

Giving Thanks

For Katie Beth



THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF
The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd
October 23, 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

Our New Rector, the Reverend Katie Beth Miksa

In September the Discernment Committee 'heartily recommended' that the Vestry elect Katie Beth as our next rector. The following information about Katie Beth's qualifications comes from the letter to the Vestry and her application:

Katie Beth comes to us most recently from Norfolk, VA where she served as Assistant Rector at Christ and St. Luke's Episcopal Church and as Chaplain to the Canterbury Club at Old Dominion University. She previously served as Director of Campus Ministry and Administrator at Christ Lutheran Church in Athens, OH and part time Chaplain at Ohio Health O'Bleness Hospital and Hospice. Katie Beth earned her Master of Theological Studies with Honors at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC and received a Diploma in Anglican Studies from Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, VA. Her secular education includes two Bachelor's Degrees from Millsaps College in Jackson, MS and a Master's Degree from the American University School of International Service in Washington, DC.



As you can see, Katie Beth's resume is very impressive, both in the areas of education and experience. She is well versed in theology and Anglican ways. Her education seems to focus on different ways of connecting with and helping people from many different backgrounds (her Master of Arts degree from American University, is in International Peace and Conflict Resolution). The same can be said of the range of experiences she has had, including living and teaching English in Taiwan and speaking Mandarin, while coordinating outreach programs there. In Geneva, Switzerland she worked with the World Council of Churches. She has worked in various campus ministries. During Covid she coordinated and provided hospital and hospice pastoral care to patients whose family could not be present. In retrospect, most of what she has learned and done since 2007 (and possibly before that) has focused on enabling her to connect people to God.

Within her application, she provided many opportunities for the committee (links to videos of her sermons) to view her preaching, feel the engagement she creates and relate to her enthusiasm as she preaches. It was evident from the first sermon we watched that she could capture the attention of a congregation while sharing her vast knowledge and relating the lesson to our life experiences.

Upon meeting the Rev. Katie Beth in person, her joy in her profession and the care she exudes for others shines through immediately. She is very inquisitive and seems to absorb and process vast amounts of knowledge and is quick to apply and share what she has learned. She was drawn to Good Shepherd, perhaps because we are the Pink Church but most of all for our outreach. She studied our Parish Profile and truly exemplifies the characteristics that we identified for our next rector- especially being Spirit filled, well versed, compassionate and caring, and being passionate about children.

Her enthusiasm is contagious, her smile is welcoming, and she truly carries Christ's light and love in her eyes and voice.

Reflections by the Rev. Lou Hays: The Long Goodbye

I am very excited that I will be leaving you in the very capable and loving hands of the Rev. Katie Beth Miksa. We are now in another period of transition, from me to her. I will be with you for the next four Sundays, giving us plenty of time to say our goodbyes. And there will be one more opportunity to say goodbye in this newsletter, so I will save my closing thoughts until the issue that will come out in two weeks.

This is the first time as an Interim Rector that I have begun doing things for a second time, such as a second stewardship campaign and a second celebration of All Saints Sunday. I thought that my time with you would come to a close around the end of August, but God had other plans. And thank God for that! Katie Beth is worth the wait!

I am so thankful for my time with you, including this longer and unexpected ending. If you are thankful for our time together, I have a suggestion for how you might express your gratitude: make a generous pledge for the coming year, and get your pledge card in soon so it may be blessed on Sunday, November 10. Stewardship is all about thanksgiving, giving back to God in gratitude for all of God's blessings. And two of those blessings for which I am particularly thankful? Our time together and God bringing Katie Beth to be your new Rector.

I look forward to saying our goodbyes in person over the next several weeks. God bless you and God bless Good Shepherd.

Shepherd's Closet Rummage

Can you help for at least an hour or two tomorrow or next week? Most of Deb's regular helpers are not available right now and she needs help with simple tasks such as hanging clothes on hangers. She plans to be working from 10 AM – 1 PM Monday – Thursday Oct. 21-31st. The next sale is November 1st and 2nd. You can just show up but even better you could call and let her know she can count on some help. 518-637-1734.



