

# Jesus



# Light of the World

**THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF**  
**The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd**  
**January 25, 2023**

**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](http://www.goodshepherdwv.org)

**From the Rector:**

At its most recent retreat, the Vestry committed to do more in the area of evangelism this year. We not only decided to run the Alpha Course, a highly successful introduction to Christianity used worldwide, but we also put more money in the 2023 budget to support our evangelism efforts. With the use of remaining sabbatical funds, we are currently discerning how best to improve our communications efforts.

Almost 40 years ago, Alpha began to be developed at Holy Trinity in Brompton, a neighborhood in London, England. It began as a course for newcomers to Holy Trinity, where the Holy Spirit was moving mightily to bring people to Christ. Over the years, the topics and the structure have been adapted, but the one thing that has not changed is the actual format itself.

Each weekly Alpha session has 3 vital components—hospitality, a talk, and small-group discussion. Hospitality usually takes the form of a simple fellowship meal, where people enjoy good food and company. Weekly topics are a variety of common questions about the Christian faith, such as ‘Is there more to life than this? Why did Jesus die? What does the Holy Spirit do? How does God guide us? And does God heal today?’ The larger group then breaks up into smaller groups for a discussion of the presentation, guided by trained hosts.

We will begin our Alpha course on Tuesday evening, February 28th, and it will run each Tuesday through May 23rd, with the exception of the Tuesday during Holy Week. All parishioners and their families and friends are encouraged to participate. We hope the experience will reconnect us to one another after the pandemic, help us to grow spiritually with a refresher on the Christian faith, and equip us to invite new people to experience the love of Jesus Christ with us at Good Shepherd. We will also be encouraging potential adult confirmands to attend.

Since we will run the course this first time with primarily our own parishioners in mind, we plan to make the meal a potluck supper, suggesting that members with alternating letters of the alphabet as last names bring certain types of dishes (to avoid what we’ve experienced in the past—like having mostly meat and few veggies! I guess that has something funny to say about us.)

We will use the excellent video talks recorded at Holy Trinity by Nicki Gumbel and his wife Pipa, the creators of Alpha. Nicki is an Anglican priest. These talks will be projected on the large screen in The Great Hall. Nicki and Pipa are very engaging and funny in giving these talks, which they have been giving for years. To my knowledge, most of the Alpha Courses around the world, that have been in English, are these video talks by Nicki and Pipa. So, they have been very effective.



We are in the process of recruiting three sets of hosts and helpers to facilitate the small group discussions after the presentation. These volunteers will be trained in small group dynamics to ensure that everyone can enjoy the conversation, and have a meaningful experience.

Now that we have registered our Alpha course on the Alpha website (and it is being promoted there), and determined how we are going to run it, I am in the process of finding volunteers to help. We need volunteers to do a variety of smaller jobs, like setting up tables and chairs, making coffee, welcoming and greeting attendees, handing out materials, coordinating ongoing publicity, telling jokes, and praying. I will be reaching out to specific parishioners for assistance with the larger jobs, such as Administrator of the course and a Worship Leader who would select and arrange for music.

Please pray for Good Shepherd, for our Vestry, for our evangelism efforts, and especially for our Alpha Course. The pandemic was a long, difficult period for all of us, and we all could use some encouragement. This course could be just what we need at this time. Please join us.

### **Bravo Anthony!**

The youth group and a few others had the chance to see our own Anthony Williams perform as Jay, one of the main roles in *Disney's Descendants, The Musical* at the Actors Guild recently. The show is on for one more weekend but is sold out. Too bad, because the show was great and Anthony was awesome.



### **Bible Study:**



David Cooper is mentoring Bible Study at 6 PM on Tuesdays, and 7 PM on Wednesdays. The Tuesday group is studying the Old Testament book of Leviticus and the Wednesday group is studying Acts, the first book in the New Testament after the gospels. Both groups have space for more members. If you plan to attend either group, be sure to let David know so he can arrange to let you into the building. His cell number is 304-494-8790.

### **Shepherd's Closet Rummage**



The team is having some sabbath time, resting up before the next season of sales begins on March 3rd and 4<sup>th</sup> when they will be focusing on clothing and decor for spring. Please call before bringing in your donations so we have someone ready to help you. Call or text Deb Hepburn-McKinney, 1-518-637-1734 (cell), if you have questions about donations or if you can help with sorting and pricing. If you have kids, we would love clothing they have outgrown.

