



THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

August 26, 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

Peterkin: the place among the trees. This past Sunday, those who joined us online and in person for Sunday worship experienced a Peterkin-style morning prayer. For some, the songs sounded familiar — reminding them of a different place and a different time of life. For others, this might have been the first time hearing the sounds of Peterkin or seeing the sites through the introductory video. After two years at camp, what strikes me is the way time moves differently at Peterkin. Gravatt Hall is an old hunting lodge built in the early 1900s and it gives off clear 1920s vibes. One could imagine executives and their spouses chilling in the pool or trying to kayak up the now lowered (by dams) stream. There is a weightiness in the air at Peterkin, such that one feels moving quickly, anywhere, would be some sort of disservice to the place. Some might say it's the summer humidity, but I am from Louisiana ya'll, don't even try that with me.

Peterkin is most definitely a thin space—a place where God feels closer. For the campers and counselors who attend, having to put away their cell phones (there is NO service at camp) allows one to focus on different aspects of life. Joy is found in finding wooded creatures, wounds that have been shoved down to deal with later are allowed to surface and heal, and community that looks as diverse as society forms not in spite of, but because of, unity across difference.

It's not surprising to me that Good Shepherd has such close historical ties to Peterkin. Former rectors and even curates supported camp spiritually. Many families at Good Shepherd count multiple generations of campers and counselors among them. I think this is because what Peterkin does a few weeks during the summer is how we live at The Pink Church year-round. Perhaps one of the most exciting things Peterkin is working on for its future is becoming a place where these kind of experiences can be had all year. Imagine if people came and lived in residence at the Pink Church to learn how we worship and live the way we do to take things back to their own church. While we aren't quite set up that way, Peterkin is. It just needs some changes to be able to host folks in winter, folks with different accessibility needs, folks with different family make-ups. As a member of Peterkin's Board of Directors and as your rector here at Good Shepherd, I can hardly wait to see the growth happening in both of these worshipful spaces in the coming seasons. Thank you for your prayers and support of these mutually aligned missions.

Katie Beth+

My favorite part about *Learning From London* by Brian Switzer

My wife, Patsi, asked me what my favorite part of traveling to London was, and at first, I said the Prayer Walk. But as I thought more about the trip, the Prayer Walk slipped to second place. What stayed with me most was the fellowship that formed among us.

The Prayer Walk was meaningful, but the greater gift of London was discovering how Christian community forms through shared prayer, daily fellowship, and a common commitment to serve.

Each morning, we woke up and gathered for a communal breakfast with other groups staying in the same complex. After breakfast, we usually moved to a large room with chairs and couches for Daily Prayer. Yes, there's an app for that. Everything was included except communion. Then we set out together to visit churches. Katie Beth was a fine sheepdog, making sure everyone got on and off safely in the crowded train stations, and the rest of us looked out for one another too. Mind the gap!



As one of only two non-clergy on the trip—Linda was the other—I had the chance to listen to pastors from Chicago, Minneapolis, Detroit, and New Hampshire. They spoke honestly about the challenges they face: poverty, discrimination, difficult parishioners, family relationships strained by politics (something I can relate to), and the joy of bringing new believers to the faith. Hearing their stories gave me a deeper sense of their faith and their love of Jesus Christ. It strengthened me and made me want to grow in my own faith through service, obedience, and dedication.

Stay tuned in the coming months for more changes—changes that make us more accessible, more welcoming, and more ready to build God's Kingdom together. In the meantime, how can you be the light, extend the light, or reflect the light? The world is dark, and a smile, a door held open, or a hand extended to someone in need is a faithful place to start.

Bell Tower

Phoenix Associates has begun work on the bell tower, the **Proclaim** part of last year's Capital Campaign. We are currently waiting for a part to arrive and be installed. Then the next crew that will apply the new stucco where it had to be replaced. The new stucco will need to cure for a month before it can be painted. Please pray that this can all happen before cold weather (or more rain) arrives.

Open Door Policy

Our volunteers have adapted well to our new security protocols. Many of our clients are still using the buzzer instead of trying the door first, so the change from their standpoint has been gradual. Brian has been chatting several times with those waiting for a food order and I see a spillover effect as some of the rest of us begin to engage with our clients more intentionally.

Altar Flowers

Several dates are available between now and the end of the year for your donation(s) in memory of loved ones or to honor special occasions. They are Oct. 11, 18, 25, November 8, 15, and 22. The cost is \$40/vase. Please help us keep fresh flowers on the altar as we enjoy worshipping together. Call the office to reserve your date and give us the information we should include in the bulletin.



Shepherd's Closet Rummage



The next sale is the weekend of September 4 and 5. We appreciate your donations. We are back to accepting clothing and we would love more household items, fall décor and always appreciate blankets and linens.

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.

As fall approaches, it would be great to have more cookbooks and fiction and non-fiction for adults.

UTO (United Thank Offering)

UTO invites individuals to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude. Your discipline might include dropping a coin in a UTO box every time you are grateful for something.

