



THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

September 23, 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

This month, I want to share with you another reason I love the Episcopal Church. The Episcopal Church has carried over the early Catholic tradition of having acolytes in worship—people who light the candles, lead the way for the procession, bear the Gospel, and a whole host of other roles to help make worship beautiful and joyful. I have heard that Good Shepherd has had a long history of participating in the National Acolyte Festival held at Washington National Cathedral. This year, I challenged our acolytes to be routinely present in our worship services at least once a month in order to be able to participate in this trip. Those of you who have had high school aged children or older know how many other activities seem to compete with church time at this age. Our acolytes have come through with their attendance, and they have noted a changed appreciation for church and the opportunities Good Shepherd affords them. Won't Jesus just do it?

We are excited to have a group of fifteen people headed to Washington, with eight or nine of us processing in the Grand Procession. Bishop Matthew is serving as the guest preacher for the worship service, so we are even more excited to be representing the Diocese of West Virginia well. We couldn't do it without the many gifts given to the church specifically in support of our acolytes. This year's trip will be a bit pricey, given the number of folks going, so if you would like to donate to help defray the cost of the trip, we would be very happy to receive that support. Please send a check to the church (or donate online) with "Acolytes" in the memo or notes.

Additionally, acolyting is not just for our young people. As the next generation of acolytes is being raised up, we still have a few Sundays where there may not be someone to carry the cross. We would love to have an adult or two willing to pinch hit if needed. I might even let you forgo the robe! We also have had some interest in training a vergers or two. Vergers have specific roles, not only in leading the procession (in front of any banners and the cross), but also in knowing the history and traditions of the parish. The stick they carry, called a virge, is much lighter weight than our crosses, and would allow a wider range of ages and abilities to serve. If you are interested in possibly become a vergers, please reach out to me. More information about this role can be found on the Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church website. Note that they are having their convention in late October at Christ and St. Luke's in Norfolk, Virginia, the church I served prior to coming here to Good Shepherd. We would love to send someone who is interested in attending. Registration will remain open for at least another week or so. The Verger's Guild website has the schedule and all other details.

Katie Beth+

Another favorite part about *Learning From London* by Brian Switzer and Linda Crocker

One of the most meaningful and eye-opening conversations we had was with Michael Moynagh, Director of Theology and Practice for Fresh Expressions. Michael described Soul Space, a flexible resource that helps connect people outside the church with the Christian faith. For example, at one Saturday food distribution, church members began by asking those waiting in line, “What are you thankful for?” That simple question led first to group prayer, then to individual prayer, and eventually to Eucharist.

Michael also shared the story of a Minecraft ministry at one church, where teenagers gathered to play Minecraft together. Along the way, they heard short messages on conversion, forgiveness, and mercy, each connected to themes from the game. God can work through many different means to help us reach people, and church may look different for different communities.

Jesus entered the Jewish culture, taught about God’s Kingdom through brief parables, and invited His followers to be transformed by the Holy Spirit. We can do the same while filling pantry orders, serving at Last Sunday Suppers, or simply standing in a checkout line.

Creating one or more Soul Spaces could give us more opportunities. A knitting group where the members gradually learn to share their stories and pray for each other? A gardening group? A minor home repair team? What is your idea for a setting where our neighbors are looked in the eyes, smiled at, and truly listened to. How many hearts could we touch? How many mountains—or souls—might be moved through faith as small as a mustard seed?

Help your office staff start the last 3 months of 2026 in good form!

- **Last Call for gifts to support Peterkin and/or UTO in 2026**

If you meant to make a gift supporting Peterkin after Frankie Amore’s August visit or you planned to bring your Blue Box or a check to us for the United Thank Offering, please do it this week.

- **Volunteer to fill some slots on our calendar**

We have openings on Monday morning, Monday afternoon and Thursday morning for people to welcome people to the church. Most of them are coming for food – either needing a food pantry appointment or a to-go bag if they are unhoused. We also could use a pantry volunteer on Tuesdays to fill food orders for housed families. Sometimes we need help other days too if someone is sick or on vacation. If you can’t be here on a regular basis but are willing to help occasionally, ask to be put on our substitute list.

Pink Church T-shirts

We have ordered the Pink Church t-shirts and hope to have them available in early to mid-October. We also ordered some extras so if you still want one, call the office and we will save one of the extras for you.

Youth and Young Adults

Under the direction of Carolynne Cooper and Katie Beth, our rector, our young people have had an interesting summer, despite all the rain.

First of all, they had planned an outing to Wet and Wild, a water park in Gallipolis. When they arrived it was closed due to a storm the night before that ruined the beach area. What to do? Drive to Charleston and enjoy time at Sky Zone Trampoline Park.

The next outing was to play mini-golf in Boaz. Before driving there, they found out that it was closed because it was too wet from rain the night before. What to do? Go to the Dollar Store, buy a deck of cards, and play Spoons. If you are not familiar with this game, ask Courtney, Jordan, Eva, Logan, Anthony, Bing, Yazmin, or Leslie. Long arms and fast reflexes are helpful.

Next up is the Acolyte Festival on October 9th to 11th. Will the plans unfold as arranged? Stay tuned to find out but be assured that a great time will be had by all. Bishop Cowden has been invited to preach at the Saturday morning service at the National Cathedral. Carolynne plans to take a video of the procession so we can watch it here in church at the end of Sunday’s service.

Bell Tower

We need a couple of weeks without rain to get the next steps of this project done. Pray for beautiful dry autumn weather.

Prayers of the People

The 2nd Sunday of November is still available for **your** version of the weekly Prayers of the People. Contact Linda if you have any questions.



Altar Flowers

Just a few 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. 18, 25 and November 15. The cost is \$40/vase. Call the office to reserve your date and give us the information we should include in the bulletin.



Shepherd's Closet Rummage



The October sale is coming up on Friday and Saturday, October 2nd and 3rd, 9 am -1 pm both days. Donations are welcome. If you can come in to help Deb make the switch to cold weather clothing, please give her a call to arrange a time. Her cell # is 518-637-1734.

Books for the Little Free Library

We are in good shape for kids for quite a while - thank you!

We need more cookbooks, how-to-it books, fiction and non-fiction for adults.



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



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	Mirtala Smith	Faith Beha	Everett Gilmore
Charles Sterchak	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. 

Found on Facebook – interesting ideas for your contemplation

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=christian%20stewardship>

If God increased your blessings today, how would you use them?

"And God is able to make all grace overflow to you, so that, always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;" 2 Corinthians 9:8 (NASB)

Paul writes these words to the Corinthian church around 55 AD as part of his encouragement to give generously to those in need. The Corinthians had started with good intentions but needed to be reminded of the heart behind their giving. Paul doesn't guilt them—he lifts their eyes to God's abundant grace. The lesson is this: God supplies us not just for our needs, but so we can become generous toward others. He doesn't bless us so we can store more—but so we can serve more. The application is powerful: when you open your hands, God opens the windows of heaven. Abundance is not a destination - it's a flow. And when God knows He can flow through you, He will make sure there's always enough for you.

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2 Corinthians 9:8

FOLLOW US



Coming Up:

September 27 – Last Sunday Supper

October 1 – Adopted Families applications are available.

October 9-11 – Acolyte Festival at the National Cathedral in Washington.



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

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.

Support our Ministries

