



# The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

PARKERSBURG, WV

**“The Pink Church”**

We are the Pink Church. We stand as a beacon of hope and life, known to the community for our bright color and astonishing outreach ministries. We feed the hungry, clothe the needy, and share the love of Jesus Christ with the hundreds of people who walk through our doors each month. This profile tells the story of the amazing Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd and why God may be calling you to join us on our journey of love and service.



# The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

## Parish Profile

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## **Our Prayer for the Transition**

The Discernment Committee crafted this prayer at our first meeting. It is prayed at the beginning of each committee meeting and during each Sunday service by the congregation.

*Gracious and loving God, we thank you for your blessings upon this parish. Pour out your Holy Spirit to guide us and the Discernment Committee through this sacred time of transition. Be with us as we plan for the future of our parish. Grant us wisdom, patience, and strength in this journey to find a new shepherd. We ask all this in Christ's name. Amen.*



# The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

## Our Process

Our Interim Rector began his work with us on October 1, 2023. Our initial focus was on bringing stability and continuity to the parish and establishing a Discernment Committee that would be responsible for preparing the Parish Profile and conducting the search process. The Interim Rector worked with the Vestry, Committee and congregation to focus on the present and the need to continue and build on the ongoing life of the parish. There was also attention to the past, determining the strong points of the parish's vibrant history and making sure that the parish wasn't stuck in the past. A major step in this process was a well-attended Sunday morning event entitled "Celebrating Our Heritage." After several months the Interim Rector, Vestry and Discernment Committee with the support of the Diocese felt that the parish was ready to move forward into the future with a new Rector. The key step in preparing for the future was an event entitled "Envisioning Our Future," enveloped in a service of Holy Eucharist on April 14, 2024. Over 50 people participated, including the Vestry, Discernment Committee, lay leaders, rank-and-file members and several youth. In response to the Gospel and using an appreciative inquiry process, they discerned the core values of the parish, their hopes and dreams for the parish, and the characteristics of the person that God is calling to walk with us as our new Rector. The results are reflected in those sections of our Profile.



Envisioning Our Future



# The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

## Our Core Values

We believe that the key to a successful rectorship is calling a person who is comfortable with and excited about the core values of Good Shepherd. If after considering our core values as summarized below you are not in agreement with them or feel that you would be called to change them significantly, please do not apply.

We have three distinctive and interrelated core values.

- We are located in the midst of an eclectic neighborhood consisting of a mix of lower, middle and upper-middle income housing and residents. Many of our neighbors rely on our food pantry and shop at our unique rummage sales, and many unhoused people come to our door throughout the week to receive homeless bags. We are deeply committed to our neighborhood and the fact that our uniquely pink church - we are the Pink Church - is a literal and figurative beacon of hope, help and life to our neighbors and beyond.





## The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

- Consistent with our ministry of seeking and serving Christ in all persons, we value and welcome all people as members or as those we serve, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, economic status, and physical and/or cognitive ability. These are not just words on a piece of paper. We live them every Sunday and every weekday, at Good Shepherd and in our daily lives.
- Finally, we are non-judgmental, loving and caring for all - our members, our newcomers and visitors and those we serve through our extensive outreach programs.

Other important core values include:

- Eucharistically-centered Episcopal liturgy
- Inspiring preaching that connects the Gospel with our everyday lives
- Music that is joyful and uplifting
- Valuing, nurturing and involving our children and youth
- Encouraging and expecting significant lay involvement
- Physical accessibility and staying connected with our homebound parishioners through live streaming and Lay Eucharistic Visitors
- Being a safe place to be ourselves in an accepting, caring and non- judgmental environment.