### **Last Sunday Supper**

We will be hosting our next meal for our neighbors this Sunday, Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>. We can use help with setting up and cooking beginning at 1 PM and/or serving and clean-up beginning at 5:15. We try to choose food that is easy, filling and nutritious and enjoy the fellowship as we work together. We hope you will join us!

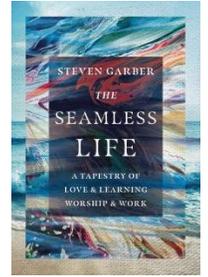


## Book Group:

The group has begun the next selection: *The Seamless Life, A Tapestry of Love & Learning, Worship & Work* by Steven Garber.

From the Amazon review:

We all want to make sense of life, of who we are and why we are, and to know that what we do—day in and day out—matters. But daily demands often lead to a life that feels void of meaning and disjointed from our deepest beliefs. Steven Garber challenges us to move beyond our fragmented sense of reality and begin to see *all* we are and *all* we do—our work, play, relationships, worship, and loves—as significant to God.



The book is available from Amazon as a Kindle edition, hardback or paperback or from other online sellers. Contact Linda if you need help ordering the book. We are still near the beginning, and as always, anyone who wants to join the discussion is very welcome. We meet at 9 AM, in person in the Jr Hi room at church, with a zoom option as well.

## Is your Streaming Freezing?



Does your computer sometimes freeze while watching our live-streamed service? This is called “buffering”. To fix, place your cursor over the timeline and slide it to the left for about 10 seconds. Thanks to Jone Johnson for the tip.

## Pledge Envelopes and Statements

If you made a pledge for 2023, we have a set of pledge envelopes waiting for you in the narthex. Pledge statements for 2022 are also filed there for you to pick up. Please come get these if you can so we don’t have to mail them. (Pledge envelopes will not be mailed. Only the statements will be mailed.)

If you want envelopes and forgot to fill out a pledge card or choose not to make a pledge, just call Ginger and she will prepare a box for you. Besides the weekly envelopes it also includes envelopes for special occasions.

## Food Pantry and the Homeless

Thank you to our two new homeless bag packing teams, Sally Harris and Cathy Freed and Keith and Joyce Haynes. They will be helping Joe Smith pack on alternate weeks to keep up with the demand.

We still have openings on Monday and Thursday afternoons for people to hand out bags if you want to help.



## Souper Bowl Sunday – February 12

Each year we use the occasion of the NFL Super Bowl to gather donations for our pantry. I like to give advance notice so you have a chance to shop any sales that might occur to maximize your contribution. While any donations are welcome, here is a list of the items we will be especially grateful to receive:



- 16-18 oz jars of peanut butter
- Case of bottled water (16-17 oz. bottles)
- Granola bars/pop-tarts/cereal bars/nutrition bars
- Pudding cups
- Beanie weenie
- Small pop-top cans of fruits or vegetables (single-serving size)
- Milk – packets of dry milk or containers of long-life milk
- Juice (32 or 64 oz.)
- Spaghetti
- Spaghetti sauce
- Canned spaghetti-o's, ravioli, etc
- Muffin, cookie, cake or brownie mixes



Thanks to December donations from the Christmas Parade and Piggly Wiggly, we **do not need** canned corn, green beans or chickpeas/pinto beans/kidney beans

## Prayer List Update

The prayer lists for the bulletin and Staff, including the parish prayer list, the cancer list and the Armed Services list have been updated. Of course if your loved one needs prayer in the future, we are happy to add them back. Typically, they are left on the prayer list for two consecutive weeks then they are removed unless we are given an update on their needs. Please remember to update us every two weeks.

