

Following



the Light!

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF
The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd
January 11, 2023

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:

Many of you may be wondering what the purpose of last summer's sabbatical was and how the parish has benefited from it. After serving with my whole heart and all my energy here for 12 years, I was beginning to feel a little stale. A clergy sabbatical is standard after 6 years, and it is taken for the purpose of rest, prayer, reflection, and study. I was able to enjoy all these benefits and have returned with renewed energy and ideas for ministry in the area of evangelism. Evangelism is vitally important because it is the reason Good Shepherd exists, to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in any number of ways, in word and deed.

You may also remember that we had a Parish Committee as part of the sabbatical, and it held a number of events throughout the summer, in addition to seeing that things ran smoothly while I was away. The focus of our sabbatical for the parish was trying a few events to see if we could get people to come to Good Shepherd. This was quite intentional as part of our "Invite, Welcome, and Connect" ministry that we have been developing in recent years. We believe we are fairly good at welcoming people when they come to Good Shepherd, but we have not quite figured out how to get them here in the first place. In recent years we have tried numerous things—special prayers, events, Facebook, newspaper ads for special services, newspaper articles about our ministries, television reporting, yard signs, and even a television commercial. So, the events held last summer were part of our "Invite" effort.

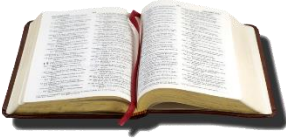
As the neighborhood in which we minister has changed tremendously these past 12 years, so have we. We have seen many people come and go, even our immediate neighbors, as abandoned houses are being torn down by the city. The whole world around us has also changed dramatically. What worked to spread the Gospel to our friends and strangers 50 years ago no longer works. This is not necessarily a bad thing, but we need to change the way we evangelize.

The Sabbatical Committee has done the bulk of its work, but it has a few loose ends to tie up. The Sabbatical Committee has not yet given its final report to the Lilly Foundation, and we do have some remaining funds to use. I have plans to use the portion remaining for the clergy to attend an evangelism training conference in Baltimore this June, to observe a couple of different evangelism ministries, and for time with Bruce. The Parish part of the Sabbatical Committee will be focused on improving our communications efforts, especially online and social media options. This is an important aspect of our "Invite" ministry.

So, this Saturday, the Vestry will be on a day-long retreat, during which we will reflect together on what we learned from the sabbatical. We will develop a specific plan to implement some of what we have learned in 2023.

We will be reaching out to you to become involved in some way. The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Not everyone will be expected to be directly involved in evangelism, but many of us have gifts and skills that could support our evangelism efforts—praying for Good Shepherd, offering hospitality, being a friend, sitting in on a small group, making new friends, assisting with confirmation class, or just picking up someone to bring to church. I hope everyone will begin to share with your friends and family what is happening at Good Shepherd and invite them to be a part of it too. As we develop our plans for 2023, we will keep you informed.

Bible Study:



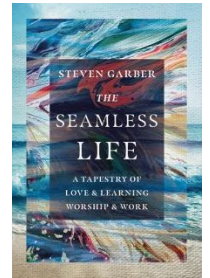
The 6 PM Bible Study facilitated by David Cooper has been moved to 6 PM on Tuesdays, so David can play the piano for the choir during their practice on Wednesdays. The 7 PM Bible Study will continue since choir practice is over by then. The Tuesday at 6 group will be studying the Old Testament book of Leviticus and the Wednesday at 7 group is studying Acts, the first book in the New Testament after the gospels. If you plan to attend either group, be sure to let David know so he can arrange to let you into the building. His cell number is 304-494-8790.

Book Group:

Group members have chosen their next selection: *The Seamless Life, A Tapestry of Love & Learning, Worship & Work* by Steven Garber.

From the Amazon review:

We all want to make sense of life, of who we are and why we are, and to know that what we do—day in and day out—matters. But daily demands often lead to a life that feels void of meaning and disjointed from our deepest beliefs. Steven Garber challenges us to move beyond our fragmented sense of reality and begin to see *all* we are and *all* we do—our work, play, relationships, worship, and loves—as significant to God.