Easter 2024



# The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

## Our History

The Chapel of the Good Shepherd opened in 1891 as a mission of Trinity Episcopal Church, Parkersburg, to be a Sunday School for our neighborhood's children. The original structure was used for many activities and groups and prompted the then Bishop of West Virginia, Bishop Peterkin, to believe that a “churchly edifice” was needed, and the Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd was built in 1906. The structure was commissioned by Bishop Peterkin to reflect the Spanish style architecture which he admired while attending the General Convention of the Episcopal Church in California. On February 22, 1906, The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd was consecrated by Bishop Peterkin and Bishop Gravatt (Coadjutor who later became the second Bishop of WV). We began as a Parochial Mission of Trinity Parish, later became a Diocesan Mission, and were granted parish status in 1921.



Original Mission building on left and “New” Church



## The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

Throughout the years, Good Shepherd has seen many rectors and laity lead the congregation in good times and trying times. In 1953, the then Bishop of West Virginia sent the Rev. Hewes “Doc” Phillips to close the church due to its financial difficulties. However, the congregation rallied with a pledge canvas to remodel the worship space and build the first addition since the church had been built. The following decades were periods of stability and growth until tragedy struck in 1979. Arsonists destroyed the first-floor classrooms and second story choir room. The congregation rallied again and built a new choir room and classrooms within thirteen months. More recently we held a capital campaign in 2016 that created our welcome center, updated our nursery, and addressed accessibility issues. This history of faithfulness, determination and resilience continues to this day. Good Shepherd continues to serve as a beacon of Christ’s love, hope and new life to Parkersburg and beyond.







# The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

## Our Community and Why You Will Want to Live Here

A stereotype of West Virginia is rarely complimentary, but many who move to the area become attached and remain here after they retire. Their children have fond memories of growing up, attending school, taking part in sports, the arts, or hiking or biking. Many think this is a good place to live and raise their children. Here's why we think so too! In the first place, it's because of the people here. They are friendly, care for each other, are easy-going and generous. Their commitment to the communities they live in runs deep. Schools, stores, and medical care are close by. No matter where you are or where you are headed, it is likely to be less than a 20-minute drive away.



Parkersburg West Virginia

Parkersburg, WV at the confluence of the Ohio and Little  
Kanawha Rivers



# The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

## The Arts

Locally we have the Actors Guild, going strong for 80 years, that puts on several plays with local talent every year. In Marietta, OH (less than 20 minutes away) is the Peoples Bank Theater. The Parkersburg Art Center has various exhibits and classes for all ages. The West Virginia Symphony based in nearby Charleston performs here through out the year.

## Educational Opportunities

The school systems in WV are county based. Wood County has 12,000 students in pre-K-12th grade and provides a solid education for all children. A prime example of the support of education is a continuing excess levy since 1945 and a bond levy that will build two new elementary schools. There is access to higher education locally at West Virginia University Parkersburg, Marietta College and Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. WVU and Marshall University are not local but have low in-state tuition and are classified as research universities.



Parkersburg High School



# The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

## Health Care

We have two community hospitals, each having over 200 beds. Construction of a Women's and Children's Hospital will begin within the next year. Our local hospital, Camden Clark, is a part of WVU Medicine. We also have access to larger medical centers including WVU Medical Center in Morgantown, Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center in Columbus, and the world-famous Cleveland Clinic. Pediatric emergency care facilities have recently been opened in two locations.



## Housing

Homes in the Parkersburg area can be found in a variety of settings. Homes can be found in town as well as in the "country." Home prices in Wood County are typically between \$100-\$130 per square foot and property taxes are much lower than in many other states. Housing costs contribute to the lower cost of living you will enjoy in our community.

## Culinary Opportunities

Our community and Marietta offer great dining experiences including many ethnic foods such as Japanese, Thai, Indian, Filipino and Lebanese. We also have great pizza!



# The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

## Wild Wonderful West Virginia

You may see this on a welcome sign as you enter our state. We are blessed with natural beauty that can also be seen and experienced locally, boating, skiing or fishing on the Ohio River, hiking/biking the North Bend Rail Trail (which originates in Parkersburg), three city parks, and the McDonough Wildlife Refuge.