Bible Study – new times



Wednesday Bible Study groups led by David Cooper meets most Wednesdays. The groups now meet in the late afternoon/early evening. There are two sessions. The group meeting from 4:15 – 5:15 PM is studying the Letter to the Romans. The group meeting from 5:15 - 6:15 PM is doing the Book of Ruth. Both groups welcome new attendees. Let David know you will be there so he can let you into the building (304-494-8790).

Pledges

Everyone should have received a letter and pledge card by now. If we missed you somehow, please call the office. We hope to have all your pledges returned on or before Nov. 10 so they can be blessed that day as we look forward with joy and anticipation to the next chapter in our life together in 2025.

Altar Flowers:

Open dates for the rest of 2024 are Nov.10 and Dec. 29. Please contact 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.



Adopted Families



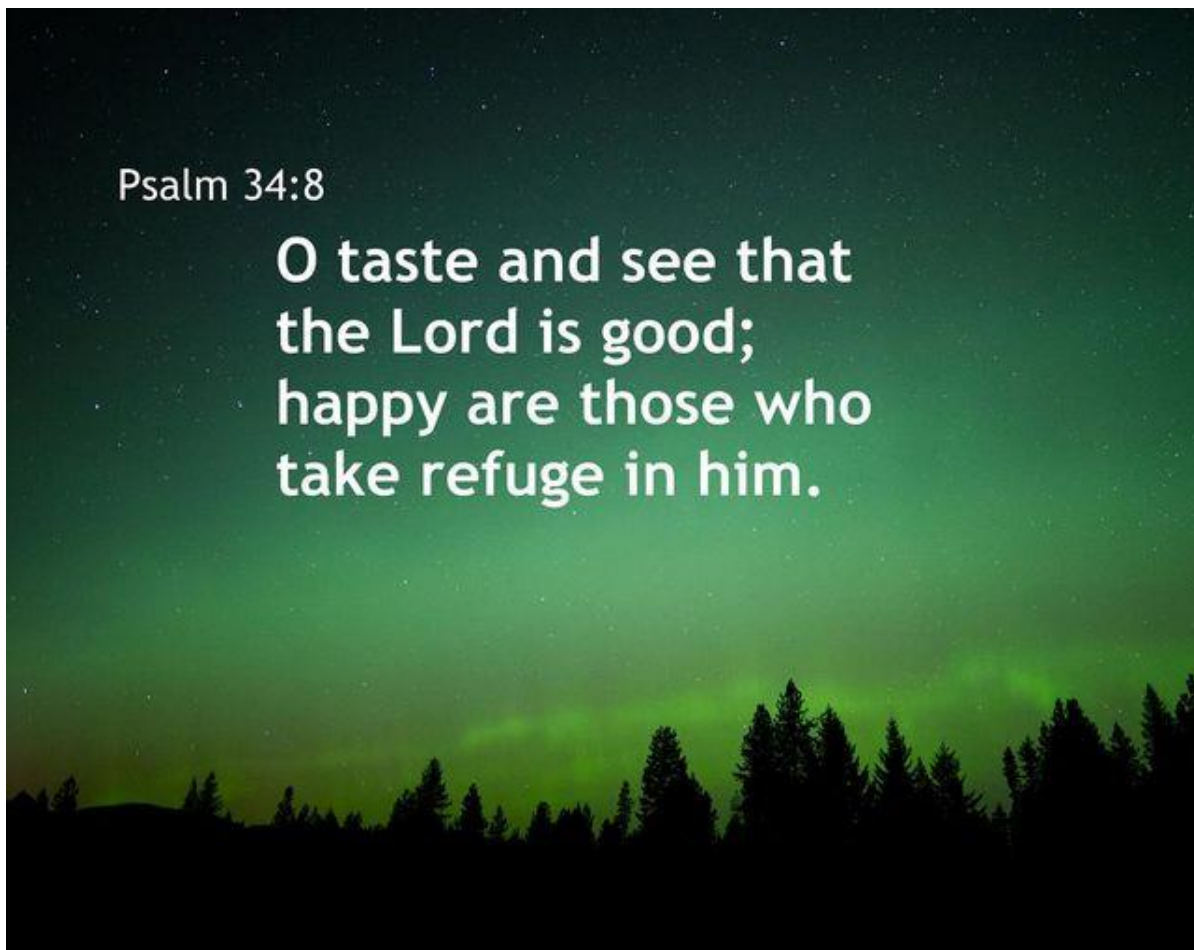
Adopted Families is our annual program to help local families who find it difficult or impossible to provide gifts for their children at Christmas. While we know that God's love is the most important gift, we demonstrate that love by making sure that every child in our program 'finds something special under the Christmas tree'. Besides personal gifts they also receive books, coloring supplies, a shoe voucher, a family game and ball, and toiletries, hats, gloves, socks and underwear for the whole family, a roll of gift paper, plus everything they need for a family Christmas dinner.