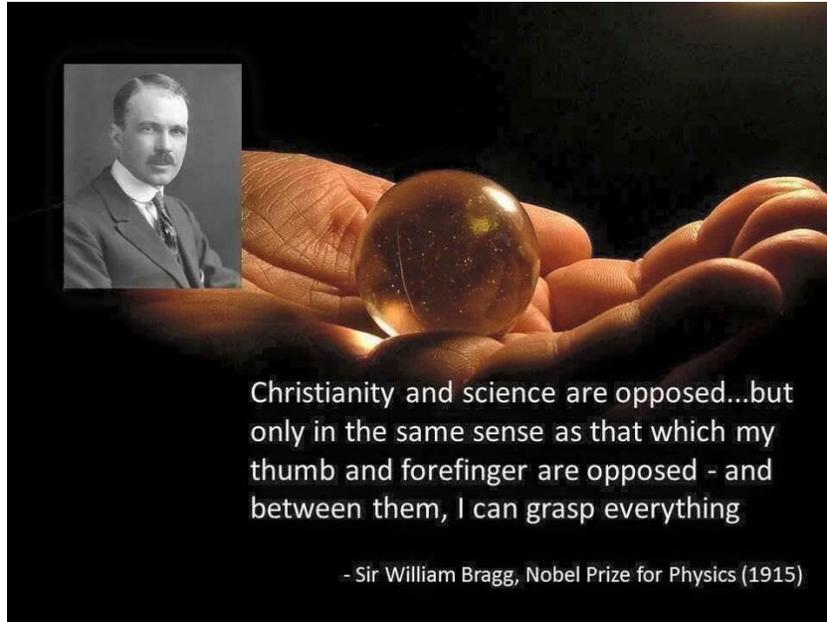


## Important Upcoming Calendar Dates:



- February 4 – EYF outing to Smith farm
- February 12 – Souper Bowl Sunday
- February 21 – Shrove Tuesday
- February 22 – Ash Wednesday
- February 28 – Alpha/Lent Course begins and continues for 9 more weeks on Tuesdays, with a Holy Week break





### Peterkin, our diocesan camp, is looking for summer staff

Spread the word!

Are you a young adult looking for a fun and formative way of spending your summer? Apply to work at Peterkin! Applications are now open for summer 2023 and interviews begin soon, so fill out yours today!

<https://wvdiocese.formstack.com/forms/counselorapplication>



### Staying Connected, Continuing to Serve

#### ♥ Intercessory Prayers

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

The People of Ukraine  
Amanda Morris – tests  
Sally Davis – healing  
Chris Heckman – MS  
David Cottrill - healing  
Ann Stevens – healing  
Diane Cottrill – healing

#### *Parish Prayer List*

Peggy Roberts - healing  
Gene Sheppard - healing  
Jordan Tingle – healing  
Mandi Parson – healing  
Carol Lathrop – healing  
Carl Slusher – healing

John Lathrop - healing  
Peter Gevas – healing  
Mary Gevas – healing  
Jone Johnson – healing/strength  
Vickie Dilley – healing/strength  
Deb Hepburn-McKinney – healing



*Safety for all those serving in the Armed Forces*  
Nathan Jones, Sterling Slusher, Joe Slusher, Lauren Fielder



#### *Those needing healing from cancer*

Glen Kirk  
Phyllis Williams

Steve Wilson  
Colette Pawlik

Jean Singer  
Paul Rutledge

Kathy Castevetere  
Tabitha Arceneaux

Judy McCoy  
Cleve Wigal

### ♥ 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 Mother Marjorie, Linda, or David Cooper at home (see the end of the Staff for our contact information). Additionally, the Stephen Ministers are able to offer a visit and/or home communion to those who can't come to church. This is to supplement visits from Mother Marjorie.



### ♥ 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.



## Outreach Programs

♥ **Adopted Families** – Providing 'Christmas' to children and their families (see article above)

♥ **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, your donations are welcome.

♥ **Last Sunday Supper** – Our next meals is this Sunday, January 29 followed by February 26. Come to help set-up and cook at 1 PM or to serve at 5:15 PM.

♥ **Food Pantry** –429 family units in December, with 388 of those bags for the homeless.



## 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 exchange of 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.

*Currently in a hospital, rehab or care facility and appreciating a card:*

Dennis Armstrong: Ohio Valley Healthcare, Room 309, 222 Nicolette Rd, Parkersburg, WV 26104



### Altar Flowers



We have two Sundays open before Lent begins: Feb. 5 and Feb. 19, one or two vases. Please call Ginger to sign up for a Sunday and let her know who the flowers are in memory of or who you wish to honor. Each vase is \$50; flowers for the columbarium are \$20.

### Contact Information:

The Rev. Marjorie Bevans, Rector 304-679-7381  
Ginger Smith, Parish Administrator 304-428-1525, ext. 10  
Linda Crocker, Parish Ministries 304-210-5591  
David Cooper, Senior Warden 304-295-8734

[reverendsbevans@gmail.com](mailto:reverendsbevans@gmail.com)  
[gingersmith.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com](mailto:gingersmith.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com)  
[llbc100@msn.com](mailto:llbc100@msn.com)  
[dberylcooper@gmail.com](mailto:dberylcooper@gmail.com)