We also boast of the Blennerhassett State Park (on an island in the Ohio River) and Henderson Hall, nearby historical sites. There are many state parks in WV that are easily accessible and the new national park, New River Gorge, offers world-class recreational opportunities.

## Want to Get Away?

We have three options for air travel. Our local airport offers direct flights to Charlotte, NC with connections throughout North America, the Caribbean and Europe. Or we can take flights out of Charleston, WV and Columbus, OH to cities throughout the U.S and beyond. We are also at the intersection of I-77 and US 50, major highways that provide easy access to cities such as Columbus, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Cincinnati.



View From Point Park, Parkersburg





# The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

## Our Diocese

The Diocese of West Virginia was established in 1878. There are 60 congregations in West Virginia scattered throughout the Mountain State with about 7,000 Episcopalians. The Right Reverend Matthew Cowden is our 8th Bishop and spends many hours traveling the state building relationships with the clergy and laity. He has a passion for Peterkin, our church camp. At any convention or event, you can certainly hear him singing...not only praises to our God but sharing his joy and love for us in West Virginia. There is a new spirit of joy, optimism and new life in our Diocese that has helped bring an influx of new clergy to West Virginia. Perhaps that will include you!

Please check out the Diocesan website for more information at [www.wvdiocese.org](http://www.wvdiocese.org).



The Right Reverend Matthew Cowden,  
Bishop of WV



# The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

## Our Worship and Music

We normally have two Sunday morning services, one at 8 am and one at 10:15 am. The 10:15 service is normally Rite II with music and choir. Both services are contained in a user-friendly bulletin that includes everything except for those hymns contained in the 1982 Hymnal. Music from other sources such as Wonder, Love and Praise and Lift Every Voice and Sing II are printed in the bulletin. Our liturgical style can best be described as broad church, with a congregational preference for familiar hymns from the Anglican tradition and occasional use of Gospel, Taize, and theologically sound “praise music.” In the event of absence of the Rector for vacation or illness, it is often possible to arrange for supply clergy. There are also several parishioners who are familiar with leading Morning Prayer if necessary.

We have a 1970s Schantz pipe organ and a Baldwin grand piano that our choir director plays at our 10:15 service. There are also two octaves of handbells. We have had a bell choir and are looking to reinvigorate that ministry. Several of our youth and adults take turns with two playing a short round with the bells at the end of our 10:15 service.





## Our Food Ministries

*“... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.” Matthew 25:40*





# The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

## **Food Pantry**

We provide emergency food up to once per month to locally housed residents in need. Clients are asked to make an appointment to pick up their food order based on the schedule of volunteers throughout the week. However, some clients arrive at the door without an appointment, and we try to accommodate them as well. Families range from a single person or couple up to a multi-generational family of 6-10. The clients receive an assortment of frozen, non-perishable, and fresh food based on family size and any special requirements that we can accommodate. In 2023 we served 762 housed families consisting of 2,096 individuals. The number of clients is increasing in 2024.

## **Care Bags for the Homeless**

Our homeless food ministry began in 2021. Even though we have a food pantry as described above, it became evident those individuals without homes needed a different solution. This population had no way to refrigerate or prepare meals. They needed food that was easy to open and that did not require cooking or refrigeration. Also, many public drinking fountains were turned off due to COVID and water was not readily available. We began providing Care Bags that usually contain bread, peanut butter, tuna fish, cereal, bottled water, breakfast bars, and a fruit cup. Church members volunteer to pack and distribute these bags. Over the past several years this ministry has grown exponentially. We currently provide on average 115 bags per week. In 2023 we provided 6,245 bags of food for the homeless. The vast majority of funds for this project come from grants and local donations from individuals, groups and even the nearby grocery store.