Applications are available now and must be returned by October 31st. The program is for families with children ages 0-18 who need help providing Christmas gifts for their kids. If families have been helped by this program both of the last two years, they are not eligible this year. Families may only apply to one local organization each year. If you know a family in need, tell them about our program.

If you are interested in helping to purchase gifts, prepare food baskets, pack bags or help with the distribution, please contact Carol Lathrop (681-287-5333). If you would like to make a donation of items, please contact Tom Simpson (304-482-0804) to see what we might need. We are sure to need rolls of gift wrap and hats and gloves for men and women. All donations need to be new/unused items. To make a financial donation, send us a check with *Adopted Families* in the memo line.

We will also be collecting items for toiletry bags for each family – watch for a list of needed items and collection bags outside the office area soon.

Found on Facebook:



Thanksgiving Offering

The Vestry has chosen to support Hunters Helping the Hungry with this year's Thanksgiving offering. This is a program that pays to have donated deer processed into ground meat for distribution by food pantries. Hunters have a way to donate deer they do not need for their own use and the hungry are fed. You may donate using your Thanksgiving envelope, a Hunters envelope in the Welcome Center or by check to Good Shepherd with Hunters in the memo line.

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	Marcia Doyle – healing	Eric Dailey – healing
The People of Ukraine	Amanda Morris – healing	Jay Lathrop – healing
Hurricane Victims	Peggy Roberts - healing	Peter Gevas – healing
Mary Gevas – healing	Heyward Roberts – healing	Shauna Hyde – healing
Don Henthorne – healing	Diane Cottrill – healing	Ann Stevens– healing
Jone Johnson – healing/strength	Bob Crocker – healing	John Stevens – healing
Deb Hepburn-McKinney – healing	David Cottrill - healing	Chris Heckman – healing
Vickie Dilley –healing/strength		



Safety for all those serving in the Armed Forces



Sterling Slusher, Joe Slusher, Lauren Fielder, Peter Keiser

Those needing healing from cancer

Glen Kirk	John Stevens	David Nevins	Julia Lee
Judy McCoy	David White	Alana Dailey	Chris Angotti
Doris Lowe	Ellis Corra	Gary Greer	Wendy Meredith
Hal Foss			



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 always welcome or help yourself to a book if you spot a good one – they are there for anyone and everyone. 
- ♥ **Last Sunday Supper** – The next meal will be October 27. 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** – If you would like to help handing out the bags, the current 'holes' are Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning. We also need subs when someone is out of town or ill. Contact Linda if you can serve a few hours 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, 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.



Contact Information:

The Rev. Lou Hays	304-428-1525, ext. 4	louisbhays@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
Larry James, Senior Warden	304-482-9661	blesense@suddenlink.net

One Call system 1-877-698-3261 This is the number to call if you need a message from the church repeated.

Calendar Dates

Oct. 27 – Last Sunday Supper
Nov. ½ - Rummage Sale
Nov. 3 – All Saints Sunday
Nov. 10 – Pledge Ingathering
Nov. 17 – Farewell to Lou
Nov. 24 – Last Sunday Supper
Nov. 28 – Thanksgiving Day
Dec. 1 – Advent 1 and Welcome Katie Beth
Dec. 9, 10, 11 – Adopted Families Christmas Distribution Days

