

Alleluia



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THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF
The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd
April 27, 2022

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

From the Rector

It's finally beginning to look more like spring! It's a glorious, sunny day. I hope you all can get out and enjoy it.

Our plans for the sabbatical are in its final stages. There have been so many details and so many people with whom to share those details to ensure that things go smoothly. Beginning this Sunday, we will start using a Prayer for Sabbatical in place of The Prayer for the Parish. I will pray it with you too while I'm away.

My last Sunday with you before beginning the sabbatical is May 8th, which is also Mother's Day and Youth Sunday. The children and youth will each have a role in this service, and special music will be sung. Most of that music will be familiar to the former Peterkin campers among us. The children and youth will also renew their baptismal vows in this service. Please plan to be there to support this great group of young people.

Each Sunday, in the announcement section of the bulletin, we will share what to expect for the following Sunday. Most often we will have a visiting priest, but sometimes we will have one of our devoted Lay Readers lead Morning Prayer. Most of the time there will be two services, but on at least 6 Sundays there will be a joint service with a special focus and event afterward. Information about these special Sundays will also be in the newsletter and on the church Facebook page, which is now "The Memorial of the Good Shepherd, Parkersburg".

Carolynne Cooper and I took the youth group out to Chia Chia and Gardiner Smith's farm to go fishing on Holy Saturday after acolyte practice for Easter. Not everyone caught a fish, but a great time was enjoyed by all. The kids really got a workout in the paddle boats. They were more quiet going home than when we headed out to Elizabeth. We are all grateful for the Smith's hospitality—and especially for the great meal! What a nice way to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ together! Thank you, Chia Chia and Gardiner.



Aubrey's first fish!
– a lovely blue gill



Anthony, Tyler and Mother Marjorie
admiring a largemouth bass



Oops! Yazmin helping Mrs Cooper
put her car back together

Kids do the silliest things
-like rolling in pea gravel



Mother Marjorie
remembers
how to fish



Easter Egg Hunt



Thank you to the Youth Group who stuffed eggs with candy and then hid them in our playground area for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. The kids loved looking for the eggs and the weather was perfect this year.

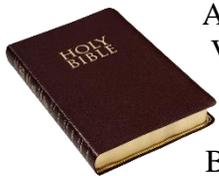


Standing with Ukraine

The Boys and Girls Club is hosting a forum with a representative of Senator Capito and others with first-hand knowledge of Ukraine at 6 PM today. See the email sent yesterday for more information.



Bibles in Pews

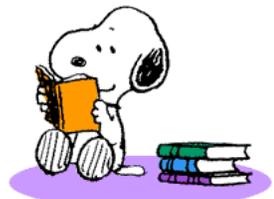


At a recent Vestry meeting we were discussing the ways we welcome visitors and one of the Vestry members mentioned that many people in this area expect to find Bibles in the pews. We decided that having Bibles available would be a good way for us to show that the Bible is central to our worship and that it would also give all of us a good opportunity to become more Bible-literate. Look for a new Bible in your pew the next time you are in church.

Reading Camp 2022:

Is this the year you will help at Reading Camp?

For several years before the pandemic, we offered a week-long reading camp (Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM) to area elementary-grade children who are lagging in reading skills. We offer morning small- group sessions in six focus areas: phonics, comprehension, pleasure reading, creative writing, sight words and reading strategies. After lunch we have camp-type activities based on our theme such as field trips, games, visiting readers/authors, science, and cooking. At the end of the week we invite the parents to come see what the kids have done and give out backpacks filled with school supplies and books. It's a wonderful experience for both kids and helpers.



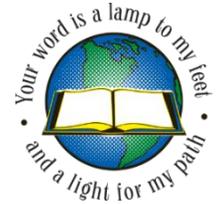
How can you help? We need volunteers to lead the small-group sessions or afternoon activities, teens to act as counselors, people to prepare/serve breakfast and lunch, field trip drivers, etc. The primary requirement is that

you like kids and like reading. We have all kinds of materials. I am thinking about doing this after Open Sky is here, the week of July 25-29. It works best if you can help daily, a half-day or a whole day but we do sometimes have people help for less than that, especially with the afternoon activities or in partnership with someone else.

It takes a while to pull this together and I'd like to get a flyer out at Jefferson before the end of the school year so **please let me know if you are interested ASAP**. I look forward to hearing from you (or your friends, family members, etc.).
Linda Crocker 304-210-5591

Bible Study Opportunity – Wednesday Evenings

David Cooper, our Senior Warden, is leading two one-hour Bible Study sessions on Wednesdays, one at 6 PM and the other at 7 PM in the Adult Study Room (next to the Choir Room). Please let David know if you are coming so he makes sure you can get into the building (304-494-8790).