# The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

## Donut Ministry

We have a long-running ministry of giving packages of day-old donuts provided by a local bakery to people in the neighborhood. We recognize that this is not the most nutritionally sound ministry and have considered whether it should be discontinued. However, several years ago a man stopped by and said, “I was just passing through the neighborhood when I saw people leaving with their bag of donuts. I had to stop and tell you that about 10 years ago, I was at a point in my life where my only food was those donuts. They kept me alive. Thank you.” We are also buoyed by families walking their children home from school that stop to pick up a bag as an after-school treat. One of our parishioners, who has physical and cognitive challenges, enjoys replenishing the bags of donuts and talking to each client.





# The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

## Last Sunday Supper

For ten years we have provided a free dinner for members of our community on the last Sunday of each month. Volunteers plan the menu for 60 to 80 people based on supplies from Mountaineer Food Bank stored in our food pantry and supplemented by food purchased locally. Parishioners prepare the food and set up the parish hall in the afternoon and many stay until 7:30pm to clean the kitchen and hall. In addition to offering a healthy meal at the end of the month when our neighbors' food supplies may be running low, this sit-down meal (no take-out) is an opportunity to foster a sense of community and connect more people to Good Shepherd. This has also served as an opportunity for involving newer members of the congregation in ministry and fellowship. This ministry receives a modest amount from our operating budget, with the bulk of its cost funded by grants, donations, and occasional special holiday collections.





## Other Ways We Serve the Community

### Shepherd's Closet/Rummage Sale

A dedicated cadre of volunteers operate numerous "rummage sales" on the first Friday and Saturday of the month except in January and February. This is not a typical rummage sale! Parishioners and others donate gently used clothing and a wide variety of household items throughout the year. The team works two days most weeks to sort, price and display these items in a large space dedicated to this ministry. This ministry has several benefits. Our neighbors can get a variety of items at a bargain price, and the sales proceeds go to support the Adopted Families Christmas project (see below). The leader of this ministry has established a strong bond with her regular clients who trust her for advice and comfort with a caring demeanor. Our large, ongoing inventory also allows us to provide clothing, housewares, and other items to those who come to us for assistance throughout the week in emergency situations.





# The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

## Adopted Families Christmas

This is one of Good Shepherd's longest running ministries. Families in need may sign up in October through mid-November. This year we served 45 families which included 97 children. A team of volunteers purchases gifts for each member of the families being served. Items include a family game and ball, gifts for each child based on the parent's requests (within certain price ranges), books and coloring supplies for each child, toiletries, hats and gloves, underwear and socks for the entire family and vouchers for shoes from a local store. The gift distribution occurs during the second week of December and the Shepherd's Closet/Rummage Room is open for them to pick out clothing, used toys, and holiday decor.





# The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

## Financial Assistance

We provide financial assistance for people in need in the community. Our parish Discretionary fund helped 82 families in 2023 with prescriptions and utility bills. We also provide information about other sources of help in the Parkersburg area. There is also a Rector's Discretionary fund which primarily assists parishioners in need.

## Little Free Library

Our Little Free Library provides books and magazines for children and adults in the neighborhood.





# The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

## Open Sky

This is a combined VBS, evangelism and outreach activity. A team from the Open Sky Arts Collective, based in Texas with members from several states, comes to Good Shepherd for a week each summer. They provide a day camp showing local children the love of God through art activities, Bible study, games, lunch, fellowship, and prayer. Several of our youth help as junior counselors. In 2023, 35 to 45 area children ages 5 through 12 participated daily. We provide the space and help with advertising and logistics.





# The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

## Neighborhood Cleanup

Good Shepherd runs occasional Neighborhood Cleanup events to pick up trash and debris in the area.

## Meeting Space

We utilize our meeting space to host several community groups, such as NA, AA, a Saturday morning men's 12-step group, yoga, and The Pipes and Drums of St Andrew.

## Head Start

We provide administrative and classroom space to Head Start as a service to the community and as a source of income to support our mission and ministries.





