocesan Camp in the hills near Romney, is under new direction and looking forward to welcoming people from all over the diocese and beyond.

Is this the year your child, grandchild or neighbor's child will accept an invitation to attend Peterkin? Will they encounter Jesus in a special moment on Prayer Hill or in Strider Chapel? Will they form bonds with other young Christians as they eat, play and explore together? Will they enjoy the recent refurbishments to the buildings and pool? Will they return with wonderful memories to share?

Below is a list of the different camps offered this summer. Both Good Shepherd and the diocese have scholarships available to cover all or part of the cost and a way to make sure transportation isn't a barrier to camp attendance. Call the office to let us know what we can do to help..

Peterkin Camps 2024 <https://www.peterkin.org/>

June 9-15: Counselor Training

June 16-22: Senior Camp (entering 10th grade-graduated high school seniors)

June 23-29: Junior Camp (entering 4th-6th grades)

June 30-July 3: Alpha Camp (young children and their grownups)

July 7-13: Intermediate Camp (entering 7th-9th grades)

July 14-20: Music, Art, Drama Camp (entering 4th-12th grades)

July 21-27 Family Camp (families of all ages and sizes)



Staying Connected, Continuing to Serve

Intercessory Prayers

During your prayer time please use the lists below to remember those who have asked for our prayers:



Parish Prayer List

The People of Israel and Gaza
The People of Ukraine
Carolyn Beach – broken elbow healing
Jone Johnson – healing/strength
Deb Hepburn-McKinney – healing
Vickie Dilley – healing/strength
Colleen Parsons – strength/healing
Nancy Summerville – healing
Curtis & Haley Nichols – housing

Marcia Doyle – healing
Peggy Roberts - healing
Larry Hand—healing
Diane Cottrill – healing
David Cottrill - healing
Chris Heckman – healing
Becky Winans –healing
Jean Snyder - healing
David Puls – heart issues

Eric Dailey – healing
Peter Gevas – healing
Mary Gevas – healing
Ann Stevens– healing
Dee Milhoan – healing
Ginger Smith – healing
Sally Davis – healing
Dave Rogers – hospitalized

Safety for all those serving in the Armed Forces

Sterling Slusher, Joee Slusher, Lauren Fielder, Peter Keiser



Those needing healing from cancer

Glen Kirk
Judy McCoy
Alana Dailey

Steve Wilson
Paul Rutledge
Doris Lowe

John Stevens
Tabitha Arceneaux
Sherry Shepler
David White



Death

Pat Amos, Jean Singer

Outreach Programs

- ♥ **Donuts** - We make day-old donuts available to our neighbors and the homeless. Thank you to McHappy's and to those who make sure the donuts are picked up each week.



- ♥ **Little Free Library** – Filling the church neighborhood with books to read. We have plenty of books right now but with room for more books for kids. Your donations are always welcome or help yourself to a book if you spot a good one – they are there for us too.



- ♥ **Last Sunday Supper** – The next meal will be April 28. Come help set-up and cook beginning at 1 PM or come help serve and clean-up at 5:15 PM. We begin serving at 5:30 and continue until 6/6:15 or earlier if we run out of food. We are usually out of the building by 7 or 7:15.

- ♥ **Food Pantry** –We continue to hope for more help handing out the bags. The current 'holes' are Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning. We also occasionally need help when our regular volunteers are not available. Contact Linda if you can serve a few hours weekly or bi-weekly or just as needed.



- ♥ **Reading Camp?** We have many of the volunteers we need. Call Linda today if you want to help make sure we can have this opportunity to directly impact some of the children in our area. It is a great way to help them develop a love of reading and the skills for success in reading and in school in general. Reading Camp will be held during the day the week of Aug. 5-9. You can help all day or just in the mornings or afternoons or even for just a few hours. More details in the next Staff or call and ask.

Inreach Opportunities

We show our care for other members as we listen to each other, spend time together, support each other in our church ministries, share a hug during the peace, help in times of need and celebrate special moments. Those who can't be here in person are also valued members of our congregation.

If you or a loved one would like a card, a visit, a meal, or a home communion, please call the office and we will connect you with someone who would love to be asked to help.



♥ Pastoral Care

Someone is in the office Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you need pastoral care outside office hours, contact The Rev. Lou Hays, Larry James, or Linda Crocker (see the end of the Staff for our contact information). Lou will be available on most Sundays, some Wednesdays and Thursdays and at other times for emergency needs. Additionally, the Eucharistic Visitors can offer a visit and/or home communion to those who can't come to church – just ask!



♥ Prayer Chain

We have a group of people who pray for those having emergency situations – surgery, accidents, or other crises. Linda Crocker makes the calls using the One Call system when she is notified by a church member of an immediate need. If you want to be added to the prayer chain let Linda know (304-210-5591). **God hears all our prayers** – you don't need a special gift to pray for healing and comfort for those in distress. All prayer chain calls remain confidential.



Important Upcoming Calendar Dates:



April 28 (and Sundays through May) – Adult Forum at 9 AM

April 28 – Last Sunday Supper

May 3 and 4 - Rummage Sale

May 26 – Youth Sunday and Last Sunday Supper

1st Quarter Giving Statements

All regular givers, by check or pledge envelope, have a statement waiting for them. They are available at the back of the church.

Contact Information:

The Rev. Lou Hays	304-428-1525, ext. 11	louisbhays@gmail.com
Ginger Smith, Parish Administrator	304-428-1525, ext. 10	gingersmith.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com
Linda Crocker, Parish Ministries	304-210-5591	LLBC100@msn.com
Larry James, Senior Warden	304-482-9661	blesense@suddenlink.net

Stewardship in April?

Yes. Stewardship is the way we live our lives, what we do with our resources of time, gifts and treasure– all year long. The theme for 2024, Walk in Love, seems very appropriate to us, reflecting what we have discovered about ourselves (or re-discovered) during this time of transition. I hope you enjoy this chance to reflect upon the statement that follows about our presentation of our gifts at the altar.

Linda



An Invitation to Love: Theological Statement

In nearly every Episcopal liturgy in which I have participated the celebrant quotes from Ephesians 5:2 to invite the offerings of our time, talent, and treasure to be placed on the altar. "Walk in love," the offertory sentence begins, "As Christ loved us..." These words are said at the pivotal moment in our liturgy as we move from the reading of and response to the Word into the sacrament of Holy Communion. It is poignant to observe that we mark this moment of transition with an invitation to walk in love.

When we walk in love, there is clarity and purpose. We move in alignment with each other and with our values. Walking in love is also something we cannot do alone - by definition it implies connection, community. Whether we walk with our children or our spouse, or form an orderly line, or rely on the help of a friend or a neighbor to come to chancel we carry with us all with whom we are in communion and they carry us with them. Our journey is one made by millions, over thousands of years. A cycle of sharing and invitation.

What a way to bring our gifts forward: first the bread and wine followed by the offering plates, and finally ourselves - walking in love! When we gather in love, bless, break, and share our gifts and ourselves with the world, we bring healing and transformation to our world.

This year you are invited to join in the timeless call to walk in love as you share your wealth, works, and wisdom with a world in need.

Questions for Reflection:

How is your ministry impacted as you understand yourself as one of the gifts invited to the altar to be shared with the world?



J. Davey Gerhard is Canon for Stewardship and the Executive Director of TENS. He lives, works, and worships in San Francisco, California.