Welcome Teams Return



We have resumed our Welcome Team ministry, greeting members and guests arriving for the 10:15 AM Sunday service and offering a drink and snack afterwards. We need more teams of 2-3 people for the weeks ahead, especially with summer weather arriving along with guest clergy and visitors. With enough volunteers no one would have to serve more than once every two months. Providing a warm welcome is an essential first step in helping any guests have a good experience so that they will want to return, plus it makes all of us feel glad to be here, even if we've been attending for a year or two or 'forever'. If you can help call Linda (304-428-1525, ext. 12) or email her at LLBC100@msn.com.

Peterkin Summer Camps

Peterkin ran into severe staffing shortages, so the Peterkin Board has made the difficult decision to cancel in-person camps for this summer. They still hope to offer an opportunity for diocesan youth this summer but have no details yet – we will let you know their plans as soon as we hear anything.

Little Free Library

Our Little Free Library continues to be well-used by our neighbors. We have plenty of books for adults but are running low on books for little kids and teens. We especially need board books, picture/story books, and books for teens. We had a recent large and generous donation of books, mostly for beginning to preteen readers. If you see a garage sale or library sale, please buy some for us or maybe you have some that your kids or grandkids have outgrown.



Shepherd's Closet Rummage News:



The next sale is May 6 & 7 so it is time to dig out summer clothing and household items to donate. Deb says we especially need clothes for kids. Please make sure we have your donations by next Monday, May 2nd so there is time for them to be sorted and priced. Call Deb (518-637-1734) with any questions or offers of assistance.

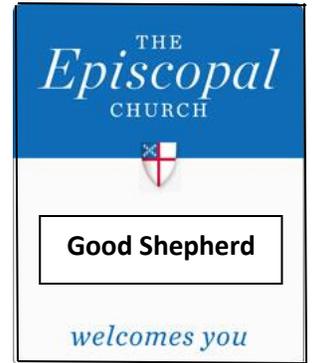
For Reflection:

A couple of our members have been doing some reflecting and wanted to share their thoughts with you. If you ever find yourself thinking of something like this, please share it with us. It's one of the ways we 'grow in faith,' as mentioned in our Good Shepherd Mission Statement.

Hood Shepherd?

You might have noticed that someone recently had marked up our sign at the corner of Latrobe and Charles to read "Hood Shepherd". At first, I kind of shook my head and moaned about more graffiti to clean up, but my son Pete reminded me that the modern term for this working-class neighborhood was Hood. It got me thinking that, throughout our history, Good Shepherd has really been there for this community through Bible Schools, Reading Camp, Head Start, our various outreach ministries and the neighborhood cleanups. Indeed, this church was founded to reach out to the youth in the outskirts (at that time) of Parkersburg. So, in many ways, that act of minor vandalism was an affirmation of what we stand for and the caring that goes on here at church. The graffiti has been removed, but I am sure that every time I pass that sign, I will remember that unintended accolade.

Bob Crocker



A Good Shepherd “little t” Tradition in the Making

Did you know that Scripture, Tradition, and Reason are considered by our church to be a three-legged stool supporting our faith as Episcopalians? A parish’s personality is also shaped by its ‘little t’ traditions. Where do these ‘little t’ traditions originate? They don’t come fully formed. They evolve over time. We have a ‘little t’ tradition in the making at Good Shepherd. It involves the large wooden cross that you have seen in the church during Holy Week and the Easter season for the last several years.

This cross originated as a pressure-treated timber cross in the yard of a neighbor of Larry James. Larry became the custodian of the cross when the neighbor put his house up for sale. Larry thought that maybe the parish could put it to use until his neighbor was ready to take it to his new home (as long as we could do it without damaging it). That first year we built a base and fabricated a means to have nails “in” the cross without modifying the cross. The cross was displayed for both Good Friday and the Easter season. A second year of use went by without the neighbor reclaiming his cross. In the third year the neighbor donated the cross to Good Shepherd. This began its further transformation into a “little t tradition” for our parish. The cross that Jesus was impaled on was certainly not made of building-grade pressure-treated lumber. Jesus was undoubtedly crucified on insect riddled wood that had been used multiple times. Our cross was transformed to resemble “blood-stained hand-hewn wormy wood”.

In the year before the pandemic, the cross, nails, and hammer were carried into the nave at the end of the Maundy Thursday service and placed on the floor near the baptismal font. It remained there throughout the Easter vigil as a reminder of the fate that Jesus was contemplating as he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. Many parishioners commented that the act of carrying in the cross and nails made the foreboding of the next day that much more impactful.