## Our Ways of Serving in Our Parish

### Altar Guild

Working largely behind the scenes our Altar Guild provides an essential ministry. The members of the Altar Guild serve individually on an alternating weekly basis. These individuals perform the duties of dusting, filling candles with oil, polishing brass and changing paraments. The Director of the Altar Guild is responsible for washing, ironing, and repairing linens. Supplies of wafers, wine and oil are ordered when needed. Flowers are set out for the Sunday services and later put into vases for distribution to an individual, the Columbarium, the Welcome Center, or the Last Sunday Supper.

### Lay Participants

Members of the congregation participate in our worship services as Lectors reading the lessons and leading the Psalm and as Intercessors leading the Prayers of the People. Lay Eucharistic Ministers administer the chalice during the Eucharist. Lay Eucharistic Visitors are commissioned at the end of the service to take the Sacrament to homebound parishioners and to keep them connected to the parish. There are currently 12 adults and 4 youth who participate in one or more of these ministries.



Prayers of the People during 2023 service honoring  
former Rector The Rev. Frank Wade





# The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

## Welcome Teams

Good Shepherd has four teams of welcomers who serve at the main Sunday service and any special services. They provide drinks and snacks for coffee hour, welcome members and visitors as they arrive for the service, act as ushers, serve as hosts during coffee hour and clean up/lock up afterwards. Those “not on duty” also pitch in as needed to make sure members and visitors feel welcomed and included. Welcome bags are available to new visitors.

## Good Shepherd Youth

We have a relatively large number of young people who participate in our Youth Group. We are blessed to have a seasoned group of young people serving as acolytes every Sunday and periodically as lectors. They are all involved with other ministries at our church, such as ringing handbells at the end of the service, participating in the Good Shepherd Drama Group that does a dramatic response to the Gospel each quarter, and helping to cook and serve at our Last Sunday Suppers. A highlight of this past year for our youth was going to the National Acolyte Festival at the Washington National Cathedral after a hiatus due to COVID.





# The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

## Prayer Chain

There are currently 18 members of the prayer chain, including the Rector. We use One Call to notify members of a prayer request. The prayer chain is used for emergency/immediate prayer needs such as an injury, surgery, sudden onset or worsening of illness. All prayer chain calls are confidential.

## Thursday Morning Work Crew

Every Thursday morning throughout the year, dedicated volunteers meet at church to perform building maintenance and repairs. They take on jobs ranging from HVAC filter replacements to gutting and remodeling rooms. Once a month, they “take a break” from maintenance efforts to unload and store thousands of pounds of food for our Food Pantry. The team saves the church thousands of dollars in repair costs each year. An equally important benefit is the camaraderie and friendships that develop when working together.





# The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

## Live-Streaming our Worship Services

COVID forced us into uncharted territory. We did not have the equipment nor the in-house expertise to bring live-streaming to Good Shepherd. We had the will to learn and \$10,000 in contributions for the equipment to upgrade our sound system and establish the video and broadcasting technology. We went live in November 2020 and continue to stream our 10:15 Sunday service and other special services. Each broadcast is saved to Facebook for several weeks to be available to those that cannot make the live stream time. The sound, camera, and software are usually managed by two parishioners during our services.





# The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

## Our Christian Formation

### Book Group

We meet on Sunday morning between the services with a Zoom option used by one of our less-mobile members. Over the last 10-12 years we have read dozens of books. Some are more theological, some are more about living as a Christian in our society, some are more biblically based, some are more focused on the individual and others are more focused on our life together. We always find ways to tie what we are reading to our own faith journey.

### Sunday School

We have the capability and desire to provide Sunday School to age-appropriate children. As with many parishes, we currently have young children in church only intermittently, making it difficult to plan and hold an ongoing Sunday School.

### Offerings by the Rector

At various times through the year, such as during Advent and Lent, our Rector offers different topics to help further our understanding of our faith, Episcopal traditions and a more informed understanding of the Gospel.



