

Welcome May, Welcome Holy Spirit!

"I will pour out my Spirit
on all people."

Joel 2:28, NIV



THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd April 29, 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

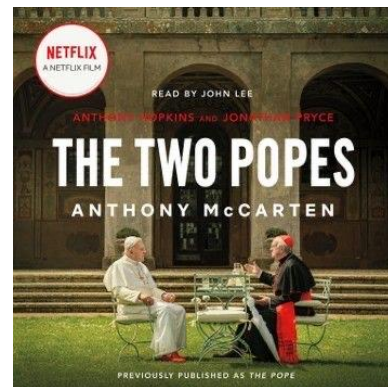
From the Rector

Save the dates: July 1, 22, and Aug. 12 (all Wednesdays) from 6pm to no later than 8pm, we will have a special summer edition of Adult Education. This will take a format similar to our Lenten dinners, where we will have a potluck followed by activity and discussion. We will be focusing on the book *The Two Popes* by Anthony McCarten. The ISBN number is 1250207924, and it is available from most major retailers along with the library. As with any adult education series, reading the book is recommended, but not required, for participation. Please note that this book was previously published under a different title, *The Pope: Francis, Benedict, and the Decision That Shook the World*, so you may find used copies under that name.

This is a work of historical fiction, that started out as a screen play, became a major motion picture, and then a book. It focuses on the relationship between Pope Benedict and Cardinal Bergoglio, who became Pope Francis. Essentially, Pope Benedict is feeling called by God to resign from the papacy, the first pope to do so since the 12th century, but he knows that it's likely that Cardinal Bergoglio would be elected. Benedict has qualms because he and Bergoglio have very different thoughts on who God is and what that means for how the church should be structured.

You might wonder why we, as Episcopalians, will be discussing a book about popes. I find it to be an excellent example of the breadth of theological belief that is allowed at the highest levels, in the Catholic tradition, but also in ours. Sometimes people feel as if there is only one correct way to understand who God is and how the church is structured. As you may come to see in the deep, respectful conversations held by the pope and future pope, God tends to work in the in-between places. The Episcopal Church is famed for being the via media—the middle path—and I look forward to the discussions and questions that might arise from the two popes' conversations.

Katie Beth+



Where in the world is Katie Beth?

April marked the beginning of the **Where in the world is Katie Beth?** game. On **May 17th**, Katie Beth will be on a mini-break in Indianapolis attending an Indiana Fever Basketball game. Meanwhile, here at Good Shepherd, we are excited to welcome The Rev. Chris Thompson, diocesan Archdeacon for Pastoral Care for Clergy and Families who will lead us all in worship. Chris also is serving as an interim for churches in the diocese as needed. Before retirement, he was the rector of a large church in Virginia Beach, VA.



Working Together

- **Give Local MOV**

May 5 is the date and <https://www.givelocalmov.org/> is the website. While we hope that much of your charitable giving comes to Good Shepherd, it is also important to support area non-profits working for the betterment of our shared community. The day begins at 12:01 AM and runs all through the day with a variety of special incentives. It officially ends at midnight.

- **Food Collection – Saturday May 9**

The National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) has an annual food collection on the 2nd Saturday in May. You are encouraged to put out a bag of non-perishables at your mailbox for your carrier to pick up. Everything is taken to a central collection point for distribution to local food pantries. Our pantry has been fortunate to receive some of the collection each year.



- **Recovery Point**

We are grateful for the help of 4 men from Recovery Point (a local rehab facility) who came and cleared out the room above the Columbarium in preparation for the Bell Tower project. Besides moving all the items we had stored there to our Adult Meeting Room for temporary storage, they also vacuumed the room and stairs and moved some cases of food in preparation for the monthly food delivery from Mountaineer Food Bank.

Altar Flowers

Almost every date between now and the end of August is available for your donation(s) in memory of loved ones or to honor special occasions. The only date taken so far is June 14. We have all been enjoying the beauty and quality of the flowers we are receiving from Dudley's. The current cost (lower than our previous florist) is \$40/vase. Please help us keep fresh flowers on the altar as we enjoy worshipping together this spring and summer. 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 could use cookbooks, DIY books and other interesting non-fiction.



Shepherd's Closet Rummage

The May sale will be this weekend, Friday and Saturday, May 1 and 2. Come and find some summer clothes or a treasure for your home. Please hold future donations until next week.



Juliets

This new dinner group, which is open to the women of Good Shepherd and Trinity, will meet on Tuesday, May 5, at 6:00 PM at Colombo's. Please make plans to attend and let the office at Trinity know you are coming by May 4th. That number is 304-422-3362

Found on Facebook:

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

(October 9, 2025)

O Creator and Loving Master

May I rise each morning with your purpose

May I sow the fields of my world with the seeds of love

May I sing the song of reconciliation

May I pluck the harp strings of compassion

May I follow the Shepherd who leads me to justice

May I walk in righteousness and kindness

May I blanket my world with peace

Amen



Prayer and photo by Beth Maxwell Boyle

Rental space available. Any ideas?

The Head Start lease ends on June 30 and, unfortunately, the program will not be returning to Good Shepherd. We can be flexible about which spaces a future tenant could use. If you know of a non-profit 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 us directly.

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.

Appreciating a card or note:

Cathy Freed (in assisted living) c/o Ryan Freed, 200 W. Red Bud Road, Knoxville, TN 37920

♥ 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 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.



Staying Connected, Continuing to Serve

Intercessory Prayers:

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

Good Shepherd Parish Prayer List

The war in the Middle East

The People of Israel and Gaza

The People of Ukraine

Victims of gun violence

Buck Harris – strength/healing

Amanda Morris – healing

Marcia Doyle – healing

Marlene Smith- healing

Diane Cottrill – healing

Brenda Pugh – healing

Ann Stevens– healing

Mary Gevas – healing

Gene Allander – healing

Peter Gevas – healing

Jone Johnson – healing/strength

Deb Hepburn-McKinney – healing



Safety for all those serving in the Armed Forces

Sterling Slusher, Peter Keiser

Those needing healing from cancer

John Stevens
Faith Beha
Ellen Faymon

Alana Dailey
Mirtala Smith

Gary Greer
Everett Gilmore




Lois Switzer
Charles Sterchak

Rudi Miksa
Wilbur Lemmon

Deaths

Peggy Roberts

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, May 31. Come help set-up and cook at 1 PM or come 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 would like to help handing out food bags to the unhoused or preparing 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:

May 5 – Give Local Fundraiser and Juliets' dinner at Colombo's

May 9 – Letter Carriers annual Food Collection

May 11 – Vestry meeting

May 12 – WV Primary (Good Shepherd hosts a voting Precinct)

May 17 – Guest preacher Chris Thompson

May 24 – Pentecost

May 31 - Trinity Sunday – Joint service at Trinity at 10:30 AM - no service at Good Shepherd



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	drtld51@gmail.com