The book is available from Amazon as a Kindle edition, hardback or paperback or from other online sellers. Contact Linda if you need help ordering the book. We will begin with an introduction on Sunday January 15 and begin discussing the 1st few sections on Jan. 22nd. As always, anyone who wants to join the discussion is very welcome. We meet at 9 AM, in person, with a zoom option as well.

Shepherd's Closet Rummage



The team is having some sabbath time, resting up before the next season of sales begins on March 3rd and 4th. At that time they will be focusing on clothing and decor for spring. Please call before bringing in your donations so we have someone ready to help you. Call or text Deb Hepburn-McKinney, 1-518-637-1734 (cell), if you have questions about donations or if you can help with sorting and pricing.. If you have kids or grandkids, we would love to have clothing they have outgrown.

Adopted Families Christmas Program

Thanks to YOUR help we served 57 families this year. They enjoyed specially selected gifts, books, games and coloring supplies for their children as well as a voucher for new shoes. Additionally the whole family received new hats, gloves, socks, underwear, toiletries, giftwrap and the ingredients for Christmas dinner. The Rummage Room was also open where families had a ticket for additional items on the day we distributed their bag(s) of new items.



This is a group effort that shares God's love at Christmas with some of the more vulnerable members of our community. Thank you for being part of that!

Pledge Envelopes and Statements

If you made a pledge for 2023, we have a set of pledge envelopes waiting for you in the narthex. Pledge statements for 2022 are also filed there for you to pick up. Please come get these if you can so we don't have to mail them.

If you want envelopes and forgot to fill out a pledge card or choose not to make a pledge, just call Ginger and she will prepare a box for you.

Souper Bowl Sunday – February 12

Each year we use the occasion of the NFL Super Bowl to gather donations for our pantry. I like to give advance notice so you have a chance to shop any sales that might occur to maximize your contribution. While any donations are welcome, here is a list of the items we will be especially grateful to receive:



- 16-18 oz jars of peanut butter
- Case of bottled water (16-17 oz. bottles)
- Granola bars/pop-tarts/cereal bars/nutrition bars
- Pudding cups
- Beanie weenie
- Small pop-top cans of fruits or vegetables (single-serving size)
- Milk – packets of dry milk or containers of long-life milk
- Juice (32 or 64 oz.)
- Spaghetti
- Spaghetti sauce
- Canned spaghetti-o's, ravioli, etc
- Muffin, cookie, cake or brownie mixes



Thanks to December donations from the Christmas Parade and Piggly Wiggly, we **do not need** canned corn, green beans or chickpeas/pinto beans/kidney beans

Prayer List Update

It's time to update the prayer lists for the bulletin and Staff, including the parish prayer list, the cancer list and the Armed Services list. Please give Ginger a call or email her at gingersmith.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com to update your loved one by Wednesday, January 25th. After that date, anyone who has not been updated will be removed. Of course, if your loved one needs prayer in the future, we are happy to add them back. Typically, they are left on the prayer list for two consecutive weeks then they are removed unless we are given an update on their needs. Please remember to update us every two weeks.



Important Upcoming Calendar Dates:

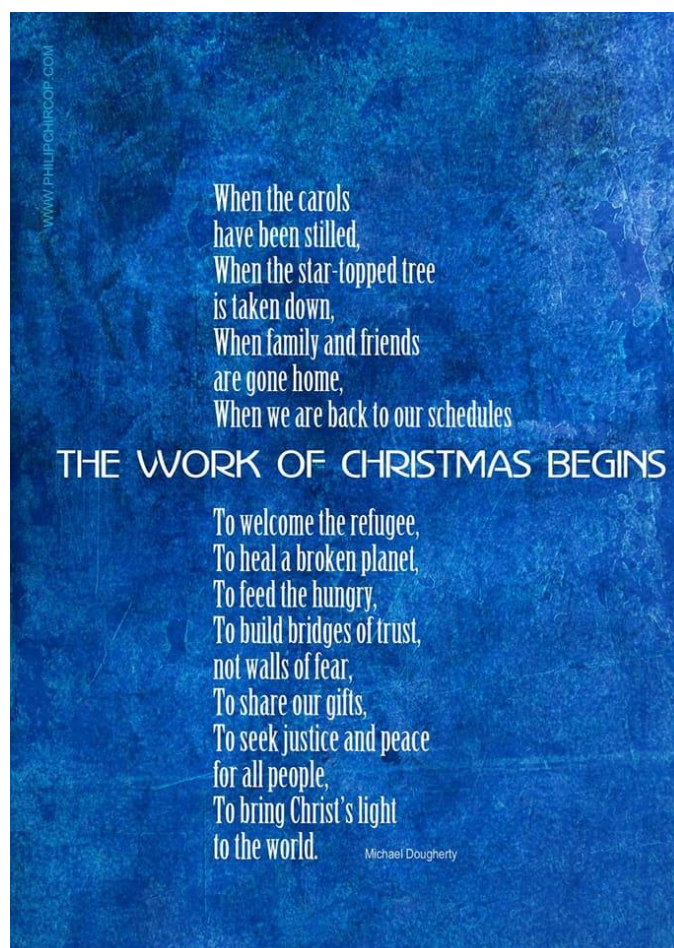


- January 16 – M L King Jr Day – Office Closed
- January 22 – Annual Congregational Budget Meeting
- February 4 – EYF outing to Smith farm
- February 12 – Souper Bowl Sunday
- February 22 – Ash Wednesday

Christmas Eve at Good Shepherd (in case you missed it!)



Found on Facebook:



Peterkin, our diocesan camp, looking for summer staff

Are you a young adult looking for a fun and formative way of spending your summer? Apply to work at Peterkin!
Applications are now open for summer 2023 and interviews begin soon, so fill out yours today!

<https://wvdiocese.formstack.com/forms/counselorapplication>



Staying Connected, Continuing to Serve

♥ 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	John Lathrop – healing	Mitch Forrester - healing
Amanda Morris –tests	Gene Sheppard– healing	Peter Gevas – healing
Sally Davis – healing	Jordan Tingler – healing	Mary Gevas – healing
Jone Johnson – healing/strength	Chris Heckman – MS	Mandi Parson - tests
David Cottrill - hospitalized	Carol Lathrop – healing	Ann Stevens – healing
Deb Hepburn-McKinney – healing	Vickie Dilley – healing/strength	Carl Slusher – healing
Diane Cottrill – healing	Peggy Roberts - healing	



Safety for all those serving in the Armed Forces

Nathan Jones, Sterling Slusher, Joe Slusher, Lauren Fielder, Peter Keiser

Those needing healing from cancer

Glen Kirk	Buddy Lee	Michelle Frye	Lisa Tanner	Keith
Vicky Wilson	Steve Wilson	Tina Westfall	David White	Chloe Blatt
Matthew Jacobs	Ray Kidder	John Sartor	J. D. Williamson	Jean Singer
Kathy Castevetere	Mitchell Lowe	Phyllis Williams	Colette Pawlik	Paul Rutledge
Judy McCoy	Cleve Wigal	Tabitha Arceneaux		



♥ 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 Mother Marjorie, Linda, or David Cooper at home (see the end of the Staff for our contact information). Additionally, the Stephen Ministers are able to offer a visit and/or home communion to those who can't come to church. This is to supplement visits from Mother Marjorie.




♥ **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

- ♥ **Adopted Families** –Providing ‘Christmas’ to children and their families (see article above)
- ♥ **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 welcome.
- ♥ **Last Sunday Supper** – Our next meals will be January 29 and February 26. Come to help set-up and cook at 1 PM or to serve at 5:15 PM.
- ♥ **Food Pantry** –429 family units in December, with 388 of those bags for the homeless.



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 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



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

reverendsbevans@gmail.com

gingersmith.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com

llbc100@msn.com

dberylcooper@gmail.com