2024 Lenten Series



# The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

## Bible Study

There are two Bible studies offered on Wednesdays at 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM. We begin by praying the collect for Proper 28 (“Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. . .”). The passage under consideration is read aloud. We discuss what it meant when it was first heard and how it applies to us today. We conclude by asking for prayer requests and finish with the Lord’s Prayer.



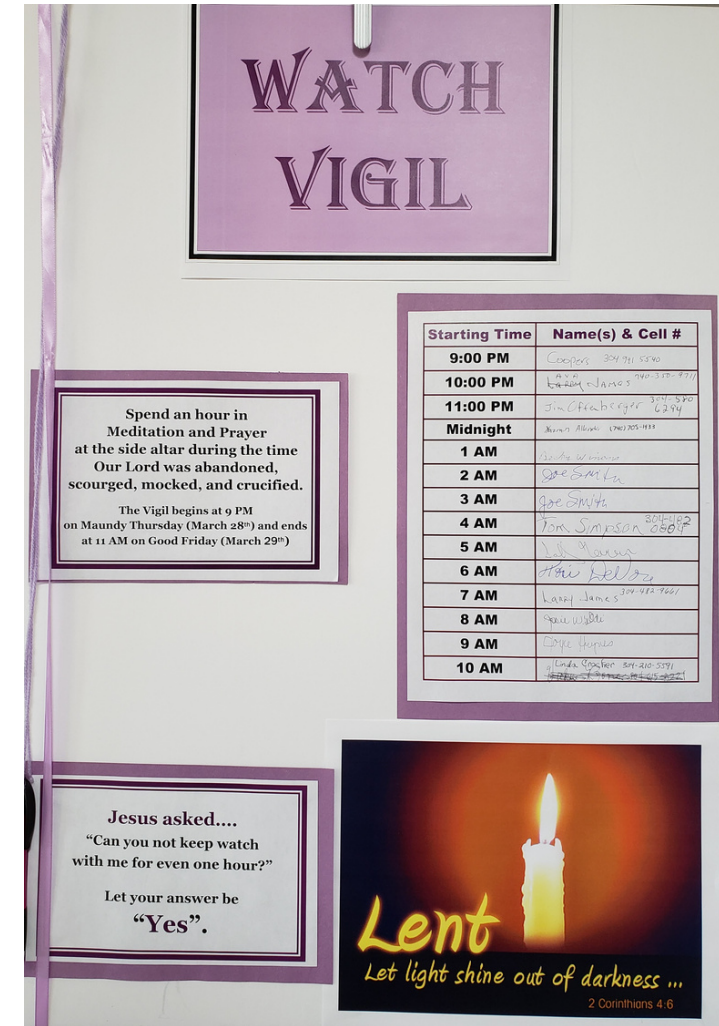


## Our Communications

**Our website** [www.goodshepherdwv.org](http://www.goodshepherdwv.org) serves the public and our members. There is information about the church's services, ministries, and staff, with links to the next upcoming streamed service, service bulletin, the current calendar, newsletter, and Worship Duty schedule. There are also links where people can join our email list, send us a message, or donate.

**Our Facebook page** [www.facebook.com/PinkChurchParkersburg](http://www.facebook.com/PinkChurchParkersburg) publicizes our events and is the platform for our streamed services and for receiving and responding to messages. We currently have 204 followers.

**The Shepherd's Staff newsletter** is published twice a month. It usually includes a reflection from the Rector, articles about current or upcoming events at our church or around the diocese, and the current parish prayer list.



