

# WE GIVE



# THANKS

**THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF**  
**The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd**  
**November 15, 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)

### **Reflections by the Rev. Lou Hays**

Last month Toni DeVore, Sally Harris and I traveled to Martinsburg for our annual Diocesan Convention. In addition to being a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old friends and colleagues and learn more about activities and priorities in our Diocese, it's also a vivid reminder that we are part of something much bigger than our own parish. As Episcopalians, we are part of a Church that exists not just in the United States but also in many other nations and territories. And as members of the World-Wide Anglican Communion, we are also part of the world's third largest body of Christians after the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches. We are reminded every Sunday that we are larger than ourselves when we pray for other parishes in the Diocese of West Virginia and for other Churches in the Anglican Communion.



Many Episcopalians assume we are a "national church," headquartered in New York City. While the Presiding Bishop and some of the support staff are in NYC, in fact we are an international church. There are Episcopal Dioceses in Columbia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Honduras, Micronesia, Taiwan, and Venezuela, and in the territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Until fairly recently, we included the Diocese of Japan, now its own separate Church. The Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, comparable to a Diocese and headquartered at the American Cathedral in Paris, has parishes in 8 nations: Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Georgia, Italy, The Netherlands and Switzerland. By one measure, the largest diocese in the Episcopal Church is the Diocese of Haiti.



Our membership in the Anglican Communion connects us with fellow Christians in most nations of the world. Here's how the Anglican Communion website describes itself (with a couple of edits): "It has tens of millions of members in more than 165 countries around the globe. The Communion is organized into a series of provinces and extra-provincial areas. The provinces are subdivided into dioceses, and the dioceses into parishes. There are 41 provinces and, from March 2019, five extra-provincial areas. Some provinces are national, others are regional. All are in communion – or a reciprocal relationship – with the See of Canterbury and recognize the Archbishop of Canterbury as the Communion's spiritual head. But there is no central authority in the Anglican Communion. All of the provinces are autonomous and free to make their own decisions in their own ways – guided by recommendations from the four Instruments of Communion: the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lambeth Conference (every ten year gathering of Bishops from around the world), the Primates' Meeting (a gathering of Archbishops or Presiding Bishops from each member Church) and the Anglican Consultative Council."



Sadly, schism in the Episcopal Church which led to the forming of a new denomination called the Anglican Church in North America has led to some confusion and misinformation. While the new group has adopted the term “Anglican” as part of their name, they are not recognized by the Archbishop of Canterbury as being part of the Anglican Communion. Only the Episcopal Church is Anglican for purposes of the Anglican Communion. We are truly blessed to be part of a multinational Church and an international collection of Churches, all following a similar pattern of liturgy and worship. We can travel almost anywhere in the world and attend a worship service which would seem quite familiar even if conducted in a language unknown to us. And then there are many non-Anglican Churches with which we are in full communion, perhaps most notably the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, but that’s another topic for another day!

Blessings,  
Lou+



### Diocesan Convention 2023

Sally Harris and Toni DeVore enjoyed their trip to Diocesan Convention in Martinsburg the last weekend in October. Our interim rector Lou also attended.

Toni reports:

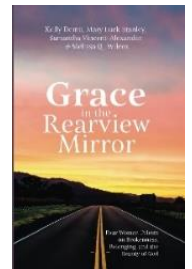
The trip provided a great opportunity to see some wonderful fall foliage and a stop for lunch in both directions that had very tasty lump crab cake sandwiches! The entire conference was filled with singing, services every day, and of course the business meeting. Our opening was at Trinity church in Martinsburg with morning prayer and the Bishop's address. We had a confirmation service at Morgan's Chapel/Bunker Hill on Friday (transportation via a pink bus!). At dinner that night The Most Rev. Dr. Thabo Makoba (Archbishop of South Africa) and his wife were honored guests. He provided the keynote address.

We heard reports from many Diocesan Ministries including Sandscrest, The Highland Educational Project and (very close to my heart) Peterkin Camp and Conference Center. Elections were held for various openings and the budget was passed. It was truly a wonderful experience filled with prayer, singing, and visits with others from across the state. On Saturday, the conference concluded with Eucharist at Trinity and the ordination of eight deacons! Thank you for the opportunity to represent Good Shepherd!

### Book Group

The group is resuming after a short break and will discuss the 2nd half of Chapter 2 of *Grace in the Rearview Mirror* this Sunday, November 19, in person and via Zoom from 9 to 9:45 AM. These are short snippets of real experiences by real people as they recognize God at work in their lives. Very readable and very relatable. It is obviously not too late to join since we got off to a slow start but we don't anticipate any more breaks.

This book is available on Amazon as a paperback or Kindle edition. Contact Linda Crocker for details.



### Shepherd's Closet Rummage



Wow! The November sale raised over \$850 – great job by our sales team and donors and a nice boost of cash for Adopted Families.

We welcome your donations through November 27 – warm clothes, blankets, shoes, housewares, and Christmas items. Our final sale of the year will be December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> and that will be followed by the opening of the ‘store’ to our Adopted Families Dec. 11-13<sup>th</sup>.

### Altar Flowers

We still have dates open for donations of Altar Flowers for this year. You may request one altar vase or both vases or donate a small vase to be placed in the columbarium. Each altar vase is \$50 and columbarium flowers are \$20.

