



THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

August 5, 2026

Our mission: To **Worship** God, to **Serve** our neighbors, to **Proclaim** the Good News

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

www.goodshepherdwv.org

From the Rector

Just when you thought “Where in the World is Katie Beth” was done, my family—including not only my parents but my brother and his wife—are heading to the coast of Alabama for an end of season beach vacation later this month. We appreciate your generosity as this was timing that my brother and sister-in-law could make.

The great news is, on August 16th you get to experience the excellent preaching of my friend and colleague Pastor Chett Pritchett, who is the pastor at First Congregational Belpre. Additionally, you will experience the Rev. Canon Jeffrey Mackey, (the father of Fr. Geoff Mackey of Trinity, Parkersburg), presiding over the eucharist. Chett loves preaching—we went to the same seminary—and Canon Mackey loves presiding. Due to dyskinesia from Parkinson’s disease, Canon Mackey has not been able to preside for several years. A full service is just too much, but having a dynamic duo, along with excellent lay leadership, is allowing for this possibility again, and Canon Mackey, and we, are grateful. With Parkinson’s, there is always the slight chance one might wake up and be unable, in which case we will pivot and offer communion from the reserve. Good Shepherd is one of the most gracious congregations I know, and I know you will welcome whatever worship opportunities you have with excitement.

Speaking of excitement, calling all Peterkin lovers! On August 23rd, we will welcome Frankie Amore to Good Shepherd. Frankie is currently serving as Director of Advancement & Programming at Peterkin Camp and Conference Center. He is a gifted musician, athlete, and speaker. We will have a special Peterkin-style morning prayer service that Sunday, including a short homily. Frankie, who plays guitar, will lead us in singing, and will speak to us about what is happening in these new phases of the life of camp. If you can’t make it to Peterkin, this is the next best way to praise God Peterkin style.

May God bring you every blessing as our beloved summer season starts to wind down.

Katie Beth+



Summer Adult Education – 3rd and final meeting next Wednesday, August 12

If you missed earlier installments of our potluck and discussion about The Two Popes, do not worry! You are welcome to join us at our final installment. There is no reading necessary. We meet at 6 pm. Bring a dish to share and know we will wrap up no later than 8 pm.

A Glimpse of Learning From London

St Paul's, Shadwell is situated in London's East End near the former docks area. Founded in the 17th century, with the current building built in the early 1800's, it once had a ministry focused on sailors. James Cook worshipped there and Thomas Jefferson's mother was baptized there. However, with the closing of the nearby docks and an aging congregation, they were down to about 15 members. It was in danger of being closed but the diocesan staff realized that there were some young professionals moving to the area as a nearby area was redeveloped. The curate and members of a congregation in another part of town were encouraged to relocate there. That curate's approach to mission is:

- Honor the past
- Navigate change in the present
- Build for the future

They installed a new sound system, a stage, and flexible seating, offered a variety of worship experiences, embraced a culture of welcome (an informal space for babies in the corner, coffee and cakes before you even get in the door) and developed programs that meet in the space throughout the week, - groups for kids and caregivers, inquirers, and community groups.

Since the stage took the place of the altar area, when it is time for eucharist, a small, non-descript table is brought out from a side room, covered with a white cloth, and used as the communion table. This table dates to 1685, is worn and chipped, and has little monetary value. However, it is honored as a sign of continuity with the congregation's past, is also honored by being used to nourish the current congregation, and helps the congregation to build for and move into the future.

Bell Tower

Phoenix Associates has begun work on the bell tower, the **Proclaim** part of last year's Capital Campaign. We are currently waiting for the next crew that will apply the new stucco where it had to be replaced. It will cure for a month before it can be painted.

The Thursday Work has finished preparing the bell to be re-hung.

Flood Relief

Heavy rains on July 21 brought significant flooding to communities around the state, especially Lewis, Upshur, and Raleigh Counties. As emergency crews assess the impact, the Diocese will share how we can best support our neighbors in the days ahead.

Please consider a financial gift to the disaster response through the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia: wvdiocese.org/donate — designate "Disaster Response" as the fund.

Open Door Policy

As we look to have a more welcoming relationship with our neighbors and visitors, we have made the decision to have the door outside the office unlocked during office hours. With our homeless ministry, we always have someone scheduled to be there to serve. These volunteers have been given guidelines on safety protocols, so we won't have people just wandering into and through the building. If the volunteer on duty needs to leave the immediate area inside the door they will find someone to stand in for them or else lock the door.