Our fully subscribed all-night vigil for 2024

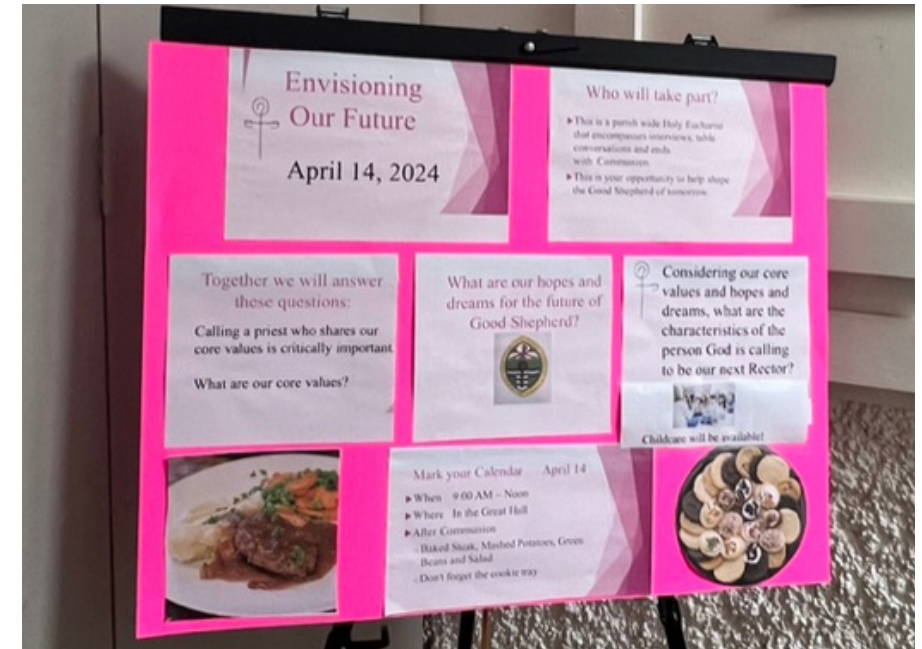


# The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

We use **One Call** to communicate quickly and efficiently to all members about special events, cancellations and other urgent needs. We also use it to make calls to the church's Prayer Chain.

We use **Zoom** when meeting in-person isn't an option or to allow individuals to participate remotely if necessary.

We use **posters, handouts, bulletin boards and signage** on our windows to publicize events in and outside the church. We have leaflets and handouts for the public about our worship services, outreach ministries and other social service organizations and neighborhood events.





## Our Membership and Finances

### Parish Demographics

As with many congregations, our congregation tends to be older but with a strong youth presence, ministry, and engagement. Children and youth (0-17) constitute 12% of our active participants. Young adults (18-34) constitute 3%. Middle adults (35-64) constitute 16%. Senior adults (65 and older) constitute 69%. As discussed in the answer to Question 9 of the Narrative Questions in our OTM profile, we are blessed with an unusually active number of parishioners of all ages that allow us to engage in more ministry and outreach than would normally be expected for a parish of our size and demographics. Racially we are primarily White and Non-Hispanic, with just over 5% of our active participants being Asian, Hispanic, or Multiracial. Although not counted for purposes of the Parochial Report, we have several physically and cognitively challenged parishioners in our accessible, welcoming, and affirming parish.







## **Parish Attendance**

In pre-pandemic 2019, Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) at Good Shepherd was 75. Post-pandemic, ASA dropped to 48 in 2022, similar to the percentage decrease unfortunately experienced in many parishes. In 2023, ASA remained essentially unchanged at 47 in spite of several difficulties: the unexpected departure of our Rector midway through the year, the subsequent use of supply clergy, the occasional use of Morning Prayer, and having only one instead of two Sunday morning services until calling an Interim Rector late in the year. All of these factors tend to result in lower attendance. Fortunately, there has been an upward trend in ASA since the beginning of 2024. In addition to ASA, there is a verifiable online presence each Sunday averaging at least 12 individuals, which is likely an undercount.

Like many parishes, Good Shepherd allowed its membership rolls to go unculled for many years. This issue was corrected in preparing for this year's Parochial Report, so the new Rector will not have to deal with this problem. However, the Parochial Report will appear to show a sudden and dramatic drop in membership which has been long in the making.