This year this ‘little t’ tradition grew with the large cross being incorporated into the Stations of the Cross liturgy at 3 pm on Good Friday. The cross started at the back of the church with the first station reading. One person moved it up the center aisle as the first few stations were read by Mother Marjorie. A second person helped to move the cross when we reached the station where Simon of Cyrene was pressed into service to help Jesus carry the cross. The cross continued to move to the base of the stand as we progressed through the stations. As Jesus was crucified, the cross was erected, and a black shroud was shaped in the form of a man hung on the cross and positioned on the crucifixion nails. The sound of the nails being pounded into the cross was particularly moving. The crown of thorns and “King of the Jews” sign were also added. The cross was left in that state for the 7 pm Good Friday Service.

At the end of the Good Friday service, the sign, crown, and nails were removed, and the black shroud was lowered onto the hands of a loved one. The shroud was positioned in the hands and carried out the side door as if Jesus’s body were being taken to the tomb.



By Easter morning the cross was transformed to represent the Easter miracle. The cross is now bedecked with a white cloth and a dove representing Jesus's victory over death and his return. The sign and crown of thorns are no longer present, as these were used to mock Jesus. You will notice the base of the cross has remained black and the dried blood and bloody nails are also there as reminders of the Passion of Christ. The cross will remain in this state for the remainder of the Easter season.

Dave Johnson

Staying Connected, Continuing to Serve

Someone is in the office Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you need us outside office hours, contact Mother Marjorie, Linda, or David Cooper at home (see the end of the Staff for our contact information).

♥ **Intercessory Prayers**

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



Parish Prayer List

The People of Ukraine
 Jordan Tingler – healing & strength
 Jone Johnson – healing & strength
 Gene Allander – healing
 Larry Seevers - healing
 Ruthann Moore – strength & healing
 Deb Hepburn-McKinney – healing
 Vickie Dilley – healing & strength

Thomas Durham - stroke
 Joe Martucci – healing
 Joberta White - healing
 Peter Gevas – healing
 Mary Jo Kinney - COPD
 Chris Heckman – MS
 Maggie Evans – bicyclist struck by car
 Dean Kapron – premature newborn- strength/good health

Lynn Budno – healing
 Diane Cottrill – healing
 Paul W. - healing
 Mary Gevas – healing
 Carol Lathrop – healing
 Ann Stevens – healing



Safety for all those serving in the Armed Forces

Nathan Jones, Hannah Slusher, Noah Estes, Sterling Slusher, Joe Slusher, Lauren Fielder, Peter Keiser

Those needing healing from cancer

Glen Kirk
 Vicky Wilson
 Matthew Jacobs
 Sharon Burnside

Buddy Lee
 Rod Layfield
 Ray Kidder
 Noel Chapman

Renee Peters
 Tina Westfall
 Helena Shaffer
 John Stevens

Hazen
 Rain
 Tessa
 John Sartor

Lisa Tanner
 David White
 J D Williamson



Deaths

Carmen Johnson

♥ **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

♥ **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.



♥ **Last Sunday Supper** – we hope to resume in May.

♥ **Food Pantry** -We continue to see a large number of homeless people coming for food (447 bags given out in March) and continue to serve local families as well. Thank you for your donation of plastic bags from area grocery stores. We are still looking for people to help hand out bags during office hours – a chance to catch up on your reading while waiting for clients to arrive.



♥ **Reading Camp** – a week-long summer program helping elementary children who need to improve their reading skills and comprehension, so they gain confidence for the coming school year. Contact Linda to volunteer to help.

Inreach Opportunities

We show our care for other members as we listen to each other, spend time together, share a (virtual) 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:

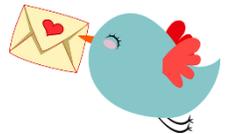
Dennis Armstrong: Ohio Valley Healthcare, Room 309, 222 Nicolette Rd, Parkersburg, WV 26104

Bob Flinn: Wyngate Senior Living, 1 Wyngate Way, Parkersburg, WV 26105

At home:

Gene Allander: 1405 Washington Ave. Parkersburg, WV 26101

Larry Seevers: 113 Mound Drive, Marietta, OH 45750



Important Upcoming Calendar Dates:

May 8 – Mother Marjorie's last Sunday until September and Young Person Sunday

May 9 – Mother Marjorie begins her sabbatical

May 15 – Bishop Visitation by the new Bishop Co-Adjutor, Matthew Cowden

June 19 – Father's Day Joint Service, followed by bingo (with prizes) and a cookout c/o our kids/young adults

July 9-15 – Open Sky

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

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