Besides being more welcoming, this means when members come to the office for any reason they can walk in without needing a key. Similarly, our visitors and clients won't be stuck outside in cold or rainy weather hoping that someone hears the buzzer. The Vestry agreed to a one month trial but we hope that this can be a permanent change.

Altar Flowers

Several dates are available between now and the end of the year for your donation(s) in memory of loved ones or to honor special occasions. They are Aug. 16, Sept. 27, Oct. 11, 18, 25, November 8, 15, 22 and Dec. 29. The cost is \$40/vase. Please help us keep fresh flowers on the altar as we enjoy worshipping together. Call the office to reserve your date.



Books for the Little Free Library



We are in good shape for kids for quite a while - thank you! We also have an abundance of religious/spiritual books including the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series, so we don't need more of those right now. We still could use more cookbooks, DIY books and other interesting non-fiction.

Shepherd's Closet Rummage

The next sale is this weekend, August 7 and 8. We appreciate your donations. The only clothing we need now is children's clothing and blue jeans in any size. We always appreciate donations of household items and linens.



UTO (United Thank Offering)

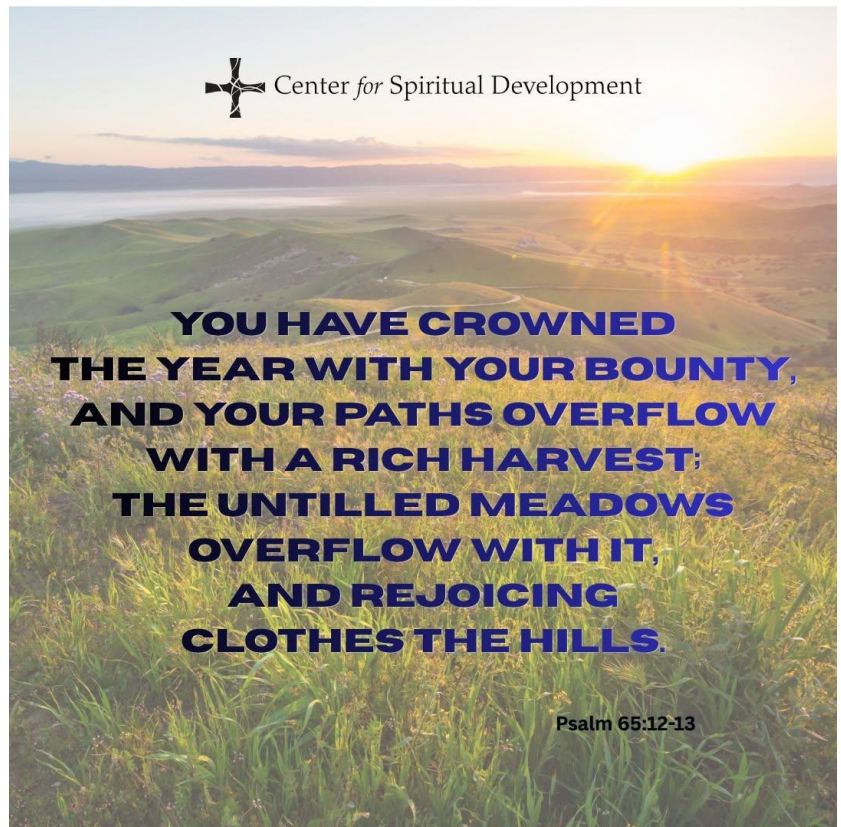
UTO invites individuals to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude. Your discipline might include dropping a coin in a UTO box every time you are grateful for something.

Little blue boxes are available in the Welcome Center for your use. We will collect them in September. You can read more about UTO here: <https://unitedthankoffering.com/>

Found on Facebook – interesting ideas for your contemplation

<https://www.facebook.com/TheCSDOrange>

All around us, we can see clearly that the seed that falls on good ground yields a fruitful harvest, just as it says in today's Responsorial Psalm. How can you nurture your soul to be the good ground where God's love can take root and yield a harvest of love for the dear neighbor?



Rental space available. Any ideas?