The dates include November 26 (2 vases) and December 31 (one vase). If you donate by check, please keep it separate from your pledge and mark it Altar Flowers. Include information on any wording you would like included in the bulletin. You can also call the office with that information and follow up with a check.



## **All Our Hopes on God are Founded**

Our Pledge Ingathering will be this coming Sunday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>. As of today (Wednesday morning) we have received 30 pledges for a total of \$126,510. That is an average of \$4,217 per pledge. Thank you to everyone who has pledged already; we hope everyone else can get their pledge turned in on or before Sunday. As Lou and David mentioned in their letter, your pledges during this time of transition are so important as they demonstrate our collective commitment to Good Shepherd and our hope for what the next years will bring.

## **Thanksgiving Offering**

This year we will support Hunters Helping the Hungry with our Thanksgiving offering. Although we do not have a service that day, you can send in a check with Hunters in the memo line or use your Thanksgiving envelope and place it in the collection plate Sunday. All the money collected will be used to process donated deer into ground venison for distribution to WV food pantries.



## **Gluten-free wafers**

Good News. If you are gluten-intolerant we have gluten-free communion wafers available. When you come up for communion just let Lou know that you need one and he will be happy to provide it.

## **Adopted Families – toiletry bags**

Applications are in and we are busy buying gifts and assembling bags for our families. We would appreciate your help in buying toiletries so each family can get a bag full of personal care items. The bags are available at church and include a list of the items we need. Please pick one up, fill it as best you can, and return it to the church ASAP – before Thanksgiving if possible but no later than Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Feeding the Hungry – good news**

We heard back from the last grant proposal we submitted. It has been accepted so \$10,000 will be coming our way soon, dedicated to feeding the homeless. A big Thank You to Megan Simpson for suggesting that we apply to the Milan Puskar Foundation. <https://puskarfoundation.org/about/>

We are still waiting to hear about 2 other grants so that we won't have to cut back on how much or how often we are able to help all our hungry neighbors.



Current issues: Mountaineer Food Bank continues to face supply issues. There seems to be more free TEFAP (USDA) food available which helps our housed pantry clients but donated or purchased food that we can order is in short supply. We have run out of individual milk boxes for our homeless clients and there are currently none available at the food bank, online, or locally. The only thing we can find that we can afford is a chocolate drink can.

## **What can you do?**

Please pray that our remaining applications are successful. That \$10,000 will only last 2-3 months.

Let Linda know about any grant-making agencies that might be willing to support us now or in the future.

Mention our needs to friends, groups, work places, service providers, and agencies.

Make a donation yourself.

Keep those prayers coming!

## **Having Compassion on those suffering in the Middle East Conflict**

For those who want to 'do something' as we watch the tragic news out of the Middle East, consider making a donation to those trying to relieve suffering:

- Episcopal Relief and Development Middle East Fund: <https://support.episcopalrelief.org/middle-east>
- American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (USA): <https://afedj.org/give/give-online/>

## 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	Deb Hepburn-McKinney – healing	Joe Martucci - healing
The People of Ukraine	David Cottrill – healing	Jeff Turley - healing
Dee Milhoan - healing	Diane Cottrill – healing	Jessica Deem – healing
Marcia Doyle – healing	Don Stanley – hospitalized	Jone Johnson – healing/strength
Peggy Roberts - healing	David Rose – healing	Ann Stevens– healing
Peter Gevas – healing	Bill Riner and crew – safe sailing	Chris Heckman – healing
Vickie Dilley – healing/strength	Mary Gevas – healing	Amanda Morris – healing






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

#### *Those needing healing from cancer*

Glen Kirk	Steve Wilson	Jean Singer	Sherry Shepler
Judy McCoy	Mike Brown	Jennifer Conaway	Paul Rutledge
Tabitha Arceneaux	Tammy Marks	David White	Becky Winans
Roy Trembly			



### 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. Your donations are welcome, especially books for kids at this time.. 
- ♥ **Last Sunday Supper** – Our next meal will be November 26. Area churches are cooperating to try to avoid offering meals on the same days and times so our numbers are up. Please come help if you can.
- ♥ **Food Pantry** –We can always use more help handing out the bags. The current 'holes' are Monday and Thursday afternoons and Tuesdays, morning and afternoon. We also occasionally need help when our regular volunteers are not available. Contact Linda or Ginger if you can serve a few hours weekly or bi-weekly or just as needed. 

### 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, David Cooper or Linda Crocker (see the end of the Staff for our contact information). Lou will be available on most Sundays, 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:**



- November 19 – Pledge Ingathering
- November 22 – Office closes at 1 PM
- November 23 – Happy Thanksgiving
- November 26 – Last Sunday Supper
- December 3 – Advent 1

**Contact Information:**

The Rev. Lou Hays 304-428-1525, ext. 11  
Ginger Smith, Parish Administrator 304-428-1525, ext. 10  
Linda Crocker, Parish Ministries 304-210-5591  
David Cooper, Senior Warden 304-295-8734

[louisbhays@gmail.com](mailto:louisbhays@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)

**All Saints Sunday – November 5<sup>th</sup>**

A great visit from former rector Frank Wade



Remembering those who passed in the last year



Welcoming visitors





**Recessional**



**Larry and Lou**

**Gifts**



**The Sermonator**



**The Pink Cross – and it's better side**

**Lunch for all**