## **Parish Pledging**

Fortunately, plate and pledge income has remained stable despite the decline in ASA, decreasing slightly from \$211,363 to \$208,522 in 2023. If special year-end giving in 2023 were included, giving increased to about \$214,000. Pledges for 2024 remain strong and represent 45 households. The average pledge is approximately \$4400.



# The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

## Parish Finances

Our financial situation is strong and sustainable. As mentioned above, pledging is strong. Special giving from parishioners and friends is strong. One example of our generosity was our response to our Bishop's request for the offering from the Sunday of his recent visitation. We have given over \$1,000 to support the Highland Educational Project, the Diocese's outreach project in southern WV. Our reserves are strong, currently over three quarters of a million dollars. The parish continues to be successful in obtaining large grants that help sustain our outreach and food ministries, previously described in this Profile.



The parish operating budget for 2024 is \$322,700. Revenue from all sources, including a conservative estimate of investment income, is \$343,200. Good Shepherd's strong financial footing and unusually active congregation allows us not only to be financially viable for the long haul, but also makes our astonishing outreach and feeding ministries possible and sustainable.



# The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

## Our Hopes and Dreams for the Future

Like most parishes, one of our top hopes for the future is to grow in numbers and in Spirit. Unlike many parishes, we really mean it! Several parishioners are dreaming of doubling our size, which happens to be our Bishop's goal for the Diocese of West Virginia over the next ten years. And we want to grow for the right reasons: to share the Good News of Jesus Christ; to share the joy and love we find at Good Shepherd; to carry out the Great Commission. We have been enjoying some growth during the transition, and we believe growing the parish numerically and spiritually is realistic. We believe our other hopes and dreams for the future are consistent with our desire to grow the parish:



- More Christian formation opportunities for children, youth and adults
- More uplifting, joyful and diverse music
- More fellowship and social activities for all, including families and children
- Even more outreach to the local community
- More communication through social media and other avenues to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ through Good Shepherd





## **Characteristics of the Person God Is calling to Be Our Next Rector**

The congregation understands that it's not up to the Rector alone to make our hopes and dreams become a reality. We understand that we are not calling Superwoman or Superman to be our next Rector. But we do believe that there is someone God is calling to walk with us and with God through the next phase of our journey and together help bring our hopes and dreams to reality. First and foremost, we believe our new Rector must be excited about our core values, particularly our love of our local community and our strong desire to feed the hungry, clothe the needy and share the love of Jesus Christ with everyone who walks in our doors. Closely related is our love of diversity, inclusivity and non-judgmental love and acceptance of all. Other important characteristics include the following:

- The ability to lead Spirit-filled Episcopal liturgy and preaching inspiring sermons that relate the Gospel to our lives
- Being well versed in and interested in teaching scripture and theology
- Understanding the importance of music in worship and a variety of musical styles
- Being a compassionate and caring people person who can connect directly with our parishioners
- Being passionate about children and youth ministry - our ministry to them and their ministry to us
- Wanting to be involved in the life of our parish community and our surrounding community
- Being a good listener, open to considering new ideas and offering new ideas



## The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

- Being self-aware of strengths and weaknesses, willing to accept help and delegate
- Being financially astute and not afraid to talk about money
- Modeling a faithful, spiritual and holy life

This probably goes without saying, but we expect our new Rector to have good communication skills, some abilities with technology, and, of course, energy and enthusiasm. And a good sense of humor is always helpful in parish ministry!



One last important point: we really don't expect you to be able to walk on water.



## **How to Apply**

If you are discerning a call to be our priest, please submit your resume, a copy of your OTM profile, and your letter of interest to the following.

The Rev. Canon Chad Slater  
Office of Transitions  
Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia  
P.O. Box 5400  
Charleston, WV 25361  
Email: [cslater@wvdiocese.org](mailto:cslater@wvdiocese.org)



# The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd



Good Shepherd Drama Group October 2023