Little blue boxes are available in the Welcome Center for your use. We will collect them during the service on September 13. You can also bring or mail in a check with UTO in the memo line. Read more about UTO here:

<https://unitedthankoffering.com/>

Found on Facebook – interesting ideas for your contemplation

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

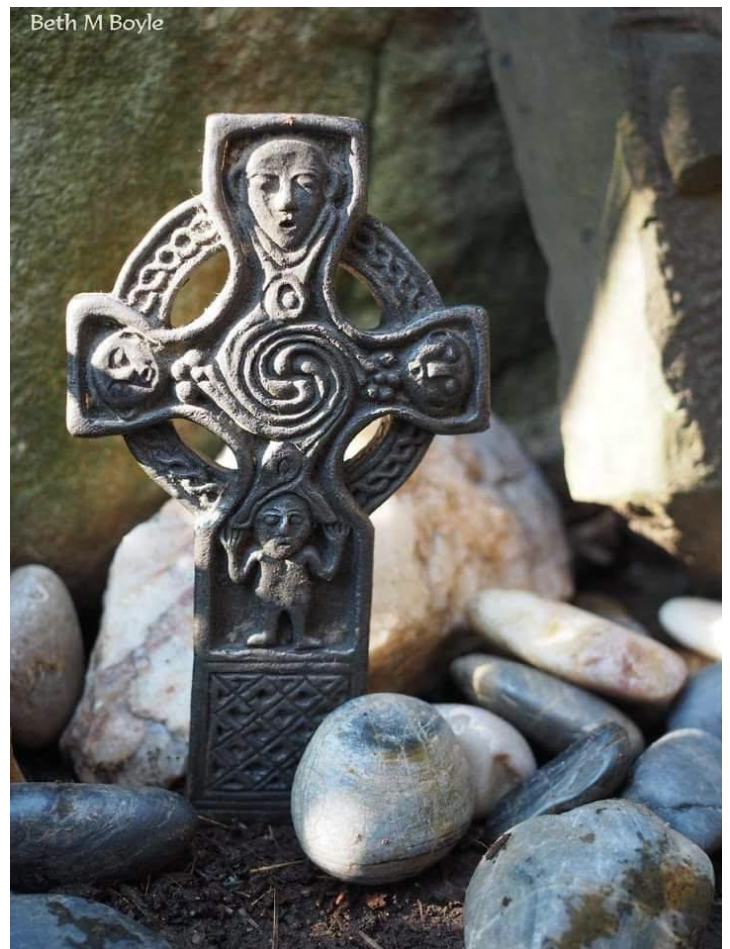
I saw a stranger today.
I put food for him
in the eating-place
And drink
in the drinking-place
And music
in the listening-place.

In the Holy name
of the Trinity
He blessed myself
and my family.

And the lark said in her warble
Often, often, often
Goes Christ
in the stranger's guise.

O, oft and oft and oft,
Goes Christ
in the stranger's guise.

— The Celtic Rune of Hospitality
Photo by Beth Maxwell Boyle



Rental space available. Any ideas?

We continue to look for one or more tenants now that Head Start has left. We can be flexible about which spaces a future tenant could use. If you know of any businesses or non-profits 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 the church directly so we can provide further details.

Prayers of the People

After experiencing some heartfelt prayers from some of our members, we have decided to offer this opportunity once a month from June through the end of the church year (November). **If you would like to write some prayers to be used during the service on the 2nd Sunday of the month, please let Linda know so she can put you on the schedule.** So far Brian, Linda and Warren have contributed prayers – let's hear from some of the rest of you! October and November are available. Helpful information on composing your prayers can be found in the August 5th edition of the Staff.



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.

♥ Pastoral Care

Someone is in the office Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (these are our normal hours as of September 1st). 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.



♥ Intercessory Prayers:

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

Good Shepherd Parish Prayer List

Victims of war and violence	Mary Gevas – healing	Marlene Smith- healing
Flood Victims	Gene Allander – healing	Diane Cottrill – healing
Peter Gevas – healing	John Curry – healing	Jone Johnson – healing/strength
Ann Stevens– healing	Amanda Morris – healing	Buck Harris – strength/healing
Larry Landrith – healing	Marcia Doyle – healing	Deb Hepburn-McKinney – healing
Angela Kelley – healing	Gary Freeman - healing	



Safety for all those serving in the Armed Forces

Donovan Burns, Sterling Slusher, Peter Keiser

Those needing healing from cancer

John Stevens	Alana Dailey	Gary Greer	Lois Switzer	Rudi Miksa
Faith Beha	Mirtala Smith	Everett Gilmore	Charles Sterchak	Brenda Pugh
Ellen Faymon	Ben Buskirk	Courtney Rodriguez	Jeff Alkire	



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, August 30. Set-up and cook at 1 PM or 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 can help hand out food bags to the unhoused or assemble 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:

August 30 – Last Sunday Supper
September 13 – UTO Ingathering



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.

Online Giving

Support Good Shepherd via online giving. Scan the QR code with your smart phone or go to the Give section of our website and click on the GIVE button. Of course, you can continue to give by check or cash. We expect this online option to be especially useful for visitors and occasional donors as well as our members. Let us know how it works for you or if you have any issues.



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	drtd51@gmail.com