We continue to look for one or more tenants now that Head Start has left. We can be flexible about which spaces a future tenant could use. If you know of any businesses or non-profits that would be a good fit for us, both in terms of mission and space needed, please pass your suggestion to a staff or vestry member or ask the agency/program to contact the church directly so we can provide further details.

Prayers of the People

After experiencing some heartfelt prayers from some of our members, we have decided to offer this opportunity once a month from June through the end of the church year



(November). **If you would like to write some prayers to be used during the service on the 2nd Sunday of the month, please let Linda know so she can put you on the schedule.** So far Brian, Linda and Warren have contributed prayers – let's hear from some of the rest of you! September, October and November are available.

How to write your own version? Check out the example in the current Sunday bulletin or those in the prayer book beginning on page 383. That page also lists the topics to be covered. You can adapt one of the forms or, even better, start from scratch. Perhaps you have a theme – back to school, the joys of autumn, building relationships with our neighbors, finding peace in a stressful world, trust in God, etc. There are also online resources – google away.

Please include a response we can put in the bulletin for the congregation that is repeated throughout such as *Lord, hear our prayer* or *Lord, have mercy* or something else that fits your theme.

You can read your own prayers during the service, or they can be read by one of our intercessors if you prefer.

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. 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 3:30 p.m. (summer hours). If you need pastoral care outside office hours, contact Toni DeVore or Linda Crocker (see below). 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.



♥ Intercessory Prayers:

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

Good Shepherd Parish Prayer List

Victims of war and violence	Mary Gevas – healing	Marlene Smith- healing
Flood Victims	Gene Allander – healing	Diane Cottrill – healing
Peter Gevas – healing	John Curry – healing	Jone Johnson – healing/strength
Ann Stevens– healing	Amanda Morris – healing	Buck Harris – strength/healing
Larry Landrith – healing	Marcia Doyle – healing	Deb Hepburn-McKinney – healing
Courtney Rodriguez - healing		



Safety for all those serving in the Armed Forces

Donovan Burns, Sterling Slusher, Peter Keiser

Those needing healing from cancer

John Stevens
Faith Beha
Ellen Faymon

Alana Dailey
Mirtala Smith
Ben Buskirk

Gary Greer
Everett Gilmore

Lois Switzer
Charles Sterchak

Rudi Miksa
Brenda Pugh



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 daily. 
- ♥ **Little Free Library** – Filling the church neighborhood with books to read. Your donations are always welcome. 
- ♥ **Last Sunday Supper** – The next meal will be Sunday, August 30. Set-up and cook at 1 PM or help serve and clean-up at 5:15 PM. We begin serving at 5:30 and continue until about 6 (or earlier if we run out of food). We are usually out of the building by 7 or 7:15.
- ♥ **Food Pantry** – If you can help hand out food bags to the unhoused or assemble food orders in the pantry for our housed clients, the current need is someone on Monday afternoon and Thursday morning. We also need subs occasionally. Contact Linda if you can serve a few hours weekly or just as needed. Also, **we need your used bags**, doubled if possible. 

Coming Up:

August 12 – 3rd and last session of *The Two Popes*

August 22 – Safe Church Training

August 30 – Last Sunday Supper



One Call system 1-877-698-3261

This is the way we notify our members of important announcements.

Caller ID will say that the call is from Good Shepherd, but it is really from One Call.

Call the number above if you need a message from the church repeated.

If you are not receiving messages, contact Linda to be added to our call list.

Contact Information:

The Rev. Katie Beth Miksa	304-428-1525, ext. 4	rector.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com
Ginger Smith, Parish Administrator	304-428-1525, ext. 1	gingersmith.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com
Linda Crocker, Parish Ministries	304-428-1525, ext. 5	LLBC100@msn.com or text 304-210-5591
Toni DeVore, Senior Warden	304-991-2259	drtd51@gmail.com

Online Giving

Support Good Shepherd via online giving. Scan the QR code with your smart phone or go to the Give section of our website and click on the GIVE button. Of course, you can continue to give by check or cash. We expect this online option to be especially useful for visitors and occasional donors as well as our members. Let us know how it works for you or if you have any issues.



Be the Light - Summer Happenings

Enjoying cake to celebrate 250 years of the USA at the Two Popes potluck



**Where in the World are Toni and Joe?
Meeting our former curate Zac Drennan at St James. Lewisburg
on their way back from the beach.**

